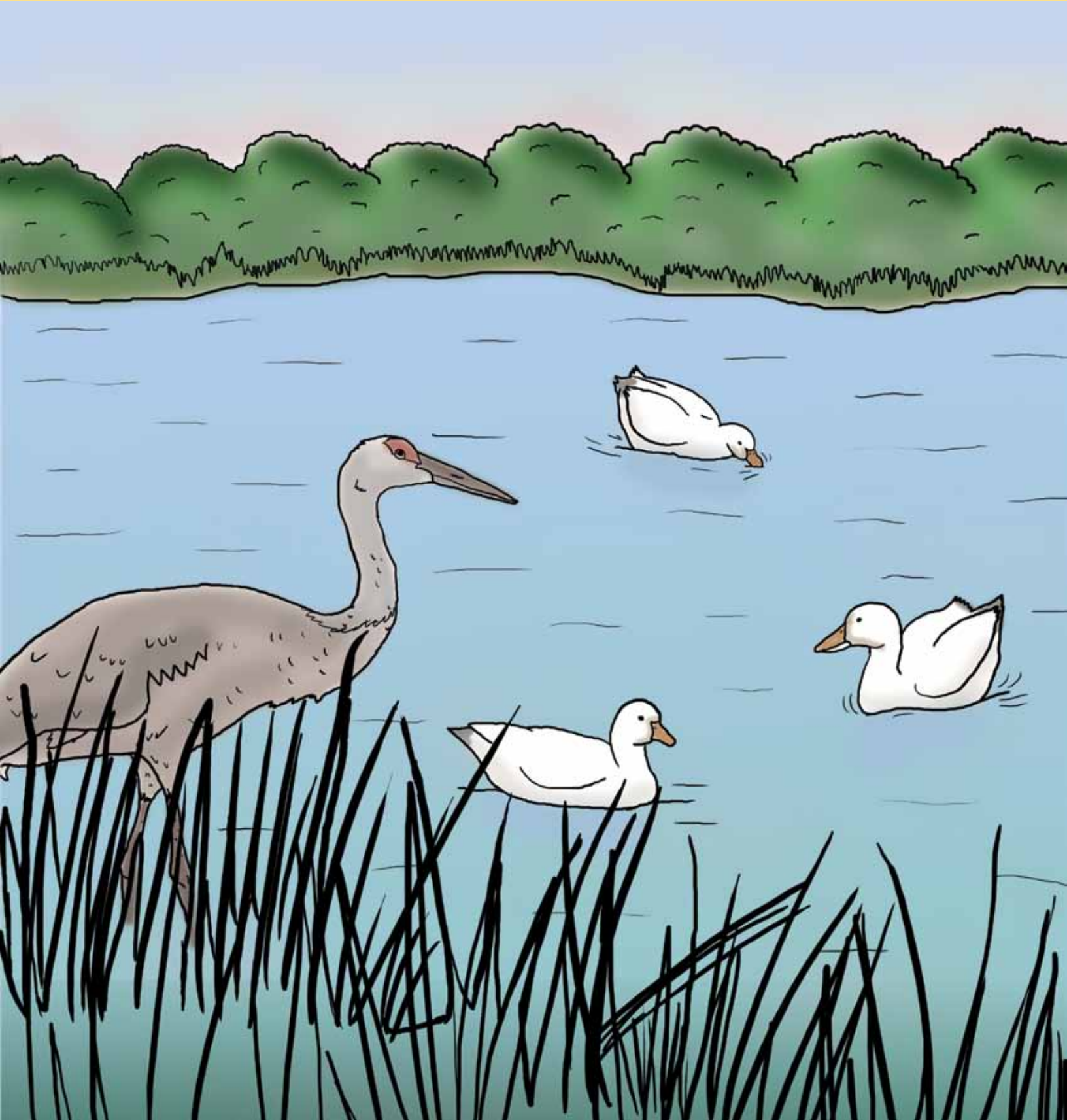
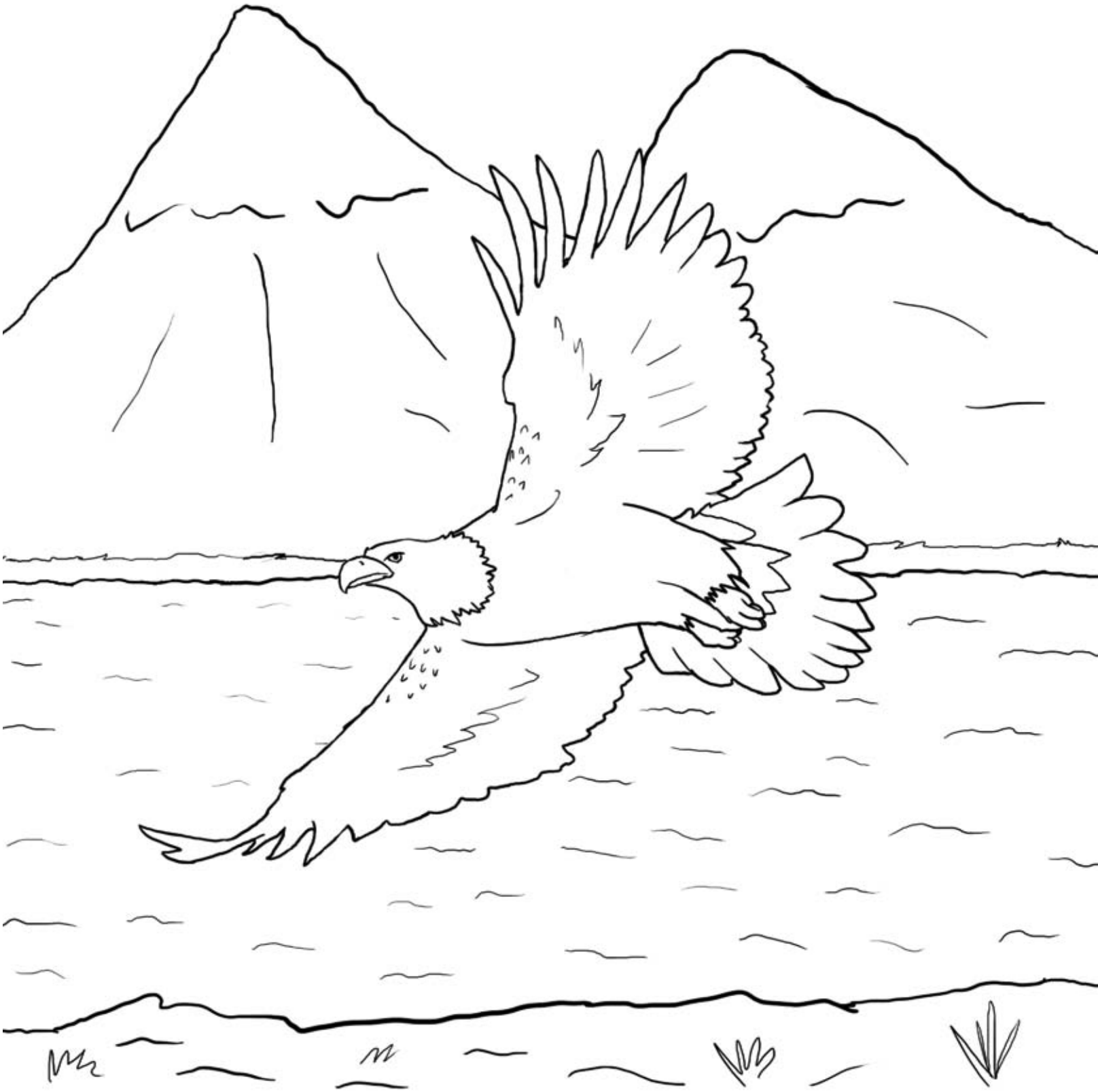
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

