

# PINECONE BIRD FEEDER

Lesson developed by: Pat Miller, Summit County Master Gardener Volunteer

**Overview:** Note: This activity is for activity staff to prepare for residents: It could be used as a cart activity or with a groups of residents.

## MAKING THE BIRD FEEDER:

Birds, just like people, have to eat. In nature, there are a lot of types of seeds and insects that birds eat for energy. Birds will visit our yards or gardens naturally. During the summer or early fall there is a lot of food available but as winter sets in food becomes scarce. There are many types of bird feeders. This type of pinecone bird feeder is easy to make and easy to hang.

### Materials

A folded piece of newspaper  
Paper plate  
A long piece of twine  
Pinecone  
Birdseed in a zip lock bag  
Peanut butter, honey, or suet  
Plastic spoon

### HOW DO I MAKE MY BIRD FEEDER?

First review the newspaper if you'd like. Now cover your table with the newspaper to keep the mess down. Place your pinecone on the paper plate and tie a knot at the top of the pinecone using the string. Tie a strong knot so it can hang on a tree.

Use the plastic spoon to spread the peanut butter, honey or suet all over the pinecone. Be gentle so you don't break the pinecone. It will be messy, but it's worth it.

Open the zip lock bag and pour the birdseed on the paper plate. Sprinkle seed or roll your pinecone so it's covered with seeds. Now that you are finished, it's time to clean your hands!



Source: Susan Mahr, Wisconsin Master Gardener



Your pinecone feeder is ready to be shared with the birds. It's important to hang the feeder in an open area, with trees and shrubs nearby for shelter. Choose a spot where predators like cats or hungry squirrels can't get to it.

It time to sit back and enjoy the view from a window or in the garden or the yard.

Thank You for helping to take care of our fine feathered friends.



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**QUESTIONS**

- Take a look at the newspaper you used to work on today. What part of the paper did you have? What is your favorite part of the paper - for example, the front page, sports or comics. What newspaper did you read while growing up?
- Do you like peanut butter? Do you like crunchy or smooth better? Do you like honey? Why do you think birds like suet?
- Can you name a type of an Ohio pine tree? There are many varieties: red pine, Virginia pine, scotch pine, white pine and Austrian pine to name a few. Did you have any pine trees in your yard when growing up? Did you feed birds when you were young?
- What kinds of birds have you seen most at bird feeders? What kinds do you think will come to the feeder you made today? Do you have a favorite bird? If so, what is it?
- Do you know what the Ohio state bird is? Do its male and female look the same? Are they here just in the warm weather or all year long?

**Contact information:**

If you have any questions about this activity, please email [mgsummitcounty@gmail.com](mailto:mgsummitcounty@gmail.com).

We hope you benefitted from this activity. Please let us know if you utilized this with a quick email to the above address. Please send your name, facility name, number of participants involved in this activity, and your feedback for improvement so we can measure our impact and improve this product. Thank you!

**Photo resources:**

Pat Miller (1 & 2), Cardinal: Johnny Dell, Bugwood.org (3)

