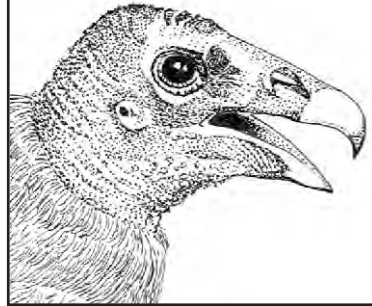
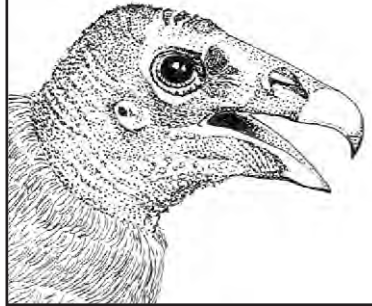
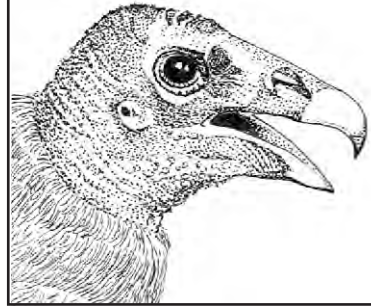

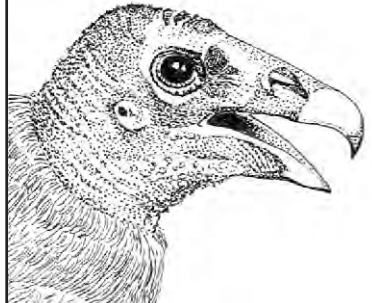
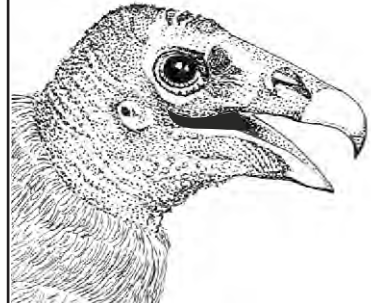


The Turkey Vulture

The Turkey Vulture is a very specialized bird of prey. They have an acute sense of smell which helps them locate dead animals miles away as they soar high above the ground. They have long, straight wings that enable them to soar for hours without flapping. They do a great service to people and the environment by feeding on carrion which helps prevent the spread of disease. They also have some very peculiar characteristics. Here's what a Turkey Vulture would like you to know.

<p>Hi there! I'm a Turkey Vulture.</p> 	<p>My head is bare to prevent rotting flesh from sticking to it.</p> 	<p>I poop on my legs and feet to keep cool.</p> 
<p>My main defense is projectile vomiting.</p> 	<p>Wow!</p> 	<p>I'm so Awesome!</p> 

Protect our birds by creating safe places and habitats.

A Tale of 4 Birds Activity Book



Southwestern New Mexico AUDUBON SOCIETY

SILVER CITY, NEW MEXICO

www.swnmaudubon.org

Helping You Appreciate Nature.

There are many different kinds of birds. To help us identify birds with similar characteristics, they are grouped into families. Here are three families of birds that share characteristics. Knowing these similarities will help you identify the bird.

