

DIY Bird Feeders

In honor of Earth Day this week (April 22), think about how you can help the birds in your backyard while recycling materials that might otherwise get thrown out. Here is an easy tutorial on how to create bird feeders from natural objects as well as materials found in your household.

Supplies needed:

- Pinecones or toilet paper rolls
- Peanut Butter
- Bird seed
- Popsicle stick or butter knife
- Paper plate or Tray
- Twine or string
- Scissors
- Small bowl



Pinecone Bird Feeder:

If you have pine trees in your backyard, find a few pinecones that have already fallen off the tree. Once you have gathered some, follow along with these steps to create your own feeder!

Step One: Take some peanut butter out of the jar and put it into a smaller bowl. In a separate bowl or on a paper plate, pour bird seed into it to use for a later step.

Step Two: Cut at least 8 inches of twine, string, or fishing line and weave it around the top of the pinecone. Tie a knot around the cone, and another loop at the top of the excess string so you can hang it up later.

Step Three: Take your pinecone and butter knife (or popsicle stick for children) and start spreading peanut butter all over the pinecone. Do this until you have covered the pinecone. I have found that it is easiest to leave the top of the pinecone bare, so you are able to hold it and rotate it while spreading the peanut butter on. You can do this step over a paper plate to reduce mess!



Step Four: Once the pinecone is covered in peanut butter, take the bird seed and sprinkle it onto the cone. You can also have some seed on a paper plate and roll the cone in the bird seed to cover it as well.

Step Five: You are all set to find a place to hang your new pinecone feeder! I would suggest hanging the feeder on a sturdy branch away from the ground, giving birds a better chance to find and utilize your creation!



No pine trees in your backyard? No problem! You can also use a **toilet paper roll** as a base. The steps will be the same as the pinecone feeder above apart from hanging. To hang, make two slits on each side of the roll with a pair of scissors. As an extra add-on, you can also find a sturdy twig to push through the bottom of the roll to use as a perch!



Once you have your bird feeders hanging, observe and find out which bird species are feeding off it while using our backyard birding guide!