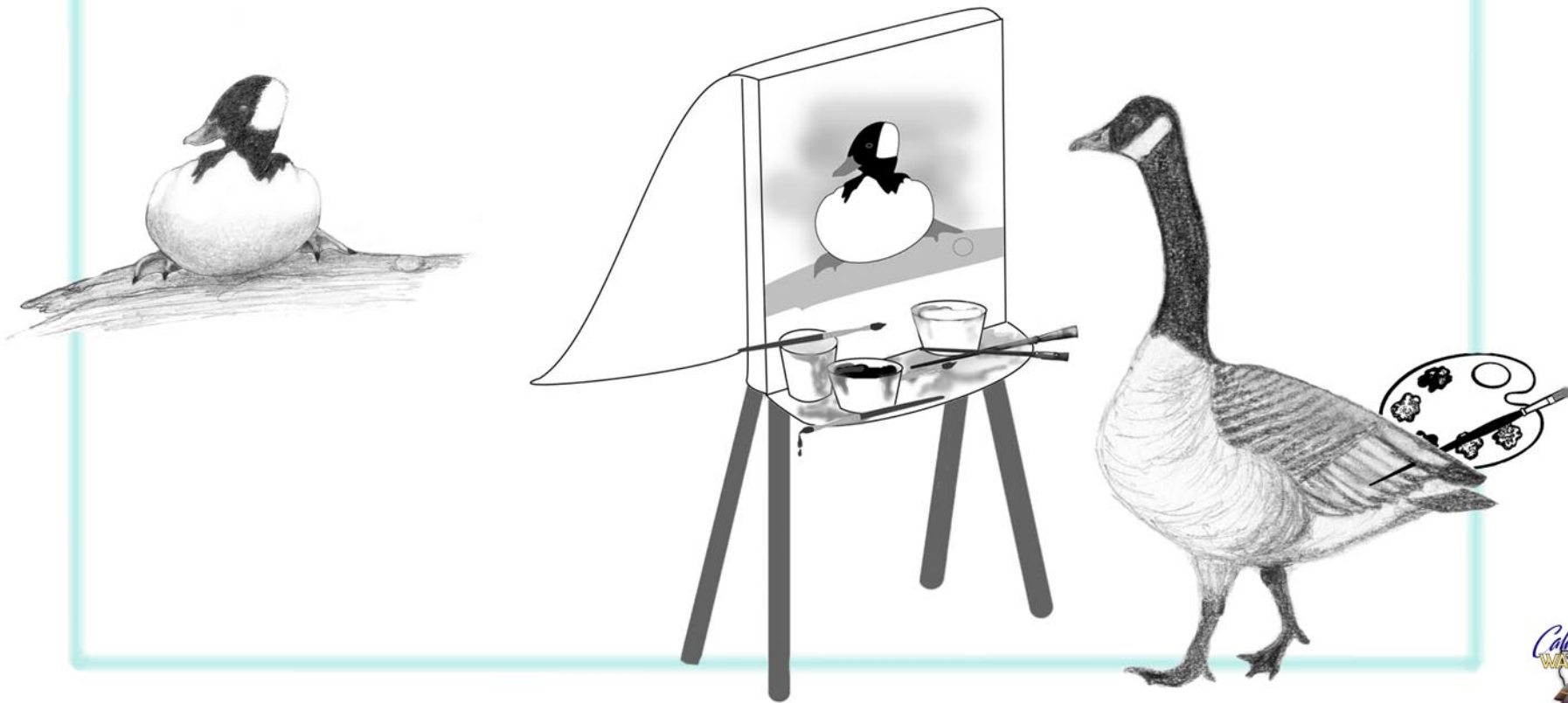


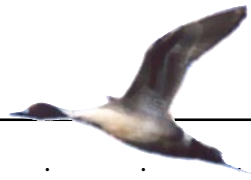
# Waterfowl ID And Drawing Guide



California Waterfowl Association



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Samantha Duarte, 7 yrs old



Sam Cornell, 18 yrs old



## Easy Steps to Drawing a Drake Mallard

Photo: John Muegge



*Remember that you cannot copy someone else's photo or drawing. Observe ducks, take your own photos, look at many references, and then make a plan for your own creation.*



Follow the directions on the next few pages to practice drawing a drake (male) mallard. When you draw the mallard, pay attention to its body shape, feather colors, and the background. For example, what characteristics do you see? It has a green head, a white ring around its neck, and a yellow bill with black tip. These are some of the characteristics that stand out in a mallard.



## Drake Mallard

### Step I: **Basic Body Shape**

- Head Shape
- Body Shape



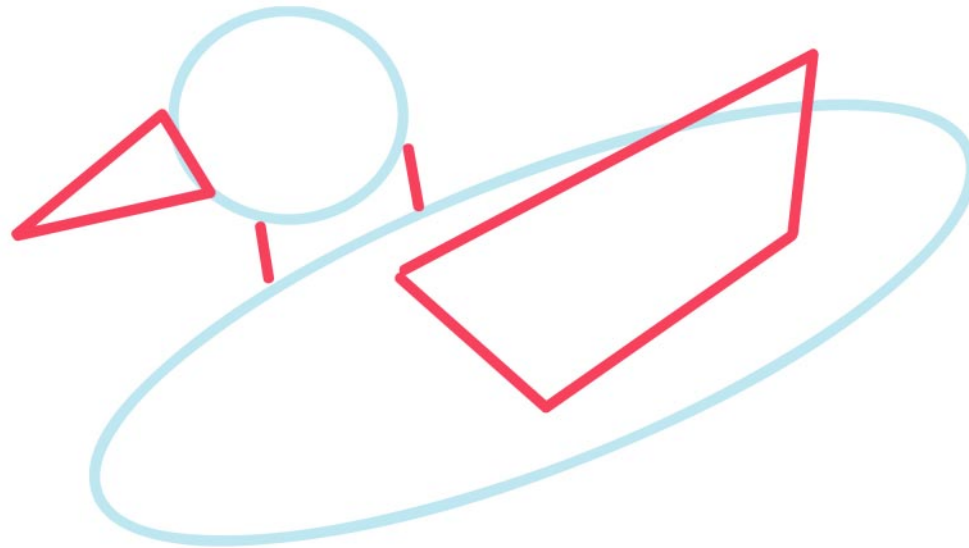
Let's start with the head and body. Draw a circle for the head and an oval shape for the body. You can measure the size of the body by comparing it to the size of the head. The oval shape should be about four "head" sizes in length. Draw the line lightly; this way you do not have to erase it as much.



## Drake Mallard

### Step II: Add Major Features

- Bill
- Wing
- Neck



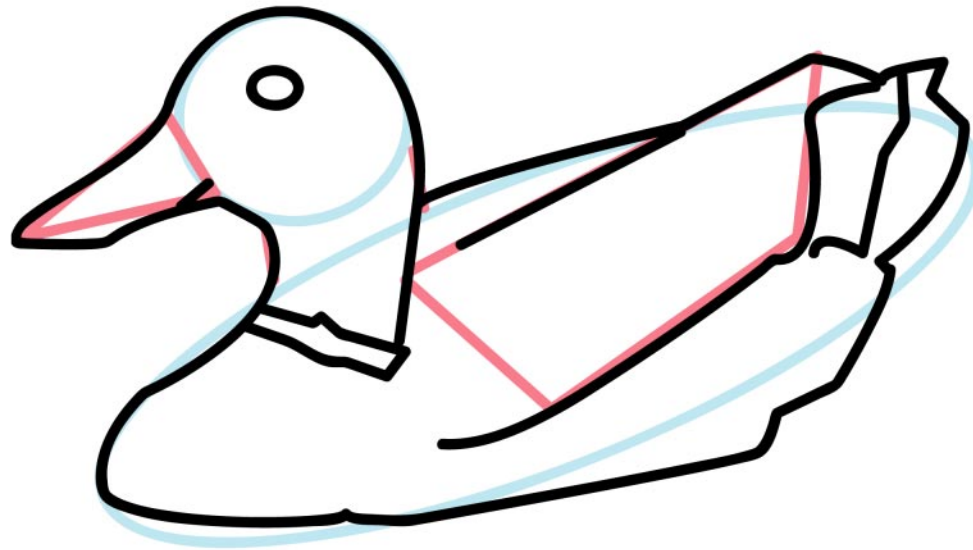
The next step is the bill, a triangle shape, and the wing, a slanted rectangle shape. Draw two lines from the head to the body to make a neck.



## Drake Mallard

### Step III: Shape the Body

- Shape-up the main features of body parts
- Draw the eye



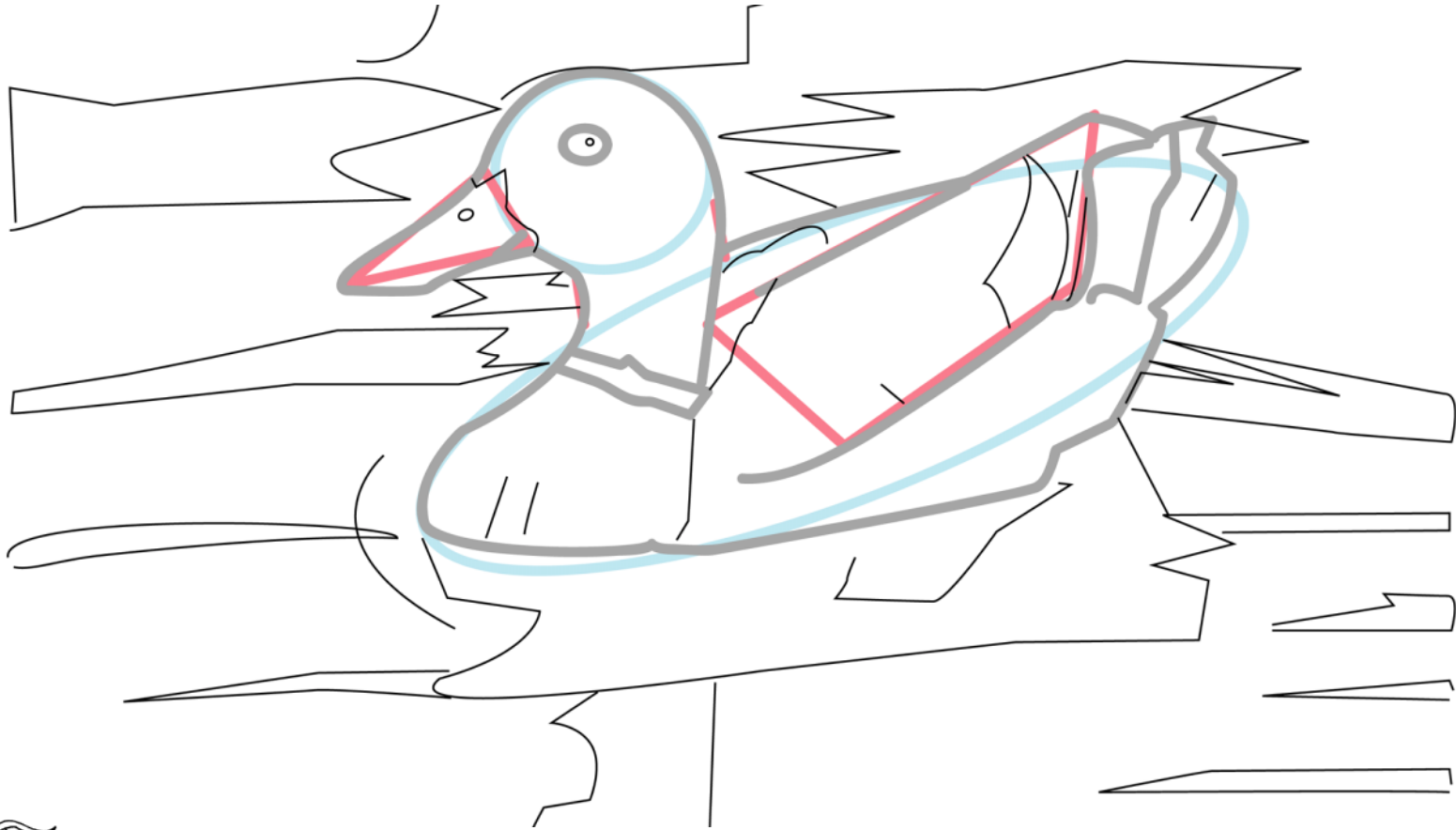
In order to make this mallard look realistic, you are going to shape-up the mallard. Use curved lines to do this. You will also need to add the eye.



