

# Baikal Sedge

*Carex sabulosa*

The Baikal Sedge is a grass-like perennial with a drooping, club-shaped head. It grows in the shifting sand dunes found in only a handful of locations in Yukon and Alaska. As its name suggests, it also lives in the Lake Baikal region of eastern Asia.

## ⚠️ Potential threats

- Natural stabilization of sand dunes as trees and other vegetation encroach the ecosystem.
- Off-road vehicle (ORV/ATV) use in sand dune areas.
- Loss of habitat.
- Invasive species.

Drooping club-shaped head



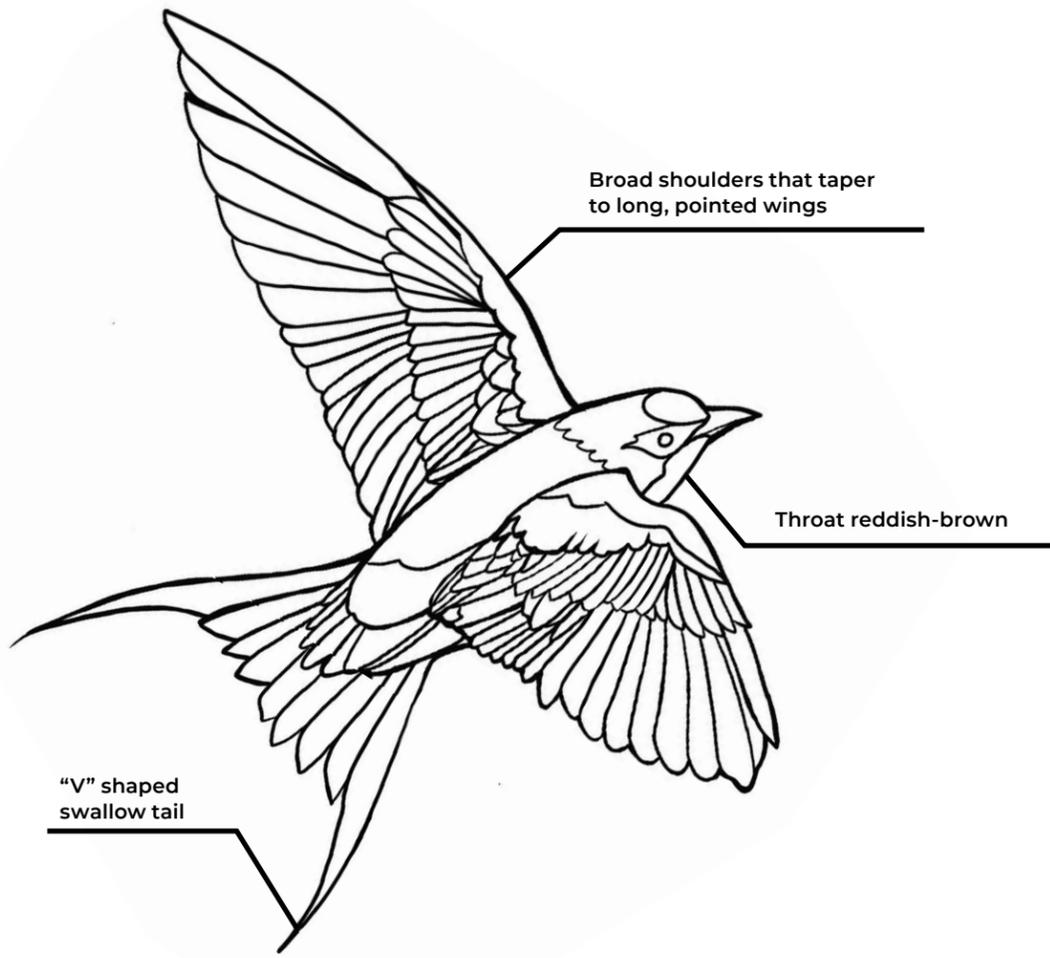
# Barn Swallow

*Hirundo rustica*

Barn Swallows hunt insects flying over fields, barnyards, or open waters. True to their name, they nest almost exclusively in human-made structures. Their cup-shaped mud nests are commonly found attached to barns, garages, bridges, and houses.

## ⚠️ Potential threats

- Nests may be lost through intentional or incidental destruction on buildings and bridges.
- Loss of foraging habitat and exposure to pesticides at tropical wintering grounds.



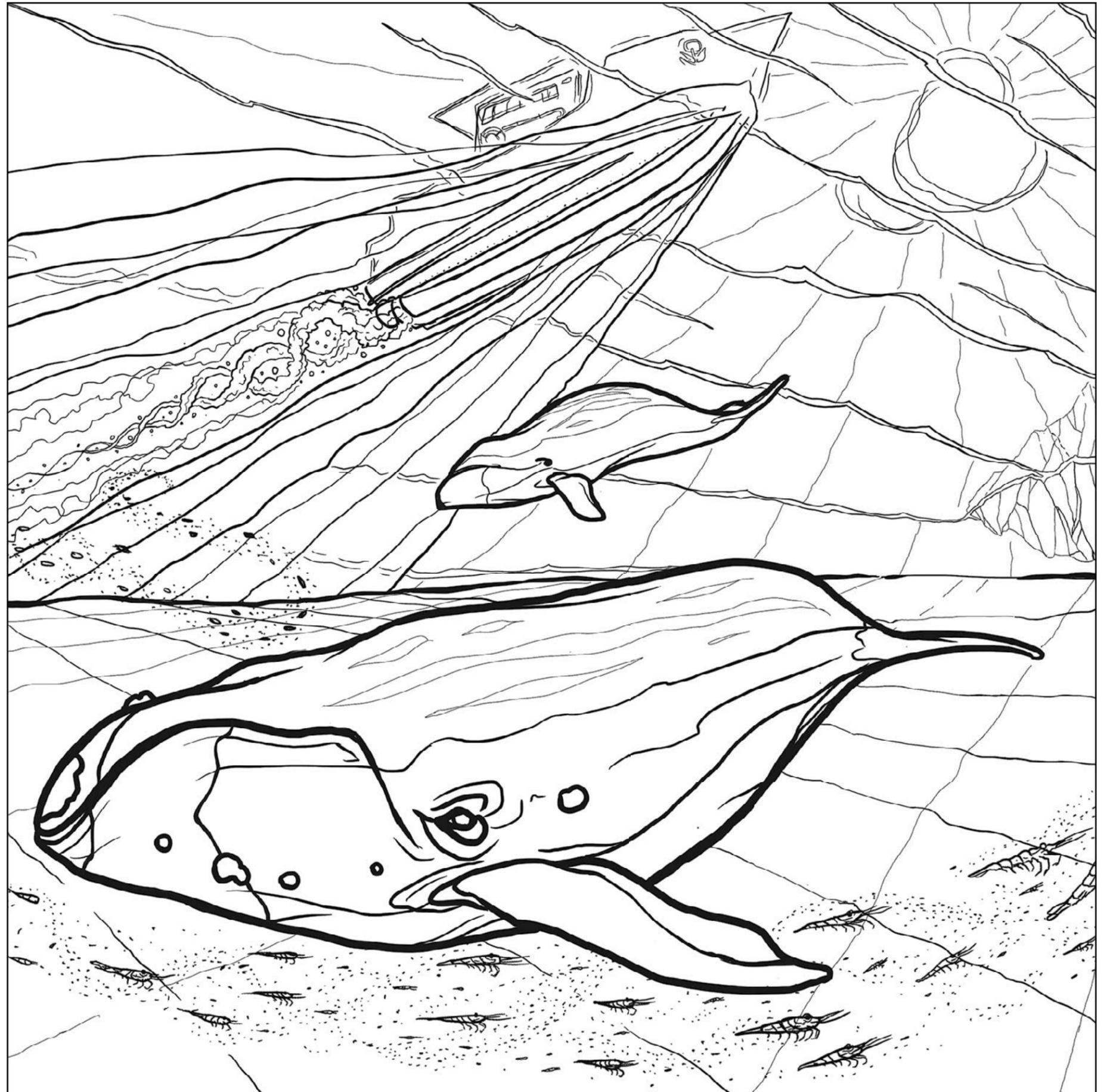
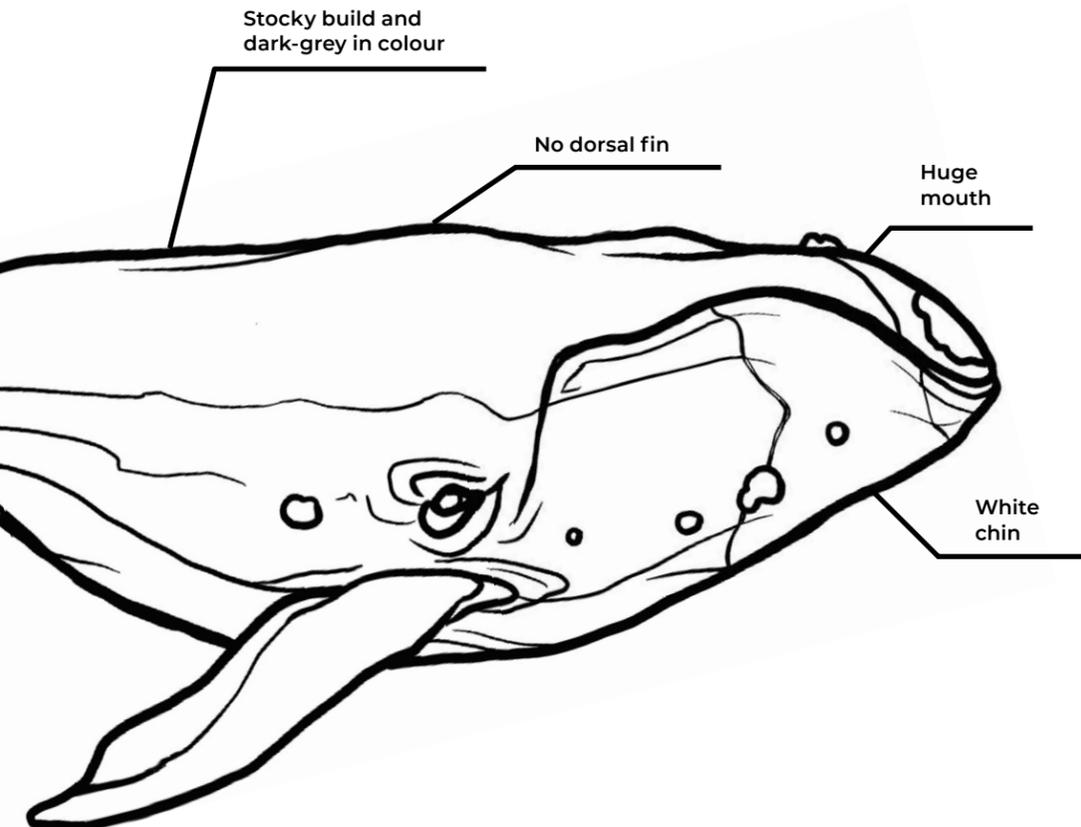
# Bowhead Whale

*Balaena mysticetus*

Bowhead Whales can be 20 metres long and weigh up to 100 tonnes. It is the second largest whale in the world, next to the Blue Whale. This huge animal feeds by filtering tiny organisms such as krill through its baleen. It is known to live up to 200 years, but at the price of an extremely low reproduction rate.

