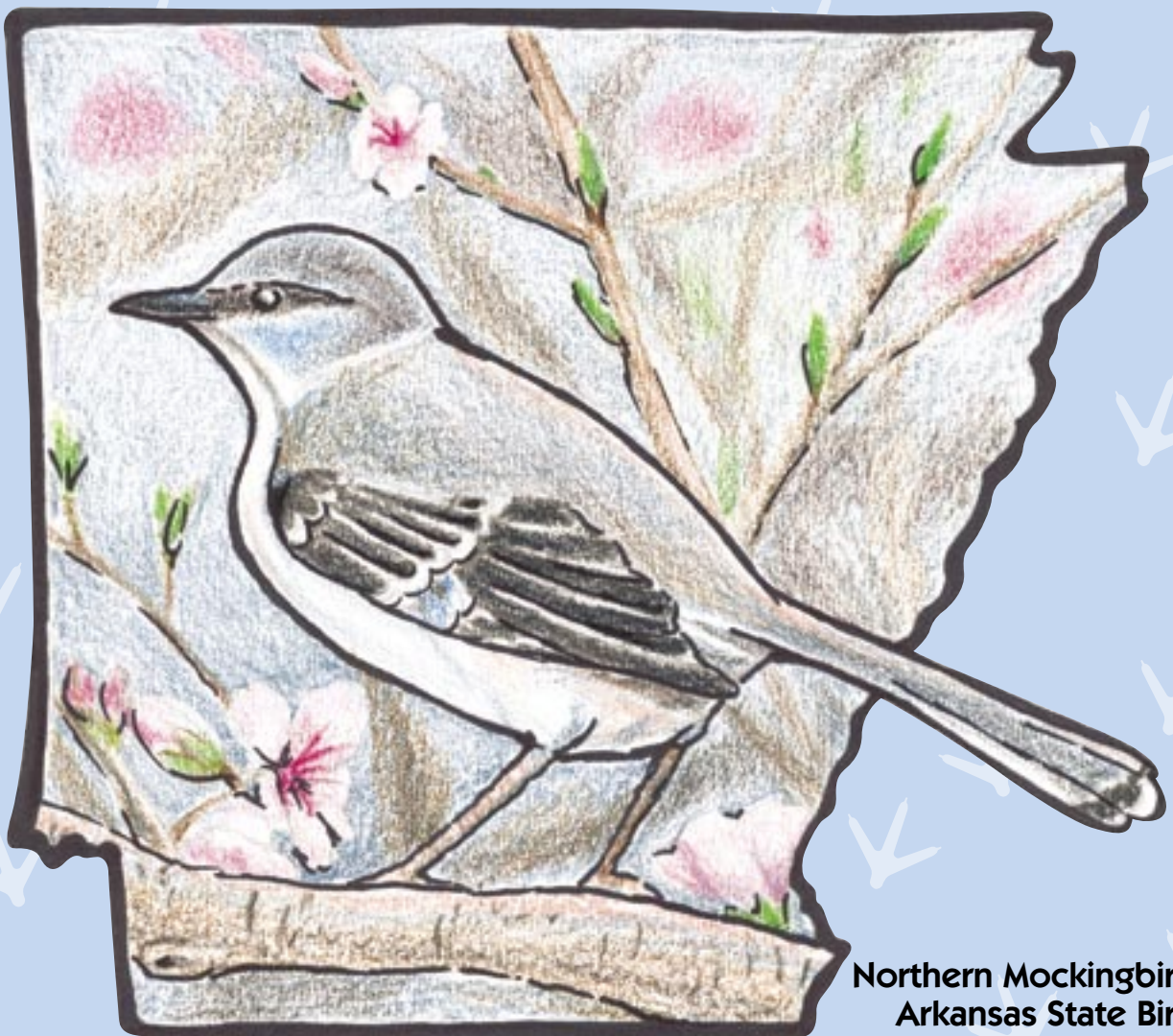
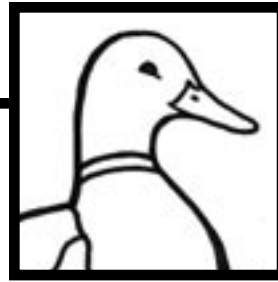
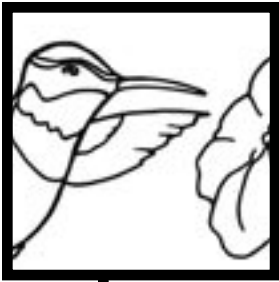


Arkansas Birds

COLORING BOOK



Northern Mockingbird
Arkansas State Bird



Arkansas Birds

If you listen and look closely, you'll find birds, no matter where you live. We're lucky in Arkansas because many kinds of birds live here and many more fly through our state during migrations every spring and fall. Birds come in many colors and sizes but all have feathers, wings, two legs and they lay eggs. Some are huge like eagles and others are tiny like hummingbirds.

Look outside

Many birds build nests in trees but others build nests in attics, old buildings or bird houses made by people. Some birds build their nests on the ground. Sometimes nests are hidden. Watch birds that gather grass and leaves and they might lead you to their nest. But try not to disturb them, as many birds are protected by law. Take a look in your yard or your neighborhood and you'll begin to notice different kinds of bird nests.