## Drake Mallard

### Step IV: **Add detail**

- Fine line drawing
- Add background

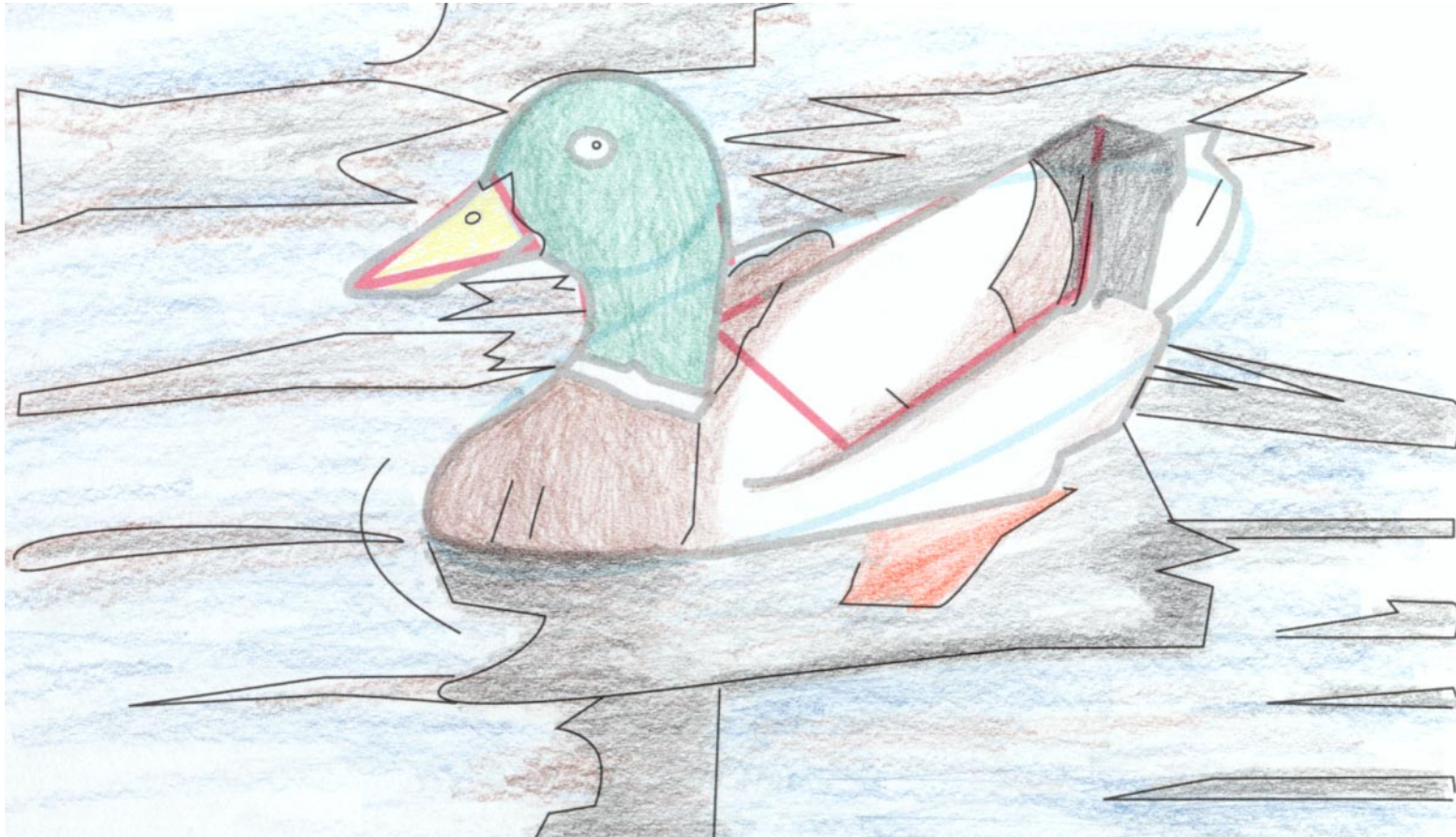


In this step, you are going to draw detailed lines and background.



## Drake Mallard

**Step V:**  
**Coloring**  
-Color the body and  
background lightly



In this step, use the basic colors shown on this mallard. It has a green head, a brown chest, and a black rear end. Part of the wings and body are white, so they do not need to be colored. Color the background water, creating a pattern for movement.

