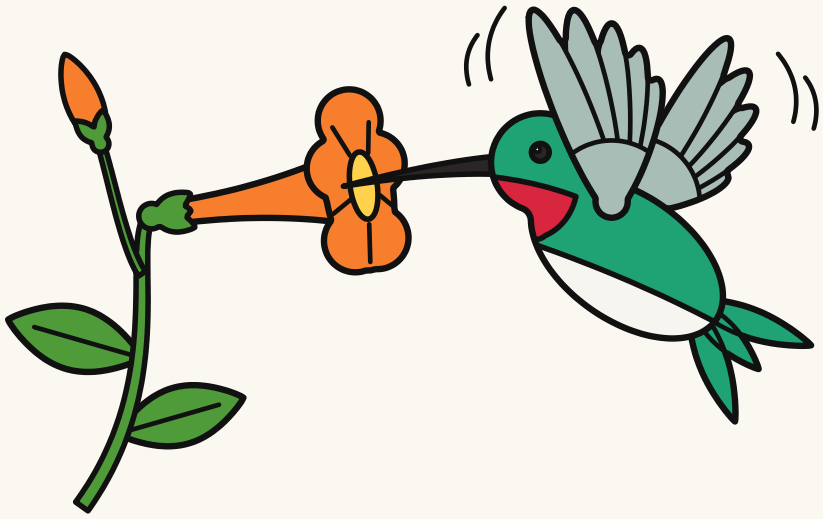
How to Draw a Hummingbird

12 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

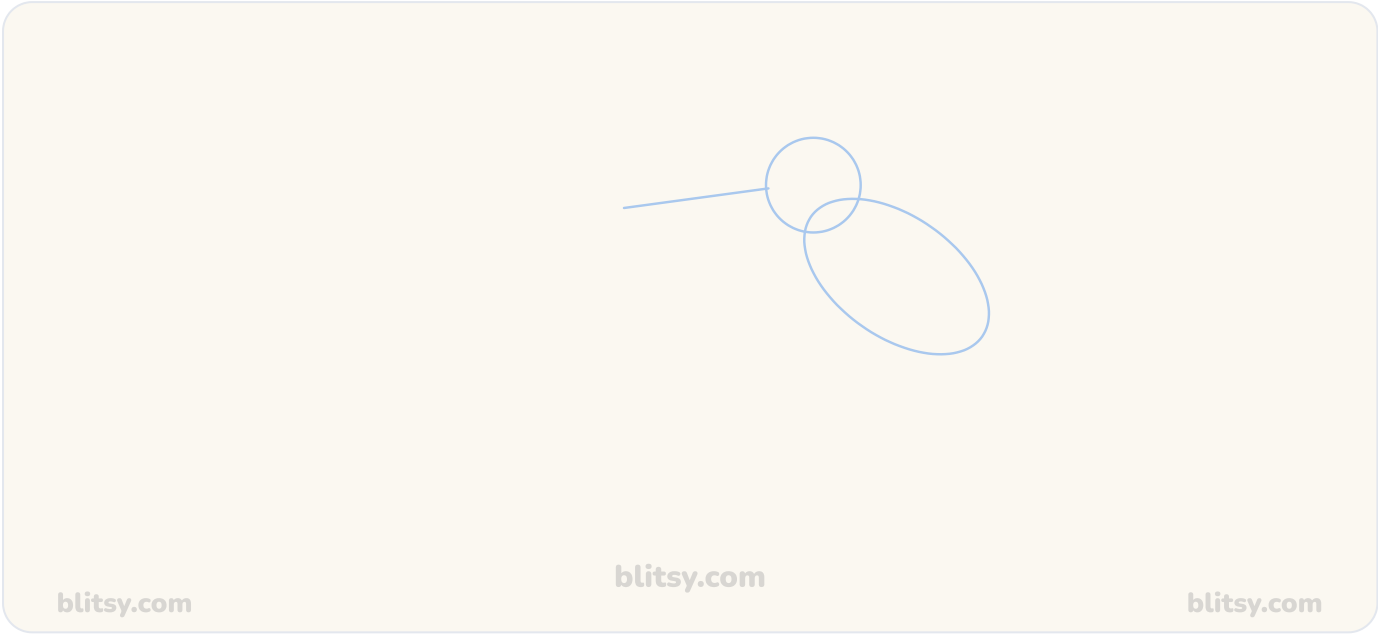
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black fineliner
- Colored pencils
- Plain paper

