U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

National Wildlife Refuge Activity Guide

U.S.
FISH & WILDLIFE
SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Welcome to Your National Wildlife Refuge System

Map of the United States showing National Wildlife Refuges and Wetland Management Districts.

The National Wildlife Refuge System is America's only network of land that was created to protect and conserve wildlife and their habitats. Refuges also provide places for people to explore and enjoy.

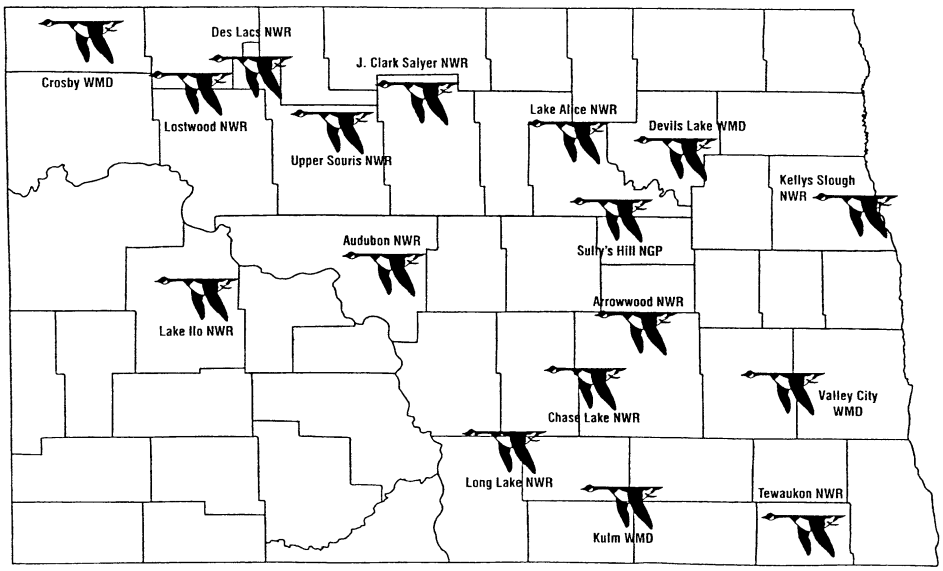
With over 550 National Wildlife Refuges and one in every state, wildlife can find a safe home all across the country. The National Wildlife Refuge System protects over 93 million acres of habitat.

Where Am I??

- The first refuge was named Pelican Island and can be found off the coast of Florida.
- Find a refuge that has swamps and alligators.
- Which refuges would you find polar bears?
- At which refuge would ducks and geese spend the winter?
- How many refuges are there in the state you live in?
- Can you find which state has the most refuges?
- At which refuges would you find seals?
- Find a refuge that is in the desert.

North Dakota's National Wildlife Refuges and Wetland Management Districts

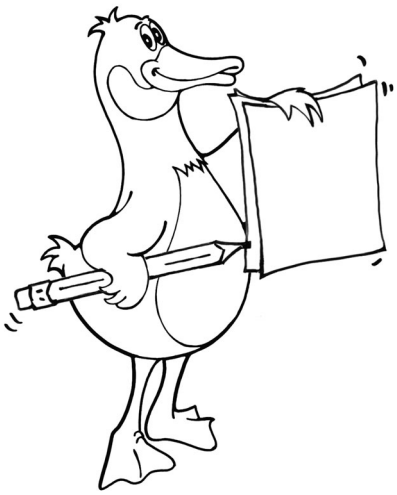
National Wildlife Refuge System Lands in North Dakota



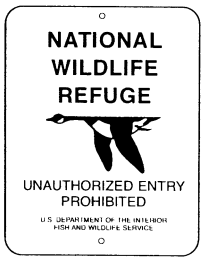
NWR – National Wildlife Refuge
WMD – Wetland Management District
NGP – National Game Preserve

What is a Refuge and Wetland Management District?

