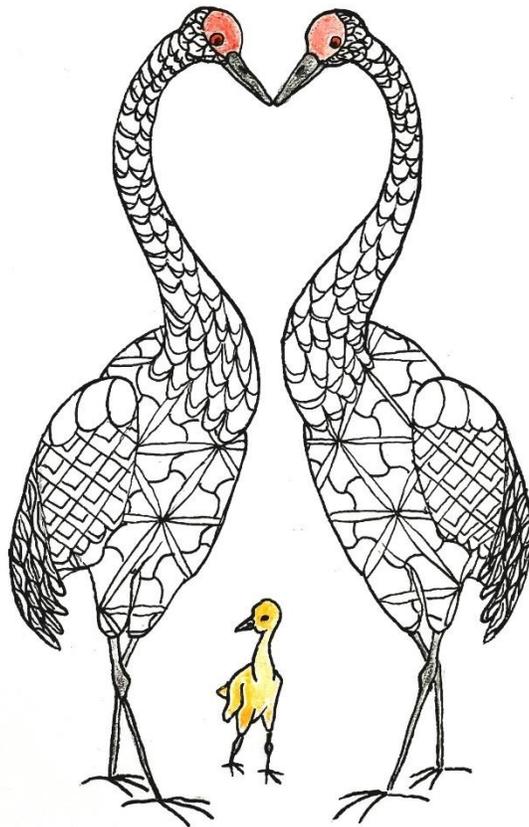


# *Wonderful Wildlife Of Florida*

A Coloring Book Of Florida Animals

By Avalon Jade Theisen



## MEET THE ARTIST

*Avalon Jade Theisen*

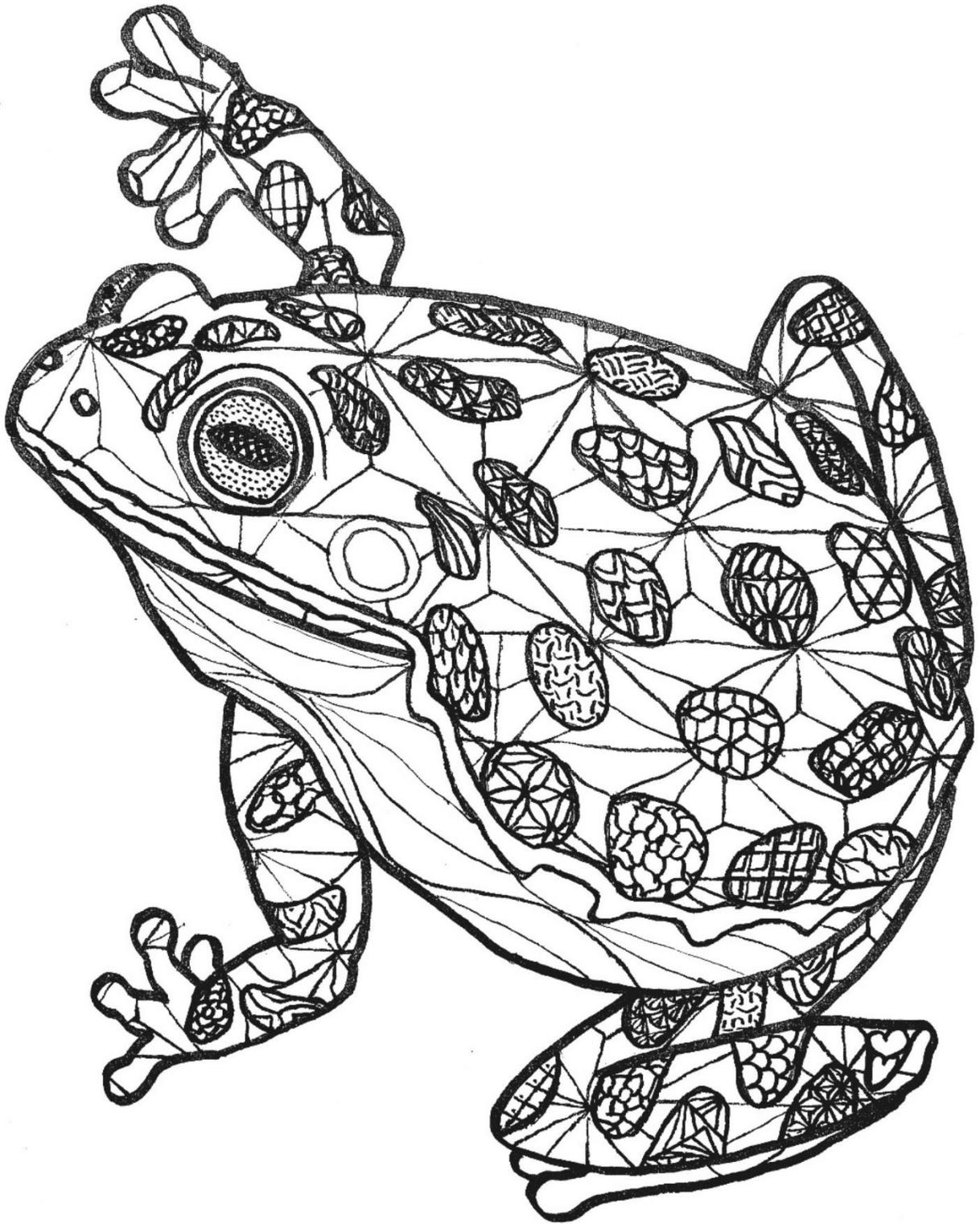
Having grown up in Tampa Bay, Avalon Jade Theisen has a life-long love for Florida nature. In 2012, she founded Conserve It Forward, a small nonprofit organization dedicated to environmental education.

In 2020, she graduated from the University Of South Florida. She then moved to Arizona for graduate studies, though returned to Tampa regularly to recharge and maintain her connection to the community. Her first master's degree focused on religions, environment, and food. Now back in Tampa full time, she is completing a second master's degree, this time in nonprofit leadership and management, as well as a PhD with a research focus of environmental organizations with religious affiliations.

