

Wildlife of New Jersey



New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Fish and Wildlife



Dear Teachers and Parents,

The NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife is pleased to make this coloring book available to the children of New Jersey. New Jersey is a remarkable state when you think about how much wildlife lives here. There are over 800 species of wildlife living in New Jersey, and they share it with over 8 million people!

This coloring book is designed to highlight species by their habitat. Featured habitats include wetlands, forests, farms, neighborhoods and the shore. The final section highlights some of the conservation projects and management tools used to keep wildlife populations healthy and in balance with our human population.

The coloring book is available to teachers as an aide for teaching our children about wildlife and conservation. Each section begins with an introductory habitat page. An identifying habitat symbol appears with each animal. The species descriptions provide a "stepping stone" upon which further discussions can be built.

The NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife provides a number of other educational resources including many that can be used to meet State standards for core course proficiencies. We also have a number of experiential learning opportunities for children like our fishing education and fishing derby events. Located on the back cover, you will find a list of contacts for many of our educational programs.

Funding for this project is made possible through the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program (WCRP) in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

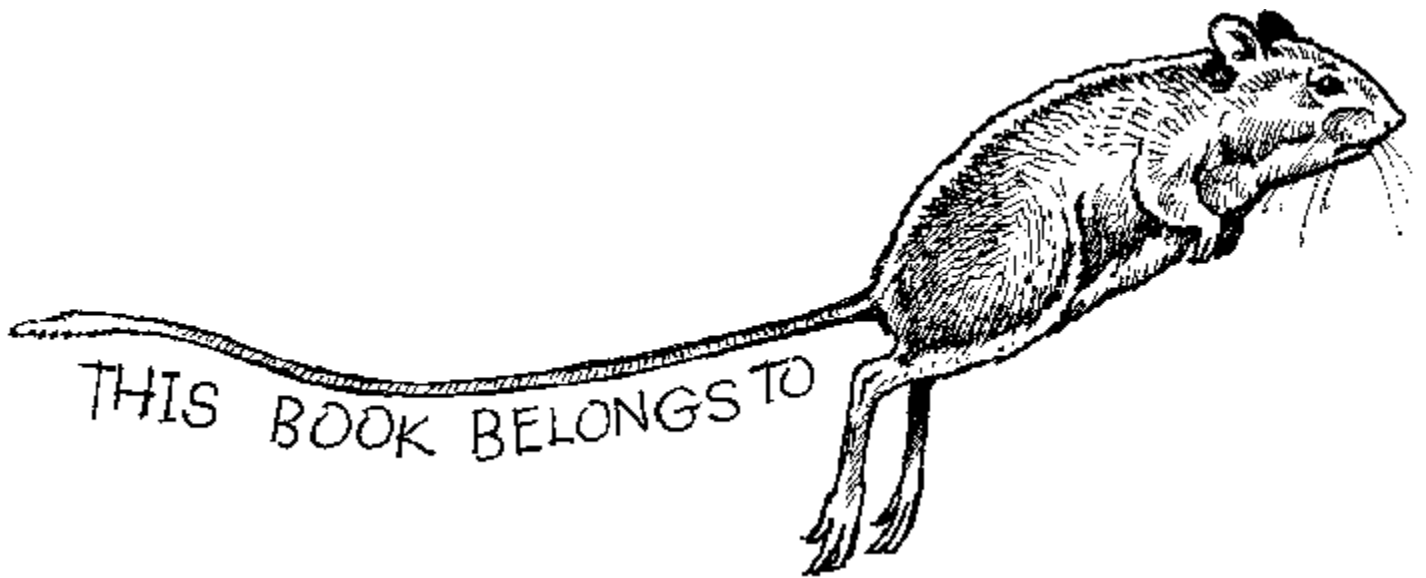
We would like to thank Carl Graybill and the Pennsylvania Game Commission for so generously sharing their coloring book with adaptations for New Jersey, and for Bob Sopchick's role in creating additional pages for our book.

We encourage you to use this coloring book to teach your children more about the natural world. Knowledge about our fish and wildlife resource will foster appreciation, stewardship and the future conservation of that resource.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Chanda". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

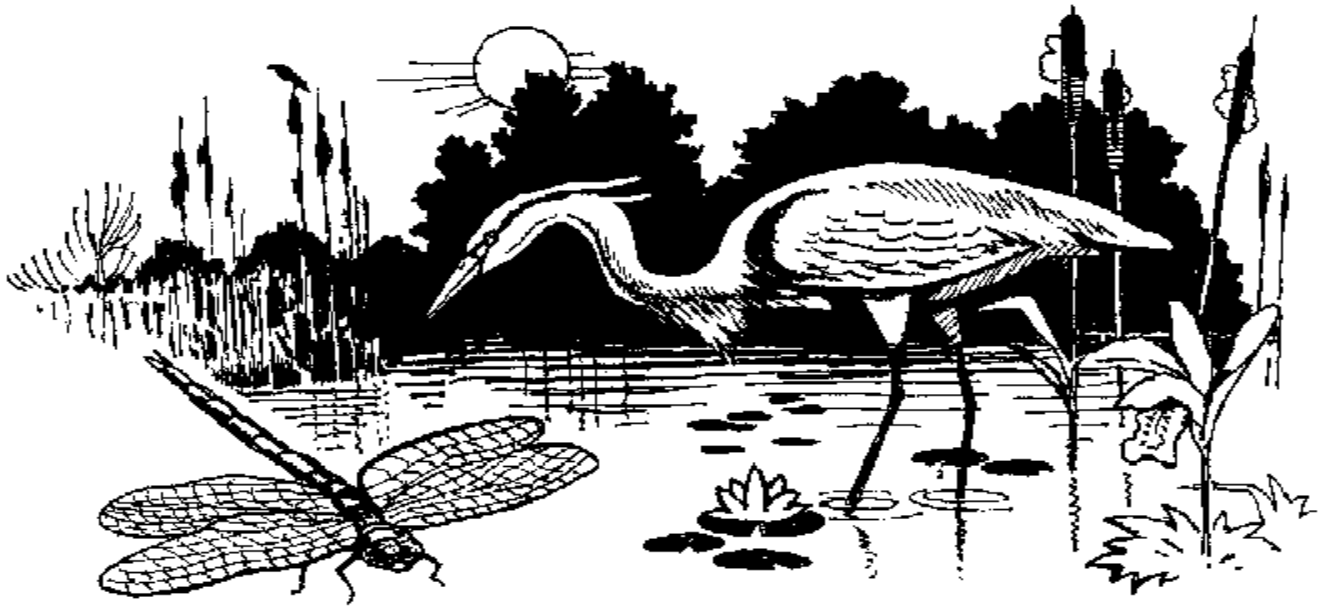
David Chanda
Director, NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife



Wildlife of New Jersey

Written and Illustrated
by
Bob Sopchick

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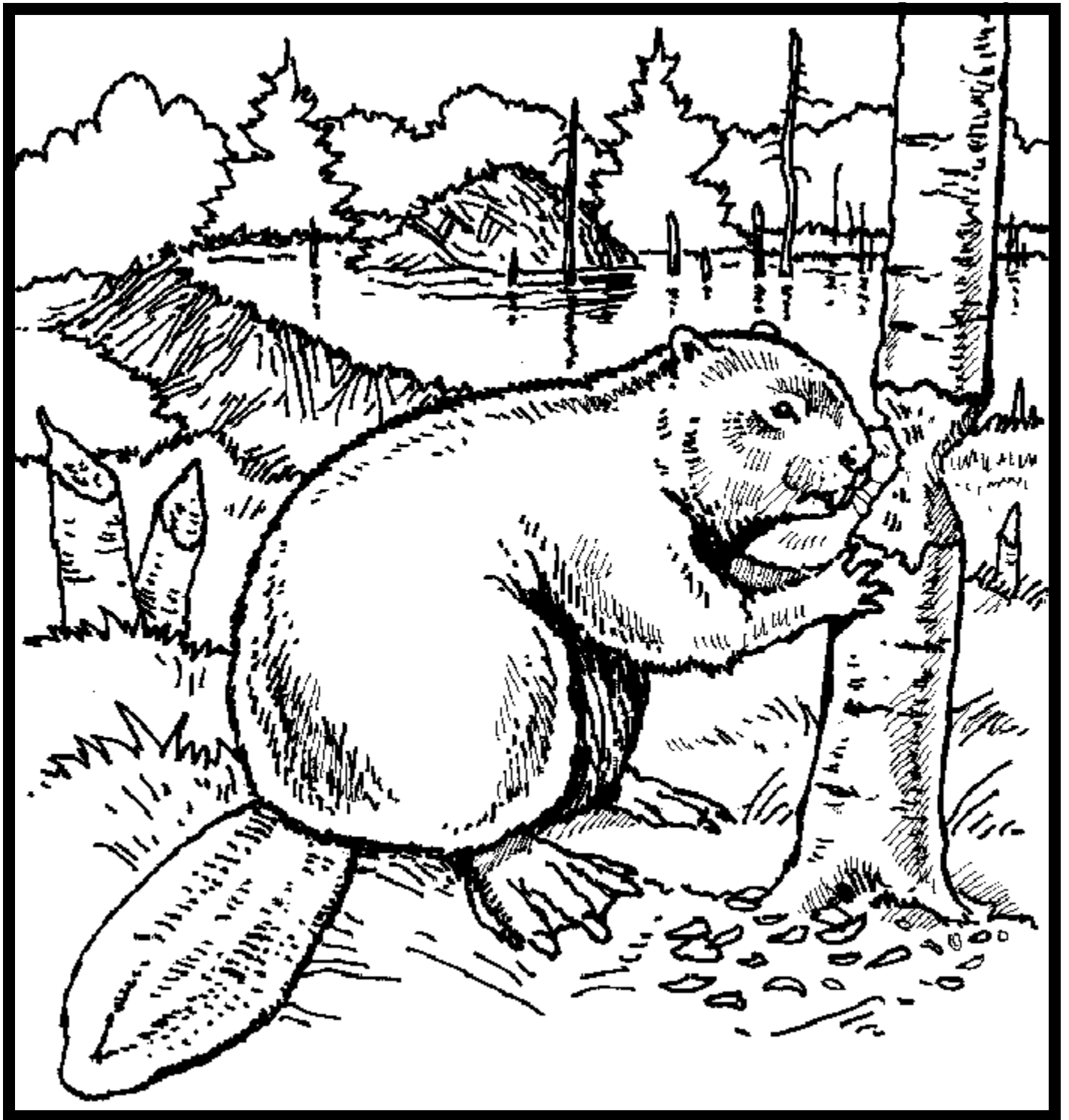


Wetlands

All living things need water. Wetland habitats contain water all or part of the year. Wetlands are places where many animals find food and water. Some animals need wetlands to raise their families. Some types of wetlands are marshes, swamps, bogs and beaver ponds.

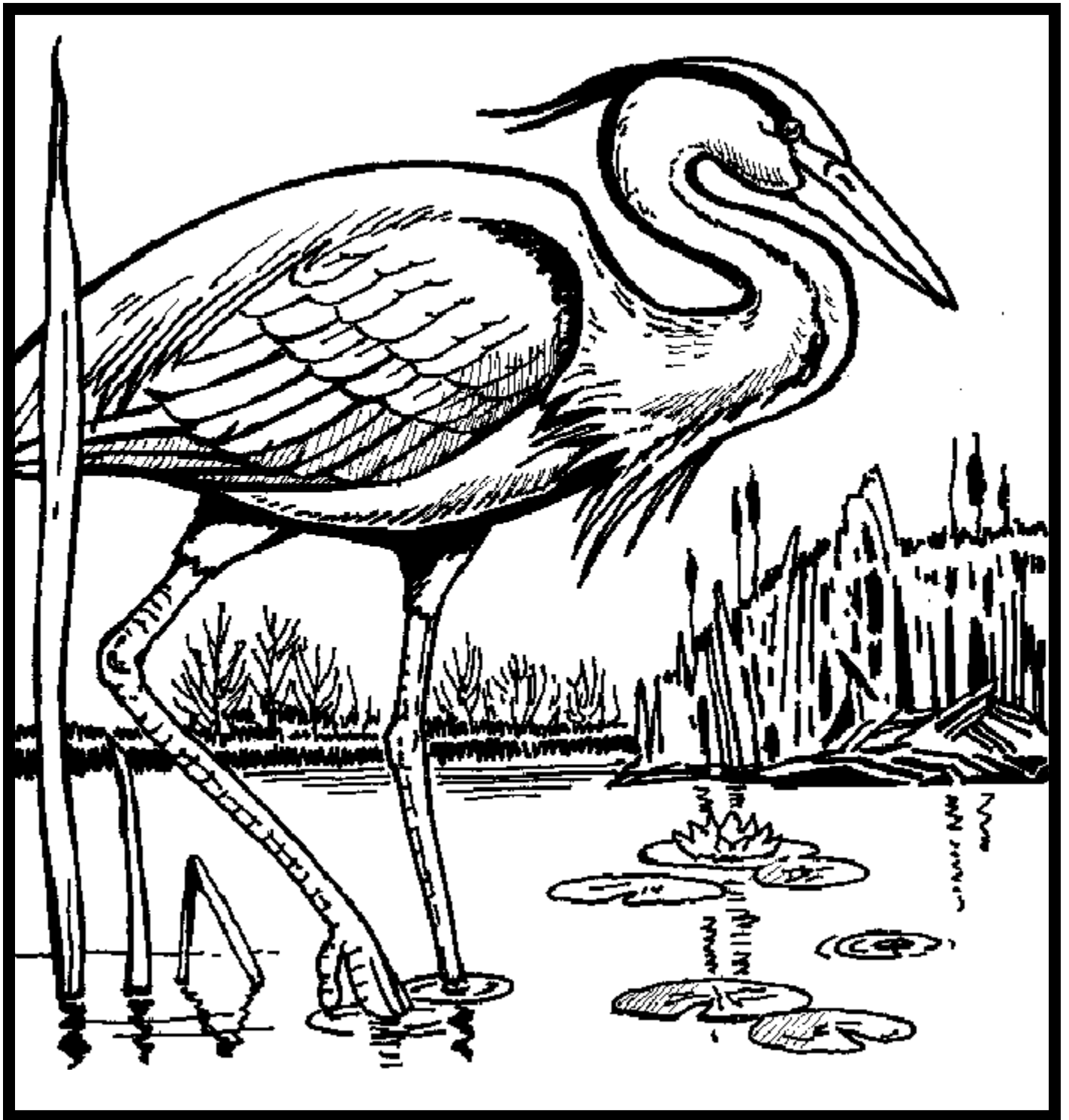


The lily pad symbol appears with wildlife that live in wetlands.



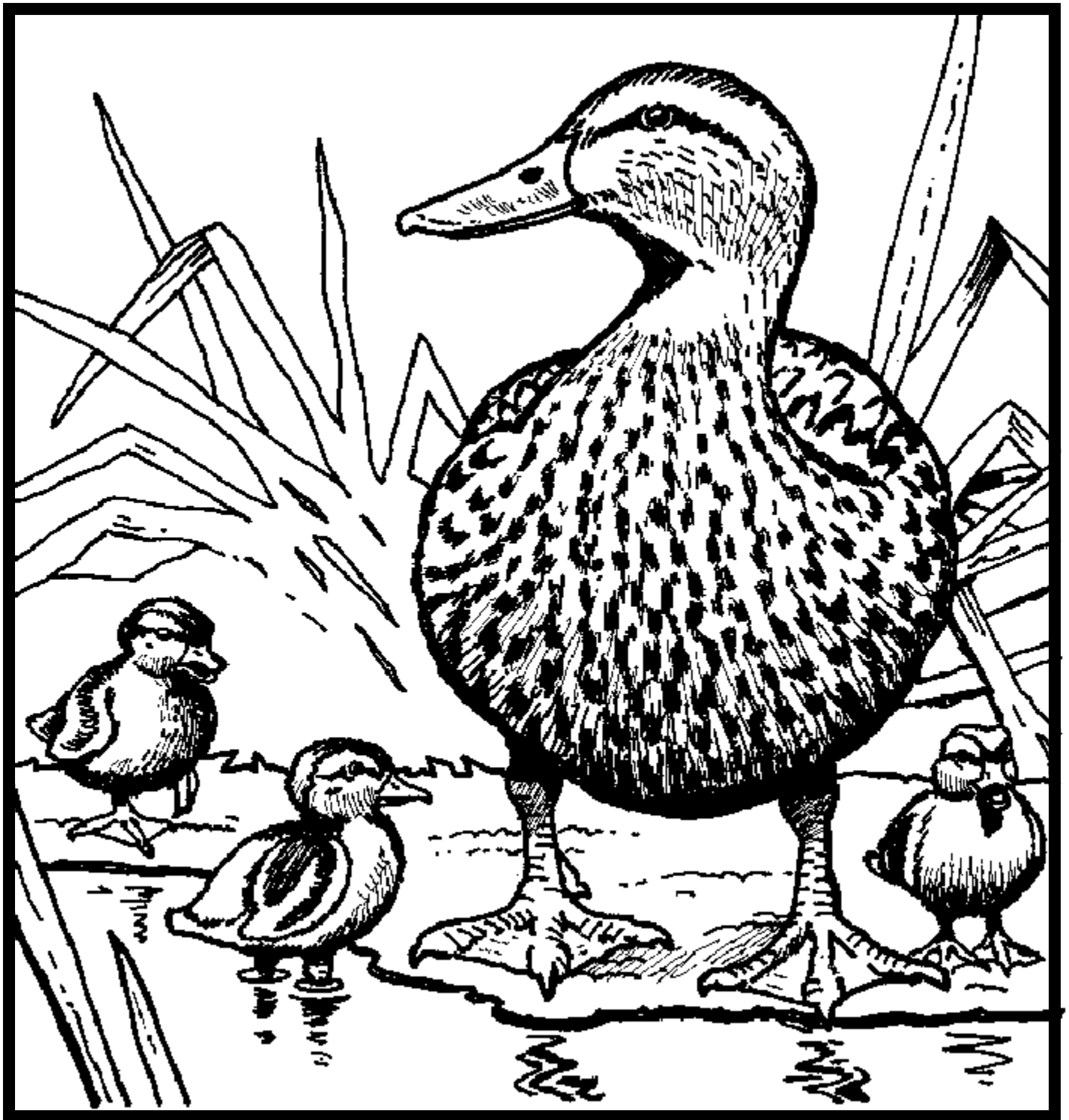
Beaver

Beavers cut down trees with their teeth. They use the trees to make dams and a house called a lodge. The beaver eats the bark and branches from trees. This busy rodent creates a wetland where many other animals can live.



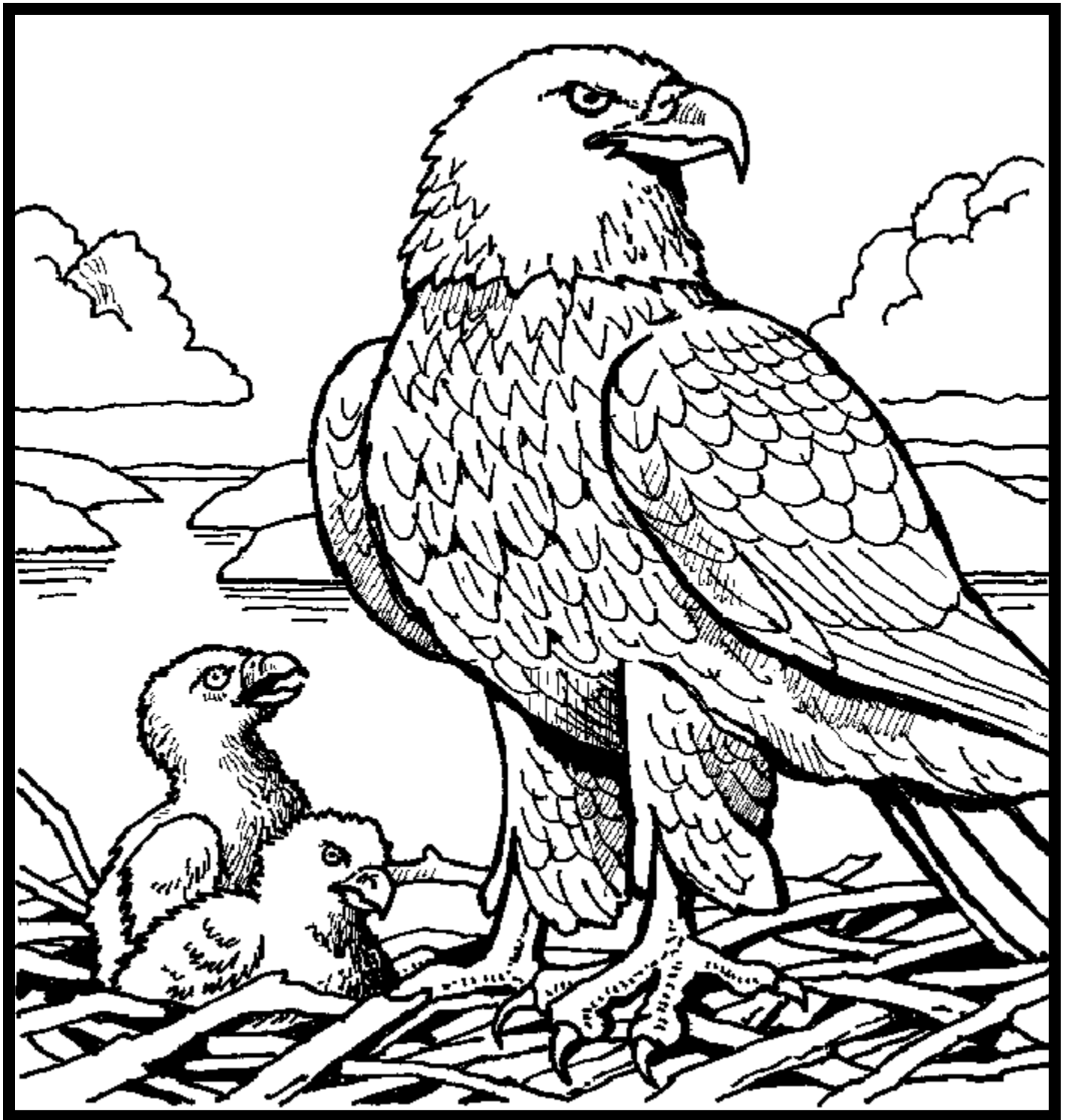
Great Blue Heron

This is the tallest common wading bird in New Jersey. It is about four feet tall and has long legs. The heron wades slowly or stands very still in shallow water. The heron waits for a fish or frog to swim near, then catches it with its long bill.



