

Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Wyoming's Wildlife

Coloring Book



Artists featured from the Dover Pictorial Archive Series:

Annika Bernhard, *State Birds and Flowers and Wetlands, Plants and Animals*

John Green, *Birds of Prey and Wild Animals*

Elizabeth A. McClelland, *Small Animals of North America*

Ruth Soffer, *North American Desert Life and*

North American Ducks, Geese and Swans

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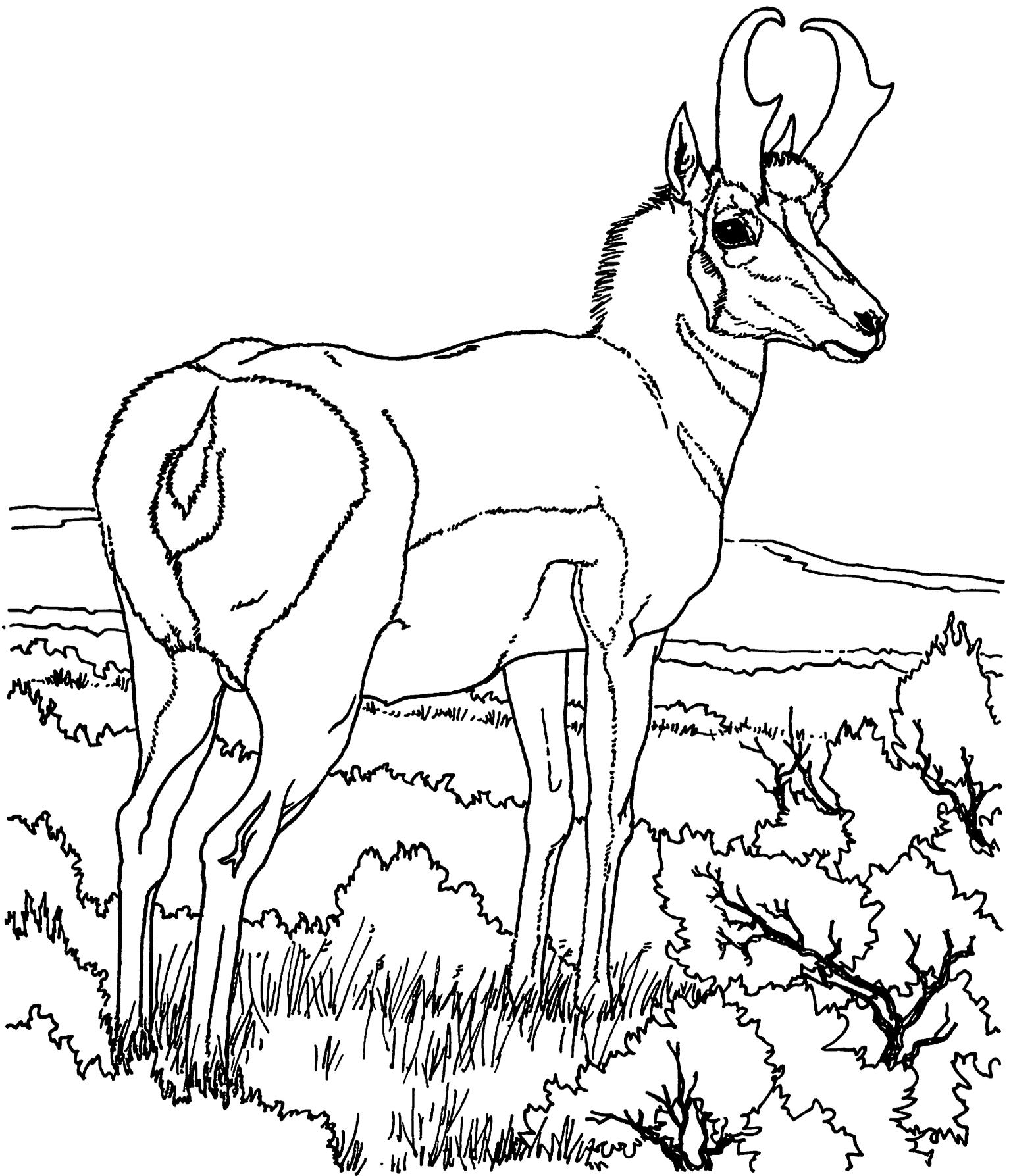
On the cover:

Bald eagles are strongly associated with large lakes and rivers in Wyoming. Their nests are built in large nest trees located no farther than half a mile from a major water body. The diet of bald eagles varies according to food availability, but fish is the staple and preferred food item. Typical of most raptors, the male subspecies is smaller than the female. Bald eagles are the largest of the North American raptors.

