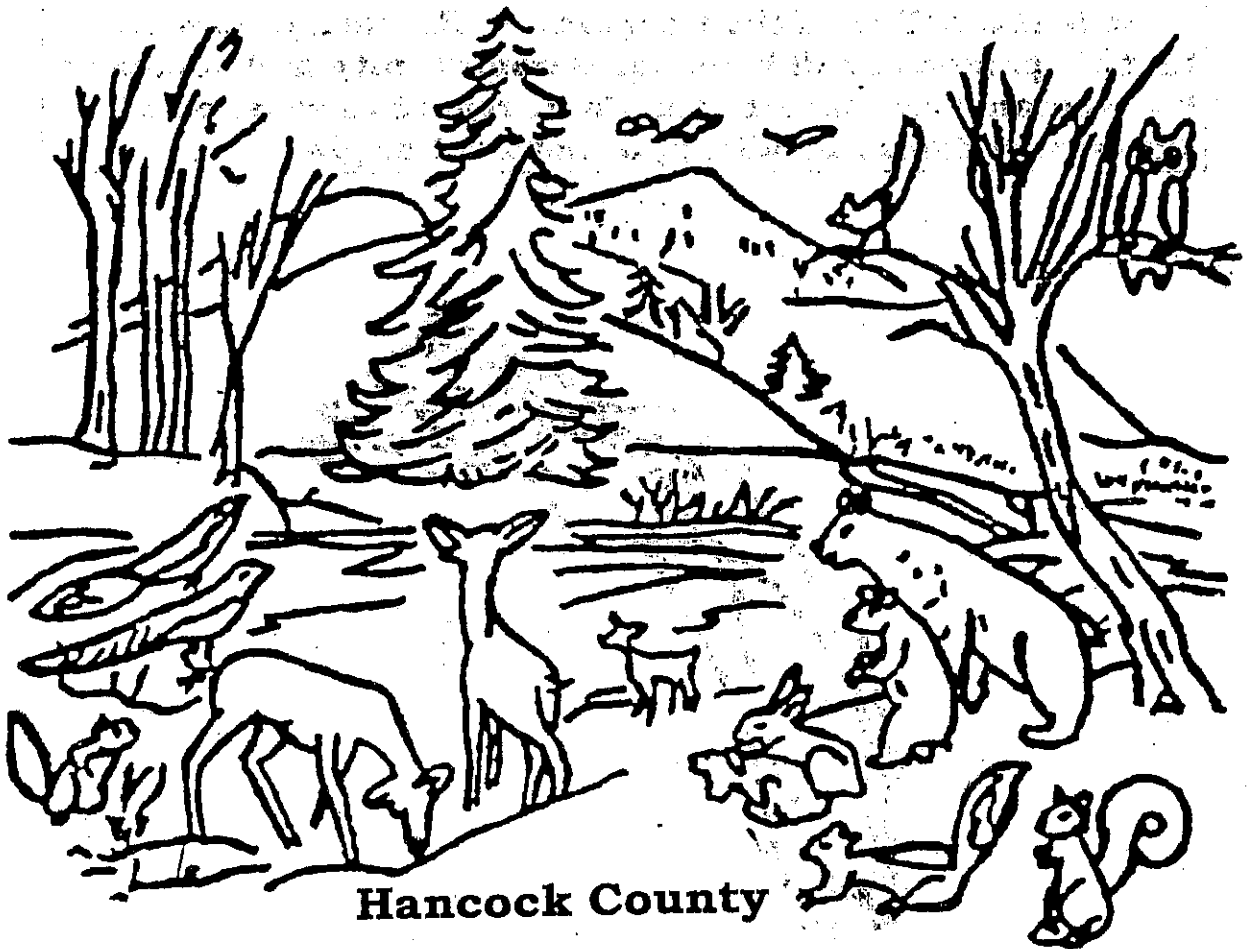


MINI 4-H

Wildlife

Division II

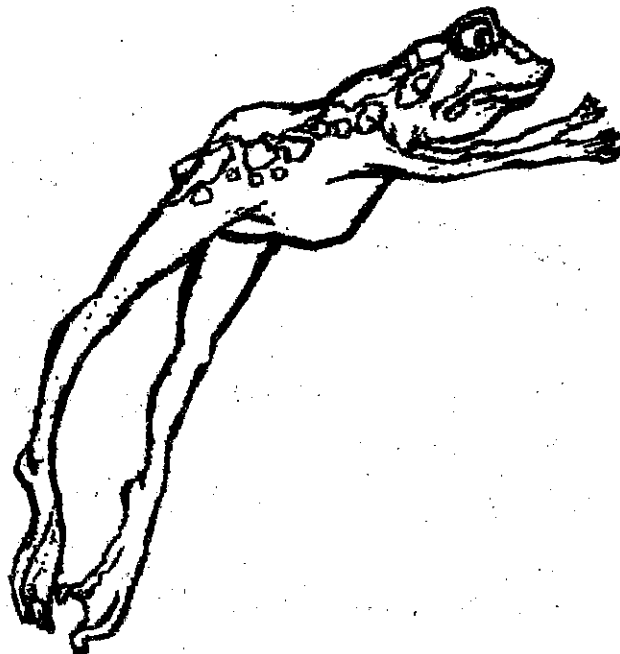


Dear Parent:

As a Mini 4-H parent, your job will be to guide and encourage your child through the activity. 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. The 4-H motto is "Learn by doing"... and is the best educational tool that we can provide for youth.

If you have any questions about this project, please contact your club leader or the Hancock County Cooperative Extension Service at 462-1113.

It is the policy of the Cooperative Extension Service that all persons shall have equal opportunity and access to its programs and facilities without regard to race, color, age, sex, religion, handicap, or national origin.



Mini 4-H Wildlife - Division II

This project is for members who will be eight years old this year. In Mini 4-H Wildlife Division II you will get to know three birds:

Belted Kingfisher

Mallard Duck

Barn Owl

There is information about these birds in this manual. You can also get books from the library telling more about them. You need to find books that have colored pictures of the birds, so you will know how to color them correctly.

