

# **Celebration of birds.**

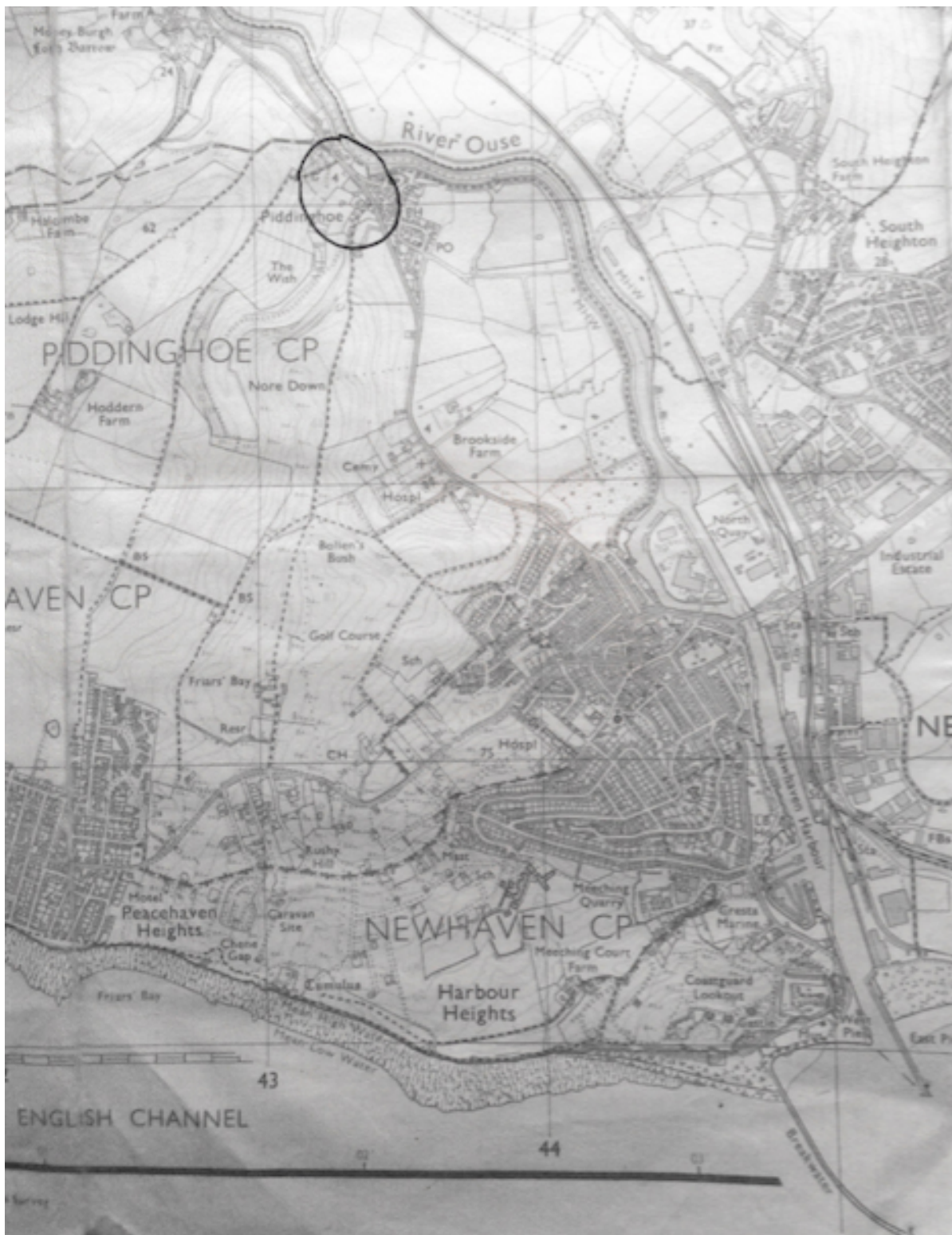


This body of work is a celebration of birds, through the exploration of sustainable and discarded materials. These materials I found on walks along the coast between Brighton and Newhaven. Many of the birds that inspire this project are rescue birds that I nursed back to health. Plus those that I sight along the coast like the starling, swallow, wren and kingfisher. Sustainability is an important factor to the designing and making of my work.

There are four parts in this work: research, weavings, pottery and bird sculptures. The research involves taking photographs, gathering found materials, making maps, drawings. The weavings represent how birds weave material into their nests. The clay pots mimic how swallows use mud to make their nest, paired with wooden spoons that represent the body and tail of birds. Lastly there are the recycled material bird sculptures. I hope through my work to create/achieve an awareness of these birds, and the impact that litter has on their habitat.

Why birds you may ask. Well, since a very young age I have grown up keeping chickens, doves as well as many other animals as pets. I feel a very strong connection with animals and watch birds while out walking or along the street.

I also feel that many birds are overlooked and not noticed, without them it would be very different and many plants would not grow as the birds help populate and distribute the seeds of plants.



A section from Kipling's poem.

I will go North about the shaws  
And the deep ghylls that breed  
Huge Oaks and old, the which we hold  
No more than Sussex weed;  
Or South where windy Piddinghoe's  
Begladdered dolphin veers  
And red beside wide-banked Ouse  
Lie down our Sussex steers.

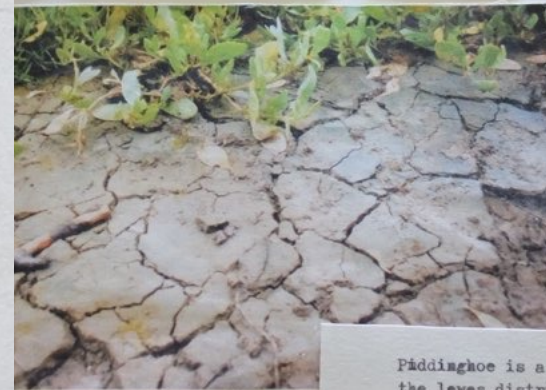
## Piddinghoe.

Piddinghoe is a small village and civil parish in the Lewes district of East Sussex, England. It is located in the valley of the River Ouse between Lewes and Newhaven, five miles (8km) south of the former, downstream of Southease. The village was once a central player in the Sussex smuggling. It is also notable for having the only remaining bottle shaped brick kiln in the country.

OS grid reference TQ433031  
Area 3.8km<sup>2</sup> (1.5sq mi)







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A pot made of river bank clay mimicking how birds use mud to make their nests and also weaving of grasses found along the river.



Using dug up river clay mud to make pots mimicking how some birds use clay-like mud to make nests.



# KINGFISHER

KINGFISHER (Alcedo Atthis)

Few birds are sayer than the kingfisher, so that birde watchers rarely get to have a close view of it. The most that many people get to see of this beautifully coloured bird is a brief glimpse of it as it flashes passed them- a swift arrow of colour speeding along the river bank. Frequently, the first indication of the birds presence is its call: a loud, shrill piping 'cheeeee' or 'chikeeee'.

the kingfisher spends all year in Britian, and suffers severly in cold winters when its food supply is literally cut off from it. Rivers and lakes ice over, and the bird cannot get to its usual diet of small fish and aquatic insects, At such times the kingfisher may move to the coastal rock pools and creaks, where it has a better chance of survival. Both male and female dig the burrow in which the nest is placed. The nest is littered with the re-gurgitated fishbones. Both incubate the eggs. The young hatche after three weeks and spend another 4 weeks in the nest. The Kingfisher is suldoin preyed upon as its flesh has an unplezent taste to it.

While collecting river clay at Piddinghoe I saw a glimpse of a kingfisher so decided to include that.



Colour swatches.  
Kingfisher.  
watercolours.





