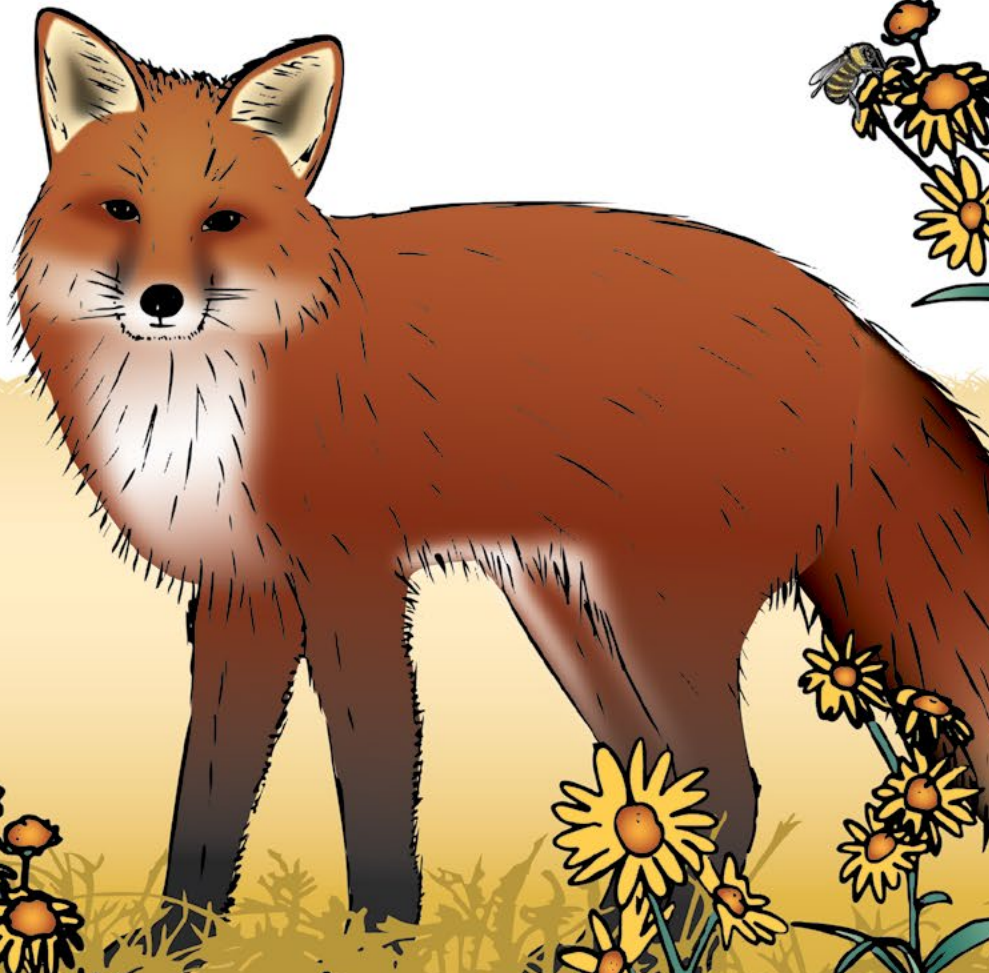


Build a Prairie

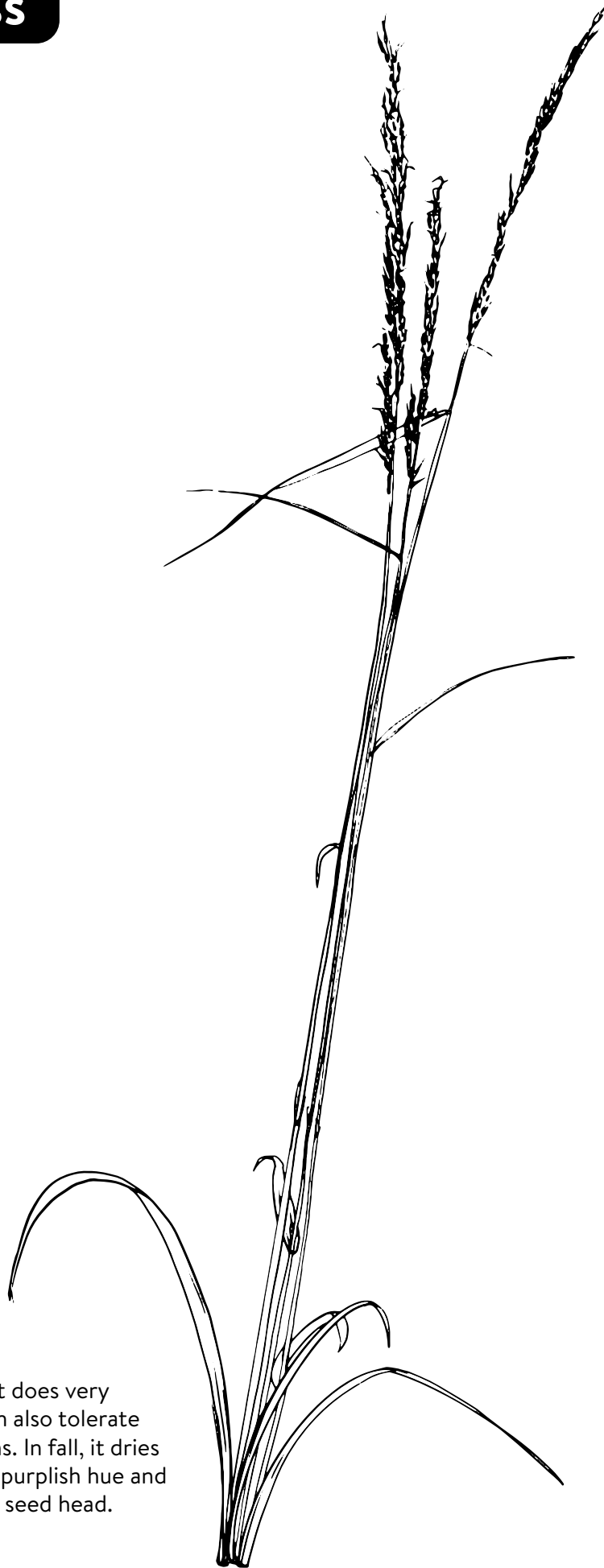


Big Bluestem



This warm-season grass is a major component of dry to wet prairies, often dominating in mesic prairie sites. Stems frequently have a blue or purple appearance. Flowers are arranged in a cluster of 3 to 5 branches that resemble a turkey's foot.

Indian Grass



A warm season grass that does very well in mesic soils but can also tolerate excessively dry conditions. In fall, it dries to a pinkish, orangish, or purplish hue and has a soft, golden-brown seed head.

Porcupine Grass



A cool season grass that is typically found on dry open prairie. Porcupine grass has long slender seeds that drill themselves into the soil. Its leaf edges can roll inward in dry conditions to reduce surface area and water loss.

Prairie Dropseed



Green during the summer with stems turning tan-bronze in the fall. Prairie dropseed grows in tight clumps, giving it a mound-like appearance, and has spreading flower clusters that are most abundant the year following a fire.

Maximilian Sunflower



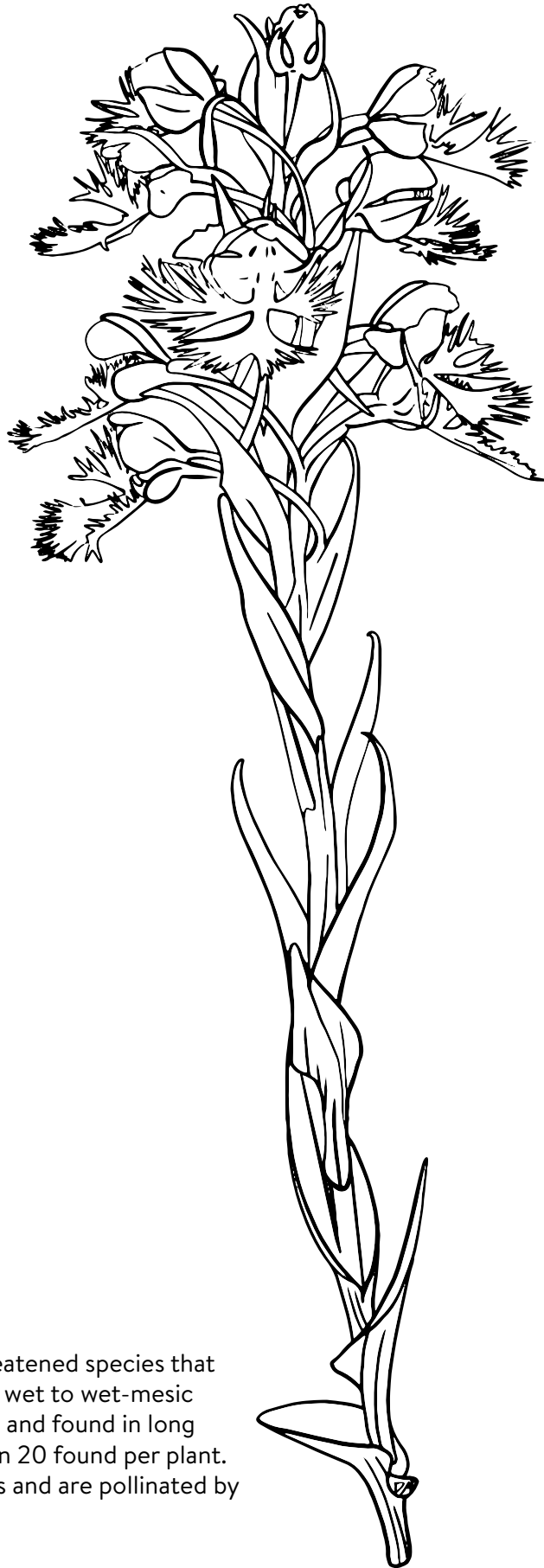
A tall sunflower with a rough hairy stem and many yellow flowers.

