

WILDLIFE AND FARMS

LIVING TOGETHER IN THE FRASER DELTA



Wildlife & Farms: Living together in the Fraser Delta

Written and Illustrated by Tom Godin

Produced by the Greenfields Project.

Sponsored by the Canadian Wildlife Service and Ducks Unlimited Canada.



Environnement
Canada
Canadian Wildlife
Service

Environnement
Canada
Service canadien
de la faune



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This colouring book was designed for the Greenfields Project, a cooperative farm and wildlife extension program in the Municipality of Delta, approximately 15 km south of Vancouver. This project aims to maintain wintering waterfowl populations in harmony with successful farming in the Fraser Delta. Initially, the project focus was on the thousands of American Wigeon which winter in the Fraser Delta. This waterfowl species grazes on eelgrass and algae on tidal flats, but also feeds in large flocks in pastures and other agricultural fields. Concentrated waterfowl feeding and grass consumption sometimes causes economic losses to farms such as dairy operations relying upon grass for their livestock. Snow Geese, Trumpeter Swans and Canada Geese also forage on grasses.

Since 1990, the Greenfields project has promoted the use of green, growing grass cover or "cover crops" which are planted in the fall on cultivated fields after commercial cash crops such as potatoes have been harvested. These cover crops provide good alternative winter feeding areas for the birds, help lure them away from dairy farms and other crops susceptible to damage, help reduce soil erosion and provide extra organic content to the soil. The project also now includes stewardship programs such as grass-field set-asides and other farm management procedures which benefit both landowners and many coastal wildlife species.

Historically, Environment Canada provided the majority of project funding and Ducks Unlimited Canada administered the project. The participation of local farmers and agriculture-based organizations has been critical to the project since its beginnings. The project is currently administered by Delta Farmland & Wildlife Trust, (DF&WT) which represents farmers and local environmental groups of Delta. Recent funding has been provided by Environment Canada, Ducks Unlimited Canada, the British Columbia Waterfowl Society, and the Delta Agriculture Society.



For more information on the Greenfields Project, contact DF&WT at 604-940-3392.

About the electronic version of this document

August, 2001.

The conversion of this book to an electronic (.pdf) file form is part of an ongoing multi-agency effort to make popular educational resource materials about the Georgia Basin (the Strait of Georgia and its surrounding coastal lowland areas) more universally accessible through the internet. This document has been converted by Environment Canada and Ducks Unlimited Canada, with funding from the British Columbia Waterfowl Society, the Vancouver Foundation and the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund of BC.



WORKING TOGETHER
FOR THE
GEORGIA BASIN

AU TRAVAIL
POUR LE
BASSIN DE GEORGIA



HABITAT
CONSERVATION
TRUST FUND



BRITISH COLUMBIA
WATERFOWL SOCIETY



VANCOUVER
FOUNDATION

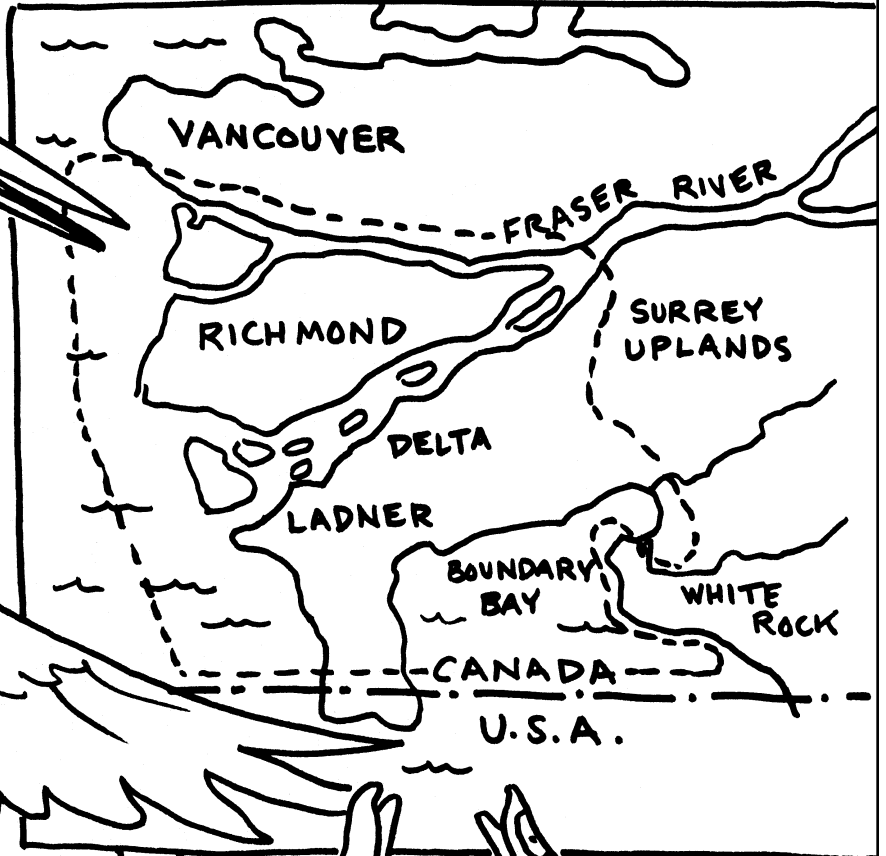
A Perpetual Legacy for
The People of British Columbia



Ducks Unlimited Canada

For more information about this document, please contact Ducks Unlimited Canada at 604-592-0987.

HI! I'M HENRY THE GREAT BLUE HERON AND I LIVE HERE ON THE FRASER DELTA. THIS MAP SHOWS THE AREA OF THE DELTA AT THE MOUTH OF THE FRASER RIVER.



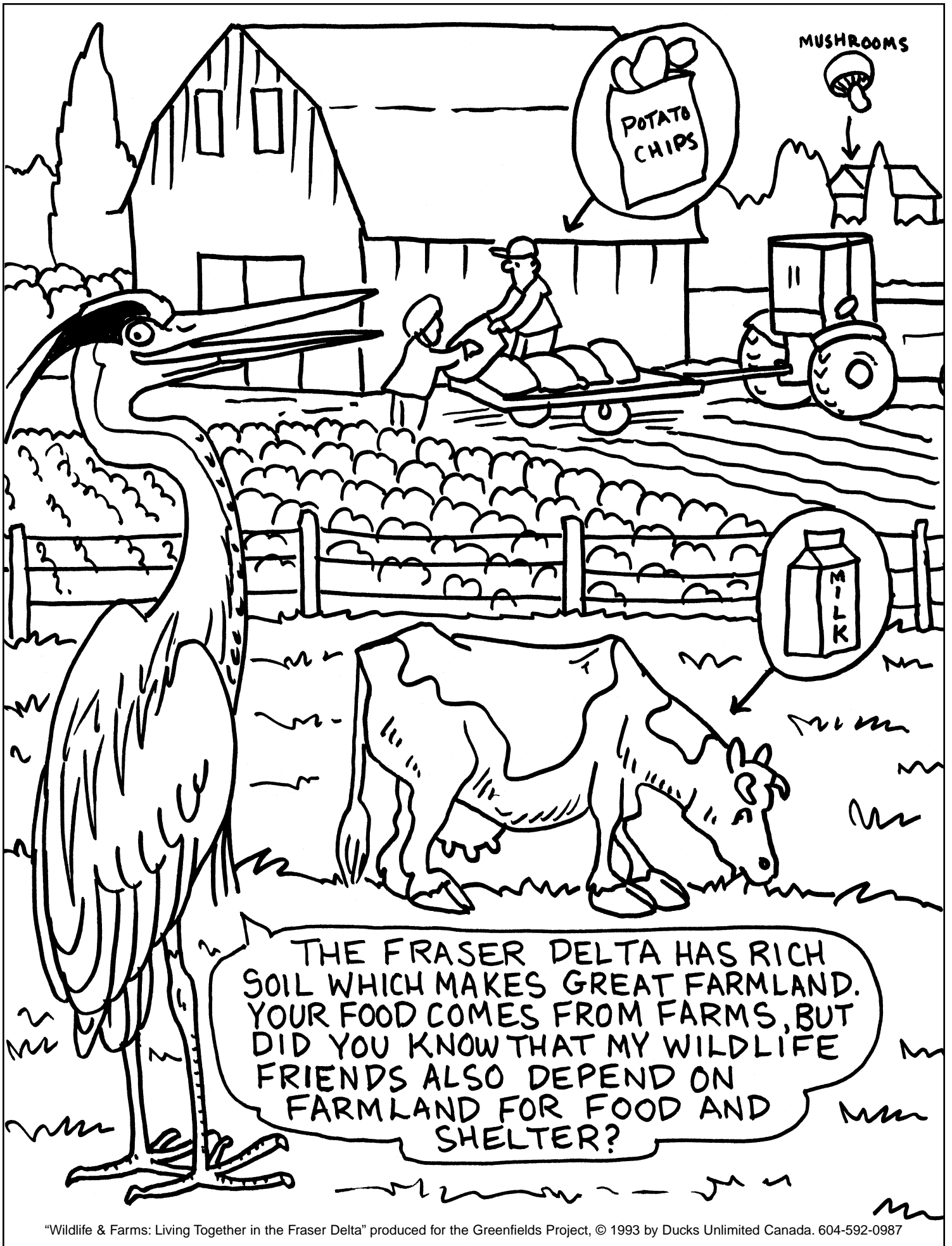
CAN YOU SEE OUR HOUSE ANYWHERE?

WE DON'T HAVE A HOUSE BUT WE DO LIVE THERE!

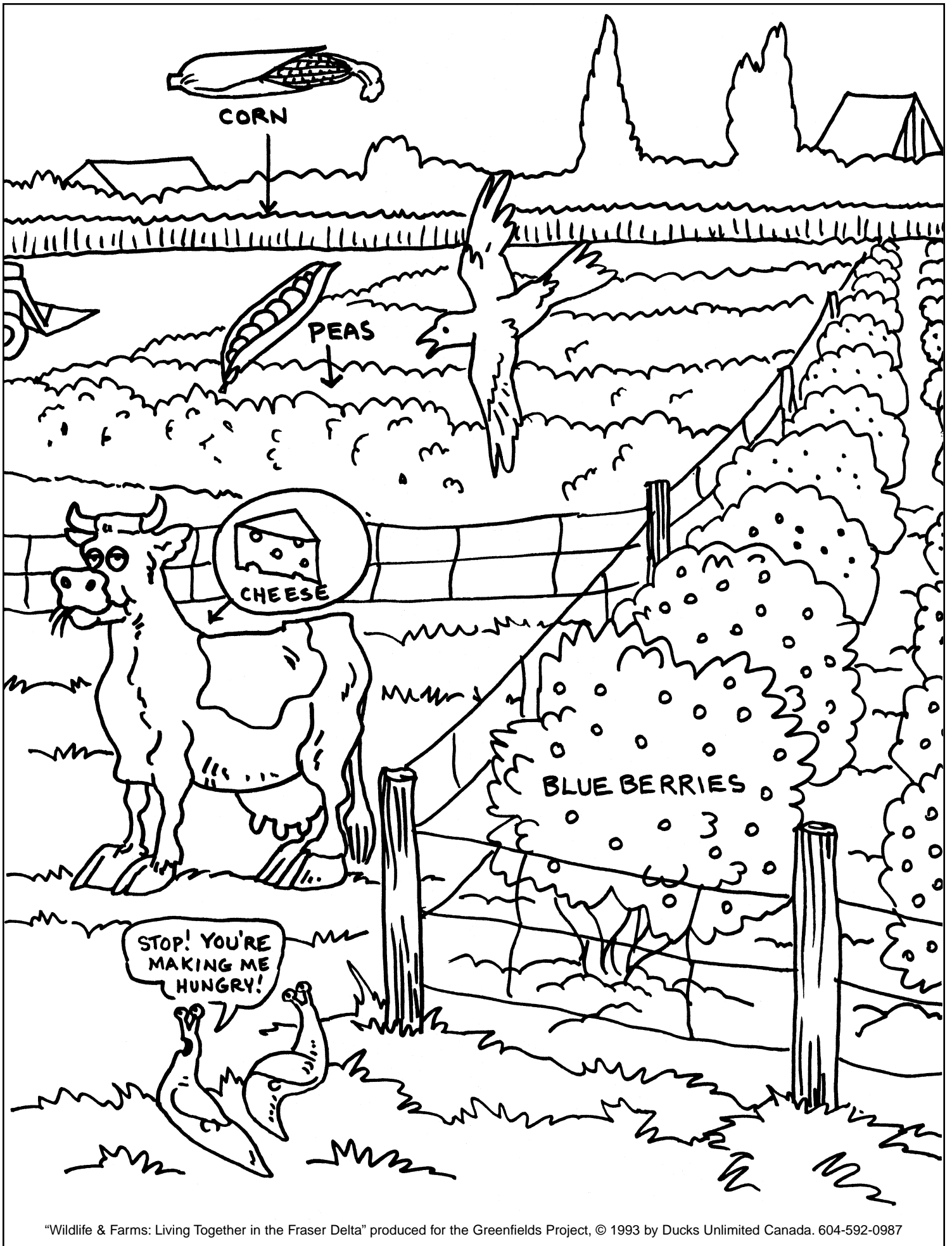
NOTHING LOOKS FAMILIAR!

