

ARNE & CARLOS

FIELD GUIDE TO KNITTED BIRDS

Over 40 Handmade Projects to Liven Up Your Roost

THE
BESTSELLER
Now in
Paperback



*From the Authors of 55 Christmas Balls to Knit
and Norwegian Knits with a Twist*

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PART 1

Anatomy of Knitted Birds

—ACCORDING TO ARNE & CARLOS











BEAK

EYES



Sew on two beads, one on each side of the head. You will need a size 9 or 10 beading needle, rather than a regular sewing needle, to fit through most small beads. First attach one bead with a stitch and then bring the needle through the head over to the opposite side where you will place the second eye. Sew back and forth through the beads and then down on the outside of each bead until they sit smoothly on the head.

GLASSES

You'll need steel wire, super glue and yarn in the same color as the frame.

Shape the frames with fine steel wire (the type used for floral decorations). Begin with the first arm of the glasses, bend the wire toward the lenses and form them into the shape you want. At the end piece (at the bend between the arm and the top bar), bend the wire down to and across the bottom of the lens, up to the nose and back to the top bar. Wrap the wire for the top bar above the lens and then over to the second lens. Start with the top bar, shaping the top, side, and then the bottom of the lens, and then up to the nose before you twist the wire for the top bar of the lens. End with the second arm. Smooth out the glasses one last time. Reinforce with super glue on the end piece of the first arm, and then at all the places where the frame made a turn. With the color you want, wrap wool yarn around the frame. You need glue that can be used on metal—protect your fingers because this glue is strong.







CHARACTERISTICS: Large hats with colorful pom-poms on the tops and hanging at the breast from the earflap cords. They nest in dense spruce forests in eastern Norway, and their easily recognizable song can be confused with Abba's Chiquitita on the pan flute. Winter birds can be found both north and south of the equator. These are dressed in Peruvian-style accessories. You'll find the pattern for the birds on page 41.

Chapter 5

EMBROIDERED BIRDS

We found some old Mexican women's magazines at an antique market in Mexico City. The magazines had pretty colorful pages with pattern charts for embroidery and we couldn't resist them. They came home with us to Valdres. We took the inspiration for the embroidery on these birds from the old pattern pages. None of our embroidery matches the originals exactly. Since the tail doesn't have more than 7×2 stitches, there is very little space for decorating. The birds were knitted in one color following the Basic Pattern, blocked, and stuffed with filling before we embroidered the various motifs.



CHARACTERISTICS: The yellow bird is knitted following the Basic Pattern on page 22. It is embroidered with duplicate stitch with dark pink, light pink, and purple yarn.



KNITTING TIP: Bring an old bird cage back to life with knitted birds: easy pets that only need a little care.

