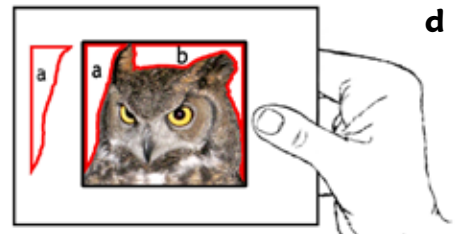


The anatomy of a sketch ~ from the right brain to the paper cont...

- When the ellipse looks right, alter it to make it more like the actual owl shape. Add ear tufts. (The ear tufts are just feathers, so they keep changing shape. I can draw any of the shapes I see. I won't do any of the interior shapes until I have the outline just right, otherwise, it's like building a house on a crooked foundation.)

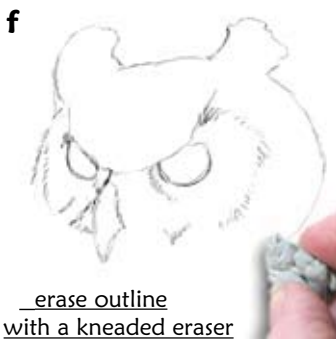


- If you have problems with a drawing, make a frame (d) to help you see negative spaces (the shapes AROUND the subject). (The shape on the left (a) was giving me trouble, but the frame allowed me to capture it so that I could see the shape.)

Draw the interior features

Once the outline is done, it's time to draw the interior features.

- A live subject always moves (e). Sometimes you have to start one or more new drawings before the first one is done, then come back to the first one. (This owl keeps turning its head, so I'm having to estimate where to put the beak ~ trying to draw when the head is turned just right. Working from a photo is easier, but the results aren't quite as "fresh.")



erase outline with a kneaded eraser

- Draw the interior features using all the right-brain techniques to figure out the size and placement of features, then erase the extra lines of the ellipse with your kneaded eraser (f). (The kneaded eraser is silent and eraser crumbs don't need to be brushed off the paper, perfect for sketching wildlife with a minimum of distracting noise and movement.)



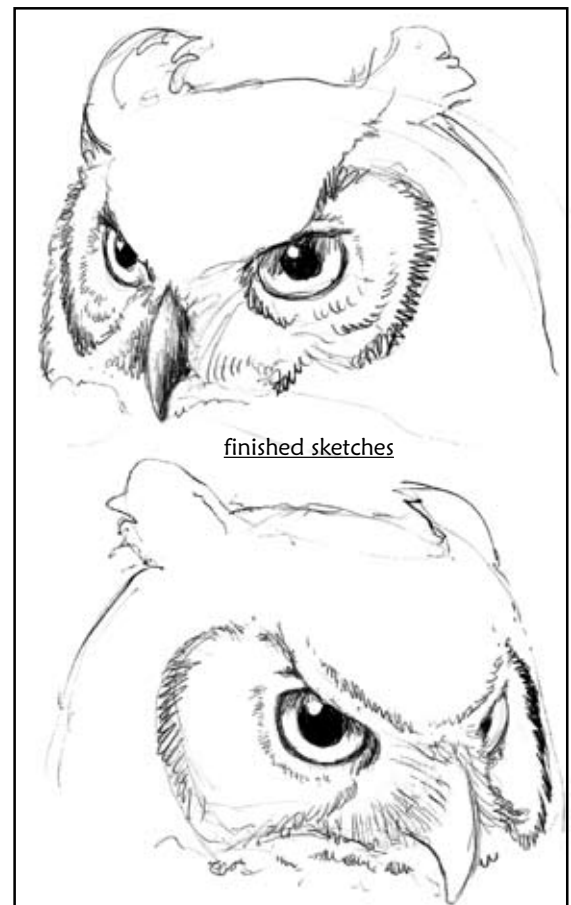
Finishing touches

- The owl was sketched with an HB pencil, to make it easy to erase (g). But the eyes need to be the blackest black with a pure white highlight to give the sketch drama.



Use the 2B pencil to darken the eyes and beak, and strengthen any too-light lines. Be careful to keep lines variable (see page 14) and uneven so that your finished drawing doesn't have a heavy "coloring book outline."

(The lower owl at right was my "fall-back" sketch, drawn whenever the owl turned its head toward the right. Having more than one drawing in process is essential to avoid frustration.)



finished sketches