

Feeding winter birds the 'cheep' way

With the cold weather coming on I decided to head out to the store the other night to purchase a birdfeeder for my balcony. One look at the price, however, and I headed home. Instead of paying for a fancy designer-name feeding station I decided to create a banquet for the birds by simply using odds and ends I found around the apartment. With the help of David Suzuki's book, 'Looking at the Environment', I now have an endless assortment of both birdfeeders and birds hanging around my balcony - free of charge. Here's some ideas to help you get started:

Pine cone feeder

Collect half-a-dozen pine cones and tie string or yarn to the base of the cone. Then, simply roll the pine cone in peanut butter and then mixed bird seed. Hang the cone feeders by the string on a tree, fence post or balcony.

Milk carton feeder

All you need is a used milk carton, 2L (1/2 gallon), a plastic straw or thin wooden dowel, a ruler and a nail for punching holes. Cut one side of the carton off, stopping 4 cm from the bottom. Now measure 4 cm in from the cut side edges. Cut off these extra pieces. This gives you a place for a bird perch and a

roof. Next, simply punch two holes and place the plastic straw or dowel across the bottom to make a perch. Punch another hole in the top and hang the feeder or nail the back of the feeder to a post.

Margarine tub feeder

You need two empty plastic margarine tubs, one about 500 g (1 lb.) in size, and one about 250 g (1/2 lb.), a plastic straw, nylon string, and a nail to poke holes. First, use the nail to poke a hole in the middle of the bottom of each margarine container. Poke a hole in the middle of the big container's lid. Next thread the nylon string through all the pieces. The big container turned upside down, makes the roof. The straw, threaded on the string, helps to hold up the roof. The small container is the dish of food. The lid of the big container is a tray at the bottom. When all parts are threaded, tie a knot in the string to keep them together. Then tie the string to a tree branch and fill the dish with birdseed.

Suet Muffins

Ingredients:
125 ml (1/2 cup) beef suet (ask your butcher for beef fat)
125 ml (1/2 cup) peanut butter
750 ml (3 cups) cornmeal
a muffin tin with 12 cups
a kitchen knife

Nature's Way

By
KEVIN
CALLAN



a stirring spoon
a double boiler

oven mitts
a onion bag

First thing to do is line the muffin cups with the paper cupcake cups. Then place some water in the bottom of the double boiler. Heat it until it is just starting to roll and bubble. Turn the heat to low. Now cut the suet into small pieces. Put the suet pieces in the top of the double boiler stove, and stir them until they melt.

Stir in the peanut butter and the cornmeal, and with the oven mitts, carefully pour the hot mixture into the muffin cups. Let the muffins sit until they're cool and firm.

There's an endless number of cheap and effective ways to feed our feathered friends. Suzuki's 'Looking at the Environment' is only one of many fine birdfeeder project books.



