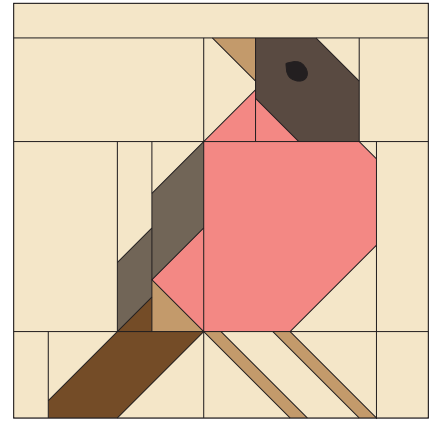


# The Early Bird

**Finished Block Size: 6" x 6"**

Designed by Joan Ford, Hummingbird Highway  
hummingbird-highway.com

*I'm a bird girl. I love birds! I also love the change in the seasons. Even so, I'm usually happy to see the cold, long winter end, naturally leading to splendid springtime. When I see the first robin, my heart sings! It means winter is over, days are getting longer, and warmer weather is within reach. Soon, I can stitch outside under a shady tree once again; my favorite, favorite quilty thing to do!*



## Requirements

*Directional fabrics are not recommended.*

**Background fabric A:** 9" x 14"

**Body fabric B:** 4" x 6"

**Beak, rump, and feet fabric C:** 4" x 6"

**Wing fabric D:** 3" x 6"

**Tail fabric E:** 3" x 5"

**Head fabric F:** 2" square

**Eye fabric G:** 1" square

## From fabric D cut:

- 1 rectangle 1 1/4" x 2 1/2" (unit 4)
- 1 rectangle 1" x 2" (unit 3)

## From fabric E cut:

- 1 rectangle 1 3/4" x 2 3/4" (unit 6)
- 1 square 1" x 1" (unit 3)

## From fabric F cut: (2" square)

- 1 square 2" x 2" (unit 2)

On the back of each square, except the square cut from fabric F, draw a diagonal line corner to corner.

## Cutting

### From fabric A cut:

- 2 rectangles 2" x 3 1/4" (unit 8, 8)
- 1 rectangle 1 3/4" x 2 1/2" (unit 7)
- 1 rectangle 1 1/2" x 2" (unit 8)
- 1 rectangle 1 1/4" x 3 1/4" (unit 8)
- 1 rectangle 1 1/4" x 2" (unit 1)
- 1 rectangle 1 1/4" x 1 3/4" (unit 8)
- 1 rectangle 1" x 6 1/2" (unit 8)
- 1 rectangle 1" x 2 1/4" (unit 3)
- 1 rectangle 1" x 1 3/4" (unit 8)
- 4 squares 1 3/4" x 1 3/4" (unit 5, 6, 7, 7)
- 1 square 1 1/2" x 1 1/2" (unit 6)
- 1 square 1 1/4" x 1 1/4" (unit 4)
- 1 square 1 1/8" x 1 1/8" (unit 2)
- 1 square 3/4" x 3/4" (unit 5)

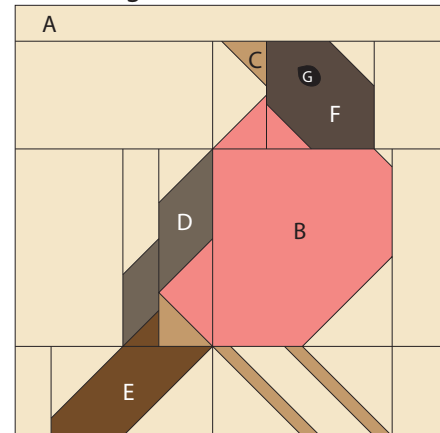
### From fabric B cut:

- 1 rectangle 3" x 3 1/4" (unit 5)
- 1 rectangle 1 1/4" x 2" (unit 4)
- 1 square 1 1/4" x 1 1/4" (unit 1)
- 1 square 1 1/8" x 1 1/8" (unit 2)

