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Color Wisconsin: a book of drawings and verse for children of all ages. Special section, [Vol. 13, No. 6] [December 1989]

Gomoll, Jeanne; Mecozzi, Maureen

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COLOR WISCONSIN

**A Book of
Drawings and
Verse for
Children of all
Ages**

A Note to Adults

It's never too early to share the lessons of nature! We hope you'll take time to sit down with your children, grandchildren or a young friend and read the verse aloud before the crayons are put to the page. Use the additional information below to help older kids understand some of the complex environmental problems society faces and to spark a lifelong appreciation of the beauty and mystery of the natural world.

Page 2: Human actions can have long-term consequences in the environment: Wisconsin's stable peregrine falcon population declined in the 1950s and '60s from the effects of DDT, an agricultural pesticide that becomes more highly concentrated with each link in the food chain (from plants, to plant-eating insects, to insect-eating birds, to bird-eating falcons). DDT was banned in the U.S. in 1972 but residues remain in the environment.

An endangered species, peregrine falcons have been reintroduced successfully in downtown Milwaukee, where the tall concrete and stone buildings mimic high cliffs, the birds' historic habitat. After spotting prey with its keen eyes, the peregrine begins a stoop — a stream-lined dive with tail and wings folded and feet back. The peregrine hits its prey (usually a pigeon or starling), stunning or killing it, then swoops back around to catch it in mid-air. During a stoop, peregrines may reach speeds of 200 mph.

Page 3: Learning to appreciate nature involves all the senses: sight, touch, smell, taste and sound. When camping or hiking with children, encourage them to be quiet and to close their eyes for a time so they can listen carefully to bird songs, small mammals scurrying through leaves, and the wind.

Page 4: Make a birthday, holiday or other special occasion truly memorable by planting a tree with a child. It's a good starting point for discussions about replenishing and protecting natural resources for future generations. Besides adding beauty and value to urban and rural landscapes, trees help ease the greenhouse effect by absorbing carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen into the air we breathe.

Page 5: Like many other fish and wildlife species, brook, brown and rainbow trout need certain environmental conditions to survive and flourish: Cold water, plenty of oxygen, undercut banks and other places to hide and rest, gravel beds for spawning and abundant supplies of insects and smaller fish for food. Many state conservation clubs help the Department of Natural Resources maintain and improve habitat on Wisconsin's 2,500 trout streams; they welcome young members who are curious about fishing and the outdoors.

Page 6: Horicon Marsh, a 32,000-acre wildlife area in Dodge County, is the largest cattail marsh in North America and a fall rest stop for over 250,000 Canada geese en route to their wintering grounds in southern Illinois. As autumn approaches and the days shorten, the large birds leave their summer home on the south shore of Hudson Bay, often making the 850-mile journey to Horicon in one day. The marsh is a great place for kids on a fall family outing or school field trip to learn about nature's seasonal cycles.

Page 7: When humans change a wild area, it seldom can be returned to exactly what it was before. Only 3,000 acres of prairie remain to tell the story of the waving grasses and delicate flowers that once covered two million acres in southern and central Wisconsin. A complex plant community like a prairie is difficult to restore fully once it has been cultivated or developed. Yet many people strive to recreate this part of their natural heritage by planting prairie flowers and grasses in yards and along roadsides.

Page 8: Finding a balance between human needs and the needs of wildlife is a challenge all generations must accept.

Besides being a major artery for commerce in the U.S., the Mississippi is an important river for waterfowl, fish, mollusks and mammals. Dams and regular dredging have changed the physical makeup of the river, in essence turning it into a series of long lakes, or pools. Many bird and animal species can adapt to a change in their environment, but some can't, and we threaten their very existence by our actions.

Page 9: Although kids may find winter a dull season compared to summer, there's still plenty of activity outdoors! Take a hike in the snow and look for deer, rabbit, raccoon, pheasant, chipmunk and other animal tracks. Some animals have special defenses against the cold: Woodchucks and ground squirrels hibernate; black bears fall into a deep sleep (not so deep that they are hibernating, however); and pine martens (small members of the weasel family) have thick, soft fur and long hairs that grow between their toe pads to keep the feet warm.

Page 10: We have an abundance of inexpensive food, but it comes at a high price: Forests, wetlands and prairies have been cut, drained and burned to accommodate the plow and the needs of a growing population. As these natural areas disappeared, many animal, bird and plant species were displaced or vanished from the state. Conscientious farming practices, such as maintaining hedgerows and contour plowing to prevent soil runoff can enhance farmland for wildlife without sacrificing profit.

Page 11: Help children grasp two important concepts — recycling and concern for wildlife — with one fun project! Spend an afternoon building bird feeders from washed-out milk cartons and plastic soda pop or detergent bottles. Let the kids

take responsibility for keeping the feeder filled (or, if they're too small to reach, to let you know when it should be filled.) A bird feeder turns the dining-room window into a front-row seat for watching nature in action.

Page 12: Children should know that all of our food comes directly or indirectly from wild plants and animals. The domestic Thanksgiving turkey, for instance, has wild ancestors. Wild turkeys, once native to Wisconsin, were an important food source for Indians and settlers. Increased agriculture and logging led to the clearing of oak forests — the turkey's primary habitat — and by 1881 the species had disappeared from the state. Wisconsin's largest game bird has been reintroduced successfully in recent years through stocking and habitat management. In fall and winter, wild turkeys feed on farm-field grains and acorns, a food also consumed by grouse, squirrel and other wildlife species.