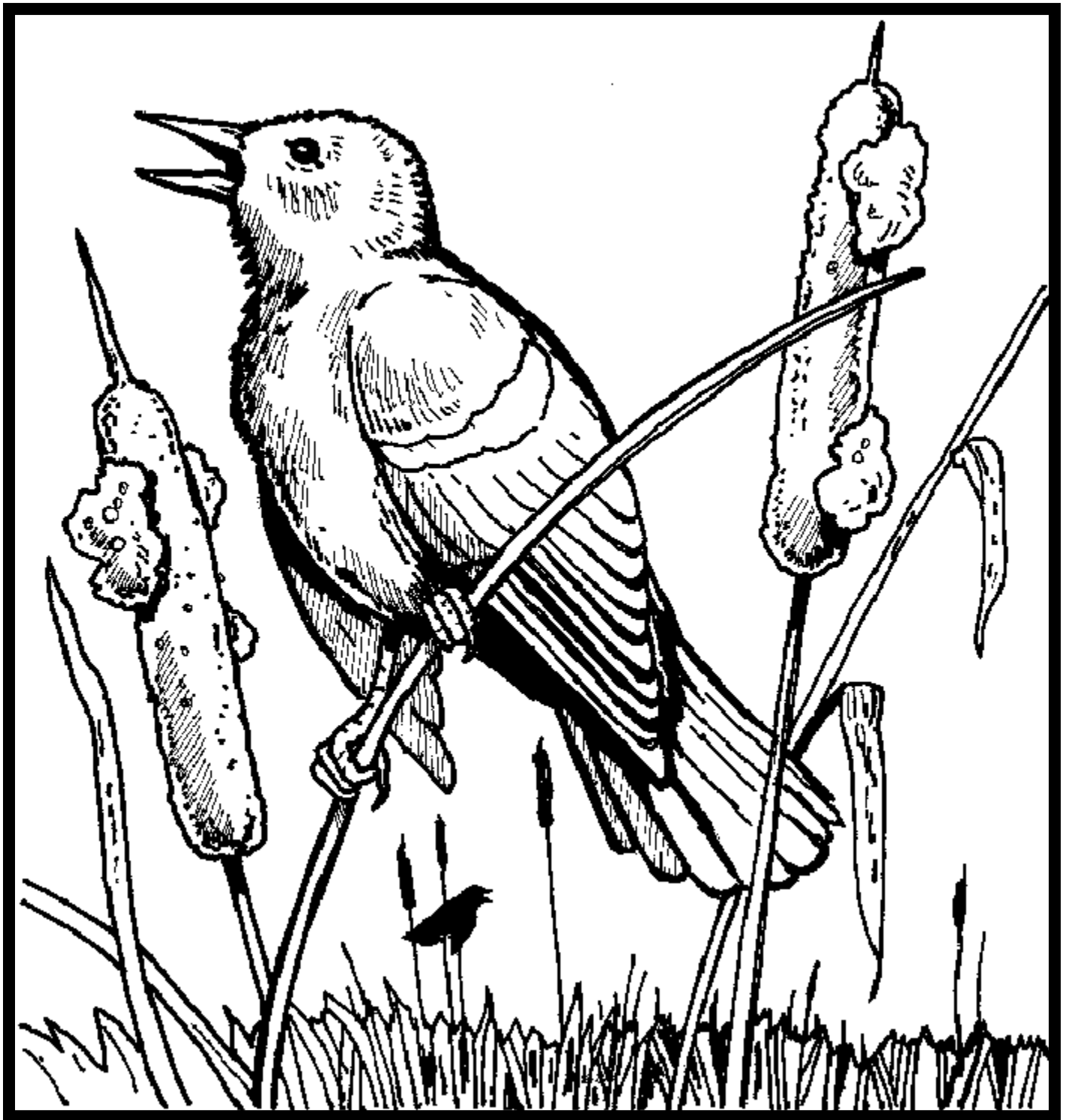
Mallard Duck

The hen mallard makes her nest in tall grass. She is the color of dried grass and is hard to see while she sits on her eggs. This is called camouflage. After her eggs hatch she leads her ducklings to water where they can swim and find food.



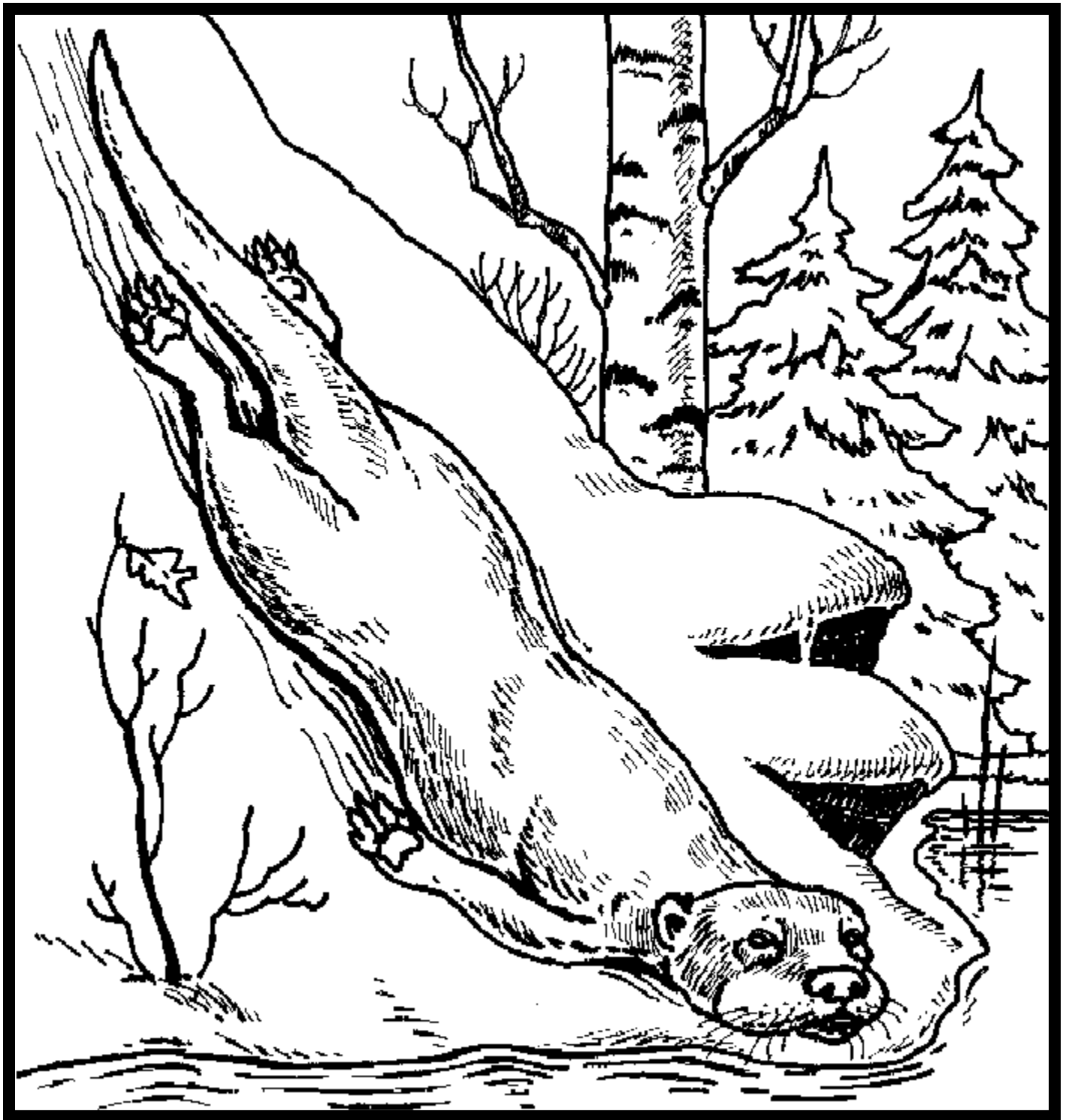
Bald Eagle

This large bird of prey builds a huge nest in a tree near water. Eagle parents feed their young fish and meat. The bald eagle is not really bald, but has white feathers on its head and tail. The bald eagle was made the national symbol of America in 1782.



Red-winged Blackbird

In spring, male red-winged blackbirds flash their red wing patches to attract females. Red-wings nest and raise their young in wetlands. Later, red-winged blackbirds may be seen with other blackbirds in large groups called flocks.



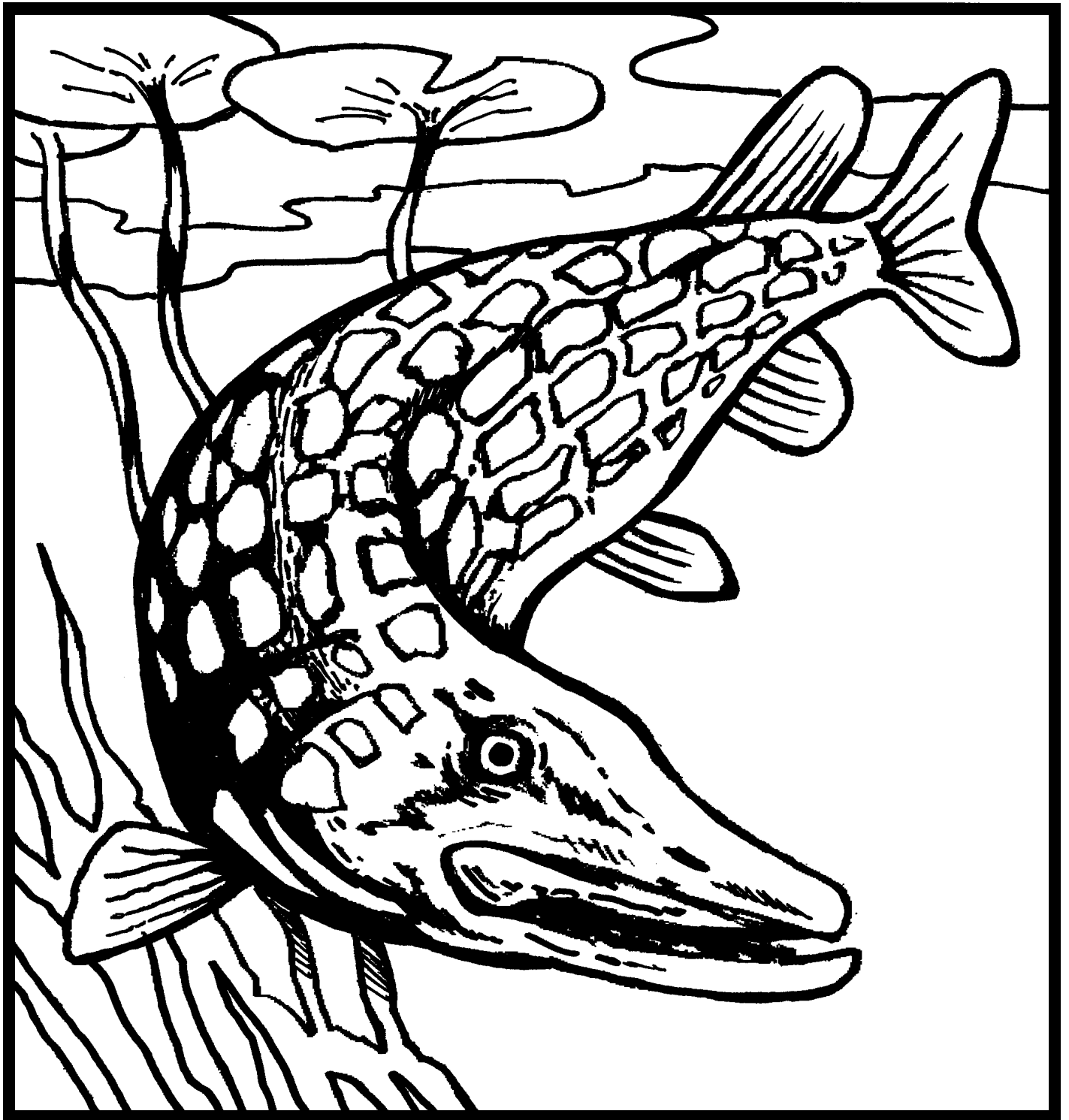
Otter

River otters live near freshwater lakes and streams. They also live near marshes. They swim and dive well. Otters like to slide into the water. They eat crayfish and fish.



Mink

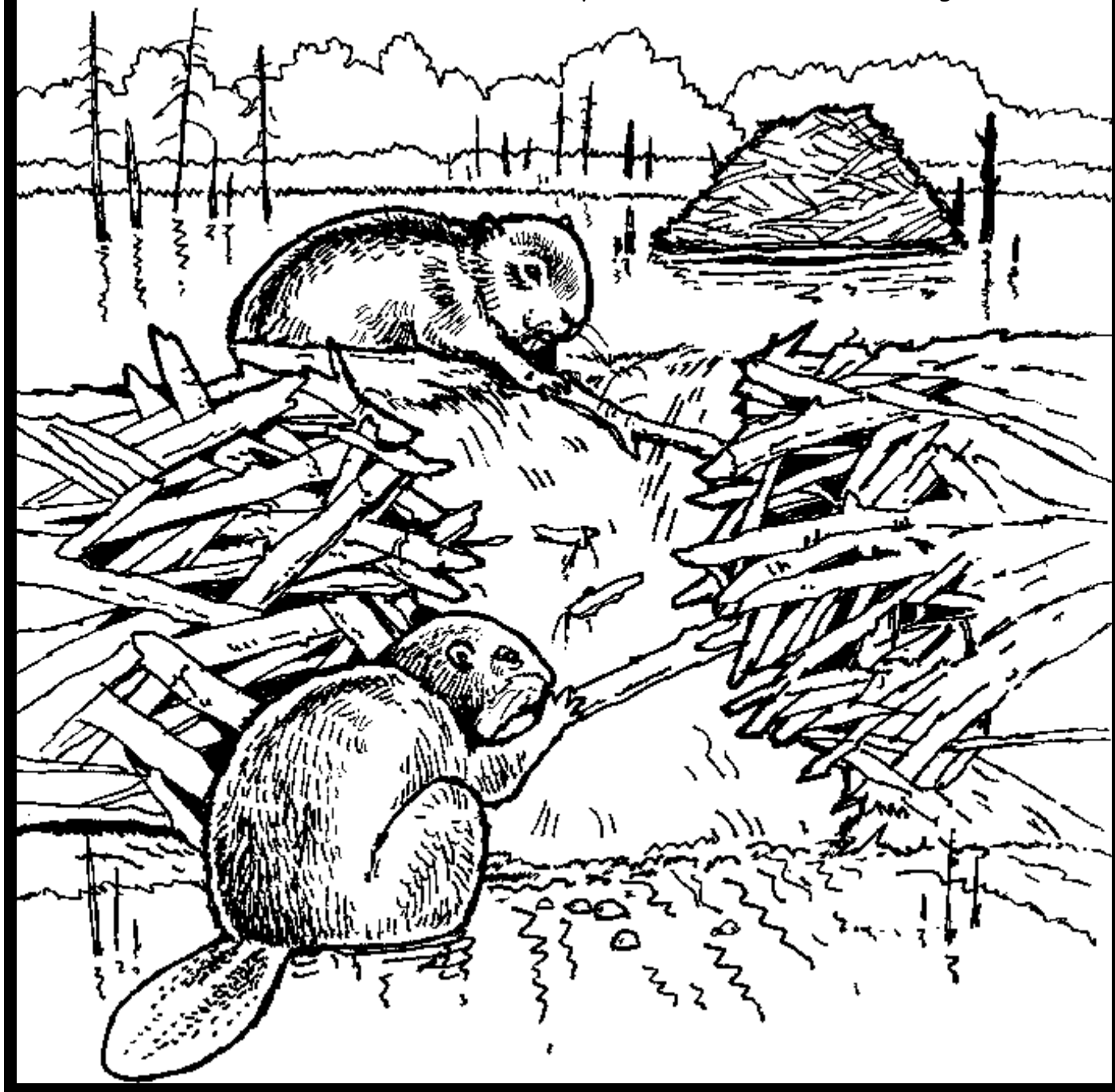
The small, quick mink hunts along the edges of wetlands. Mink are good swimmers. Their soft fur is thick and keeps them warm and dry. Mink are members of the weasel family. This mink almost caught a frog.



Pickerel

Chain pickerel are native to New Jersey. They are found throughout the state. Pickerel live in shallow lakes and ponds with lots of vegetation. They also live in very slow-moving streams. Fishermen catch them when they are ice fishing.

These beavers are repairing a break in their dam with branches and mud. Can you help them fix it? Draw some branches across the place where the water is flowing out.



Whose tail is sticking out of the water?
Do you know what this wetland animal is doing?
Answer on back cover.

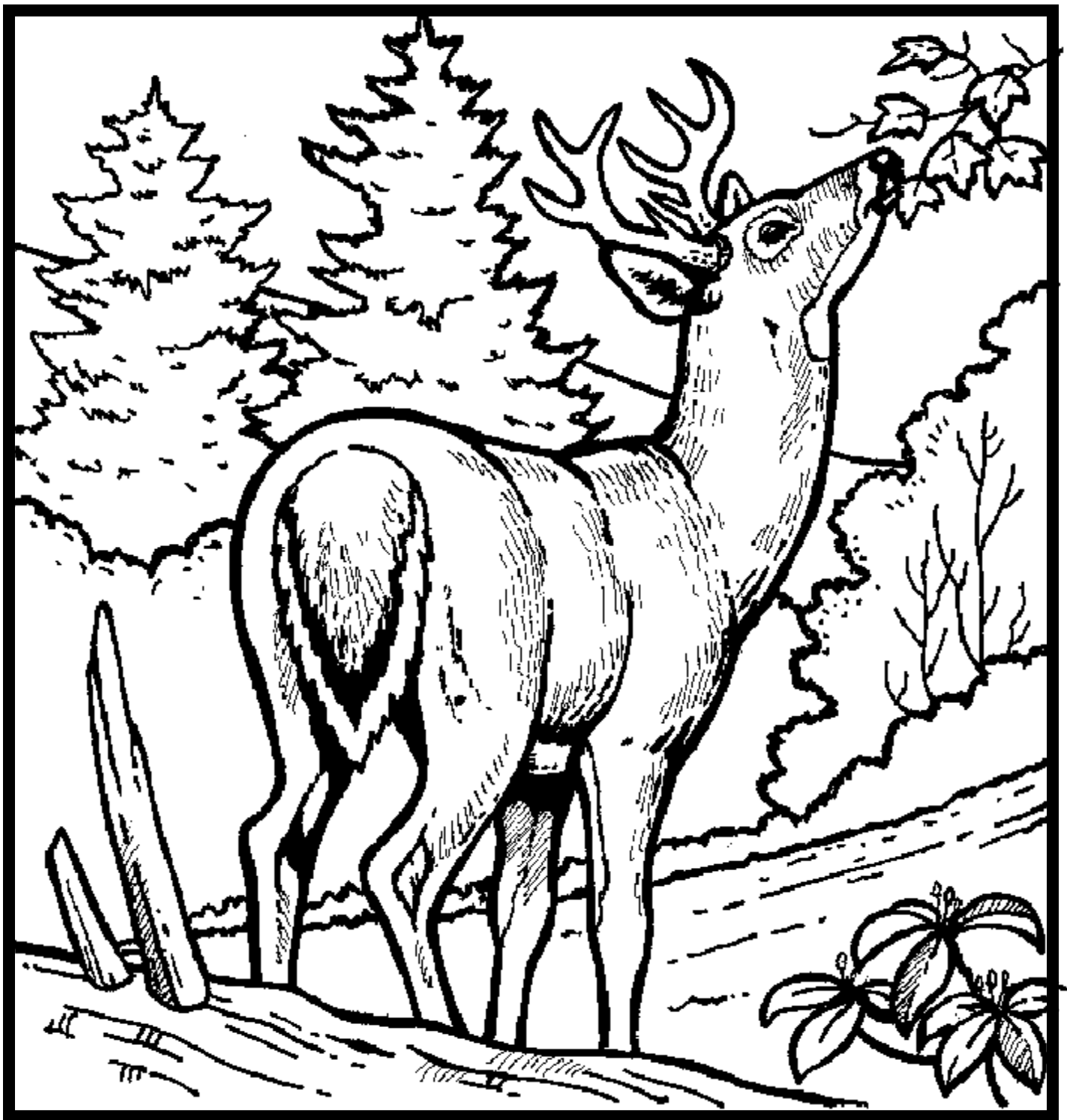


Forests

A forest habitat is made up of tall trees and is home to many wild animals. Shrubs, ferns and wildflowers grow under the trees. Forests are important to people, too. People visit forests to hike, hunt and watch wildlife. The pages of this book are made from trees harvested from the forest.

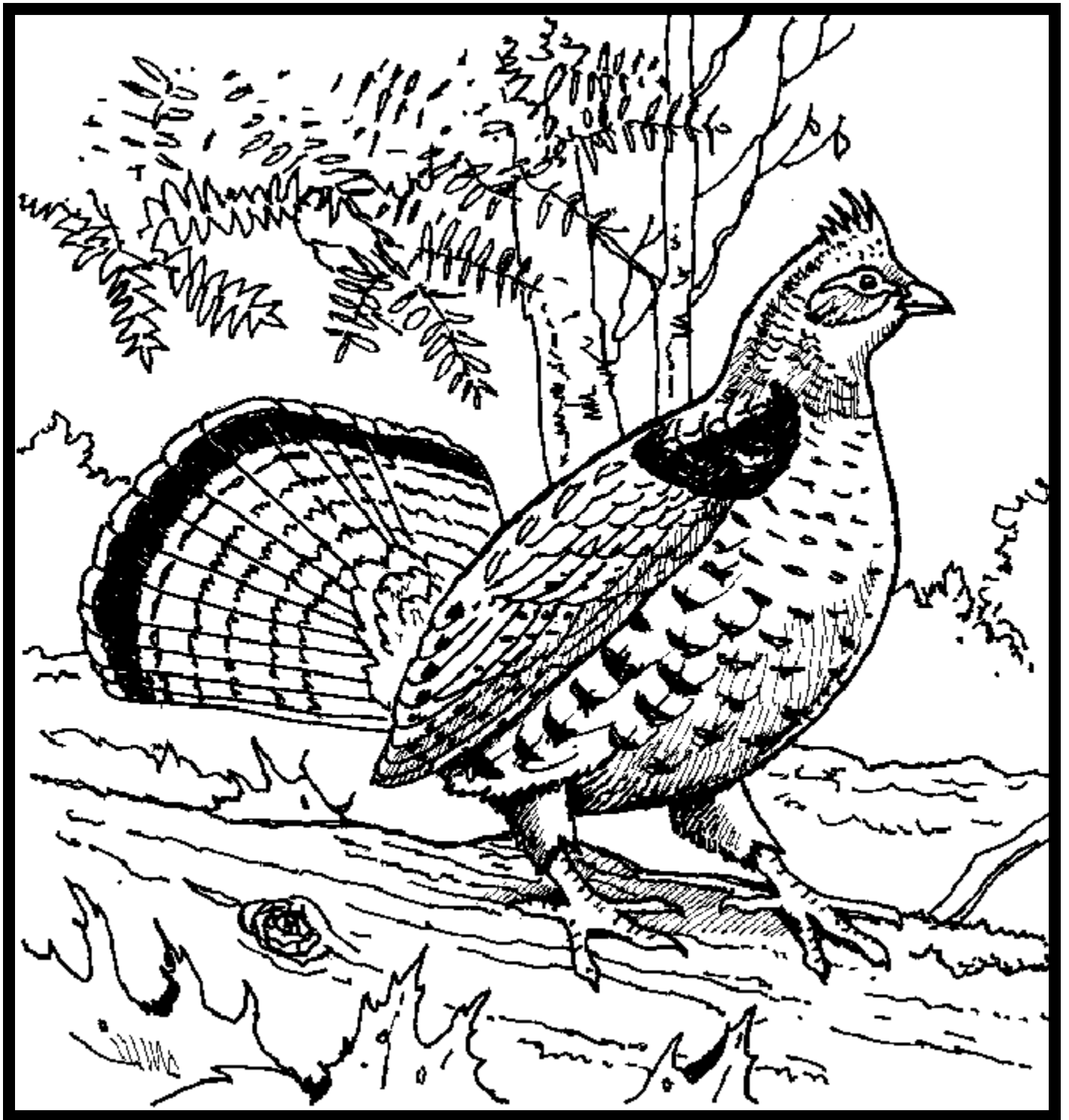


The acorn symbol appears with wildlife that live in our beautiful forests.



White-tailed Deer

Long ago, there were almost no deer in New Jersey. Today, you can see deer everywhere! Female deer are called does. Male deer, or bucks, have antlers. Young deer are called fawns and are covered with white spots that look like spots of sunlight.



Ruffed Grouse

The grouse has special dark feathers around its neck called a ruff, which is where it got its name. Grouse blend in with the brown leaves of the forest floor where it lives. Grouse can fly very fast to escape danger.



Black Bear

The black bear is the only kind of bear that lives in New Jersey. Bears eat plants, animals, insects, berries, nuts, fruit, honey and corn. Bears may eat our garbage. In winter, bears sleep in dens or nests. Bear cubs are born in dens in January.



Great Horned Owl

Owls hunt for food at night. You may not see an owl but you can hear it - Hoo hoo hoo, hoo-hoo. Its large eyes let them see in the dark. Owls also have great hearing. The "horns" standing up on the owl's head are not horns or ears, but feathers.