Artwork by Annika Bernhard, State Birds and Flowers

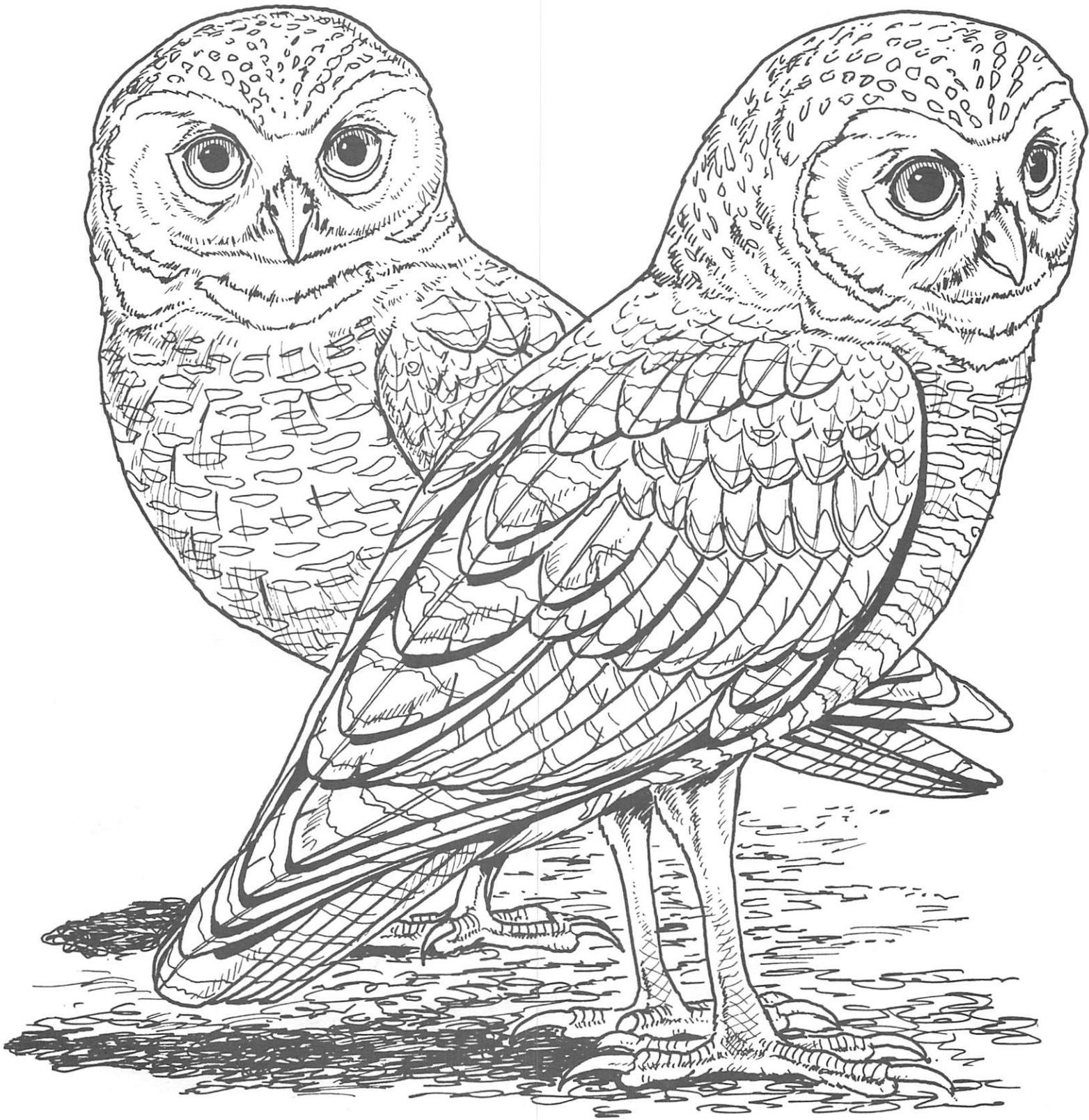


Prairie dogs build underground burrows where they live and raise their families. Many prairie dogs will live together in “towns” and their scouts sit on the edges of towns to watch for coyotes and hawks. The scouts will bark to warn others when danger is near, giving them time to quickly run for cover into their burrows.



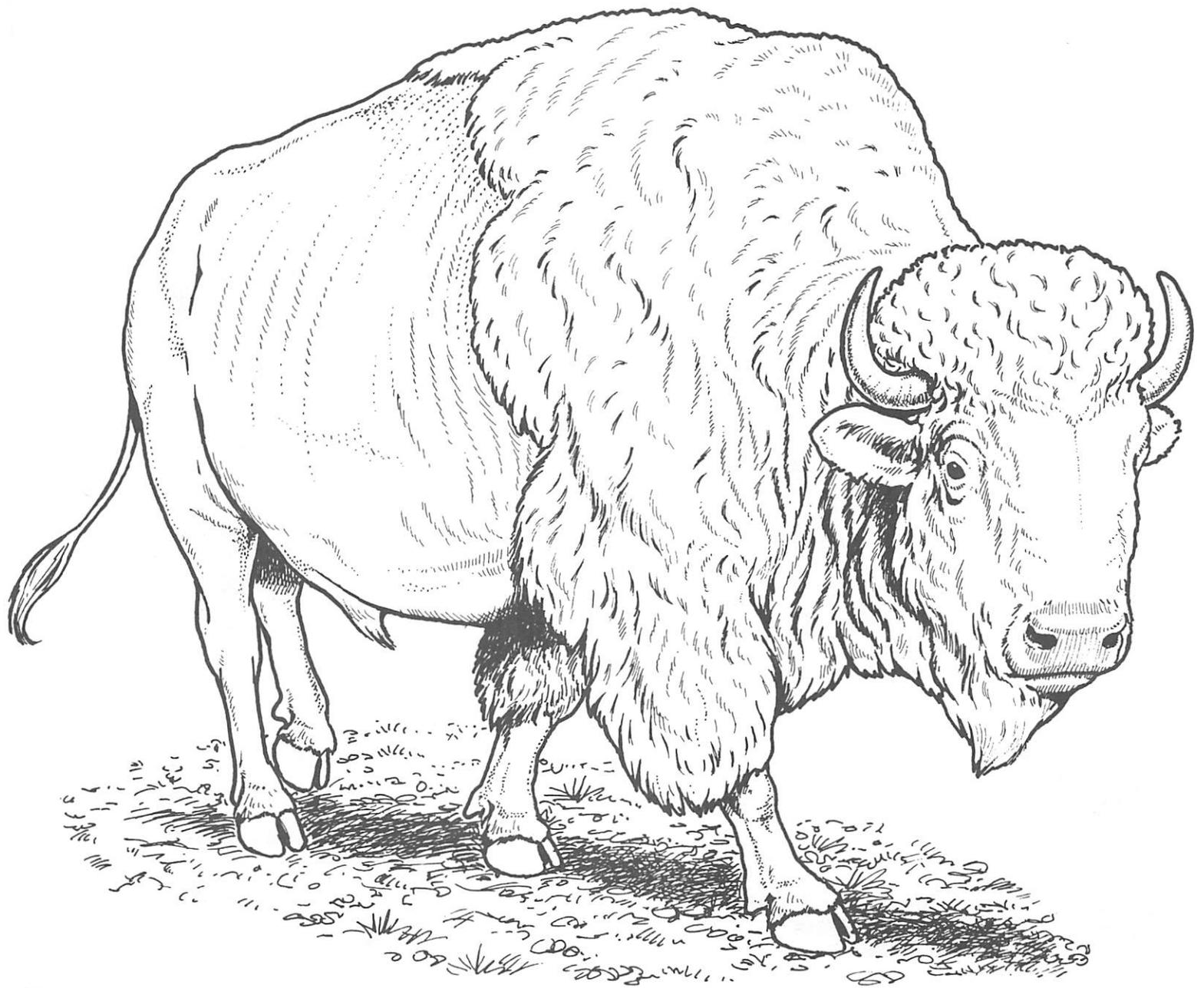
In Wyoming, there are different habitats, or homes, where animals live. **Pronghorn** antelope live in prairie/grassland habitat. It's hot in summer, cold in winter and sagebrush is plentiful. Antelope can see for miles on the prairie and have plenty of space to outrun predators, such as coyotes and eagles. Pronghorns are the fastest mammals in North America, reaching speeds up to 60 miles per hour.