IT'S A MAP OF THE PLANETS!

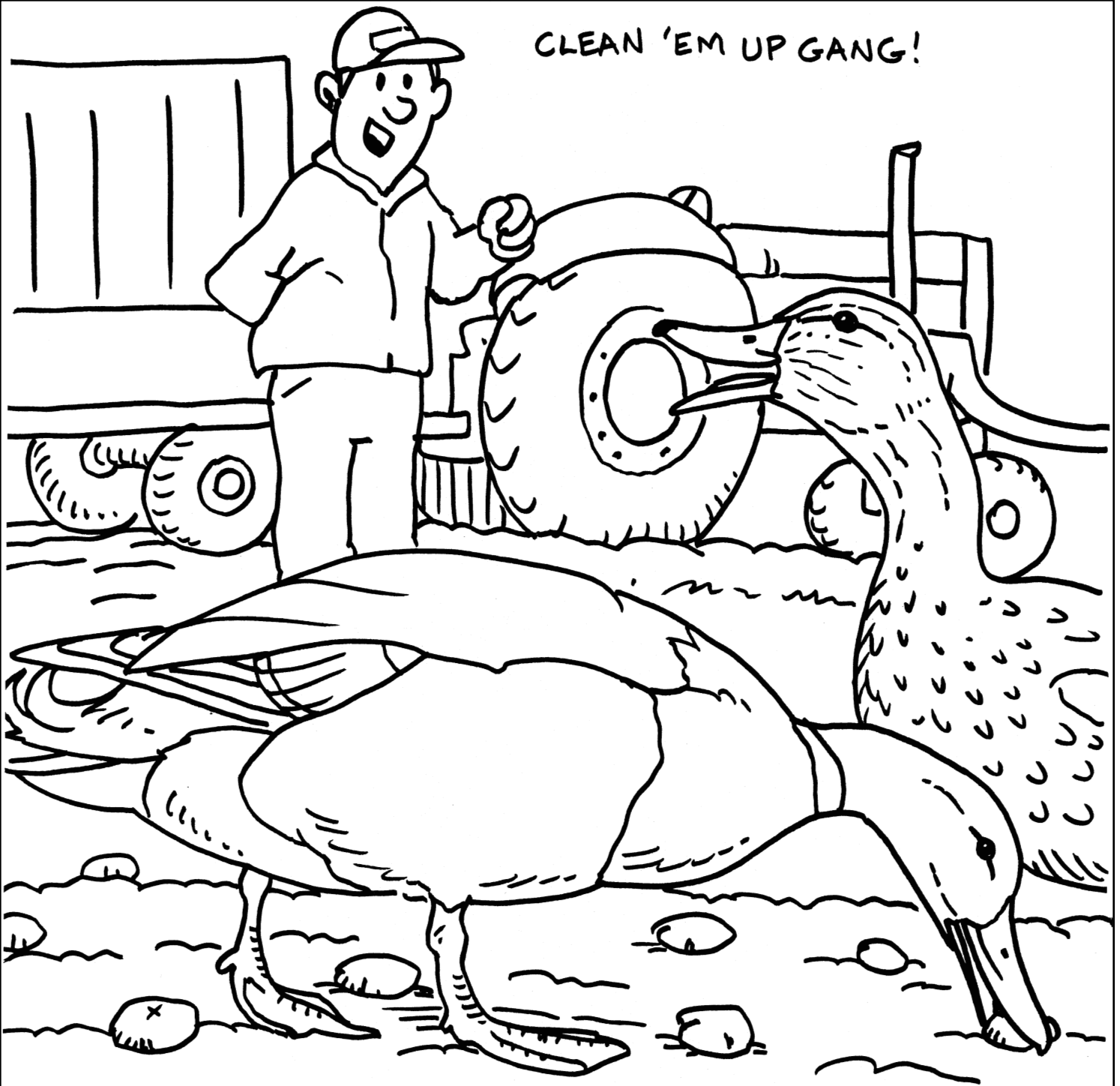
EARTH YOU ARE HERE



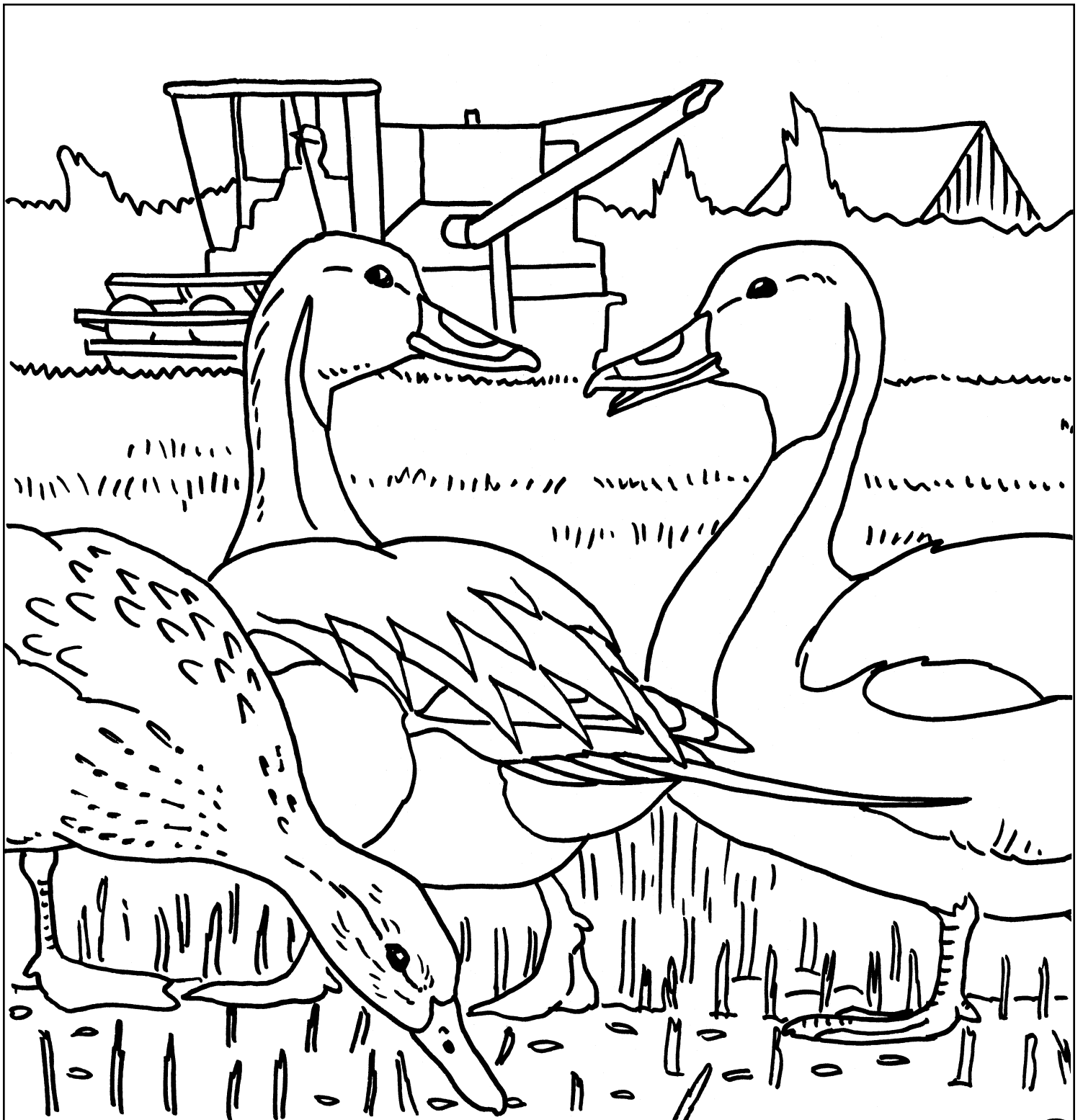
THE FRASER DELTA HAS RICH SOIL WHICH MAKES GREAT FARMLAND. YOUR FOOD COMES FROM FARMS, BUT DID YOU KNOW THAT MY WILDLIFE FRIENDS ALSO DEPEND ON FARMLAND FOR FOOD AND SHELTER?



CLEAN 'EM UP GANG!

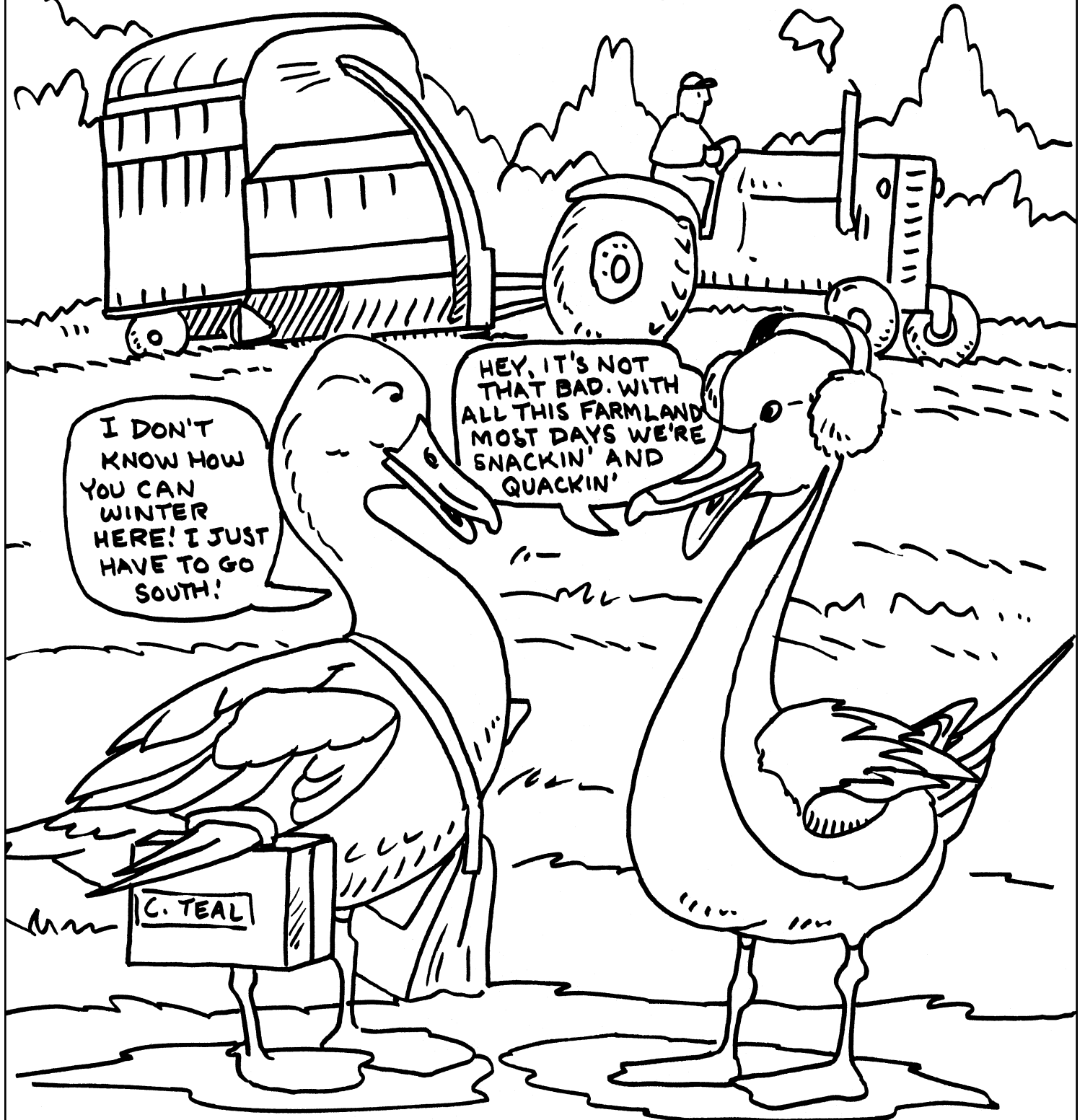


WATERFOWL THAT STAY THE WINTER DELIGHT IN THE ABUNDANCE OF POTATOES LEFT IN THE FIELDS. BY EATING LEFT-OVER POTATOES THEY HELP TO REDUCE THE SPREAD OF CROP DISEASES AND PREVENT UNWANTED PLANTS FROM SPROUTING IN NEXT YEAR'S CROP.



