Knitterly Arts
jenniferedwards.com

Nesting Birds
designed by Jennifer Edwards
www.knitterlyarts.wordpress.com

Pattern Introduction
These crocheted birds are fun to make from head to tail to fluffy nest. Make some for every season: pastel colors for spring, brights for summer, muted colors for fall, and deep reds and blues for winter. Use your stash to mix and match yarns for the bird and its nest. They make a lovely gift for anyone…especially bird lovers! And who doesn't love birds?

What you need
Worsted Weight yarns for bird—small amounts
      For Nest: Use one strand of novelty yarn
      ie. Fun Fur with one strand of worsted
      weight yarn
DMC embroidery floss: Brown for eyes and yellow
      for beak
Split Marker
Yarn needle and thread needle
Stuffing
Size B, H & J hooks (B for embroidery floss, H for worsted, J for nest *or whatever size hook gives you a nice dense stitch.)
Bead & 1/8" ribbon for "necktie"

Stitches you need to know
Chain, slip stitch, single crochet, single crochet 2 stitches together (sc2tog)

Techniques you need to know
Crochet in the Round
French Knot (for bird's eyes)

Gauge is not important for this project. Your bird will be slightly larger or smaller depending on the weight of the yarn you use. I have written the pattern using worsted weight yarns…feel free to use DK or chunky weights for variety! Just be sure to adjust your hook size to suit the yarn.

Abbreviations you need to know

Beg = beginning	Sl st = slip stitch
FLO = front loop only	Sp = space
Ch = chain	Rem = remaining
Lp = loop	Rep = repeat
Sc = single crochet	Rnd = round
Sc2tog = sc two sts together	Sts = stitches

Special Stitches

Single Crochet 2 Together (sc2tog): Work 1st sc in indicated sp or st ONLY until you have 2 lps on hook. (You are not completing last step of this first sc!) Begin next sc, and work until you have 3 lps on hook. Wrap and pull yarn through all 3 lps on your hook, thus combining 2 sc sts into 1 sc st.

Memory Refreshers

1. "Fasten off" means to draw your yarn through the loop you have on your hook, then cut or break your yarn 3-4 inches away from loop. Now pull the yarn out of the securing loop you made. Give the end on your work a tug for good measure.
2. "Whip stitch" is a sewing term which means to take a designated length of yarn on your yarn needle and draw the needle through two thicknesses from the same direction each time. It will seem like "whipping" as the yarn loops back over each time you make a new stitch securing the two pieces together.
3. When working in **rounds**, you do NOT turn your work after each round unless told to do so!

Tips & Tricks

*In this pattern, you will not "join" the rnds with a sl st. You will simply continue working the sc sts as indicated. Placing a marker in the first sc of each rnd helps you know when the next round begins.

Walkthrough
Body of Bird

*You will be starting at one end of the bird's body, working in rounds, increasing then decreasing until you reach the other side of the bird's body, creating an oval shape. Before closing the body of the bird, you will stuff it. Simple single crochet here!

Rnd 1: Using worsted weight yarn for Body of Bird and corresponding hook (I used an H hook), ch 2, work 6 sc in first ch made. (6 sc)

Rnd 2: Sc in first sc of last rnd, place marker in this stitch to denote beg of rnd, sc once more in this sc, work 2 sc in each rem sc. (12 sc)

Rnd 3: Sc in marked st, replace marker, 2 sc in next sc, *sc in next sc, 2 sc in next sc, rep from * around. (18 sc)

Rnd 4: Sc in marked st, replace marker, sc in next sc, 2 sc in next sc, *sc in next 2 sc, 2 sc in next sc, rep from * around. (24 sc)

Rnds 5-13 (9 rnds): Sc in marked st, replace marker, sc in each sc around. (24 sc)

Rnd 14: Sc in marked st, replace marker, sc in next sc, sc2tog, *sc in next 2 sc, sc2tog, rep from * around. (18 sc) **Stuff Body of Bird here!

Row 15: Sc in marked st, replace marker, sc2tog, *sc in next sc, sc2tog, rep from * around. (12 sc)

Row 16: Sc2tog around, dropping marker. (6 sc)

Row 17 and following: Rep Row 16 until Body of Bird is closed. Fasten off and weave in ends.

Tail of Bird

*You are starting at the tip of the Tail, working back and forth in rows. At the indicated point, you will change to crocheting in the round by using the front loops of each stitch, turning the work and using what appears to be the front loops, but are actually the back loops of the previously worked sc stitches. You will continue working in the round until ready to stuff the tail and whip stitch it onto the Body of the Bird.

Row 1: Using same yarn and hook as Body of Bird, ch 7, sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch to end. (6 sc)

Rows 2-5 (4 rows): Ch 1, turn, sc in each sc to end. (6 sc)

Row 6: Ch 1, turn, in FLO sc in each sc to end, work one more sc in last sc of this row. Turn work, sc in FLO of each sc to end, adding one more sc in final sc of this row. (Now this has become a Rnd with 14 sc). **Remember that you are actually working sc in the front and back loops of the same stitches, but when you've turned the work, the Back Loops become Front loops.