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 →

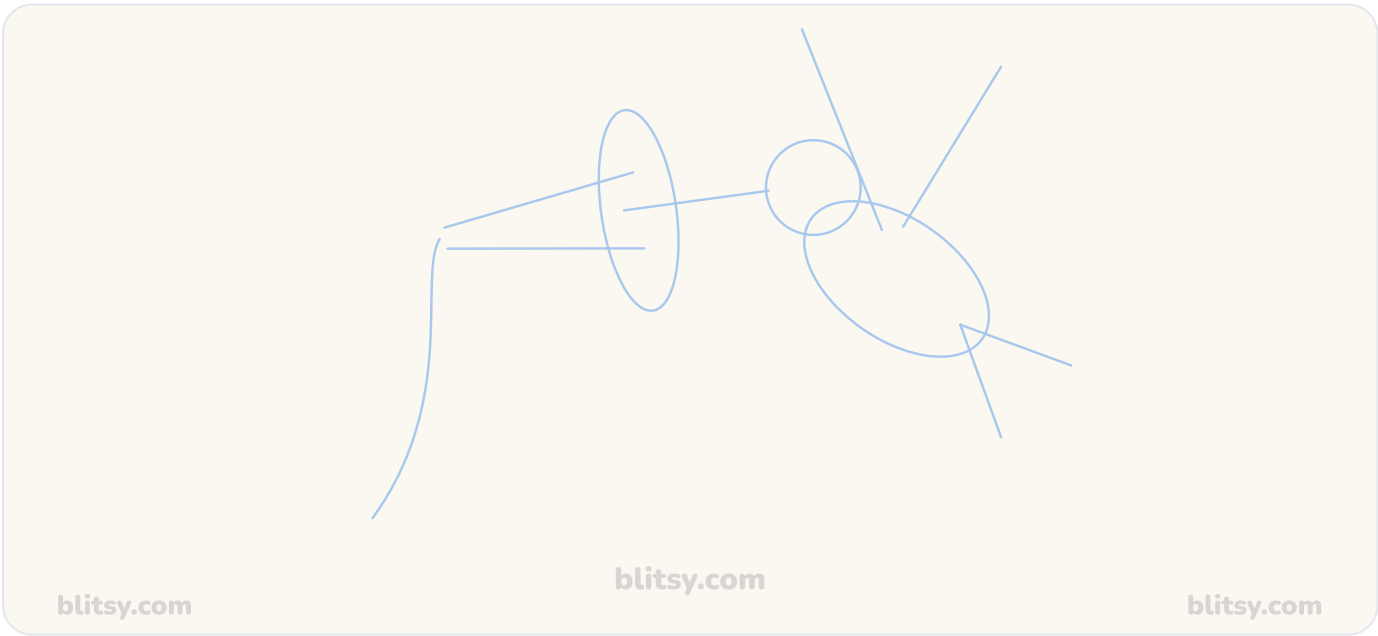
STEP 1 Sketch a head circle and a tilted body oval



Draw a small circle a little right of the middle of your page. Below and to the right of it, draw an oval that leans downhill, overlapping the circle slightly. From the left side of the circle, draw one long, nearly flat line for the beak. Press lightly, since all three shapes are only guides.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the oval about twice as long as the circle is wide. A hummingbird's head looks big next to its tiny body, and that is part of its charm.

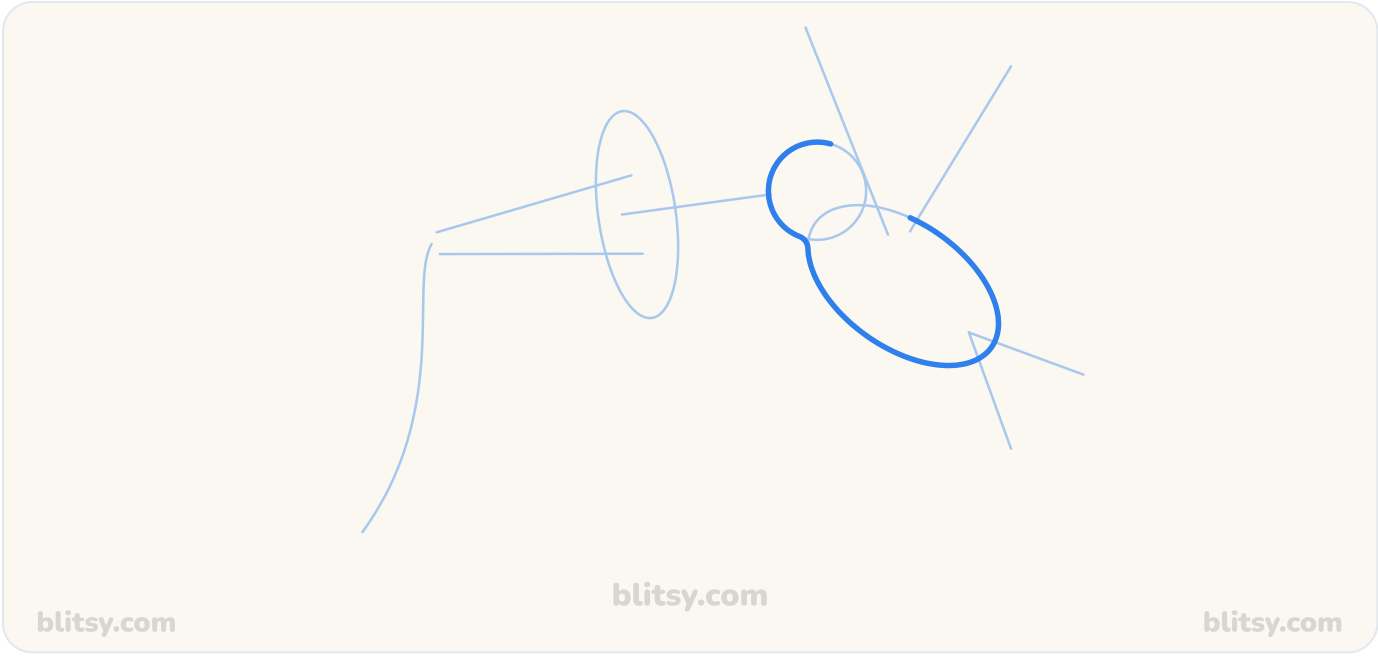
STEP 2 Add guides for the wings, tail and flower



