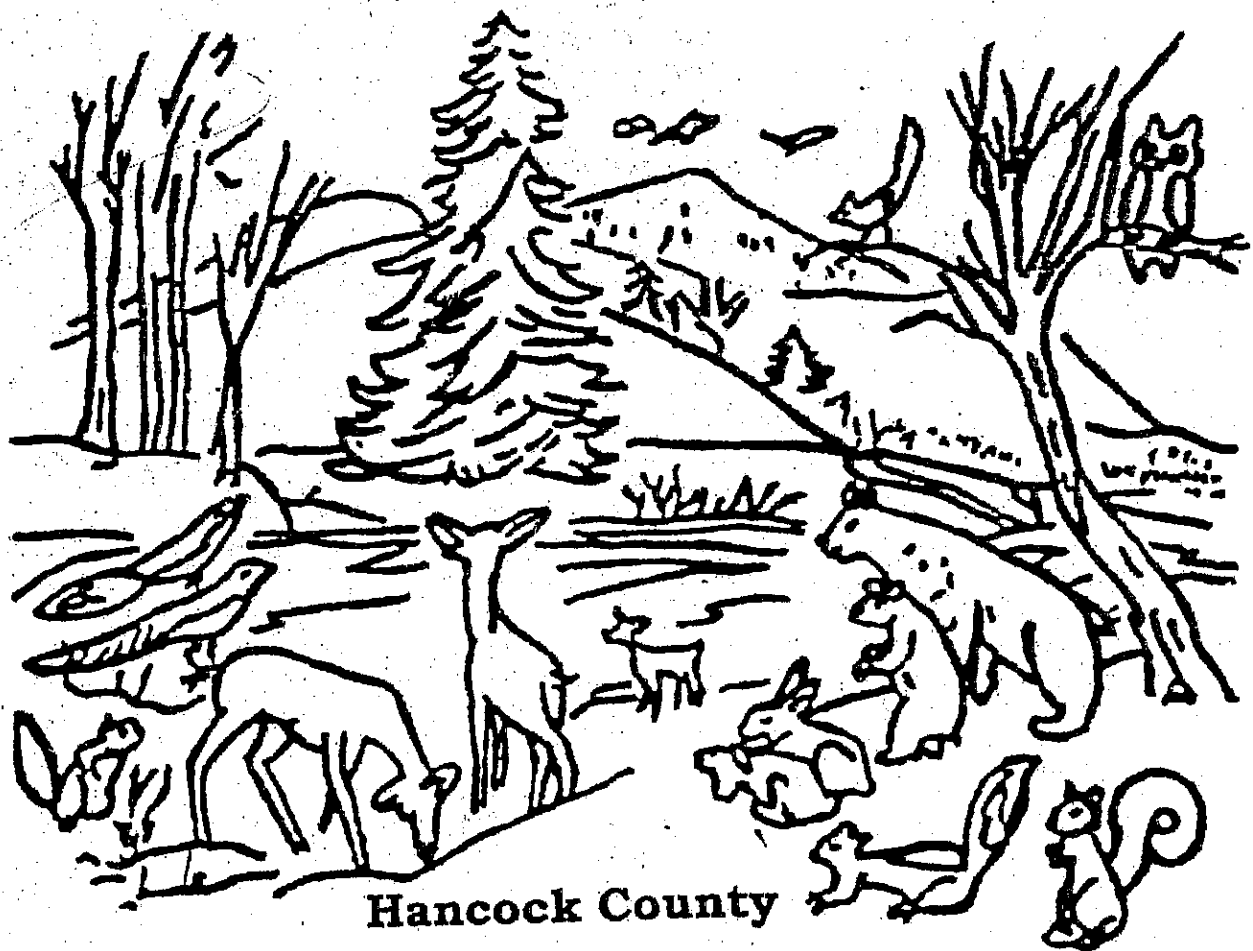


MINI 4-H

Wildlife

Division III



Dear Parent:

As a Mini 4-H parent, your job will be to guide and encourage your child through the activity. It is highly suggested that you do not complete the activities for them. Instead, help them, guide them, work with them, and let them do all that they possibly can. The 4-H motto is "Learn by doing"...and is the best educational tool that we can provide for youth.