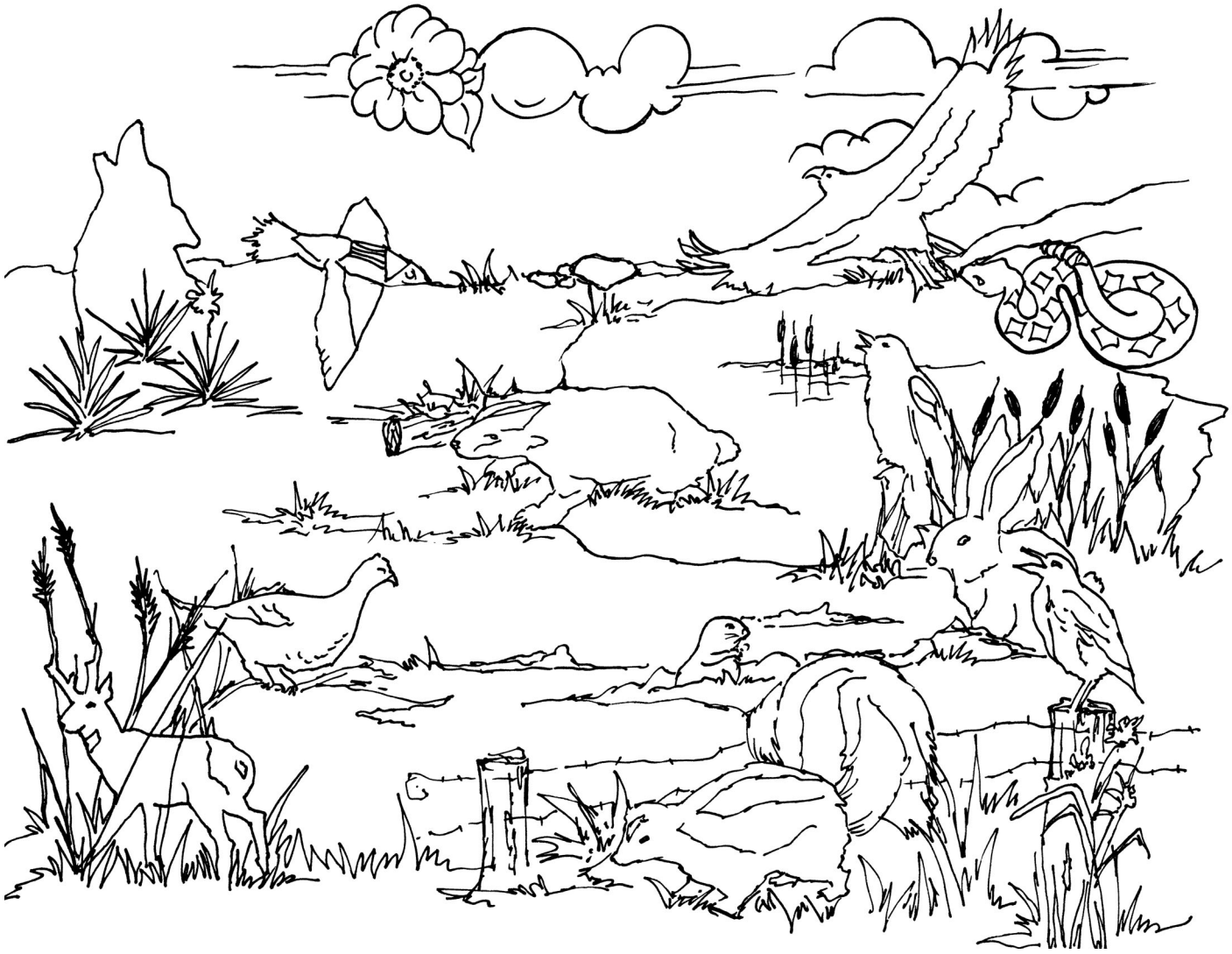
- Wetland Management Districts have lands called Waterfowl Production Areas
- Waterfowl Production Areas have green and white signs and are open to many kinds of hunting and fishing
- Refuges have blue and white signs and are only open to some hunting and fishing
- Both offer great places to explore and see wildlife
- Both provide homes for migratory birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians, insects and plants
- North Dakota has the most Refuges and Waterfowl Production Areas in the country



Honker, the Canada goose, is the mascot of the National Wildlife Refuge Sytem. Honker will be your guide through this activity booklet, and show you many exciting things to see and do at a National Wildlife Refuge.



