NEVADA'S WILDLIFE COLORING BOOK

Published by the Nevada Department of Wildlife

This book belongs to:

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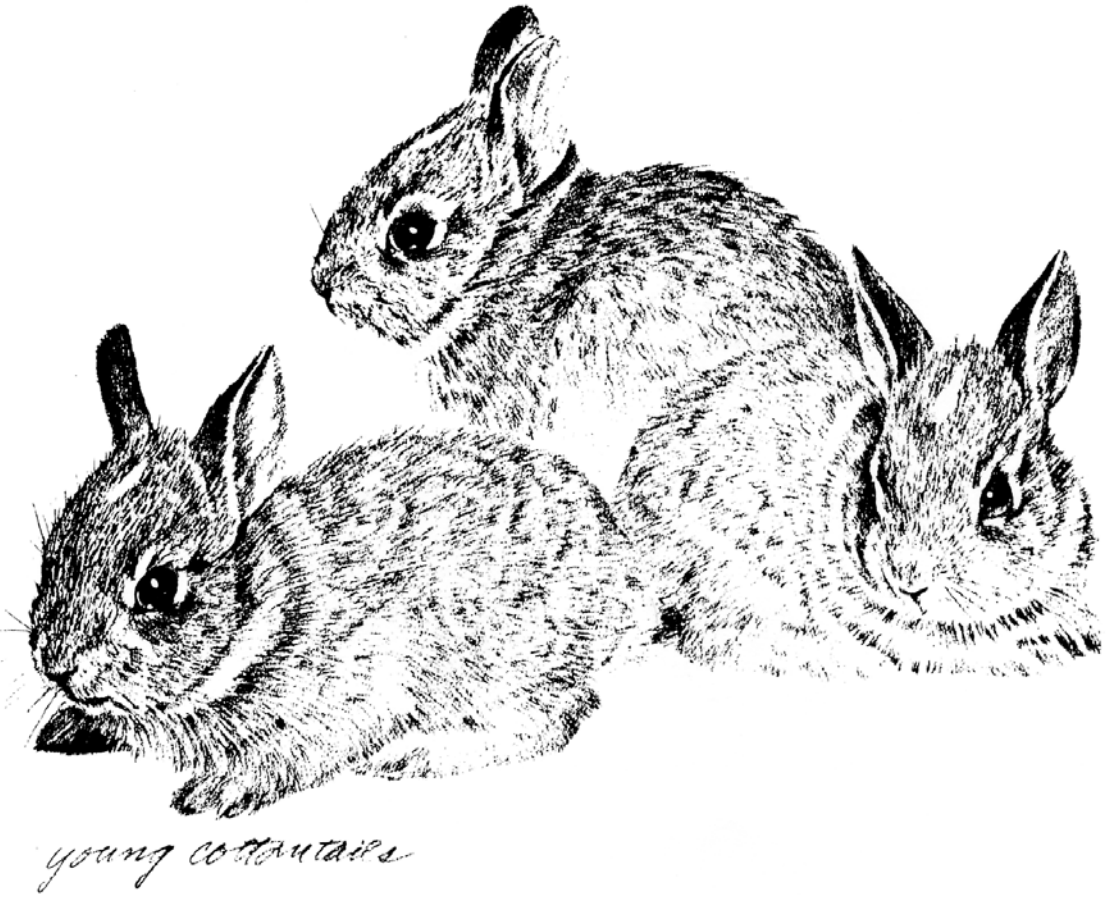

young cottontails

NEVADA'S
WILDLIFE COLORING BOOK

Dedicated to the memory of

Bill Vasconi

whose dream made it possible

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COLOR NEVADA WILD is a publication of the Nevada Department of Wildlife, reprinted in July 2009.

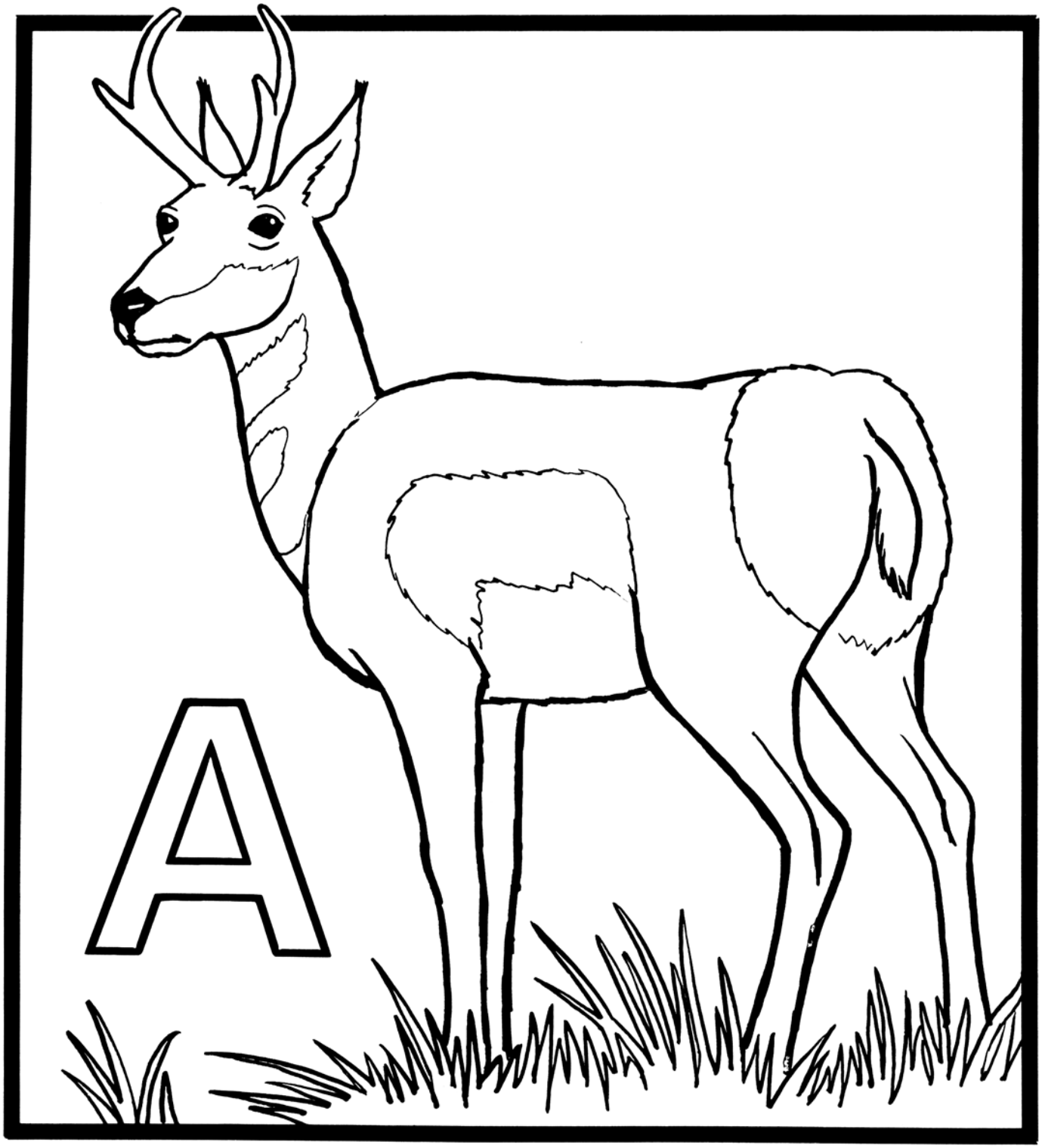
MOMS, DADS AND TEACHERS

Nevada's Wildlife Coloring Book has been produced to motivate elementary students to associate letters of the alphabet with wildlife living in our state. Typically, our children have been taught the alphabet using common household items such as "A" is for apple. The method of using an alphabet coloring book, which features wildlife, continues this learning process. It also familiarizes young people with Nevada's wildlife. Hopefully, the two-fold goal of teaching the alphabet and wildlife awareness will come to pass with the aid of this document.

Children are never too young to experience the beauty of our wildlife and land. Our children are the seeds of today and the flowers of tomorrow. It is to our benefit (and theirs) to stimulate an awareness of natural things, insuring responsible behavior and mindful recognition of our environment. Can there be a more exciting and interesting subject than nature, especially to young people? Please use this document as a way to assist the nurturing, growth, and maturation of "the seed."

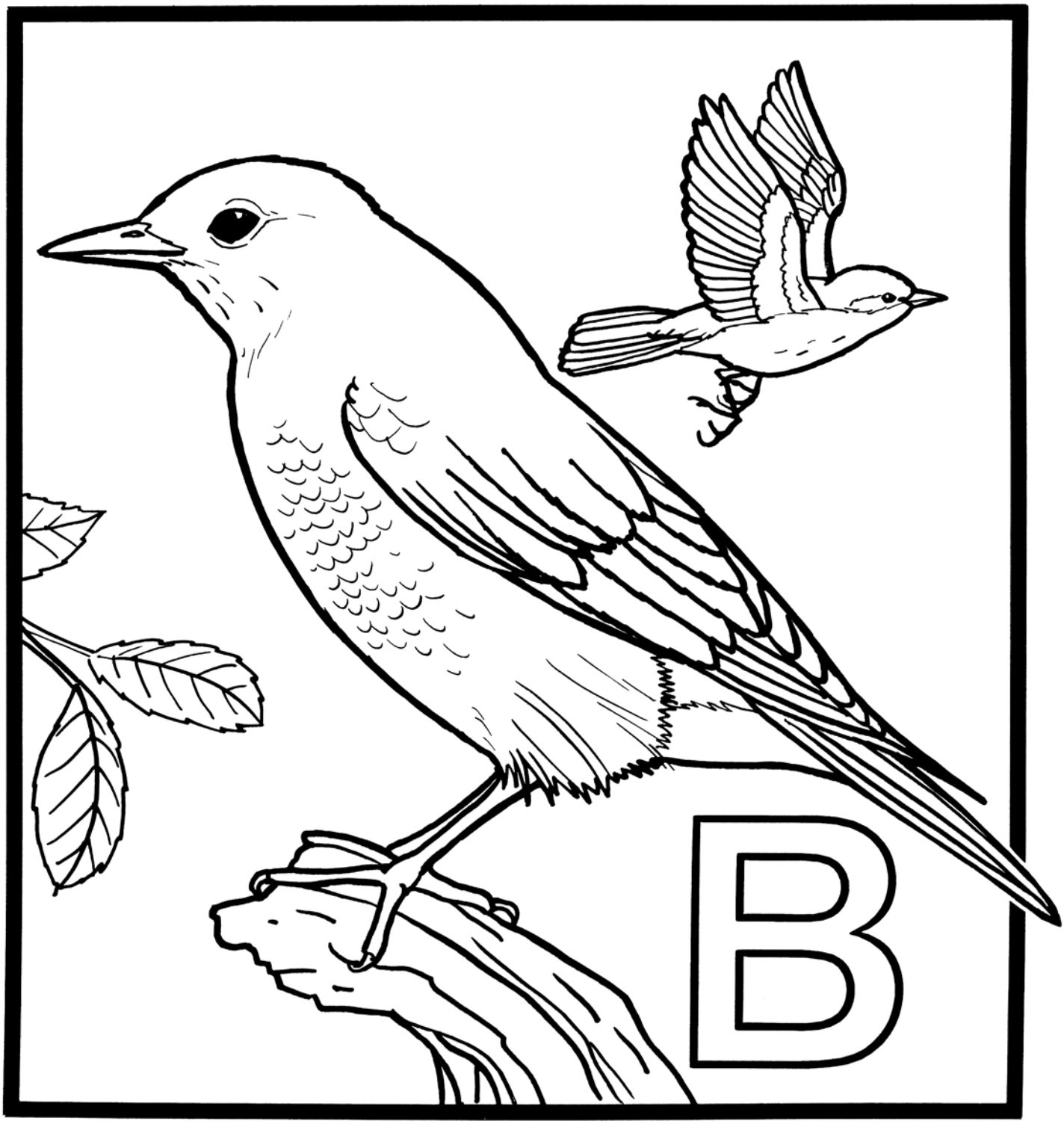
Experience Nevada's Wildlife, It's Worth it!

This publication was printed through the generous support of Nevada Bighorns Unlimited-Reno, the Mule Deer Foundation, Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn, Nevada Wildlife Federation, Wildlife Habitat Improvement of Nevada (WHIN) and the Nevada Record Book.