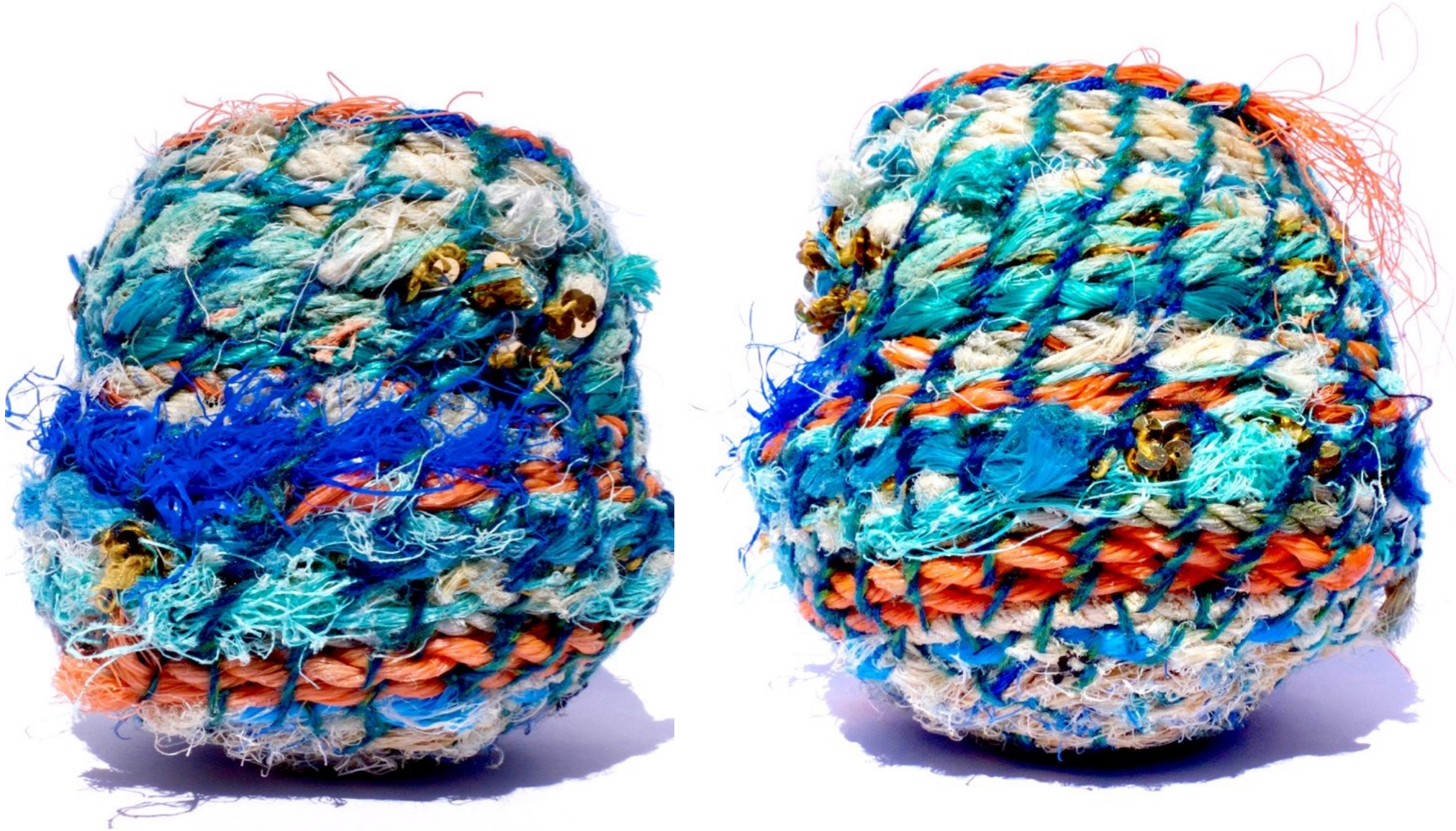
Close up.

Using found rope from walks along the beach to weave into a nest like structure, again mimicking birds.

