

Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy



Coloring Book

On the Front:

The bird is the Great Blue Heron and the plants are Cattails.

Great Blue Heron

The Great Blue Heron has a yellow bill (or beak), blue-grey feathers and a white head with a black streak on top. It stands about 4 feet tall and has a wingspan of up to 7 feet. For nourishment, the Heron will eat fish, frogs and small mammals. You can find this bird wading in the waters of wetlands, brackish waters, swamps, ponds, streams and rivers.

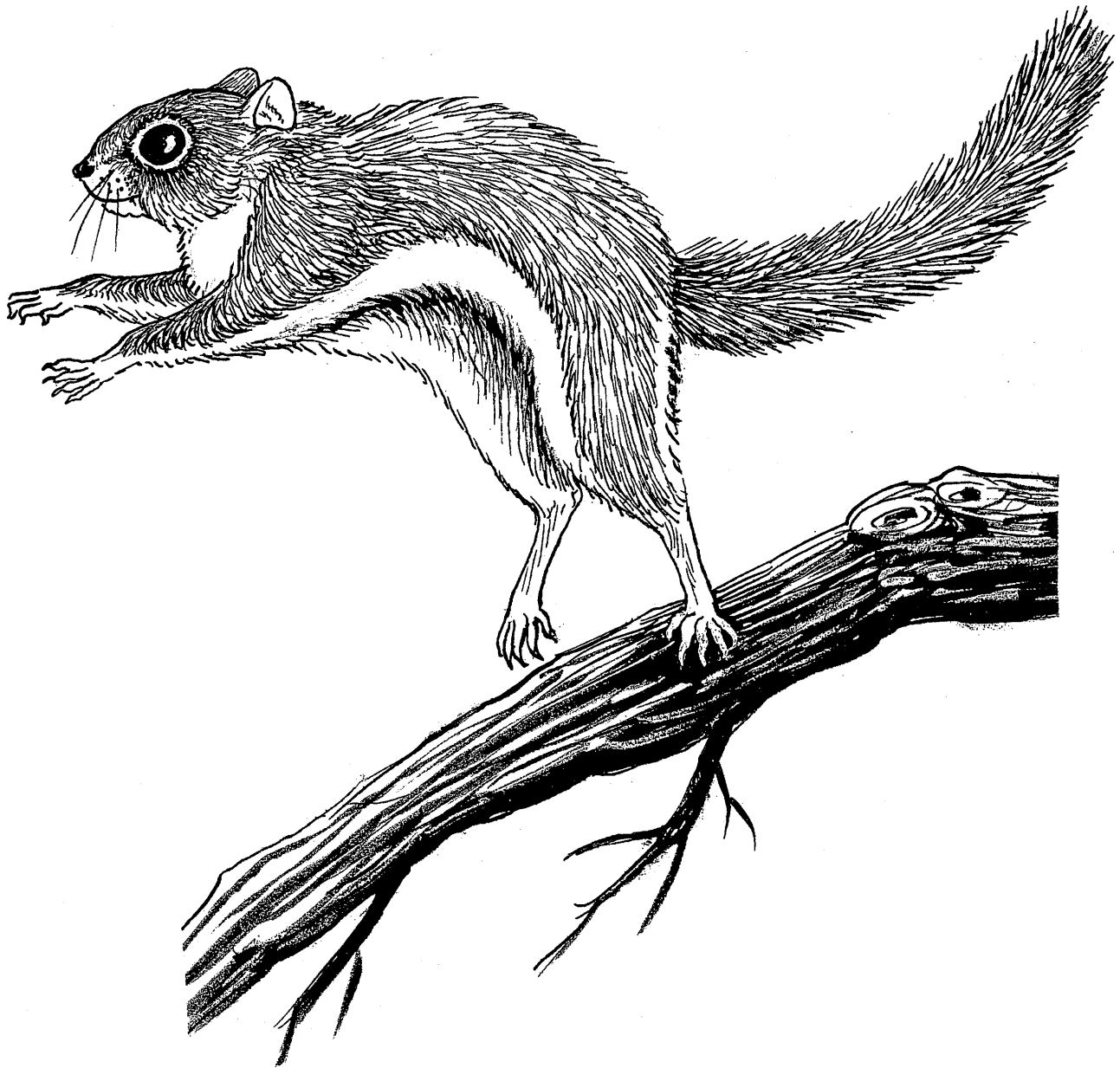
Cattails

This flowering plant can grow as tall as 9 feet. It has a large formation on top, which looks like a very brown hotdog. This hotdog-like flower cluster can grow as long as 1 foot. Muskrats find this plant's roots delicious. You can find this plant in wetlands.



