

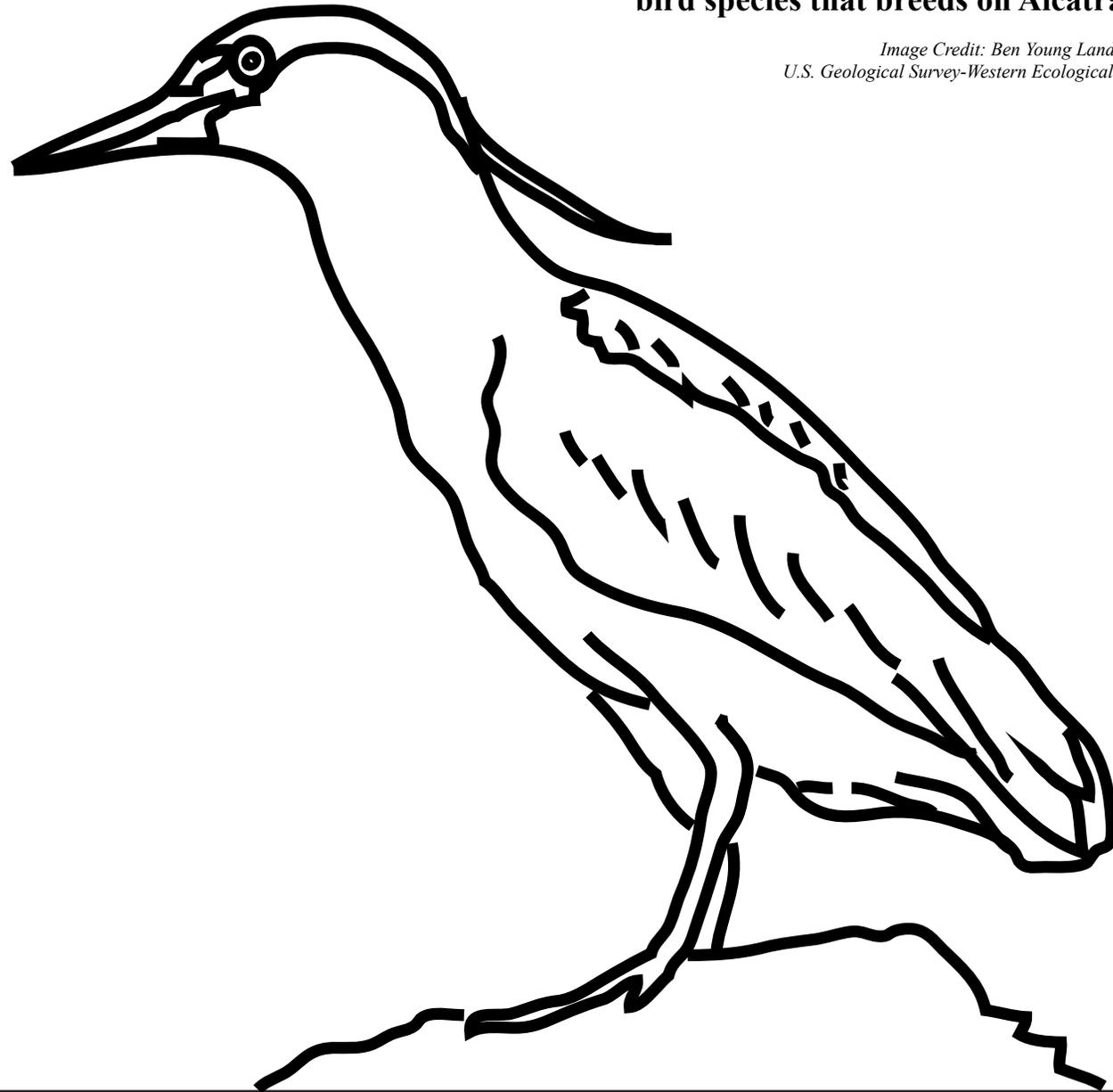
A USGS field biologist displays a recently marked Lesser Snow Goose.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON

(Nycticorax nycticorax)

This secretive, twilight hunter of fish, snakes and other animals can be found on five continents, and it is one of several bird species that breeds on Alcatraz Island.

*Image Credit: Ben Young Landis/Roger Hothem
U.S. Geological Survey-Western Ecological Research Center*



BRANDT'S CORMORANT

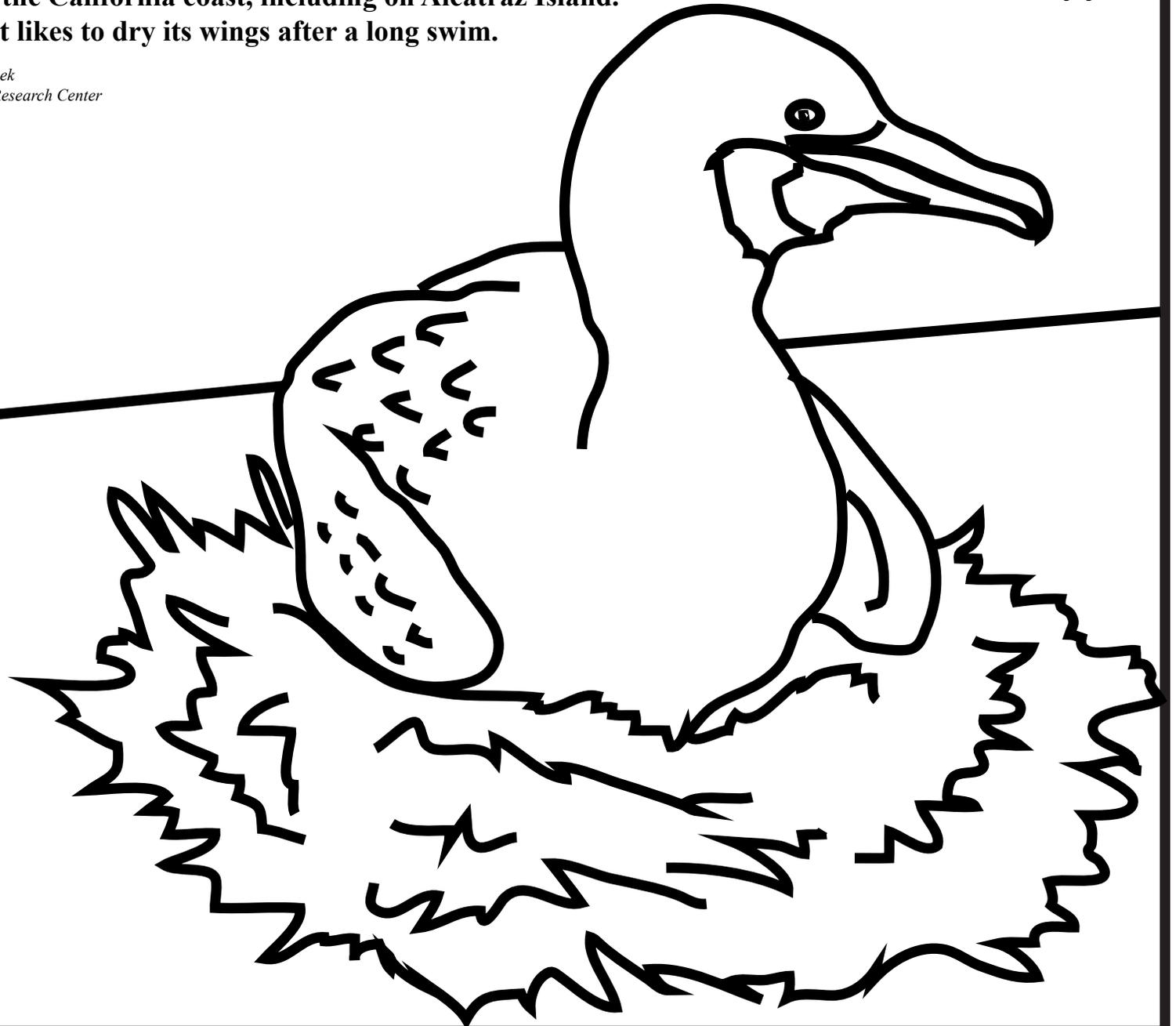
(Phalacrocorax penicillatus)