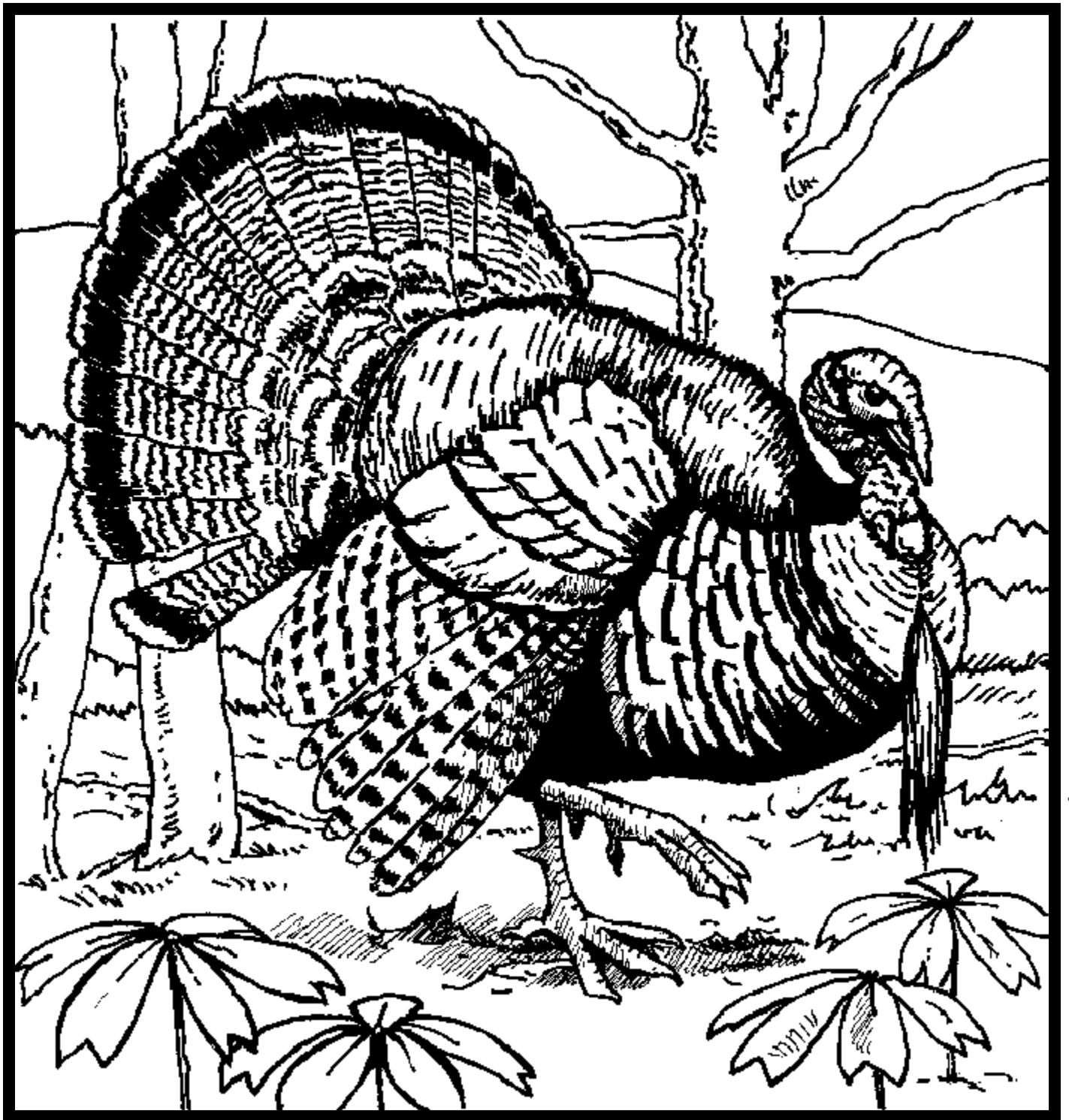
Pileated Woodpecker (pie-lee-ate-ed)

This woodpecker chips away the bark of trees to look for insects. They carve deep, rectangular holes in trees with their beaks when they are ready to nest. The pileated woodpecker makes a loud, laughing call as it flies through the forest.



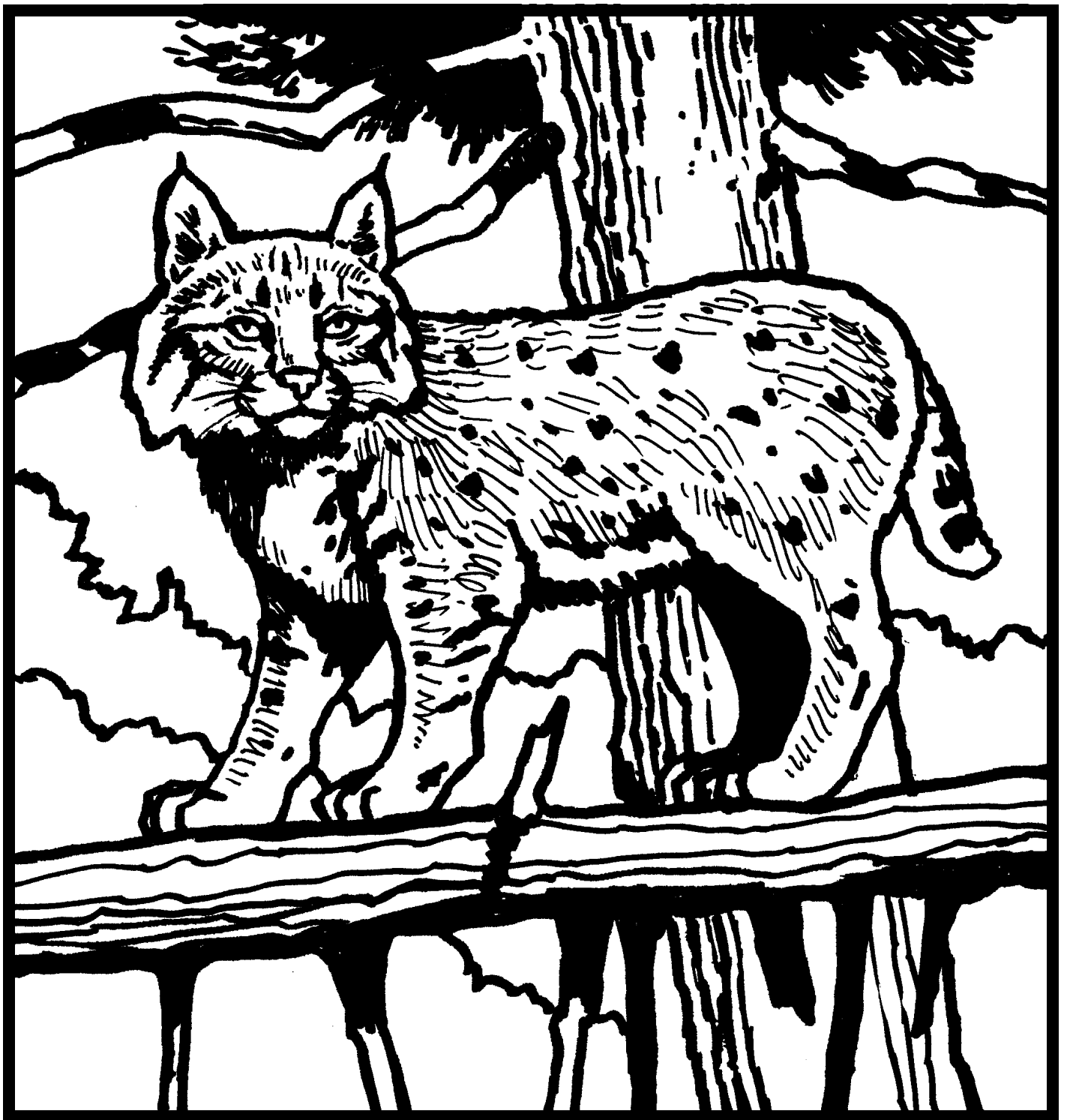
Coyote

This coyote looks like a large, brown dog. It hunts other animals for food, but will eat almost anything. It is a fast, smart animal. Coyotes are very wary. Sometimes at night, coyotes will howl. Coyotes also live near farms and cities.



Wild Turkey

Male turkeys are called gobblers. They gobble loudly, fan their tails, and strut to attract hen turkeys. On the gobbler's chest is a group of special feathers called a beard. Turkeys can run and fly fast. There are a lot of turkeys in New Jersey today.



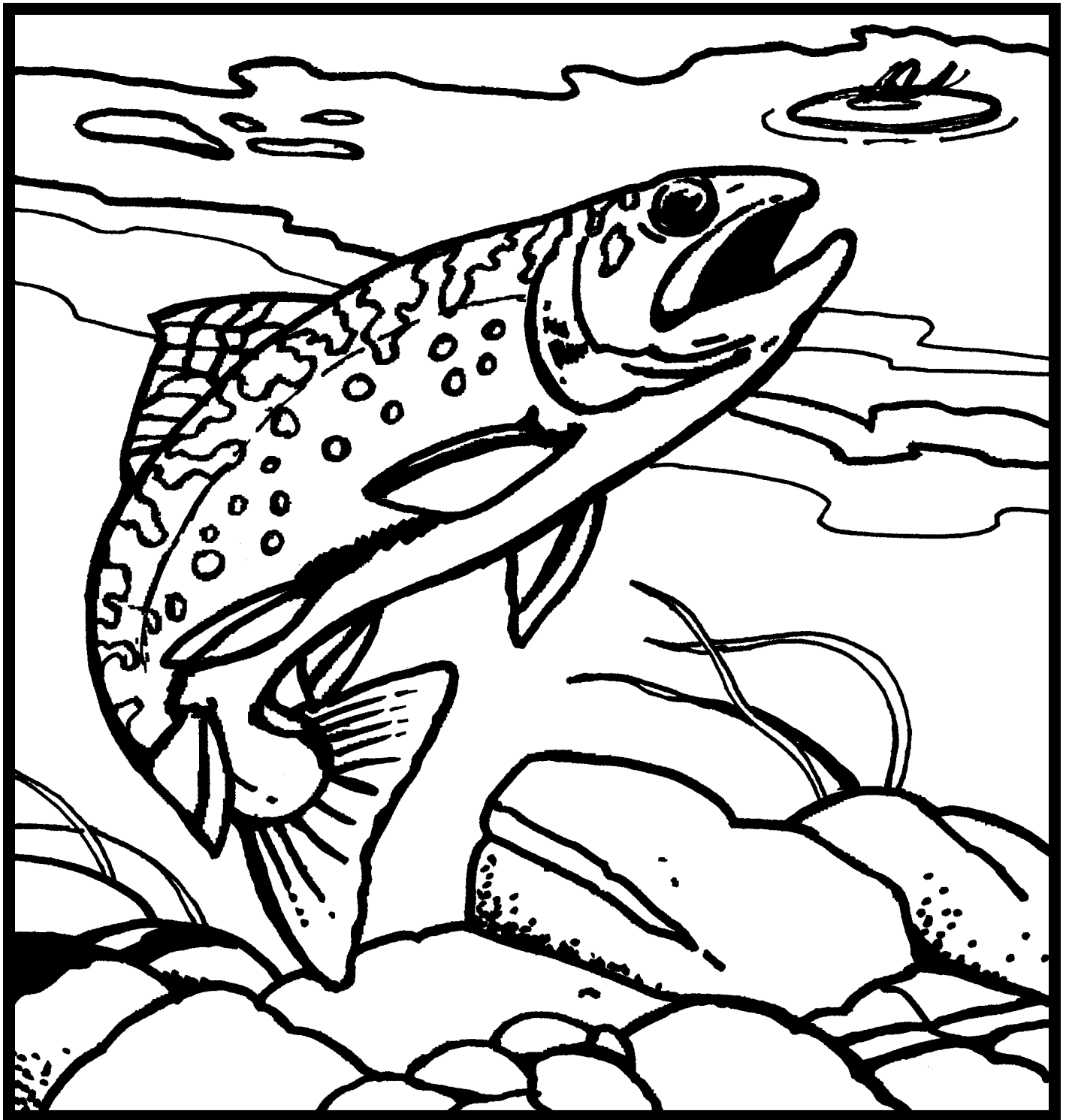
Bobcat

Bobcats are endangered in New Jersey. They can live in many habitats. Bobcats prefer areas with thick layers of plants. Here, they find small animals for food, places to rest, and shelter from the weather.



Timber Rattlesnake

The timber rattlesnake is the only animal that has a rattle. In New Jersey, rattlesnakes live in our northern forests and our southern Pineland forests. The timber rattlesnake is one of two venomous snakes in New Jersey.



Brook Trout

The brook trout is native to New Jersey. It is New Jersey's state fish. It lives in very clean, cool water in the forests of northern New Jersey. The swirled pattern on its back is great camouflage for the brook trout.



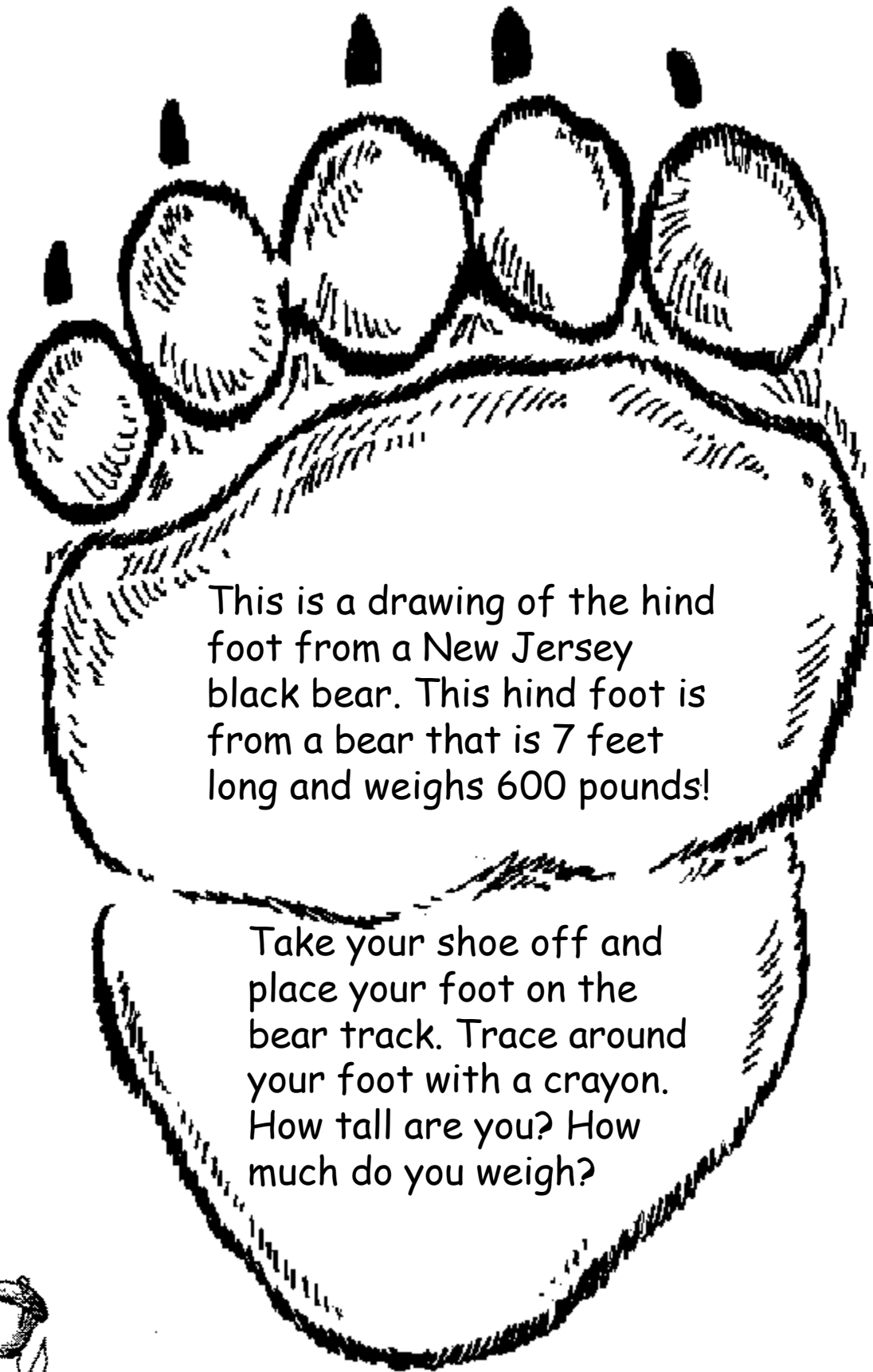
Pinelands

The Pinelands are a special type of forest found in New Jersey. Pine trees are the main type of tree found here. The soil is very sandy. The Pinelands are home to many different plants and animals.



Pine Barrens Treefrog

The Pine Barrens treefrog is found in only three places in the world - and New Jersey's one of them! They are an inch and a half long. They are bright green with a purple stripe that runs down their body. They are a threatened species in New Jersey.

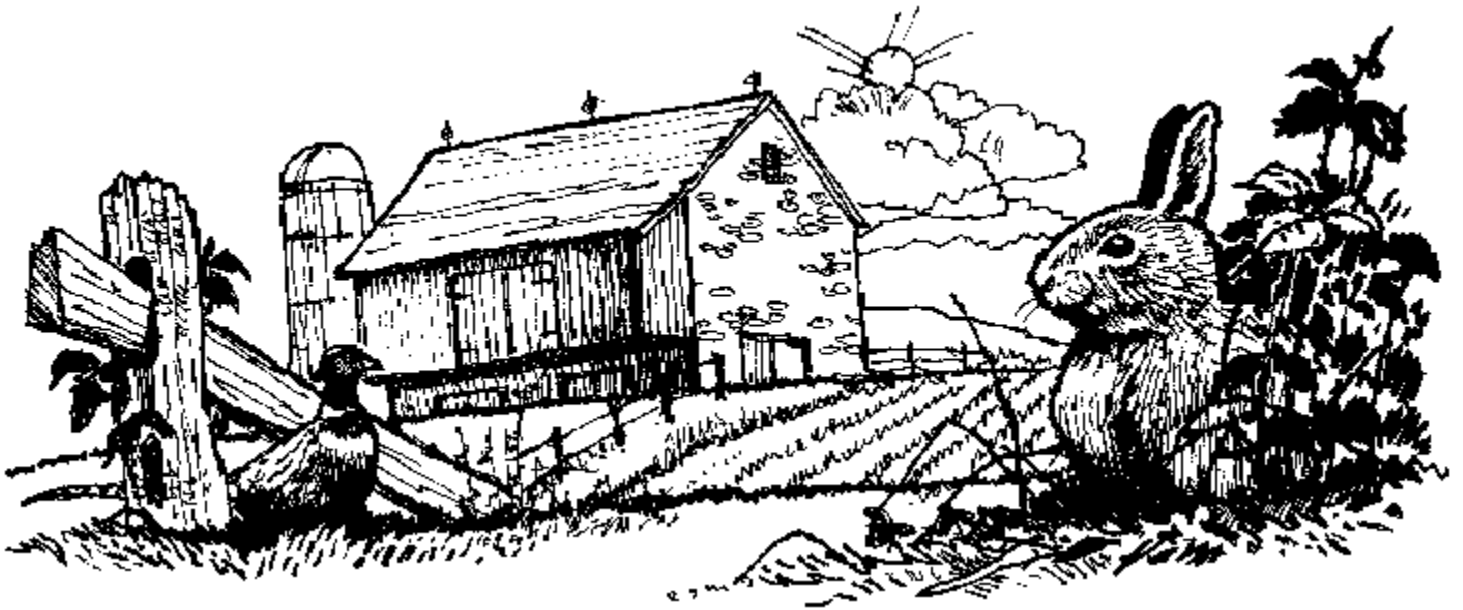


This is a drawing of the hind foot from a New Jersey black bear. This hind foot is from a bear that is 7 feet long and weighs 600 pounds!

Take your shoe off and place your foot on the bear track. Trace around your foot with a crayon. How tall are you? How much do you weigh?



These acorn and leaf are from New Jersey's state tree. Do you know what it is? Answer on back cover.

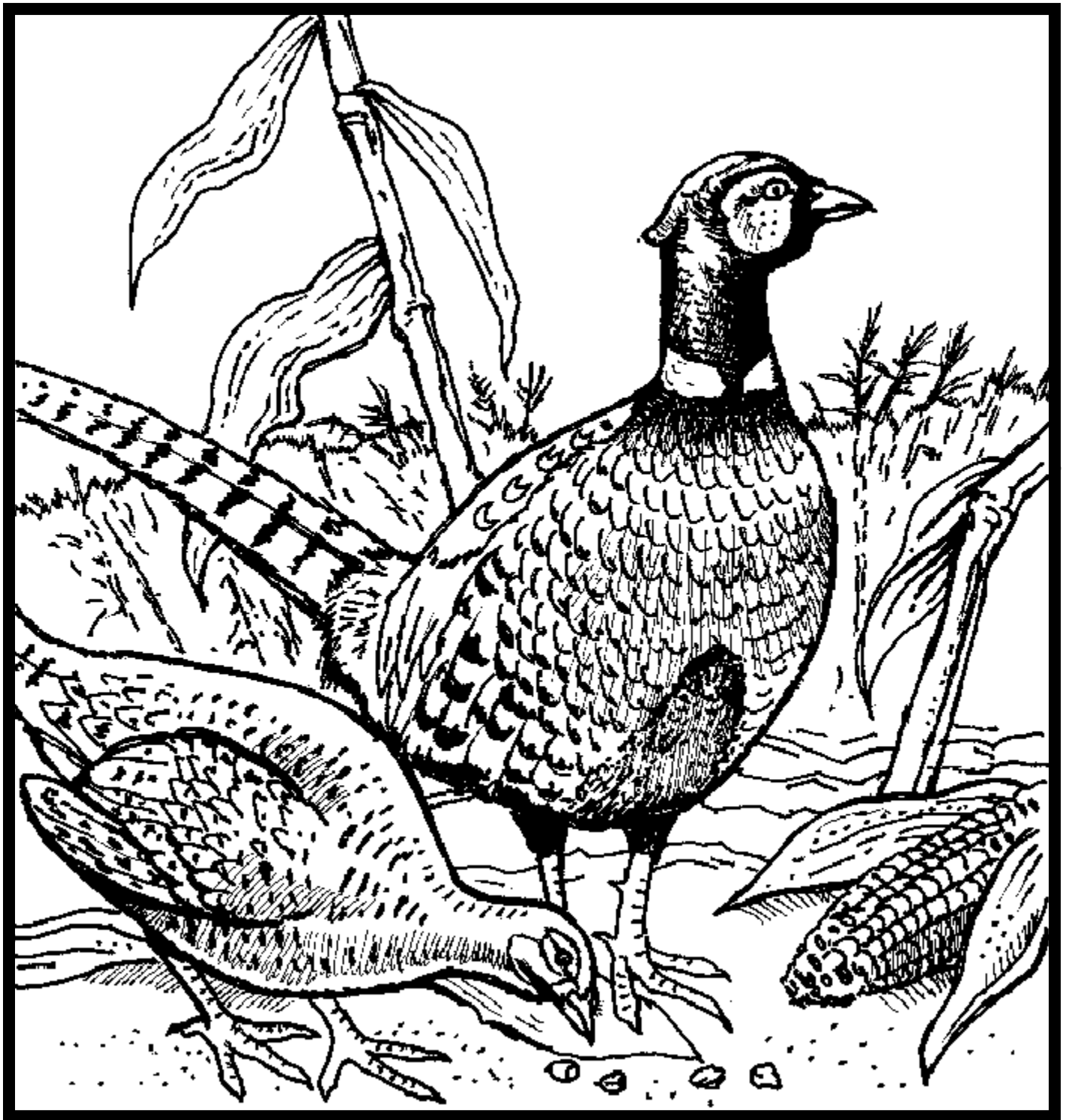


Farms

Farmers grow crops and raise animals on their farms. Farms are also places where wild animals live. Some wildlife need open spaces to live, like farm fields. Other animals live in the brushy areas between fields called hedgerows or along the edges of fields. Some animals help the farmer by eating the insects or mice that damage crops.



