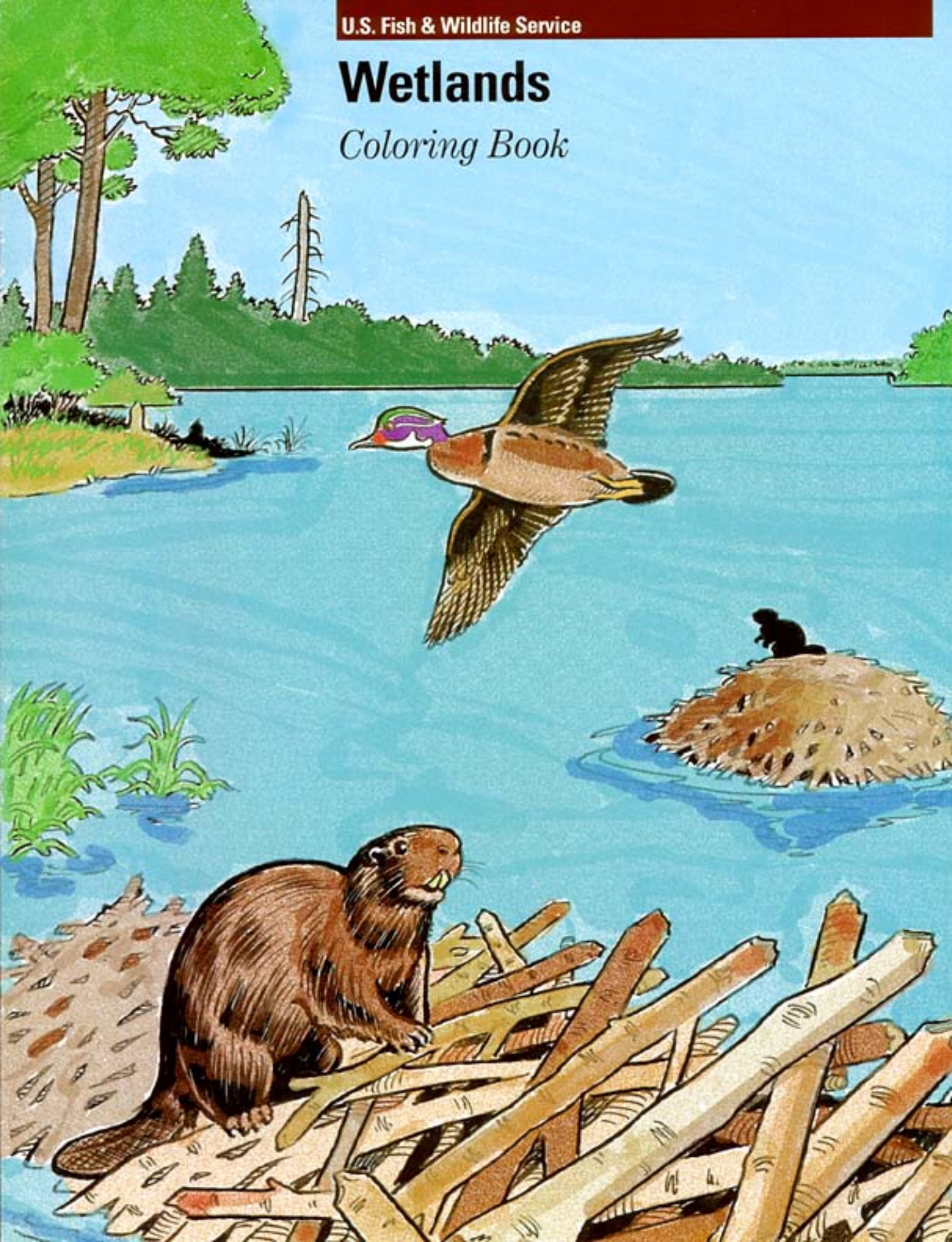
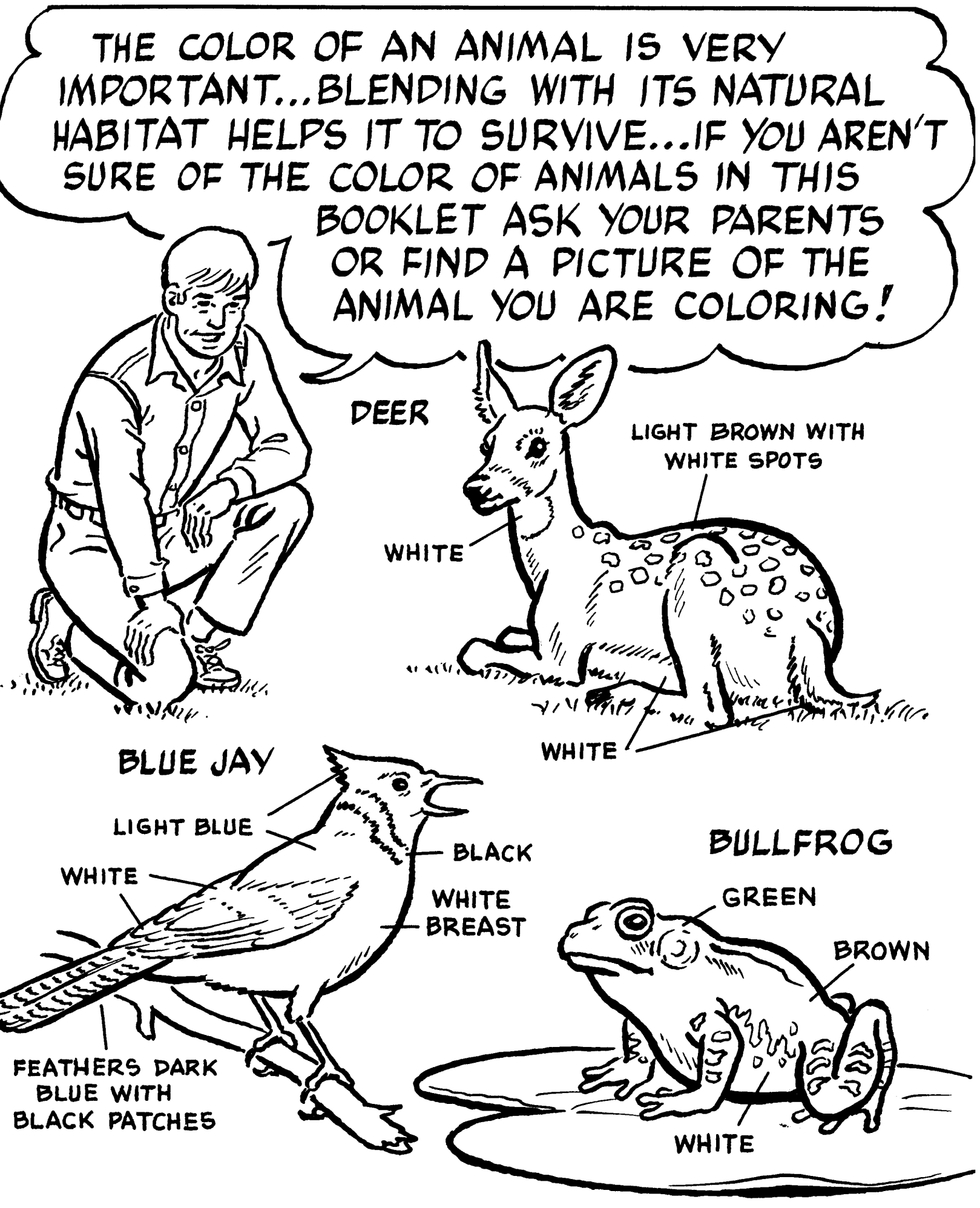
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