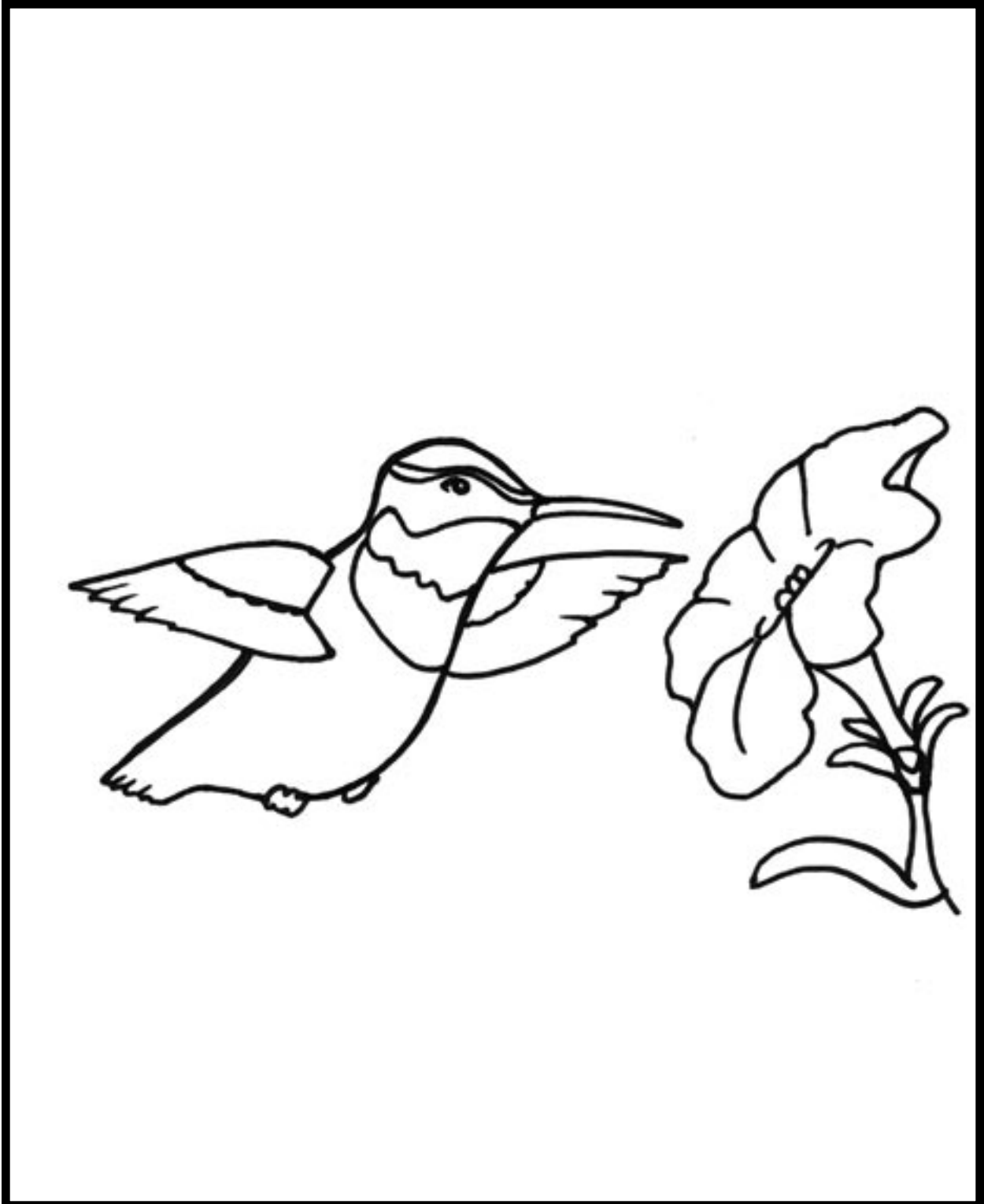
Food and water

Like all animals, birds must have food and water. More birds will visit your yard or neighborhood if you have a bird bath, bird feeders or plants that provide seeds and other food birds like to eat. Keep your birdbath clean and birds will get in the habit of visiting when they're thirsty.

Life lists

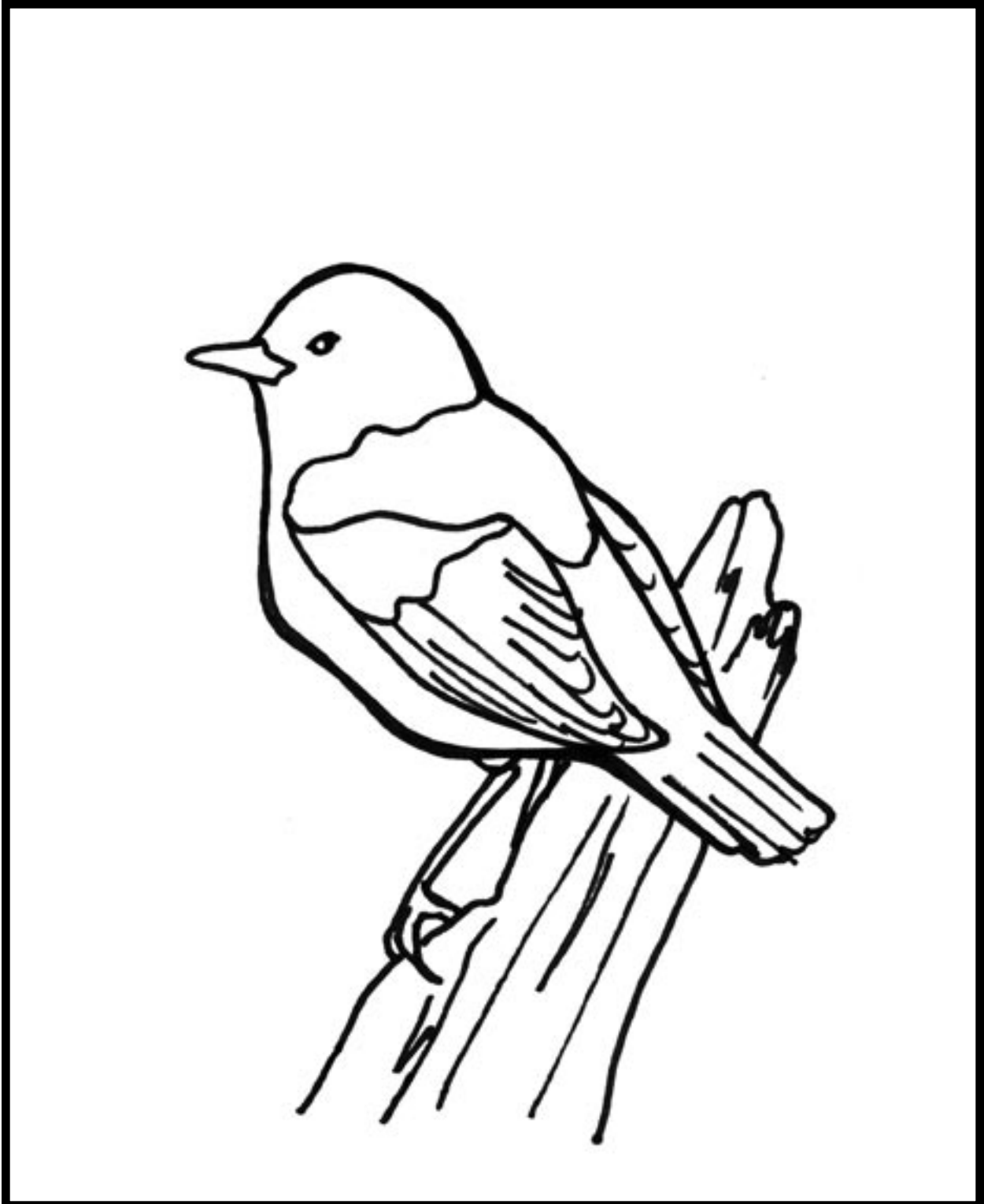
Some bird watchers, known as "birders," like to keep a list of birds they've seen. They listen and look wherever they are and they write down the kinds of birds they see. Books about birds and recordings of bird calls help them figure out which birds they've seen. Some birders start doing this when they're very young and their lists have hundreds of birds.

Let's take a look at some of the birds that live in Arkansas.



