Biology

Pine Cone Bird Feeder

Grade Level: K-3

Classroom Time: 30 Minutes

Materials:
- String
- Peanut butter and/or honey
- Oil
- Pinecones
- Mixing pans
- Oatmeal or bran
- Birdseed

Objectives: Given instruction, students will understand that birds require foods high in protein during the cold winter months and make a bird feeder to provide high protein food.

Teacher’s introduction to the activity:
Birds may be insectivores, herbivores (plant-eating), or granivores (mostly seed eating). Hummingbirds consume the nectar of flowers. Birds which eat the flesh of fruit are called frugivorous, and those that consume sap are called mucivorous. Birds that live near water may eat small fish, and larger birds of prey may even be carnivorous (meat eating). A molluscivorous bird feeds on mollusks such as snails, slugs or oysters. Raptors that eat other small birds are called avivorous. In the winter there are no insects available, and much of the plant life is dormant. Providing food for the birds which do not migrate is an excellent way to show students respect and care for wildlife.

Instruction:
1. Tie a string around a pine cone to provide a way to suspend it from a tree.
2. Mix 1 cup peanut butter to 1 cup oatmeal.
3. Spread the mixture onto the pinecone.
4. Place birdseed in a pie pan.
5. Roll the coated pine cone in the birdseed.
6. Hang your pinecone feeder in a tree just outside your window. Try to place it away from the tree trunk so it’s more difficult for squirrels to get to it. A ribbon may be added for decoration.

Skills: Sequential tasks

Vocabulary: Avivorous, Carnivore, Frugivorous, Granivore, Herbivore, Insectivore, Molluscivorous, Mucivorous, Nectar