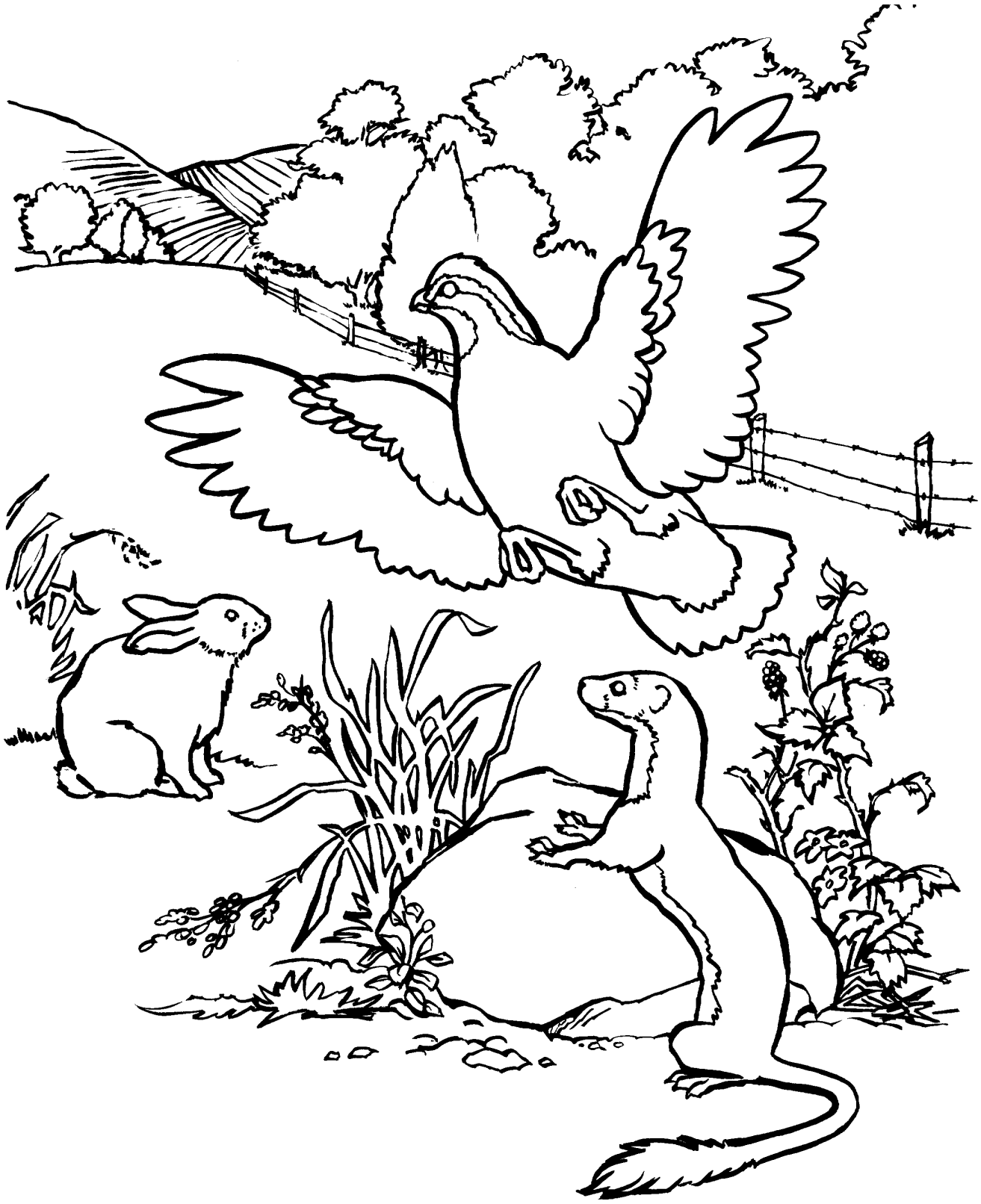
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

WILDLIFE ACTIVITY BOOK



Welcome to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency's Wildlife Activity Book!

To the Student:

There are many wildlife species and their habitats (places they live) on these pages just waiting to be colored along with a few puzzles to challenge your wildlife knowledge. If you want to know what color these animals are, you can look in a book such as a field guide where there are pictures of these animals. You may have seen many of these animals in your backyard or in a natural area and already know what they look like.

What is the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA)? It is a state agency whose responsibility is to take care of the wildlife and their habitats for the citizens of the state. It is funded primarily by sports men and women who buy hunting and fishing licenses. This big responsibility is an ongoing job and we all can help by learning more about the natural world and being active in improving the environment for all living things.

The TWRA's wildlife management programs have dramatically increased Tennessee's populations of white-tailed deer, wild turkey and other species favored by hunters. This was done by developing and improving habitats, and through releasing or reintroducing animals in areas where they once lived.

The TWRA has also improved the habitat and population of many non-game species ranging from songbirds to small mammals such as bats and many species of reptiles and amphibians. This will help make sure that you will always be able to have the opportunity to appreciate and enjoy wildlife.

Let's not forget the wildlife species that are in danger of disappearing! In Tennessee there are more than 100 threatened and endangered species ranging from peregrine falcons to bog turtles, and several species of freshwater mussels, fish and crayfish. TWRA biologists are dedicated to their preservation, working to both increase and improve these native populations and their habitats.

To the Teacher:

TWRA's Information and Education Division offers a variety of educational programs to the general public, including children, adults and professional educators. Youth outreach programs include youth mentor hunting programs and Free Fishing Day fishing events, attended by thousands of participants each year. Environthons, high-school environmental knowledge competitions, are held throughout the state each year. Women can participate in many workshops such as *Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW)*, designed to teach outdoor skills, and fishing clinics *(Single Mothers As Reel Teachers, or SMART)*. For educators, backyard "wildscaping" (landscaping for wildlife) workshops are offered and there are free wildlife related educational materials including books, posters, and videos available.

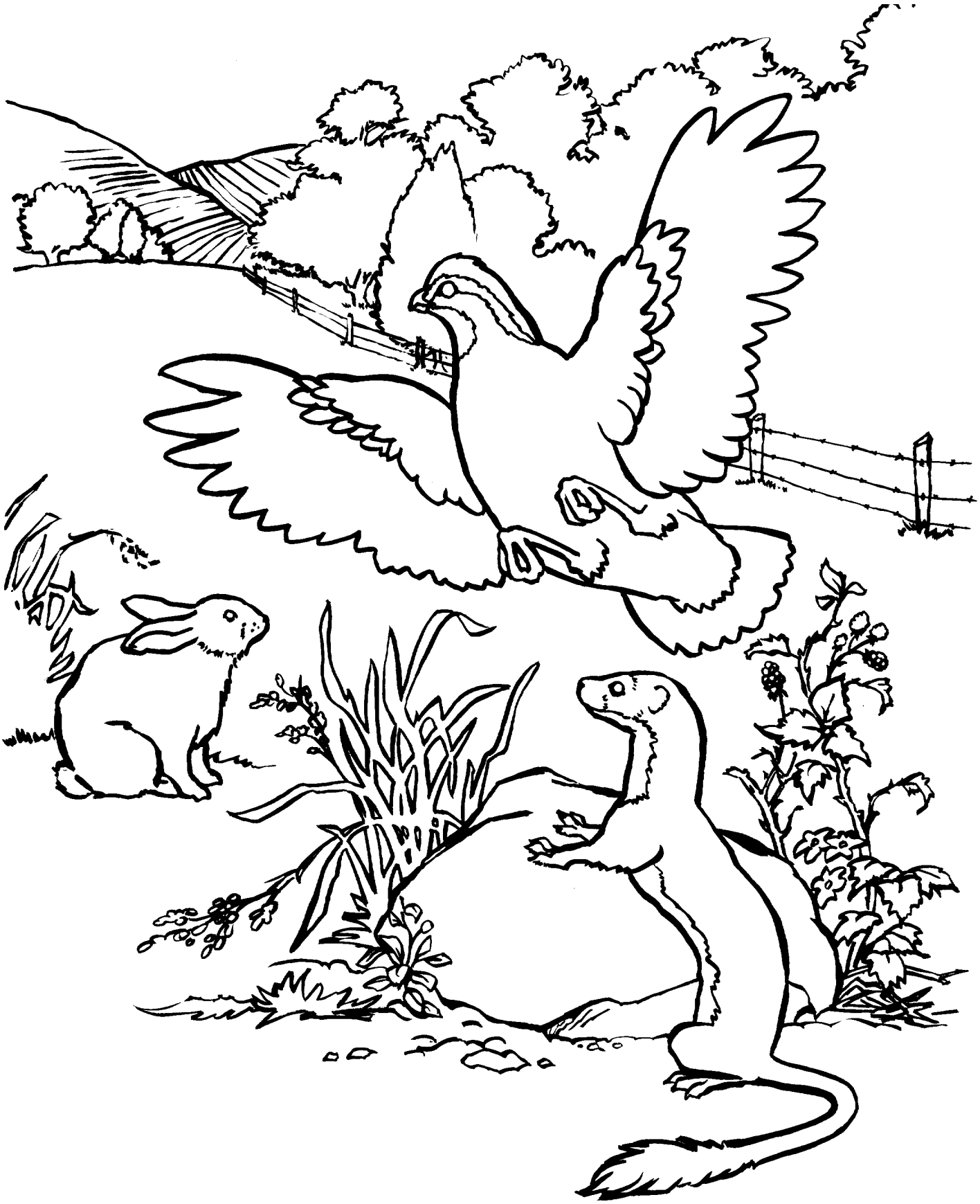
Log on to TWRA's website *(www.tnwildlife.org)* for interesting facts on Tennessee's wildlife such as frogs, toads and salamanders. You can even hear the frogs croak! There's also news and information about TWRA programs, hunting seasons, regulations and the answers for many frequently asked questions. Hunting and fishing licenses can also be purchased online.

