

St. Olaf Natural Lands Biota

Educational Coloring Book



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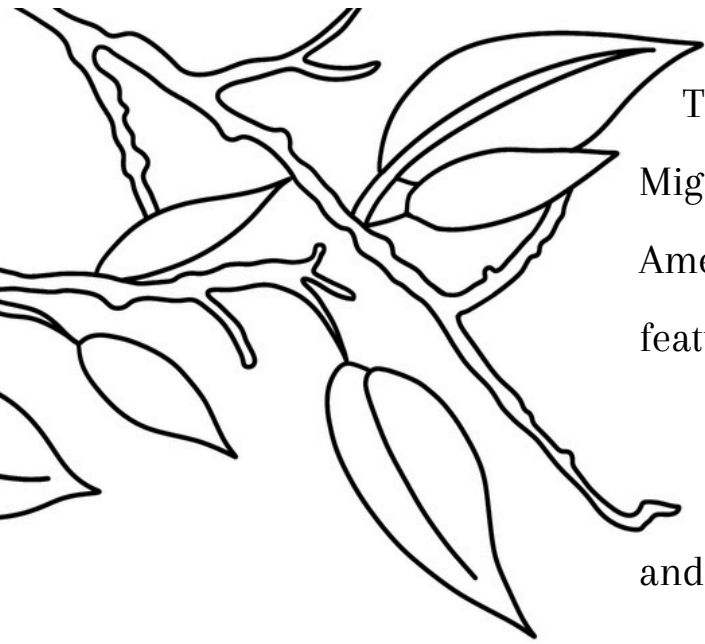
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American Robin

(Turdus migratorius)



The American Robin, scientifically known as *Turdus Migratorius*, is a migratory songbird native to North America. It is a medium-sized thrush with distinctive features, including a reddish-orange breast, grayish-brown upperparts, and a white eye ring. The

American Robin is known for its melodic song and is often associated with the arrival of spring in

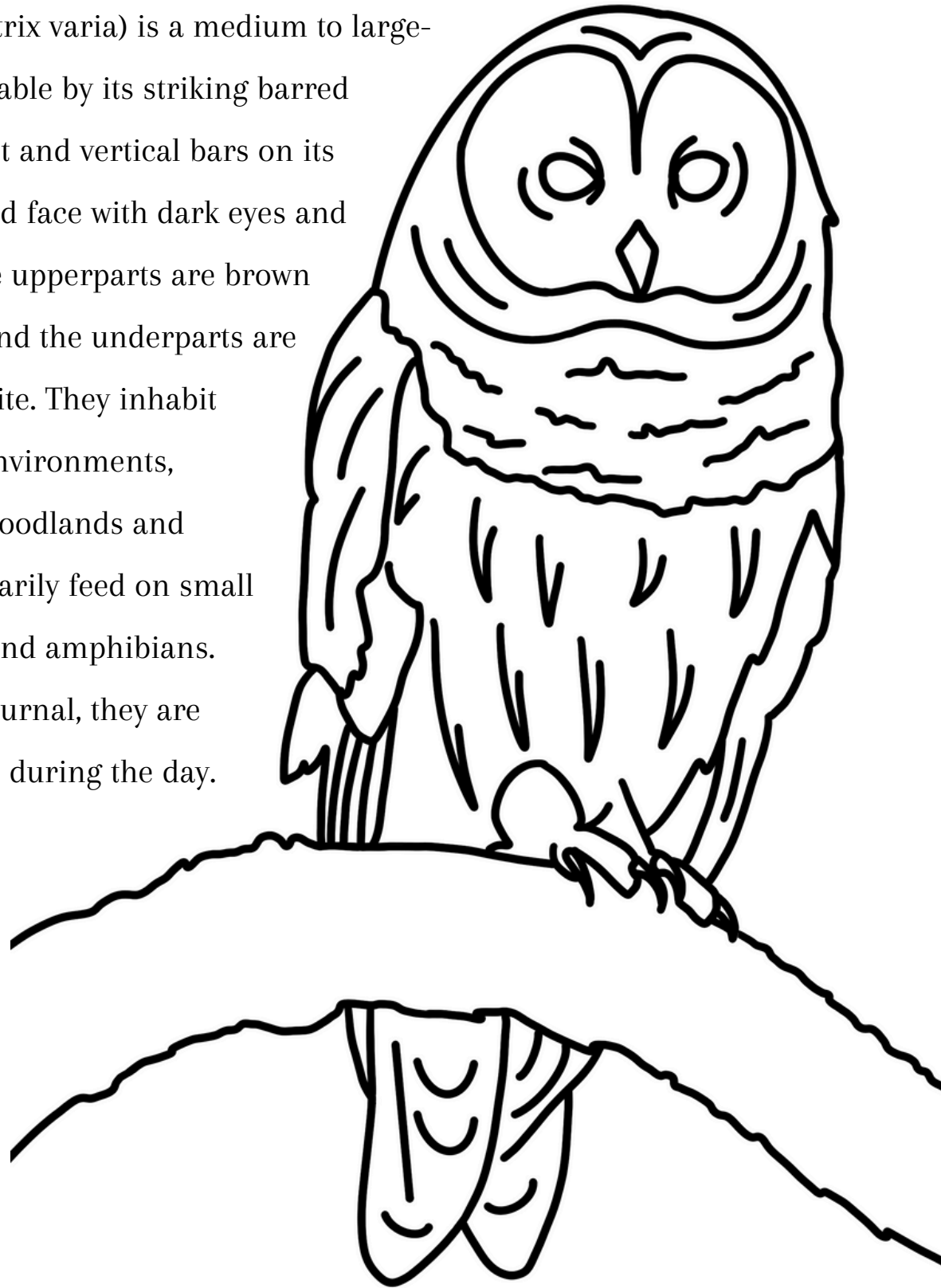
many regions. These birds are commonly found in various habitats, including gardens, parks, and woodlands, and they feed on a diverse diet that includes insects, fruits, and earthworms.



Barred Owl

(Strix varia)

The Barred Owl (*Strix varia*) is a medium to large-sized owl recognizable by its striking barred pattern on its chest and vertical bars on its belly. It has a round face with dark eyes and lacks ear tufts. The upperparts are brown with white spots, and the underparts are predominantly white. They inhabit various forested environments, including mixed woodlands and swamps, and primarily feed on small mammals, birds, and amphibians. Despite being nocturnal, they are occasionally active during the day.



Birds-Foot Trefoil

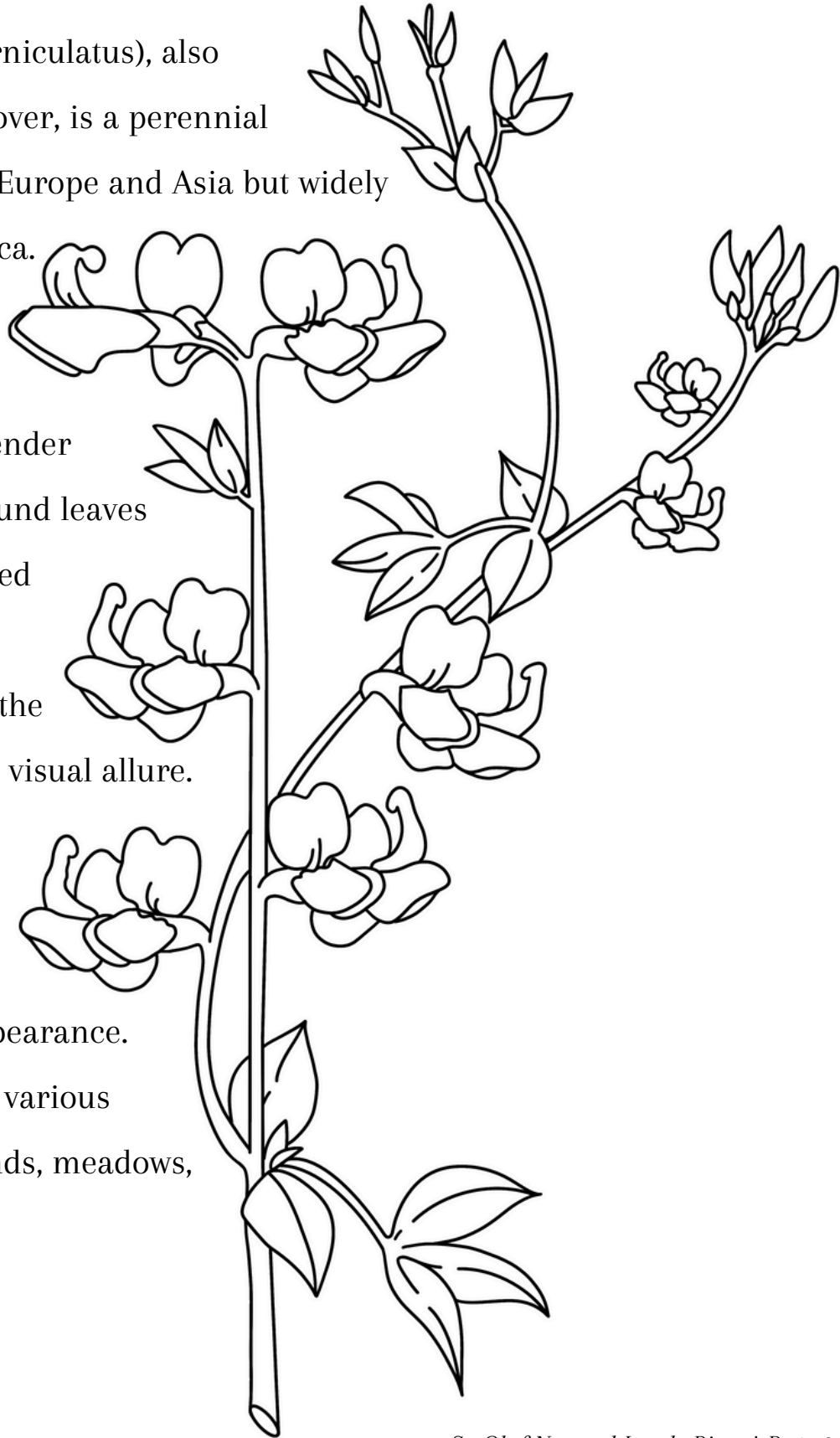
(Lotus corniculatus)

Bird's-foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), also referred to as bird's-foot clover, is a perennial herbaceous plant native to Europe and Asia but widely established in North America.

It typically grows to a height of 1 to 2 feet (0.3 to 0.6 meters) and features slender stems adorned with compound leaves consisting of five oval-shaped leaflets. The plant's vibrant yellow flowers, clustered at the ends of the stems add to its visual allure.

Its distinctive seed pods, resembling a bird's foot with elongated projections, contribute to its unique appearance.

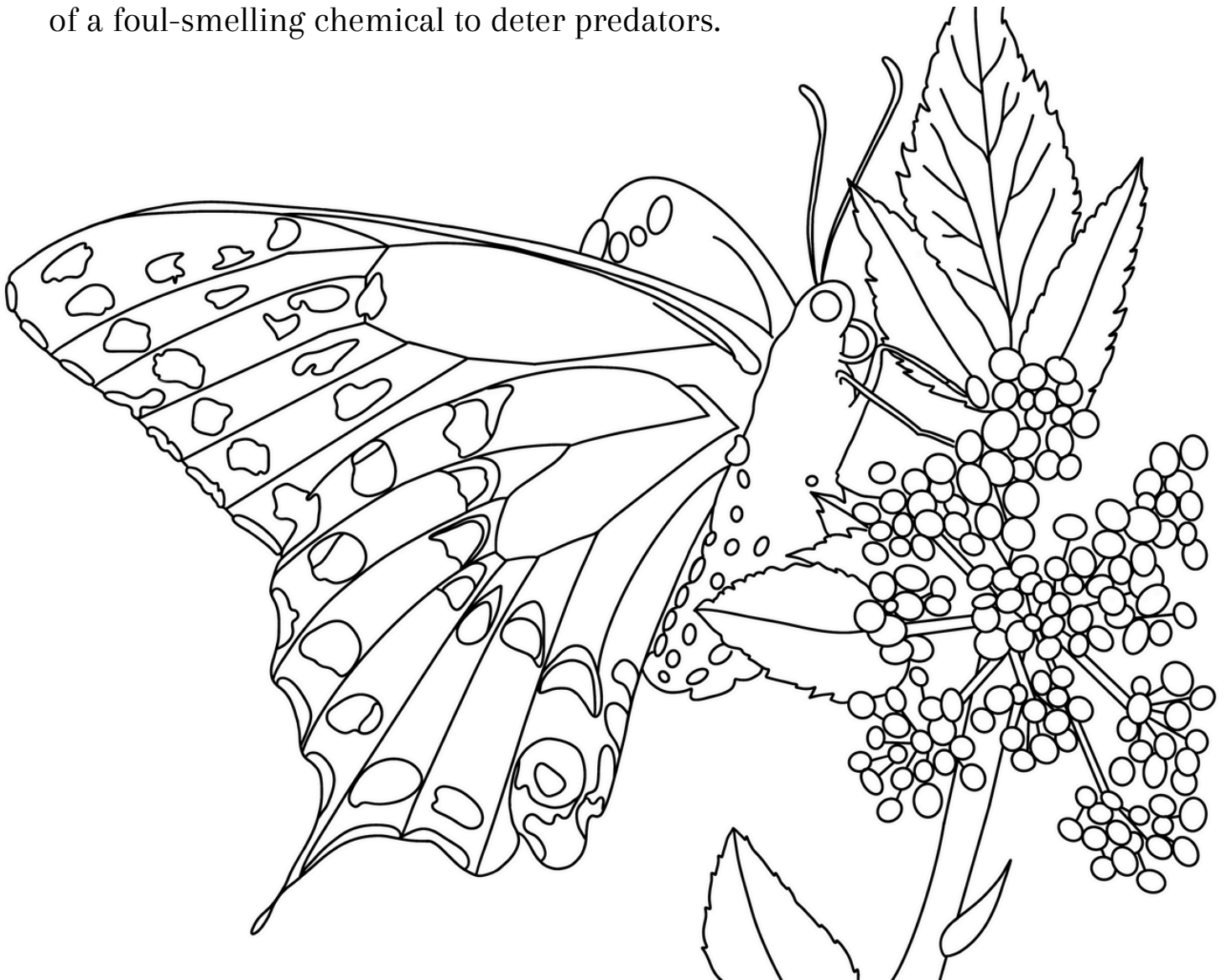
Bird's-foot trefoil thrives in various habitats, including grasslands, meadows, and along roadsides.



Black Swallowtail

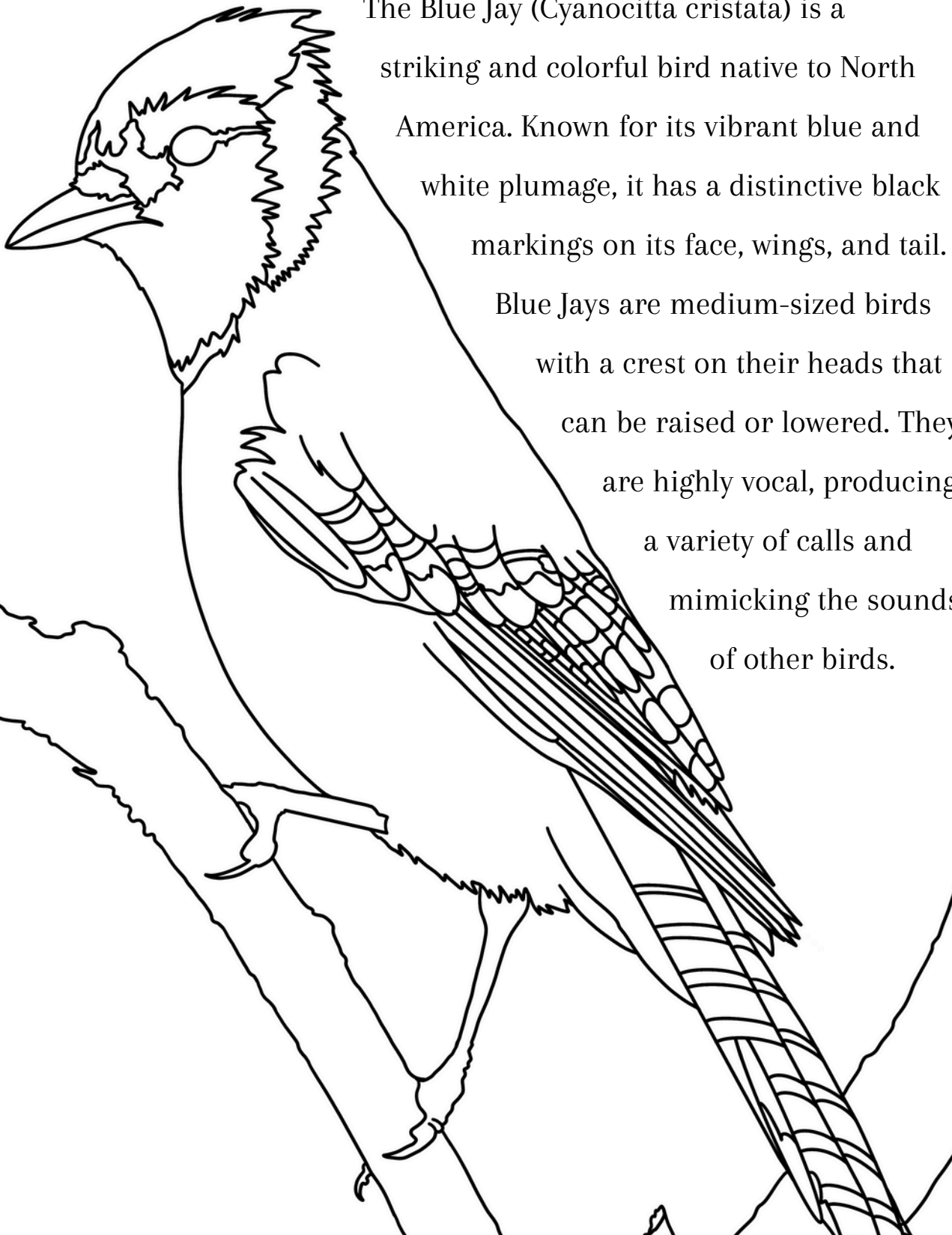
(Papilio polyxenes)

The Black Swallowtail (*Papilio polyxenes*) is a butterfly native to North America. It is characterized by its distinctive black wings with rows of yellow spots and a prominent iridescent blue band near the edges. The wingspan of the adult butterfly typically ranges from 2.5 to 4 inches (6.4 to 10.2 cm). It has a unique defense mechanism called osmeterium, which involves the release of a foul-smelling chemical to deter predators.



Blue Jay

(Cyanocitta cristata)



The Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) is a striking and colorful bird native to North America. Known for its vibrant blue and white plumage, it has a distinctive black markings on its face, wings, and tail.

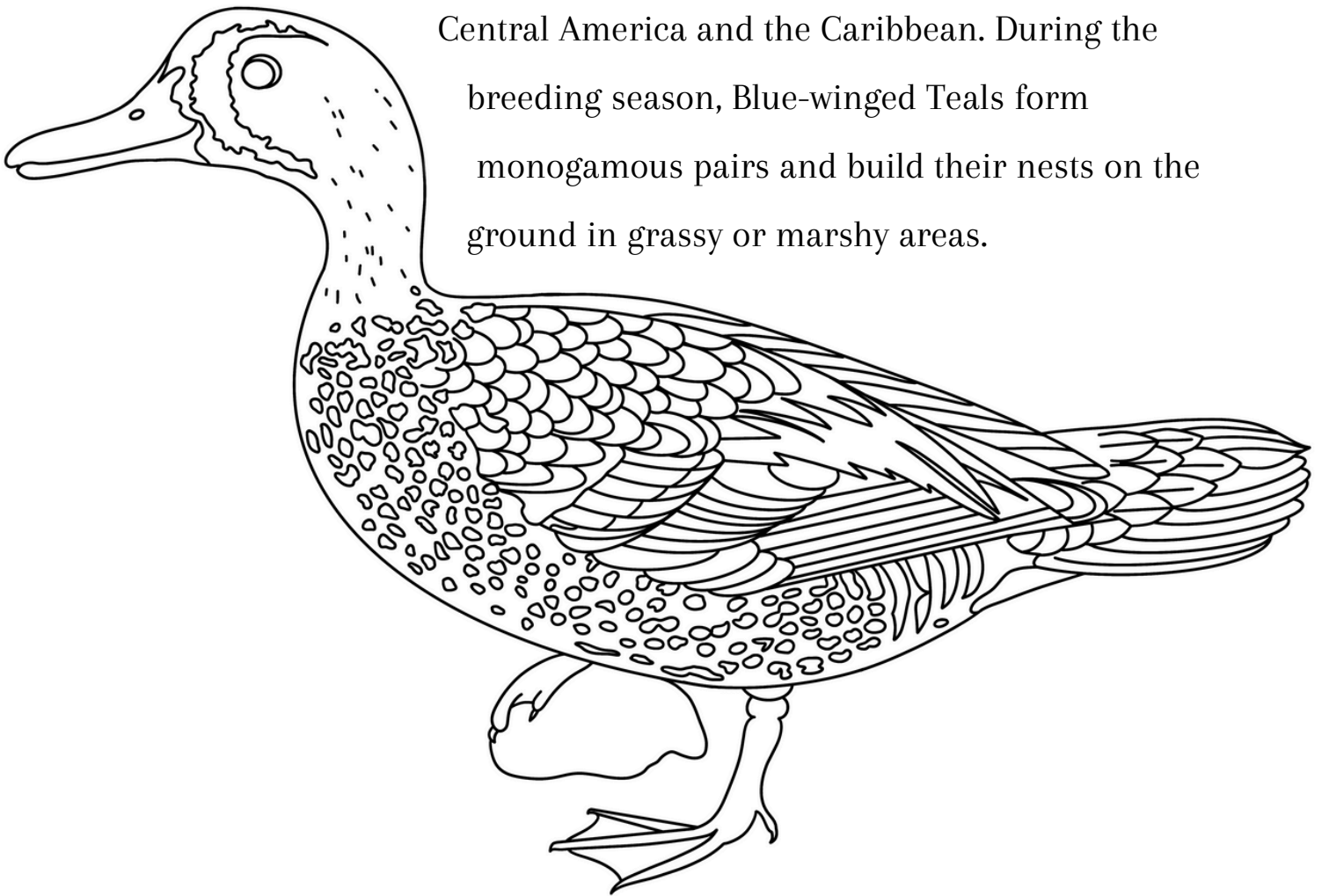
Blue Jays are medium-sized birds with a crest on their heads that can be raised or lowered. They are highly vocal, producing a variety of calls and mimicking the sounds of other birds.

