



SAN FRANCISCO BAY
BIRD OBSERVATORY

2025 CALIFORNIA FALL CHALLENGE

Bird Photo Big Day

for kids!

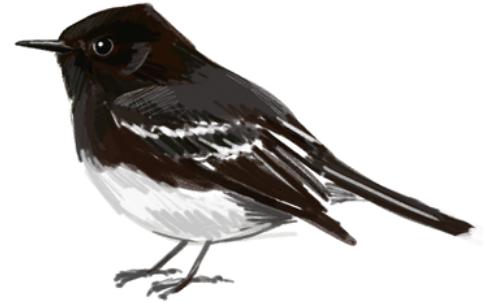
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Nature Journal

Instructions for parents

Suggested supplies

- A clipboard
- A pencil or pen
- Colored pencils or crayons



1. Print out the pages and clip them to a clipboard.
2. Have your child write their name on the front "cover page" and decorate it if they'd like.
3. Take your child on a nature walk! It could be around your neighborhood, at a local park, or your favorite birding spot. It's never too early to help your child practice good birding ethics, so encourage them to stay on the trails and give wildlife enough space.
4. While on the nature walk, encourage your child to make note of their observations! Pages 5-8 are great for this, but you can also bring along some blank pages for them to draw or write about what they see.
5. You can also help them fill out a Bird Bingo card. Card #1 is easier and great for beginning birders, while Card #2 is more challenging and is best for those who can identify some common birds. If you need help identifying birds, the Merlin Bird ID app is a great tool to play around with.
6. Let us know what your child did! You can email pictures of your child's drawings or observations to outreach@sfbbo.org, and we will compile them into a video to share.

Best for younger children or beginning birders:

BIRD BINGO #1

How to play: Print out this page and bring it along with you on your nature walk. If you see one of the items on the bingo card, cross it out with a pencil, pen, or crayon! See if you can get 3, 4, or even 5 in a row!



Best for birders who can identify some common birds:

BIRD BINGO #2

How to play: Print out this page and bring it along with you on your nature walk. If you see one of the items on the bingo card, cross it out with a pencil, pen, or crayon! See if you can get 3, 4, or even 5 in a row!



Date:

Time:

Location:

What is the weather?



Is it warm or cold outside?

warm

cold

Observations

Some prompts: What do you see? What do you smell? What do you hear?



What birds do you see? Describe what they look and sound like:

Draw what you see!



Do you see any other wildlife?

I see a bird:
(circle the bird behaviors you see)