National Wildlife Refuge System
Coloring Book



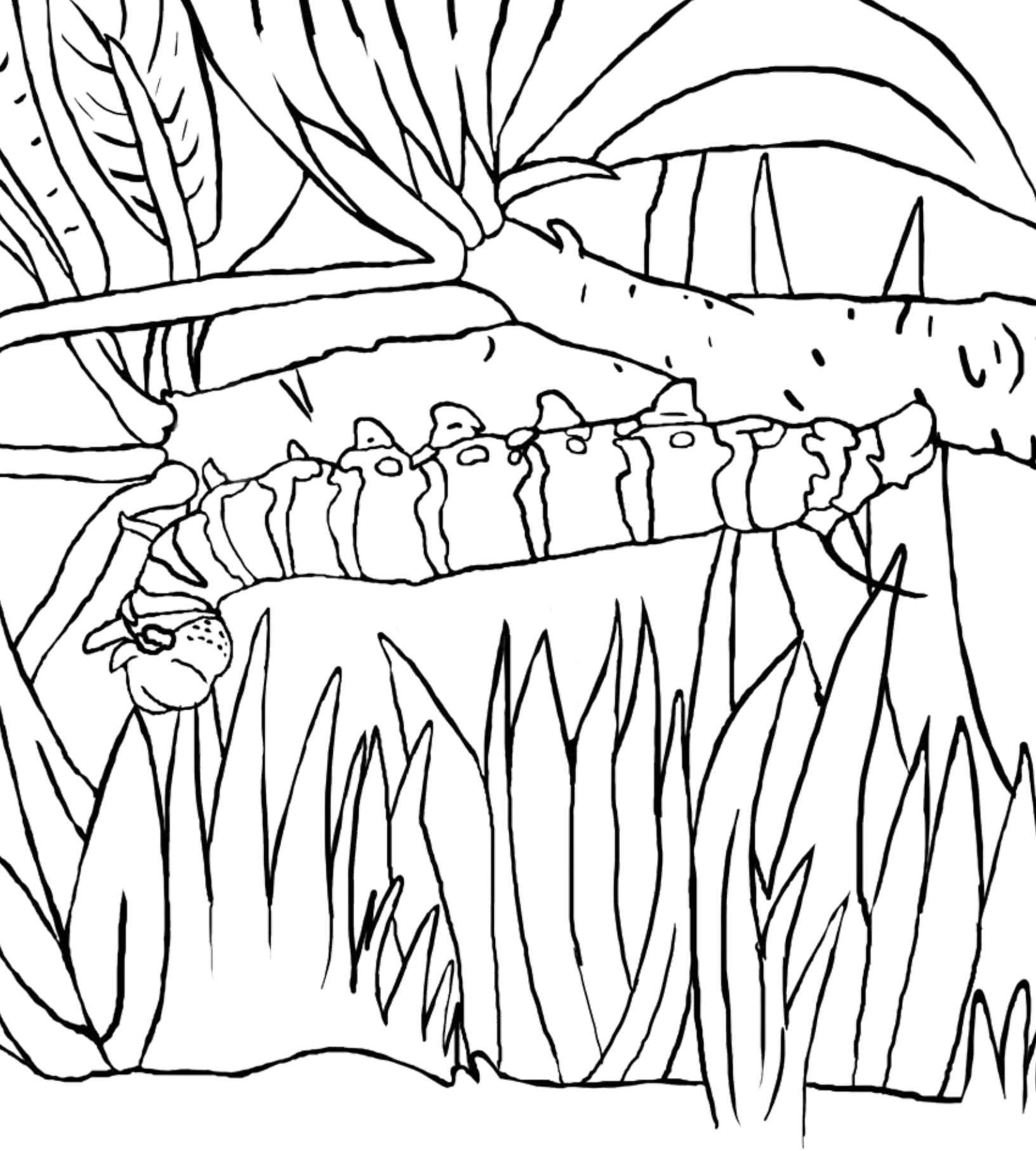
The National Wildlife Refuge System Coloring Book was developed to introduce primary grade students to the Refuge System, which manages the world's premier system of public lands and waters set aside to conserve America's fish, wildlife and plants. The Refuge System has grown to more than 540 refuges with at least one in every state and one about an hour's drive from most major metropolitan areas.
To find a national wildlife refuge near you, go to www.fws.gov/refuges.

Katie R. Schipp did the drawings in this coloring book when she was a student at the Art Institute of Washington, D.C. She says: "I've always loved animals and drawing so you will see there are animals in a lot of my drawings. I love cartooning the best and hope to continue doing it for years to come."

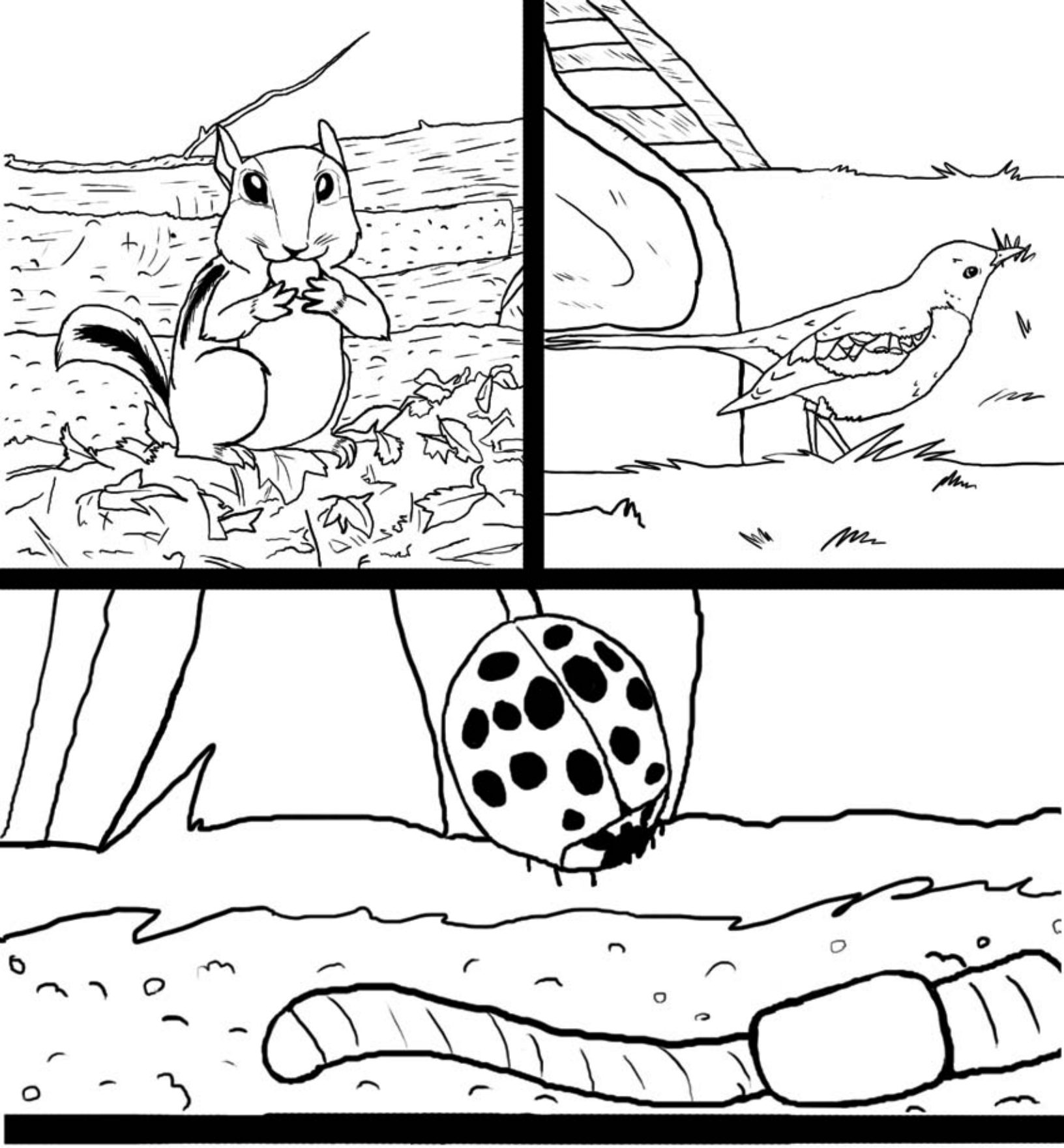


America’s national bird is the bald eagle.
Have you ever seen one?

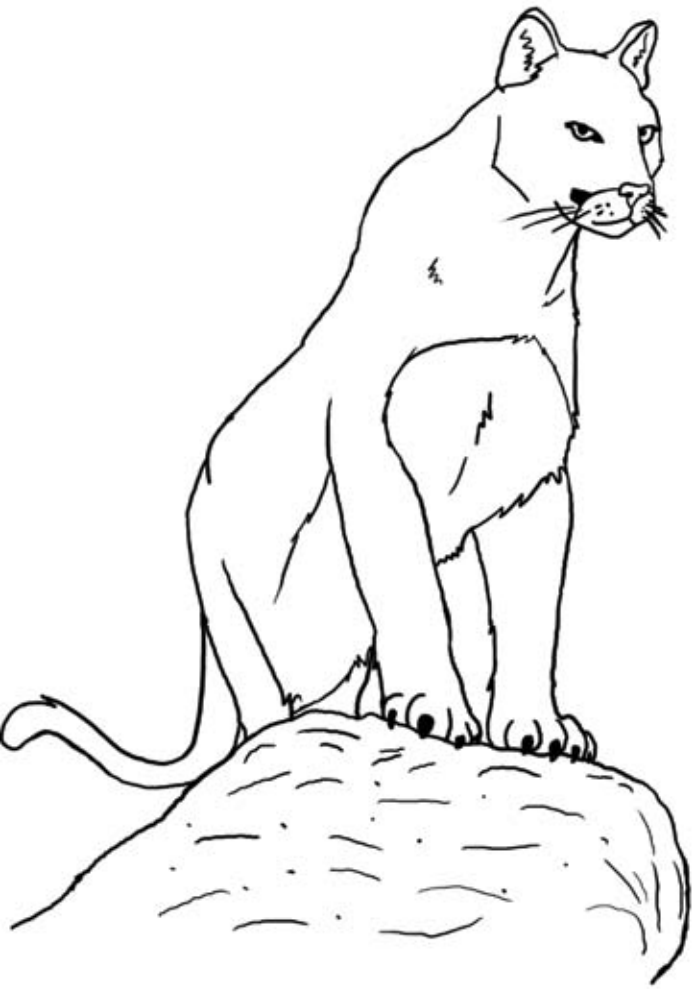
Many eagles live on national wildlife refuges where they find a habitat that is just right for them.