In her free time, Avalon enjoys hiking, kayaking, reading, and drawing her beloved Florida wildlife.

You can reach her at [AvalonJadeT@gmail.com](mailto:AvalonJadeT@gmail.com).

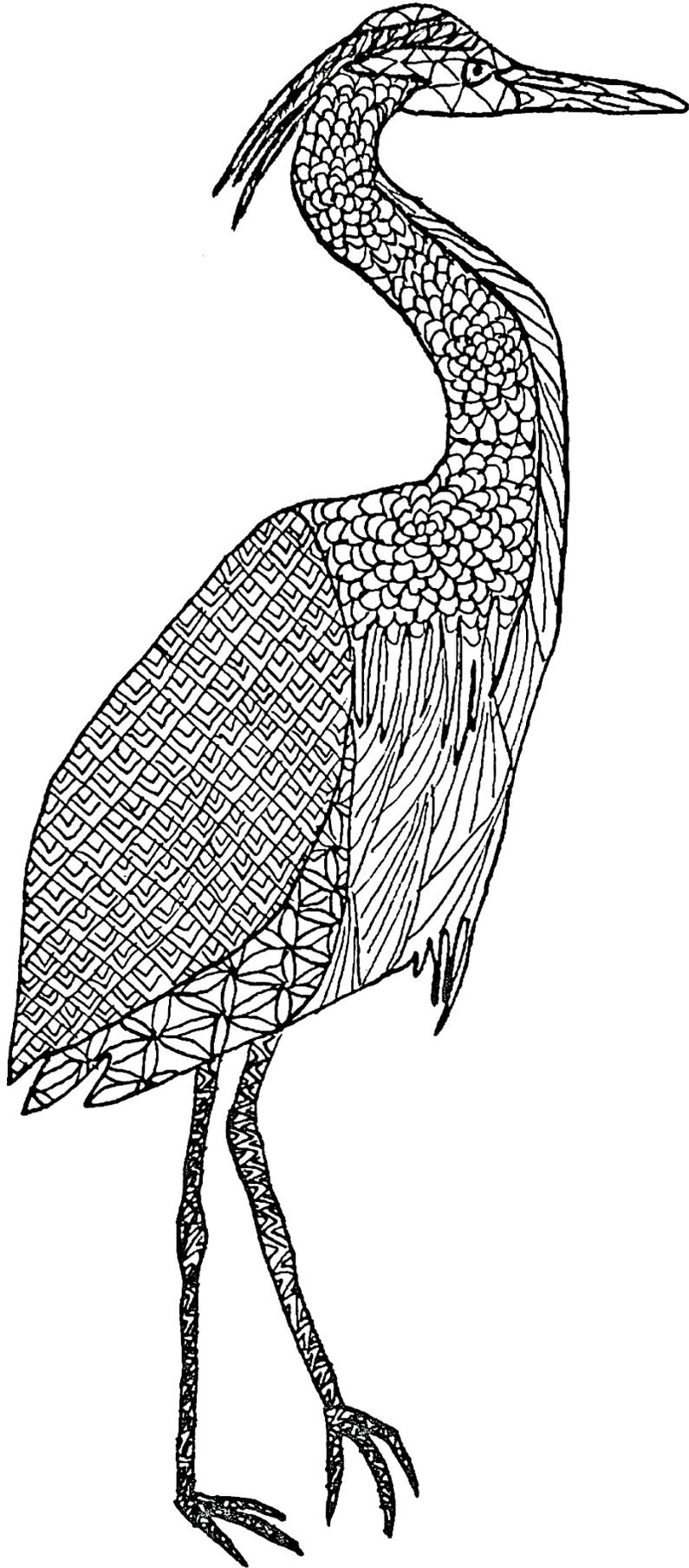




## Barking Treefrog

### *Dryophytes gratiosus*

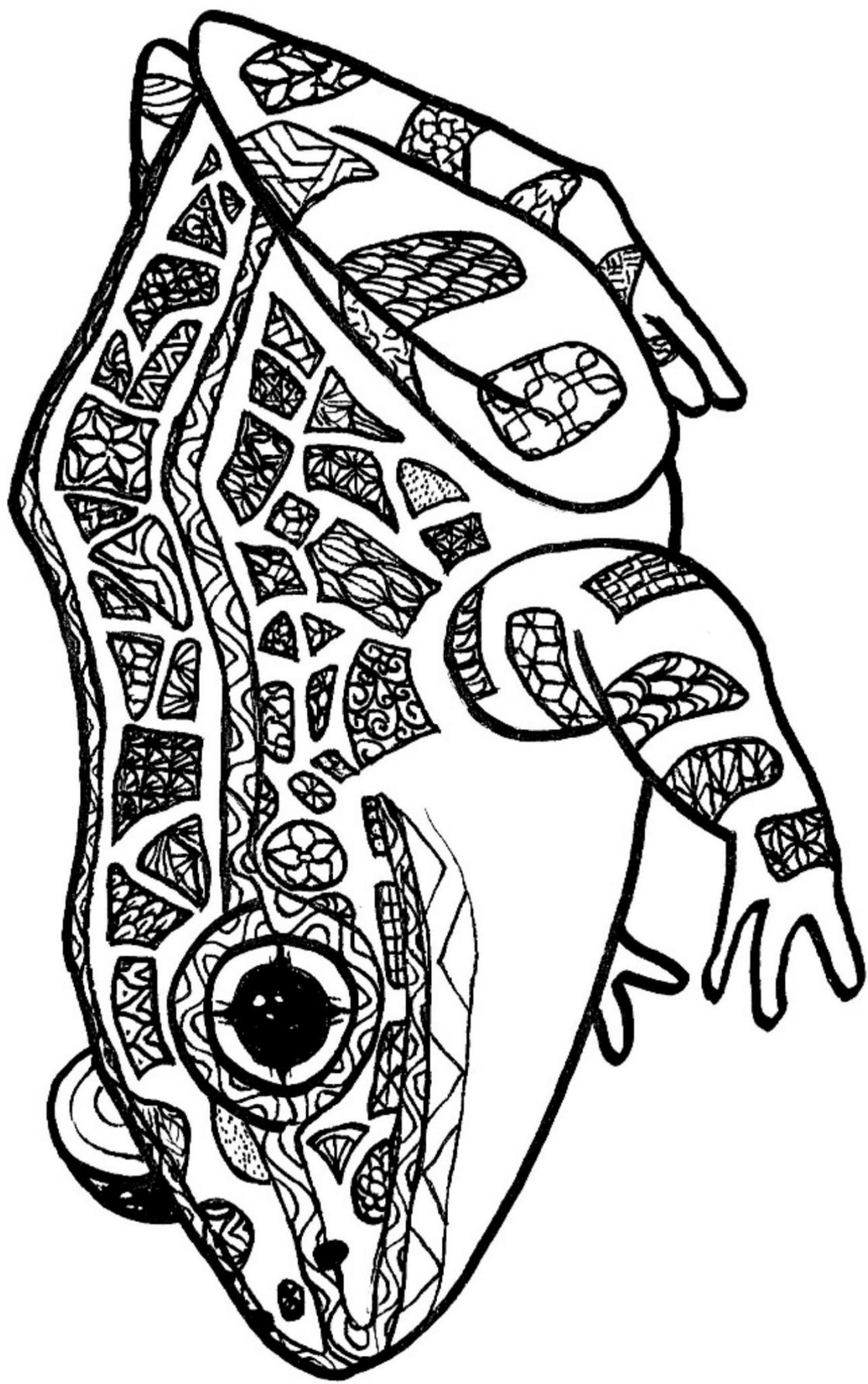
Avalon celebrates Florida wildlife with her geometric renditions, like this piece depicting a barking treefrog, the largest native treefrog in Florida. Frogs are indicator species because they are some of the first species in an ecosystem to begin dying out when there is environmental degradation, warning us that more species are to follow. Unfortunately, frogs of many species are declining because of habitat loss, pollution, climate change, and road collisions. Every day, human beings rely on functioning ecosystems for clean air, fresh water, and other necessities, so pollution and climate-intensified disasters also harm us by leading to birth defects, asthma, cancer, injury, displacement, and loss of life. You can live more sustainably, protecting animals like the barking treefrog and your own wellbeing, by buying less, eating less meat, choosing to live in an established neighborhood