BIRDS
Catalysts for Conservation

Art Copyright Gerald Sneed

Osprey ~ Thick-billed Parrot ~ Yellow-headed Blackbird ~ Brown Pelican ~ Snowy Egret
Passenger Pigeon ~ Black-throated Green Warbler ~ American Golden-Plover
Green-winged Teal ~ Black-throated Blue Warbler

Activity & Coloring Book

ConocoPhillips

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Welcome to International Migratory Bird Day! Every year, thousands of people in the United States, Canada, and Mexico celebrate birds at education programs, bird walks, festivals and more as part of International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD). Check it out on the web, write us, or give us a call. If you like this activity booklet, you will find lots more education materials, games, and great bird stuff.

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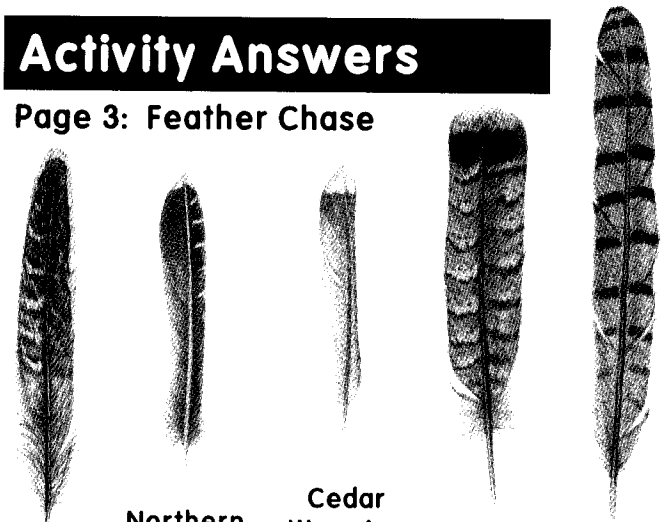
About This Book ~ Take a journey through time and learn about some of the birds that have inspired us to take action for bird conservation. Each bird species has a coloring page and information about where it lives and an important law that was passed to help protect it. You will begin in 1900 with the extinction of the Passenger Pigeon and continue until 2000, when birds received more protection under the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act. Conservation does not end in 2000, though. Individuals, groups, organizations, and kids like you continue to work to improve ways to protect birds.

What Is A Catalyst? A catalyst is something that brings about change or action. All of the birds in this activity book have encouraged people to act to protect birds - through education, new laws, and public awareness.

Activity Answers

Page 3: Feather Chase



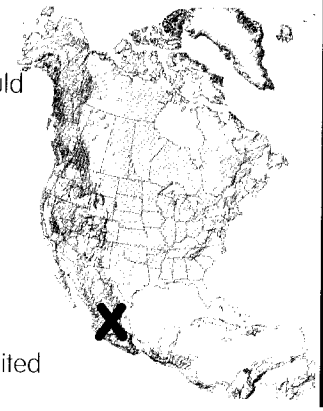
Northern Bobwhite · Northern Flicker · Cedar Waxwing · Ruffed Grouse · Blue Jay

Art by Louise Zemaitis

Page 7: What is Legal?

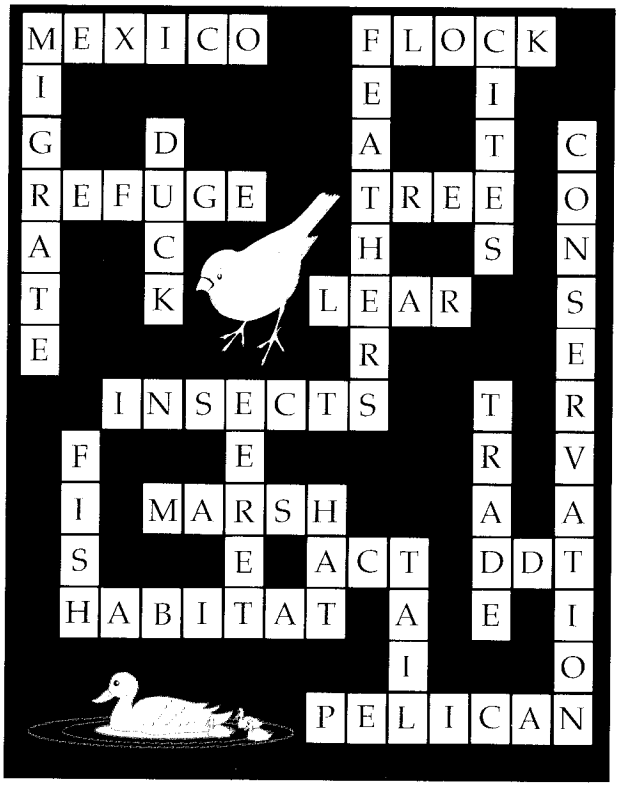
If you are on your property, you could move the rock, leaf, flowers, mushroom, and branch. But remember! Each provides a home for some animal. Consider leaving nature outdoors.