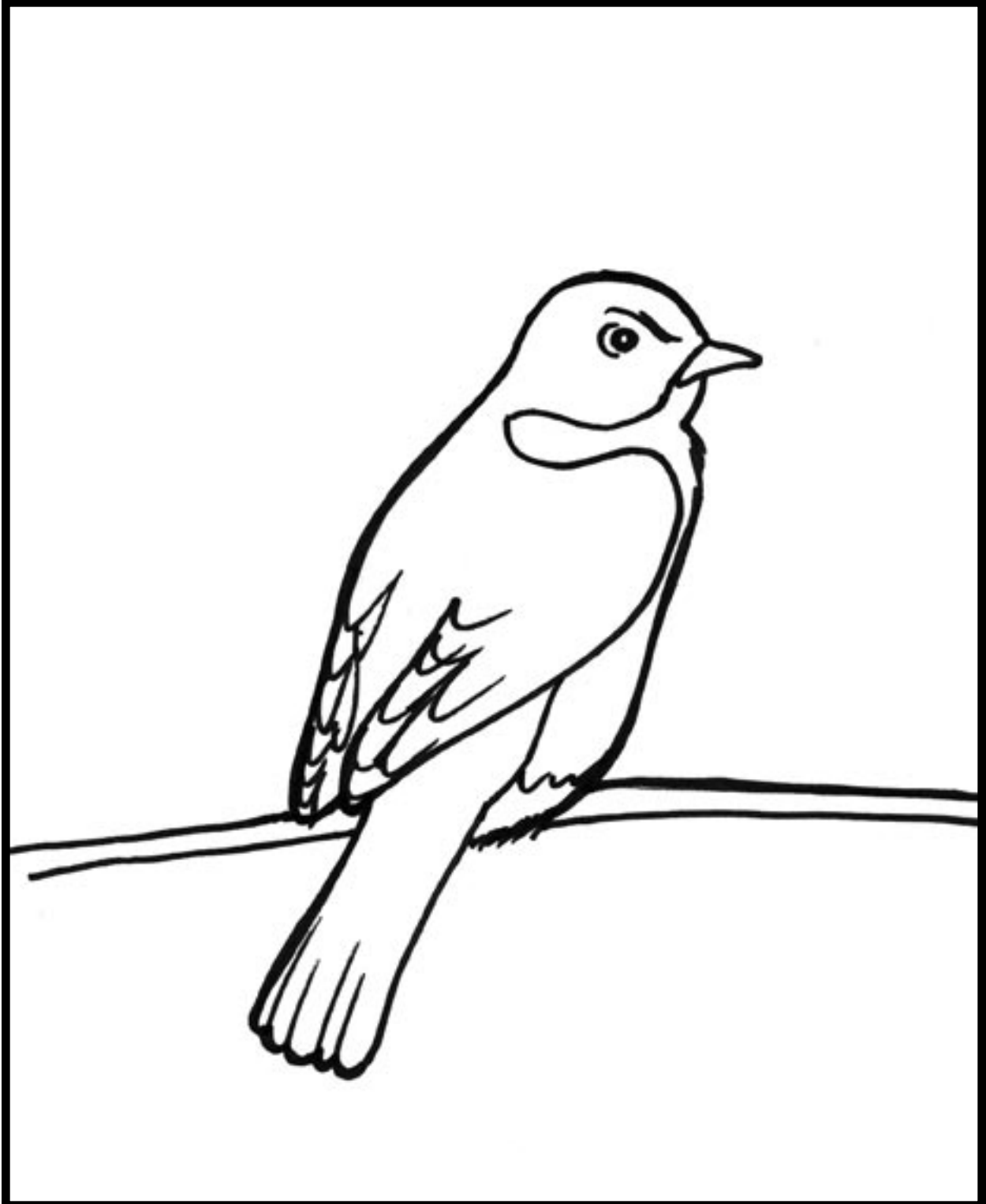
Ruby-throated hummingbird

This tiny bird has a green back, white stomach and males have a red throat. They are less than 4 inches tall and fly so fast that they look more like insects than birds. They like to drink sugary water from hummingbird feeders, especially during spring.



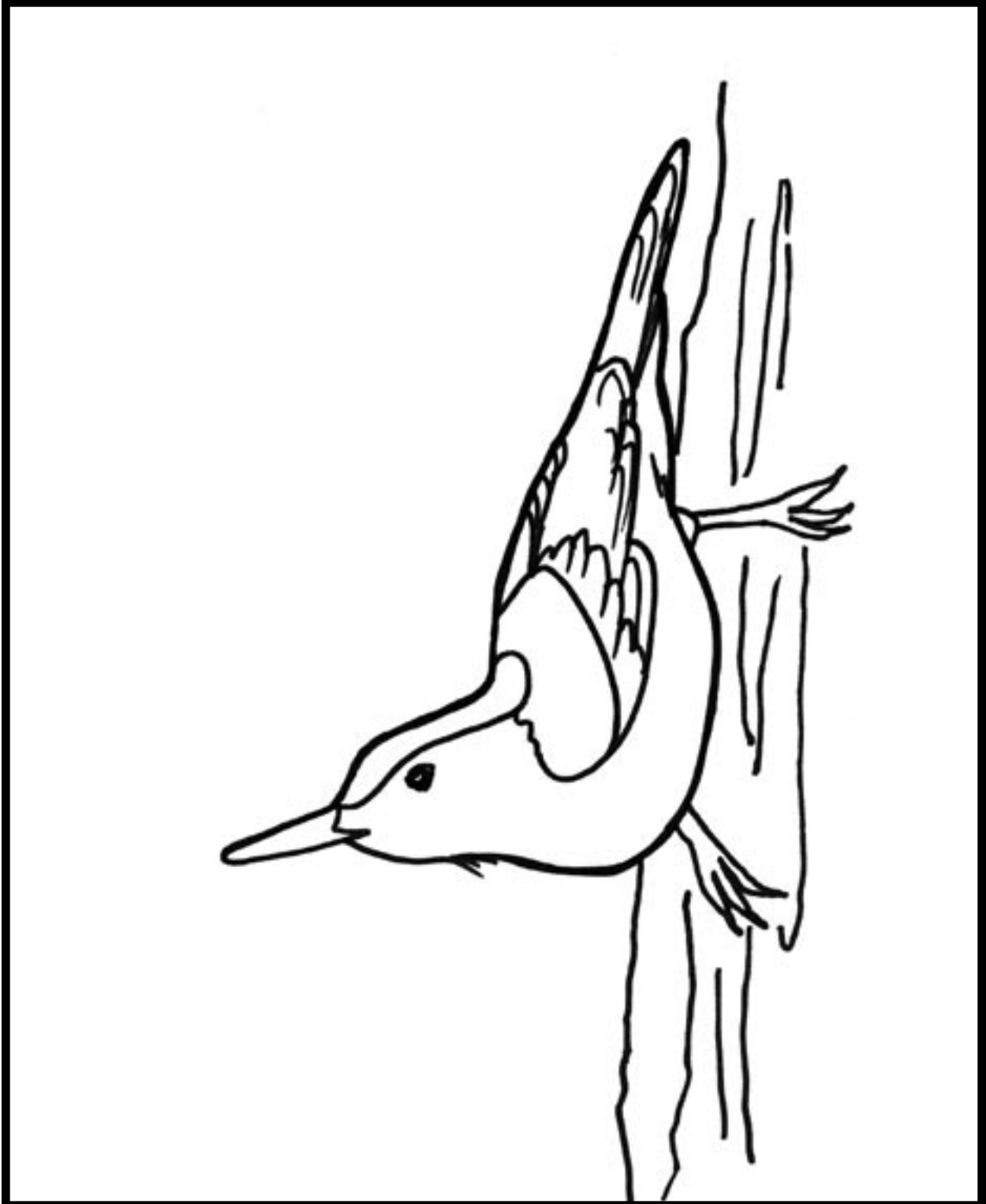
Prothonotary warbler

These yellow birds with gray wings build nests in woodpecker holes over swamps and creeks. Most young birds that leave the nest and fall in water can swim. Like many birds, they “migrate” between the Tropics and North America in spring and fall. In fall, they actually come north to colder weather.



