The Bower Bird is so named because it was originally designed to sit in a decorative bower. The bower can be as simple or as decorative as you care to make it - smother it in flowers, or just add a few blooms with some pretty buttons and beads for an extra touch of charm. Create a rainbow and adorn it with a hanging heart and sunshine, or theme the bower to suit a particular occasion or person. The bower birds are also happy to perch without a bower, and filled with fragrant lavender they make wonderful gifts.

Things You’ll Need...

Two colours of fine DK weight merino yarn (eg Debbie Bliss Baby Cashmerino), approx 12g of each
Small quantity of yellow/orange fine DK weight yarn for the beak
Extra colourful oddments of yarn to add decorative embroidery
2 x 6mm black toy safety eyes
A small quantity of polyester toy stuffing
3.5mm crochet hook and a tapestry needle

Pattern Note

This pattern is written in UK crochet terms.
**Body**

The body is worked in rounds with a distinct start and finish and not in a continuous spiral. Each round begins with a chain 1 which **does not** count as a stitch. This little ch-1 serves as a visual marker, an indication of the beginning of each round and nothing more. It simply helps you to keep track of the starting place of each round. If you count carefully as you work each round there should be no need to use a stitch marker.

Using **colour A**, Ch 4, join with a sl st to make a ring.

| RND 1          | Ch 1 (does not count as stitch), 6 dc into ring. Sl st into 1st st to close round (6 sts) |
| RND 2          | Ch 1 (does not count as stitch), 2 dc into each st around. Sl st to close round (12 sts) |
| RND 3          | Ch 1 (does not count as stitch), *2dc into 1st st, 1 dc into next st* repeat, sl st to close (18 sts) |
| RND 4          | Ch 1 (does not count as stitch), *2dc into 1st st, 1dc into next 2 stitches* repeat, sl st to close (24 sts) |
| RND 5          | Ch 1 (does not count as stitch), *2dc into 1st st, 1dc into next 3 stitches* repeat, sl st to close (30 sts) |
| RND 6          | Ch 1 (does not count as stitch), *2dc into 1st st, 1dc into next 4 stitches* repeat, sl st to close (36 sts) |
| RND 7          | Ch 1 (does not count as stitch), *2dc into 1st st, 1dc into next 5 stitches* repeat, sl st to close (42 sts) |
| RND 8          | Ch 1 (does not count as stitch), *2dc into 1st st, 1dc into next 6 stitches* repeat, sl st to close (48 sts) |
| RND 9          | Ch 1 (does not count as stitch), *2dc into 1st st, 1dc into next 7 stitches* repeat, sl st to close (54 sts) |
| RND 10         | Ch 1 (does not count as stitch), *2dc into 1st st, 1dc into next 8 stitches* repeat, sl st to close (60 sts) |
| RND 11         | Ch 1 (does not count as stitch), *2dc into 1st st, 1dc into next 9 stitches* repeat, sl st to close (66 sts) |
| **RND 12**     | **Change to colour B.** Ch 1 (does not count as stitch), *2dc into 1st st, 1dc into next 10 stitches* repeat, sl st to close (72 sts). Fasten off. |
Tail

Using colour B, join thread 4 stitches from centre mark.

ROW 1  | Ch 1 (does not count as stitch), 1 dc into same st. Dc into next 7 sts. Turn.
ROW 2  | Ch 1 (does not count as stitch), dc2tog, dc into next 4 sts, dc2tog. Turn.
ROWS 3-9  | Ch 1 (does not count as stitch), dc into each st across (6 sts). Turn.
ROW 10  | Ch 2, sl st into 1st st. *Sl st into next st, ch 2, sl st into same st* Repeat 4 more times (6 little chain loops in total). Fasten off.

Beak

Use yellow or orange yarn. The beak is worked directly opposite the tail. Turn work over so that wrong side is facing you. Work in front/single loops only. Join yellow yarn 3 stitches to right of centre mark.

ROW 1  | Ch 1 (does not count as stitch), 1 dc into same stitch, 5 dc across. Turn.
ROW 2  | Ch 1 (does not count as stitch), dc3tog, twice (2 sts). Turn.
ROW 3  | Ch 1 (does not count as stitch), dc2tog. Fasten off leaving tail end for stitching up.
Wings

Using colour B, Ch 4, join with a sl st to make a ring.

RND 1  Ch 3 (counts as 1 tr), work 11 trs into ring. Join with a sl st to 3rd ch of initial ch-3.

RND 2  Ch 1 (does not count as stitch), 2 dc into each of next 9 sts. Htr in next st. In next st work the following: 1 tr, ch 2, sl st in 2nd ch from hook (picot point), 1 tr. Htr in next st. Sl st to close round, fasten off leaving a 20cm tail end for stitching.

Underside

Use colour B.

ROW 1  Ch 2, 2dc into 2nd ch from hook. Turn. (2 sts)

ROW 2  Ch 1 (does not count as stitch), 2dc into each stitch. Turn (4 sts)

ROW 3  Ch 1 (does not count as stitch), 1 dc into each st across. Turn. (4 sts)

ROW 4  Ch 1 (does not count as stitch), 2dc into 1st st, 1dc into next 2 sts, 2dc into next st. Turn. (6 sts)

ROW 5  Ch 1 (does not count as stitch), 1 dc into each st across. Turn. (6 sts)

ROW 6  Ch 1 (does not count as stitch), 2dc into 1st st, 1dc into next 4 sts, 2dc into next st. Turn. (8 sts)

ROW 7  Ch 1 (does not count as stitch), 1 dc into each st across (8 sts)

ROW 8  Ch 1 (does not count as stitch), 2dc into 1st st, 1dc into next 6 sts, 2dc into next st. Turn. (10 sts)

ROWS 9-17  Ch 1 (does not count as stitch), 1 dc into each st across. Turn. (10 sts)

ROW 18  Ch 1 (does not count as stitch), dc2tog, 1dc into next 6 sts, dc2tog. Turn (8 sts)

ROWS 19-21  Ch 1 (does not count as stitch) 1 dc into each st across (8 stitches)

ROW 22  Ch 1 (does not count as stitch), dc2tog, 1dc into next 4 sts, dc2tog. Turn (6 sts)

ROWS 23-31  Ch 1 (does not count as stitch), 1 dc into each st across (6 sts). Fasten off, leaving a 60cm tail end for stitching up.
Finishing

Work any decorative embroidery stitches on the wings, tail and body before positioning and stitching the wings in place.

Position and fix the 6mm black safety eyes in place. Stitch up the beak.

Stitching Up

Place your bird with wrong side facing uppermost, then position the bottom edge of the underside so it sits just below the frilly edge of the tail. Stitch neatly across the end of the underside.
Stitch up the first side using neat whip stitches over the outside edge. You should finish stitching the underside about 3-4 cm below the beak, as shown above. It’s roughly the point where you made your 2dc increase in the final round of the body.

Fold the birds’ face in half so that the edges meet and stitch up that seam, working all the way to the base of the beak. Pick up just the two inner loops of the crochet stitches, matching them up on each side for a neat finish.

Continue stitching down the second side of the body, stopping half way down to insert stuffing. Stitch/stuff all the way to the end. Your bird should have a nice round, plump tummy, but only a little stuffing in the tail.