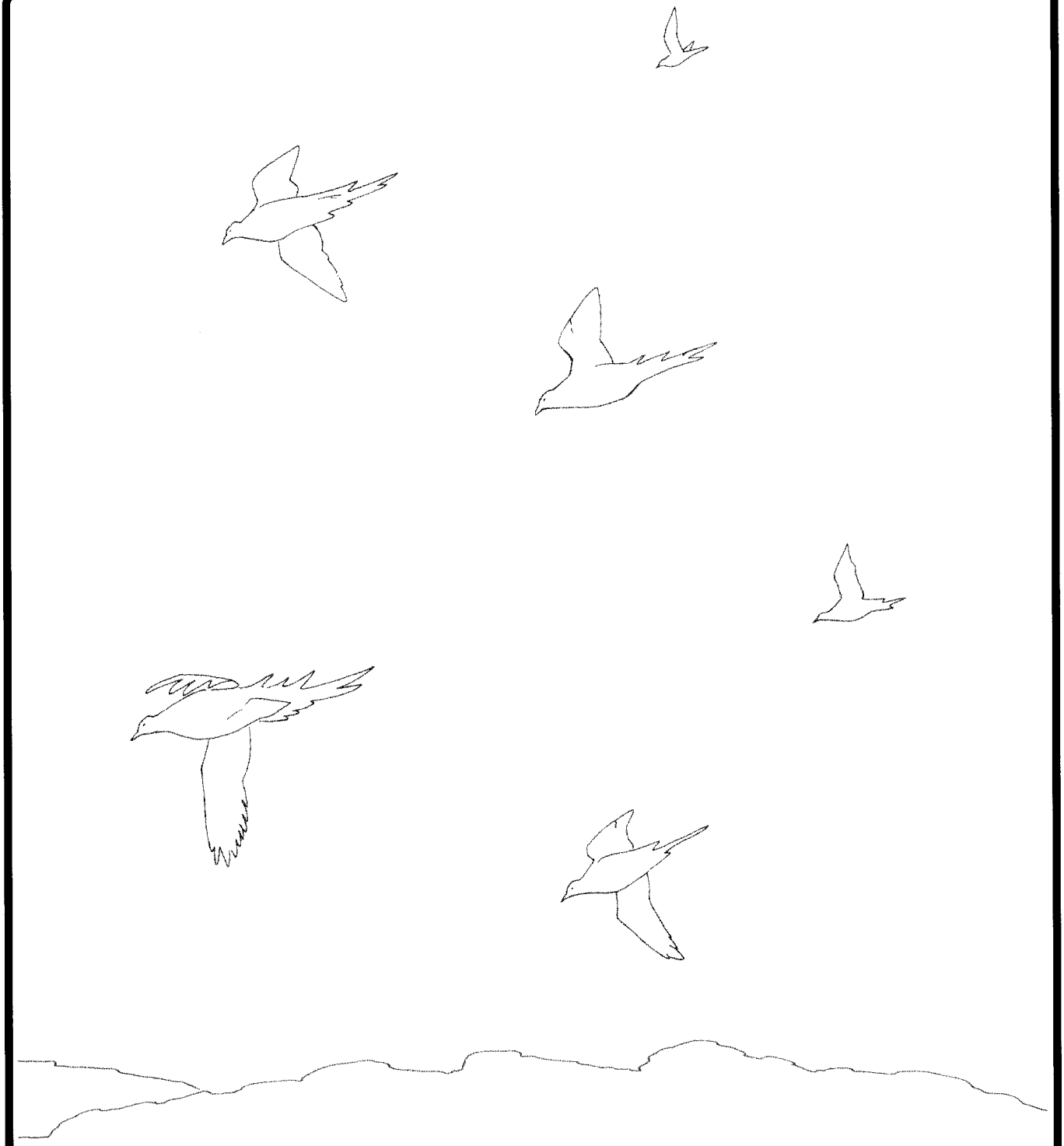
Page 13: Where in the World is Mexico?



Mexico shares a border with the United States. The X is on Mexico.

Page 16: Test Your Memory





Passenger Pigeon

In the mid-1800s, as many as 5 billion Passenger Pigeons could be found in parts of the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Because of overhunting and cutting of forests where the pigeons lived, numbers began declining. By 1900, no Passenger Pigeons were left in the wild.

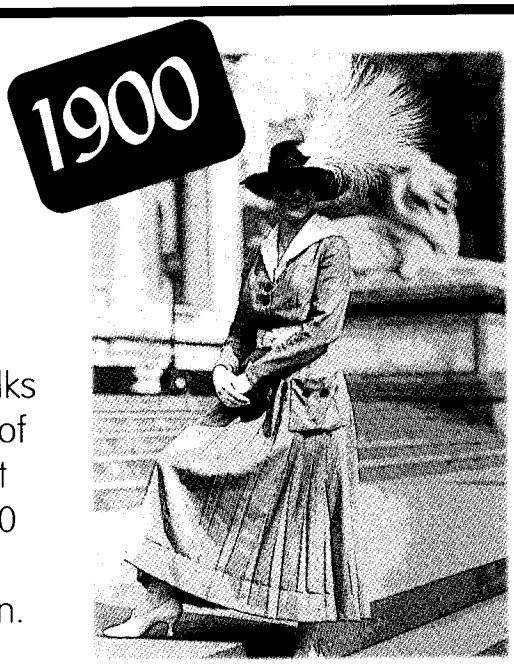
There are just 6 Passenger Pigeons in this picture. Imagine what a flock of one thousand would look like by adding more. If each bird represents 10, how many do you need to add?_____

Snowy Egret

Check your field guide to birds before coloring this Snowy Egret. Though its feathers are white, its feet are bright yellow, and its legs and bill are black. Can you learn what Snowy Egrets eat and add your own drawing of one type of food to the picture?

The beautiful white feathers of the Snowy Egret were used to decorate hats, fans, and other clothing in the late 1800s. The Snowy Egret and more than 60 other bird species were impacted by the fashion of the day.

The use of feathers to decorate hats and other items ended when laws were passed that stopped the shipping of protected birds, their feathers, or any body part from one state to another.

