

BIRDS OF THE INDIANA DUNES

Coloring Book

Illustrated by Melissa Washburn



Get to Know Birds

Birds are always around us. No matter where you live or what season it is, birds are right outside your door. All birds are alike in many ways. They have feathers, two legs, two wings, and a beak. But, beyond that, birds come in an amazing variety of shapes, sizes, colors, sounds, and behaviors.

To find birds, you just need to listen and look. You can often hear a bird before you see it. A bird's call or song can tell you what it is and even what it is doing. Birds make different sounds in different circumstances. You can also identify birds by distinguishing marks, colors, and behaviors. Once you get to know the birds in your backyard, you can discover even more in your neighborhood and local parks.

Did you know that more than 350 different birds have been spotted in and around Indiana Dunes National Park?

Check out these birding resources:

American Birding Association

aba.org

Cornell Lab of Ornithology

birds.cornell.edu

- Bird Academy
- Citizen Science

Indiana Audubon

indianaaudubon.org

- Indiana Bird Checklist
- Indiana Young Birders Club

Indiana Birding Trail

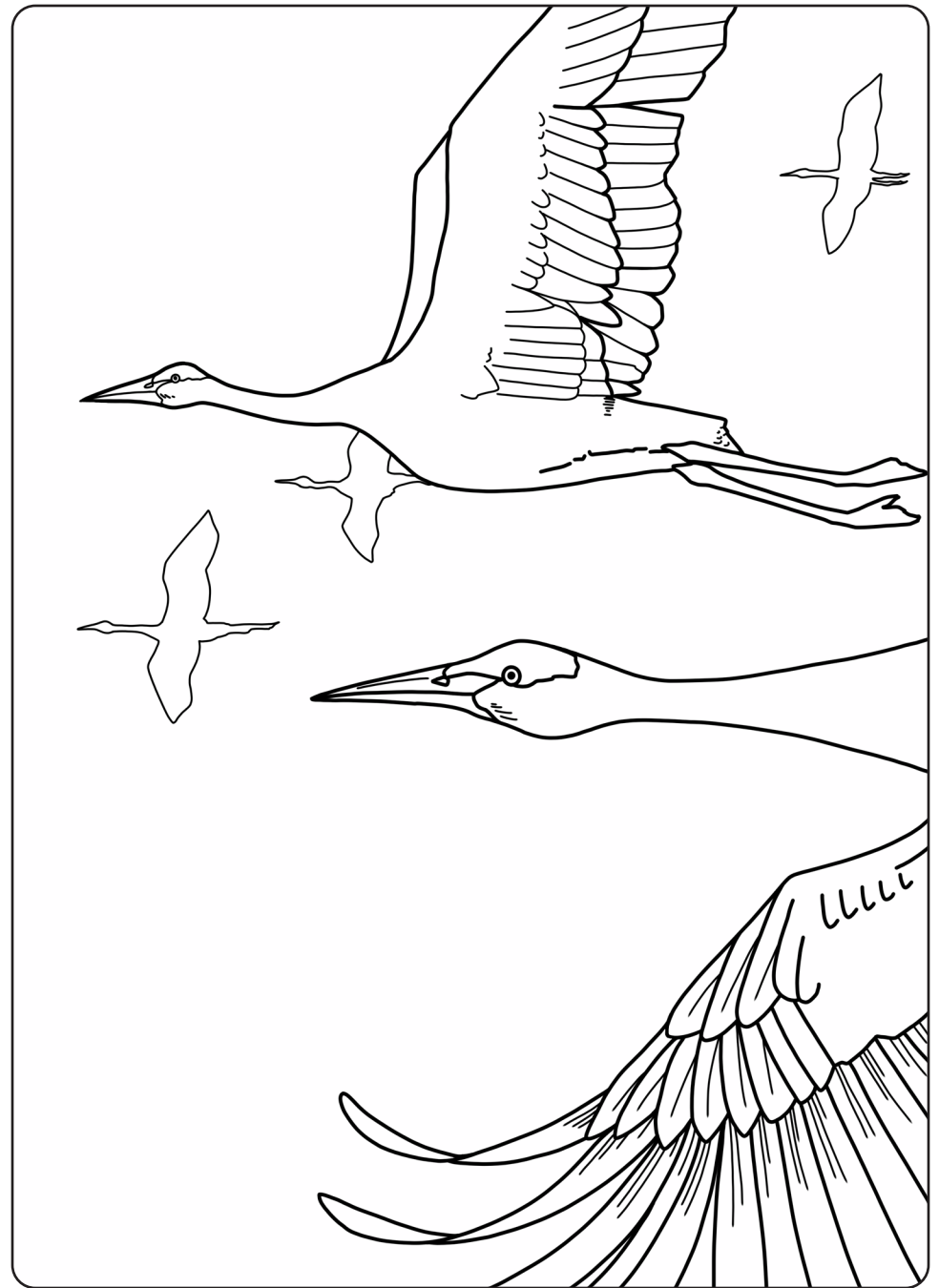
indianabirdingtrail.com/pages/northwest-indiana-birding-sites