Narrow-Leaved Purple Coneflower



Leaves are mostly found at the base with a few that are widely spaced along the stem. Flowers are light purple with a “spiky” cone in the middle. Purple coneflower has been used for many medicinal purposes.

Western Prairie Fringed Orchid



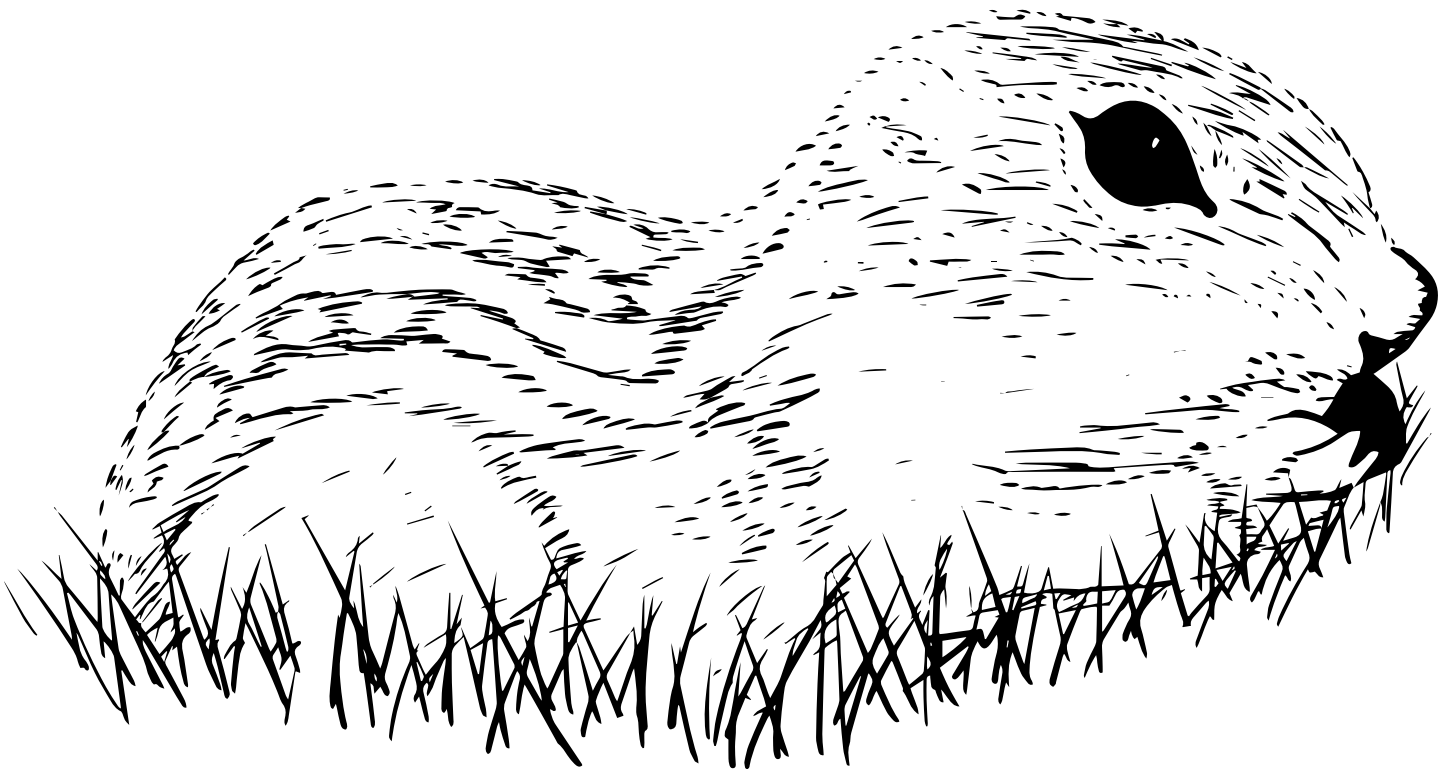
State endangered and federal threatened species that likes full sun and is often found on wet to wet-mesic prairies. Flowers are creamy white and found in long clusters with sometimes more than 20 found per plant. The flowers have long nectar spurs and are pollinated by long-tongued hawk moths.

Wild Bergamot



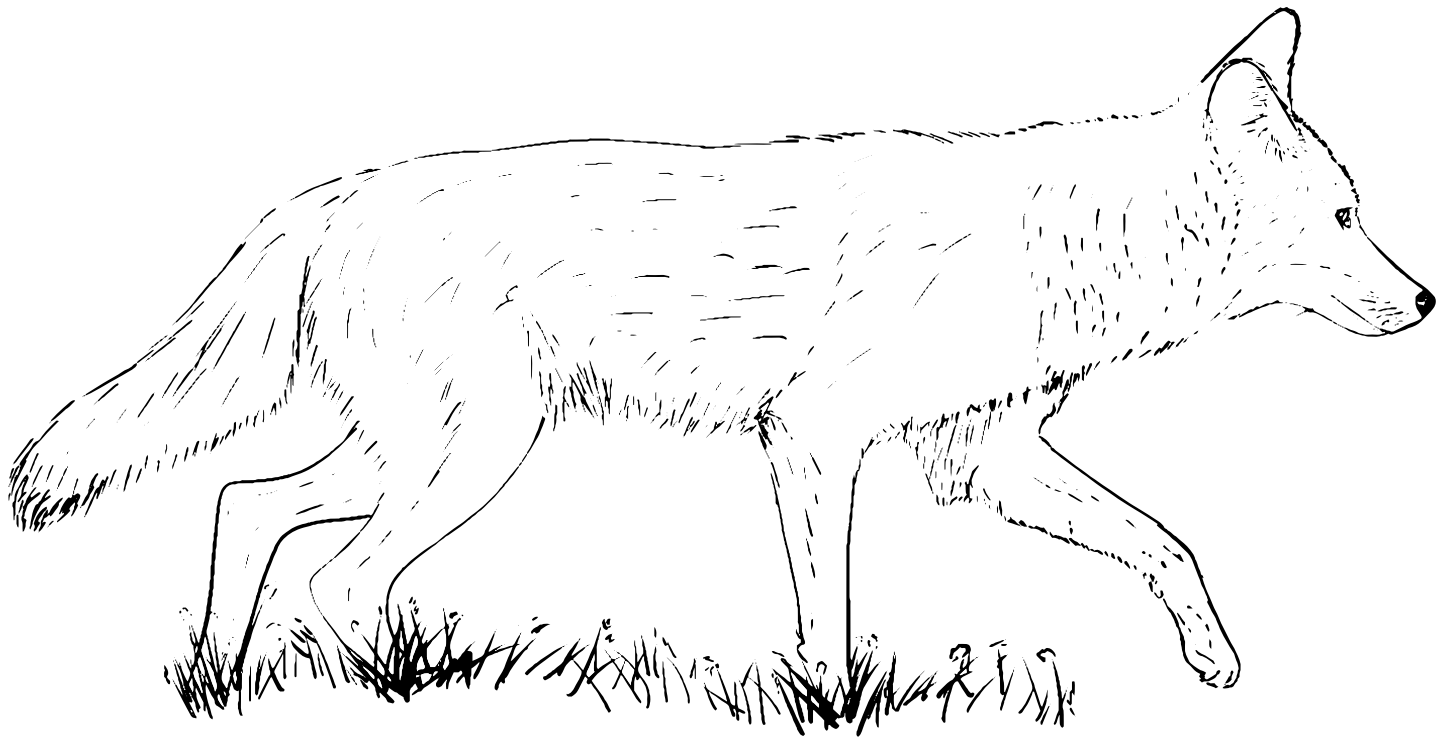
Very fragrant. Crushed leaves smell spicy (like Earl Grey tea). The stem is square (feature of plants in the mint family) and the flowers are purple.