MALLARDS AND PINTAILS ARE
ATTRACTED TO HARVESTED CORN
AND GRAIN FIELDS WHERE THEY
CAN FIND PLENTY TO EAT.

THE FRASER DELTA IS ON THE PACIFIC FLYWAY. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT STOPOVER FOR MIGRATING BIRDS. SOME BIRDS STOP ONLY TO REST AND FEED WHILE OTHERS STAY FOR THE WHOLE WINTER.



I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU CAN WINTER HERE! I JUST HAVE TO GO SOUTH!

HEY, IT'S NOT THAT BAD. WITH ALL THIS FARMLAND MOST DAYS WE'RE SNACKIN' AND QUACKIN'

BUT THERE ARE ALSO PROBLEMS...
SNOW GEESE, WIGEON AND SWANS
EAT FALL SEEDED COVER CROPS
SUCH AS WINTER WHEAT WHICH ARE
PLANTED FOR SOIL CONSERVATION

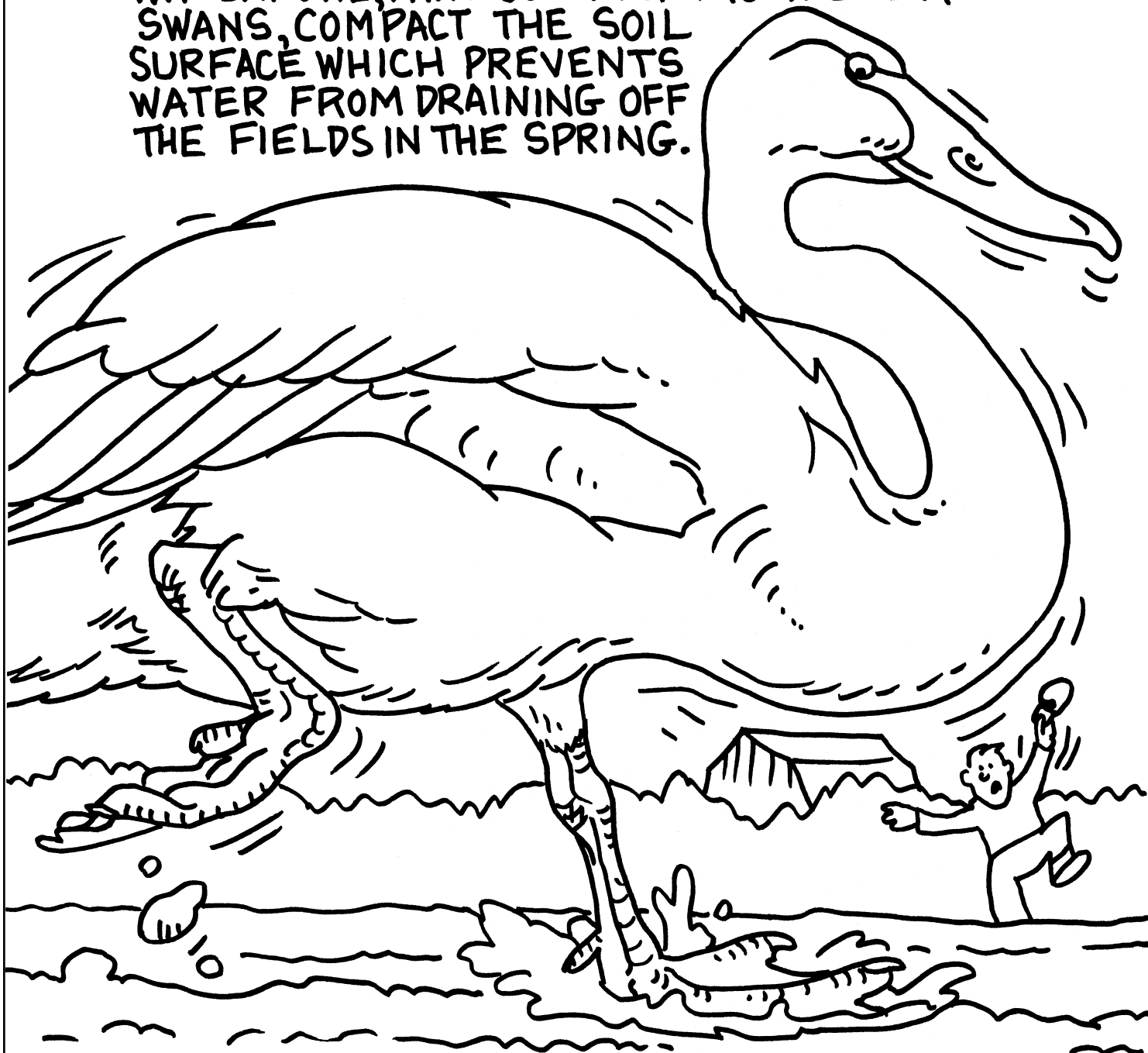


WE CAN'T EAT THIS.
IT'S WINTER
WHEAT!

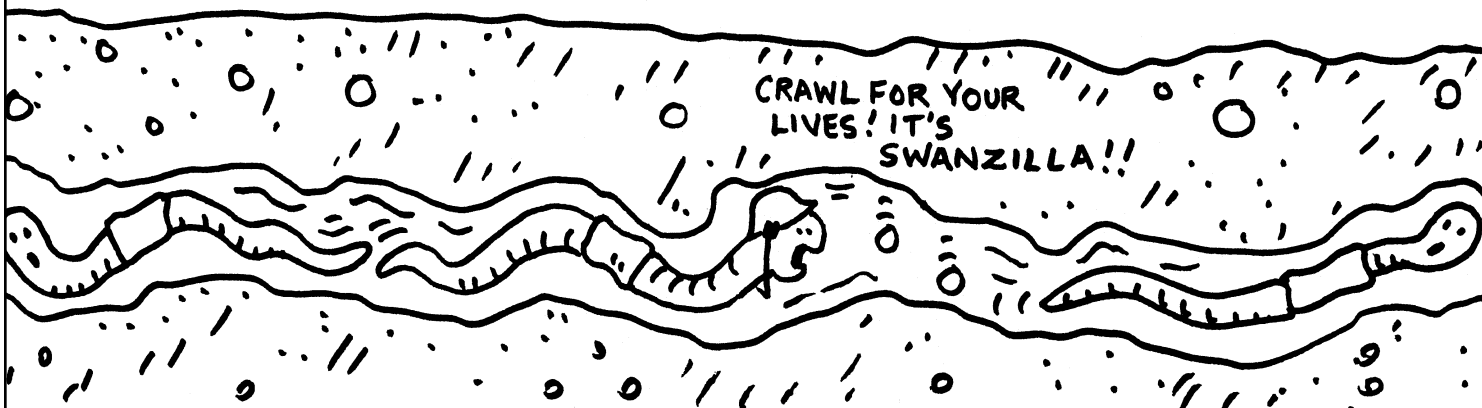
WHAT'S IT
FOR THEN?

IT KEEPS THE
SOIL TOGETHER.

FARMERS ARE ALSO CONCERNED THAT WATERFOWL, PARTICULARLY TRUMPETER SWANS, COMPACT THE SOIL SURFACE WHICH PREVENTS WATER FROM DRAINING OFF THE FIELDS IN THE SPRING.

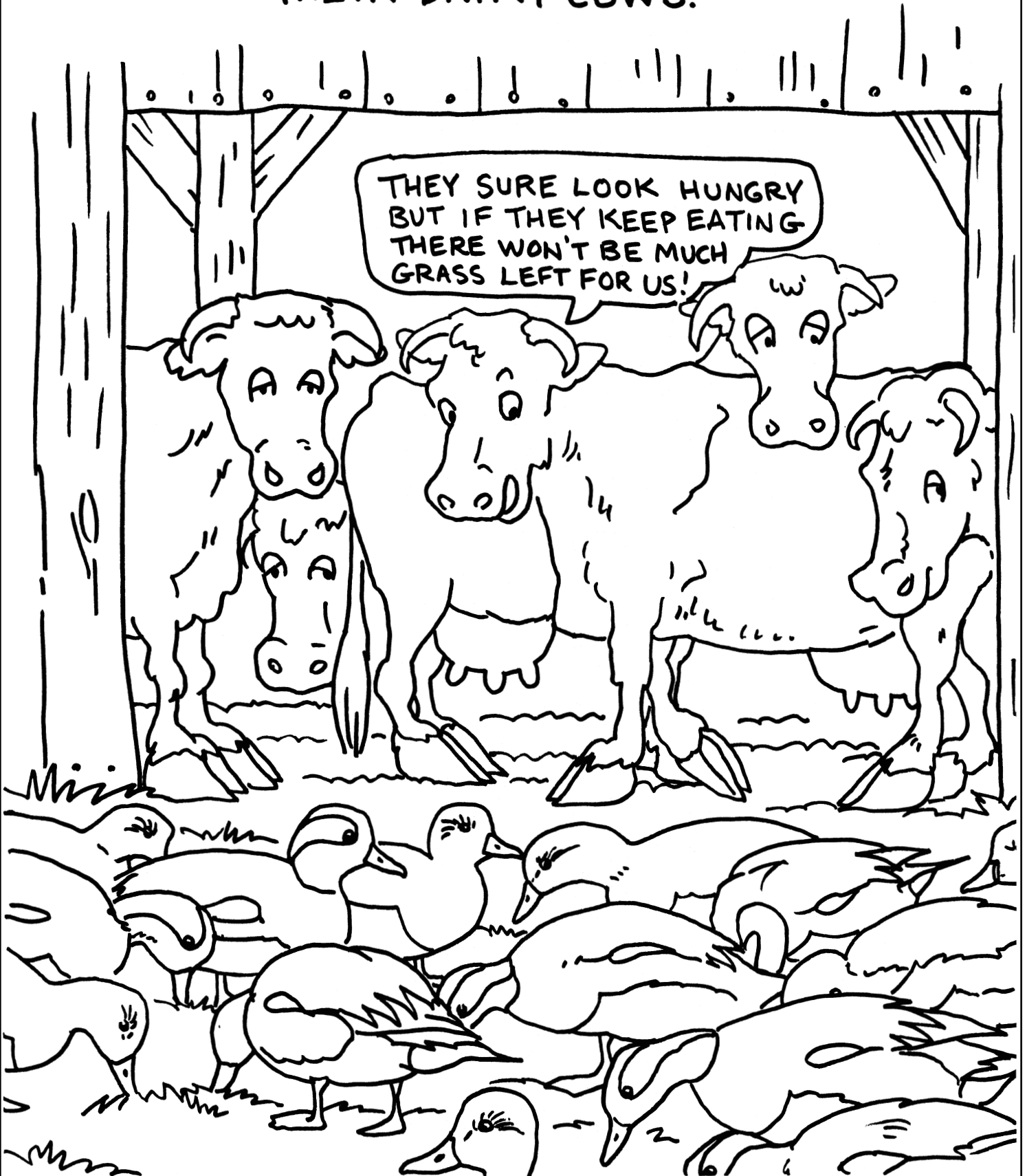


CRAWL FOR YOUR LIVES! IT'S SWANZILLA!!

