

## Home-made Bird Feeders – Tasty Treats that can't be beat!


Spring is an important time for Vancouver's feathered friends! Local birds are on the lookout for more food, and massive migrating flocks use the Fraser River estuary as a much-needed rest-stop along the Pacific Flyway, a migratory route that stretches 15,000KM from the southern tip of Patagonia to Alaska!


Want to create a welcoming treat for the birds now that Spring has sprung? Let's learn how to make a **simple bird feeder** anyone can make and will keep our bird buddies happy!





### Here's what you need:

 **Several pinecones** - Can be found outside! Go on an adventure to find a few! If that's not an option, **empty sections of egg cartons** or **empty toilet/kitchen roll** will work.

 **Peanut Butter** - for people with peanut allergies, **Almond butter** or **Soy butter** are good alternatives!

 **Birdseed** - Bought online or in pet stores. Otherwise, or any kind of unsalted nut / seed will work.

 **String, wire, or Pipe Cleaner**

 **Scissors** - if using string.

 **Butter knife**

 **2 plates**



## Let's Get Started!

### #1: Prepare the Pinecones

Make sure your pinecones aren't tightly closed up! If they are, bake them in an oven at 300° for ten minutes to get them to open.

Once your pinecones are open, **attach your chosen string, wire, or pipe cleaner to the tip.**

*(If you aren't using pinecones, then all you need to do is cut a small hole through the edge of your toilet roll/egg carton section, and thread your string, wire, or pipe cleaner through it.)*



### #2: Spread your chosen butter

It's time to get messy! Use your butter knife to spread your chosen nut / seed butter all over the pinecone/toilet roll/egg carton section. Try to get it into all the cracks to fully coat your object! If you're worried about using a knife, you can roll your item in the butter instead. Doing this on a plate works well and will contain some of the mess.



### #3: Roll it in Birdseed

When your pinecone/toilet roll/egg carton section is fully coated, pour birdseed onto your second plate and let's roll!

Roll your object back and forth in the birdseed to get it completely covered up! Make sure the seeds are pressed into the butter, so they don't fall out!



#### #4: Hang your Bird Feeders Outside

Choose a spot that's high enough so that cat and dogs won't be able to bother the birds.

The best spot should also be easily visible from your home, so you can watch your birds enjoy their snack! Tree branches are a great option! As long as it's hanging in an open areas, birds will be able to reach it.

It might take the birds a while to find their treat, but your patience will pay off! Sit and watch them enjoy their present and try to identify the birds that come along! [Here's](#) a great resource to help you identify birds commonly found in your neighbourhood.

Let us know how your crafting went! Share pictures of your completed bird feeders online and tag us @thefrdc to help us find you! Stay safe, and happy crafting!

