

# Make a... diner for the birds

Giving birds extra food helps them during bad winter weather and spells of natural food shortage. Food supplied October to April is most valuable to them.



**You need...** string, a container (half a coconut shell or disposable plastic pot), some lard/suet and some dry ingredients.

Dry ingredients can include those pictured, as well as unsalted cooked rice or potato.

Weigh out twice as much of the dry food compared to fat. 225g of fat and 450g of dry food will fill a small pot.

Make a small hole in the bottom of the pot and tie the string through it.

**2** **Melt the fat.** Mix the dry food in the pot. Pour the melted fat over it and leave to cool and set.



**3** **When it's set** hang it up (where you can see it). Or turn it out onto a bird table.

## Top Bird Tips...

- Don't leave mouldy or stale food out.
- It can take a few days for the birds to come.
- Keep the area free from droppings and only clean feeders outside.
- Put food in a safe and quiet area.
- Wear gloves to handle feeders and tables.
- Wash your hands after touching feeders or birds.
- Put fresh water out daily.
- Check the RSPB website for the latest on avian flu.

## For your bird table...

Rub 80g of flour with 30g lard and rub it into 'maggots' for robins, wrens & wagtails...

Fruit past its best is good for blackbirds, thrushes & starlings...

## And hang up...

Sunflower heads for tits and finches...

Fir cones stuff with mild cheese, raisins and bird seed for tits & finches...



Why not send in a photo of your snacks for birds? For details go to [bbc.co.uk/wildaboutyourgarden](http://bbc.co.uk/wildaboutyourgarden)