instead of a new build when moving homes, signing petitions, investing in reusables which only need to be purchased once, reducing pesticide use in your yard, planting Florida-friendly plants, keeping pet cats indoors, and driving slowly when it has recently rained.



## Great Blue Heron

### *Ardea herodias*

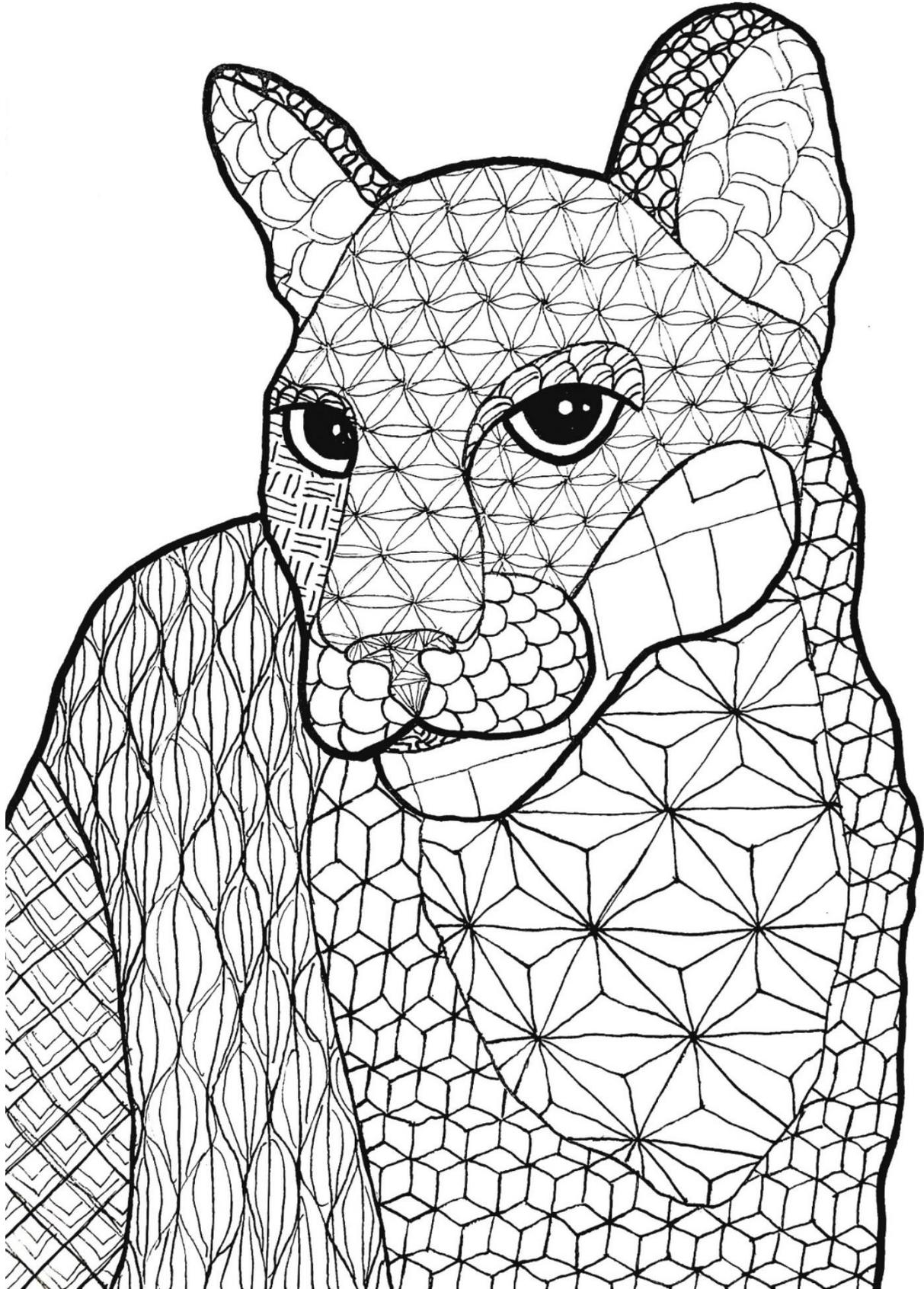
The great blue heron is a wading bird commonly found in shallow fresh water. Unfortunately, great blue herons are declining due to habitat loss from urbanization, pollution from pesticides, rising sea level, and hunting. Every day, human beings rely on functioning ecosystems for clean air, fresh water, and other necessities, so pollution and climate-intensified disasters also harm us by leading to birth defects, asthma, cancer, injury, displacement, and loss of life. You can live more sustainably, protecting animals like the great blue heron and your own wellbeing, by choosing to live in an established neighborhood instead of a new build when moving homes, reducing pesticide use in your yard, buying less, eating less meat, signing petitions, investing in reusables which only need to be purchased once, and planting Florida-friendly plants.



## Gopher Frog

### *Lithobates capito*

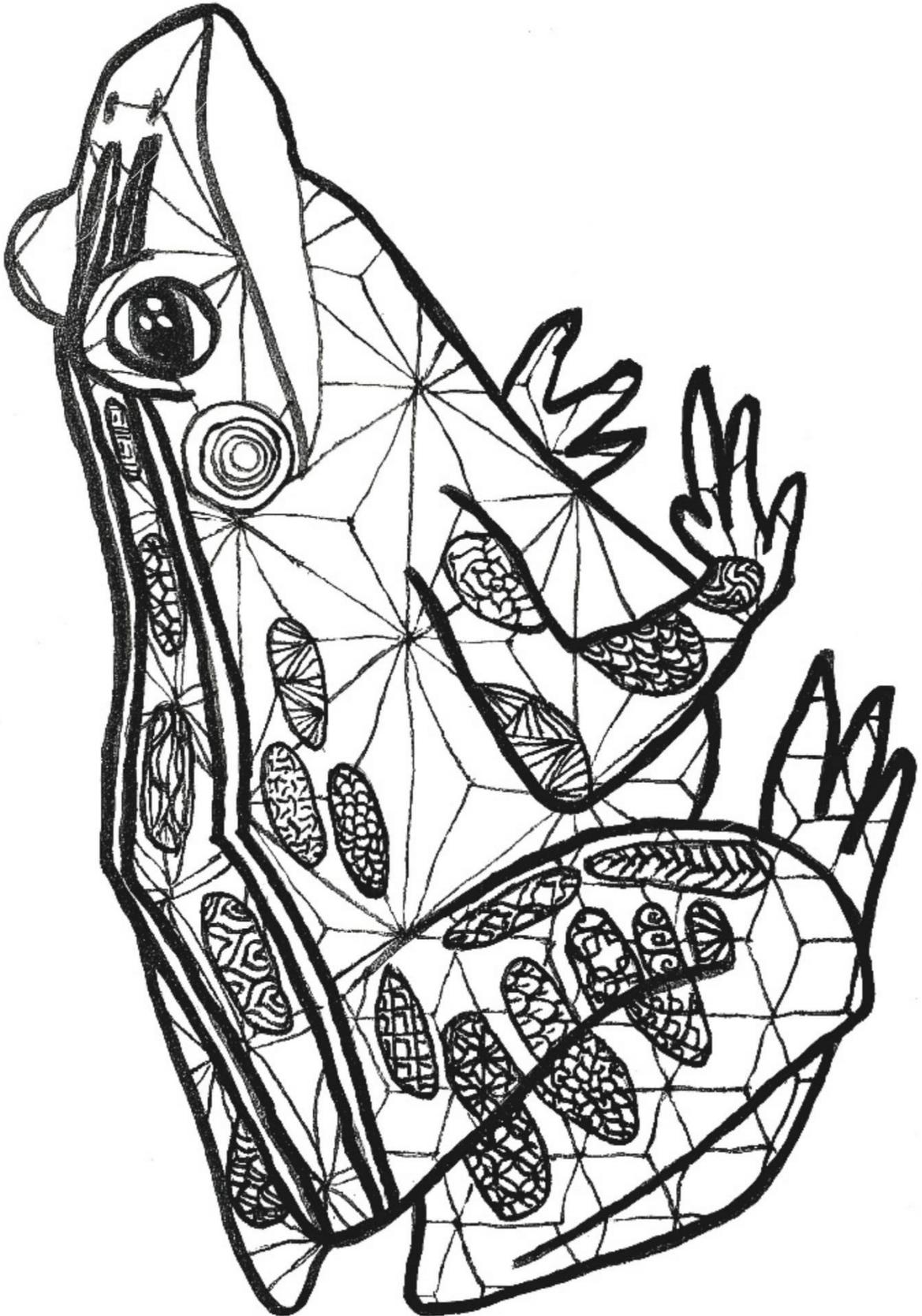
The gopher frog is a species named for living in the burrows of gopher tortoises. Gopher frogs serve a vital role as indicator species, in which their health indicates the health of their ecosystems. Unfortunately, the gopher frog is a species of special concern, largely due to habitat loss caused by destruction of upland habitats for commercial and residential buildings. Every day, human beings rely on functioning ecosystems for clean air, fresh water, and other necessities, so pollution and climate-intensified disasters also harm us by leading to birth defects, asthma, cancer, injury, displacement, and loss of life. You can live more sustainably, protecting animals like the gopher frog and your own wellbeing, by reducing pesticide use in your yard, choosing to live in an established neighborhood instead of a new build when moving homes, buying less, eating less meat, signing petitions, investing in reusables which only need to be purchased once, and planting Florida-friendly plants.