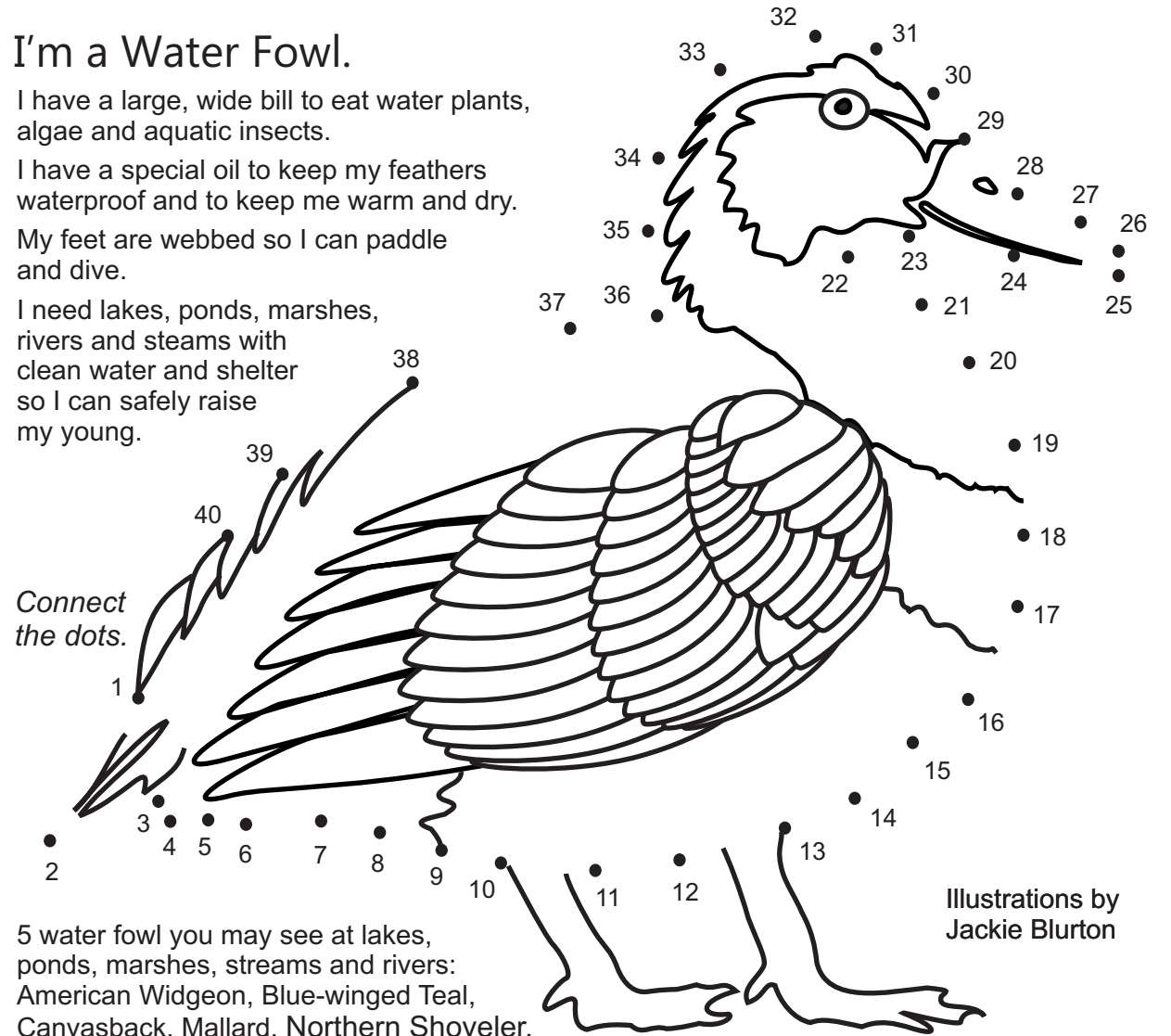
I'm a Water Fowl.

I have a large, wide bill to eat water plants, algae and aquatic insects.

I have a special oil to keep my feathers waterproof and to keep me warm and dry.

My feet are webbed so I can paddle and dive.

I need lakes, ponds, marshes, rivers and streams with clean water and shelter so I can safely raise my young.



Connect the dots.

5 water fowl you may see at lakes, ponds, marshes, streams and rivers: American Widgeon, Blue-winged Teal, Canvasback, Mallard, Northern Shoveler.

Illustrations by Jackie Blurton

Make your back yard Bird Friendly.
Visit our website at www.swnmaudubon.org.

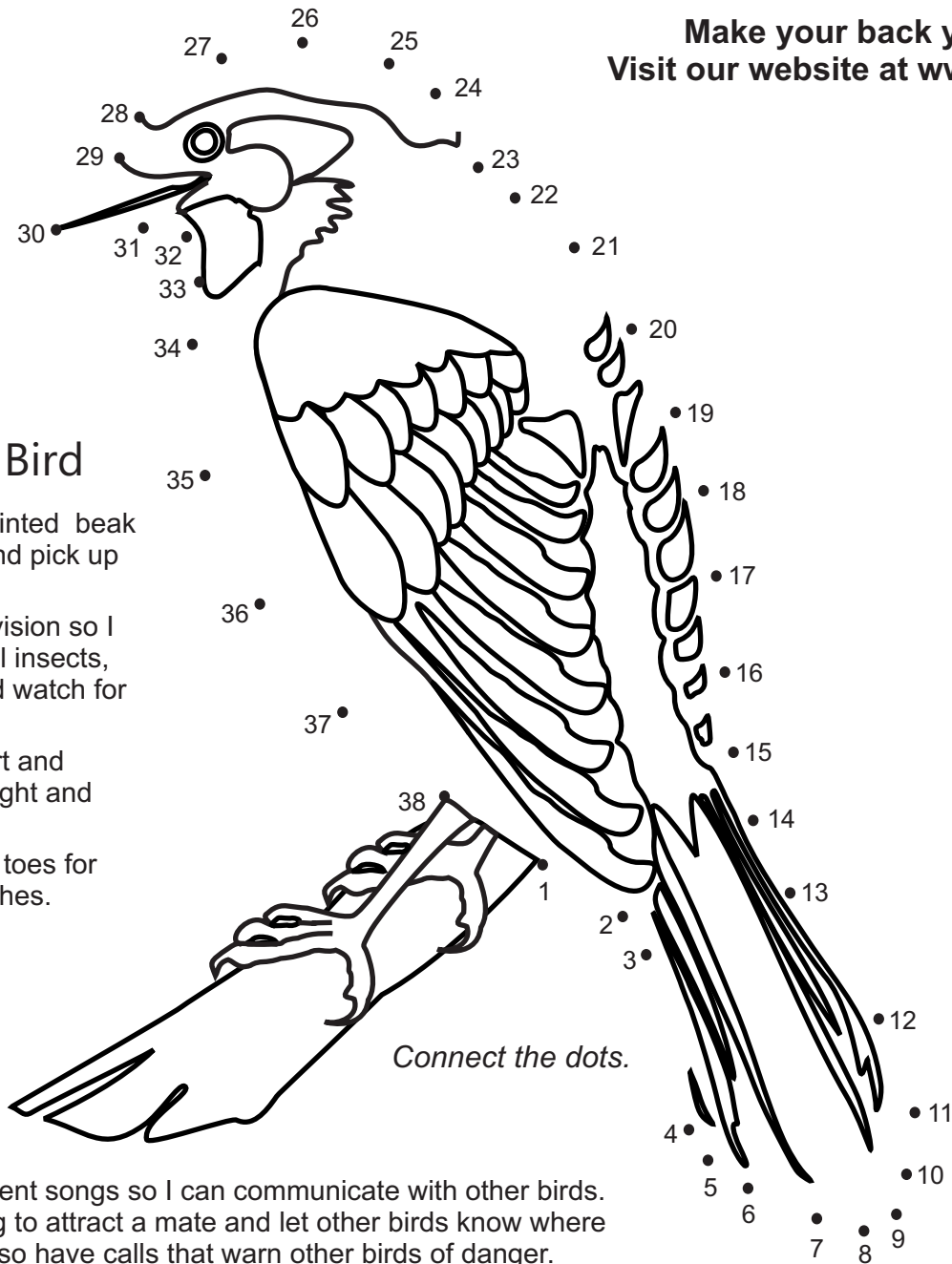
I'm a Song Bird

I have a sharp, pointed beak to catch insects and pick up seeds

I have very good vision so I can find very small insects, berries, seeds and watch for predators.

My wings are short and rounded for fast flight and quick turns.

My feet have long toes for perching on branches.



I have many different songs so I can communicate with other birds. Some songs I sing to attract a mate and let other birds know where my territory is. I also have calls that warn other birds of danger.

I make my nests in trees, bushes, in holes in trees and on the ground. It's important to have plenty of food, water and cover for safety to build my nest and raise my young.

Here are 7 Song Birds you may see in your yard: Canyon Towhee, Curved-billed Thrasher, House Finch, House Sparrow, Junco, Western Bluebird, White-crowned Sparrow.

I'm a Bird of Prey

I have a large, sharp, hooked beak to tear meat to eat and feed my young.

