

# MISSION CONSERVATION ACTIVITY GUIDE

January 2023 – All About Birds

## Indoor Activity: Making Bird Feeders

Have you ever observed how different birds eat? Different bird species have specifically adapted beaks for the type of food they eat. In general, thick, strong conical beaks are great at breaking tough seeds, and are found on seed-eating birds such as cardinals, finches, and sparrows. Can you think of any other beak adaptations and how they are used by different species?



### Benefits

- **Enhances Tactile Skills.**
- **Fun for all Ages!**
- **Increases Opportunities for Bird Identification.**

### Supplies

- **Pinecones**
- **Spatula**
- **Twine**
- **Small Dish**
- **Cookie Sheet**
- **Aluminum Foil**
- **Peanut Butter**
- **Wild Bird Seed**
- **Black Oiled Sunflower Seeds**

### What to do

- **Start by tying the twine around the pinecone and creating a loop in the twine to hang the feeder with.**
- **In the small bowl mix the bird seed and sunflower seeds.**
- **Cover the cookie sheet in aluminum foil.**
- **Using the spatula coat the pinecones in peanut butter.**
- **Roll and press the peanut butter covered pinecone in the seed mixture.**
- **Place the rolled pinecones on the cookie sheet and freeze them for 1 hour to firm.**
- **Hang the outside!**

**Be sure to hang them on a branch with another branch beneath for birds to perch on. You can also try to hang them near a window for better birdwatching!**

## Outdoor Activity: Bird Watching

Bird watching is a great way to pass the time and learn about the birds in your area. To enhance your bird watching it might be beneficial to research common birds in your area so can better identify the species you may see. Keeping detailed notes can help with identification during your future bird watching ventures. With it being January, it may be too cold to go outside. So, if the temperature is too low, you can even bird watch from your window!

### Additional Supplies (Optional)

- Camera to take pictures
- Binoculars
- Notebook to take notes
- An internet connection to help identify species
- Coat & gloves in case of inclement weather

