



CROCHET

Bird of Feathers Shawl

STEP-BY-STEP PATTERN

An elegant lace shawl with a stunning bird design and feathered wings. Light, feminine and unforgettable.

FINISHED SIZE

Wingspan:
Approx. 180 cm
(70.8 in)

Depth (center):
Approx. 90 cm
(35.4 in)

Size is adjustable by
using more or less
repeats.



MATERIALS

- Fingering or Sport weight yarn (approx. 800–900 m / 875–985 yds)
- 3.5 mm (E-4) crochet hook (or size needed to obtain gauge)
- Yarn needle
- Scissors
- Stitch markers (optional)

ABBREVIATIONS (US TERMS)

ch	= chain
sc	= single crochet
hdc	= half double crochet
dc	= double crochet
dlc	= double crochet in front loop only
tr	= treble crochet
dtr	= double treble crochet
st(s)	= stitch(es)
st(s)	= stitch(es)
sp	= space
()	= work in same stitch
**	= repeat

YARN SUGGESTIONS

Lightweight yarns work best for drape and stitch definition.

- Cotton
- Bamboo
- Linen
- Acrylic blends



SHAWL CONSTRUCTION

The shawl is worked from the top center (outline of the bird's head) downward and outward.

Wings are worked symmetrically on both sides.



OVERALL DIAGRAM



Each symbol represents stitches and spaces.
See stitch key for details.

FEATHER STITCH (BASIC MOTIF)



STITCH KEY (DIAGRAM SYMBOLS)

○	= chain (ch)
●	= slip stitch (sl st)
×	= single crochet (sc)
+	= half double crochet (hdc)
T	= double crochet (dc)
†	= treble crochet (tr)
‡	= double treble crochet (dtr)
⦶	= front post double crochet (fpdc)
()	= work in same stitch
*	= repeat

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE (OVERVIEW)

1 START



Ch to desired width for the bird's head. Work foundation rows.

2 BIRD HEAD



Shape the head and beak using increases and decreases.

3 BODY



Work the center body with textured stitches to create volume.

4 FIRST FEATHERS



Begin the feather motifs from the body, working downward.

5 WING EXPANSION



Increase outward on both sides, repeating the feather pattern.

6 LACE FILLING



Work lace stitches between feather motifs for lightness.

7 EDGING



Finish with a picot and feather edge for a graceful look.

8 BLOCK



Block gently to open the lace and define the feather shapes.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Use a smooth, light yarn for best drape.
- Keep your tension even, especially in lace sections.
- Use stitch markers to keep the center and repeats balanced.
- Blocking is essential to show the full beauty.



IDEAS & VARIATIONS

- Use gradient yarn for a magical ombré effect.
- Add beads for a subtle shimmer.
- Make it larger by adding more feather repeats.
- Use a thicker yarn and larger hook for a cozy winter version.



CARE INSTRUCTIONS

- Hand wash gently in cold water.
- Lay flat to dry.
- Do not bleach.
- Do not iron.



PERFECT FOR

- Special occasions
- Bridal shawls
- Gifts
- Photo shoots
- Dance & performance



MADE WITH LOVE

Thank you for supporting handmade creations! I hope you enjoy making this beautiful shawl as much as I enjoyed designing it!



Crochet Bird of Feathers Shawl

The **Crochet Bird of Feathers Shawl** is a dramatic lace project inspired by the silhouette of a bird spreading its wings. The design combines an elongated center section, symmetrical wings, open lace, textured feather motifs, and pointed edging to create the flowing appearance shown in the reference image.

The shawl is worked mainly **from the upper center downward and outward**, allowing the wings to grow symmetrically on both sides. Rather than treating every feather as a completely separate piece, the design uses repeating lace sections, elongated stitches, post stitches, chain spaces, increases, and pointed feather groups to build the overall bird shape.