Artwork by Tamara R. Sayre for Wyoming Game and Fish Department



These owls are called **burrowing owls** because they live in abandoned prairie dog burrows. They are not able to dig their own burrows. The owls hunt insects and other small reptiles, amphibians, and mammals. They don't hunt prairie dogs, they simply use the prairie dog towns for shelter and a place to hunt and raise their young.

Artwork by John Green, *Birds of Prey*



Buffalo, or bison, as they are sometimes called, live in the prairie/grassland where they find plenty of grass to eat. Once there were millions of bison living in the prairie, but today the only wild populations of bison in Wyoming are found in and around Yellowstone National Park. Bison can weigh a ton and are the largest land animal in North America.

Artwork by John Green, *Wild Animals*

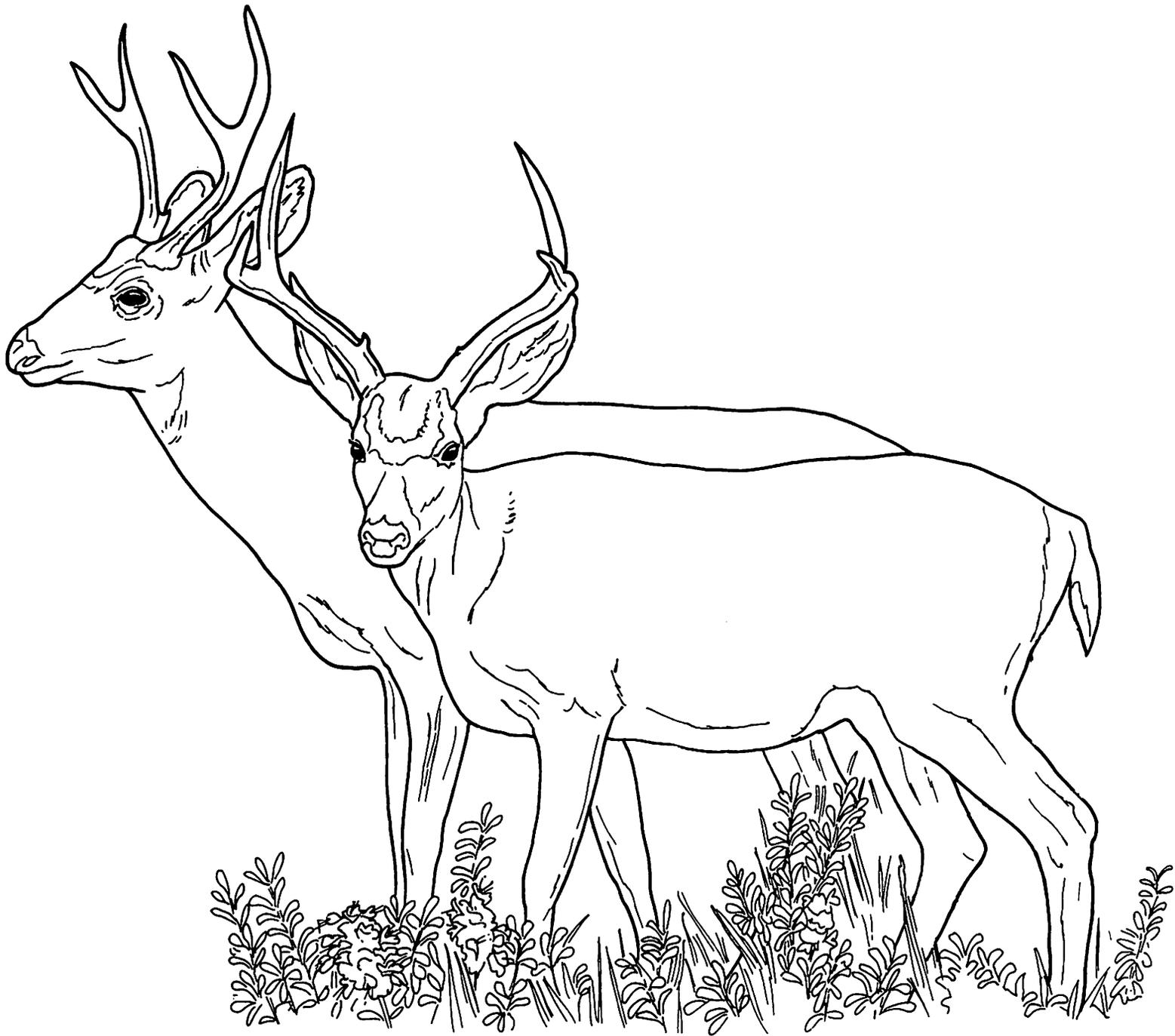


The **American kestrel** is a brightly-colored bird and the smallest member of the falcon family. Kestrels hunt all kinds of prey in the prairie, including insects, reptiles, mice, and other small mammals and birds. Kestrels perch on trees, fence posts, and telephone lines and can also hover over their prey before pouncing on it.

