

How to draw the **RAVEN**

By Kirsty "Crow Artist" Yeomans

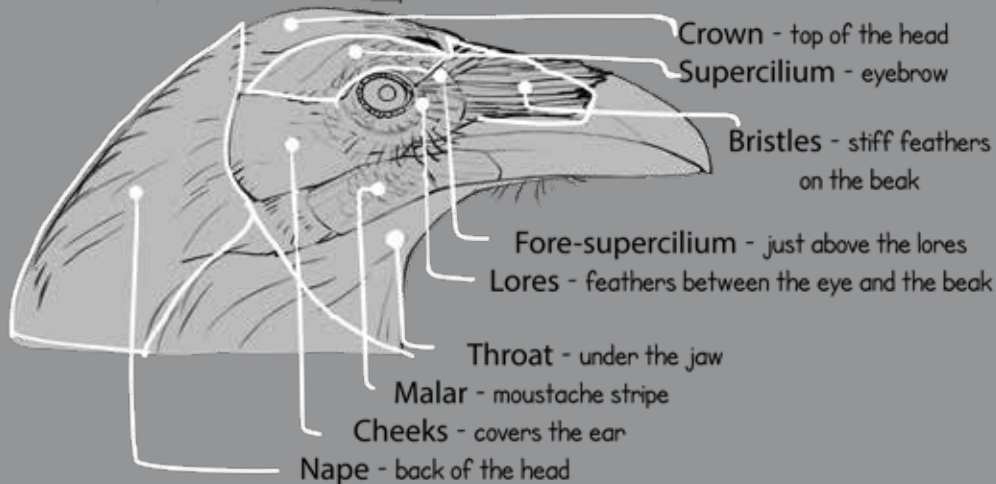
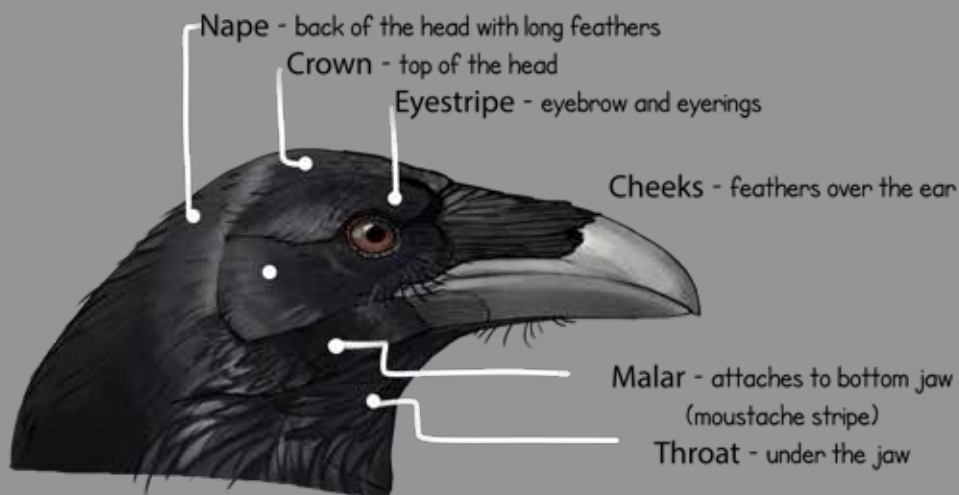
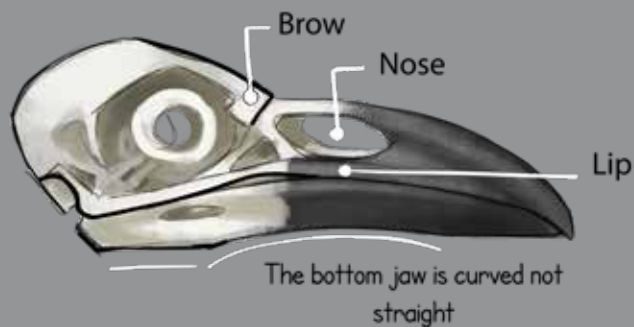
INTRODUCTION

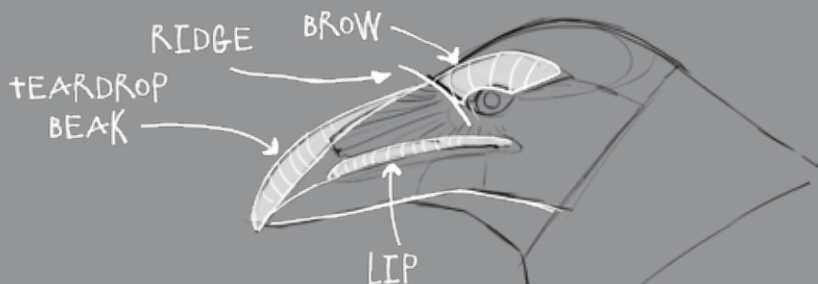
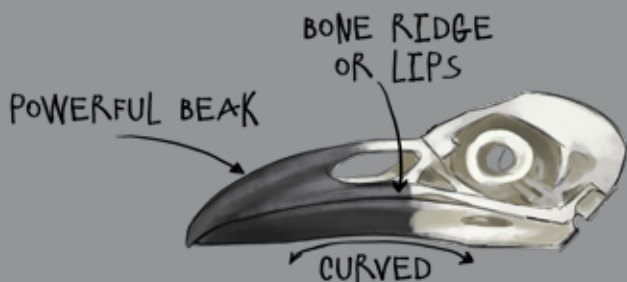
The Raven's body language and non-vocal signals have been observed a lot from wild birds. They use their wings in elaborate gestures and their beaks to point, along with vocal cues. This book will help the artist in perfecting the anatomy of the Raven to assist in drawing the bird when expressing its emotions and language.

I sincerely hope this booklet will be helpful and valuable to anyone who loves drawing Ravens or just love the birds in general. Do remember that Ravens are wild birds and should never be taken or kept as pets.

Special thanks to everyone for their continued support to make
this book a reality!