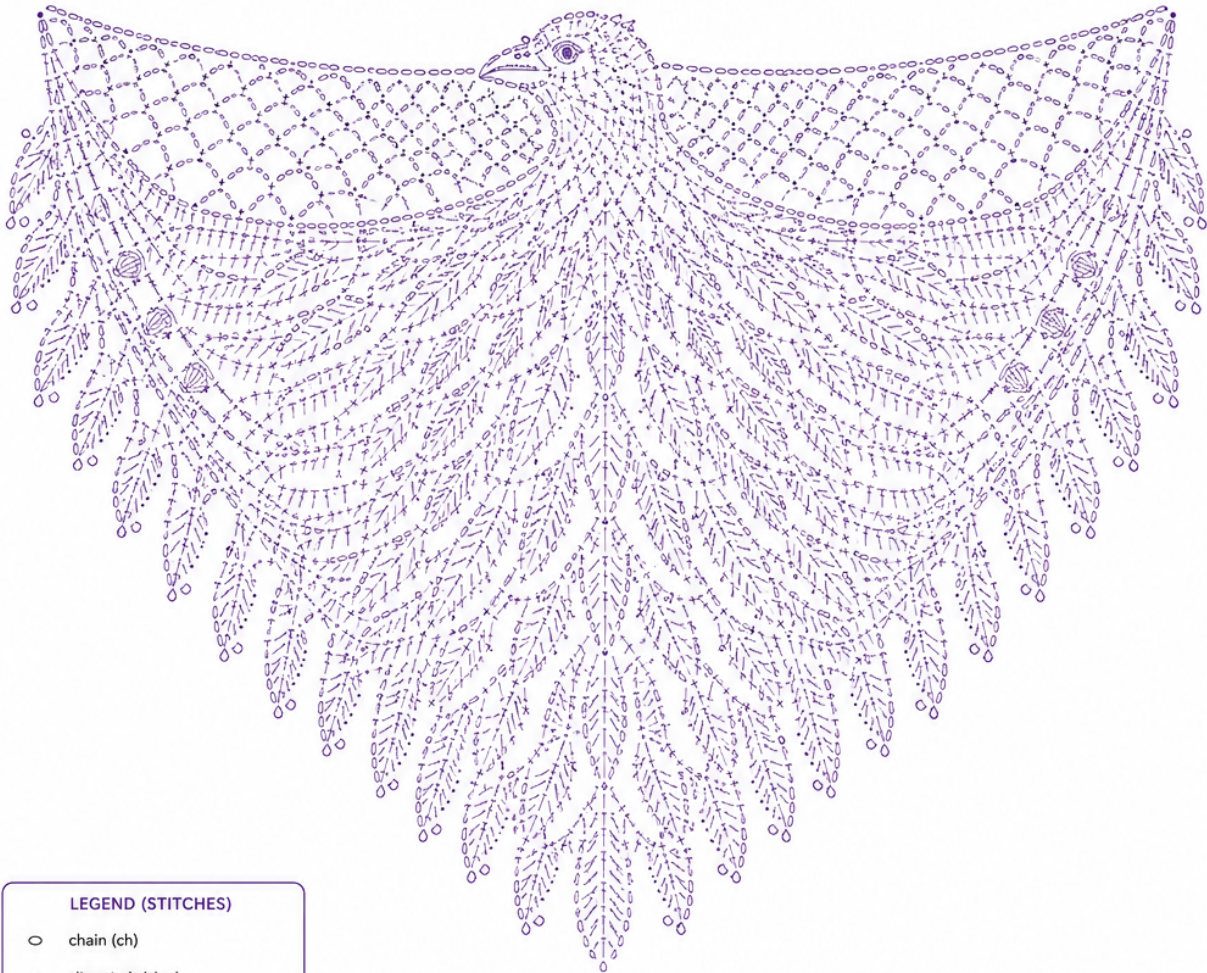
For a shawl measuring approximately **180 cm (70.8 in) from wingtip to wingtip** and about **90 cm (35.4 in) deep at the center**, plan for roughly **800–900 m (875–985 yd)** of lightweight yarn. Exact yardage will depend on yarn thickness, hook size, tension, and how many feather repeats you add.