The ear of corn symbol appears with wildlife that live on farms.



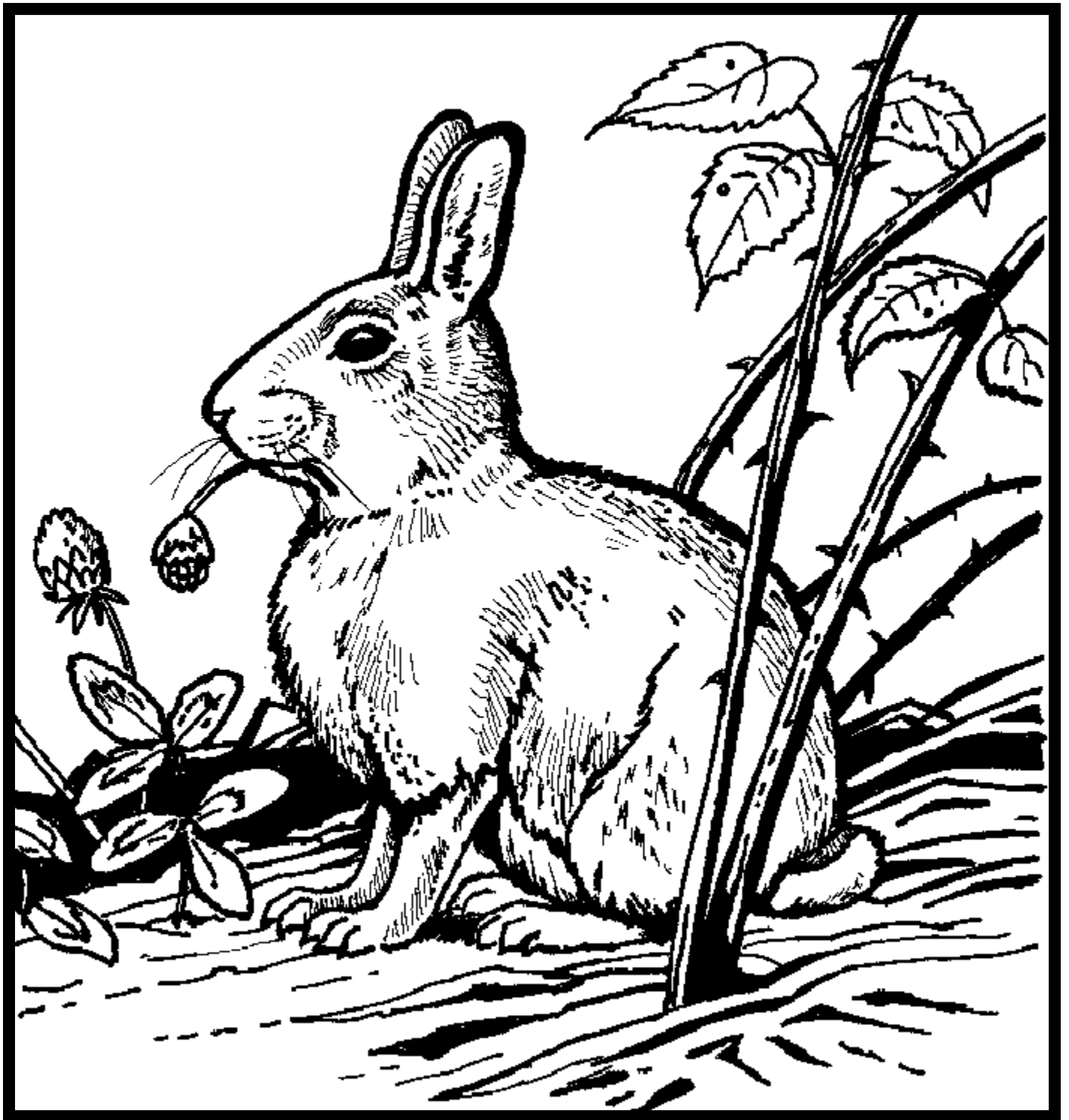
Ring-neck Pheasant

Pheasants were brought here from China long ago. Pheasants are about the size of chickens. They live in fields where they eat seeds, corn and insects. The male is very colorful, has long tail feathers and is called a rooster. The female is called a hen.



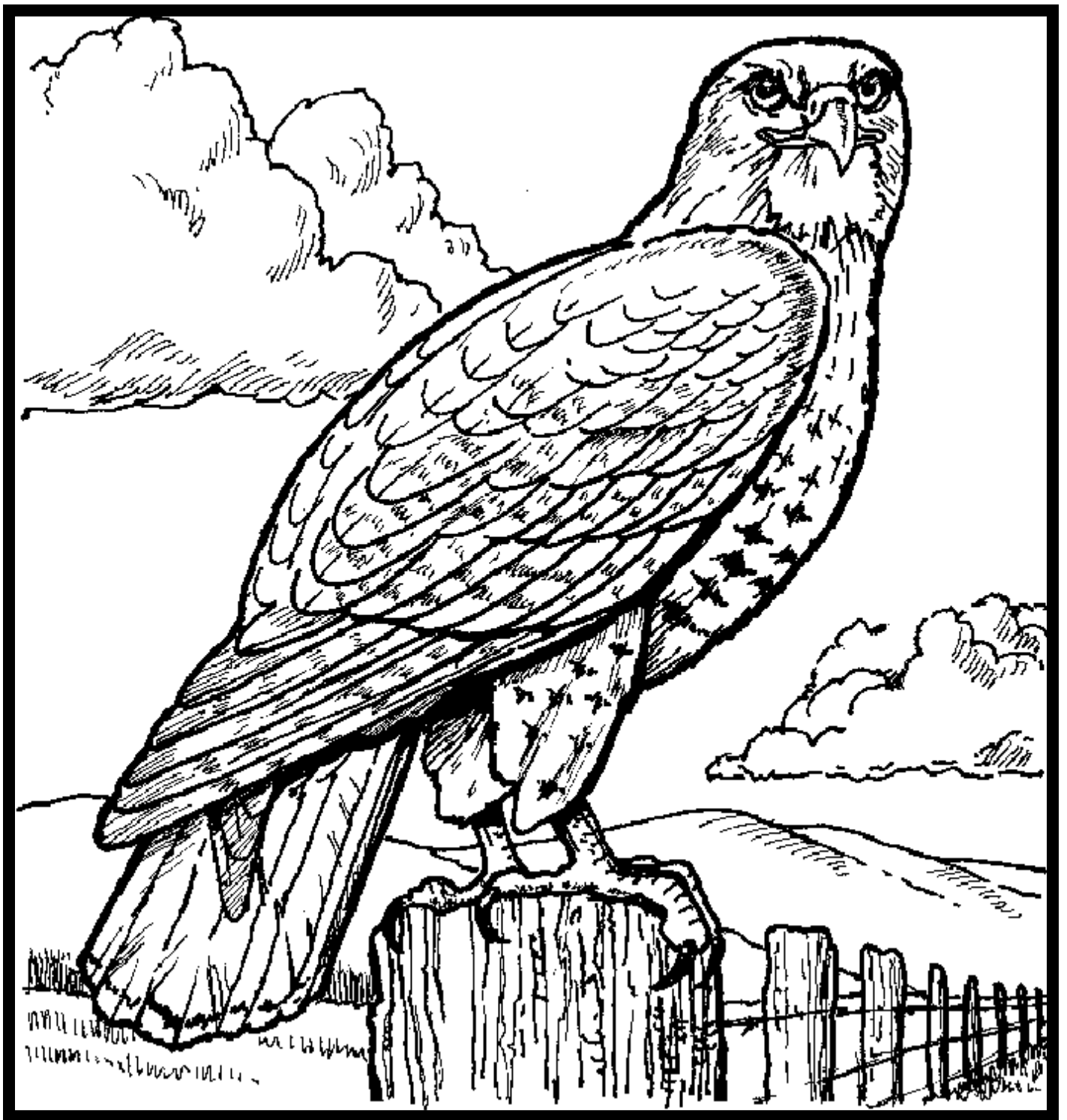
Woodchuck

Woodchucks are sometimes called groundhogs. Woodchucks live in holes they dig in the ground called burrows. They can be seen along roads or standing in farm fields. They eat grass, clover, leaves and fruit.



Eastern Cottontail

These rabbits live in brushy places where thorny briars protect them from danger. They also hide in woodchuck holes. Rabbits can jump far and run fast. Rabbits eat the same foods as woodchucks. Do you know how this rabbit got its name?



Red-tailed Hawk

This hawk with a red tail has amazing eyesight. The redtail can spot a mouse or rabbit from far away. They also eat snakes. This large bird can be seen perching on fence posts, telephone poles and in trees. They soar over fields looking for prey.



Vocabulary Words



Parents and Teachers:

This vocabulary list can be used as a basis for further study and related projects. Definitions can be written in the space provided.

Animal

Camouflage

Antler

Cavity

Barrier Island

Conservation

Beak

Cub

Beard

Dam

Bog

Division of Fish and Wildlife

Bird

Estuary

Bill

Feather

Bird of prey

Flock

Burrow

Forest

Fur

Predator

Habitat

Prey

Hen

Raptor

Hibernate

Rodent

Hide

Ruff

Hunting

Seedling

Mammal

Swamp

Marsh

Talon

Migrate

Trapper

Nest

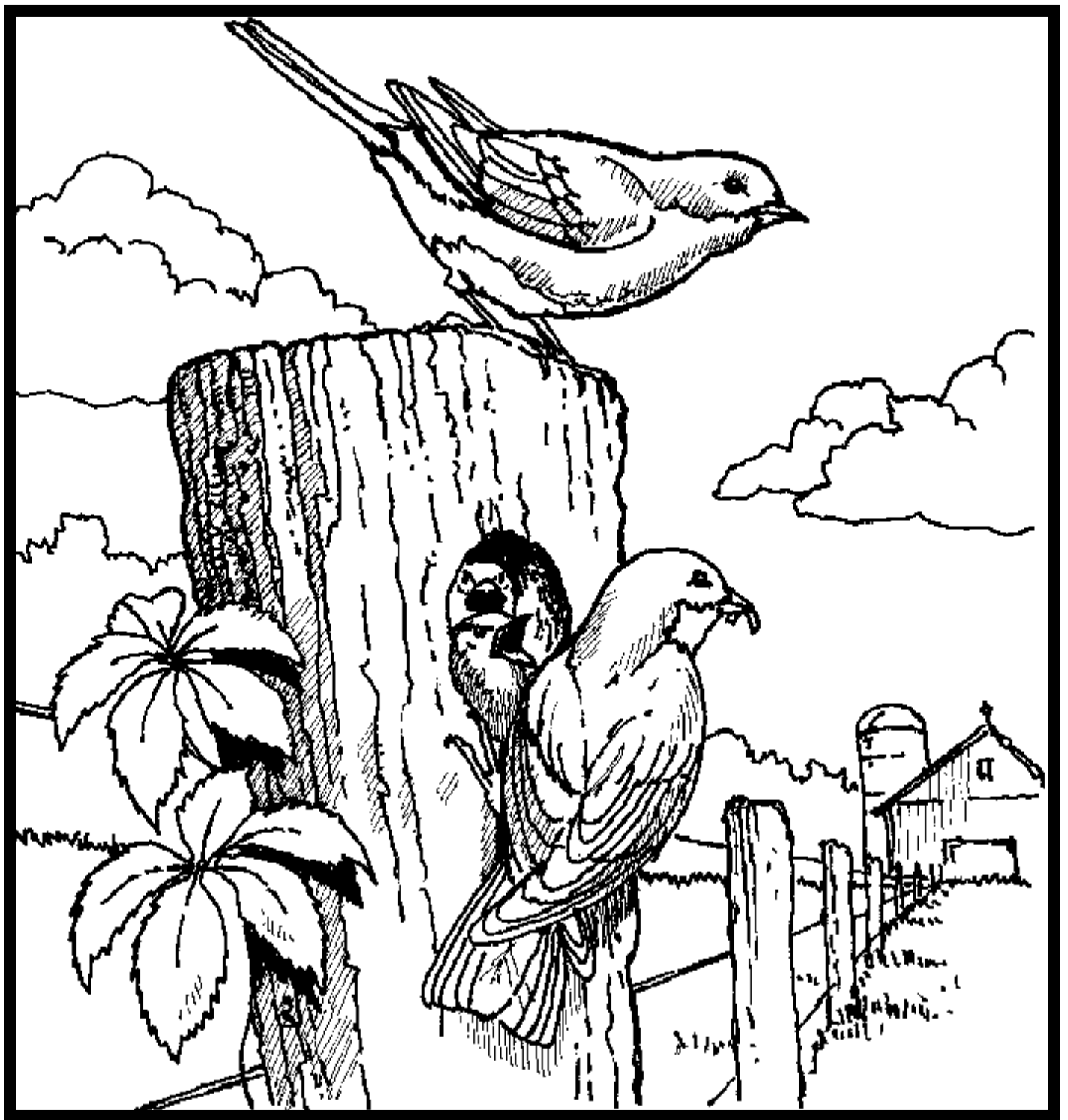
Wetland

Nest box

Wildlife

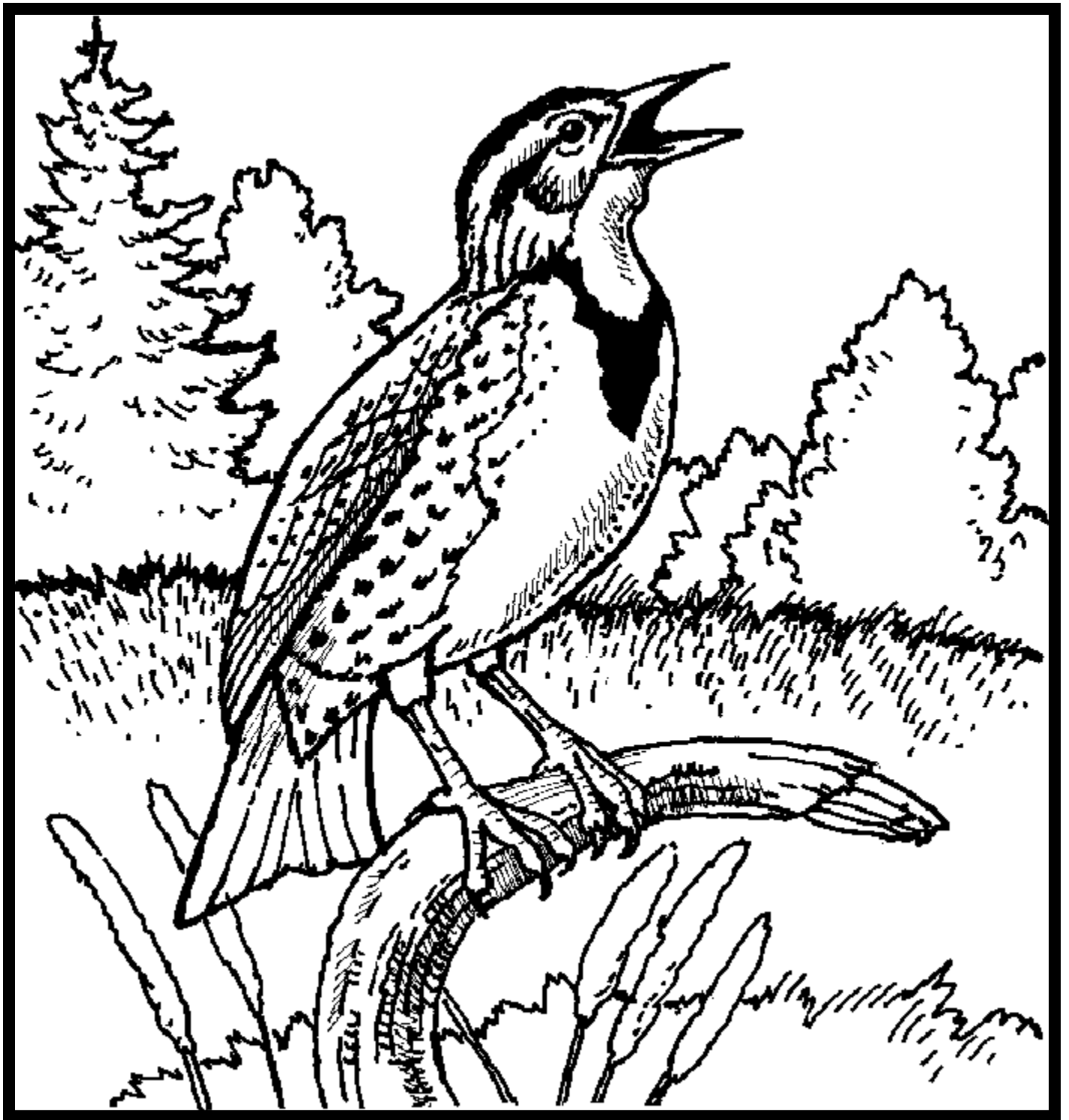
New Jersey

Wildlife Management Area



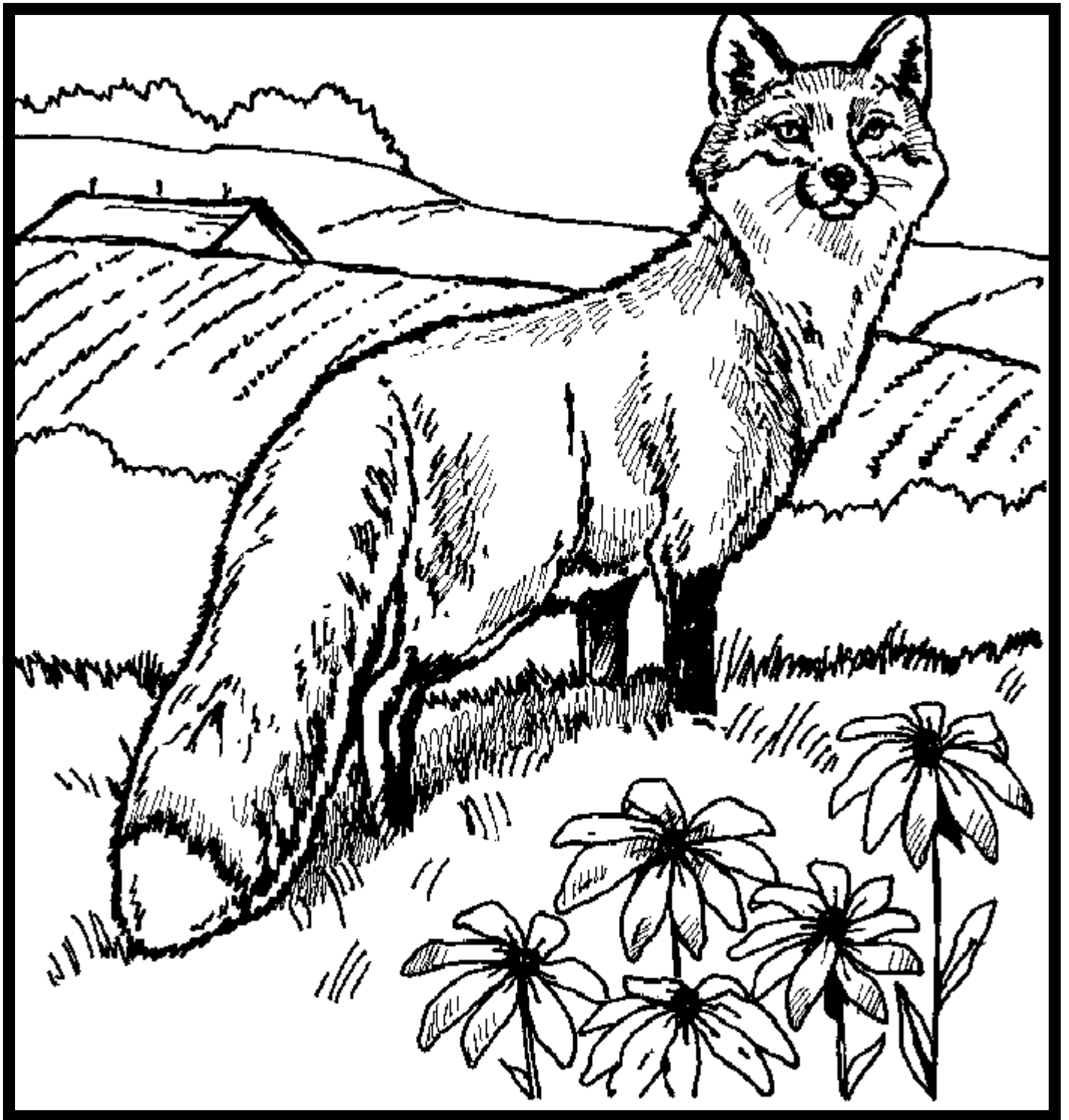
Bluebird

Bluebirds help the farmer by eating harmful insects that eat crops. Bluebirds nest in holes in trees called cavities. They also nest in hollow fence posts. People can help bluebirds by building and erecting bluebird nesting boxes.



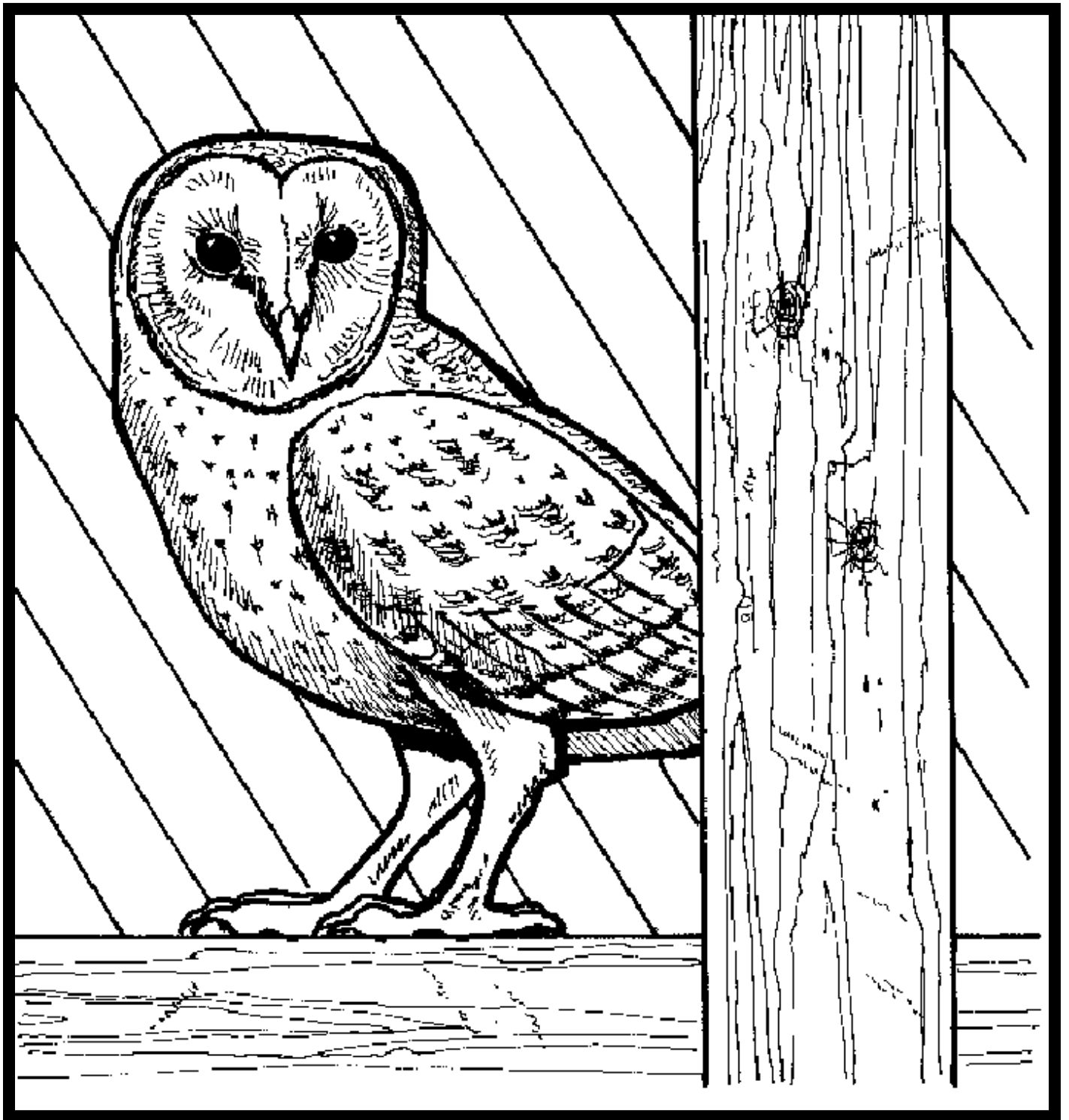
Eastern Meadowlark

The beautiful meadowlark sings from a perch at the edge of a farm field. Meadowlarks nest on the ground. Their nests are hidden in tall grasses or hay fields. This bird eats many kinds of insects and seeds.