13-Lined Ground Squirrel



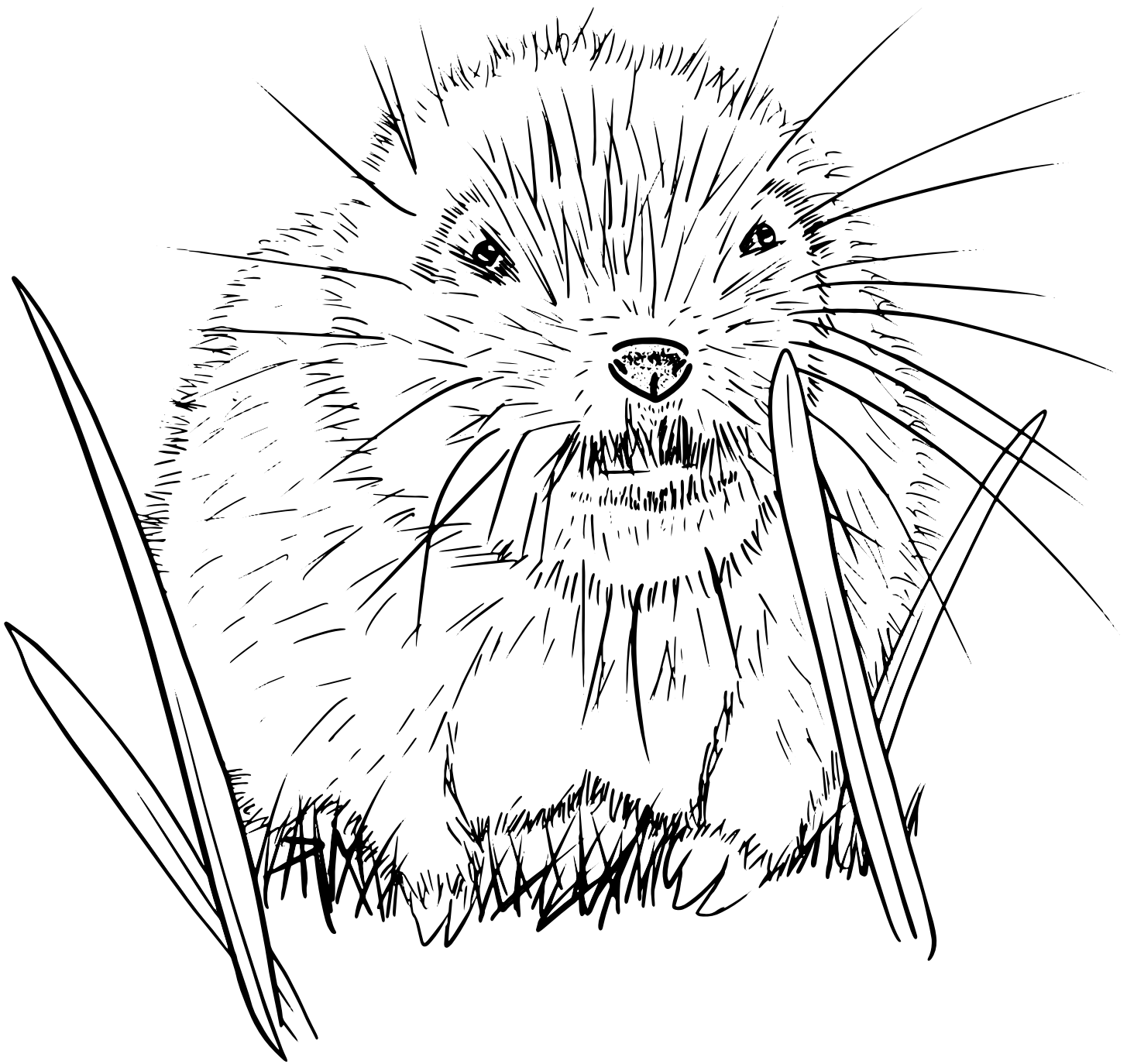
A small buff colored gopher-like animal with 13 stripes (7 dark stripes and 6 light stripes) down its back. Originally occurring in the native prairies of the central U.S. but have now expanded to live almost anywhere grassland exists. The namesake for the “Golden Gophers”.

Coyote



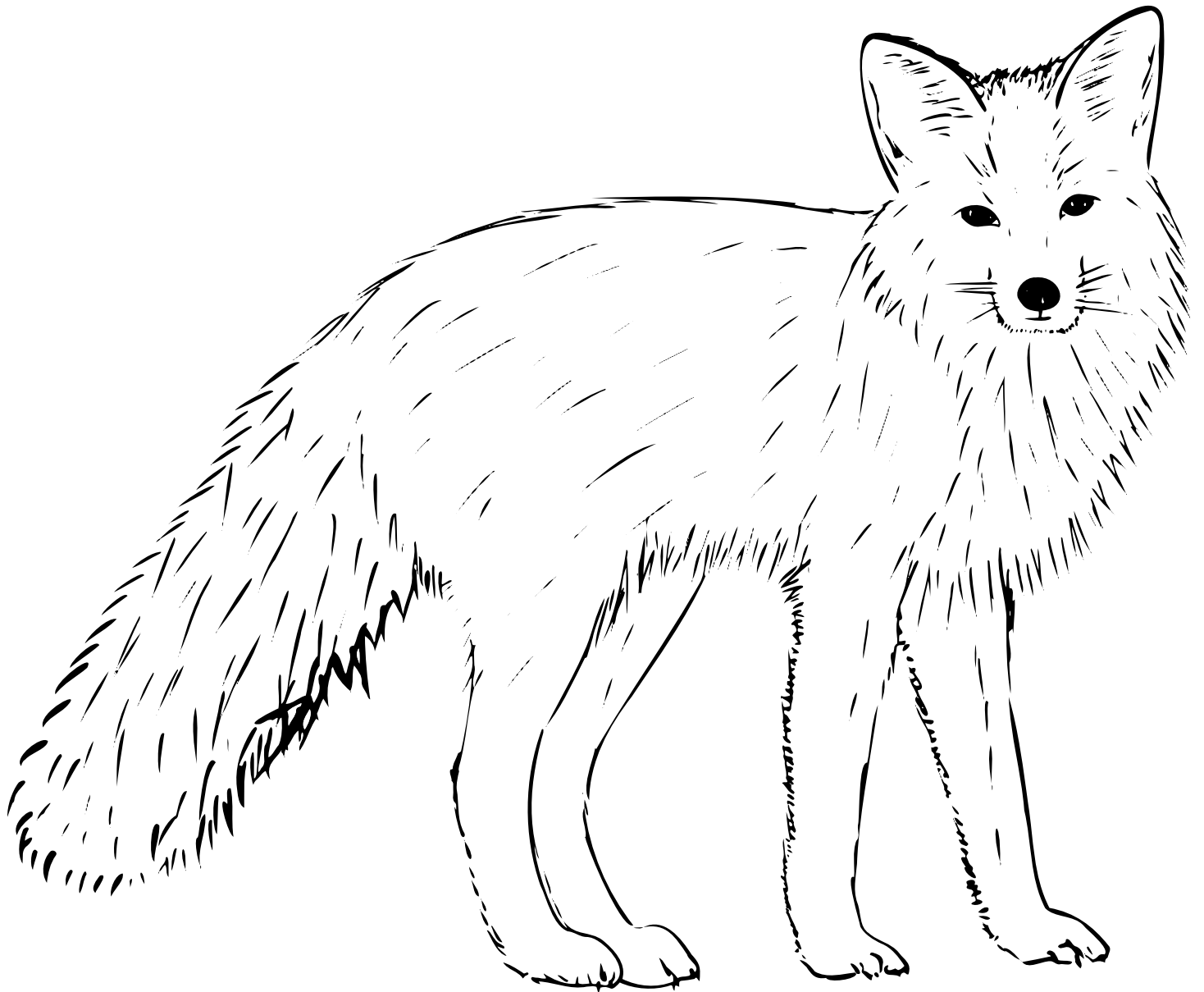
Minnesota's most abundant large predator. Resembles a small German Shepard with long coarse and heavy fur. They also have large bushy tails and long erect ears. They are very nomadic, covering as much as 2 to 3 miles per day.

