



Bird Care Recipes WF6

Before you start

Remember when you are cooking the bird cakes, you must **always** get an adult to help you. Also, ask an adult to help you when you are hanging the cakes and containers outside.

Basic Pudding 1

Ingredients: Seeds, peanuts, cheese, porridge oats, dry cake, scraps &

melted fat (Rough
quantities: 2lbs of mixture
to 1lb of fat)

Put the mixture into a container and pour the hot melted fat over the mixture until it is covered and leave it to set. Turn out onto a table, unless you have prepared it in a tit-bell or coconut holder.

AVOID: Dessicated coconut - it swells inside the bird and can kill it

Salted peanuts - they make the bird very thirsty.

Basic Pudding 2

Ingredients: 3 cups porridge oats, 1 cup currants, 1oz grated cheese,

1oz canary seed, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb of fat or margarine.

Melt the fat and stir in all other ingredients. Pack into margarine tubs or other suitable containers. Allow to set and then hang up. (If you put a piece of string through two holes in the bottom of the container, it will help you to tie up the pudding when the mixture has set.

Seed and peanuts

Wild bird seed can be purchased and placed on bird tables or on the open ground to encourage a variety of birds to visit the area being watched. Peanuts can also be purchased and placed in a nut container that can either be hung from a bird table, twig or outside the window. **Remember not to use salted peanuts**

and keep food containers away from cover where cats and other predators could hide.

Apples and scraps

Thrushes, larger birds and even Blackcaps often prefer to feed on the ground. Be sure to spread the food out in the open, where the birds will be safe from predators. An apple pegged to the ground with a thin stake, to prevent it being moved by larger birds, can often give additional pleasure to the observer who can watch the birds for a longer period of time.

Do NOT forget WATER

Birds need to bathe even in the coldest weather to keep their feathers in good order. A shallow dish or an inverted dustbin lid will do. (You could make or buy a more elaborate structure if you like). Remember to break the ice on those cold mornings. A night light under the container creates enough warmth to keep the ice away but make sure the water itself does not get heated.

Do NOT give up!

Once you start to feed birds, you must continue to do so on a regular basis. Small birds will come to rely on this source of food. In a really harsh spell of weather it is the hunger that kills, not the cold.

Summer feeding

Recent thinking on the summer feeding of birds has changed. Certainly, feeding of scraps, nuts and seed will do no harm. (It is advised not to feed bread during this period - March to July). Those birds that continue to take the food will welcome the ease of obtaining additional supplies. Those species that make use of insects for feeding young or who have other dietary requirements will continue to do so and will not be harmed by this additional supply of food.

Produced by Don Conroy for ENFO

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