

## Make A Winter Bird Feeder

Feeding birds over the winter months can offer a helpful supplement to the natural foods that they eat. Here is a winter feeder that you can make at home and hang in your yard.

### Materials Needed:

- Pinecone
- About 3 feet of sturdy string or wire (36in, 90cm)
- Shortening\*\*
- Birdseed
- Spoon or knife for spreading
- Plate

\*\*Suet, lard, and peanut butter are all fine choices. Just make sure you use the good stuff to keep your birds healthy (all natural, no sweeteners) and avoid hydrogenated oils and palm oil if you can.

### Instructions:

**First**, gather your supplies. Start by tying your string tightly around your pinecone using a sturdy knot like a square knot.

**Next**, use your spreading tool to spread some shortening around your pinecone.

**Then**, pour a thin layer of bird seed onto a plate and gently roll the pinecone around so the seeds stick in the fat - feel free to use your hands but get ready to get messy!

**Finally**, find a good spot and tie your feeder into a tree, again using a sturdy knot.

Pro Tip: Hang your feeder close to perches and natural cover so the birds feel safe while they feast.

### Remember:

- Bird feeders are not substitutes for natural food sources, but they can help keep birds healthy over the winter, especially over extreme weather events like multiple days of very cold and/or icy weather.
- Check and clean your feeders often to keep your birds healthy and to avoid spreading disease.
- Water sources are also important to birds in the winter, so if you can add a water source like a bird bath, great! Just make sure to clean it when it starts looking yucky and break the ice or add fresh water on super cold days.

### A few helpful guidelines:

- ★ Routinely clean your bird seed and hummingbird feeders and clean more often in warm weather. Some sources suggest cleaning as often as every few weeks to a month.
- ★ For pinecone feeders - use only as much fat (Crisco, suet, peanut butter) as you need to. Pinecone feeders should not stay out for much more than a few weeks, but bring them in sooner if the fat seems moldy or starts to smell bad.



## HAPPY BIRD FEEDING!