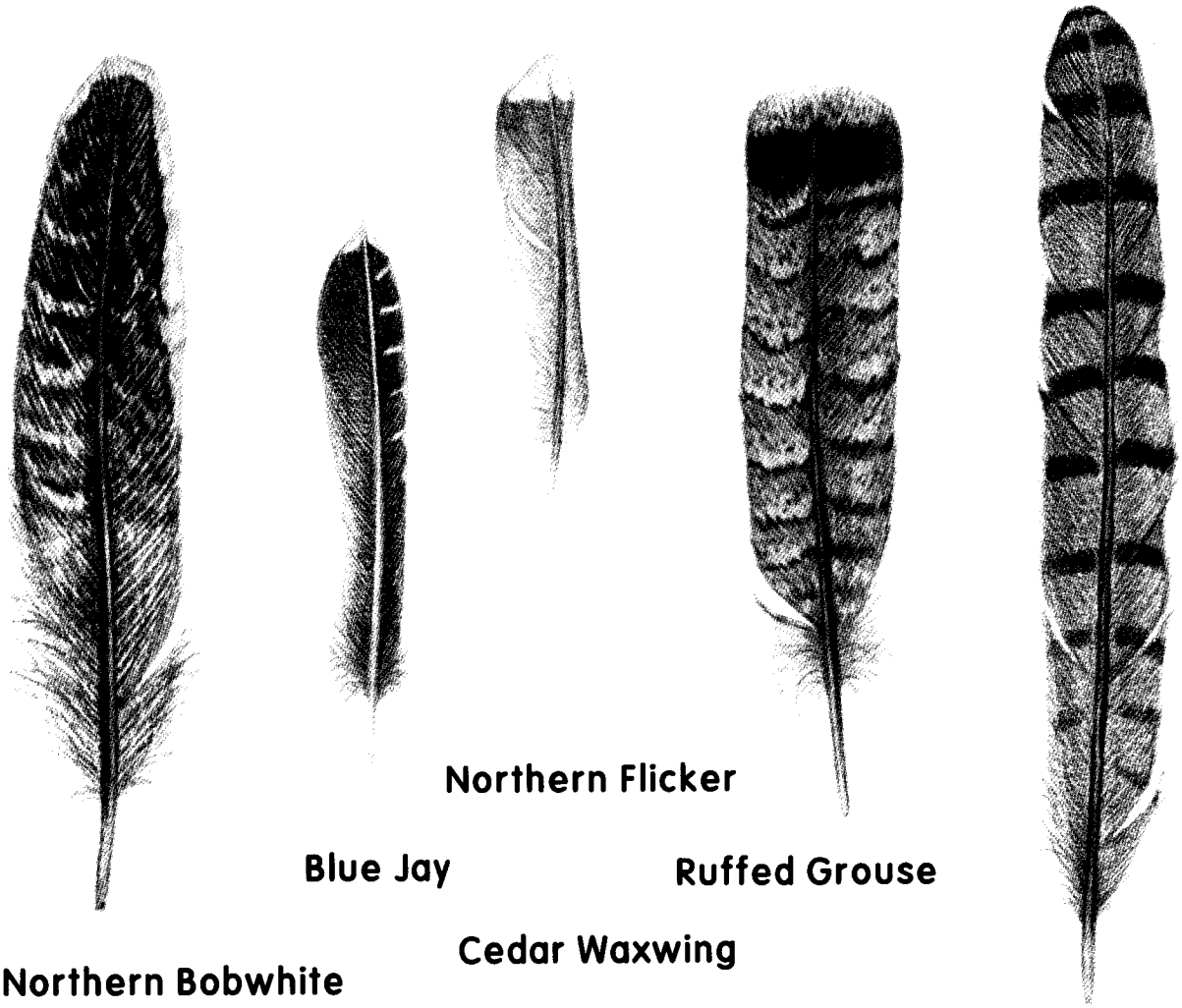


National Archives/USFWS

Feather Chase

In 1886, ornithologist Frank Chapman took two walks in Manhattan, New York and counted the number of bird species that adorned ladies' hats. In this short time, he saw hats decorated with the feathers of 40 bird species, including Cedar Waxwing, Blue Jay, Mourning Dove, Tree Swallow, and American Robin.

The feathers below are drawings. Each is from a different bird species whose feathers were used to decorate hats. Can you match the feather to the correct bird? The answers are on the inside front cover.

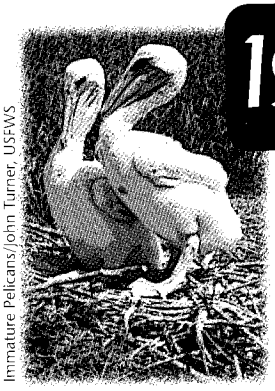


These feathers are drawings by Susan Cooper.

Brown Pelican

The Brown Pelican dives for fish, scooping them up into a large skin pouch below the bill. The bird squeezes the water out of the corners of its mouth. The pouch can hold as much as 3 gallons of water.

Chemicals in their prey (fish) and hunting of the birds for their eggs and feathers brought this bird to near extinction twice: in the early 1900s because of overhunting and in the 1960s because of pollution.



Immature Pelicans/John Turner, USFWS

1903 **To help protect Brown Pelicans and other wildlife, U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt created Pelican Island Sanctuary in Florida. Thousands of pelicans nest on the island. There are now more than 500 National Wildlife Refuges in the United States.**

Lear and the Limerick

Edward Lear was a talented writer and artist who lived from 1812 to 1888. He is best known for creating the nonsense verse, also called the limerick. A limerick usually has five lines; the first two rhyme, the second two rhyme, and the last line rhymes with the first. In addition to being a creative writer, Lear was also a birdwatcher and illustrator. His limericks reflect his interest in birds. Read Lear's limericks below, and then try writing your own bird limerick.

There was a Young Lady whose bonnet
came untied when the birds sat upon it;
But she said, "I don't care!
All the birds in the air
Are welcome to sit on my bonnet!"

E was an Eagle
Exceedingly regal,
Who sat on a rock,
And stole lambs from the flock.
e!
Dreadful old Eagle!

There was an Old Man of El Hums,
Who lived upon nothing but crumbs,
Which he pecked off the ground,
With the other birds round,
In the roads and lanes of El Hums.