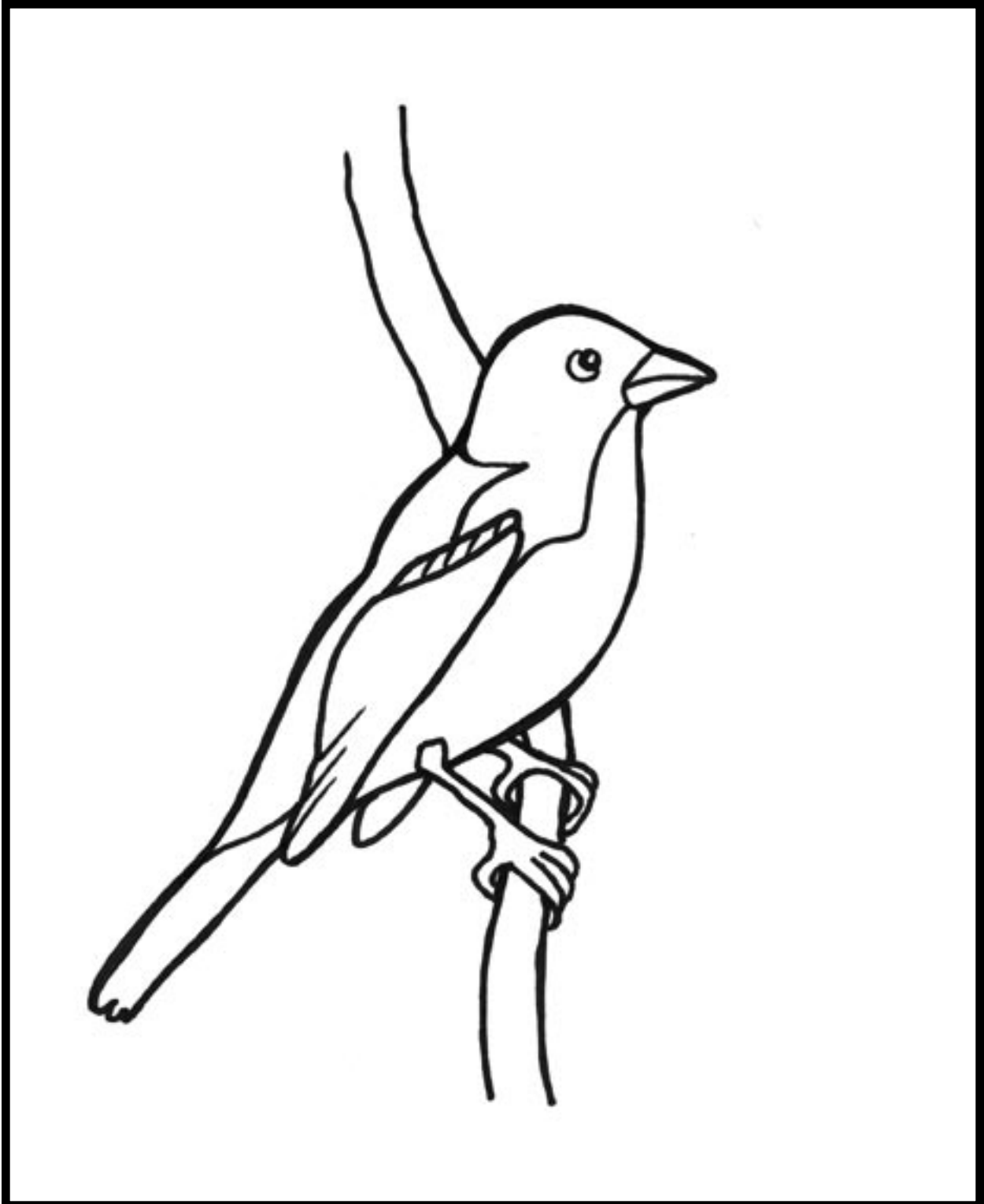
Eastern bluebird

With a blue back and reddish-orange belly, bluebirds are easy to spot. Females look like males but they aren't as deep blue and their reddish-orange belly isn't as bright. Many people build bluebird boxes to attract these pretty birds that eat seeds, berries and insects.



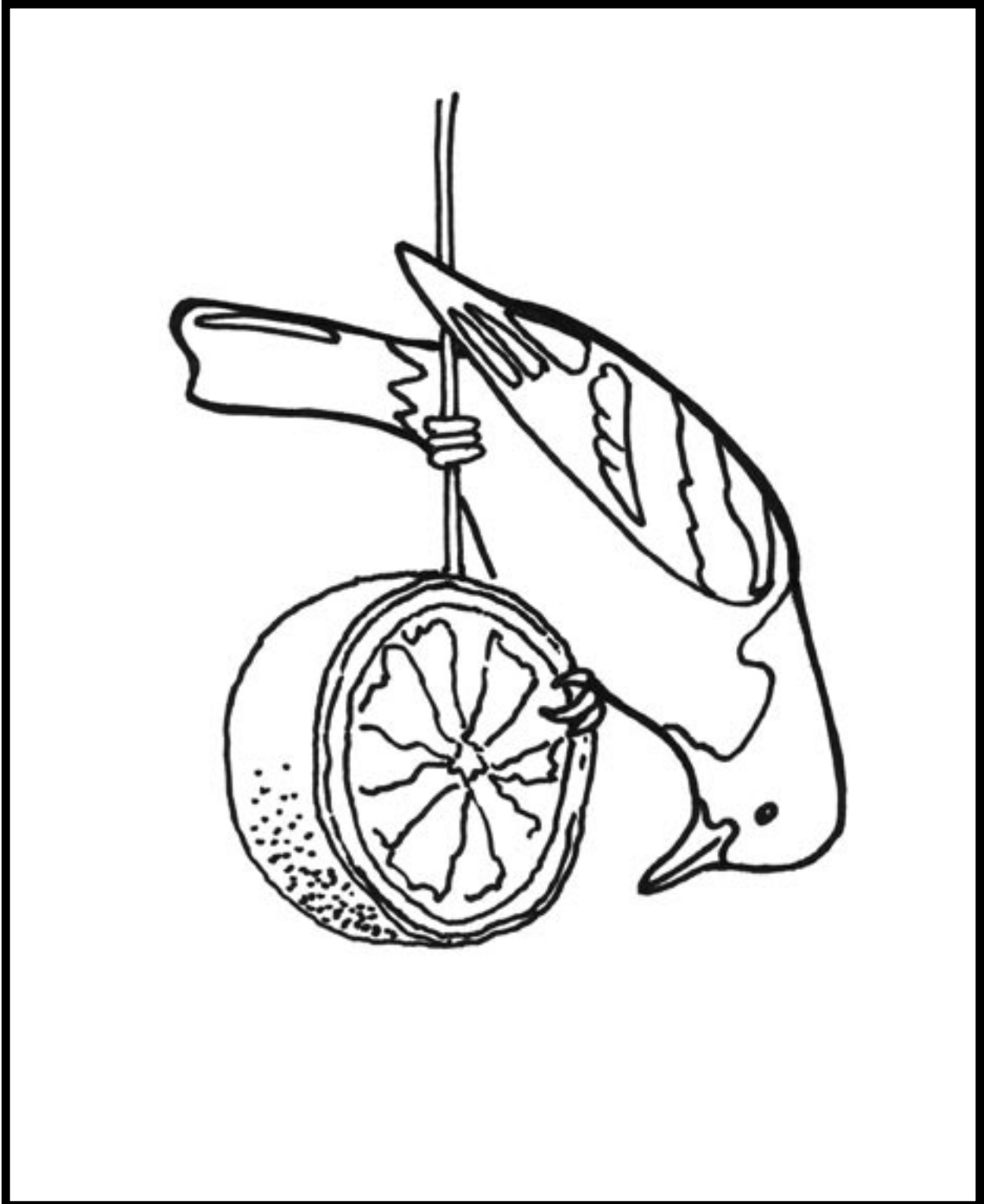
White-breasted nuthatch

Nuthatches look dressed up because they have a black patch on their head and neck, and a white face and belly. Nuthatches like to visit bird feeders and eat seeds and suet. They can be seen hitching down trees head first.