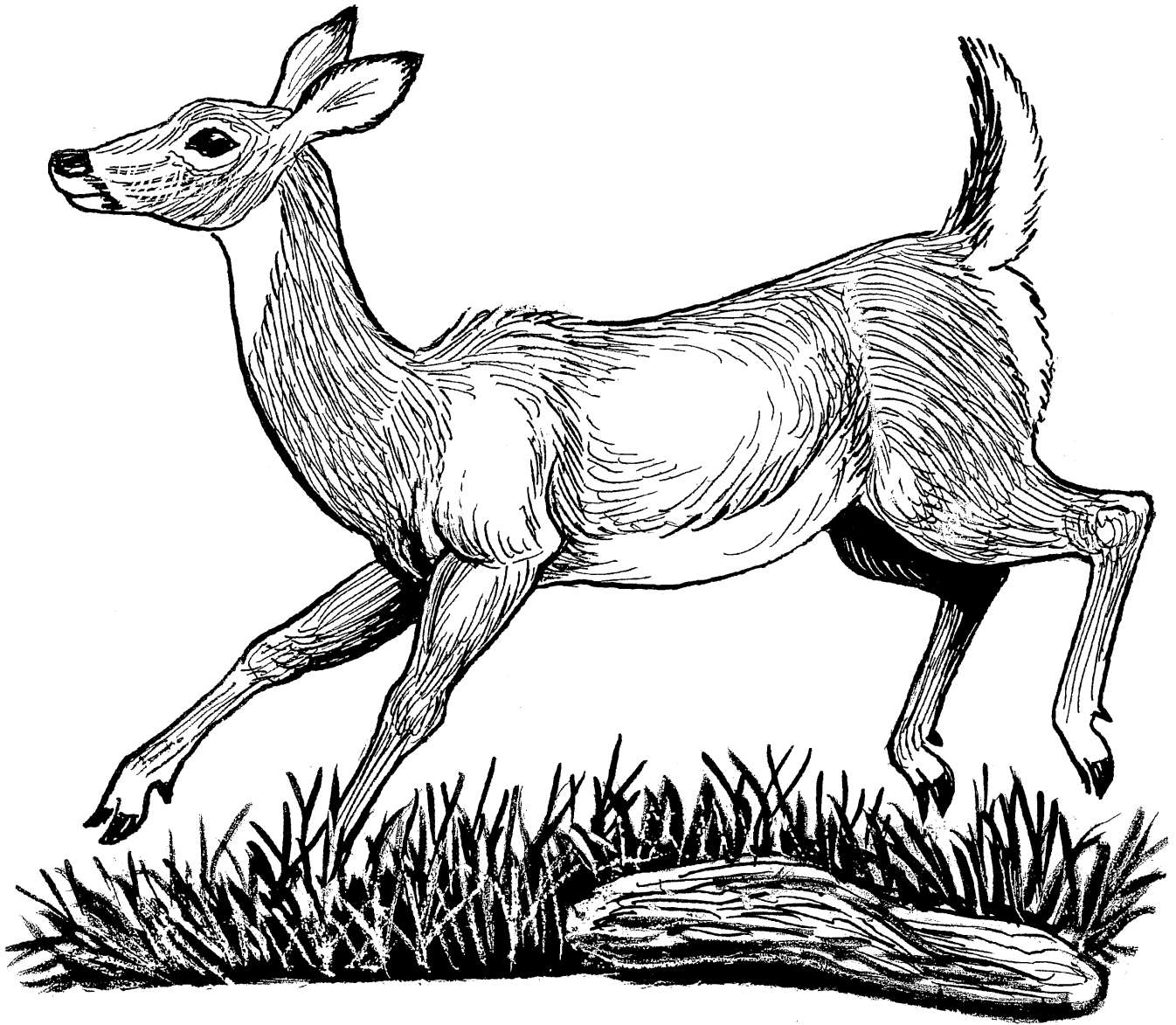
Screech Owl

The Screech Owl has yellow eyes and rust, brown, or grey colored feathers so it can hide in the trees. It is 8-10 inches tall and eats mice, birds and insects. You can find this wonderful bird hunting for food in the forest during the night.



Flying Squirrel

This small mammal has brown fur with a white underbelly. It is called a Flying Squirrel because when it leaps from trees it spreads its small front legs and glides through the air. To help it steer, it adjusts the position of its front legs and uses its tail as a brake. To keep up their energy, Flying Squirrels eat berries, spiders and seeds and also enjoy the sap from maple trees. You can find this creature active during the nighttime hours in a forest or even on streetlights in the city.



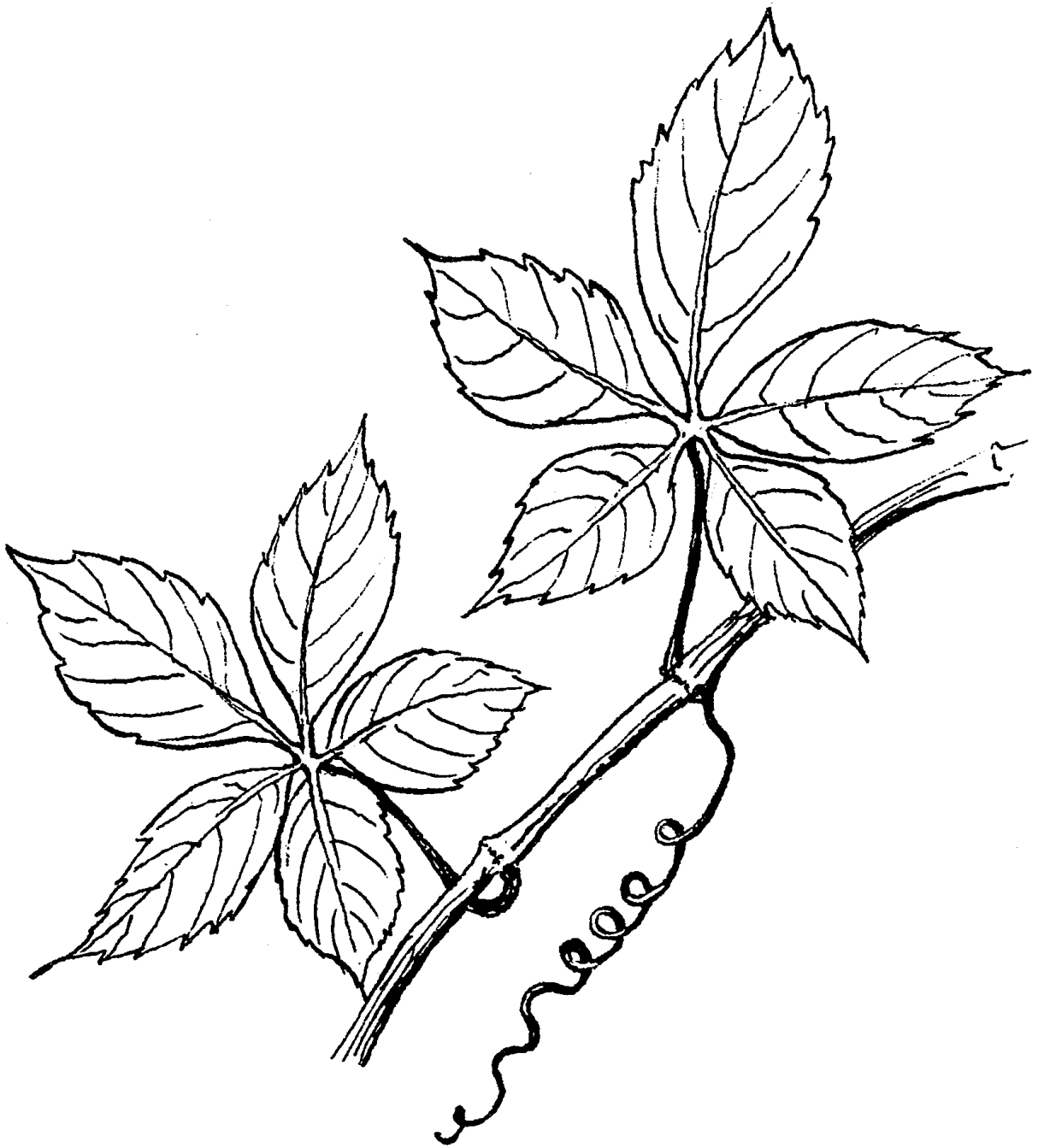
White-tailed Deer

This deer is also known as the “Virginia Deer”. It has a white tail and fur that can be reddish-brown in the spring and grayish-brown in the fall. Its babies have reddish-brown fur with white spots. This animal can weigh 130-350 pounds. It eats acorns, nuts, corn and twigs as well as small grasses. You can find this creature in forests and sometimes even in your backyard.