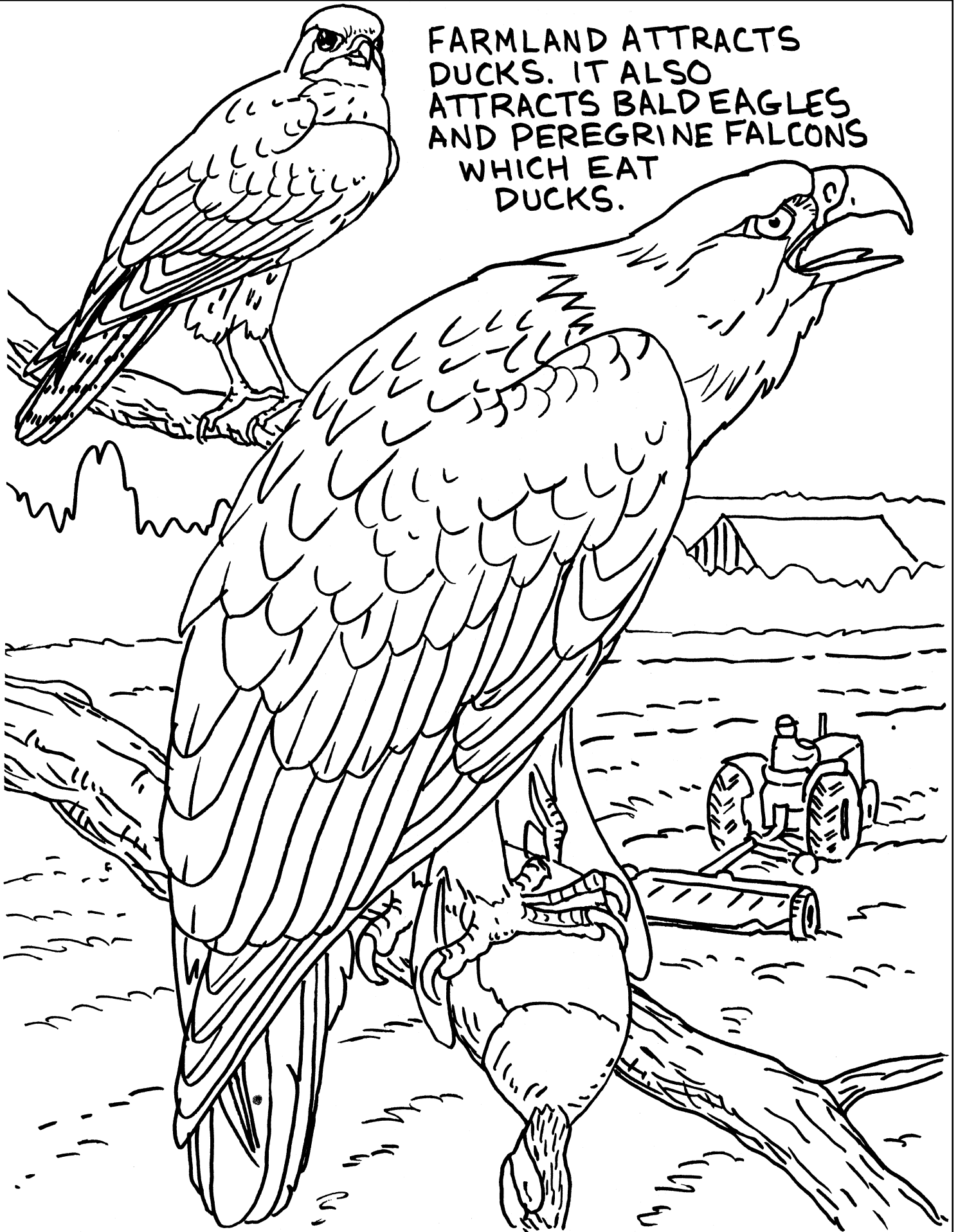


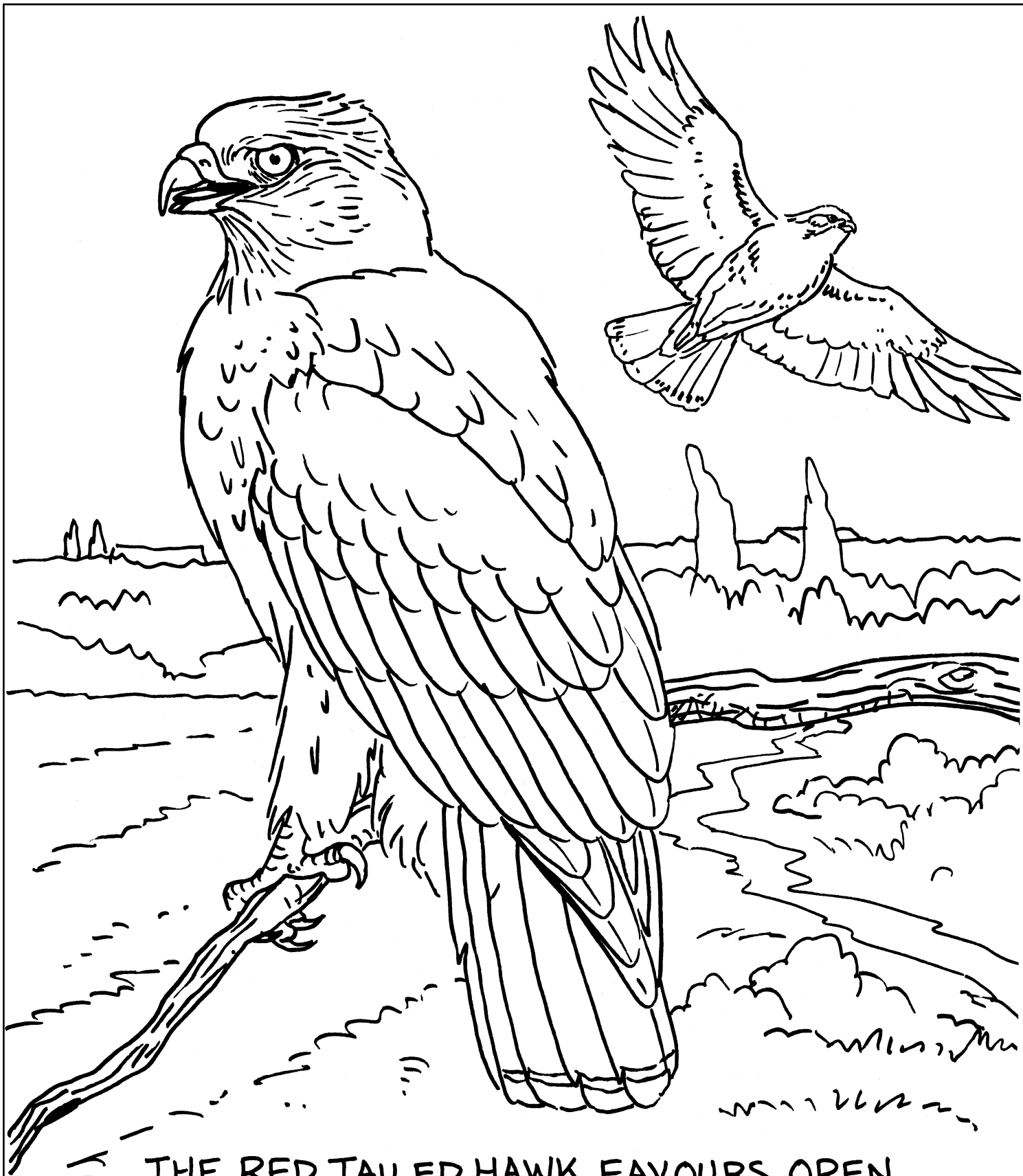
WIGEON GRAZING ON GRASS FIELDS
CAN CAUSE LOSSES FOR FARMERS
BECAUSE THE GRASS IS FOOD FOR
THEIR DAIRY COWS.

THEY SURE LOOK HUNGRY
BUT IF THEY KEEP EATING
THERE WON'T BE MUCH
GRASS LEFT FOR US!




FARMLAND ATTRACTS
DUCKS. IT ALSO
ATTRACTS BALD EAGLES
AND PEREGRINE FALCONS
WHICH EAT
DUCKS.





THE RED TAILED HAWK FAVOURS OPEN
FIELDS WHERE IT HUNTS FOR RODENTS.
THIS HAWK IS OFTEN SEEN SITTING
ON FENCE POSTS OR TREE TOPS.

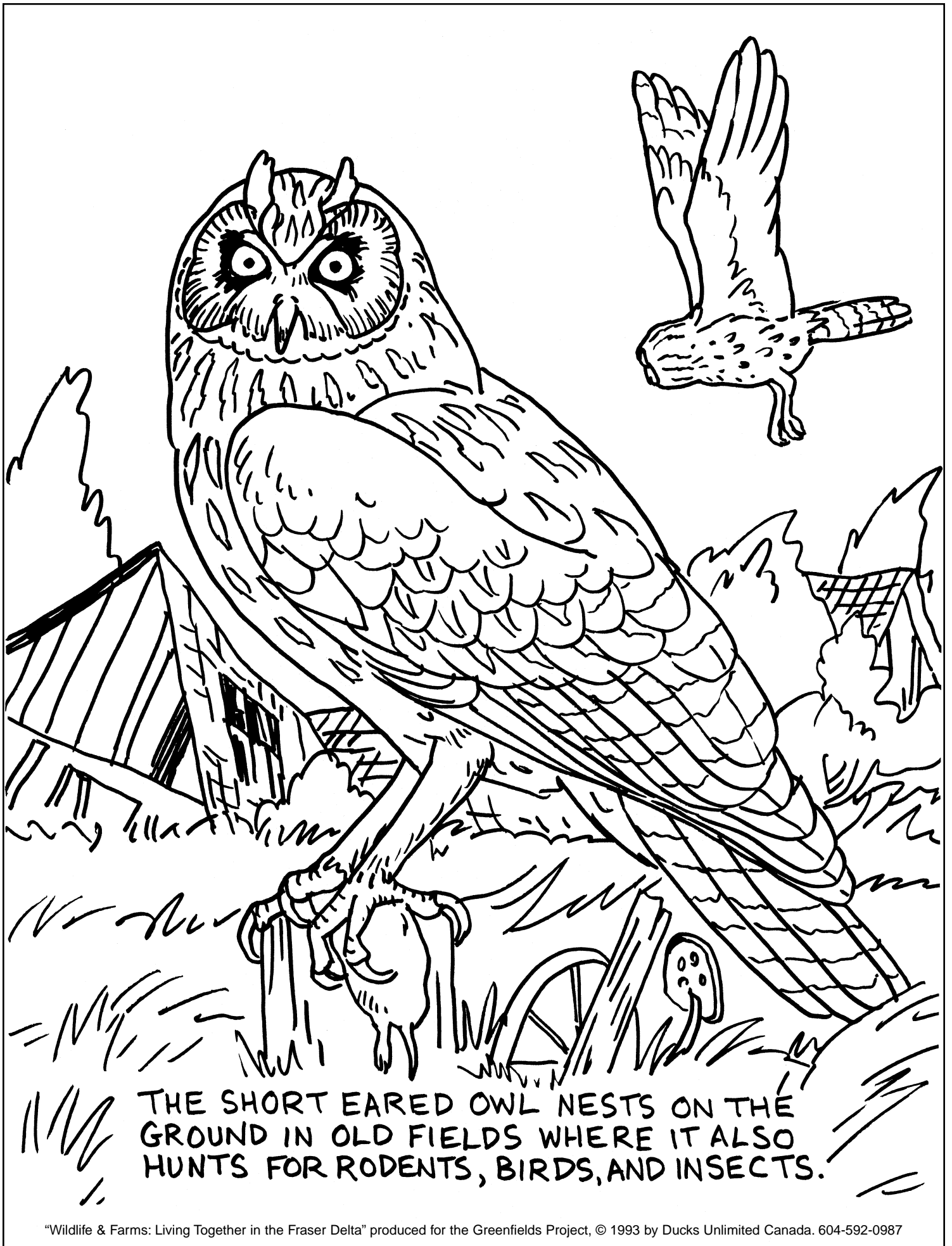
THE HARRIER, ONCE KNOWN AS THE MARSH HAWK, HUNTS BY FLYING LOW OVER SHRUBS AND FIELDS IN ORDER TO HEAR VOLES RUSTLING IN THE GRASS BELOW.



