

Flora & Fauna of the Eno

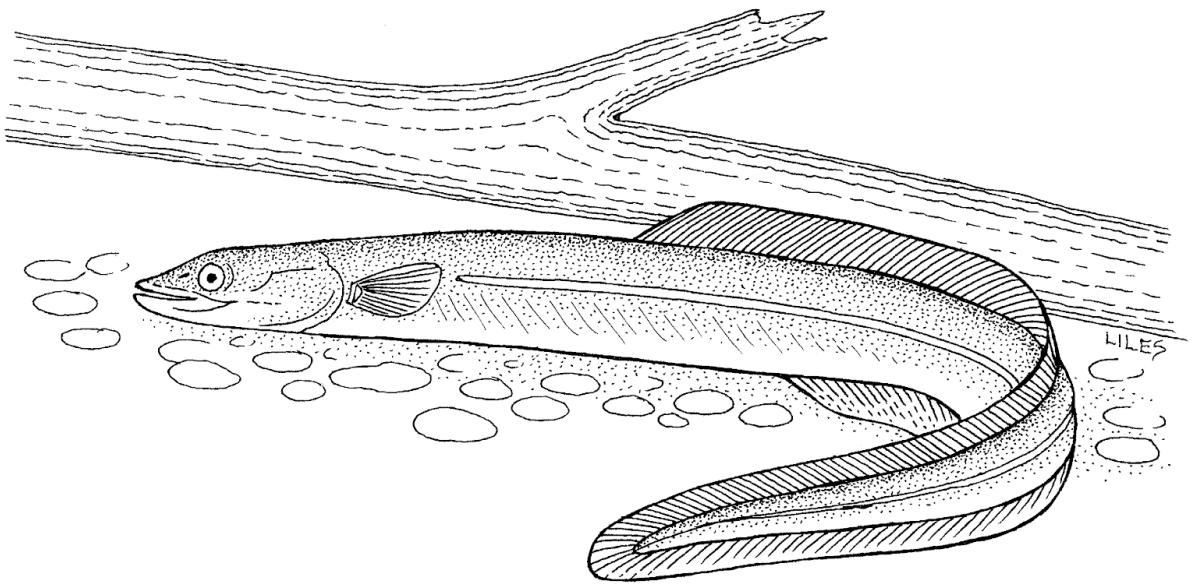
All Illustrations by Joe Liles

Descriptions by Audrey Gentry & Eli Haines-Eitzen

FISH

American Eel

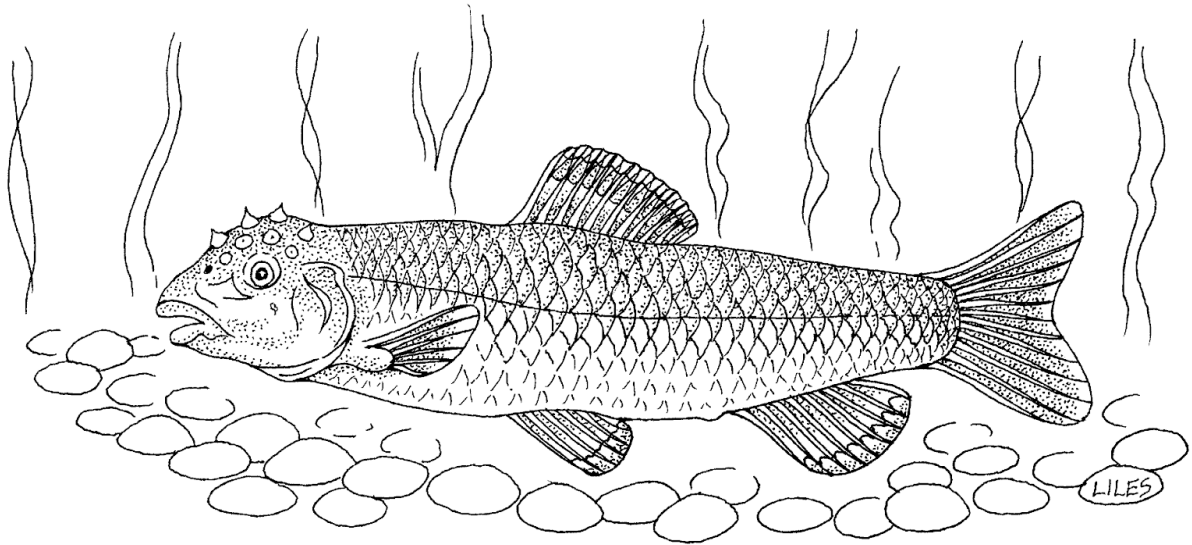
Anguilla rostrata



American eels are slender, snake-like fish found on the eastern coast of North America. It is catadromous, which means it migrates from freshwater habitats to marine habitats for spawning. Although they appear slimy due to a layer of mucus covering their skin, their bodies are covered in small scales. American eels are listed as endangered and are thought to be at high risk of extinction in the wild.

Bluehead Chub

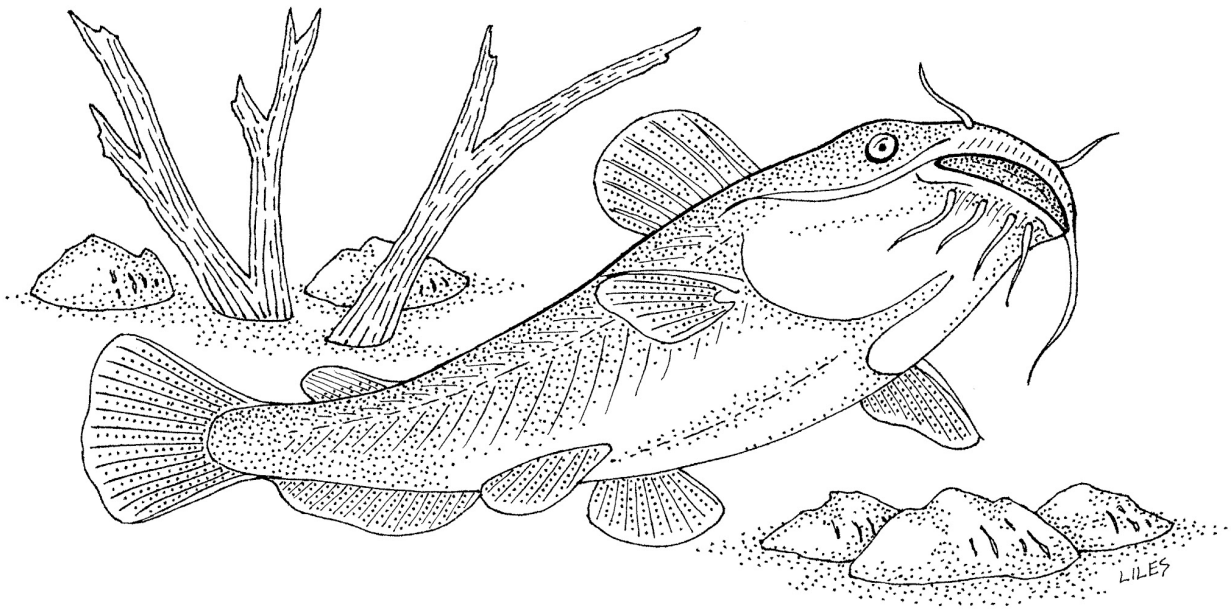
Nocomis leptcephalus



The bluehead chub is a freshwater fish native to North America. Their name is derived from the blue head that males have during breeding season. These fish are found in creeks and rivers with swift currents and temperate waters.

Bullhead Catfish

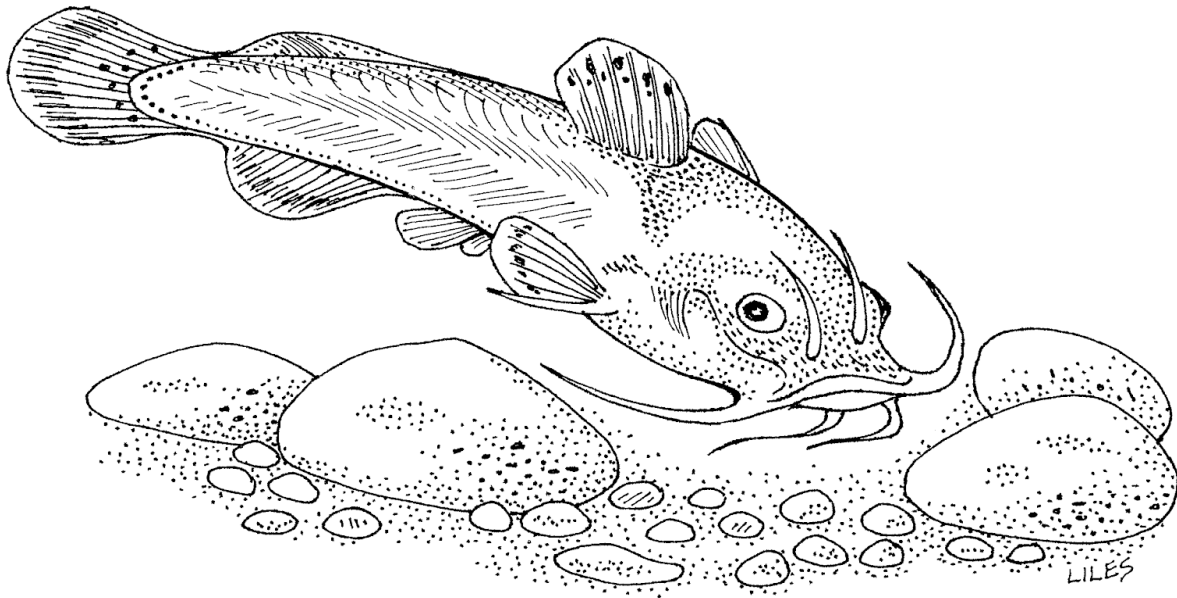
Ameiurus sp.



The genus *Ameiurus* contains seven species of medium-sized catfish, four of which (yellow bullhead, brown bullhead, snail bullhead, and flat bullhead) are native to North Carolina. These opportunistic omnivores prefer slow-moving waters with sandy or muddy bottoms. They can be distinguished from other catfish species by their lack of a forked tail.

Carolina Madtom

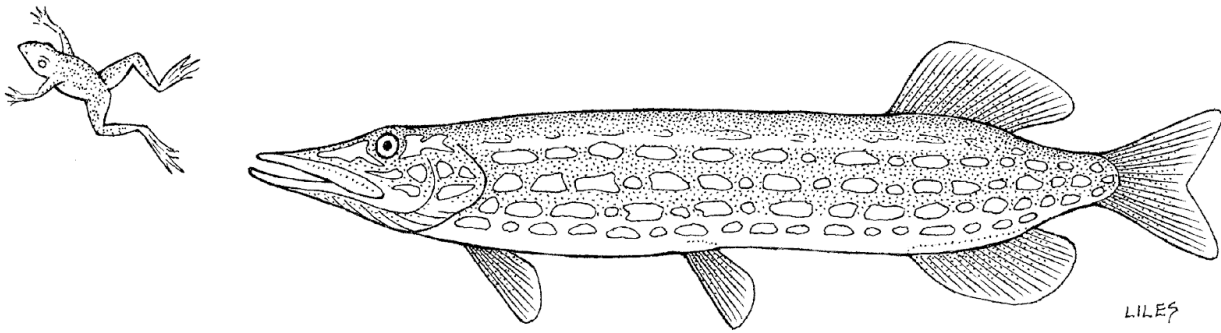
Noturus furiosus



The Carolina madtom is a small catfish that is endemic to North Carolina. It is found in medium to large creeks and rivers with continuous flow. It feeds on bottom-dwelling invertebrates and is most active at dawn and dusk. Due to factors such as declines in water quality, stream flow, and habitat quality, the Carolina madtom has suffered population declines and is listed as Near Threatened.

Chain Pickerel

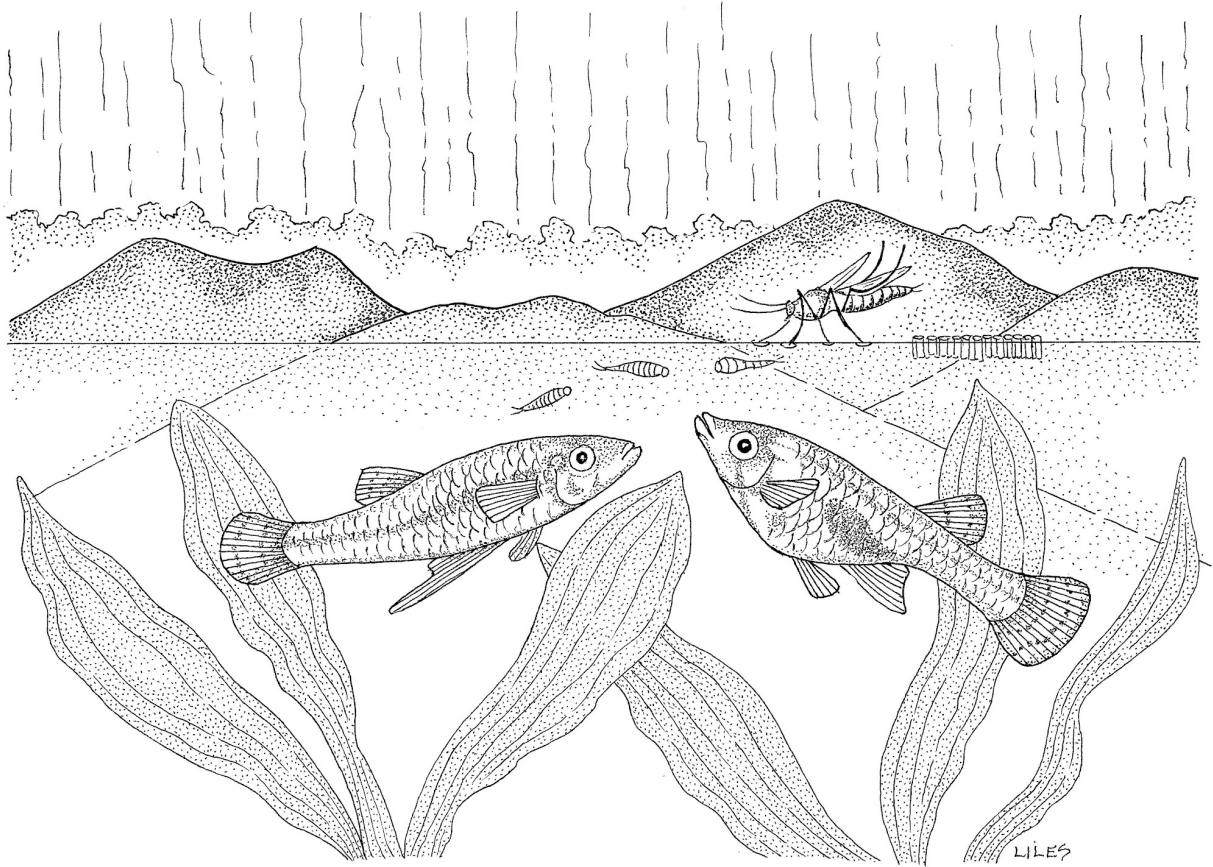
Esox niger



The chain pickerel is a freshwater fish in the pike family. It is elongated in shape and has a distinct chain-like pattern on its body. It feeds primarily on other fish and is able to hide and ambush large fish once it grows large enough itself. The chain pickerel is a popular sport fish and is listed as Least Concern.

Eastern Mosquitofish

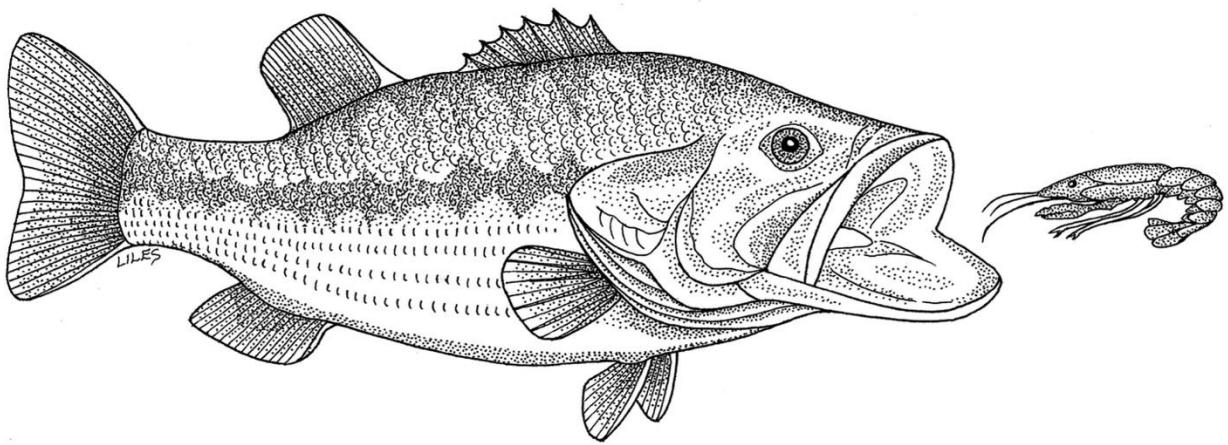
Gambusia holbrooki



The eastern mosquitofish is a small, silvery freshwater fish. While native to the southeastern United States, it has been introduced much more widely because of its reputation as a predator of mosquitoes. This species prefers warm and slow-moving or still water, and it is more tolerant than many other local fish species to changes in pH and temperature.

Largemouth Bass

Micropterus salmoides

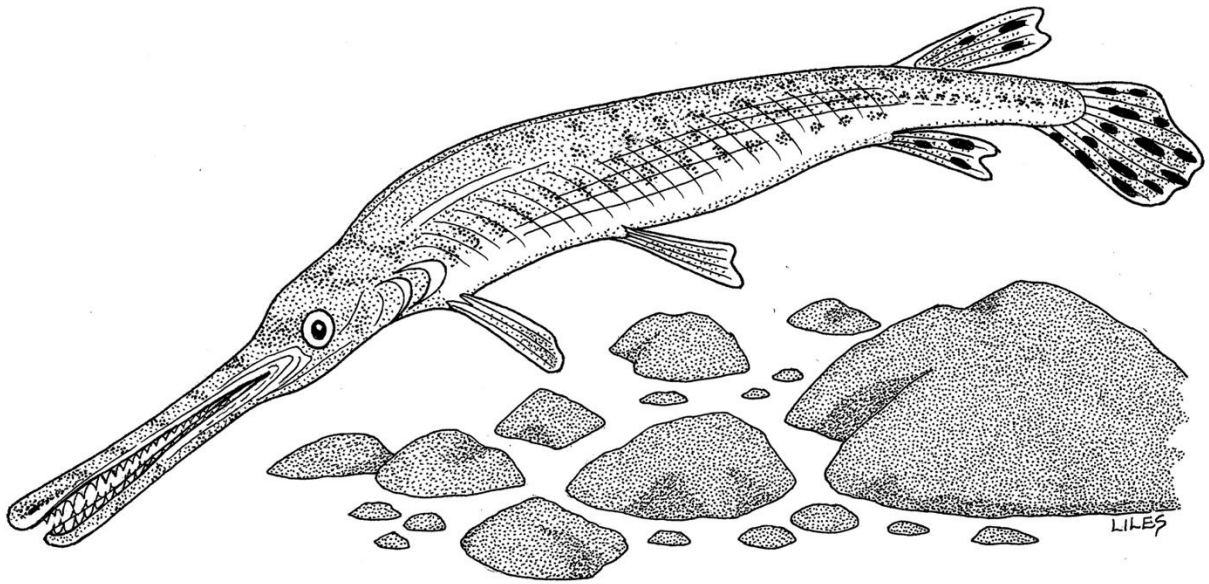


The largemouth bass is a freshwater fish native to the eastern and central U.S., as well as parts of Canada and Mexico. It is also widely introduced in other areas and is often considered an invasive species. Largemouth bass are carnivorous, primarily feeding on small fish, crustaceans, and insects.

This species is a popular gamefish of the Eno.

Longnose Gar

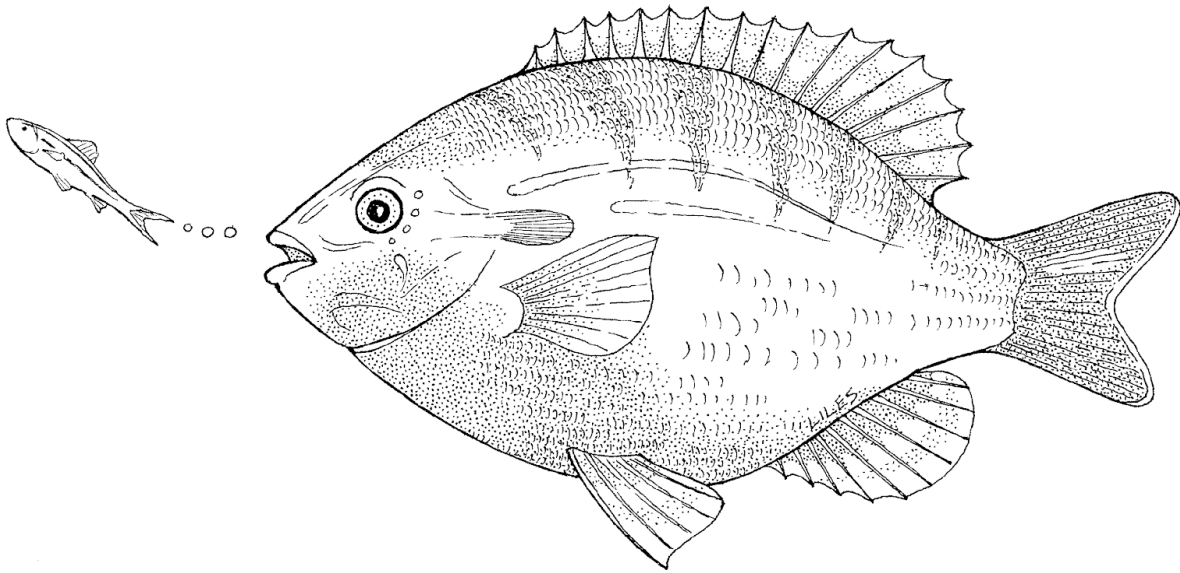
Lepisosteus osseus



The longnose gar is a North American freshwater fish that has a primitive appearance but is actually highly evolved. It inhabits quiet, weedy lakes, creeks, and rivers and feeds on small crustaceans and fish. They typically live around 15 to 20 years and their clutch sizes are often around 30,000 eggs.

Redbreast Sunfish

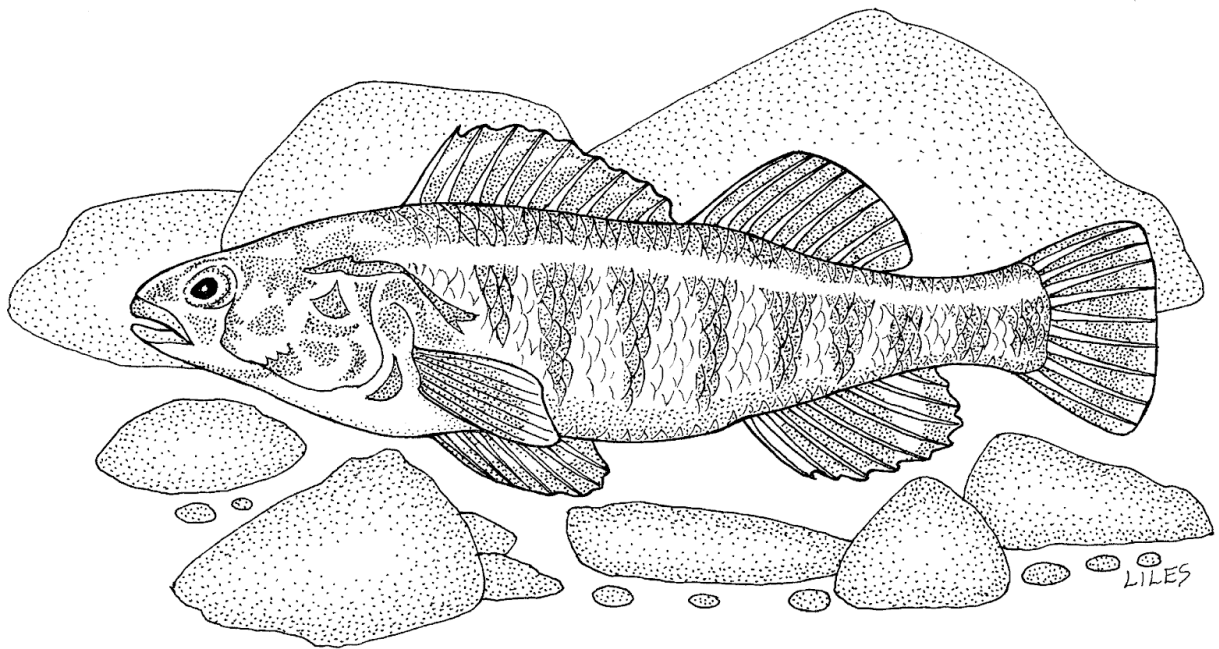
Lepomis auritus



The redbreast sunfish is a freshwater fish found in most of North Carolina's major river systems. It typically inhabits slow-moving waters including pools and river/stream backwaters. Their diet consists primarily of aquatic insects and small fish. During spawning season, males build large saucer-shaped nests on sand or gravel substrates where the females can lay her eggs.

Roanoke Darter

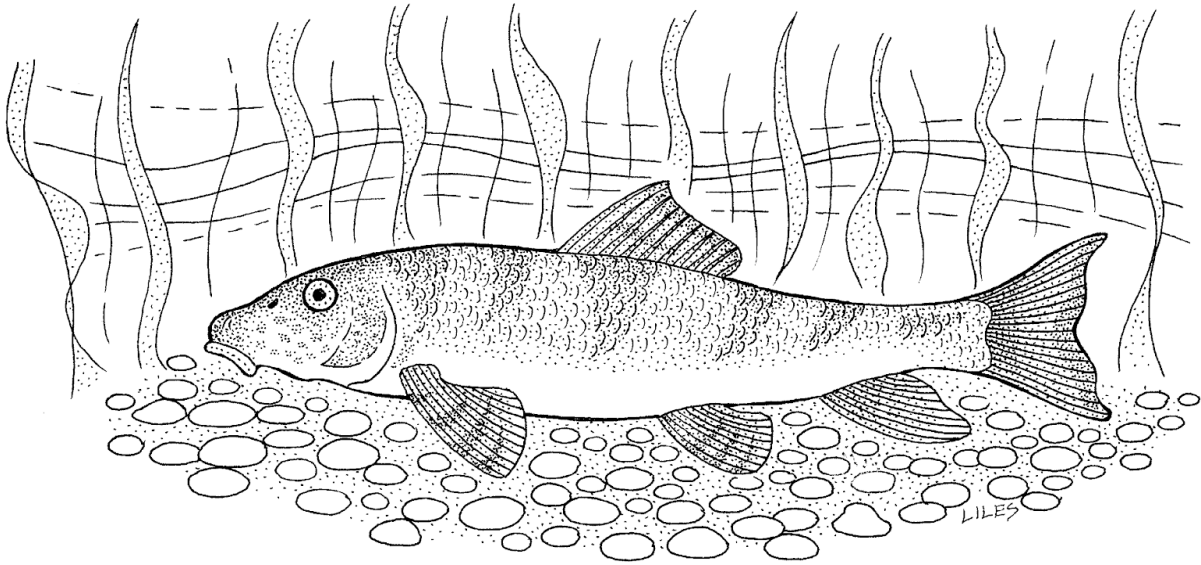
Percina roanoka



The Roanoke darter is a freshwater, ray-finned fish native to Virginia, West Virginia, and North Carolina. It can be found in medium-sized rivers in the Roanoke, Tar, and Neuse River basins. This species prefers streams and riffles that have gravel substrate. They are carnivorous and eat primarily aquatic macroinvertebrates.

Silver Redhorse

Moxostoma anisurum

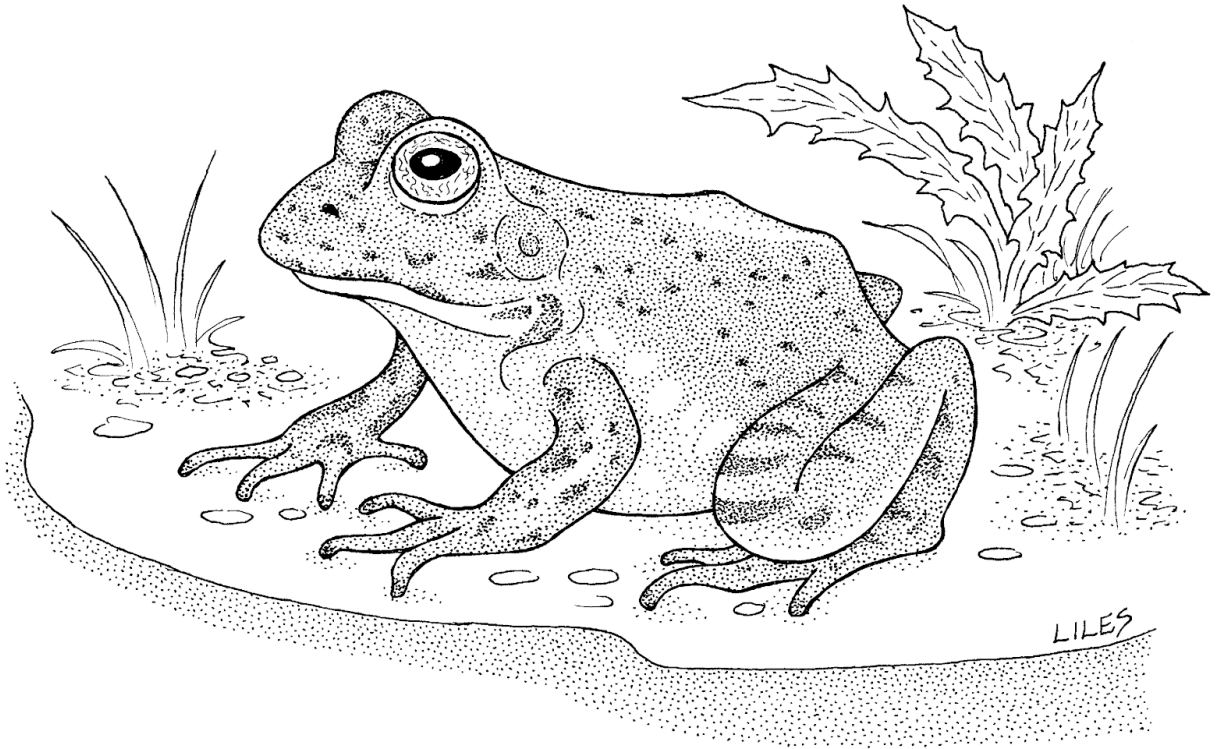


The silver redhorse is a freshwater fish native to the eastern U.S. and parts of Canada. It tends to inhabit undercut banks and deep pools of rivers. This species is a bottom feeder that primarily consumes mollusks, juvenile insects, algae, and various other invertebrates. It is also a good ecological indicator since it needs good water quality to survive.