Prairie Habitats



Can You Find These Refuge Friends?...

Meadowlark
Badger
Prairie dog
Rattlesnake
Golden eagle
Jackrabbit
Skunk
Antelope
Prairie rose
Blue grama grass
Coyote
Sharp-tailed grouse
Bobolink

Wetland Habitats

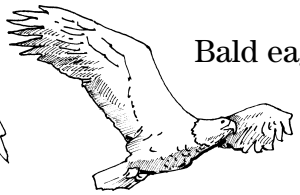
C	A	N	V	A	S	B	A	C	K	J	M	J	K	Q	W
A	G	P	Z	K	W	M	I	N	K	D	A	P	S	G	S
T	A	O	B	K	A	H	C	W	E	T	L	A	N	D	A
T	R	S	M	A	R	T	W	E	E	D	L	O	R	C	L
A	T	M	K	C	O	O	T	D	R	Y	A	E	O	L	A
I	E	G	R	E	T	N	L	W	S	M	R	I	C	A	M
L	R	M	U	S	K	R	A	T	W	A	D	X	O	G	A
A	S	G	H	J	K	D	R	A	G	O	N	F	L	Y	N
Z	N	O	I	E	P	E	A	Z	N	M	O	T	W	P	D
P	A	O	G	O	R	F	D	R	A	P	O	E	L	M	E
T	K	S	U	V	L	O	P	I	N	T	A	I	L	O	R
R	E	E	S	W	A	N	N	E	L	O	H	T	O	P	C

Wetland Words to Find

Canvasback
Cattail
Coot
Dragonfly
Egret
Garter snake
Goose
Heron
Leopard frog
Mallard
Mink
Muskrat
Pintail
Pothole
Salamander
Smartweed
Swan
Wetland

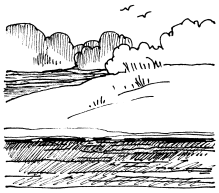
Tewaukon & Audubon National Wildlife Refuges

Help Match the Critters to Their Homes...