Northern Cardinal

Male cardinals are normally red and black/brown, and have a short, reddish beak.

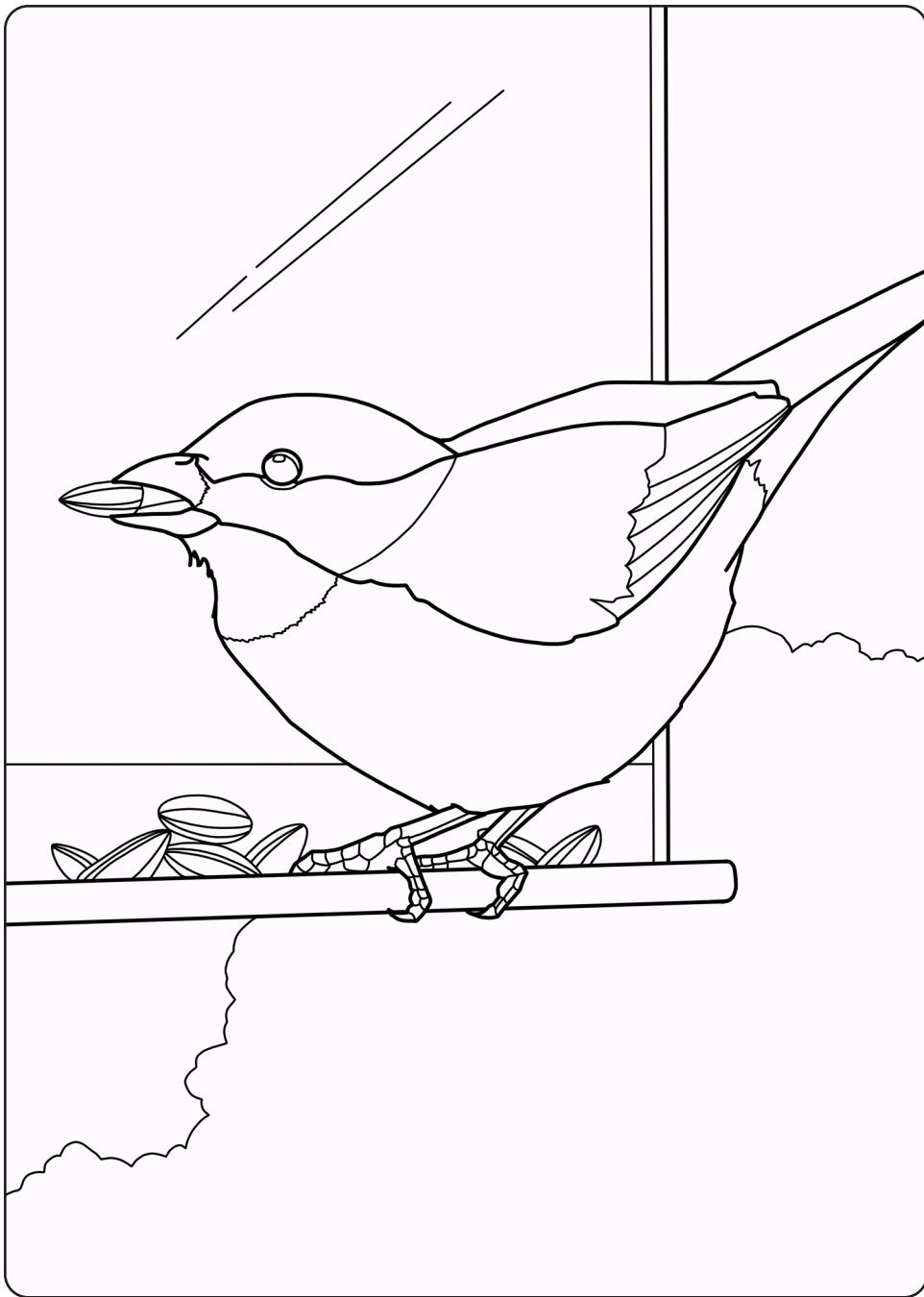
Fun Fact: When cardinals call, they sound like they're saying "birdie birdie birdie!"