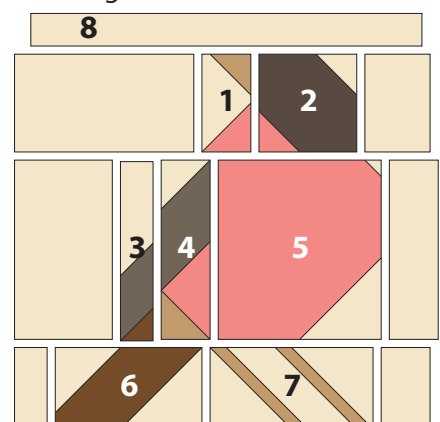
### From fabric C cut:

- 2 rectangles 1 3/4" x 2" (unit 7, 7)
- 1 square 1 1/4" x 1 1/4" (unit 4)
- 1 square 1 1/8" x 1 1/8" (unit 1)

Fabric diagram

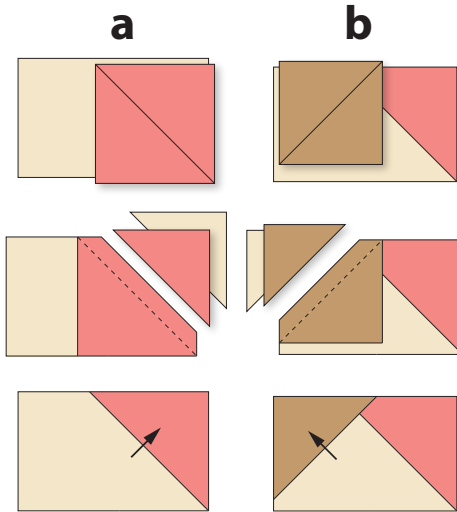


Unit diagram



## Block Construction

The block is constructed in units, identified by number. Make the sections first, then sew the sections into rows. Sew the rows together to complete the block. A scant  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam is recommended unless otherwise instructed.

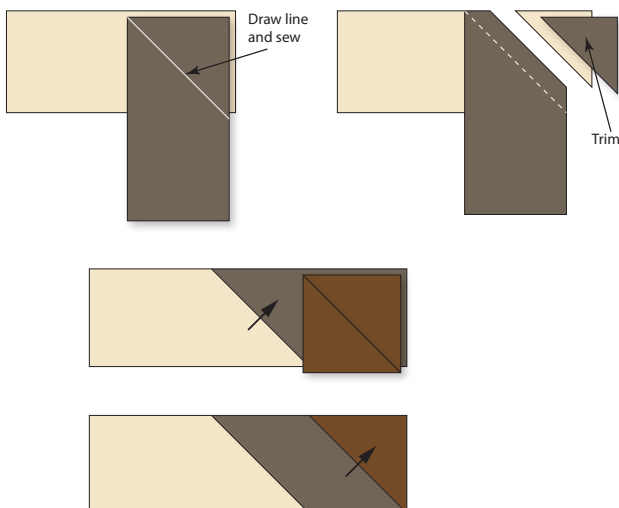
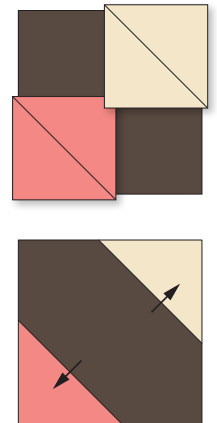


### Unit 1

- Align a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " fabric B square right sides together on the right end of a  $1\frac{1}{4} \times 2$ " fabric A rectangle as shown. Sew on the line. Trim  $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the seam to reduce bulk, and press toward the corner. (a)
- Align a  $\frac{1}{8}$ " fabric C square right sides together on the left end of the unit as shown. Sew on the line. Trim  $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the seam, and press toward the corner. (b)
- Unit 1 measures  $1\frac{1}{4} \times 2$ ".

### Unit 2

- Align a  $\frac{1}{8}$ " fabric A square and a  $\frac{1}{8}$ " fabric B square right sides together on opposite corners of a 2" fabric F square as shown. Sew on each line, trim  $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from each seam, and press toward the corners, similar to Unit 1.
- Unit 2 measures 2" square.

