

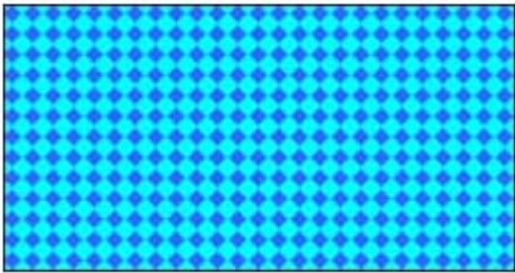
How to Make Bird Bags

What you need:

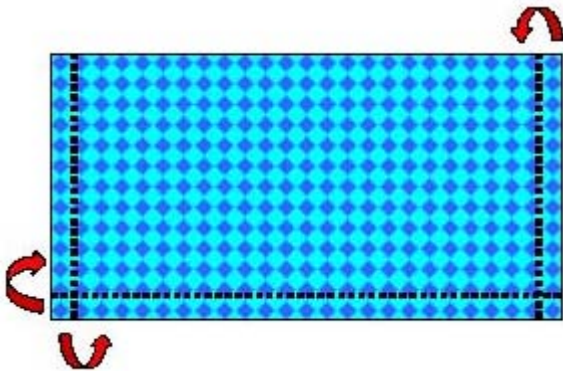
- 1) lots of **cotton** fabric: any shade or pattern as long as it is breathable cotton
- 2) pick up some bag ties from the banding station or make something equivalent (see right)
- 3) a sewing machine, a few pins, scissors, and a ruler

Bag ties should be about 50cm (20 inches) long, and made in a fabric soft enough to glide relatively easily through the tie pocket and stretchy lengthwise so that tied off bags can be carried either over the hand, wrist or lower arm. Choose a fabric that curls into a round cord shape. Lightweight stretch cotton jersey knit with a few percent lycra (spandex) and nylon lycra are good choices. Cut into 2.5cm (1 inch) strips.

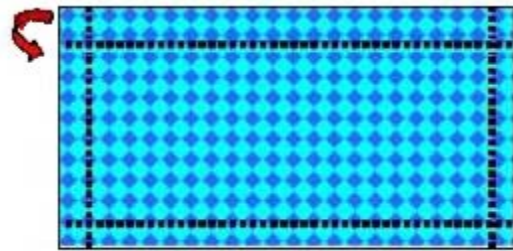
- 1) Cut a rectangle of cotton fabric roughly 43 cm by 38 cm (17 inches by 15 inches).



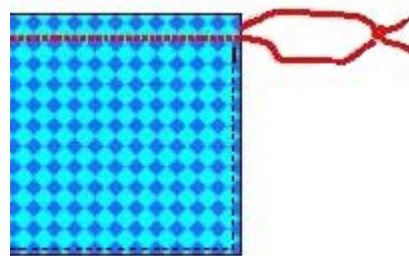
- 2) Sew a 5 mm (1/4 inch) double-fold on the bottom and the two sides of the rectangle: fold the fabric 5 mm over the wrong side, fold over again, pin to make it easier if necessary, and sew.



- 3) Tie pocket: fold the top down 5mm (1/4 inch seam) and sew. Fold again on 2 cm (3/4 inch) and sew along the first fold.



- 4) Fold the rectangle in half, wrong sides together. Sew the bottom halves and the sides closed, sewing up close to the tie pocket (but not over it!).



- 5) Attach a safety pin to one end of a bag tie. Insert the safety pin in the tie pocket and push it all along to the end of the pocket. Pull the safety pin out of the pocket a few inches and remove. Attach both ends of the tie together.
- 6) Check inside and outside the finished bag and remove any visible loose thread or fiber. T'chirp! T'chirp! The bird bag is done!

Thank you so much for helping us out – it's very much appreciated!

Sincerely,

The McGill Bird Observatory Team