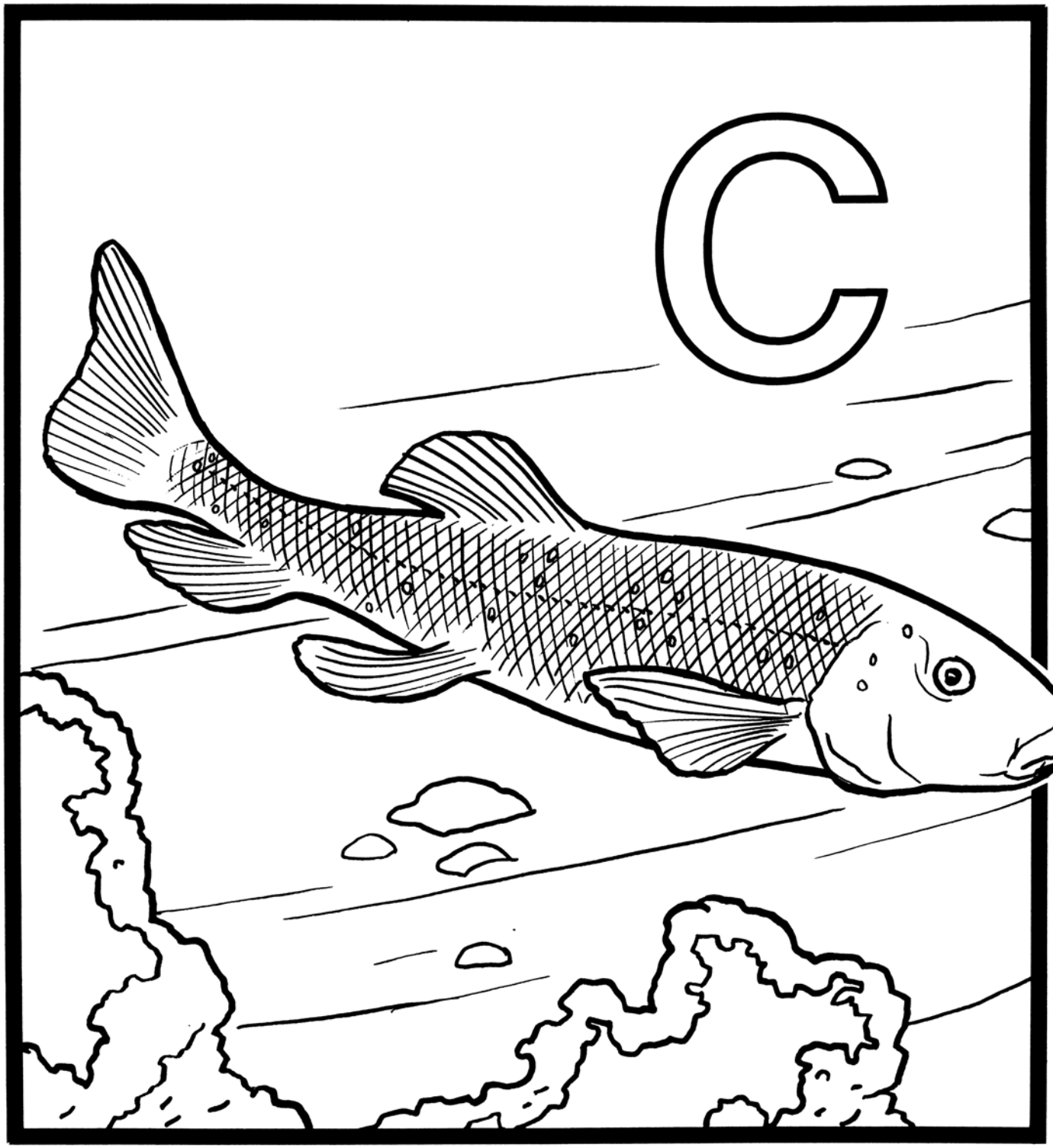
Pronghorn Antelope

This animal gets its name from the single prong on each horn. Antelope horns are different from antlers. The outside covering of the antelope horn (sheath) is made of keratin, which is the same substance in human fingernails. Only this outside covering is shed each year. The Pronghorn Antelope is the fastest animal in Nevada and can leap 20 feet in great bounds at 60 miles per hour for short distances. The animal's keen eyesight enables it to see movement up to four miles away.



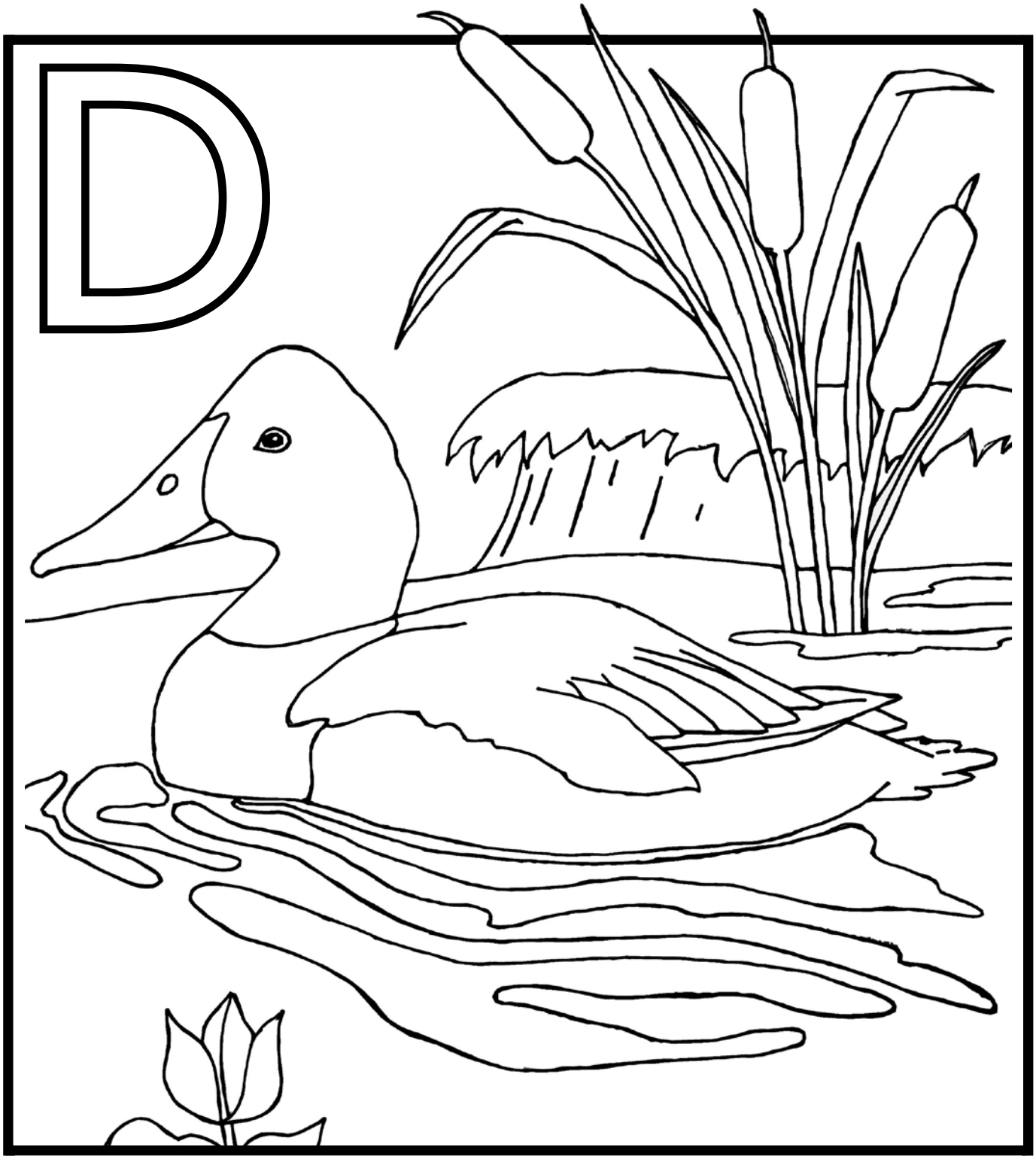
Mountain Bluebird

The Mountain Bluebird can be found in most of the western United States and Canada. Did you know that this beautiful little member of the wildlife family is the official state bird of Nevada? It is different from other bluebirds because of its hovering feeding behavior. It lives in sagebrush plains, mountain meadows, and timberline areas. The male Mountain Bluebird is entirely sky-blue with deeper and brighter blue on its wings and tail.



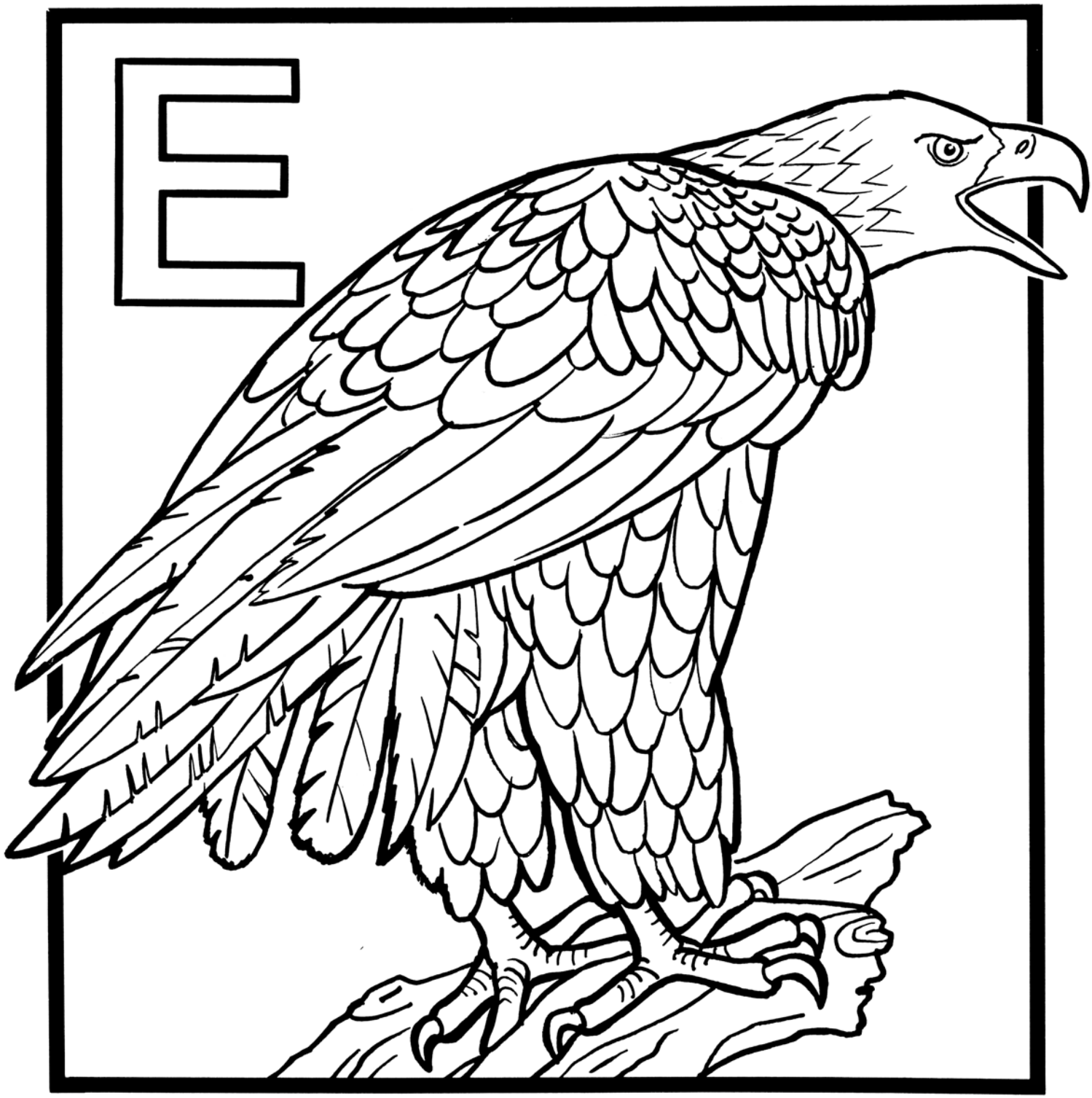
Cui-ui

The Cui-ui (pronounced Kwee-wee) is a very unusual fish. It only lives in one place in the world - Pyramid Lake in northern Nevada. Our government considers Cui-ui an “endangered species,” which means they are given a lot of protection by law. Fish biologists are trying to find ways to help the Cui-ui survive and reproduce. These fish are also unique because they can grow to be 40 years old.