Raccoon

This animal is sometimes called the “bandit” of the wild because of the dark mask around its eyes. It has thumbs that allow it to open containers so that it might eat the contents. Raccoons can grow to be 26-40 inches long and weigh 12-35 pounds. They generally have fur that is brownish in color with black stripes. Its food sources include grasshoppers, clams, acorns and frogs. This animal is active during the night and will take food from your campsite or bird feeder!



Virginia Creeper

This plant is green during the spring but turns a deep burgundy red during the winter. It can grow to be 100 feet long and its leaf clusters can be up to 8 inches across. The tendrils that curl off of it are about 1 inch long and have small sticky pads that help the vine fasten itself to climb trees. Look for this plant in forests on large trees where it can get a lot of sun.



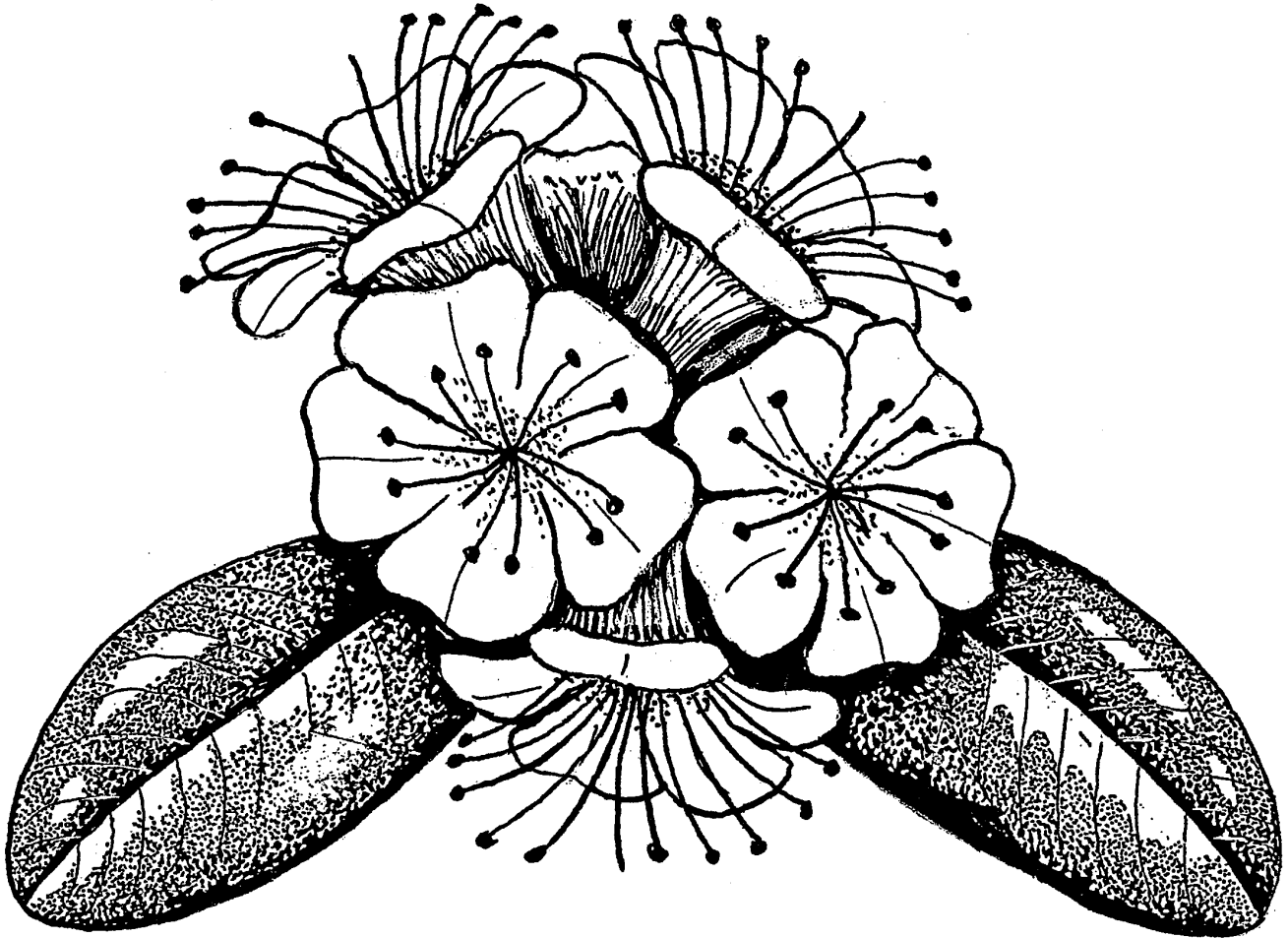
Monarch Butterfly

This orange and black butterfly is often what people think of when they think of a butterfly. It begins as an egg, then hatches to a caterpillar and then makes something called a chrysalis to live in while it transforms into a butterfly. During the chrysalis stage it is known as a pupa. When it comes out of the chrysalis about 2 weeks later, it is a beautiful butterfly. While many butterflies live for only 2-6 weeks, Monarchs that emerge in the late summer or fall migrate all the way to Mexico where they live through the winter and in the spring begin the flight home. You can look for this butterfly nectaring at flowers, or you can make a butterfly garden that includes milkweed for the eggs to hatch and grow.