## Florida Panther

### *Puma concolor cougar*

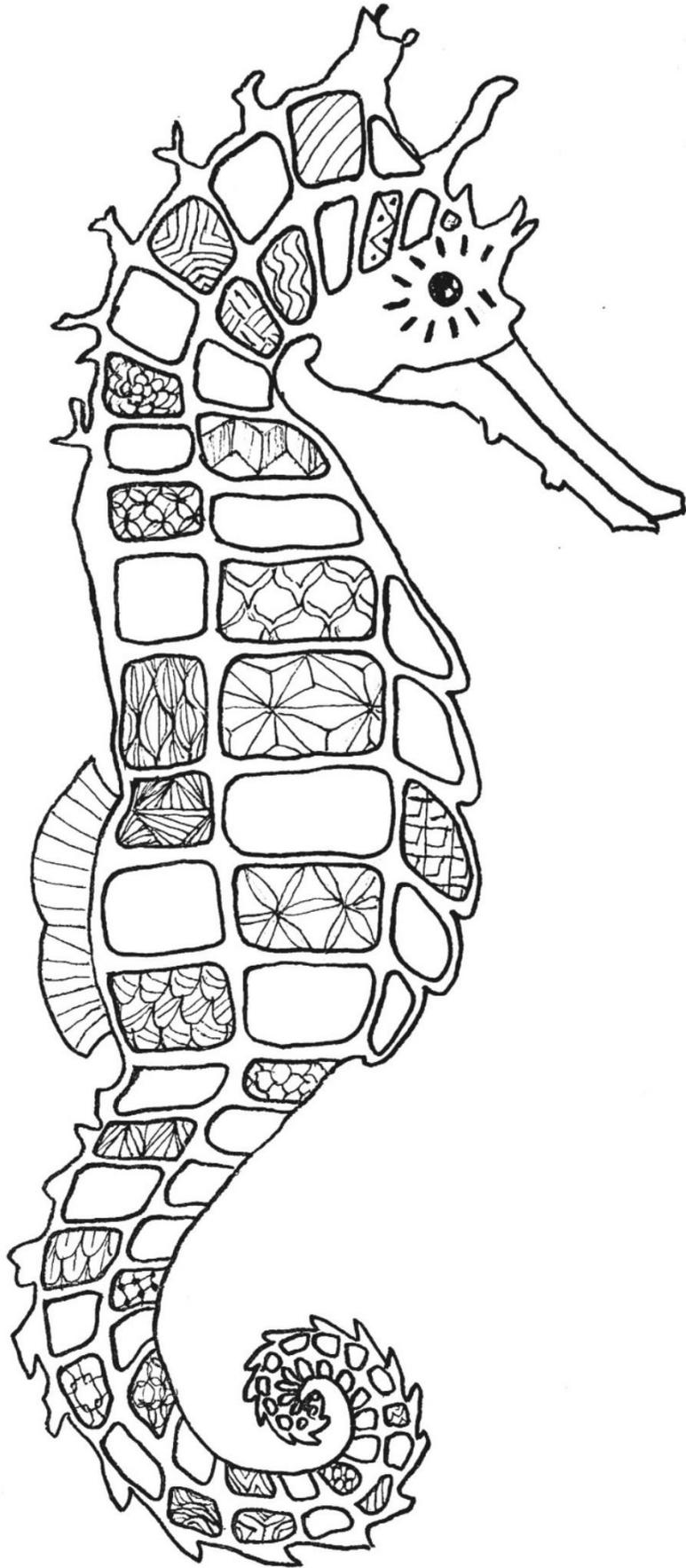
This piece depicts a Florida panther, the state animal. This species has a large range of up to 277 square miles, so needs lots of undeveloped space. Unfortunately, there are only about 200 Florida panthers in the wild, as they are often killed by habitat loss, in road collisions, and by illegal hunting. Every day, human beings rely on functioning ecosystems for clean air, fresh water, and other necessities, so pollution and climate-intensified disasters also harm us by leading to birth defects, asthma, cancer, injury, displacement, and loss of life. You can live more sustainably, protecting animals like the Florida panther and your own wellbeing, by driving slowly in wooded areas, choosing to live in an established neighborhood instead of a new build when moving homes, buying less, eating less meat, signing petitions, investing in reusables which only need to be purchased once, reducing pesticide use in your yard, and planting Florida-friendly plants.



