

Arts and Birding

MATERIALS LIST & NOTES



Our list includes suggestions, but you should feel free to bring whatever materials you like. Keep in mind that we will be working outside “in the field” most of the time, so consider portability when choosing supplies. A large zip lock bag is handy for holding materials and keeping them dry. Bring a small back pack so you can carry what you need easily. Don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about materials prior to camp: Jean Mackay, jeanmackayart@gmail.com.

THE BASICS- REQUIRED

- **Pencils-** HB, B, or 2B are good all around drawing tools—if you’re only buying one, pick one of those. 3B, 4B are softer and darker and nice for shading; pencils in the H range are harder and lighter. An F pencil as it is soft, but light and works well with watercolor.
- **Eraser-** Kneaded eraser or white vinyl eraser
- **Sketch pad or journal-** there are many options for sizes and brands- **Strathmore, Canson, Stillman & Birn, Pentallie, Handbook, Moleskin, and Fabriano** are a few good choices. IMPORTANT for watercolor painting: get a journal or pad with 120-140lb (270-300gsm) watercolor paper. You will get more satisfying effects with 140lb paper made for watercolor sketching/painting. Bottom line: **don’t skimp on paper quality.**
- **Pens-** Any waterproof black pen is fine for getting started. Even a ballpoint pen will do. Pen and ink is great for field sketching-- very portable, and works well with colored pencils and watercolors. See below for suggestions.
- **Watercolor-** A small 12-color set of watercolor pans. Pan colors are much easier than tubes to take into the field. See below for suggestions.
- **Watercolor Brushes-** If you are just starting out, we recommend getting three round brushes: small, medium, and large. Size 2 is nice for details, size 5 or 6 is a good mid-range, and size 10 or 12 is nice for larger washes. You may also want to try a water brush, which is an inexpensive plastic brush with a reservoir of water in the handle that is squeezed out into the bristles—very handy for quick washes in the field. If you have larger brushes or different types of brushes- flat, rigger, etc. feel free to bring them.
- **Miscellaneous-** Paper towels or an old sock to clean your palette and absorb extra water; jam jar or small cup to hold water.
- **Folding stool - SEE BELOW FOR IDEAS**

DETAILS

Pen & Ink

- **Pigma Micron** or Staedtler pigment liners: The ink is archival quality, waterproof, and the pens come in various sizes:
 - 01 or 02 make a nice fine line. 005 is especially good for very fine detailed work
 - Pigma Graphic 1 has a bold line that works well for working fast and without being fussy.
- Sharpie makes a pen that is fairly thin, but most Sharpie markers bleed if you are not careful.
- Fountain pens or traditional dip pens and bottles of ink are fun to try, but they require more finesse in the field and are less portable. If you want to combine ink with watercolor, make sure you get a waterproof ink.

Colored Pencils or Watercolor Pencils

- Bring a set if you like. They are easy and fun for adding color to your sketches. **Faber Castell**, **Derwent** and **Prismacolor** are popular brands.

Watercolors

- "Student" watercolors: **Cotman** brand by **Windsor & Newton** makes great field box sets of "pan" watercolors (mini-set, compact set, field box set). These are lightweight and easy to travel with. Like kids' watercolor sets (like Prang or Crayola), these paints are remoistened before painting. **Student Watercolors** have working characteristics similar to professional watercolors, but with lower concentrations of pigment and less expensive formulas. These are a good, affordable choice for getting started and you can upgrade later if you want.
- Artist grade or professional quality watercolors- Popular brands include Windsor & Newton, Daniel Smith, QoR, M. Graham, and Holbein. You can choose "pans" of color or fill pans with paint from tubes. When you are starting, keep it simple. It's better to get to know a few colors and work with them effectively, than have lots of colors and not know how they combine.

Good starter palette:

- Ultramarine Blue
- Cobalt Blue or Cerulean blue
- Phthalo Blue
- Lemon Yellow
- Hansa Yellow Medium or Cadmium Yellow Medium
- Yellow Ochre or Raw Sienna
- Permanent Alizarin Crimson
- Cadmium Red or Transparent Pyrrol Orange
- Burnt Sienna
- Burnt Umber

And a few more...

- Quinacridone Gold- Daniel Smith brand recommended over Windsor and Newton
- Permanent sap green- Many people mix their own from combinations of blues and yellows or blues and browns. Others select a green that mixes well with blues for darker shades and yellows for lighter ones.
- Cobalt Violet Deep Hue- useful for mixing shadow tones and neutrals
- Ivory Black- for mixing olive greens that often occur in bird plumages

CAMP STOOL / BACKPACK COMBO

Searching for "backpack stool combination" on google yields quite a few options, most in the \$40-\$60 range.

Sean Murtha and Barry VanDusen use this one:

https://www.armynavypx.com/OD-Backpack-Stool-Combo-Pack-p/RTC-4568.htm?gclid=CjwKCAiA1eKBBhBZEiwAX3ggl1YUh6lavOQTrM9cCd0TZp7laclffaNiChz6xugFEWqcrIxp9KRXVhoCk2cQAvD_BwE

These are similar:

[Amazon.com: HANERDUN 3 in 1 Cooler Backpack, Foldable Fishing Chair, Portable Backpack Chair with Fabric Cooler Bag, Soft Sided Cooler Chair for Outdoor Hiking Events Beach Fishing Camping: Kitchen & Dining](#)

[Amazon.com : BigTron Ultralight Backpack Stool Combo - Compact Lightweight Backpack and Portable Folding Cooler Chair- Perfect for Camping Fishing Hiking Picnic Outdoor Watching Sports Events BBQ, Black : Clothing](#)