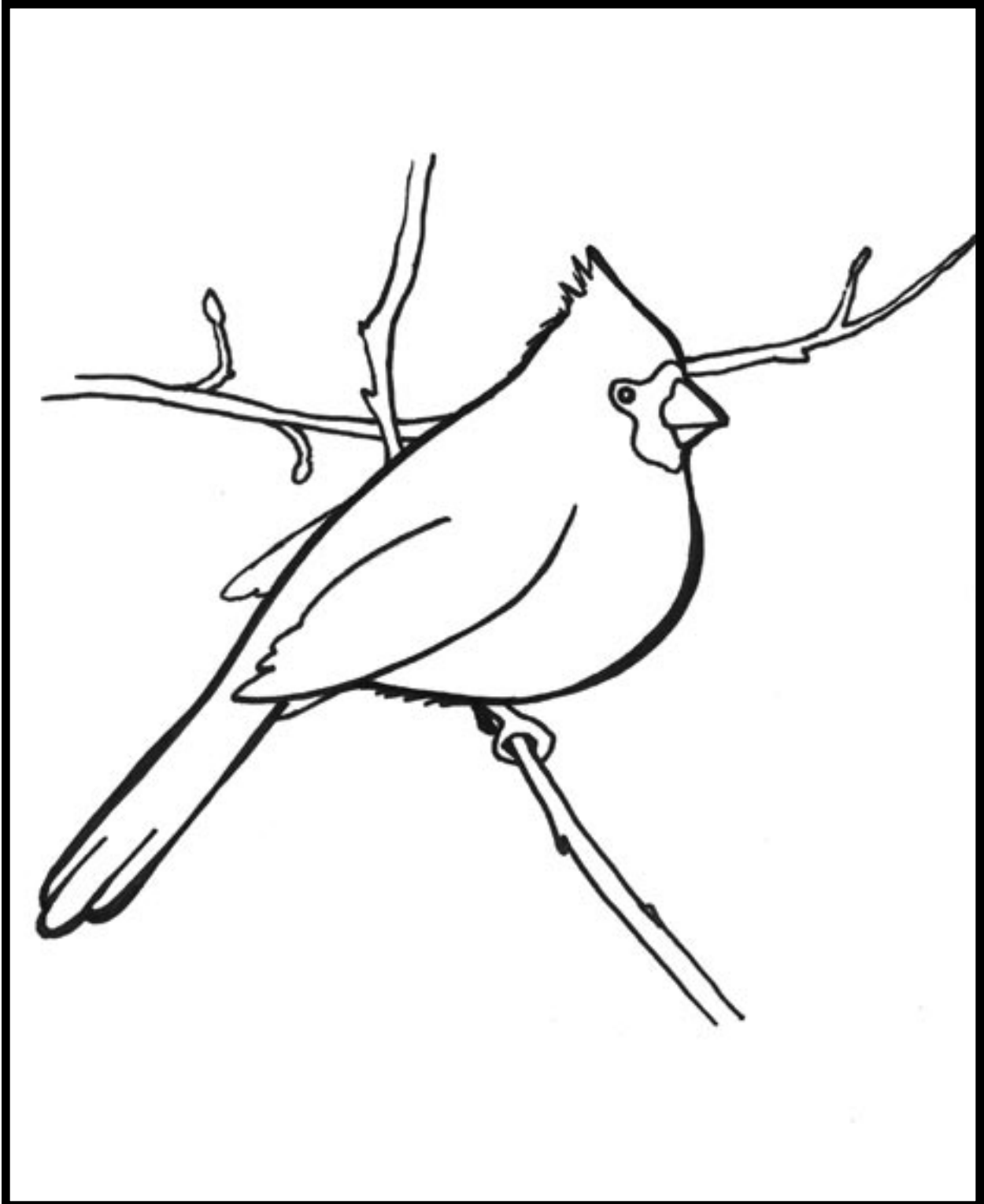
Painted bunting

You won't forget this bird. The male has a blue head, green back and red stomach. The female is mostly lime green and brownish. They love to sing. People used to keep them as pets but trapping them now is illegal in the United States.



Baltimore oriole

They're not very good baseball players but Baltimore orioles are fun to watch. Males have bright orange bellies and black backs. Females have the same colors but are duller. They build nests that hang from branches and they eat insects and fruit.



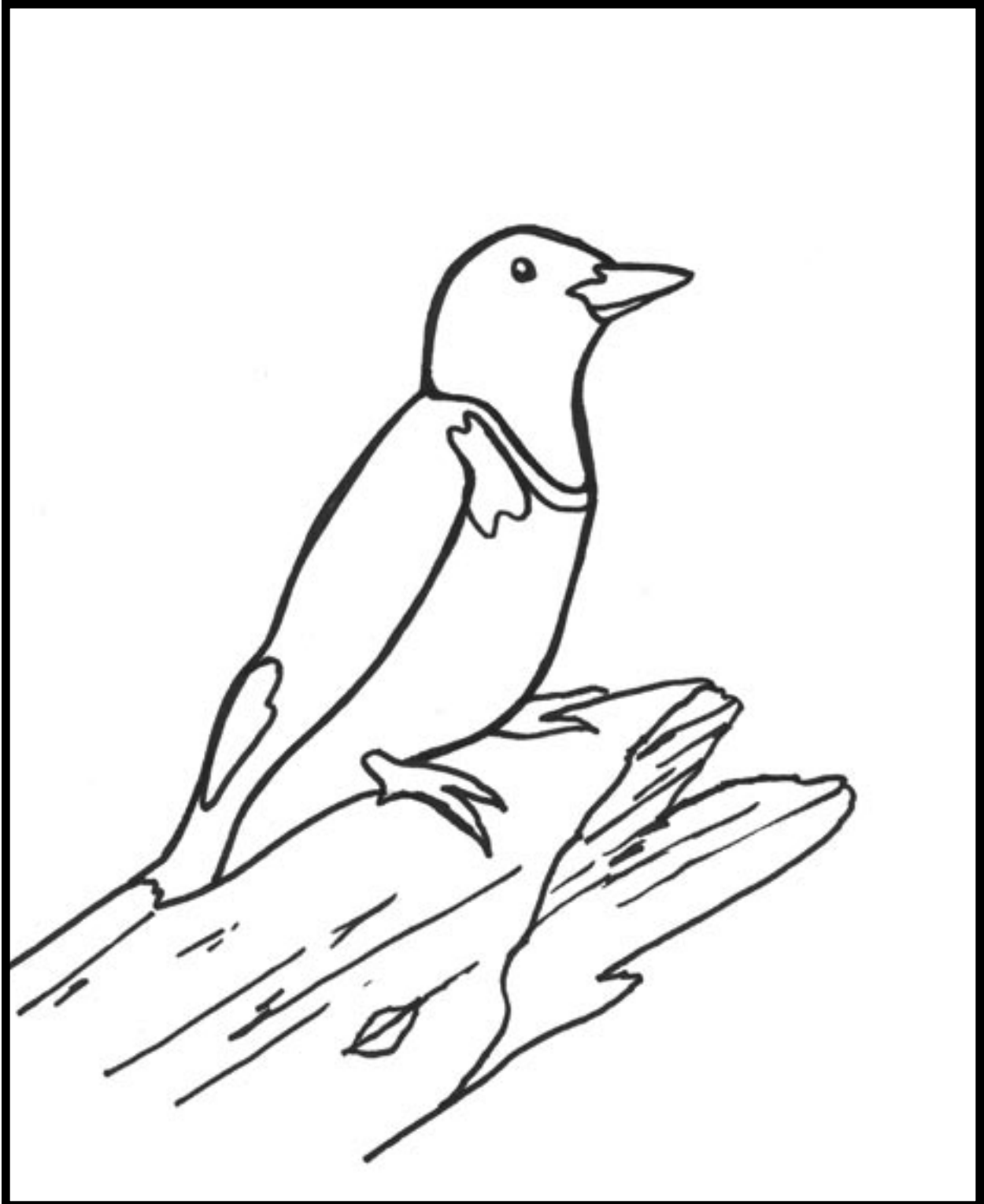
Northern cardinal

Male cardinals are easy to spot because they are bright red. Females are brownish gray with a little red on their wings and tail. Cardinals have pointed feathers on their head called a crest. Their heavy beaks allow them to break open shells on seeds.



