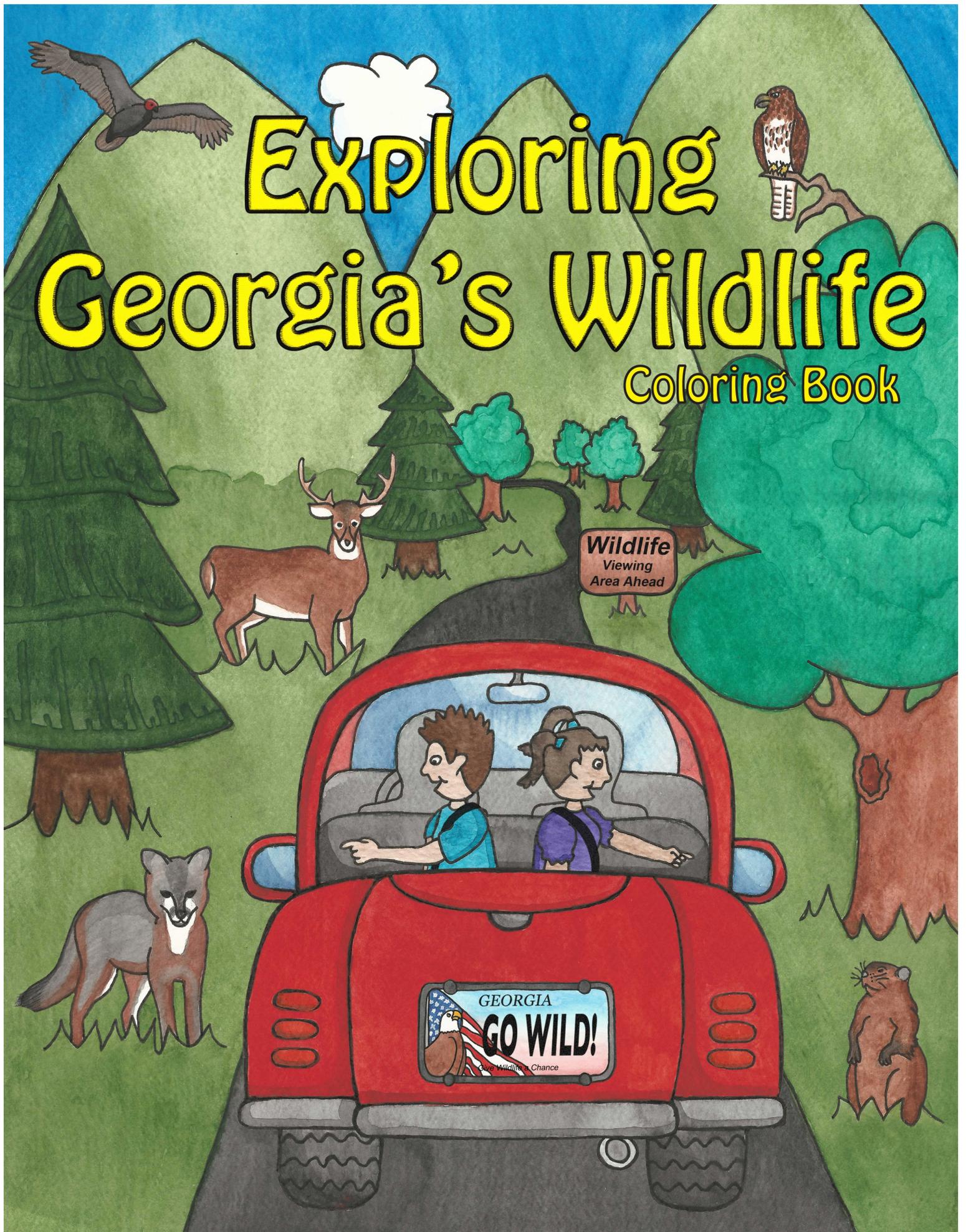


Exploring Georgia's Wildlife

Coloring Book



SHOW YOUR SUPPORT



This coloring book is provided by:

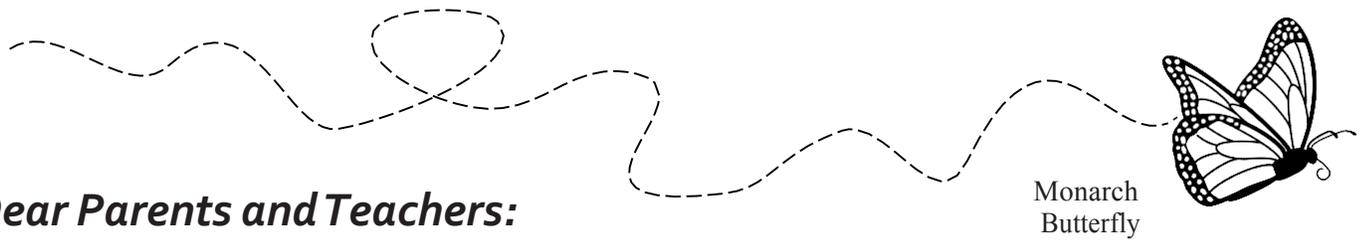


www.georgiawildlife.org

<http://tern.homestead.com>

Download a PDF of this coloring book at www.georgiawildlife.com/ColoringBook

Georgia Wildlife Resources Division, 2067 US Hwy. 278 SE, Social Circle, GA 30025 Written by Linda May, DNR Environmental Outreach Coordinator: linda.may@dnr.ga.gov
Illustrations by Ami Flowers Staples, www.amiflowersart.com



Dear Parents and Teachers:

As part of our Kids for Conservation initiative, we are pleased to help your children and students learn about wildlife and their habitats through this “Exploring Georgia Wildlife” coloring book. We hope these pages motivate you to venture outdoors close to home and throughout our great state. By taking kids outside and responsibly connecting to nature, you can create fond memories that last a lifetime, build confidence and creativity through unstructured play, and foster the overall well-being of children.

While Georgia offers a variety of landscapes to explore, you don’t have to go far to be inspired by nature. Backyards, schoolyards, nature centers and parks are great places to start. Even in cities, you can see interesting birds, butterflies, frogs, lizards and other wildlife, as well as native trees, shrubs, vines and wildflowers. Children can write about or sketch their discoveries on the Nature Observations page in the back of this book. You also can help them contribute meaningful data online through citizen science projects like eBird, Project FeederWatch, NestWatch, Georgia Adopt-A-Stream, Project BudBurst, Monarch Watch and EDDMapS (Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System, a way to track invasive species).

Need help getting started on your outdoor adventures? Check out DNR’s Georgia Outdoor Map (www.georgiaoutdoormap.com), which helps you locate places that highlight our state’s rich natural, recreational and cultural resources. You also can find tips on how to enjoy and conserve nature on the inside back cover of this coloring book. By making slight changes to your everyday actions, you can help safeguard our natural heritage now and for future generations.

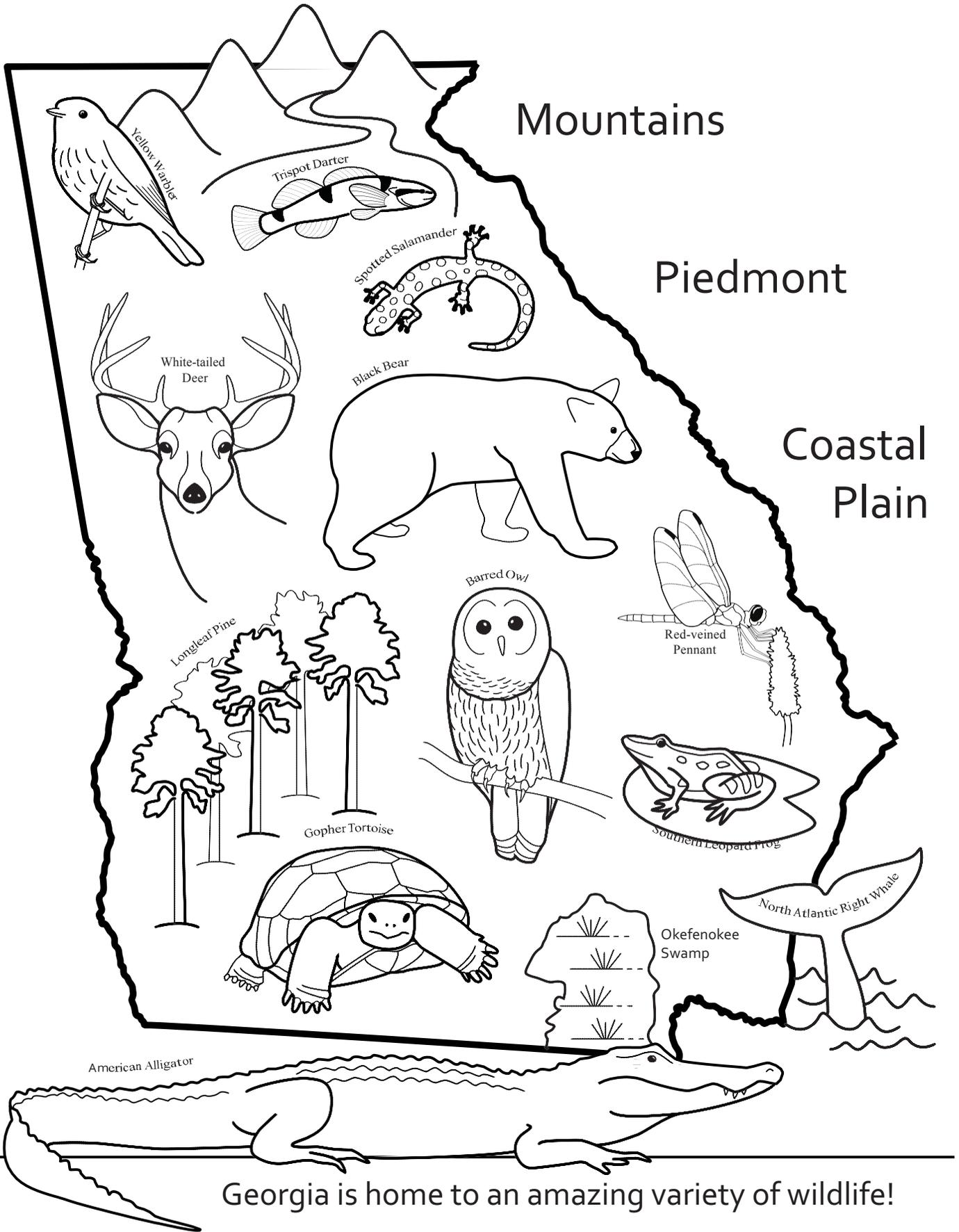
Have fun exploring Georgia!