From the top of the body, draw two straight lines going up in a V for the wings. At the bottom of the oval, add two short lines spreading apart for the tail. On the left, sketch a cone ending in a tall, narrow oval at the beak tip, plus a long curve down for the stem.

💡 **Tip:** Make the wing lines longer than the whole body. Hummingbird wings are long and narrow, and short wings make the bird look like a sparrow.

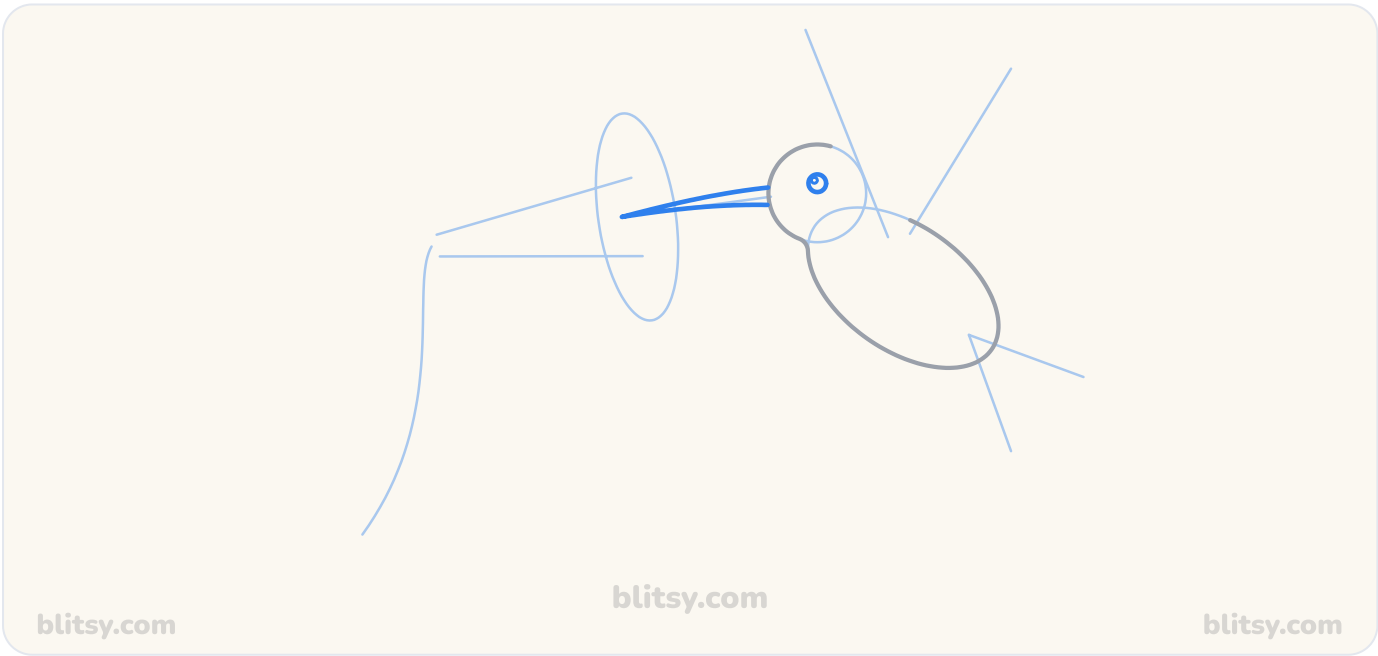
STEP 3 Draw the round head and small body



Trace around the head circle, then let the line dip in a little for the neck and swing around the body oval. Leave a gap on the top of the back where the wing will cover it. That gap saves you from erasing later.

