

Birds: Striving for Realism



Todd Gladfelter

Log Building















Wood working and furniture



Blacksmithing







Carving lesson with Rick Boni, 2007





A Sample of Bird Carvings







Wall Eagle
Wood Choppers
2011
8x11



















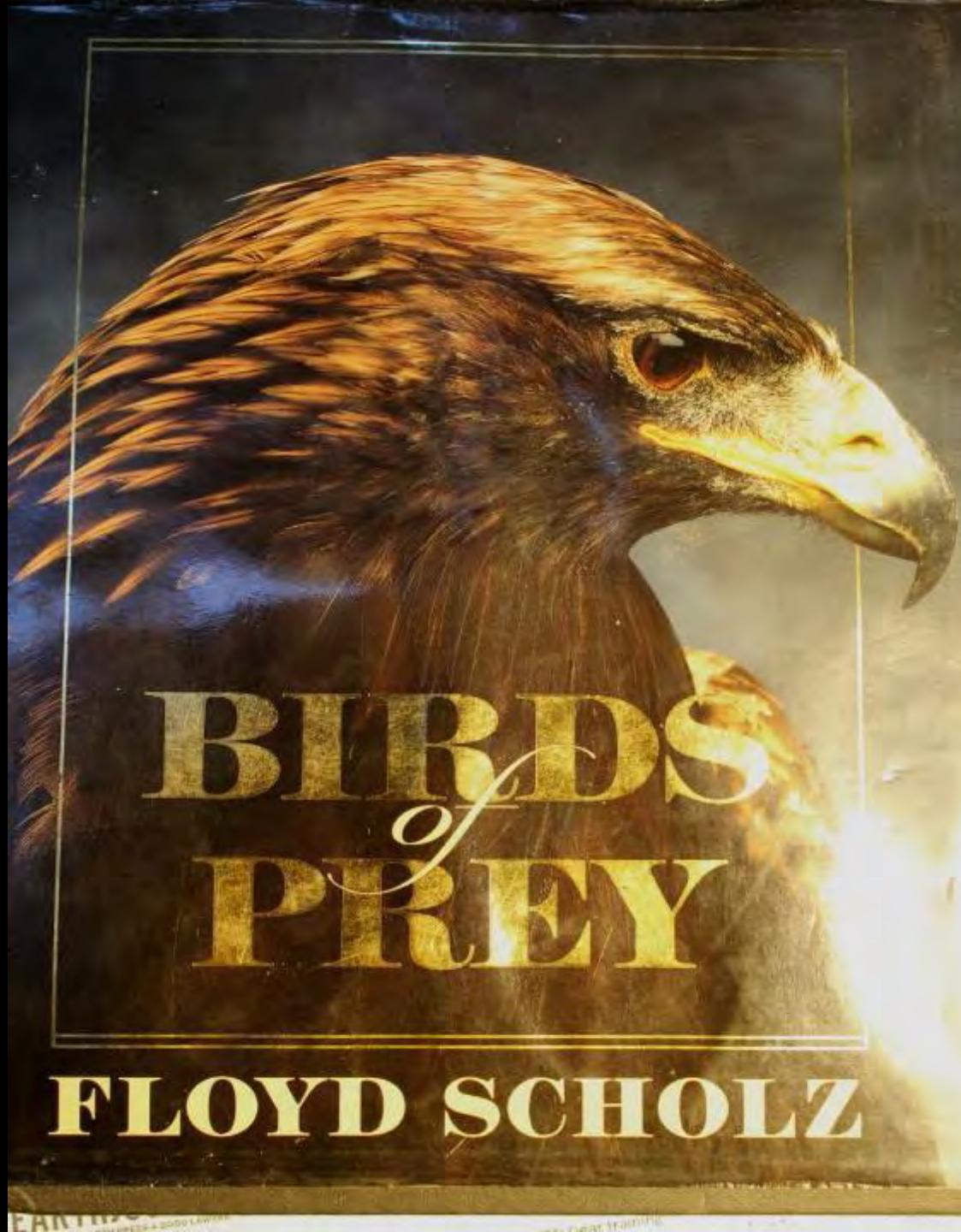






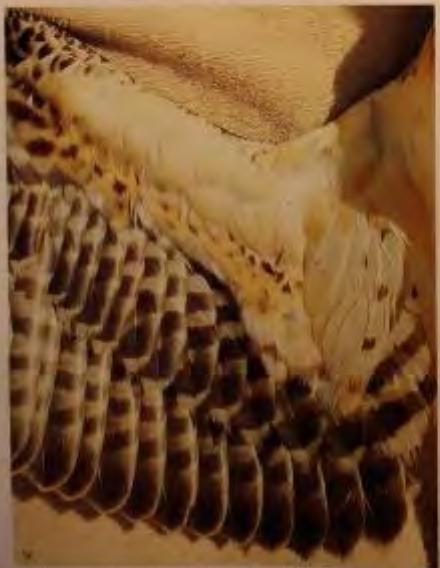


References





This open wing shows the feather shape, size, and plumage patterns of an adult's underwing feathers. Note the heavily notched outer primaries and graceful sweep of the under-secondary coverts.



A close-up of the underside of this osprey's wing shows the shape and location of the axillary feathers.



