

Oftentimes on a broad meadow near Dunbar....

Make a Wildlife Mobile!

Day 1

Skylark

"Oftentimes on a broad meadow near Dunbar we stood for hours enjoying their marvelous singing and soaring. From the grass where the nest was hidden the male would suddenly rise, as straight as if shot up, to a height of perhaps thirty or forty feet, and, sustaining himself with rapid wing-beats, pour down the most delicious melody, sweet and clear and strong, overflowing all bounds, then suddenly he would soar higher again and again, ever higher and higher, soaring and singing until lost to sight even in perfectly clear days, and oftentimes in cloudy weather 'far in the downy cloud' . . . and still the music came pouring down to us in glorious profusion, from a height far above our vision, requiring marvelous power of wing and marvelous power of voice, for that rich, delicious, soft, and yet clear music was distinctly heard long after the bird was out of sight."

Quote about Skylarks by John Muir.

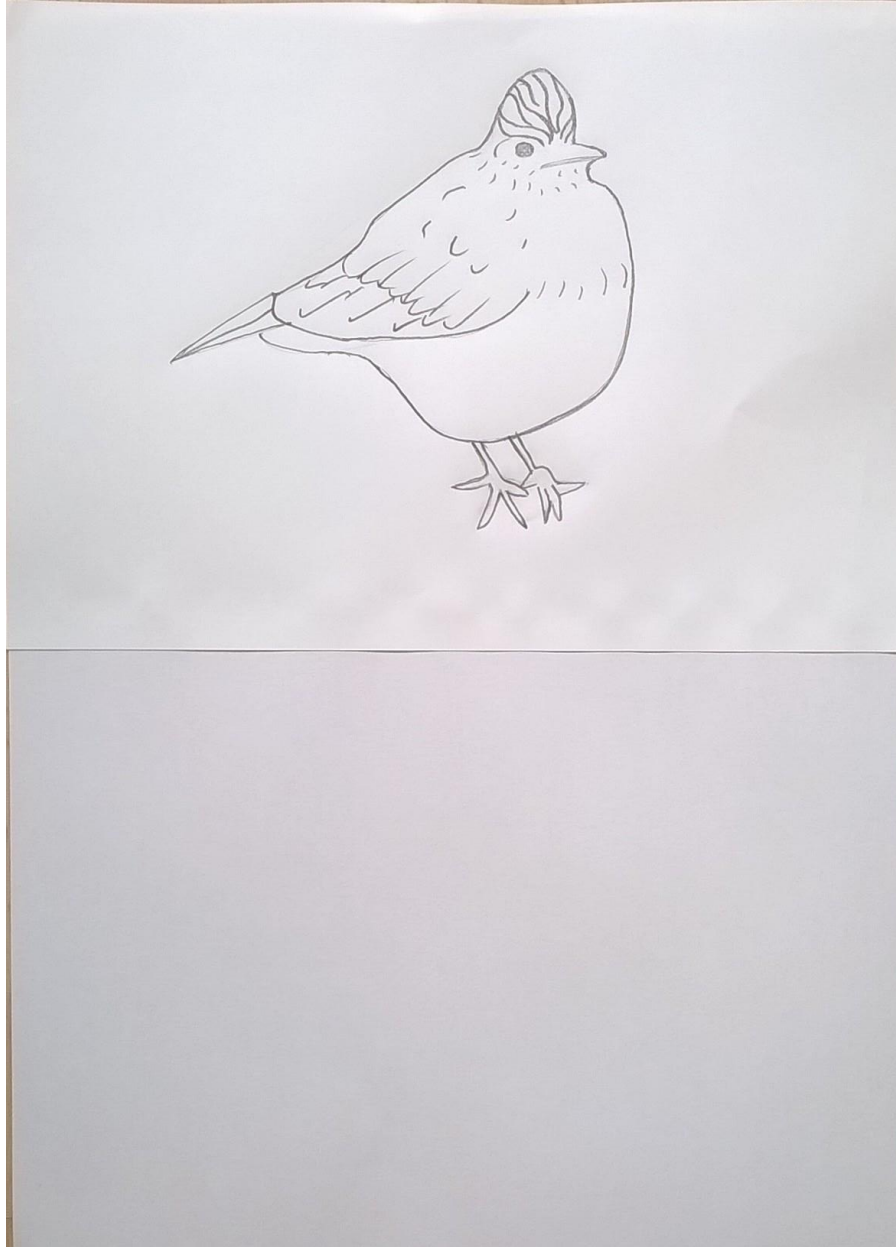


Skylark; recently spotted south of Dunbar, by Neil Maciver, locally-based bird watcher and enthusiast.

Neil considers himself to be an amateur photographer. However, he has very kindly lent us the use of several of his excellent photographs, for which we are very grateful.

Copyright Neil Maciver.

Now let's make a sketch using one of the photographs.



You may print this one off.

Or better still, sketch your own version.

Let's think about which materials we'd like to add colour and texture.

The Skylark is a bird which is camouflaged. That means it's feathers are arranged and coloured in a way that blends in with its habitat.

Why?

So that it cannot be easily seen by potential predators.



We've decided to use a brown tea-bag, a sponge and some natural materials (leaves, pine cone and twigs) for the wing and tail feathers. We mustn't forget the crest on its head!

We have a cotton pad for the down feathers.



Stain the upper feathers with the tea bag soaked in 3-4 teaspoons of water. You can make it a lighter colour by adding more water.

When it's completely dry, add extra detail with felt pens (or sharp pencil crayons if you already have them).



That's enough for today. Well done!

Keep your Skylark safe.

We will work on other pictures, for your mobile, in the coming days.

