

Pinecone Bird Feeder

All Ages

This a great activity for all ages. Go for a walk and collect pinecones. Different evergreens produce different shapes and sizes of cones. Survey your neighbourhood evergreens to find pinecones you like. Choose ones that have fallen from the tree and opened. You will need at least one pinecone per person. Once you have your pinecones you are ready to begin.

Supplies:

- ⇒ 30 cm piece of real wool or cotton string (keep wildlife safe, please use natural fibers and collect them before nest building season)
- ⇒ newspaper to work on or a washable work surface
- ⇒ good sized pinecone
- ⇒ table knife
- ⇒ peanut butter or vegetable shortening
- ⇒ black oil sunflower seeds, bird seed, or rice crisp cereal for those with nut/corn allergies



Procedure:

- Step 1 – tie one end of string around fat end of pinecone so tip of cone hangs down, leave a long end of string for tying your feeder to a branch
- Step 2 – spread peanut butter all over your pinecone, fill in all the spaces, leave the flat top without peanut butter for the birds to sit on
- Step 3 – dip or roll your peanut buttery pinecone in bird seed, be sure to cover all of it in seeds
- Step 4 – cleanup
- Step 5 – go outside and tie your bird feeder to a branch
- Step 6 – watch for happy little birds

Plan to hang you feeders where you can wait and watch for visitors. Listen when one bird finds your feeders. Does it let other birds know? Hanging pinecone feeders in the same place repeatedly will encourage regular visitors. The birds will soon come to recognize you. With consistency and lots of patience, you could have the birds eating from your hand.

Tip: Here is a link to a free app to help identify birds.

<https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/>



Learn to identify birds and keep a list of all the different ones you see. Add data to your list such as date, weather, where you saw the bird (habitat) or other observations.