

Making pine cone bird feeders

Feeding birds through the winter can really help them to survive at a time when the weather is cold and there isn't a lot of food around. Once you have started feeding them, they can come to rely on that food, so maybe make a batch of pine cone bird feeders and hang them out one at a time.

What you will need

- Pine cones – if they are closed up, leave them somewhere warm overnight to open out
- String
- Scissors
- Lard or solid vegetable fat (like trex)
- Mixed bird seed
- Grated cheese
- Raisins
- Peanuts
- Bowl and spoon for mixing

Instructions

1 Take a pine cone and securely tie on a piece of string (ideally by winding the string around the fatter end) and leave a loop for hanging it up.

2 In a bowl, mix together the lard or vegetable fat (this should be soft but not melted) with the bird food, the raisins, cheese and peanuts. You can put any kind of bird food in.

3 Press the mixture into the pine cone until it is completely covered, getting it in all the nooks and crannies of the cone.

4 Hang somewhere to harden, or harden in the fridge if warm.

For more information on helping birds, please see the RSPB's website <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/how-you-can-help-birds/>

