

DIY Bird Feeder

Materials

Birdseed
Unflavored gelatin
Boiling water
Popsicle stick or spoon
Paper bowl or cookie cutter
Cooking spray
Mixing bowl
Measuring cups
Plastic bowl
Adult Helper



Adapted for 4-H use by Aimee Evans, October 2022

Procedure

- 1) Measure out 1 cup of bird seed and pour it into your mixing bowl. Open a gelatin packet. Mix the gelatin powder in with the bird seed.
- 2) Pour 1/4 cup of freshly boiled water into the birdseed. Stir thoroughly.
- 3) Spray your paper bowl lightly but evenly with cooking spray. ***see below***
- 4) Pour the moistened birdseed into your paper bowl and pack lightly. Your popsicle stick or spoon should serve well as a bird seed packer.
- 5) Using a piece of straw, “drill” a hole in the middle of your bird seed puck so you will have space to thread a ribbon. Leave the straw there until the birdseed dries, about 24 hours. Dry time will be longer if there is a lot of humidity in the air.
- 6) Once your seed has set up and dried, you may thread a ribbon or string through the hole to prepare the puck for hanging in a tree.
- 7) To store for later use, put the puck in a paper bag or other breathable container. Air tight containers will encourage mold growth.
- 8) Hang your birdseed feeder in a tree near a window and observe what wildlife comes to your feeder. Write down which animals you see. Draw them if you’re feeling artsy.
- 9) ***If you prefer to use a cookie cutter, follow the same methods but instead of using the paper bowl, use the cookie cutter and waxed paper plate. Spray the inside of your cookie cutter and the plate with the cooking spray. Place the cookie cutter on the plate and then fill with the hydrated gelatin and birdseed mix.***

How to Draw a Basic Bird

- 1) Draw a blob
- 2) Give it a triangle beak
- 3) Give it some nubbin toes
- 4) Give it a dot eye
- 5) Now some semicircle wings.
- 6) Good job! You drew a bird!

How to Draw a Squirrel

- 1) Give it a circle head
- 2) Give it some circle style ears
- 3) A biggish nose and 2 eyes
- 4) An oval body
- 5) A floppy bushy tail
- 6) Some rounded feet
- 7) Some U shaped paws.
- 8) Boom, you made a squirrel. Give it some whiskers and, if you're feeling adventurous, an acorn to go with it.

Animal Sighting Log

Date:

Location:

Birds:

Other Wildlife:

Date:

Location:

Birds:

Other Wildlife:



Need help with bird ID? Follow the QR link to the left for the Cornell Lab's allaboutbirds.org. You can search by color or feature by typing in the search bar.