



Edible Bird Feeder



Bird feeders are a great way to observe birds while supplying necessary food, especially in winter when natural foods are hard to find. Follow the directions below to make a homemade bird feeder to hang outside your window or in a tree near your home:

1. Select a bird feeder base

Pine cones are a popular and natural foundation for a bird feeder, but you may also use an empty paper towel roll or a stale piece of bread.

2. Make it sticky

Coat the base with peanut butter or honey. If you are making your bird feeders with a group of children, be sensitive to potential peanut allergies and use honey instead.

3. Add some goodies

Roll the feeder in raisins, cranberries, unsalted and unbuttered popcorn, Sunflower seeds, shelled plain peanuts or mixed birdseed.

4. String it up

Run a wire, dental floss or cotton string through your bird feeder. Secure the two ends together to make a loop.

5. Hang your bird feeder outside

Place your bird feeder on a hook outside a window, or in a tree outside your home. If you are unable to see the bird feeder from your home, place it in a tree near a bench where you can sit and watch the birds feed.

Extensions

- Some birds like to eat fruit, create a simple bird feeder by threading an apple or an orange half.
- Customize your bird feeder. Observe which birds are popular in your neighborhood, research what they like to eat and make a bird feeder for them.
- While observing birds, sprinkle some bird seed on the ground in front of you. Patiently wait for birds to come feed. Don't give up; it is a great way to watch birds up close!
- Help everyone understand the birds in your area by participating in a citizen science project, such as Project Feeder Watch (<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw/>).
- Extend what you've learned with easy-to-use activities from BirdSleuth, especially created for homeschool learning (<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/birdsleuth/about/who-birdsleuths/homeschoolers>).

This activity was created in partnership with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.