💡 **Tip:** Make the neck curve soft and short. A long neck turns the hummingbird into a tiny heron.

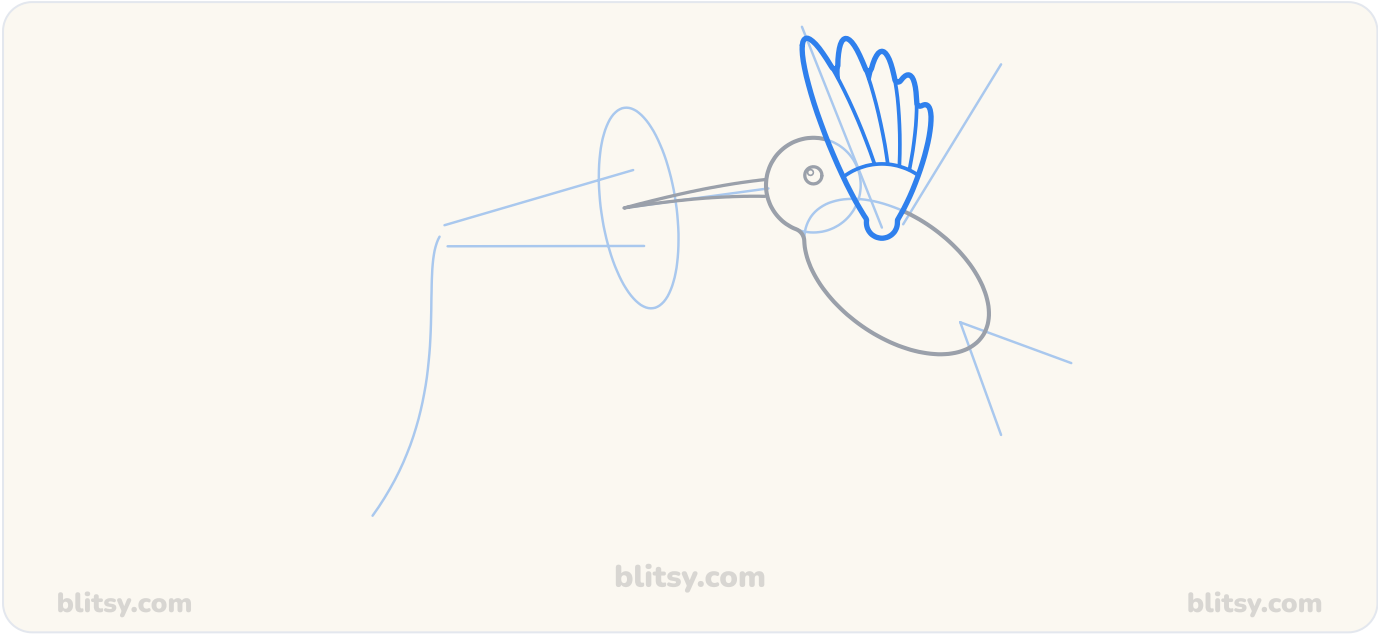
STEP 4 Add the long beak and the eye



Follow the beak guide with two lines that start apart at the face and meet in a sharp point at the flower. Curve the beak down very slightly. Then draw a small circle for the eye, set high on the head and close to the beak, with a tiny circle inside it for the shine.

💡 **Tip:** Make the beak about as long as the head and body together are tall. A short beak is the most common giveaway.