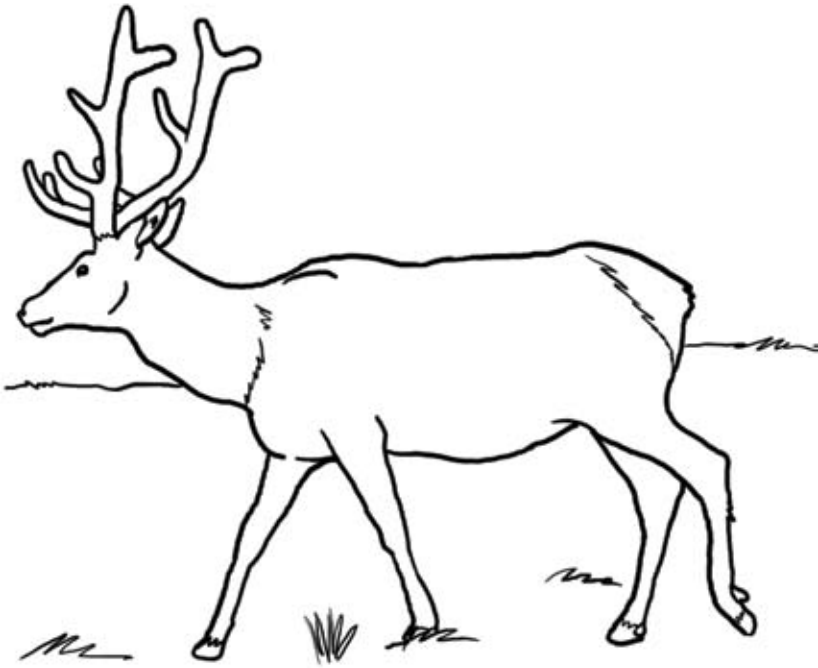


A habitat is where animals find everything they need to live — food, water, shelter and space. Trees and plants near your home provide habitat for birds and other animals.



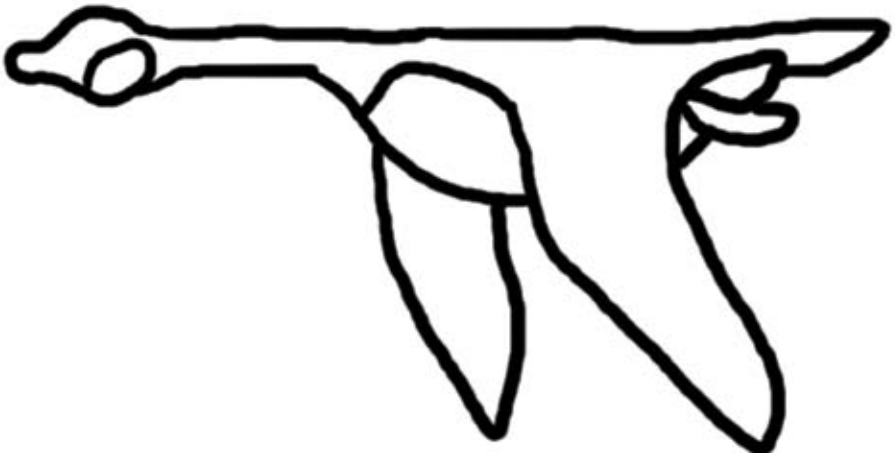
Look carefully for signs of animals in the grass, bushes, trees, ground or water in your neighborhood. What kinds of animals, big and small, have found habitat in your neighborhood?





Special places called national wildlife refuges have different types of habitats. Each of these animals has found a home on a national wildlife refuge with everything it needs.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



U.S. Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service

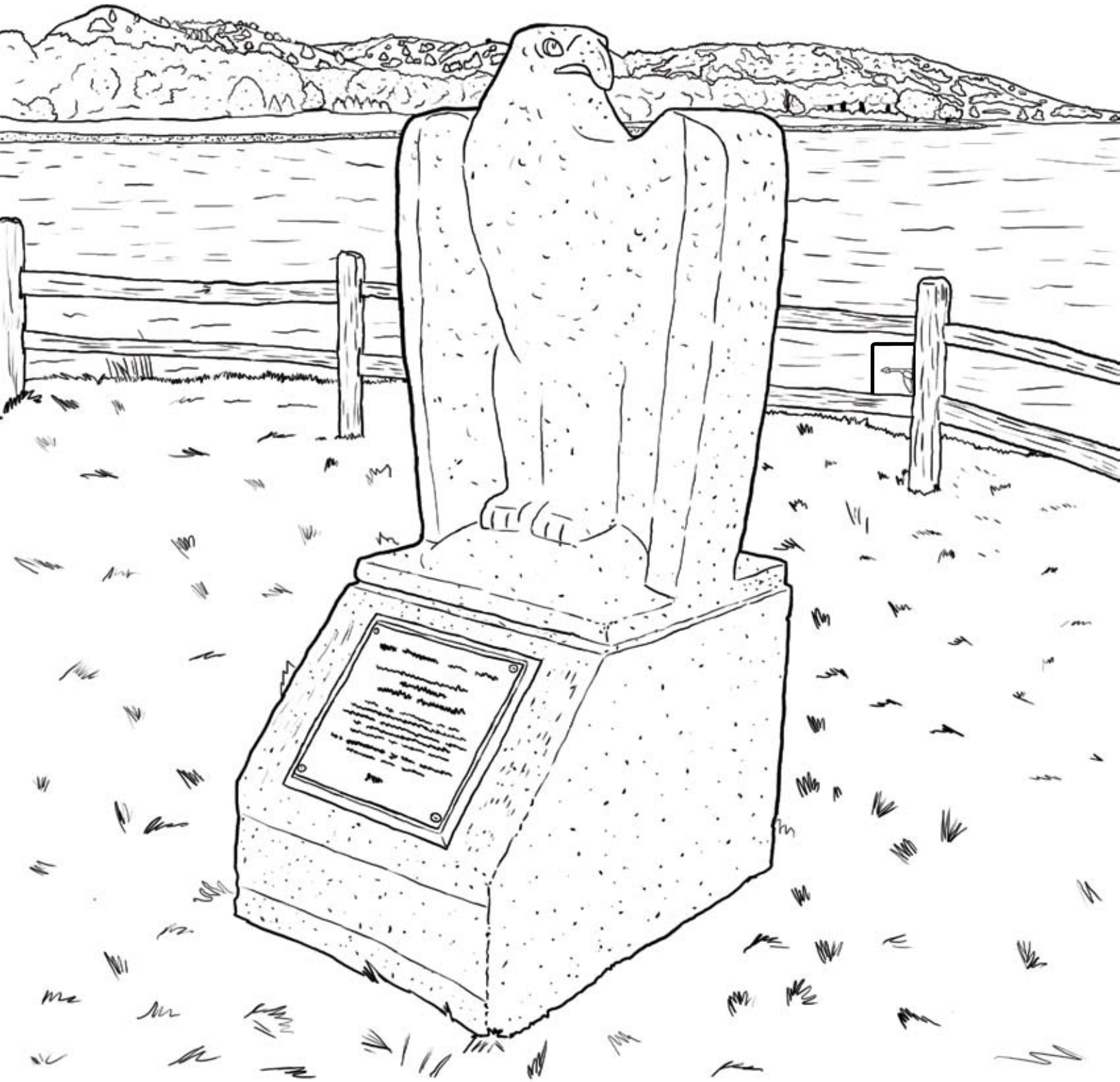
This is the blue goose sign. You will see it when you visit national wildlife refuges. Look for this hidden sign on many of the next pages and keep track of how many you find.

www.fws.gov/refuges

Today, there are more than 540 national wildlife refuges in the United States. Circle the refuge closest to your home.

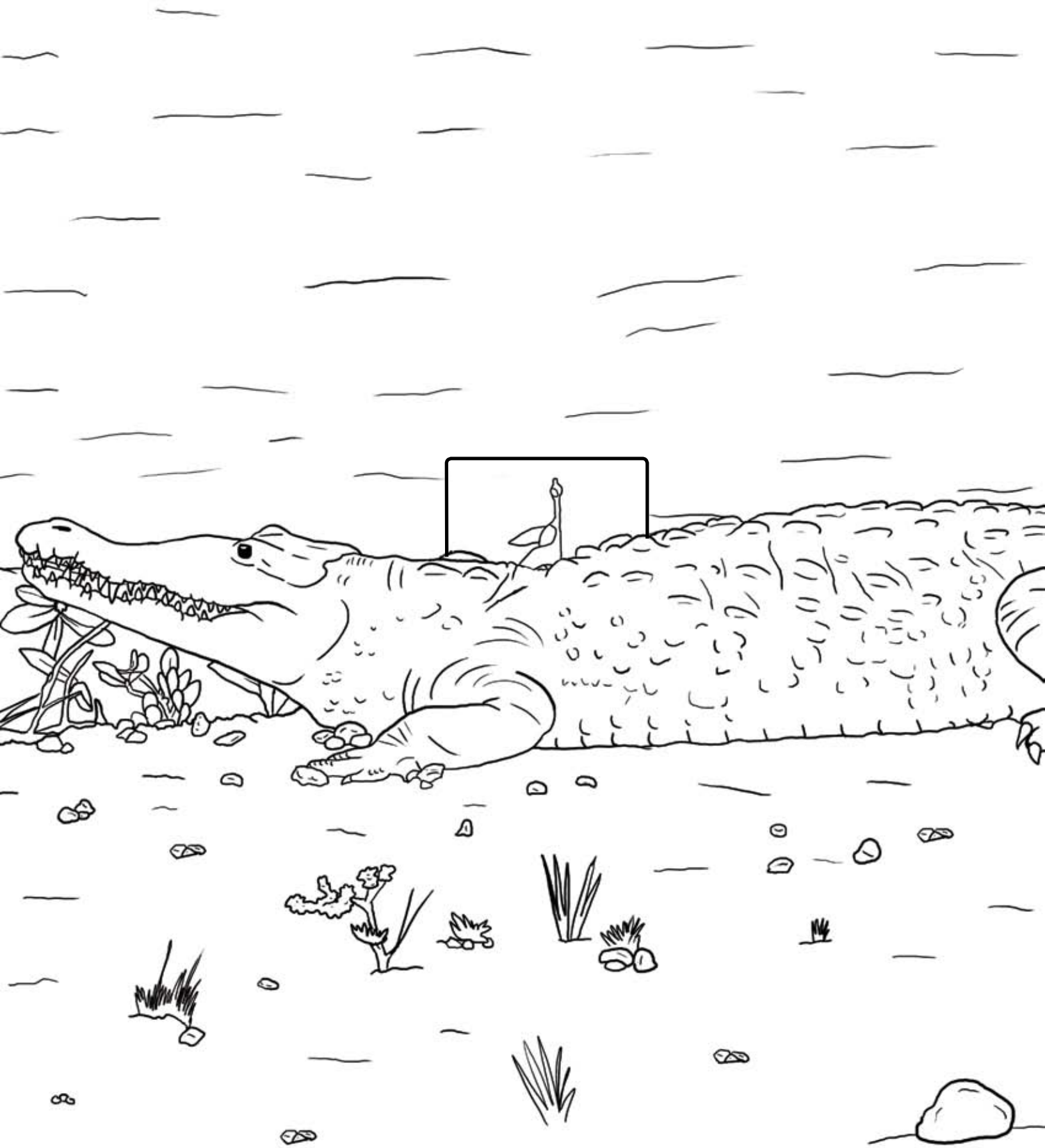
At national wildlife refuges, people work hard to make habitats even better for wildlife. They create wetlands or ponds, keep rivers clean, pull weeds and plant trees or special kinds of grass.