## ⚠ Potential threats

- Long generation time and low natural reproduction and growth rates make them inherently vulnerable.
- Rapid changes in ice cover due to climate change although there is uncertainty about how bowheads will respond to these changes.
- Increasing noise and disturbance from activities such as shipping and oil and gas exploration in the Arctic.



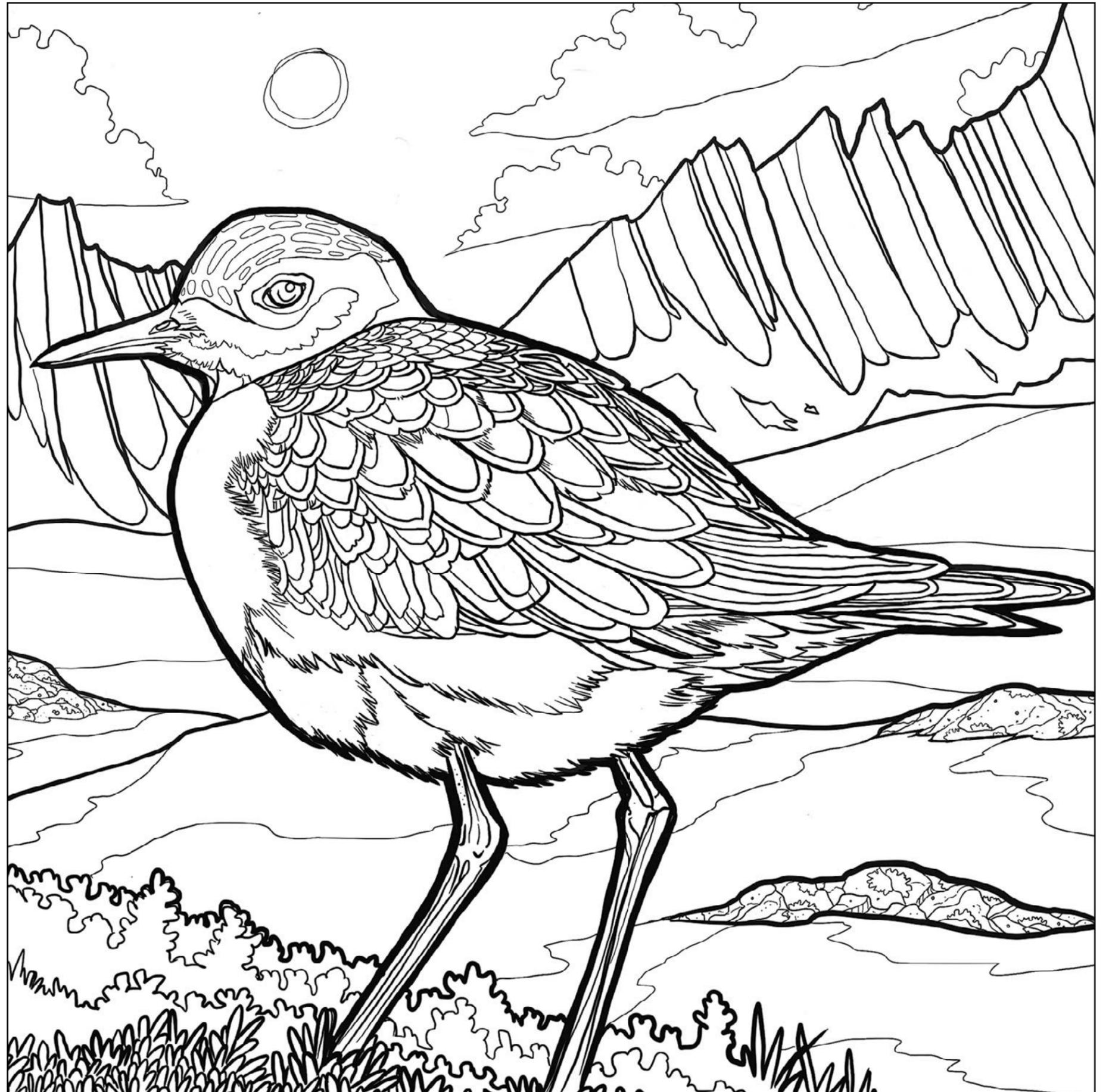
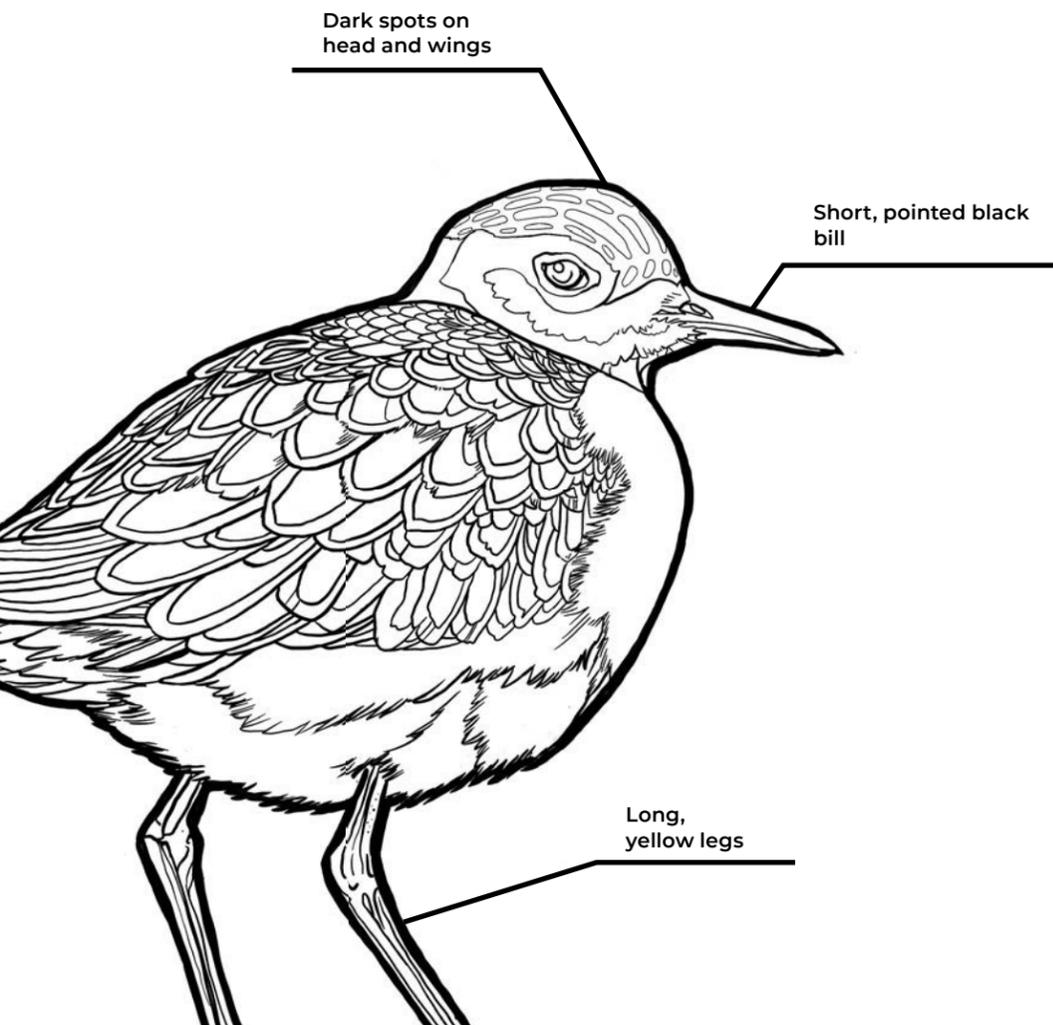
# Buff-breasted Sandpiper

*Tryngites subruficollis*

Close to 90 per cent of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper population spends its summers in the Canadian Arctic, migrating to South America for the winters. Unique in North America for their mating system, males defend small territories as display sites to attract females. These display sites are devoid of any useful resources. After the females choose a mate, they leave to build nests and raise young elsewhere.

## ⚠️ Potential threats

- Habitat loss particularly within its specialized grassland habitat, both on its wintering grounds in South America and along its migration routes.
- In the Arctic, breeding habitat overlaps areas of mineral and energy extraction. In Yukon though, these activities have not taken place in the species' known breeding area.
- Changes in temperatures, rainfall, and sea levels.



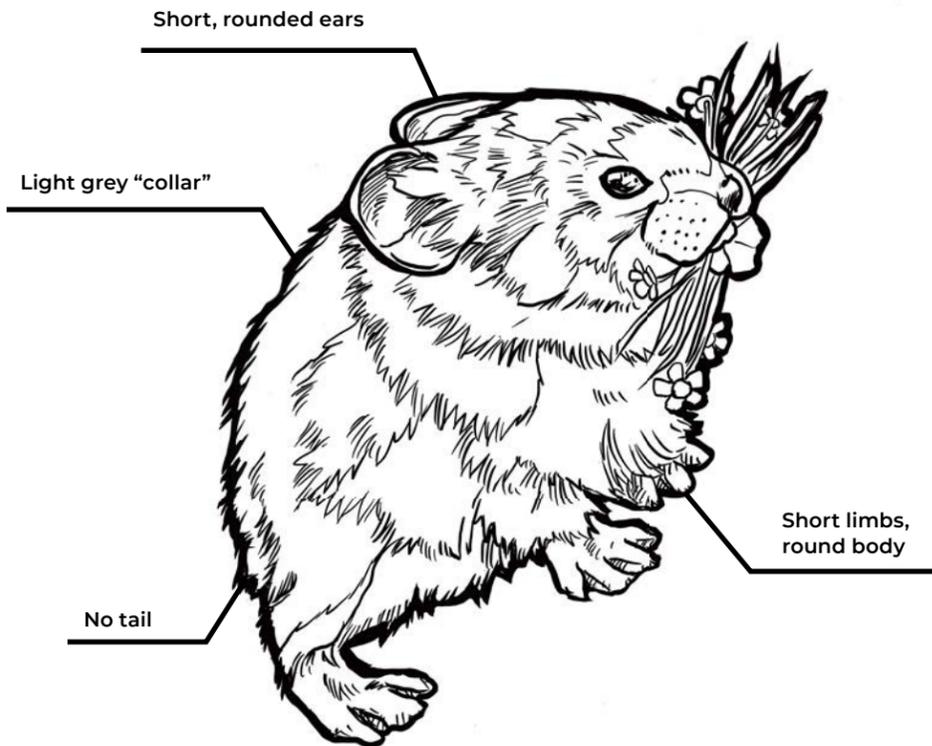
# Collared Pika

*Onchotona collaris*

Collared Pika are the short-eared cousins of rabbits. You can hear their shrill calls in the rocky alpine country of Yukon. They do not hibernate. Instead, they spend their summers collecting and storing “hay piles” to feed on throughout the winter.

## ⚠️ Potential threats

- Sensitivity to deep snowpacks and late snowmelts as Yukon’s precipitation varies with climate change.
- Habitat decline as the climate warms.
- The above two threats together could mean a substantial future population decline.



# Common Nighthawk

*Chordeiles minor*

Common Nighthawks use the twilight hours to hunt insects while flying. They are often heard before they are seen, making a low and sharp “peennt” call. During breeding season, male Common Nighthawks dive straight down and then pull up abruptly, the air rushing across their wingtips making a deep booming sound.

## ⚠️ Potential threats

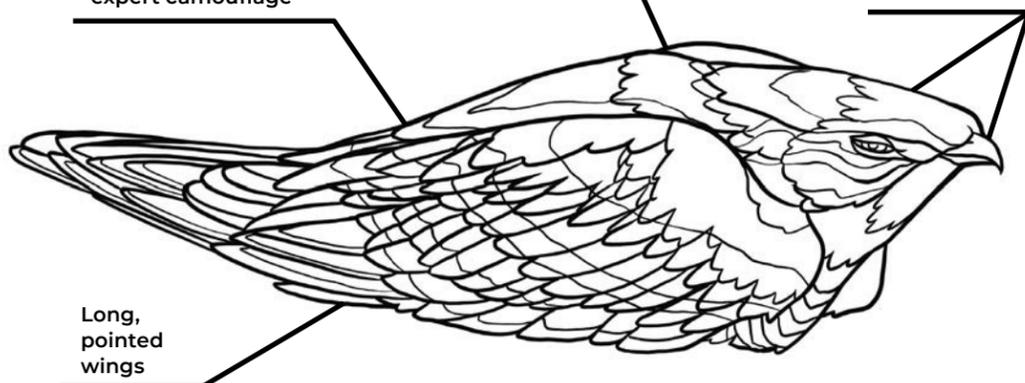
- Reductions in insect prey due to pesticides.
- Habitat loss and degradation.
- Human activities that result in increased numbers of predators such as domestic cats, ravens, gulls, and foxes.
- Collisions with motor vehicles, particularly on gravel roads.

Feathers are mottled brown, expert camouflage

White patches on wings

Tiny bill, flat head

Long, pointed wings



# Dolly Varden

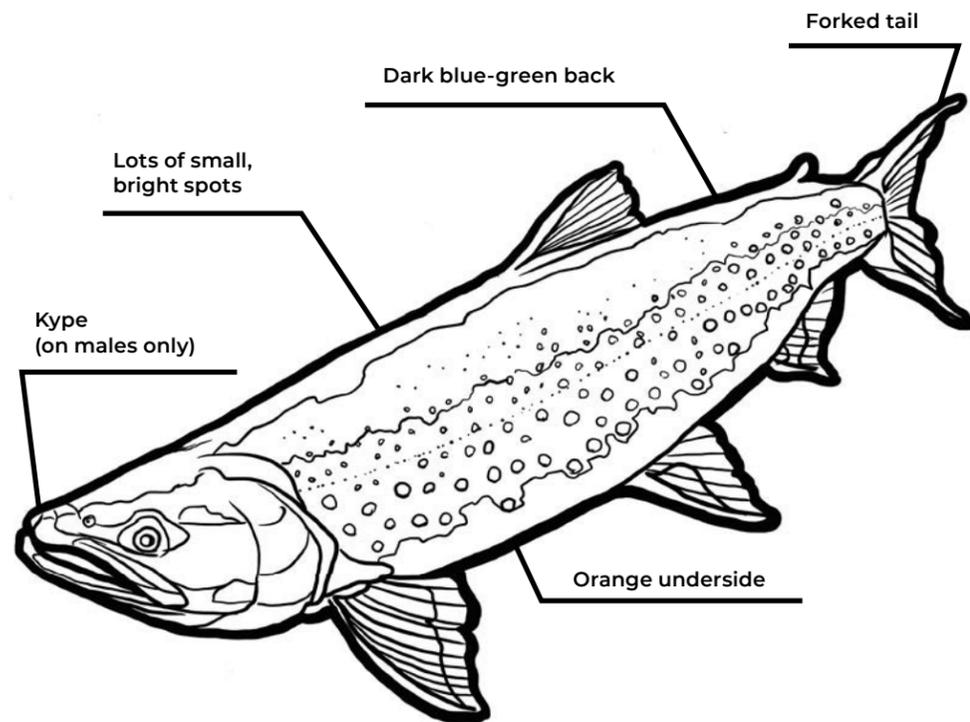
*Salvelinus malma malma*

Dolly Varden are separated into two subspecies: a southern form and a northern form. The northern form is found in Yukon's far north, in the Peel River drainage system, and is the population currently at risk.

Dolly Varden were named after a character in Charles Dicken's novel *Barnaby Rudge*. The character Dolly Varden was known for wearing flamboyant dresses, reminiscent of the fish's colours.

## ⚠️ Potential threats

- Low water and low groundwater flow in freshwater habitats at spawning and overwintering grounds, due to climate warming.
- Over-harvesting.



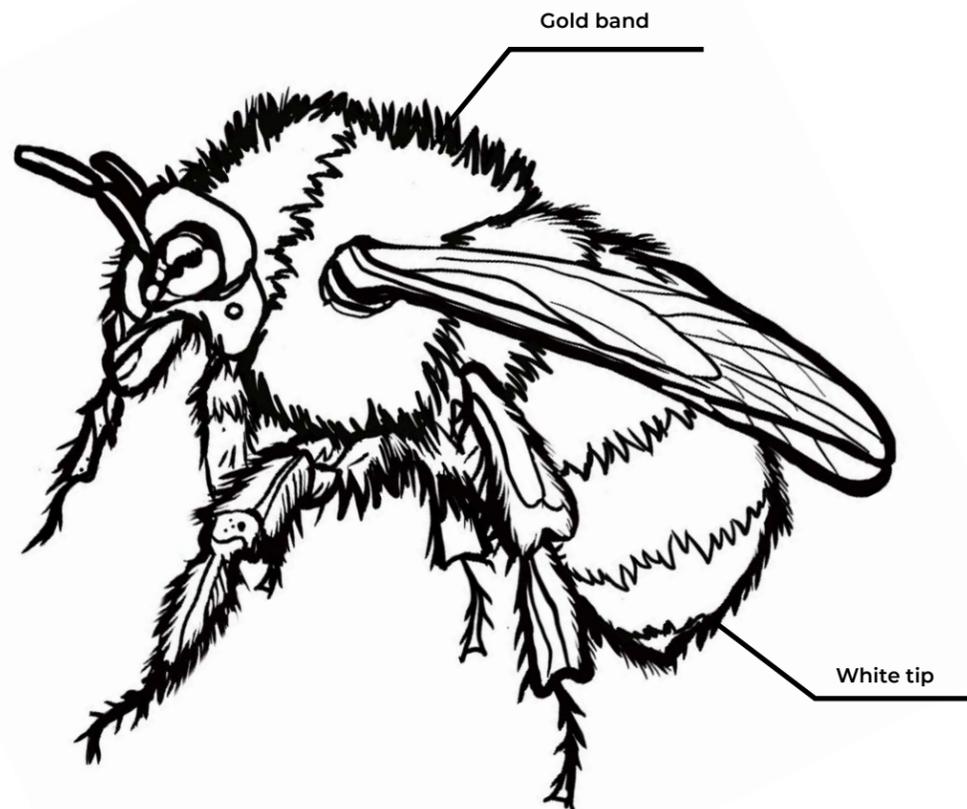
# Gypsy Cuckoo Bumble Bee

*Bombus bohemicus*

This bumble bee can be distinguished by the gold band around its neck, white tipped abdomen, and otherwise black body. Gypsy Cuckoo Bumble Bees are nest parasites. The queens will invade other bumble bee colonies, kill their queen, and lay eggs in its place. These will hatch and be raised and cared for as their own by the host workers. The Gypsy Cuckoo Bumble Bee queens are built for battle, armoured with extra thick chitin, and stingers curled beneath them, ready to sting host queens.

## ⚠️ Potential threats

- Declines of host bees.
- Introduced pathogens from managed bees in greenhouses.
- Pesticide and other chemical use in agriculture.



# Horned Grebe

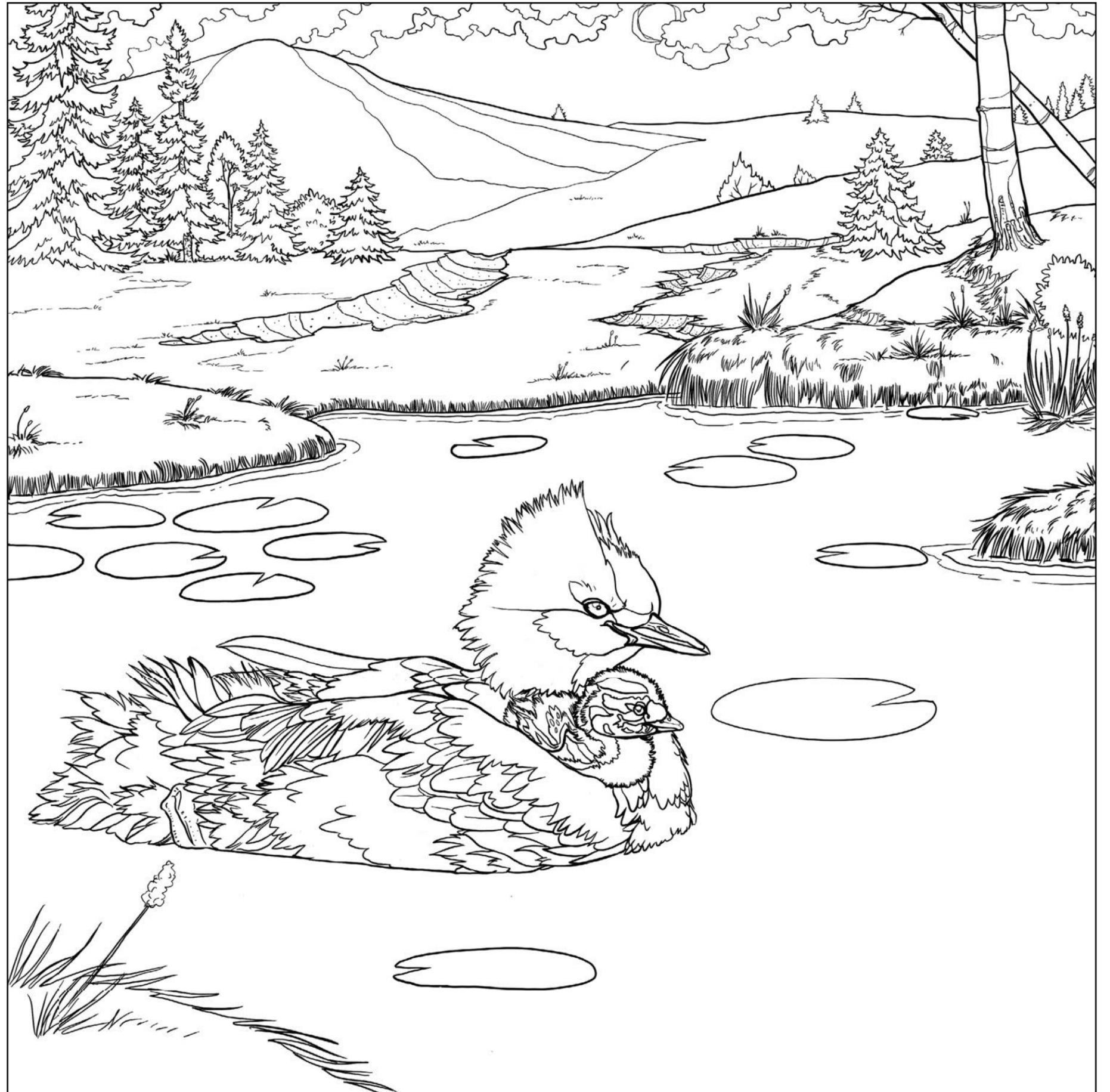
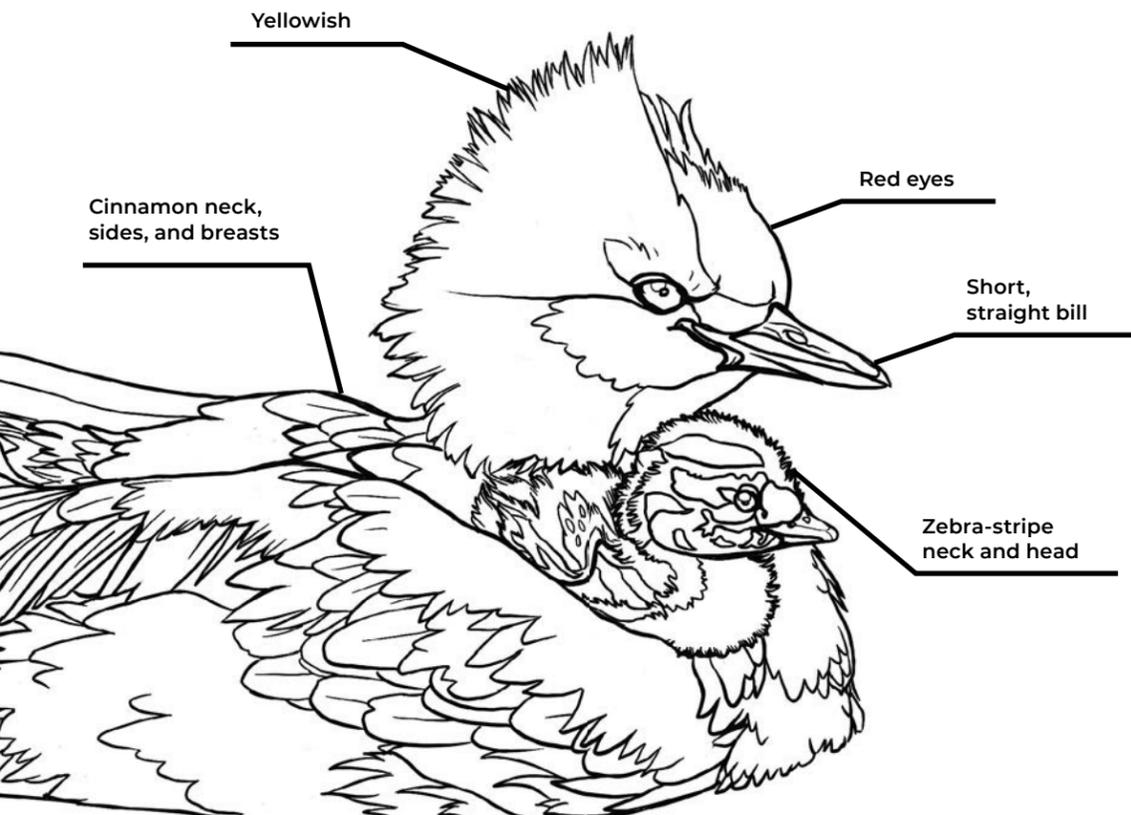
*Podiceps auritus*

In Yukon, you will most likely see this bird in its striking red-and-black breeding plumage. Its most conspicuous features are the large patches of golden feathers behind its red eyes that the Horned Grebe can raise and lower at will.

Horned Grebe chicks have bold black and white zebra-stripes running down their heads and necks, and can be frequently seen riding on their parent's back as they swim. They perch between the parent's wings, and may even hang on while they dive and swim.

## ⚠️ Potential threats

- Wetland loss and degradation.



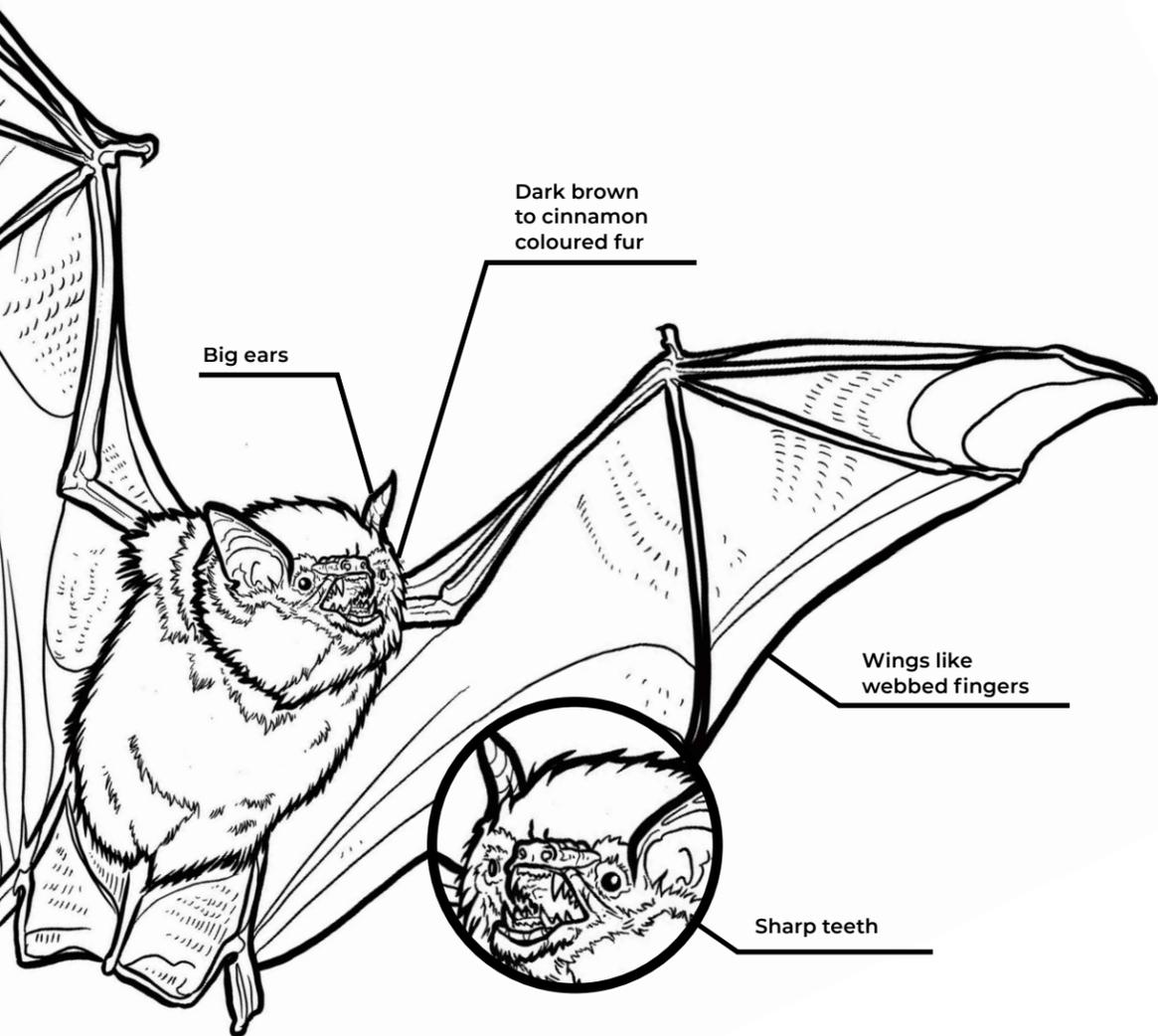
# Little Brown Myotis (bat)

