



DIY BIRDSEED COOKIES



Attract birds year round to your backyard with these ornaments made from birdseed.

SUPPLIES

Included in the kit:

- 1-1/2 cups birdseed
- 1 packet unflavored gelatin
- cookie cutter
- paper straws
- twine

You will also need:

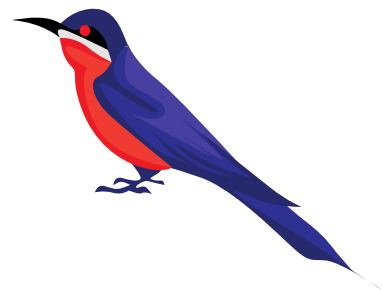
- 1/4 cup water
- microwave-safe bowl
- spoon
- cooking spray
- wax/grease-proof paper
- extra cookie cutters if you want!



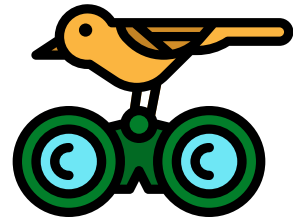
INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Line a baking tray/sheet with wax/greaseproof paper.
2. Spray the inside of the cookie cutter with baking spray. Alternatively, grease with coconut oil. A thin coat of cooking spray or oil makes it easier to release the ornament.
3. Place the cookie cutters on the lined baking sheet/tray.
4. Pour the water into a microwave-safe bowl and sprinkle with the gelatin.
5. Warm the water in the microwave for about 30 seconds then stir the gelatin in the water until it dissolves.
6. Stir in the birdseed.
7. Mix until the birdseed is completely coated in gelatin mixture.
8. Fill each cookie cutter with birdseed mixture. Pack and press down tightly until the cookie cutter is full.
Tips: The mixture is sticky, so grease your fingertips with a little coconut oil or cooking spray. If the mixture cools down too much, re-warm in the microwave for 15 seconds.
9. Cut the straw into pieces that are taller than the cutter(s). Poke a piece of straw into each ornament to make a hole for the twine.
10. Let the ornaments dry for a couple of hours or overnight.
11. Carefully press the DIY birdseed ornaments out of the cookie cutters.
12. String with twine or a ribbon for hanging outside.
13. Wait and watch for the birds to show up!

Adapted from: <https://www.countryhillcottage.com/diy-birdseed-ornaments/> and <https://youtu.be/aW36pMOMLPs>



LEARN MORE ABOUT BIRDS & BIRDWATCHING



In your own backyard, in parks, while hiking, or on a preservation site, you can look for birds anywhere! Finding birds is mostly a matter of being aware and knowing where to look. Here are some tips on getting started:

Step 1: Stop

If you're in a car, park and get out. If you're with a group of people, finish chatting and stand still. Tuck away your phone, field guide, and anything else in your hands (except binoculars).

Step 2: Look

The trick is to scan with efficiency and purpose. If you see a bird and think you know what it is, don't immediately pass it off—study it closer to be sure it isn't something unusual.

Step 3: Listen

Your ears can help as much as your eyes, especially while birding in dense forests.

Step 4: Repeat

When you see a bird, or when you arrive at a promising vantage point, stop, look, listen—again and again.

DID YOU KNOW?

It is estimated that North America has lost almost 2.9 billion birds since 1970. That totals about 1 in 4 birds that we have lost.

To learn more about bird loss, and simple actions you can take to conserve birds, visit 3BillionBirds.org.

ONLINE RESOURCES:

www.audubon.org/bird-guide

An online bird guide, with pictures, information, and sound recordings. Alternatively, download the Audobon Bird Guid App to your mobile phone. Explore the rest of audubon.org to find more information on birding and conservation.

salemaudubon.org

The local chapter of the Audobon Society. Features birding events, information on birds that can be found locally, conservation efforts, and lots more.

www.allaboutbirds.org

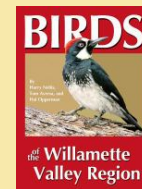
From the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, learn about their research, find information and tips on how to identify birds, and even view live bird cams.

BOOKS TO CHECK OUT:



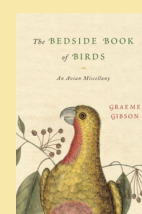
Birds

by David Burnie



Birds of the Willamette Valley Region

by Harry Nehls



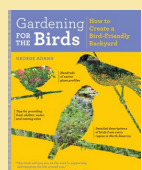
The Bedside Book Of Birds : An Avian Miscellany

by Graeme Gibson



Bird : the definitive visual guide

National Audubon Society



Gardening for the birds : how to create a bird-friendly backyard

by George Adams