

BIRD SAFE TMU: INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAKING A BIRD BAG

Thank you for helping support bird conservation with Bird Safe TMU! These soft cloth drawstring bags are used by bird researchers during migration monitoring to gently hold birds while data is collected. Your sewing skills will directly support ethical, low-stress handling of birds in the field.



This resource provides step-by-step instructions and photo examples to guide you through making the bags. **Please note:** Bags must be machine-sewn using small straight stitches (or a serger). The fabric must be lightweight, breathable cotton — we recommend using materials such as old bedsheets and cotton T-shirts, or similar. Whether you're an experienced sewer or just getting started, we appreciate your contribution!

STEPS:

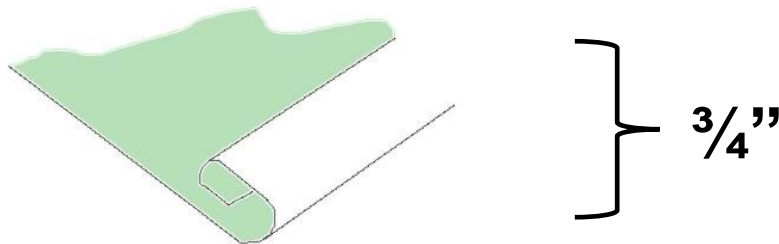
1. Cut the material into rectangles of the correct size (see attached pattern).

Songbirds: A – 13.5" x 16"

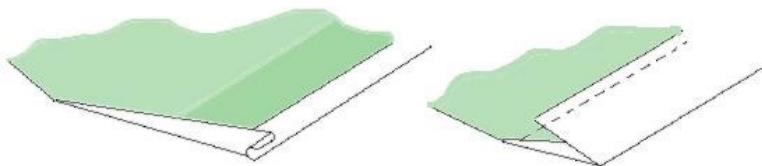
B – 13.5" x 19"

Owls: 12" x 24"

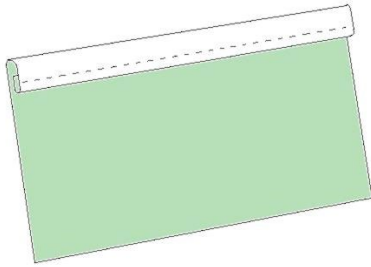
2. Along one long edge of the rectangle, fold the material over twice (as below) so that the raw edge is concealed underneath. Make sure the fold is approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide. In the diagram the green represents the "good" side and the white the "wrong" side. We want all the seams to be on the outside of the bag to minimize irritation to the bird inside. Press the fold with an iron to create a crisp crease.



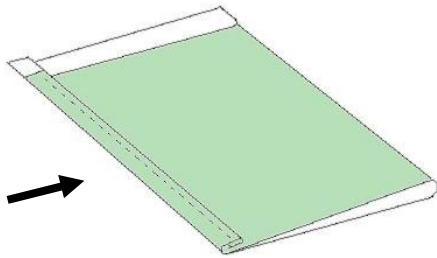
3. After pressing the fold, open the second fold again (but not the first - recall you folded the material over twice, only open the second, larger fold - see diagram below). Roll the material from the corner over twice (similar to what you did before to conceal the raw edge underneath) to make a small, 1/4" fold just in the corner (see diagram). Press this fold with an iron, then close the large fold and press.



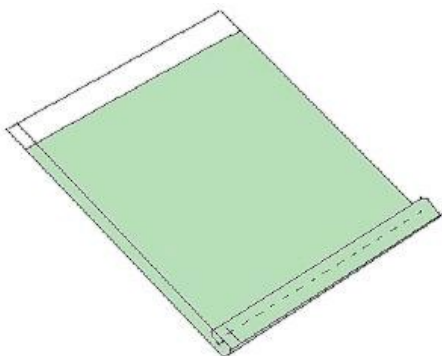
4. Sew (a simple straight stitch will do) along the inner edge of the fold. This will become the band the drawstring is threaded through, so it's important that there's enough room between the stitching and the outer fold for a thick string to run.



5. Fold the material in half, good (green) side out. Roll the side edge over twice the way you did with the top edge. This fold doesn't need to be as wide; it can be about $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Press the fold and sew along the length from the bottom to where the top edge folds over (marked with an arrow below). Don't sew over this part, as this is where the hole is to thread the drawstring.

