A Journal of Drawing Birds

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____

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more notebooks and journals.

Birds are a favorite subject to draw because so many exist making them familiar to us. Most have a similar structure and they are all easy to draw.

Put a small circle at the end of an oval and the basics of a bird are there. Add wings, tail, beak, and eyes and smooth out the area connecting the two basic shapes and you have drawn a bird.

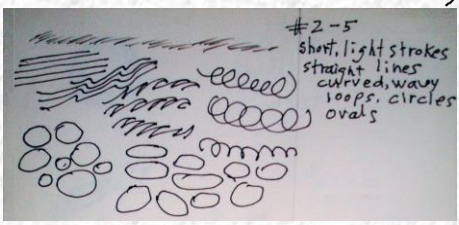
Study them from real life from all angles to see how the shapes change in relation to each other or use the Internet's free-sharing websites to find pictures to study.

This 100-page journal with lightly lined pages with prompts on the left and blank on the right. Write about birds, tell your observations and follow the prompts. They will lead you through the process of making birds your own delightful subject to draw. Explore and expand your study of bird drawing to birds in flight, groups of birds, birds in a line on a telephone wire. Check out magazines about birds for ideas to draw.

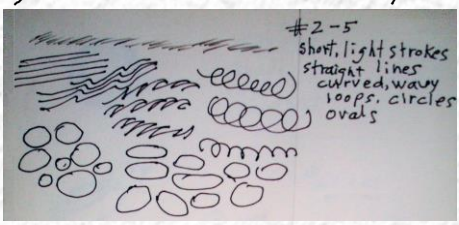
Illustration by Virginia Kelley
kelleyvirginia@hotmail.com
Bobbin' Olive Productions 2020

1. #2 Ordinary pencil w/eraser

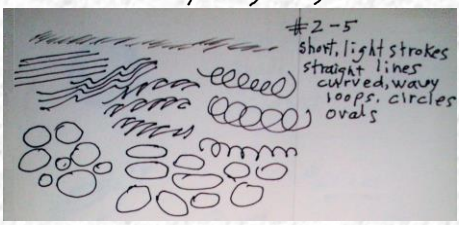
2. Sketch a line with short, light strokes.



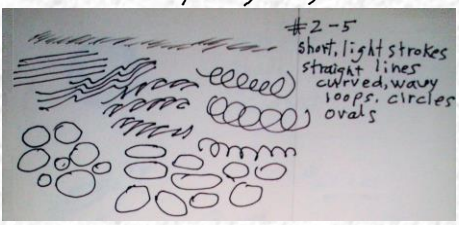
3. Do a page of lines - straight/curved/wavy/loops.



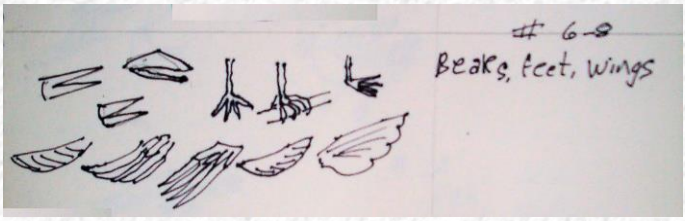
4. Draw a page of circles.



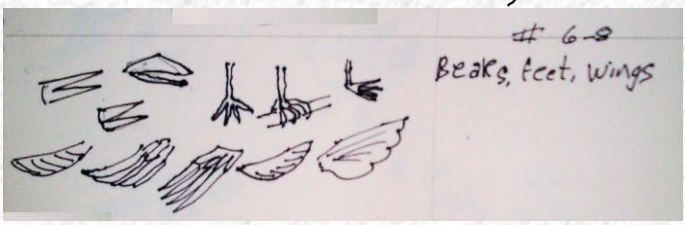
5. Draw a page of ovals.



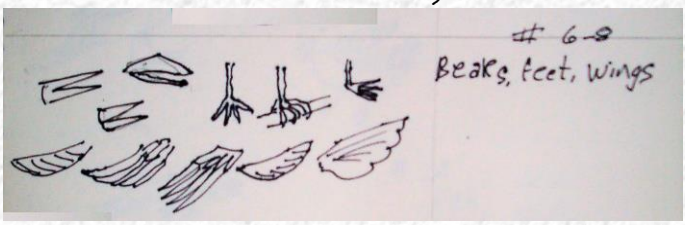
6. Draw bird beaks.