Your partners in wildlife conservation,
*Staff at the Georgia DNR
Wildlife Resources Division*

P.S. – We cordially invite you to participate in these other Kids for Conservation programs, too!

-  Give Wildlife a Chance Poster Contest:
www.georgiawildlife.com/PosterContest
-  Youth Birding Competition and T-shirt Art Contest:
www.georgiawildlife.com/YBC
-  Conservation Teacher of the Year Grant:
www.georgiawildlife.com/TeachingConservationGrant





Mountains

Piedmont

Coastal Plain

Yellow Warbler

Trispot Darter

Spotted Salamander

White-tailed Deer

Black Bear

Barred Owl

Red-veined Pennant

Longleaf Pine

Gopher Tortoise

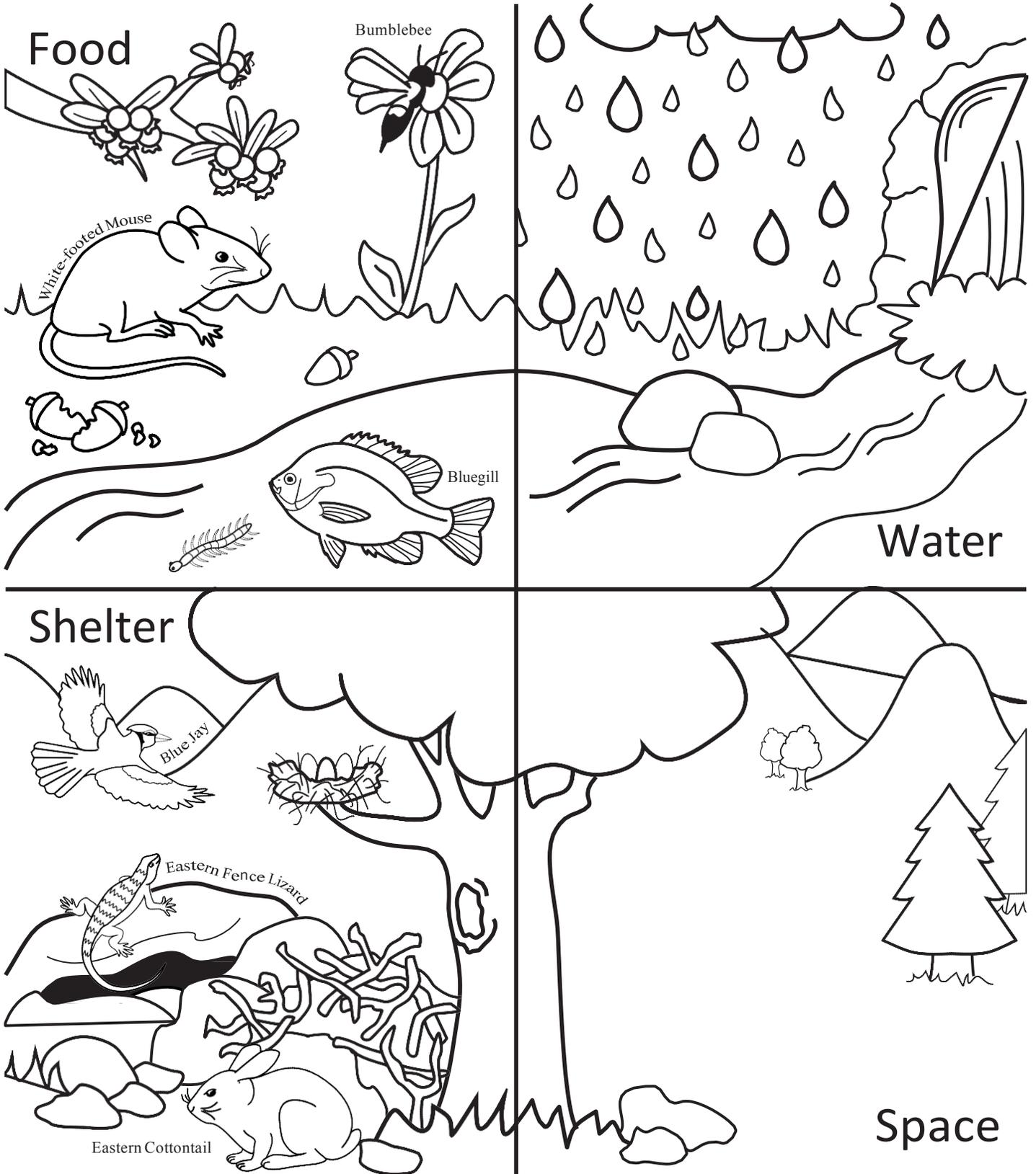
Southern Leopard Frog

Okefenokee Swamp

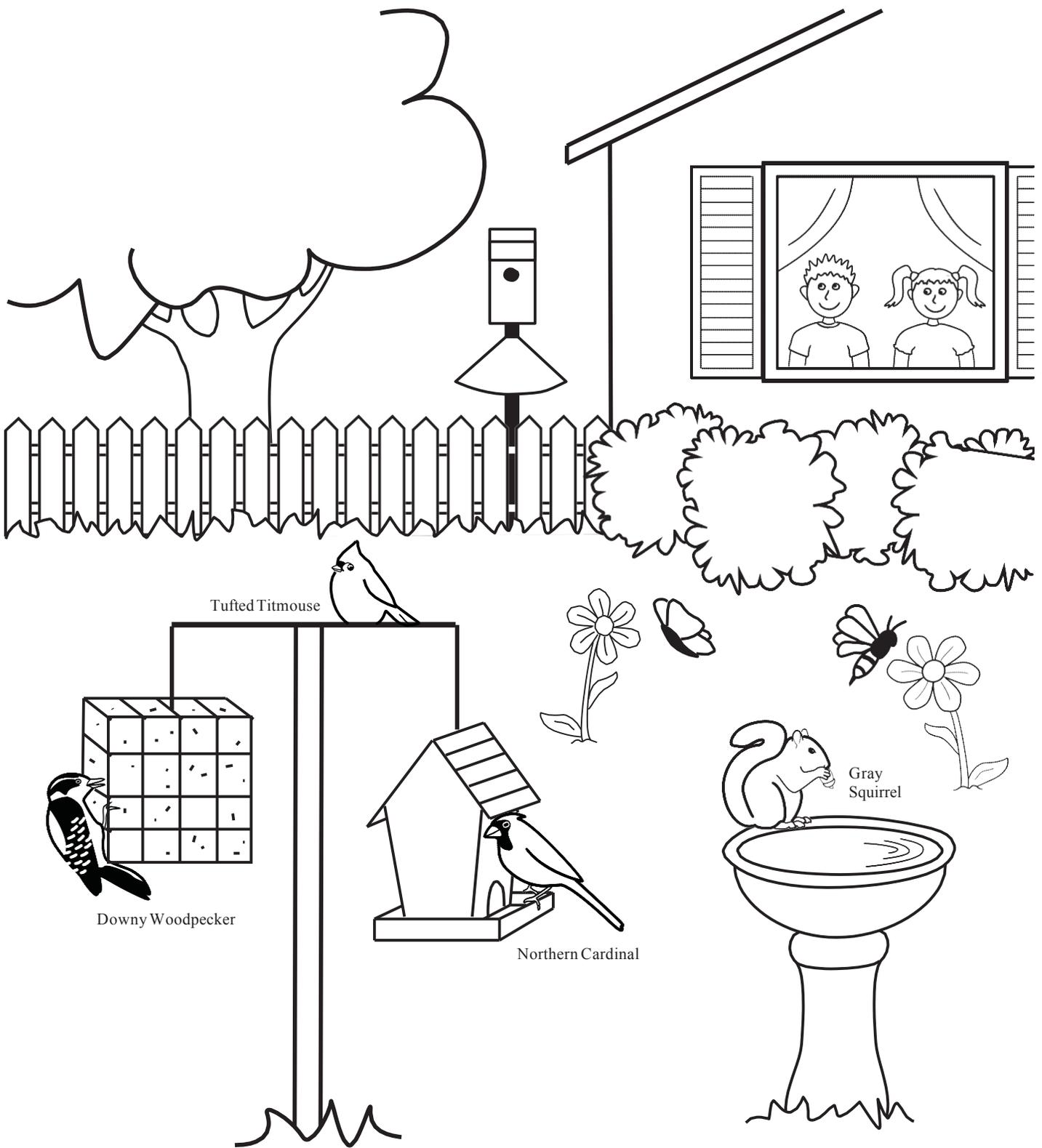
North Atlantic Right Whale

American Alligator

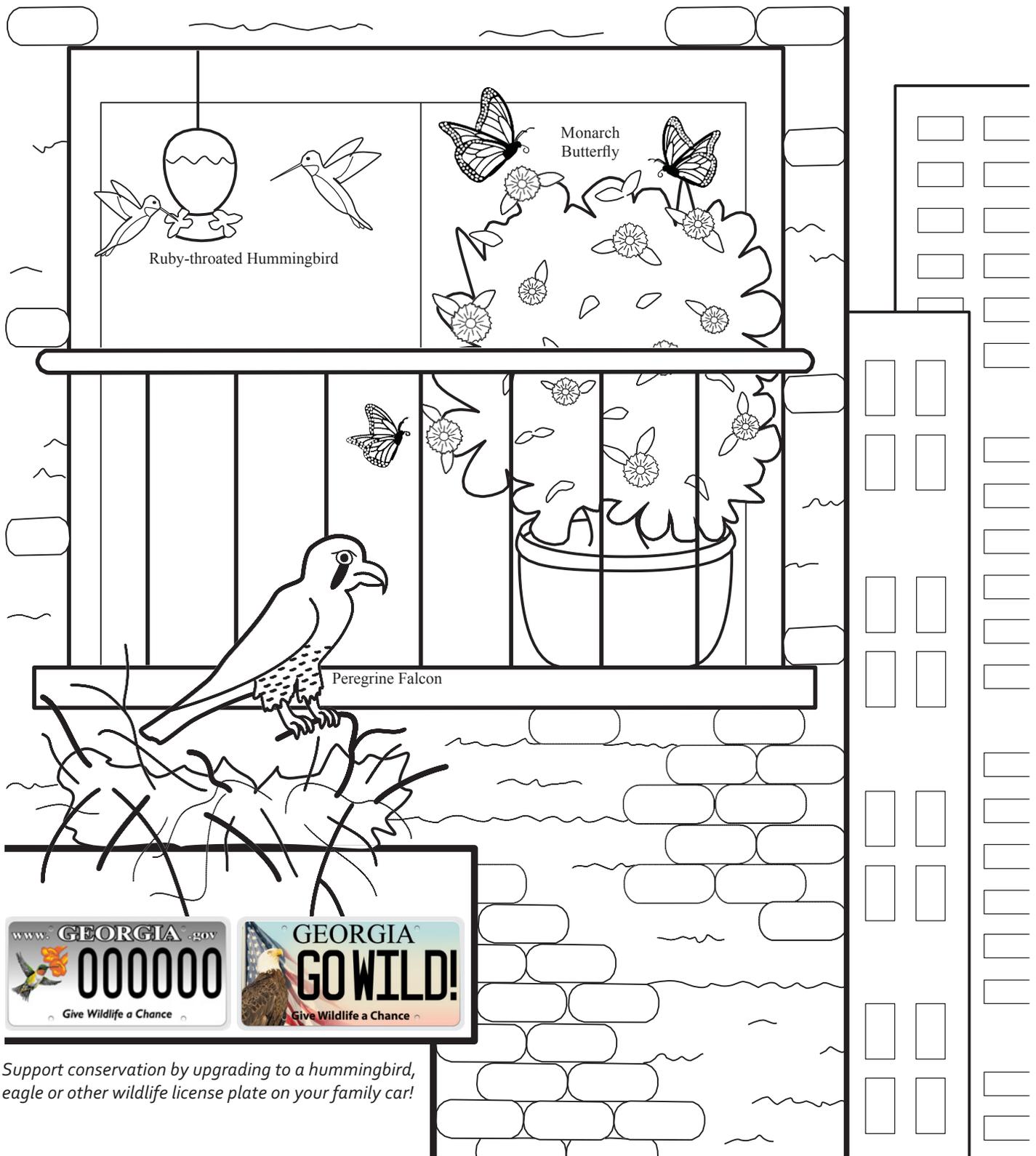
Georgia is home to an amazing variety of wildlife!



A wild animal's home is called its **HABITAT**. Like people, wildlife need food, water, shelter and space to survive. Here are some ways that wildlife find the things they need in nature.