_____

_____

_____

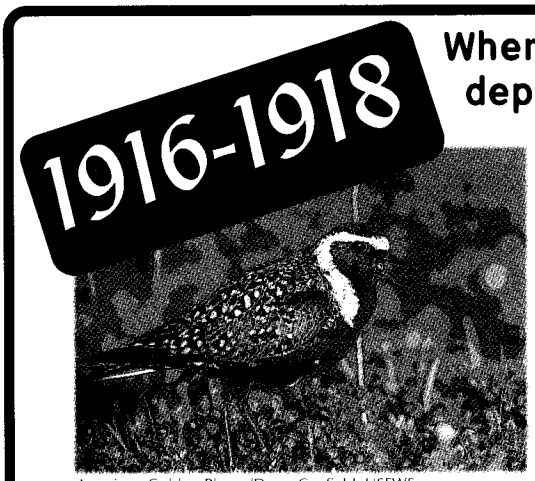
_____

_____

American Golden-Plover

Many bird species travel (migrate) from the places where they nest to the places where they spend the winter. The American Golden-Plover is the champion of migration. It nests in Alaska and northern Canada and must travel through the United States to South America where it winters -- a round trip of about 20,000 miles!

The American Golden-Plover migrates in large flocks and was nearly wiped out in the early 1900s by settlers who found them to be an easy source of food.



American Golden-Plover/Doug Canfield, USFWS

When North America was settled, people depended on many natural foods. A menu could include songbirds, such as American Robins, Northern Cardinals, warblers, meadowlarks, flickers, and the American Golden-Plover.

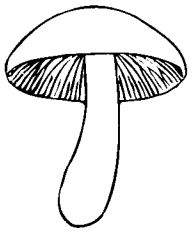
Canada and the U.S. joined in support of the powerful Migratory Bird Convention, which forbid people to hunt, take, capture or kill, sell, buy, or have any migratory bird part, nest, egg or product, unless permitted by law. Because the U.S., Canada, and now Mexico, Japan, and Russia agreed to protect birds, species such as the American Golden-Plover are still around today.

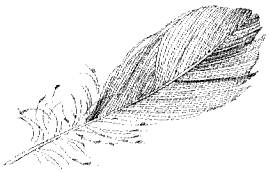
What is Legal?

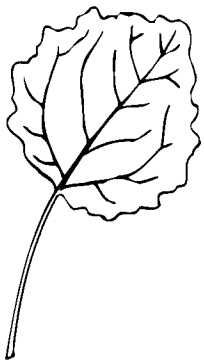
Pretend you are walking in the woods on your land and find some neat objects. You would like to pick some up and are considering taking them home. Put an X over the items that are illegal to remove - even if it is your property!