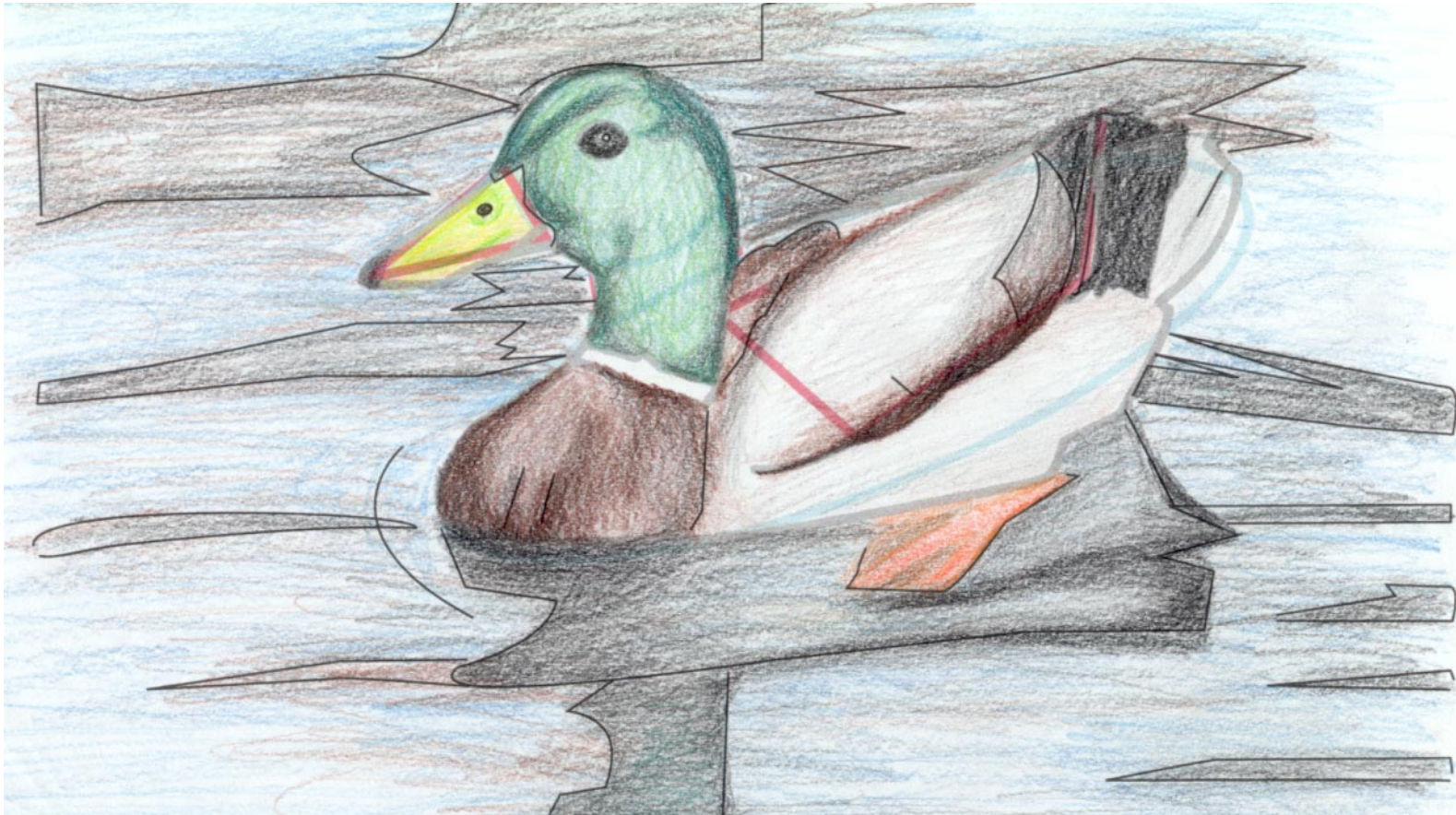




## Drake Mallard

### Step VI: **Shading** -Shading in gradation

**Gradation**- The process of shading colors from light to dark

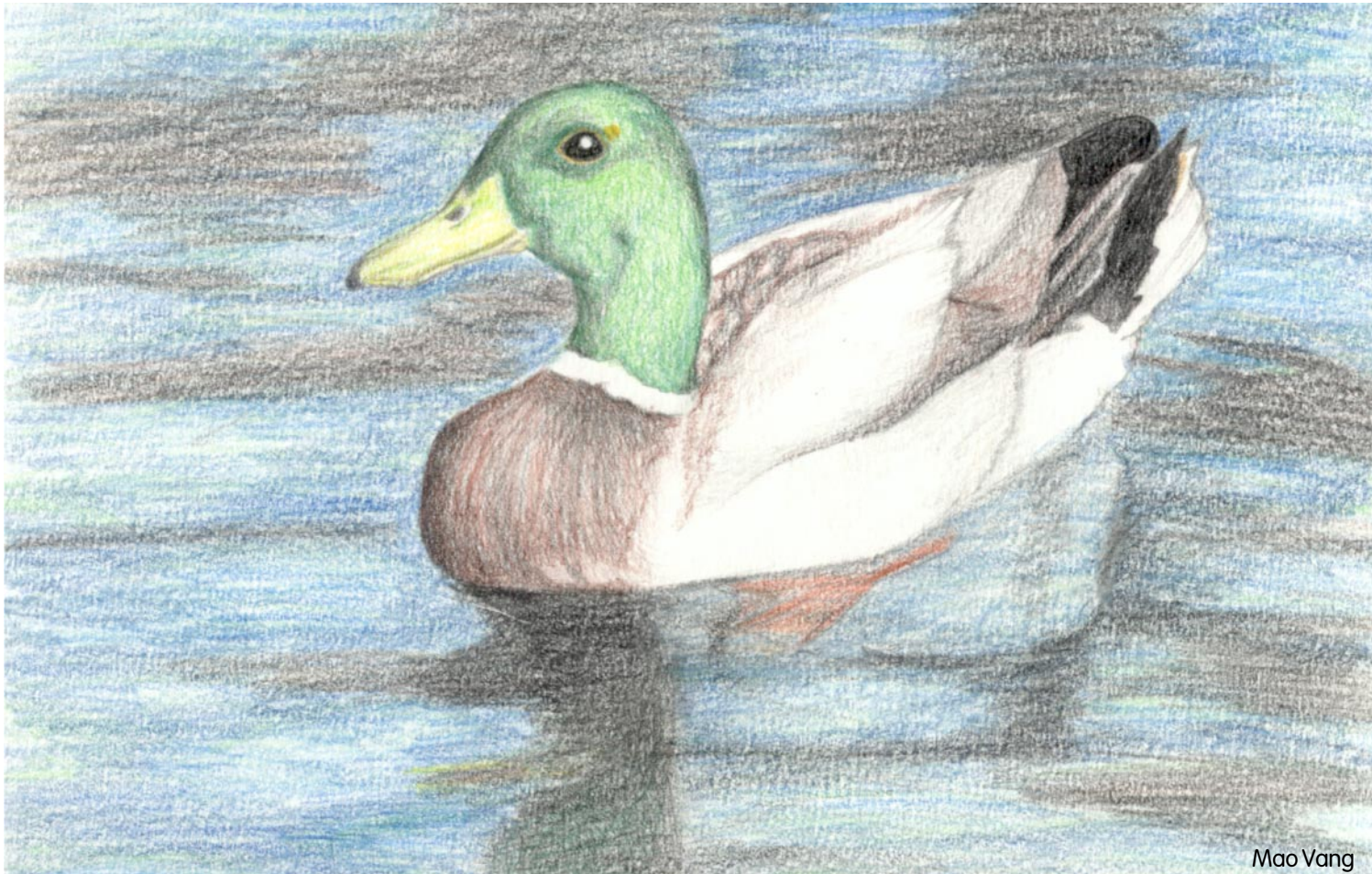


You are going to add shadows to create a more realistic picture. Shade in the dark areas where the sun does not hit. For example, part of the chest is darker; shade it in. Continue to do this with other dark areas, and you will notice that the mallard is looking fuller and not so flat.



## Drake Mallard

Step VII:  
**Final Drawing**  
-repeat steps 3-6



Mao Vang



This is the last stage. Color lightly to repeat steps 3-6 to add more detail and make the picture look more realistic. Use a variety of color pencils to shade in gradation. Use more pressure to create a lighter to a darker shade. Now your drawing is looking more like a real mallard!

# Mallard

## **Male characteristics**

- metallic green head and neck
- narrow white collar
- greenish-yellow bill with black tip
- chestnut breast
- blue / purple speculum with white edging
- bright orange legs and feet

## **Female characteristics**

- mottled brown head and body
- orange bill with spots or blotches
- bright orange legs and feet

♀ Female

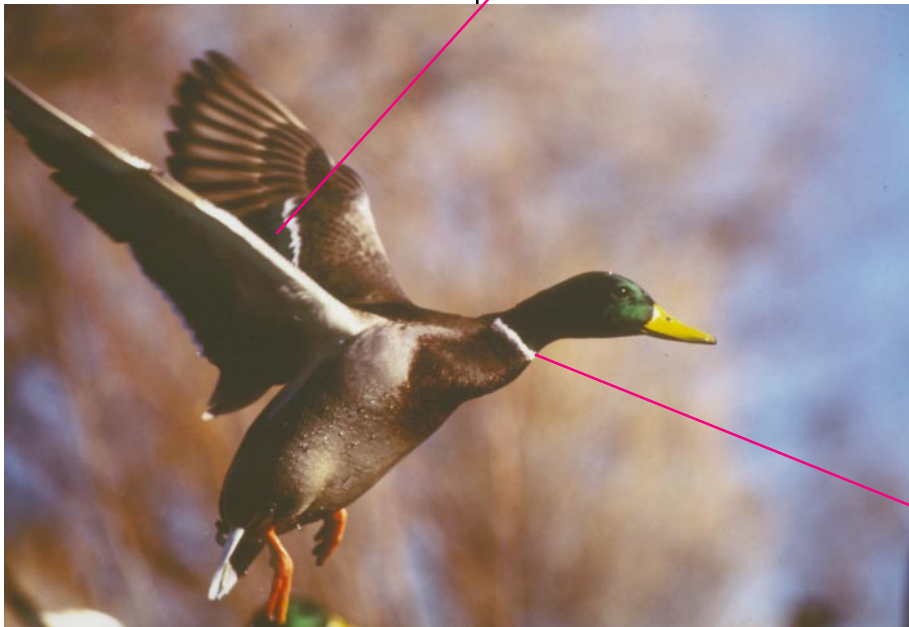
♂ Male



Photo: John Muegge

Photo: John Muegge

Blue speculum



Narrow white collar

Mallards are often seen in shallow freshwater ponds, lakes, streams, and swamps.

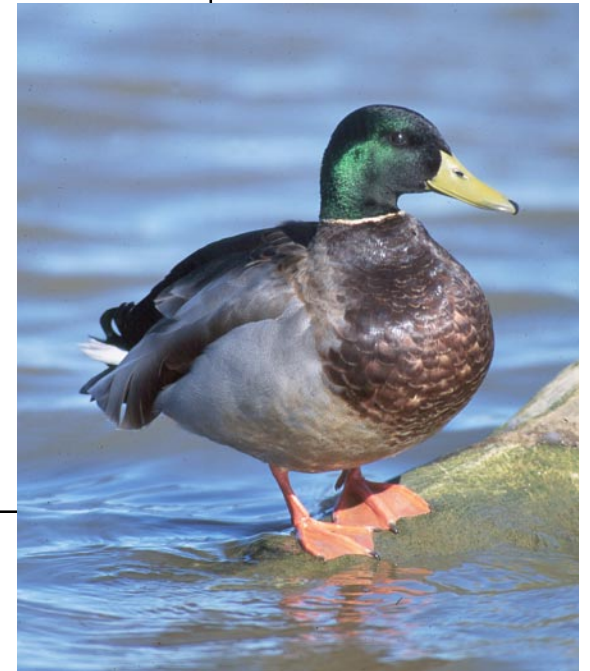


Photo: John Muegge

# Canvasback

## **Male characteristics**

- cinnamon head and neck
- red eye with black pupil
- long, sloping black bill
- black breast with white body
- gray legs and feet
- short, narrow black tail

## **Female characteristics**

- brown head
- pale gray-brown body
- long, sloping black bill
- black eye

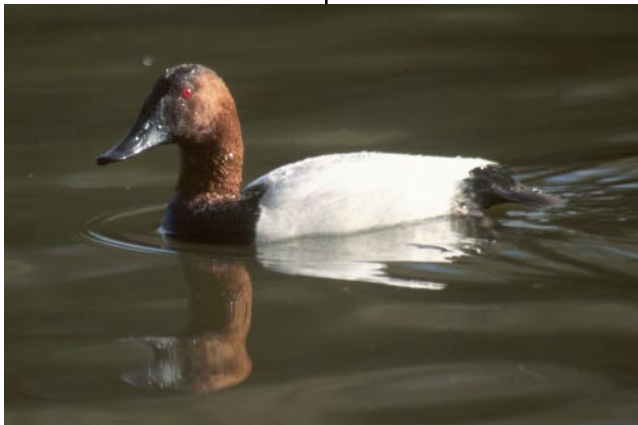
Male ♂

Female ♀



Photo: John Muegge

Photo: Stan Ray



Long, sloping black bill



Canvasbacks are found in deep freshwater marshes and rivers.

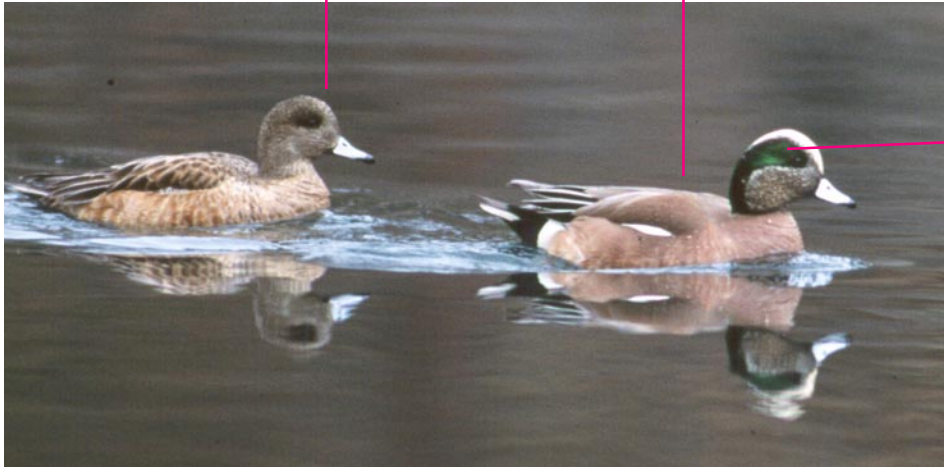
Photo: John Muegge

# American Wigeon

Photo: John Muegge

Female ♀

Male ♂



White forehead with green eye stripe

American wigeons are found in marshes and freshwater areas with exposed shoreline, lakes, and islands.

## Male characteristics

- white forehead with green eye stripe
- brownish cheek
- light cinnamon body
- bluish bill with black tip
- white and green patches on the wing
- black and white tail feathers
- gray feet and legs

## Female characteristics

- grayish head with light cinnamon body
- dark patch around the eye
- bluish bill with black tip
- bluish gray feet and legs



Photo: Frank S. Todd

# Gadwall

Photo: John Muegge



Black rump

Gadwalls live in marshes, ponds, and lakes. They often use islands for nesting.

