

## *Make Your Own Backyard Bird Feeder*



### **MATERIALS:**

1 apple, 1 pumpkin or 1 pinecone  
Peanut butter  
Birdseed  
Jute cord  
Wooden dowels (if you use a pumpkin)

### **TOOLS:**

Spoon or butter knife  
Scissors

### **STEPS:**

1. Cut the **apple in half or the top off the pumpkin** and scoop out the inside content. \*If children are making this, have an adult do this step. **You do not have to do anything to the pinecone**; just make sure there are no *unwanted guests* on it. 😊
2. Spread a thick layer peanut butter and birdseed on the **apple**. You don't need to use peanut butter inside of the **pumpkin**, simply pour bird seed into the hollowed-out pumpkin. You can use a butter knife or spoon to spread peanut butter on the **pinecone**, then roll or dip it in bird seed.
3. Place the **apple and birdseed/peanut butter mixture** in the fridge for 1 to 2 hours to harden before you hang the apple feeder.
4. **For apple feeder:** Cut the jute cord into 4 equal sections. Tie a knot at the top and at the bottom. Hang from the top in a tree. Set the apple on the bottom knot and use the strings to hold it in place.
5. **For pumpkin feeder:** Stick two wooden dowels through the walls of the pumpkin (creating an "x") we found it easier to cut holes in the pumpkin for the dowels and use jute cord to hang the feeder from your tree using the dowels.
6. **For the pinecone feeder:** Tie the jute cord around the top of the pinecone and cover it with the peanut butter and seed mixture to "cement" the cord.



SWEETWATER COUNTY TRAVEL & TOURISM BOARD

### WHY IT IS OKAY AND HELPFUL TO FEED BIRDS IN THE WINTER

1. Natural seed sources are **depleted** in winter and it is a tough go for birds to find naturally occurring food.
2. Extra feeding **helps them prepare** for spring mating and that means healthier chicks!
3. Food types are limited, and **birds need extra calories** to migrate and survive winter months.
4. **Predators** are extra hungry, too, so make sure you place the feeders near cover and off the ground so they can hide and escape from predators, like hawks and cats.
5. **Water sources are frozen** so keep the water ice-free by dumping hot water in with the cold water or buy an inexpensive water heater.

### AUDUBON TIPS FOR WINTER BIRD FEEDING IN YOUR YARD

1. Locate bird feeders at **different levels** to spread them out and reduce competition at feeders.
2. Offer a **variety of seeds** in separate feeders to spread the birds out and attract a variety of birds.
3. Provide **suet (beef fat)** during cool weather only. You can buy premade suet packs at any grocery store.
4. **Peanut butter** is a good substitute for suet in the summer.
5. Provide **fruit for berry-eating birds**; some suet packs also have fruit in them.
6. **Store seed** in secure metal containers or sturdy wood crates to keep squirrels and other animals out of the container.
7. **Discourage squirrels** from eating the seeds in your feeders. They are cute to watch, also, but can be a nuisance.
8. Locate feeders to **reduce window collisions** by placing glass-friendly stickers on them or just don't place a feeder too close to the windows.
9. **Keep cats away** from the feeders and **put a bell** on their collar so the birds will hear them.
10. **Clean feeders** and rake or shovel up spilled grain and hulls when the weather warms up.