Make a few of these easy to do bird feeders and hang them from your trees outside as homemade outdoor ornaments.

Pine Cone Feeder (easy)

What you'll need:

- Pine cone
- Paper plate
- Butter knife
- Smooth peanut butter
- Birdseed
- Ribbon or yarn
- Scissors

How to make it:

1. Cut a long length of yarn or ribbon to hang the bird feeder.
2. Tie the ribbon in a knot around the pine cone near the top (about 3 sections down).
3. Tie a knot in the end of the ribbon.
4. Use the knife to get a large clump of peanut butter on the paper plate.
5. Use the knife to spread peanut butter inside the pine cone and around the edges.
6. Sprinkle the birdseed over the pine cone.
7. Roll the pine cone in the birdseed that is on the plate.
8. Hang the bird feeder on the tree.
9. Enjoy watching the birds eat their treat!

Citrus Feeder (easy)

What you'll need:

- empty grapefruit or orange halves
- bird seed
- string or yarn

How to make it:

1. Make 3 evenly spaced holes through the top rim of an empty grapefruit or orange half.

2. Thread pieces of string or yarn through each hole and knot one end to keep them from slipping out.

3. Fill with birdseed and hang in a tree.

Bagel Feeder (easy)

What you'll need:

- stale bagels
- peanut butter
- lard
- bird seed
- string or yarn

How to make it:

1. Slather stale bagel in a mixture of peanut butter and lard.

2. Roll in birdseed.

3. Tie yarn or string around the bagel and hang from a tree.

Cranberry-Popcorn Feeder (intermediate)

What you'll need:

- needle and thread
- cooked popcorn
- cranberries

How to make it:

1. Use a needle and thread to string together popcorn and cranberries.

2. Drape in trees or even in a discarded Christmas tree.

Suet Feeder (intermediate)

What you'll need:

- Crisco
- peanut butter
- flour
- cornmeal
- birdseed
- mesh bag (like the ones oranges and onions come in)

How to make it:

1. Combine one part Crisco, one part peanut butter, one part flour, and one part birdseed with three parts corn meal. Children love mixing this with their hands.

2. Roll the mixture into a ball and put it in an orange or onion mesh bag to hang.

3. You can also drill 1-inch holes in a small log, fill the holes with suet, and hang the log in a tree. You can even put the suet on pine cones. NOTE: If you're concerned about peanut allergies, leave out the peanut butter and use two parts Crisco.

Milk or Juice Carton Feeder (intermediate)

What you'll need:

- paper milk or juice carton
- scissors
- string
- birdseed

How to make it:

1. You take any size milk/juice carton (the paper kind), and cut two windows on two sides directly across from one another. (Cutting all four sides makes the feeder unstable). Make the windows large, but do not cut all the way to the bottom because the seed will fall out. Children can decorate it with crayons, but avoid using markers, tape, or glue.

2. Next, poke a hold at the top and place a string through it and tie a knot at the top of the string.

3. Now the feeder is ready to use. Fill the bottom with seed and place it where birds can easily access it.

Bird Feeding Tips (Courtesy of the National Audubon Society)

- Place your bird feeders in places that aren't too windy, have good cover nearby, and minimize other hazards.

- Fill your birdfeeders with the amount of food that can be eaten in 2-3 days.

- Keep your feeders and feeding area clean by raking up spilled seed under them and wiping off permanent feeders.
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- Provide water at your feeding area. Place a clay saucer that's at least 24 inches on a low stump or on the ground, and fill it with about 1 1/2 inches of water. Refill it every few days.

What About Squirrels?

Would you like to have squirrels in your yard? Many people enjoy seeing little squirrels scamper about. Watching them balance on a branch while chomping on an acorn can be a lot of fun. Attracting squirrels to your yard is easy if you follow these steps. (Remember: Squirrels tend to scare off birds. If you like having birds around, separate your squirrel and bird feeding areas.)

What you'll need:

- Bird seed
- Feeder corn
- Nail
- Hammer
- Plastic dish

What you need to do:
1. Attract some birds. Squirrels are smart little guys, and they know that birds can find the best places to eat in town. If you put out bird seed, the squirrels will come check out the new restaurant.
2. Make a simple squirrel feeder with feed corn. Hammer a 2-inch nail into a tree or fence. Then cut the tip off of the nail and stick a cob of feeder corn onto it. Once they know where the food is, the squirrels will come to eat.
3. Put out some water. Nail a plastic dish or the bottom half of a milk jug to a tree or fence near your feeder and fill with water. Now your new little friends can stay hydrated.

And Now For The Butterflies and Bees:

Plant native flowering plants: Native plants provide butterflies and bees with the nectar or foliage they need as adults. Ask your local garden store what types of plants are native to your area.

Plant type and color is important: Butterflies and bees are attracted to red, yellow, orange, pink and purple blossoms that are flat-topped or clustered.

Place you plants in the sun: Butterfly and bees generally feed only in the sun.

Plant for continuous bloom: Butterflies and bees need nectar throughout their life span. Try to plant so that when one plant stops blooming, another begins.

Say no to insecticides: Insecticides kill butterflies and bees too!

Provide a place for butterflies to rest: Butterflies and bees need sun for orientation and to warm their wings for flight. Place flat stones in your garden to provide space for butterflies to rest and bask in the sun.

Give them a place for puddling: Butterflies often congregate on wet sand and mud to partake in "puddling," drinking water and extracting minerals from damp puddles. Place coarse sand in a shallow pan and then insert the pan in the soil of your habitat. Make sure to keep the sand moist.