rock

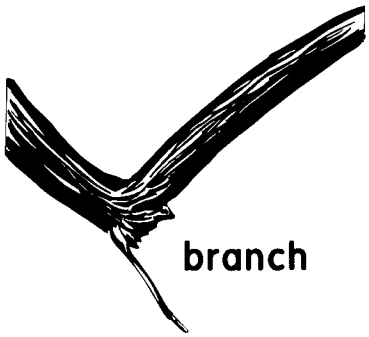
flowers


mushroom

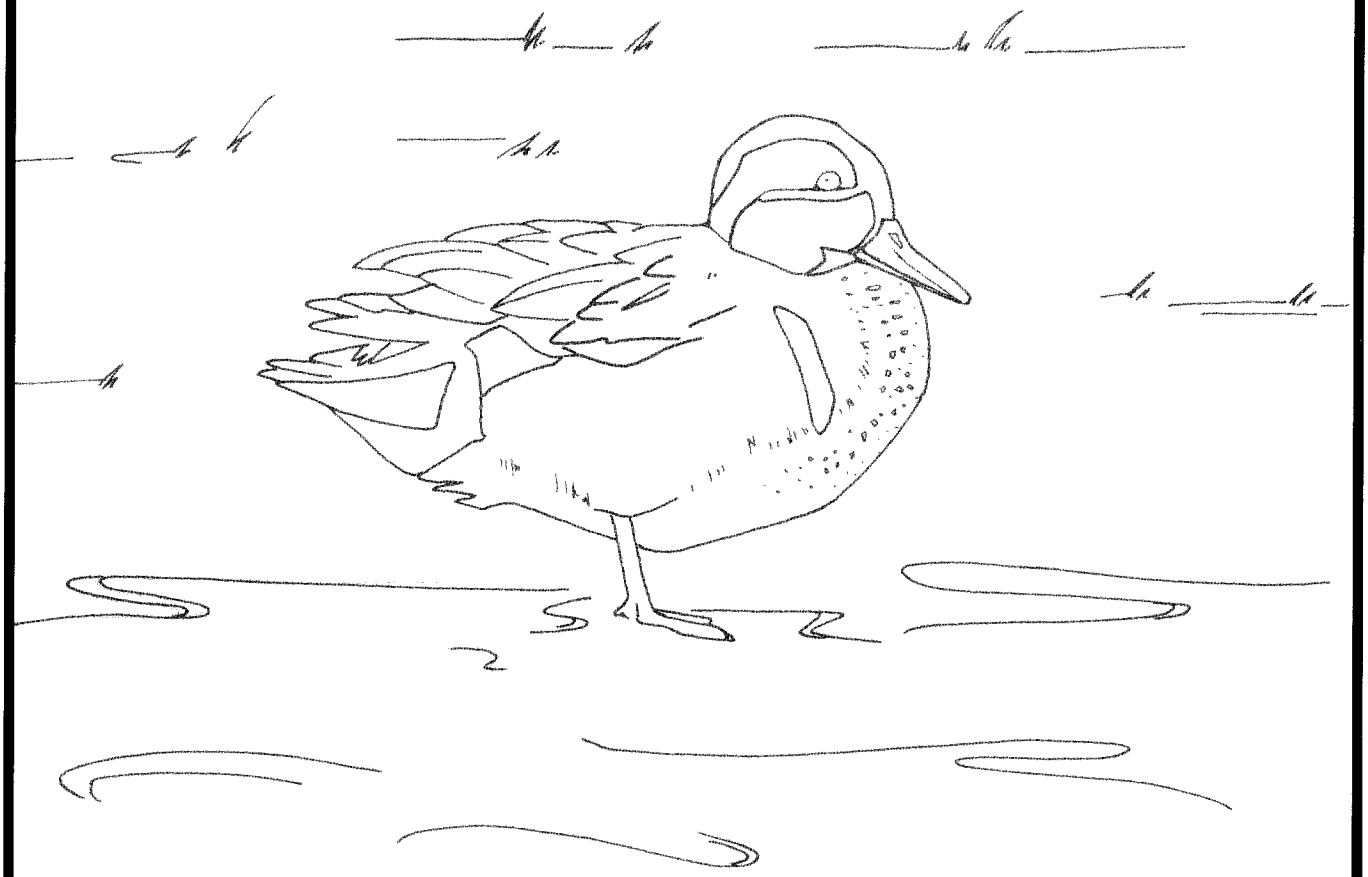
feather



leaf

nest


branch

IMPORTANT! If a plant or animal has been listed as Endangered or Threatened or is declining in your state, there may be other special laws protecting it. Consider leaving what you find outdoors for others to enjoy!



Green-winged Teal

This small duck likes shallow, marshy ponds. It feeds on plants, seeds, tadpoles, and insects in the water. It may even be found in fields, feeding on wheat or corn left on the ground.

In the 1930s, a drought caused marshes to dry up, leaving many ducks without wetlands for feeding and raising young. Today, new homes, roads, and other developments can threaten to harm the wetlands ducks need.

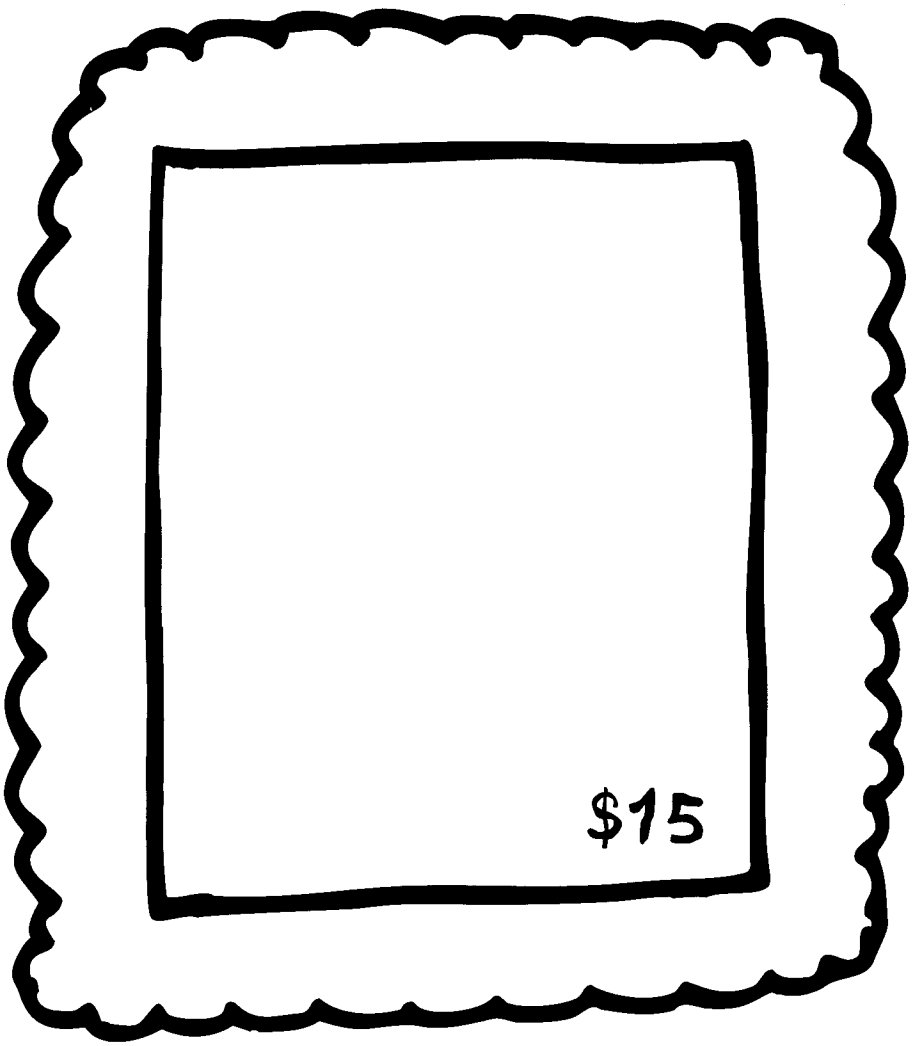
Green-winged Teal/Dave Menke, USFWS

To help protect marshes and other wetlands used by waterfowl, people got together and created the Duck Stamp. Any person 16 years or older who hunts ducks or geese must buy a Duck Stamp. The money raised is used to buy areas important to waterfowl, setting them aside as refuges and wildlife sanctuaries.

Duck Stamps are very pretty. Each year, artists from all over the United States submit their artwork, and one is chosen to decorate the stamp. There is also a Jr. Duck Stamp for artists under 18 years old.

Design a Duck Stamp

Create your own Duck Stamp. If you need help, try watching a duck or look at pictures of ducks in magazines and calendars.

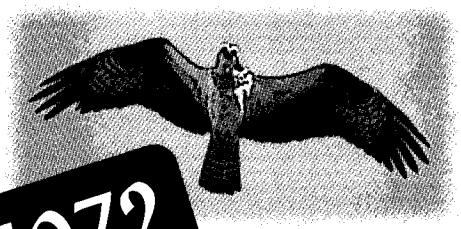


Learn more about the Jr. Duck Stamp contest at http://duckstamps.fws.gov

Osprey

An Osprey nest is made of sticks and built on top of a tall tree or even a power pole. The nest can be as big as 5 feet across and will hold one to two young Osprey. This large nest can withstand high winds and storms.

Osprey were once harmed by a chemical used to control insects, especially those that eat plants and destroy crops. The chemical, called DDT, caused the birds to lay eggs with very thin shells. The eggs would crush easily and no young would hatch.



