



Worcestershire
Wildlife Trust

Make a bird caller

A fun activity to get you tweeting!

#DOORSTEPWILDLIFE

Make a bird caller



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Birds sing for many reasons: to pass on information about who's where, alert others to danger and to find a mate. Bird song is very complex and sounds different from species to species and reason for singing. Birds can even have regional accents!

Here's a quick creative challenge to make a bird caller using items from the recycling box.

You Will Need:

30-50cm string
Plastic container e.g.
Yogurt pot

Metal skewer or
something to make a
hole.

Plastic tubs, try using
various sizes.



Put the container on
a flat surface.

Carefully make a hole
in the base with the
skewer.



Push the string
through the hole
and tie a thick knot.



Wrap cardboard or
paper around the
container. Secure with
selotape or staples.
There is no need to
stick it on to the
container. *DECORATE*
however you want.



Hold the container in one
hand & the string in the
other. Quickly pull the
string taught several
times. You can also pluck
or run your fingers up &
down the string.

Experiment! High notes may be
tricky, but you should be able
to produce a sound similar to a
duck or pidgeon call. Birds will
stop singing when they first
hear you, but after a few
minutes they will come for a
closer look.

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How it Works

Sound is vibrations of the air. Whenever something makes the air around it vibrate, it makes a sound, but we can't always hear it because the vibrations are too small. The string makes some small vibrations (see if you can see them)!, and these vibrations make the bottom of the yoghurt pot vibrate too. Because of the shape of the yoghurt pot, the air inside vibrates a lot, and that makes a sound that we can hear!

The sound it makes is higher if there's a small amount of string vibrating because it vibrates faster, and it's lower if there's more string vibrating because it vibrates slower. Try altering the length of string to make higher & lower sounds.

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