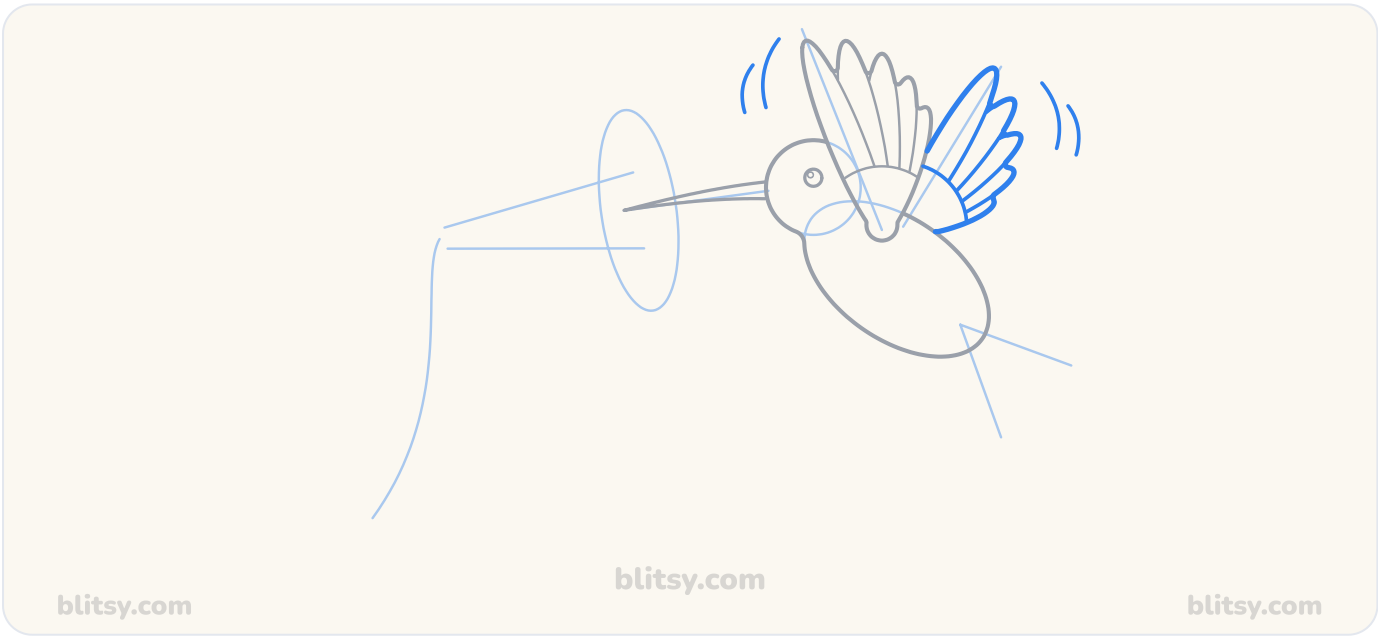
STEP 5 Draw the front wing raised high



Start at the shoulder on the back and draw five long feathers fanning up along the left wing guide, like spread fingers. The front feather is longest, and each one behind it is a little shorter. A curved line across the base shows the small top feathers.

💡 **Tip:** Give every feather a rounded tip, not a sharp one. Rounded tips look soft, and they're easier to draw evenly.

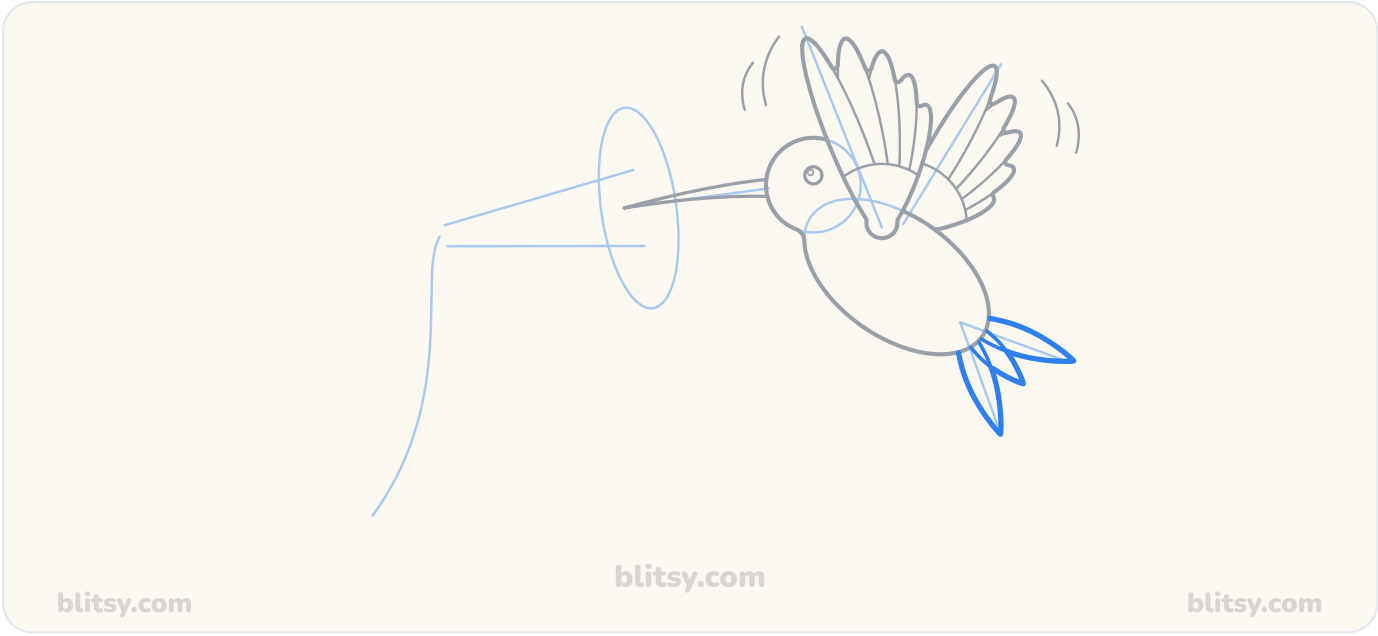
STEP 6 Add the back wing and motion lines



Draw the second wing along the right guide, again as a fan of feathers, stopping each line where it meets the front wing or the body. Then add two small curved lines beside each wing tip to show the wings beating fast.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the motion lines short and few. Two per side is plenty, and more starts to look like scribbles.