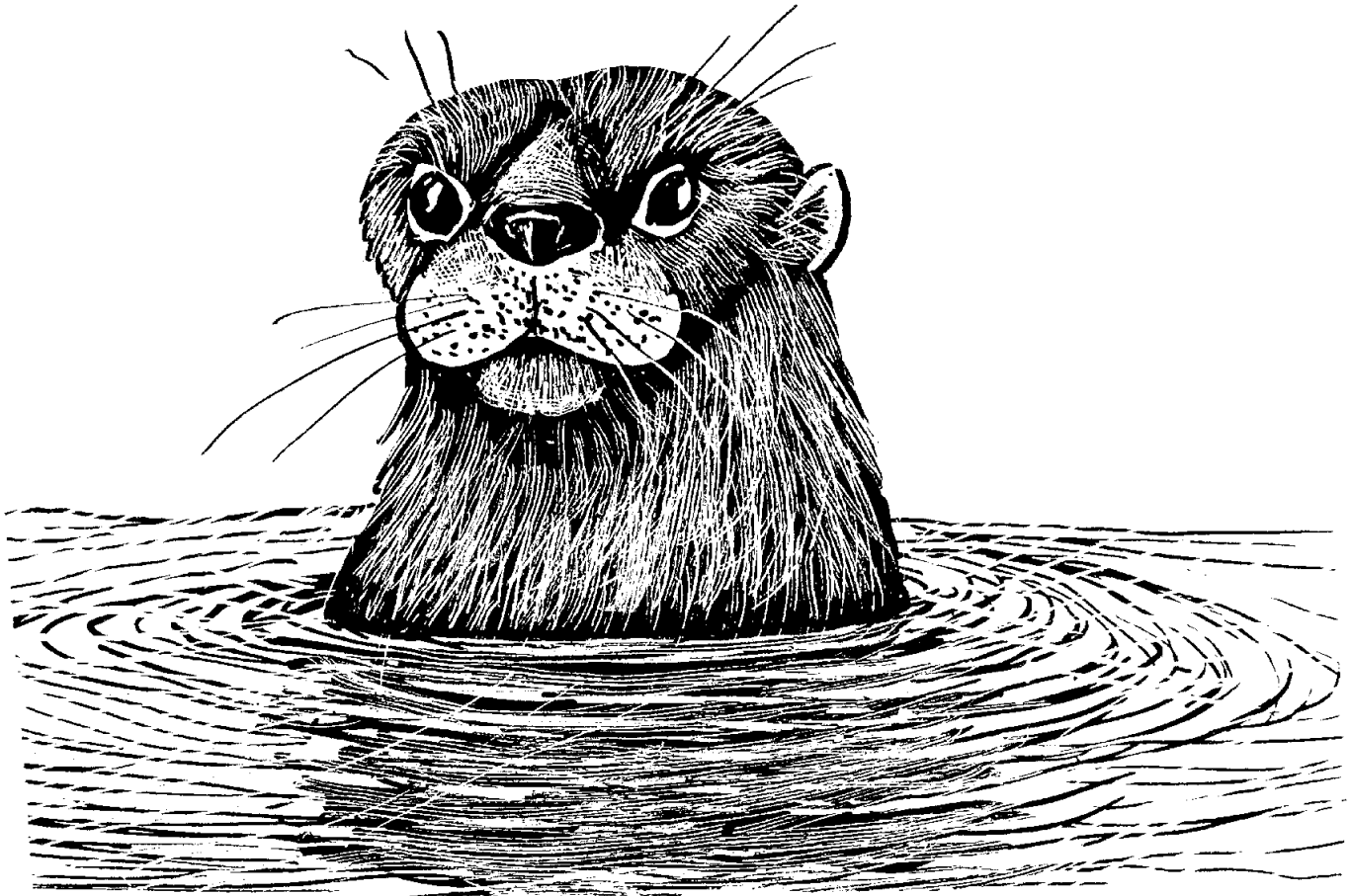
Spring Peeper

Spring Peepers are very small frogs, only growing to about an inch and a half long. They are most often heard in the spring when they migrate from their forests where they wintered to ponds where they will breed. Spring Peepers are tan, gray or dark brown and have what looks like an “X” on their backs. They are heard, especially when they congregate at their spring ponds, but are seldom seen.



