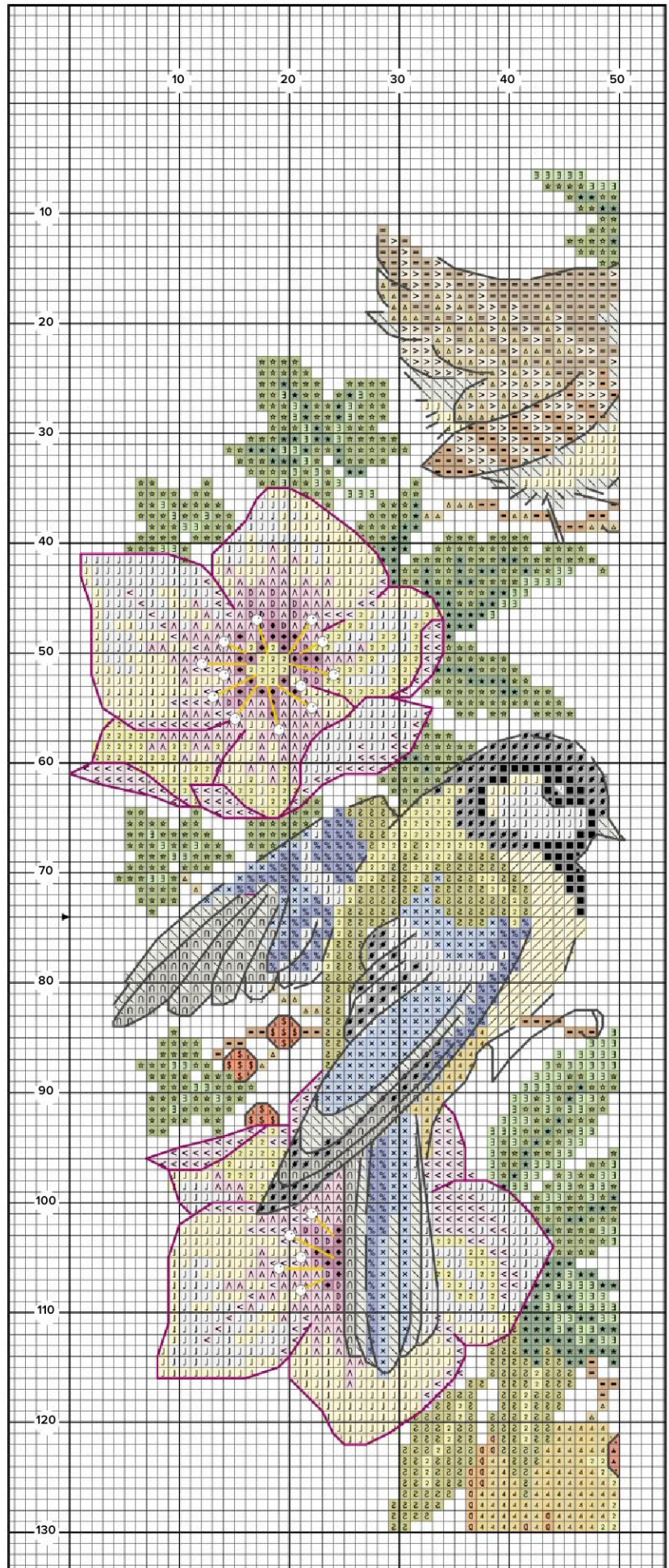


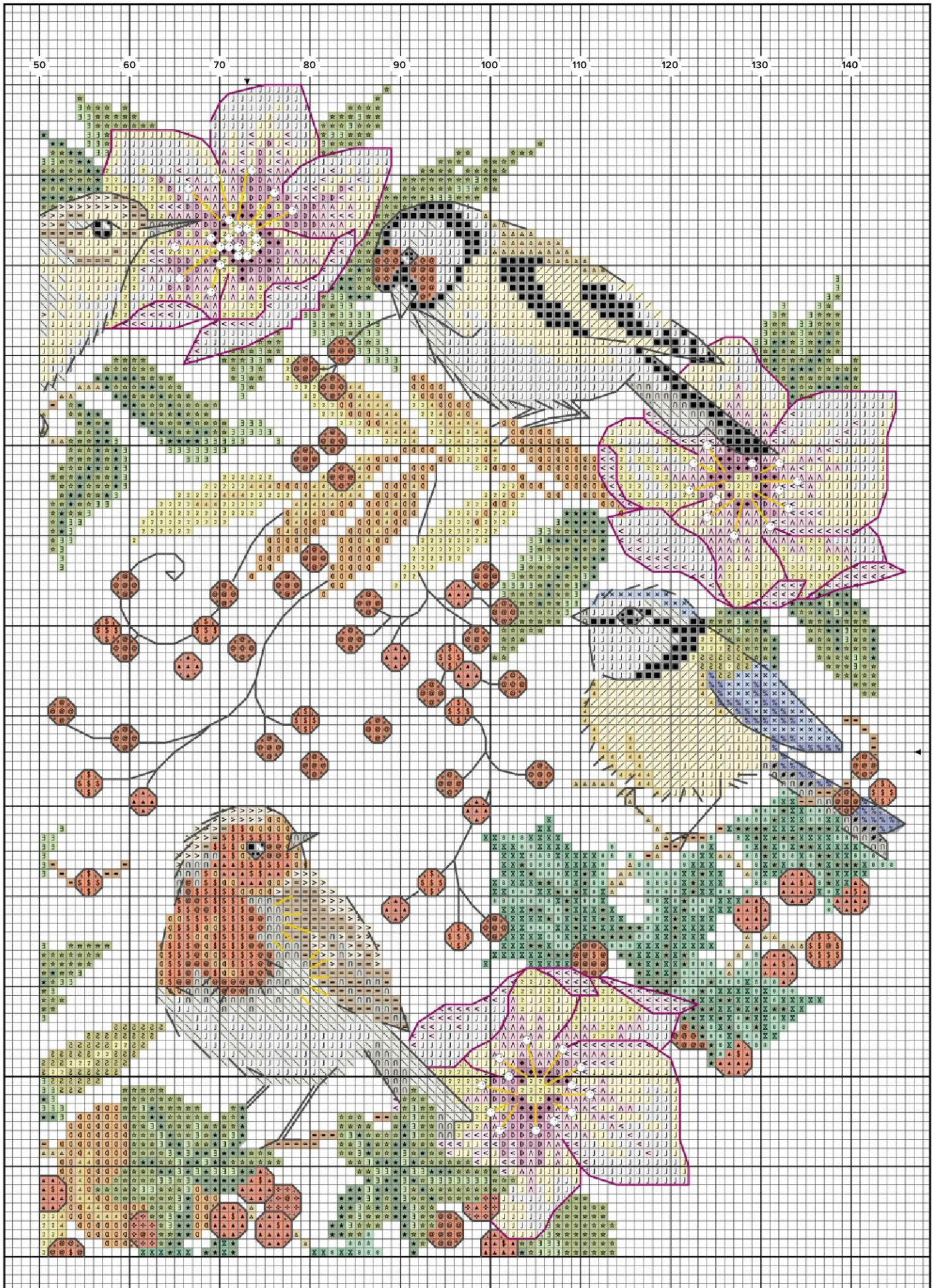
Christmas songbirds



Songbirds bring a touch of joy to our gardens even during the coldest months of the year. This pretty design from Lesley Teare combines birds, flowers, foliage and berries in one satisfying cross stitch project. It's also packed with fun stitching details to keep your interest, with lots of colours in the cross stitch, and backstitch and beading to finish off.

If you feel daunted by the whole design, you could stitch a smaller section with just one bird to make a sweet card or picture.