The flexibility of the corners of the mouth allows an extremely wide gape.



The interesting transition from feathers to fleshy cere. Also note the shape and texture of the eyelid and fleshy lobe protruding beyond the brows.



Note the heavily scaled structure of this clenched foot. It appears as though the largest and roundest of the scales are located directly above the joint of each toe.



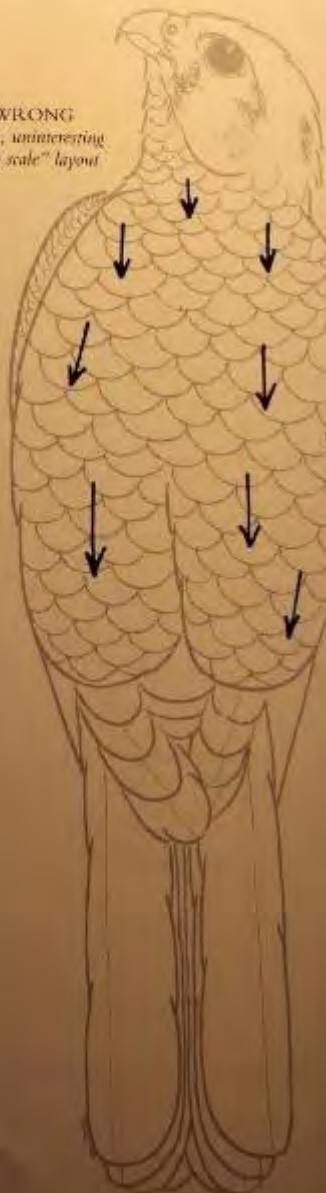
Detail of the top of the foot showing rows and rows of small, flexible scales.

such as the belly and breast of most birds, make sure the feather tracts have direction and flow into one another. Stage feather sizes to give the illusion of acceleration and variety.

