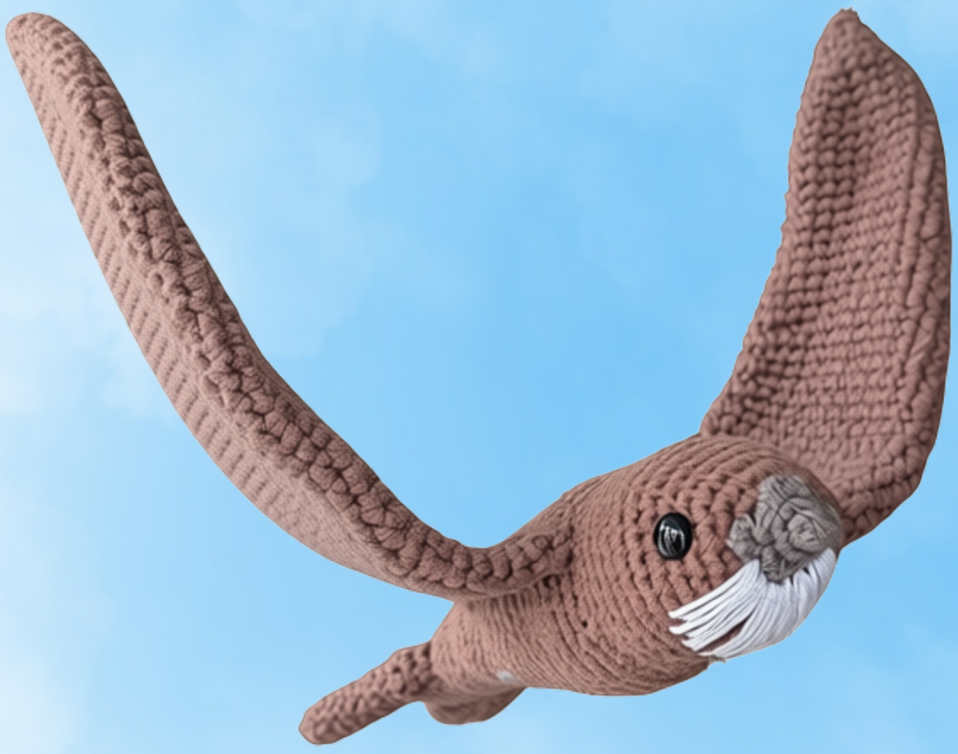
Seren the Swift

Crochet pattern



Pattern by Josella Hunt

Difficulty: Intermediate

Get to know our swifts!

- Swifts fly to the UK to breed each summer from Africa, they are here for only three months before flying back. That's a round trip of nearly 7,000 miles!
- They are the fastest birds in level flight and can reach speeds of 69pmh!
- The spend almost their whole lives on the wing and only land to enter their nests. They can eat, sleep, drink, mate and bathe while flying!
- Swifts are dark brown all over, with a small pale patch on their throat. They are very sociable birds and can be seen in groups swooping low over rooftops and calling to each other with their high pitched 'screams'.
- Swifts are on the UK red list as their numbers have declined by 68% since 1995, so it is important to raise awareness about them and try to conserve them.
- Swifts nest in our buildings, and with old buildings being replaced or refurbished, a lot of nesting sites are being lost. The insects they feed on are also in decline.
- You can help swifts by encouraging insects in your garden or installing a nest box on your house!

Show us your swifts!

Please tag us @NPTwildlife or @Neath Port Talbot Local Nature Partnership and use the hashtag #serentheswift to show us your makes!

Materials and Equipment

Overall;

- 150g Dark brown aran weight yarn
- Small amount of dark grey DK weight yarn for beak
- Small amount of white yarn for chin - both DK and fingering weight work well
- Pair of 9mm safety eyes
- 3mm crochet hook for body, wings and tail
- 2mm crochet hook for beak
- Yarn needle for assembly
- Pins to hold parts in place during assembly
- Toy stuffing

Yarn:
In the pictures in this pattern Seren has been crocheted with Yarnsmiths aran weight cotton yarn in the colour Cocoa (4079B) and the beak is Sirdar Happy Cotton DK in the colour Stomp (774).

You can use whatever yarn you like, but check your crochet hook keeps the stitches tight. When doing amigurumi crochet, the hook size is often smaller to keep the stitches tight. This stops the stuffing showing when the item is stuffed.

Eyes:
Seren the siwft in the pictures has 9mm safety eyes, but if you do not have these then the eyes can be embroidered on instead.

Note:
Due to the nature of the small parts in the eyes, Seren should not be given to babies and small children.

