

MAGNIFICENT MIGRATIONS: MURAL ACTIVITY



NOTES

AGE GROUP:

All Ages, Family
Multigenerational

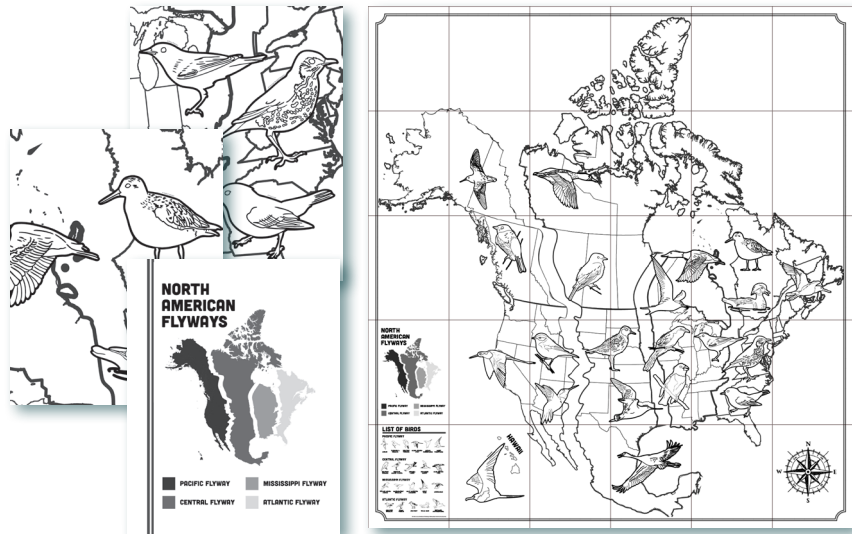
TYPE OF PROGRAM:

Passive

ACTIVITY TIME:

Varying times (choose your own)

Participants learn about birds' migratory flight paths across North America by coloring in this mural. This is a passive program that can be set up to engage patrons who visit your library, or it can be turned into a facilitated program.



WHAT'S THE POINT?

- This activity introduces participants to the four main migratory flyways of North America in a hands-on, creative way. Coloring the mural creates an accessible entry point to discuss bird migration.
- Each flyway passes through different regions of the United States; patrons can discover which birds pass through their own area or areas they recognize. This encourages curiosity and can be paired with other activities/resources like the Bird ID Cards and Scavenger Hunt!
- A mural becomes a visual centerpiece that can draw back patrons over time. It easily pairs with storytimes, talks by subject matter experts, or themed book displays.

MATERIALS:

- Flat, wall space or low traffic floor area of at least 4.25ft x 5ft (pick a space with room to place tables for coloring stations)
- Printer
- 2 copies of the [printed flyway mural](#) (The mural is 30 pages)
- Double-sided tape (for wall) or scotch tape (for free moving piece)
- Crayons, markers, and/or color pencils

PREPARATION:

For passive program:

- Measure out the 4.25ft x 5ft space needed for the printed mural. This can be a wall or open floor area with low foot traffic.
- Print out the 2 copies of the mural file.
 - Ensure your printer settings are set to “Actual Size” to avoid any issues when placing together. Avoid “Fit to Page” or scaling options.
 - One copy will serve as your master mural to tape together while the other serves as pieces for patrons to color.
- Tape together the first copy to form the master mural. You can either mount this copy to a wall or place it on the floor depending on your library space.
- Set up a small table nearby with:
 - Coloring supplies (crayons, markers, colored pencils)
 - Individual mural pieces (your second printed copy)
 - Only one printed copy should be available at a time until it’s used up. This ensures that one patron doesn’t cover another patron’s piece with a duplicate.
 - Tape for patrons to attach finished pieces to your master mural.

ACTIVITY:

- STEP 1:** Invite patrons to choose a piece of the mural to color at the table and tape up to the mural display.
- STEP 2:** Take periodic photos of the mural as patrons fill it in! Share on your social media outlets or perhaps a bulletin board within the library.

EXTENSIONS:

- What if patrons want to color but are short on time? Offer them a page to take home to color, and they can come back to tape their piece up!
- Encourage patrons to draw their own bird species and decide which flyway it would use. The bird could be either real or imagined. This can be a great pairing with Amazing Adaptations: Wings and Feet, Eyes on the Skies, and Bewildering Beaks!
- Have patrons think of what each bird sees through their migration route. Do they see forests, grasslands, deserts, or the ocean? Ask patrons to write down the journey from the perspective of the migrating bird. Page 3 has a reference sheet of each flyway and their landscape features.

MIGRATION FLYWAY REFERENCE SHEET

ATLANTIC FLYWAY

- **Landscape Features:** Muddy shorelines, tall trees, and wide, open water. Birds see the ocean, sandy beaches, and dense forests.
- **Habitats:**
 - Forests
 - Grasslands
 - Oceans & Beaches

MISSISSIPPI FLYWAY

- **Landscape Features:** Flooded fields, rivers, tall trees, and farmlands. Birds see open waters and woodlands, with agricultural lands.
- **Habitats:**
 - Forests
 - Grasslands and Farmland
 - Wetlands

CENTRAL FLYWAY

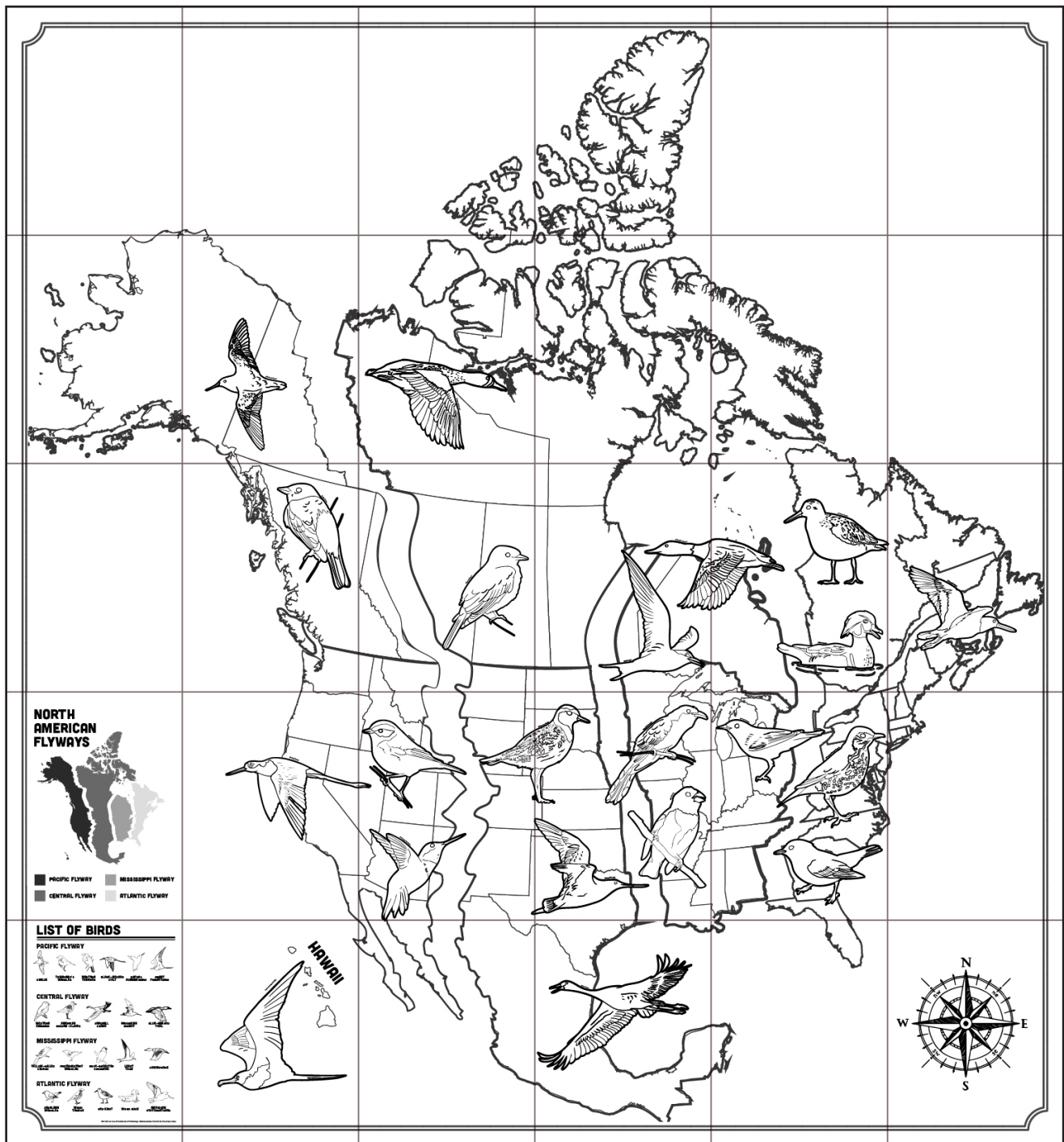
- **Landscape Features:** Expansive grasslands, large lakes, and dry desert plains. Birds fly over flat fields, and water-filled wetlands.
- **Habitats:**
 - Grasslands and Prairies
 - Wetlands and Lakes
 - Deserts

PACIFIC FLYWAY

- **Landscape Features:** Rugged shorelines, vast open ocean, towering mountain peaks, and dry deserts. Birds see endless water, rocky coastlines, and large desert landscapes.
- **Habitats:**
 - Oceans and Coastal Wetlands
 - Deserts
 - Mountain Ranges
 - Forests

COMPLETED MURAL EXAMPLE

The pages will be printed sequentially for easy set up.



While this map highlights the major migratory Flyways for many bird species, the birds shown also migrate through other Flyways. Migration routes can vary by species and individual bird patterns. Check out the factsheet on the following page to see what other Flyways they take!

BIRDS AND FLYWAYS FACTSHEET

ATLANTIC FLYWAY

- **Red Knot:** Migratory population along the Atlantic Flyway, but there's a different population found along the Pacific Flyway.
- **American Oystercatcher:** Migratory in the northeast, but year-round along most of the U.S. Atlantic Coast.
- **Wood Duck:** Uses the Atlantic Flyway but is more common along the Mississippi and Central Flyways.
- **Cerulean Warbler:** Migrates along the border of the Atlantic and Mississippi Flyways.
- **Wood Thrush:** Common migrant in the Atlantic and Mississippi Flyways.