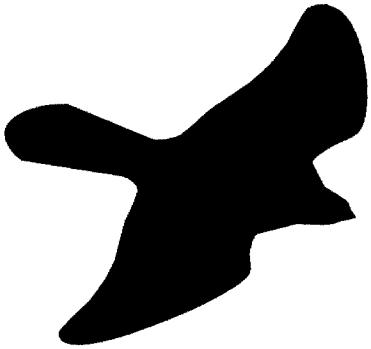
Osprey/Jerry Ligouri

1972

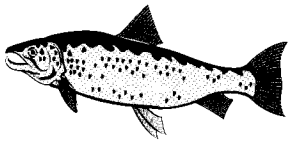
Many bird species, especially those that feed high on the food chain, such as Osprey, Bald Eagle, and Peregrine Falcon, were hurt by the use of DDT. The birds disappeared from many places where they were once common. When DDT was banned, their numbers increased.

The Food Chain

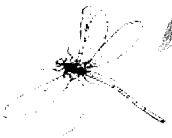
Osprey and some other birds of prey, such as Bald Eagle, eat fish. Chemicals introduced at the bottom of the food chain are passed along to the top of the food chain.



Many fish eat insects. Also, the water in which fish live may receive water running off of fields that have been treated with chemicals.



Chemicals may be used to control insects that feed on plants and destroy crops. Some of these chemicals are very harmful to birds and other wildlife.



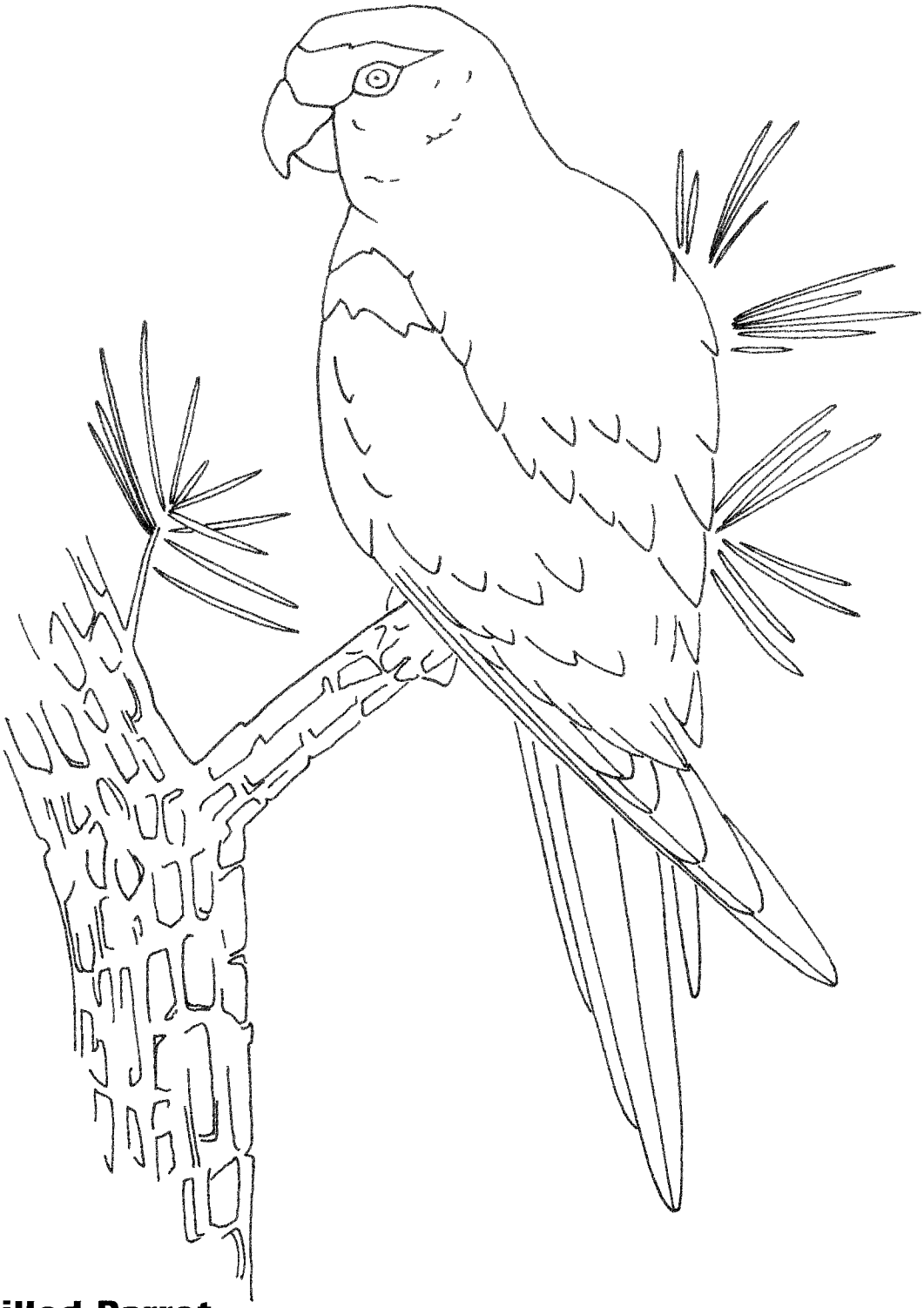
Like Osprey, humans are at the top of the food chain. Fill in the diagram below to show what you eat, both plant and animal.

What is your favorite plant food?

Draw yourself.

Draw your favorite food that comes from an animal.