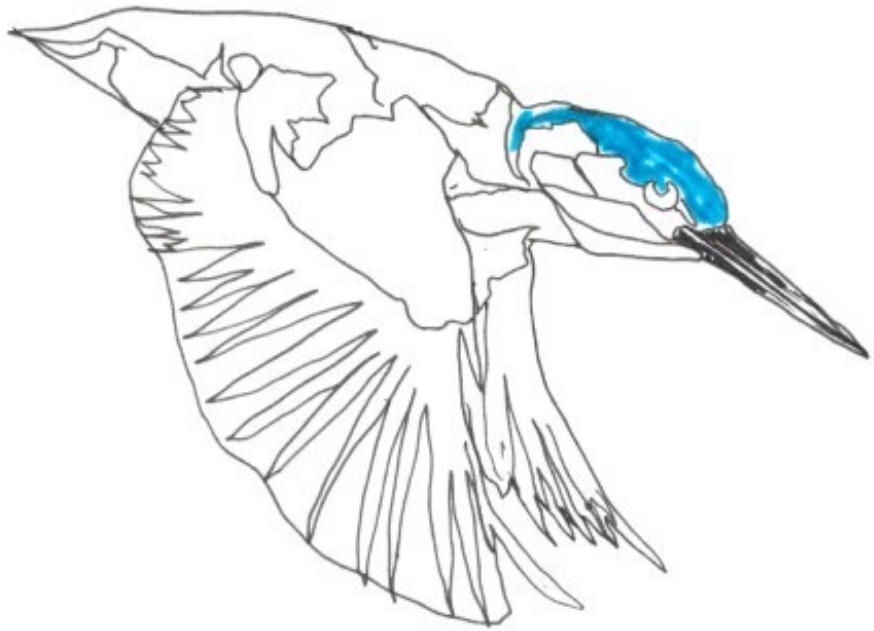
















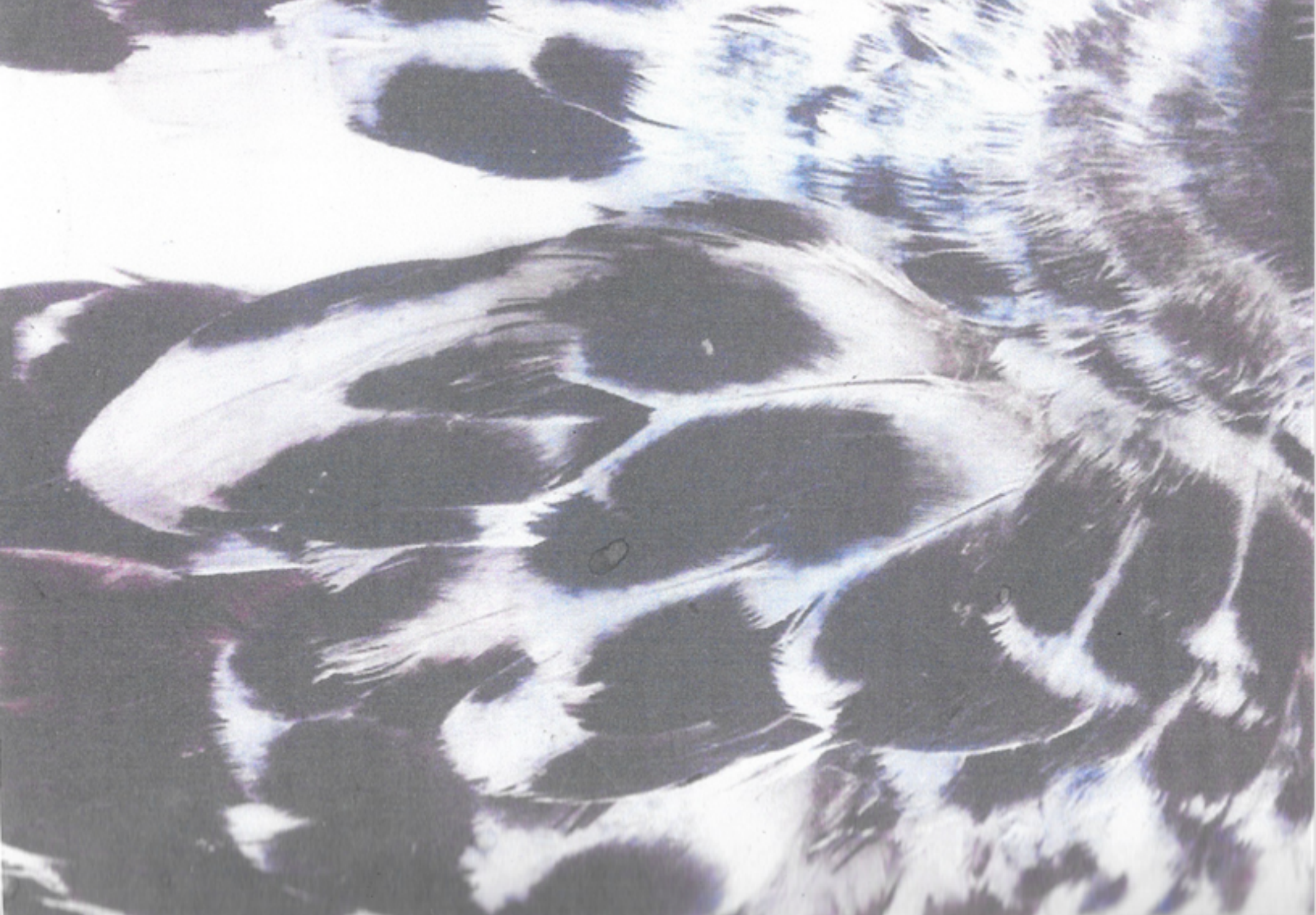


# Pigeon.

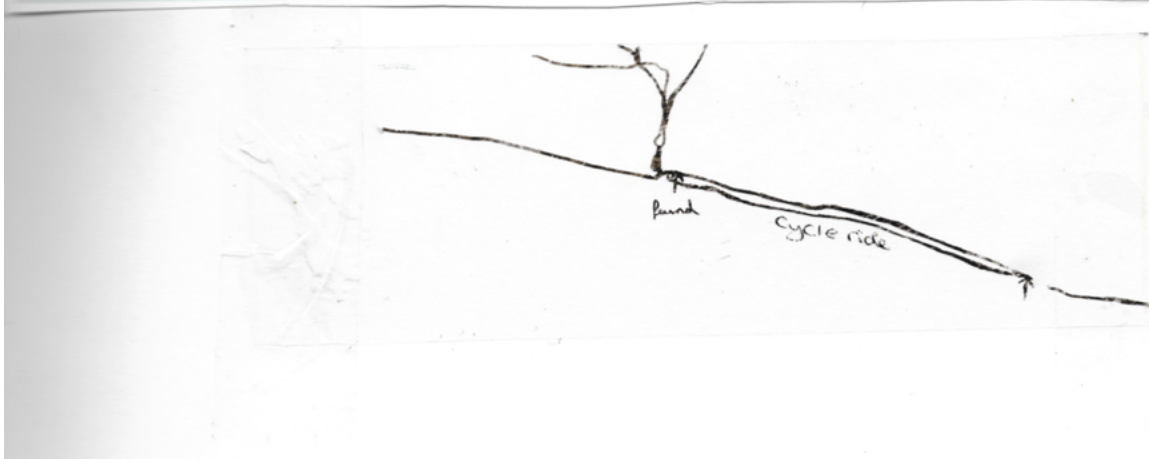
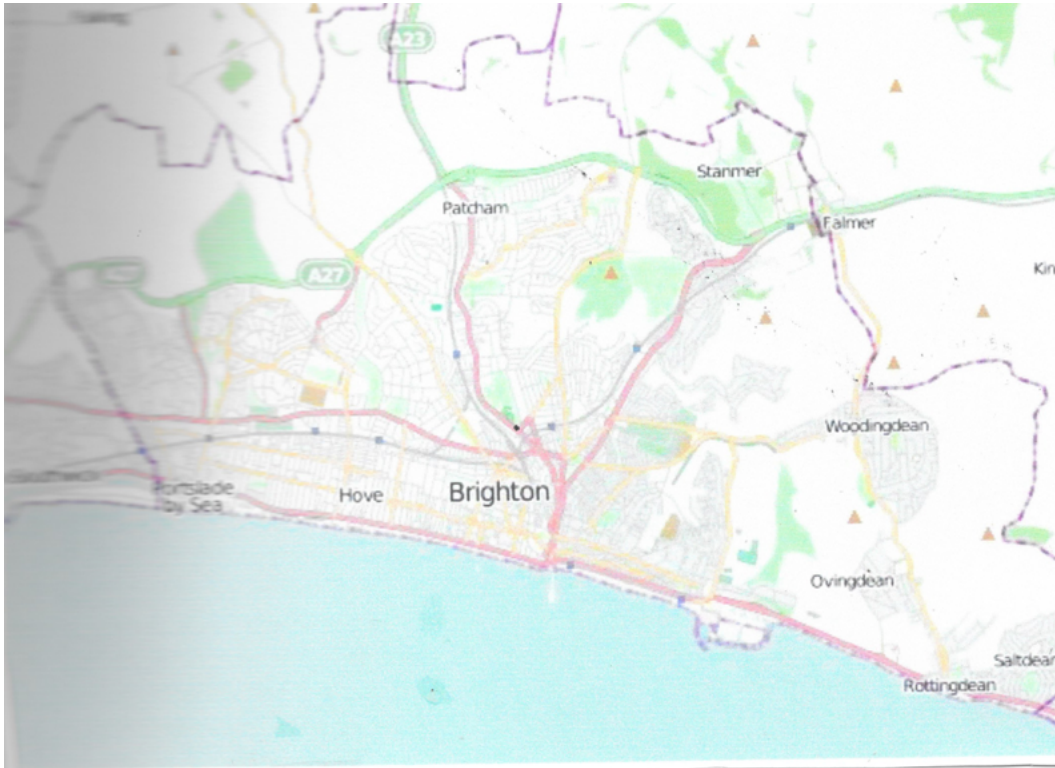
28.oct.16.

rescued a pigeon.

A feral pigeon that was in the middle of the main coast road, just up from the sealife centre, Brighton. as soon as i realized that it couldn't fly out of the way of the oncoming traffic from both sides i quickly ran out (while there were no cars coming on my side) and got him. i then wrapped his back end in a plastic bag and placed him in my hoodie/jumper and rode my bicycle to take him back home to nurse him back to health. he must have had a disease that was attaching him or he got badly hit on the head as he kept walking in circles. he sadly passed away four days after.



Map of where i found the poor pigeon and the ride home.



photographs of the pigeon having a ride in my jumper to get home.

Rock Dove and London Pigeon  
Columba livia

PLUMAGE; ROCK dove is similar to stock dove, but has more prominent black bars on ~~wing~~ wing, no black wing-tips, and a prominent white rump; grey bill, red legs and eye. LONDON pigeon occurs in several plumage types, with much more intergrading between them; blue rock type is identical with rock; blue chequer has whole upper-parts except tail and white rump mottled grey-blue and black; red rock is cinnamon-red with white wing tips and no black bars; red chequer is similar but has wings and mantle mottled white; black forms occur, and others are white or much splashed with white.

STRUCTURE wing length ML. Ratios: wing M; tail MS; neck MS; bill MS; legs S.

MOVEMENT similar to stock dove. (DISPLAY flight FLY in circles some-times gliding with raised wings.) normal flight fast and direct.

VOICE familiar coo of the domestic dovecot pigeon.