Sandhill Crane

You always know when sandhill cranes are around by their distinct call, which sounds like someone rolling their "r's."

Fun Fact: While they're migrating, sandhill cranes can fly up to 500 miles per day!



Black-Capped Chickadee

Chickadees have a really fun call, which sounds like “chick-a-dee-dee-dee.”

Fun Fact: In the fall, chickadees cache their food, which means they store it so that they can eat during the wintertime!



Barred Owl

Barred owls are white and brown with a beautiful yellow beak, but you can best identify them by their call which sounds like “Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you all?”

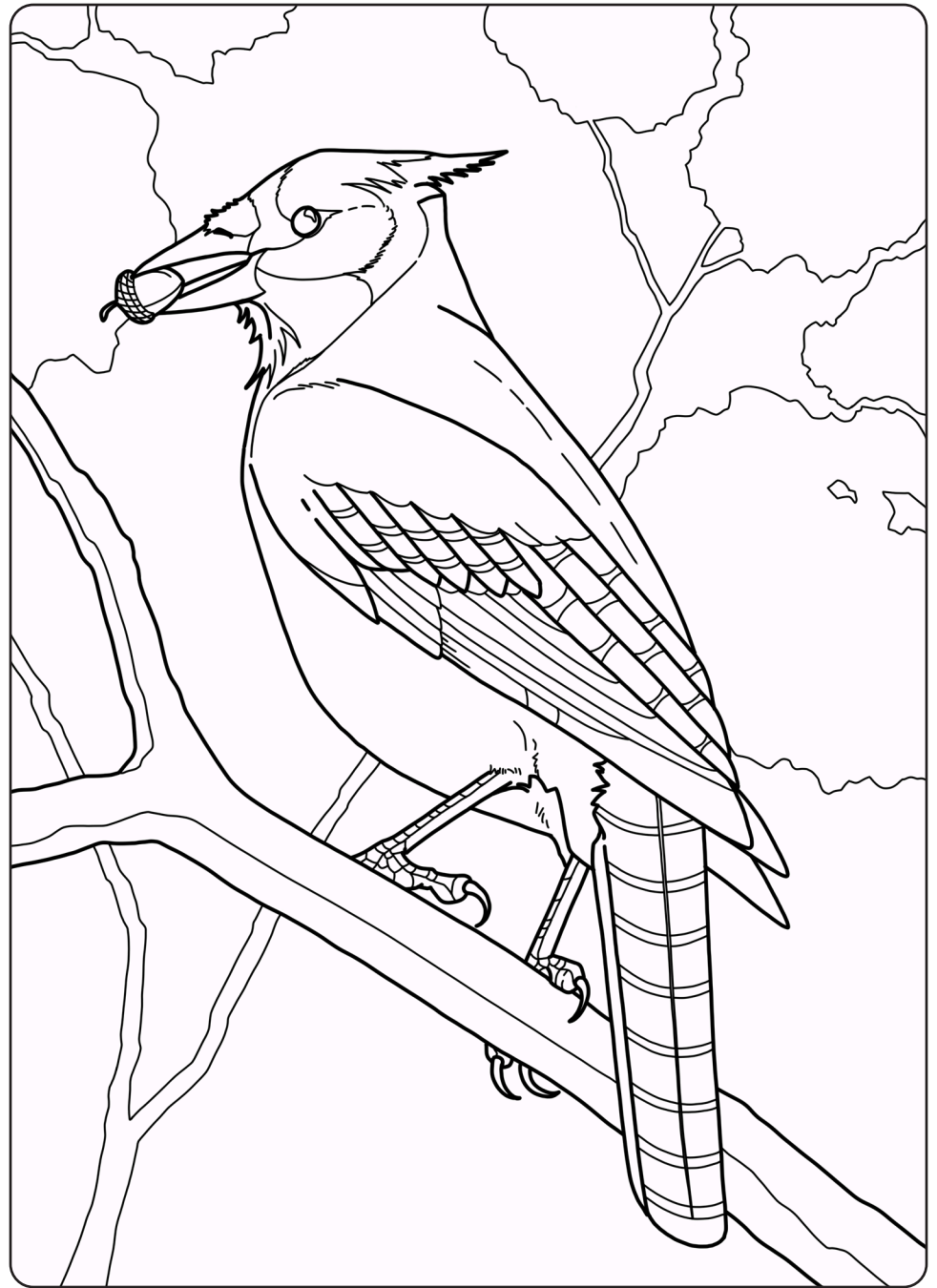
Fun Fact: Some barred owls have light pink feathers on their undersides, which scientists think comes from the large amount of crayfish they eat!