Abbreviations

Crochet terminology is in American crochet, which is standard for amigurumi crochet patterns.

ch - chain

sc - single crochet

hdc - half double crochet

inc - increase

dec - decrease - this is done invisibly through the front loops unless otherwise stated

slst - slip stitch

tbl - through the back loop of the stitch



Head and Body

Ch2

Rnd 1: 5sc in second ch from hook (5)

Rnd 2: Inc in each st around (10)

Rnd 3: [Sc, inc] 5 times (15)

Rnd 4: [2sc, inc] 5 times (20)

Rnd 5: Sc around (20)

Rnd 6: [3sc, inc] 5 times (25)

Rnd 7: [4sc, inc] 5 times (30)

Rnd 8: Sc around (30)

Rnd 9: Sc around (30)

Rnd 10: Sc around (30)

Rnd 11: Sc around (30)

Rnd 12: Sc around (30)

Rnd 13: Sc around (30)

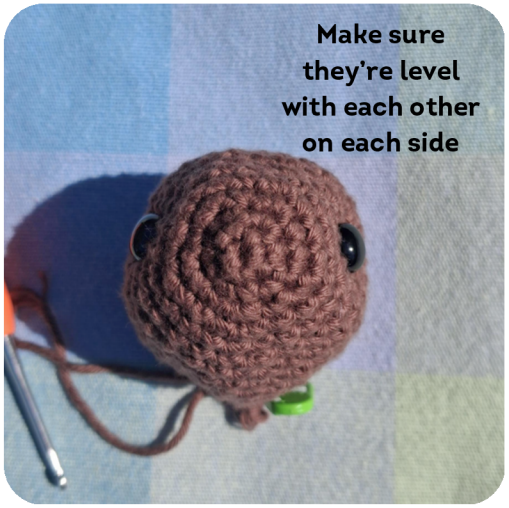
Rnd 14: [4sc, dec] 5 times (25)

Rnd 15: [4sc, inc] 5 times (30)

Rnd 16: [5sc, inc] 5 times (35)

At this point insert the safety eyes between approximately rows 6 and 7 of the head. Play with the positioning of them and double check you're happy before putting the backs on!





Rnd 17: Sc around (35)

Rnd 18: Sc around (35)

Rnd 19: Sc around (35)

Rnd20: [5sc, dec] 5 times (30)

Rnd 21: Sc around (30)

Rnd 22: Sc around (30)

Rnd 23: Sc around (30)

BEGIN TO STUFF AS YOU DECREASE

Rnd 24: [4sc, dec] 5 times (25)

Rnd 25: Sc around (25)

Rnd 26: Sc around (25)

Rnd 27: Sc around (25)

Rnd 28: [3sc, dec] 5 times (20)

Rnd 29: Sc around (20)

Rnd 30: Sc around (20)

Rnd 31: Sc around (20)

Rnd 32: Sc around (20)

Rnd 33: Sc around (20)

Rnd 34: [2sc, dec] 5 times (15)

Rnd 35: Sc around (15)

Rnd 36: Sc around (15)

Rnd 37: Sc around (15)

Rnd 38: Sc around (15)

Rnd 39: [1sc, dec] 5 times (10)

Rnd 40: Sc around (10)

Rnd 41: Sc around (10)

Rnd 42: Sc around (10)

Rnd 43: Sc around (10)

Rnd 44: [Dec] 5 times (5)

Tie off.

Your swift's body should now look like this! Weave the end into the end of the body and cut the remaining tail of yarn.



Wings

(make 2)

Ch2

Rnd 1: 4sc in second ch from hook (4)

Rnd 2: Inc, sc, inc, sc (6)

Rnd 3: Sc, inc, 2sc, inc, sc (8)

Rnd 4: 2sc, inc, 3sc, inc, sc (10)

Rnd 5: 3sc, inc, 4 sc, inc, sc (12)

Rnd 6: 4sc, inc, 5sc, inc, sc (14)

Rnd 7: 5sc, inc, 6sc, inc, sc (16)

Rnd 8: 11sc, inc, 4sc (17)

Rnd 9: Sc around (17)

Rnd 10: 12sc, inc, 4sc (18)

Rnd 11: Sc around (18)

Rnd 12: 3sc, 2hdc, 13sc (18) ✱

Rnd 13: 3sc, 2hdc, 8sc, inc, 4sc (19)

Rnd 14: 3sc, 2hdc, 14sc (19)

Rnd 15: 3sc, 2hdc, 9sc, inc, 4sc (20)