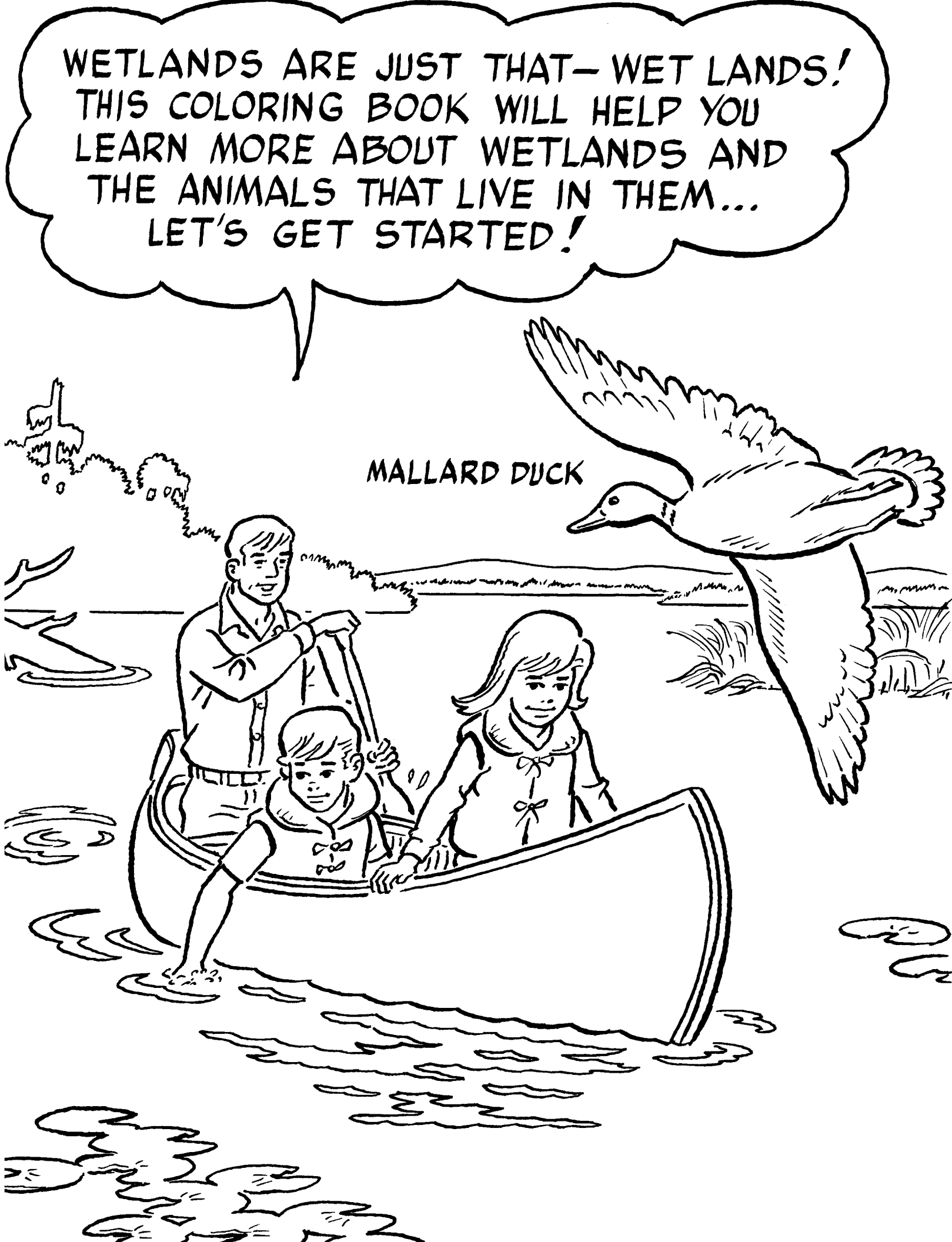
# Wetlands

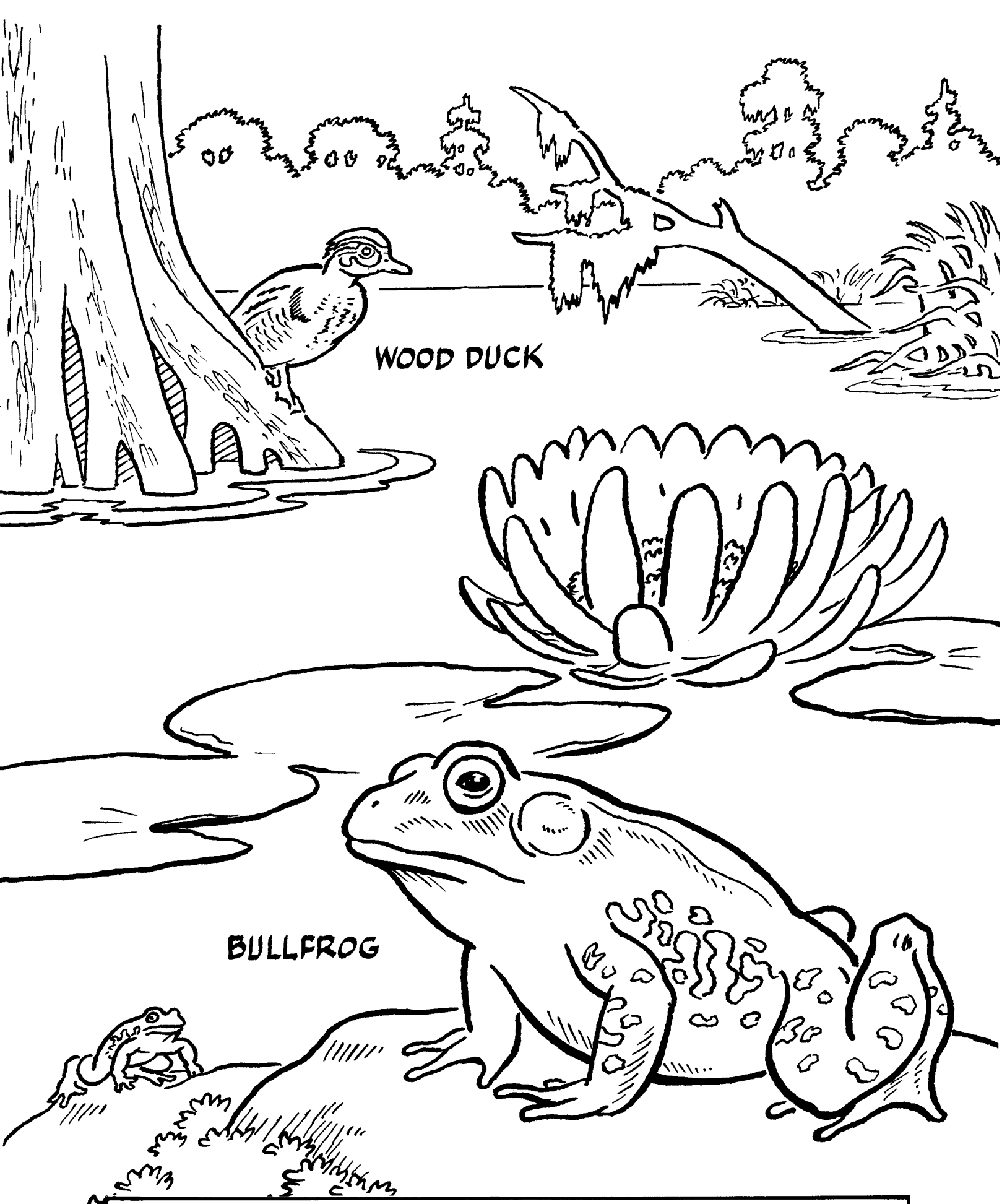
*Coloring Book*



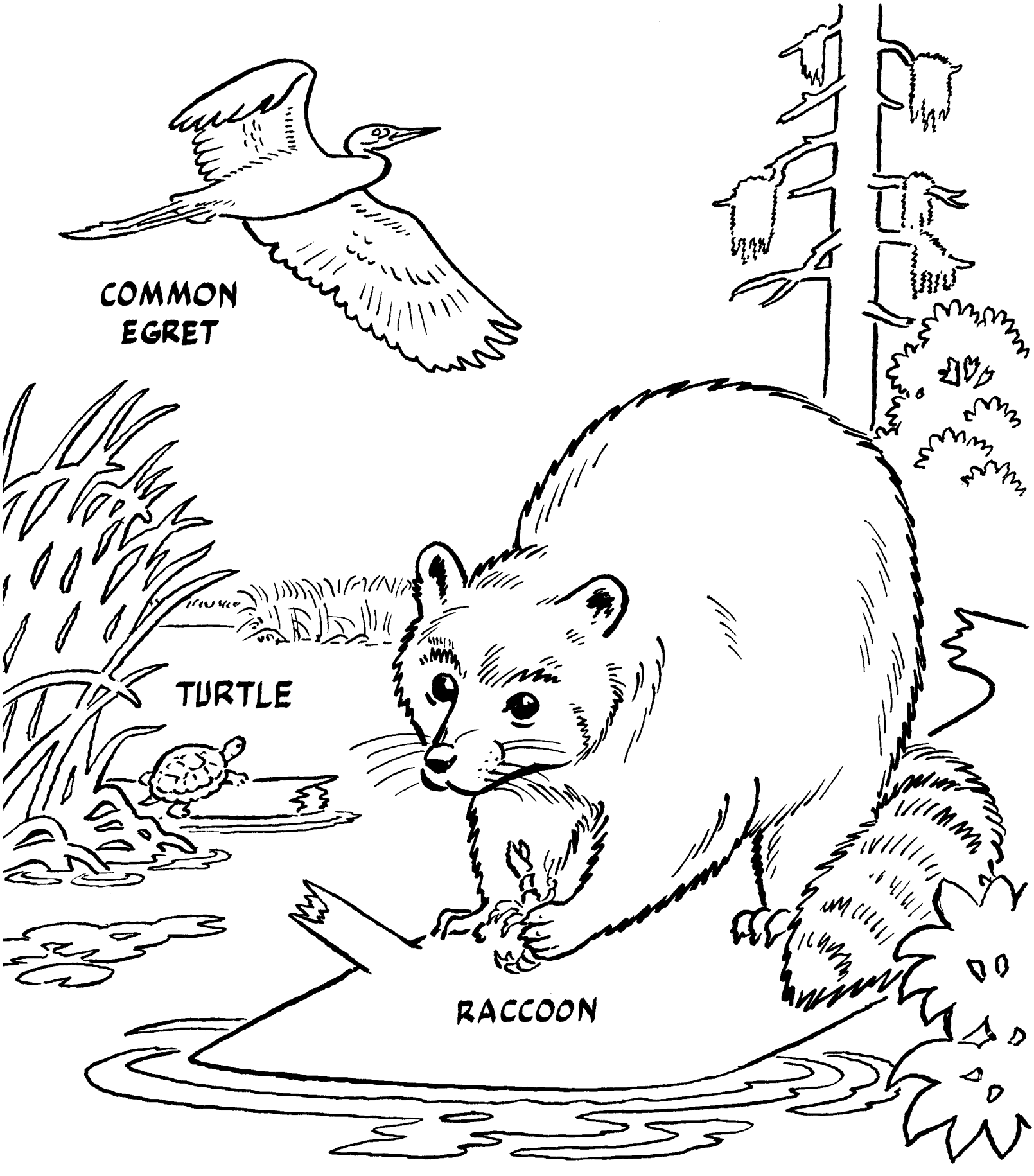



ART BY JACK ELROD, ARTIST AND WRITER OF "MARK TRAIL"

