

Sketching A Robin Step-by-Step Tutorial

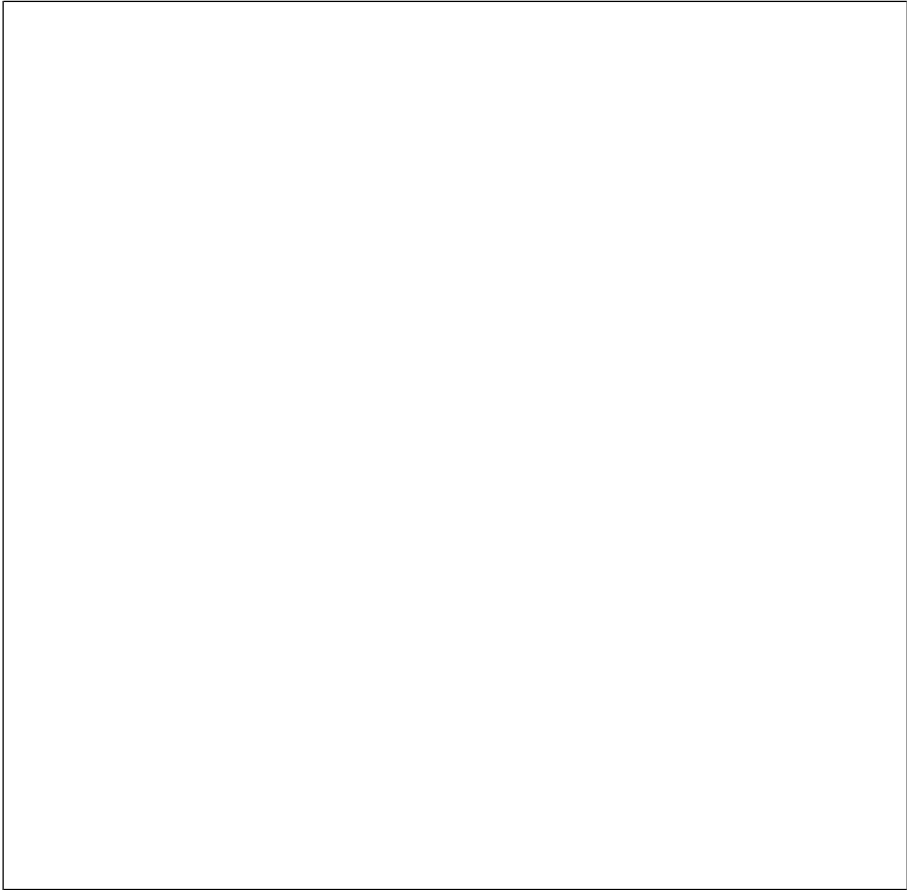
This tutorial is aimed at getting you comfortable drawing a bird from a photograph. All you need is a pencil and paper. First, you'll want to watch the video on my website: <https://christineelder.com/how-to-sketch-a-robin-tutorial/>

In the video, I'm using a photo of an American Robin that you can find on the next page if you'd like to follow along. This list may seem like a lot of 'rules' but these techniques of learning to really observe closely and see what you're drawing become second nature the more you practice, so fear not!