Prairie Vole



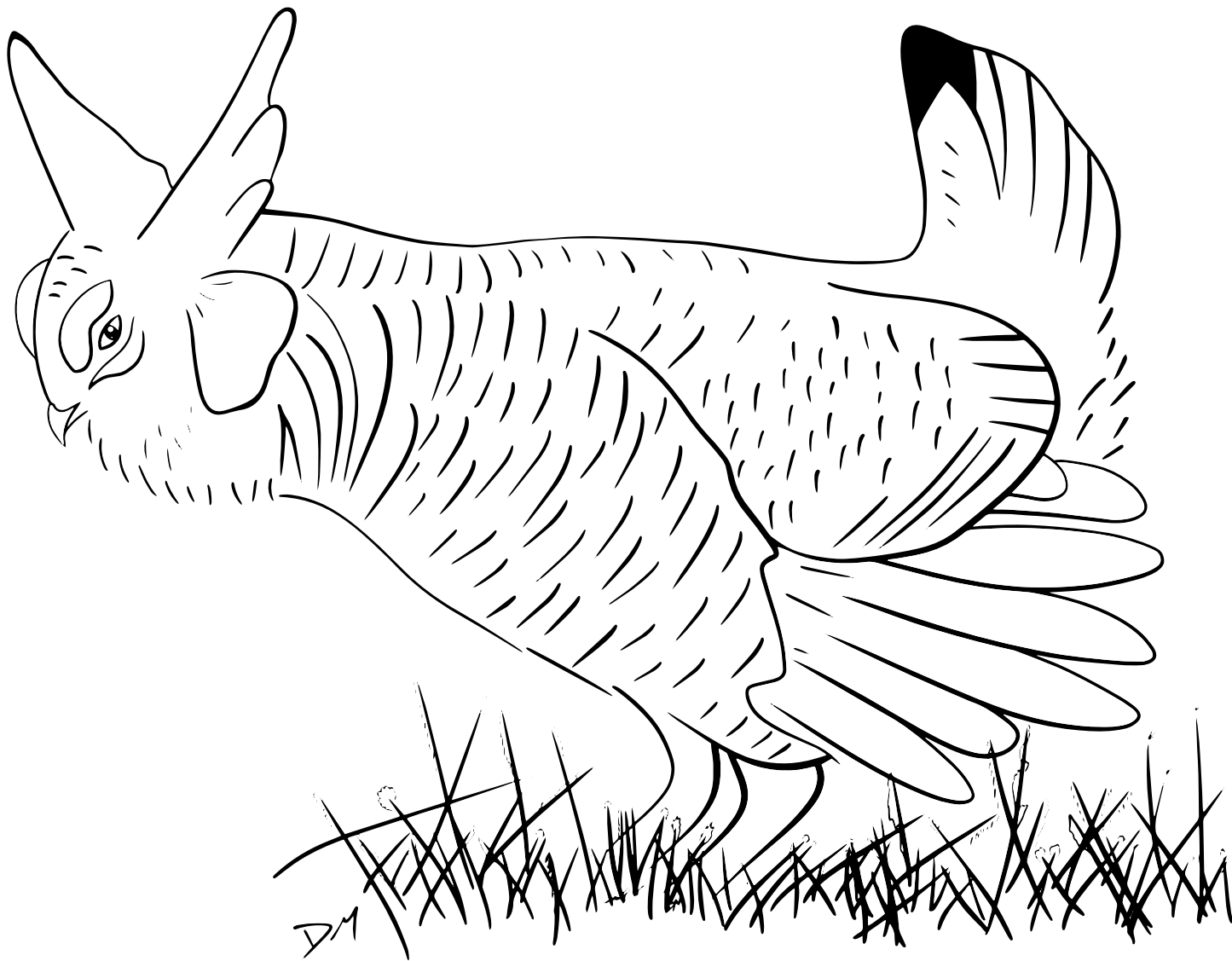
A grayish-brown mouse-like rodent with a distinctly bicolored tail. They occur in relatively undisturbed grasslands with ground litter for runways.

Red Fox



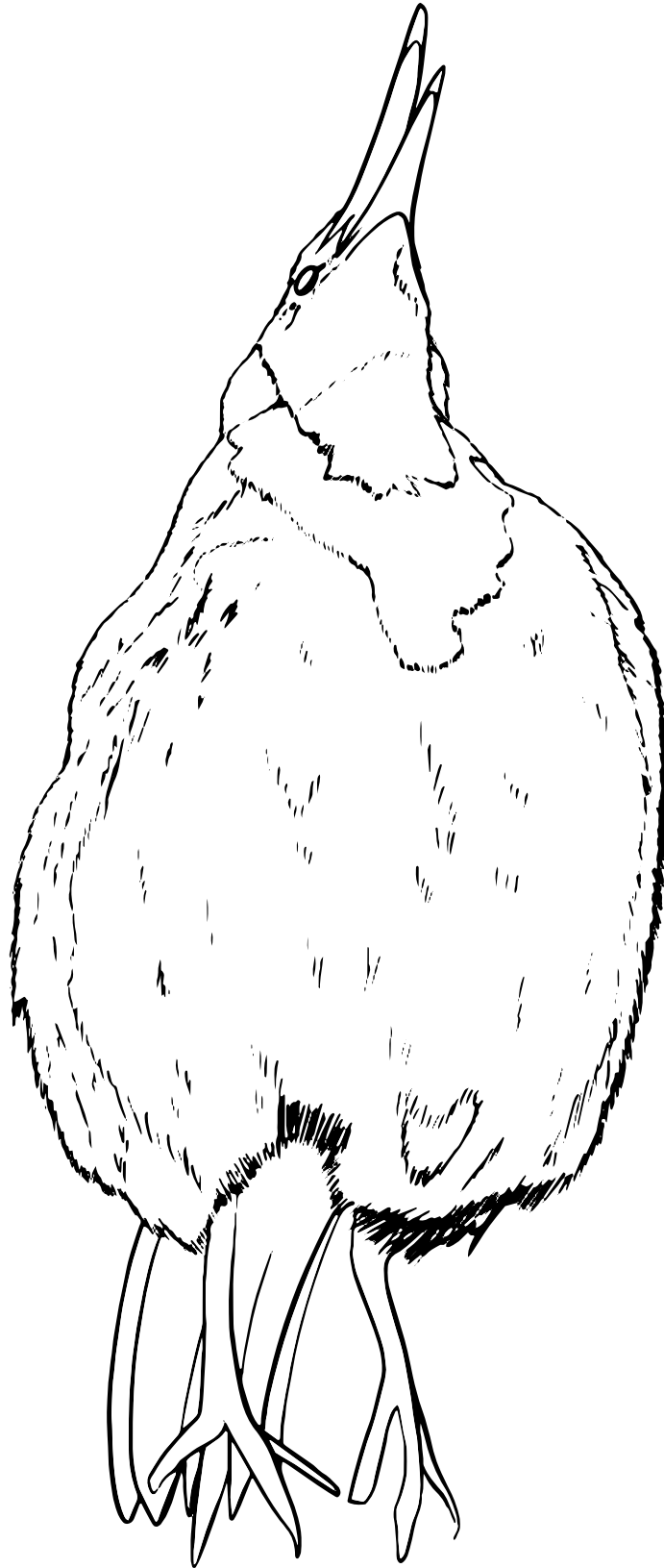
Medium sized predator known for its rusty-red coat, white-tipped tail, and black ears. Found throughout Minnesota in many different habitat types from mature forests to open grasslands.

Greater Prairie-Chicken



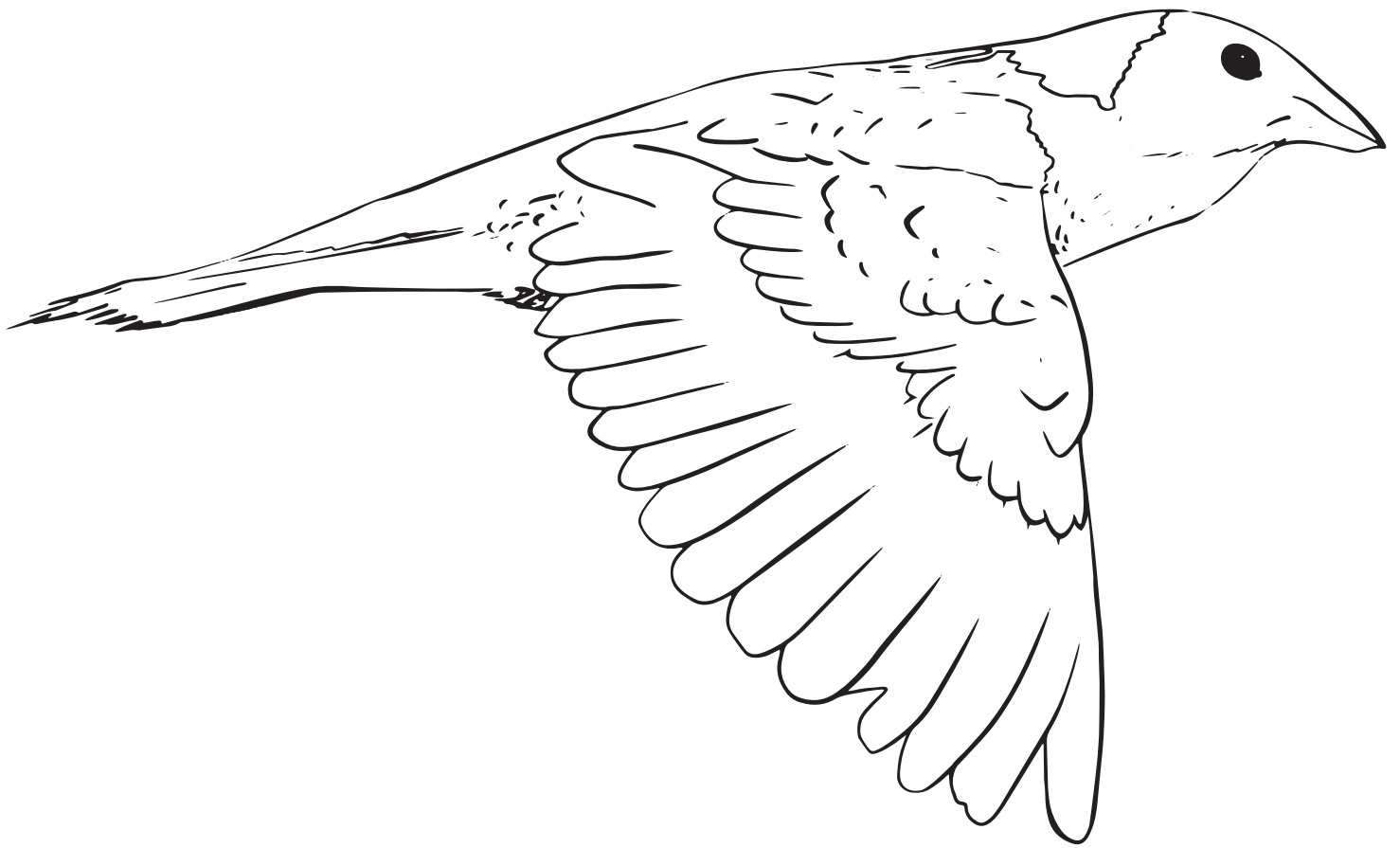
A unique brown and white striped chicken-sized bird in the grouse family. The males perform showy dances on breeding (booming) grounds each spring. As they do this, their feathers flare and they show off their brilliant yellow patches and eyebrows. At one time Greater Prairie-Chickens were a common site on Minnesota's prairies, now they are listed as state special concerns species.