AMPHIBIANS

American bullfrog

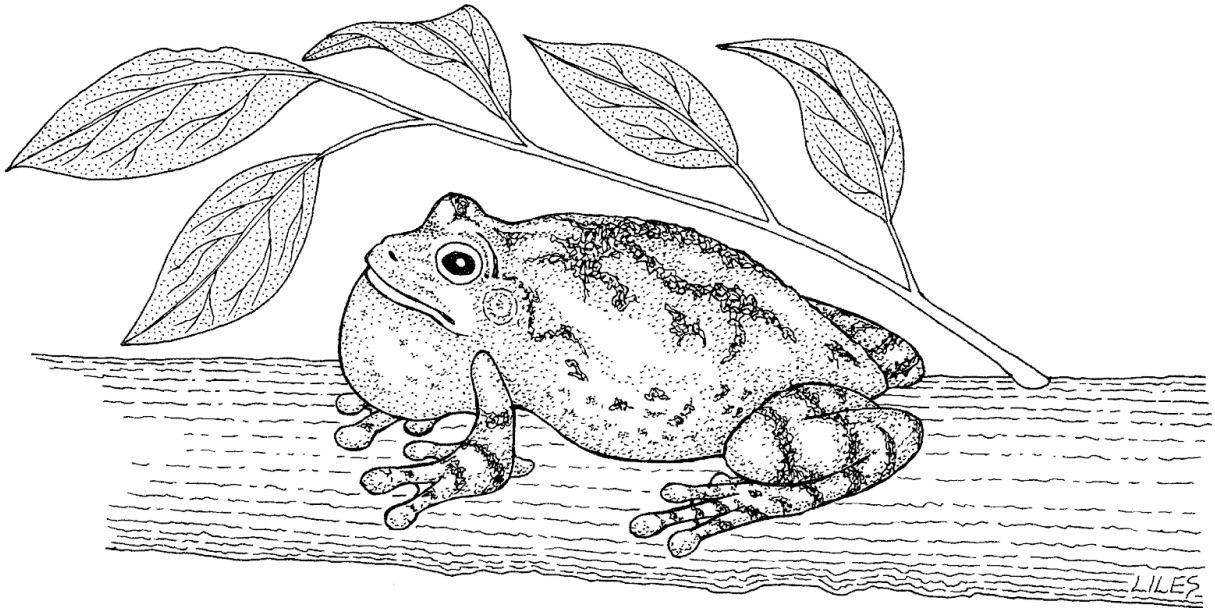
Lithobates catesbeianus



The American bullfrog is a large true frog found around lakes, marshes, and other bodies of freshwater. This species gets its name from the sound that males make during mating season, when they emit deep bull-like bellows to attract females.

Cope's Gray Treefrog

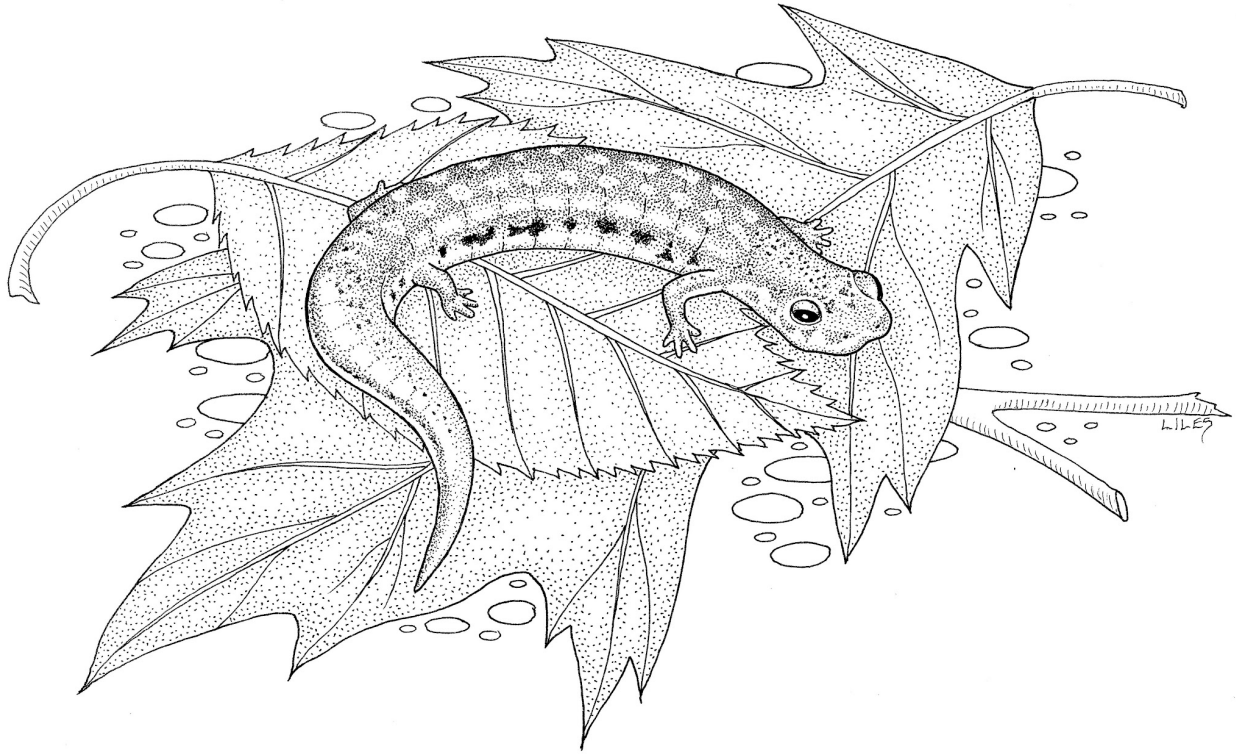
Hyla chrysoscelis



Cope's gray treefrogs are relatively large treefrogs with mottled gray to greenish, granular skin that resembles tree bark. This species typically inhabits woodlands that are in close proximity to wetland areas. Males can be heard calling during the breeding season between May and August.

Four-toed Salamander

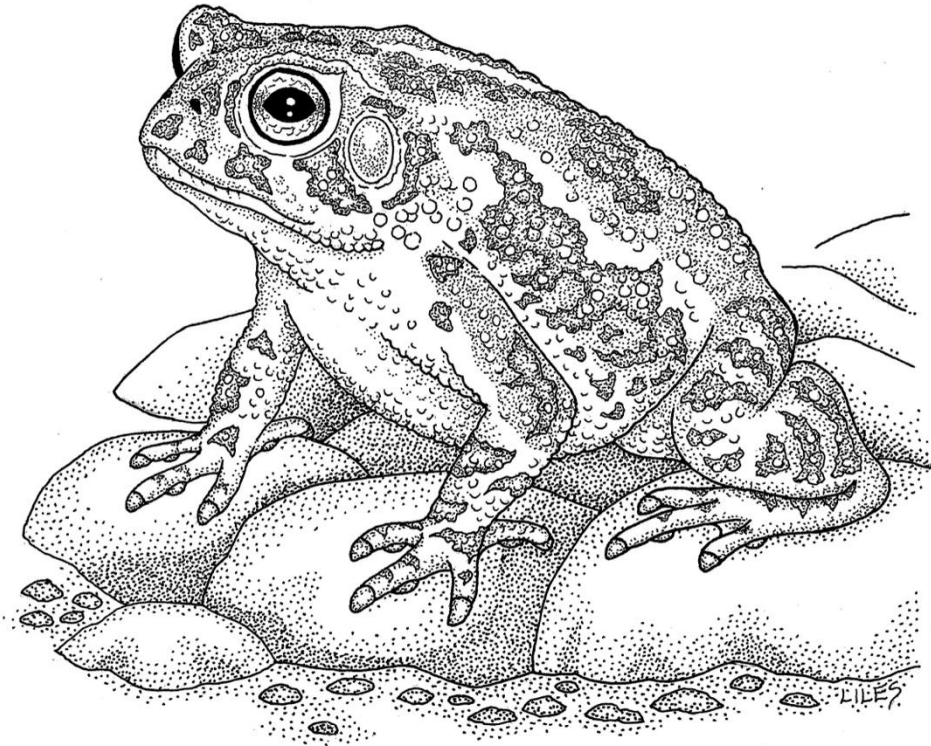
Hemidactylium scutatum



Four-toed salamanders are small, reddish brown salamanders listed as a Species of Special Concern in North Carolina. They have white bellies covered in black spots and, as the name suggests, they are the only local terrestrial salamanders with four toes on the rear feet (most species have five). This species is a denizen of woodlands surrounding wetlands and vernal pools, where they breed in late winter.

Fowler's Toad

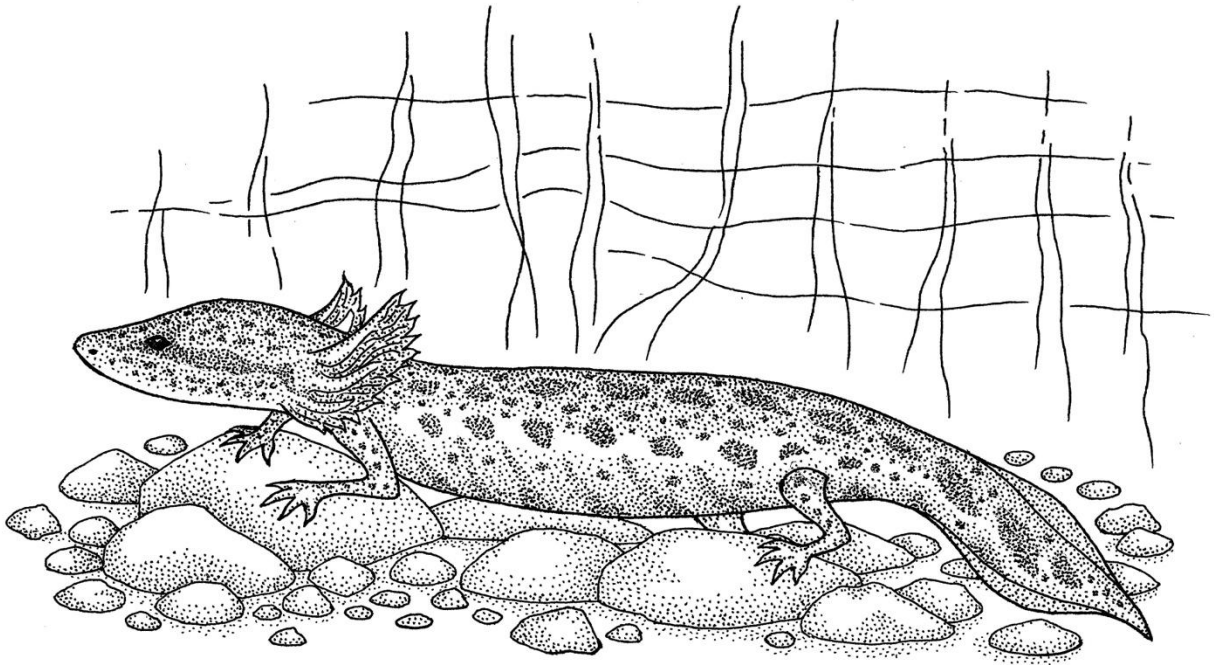
Anaxyrus fowleri



Fowler's toads are found throughout the Piedmont regions of the eastern U.S. When compared with the similar-looking American toad, the Fowler's has three or more warts in each of the dark spots on their backs, while American toads have only one to two warts in each dark spot. This species uses defensive coloration to blend into its environment and can also secrete a toxic substance from the warts on its back.

Neuse River Waterdog

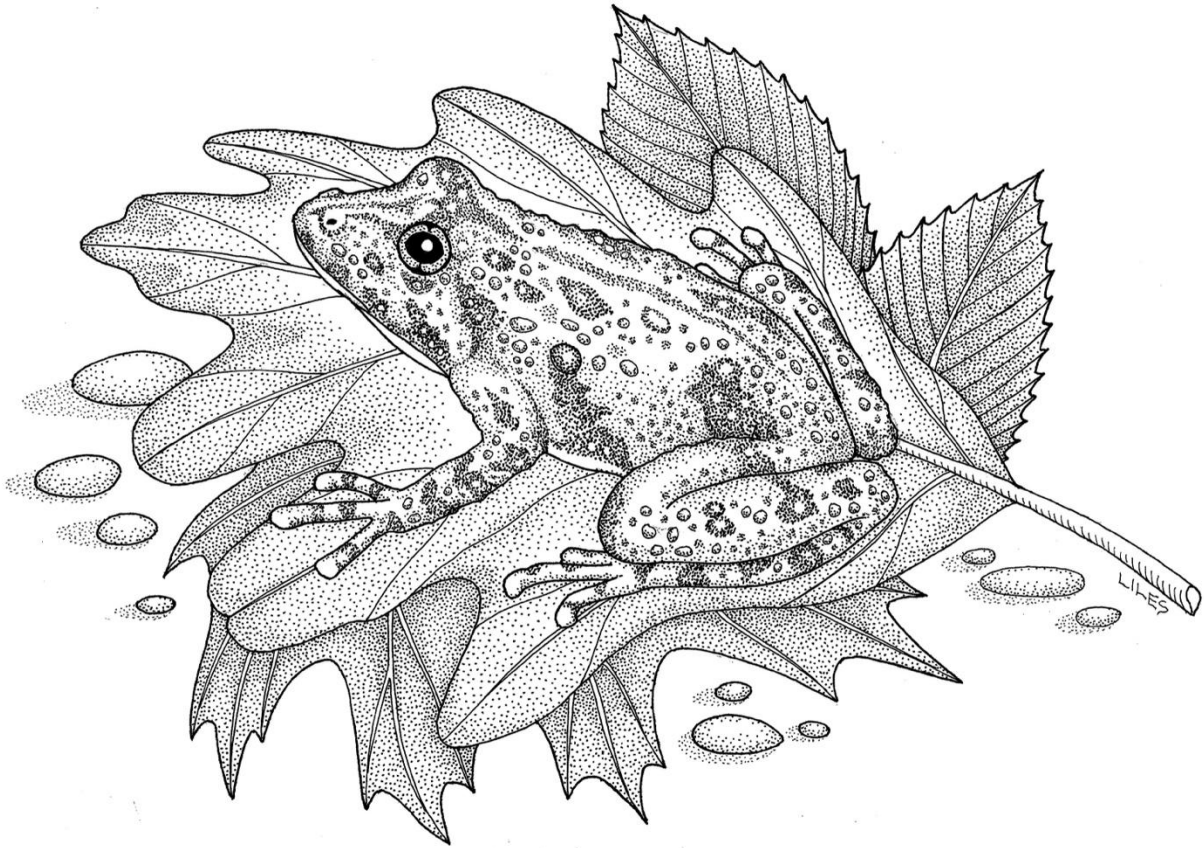
Necturus lewisi



The Neuse River waterdog is a species of paedomorphic salamander that is endemic to North Carolina. They are found exclusively in the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico River basins. These animals spend a lot of time hiding beneath cavities in the sand and gravel that they dig out using their snouts. Adults prey primarily on macroinvertebrates and fish. The Neuse River waterdog is very rare and received federal protection when it was officially listed as Threatened in 2021. The primary threat for this species is habitat degradation. Very few individuals have been found in the Eno in recent years.

Northern Cricket Frog

Acris crepitans



The northern cricket frog is a small species of frog native to the U.S. and parts of Mexico. Their coloration varies and can include gray, green, and brown shades. These frogs live along the edges of slow-moving rivers and other bodies of water. They feed on primarily terrestrial species of spiders and insects. They are often confused with the similar southern cricket frog but can be distinguished by their shorter legs, greater hind foot webbing, and less pointed snouts.

Red-backed Salamander

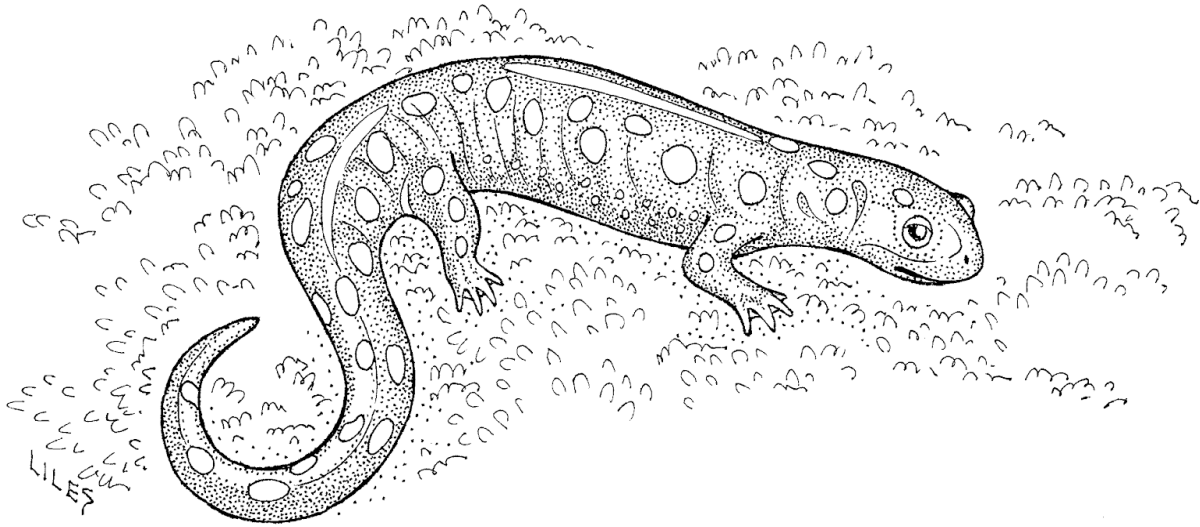
Plethodon cinereus



The red-backed salamander is a terrestrial salamander that inhabits deciduous forests. This species is lungless and breathes primarily through its skin. There are two color morph phases that this species can exhibit. An individual in the "redback" phase has a gray or black body with a red/orange stripe down the back. An individual in the "leadback" phase does not have the red stripe and instead has an entirely gray or black back.

Spotted Salamander

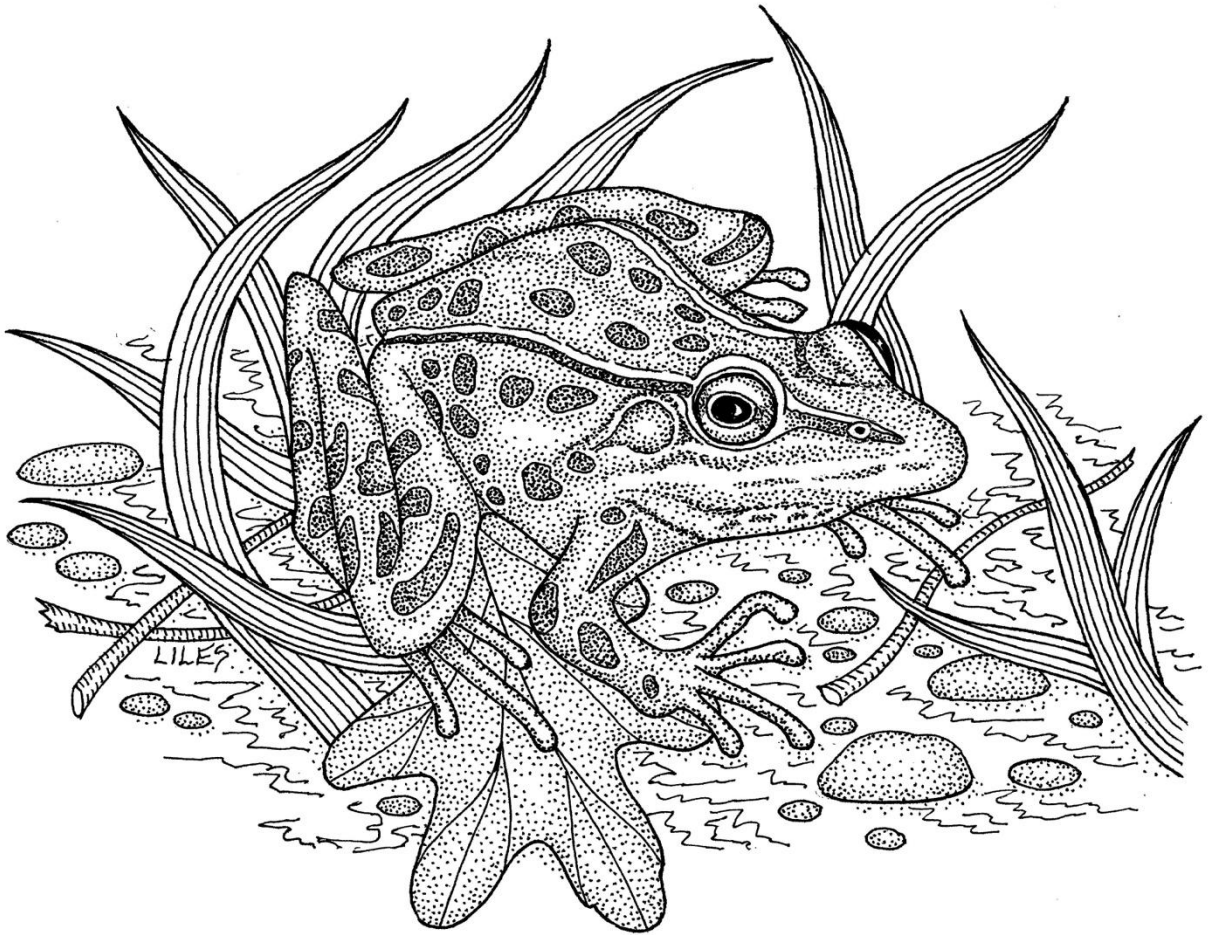
Ambystoma maculatum



The spotted salamander is a mole salamander found throughout the eastern U.S. Individuals have dark colored bodies with yellow spots on the head, back, and tail. This species is the only known example of a vertebrate to have symbiotic algae living inside of its embryo cells! Spotted salamanders typically inhabit hardwood forests where they breed in vernal pools, which are non-permanent pools of water that fill seasonally and therefore lack fish (which would serve as predators of salamanders in embryos in permanent bodies of water).

Southern Leopard Frog

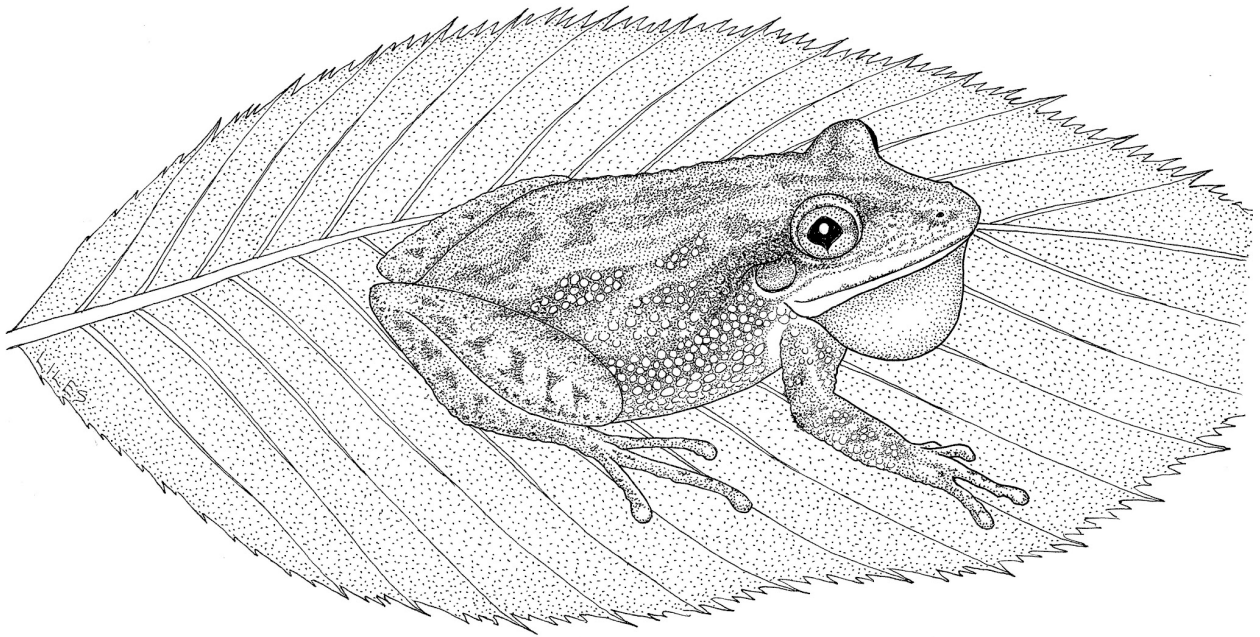
Lithobates sphenoccephalus



The southern leopard frog is a medium-sized frog native to eastern North America. They tend to be greenish-brown in color with yellow ridges along their sides and dark round spots scattering their back and sides. This species inhabits various freshwater habitats and can often be observed perched along the side of the Eno. When approached, they jump into the river!

Upland Chorus Frog

Pseudacris feriarum

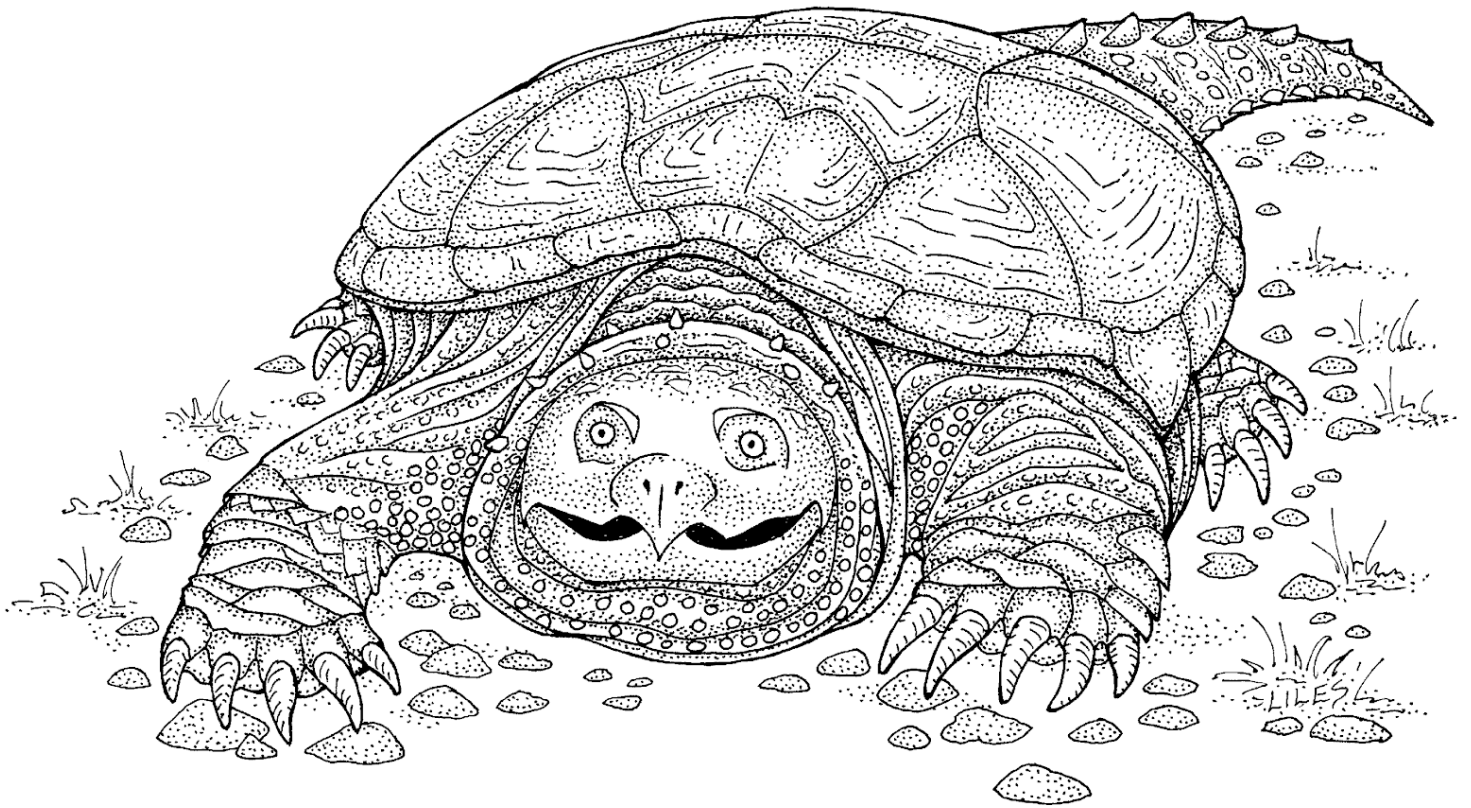


The upland chorus frog is a small frog native to much of eastern North America, including the North Carolina Piedmont. Their coloration is highly variable, from brown to greenish, but many have a dark brown mask across both eyes and dark, mottled stripes running down the back. Their distinctive call, which sounds like fingers running down the teeth of a comb, can be heard in winter and early spring.

REPTILES

Common Snapping Turtle

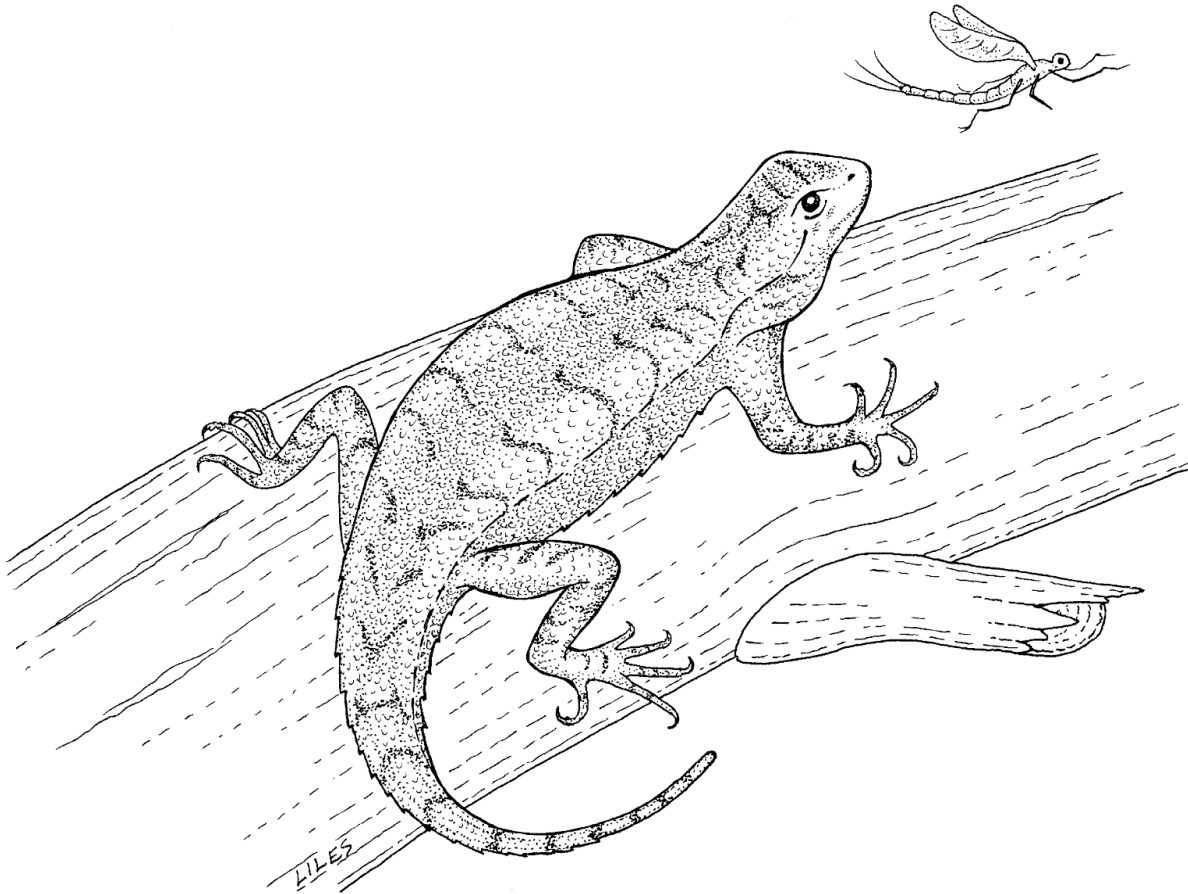
Chelydra serpentina



The common snapping turtle is a large, highly aquatic freshwater turtle found in central and eastern North America. They have very powerful jaws, a beaked mouth, and a worm-like tongue. Additionally, their heads and necks are highly mobile. All of these things help them to be successful predators.

