LESSON GOALS
Science development (SDI) children will actively explore their environment (502) children will acquire scientific knowledge related to life science. Math development (MDI) children will classify objects by using one attribute at a time (MM) children will develop an awareness of simple time concepts QCC:(add in as it applies to your grade)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Schoolyard Investigation on Feeding Birds</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age Group</td>
<td>6th-8th Grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lesson Duration</td>
<td>One to Two sessions</td>
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<td>Year</td>
<td>2003</td>
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<td>Cost</td>
<td>Over $100</td>
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MATERIALS
- 4 Bird feeders
- Sunflower seed
- Thistle
- Nectar
- Suet
- Binoculars for each ornithologist
- Clipboards and pencils for each ornithologist
- Preprinted chart to record observations
- Bench or chairs for the children
- Posters or pictures of birds likely to be observed

PROCEDURE
- Play the Hap Palmer Song "Birds" (Learning Basic Skills Through Music).
- Use different bird puppets (suggestions: cardinal, bluebird, hummingbird) to talk to the children. "I'm hungry! What kind of food do you kids eat? What do you like the best? Do you think we'd like those foods?" Let the children talk to the birds, answering their questions. Guide them to talk about the bird feeders in our outdoor bird area and which foods they think these birds might like to eat.
- Record their responses on a bar graph.
- Tell children that during the day, we will have a team of ornithologists with binoculars at our outdoor bird observation station.
- They will be watching the feeders that are set up and marking on a chart (resource 1) each time they see a bird eat at a feeder
- Record for 1 week using a different chart each day and allowing different children to be an ornithologist.
- Look at the results each day and have the children make conclusions based on the collected information.

RESOURCES
Handouts were included in this lesson plan that could be scanned in as pdfs
• **http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/**
  Information on how to start a backyard habitat for birds, the site also has a program called “Audubon Adventures” caters to students in 4th-6th grades the program teaches kids about birds and their habitats.

• **www.gos.org**
  Checklists of Georgia birds for bird watching, rare bird alerts, species accounts, also has a photo index of 139 different species of birds spotted in Georgia.

• **http://fsc.fernbank.edu/Birding/BIRDPAGE.htm**
  Contact information for local ornithologists, Birding activities, common birds of Atlanta, Bird conservation and ornithology in the classroom.

• **http://birding.about.com/library/blclip-direct.com**
  Tips on establishing a healthy bird habitat, what to do and what not to do if you find a baby bird, bird activities, bird problems, types of birds and how to identify them, where to see birds and how to find other birders.

• **www.birdfeeding.org**
  Instructions on building bird boxes, downloads, and tips on how to build a bird-friendly backyard.

• **http://naturalhistory.uga.edu/htmldocs/birds/birdhome.asp**
  Southeastern bird photo archive, the group rents out science boxes for 2 weeks free of charge (fully refunded deposit required) boxes cover many topics not limited to birds. Reptile (herpetology) photo index also on this site.

• **www.dfw.state.or.us/ODFHtml/Education/BirdFeeder.html**
  Instructions for inexpensive milk carton bird feeder. Site includes bird food and feeder placement suggestions.

**BUDGET**

**EXTENSIONS**

• Read bird stories (resource 3)
• Sing bird songs (resource 4)
• Look at parts of a bird chart (resource 5)
• Have an ornithologist visit your class
• Invite a member of the Atlanta Audubon Society to your class
• Take a field trip to the Charlie Elliot Wildlife Center join the National Bird Feeding Society for class information
• Get a class subscription to Birds and Blooms magazine