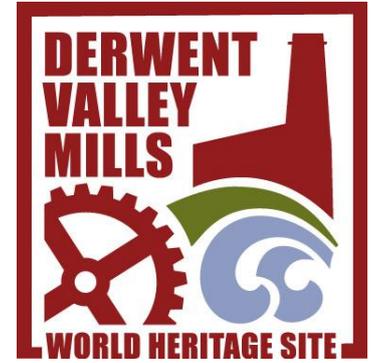


# How to draw a bird



## How this links with the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site:

The Derwent Valley is a really rich landscape with lots of different species of birds. There are birds that love the water like herons, mallard ducks, kingfishers and swans. Birds that love the woodland habitats like owls, thrush, blackbirds and jays and even birds that nest on the mill buildings themselves like the peregrine falcon. See if you can draw some of these birds that you might spot around the valley.

## You will need:

- Sketch book or paper
- Pencils
- Rubber
- Water soluble pencils, water colour paints or oil pastels.
- Bird pictures for inspiration or you can observe birds when you are out and about.



## How to have a go:

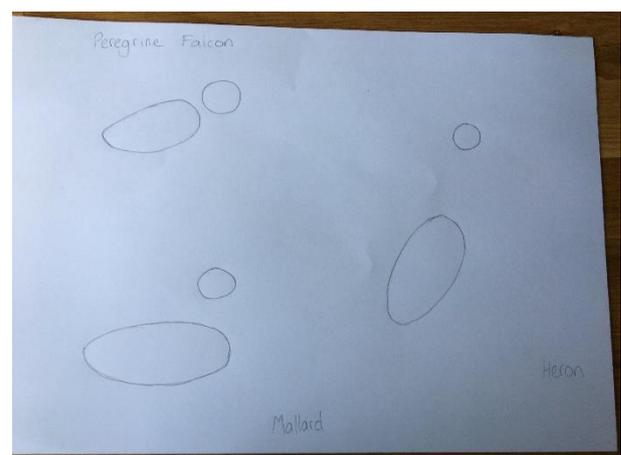
### Step 1:

Choose which kind of bird you want to draw and look at it carefully.

Draw two egg shapes. One small egg for the head of the bird and one larger egg for the body. These are your 'guidelines'.

Look carefully at how close the head is to the body.

Look carefully at the angle of the body and try and position your 'eggs' carefully.

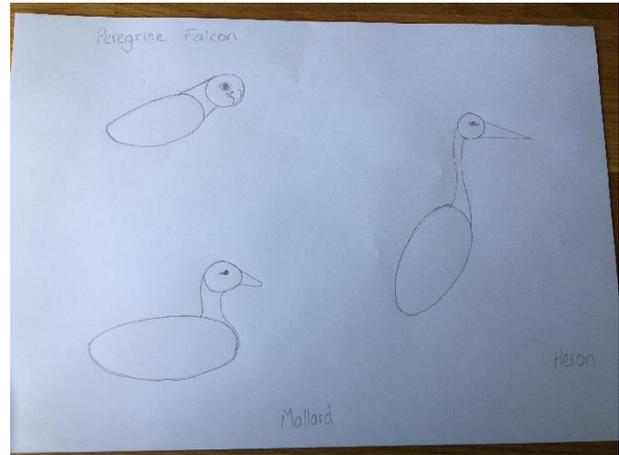


**Step 2:**

Draw lines to join the head to the neck. Is the neck long and thin? Very short?

Look at the shape and position of the beak. Is it hooked and sharp? Long and pointy? Rounded? Draw this in carefully.

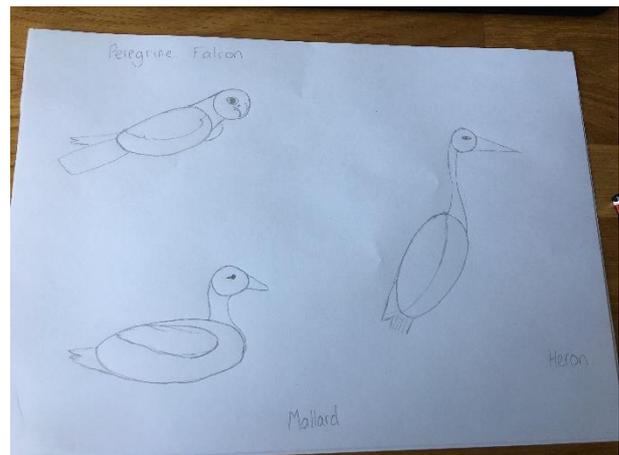
Look at the position and shape of the eyes. Can you see one or two? Where on the head are they?

