



Finished nests can be mailed or delivered to:
Dane County Humane Society's
Wildlife Center
5132 Voges Road
Madison, WI 53718



Questions?
wild@giveshelter.org

Knitting for Baby Birds

Can you help provide injured and orphaned baby birds with a soft, comfortable place to grow and heal? These quick-to-knit nests are used by the hundreds of baby birds that come through the doors of *Dane County Humane Society's Wildlife Center* each year.

Tips:

1. To prevent legs or feet from getting snagged in the nest, avoid using fuzzy yarns and be sure it is knitted tightly. Using 2 or 3 strands of yarn will help ensure a tight knit and help the nest holds its form when baby birds are placed in the nest.
2. The nests need to be made from washable yarn that can last through numerous washings. Acrylic or cotton yarn works well and is inexpensive.
3. Any color is fine, but earth tones are the best.
4. These are knit in the round using double-pointed needles. Any size between 5 through 9 can work, depending on the weight of the yarn.
5. Directions given are for nests that are about 4" across, however ***we have a need for nests of all sizes***. Cast on fewer stitches for smaller nests and more for larger nests. If the nest is much smaller, start the decrease with K6, K2tog.
6. Only decrease to the point where you have a small, easily closed gap in the bottom of the nest, otherwise there can be a bump on the bottom that can make the nest unstable.

Instructions:

1. Using 2 or 3 strands of yarn, cast on 54 stitches. Divide evenly on 4 double-pointed needles.
2. Join ends in the round and work in stockinette (knit every round) until the nest is approximately 3" tall.
3. **Purl one row.** This row is very important to separate the sides from the bottom of the nest, and make it stable enough to stand up.
4. Row 1) Knit 7 (K7), knit 2 together (K2tog), repeat to end
5. Row 2) K6, K2tog, repeat to end
6. Row 3) K5, K2tog, repeat to end
7. Row 4) K4, K2tog, repeat to end
8. Row 5) K3, K2tog, repeat to end
9. Row 6) K2, K2tog, repeat to end
10. Row 7) K1, K2tog, repeat to end
11. See tip #6 to determine if you want to continue in this pattern for one more row.
12. Leave a 6 inch tail and cut yarn. Slide yarn on needle, pass through loops and draw tight to close up end.

Dane County Humane Society's Wildlife Center is dedicated to providing responsible rehabilitation services for the ill, injured and orphaned wildlife of south central Wisconsin, and to promoting education and awareness of the crucial role of wildlife in our community.

To learn more about our organization, please visit our website at giveshelter.org.