Great Blue Heron

It's easy to tell a great blue heron apart from other water birds because of its long legs and light blue feathers.

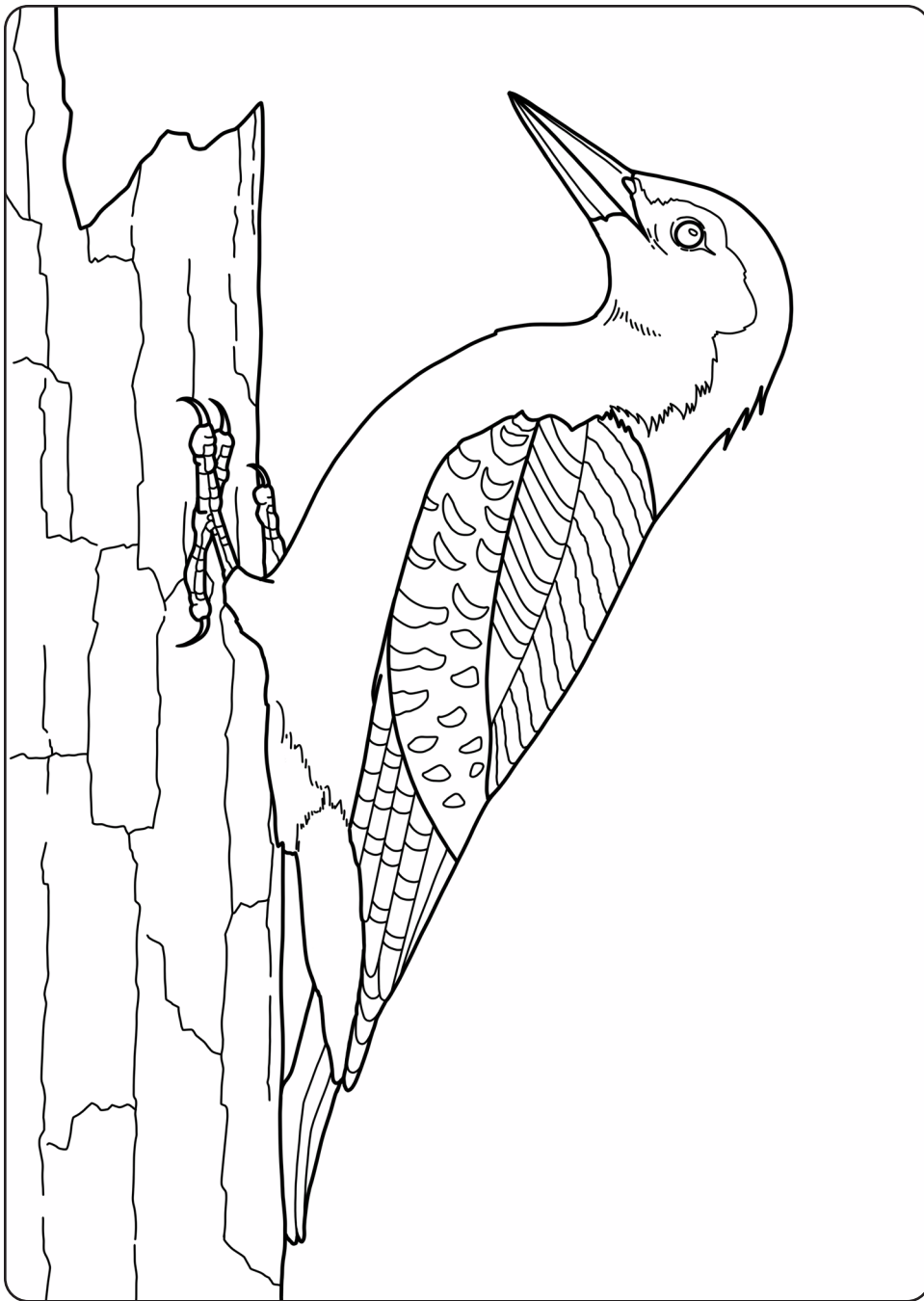
Fun Fact: When they are born, great blue herons have grey eyes, but as they grow, their eyes turn bright yellow!



Blue Jay

Blue jays are known for their beautiful blue feathers and intricately patterned tails.

