

“Flocking” dove construction

We thought it would be fun to greet Dr. Goodall with some small, energetic doves in addition to a large one when she visited our school. She seemed to enjoy the enthusiasm of the kids, so we were asked to provide instructions for building these. They are very easy to make.

Materials – quantities vary, based upon how many you make

- clean bed sheets; hotels will usually donate these
- metre/yard stick or tape measure (if making a template)
- tailor’s chalk, or other suitable marking tool (we used yellow board chalk)
- scissors
- party hats (optional)
- yellow paint (optional)

Procedure

These can be measured to fit each individual or made using a general template. The instructions below are for a “tailored” dove.

1. Each large bed sheet makes two adult-size doves or four smaller ones. It is best to use the scissors to split the sheet into two even parts across the long axis first (see Figure 1); each section will become a dove.

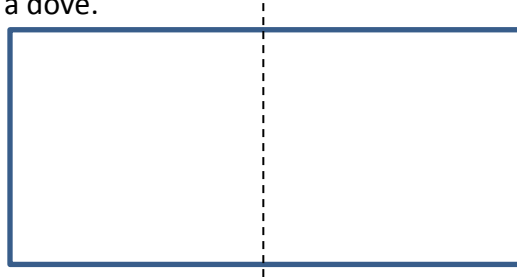


Figure 1. The initial cut of the blanket follows the dashed line; this can be modified for people with longer/shorter wingspans.

2. Have the person lie down with arms spread to their widest extent and their head extending just past the end of the sheet. Use the chalk to mark the end of their fingertips and beside the most lateral part of their hips, on both sides (See Figure 2).

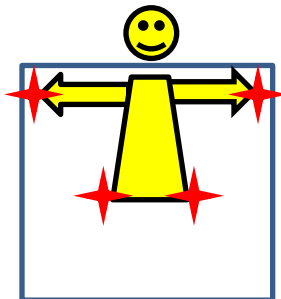


Figure 2. Marking the extremities. The middle of each red star shows a spot that should be indicated.

3. Roughly sketch the shape of a wing on each side using the marks made in step (2). Some will aspire to perfect symmetry. We did not. Also roughly sketch the shape of the tail; we flared ours out from the hips.
4. For beaks we used party hats which we painted yellow. Here are a few ideas other than using party hats: (1) baseball caps, (2) papier maché, (3) cut the sheet such that a head is incorporated with the wing shape, etc.
5. To make the dove “fly” simply grab the end of the wings and move joyfully. A rough outline of one costume is on the next page (Figure 3 – the asymmetry is intentional... have fun with it), as is picture of a few in motion (Figure 4). The photograph doesn’t do justice to the flocking effect that these can generate.

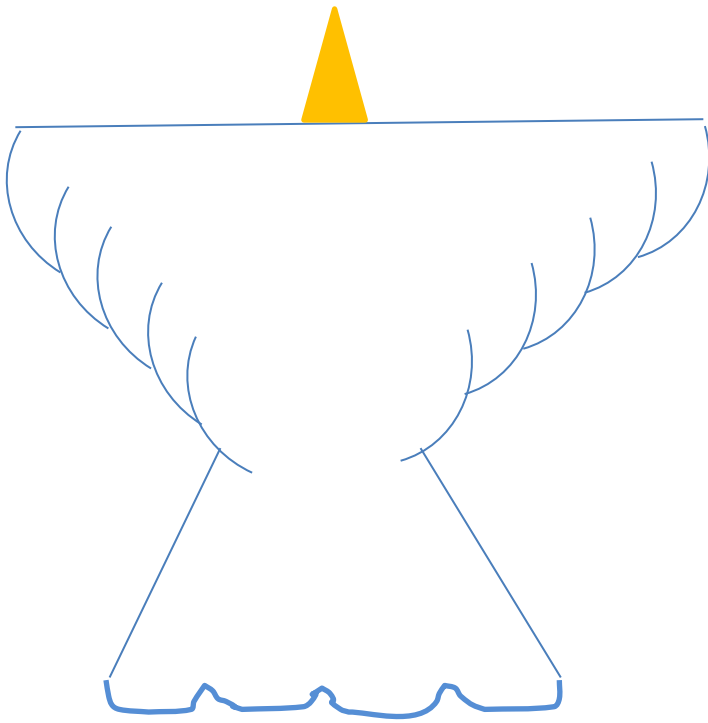


Figure 3. A completed costume, with beak accessory.

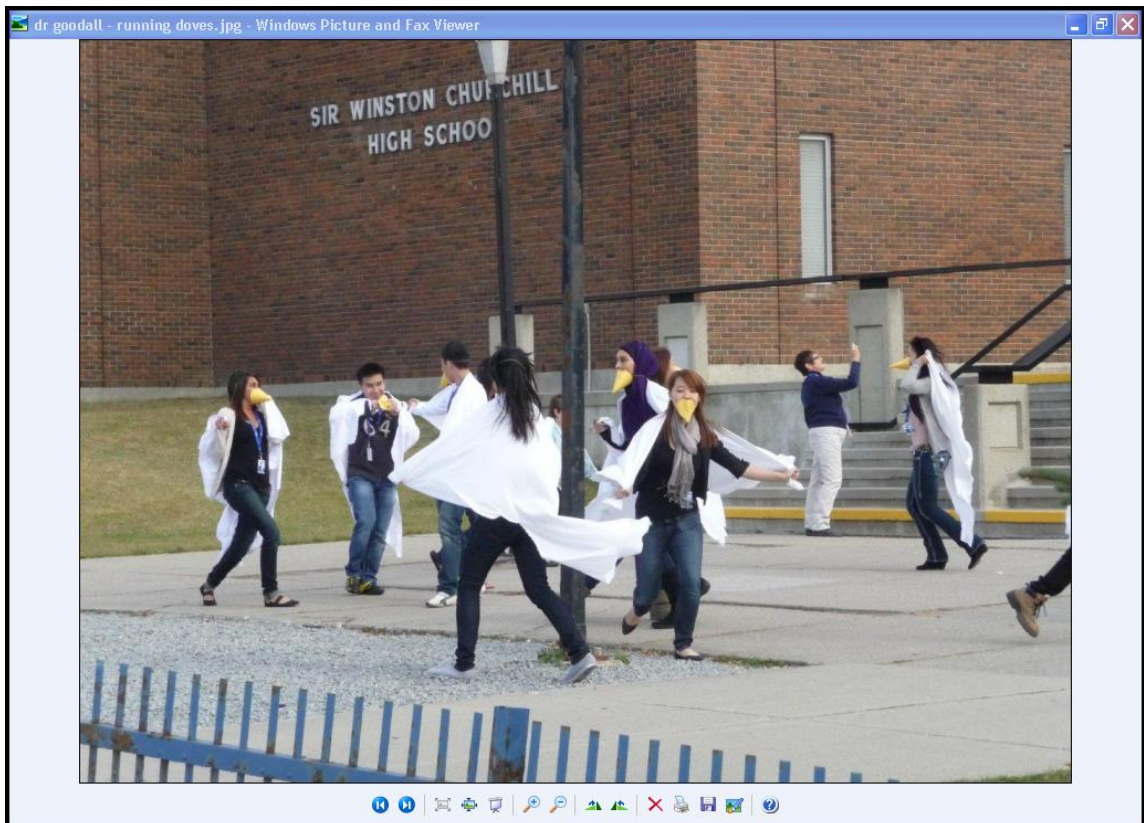


Figure 4. Flocking doves having fun. We considered dressing in white shirts and blue jeans and regret not doing so.