What Birds Eat

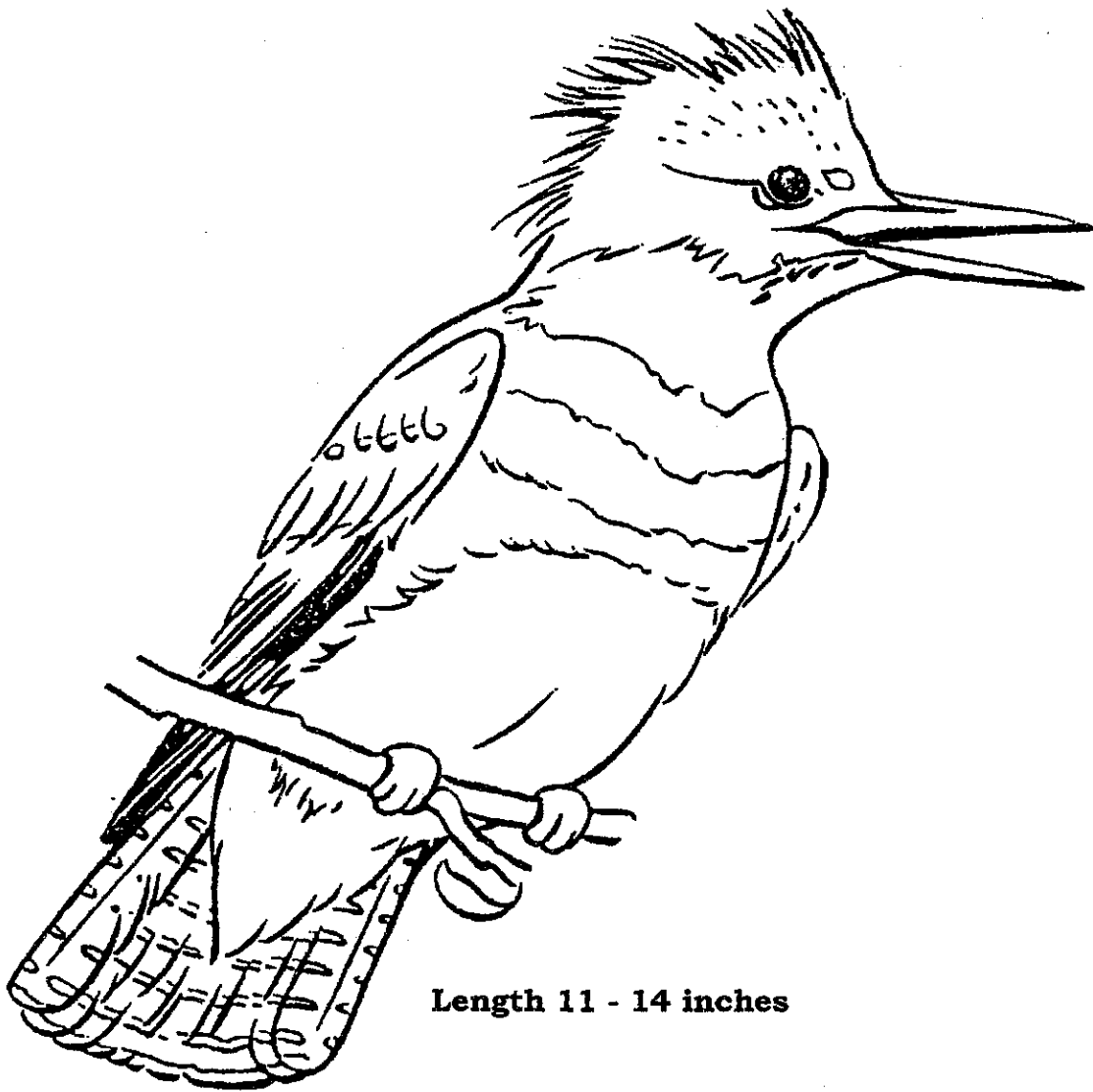
Birds are the most visible of wildlife because most birds are active during the daylight when we can see them. Most birds are predators. This means that they eat living things like insects. Birds such as hawks, eagles, and owls eat other birds, rodents, and snakes. Owls eat mainly rodents, mice and rats. The kingfisher is one of several birds that eat fish. Several predator birds also eat seeds and fruits. Some birds, such as the mallard duck, eat only seeds and fruits. They also eat grain such as corn and water plants such as duckweed and wild celery.



BELTED KINGFISHER

This chunky bird with its large head and windblown crest looks something like an oversized blue jay with brown on the sides and breast. In the spring and summer kingfisher can be found almost anywhere in the United States and Canada where there is water and fish. In the winter they fly south to stay warm.

The kingfisher perches on a branch overhanging the water and watches. It dives down in a flash and usually comes up with a fish in its long bill. The kingfisher nests in a burrow in sand banks, river banks, or bluffs. The nest is lined with fish bones, scales, leaves, and grass. The female lays five to eight shiny eggs.

