



DIY Bird Feeders

Bring feathered friends to your yard



<https://birdwatchinghq.com/>

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RETURN OF THE SUMMER RESIDENTS

Springtime brings a return of numerous bird species to the Bay Mills Indian Community. Many have traveled a long way and are preparing to raise young. This is a great time to begin providing supplemental feed to attract birds to your yard and support their survival.

This issue includes a variety of Do It Yourself (DIY) bird feeders that range in difficulty and age . No matter which feeder your use, be sure to provide your birds with high quality wild bird food to best support them. Avoid fillers such as corn to ensure proper nutrition for your backyard visitors.

A CHANCE TO IDENTIFY

Once you've begun to get visits from different species of birds, you can use the resources provided in the Backyard Birding guide to identify them and to learn all about their characteristics and behavior.



Cookie Cutter Bird Seed Feeders (A Toddler-Friendly Method)

<https://mamapapabubba.com/>

MATERIALS

- ⇒ 2/3 cup of boiling water
- ⇒ 2 packets of gelatin (a box has 4)
- ⇒ 2 cups of bird seed
- ⇒ parchment or wax paper
- ⇒ cookie cutters or silicone molds
- ⇒ straws cut into 2 inch pieces



DIRECTIONS

1. Pour the water into a large mixing bowl. Add two packages of gelatin and stir until it's fully dissolved. Add the bird seed and mix well until everything is evenly coated.



2. Place cookie cutters/molds onto a parchment-lined tray and scoop seed mixture in until heaping full. Place another piece of parchment on top of the cookie

cutters and press down firmly to pack in all of the seeds. Remove the top parchment layer and gently poke straw pieces all the way through the seed shapes. Put the tray into the fridge for a couple of hours to allow the feeders to set.



3. Remove the tray from the fridge and let sit on the counter to dry out. Flip the cookie cutters over a few hours later to let the bottoms dry out too. Let sit overnight until the feeders are completely dry.
4. Gently remove the seed shapes from the molds (they should be fully dry and hard to the touch at this point - if not, allow to dry longer).

Carefully remove the straws and tie a twine loop through the holes. Hang in a tree.



Simple Macrame Orange Bird Feeder

<http://bluecorduroy.com/>

MATERIALS

- ⇒ Orange
- ⇒ String
- ⇒ Bird seed



DIRECTIONS

1. Cut the orange in half and scoop out all of the fruit.



2. Cut 8 equally length strings, around arm length. Tie all these together at the top.



3. Section the strings out in pairs into four different sides (north, south, east, west). Tie those pairs into knots, about an inch away from the very bottom knot.

4. Divide the pairs of string into new pairs, pairing neighbors strings together. Tie those into knots about an inch or inch and a half up from previous knot.



5. Slip in the orange half filled with bird seed into the newly formed string cradle. Tie another knot with all 8 strings at the top so it can hang from a tree.



SODA BOTTLE BIRD FEEDER

<https://kellyleighcreates.com/soda-bottle-bird-feeder/>

SODA BOTTLE BIRD FEEDER



herecomesthesun-kelly.blogspot.com

MATERIALS

- ⇒ Plastic bottle (1 used soda bottle)
- ⇒ Two wooden spoons
- ⇒ Sharpie marker
- ⇒ Craft knife
- ⇒ Scissors
- ⇒ Wire

DIRECTIONS

1. With a sharpie marker, draw a small circle on one side of the bottle about 4 inches from the bottom. Cut it out (using a craft knife) and make sure the end of the spoon fits snugly into the hole.
2. Directly opposite this hole, cut a slightly larger hole (using a craft knife and scissors). Make sure the big end of the spoon can rest in the hole.



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3. Repeat this process approximately 2 inches from the bottom of the soda bottle, but use the opposite sides of the bottle so your spoons are at a 90 degree angle to one another.

4. Fill the bottle with birdseed.



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5. Make a hanger out of wire and secure to the top of the bottle. Screw the top on and hang outside.



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Teacup Bird Feeder

<https://www.practicallyfunctional.com/how-to-make-a-teacup-bird-feeder/>

MATERIALS

- ⇒ Old teacup and saucer
- ⇒ Ceramic glue
- ⇒ Twine
- ⇒ Birdseed

DIRECTIONS

1. Start by gluing the teacup to the saucer. Place a line of glue on the teacup from the rim to the bottom, exactly opposite the handle.



2. Then, holding the teacup by the handle, press the cup down into the saucer. Make sure the cup is at the back half of the saucer so there is room for the bird seed to "spill out" in front of the cup.
3. Cut three long pieces of twine, about two feet long. Knot all three strands together near one end, then glue the knot onto the bottom of the saucer, right in the middle.



Make sure you spread out the three strands a little before gluing the knot down.



4. When the glue on the saucer is dry, take the three strands of twine and gather them above the teacup, holding the weight of the teacup and saucer. Adjust the three strands until the saucer hangs perfectly level, then tie the three strands together in a knot above the teacup.