## Southern Leopard Frog

### *Lithobates sphenocephalus utricularius*

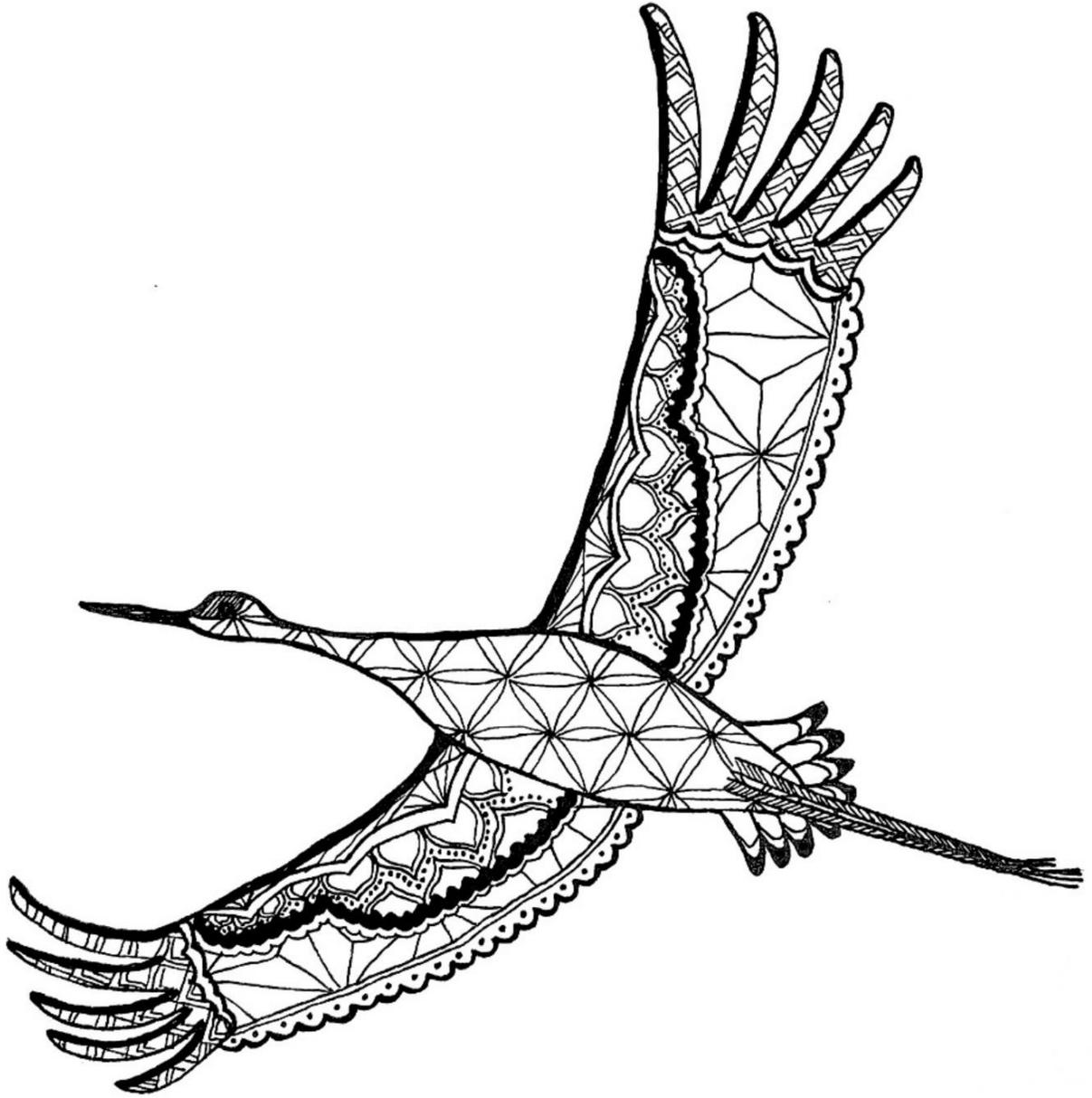
This piece depicts a southern leopard frog. Like other amphibians, this frog is an indicator species, meaning they are one of the first species to respond to environmental degradation in their habitats. Unfortunately, water pollution, pesticides, and habitat destruction from urbanization are threatening the southern leopard frog. Every day, human beings rely on functioning ecosystems for clean air, fresh water, and other necessities, so pollution and climate-intensified disasters also harm us by leading to birth defects, asthma, cancer, injury, displacement, and loss of life. You can live more sustainably, protecting animals like the southern leopard frog and your own wellbeing, by choosing to live in an established neighborhood instead of a new build when moving homes, reducing pesticide use in your yard, buying less, eating less meat, signing petitions, investing in reusables which only need to be purchased once, and planting Florida-friendly plants.



