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## Making of a Pine Cone Bird Feeder



Find some nice large pine cones while on your next outdoor adventure, and place them in a paper bag, fold the top over a couple of times (a standard lunch bag) and set the bag aside allowing the pine cones to dry for a few days. Place the bag in an area that is not wet or humid to allow the cones to completely dry and to allow the scales to completely open if they are not already open. It will also allow any small critters to escape from under the pine cone scales, so beware when you open the bag to check on the pinecones. Shake the bag a few times before opening to have a look.

### Steps for making the Pine Cone Feeder



Once you select a pinecone, you must shake out any loose seeds or material from under the scales of the cone and tie a string or cord at the top to prepare the feeder for hanging. The hanging material should be tied as close to the top flat surface of the pinecone as possible, and be tied under the same layer of scales.

### Preparing the feeding mix

In a large bowl, mix equal parts peanut butter and solid vegetable shortening. In a heavy-duty zipper type plastic bag, place about 2 cups of bird seed and about 3 tablespoons of cornmeal.



### Preparing the pine cone feeders

Once the pine cones are dry and all of the loose material is shaken off, the pine cones are ready to be seeded. Place about a cup of the peanut butter -shortening mix in a paper or foam plate, or some other type of tray. One at a time, roll each of the pine cones in the mix, and then place them in the plastic zipper-closure bag with the seed mix. Make sure that the string or cord

attached to the top of the pinecone remains extending out of the bag through the corner of the zipper closure. Shake the plastic bag in all directions, turning it over many times to completely



coat the sticky pinecones. Then remove the seed coated pine cones from the bag and place them on a sheet of newspaper to dry.

Once the pinecone feeders have a chance to dry and the surfaces harden a bit, they are ready to be hung from the branches of a nearby tree to attract as many hungry birds as possible.

Pinecone birdfeeders can be stored in a zipper closure bag in the refrigerator or freezer.



If you make more than one or two of these pinecone feeders, you will have a ready supply of feeders for the many wild birds in your area, and your nearby tree will become a favorite feeding stop for many of those birds. Remember to keep your bird identification guidebook, binoculars and a notebook and pencil handy to identify and record the different birds that will be attracted to your new feeding station.