## **Male characteristics**

- high forehead
- intricate patterns of gray on the flanks, chest, back, and head
- black bill
- white belly
- black rump
- white, black, and chestnut patches on the wing

## **Female characteristics**

- orange bill with black spots and blotches
- grayish head with brown and tan body
- yellow legs and feet
- white belly

Photo: Frank S. Todd



Male ♂

Female ♀

# Northern Shoveler

Photo: John Muegge

Male ♂



Female ♀

## **Male characteristics**

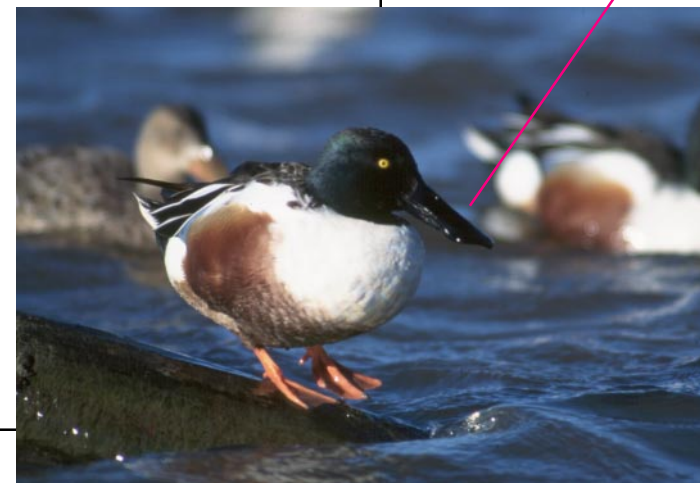
- green head and neck
- yellow eye with black pupil
- large black spoon-shaped bill
- white breast with brownish red flanks
- pale blue, white, and green patches on the wing
- short, orange legs and feet

## **Female characteristics**

- pale brown head and body
- large orange spoon-shaped bill
- orange legs and feet

Photo: John Muegge

Large black spoon-shaped bill



Northern shovelers inhabit both deep and shallow waters and prairie meadows.

# Green-winged Teal

## **Male characteristics**

- chestnut head and neck
- dark green eye stripe, outlined in white
- dark gray bill
- patterns of gray on the flanks
- yellowish breast with brown speckles
- white side bar extending from breast to shoulder
- cream colored rear
- gray legs and feet

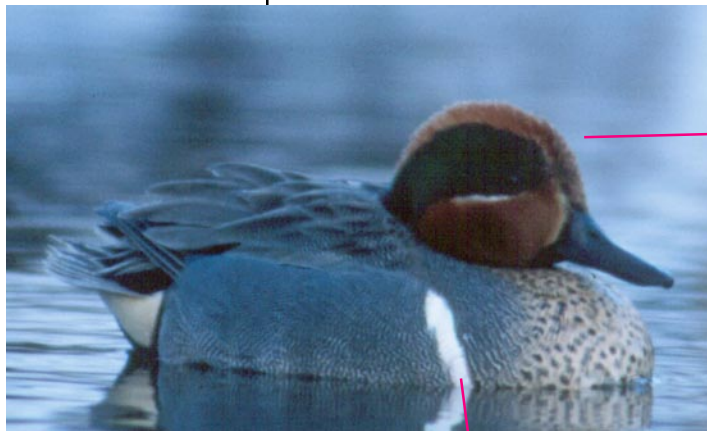
## **Female characteristics**

- mottled brown head and body
- grayish bill
- green and black speculum

Photo: John Muegge



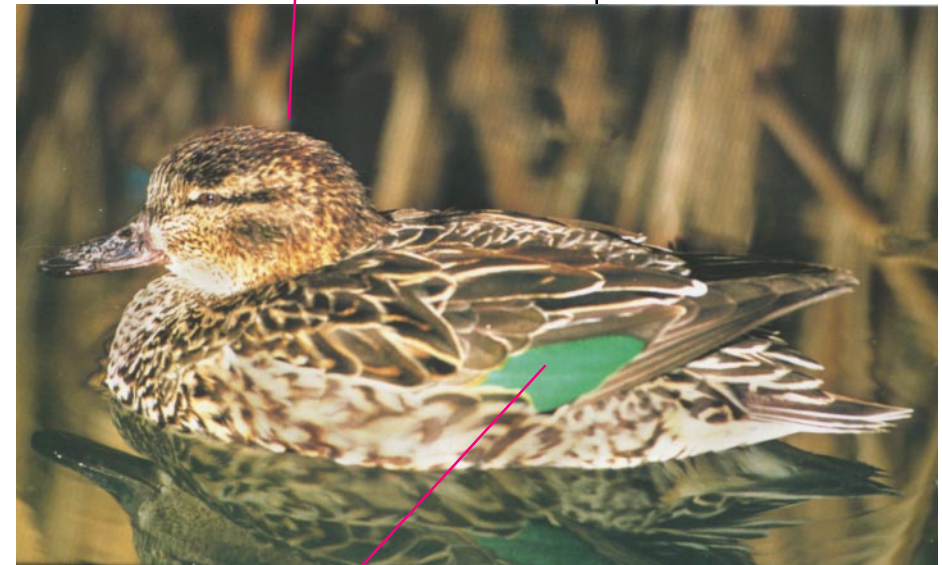
Green-winged teal are usually found in marshes, ponds, and temporarily flooded fields.



Male ♂

Photo: John Muegge

White side bar extends from breast to shoulder



Female ♀

Green speculum

Photo: Frank S. Todd



# Wood Duck

Photo: John Muegge



Photo: John Muegge



Female ♀

Red eye with black pupil

Male ♂

## **Male characteristics**

- green head with white stripes and crest
- red eye with black pupil
- reddish bill with yellow outline toward the face, black tip
- white collar
- brownish red breast with triangular white speckles
- white side bar near wing
- blue secondaries
- long green tail

## **Female characteristics**

- grayish head with crest
- white patch around the eye
- long gray tail
- short, yellowish legs and feet

Wood ducks are found in wooded wetlands.

# Northern Pintail

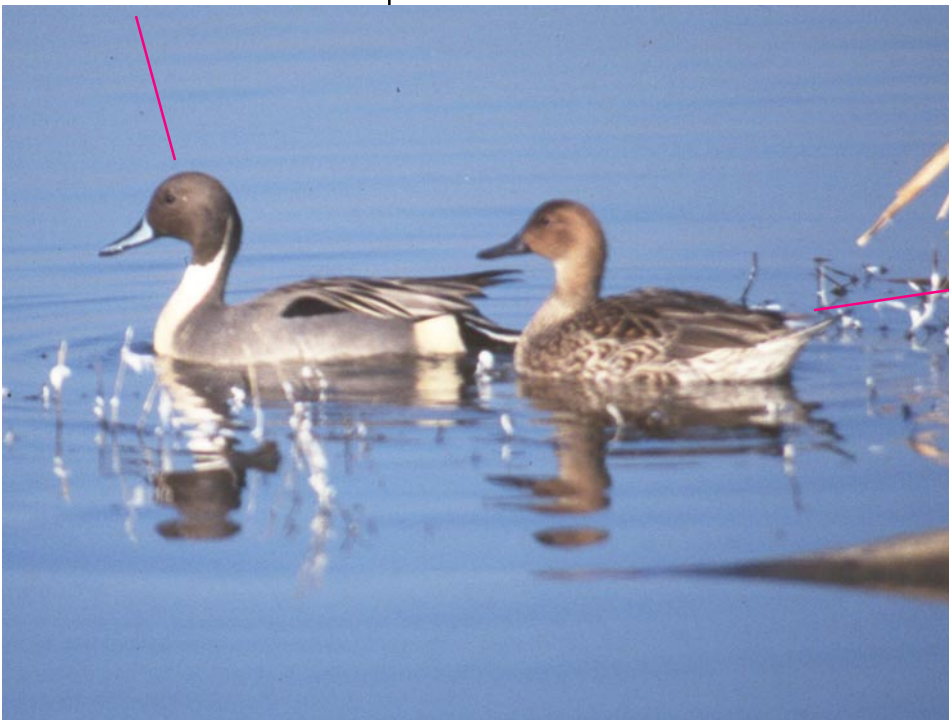


Photo: John Muegge

Long, pointed tail feathers

Male ♂

Photo: Stan Ray



Female ♀

## Male characteristics

- brown head with long, slender, white neck
- slim gray body
- brownish green speculum with white edging
- black rear end with long, pointed tail feathers
- bluish gray and black bill

## Female characteristics

- brown head and neck
- gray legs and feet
- brown body with long brown tail

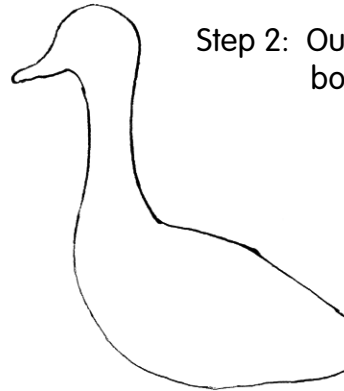
Northern pintails are found in shallow, temporary wetlands. They nest in open, short grass areas.

# Different Approaches to Drawing

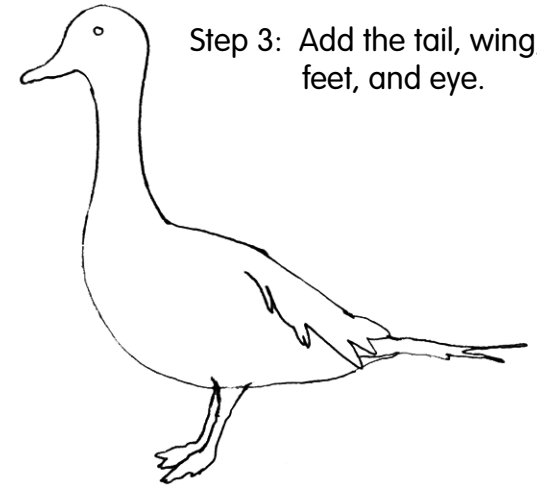
There are many different ways to draw ducks. In this approach, look at the whole bird and draw it from top to bottom.



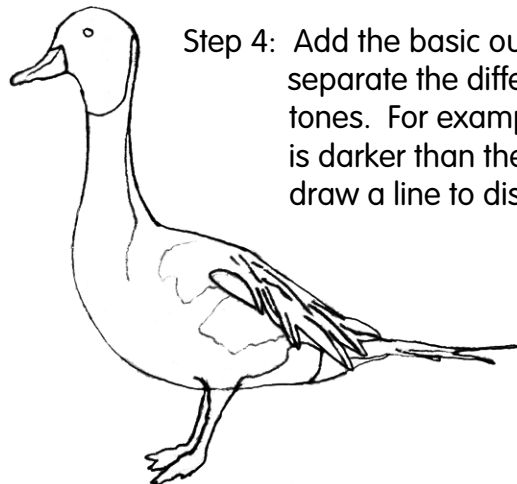
Step 1: Outline the head, bill, and neck.



Step 2: Outline the body shape.



Step 3: Add the tail, wing, feet, and eye.



Step 4: Add the basic outline to separate the different color tones. For example, the head is darker than the neck, so draw a line to distinguish it.



Step 5: Add detail lines and gradations. Also add a background to your drawing.

