



Parakeets



What is a parakeet?

- A parakeet is a bright green, small sized parrot.
- They are native to tropical Africa and southern Asia



Watch BBC programme, 'Wild London' (38:47-41:24) where David Attenborough explores the diverse wildlife thriving in London, including parakeets at Hither Green Cemetery! 5 minutes away from our school!



- Like many Londoners, parakeets “arrived” from elsewhere and made the city home
- Therefore parakeets reflect the diversity of SE London communities
- Parakeets can symbolise migration and the blending of cultures.

Question: What does it mean to belong?



Adaptation & Resilience

- Parakeets thrive in an environment very different from their original habitat.
- They represent resilience and adaptability
- They've learned to survive in a dense, human-made landscape

Nature Reclaiming Urban Space

- They show how nature persists, even in built environments.
- They can be seen as a symbol of nature pushing back into the city
- They can help to consider sustainability and environmental awareness

Visibility and Voice

- Their bright green colour and loud calls stand out in London's muted tones.
- They can symbolise being seen and heard
- They can represent voices that are often overlooked but impossible to ignore

Tension Between Native & Non-Native

- Parakeets are sometimes viewed as invasive.
- Therefore, they can help to raise ideas of belonging vs exclusion
- Who decides what is “out of place”?



The parakeet is an introduced yet now familiar presence in South East London. They act as a metaphor for multicultural identity and the evolving cultural and environmental landscape of a shared space, including our Lewisham Borough.

Using the parakeet as a visual motif, you will explore themes of migration, identity, resilience and belonging within our local context.

L/O-

Lesson 1: Watch 'Wild London' on BBC iPlayer 38:47-41:24

Then you will need to look at the **line only drawings (slide 8-9)** of a parakeet and create your own **line drawing** of a parakeet

You may want to create this as a **continuous line drawing**. What does this mean? You can add water colour to this as in slide 10.

Lesson 2/3: To produce a large A3 size colourful secondary observation study of a parakeet from one of the images provided (slides 11-20) This can be created using any media (paint, oil pastel, coloured pencils etc) **Be really bold and colourful!**

Lesson 3/4: To connect this bird to your own experiences of change or challenge.

You need to design your own parakeet, but it somehow needs to represent you/ your experience....How will you show this? Look at slide 23 for inspiration. This design needs to be alive with colour!!!

- Maybe you want to show visibility, expression, and presence
- Maybe you want to express growth, survival and strength in unfamiliar places
- Maybe you want to depict community, acceptance and environmental impact
- Maybe you want people to see their surroundings differently through your design
- Maybe you want to explore coexistence between nature and urban life
- Maybe you want to encourage critical thinking and debate