President Theodore Roosevelt created the first national wildlife refuge more than 100 years ago. He chose Pelican Island in Florida as a safe place for big water birds like pelicans.

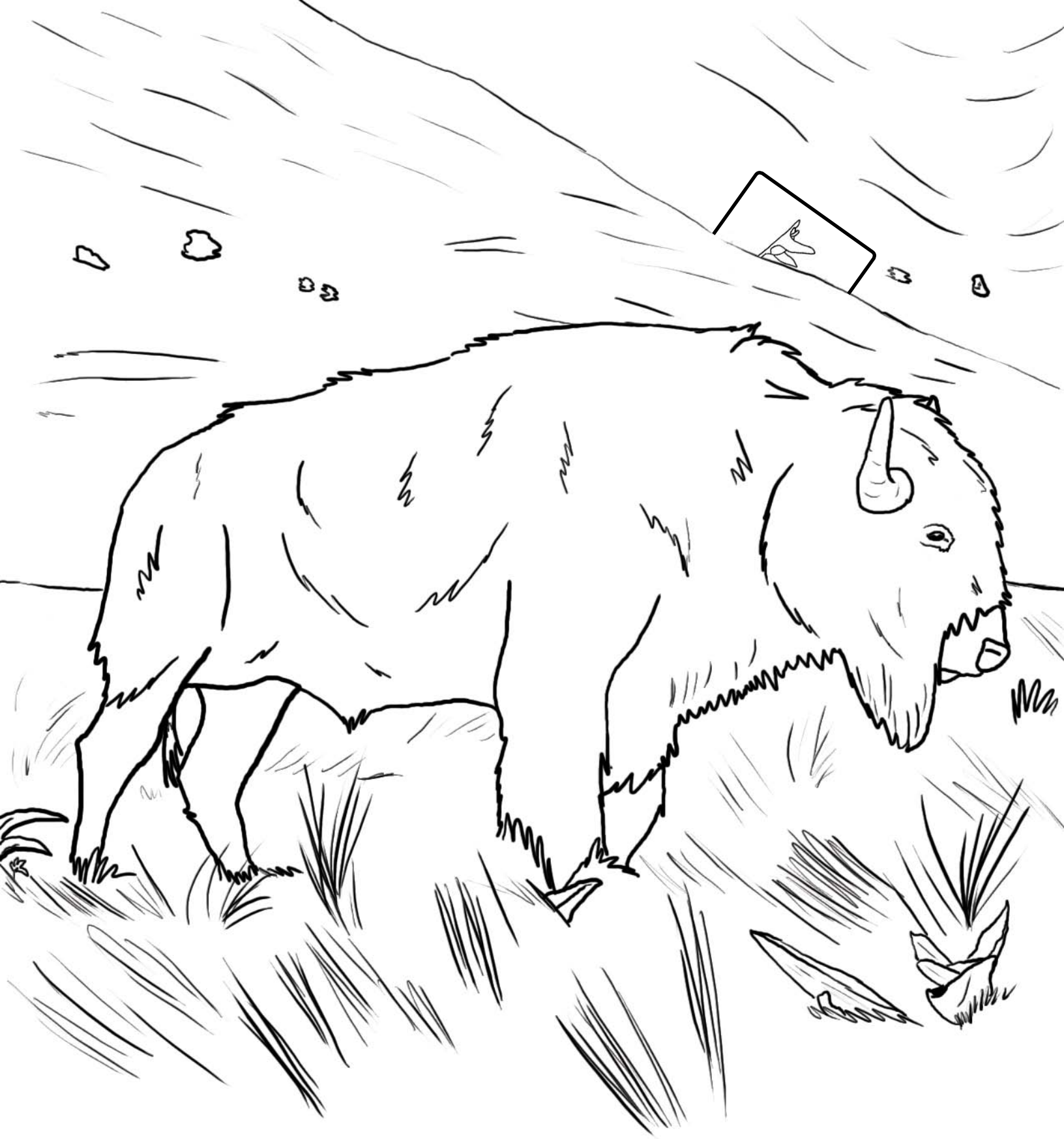


Four national wildlife refuges were created especially to be homes for eagles. Karl E. Mundt National Wildlife Refuge, which is in South Dakota, is a home for hundreds of eagles.

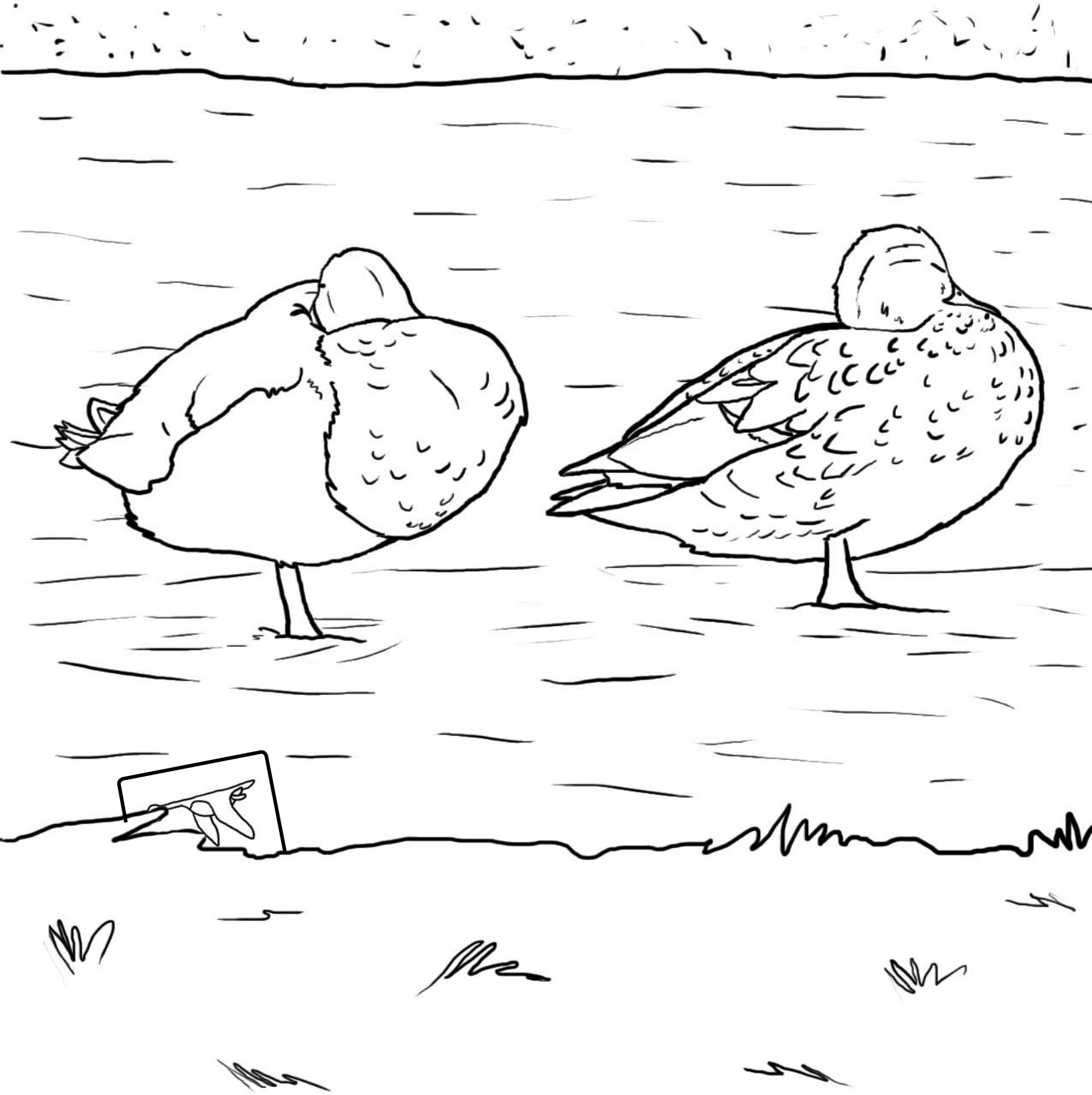
Bear Valley National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon provides nesting places and roosts for eagles. A roost is a place where birds sleep. Sometimes, 300 bald eagles are sleeping at this refuge at the same time.