7. Draw bird wings.



8. Draw bird feet.



9. Put shapes together for a bird.

10. Shade with the side of your pencil.

11. Shade using lines going in one direction.

12. Shade by cross-hatching - lines crossing in opposites directions.

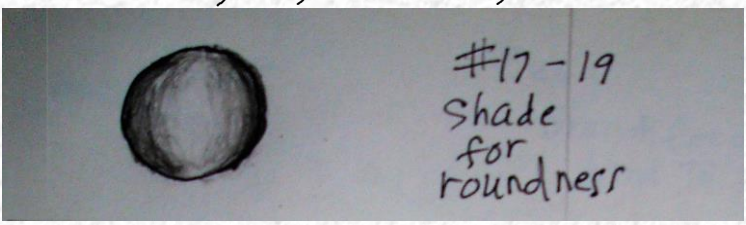
13. Make a value strip going from white to mid-gray to darkest gray at opposite end.

14. Blend with your finger/tissue for a continuous, even tone from white to dark.

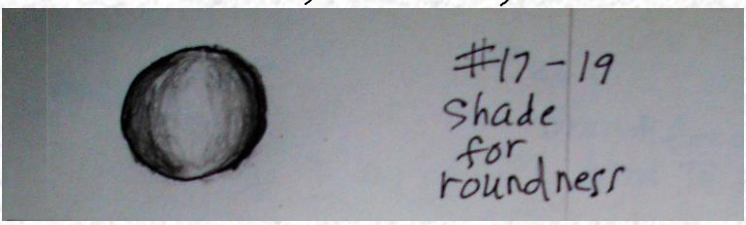
15. Do the same w/ a black charcoal pencil/Have wipes for cleaning fingers.

16. Do a value strip w/the neutral pencils in your colored pencil set.

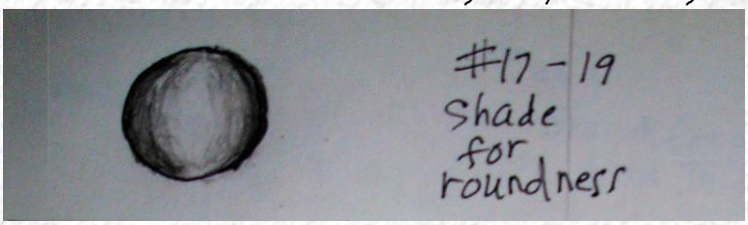
17. Shade edges of a circle for roundness.



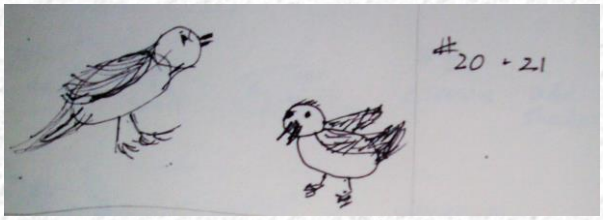
18. Shade with lines following the circle's edges.



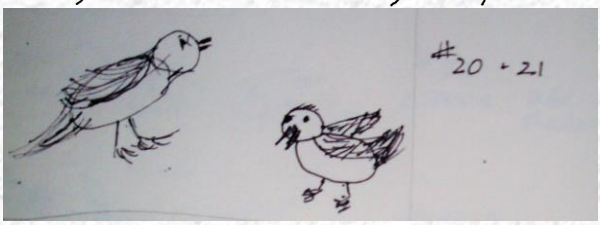
19. Tone a circle w/ pencil - go from white in the center to dark gray at edges.



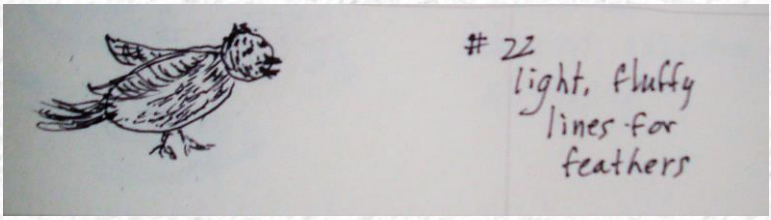
20. Do a page of birds making an oval body and circle head - join shapes with lines.



21. Add feet/tail/wings/eyes/beak.

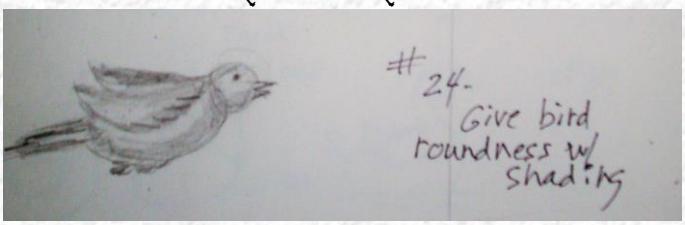


22. Draw light, fluffy lines to represent feathers - lines should go in the direction of the bird's shape.



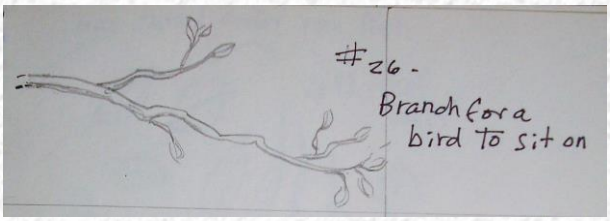
23. Make tail feathers with stiffer, straighter lines.

