

SCIENCE

FROM HOME



Nesting Material Cache

Some birds like juncos, chickadees, nuthatches, titmice, blue jays and a few species of woodpeckers spend their winter in the area rather than migrating south. These birds may need materials to insulate their nests from the cold Pennsylvania winters. Make this nesting material cache from objects around your house for our local birds.

Know before you begin

- This activity can be done inside or outside
- All supplies are easy to find
- Adult supervision is recommended
- Please choose a safe space to play

Materials

- Plastic berry container from the grocery store or other plastic container with many holes
- Pet fur, material scraps, feathers, twigs
- String

Instructions

- Clean out your container and make sure it has plenty of holes for the birds to pull out materials.
 - Pack the container with feathers, material scraps, twigs, and brushed out pet fur as you can fit. Human hair from your hairbrush is also a great addition.
 - Loop a string into the container and hang outside. Note: adding a small branch to the bottom for perching will make it easier for birds to rest while removing materials from the cache.
- Observe your cache and see what birds stay in your neighborhood for winter.