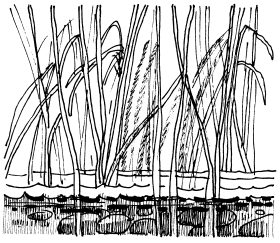


Bald eagle

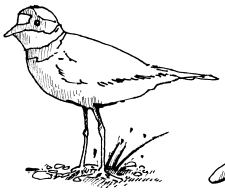
Red-winged blackbird



Sandy shores

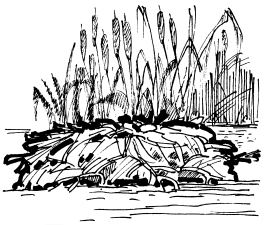


Bottom of wetland



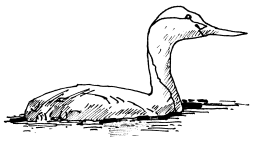
Salamander

Shorebird



Floating nest

Hut



Grebe

Muskrat

Nest in cattails

Nest in cottonwood tree

Frog

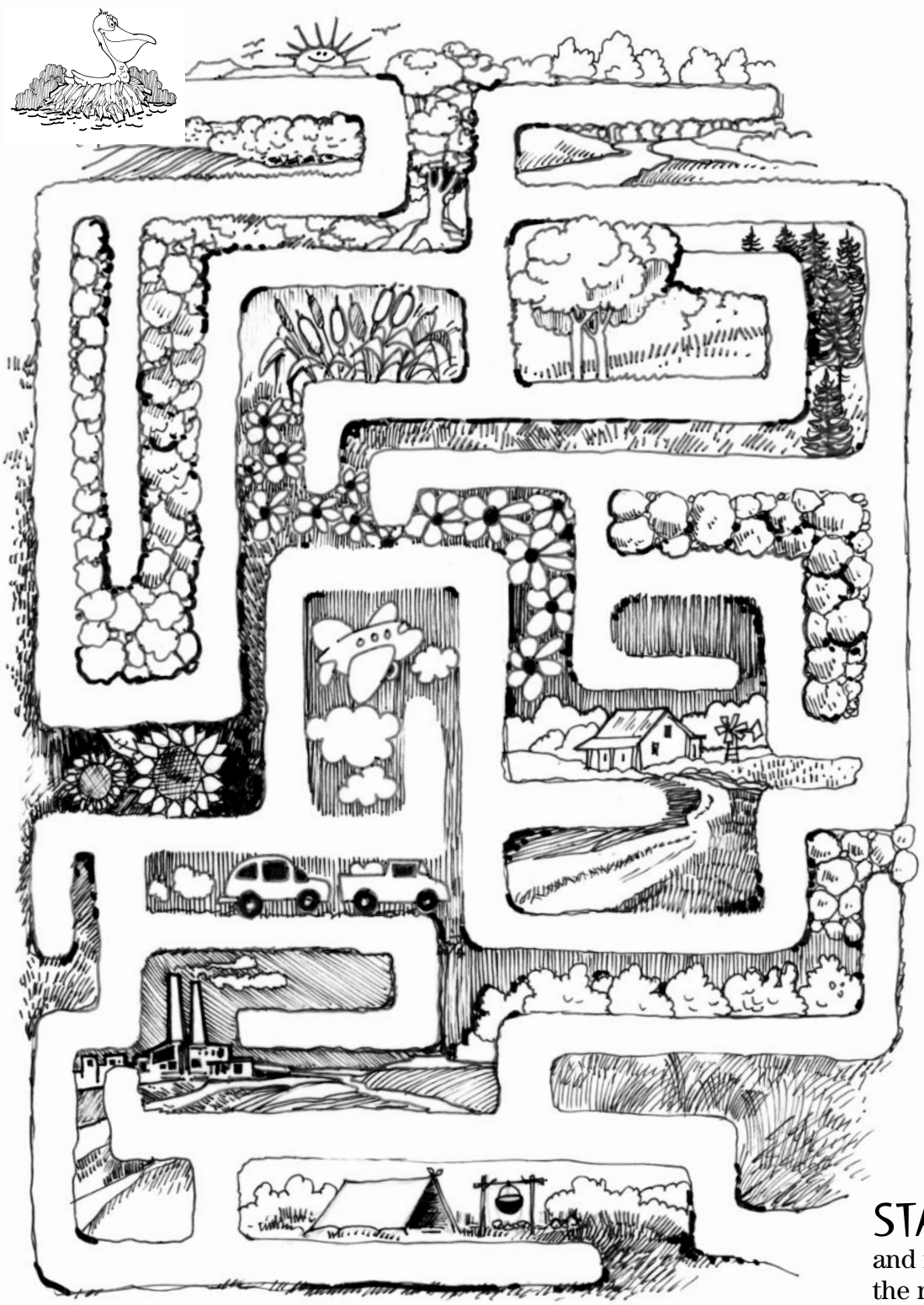
Aquatic bugs

Surface of water

Grass along shore

Refuge Facts:
Tewaukon is in the tallgrass prairie zone with grass that grows taller than six feet. **Audubon** has over 100 islands that provide nesting habitat for ducks, geese and other ground nesting birds.