***Tennessee's Wild Side* Television Show:** TWRA's award-winning television show is a half-hour outdoors program airing on Public Broadcasting Stations across the state. It features segments not only for the avid hunter or angler, but stories on many other types of outdoor activities.

Tennessee Wildlife Magazine: Published six times per year, this full-color, outdoor magazine offers articles and photographs devoted to both game and non-game wildlife and wildlife related sports. It includes a popular calendar issue and is available through subscription and complimentary to purchasers of Tennessee Sportsman and Lifetime Sportsman Licenses.

The TWRA's Video Library houses about 350 videos featuring many nature, hunter education, and wildlife management topics. These are available for loan FREE to the public and provide an educational and entertaining asset for programs and classes.

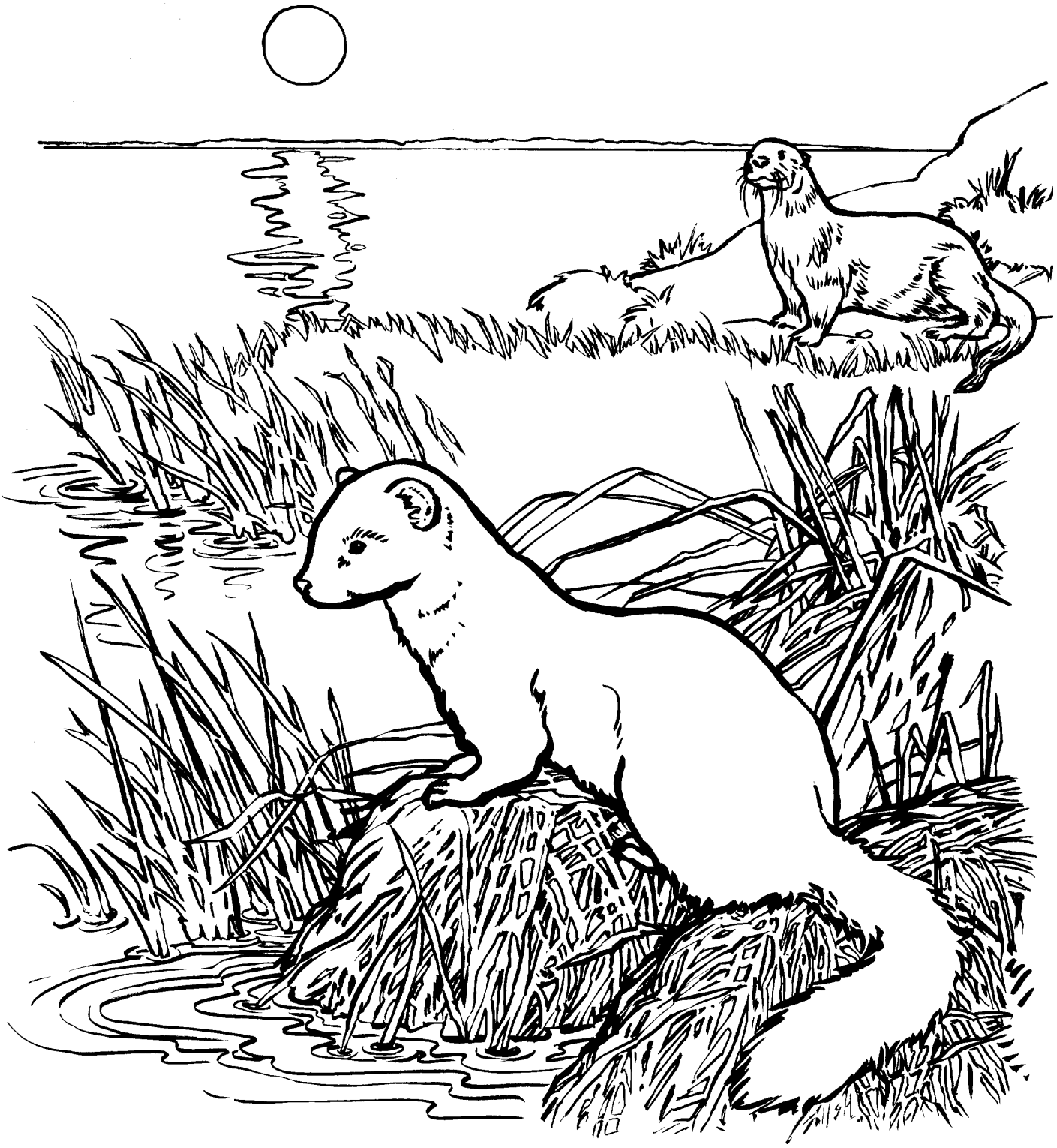
The bobcat is now the only native wild cat in Tennessee since the cougar is no longer here.