COULD YOU GUYS RUSTLE A LITTLE LOUDER? WITH BOUNDARY BAY CRASHING IN THE BACKGROUND AND THE WIND ROARING OVER THE DYKE, I CAN'T HEAR A THING!

THAT'S BECAUSE WE'RE NOT RUSTLING.... WE'RE SHUFFLING!

GO FISH!



THE SHORT EARED OWL NESTS ON THE GROUND IN OLD FIELDS WHERE IT ALSO HUNTS FOR RODENTS, BIRDS, AND INSECTS.

THE FRASER DELTA IS ONE OF THE FEW PLACES IN CANADA WHERE THE BARN OWL LIVES. IT NESTS IN OLD BUILDINGS AND HUNTS AT NIGHT FOR VOLES, MICE, AND RATS

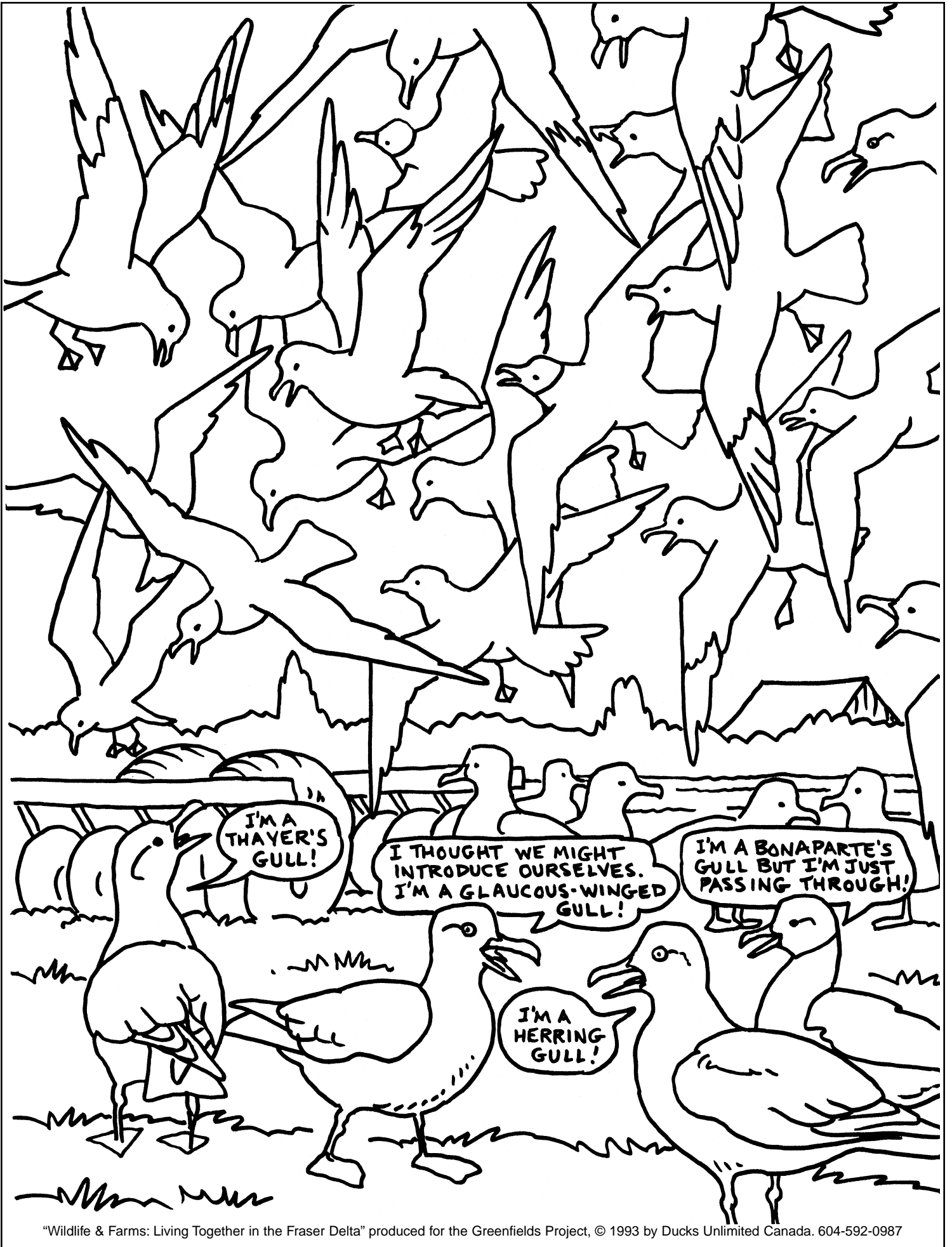


COYOTES EAT VOLES, INSECTS, BIRDS,
AND VEGETABLE MATTER. UNFORTUNATELY
FOR THE FARMER THEY ALSO EAT
CHICKENS, SHEEP, AND CATS.





MANY SPECIES OF GULLS FEED ON
THE FRASER DELTA FARMLAND.
SOMETIMES GULLS FOLLOW FARM
MACHINERY LOOKING FOR WORMS AND
INSECTS.



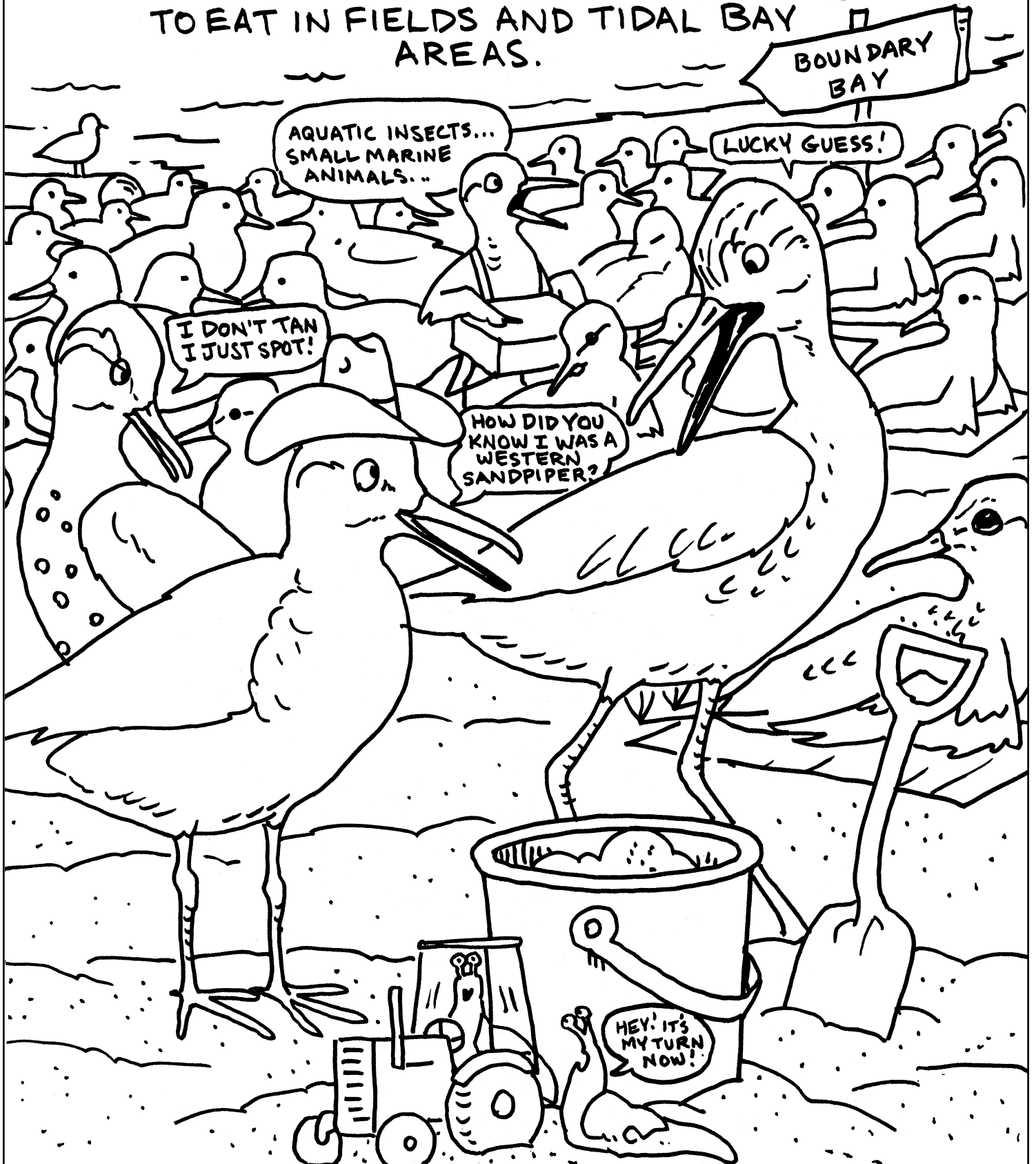
I'M A THAYER'S GULL!

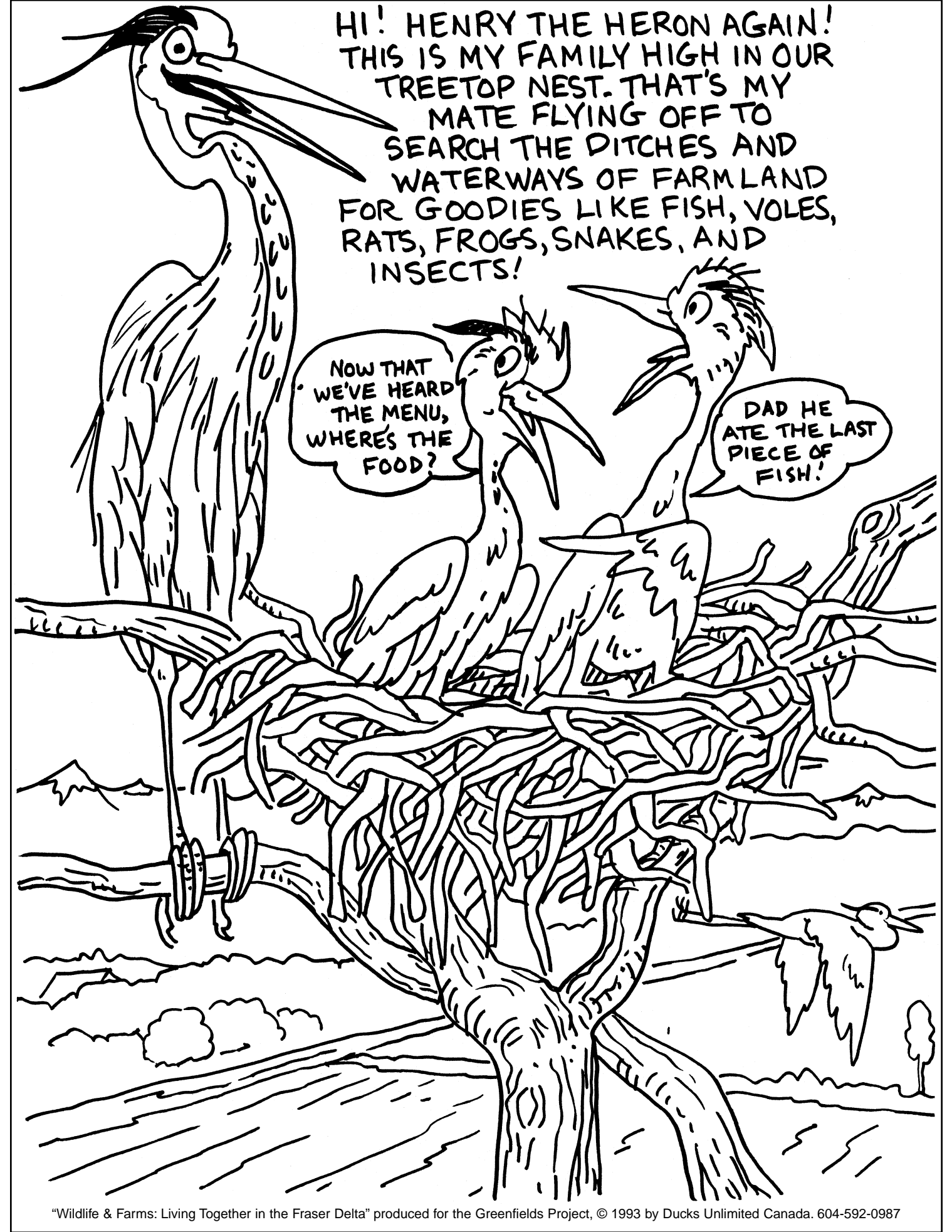
I THOUGHT WE MIGHT INTRODUCE OURSELVES. I'M A GLAUCCUS-WINGED GULL!