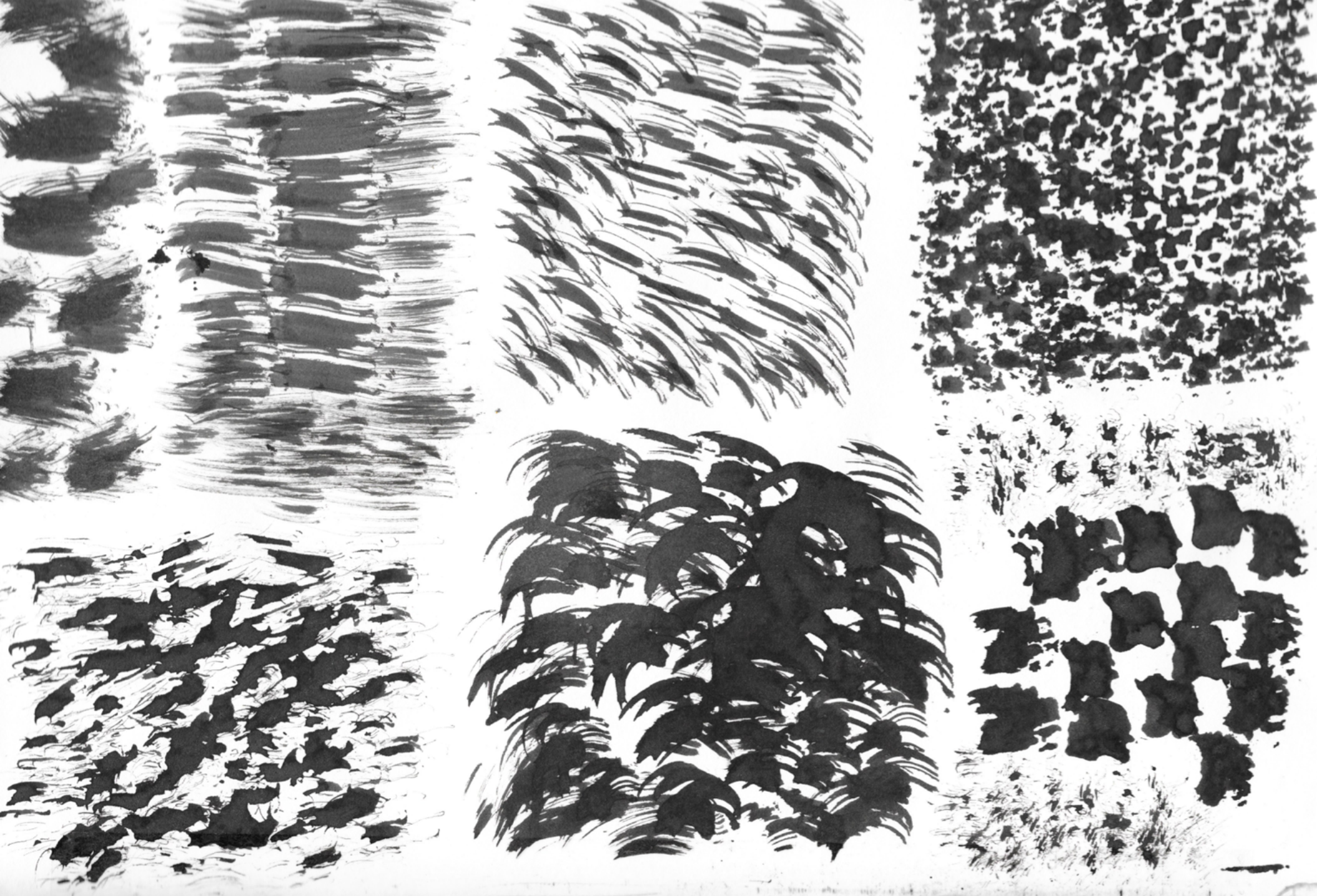
FLOCKING Gregarious, and breeds in colonies.

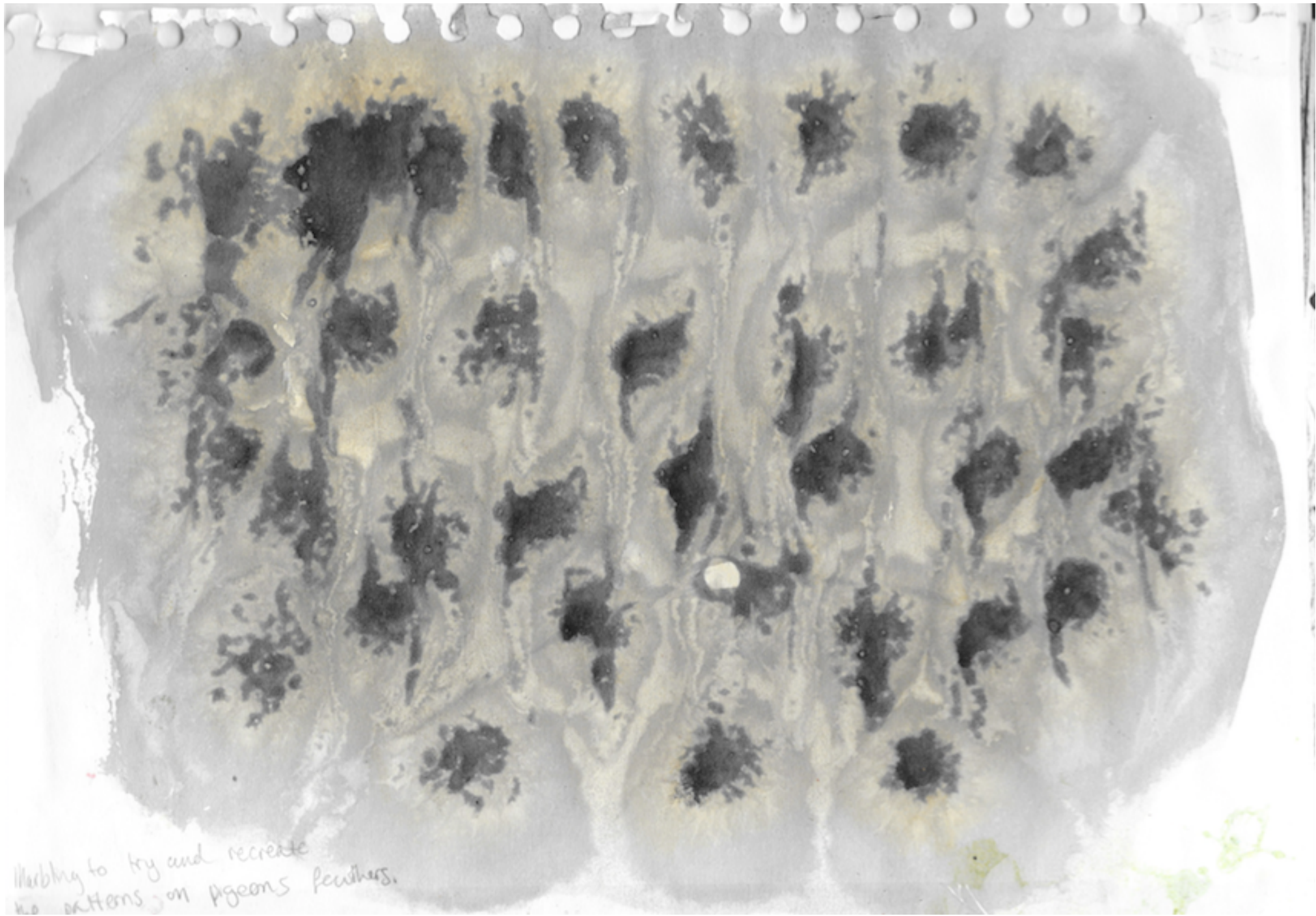
HABITAT Rock is confined to maritime cliffs, but will feed on cultivated ground a mile or more inland. London occurs mainly in fully built up areas in towns and sea-cliffs as well as on docks and grain barges and grain wharves.

RANGE AND STATUS Rock is resident, breeding in most parts of Scotland and Irish coasts, most colonies of wild pigeons on coasts of England and Wales consist of London. FERAL LONDON pigeons originated from escaped domestic stock.