This seabird nests along the California coast, including on Alcatraz Island.

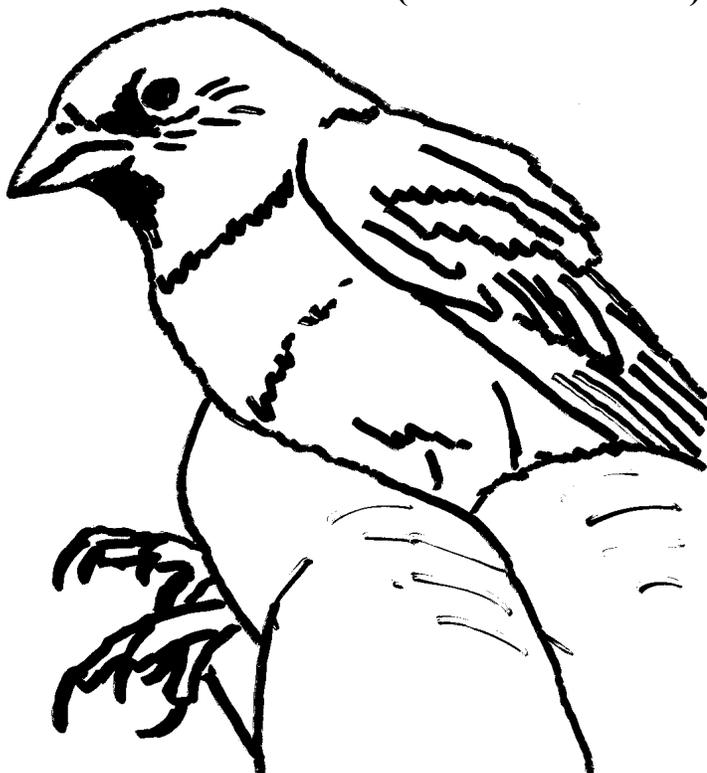
Like other cormorants, it likes to dry its wings after a long swim.

Image Credit: Ben Young Landis/Tom Suchanek

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LAZULI BUNTING
(*Passerina amoena*)



WESTERN TANAGER
(*Piranga ludoviciana*)



WILSON'S WARBLER
(*Cardellina pusilla*)



TOWNSEND'S WARBLER
(*Setophaga townsendi*)



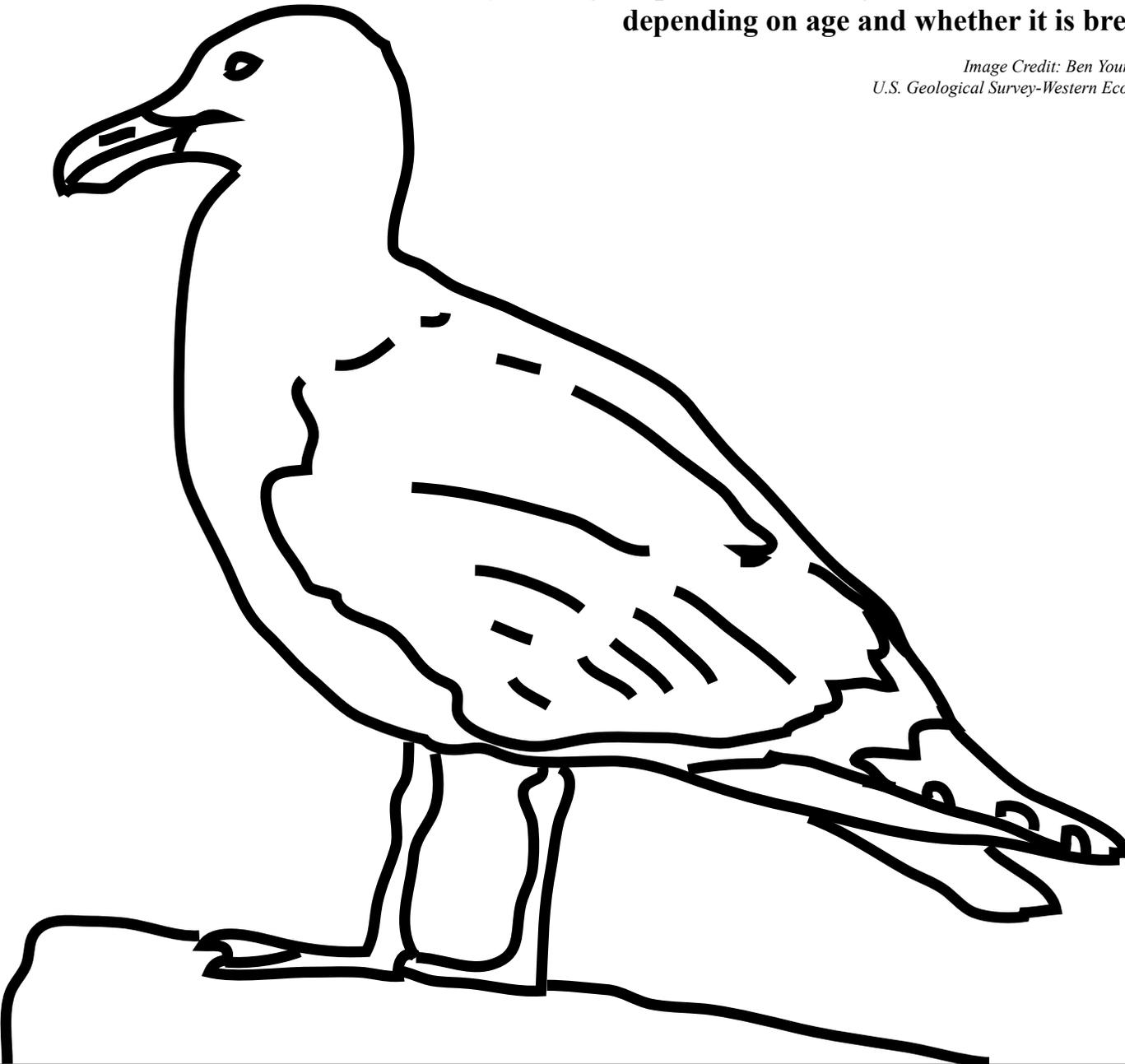
**USGS surveys have found that many colorful songbird species use
Cabrillo National Monument as a stop along their annual migration.**