I'M A BONAPARTE'S GULL BUT I'M JUST PASSING THROUGH!

I'M A HERRING GULL!

MANY SPECIES OF SHOREBIRDS REST AND FEED ON THE FRASER DELTA DURING THEIR MIGRATION. THEY FIND INSECTS AND OTHER TINY CREATURES TO EAT IN FIELDS AND TIDAL BAY AREAS.



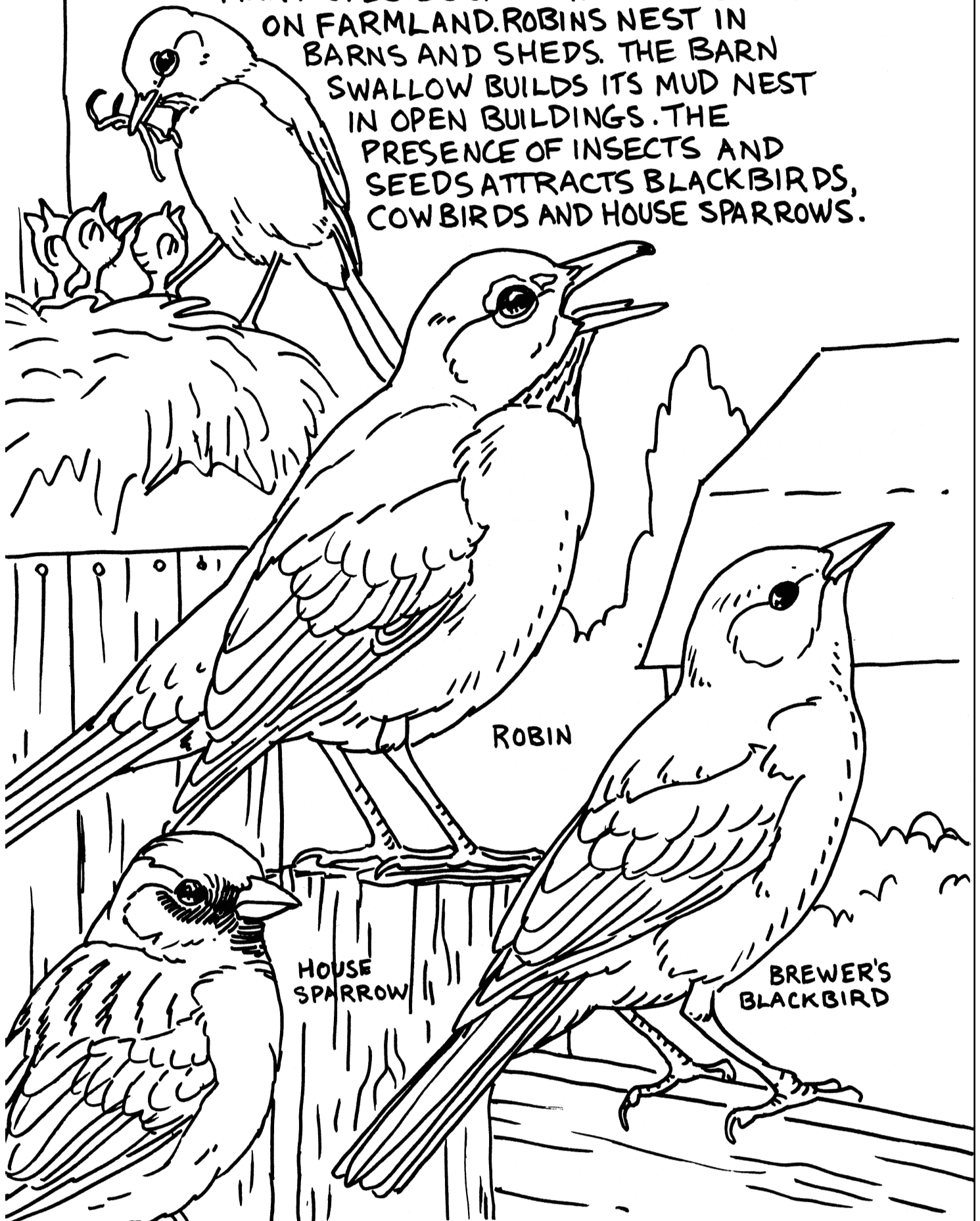


HI! HENRY THE HERON AGAIN!
THIS IS MY FAMILY HIGH IN OUR
TREETOP NEST. THAT'S MY
MATE FLYING OFF TO
SEARCH THE DITCHES AND
WATERWAYS OF FARMLAND
FOR GOODIES LIKE FISH, VOLES,
RATS, FROGS, SNAKES, AND
INSECTS!

NOW THAT
WE'VE HEARD
THE MENU,
WHERE'S THE
FOOD?

DAD HE
ATE THE LAST
PIECE OF
FISH!

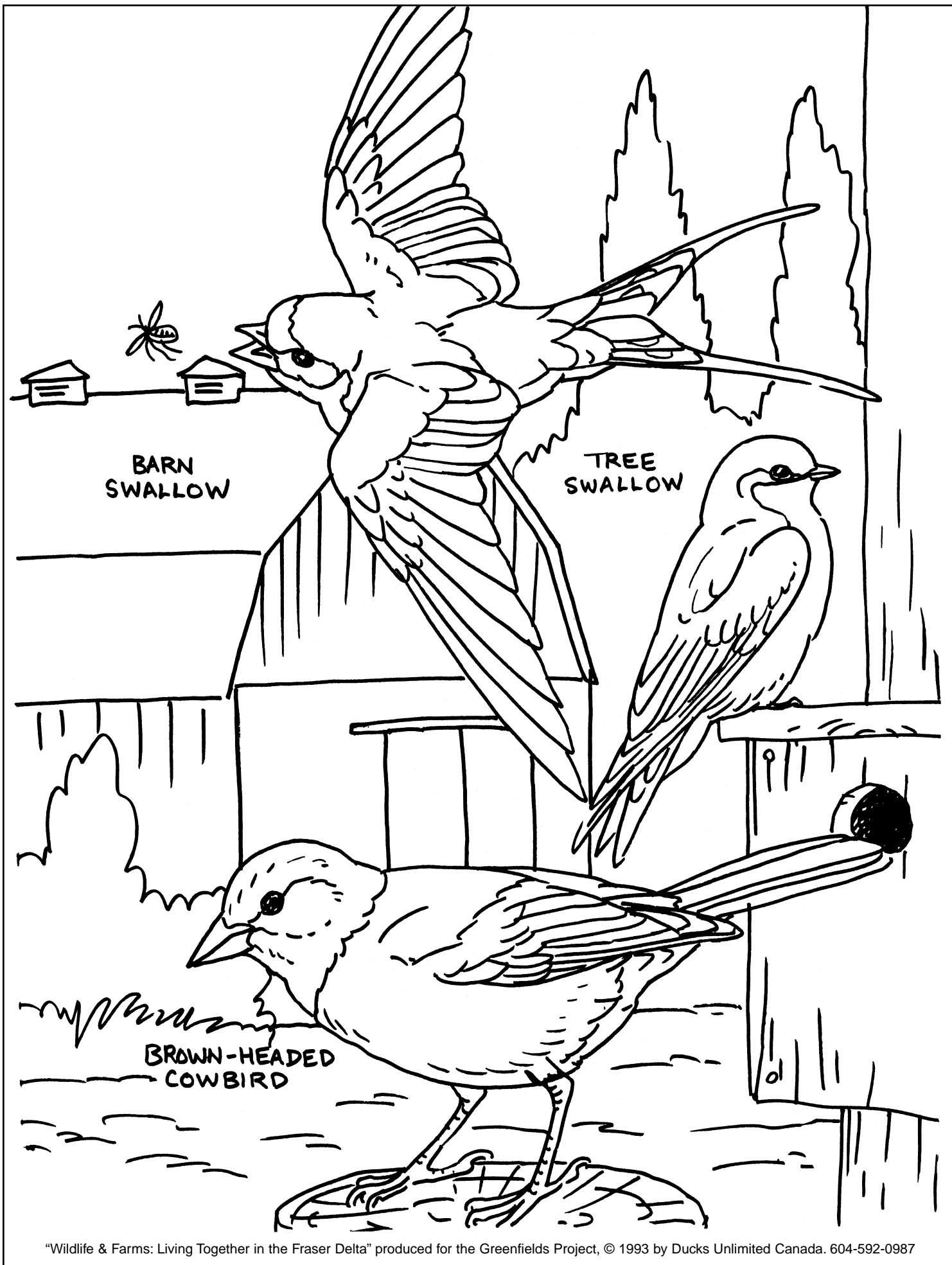
MANY SPECIES OF SMALL BIRDS LIVE ON FARMLAND. ROBINS NEST IN BARN AND SHEDS. THE BARN SWALLOW BUILDS ITS MUD NEST IN OPEN BUILDINGS. THE PRESENCE OF INSECTS AND SEEDS ATTRACTS BLACKBIRDS, COW BIRDS AND HOUSE SPARROWS.



ROBIN

HOUSE SPARROW

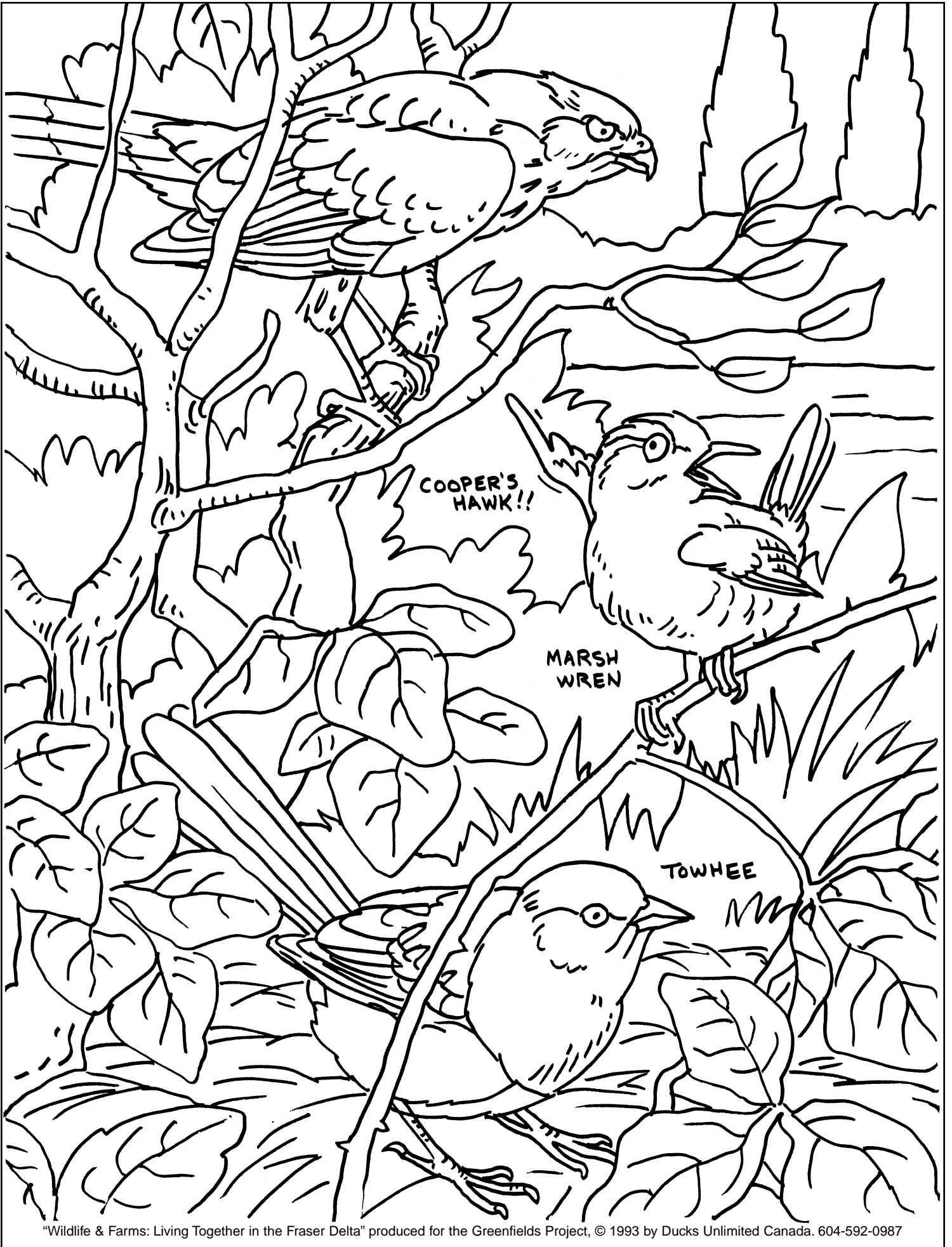
BREWER'S BLACKBIRD



BARN SWALLOW

TREE SWALLOW

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD



COOPER'S
HAWK!!