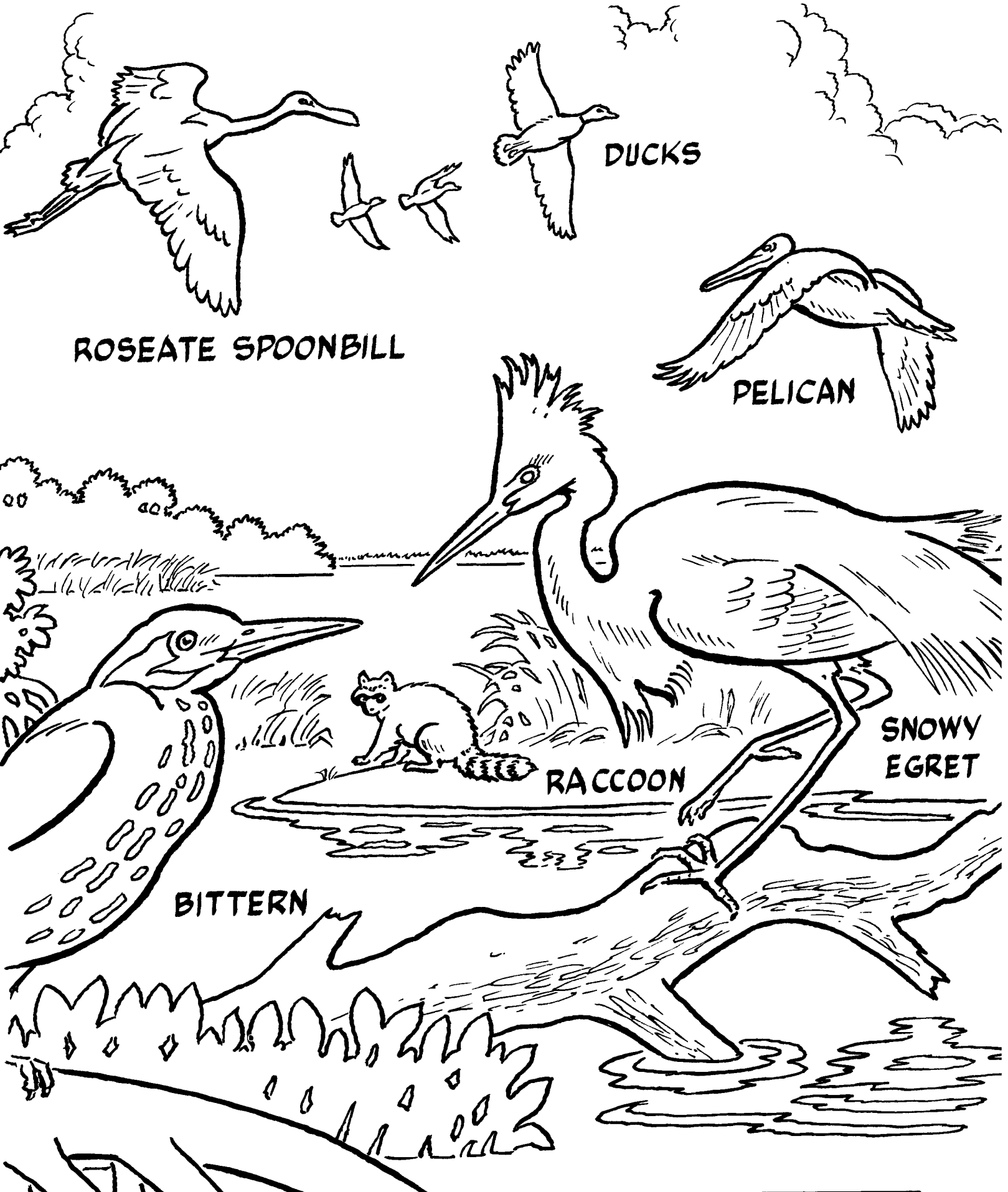

WETLANDS ARE JUST THAT— WET LANDS! THIS COLORING BOOK WILL HELP YOU LEARN MORE ABOUT WETLANDS AND THE ANIMALS THAT LIVE IN THEM... LET'S GET STARTED!
MALLARD DUCK



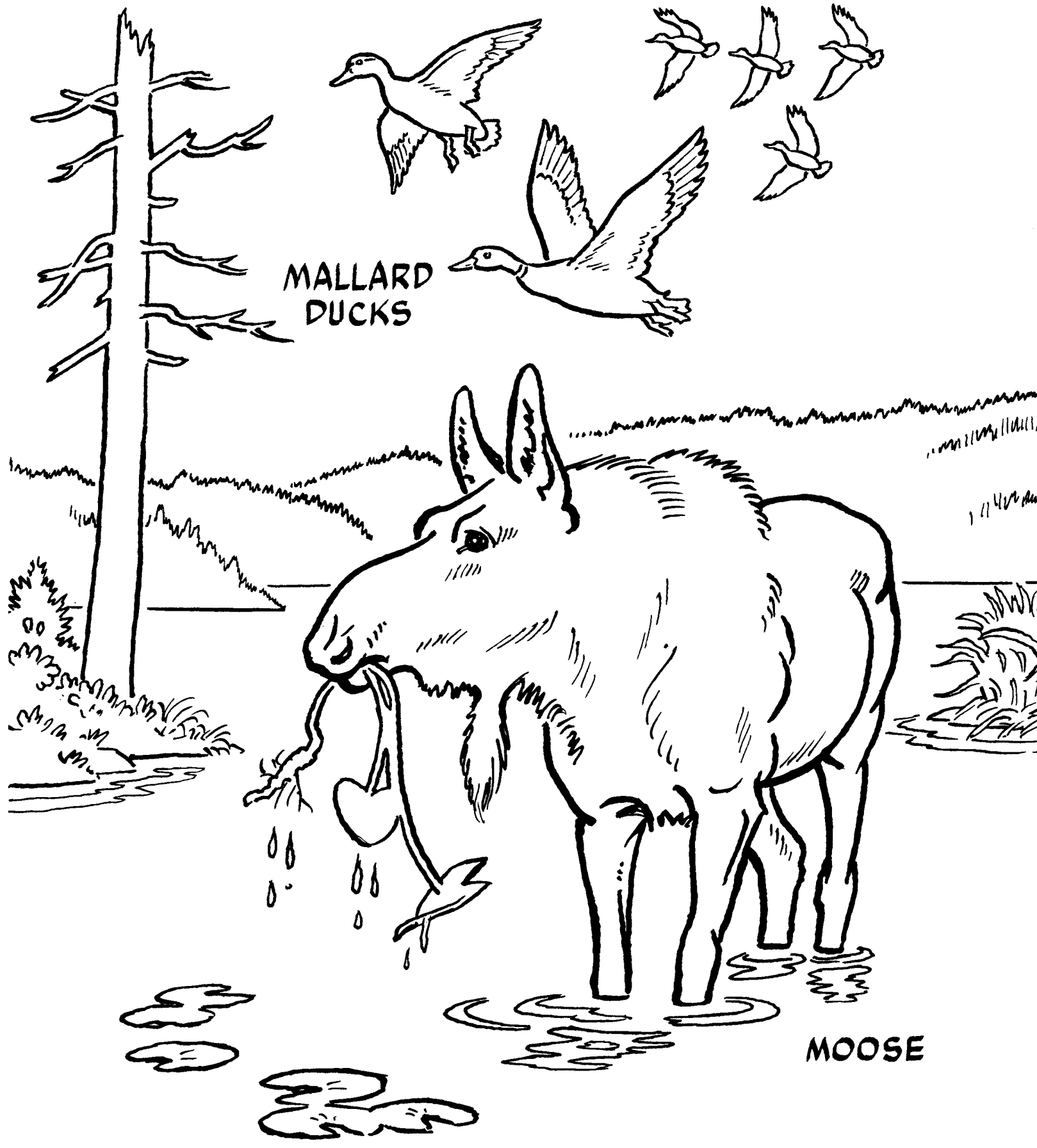

WETLANDS ARE PLACES THAT ARE COMPLETELY COVERED WITH WATER AT TIMES. SWAMPS ARE WETLANDS. MARSHES, PONDS, AND EDGES OF CREEKS AND RIVERS ARE WETLANDS, TOO.




MANY ANIMALS FIND THEIR FOOD IN WETLANDS. RACCOONS FIND FISH, TURTLES FIND INSECTS, AND DUCKS FIND THE PLANTS THEY LIKE TO EAT.