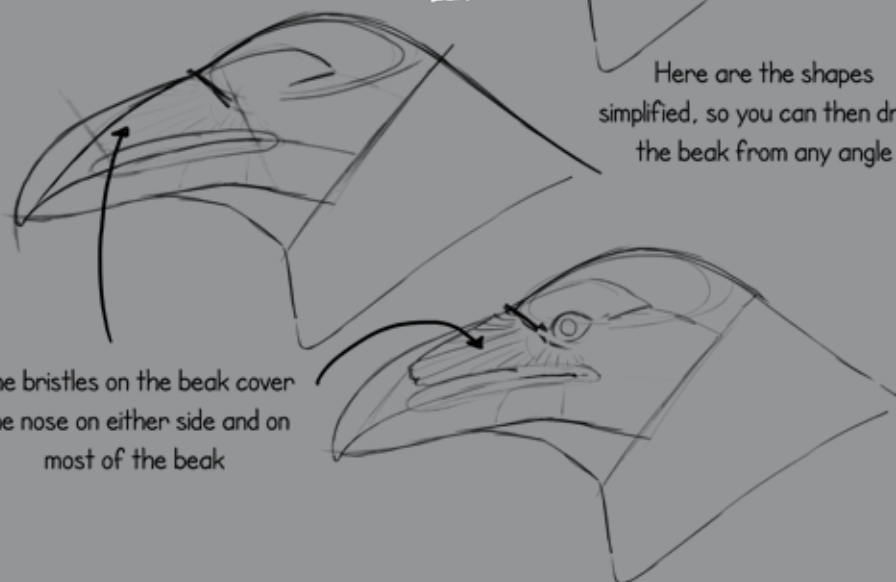
Thank you, Subscribers!

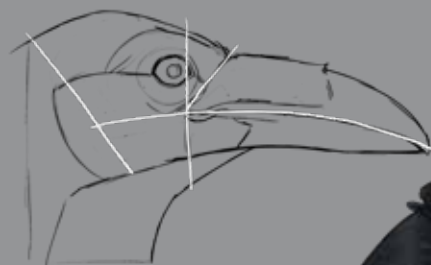




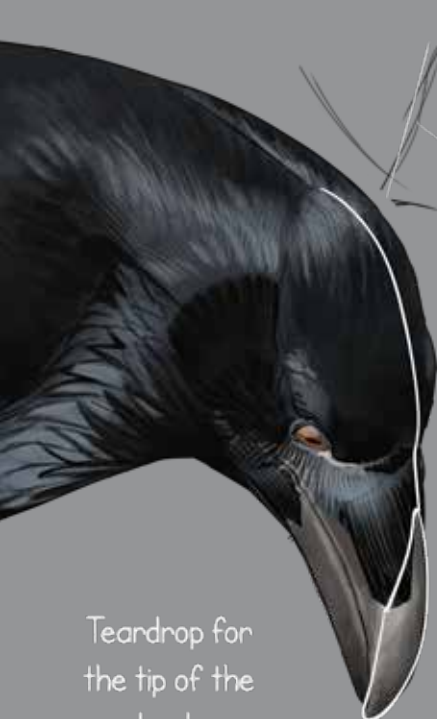
Here are the shapes simplified, so you can then draw the beak from any angle

The bristles on the beak cover the nose on either side and on most of the beak

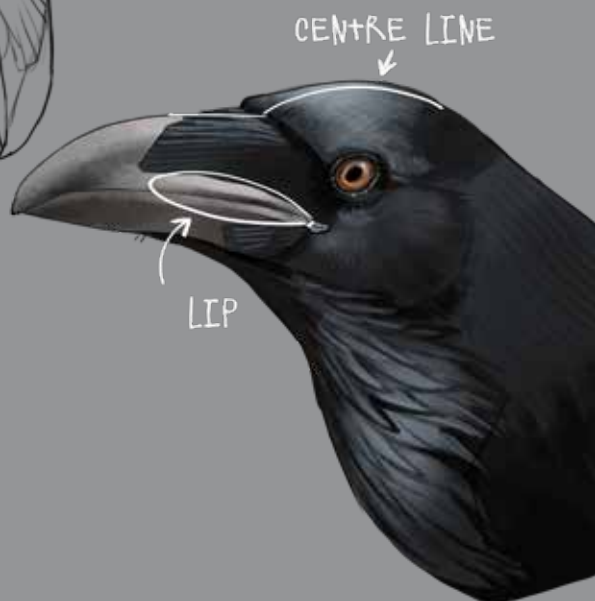
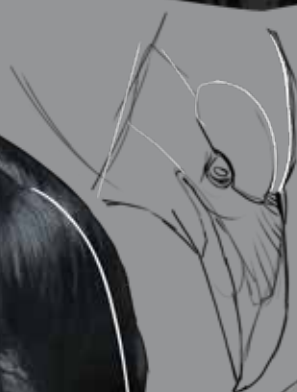




Finding the centre line of the head can make it easier to add the familiar shapes that forms the beak.