Western Meadowlark



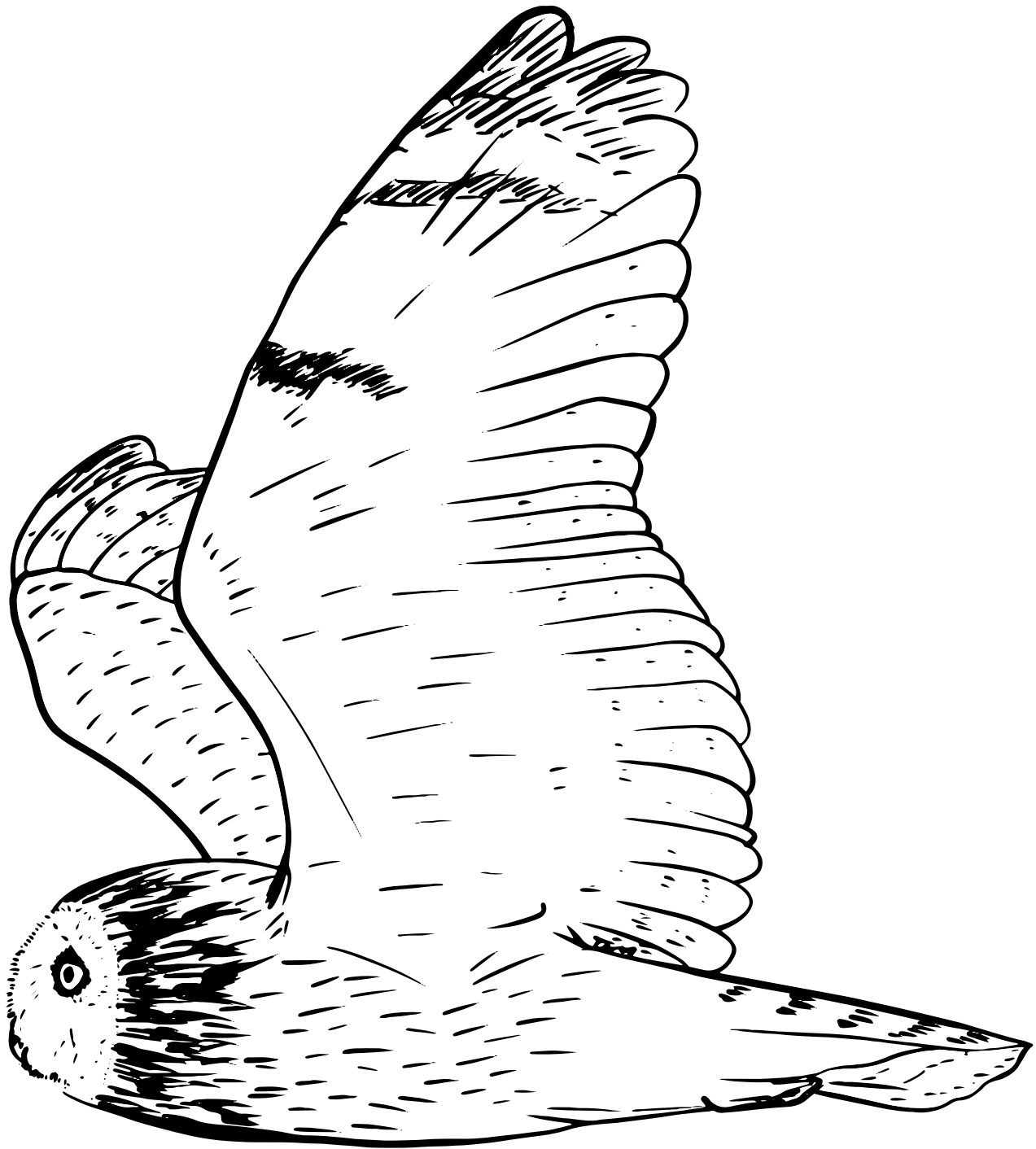
Adults are mostly brown and black with a bright yellow chest that has a black “V” on it. They typically live in meadows, plains, prairie, and other open grasslands. They are known for their distinctive songs.

Bobolink



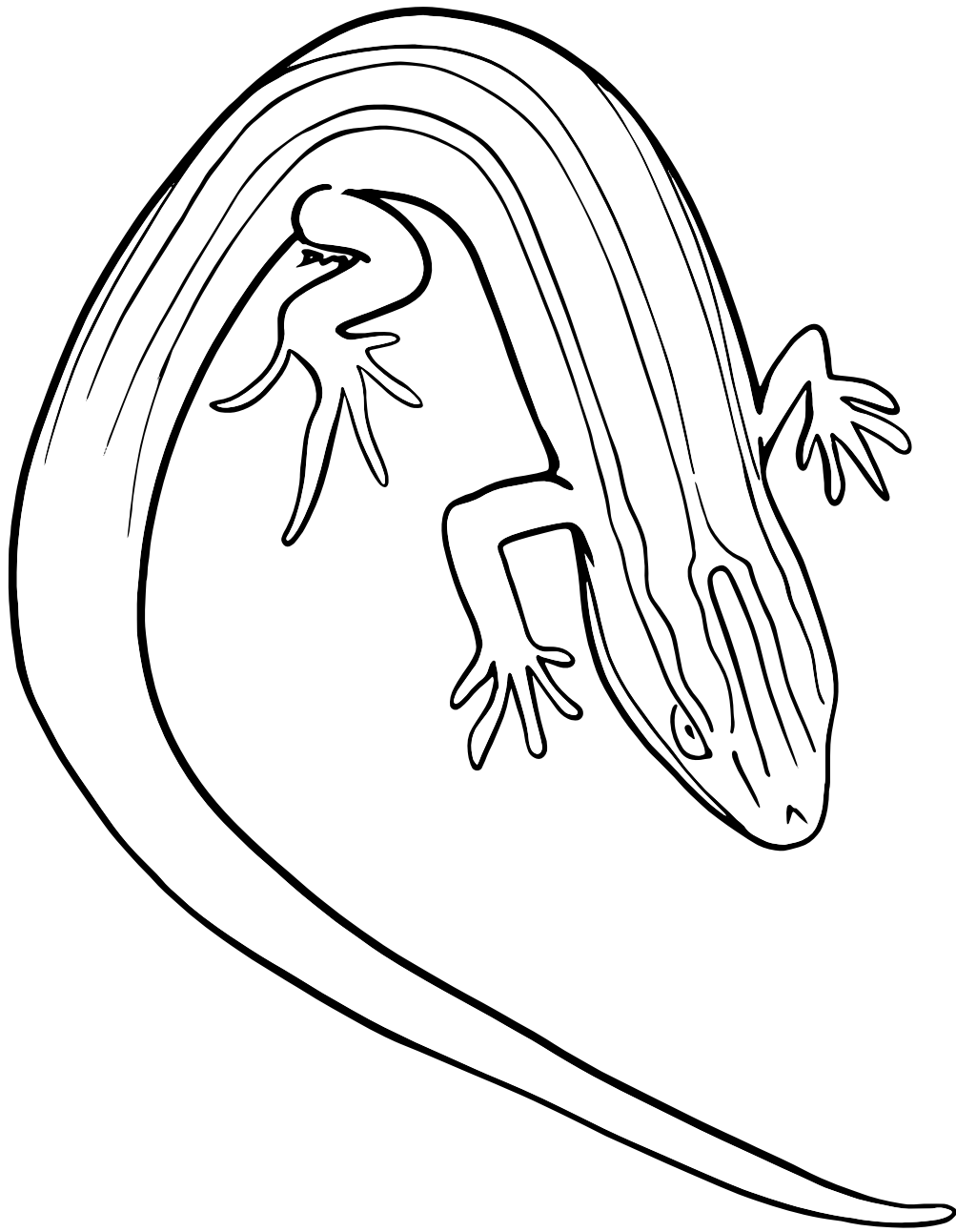
Adults have white on their backs and black underparts, often referred to as the “reverse tuxedo”. Males have a yellow (straw-colored) patch on top of their heads. In Minnesota, Bobolinks are found in meadows, prairie, and other open grasslands.

