

Wildlife Watch

Create a Christmas Tree for Wildlife!

This Christmas why not treat the wildlife in your garden to a Christmas treat!

In the winter, birds will be very grateful for any extra sources of food, so by decorating a tree in your garden with edible ornaments you can help birds survive the winter as well as creating a lovely festive feeling – decorated with living wildlife!

What you need:

- Your tasty ingredients – such as raisins, bird cake mixture, cooked rice, grated cheese, breadcrumbs, unsalted peanut butter, cranberries, grapes, popcorn (plain), chopped nuts and seeds, chopped fruit and cheese
- Hard cooking fat (lard, dripping or suet)
- Pine or fir cones, coconut shells or yogurt pots

Hang all your edible festive decorations in a tree in your garden and watch wildlife flock to it. If you're lucky you may even get fieldfares and redwings!

Bird Cake Baubles

Choose a selection of your dried ingredients and mix together in a big bowl. With the help of an adult, add the softened or melted fat and mix in. Choose your feeder, such as a yoghurt pot or coconut half, and tie your string to where you want to hang it from. Now for the messy (and fun!) bit; fill with the mixture and press it all together firmly. Leave the cake to cool in the refrigerator for a few minutes; then, when it's nice and solid, go and decorate your tree!

Pine Cones

Collect fallen pine or fir cones and tie string around the base to hang it with. Fill the spaces with tasty treats such as raisins, bird cake mixture, grated cheese and unsalted peanut butter. With the help of an adult melt down some suet and cover the pine cone then sprinkle bird seed over it. Hey presto – hang it in a tree in your garden and watch out for your birds enjoying their Christmas treat!

Festive Garlands

Thread chopped fruit, cheese and raisins onto string. Cranberries and grapes make a colourful addition, and popcorn works really well too. Why not get creative; thinly slice apples and pears and cut into shapes before stringing up to make it really decorative! How about stringing up cheerios, and making them into bracelets to go over the ends of branches?

Get involved

We'd love to see your edible decorative trees! Why not take a pic of them, or the wildlife which enjoys it and send it into watch@gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk