

My Florida Pond

A Coloring Book Adventure

Created by
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Illustrated by
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UF UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA
IFAS Extension

Explore the Pond with Us



Kimberly Grace Orren

Kimberly is a teacher who loves to tell stories about nature. When she was little, she looked under rocks and played in mud puddles. She still does, but now she takes her dog Annie with her. Each animal and plant at the pond has a story to tell.

Come to the pond and discover those stories!

Effie Rodriguez

Effie is an artist who loves to explore outside. When she was little, she learned from her Dad an artist, too. She also liked coloring books. As an adult, Effie now draws what she sees outside to make her own coloring books!

Follow Effie and her dog Pooka and her cat Zero as they find new pond animals to draw!



Eliza



Eliza is in kindergarten.
She and her classmates are going on a field trip.
Come explore the pond with them!

Bald Eagle



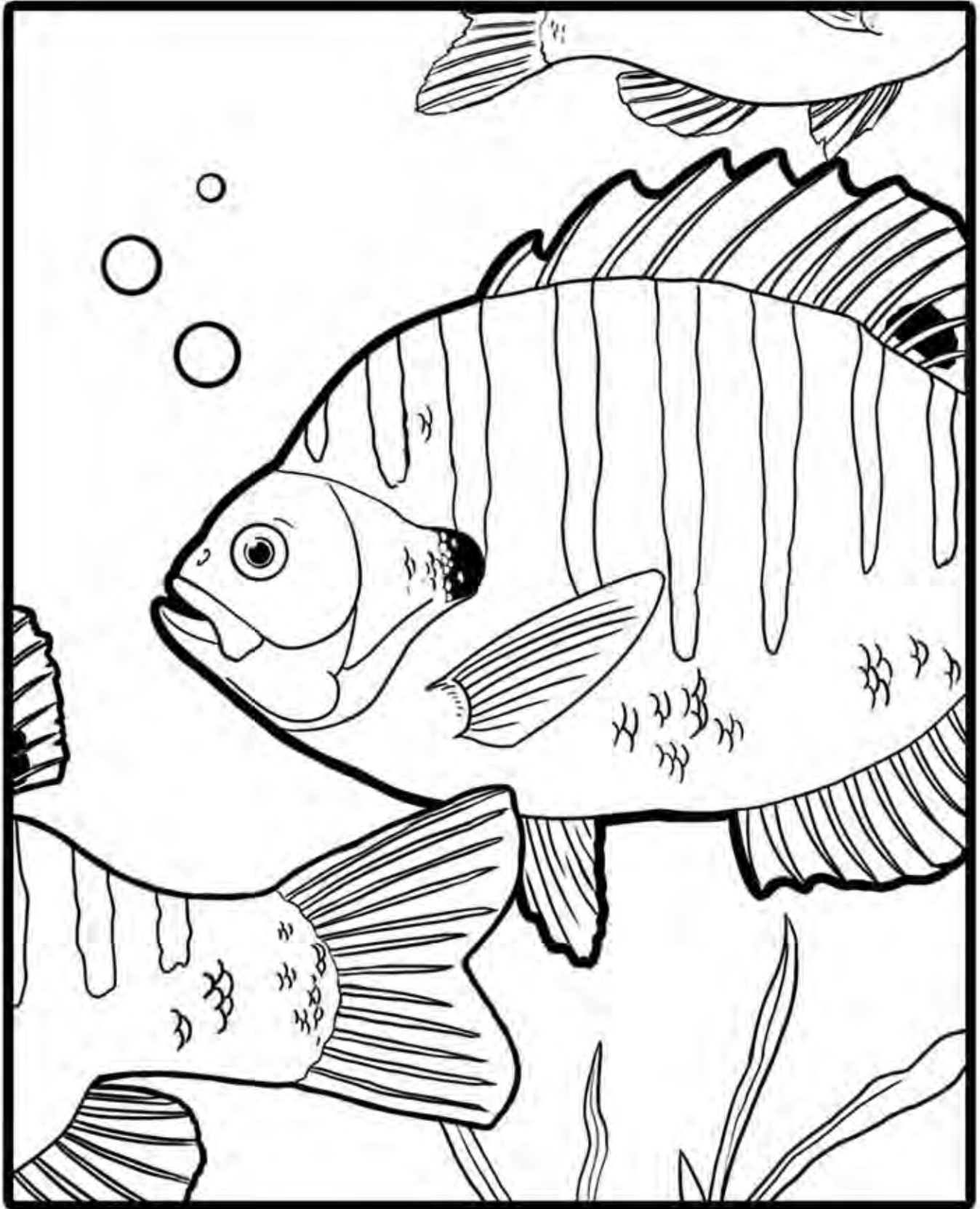
Bald eagle perches high in a tree.
Watch for the white head.
Listen for the screeching call.

Black Vulture



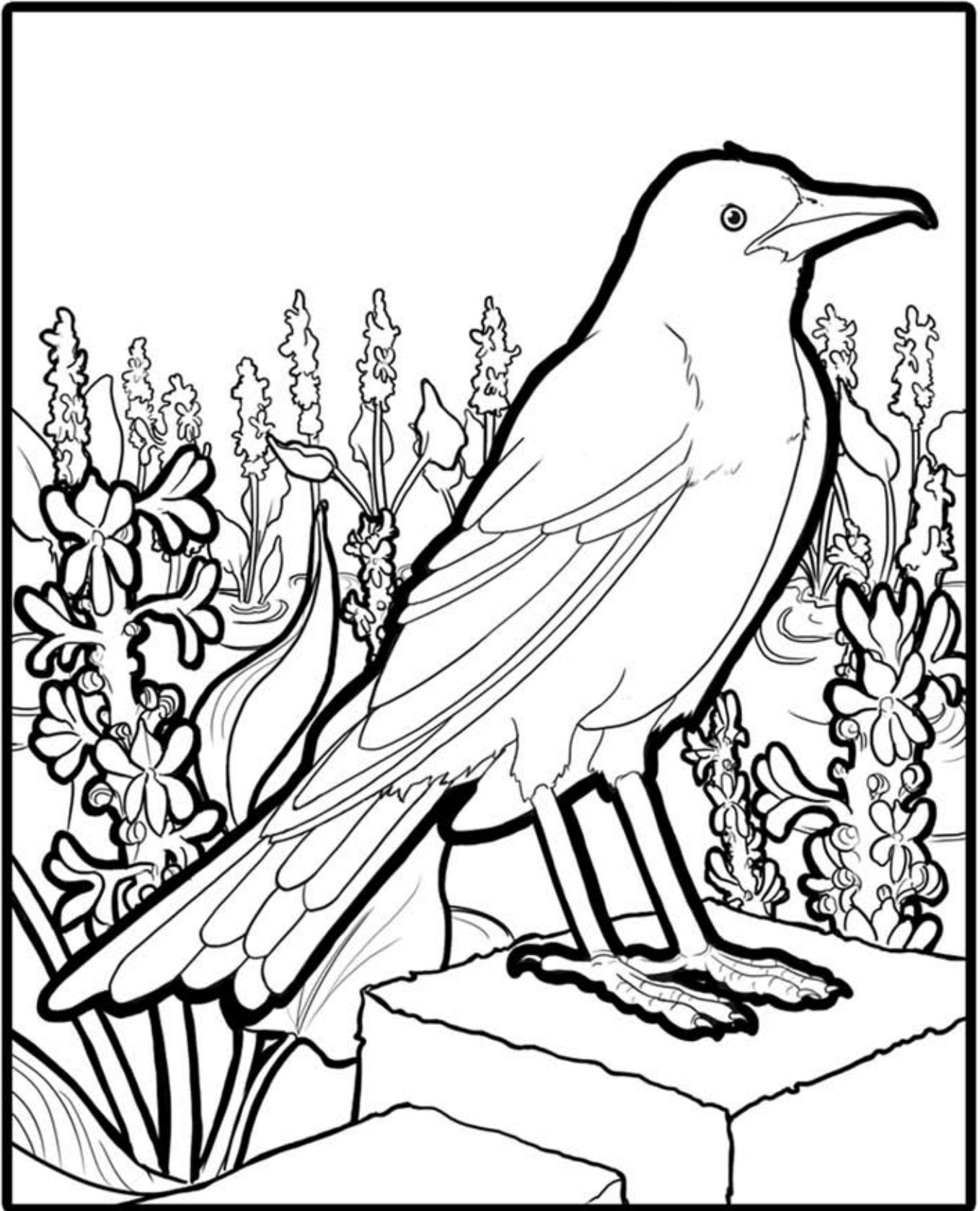
Black vulture searches for food by sight. Look for a large group perched on a fence or flying in a circle above you.

Bluegill



Bluegill slurp in food - just like a vacuum!
If you catch one, look for a dark spot
on its back fin and on its gill cover.

Boat-tailed Grackle



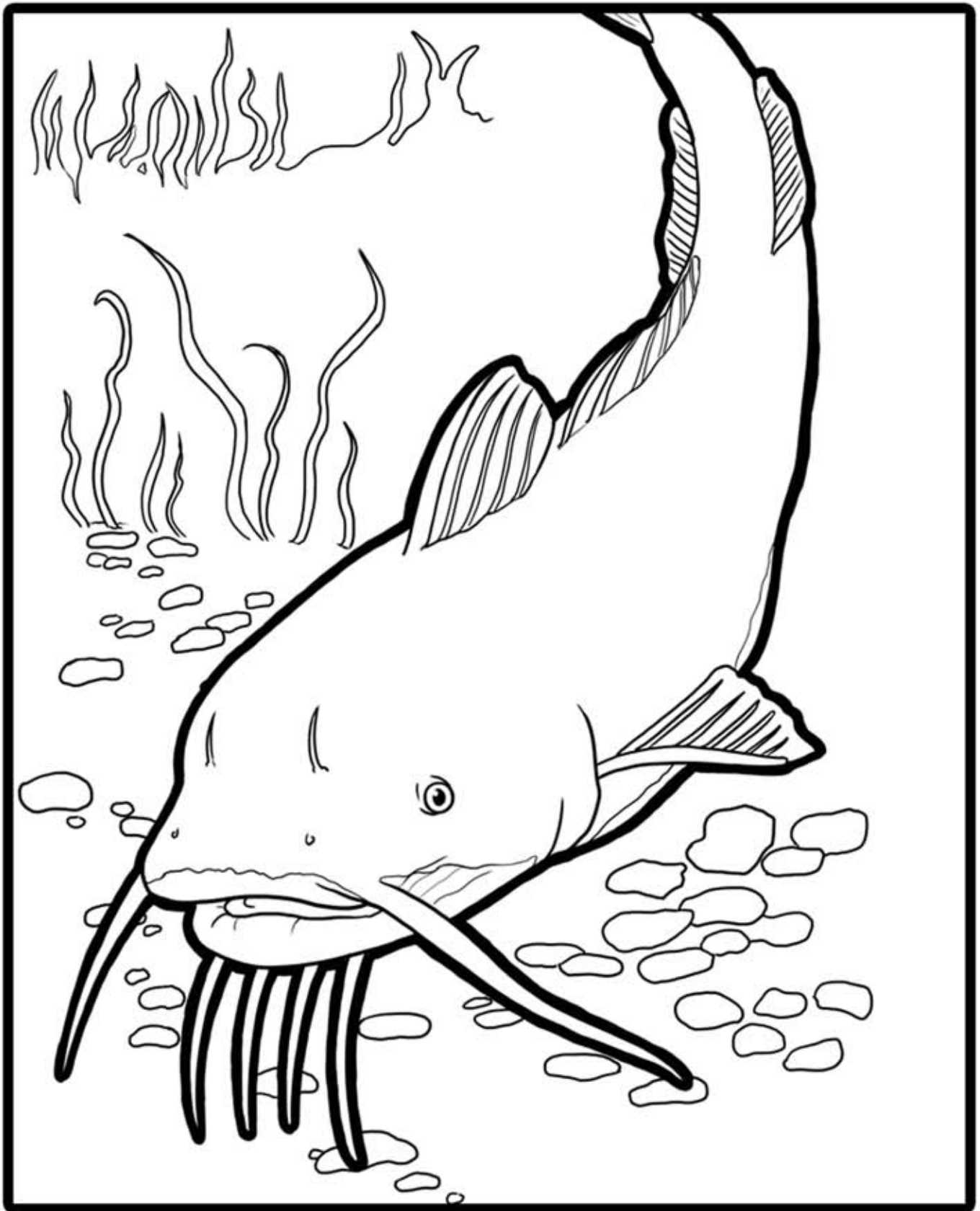
Boat-tailed grackle will steal your fishing bait!
Males are shiny black. Females are brown.
Pickerel weed has bright purple flowers.

Bullfrog



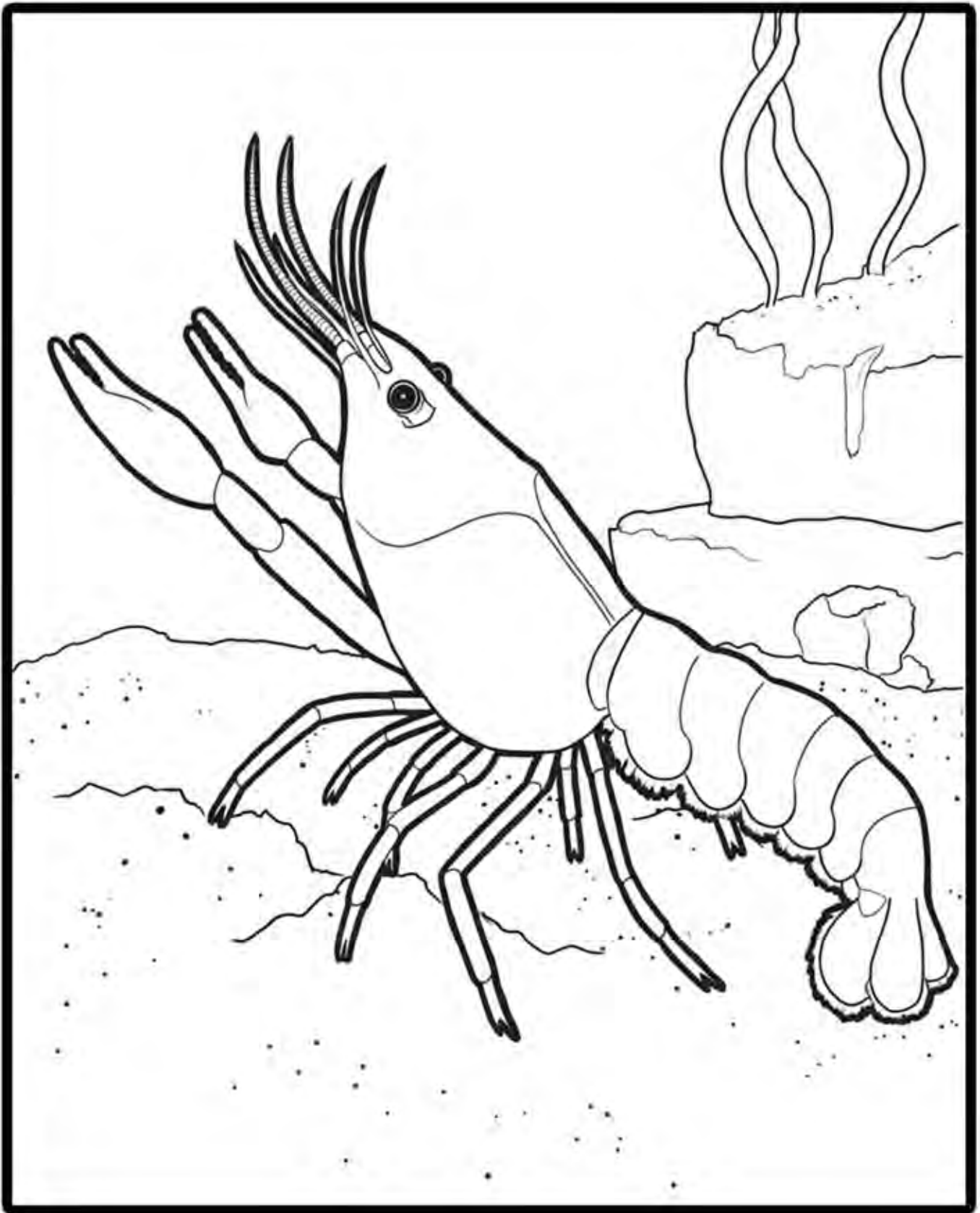
Bullfrog eats anything that fits in its mouth! Hear its call: grunk! Look for *spatterdock's* yellow flowers and large green leaves.

Channel Catfish



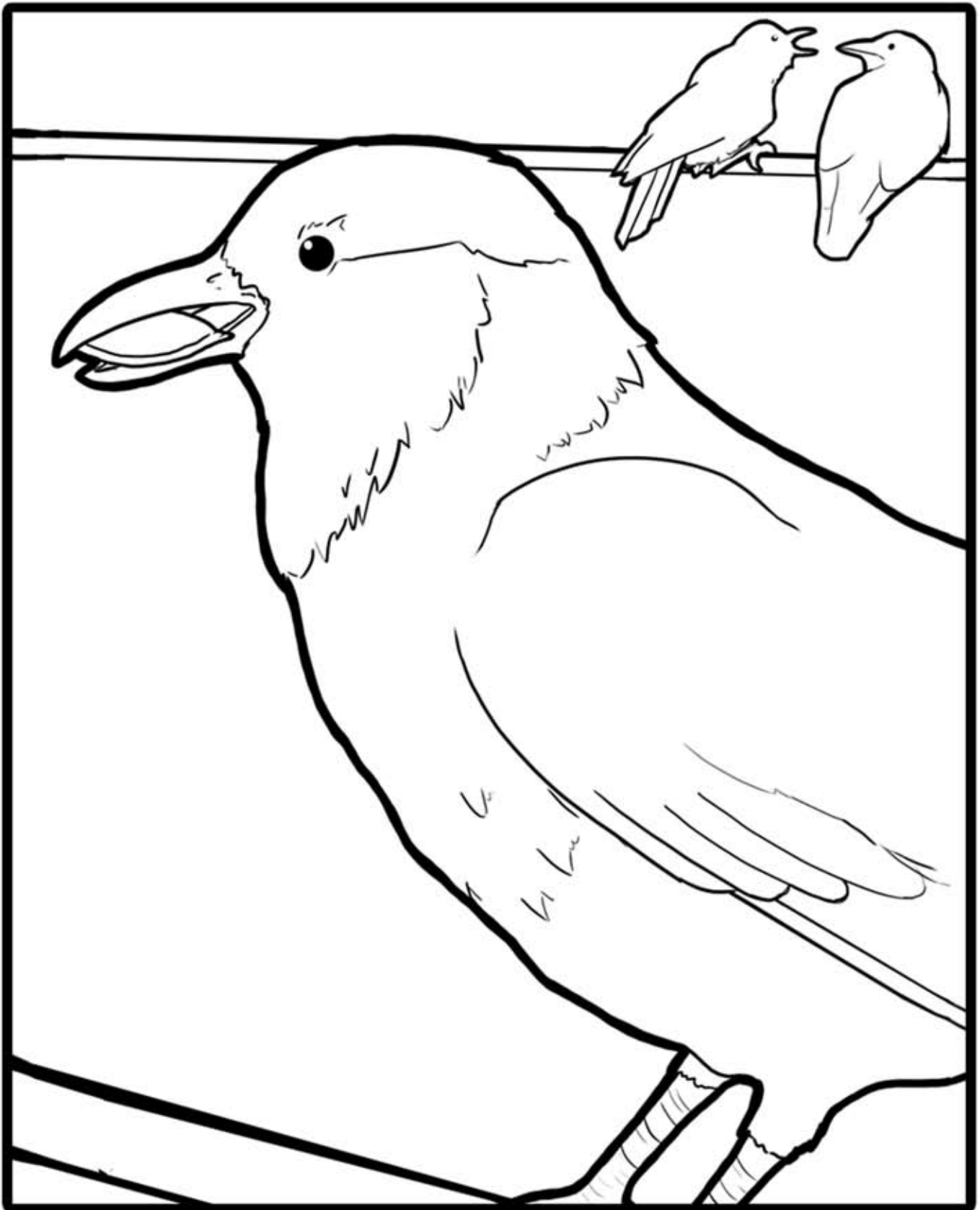
Channel catfish swims at the bottom of the pond.
Its entire body is covered with taste buds!
This helps it to find food even in muddy water.

Crawfish



Crawfish is also called crayfish or crawdad. It may look like a lobster, but it isn't a lobster! Crawfish lives in freshwater and is smaller.

Fish Crow



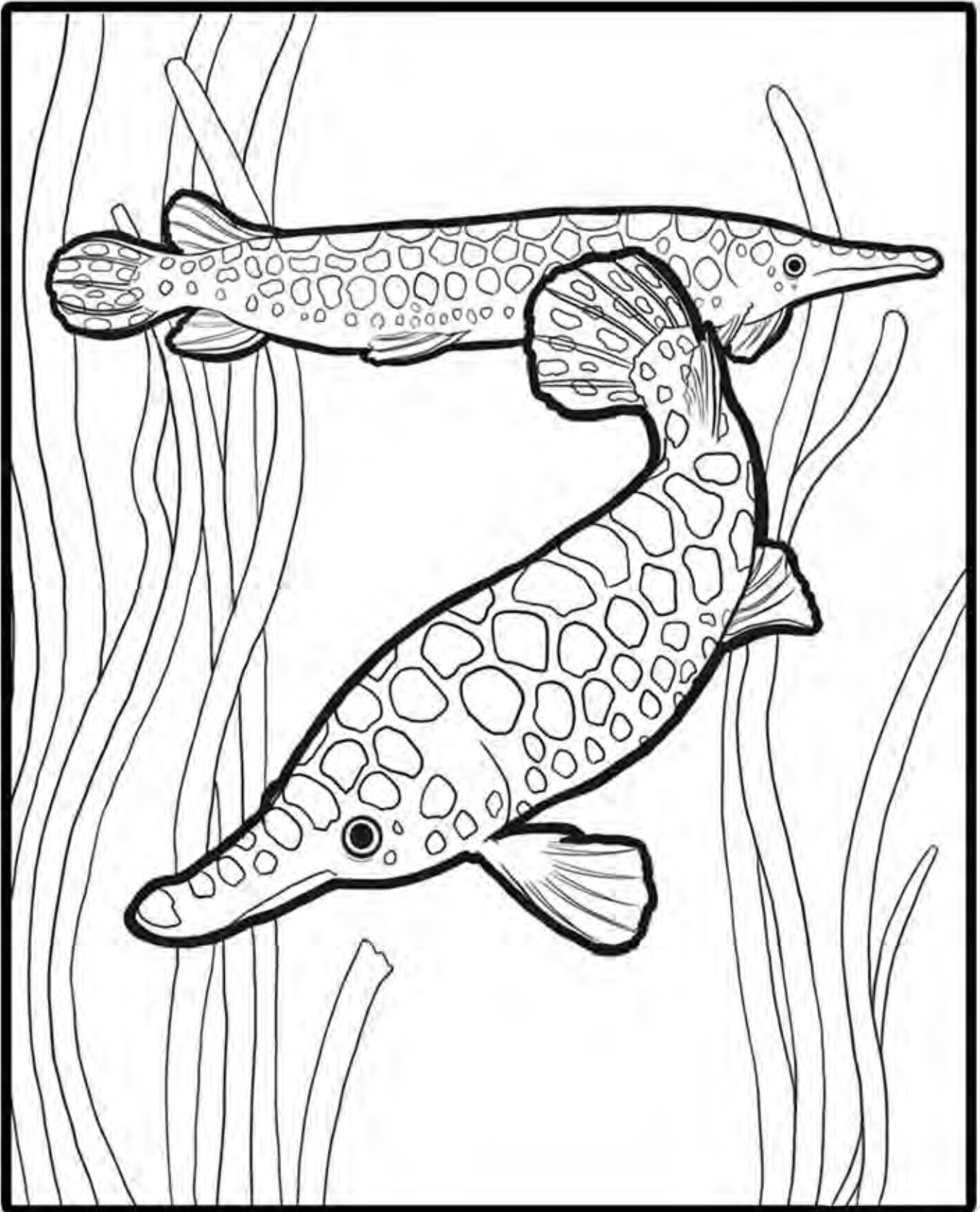
Fish crow will hide away extra food in a burrow.
Listen for the call. Waaw - wa!
Watch for this black bird.

Florida Banded Water Snake



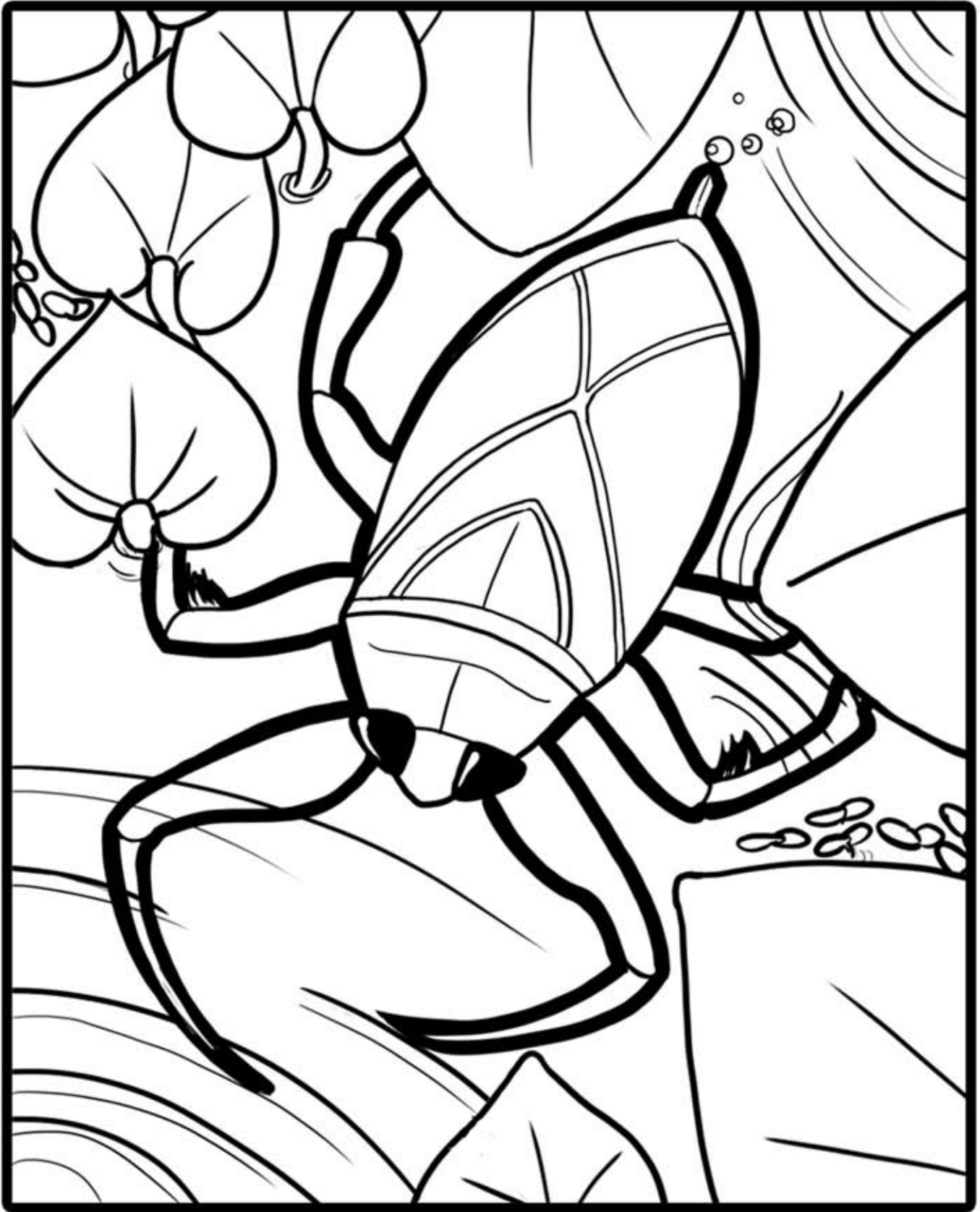
Florida banded water snake is not venomous.
It suns itself on the tops of pond plants.
If you scare it, it will release a foul odor!

Florida Gar



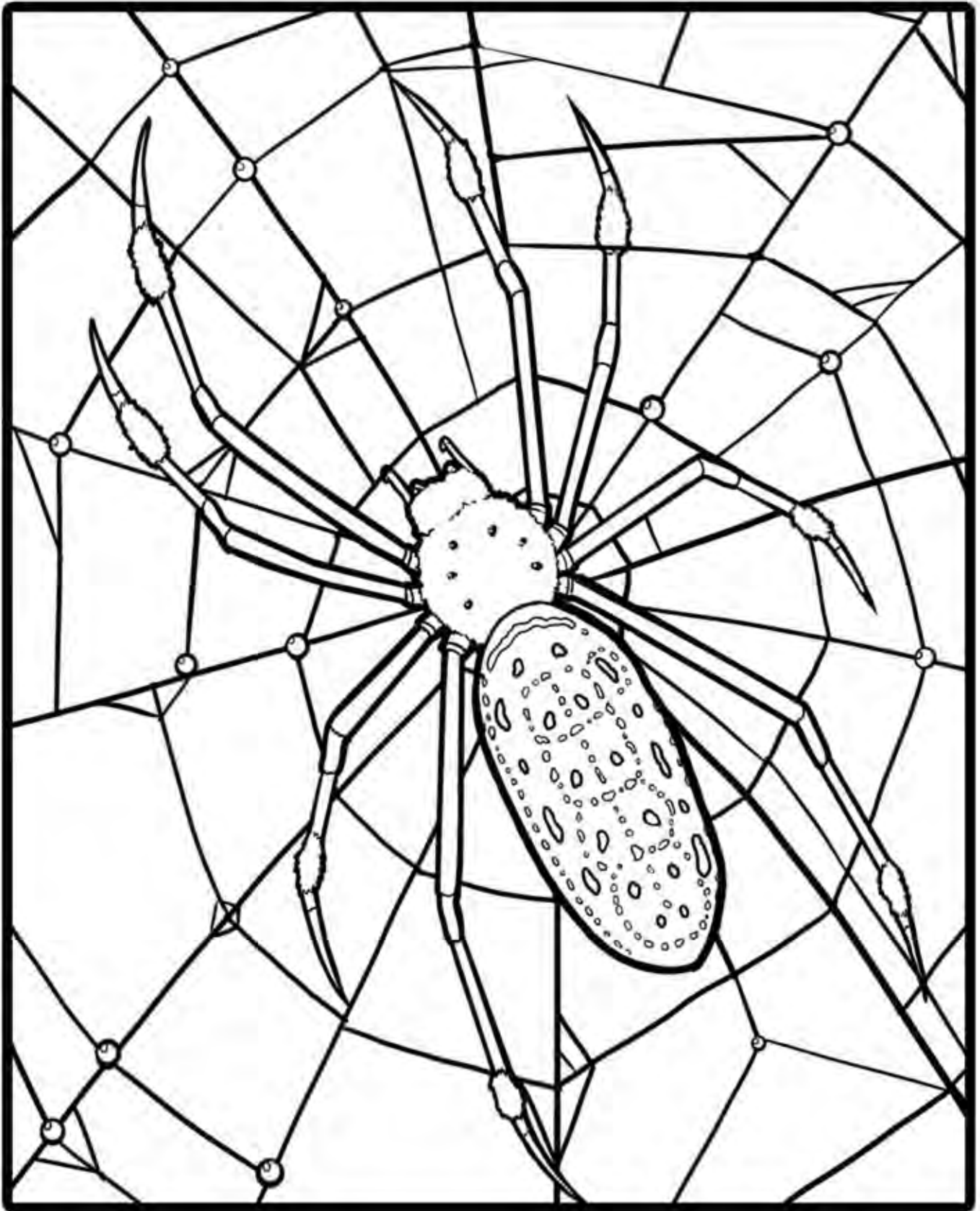
Florida gar have a long snout lined with teeth. Its body is yellow-green with brown spots. The colors help it blend in with *tape grass*.

Giant Water Bug



Look for **giant water bug** hiding in pond plants. At night, look up! Giant water bugs can be seen flying around parking lot lights.

Golden Silk Spider



Golden silk spider weaves a complex web.
This is a female. It is much bigger than a male.
It is yellow-orange with white spots and black joints.

Grass Shrimp



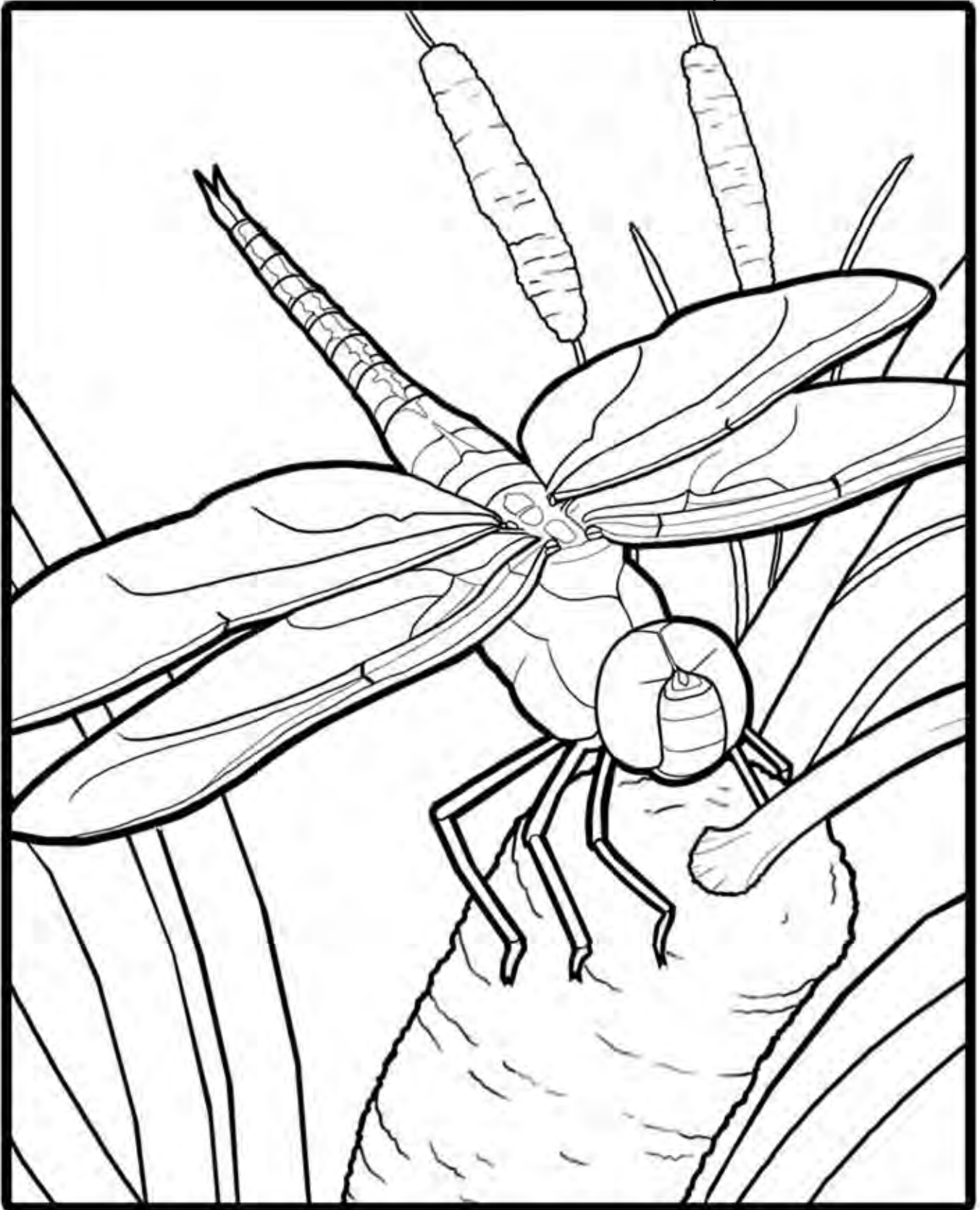
Grass shrimp is also called ghost shrimp!
It is almost see-through.
You will have to look closely to find it.

Great Blue Heron



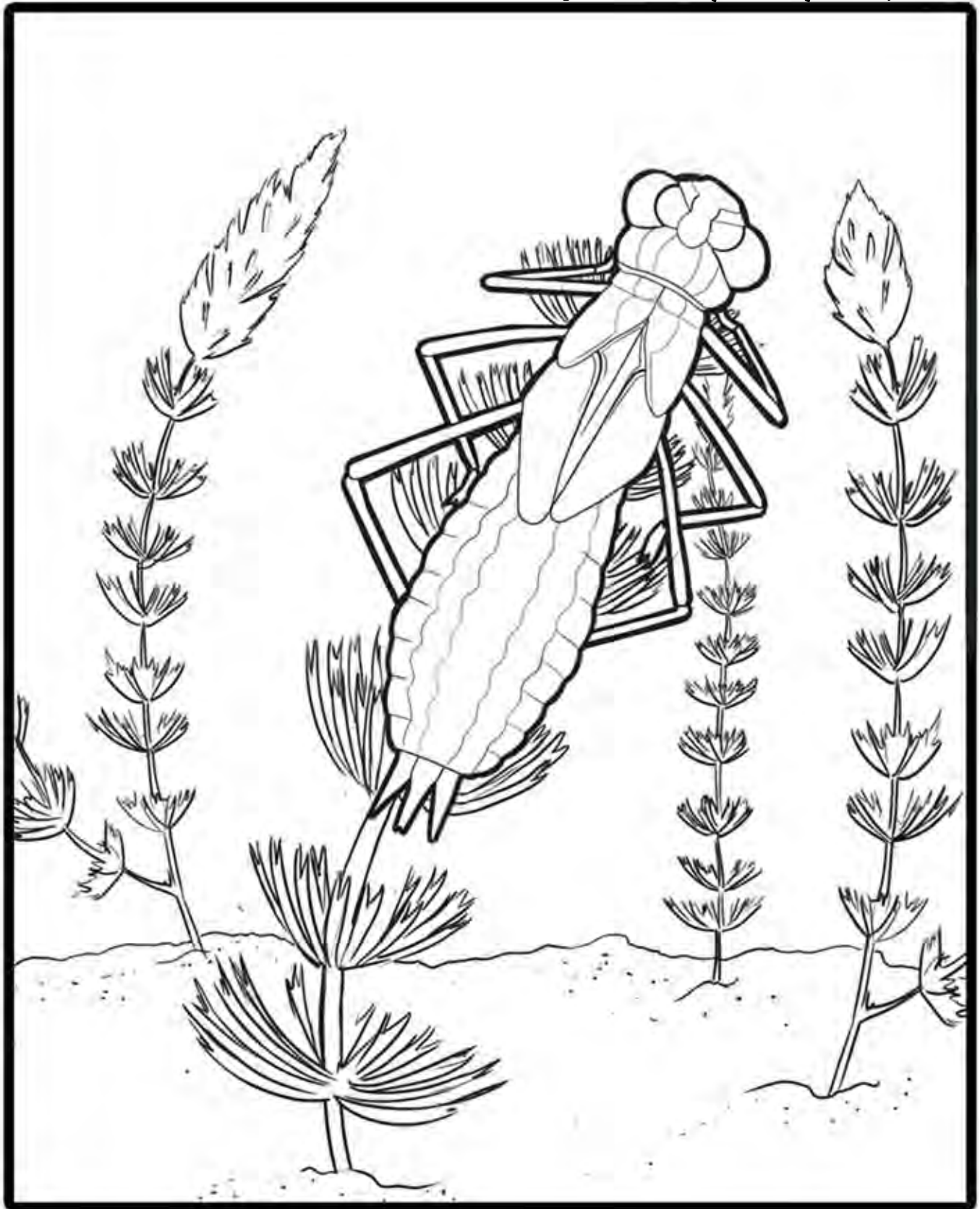
Great blue heron likes to fish, too.
It spears fish with its long, pointy beak.
Then gulps the fish down without chewing!

Green Darner Dragonfly



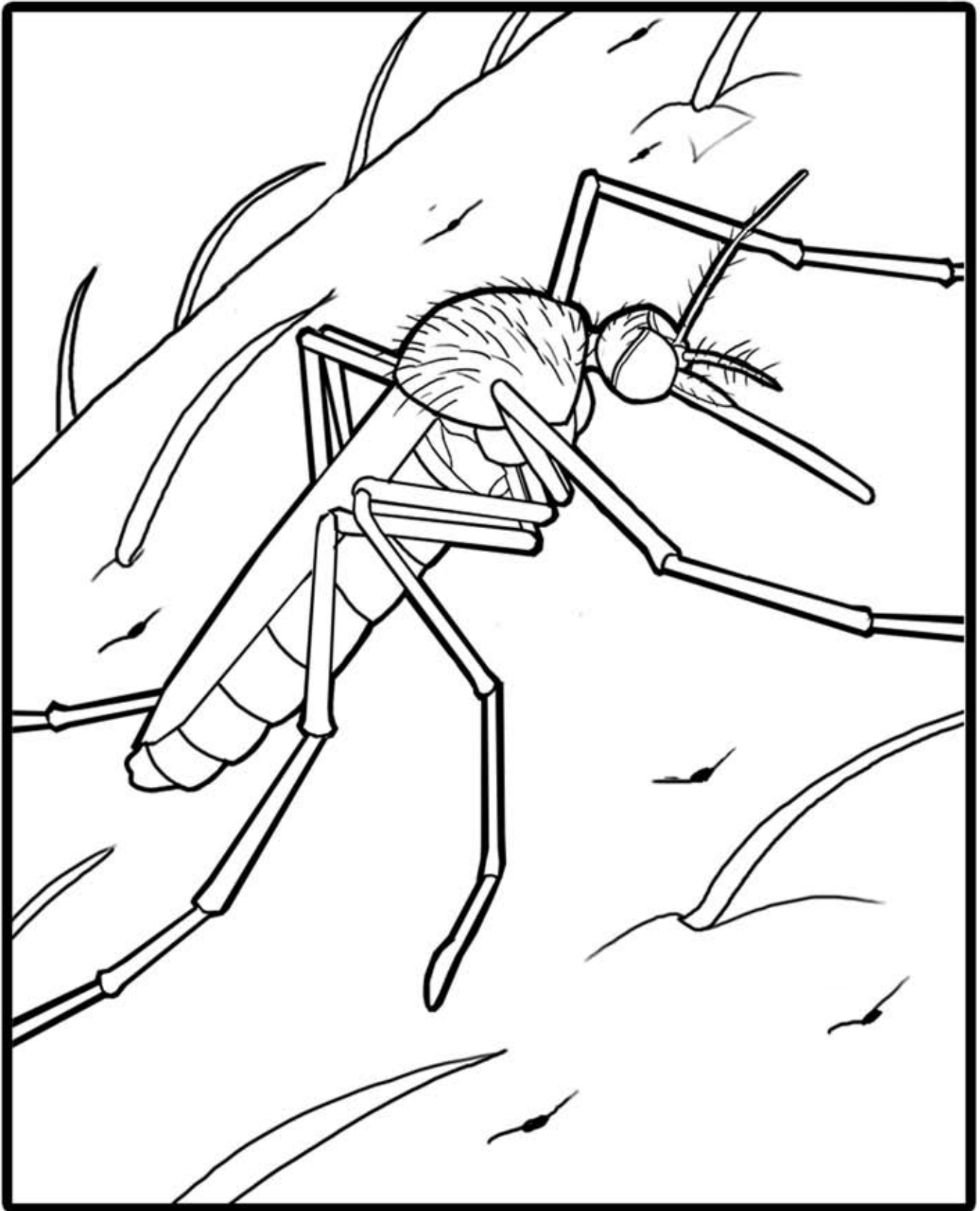
Green darner dragonfly rests on a *cattail*.
The female is all green. The male has a blue tail.
Best of all, green darner eats mosquitoes!

Green Darner Dragonfly Nymph



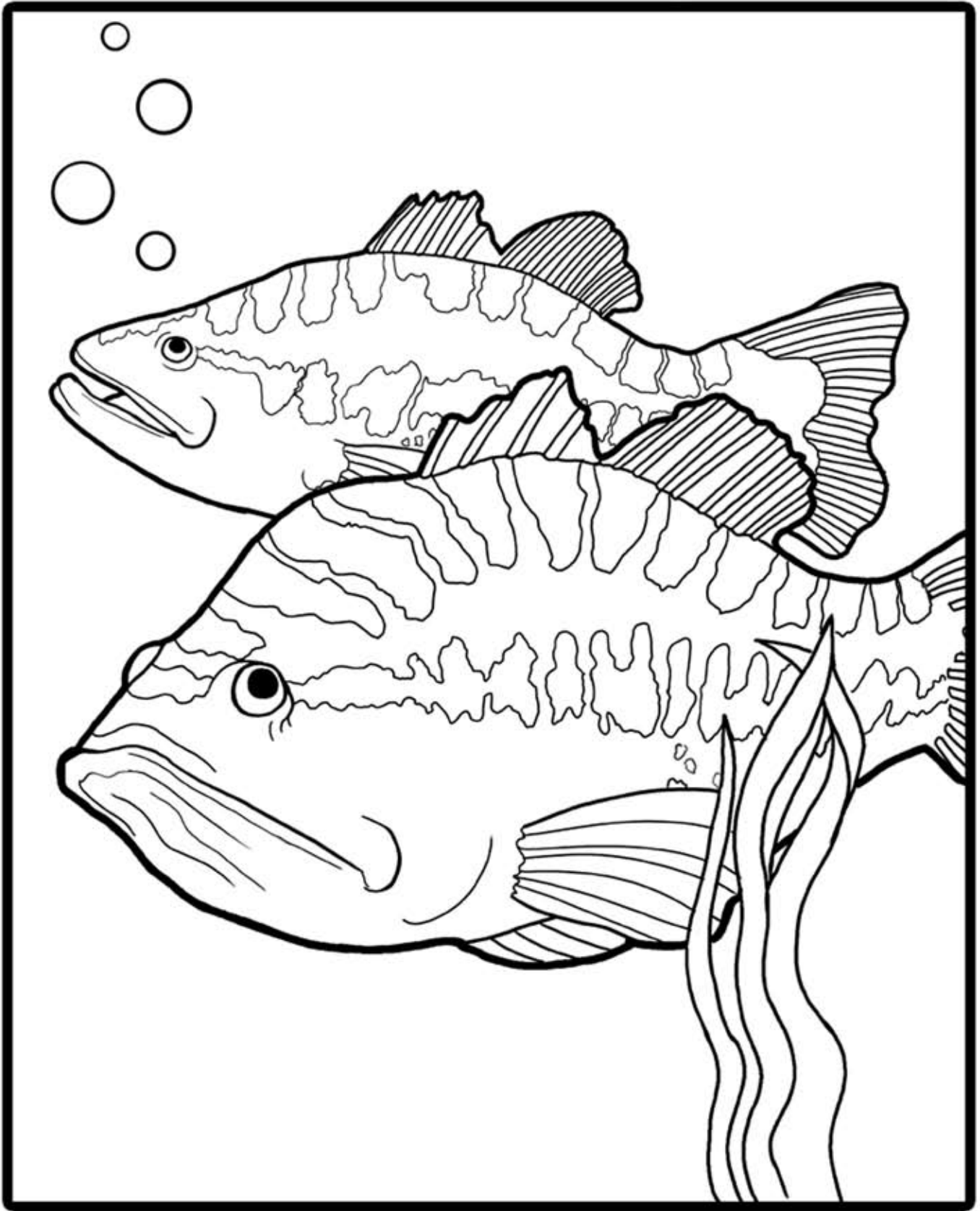
Green darner dragonfly nymph hides in coontail.
This young insect develops in the pond.
See the wings growing on its back?

House Mosquito



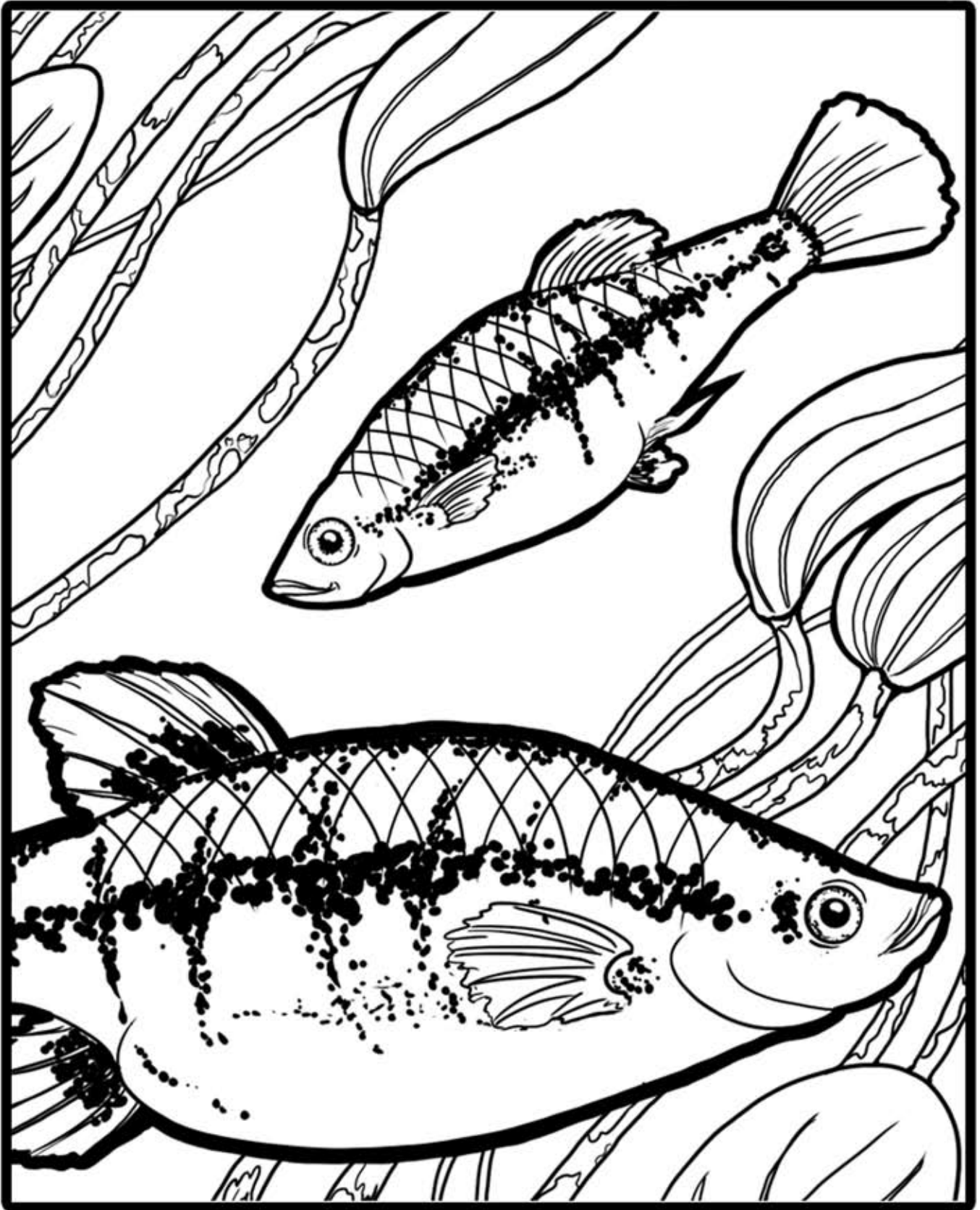
Male **house mosquito** feed on pollen and nectar.
Female house mosquito feed on your blood!
Eggs are laid in the water.

Largemouth Bass



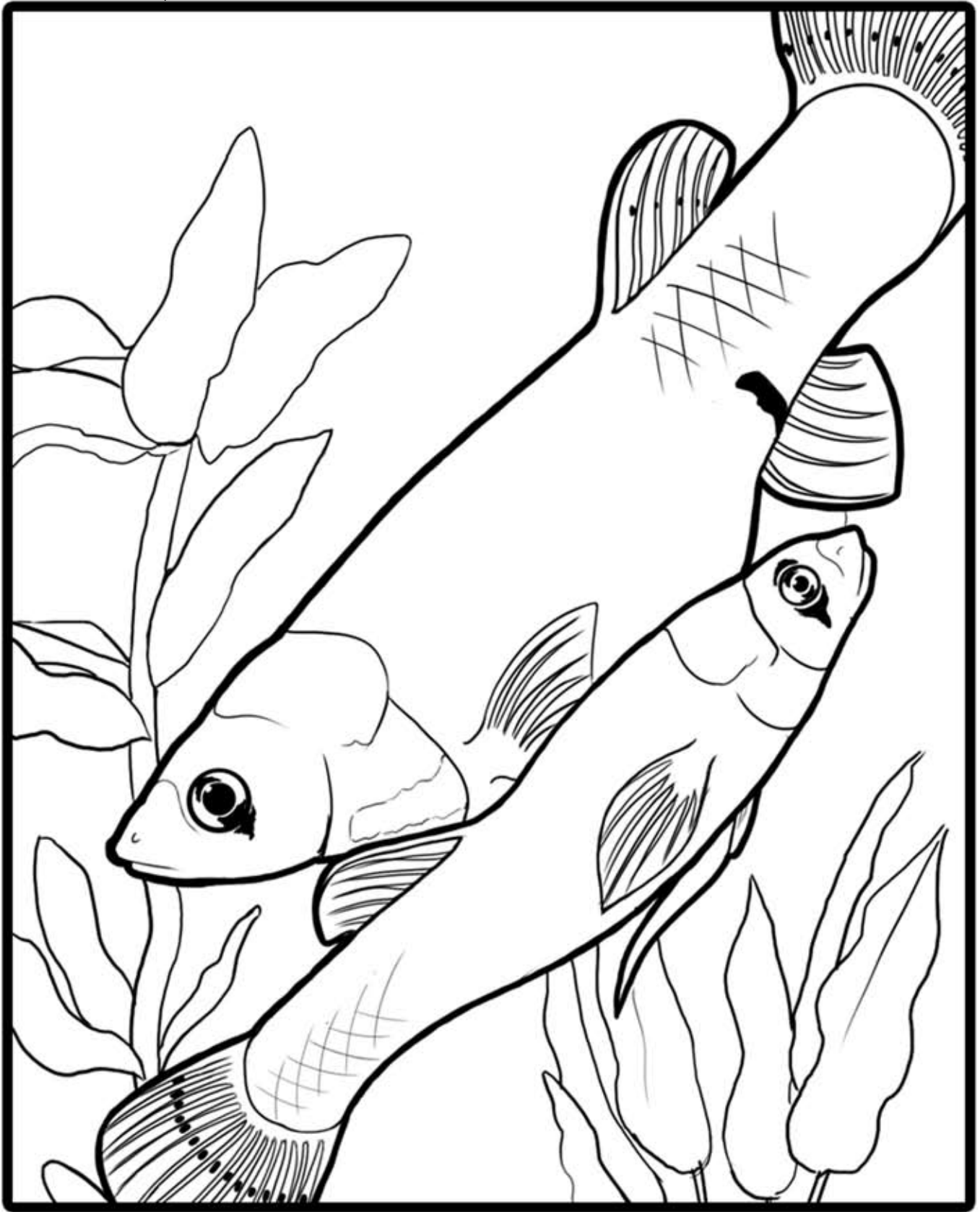
Largemouth bass are Florida's favorite sport fish! In the spring, look in the pond's shallow end for round patches called "nests." These are made by the males.

Least Killifish



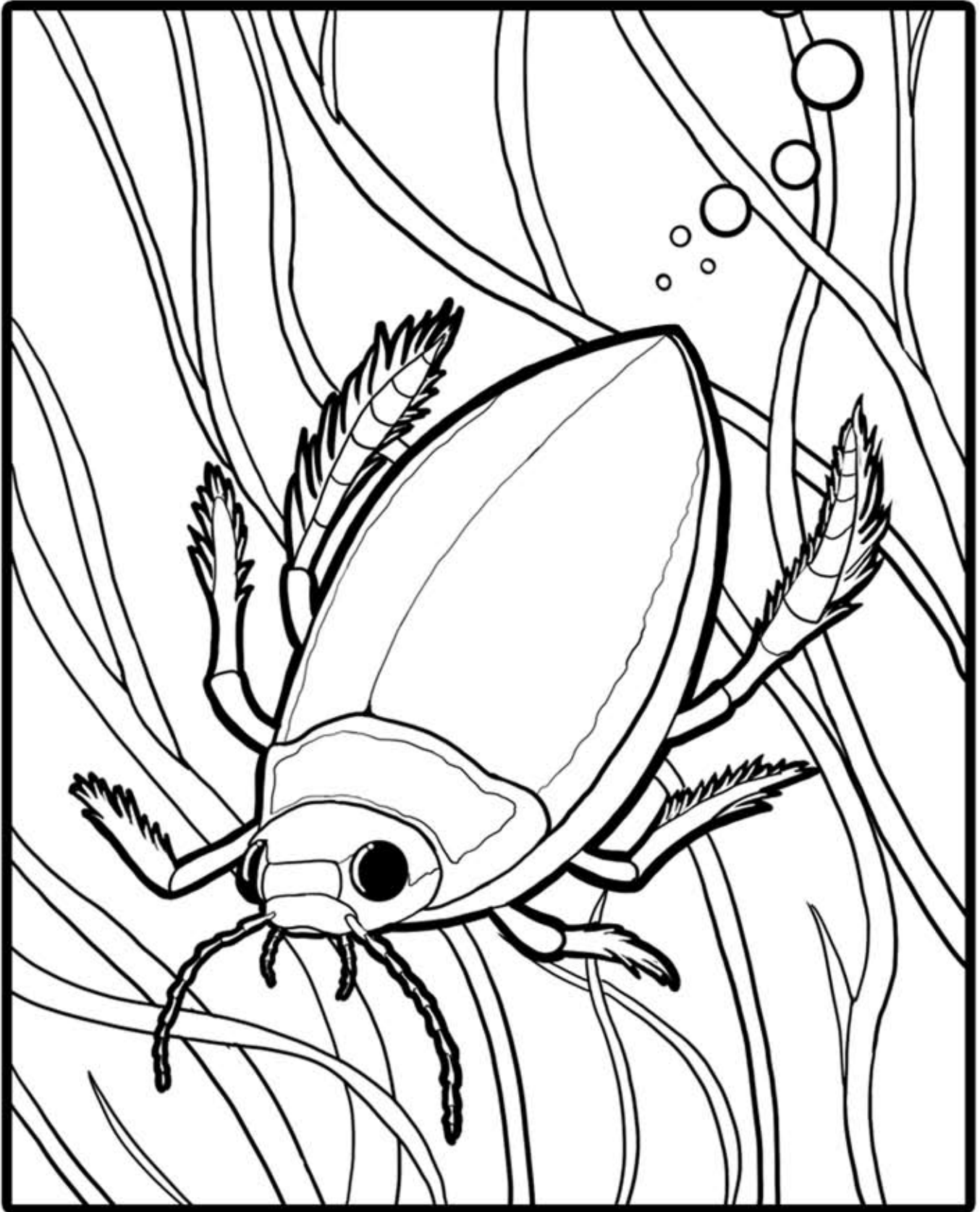
Least killifish is the smallest fish in Florida!
It is light brown with a paler stomach.
The markings are darker brown or black

Mosquitofish



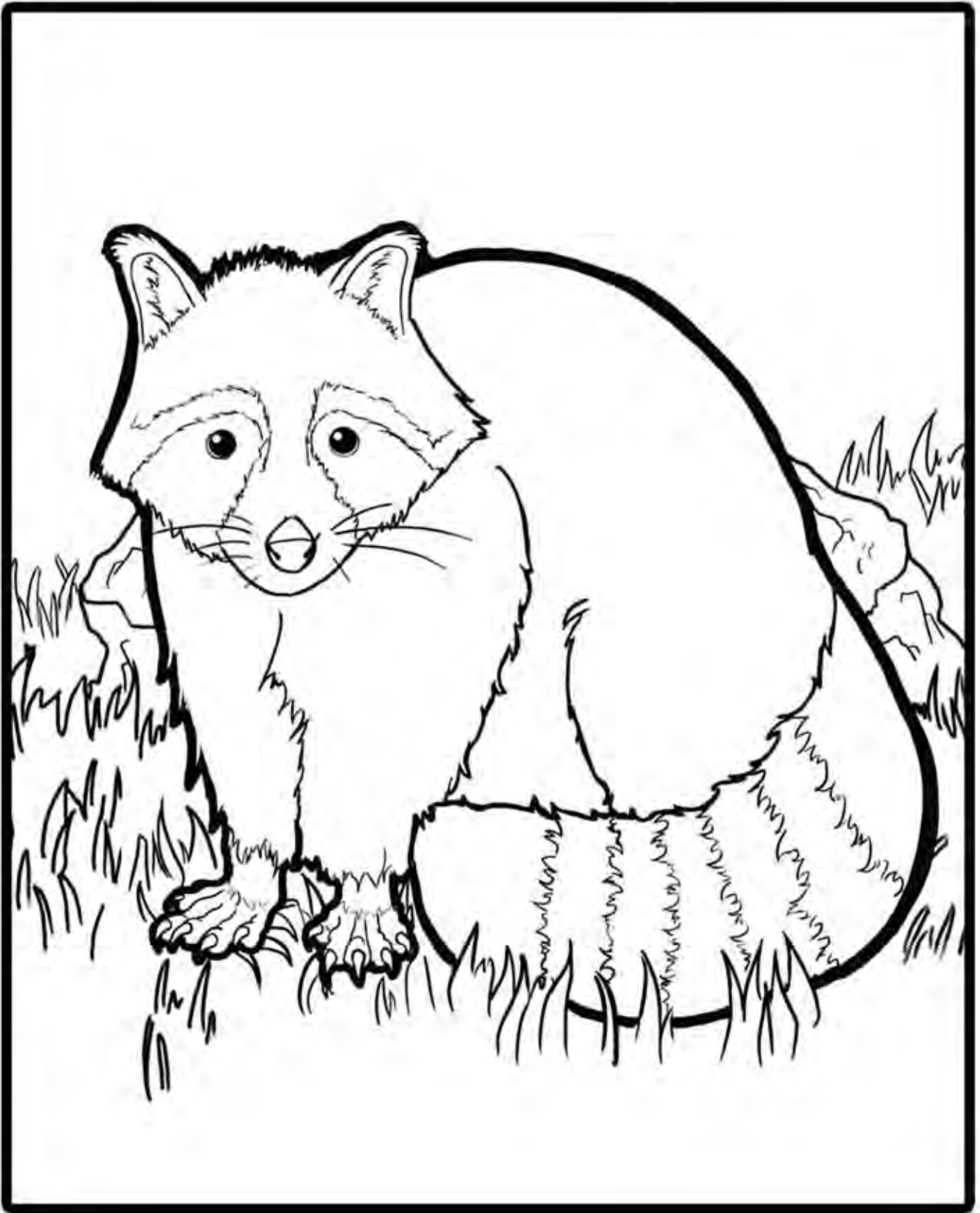
Female **mosquitofish** have a big black spot.
Look for this little fish at the pond's surface.
It will gobble up hatching mosquitoes!

Predaceous Diving Beetle



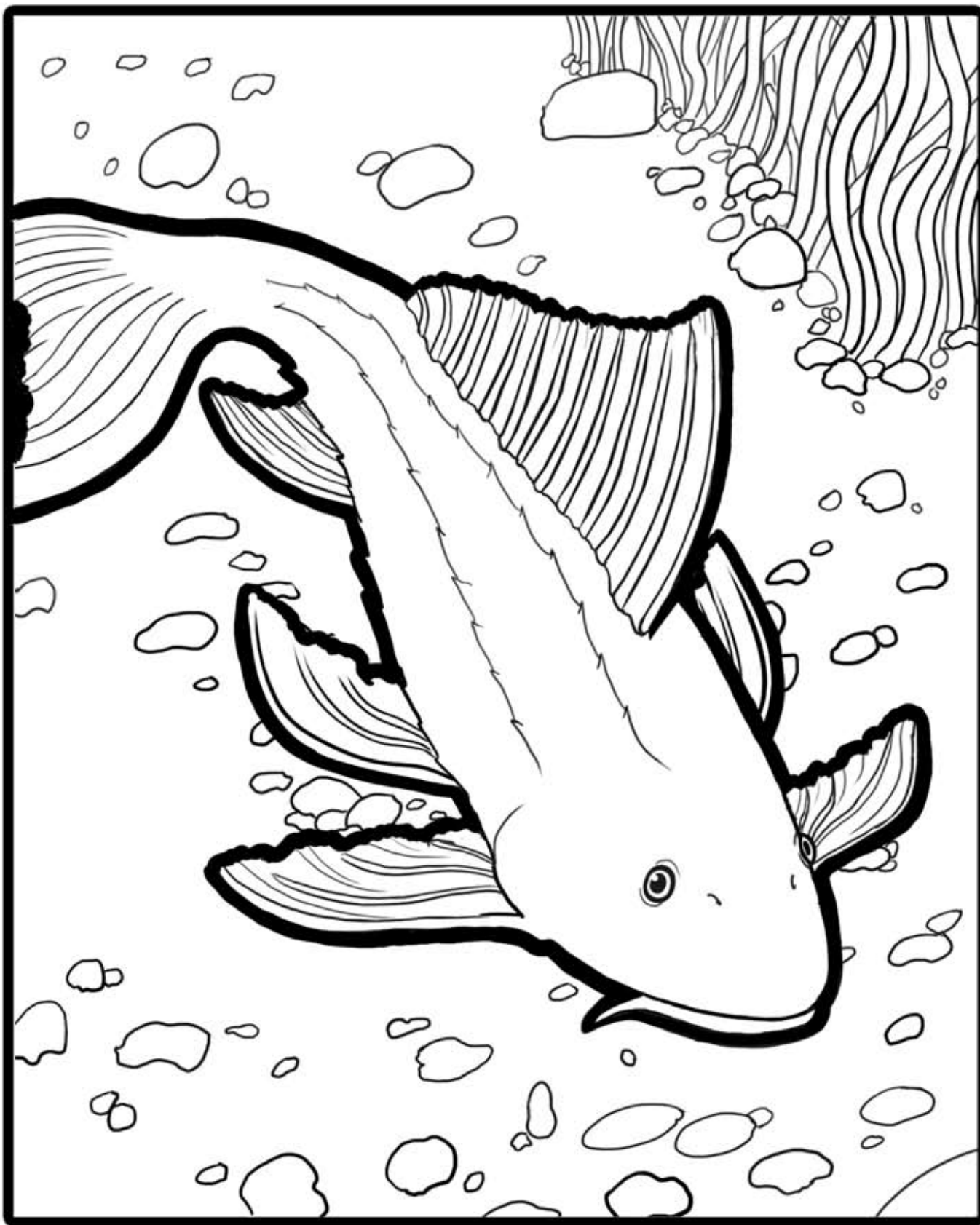
Predaceous diving beetle swims to the surface and sticks its bottom out of the water to breathe air. Air is stored under its wings to use while diving!

Raccoon



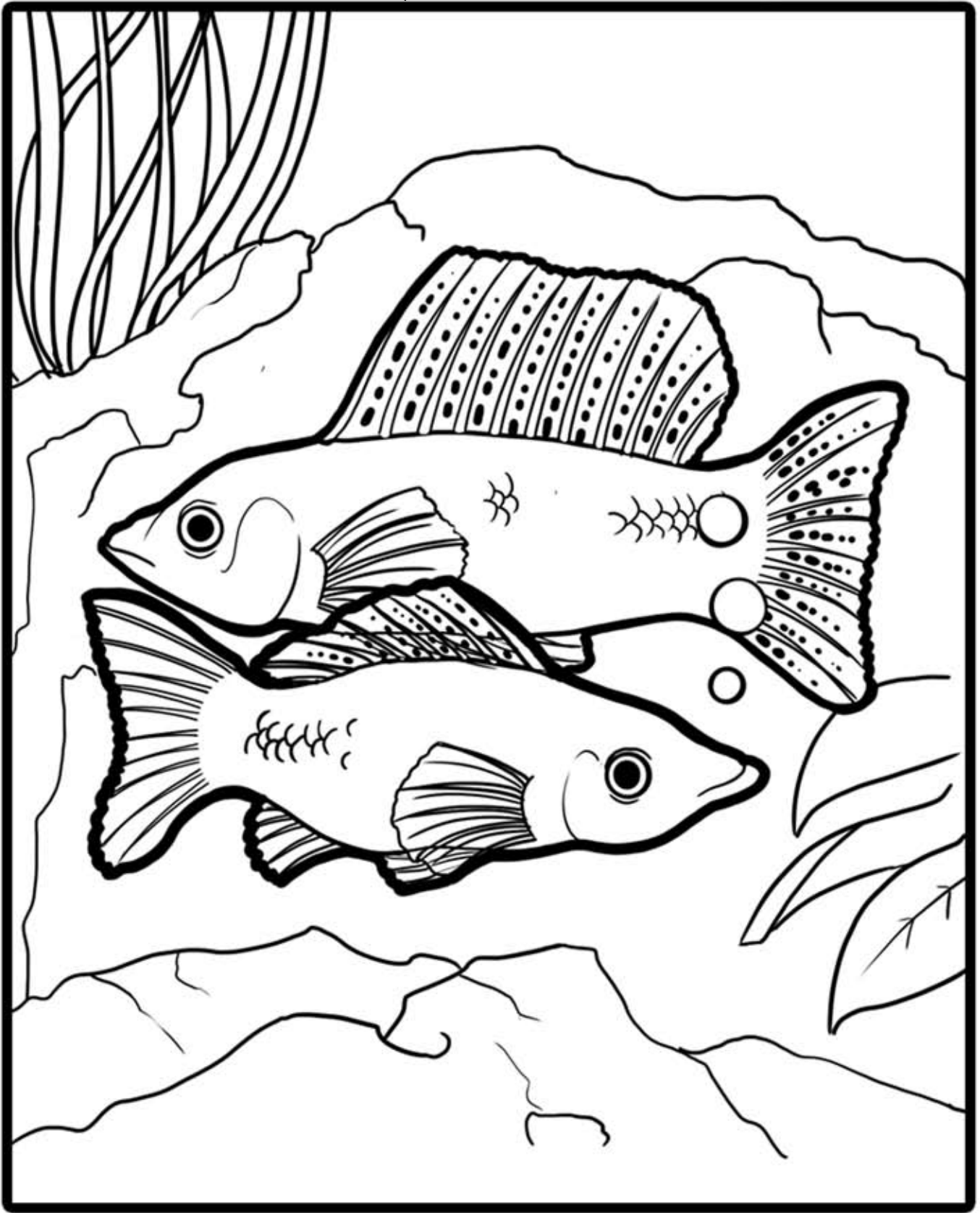
Raccoon is awake all night and sleeps all day!
Look for paw prints around the pond edges.
Raccoon likes to hunt for crawfish.

Sailfin Catfish



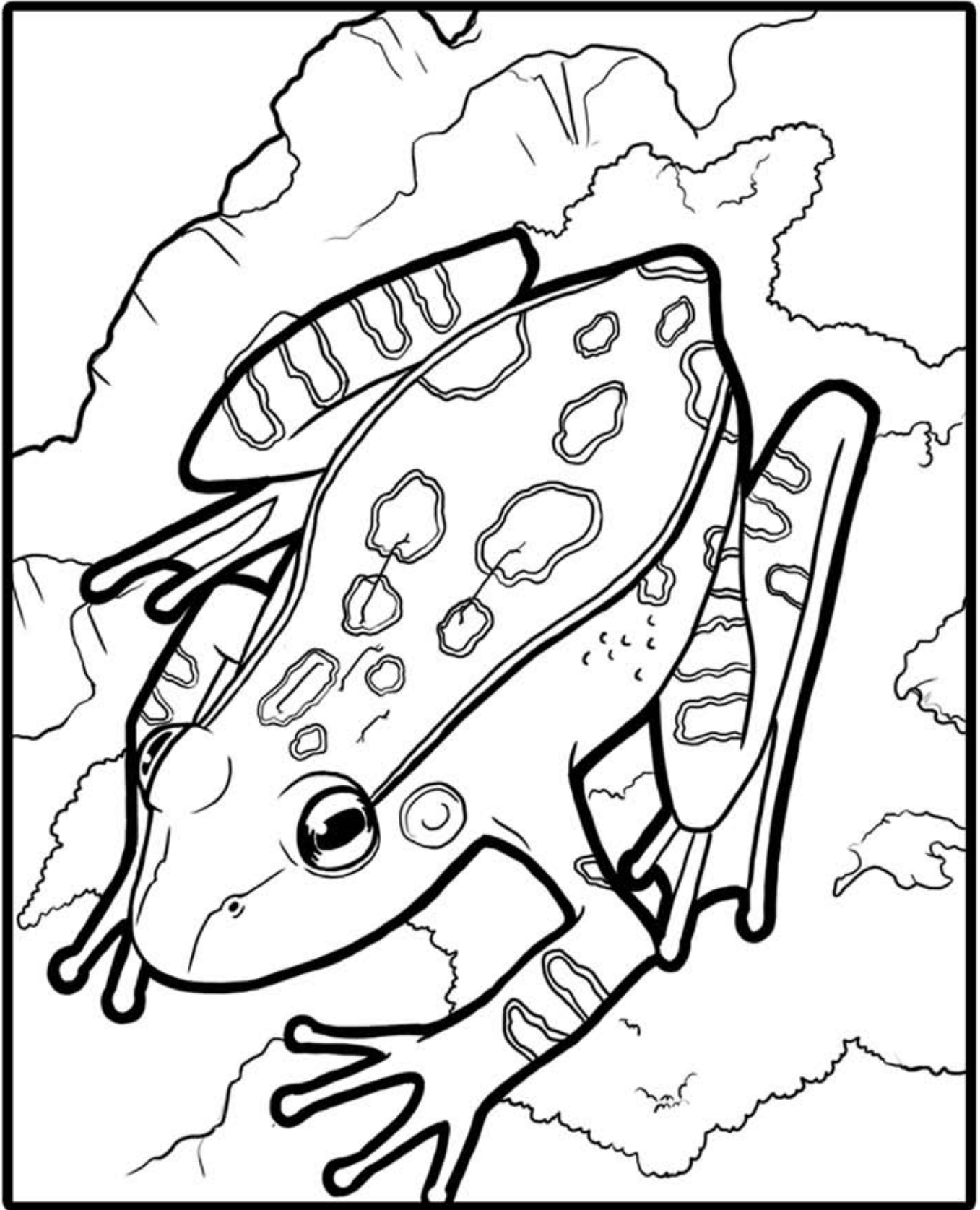
Sailfin catfish is not native to Florida ponds.
It is sold as an aquarium pet.
How do you think it got into your Florida pond?

Sailfin Molly



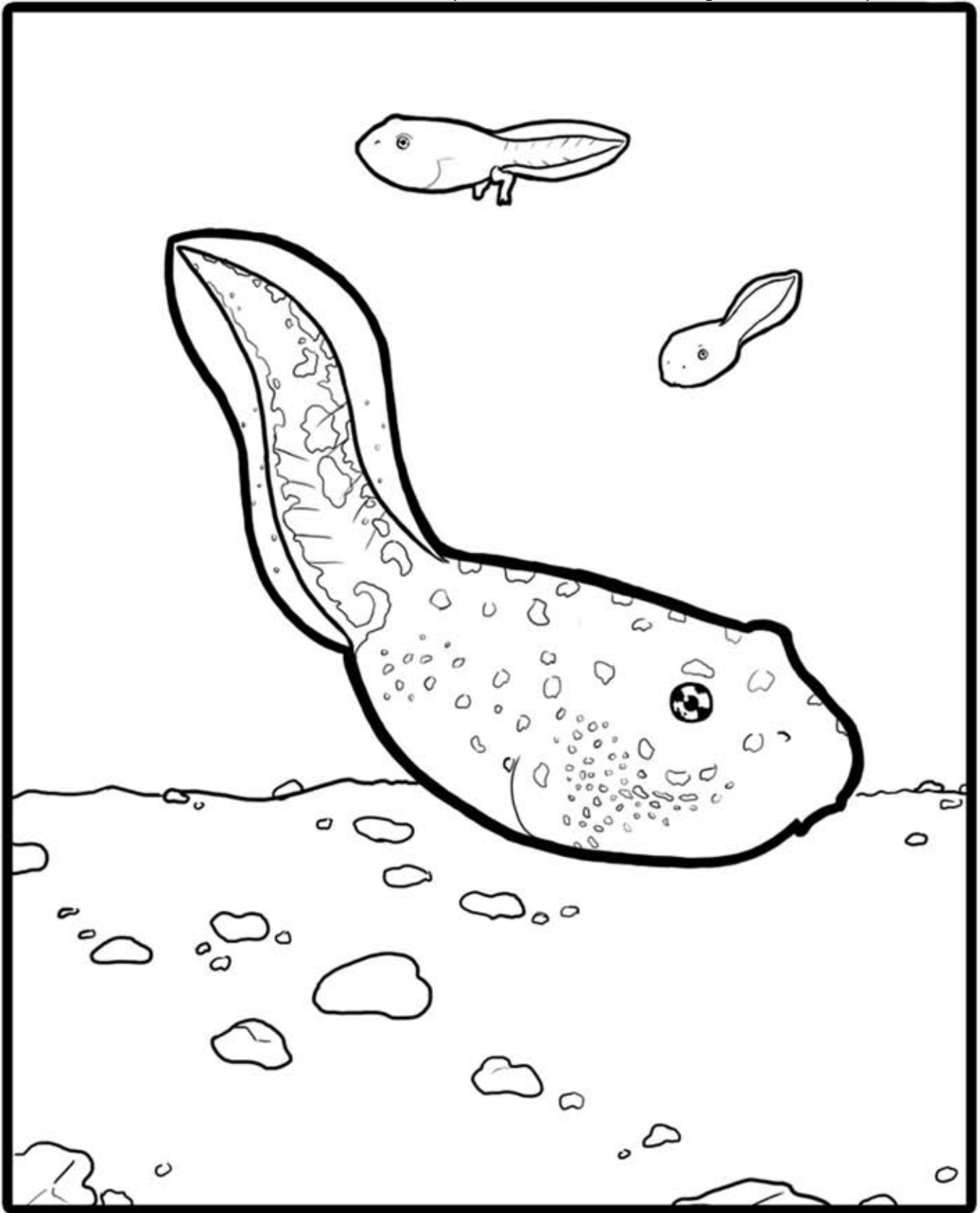
Sailfin molly male has a big, bright orange-red fin on its back.
The female has a yellow tummy.

Southern Leopard Frog



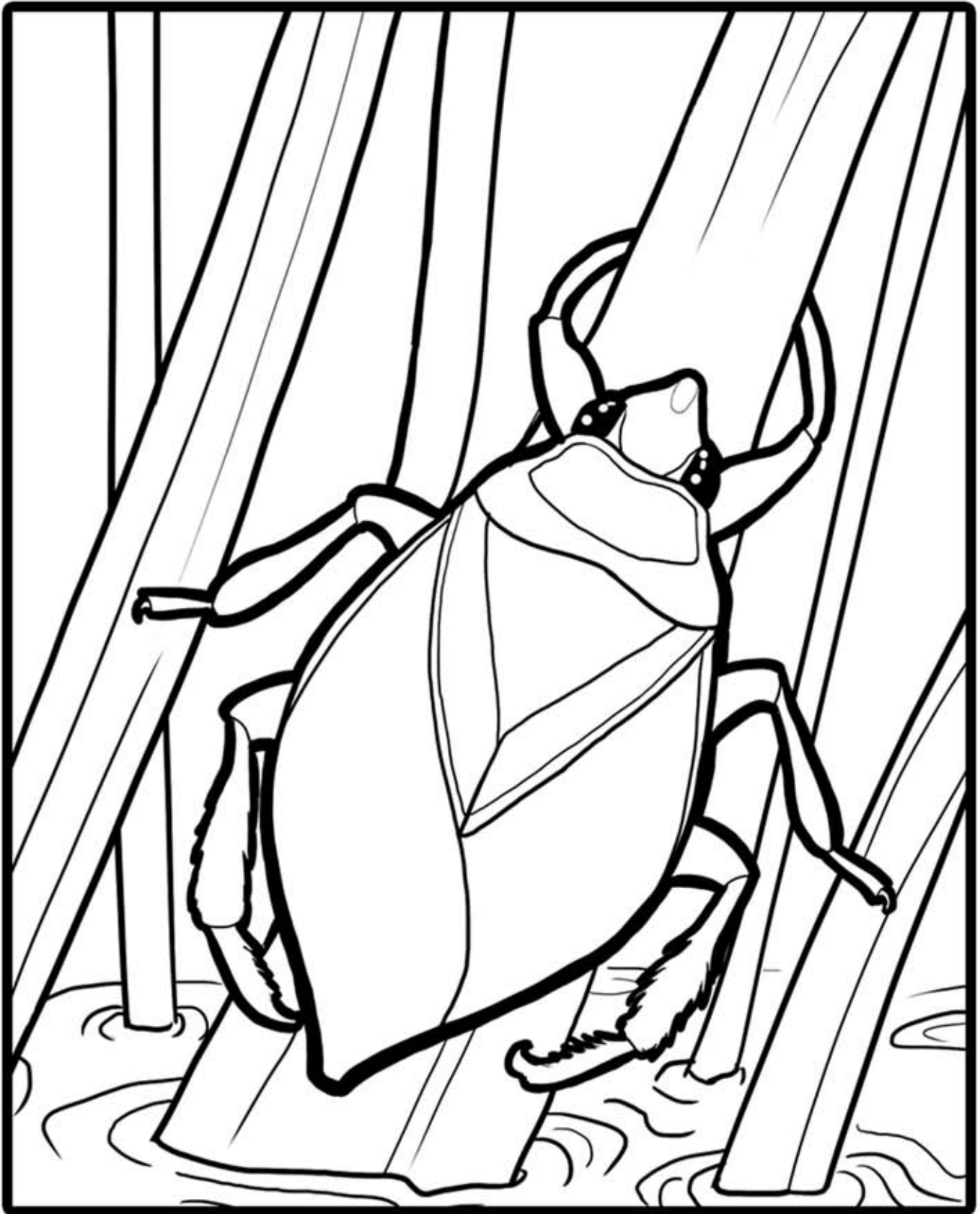
Listen for **southern leopard frog's** call: chuckle-chuckle! Look closely: green body with brown spots helps it hide in the pond plants.

