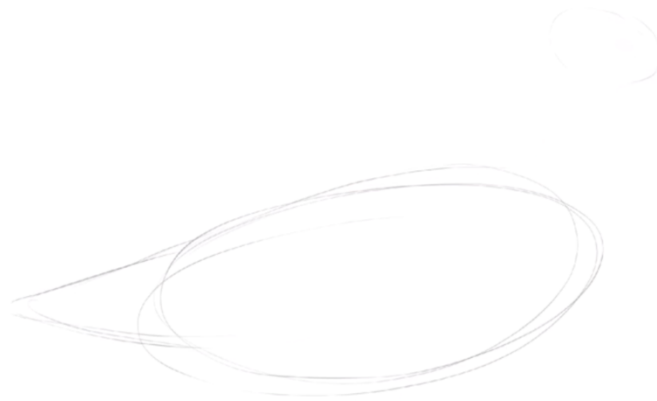


Hello, I'm David Sibley, and here are the steps I use to draw a Long-billed Curlew.

Start with an oval for the body, and in this case a fairly long narrow oval, almost horizontal, and placed toward the left side of your paper to leave room for the very long bill. Draw a small triangle at the left end of the oval, this will be the wingtips.



For the head, draw a smaller oval, above the right side of the body and angled slightly down to the right. Then lightly draw a straight line from the right side of the oval slightly down and to the right. This will be your guide for drawing the bill.



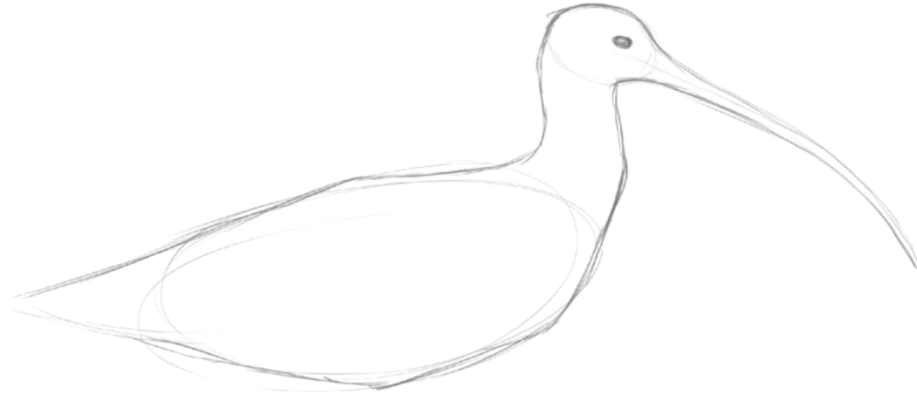
Draw the outline of the bill. Beginning from the top of the head, draw a smooth curve into the bill, a straight line for the first half or so, then gently curving down to the tip. For the underside of the bill follow the same curve, being careful to make the bill thick at the base and smoothly tapered all the way to the tip, as well as straight at the base and curved to the tip.



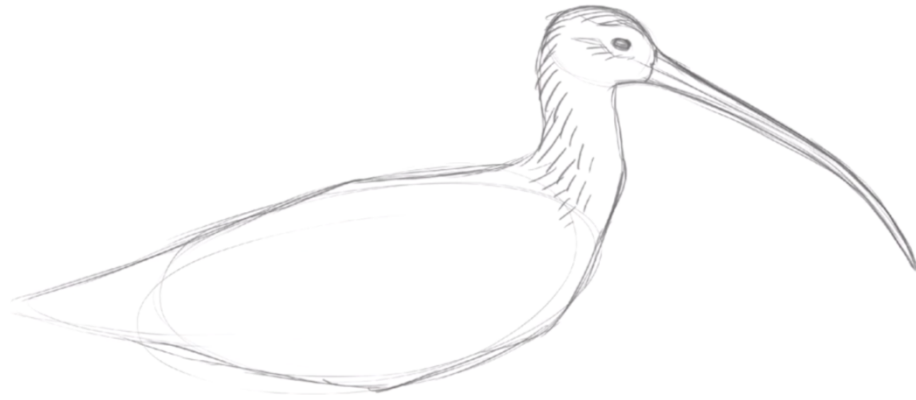
To place the eye, imagine the straight line in the middle of the bill extending back into the head. Place the eye just above this line and to the right of center of the head.



