

# Bird Feeders and Feed Selection

Bird Feeders can be separated into three functional categories based on perch type of birds. Providing a variety of feeder types and seeds will provide you with the most variety of birds.

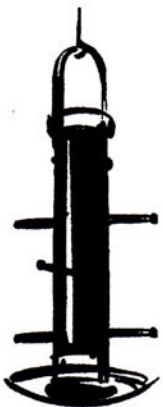
**Platform-perch:** can be open or partially enclosed flat, stable feeding surface. Most attractive type of feeder for ground-feeding and large songbirds, but can attract all types of birds (and squirrels, too!).  
Ex: cardinals, bluejays, juncos.

**Peg-perch:** feeders such as tubular sunflower and niger feeders with pegs or dowels to allow smaller songbirds a place to perch. Ex: finches, chickadees, siskins.

**Clinging-perch:** feeders with little perch support like wire mesh. Ex: woodpeckers & nuthatches.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Platform</u>	<u>Peg</u>	<u>Clinging</u>	<u>Placement</u>	<u>Food</u>
Cardinal	☺	×	×	Ground/Elev.	Black oil sunflower
Blue Jay	☺	×	×	Elevated	peanut/sunflower
Chickadees	◆	☺	☺	Elevated	Black oil sunflower
Nuthatches	◆	◆	☺	Elevated	Sunflowers
Woodpeckers	×	×	☺	Elevated	Suet
Junco	◆	×	×	Ground	white/red millet
Goldfinch	◆	☺	☺	Elevated	Sunflowers/black niger
Other finches	☺	☺	×	Elevated	Sunflowers
Sparrows	☺	◆	×	Ground	white/red millet

(☺ = Best; ◆ = Okay; × = not recommended)



You can even make your own birdfeeders. Place seed in onion bags; fill hollowed oranges or grapefruits with suet & seed; spread peanut butter or shortening on bagels, bread, or pine cones and roll in seed; or make one of the following recipes.

**Marvel Mix Recipe:** Mix 1 cup peanut butter, 3 cups cornmeal, 1 cup shortening and 1 cup of flour in a large bowl until well blended. Add birdseed, raisins, peanuts or corn a little at a time. This mixture can be spread on log feeders or put into plastic containers and refrigerated until harden. Then place in suet feeder or onion bag.

**Birdseed Biscuit:** Mix together 3/4 cup birdseed, 1 Tbsp flour and 2 Tblsps of water. Spray a metal cookie cutter with cooking spray and place on a foil-covered cookie sheet. Pack the mixture into the cookie cutter and insert half a straw near the top to create a hole for hanging. Bake the biscuit (with the straw) in a 170

### **Sweet Treat Suet**

6 cups water	1 cup crisco, lard, or suet	2 cups cornmeal
$\frac{1}{2}$ cup flour	1 cup sugar	Peanut butter
Raisins		

Boil water and shortening. Mix in cornmeal, flour, and sugar. Stir and bring to a boil. Turn off heat and cover. Add raisins and peanut butter. Pour or pack into plastic containers. Can be stored in the refrigerator or freezer until ready to use.

### **Suet Seed Spread**

2 parts grease or suet	1 part peanut butter
1 part seed mixture	1 part cornmeal

Put the suet through a kitchen food grinder to break it into smaller pieces and allow it to melt down into a smooth mass. If this step is omitted, the suet may stay bumpy and will be harder to mix with the seeds. Heat the suet in a double boiler. When melted allow it to cool and harden. Then melt the suet down again and add the peanut butter until melted. Add seed mixture and cornmeal until it has formed a thick consistency. This can either be left and used as a 'spread' to fill pine cones, log feeders or spaces between bark on trees, or can be made thicker and put into containers for hanging in plastic mesh bags or suet feeders.

Suggestions for seed mixtures: Millet, sunflower seed, raisins, cornmeal, oatmeal, cracked corn, chopped peanuts, etc.

### **\* Marvel Mix Recipe**

1 cup Peanut Butter	3 cups Cornmeal	1 cup Crisco	1 cup Flour
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Mix peanut butter, cornmeal, Crisco, and flour together in large bowl until well blended. Add birdseed, raisins, and peanuts or corn a little at a time. This mixture can be spread on log feeders for birds or put into plastic container and refrigerated until harden. Then remove and place in a suet feeder or onion bag.

### **Hummingbird Nectar**

4 part water	1 parts sugar
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Bring to boil and continue to boil for 2 to 3 minutes. Let cool and fill feeders. Store extra in the refrigerator. Optional; add a few drops of red food coloring.

### **Oriole Nectar**

2 cups water	$\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar	orange extract
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Bring to boil and continue to boil for 2 to 3 minutes. Add five drops of orange extract. Let cool and fill feeder. Store extra in the refrigerator.



# SUET CAKE RECIPES



## What is a 'Suet Cake'?

Suet cakes are a great food source for birds during the cold months when they have an extra need for energy. Though they can be used as a food source all year round, they are most valuable during the winter. Suet cakes are composed primarily of the hard white fat from beef (sue) mixed with a combination of seeds, peanut butter or dried fruit.

### Basic Suet Cake

1 cup melted suet  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup peanut butter  
1 cup sunflower seeds  
or birdseed mix

### Suet Cake Medley

1 cup melted suet  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup rolled oats  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup raisins or peanuts  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup cornmeal  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup sunflower or other seed

Mix together all ingredients. Pour the mixture into casserole pan. Refrigerate until it is solid. Cut to size. Keep the suet cake in the refrigerator or freezer until ready to use.

- the above recipes are from [www.gardenartworks.com](http://www.gardenartworks.com)

### Wild Birds Forever Special Suet

1 pound lard	1 cup crunchy peanut butter	2 cups cooking oats
2 cups cornmeal	1 cup all purpose flour	1/3 cup sugar
1 cup raisins		

Melt lard and peanut butter together over medium heat. Remove from heat and stir in the remaining ingredients. Pour into molds or containers suitable for your suet feeder. Be sure not to exceed 1 to 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches in thickness. Allow to cool completely. You can wrap the suet cakes in wax paper and store in the freezer until ready to use.

### Wild Birds Forever High Protein Suet for Insect Eating Birds

4 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups ground beef suet	$\frac{3}{4}$ cup finely ground bread or cracker crumbs
$\frac{1}{2}$ cup hulled, raw sunflower seed	$\frac{1}{4}$ cup white proso millet
$\frac{1}{4}$ cup dried and chopped berries, raisins or currants	

Melt suet over medium heat. Mix together remaining ingredients in a large mixing bowl. Allow suet to cool until lightly thickened. Pour into bowl with other ingredients and mix well. Pour or pack into molds or suet feeders. Can also be smeared in the trunk of a tree or packed into pine cones and hung.

- the above recipes are from [www.birdsforever.com](http://www.birdsforever.com)