*Image Credit: Ben Young Landis/Suellen Lynn
U.S. Geological Survey-Western Ecological Research Center*

WESTERN GULL
(*Larus occidentalis*)

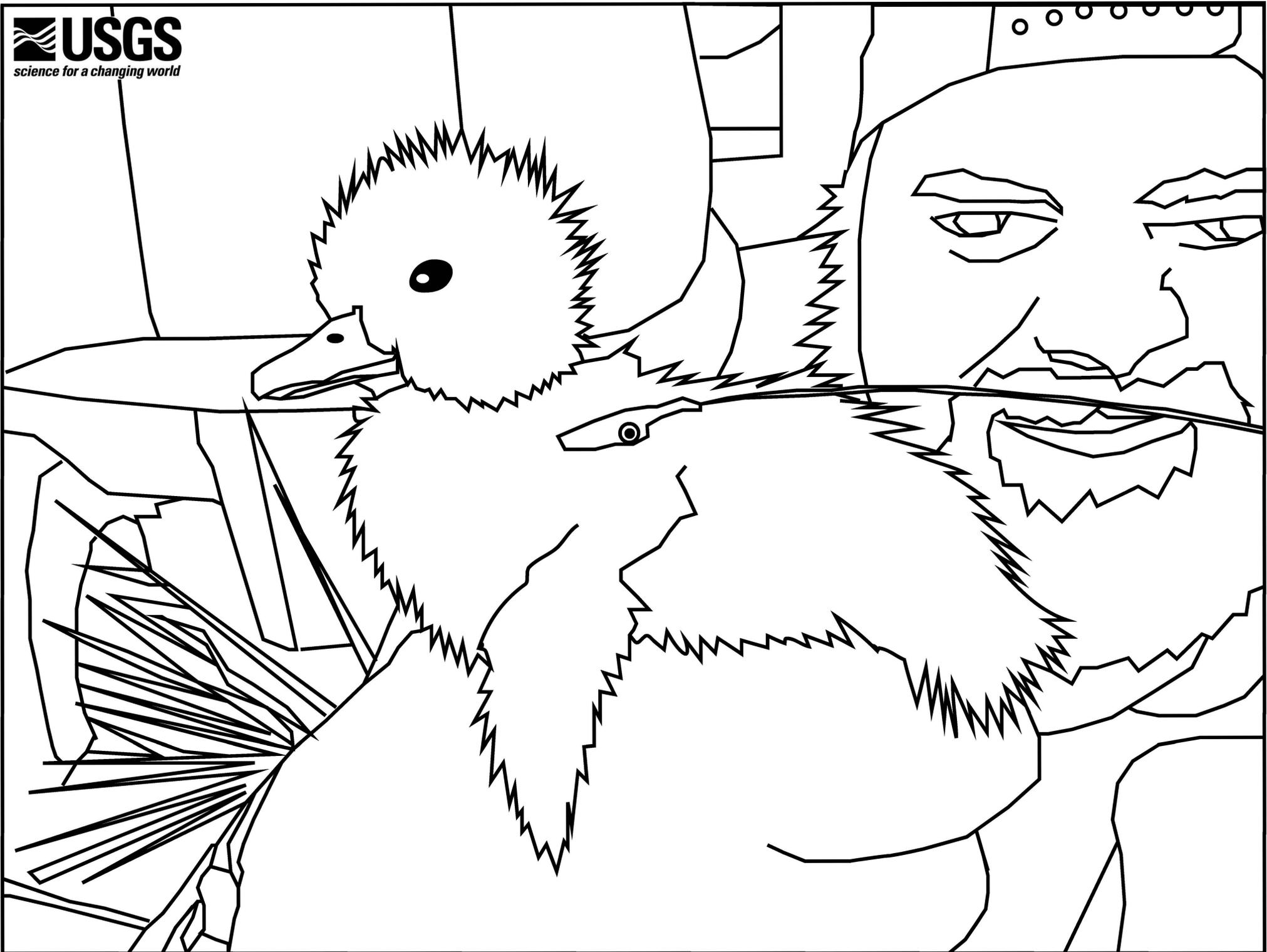
Like many other gull species, western gulls have different color patterns depending on age and whether it is breeding season.

*Image Credit: Ben Young Landis/Tom Suchanek
U.S. Geological Survey-Western Ecological Research Center*





A Clark's Nutcracker searches for seeds at the top of a whitebark pine tree.

