

Suet attracts many insect-eating birds, such as woodpeckers. But nuthatches, juncos, chickadees and jays will also stop at backyard feeders for a high-fat treat. True suet, and especially the kind made with animal fat, provides a good source of energy for many feeder birds, most importantly in fall and winter. Try these suet recipes in your own backyard and see which suet recipe your backyard birds like the most!

Hearty Mix

This hearty suet recipe attracts a large variety of birds.

1 ½ cups wild birdseed

1 cup bread crumbs

1 cup melted suet

1 cup graham cracked crumbs

2 teaspoons sand (for grit)

Simply mix all the ingredients together and serve on a tray feeder.

~Shared by Ann Sturgeon, Kokomo, Indiana

Easy Suet Recipe

I've shared this suet recipe with all my friends, and it always gets rave reviews from the birds.

2 cups peanut butter

2 cups lard

½ cup each of flour, old-fashioned oats, Spanish peanuts, raisins, sunflower seeds and chopped corn

Melt peanut butter and lard. Mix all ingredients in a large cake pan and refrigerate until hardened. Cut and place in suet feeders for your feathered friends.

~Shared by Ethel Fleming, Hemphill, Texas

Attracts a Wide Variety of Birds

This suet recipe attracts several birds, including sparrows, juncos, blue jays, chickadees and woodpeckers. The birds are always fighting over it.

1 cup lard

1 cup crunchy peanut butter

1/3 cup sugar

2 cups quick cooking oats

2 cups cornmeal

1 cup flour

1 cup birdseed

Melt lard and peanut butter. Add sugar to the melted mix. Combine remaining ingredients. Form blocks and freeze.

~Shared by Joseph Pavelchak, Robbinsville, New Jersey

Out on a Limb

I like to spread my suet on tree limbs so more birds can get to it at one time. Here's a recipe I've put together. The birds can't get enough of it, even the juncos.

1 cup cornmeal

1 cup sugar

½ cup flour

¾ cup water

1 cup peanut butter

1 cup lard

1 cup raisins

In a medium bowl, mix the dry ingredients. Then add the water, and mix. Put peanut butter and lard in a small bowl and microwave for 2 minutes. Add to the cornmeal mixture along with the raisins. Refrigerate for about two hours.

~Shared by Naomi Manalo, Middleton, Delaware

Pseudo Suet Recipe

I work at a Wild Birds Unlimited store, and I'm always encouraging my customers to make their own recipes filled with fat (rather than sugars and grains) to best benefit the birds. Here's my simple method for making suet-type food.

2 cups shelled, unsalted peanuts

½ cup raisins

2 to 3 tablespoons cornmeal

Process peanuts in a food processor until they're the consistency of peanut butter. Then add the raisins and process for another minute. Add the cornmeal and process again. Press this mixture into a mold of your choice. This recipe will have the greatest nutritional value for your feathered friends.

~Shared by Linda Popejoy, Concord, North Carolina

Tropical Treat

Attract woodpeckers, as well as chickadees and nuthatches, with this suet recipe made with coconut. The best part is this suet mix won't melt when it's warm outside.

1 cup lard

1 cup peanut butter

1/3 cup coconut

2 ½ cups oats

2 ½ cups cornmeal

Raisins, nuts or birdseed, optional

Melt lard and peanut butter. Stir in coconut, oats and cornmeal. Add optional ingredients. Pour the mixture into a pan and chill in refrigerator over-night. Cut into squares and wrap in plastic for easy storage and removal.

~Shared by Rebecca Beiler, Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Recipe for Hanging Suet Cakes

Make this "bird cake" treat and hang it from trees or bird feeders in mesh bags.

1 cup lard

1 cup crunchy peanut butter

1 cup honey

2 cups whole wheat flour

1 cup oats

2 eggs

Mix all ingredients and pour into a greased 9-inch square pan. Bake at 350° for 30 to 40 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.

~Shared by Mary Hochstetler, Milford, Indiana

http://www.birdsandblooms.com/birding/attracting-birds/feeding-birds/make-homemade-suet/?_cmp=BirdsAndBlooms&_ebid=BirdsAndBlooms11/17/2014&_mid=24638&_ehid=3a32033666f4e37e4c75dfa6ccf01879edbf4