

### **Making fat-balls for your garden birds.**

There is absolutely no doubt that the birds prefer my home-made suet balls to the commercially – made ones. Hang both together and the selection is very obvious.

### **How to make your own.**

#### **Health & Safety.**

Remember that hot oil is particularly dangerous as it causes severe burns. Children should not be involved with the heating of the suet. Give them the task of opening the suet packets and measuring sunflower seeds and peanuts into cups or jugs.

#### **What you will need.**

1. Six or eight plastic containers. Milk bottles with tops cut off or yogurt pots.
2. Large saucepan.
3. Wooden spoon.
4. Large serving spoon.
5. Plastic cups or jugs.
6. Four packets of suet.
7. Sunflower seeds.
8. Peanuts.

#### **Method.**

1. Two packets of suet will make about three suet blocks.
2. Empty two packets of suet into the saucepan and heat until melted.
3. Add about two or three cup-fulls of sunflower seeds and one of peanuts. Do this gradually as there must be enough melted suet to coat the seeds.
4. Allow the mixture to cool a little, then spoon into the prepared plastic pots.
5. Place them in a cool place to set, taking about six hours to set or place in the refrigerator where they will set within two hours.

#### **Preparing the suit blocks for use.**

If using plastic milk bottle containers, cut the sides with a sharp knife and remove block.

Suet blocks in yogurt pots come out more easily if the base of the pot is placed briefly in hot water.

Place the blocks in the feeders and watch the results.

Birds, like all animals, are extremely cautious about approaching anything new, so it will be a few days before they discover your treat.

Remember to save suitable plastic pots for your future home-made suet blocks.

Another great way of re=cycling your plastic waste!