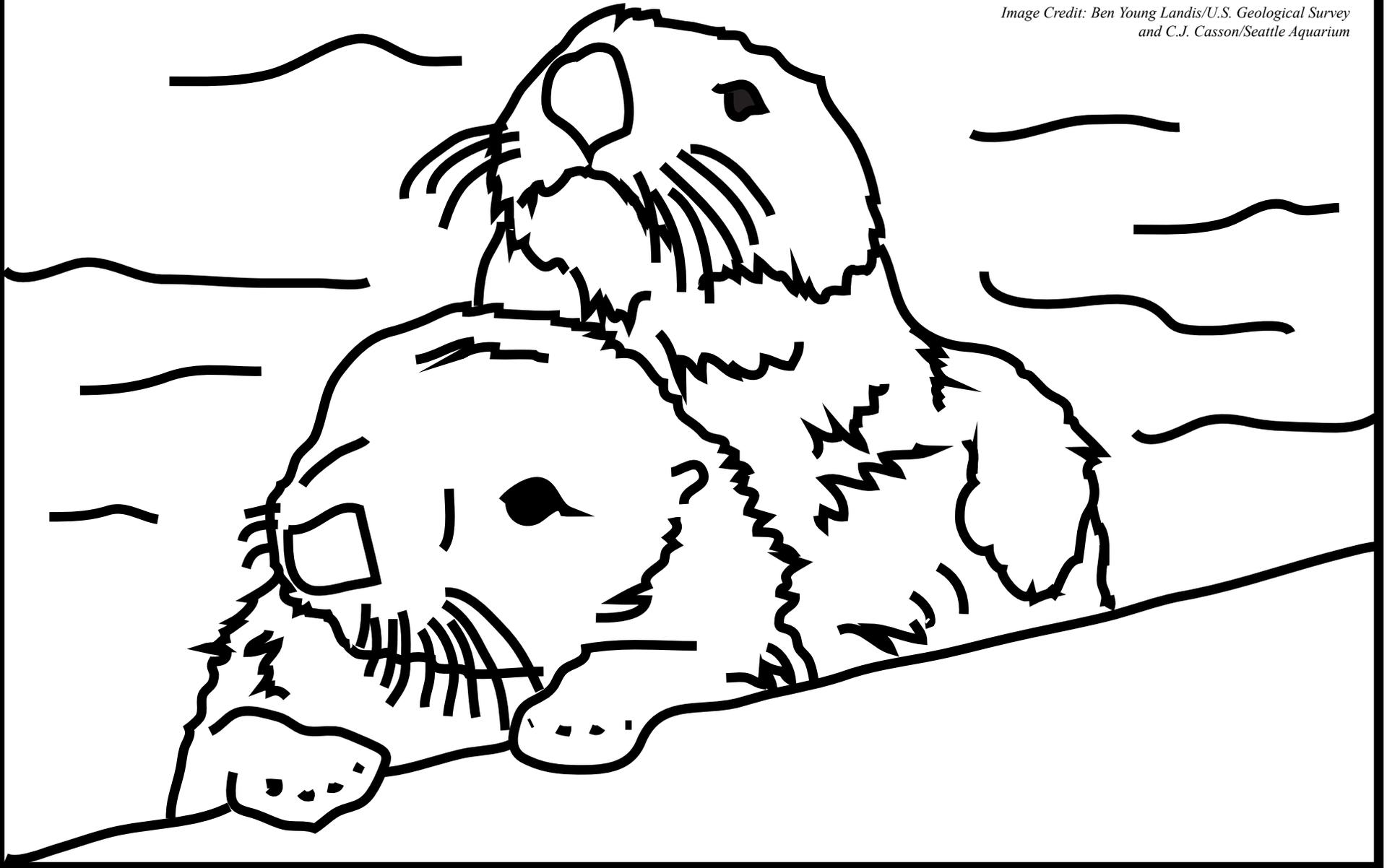


A USGS scientist holds a mallard duckling with a transmitter attached.

NORTHERN SEA OTTER
(Enhydra lutris kenyoni)

USGS scientists are studying sea otters from Alaska to California, because sea otter health can offer clues to the health of our Pacific coastal waters.

*Image Credit: Ben Young Landis/U.S. Geological Survey
and C.J. Casson/Seattle Aquarium*