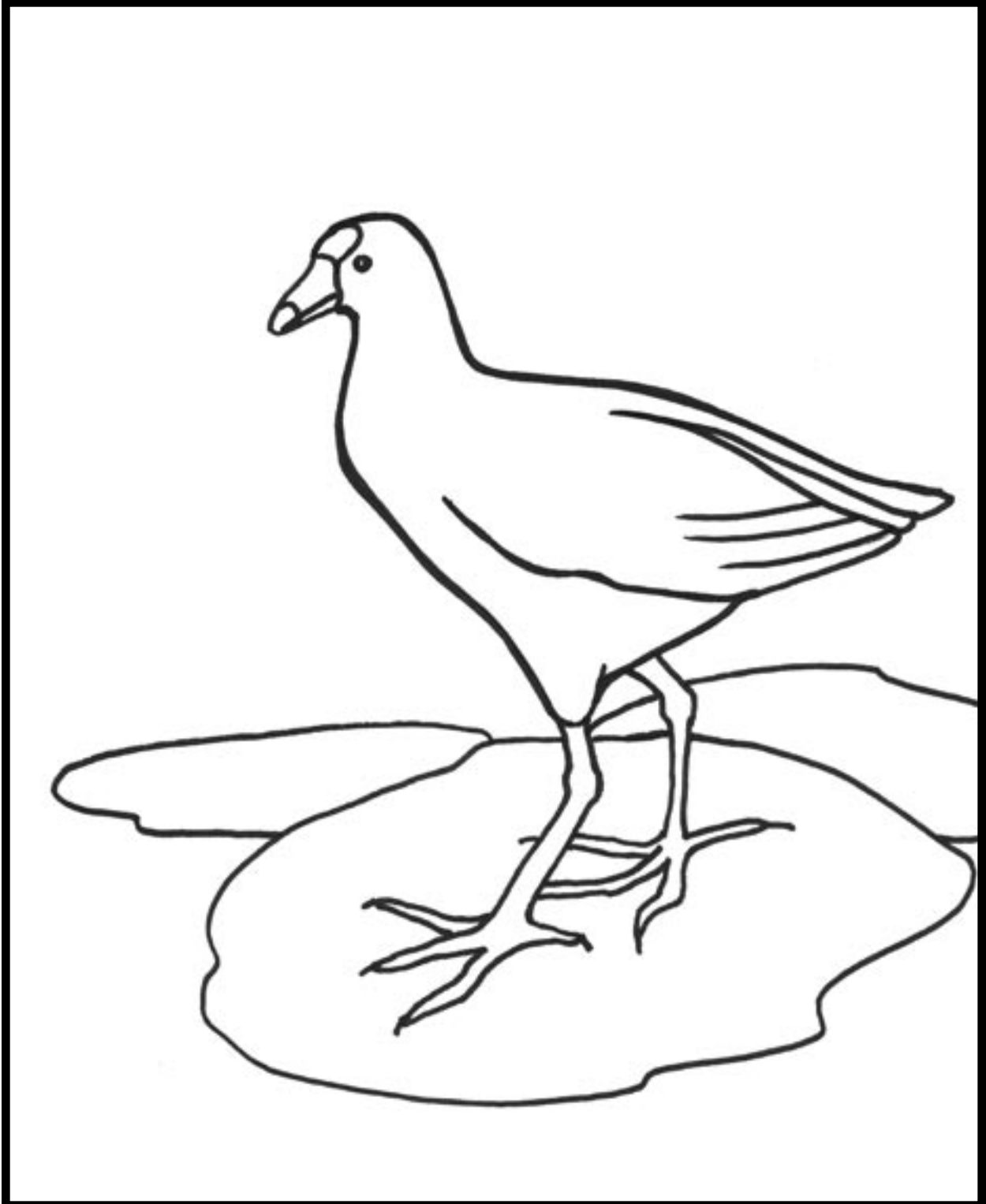
Northern mockingbird

The mockingbird has been the Arkansas state bird since 1929. It has a gray back and a white belly. Mockingbirds sing a lot and often sound like other birds, people and other sounds they hear, thus the name, “mocking” bird.



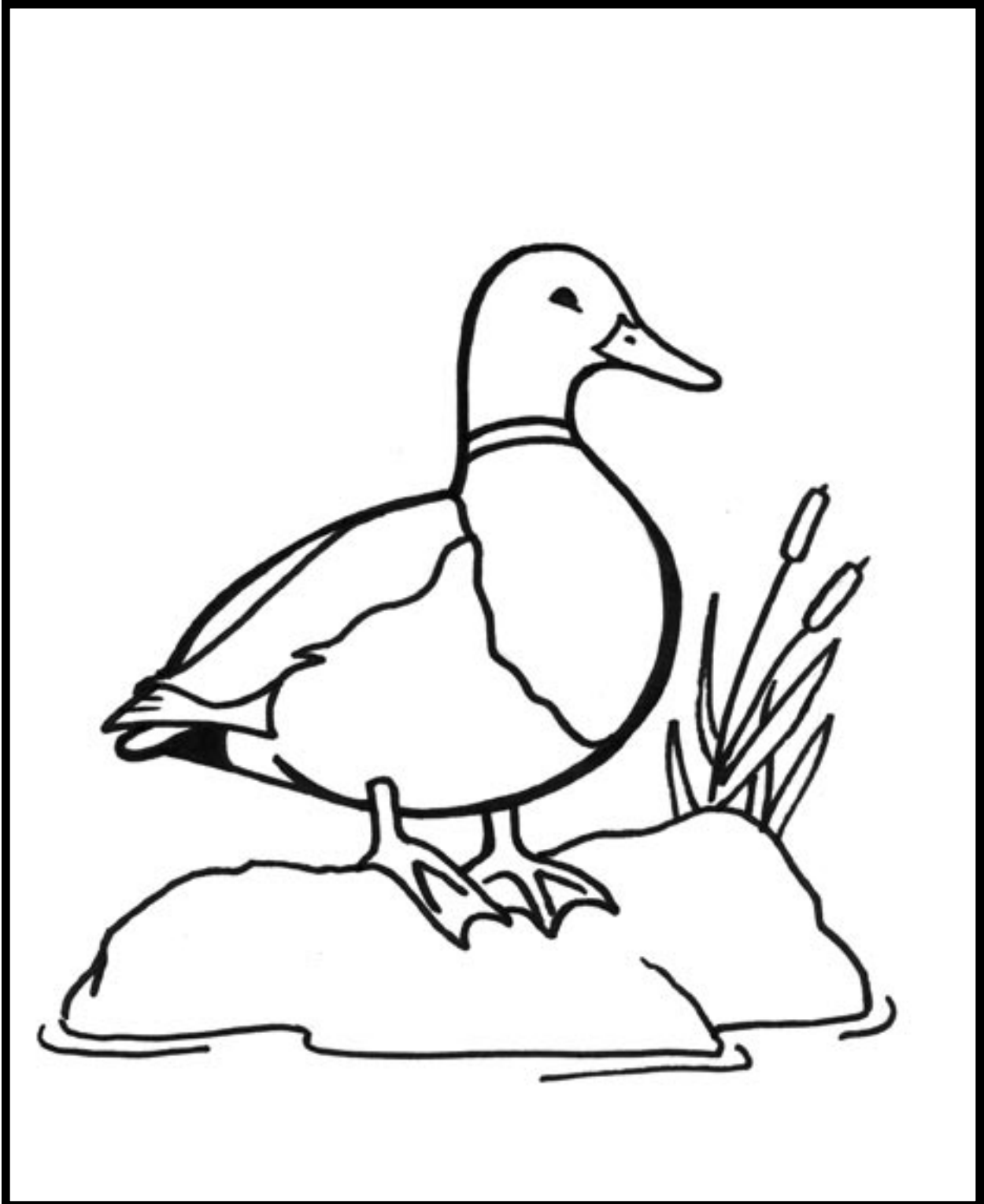
Red-headed woodpecker

Sometimes it's hard to tell which woodpecker is hammering on a tree. The red-headed woodpecker has a solid-red head, black back and black and white wing tips. It uses its beak to find insects living under the bark of trees.