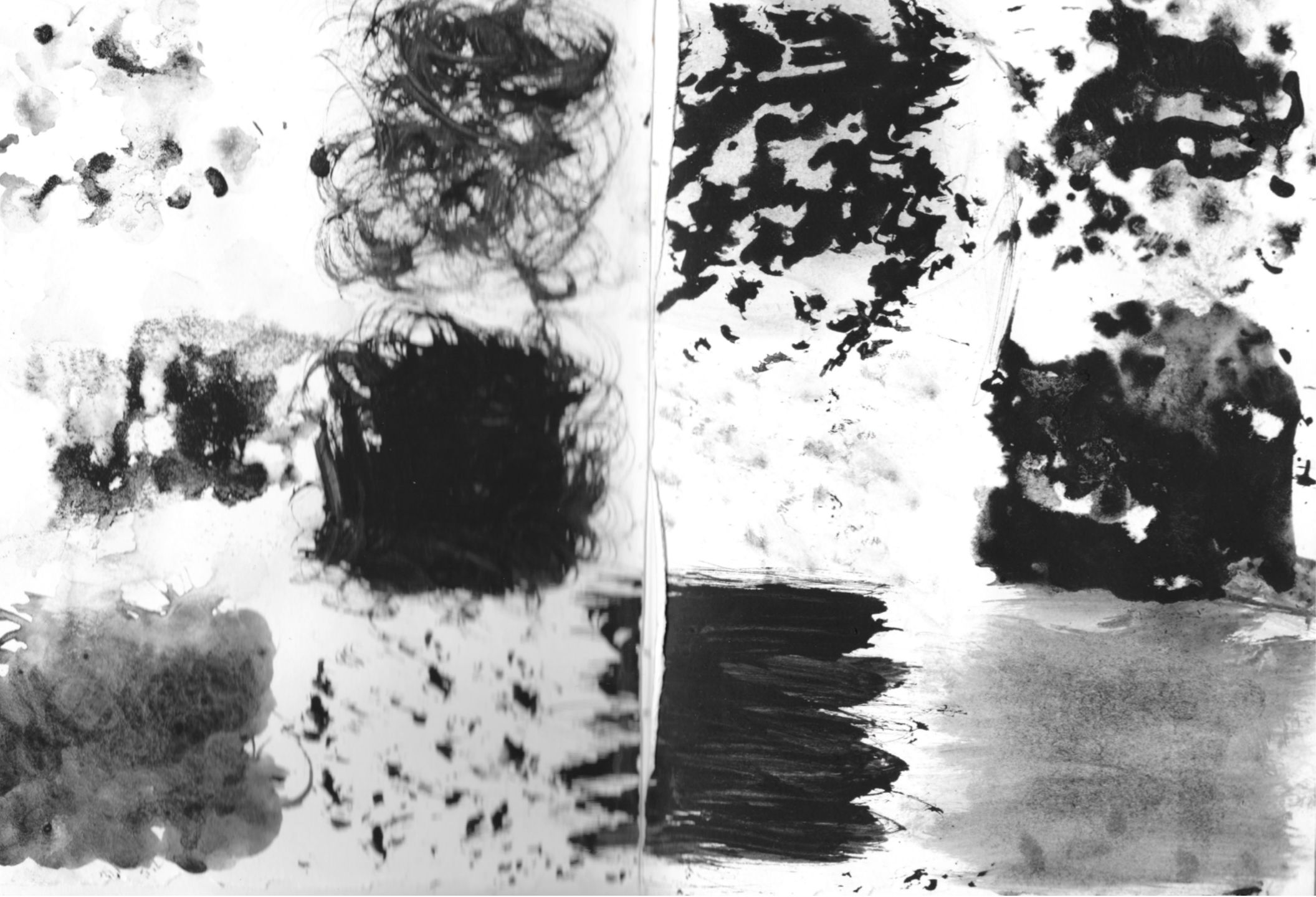
Most RACING PIGEONS wear a special numbered ring, and if found or captured the inscription should be sent with details to the National Homing Union, 22 Clarence Street, Gloucester.