Blue Winged Teal

(Spatula discors)

The Blue-winged Teal (*Spatula discors*) is a small dabbling duck named for the distinctive blue patch on its wings, which is visible during flight. Blue-winged Teals are often found in shallow wetlands, marshes, and ponds, where they feed by dabbling at the water's surface for aquatic plants, seeds, and invertebrates. They are highly migratory, breeding in northern regions of North America and wintering in southern parts of the continent, as well as in

Central America and the Caribbean. During the breeding season, Blue-winged Teals form monogamous pairs and build their nests on the ground in grassy or marshy areas.



Brown Creeper

(Certhia americana)

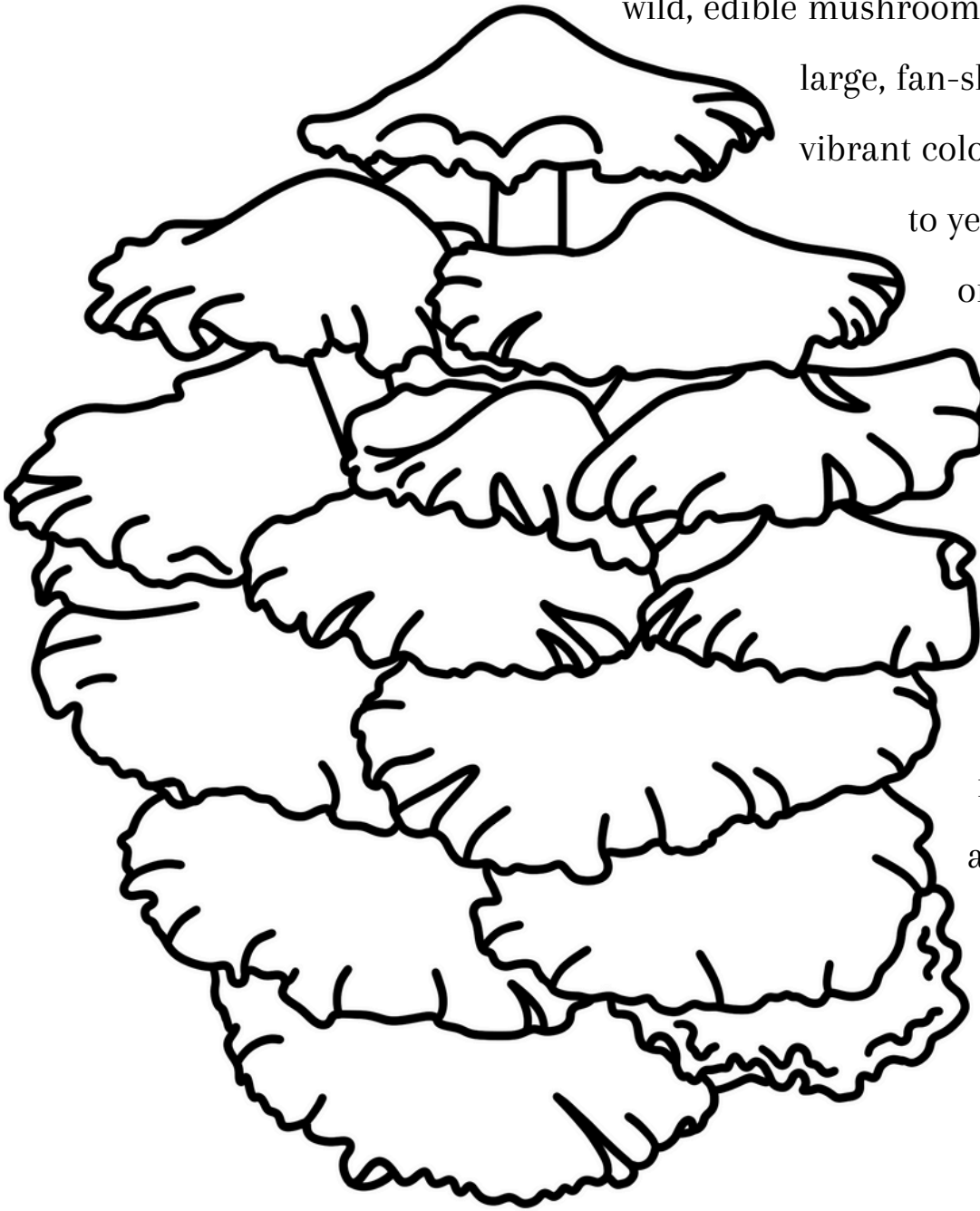
The Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*) is a small, colored songbird found across North America. Its name aptly describes its behavior of creeping up tree trunks and branches in search of insects and spiders, which make up the bulk of its diet. The Brown Creeper has a distinctive appearance, with a long, slender body and a curved, thin bill adapted for probing into bark crevices. Its tail feathers are stiff and pointed, providing support as it spirals up trees in a distinctive motion, often starting at the base of a tree and working its way up to the canopy before flying to the base of another tree to begin the process anew.



Chicken of the Woods

(Laetiporus sulphureus)

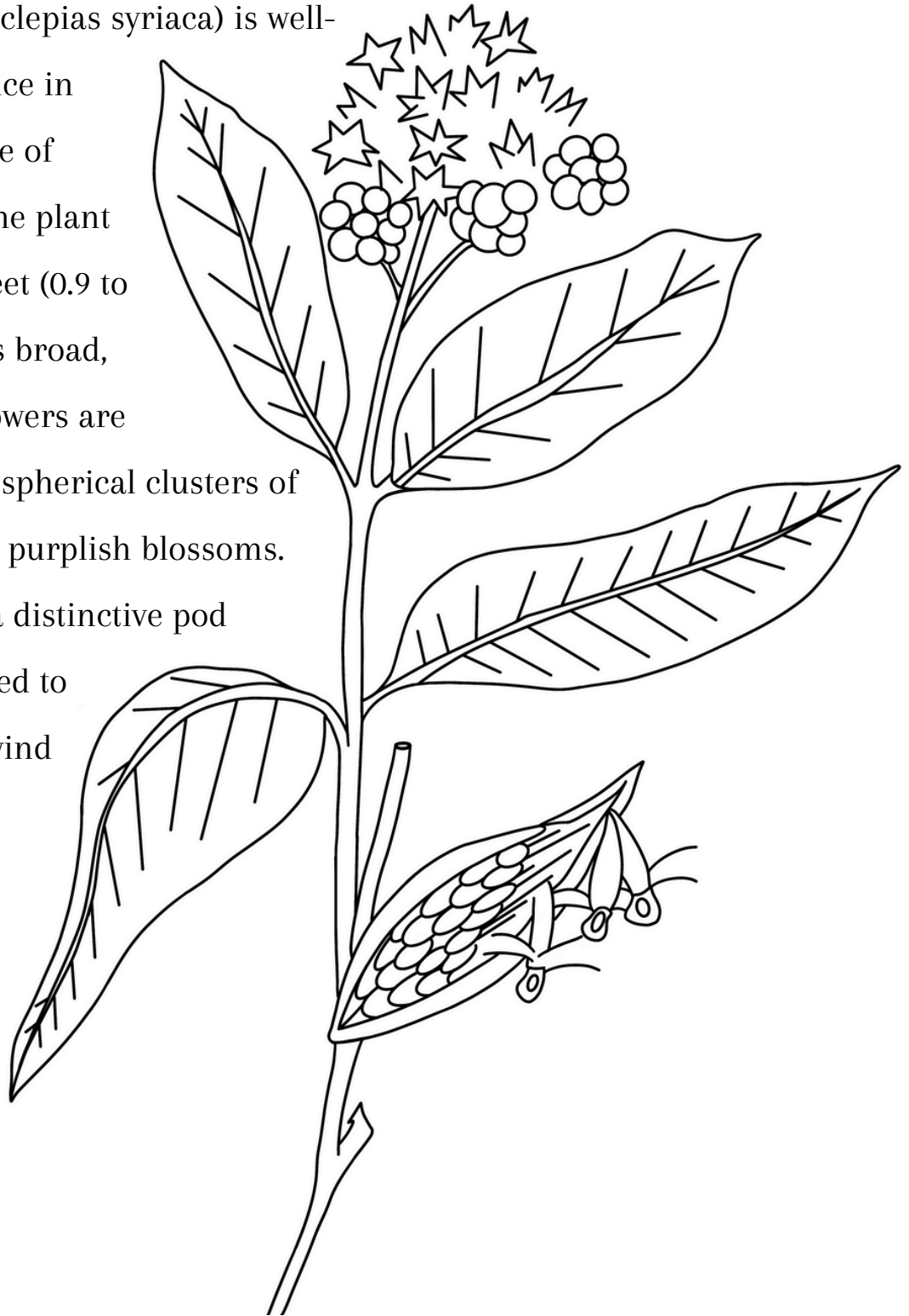
Chicken of the Woods (*Laetiporus*) is a group of wild, edible mushrooms recognized for their large, fan-shaped appearance and vibrant colors, ranging from orange to yellow. Commonly found on hardwood trees, they have a mild, savory flavor and a texture reminiscent of chicken. Proper identification is essential when foraging for these mushrooms, and caution should be exercised as misidentification can be harmful.



Common Milkweed

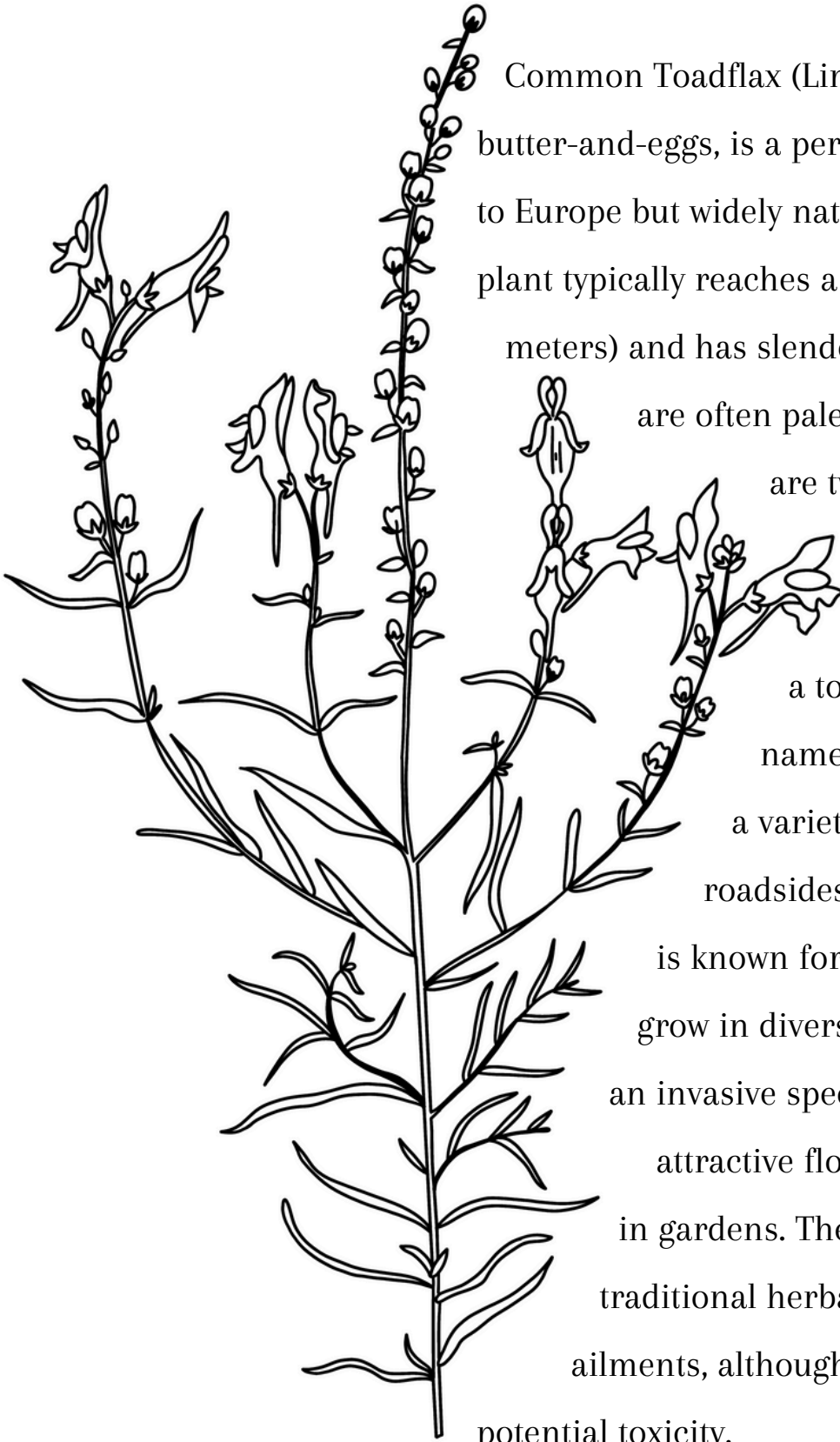
(Asclepias syriaca)

Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) is well-known for its importance in supporting the life cycle of monarch butterflies. The plant typically grows 3 to 6 feet (0.9 to 1.8 meters) tall and has broad, opposite leaves. The flowers are unique, forming large, spherical clusters of small, fragrant, pink to purplish blossoms. Each flower produces a distinctive pod filled with seeds attached to silky hairs that aid in wind dispersal. Common Milkweed thrives in a variety of habitats, including meadows, fields, and roadsides.



Common Toadflax

(Linaria vulgaris)

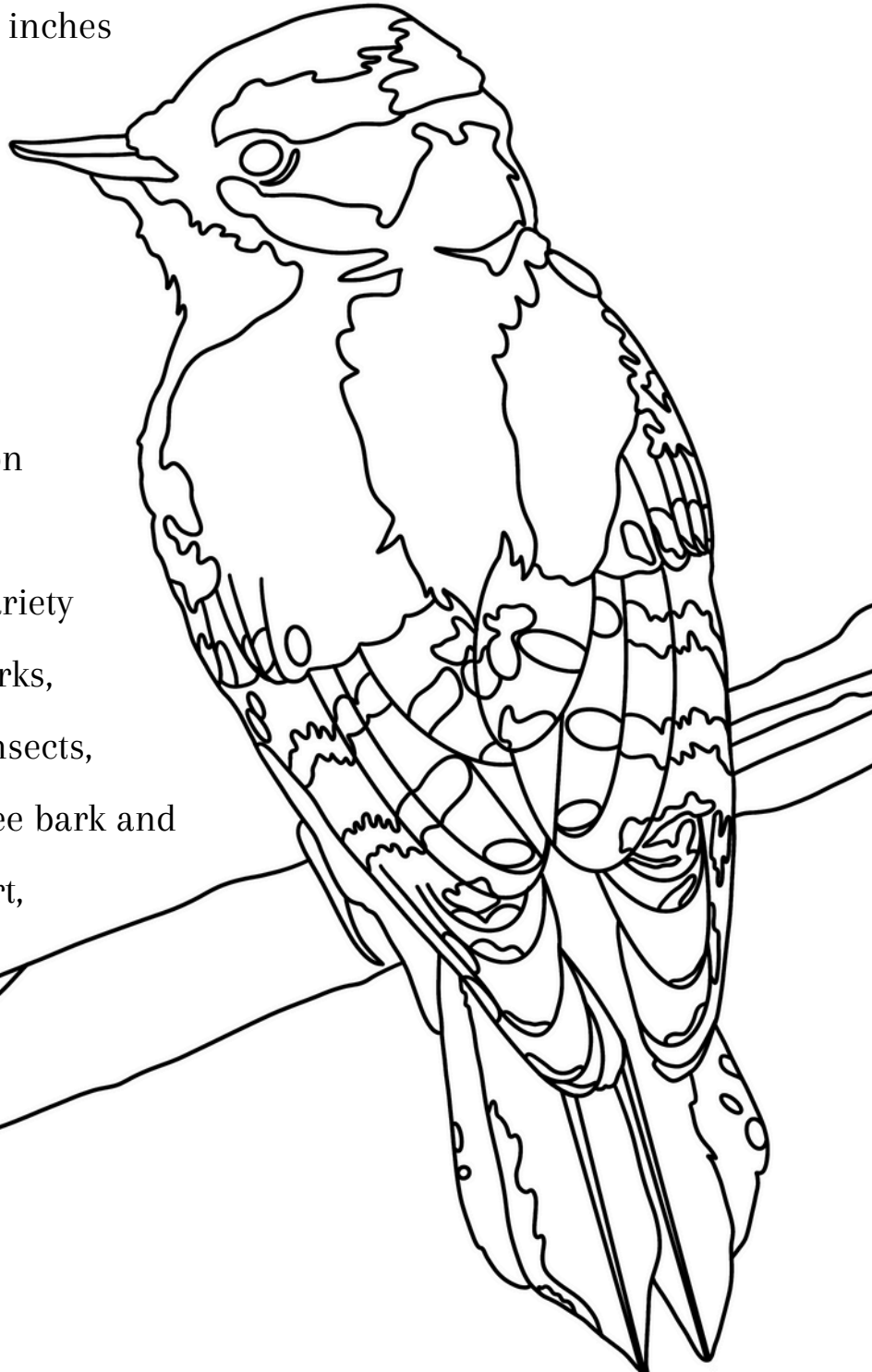


Common Toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*), also known as butter-and-eggs, is a perennial herbaceous plant native to Europe but widely naturalized in North America. The plant typically reaches a height of 1 to 3 feet (0.3 to 0.9 meters) and has slender stems with linear leaves that are often pale green. The distinctive flowers are two-lipped, with a yellow lower lip and orange or pale purple upper lip, resembling a toad's mouth, hence the common name. Common Toadflax is found in a variety of habitats, including roadsides, waste areas, and meadows. It is known for its resilience and ability to grow in diverse conditions. While considered an invasive species in some regions, its attractive flowers make it a popular choice in gardens. The plant has been used in traditional herbal medicine for various ailments, although caution is advised due to its potential toxicity.

