Black and White Bird Drawing: Feather Groups, Value Contrast, and Tonal Shading

Original tasks 1, 2, 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 1

A bird has body contour value 2 and wing coverts value 4. What is the contrast difference, and does it pass the two-step minimum?

Answer: Difference is 2; it passes.

Reason: Subtract the smaller value from the larger: 4 minus 2 equals 2. The minimum is 2, so the pair passes.

Check: Recompute 4 minus 2 and confirm the result is at least 2.

Task 2

Three groups have values 1, 3, and 4 in order. Which adjacent pair fails the two-step contrast check?

Answer: The pair 3 and 4 fails.

Reason: Differences are 3 minus 1 equals 2 (pass) and 4 minus 3 equals 1 (fail).

Check: List both differences and compare each to 2.

Task 3

You plan values 0, 2, 4 for three groups. After shading, the middle group measures 3. Which group misses its target, and by how many steps?

Answer: The middle group misses by 1 step.

Reason: Target was 2; measured 3; difference is 1 step.

Check: Subtract target from measured: 3 minus 2 equals 1.

Task 4

A label is 0.4 cm tall and the x-height of your lettering is 0.5 cm. Does the label meet the one-x-height rule?

Answer: No; it is 0.1 cm short.

Reason: Compare 0.4 cm to 0.5 cm; 0.4 is less than 0.5, so it fails.

Check: Measure the label and the x-height with the same ruler and subtract: 0.5 minus 0.4 equals 0.1 cm.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Value accuracy: each group matches its target value within one step.
- [ ] Contrast: adjacent groups differ by at least two value steps.
- [ ] Feather grouping: three groups are clearly outlined and labeled.
- [ ] Label legibility: labels are at least one x-height tall and readable.
- [ ] Valid alternatives: different stroke directions or group shapes are accepted if checks pass.

Reflection: What did you check, what did you change, and what will you try next?