Ink Bird Drawing: Feather Strokes, Beak Shapes, and Line-Weight Control

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

Task 1

Draw a reference strip with three zones: short, medium, and long. Make five strokes in each zone that taper toward the tip. Add direction arrows.

Answer: A strip with three labeled zones, five tapered strokes per zone, and arrows pointing from base to tip.

Reason: The strip isolates stroke direction and length before combining them on a bird.

Check: Trace each stroke backward; the taper should be at the tip, not the base.

Task 2

Draw three head circles and add a cone, hooked, and flat beak. Mark the gape line on each.

Answer: Three heads with distinct beak plans and a visible gape line where upper and lower mandibles meet.

Reason: Comparing plans builds shape control and proportion checking.

Check: Confirm each beak matches its plan and the gape line is present.

Task 3

Make a five-mark line-weight sample bar on your paper. Label pressure and speed for each mark. Hold it at arm's length and confirm five distinct weights.

Answer: A labeled bar with five visibly different marks.

Reason: Line weight must be tested on actual materials, not assumed.

Check: At arm's length, no two marks should look identical; relabel if they do.

Task 4

Draw a small bird study using one beak plan, short body feathers, and medium wing coverts. Firm the beak outline and check the three questions from the lesson.

Answer: A study with tapered feathers, a planned beak with gape line, and visibly different line weights.

Reason: Combining skills reveals whether each element works together.

Check: Answer yes to: taper at tip, beak matches a plan, line weights differ.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Feather strokes start at the base and taper toward the tip, following the defined convention.
- [ ] Beak matches one of the three plans and includes a gape line.
- [ ] Line weights are visibly different on the student's own paper and pen.
- [ ] Stroke lengths are chosen for body, covert, and primary areas.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted if the convention is stated and consistently applied.

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