Build a Better Birdhouse Recipes and Resources



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TP Tube Bird Feeder

What You Need:

- toilet paper tube (one per student)
- shortening, honey, or nut butter
- birdseed
- tray
- spreaders, such as butter knives or craft stick
- yarn or string
- hole punch

What To Do:

- 1. Pour the birdseed in the tray and spread out in an even layer.
- 2. Use the hole punch to make two holes on one end of the toilet paper tube.
- 3. Spread an even thin layer of shortening, nut butter, or honey on the toilet paper tube.
- 4. Roll the tube in the bird seed, pressing to adhere.
- 5. Tie a loop of yarn or string to the holes in the top of the tube.
- 6. Find a place to hang your bird feeder outside and check regularly. Enjoy watching the birds come to your feeder!



Pine Cone Bird Feeder

What You Need:

- pine cone (one per student)
- shortening, honey, or nut butter
- birdseed
- tray
- spreaders, such as butter knives or craft stick
- yarn or string

What To Do:

- 1. Pour the birdseed in the tray and spread out in an even layer.
- 2. Tie a piece of string or yarn around the top of the pine cone, making a loop for hanging the bird feeder.
- 3. Spread the shortening, nut butter, or honey on outside of the pine cone.
- 4. Roll the pine cone in the bird seed, pressing to adhere.
- 5. Find a place to hang your bird feeder outside and check regularly. Enjoy watching the birds come to your feeder!



Birdseed Cookies

What You Need:

- 4 cups birdseed
- 3/4 cup flour
- 1 Tablespoon unflavored gelatin (1 envelope)
- 3 Tablespoons corn syrup
- 1/2 cup boiling water
- Large bowl
- Smaller bowl
- Spatula
- Non-stick spray
- Parchment paper
- Cookie cutters, approximately 1 inch deep
- Straws or chopsticks for making holes
- Twine or string

What To Do:

- 1. Mix the birdseed and flour in the large bowl.
- 2. Mix the gelatin and corn syrup in the small bowl. Carefully stir in the boiling water and mix until everything is dissolved.
- 3. Pour the gelatin mixture over the birdseeds mixture and stir thoroughly. The mixture will be stiff, but needs to be evenly mixed.
- 4. Spray the inside of the cookie cutters well with the non-stick spray.
- 5. Spoon the birdseed mixture into the cookie cutters and pack down well so that the birdseed mixture is even with the top of the cookie cutter.
- 6. Use the straw or chopstick to make a hole for string to pass through about an inch from the edge of the birdseed cookie.
- 7. Allow to dry in the cookie cutter for an hour or two before carefully removing the cookie cutter and placing the cookie on a wire rack to allow to continue to dry for several hours. Depending on temperature and humidity, this can take some time.
- 8. Once the birdseed cookies are dry and set, tie a loop of twine through the hole and hang outside for the birds. Enjoy watching the birds visit your feeder!



Resources

These websites are current as of November 2017. Inside the Outdoors does not manage these sites and is not responsible for the content on them. This list is also posted under the Resources Tab of our website.

The Cornell Lab Bird Academy - courses, interactives, videos, photos, diagrams academy.allaboutbirds.org

Nest Watch - Citizen Science all about nesting, birdhouse building information and resources.

nestwatch.org

All About Birds - Bird Guide, bird cams, birding basics, from The Cornell Lab of Ornithology www.allaboutbirds.org

eBird - citizen science, data about birds ebird.org

Bird Sleuth - free curriculum and resources for teachers, home-schooler, after-school programs, and youth development programs; workshops and webinars; grants and giveaways; events and products www.birdsleuth.org

FOSS Full Option Science System - Lots of information on introducing and using science notebooks with K-8; science curriculum and resources, professional development www.fossweb.com

State Standards and Curriculum

Common Core - www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/

Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) California Framework - www.cde.ca.gov/ci/sc/cf/_

Education and the Environment Initiative Curriculum (EEI) - www.californiaeei.org