Artwork by John Green, *Birds of Prey*



Wyoming's state bird is the **western meadowlark**. Meadowlarks are distinguished by their bright yellow chests with a large black V. Their melodious song is easily recognized and can be heard throughout the prairie. Meadowlarks perch on fences, posts, and sagebrush and any other tall object in the prairie to sing and try to attract a mate.



Mule deer, elk, mountain lions, and other animals come down from the mountains to the foothills/shrublands in the winter when the snow is too deep for them to move around and find food. In the foothills, mule deer find food, water, and shelter. Mule deer, named for their large, mule-like ears, are brownish-gray with a white rump patch and black tip on their short tail.

Artwork by Ruth Soffer, *North American Desert Life*



Coyotes are very adaptable animals, which means they can live almost anywhere. They will eat almost anything, but prefer small rodents and rabbits. Coyotes are found in the foothills, mountains and prairies and even in towns. The color of their fur is usually tan, but can be different depending on the habitat where they live.

Artwork by Elizabeth A. McClelland, *Small Animals of North America*



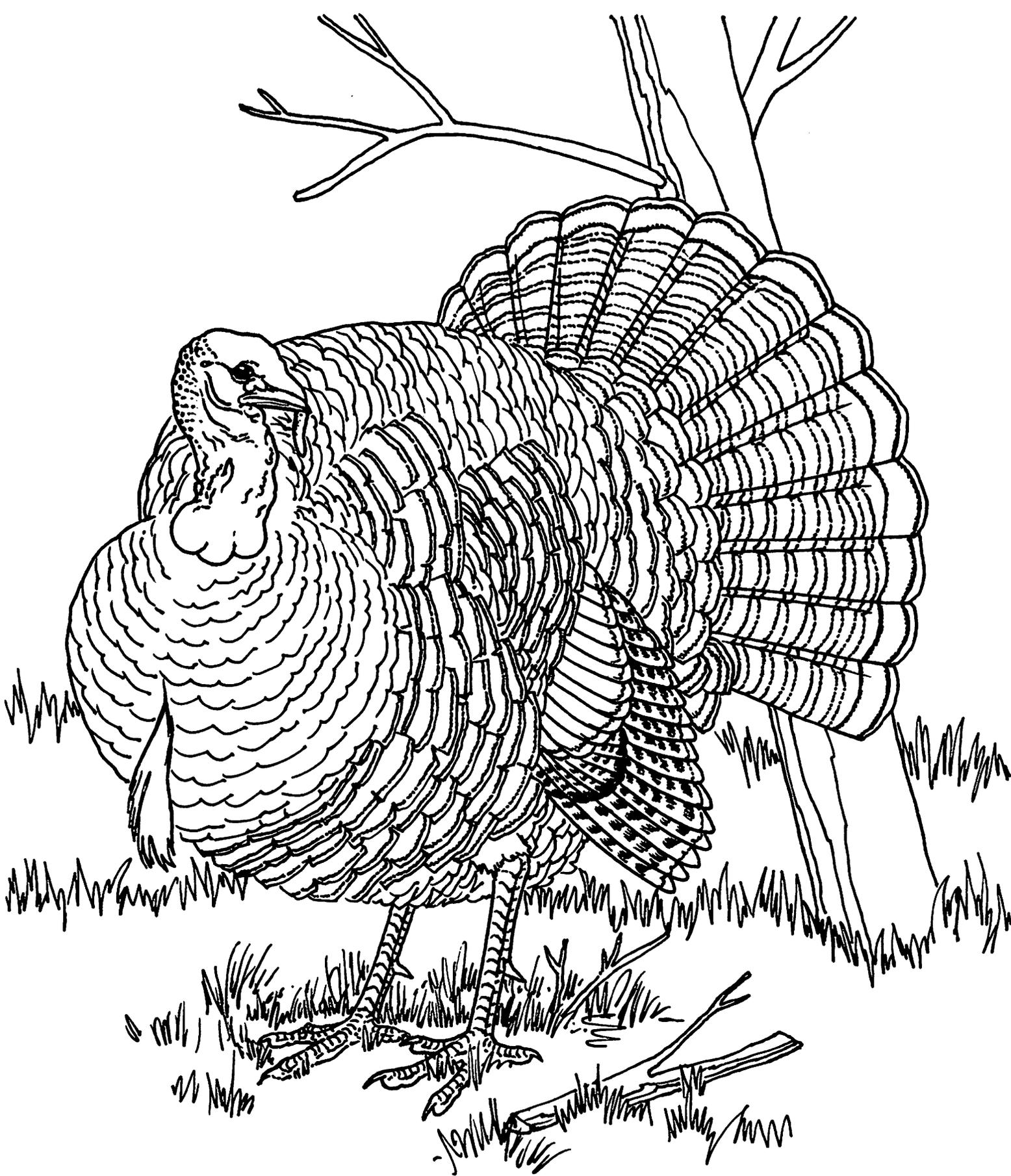
Raccoons are adaptable animals. They like to live near streams and lakes in wooded areas, but they can also be found in the foothills, prairies, on ranches, and in towns. Raccoons are nocturnal, which means they are most active at night. They are expert climbers and good swimmers, and they like to use their paws to handle their food before they eat it.

Artwork by Elizabeth A. McClelland, *Small Animals of North America*



Red-tailed hawks are very common in Wyoming. They are members of the Buteo family, and have long, wide wings and broad tails that help them soar high in the sky in search of rodents, particularly mice. Red-tailed hawks are named because their tail feathers are red and can easily be seen when they are flying, especially on sunny days.