Eastern Fence Lizard

Sceloporus undulatus

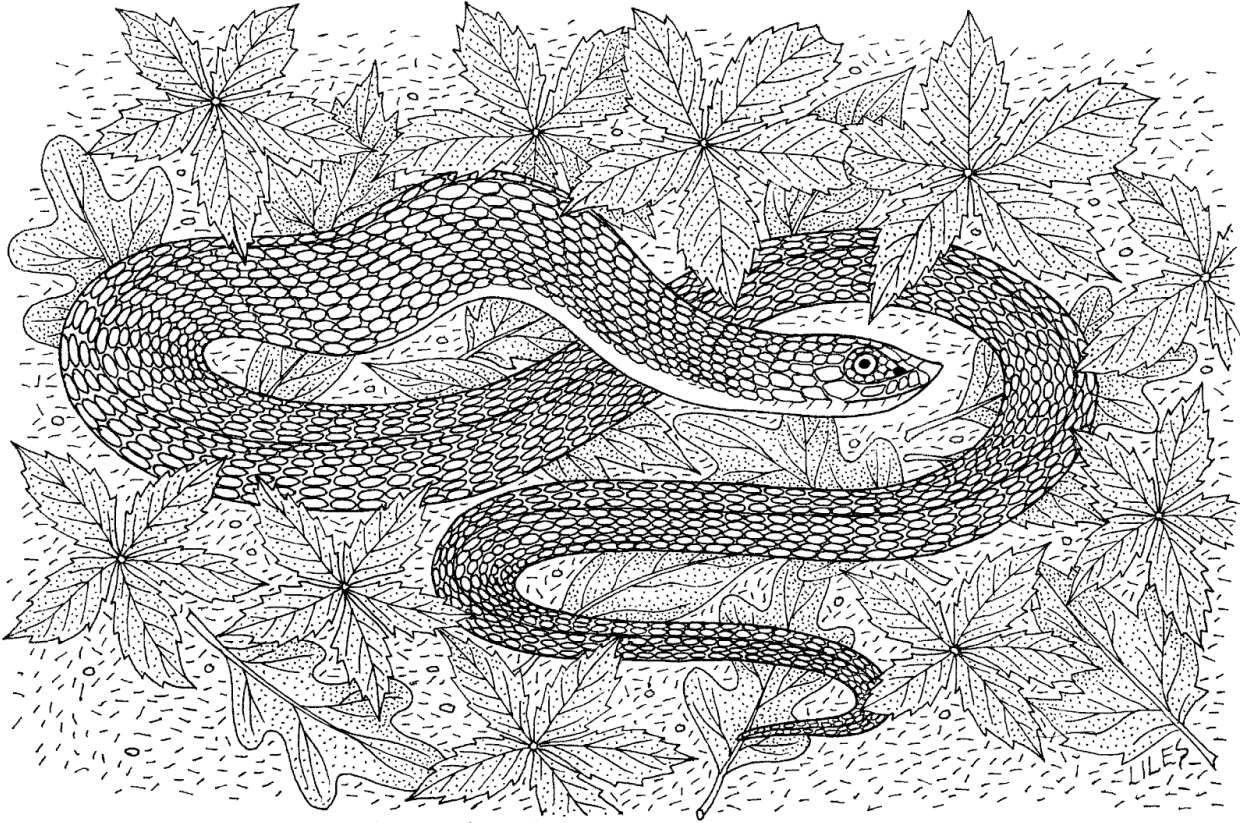


The eastern fence lizard is a medium-sized lizard found in the eastern U.S.

It typically inhabits rocky crevices, forest edges, and decaying plant material. This species has been negatively affected by invasive fire ants that compete with the lizards for nesting habitat and feed on their eggs. In response to these threats, fence lizards have developed a twitching behavior to get fire ants off of them and have learned to flee more quickly when they encounter these ants.

Eastern Hognose Snake

Heterodon platirhinos

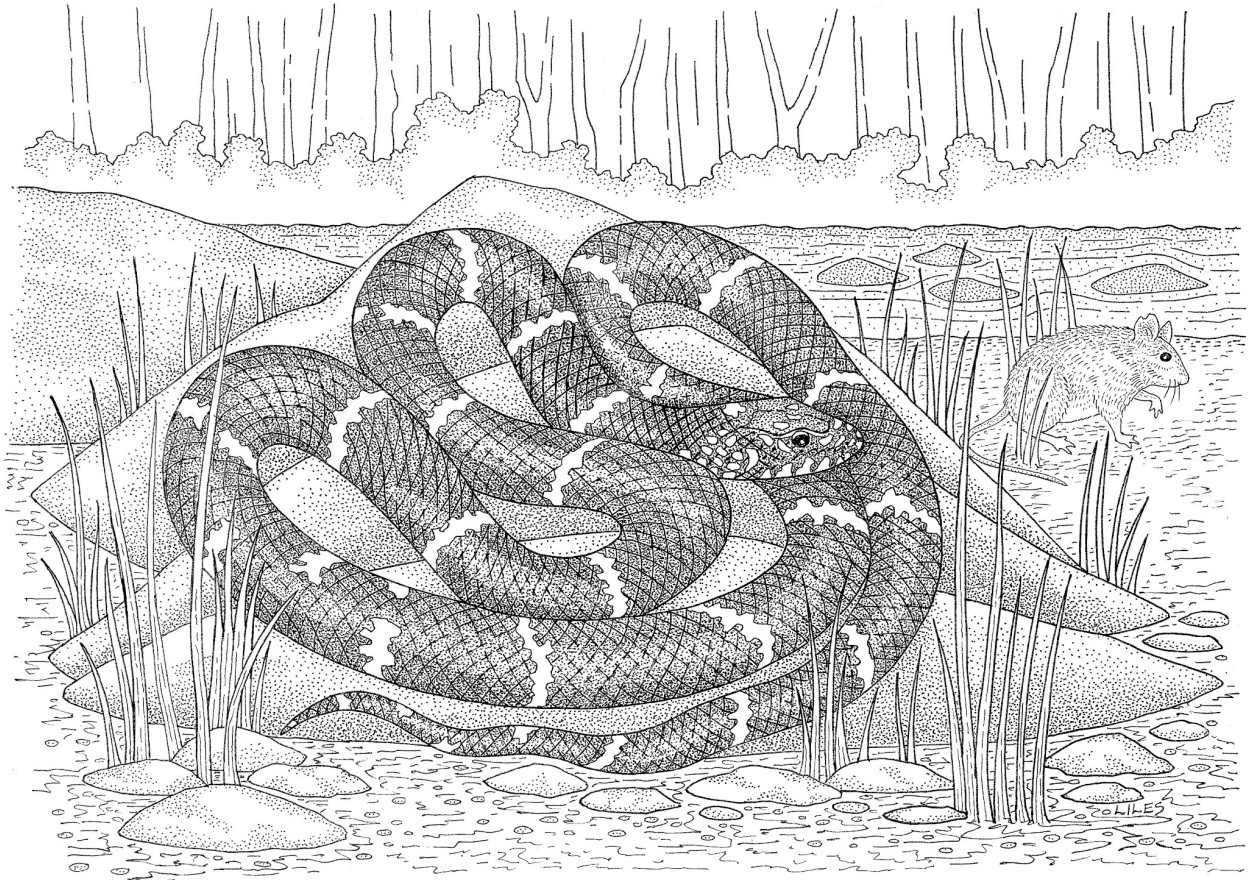


The eastern hognose snake, sometimes referred to as a "puff adder", is a colubrid snake species found in North America. This species has a characteristic upturned snout, which is used for digging in sandy soils.

When threatened, the eastern hognose flattens its neck and imitates a cobra. It will hiss and strike, but will not actually bite. If this display does not succeed at deterring a predator, it will play dead, rolling over on its back and even sticking out its tongue!

Eastern Kingsnake

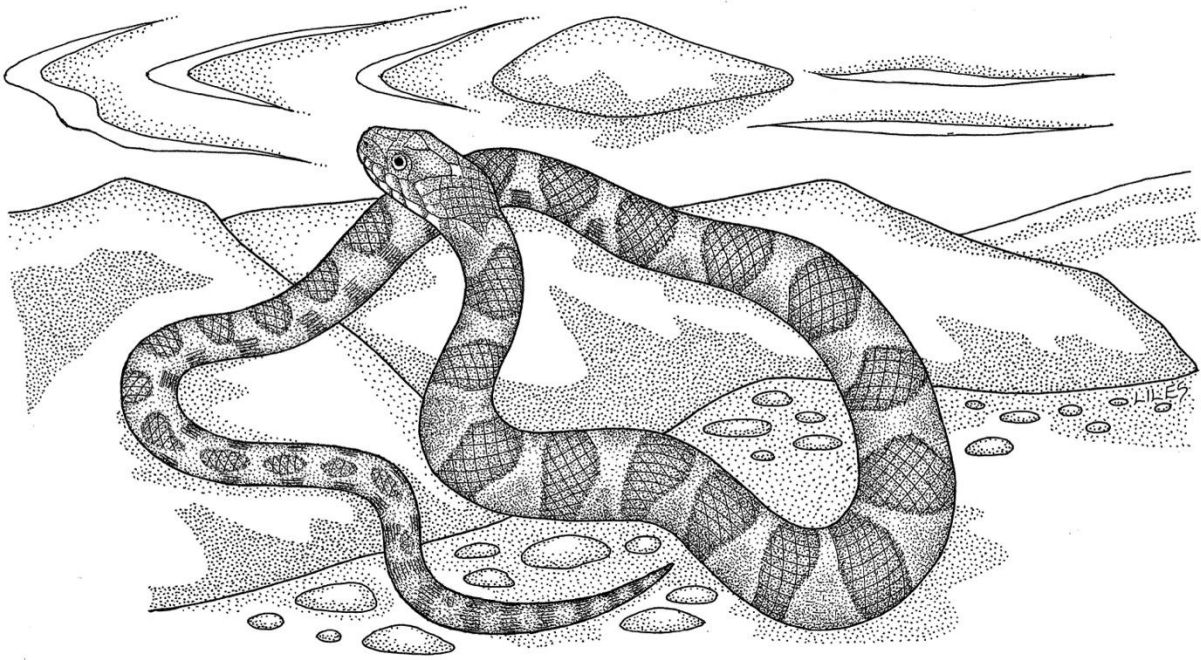
Lampropeltis getula



The eastern kingsnake is a large, non-venomous snake found throughout the southeastern United States, though rarely seen along the Eno. This species has a distinct pattern among local snakes: it is black with a series of white or yellow transverse bands that run down the length of the body. Kingsnakes are avid predators of other snakes, including venomous ones; they're actually resistant to the venom of copperheads, cottonmouths, and rattlesnakes.

Common Watersnake

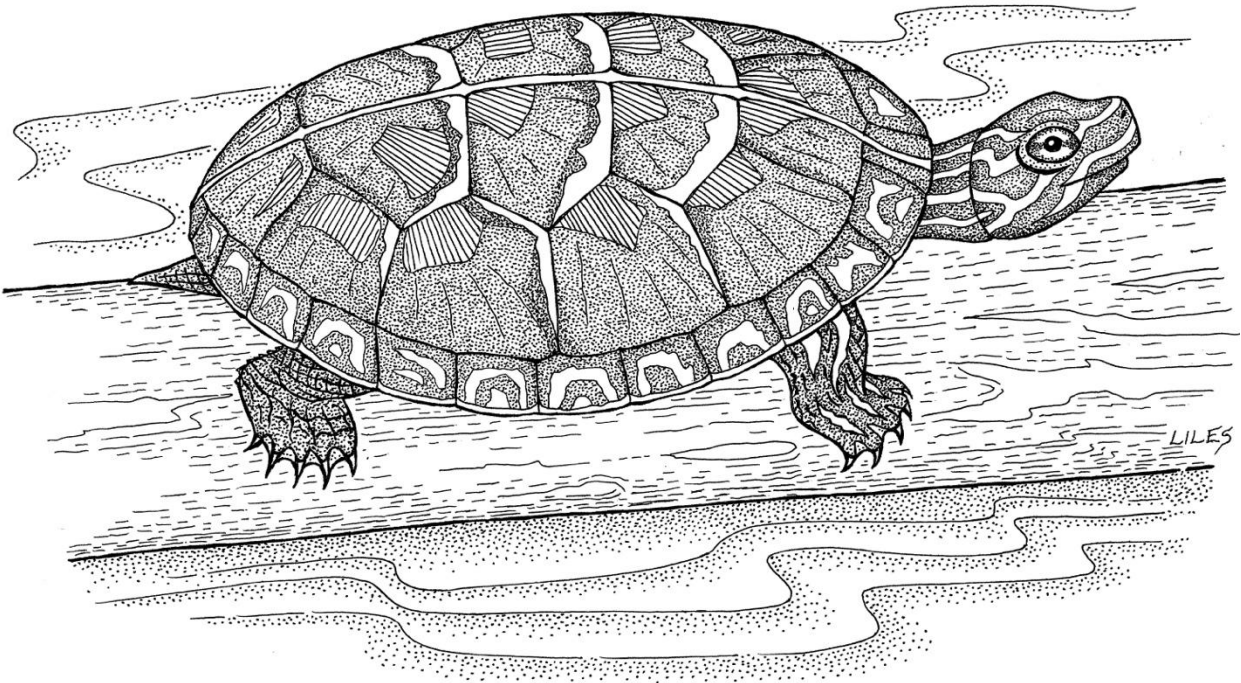
Nerodia sipedon



The common watersnake is a large, non-venomous snake species that is very common in the Eno. It is frequently mistaken for the venomous cottonmouth, but this species is harmless and should not be harmed or killed. Common watersnakes are active both during the day and at night and are often observed basking on rocks and logs in the river. They primarily feed on small fish, frogs, salamanders, and macroinvertebrates.

Painted Turtle

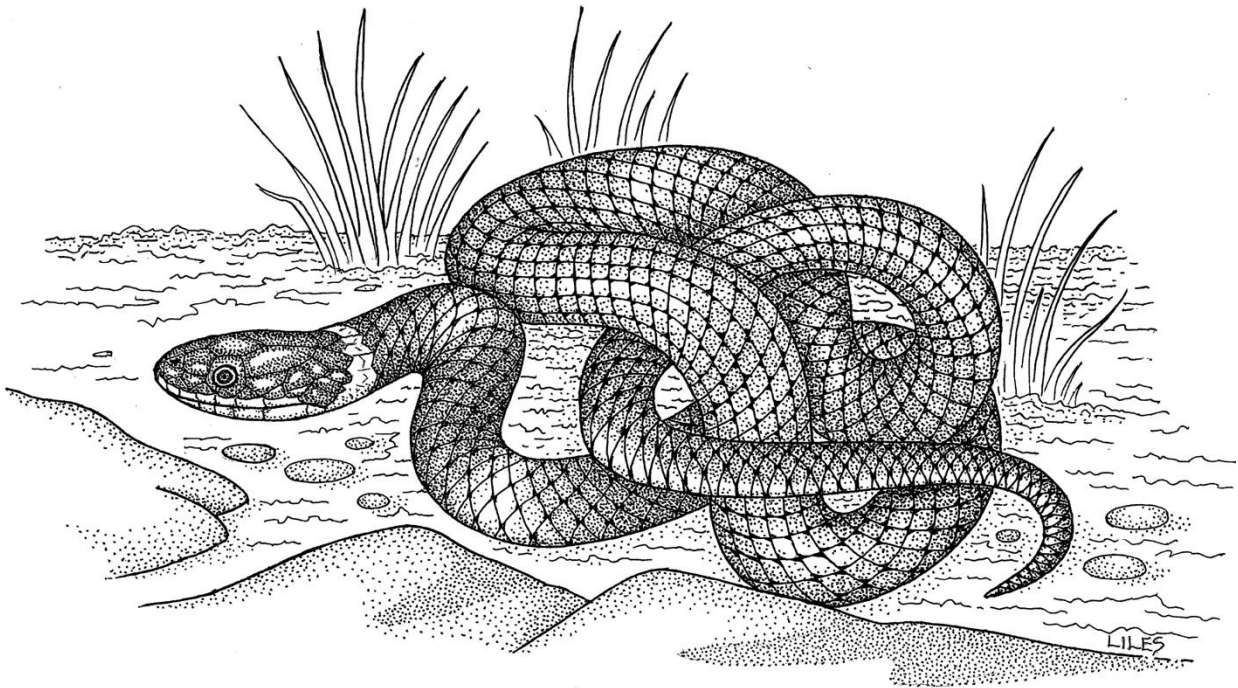
Chrysemys picta



The painted turtle has the widest distribution of any native turtle in North America. It tends to inhabit slow-moving freshwater ecosystems and feeds on aquatic plants, algae, invertebrates, and small fish. Although it has experienced population declines as a result of habitat loss and other anthropogenic threats, this species is able to thrive in human-impacted places and has thus remained the most pervasive turtle in North America.

Ring-necked Snake

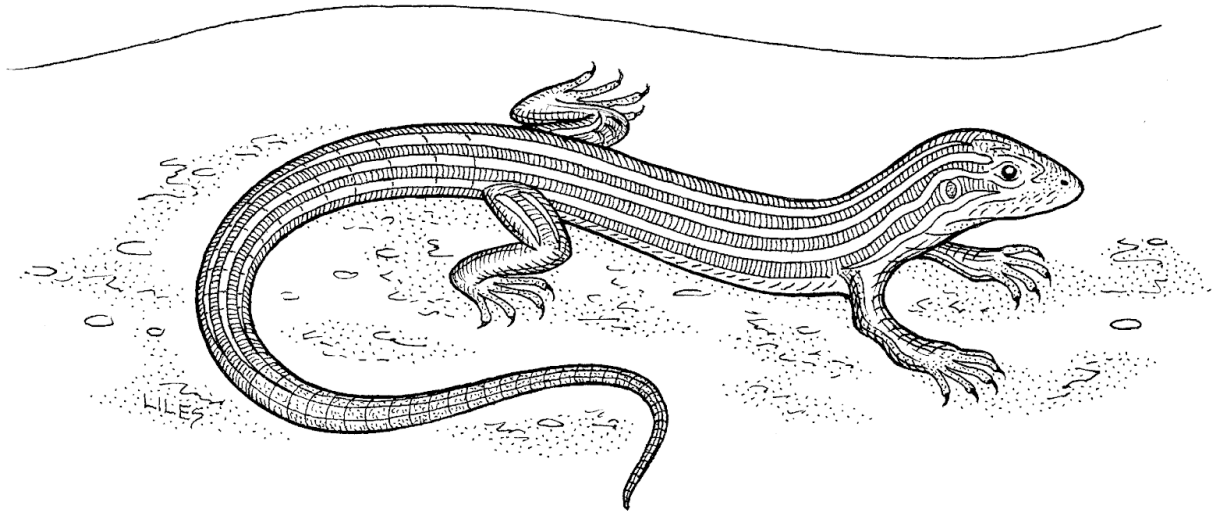
Diadophis punctatus



The ring-necked snake is a small, non-venomous snake species found throughout much of the U.S., as well as parts of Mexico and Canada. This species is harmless, elusive, and nocturnal, so they are rarely observed during the day. They have a striking reddish-orange underbelly which they often expose when they feel threatened. They occur in a wide range of habitats as long as they have adequate cover and den locations. The diet of ring-necked snakes consists primarily of salamanders, earthworms, and slugs.

Six-Lined Racerunner

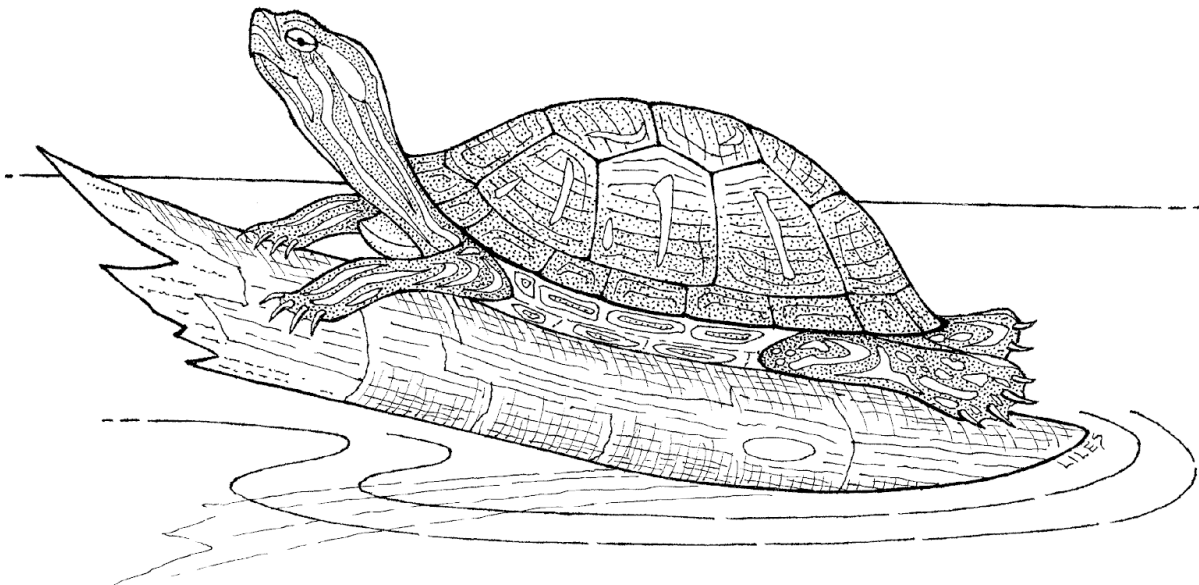
Aspidoscelis sexlineata



The six-lined racerunner is a lizard found throughout the southeastern and south-central U.S. It has six yellow or greenish-yellow strips that run down the length of the body from head to tail. They are active during the day and feed on insects. They are also very fast-moving, reaching speeds of up to 18 mph and being extremely quick to dart for cover if approached.

Yellow-Bellied Slider

Trachemys scripta scripta

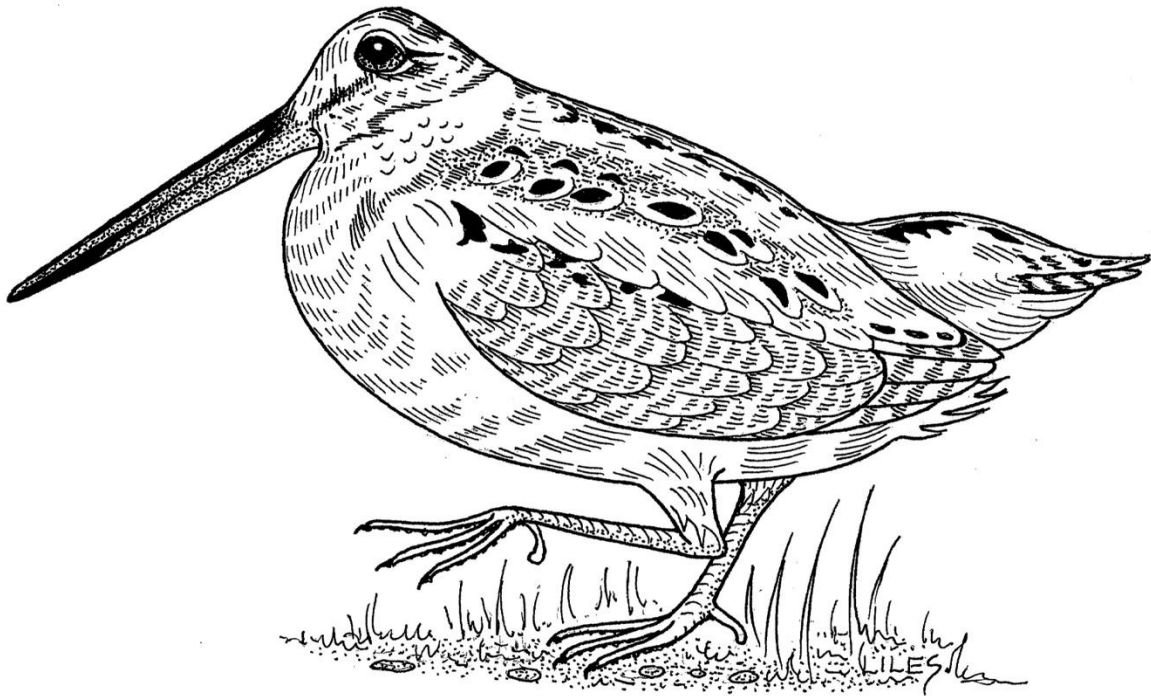


The yellow-bellied slider is a semi-aquatic turtle native to the southeastern U.S. They can be found in rivers, marshes, seasonal wetlands, etc. While juvenile yellow-bellied sliders feed primarily on aquatic insects, adults are largely herbivorous, feeding on aquatic vegetation. This species may be confused with the invasive red-eared slider, which is the most commonly traded turtle in the world and threatens populations of native pond turtles.

BIRDS

American Woodcock

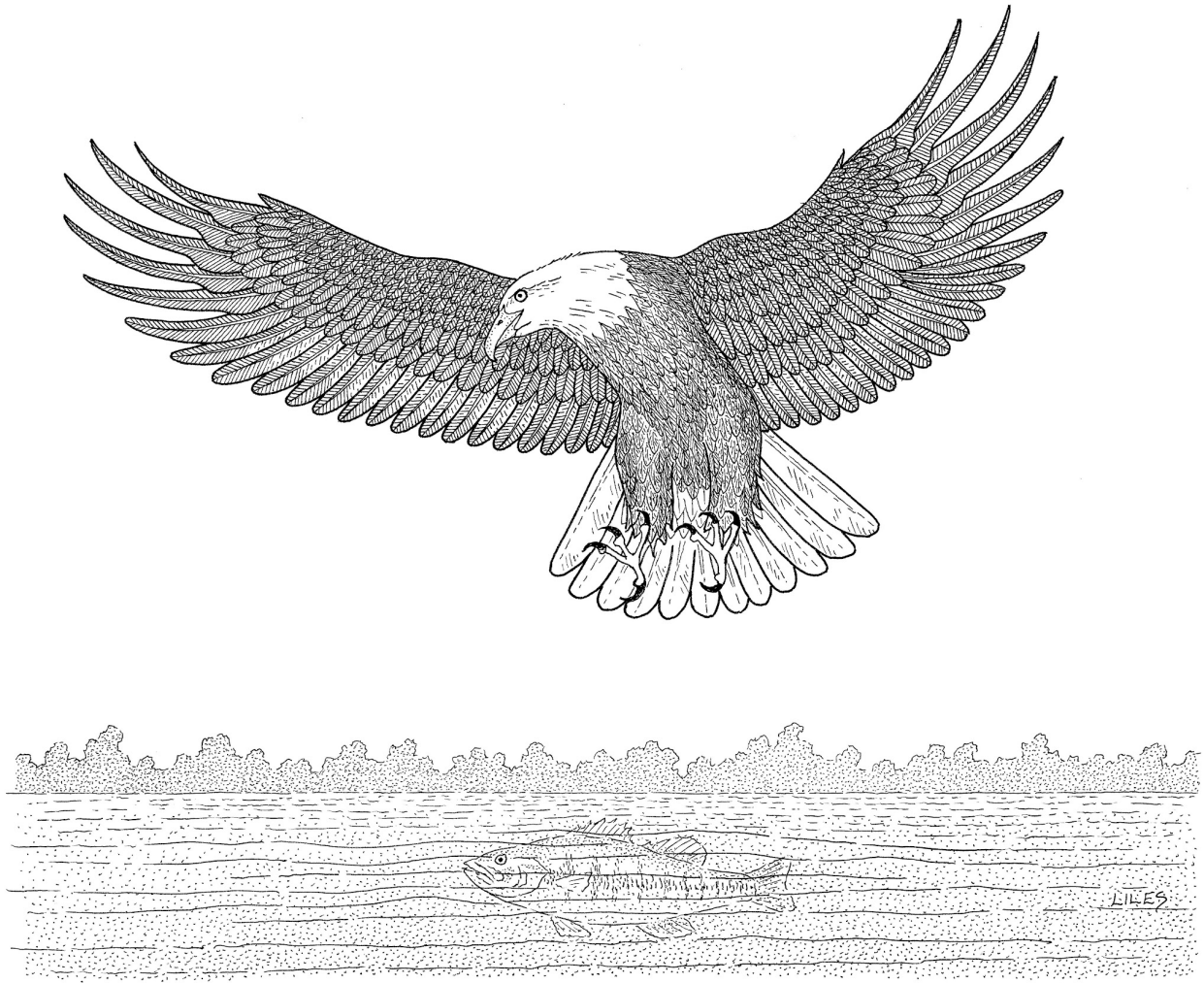
Scolopax minor



The American woodcock is a small shorebird found in eastern North America. Pseudonyms for the woodcock include the timberdoodle, bogsucker, and hokumpoke! They spend a lot of time on the ground in brush where their plumage allows them to blend into their surroundings. This species is a popular game bird, and more than 500,000 are hunted annually in the U.S.

Bald Eagle

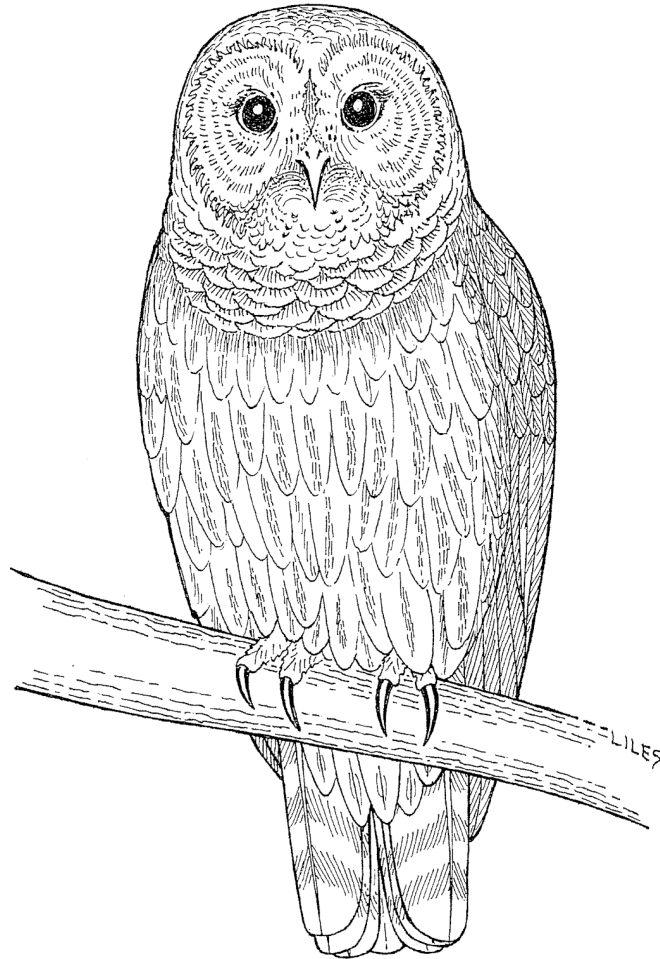
Haliaeetus leucocephalus



Among our largest raptor species, the bald eagle has been the national bird of the United States since 1782. Once endangered and extinct in much of their historic range, bald eagles have made a comeback in recent decades thanks to conservation and reintroduction efforts. Now, the species is thriving along the larger rivers, lakes, and sounds of North Carolina, where it is among our apex predators.

