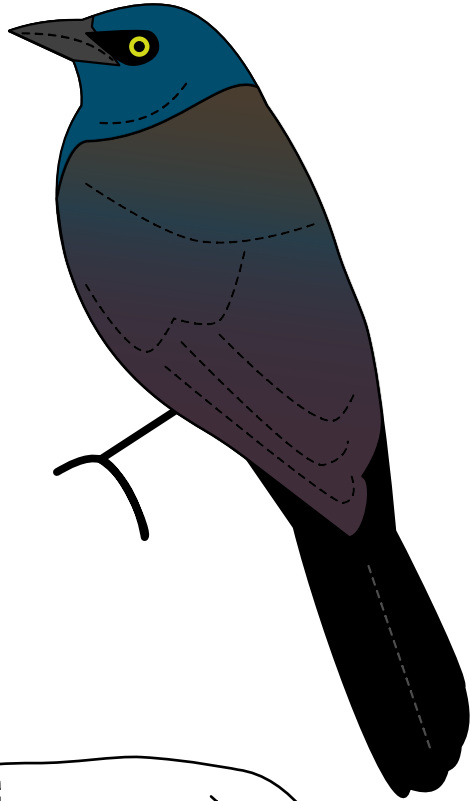


Downeast Thunder Farm Common Grackle

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- The challenge for the Grackle is to create the iridescent colors for the bird. Depending on the light, they sometimes appear black, brown, or inky turquoise and blue shades. I coated the felt for the head and wing with a wash of color using acrylic paint. I used a blue on the head and then swaths of bronze, green, and purple on the wing.
- Create two mirror images of the bird for a double-sided pattern.
- Tack the beak in place with a black running stitch for the mouth.
- Add the face and tack in a few spots with black floss.
- Position the eye on the face and tack with a black seed bead.
- Position the wing and tack with black floss. Sew the decorative running stitches in black, as illustrated.
- Using black floss, add the cheek outline as illustrated.
- Using dark gray floss, add the running stitch on the tail.
- Create legs with a bit of wire and tack to the back of one of the body pieces.
- Sew the two body pieces together with a black blanket stitch, pausing about 1.5 inches before finishing and lightly stuff with fiberfill.

Have fun!

Susan