Page 13: The interdependence of all living things — from bacteria to plants, animals, fish and humans — can be illustrated with the idea of a "food chain." Small fish feed on plankton (microscopic plant and animal organisms), insect larvae and worms; larger fish eat smaller fish; some birds eat fish, plants and insects; and people eat plants, animals, fish and birds. Pesticides, mercury or PCBs can bioaccumulate up the food chain as larger organisms eat smaller organisms contaminated with toxins. The extinction of a species — a broken link — causes problems for all the species in the chain.

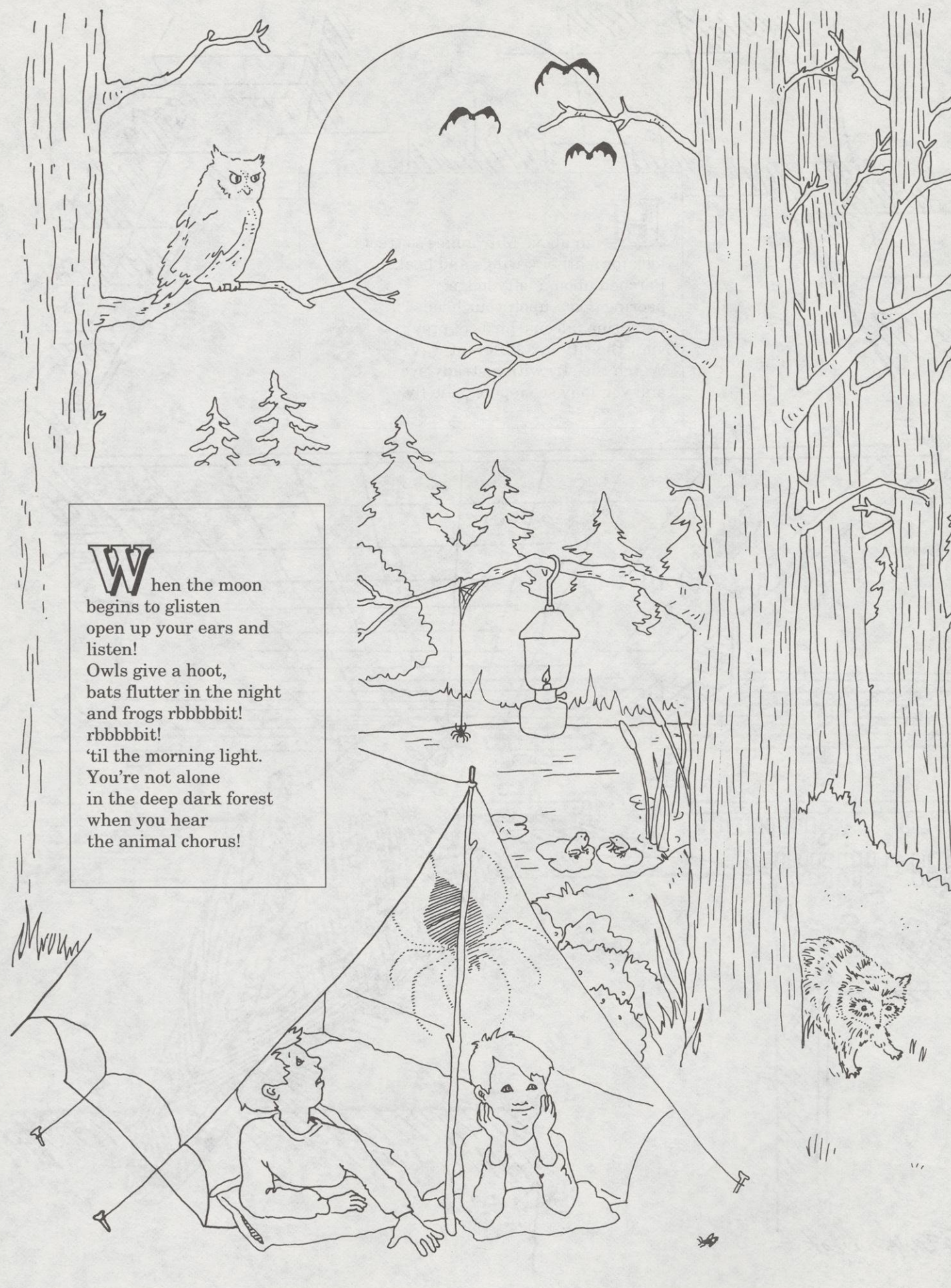
For more information, write: DNR Bureau of Information and Education, Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707.



H

igh above Milwaukee's streets
look for feathers, wings and beaks!
Perched upon a lofty ledge,
peering *down* upon your head,
peregrine falcons, birds of prey
view the city in a different way.
Watch the sky with a steady eye
and you may see a peregrine fly.

