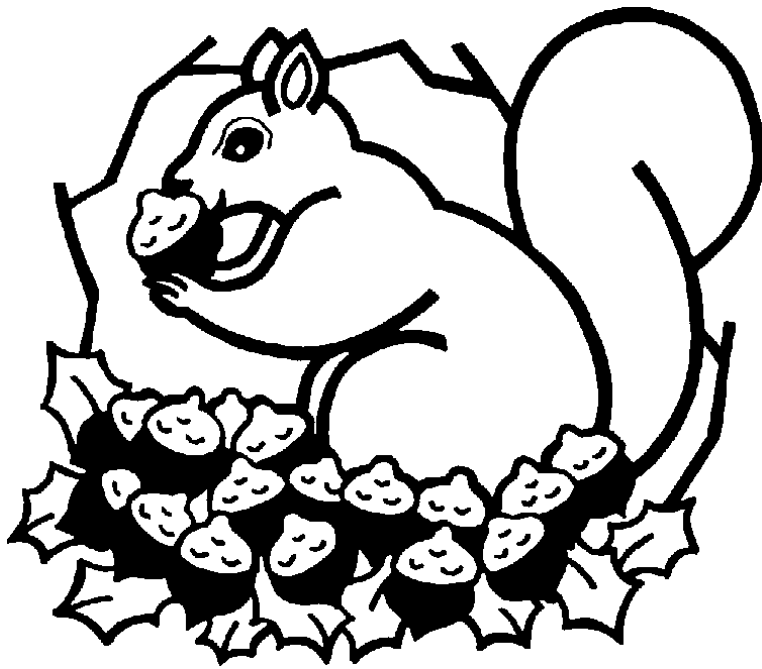


Mini 4-H Wildlife



PURDUE
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Extension
JOHNSON COUNTY

Mini 4-H Helper's Page

Welcome to the Johnson County Mini 4-H program! Mini 4-H is designed for youth to explore a variety of project activity areas and to interact with caring adults and other children.

Children receive this project activity manual when enrolling in Mini 4-H. This manual and the manuals on various other topics will provide fun age appropriate learning activities throughout their year(s) in Mini 4-H.

As a Mini 4-H adult helper your job will be to guide and encourage each child through the activities. A wide range of activities are provided to allow you to choose the ones most appropriate for the children you are working with. 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. 4-H believes in allowing children to learn by doing. The Mini 4-H project activities are hands-on learning opportunities designed to provide a meaningful educational experience for youth.

Additionally, the Mini 4-H program is set up to allow children to display a project activity that is based upon information within this manual. Most children will choose to exhibit their project at the 4-H fair. The 4-H fair is an exciting week that allows community youth to showcase their enthusiasm for learning. Children may choose to display a project activity they did by themselves or one they did with a group.

Please help the child to bring their Mini 4-H project to the fairgrounds during the designated Mini 4-H judging time. Each exhibit will need a Mini 4-H exhibit tag and their Mini 4-H Project Record Sheet. Mini 4-H exhibits are non-competitive meaning they all receive a special Mini 4-H blue ribbon. Once the fair is over, be sure to pick up the project during 4-H Project Release.

Mini 4-H is fun! Children will certainly enjoy it. You can have fun too, by guiding and helping as children participate in the program. Encourage and praise the children as they have fun learning and sharing with you. If you have any questions regarding Mini 4-H or other 4-H programs, please feel free to contact Purdue Extension Johnson County at **317-736-3724**.

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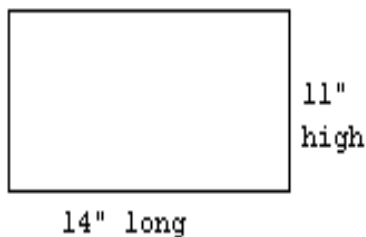
Mini 4-H Program Rules

The Mini 4-H program is designed to supplement and introduce kindergarten, first, and second graders to the Johnson County 4-H program.

RULES

1. Mini 4-H is open to any boy or girl who is enrolled in kindergarten, first, or second grade on January 1st of the current 4-H year.
2. Any Kindergartener may enroll in one (1) project.
Any first grader may enroll in one (1) or two (2) projects.
Any second grader may enroll in one (1) to four (4) projects.
3. Mini 4-H members are enrolled in the Mini Clovers 4-H Club, which is led by the Extension Educator & Volunteers. Meetings are not required, the project(s) will be done at home.
4. Mini 4-H projects include: Arts & Crafts, Bugs, Cookie Decorating, Collections, Flowers, Foods, Forestry, Horse & Pony, Livestock, Models, Sewing, Small Animals, and Wildlife.
5. Enrollment of Mini 4-H begins October 1st.
6. **ALL POSTER EXHIBITS MUST:**
 - A. Have a solid, stiff backing, which is 11" high by 14" wide.
This can be 1/4" plywood, HEAVY cardboard, foam board, or masonite.

Exception: Wildlife poster is 11"x 22".



- B. Be positioned **HORIZONTALLY**.
- C. Have a total exhibit board no larger than 11" high by 14" wide.
(Wildlife- 11"x 22")
- D. Be completely **COVERED BY A CLEAR PLASTIC** material.