Materials

- Approximately **800–900 m (875–985 yd)** fingering or sport-weight yarn
- **3.5 mm (E-4) crochet hook**, or size needed to obtain a soft lace fabric
- Yarn needle
- Scissors
- Stitch markers
- Blocking mats
- Rust-resistant blocking pins

For the soft drape visible in the photo, cotton, bamboo, linen blends, or lightweight acrylic blends work particularly well. A smooth yarn is easier to use because it keeps the feather definition visible.

CROCHET FEATHERED BIRD SHAWL DIAGRAM



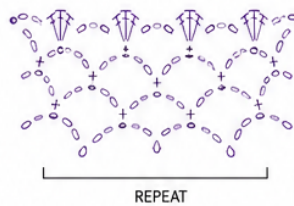
LEGEND (STITCHES)

- chain (ch)
- slip stitch (sl st)
- ✚ single crochet (sc)
- ┆ half double crochet (hdc)
- ┆ double crochet (dc)
- ┆ treble crochet (tr)
- 3 or more bars joined
double crochet cluster (dc cl)
- picot (pc)
- chain space

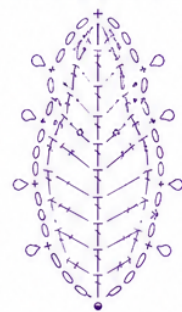
1. CENTER TOP (BIRD HEAD)



2. LACE MESH (UPPER BACK)



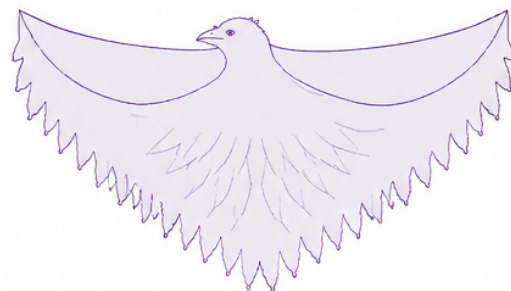
3. FEATHER MOTIF (MAIN PATTERN)



4. BORDER EDGING



5. ASSEMBLY SHAPE



NOTES

- The shawl is worked from the center top (bird head) outward.
- Increase stitches gradually to form the wings and feathers.
- Continue repeating the feather motif until desired size.
- Finish with the border edging all around the outer edge.
- Block the shawl to open the lace and feathers.

Abbreviations – US Crochet Terms

ch – chain
sl st – slip stitch
sc – single crochet
hdc – half double crochet
dc – double crochet
tr – treble crochet
dtr – double treble crochet
fpdc – front post double crochet
sp – space
st/sts – stitch/stitches
inc – increase
dec – decrease
rep – repeat
RS – right side
WS – wrong side

The exact stitch count can be adapted because this is a **repeat-based lace shawl**. Maintaining symmetry is more important than following one universal stitch count.

Step 1 – Create the Upper Foundation

Begin at the upper center of the shawl.

Ch 9.

Row 1: Dc in the 4th ch from hook and dc across. Turn.

Row 2: Ch 3, 2 dc in first st, dc across, 2 dc in final st. Turn.

Continue increasing at both edges for several rows until you have created a small central foundation approximately **8–10 cm (3–4 in)** wide.

This section becomes the upper portion from which the bird's head, body, and wings develop.

Place a stitch marker in the exact center.

From this point onward, keep the number of increases on the right and left sides equal.

Step 2 – Shape the Bird Head and Neck

The head is formed in the central section while additional chains begin extending outward to establish the wings.

Work approximately 6–8 central stitches in textured dc or hdc.

Increase gently around these center stitches.

For the beak, create a small chain extension from one side:

Ch 5, sl st in second ch from hook, sc in next ch, hdc in next, dc in final ch.

Sl st the beak back into the head section.

Continue crocheting around the head.

The neck should gradually widen as it approaches the body.

Avoid making this section too dense. A mixture of **dc**, **ch spaces**, and **fpdc** helps the central bird remain visually connected to the surrounding lace.

Step 3 – Establish the Central Body

Begin extending the body downward from the neck.