Rnd 16: 3sc, 2hdc, 15sc (20)

Rnd 17: 3sc, 2hdc, 10sc, inc, 4sc (21)

Rnd 18: 3sc, 3hdc, 10sc, inc, 4sc (22)

Rnd 19: 3sc, 3hdc, 11sc, inc, 4sc (23)

Rnd 20: 4sc, 3hdc, 11sc, inc, 4sc (24)

Rnd 21: 4sc, 3hdc, 12sc, inc, 4sc (25)

Rnd 22: 4sc, 3hdc 12sc, 3slst, 3sc (25)

Rnd 23: 5sc, 3hdc, 12sc, inc, 4sc (26)

Rnd 24: 5sc, 3hdc, 11sc, 3slst, 4sc (26)

Rnd 25: 5sc, 3hdc, 13sc, inc, 4sc (27)

Rnd 26: 5sc, 3hdc, 12sc, 3slst, 4sc (27)

Rnd 27: 6sc, 3hdc, 13sc, inc, 4sc (28)

Rnd 28: 6sc, 3hdc, 12sc, 3slst, 4sc (28)

Rnd 29: Sc around (28)

Rnd 30: Sc around (28)

Rnd 31: 4sc, 10hdc, 7sc, 3slst, 4sc (28)

Rnd 32: 4sc, 10hdc, 7sc, 3slst, 4sc (28)

Rnd 33: 4sc, 10hdc, 7sc, 3slst, 4sc (28)

Rnd 34: 4sc, 10hdc, 7sc, 3slst, 4sc (28)

Rnd 35: 4sc, 10hdc, 7sc, 3slst, 4sc (28)

Rnd 36: Sc around (28)

Rnd 37: 4sc, 10hdc, 7sc, 3slst, 4sc (28)

Rnd 38: Sc around (28)

Rnd 39: Sc around (28)

Rnd 40: Sc around (28)

Rnd 41: Sc around (28)

Rnd 42: 4sc, 10hdc, 7sc, 3slst, 4sc (28)

Rnd 43: Sc around (28)

Tie off

✱ See next page

Wings



The half double crochets in the wings work with the position of the increases to help give them that distinctive curved wing that swifts have.

You can see them in the finished wing where the stitch pattern looks slightly different.

Your two finished wings should look like this.



Tail

(make 2)

Ch2

Rnd 1: 3sc in second ch from hook (3)

Rnd 2: Inc in each st around (6)

Rnd 3: Sc around (6)

Rnd 4: [Sc, inc] 3 times (9)

Rnd 5: Sc around (9)

Rnd 6: Sc around (9)

Rnd 7: [2sc, inc] 3 times (12)

Rnd 8: Sc around (12)

Rnd 9: [3sc, inc] 3 times, remove marker and sl st into 1st st of next round

Rnd 10: Turn work , skip sl st, 7sc, sl st into next st

Rnd 11: Turn work, skip sl st, 7sc

Rnd 12: Turn work, skip 1st st, dec tbl, 2sc, dec tbl

Tie off

The last few short rows help to create this curve here.



You should end up with two tail pieces that look like this.

Beak

The last row of the beak is a little complicated, but it's to help create the cute little mouth that swifts have! It's been split into bullet points to make it easier to follow.

Ch2

Rnd 1: 4sc in second ch from hook (4)

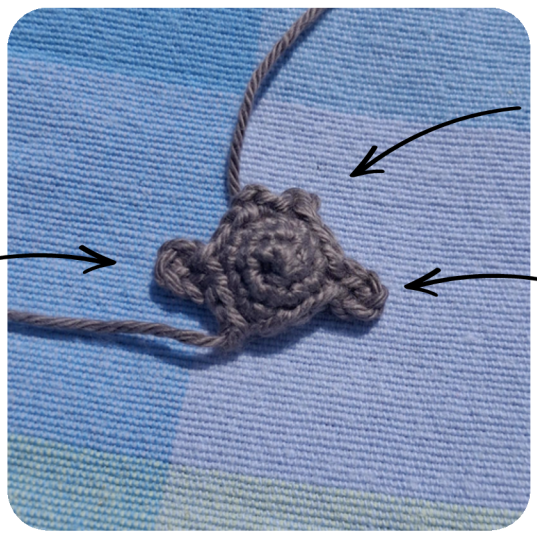
Rnd 2: Inc in each sc (8)

Rnd 3: [Sc, inc] 4 times (12)

Rnd 4:

- 3 slst
- ch5, slst back into same stitch
- 3 slst
- ch2, slst back into same stitch
- 1 slst
- ch2, slst back into same stitch
- 3 slst
- ch5, slst back into same stitch
- 2 slst

Tie off



Preparing for assembly



You should now have:

- A body
- Two wings
- Two tail sections
- A beak



Weave in all the ends.

