

ROCKING BIRDS

Amuse Little Tots

THESE bird cutouts not only rock to amuse the kiddies, but are strong enough for them to sit on. The sides are screwed to wedge-shape filler blocks that spread them so that the rocker will not tip over with its little rider. First copy the outlines of the sides to $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. plywood, hard-pressed board or any other suitable material and jigsaw them to shape. Then, from a length of 2 by 4-in. stock, cut the blocks as shown in the detail, and screw them in place, fitting the sides to them so that the top edge of the heads meet and the tails spread out. Over the blocks screw a tapered saddle, and you are ready to add the finishing touches. Sand the birds thoroughly to remove any rough spots or splinters that may injure the rider, then paint the work as indicated in the cross-hatched drawing. For clearest coloring, first apply a flat-white undercoat. When painting toys such as these, which require several different colors, it is best to use tube oil paints and a can of white enamel. Then any desired color may be mixed in small quantities without waste. If the birds are to be used outdoors, coat them with spar varnish.

