

RULES FOR SCIENTIFIC (Topography) DRAWINGS

Use the following guidelines to help make your scientific drawing as clear as possible:

- Use pencil
- Include some color to emphasize the animals features
- Title your drawing (scientific name & common name)
- Use a ruler to draw label lines
- You may use arrows for label lines
- Label lines should point to the center of the structure being labeled
- Print all labels horizontally
- Print legibly, do not write in cursive
- Label all side of the drawing, if possible
- Do not cross label lines
- Include magnification or a scale (close-up) of:
 - Head
 - Feet
 - Tail
 - Wings

BIRD TOPOGRAPHY

THE BASICS:

The external anatomy of birds can be very complicated! In fact, between every labeled part of the bird pictured below there are many more we will not discuss. But a familiarity with the basic topographic features mentioned here should be very useful in remembering and describing any bird we encounter. You may have already noticed that these terms are used frequently in your field guide and are just as often the only distinguishing marks between very similar species. At some point you may find that you cannot satisfactorily describe a bird you've seen with the basic terms used here. That will be signal that it's time to acquire a few more topographic terms, many of which are described in the introduction of any field guide.

THE HEAD AND BODY

