



# Birds Unlimited

*Best Birding Supplies Anywhere*

Independent Mathematical Contractors, Inc.  
University of Washington, Tacoma  
Tacoma, WA 98407

Dear IMC:

You come highly recommended from my colleague and friend Everely Hopeful of the Fortunate Richard Association. I am in need of your services to maintain my reputation as the most knowledgeable purveyor of birding supplies and support in the Tacoma region. I pride myself in providing the highest level of service to my bird-loving customers but a recent controversy has tarnished my reputation.

In the autumn, many people put up feeds for wild birds – and thereby initiate the annual round of “Squirrel Wars.” As a seasoned combat veteran, I recommend thwarting these acrobatic rodents by suspending feeders from wires. Of course, it is important to use the least amount of wire possible. The recommendation that I give my clients is as follows:

1. Select two trees to serve as the supports and install eye screws at a height of 10’ in each tree.
2. Suspend the feeder midway between the trees to a height 8’ above the ground using a single length of wire attached to each eye screw. The entire configuration forms a “V”.

My competitor has been maligning my expertise. He instead recommends using two lengths of wire (one short and one long) to form a “Y” and claims his design is the most parsimonious. Physical experimentation in my own yard tells me that my design is best. Yet my competitor claims the very same thing. I need you to determine, once and for all, which design uses the least materials and help me preserve my reputation.

Time is of the essence. Communicate your consulting team members to Dr. Jennifer Quinn on or before November 17. If you would like assistance finding like-minded associates, Dr. Quinn has agreed to facilitate that process provided you contact her immediately. Finally a verbal progress report needs to be made prior to November 26. I look forward to your report by midnight December 5, 2008. If you choose to submit your report via email, please follow through with a hard copy by the morning of December 8.

If you need further details please do not hesitate to contact me.

All the best,

*Raven Rook*

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