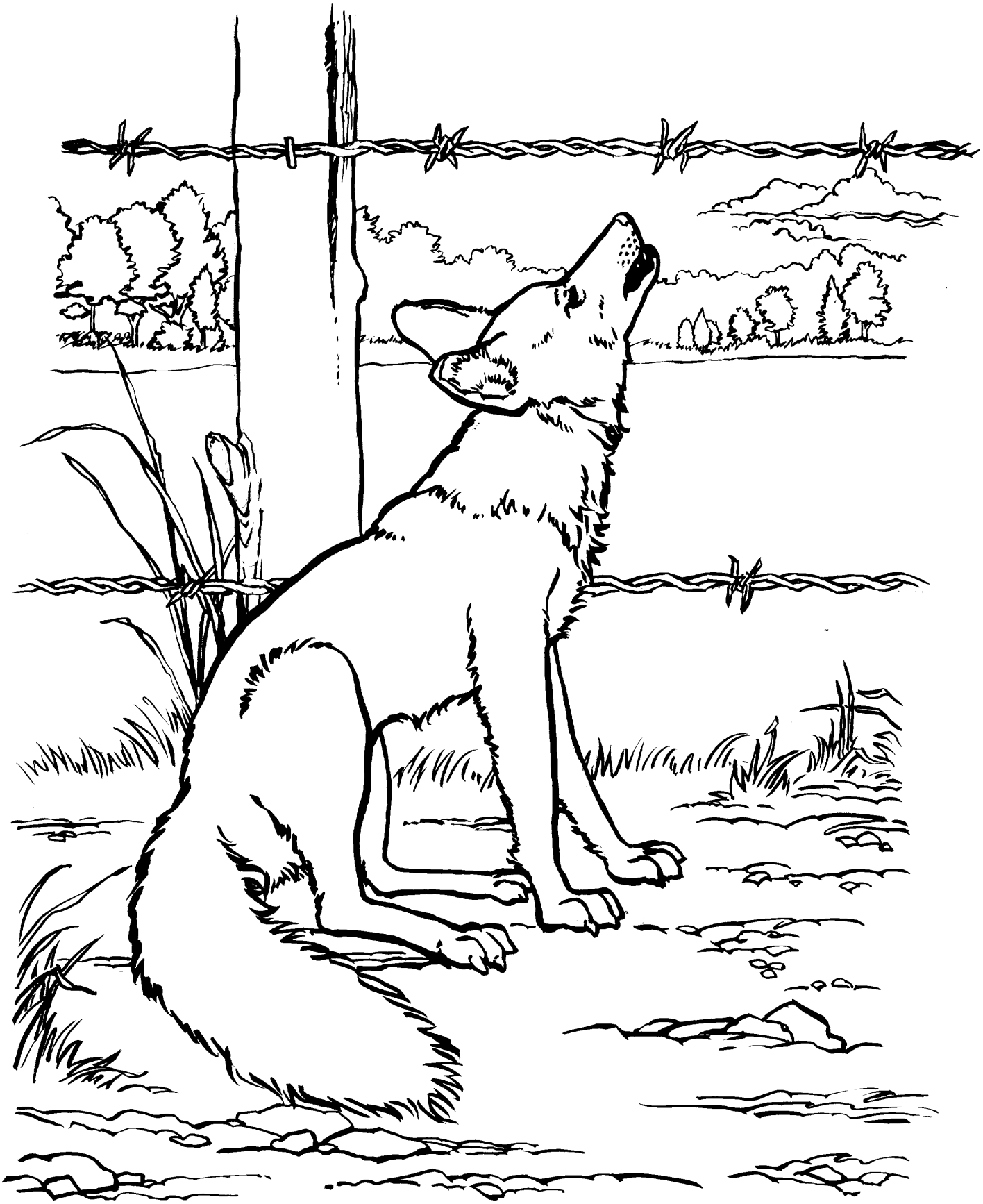
Weedy field borders and fence rows are ideal areas for bobwhite quail, cottontail rabbits and long-tailed weasels to live in because these habitats meet their requirements for food, safety and shelter.

Gray squirrels and raccoons need hardwood trees like oaks and hickories for den cavities and food.

Fox squirrels are often seen on the ground in open woodlands because their primary food items, acorns, nuts and mushrooms, are there.

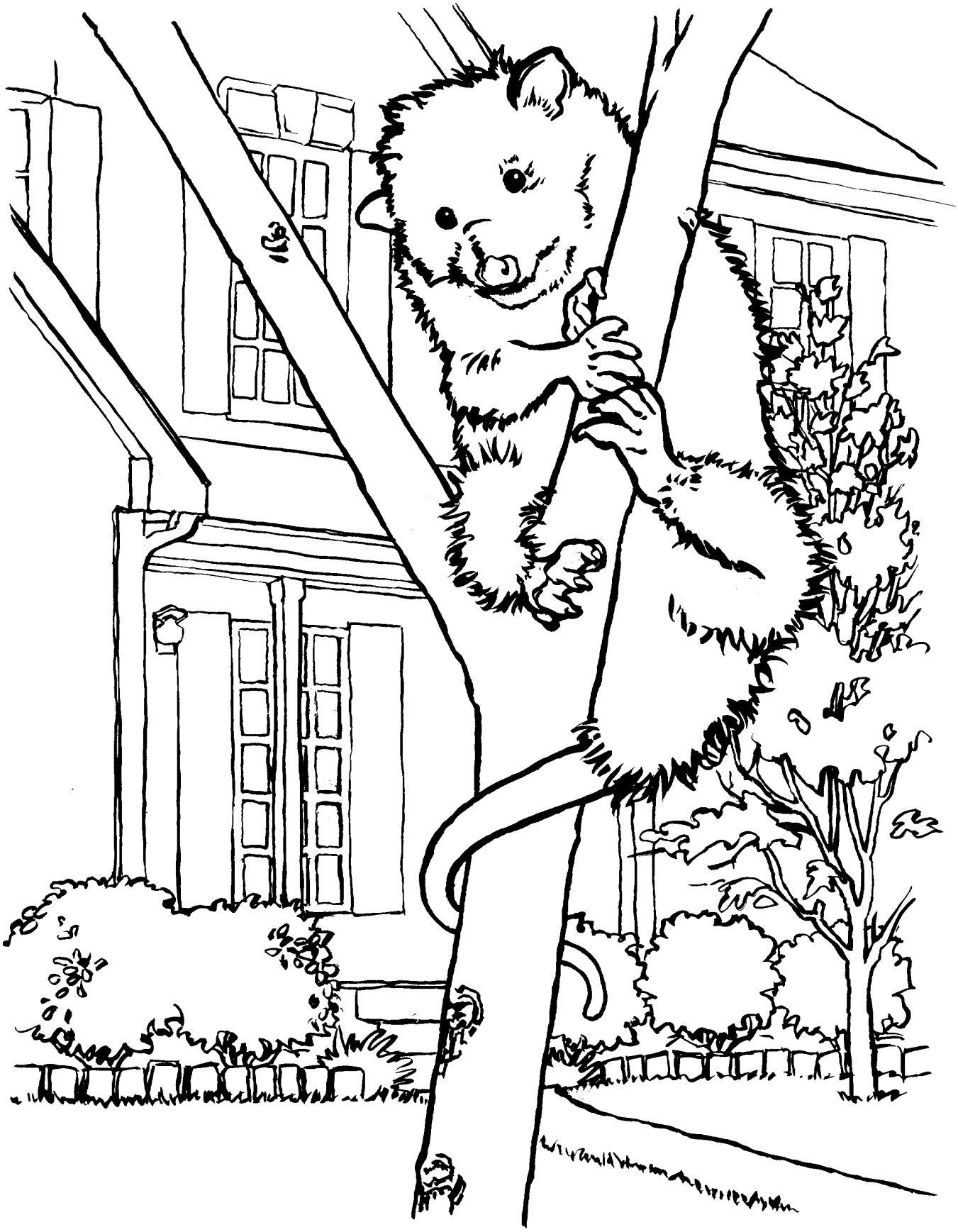


The chocolate-brown mink and its larger dark-brown cousin, the river otter, both swim very well, often hunting in ponds and streams for food.



Coyotes are a new predator in Tennessee, first seen here in the 1970s after emigrating from the western states.

