

Let's Take the Birds to Lunch!

Ground Feeders

There are a variety of styles for ground feeders.

2 pieces of 1/4" plywood cut 12" x15"

2 support pieces of wood cut 5"

2 support pieces of wood cut 4"

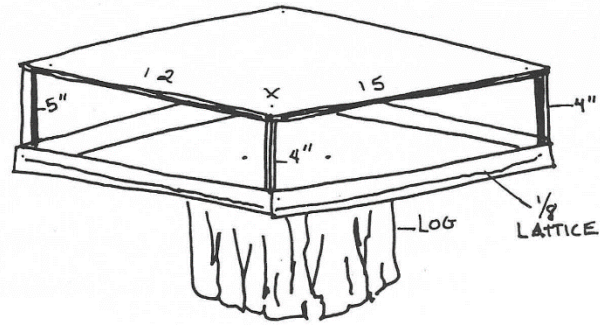
(The roof will be slanted.)

1 6" log cut even at both ends for the base of the feeder

2 pieces of 1/8" lattice cut 12" for the sides

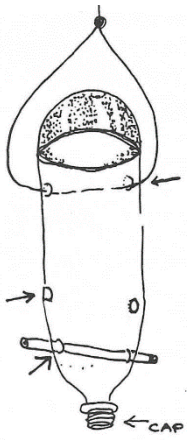
2 pieces of 1/8" lattice cut 15" for the sides

Use finishing nails for most of the construction. Anchor the log to the base with shank-type nails.



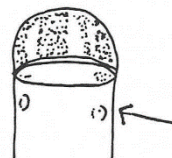
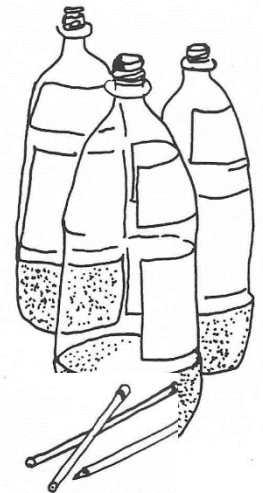
Birds that use ground feeders include blue jays, cardinals, mourning doves, house sparrows, pheasants, and evening grosbeaks. Fill ground feeders with sunflower or mixed seed.

Hanging Feeders



To make pop bottle feeders, you will need one two-liter pop bottle with cap and one pencil. Make sure the pop bottle is clean and dry inside. Have an adult using a soldering iron melt six holes into the plastic bottle. (See diagram.) The holes should be the diameter of the pencil. By melting the holes, a lip is formed and the seed doesn't fall out as easily. Put the pencils in the bottom holes. The string should be strung in the top holes. Pipe cleaners work well as a large needle to thread the string through the holes.

Place tape over the holes to fill the feeders with seed. To fill the feeders, cut a two-liter pop bottle in half and use the mouth of the bottle as a funnel.



Birds that visit hanging feeders include chickadees, crossbills, American goldfinches, house finches, purple finches, pine siskins, and common redpolls. Fill hanging feeders with sunflower seeds or sunflower hearts.

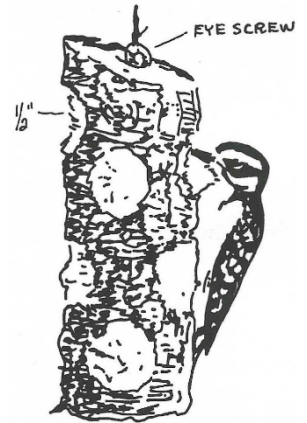
Tree Trunk Feeders

Peanut butter pine cone feeders are easy to make and popular feeders with the birds. Corn cobs picked from farm fields also work well when pine cones are scarce.

Spread newspapers on the table. Tie a string to the top of the cone. Using a popsicle stick (fingers get messy), smear peanut butter all over the pine cone. After the pine cone is covered in peanut butter, dip it into a bucket of mixed bird seed and roll the cone around to thoroughly coat the cone with the mixed seeds.

Suet Log

Use a dead log approximately 4" in diameter and 16" long. Have an adult use a 1/2" drill bit to drill several holes about 1/2" deep along the sides of the log. On the end of the log, attach a small eye screw to hang the feeder with wire. Fill the holes with beef suet and hang it against the trunk of a tree. Instead of drilling holes into the log, pop bottle caps may be nailed along the sides of the logs and filled with suet.



Suet Ball

Using a hot plate, pan, spoon, and a meat loaf pan, you can make several types of suet balls. Ask a local grocery store or meat locker for some beef suet. If the suet is ground first, it will melt better in the pan. Junco Jumble is a favorite recipe. *My Recipes Are For the Birds*, written by Irene Cosgrove and illustrated by Ed Cosgrove, contains fun recipes to create unique bird foods. With an adult helper, melt the suet and mix the ingredients together. After the mixture is hard, slip the suet mix into an onion bag and hang it on a tree.

Junco Jumble

- Raw beef suet
- 1 1/2 cups of cornmeal
- 1 cup of millet
- 1 cup of cracked corn
- 1/2 tablespoon of grape jelly
- 1 teaspoon of sand or grit



In a pan, melt the beef suet until it is soft. Let it cool slightly. Add other ingredients and mix well. Place in a pan and refrigerate. When the suet is hard, put it into an onion bag and hang it on the trunk of a tree.

Birds that visit tree trunk feeders include hairy woodpeckers, downy woodpeckers, chickadees, white-breasted nuthatches, and tufted titmice.

Squirrel Feeder

Using scrap lumber, nail 6" long nails through a wooden plank. (See diagram.) Carefully stick ear corn onto the nails and set the feeder up into a tree or on a fence post.

