

# 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  
Taxidermied  
1975







































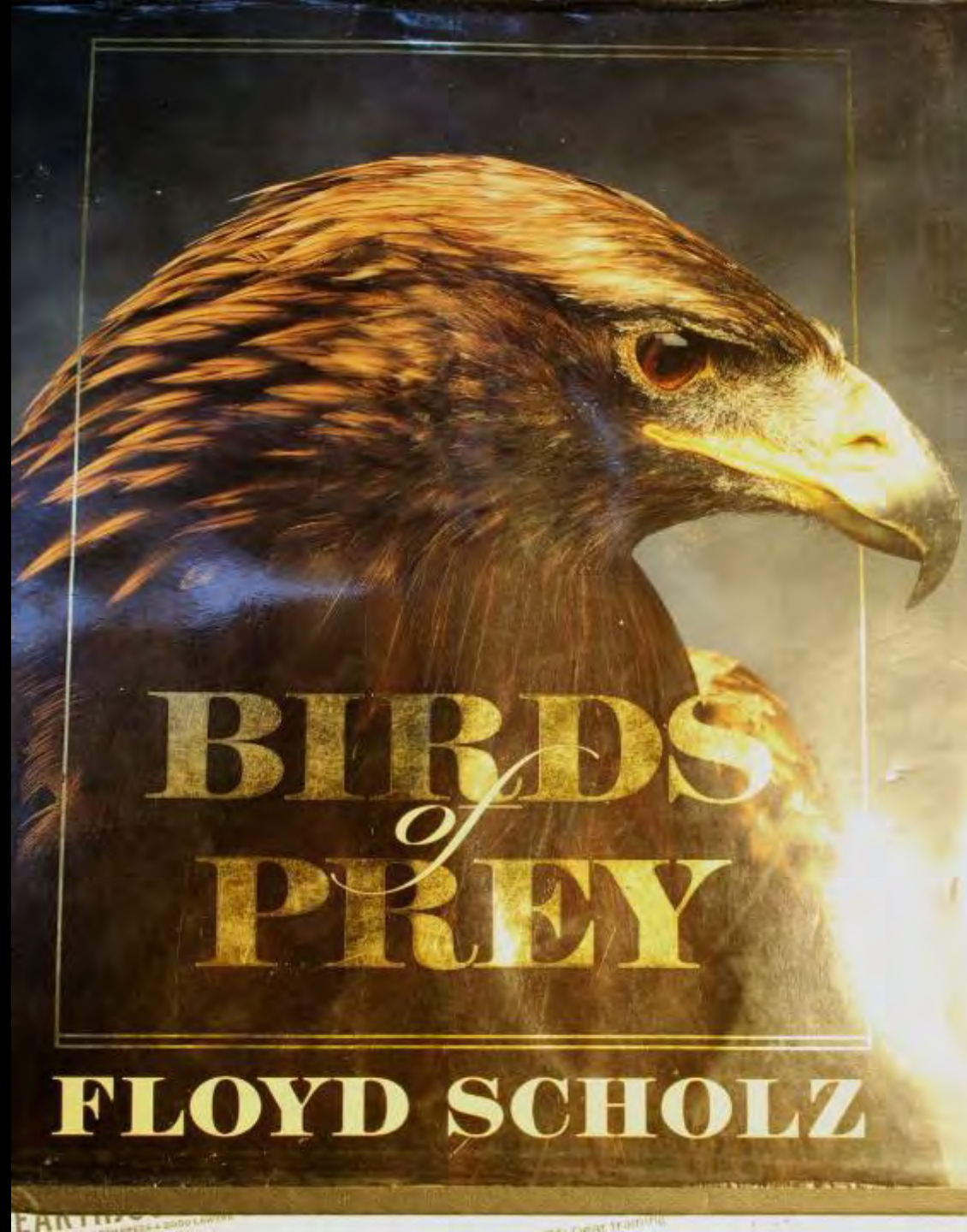








# References





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 structure of the eyelid and fleshy lobe protruding beyond the beak.



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. Vary 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 locations and patterns of the various feather tracts.

- Primaries — [Green]
- Secondaries — [Blue]
- Secondary coverts — [Grey]
- Tertials — [Purple]
- Alulas — [Light Green]
- Scapulars — [Dark Green]
- Primary coverts — [Orange]
- Upper major secondary coverts — [Red]
- Upper marginals — [Dark Blue]





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



10 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.



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



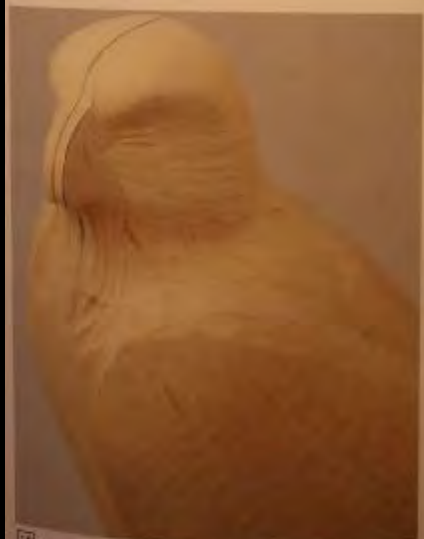
12 Divide the profile of the head and draw a straight line from the front of the bill all the way around to the other side.



13 Using a 5/8-inch round cutter, carve a furrow along the lines about 1/8 inch deep.



14 Measure down about 1/4 inch and draw a line angling slightly down toward the bill. Then establish and draw the jaw line angling slightly downward.



15 Round over the top of the head to the brow line and sand smooth. With a 3/8-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 shapes.



# Carving Wings







# Carving feathers







































# Burning Techniques

















FLAP WHEEL  
1"  
MAX RPM  
25,000 . 60  
Use safety guard  
& eye protection



FLAP WHEEL  
2"  
MAX RPM  
25,000 . 60  
Use safety guard  
& eye protection



FLAP WHEEL  
3"  
MAX RPM  
20,000 . 60

Always use a guard  
and eye protection.  
Comply with ANSI  
Code B7.1 and  
OSHA regulations.















Beaks,  
talons,  
and  
eyes





























Mobiles...make your birds fly!

















Todd Gladfelter

Red Mountain Arts

[www.redmountainarts.net](http://www.redmountainarts.net)

85 Red Mountain Lane  
New Ringgold, PA 17960

570.943.2198

[cindyross4@verizon.net](mailto:cindyross4@verizon.net)