Rnd 7: Sc in first sc of Row 6 and in each of the next 13 sc of this rnd. (14 sc) **Remember you can place a marker in the first st of each rnd to keep track of beg in rnds.

Rnds 8-9: Work sc in each sc around. (14 sc) Sl st in next sc to close rnd. Fasten off leaving long end for sewing Tail to Body of Bird. Weave in end from the beg of Tail.

Attach Tail of Bird: Stuff lightly and whip stitch Tail into desired position on Body of Bird using the long end. You may find it helpful to stuff as you sew it on. Once sewn into position, weave in end.

Head of Bird

*You are making a small half-sphere for the Bird's Head, working in rnds, then stuffing the head before sewing it on. Quick & Easy!

Rnd 1: Using same yarn and hook as Body of Bird, ch 2, work 6 sc in first ch made. (6 sc)

Rnd 2: Sc in first sc of last rnd, place marker in this stitch to denote beg of rnd, sc once more in this sc, work 2 sc in each rem sc. (12 sc)

Rnds 3-5: Sc in marked st, replace marker, work sc in each sc around. (12 sc) Sl st in next sc to close rnd. Fasten off leaving long end for sewing Head to Body of Bird. Weave in end from the beg of Head.

Attach Head of Bird: Stuff lightly and whip stitch Head into desired position on Body of Bird using the long end. Again, you may find it helpful to stuff as you sew it on. Once sewn into position, weave in end.

Beak
   *You will start at the base of the beak and work to the tip of the beak. Use a length of DMC Embroidery Floss (I used various shades of yellow) and size B crochet hook.
Rnd 1: Leaving long end for sewing beak onto Bird's Head, ch 6, join to 1st ch made to form ring.
Rnd 2: Ch 1, sc in each sc around. *Remember you can place marker in first sc of each rnd if needed.
Rnd 3: Sc2tog around.
Rep Rnd 3 until beak comes to a point. Fasten off and use this end to "stuff" the beak".
Attach Beak to Head of Bird: Whip stitch Beak into desired position on Head of Bird using the long end. Once sewn into position, weave in end.

Eyes
   *Using a length of brown or black DMC Embroidery Floss and a sewing needle, make French Knots in desired position for Bird's Eyes. Weave in ends. **An alternative to French Knots would be to whip stitch back and forth a few times to create an eye.

Necktie
   *Cut a length of 1/8" ribbon and thread a bead onto it. Tie the ribbon in a bow around the bird's neck to give it a bit of decoration.

Bird's Nest
   *You will be starting in the middle bottom of the nest working in rnds to create a bowl shape. You determine the size of your bird's nest by continuing to increase in the manner given. I like the "wrong side" of the crocheted piece to be on the outside of the nest…it is usually furrier, fluffier, and altogether more "nest-looking" that way. Choose whichever side you like best.
Rnd 1: Holding a strand of novelty yarn AND a strand of worsted or DK weight yarn together, and using a J hook; ch 2, work 6 sc in first ch made. (6 sc)
Rnd 2: Sc in first sc of last rnd, place marker in this stitch to denote beg of rnd, sc once more in this sc, work 2 sc in each rem sc. (12 sc)
Rnd 3: Sc in marked st, replace marker, 2 sc in next sc, *sc in next sc, 2 sc in next sc, rep from * around. (18 sc)
Rnd 4: Sc in marked st, replace marker, sc in next sc, 2 sc in next sc, *sc in next 2 sc, 2 sc in next sc, rep from * around. (24 sc)
Rnd 5: Sc in marked st, replace marker, sc in each sc around. (24 sc)
Rnd 6: Sc in marked st, replace marker, sc in next 2 sc, 2 sc in next sc, *sc in next 3 sc, 2 sc in next sc, rep from * around. (30 sc)
Rnd 7: Sc in marked st, replace marker, sc in each sc around. (30 sc)
**Continue to increase in this manner if desired, adding one rnd of even sc after each increase rnd. Work thus until your nest is desired size. Fasten off. Weave in ends.

Optional Decrease Rnd: If you'd like the top edge of the Nest to roll inward slightly: sc in marked st, replace marker, sc in next 2 sc, sc2tog, *sc in next 3 sc, sc2tog, rep from * around. Sl st to next sc to close rnd. Fasten off. Weave in ends.

Other Items of Interest
*You might like to know **which yarns I've used**…I will only mention a few for suggestions. Really, the sky is the limit, so experiment and have fun!
Bernat *Cotton Tots*; Brown Sheep's *Lamb's Pride Wool*; Lion Brand *Fun Fur*, Bernat *Soft Boucle*…
*There's a **FREE pattern** imbedded in this pattern: Make BOWLS of any size with the Nest instructions! Try using a hook size smaller than the one called for to allow the bowls to keep their shape and be stiff. Make various sizes of bowls so that they "nest" inside each other…or felt them! They make another perfect gift!