Watching wildlife is fun! You probably can find wild animals living near your home and school. Help them to survive by providing food, water, shelter and nesting spaces. Songbirds especially appreciate bird feeders, clean water, nest boxes and native trees, shrubs and flowers.



Support conservation by upgrading to a hummingbird, eagle or other wildlife license plate on your family car!

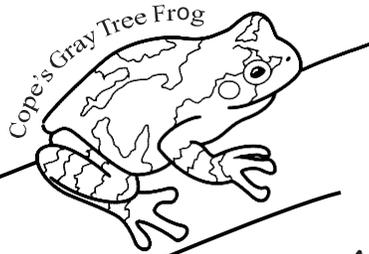
Even if you live in the city, you can provide habitat for wildlife! High ledges offer nesting spaces for birds of prey like hawks and peregrine falcons. Hummingbirds may find their way to a sugar water feeder (one part sugar dissolved in four parts water). You also can attract pollinators like butterflies by adding potted flowers to your patio, deck, balcony or rooftop.

Generalists vs. Specialists

Generalists



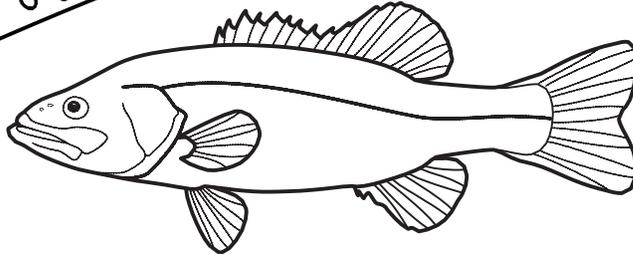
Great Blue Heron



Cope's Gray Tree Frog

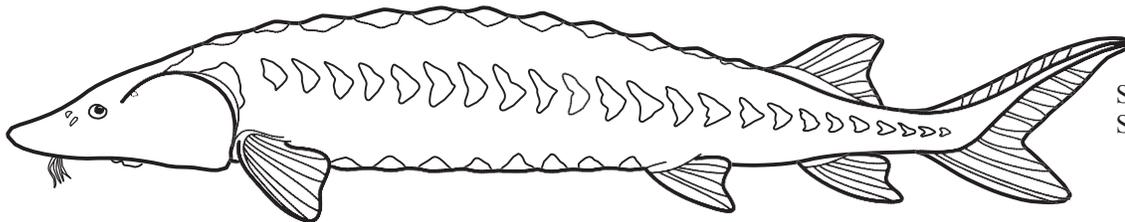


Red Maple



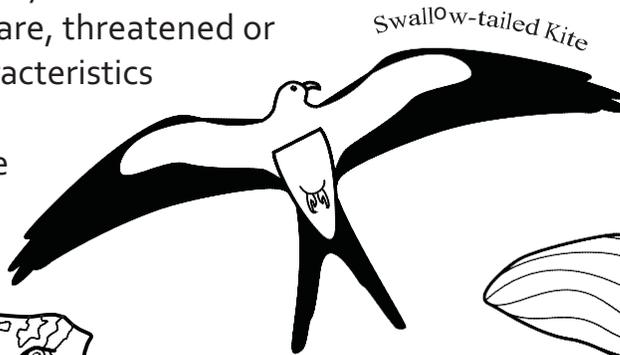
Largemouth Bass

Some plants and animals are not very picky about where they live. They can be found in a variety of habitats statewide and are fairly common. Biologists refer to these species as **GENERALISTS**.

