

Every Birdie's Home Tweet Home

January Block by Bettye C. a/k/a Lillylady

Fabric suggestions:

Blue snowflake fabric for sky (13" square)

Green for tree (13" square)

White for snow

Brown or gray for birdhouse

Brown for pinecones

Black for birdhouse roof and hole

Other items : (see designer's notes)

Bird appliqué (approx 4" tall)

Template material

Fusible webbing if desired

Seam sealant for needleturn appliqué



Designer's Notes:

Templates may be made for this block from freezer paper or template plastic or cereal boxes, for that matter. No seam allowance is included. 1/4" may be added for a turned under hem or a needle turn appliqué. I used "Stop Fraying" seam sealant. Fusible web may also be used according to manufacturer's instructions. Decorative blanket stitching or machine stitching will be needed on those raw edges.

Any portion of this block may be altered. Leave out some of the snow or pine cones. Change the shape of the bird house. Change the bird. Make your tree from two colors of green, joining them under the long strip of snow. Decorate the birdhouse. I am sure you will have your own ideas.

My bird was purchased at Wal-Mart. It is by Wright. If you

wish to make your own, I am including a pattern. You will need red fabric, brown fabric, black fabric and black and yellow embroidery floss for it.

Instructions:

1. Cut a 13" square of sky fabric. (I used the wrong side because I thought it was too bright.)
2. Cut the tree section from green fabric, adding 1/4" along the branches side if you wish to turn under. Clip the curves and use a tiny drop of seam sealant if you are going to appliqué. (I put some on a square of cardboard and use a toothpick to apply it.) Apply the tree to the sky. You may cut away (carefully) the back portion of the sky under the tree to eliminate bulk. You can do this with fusible web if you only apply about 1/2" along the edge.
3. Cut out the snow sections, adding 1/4" if needed. Clip curves where needed if turning under the hem. The snow extends over the points of the branches of the tree. Pin on the "B" section of the snow. (The others will be used later.) Sew or fuse it to the tree.
4. Cut out the two sections of the birdhouse adding 1/4" if needed. You may want to use contrasting colors or grain to make them stand out. Allow the seam extension at the top to go under where the roof will be. Also allow the right edge of the side section to extend under the front. (I like to pin my pieces on before they are fastened down to see if they fit okay.) The right hand corner of the birdhouse is 3 3/4" from the right edge and 2 1/2" from the bottom edge. (It will look strange.) Apply these sections to the block, side section first.
5. Cut out the roof section adding 1/4" if needed. Clip at the

point if you are turning the edge under. Use a drop of seam sealant. Pin it on. The roof will not completely cover the birdhouse because the snow comes down over it. Hopefully it will fit. Pin on the snow section C to be sure it will cover everything. Attach the roof to the birdhouse.

6. Cut out the hole for the birdhouse, adding 1/4" if needed. I make a cardboard circle the size of the finished hole and then use a small running stitch to gather the fabric around the cardboard. Do not fasten the thread – just pull it tight and steam it with your iron. Remove the cardboard carefully, readjust the gathers and apply it to the birdhouse.

7. Cut out 4 pinecones adding 1/4" if needed. They go under the snow sections, which is why we have not sewn or fused them down yet. Pin the pinecones and snow in place. Apply to block after you are sure everything fits and you like it. You can embroider the scales on the pine cones if you like.

8. Add your cardinal, either the press-on or made from scratch.

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