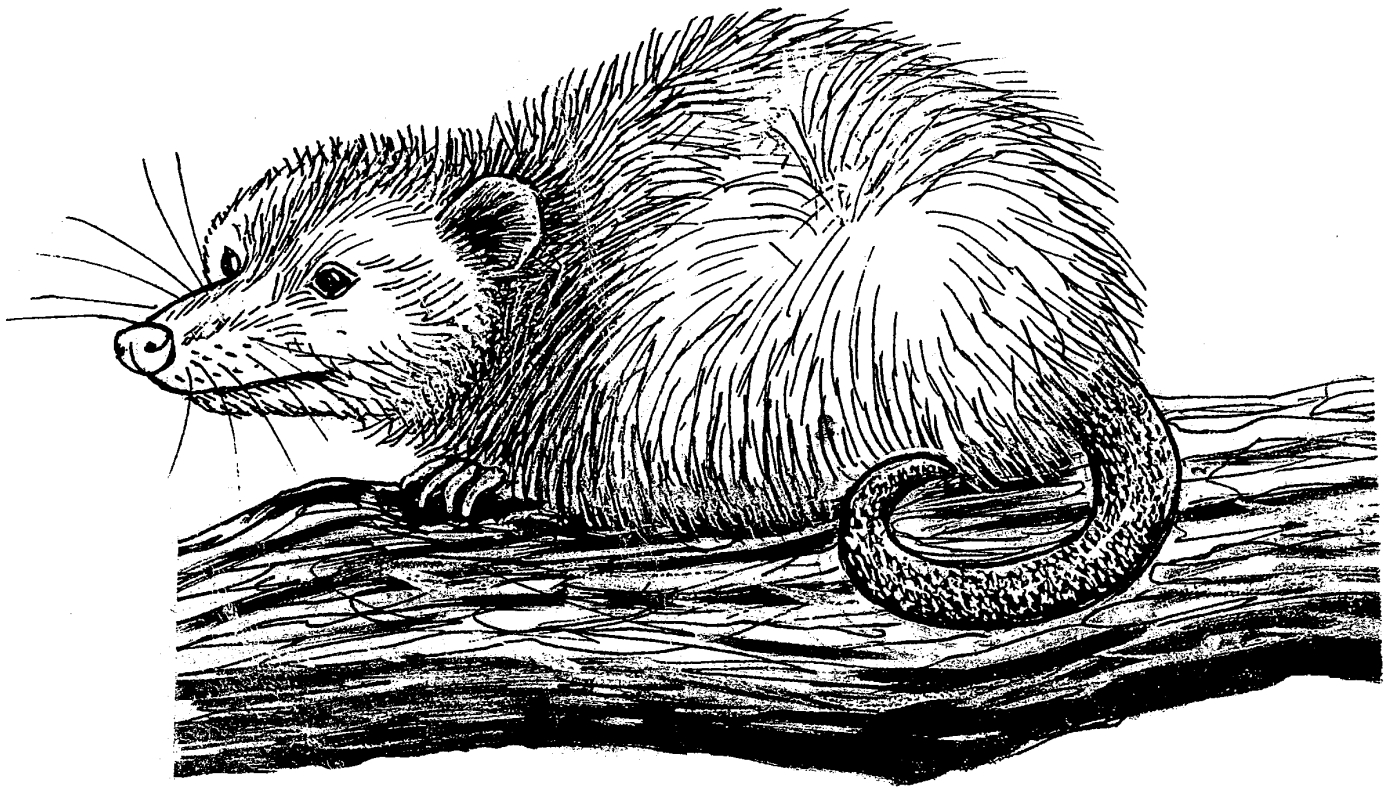
Rhododendron

This flower has very shiny green leaves with flowers of white or pink. The stamens of the white flowers are red. This flower provides food for bees who feed on this flower's nectar. It grows as a bush that can resemble a small tree. Our native rhododendrons grow mostly in woods.



River Otter

The River Otter has dark brown fur with a lighter grey under its neck. Its body can be greater than 2 feet long and its tail as big as 17 inches. This animal swims under water and will close its nostrils so that water does not get in its nose. River Otters enjoy eating fish and frogs and sometimes will swim in fast circles to bring fish up from the bottom of the water. You can find this animal at dusk near lakes and rivers.



Opossum

This marsupial's fur ranges from grey to black with shades of brown near its skin. Its nose, feet and tail are pink. The Opossum grows to be the size of a house cat. This animal lives up to 7 years. For food it eats insects, snails, berries, eggs, grass and sometimes snakes. Momma Opossums can have up to 14 babies at a time, which develop in the mother's pouch. When threatened, the Opossum may roll over and play dead- this includes creating an odor that imitates the odor of a dead animal. The Opossum can be found in trees, but not hanging upside down like most people think it does.

