

Western Field Ornithologist Bird Sketching Workshop Notes

Before

- Youtube video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5g6tS5UMtYE>
- See up video to record, distribute pencils, paper

Introduction

-ask why folks chose class, background in birds, drawing, evaluation at end

Gratitude

-honored to be among birding elite, inspiring

-lots of tropical photos due to our guiding

Plan:

-slideshow with 4 -15 minute sketching exercises throughout followed by breaks

-stay til end, will link to resources and discounts page

-Primary goal: reawaken youthful sense of joy for sketching without fear or judgement

Me

-can see forest for trees as a new birder

-sketch and bird while learning the guiding business

Benefits of sketching

- Long history of learning about anatomy and behavior through sketching
- Help fledgling birders with learning to ID
- Learn about behaviors and habitats
- Research – field notes, prove rare bird sighting
- Youth education programs and connecting the generations
- Simple joy of a meditative activity – mild exercise extends life

Steps in basic sketching

1) Marks to represent overall size of sketch and body posture. Avoid erasing!

2) Foundational shapes for body, head, wings, tail

3) Focus on relative proportions, angles, alignment, negative shapes

4) Evaluate and correct, firm up best lines, add details

5) Vary line thickness, avoiding heavy outline

6) Stop before you feel done – less is more

Sketching exercise- robin group sketch – 15 minutes

Anatomy

- The more anatomy you know the better and faster you'll be
- body shape/silhouette/skeleton
- coloration/field marks –pigmentary and structural colors
- eyes/beak/jaw
- wings, tails: length and shape related to habitat and feeding styles, number of feathers
- wings in flight photos aid in seeing anatomy as does preserved specimens
- feet,toes – number and grip important

Sketching exercise- thumbnails – 15 minutes, using my photographs (play music)

Sketching in the Field

-Challenges

-Hints

-What to include

Sketching exercise- cornwall live birds – 15 minutes (play music)

Tools and Techniques

-field sketching supplies (see my website)

-pencil,pen, watercolor,gouache, toned paper

-practice sketching varying levels of hardness: photos, models,dead birds, videos and live birds

Sketching exercise-final drawing of bird – using my photographs 30 minutes (play music)

CONCLUSION

- Link to my web resources- free tutorials, online classes, sketching retreat, newsletter

FILL OUT EVALUATION!

Western Field Ornithologist Bird Sketching Workshop Attendance

Name	Email or phone if no email	