Short-Eared Owl



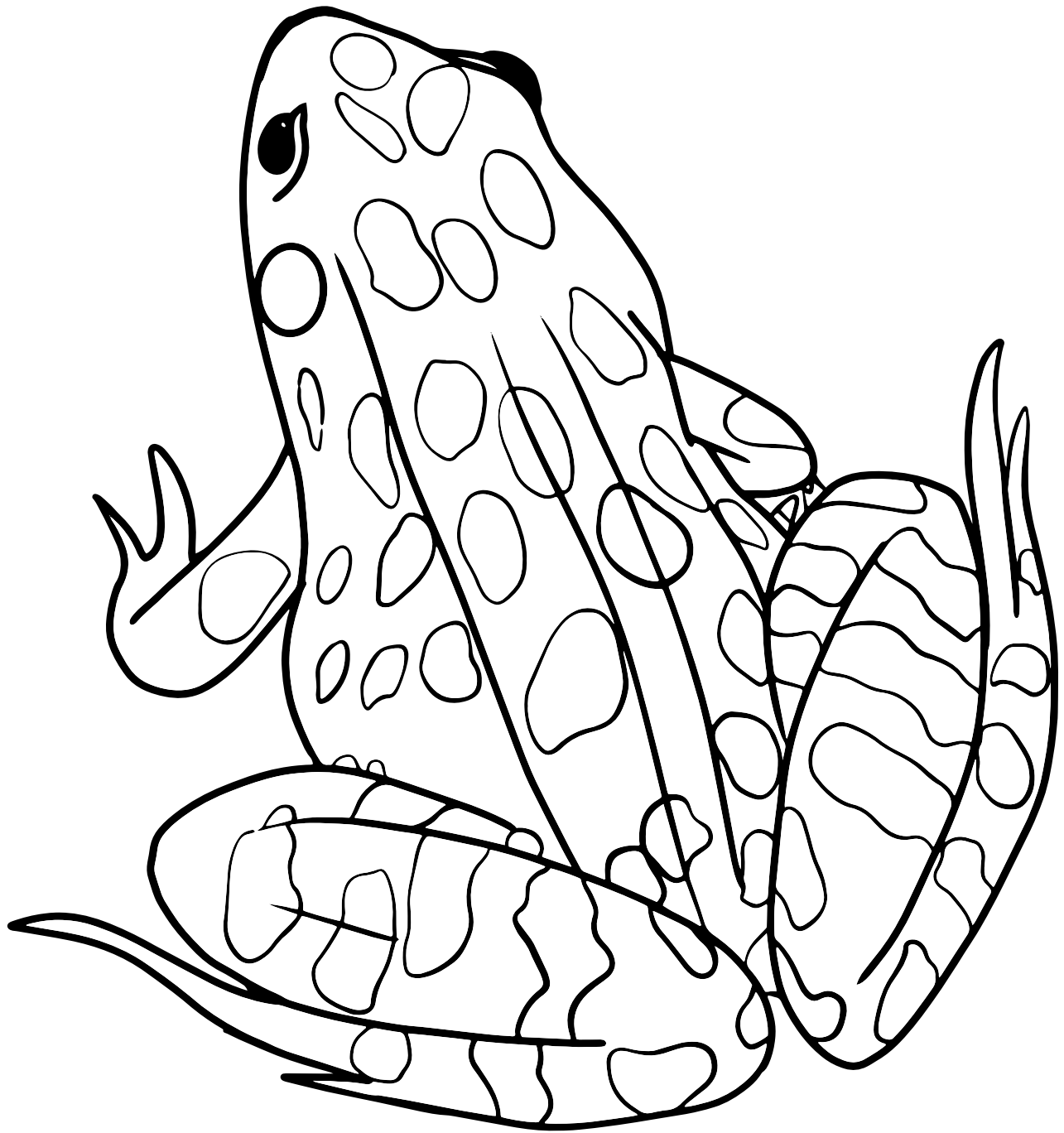
The short-eared owl is a medium-sized, buffy-brown owl with long wings. Unlike most owls they hunt during the day. Short-eared owls are found in open habitats such as native prairie, pasture, Conservation Reserve Program grasslands, sedge wetlands, shrub swamps, and open peatlands. Short-eared owls are a Minnesota Special Concerns Species.

Common 5-Lined Skink



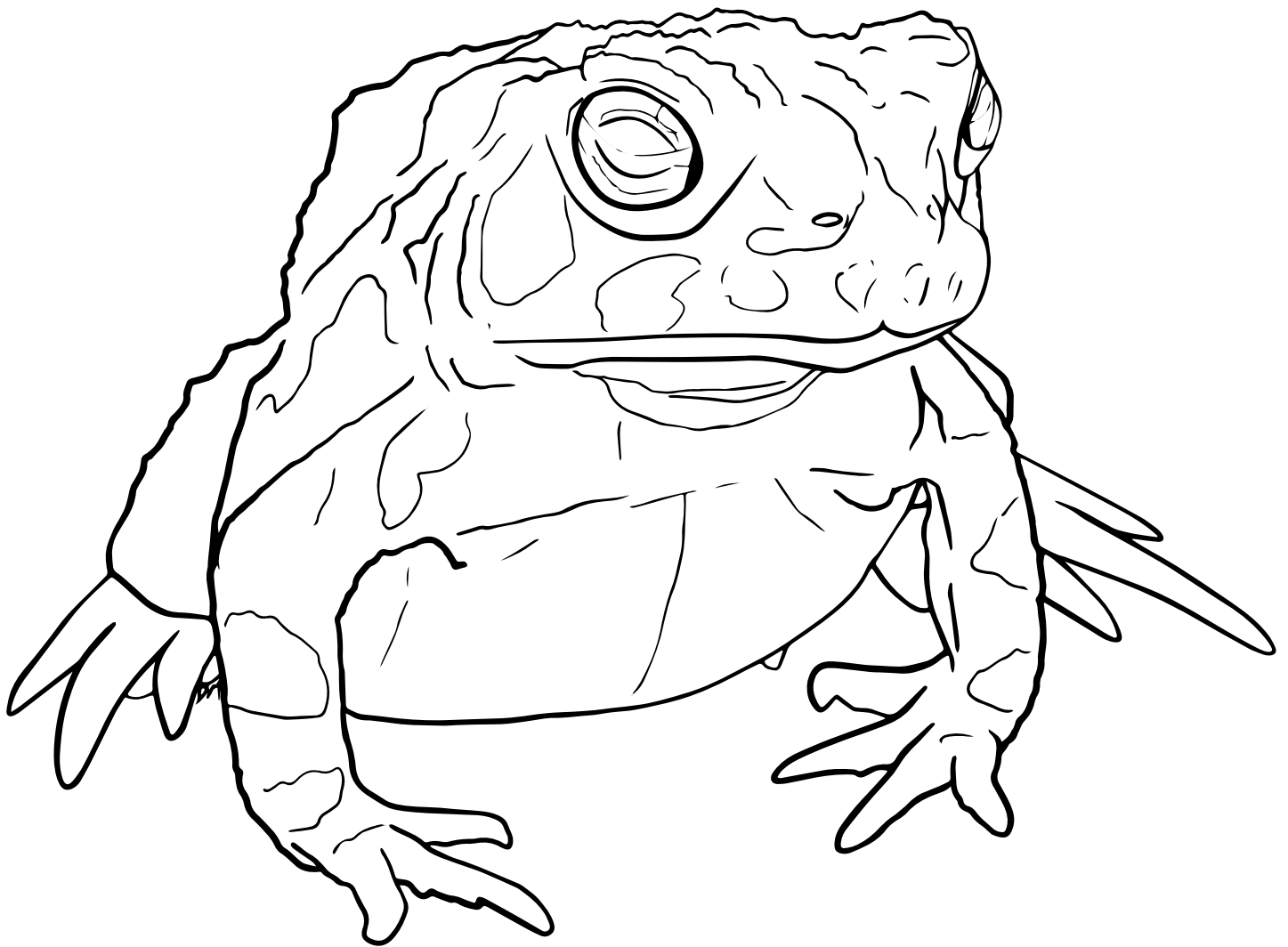
A small lizard with a long tail and short legs. The back is marked with 5 distinct yellow stripes. Juveniles (young) have bright blue tails which fade to brown as they age. Often found along stream banks or pine barren openings, oak savannas, rock outcrops, and prairies. A Minnesota species of special concern.