Arrowwood and Chase Lake National Wildlife Refuges

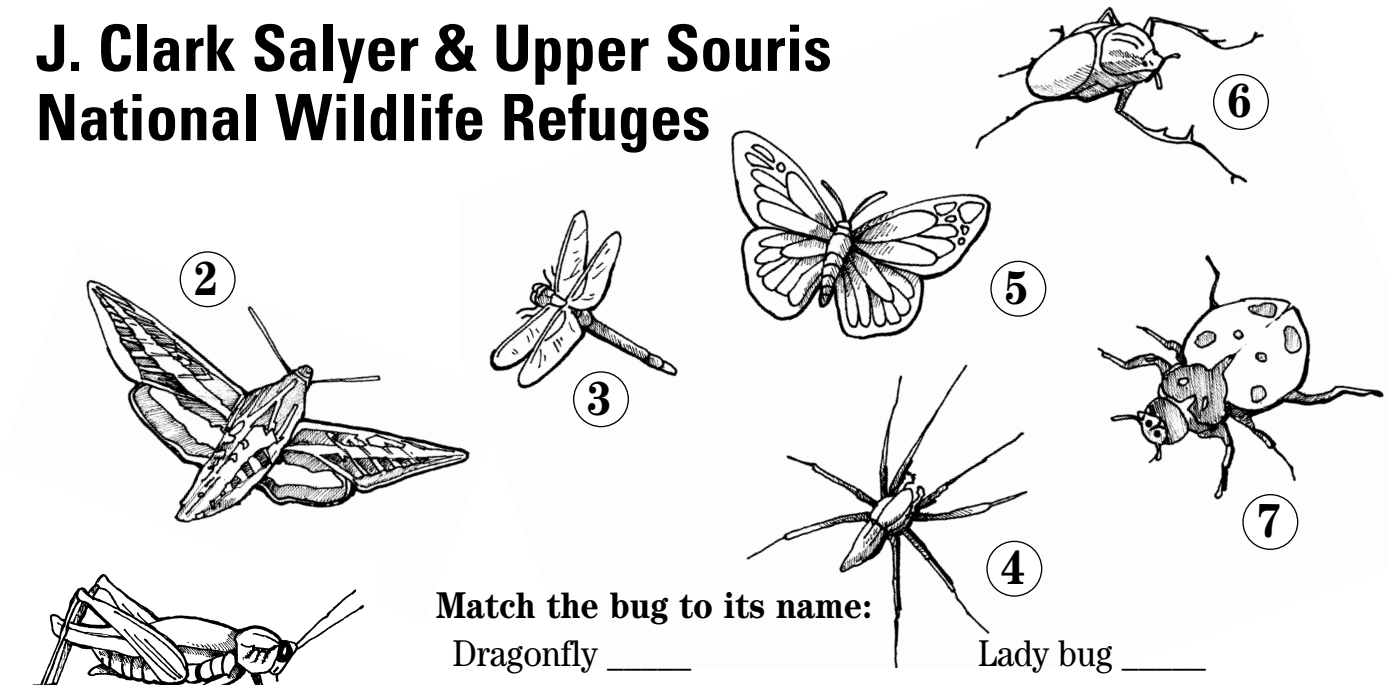


Refuge Facts:
Chase Lake has the largest population of nesting American pelicans in North America.

Arrowwood is home to many grassland song-birds like Baird's and grasshopper sparrows.

START HERE
and find your way to the nesting pelican.

J. Clark Salyer & Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuges



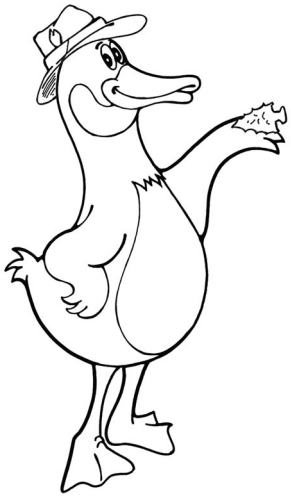
Match the bug to its name:

Dragonfly _____
Monarch butterfly _____
Beetle_____
Sphinx moth _____
Lady bug _____
Spider _____
Grasshopper _____

Refuge Facts:
J. Clark Salyer is the largest North Dakota Refuge with 58,700 acres of prairie, wetland and woodland habitat.

Upper Souris extends almost 30 miles along the Souris River providing homes for many wetland birds.