Teardrop for the tip of the beak

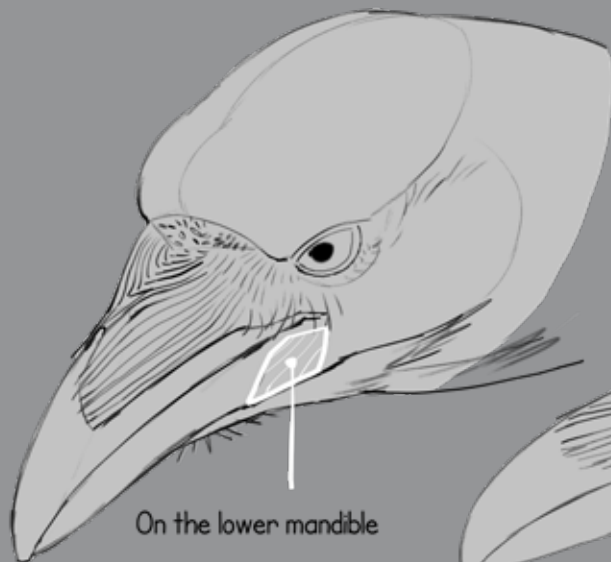


CENTRE LINE

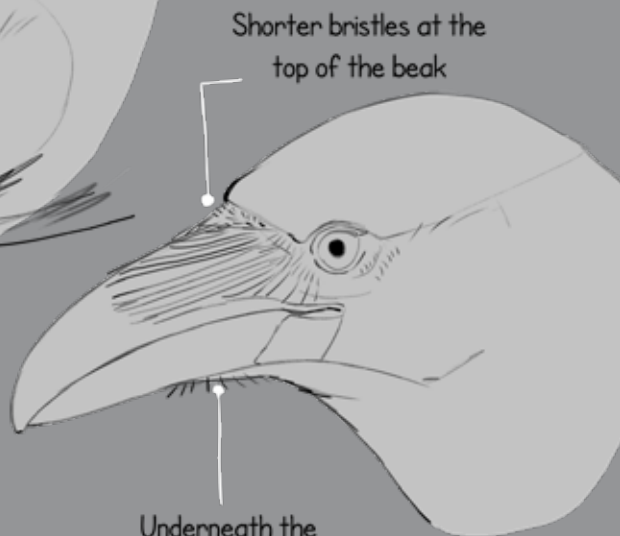


LIP





On the lower mandible

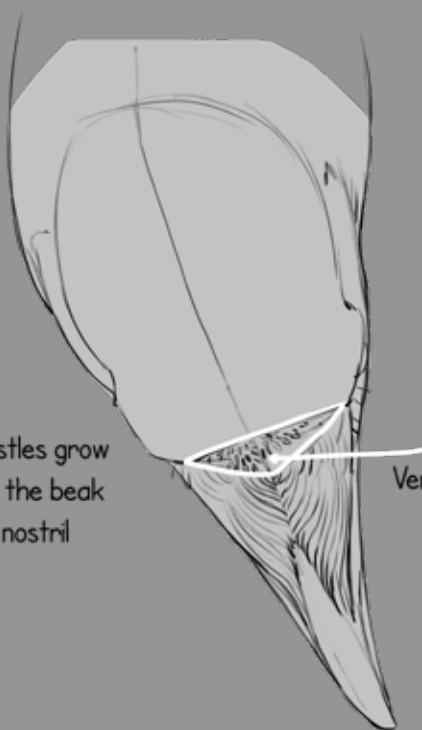


Shorter bristles at the top of the beak

Underneath the beak



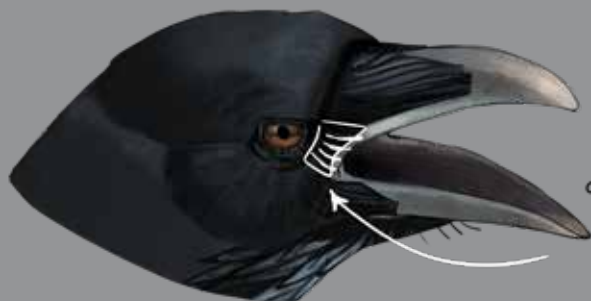
The bristles grow around the beak and nostril



Very short stiff bristles



Draw the beak at the hinge
of the skull, not the corner
of the mouth.



The bristles cover the
corner of the mouth with
long whiskers.



The lower mandible is not
straight, it curves at the
bottom and top
(see skull)

Practice drawing the skull
from the front first, it will
make it easier to position
the beak in the front view.



GAPE

GAPE
FLANGE



The feathers on the eyebrow can lift for body language or expression.



They can also lift the feathers on the whole of their head to appear completely fluffed up when strutting or showing dominant behaviour:



The feathers on the neck are long and thin which can look like thick hair. When the neck retracts it looks bulky.



When the neck is fully stretched the feathers wrap around to the back from each side.

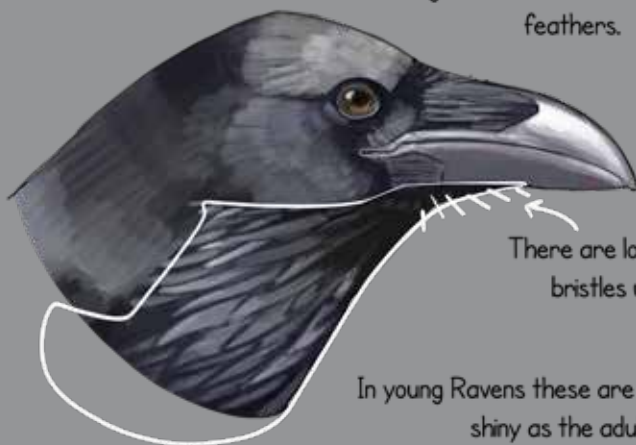


The brows are very prominent on the Raven from any angle, the feathers will catch the light on them.



The crown feathers gather around the skull to the back of the head.

The beard of the Raven sits tight under the throat and ear feathers.



There are long, stiff feathers like bristles under the throat.

In young Ravens these are not as long or shiny as the adults.

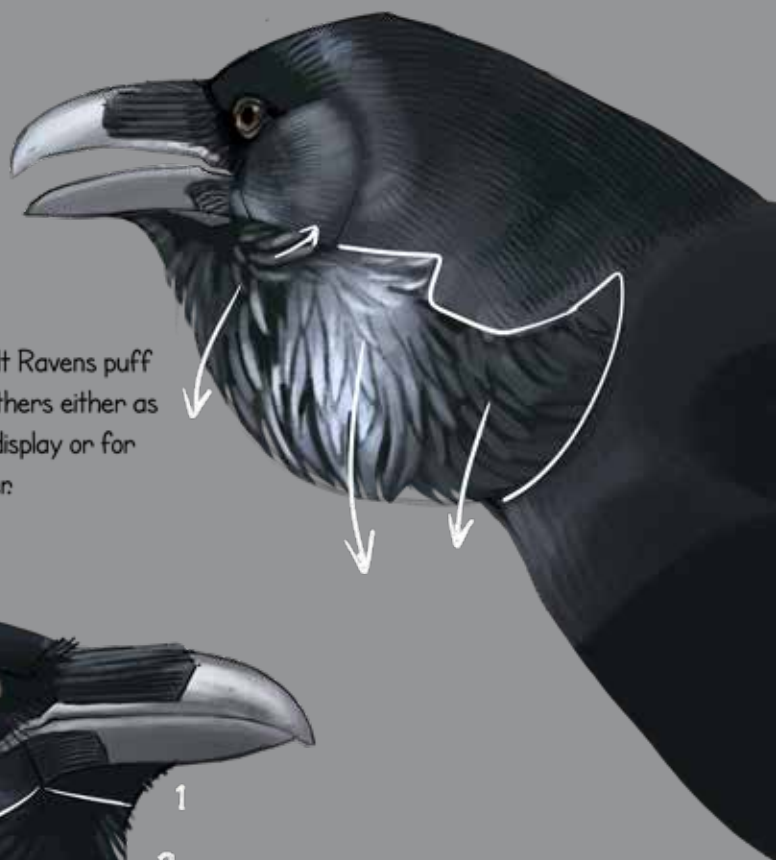


The feathers are split down the middle and spread out to the sides.