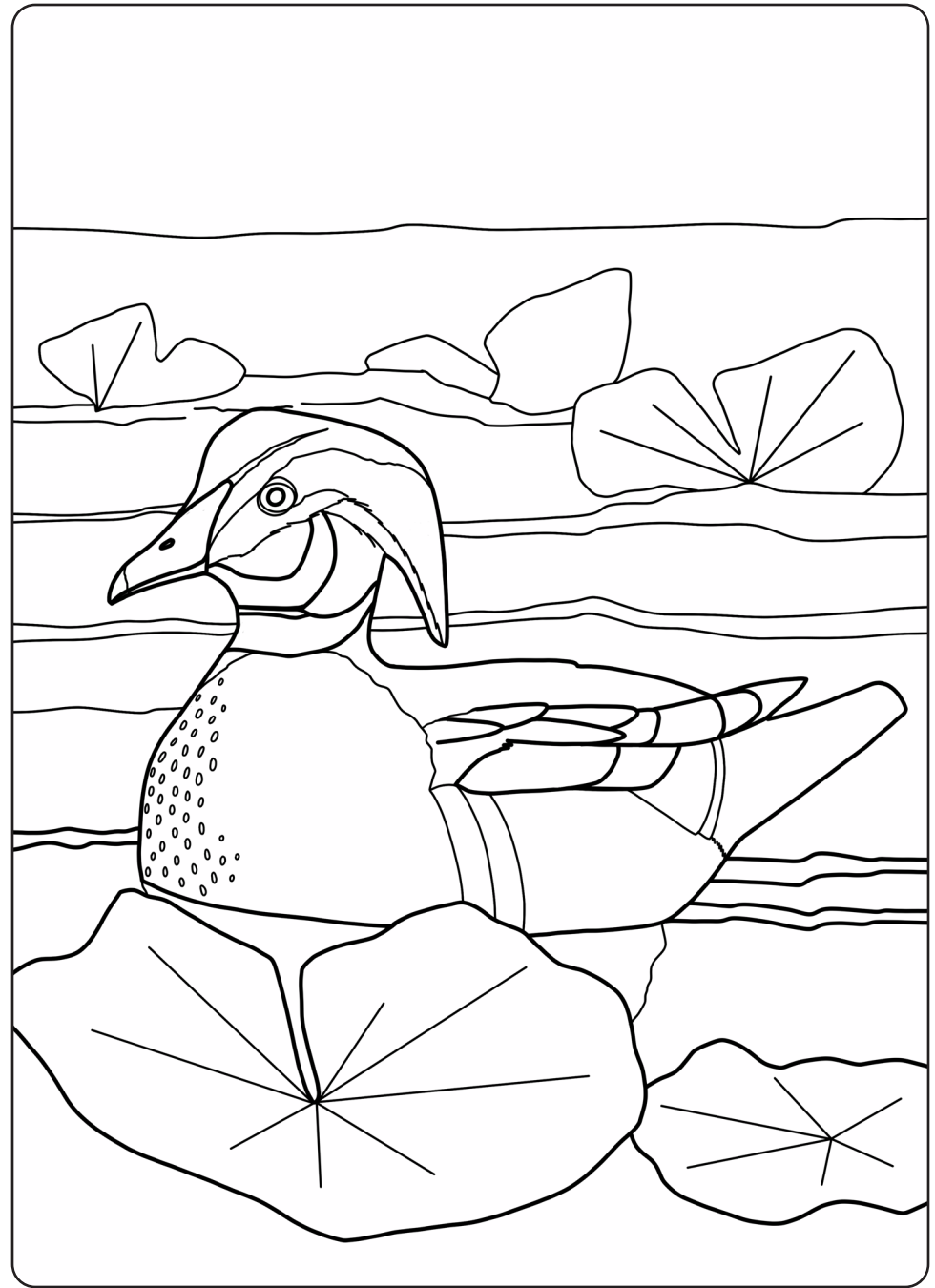
Fun Fact: Blue jays can imitate the sounds of hawks, cats, and even humans!



Red-bellied Woodpecker

Red-bellied woodpeckers can be hard to tell apart from other woodpecker species, but you can sometimes identify them by the black and white zebra patterns on their backs.