Artwork by John Green, *Birds of Prey*



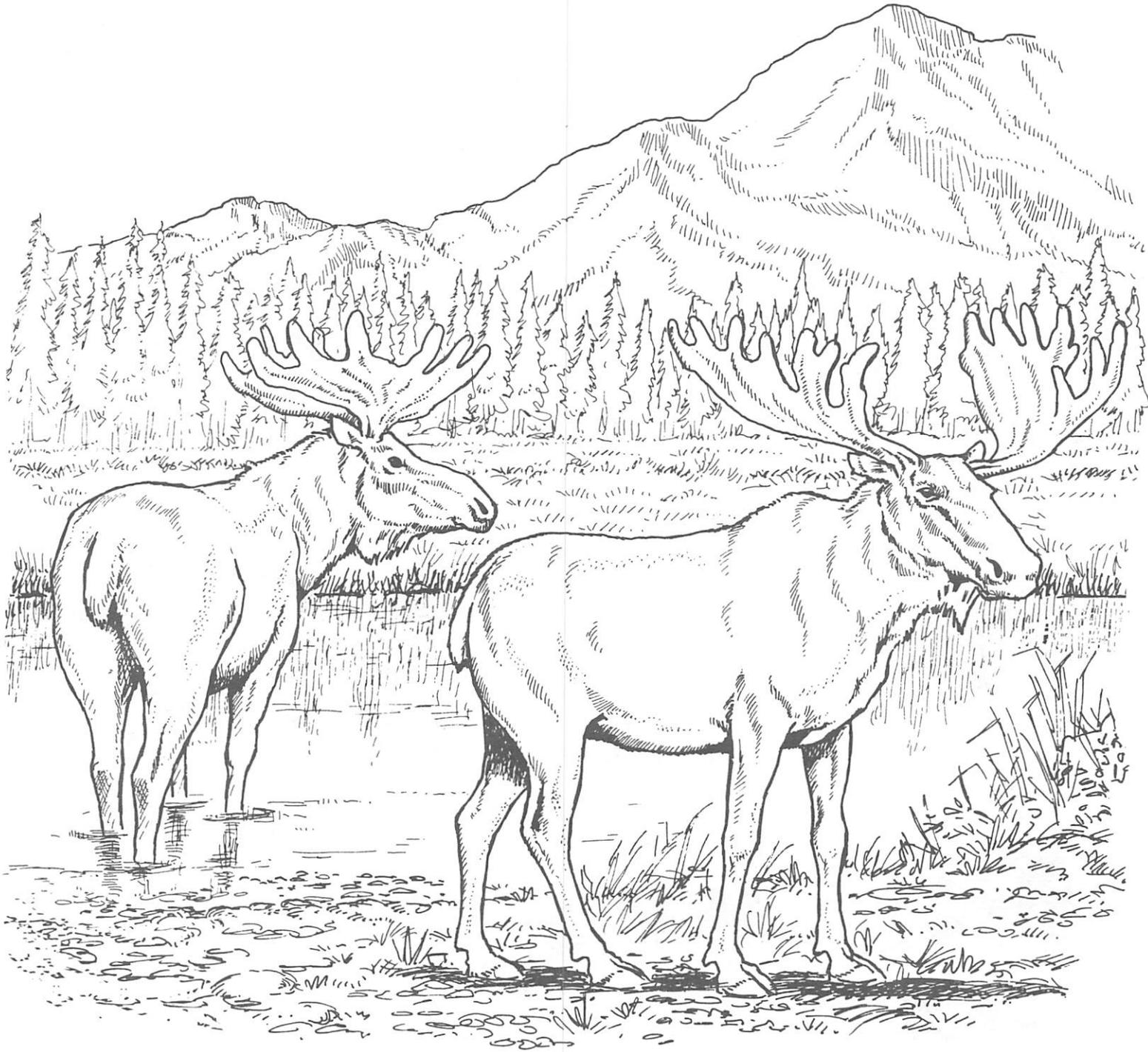
Wild turkeys live in the foothills where they find pine and deciduous (leafy) trees, as well as open grasslands and brushy draws or valleys. They are large birds with bluish heads. The males have bright red wattles that hang over their beak and beards on their chest that reach up to 12 inches long. Wild turkeys eat seeds, plants, and insects and roost in tall trees.