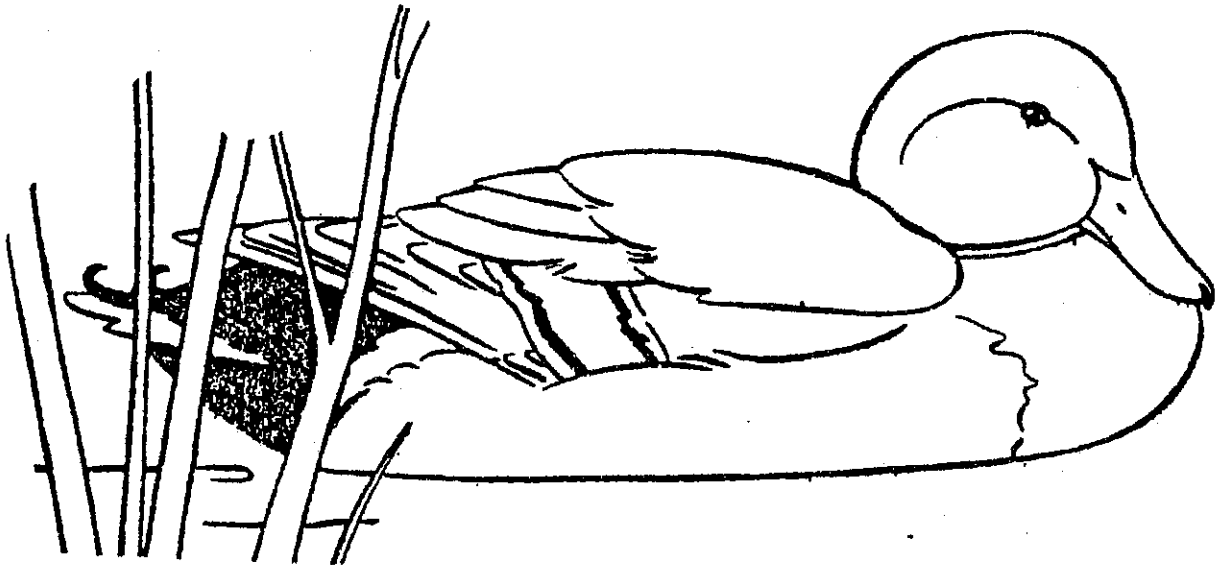


Length 11 - 14 inches

MALLARD DUCK

The drake, or male mallard duck in the picture is in his handsome winter plumage. In June and July he will begin to shed and re-grow his feathers. By August he will look brownish just like the female.

Mallards are the best known ducks. They are one of our most important game birds. They winter in all states except those that are far north. They nest from the Great Lakes into the northwestern states. The female mallard chooses a hollow in the ground near a pond for her nest. She lines the nest with reeds, grasses, and feathers from her breast. In it she will lay from eight to ten greenish to gray-buff eggs. The female alone cares for her brood. Mallards feed on water insects, pond weed, smart weed, wild celery, wild rice, and other seeds.