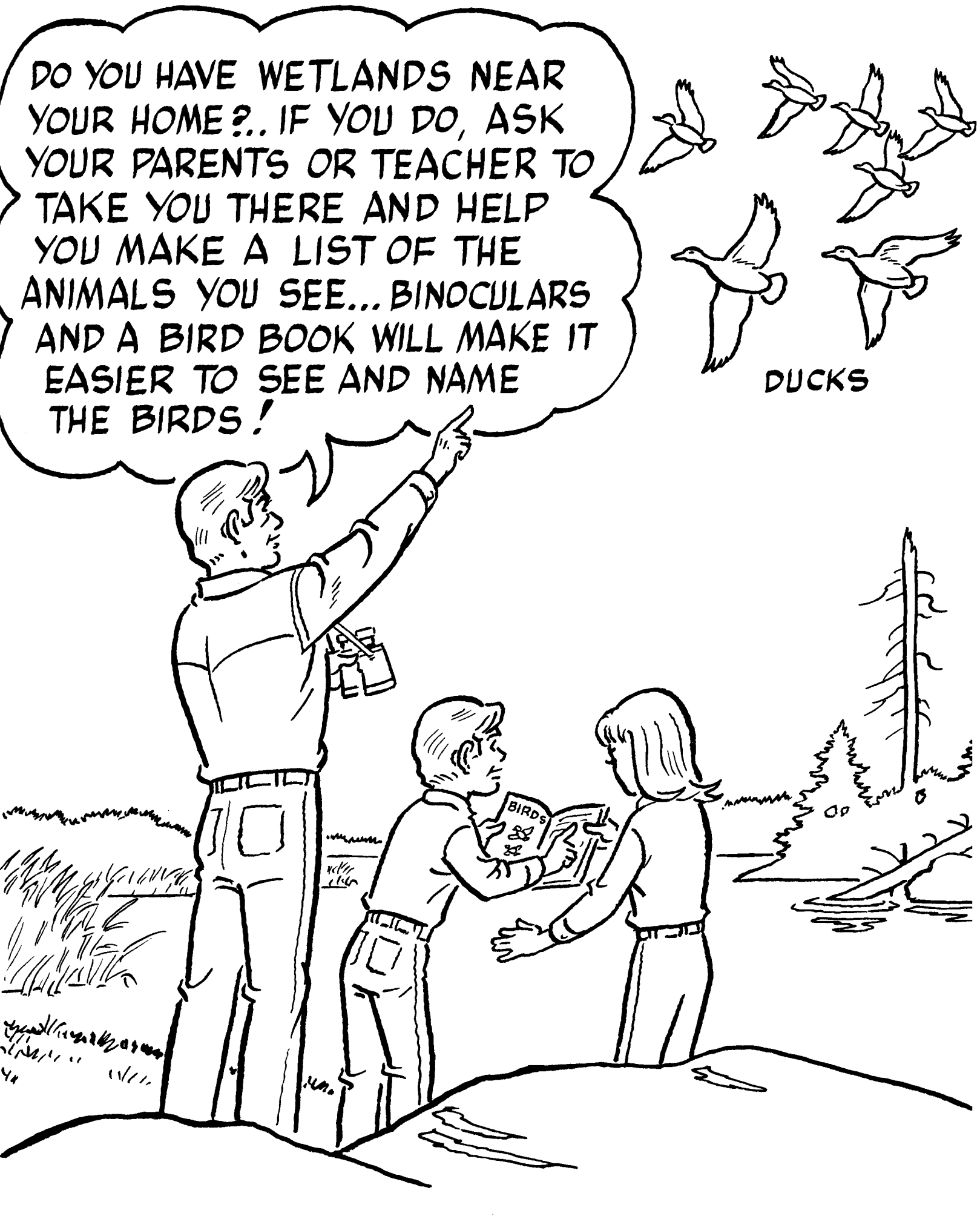


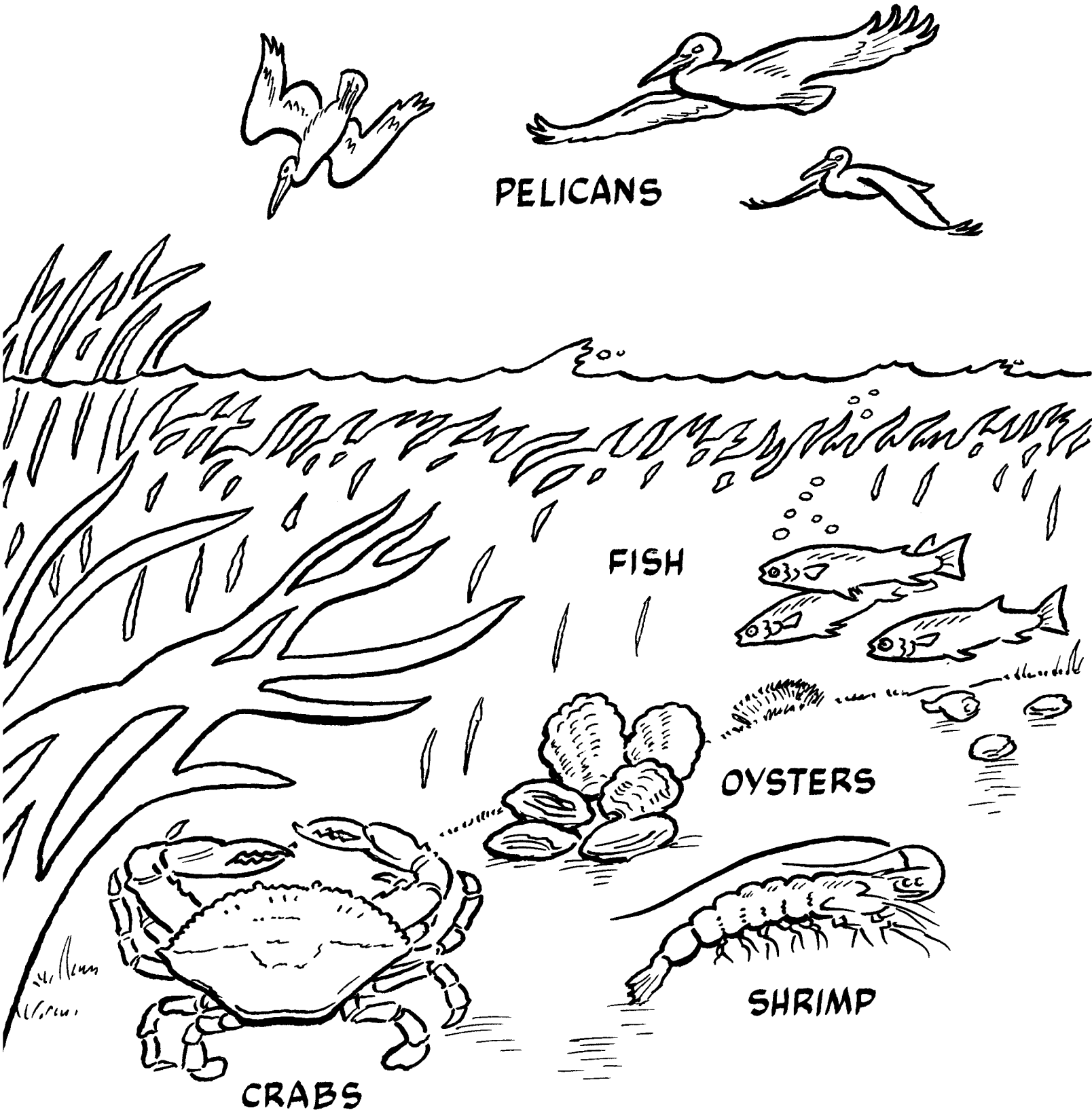

WETLANDS CAN BE FOUND ALL OVER THE UNITED STATES. IN THE SOUTH, THERE ARE THE EVERGLADES WETLANDS. THE ROSEATE SPOONBILL LIVES THERE.



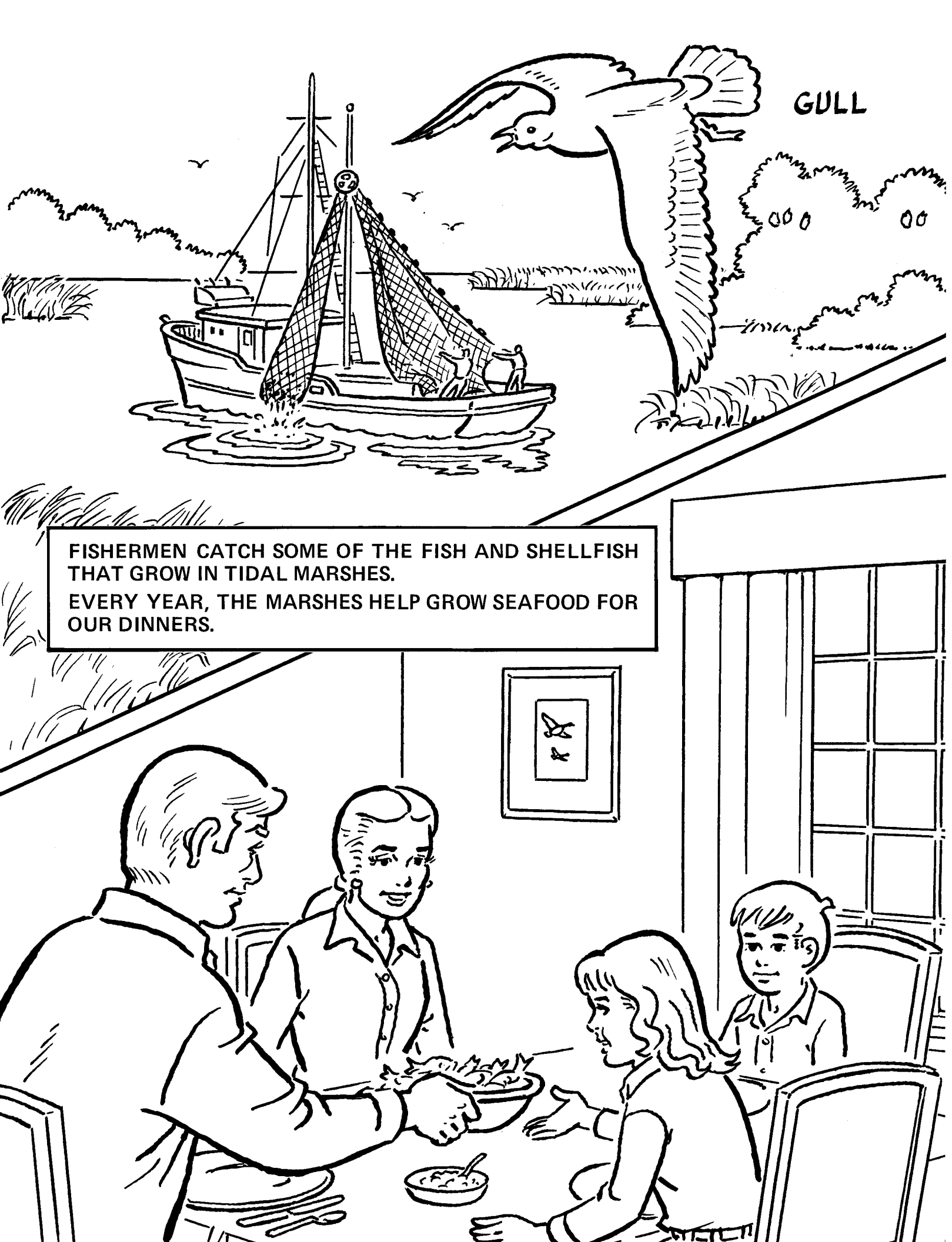

WETLANDS IN THE NORTH ARE THE HOME OF THE MOOSE -- AMERICA'S BIGGEST WILD ANIMAL!