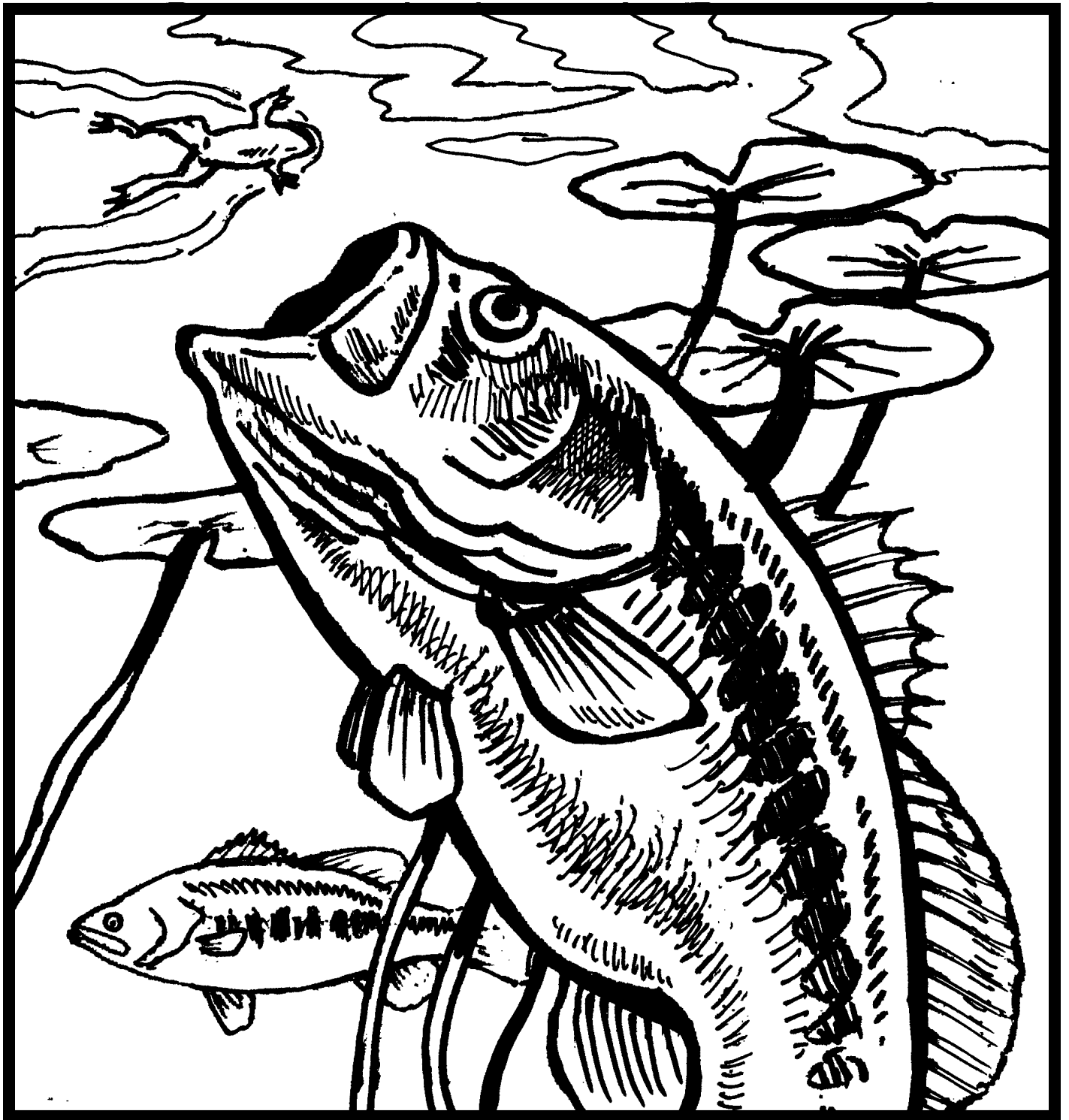
Red Fox

The red fox hunts farm fields for mice, birds and other small animals. Foxes also eat insects, berries and some kinds of fruit. The red fox is really more orange than red. It has a long, bushy tail with a white tip.



Barn Owl

The barn owl sometimes lives in barns. This owl does not have the feathery ear-tufts like the great horned owl and has dark eyes. Barn owls hiss and whistle, but don't hoot. They help farmers by eating rats and mice that live in barns and fields.

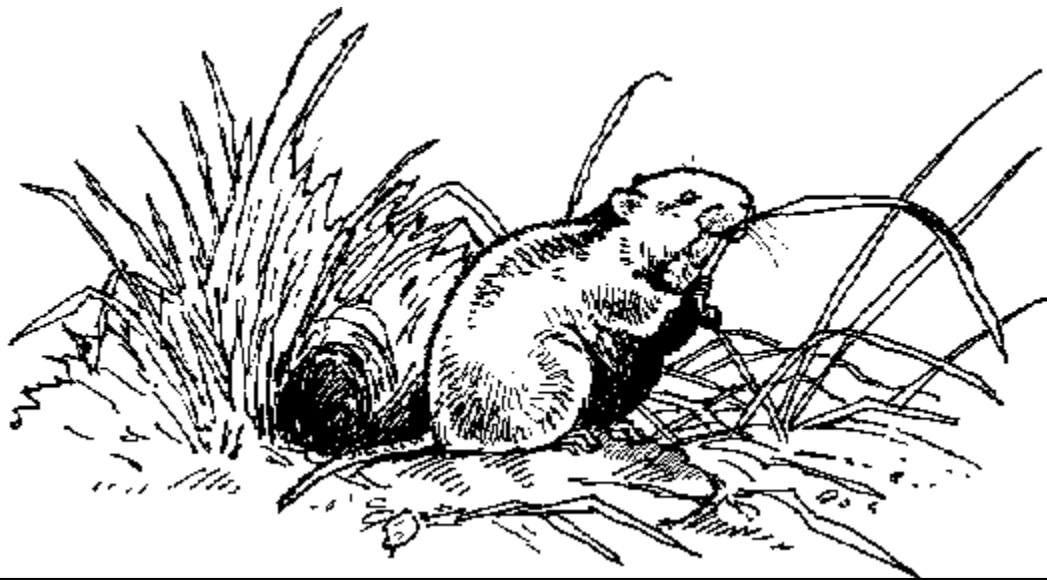


Largemouth Bass

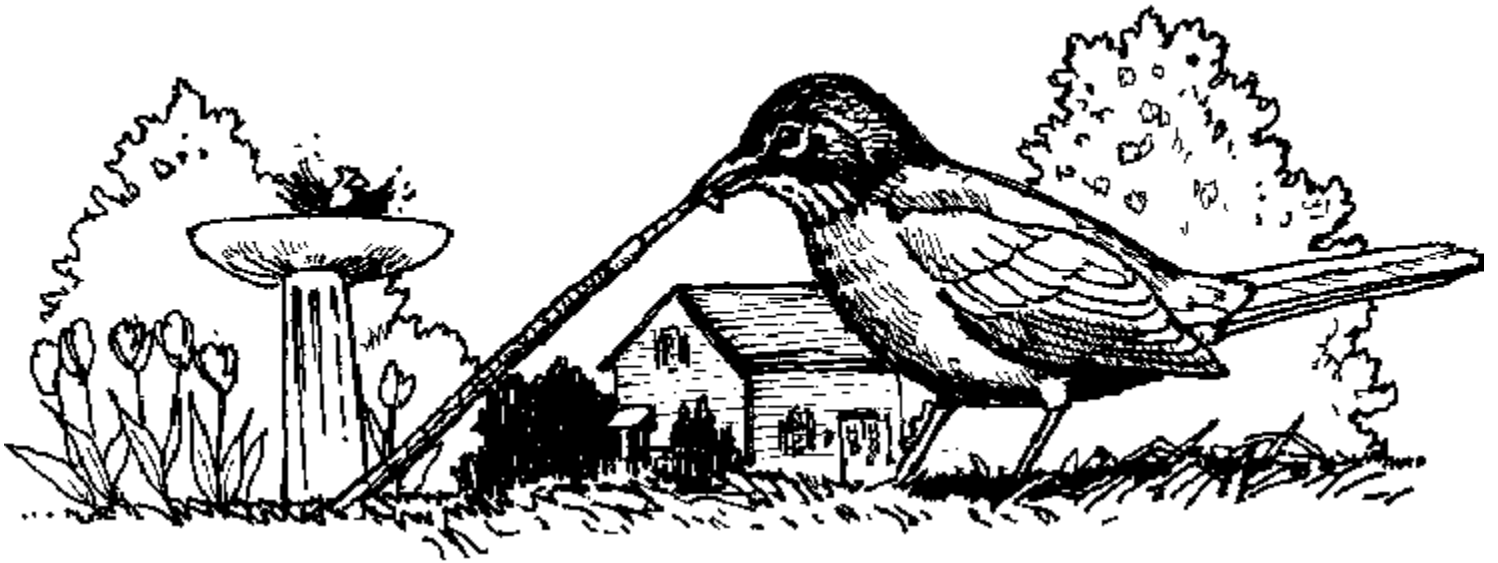
The largemouth bass lives in shallow water, among the plants. They prefer warm water with very little current. They can be found in farm ponds. The male fish make the nests for the females to lay their eggs in. Largemouth bass eat smaller fish.

The Meadow Vole

The meadow vole is also called a field mouse. Thousands of voles may live in farm fields. They eat grass and can damage crops. Predators help the farmer by eating voles. Draw a farmland predator hunting the vole in this picture.



What wild bird that lives on a farm is called a rooster? Answer on back cover.



Neighborhoods

Some wild animals live in cities, towns and neighborhoods. Wildlife from nearby forests and farms may visit neighborhoods. Birds stop here to feed and rest, or even build a nest. People and animals can live together. It is important to have trees and shrubs and water in neighborhoods for wild animals.

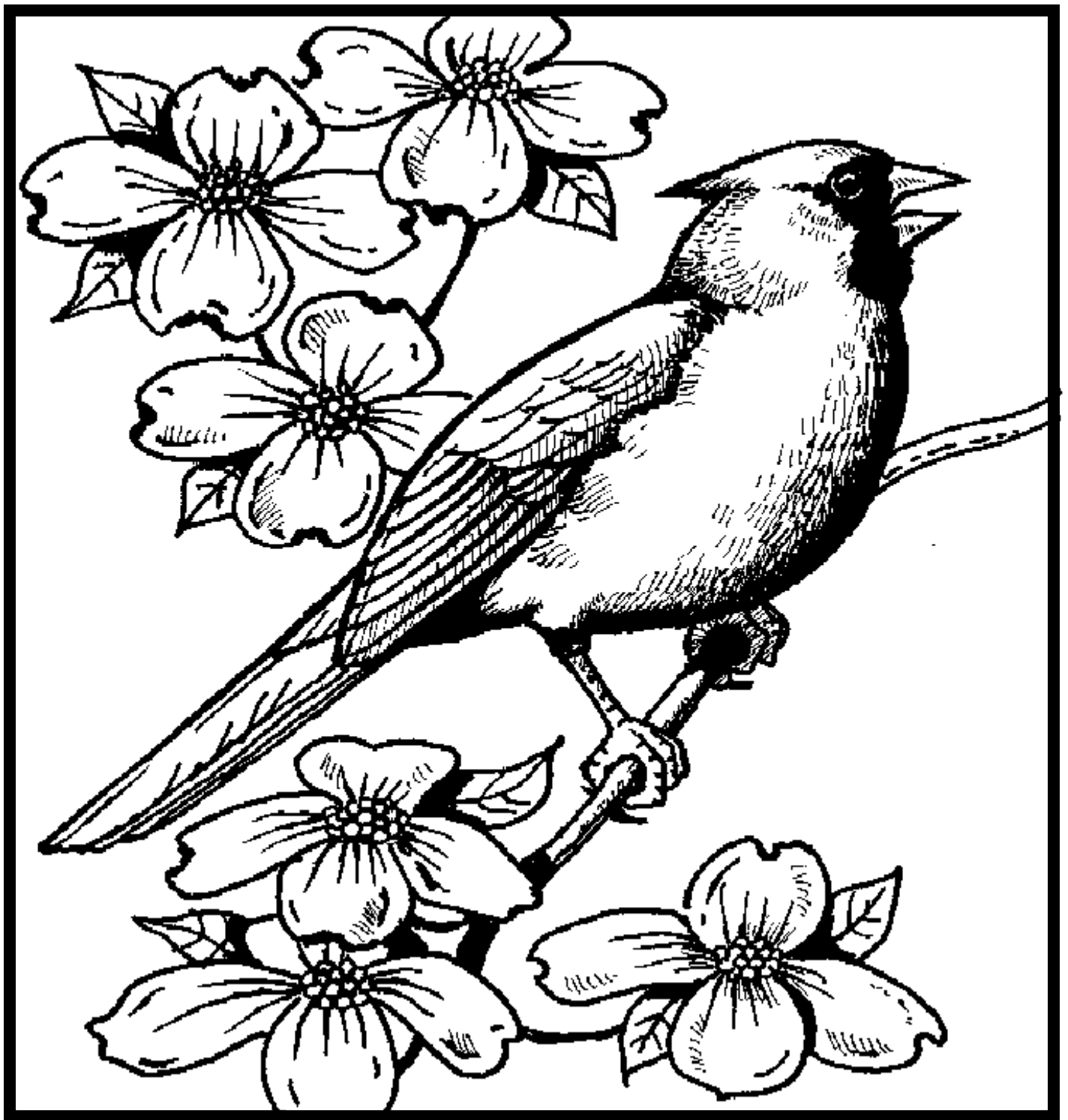


The house symbol appears with wildlife that live in neighborhoods.



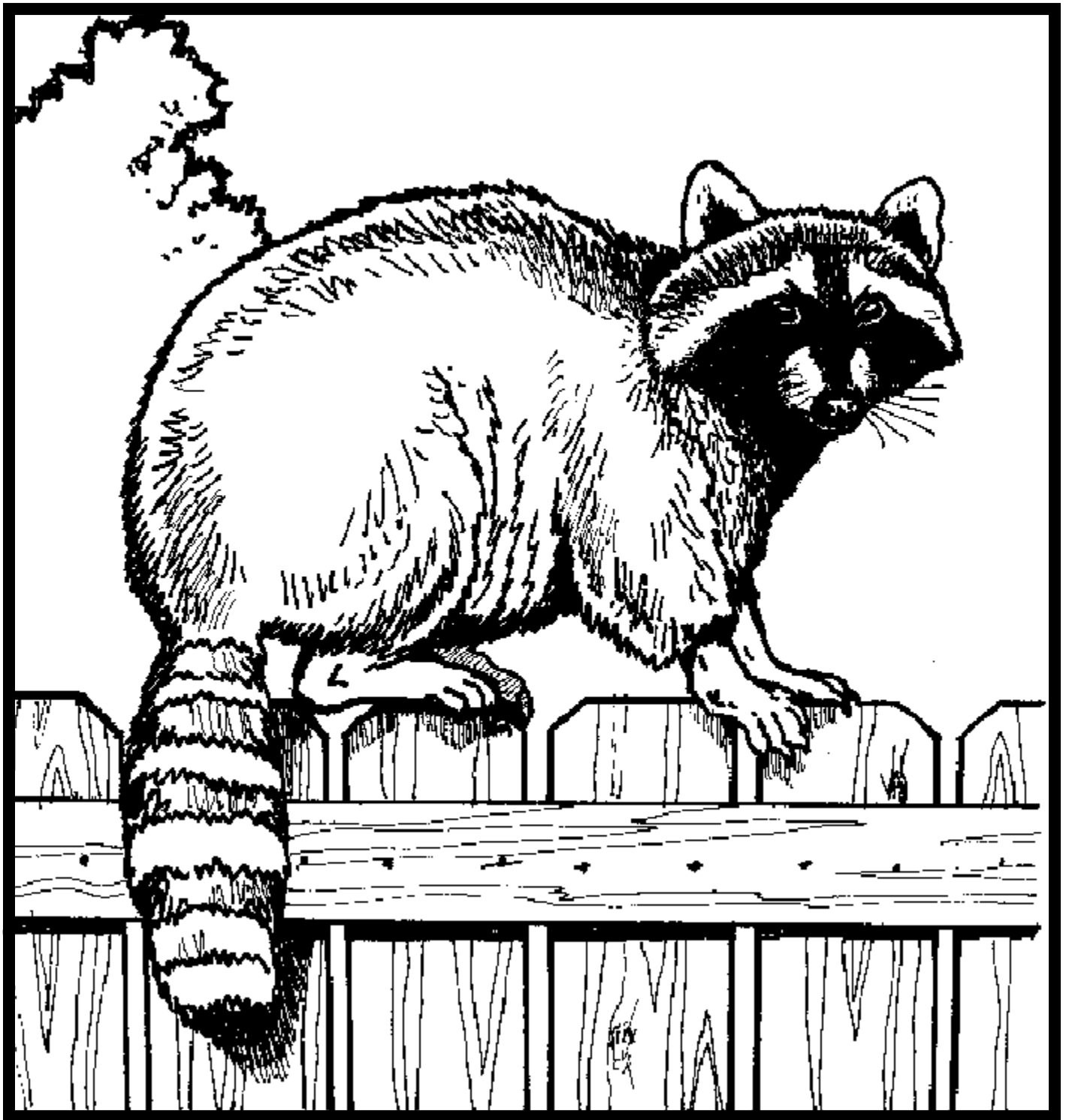
Little Brown Bat

The bat is the only mammal that can fly. Little brown bats can be seen at dusk and after dark under street lamps. They sleep during the day by hanging upside down in attics, old buildings or on trees. Bats help people by eating insects.



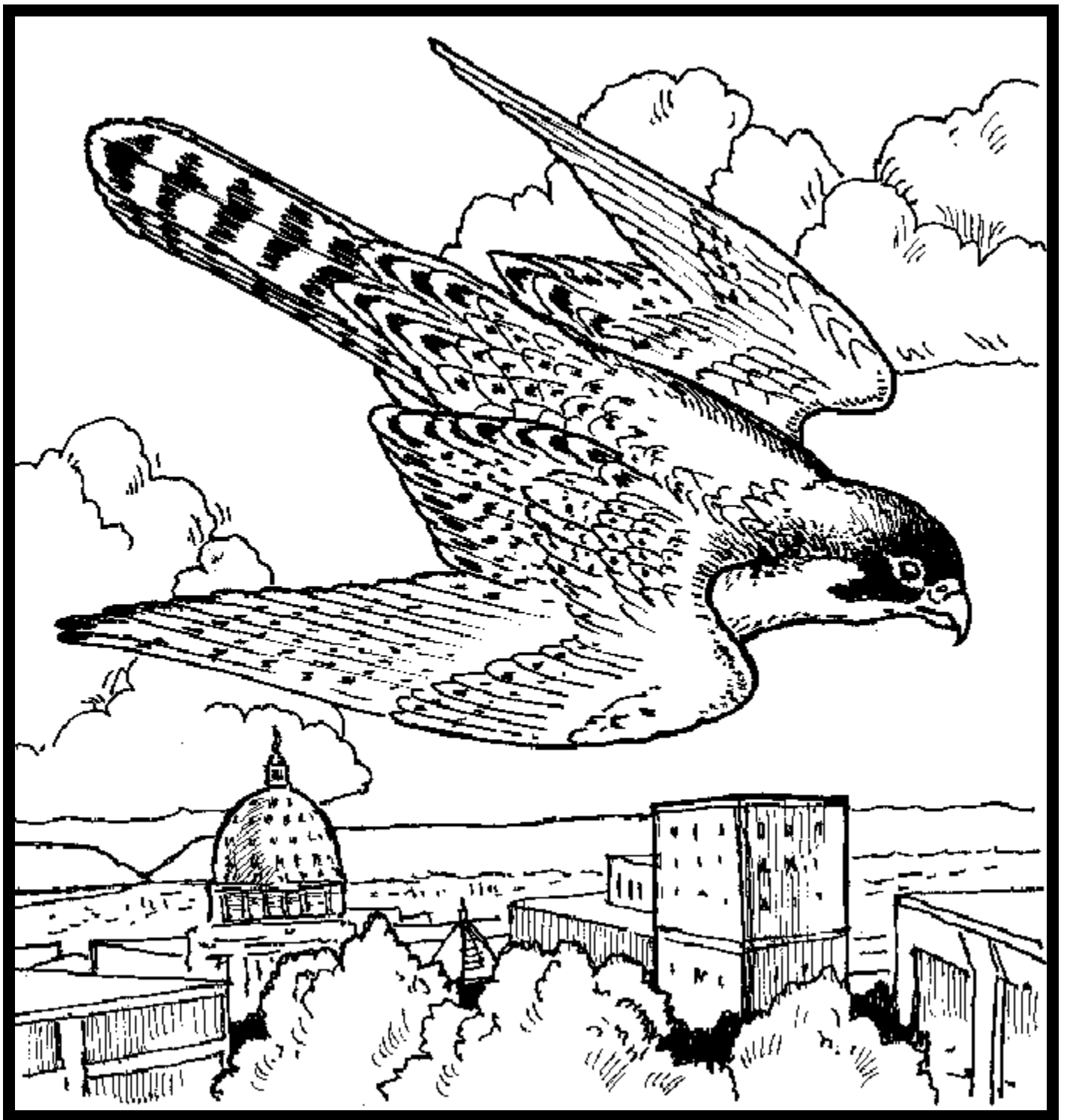
Cardinal

The bright male cardinal sings cheer, cheer, cheer. Cardinals have strong, heavy bills to break seeds. The pointed feathers that stand up on top of their heads is called a crest. The female cardinal is reddish-brown.



