Edible Bird Feeder

Bird feeders are a great way to observe birds while supplying necessary food, especially in winter when natural foods are hard to find. Follow the directions below to make a homemade bird feeder to hang outside your window or in a tree near your home:

1. **Select a bird feeder base**
   Pine cones are a popular and natural foundation for a bird feeder, but you may also use an empty paper towel roll or a stale piece of bread.

2. **Make it sticky**
   Coat the base with peanut butter or honey. If you are making your bird feeders with a group of children, be sensitive to potential peanut allergies and use honey instead.

3. **Add some goodies**
   Roll the feeder in raisins, cranberries, unsalted and unbuttered popcorn, Sunflower seeds, shelled plain peanuts or mixed birdseed.

4. **String it up**
   Run a wire, dental floss or cotton string through your bird feeder. Secure the two ends together to make a loop.

5. **Hang your bird feeder outside**
   Place your bird feeder on a hook outside a window, or in a tree outside your home. If you are unable to see the bird feeder from your home, place it in a tree near a bench where you can sit and watch the birds feed.

**Extensions**
- Some birds like to eat fruit, create a simple bird feeder by threading an apple or an orange half.
- Customize your bird feeder. Observe which birds are popular in your neighborhood, research what they like to eat and make a bird feeder for them.
- While observing birds, sprinkle some bird seed on the ground in front of you. Patiently wait for birds to come feed. Don’t give up; it is a great way to watch birds up close!
- Help everyone understand the birds in your area by participating in a citizen science project, such as Project Feeder Watch ([http://www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw/](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw/)).
- Extend what you’ve learned with easy-to-use activities from BirdSleuth, especially created for homeschool learning ([http://www.birds.cornell.edu/birdsleuth/about/who-birdsleuths/homeschoolers](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/birdsleuth/about/who-birdsleuths/homeschoolers)).

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