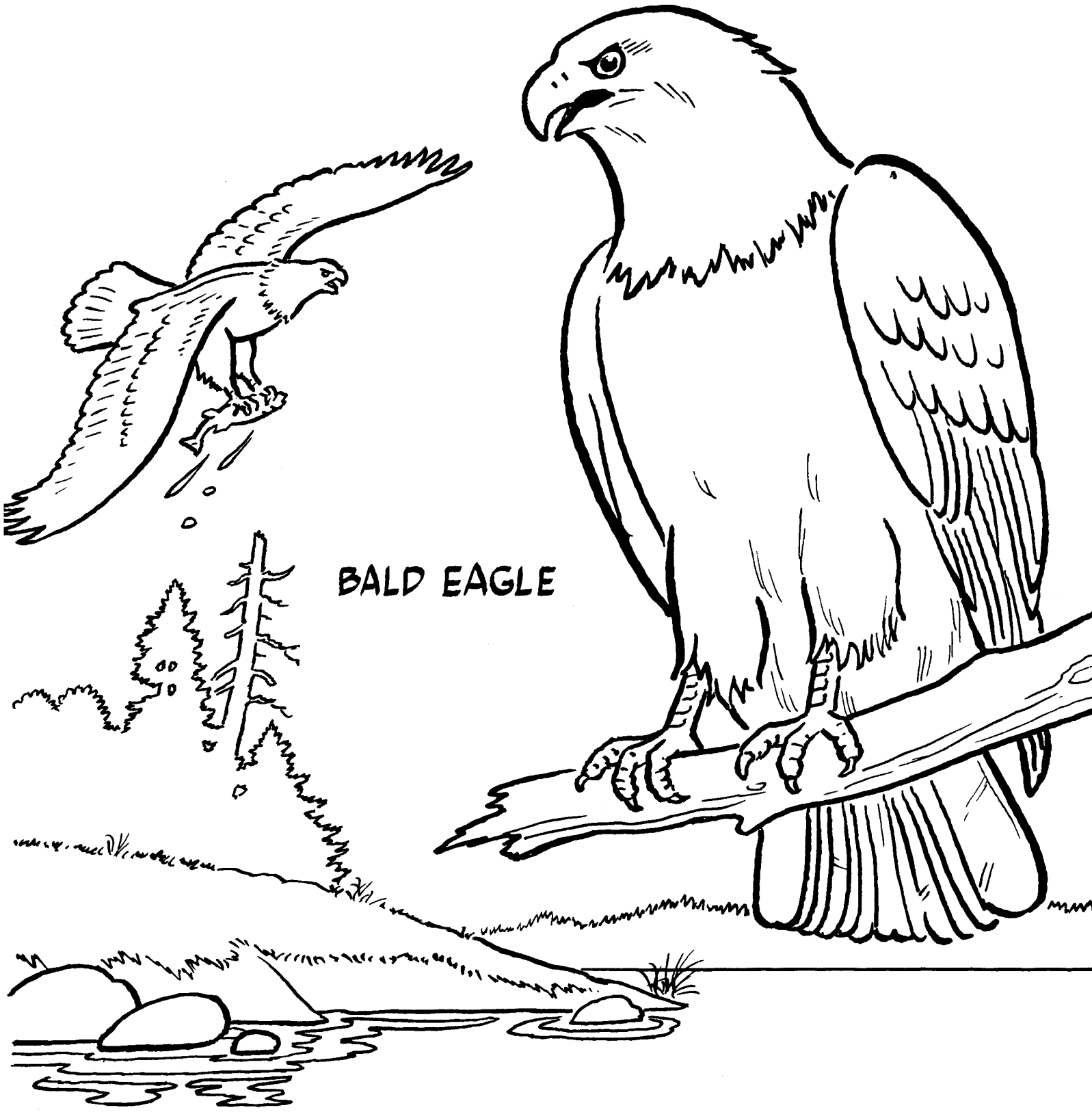
MALLARDS ARE COLORFUL DUCKS THAT CAN BE SEEN ON WETLANDS ALL OVER THE UNITED STATES -- NORTH, SOUTH, EAST, AND WEST!


DO YOU HAVE WETLANDS NEAR YOUR HOME?.. IF YOU DO, ASK YOUR PARENTS OR TEACHER TO TAKE YOU THERE AND HELP YOU MAKE A LIST OF THE ANIMALS YOU SEE... BINOCULARS AND A BIRD BOOK WILL MAKE IT EASIER TO SEE AND NAME THE BIRDS!
DUCKS
BIRDS