Barred Owl

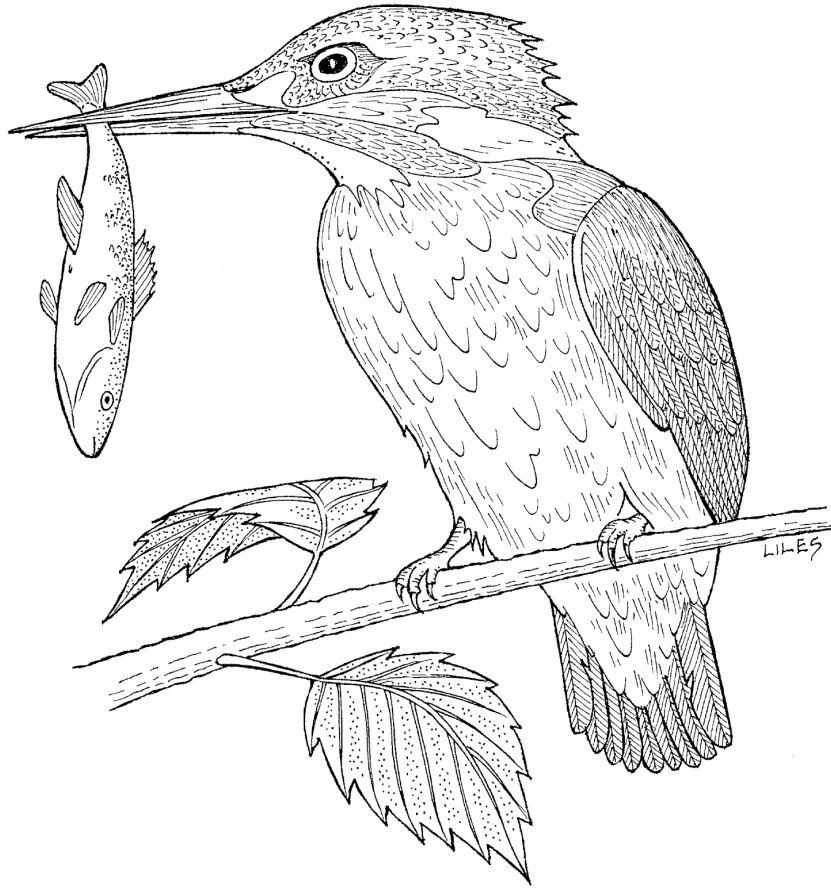
Strix varia



The barred owl is a large owl found throughout the eastern U.S. and in parts of the western U.S. They are known for their call which some say sounds like, "Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you-all?" Barred owls inhabit mixed forests, often in close proximity to water, and they feed primarily on small mammals.

Belted Kingfisher

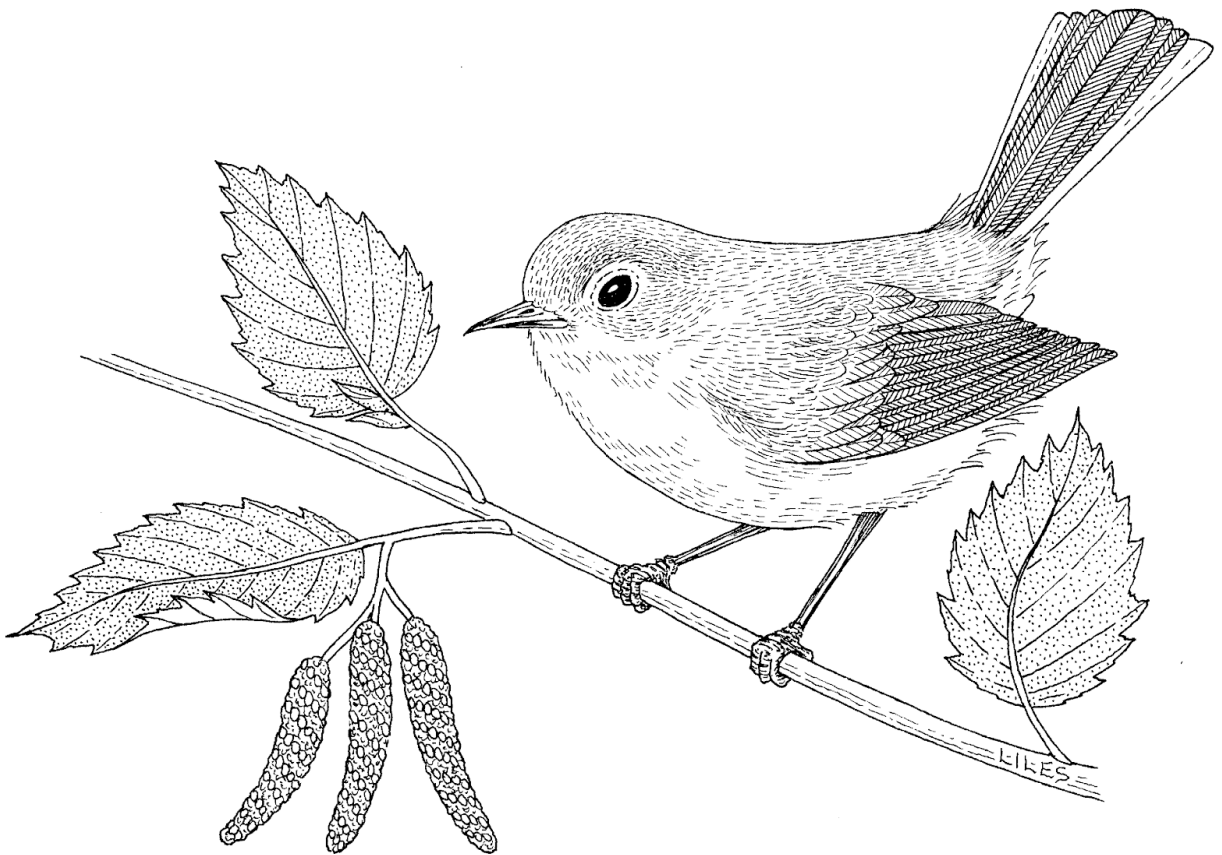
Megaceryle alcyon



The belted kingfisher is a stocky, medium-sized bird that may be seen patrolling the banks of the Eno in search of aquatic prey. They perch on tree branches and posts and then dive headfirst into the water to catch fish, amphibians, small crustaceans, and other organisms. This species is known to nest in excavated earthen burrows along river banks.

Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher

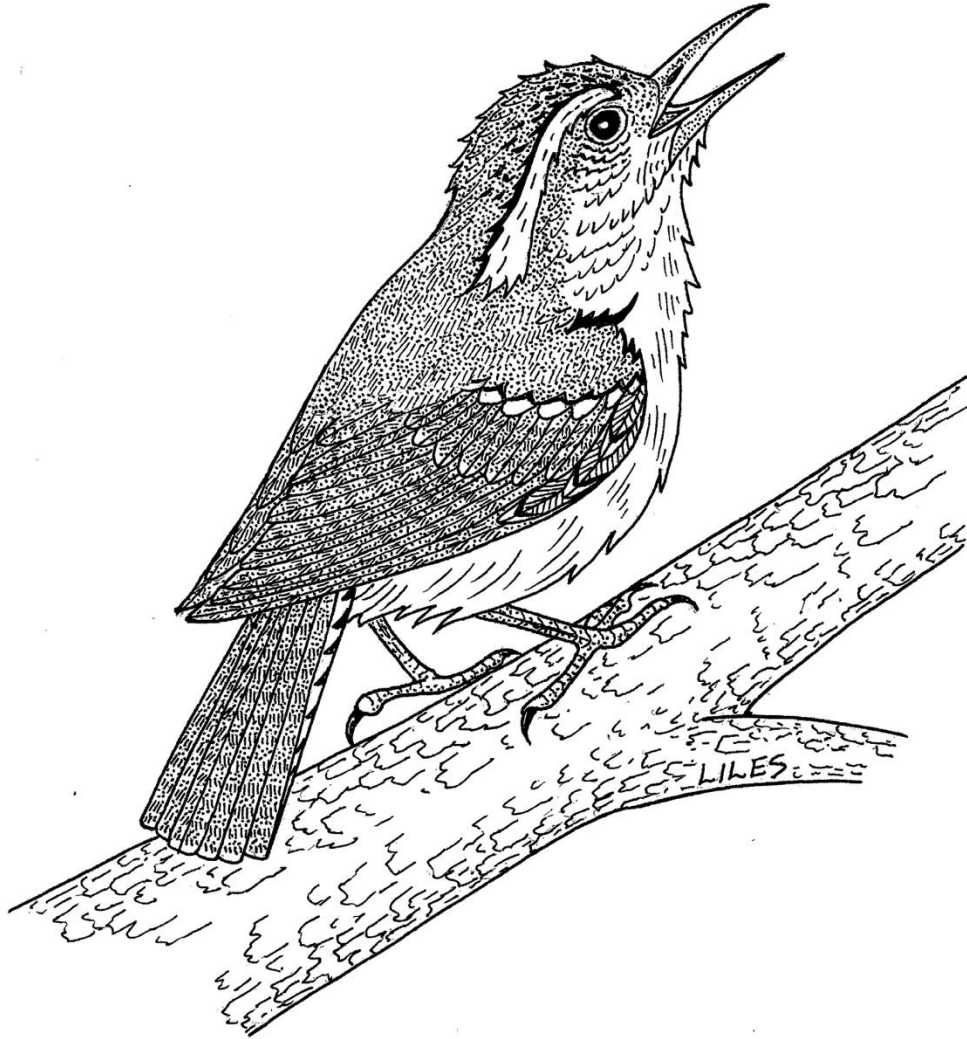
Poliioptila caerulea



The blue-gray gnatcatcher is a small songbird found throughout North America. They may be spotted in the deciduous woods surrounding the Eno, particularly in the summertime. This species looks for insects and spiders in trees and shrubs. Nests are constructed by both parents on tree branches and are almost cone-shaped. Both parents also help to feed the young!

Carolina Wren

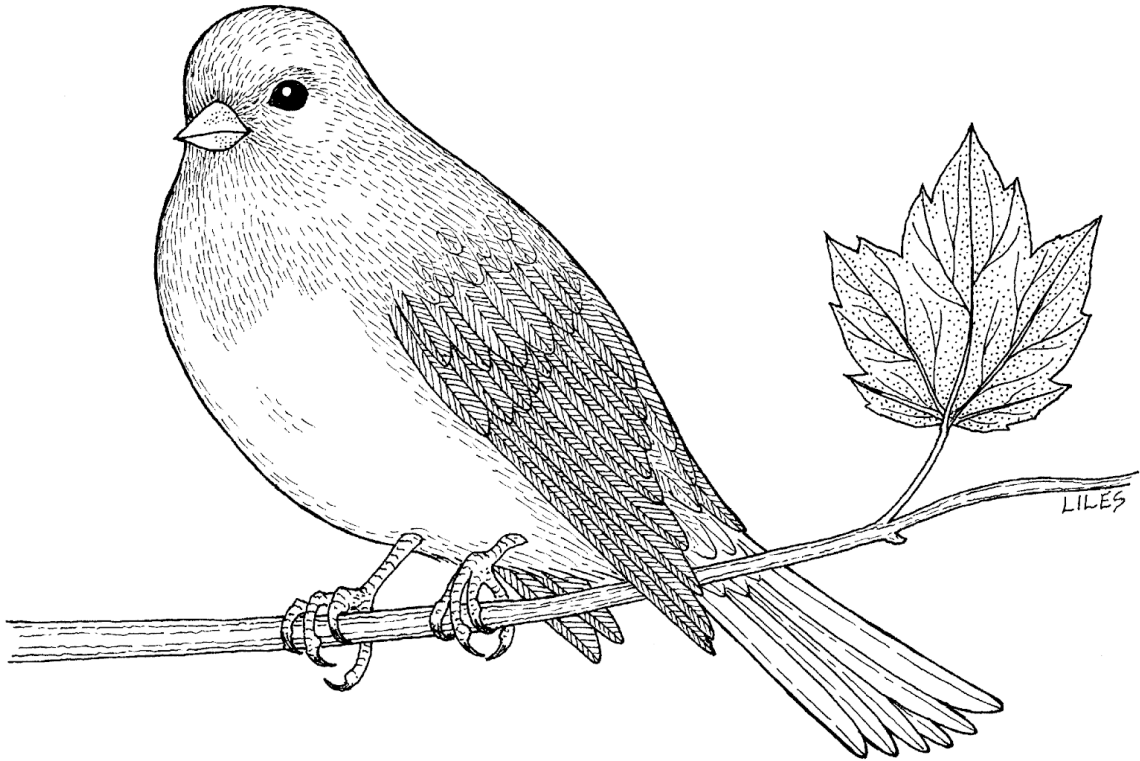
Thryothorus ludovicianus



The Carolina wren is a species of songbird that is frequently seen in the vegetated areas such as thickets and bottomland woods around the Eno. Mating pairs stay together for several years and are known to maintain a territory and raise their young together. Carolina wrens use their curved bills to manipulate vegetation to find and pick apart insects.

Dark-Eyed Junco

Junco hyemalis

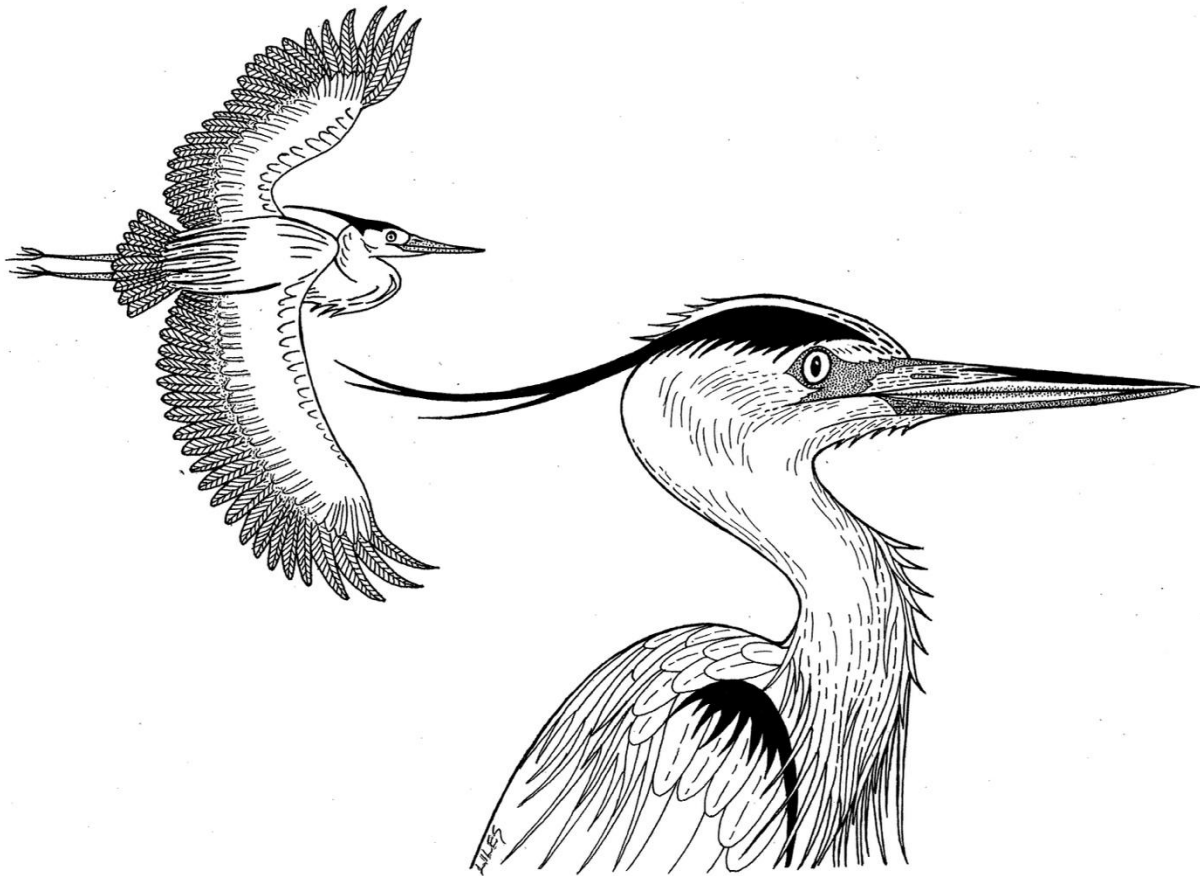


The dark-eyed junco is one of the most common North American birds.

This species breeds in forested areas and are known to forage on the ground for seeds and occasionally insects. They are often observed in groups.

Great Blue Heron

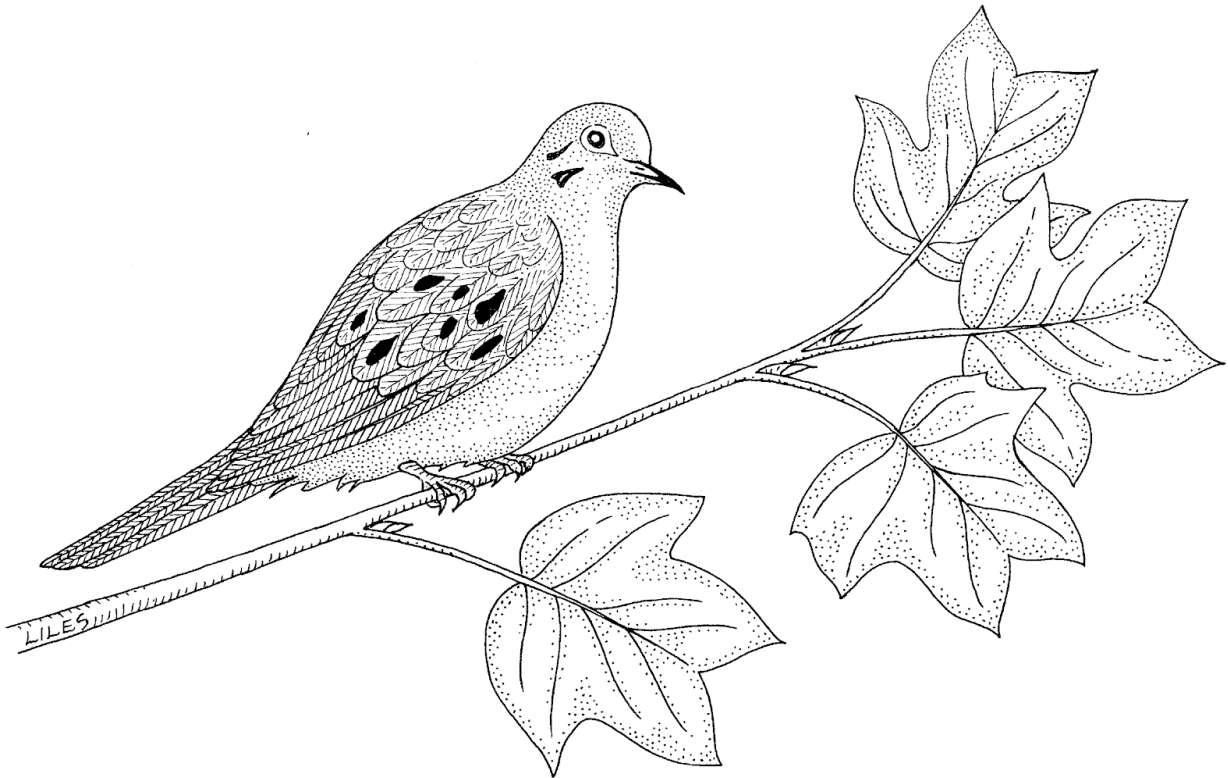
Ardea herodias



The great blue heron is a large wading bird native to much of North and Central America. This species is frequently seen in and along the Eno, where it stands in the water and waits for opportunities to catch fish. While fish make up the bulk of the great blue heron's diet, this species will also feed on crayfish, aquatic insects, rodents, amphibians, reptiles, and so on. Great blue herons are top predators in Eno ecosystems where they have very few predators of their own.

Mourning Dove

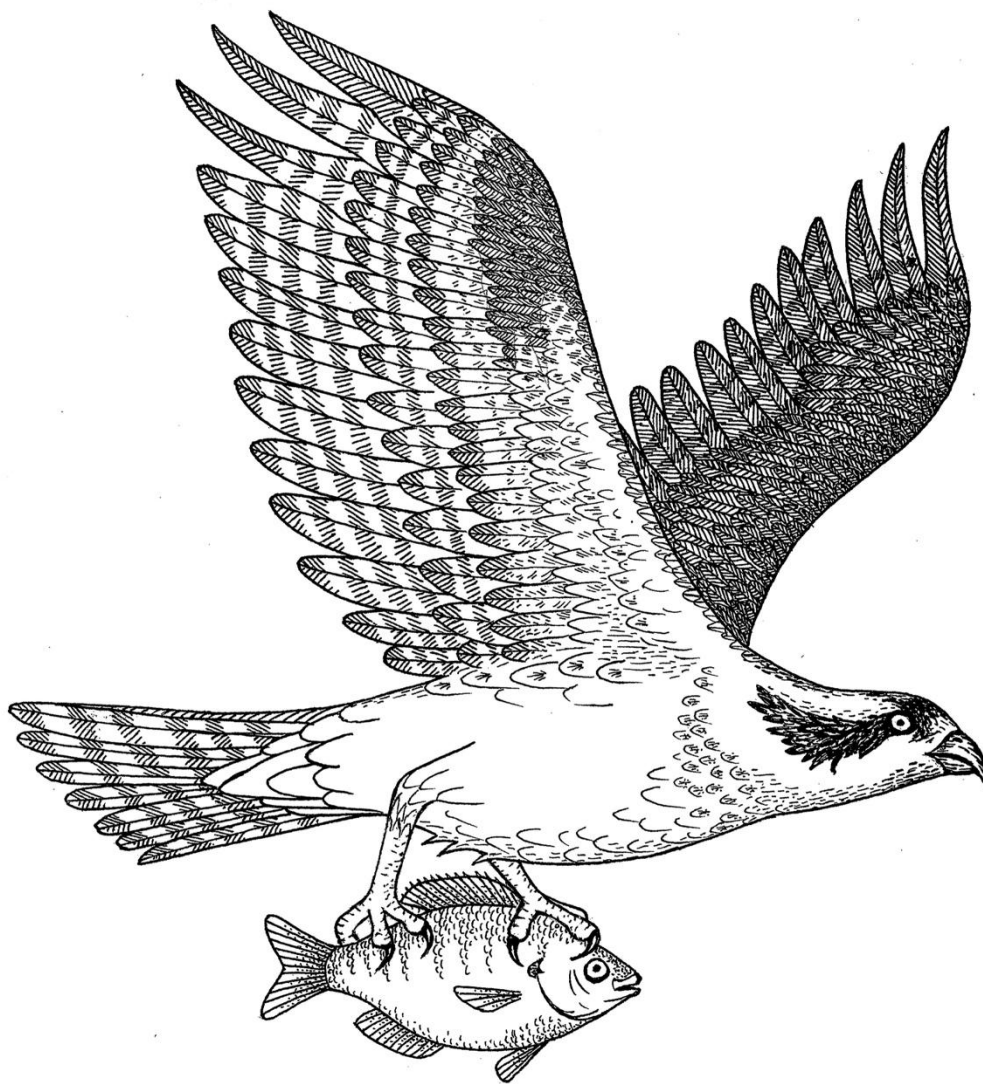
Zenaida macroura



The mourning dove, colloquially referred to as the turtle dove, is one of the most abundant and pervasive North American birds. Despite being a popular game bird that is regularly hunted, its very fruitful breeding strategy ensures that its populations remain steady. 99% of the mourning dove's diet consists of seeds.

Osprey

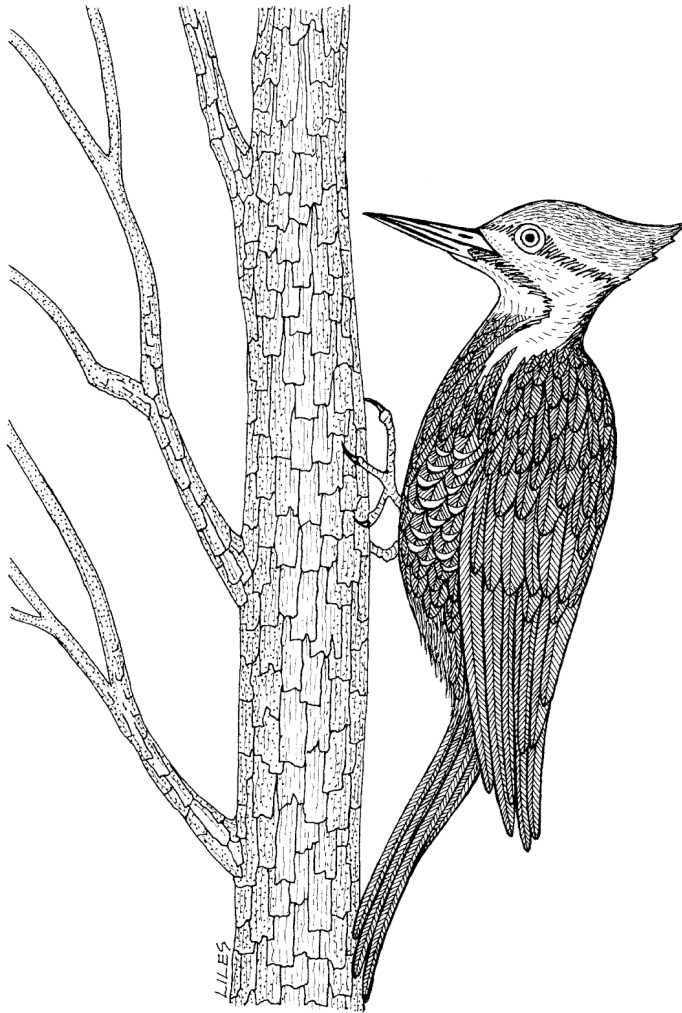
Pandion haliaetus



The osprey is a species of raptor that primarily feeds on fish. It has the second widest distribution of any bird of prey, inhabiting every continent excluding Antarctica. Fish make up 99% of this bird's diet and they have special physical and behavioral adaptations to help them be successful fishers. For instance, their vision is specialized to help detect underwater objects from up in the air!

Pileated Woodpecker

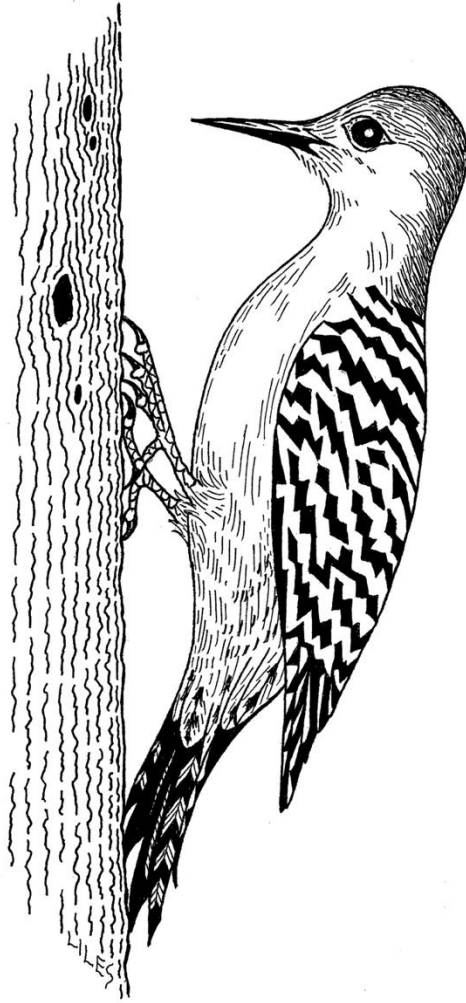
Dryocopus pileatus



The pileated woodpecker is a large woodpecker species found in the eastern U.S. It inhabits deciduous forests, such as those surrounding much of the Eno, where it feeds primarily on insects. They use their heavy bills to drill rectangular holes into trees in order to find carpenter ants. These holes are so large that they sometimes cause small trees to fall and may attract other bird species.

Red-bellied Woodpecker

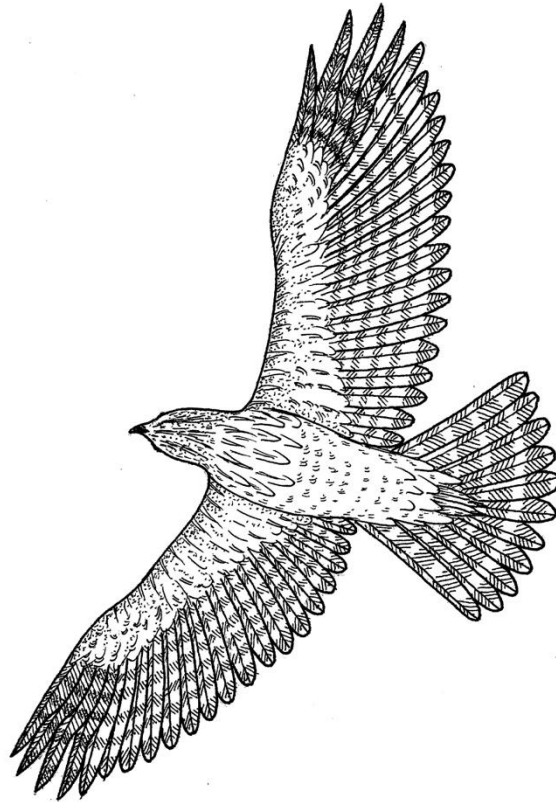
Melanerpes carolinus



The red-bellied woodpecker is a medium-sized woodpecker native to eastern North America. Many mistake this species for the red-headed woodpecker, which can be distinguished by its entirely red head and lack of horizontal bars on its back. Red-bellied woodpeckers use their bills as tiny chisels which they drill into different parts of a tree. They then use their long tongues to extract insects to eat!

