

Birds Eyes

Birds' eyes look very round. The roundness of the eyeball is usually not hidden by prominent eye lids. The eye is, however, set into the head so there will typically be a highlight over the eye and shadows at the corners. When you are working on your drawing, look at the position of the front corner of the eye relative to the corner of the mouth. Correct placement of the eye and beak relative to each other is important in portraying the species.

I have found that much of student work is lacking in accurate measuring and placing of various features in different bird species.

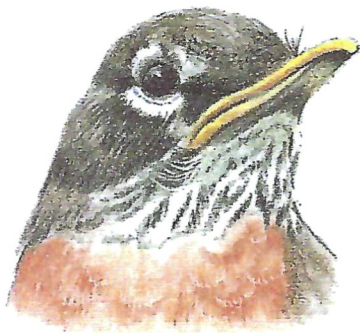
All birds have irises, but in many they are so dark that they are indistinguishable from the pupil and the eye looks solid black.

Depending on how large the eye is in your drawing, you will be able to add more or less detail.

The ROBIN'S eye is a very simple one. Outline the eye and primary highlight then fill it in with the appropriate coloring.

The Goldfinch's eye is more complex because it has a secondary highlight. The secondary highlight is always opposite the primary highlight. The primary highlight is a reflection of light off the surface of the eyeball. Although most of the light that falls on the eye reflects back, some passes through the clear fluid in the eyeball producing the "secondary highlight". Begin this one the same as the first, but leave a blank space for the secondary high light. Then, fill that with more of a mid-tone black and soften its edges with darker black.

The Kestrel is a bit more complex because the iris shows. Draw the pupil the same way as the entire eye in the Robin. The iris is darkest near the primary highlight and lightest for the secondary highlight.



Robin



Goldfinch



Kestrel