



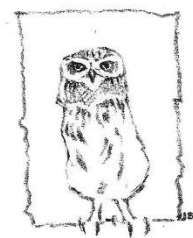
The Dove, 1949, Pablo Picasso

What We Learned from the Birds

For the last three weeks, John Muir Law's has been teaching online classes on Drawing Birds. I found in the hours that I drew along with Jack many tips that we can apply not just to drawing birds but to drawing nature as we do and drawing in general.

Here are a few of them:

- ❖ Quick sketchy drawing- like our 3-minute roses but even faster and quicker. This gets our first instinctive impressions down and gives the drawing energy.
- ❖ Use a light pencil (he uses the ColErase non-photo blue pencil. I like the Carmine or Terra Cotta better- easier to see. You can also draw lightly with a H graphite pencil.)
- ❖ Working quickly and sketching allows you to change your mind as you carefully look at what you are drawing. Slow careful drawing encourages our brains to lock into the line and not want to change it. We will go back over our sketch more carefully and draw when we feel surer of our shapes.
- ❖ Stopping and looking to check **proportions**- do comparisons to measure- how many heads in the body, e.g.
- ❖ "Slow down and look and look again."
- ❖ Look at **negative space**- "pat the bird" can be a line or the space created by the line.
- ❖ Stay away from detail. Once you add detail you are locked into your shapes and will have trouble changing them.
- ❖ Turn curves into line segments to help understand the "inflection point", the place where the line bends.
- ❖ "Don't draw what you **don't** see"



"Drawing is like the unravelling of a mystery, the search for the true nature of an experience." ...John Busby, Drawing Birds