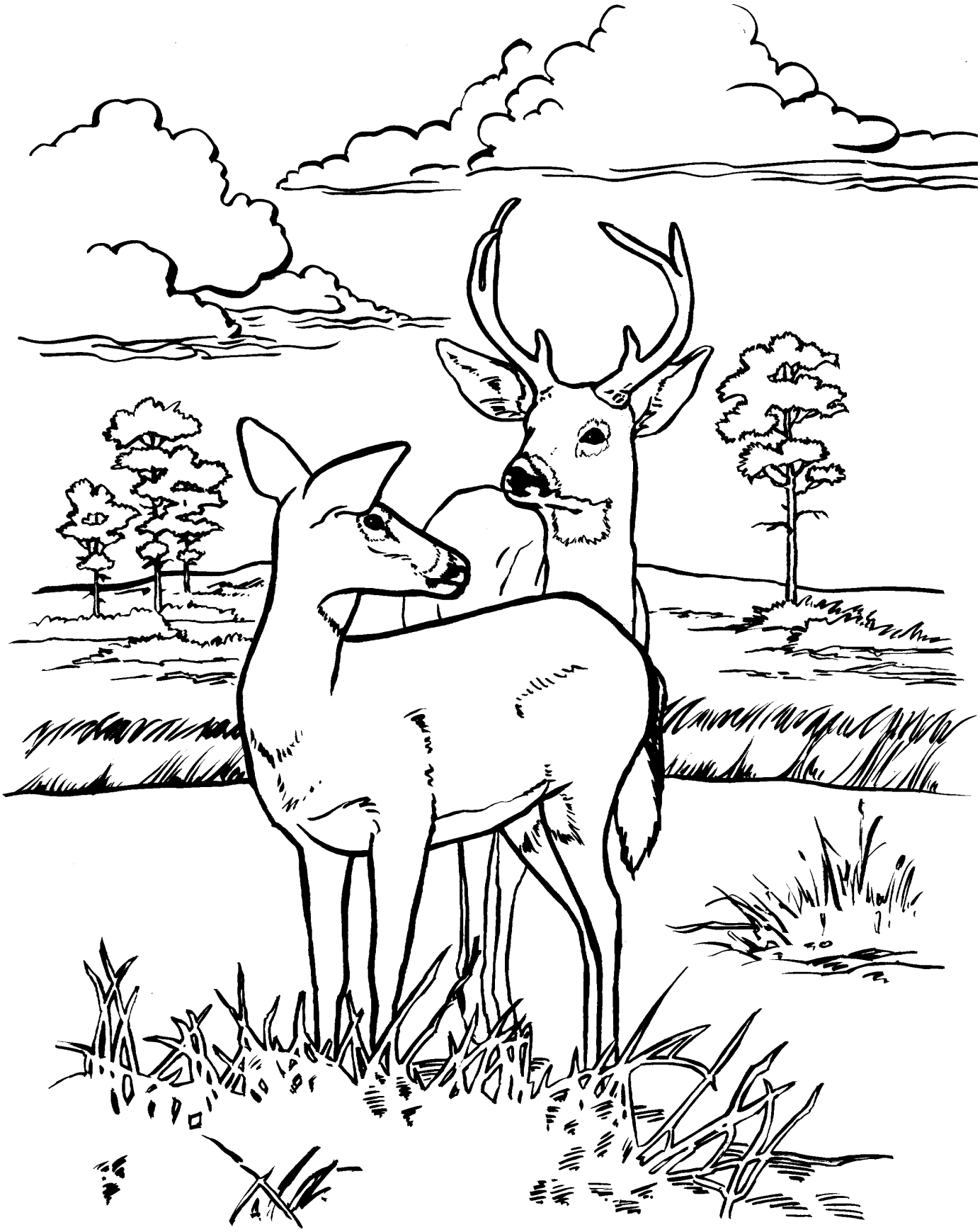
Muskrats depend on clean, pollution-free waterways.



Opossums live in many habitat types, including cities.

Habitat destruction is the greatest threat to wildlife.

By using radio-collars, wildlife biologists study the movements and habitat use of animals such as the black bear.

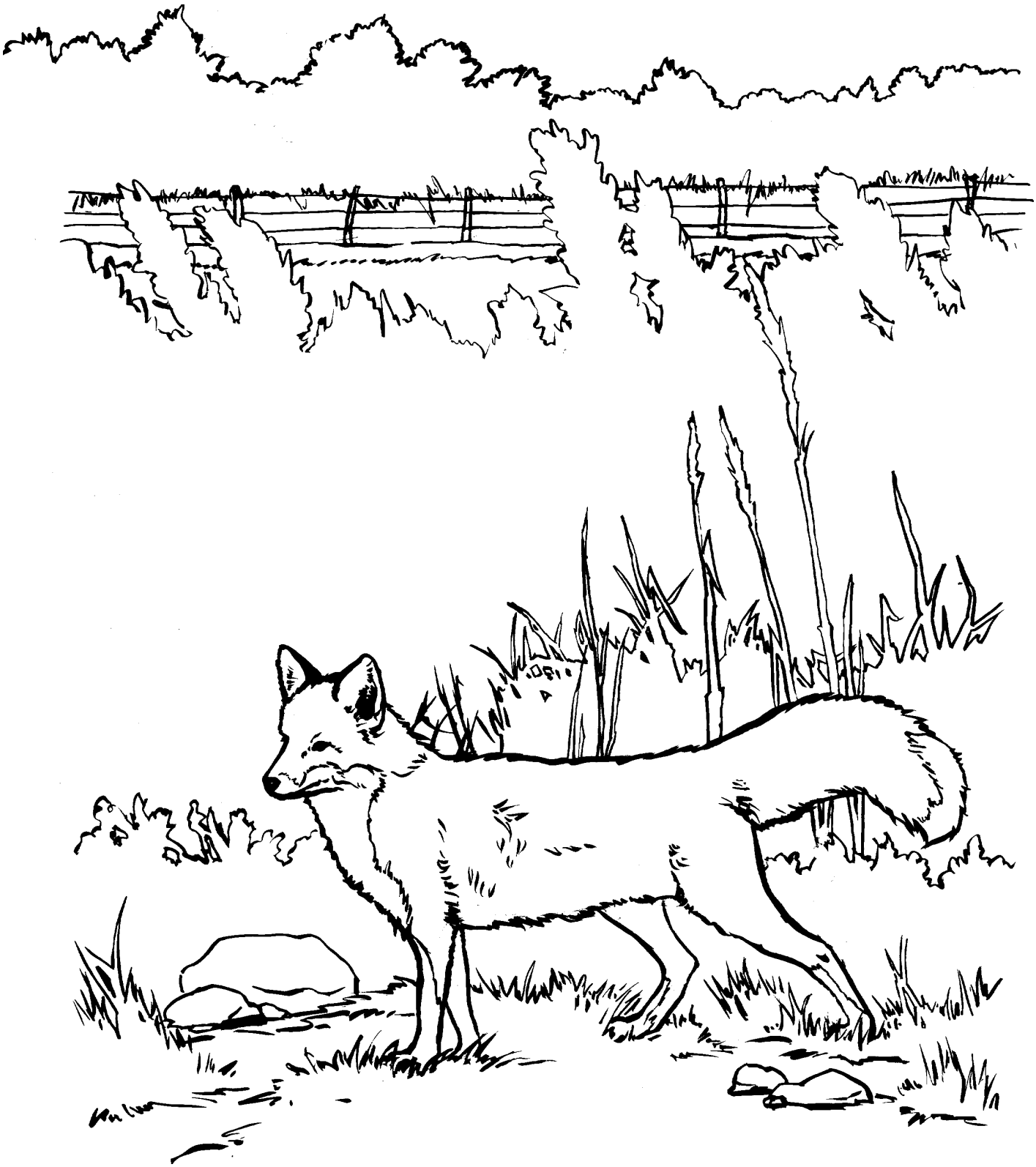


White-tailed deer are more plentiful now than when America was first settled.

