



CONSERVATION  
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CALIFORNIA  
TAKING ACTION FOR WILDLIFE

OAKLAND ZOO

# HUMMINGBIRD DIY FEEDER

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## Why?

Hummingbirds need to visit 1,000 to 2,000 flowers per day to survive. With the rapid loss of open spaces in the Bay Area due to human development, it is critical for us to create "pocket habitat" to help sustain their need. In addition to planting CA native plants in containers or in your garden, you can help supplement their diet with a hummingbird feeder.

## How?

### Step 1: Gather Supplies

Hole Punch	Old Insulated Wire or String
Wire Cutters	(e.g. AC adapter)
Scissors	Small Jar with Lid
Red Nail Polish	(e.g. 250ml mason jar)

### Step 2: Poke Holes in Lid

Use hole punch to poke holes in lid.

If using a jar lid that has a thick rim like a baby food jar, you can use a nail and hammer to poke holes in the lid. Make sure to sand down or coat any sharp edges with hot glue or nail polish.



### Step 3: Add Some Red

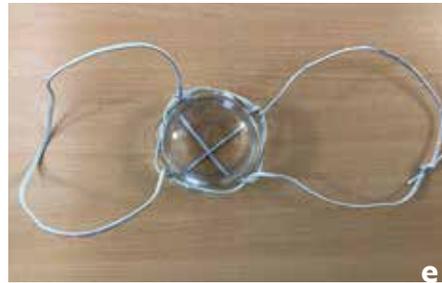
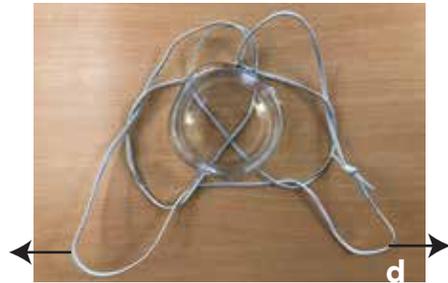
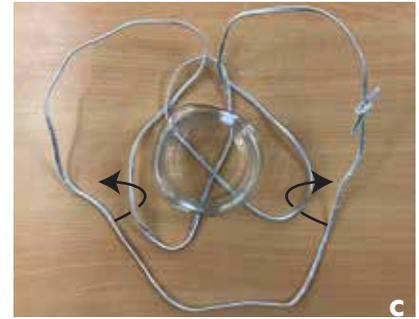
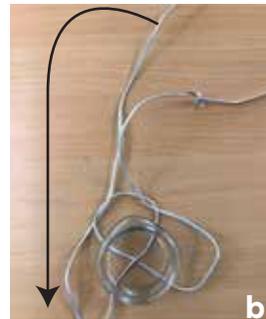
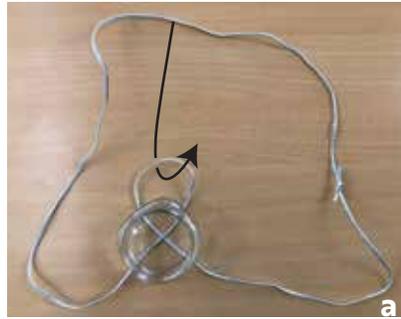
Use bright red nail polish to decorate lid. Get creative with the nail polish and create flowers or another pattern - hummingbirds are attracted to the color not the shapes. You can also use red beads, marbles, or glass pebbles to decorate your jar.

Don't forget to put down some scratch paper before painting and let the nail polish dry before touching the lid.

#### Step 4: Create Jar Holder

Tie the wire or string into a loop with a sturdy knot. If using wire, make sure to cut off the plug and charger ends with a wire cutter. Tie cord to hold jar securely (see a-e).

The wire or string should be at least ten times the height plus diameter of the jar.



NOTE: You may need to work the wire a bit to make sure the knots are evenly spaced around the jar. Make sure the knots are snug and below the rim of the jar.

#### Step 5: Fill with Nectar and Hang

Dissolve one part sugar in four parts boiling water. Let cool and fill your feeder. Screw on lid and hang outside.

DO NOT use honey, fake sugars, or red dye in your nectar mix.

## California Native Plants for Hummingbirds



### Shrubs & Subshrubs

- Bush Lupine, *Lupinus* spp.
- Bush Snapdragon, *Galvezia speciosa*
- Currant, *Ribes* spp.
- Indian Mallow, *Abutilon palmeri*
- Manzanita, *Arctostaphylos* spp.
- Monkeyflower, *Diplacus/Mimulus* spp.
- Woolly Blue-Curls, *Trichostema lanatum*

### Perennials

- California Fuchsia, *Epilobium* spp.
- Columbine, *Aquilegia* spp.
- Penstemon, *Penstemon* spp.
- Sage, *Salvia* spp.

### Trees

- Western Redbud, *Cercis occidentalis*
- Western Sycamore, *Platanus racemosa*

#### Resources\*

Pollinator.org  
Audubon.org  
CalScape.org

*Attracting Native Pollinators*, The Xerces Society  
*California Native Plants for the Garden*, Carol Bornstein, David Fross, & Bart O'Brien  
*Bringing Nature Home*, Douglas W. Tallamy

\*Sources used to create this guide and additional resources for more information.