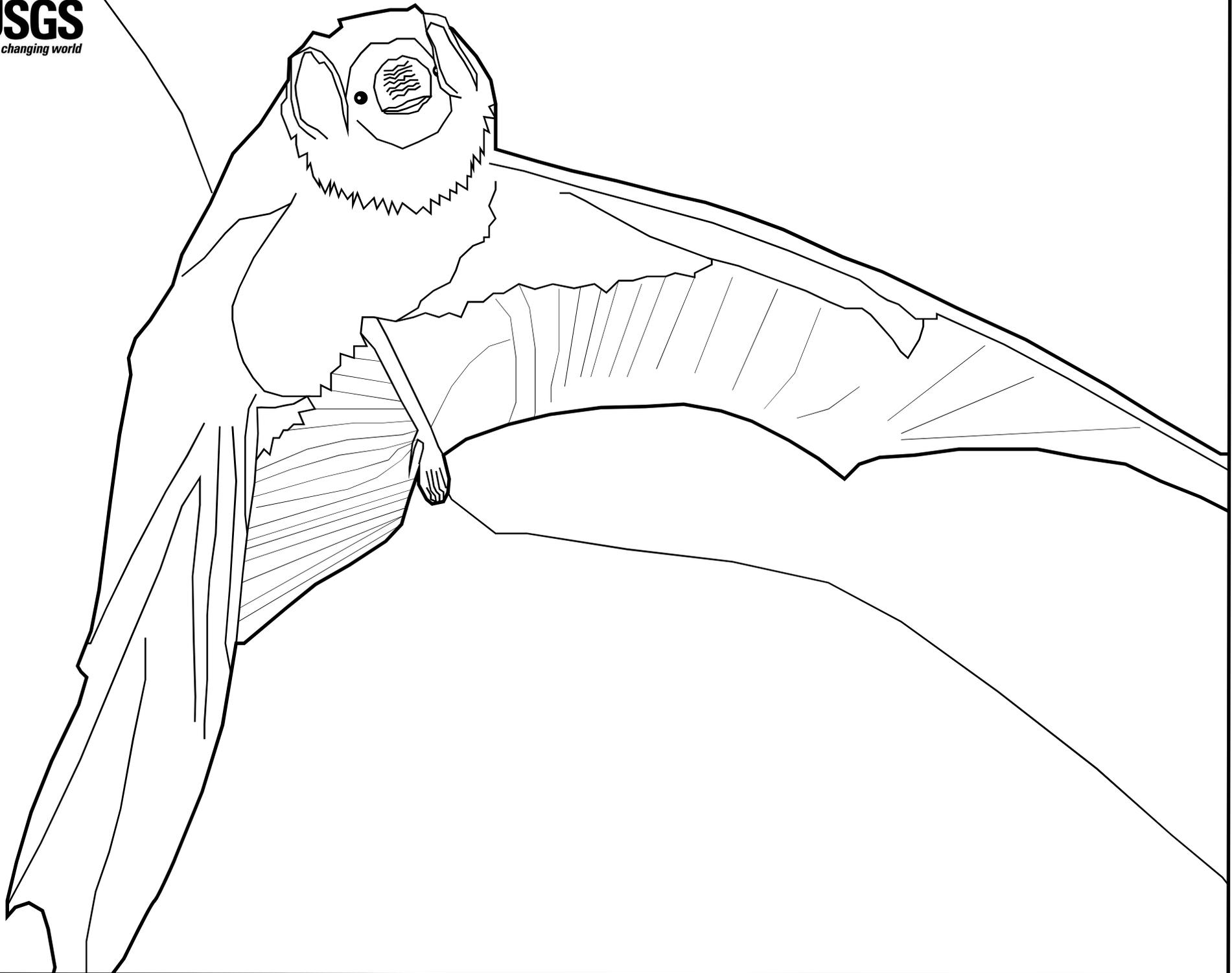


SOUTHERN or CALIFORNIA SEA OTTER
(Enhydra lutris nereis)

Sea otters depend on the nearshore ecosystem for their survival, using their big hind flippers to swim and hunt in kelp forests and even securing themselves with kelp fronds during naps.

Image Credit: Ben Young Landis/Joe Tomoleoni/U.S. Geological Survey





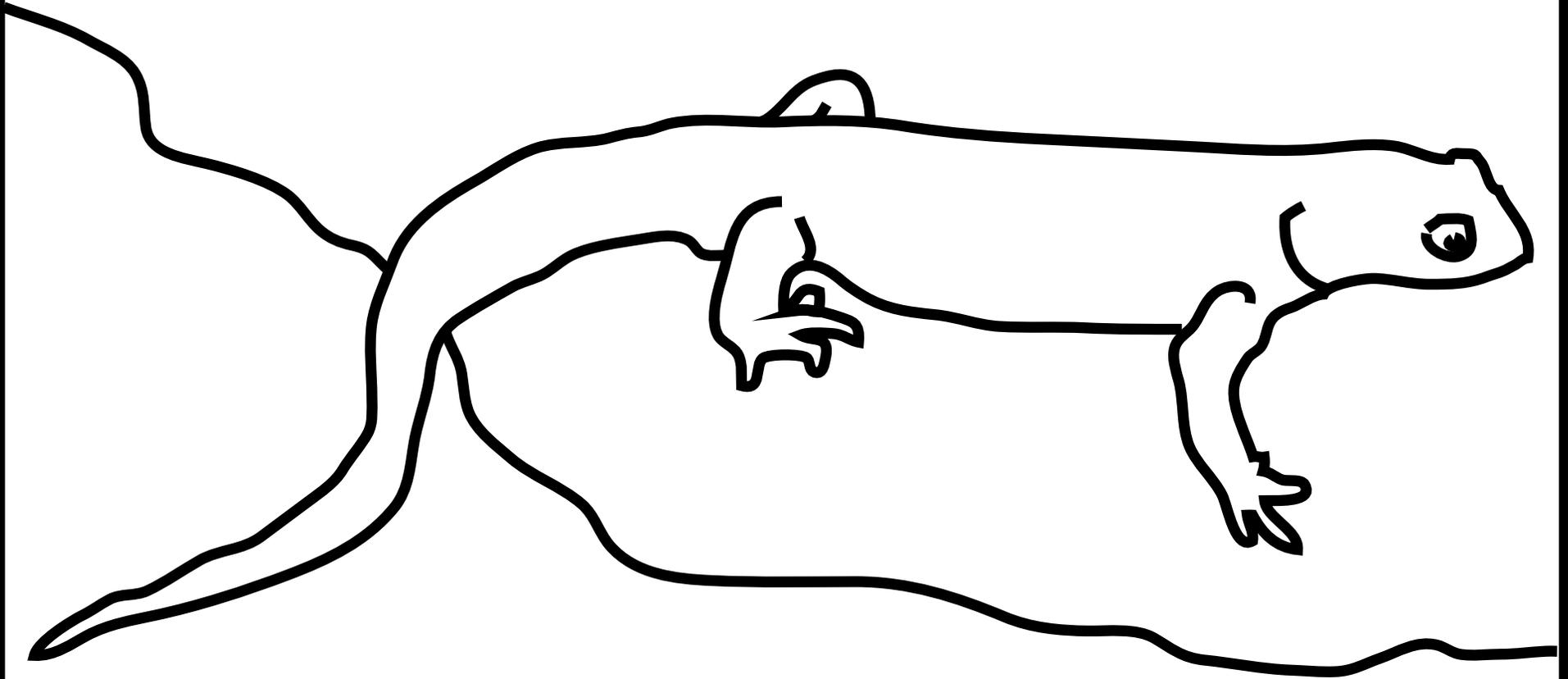
A hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*) in flight.

CALIFORNIA NEWT

(Taricha torosa)

This orange and brown California native is under threat from invasive species that eat its eggs, such as crayfish released from bait shops and classrooms and mosquitofish released for pest control.

*Image Credit: Ben Young Landis/Chris Brown
U.S. Geological Survey-Western Ecological Research Center*





AMERICAN BULLFROG

(Rana catesbeiana)

**These voracious predators were introduced from the Eastern U.S.,
and now they are eating California's native frog species.**

*Image Credit: Ben Young Landis/Chris Brown
U.S. Geological Survey-Western Ecological Research Center*