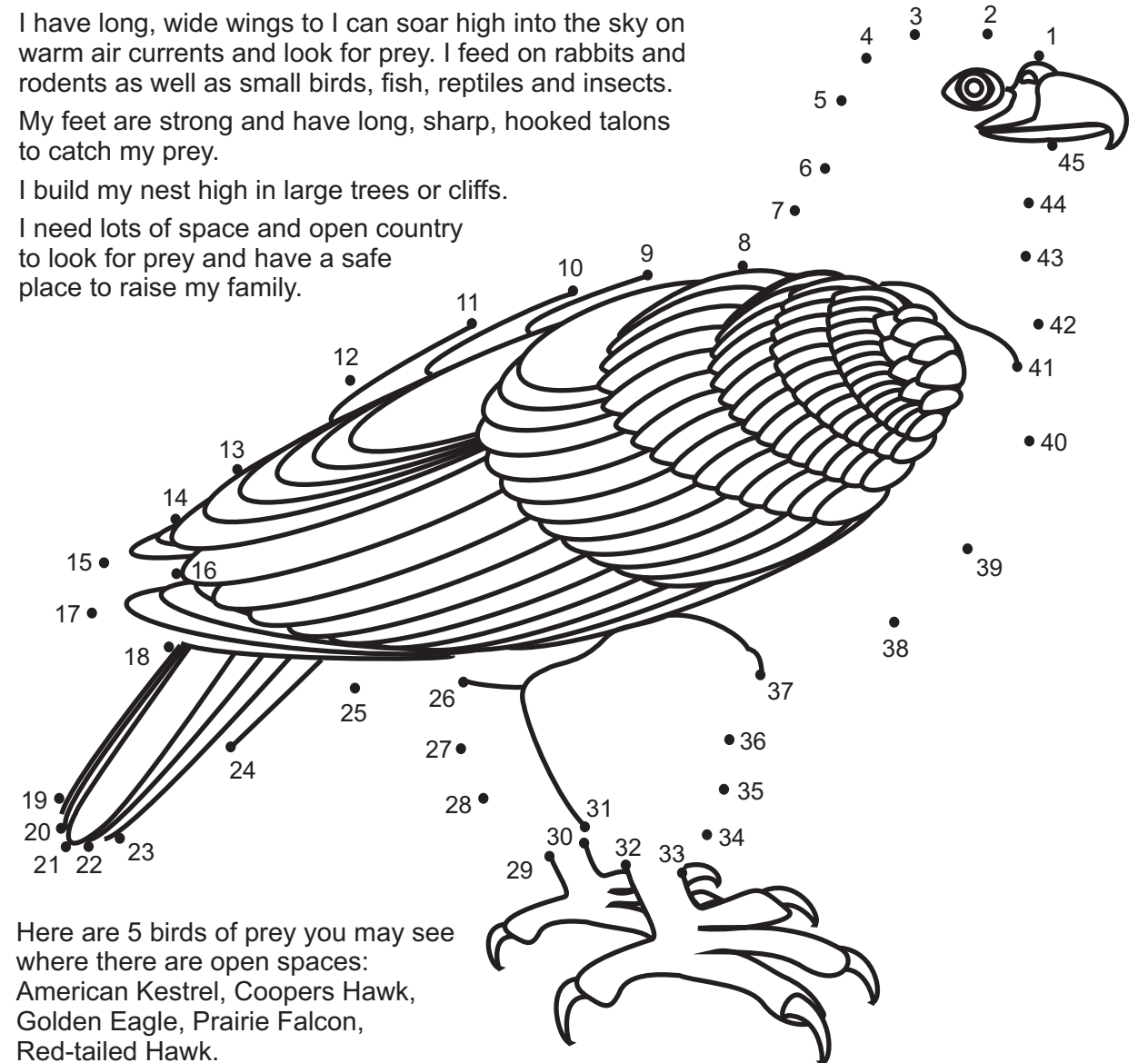
My eyes are like binoculars and I can see a rabbit on the ground a mile away.

I have long, wide wings to I can soar high into the sky on warm air currents and look for prey. I feed on rabbits and rodents as well as small birds, fish, reptiles and insects.

My feet are strong and have long, sharp, hooked talons to catch my prey.

I build my nest high in large trees or cliffs.

I need lots of space and open country to look for prey and have a safe place to raise my family.



Here are 5 birds of prey you may see where there are open spaces: American Kestrel, Coopers Hawk, Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Red-tailed Hawk.