*Myotis lucifugus*

The Little Brown Myotis is the most common bat in Yukon. They are not at all related to rodents and have a very different lifecycle: they can live over 30 years but will only have one pup a year. These bats are agile hunters, using echolocation to find and catch small flying insects.

## ⚠️ Potential threats

- White-nose Syndrome is a fungal pathogen that colonizes the bat's skin. This disease has been destroying bat populations in eastern North America and is spreading west.
- Wind turbines and colony eradication due to public concerns, human and animal.



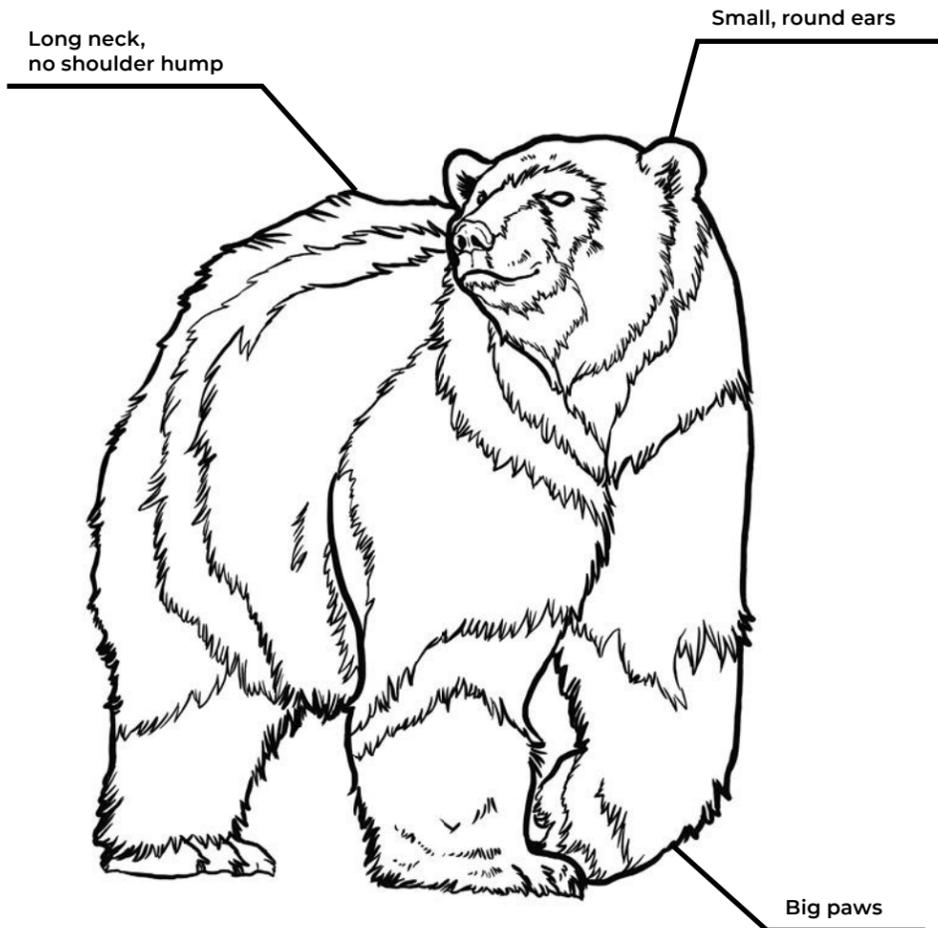
# Polar Bear

*Ursus maritimus*

Polar Bears hunt and eat seals almost exclusively, as these are the only food source with enough fat and calories to keep the bears healthy. They have big paws covered with thick fur, allowing them to move well over snow, while also acting as paddles in water. They are strong swimmers, and can continuously swim for 100 km.

## ⚠️ Potential threats

- A warming climate is causing a reduction in the total amount of sea ice and affecting the timing of the break-ups and freeze-ups. This reduces both the abundance of ice-dependent seals, and the bears' ability to find them.
- Environmental contaminants and marine oil spills.



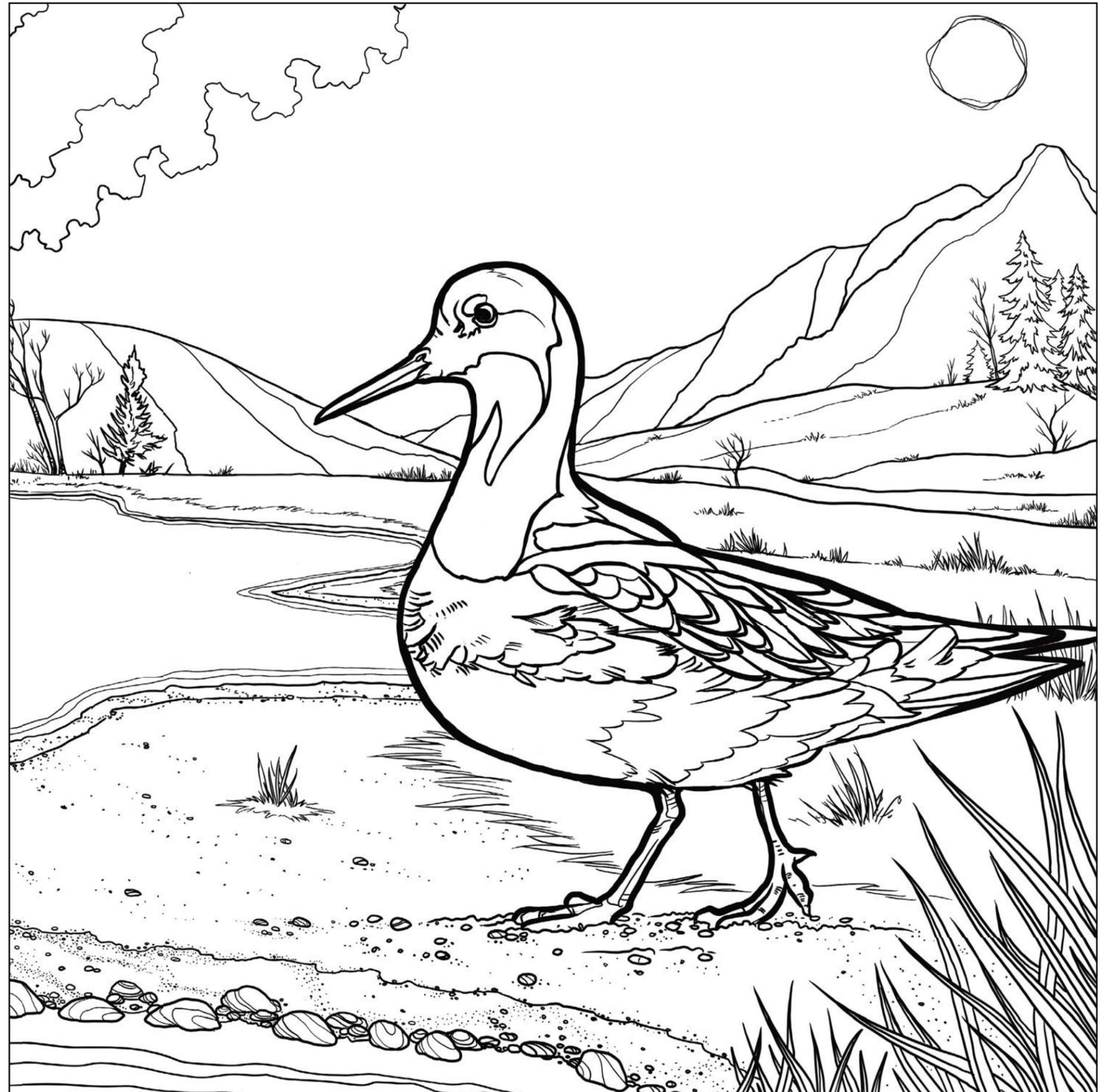
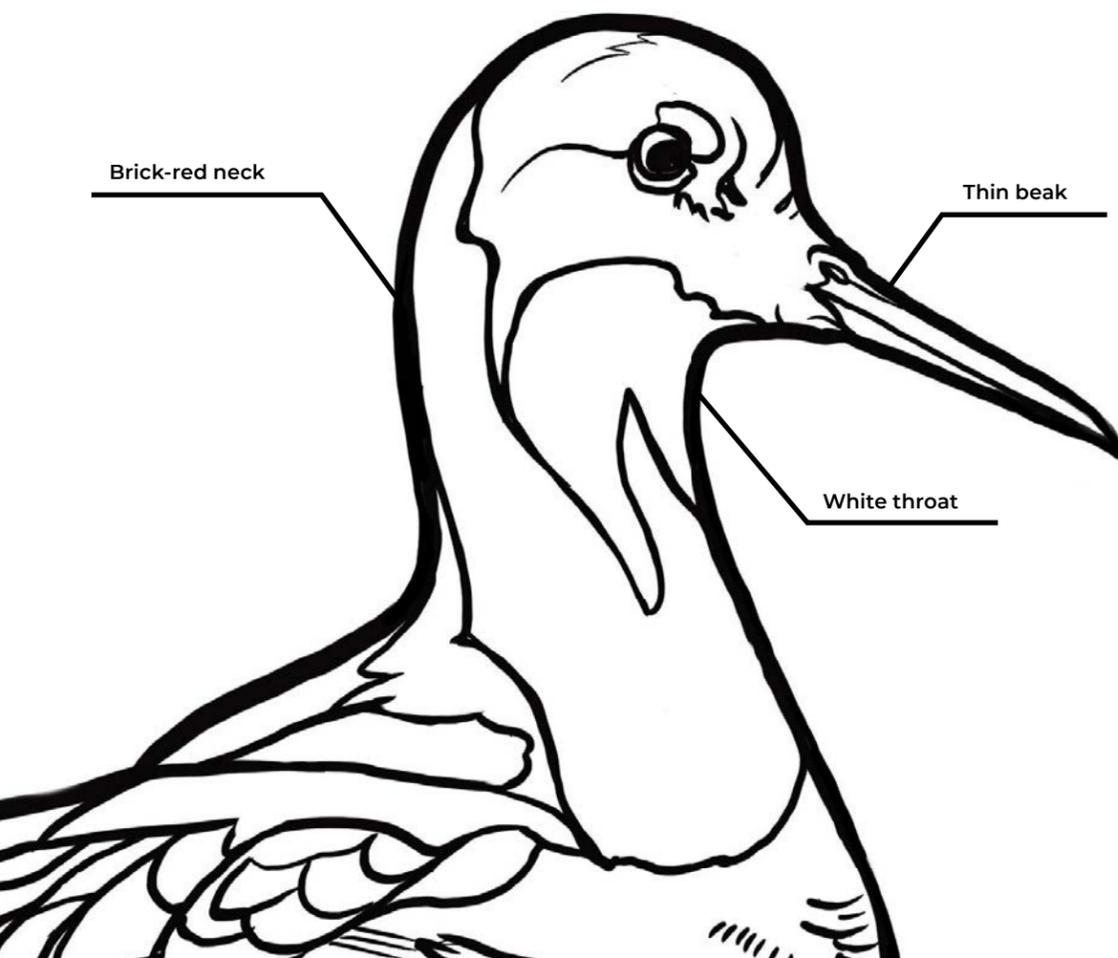
# Red-necked Phalarope