The feathers overlap each other and are very pointed. They are short under the throat and then become long in the middle.

When displaying, the adult Ravens puff out the beard as the feathers either as aggression, territorial display or for their partner:



From the front, the feathers can be sectioned into four layers to help with drawing the feathers.





The mantle overlays the scapulars in two sections.

Mantle

Scapular

The scapulars are feathers on the shoulders of the bird that cover the base of the wing when the bird is at rest. There is a group for each side of the wing.



The long strands of feathers that look like hair rest over the mantle and scapulars.

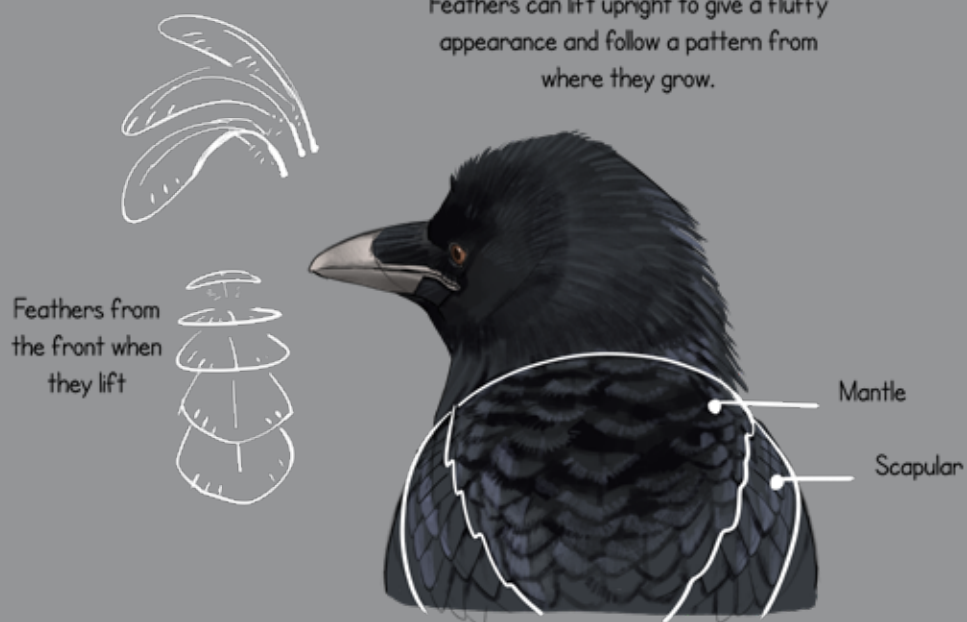
Mantle

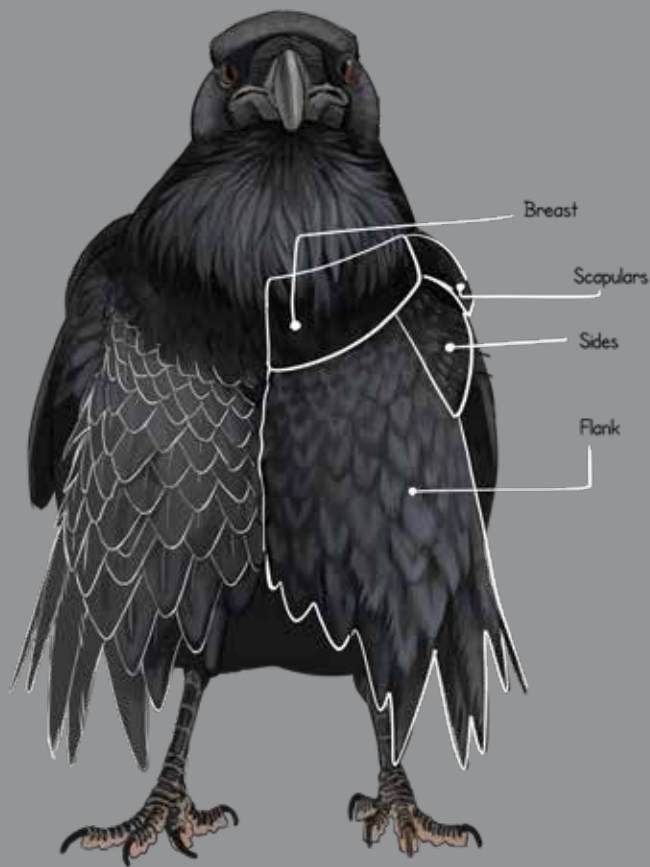
Scapular

The mantle and scapular feathers can move independently.



Feathers can lift upright to give a fluffy appearance and follow a pattern from where they grow.





Ravens can lift and elevate feathers to let air flow through. It is mainly used for displaying, showing aggression or to appear bigger:

The breast feathers are part of the beard feathers and are thin and long compared to the shape of others on Passerines.



The flank feathers wrap around the body when not puffed out to keep the Raven streamlined during flight. Think of them like scales on a fish.

The tail is separate to the flanks.



Ravens are
them low





very expressive with their wings, holding
or high. They also hold them in a heart
shaped way when displaying.



Use the guide lines to draw the
wings when foreshortening the
feathers.



Left

Right



All Corvids have this arrangement of 3 front toes and 1 rear toe.

They are part of the songbird family (passerines), also known as perching birds, which is the majority of birds.



The rear toe sits on the inside of the foot, facing inwards. Similar to our hands with the thumb towards the inside. The rear toe does not bend so will always be straight.



The foot has thick pads with a rough, bobble pattern for extra grip on branches.