For the wings and tail sections I stitch together the openings with the tail of yarn left at the top.

This makes it easier to assemble later.



Positioning the wings and tail



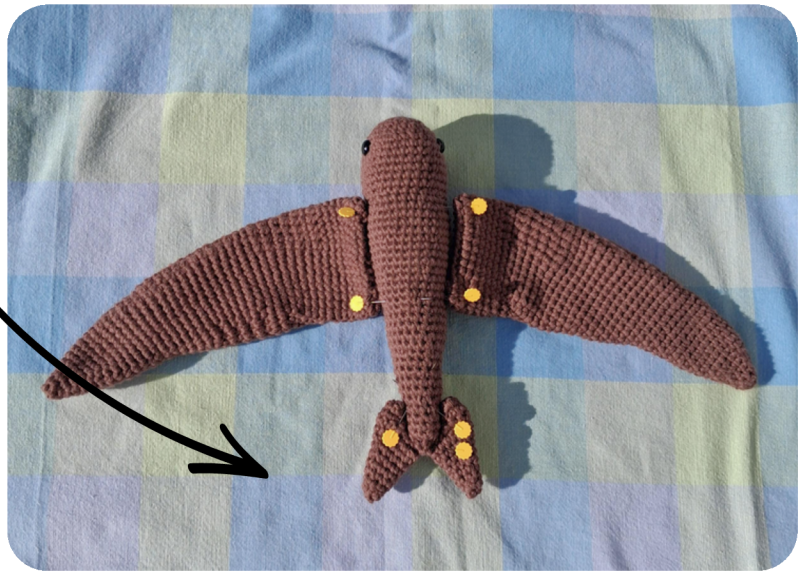
Position the wings on each side so that they line up with the little neck dip in the body.

They should be level with the top of the eye as shown in this picture.

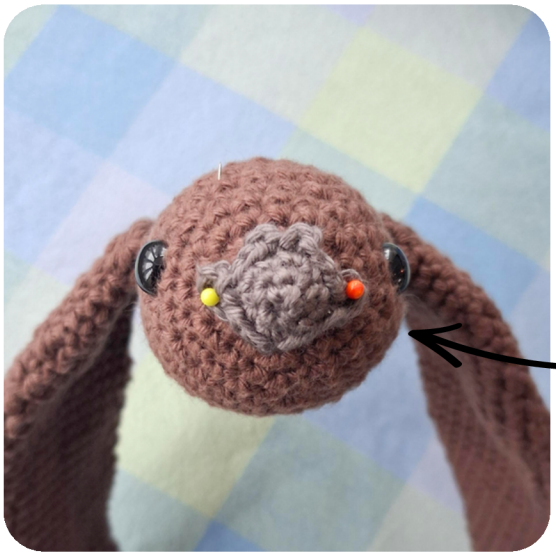
I use large pins for attaching pieces together so that I don't lose them through the gaps in the stitches.

Position the tail pieces right at the bottom of the body so that they're almost touching right at the tip of the tail.

Stitch these into place using a yarn needle (curved ones work super well) and a length of the brown yarn.



Positioning the beak



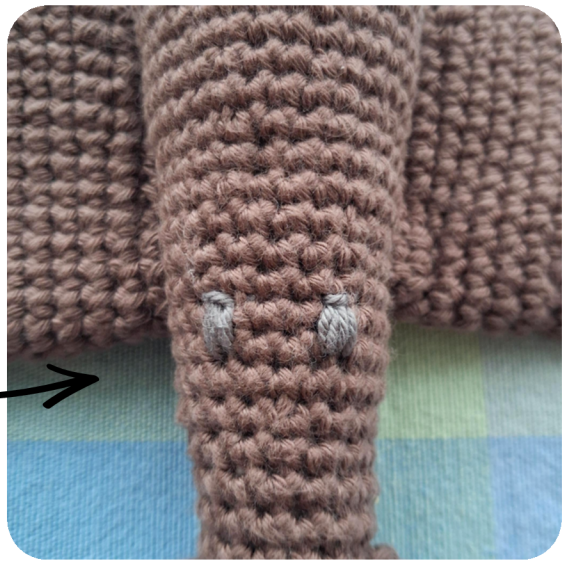
Position the beak so that the middle of it is directly over the centre of the head and the sides of the mouth are level - pin the sides in place so that they're up in a smile!

