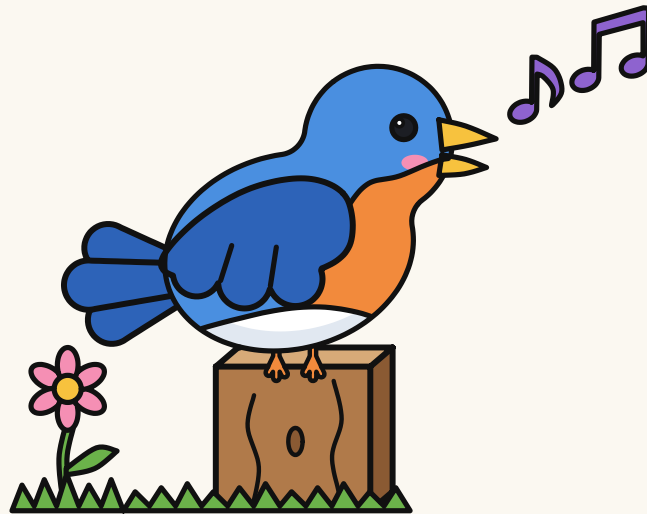


How to Draw a Bird

12 easy steps for beginners



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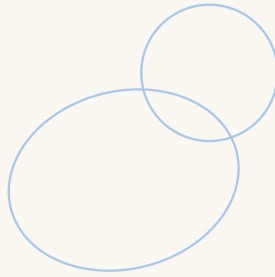
What you'll need

- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black marker
- Colored pencils
- Plain paper

How to use this guide

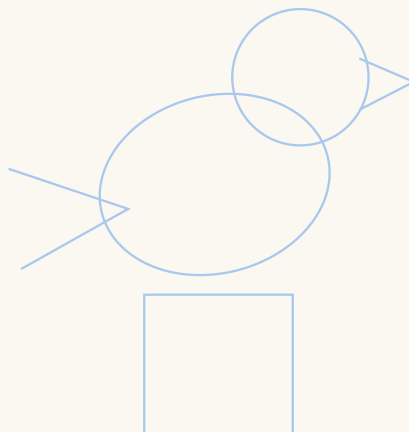
New lines for each step are shown in **blue**; lines you already drew are gray. Draw lightly first, then ink and erase near the end.

[Read the full tutorial online →](#)

STEP 1 Draw a circle and an oval

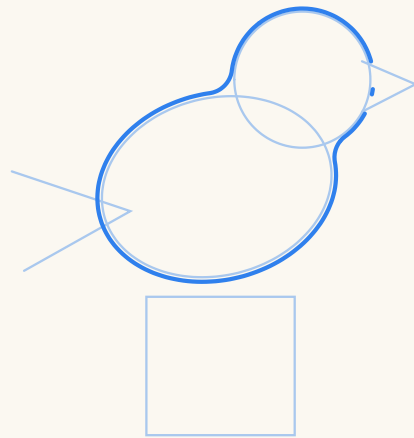
A little above the middle of the page, draw a circle for the head. Below and to the left, draw an oval about one and a half times as wide, tilted so its right end sits higher. Let the two shapes overlap a bit. That overlap becomes the neck, so the head never floats.

 **Tip:** Draw with loose arm movements, not tiny wrist scribbles. Round shapes come out smoother that way.

STEP 2 Add guides for the post, tail and beak

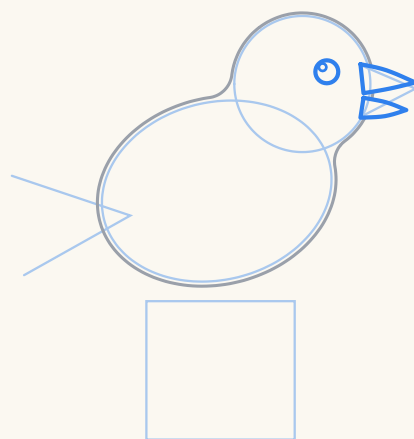
Under the oval, sketch a square box for the fence post, leaving a small gap between the box and the bird. On the left end of the oval, draw two lines spreading out like an open pair of scissors; the tail goes between them. On the right side of the head, add a small sideways V for the beak.

 **Tip:** Keep the post narrower than the bird's body. A tiny perch makes the bird look round and plump.

STEP 3 Draw the round head and chubby body

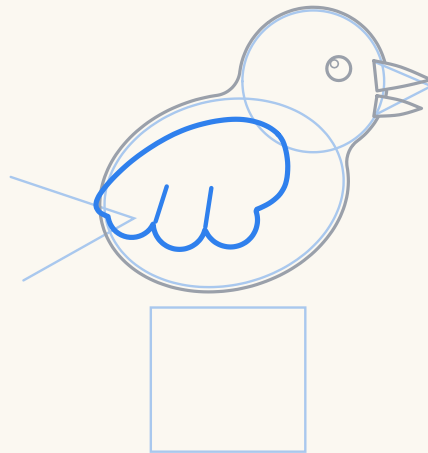
Now trace one smooth outline around both guide shapes. Follow the top of the head, dip gently into the back of the neck, then curve along the back and around the belly. At the front, the throat curves in a little under the beak. I keep this shape extra round, since a plump bird looks friendlier.