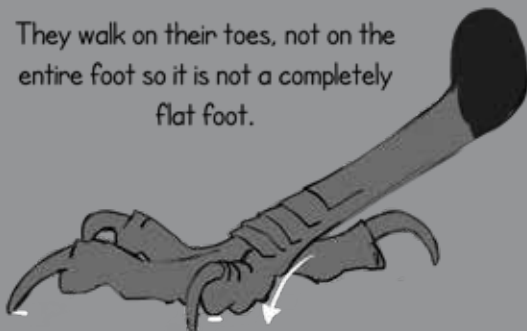
When drawing the angled foot, the rear digit is thicker on the inside and more profound.



They walk on their toes, not on the entire foot so it is not a completely flat foot.

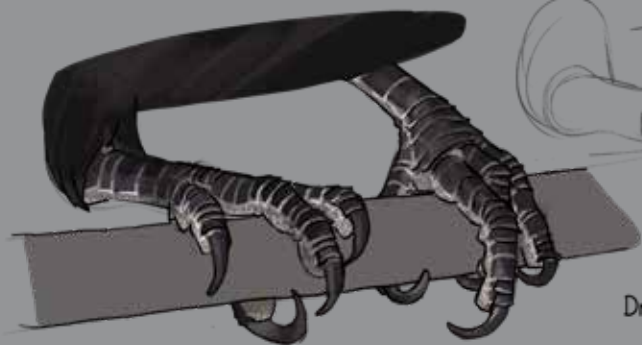
The term for walking and running on the toes is called digitigrade locomotion.

They are faster in running and jumping as they have extra leverage from their ankle.

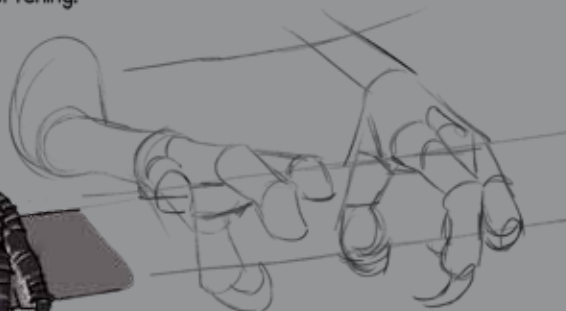




Use shapes to help with foreshortening.

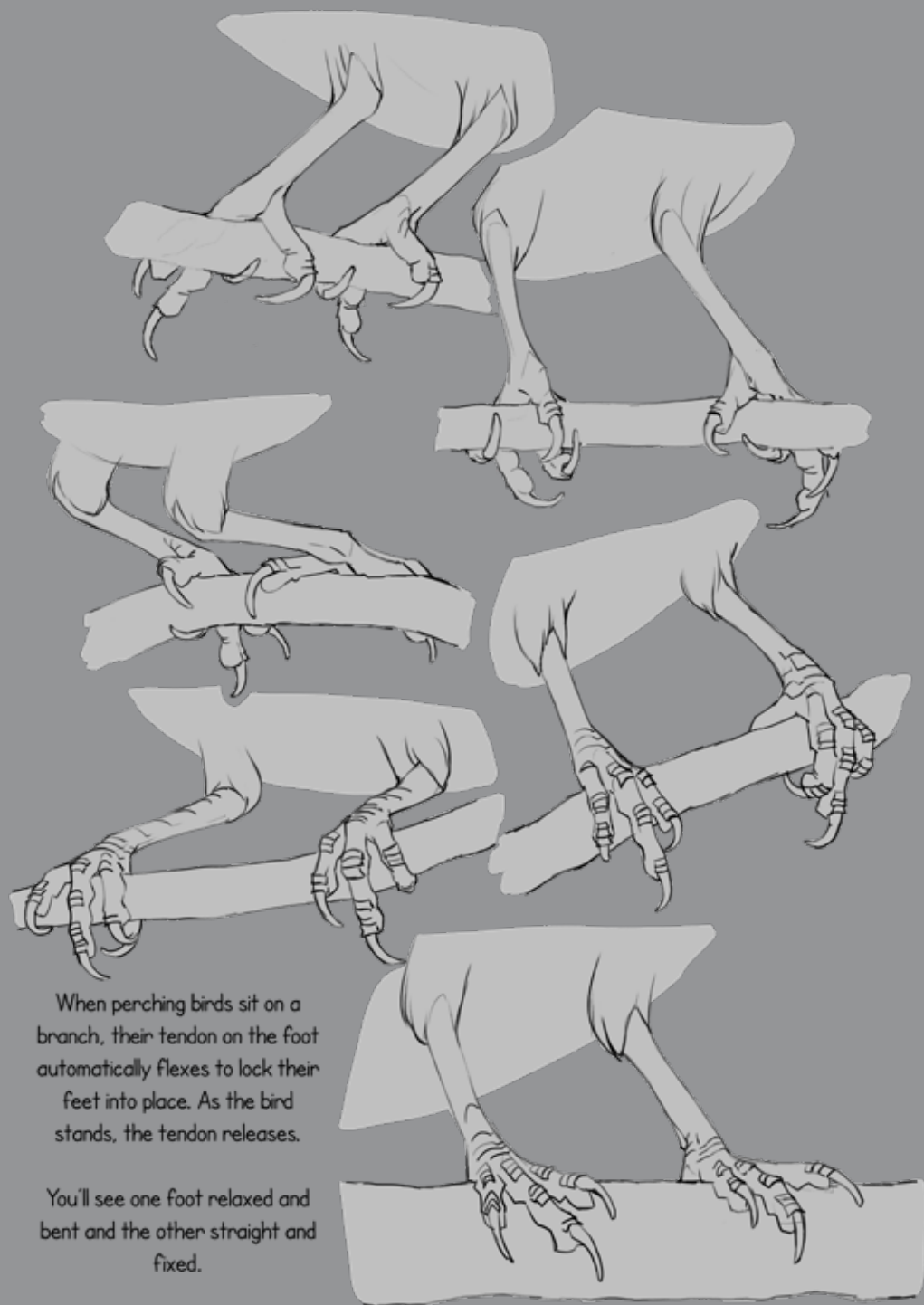


Draw the hidden rear toe and erase after.



The back toe remains straight, even in flight.





When perching birds sit on a branch, their tendon on the foot automatically flexes to lock their feet into place. As the bird stands, the tendon releases.