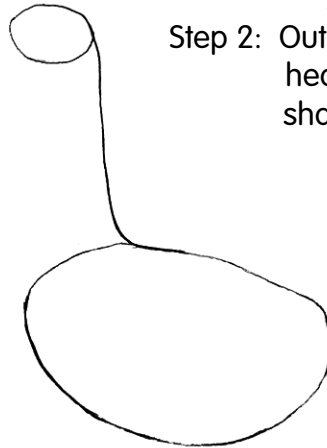
Northern Pintail

## Different Approaches to Drawing

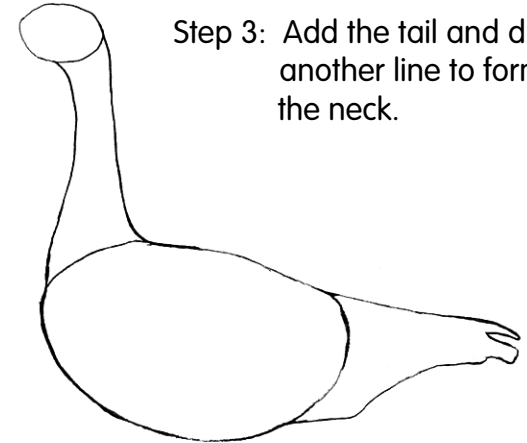
Here is another approach to drawing a duck. For this technique consider the image you want to create and draw each of the body parts separately. Then combine the body parts to create your whole bird.



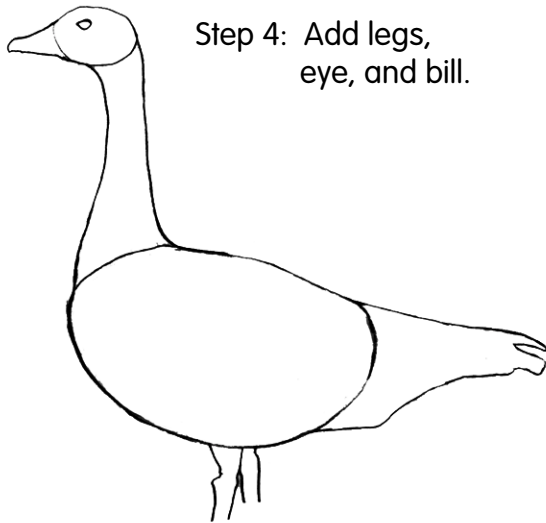
Step 1: Draw a line shape for the head and neck.



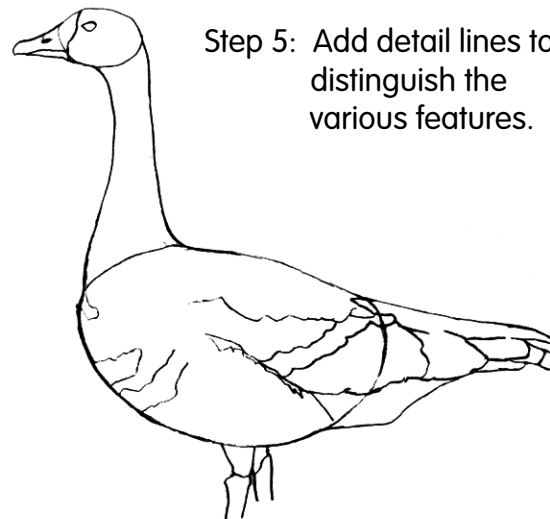
Step 2: Outline the head and body shape.



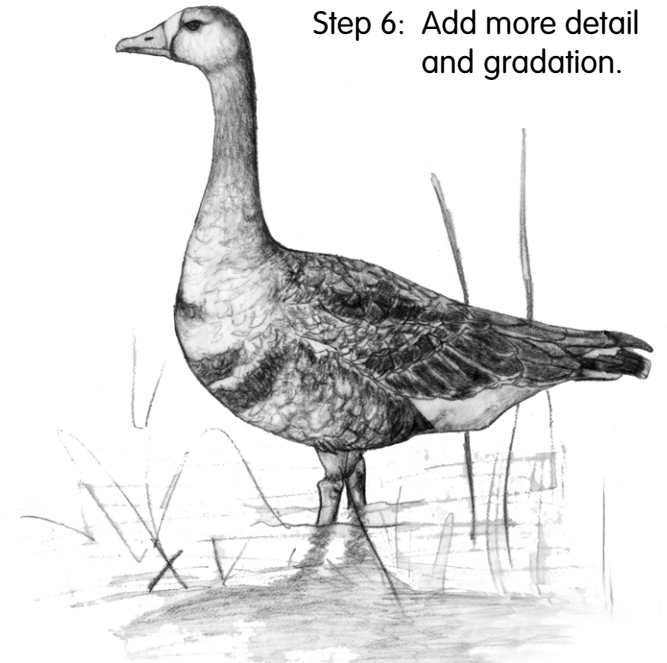
Step 3: Add the tail and draw another line to form the neck.



Step 4: Add legs, eye, and bill.



Step 5: Add detail lines to distinguish the various features.



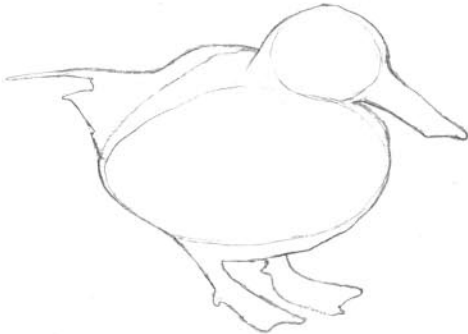
Step 6: Add more detail and gradation.

White-Fronted Goose

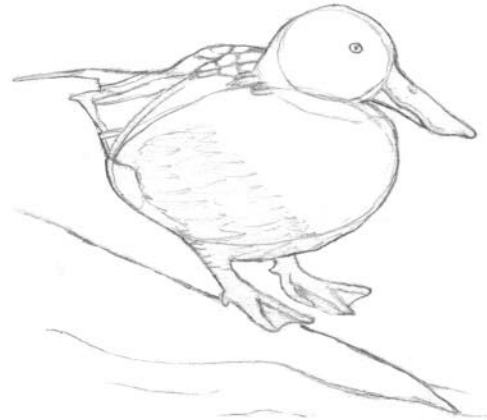
# Three Quick Steps to Drawing Ducks

Follow these three steps to draw different ducks.

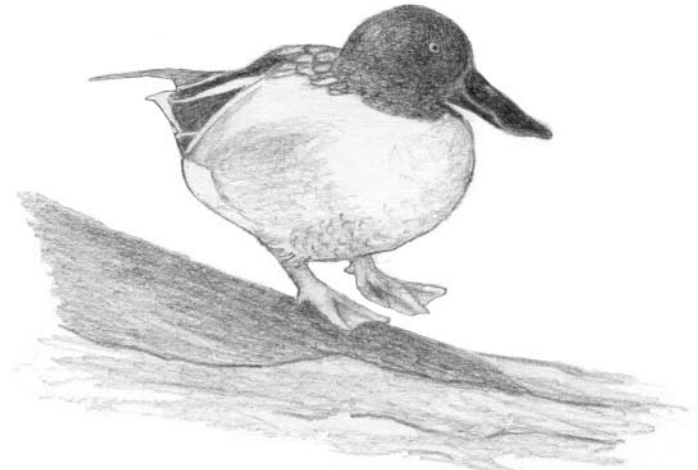
Step 1: Shape / outline



Step 2: Detail / fine line



Step 3: Shading / detail



Northern Shoveler



Northern Pintail

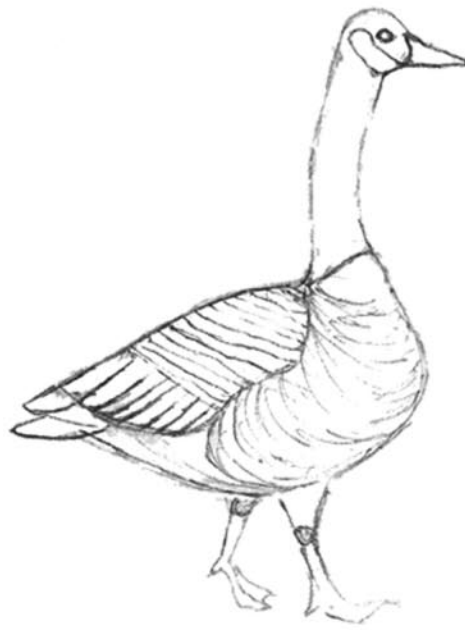
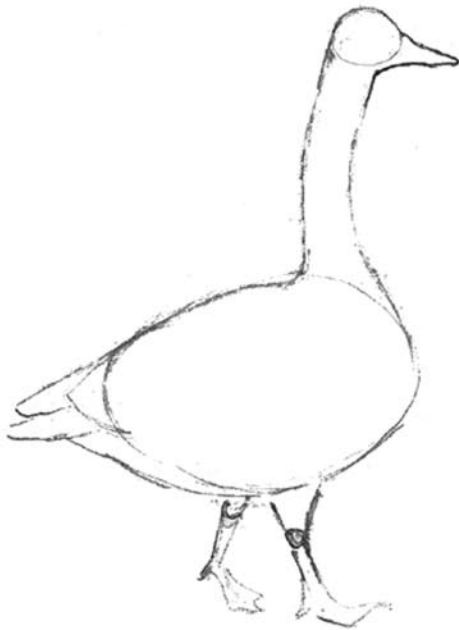
Step 1: Shape / outline