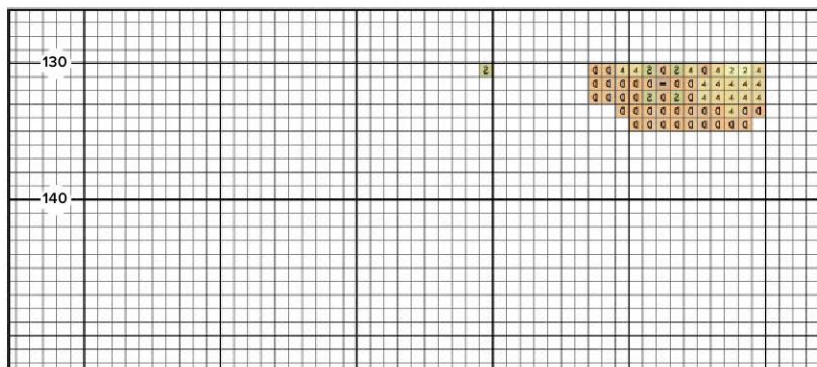




Meet the designer... Lesley Teare

Over the years I have drawn and painted many bird sketches. This time I wanted to create a festive winter wreath with birds from our gardens. I hope I have achieved this as the picture was a joy to create from start to finish. The wren, goldfinch, great tit, blue tit and robin nestle amongst the pretty, soft coloured hellebores, whilst possibly looking for the berries that peep out from amongst the flowers and foliage.

Sort your threads before you start to help this stitching go quickly



Winter birds

You will need...