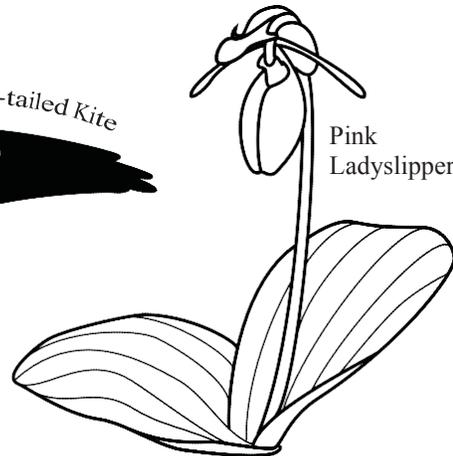


Shortnose Sturgeon

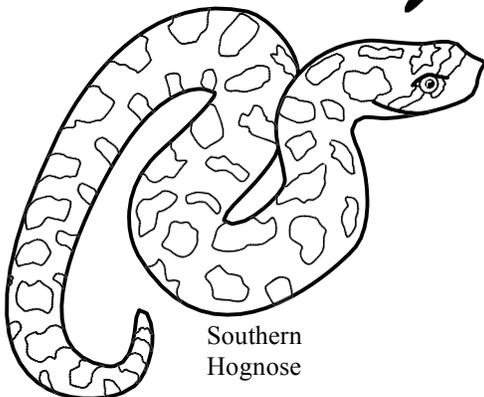
Other species have special needs and can only live in certain habitats. They tend to be less common, possibly even rare, threatened or endangered. Unique characteristics (adaptations) help them survive. These species are called **SPECIALISTS**.



Swallow-tailed Kite



Pink Ladyslipper

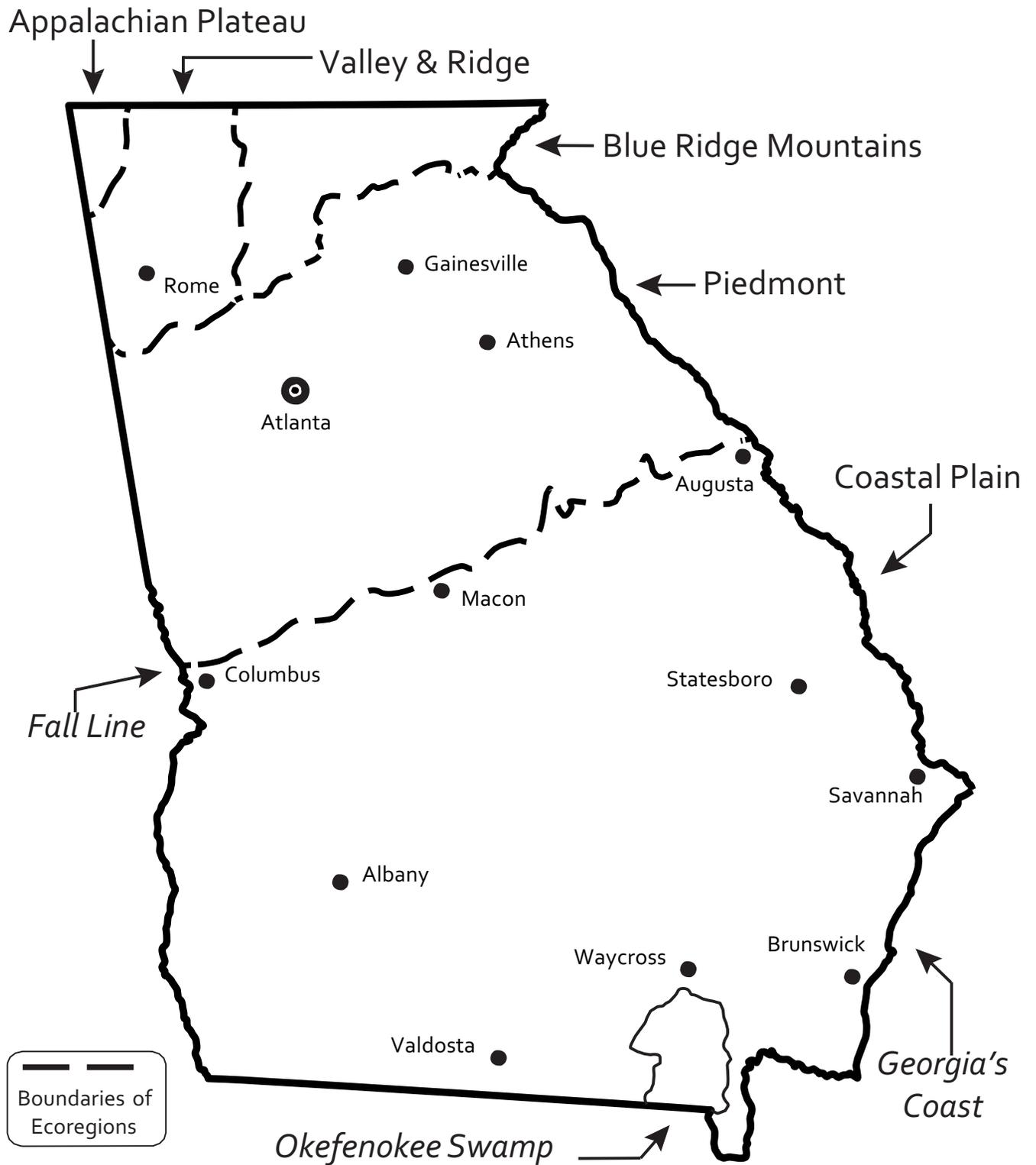


Southern Hognose

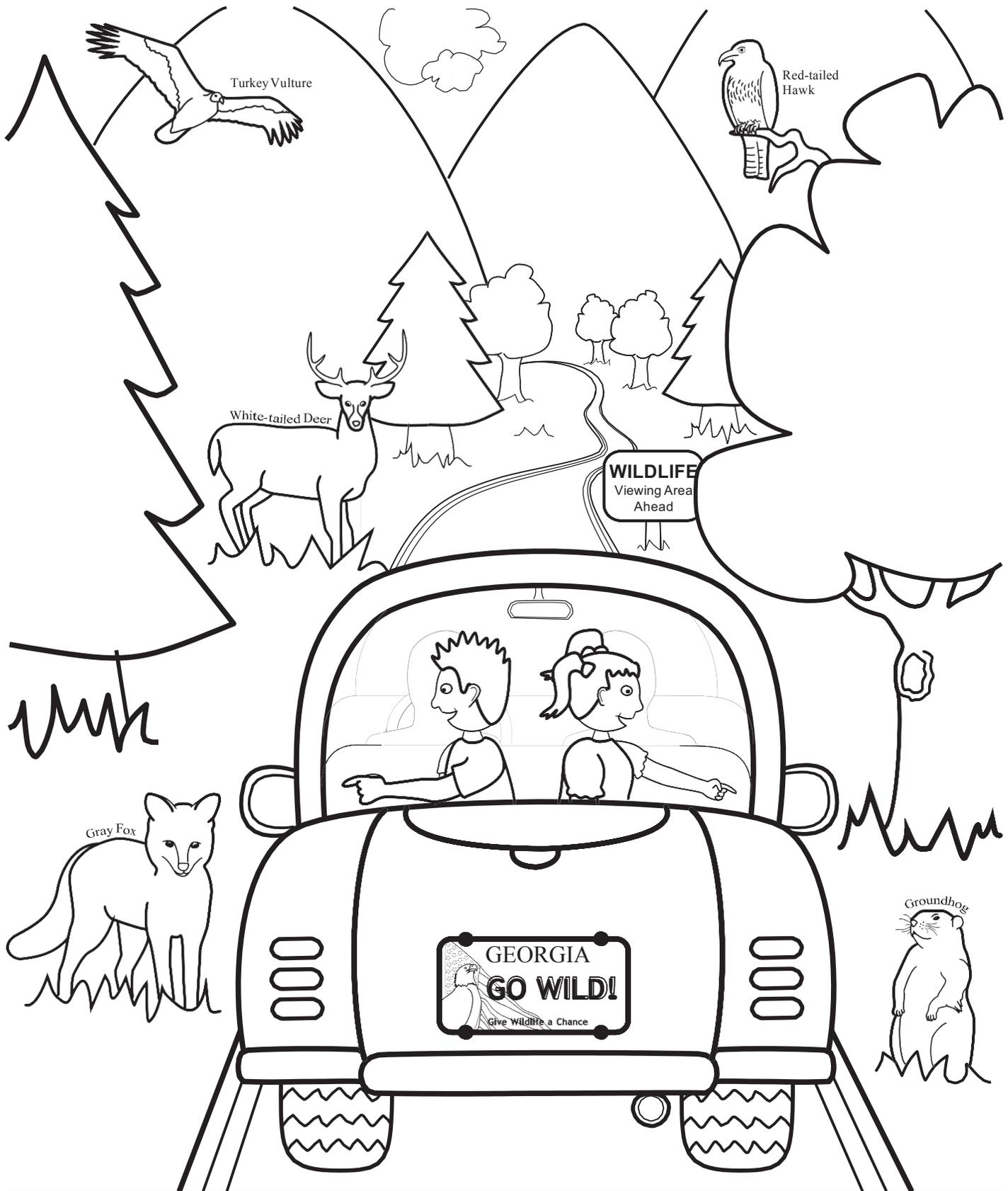
Specialists

Did you know that Georgia is home to several plants and animals on the Endangered Species List?