Downy Woodpecker

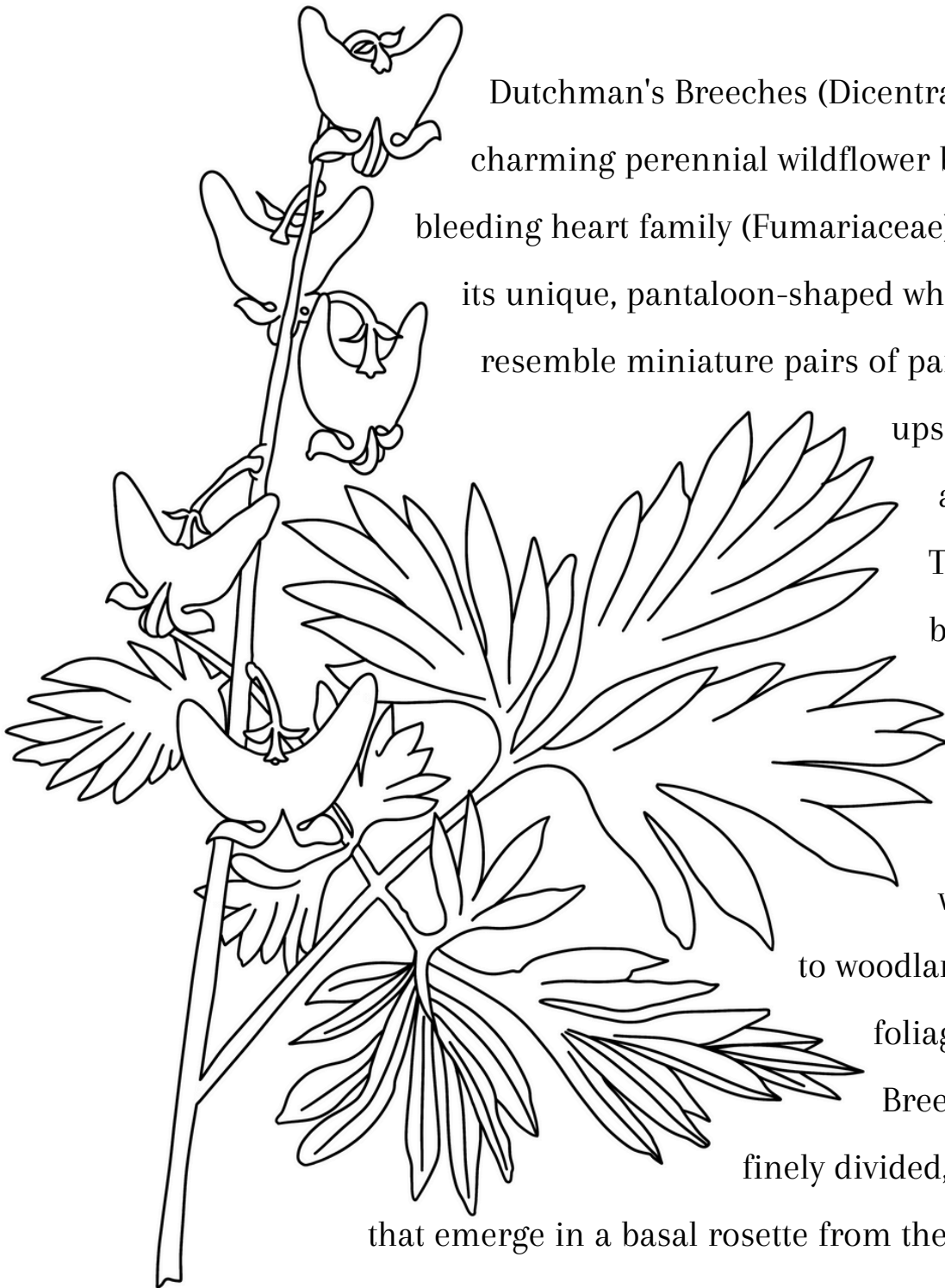
(Picoides pubescens)

The Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*) is a small and common woodpecker found throughout North America. It is the smallest woodpecker in the region. Adult downy woodpeckers are about 6 to 7 inches (15 to 18 cm) in length and have distinctive black and white plumage. They have a white face, throat, and belly, with a black back, wings, and tail. Males can be differentiated by a small red patch on the back of their heads. Downy woodpeckers are often found in a variety of habitats, including woodlands, parks, and suburban areas. They feed on insects, larvae, and spiders by tapping on tree bark and probing into crevices with their short, sturdy bills.



Dutchman's Breeches

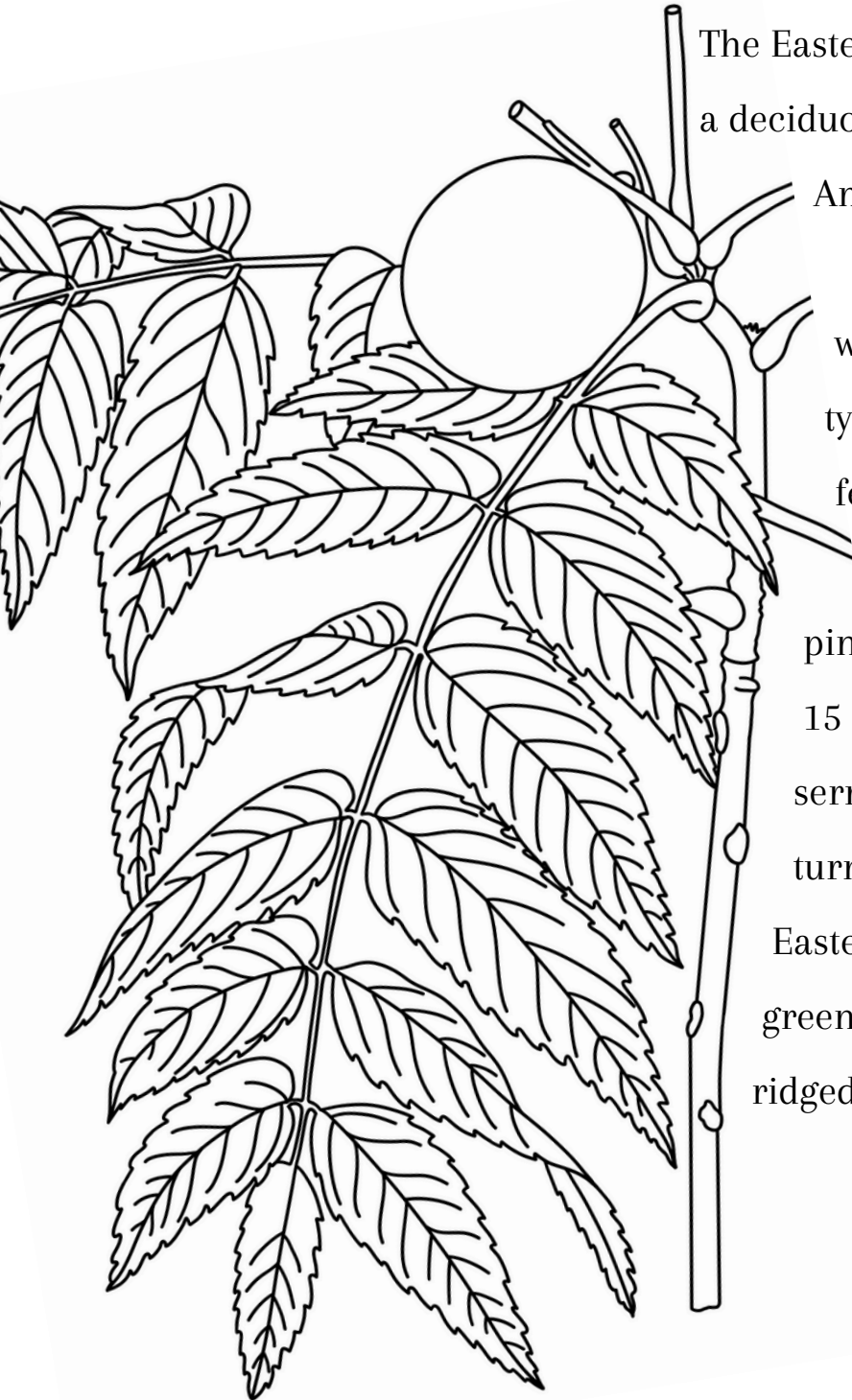
(Dicentra cucullaria)



Dutchman's Breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*) is a charming perennial wildflower belonging to the bleeding heart family (*Fumariaceae*). It is known for its unique, pantaloony-shaped white flowers that resemble miniature pairs of pants hanging upside down from arching stems. These distinctive blooms typically appear in early spring, adding a whimsical touch to woodland habitats. The foliage of Dutchman's Breeches consists of finely divided, fern-like leaves that emerge in a basal rosette from the ground.

Eastern Black Walnut

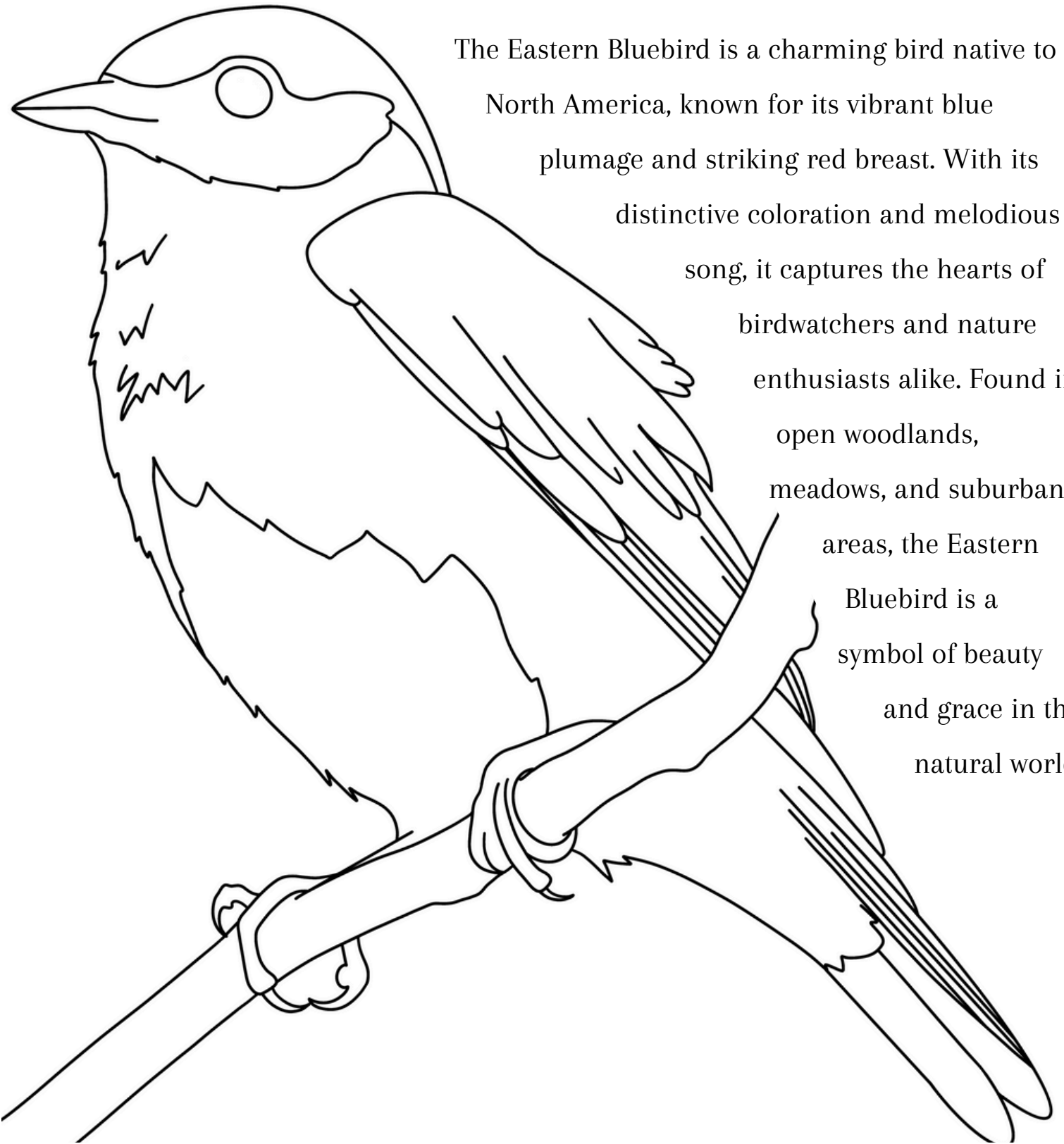
(Juglans nigra)



The Eastern Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*) is a deciduous tree native to eastern North America. It is known for its valuable timber, prized for its dark, rich wood, and its edible nuts. The tree typically reaches heights of 70 to 100 feet (21 to 30 meters) with a straight trunk and a spreading crown. The pinnately compound leaves consist of 15 to 23 lance-shaped leaflets with serrated edges. In the fall, the foliage turns yellow before shedding. The Eastern Black Walnut produces round, green-husked nuts that encase a hard, ridged shell containing the edible kernel.

Eastern Bluebird

(Sialia sialis)



The Eastern Bluebird is a charming bird native to North America, known for its vibrant blue plumage and striking red breast. With its distinctive coloration and melodious song, it captures the hearts of birdwatchers and nature enthusiasts alike. Found in open woodlands, meadows, and suburban areas, the Eastern Bluebird is a symbol of beauty and grace in the natural world.

False Sunflower

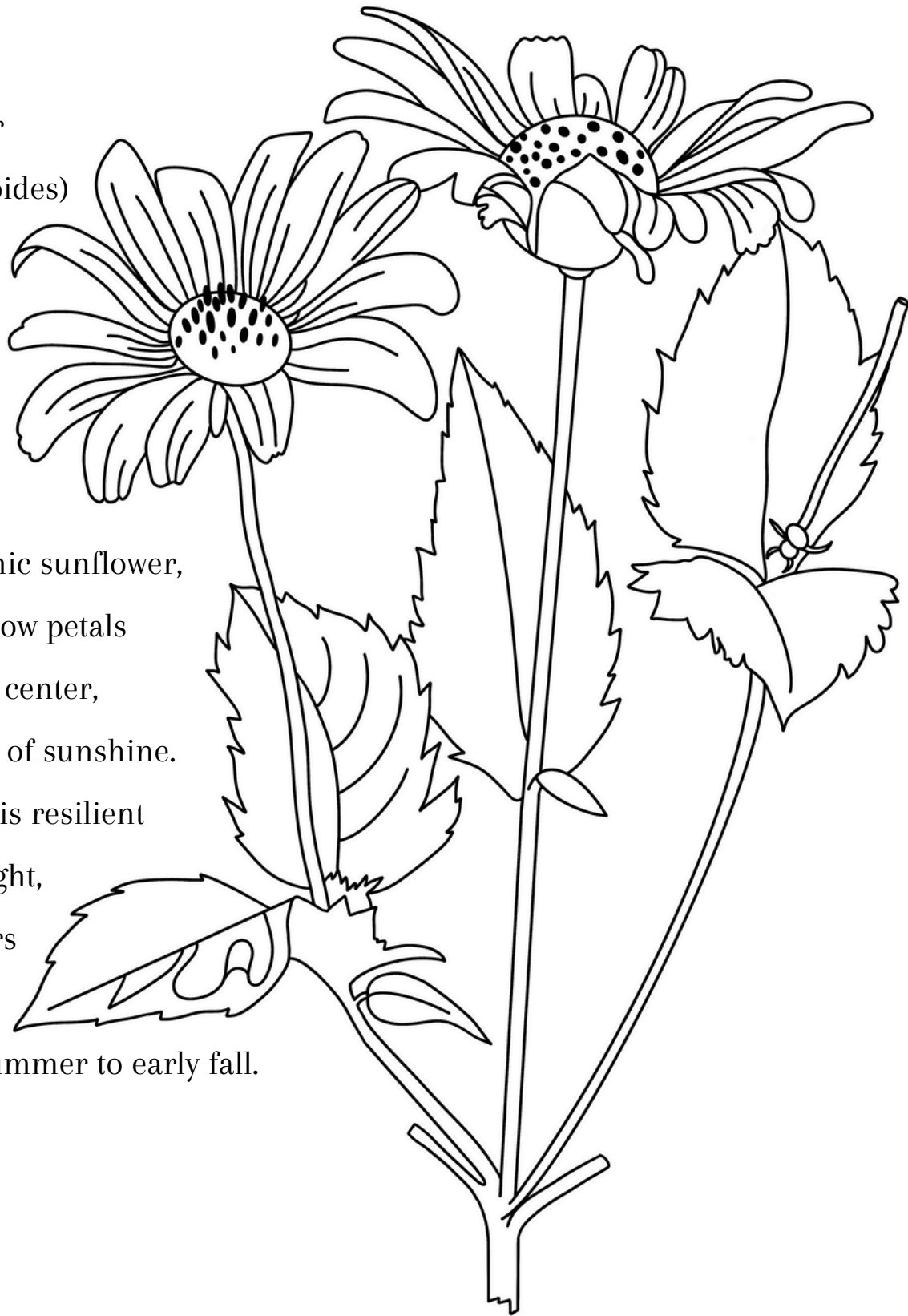
(Heliopsis helianthoides)

The False Sunflower
(*Heliopsis helianthoides*)

is a perennial
plant that graces
gardens and
meadows with its
vibrant presence.

Resembling the iconic sunflower,
it boasts golden-yellow petals
surrounding a dark center,
evoking the warmth of sunshine.

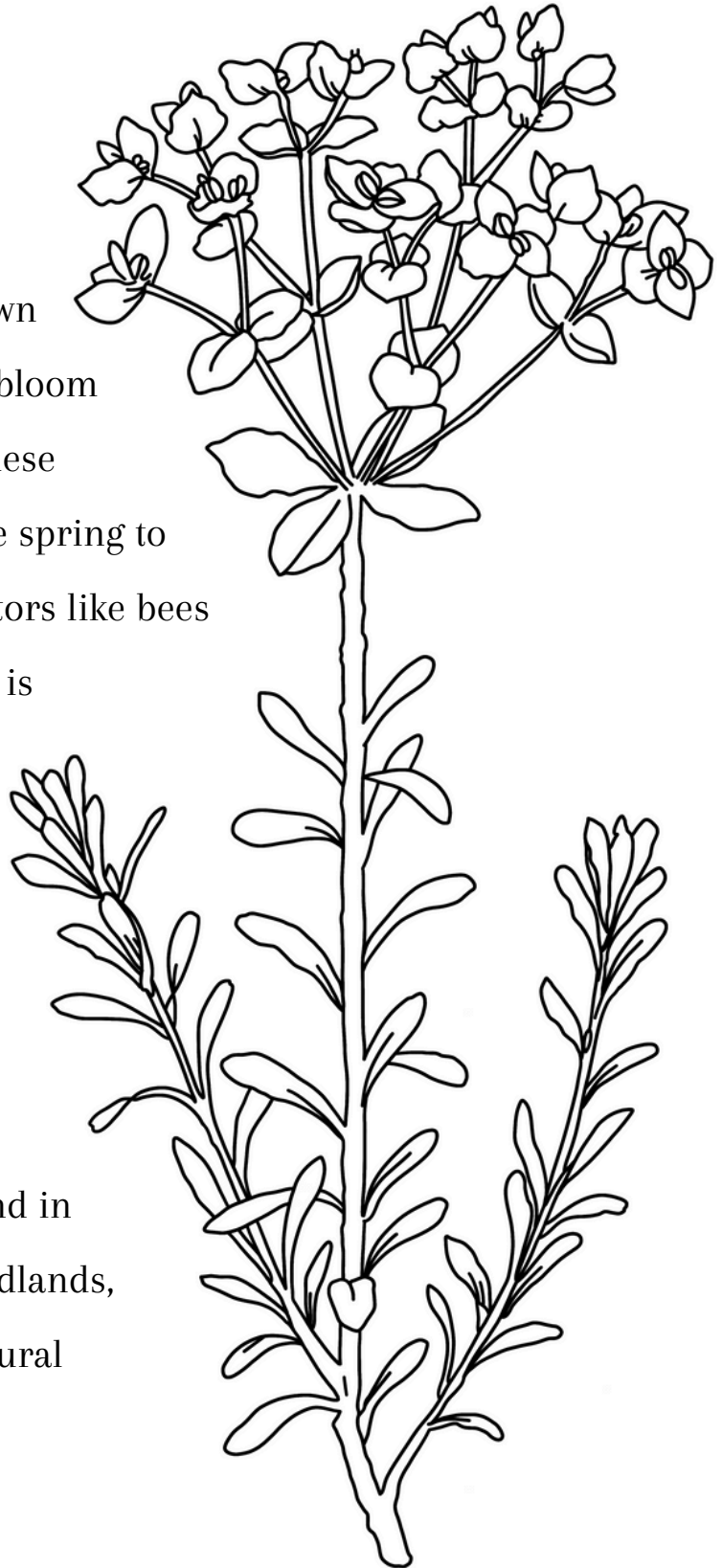
Despite its name, this resilient
flower is a true delight,
attracting pollinators
with its abundant
blooms from late summer to early fall.



Flowering Spurge

(Euphorbia corollata)

Flowering Spurge belongs to the Euphorbiaceae family and is known for its delicate white flowers that bloom in clusters atop slender stems. These flowers typically appear from late spring to early summer and attract pollinators like bees and butterflies. Flowering Spurge is characterized by its narrow, lance-shaped leaves arranged alternately along the stems. The plant reaches a height of about 1 to 3 feet and prefers well-drained soils in full sun to partial shade. This wildflower is commonly found in prairies, meadows, and open woodlands, adding a touch of elegance to natural landscapes.