Northern Leopard Frog



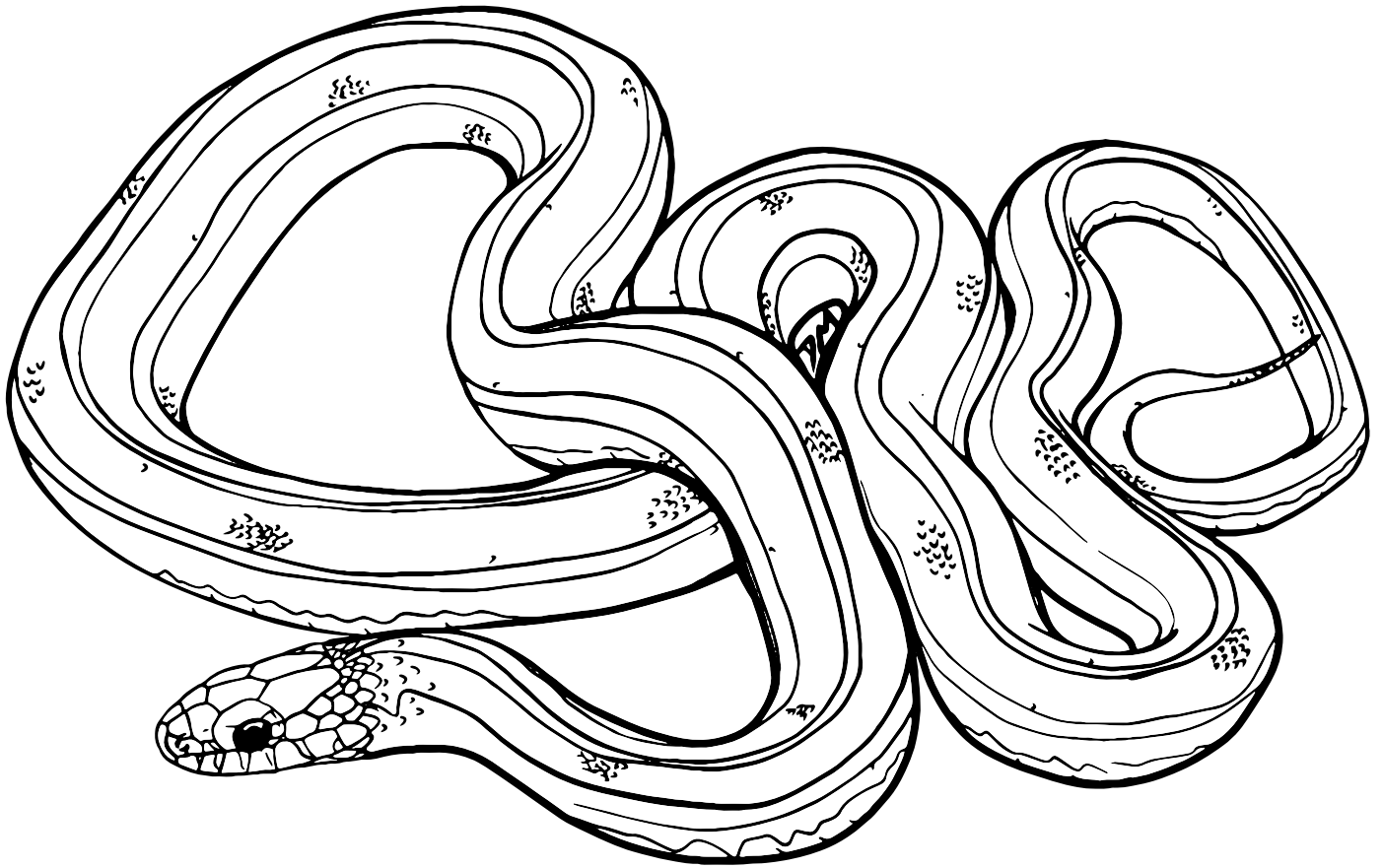
Called a leopard frog because of dark spots on its back and legs with the rest of the body being green or brown. Typically live in wet meadows or open fields near wetlands. They are frequently found in grasslands during the summer, where they may travel up to two miles from water.

Great Plains Toad



Gray, brown, or greenish in color with large blotches and white borders. The blotches contain several small warts. They typically live in damp areas of open grasslands and agricultural fields. They can burrow into the ground on hot days or for extended periods of extreme heat and drought.

Plains Garter Snake



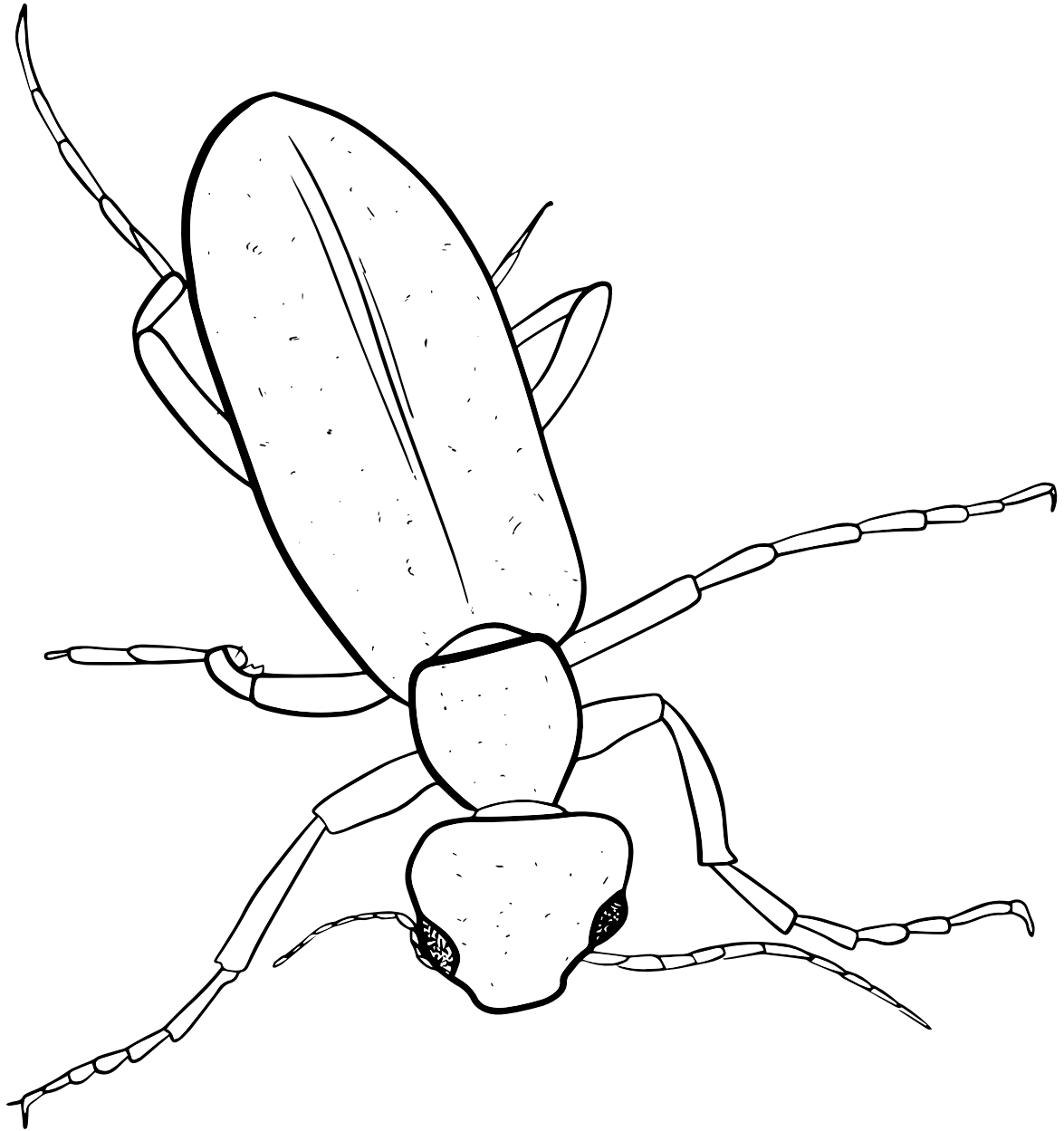
Dark brown or black body color with 3 light colored stripes along the entire length. The underside is pale green or gray. Habitat includes most open spaces such as grasslands and savannahs. To defend themselves, garter snakes can release a foul-smelling musk.