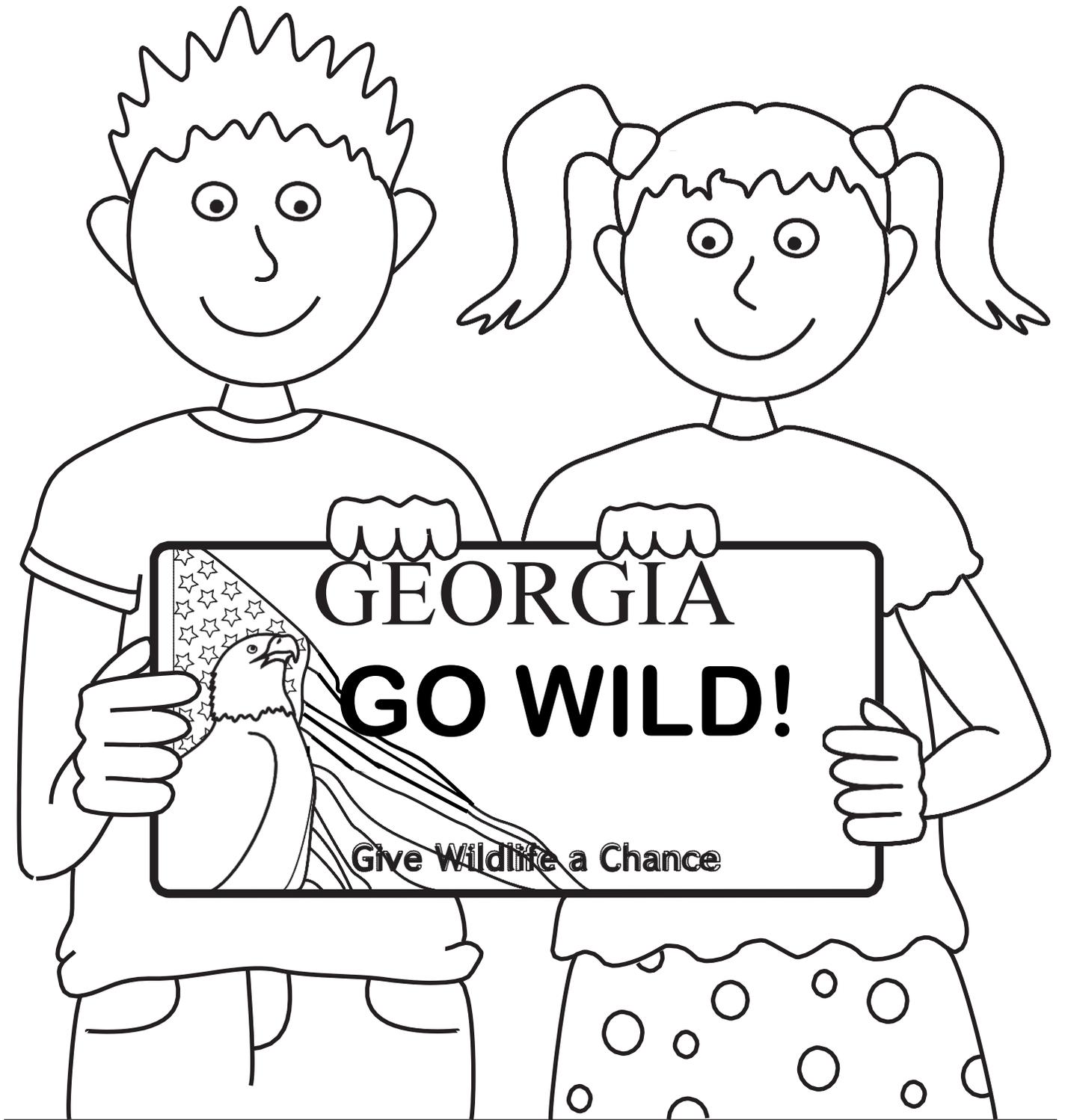
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Visit www.georgiawildlife.com/species to learn more!



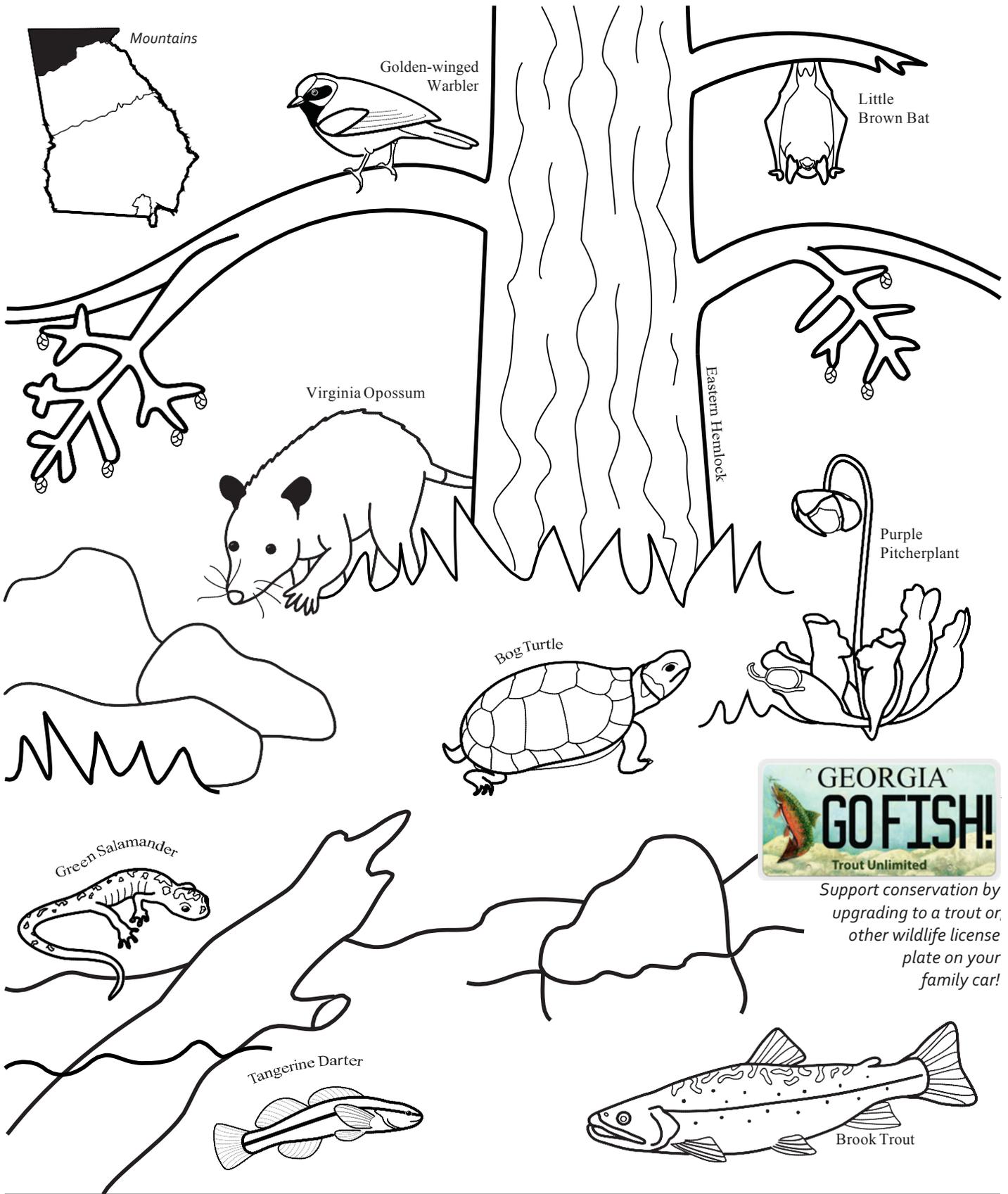
The different habitat zones in our state are called **ECOREGIONS**. Georgia is made up of five ecoregions, each with its own unique climate, soils, plants and animals. In which ecoregion do you live?



While you can find wildlife close to home, it's also fun to visit other areas of Georgia to see what you can find. Ask your parents to buy a wildlife license plate for your family's car or truck! That way, you can show your love for all things wild as you travel!