FRANKOWIAK

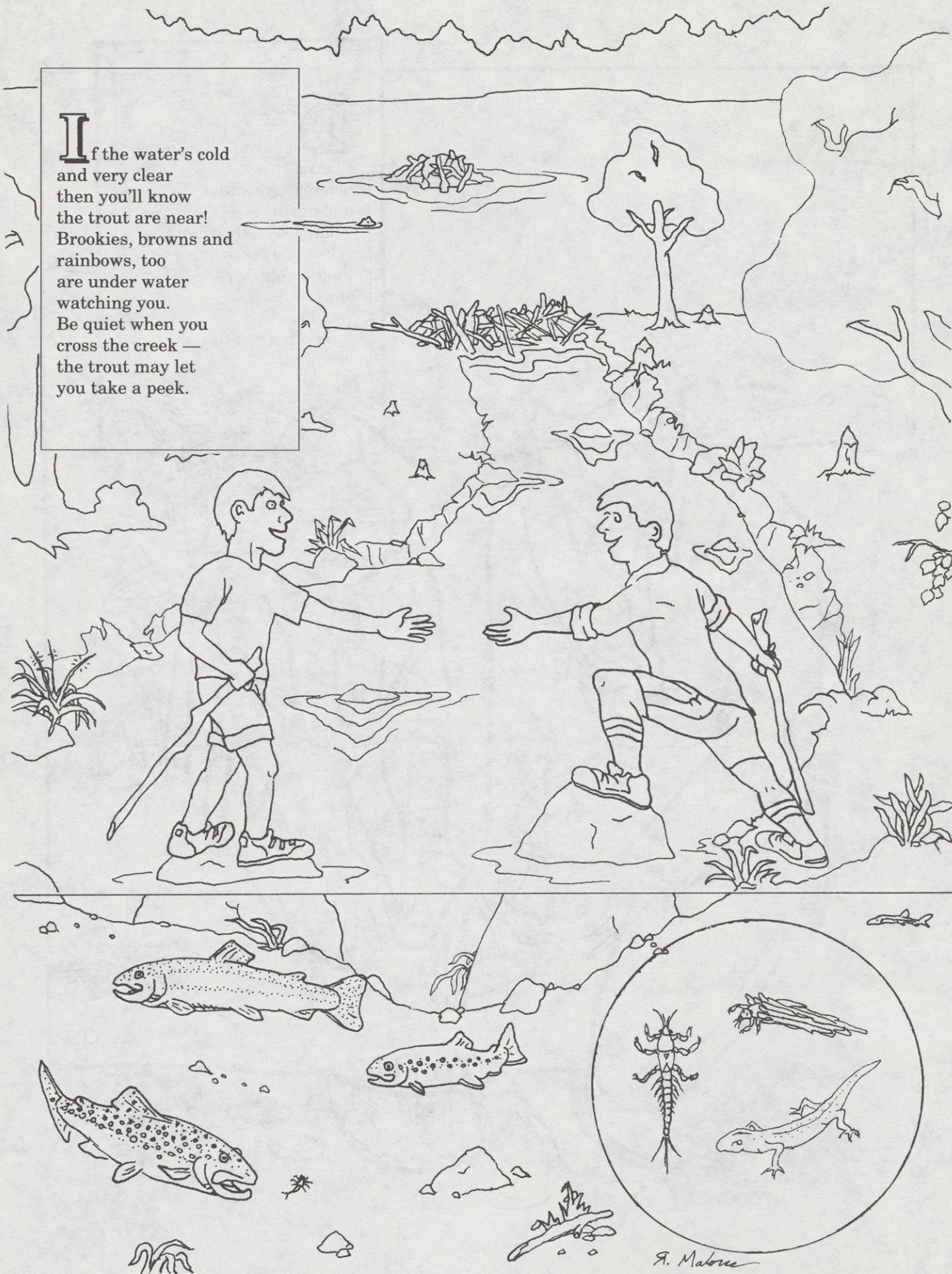


When the moon
begins to glisten
open up your ears and
listen!
Owls give a hoot,
bats flutter in the night
and frogs rbbbbbbit!
rbbbbbbit!
'til the morning light.
You're not alone
in the deep dark forest
when you hear
the animal chorus!