MISSISSIPPI FLYWAY

- **Canvasback:** Migrates along the Mississippi Flyway but is more common in the Central Flyway.
- **Least Tern:** Migrates through the Mississippi Flyway but is more common along the Atlantic Flyway.
- **Prothonotary Warbler:** Migrates through the Mississippi Flyway but is also found in the Atlantic Flyway.
- **Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** Migrates through the Mississippi Flyway but is also seen along the Atlantic and Central Flyways.
- **Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** Migrates along the Mississippi Flyway but is also found in the Atlantic Flyway.

CENTRAL FLYWAY

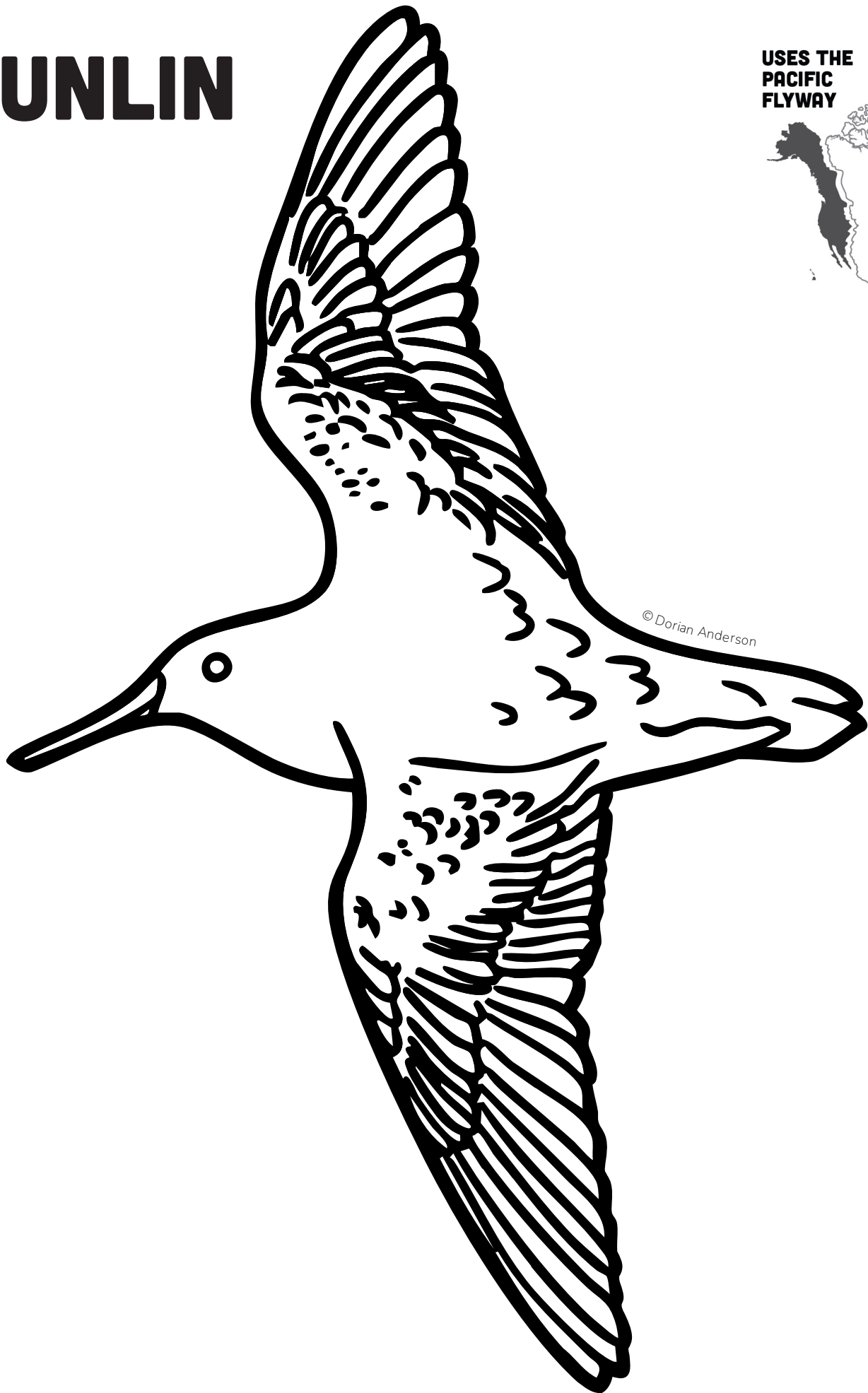
- **Sandhill Crane:** Migrates along the Central Flyway.
- **Hudsonian Godwit:** Migrates through the Central Flyway.
- **Blue-winged Teal:** Migrates along the Central Flyway but is also seen along the Mississippi Flyway.
- **Western Kingbird:** Migrates through the Central Flyway but is also found along the Pacific Flyway.
- **American Golden-Plover:** Migrates along the Central Flyway.

PACIFIC FLYWAY

- **Rufous Hummingbird:** Migrates along the Pacific Flyway.
- **Townsend's Warbler:** Migrates through the Pacific Flyway.
- **Black-necked Stilt:** Migrates through the Pacific Flyway but is also found in the Central and Mississippi Flyways.
- **Western Tanager:** Migrates along the Pacific Flyway.
- **Dunlin:** Migrates along the Pacific Flyway but also seen in other Flyways.