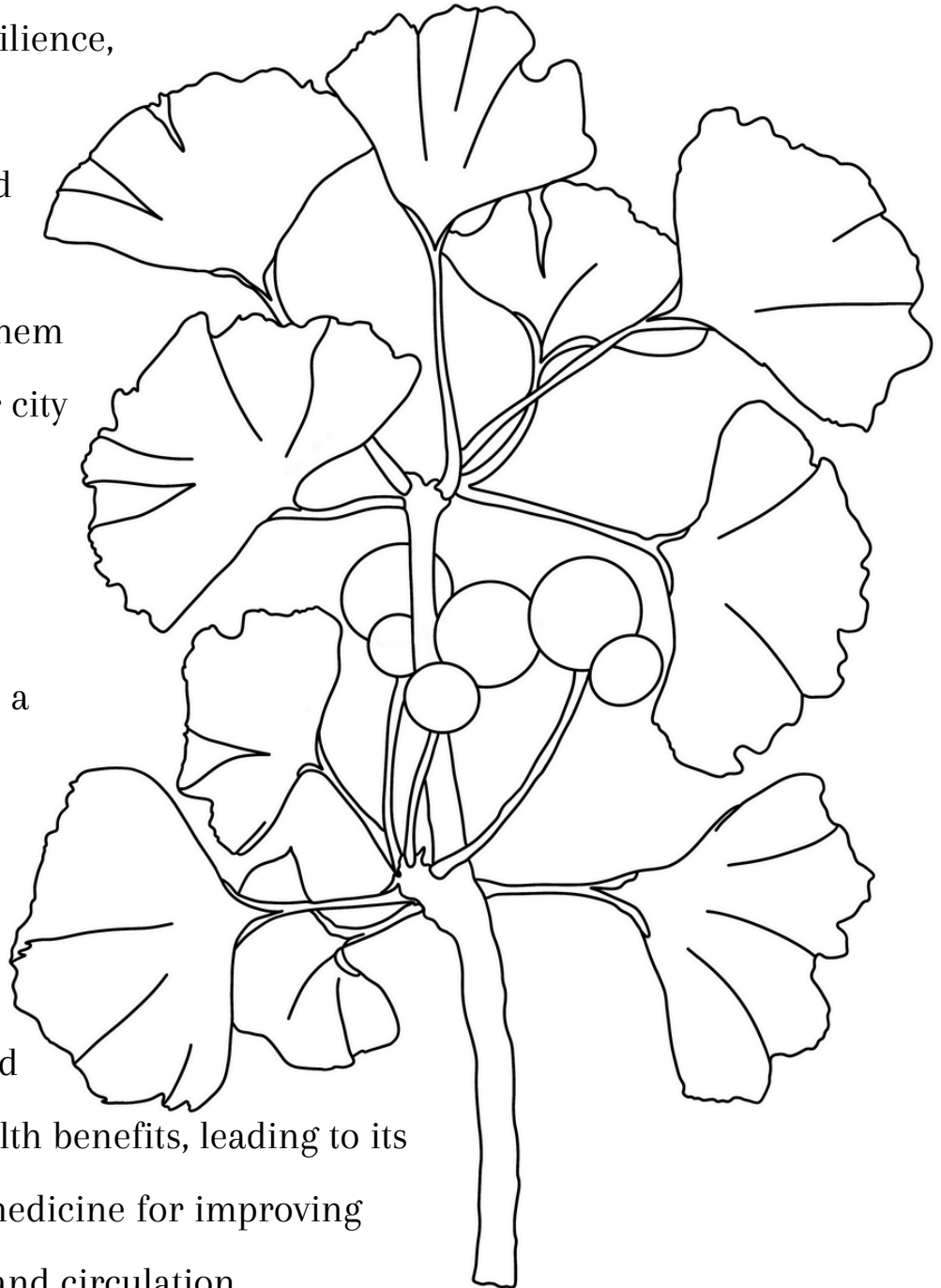
Ginkgo

(Ginkgo biloba)

The Ginkgo tree (*Ginkgo biloba*) is a unique and ancient species native to China. It's renowned for its distinctive fan-shaped leaves that turn a vibrant golden yellow in the fall, creating a stunning display of color. Ginkgo trees are known for their resilience,

ability to withstand urban pollution and environmental stressors, making them popular choices for city streets and parks.

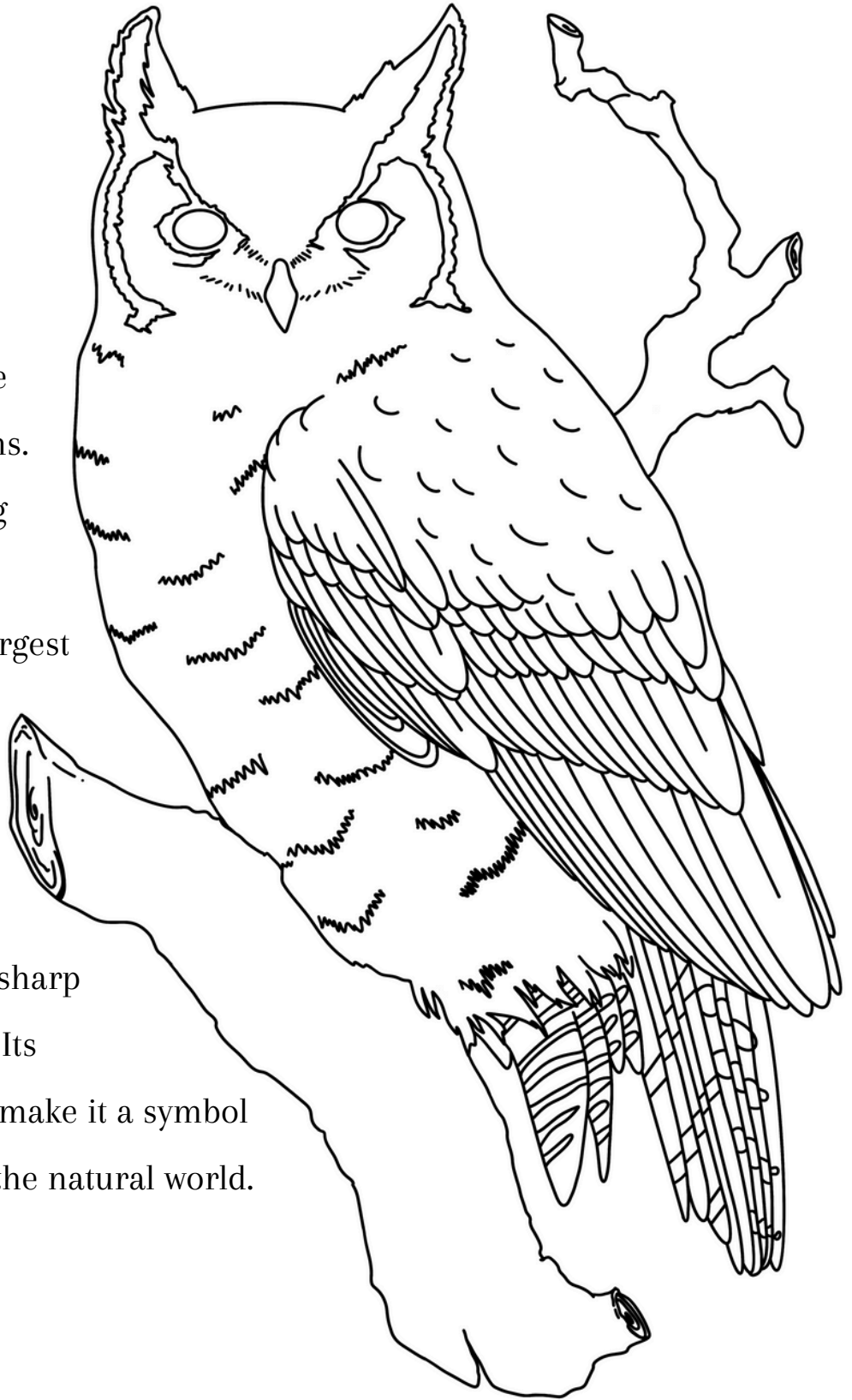
Aside from its ornamental value, the Ginkgo tree has a rich history of medicinal and cultural value. Its leaves contain compounds believed to have various health benefits, leading to its use in traditional medicine for improving cognitive function and circulation.



Great Horned Owl

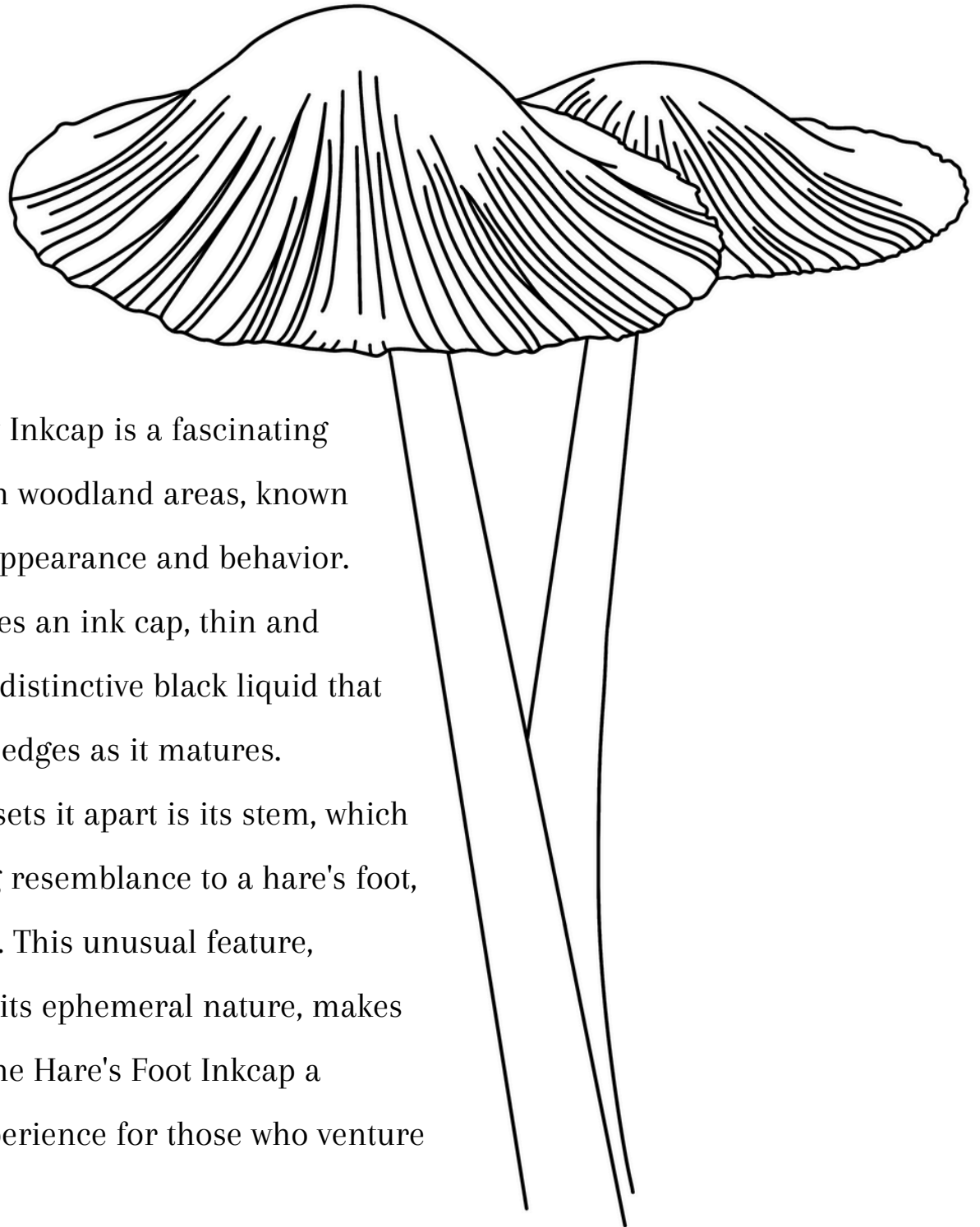
(Bubo virginianus)

The Great Horned Owl, a majestic predator of the night skies, commands attention with its piercing yellow eyes and distinctive ear tufts, resembling horns. With a wingspan reaching up to five feet, it reigns as one of North America's largest owls. As a formidable hunter, the Great Horned Owl preys on a wide range of creatures using its silent flight and sharp talons to capture its prey. Its adaptability and strength make it a symbol of wisdom and stealth in the natural world.



Hare's Foot Inkcap

(Coprinosia lagopus)



The Hare's Foot Inkcap is a fascinating fungus found in woodland areas, known for its unique appearance and behavior.

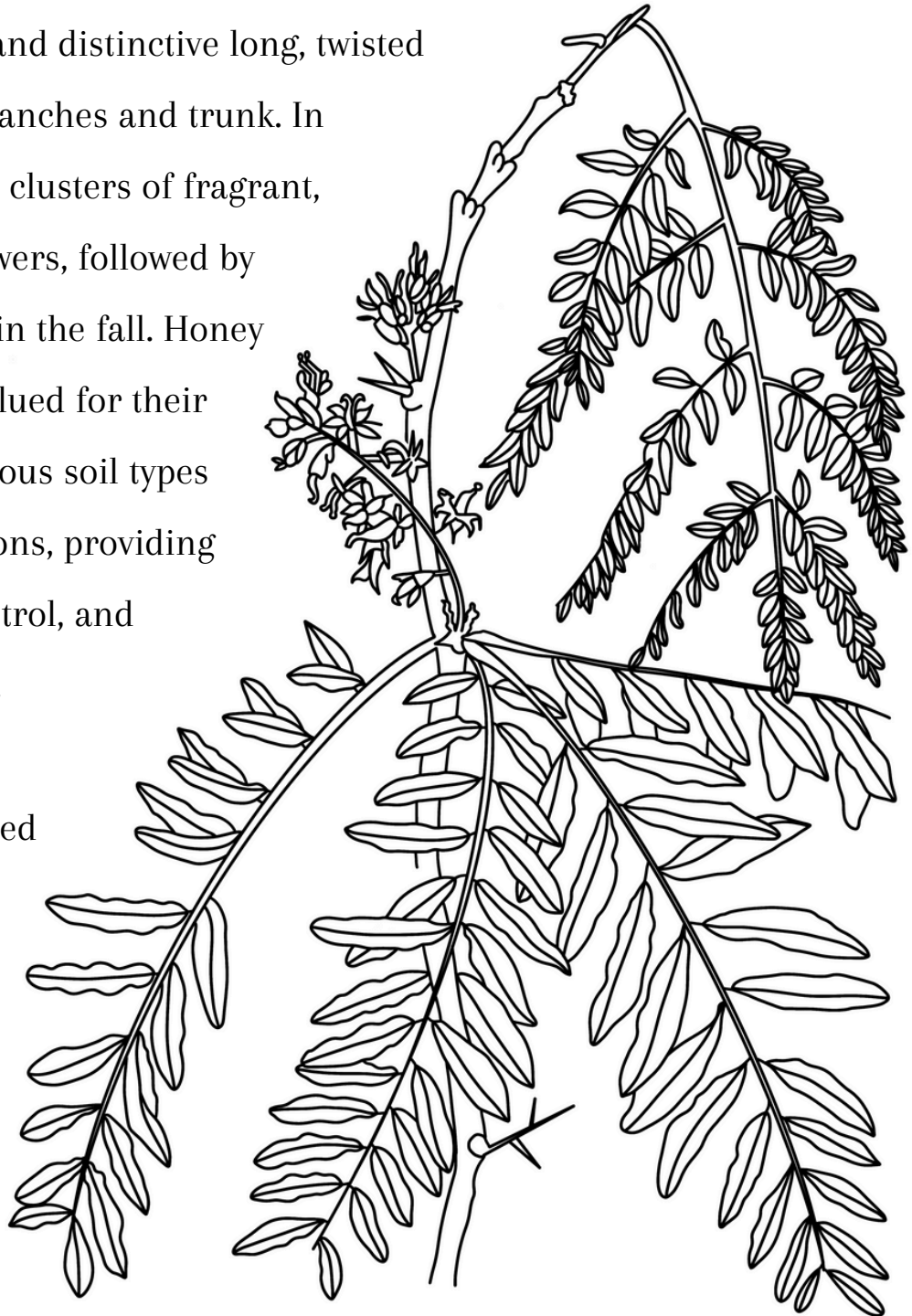
Its cap resembles an ink cap, thin and delicate, with a distinctive black liquid that oozes from the edges as it matures.

However, what sets it apart is its stem, which bears a striking resemblance to a hare's foot, hence its name. This unusual feature, combined with its ephemeral nature, makes encountering the Hare's Foot Inkcap a memorable experience for those who venture into the forest.

Honey Locust

(Gleditsia triacanthos)

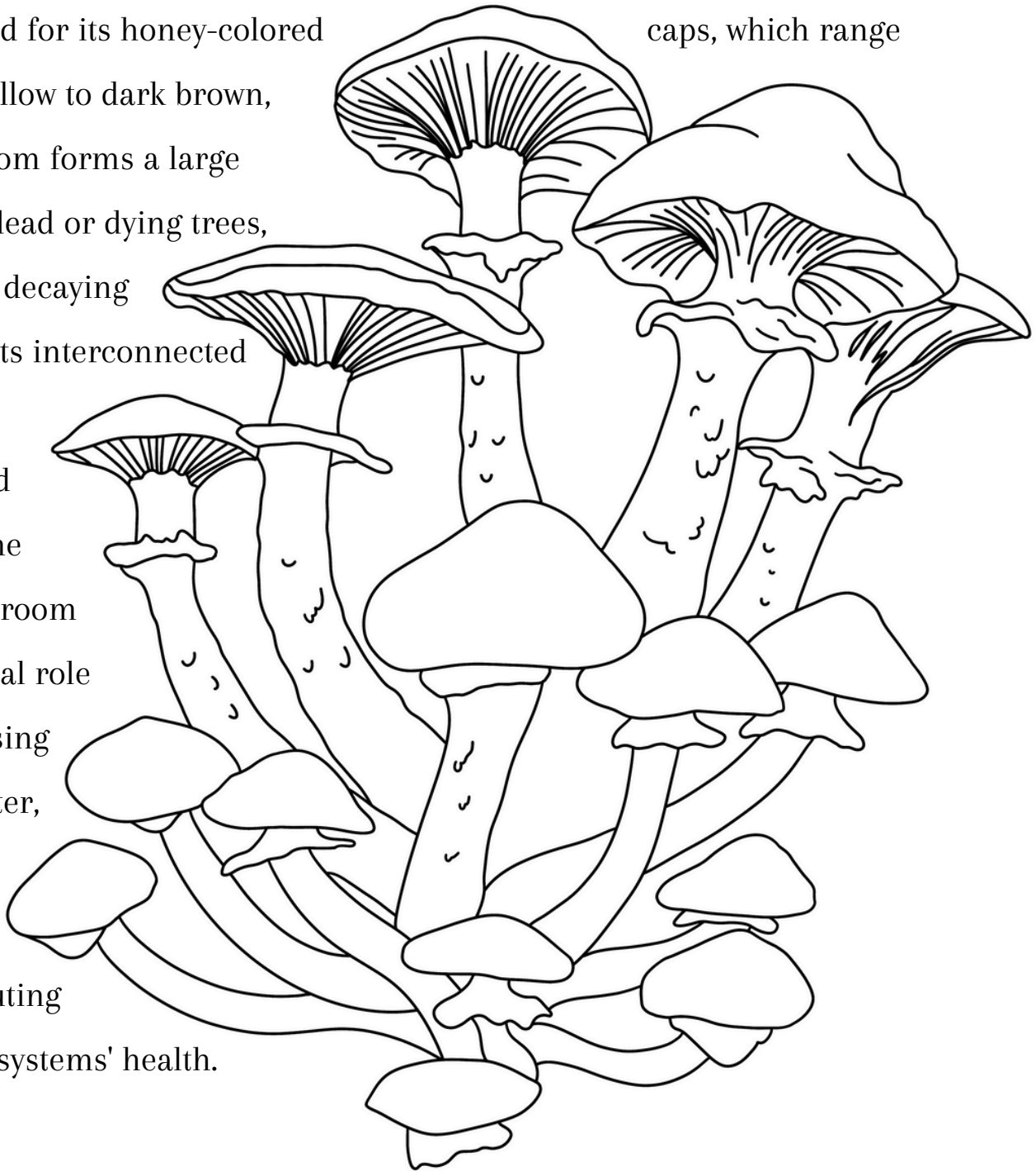
The Honey Locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*) is a deciduous tree prized for its elegant appearance and versatility. It typically grows to 40-70 feet tall, featuring compound leaves and distinctive long, twisted thorns along its branches and trunk. In spring, it produces clusters of fragrant, greenish-white flowers, followed by long, twisted pods in the fall. Honey Locust trees are valued for their adaptability to various soil types and urban conditions, providing shade, erosion control, and habitat for wildlife. Additionally, their durable wood is used in construction and woodworking projects.



