



Hi all, we hope you have had great fun in the snow. As the ground has been covered in snow, many berries have been eaten and minibeasts are hibernating, our garden birds are getting hungry and need some energy. Some birds have migrated, flying to warmer countries to survive. Other birds have arrived here for the winter, migrating from even colder countries.

The birds need your help to survive the winter so this week we are asking you to make a simple bird feeder for your garden. We have included a selection of feeders because we know you may not have all of the equipment at home. Be creative and do your best with the materials you have and combine ideas from different feeders. If you invent a new type of feeder please share it with us on our Outdoor Adventures Forest School Facebook page.



During the week beginning 29th January we will be asking you to identify birds in your garden or in an outdoor space near your house. You can ask your parents to sign up ready to the Big Garden Bird Watch and help the RSPB count and monitor the population of birds in our country. If you put your feeders out now and keep topping them up, hopefully you will have lots of birds visiting your garden by the end of the month. Once the birds know there is food they will keep visiting every day!

Join the bird watch @www.rspb.org.uk and follow the link to register.

Bird Cake feeder

How to make a bird cake feeder:

You will need:

- Bird seed
- Lard
- Cuttlery knife
- Bowl
- Pine cone or stick
- String



Method:

- Cut off a chunk of lard and put in the bowl.
- Add several handfuls of seeds.
- Using your hands (or a spoon) mix the lard and seeds together so it is gooey and the seeds are all mixed in. Add more seed if required.
- Tie string to the top of your stick or pine cone so you can hang it to a tree.
- Finally cover your stick or pine cone with your bird cake and tie to a tree.

For an extra treat you can add grated cheese and rasins to your recipe.

Fruit kebabs:

How to make fruit kebab feeders.

You will need:

- Either wire or metal/wooden kebab skewer or metal coat hanger or string and needle*
- String*
- Scissors*
- Fruit cut into pieces (adult supervision required) eg apple, orange, pear*
- Whole grapes and rasins (if you have them)*

Method:

- Thread your fruit onto your chosen wire/string/skewer.*
- If your material can bend then make it into a loop and tie/twist it at the top. Attach string to tie it up.*
- If your material is rigid you can tie string to the top to hang it to the tree (make sure your fruit can not slip off) or tie string on either end to make a perch.*
- Hang your feeder in your garden and watch over time to see if the birds come.*



Toilet Roll Bird Feeder:

You will need:

- *Toilet roll tube*
- *String*
- *Scissors*
- *Peanut butter (use only in your own garden and if no nut allergies)*
- *Bird seed*



Method:

- *Spread peanut butter onto the toilet roll tube using a cuttlery knife.*
- *Roll the tube in the seeds until covered.*
- *Put string throught the middle of your tube and tie at the top.*
- *Hang in your garden.*



Please be aware of peanut allergies. We don not make these feeders in school.

Cherio Bird Feeder:

You will need:

- *Wire (or pipe cleaner)*
- *Cherrios*
- *Extra small treats such as blueberries or raisins (optional)*
- *String*
- *Scissors*



Method:

- *Thread the cherrios and optional fruit onto the wire or pipe cleaner. Make an interesting shape- hearts work well.*
- *Twist the wire at the top to secure and so your cherrios do not fall off.*
- *Tie string to the top and hang in your garden.*

Challenge- can you link shapes together like this:



Please remember to remove any materials that are not biodegradable (do not rot away) once your feeders have been eaten but it is even better to keep refilling them and feeding the birds every day!