Mini 4-H Wildlife

Welcome to the world of nature. Nature is all life working together. If there were no grass, then all of the good top soil would wash away, clog up streams and rivers, and then we would not be able to grow things. If there were not enough chipmunks, there would be fewer nuts and seeds planted and not as many trees would grow. If there were not enough owls to eat the field mice there might not be enough grain to feed our farm animals. You will learn how each of these animals is important to nature.

All animals need three things to live, food, water, and shelter. As you read the stories, see what each animal does to get these things.

WHAT TO EXHIBIT:

- Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 2 will make an 11" x 22" poster (this is a special size for Mini 4-H Wildlife). Each grade level has different items to put on the poster. See extra information below.
- Attach a name tag to the front of your poster.
- Complete the record sheet in the back of the book and attach to the back of your poster.
- Cover your poster with clear plastic.

GRADE KINDERGARTEN:

1. Visit a local park with an adult and take 5 pictures of different wildlife that you see.
2. Put these 5 pictures on your poster and write a brief description about the animal including what it is.

GRADE 1:

1. Read all six animals' stories for Grade 1.
2. On the picture pages, find each of the six animals and write the name on the line below it. Then draw a line from the animal to the kind of food it eats.
3. Color each animal and then put the pages together to form one large picture (Should measure about 11 "x 22").

GRADE 2:

1. Read all five animals' stories for Grade 2.
2. On the picture pages, find each of the five animals and write the name next to it.
3. Color each animal and then put the pages together to form one large picture (Should measure about 11 "x 22").

Directions for Poster (Grades 1 & 2)

1. Color all of the pictures
2. Cut along the **DOTTED LINES ONLY!!!!**
3. Overlap the pages until the pictures match up
4. Glue in place
5. Glue to board
6. Trim around the edges

NAME _____
GRADE (as of January 1) _____
SCHOOL _____

Mini 4-H'ers Page

Mini 4-H'ers have lots of fun! There are many activities for you to explore. You can try new things, which you can share with your family and friends.

Here are some things to know about 4-H:

The 4-H Symbol: A four leaf clover with a "H" on each leaf

The 4-H Colors: The 4-H colors are green and white. The four-leaf clover is green and the "H" in the leaf is white.

The 4-H Motto: "To make the best better."

4-H PLEDGE

I pledge my **HEAD** to clearer thinking,

I promise to use my head to make good choices.

My **HEART** to greater loyalty,

I promise to use my heart to be a good friend.

My **HANDS** to larger service,

I promise to use my hands to do helpful things for others.

And my **HEALTH** to better living,

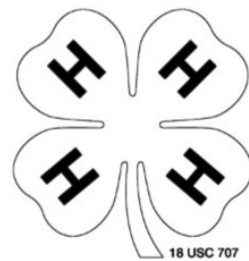
I promise to take care of my body and to show others to live in a healthy way.

For my club, my community,

I promise to help my group, my community,

My country, and my world.

my country, and my world be happy and safe for everyone.



Wildlife Stories for Grade 1

CHEEKY CHIPMUNK

The late winter sun warmed the soil deep enough that Cheeky stirred from his slumber. Groggy from sleep, he ate from the pile of nuts and seeds that he had collected during the fall. He yawned stretched and hiccupped. Waking up at last, he scurried up the long underground runway to the entrance of his burrow. There were a few patches of snow left under some shaded spots. The ground was covered with leaves and the sky was clear.

Cheeky flicked his little tail and perched on his hind legs. His perky little nose wrinkled at all of the smells and his little black eyes darted around, searching for activities. Then he spotted his friend, Chirpy, who was also aroused by the warm sun.

He chattered and Chirpy answered; off they went chasing each other in a flash of leaves. They romped all afternoon, scampering up trees and around bushes. Then they both froze as they heard a low growl. The DOG was near. The DOG spied the two playmates and they were off. Both of them dove into their burrows, slid down the mouth of the runways to their sleeping rooms and sighed with relief.

Cheeky smoothed his ruffled fur that the girl chipmunk always admired in the spring. He was a rich brown with two white stripes and five black stripes on his back. He ate once more from his store of nuts and seeds and curled up in his nest lined with leaves and fibers of bark. He closed his eyes and went back to sleep to dream about berries that he would fill his cheek pouches with this summer. The moon came up and more snow clouds blew over. Cheeky would sleep for a while yet.



DUDLEY DOVE

“Will you go feed the children, Dudley?” asked his wife, Dorinda Dove.

“Certainly dear,” answered Dudley.

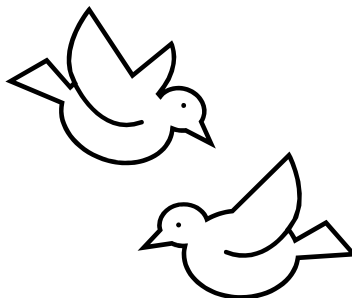
Dudley and Dorinda both make what is known as pigeon’s milk. It is a soft, nutritious food that both the male and female Mourning Dove feed to their young for the first few days after they hatch.

“Come here, both of you,” cooed Dudley. The little doves opened their mouths and Dudley stuck his beak down their throats into the crop (the place where the birds keep food until it is digested).