24. Give the bird roundness with shading.

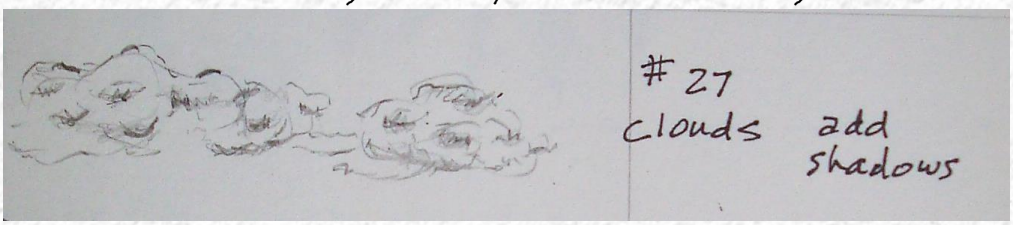


25. Go back over the feet/eyes/beak - darken lines in places for accents.

26. Do a branch for the bird to sit on - add leaves if desired.



27. Do clouds/surround it with a sky by coloring with pencil shading.



28. Get references and try various, specific birds, follow the pictures for details.

29. Search printable coloring pages for clean line drawings to copy.

30. Practice birds in pencil on a few pages or in blank areas on earlier pages.

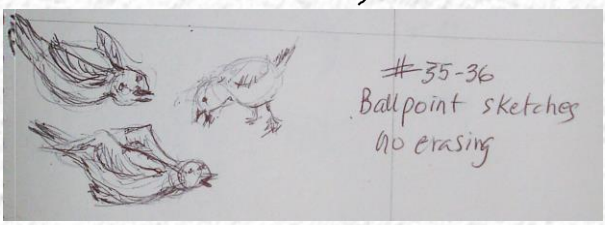
31. Get a set of colored pencil and color some of your bird drawings.

32. Work with a range of various shades of one color in one section of the bird.

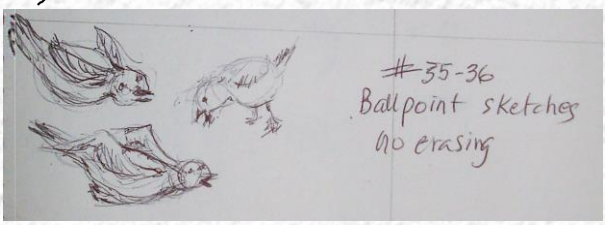
33. Remember lighter shades and colors will seem to come forward and darker ones recede.

34. Get a set of colored markers both fine line and ordinary tips.

35. Get non-erasable markers, ballpoint pen to practice sketching direct/no erasing.



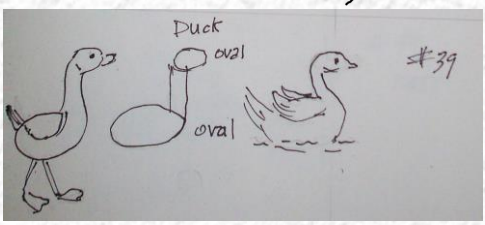
36. Even with bad lines, keep going, making a new line to correct mistakes.



37. Sketch a few pages by looking at actual birds.

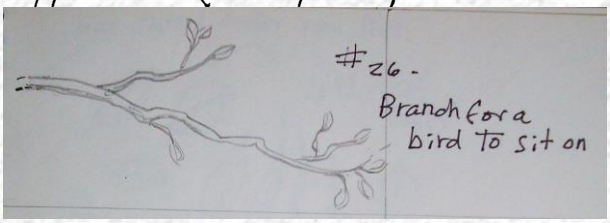
38. Try to sketch fast and capture the gesture of their movements.

39. Sketch many types of birds from tiny ones to ducks/geese.



40. Sketch birds in flight from life and pictures.

41. Study and sketch a page of various types and shapes of branches.



42. Study various leaf shapes, try leaves twisting by making the central vein curved.

43. Shade both branches and leaves.

44. Do a cartoon bird from simple bird shapes exaggerated.

45. Do a pattern of birds over a whole page or two.

46. Do a bird border around some pages.

47. Do birds in cages.

48. Do a nest with eggs.

49. Do nests with growing baby birds.

50. Do a mom feeding her young.

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