You'll see one foot relaxed and bent and the other straight and fixed.

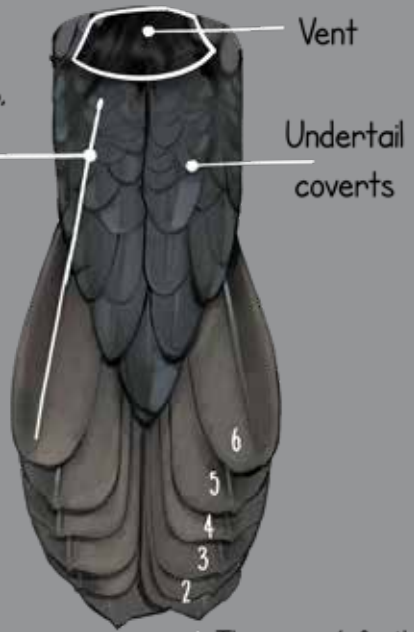


The tail feather begins up the top, hidden by the coverts

The coverts protect and cover the tail feathers and give that familiar diamond shape

Deck feathers

Stiff feathers that sit on the top of the other tail feathers



Vent

Undertail coverts

6
5
4
3
2

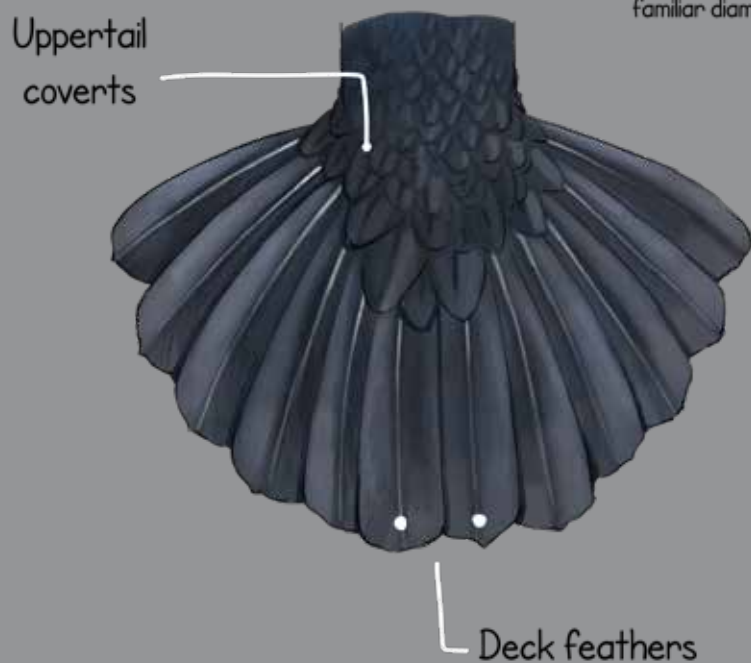
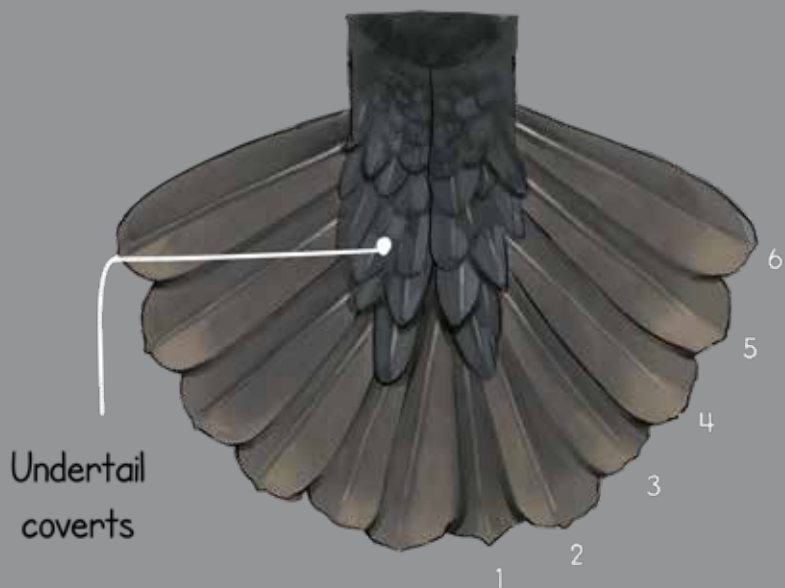
There are 6 feathers each side and stack on top of each other