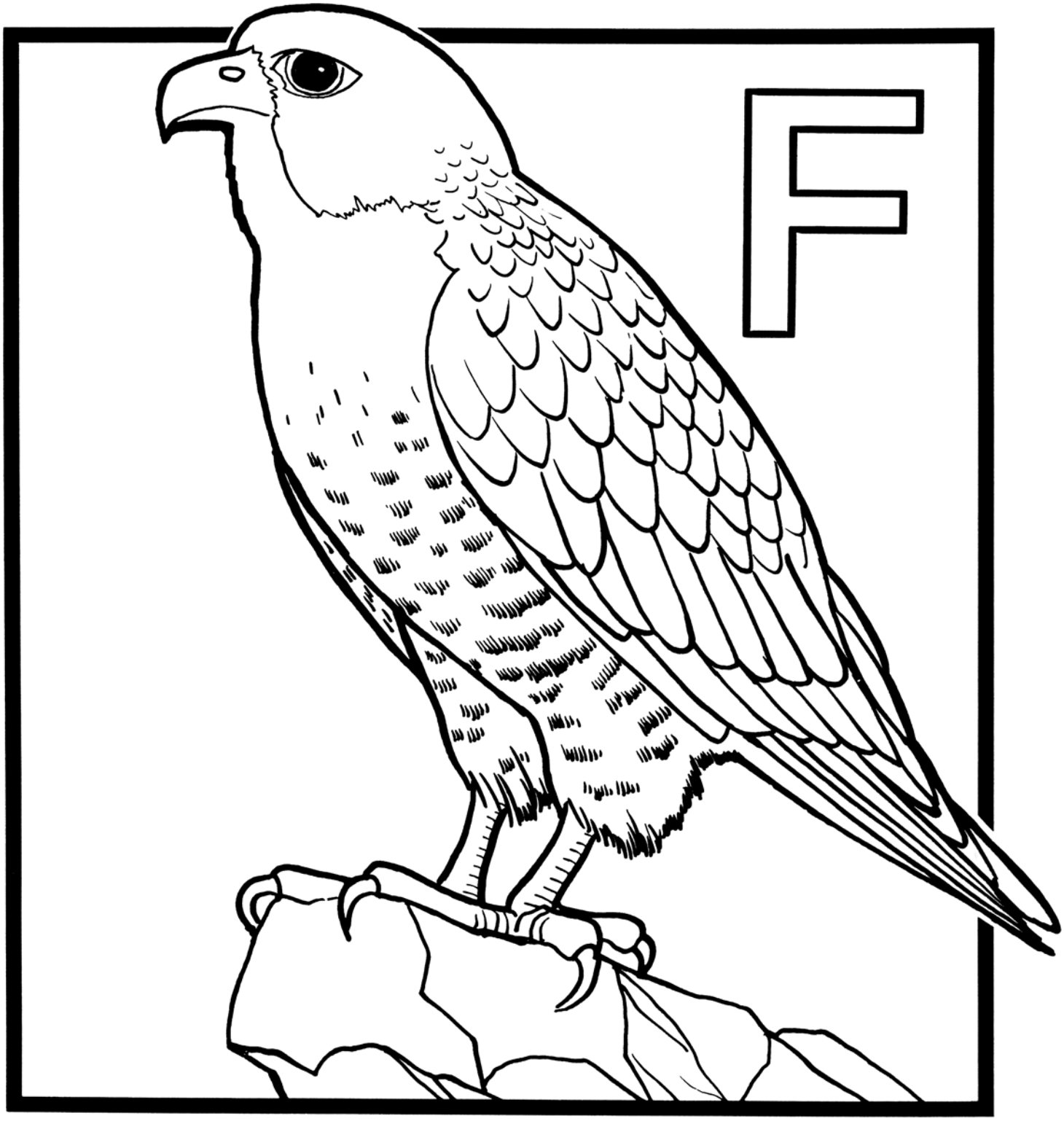
Canvasback Duck

The canvasback duck is the largest and fastest duck found in Nevada. Male canvasbacks are very distinct with the most white of any duck. They have a chestnut red head, long black bill and blood red eyes. The female has the same bill, but her body is brown with brown eyes. Canvasback ducks are diving ducks and can be found in deeper water throughout the state in the fall and winter.



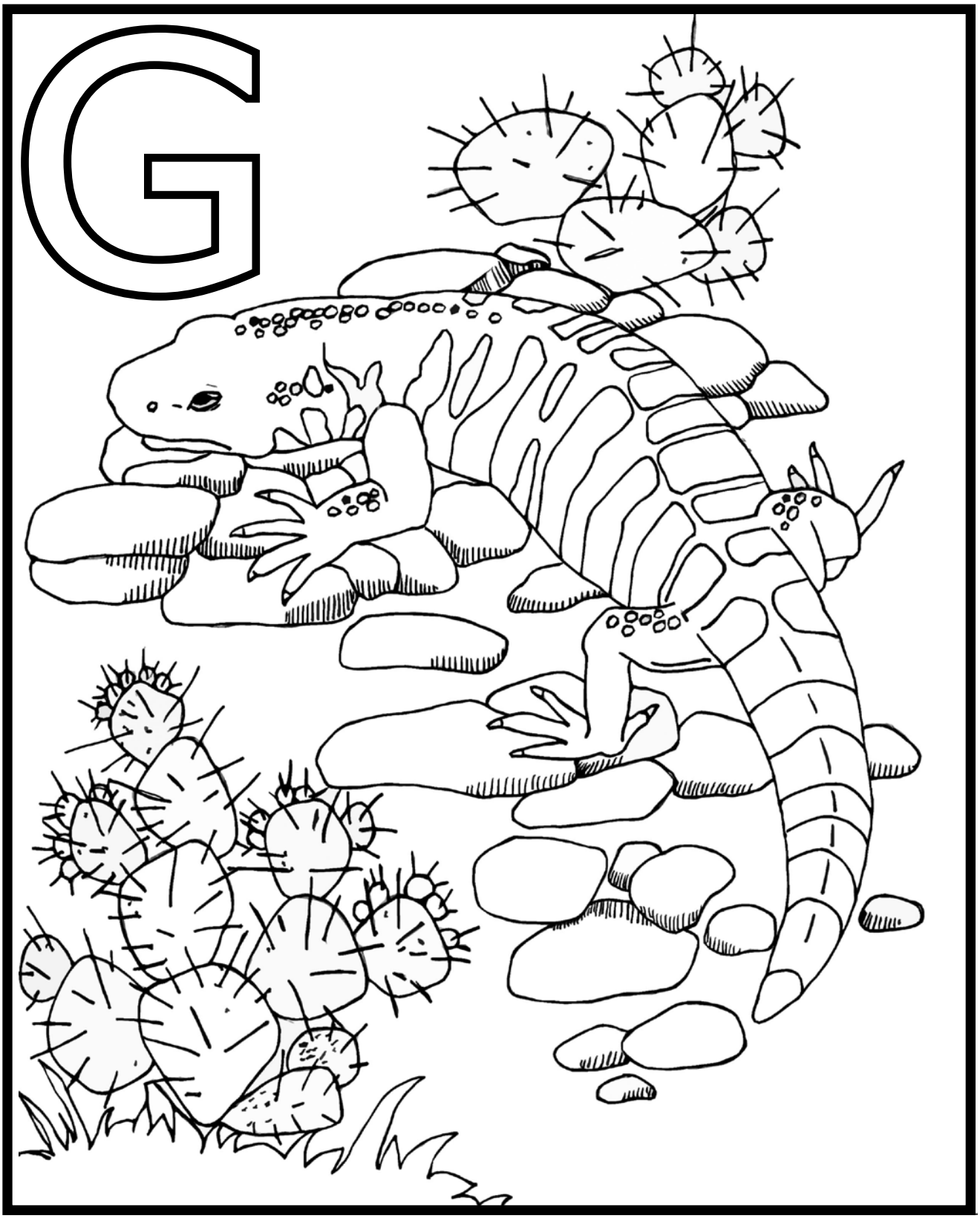
Golden Eagle

A raptor is a bird of prey, which means that it eats other animals that it catches for food. The Golden Eagle, Nevada's largest raptor, lives in our state year-round. The head and neck are a golden color, which explains the name of this beautiful bird. A Golden Eagle nest is often as large as six feet wide. Eagles care for their young by bringing rabbits, squirrels, or other small animals for them to feed upon.



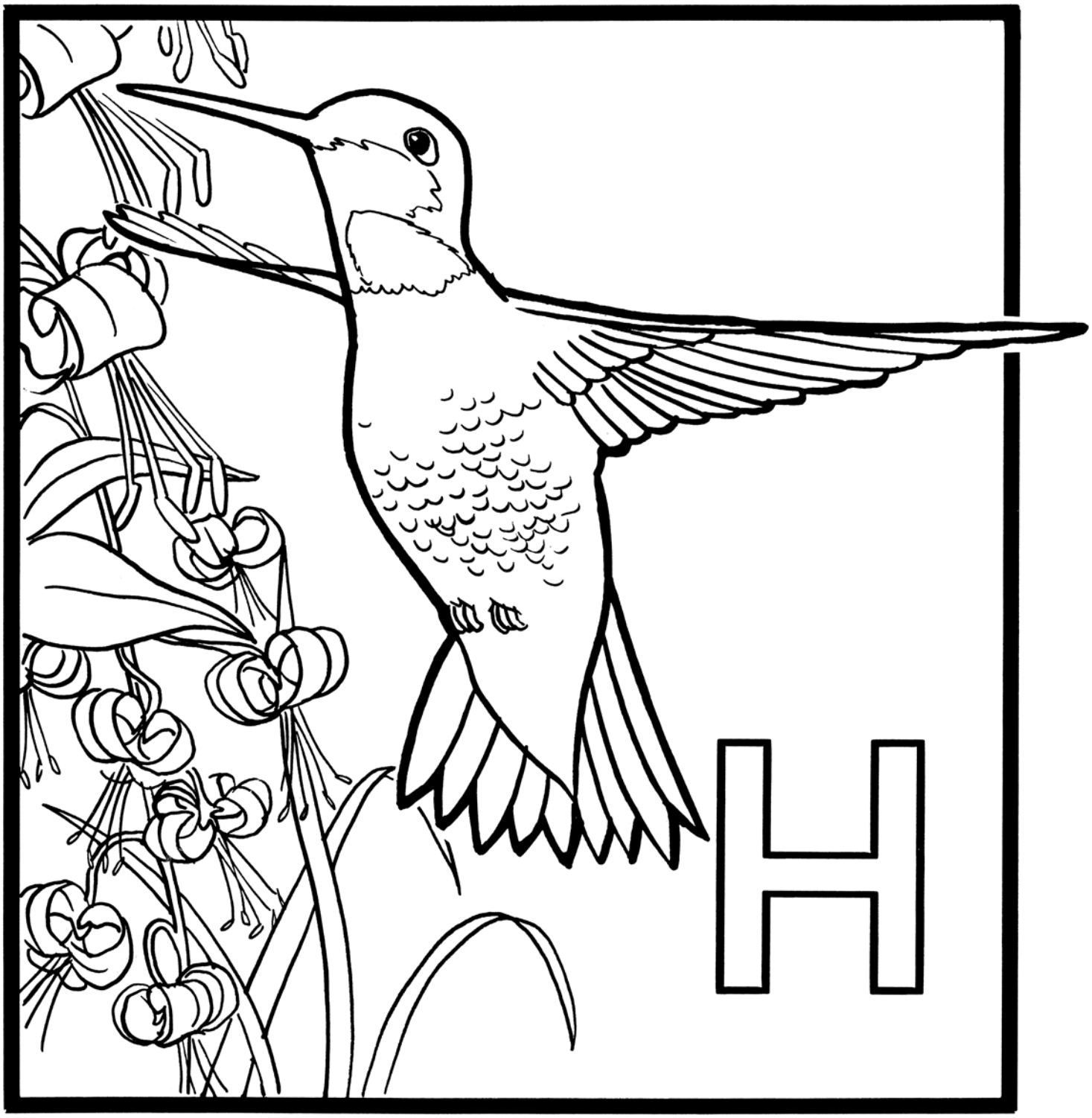
Peregrine Falcon

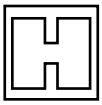
The Peregrine Falcon is a Nevada raptor which hunts smaller birds for its food. After climbing above its target, the falcon “stoops” (dives) and hits its prey with its talons. Since falcons do not build nests, their home is made out of a scrape or depression in the soil on cliff ledges. The fast-flying peregrine can go 65 miles per hour in level flight, and can go faster than 200 miles per hour when diving.



