

Fort Worth Botanic Garden

The Birds' Christmas Tree

“TWEETS” FOR THE BIRDS

Breadsticks and Bagels

Smear peanut butter on stale breadsticks or bagels and roll them in bird seed. Hang the treats on tree branches with biodegradable string like cotton or jute.

Cereal Loops

String doughnut-shaped cereal on lengths of biodegradable string. Tie the ends of the string together so you can hang it on a branch.

Fruit Kabobs

Find a sturdy stick about ten inches long and push it through an apple or pear half. Tie a string to either end of the stick and loop it over a tree branch. Birds will perch on the stick and nibble away at the fruit. (Stale doughnuts or bagels can also be used in place of the fruit.)

Goodie Garlands

Colorful strands of treats for birds can be easily assembled using a long, large-eyed needle and cotton string. Items that can be strung include: Cranberries, popcorn, pieces of apples, oranges, bananas, grapes, crackers, doughnut-shaped cereals and small pine cones filled with mixtures of cornmeal and peanut butter. Make garlands of one kind of food or a combination of several. Use your imagination!

Mockingbird Muffins

(Strictly for the birds!)

- 1 cup cornmeal
- 1 cup flour
- 1 cup bread crumbs
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 3/4 cup raisins
- 1/2 cup bacon drippings
- 1/4 teaspoon sand
- 1 cup water



Combine cornmeal, flour, bread crumbs and soda in a medium-sized bowl. Add raisins and sand. Pour in bacon drippings and water and mix well. Spoon into muffin tins. Bake at 350 degrees F. for 15 minutes. Allow muffins to cool. Spear muffins on tree branches.

Pine Cone Treats

Tie strings for hanging on the pine cones. Lay the cones on a baking sheet or newspaper and coat them with peanut butter, then sprinkle the cones with wild bird seed. Never use plain peanut butter alone - mix it with seeds or cornmeal to prevent the birds' beaks from getting clogged.

These recipes and others like them may be found in Irene E. Cosgrove's books, [My Recipes Are for the Birds](#) and [More of My Recipes Are for the Birds](#).