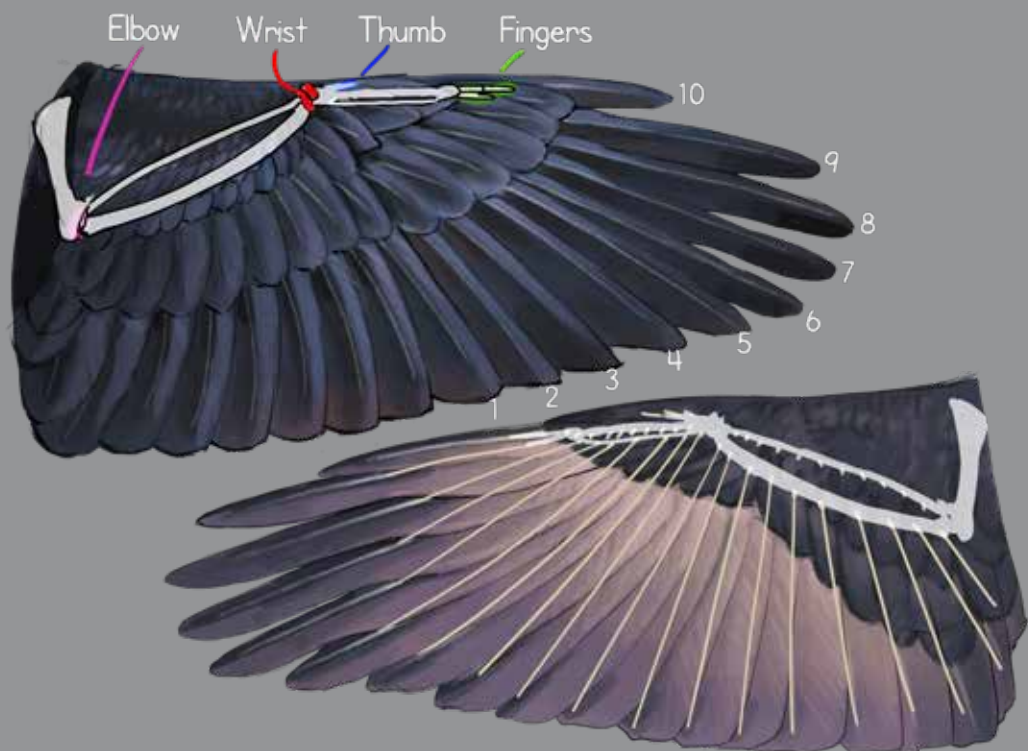


Uppertail coverts

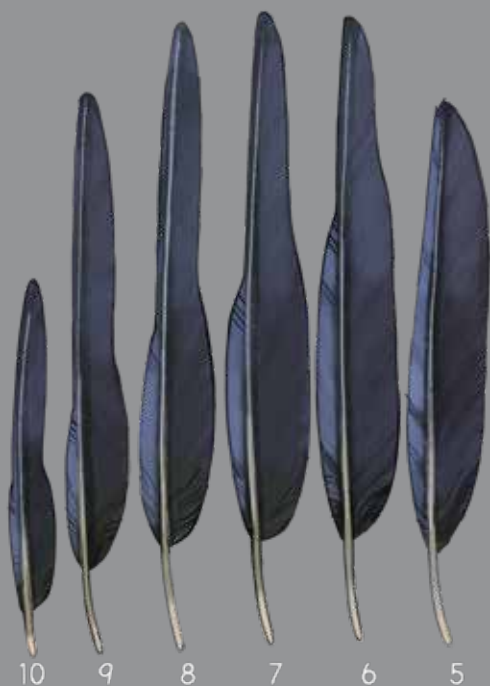
The undertail coverts can open up for displaying or retract for smooth flight







The primaries and secondaries are attached to the bone while the coverts are attached to the flesh. Ravens can moult and replace these feathers.

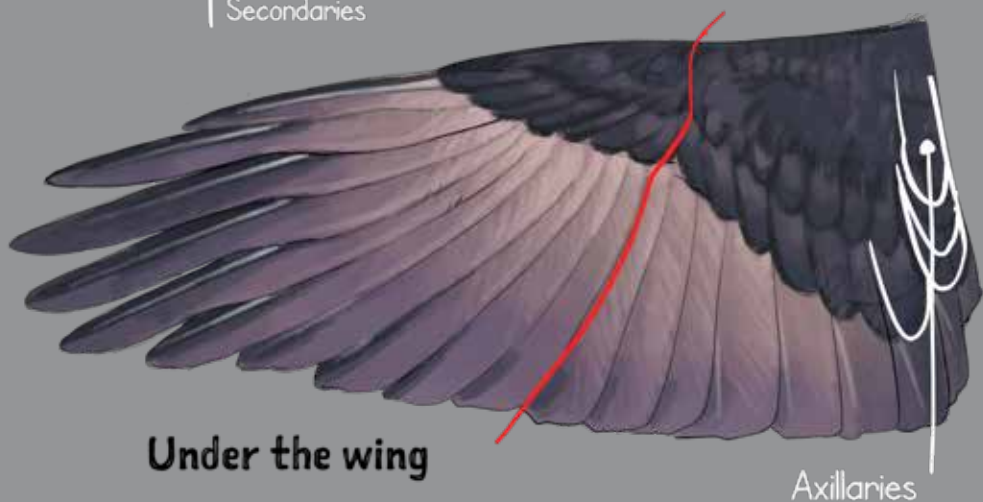
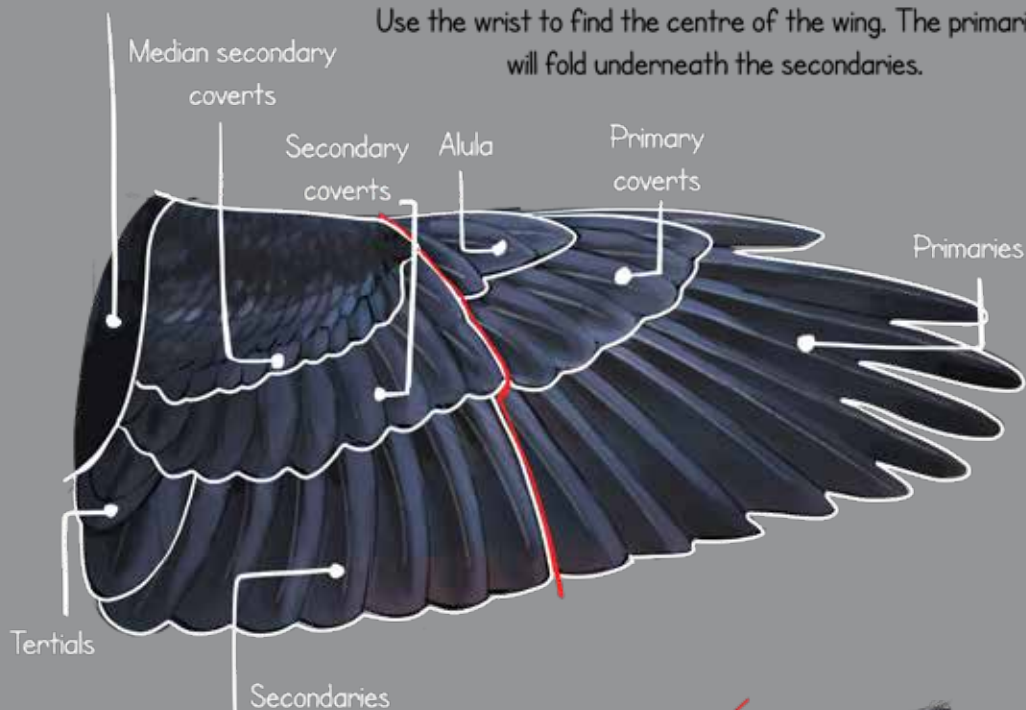


These five primaries are the most recognised when drawing Raven wings. They are long and stiff to help the air flow between them more freely for less resistance.