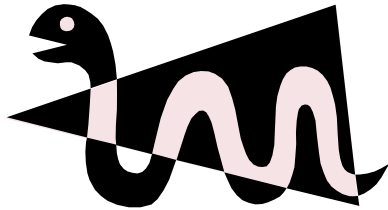
After he fed them, he flew away to find seeds to eat.

Sometimes the Mourning Dove spends the winters in the central counties of Indiana. If it gets cold enough, it is a hard winter for them. Sometimes they even have toes frozen off.

Dudley is lucky though. He lives near people who put seed near the ground during the winter. His own home is made of twigs and in a small tree stump near Brown County State Park. You can often hear him call, “coo-ah, coo, coo, coo”.



SEYMOUR SNAKE



Seymour is a hog-nosed snake. He has just been through a traumatic experience. He had been discovered and picked up by a Boy Scout. When the boy got too close, Seymour had flattened out, hissed, and made a lot of quick and hopefully startling movements trying to scare the Boy Scout away. However, the boy's Boy Scout training had taught him that the hog-nose snake was harmless and would not hurt him even if he was struck. Seymour was so scared that he threw up his supper.

At last the Boy Scout left him alone and ran back to camp to tell the others of his adventure. He was wearing leather boots to protect himself against the few poisonous snakes in Indiana. The swamp rattler, timber rattler, and copperhead snakes are poisonous; all of these are easily distinguished by their vertical pupils, like a cat's eye, and the deep pit on each side of the head between the eye and nostril. The only other poisonous snakes are coral snakes which are rare in Indiana.

Seymour, shaken, started off to find more dinner. He mumbled to himself about how silly people are about snakes. Most people will kill a snake on sight without finding out whether it is harmful or not. Take the hog-nosed snake, like himself. Most people think it is a poisonous snake, but it is not. In fact, it is very helpful. Seymour stuffs himself with small animals- usually rodents- that are little enough to be swallowed whole. He eats continuously and stores his food as fat. When cold weather comes, he will live off the fat he has stored in his body. Snakes are not like birds. They are "cold blooded" animals. When the temperature changes outside, their body temperature changes also. When it gets to be 50 degrees, the snake will hibernate. Sometimes many snakes will crawl into the same hole in the ground to spend the winter. Last year Seymour had a cozy snooze with eleven brothers.

Seymour discovered he was thirsty. As he passed the brook, he stuck his mouth under the water and sucked it up. This reminded him of another thing that some people believe. Snakes are not slimy, but they have such close-set scales they look like they are. They have no sweat glands and their bodies are dry.

Seymour could spend days tisk-tisking over the things people think about him. For example, the tips of a snake's tongue are not fangs, but taste buds that sample odors in the air and also serve as fingers (an organ of touch). Snakes are deaf, but are able to feel ground vibrations. They also have no eyelids, but a transparent covering which protects the eye.

Then a terrifying thought hit Seymour. If everyone learned that not all snakes are harmful, he might have more people try to pick him up! Oh, dear that is terrifying!

OSCAR OWL

Oscar swooped low over the corn field, his eyes seeking the slight movement that would betray a field mouse or another juicy rodent. The dry leaves of the corn rustled, there was a flash of grey and a mouse streaked for cover. Oscar did not waste a second. He dove for the racing form, struck it soundly to kill it quickly and once again took to the sky- his prey in his talons.

He flew back to the barn by the light of the full moon. He knew it would be dawn soon and he did not desire to be out in the daylight. Oscar tore apart the dead mouse and ate it all. In his stomach, it would be digested and the hair and bones of his meal turned into a grayish pellet that would be coughed up. These pellets are dropped under the nest.

As daylight came, Sam, the farmer's son, started on his round of chores showing his city cousin, Tim, around the farm.

"Come on over here, Tim," said Sam. "See these little grey balls on the floor? That ol' 'monkey face owl' spits them up. Dad says if you look inside one of them you can tell what the owl had for supper."

"Why do you call him a 'monkey face owl'?" asked Tim.

"I will show you a picture of him when we get back to the house. He has a big white ring around each of his eyes and that makes his face look like a monkey. Dad will not let me throw rocks at them. He says they are really good mouse hunters and help keep the grain safe. Dad was sad last year because only two of the five eggs hatched. He said he found a nest once that had eight babies in it," said Sam.

"Come on, Sam. Let's feed the horses," said Tim.

"OK, so long sleepy owl."

Oscar blinked his eyes and relaxed on his perch in the loft to sleep until night.



TOBY TOAD

It is early spring and Toby Toad is celebrating the warm weather by singing with his musical trill. His vocal sac is round and full as he sends his song over the fields. His song also indicates that it is time to mate.



Toby can live almost anywhere from your backyard to the mountain wilderness. If there are shallow bodies of water in pools, ditches or streams you can probably find a toad living there. He also needs someplace that is moist and has lots of insects to eat.

He is an ugly animal and has dry warty skin. He is a common hop toad. He lives in Jimmy Brown's backyard. Jimmy thinks that if he picks Toby up that he will get warts, but that is not true. Toby does make a secretion that burns the eyes, mouth or nose if it gets in them but he can not give people warts. Jimmy has to wash his hands right away if he picks Toby up.

Jimmy's mother likes Toby and will not let Jimmy harm him because he eats so many insects that would destroy her flowers and vegetables. She knows that soon all the other toads will come out from hibernation and collect in large groups to mate near their pond.