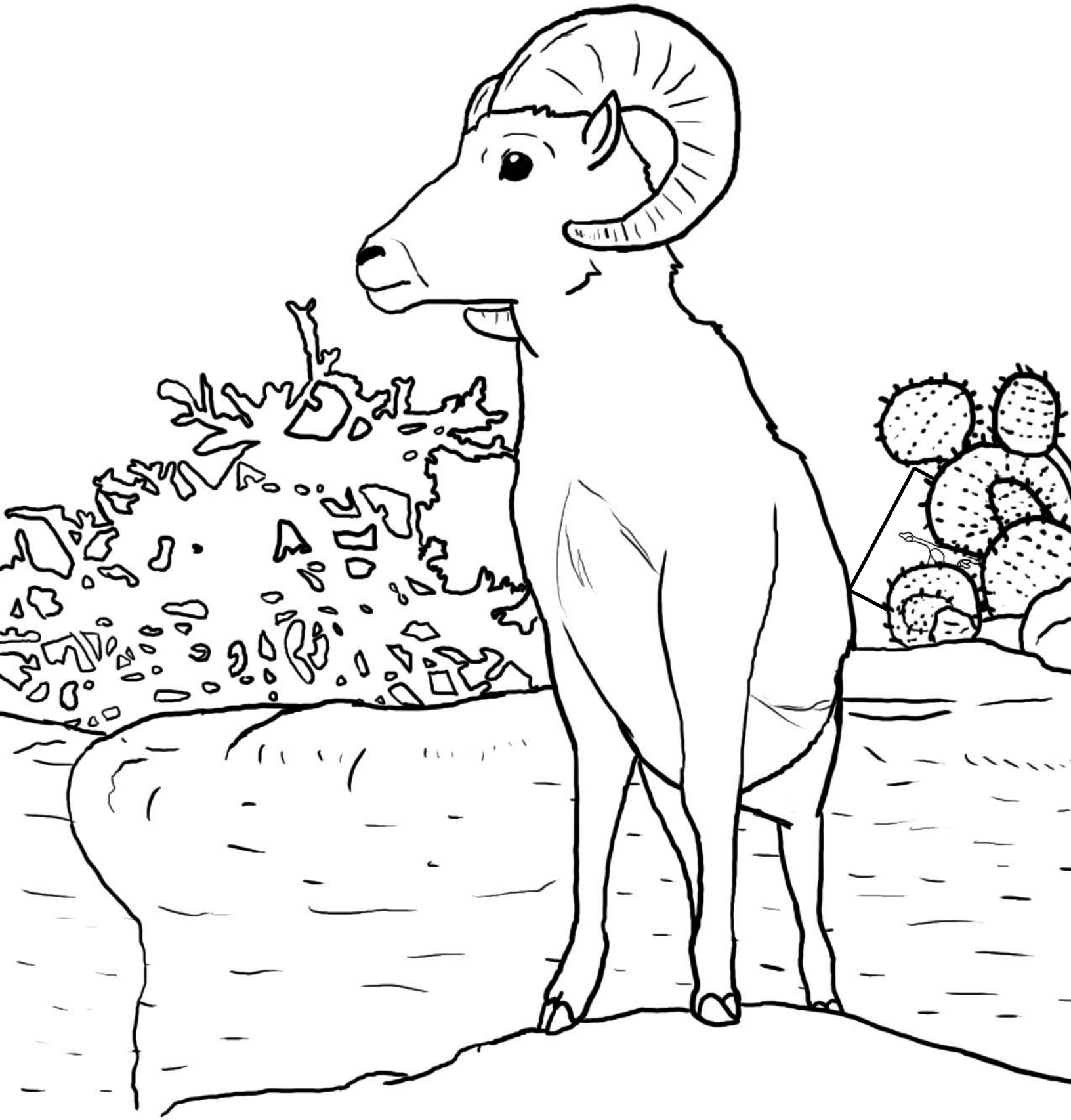
Which animal do you think is protected at Crocodile Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Florida?



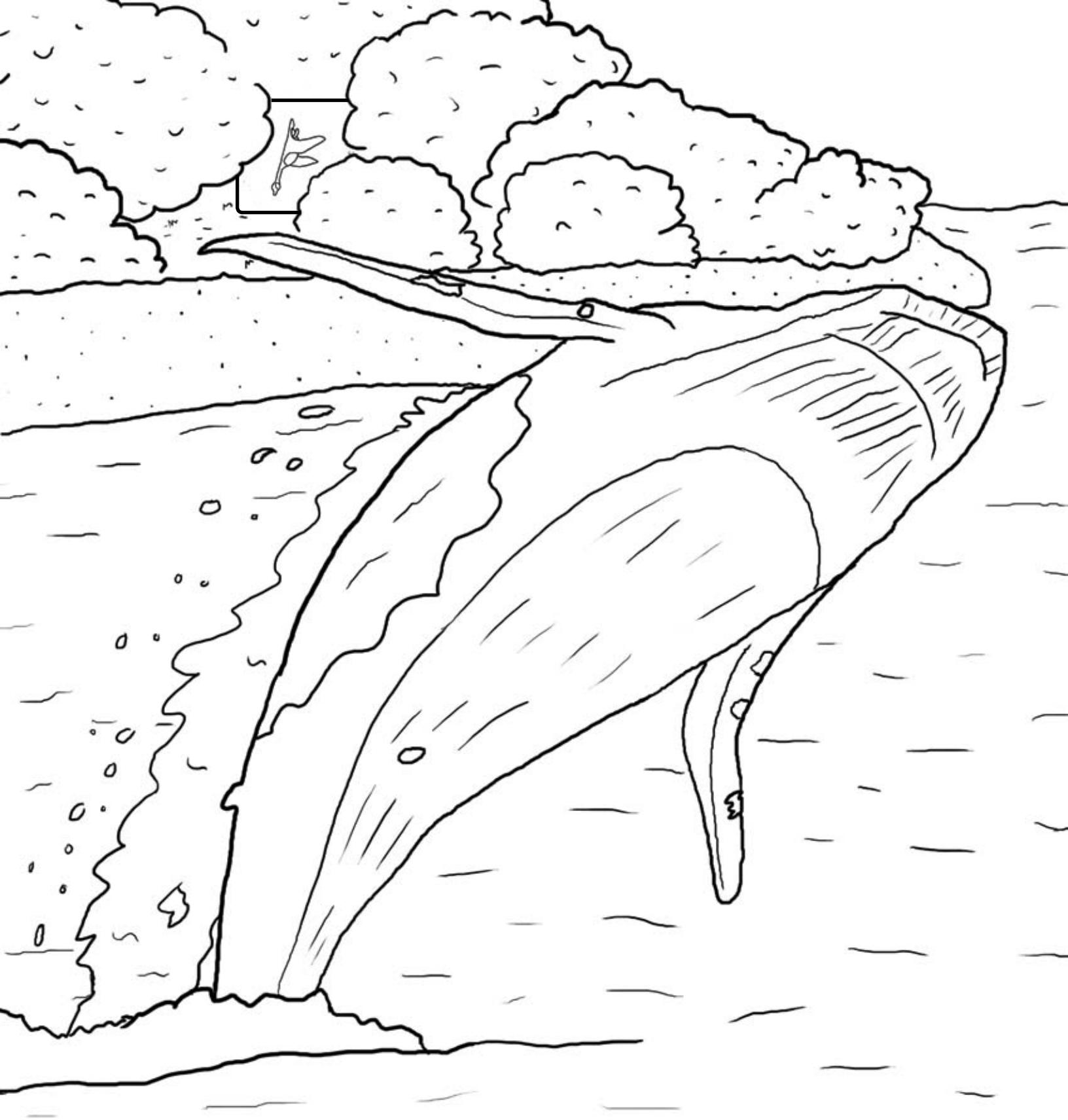
Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge in Oklahoma is a home for bison. These giant creatures need lots of space and lots of grass.



Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge on the Mississippi River gives these ducks a place to rest when they fly north for the summer or south for the winter.