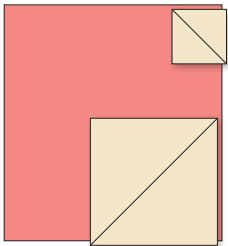
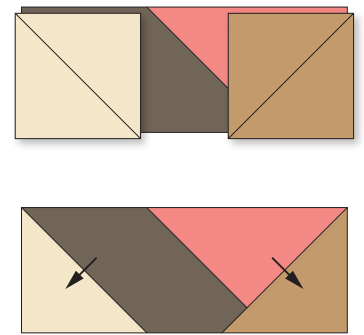
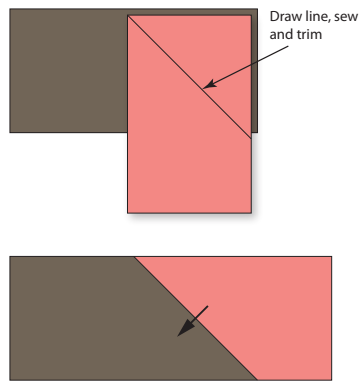


### Unit 3

- Align a  $1 \times 2$ " fabric D rectangle right sides together on the right end of a  $1 \times 2\frac{1}{4}$ " fabric A rectangle. Draw a  $45^\circ$  line starting at the corner on the wrong side of the fabric D rectangle as shown. Sew on the line. Trim  $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the seam, and press toward fabric D.
- Align a 1" fabric E square right sides together on the end of the unit as shown. Sew on the line, trim  $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the seam, and press toward the corner, similar to Unit 1.
- Unit 3 measures  $1 \times 3\frac{1}{4}$ ".

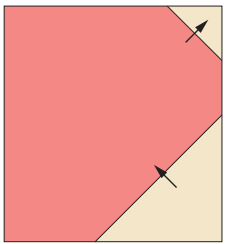
## Unit 4

- Align a  $1\frac{1}{4} \times 2$ " fabric B rectangle right sides together on the right end of a  $1\frac{1}{4} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ " fabric D. Draw a 45° line starting at the corner on the wrong side of the fabric B rectangle, sew on the line, trim  $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the seam similar to Unit 3. Press toward fabric D.
- Align a  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " fabric C square and a  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " fabric A square right sides together on opposite ends of the unit *as shown*. Sew on each line, trim  $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the seam, and press toward the corner, similar to Unit 1.
- Unit 4 measures  $1\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{1}{4}$ ".



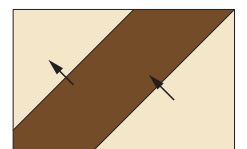
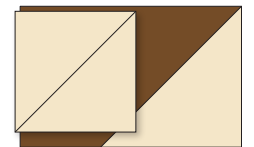
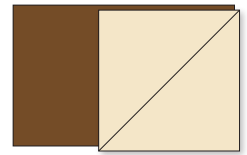
## Unit 5

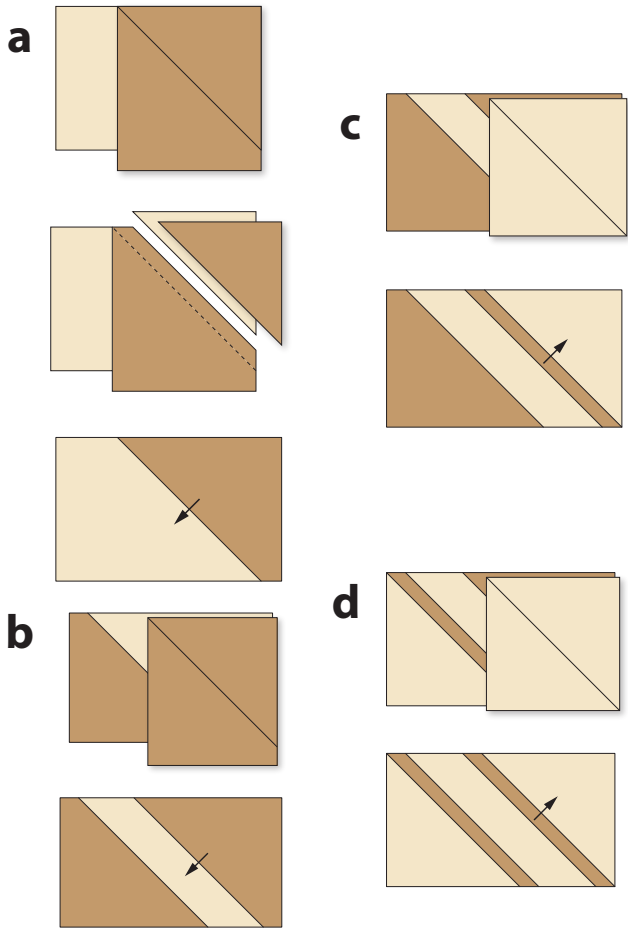
- Align a  $\frac{3}{4}$ " fabric A square and a  $1\frac{3}{4}$ " fabric A square right sides together on the upper right and lower right corners of a  $3 \times 3\frac{1}{4}$ " fabric B rectangle as shown (on the left). Sew on each line. Trim  $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from each seam, and press as shown.
- Unit 5 measures  $3 \times 3\frac{1}{4}$ ".