 **Tip:** Stop and turn your paper whenever your hand starts to feel twisted.

STEP 4 Add the singing beak and the eye

Following the V guide, draw the beak in two parts: a longer top piece and a shorter bottom piece with a gap between them. That open gap is what makes the bird look like it's singing. Then place the eye in the upper front part of the head, as a small circle with an even smaller circle inside for the shine.

 **Tip:** Set the eye closer to the beak than to the back of the head. It keeps the face young and cute.

STEP 5 Draw the wing with round feathers

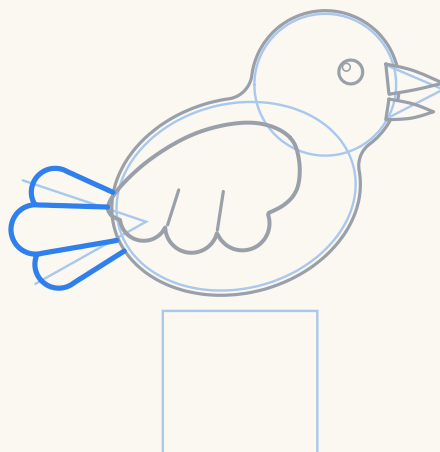
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Start the wing near the chest and draw its top edge sweeping back along the body toward the tail. Bring the lower edge back to the front as three round bumps, like a row of clouds. Add two short lines between the bumps so each one reads as a separate feather.

 **Tip:** Make the bumps grow a little bigger toward the front of the wing.

STEP 6 Add a fanned tail

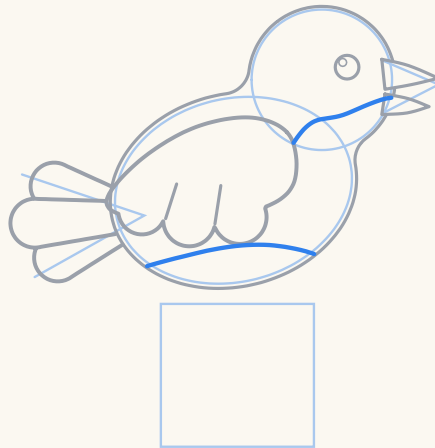
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Between the two tail guides, draw three long feathers with rounded ends, spreading out like a small hand fan. Draw the middle one first, since it's the longest, then add one above and one below. Where a feather tucks behind the body or another feather, simply stop the line.

 **Tip:** Three feathers are plenty. More than that and the tail starts to look like a broom.

STEP 7 Draw the breast and belly lines

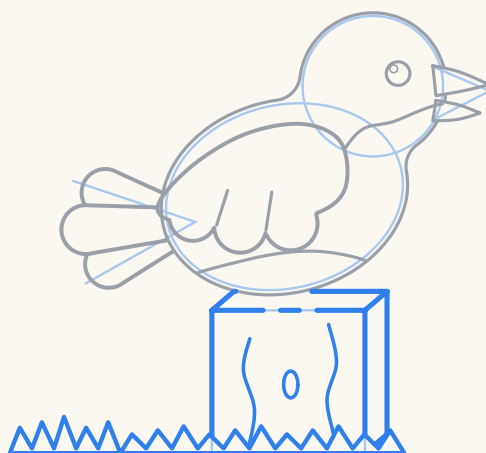
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Bluebirds have an orange chest, so mark where it starts. Draw a soft wavy line from the bottom of the beak down to the front of the wing. Then add a gentle curve across the bottom of the body for the white belly. These two lines don't change the shape at all, but they split the bird into color areas.

 **Tip:** Curve the belly line upward like a smile so it follows the round body.

STEP 8 Draw the wooden fence post

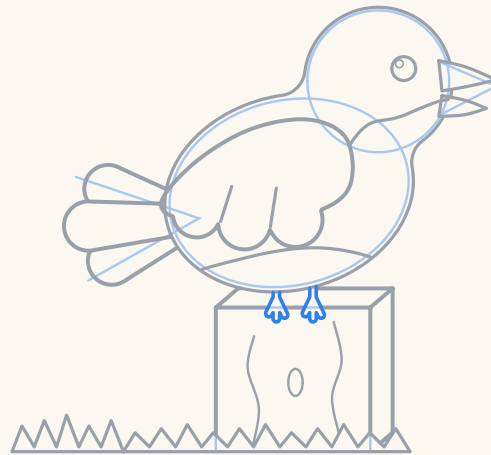
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Trace the post guide for the front of the post. Add a thin slanted top above it and a narrow side face on the right, which turns the flat square into a solid block. Draw two wavy grain lines and a small oval knot. Finish with a row of pointy grass along the bottom.