If you have any questions about this project, please contact your club leader or the Hancock County Cooperative Extension Service at 462-1113.

It is the policy of the Cooperative Extension Service that all persons shall have equal opportunity and access to its programs and facilities without regard to race, color, age, sex, religion, handicap, or national origin.



Mini 4-H Wildlife - Division III



Welcome to Mini 4-H Wildlife Division III. This project is for members who will be 9 years old during the calendar year. In Division III you will become familiar with three birds:

Bluebird

Screech Owl

Red-headed Woodpecker

and you will study three animals:

Red Fox

Gray Squirrel

Chipmunk



You will find some information on each of these birds and animals in this manual. For additional information, visit your library for books on birds and animals. When you have read the following pages, prepare your pictures for display and complete the record sheet at the end of the book.

Wildlife is important to everyone. People enjoy seeing and hearing birds, and it is always a thrill to see a fox, squirrel, or chipmunk. Many people enjoy hunting and fishing as a pastime. There are many careers in the wildlife field from Conservation Officer to managing a hunting and fishing club.

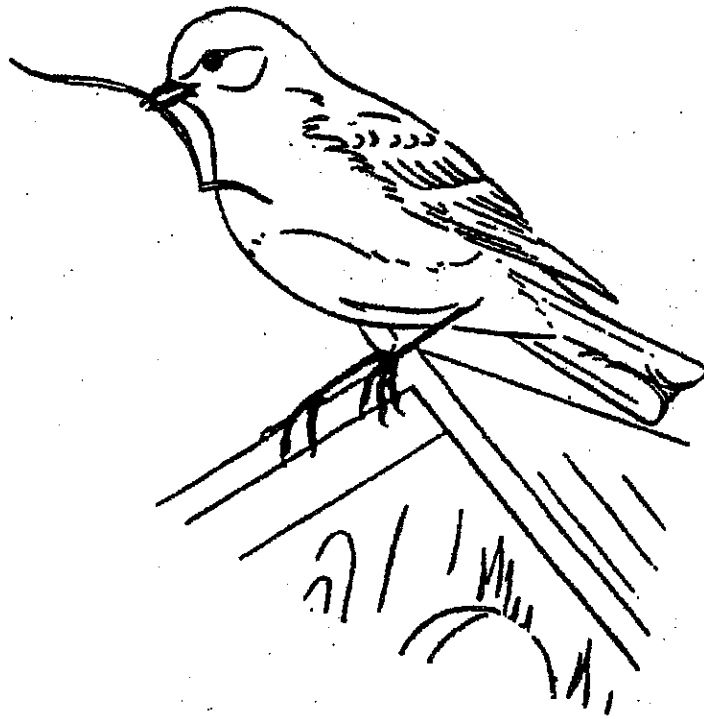


BLUEBIRD

These cheerful, friendly songbirds live all over the United States. They nest as readily in a bird house as they do in a woodpecker's hole or in a hollow tree. In a nest of grass, hair, and feathers, the female will lay four to six pale blue eggs.

A few bluebirds live in the north all year. Most fly south in the winter and north again in the spring. The western bluebird looks very much like the eastern bluebird, but has a patch of chestnut on the back as well. The mountain bluebird has a pale blue breast and belly. Bluebirds eat insects, fruits, and berries. The poison ivy berry is one of their favorite foods.

Habitat: The bluebird lives in open farmlands with scattered trees. In places where bluebird houses are erected and starlings and house sparrows are controlled, up to six pairs of bluebirds will nest on five acres of land.



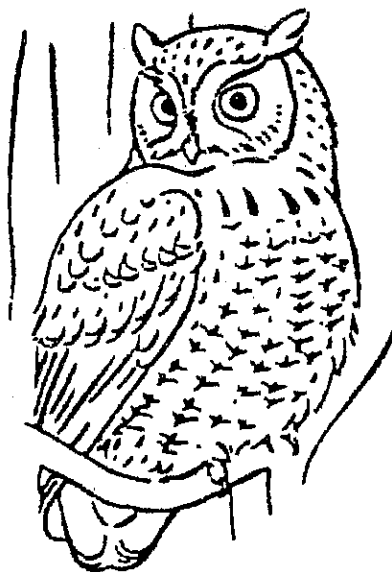
Length 6 to 8 inches

SCREECH OWL

This owl is not appropriately named. Its wailing, sad call is far from a screech. Like all owls, it hunts at night and sleeps during the day. The screech owl sleeps in a cavity in a tree where it nests or perches on a tree branch. A screech owl perched close to a tree trunk is hard to see because its coloring and feathers look like the bark. Some screech owls are reddish, and some are gray. Screech owls are the only small owls with tufted ears.