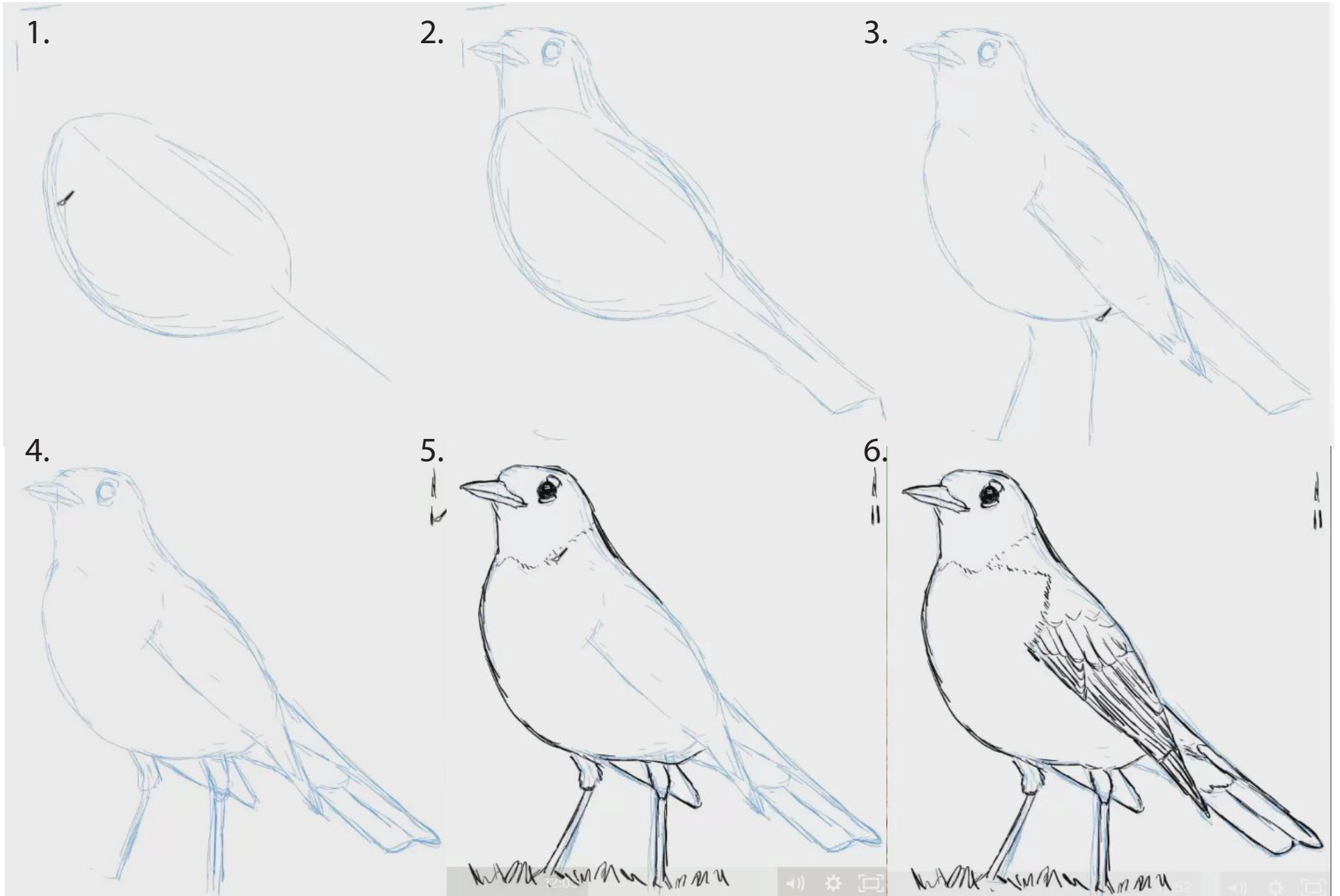
Here is a bulleted list of the topics I mention in the video in case you'd like to refer back to them as you practice drawing.

- Hold and move your pencil lightly and loosely.
- Steady your drawing hand by making a tripod of your pencil, little finger and palm.
- Start your sketch with the lightest lines possible.
- Avoid erasing – it is better to stay in the creative mode now and leave the editing mode for later.
- Draw a line that represents the greatest length of your subject and the angle of its posture.
- Add light shapes that represent the major body parts – chest, head, wings, tail, legs.
- Use your pencil as a measuring tool to measure angles of the bird's silhouette off the vertical or horizontal.
- Use your pencil to check alignment of two parts relative to each other-above or below, left or right.
- Use your pencil to compare the relative sizes of two body parts – as you add a new part, check its length and width compared to a part you've already drawn.
- Notice the negative shapes around your subject, such as the shape of the area between the legs.
- Frequently glance back and forth between your photograph and your sketch to 'ground truth'.
- Work everywhere lightly, avoiding working on any one area too much until you have established the correct shape of the silhouette.
- Once you've sketched the whole bird very lightly you might want to try the right brain trick I use to double check my drawing. Turn both the drawing and the photograph upside down and look again at both. You'll be surprised at the difference between the two that you may not have noticed before. Modify your drawing as needed.
- Once you are satisfied with the external shape of the bird, you can begin adding the internal structures like the eye, wing, feathers.

Now it's your turn: Print this handout and practice sketching the robin on the next page. Good luck!



Sketching a Robin Step-by-Step Tutorial



See video tutorial at: www.christineelder.com/how-to-sketch-a-robin-tutorial/