A useful basic textured sequence is:

Ch 3, dc in next 2 sts, fpdc around next st, dc in next 2 sts.

Repeat across the central body area.

On subsequent rows, place the fpdc stitches over the previous post stitches.

Add one stitch at each side of the body every few rows.

The body should slowly become wider toward the middle and then transition into the long feather sections.

Keep the center marker in place throughout the project.

This marker makes it much easier to compare both wings and prevent one side from growing faster than the other.

Step 4 – Begin the First Feather Motifs

The feather motif is the most important decorative element of the shawl.

Create a foundation chain space:

Ch 5, skip 3 sts, sc in next st.

Into the chain space work:

sc, hdc, dc, tr, dtr, tr, dc, hdc, sc.

This creates a pointed oval or leaf-like feather.

For a longer feather, use additional elongated stitches:

sc, hdc, dc, tr, dtr, dtr, tr, dc, hdc, sc.

Work the next feather in the neighboring chain space.

Alternate slightly shorter and longer feathers to create a more organic appearance.

The feather tips should point downward and slightly outward.

Step 5 – Expand the Wings

Once the first feather groups have been established, begin increasing the width aggressively on both sides.

At the beginning and end of appropriate rows, add chain spaces such as:

Ch 5, sc in next sp.

Work feather motifs into these new spaces during the following row.

Each new feather repeat adds width to the wing.

Continue expanding evenly on both sides.

After every completed feather row, lay the shawl flat and compare the right and left wings.

If one side contains an additional repeat, correct the difference before proceeding.

The goal is a broad semicircular upper edge with feathers gradually descending toward the center.

Step 6 – Create the Open Lace Between Feathers

The delicate appearance comes from leaving generous negative space between the heavier feather sections.

A simple lace repeat is:

Ch 5, skip next feather section, sc in next sp, ch 5, sc in next sp.

On the following row:

Ch 3, dc in first ch-5 sp, ch 3, dc in same sp, ch 3, sc in next sp.

Repeat across.

For larger openings, increase the chain spaces to ch 6 or ch 7.

The lace should remain loose enough to drape but structured enough to support the feather motifs.

Do not pull chain stitches tightly.

Step 7 – Build the Long Wing Feathers

As the shawl grows, begin making the feathers progressively longer.

For each large feather, establish a narrow central spine.

Work approximately:

Ch 3, fpdc around center post, ch 2, dc in next sp.

Along each side of this spine, create angled branches using:

ch 3, tr, dtr, tr, ch 3.

Attach each branch back to the center or neighboring lace section with sc or sl st.

Continue downward.

Each successive branch can become slightly shorter near the feather tip.

This creates the tapered structure visible throughout the lower wings.

Repeat the same construction in mirror image on the opposite wing.

Step 8 – Form the Dramatic Center Feathers

The longest feathers should appear beneath the bird's body.

Create several vertical feather motifs of different lengths.

The middle feather should be the longest.

The neighboring feathers should gradually shorten as they approach the wings.

A pleasing arrangement is approximately:

Center feather: **85–90 cm (33.5–35.4 in)** from the upper edge.

Next pair: approximately **75–80 cm (29.5–31.5 in)**.

Next pair: approximately **65–70 cm (25.5–27.5 in)**.

Continue shortening outward.

These measurements are guidelines rather than strict requirements.

What matters most is creating the cascading V-shaped silhouette seen in the finished shawl.

Step 9 – Continue the Feather Repeats

Repeat the feather construction while gradually widening the wings.

Alternate:

open lace section → feather row → open lace section → feather row.

Keep checking the shawl against a flat surface.

The wingspan should eventually approach **180 cm (70.8 in)**.

If you want a smaller shawl, stop increasing sooner.

For a larger wrap, add additional complete feather repeats before beginning the final edging.

Step 10 – Shape the Wing Tips

The outermost feathers should become progressively smaller.

Instead of adding new repeats, begin decreasing.

Replace large feather groups with smaller motifs using:

sc, hdc, dc, tr, dc, hdc, sc.

