How to make a bird bag

Your bird bags will be used to keep birds safe, dry and warm while they are being transported from the nets to the bird banding table. At Rocky Point Bird Observatory, we wash the bags after each use to minimize risk of transferring pathogens between birds. The frequent washing increases the wear and tear on the bags. Since we occasionally have more than 175 birds to band in a day and we need several days’ supply of bags on hand, we are in constant need of replacements. Thank you for helping us keep our stock up!

Start with a rectangle of fabric 16 to 20 inches wide and 11 to 13 inches long. Your finished bag should be about 8 by 11 inches. Precise size is not critical. Stains are okay; holes are not.

1. Press one of the long edges down ¼ inch.

2. Press the same edge again down ¾ to 1 ¼ inches to form the casing.
3. Snip the fabric approximately 1 inch from the edge of each end of the casing. Fold over and press.

If you want to get really fancy, you can fold the unfinished edge under before you press.
4. Stitch the folded ends.

5. Stitch the casing.

If your stitching misses the edge, restitch rather than pulling the stitches and redoing. Function over appearance!
6. Stitch the side and bottom seams (approx. \( \frac{3}{4} \) to \( \frac{1}{2} \) inch).

7. Turn the bag inside out and restitch the side and bottom to encase the seams. They must be totally enclosed by the stitching.
8. Trim all threads, paying particular attention to any that may have escaped through the second seams.

The bags will be laundered and threaded with a special stretchy string before use. You don’t need to do this part! Thank you again for making bags for RPBO.