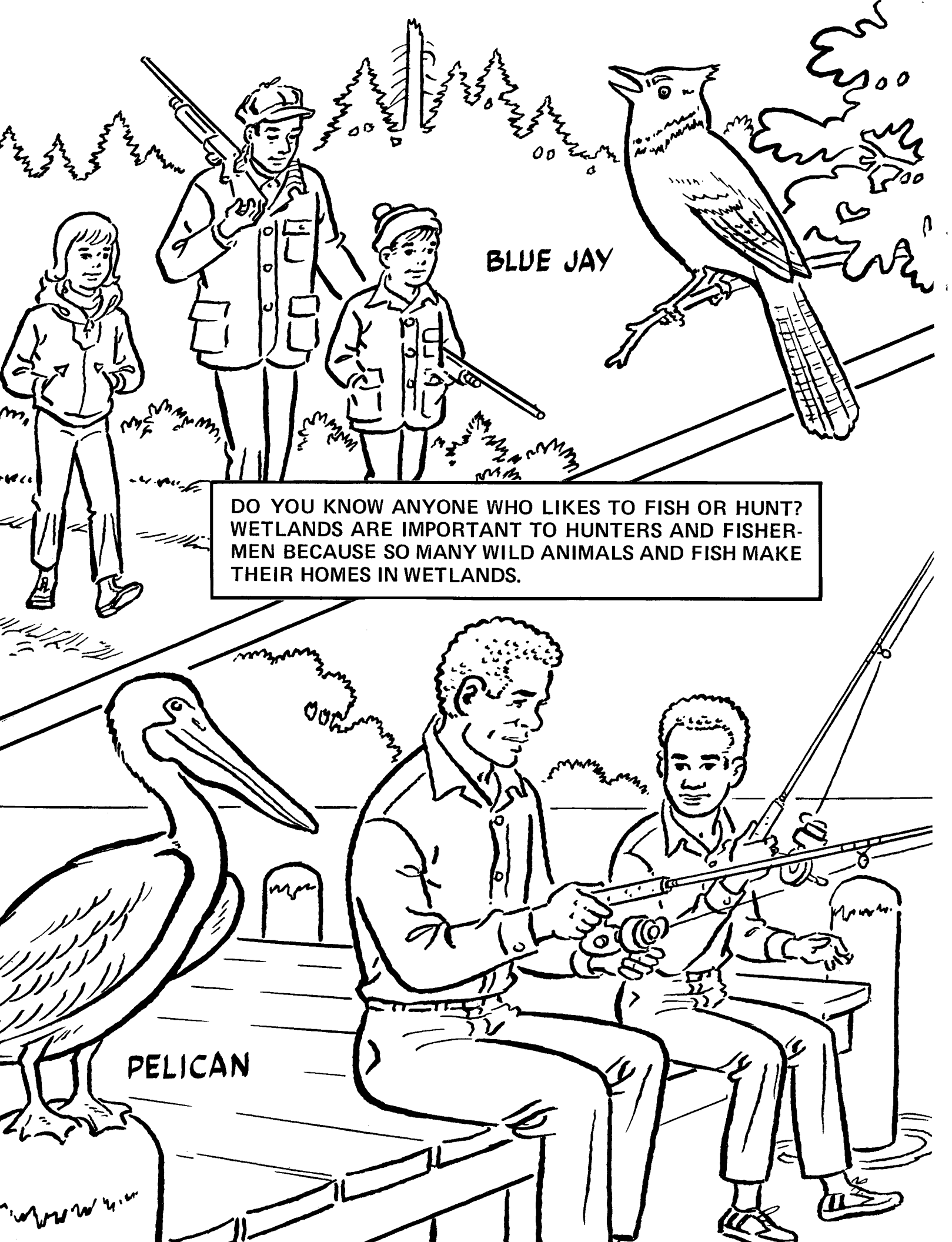


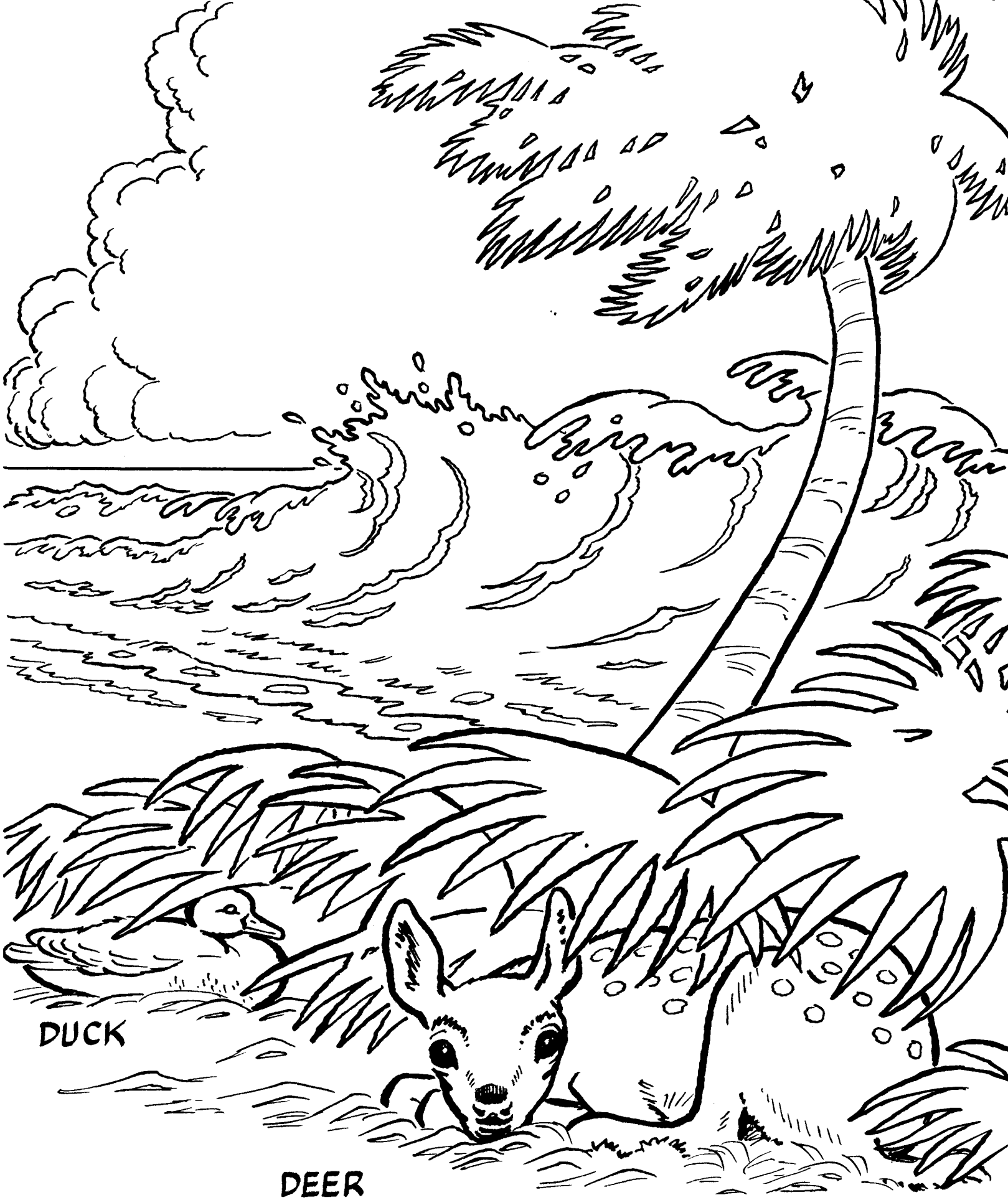

TIDAL MARSHES ARE ALSO WETLANDS AND ARE THE HOMES OF CRABS, SHRIMP, OYSTERS, AND MANY KINDS OF FISH AND SEA LIFE. LITTLE FISH FEED AND HIDE AMONG THE MARSH GRASSES UNTIL THEY ARE BIG ENOUGH TO SWIM OUT TO SEA.


GULL
FISHERMEN CATCH SOME OF THE FISH AND SHELLFISH THAT GROW IN TIDAL MARSHES.
EVERY YEAR, THE MARSHES HELP GROW SEAFOOD FOR OUR DINNERS.



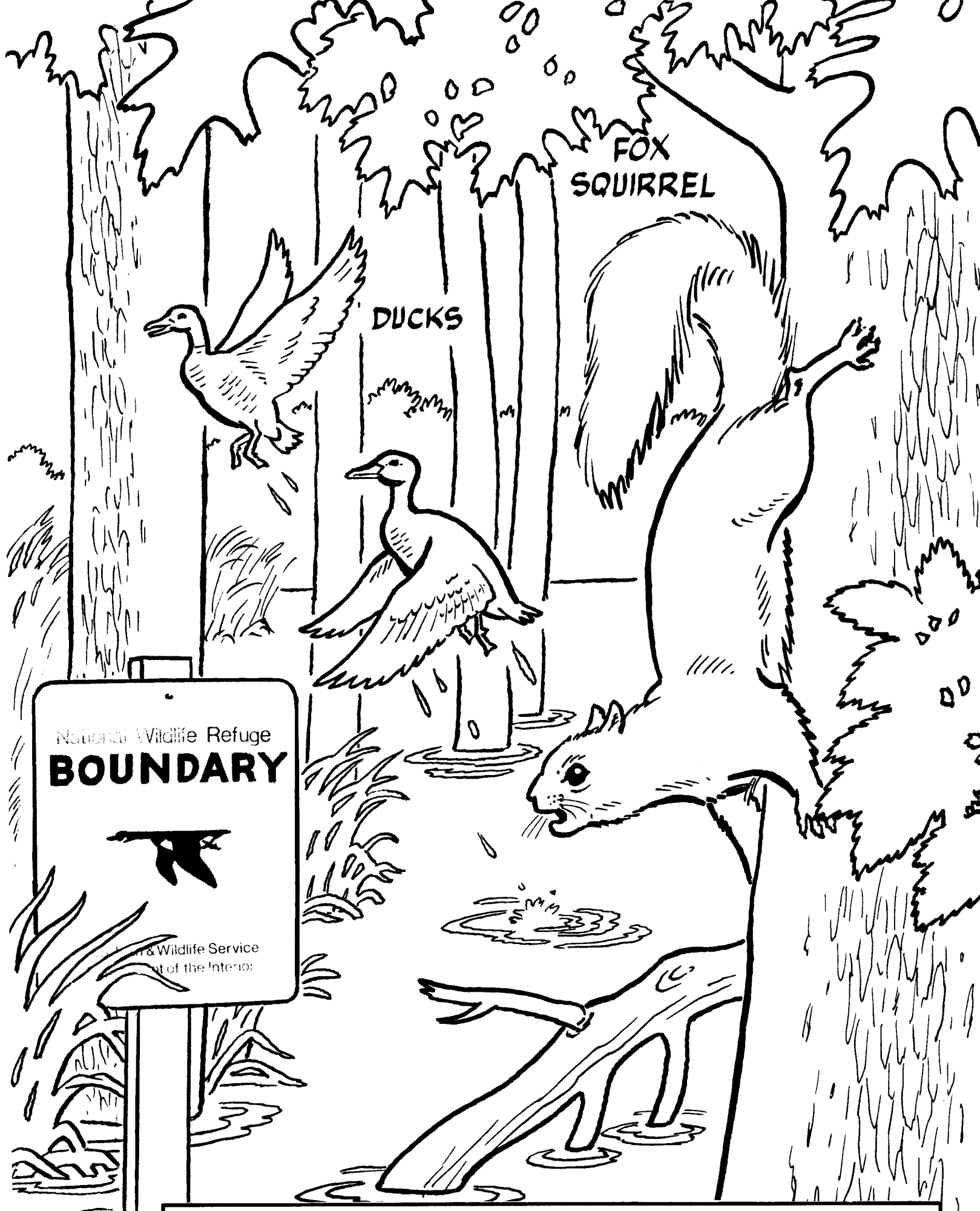

BALD EAGLES LIKE TO EAT FISH AND ARE OFTEN SEEN AROUND WETLANDS. BALD EAGLES ARE "ENDANGERED". THAT MEANS THERE ARE NOT MANY OF THEM LEFT IN MOST PARTS OF OUR COUNTRY. MANY OTHER ENDANGERED ANIMALS ALSO LIVE IN WETLANDS.


BLUE JAY
DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO LIKES TO FISH OR HUNT? WETLANDS ARE IMPORTANT TO HUNTERS AND FISHERMEN BECAUSE SO MANY WILD ANIMALS AND FISH MAKE THEIR HOMES IN WETLANDS.
PELICAN