**Step 3:**

Now look at the wings of the bird. Draw in the shape of the wings onto the body 'egg' of the bird.

Look at the tail feathers. Are they long or short? Pointing down, up or sideways?

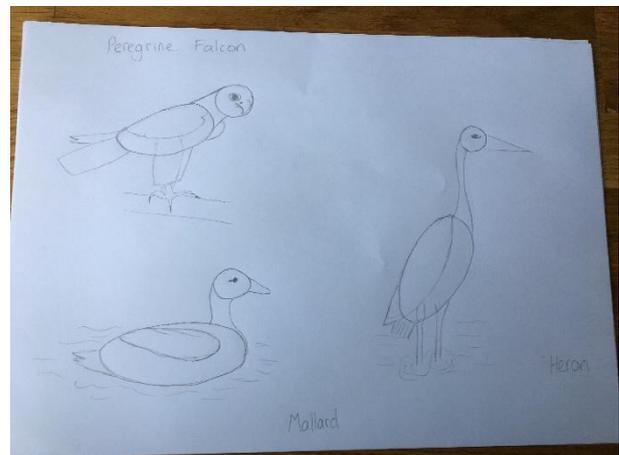
Draw these in carefully.

**Step 4:**

Now look at the legs of the bird.

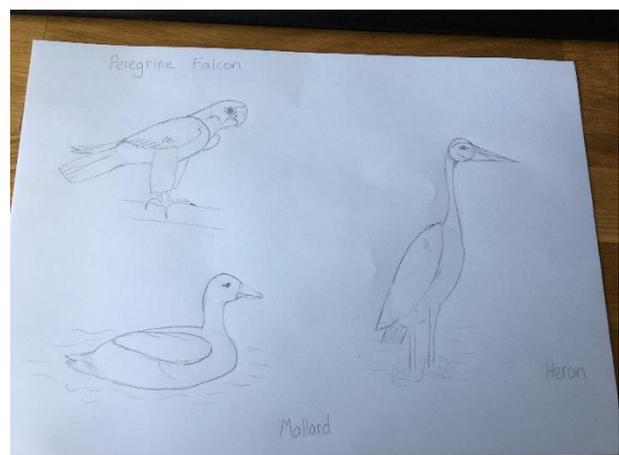
Can you see all of the legs? Can you see the feet? Are they gripping a branch? Are they webbed feet? Is the bird standing in water?

Look at the shape of the bird's feet and legs and draw them in. If you can't see the legs draw in some detail of what is hiding them – water, a branch or grass.

**Step 5:**

Use your rubber to remove any guidelines that you don't need such as where the neck joins the body and head.

Use your rubber and pencil to add detail and make your bird look as accurate as you can.



**Step 6:**

Use your pencils for shading and then add colour with your coloured pencils, water colour paints or oil pastels.

Look at the feather patterns and textures and try to copy these on your picture.

Perhaps you can use your drawings as a 'spotters guide' and tick off when you have seen the bird in the wild!



Pied wagtail (Credit: Adrian Farmer)



Female Mallard and duckling (Credit: Adrian Farmer)



Peregrine falcon (Credit DVMWHS)



Swan and cygnets (Credit: DVMWHS)



Heron (Credit: DVMWHS)

## **Please let us know what you think of this activity and share your work with us**

When you have had a go at this activity, we'd love to hear what you think, or see your work. Please send us any feedback below by 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

**Post us your work** – If you would like to post us any of your work or let us know what you think of this activity with a note with your name and address (and age if you'd like to share that). We are hoping to have an exhibition in the Autumn on one of the mill sites of the work created by people all along the valley. We will return all your work to you after the exhibition.

### **Postal address:**

Georgina Greaves (DVMWHS Creativity Packs)  
Derbyshire County Council  
North Block S7 - County Hall  
Matlock  
Derbyshire DE4 3AG

**Send us a photo** – Email a photo of your creation to [info@derwentvalleymills.org](mailto:info@derwentvalleymills.org)

**Social Media** – If you use social media use #DVMWHS Creativity and post the images of your work and tag us at:



Facebook: @DerwentValleyMillsWHS



Twitter: @DVMillsWHS



Instagram: @DerwentValleyMillsWHS

**Hope you enjoy doing this craft activity!**