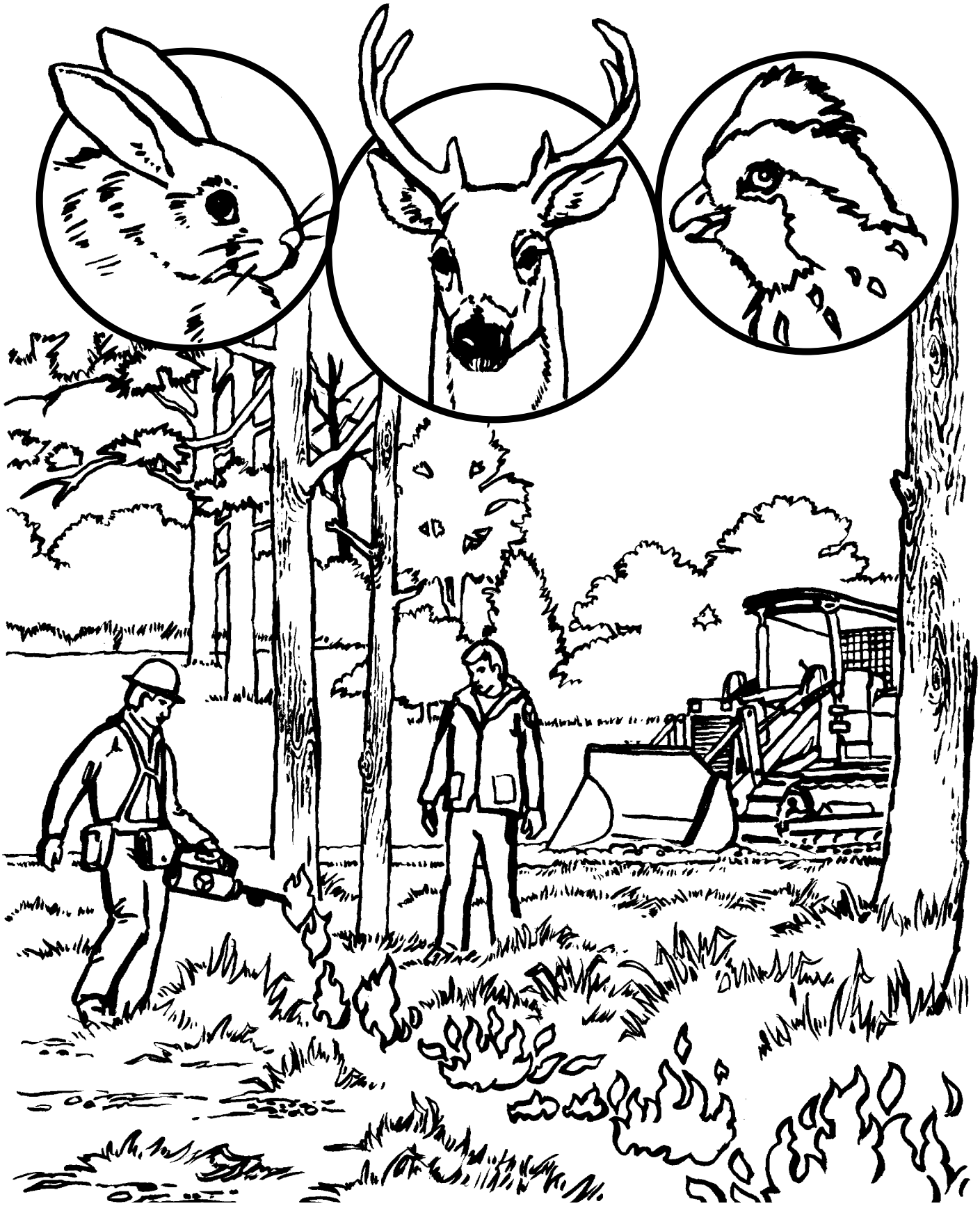
Throughout the history of Tennessee, wild turkeys have been hunted for food and sport.

By building dams that form ponds, beavers create habitat for many kinds of wetland wildlife.

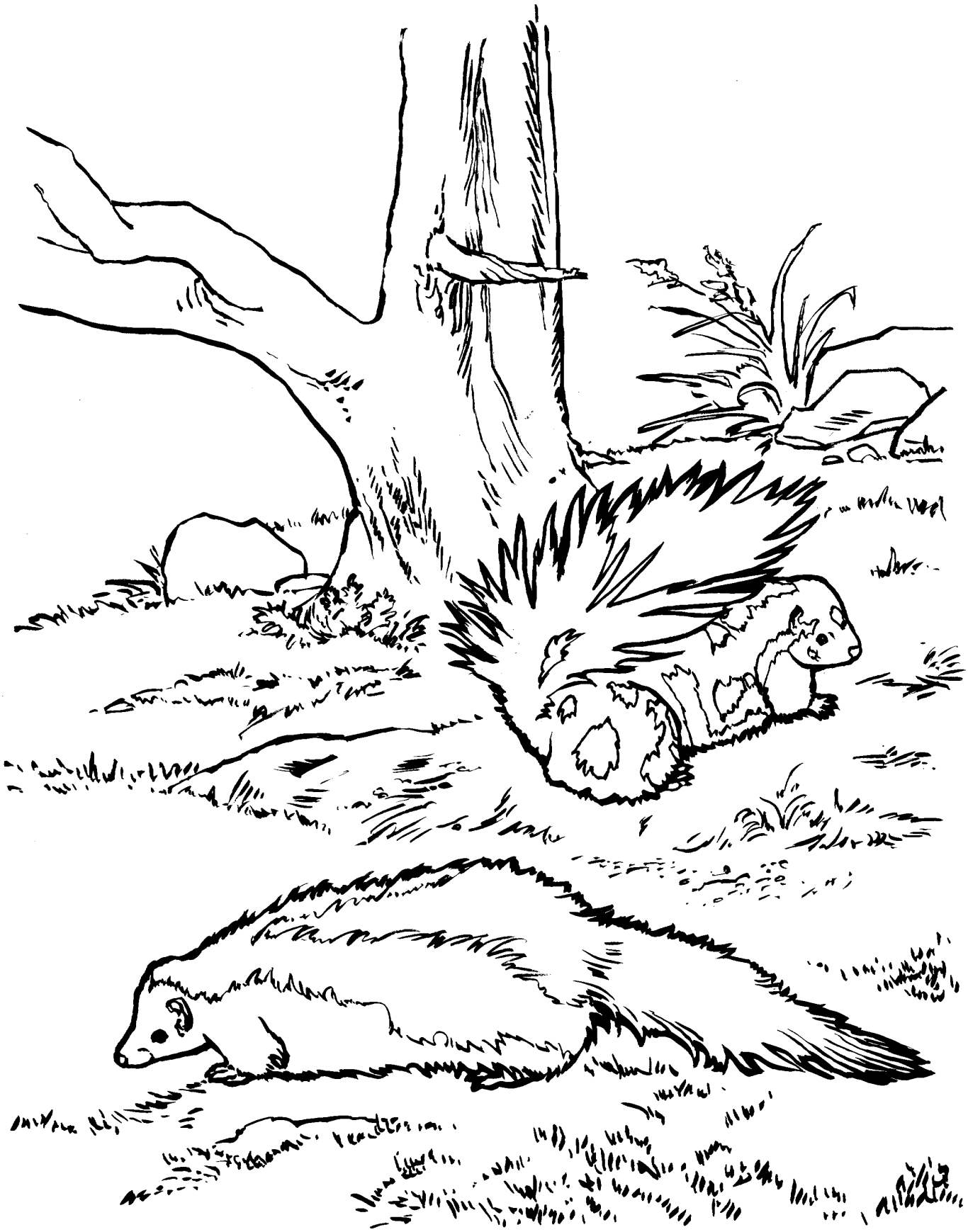
Gray foxes are good climbers and are usually seen near forested areas.



Red foxes like open fields where they can hunt for mice and cottontail rabbits.