SHELDON SHREW

"Eat, eat, eat. That is all you ever do, Sheldon," said his friend Millicent Mole. "Yulp," said Sheldon as he gulped another fly down.

Sheldon does not really do much else, but eat. He is just a little animal and weighs less than a pencil and is only three inches long. Even though he is small he eats more than his weight in insects each day.

"See you," said Sheldon and he scurried across the meadow. "Got to (gulp) get my (gulp) nest ready (gulp) for winter."

Some of Sheldon's friends were making their nests under some debris, others were cleaning out burrows underground, but Sheldon was going to spend the winter with the upper class shrews in a beehive that was being converted to a high rise apartment house.



Sheldon is a delicate little animal with fur the color of cinnamon. He has tiny little feet and legs, a pointed head and small eyes and ears. His eyes are hidden by thick fur. His tail is short and he is known by scientists as a least shrew. Sheldon does not like the bright light and he sleeps almost all day. Like his friend the mole, he hunts all night.

Some questions to see what you have learned.

What did you learn about Cheeky Chipmunk? _____

What did Cheeky eat? _____

Where did Cheeky live? _____

What did you learn about Oscar Owl? _____

Where does Oscar live? _____

What does Oscar eat? _____

Is Oscar a good friend of the farmer? _____

What did you learn about Seymour Snake? _____

What does Seymour eat? _____

What does Seymour do during the winter? _____

How does Seymour drink water? _____

What did you learn about Sheldon Shrew? _____

What different places does Sheldon live in? _____

What does Sheldon eat? _____

When does Sheldon eat? _____

What did you learn about Dudley Dove? _____

What different places does Dudley live in? _____

Where does Dudley eat? _____

What sound does Dudley make? _____

What did you learn about Toby Toad? _____

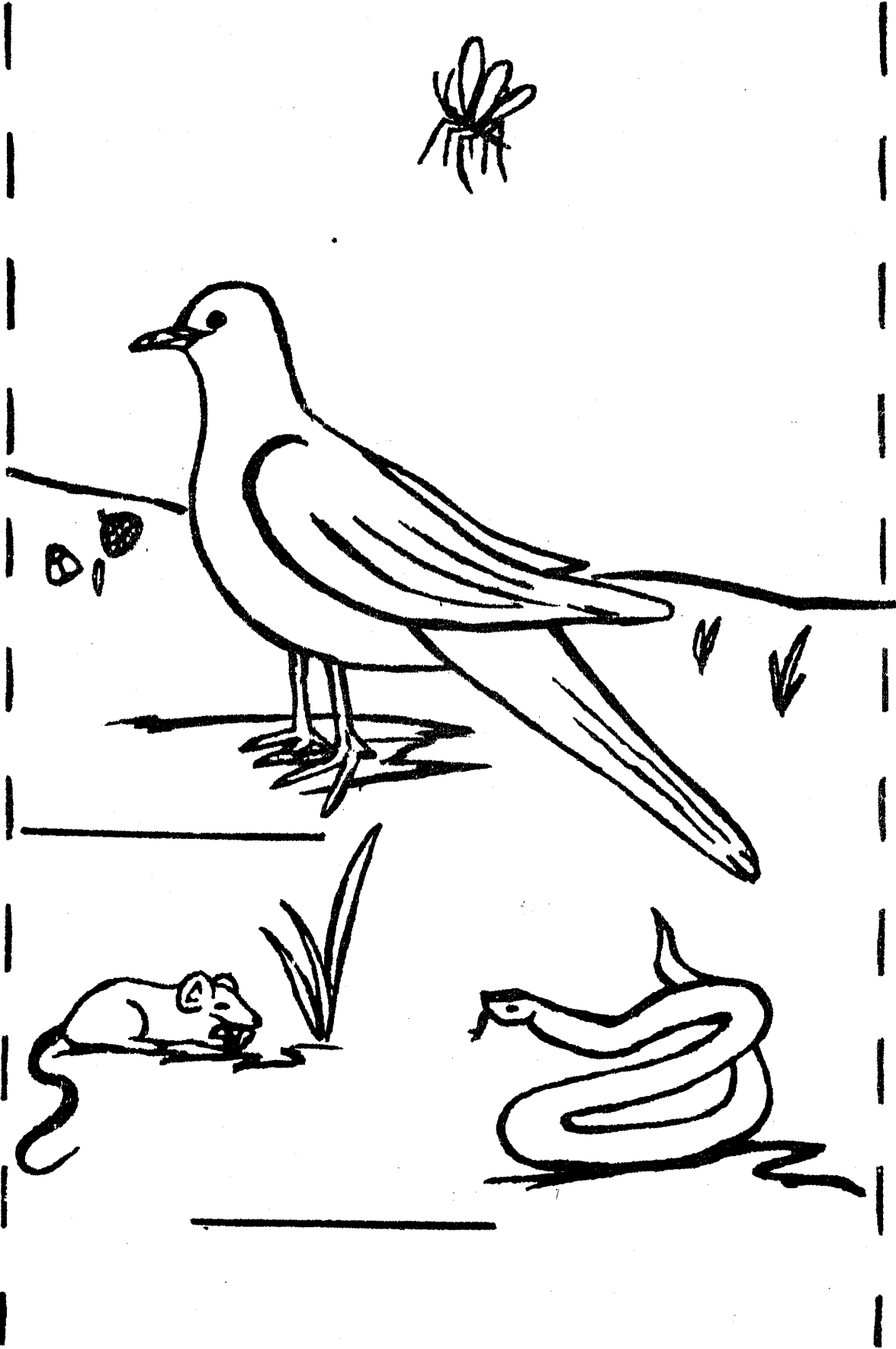
What does Toby eat? _____

Where does Toby live? _____

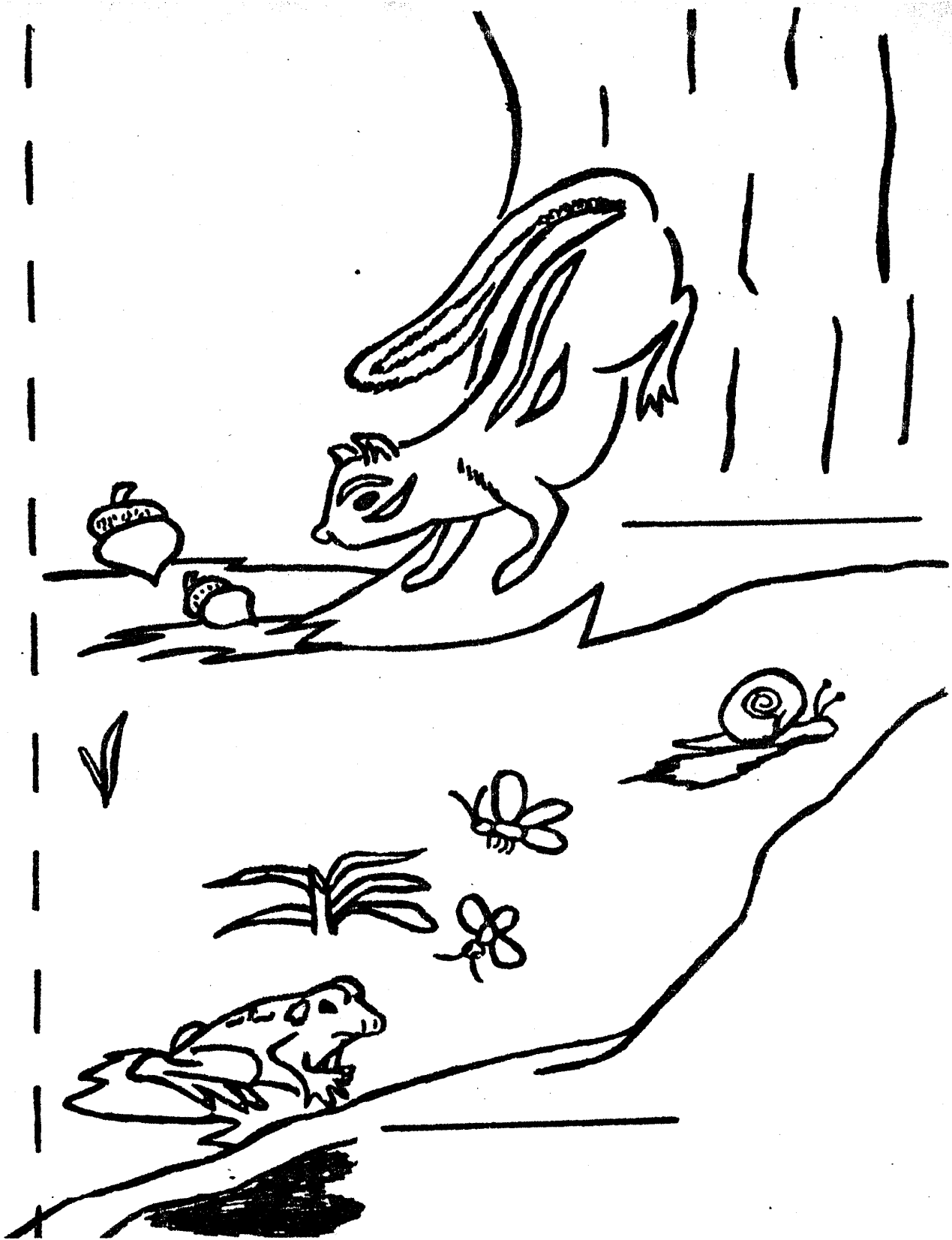
Does Toby cause warts? _____



CUT ALONG THIS LINE.



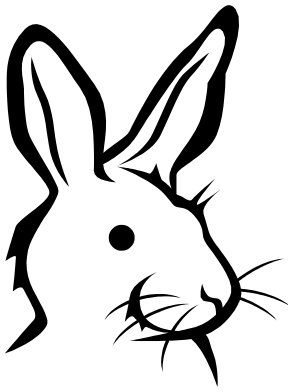
CUT ALONG THIS LINE.



Wildlife Stories for Grade 2

PETER RABBIT

Peter lifted his long sensitive ears and listened. Scratch, scratch, sniff, sniff! Farmer John's dog is looking for me again, thought Peter. I am glad I am under this tool shed. Peter had found the hole under the shed by accident the last time the dog had chased him. Peter's strong back legs had almost given out on him that time. The dog had chased him all over the garden and yard and when Peter was about to give up he darted near the shed and saw this hole.