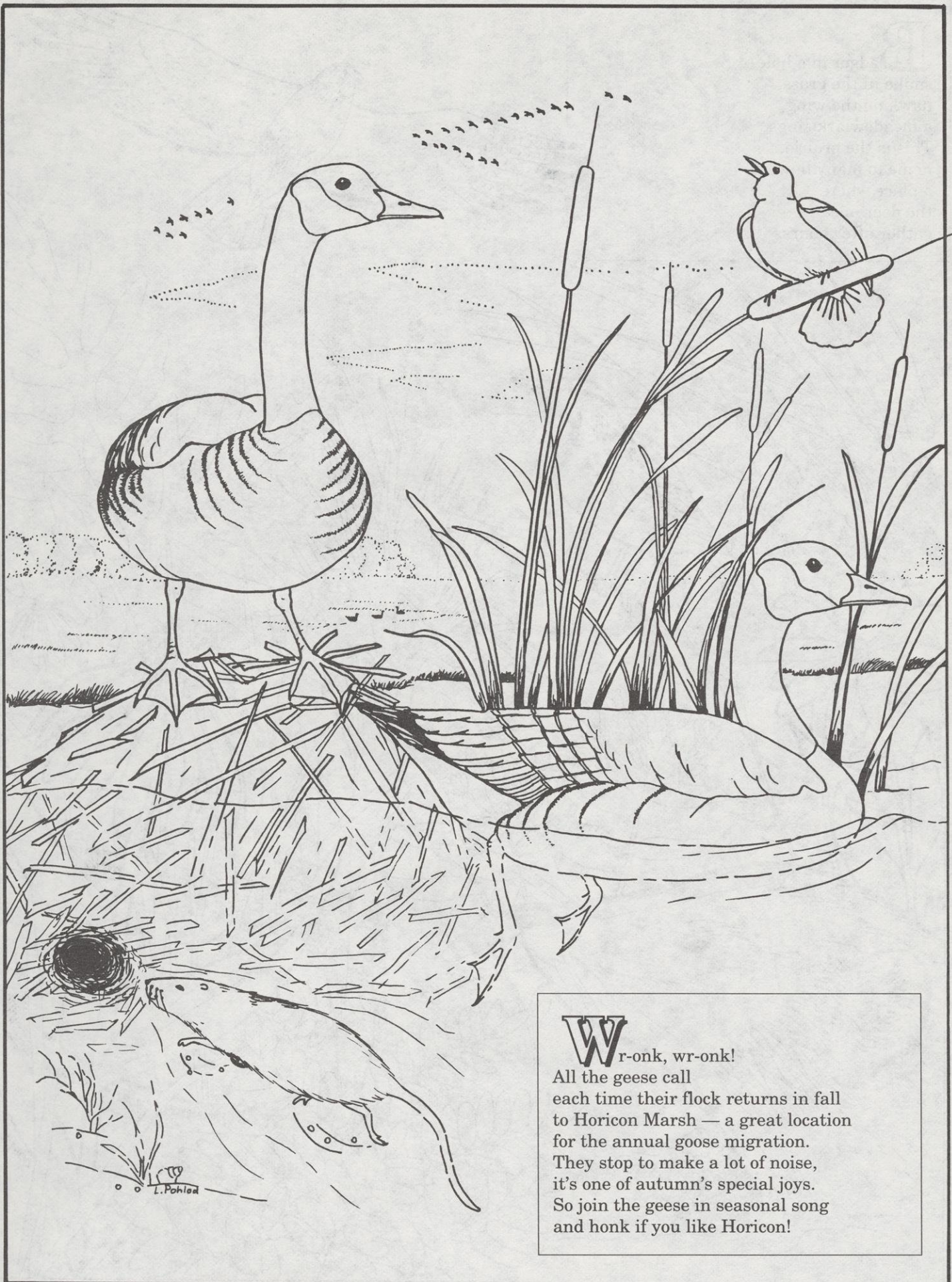
Don't wait!
Plant a tree
when you're seven
and again
when you're eleven.
When you reach
the ripe old age
of 21 or 32,
you'll have
something you can
look up to!



If the water's cold
and very clear
then you'll know
the trout are near!
Brookies, browns and
rainbows, too
are under water
watching you.
Be quiet when you
cross the creek —
the trout may let
you take a peek.