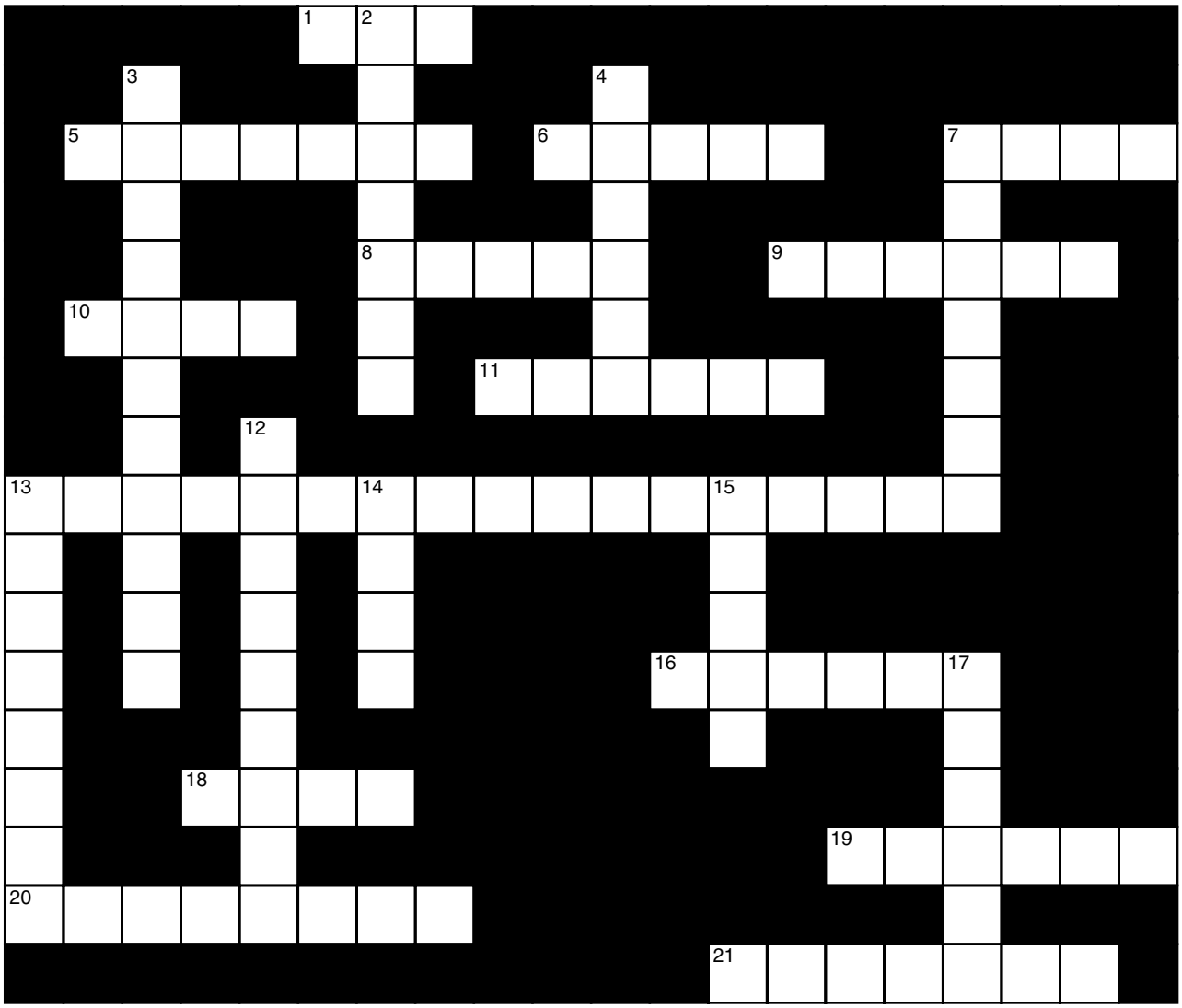


Controlled fire can improve habitat for many kinds of wildlife.



Both striped skunks and spotted skunks live in Tennessee.

Mourning doves commonly feed on grain and weed seeds in harvested farm fields.



ACROSS

1. This medium sized predator can be red or gray. (pgs. 14 &15)
5. This animal has a masked face and a ringed tail and often lives around wetlands. (pg. 3)
6. This bird can often be found along fence rows. It whistles a call of “bob-white, bob-white.” (pg. 2)
7. This small, brown mammal lives near water. It is often used for fur coats. (pg. 5)
8. This animal may be striped or spotted and can spray a very strong smelling odor. (pg. 17)
9. A long-tailed _____ is small but a very good predator for its size. They can often be found along fence rows. (pg. 2)
10. This bird is often found in harvested farm fields and at bird feeders. It makes a soft “cooing” sound. (pg. 18)
11. This large dog-like animal makes yipping and howling sounds, usually at night. (pg. 6)
13. A _____ _____ studies, manages and restores wild animal populations. (pg. 10)
16. This animal is Tennessee’s largest rodent. It has a large flat tail. (pg. 13)
18. Male _____ have antlers. (pg. 11)
19. The _____ is Tennessee’s only native wild cat. (pg. 1)
20. This tree-dwelling rodent eats acorns and nuts. (pg. 4)
21. This area meets food, safety and shelter requirements for animals. (pg. 2)

DOWN

2. This animal is the only marsupial in North America. It is whitish-gray and sometimes pretends to be dead when in danger. (pg. 8)
3. This device is used to track an animal’s movement. (pg. 10)
4. This large bird clucks and gobbles. (pg. 12)
7. This wetland rodent has a narrow furless tail. (pg.7)
12. This large mammal is found in the eastern mountains of Tennessee and in portions of the Cumberland Plateau. (pg. 10)
13. These habitats support the types of wildlife that depend on water and the plants which grow near water. (pg. 13)
14. A controlled _____ can improve a habitat by allowing new growth of vegetation. (pg. 16)
15. This animal is a good swimmer. It eats fish and is about 10 times larger than its cousin the mink. (pg. 5)
17. This small animal with a white fluffy tail eats weeds and grass. (pg. 2)

FURBEARERS SEARCH

Find and circle all 14 animals, horizontally, vertically or diagonally.

C	T	F	S	P	O	T	T	E	D	S	K	U	N	K	S
G	R	A	Y	F	O	X	D	U	N	P	I	W	N	O	V
R	I	S	F	G	M	U	S	K	R	A	T	U	O	C	R
E	V	K	O	C	O	Y	O	T	E	B	K	C	P	V	A
K	E	I	A	V	A	Y	T	K	P	S	E	N	O	A	B
B	R	A	C	C	O	O	N	T	D	Y	B	K	S	F	S
L	O	N	G	T	A	I	L	E	D	W	E	A	S	E	L
V	T	B	O	B	M	T	P	N	B	O	A	Q	U	B	T
B	T	G	C	X	Y	I	L	O	T	W	V	C	M	L	E
D	E	B	S	A	R	E	D	F	O	X	E	C	O	Y	R
T	R	O	D	T	T	A	G	C	M	I	R	L	T	N	B
C	B	U	S	A	P	G	C	B	N	Q	J	F	K	K	O

RACCOON

MINK

RED FOX

OPOSSUM

GRAY FOX

LONG TAILED WEASEL

SPOTTED SKUNK

BEAVER

RIVER OTTER

STRIPED SKUNK

BOBCAT

MUSKRAT

COYOTE

ELK

“TRACKING” DOWN THE ANSWER!

WORD SCRAMBLE

Unscramble the animal names using the clues and animal tracks provided.