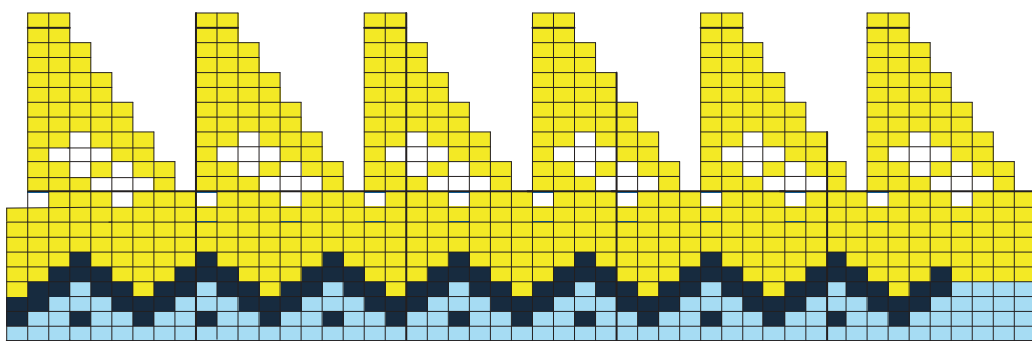




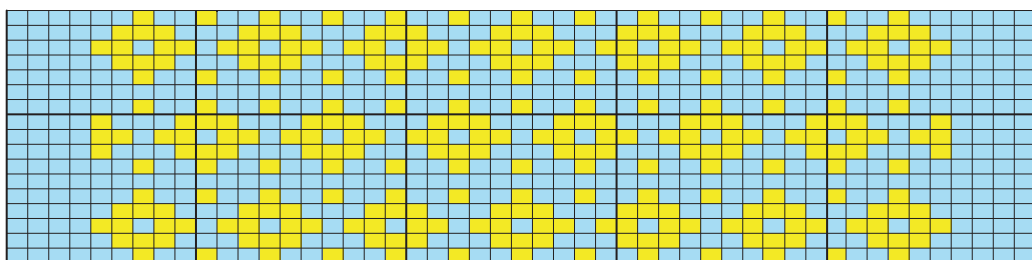
One morning, while we sat and knitted and listened to the radio, a nature program came on. They talked about how colorful the Eurasian blue tit is and how people really hadn't realized that they had a small exotic creature at their bird feeders. Of course, we had to take a closer look at the blue tit and that's how this one came into the world.



A tea setting inspired by Alice in Wonderland.
We placed a bird on the hat and knitted a tea
cozy with the colors of a blue tit.



← Row 18



← Row 6

A BIRD FOR CHRISTMAS

KNITTING TIP: Knit a bird or two to give as presents to the person who has everything. Here in Norway, robins are often seen as Christmas motifs. For our pair, one has an orange breast and the other a red breast.



Bullfinches are often seen in flocks. This little flock is the result of last year's Christmas workshop.



The black-billed magpie is one of our favorite birds. In real life, they are much bigger than the other birds we've been inspired by but we knitted this one the same size as usual. It has been embellished with dark green and blue sequins.





EASTER TIP: Let the woodpecker guard the marzipan eggs.



CHARACTERISTICS: A speckled lime-green bird with a star motif and red head. Inspired by the green woodpecker. The red crosses on the tail and rump are embroidered after the bird has been knitted and filled. The red stitches were originally knit with lime-green.



These birds, inspired by antique Christmas tree birds, are knitted with Anchor Mouliné 6-ply embroidery thread (100% cotton) and needles U.S. size 000 / 1.5 mm.

You need two hanks of embroidery thread to knit the body.

Gather all you need in terms of beads, sequins, and feathers and see what happens. We limited ourselves to embroidery on the rump and back/wings. Sometimes the feathers inspire the color for the body and at other times it's the sequins, or sometimes the feathers and sequins are so fine together that the body comes last.

It is hard to stop knitting these birds, especially if you have a lot of feathers and sequins on hand—finally you have a use for them!





CHARACTERISTICS: A seldom-seen bird of paradise with shiny silver wings and a long, elegant brown and white tail surrounded by yellow-spotted black feathers. The long tail feathers make this a very elegant bird. Attach to a branch so the tail shows to the fullest extent.

BIRDS *of a feather...*

KNIT *together*

With their trademark style, clarity, and humor, let Arne & Carlos guide you on a journey into a delightfully vivid knitted bird kingdom! Inspired by nature at home and abroad, as well as far off, fantastical places, this is the ideal guide for knitted bird lovers, whether creating with decorative purpose or just for fun.

- **KNIT** characters from the Arne & Carlos home-garden in Tonsåsen, Norway: the characteristic bullfinch, chickadee, and wagtail, to name a few.
- **MAKE** charming cold-weather birds with Norwegian traditional knitting patterns, and keep them warm with bird-sized wool caps and scarves.
- **DISCOVER** brilliant birds of paradise, brought alive with embroidery, sequins, and feathers.
- **SPREAD** your wings a little further with birds featuring vintage Mexican embroidery motifs, flower patterns, and so much more!

Clear instructions, helpful diagrams, and full-color photographs make it easy for every knitter's imagination to take flight.

"Clever, contemporary...delightful."
—Library Journal

