

Design Resource

Coconut Shell Bird Feeder - Kanyakumari

Utility thing out of waste

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Rakshitha
NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<https://dsource.in/resource/coconut-shell-bird-feeder-kanyakumari>



1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
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Introduction

Humans have been feeding birds for a very long time. In the Old Testament of the Bible, a passage talks about leaving behind some of the harvests for the birds to collect. Possibly this was the root of the custom to put out bundles of wheat for the birds. The activity of feeding birds has become a favored pastime for many. The joyful chirping of birds all around creates a relaxing sound. It is an excellent form of relaxation and serves to relieve stress. This entertaining activity can be shared by children and adults everywhere. It also teaches young ones to take care of birds and animals. Feeding birds provide us the pleasure and satisfaction of helping them survive and thrive, especially when the weather is less than hospitable.

Personal gardens with bird feeders and bird houses play a significant contribution to protect wild birds. A bird feeder is a container placed outdoors for the birds to feed on bird seed. Bird feeding is a popular and convenient way to observe birds closely. Sometimes, the cameras are fixed near the bird feeder for bird watching and observing nature's wonders. Many types of feeders are available commercially, and some basic designs can be made at home. Simple seed feeders can be made from recycled materials such as empty milk cartons, wood planks, coconut shells, or other containers. Coconut shell is one material that can be used for making a bird feeder. Buddha Handicrafts from Kanyakumari, Tamilnadu, is a place where coconut shells are recycled and used for making bird feeders.

Coconut shells are eco-friendly and readily available. Artists reuse these shells by processing them. Shells are used as a container for bird seeds. They are scrapped, polished, and the ready-to-use seed bars put into them. A rope loop is attached to the shell to hang it outdoors. A natural bird feeder attracts birds to eat seeds. Buddha Handicrafts provides employment opportunities to women artist utilizing their leisure time.



Skilled artisans of Buddha handicrafts.

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Admiring the beauty of bird nest.



Artisan is making the wooden boxes to parcel the coconut shell bird feeder.



The product by Buddha handicrafts.

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Tools and Raw Materials

Tools and raw materials used for making coconut shell bird feeder are as follows:

- **Coconut Shell:** It is the primary material used for making a bird feeder.
- **Sandpaper:** sandpaper is used to clean and smoothen the surface of the coconut shell.
- **Jigsaw Machine:** This machine is used for making a hole in the coconut shell.
- **Grains/seeds:** These are the main ingredients that are filled within the shell.
- **Rice Starch:** It is mixed with grains and used instead of synthetic adhesive, enabling the grains to get stuck in the shell itself.
- **Twine Rope:** Twine rope is used for hanging the coconut shell bird feeder onto the tree.
- **Cutter:** It is used to cut the excess twine rope.



Coconut agglomerate has been taken to make the coconut shell bird feeder.

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Artisan uses jigsaw machine for making hole in the coconut shell.



The machine is used to cut the shells into the required shape.



The machine is used for pumicing shell.



Wooden plank is used to cut the twine rope.

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The sharp knife is used for cutting the ropes.

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Making Process

A coconut shell is selected that is in good condition and is cut into two equal halves. The shell's outer surface is removed carefully. Using sandpaper, the surface of the shell is cleaned and smoothened. To make a hole in the coconut shell, a jigsaw machine is used. A twine rope is inserted through this hole, and a knot is made, forming a loop that enables the bird feeder to be hung later.

The inner part of the shell is further filled with grain mixture. Grains or sesame seeds are mixed with rice starch. This acts as a binding agent that gets fully fixed in the shell. It is allowed to dry completely. The drying of the mixture filled within the shell depends on the climatic condition. Usually, it takes nearly 24 hours to dry. Once the grain mixture is dried completely, it can be hung on trees or on the birds' selected area to feed.



The artisan is puncturing the coconut shell.



Shells are cut in half to make the bird feeder.



A twine thread is rolled around a wooden plank.



The rolled thread is cut using a sharp knife.

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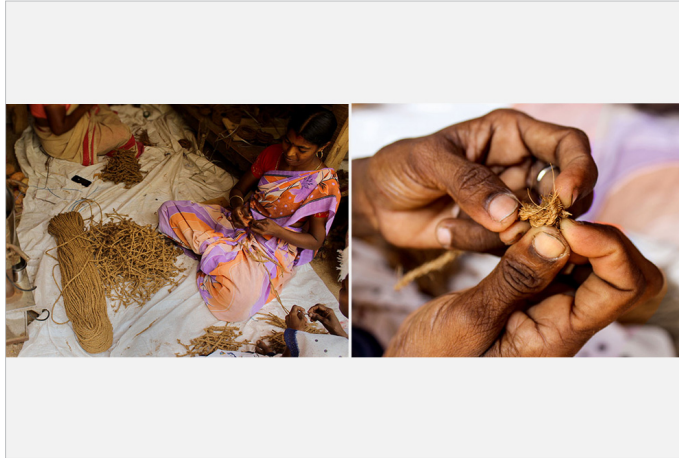
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The artisan is knotting the cut fiber thread.



Knotted fiber threads are used to put suspension.



Artisan is taking the shell and blue colour thread.



Blue colour plastic thread inserted into the shell hole.

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The plastic wire is attached to the fiber thread to put it in the hole.



A blue plastic thread is tightly stretched so that twine thread comes out.



A knotted thread is inserted, and a loop is made for hanging purpose



The heaped coconut shell bird feeders.

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Products

Bird feeders are available in various sizes and shapes. The cost of these bird feeders depends on the size and shape of the coconut shell bird feeder. The smallest bird feeder costs INR.70.



Ready to use bird feeder container.



A seed mixture is ready to fill in the shell.



A coconut shell bird feeder is hanging on a tree.

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Video



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Contact Details

This documentation was done by Professor Bibhudutta Baral and Rakshitha at **NID, Bengaluru**.

You can get in touch with him at [bibhudutta\[at\]nid.edu](mailto:bibhudutta[at]nid.edu)

You can write to the following address regarding suggestions and clarifications:

Key Contacts:

Buddha Handicrafts
Kanyakumari, Tamilnadu
India
Mobile: 04652-286766 / 080121 71317
Email: [buddhahandicrafts\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:buddhahandicrafts[at]gmail.com)

Helpdesk Details:

Co-ordinator
Project e-kalpa
R & D Campus
National Institute of Design
#12 HMT Link Road, Off Tumkur Road
Bengaluru 560 022
India

Phone: +91 80 2357 9054
Fax: +91 80 2337 3086
Email: [dsource.in\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:dsource.in[at]gmail.com)

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