DUNLIN

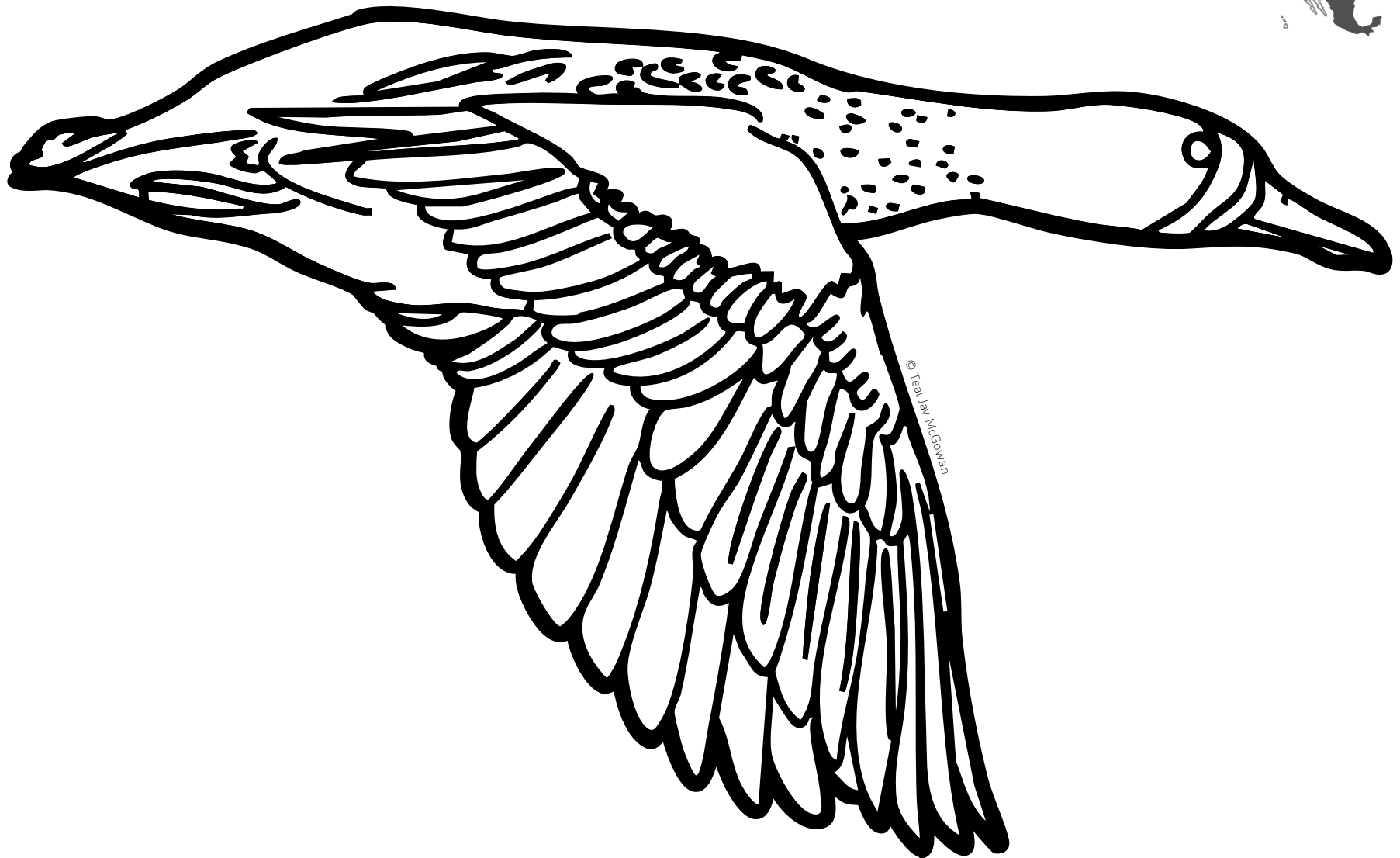
USES THE
PACIFIC
FLYWAY



© Dorian Anderson

BLUE-WINGED TEAL

USES THE
CENTRAL
FLYWAY



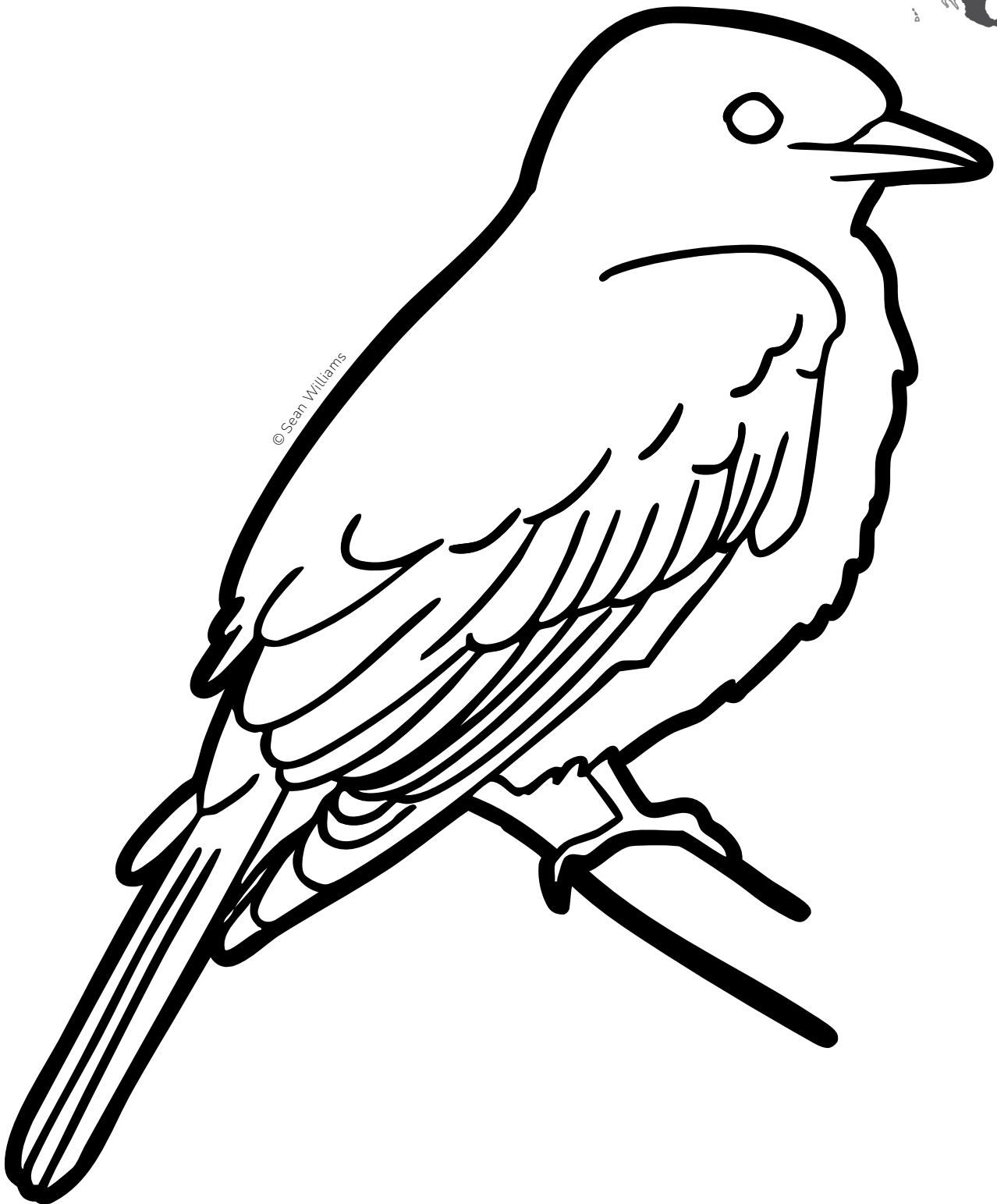
WESTERN TANAGER

USES THE
PACIFIC
FLYWAY



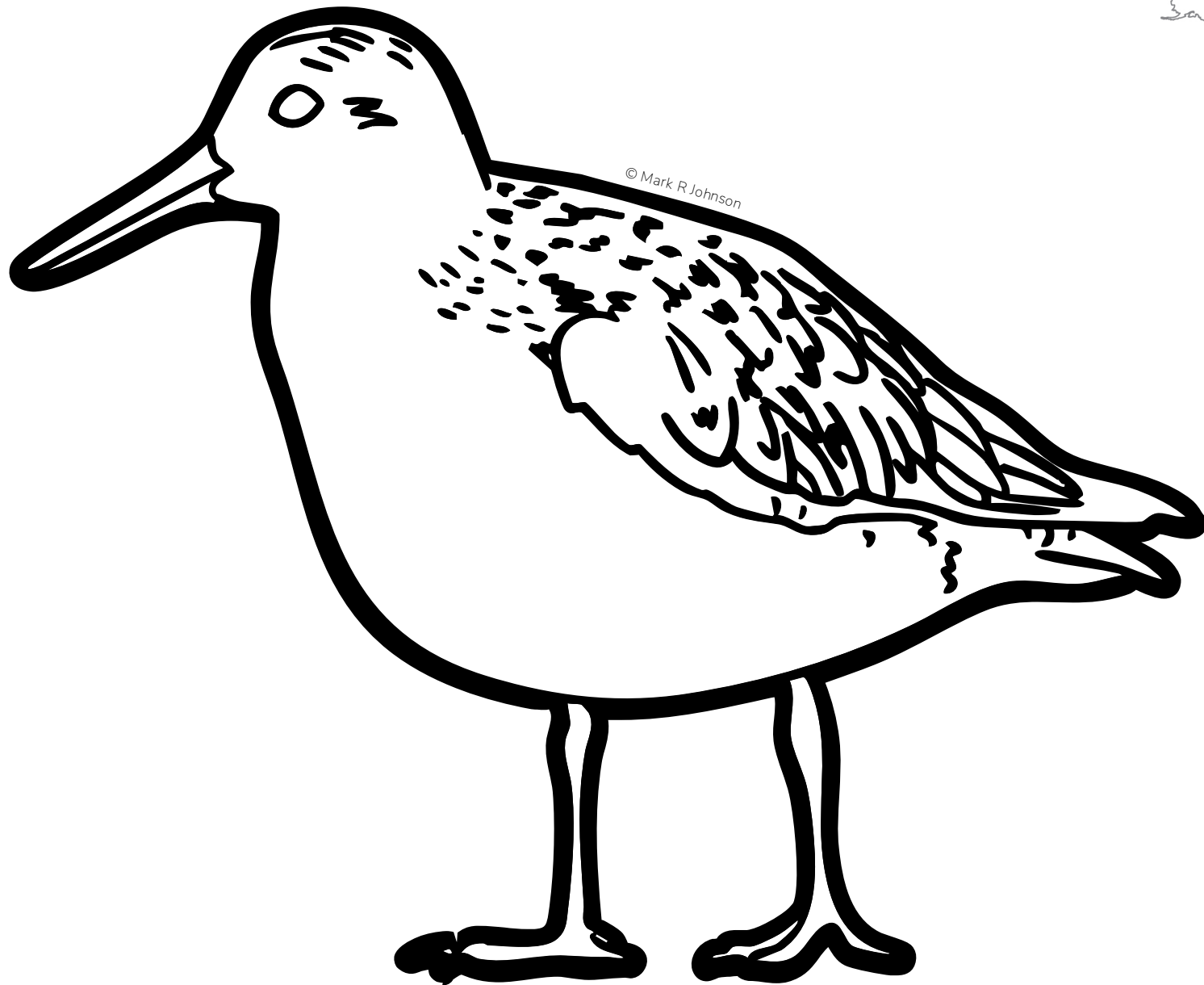
WESTERN KINGBIRD

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CENTRAL
FLYWAY



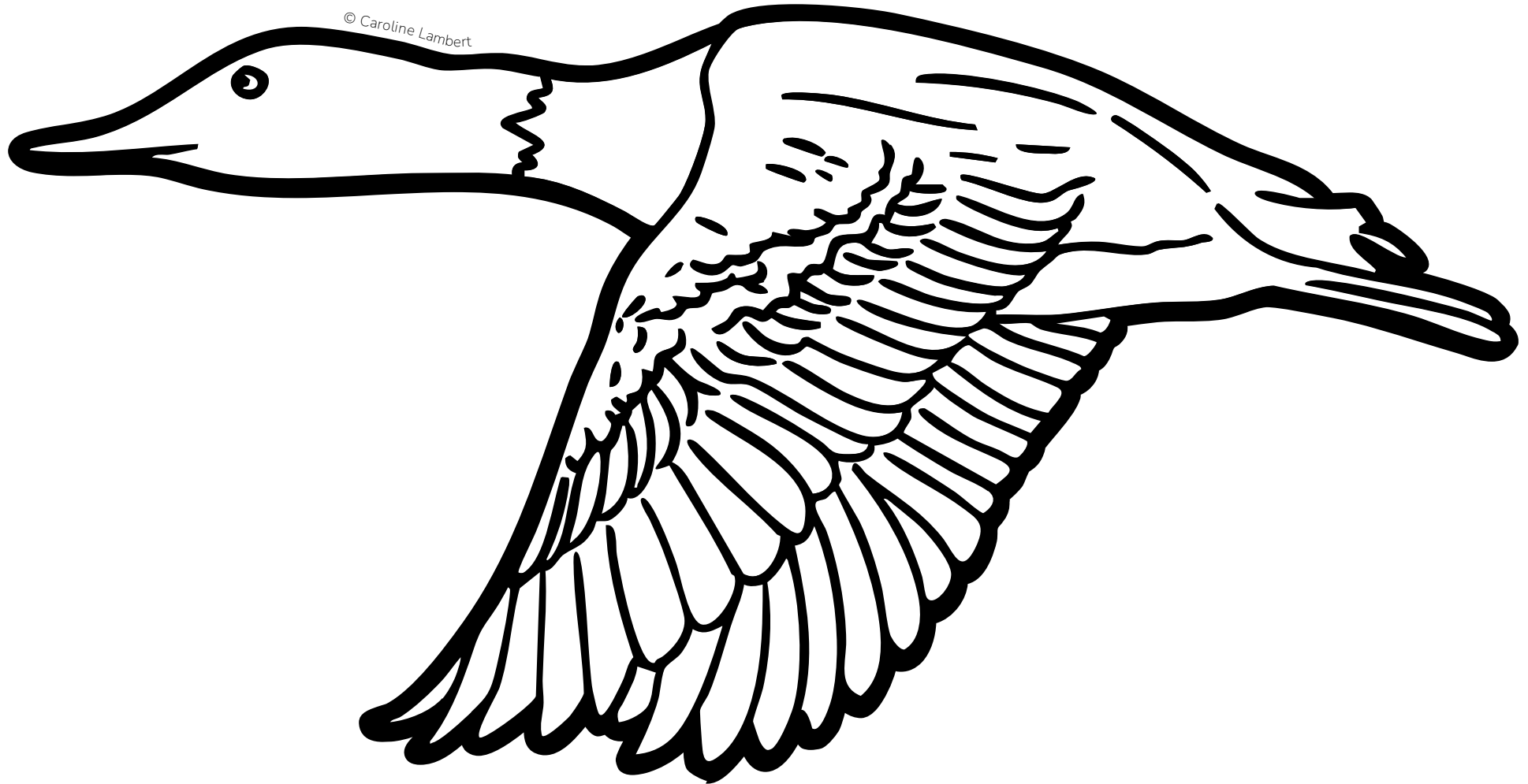
RED KNOT