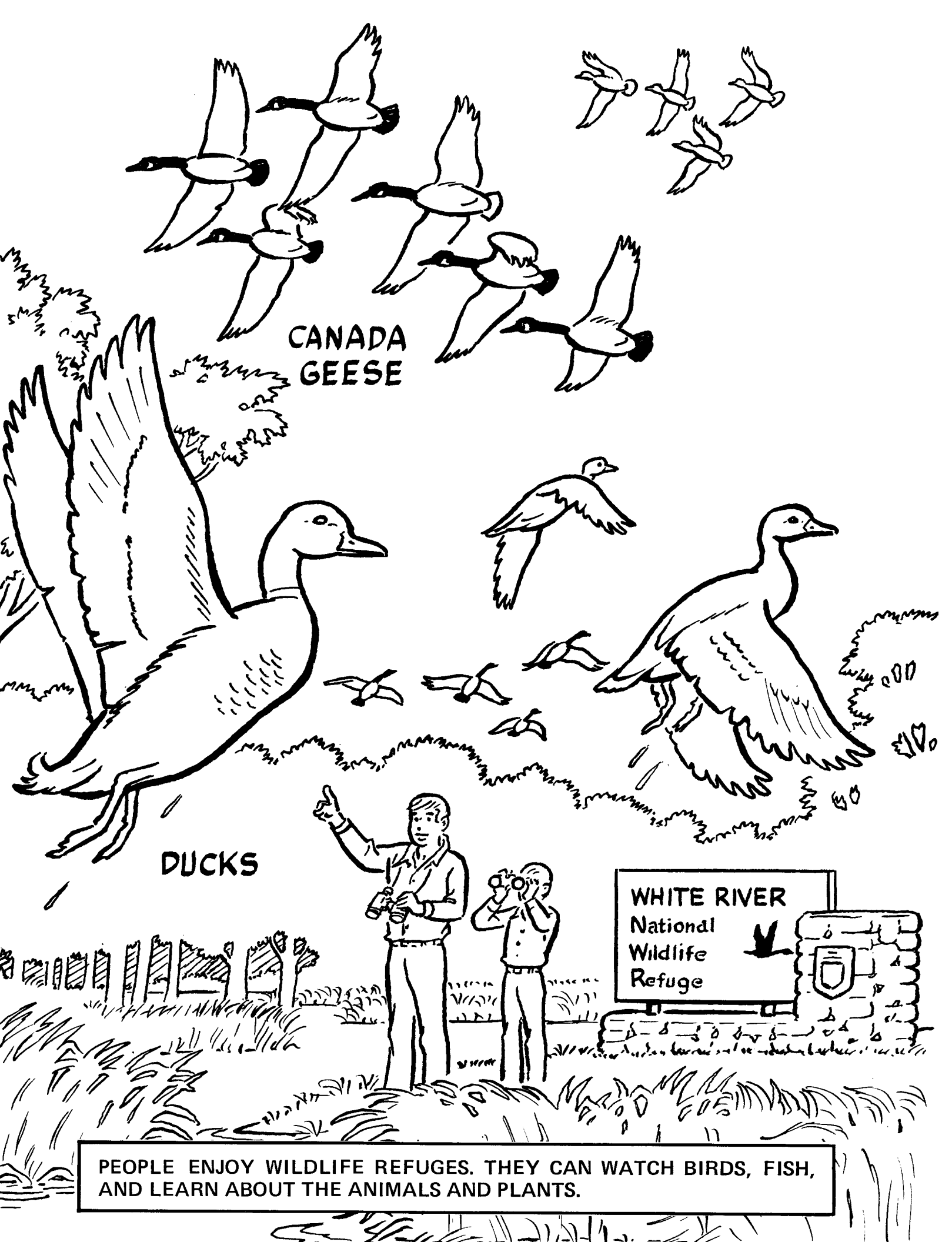



WETLANDS HELP PROTECT OUR HOMES FROM WEATHER. WETLANDS LOWER FLOODWATERS BY HOLDING RAIN AND MELTING SNOW. ALSO, ON THE SEA COASTS, WETLANDS CATCH THE FURY OF HURRICANES!

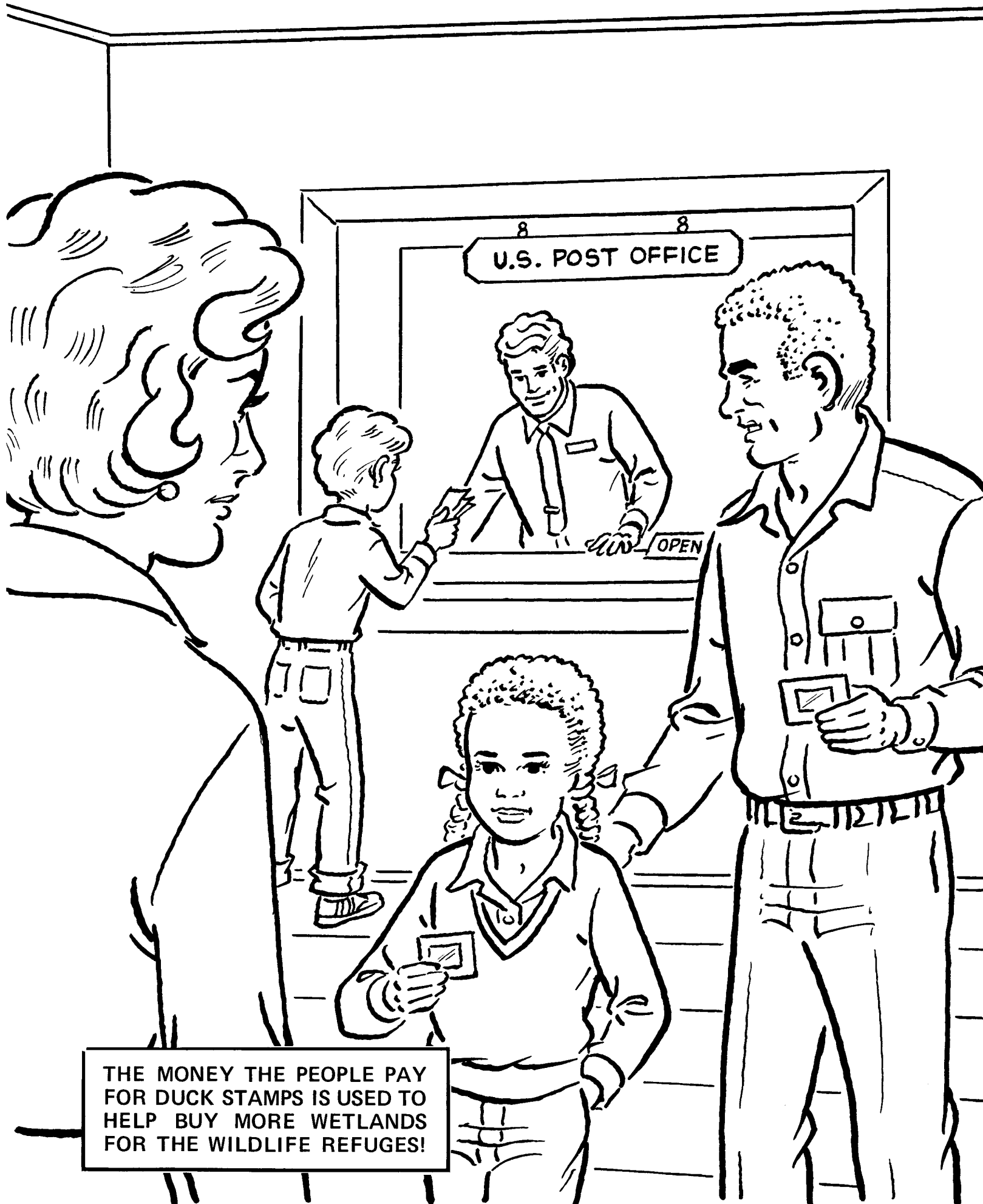
UNFORTUNATELY, MANY WETLANDS ARE BEING DRAINED OF ALL THEIR WATER. PEOPLE THEN PLANT CROPS ON THEM OR BUILD ROADS, AIRPORTS, OR HOUSES. WHEN THAT HAPPENS, ANIMALS AND FISH LOSE THEIR HOMES.




SOME WETLANDS ARE "WILDLIFE REFUGES". THESE WETLANDS ARE CONSERVED SO ANIMALS WILL HAVE HOMES.

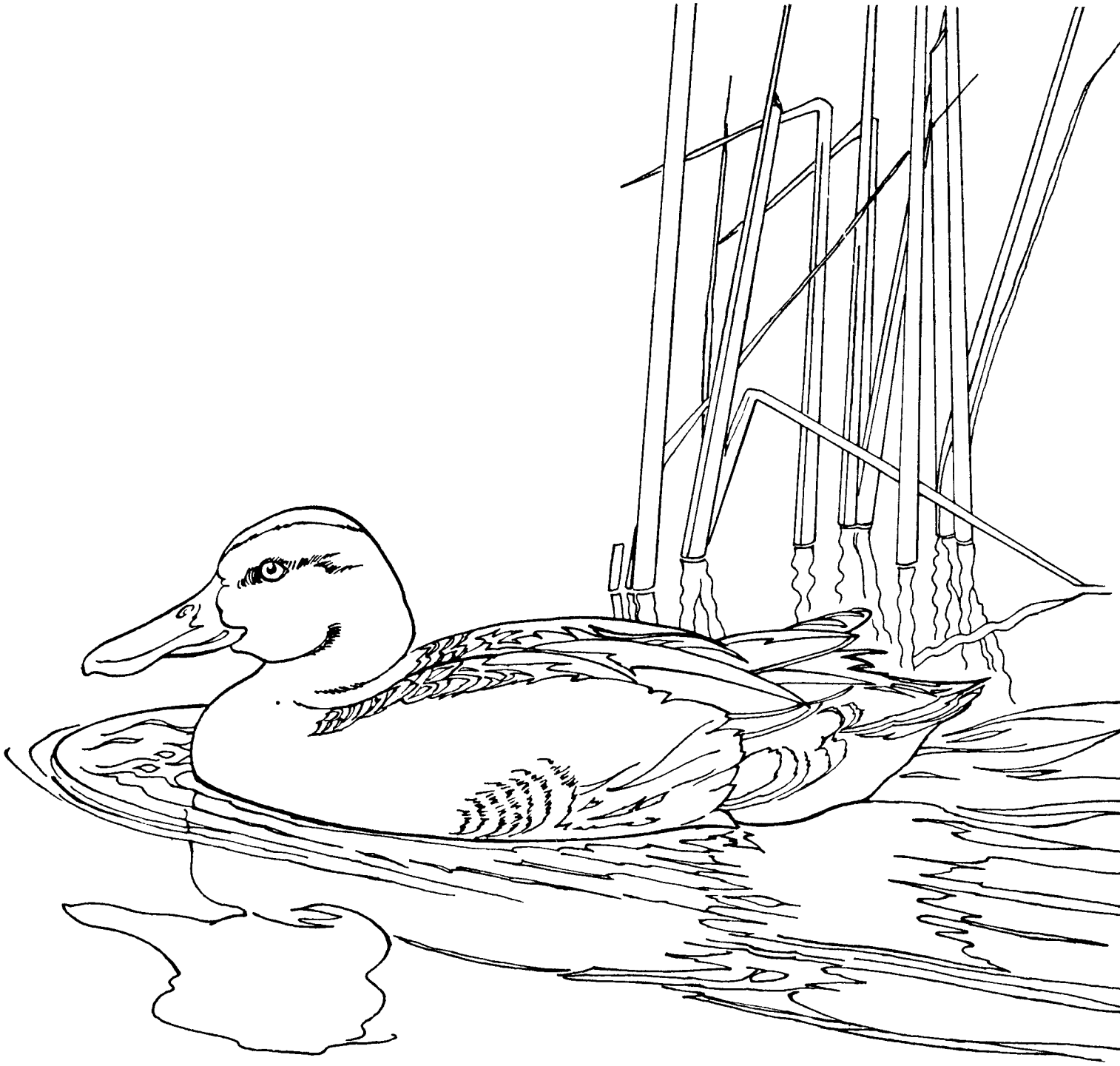



PEOPLE ENJOY WILDLIFE REFUGES. THEY CAN WATCH BIRDS, FISH, AND LEARN ABOUT THE ANIMALS AND PLANTS.