Step 2: Detail / fine line

Step 3: Shading / detail

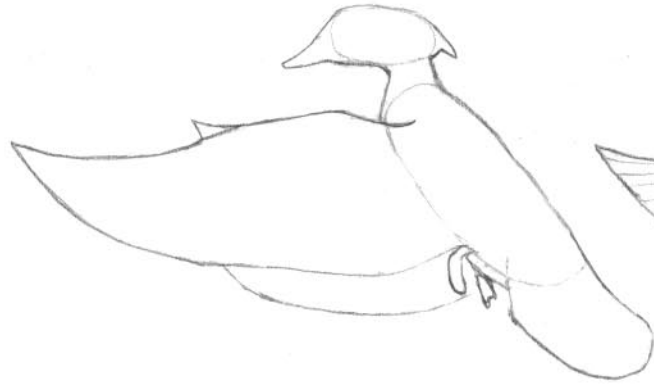


Bufflehead

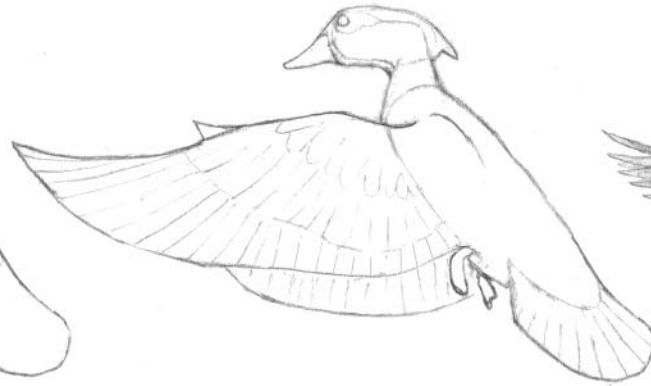


Canada Goose

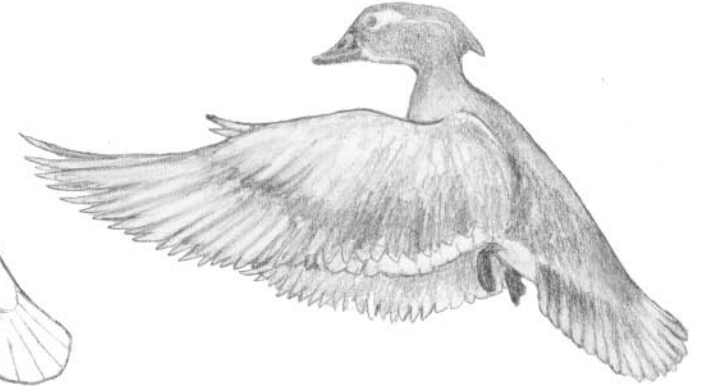
Step 1: Shape / outline



Step 2: Detail / fine line



Step 3: Shading / detail

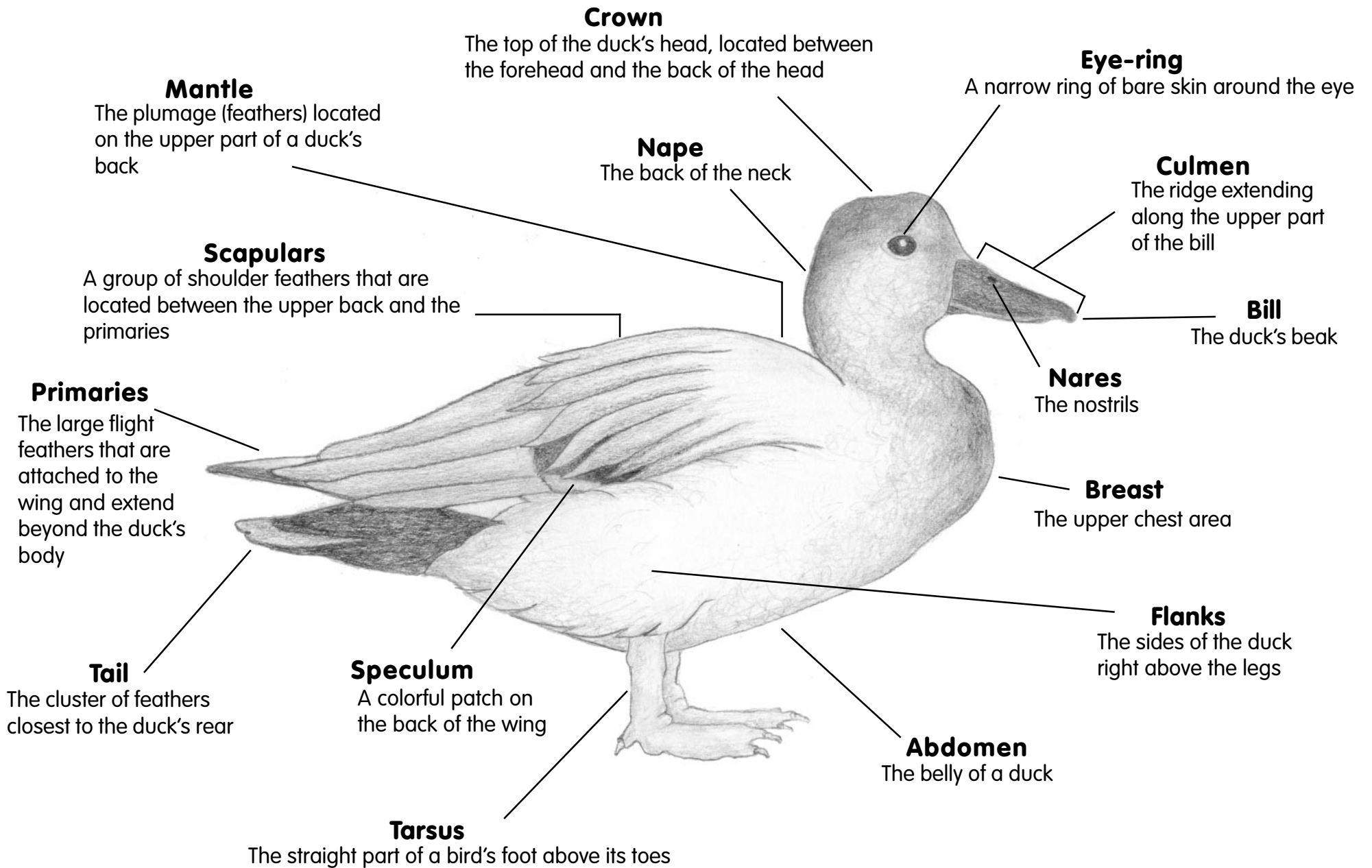


Hen Wood Duck



King Eider

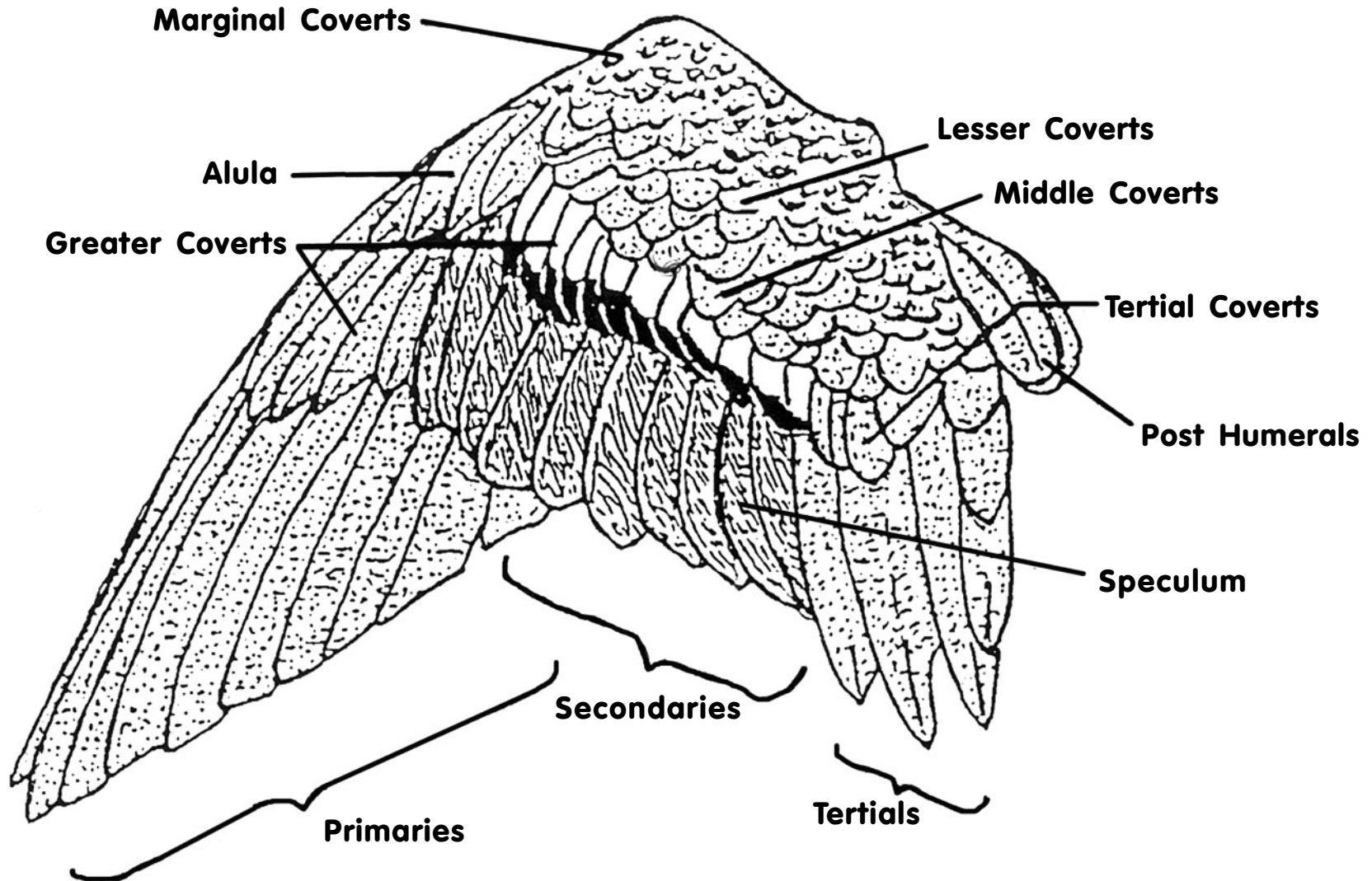
# Parts of a Duck





# Parts of a Wing

Learning the parts of a duck's wing will help you pay attention to detail when creating your picture.