Honey Mushroom

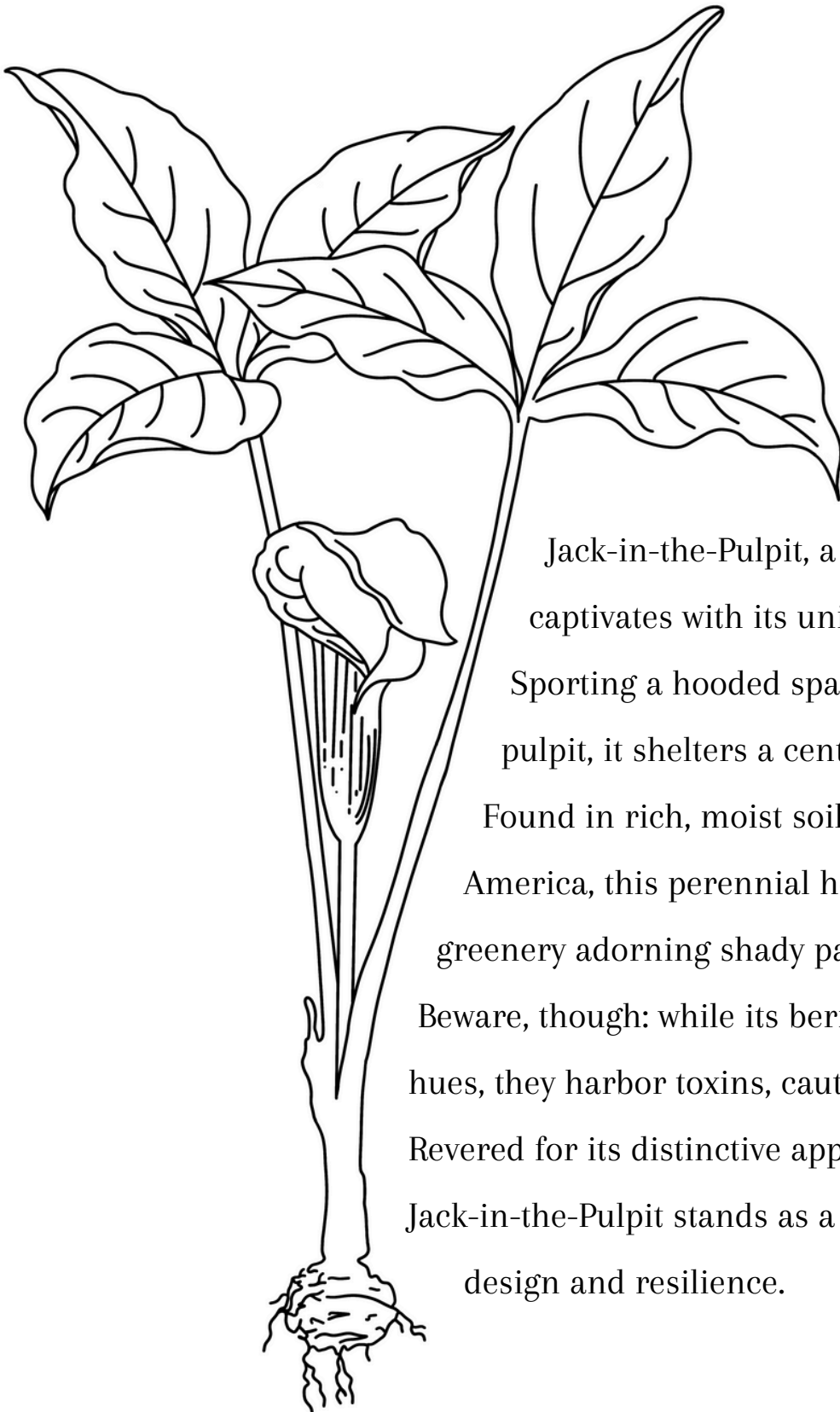
(Armillaria mellea)

The Honey Mushroom, scientifically known as *Armillaria mellea*, is a widespread and fascinating fungus found in forests and woodlands around the world. Named for its honey-colored caps, which range from pale yellow to dark brown, this mushroom forms a large clusters on dead or dying trees, stumps, and decaying wood. With its interconnected network of underground mycelium, the Honey Mushroom plays a crucial role in decomposing organic matter, recycling nutrients, and contributing to forest ecosystems' health.



Jack-in-the-Pulpit

(Arisaema triphyllum)

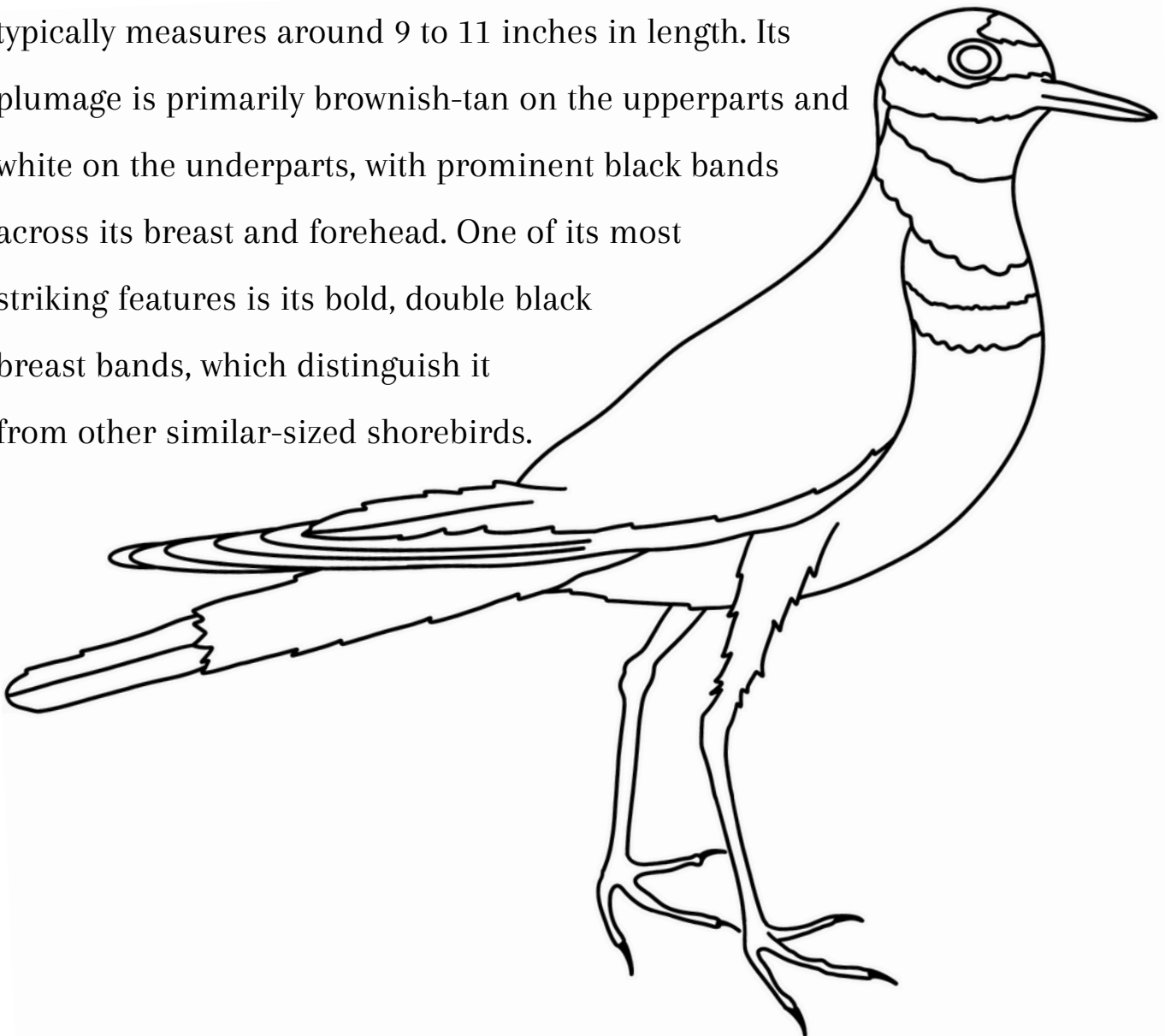


Jack-in-the-Pulpit, a charismatic woodland plant, captivates with its unique structure and presence. Sporting a hooded spathe resembling a preacher's pulpit, it shelters a central spadix, or "Jack," within. Found in rich, moist soils of forests across North America, this perennial herb emerges in spring, its greenery adorning shady patches with a touch of whimsy. Beware, though: while its berries may entice with vibrant hues, they harbor toxins, cautioning admiration from afar. Revered for its distinctive appearance and ecological role, Jack-in-the-Pulpit stands as a symbol of nature's intricate design and resilience.

Killdeer

(Charadrius vociferus)

The Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) is a medium-sized plover known for its distinctive appearance and behavior. It inhabits a variety of open habitats, including fields, meadows, beaches, and agricultural areas. This shorebird typically measures around 9 to 11 inches in length. Its plumage is primarily brownish-tan on the upperparts and white on the underparts, with prominent black bands across its breast and forehead. One of its most striking features is its bold, double black breast bands, which distinguish it from other similar-sized shorebirds.



Northern Cardinal

(Cardinalis cardinalis)

The Northern Cardinal, with its vibrant red plumage and distinctive crest, is a beloved symbol of beauty and resilience in Minnesota.

Found in woodlands, gardens, and urban areas, this striking bird captivates with its melodious song and bold presence.

While the male boasts a brilliant scarlet hue, the female exhibits a more subdued blend of tan and reddish

tones, both adorned with striking black facial markings. As year-round residents in

many regions, Northern Cardinals

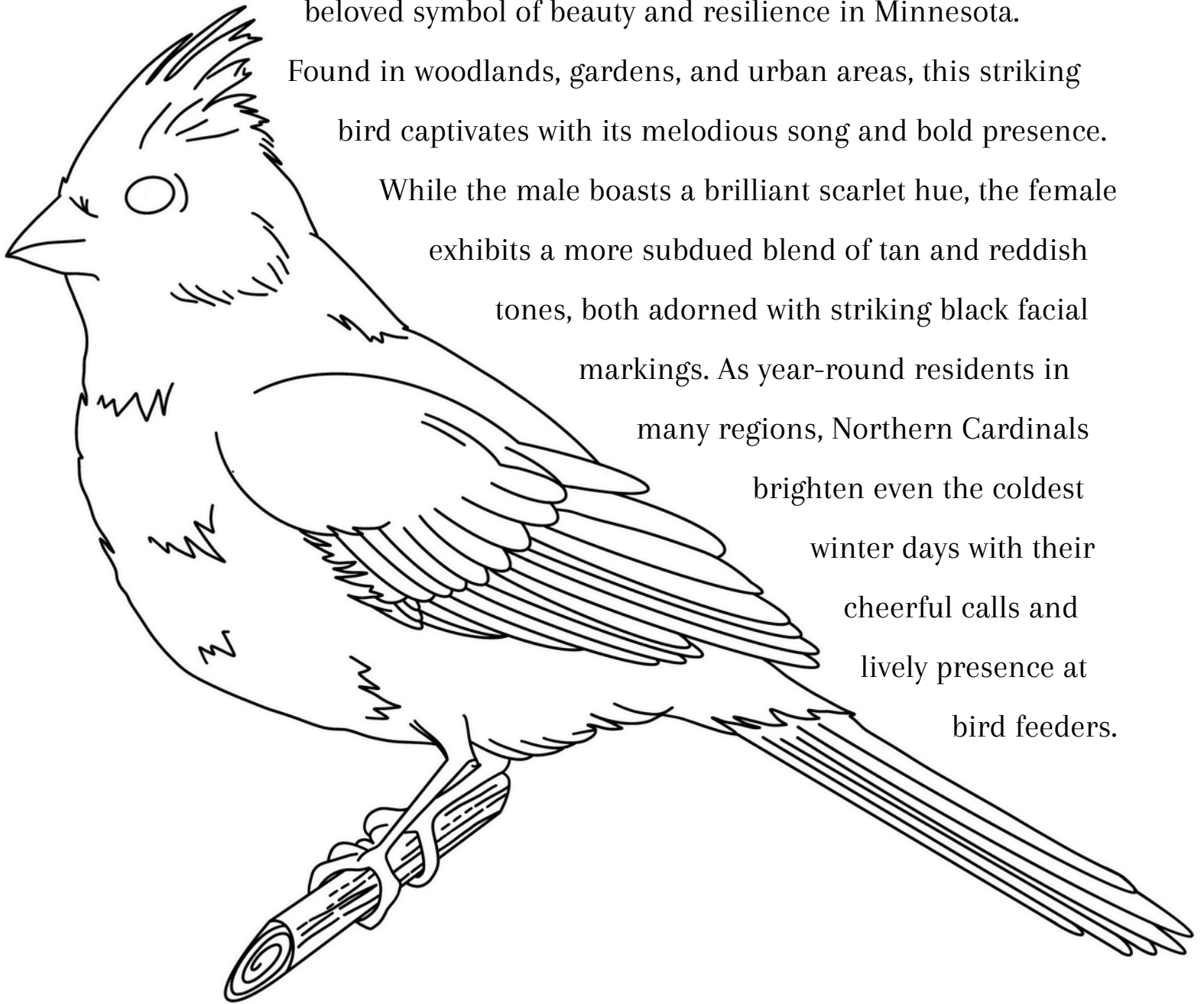
brighten even the coldest

winter days with their

cheerful calls and

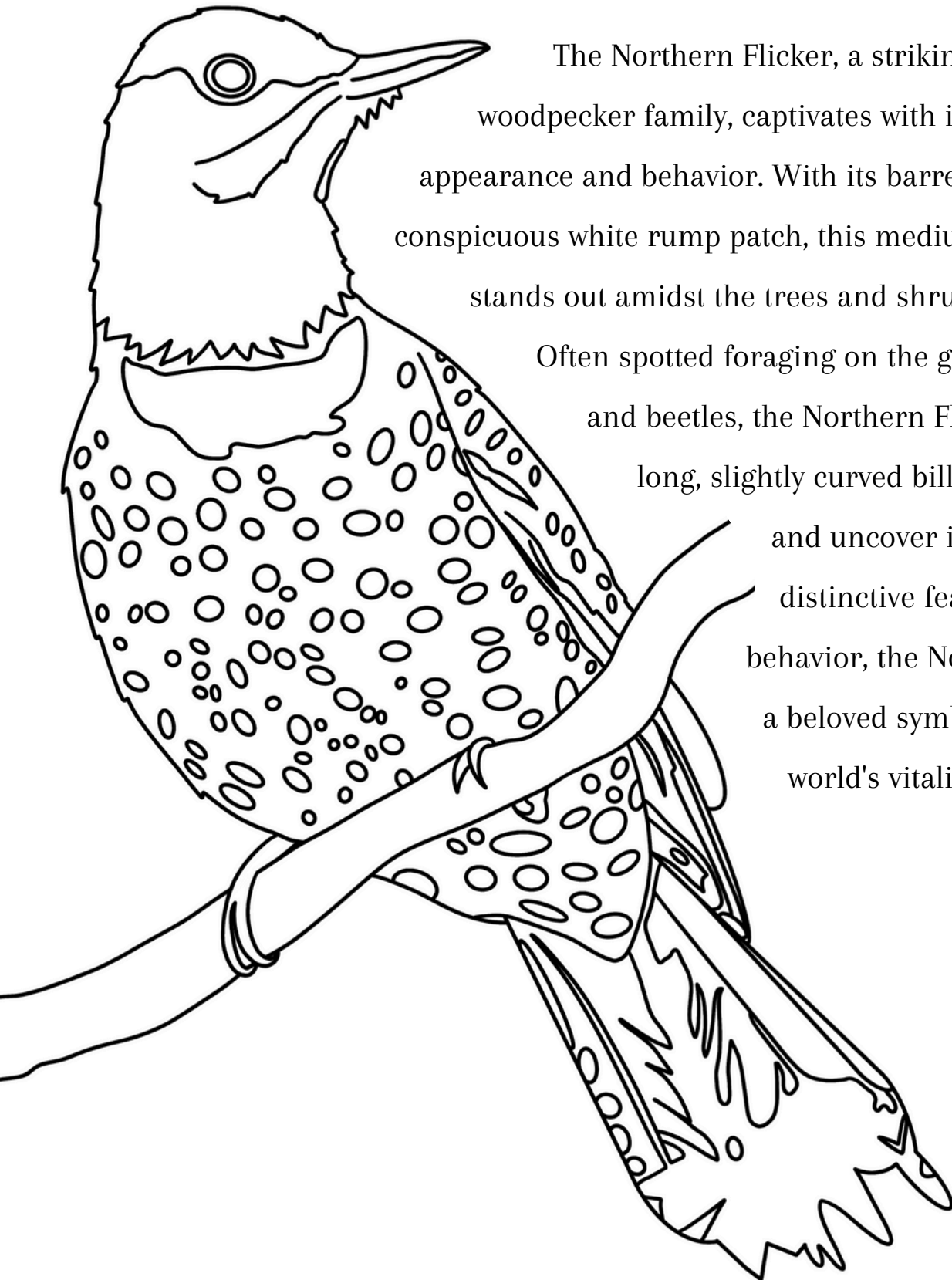
lively presence at

bird feeders.



Northern Flicker

(Colaptes auratus)



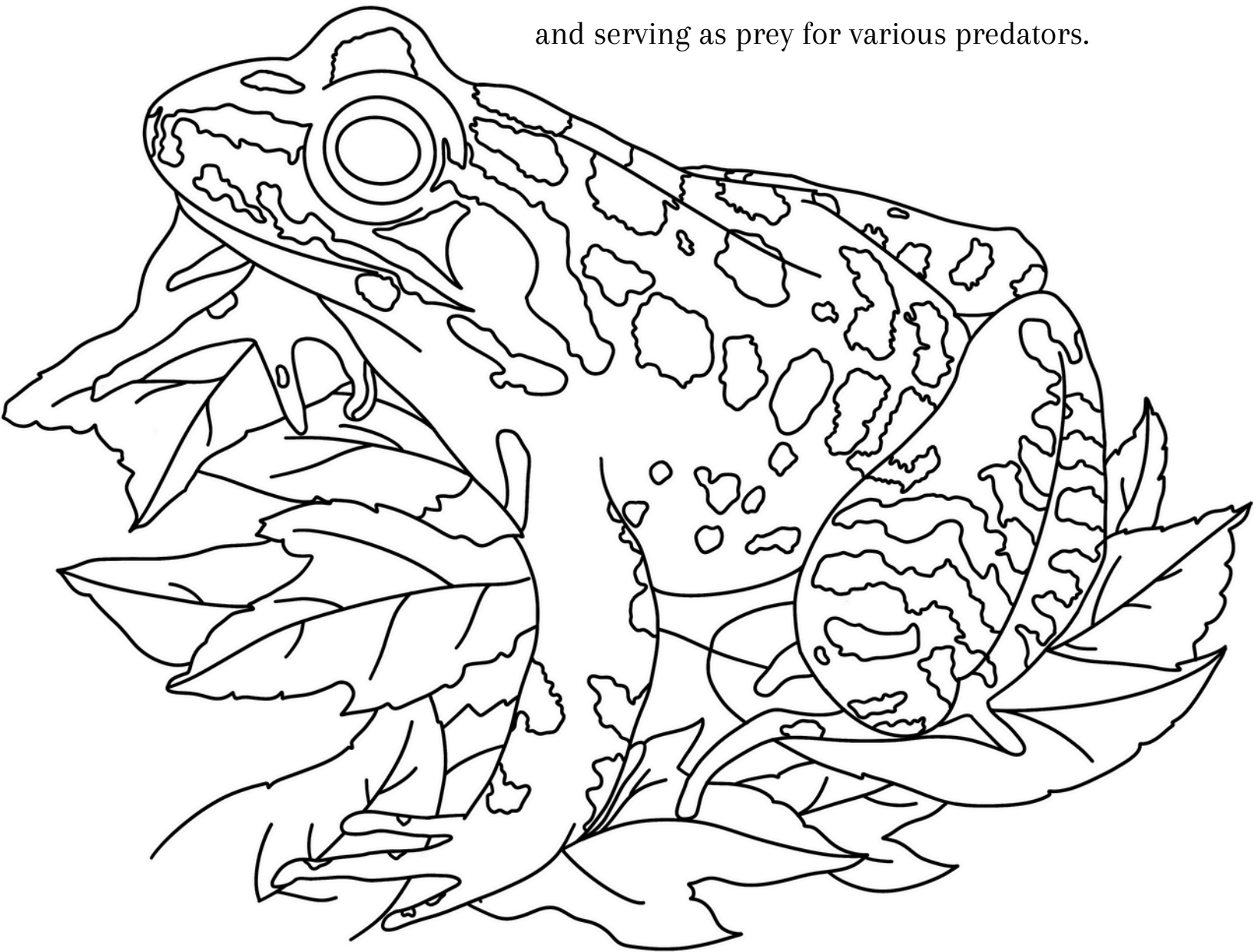
The Northern Flicker, a striking member of the woodpecker family, captivates with its unique appearance and behavior. With its barred plumage and conspicuous white rump patch, this medium-sized bird stands out amidst the trees and shrubs of Minnesota.

Often spotted foraging on the ground for ants and beetles, the Northern Flicker employs its long, slightly curved bill to probe the soil and uncover its prey. With its distinctive features and lively behavior, the Northern Flicker is a beloved symbol of the natural world's vitality and diversity.

