



Pollution Busters Club

Activity Sheet No. 3

How to make bird feed recipes

Bird cake mixes

Offering birds a specially-mixed cake is one way of providing nourishment in winter, while making sure their food does not become scattered over the lawn during a frenzy of feeding.

Bird 'cakes' can be secured to a feeding table by pushing them down on a nail, or containing them in a pottle or net bag. The cake is bound together with fat or lard.

Its contents may include old cake, biscuit crumbs, stale bread and dried fruit. Any rice must be boiled beforehand and oatmeal soaked to stop swelling in the birds' stomachs.

Do not use salted peanuts or desiccated coconut for they can kill birds.

Pinecone bird feeders

What you'll need:

Pinecones
Spoon

Peanut butter (unsalted)
Yarn or string

Birdseed



Setting up:

Gather some pinecones.

What to do:

Tie a piece of yarn about 1 metre long to the top of the pinecone. Then use the spoon to spread a thick layer of unsalted peanut butter on the pinecone. Pour some of the birdseed into a small bowl. Roll the peanut butter covered pinecones in the birdseed until they are coated fully.

Hang the pinecones by the string from an overhang or tree branch. Try to choose a location that is 1.5m to 5m from an easily accessible window. Keep a small notebook nearby and record what birds you see. Describe or draw the birds, keeping track of how many different varieties you observe.

Winter birdy feast

What you'll need:

An assortment of any of the following:

Bread**

Apple (sliced or halved)

Berries

Popcorn

Grapes

Cheese

Seeds

Cereal**

Dates

Peanuts (unsalted)

Peanut Butter (unsalted)

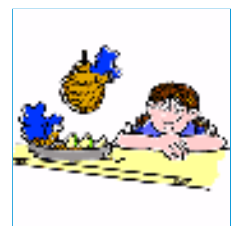
Old baked goods**

Biscuit crumbs

Cooked eggs (mash, include shell)

Sunflowers (esp. black oil variety)

**Note: It's okay to use old baked goods and bread, but make sure they're not mouldy



Setting up:

There are a few things to keep in mind when setting up your birdy feast: Try to choose an area that cats or other animals cannot interfere with. Make sure that all of the food is clean and free from mould. **Ingested mould can kill birds.** And don't forget water—even in the coldest weather, birds need a safe place to drink and bathe. Keep the water clean.

What to do:

Have fun experimenting with different kinds of foods to see which ones attract birds to your garden. Give the birds time to find your offerings. If one approach doesn't work, try another.

Try putting food in pie pans or trays set on a stump, balcony railing, fence-top or tree limb. Stick pieces of fruit on the ends of branches. Or, using an embroidery needle and string, thread popcorn, berries and unsalted peanuts to hang garland-style on a tree.

Keep a journal of what kind of birds you attracted, which food they ate and when.

Bird Pudding**What you'll need:**

Block of pure lard
bird seed
meat scraps
string

stale biscuits
raisins
wheat

cake crumbs
bacon rind
string bag

What to do:

Take a block of pure lard, melt it down, then add the food listed above. Mix well, then cool and shape into a pudding. Place the pudding into the string bag, tie the end with a simple knot and then tie on the string and hang it in a tree where it can easily be found by the birds and seen by you.

Sugar Water

Mix a tablespoon of sugar with some hot water to melt it. Make it up to a litre with cold water and put a little out in your garden each day, preferably at the same time. Tui and bellbirds particularly like this mixture.

Important Points to Remember When Artificially Feeding Birds

Never put salt in bird pudding, it can kill some birds.

Do not use honey in your sugar water, it attracts bees and it may spread disease among them.

Once you have begun feeding the birds, continue to do so throughout the winter. If you stop feeding them, you may cause them to starve.

**Tell us how it is going - phone Sarah 0800 368 267
or email sarah@boprc.govt.nz**