Gila Monster

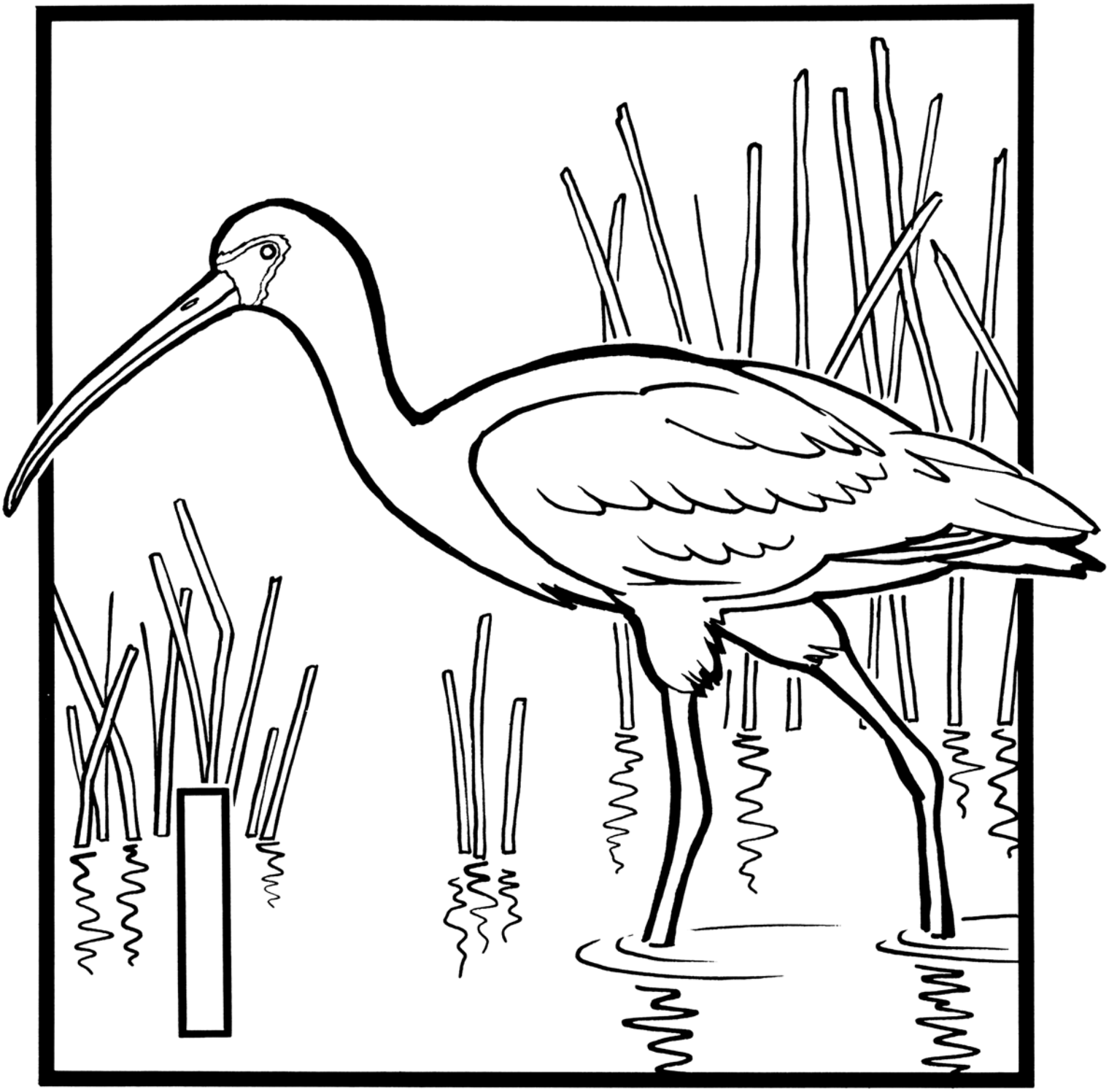
The Gila (Hee-la) monster is one of the largest, native lizards found in the United States. Found in southern Nevada, the Gila monster is the only venomous lizard in the state. This lizard feeds mainly at night on small mammals, birds and eggs. They mate in the summer months with the female laying 3 – 5 eggs in sandy soils, burrows or under rocks during the fall or winter.





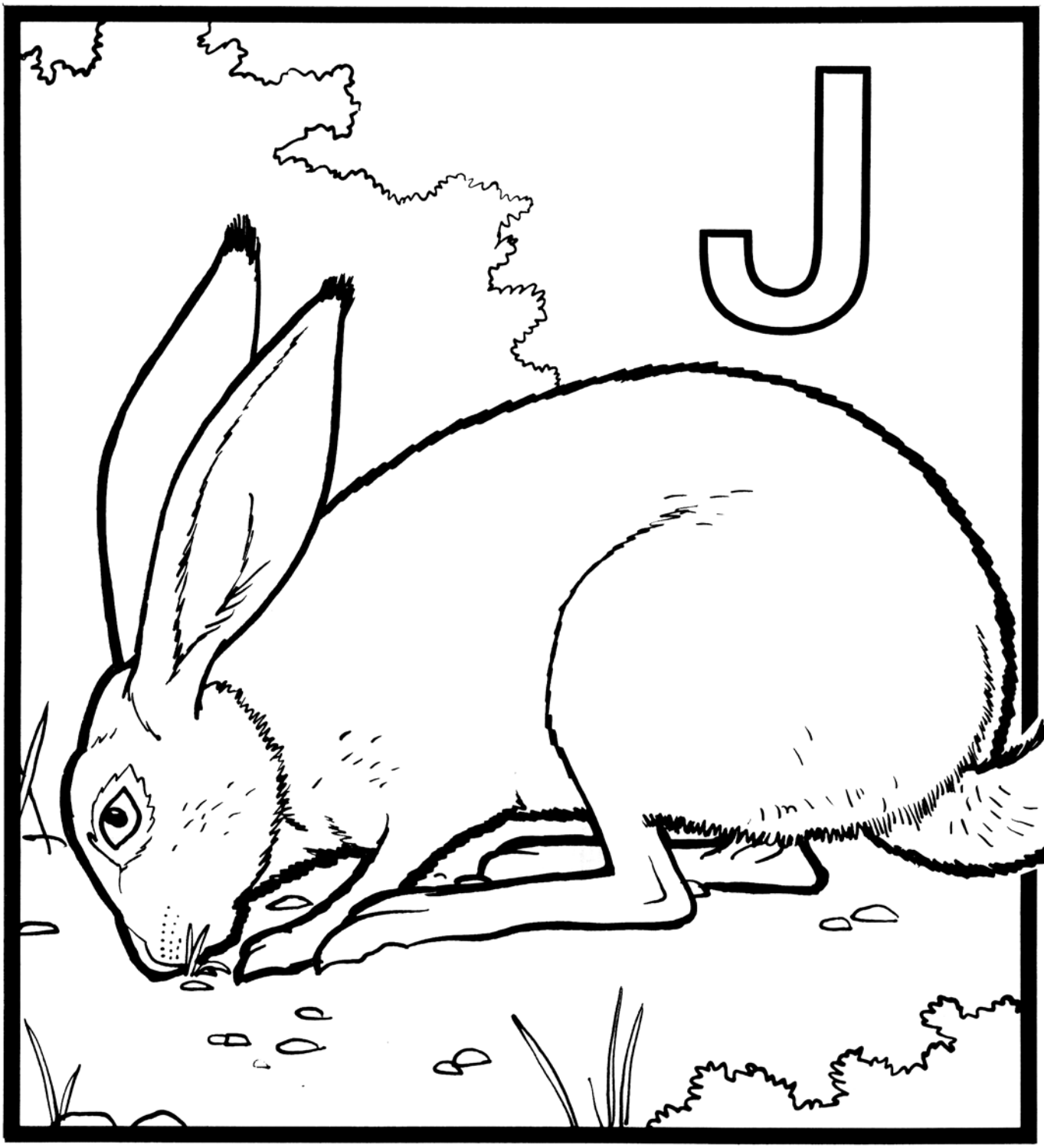
Black-chinned Hummingbird

This bird lives in the western half of the United States and has the unique ability to fly backwards, straight up, and hover in place like a helicopter! These birds have long, needle shaped bills which are used to sip nectar from flowers. They fly so quickly, and the wingbeats are so fast, that the bird's wings are a blur. Two distinctive features of this hummingbird are the small white spot behind the eye, and the dark chin which gives it the name "Black-chinned Hummingbird."



White-faced Ibis

The Ibis is a medium-sized bird. It spends a lot of time wading in water. The long legs, neck, and bill adapt this bird to living in wetlands, usually in a marsh. The Ibis uses its long bill to reach down in the mud to feed on crayfish. It also walks through wet meadows, eating grasshoppers and frogs.

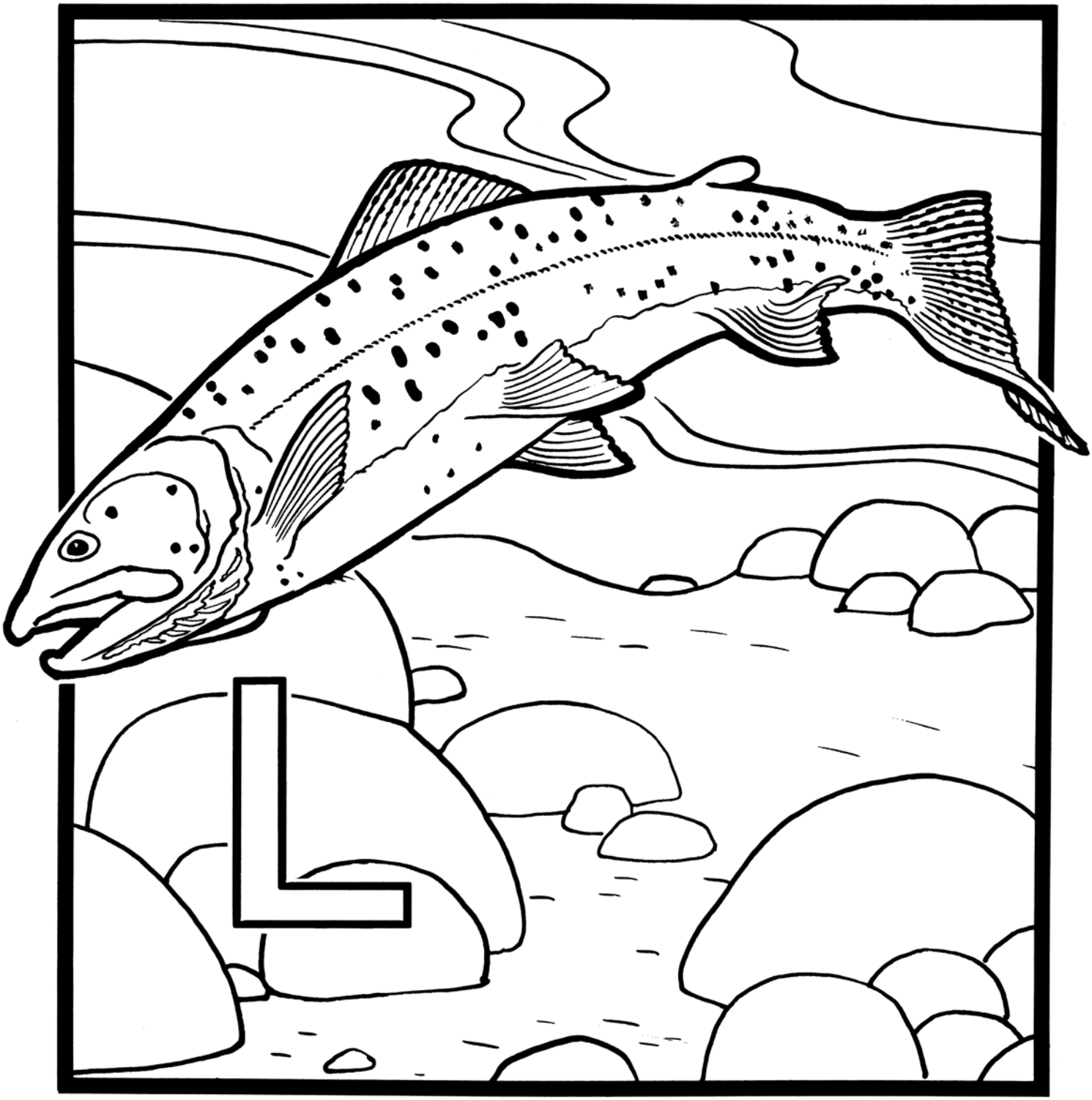


J **Black-tailed Jack Rabbit**

The Black-tailed Jack Rabbit calls all of Nevada its home. It can be seen running through prickly pear cactus in southern Nevada, or through sagebrush prairies and meadows in the north. When this rabbit runs away from a predator, it flashes the white underside of its tail, alerting other jack rabbits of danger.