The female screech owl lays three to five white eggs in a hole in a tree, a woodpecker's hole or even a bird house. The screech owl has good eyesight, but its hearing is even keener. It eats beetles, moths, birds, frogs, fish, and mice. As it hunts it must be alert for its enemies: the hawks and larger owls. Screech owls usually swallow their prey whole. Hair and bones are later ejected from their mouths as pellets.

Habitat: The screech owl lives in open deciduous woods, wooded lots, suburban areas, lake shores, and old orchards.



Length 8 - 10 inches

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER

The red-headed woodpecker is the only woodpecker whose entire head and throat are red. Like other woodpeckers, it has a sharp, heavy bill and short, stiff tail feathers. These feathers help the woodpecker when it clings to a tree trunk digging for grubs, beetles, and ants.

Red-headed woodpeckers nest in trees or even posts, digging a hole sometimes two feet deep. In it the female lays four to six white eggs.

Habitat: Open country, farms, rural roads, open park-like woods and golf courses.



Length 8 to 10 inches

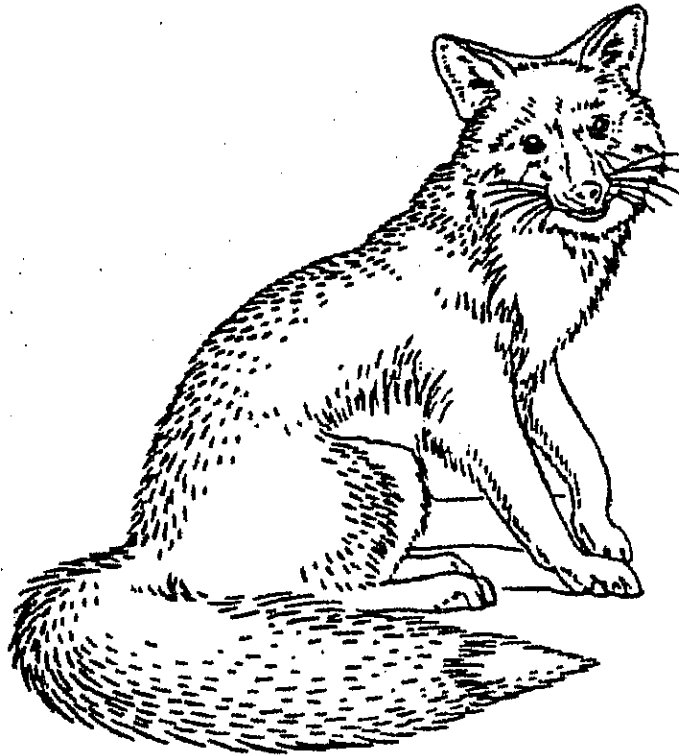
RED FOX

The red fox is as big as a small dog and gets its name from the reddish color of its fur. It is a very intelligent animal with a fine sense of smell and hearing.

Red foxes live in the rolling, forested countryside of Europe, as well as in American forests and prairies. They make their dens in hollow trees, holes in the hillsides, or caves in the rocks. They hunt for food during the day and at night. Moving quickly and silently through the tall grass and shrubbery, the fox is on the lookout for prey.

Since foxes eat more mice and rodents than anything they are valuable to the farmer and orchard grower. Unfortunately, foxes like chickens very much, so the chicken farmers do not like them.

Habitat: During fall and winter the fox lives in open country. It will sleep on an open slope curled up with its nose tucked under its tail. During spring and summer they will pair up and live in dens dug in the ground.