*Phalaropus lobatus*

A small shore bird with a needle-thin bill, the Red-necked Phalarope comes north from the seas of Peru to breed during our summers. Unlike most other birds, it is the females who are more brightly coloured, and they will get into fierce fights over males. After they lay their eggs, the females desert the nest to look for new partners, leaving the males to tend to the eggs and young.

## ⚠️ Potential threats

- Yukon's rapidly changing climate affecting their habitat and food-web.
- Climate changes in ocean temperature, salinity and currents during the non-breeding season.
- Chronic oiling and point source oil spills; and ingestion of micro-plastics.



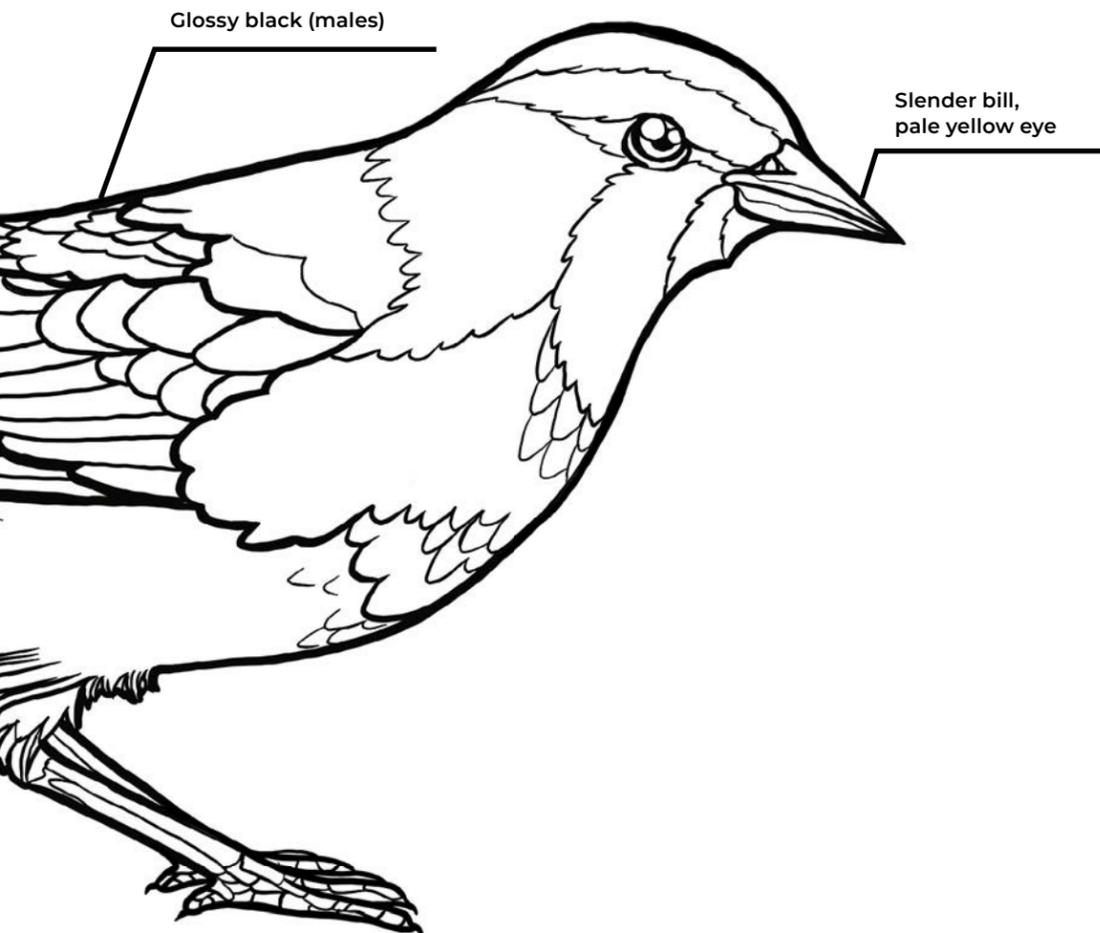
# Rusty Blackbird

*Euphagus carolinus*

Rusty Blackbirds live in boreal forest wetlands across North America, as far north as the tundra's edge. There has been a 90 per cent reduction in the North American population over the last 30 years, though scientists have not pinpointed the cause. Males are a glossy black and females are brownish-grey with no gloss.

## ⚠️ Potential threats

- Loss of wet woodland habitat through drainage, clearcutting, and conversion to agricultural land.
- Overharvest of beaver, which reduces wetland formation from their dams.
- Many Rusty Blackbirds have been killed during control programs for Red-winged Blackbirds in agricultural areas.



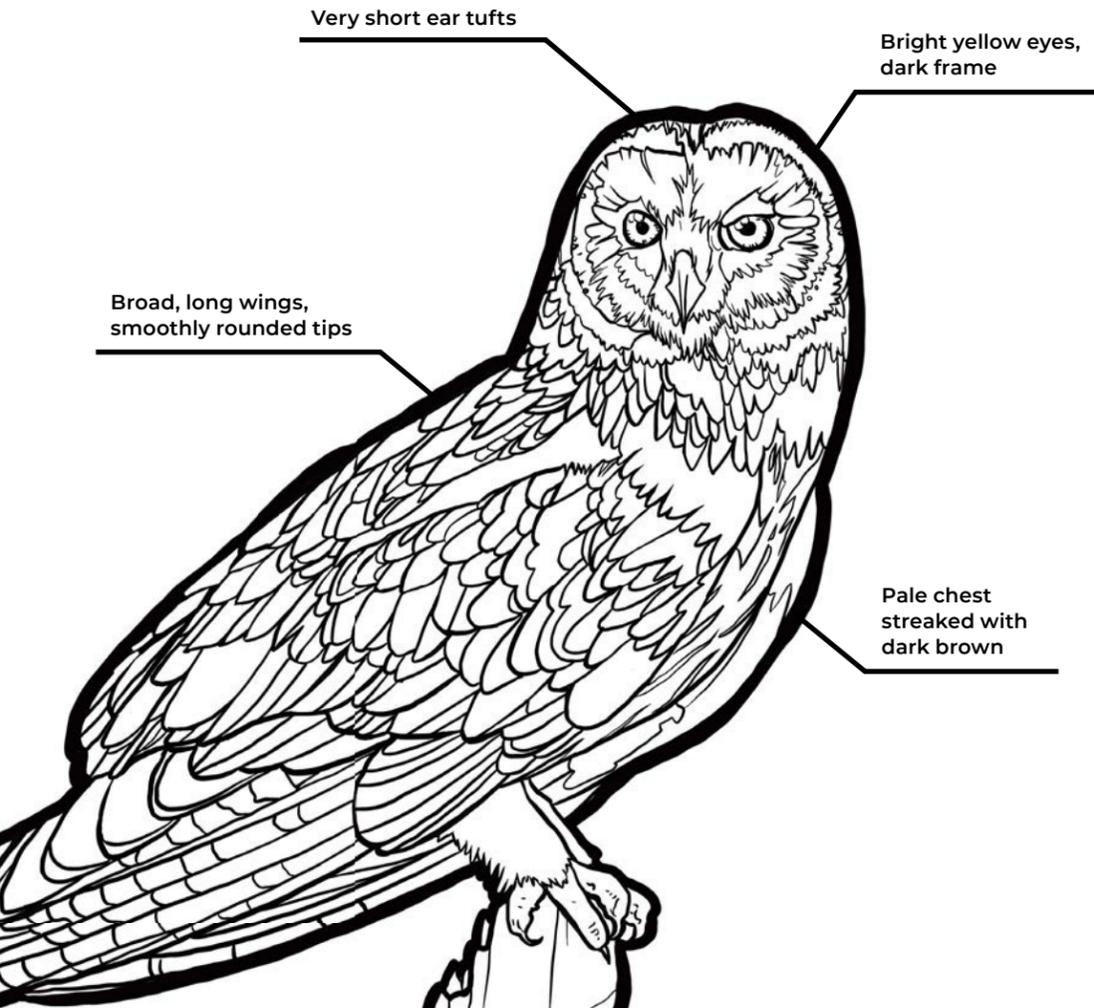
# Short-eared Owl

*Asio flammeus*

Short-eared Owls are open-country hunters, most active around dawn and dusk. The feather “ear tufts” for which they are named are often too short to see. Short-eared Owls nest on the ground and are one of the few owls to build their own nests.