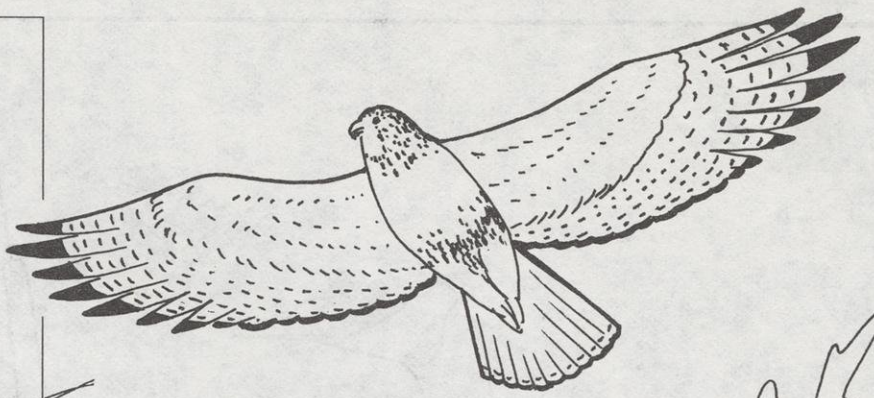
J. Maloney

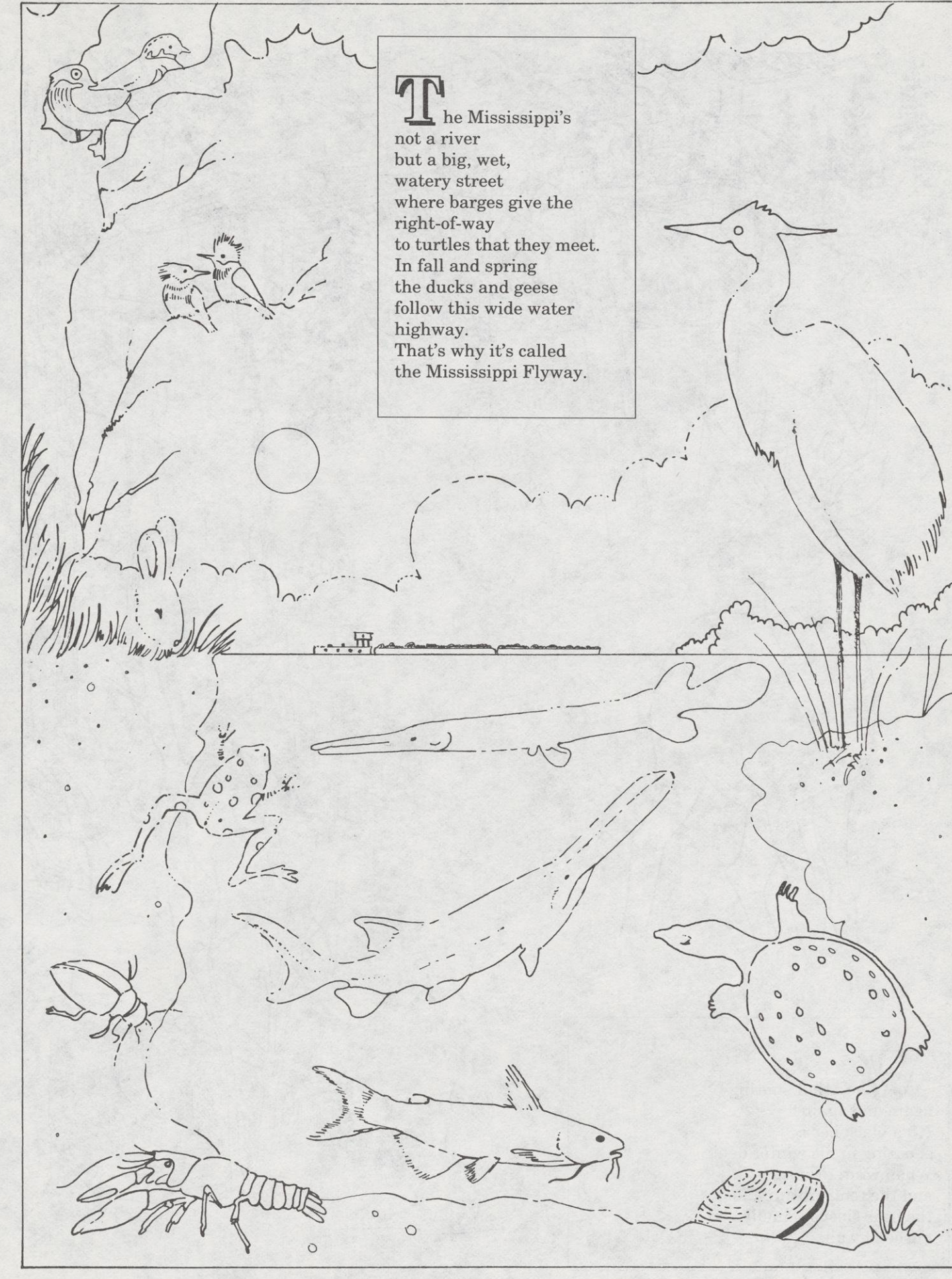


Wr-onk, wr-onk!

All the geese call
each time their flock returns in fall
to Horicon Marsh — a great location
for the annual goose migration.
They stop to make a lot of noise,
it's one of autumn's special joys.
So join the geese in seasonal song
and honk if you like Horicon!

Badger in a hole,
snake in the grass,
hawk on the wing,
a meadowlark sings.
This is the prairie,
home to many flowers,
a place where
the deer mice
gather after hours.