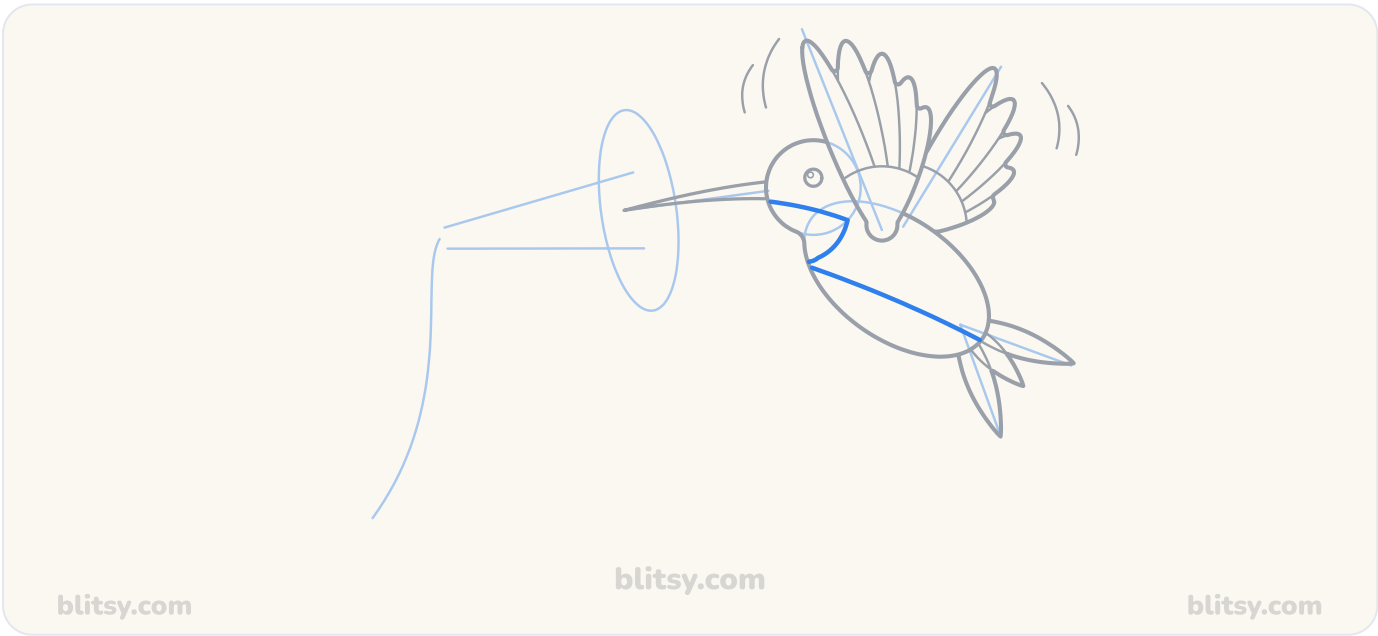
STEP 7 Draw the forked tail



At the end of the body, draw three pointed feathers along the tail guides. Make the two outside feathers long and the middle one shorter, so the tail splits into a clear fork. They start inside the body edge, so you only draw the parts sticking out.

💡 **Tip:** Spread the two long feathers apart enough to leave a V-shaped notch. That notch is what makes the tail read as forked.