 **Tip:** Draw the grain lines a bit wobbly. Perfectly straight lines make wood look like plastic.

STEP 9 Add thin legs and three toes

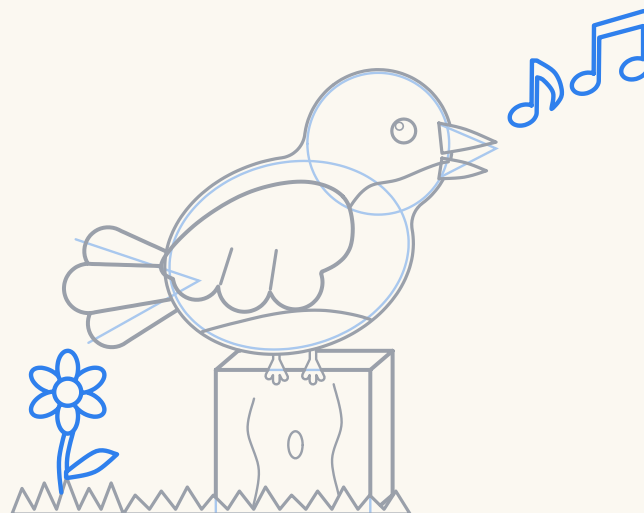
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Under the body, draw two very short, thin legs reaching down to the top of the post. At the end of each one, add three tiny toes curling over the front edge, as if the bird is holding on. Most beginners make the legs too long here. On a round songbird they barely peek out.

 **Tip:** Put both legs near the middle of the belly so the bird looks balanced, not tipping over.

STEP 10 Draw a daisy and music notes

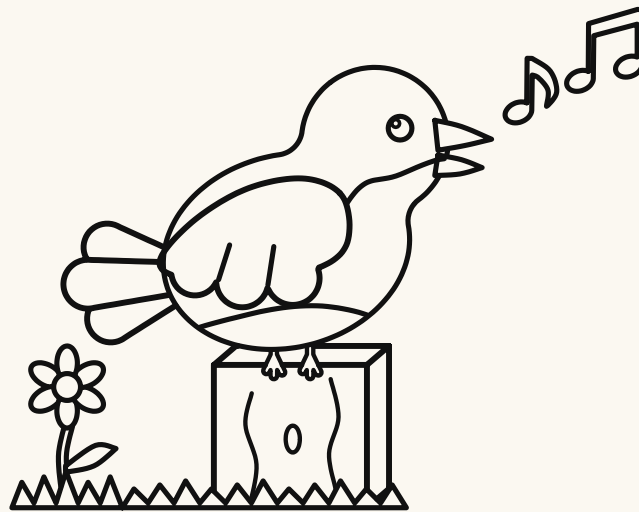
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To the left of the post, draw a thin stem with one leaf, topped by a small circle and six oval petals around it. Then float two music notes near the open beak: a single note with a little flag and a pair joined by a thick bar. The notes tell everyone what the bird is doing.

 **Tip:** Tilt the notes slightly upward so they look like they're drifting away from the beak.

STEP 11 Ink your lines and erase the guides

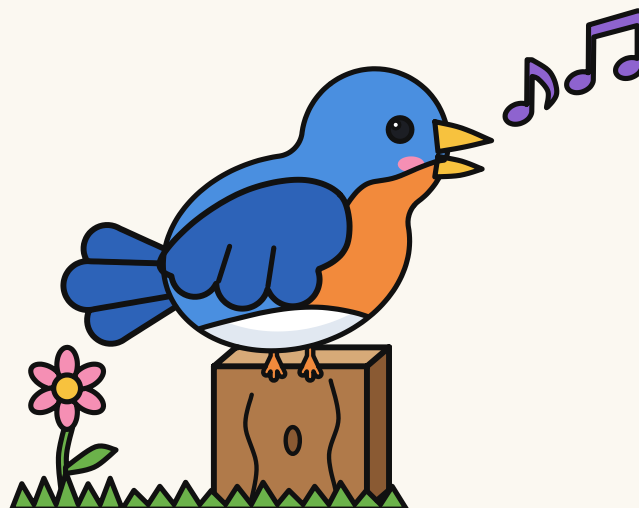
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Go over every line you want to keep with the black marker. I start with the head and beak, because a smudge on the face is the hardest thing to hide. Leave the light circle, oval, box and guide lines alone. Give the ink a minute to dry, then erase all the guides.

Tip: Rest your hand on a scrap of paper while you ink so you don't drag through wet lines.

STEP 12 Color your bluebird

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Color the head and back bright blue, then use a darker blue on the wing and tail so they stand out from the body. The chest and feet are orange, the beak is yellow, and the belly stays white with a touch of light gray at the bottom. Add a pink dot on the cheek, a brown post, green grass, a pink daisy and purple notes.

Tip: Color the big blue areas first. Once they're done, the small parts go quickly.