

# TRANSFORMATION INTO AN EAGLE

A STUDY BY SYLVIA ROSE AKA 'BERRY'

An eagle: that which many consider the symbol of freedom. In transformation, the same holds true - there is no bigger freedom than being able to soar above the clouds on your own two wings. As one of the most successful birds of prey, it's no surprise that when someone wishes to fly, this is one of the more popular choices of transformations to undergo.

These birds are large and powerfully built, with a wingspan anywhere up to 8ft across. Their habitable range is incredibly huge, being able to call almost any area it desires its 'home', which is also a boon for anyone who has decided to embrace the life of an eagle as their own. Flight is much easier to learn in the body of an eagle than, say, a sparrow, as they are naturally powerful flyers who can soar effortlessly on upward rising warm air. Prey also comes easy to them, as they can spot plentiful fish with ease due to their incredible long-range vision. While transforming into an animal to truly 'live off the land' can be a challenge, the freedom and natural grace an eagle benefits from certainly gives one a leg up on the competition.



Speaking of innate nature, one may also be interested in building a family and having offspring of their own, no matter their form. For eagles, there's comfort and familiarity included, knowing that they mate for life. Courtship between two eagles is a beautiful dance of calls and complicated flight displays - this may be the most difficult thing for a newly-transformed eagle to learn, and may require months or years of careful observation to perfect. But, then again, it is a lot simpler than human courtship!

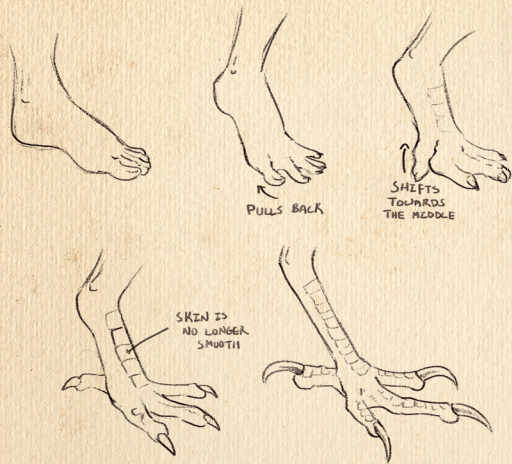
As you may know, as a witch specializing in transformation magic, I meet many lost souls who are seeking new purpose in their life. Often, our complicated and stressful human life can be too hard to bear, and many may seek an escape through transformation. Some prefer temporary 'vacations' in the body of a new creature, and others prefer a more permanent solution. That being said, I do not often see those who've taken on the life of an eagle to be eager to return to human civilization. The wind through their wings, the sights of the world far below, the gentle solitude of the skies... I can imagine why it might be so!

It is a delight to see these birds perch on the trees above me from time to time. It always brings a smile to my face.

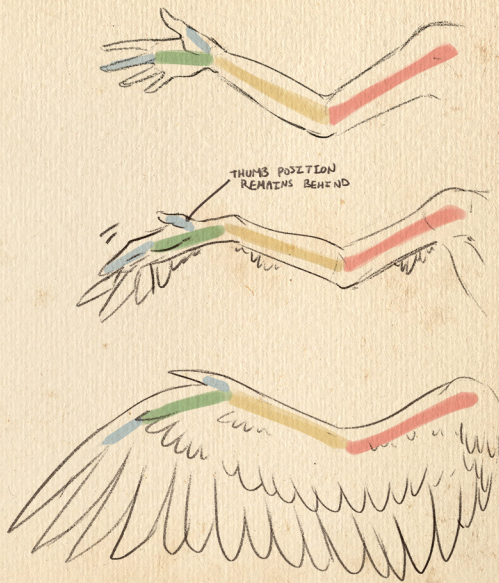


Surprised at how fast her feathers are coming in!

# FEET & WING TRANSFORMATION



To transform the feet into a bird's foot with talons, first the digits must be rearranged and combined. The big toe will pull backwards towards the heel of the foot, and the middle toes will merge into one. As the toes grow outwards, so do the claws, lengthening and sharpening. During the transformation, the smooth human skin will also harden and divide, growing a protective rough texture, suitable for gripping.



As different as wings and arms look, they are actually quite similar. To grow one's limbs into wings, the fingers must simply merge together, as the entirety of the arm thins and lengthens. Eventually, the feathers grow in, starting as messy down, and ending up as strong flight feathers.

# FACIAL CHANGES

As the common ancestor of humans and birds lived over 300 million years ago, the facial anatomy between the two is vastly different, making space for a dramatic transformation. It's a fascinating series of changes, for certain! At first, the skull will begin to push forward, as the front teeth merge and grow into the beginnings of a beak. The lips, awkwardly, pull back as well, as the mouth increases in size (fig 3-2). The nose flattens as the nasal cavity widens, and the eyes become further situated near the back of the head. Feathers grow along the neck, followed by the hair morphing into thin feathers as well. At this point, the lips are stretched out so far that they begin the process of disappearing into the rest of the face, merging with the outer rim of the beak (fig 3-3). Finally, the beak hardens completely and gains its signature hook-like appearance, and the eyes are rounded, sharper, and ready to hunt prey.

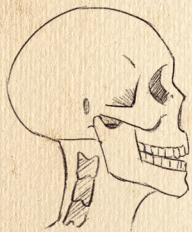


fig 3-1

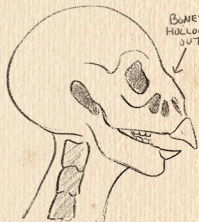


fig 3-2

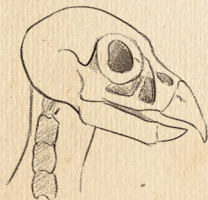


fig 3-3



fig 3-4



# TRANSFORMATION OVERVIEW



fig 41

But, as the transformation progresses, things start to take a more proper shape. The legs shrink and slot themselves into now higher-positioned hips, and the beak is now a more prominent part of our eagle's face. The wings begin growing their flight feathers, and the whole body becomes more compact.

There is no other way to say it, but transforming into an avian is quite an awkward process. Before transforming them, I make sure to let any clients know that they will feel particularly strange during this process. Aside from the dramatic facial changes and the rapid expansion of the chest, a bird's bones are hollow, which makes one feel much lighter than they'd expect. It feels quite like dropping a 100 pound weight you didn't know you had been carrying for 20+ years!

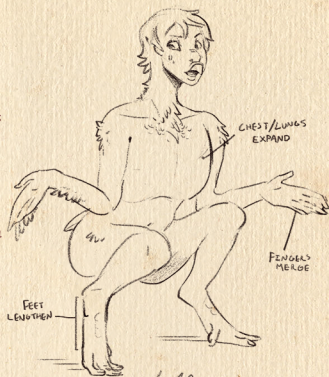


fig 42

First, the changes in the extremities begin. The fingers merge, and the feet lengthen. Then, muscle mass in the thighs rapidly drops, and the rib cage, lungs, and chest muscle all grow significantly. A small nub of a tail can be seen as well. As the feathers are just downy wisps this early on, it can give the transformee the potentially embarrassing appearance of a 'plucked chicken'!



fig 43

At last, a new eagle is born! Now that the feathers have finished growing and the bodily proportions are in proper ratios, our new eagle feels confident and ready to take their new form out for a test flight.

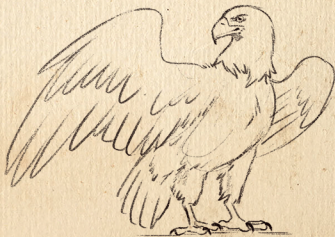


fig 44