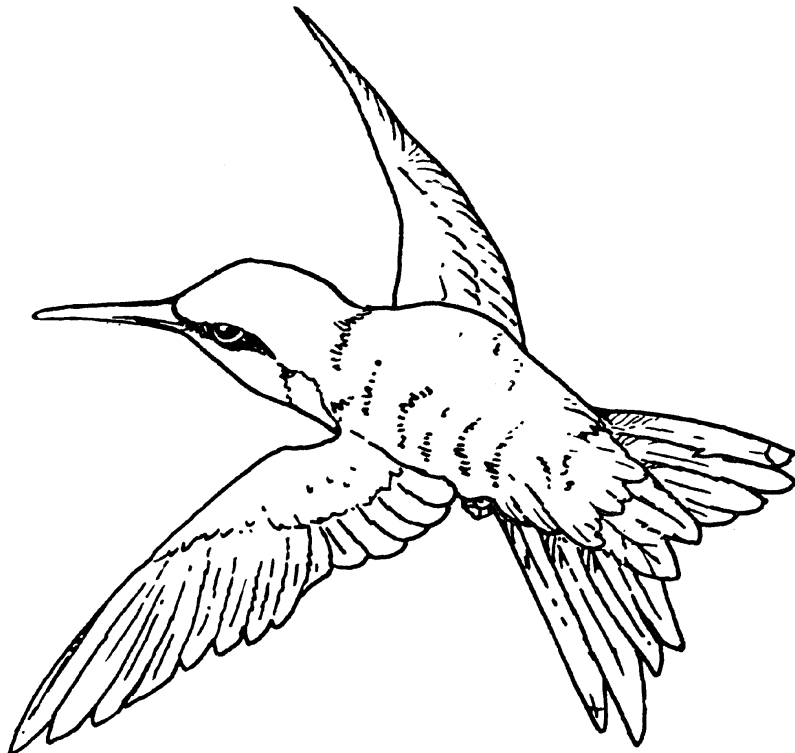


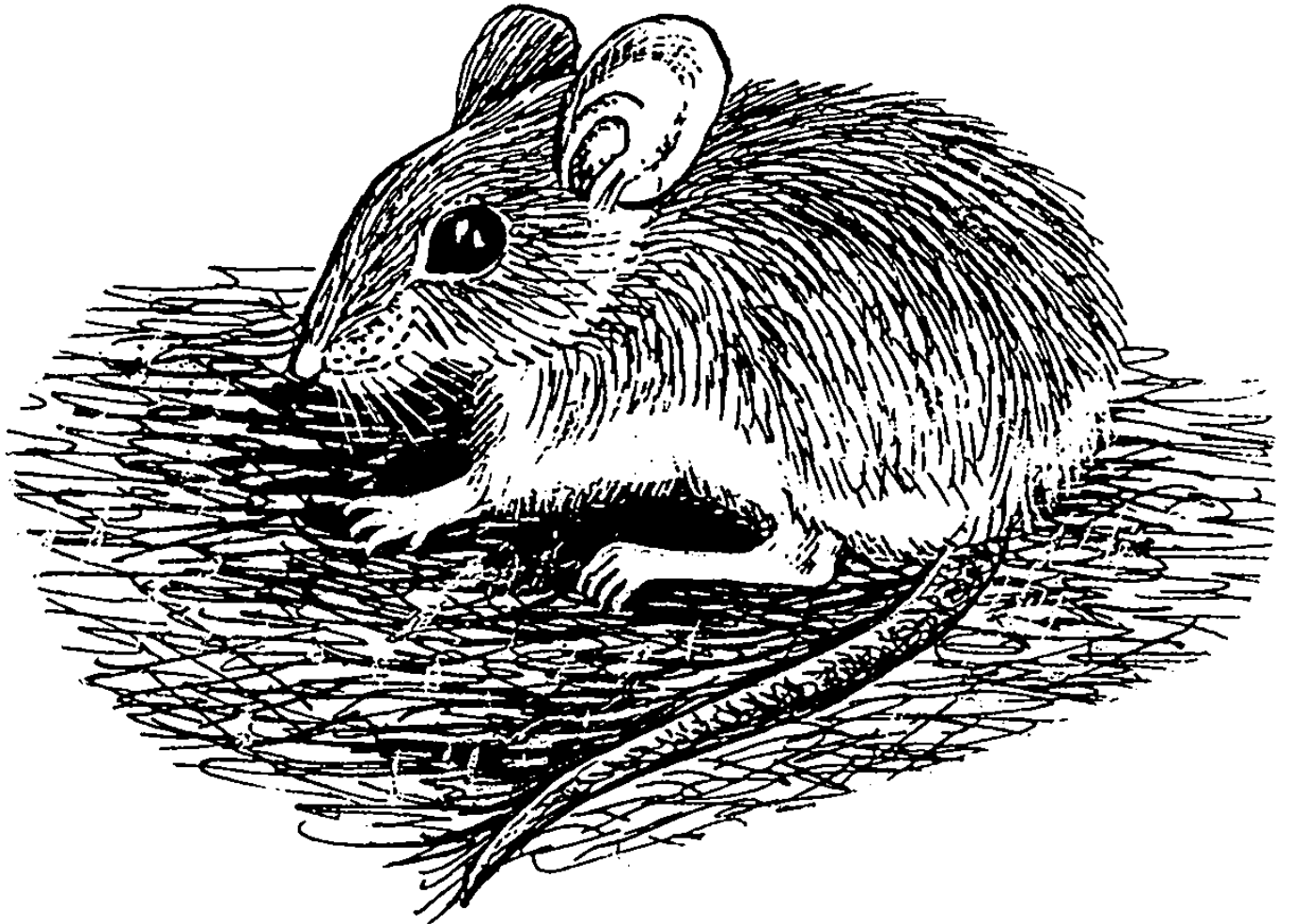
Scarlet Tanager

The male birds of this species are bright red with black wings while the females are olive colored with a yellow belly. It grows to be about 6 inches long and its wingspan is around 11 inches. For food the Scarlet Tanager will eat insects, worms and fruits. You can find this bird in our forests during the spring and summer months but in the fall and winter it will be living mostly in South America.

Ruby-Throated Hummingbird

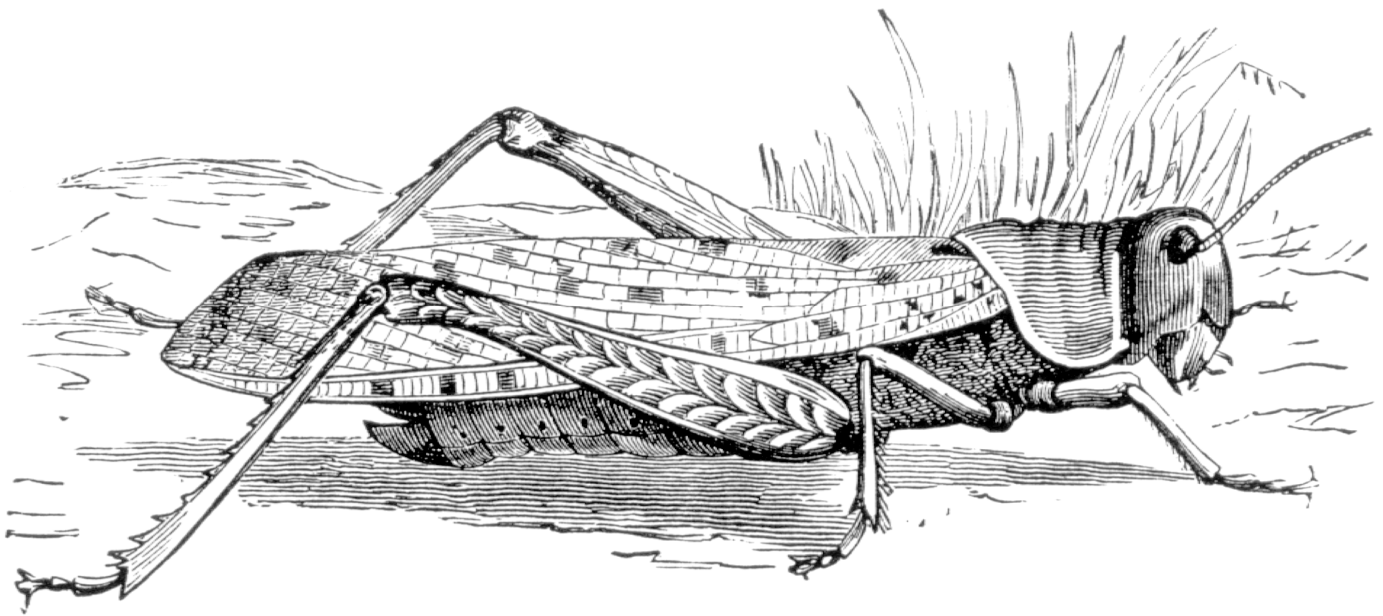
These tiny birds are an emerald green with white on their underbellies. The males of this species have a bright ruby-colored throat, giving this bird its name. Ruby-throated hummingbirds sip nectar from flowers and eat small insects. Here in Loudoun, we see them arrive from South America right around April 15th and depart in mid-fall to return to their winter rainforests.