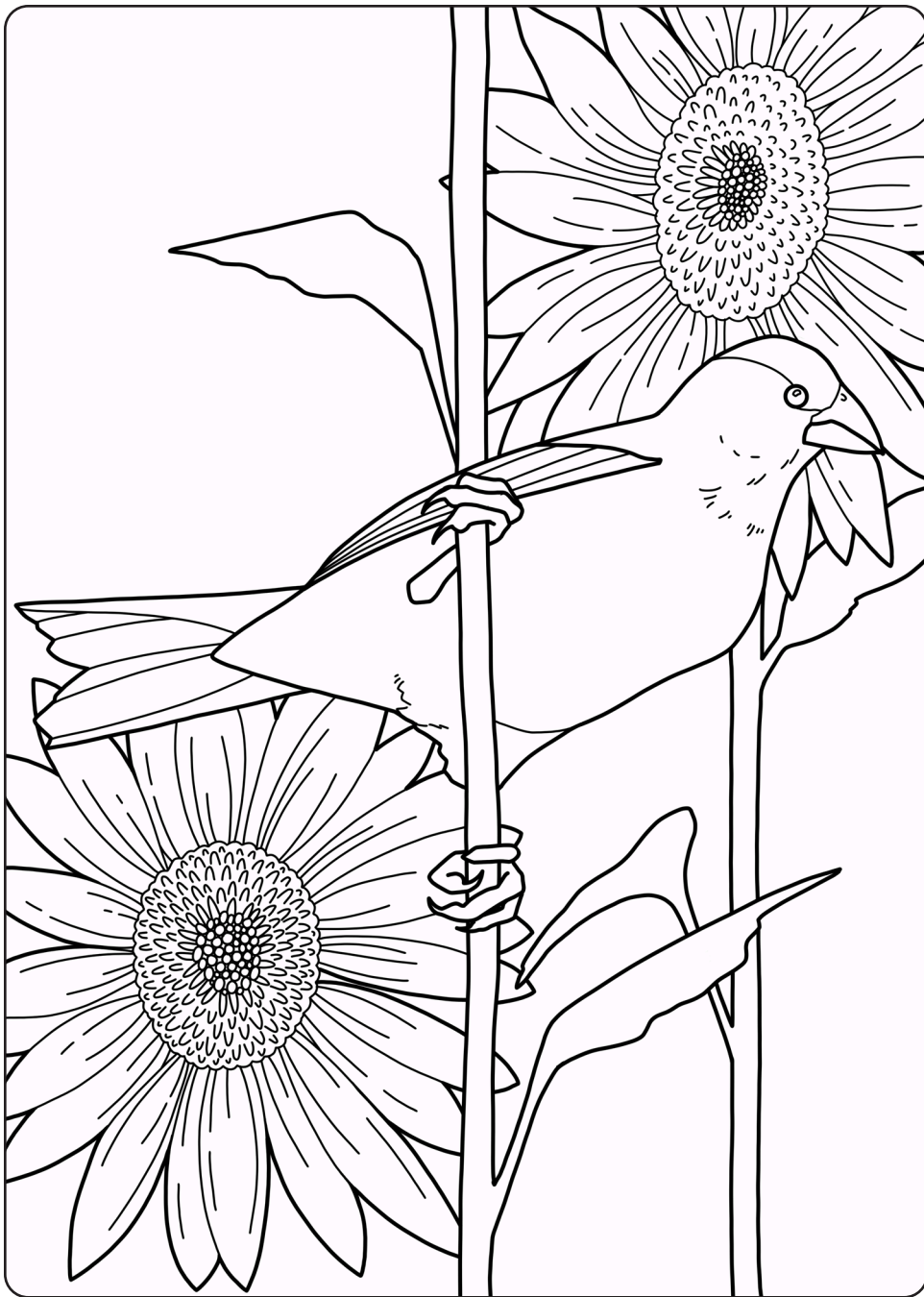
Fun Fact: When you're looking at a red-bellied woodpecker in a tree, you probably won't be able to see the small patch of red on its belly!



Wood Duck

Even though female and male wood ducks look quite different, you can identify any wood duck by their boxy head shape, which is unlike the head shape of other ducks.