Peter could fight by biting and kicking his enemies, but he preferred to outrun them. When the dog left, he would go back to his burrow in the thicket by Farmer John's woods. He had been born there with his five brothers and sisters. Rabbits have many litters a year, with four to nine babies in each litter. The rabbits are born blind and without hair. Rabbits have two sets of cutting teeth, one behind the other. They eat young green plants in the spring and summer, and bark in the fall and winter.

ELMER SQUIRREL

Elmer considered himself to be a handsome Fox Squirrel. He was 14" long; with a bushy tail that was 12" long. He weighed three pounds and was a mixture of black and buff colors. He had been born two winters ago in a nest of twigs and leaves high up in a hollow tree. Squirrels can have from two to five babies in a litter.



Most people do not know that squirrel is a Greek word meaning shade tail. Elmer's tail comes in handy. It is his rudder to help guide him when he jumps from tree to tree or to the ground, and it helps him keep his balance. Elmer was storing nuts, seeds, and grain for the winter. He will not remember where he has hidden them but his nose will help him find it when he gets hungry.

BOB BOBWHITE



Bobwhites are quails. These birds are heavy-bodied. They have short, heavy bills and long legs. The bobwhite is reddish brown with a gray tail; the male has a white throat and eye line, while the female is buff colored in those areas. Their wings are short and rounded. They do not fly fast, and they only fly a few hundred feet at a time. They lay 6-16 eggs at a time.

Bob Bobwhite lives in a covey or flock of 10 birds in a brush at the edge of one of Farmer John's fields. You hear Bob on summer nights when he whistles bob-bob-white. He eats seeds and insects off the ground. At night the birds roost on the ground in a circle with their tails in and their heads out to help protect themselves.

ROBBIE ROBIN

Robbie Robin walked along searching for insects and worms. He liked fruit too. Robbie can hear the worms near the top of the ground. Robbie has an orange breast, while his mate's head is paler in color, and the young robins have speckled breasts.

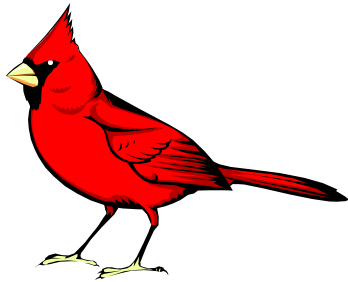


Robins lay 3-6 eggs at a time. These eggs are blue in color. Their nests are usually made out of grass and mud in orchard trees, shrubs, or on buildings. If the ground is hard when the robin goes to build its nest, the robin will wait for the rain to get the mud to complete the nest. The robin's song is a series of 6-10 whistle phrases of 3 or 4 notes

CASEY CARDINAL

Casey Cardinal cracked seeds with his heavy conical beak. The corn was good. It was nice of Farmer John to leave him corn to eat when it was so cold and hard to find other seeds and insects to eat. Casey had helped feed his family of four little birds last summer. Their nest had been in a tall tree at the edge of Farmer John's woods.

Casey is bright red with a black throat and his beak is red. Casey is Indiana's State Bird. He is very popular. The cardinal is the state bird of seven states.



Some questions to see what you have learned.

