

Make a 'suet' mug feeder for birds



How to make a quick and easy feeder for your backyard birds.
Learn about our common birds – and how best to feed them and provide habitat.



*(from a workshop by hosted by Learning Outside at
Conserver House, 180 St. John Street, Fredericton)*

Making a 'suet' mug for birds

Ingredients and supplies





Make a 'Suet' Mug Birdfeeder: Recipe

This simple project provides a nutritious treat for birds and will attract chickadees, nuthatches, woodpeckers and others. The vegetarian suet recipe has been adapted from one posted by the Audubon Society (www.audubon.org).

- Note: a more traditional recipe could be made using beef tallow instead of shortening; this recipe is not appropriate where nut allergies are a concern.
- Recipe makes enough 'suet' for 3-4 mugs.
- Store remaining 'suet' in freezer (you can also freeze it in ice cube trays for use in suet 'cages' and other types of suet feeders).

Materials:

- Mug
- Spoon for perch
- Glass mixing bowl
- Measuring cups
- Mixing spoon

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 cups shortening (look for palm oil-free options)
- 3/4 cups nut butter (any kind)
- 3 1/2 cups wild bird seed
- 1 cup quick oats
- 1/2 cup corn meal



Combine the shortening and nut butter in a bowl



Melt (microwave works fine).
Stir until completely combined.



Add 3 1/2 cups wild bird seed, 1 cup quick oats, and 1/2 cup corn meal.



Stir until combined.



Put 'suet' mix into mug, inserting a spoon for a perch.



Voilà! Keep in fridge til ready to hang outside.
(one recipe made these 3 large mugs, with a bit left over)



Attach so mug can't hit anything or be blown or knocked down.



One option - hang your mug from the clothesline.



Enjoy the birds er, squirrels?



Common winter birds



Blue jay



Chickadee



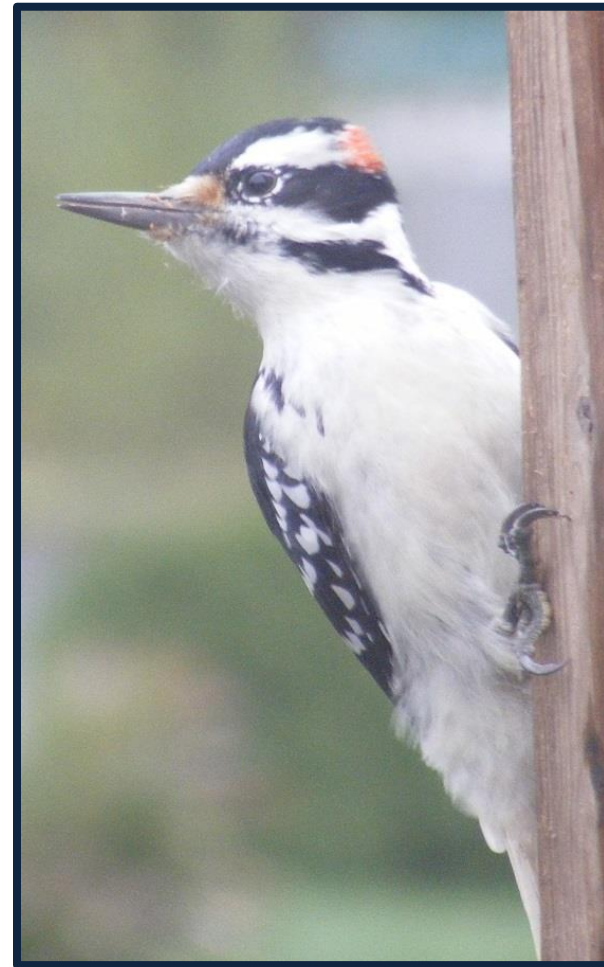
American goldfinch (male)



Common redpoll



Downy woodpecker
(female)



Hairy woodpecker
Female (L) and Male (R)

Note its large, thick beak



Downy woodpecker
Female (no red patch)

Note the more
needle-like beak

Woodpecker holes



These large, rectangular holes, near the base of the tree were made by a Pileated woodpecker.



Northern Cardinal

Female

Male





Males

Purple finch



Female



Red-breasted nuthatch

Dark-eyed junco



Mixed flock feeding on ground



Mixed flock feeding on black oil sunflower seeds



Keep feeders clean to avoid spreading of
germs and other pathogens!

How birds adapt to winter (some examples)

- Chickadees, woodpeckers and blue jays cache food and then dig it out when food is scarce
- During cold winter nights, chickadees snuggle together in a dead tree
- Birds soak up the sun's rays and fluff up their feathers to trap heat

Habitat for birds

You can make your garden **wildlife-friendly** by planting native perennials, shrubs, and trees that provide food and shelter in winter. Some good choices for trees and shrubs are:

- Highbush cranberry (*Viburnum trilobum*)
- Red-osier dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*)
- Chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*)
- Staghorn sumac (female) (*Rhus typhina*)
 - *plant this ONLY if you have lots of room!*
- Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*)
- Crabapples (*Malus* varieties)
- Serviceberry (*Amelanchier* species)
- Arrowwood (*Viburnum dentatum*)
- Nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*)
- Elder (*Sambucus canadensis*)
- Eastern white cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*)



Photo: Allain Clavette

*Thanks to our sponsors for making
this project possible:*



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for their assistance*



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