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ATLANTIC
FLYWAY



CANVASBACK

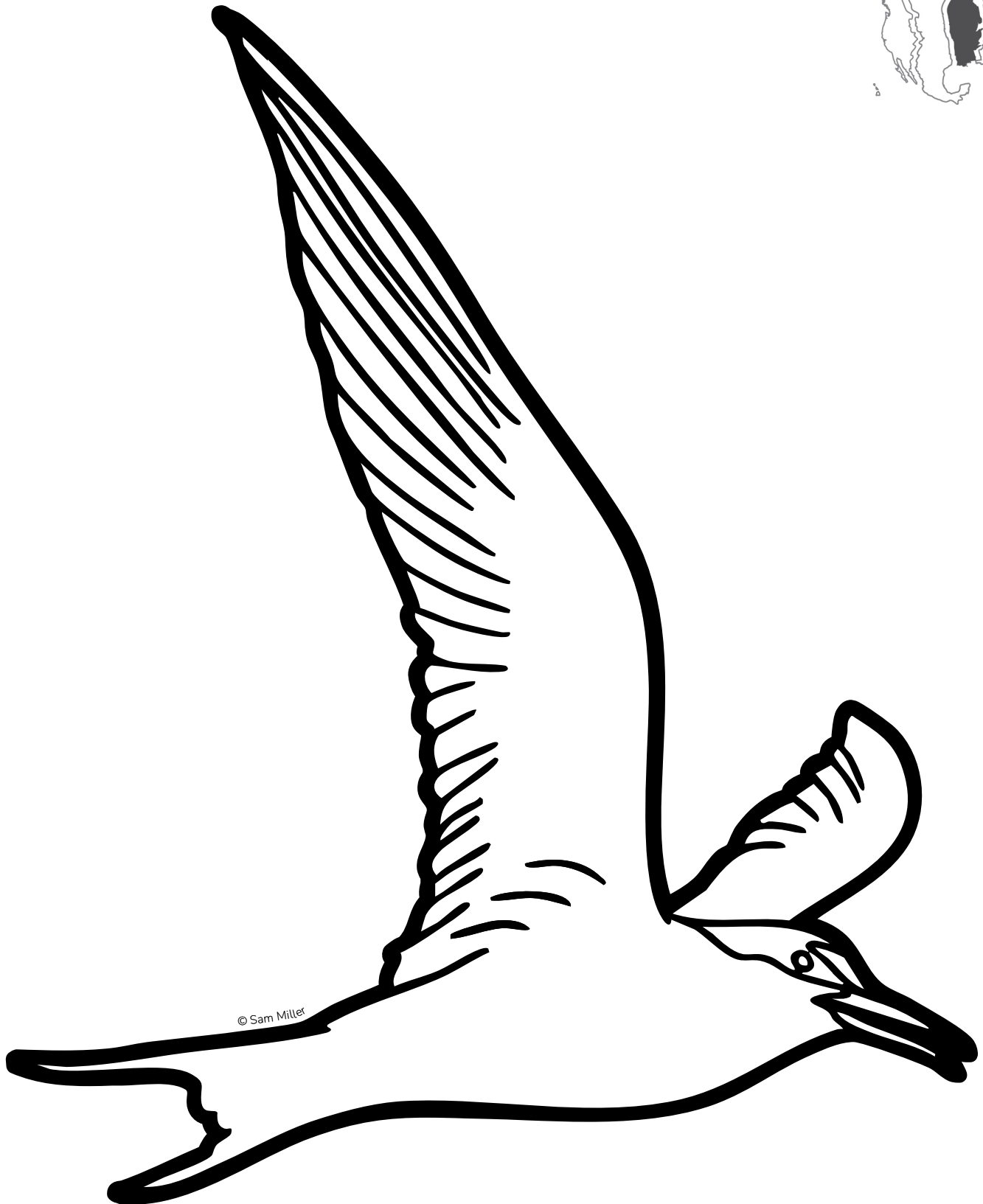
USES THE
MISSISSIPPI
FLYWAY



© Caroline Lambert

LEAST TURN

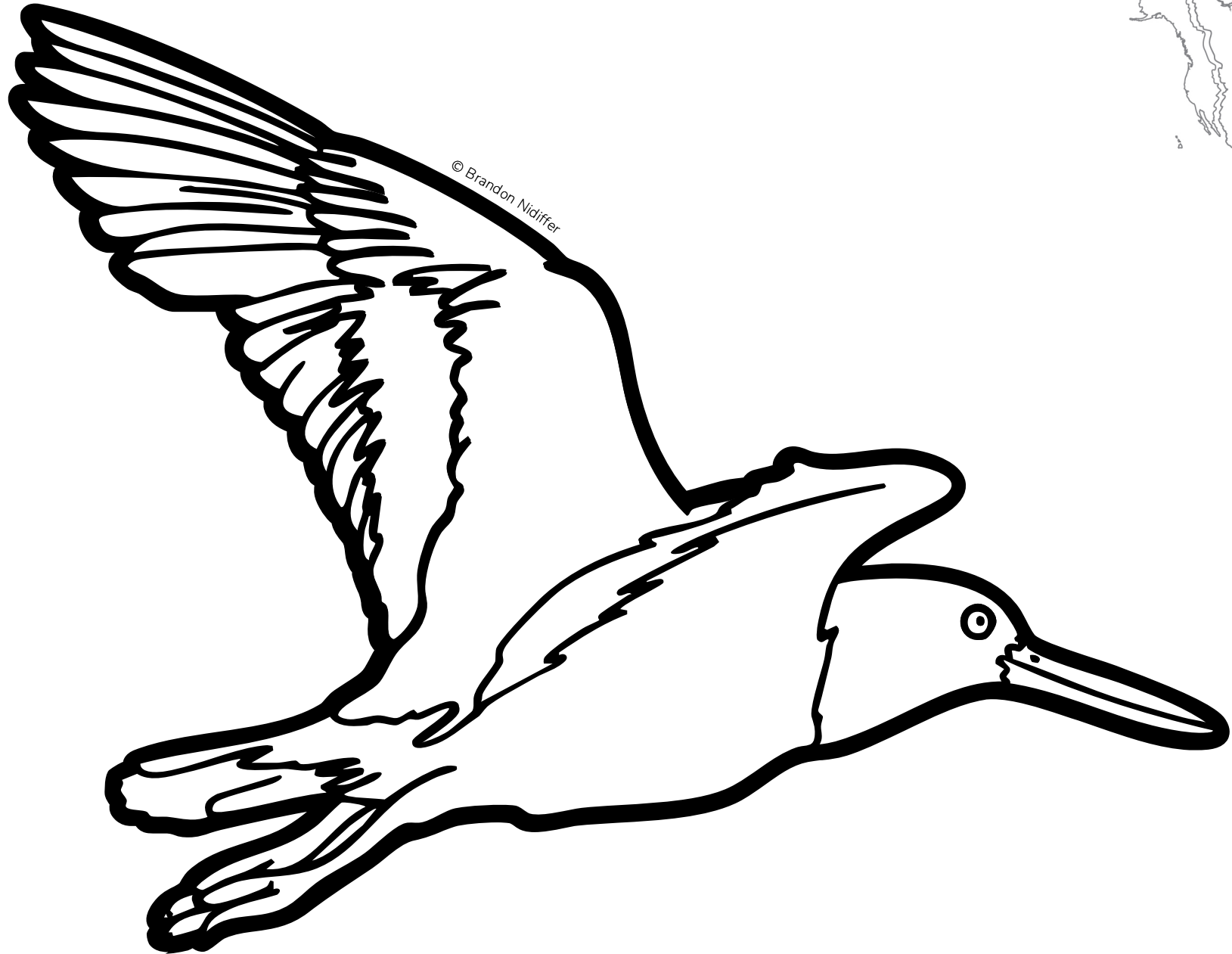
USES THE
MISSISSIPPI
FLYWAY



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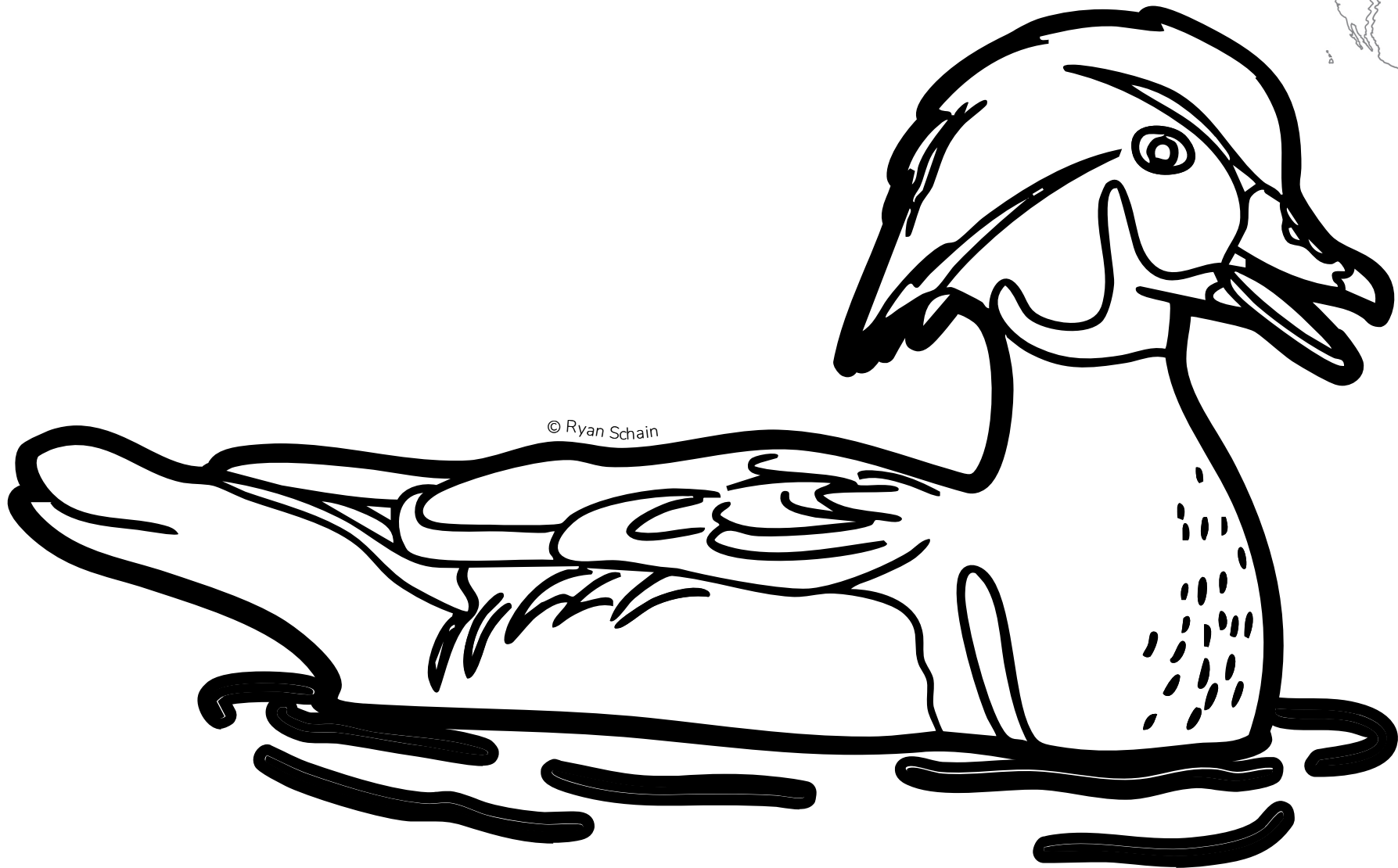
AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER

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ATLANTIC
FLYWAY



WOOD DUCK

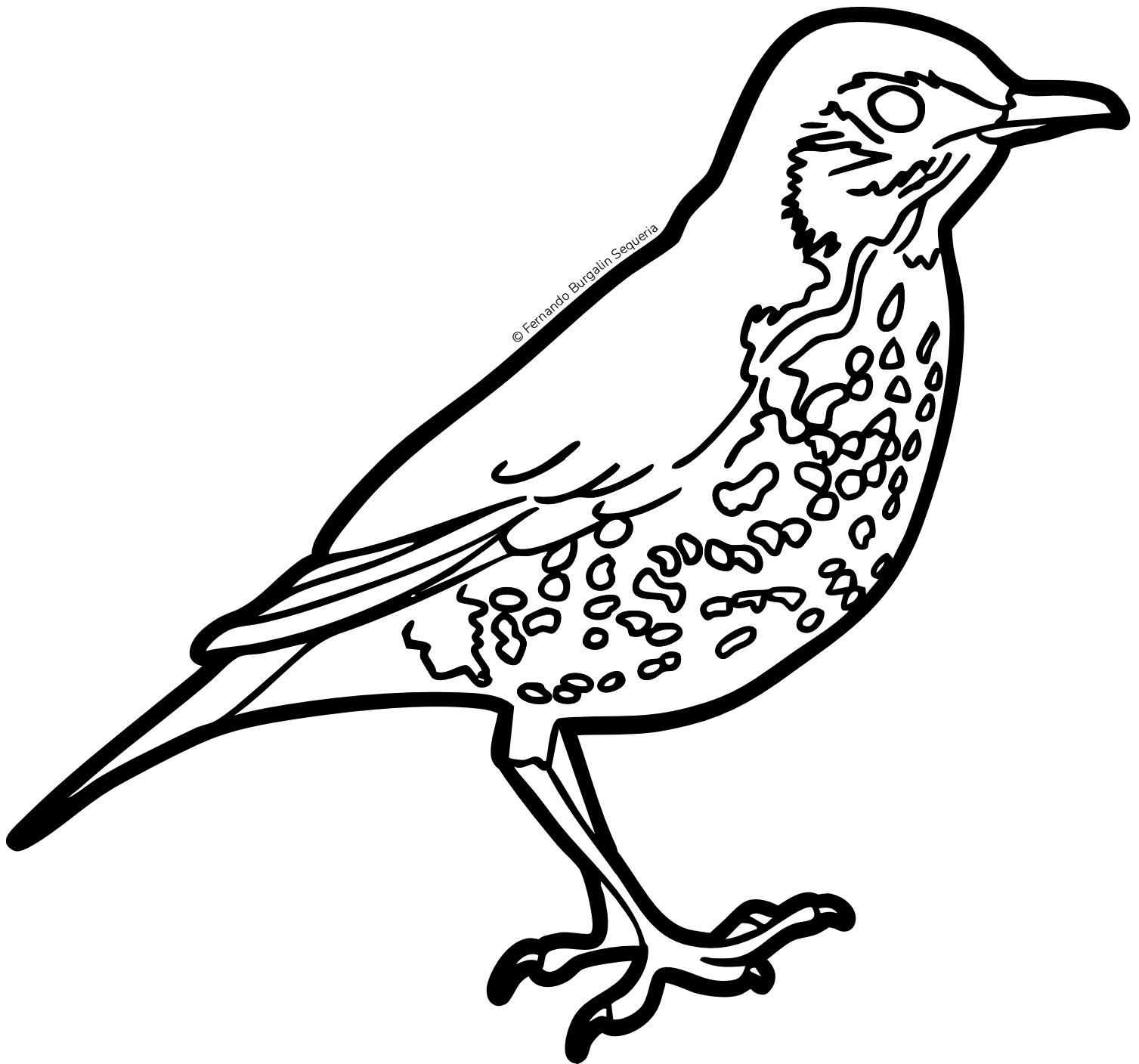
USES THE
ATLANTIC
FLYWAY



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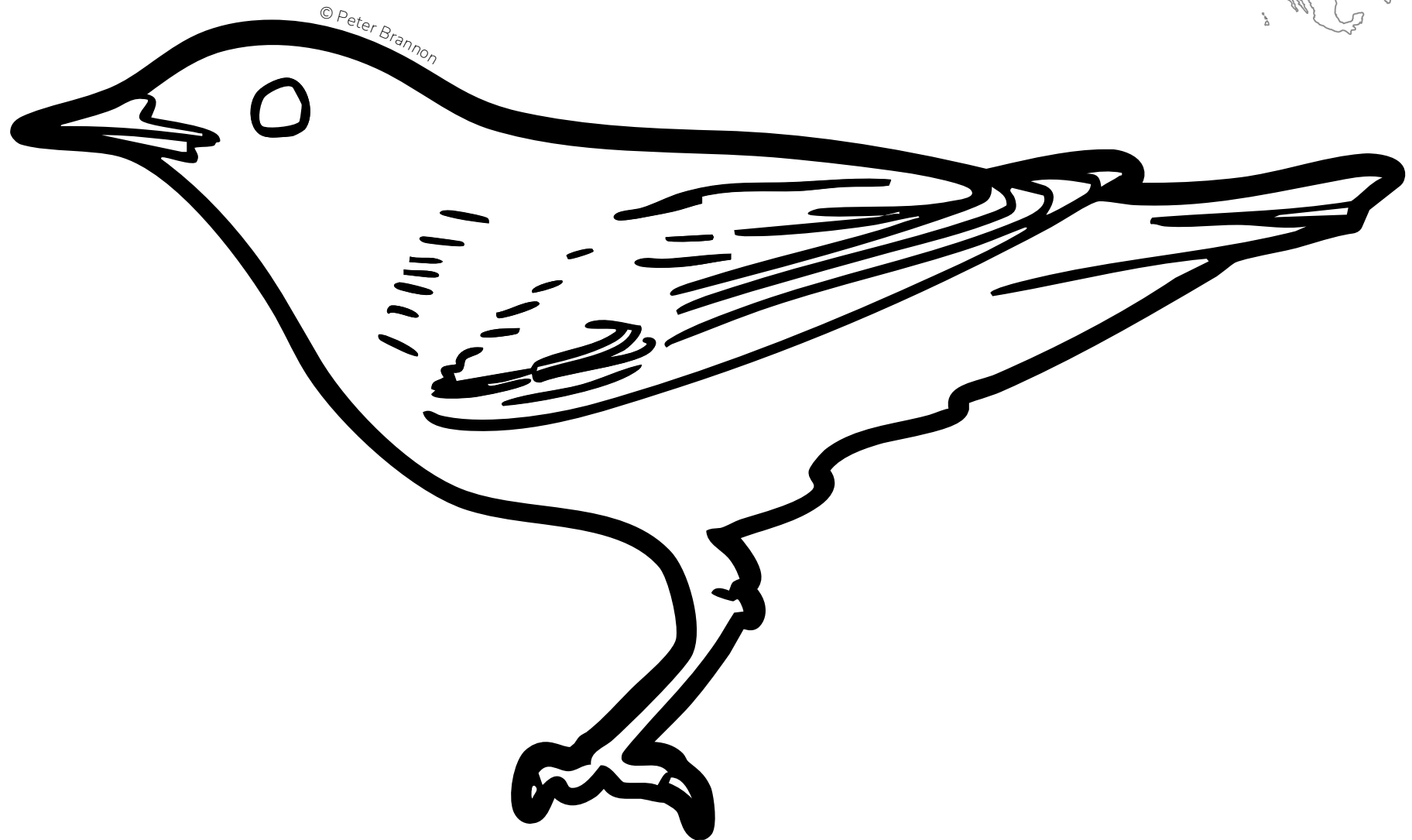
WOOD THRUSH