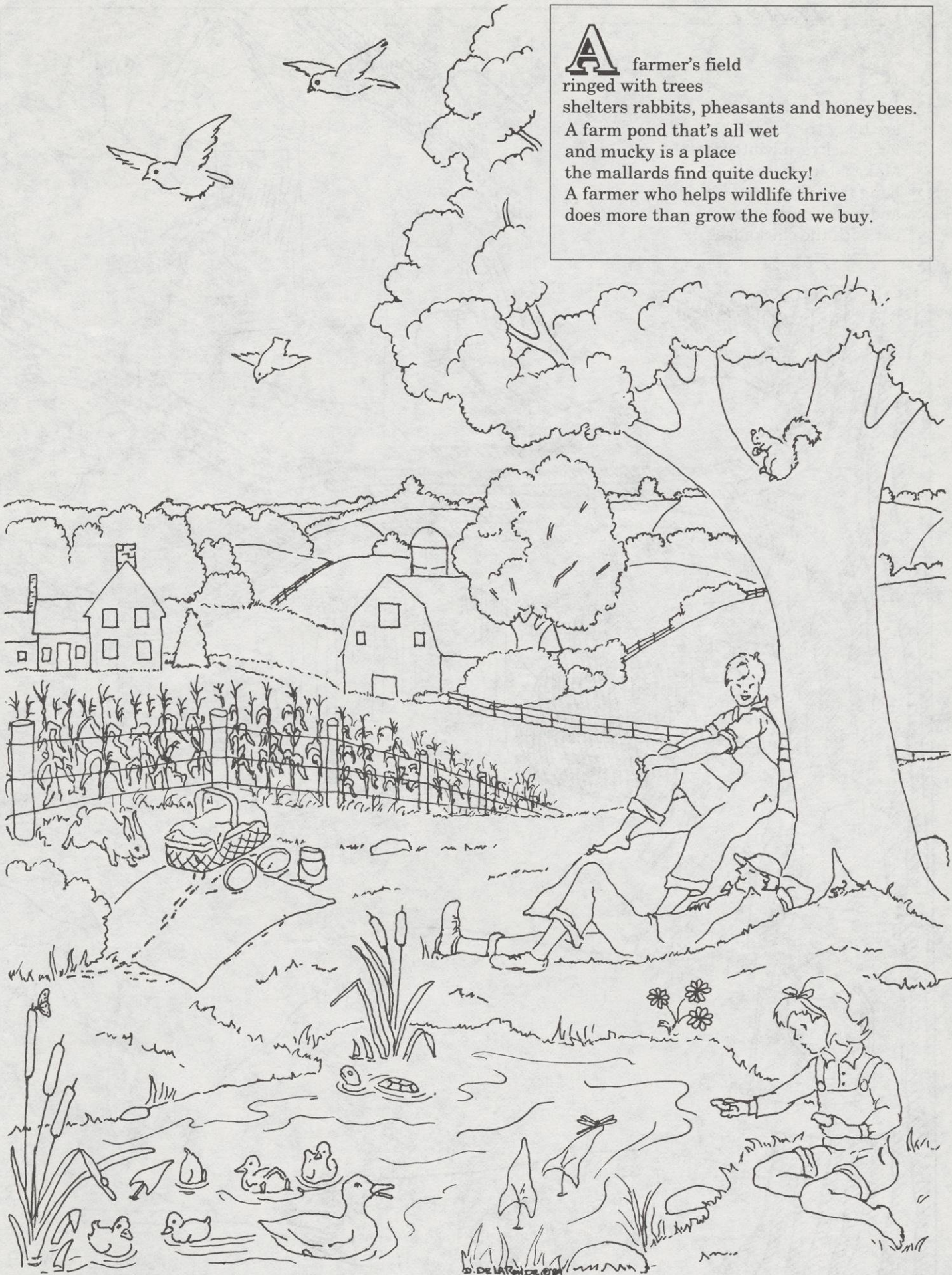
The Mississippi's
not a river
but a big, wet,
watery street
where barges give the
right-of-way
to turtles that they meet.
In fall and spring
the ducks and geese
follow this wide water
highway.
That's why it's called
the Mississippi Flyway.



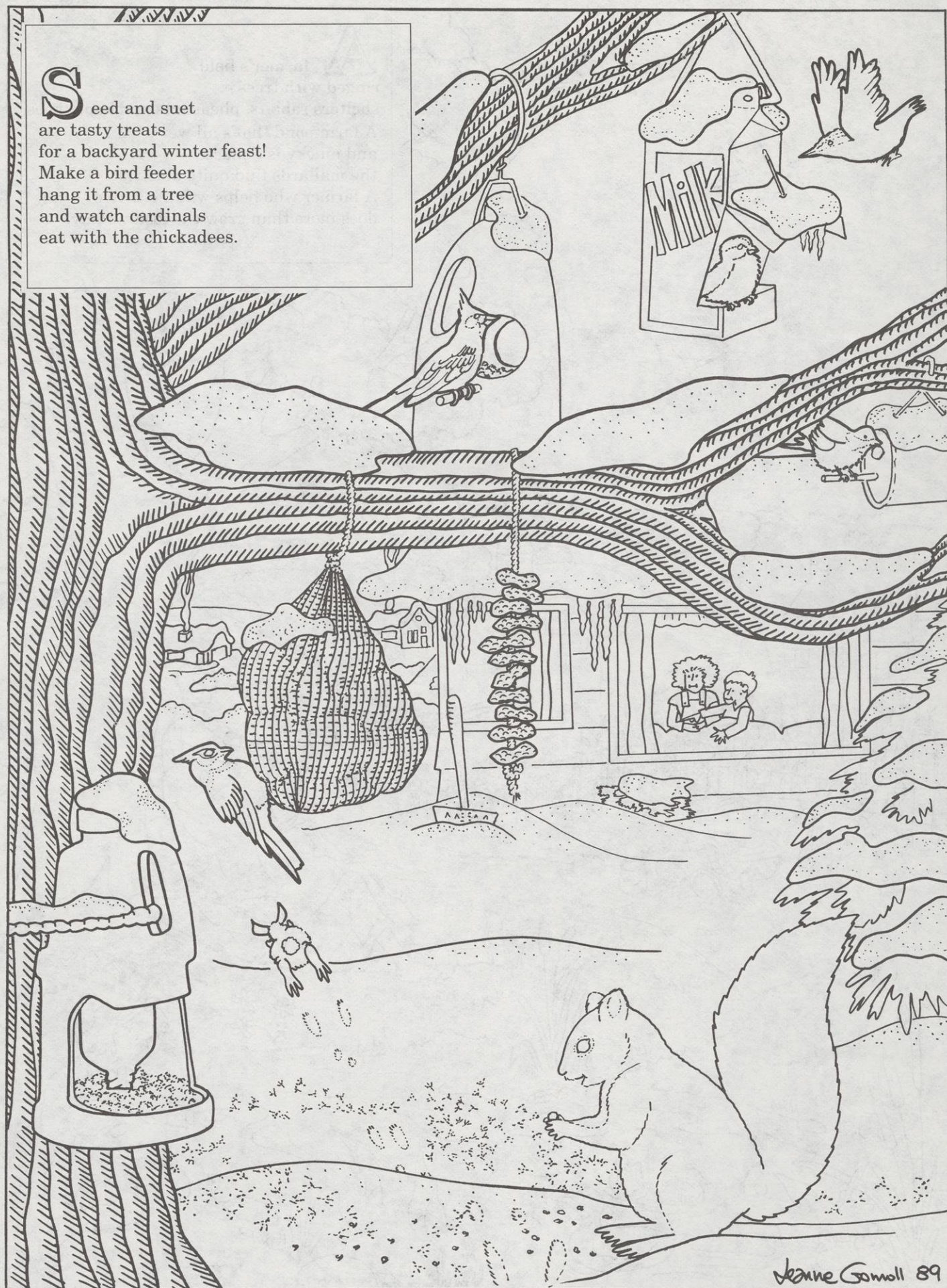
Who's that snoring
again and again?
It's a black bear
snoozing in his winter den!
When winter comes
and the temperature falls,
the bear sleeps soundly
unseen by all.