looking for food

singing

resting

calling

flying

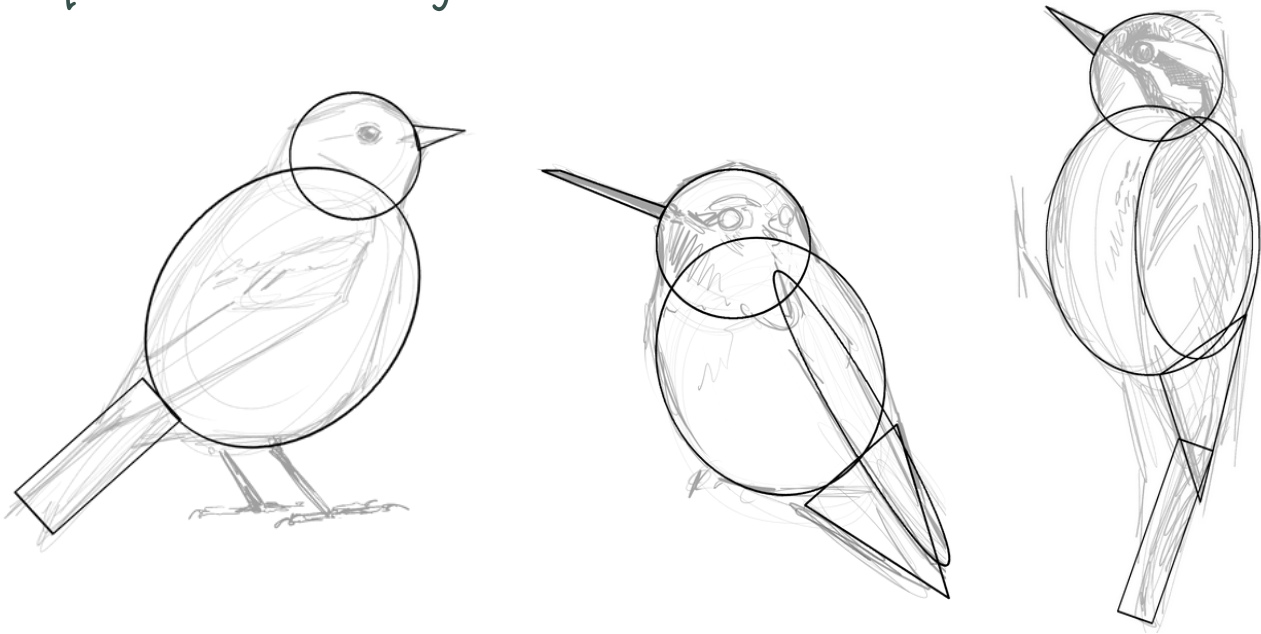
swimming

preening

eating

How to draw birds

1. Start with the basic shapes. Birds are made up of circles, squares, and triangles!

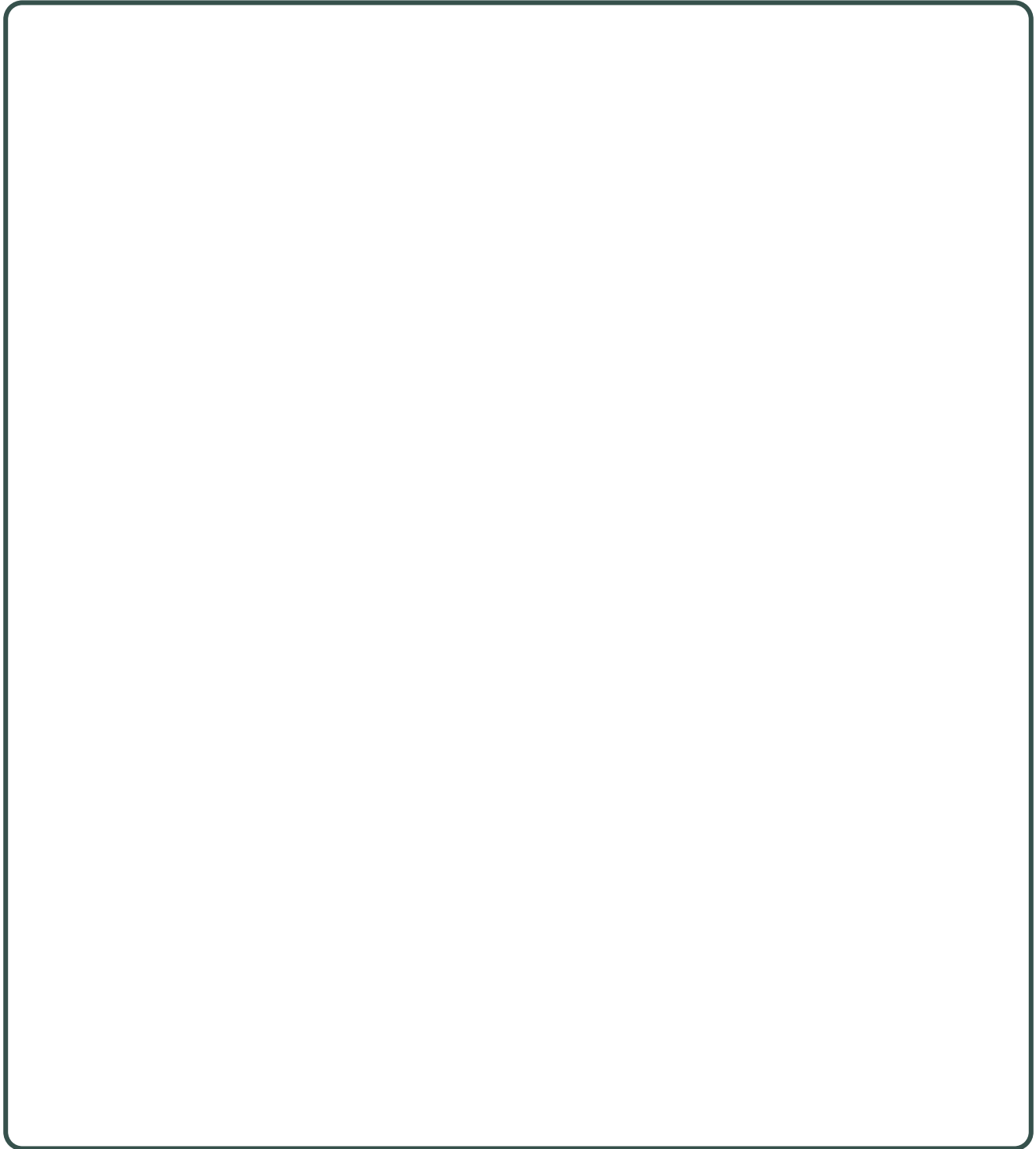


2. Focus on the proportions first, and then add the details color second. Even if your drawing has the coloring of a bluebird, if the proportions are off, it won't look like a bluebird!

3. Carefully observe the bird you are drawing. What shape is the beak? How big is the head compared to the body?

3. Draw birds all the time! Drawing is a skill, so the more you practice, the easier and more natural it will become.

4. Remember, it's okay to erase, make mistakes, and ask for help. That's the best way to learn!



Now it's your turn to draw your favorite bird!
You can use pencils, crayons, colored pencils, or
anything you want.