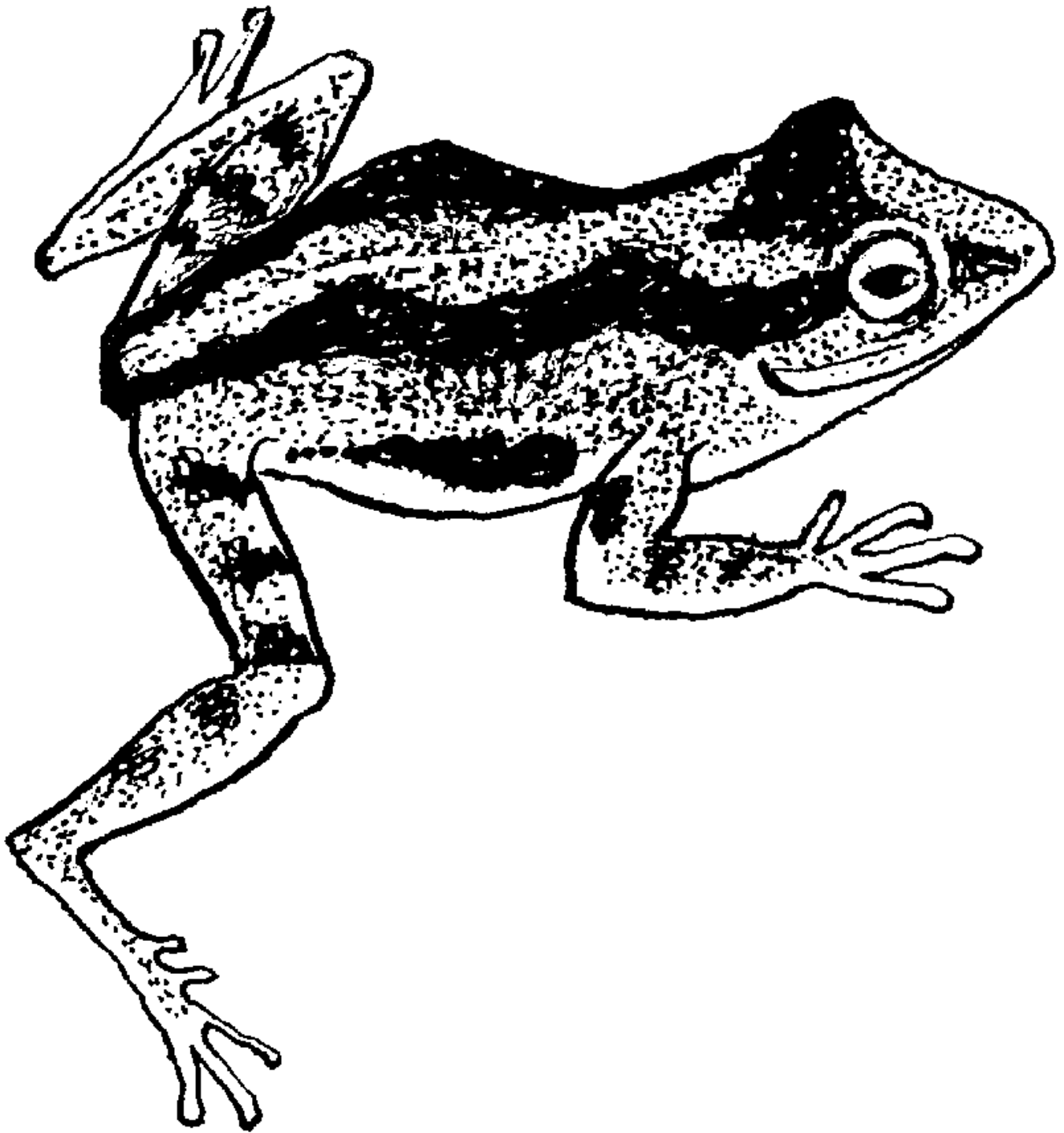
White-footed Mouse

This animal is very small and has reddish brown fur with a white belly and feet. It generally only lives for one year in the wild. When looking for food it chooses to eat seeds, berries, insects and fungi. When baby mice are born they cannot open their eyes and are completely naked. This animal is important because it is food for a lot of other animals. The White-footed Mouse is found in brushy areas looking for food during the night.



Grasshopper

A Grasshopper can be brownish or green. It eats plants and uses its antennae to help select the plant that it is going to eat. During the early morning the grasshopper enjoys sunning itself, often needing to hop away quickly to escape a possible predator that is looking for some food. You can find this insect in grasses- including your own backyard!



