

## Bird Feeders

A bird feeder is nice way to attract birds right to our doorstep while also helping our feathery friends to survive, especially in winter. Bird feeders will attract all kinds of birds and you will be able to observe them all day long – maybe even start a bird survey!



*Examples of some bird feeders; homemade and specially bought. Credit: Kilkenny Education Centre.*

There are many different kinds of bird feeders. You can buy one or you can, for example, use an empty milk carton or upcycle a plastic bottle. You can also make fat balls with seeds inside.

A great idea and instructions on how to make such a bird feeder come from Glenveagh National Park (also available on [www.livingearth.ie](http://www.livingearth.ie)).

Here we show you how to upcycle a plastic bottle into a bird feeder.

### What you need

- Plastic bottle
- Wooden sticks (or wooden spoons)
- Bird seed or sunflower seeds
- Scissors or a cutter
- Marker
- Piece of string strong enough to hold the feeder

## What to do

1. Mark two spots exactly opposite each other close to the bottom end of the bottle. This will be where the wooden stick will go through. The wooden stick will provide a place for the birds to sit.
2. Mark two additional spots a few centimetres above the first set of marks. These will be the opening through which the birds can access the seeds inside the bottle.
3. A third set of two dots close to the bottle cap will be used to fasten the string to hang up the feeder.
4. At the two marks closer to the bottom: carefully cut holes just big enough to fit the wooden stick.
5. At the two marks a few centimetres further up: carefully cut larger holes here. They need to be large enough to allow the birds to get the seeds out but small enough to keep the bird feed inside. Make sure no sharp edges are left.
6. At the two top marks cut small holes that let the piece of string go through.
7. Now stick the wooden 'bird seat' through the two holes at the bottom of the bottle. It should protrude far enough on both sides to provide a place for the birds to comfortably perch on.
8. Fill the bird feeder with bird seed or sunflower seeds.
9. Put the piece of string through the holes at the top of the bottle. Your bird feeder is good to go!

When you hang it outside please be careful and make sure it's in a place where predators can't sneak up on the birds.



*Start with marking the places where you will later cut the holes. Two small ones at the bottom, two larger ones a bit further up and two small ones again at the top of the bottle neck. The holes at the bottom will hold the 'bird seat'.*



*Fill the bird feeder with bird seed or sunflower seeds and use the piece of string to hang it up (outside of course).*

Another example of a bird feeder you can make at home uses oranges!

### **What you need**

- 1 large orange
- Cooking fat or nut butter
- Bird seed or sunflower seeds
- A knife
- Piece of string strong enough to hold the feeder

### **What to do**

1. In a clean bowl place some bird seed and add the cooking fat or nut butter (if the cooking fat is too cold, roll it between your hands to warm it up!).
2. Mix the two up together using your hands or a spoon, then set aside.
3. Cut the orange in half and scoop out the insides. Fill the peel up with the seed and fat mixture and use the string to hang the feeder outside for the birds to pick at!



*Orange-peel bird feeder. Credit: Glenveagh National Park.*