U R M N O I G N
O V E D

Den site: tree nest
Food items: seeds, grains

Answer: _____

Y C O T O E

Den site: ground den
Food items: rodents, rabbits, fruit

Answer: _____

K R S U A M T

Den site: bank burrow
Food items: aquatic vegetation, clams

Answer: _____

I S R Q U E R L

Den site: leaf nest, hollow tree
Food items: acorns, tree buds, pine seeds

Answer: _____

A O R C O N C

Den site: hollow tree
Food items: acorns, crayfish

Answer: _____

A Q I U L

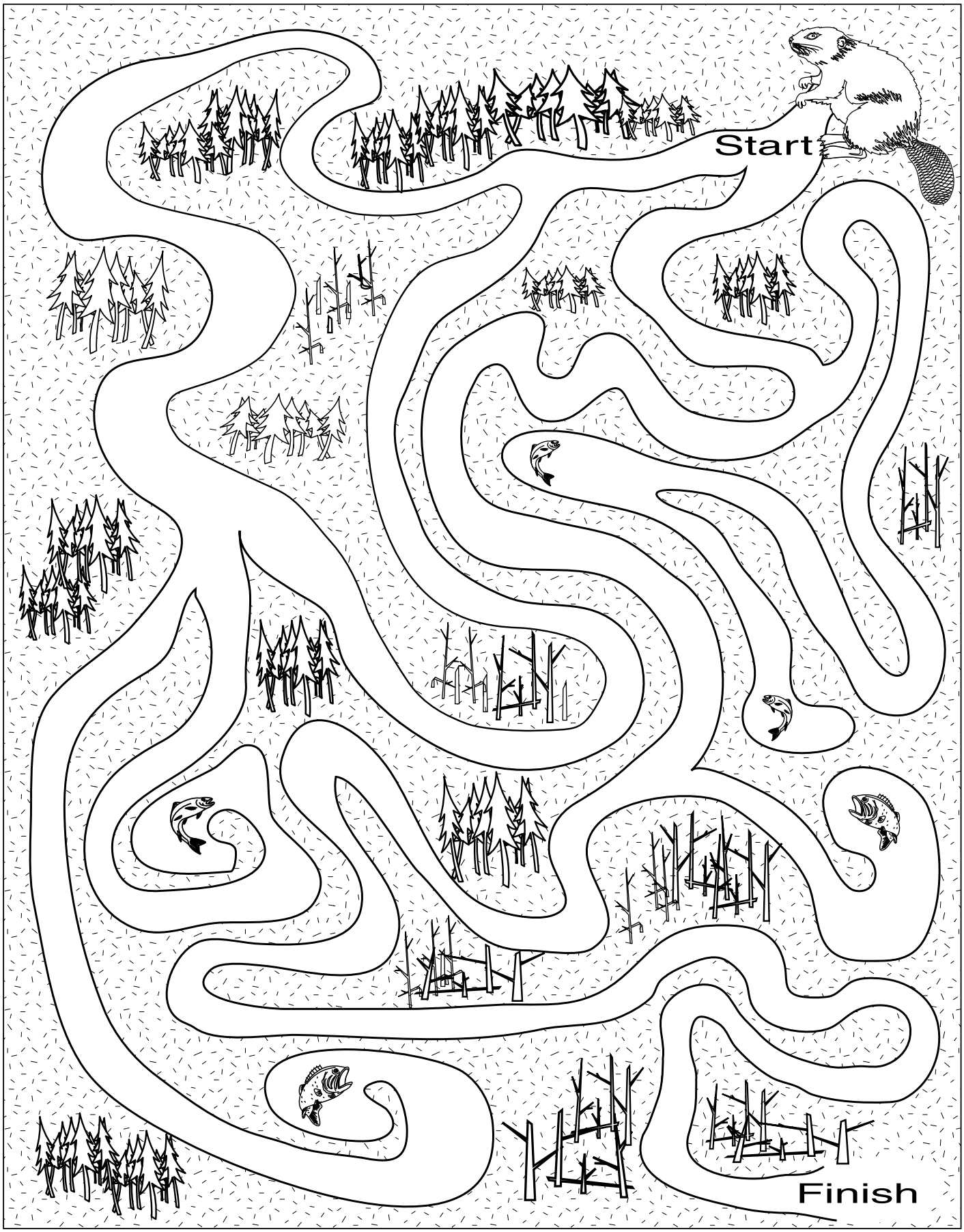
Den site: ground nest
Food items: seeds, grains

Answer: _____

E B A R V E

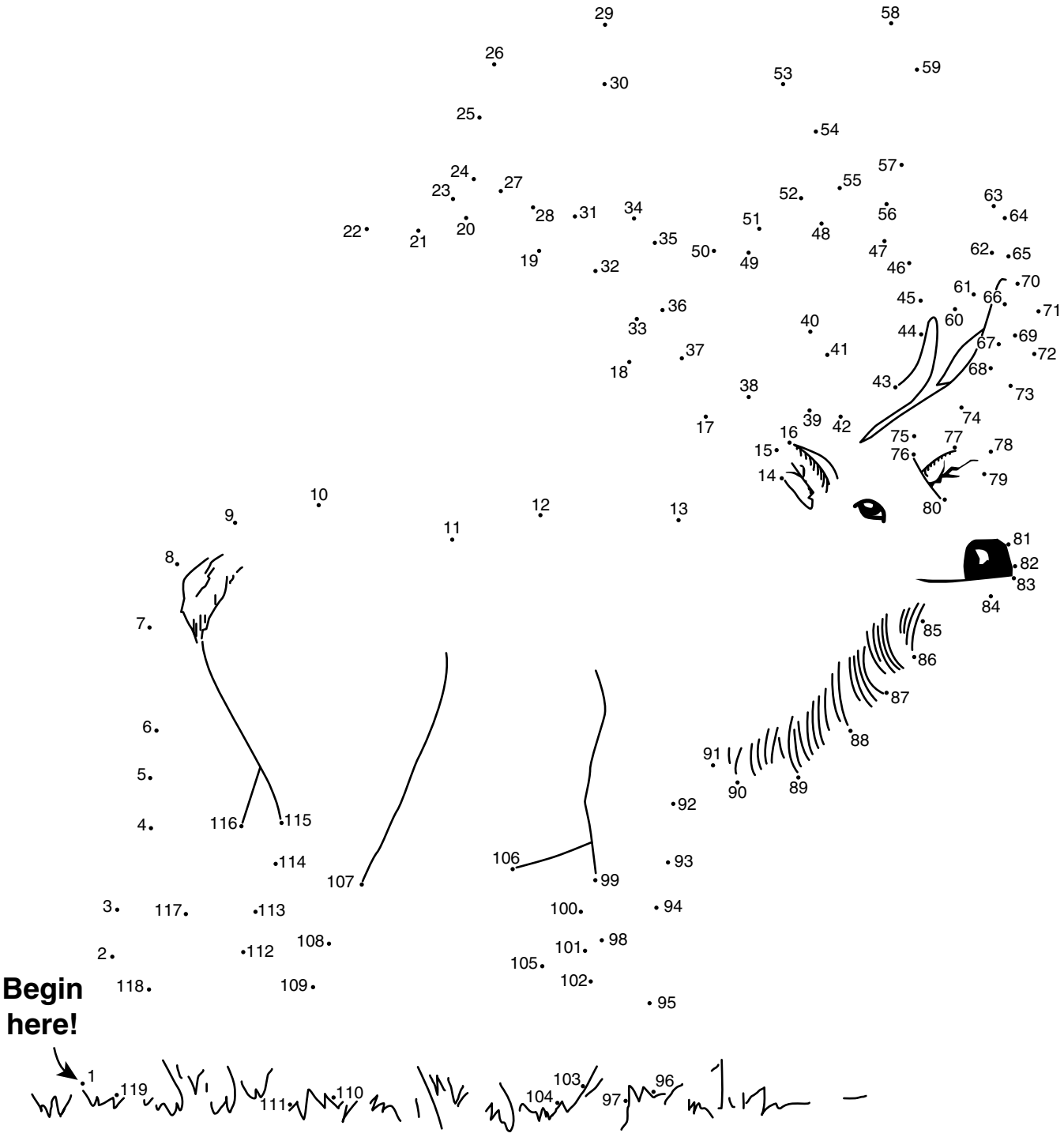
Den site: stick lodge
Food items: bark, aquatic vegetation

Answer: _____



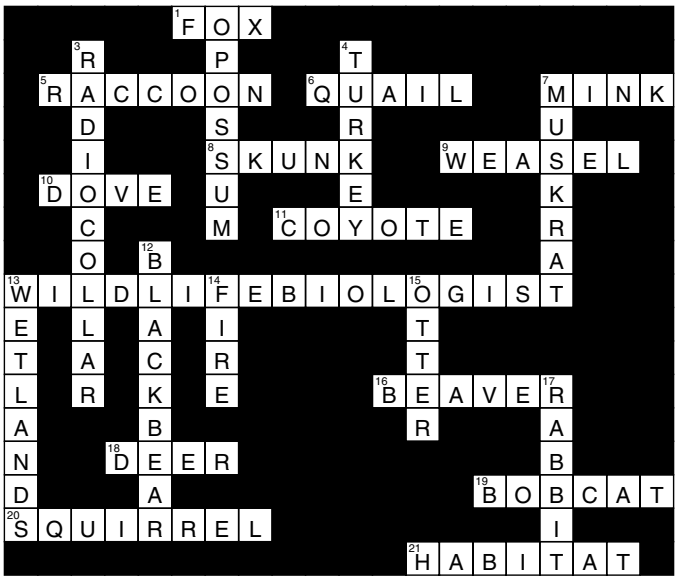
Please help the beaver go downstream to his lodge!