## ⚠️ Potential threats

- Loss of their native habitat to agricultural crops or pastureland.
- These owls are sensitive to human disturbances during egg laying and incubation. Females easily desert the nest if disturbed.
- Collision with vehicles, utility lines, and barbed wire fences may also contribute to population decline.
- Concentrations of pesticides, particularly organochlorines, have been detected in Short-eared Owl eggs. The effects of these contaminants are not yet well known.



# Spiked Saxifrage

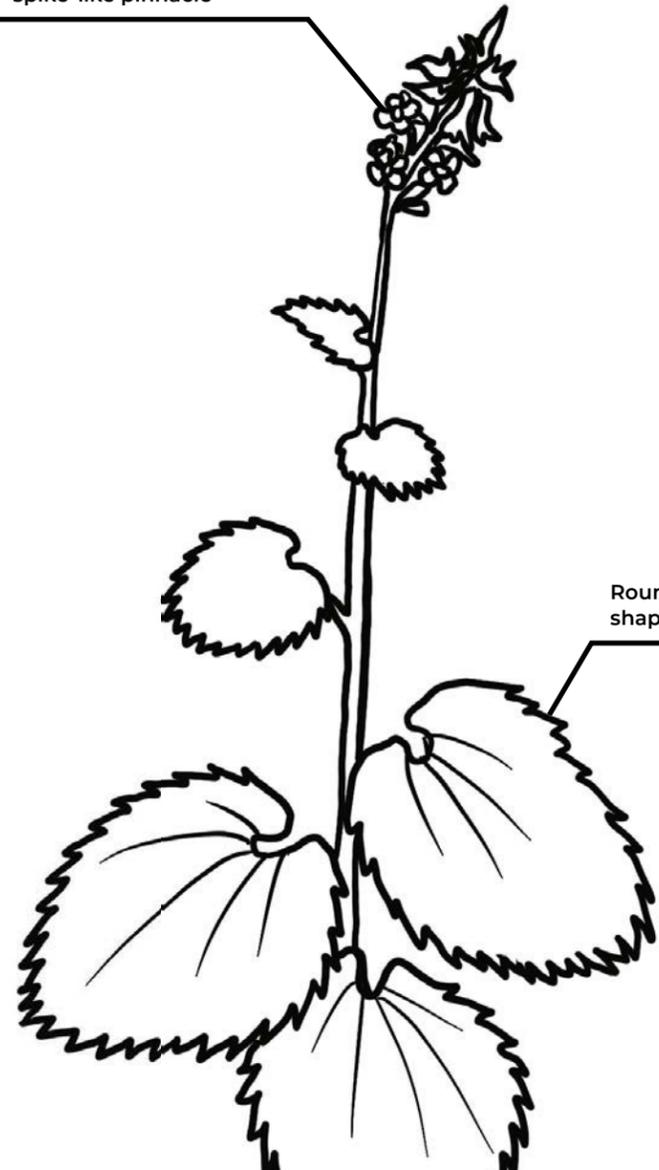
*Micranthes spicata*

Spiked Saxifrage has large round, toothed leaves and a tall (nearly 70 cm) spike of cream-coloured flowers. It is restricted to unglaciated portions of Alaska and Yukon. It was seen in 1899 and then wasn't seen again until 2009, following a targeted inventory effort. It grows along cool, shady creeks in the permafrost zone.

## ⚠️ Potential threats

- Placer and hard-rock mining and exploration in the Klondike and Beaver Creek regions.

Flowers yellow in a narrow spike-like pinnacle



Round or kidney-shaped leaves



# Transverse Lady Beetle • Coccinelle à b

*Coccinella transversoguttata*

You can identify Transverse Lady Beetles by their spots: look for the long, black band behind its head for which it was named, accompanied by four elongated spots further down its back.

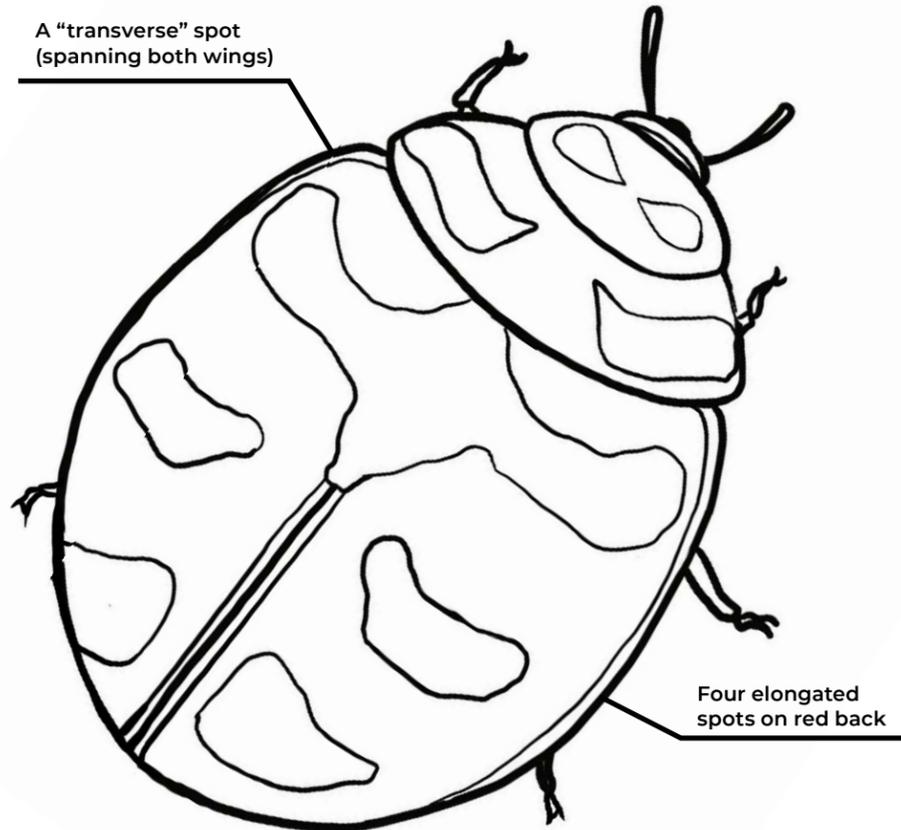
Both larval and adult Transverse Lady Beetles are key predators, feeding voraciously on aphids. They live all over the territory, occurring wherever their aphid prey can be found.

## ⚠️ Potential threats

The causes of the decline in Transverse Lady Beetles are unknown. Possible threats (primarily outside Yukon) include:

- the spread of exotic lady beetles such as the Seven-spotted Lady Beetle and the Multicolored Asian Lady Beetle;
- land use changes and other habitat loss;
- agricultural pesticides; and
- conversion of farmland to forest.

A “transverse” spot  
(spanning both wings)



# Western Toad • Crapaud de l'Ouest

*Anaxyrus boreas*

Western Toads are the only toad in Yukon, and one of the few amphibians to live in alpine areas. They congregate and breed in shallow silty or sandy ponds, springs, or lake sides, and will return to the same breeding sites year after year. They can travel up to 7 km in a day, and prefer to walk or crawl rather than hop.

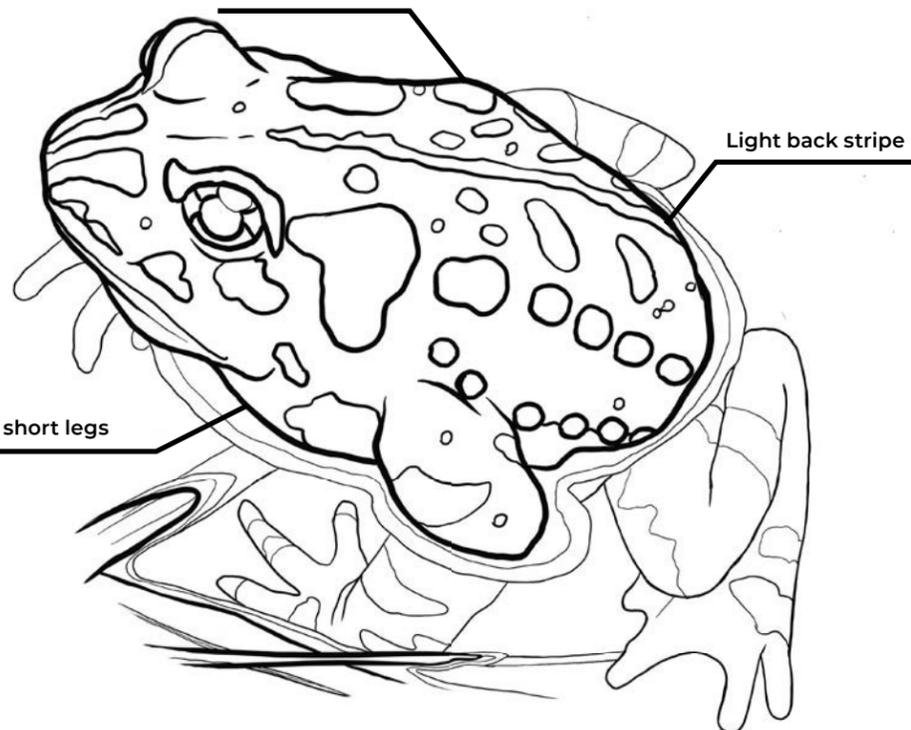
## ⚠️ Potential threats

- Loss of breeding habitat.
- Drought.
- Fluctuating winter temperatures, freezing rain, low snow cover.
- Disease (e.g., ranaviruses and chytrid fungus).
- Fish stocking.