Red-Shouldered Hawk

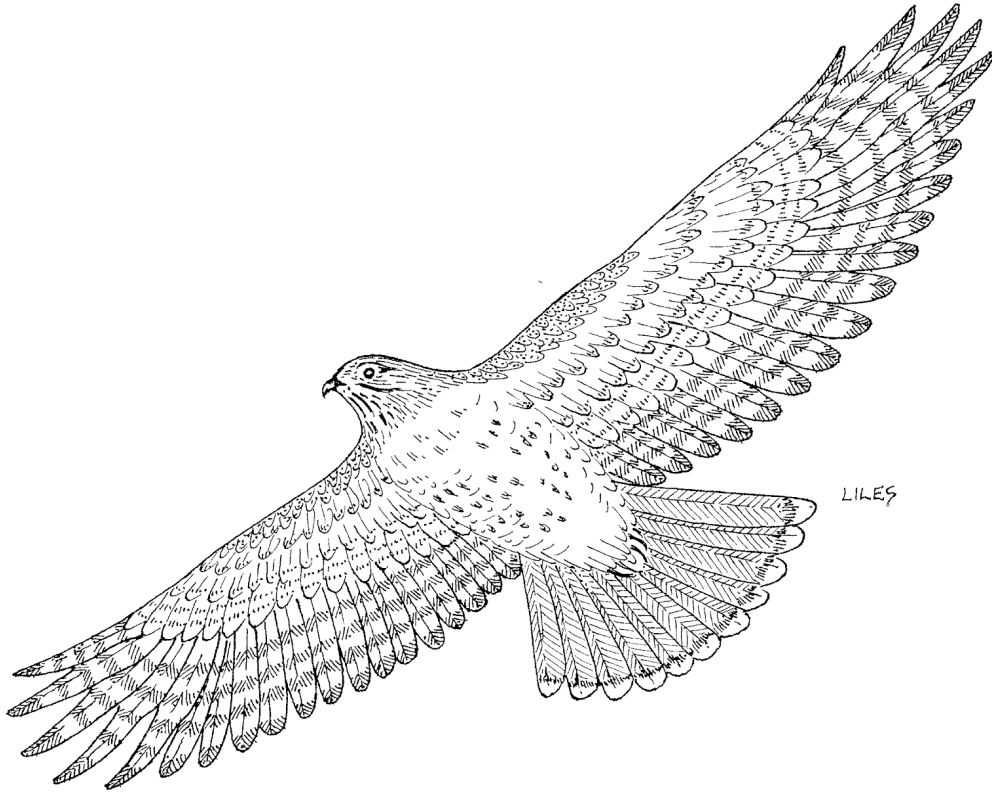
Buteo lineatus



The red-shouldered hawk can be found throughout the eastern U.S. as well as on the coast of California. When compared to red-tailed hawks, red-shouldered hawks are smaller and less bulky. Red-shouldered hawks also have more orange-red breasts. This species may be seen chasing or being chased by crows and has also been known to join forces with crows to attack great horned owls.

Red-Tailed Hawk

Buteo jamaicensis



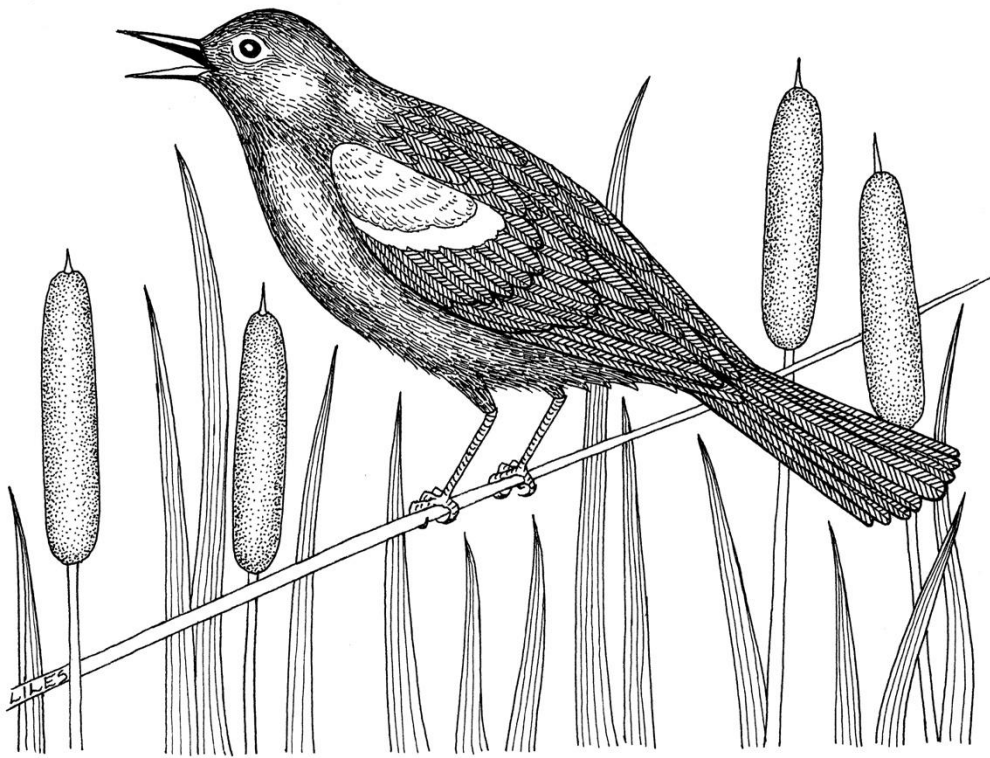
The red-tailed hawk is one of the most common hawks in North America.

Its loud, raspy call is frequently used in movies to portray raptor sounds.

When compared with the red-shouldered hawk, the red-tailed hawk is larger with broader wings. It tends to have a dark-colored belly band and a red tail.

Red-Winged Blackbird

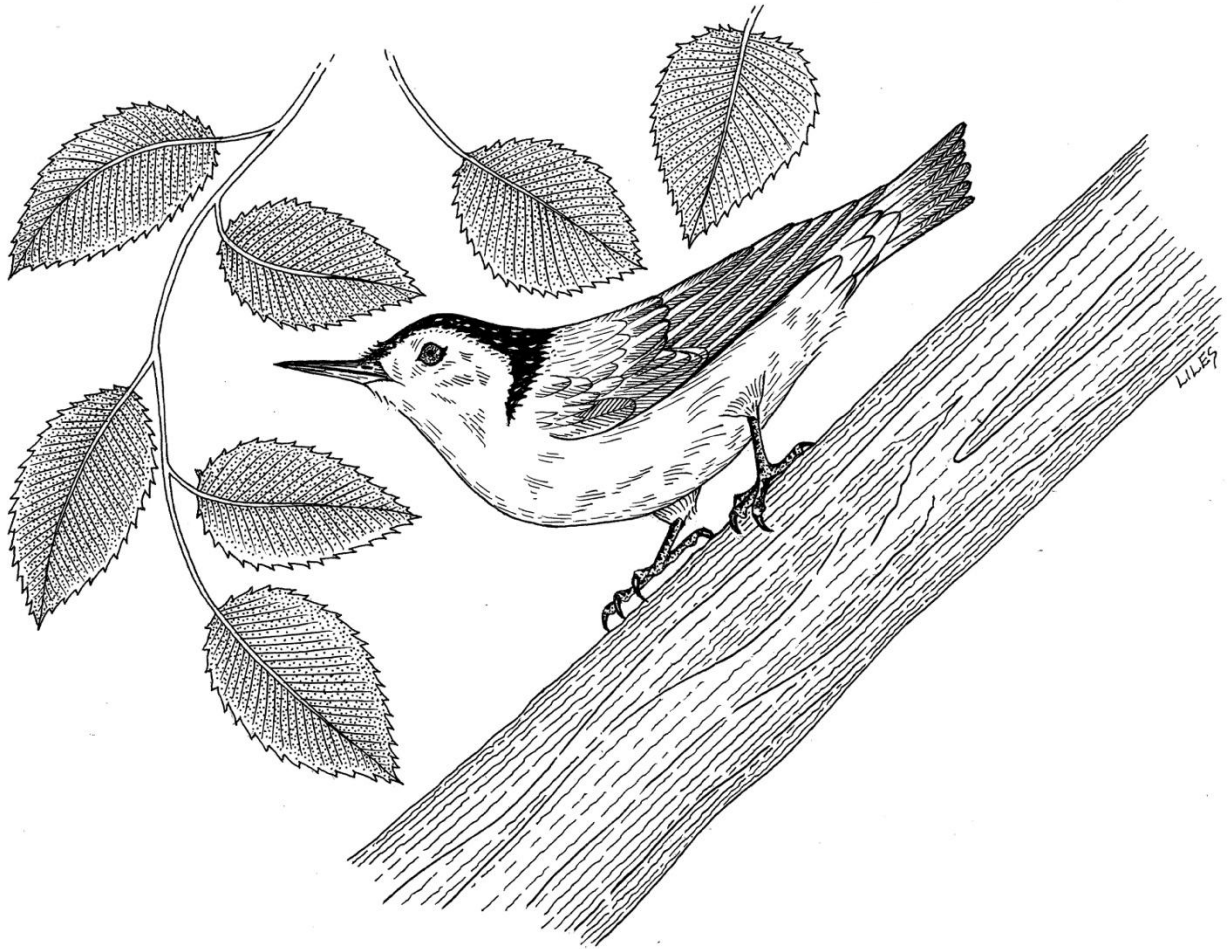
Agelaius phoeniceus



The red-winged blackbird is one of the most abundant birds across North America. They primarily eat insects in the summer and seeds in the winter. They spend breeding season in salt or freshwater marshes where they build their nests low in marsh vegetation, shrubs, or trees. Males have many mates (up to 15 in some cases) and are quick to defend their territory during breeding season.

White-breasted Nuthatch

Sitta carolinensis

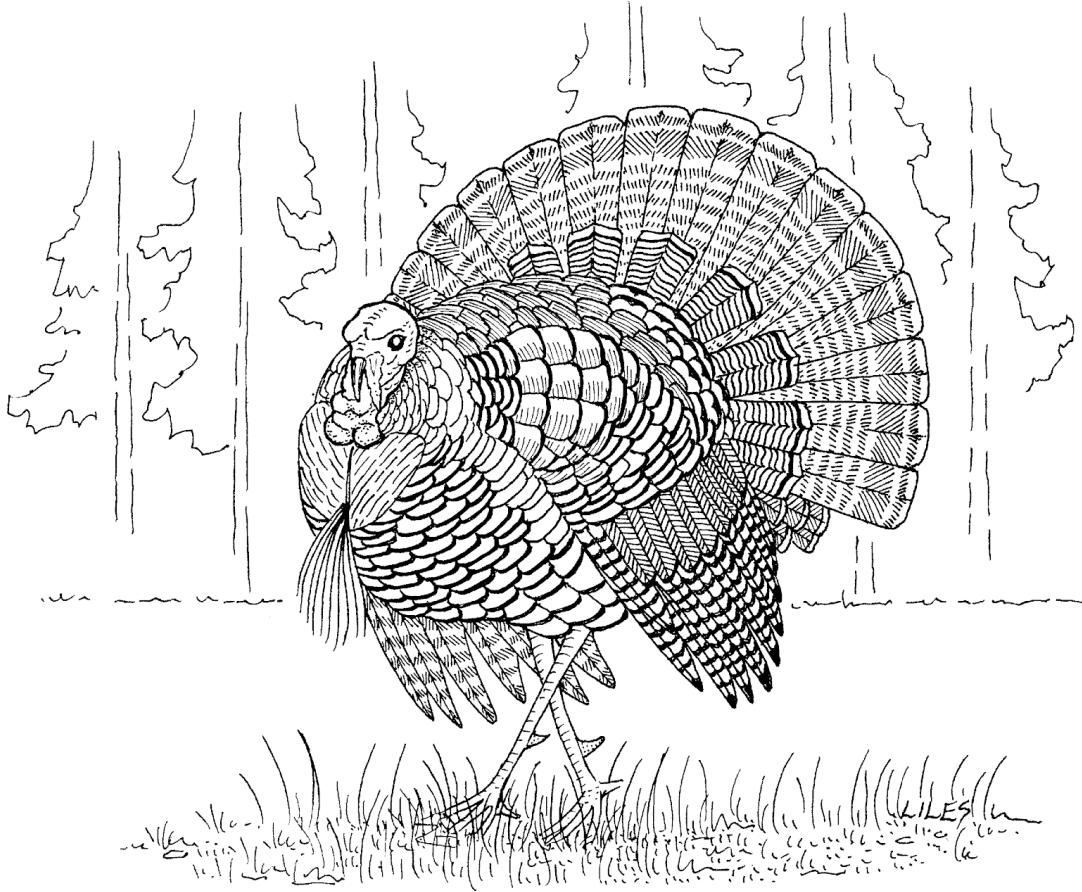


The white-breasted nuthatch is a small passerine bird native to much of North America. Its loud nasal vocalizations can often be heard in the trees.

The diet of this species varies depending on the time of year. In the summer, white-breasted nuthatches are exclusively insectivorous, but in the winter, they mostly eat seeds. They nest in tree cavities where the female lays clutches of five to nine eggs.

Wild Turkey

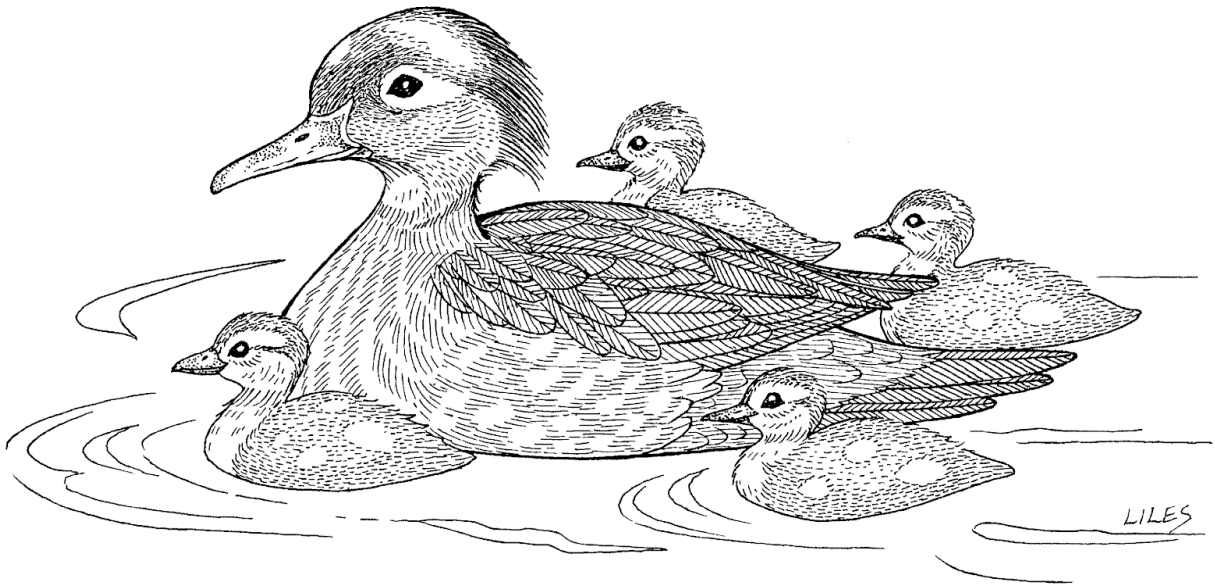
Meleagris gallopavo



The wild turkey is a large ground bird native to North America and is one of two extant species of turkey. By the early 1500s, native people of Mexico had already domesticated the wild turkey centuries before, and at this time explorers brought turkeys with them back to Europe. They quickly became popular food sources in Europe. Wild turkeys inhabit open forests with some clearings and forage in flocks for vegetative matter.

Wood Duck

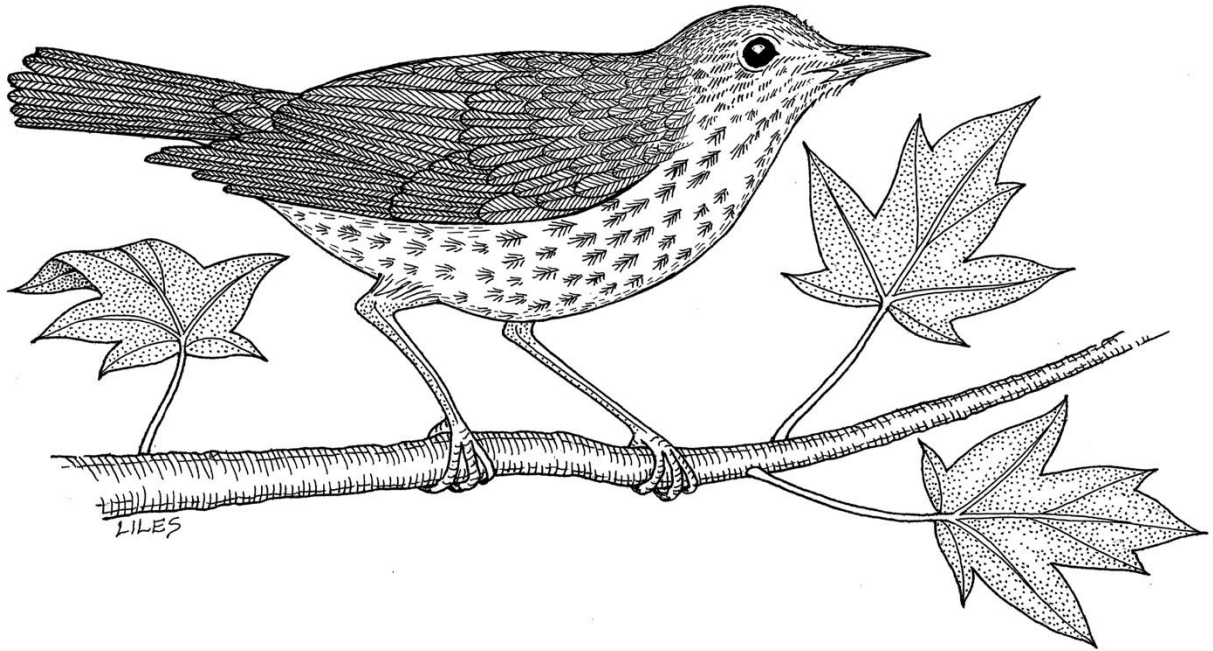
Aix sponsa



The wood duck is a beautiful, colorful species of waterfowl found in North America. They inhabit bottomland forests, marshy areas, and streams/rivers. Plant matter makes up more than 80% of their diets, but they will also consume insects. They are dabbling ducks, meaning that they feed primarily on the water surface, although they will perform short, shallow dives at times.

Wood Thrush

Hylocichla mustelina

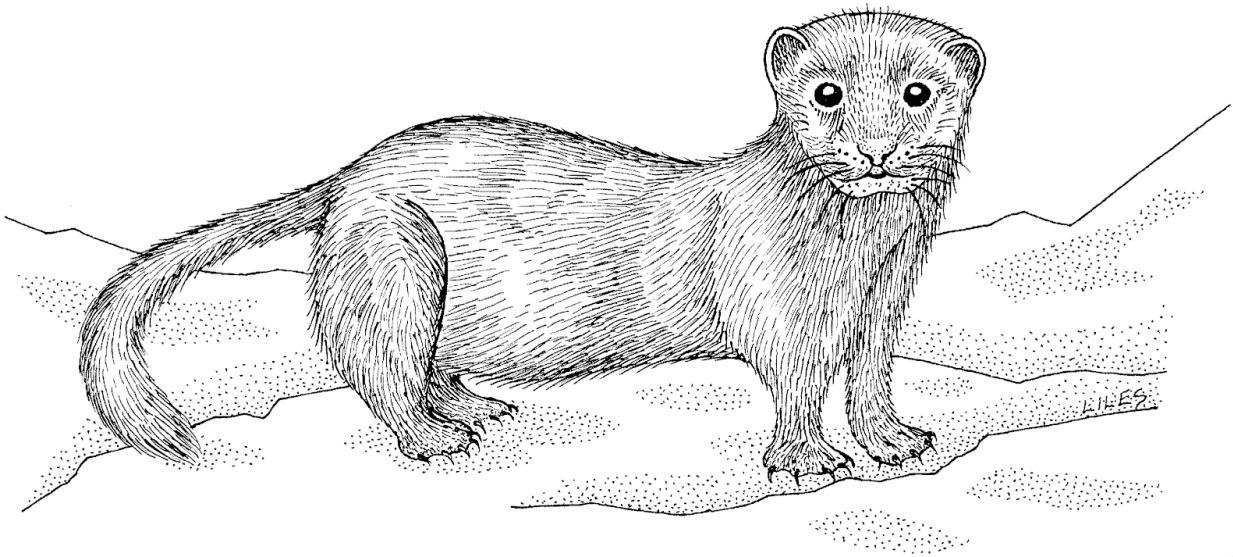


The wood thrush is a passerine bird native to eastern North America. It winters in Central America and southern Mexico. This species is omnivorous, feeding primarily on invertebrates and larvae in the ground, but also on fruit. Wood thrushes primarily inhabit deciduous and mixed forests. They are monogamous and breed in the spring.

MAMMALS

American Mink

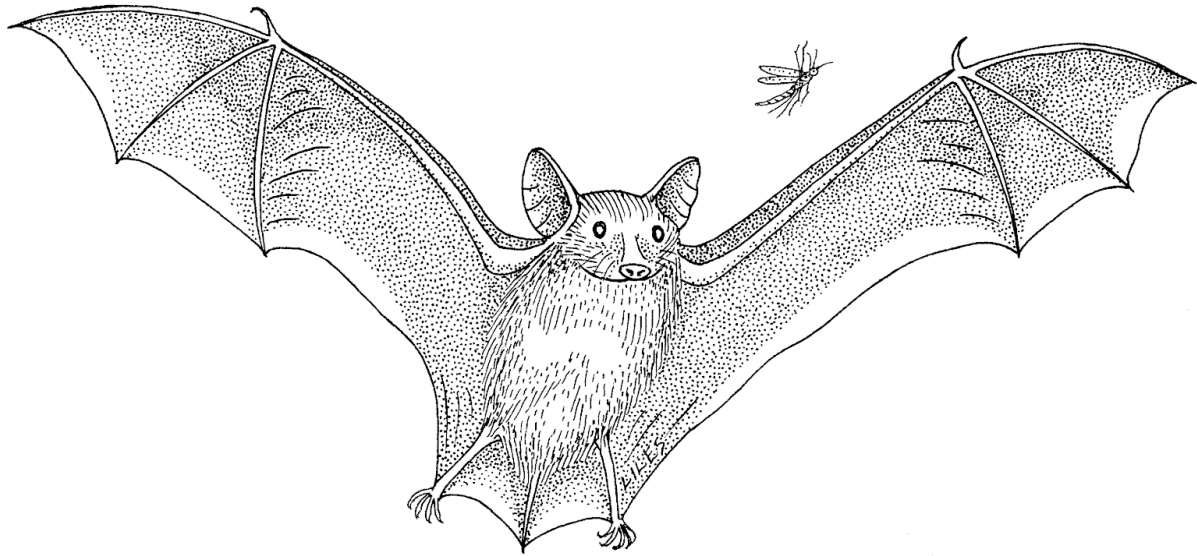
Neovison vison



The American mink is a small mammal in the same family as weasels, badgers, otters, ferrets, martens, and wolverines. It is found throughout North America, including most of Canada. It is semiaquatic and carnivorous, feeding on fish, amphibians, rodents, and birds. Although they have been hunted for their fur for some time, their range has been expanded by humans to Europe, Asia, and South America. As a result, they have become invasive species in some of these regions. Their conservation status is listed as Least Concern.

Big Brown Bat

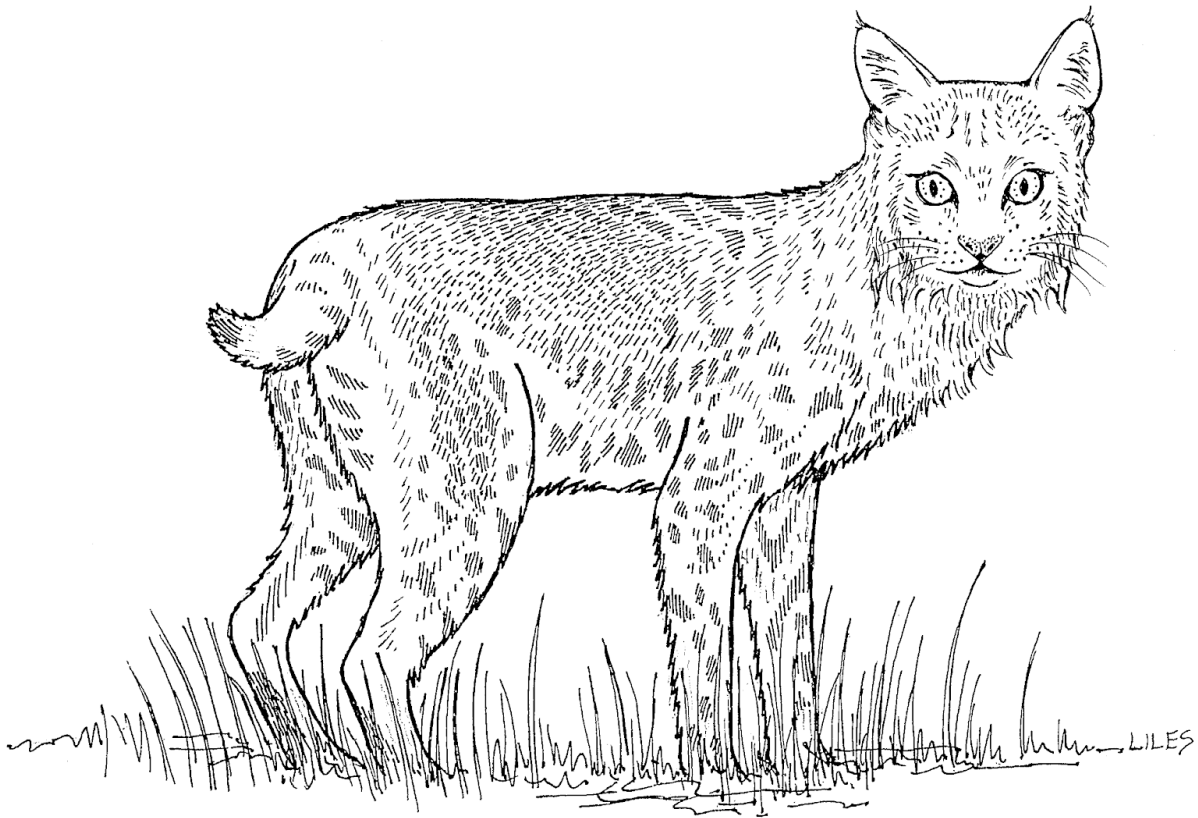
Eptesicus fuscus



The big brown bat is a relatively large vesper bat found throughout North America, northern South America, and the Caribbean. This species is insectivorous and feeds primarily on nocturnal insects and beetles in particular. Big brown bats hunt at night and roost in caves, tree cavities, and manmade structures during the day. Although some other species in this bat's range have experienced population declines as a result of white-nose syndrome, the big brown bat appears to be somewhat resistant to the effects of this disease.

Bobcat

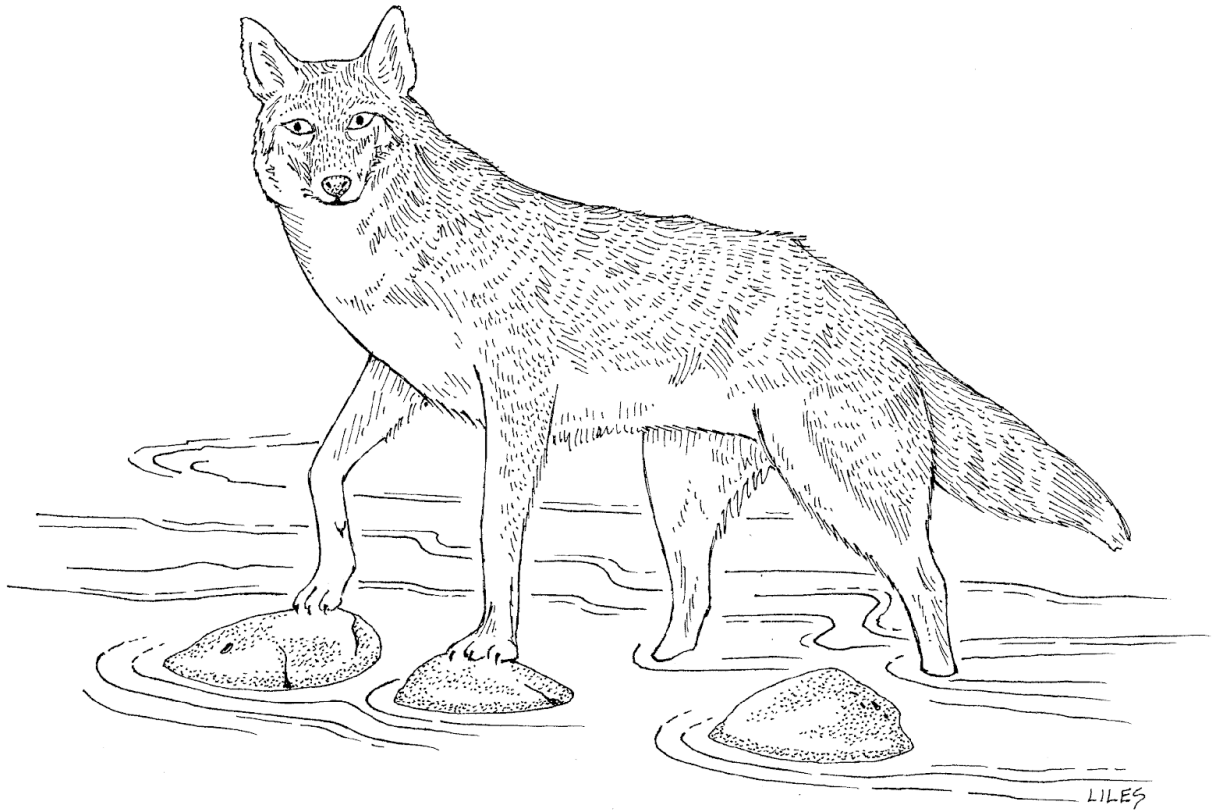
Lynx rufus



The bobcat is a medium-sized felid species found throughout North America. It is solitary and territorial, using various strategies to mark its territory. It prefers to hunt rabbits and hares but will also eat birds, small rodents, insects, and will even hunt deer occasionally. Despite significant hunting for this species, populations have stayed relatively stable, although populations have declined in some areas. Bobcats are listed as Least Concern.

Coyote

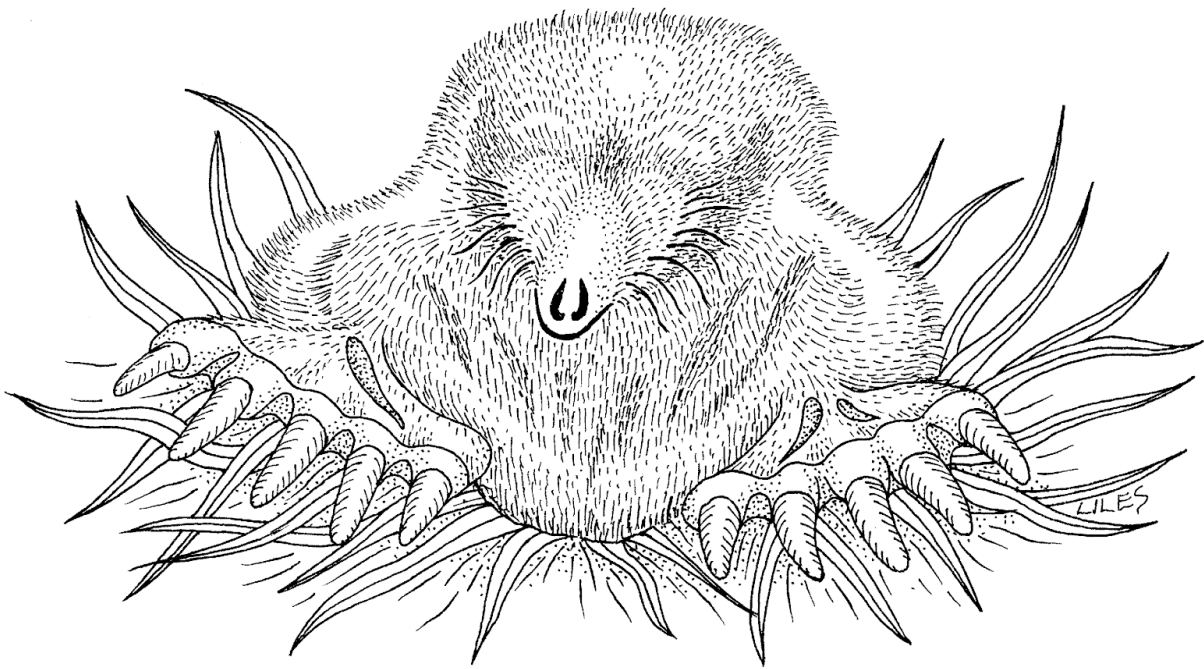
Canis latrans



The coyote is a canine species native to North America. This species is quite resilient and has adapted well in urban and suburban environments. Primarily carnivorous, coyotes feed mainly on rabbits, rodents, deer, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish, but they may also eat plant matter from time to time. They are considered problem animals by some, as they are known to prey upon pets and livestock.