Stitch the beak into place with a length of the grey yarn.

Adding the feet

Using a length of the grey yarn add some little feet onto the underside of your swift.

I usually make them the size of two rows like you can see in the photo and add a little stitch across the top for the ankle.



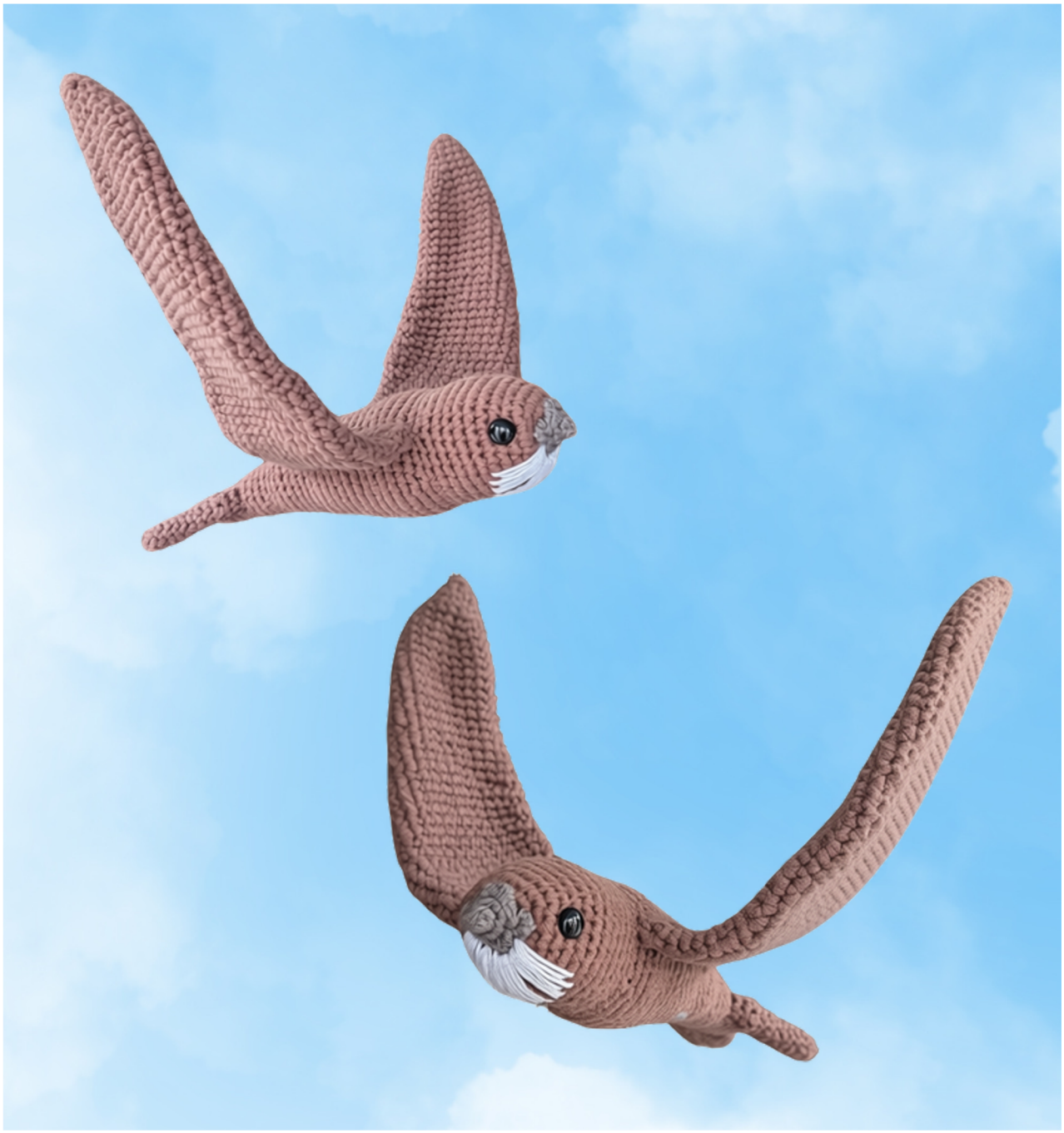
Adding the little chin

Swifts have a cute little white chin - so use a length of your white yarn to add one on. Every swift's chin is different, so don't worry about getting it perfect. It'll make your swift unique!





You're finished!



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This pattern is for personal and community group use only to raise awareness of swifts. The pattern may not be used to make swifts to sell.