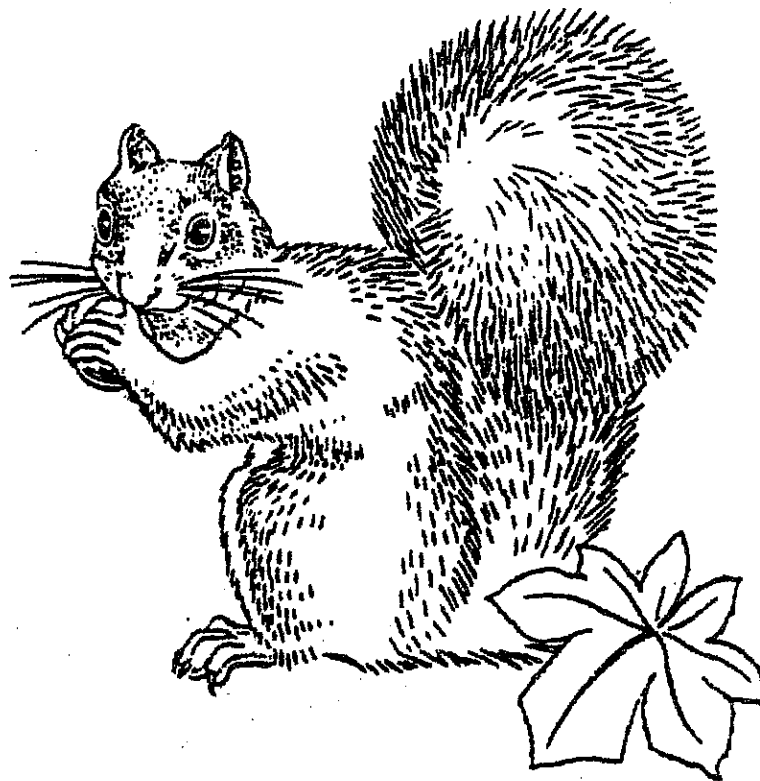
Length to 41 inches / Weight up to 14 pounds

GRAY SQUIRREL

The friendly gray squirrel is always scurrying about eating buds, acorns, and other nuts or crops. It fills its cheek pouches and hurries to bury the food for later use. This helps to plant oak trees and other nut trees.

The female gives birth to two litters each year. There are from one to six tiny, blind, helpless babies in each litter.

Habitat: The gray squirrel is an animal of the big woods. He lives in deciduous woods and wood lots.



Length 18 inches / Tail 9 inches

CHIPMUNK

The chipmunk, of which there are several kinds, is at home in the United States and Canada. Chipmunks live in stone walls, fences, or burrows near the ground. They eat seeds, nuts, corn, and wheat.

Baby chipmunks are blind and helpless at birth, and remain with their mother until full grown. Chipmunks are easy to tame and soon learn to eat out of your hand.

Habitat: The chipmunk lives in fence rows or in the edge of the woods.



Length up to 9 inches / Tail up to 3 inches

DO YOU KNOW?

1) What is different about the red-headed woodpecker's tail that helps him hunt insects?

2) What is one of the bluebird's favorite foods?

3) Foxes stay in open country during winter. How do they keep warm?

4) What do chipmunks eat?

5) How do squirrels help plant trees?

6) When owls eat their prey whole, what happens to the hair and bones?

7) Did you enjoy this project? _____ What did you like most?

EXHIBIT REQUIREMENTS

You will need to find books with colored pictures of the birds and animals, so you can color the pictures properly. You may use colored pencils or crayons. Books on birds and animals are available at the library. You can also find colored pictures of birds and animals in some encyclopedia reference books.

Once you have finished the pictures, mount them on a piece of poster board 14" x 22" to be displayed horizontally and backed with stiff cardboard or paneling. Complete the labels below and glue beneath the correct pictures. Also, complete your name label and fasten in the lower right-hand corner of your project. Make a title for the poster and cover the entire project with clear plastic.

