

Little Birds

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Notes

These birds are quick to knit and the decreases in their tails make them perch at a jaunty angle. The birds are stuffed as you knit and are seamless, you only have to sew are the wings in place. Use what you have for the eyes, beak and feet, the ideas I have here are just suggestions.

Please note this pattern is for personal use only and may not be sold. The toy you make is not safe for children under three years old. I welcome you to share the pattern, but please keep my contact and copyright information intact. Questions? Please email me at: katie@hedgehoglane.com.



Gauge

6 stitches and 9 rows/ 1"

Tools

- US 3/3.25mm double-pointed knitting needles, or size needed to achieve gauge
- Yarn needle
- Scissors

Materials

- About 20 yards worsted weight yarn, birds pictured are Cascade 220 worsted weight colors 8895, 7828
- Wool for stuffing
- Size 4.5 mm safety eyes or 4 mm onyx beads or black embroidery floss
- Sliver of wood or tiny piece of cardboard or cardstock for the beak
- Tiny twigs for feet. I used bits from a dogwood tree and a honeysuckle bush
- Craft glue

Abbreviations

KFB: Knit into front and back on a stitch

M1: Make one by casting on one stitch using the backward loop method

K2tog: Knit two together

P2tog: Purl two together

SSK: Slip 2 stitches as if to purl, knit them together

Finished Size

About 2½" tall and 2" wide

Beak template



Body Make one.

Cast on 6 stitches, divide evenly onto 3 double pointed needles and join in round.

1. Place marker at beginning of row, KFB around [12 sts]
2. Knit
3. Knit 2 sts, M1 around [18 sts]
4. Knit
5. Knit 3 sts, M1 around [24 sts]
- 6-7. Knit 2 rounds
8. Knit 3, K2tog, Knit 1, K2tog, K2tog, Knit 1, K2tog, Knit to end [20 sts]
9. Knit
10. Knit 4, M1, Knit 1, M1, Knit 1, M1, Knit 2, M1, Knit to end [24 sts]
- 11-12. Knit 2 rounds

Stuff head and neck.

13. Knit 6, M1, Knit 2, M1, Knit 2, M1, Knit to end [27 sts]
- 14-16. Knit 3 rounds
17. Knit 8, M1, Knit 2, M1, Knit 2, M1, Knit 9, K2tog, Knit 1, K2tog, Knit 1 [28 sts]
- 18-19. Knit 2 rounds
20. Knit 9, SSK, Knit 1, K2tog, Knit to end [26 sts]
21. Knit 8, SSK, Knit 1, K2tog, Knit 9, K2tog, Knit 2 [23 sts]
22. Knit 7, SSK, Knit 1, K2tog, Knit to end [21 sts]
23. Knit

Stuff neck and body.

24. Knit 4, K2tog, Knit 4, K2tog, Knit 6, K2tog, Knit 1 [18 sts]
25. Knit 3, K2tog, Knit 3, K2tog, Knit 5, K2tog, Knit 1 [15 sts]
26. Knit 2, K2tog,, Knit 1, K2tog, Knit 1, K2tog, Knit 2, K2tog, Knit 1 [11 sts]
27. Knit 2, K2tog, Knit 1, K2tog, Knit 2, K2tog [8 sts]

Stuff rest of body, use knitting needle to push in stuffing.

28. Arrange stitches on 2 needles, 4 over 4, slip the last and first 2 stitches of the round onto one needle and the rest on one needle. Knit 6 sts and place marker to mark new beginning of the round. I work these stitches with three needles, but you can divide them evenly onto three needles and knit with the fourth if you like.

29. Knit 1, M1, Knit 2, M1, Knit 2, M1, Knit 2, M1, Knit 1 [12 sts]
30. Knit

31. Knit 1, M1, Knit 4, M1, Knit 2, M1, Knit 4, M1, Knit 1 [16 sts]

32-34. Knit 3 rounds and using the Kitchner stitch, weave tail stitches together.

Wings Make one of each wing.



Cast on 4 stitches

1. Purl
2. Knit 3, M1, Knit 1 [5 sts]
3. Purl
4. Knit 4, M1, Knit 1 [6 sts]
5. Purl
6. Knit
7. Purl
8. Knit 3, K2tog, Knit 1 [5 sts]
9. Purl
10. Knit 2, K2tog, Knit 1 [4 sts]
11. Purl 1, P2tog, Purl 1 [3 sts]
12. K2tog, Knit 1 [2 sts]

Pull yarn through last 2 stitches.

Cast on 4 stitches

1. Purl
2. Knit 1, M1, Knit 3 [5 sts]
3. Purl
4. Knit 1, M1, Knit 4 [6 sts]
5. Purl
6. Knit
7. Purl
8. Knit 1, K2tog, Knit 3 [5 sts]
9. Purl
10. Knit 1, K2tog, Knit 2 [4 sts]
11. Purl 1, P2tog, Purl 1 [3 sts]
12. Knit 1, K2tog [2 sts]

Pull yarn through last 2 stitches.

Weave in the yarn end at wing tip but leave long tail on top of wing to sew onto bird body. Sew wing into place with straight side of wing facing up. Weave in end.



1. The washers on the safety eyes distort the shape of the bird's head, so I don't use them. Put a dab of glue on the eyes. Use a knitting needle to poke a hole in the stuffing. Refer to photos for placement and stick in the eye. Alternately, sew a bead into place with thread that matches bird color or make a large French knot using black embroidery floss.

2. Using template as a guide, cut a beak from a sliver of wood or piece of cardstock. Put a dab of glue on the end of the beak. Use a knitting needle to poke a hole in the stuffing and glue beak in place.

3. Find some twigs that branch out into two or three smaller twigs. It's nice to cut green twigs then you can bend them into a more natural leg and foot shape. Trim twigs to length, if you like you can sharpen the ends of the legs to make them easier to insert into the body. Use a knitting needle to poke a hole in the stuffing and add a dab of glue to legs. Stick legs in place.

Enjoy your little bird!