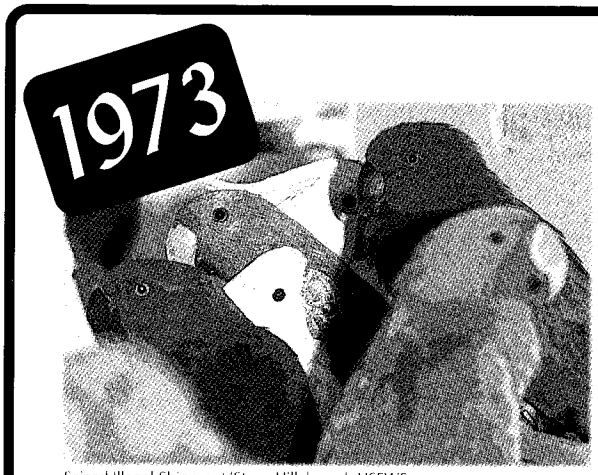
What does the animal eat?



Thick-billed Parrot

This colorful bird lives in pine forests in Mexico and uses its strong bill to open cones and eat pine seeds. It nests in cavities (holes) in the trees. The last large flocks of this parrot were seen in the early 1900s.

The capture of wild parrots for pets and loss of habitat have made parrots one of the most threatened groups of birds in the world.



Seized Illegal Shipment/Steve Hillebrand, USFWS

Plants and animals are bought and sold for pets, food products, musical instruments, and medicines.

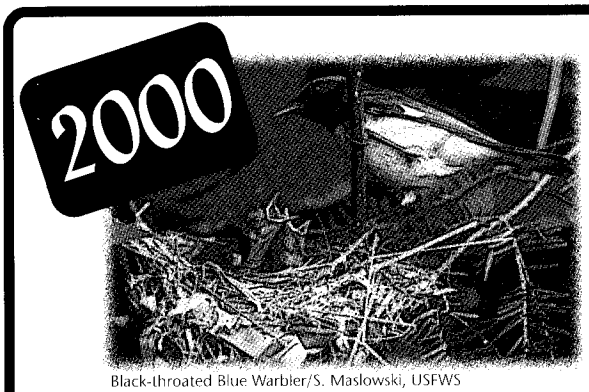
The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was signed in 1973 by 80 nations to make sure that the trade of birds, other wildlife, and plants does not threaten the survival of any species.

Where in the World is Mexico?

Flocks of Thick-billed Parrots were once so loud, they could heard for half a mile. Today, this parrot is rare. Most Thick-billed Parrots nest in northern Mexico. Use the clues below to help you find Mexico on the map. When you have found the country, mark it with an X.

Mexico is.....

1. **above Central America**
2. **next to the Pacific Ocean**
3. **a long country**
4. **next to Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California.**



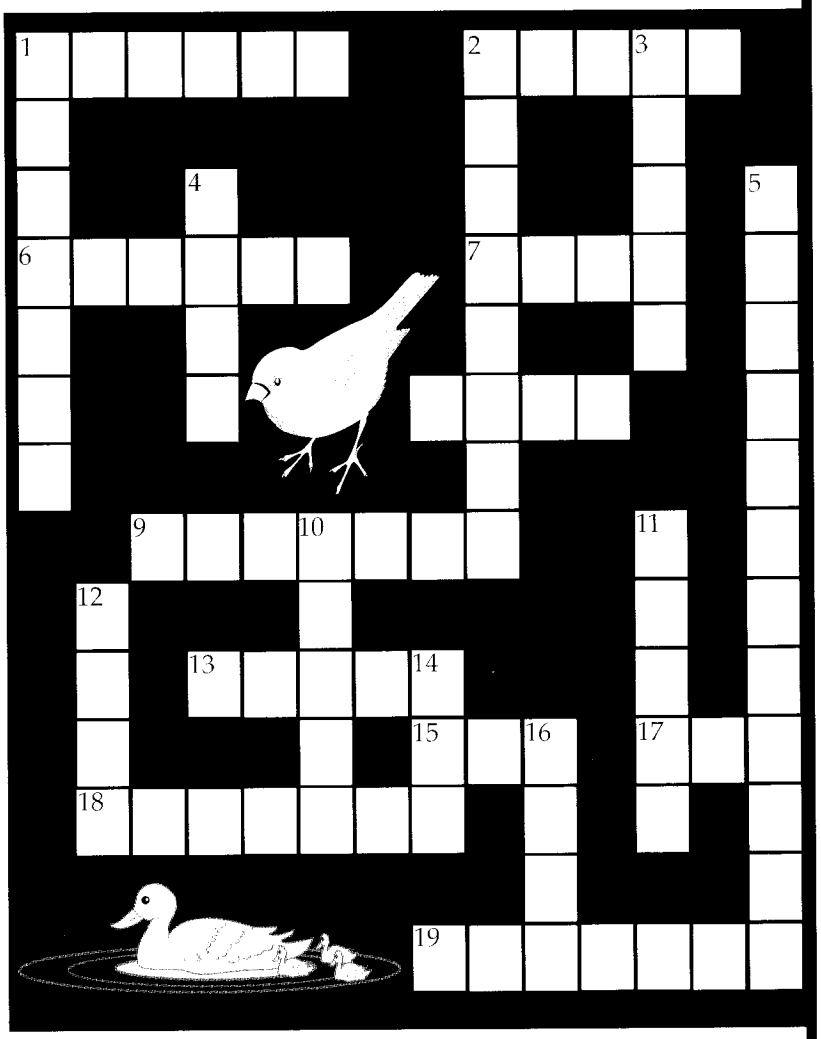
Black-throated Blue Warbler/S. Maslowski, USFWS

Some birds, such as the American Golden-Plover, Black-throated Blue Warbler, and Black-throated Green Warbler, migrate long distances. They nest in the United States and Canada and spend the winters in Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean.

These birds face challenges at both ends of their migrations. Loss of habitat, illegal hunting, chemicals, and more can harm them. The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act helps people find ways to protect migratory birds at both ends of their journeys.

Test Your Knowledge

How closely have read this booklet? Complete the crossword puzzle and test your memory!