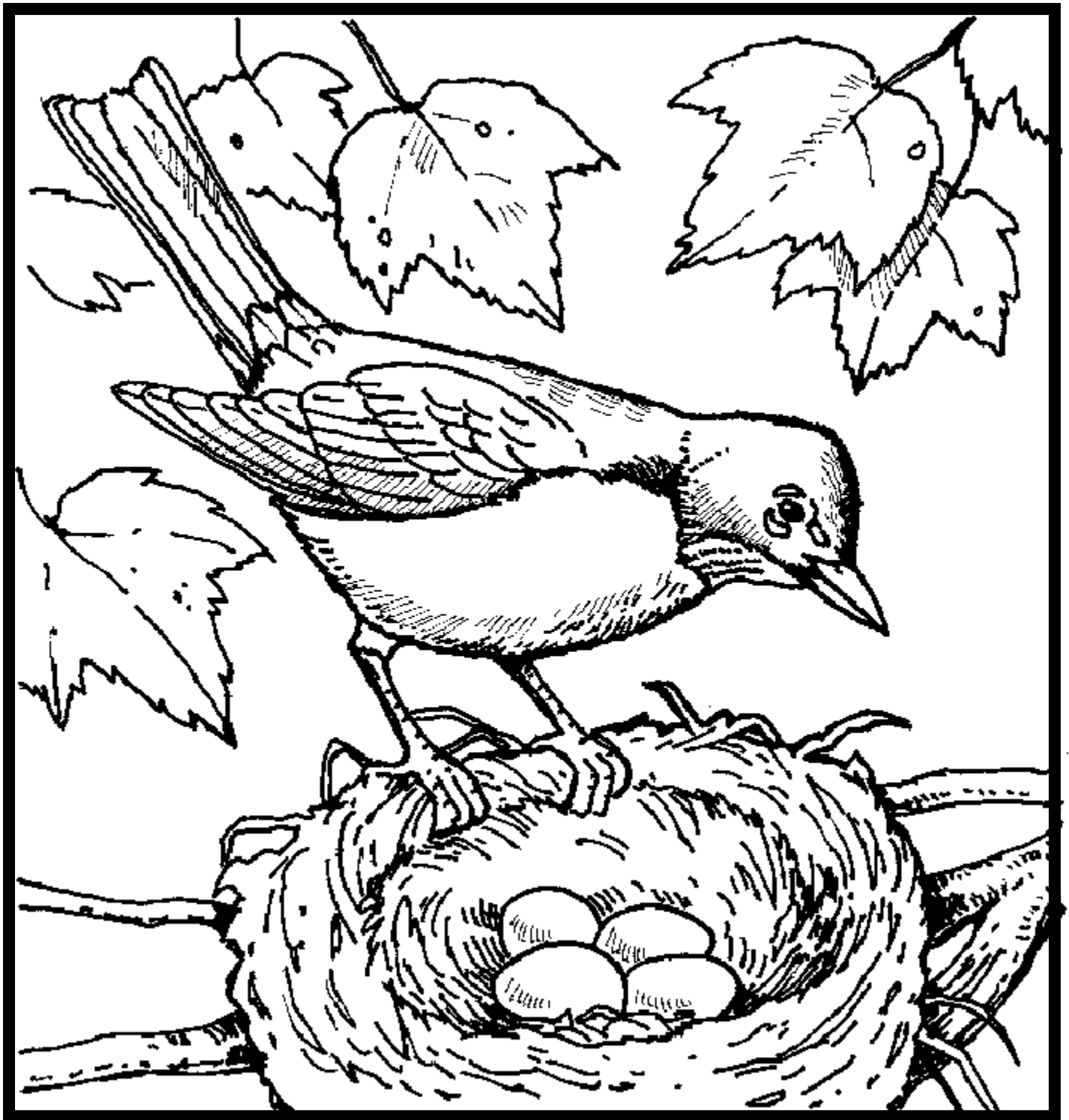
Raccoon

Raccoons look for food along streams and rivers. At night, they sometimes visit towns to look for food. Raccoons raid garbage cans. They sleep in hollow trees, or chimneys, during the day. The raccoon looks like it is wearing a black mask.



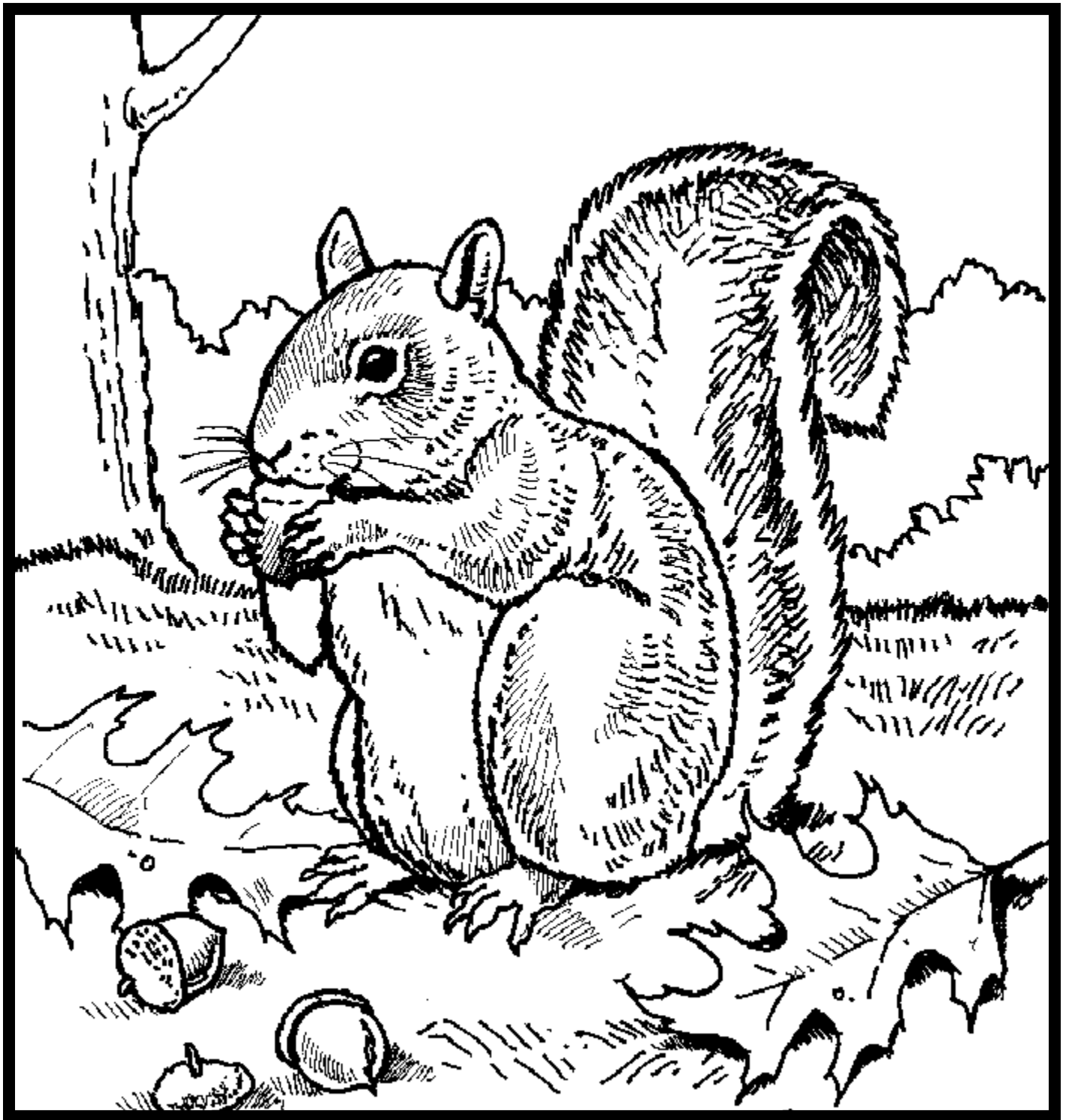
Peregrine Falcon

The peregrine falcon is a raptor. Some peregrines live in cities. They nest on tall buildings. They swoop down and capture birds. The peregrine falcon is one of the fastest birds in the world. Diving after prey, they may reach 200 miles per hour!



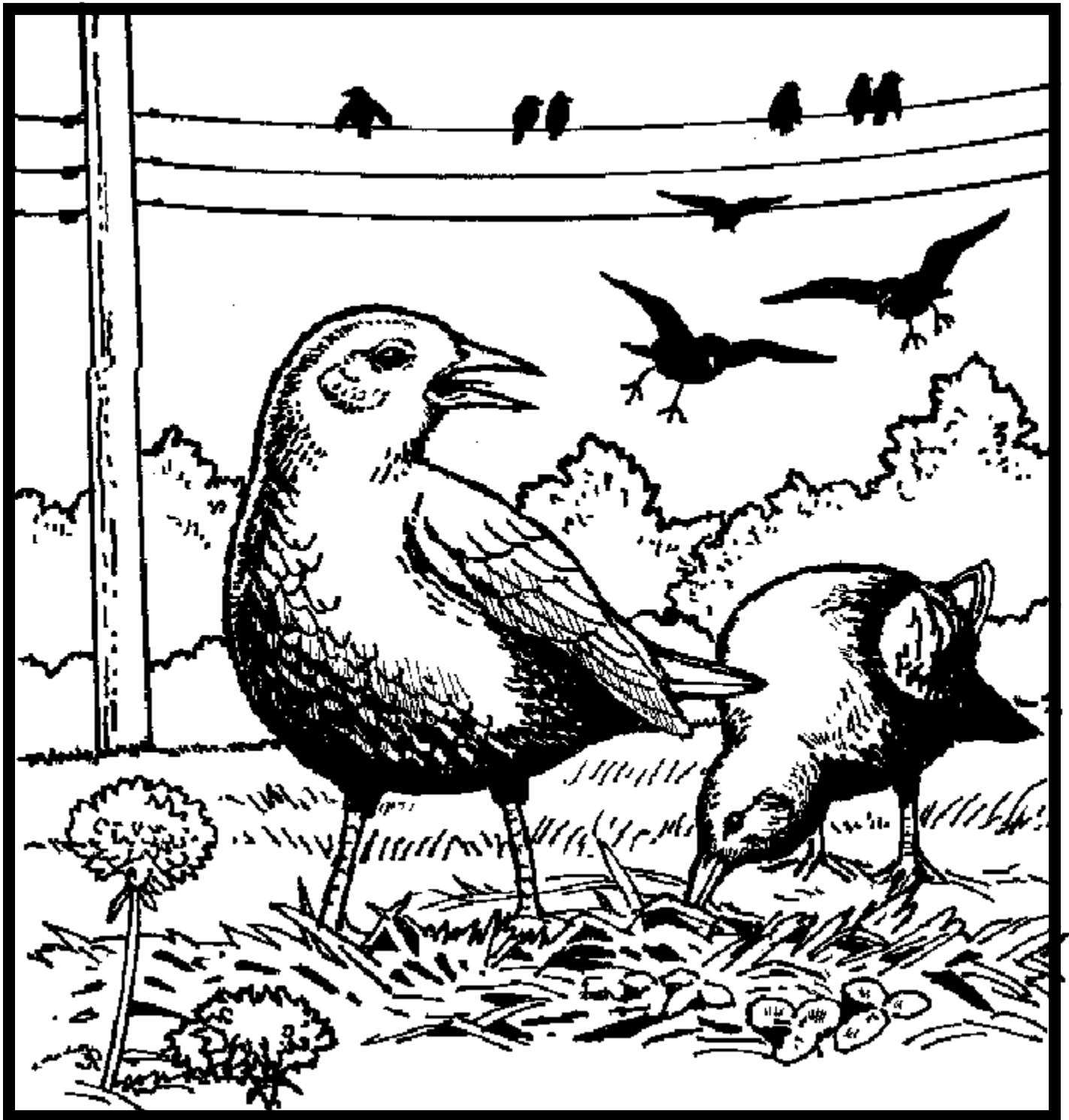
Robin

This robin nest has four light blue eggs in it. Robins are seen on lawns looking for worms. In late summer robins travel, or migrate, south to warmer places where it is easier to find food in winter. Robins return each spring to the same nesting sites.



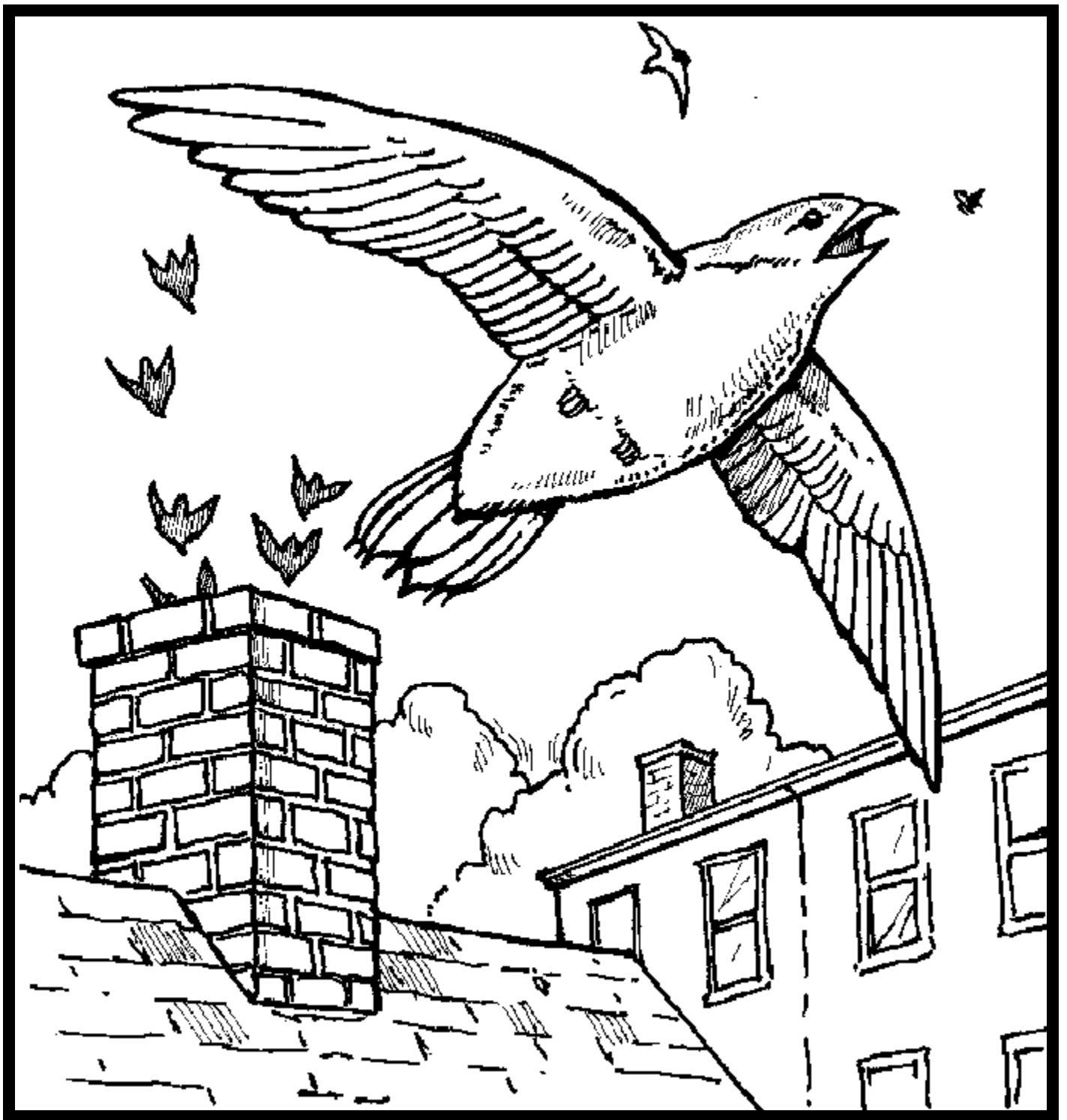
Gray Squirrel

Squirrels live in hollow trees and in round nests made of leaves. Squirrels eat acorns. They bury them in the ground to eat in winter. If they don't find all the buried nuts, they might grow into big oak trees. Some gray squirrels are all black.



Starling

Starlings may be seen walking in backyards or along roads. They eat seeds and insects. These birds nest in holes in trees and buildings. They were brought to America from England long ago. In winter, big flocks of starlings roost in trees.



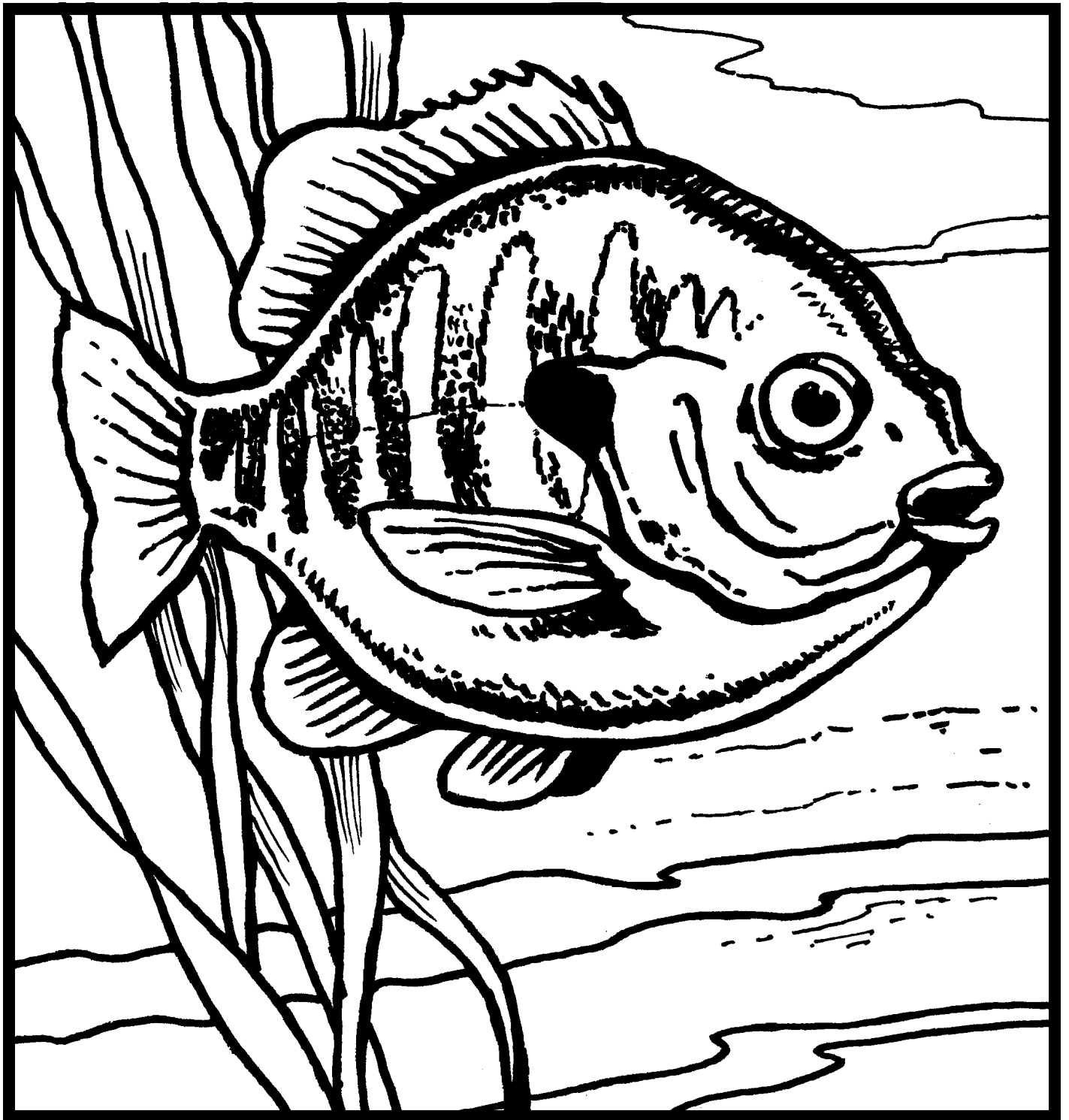
Chimney Swift

These birds fly and twitter all day long over the city during the summer. They stop flying at night when they rest inside buildings or chimneys. As chimney swifts fly, they capture insects from the air.



Chipmunk

Chipmunks carry acorns and seeds in their cheek pouches. They store the food in underground burrows. Chipmunks are forest animals that also live in neighborhoods. This small squirrel makes loud squeaking noises when alarmed.



Bluegill

The bluegill is a fun fish to catch. It lives in warm shallow waters, like lakes and ponds. It can be found among the plants. During the afternoon and on hot days, they move into deeper water to stay cool.



DATE: October 7, 2005

TIME: 11:00 a.m.

WEATHER: Sunny and warm

LOCATION: My backyard

NOTES: Saw a chickadee pecking at a branch. It was looking for insects. The chickadees song sounds like its name -- chick-a-dee-dee.

START A NATURE JOURNAL

In the space below draw a wild animal that lives in your neighborhood.

DATE:

TIME:

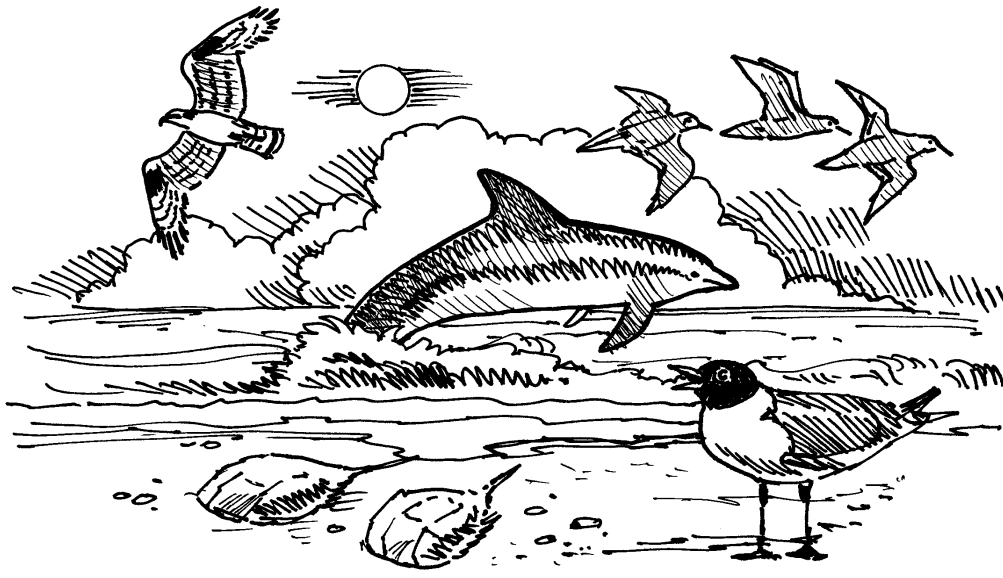
WEATHER:

LOCATION:

NOTES:



What neighborhood animal has wings but is not a bird? Answer on back cover.

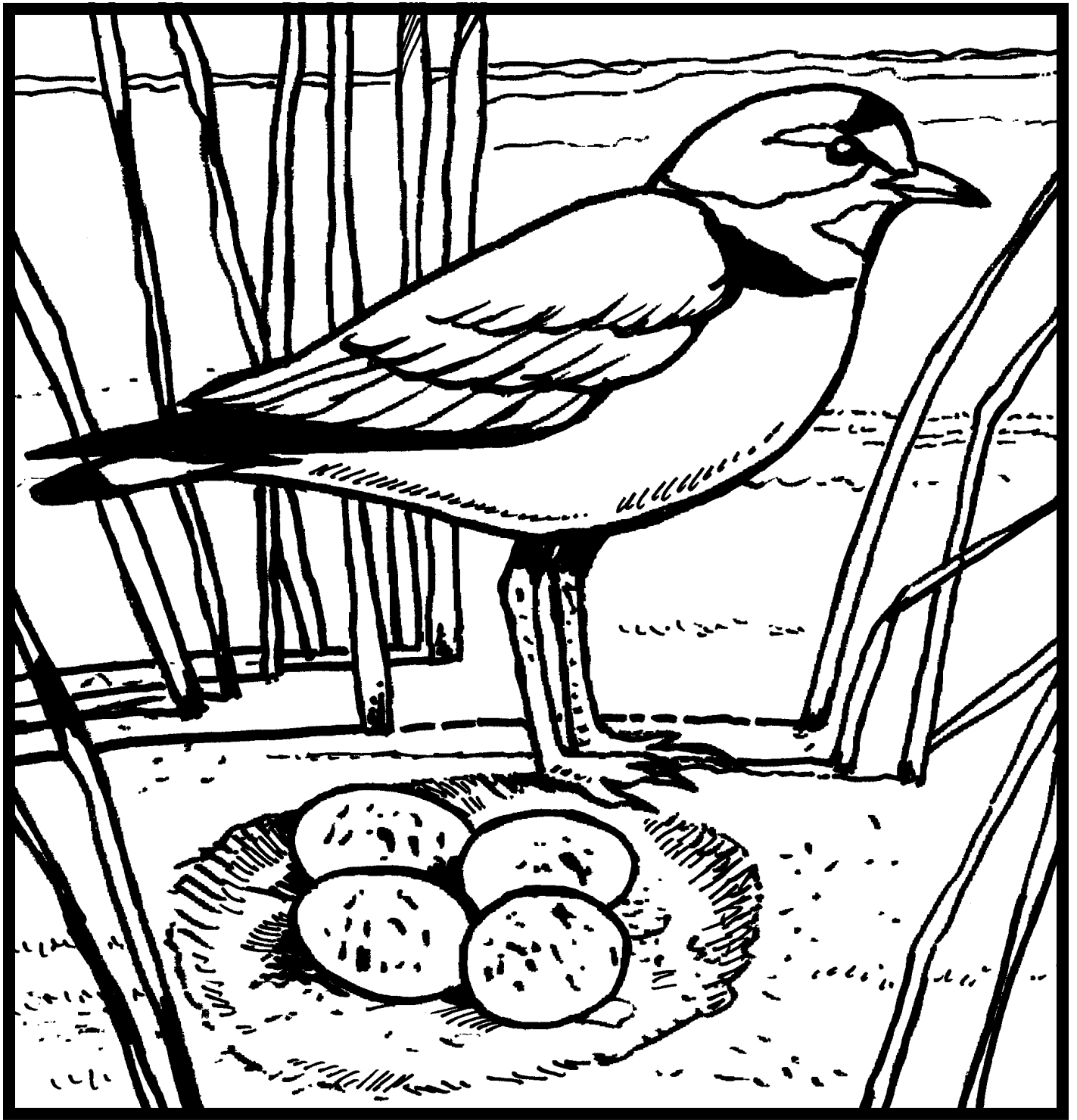


Coasts

New Jersey's coasts are where the ocean and bays meet the land. The coasts have sandy beaches, barrier islands and large wetlands called salt marshes. Winds blow the sand into hills called dunes. There are few large animals that live here, but the waters are teeming with fish and other marine wildlife. There are many birds that live along New Jersey's coasts and many that stop by for a rest before continuing their migration flight.