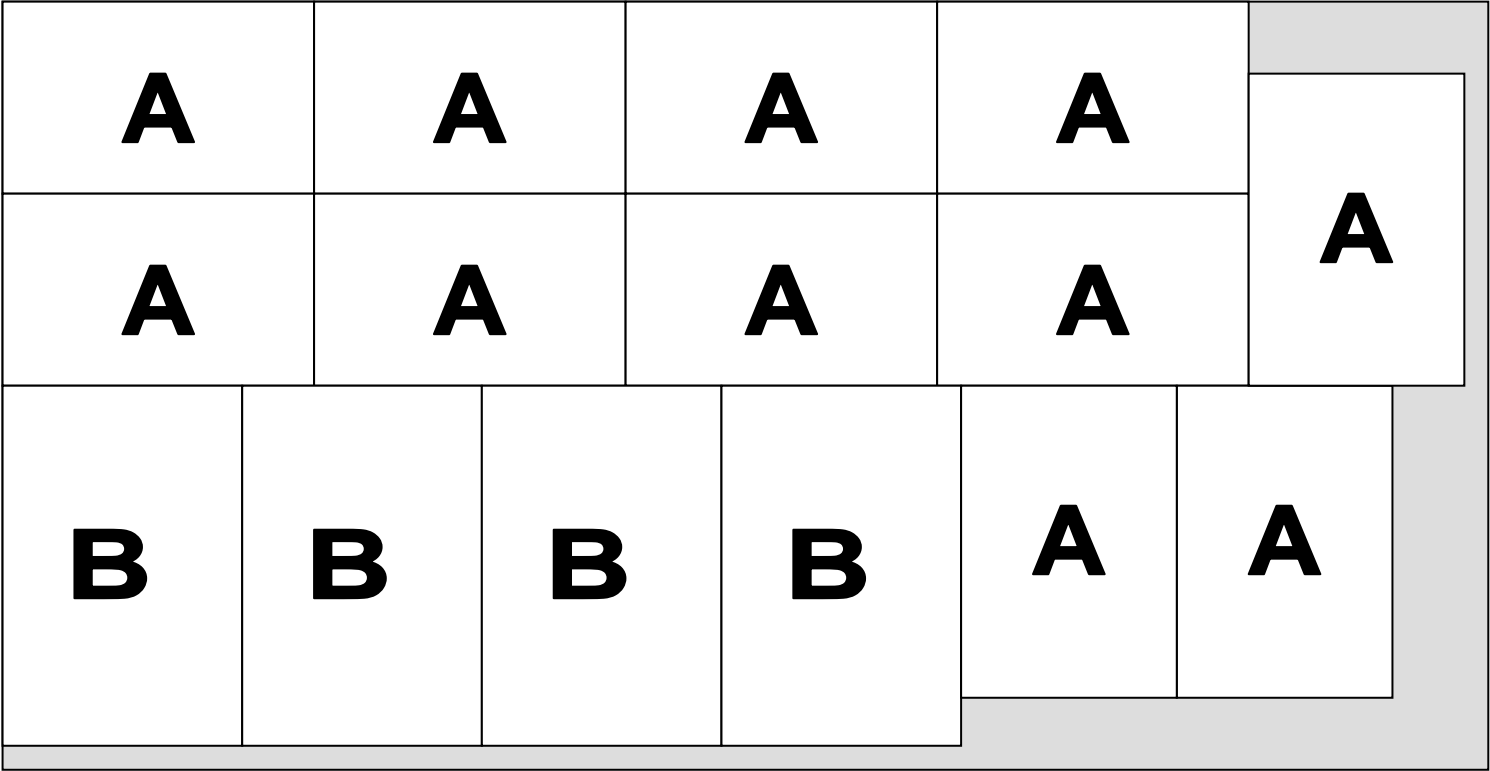


6. Finally, fold over and press the bottom edge the way you did the side, and sew along its entire edge. Snip all threads and you're done!



7. To add the drawstring, thread the provided strip through a yarn needle or similar, and insert into one of the openings left at the top. Once you've worked the strip all the way through, tie the two loose ends together at their end (not near the bag) in a simple knot so they won't slip, but so that there's enough room to be able to loop the bag around your wrist.

APPROXIMATE PATTERN FOR SONGBIRD BAGS:



Per fabric design:

A - 12" x 16" (11 pieces)

B - 13.5" x 19" (4 pieces)

Fabric is approximately 45" by 78"

APPROXIMATE PATTERN FOR OWL BAGS:

Each piece is roughly 12" x 24"
Fabric is approximately 48" x 156"

BIRD BAG EXAMPLES:



Special thanks to our partnering organization for providing us with this resource.