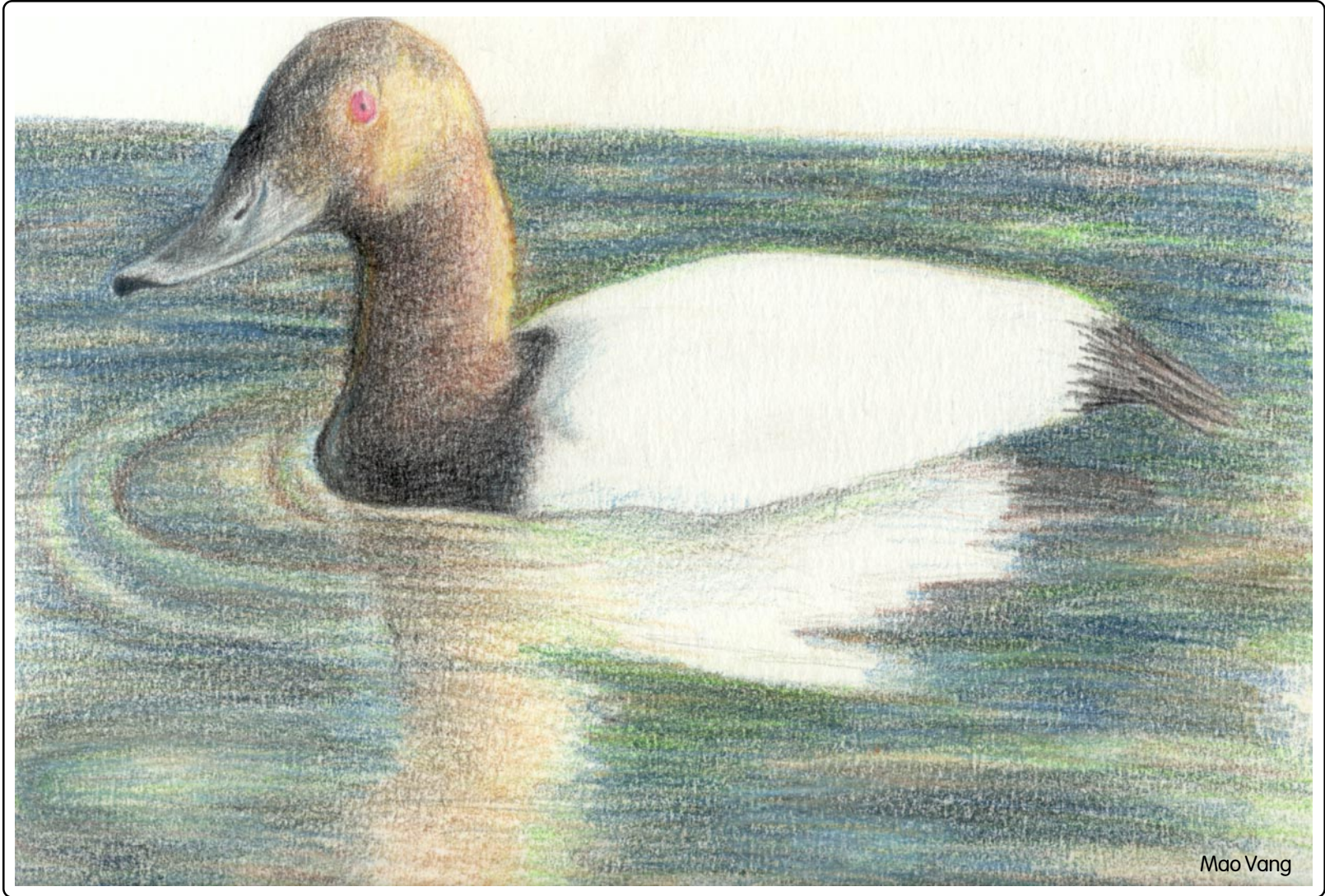


## Duck Drawings

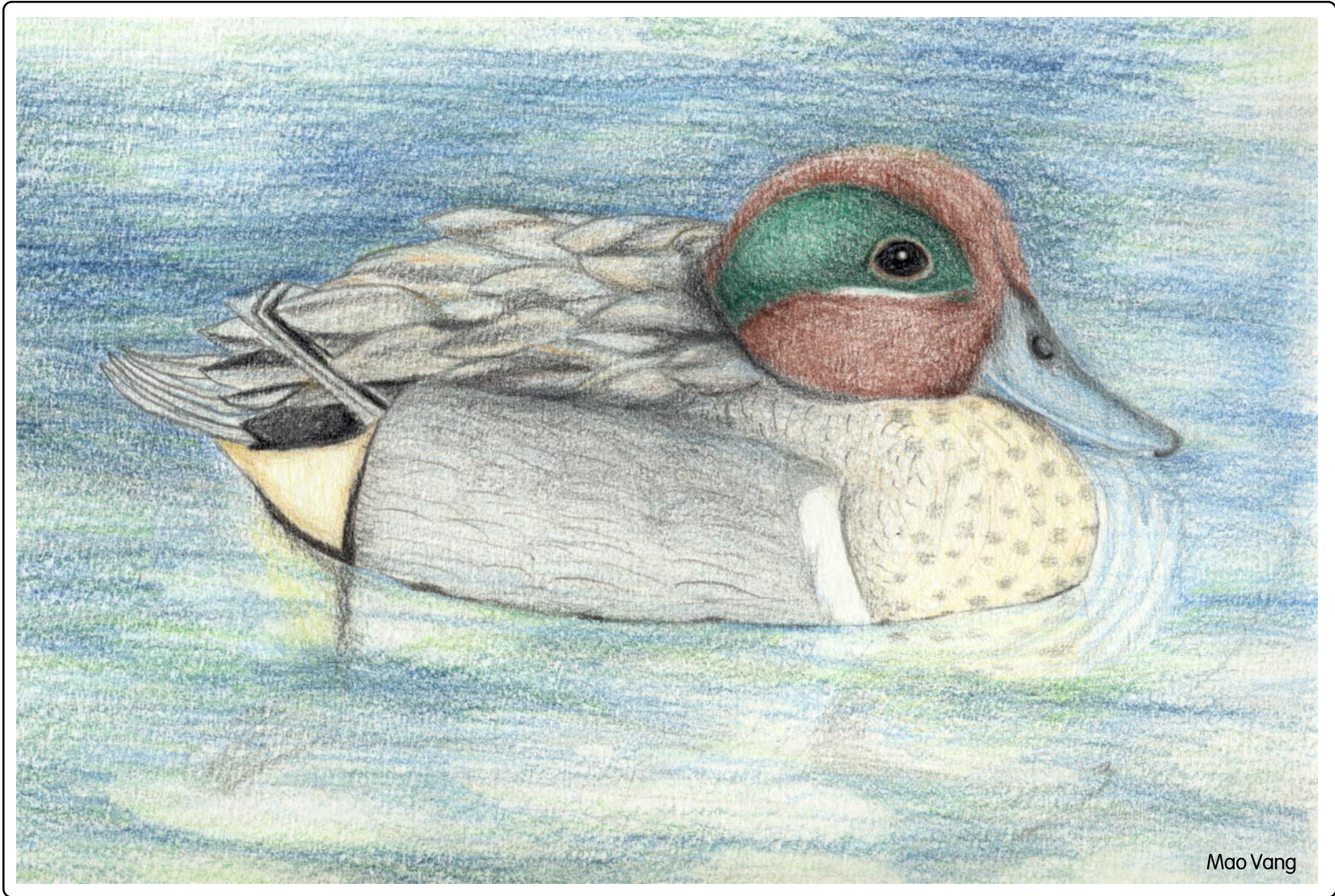
Here are some drawings of different ducks. You can look at these and compare them to your drawings.