## Lined Seahorse

### *Hippocampus erectus*

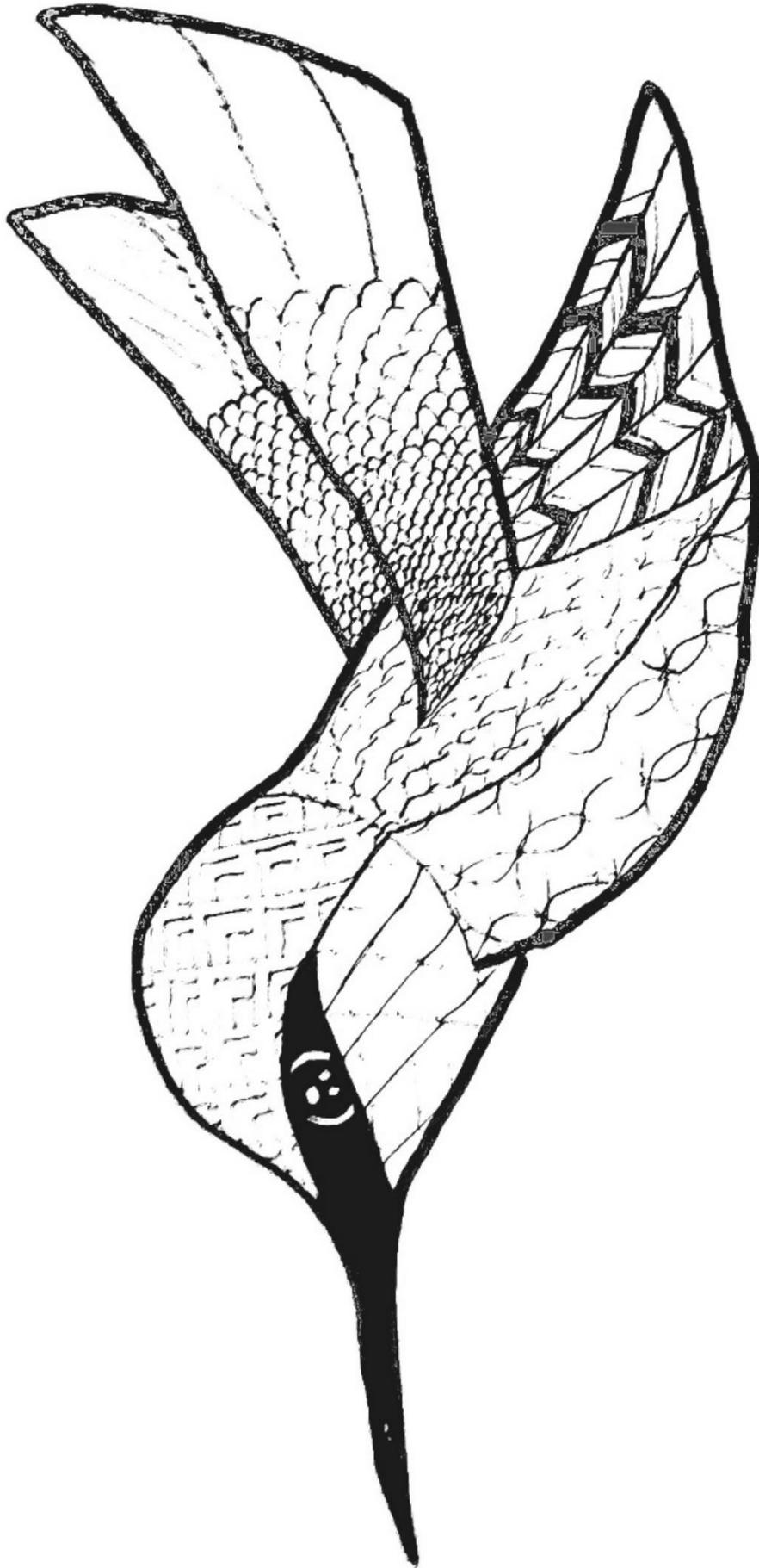
Lined seahorses feed on small crustaceans and often live near coral reefs. Unfortunately, the lined seahorse is a vulnerable species often a victim of bycatch in fisheries and is threatened by marine pollution. Every day, human beings rely on functioning ecosystems for clean air, fresh water, and other necessities, so pollution and climate-intensified disasters also harm us by leading to birth defects, asthma, cancer, injury, displacement, and loss of life. You can live more sustainably, protecting animals like the lined seahorse and your own wellbeing, by eating less fish, reducing pesticide use in your yard, participating in cleanups, buying less, signing petitions, and investing in reusables which only need to be purchased once.



## Sandhill Crane

### *Antigone canadensis pratensis*

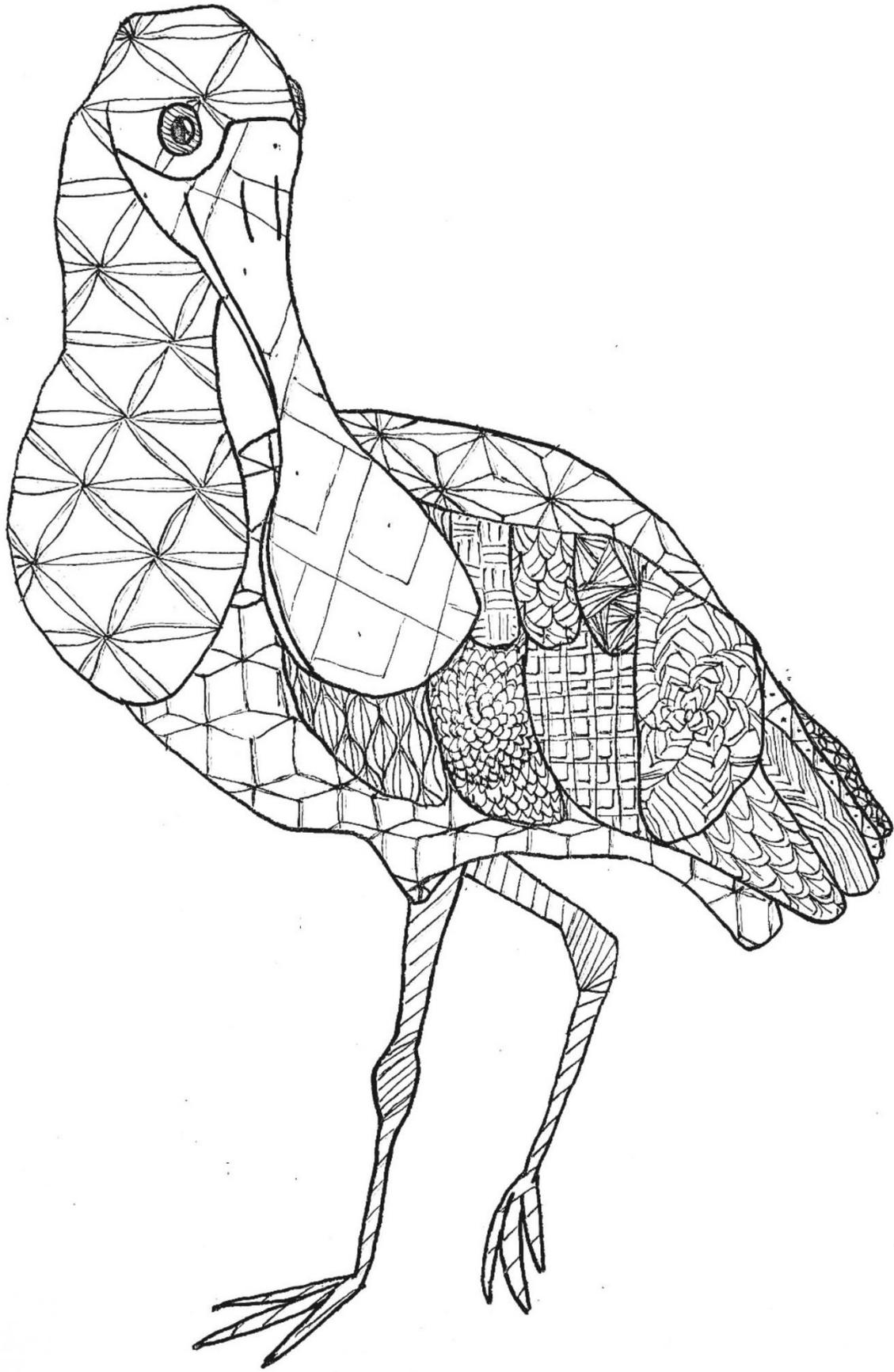
Sandhill cranes play an important ecological role by dispersing seeds and acting as an indicator species of their wetland and grassland habitats. Unfortunately, sandhill cranes are threatened by habitat loss, hunting, and power line collisions. Every day, human beings rely on functioning ecosystems for clean air, fresh water, and other necessities, so pollution and climate-intensified disasters also harm us by leading to birth defects, asthma, cancer, injury, displacement, and loss of life. You can live more sustainably, protecting animals like the sandhill crane and your own wellbeing, by choosing to live in an established neighborhood instead of a new build when moving homes, not hunting for sport, reducing pesticide use in your yard, buying less, eating less meat, signing petitions, investing in reusables which only need to be purchased once, and planting Florida-friendly plants.