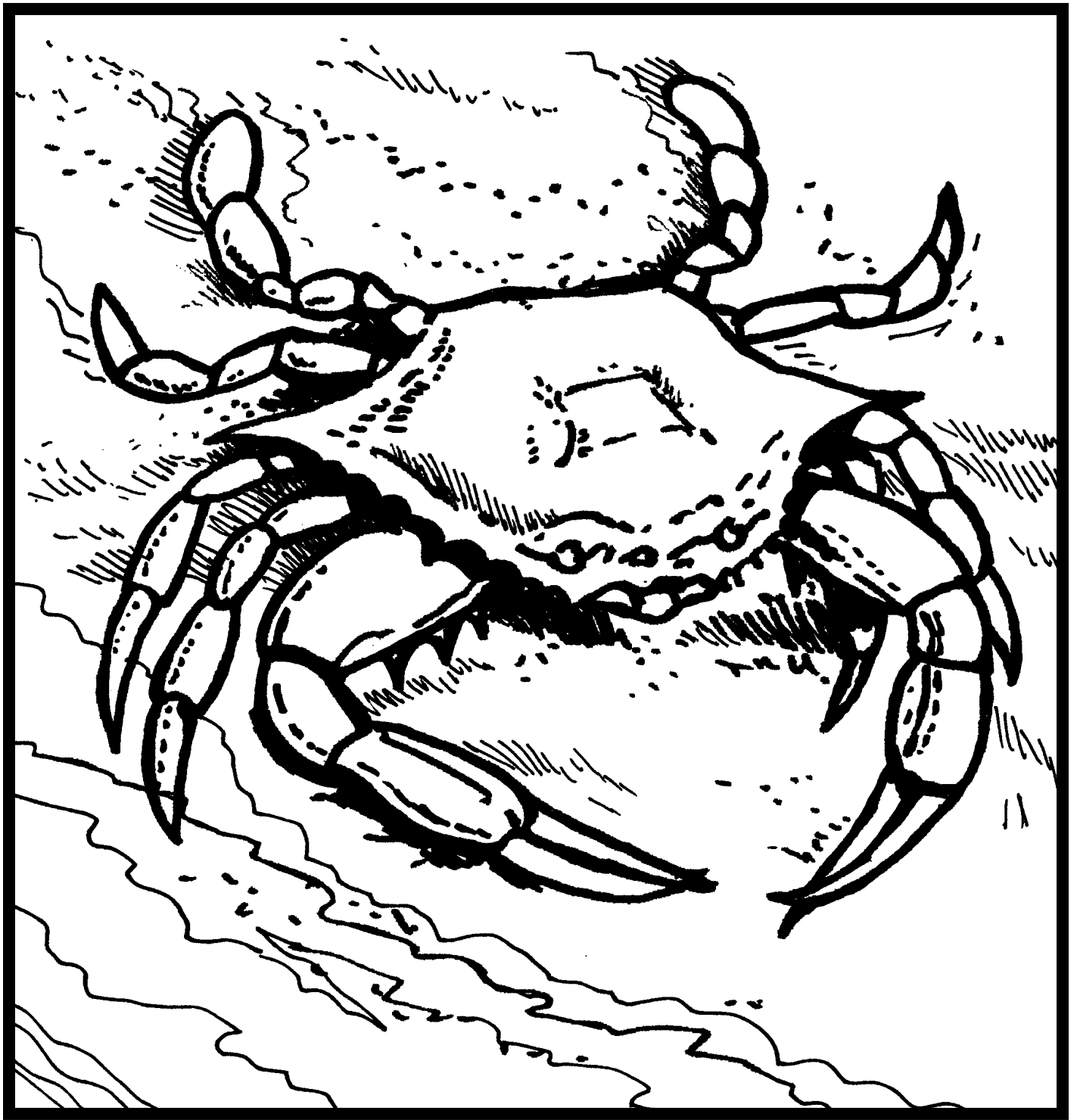


The conch symbol appears with wildlife that live on the coast.



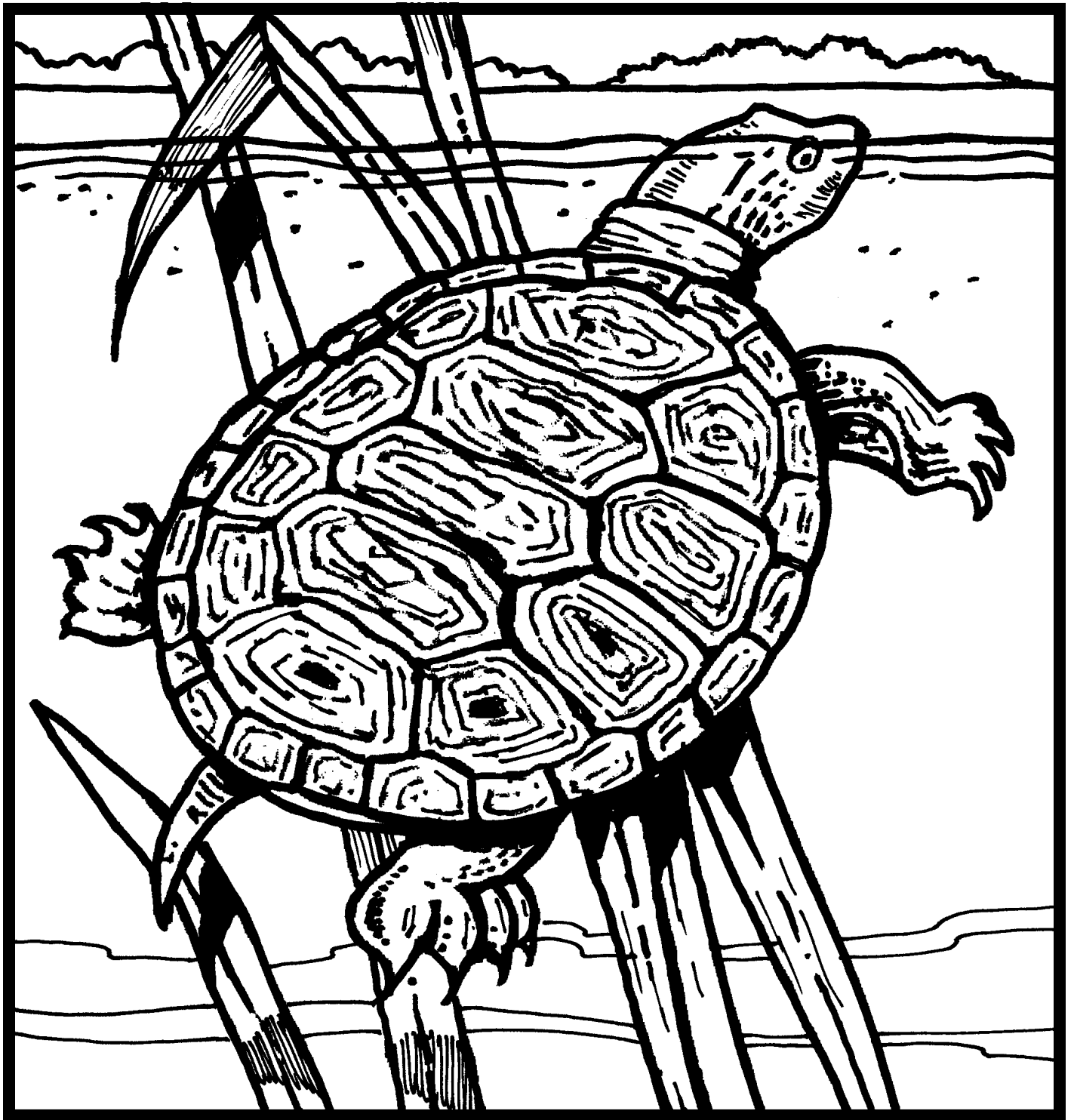
Piping Plover

Piping plovers are endangered. They make their nests on beaches in the spring. They are about the size of a robin. Piping plovers may lay four eggs at a time. The tiny chicks run from the dune's to the water's edge for food until they can fly.



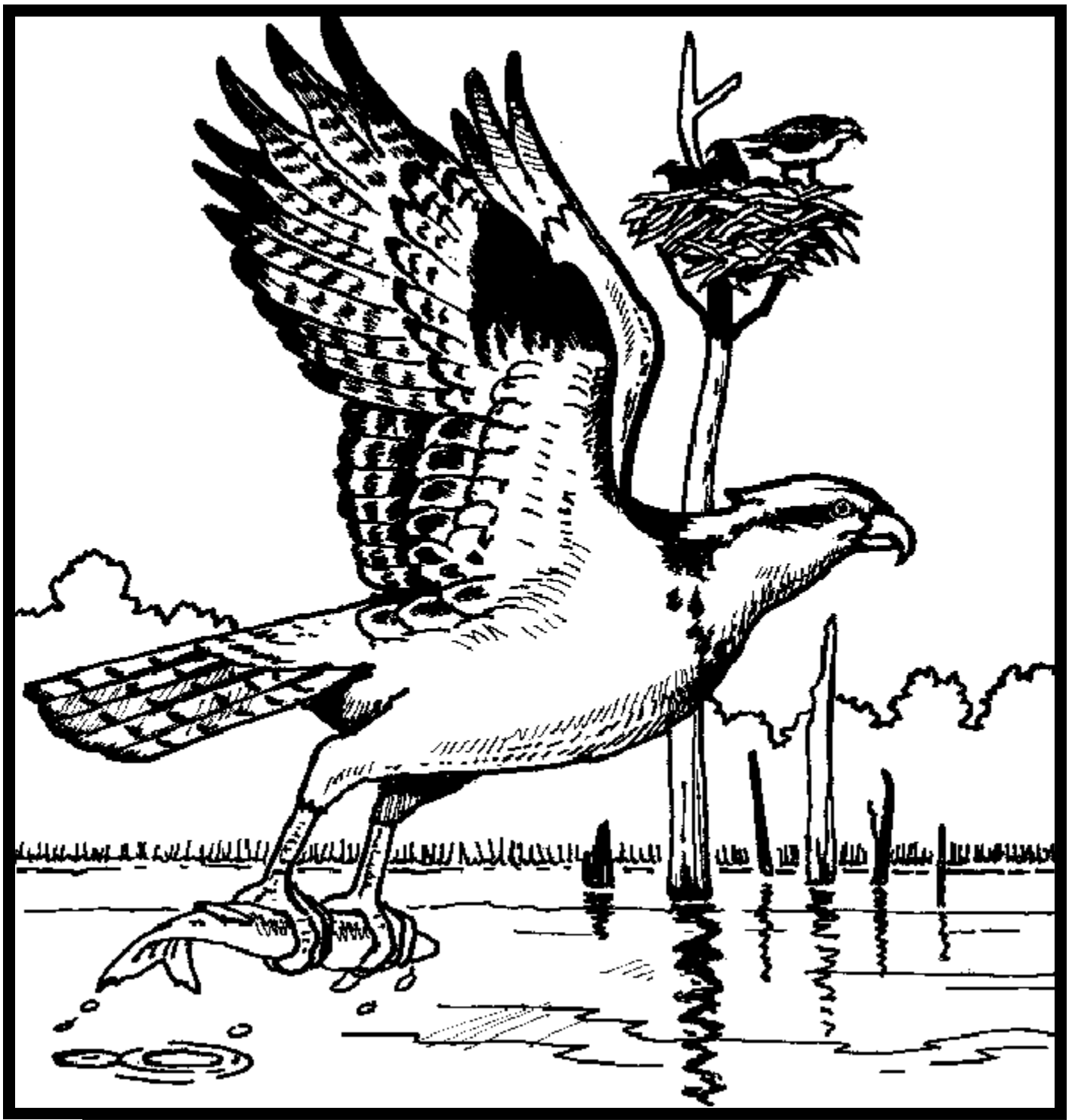
 **Blue Claw Crab**

Blue claw crabs live two or three years. As they grow, they shed their shells and grow new ones. People catch blue claw crabs for food using traps, bait lines or nets.



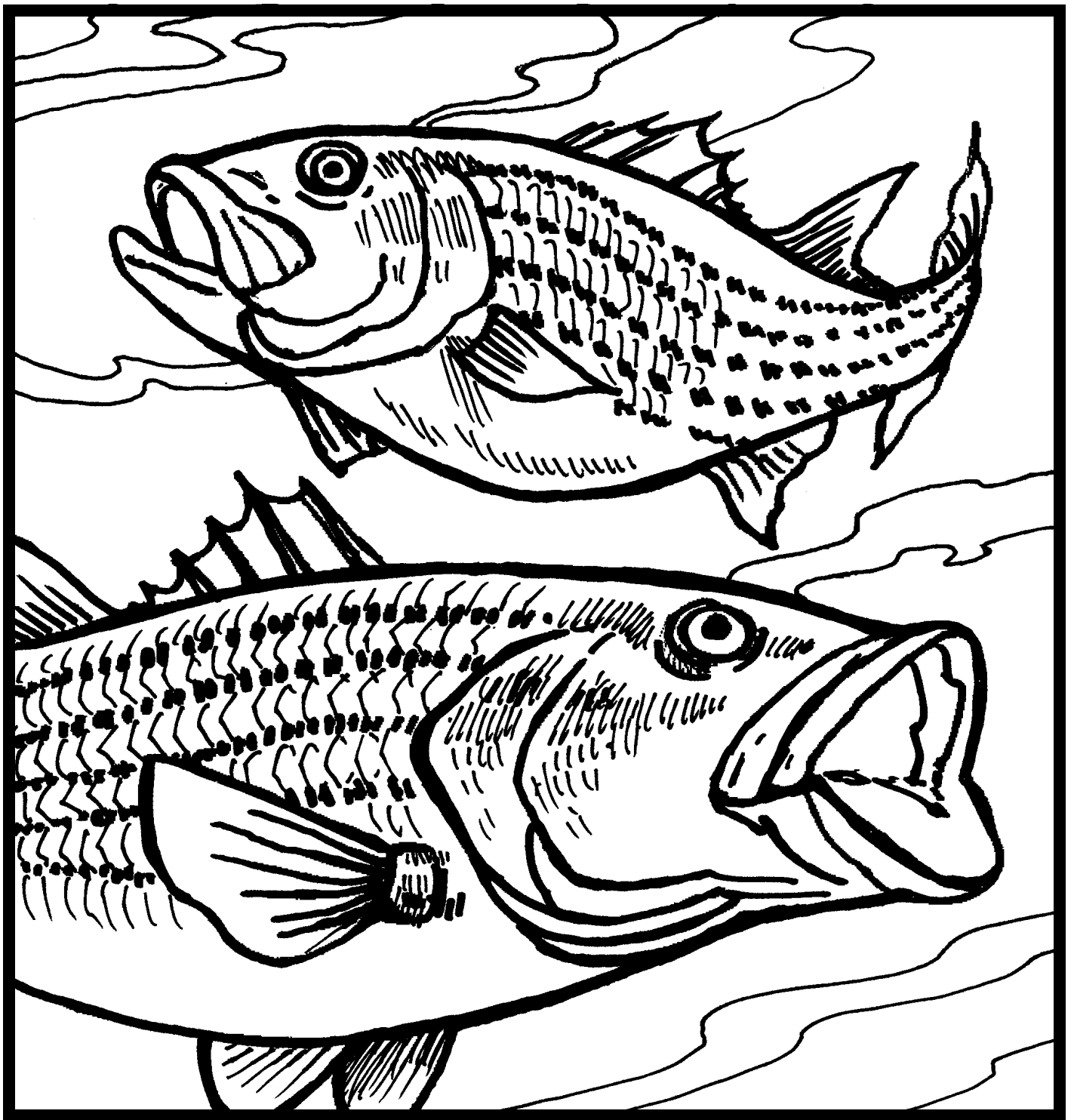
Diamondback Terrapin

Diamondback terrapins live in salt marshes. The female diamondback terrapin is larger than the male. These turtles eat snails, clams, crabs and some marsh plants. They lay their eggs in high, dry, sandy spots in the marsh.



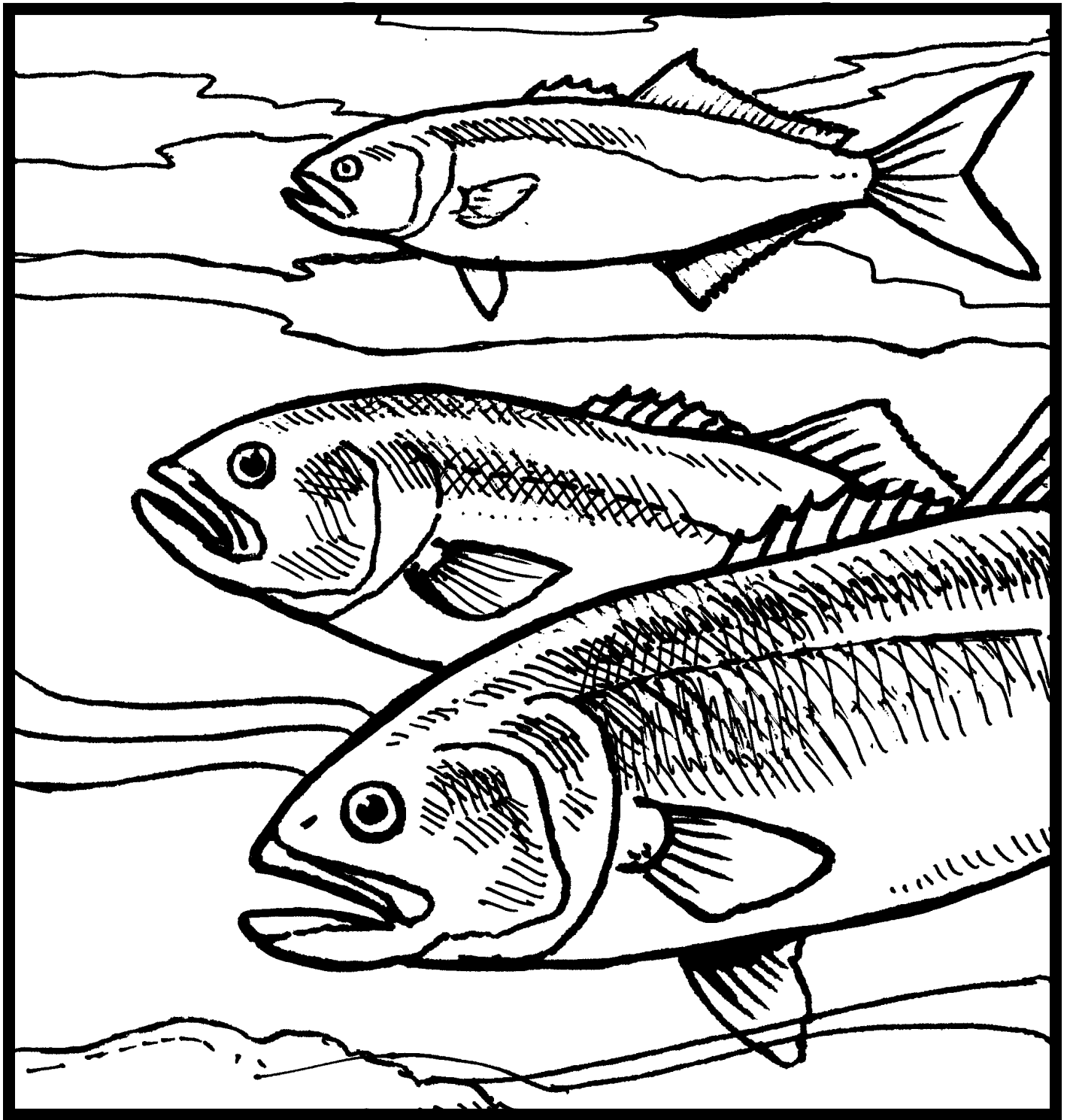
Osprey

The osprey is often called a fish hawk. It flies over the water until it sees a fish, then drops down onto it with a big splash. It catches fish with its feet. The osprey has tiny bumps on its feet and long claws, called talons, to help it hold the fish.



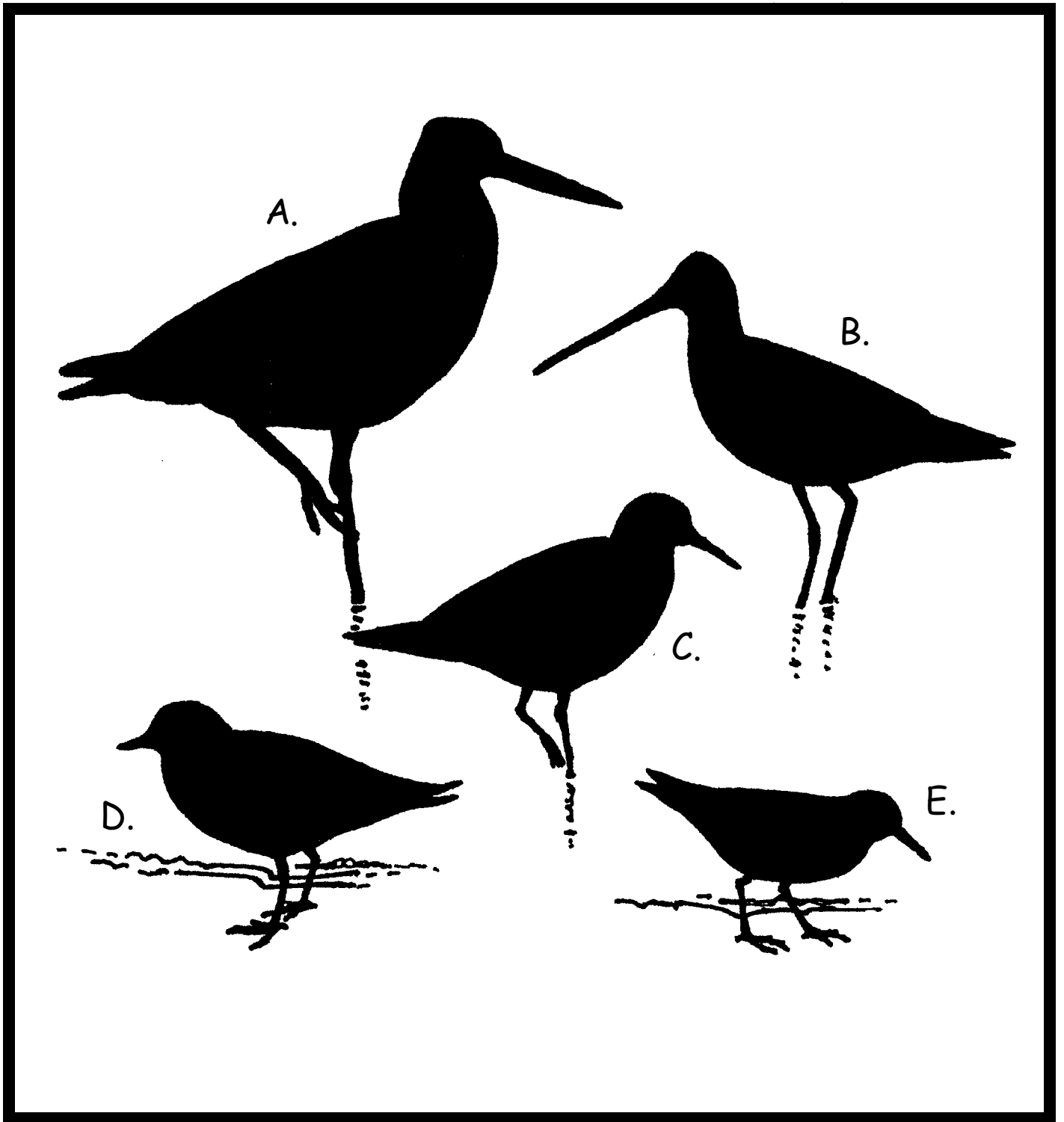
Striped Bass

Striped bass get their name from the seven or eight dark stripes on their sides. Striped bass spend most of their lives in saltwater. Striped bass can grow as large as 70 pounds! They go into the rivers and streams to lay eggs.