USES THE
ATLANTIC
FLYWAY



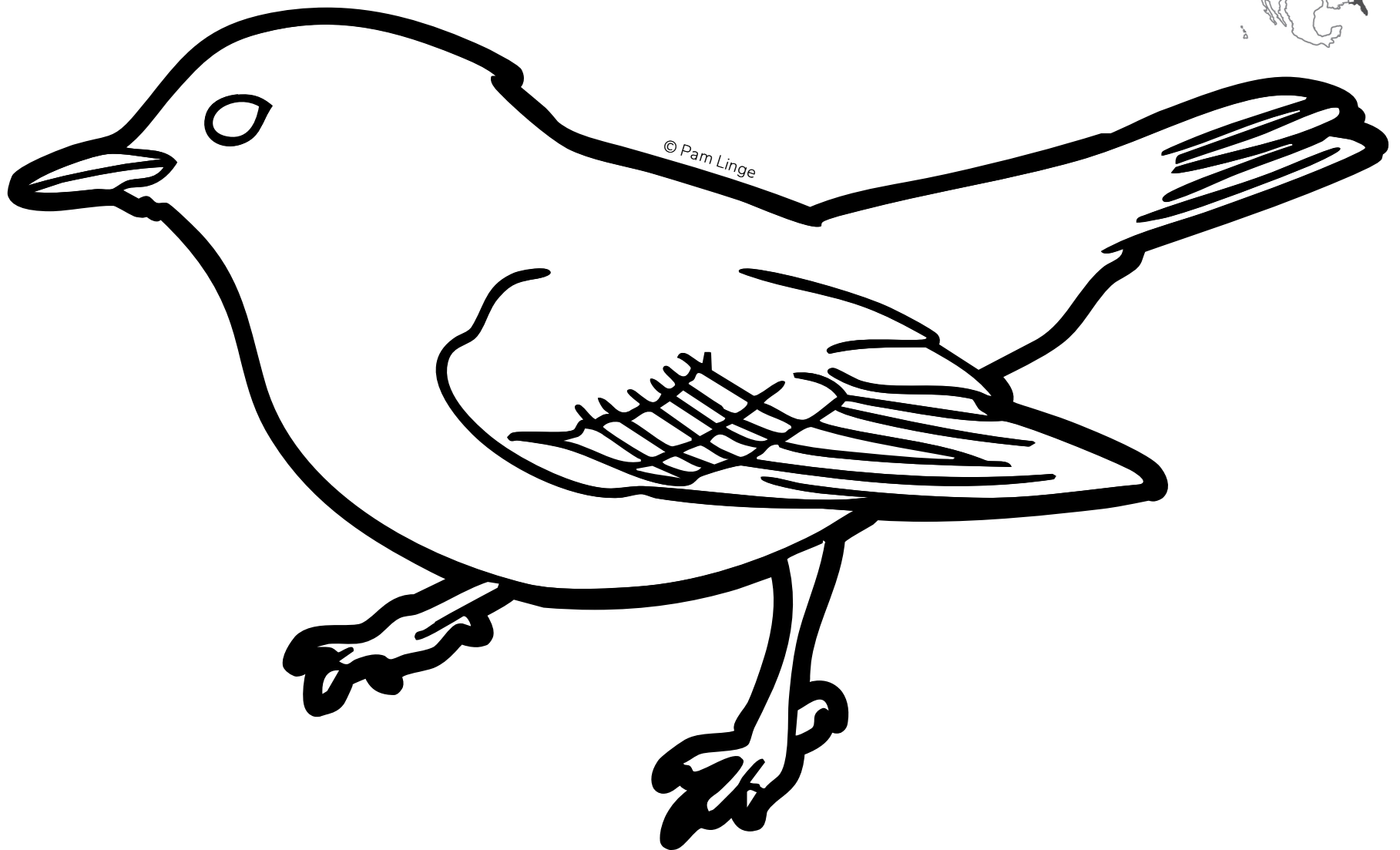
PROTHONOTARY WARBLER

USES THE
MISSISSIPPI
FLYWAY



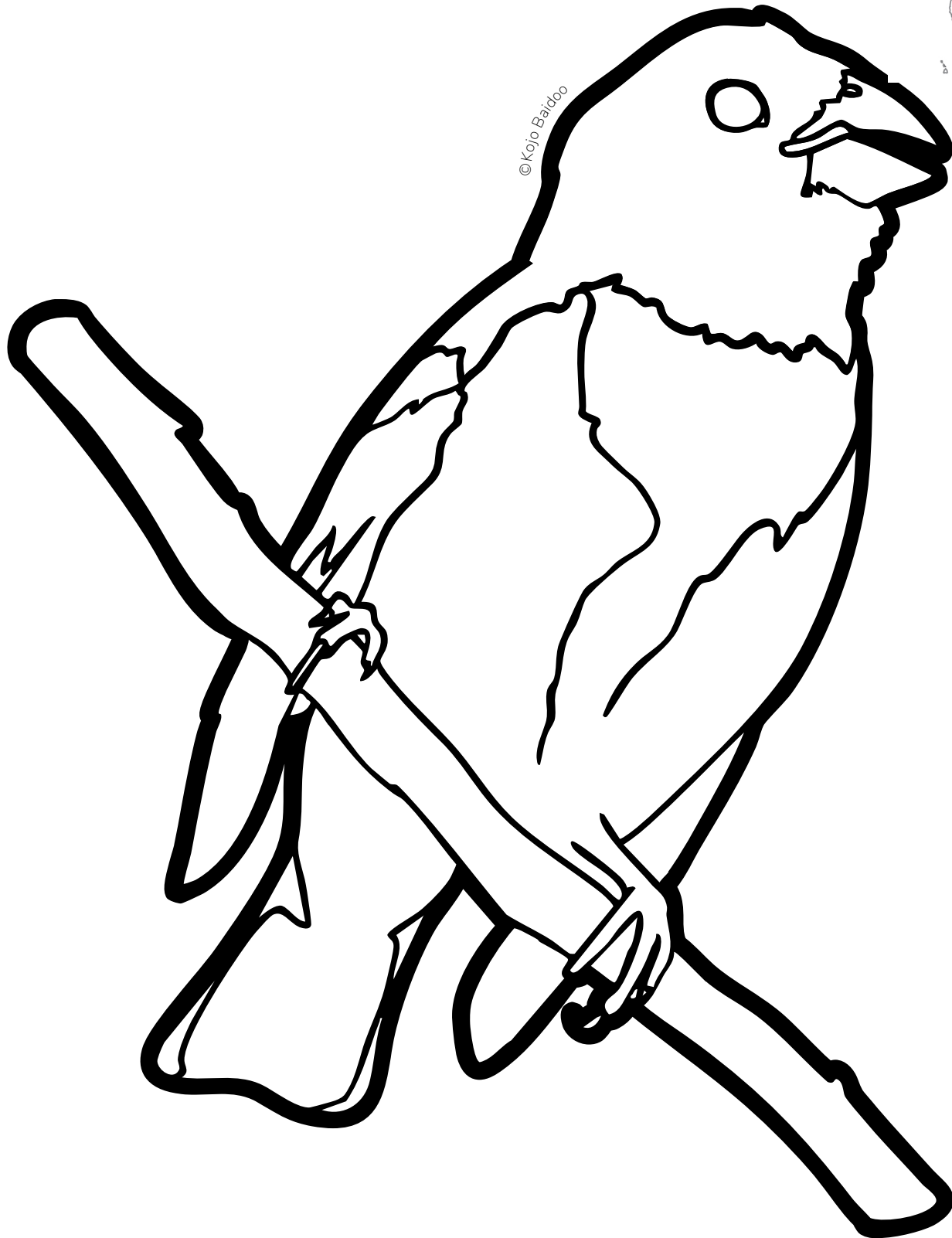
CERULEAN WARBLER

USES THE
ATLANTIC
FLYWAY



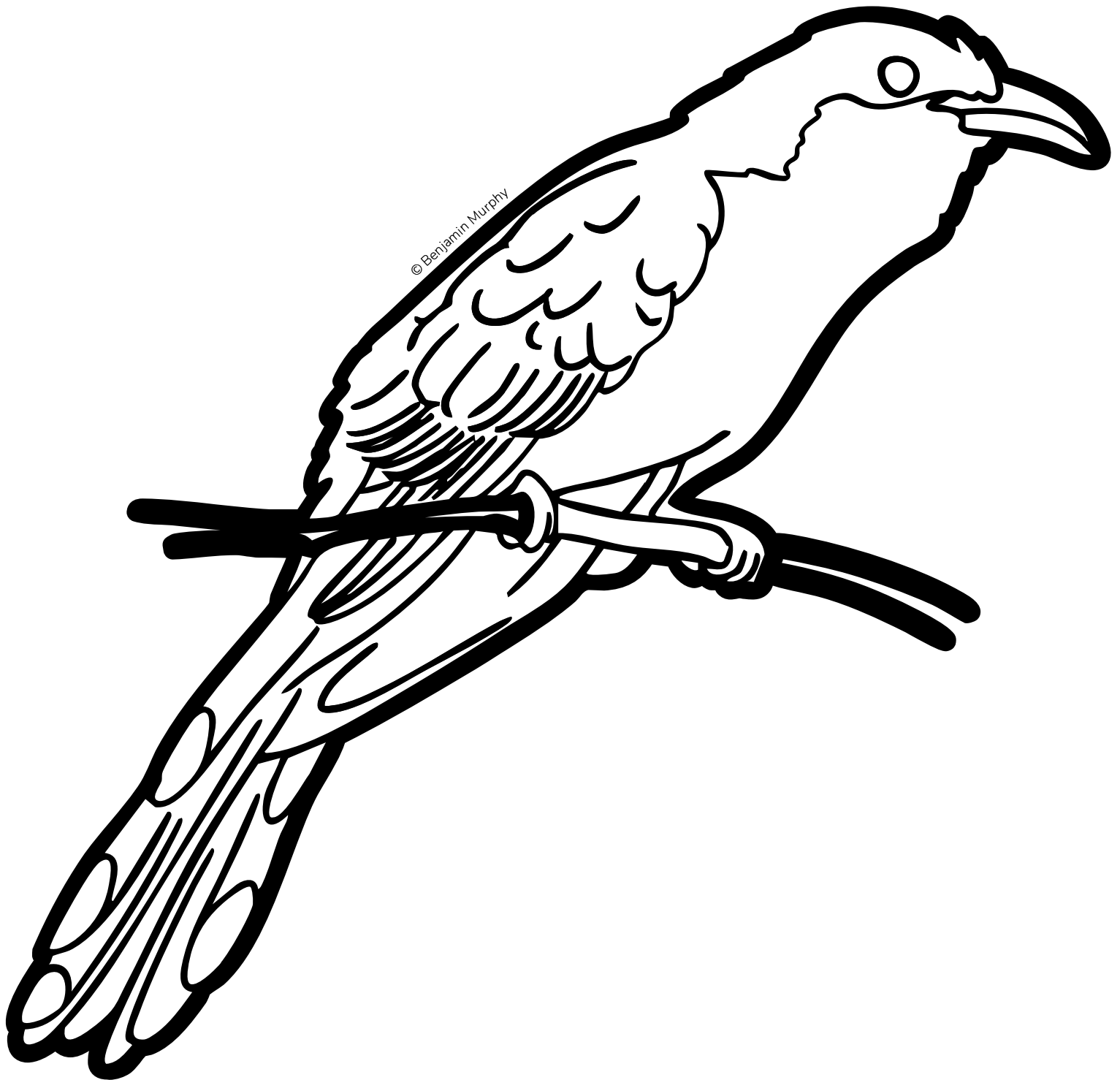
ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK

USES THE
MISSISSIPPI
FLYWAY



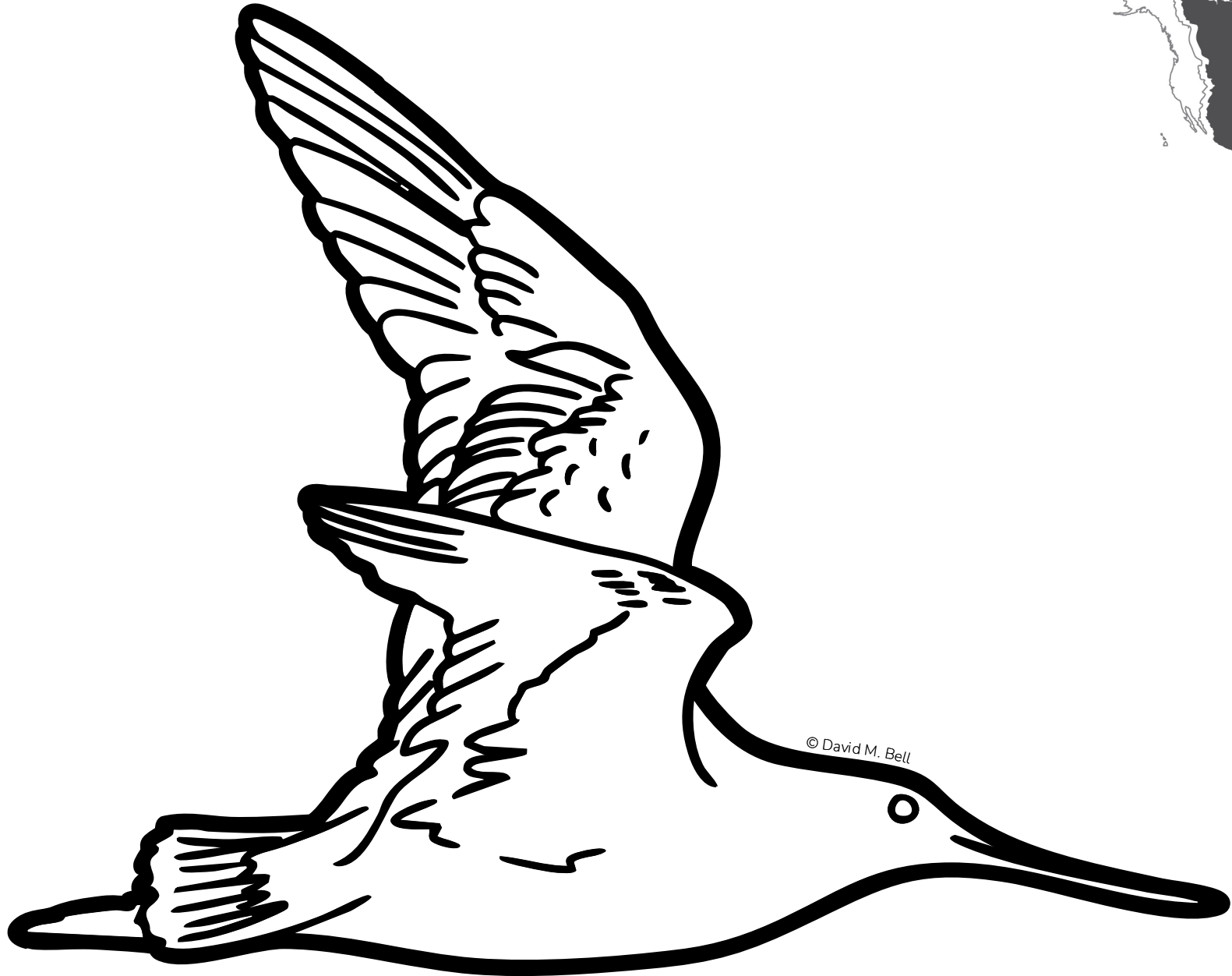
YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO

USES THE
MISSISSIPPI
FLYWAY



HUDSONIAN GODWIT

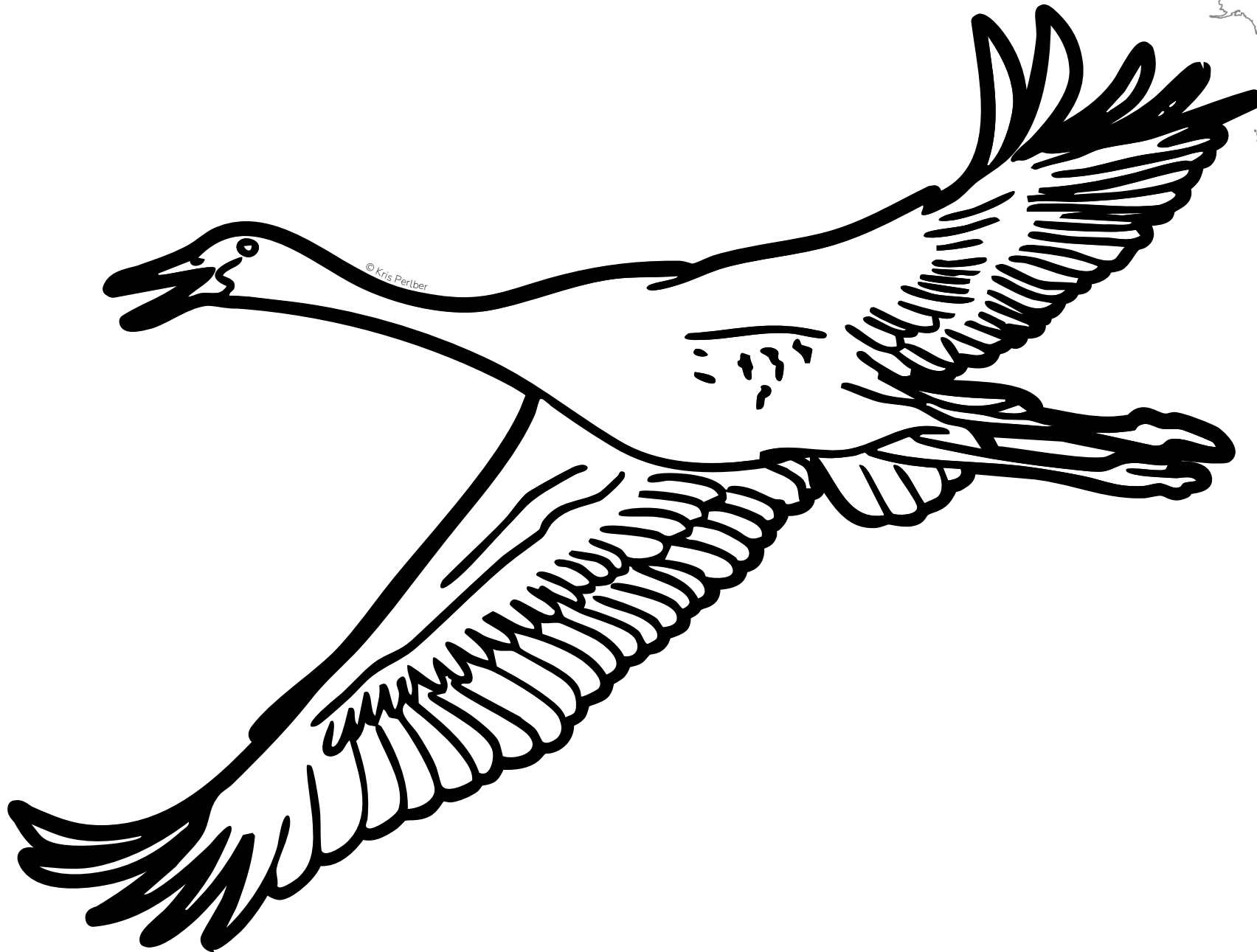
USES THE
CENTRAL
FLYWAY



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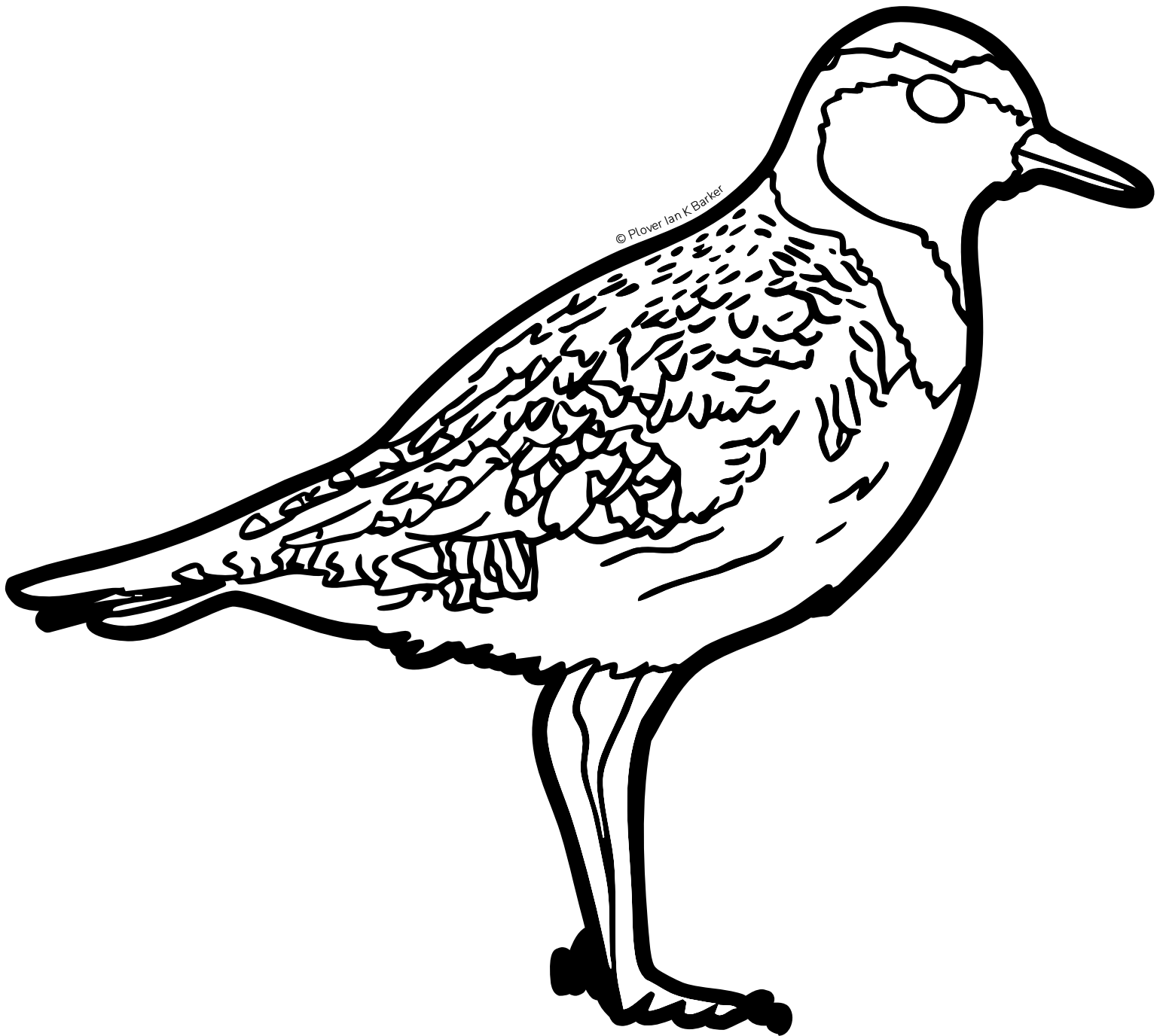
SANDHILL CRANE

USES THE
CENTRAL
FLYWAY



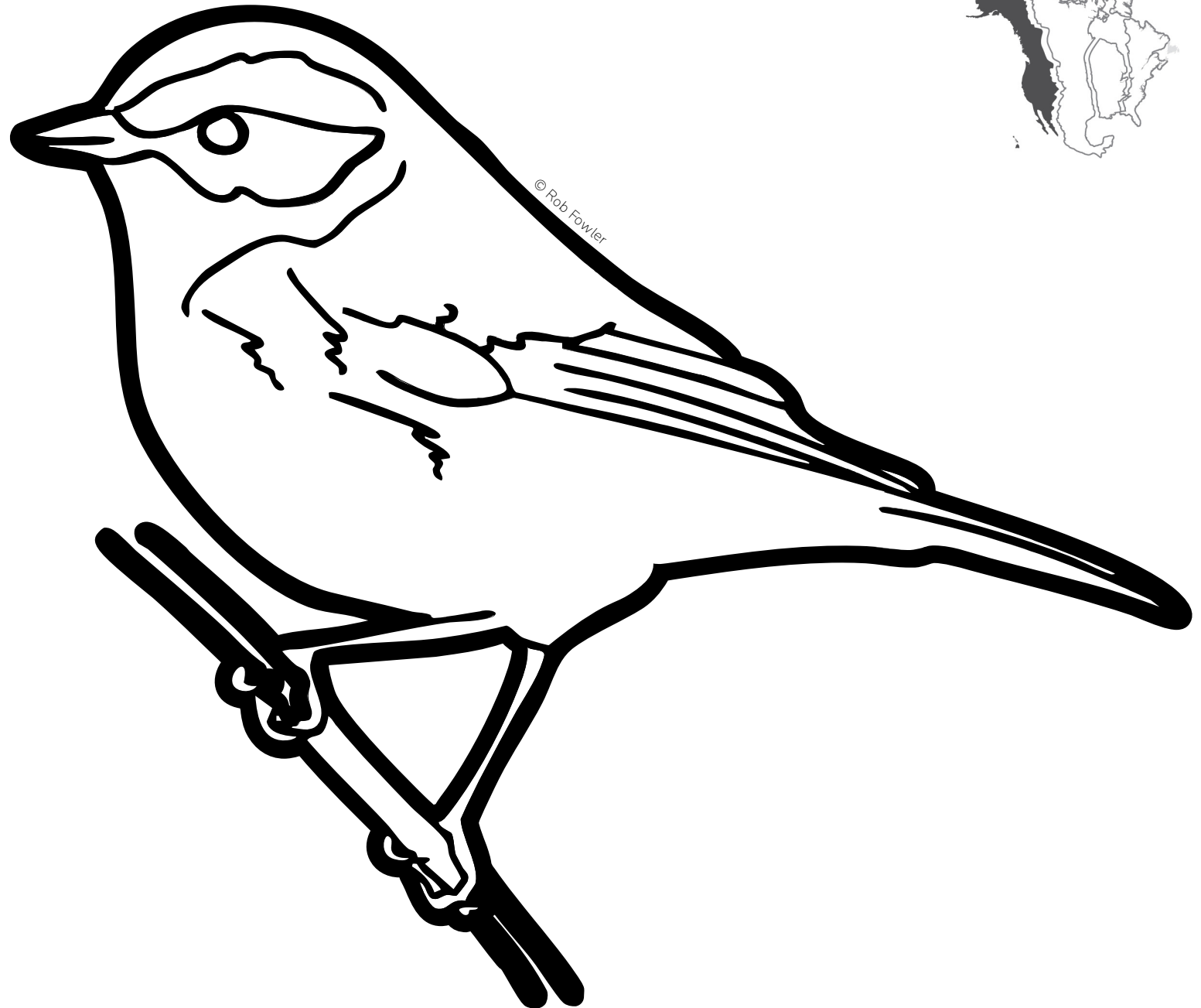
AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER

USES THE
CENTRAL
FLYWAY



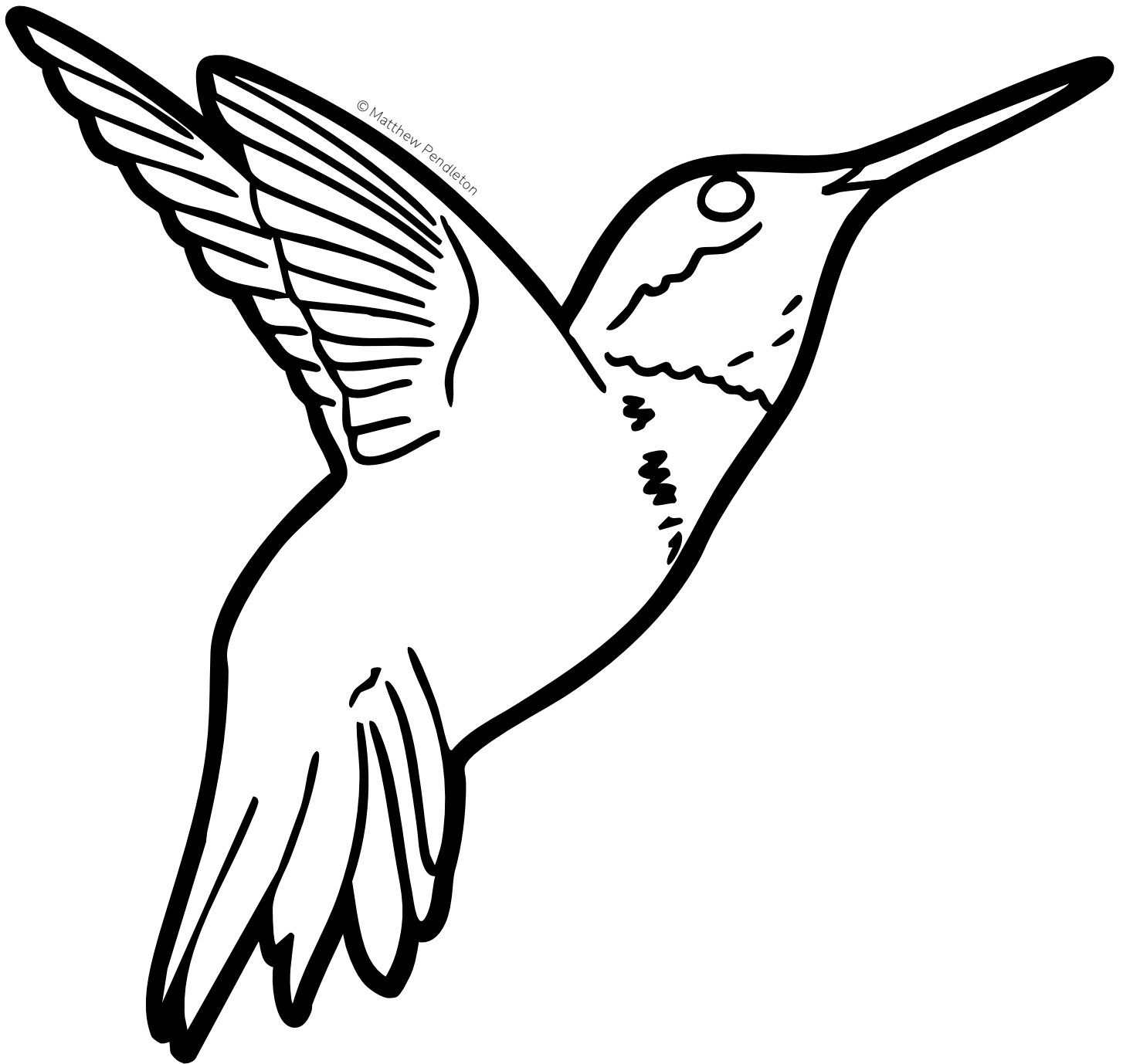
TOWNSEND'S WARBLER

USES THE
PACIFIC
FLYWAY



RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD

USES THE
PACIFIC
FLYWAY



GREAT FRIGATEBIRD

Credit: NOAA/NMFS/PIFSC

USES THE
PACIFIC
FLYWAY



BLACK-NECKED STILT

USES THE
PACIFIC
FLYWAY