## Unit 6

- Align a  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " fabric A square and a  $1\frac{3}{4}$ " fabric A square right sides together on opposite ends of a  $1\frac{3}{4} \times 2\frac{3}{4}$ " fabric E rectangle as shown (on the right). Sew on each line, trim  $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the seam, and press as shown.
- Unit 6 measures  $1\frac{3}{4} \times 2\frac{3}{4}$ ".





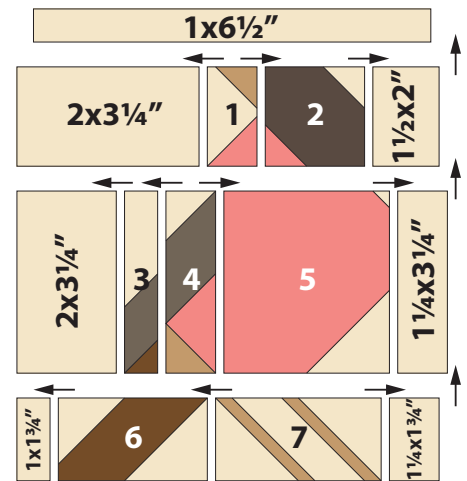
### Unit 7

- Align a  $1\frac{3}{4} \times 2$ " fabric C rectangle right sides together on the right end of a  $1\frac{3}{4} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ " fabric A rectangle. Draw a  $45^\circ$  line starting at the corner on the wrong side of the fabric C rectangle as shown. Sew on the line. Trim  $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the seam, and press toward fabric A. (a)
- Rotate the unit  $180^\circ$  and align a second  $1\frac{3}{4} \times 2$ " fabric C rectangle on the opposite end of the unit. Repeat: draw a  $45^\circ$  line on the wrong side of the fabric C fabric, sew on the line, trim, and press toward fabric A. (b)
- Place a  $1\frac{3}{4}$ " fabric A square right sides together on the right end of the unit as shown. Sew on the line, trim  $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the seam and press toward the corner. (c)
- Rotate the unit  $180^\circ$  and align a second  $1\frac{3}{4}$ " fabric A square on the opposite end of the unit. Repeat: sew on the line, trim, and press toward the corner. (d)
- Unit 7 measures  $1\frac{3}{4} \times 3$ ".

Tip. Unit 7 is particularly tricky to sew because there isn't a lot of 'jiggle' room! Sew one piece at a time. Trim and press after each addition. Align fabric edges carefully and use pins to secure the layers. Be extra cautious about lines that are accurately drawn and sewn.

### Unit 8 - Assemble the block

- Follow the diagram to arrange and sew the numbered units and fabric A pieces into rows. Then and sew the rows together. Press the seams as indicated.



### Fusible Appliqué

- Trace an eye shape onto fusible web paper backing.
- Rough-cut around the shape. Fuse to the wrong side of the 1" fabric G square. Cut the shape on the line. Remove the paper backing, and place the eye shape on Unit 2. Refer to the block diagram for placement. Fuse.
- Secure the appliqué edge with a buttonhole, zigzag, or satin stitch.

