Turning a Moody Bird
by Steven McLoon

- Prepare a spindle stock ~1¾-2" x ~6-7".
- Drill a ¾" hole for the eye all the way through centered of one side 2⅜" from one end.
- Glue a 2" length of ¼" dowel of contrasting wood into the hole using yellow glue or medium CA. (Yellow glue needs to dry overnight.)
- Mark the center point on the end away from the eye.
- Mount the stock at the end with the eye into a four-jaw chuck; support the other end with a live center in the tailstock.
- Rough the stock to a cylinder ~1¾" in diameter.
- On the tailstock end, turn a short tenon ¾" in diameter to serve as a size target.
- Measure in 2¼", and make a narrow groove down to ¾" in diameter.
- Put a pencil mark at the ~½-⅔ dividing line in the segment between the tenons.
- Shape the body between the tenons; the widest point should ~1¾" in diameter at the ½-⅔ dividing line.
- Remove the tailstock, turn away the tenon, and turn a shallow depression into the end.
- Sand the body to 2000g; finish the body with a friction finish.
- Part off the body at the headstock end.
- Mark the front and back of the head with pencil lines ~¾" on either side of the center of the eye.
- Turn off any waste at the back of the head (i.e. tailstock side of the pencil line).
- Make a groove on the headstock side in front of the pencil line down to ½-⅘" in diameter.
- Shape the head into a sphere ~1¼" diameter centered on the eye; make a smooth taper into the beak at the front of the head (towards the headstock).
- Begin to sape the beak; it should be ~1¼" long; do NOT make it too thin yet or it will break off.
- Sand the head to 2000g; finish the head with a friction finish.
- Part off the head at the front of the beak.
- Mount the head in a jam chuck; finish shaping the beak.
- Sand the beak to 2000g; finish the beak with a friction finish.
- Mount the body in a jam chuck, then turn, sand and finish the depression in the end.
- Sand the depression to 2000g; finish the depression with a friction finish.

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