The outlines of the body are slightly angular. The bill curves smoothly into the forehead and then onto the crown, with a sharper corner at the back of the head and a nearly straight line down to the back. From there a straight horizontal line to the middle of the back, angling to a straight line to the wingtips. The underside of the bill curves smoothly into the chin, then angles sharply down so that the front of the neck is parallel to the back. The underside of the body curves with a few sharper angles leading back to the tail.



The crown is streaked. There are a few dark streaks below and behind the eye, and dark streaks on the back of the neck wrapping around onto the lower part of the neck.



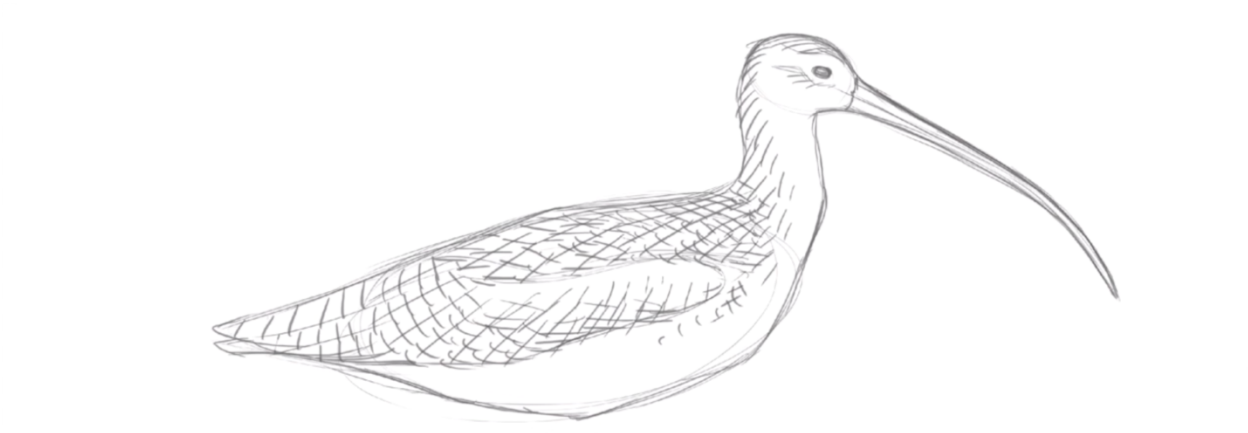
The folded wings form a roughly oval shape on the side of the body.



Curlews have a complex barred or checkered pattern. Begin by drawing the lines of the feathers, beginning with small feathers at the base of the neck pointing straight back to the tail. Feathers farther back on the body are larger than those closer to the front, and feathers lower on the sides of the body point down to the legs rather than the tail. This forms a faint "fan" pattern as feathers radiate out from the base of the neck and curve down.

