

Bird feeders

Trees are vital to the health of our world. They provide oxygen, food, and even homes for many organisms. Birds can find nuts, fruit, sap, insects, and sometimes water in trees. Trees can serve as protection from predators, or as a place to rest mid-flight.

Setting up a bird feeder is a great way to get an idea of what birds live in your area. Not all birds leave for warmer areas in the winter. Many native birds overwinter and providing them with a little extra food can help survive the harsh winter season.

Age: All ages

Duration: 30-45 minutes

Materials:

- Pinecones
- Crisco
- Birdseed
- String
- Notebook & pencil

Instructions:

1. Tie a string around the top of the pinecone.
2. Coat the pinecone in Crisco. You could roll the pinecone in the Crisco or, with the help of an adult, use a butter knife.
3. Cover the Crisco pinecone in bird seeds. After a few hours, the Crisco will harden and keep the seeds in place.
4. Hang your bird feeder by the string on a tree, patio, or other place outdoors. Think about appropriate locations to hang the feeders. Would the visiting birds be safe from predators? Would the birds have a safe place to land and eat?
5. Observe the feeder and make notes about which birds visit. Are there any species that visit more than others?

If you are interested in other types of bird feeders or would like to attract certain birds, visit this helpful link from TNWRA: <https://www.tn.gov/twra/wildlife/birds/backyard-bird-feeders.html>