Artwork by Tamara R. Sayre for Wyoming Game and Fish Department

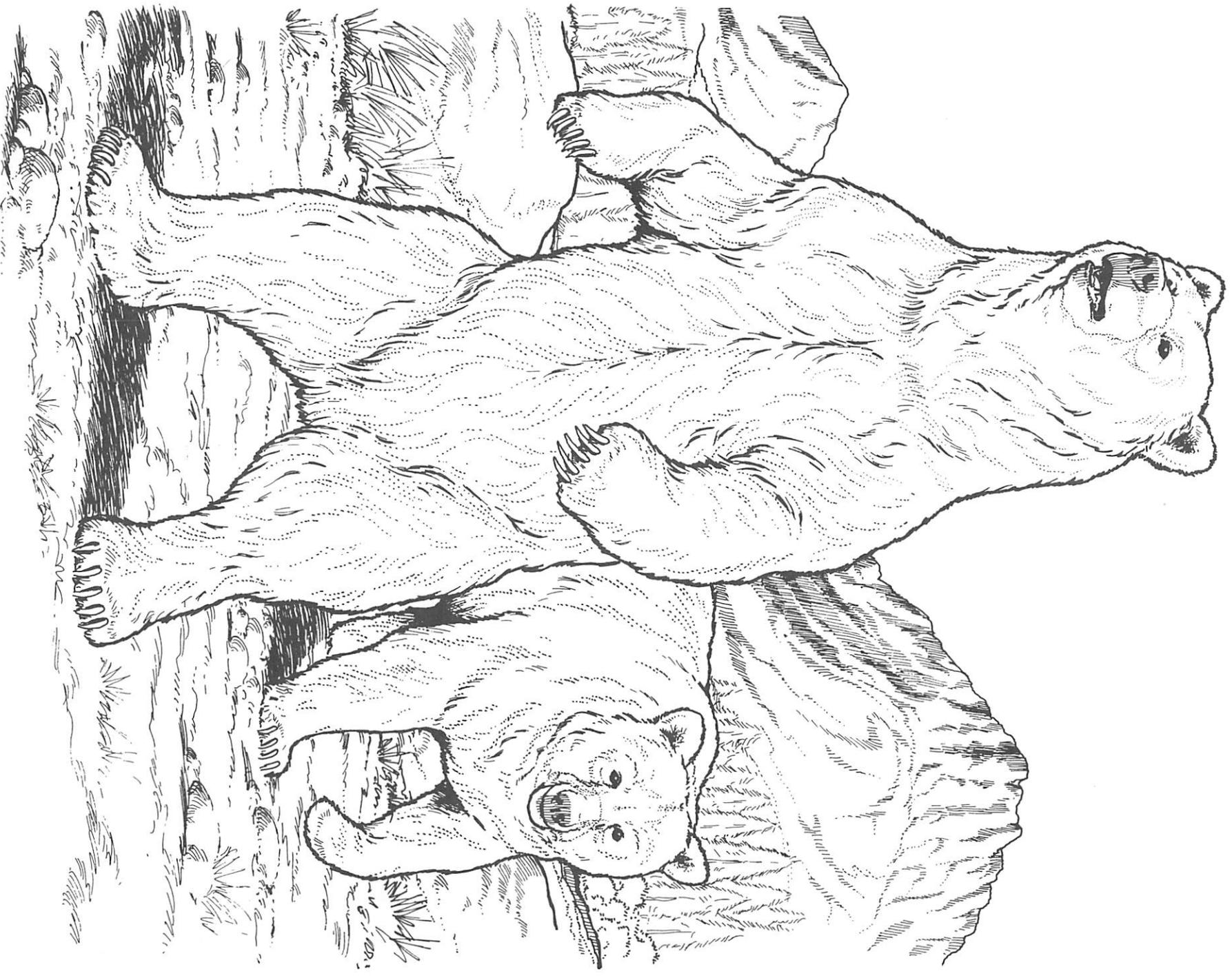


Bobcats look like large housecats, but they are wild animals. They live in a variety of places, but are rarely seen because of their nocturnal habits. Their fur is light brown and they have a white belly with dark spots. Like their housecat cousins, their claws are retractable. This means their claws are kept pulled inside the pads of their paws until they are needed to climb or catch other small animals.

Artwork by Elizabeth A. McClelland, *Small Animals of North America*



A variety of animals are found in the mountain/forest habitat. The coniferous (pine) forests, open meadows, and deep canyons provide food, shelter, and space. **Moose** live here and can find everything they need to survive. They hang around lakes and streams in the mountains where they find plenty of willows and other aquatic plants to eat.



Grizzly bears live in the mountains of northwest Wyoming. They are omnivores, which means they eat meat and plants, including grasses and forbs, berries, insects, elk calves, carrion, and rodents. They need to eat a lot to gain enough weight so they can sleep through the winter. Grizzly bears have a hump on their shoulders and long, noticeable claws—black bears don't.



Mountain lions are known by many different common names. Puma, cougar, panther, and catamount are some of the names mountain lions are called, depending on their geographical location. They like to live in the rugged country, especially rocky canyon areas where they can hide high above and sneak up on their favorite prey—deer. Mountain lions are very shy and will usually try to avoid people.

Artwork by John Green, *Wild Animals*



Mountain bluebirds live in the mountains in the summertime and migrate south to Mexico for the winter. They prefer open meadows where they can catch countless insects. The male is sky blue in color with a paler blue chest and white belly. The female is brownish-gray all over with a whitish belly. Mountain bluebirds nest in tree cavities, buildings, and in nest boxes.

Artwork by Annika Bernhard, *State Birds and Flowers*



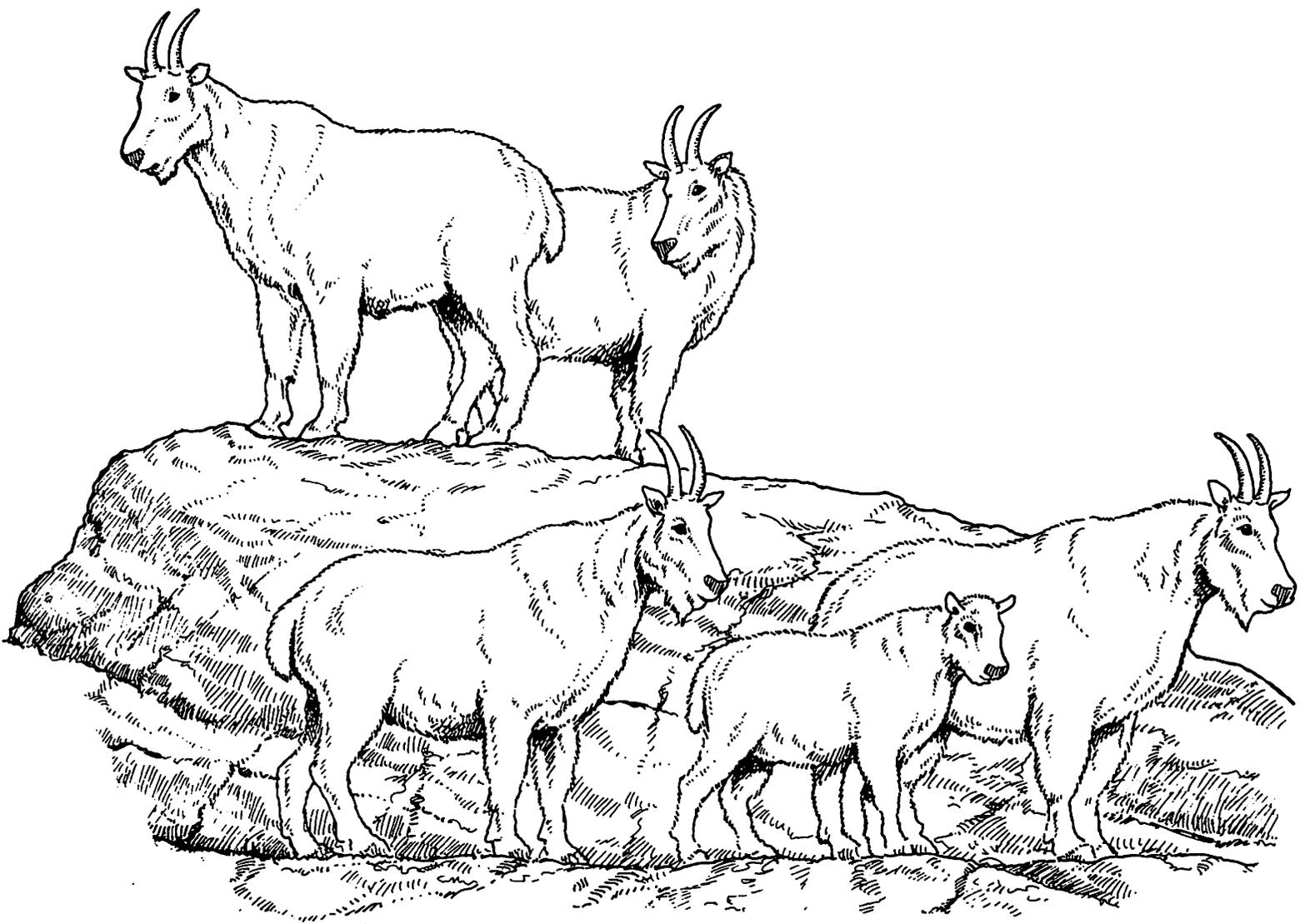
Bats are known for living in caves, but they actually live in many places. **Big brown bats** often like to roost in buildings and houses where they can find insects, particularly beetles, moths, and mosquitoes, to eat. When bats hibernate, most of them will find a cave and sleep through the winter, huddled tightly together with hundreds of other bats to help conserve energy.