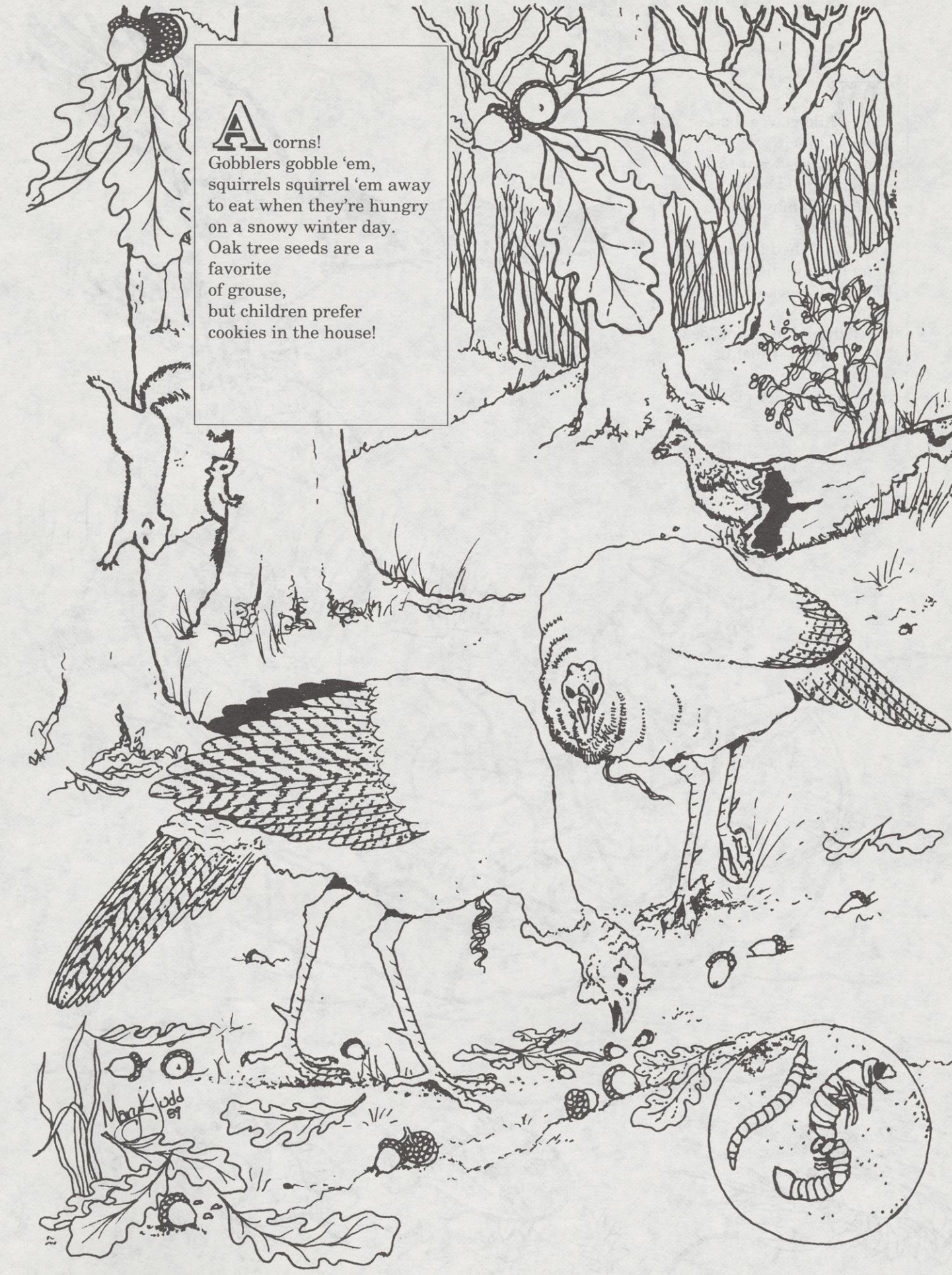
A farmer's field
ringed with trees
shelters rabbits, pheasants and honey bees.
A farm pond that's all wet
and mucky is a place
the mallards find quite ducky!
A farmer who helps wildlife thrive
does more than grow the food we buy.



Seed and suet
are tasty treats
for a backyard winter feast!
Make a bird feeder
hang it from a tree
and watch cardinals
eat with the chickadees.