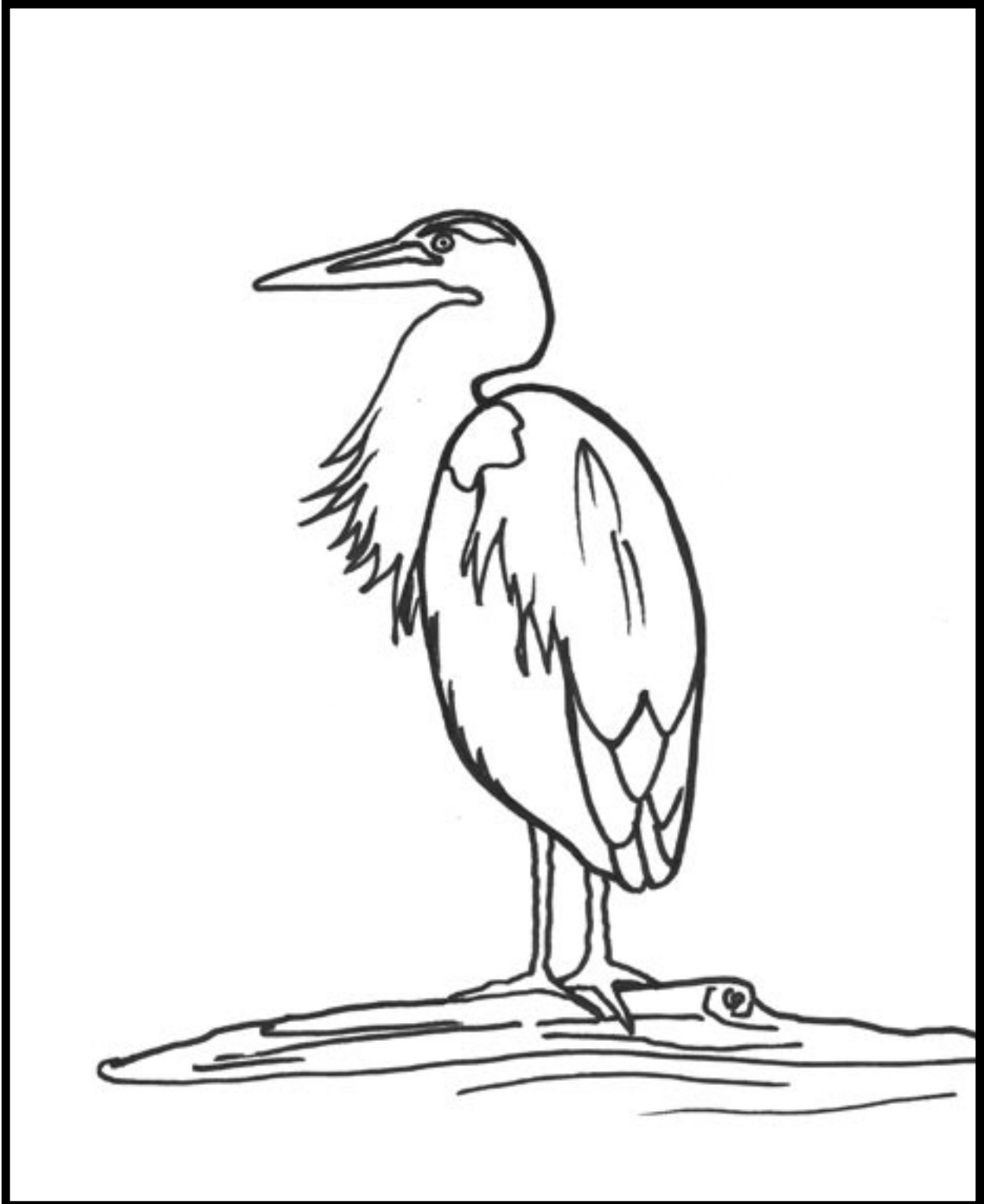
Purple gallinule

Bird watchers know the purple gallinule by its green back, bright-blue chest, red ring around its beak and yellow legs that look painted. Gallinules are found near water. They can walk over water plants with their wide feet while they look for food.



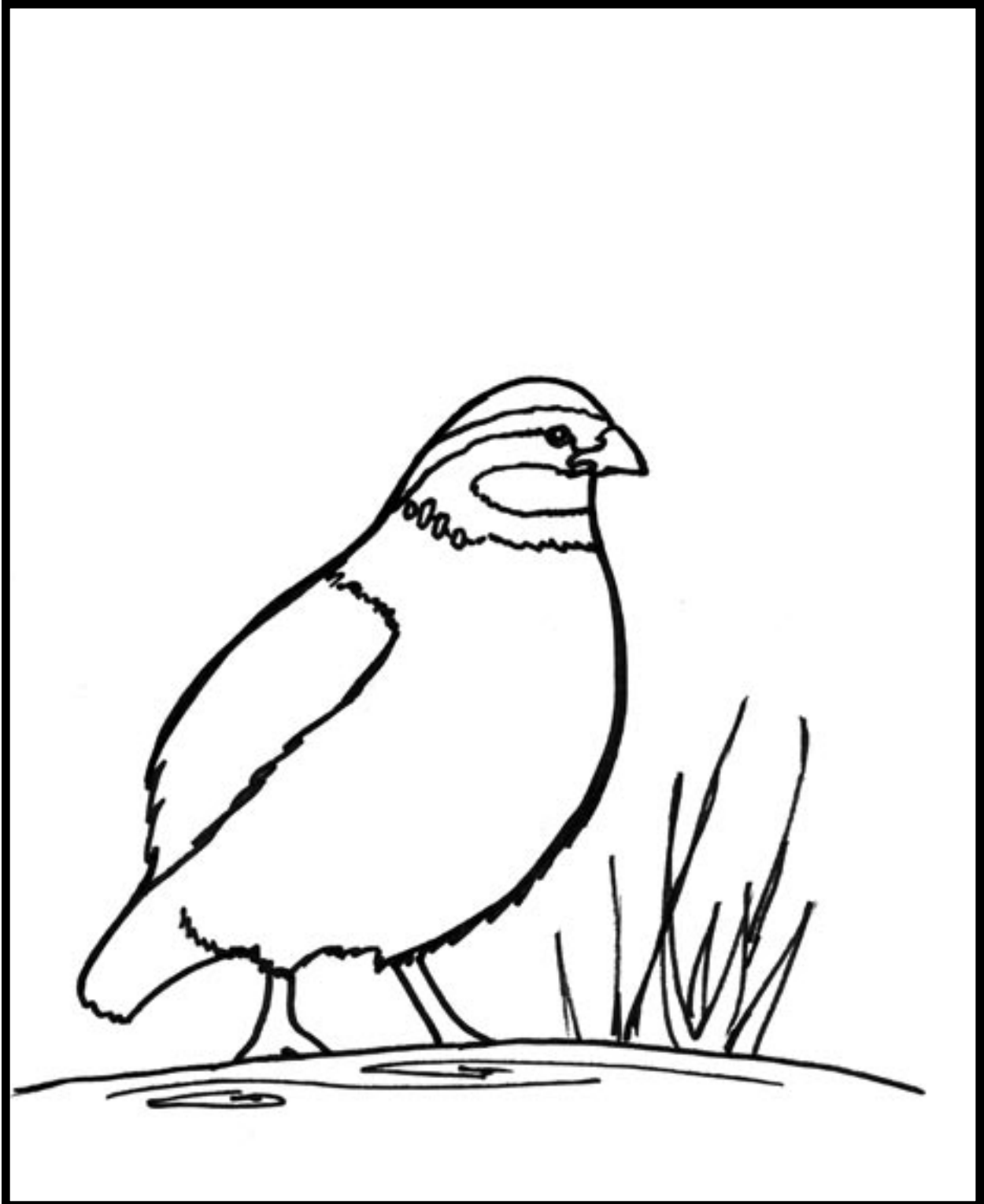
Mallard

Maybe you've heard these ducks called "greenheads." The females are mostly brown but the males have bright-green heads. Mallards and other ducks and geese fly south through and to Arkansas every winter when the temperature to the north gets cold.