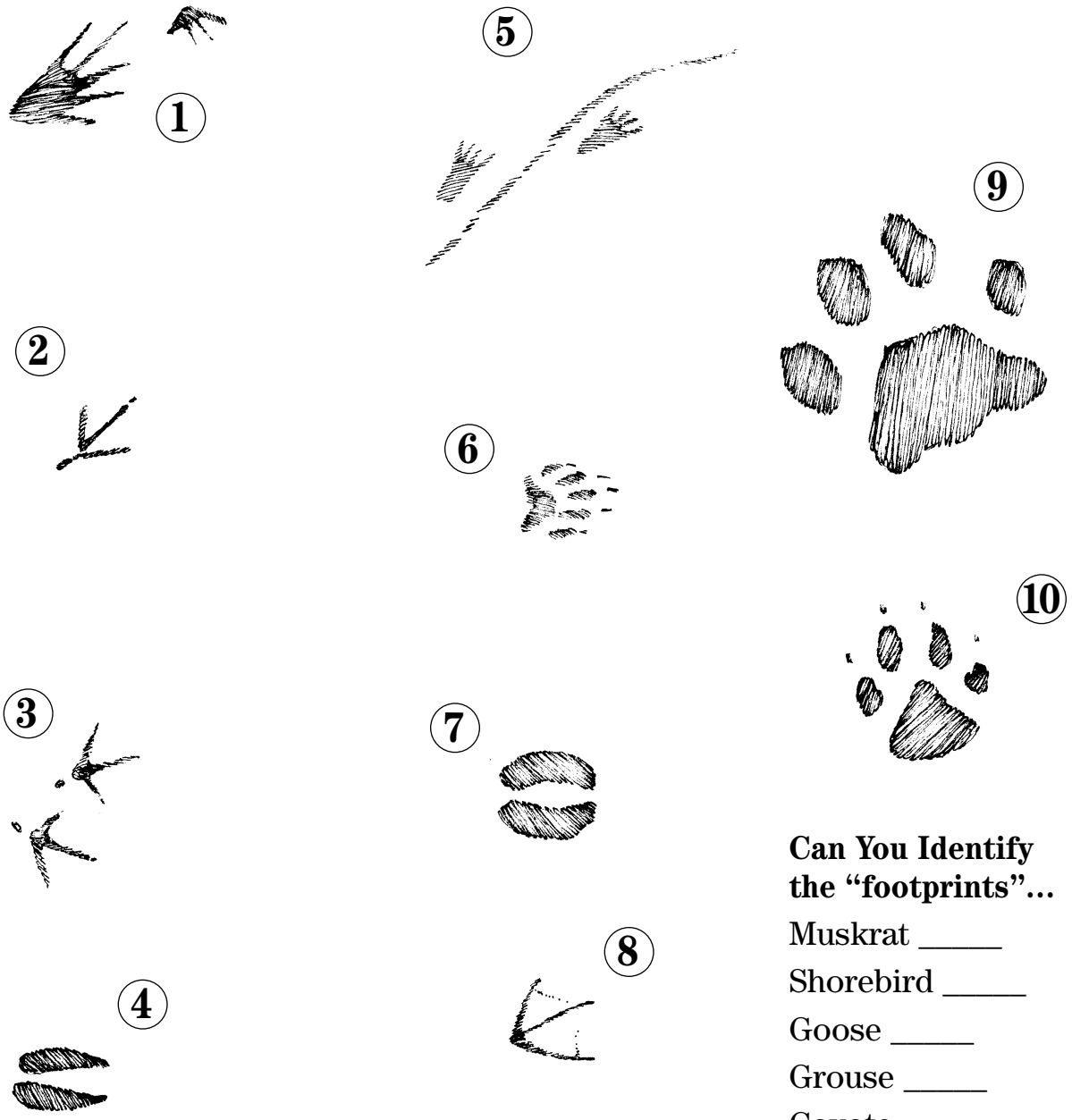
Long Lake and Lake Ilo National Wildlife Refuges



Native people have lived in North Dakota for hundreds of years. They lived off the plentiful wildlife and plants found here. The tools that they used long ago may be found today… we call them Artifacts. Stone axes, knives, arrowheads, pottery and bone needles may be discovered when exploring. Remember, do not remove any artifacts from a National Wildlife Refuge – they are part of history and must be left for others to discover and enjoy.