Northern Leopard Frog

(Lithobates pipiens)

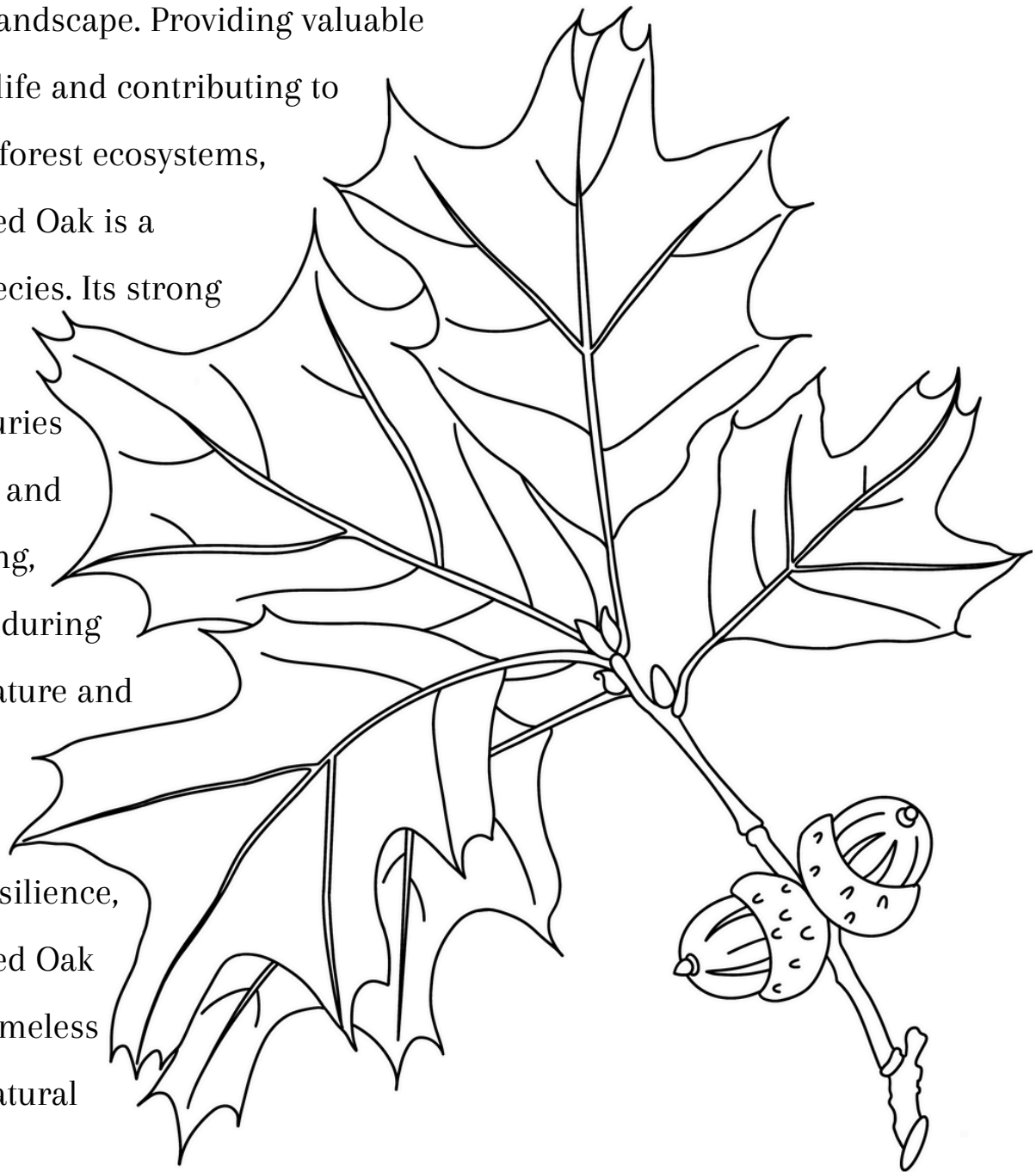
The Northern Leopard Frog, a charming amphibian native to North America, enchants with its striking appearance and melodic croaks. Adorned with distinctive spots reminiscent of a leopard's coat, it thrives in a variety of habitats, from wetlands to grasslands. As a crucial member of its ecosystem, the Northern Leopard Frog plays a vital role in controlling insect populations and serving as prey for various predators.



Northern Red Oak

(Quercus rubra)

The Northern Red Oak stands tall and proud in North American forests, with its sturdy trunk and sprawling branches. Recognized by its distinctive lobed leaves, which turn a brilliant red in the fall, this majestic tree adds a touch of warmth to the landscape. Providing valuable habitat for wildlife and contributing to the diversity of forest ecosystems, the Northern Red Oak is a cornerstone species. Its strong wood has been prized for centuries in construction and furniture-making, reflecting its enduring value to both nature and society. As a symbol of strength and resilience, the Northern Red Oak embodies the timeless beauty of the natural world.

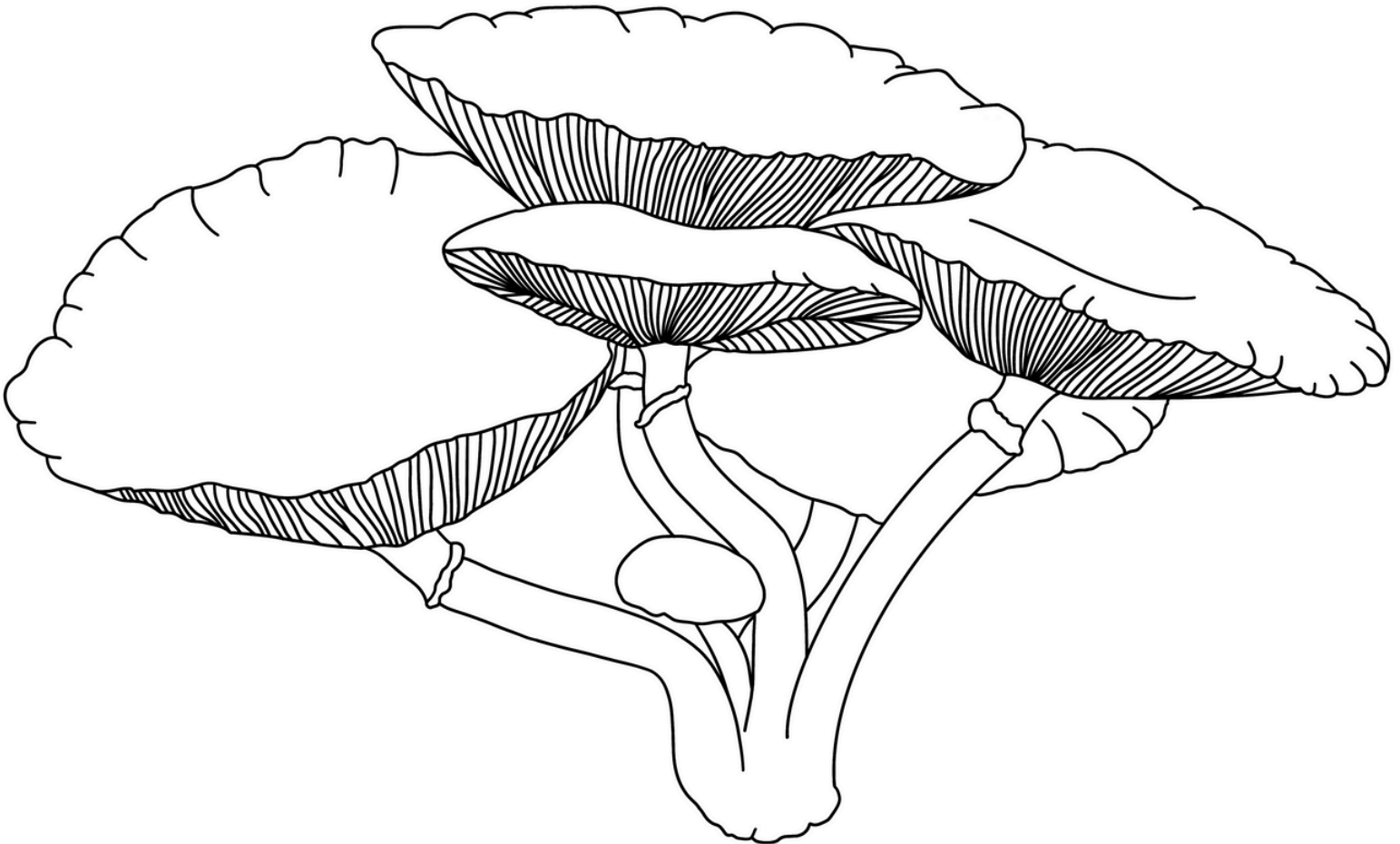


Oyster Mushroom

(Pleurotus ostreatus)

The oyster mushroom (*Pleurotus ostreatus*) is a popular edible fungus known for its distinctive oyster-shaped cap, hence its name. Belonging to the *Pleurotus* genus, it is widely cultivated for its culinary uses and nutritional benefits.

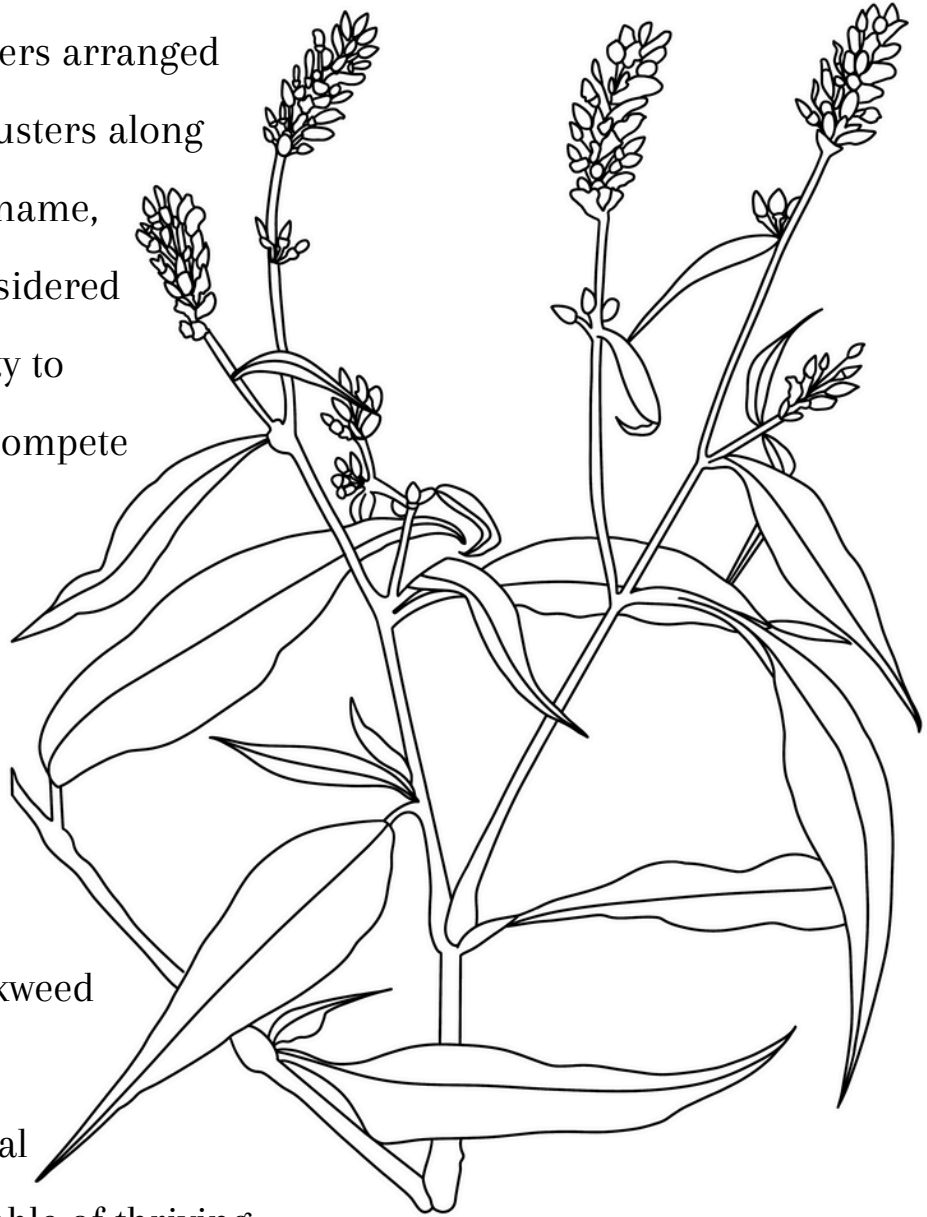
Oyster mushrooms are characterized by their white to light brown color, with gills running down the underside of the cap. They are commonly found growing on decaying wood, particularly on hardwood trees, but can also be cultivated indoors on various substrates.



Pinkweed

(Fritillaria glauca)

Pinkweed belongs to the smartweed family (Polygonaceae) and is commonly found in disturbed habitats such as agricultural fields, roadsides, and waste areas. Pinkweed is characterized by its slender stems, lance-shaped leaves, and tiny pink to white flowers arranged in dense, elongated clusters along the stems. Despite its name, Pinkweed is often considered a weed due to its ability to quickly colonize and compete with native vegetation. However, it also plays a role in providing food and habitat for various wildlife species, including birds and insects. Pinkweed is adaptable to a wide range of environmental conditions and is capable of thriving in both moist and dry soils.



Pileated Woodpecker

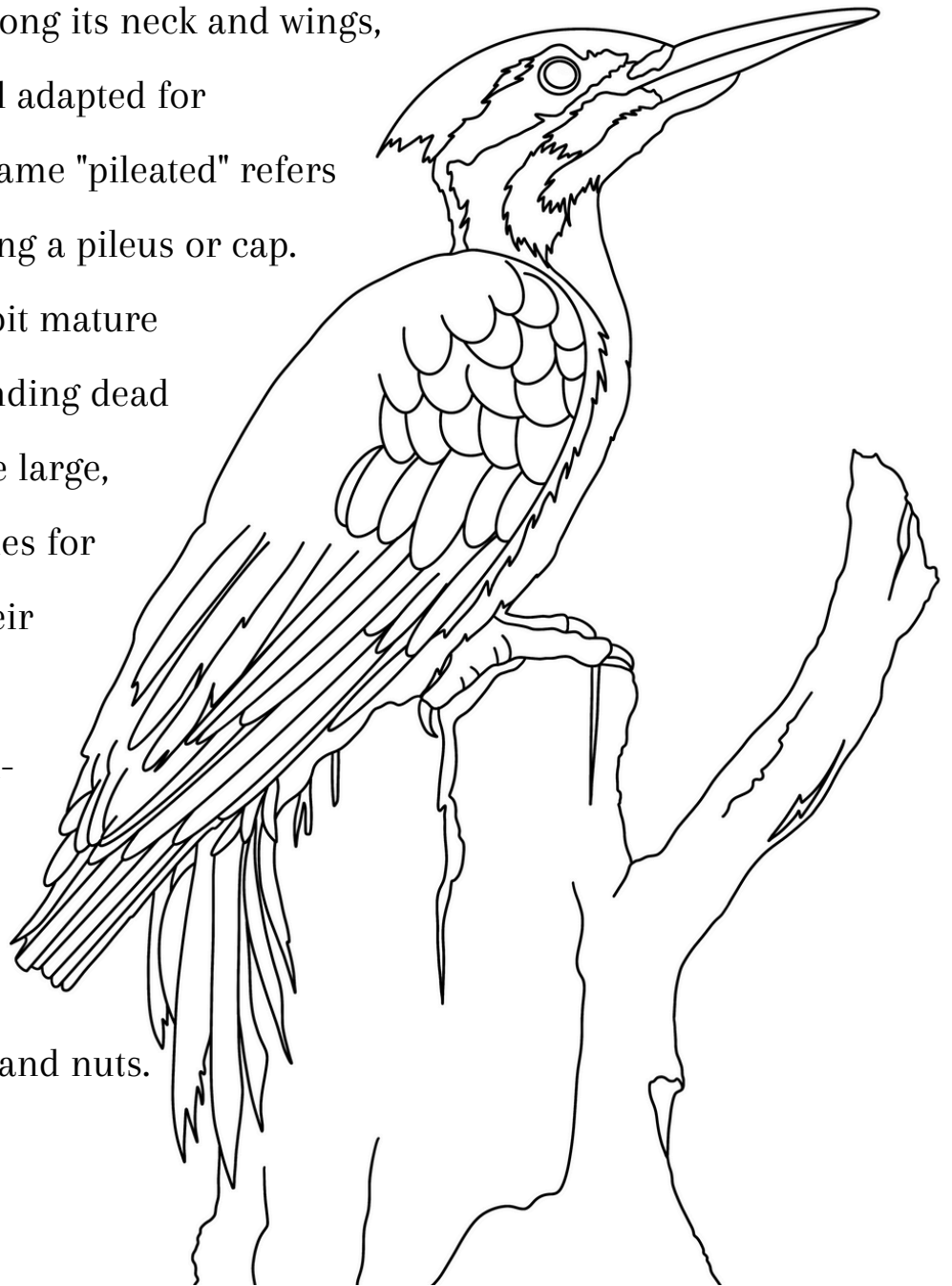
(Dryocopus pileatus)

The Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) is known for its large size and vibrant plumage, it is one of the largest woodpecker species on the continent.

The Pileated Woodpecker sports a prominent red crest on its head, a black body with white stripes along its neck and wings,

and a long, chisel-like bill adapted for drumming on trees. Its name "pileated" refers to the red crest, resembling a pileus or cap.

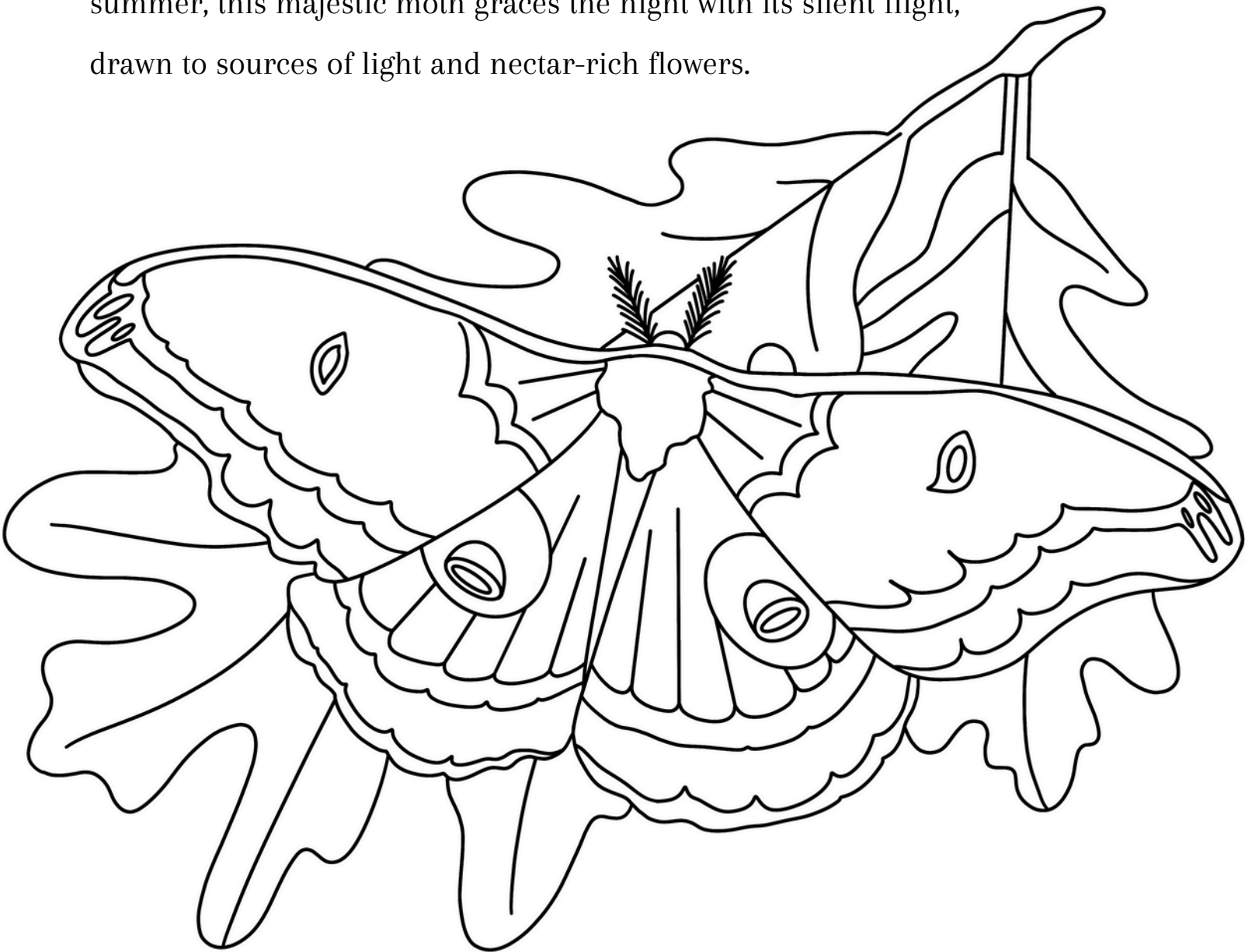
These woodpeckers inhabit mature forests with plenty of standing dead trees, where they excavate large, rectangular-shaped cavities for nesting and foraging. Their diet primarily consists of insects, particularly wood-boring beetles, ants, and larvae found beneath the bark of trees, but they also consume fruits and nuts.