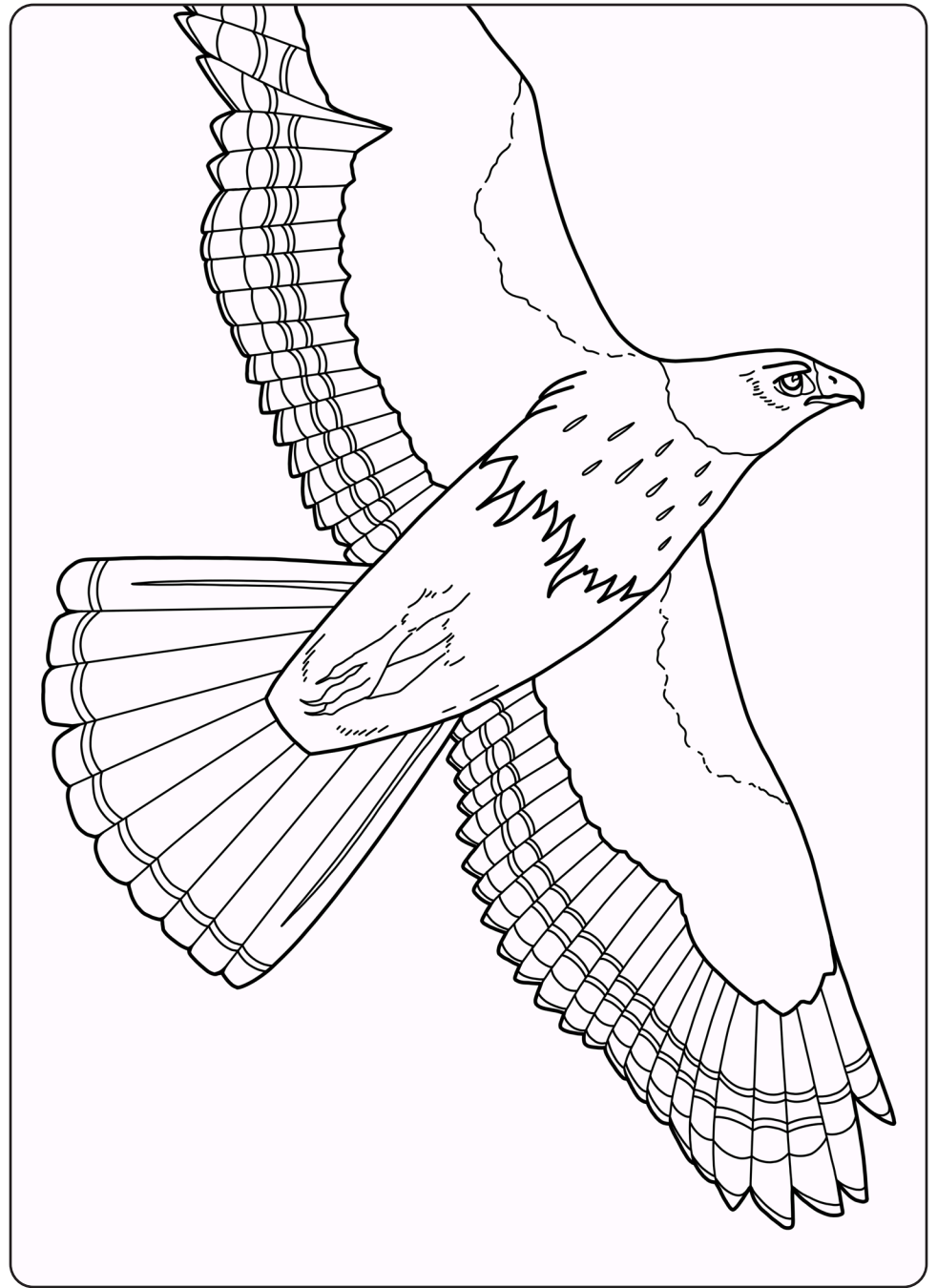
Fun Fact: They nest in tree cavities, they eat acorns, and babies jump out of their nest before they can fly!



American Goldfinch

Goldfinches look different depending on their sex and time of year, but they always have yellow on their faces.

Fun Fact: In the 1700s, “goldfinch” was a slang term for very wealthy people!



Red-Tailed Hawk

You're most likely to see red-tailed hawks soaring over forests and open areas in wide circles, or perched in the tops of tall trees or on telephone poles.

Fun Fact: Hawks can see at least 8 times better than humans!

Make Your Own Observations

Date/ Time: _____

Location: _____

Season/Weather: _____

What I see: _____

Sketch or write about what you see. What do you notice? What do you wonder? Does it remind you of anything?

KIDS NEED NATURE



NATURE NEEDS KIDS



Education Partner of
Indiana Dunes National Park

Dunes Learning Center provides education programs in an outdoor classroom to inspire lasting curiosity and stewardship with nature

DunesLearningCenter.org

Melissa Washburn is an illustrator/graphic designer based in Northwest Indiana. She creates layered, expressive mixed-media illustrations, often inspired by the natural world. Visit melissawashburn.com

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