

Preparing Wildlife for Winter

Help Garden Birds This Winter by Making Your Own Pinecone Fatballs



As the weather turns colder, food can become harder for birds to find. Why not help your feathered visitors by making your own simple pinecone fatballs?

This fun and easy activity is perfect for families, nature lovers and anyone who enjoys watching wildlife in their garden or local green space. Not only will you be providing an important source of energy for birds during the colder months, but you'll also have the chance to observe a variety of species up close.

Fat Ball Recipe

Ingredients

- Open Pinecones collected from nature's floor
- 250g of Lard
- 500g of Wild bird seed or meal worms (or mixed)
- String or twine

Equipment

- Large saucepan
- Wooden spoon

Method

1. Clean the pinecones and make sure they are free from mould.
2. Attach the string to the base or heavy part of the pinecones
3. Melt the lard in a large saucepan and mix in the birdseed until combined
4. Leave the mixture to cool a while
5. Then when the mixture is slightly soft spread in between the scales of the pinecone.
6. Place in a cool area or fridge to set.
7. Once set hang the pinecone feeder in a sheltered area of your garden and away from predators.
8. Use your camera and make a journal on the different species of birds you will see.
9. Be happy that you're keeping the wild birds well fed throughout the cold winter months,

