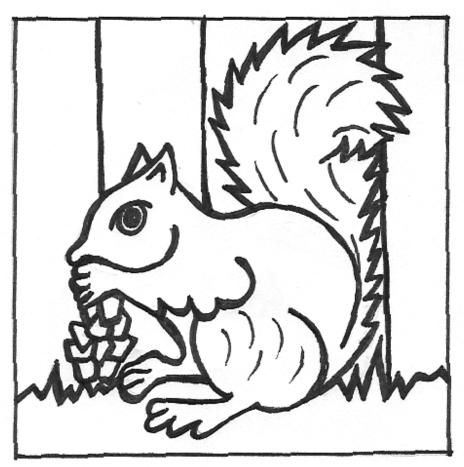


Eastern Indigo Snake



The Eastern Indigo Snake is the longest snake in North America, reaching a length of 8.5 feet. A blue-black color over the entire body, but sometimes has a chin that may be red, orange, or cream. Non-venomous itself, but eats venomous snake species along with frogs, birds, turtles, mammals, and lizards. Prey is captured and eaten with its muscular jaws.





Eastern Gray Squirrel



The Eastern Gray Squirrel is one of three types of squirrels that live in Florida. They are active during the day, and spend most of their time in trees.

Favorite foods are bark, berries, seeds, and acorns.

Squirrels can remember many spots where they hide their food, but when they forget, they become nature's gardeners, planting seeds!





Pileated Woodpecker



The Pileated Woodpecker is a beautiful forest bird that is about the size of a crow. It uses its beak to drill rectangular holes into trees to capture its main prey, carpenter ants. These holes can be so large that other birds come and feed there too. In fact, Pileated Woodpeckers have been known to break small trees in half with all that pecking!





Bobcat



The Bobcat is a stealthy predator that uses its sight to hunt for squirrels, rabbits, birds, and rats, usually at night. However, Bobcats only sleep 2 to 3 hours at a time, so they may be out in the day as well. Bobcats have brown, tan, and white fur with black spots and a short "bobbed" tail. Occasionally all black Bobcats have been spotted in Florida!



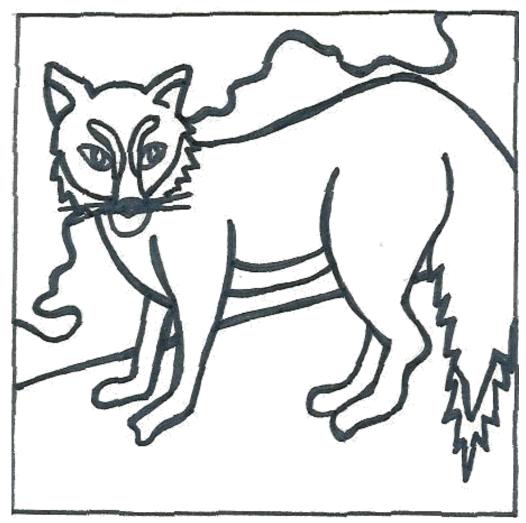


Zebra Longwing Butterfly



In 1996, the Zebra Longwing Butterfly was named Florida's state butterfly. These butterflies live for several months instead of just weeks, because they eat the pollen from flowers, along with the nectar. Another unusual characteristic is that they gather together at night to roost. And in the morning they gently nudge each other to get moving!



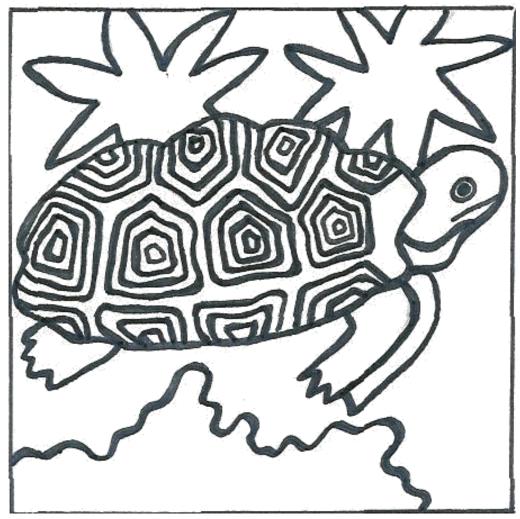


Red Fox



The Red Fox is active mainly at dawn and dusk. They eat a variety of foods, from fruits and insects to rabbits and mice. Any extra food is stored by burying it in the ground and coming back for it later; this is called caching. The bushy tail is used for balance, keeping warm, and signaling to other Red Foxes. Red Fox pairs mate for life, and a litter has 2—12 pups!



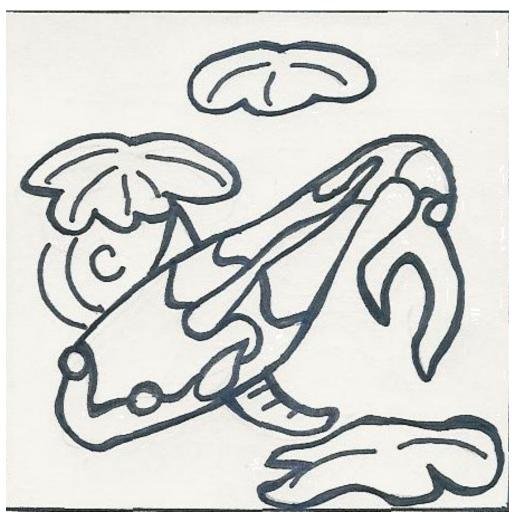


Gopher Tortoise



The Gopher Tortoise spends most of its time in its burrow that it digs into loose sand with its strong legs. Over 360 other species, like the Indigo Snake, Florida Mouse, Gopher Frog, and Burrowing Owl, use the Gopher Tortoise's burrow as shelter. These burrows are so important, that without them, the whole Sandhill ecosystem would suffer.



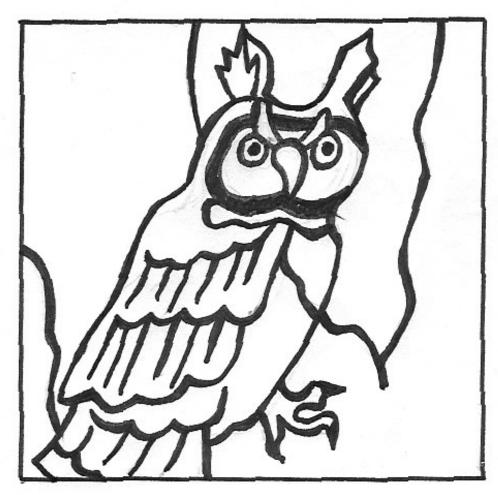


Koi Fish



The Koi Fish is a type of carp and is bred to have its beautiful bright colors, which can be black, red, orange, cream, and white. There is a legend that says if a carp succeeds in climbing the rapids of China's Yellow River, it will turn into a dragon! This fish's energy and determination make it a symbol for overcoming life's obstacles and achieving success.





Great Horned Owl



The Great Horned Owl is the largest of the five owls found in Florida. Its 'horns" are actually feather tufts. With excellent night vision thanks to their large eyes, they are fierce nocturnal predators. They can take down large prey like ospreys, falcons, and other owls using the crushing strength of their talons. They eat smaller prey too, like frogs, scorpions, and rodents.