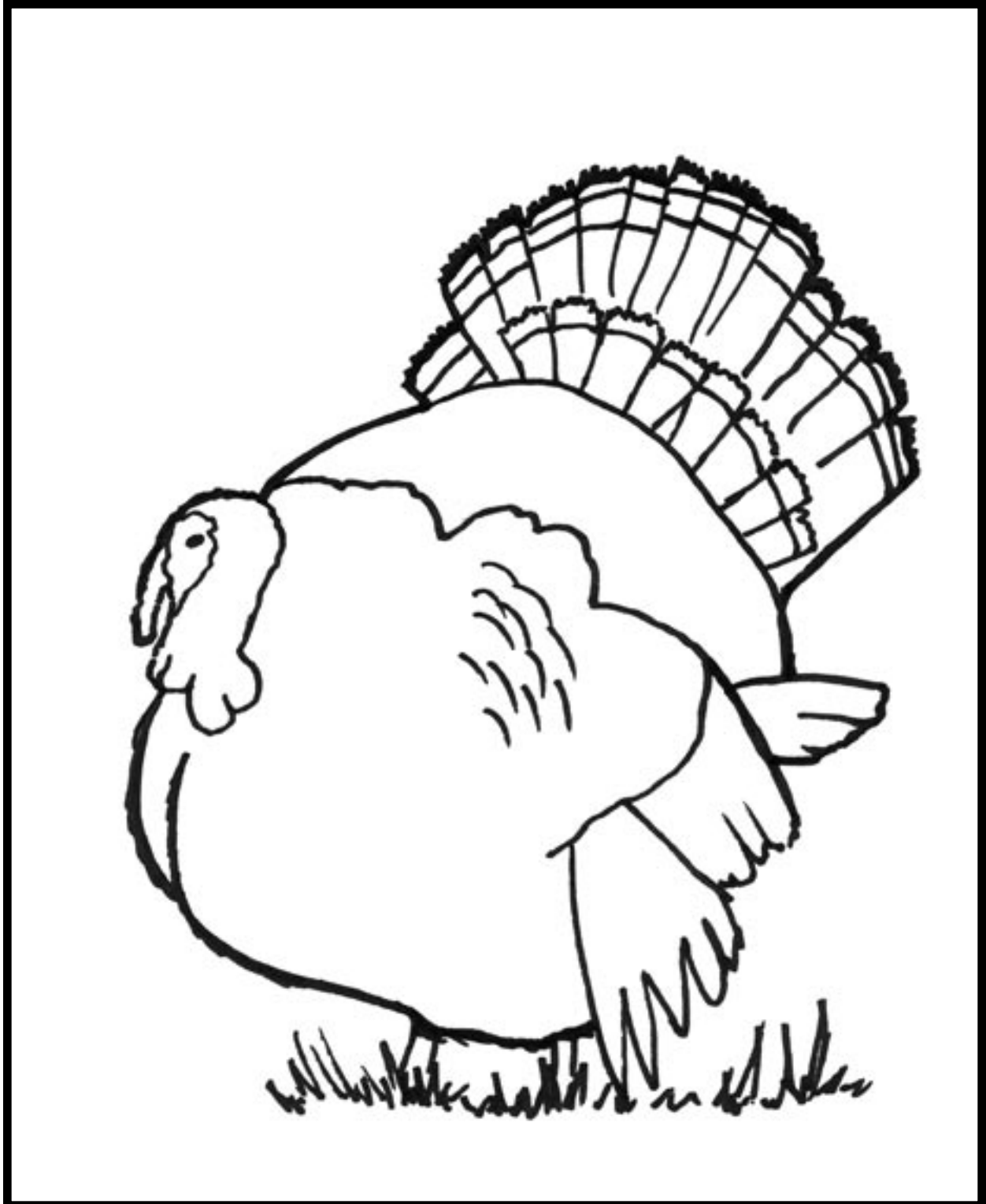
Great blue heron

What's 4 feet tall and loves to catch fish? The great blue heron. You'll find these big, grayish-blue birds wading along creeks and lakes, waiting for a chance to spear a fish. They look like soaring dinosaurs when they fly, and they nest together in "rookeries."



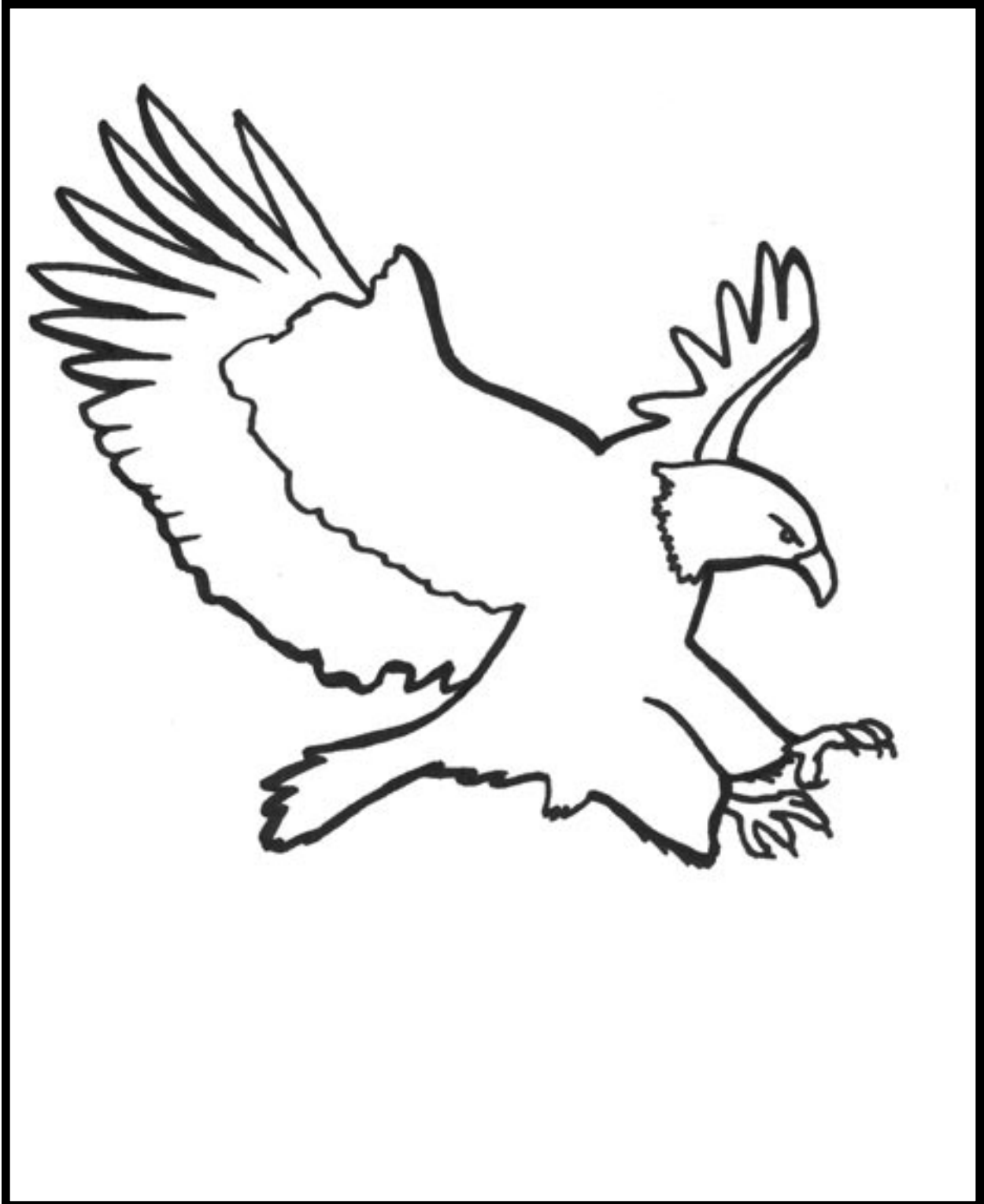
Northern bobwhite quail

These pretty brown-and-white birds live together in “coveys,” except when they are looking for mates and raising chicks. You’ve probably heard the “bob-white” song of the male. Quail look for food and nest on the ground. They need grassy areas for their nests and thickets for protection.



Eastern wild turkey

Male turkeys in Arkansas gobble every spring because they are trying to attract female turkeys, which lay eggs. This is the largest bird that is hunted in North America. Males have tail feathers like a fan, long spurs and a “beard.” They fly well and roost in trees.



Bald eagle

Eagles were harmed for years by chemicals that kill insects. Now we find eagles in areas near water because they eat fish. Look for their huge nests up to 8 feet wide. The bald eagle is dark with a white head and tail, and a yellow beak.



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