

Making a bird feeder!

There are lots of different ways you can make a bird feeder for garden birds and other woodland birds. Even though birds find lots of their own food during summer, sometimes the ground is too dry and hard to get to those juicy worms. Therefore it is nice to put some accessible food out, especially for fledglings.

Please only hang the bird feeder up on your own private land, or where you have permission from the landowner. Your local park or wild area might already have a bird feeding area you can add your addition too. When collecting materials and resources, please do this responsibly and sensibly. Please don't damage living things.

This activity can be changed to suit the space that you have, and we are only going to offer a few examples (please feel free to research more).



JOHN MUIR DISCOVER AWARD Summer Holiday Family Challenge



A bottle bird feeder!

This activity is suitable if you have a garden to hang it in at the end.. Suitable for children, not toddlers, but adult supervision is still needed throughout.

Resources and materials that could be used (but you may be more creative and think of other things):

- Small clean plastic bottle (less than 1 Litre, ideally about 500 ml or smaller)
- Sharp scissors, and small (nail) scissors
- Drawing pin
- Jug with bird seed in
- Straight sticks, dowel or old pencils
- String
- Pokey stick or pen might also help



How to:

- Using a drawing pin, put some drainage holes in the bottom, so any water can escape.
- Decide where you are putting the perching sticks through, maybe 3-5 cm up from bottom. Use drawing pin to make a hole, then use pointy stick, little scissors to make the hole big enough to poke the stick through, do this on opposite side too.
- Create a hole about 5 cm above from the perching stick, to allow the birds to gain access to the seed. Use the drawing pin, scissors and maybe pokey stick.
- You could then repeat this and make another set of perches with hole access further up the bottle.
- Put 2 holes in the bottle near the top, thread your string through and tie.
- Pour in bird seed (best to do this outside as it is messy.) Put lid on top and hang up for the birds. Maybe hide quietly and take note of what birds come to your feeder.



Pinecone feast!

You can make this anywhere, but outside is best with the mess you might make. Hang it up somewhere you have permission too, or in woods.

Resources and materials

- Pine cone
- Lard,
- String and scissors
- Bird seed, ideally in a jug or container

How to:

- Tie string onto your pine cone first. Then roll it in your lard.
- Once your pine cone is sticky, roll it and sprinkle over bird seed. Hang your pinecone up somewhere you can spot the birds feeding off it. Take note who eats the most.



Seed roulade !

A great way to upcycle toilet rolls, or other containers. Make outside and hang in garden.

Resources and materials

- Empty toilet roll tubes
- Lard,
- String and scissors
- Bird seed, ideally in a container

How to:

- Pierce 2 small holes at either side of a toilet tube, you might need adult help.
- Thread string through and tie holes at each end so that the string stays in place.
- Now spread your lard on the roll, so it is fully covered.
- Then roll the toilet roll in bird seed, you can put it in the fridge if you wanted it to set for longer, or hang it straight up in your garden or on a tree.
- Once all the seed has been eaten, it might be a good idea to take down the toilet roll, as an empty toilet roll in a tree.....looks a bit odd! Why not fill it up with natural materials to make a minibeast hotel!

