

Homemade Birdseed

The following recipe for homemade bird food called suet can be used in any season. It attracts woodpeckers, tufted titmice, nuthatches, and chickadees.

Supplies

- Flour
- Cornmeal or oatmeal
- Vegetable shortening
- Peanut butter (either crunchy or smooth)
- Mesh bag (an onion bag works well)

Directions

1. Mix together in a bowl:
 - ¼ cup vegetable shortening
 - ¼ cup peanut butter (either crunchy or smooth)
 - ¼ cup flour
 - 1 cup either cornmeal or oatmeal
2. For more variety, add some millet, cracked corn or sunflower seeds.
3. Put the mixture in a small mesh bag and tie it either on a tree branch or around the trunk of a tree. You can also use a butter knife to spread some of the mixture on the rough bark of a tree. Don't apply too much to the tree bark, as it can get pretty messy. Two or 3 spoonfuls is all you need. In the summer, put the suet on the shady side of the tree so it won't melt as much.
4. If you hang the suet bag from a branch, woodpeckers may not be able to get to it. Woodpeckers prefer something solid, such as a tree limb, to hang onto when they eat. Don't be surprised if you also see chickadees and titmice eating from the suet bag, too.
5. Remember to involve an adult when you make this recipe. Adults enjoy helping you mix up all the ingredients.

