



Constructing of a Suet Log Bird Feeder



Find a piece of natural wood or branch that is about 3 inches in diameter, and approximately 10 to 12 inches in length. The wood should be firm, and not soft or rotting, and should have the bark intact if possible. A piece of natural wood will attract more birds than a piece of lumber. The bark should be left on the piece of log because it allows the birds to get a foothold while feeding. A small branch or two will provide a place for birds to perch while feeding.

Longer sections of wood should be cut to about a 12 inches in length because longer pieces of timber will be heavier, and more difficult to handle and to suspend. The wood can be cut straight across, or on an angle to give it a more natural appearance.

Steps for making the Suet Feeder Log



Once you select a piece of wood, and cut to length, you must bore out the holes that will be filled with the suet mix, and prepare the feeder for hanging.

Drilling the Feeder Holes

The holes must be about $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide, and about $1\frac{1}{4}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep. A spade bit makes the job quick and easy. The holes should be in an alternating pattern evenly spaced along the length of the log, and not aligned directly across the shaft

of the wood to prevent boring through the entire width of the wood. The inner surface of the holes does not need to be sanded smooth, but should be as clean a cut as possible to prevent areas where the suet mix will be inaccessible to the birds.

Preparing the log for hanging



The feeder can be hung by a variety of methods. A simple hole can be drilled through the width of the log, with a rope or cord placed through the hole for hanging. This can be done by drilling a hole about an inch below the top of the log, and completely through the diameter of the log. If you made an angled cut on the end of the wood, drill the hole about an inch down from the lowest point of the diagonal cut. Cord, rope or wire can be used to hang the suet log. The hole must be wide enough to string the hanger material to easily pass through.



Another method to prepare the feeder for hanging is to simply place an eyehook in the top of the log. You must find the center of the log, and drill a small pilot hole to allow easy insertion of the threads of the eyehook. A cord or rope is then passed through the eye for hanging. You must be careful to choose an eyelet that is made of a material that will be resistant to weathering. To protect the mount hole, a small dab of paraffin wax or silicone sealer can be placed over the wood to prevent water from seeping into the hole and causing rot.

Once the suet holes are completed, and you have chosen a method of hanging, your feeder is ready to be put to use.



Filling the Feeder

You can prepare your own mixture of suet from many of the available recipes, or you can use commercially available suet. The commercial suet must be cut into chunks in order to be placed into the feeder holes. Filling the holes is a messy job, and can be best completed by done with an old tablespoon. The holes should be filled out just bulging past the edge of the log to allow the hungry birds to find it easily.



If refilled regularly and maintained in the same location throughout the season, your suet log feeder will become a favorite regular feeding destination for many of the birds that live in your area. Just 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.