

# Feeding WILD BIRDS



## Why make bird feeders?

It can be difficult for birds to find natural food during the winter. Good bird feeders let birds feed in ways that match their natural way of feeding. Hang the birdfeeders by attaching a couple of hooks underneath the table. Birds will come to rely on the food that is provided for them so don't stop feeding them suddenly. You can try any of the following:

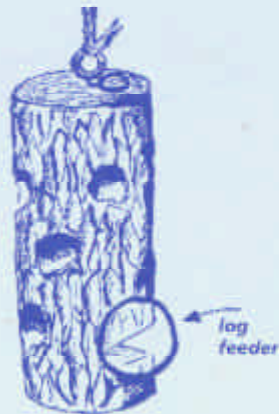
### Log feeder

#### You will need...

- a log with holes drilled
- melted suet

#### What to do...

Fill the holes in the log with melted suet.



### Peanuts strung on wire

#### You will need...

- thread
- sewing needle
- peanuts

#### What to do...

- 1) Thread a sewing needle.
- 2) Thread it through a number of peanuts.
- 3) Attach to a tree or bird table.



### Bird puddings

#### You will need...

- lard
- nuts
- cheese crumbs
- cardboard cartons
- bird seed
- sultanas
- cake scraps
- some string

#### What to do...

- 1) Make a mixture of seeds, nuts, sultanas, cheese crumbs and cake scraps.
- 2) Stir in almost the same amount of melted suet or fat to bind in.
- 3) Allow the mixture to set solid before putting it out.

### Coconut bird feeder

#### You will need...

- half a coconut shell
- fruit
- seed
- lard
- brown bread

#### What to do...

- 1) Melt the lard in a saucepan and add the fruit/seed and brown bread.
- 2) Make a small hole in the coconut shell, thread some string through the hole.
- 3) Fill the coconut shell with the mixture.



This feeder will attract greenfinches, tits and house sparrows.

## Make up your own bird feeders

Other simple bird feeders can be made using cardboard milk cartons, plastic bottles and some suitable food.

Why not invent your own bird feeders! All of these can be hung from trees or suspended from your bird table.

food in a net bag





# Making a bird table

## Why build a bird table?

A bird table is an excellent way of offering food to your local birds and it also provides a better view for you, by enticing them back to the garden.

Gardens today are much tidier, so it is more difficult for the birds to find food. The preference for more colourful foreign plants also serves to reduce the native species where many birds find their food.

## What you need...

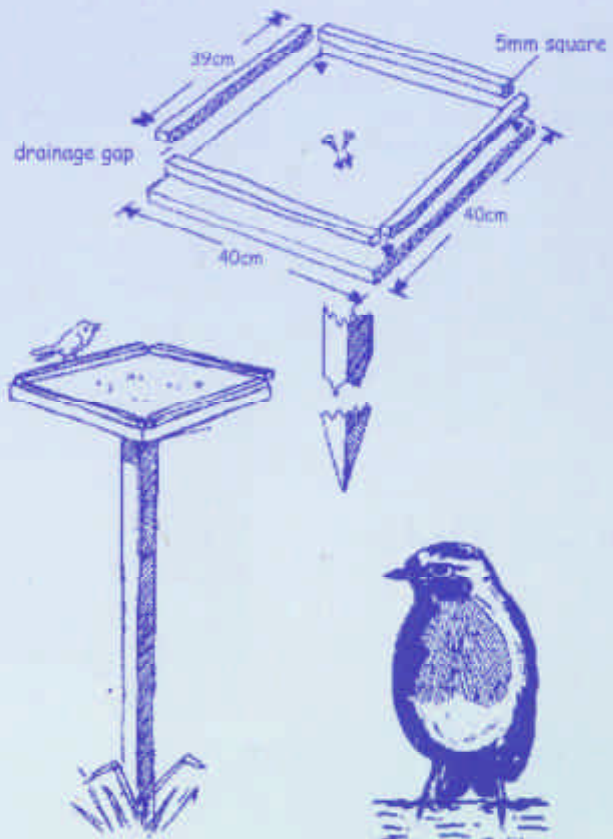
- piece of exterior plywood, roughly 40cm x 40cm. If this is not available, don't worry. Ordinary ply-wood won't last as long but it's easy to build a new table.
- a strip of wood about 1cm thick.
- a post about 1.5m high.
- glue
- nails
- a small hook
- saw & drill

## What to do...

- 1) Drill a few holes in the plywood to allow for drainage.
- 2) Cut the strip of wood into 4 pieces of 40cm long. Glue and nail the strips of wood along the edge of the plywood ensuring that you leave a gap at each corner for cleaning purposes (see diagram).
- 3) Support your bird table on top of the post by nailing the plywood onto the post.
- 4) Attach a few hooks underneath the table and use them to hang bird feeders.

## Tips for locating your bird table!

- Don't put your table within easy reach of a wall, fence or a tree from which a cat can leap.
- If possible place it near a bush which gives birds a place to 'queue up' for a place on the table, or to dash to if disturbed.



## Making a bird bath

Birds need water all year round for both drinking and bathing. Putting a bird bath in your garden is another incentive for birds to visit.

Birds do not sweat as we do, they pant to keep cool by evaporating water from their mouths and lungs, rather like dogs.

During winter a bath helps them ensure that their feathers are in peak condition to help them survive the cold winter nights. It should be kept ice-free during the winter by breaking through the ice if necessary.