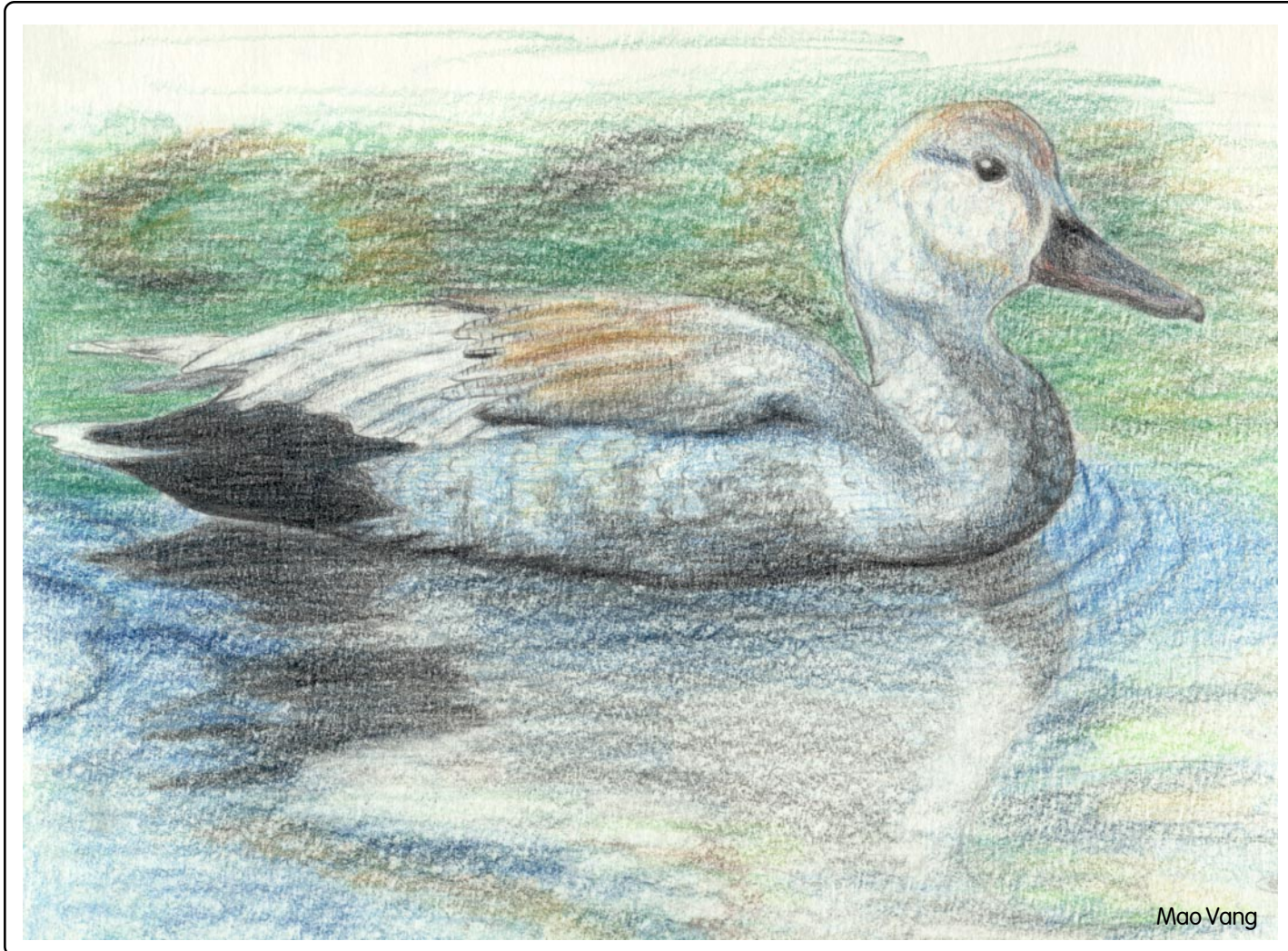
**Northern Pintail**



**Canvasback**



**Green-winged Teal**



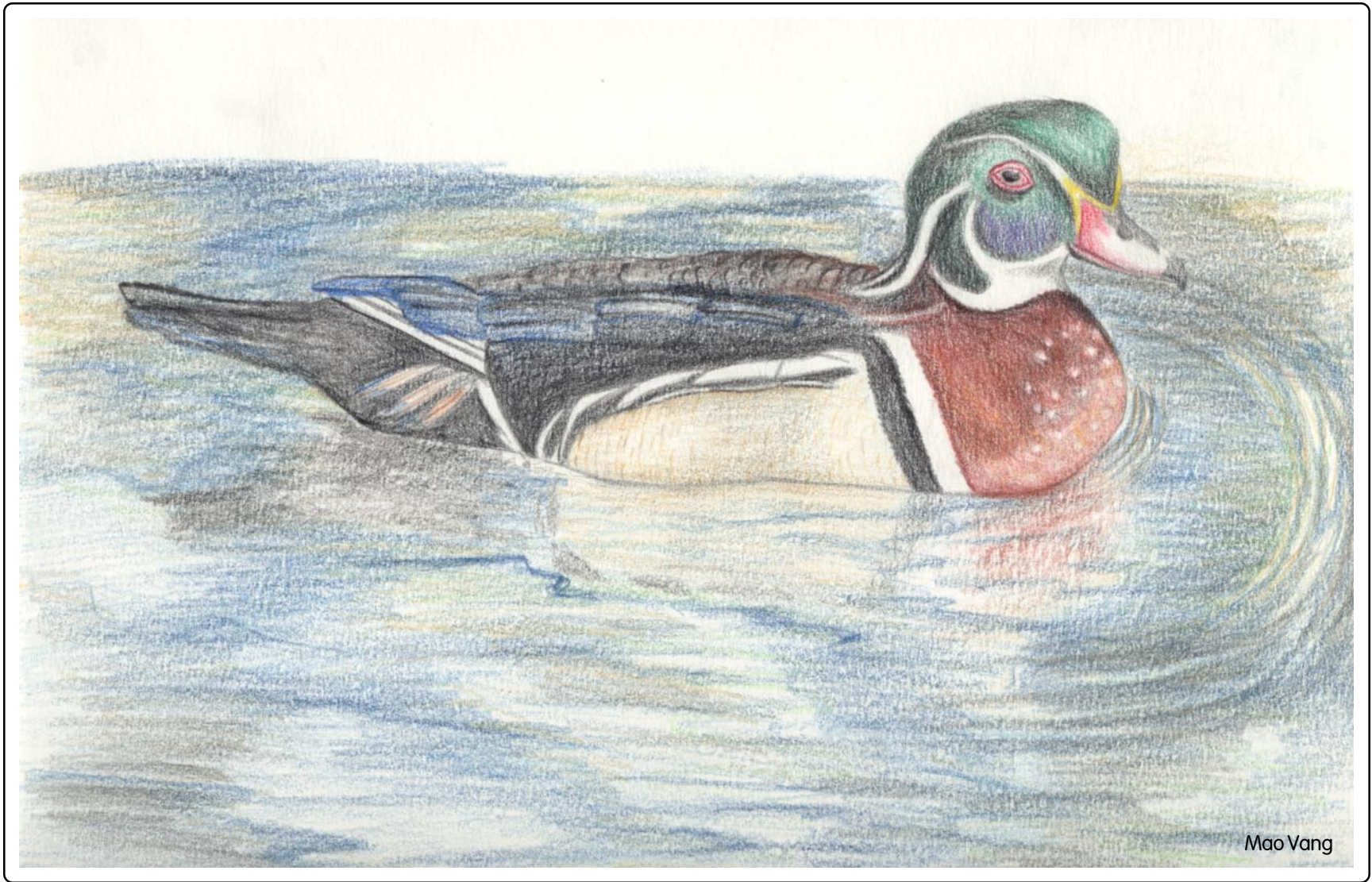
**Gadwall**



**American Wigeon**



**Northern Shoveler**



**Wood Duck**



# Six Simple Tips for Quick Bird Identification

Memorize the following six tips to help you to identify birds. With practice, these tips will come to mind automatically when you look at a new bird and will help you to remember its important features. If possible, write what you have seen in a notebook at the time of sighting.

## 1. What is the bird's relative size?

Compare the bird with other birds that are well known to you. If larger than a SPARROW, is it larger or smaller than a PIGEON? If larger than a PIGEON, is it smaller than a HAWK?

## 2. What is the shape and color of the bird's beak?

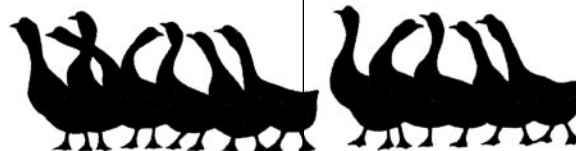
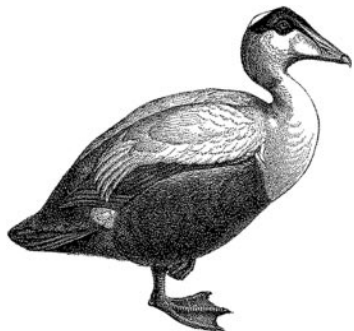
The shape of its beak is a guide to what it eats, classifying the type of bird it is. Is the beak short and round like that of a songbird or powerful and hooked like that of a hawk? What color is its beak? Many birds have blackish beaks but some are brightly colored.

## 3. What length and color are the bird's legs?

Does the bird have unusually long wading legs, short, perching legs, etc.? Are its legs a distinctive color?

## 4. What plumage colors or markings do you notice?

Bold markings, colors, or bars on the bird's wings, tail, breast, or above the eyes should be noted. Also note that in some bird species the males are brightly colored and the females tend to be camouflaged.



## 5. In what habitat do you see the bird?

The habitat in which the bird is seen is another important clue to the kind of bird it is. Is it in a garden, in water, in grassland, in the forest, etc.?

## 6. What is the bird doing?

Is it walking, hopping, wading, or swimming? Does it peck at the ground, probe in mud, or feed in a tree? Try to detail its behavior as closely as possible.

Often the details of a bird's structure, plumage, or behavior are soon forgotten, and the observer may spend much time trying to recall them. If these six points are remembered or noted at the time of the observation an analysis can be made later at leisure.



Johnlery Cruz, 10 yrs old

# Drawing Tips for the Junior Duck Stamp Contest

Here are some helpful hints for teachers and students to remember for the Junior Duck Stamp contest.

- Be sure the species you choose is a native North American or Hawaiian duck, goose, or swan.
- Create original art, not copies of someone else's work.
- Your duck should be the predominate part of the painting, and it should be accurately represented as well as in the proper habitat.
- A good drawing makes a good painting. The time to tweak your design is at the drawing stage, not after you've painted it. Be aware of the size requirements. Entries must be horizontal, 9"X12". Entries not conforming to this standard must be disqualified.
- Balance all the elements of the design (ducks, habitat, etc.). Look at other duck stamps to get an idea for layouts. One way to plan your composition is to use shapes in place of objects for your design layout. Seeing abstractly helps encourage originality.
- Look for ways to "pop" your painting.
  - Contrast: Use both dark against light and complementary colors (colors that are opposite each other on the color wheel), for example red and green. Red and green colors are strong and vibrant when put next to each other.



- Use bright, bold, and warm colors.
- Accent darks and lights as needed.
- Make crisp edges.
- Put the detail on your duck.

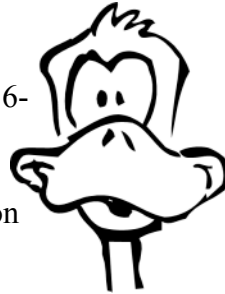
- Leave space in your design for all the elements to be included in the stamp, such as the \$5 price.
- Consider what your artwork would look like as a small stamp.
- Keep the background appropriate, but simple. Avoid making your image too busy. Don't overdo background scenes.
- Master the medium. If the painting is finished off well, it will stand out from the others.
- Get critiques of your work. Ask other artists, teachers, taxidermists, ornithologists, etc. Listen to their expertise.



Bee Lee, 17 yrs old



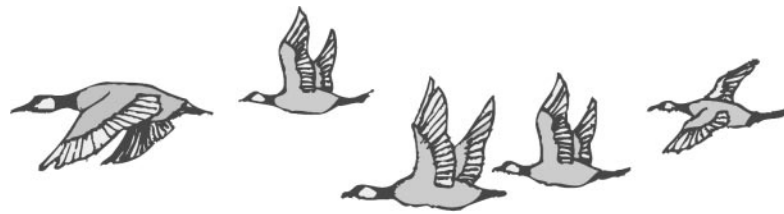
## Waterfowl Resources



1. *A Citizens' Guide to Protecting Wetlands*. National Wildlife Federation, 1400 16th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036-2266.
2. *A Field Guide to Western Birds*. Peterson, Roger T. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, MA. 1961.
3. *A Guide to Bird Education Resources*. Editors: Laughlin, Sarah B. and Diane M Pence. Partners in Flight. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Washington, D.C. 1997. Web site: <http://americanbirding.org>
4. *A Guide to Installing and Managing Wood Duck Boxes*. California Waterfowl Assoc., Sacramento, CA, 1994. Web site: [www.calwaterfowl.org](http://www.calwaterfowl.org)
5. *A Guide to Nests, Eggs, and Nestlings of North American Birds*. Second Edition. Baicich, Paul J. and Colin J.O. Harrison. Academic Press, San Diego, CA. 1997.
6. *Adopting a Wetland: A Northwest Guide*. Yates, Steve. The Adopt-a-Stream Foundation and Snohomish County Planning and Community Development. 1989.
7. *Bird Migration in the Americas* (map/poster). National Geographic Society. 1979, 1983. (800) 638-4077.
8. *Birder's Handbook, A Field Guide to the Natural History of North American Birds*, Ehrlich, Paul R., Davis S. Dobkin, and Darryl Wheye. Simon & Schuster Inc., New York, NY. 1988.
9. *Birds*. Green, Jen. Gareth Stevens Publishing, Milwaukee, WI. 1998.



10. *Birds: A Guide to Familiar American Birds*. Zinn, Herbert S., and Ira N. Gabrielson, Golden Press, New York, NY, 1991.
11. *Birds, Birds, Birds*. Ranger Rick's NatureScope, National Wildlife Federation, Learning Triangle Press. 1998.
12. *Draw 50 Animals*. Ames, Lee J. Main Street Books, Doubleday, New York, NY. 1974.
13. *Draw • Write • Now: A Drawing and Handwriting Course for Kids!* Hablitzel, Marie and Kim Stitzer. Barker Creek Publishing, Inc., Poulsbo, WA. 1999.
14. *Ducks at a Distance*, Hines, Bob. Southwest Natural and Cultural Heritage Association, Albuquerque, NM.
15. *Ducks, Geese, & Swans of North America*, Bellrose, Frank. Stackpole Books, Harrisburg, PA. 1976.
16. *Duck Stamp and Prints, The Complete Federal and State Editions*, Park Lane Publishers, New York, NY. 1988
17. *Environmental Education Compendium for Natural Communities*. California Department of Education, Sacramento, CA. (800) 995-4099 (publications sales unit). 1995.
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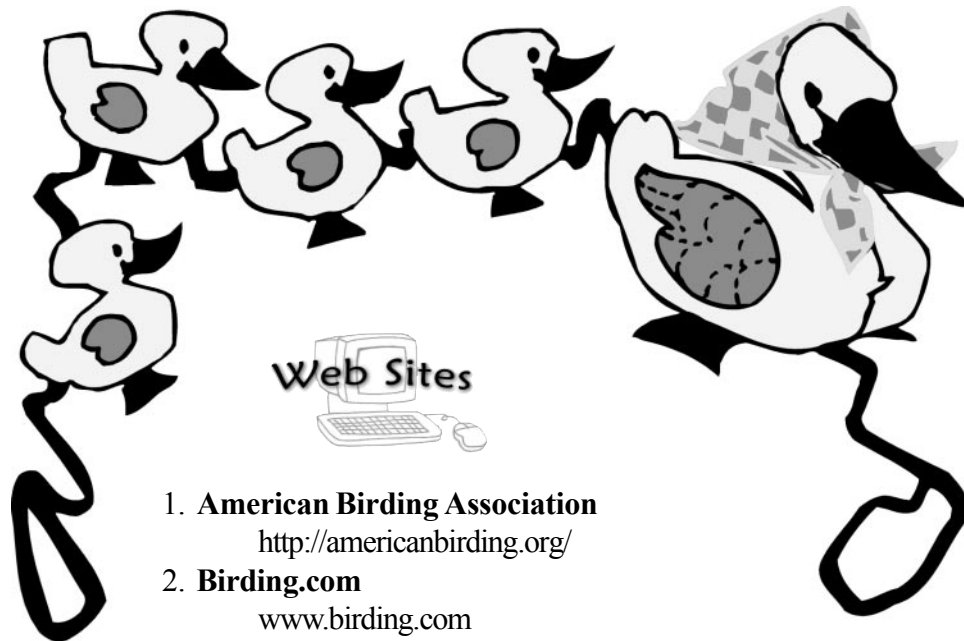


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