- Zweigart 25 count Lugana evenweave** cream, ref: 3835/252, 51x51cm (20x20in)
- Stranded cotton** as listed in the key
- Pearl** seed beads
- Size 26** tapestry needle
- Fabric** for the cushion back 42x42cm (16½x16½in)
- Cushion pad** 41x41cm (16x16in)
- For stockist details see page 62**

Stitching the design

FOLD the fabric in half both ways to find the centre and start stitching at this point. The cross stitch is worked in two strands of stranded cotton over two threads of fabric.

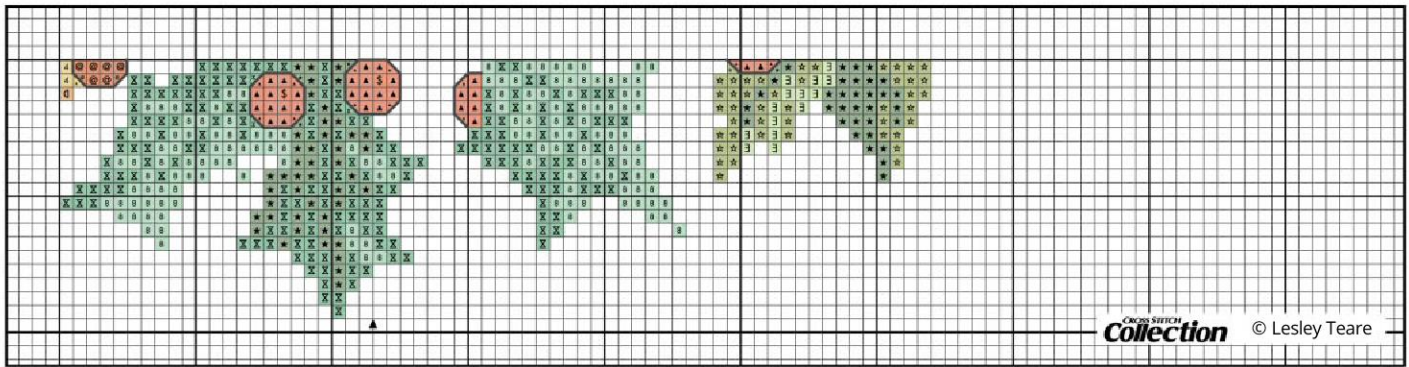
Adding the detail

COMPLETE all the cross stitch before adding the backstitch in one and two strands. The pearl seeds beads are used on the stamens of the flowers.

Make your cushion

- 1 CUT** your stitched cushion front to 42x42cm (16½x16½in).
- 2 WITH** right sides together, machine stitch the cushion front to the backing fabric- stitch around all four sides, with a 5mm (¼in) seam allowance, and leaving a gap for turning.
- 3 NEATEN** the seams, then turn through the gap to the right side.
- 4 INSERT** the cushion pad, and slip stitch the gap closed.

To see Lesley's latest designs visit www.lesleyteare.com



Our stitcher says: "Lots of backstitch so not for a beginner. Great use of beading, with just enough to add interest"

Christmas songbirds

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

Cross stitch in two strands

<<	153	095	710	pink mauve
2 2	165	278	1414	lt avacado
■ ■	310	403	black	black
▲ ▲	321	019	510	xmas red
✦ ✦	413	401	1713	dark pewter grey
— —	434	310	2009	lt brown
∩ ∩	581	280	1609	moss green
⌘ ⌘	606	335	209	orange red
= =	611	898	2107	drab brown
∩ ∩	647	1040	1813	lt grey
@ @	666	046	210	bright red
∩ ∩	703	238	1307	lime green
∩ ∩	744	301	112	pale yellow
✦ ✦	816	1005	512	garnet
☆ ☆	905	257	1412	dk parrot green
⊗ ⊗	910	228	1301	dk emerald green
8 8	912	209	1213	lt emerald green
◆ ◆	915	1029	705	dk plum
★ ★	986	246	1404	dk forest green
∩ ∩	3072	847	1805	light grey
D D	3607	087	708	lt plum
∧ ∧	3608	060	709	v lt plum
> >	3782	899	1911	lt mocha

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

Cross stitch in two strands

4 4	3820	306	2509	dk straw
J J	3823	386	2512	pale yellow
△ △	3828	373	2104	hazelnut brown
% %	3838	940	2702	lavender blue
x x	3840	117	907	lt lav blue
Q Q	3853	1003	311	autumn gold
J J	3865	002	2402	winter white

Backstitch in one strand

—	310	403	black	black
			outlines, berry stems	
—	915	1029	705	dk plum
			flowers	

Backstitch in two strands

—	3865	002	2402	winter white
			flower stamens	

Beads

○ ○	Pearl seed beads
	flower stamens

Stitched using DMC threads on 25 count evenweave over two threads.

Stitch count 149x146w

Design area 30x29cm (11¾x11½in)

Stitch time: 61hrs