MARSH
WREN

TOWHEE

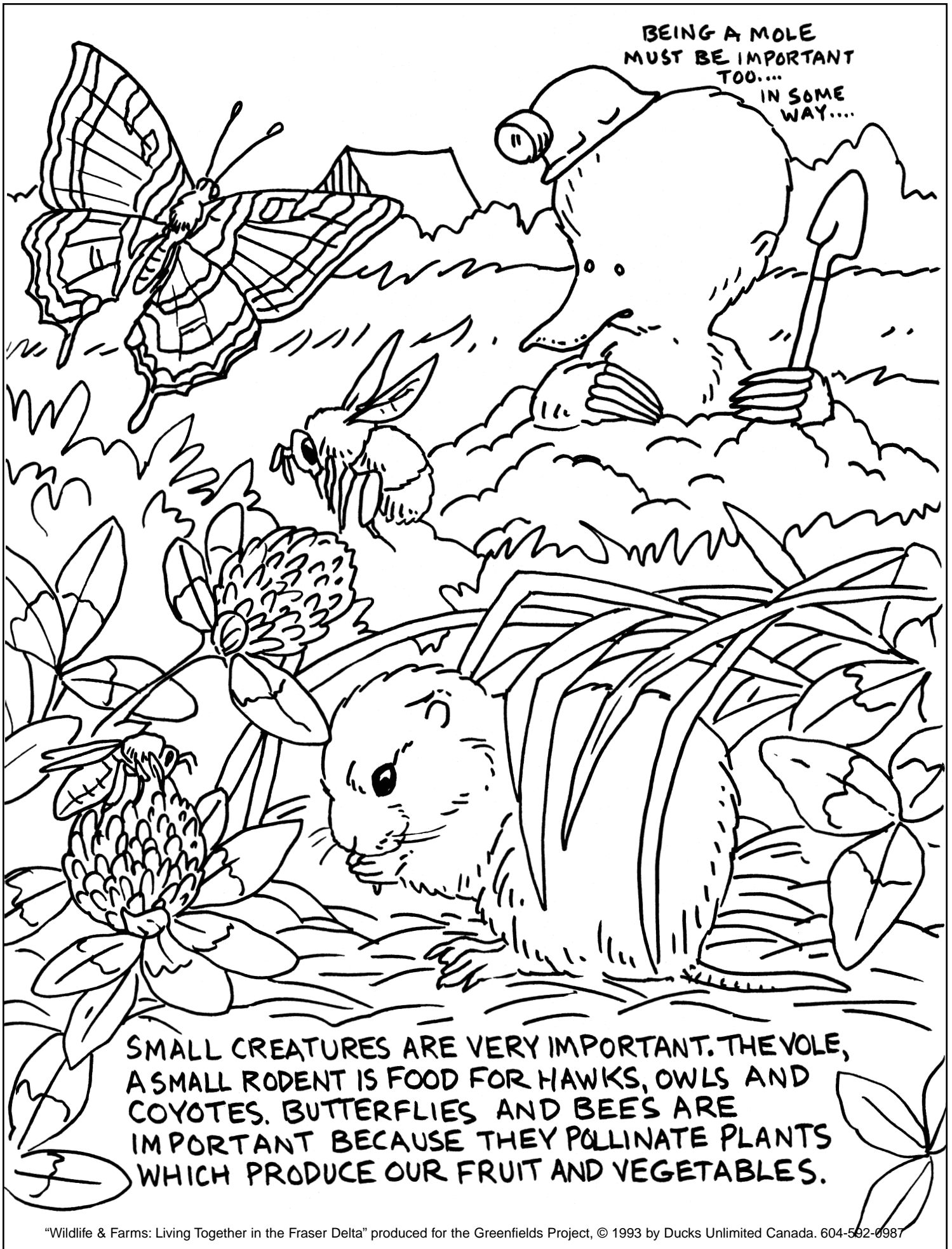
HEDGEROWS ATTRACT SPARROWS, WRENS,
PHEASANTS, TOWHEES, AND YELLOWTHROATS.
THESE BIRDS FIND THE COVER IDEAL FOR
NESTING AND HIDING FROM PREDATORS
LIKE THE COOPER'S HAWK.



PHEASANT

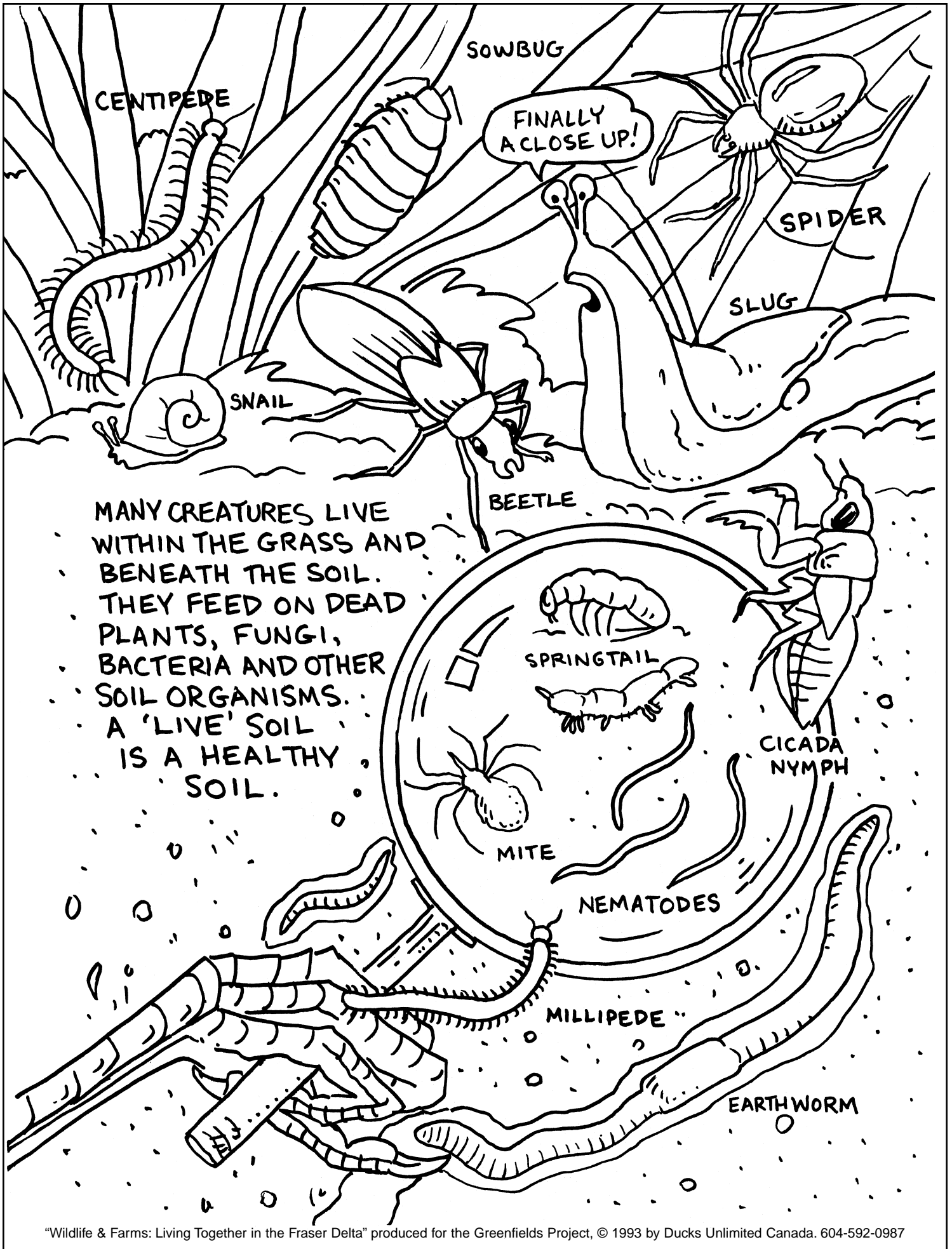
YELLOWTHROAT

SONG
SPARROW



BEING A MOLE
MUST BE IMPORTANT
TOO...
IN SOME
WAY...

SMALL CREATURES ARE VERY IMPORTANT. THE VOLE,
A SMALL RODENT IS FOOD FOR HAWKS, OWLS AND
COYOTES. BUTTERFLIES AND BEES ARE
IMPORTANT BECAUSE THEY POLLINATE PLANTS
WHICH PRODUCE OUR FRUIT AND VEGETABLES.



MANY CREATURES LIVE WITHIN THE GRASS AND BENEATH THE SOIL. THEY FEED ON DEAD PLANTS, FUNGI, BACTERIA AND OTHER SOIL ORGANISMS. A 'LIVE' SOIL IS A HEALTHY SOIL.

FINALLY A CLOSE UP!

CENTIPEDE
SOWBUG
SPIDER
SLUG
SNAIL
BEETLE
MITE
NEMATODES
MILLIPEDE
EARTHWORM
SPRINGTAIL
CICADA NYMPH

BIRDS CAN BECOME A PROBLEM WHEN THE FOOD THEY EAT IS A CROP THAT THE FARMER IS GROWING TO SELL. A BIRD LIKE THE STARLING CAN EAT A LOT OF BERRIES. BEFORE THIS CAN HAPPEN THE FARMER USES A NOISE MAKING PROPANE CANNON TO SCARE THE STARLINGS FROM HIS BERRY FIELDS. IF YOU HEAR THIS SOUND REMEMBER THAT THE FARMER IS TRYING TO SAVE HIS CROP.