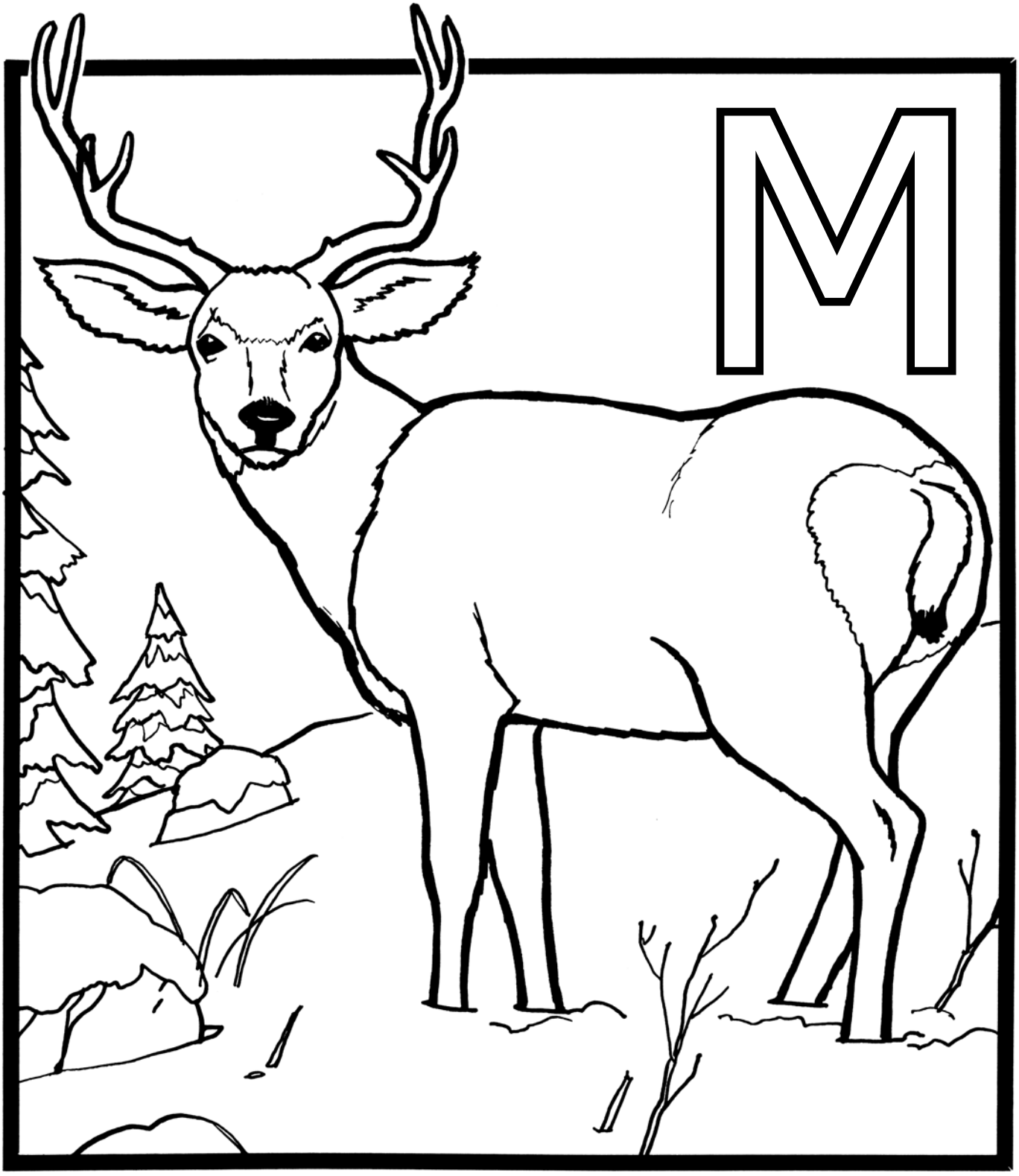
Kangaroo Rat

The Kangaroo Rat is nocturnal, meaning that it is active at night and quiet during the day. These little creatures get the “Kangaroo” part of their name from their long hind legs and hopping motion. When alarmed, a Kangaroo Rat can leap almost nine feet. Living in mostly dry areas, they rarely drink water. They obtain their moisture needs from the seeds and leaves they eat.



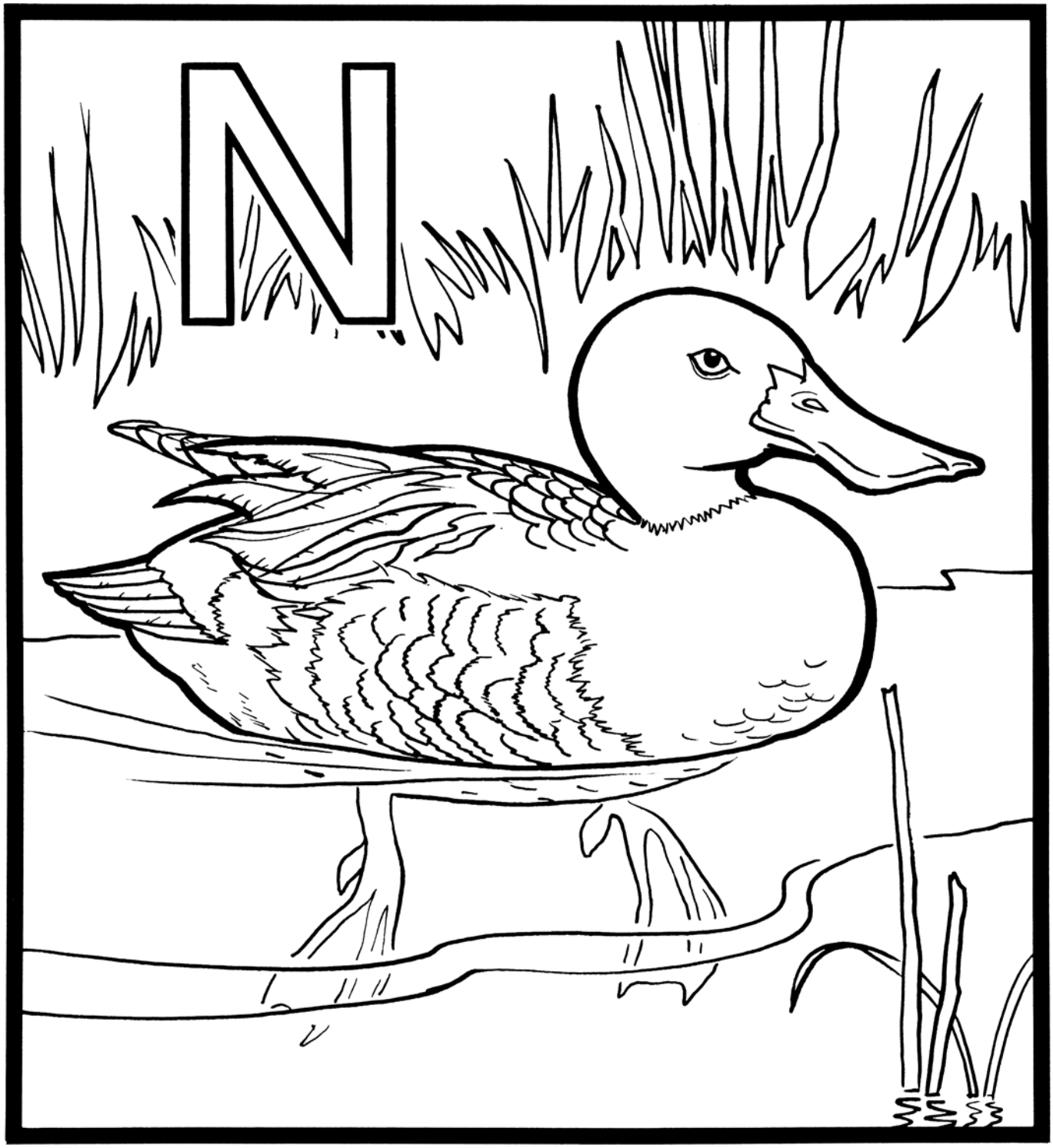
Lahontan Cutthroat Trout

The Lahontan Cutthroat Trout has lived in our state for a long time, and is the official Nevada state fish. There is a red “slash” under the jaw which caused early explorers to name it the Cutthroat Trout. If you are lucky enough to catch one, notice the teeth that are located on the back of the tongue! This popular fish is still found throughout the northern half of Nevada in waters such as Pyramid Lake, Walker Lake, and many other rivers and streams in the “Great Basin” that we live in.



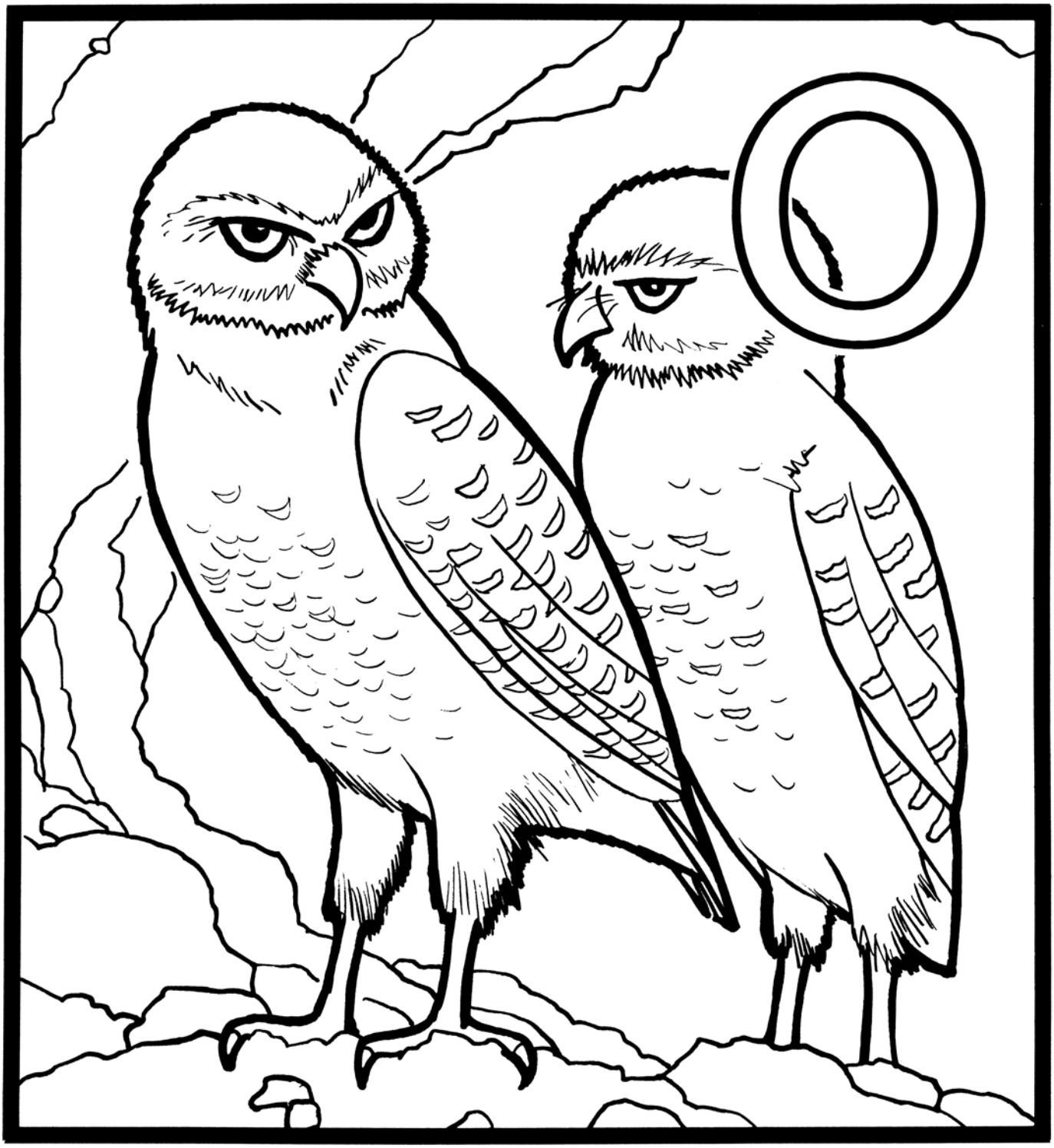
Mule Deer

Mule Deer live along the edge of forests on mountains and foothills throughout the western half of the United States. They are the only deer found in Nevada. These deer are called “mule” deer because of their long “mule-like” ears. Does, or female deer, give birth to one or two fawns who recognize their mother by smell. Only male deer, called “bucks”, grow antlers which are shed once a year.