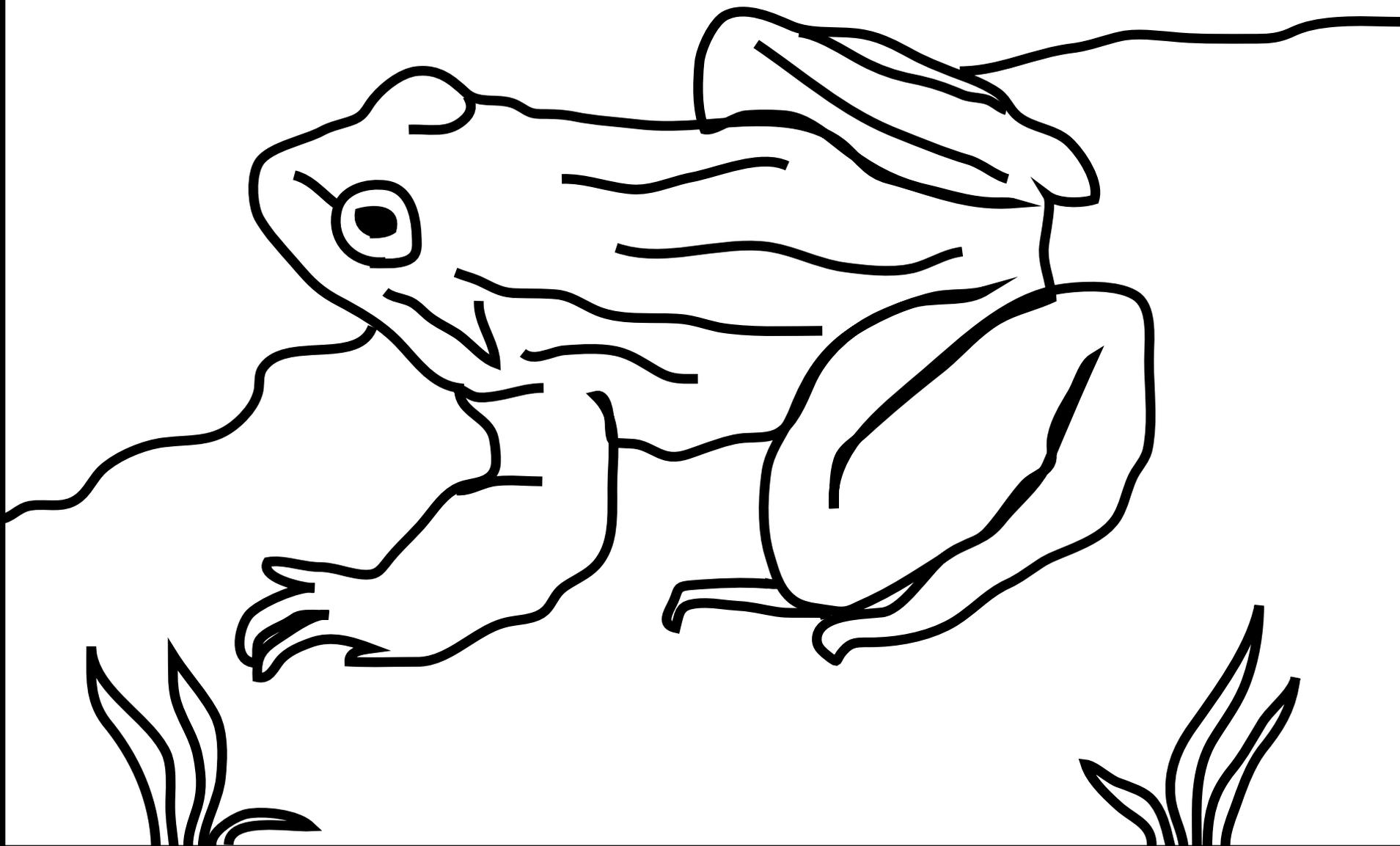


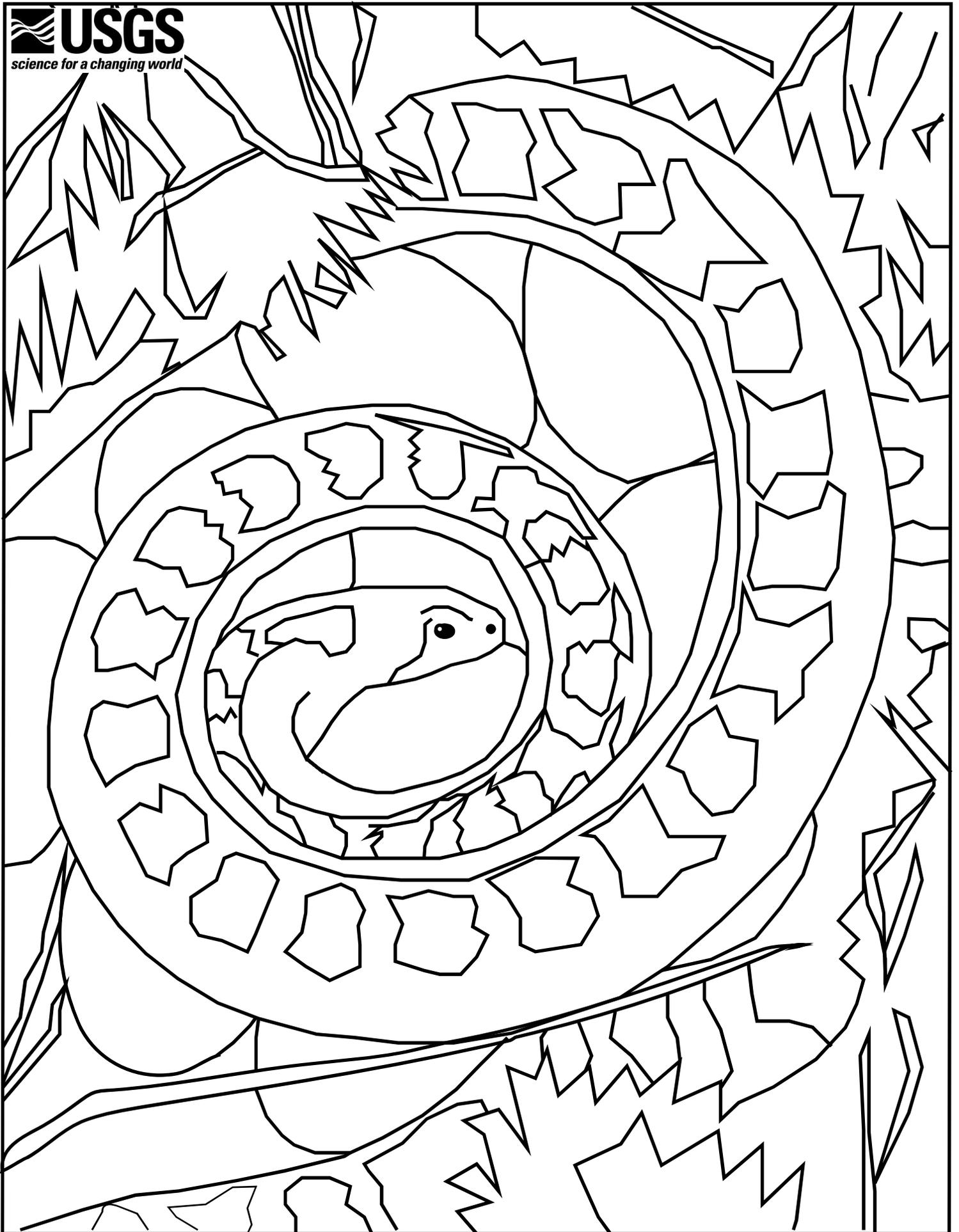
MOUNTAIN YELLOW-LEGGED FROG

(*Rana muscosa*)

Also known as the Sierra Madre yellow-legged frog,
government and zoo scientists are studying this endangered species.