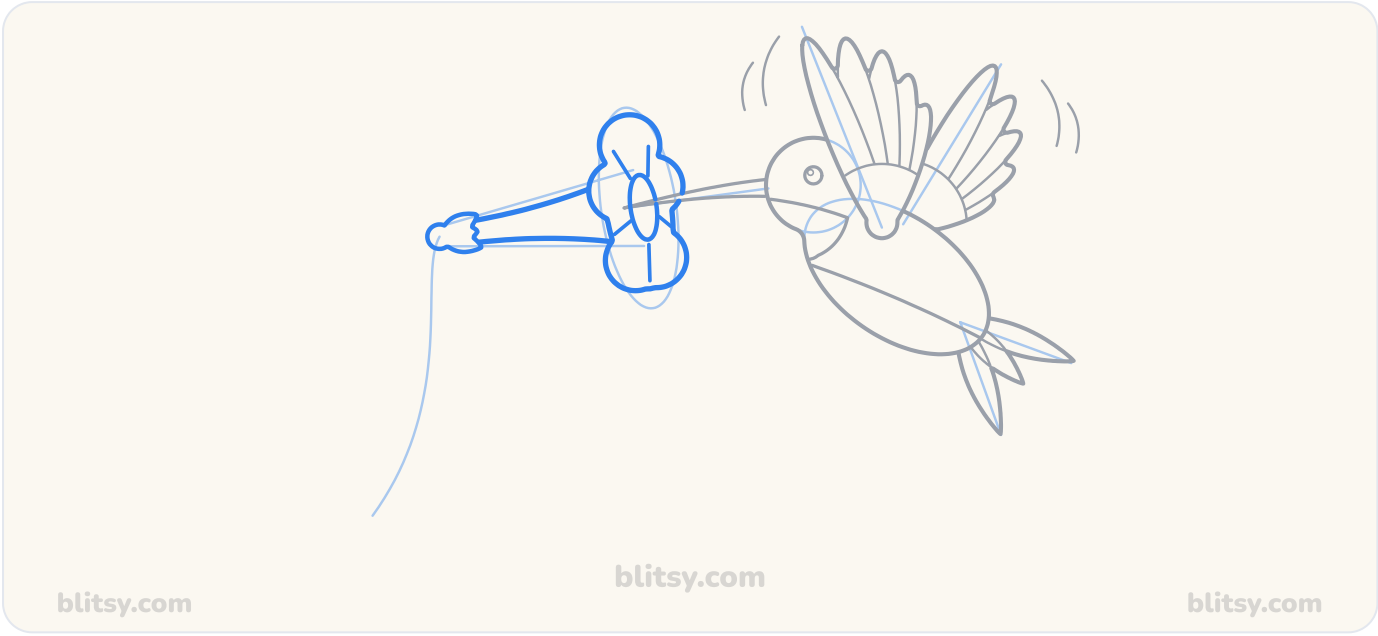
STEP 8 Mark the ruby throat and white belly



Starting just below the beak, draw a line back under the eye, then bring a slightly bumpy line down and around to close the throat patch. Next, draw one long curve from the throat to the tail to split the white belly from the green back.

💡 **Tip:** Give the throat patch a wavy bottom edge. Real hummingbird throat feathers look like tiny overlapping scales, and the bumps hint at that.

