

# FEED THE BIRDS



AGE 7+



60 MINUTES



ACTION

Help care for our birds during Winter when their natural food sources are scarce. At this time of year, the Autumn berries have all been eaten and the ground can be too frozen for them to peck out worms or insects. They rely on scraps left on bird tables and bird feeders, to get enough energy to make it through the cold months.

## WHAT YOU NEED

- Pinecones
- Garden twine
- Vegetable fat or lard
- Plate
- Good quality bird seed



## DID YOU KNOW?

The RSPB runs the Big Garden Birdwatch every January. It's a huge nationwide survey of UK birdlife and anyone can contribute. All you need to do is spend an hour watching the birds in your garden or local park and keep track of the different birds you see. Your results help build up a picture of which species are thriving, and which are in decline in the UK right now. [rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/](https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/)

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Take a pinecone and tie a piece of garden twine around the middle firmly, leaving enough to make a loop to hang it up with.
2. Carefully press the vegetable fat into all the gaps, all round the pinecone.
3. Lay the bird seed on a plate and then roll the pinecone over the bird seed making sure it sticks to the fat. This will be messy!
4. Carefully place your bird feeder in the freezer overnight, this will help it all stick together.
5. The next day, take your bird feeder and hang it up for the birds. Ideally this will be somewhere:
  - quiet where they won't get disturbed
  - not too close to bushes where cats can hide, but close enough for the birds to perch in before reaching the food
  - sheltered from harsh winds
6. It might take a while for the birds to find this new food stash, but once they do, they will start visiting.

HA-HA!

Why do birds fly south in the winter?  
Because it's too far to walk!