*Image Credit: Ben Young Landis/Adam Backlin
U.S. Geological Survey-Western Ecological Research Center*





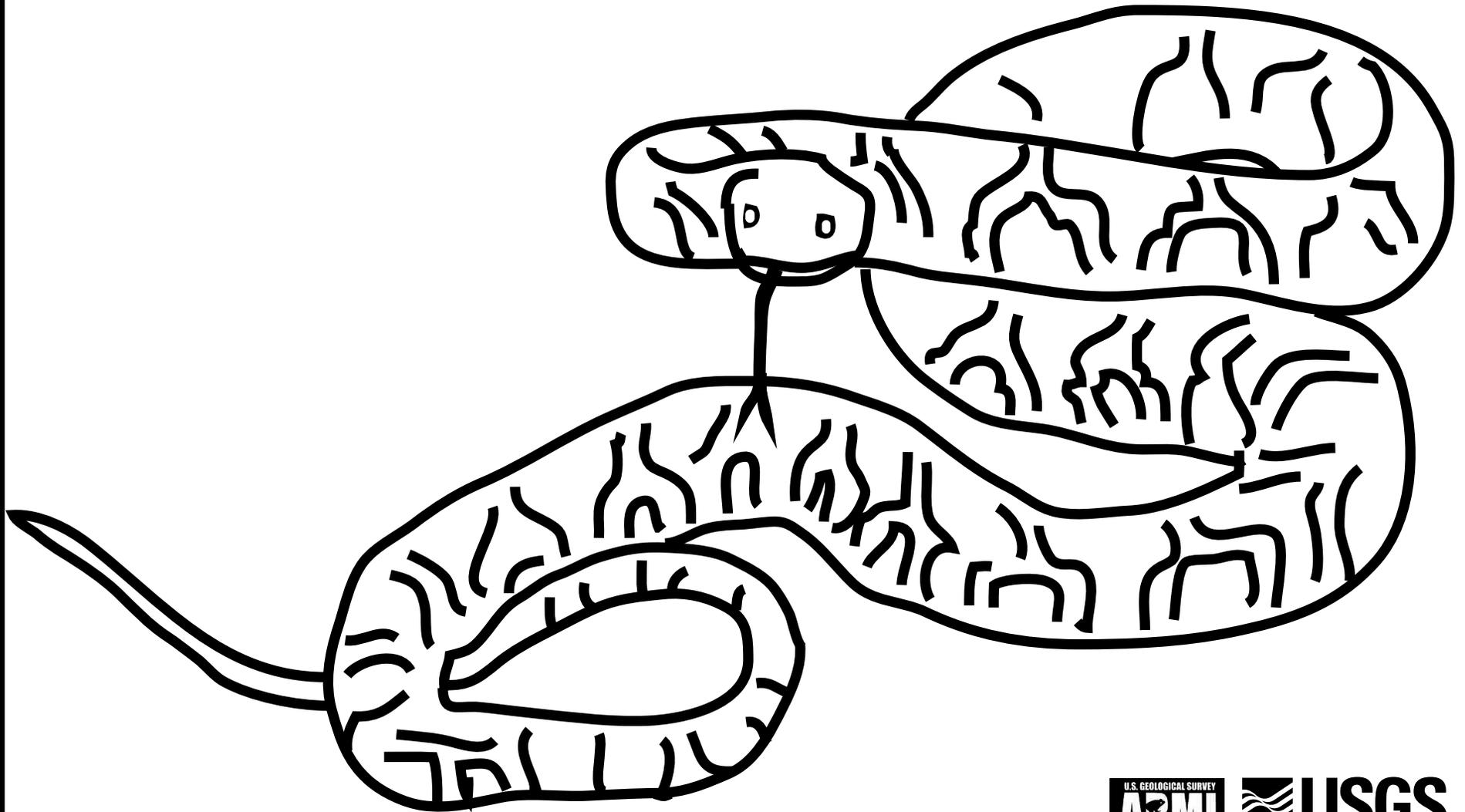
A gopher snake attempts to eat duckling eggs from a nest in Suisun Marsh.