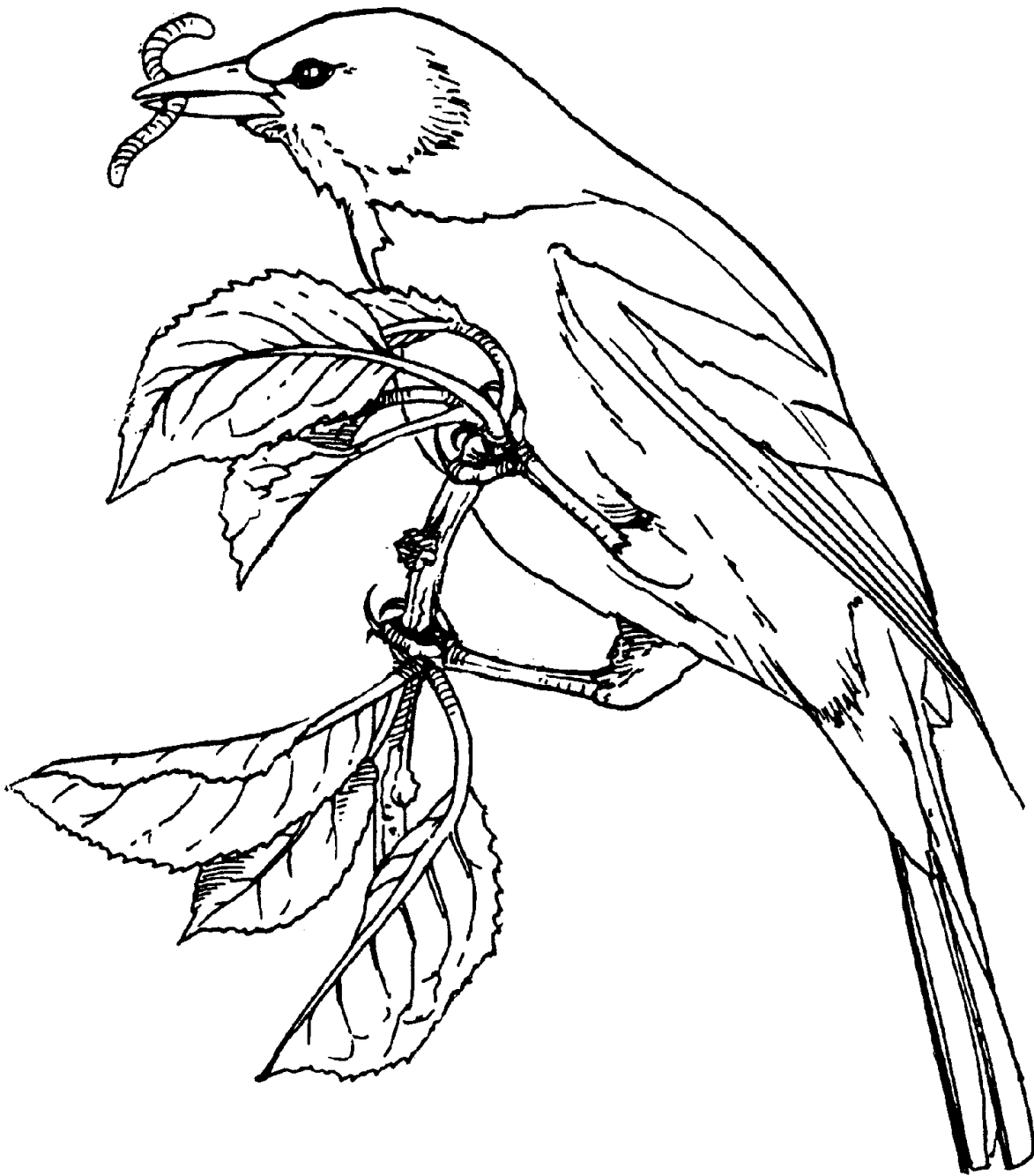
Cricket Frog

This frog can have different colors such as green, grayish colors and brownish colors. The skin of this amphibian is very bumpy. During the beginning of its life, it is an egg. Next, it becomes a tadpole that lives in the water for a few weeks. Finally, it changes to an adult that lives on the land. Cricket Frog love to eat small insects such as mosquitoes. If you listen closely you can hear the “glick glick glick” sound that it makes. You can find this amphibian living on the banks of a slow muddy creek or a pond.



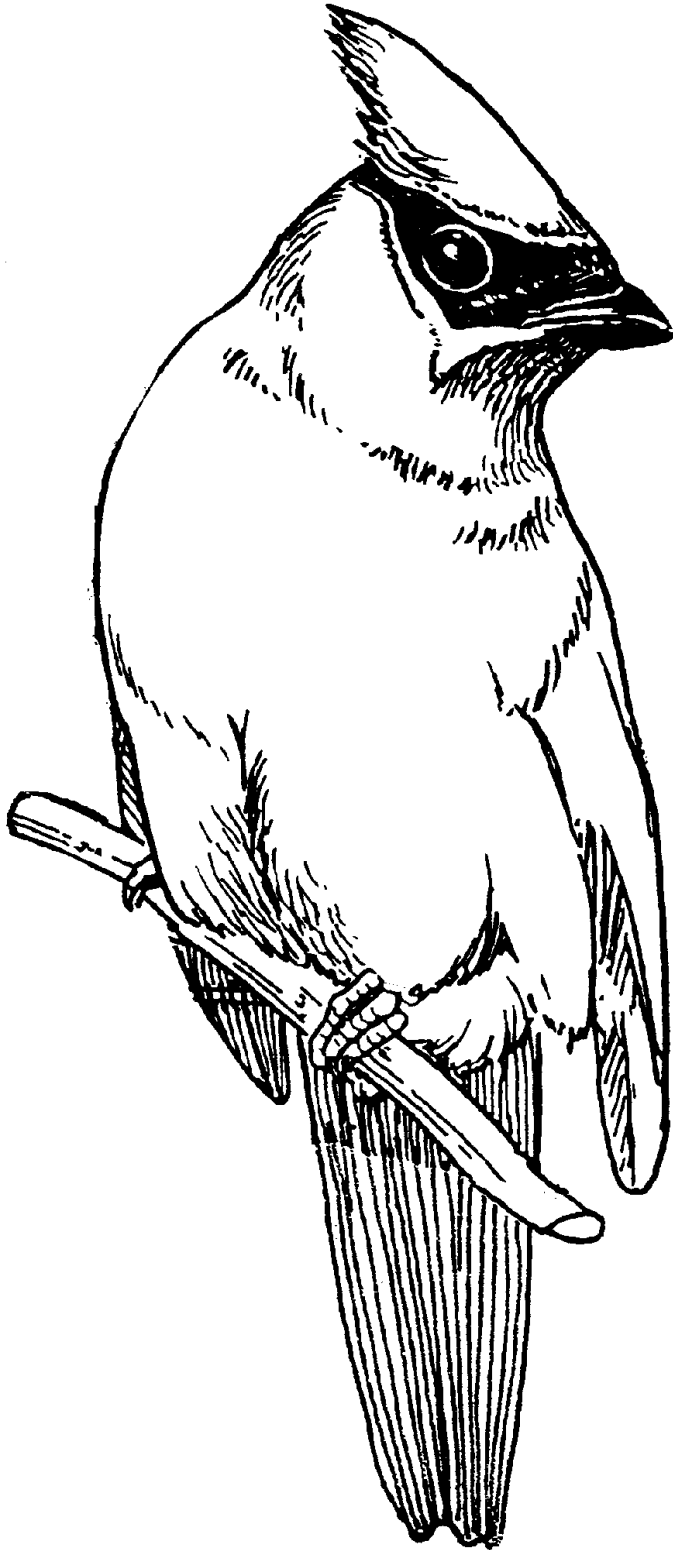
Pileated Woodpecker

This bird is our largest woodpecker. It has a red crest at the top of its head, a white throat and a black body although its underwings are white. Pileated Woodpeckers make holes in dead or dying trees where they lay their eggs and raise their young. Other animals like raccoons and secondary cavity nesters like blue birds will use the holes for their nests in following years. Pileated Woodpeckers mostly eat insects although they'll sometimes eat fruits.



Baltimore Oriole

Baltimore Orioles are a medium-sized bird of about 6.5" long. The male has a black head, back, wings and tail and orange on its chest, shoulders and under parts. Females are brownish grey on their upper parts and a dull orange on their chest and under parts. Orioles spend the summer here in Virginia to breed and raise their young, and fly to South America for winter.



Cedar Waxwing

Cedar Waxwings are a fruit-eating bird that loves cherries, juniper berries, and dogwood berries. Adults are a buff-brown color on their heads and backs with pale yellow on the belly and grey on their backs. Their tails are tipped with a yellow band. On the tips of the wing feathers are a reddish shaft that gives a wax-like appearance.

For more information as well as listings of our free field trips and other activities,
visit our website:

www.loudounwildlife.org



Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy is dedicated to promoting the preservation and proliferation of healthy wildlife habitats in Loudoun. We offer educational programs and field trips, habitat and species monitoring, habitat restoration projects and conservation advocacy. We also publish a quarterly newsletter, the *Habitat Herald*, which is mailed to members.

Membership: \$10 student, \$20 individual, \$30 family

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