ACROSS

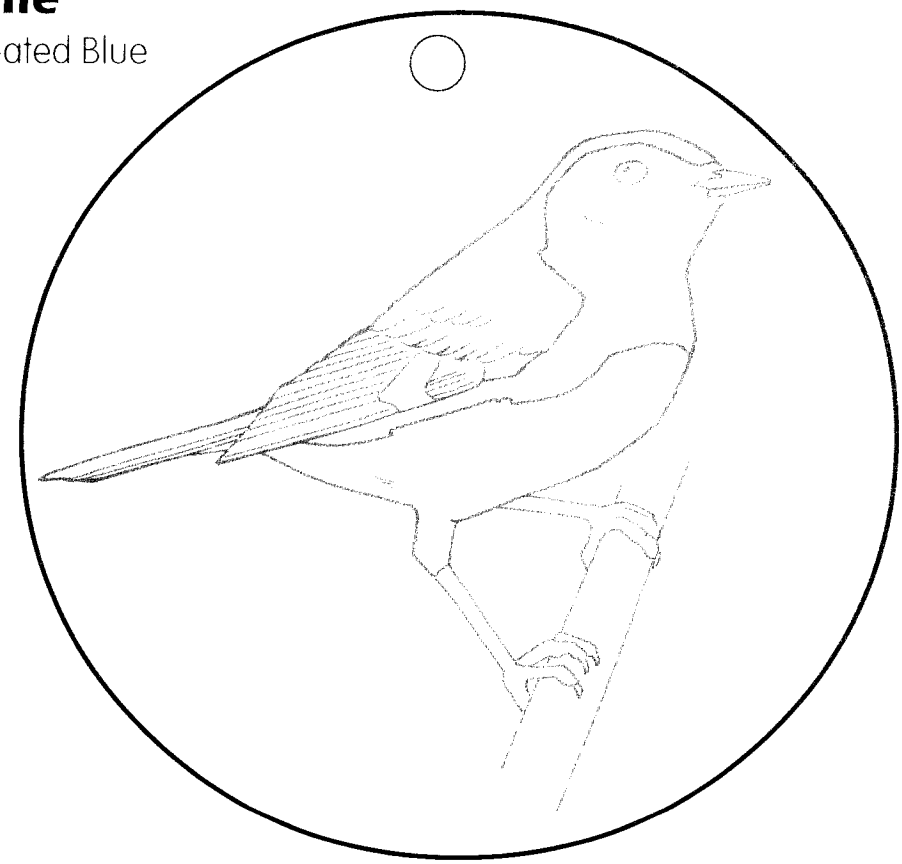
1. Where Thick-billed Parrots live
2. A group of birds
6. A protected place for birds and other wildlife
7. Where some birds nest
8. A famous poet
9. A blackbird's prey
13. A teal's favorite place
15. Another name for a law
17. A chemical that harms birds
18. A bird's environment
19. It has a large pouch for food

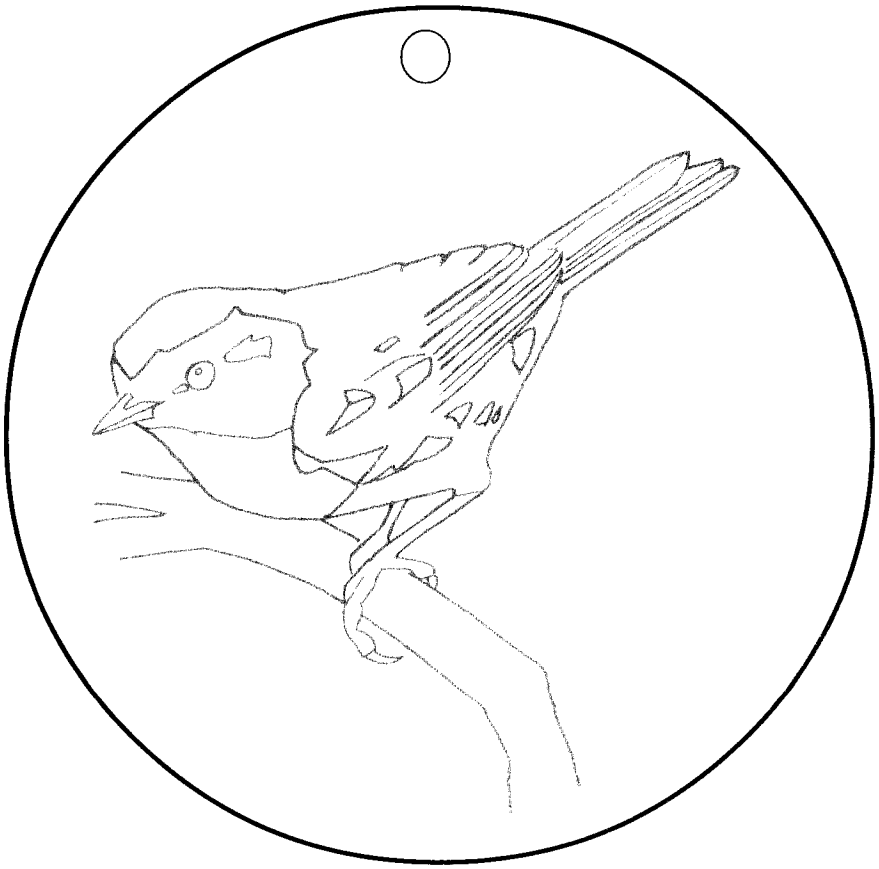
DOWN

1. When birds fly from nesting sites to winter sites
2. A bird part used for decoration
3. A law that protects wildlife and plants from trade.
4. A type of bird protected by a special stamp
5. Protection of birds and habitats.
10. A bird that suffered from the feather trade.
11. The sale of birds
12. A Pelican's prey
14. Feathers decorated this
16. The size of trees where Ospreys nest

Make a Mobile

Color the Black-throated Blue and Black-throated Green Warblers. Cut them out and hang them from string or yarn for decoration.





This Activity Booklet was created for International Migratory Bird Day.
To learn more about the program, please contact:

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Booklet Review: Peter Stangel, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Jennifer Wheeler, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service