Refuge Facts:
Long Lake provides a resting place for thousands of migrating ducks, geese and swans.
Lake Ilo hosts a colony of great blue herons who nest in the lofty cottonwood trees along the shore of Lake Ilo.

DesLacs and Lostwood National Wildlife Refuges



Can You Identify the "footprints"...

Muskrat _____

Shorebird _____

Goose _____

Grouse _____

Coyote _____

Antelope _____

Mountain lion _____

Bison _____

Frog _____

Badger _____

Refuge Facts:
Des Lacs is a major migration stop for snow geese. Each fall a "blizzard" of snow geese rest on the refuge marshes. **Lostwood** still has hundreds of acres of prairie that has never been plowed and wetlands that have not been drained.

Sullys Hill National Game Preserve and Kellys Slough National Wildlife Refuge

BIRDWATCHING
Bird Identification Tips

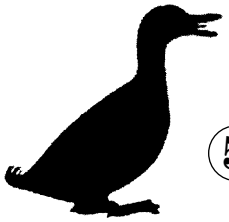
Look at…
1. **Size** – compare the bird to something common like smaller than cat, bigger than a deck of cards
2. **Shape** – overall body shape or shape of beak, wings, tail
3. **Color** – look for patches or overall coloration on the body
4. **Markings** – look on the head, wings and tail for spots, stripes or other markings
5. **Habitat** – is it in the water, on the shore, on the ground in a tree

1

2

3

4

5


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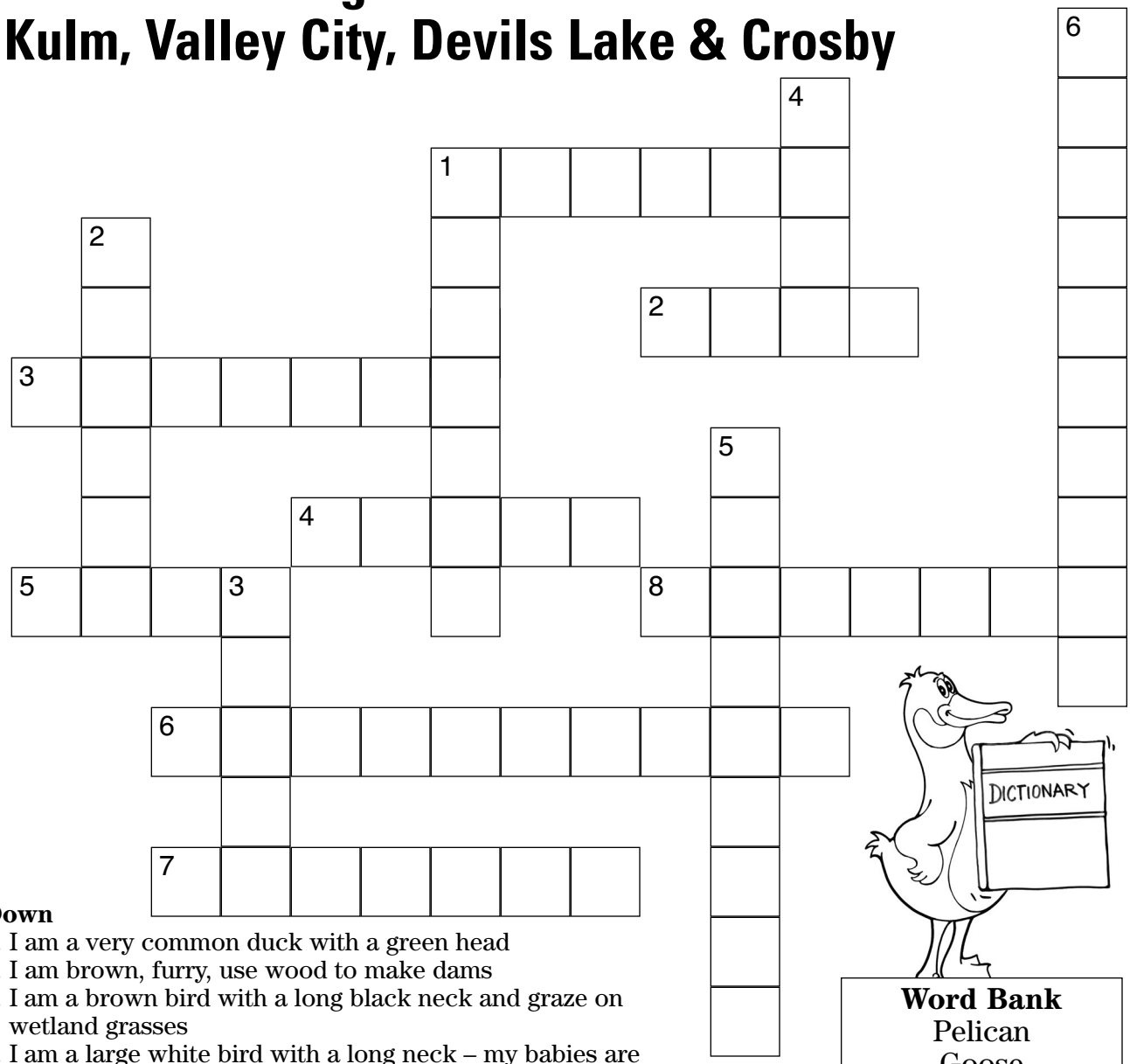
Refuge Facts:
Sullys Hill NGP was established by President Theodore Roosevelt for big game animals like bison, elk and deer.
Kellys Slough provides feeding and resting areas to over 30,000 shorebirds every year including avocets, sandpipers, and phalaropes.