Scapular
(Shoulder)

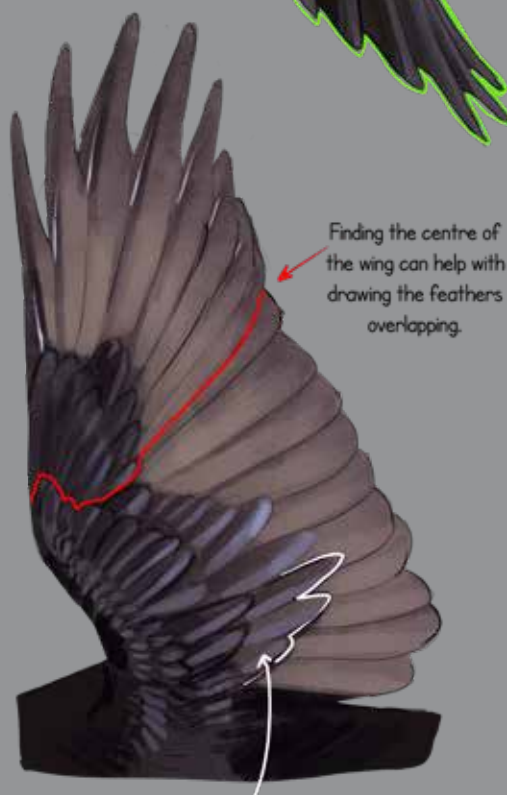
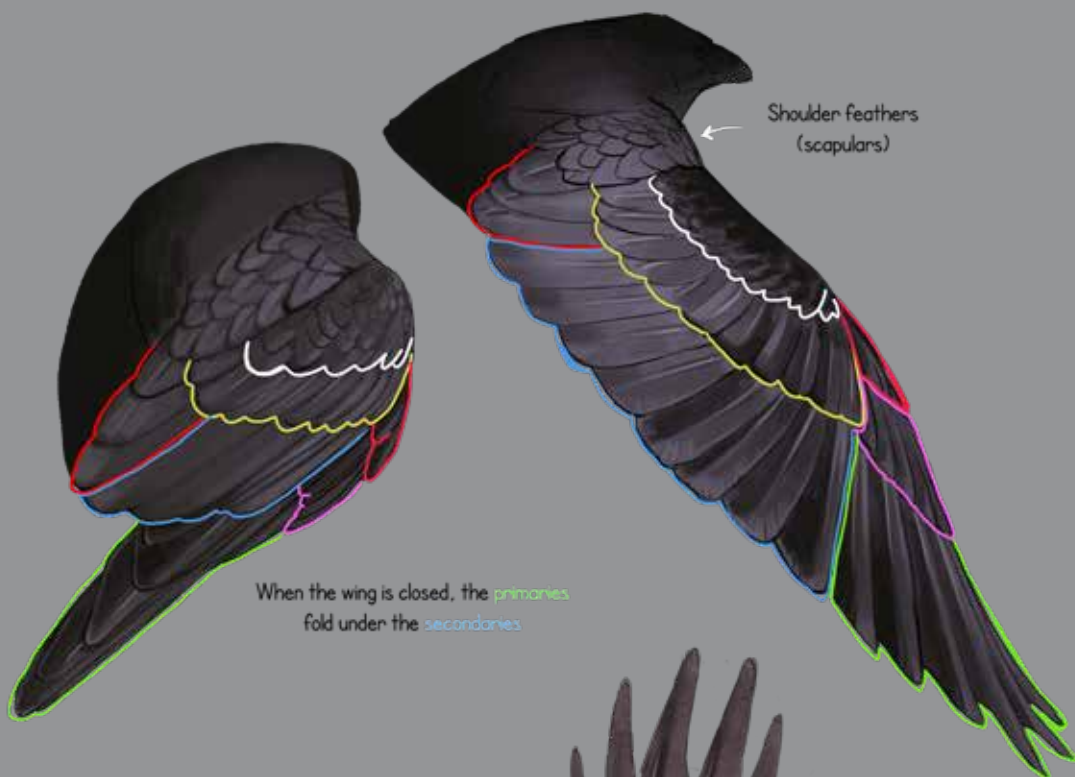
Top of the wing

Use the wrist to find the centre of the wing. The primaries will fold underneath the secondaries.



Under the wing

These long, stiff and light coloured feathers are found in the "armpit" (axillar region) of the bird.



The axillary feathers are the long feathers under the wing

Use lines to keep the
flow of feathers
consistent when
drawing the wing
open or closed



Keep in mind where the bone
structure is in the wing, even
when the wing is half open





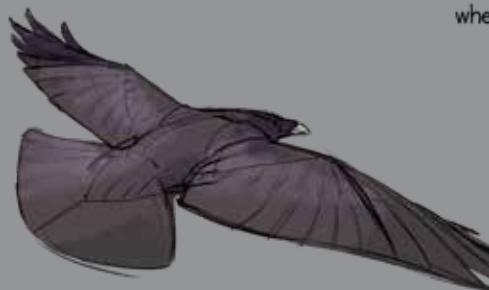
Examples of Ravens in flight.
Use the bone structure to
guide the feather placement.



The tips of the wings slightly bend in the wind.



The tail is very large and prominent in flight.



The
when



the diamond shape is shown
when the tail is slightly open and
fully closed.



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About the Raven

The Raven appears in many of the worlds myths and cultures. It can symbolize wisdom, mystery, and guidance, but it can also be a symbol of death, wickedness or the great void. The most famous Ravens live in England at the Tower of London, traditionally believed to protect the Crown and if they left, England will fall. In France they were believed to be the incarnation of wicked priests (while Crows were wicked nuns) and in Germany their eerie croaks to be souls of murdered people.

Why are Ravens popular?

Raven's are highly intelligent and emotional birds. They know how to mimic calls and words just like a Parrot, as well as hiding food (mainly from other Corvids) and stealing food from people when they aren't looking. In captivity they have been known to solve puzzles to gain food rewards as well as showing teamwork working beside other Ravens. They love to play and taunt other creatures by tricking them out of food, pulling tails or stealing. They have been observed playing in snow by rolling in it or rolling down hills.

How to use this book

This book is for those who wish to improve their Raven drawing skills. This book follows on from the "How to draw birds: Of the Passerine order" as the Raven is the largest Passerine. Although this book can be used without it.