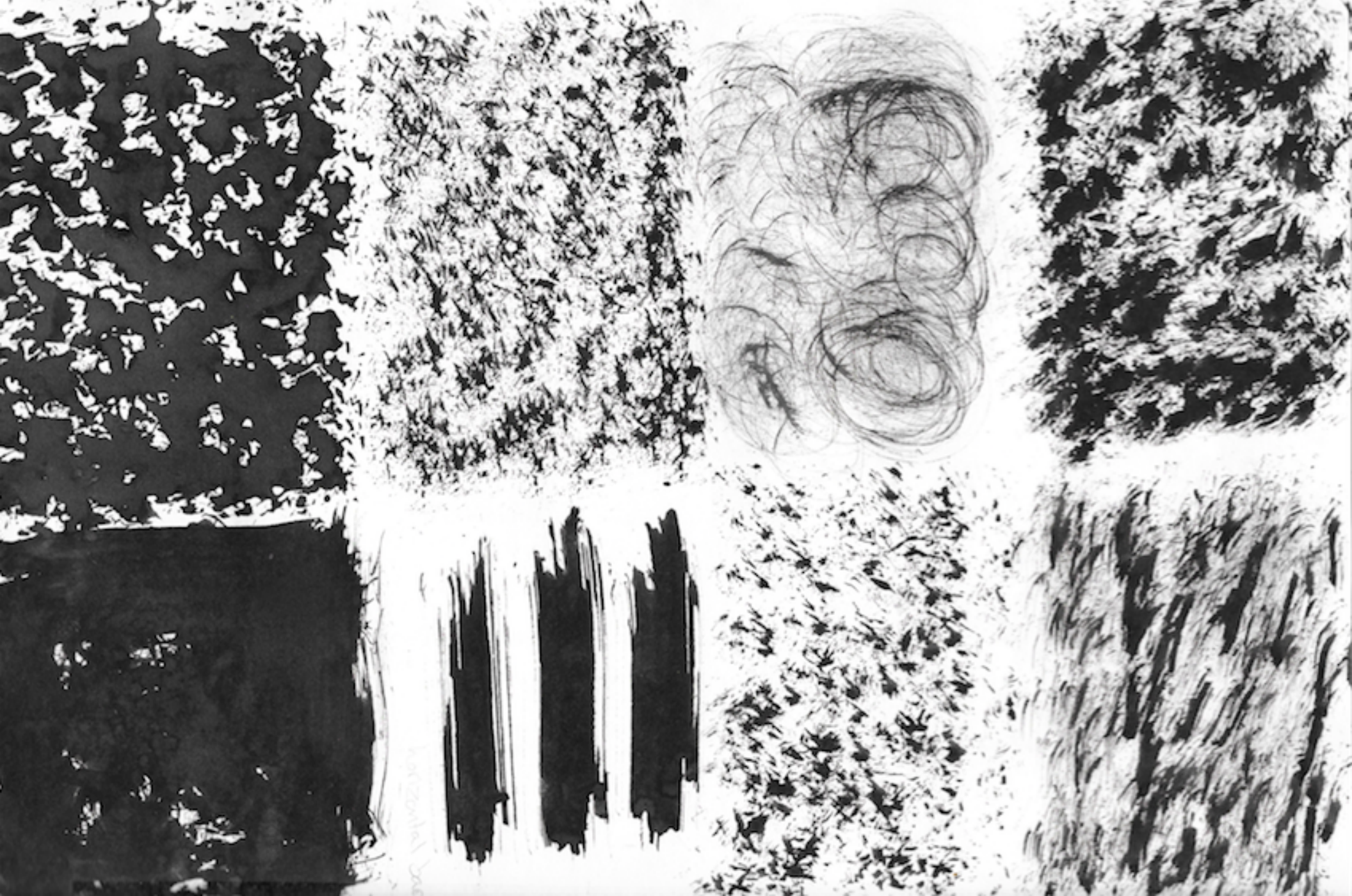


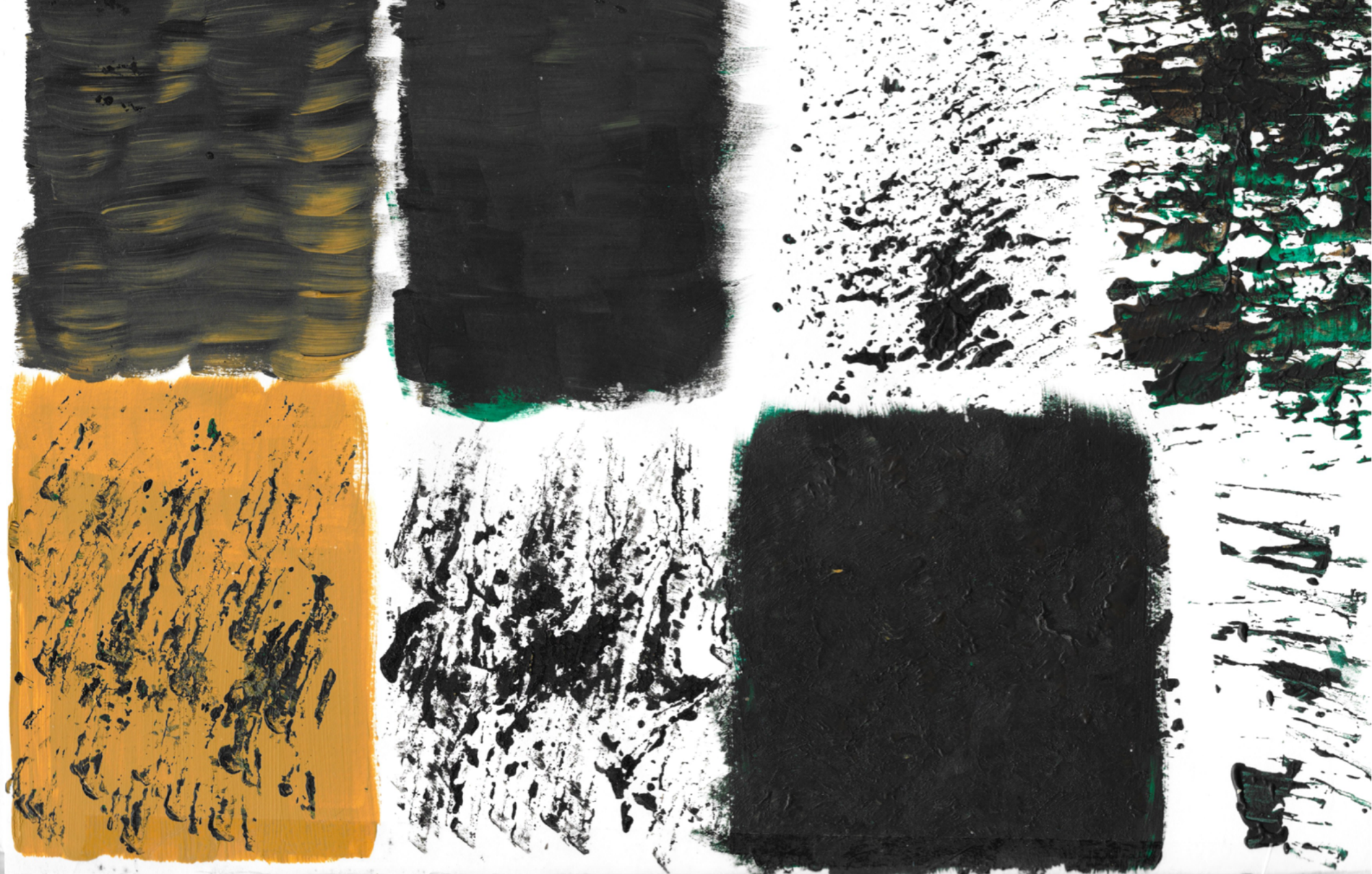




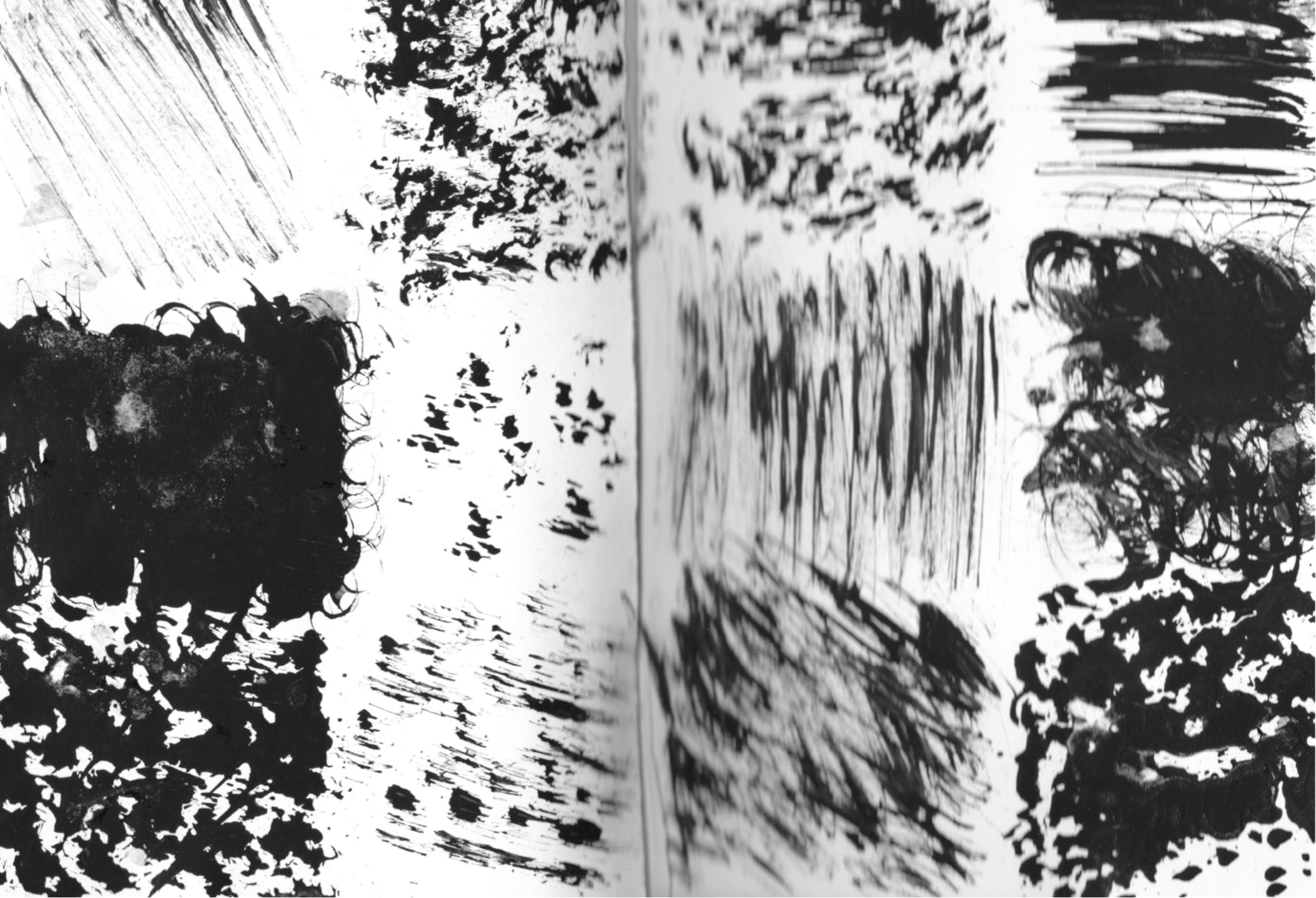
Marbling to try and recreate  
the patterns on pigeons feathers.