5. Now go hang your teacup bird feeder outside, fill and enjoy!

TOILET PAPER ROLL BIRD FEEDER

<http://gogrowgo.com/how-to-make-peanut-butter-bird-feeder/>

MATERIALS

- ⇒ Toilet paper roll
- ⇒ Dinner plate
- ⇒ Peanut butter
- ⇒ Bird seed



inside of the roll in order to avoid peanut buttered fingers! Once the roll is covered you can roll with your hands to try to fill all of the holes.

DIRECTIONS

1. Make sure to remove all of the excess paper that may be stuck to your toilet paper roll. Take a butter knife or spoon and spread peanut butter over the entire outside of the toilet paper roll. It doesn't have to be overly thick, but enough for seed to stick.



2. Once you have the roll completely covered, pour your bird seed into a dinner plate. Roll the peanut butter covered toilet paper roll across the bird seed in the plate. Hold the



3. Slip your bird feeder over a tree branch!

SEED QUALITY MATTERS

Not all bird seed is created equally, even if it is the same type of seed. Higher quality seed will attract more species and will provide better nutrition for healthy flocks. To ensure the seed you buy is a good value and superior quality, look for:

- ⇒ Mix Proportions (more millet and sunflower seeds, less milo, cracked corn, wheat, or oats)
- ⇒ Freshness
- ⇒ Ingredients (all seeds listed, no pesticides or insecticides used)

ACORN BIRD FEEDER (Part 1)

<https://www.triedandtrueblog.com/acorn-bird-feeder-tutorial/>

MATERIALS

- ⇒ 1/4" metal mesh
- ⇒ Round wood bowl (thrifted)
- ⇒ Twine/rope
- ⇒ Two small nails
- ⇒ Metal snips
- ⇒ Needle nose pliers

DIRECTIONS

1. Trim the metal mesh to a 14"x7" rectangle. This size may vary depending on the bowl you find. Gently roll the mesh until it fits in the bowl and trim off excess. Leave one of the sides and the bottom with points open. Trim the other side and top of mesh to have a smooth edge.



2. Fold the points to a 90 degree angle. Roll wire mesh until the ends meet and interlock. Use your pliers to bend open points around smooth edge until opening is secured shut and



3. tube is created. Bend the bottom of the wire mesh (with open points) tube into a square. Make sure that each corner is evenly spaced.



3. Measure and cut out 4 triangles, one on each side, about 3" deep. Fold opposite sides inward. Fold two of the opposite sides inward and use your pliers to interconnect the open wire ends. Repeat with the other opposite sides to close up bottom. Any open holes can be closed up by intertwining the open wires.

ACORN BIRD FEEDER (Part 2)

<https://www.triedandtrueblog.com/acorn-bird-feeder-tutorial/>



4. Drill two small holes on opposite sides of the bowl edge. Make sure they're small enough that the nail heads can't be pulled through. Drill another larger hole at the top of the bowl for the rope loop. Trim tips of nails slightly to smooth them.



5. Insert the two ends of the rope in through the top of the bowl and tie a knot below the bowl. Make sure the knot is large enough that it can't be pulled out.



6. After filling acorn body with large bird seed (the small stuff will fall through), push in slightly on the open top of the mesh while inserting into the bowl. You want to make sure the nails catch and lock into the squares to hold mesh in place.
7. Hang outside!



SAFETY

Tips to keep you and the wildlife around your home safe from harm

MUKWA (BEARS)

Bird feeders can be a tempting treat for bears, especially those just emerging from hibernation. Here are some tips for avoiding conflict with bird feeders:



- ⇒ **Never intentionally feed bears**
- ⇒ **Affix your feeder to a tall metal pole**

The pole should be about 10 feet tall, 3 inches in diameter, and go several feet into the ground for added stability. This will prevent bears from shaking a pole to get the feeder to fly off or climbing it.

- ⇒ **Hang your feeder from trees**

Make sure it's at least 10 feet off the ground and securely attached to the rope, so bears can't reach it by standing up. Suspend the feeder in between two trees to prevent bears from climbing trunks and limbs to access it.

- ⇒ **Put cayenne pepper in your seed**

Birds don't have taste buds and there are no negative effects on health, but crushed peppers

make the bird seed spicy and undesirable to bears. A hefty amount should be mixed into the food for best results. Although the bears have to eat the seed for it to be effective, they also have excellent memories, and will remember that the seed was too hot.



MIGIZI

(BALD EAGLES)

Providing an easy meal to wildlife may seem like a good idea, but often has unintended consequences. When bald eagles concentrate around a food source, birds will often fight over access to the food. Eagles can be harmed in these fights, threatening their survival. Long-term feeding can cause the eagles to look to humans as reliable food providers and alter how far juvenile birds travel from their birthplace. Eagles are also very sensitive to chemicals and toxins in their food. It is best to avoid providing food sources to allow them to focus on natural options.



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