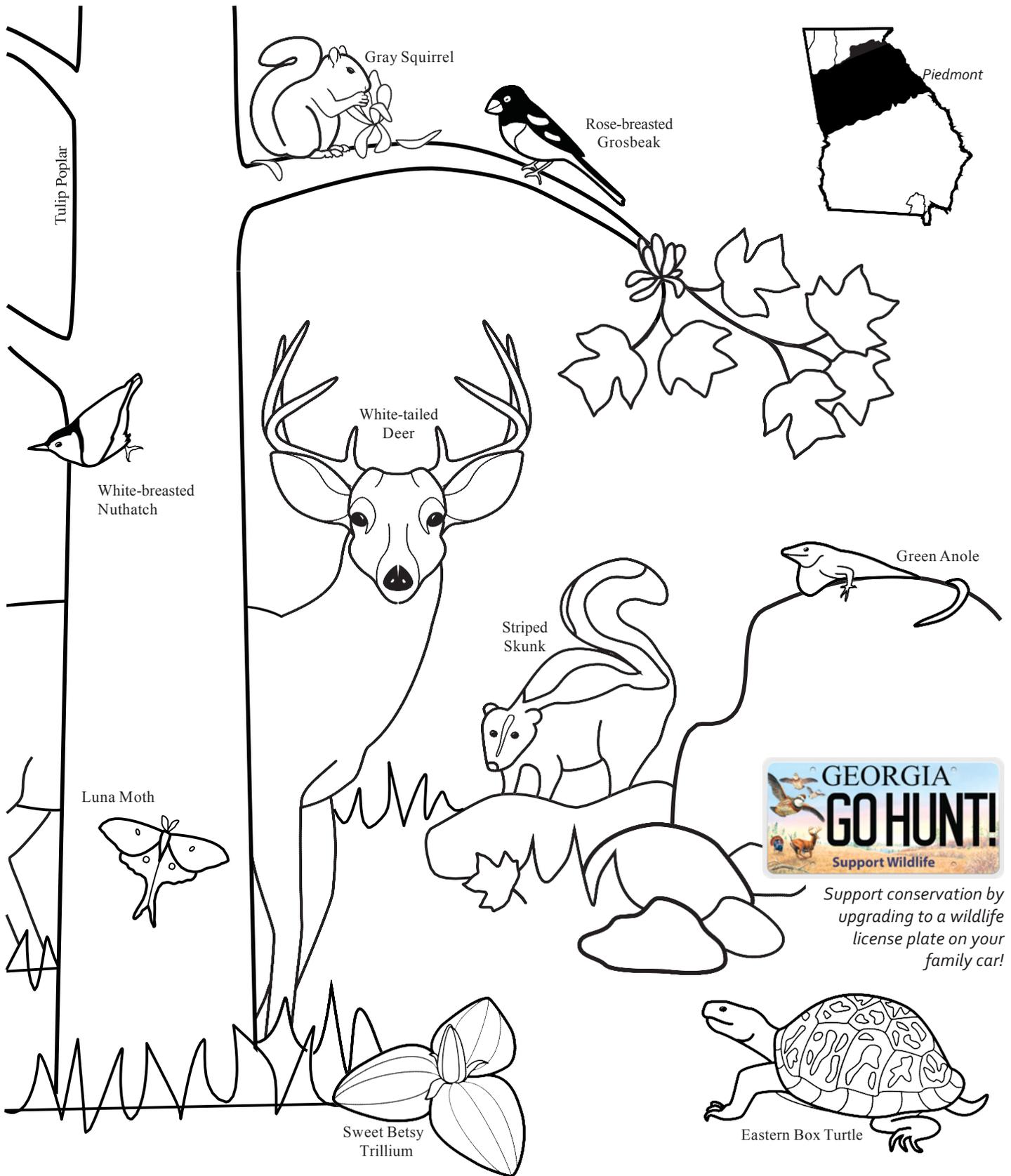


Your family can show appreciation for wildlife and their beautiful habitats by proudly displaying a wildlife tag on your car as you explore Georgia! Let's take a look at some of the species you may encounter as you travel through the ecoregions.

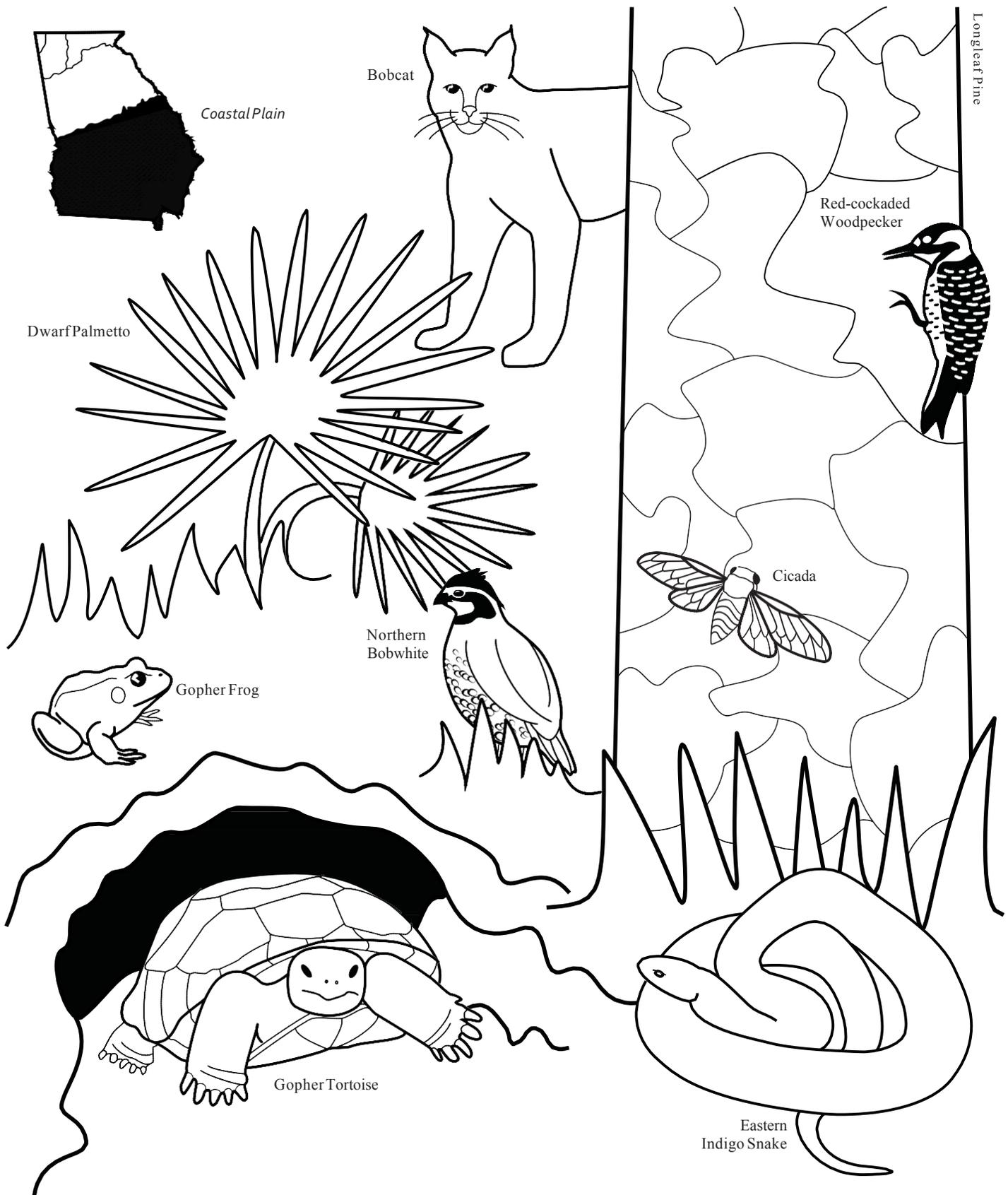


Support conservation by upgrading to a trout or other wildlife license plate on your family car!