CORRECT
Dynamic feather flow

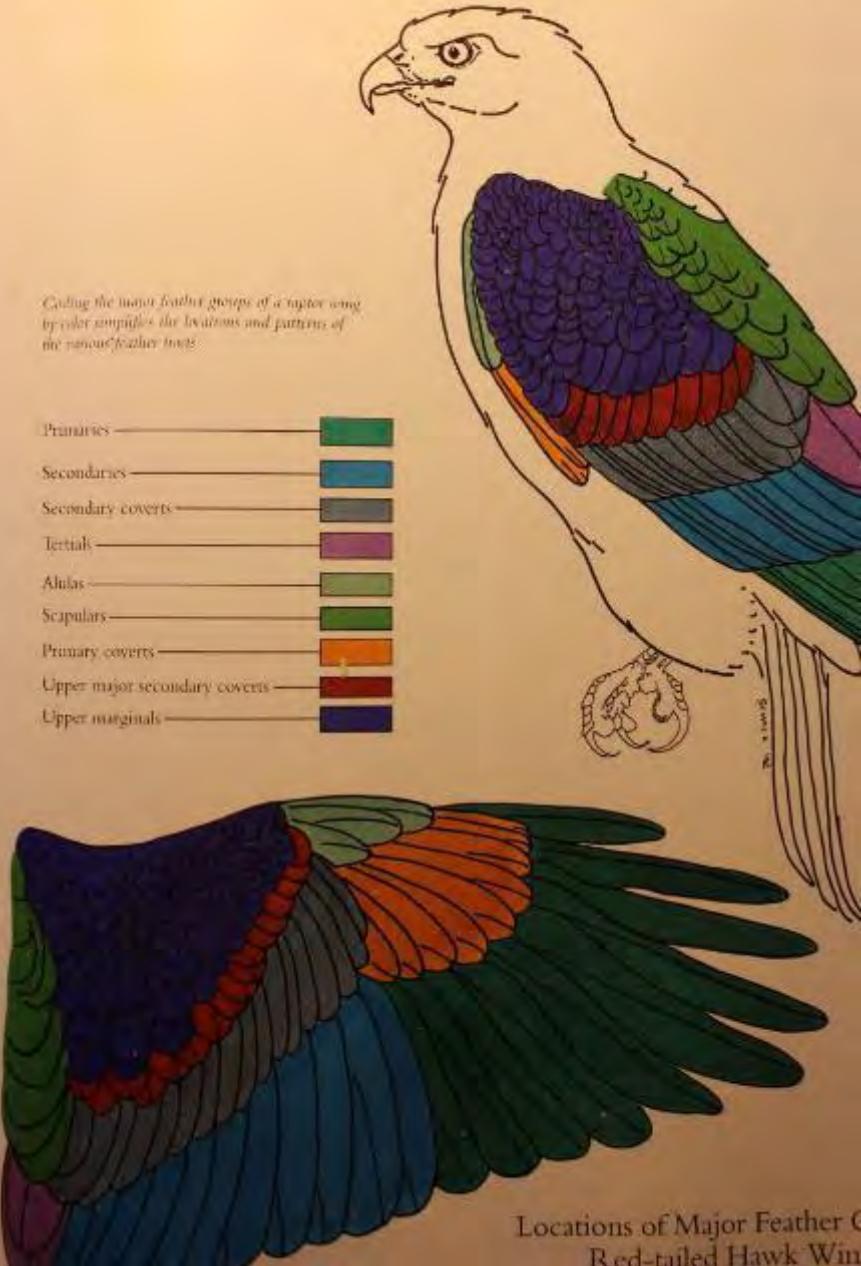


WRONG
Plain, uninteresting
"fish scale" layout



Coloring the major feather groups of a raptor wing by color simplifies the location and patterns of the various feather types.

- Primaries
- Secondaries
- Secondary covers
- Tertiaries
- Alulars
- Scapulars
- Primary coverts
- Upper major secondary covers
- Upper marginals





10 Round the back of the head up to the mid-point line and sand smooth.



11 The forehead is sloped down and the roughed-out bill is formed.



12 On the front of the head, carefully lay out and block in the bill. The front sides of the head will need to be tapered to the vertical lines.



13 Divide the profile of the head and draw a straight line from the front of the bill all the way around to the other side.



14 Using a $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch round cutter, carve a furrow along the lines about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch deep.



15 Round over the top of the head to the brow line and sand smooth. With a $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch ruby stone, carve a channel just below the jaw line and round it off. At this point you can see the raptor-like shape of the head beginning to form.



16 After studying and measuring your reference material, draw in the final bill and eye shape.



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Carving Wings





Carving feathers



























Burning Techniques









T220
G









Beaks,
talons,
and
eyes



















Mobiles...make your birds fly!











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