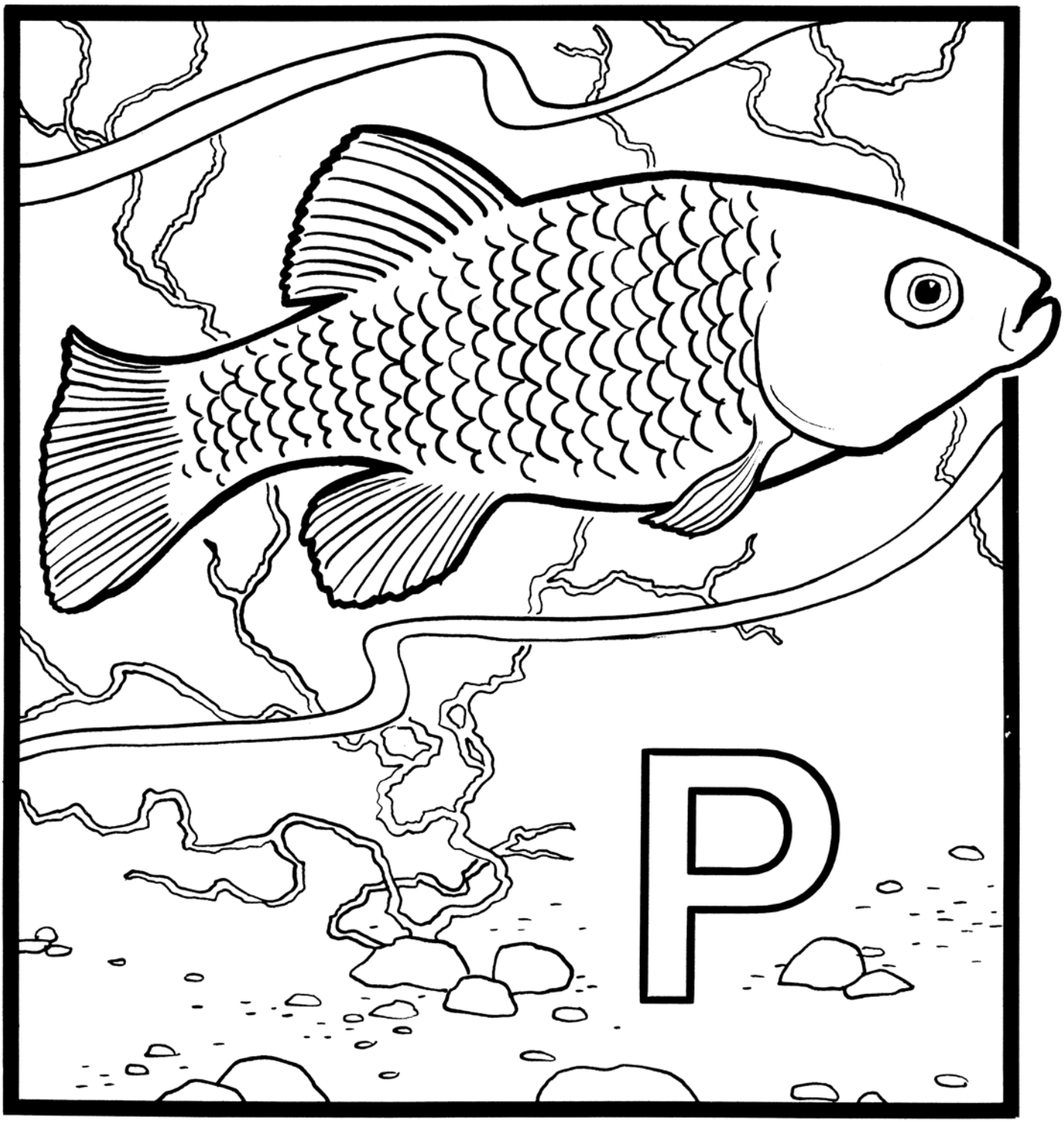
Northern Shoveler

The Northern Shoveler is a common duck in Nevada and is most easily seen swimming in shallow waters such as a marsh. The most obvious reason for its name is the bill that looks like a “shovel.” The Northern Shoveler uses its bill as a scoop to skim the surface of the water for food while swimming. Have you ever seen a Northern Shoveler?



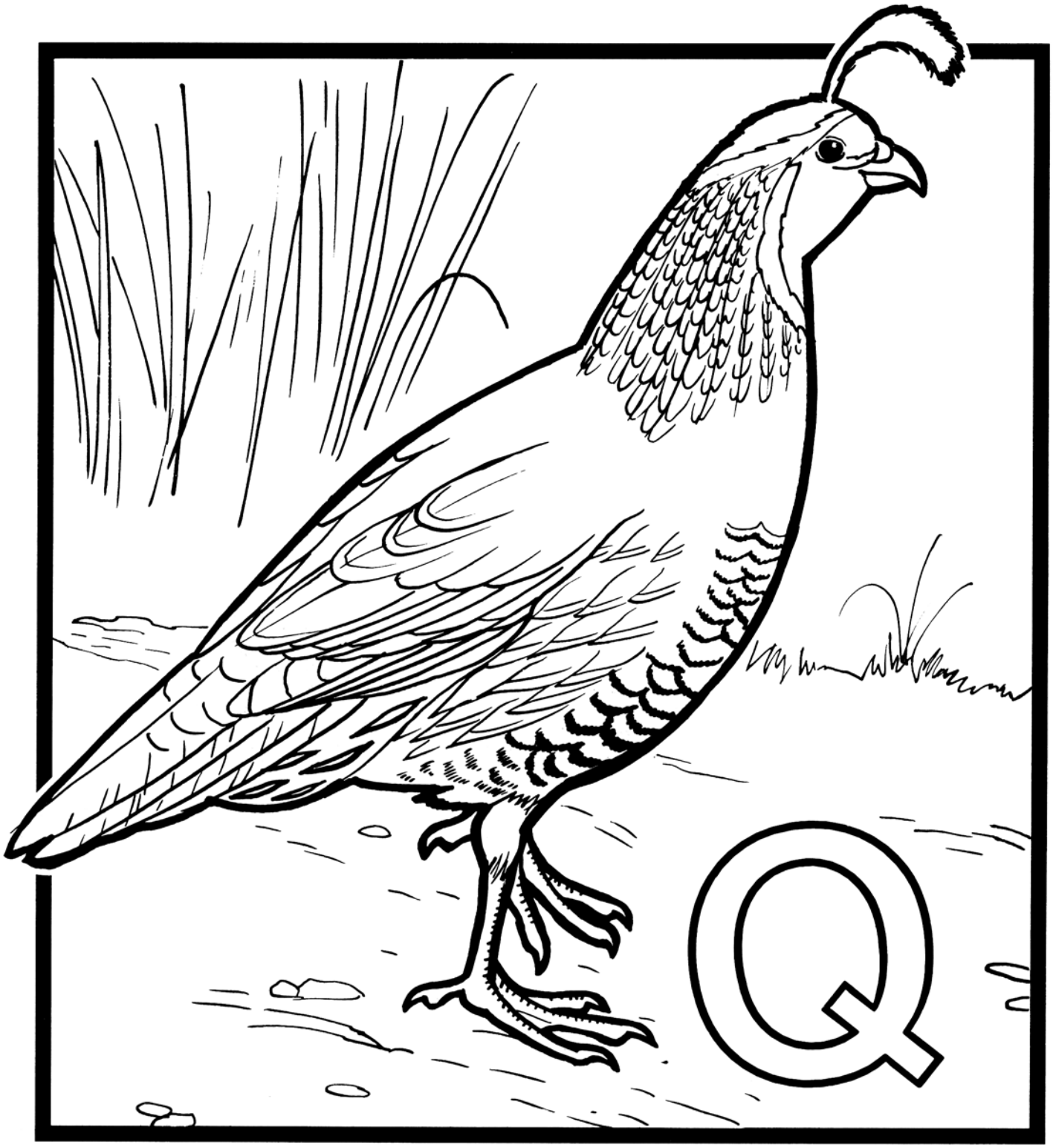
Burrowing Owl

This Nevada raptor has earned the nickname of “Howdy-do-Owl” from the peculiar nodding and bowing gesture it makes when disturbed by people. Most owls live in trees and cannot live without them, but Burrowing Owls are unusual because they live in open flatlands and not in trees. The dry valleys of Nevada are home to a large number of animals who build and live in holes in the ground known as burrows. When these animals leave their home, Burrowing Owls move in and soon build their own nest on the burrow floor.



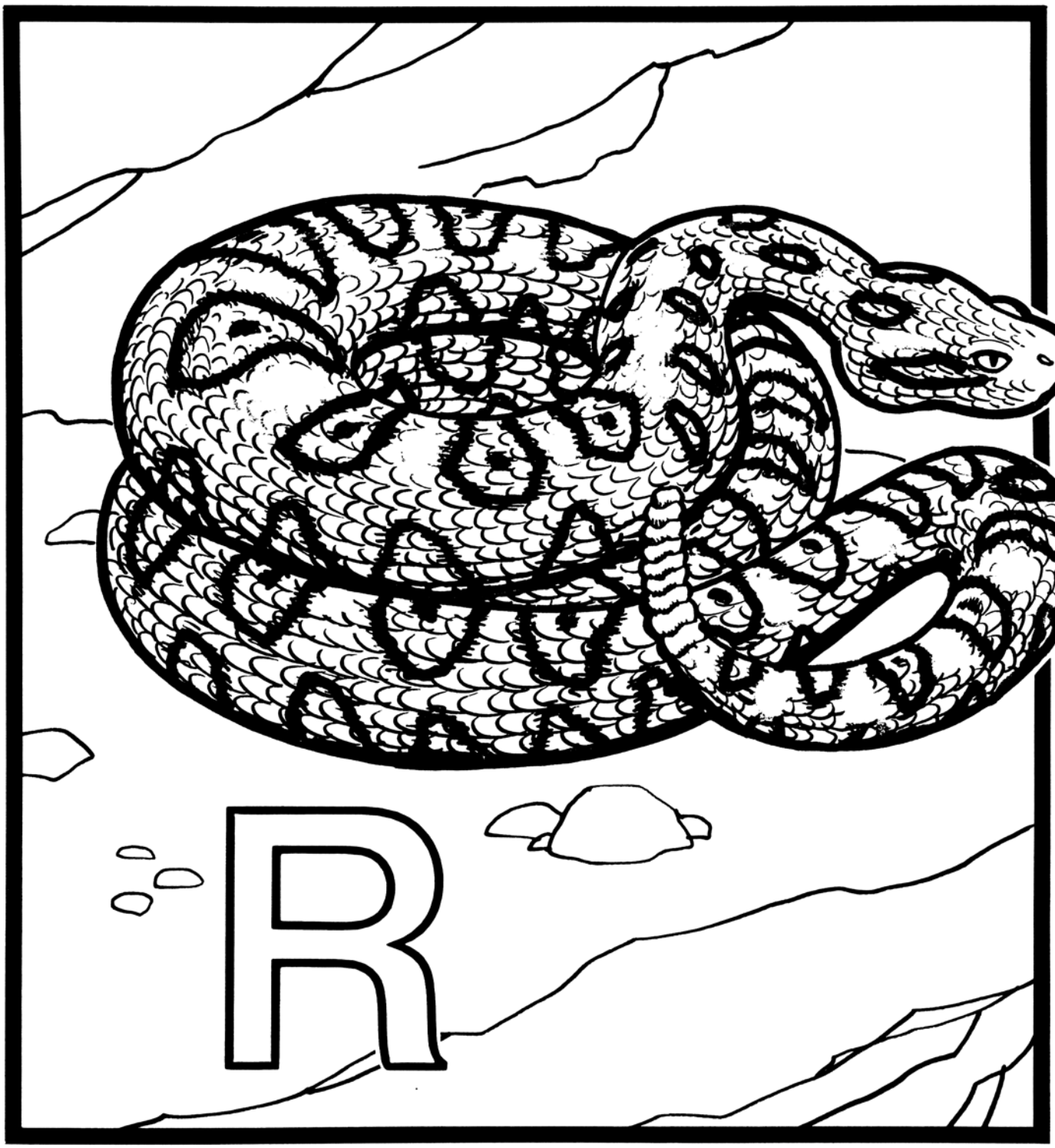
Pupfish

Pupfish are about the same length as a house key and live in warm water springs in southwestern Nevada. They are called Pupfish because they act excited, like a puppy, when approached. Because there are only a few left in the entire world, Pupfish are listed as “endangered” and protected by law. By protecting their “homes,” we keep them alive, along with the other animals and fish that live in the desert.