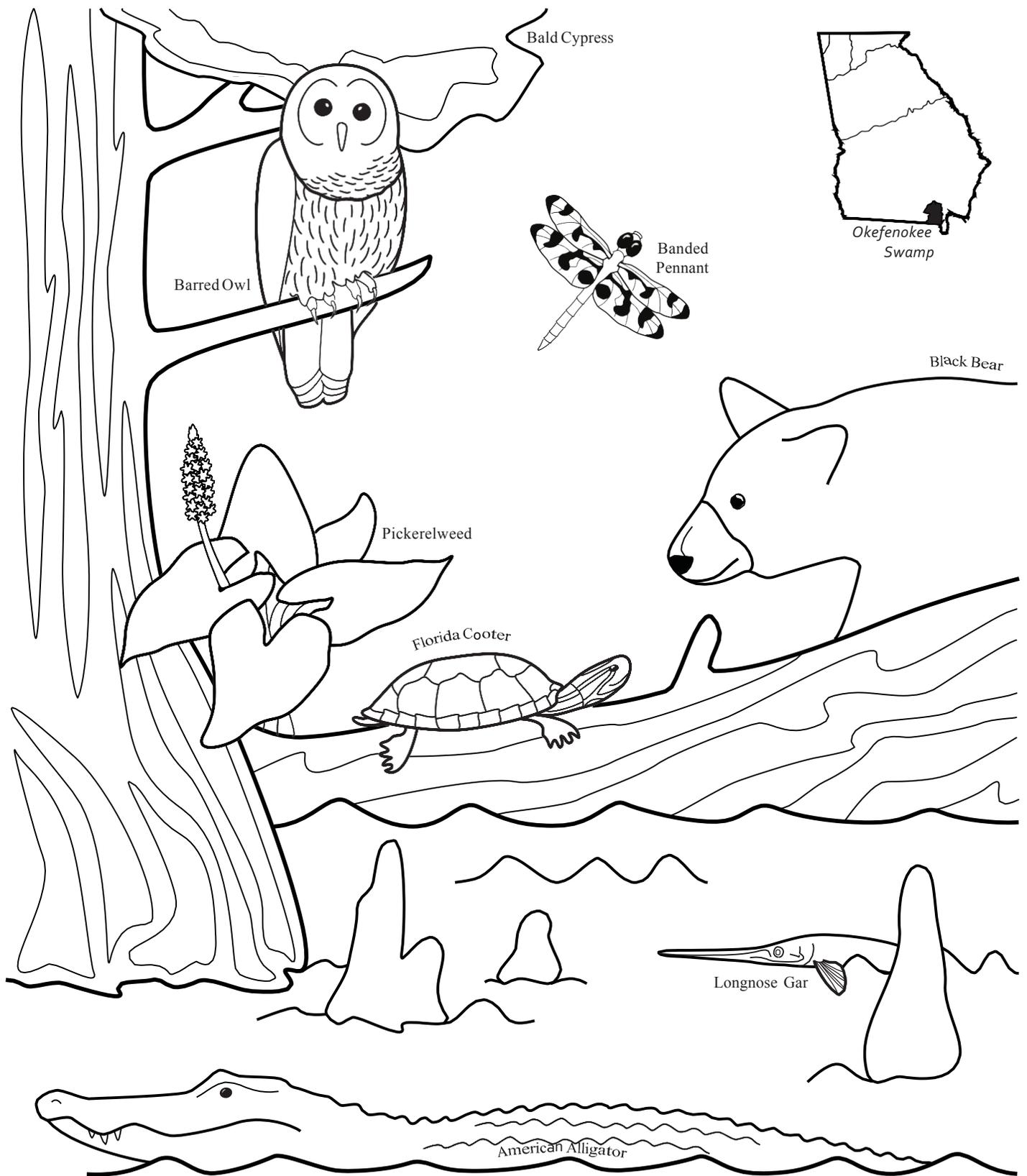
The mountains of north Georgia include three ecoregions: Appalachian Plateau, Valley and Ridge, and Blue Ridge. This part of the state features rocky terrain, caves, forested slopes, valleys, springs and cool streams – lots of different habitats to support a variety of plants and animals. Millions of years of rain and wind rounded the ancient peaks here.



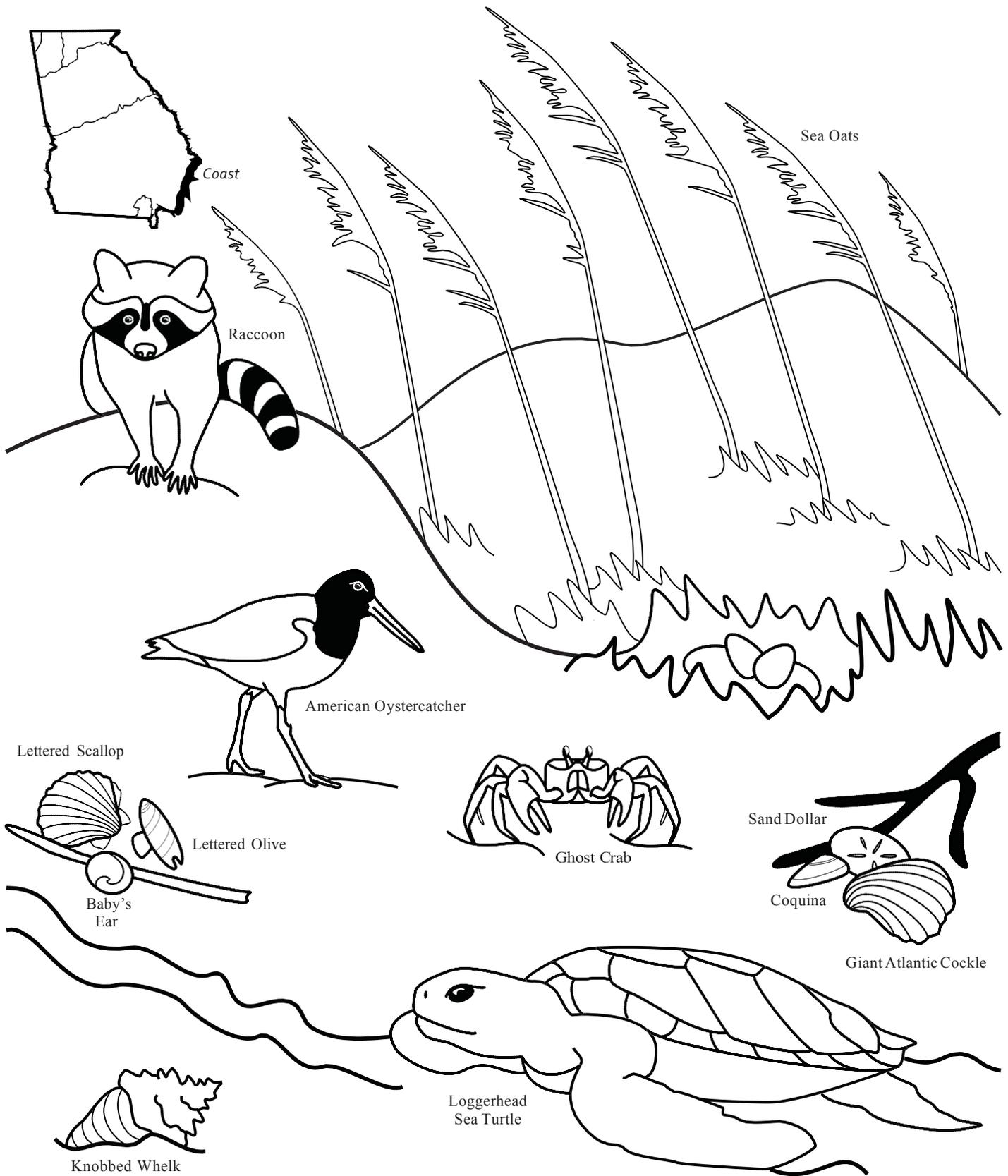
At the base of the Appalachian Mountains, Georgia's Piedmont features rolling hills and a variety of rocks, including exposed granite domes like Stone Mountain. This area is known for its red clay-like soil, which erodes easily when trees are cleared away for development or farming. The Pine Mountain Range in Harris, Talbot and Meriwether counties is unique to this ecoregion, with ridges that are 300-400 feet higher than the rest of the Piedmont.



Just south of the Piedmont, as you enter the Coastal Plain, the elevation drops rapidly along the Fall Line, creating a series of waterfalls. This geological boundary marks where Georgia's coastline was located millions of years ago. The sandy soil gives a hint that the Coastal Plain was once covered by the ocean. While most of southern Georgia is relatively flat, unique dune habitats called sandhills dot the landscape.