Match the names to the correct silhouette:

Pelican _____
Swan _____
Bald eagle _____
Woodpecker _____
Crane _____
Mallard duck _____

Wetland Management Districts
Kulm, Valley City, Devils Lake & Crosby



Down

1. I am a very common duck with a green head
2. I am brown, furry, use wood to make dams
3. I am a brown bird with a long black neck and graze on wetland grasses
4. I am a large white bird with a long neck – my babies are called cygnets
5. I am an insect that flies around the wetland eating mosquitos – I don't breathe fire
6. I am black with yellow spots

Across

1. I am a fish and I swim in deeper wetlands
2. I am dark brown, have a long body, and love to eat muskrats
3. I am a plant with a brown top and a favorite food for muskrats
4. I am blue with long legs and bill – I stand on the edge of the water eating frogs and salamanders
5. I am green and hop around the edges of wetlands eating bugs
6. I am a large tree that grows next to water – many birds nest in my strong branches
7. I am a large white bird with a pouch for scooping up fish
8. I am the larva stage of a frog or toad

Word Bank

Pelican
Goose
Mallard
Cottonwood
Heron
Dragonfly
Minnow
Mink
Swan
Frog
Beaver
Cattail
Tadpole
Salamander

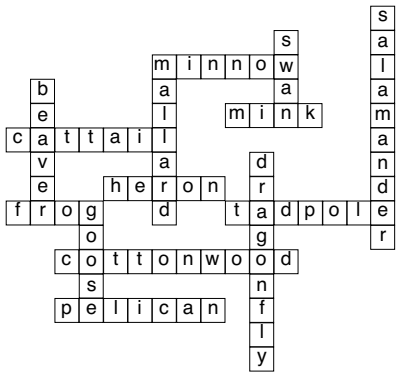
Answer Key

Page 5
Bald eagle: nest in cottonwood tree
Red-winged blackbird: nest in cattails
shorebird: sandy shores
salamander: bottom of wetland
grebe: floating nest
muskrat: hut
frog: grass along shore
aquatic bugs: surface of water

Page 7
1. Grasshopper
2. Sphinx moth
3. Dragonfly
4. Spider
5. Monarch butterfly
6. Beetle
7. Lady bug

Page 8
1. Muskrat
2. Shorebird
3. Pheasant
4. Antelope
5. Frog
6. Badger
7. Bison
8. Goose
9. Mountain lion
10. Coyote

Page 9
1. Bald eagle
2. Crane
3. Pelican
4. Downy woodpecker
5. Mallard duck
6. Swan



Go Outside and Explore a National Wildlife Refuge Near You!