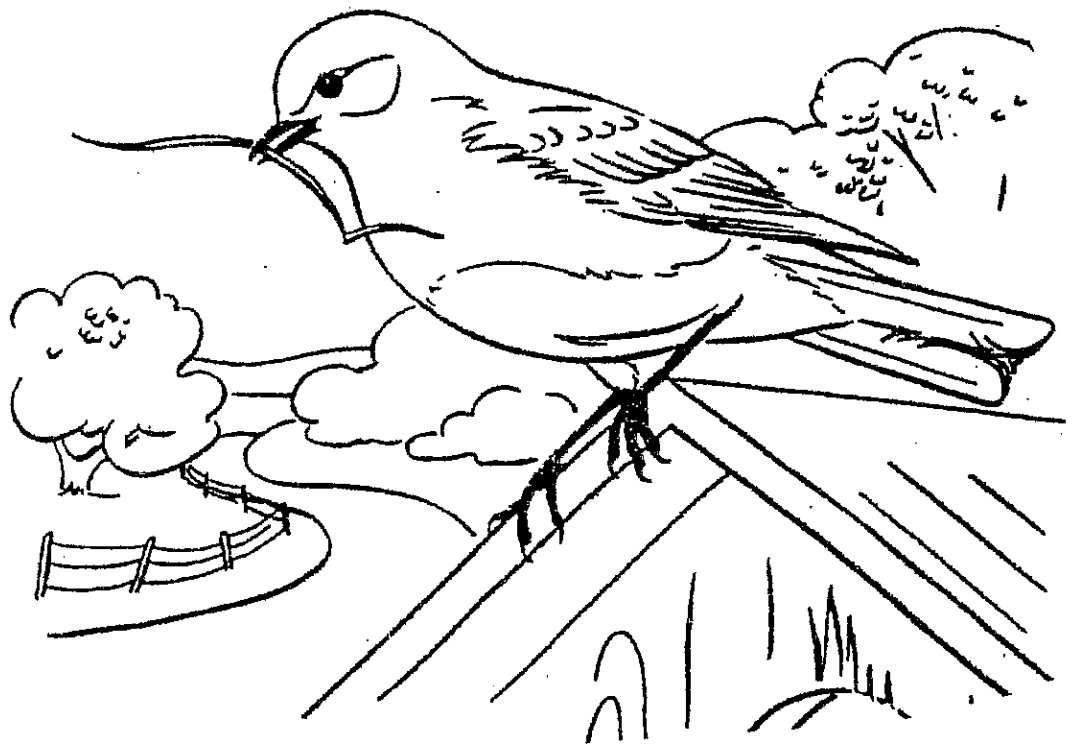
BLUEBIRD	RED-HEADED WOODPECKER
HABITAT: _____	HABITAT: _____
CHIPMUNK	RED FOX
HABITAT: _____	HABITAT: _____
SCREECH OWL	GRAY SQUIRREL
HABITAT: _____	HABITAT: _____

Mini 4-H Wildlife Division III	Mini 4-H Wildlife Division III
Name _____	Name _____
Age _____	Age _____

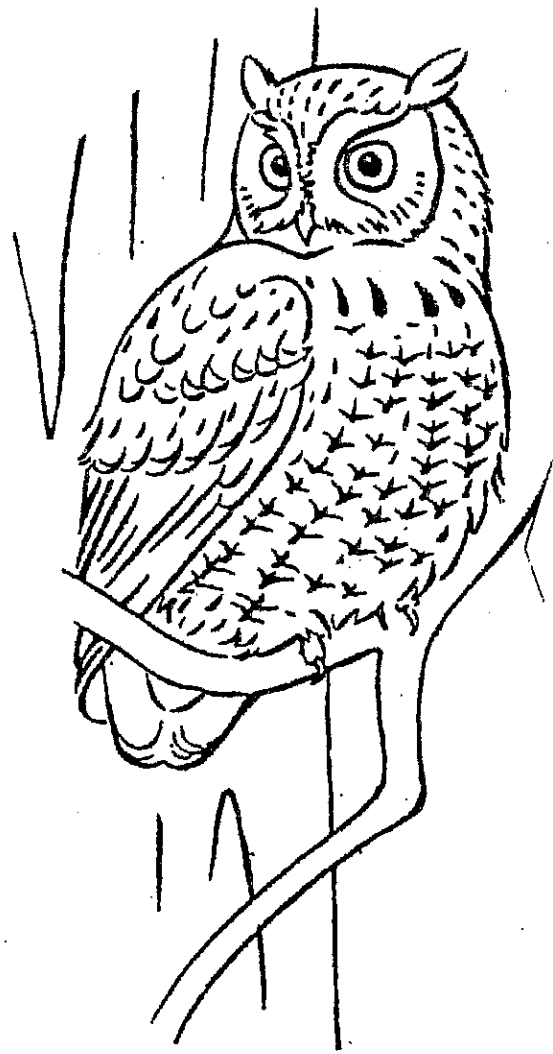
Do not forget to complete your record sheet on the next page, and turn it in with your exhibit.