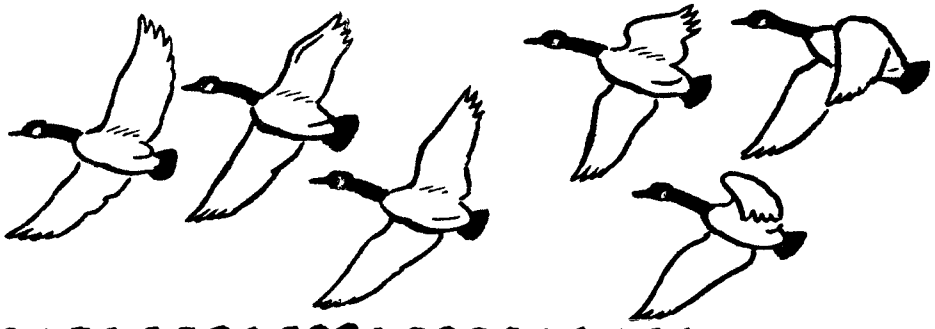

U.S. POST OFFICE
OPEN
THE MONEY THE PEOPLE PAY FOR DUCK STAMPS IS USED TO HELP BUY MORE WETLANDS FOR THE WILDLIFE REFUGES!

DUCK STAMPS HAVE BEEN ISSUED EVERY YEAR FOR 60 YEARS! THE PICTURE ON EACH YEAR'S DUCK STAMP IS PICKED IN A BIG CONTEST. MANY ARTISTS ENTER THEIR PAINTINGS TO TRY TO WIN THE CONTEST.

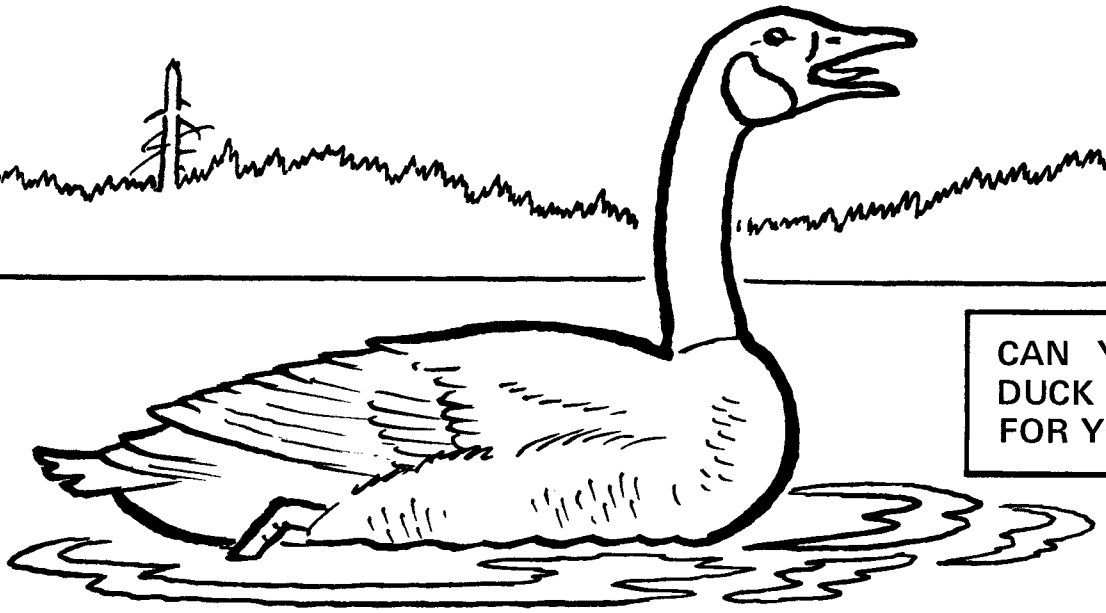
DUCK STAMPS ARE VERY COLORFUL AND MANY PEOPLE LIKE TO COLLECT THEM.



THIS IS THE CINNAMON TEAL DUCK DRAWN BY GERALD MOBLEY THAT IS USED FOR THE 1985-86 DUCK STAMP. THE CINNAMON TEAL IS MOSTLY REDDISH BROWN, BUT IT HAS SOME LIGHT BLUE, GREEN AND WHITE ON ITS WINGS. I'LL BET IF YOU TRY REAL HARD, YOU CAN MAKE IT LOOK REAL!



CAN YOU DRAW YOUR OWN DUCK STAMP? HERE'S A PLACE FOR YOU TO TRY!



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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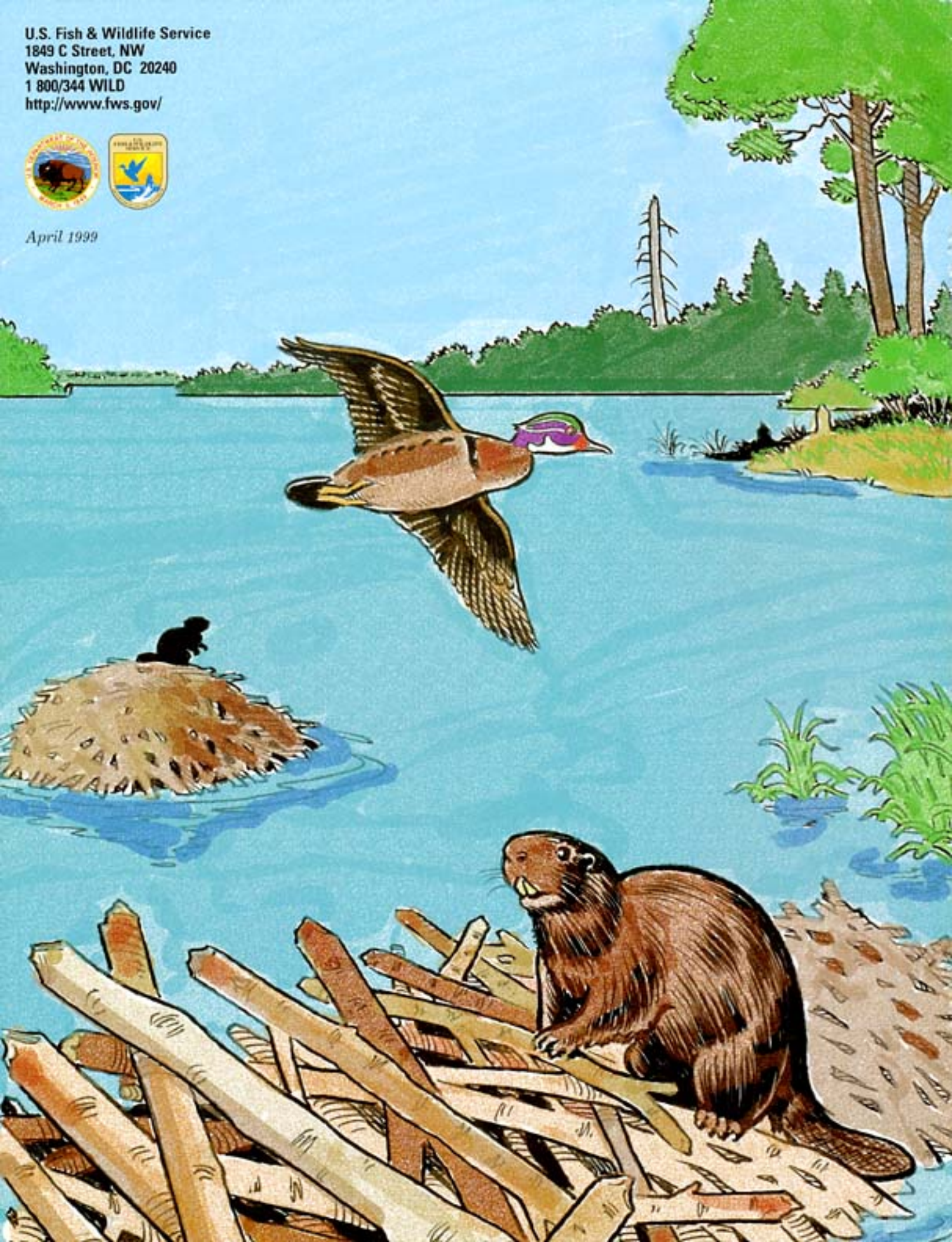
*April 1999*