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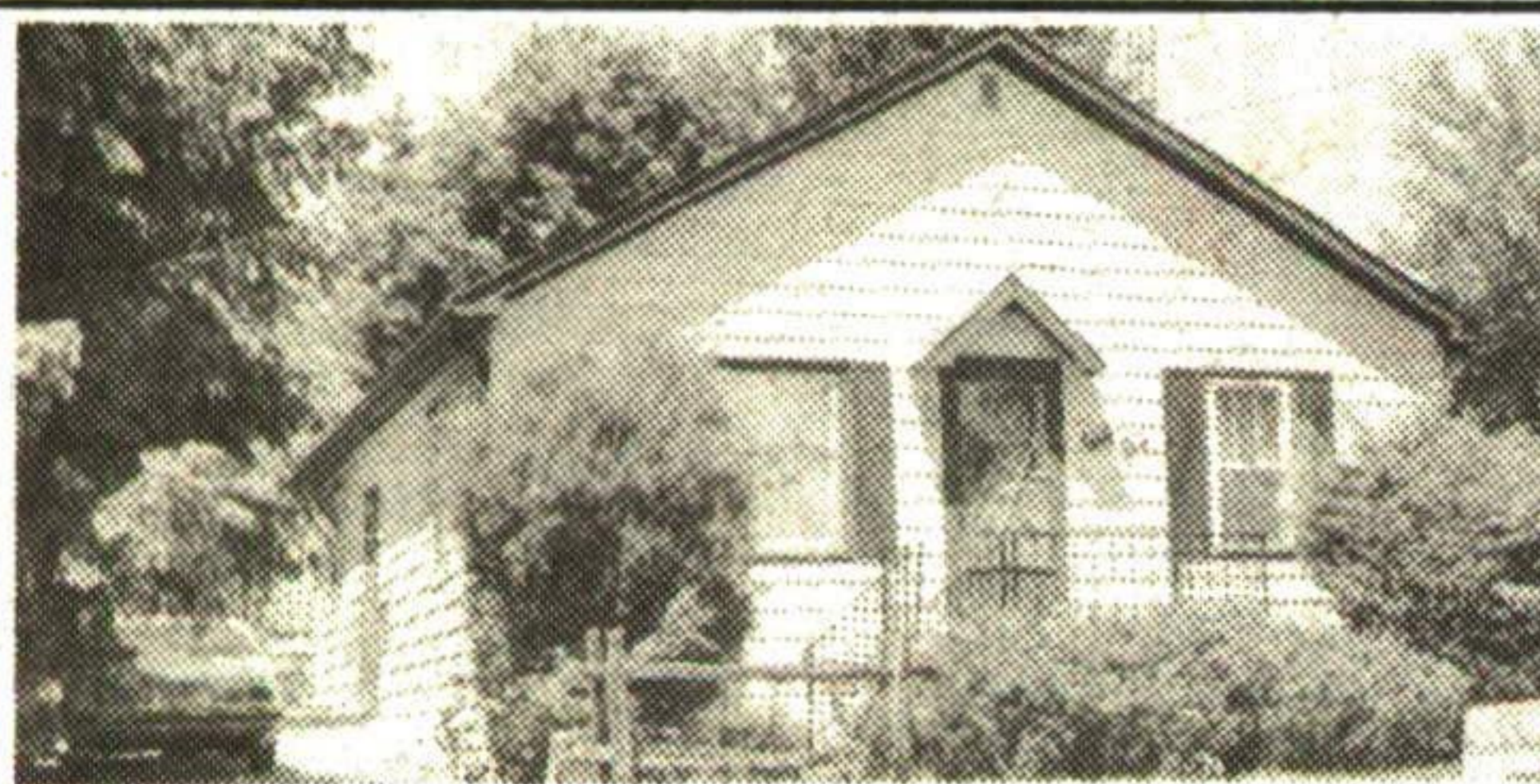
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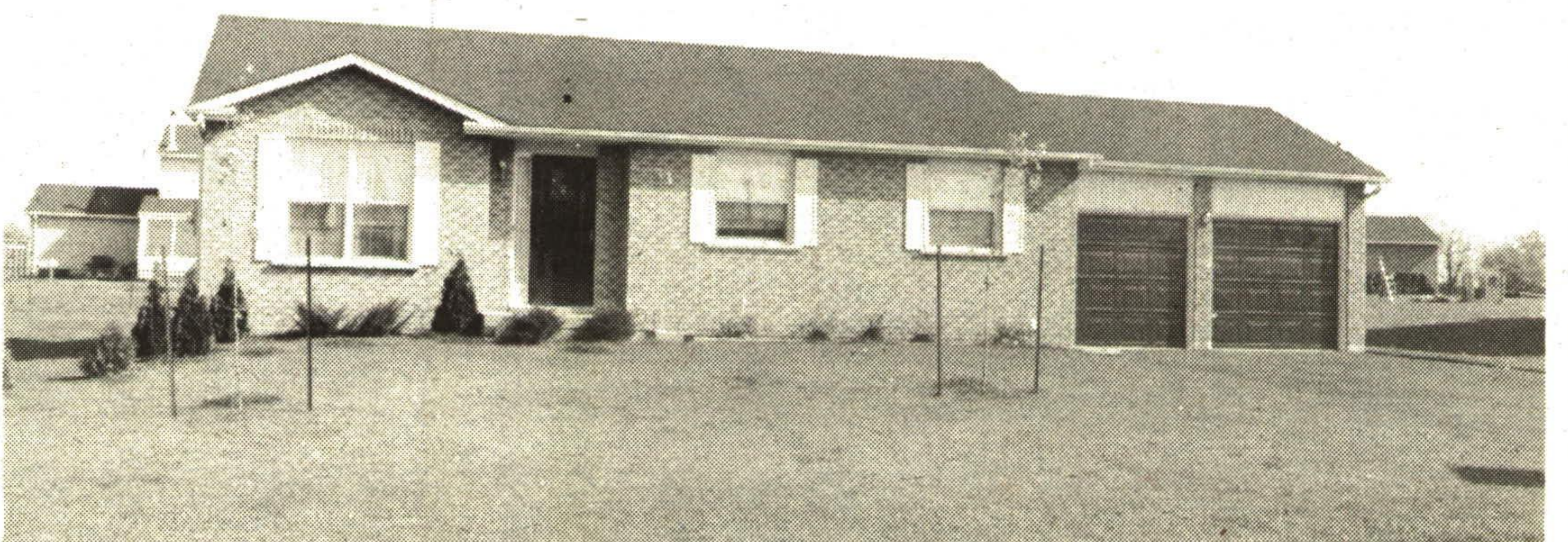


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