CONNECT THE DOTS

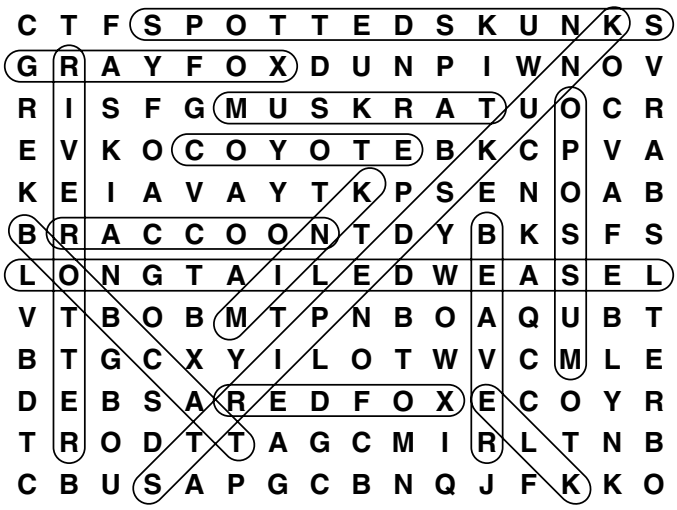


The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency has reintroduced this very large mammal to eastern Tennessee.

Answer Key
Crossword, pg. 21



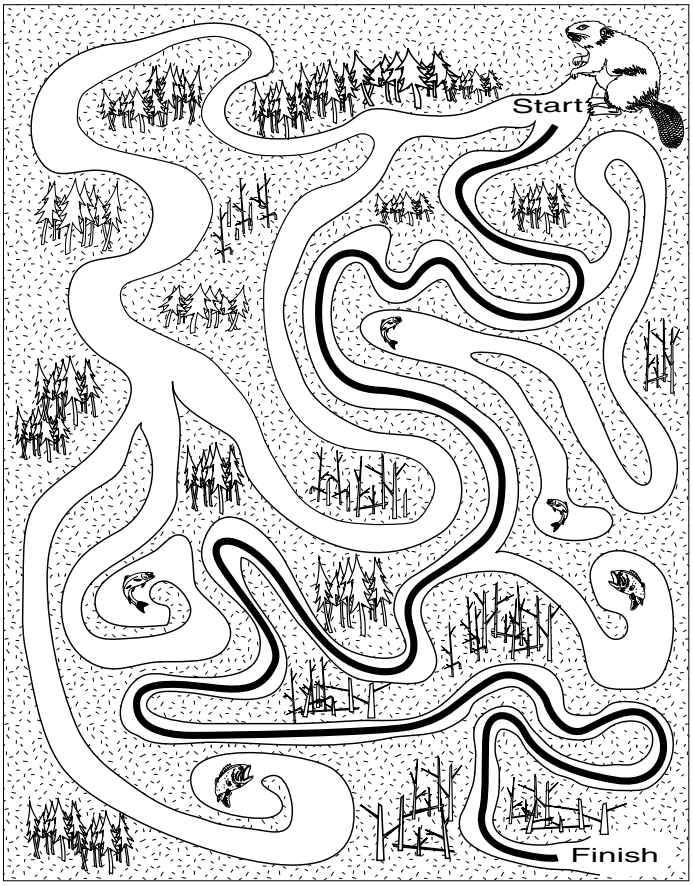
Answer Key
Furbearers Search, pg. 22



Answer Key
Tracking Down The Answers, pg. 23

- Mourning Dove
- Coyote
- Muskrat
- Squirrel
- Raccoon
- Quail
- Beaver

Answer Key
Maze, pg. 24



TWRA OFFICES

All Office Hours: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Monday-Friday (local time)

Central Office - Nashville
Ellington Agricultural Center
P. O. Box 40747
Nashville, TN 37204 615-781-6500
Boat Registration 615-781-6585
Boating Safety 615-781-6682
Director's Office 615-781-6552
Education 615-781-6500
Fisheries Division 615-781-6575
Law Enforcement 615-781-6580
Legal 615-781-6606
License Sales 615-781-6585
Personnel Division 615-781-6594
Quota Hunts 615-781-6621
Video Library 615-781-6544
Wildlife Division 615-781-6610

West Tennessee - Region I
200 Lowell Thomas Drive
Jackson, TN 38301 731-423-5725
Toll Free 1-800-372-3928
Fax 731-423-6483

Middle Tennessee - Region II
Ellington Agricultural Center
P. O. Box 41489
Nashville, TN 37204 615-781-6622
Toll Free 1-800-624-7406
Fax 615-831-9995

Cumberland Plateau - Region III
464 Industrial Blvd.
Crossville, TN 38555 931-484-9571
Toll Free 1-800-262-6704
Fax 931-456-1025

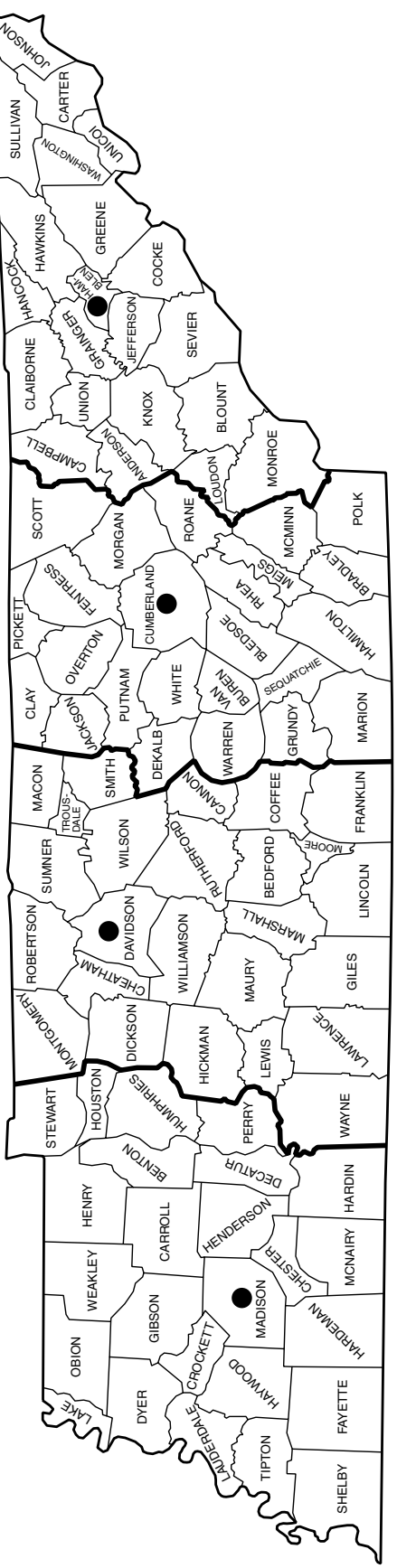
East Tennessee - Region IV
3030 Wildlife Way
Morristown, TN 37814 423-587-7037
Toll Free 1-800-332-0900
Fax 423-587-7057

TDD (Telecommunications Device for the Deaf)
..... 615-781-6691

Website ..... www.tnwildlife.org

AFTER HOURS INFORMATION

For general information, the following numbers may be called between the hours of 4:30 p.m. and midnight.
West Tennessee - Region I 1-800-372-3928
Middle Tennessee - Region II 1-800-624-7406
Cumberland Plateau - Region III 1-800-262-6704
East Tennessee - Region IV 1-800-332-0900



Many TWRA programs receive Federal financial assistance in Sport Fish and/or Wildlife Restoration. Under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to: The Office for Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4040 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22203.

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Authorization No. 328780, 20,000 copies, September, 2005. This public document was promulgated at a cost of $.18 per copy.