Southern Leopard Frog Tadpole



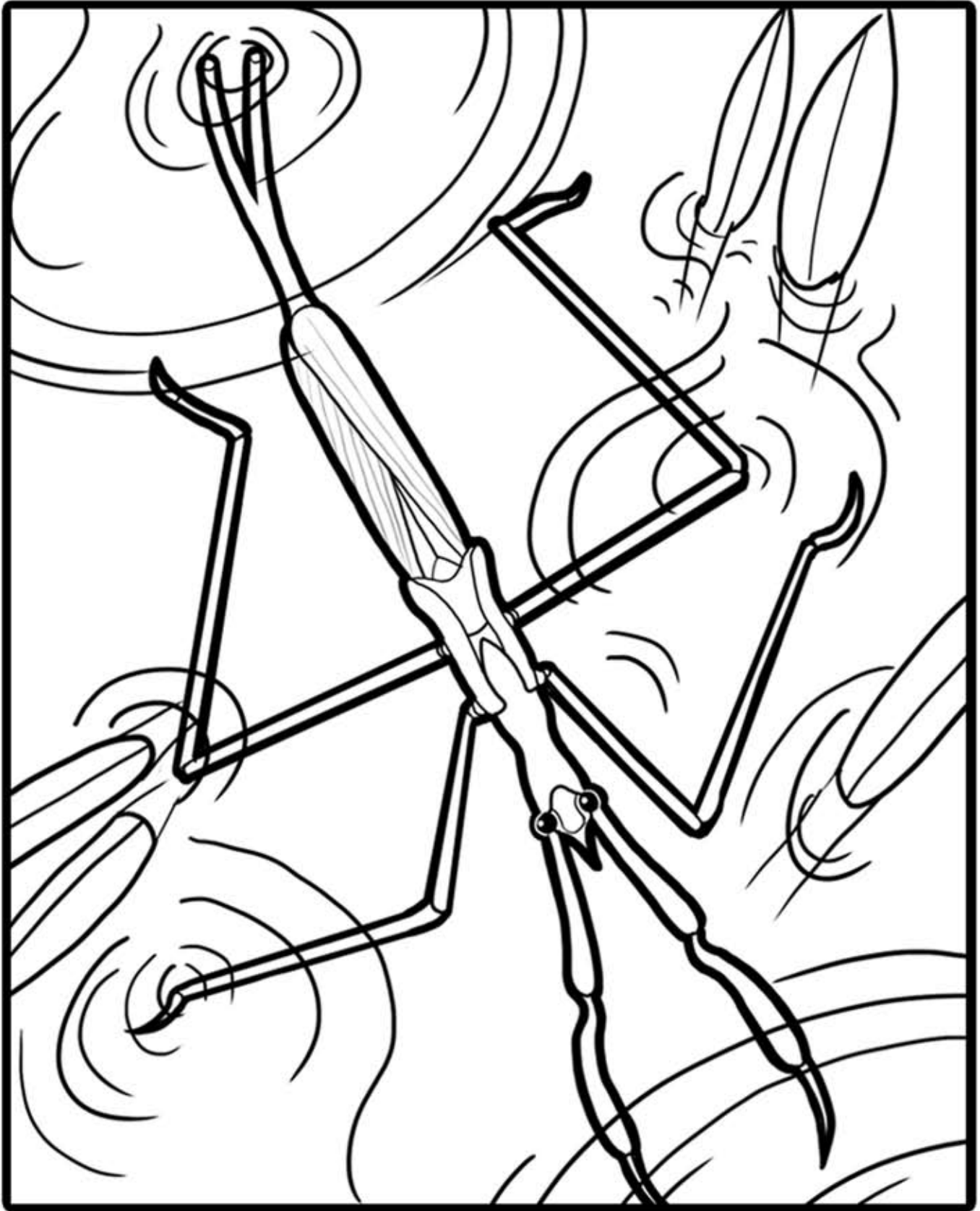
Southern leopard frog tadpole has brown and black spots. Frogs and toads start life as tadpoles. See the one with its back legs?

Toe Biter



Look for **toe biter** near the pond's surface.
It may "play dead" when you catch it!
Maybe you will find a male with eggs on its back.

Water Scorpion



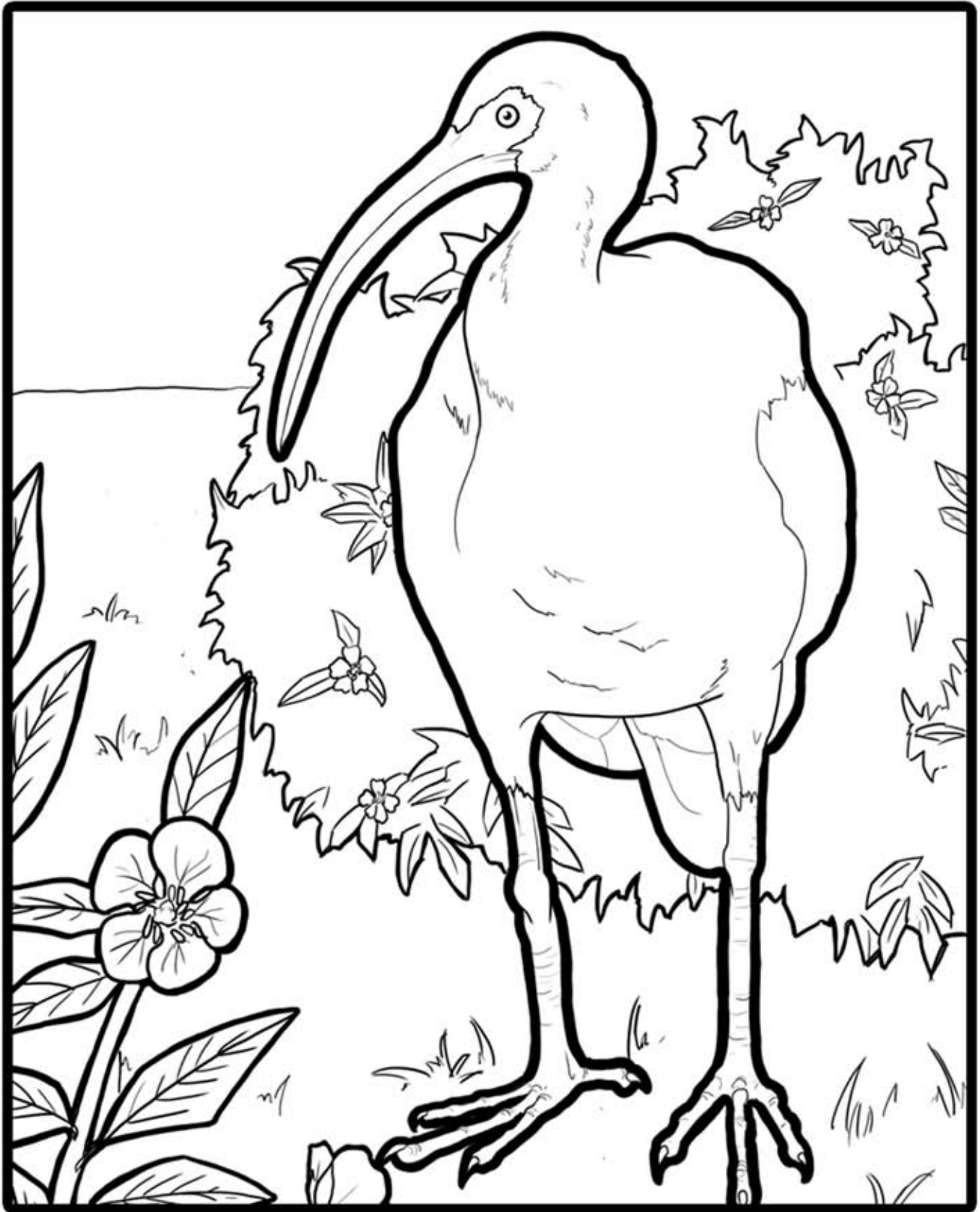
Water scorpion can't bite or sting you.
It has a straw-like mouth.
This pointy "straw" is perfect for poking shrimp!

Water Tiger



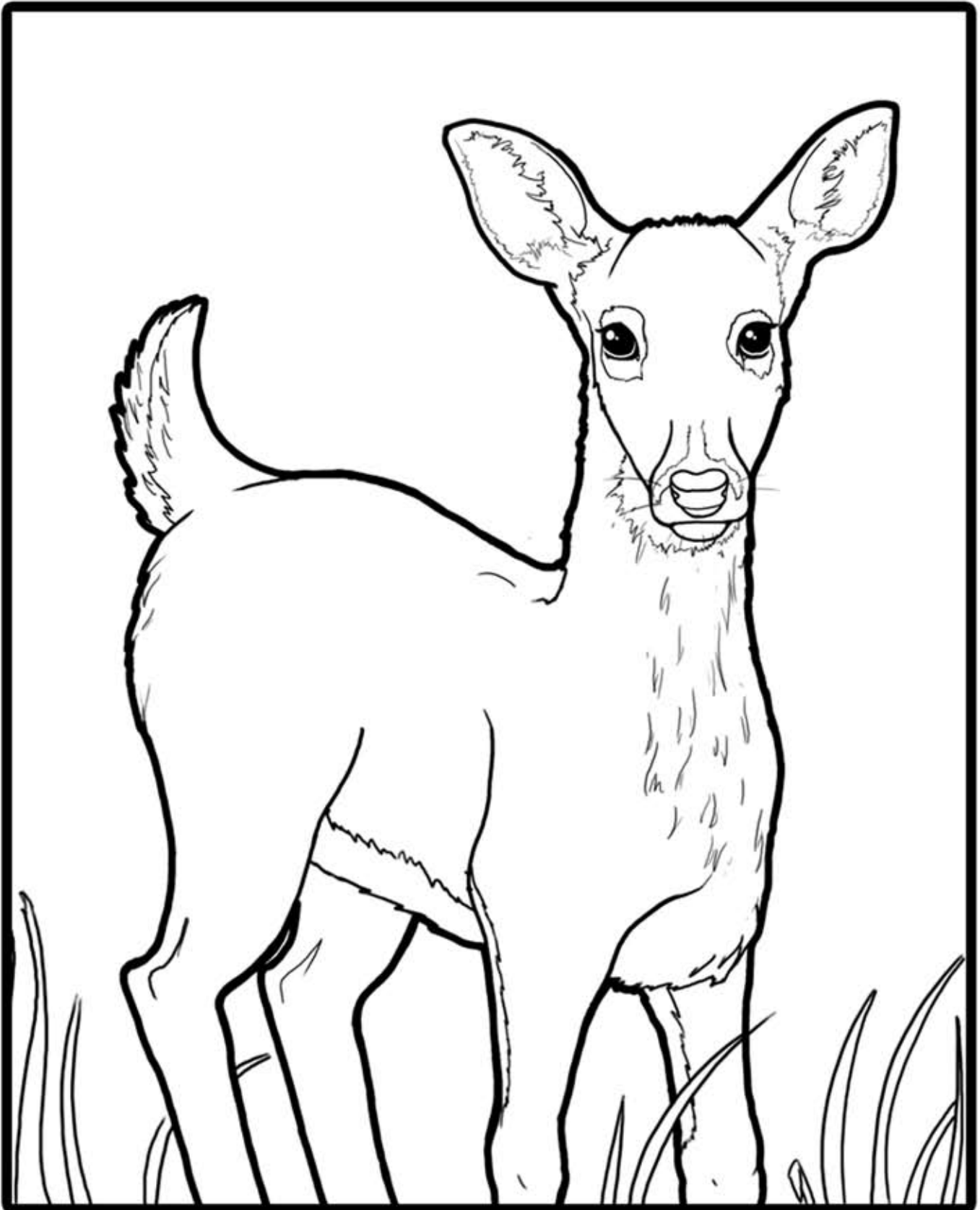
Water tiger is a young diving beetle. Water tiger may be small, but it is a predator. Look for it hiding in *hydrilla*.

White Ibis



A curved beak helps **white ibis** dig for snails.
Watch for its pink legs.
When it's flying, look for black wingtips.

White - Tailed Deer



White-tailed deer comes to the pond for a drink.
This is an adult deer.
A fawn will have white spots along its back.

What can you find at your Florida Pond?

Fishing for Success is a non-profit organization specializing in outdoor education of youth in Florida. We are part of the University of Florida's Extension and Outreach Programs. For more information about Fishing for Success, please see our website: <http://sfrc.ufl.edu/fish/outreach/ffs/>