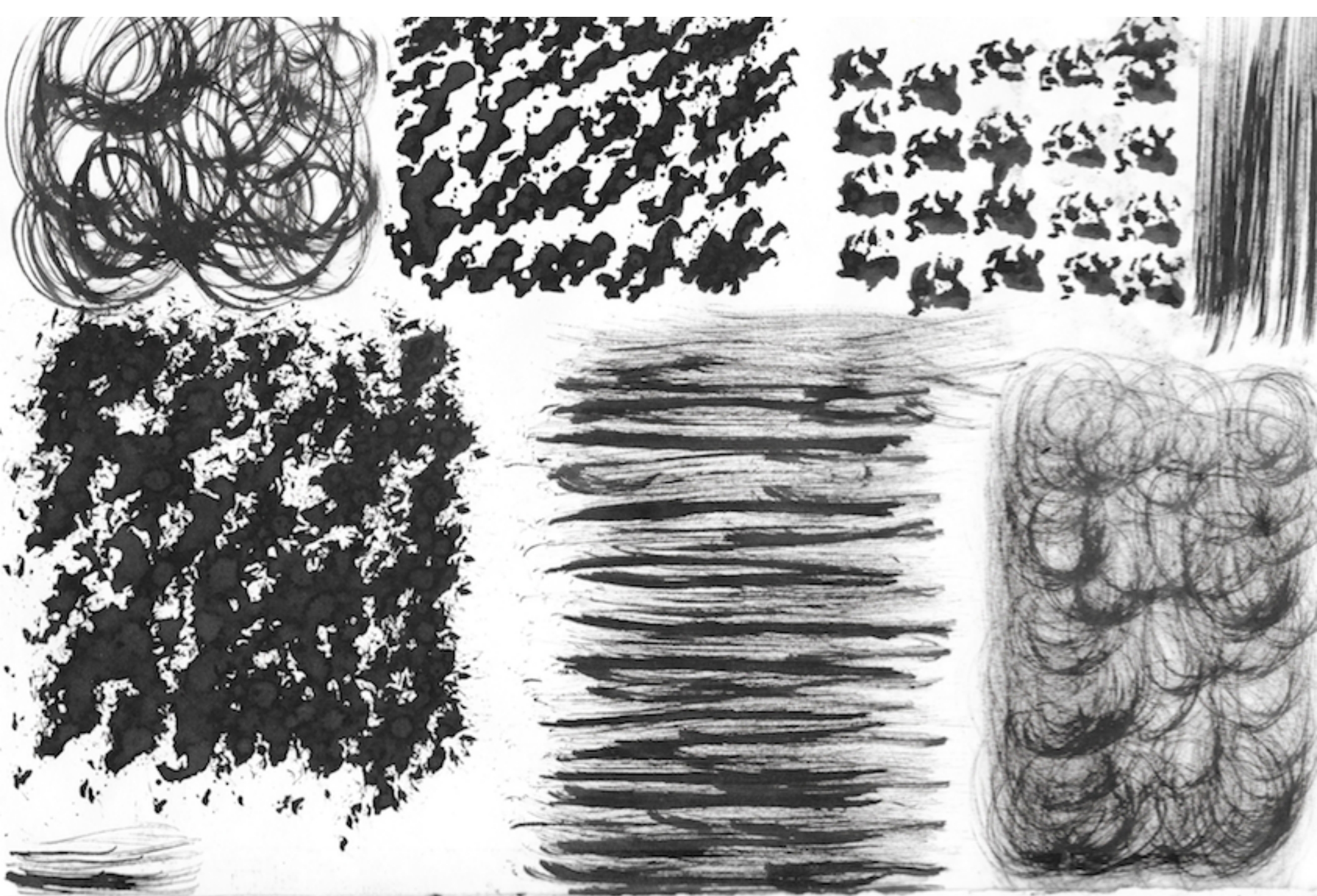




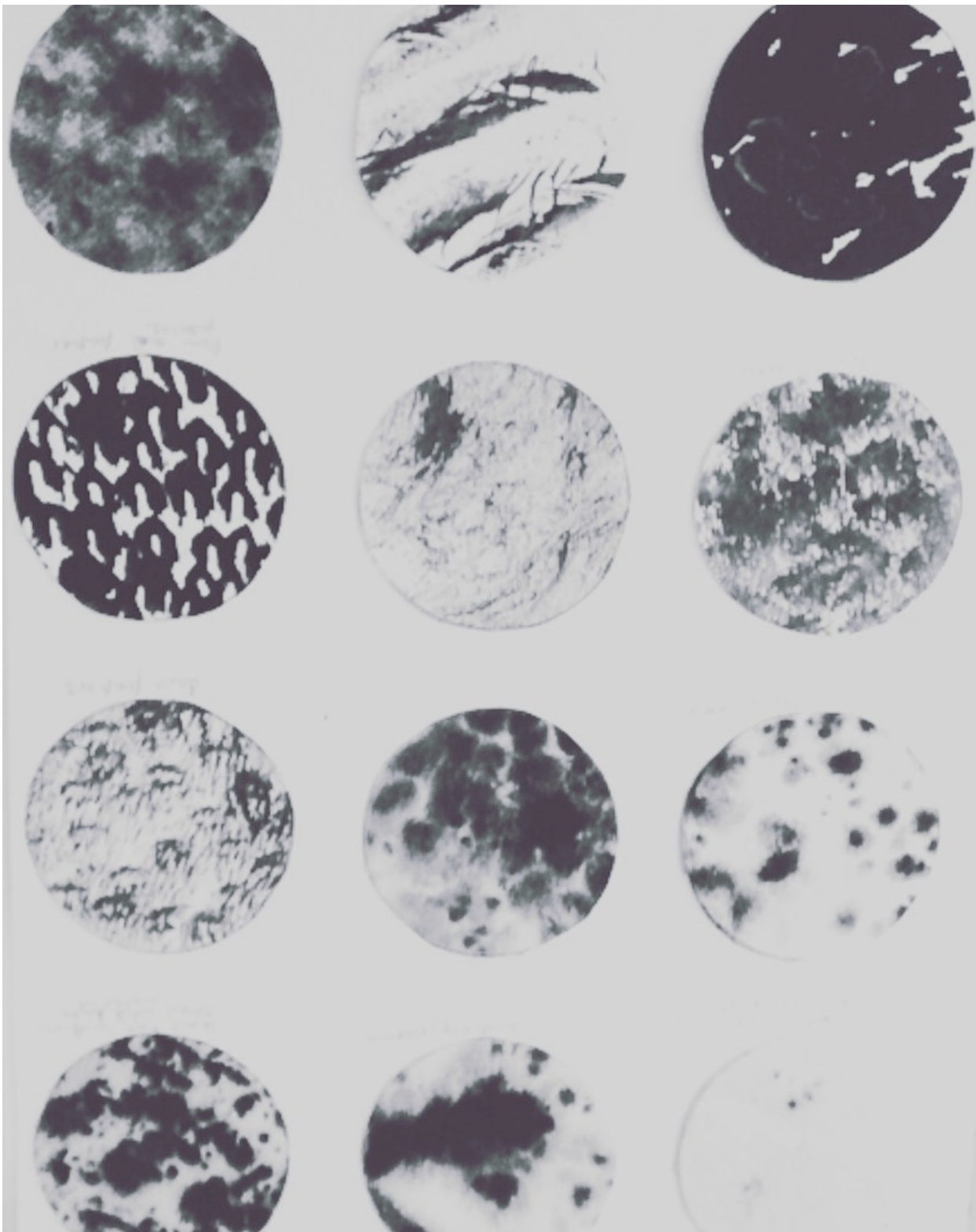








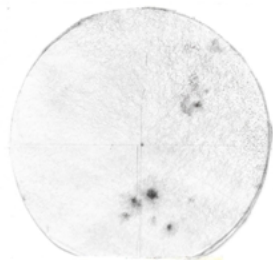




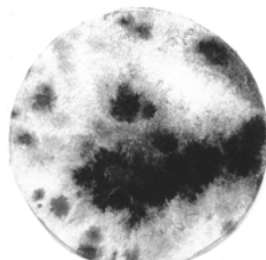
MARK MAKING.

Mark Making to try and recreate the patterns on feral pigeons.

These patterns were made using tools made from materials found on the beach.  
I aim to make vessels to document birds.



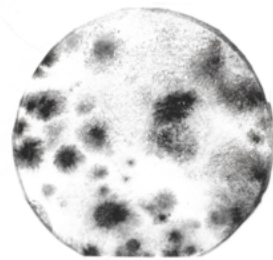
inspired by quail egg laid on newspaper.



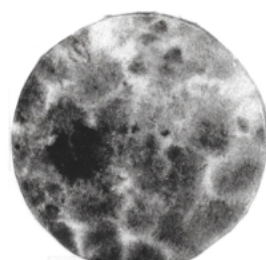
quail egg pattern.



quail egg laid on straw and dark material



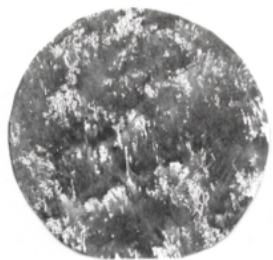
quail egg pattern.



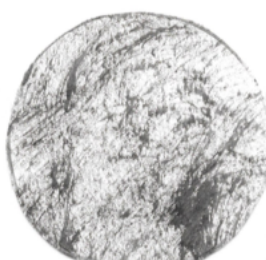
pattern of feral pigeon.



Feather pattern.



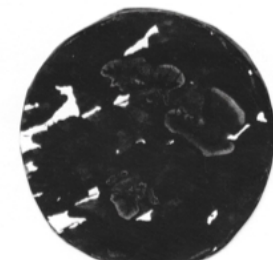
looking at patterning.



