Our Feathered Friends - October 26, 2011

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I hope all of you are enjoying this fall weather. Our birds are making preparations for winter, so I thought it might be a good time to share with you some ideas for making bird treats for our feathered friends during the cooler months. Many different types of treats can be made at home for little money versus store bought treats which can be very costly! My children love to help make a few of these and they get so excited when the birds come to enjoy their creations.

One of the feeders I use in the winter was made by my husband out of an 8” piece of log. He drilled half-inch-to-one-inch holes into the log and added a small eye-hook to hang it with. My kids and I fill the holes with peanut butter and unsalted nuts. This is a huge hit with the woodpeckers. My kids also love to hunt for pine cones in the fall. We fill in the cracks with peanut butter and roll them in bird seed. Be sure to hang the pine cones with some strong string or fishing line otherwise the squirrels will run off with your treat!

While searching online, I found a recipe for “edible glue” which consists of 3/4 cup flour, 1/2 cup water, and 3 tbsp. corn syrup (add package of plain Knox gelatin for extra holding power if you need it). To this you can add 4 cups of whatever your birds like most…unsalted nuts, raisins/fruit, bird seed, sunflower seeds, berries from your bushes, etc. You can form it into a shape or make squares to put in your suet feeders.

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