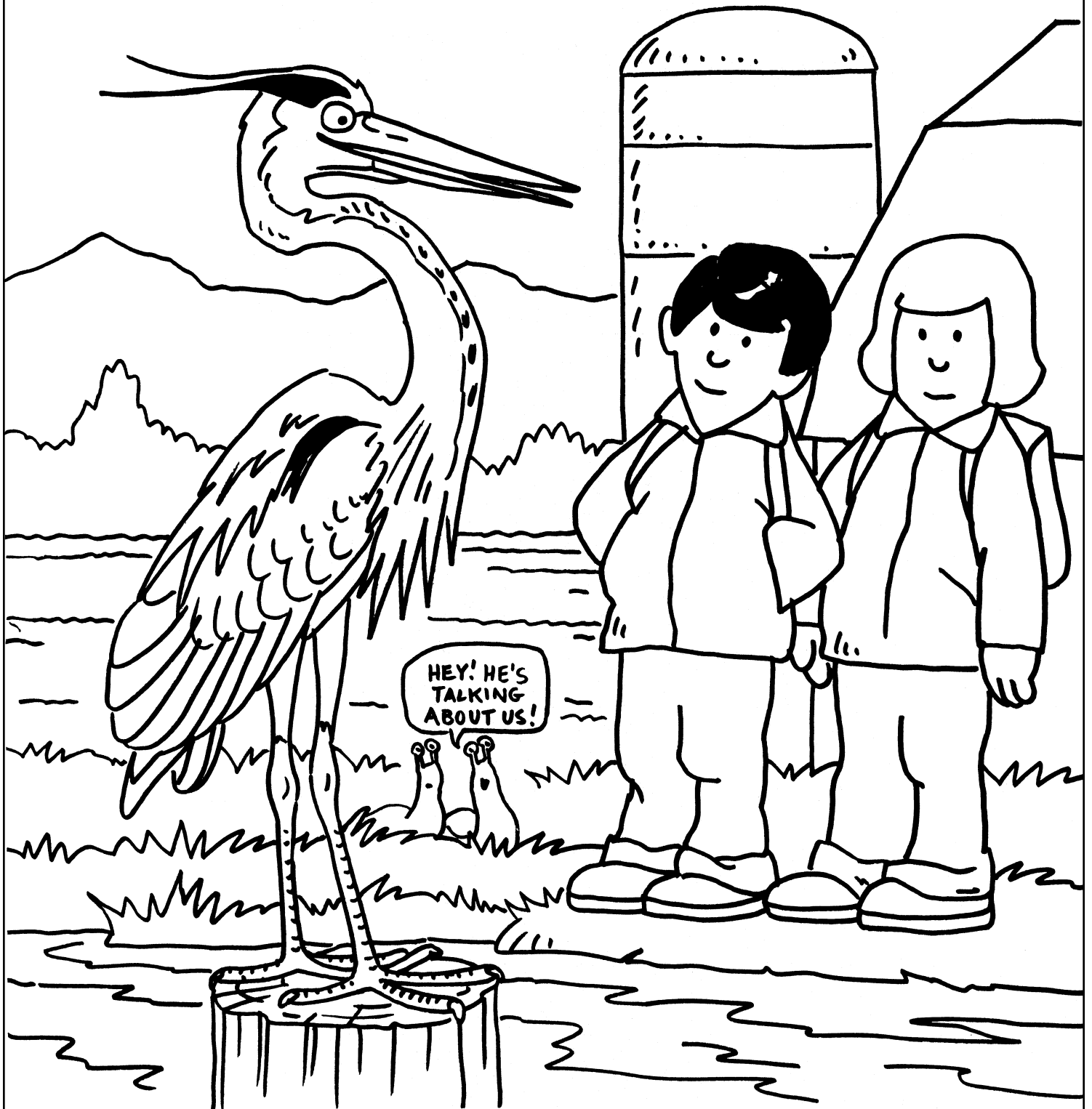
THOUGH THERE ARE PROBLEMS BETWEEN WILDLIFE AND FARMS IT WOULD BE GOOD IF BOTH COULD CONTINUE TO EXIST ON THE FRASER DELTA. TOO OFTEN GOOD FARMLAND IS USED AS A PLACE FOR HOUSES OR ROADS.



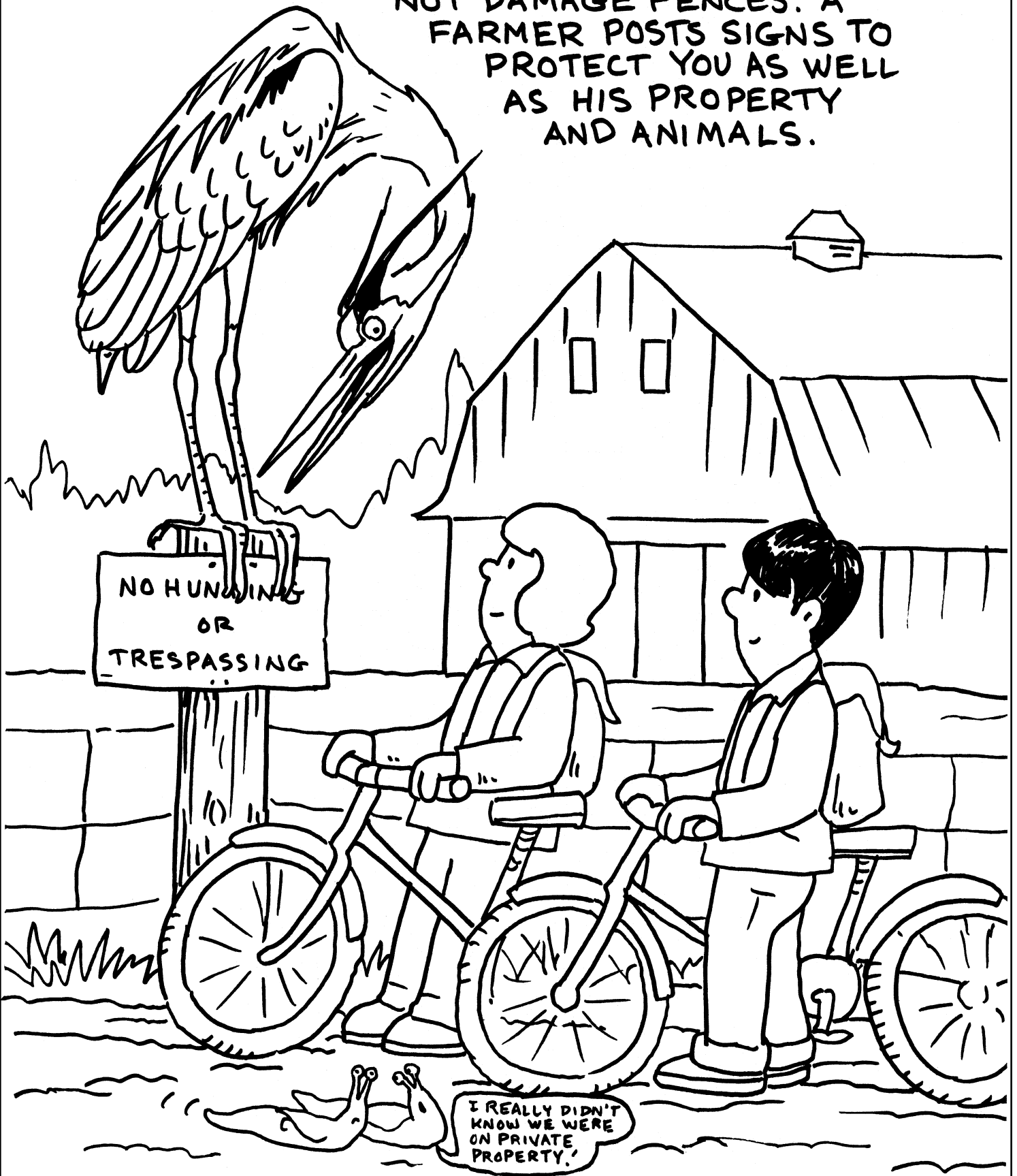
CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT NOT LONG AGO THIS WAS ALL FARMLAND?

HEY! THERE'S A TWO CAR GARAGE ON THE SPOT WE FIRST MET!

SO YOU SEE HOW IMPORTANT FARMS ARE TO YOU AND MY WILDLIFE FRIENDS. IF YOU THINK FARMLAND IS IMPORTANT HERE ARE A FEW THINGS THAT YOU CAN DO.



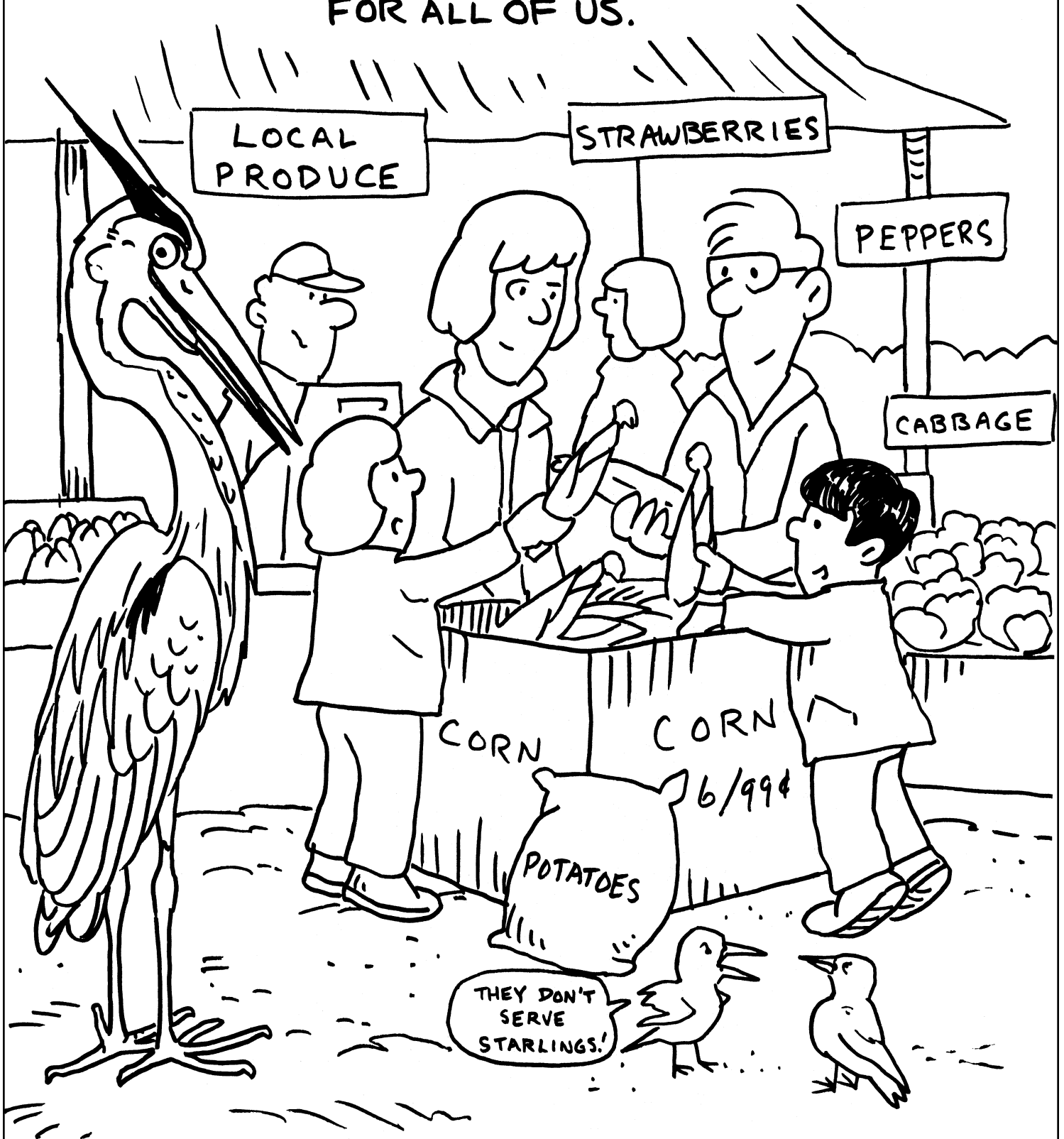
ENJOY THE SIGHTS ON FARMLAND
BUT PLEASE RESPECT SIGNS AND DO
NOT DAMAGE FENCES. A
FARMER POSTS SIGNS TO
PROTECT YOU AS WELL
AS HIS PROPERTY
AND ANIMALS.



TAKE YOUR TIME WHEN DRIVING THROUGH FARMLAND. RESPECT SLOW MOVING VEHICLES AND INSTEAD OF RUSHING, KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN FOR WILDLIFE.



BUY PRODUCE FROM LOCAL FARMS.
IF THESE FARMS STAY IN BUSINESS
THEN WE WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE
FARMLAND AND THAT IS HEALTHY
FOR ALL OF US.



NOW YOU KNOW THAT FARMLAND IS GOOD FOR MANY REASONS. NOT ONLY FOR GROWING YOUR FOOD BUT IT IS HOME TO ALL KINDS OF WILDLIFE. REMEMBER, IF FARMLAND DISAPPEARS, WE ALL LOSE.