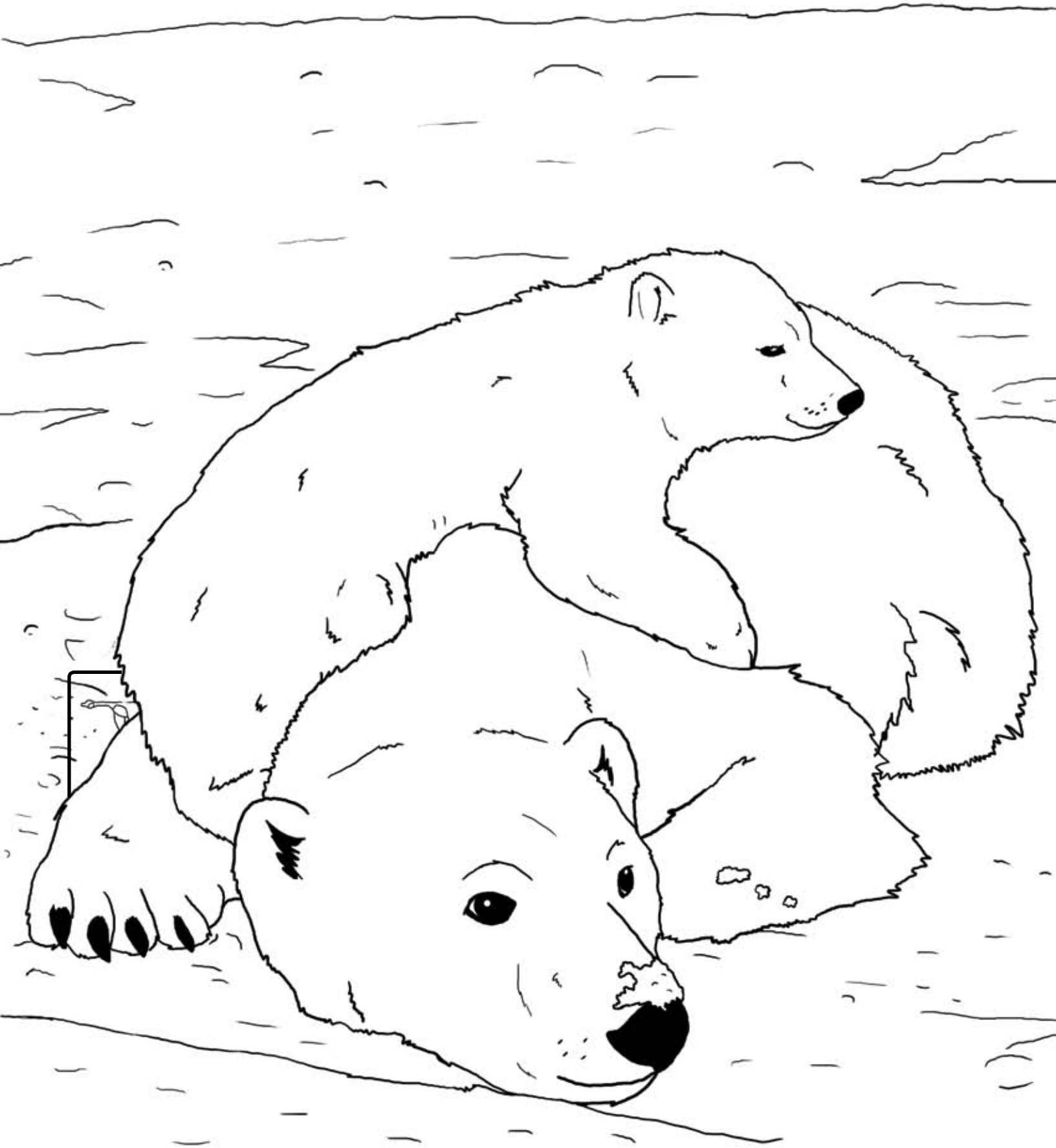


The huge Desert National Wildlife Refuge in Nevada has six mountain ranges where desert big horn sheep live.

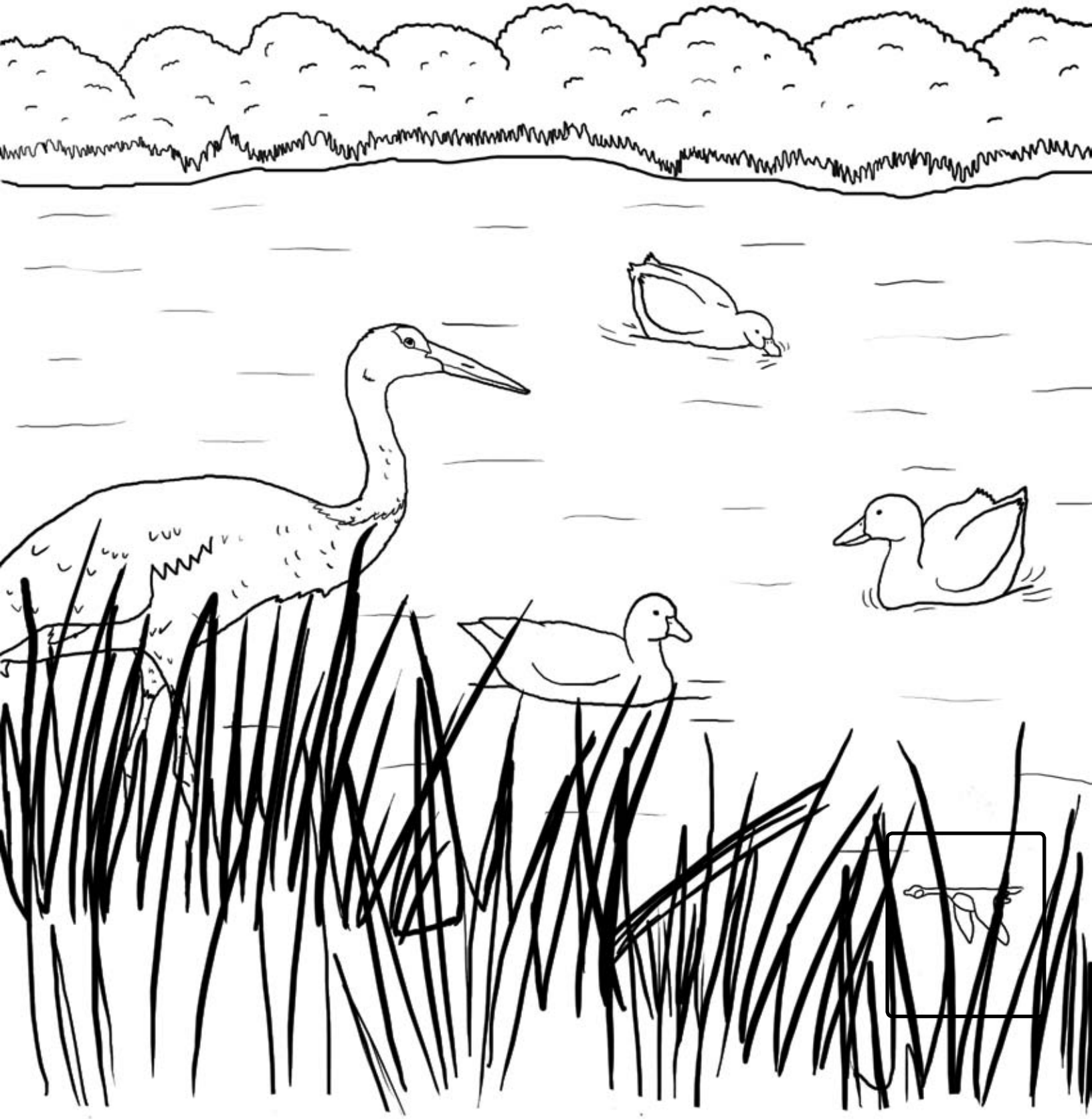


At Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge in Hawaii, there is a lighthouse that looks out over the ocean where you can see humpback whales.

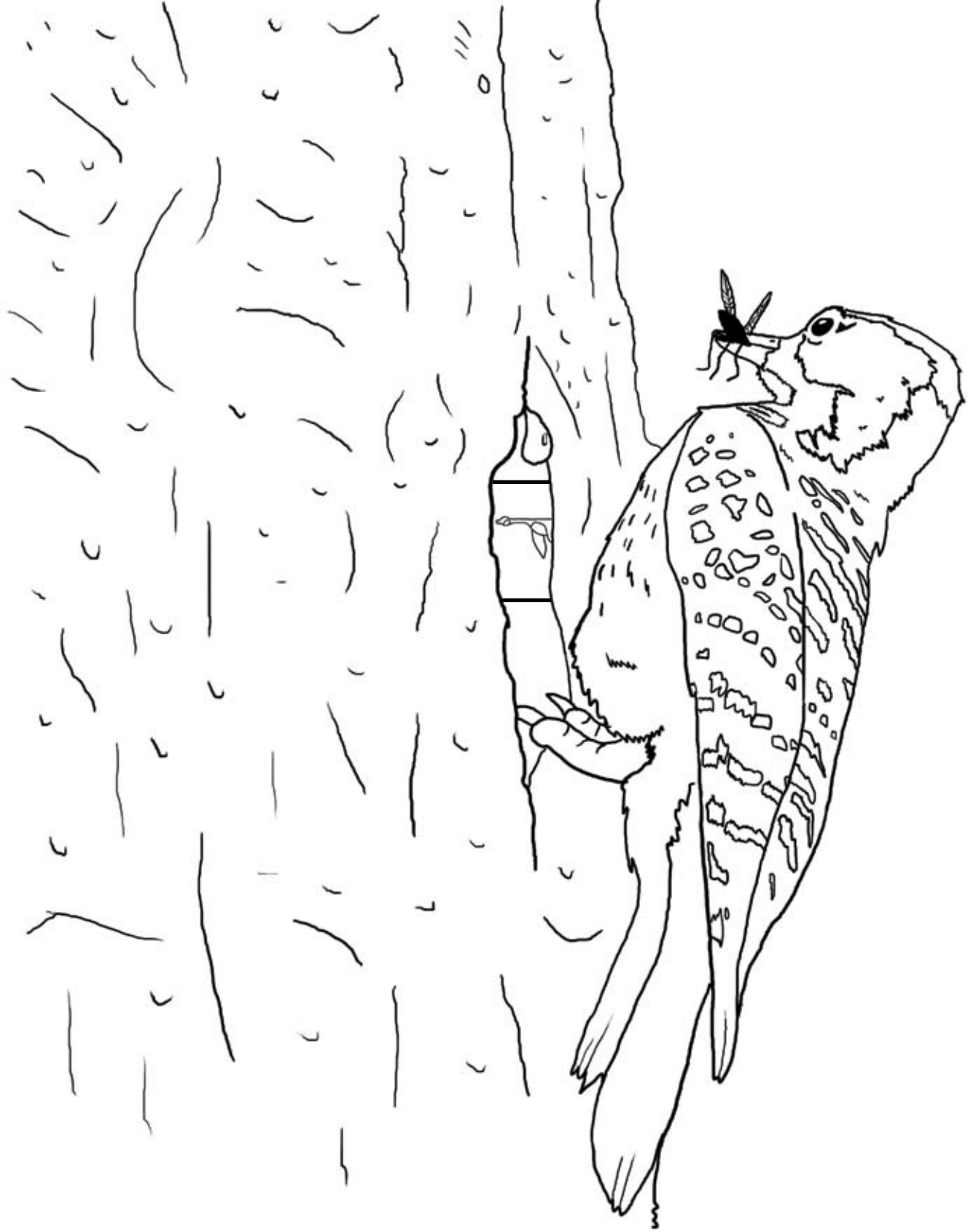
Wetlands are lands covered in water most of the time. At Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge in Delaware, 267 kinds of birds live in the wetlands, including red-winged blackbirds.