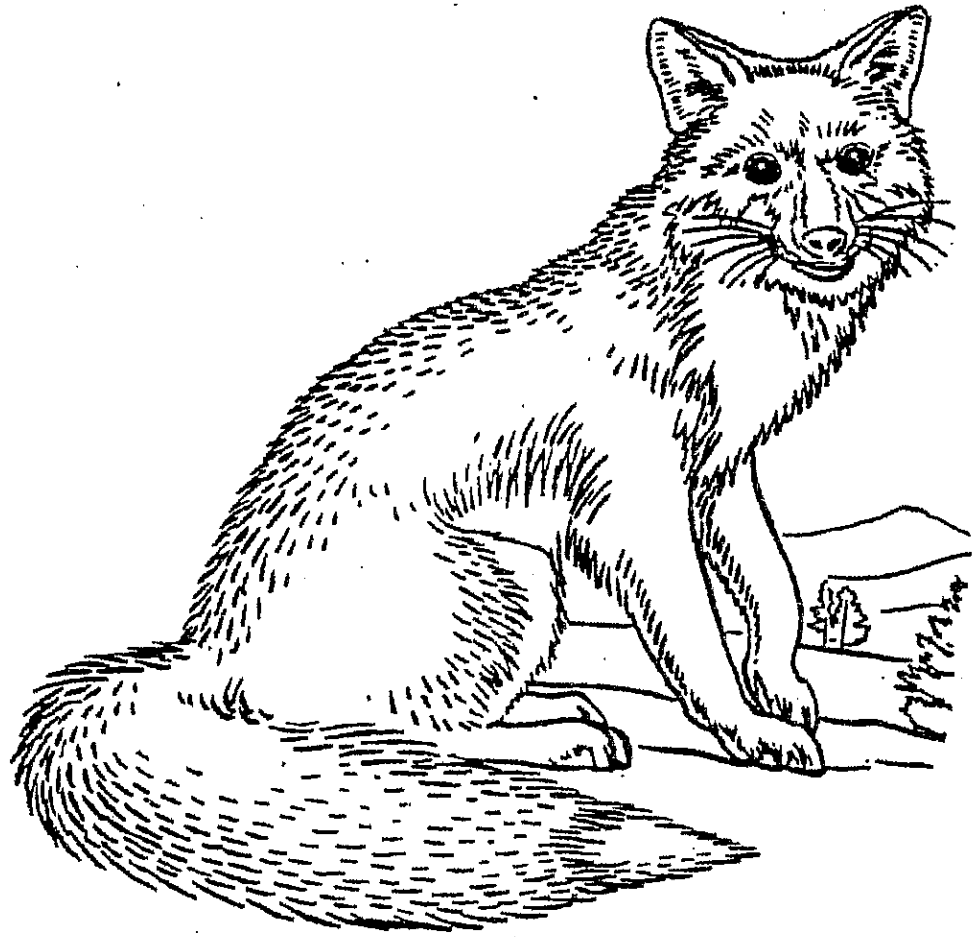
Now you are ready for the fair!

We hope you have enjoyed the Mini 4-H experience. Thanks for spending time with us this year. Next year, when you are ten years old, you will be eligible for the regular 4-H club. Please join us for the fun and friendship that goes with participating in 4-H activities.













MINI 4-H GENERAL RECORD SHEET
WILDLIFE - DIVISION III
(To be turned in with your project.)

Name _____ Date of birth _____
Address _____
Township _____ Parent's Name _____
Telephone _____ Boy or Girl _____

As a final step in successfully completing your Mini 4-H project, please learn the 4-H Pledge and complete this record sheet in full.

4-H Pledge

I pledge my Head to clearer thinking
my Heart to greater loyalty
my Hands to larger service
my Health to better living
for my club, my community, my country, and my world.

1) What made you choose this project?

2) When did you start your project and when did you finish it? About how much time did you spend on your project?

3) Did your project cost anything? If so, how much and for what?

4) What are some of the most important things you learned from your Mini 4-H project?

Thank you very much for trying a Mini 4-H project this year. We hope you had a lot of fun and learned something too!