Jeanne Gomoll 89



A corns!
Gobblers gobble 'em,
squirrels squirrel 'em away
to eat when they're hungry
on a snowy winter day.
Oak tree seeds are a
favorite
of grouse,
but children prefer
cookies in the house!

W

hile you're fishing
for your lunch
other critters want to
munch!
Your worm may go to a
hungry bass,
who's snatched for dinner
in an osprey's nest.
Raccoons snack on little
frogs,
crayfish nibble under logs.
Oh, wouldn't it just be
easier
if we could order pizza?



About the Artists



Brian Strassburg (8)

Brian Strassburg is a reliable, trustworthy, thrifty, reverent and occasionally modest freelance cartoonist/illustrator whose work has appeared in newspapers and magazines around the solar system. The author of a memoir, *My Life as a Hired Airbrush*, Brian's extracurricular activities include hopscotch and junk bonds. Seriously, folks — he's currently at work on a children's book about Lake Winnebago sturgeon. Write him at your own risk: 104 King St., Madison, WI 53703.



Rich Malone (5)



Georgine Price (7)

Georgine Price has put a fine point on graphic designs and illustrations for the Department of Natural Resources since 1973. She holds degrees in fine art and commercial art. A hiker and bird-watcher, George maintains a 20-inch by 20-foot prairie alongside her home; the "ribbon prairie" helped inspire her illustration. Reach George at DNR, Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707.



Susan Smoller Thiel
(4)

Susan Smoller Thiel attends the University of Wisconsin -- Milwaukee, pursuing a bachelor's degree in business administration with a minor in art history. Married and a mother of two, Susan's art specialties include sculpture and charcoal illustrations. Her address: N94 W23656 Hermitage Dr., Colgate, WI 53017.



Hawley Wright (3)

Hawley Wright got her first glimpse of a pen when the doctor signed her birth certificate; she's been drawing ever since. A professional commercial artist for 15 years, Hawley's delightful pen-and-ink illustrations have appeared in newspapers and magazines. Her recent projects include designing a line of greeting cards and wrapping paper made with recycled paper. Write Hawley at 104 King St., Madison, WI 53703.



Deann De La Ronde
(10)

Deann De La Ronde observes the natural world with a keen eye and sharp pencil from southern Wisconsin. A freelance artist, she works in a number of mediums and is especially proud of her illustrations for several books by Fran Hamerstrom, noted naturalist and raptor expert. Contact Deann at 2043 Fellows Rd., Evansville, WI 53536.



Linda Pohlod (6)

Linda Pohlod takes flight with pen and ink to illustrate birds, her favorite class of critters. She's been a professional graphic artist for seven years and recently alighted on MARS — DNR's Media, Arts, Reference Section. Linda's nest address: DNR, Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707.



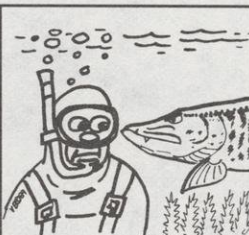
Jim McEvoy (9)

Jim McEvoy deftly renders anything that flies, crawls, swims, hops, lopes, scurries, runs or rustles in the breeze. A DNR graphic artist, Jim is an aquatic biologist by training. He taught art at Madison Area Technical College for 14 years and holds a special place in his heart for watercolors, which he uses to create semi-abstract landscapes. His address: DNR, Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707.



Mary Kay Judd (12)

Mary Kay Judd is a wildlife education specialist in DNR's Bureau of Wildlife Management. Her career has focused on education in informal settings, including nature centers, museums and living history farms. In addition to drawing, painting and sculpting, Mary Kay has designed and constructed museum dioramas and flatwork exhibits. Write her at DNR, Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707.



Virg Beck (13)

Virg Beck has painted and sketched more than 30 covers and illustrations for national outdoor magazines. He won first place in the Outdoor Writers Association of America Fishing Art Contest in 1984 and 1987 and submitted the winning entry in the 1987 Wisconsin Wild Turkey Stamp competition. Virg's work hangs in the halls of the White House and the Wisconsin State Capitol. An avid diver, Virg likes to meet lunker muskies eye to eye. His above-water address: P.O. Box 66, Stevens Point, WI 54481.



Jeanne Gomoll (11)

Jeanne Gomoll enjoys creating new images within the friendly confines of a Macintosh computer; the interplay of woman and machine has produced high-quality graphics for the Department of Natural Resources for a decade. When the computer's down, Jeanne turns her pen to cartooning and sketching. Her password: DNR, Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707.



Molly O'Sullivan
(cover)

Molly O'Sullivan is in the third grade at Madison's Marquette Elementary School. In class, this active 8-year-old enjoys math and art; after school, you'll find Molly bicycling around the neighborhood, watching "The Cosby Show" or practicing Irish dancing. Write Molly at 1336 E. Dayton St., Madison, WI 53703.



Bob Frankowiak (2)

Bob Frankowiak has brought Milwaukee Public Museum exhibits to life for 34 years with the sure touch of his brush. His painting of a brown trout was selected for the 1980 Wisconsin Inland Waters Stamp, and Bob also was the winner of the 1988 Wisconsin Wild Turkey Stamp competition. His work has been exhibited at the prestigious Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum in Wausau. Contact Bob in care of the museum at 800 W. Wells St., Milwaukee, WI 53233.

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