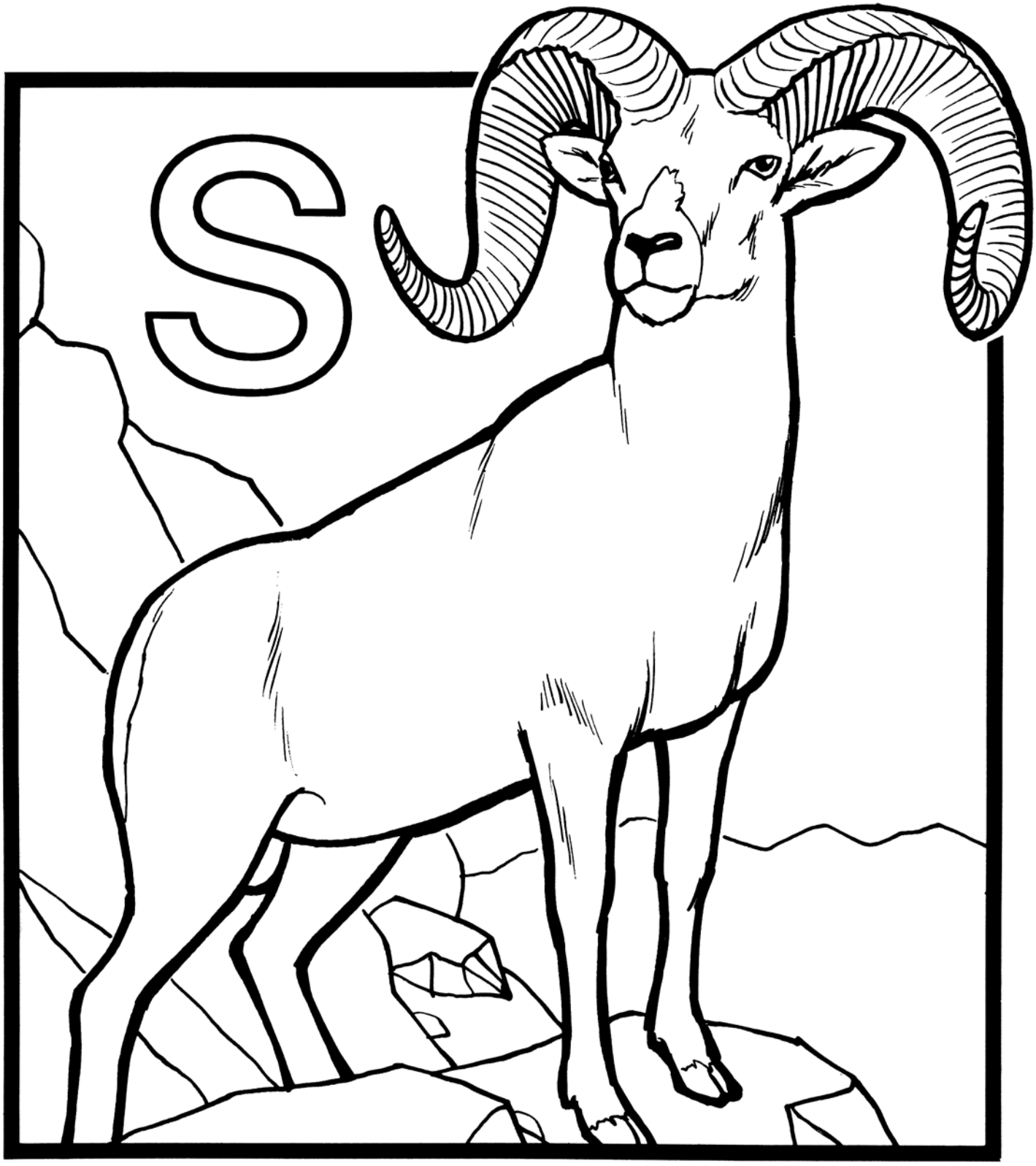
California Quail

The California Quail is a small bird which lives in California and much of northern Nevada. The long feather on top of its head is called a plume and is longer on males than females. This colorful bird lives in brushy areas and has also become used to living near people. Quail are often seen in many Nevada towns and cities. Look for California Quail while walking to school!



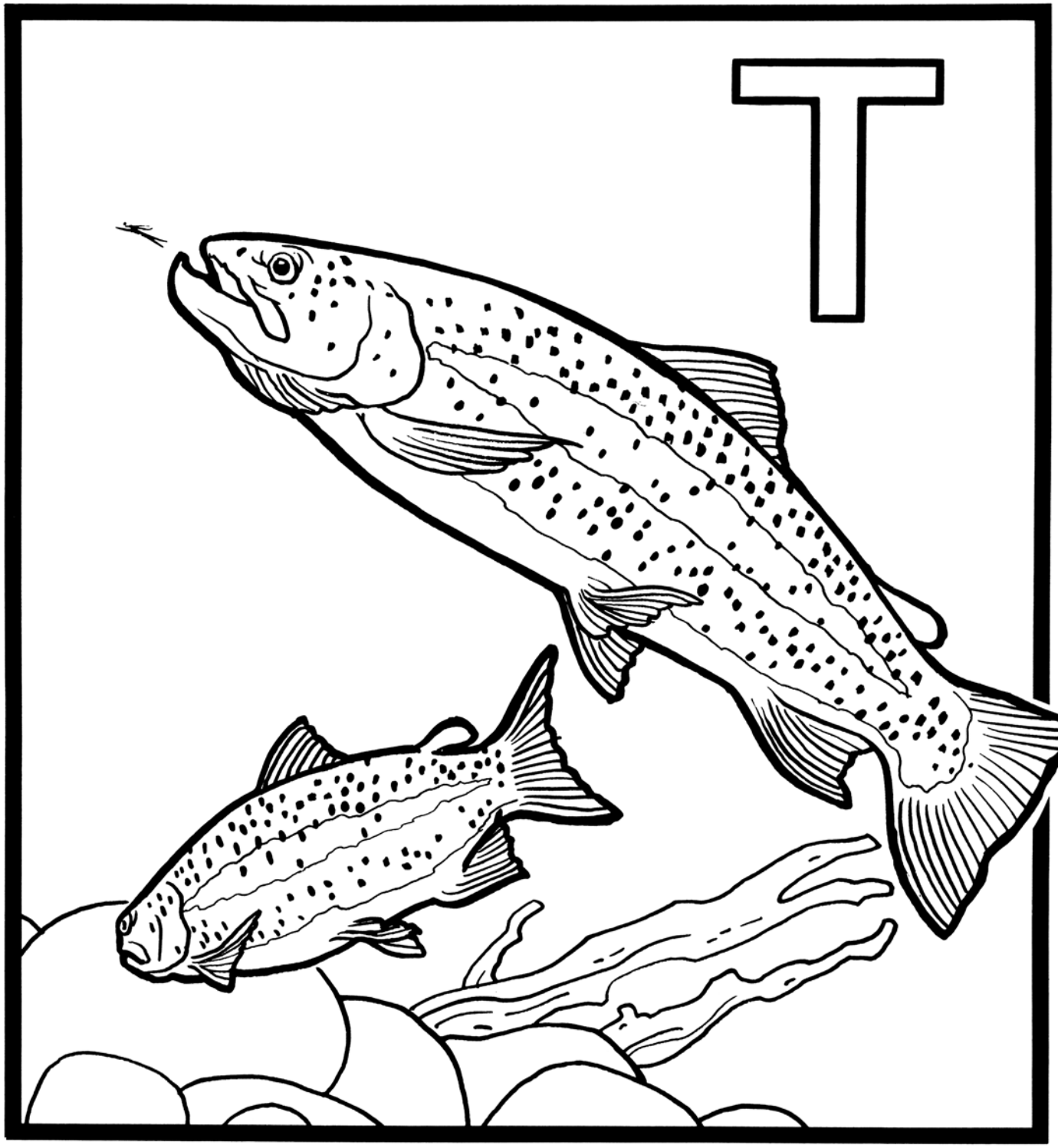
Western Rattlesnake

The Western Rattlesnake is the most common rattlesnake in Nevada. Even though the rattlesnake's color and camouflage pattern is not always the same, one identical feature on all rattlesnakes is the rattle at the end of the tail. This reptile is poisonous, which means you could get very sick or even die if bitten by a rattlesnake. Never get too close or try to play with a rattlesnake!



Desert Bighorn Sheep

The Desert Bighorn is Nevada's official state animal. This wild sheep lives in rocky mountain areas where the climate is hot and dry. Most people would find it quite uncomfortable and very hard to walk in such an area. Because they live in such difficult places, it can be several days between visits to a watering hole. But the Desert Bighorn can get some of the water it needs from the desert plants it eats.

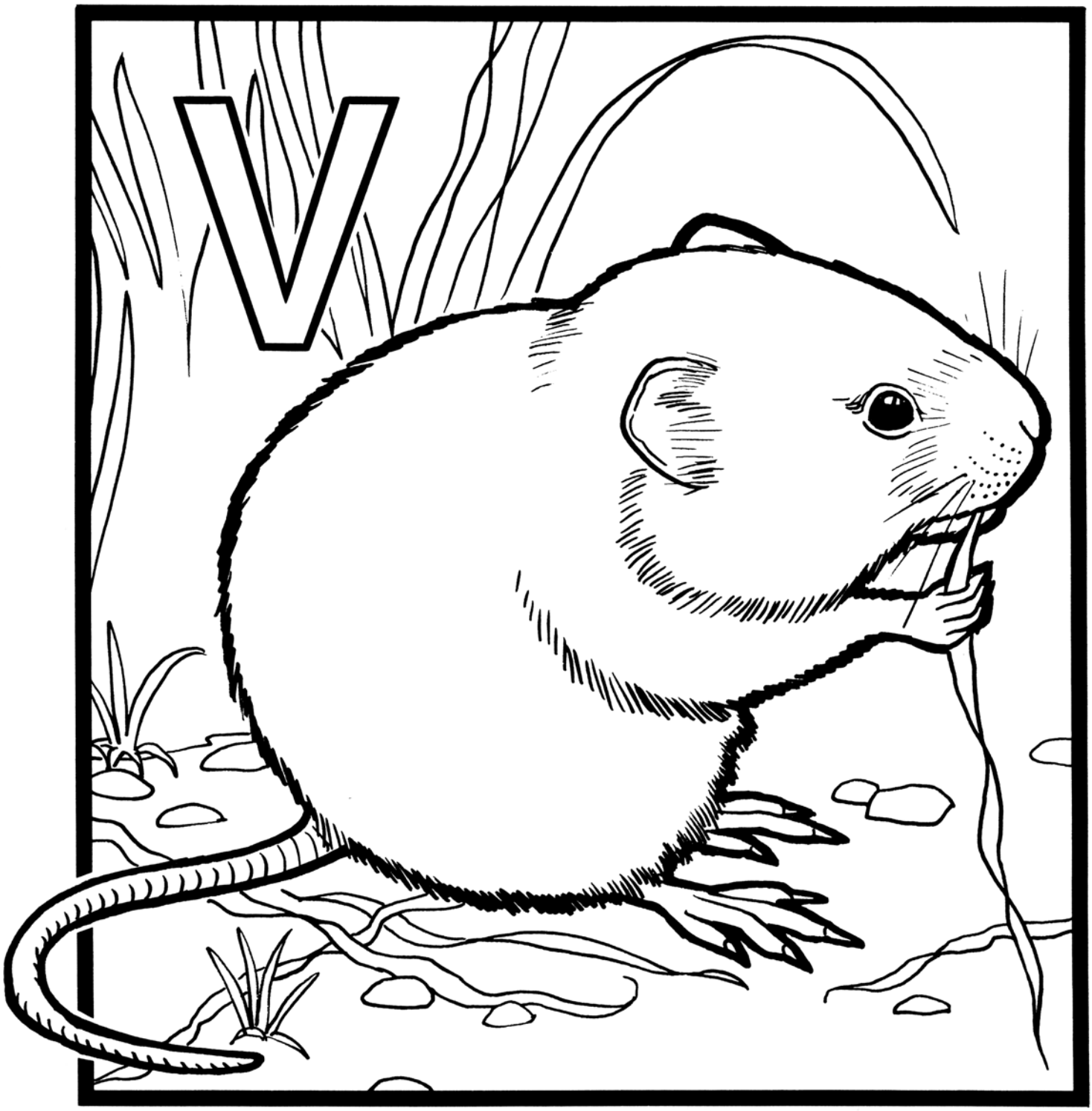


Rainbow Trout

The Rainbow Trout can be found in most of the freshwater streams and lakes in Nevada. Named for its many shades of red, blue, and pink, the Rainbow is the trout most often caught by Nevada anglers. Rainbow Trout can also be seen at most of the fish hatcheries in Nevada.

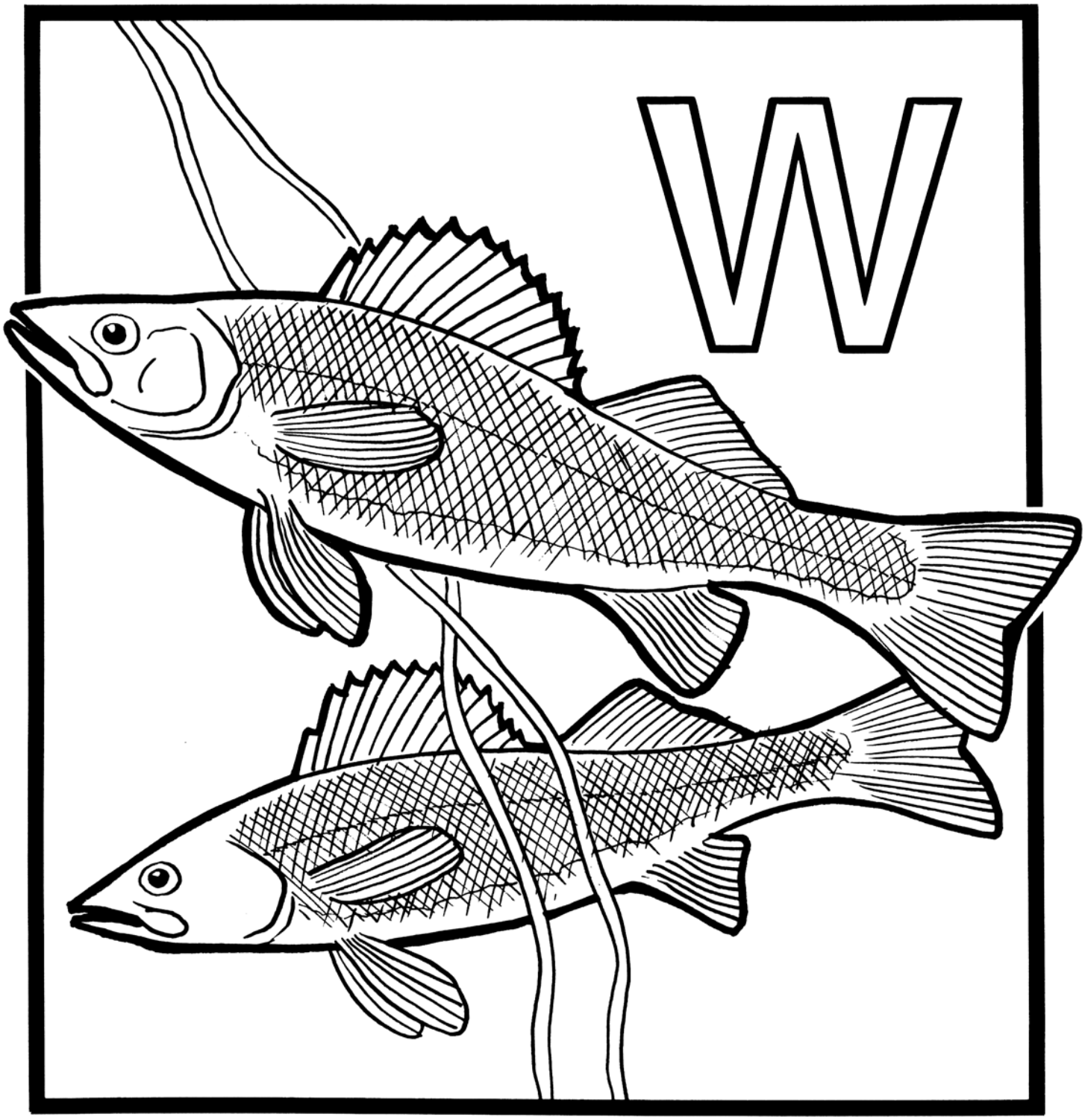
Uinta Chipmunk

This small animal lives mostly in trees and eats large amounts of nuts, seeds, fruits, and berries during the summer months. It does this to build up a large supply of fat so that it can hibernate (sleep) through the cold winter. The pattern of dark stripes on its back and face helps it to blend in with the surrounding countryside, making hiding easier.