Reddish warts

Light back stripe

Chunky with short legs



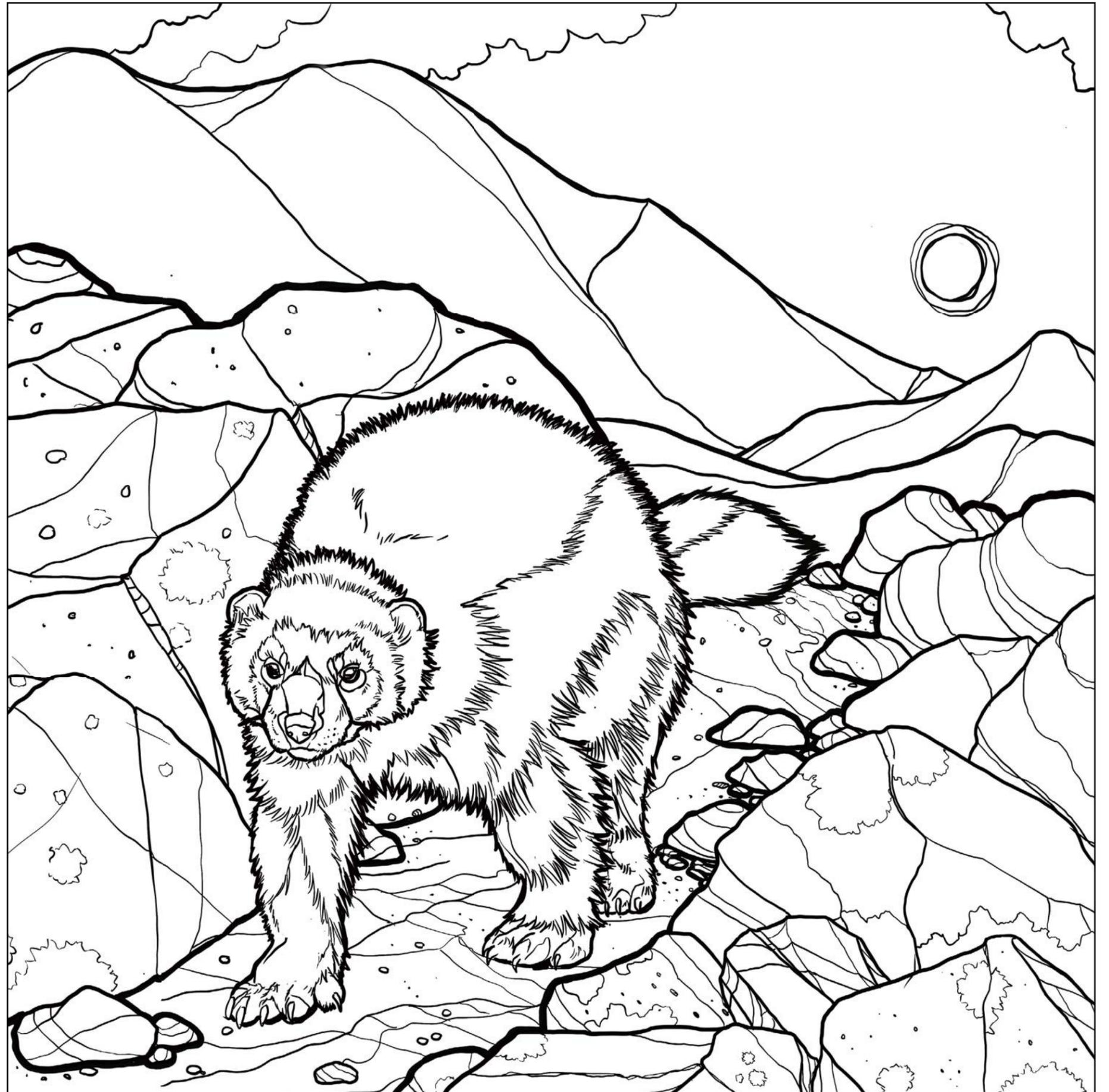
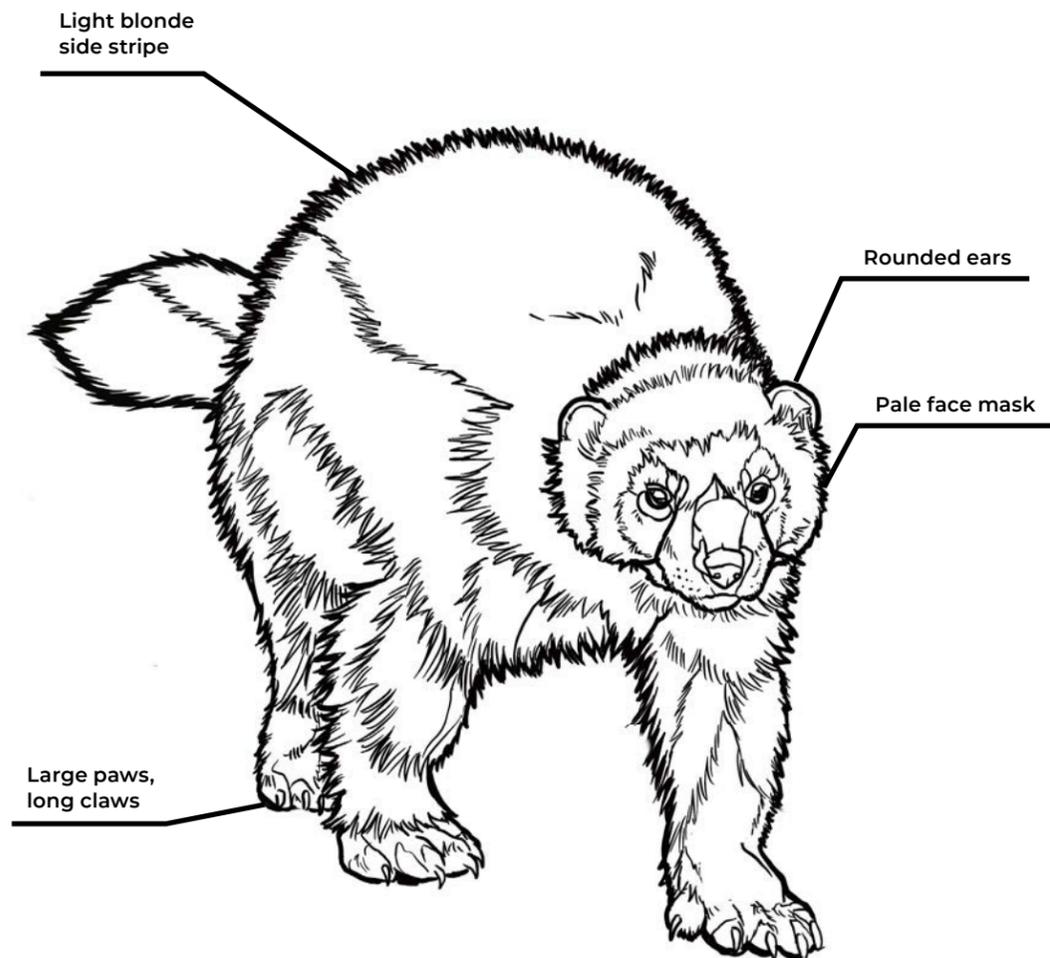
# Wolverine

*Gulo gulo*

Wolverines are stocky, muscular weasels. They are roamers, patrolling large territories in hopes of finding their next meal. While they eat mainly carrion, either foraged or stolen, they can also be versatile and powerful hunters. They mostly go for small- to medium-sized animals, but have been known to take on animals several times larger than themselves.

## ⚠️ Potential threats

- Wolverines avoid areas of human activity, especially near denning sites.
- Wolverines are reluctant to cross active roads. Roads form a significant barrier to movement and cause high mortality.
- Habitat loss and alteration.



# Wood Bison

*Bison bison athabascae*

Wood Bison are the biggest land animals in North America. Herds are usually cows, calves, and sub-adults. Adult males are solitary, only joining the herd in breeding season. Since 1980, Yukon has participated in a national Wood Bison recovery effort by reintroducing a disease-free herd to the territory.

## ⚠️ Potential threats

- Contact with livestock or other bison could introduce diseases such as anthrax, brucellosis, or tuberculosis.
- Collisions with traffic.
- Because the Wood Bison population was reduced to just a few dozen individuals in the 1960s, the remaining genetic diversity is very low and the genetic diversity in the reintroduced populations is even more limited. This means a greater susceptibility to diseases and a potential decreased ability to adapt to a changing environment.

Big hump  
(highest point  
located in front of legs)

Brown cape runs  
down the back

Beard



# Woodland Caribou

*Rangifer tarandus caribou*

Woodland Caribou live in small herds, spending winters in the boreal forest then moving into the alpine for the summer. In winter, they feed primarily on lichens, using their sharp-edged hooves to dig through the snow. As the snow melts, sedges, new leaves, mushrooms and flowers are also part of their diet.

## ⚠️ Potential threats

- Habitat loss or degradation from rural land use and industrial development.
- Human disturbance (e.g., snow machines, highway collisions).

Climate change threatens Woodland Caribou in several ways:

- Increase in the frequency and severity of forest fires, eliminating winter forage habitat for 50 to 60 years.
- Shrinkage of summer alpine tundra habitat.
- Ice formation in the spring.

Single branch with tines clustered at the top