Then reduce further:

sc, hdc, dc, hdc, sc.

This gradual reduction prevents the wings from ending abruptly.

The upper edge should remain relatively smooth while the lower edge becomes highly textured and pointed.

Step 11 – Add the Feathered Border

Work around the lower edge.

Round 1: Sc evenly around, placing approximately 2–3 sc along the sides of taller stitches.

Round 2: *Ch 5, skip approximately 3 sts, sc in next st.* Repeat around.

Round 3: Into each ch-5 sp work:

sc, hdc, dc, tr, dtr, tr, dc, hdc, sc.

For selected points, substitute a longer motif containing additional dtr stitches.

This produces a dramatic feathered border rather than a simple scallop.

At the center point, make the final feather slightly longer to emphasize the V-shaped silhouette.

Step 12 – Finish the Upper Edge

Join yarn at one wingtip.

Work sc evenly along the entire upper edge.

When necessary, work **2 sc in one stitch** to prevent pulling.

If the edge begins to ripple, reduce the number of stitches.

For a decorative finish, work a second row:

Sl st in next st, ch 3, sl st in same st, sl st in next 2 sts.

Repeat across for a subtle picot effect.

Fasten off.

Step 13 – Weave In the Ends

Thread every yarn end onto a yarn needle.

Weave each end through several neighboring stitches.

Change direction once or twice before trimming.

Pay special attention to the feather tips because loose ends are more noticeable in open lace.

Avoid tying bulky knots.

Step 14 – Blocking the Shawl

Blocking is particularly important for this project.

Soak the shawl gently according to the yarn manufacturer's instructions.

Remove excess water without twisting.

Lay the shawl on blocking mats.

Begin by pinning the center.

Then stretch both wings outward evenly until the shawl reaches approximately **180 cm (70.8 in)**.

Pin every major feather point individually.

Shape the central feathers into a clean downward cascade.

Open the lace sections with your fingers and pin them symmetrically.

Allow the shawl to dry completely before removing the pins.

Blocking transforms the project by opening the lace and revealing the individual feather shapes.

Tips for Success

Use a **smooth, lightweight yarn** with good stitch definition. Very fuzzy yarn can hide the intricate feather structure.

Keep your tension slightly relaxed, particularly when making chains and elongated stitches.

Use stitch markers to identify the center line and major wing-repeat boundaries.

Count the feather motifs on both sides regularly.

When increasing, always make corresponding changes on both wings.

Block a small sample before starting the full shawl so you can see how much your chosen yarn opens after washing.

Size Adjustments

The pattern can be customized easily.

For a smaller shawl, stop the wing expansion earlier and work fewer feather rows.

For a larger shawl, continue repeating the established lace-and-feather sequence.

The wingspan can range from approximately **150 cm (59 in)** for a smaller wrap to over **200 cm (78.7 in)** for an oversized statement shawl.

Remember that additional repeats significantly increase yarn consumption.

Yarn and Color Ideas

A solid color emphasizes the sculptural feather texture.

Lavender, lilac, ivory, cream, dusty rose, sage green, silver gray, or soft blue are particularly effective for showing stitch definition.

A slow gradient yarn can create a beautiful transition from the bird's body toward the wing tips.

Avoid very short color changes because they may visually compete with the feather structure.

Care Instructions

Hand wash gently in cool water using mild detergent.

Do not wring or twist.

Press excess moisture out between clean towels.

Lay the shawl flat to dry.

Reshape the wings and feather points while damp.

Reblocking occasionally will help restore the dramatic bird silhouette.

Final Result

The completed **Crochet Bird of Feathers Shawl** should have a broad wingspan, open lace background, textured central bird, symmetrical feathered wings, and a dramatic cascading lower edge.

The finished piece can be worn as a statement shawl, bridal wrap, evening accessory, costume piece, or decorative textile. Because the construction is based on repeatable feather and lace sections, the dimensions can be adapted while preserving the distinctive bird-inspired silhouette.

Handmade with love — create, inspire, and enjoy your Bird of Feathers Shawl!