

## Turning A Bird

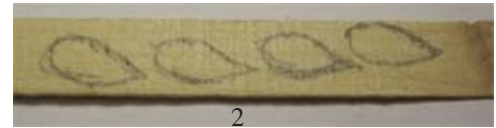
### Robin Bryan



**Blanks and Birds (1)** – Between centres, turn down your blank to the largest width of the body or the tail of the birds and to a length to accommodate the number of your birds and the parting of them off. Start at the tail stock end and turn a concave cone to the left, to the length of the tail and down to the width to fit the top view of the bird’s tail where it meets the body. Then turn a convex ellipse to the left to the neck/head junction, to fit the side view of the bird’s body. End the ellipse as vertically as possible to assist in the shaping of the back of the head (cardinal or blue jay), and mark off the tip of the beak for parting off. Repeat for the number of birds you are turning, changing profiles as needed to fit the sizes and shapes of your next birds. Sand the tails and bodies as necessary and part off the individual birds.



**WINGS (2)** – Cut a piece of your chosen wood 1/16” thick and wider than your wing. Sand as necessary, sketch on the wing profiles and then cut them out with scissors.



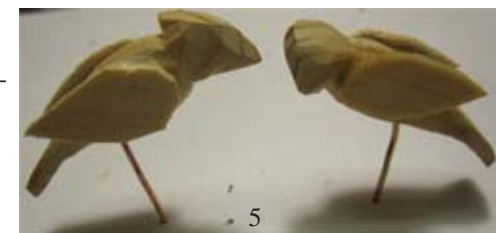
**SIDE PROFILE (3)** - Using a 1” belt sander or rasps, shape the tail down as in the photograph below, or to the angle wanted. Sand the head profile for the bird facing forward looking up or down, or to a new centre line if you want the head turned as is the bird on the right.



**BOTTOM PROFILE (4)** – Sand a small flat spot on each side of the body for gluing on the wings. Shape the width of the tail as in the photograph below, or to the shape wanted. Shape the head top/bottom profile for the bird facing forward or to a new centre line if you want the head turned to the left, as is the bird on the right in the photograph below, or to the right.



**WINGS AND LEGS (5 & 6)** – Drill a small hole for the leg wire and glue in if necessary. Glue on the wings and let glue set.



**PAINTING (7) AND COLOURING (8)** – Paint the whole bird with the base colour and stand it in a piece of Styrofoam to dry. When dry, use black and coloured markers/pencils/paints to put on the remaining details.