Eastern Mole

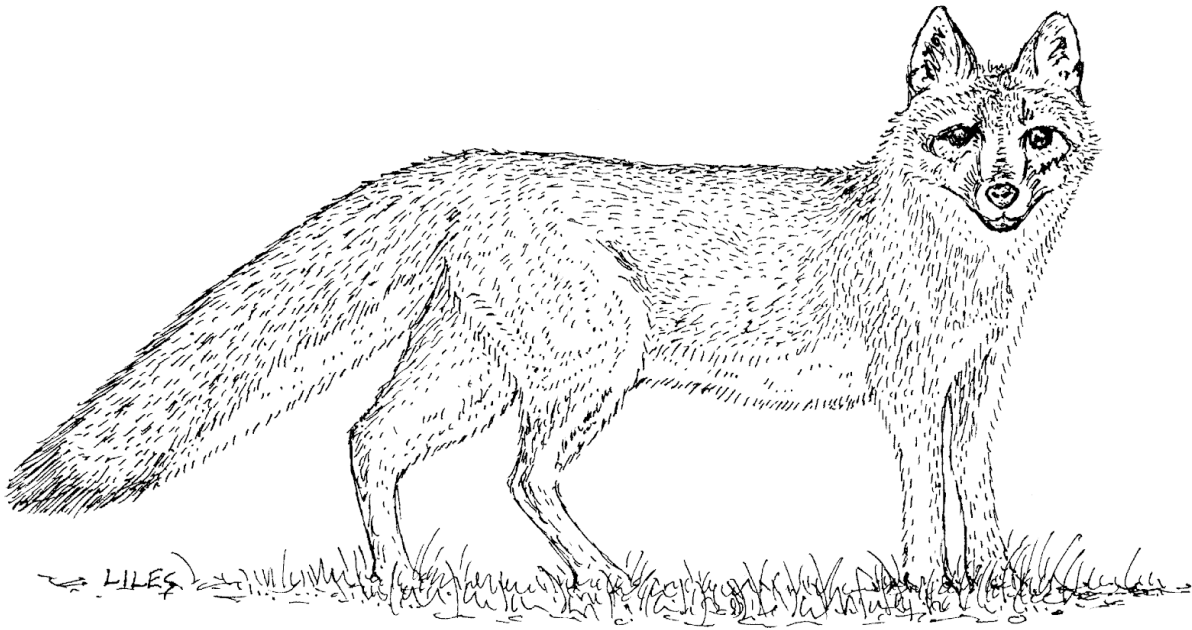
Scalopus aquaticus



The eastern mole is a medium-sized, gray-colored mole found throughout eastern North America. It is fossorial, spending the majority of its time underground, and has massive hairless forefeet that are used for digging in loamy soils of wooded areas and fields. Their diet consists primarily of earthworms, but they will also consume plant matter.

Gray Fox

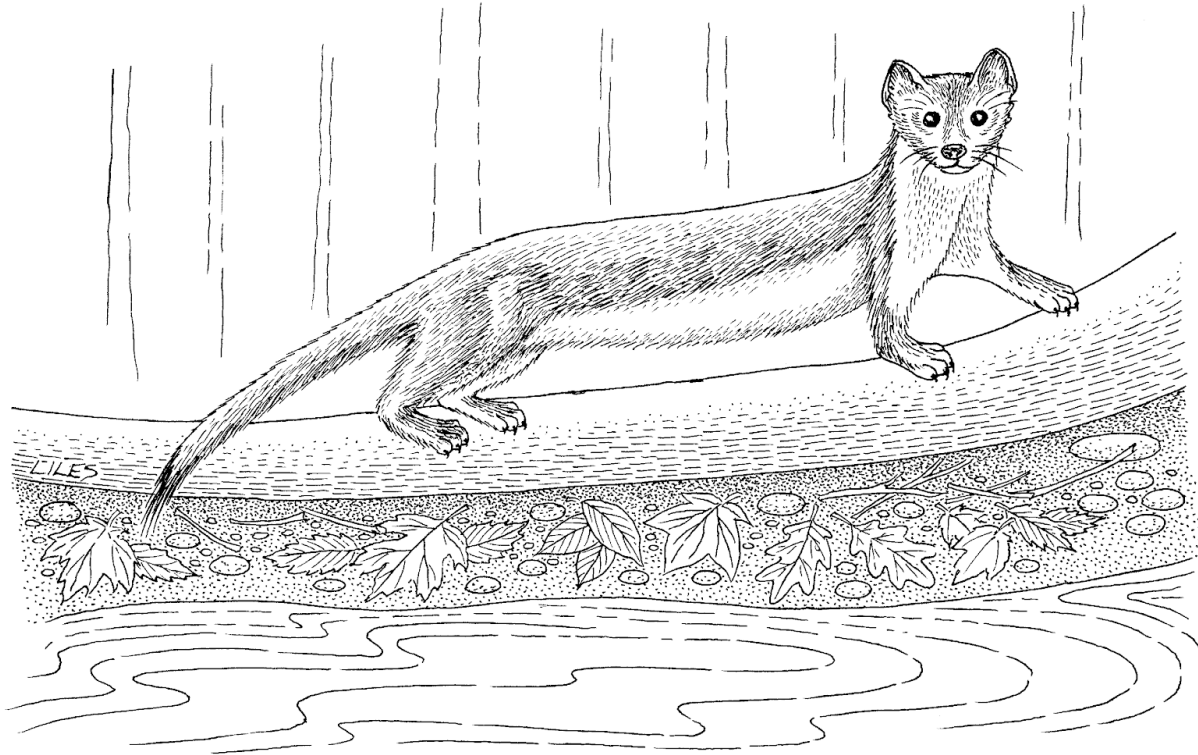
Urocyon cinereoargenteus



The gray fox is a medium-sized canid species found throughout North and Central America. It is omnivorous and is adapted to climb trees with its strong, hook-shaped claws. Although it was once the most common fox species in the eastern U.S., habitat destruction has led to population declines, causing the red fox to become the most common fox species.

Long-Tailed Weasel

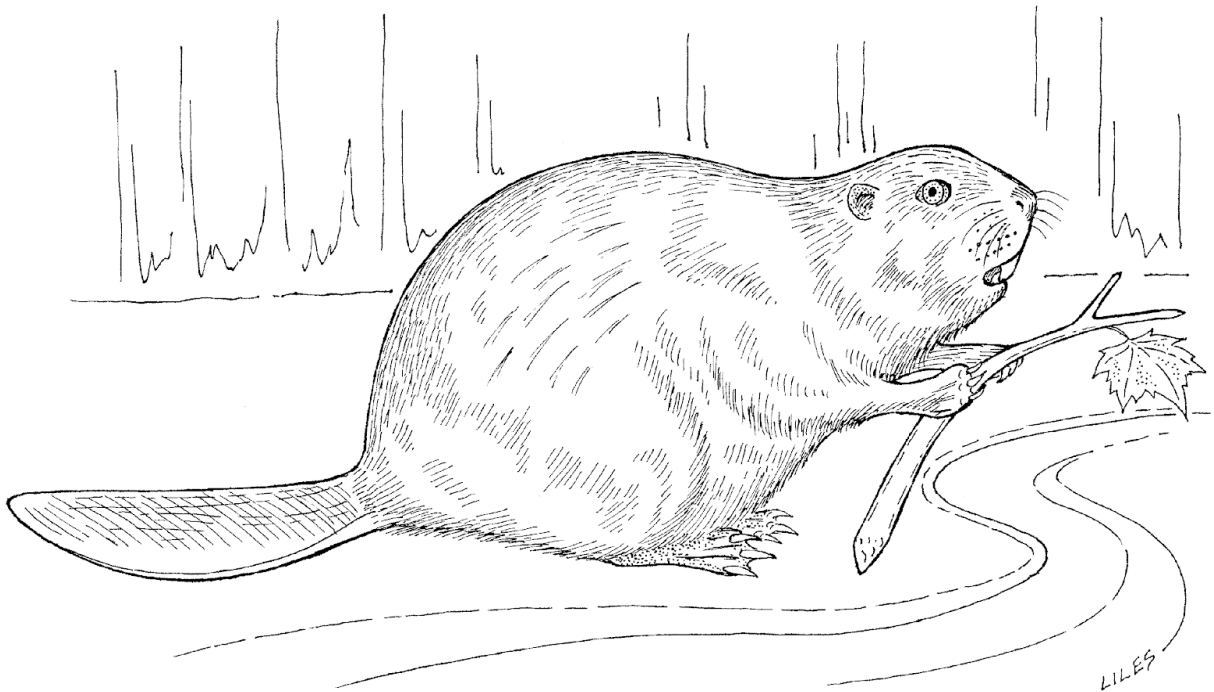
Mustela frenata



The long-tailed weasel is a mustelid species found throughout the U.S., Central America, and northern South America. This species can be found inhabiting forests, marshes, and farm lands, but are generally found near water. Long-tailed weasels are strong hunters and are often observed pursuing animals much larger than themselves. They strongly prefer to eat rodents.

North American Beaver

Castor canadensis



The North American beaver is a large rodent species native to North America and introduced in Europe and South America. It is the largest rodent in North America and the second-largest rodent in the world. They are known as ecosystem engineers for their ability to alter habitat through dam construction and keystone species for their ability to provide habitat for other wildlife. Beavers are herbivores that consume both herbaceous and woody plant material.

North American River Otter

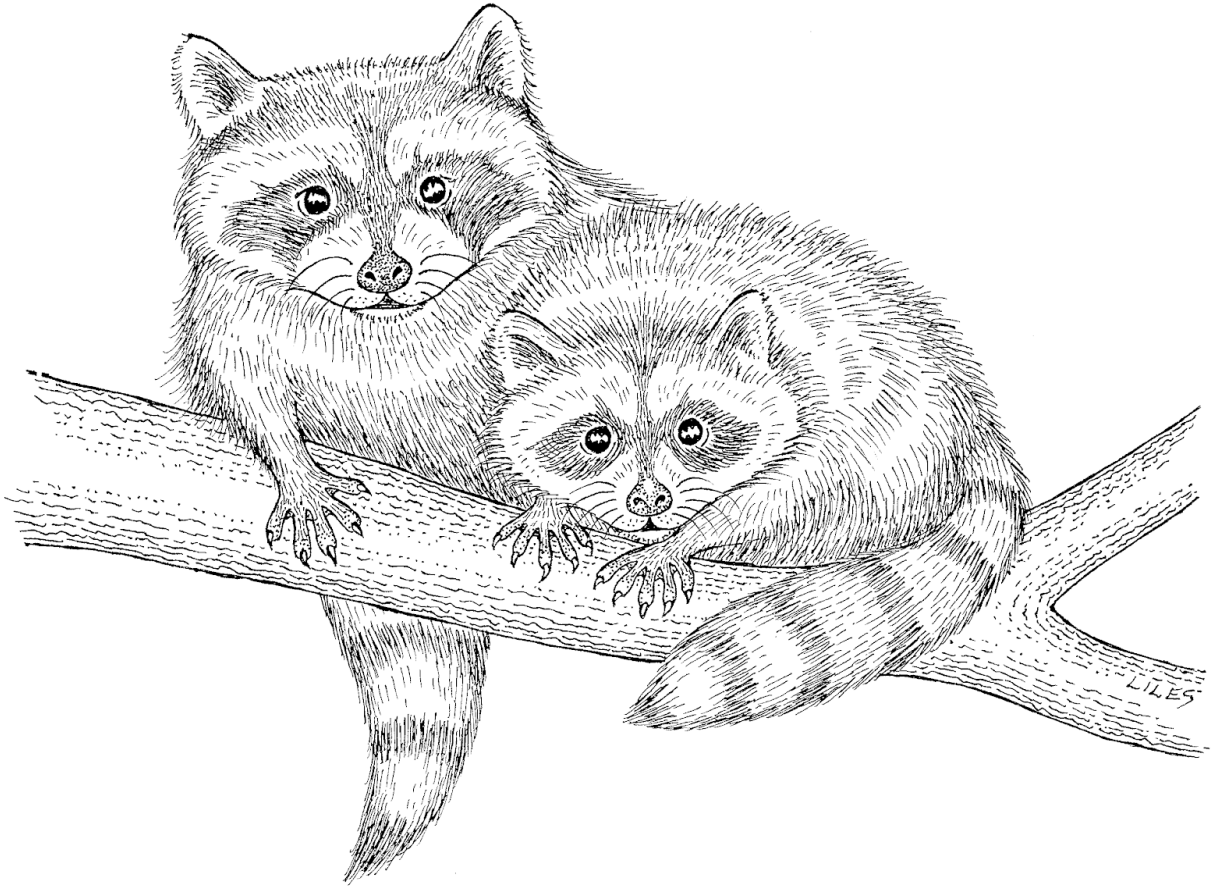
Lontra canadensis



The North American river otter is a semi-aquatic mustelid mammal endemic to the eastern and northwestern U.S. and can be found in freshwater systems throughout the region. This species digs burrows with many openings close to water. They are carnivorous and are known to eat primarily fish but also amphibians, mussels, small turtles, etc. Although they are listed as Least Concern, this species has experienced a great deal of habitat loss and is very susceptible to water pollution.

Raccoon

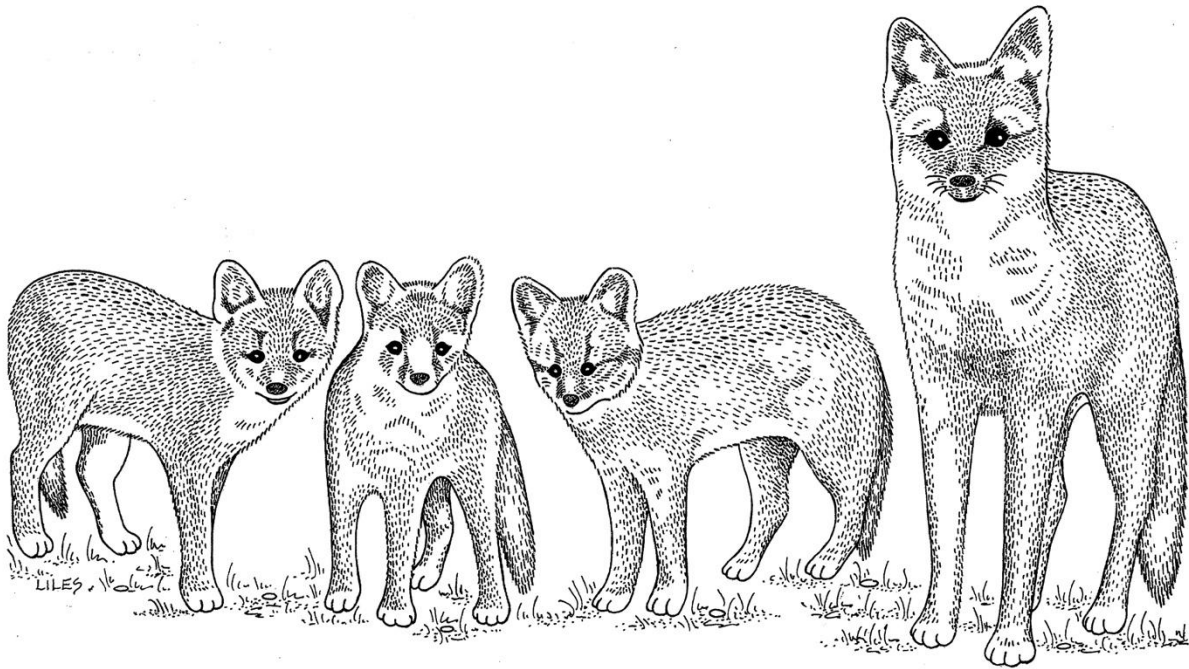
Procyon lotor



Raccoons are medium-sized mammals in the family Procyonidae and are native to North America. They are mostly nocturnal and are omnivorous, feeding primarily on invertebrates, but also on plants and other vertebrates. Originally, raccoons were found primarily in forests, but since they are quite adaptable, their ranges have been extended to marshes, mountains, and urban areas.

Red Fox

Vulpes vulpes



The red fox is the largest of the true foxes and its range extends across the northern hemisphere. It has also been introduced in Australia where it has become an invasive species. They typically inhabit woodlands, wetlands, and can be found in both rural and suburban neighborhoods. They can often be observed in pairs or small family-based groups. Their conservation status is listed as Least Concern.

Striped Skunk

Mephitis mephitis

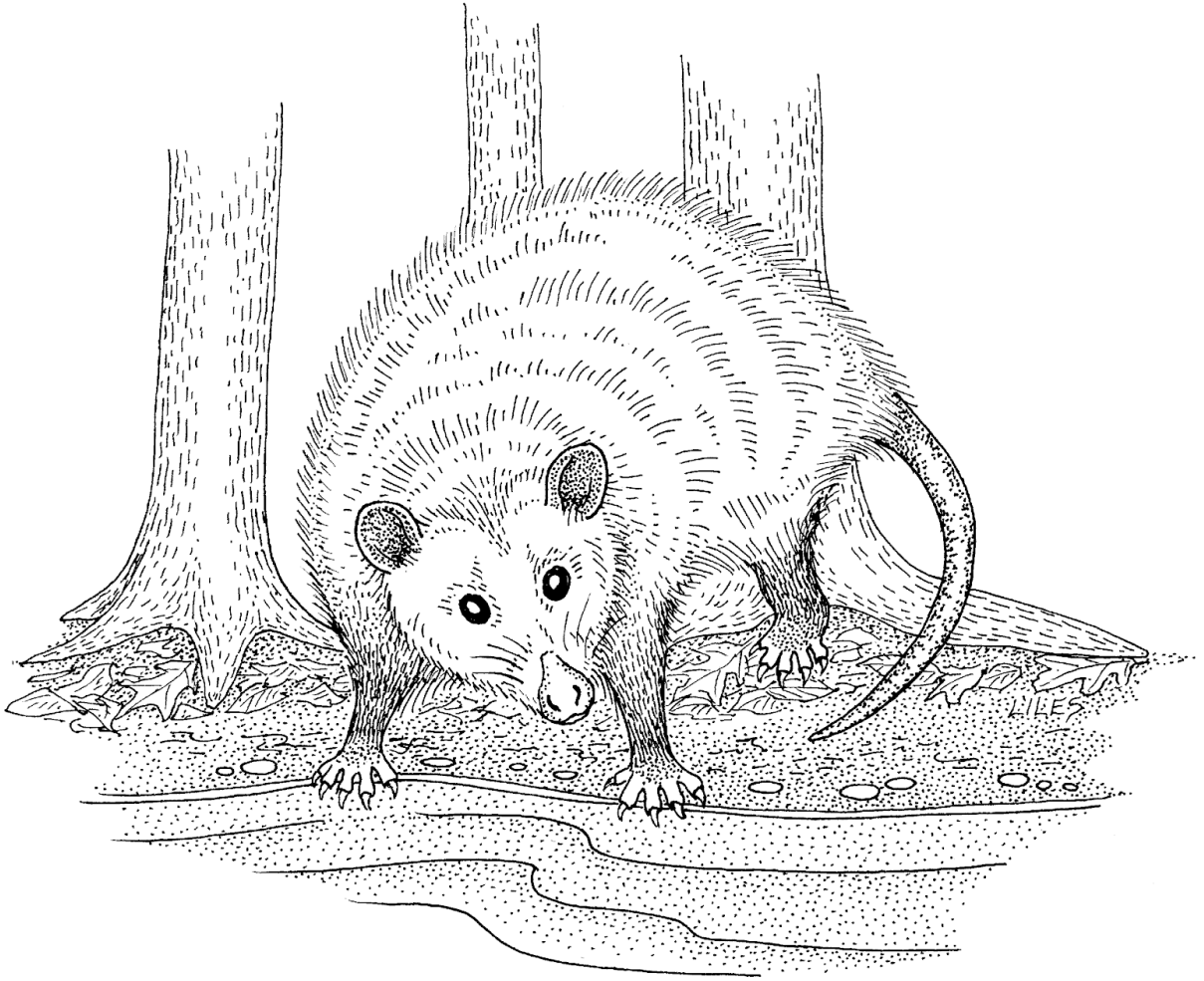


The striped skunk is a North American mammal of the family Mephitidae.

They can be distinguished from spotted skunks by the thick white lines running down their backs. This species is omnivorous but primarily eats insects. Striped skunks are polygamous and typically breed once a year, with females producing litters of 2 to 12 kits. This species is very adaptable and is listed as Least Concern.

Virginia Opossum

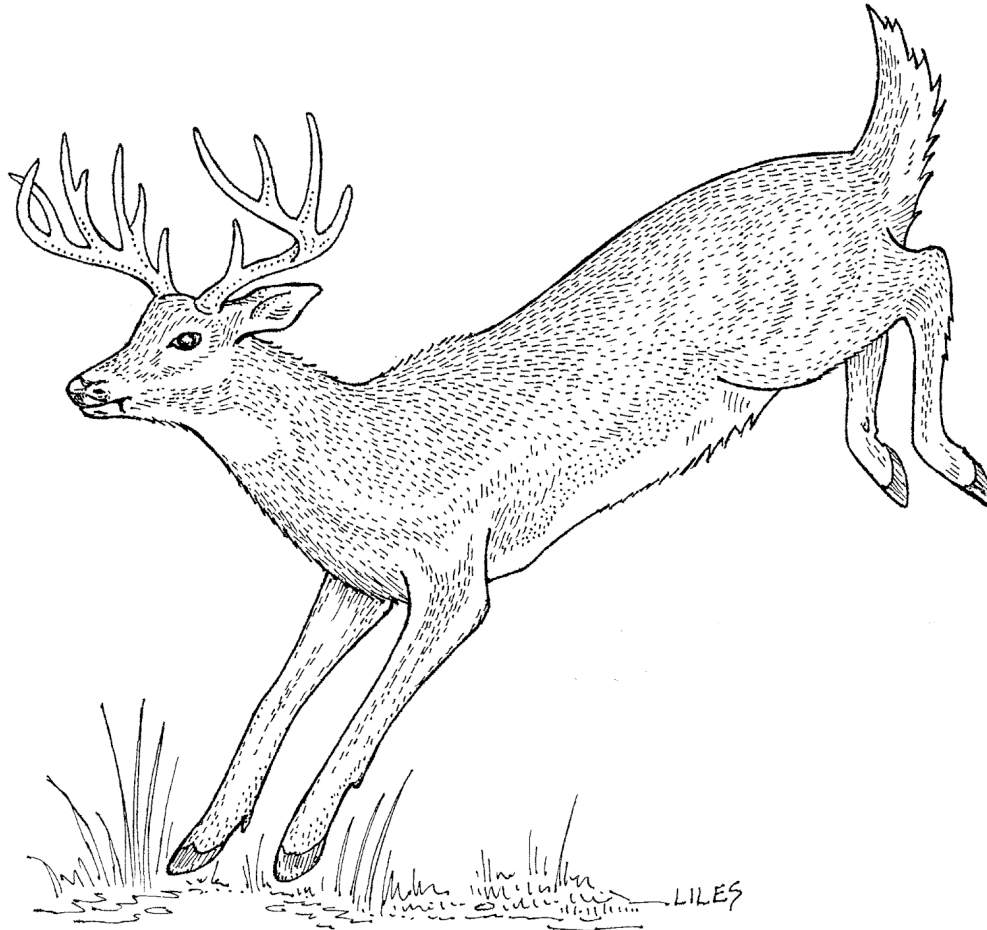
Didelphis virginiana



The Virginia opossum is found in North and Central America, with a range that makes it the northernmost opossum and marsupial in the world. This species is solitary, nocturnal, and tends to live in close proximity to humans since this provides them with more sources of food. As such, it is considered opportunistic in its feeding strategy.

White-Tailed Deer

Odocoileus virginianus



The white-tailed deer is a large North American mammal which can also be found in Central and northern South America. This species is considered a generalist and is highly adaptable to different habitats. Although many associate them with forests, they can also spend a great deal of their lives in savanna woodlands, open prairies, and other habitats. White-tailed deer are considered pests in areas where their populations are very high and are often hunted as a means of population control.

Woodland Vole

Microtus pinetorum

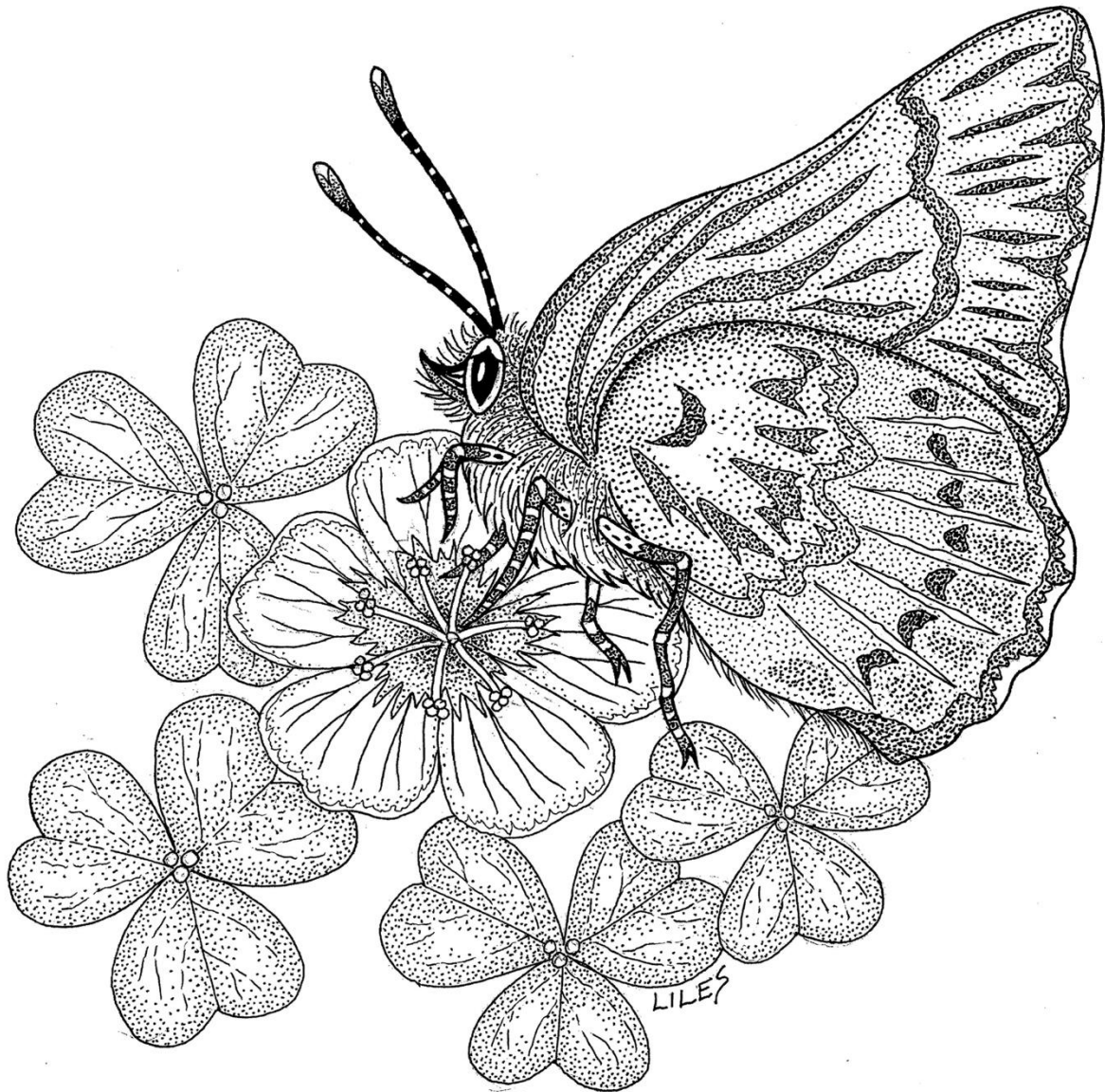


The woodland vole, sometimes referred to as the pine vole, is a small rodent native to eastern North America. They are often found living in deciduous forests with moist soils that are good for burrowing. Woodland voles live in burrow networks as families. They are omnivorous, feeding on plant matter, fruits, seeds, fungi, and insects.

INSECTS

Brown Elfin

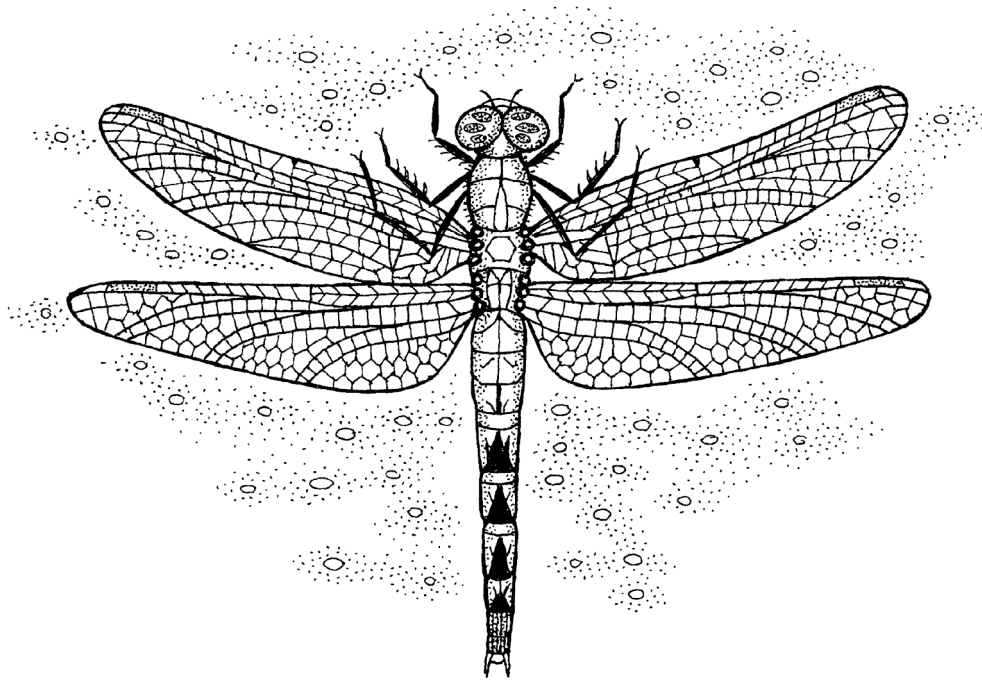
Callophrys augustinus



The brown elfin is a butterfly native to North America. They are modestly colored with primarily brown and tan hues on the wings. This species primarily consumes nectar from various plant species.