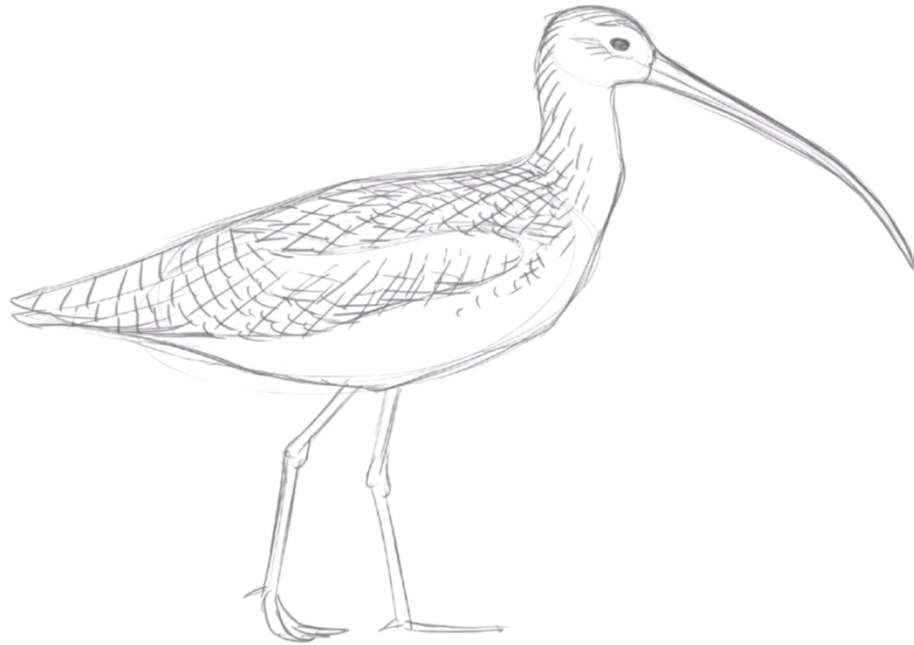


Each of those feathers is marked with dark bars across the feather, so drawing short dark lines across each of the feather lines will suggest the complex pattern on the curlew's back and wings.

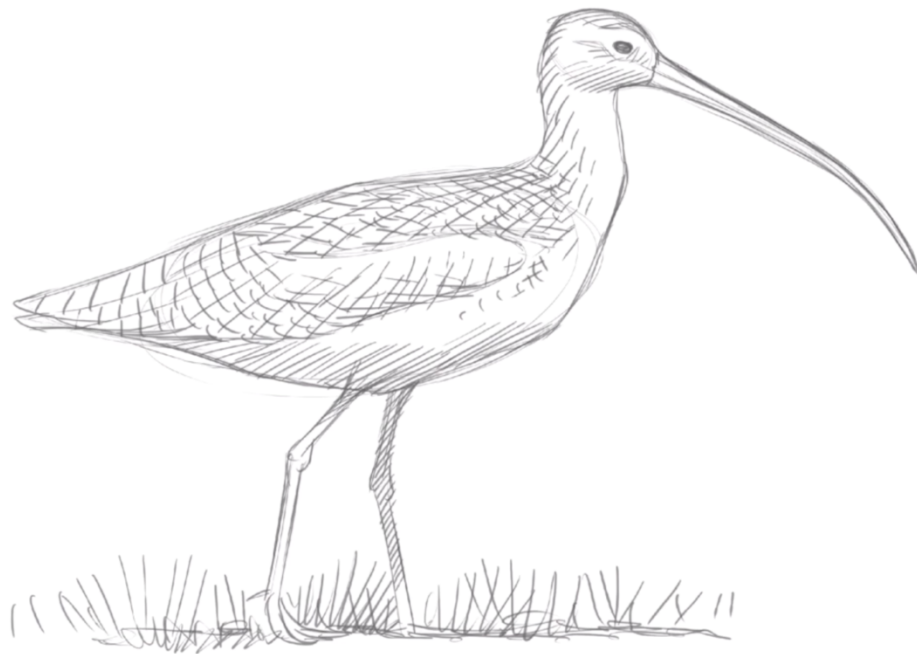


Like any bird, the curlew is balanced over its feet. We'll draw this curlew walking so it will be balanced over one foot while the other foot is lifted up. Draw one leg straight down from the center of the body, with toes flat on the ground. The other leg is

angled back, with the foot lifted up and toes bent as they push against the ground. Curlews have one tiny toe in the back and three larger toes in front.



Finally, add some shading under the chin and on the belly and legs, and some short grass for the curlew's habitat.



That's it!
Have fun, experiment, and please share what you've created

#sketchwithsibley



Drawing by David Allen Sibley