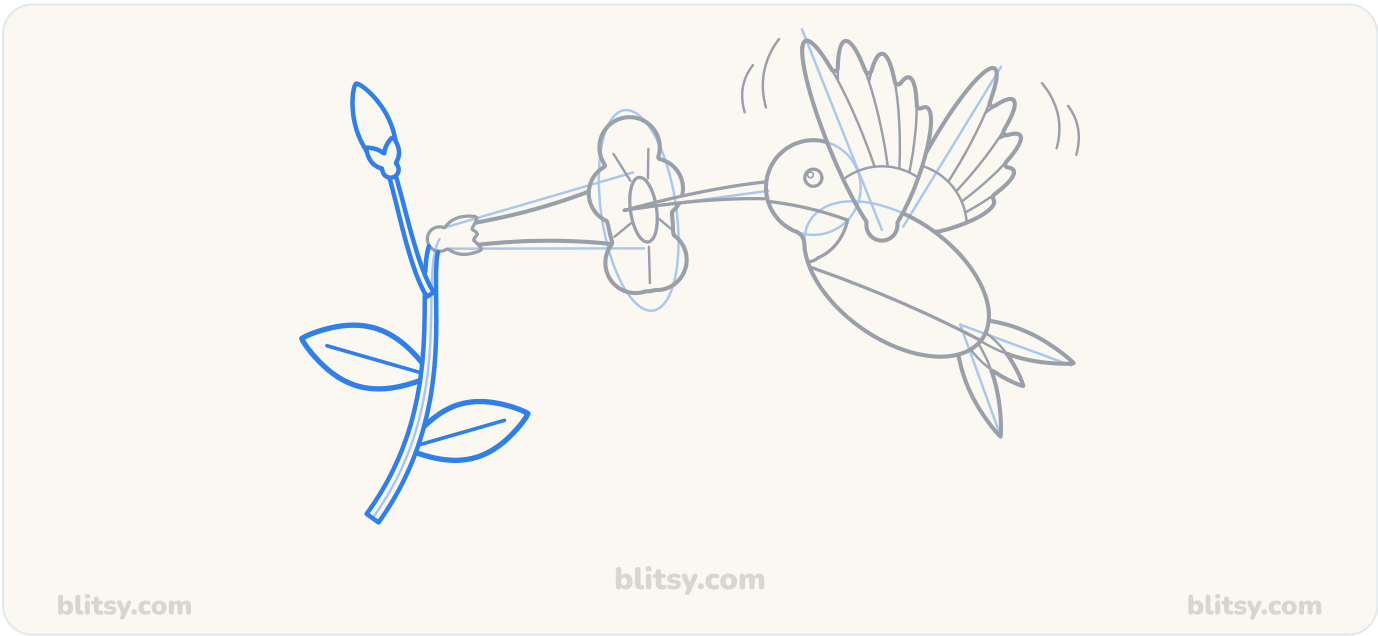
STEP 9 Draw the trumpet flower



Draw the open flower first: a tall oval with five rounded bumps around it, right where the beak ends. Add a small oval center with a few short lines spreading outward. Then draw the tube narrowing back to the left, ending in a small green cup of pointed sepals.

💡 **Tip:** Let the beak tip land in the middle of the flower's center. If it stops short, the bird looks like it's pecking at air.

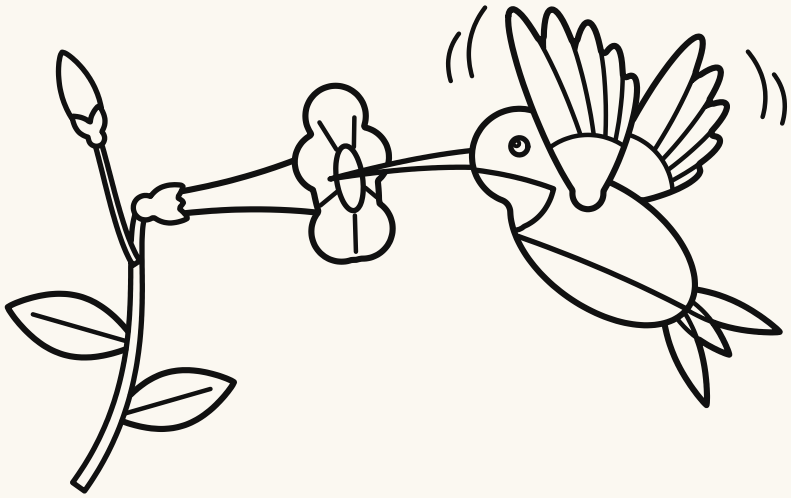
STEP 10 Add the stem, leaves and a bud



From the sepals, draw a stem with two close lines curving down the page. Put one pointed leaf on each side with a line down its middle, and add a thin side twig near the top holding a long, closed bud.

💡 **Tip:** Place the leaves at different heights instead of exactly opposite each other. It looks more natural and fills the empty space better.

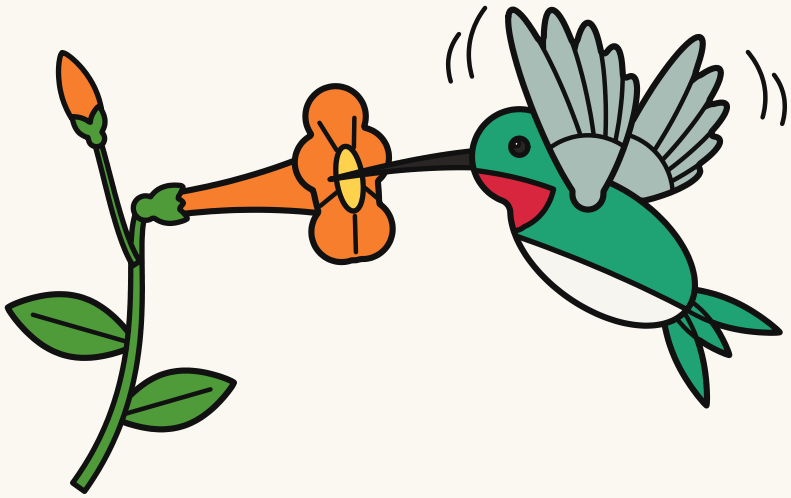
STEP 11 Ink the lines and erase the guides



Go over every line you want to keep with the fineliner. I start with the beak and eye while my hand is fresh and save the wings for last. Let the ink dry, then erase the circle, the oval and all the guide lines.

💡 **Tip:** Turn your paper as you ink the wing feathers. Pulling the pen toward you gives smoother curves than pushing it away.

STEP 12 Color your hummingbird



Color the head, back and tail emerald green and the throat patch red, and leave the belly white. The wings get a soft light gray, and the beak and eye are black with the shine left white. Make the flower and bud orange with a yellow center, and the stem and leaves a warmer leaf green.

💡 **Tip:** Add a little blue over the green back if you want a shiny look. Hummingbird feathers flash between green and blue in the sun.