

# Cookie Cutter Bird Feeders



## **You will need:**

- 2 cups bird seed (any type)
- Cookie cutters
- 1 packet unflavored gelatin
- 2 tablespoons cold water
- 1/3 cup boiling water
- Yarn or twine
- Drinking straw
- Non-stick cooking spray
- Wax paper or baking sheet

## **Instructions:**

1. Empty 1 packet of unflavored gelatin into a large bowl, and add 2 tablespoons of cold water. Let this sit for 1 minute.
2. Add 1/3 cup of boiling water to the gelatin. Stir until the gelatin is dissolved—this may take a few minutes! Make sure you dissolve the gelatin completely, as this is the binder that will hold your bird seed together.
3. Add 2 cups of bird seed to the gelatin and mix thoroughly.
4. On a sheet of wax paper or on your baking sheet, lay out your cookie cutters. (You can use any shape of cookie cutters—have fun with it!) Spray the cookie cutters and baking sheet thoroughly with non-stick spray.
5. Fill the cookie cutters with your birdseed and gelatin mixture, pressing firmly until the cookie cutter is completely full. (Pro tip: You may want to use the back of a spoon to help press down on the seed mixture and make sure that the cookie cutter is tightly packed.)
6. Cut your straw into two-inch lengths. Use the straws to poke a hole through the top of each bird seed “cookie”. The hole should be half an inch from the top, and they must go all the way through the “cookie”. Leave the straw in place while the mixture sets up.
7. Place the “cookies” into the refrigerator for a few hours; this allows them to set up.
8. Once the birdseed shapes are set, remove from the refrigerator and allow them to return to room temperature. Working carefully, pop the feeders out of their molds and remove the straws. Carefully thread a string through each hole.
9. Hang the bird feeders from a tree, a hook outside your window, or anywhere else that you can enjoy watching the birds that will stop by for a snack!

*This craft activity is adapted from a project shared on the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. The photo is taken from onelittleproject.com.*

