

Creating a Customized Bird Feeder



Designing a bird feeder for your outdoor spaces takes some thinking and planning. Work through the list below, thinking and answering the questions as you go.

1. **Where will your bird feeder be located? Will it hang from something (like a tree or a fence) or sit on something (like a post or pole)?**



Remember: Birds like protection from their predators. They feel safer when there are trees nearby to escape into, when they are far enough off the ground (to escape ground predators, like cats), and they have something to hide under (to escape flying predators, like hawks).

2. **What kind of bird feeder do you want to build?**

Tube Feeder



A hollow tube filled with seed with multiple windows and perches for birds to feed from. If the bird seed is visible, birds will be more attracted to the bird feeder.

Hopper Feeder



 A ledge to stand on and a roof overhead allow birds to feed on the seeds in the middle of this feeder type while feeling more protected from flying predators.

Platform Feeder



 A solid base covered in bird seed is a landing spot for birds looking for a snack to eat.

Suet Feeder



 These feeders use a special kind of seed that is in the shape of a brick. The suet brick is inside of a cage or a mesh so that birds can hold onto the outside while eating from the tasty food on the inside.

Fruit Feeder



These feeders come in many shapes and sizes, but the idea is simple: fruit is pressed onto hangers in the feeder so that birds can enjoy a tasty snack!

3. What kind of materials will you use to build your bird house?



Think of materials that you can use from around your house. An old milk carton? A bent clothes hanger? Be creative!

Here are some ideas of bird feeders from recycled materials:



A milk jug hopper feeder!

By The Hiland Home



A water bottle tube feeder

By Handimania



A craft stick platform feeder

By Melissa Samuels



A Lego bird feeder

By Gary Mueller



A produce bag suet feeder

By Johannes Eder



A Peanut butter jar bird feeder

By Suburble

Now it is time to build your bird feeder, fill it with bird seed (available for free pick up at the NRPC offices -300 2nd Ave, Suite #500, Warren, PA 16365) and go set it up (all with help from an adult). Once it is all ready and in place, share a picture with us at birdfeederpictures@gmail.com. We will post pictures of your bird feeders and the birds that you see on our Remake Learning Days blog at <https://northernparegional.weebly.com/>.



Be patient, it can take birds 1-2 weeks before they realize that a new bird feeder has food and is safe. If you are not seeing birds after a week or so, sprinkle a small amount of bird seed on the ground underneath your bird feeder to let birds know there is food nearby.

Want to keep improving your bird feeder?



If you notice that birds are having trouble finding your bird feeder or eating the bird seed after a couple weeks, don't be afraid to move it to a new spot or make adjustments to your design.



If you want to defend your bird seed from marauding squirrels (or even bears) you will have to get creative and adjust your bird feeder designs to make it difficult for squirrels, but easy for birds, to get to the food! Be creative and have fun!