Where does Peter Rabbit live? _____

What do rabbits eat? _____

What is a litter? _____

Where does Elmer Squirrel live? _____

What is the Greek meaning for Squirrel? _____

What kind of squirrel is Elmer? _____

What kind of bird is Bob Bobwhite? _____

What does Bob whistle? _____

How do Bobwhites sleep and protect themselves at night? _____

What does Robbie Robin eat? _____

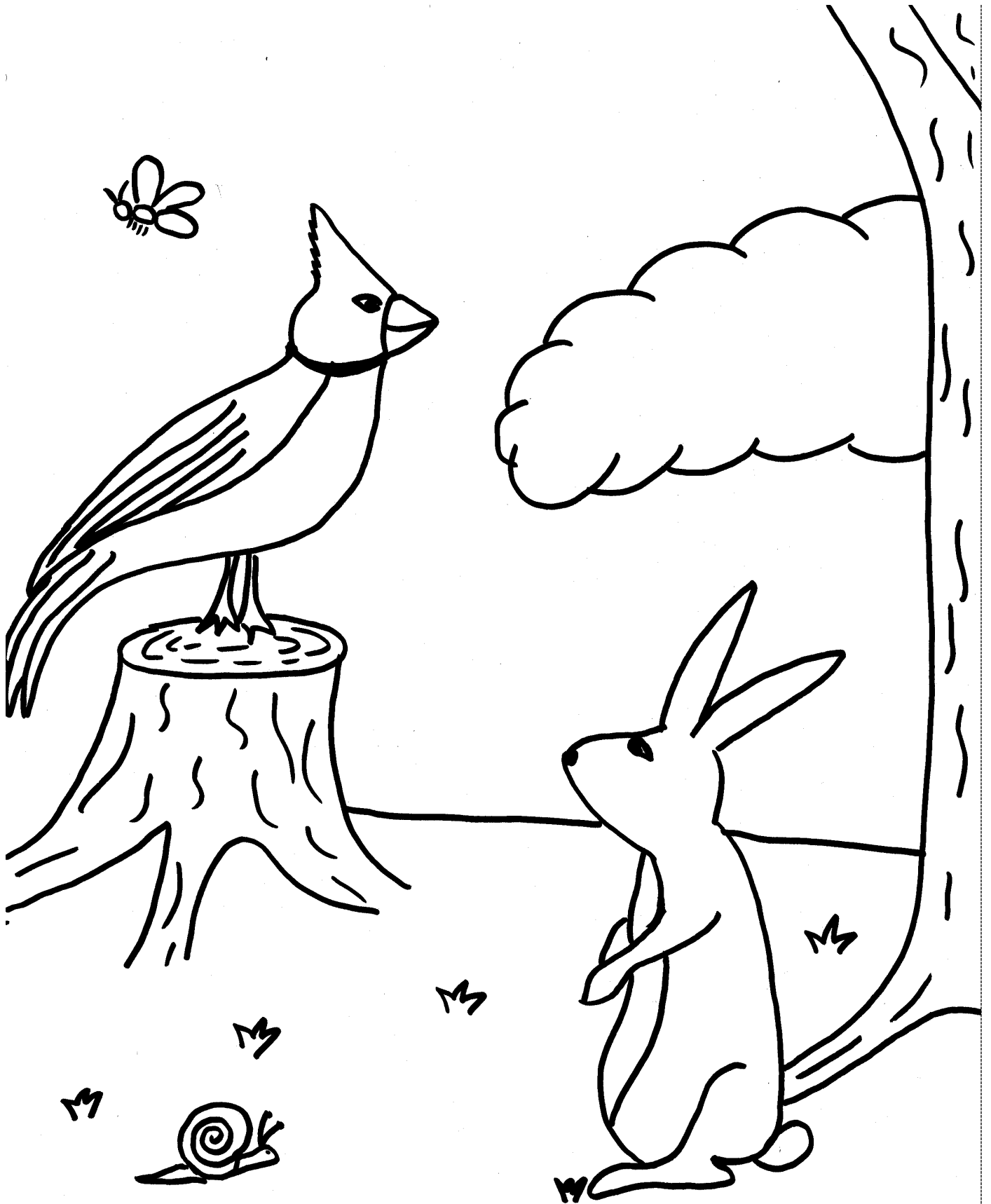
What color are robin eggs? _____

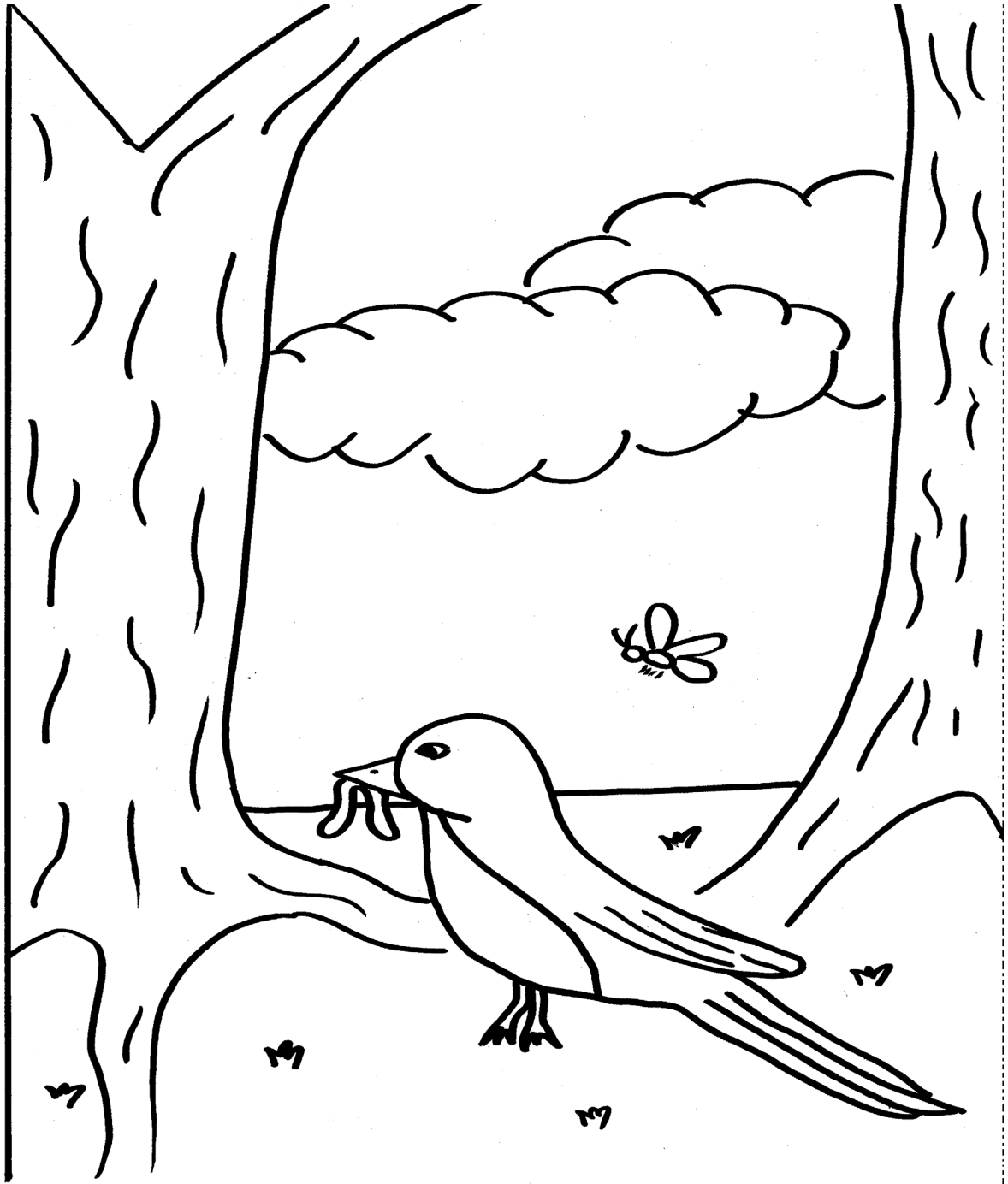
With what does a robin build its nest? _____