Artwork by Elizabeth A. McClelland, *Small Animals of North America*



Alpine habitat is very high, situated at the top of the mountains where it is cold and snowy much of the year. Few plants can survive the short growing season. **Pikas** are small, rabbit-like animals with no tail. They live on rocky (talus) slopes in the alpine habitat and are active all year long, cutting and drying grass during the summer and fall to feed on during the winter.

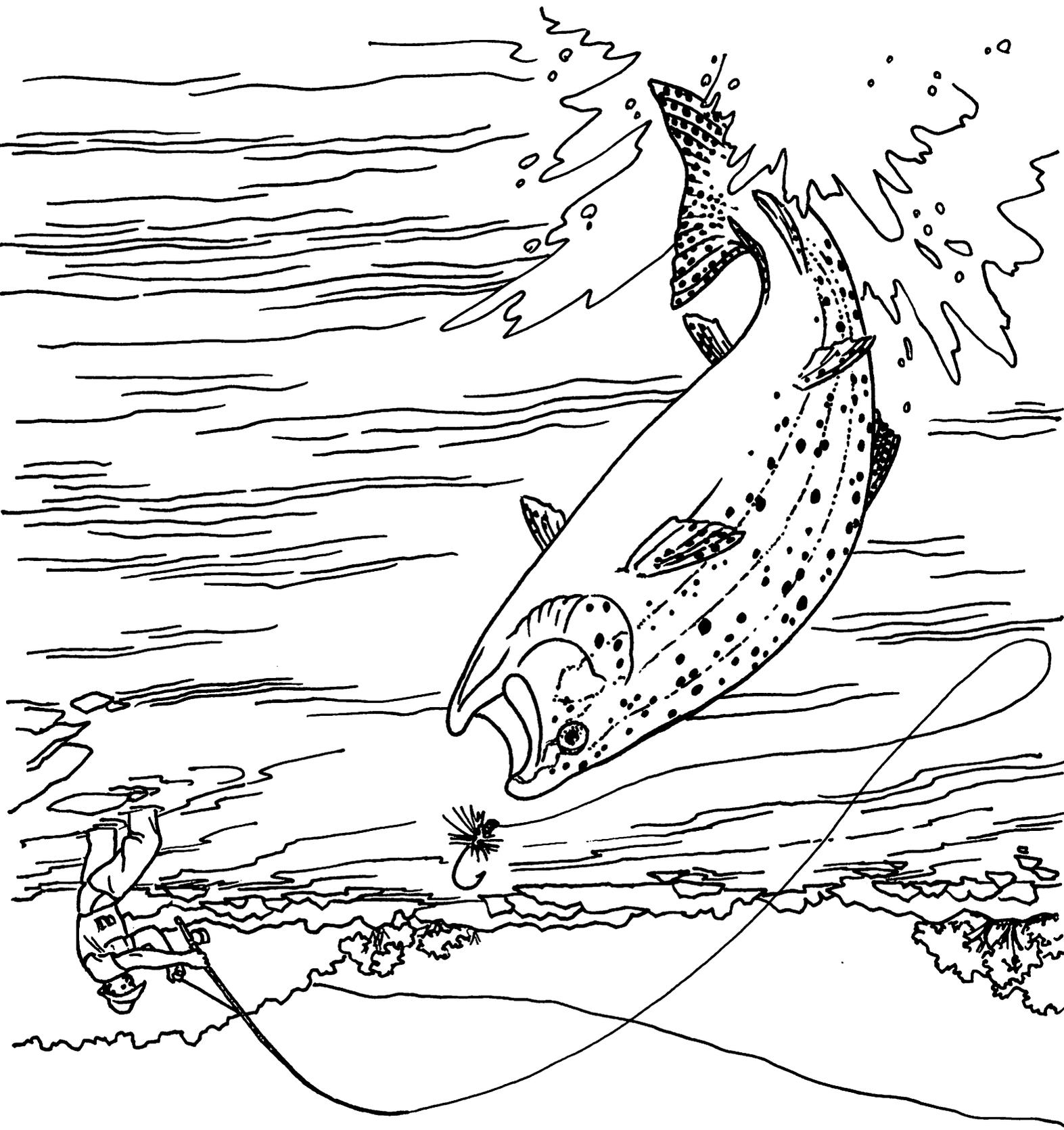
Artwork by Elizabeth A. McClelland, *Small Animals of North America*



Mountain goats can be found in alpine habitat, particularly in the summer. The rocky cliffs and canyons are perfect for mountain goats to jump and run and find food and shelter. Mountain goats have pads on the bottom of their hooves which help them grip and hold onto rocks. Their shaggy, white fur helps protect them against the harsh winds and blowing snow.

