U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Christmas Tree for Wildlife
Backyard Habitat for Wildlife

Ornament List

1. **String of Pearls**
   Using a needle and thread, string together different kinds of grapes. Add variety, choice of selection and color by alternating grapes, raisins and cranberries.

2. **Popcorn Party**
   String popcorn together using a needle and thread. Make sure that the popcorn is 100% natural with no butter or salt. Add variety by stringing cranberries separately or together with the popcorn.

3. **Cracker Bracelet**
   Purchase any size or shape crackers. The crackers must be salt free. String them together with a needle and thread into a round bracelet.

4. **Apple/Orange Slices**
   Cut thin slices of apples and oranges. Hang each slice separately, with colorful ribbons, all over the tree.

5. **Millet Delight**
   Purchase millet from your feed and seed store. Tie a red ribbon at the top and hang it from the tree.

6. **Bird Bags**
   Make these just like a wedding rice bag except substitute bird seed for rice. Purchase some net material and fill it with any kind of bird seed. It is helpful to add some finely crushed eggshells to the seed mixture to supplement the birds diet with calcium. Tie a red or green ribbon at the top and hang it from the tree.

7. **Peanut Heaven**
   Take several raw peanuts and string them together with a needle and thread. Tie a colorful ribbon at the top to help attract birds.

8. **Pine Cone Pleasure**
   Collect big or small pine cones. Mix peanut butter with oatmeal for a thick consistency. Apply the mixture inside and around the pine cone and roll in bird seed. Hang it with a ribbon.

9. **Suet Loot**
   Suet is a popular bird food. Melt beef fat or bacon grease and let it cool. Add bird seed, peanut butter, fruit or granola. Mesh onion bags make good suet containers and are easy to hang.

10. **Table Scraps**
    Instead of throwing away table scraps, think of creative ways to hang them by stringing them together or putting them in a net bag to hang.

Old Christmas Trees Can Benefit Wildlife

Don’t throw away your old Christmas tree—use it to feed wildlife in your yard. Remove all lights and ornaments but leave any strings of popcorn and cranberries. Add table scraps and other treats and watch as wildlife is attracted to your yard.

Old Christmas trees can also be used to build brushpiles which will furnish cover for rabbits and other small animals. Place the brushpile near other thick cover to encourage animals to use it.

Discarded Christmas trees can be used to improve fishing. Weight the tree and sink it in deep water. This artificial reef will soon attract crappie and other panfish.

For more information, contact: Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge at 912/986 5441.