Polyphemus Moth

(Antheraea polyphemus)

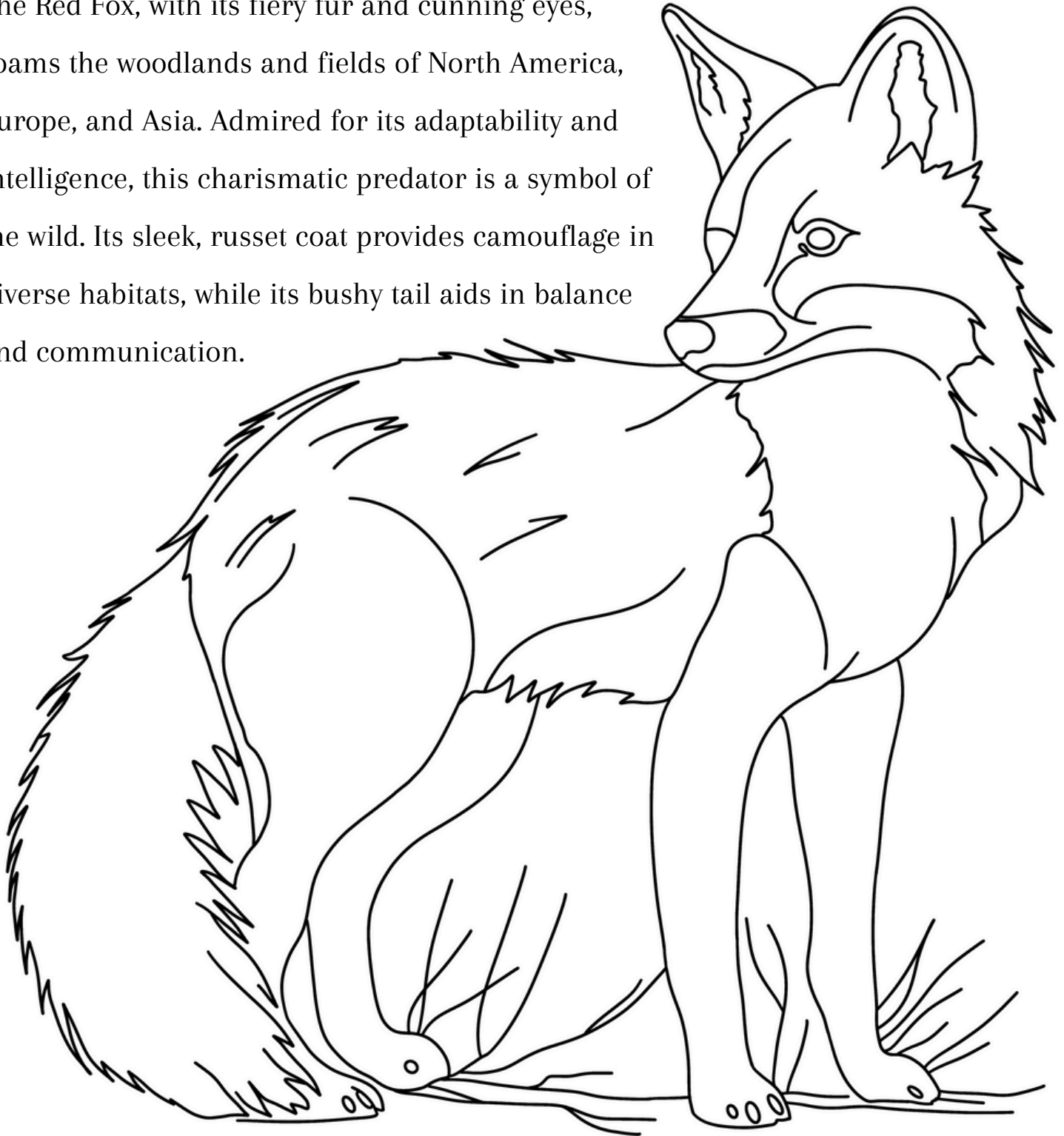
The Polyphemus Moth, named after the Cyclops in Greek mythology, is a breathtaking giant of the moth world. With a wingspan spanning up to six inches, its wings showcase a mesmerizing blend of earthy tones and striking eye-shaped markings. Emerging from its cocoon in late spring or early summer, this majestic moth graces the night with its silent flight, drawn to sources of light and nectar-rich flowers.



Red Fox

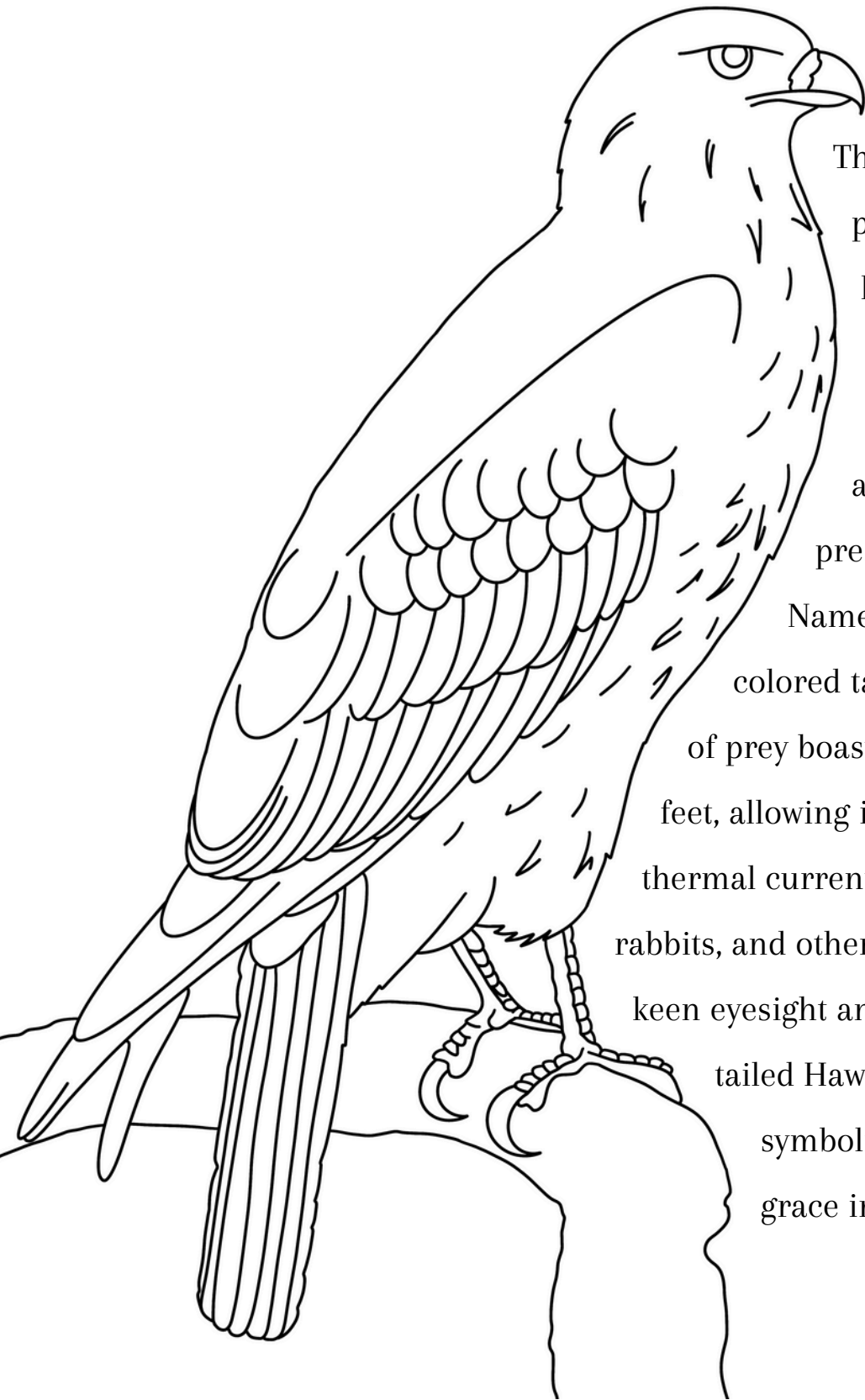
(Vulpes vulpes)

The Red Fox, with its fiery fur and cunning eyes, roams the woodlands and fields of North America, Europe, and Asia. Admired for its adaptability and intelligence, this charismatic predator is a symbol of the wild. Its sleek, russet coat provides camouflage in diverse habitats, while its bushy tail aids in balance and communication.



Red-Tailed Hawk

(Buteo jamaicensis)

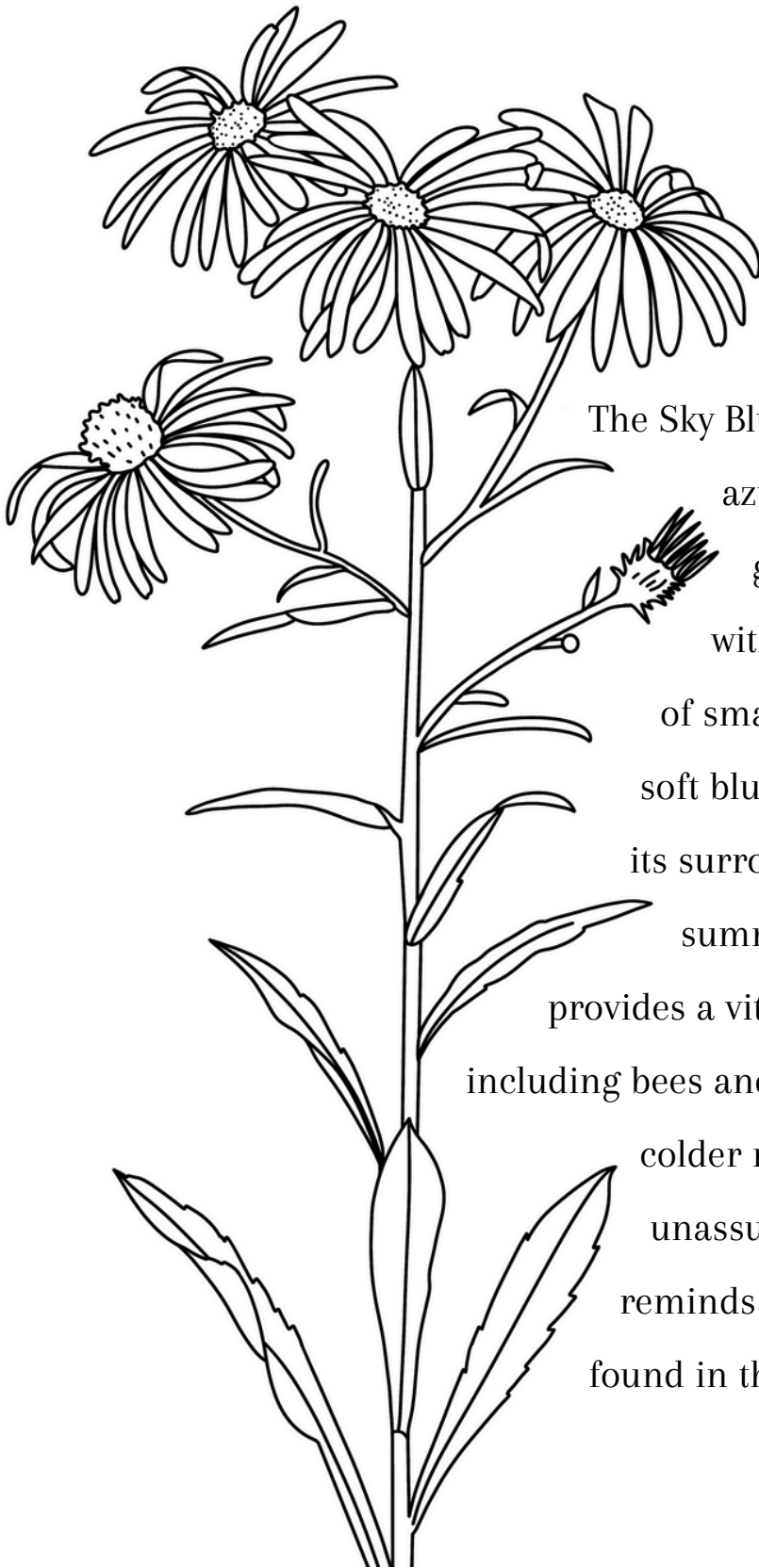


The Red-tailed Hawk, a powerful raptor soaring high above open fields and forests across North America commands attention with its majestic presence and piercing gaze.

Named for its distinctive rust-colored tail feathers, this iconic bird of prey boasts a wingspan of up to four feet, allowing it to glide effortlessly on thermal currents as it hunts for rodents, rabbits, and other small mammals. With keen eyesight and sharp talons, the Red-tailed Hawk is a formidable hunter, symbolizing strength, agility, and grace in the natural world.

Sky Blue Aster

(Symphyotrichum oolentangiense)

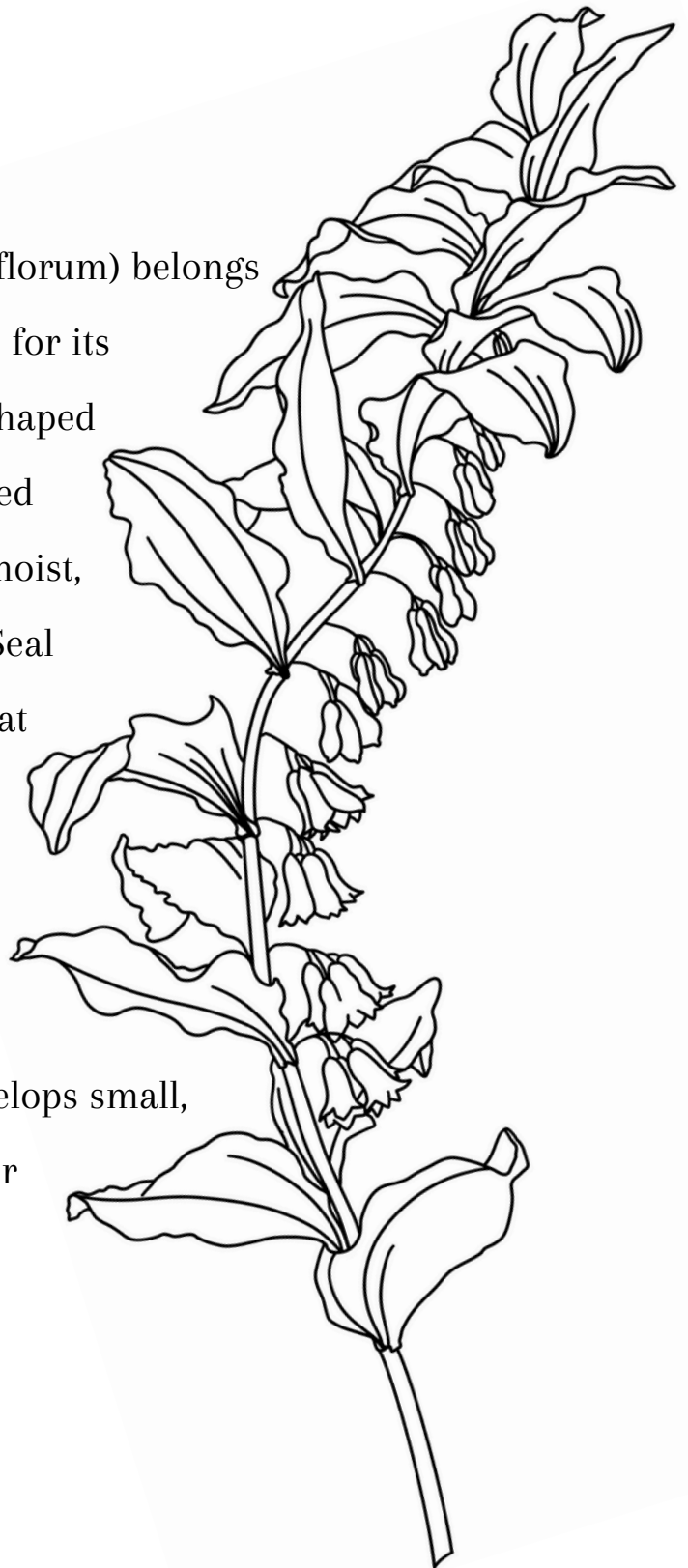


The Sky Blue Aster, also known as Aster azureus, is a delightful wildflower that graces open meadows and prairies with its delicate beauty. With clusters of small, daisy-like flowers in shades of soft blue, it brings a touch of tranquility to its surroundings. Blooming from late summer to fall, the Sky Blue Aster provides a vital source of nectar for pollinators, including bees and butterflies, as they prepare for the colder months ahead. Despite its unassuming size, this charming flower reminds us of the resilience and grace found in the natural world.

Smooth Solomons Seal

(Polygonatum biflorum)

Smooth Solomon's Seal (*Polygonatum biflorum*) belongs to the Asparagaceae family and is known for its elegant arching stems and paired, oval-shaped leaves. This plant typically grows in shaded woodlands, along stream banks, and in moist, rich soils. In spring, Smooth Solomon's Seal produces delicate, bell-shaped flowers that hang underneath the arching stems in pairs. These flowers are usually white or pale green and emit a subtle fragrance, attracting pollinators like bees and butterflies. After flowering, the plant develops small, round berries that ripen to a deep blue or black color in late summer or early fall.

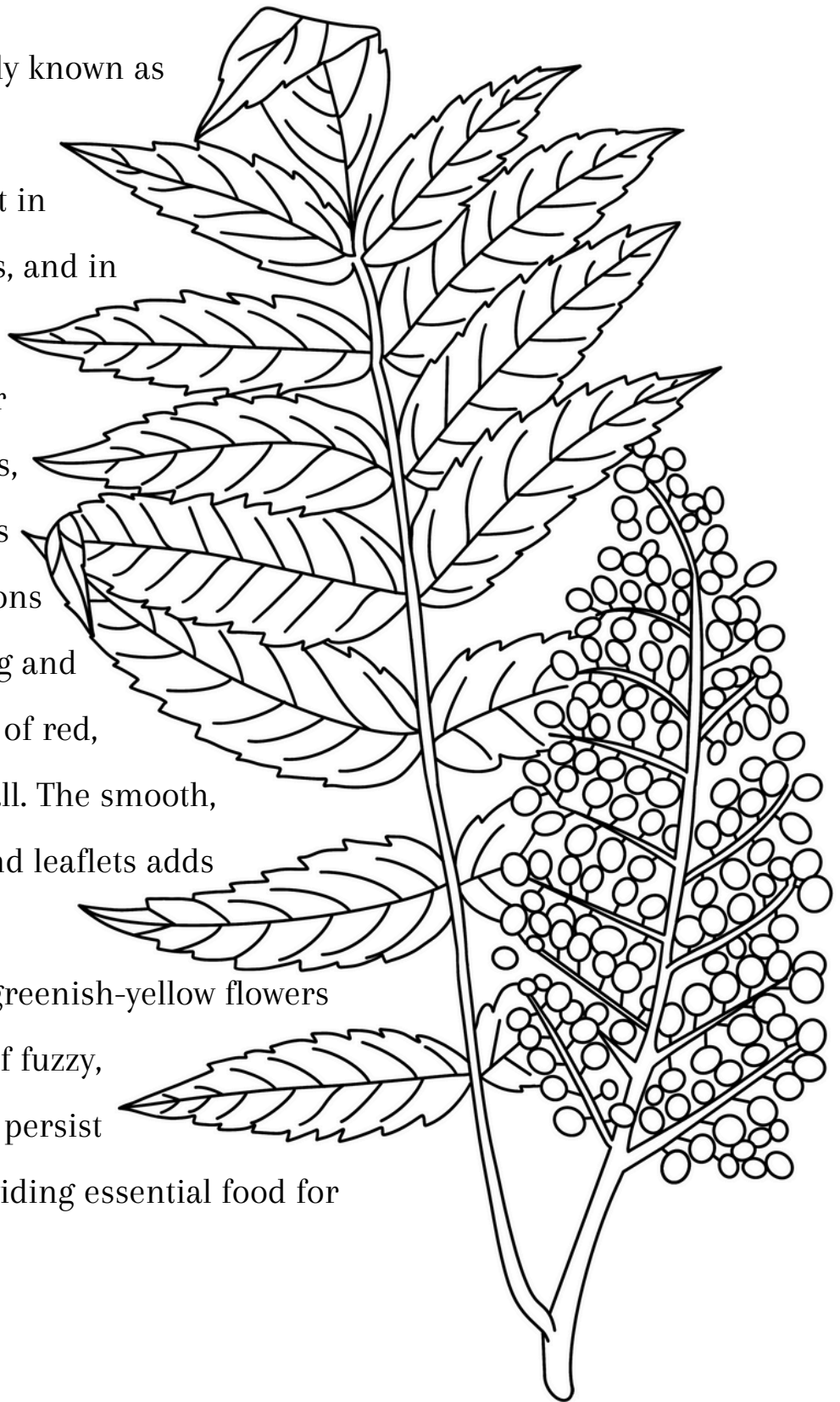


Smooth Sumac

(Rhus glabra)

Smooth Sumac, scientifically known as *Rhus glabra*, is a resilient shrub particularly prevalent in open fields, along roadsides, and in dry, rocky soils.

Characterized by its slender stems and compound leaves, this plant stands out with its vibrant foliage that transitions from glossy green in spring and summer to brilliant shades of red, orange, and yellow in the fall. The smooth, fuzzy texture of its stems and leaflets adds to its visual appeal. In late summer, clusters of small greenish-yellow flowers give way to dense clusters of fuzzy, crimson-red berries, which persist throughout the winter, providing essential food for birds and wildlife.