The biggest national wildlife refuges are in Alaska. They are home to many animals such as moose, salmon and even polar bears.

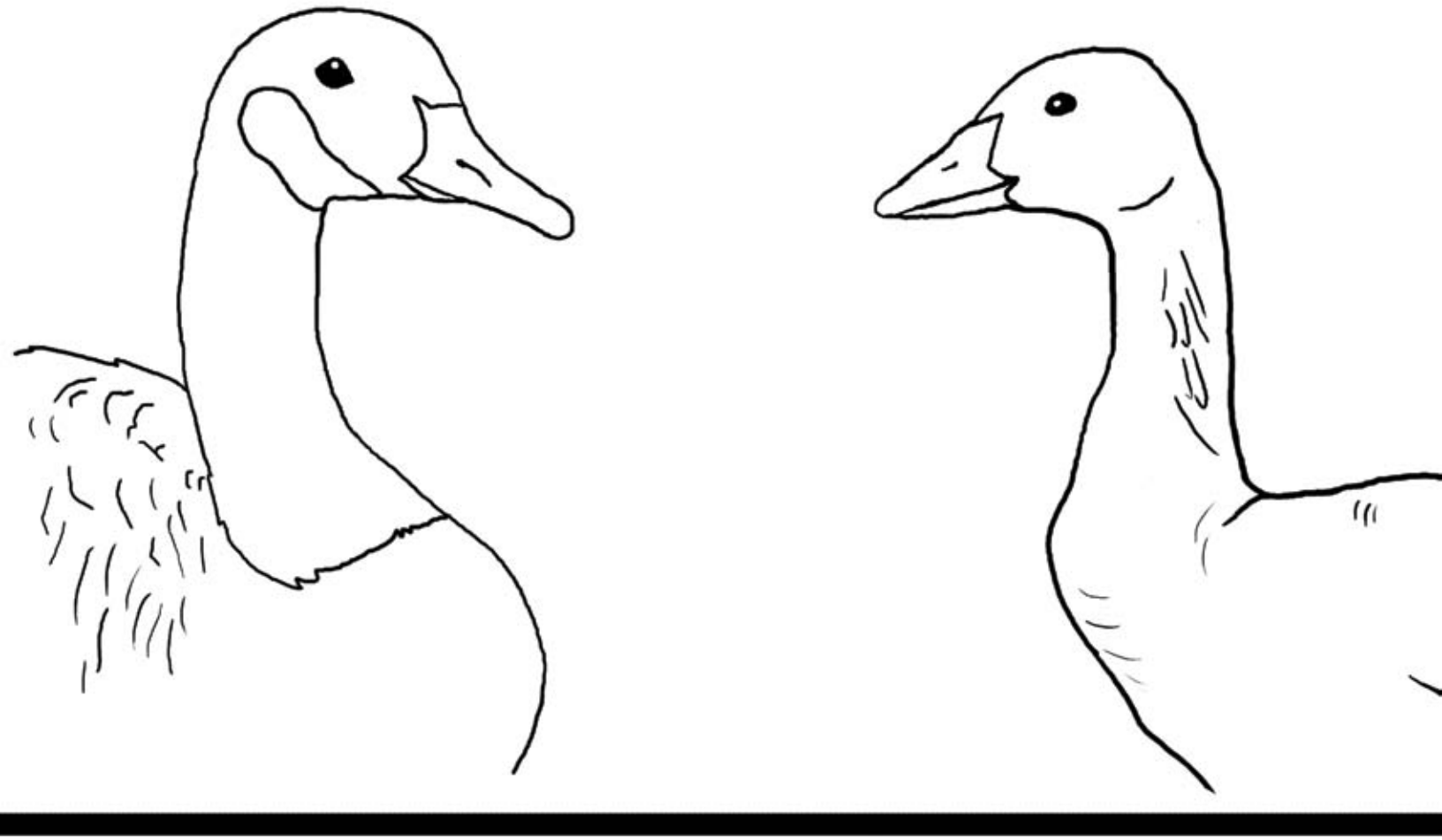


Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge in New Mexico has a festival every fall when thousands of sandhill cranes and snow geese come back to stay for the winter.



Some animals at national wildlife refuges are harder to find. At Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge in South Carolina, red-cockaded woodpeckers hide way up in the pine trees where they look for insects to eat!

At Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge in West Virginia, 40 kinds of mussels live silently on the bottom on the river.



What can you do when you see birds and other animals at a national wildlife refuge? Watch how the birds and animals live. Watch them watch you. Use this space to draw a picture of wildlife you have seen.

Wildlife Sightings List

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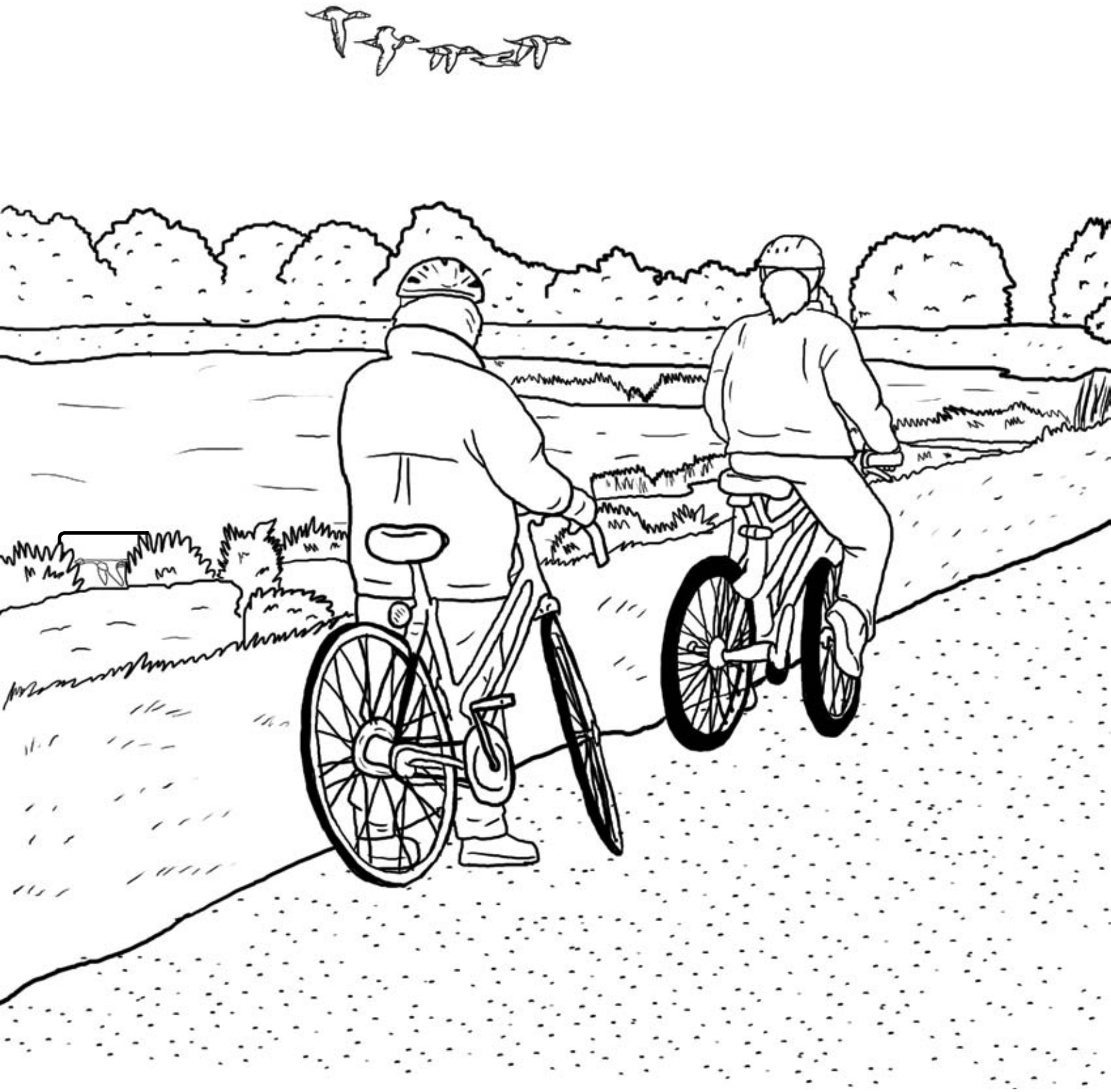
Make a list of wildlife you have seen. Birdwatchers keep lists of all the birds they have seen in their whole lives. These are called life lists.