Eastern Pondhawk

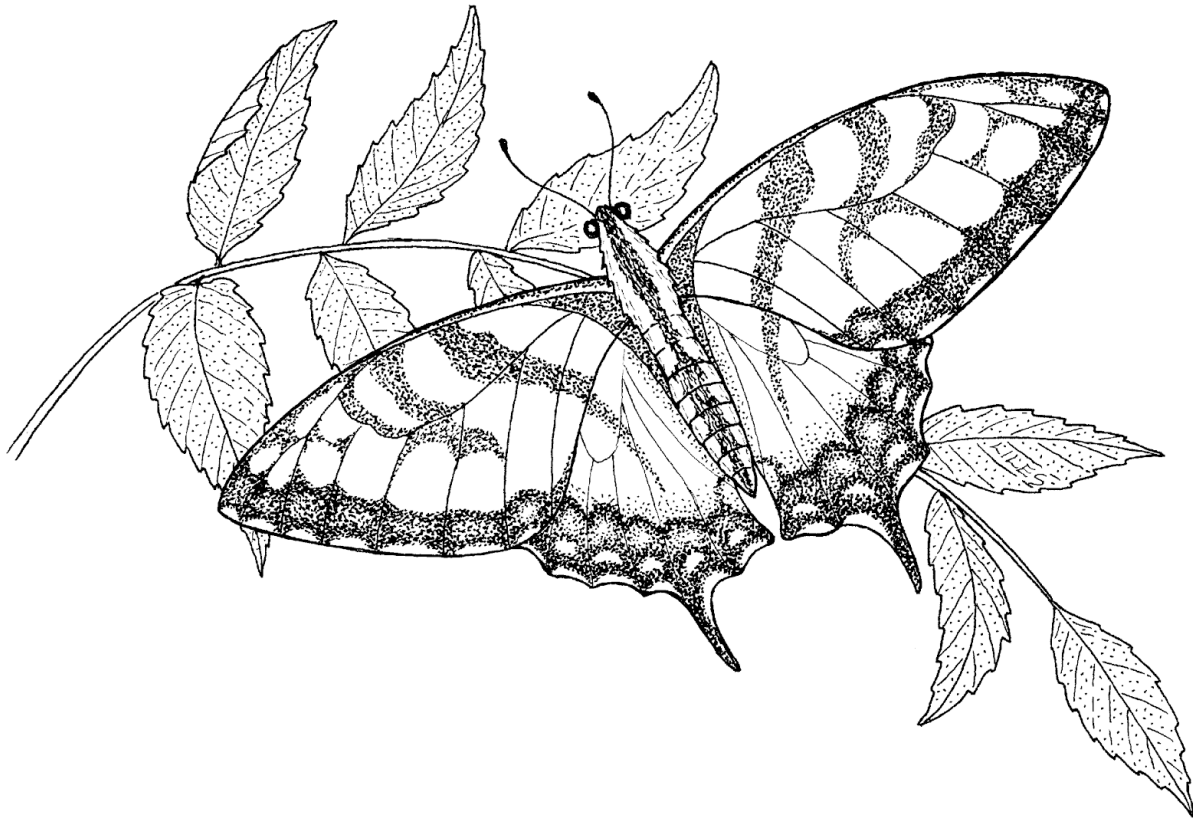
Erythemis simplicicollis



The eastern pondhawk is a dragonfly native to the eastern U.S. and parts of Canada. The female is bright green with a banded abdomen, while the male has a blue abdomen, green and blue thorax, and green face. This species is a strong flier and feeds on in-flight insect prey. About two weeks after first emerging, this species returns to freshwaters and the males establish territories.

Eastern Tiger Swallowtail

Papilio glaucus

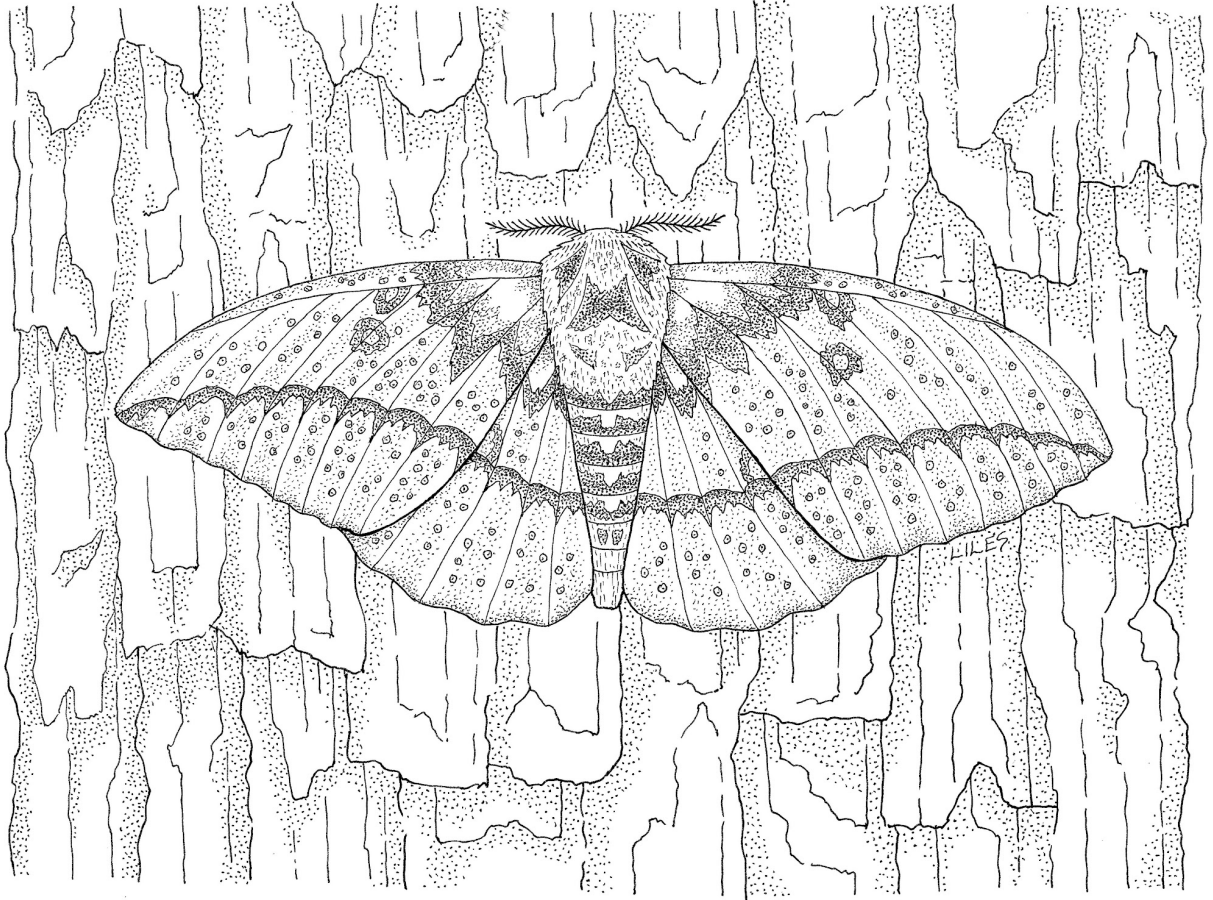


The eastern tiger swallowtail is a butterfly found in eastern North America.

It is the state butterfly of North Carolina! This species is diurnal and solitary, and adults feed primarily on nectar. Males engage in "puddling", which involves grouping together on mud or puddles where they extract amino acids and sodium ions for reproductive purposes.

Imperial Moth

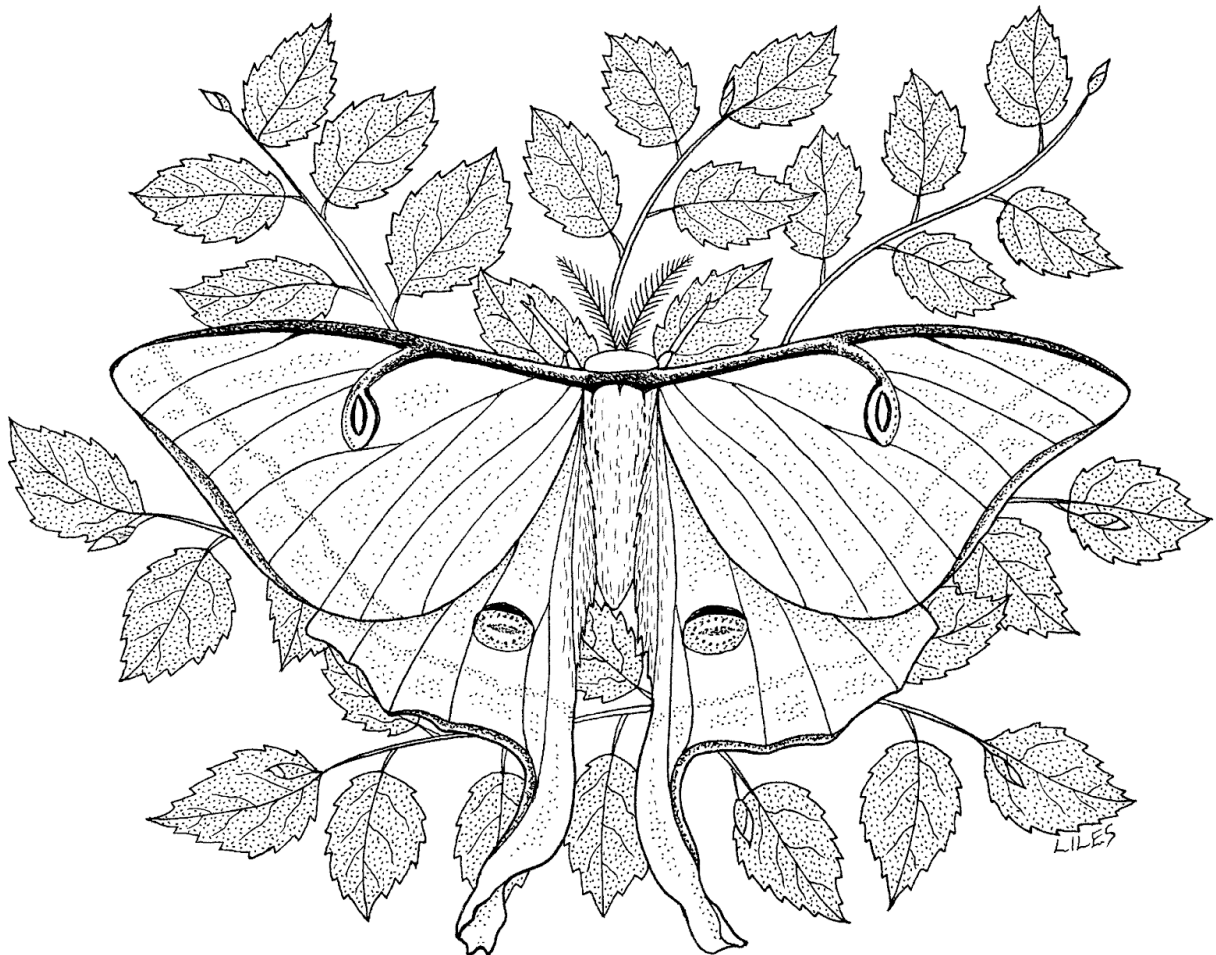
Eacles imperialis



With a wingspan of up to nearly seven inches, the imperial moth is one of the Eno's largest moth species. The caterpillars are large and usually green or brownish, and the adults are yellow with brown stripes, spots, or blotches. Adults tend to emerge in late summer.

Luna Moth

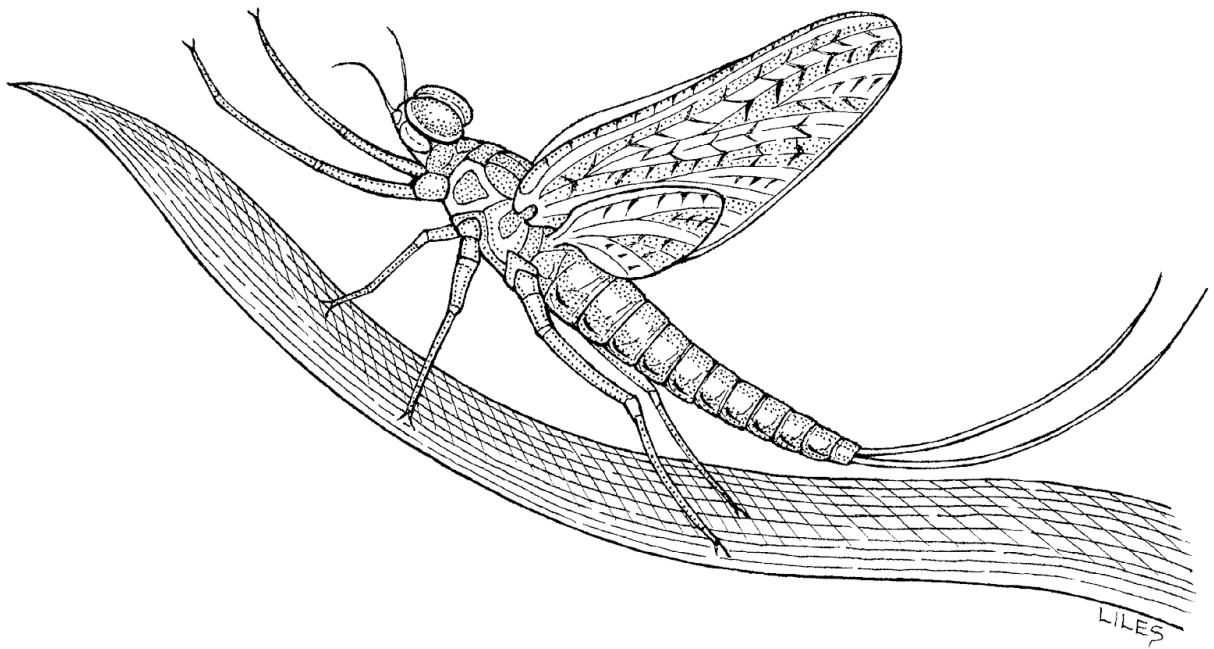
Actias luna



The Luna moth is a North American species of moth in a group known as the giant silk moths. Its wings are lime green in color and it has a white body. The caterpillars are also green. There are 2 or 3 generations annually in our region and there are four life stages: egg, larvae, pupa, and adult.

Mayfly

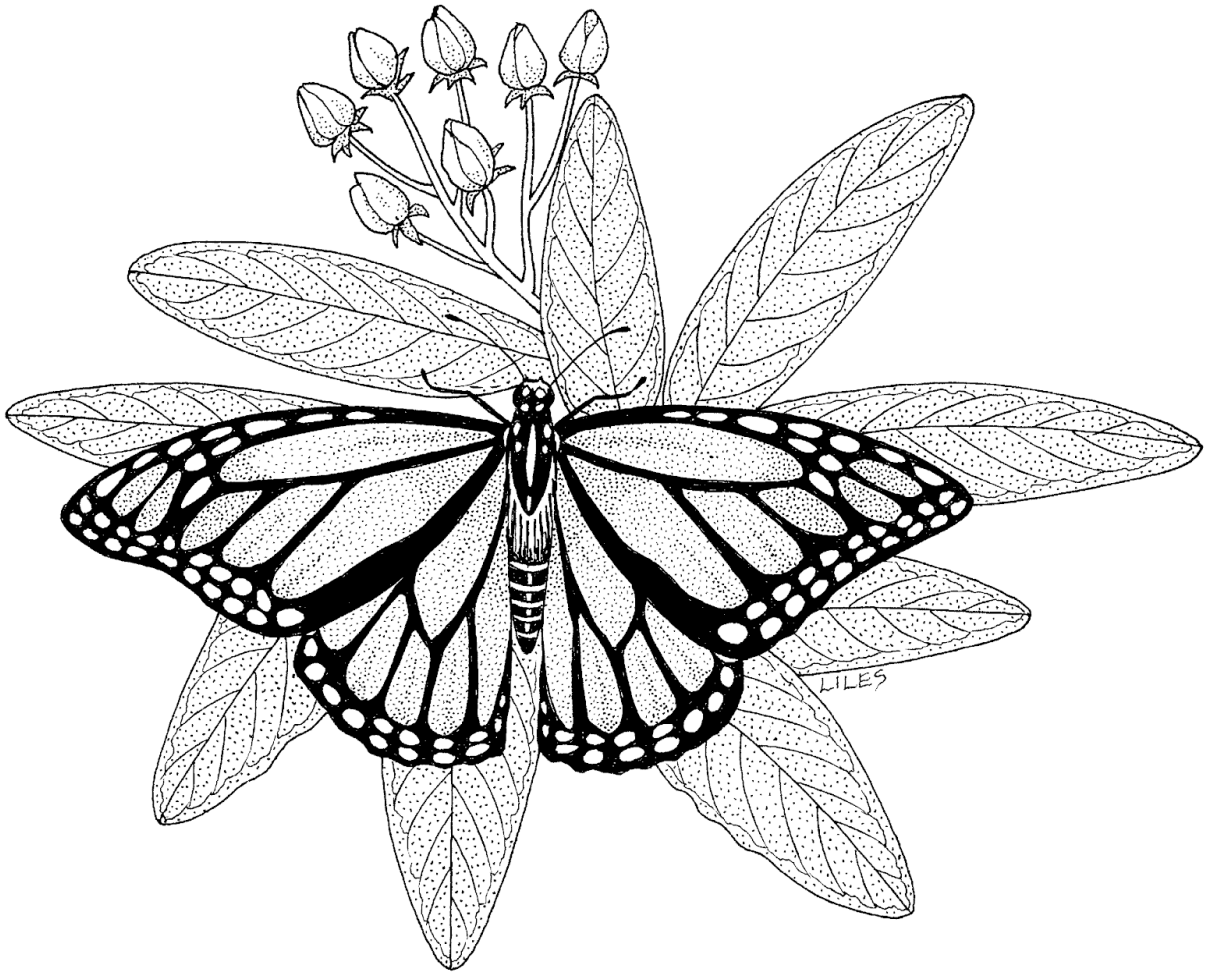
Order Ephemeroptera



Mayflies are aquatic insects belonging to the order Ephemeroptera. There are over 3,000 species of mayfly known worldwide, and there may be more than 180 species in North Carolina. Before they become adults, mayflies spend the majority of their life as aquatic larvae, or nymphs. Their presence in freshwater bodies like the Eno River is indicative of clean, unpolluted water. The name Ephemeroptera literally means “lasting a day”, which refers to their very short lifespan as adults.

Monarch Butterfly

Danaus plexippus



The monarch butterfly is a milkweed butterfly and is likely the most widely recognized North American butterfly and among the most appreciated pollinator species. It is the only butterfly known to make a two-way migration like birds do. Monarchs migrate southward in the late summer/early fall from the central and northern U.S. and Canada to Florida and Mexico where they hibernate for the winter. Non-migratory monarchs live only two to six weeks while the migratory generation can live six to nine months!

Pipevine Swallowtail

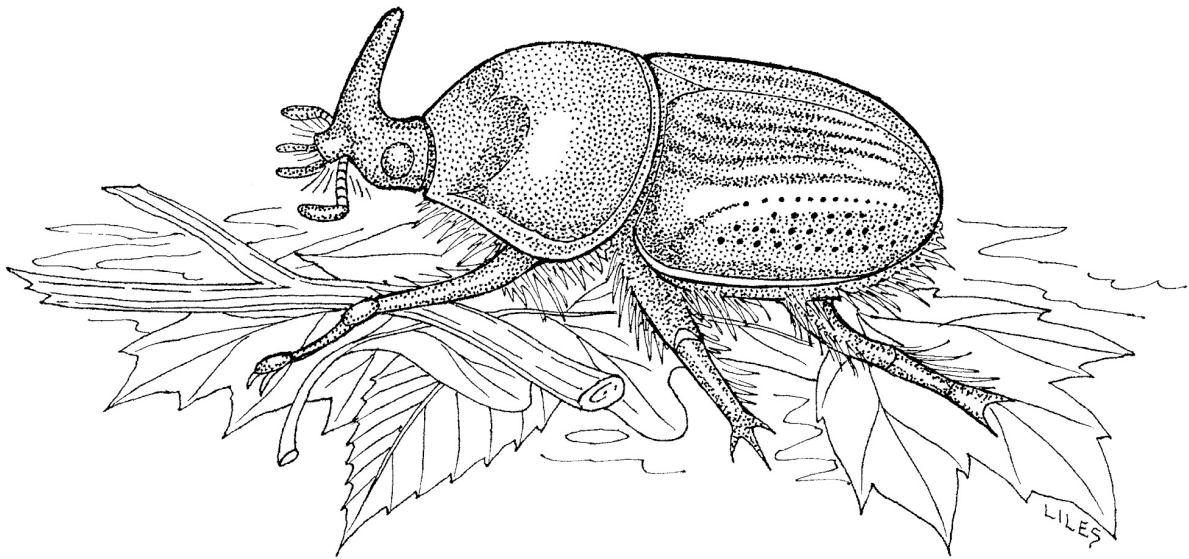
Battus philenor



The pipevine swallowtail is a medium-sized, black butterfly with iridescent blue hindwings. The caterpillars typically feed on plants in the pipevine and birthwort families. The caterpillars also sequester certain acids from their host plants, which make them unpalatable to bird predators.

Eastern Rhinoceros Beetle

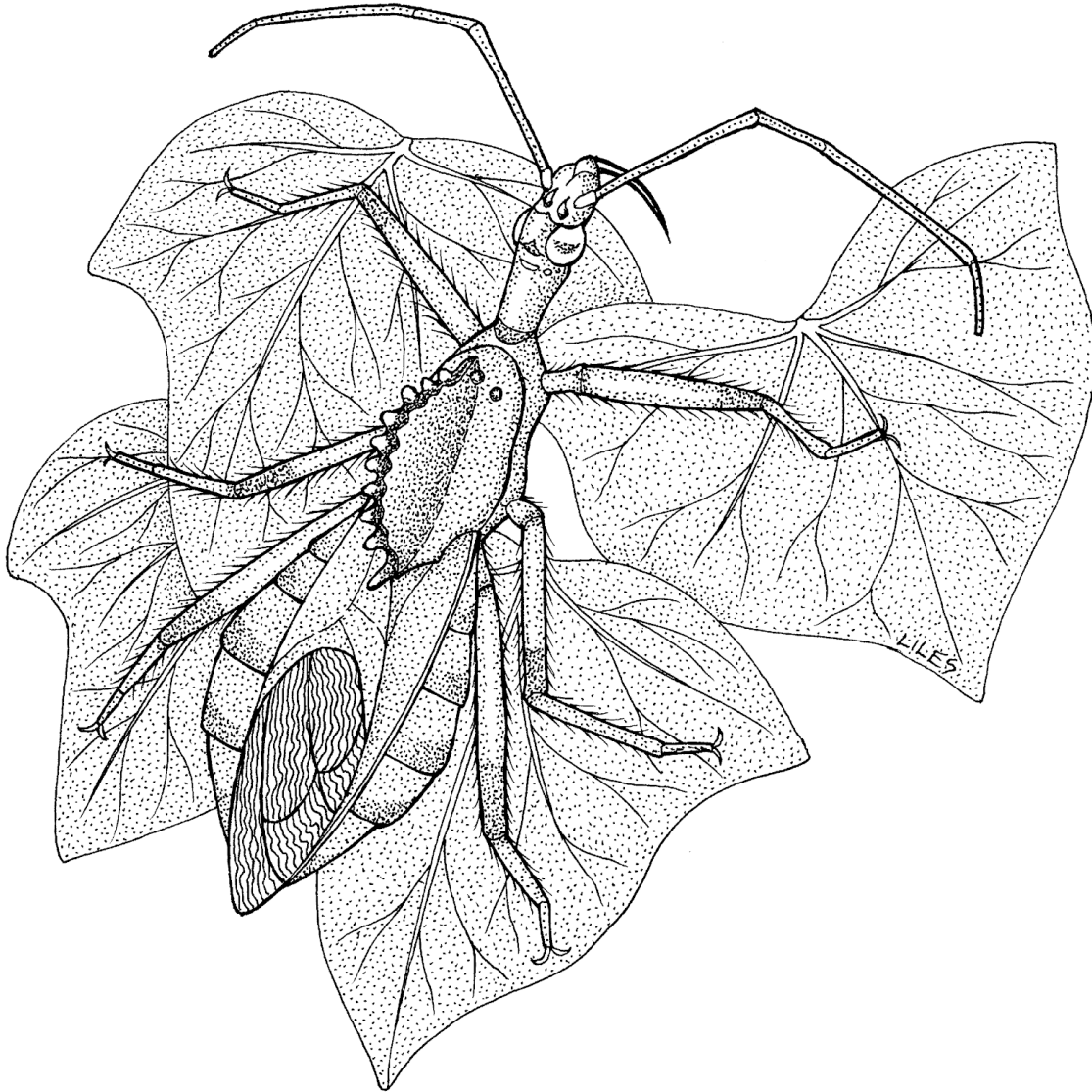
Xyloryctes jamaicensis



The eastern rhinoceros beetle or unicorn beetle, so named because of the horn found on males, is among our largest beetle species. The shiny black adults are active during the summer, and they are often seen around light sources at night.

Wheel Bug

Arilus cristatus

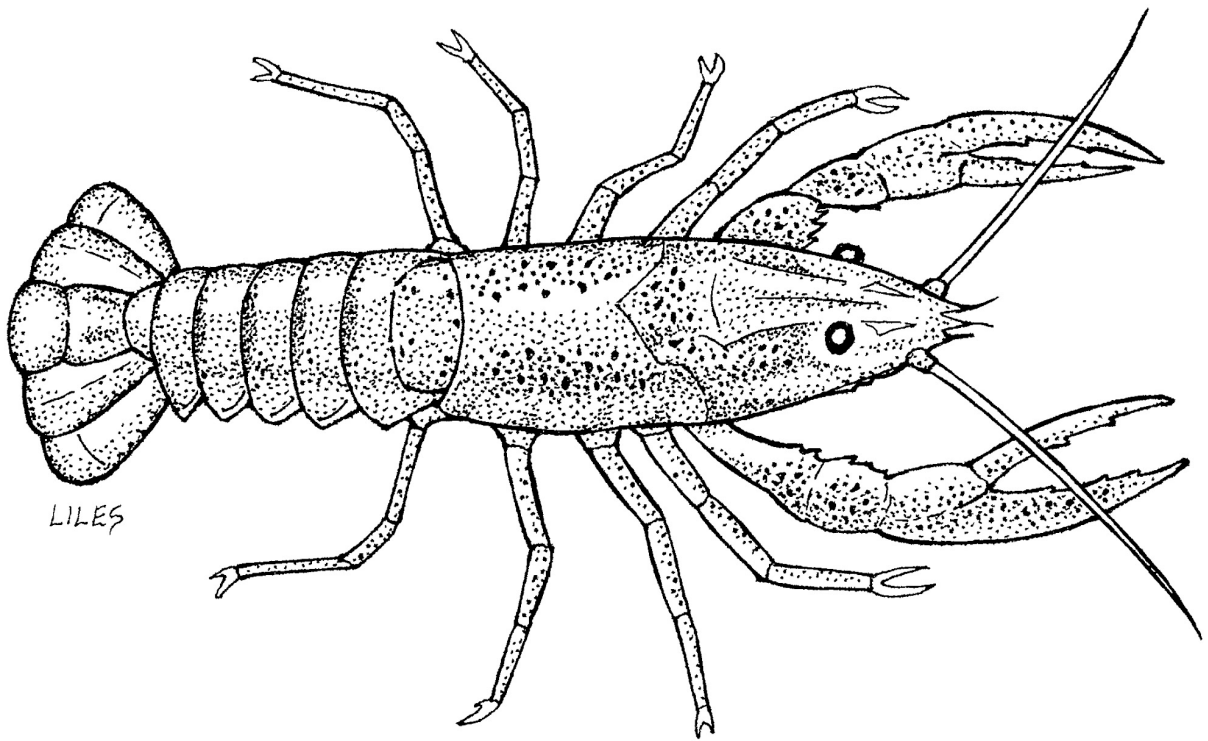


The wheel bug is a large species of assassin bug and is among the largest true bugs in North America. It gets its name from the wheel-shaped armor-like covering on its thorax. This species feeds primarily on beetles and caterpillars. They kill their prey by injecting fluids that dissolve bodily tissue. Wheel bugs are mostly diurnal and are quite elusive and well-camouflaged.

CRUSTACEANS

Crayfish

Cambaridae



North Carolina is home to 51 species of crayfish, 48 of which are native to the state. These small, aquatic crustaceans are relatives of lobsters and can be found in many freshwater habitats, including streams, wetlands, and ditches. Crayfish are omnivorous scavengers and can help to filter the mud in habitats where they occur. Despite being aquatic, their highly sensitive gills allow them to live on land for up to a few days at a time!

PLANTS

Atamasco Lily

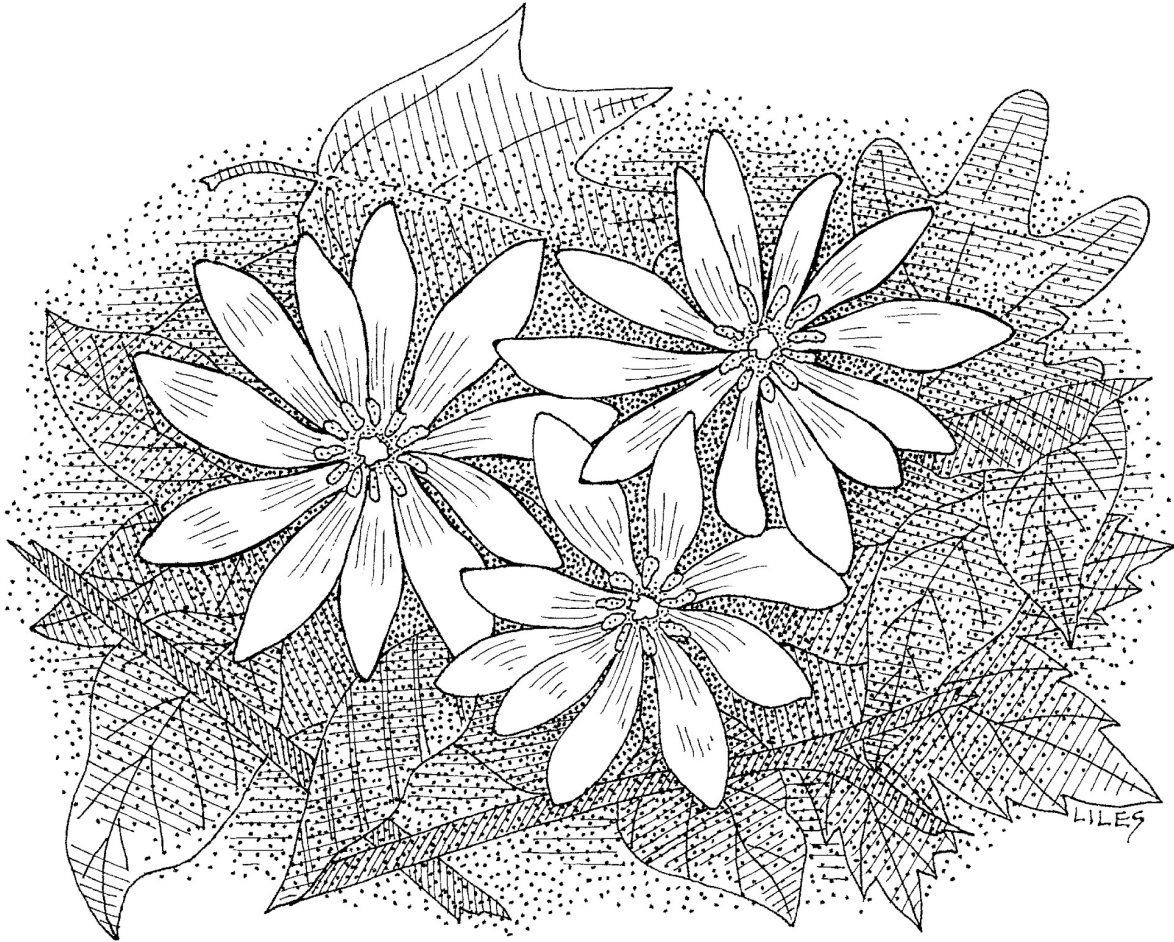
Zephyranthes atamasco



The atamasco lily is a small spring ephemeral that is commonly seen flowering along the Eno between March and May. Its leaves are shiny and grasslike, and the flowers are usually white (though they can turn pink with age) with six distinct lobes. It most frequently occurs in moist hardwood forests and along rivers and streams.