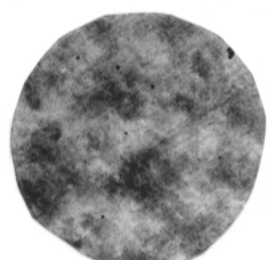
mottled feather pattern.



inspired by quail feather patterns.



printing feathers



Feather pattern of feral pigeon.









A needle felted pigeon portrait to remember the pigeon that i rescued from the main coast road.



Collecting sheets wool from inside bushes where they scratch their backs.





Water Colour

Painting of my pet dove named Jigy  
rescued here when she was about  
2 or 3 months old. She had been attacked  
and so lost a couple tail-feathers so couldn't  
fly. She is almost a year old and is still with  
me. We have an amazing bond.



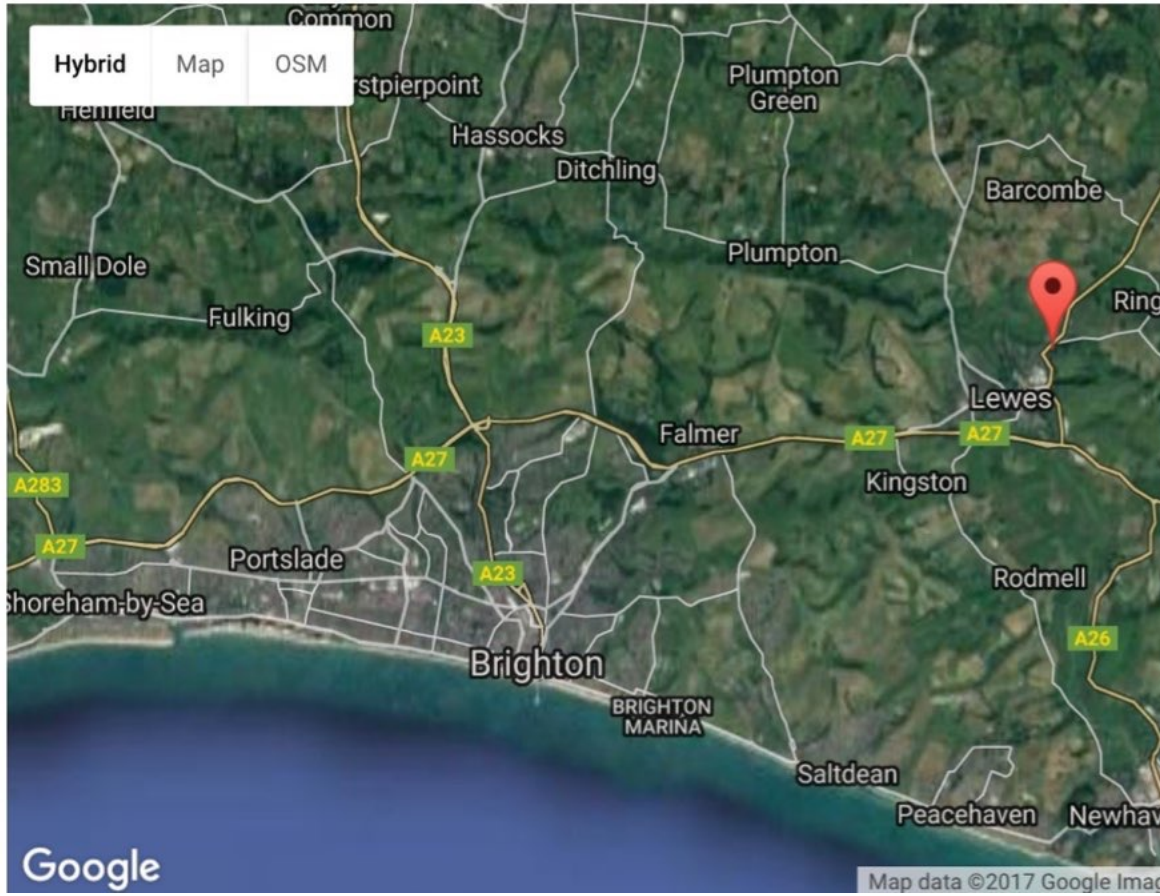








# Nature reserve map







sounds: rustling,  
snaps, creaking,  
whistling wind, crow  
calling, magpie  
chattering.

colours: brown,  
green, grey, blue,  
black.

A glimpse of a wren,  
searching for food





typical of woodlands  
corkland and stands. Most are found  
in deciduous woodlands

fine brown bird,  
although it is heard  
less often than the  
even smaller goldcrest

dumpy almost round  
with a fine bill

very short tail  
wings and a  
short narrow  
tail (some  
times cocked  
up vertically)

quite long legs  
and toes

eats insects and spiders



Wren bird sculpture made from discarded paper and metal. Standing on a log found in the woods.

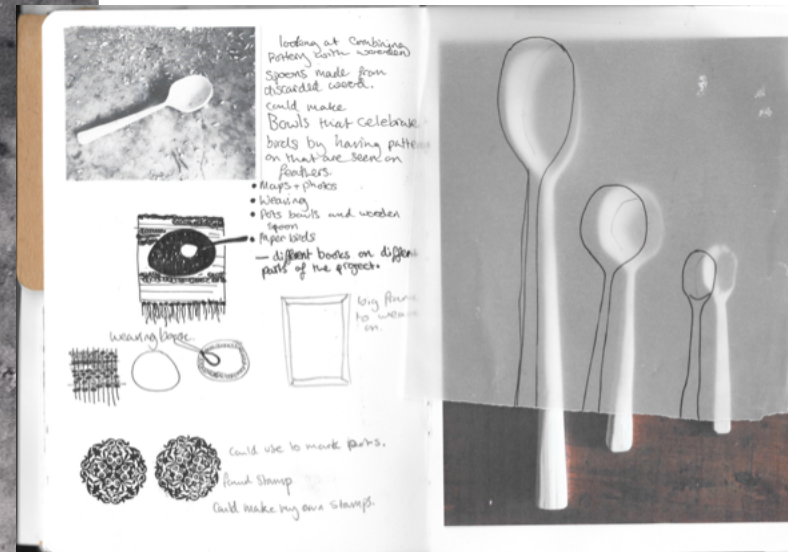




Using spoons to document birds body to tail ratios.  
 Also looking at the shapes of the spoons used to feed the rescued birds.



A spoon showing the body to tail proportions of a long-tailed tit.





## Chaffinch.

This chaffinch flew into a window and was upside down trying to get up so I went out and got him and held him in my hand. After about an hour or two of dripping honey and cider vinegar water on its beak it started to lift its head up and look around. I saw that he was feeling better so I took him outside in my hand and let him sit there, after about five minutes he looked up at me as to thank me for saving him and flew up into the nearest tree and danced about.











Having raised quails as pets from eggs and have a total of 7 quails (3 jumboerick are usually breed for the meat and egg industry.) i have seen that when the females are given various bedding materials they change their colouration and patterns of the eggs to match the nesting materials. What's more in a laboratory experiment, quail camouflaged their eggs according to their personal patterns, picking lighter coloured sand for less speckled eggs and darker sand for eggs with more splotches.

Quails with the creamest egg colours picked white or yellow sand, this strategy, called background matching aims to hide eggs by blending into a similar coloured background. Quail with darker splotchy eggs conceal their eggs not by matching a background colour but by trying to break up the eggs outline through its colour pattern, an approach called disruptive colouration. the same strategy that the military uses in its camouflage patterning, the egg splotches disrupt its own outline with the colours and patterns on its shell. This makes a predator think this egg is broken as it is different from a egg shape.



The colouring and patterns on quail eggs depend on the bedding materials. If quails are given just newspaper or some other light coloured material eg, sand they will lay pale coloured eggs with no or not many speckles on.



looking at how each quail egg is different much like a fingerprint.

Sketchbook page looking at the different patterns of the quail eggs.

i have 5 pet quails. A quail egg from one off my quails.





get them to hatch.  
It then hatched in my hand after about 2 and a half hours.

This egg got so crushed while it was being incubated so i took it out and held it. i soon realized that it was trying to hatch so i encouraged it and called to it (much like a mother hen would to





Documenting a magpie I saw on a walk.