Golden Northern Bumble Bee



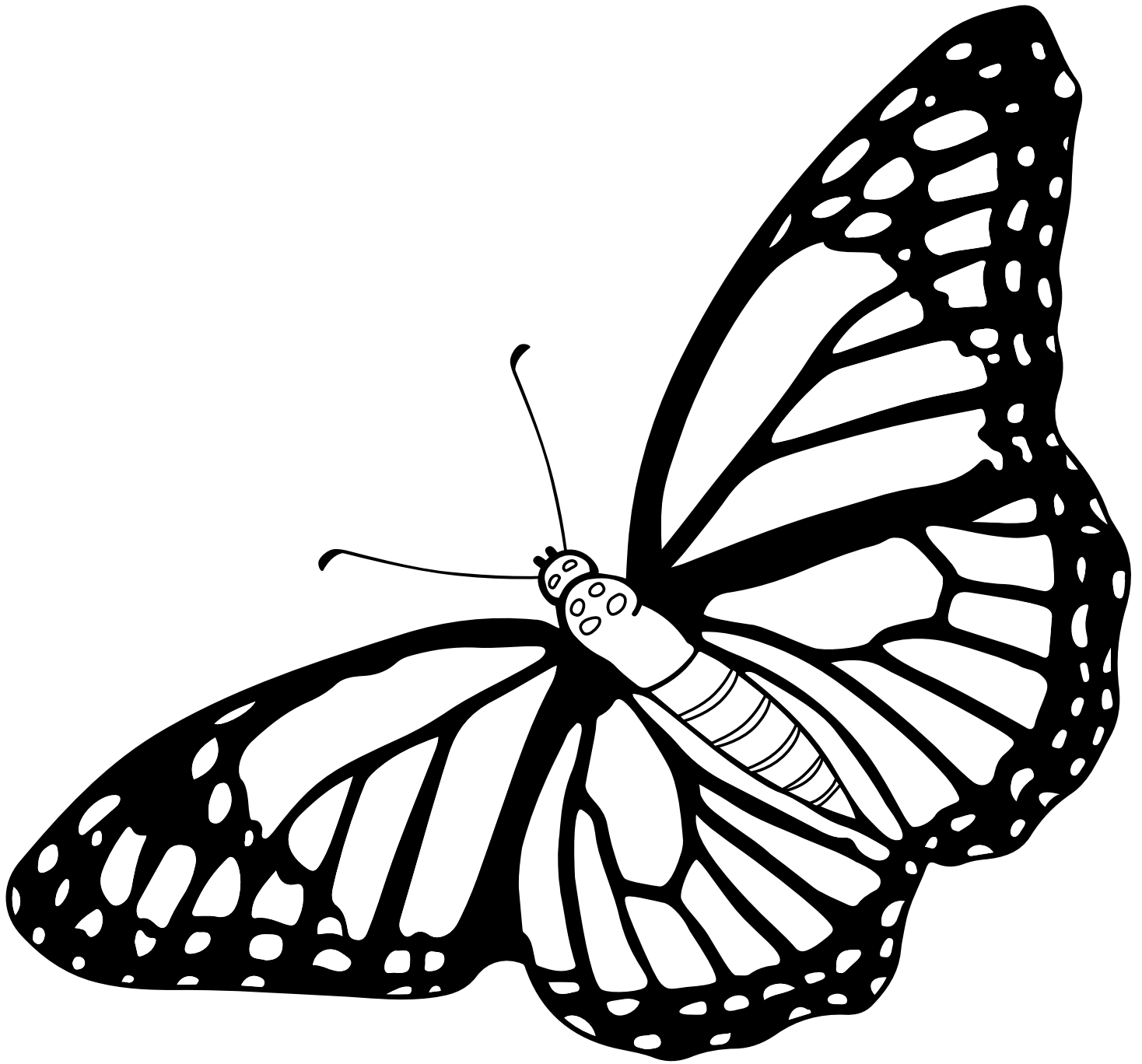
Found near flowers throughout southern $\frac{3}{4}$ of Minnesota. Bumble bees in general are typically large, hairy bees that are black and yellow. They collect and carry pollen from flowers back to the hive with their hind legs. Bees are very important pollinators and are essential to the reproduction of many prairie plants.

Blister Beetle



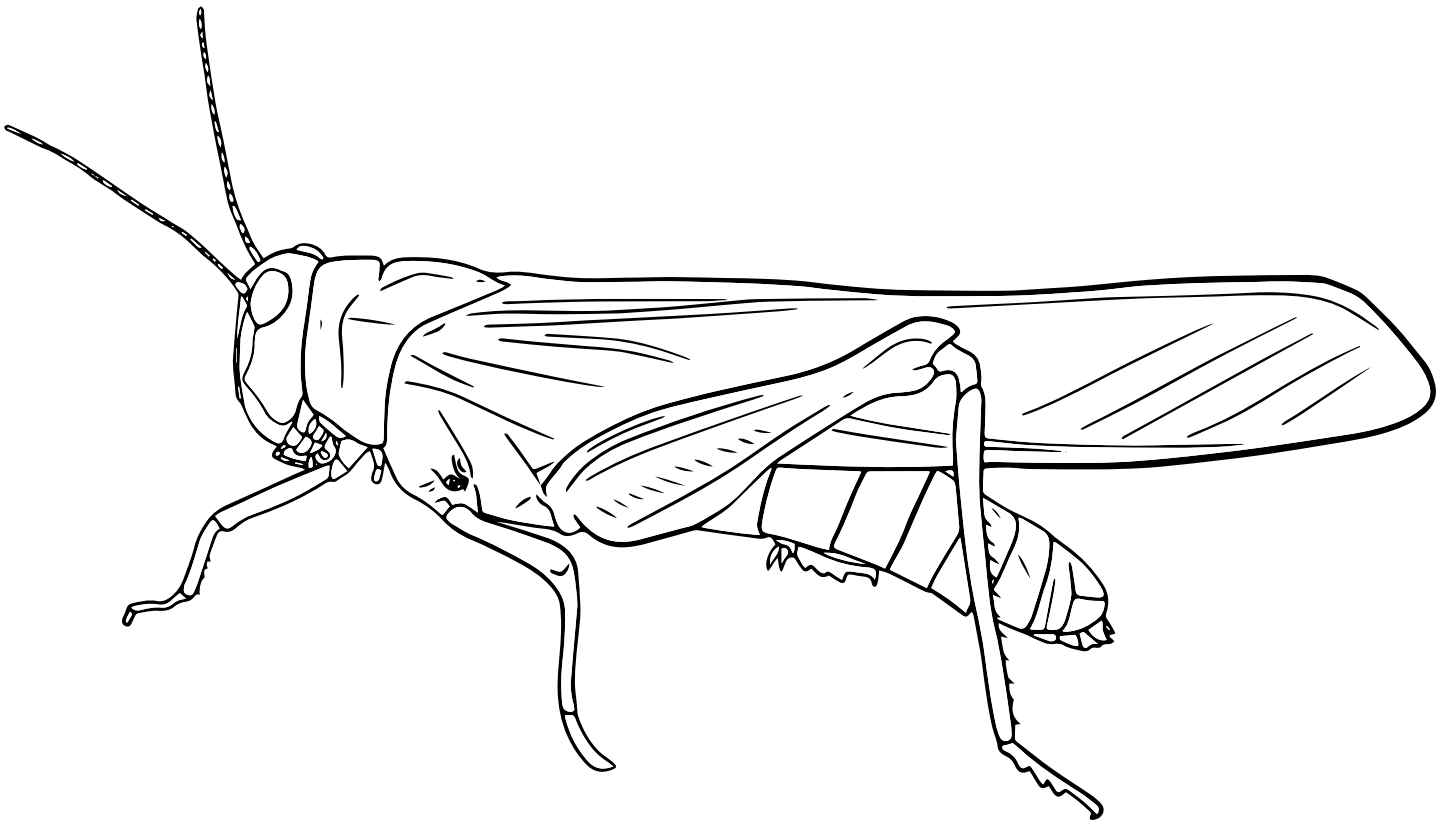
These beetles are black/brown in color. Some blister beetles species secrete a fluid called “cantharadin” when they feel threatened which cause skin to blister, giving the beetle its name.

Monarch Butterfly



Common insect throughout Minnesota in the summer, living where milkweed and native plants are common. It has bright orange wings with black veins and white spots. Its coloration is typical of poisonous animals and serves to warn potential predators to leave them alone.

Two-Stripped Grasshopper



Long, slender insect with wings and powerful hind legs. Their mandibles (mouthparts) are very strong and adapted for chewing. There are many species of hoppers, and though some can be harmful to agricultural crops, grasshoppers are a vital part of the diet for many prairie insects, spiders, birds, and small mammals.



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