A FREE CHRISTMAS WATERCOLOUR TEMPLATE

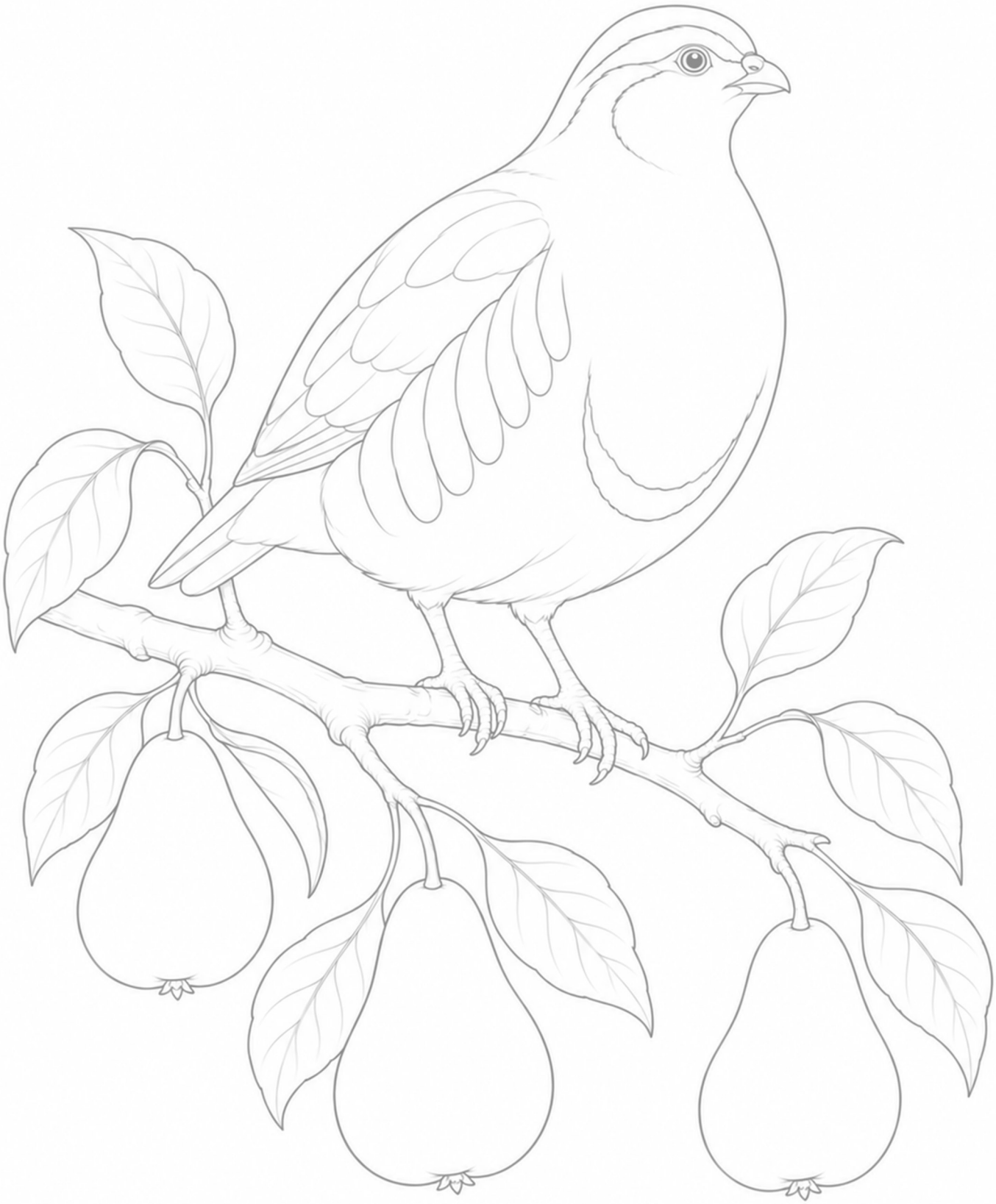
A Partridge in a Pear Tree

One free Christmas template to print on watercolour paper and paint in an evening



A painted reference, to show one way the colours could go.

Print at 100% on A4 watercolour paper, then paint along.



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HOW TO PAINT IT

Pears first, partridge last

1. Golden pears

Wet one pear at a time and float in a pale lemon yellow. While it's still damp, touch a little orange-red into one side for a sunny blush and let it spread.

2. Leaves and branch

Paint each leaf in one or two strokes of soft olive green, dropping a touch of yellow or brown into a few. Then a warm brown down the branch and stalks.

3. The partridge's body

Wash the chest and belly in a pale blue-grey, leaving little gaps of white paper. Add warm brown over the back and wing while the grey is still damp.

4. Face and markings

Once the body is dry, paint the face a soft orange and add the chestnut horseshoe mark on the flank with one curved stroke.

5. Last details

When everything is bone dry, dot in the eye and touch a darker brown into the wing feathers and feet. Then stop, and leave it loose.

Which colours?

A lemon yellow, an orange, a warm brown, a blue-grey (blue plus a little brown) and an olive green from your own box will do the job. You don't need the same brand.

Printing

Print at 100% (turn off “fit to page”) on A4. Watercolour paper if your printer will take it, fed one sheet at a time.

Printing your pages

A quick guide to the questions people ask me most. Keep it by your printer!

1 No printer?

No problem. Put the files on a USB stick or email them to yourself, then print at a library or a print shop (for example Ryman in the UK or Staples in the US). Ask for "actual size" on matte paper.

2 What size are the pages?

My pages are A4. If your paper is a different size, choose "Fit to page" (or "Scale to fit") in the print box, so nothing gets cut off.

3 Too big or cut off?

Check the paper size in the print box matches the paper in your tray. Then choose "Fit to page" and turn off "borderless" printing.

4 Which paper?

Journal pages: matte paper, 120–160gsm. Covers and envelopes: thin card, if your printer takes it. Glossy paper is not good for glue or paint.

5 Watercolour templates

Only feed watercolour paper through a printer with a rear or manual feed (check its heaviest paper). Or print on ordinary paper and trace the lines onto watercolour paper at a sunny window or on a lightbox.

6 Print one test page first

Check the size and the colours on one page before you print the whole set. It saves paper, ink and tears.

7 Saving ink

Use "draft" or "economy" mode for background papers you'll write over, and print only the pages you need by typing a page range in the print box.

8 Booklet or two-up pages

If your kit has a booklet version, print it double-sided with "flip on short edge", then fold the sheets in half and nest them together.

9 No need to print at all

You can open the PDF or the image files on an iPad in an app like Goodnotes or Procreate, and journal or paint straight onto the pages.

Still stuck? Email me at info@artsydee.com with a photo of what's happening, and I'll help.

Happy making, Dee x · *artsydee.com*

IF YOU ENJOYED PAINTING THAT ONE

The full set: Twelve Days of Christmas



Twelve Days of Christmas is twenty subjects from the carol drawn as soft pencil outlines: the partridge you just painted, two turtle doves, five gold rings, seven swans a-swimming, a Twelfth Night cake, a wassail bowl and more.

Each subject comes with a painted reference and a Colour Inspiration Card.

The full Twelve Days of Christmas set arrives on Monday 14 December.

Love painting from templates? New watercolour template sets go up on my Patreon too: patreon.com/Artsydee

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