

20 Minute
Activity
For
Everyone

CAUTION
INCLUDES
NUTS!

Homemade Bird Feeder

The unique habitats and rich landscapes of Ontario make it a hot spot for over 500 diverse species of birds. Though there are many native bird species, over half come to Ontario during their migratory seasons. In recent years, industrial growth across the province has led to a significant decrease in bird habitat, resulting in population decline. Use this activity to create your own homemade bird feeder. It will help you deepen your connection to the ecosystem and support local bird populations.



Follow-up Activity:

After your bird feeder is set up, take time to observe the feeder, keeping track of which birds come and feed. What do they look like? What sounds do they make? How do they interact? If you don't recognize the birds using the feeder, take a photo and ask a family member or try an internet search to identify the bird species.

Reflection Questions:

- What did you observe after hanging your homemade bird feeder?
- Why do you think bird habitat continues to be lost?
- What are other ways you can help support bird species thrive?

Activity:

- Use a pinecone, piece of wood, or large piece of tree bark as the base of your feeder.
- Spread an even layer of peanut or almond butter around the surface of your chosen object.

The more nut butter you use, the more seeds you will be able to stick on.

- Roll your feeder in your bird seed mixture, ensuring to stick as much of the mixture as you can.
- Attach a string to your feeder and hang it up somewhere in your yard where you can see it. A low tree branch works well.

Homemade Bird Seed Recipe:

Birds enjoy a variety of seeds, nuts and fruits. Use ingredients you have at home to craft your own recipe, review the ingredients below to spark the creation of your feed. Add even amounts of each ingredient to keep the mixture balanced.

Nuts, Seeds and Fruits:

- Striped and black sunflower seeds, shelled or unshelled peanuts, cracked corn, white millet, safflower seeds and unshelled pine nuts are full of protein and good energy for birds.
- Raisins, dried apricots, raisins, currants as well as fresh apples, grapes, oranges and plums cut up into small pieces are full of healthy sugars to help birds thrive.

Materials Needed:

Piece of Wood, Tree Bark, or Pinecone, A String, Nut Butter, Homemade Bird Feed Mixture.