Artwork by John Green, *Wild Animals*

Streams and lakes and ponds are bodies of water called aquatic habitats. Fish, like **trout**, live in these habitats where they find food, shelter, space, and even oxygen. Most trout prefer plankton and aquatic insects as their main food sources, but others prefer to feed on smaller fish. Trout are either spring spawners or fall spawners, which means they deposit their eggs in the water.





Some animals need to live near water in habitats called riparian habitats. This habitat includes all the lush, green plants that grow near the water's edge. **Muskrats** make their homes along the edges of ponds and streams where they like to eat aquatic plants and sometimes clams, frogs, and fish. Muskrat fur is very thick and dense for keeping warm when swimming in icy water during the winter.

Artwork by Annika Bernhard, *Wetland Plants and Animals*



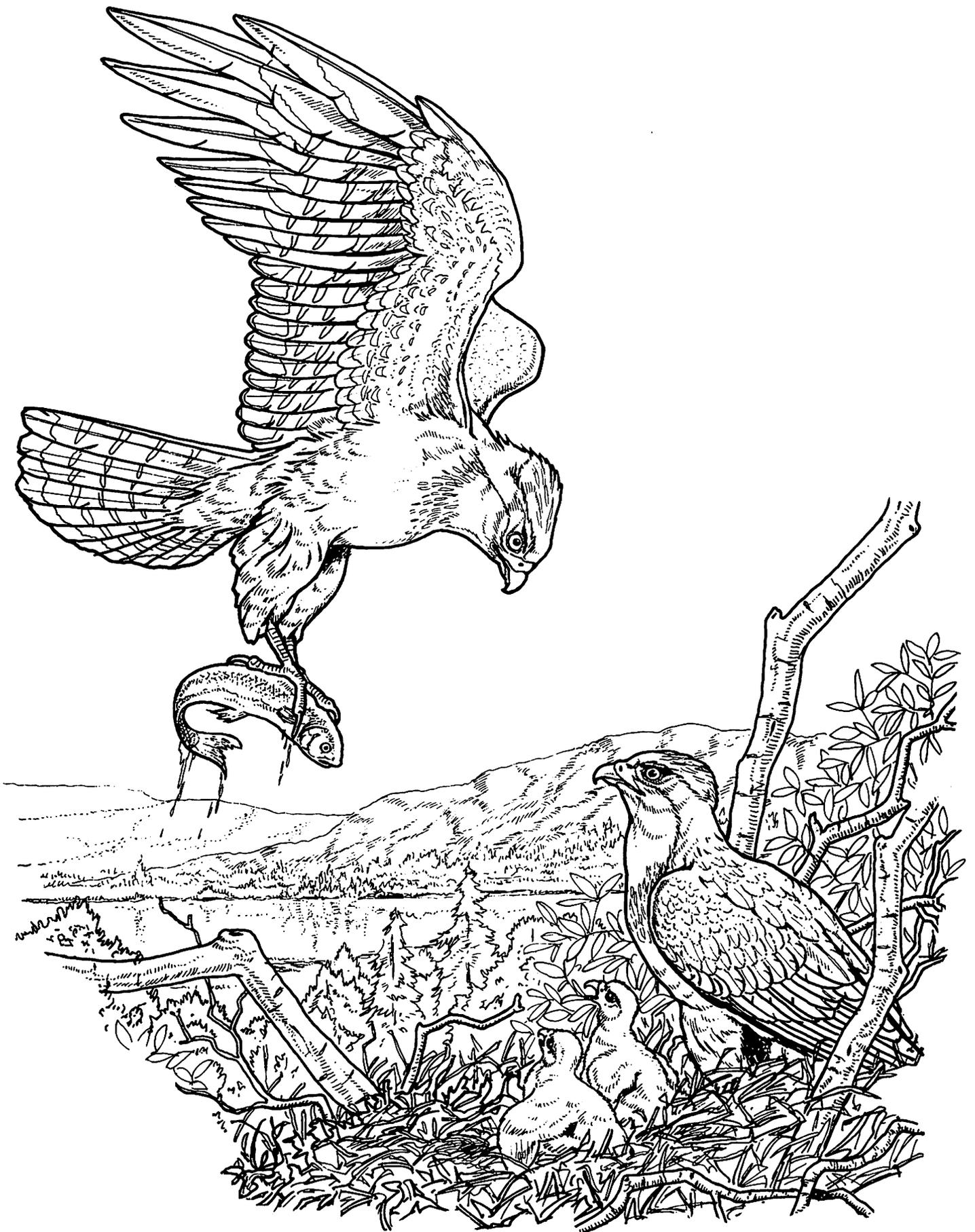
Mallards are dabbling ducks, because they poke their heads underwater to feed on plants growing on the bottom of ponds and streams. Mallards can be found near ponds, streams, and lakes in the prairies, foothills, and even in towns. The drake, or male mallard, has a dark green head with a white neck ring, while the female is mottled brown with a whitish tail.

Artwork by Ruth Soffer, *North American Ducks, Geese and Swans*



Red-winged blackbirds are common residents of marshes and wetlands where they nest in thick vegetation and feed on a variety of insects. The males are glossy black with red wing patches, which are brightly displayed during the breeding season. The females are brownish on the back with dark streaks across the front, providing camouflage when they are sitting on their nests.

Artwork by Annika Bernhard, *Wetland Plants and Animals*



Osprey are sometimes called; "fish hawks" because all they eat is fish. Osprey build large nests in trees, on poles, and on platforms specifically built for them. They live near open water where they can hover and dive down, feet first, to catch fish. Males and females look very similar, both having dark feathers on their backs, white feathers on their chests, and a dark stripe along their eyes.

WYOMING'S WILDLIFE

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