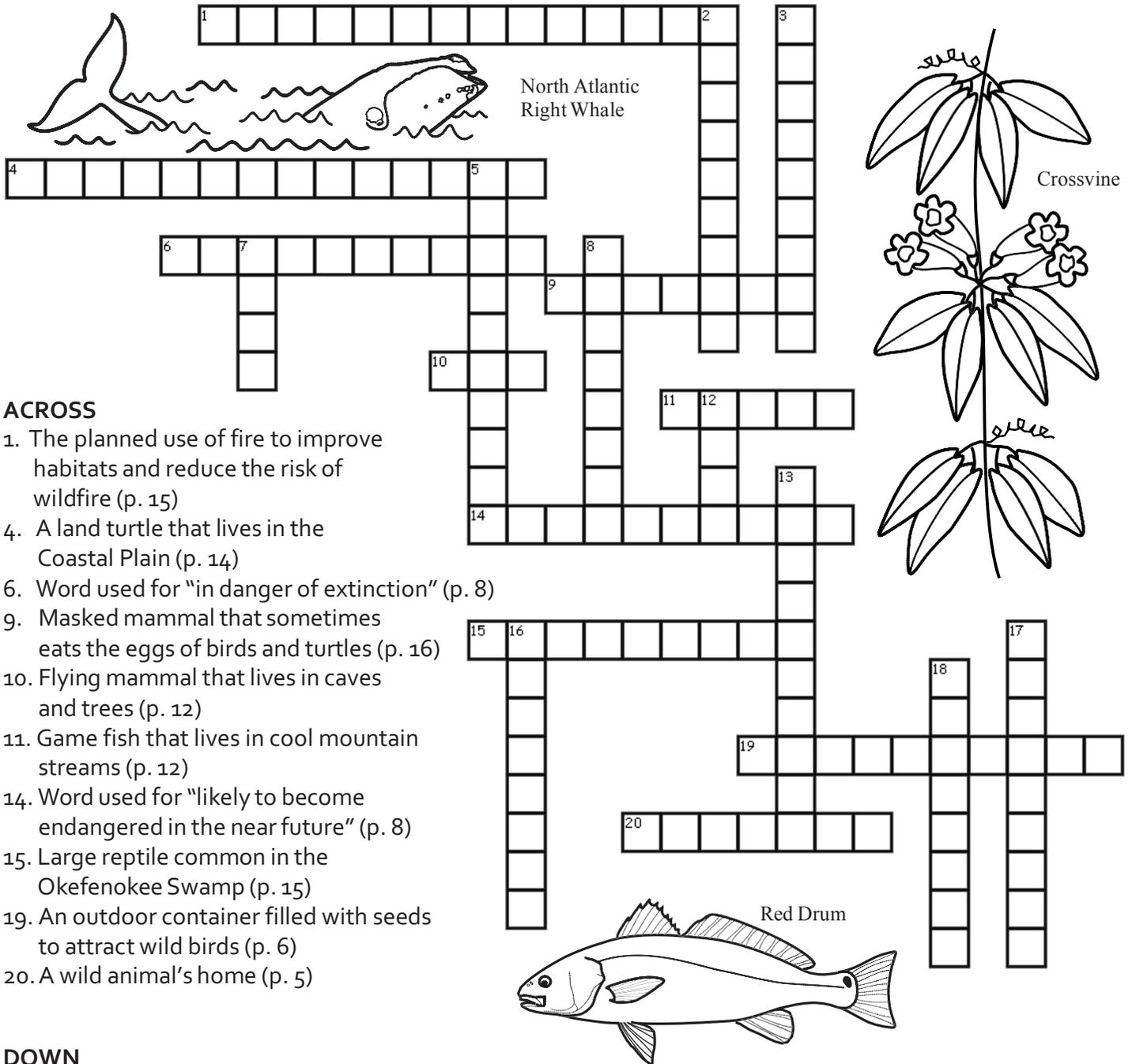


The Okefenokee Swamp is a 438,000-acre wetland within Georgia’s Coastal Plain, just north of the Florida state line. As the largest continuous freshwater swamp in North America, the Okefenokee is a sanctuary for many species of wildlife. Islands, pine trees, prairies and peat beds are scattered throughout the slow-moving, black waters. Varying rainfall amounts, as well as natural and prescribed fires, bring frequent changes to the habitats here.



Georgia has about 100 miles of beautiful coastline and 13 barrier islands along the Atlantic Ocean. Wind and waves continually shape the sandy shores, leaving seashells behind with every tide. Dune vegetation holds much of the sand in place so it doesn't all wash out to sea. Georgia's beaches, as well as the nearby estuaries and salt marshes, are important nesting and feeding sites for many species of wildlife.

Georgia Wildlife Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

1. The planned use of fire to improve habitats and reduce the risk of wildfire (p. 15)
4. A land turtle that lives in the Coastal Plain (p. 14)
6. Word used for "in danger of extinction" (p. 8)
9. Masked mammal that sometimes eats the eggs of birds and turtles (p. 16)
10. Flying mammal that lives in caves and trees (p. 12)
11. Game fish that lives in cool mountain streams (p. 12)
14. Word used for "likely to become endangered in the near future" (p. 8)
15. Large reptile common in the Okefenokee Swamp (p. 15)
19. An outdoor container filled with seeds to attract wild birds (p. 6)
20. A wild animal's home (p. 5)

DOWN

2. A habitat zone that has its own unique climate, soils, plants and animals (p. 9)
3. Species of falcon that sometimes nests on skyscrapers in Atlanta (p. 7)
5. A species that has unique characteristics and requires a special habitat in order to survive (p. 8)
7. Large mammal; males have antlers (p. 13)
8. A geological boundary that separates Georgia's Piedmont from the Coastal Plain (p. 14)
12. May not be endangered or threatened but is uncommon (p. 8)
13. A species that can survive in a variety of habitats and may be found statewide (p. 8)
16. Species of pine tree with long needles that grows in south Georgia (p. 4)
17. Bird of prey featured on Georgia wildlife license plate (cover)
18. Ecoregion just north of the Fall Line that includes Georgia's state capital (p. 9)

Answers are at the bottom of the next page.

Explore Georgia's Wildlife!

Go on a nature walk. You don't need to go far to enjoy nature. Your backyard or a local greenspace is a great place to start! Before you go, make a list of some things you may see. Then go on a nature scavenger hunt to see if you can find those items. Respect wildlife by watching from a distance. Use binoculars or a camera to get a closer look.

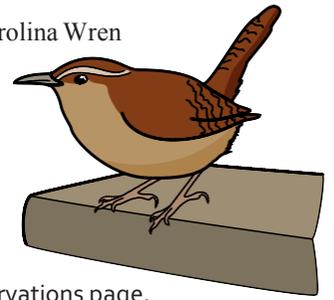
Slow down to observe nature. Grab a pencil and open this coloring book to the Nature Observations page. Find a comfortable place to sit outside. For at least five minutes, write down or sketch everything you see, hear, smell or feel. Use field guides (books or internet) to identify and learn about any species that are new to you.

Plant a garden for wildlife. Invite birds, butterflies and other wildlife to your yard by planting native plants. You can further enhance habitat by getting rid of invasive non-native plants (like Chinese privet, English ivy and kudzu) and by adding a water source, bird feeder, bird house, bat box, brush pile or rock pile.

Become a Junior Ranger! Earn badges by completing activities in the Junior Ranger book, www.gastateparks.org/EducationalResources#JuniorRanger

Become a Citizen Scientist! Record your nature observations and contribute to important scientific studies! Research citizen science opportunities online. Fun wildlife-related projects include Project FeederWatch and NestWatch (Cornell Lab of Ornithology), Project BudBurst (National Science Foundation) and EDDMapS (UGA Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health).

Carolina Wren



**Our everyday actions impact wildlife and their habitats.
See how many of these suggestions you can put into practice!**

Save energy. Turning off lights, TVs and other appliances when you're not using them reduces pollution from energy production and saves money. <http://learningpower.org/georgia>

Conserve water. The less water we use from the ground, rivers or lakes means more water for wildlife – and for future Georgians. To avoid wasting water, take short showers, turn off the faucet while brushing your teeth, only run full laundry and dishwashing loads, and fix leaky plumbing. You also can capture rainfall in a rain barrel or cistern to water plants. Retain soil moisture by adding mulch to your garden beds. www.watersmart.net/conserves

Carpool to school or work to reduce air pollution. Parents, please turn off your cars while waiting to pick up your kids at school. <http://onairschools.org>

Only buy what you really need – and repurpose, recycle, sell or donate things you no longer want. Doing so reduces the impact on natural resources, wildlife habitats and landfills. Buy sustainable, reusable products when possible – an even better option than buying and recycling items. www.epa.gov/recycle

Properly dispose of trash. Trash is unsightly and can pollute the environment or be mistaken as food by wildlife. Items like six-pack plastic rings, helium balloons, plastic grocery bags, glass bottles and motor oil especially pose threats to unsuspecting animals. www.keepgeorgiabeautiful.org

Keep cats indoors. Cats make wonderful pets, but as non-native predators, they can be very harmful to birds and other wildlife when they live outdoors. <https://abcbirds.org/threat/cats-and-other-invasives>

Buy a wildlife license plate. Every Georgia wildlife license plate bought and renewed contributes much-needed funding to conserve wildlife throughout the state. You can also participate in the Georgia Nongame Wildlife Conservation Fund tax check-off when filing state income taxes, join TERN (DNR Nongame Friends group) or donate directly to the Nongame Wildlife Conservation Fund. www.georgiawildlife.com/licenseplates



White Oak

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

Less than three decades ago, bald eagle nests in Georgia numbered in the single digits. Fortunately efforts to protect, monitor and restore these birds and their habitats have led to the rebound of the species. While the bald eagle's recovery is an inspirational tale, more than 300 species in Georgia continue to need the protection of state and federal law. For them—and hundreds of other species of conservation concern—wildlife license plate revenue fuels the work that makes their survival possible.



FOR MORE INFO VISIT:
GEORGIAWILDLIFE.COM



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