Make your own Bird Rescue Parent Bird Puppet

**Background:**

There are times when the parents of a baby bird cannot take care of it. When this happens there are people trained in helping birds who take the baby birds to a rescue center.

The goal of the bird rescue center is to keep the birds wild. The rescue center staff want to release the birds into the wild once they are old enough to take care of themselves. The birds will only survive if they are raised as wild birds, not pets.

One of the things the rescue center staff does to help the birds stay wild is to feed them with a puppet that looks like the same kind of bird as the chicks. For example, Black-crowned Night-Heron chicks are fed with puppets that look like Black-crowned Night-Heron adults. You can pretend to help a baby bird by making your own parent bird puppet. Just use the attached Bird Puppet Template and follow these directions. You can also watch a Youtube video that shows how to make the puppet. The template has enough parts to make five bird puppets. (link to video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bW57BDZoAwo&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bW57BDZoAwo&feature=youtu.be))

Have you found a baby bird that you think might be in trouble? Ask an adult to contact the Bird Rescue Center of Santa Rosa for instructions for how to help the bird. Do not try to help the bird yourself. (Bird Rescue Center of Santa Rosa contact information: web address: [https://www.birdrescuecenter.org/rescue-info/](https://www.birdrescuecenter.org/rescue-info/) phone number: 707- 523-2473. International Bird Rescue web address: [https://www.bird-rescue.org/contact/found-a-bird/helping-a-debilitated-bird.aspx](https://www.bird-rescue.org/contact/found-a-bird/helping-a-debilitated-bird.aspx))

**Materials:**

- Bird Puppet Template
- A small pair of scissors
- A glue-stick (or tape)
- One toilet paper roll for every bird puppet you want to make
- Markers or crayons for coloring
**Step-By-Step:**

1) Detach the Bird Puppet Template.

2) Color two eye circles and two mouth triangles on the Bird Puppet Template. You can color them to match real birds using the coloring guide on the next page or let your imagination run wild!

3) Cut out the two eye circles and two triangles you colored.

4) Use the glue stick and put a half inch of glue on the short side of the triangle beak on the same side that you colored.

5) Place one beak triangle inside one end of the toilet paper roll and hold it there for twenty seconds so it will stick well.

6) Glue the other beak triangle in the same way you did the first one. Place it across from the first beak triangle, so you have a top and bottom beak. There should be some overlap between the two beak halves on the inside of the roll.

7) Cover the underside of the eyes with glue and stick them on the toilet paper roll on the same side as the beak and hold in place for twenty seconds.

8) Color the toilet paper roll. Or wrap the toilet paper roll in white paper and color the paper.

9) Once everything is dry, your puppet is done!
**Coloring guide:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of bird</th>
<th>Eyes</th>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Top of head</th>
<th>Neck/ under side of head</th>
<th>Around the eyes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black-crowned Night-Heron Parent</td>
<td>Red</td>
<td>black</td>
<td>Black or dark blue</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>grey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-crowned Night-Heron Chick</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
<td>Brown</td>
<td>Light brown and dark brown stripes</td>
<td>Light brown and white stripes</td>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cattle Egret Parent</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
<td>Yellow/ pink/ light brown</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cattle Egret Chick</td>
<td>yellow</td>
<td>Black</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Blue Heron Parent</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
<td>Yellow/Orange</td>
<td>Black and white</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>Light blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Blue Heron Chick</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
<td>Black on top yellow on the bottom</td>
<td>Black</td>
<td>Grey and white</td>
<td>black</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Egret Parent</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Egret Chick</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
<td>Yellow with back tip</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you want to see what more birds look like you can go to one of these websites:

- **Cornell Lab of Ornithology:** [https://www.birds.cornell.edu/home/](https://www.birds.cornell.edu/home/)
- **Audubon Canyon Ranch Gordon Sherman Library:** [https://www.egret.org/gordon-sherman-library](https://www.egret.org/gordon-sherman-library)

**Other ideas:**

- Draw and cut out fish, frogs, and tadpoles then practice feeding your imaginary rescued chicks.
- Cut the toilet paper roll in half to make more birds and make it easy to fit your hand inside.
- Use a sock over your hand for the bird’s neck.

This craft project was created by International Bird Rescue in collaboration with Audubon Canyon Ranch.