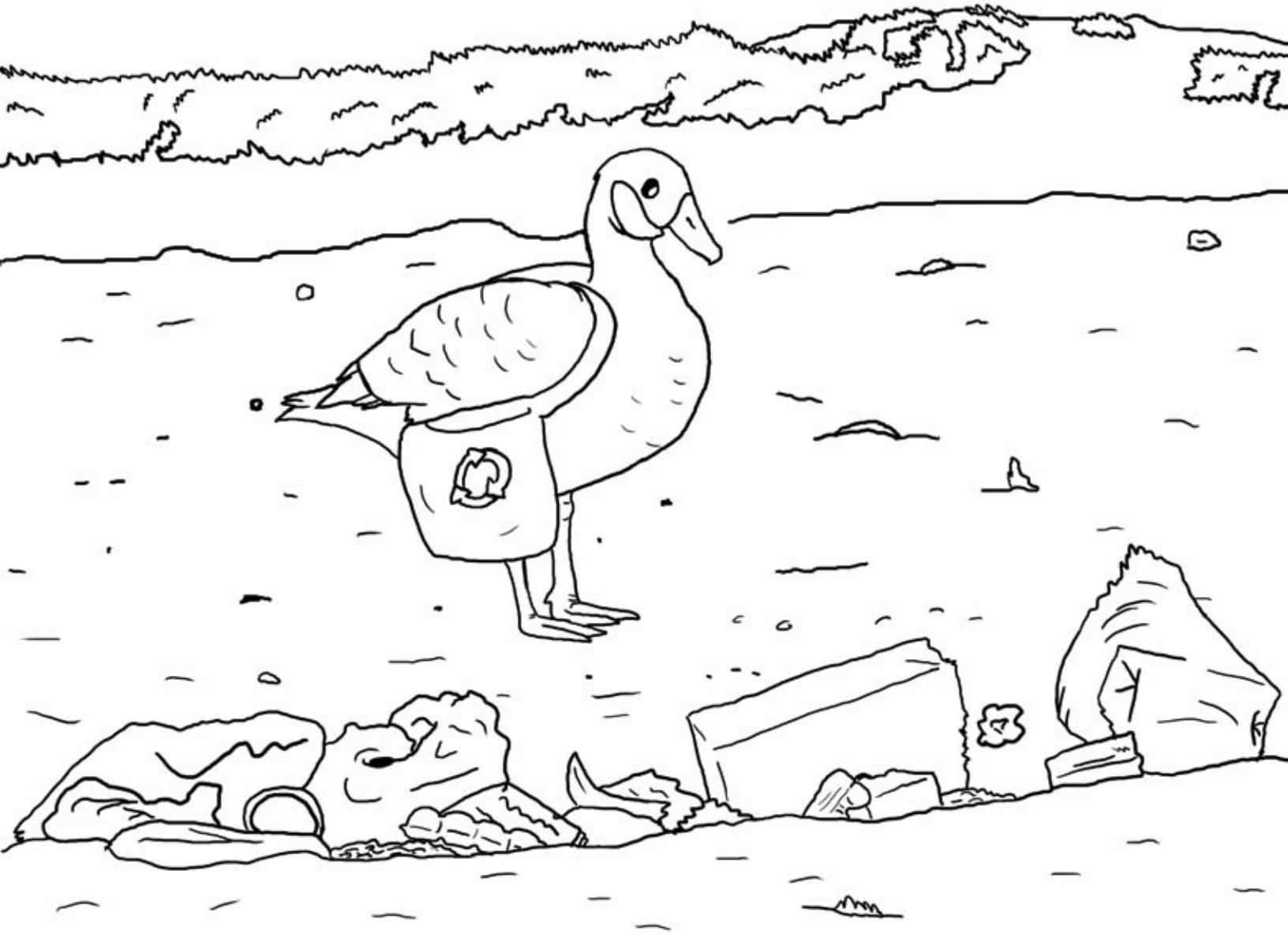
Snap a photograph. Some national wildlife refuges have little cabins called photo blinds. You don't sleep in these cabins. You wait quietly to take pictures of animals when they come close to you.

Try to catch some fish at national wildlife refuges that allow fishing. If you do not plan to eat the fish, put it back in the water.



You can ride your bicycle at some national wildlife refuges or walk a trail to look for animals.
Be very quiet so you don’t scare the wildlife.

Many national wildlife refuges have visitor centers where you can learn about wildlife and habitats. At Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge in Ohio, you can see what it is like inside a muskrat house.



Will you help protect wildlife? Remember not to throw trash on the ground because animals might think it is food. Put it in a trashcan or recycle.

In the spring, you can plant flower seeds for a butterfly garden. Marigolds, zinnias and sunflowers are all beautiful flowers that butterflies like.

When you grow up, come work for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on a National Wildlife Refuge.
You can help protect habitat for animals.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

U.S. Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service

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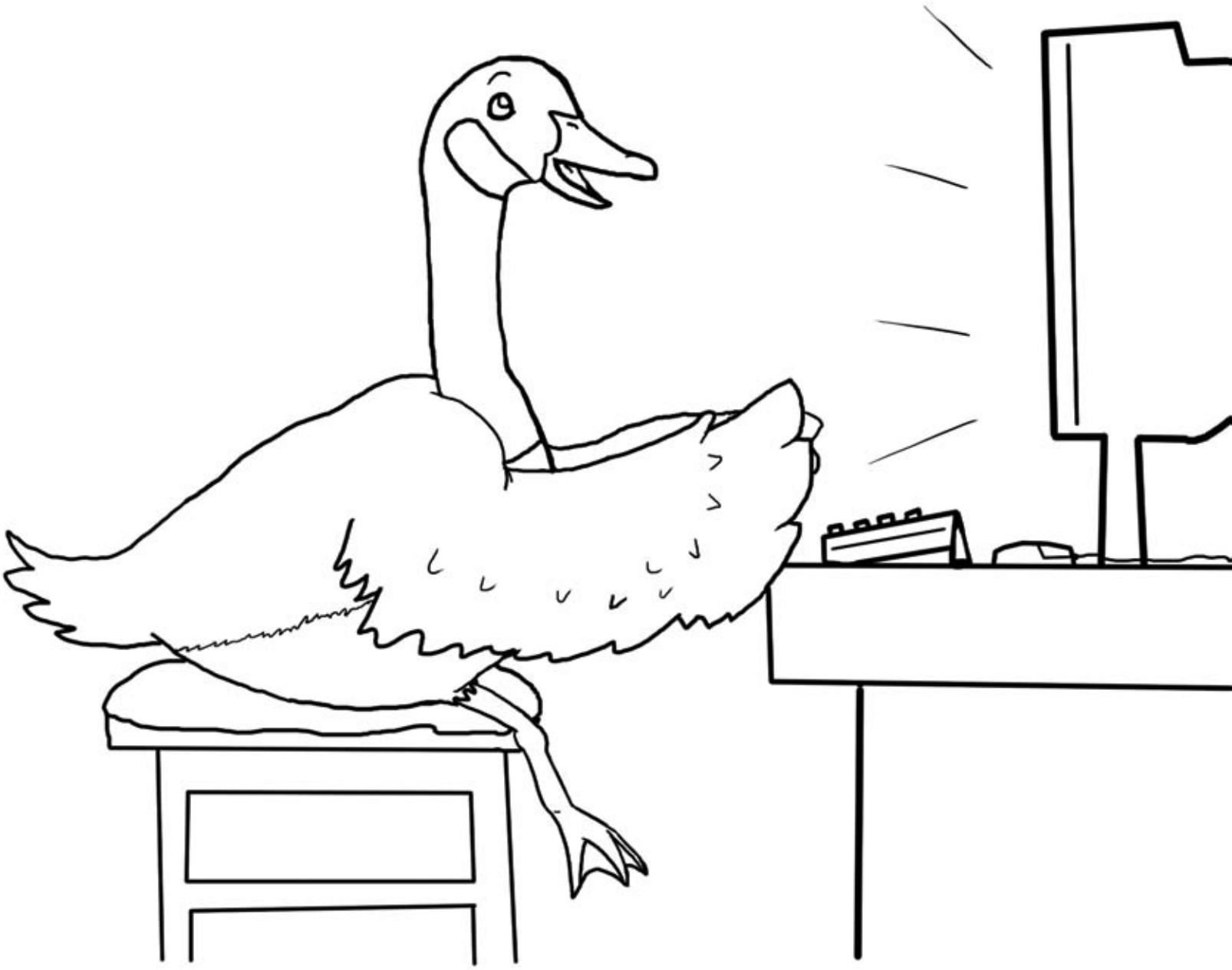
How many blue goose signs
did you find in this book?

***Including the one on this page, there are 20 blue goose signs.



Visit a national wildlife refuge near you.
Find one in your state at:
www.fws.gov/refuges

REFUGE WORD SEARCH

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

BISON BLUE GOOSE CRANE CROCODILE
EAGLE HABITAT REFUGE TREE WETLANDS

www.fws.gov/refuges

Mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System

The mission of the System is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.