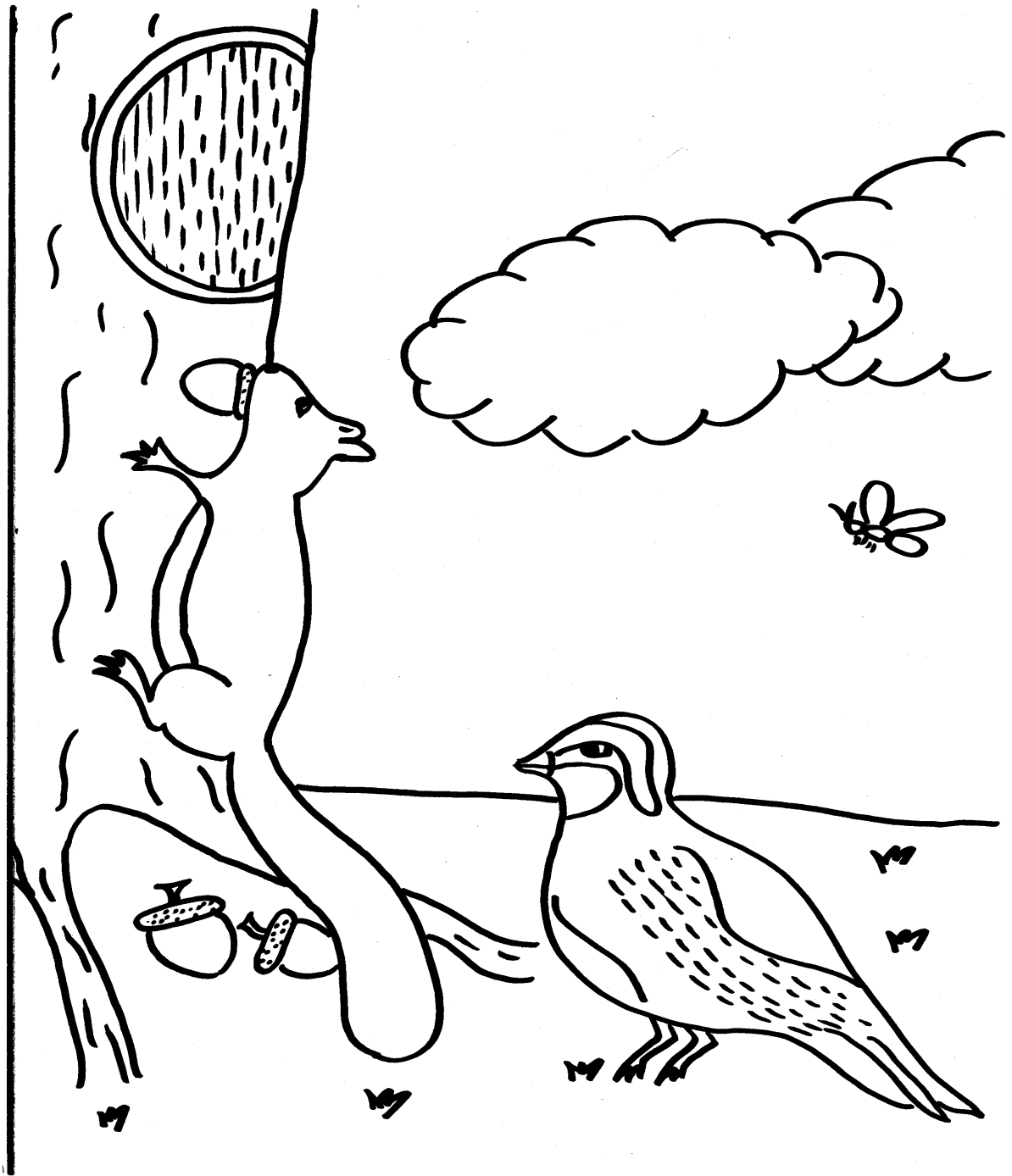
What shape is Casey Cardinal's beak? _____

Did Casey help care for his young birds? _____

What is Indiana's State Bird? _____







RECORD SHEET

MINI 4-H WILDLIFE

Name _____ Grade _____

School Attending _____

Please complete and bring with Mini 4-H Exhibit.

I choose to exhibit _____.

My favorite animal is _____

_____.

I learned _____

_____.

My favorite part of Mini 4-H this year was _____

_____.

List who helped you with the project _____