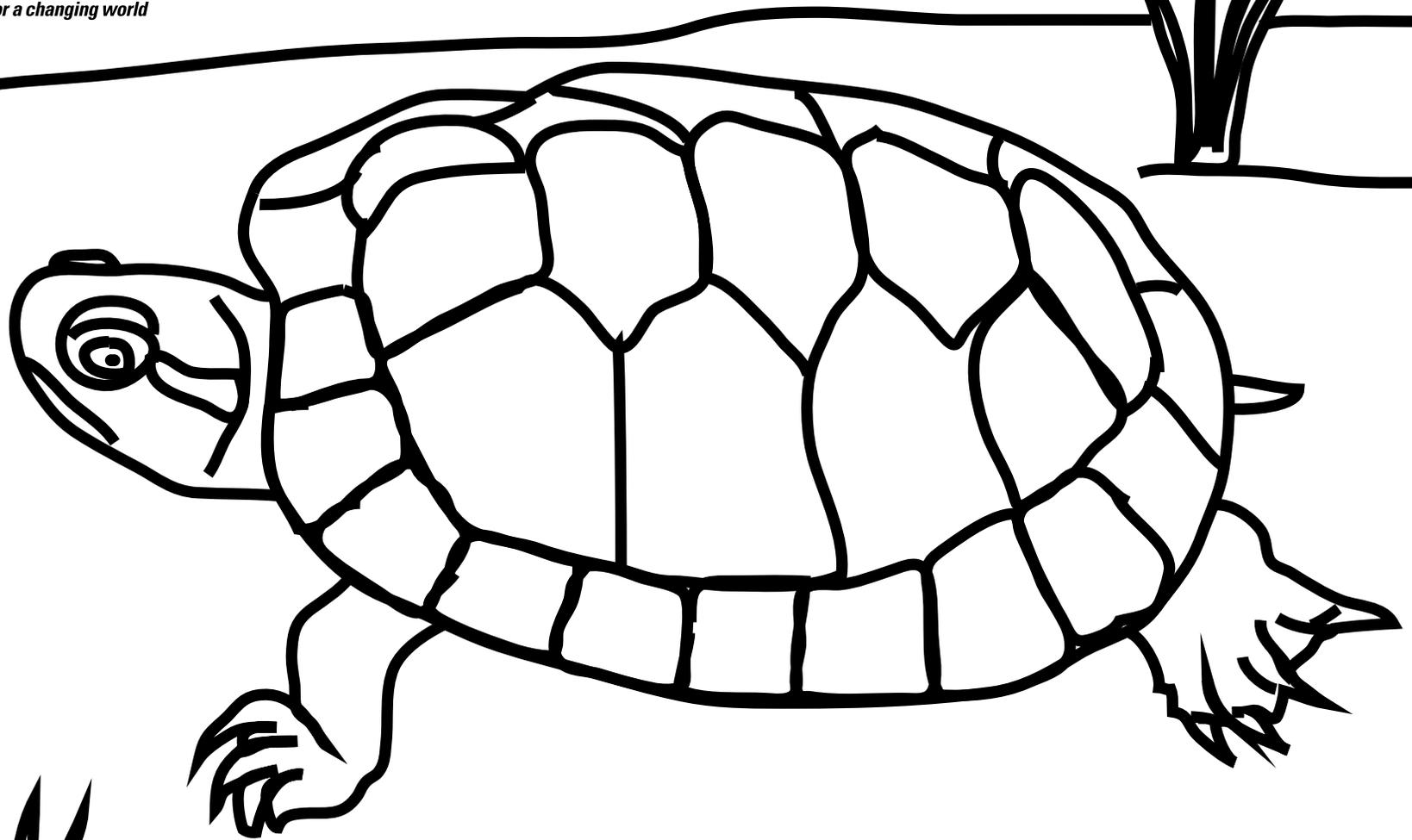
Banded Water Snake

(Nerodia fasciata)

Imported from the Eastern and Central U.S. as pets, these nonvenomous snakes now prey on California's native fish and amphibians. When handled by humans, they often defecate and emit foul-smelling musk.

*Image Credit: Ben Young Landis/Chris Brown
U.S. Geological Survey-Western Ecological Research Center*

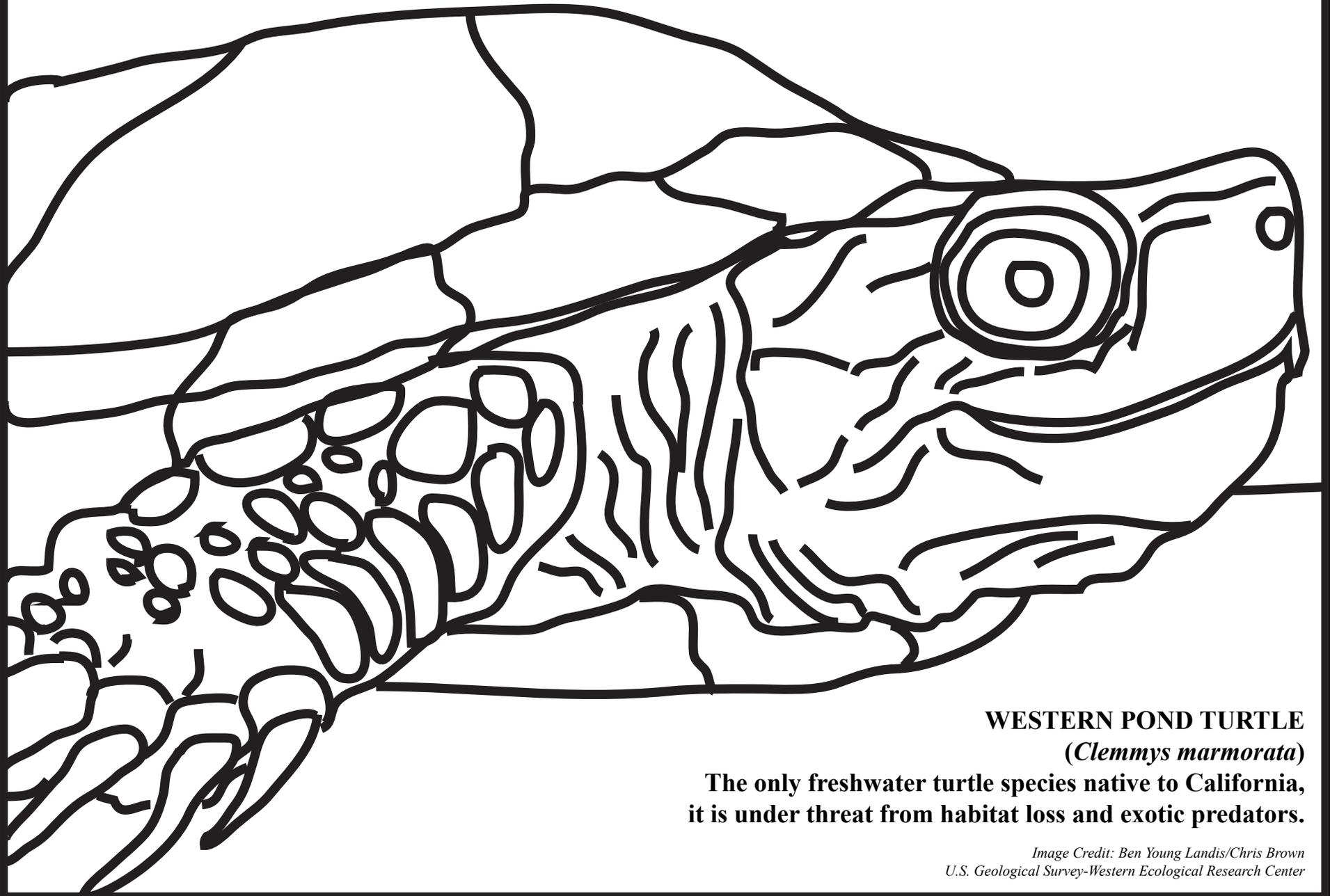




RED-EARED SLIDER
(Trachemys scripta elegans)

**People sometimes release this popular pet turtle into the wild,
but this species can bully California's native pond turtles for food and shelter.**

*Image Credit: Ben Young Landis/Chris Brown
U.S. Geological Survey-Western Ecological Research Center*



WESTERN POND TURTLE
(Clemmys marmorata)

**The only freshwater turtle species native to California,
it is under threat from habitat loss and exotic predators.**

*Image Credit: Ben Young Landis/Chris Brown
U.S. Geological Survey-Western Ecological Research Center*



The rare Tecate cypress has cones that open in response to fire.