Bloodroot

Sanguinaria canadensis



Bloodroot is a small, herbaceous plant that flowers in early spring along the Eno. It is named for its bright red sap, which is toxic. This species has round or oval shaped leaves with many lobes and white flowers, usually with eight petals. It favors hardwood forest, especially along rivers.

Cardinal Flower

Lobelia cardinalis



The cardinal flower is a perennial, herbaceous plant that can be up to four feet tall. Its stem is covered with alternate oval or spear-shaped leaves, and its bright red bell-shaped flowers bloom in late summer and early fall. Common throughout eastern and southern North America, the cardinal flower prefers moist, riparian habitats and is frequently seen along the banks of the Eno River.

Dutchman's Breeches

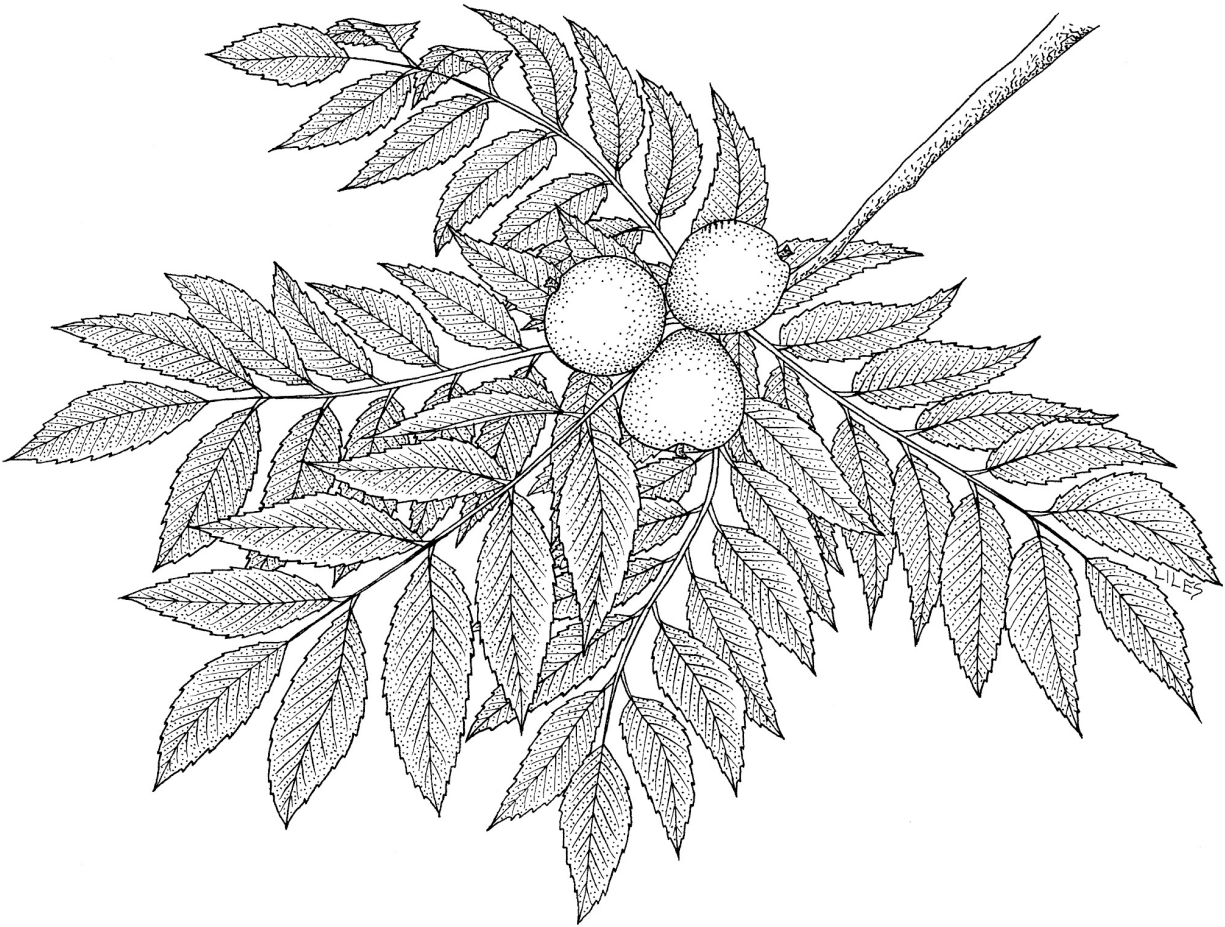
Dicentra cucullaria



Dutchman's breeches is a distinctive, herbaceous perennial named for its white flowers whose shape resembles old-fashioned men's pants. Common further north and west in North America, Dutchman's breeches are uncommon and local in the North Carolina Piedmont and only found in a few places along the Eno. This species blooms for a few weeks each spring, usually in March or April, and is reliant on bumblebees as pollinators.

Eastern Black Walnut

Juglans nigra



The eastern black walnut is a large, deciduous tree species that is common throughout riparian habitats in eastern North America. It is characterized by long, compound leaves with many leaflets (up to 23!) and dark bark whose furrows form diamond shapes. This species has large nuts which fall from the trees in September and October, providing an important food source for many mammal and bird species. It's also edible to humans, but the tough husk makes processing the nuts a difficult task.

Jack-in-the-pulpit

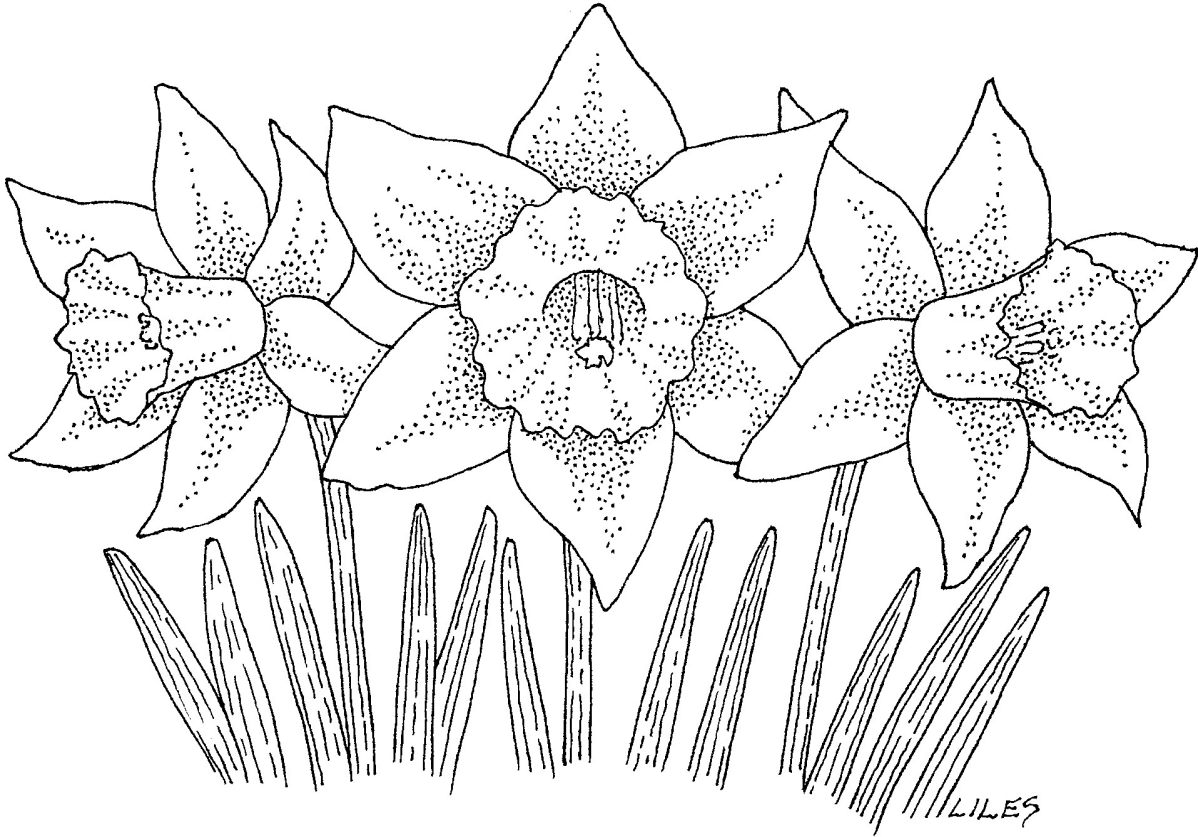
Arisaema triphyllum



Jack-in-the-pulpit is a perennial herbaceous plant that grows to about three feet tall and is named for the appearance of its flower stalk ("Jack") which is surrounded by a sheath ("pulpit"). It has one or two leaves, each of which is split into three leaflets. This species can change sex from year to year depending on how much energy is contained in its underground stem. Fruiting females ("Jill-in-the-pulpit") require more energy, and normally have two leaves, while males do not fruit and typically have one leaf.

Jonquil/Daffodil/Narcissus

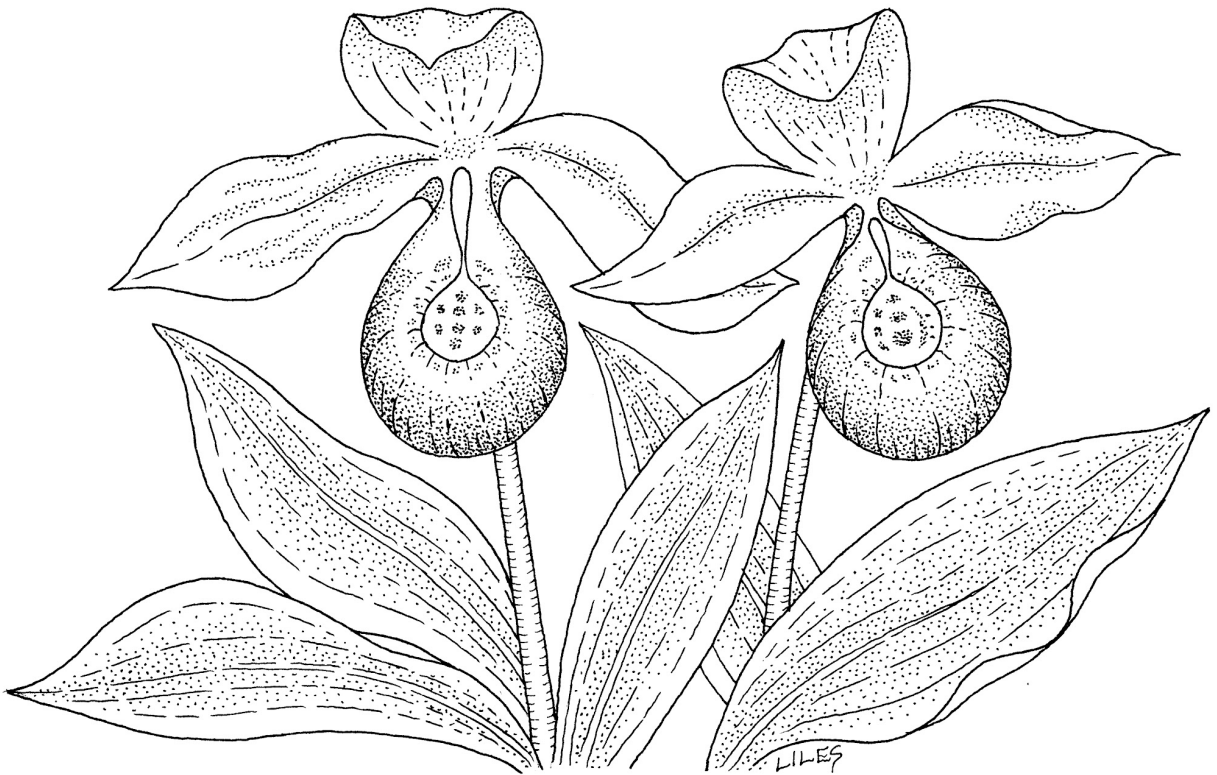
Narcissus sp.



Jonquil, daffodil, and Narcissus are often used interchangeably to describe a series of similar-looking, white or yellow spring ephemerals in the genus *Narcissus*. Daffodil is a broad umbrella term, while jonquil refers to a specific species within the genus that is characterized by a highly perfumed smell, yellow flowers, and dark-green leaves with rounded tips. *Narcissus* species were often planted around homesites by European settlers, and naturalized colonies persist in local woodlands around historic settlements.

Lady Slipper

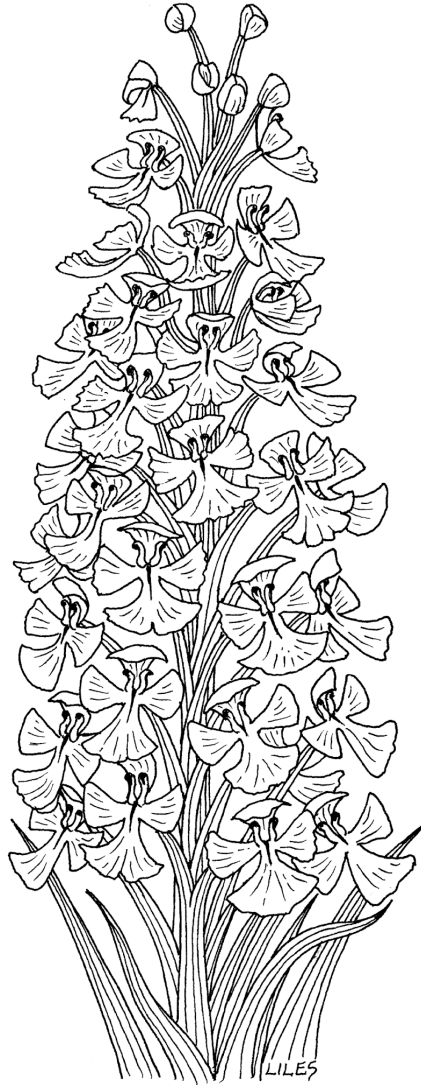
Cypripedium sp.



The Eno is home to both pink lady's slippers and yellow lady's slippers, two species of flowering spring ephemeral in the orchid family. They can be distinguished by the color of the flowers and the placement of the leaves: yellow lady's slippers have leaves along the entire stem, and pink lady's slippers have leaves exclusively around the base of the plant. Both are named for the distinct shape of their flowers, which are suspended from stalks that grow up to 30 inches tall. In North Carolina, the yellow lady's slipper is imperiled, and the pink lady's slipper is a Species of Special Concern.

Purple Fringeless Orchid

Platanthera peramoena



Critically imperiled in North Carolina, the purple fringeless orchid is a rare plant that grows to around two feet tall and blooms between June and August. This species can grow to over three feet tall, with a few spreading leaves along its stem and multiple showy, pink flowers. Purple fringeless orchids tend to grow in open, swampy areas, but they are rare even within these preferred habitats.

Arrowleaf Heartleaf (Little Brown Jug)

Hexastylis arifolia



This evergreen member of the wild ginger family is named for its jug-shaped flowers, which bloom in April and May and grow on the ground, underneath the leaves. For this reason, it is chiefly pollinated by ground-dwelling beetles and other invertebrates. This species prefers moist soil in full or partial shade.

Pipsissewa

Chimaphila umbellata



Reaching heights of up to about 10 inches, Pipsissewa, or striped wintergreen, is the smallest woody plant native to the Eno River Watershed. Its evergreen leaves are serrated and spear-shaped, and its long-stemmed, white flowers bloom during the summer. Indigenous peoples in the area used this plant as a pain reliever and to treat kidney stones.

Trout Lily

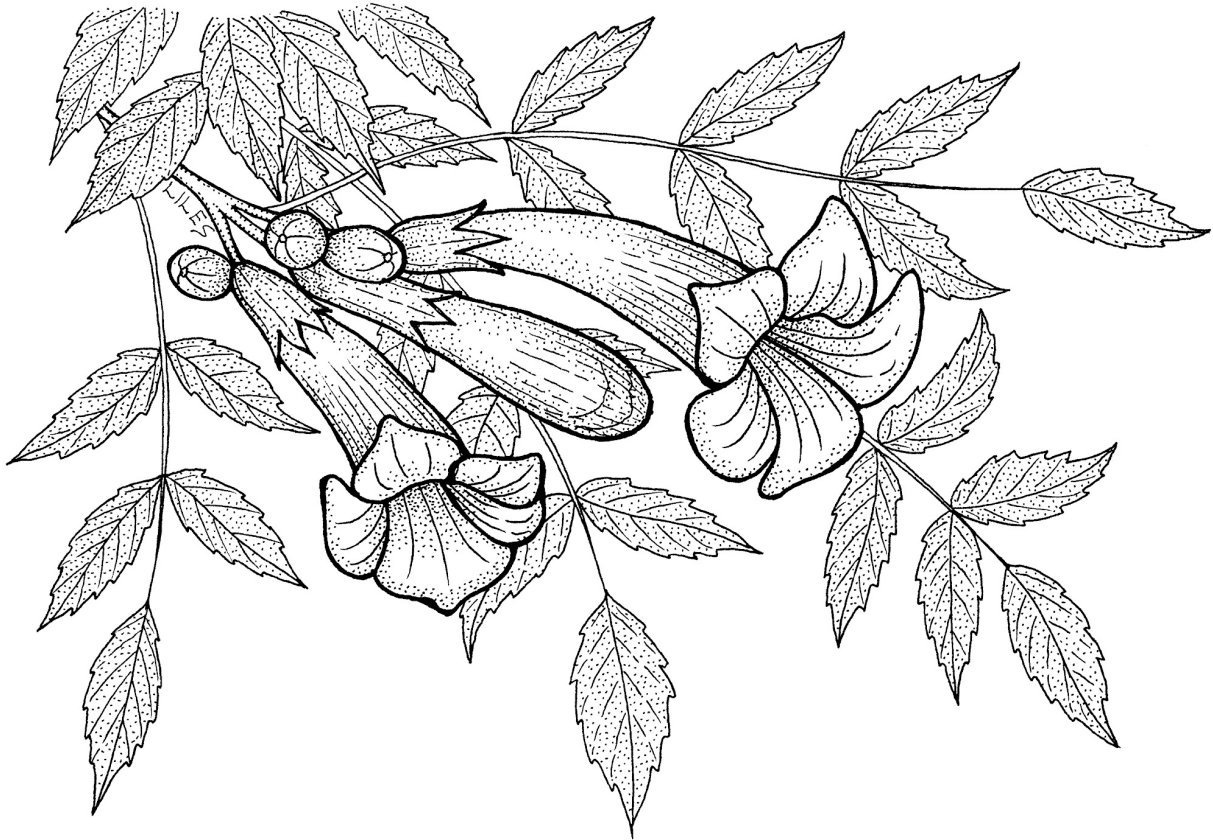
Erythronium sp.



Among the earlier ephemerals to emerge each year, the six-lobed, yellow flowers of the trout lily stand out among the dead leaves on the forest floor. Their leaves are green with brown mottling, and the flowers face downward. The Eno is home to two species: *Erythronium umbilicatum* and the larger, rarer *Erythronium americanum*, whose flower petals are more distinctly curled. Trout lilies spread with runners to form colonies; some of these colonies can be up to 300 years old!

Trumpet Vine

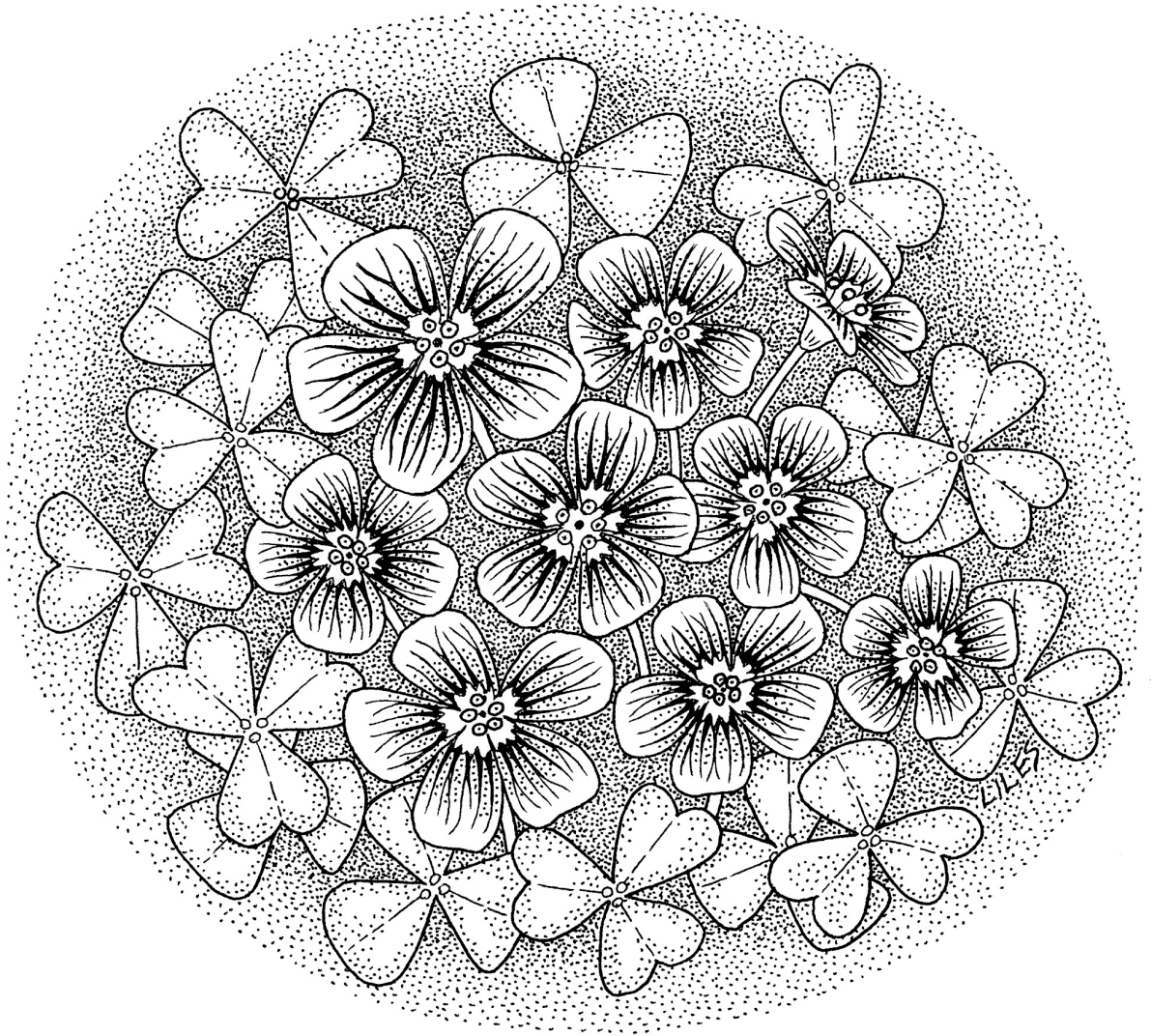
Campsis radicans



The trumpet vine is a large, flowering vine that can grow to lengths of more than 30 feet. Its leaves are compound and have from 7-13 leaflets, including a terminal leaflet, and its bright orange-red flowers can be seen during the summer months. These flowers are especially attractive to ruby-throated hummingbirds, which are important pollinators of the trumpet vine.

Violet Wood-Sorrel

Oxalis violacea

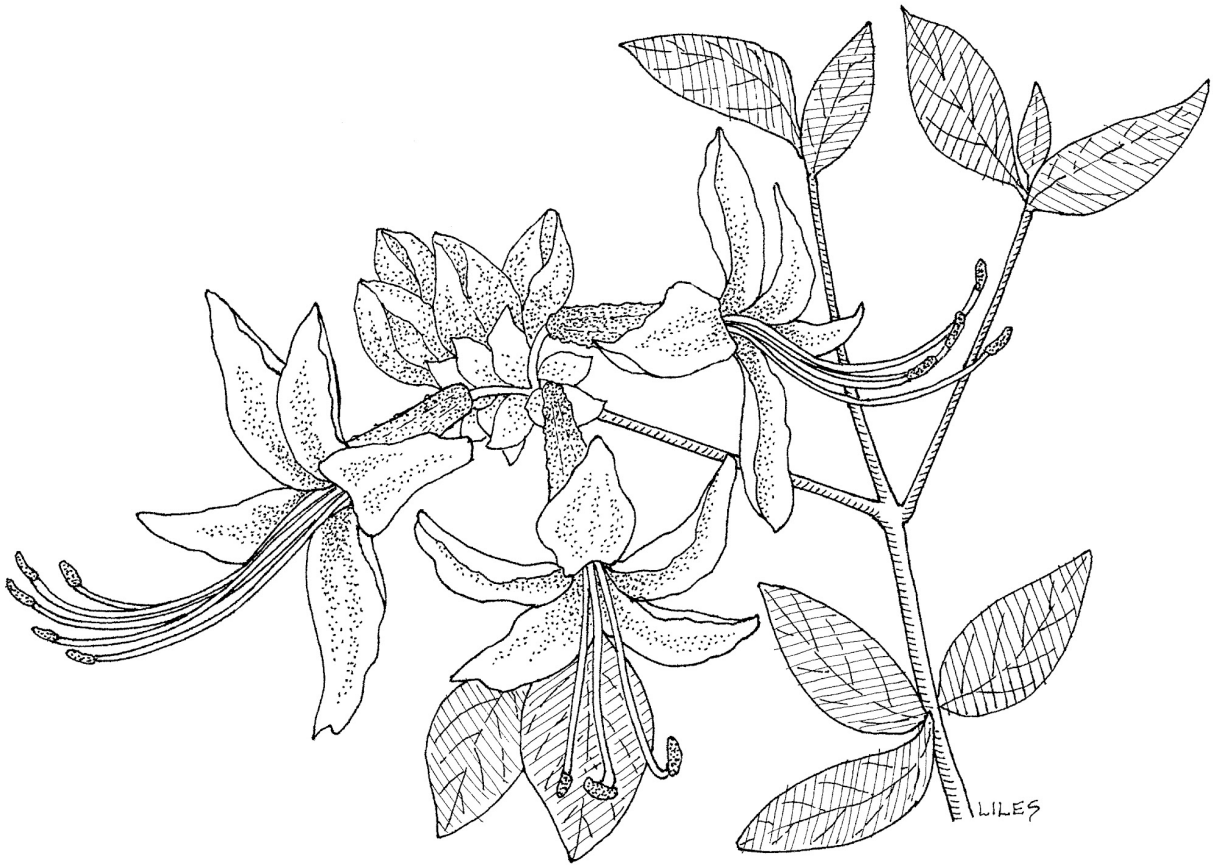


Violet wood-sorrel is a small, herbaceous perennial that is common in woodlands and open areas along the Eno. This species has long-stemmed leaves that split into three heart-shaped leaflets, and pink, five-lobed flowers that bloom twice each year: once in the spring and again in the fall.

Wood-sorrel is edible and has a sour, lemony taste.

Wild Azalea/Pinxter Flower

Rhododendron perichlymenoides

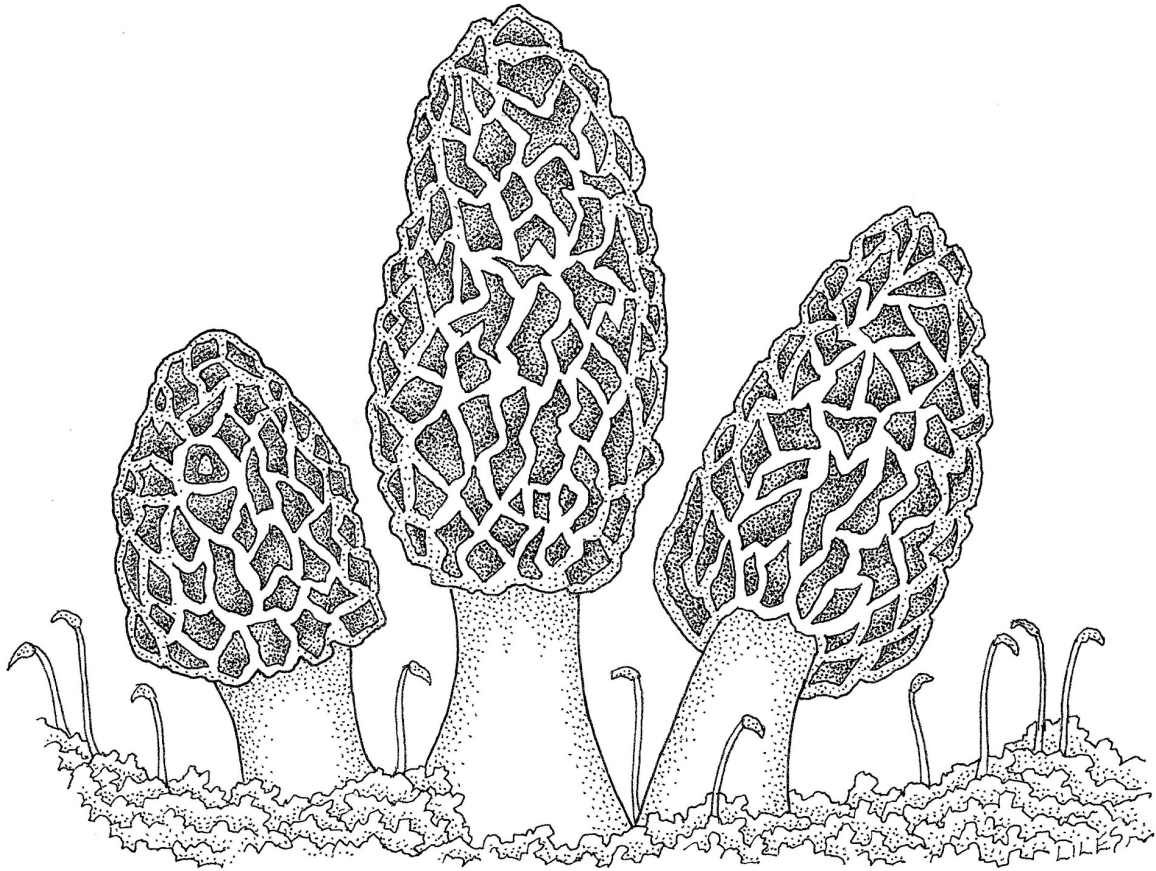


The wild azalea is a woody shrub that favors moist, acidic soils, where it reaches heights of up to 10 feet. Its beautiful pink flowers have five lobes and long, protruding stamens and bloom in April and May. This species contains grayanotoxins, a type of neurotoxin, and is poisonous to humans and livestock.

FUNGI

Morel Mushroom

Morchella sp.



Morels are choice, edible species in the sac fungus family. They are easily distinguished by the honeycomb-like appearance of their fruiting bodies, which appear for a few weeks in early spring. Many species of morel are thought to have symbiotic relationships with trees, and they are often found around elm, cottonwood, and apple trees. In North Carolina, morels tend to be more common and widespread in the mountains than the Piedmont.