Sagebrush Vole

The Sagebrush Vole lives in sagebrush and grass-sage areas across the state of Nevada. This animal eats grass and green plants in the summer, and bark or roots in the winter. When alarmed by a predator such as a coyote, the vole will warn others by “drumming” or scratching with its hind feet. In the summer, voles live in burrows, but in the winter they keep warm by building small nests of grass and weeds.

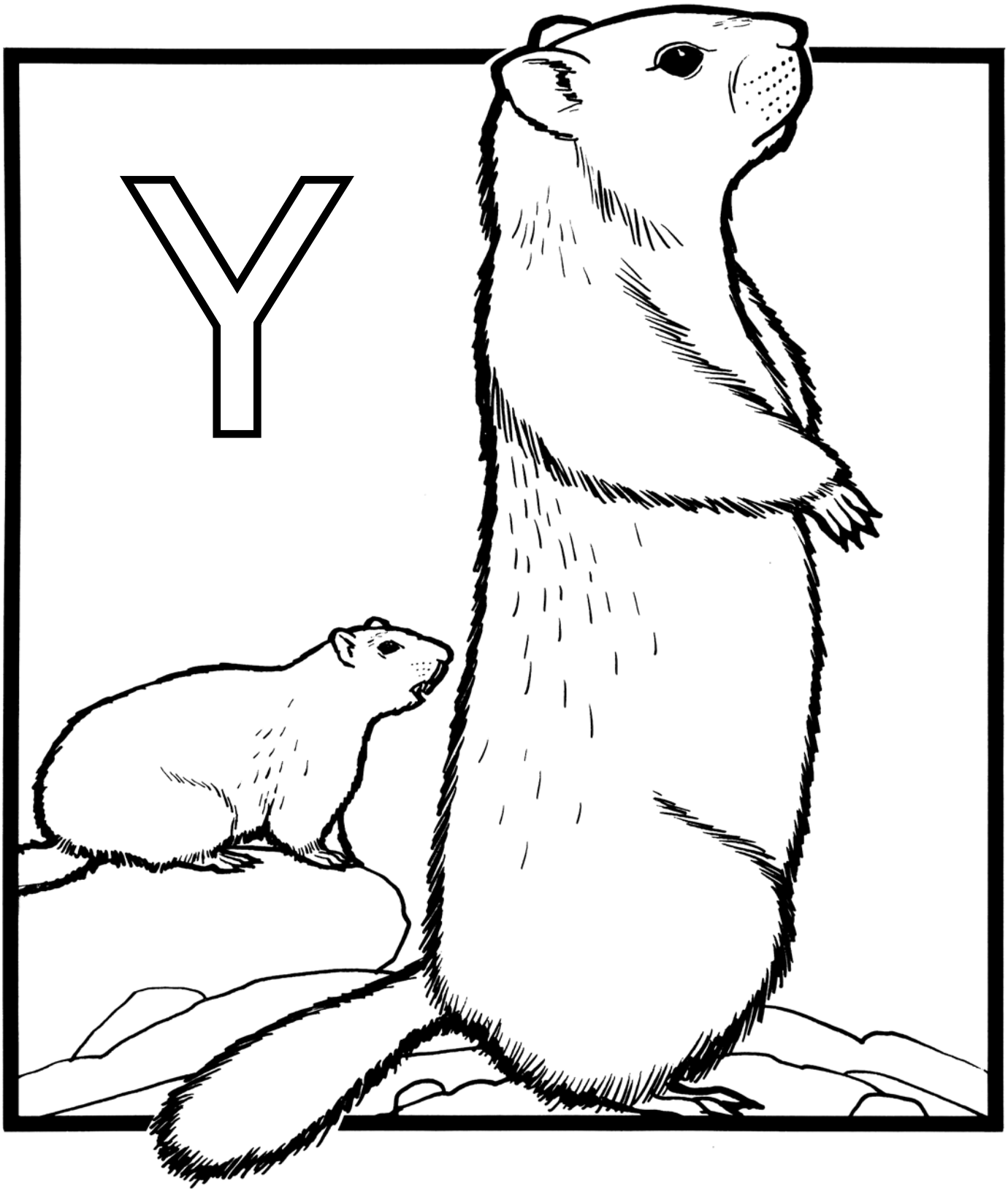


Walleye

Walleye, the largest fish in the perch family, were brought into Nevada by fishery biologists. Because of its size and fighting ability, they are becoming very popular with fishermen. The Walleye lives mostly in large lakes and reservoirs. This fish has a lot of teeth, including large canine teeth used when catching and eating smaller fish. Walleye are very good to eat, but watch out for those teeth when you catch one!

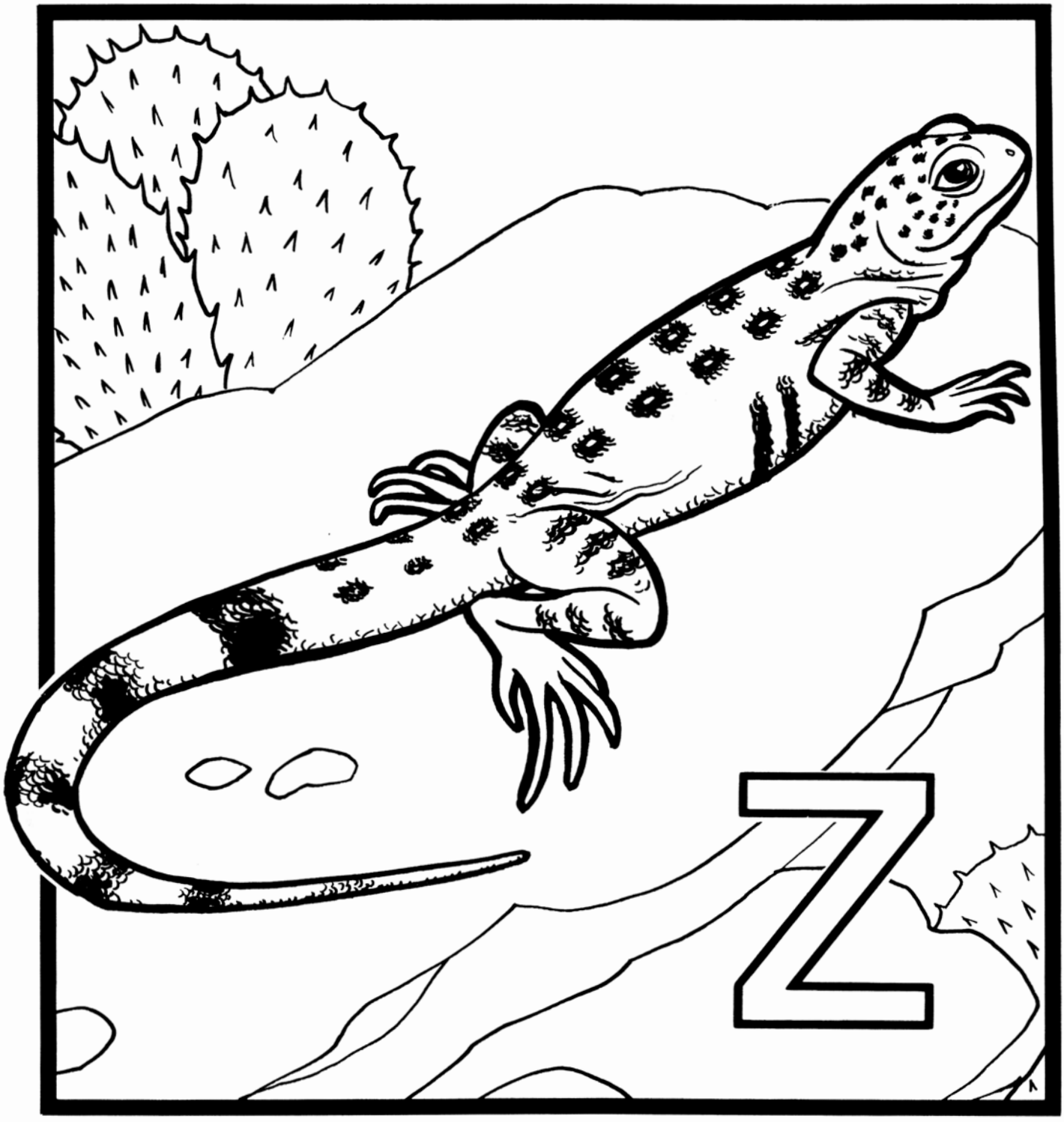
Xantusia Lizard

Xantusia (pronounced Zan-too-zia) is the scientific name of the Desert Night Lizard. Scientists name all living things with Latin terms so that people thoughout the world will know which animal they are talking about. The Desert Night Lizard, a reptile, lives in the rocky areas of the southern Nevada desert, among Joshua trees and yuccas. A reptile is a “cold-blooded” animal, meaning its body temperature is the same as its surroundings.



Yellow-bellied Marmot

Home for the Yellow-bellied Marmot is usually under a rock slide or in a burrow. The marmot spends a lot of time on top of large boulders sunning and lazily watching the scenery. Also known as rockchucks, marmots usually form colonies of several individuals, keeping each other company and giving better “look-out” protection. These furry animals eat lots of green vegetation and store fat to help them survive through hibernation in the winter.



Z **Zebra-tailed Lizard**

Living in almost all of the counties in Nevada, the colorful Zebra-tailed Lizard curls its long striped tail over its back as it swiftly runs away from strangers. This reptile will eat insects, spiders, smaller lizards, and some flowers. Lizards reproduce by laying eggs.

LET'S REVIEW WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED ABOUT NEVADA'S WILDLIFE

A. Which animal has a pronghorn? _____

B. What is the name of the state bird? _____

C. What endangered fish lives in Pyramid Lake? _____

D. This is the largest and fastest duck in Nevada. _____

E. The golden colored raptor is called the _____

F. This raptor "stoops" on its prey. _____

G. This lizard feeds mainly at night on small mammals, birds and eggs. _____

H. This bird flies backwards, vertically and hovers. _____

I. This wading bird has long legs, neck and tail. _____

J. This rabbit has a black tail and long ears. _____

K. This rat has a spectacular "kangaroo" hop. _____

L. This is the state fish and has a red slash under the jaw. _____

M. A "buck" is the male of the _____

N. A _____ is a duck with a bill like a shovel.

O. The "Howdy-do-Owl" is called _____

P. These small fish act like puppies when disturbed. _____

Q. This bird has a plume on top of its head. _____

R. This western snake has a rattle on its tail and is poisonous. _____

S. Nevada's state animal (with big horns) is the _____

T. This trout has a rainbow colored side. _____

U. This small animal lives mostly in trees and eats large amounts of nuts, seeds, fruits, and berries during the summer months. _____

V. This animal lives around the sagebrush and warns others by "drumming" or scratching with its hind feet. _____

W. The largest fish in the Perch family is the _____

X. This lizard lives in the rocky areas of the southern Nevada desert. _____

Y. A furry animal also known as a "rockchuck," is called _____

Z. This reptile has a zebra pattern on his tail. _____

Experience Nevada's Wildlife...It's Worth It!