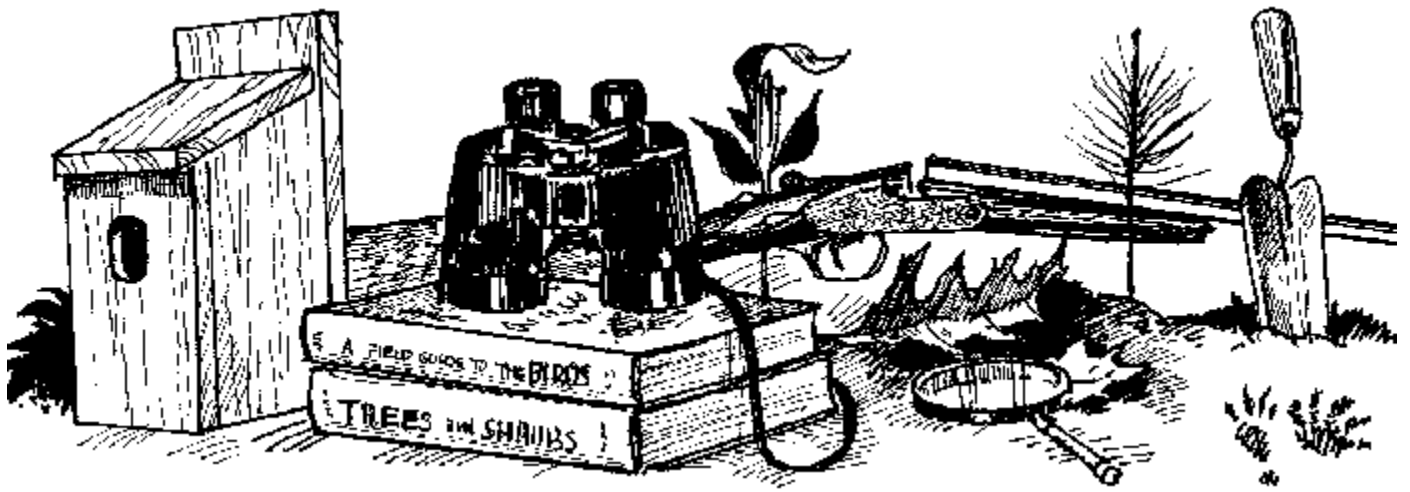
Bluefish

Bluefish can get very big. The smaller fish stay in bays and estuaries. Larger bluefish may migrate along the ocean coasts. Bluefish eat smaller fish. They chase their prey onto beaches or into tight balls. They hunt their prey in schools.



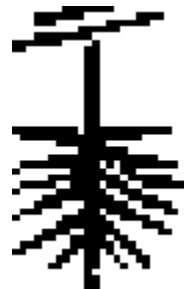
Unscramble the letters to find the names of these shorebirds!

- A. ncaimrea yttchaoscerrer _____
- B. ngol ldeib wcoerdtih _____
- C. dre ntkeo _____
- D. ddyru rsnuttneo _____
- E. rdliasnneg _____



Conservation

Wild animals are fun to watch and study. People can help animals by learning about them and creating habitats for them. Schools can help wildlife by working on habitat and conservation projects. Sometimes these projects can be done on school grounds, parks or backyards.

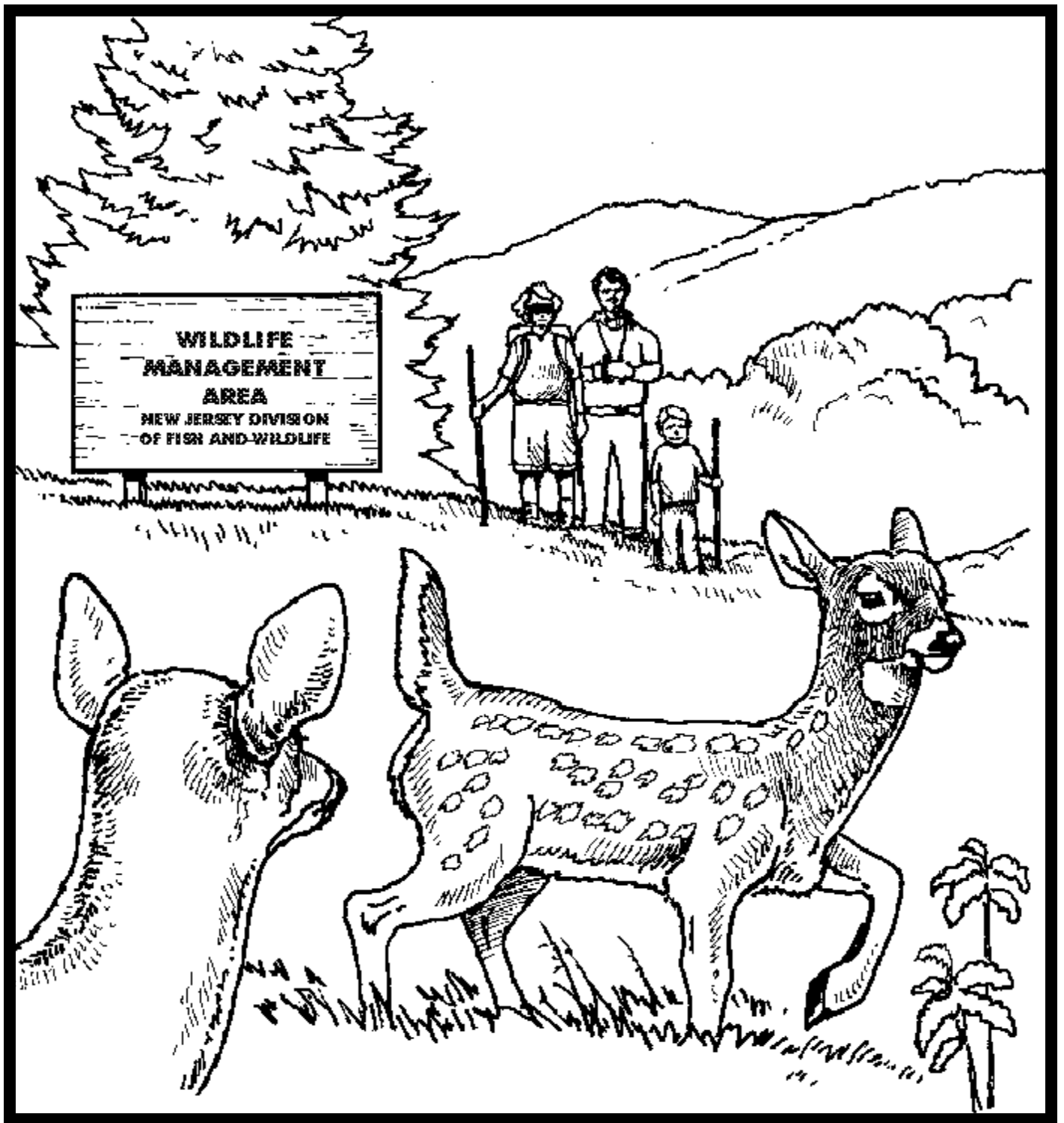


The tree seedling appears with activities that help wildlife.



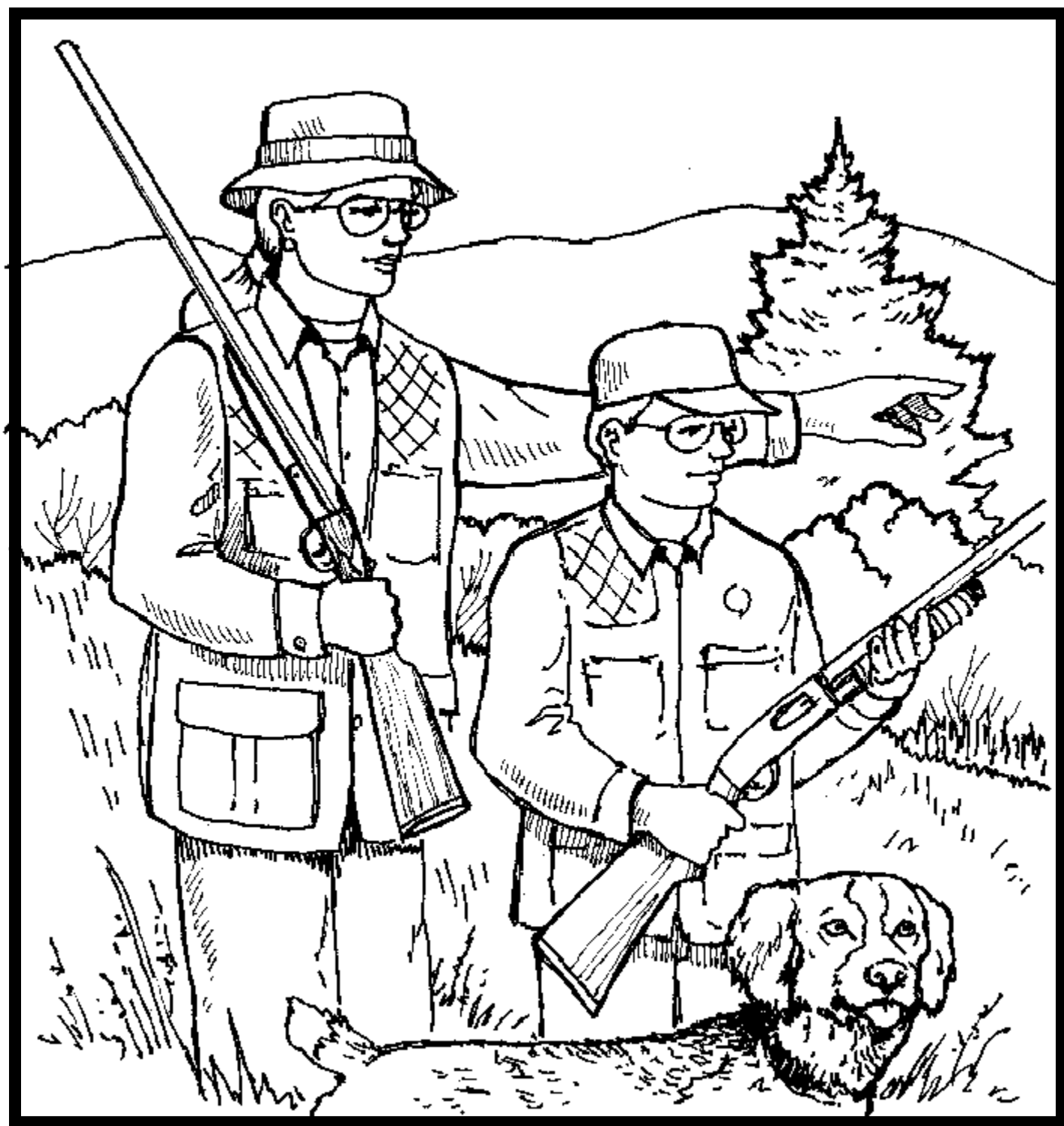
Planting Trees

These children are planting pine seedlings on a hillside. Pine trees grow quickly and provide a place for wildlife to live. In winter, many animals find shelter in the pines where they are protected from cold winds and snow storms.



Watching Wildlife

This family is watching wildlife on a Wildlife Management Area. The first Wildlife Management Areas were bought by hunters, trappers and fishermen as places for fish and wildlife to live and for all people to use. Is there one near your home?



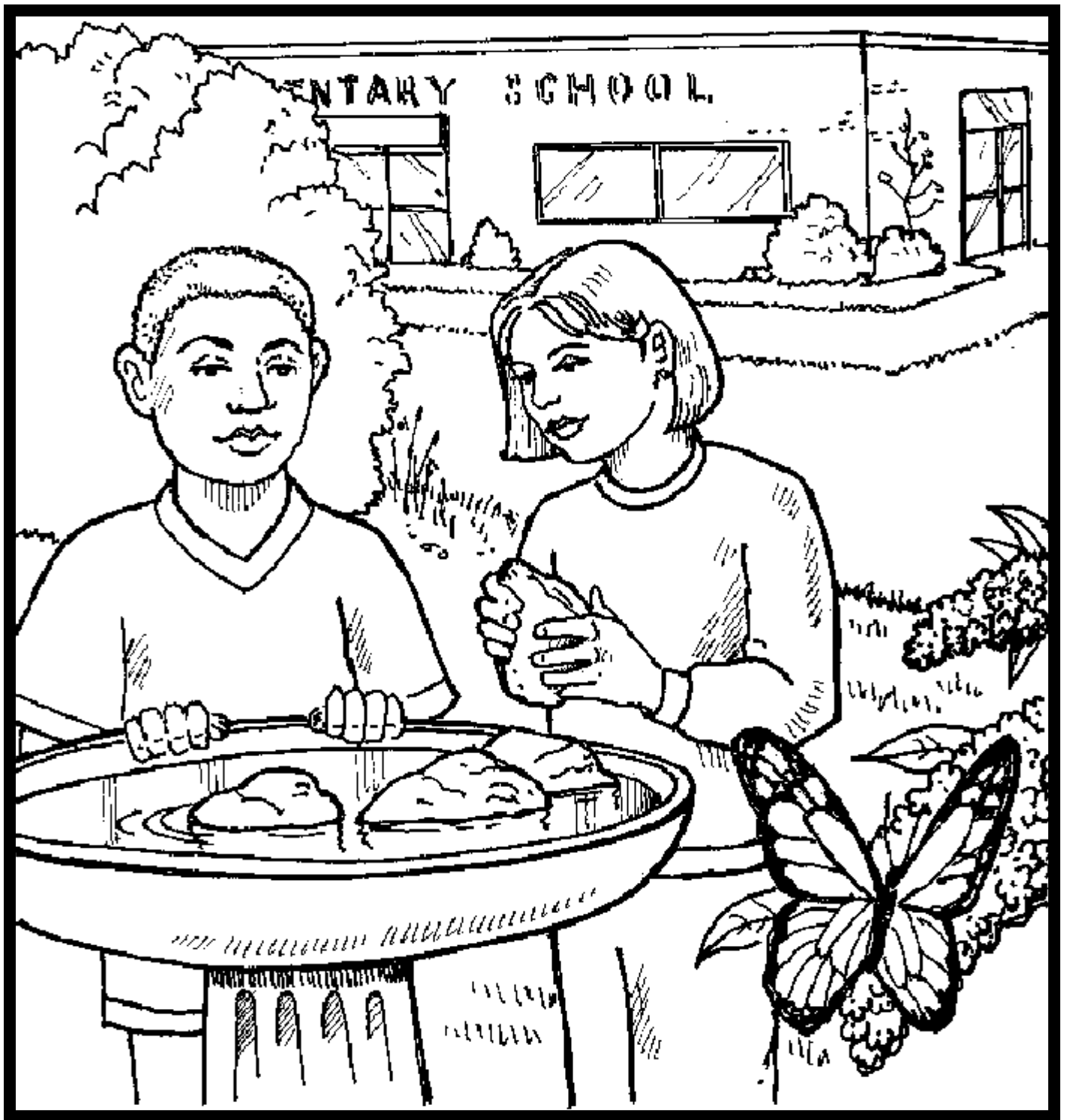
Hunting

Many animals are hunters. People are hunters, too. This mother and son are hunting together. Hunting is fun, provides healthy food for people and is a good way to learn about nature. Hunting is a tool used to keep wild animal populations in check.



Fishing Education

A Conservation Officer from the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife is teaching these kids how to fish. He also teaches them about the different types of fish and where they live.



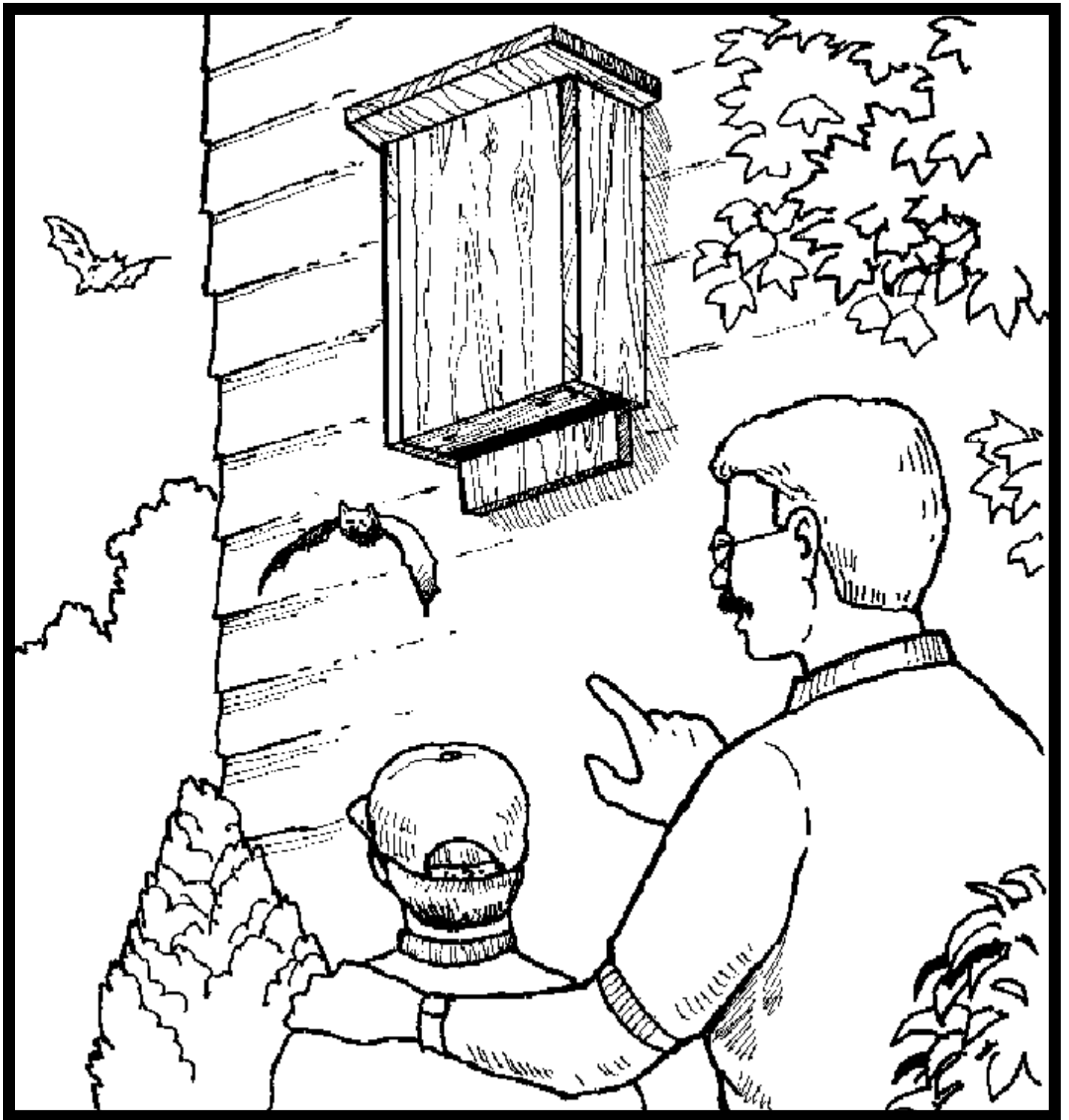
Creating Habitat

A good place to build a wildlife habitat is at school. This boy and girl are helping to build a small wildlife habitat at their school. Does your school have a wildlife habitat project?



Trapping

This father and daughter are making a trapline. They are going to trap animals like mink and foxes. Native Americans used the fur and hides of animals to make things. Trapping is used to keep wildlife populations at levels good for people and animals.



Wildlife Neighbors

This family has built a bat box and hung it on the side of their house. Bats will sleep in the box during the day. At night the bats will fly out and eat mosquitoes and other insects in the neighborhood. Bats are good neighbors!



WAYS TO HELP AND BE SAFE AROUND WILDLIFE

1. Do not disturb wild animals. Wildlife is fun to watch but should be left alone.
2. Never touch wild animals. Remember, they are wild and can bite or scratch.
3. Do not try to help wildlife that is injured. Tell an adult.
4. Do not touch or pick up wild animals that have died.
5. Do not touch or pick up young animals; their parents are watching nearby.
6. If a wild animal appears sick, or hurts you, tell an adult.
7. Never feed wild animals, except for songbirds at birdfeeders, and only during fall and winter.
8. Provide water for wildlife by putting up a birdbath. Keep it full of fresh, clean water.
9. Watch wildlife that lives near your home. Learn the names of birds and animals. Make a list or draw pictures of the animals you see.
10. Ask an adult to help make a wildlife nesting box or create wildlife habitat.

Black Bear Education

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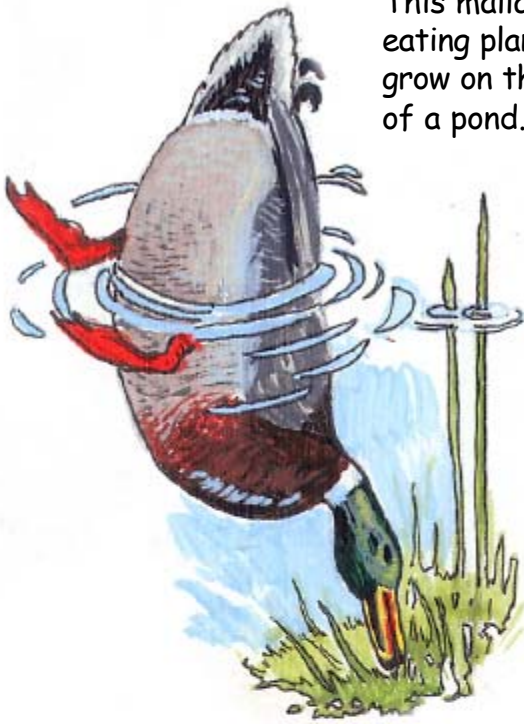
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Bob Sopchick is an award-winning illustrator and writer and columnist of "Penn's Woods Sketchbook," in Pennsylvania Game News magazine. His paintings have served as the designs for many conservation prints and stamps. Bob is a full-time artist and teaches wildlife illustration at the Pennsylvania School of Art and Design. He is owner of Bob Sopchick Studios, an art and design studio specializing in the publication of educational materials on wildlife subjects. A native Pennsylvanian who enjoys all facets of the outdoors, Bob lives with his wife and children in York.



This mallard duck is eating plants that grow on the bottom of a pond.



The state tree is the red oak. The red oak is a deciduous tree that loses its leaves in the fall.



The male ring-necked pheasant is also called a rooster, and he crows, too!



It is the bat. Bats have fur, not feathers. The mother bat feeds her pup milk.