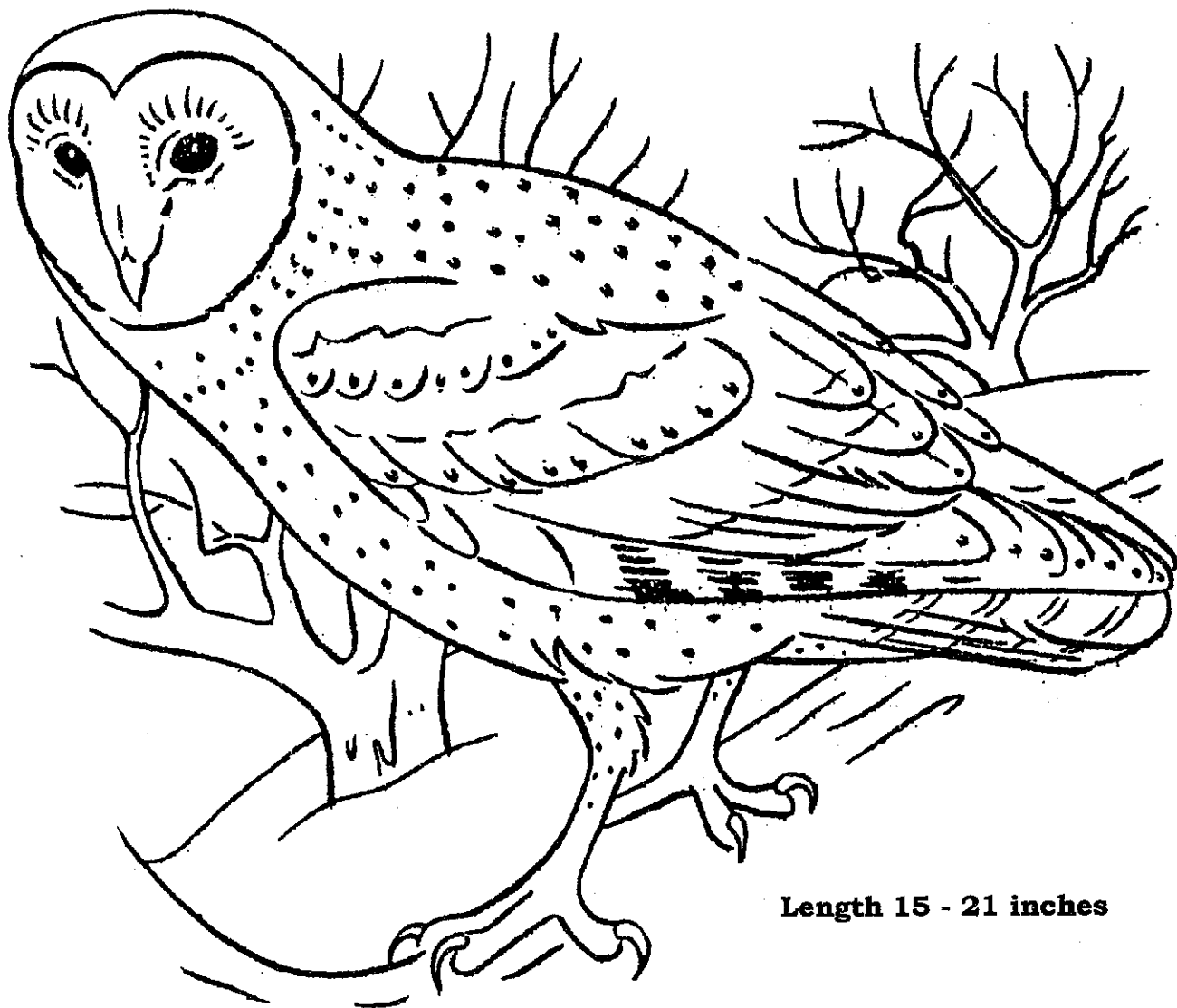


Length 19 - 28 inches

BARN OWL

Barn owls live in barns, old buildings, towers, hollow trees, and even in burrows in the ground. The female does not build a nest. Instead, she lays five to eleven white eggs in a hollow or cranny in a building.

Barn owls live in nearly every state. Most fly south for the winter. Like all owls, the barn owl is a night bird. It sleeps during the day and comes out at night to hunt for rats, mice, and small birds. Owls have excellent eyesight and hearing. Their flight is silent because their wing feathers are downy and shorter and rounder than those of other birds.



Length 15 - 21 inches

DO YOU KNOW?

1) What does the kingfisher eat? _____

Where does it build its nest? _____

2) What does the mallard duck eat? _____

Where does it build its nest? _____

3) What does the barn owl eat? _____

Where does it build its nest? _____

4) Which of the three birds are predators? _____

Which is not? _____

5) Did you enjoy this project? _____ What did you like best about it? _____

EXHIBIT REQUIREMENTS

Color the three pictures on the next couple of pages properly. Cut them out and mount them horizontally on a 14" by 22" poster board. Glue the correct label under each picture, and place your name label in the lower right hand corner. Make sure the poster board is backed by stiff card board or paneling and cover your entire project with clear plastic.

Belted Kingfisher

Mallard Duck

Barn Owl

Mini 4-H Wildlife Division II	Mini 4-H Wildlife Division II
Name _____	Name _____
Age _____	Age _____