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Telegraph Hill Festival



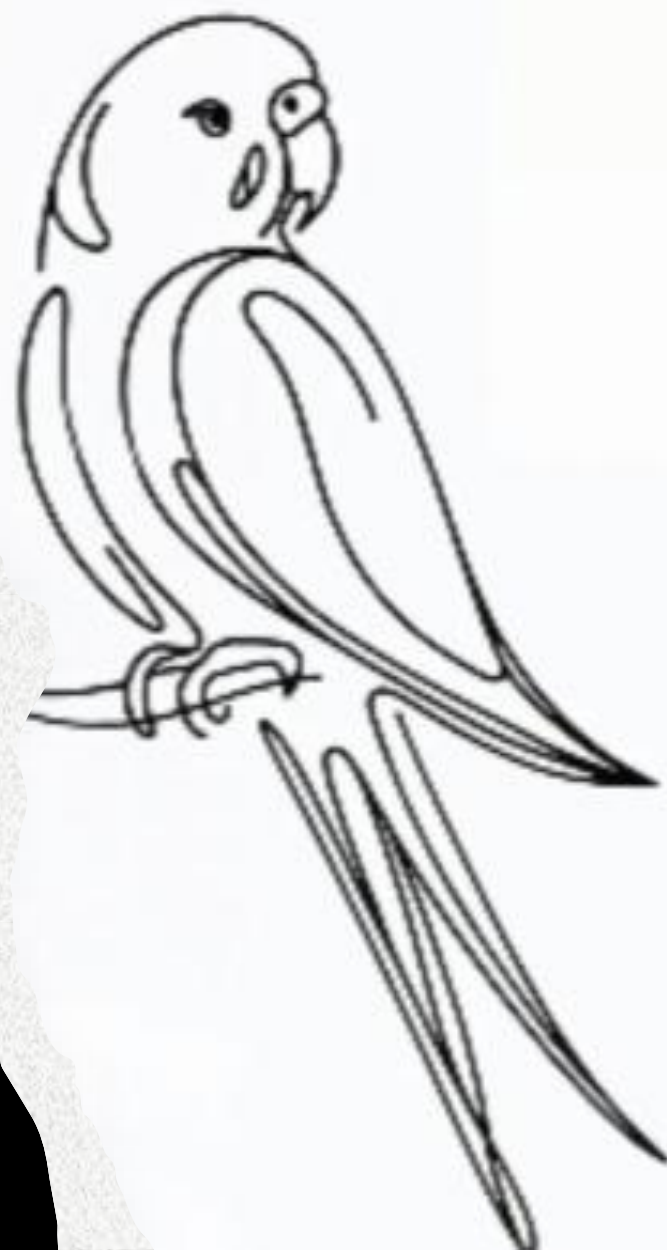
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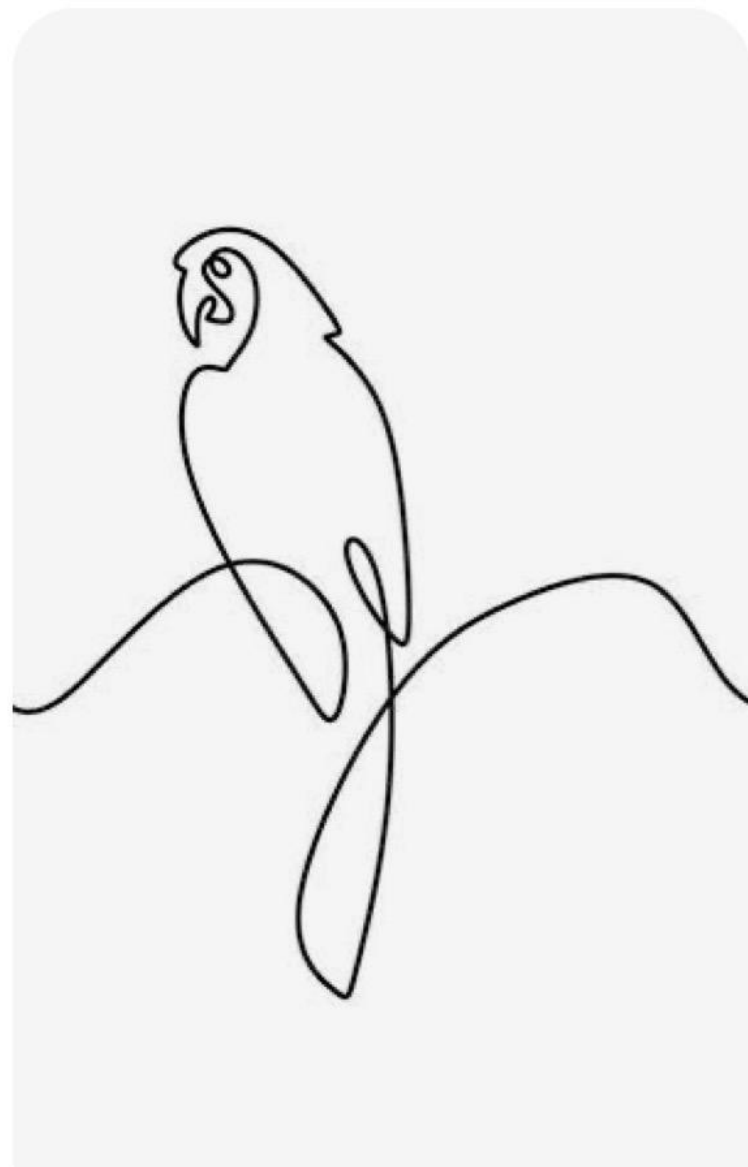


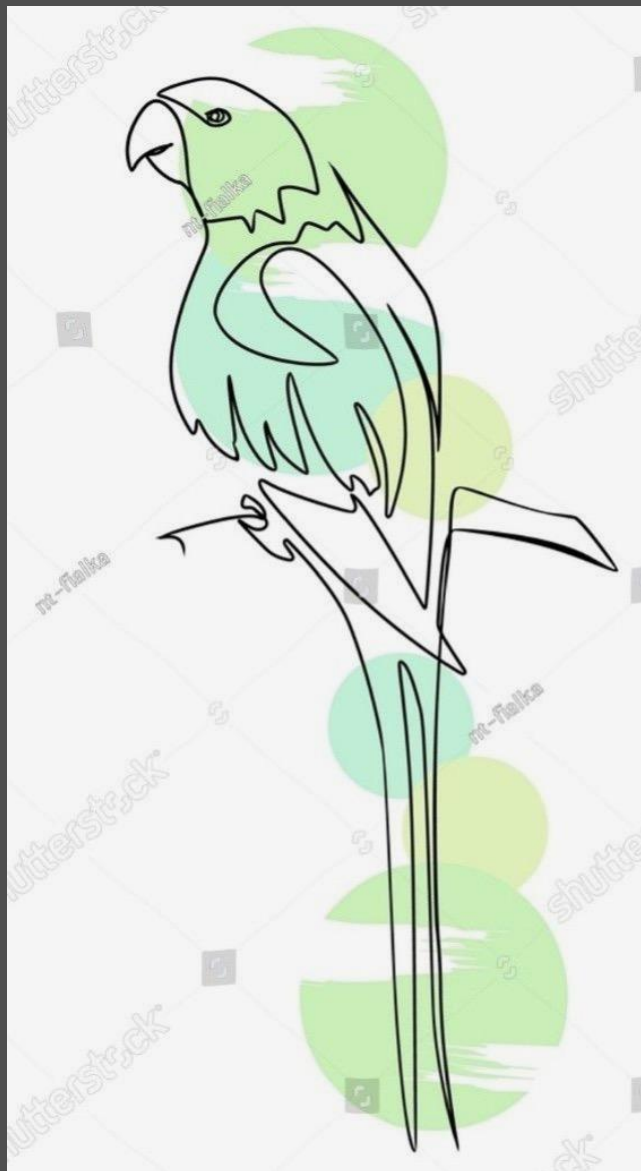
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Line Drawings

























(C) Omprakash Hatus





Bird Designs by artist Studio Lenka

Birds by
Cornish Artist
Sophie Wake



