

Inspiration: Garden Bird Feeder Bower

While this simple project can be undertaken any time of the year, it is particularly well-suited for January. It makes good use of discarded Christmas tree foliage and evergreen trimmings from your garden.

Creating a bird feeder with a 'bower' not only helps provide energy for garden birds during the chilly winter months but also provides cover and shelter, encouraging feeding behaviours and supporting bird welfare. It is also an engaging focal point for observation.

Engaging in this project can yield numerous benefits, such as enhanced fine motor skills, increased job satisfaction and self-esteem, as well as a greater awareness of wildlife needs.



Step 1 Collect your natural materials - repurpose a lower branch from an unused Christmas tree, or gather fallen twiggy branches during a walk in the woods. You can either use one long twiggy branch or tie together two shorter ones to create the 'bower'.

Step 2 Assemble a variety of evergreen foliage - gather a selection of evergreen foliage in various lengths. Include branches with budding flowers, such as Pieris and Ivy, especially during the winter months.



Step 1



Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Step 4



Step 5

Step 3 Gather a variety of foliage and tie them into bunches using garden string. For a more secure finish, consider using wires. Stub wires can be bought from florists/craft shops.

Step 4 Create approximately ten bunches of varying lengths and thicknesses to achieve a natural appearance.

Step 5 Attach the first bunch to one end of the bower, securing it with string or wires.

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Step 6



Step 7



Step 8



Step 9

Step 6 Fasten the end of the foliage bunch to the branch to preserve the bower's shape.

Step 7 Continue attaching additional bunches along the bower branch, ensuring that those in the centre hang lower.

Step 8 It could be beneficial to have the bower suspended while you tie in the bunches.

Step 9 Create a few smaller bunches to place along the top of the bower branch. This will help conceal any visible strings and enhance the natural appearance.



Step 10

Step 10 Hang fat balls (refer to the Trellis Making Bird Fat Balls activity sheet) or a bird feeder from the primary bower branch.

Where to Hang the Bower

Visibility is Key: Choose a location where the bower can be easily seen from indoors. This will allow those inside to enjoy the lively feathered activities happening outside. Consider hanging it closer to other small trees, hedges or bushes as this supports the smaller garden birds access the feeder more safely. Hang it high enough so it cannot be reached by hunting cats.

Get involved with the RSPB's Big Garden Bird Watch this January Explore the RSPB's Big Garden Bird Watch project! They offer free downloadable resources to help you attract birds to your garden and participate in the annual bird count. It's an incredibly engaging activity that everyone can take part in, while also aiding the RSPB in monitoring the garden bird population across the UK.



Hang the bower close to other shrubbery to allow small birds cover from larger birds.