Spotted Sandpiper

(Actitis macularius)

The Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*) is a shorebird known for its distinctive appearance and behavior, making it easily recognizable among other sandpiper species. The Spotted Sandpiper typically measures around 7-8 inches in length with a wingspan of 15-17 inches. As its name suggests, the Spotted Sandpiper displays conspicuous spots on its breast and underparts during the breeding season. Outside of breeding

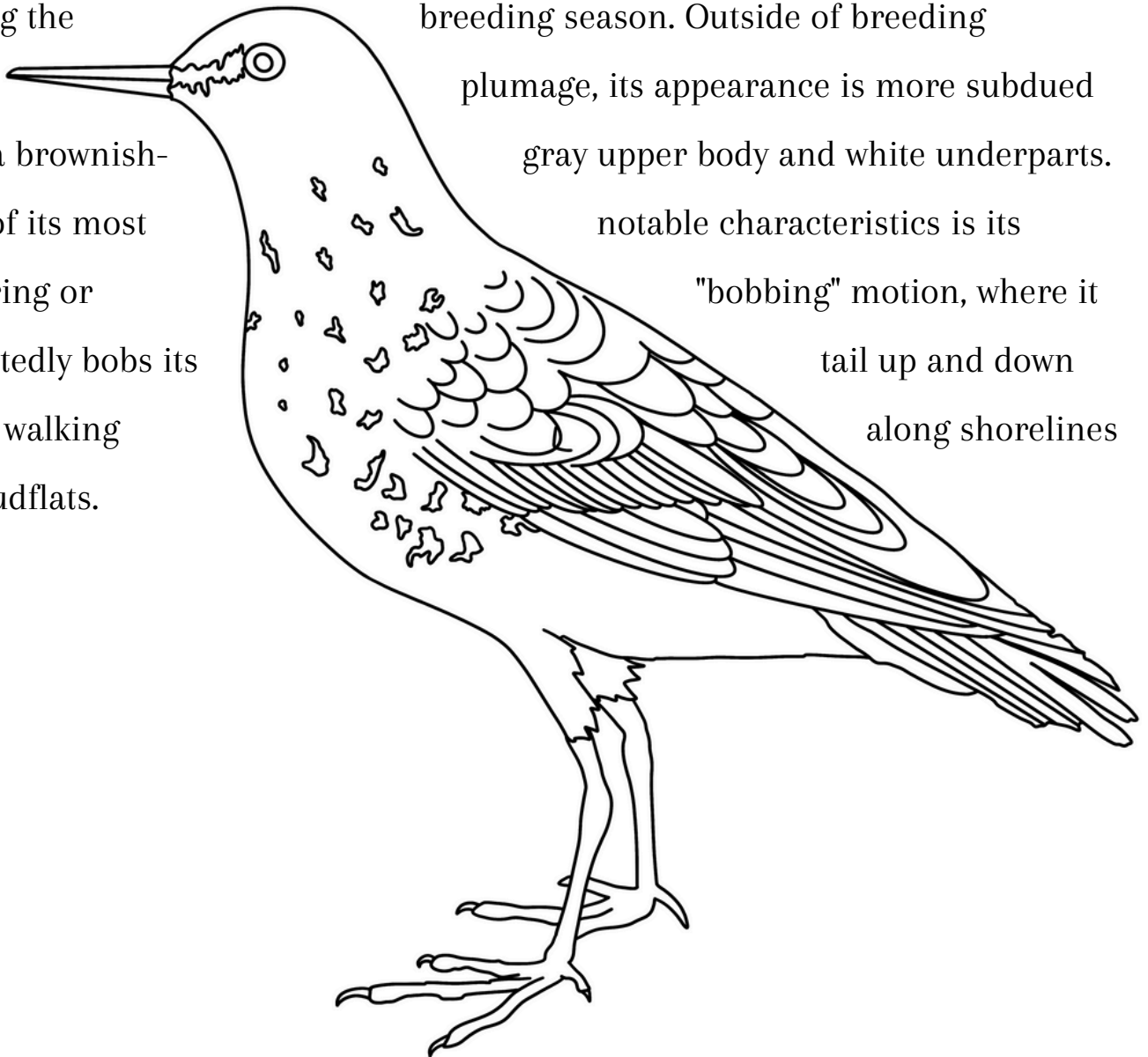
with a brownish-
One of its most
teetering or
repeatedly bobs its
while walking
or mudflats.

plumage, its appearance is more subdued
gray upper body and white underparts.

notable characteristics is its

"bobbing" motion, where it
tail up and down

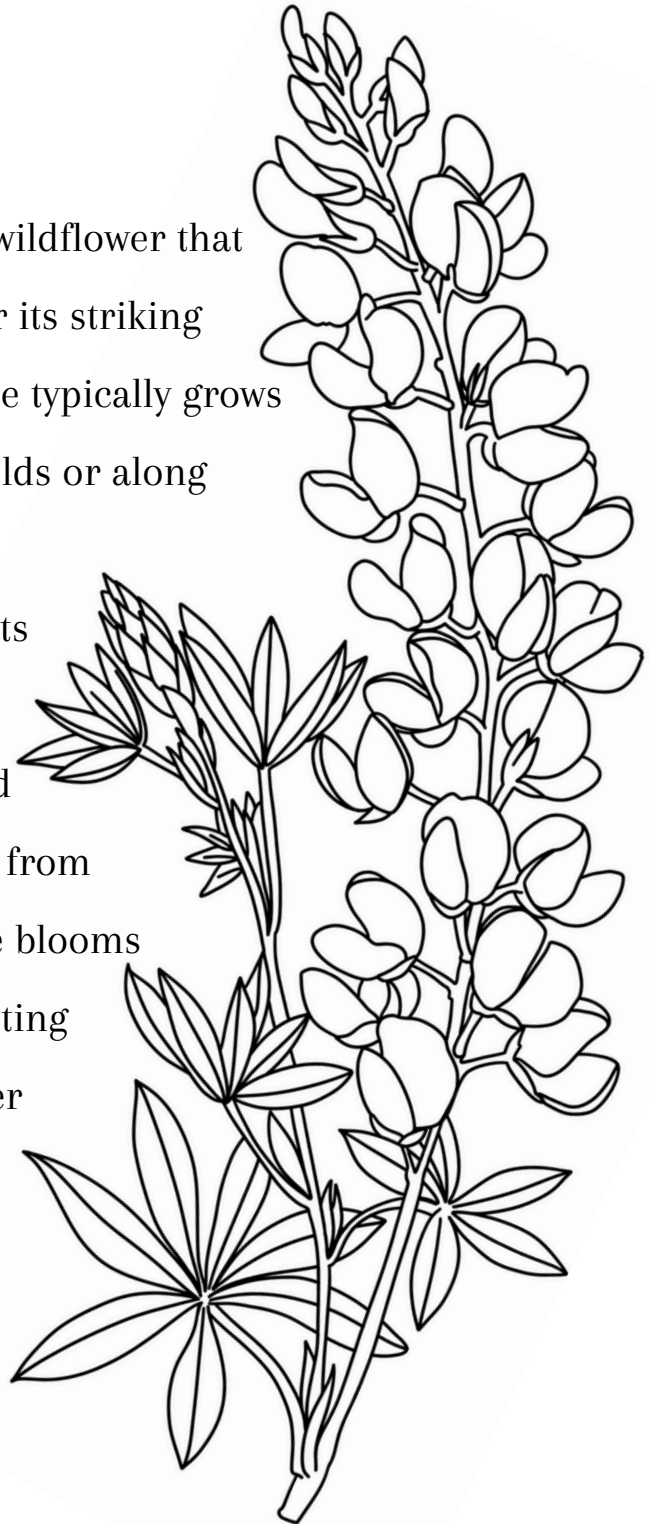
along shorelines



Sundial Lupine

(Lupinus perennis)

Sundial Lupine (*Lupinus perennis*) is a wildflower that belongs to the genus *Lupinus*, known for its striking spikes of colorful flowers. Sundial Lupine typically grows in sandy or rocky soils, often in open fields or along roadsides. The plant features palmately compound leaves with five to nine leaflets arranged like the spokes of a wheel. Its flowers are arranged in dense, elongated clusters atop tall stems, varying in color from shades of blue to purple. Sundial Lupine blooms from late spring to early summer, attracting pollinators like bees and butterflies. After flowering, it produces slender pods containing seeds.



Swamp Rose Mallow

(Hibiscus moscheutos)

Swamp Rose Mallow (*Hibiscus moscheutos*) is a member of the mallow family, known for its showy, hibiscus-like flowers. Swamp Rose Mallow typically grows in moist soil and can tolerate partial shade to full sun. It

produces large, colorful flowers with five

overlapping petals that can range in

color from white and pink to

deep red. These blooms

attract pollinators such

as bees, butterflies, and

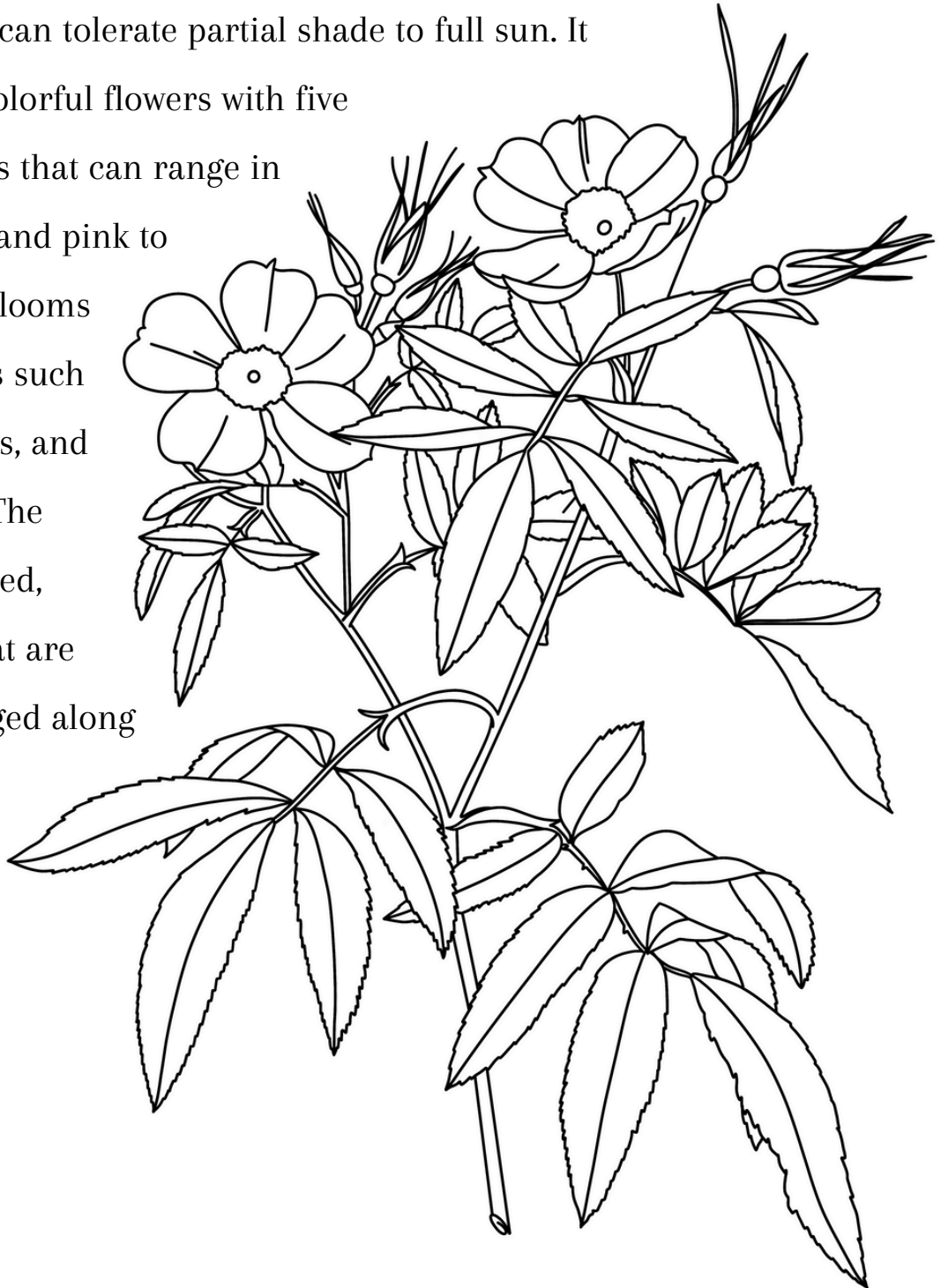
hummingbirds. The

plant features lobed,

toothed leaves that are

alternately arranged along

the stems.



Trembling Aspen

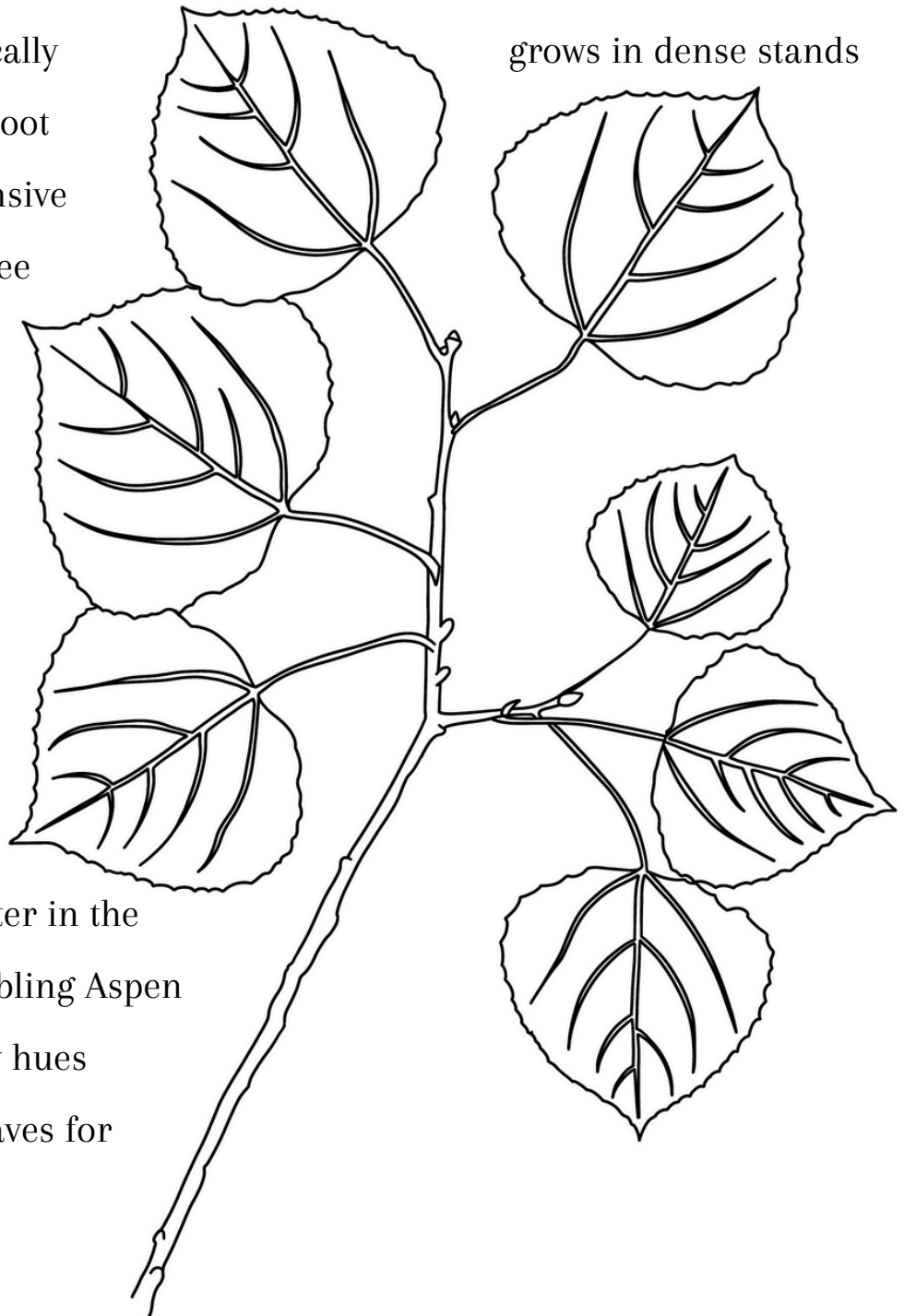
(Populus tremuloides)

Trembling Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) is a deciduous tree native to North America, particularly abundant in the cooler regions of the continent.

Trembling Aspen typically and spreads through root suckers, forming extensive clonal colonies. The tree

features smooth, whitish bark marked with black knots and scars as it ages. Its leaves are rounded, with finely toothed edges, and have flattened petioles that allow them to flutter in the wind. In the fall, Trembling Aspen displays vibrant yellow hues before shedding its leaves for the winter.

grows in dense stands



Veiny Pea

(Lathyrus venosus)

Veiny Pea (*Lathyrus venosus*) is a wildflower commonly found in open woodlands, meadows, and along stream banks. It is characterized by its

delicate, vine-like stems

and clusters of showy flowers. Veiny Pea

typically grows as

a sprawling or climbing perennial,

with slender, tendriled stems that can reach

several feet in length. Its leaves are

compound, consisting of several

pairs of leaflets with prominent

veins, giving the plant its name. The flowers

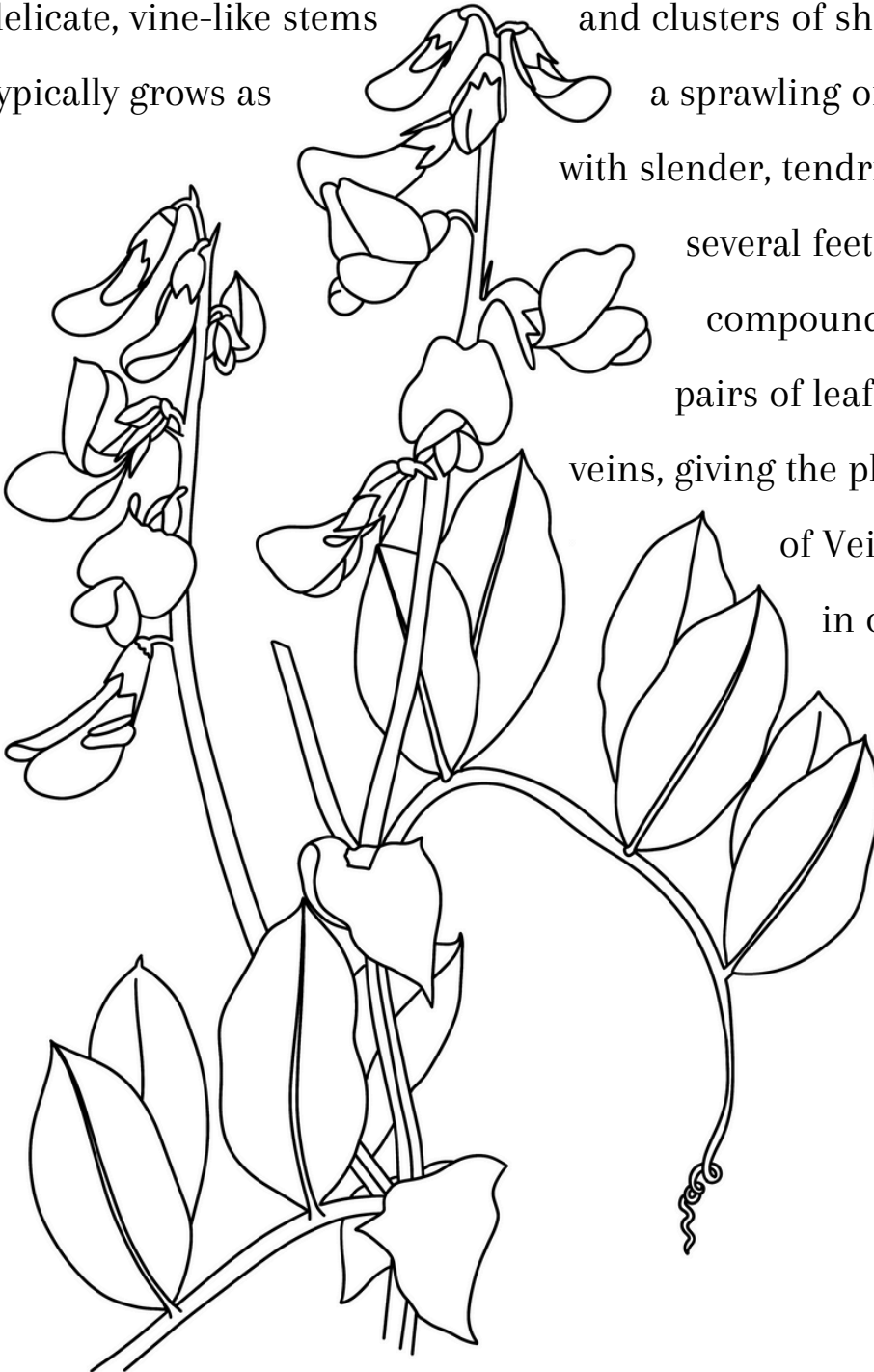
of Veiny Pea are small, ranging

in color from pink to purple,

with veined petals and a

distinctive shape

resembling a pea flower.



Virginia Bluebell

(Mertensia virginica)

Virginia Bluebell (*Mertensia virginica*) is a perennial wildflower native to eastern North America, particularly thriving in moist woodlands, along stream banks, and in ravines. It is known for its stunning clusters of bell-shaped flowers that emerge in early spring. Virginia Bluebell typically grows from a basal rosette of oval-shaped leaves that gradually elongate as the plant matures. Its flowers start as pink buds, then transition to a striking shade of sky blue as they open, creating a breathtaking display of color.