## Ruby-Throated Hummingbird

### *Archilochus colubris*

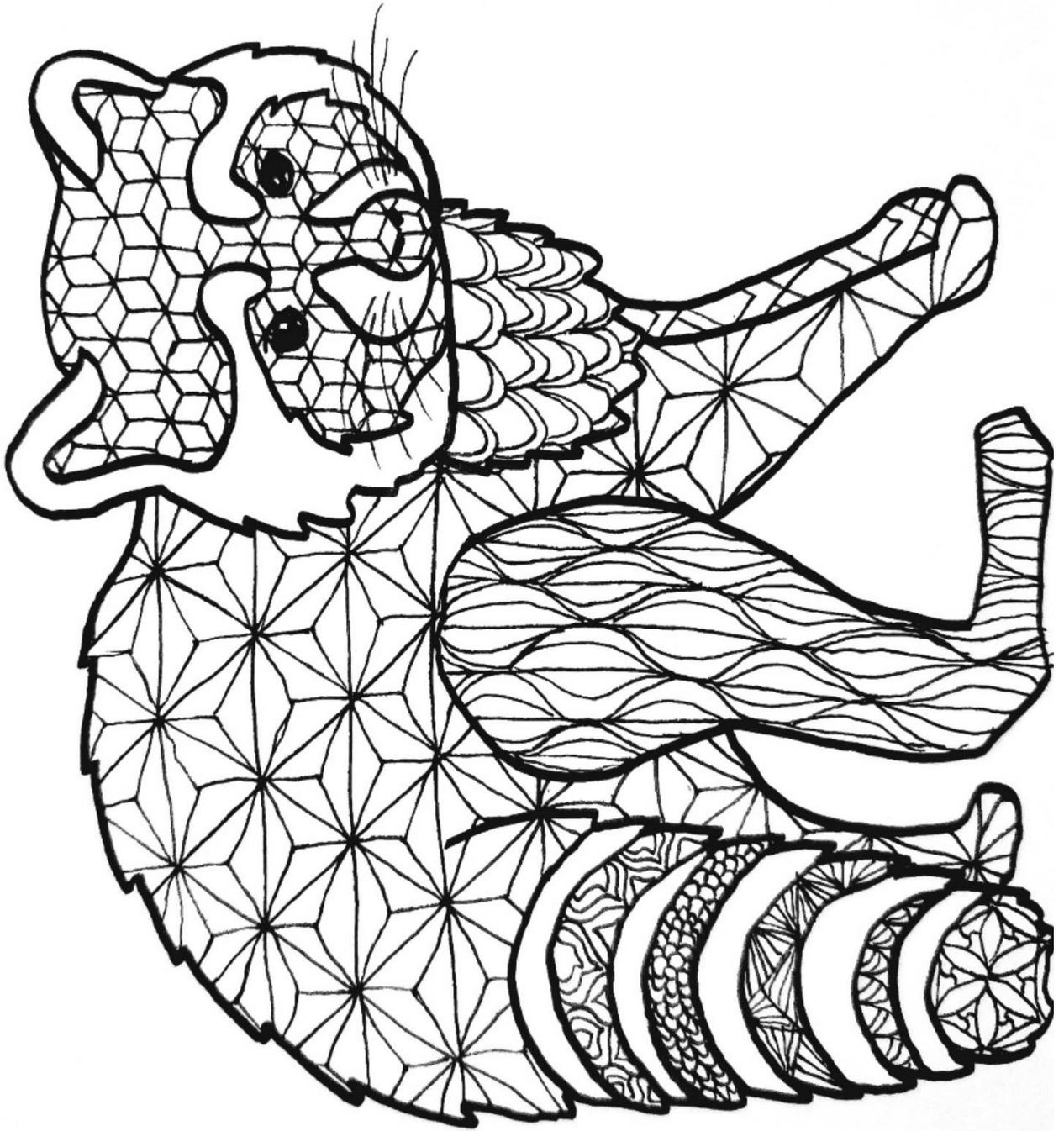
The ruby-throated hummingbird prefers to drink nectar from red and orange flowers, such as coral honeysuckle. Unfortunately, ruby-throated hummingbirds are often preyed upon by cats that have been allowed to roam freely outdoors. Every day, human beings rely on functioning ecosystems for clean air, fresh water, and other necessities, so pollution and climate-intensified disasters also harm us by leading to birth defects, asthma, cancer, injury, displacement, and loss of life. You can live more sustainably, protecting animals like the ruby-throated hummingbird and your own wellbeing, by keeping pet cats inside, planting tubular flowers, installing a hummingbird feeder, reducing pesticide use in your yard, buying less, eating less meat, signing petitions, investing in reusables which only need to be purchased once, and planting Florida-friendly plants.



## Roseate Spoonbill

### *Platalea ajaja*

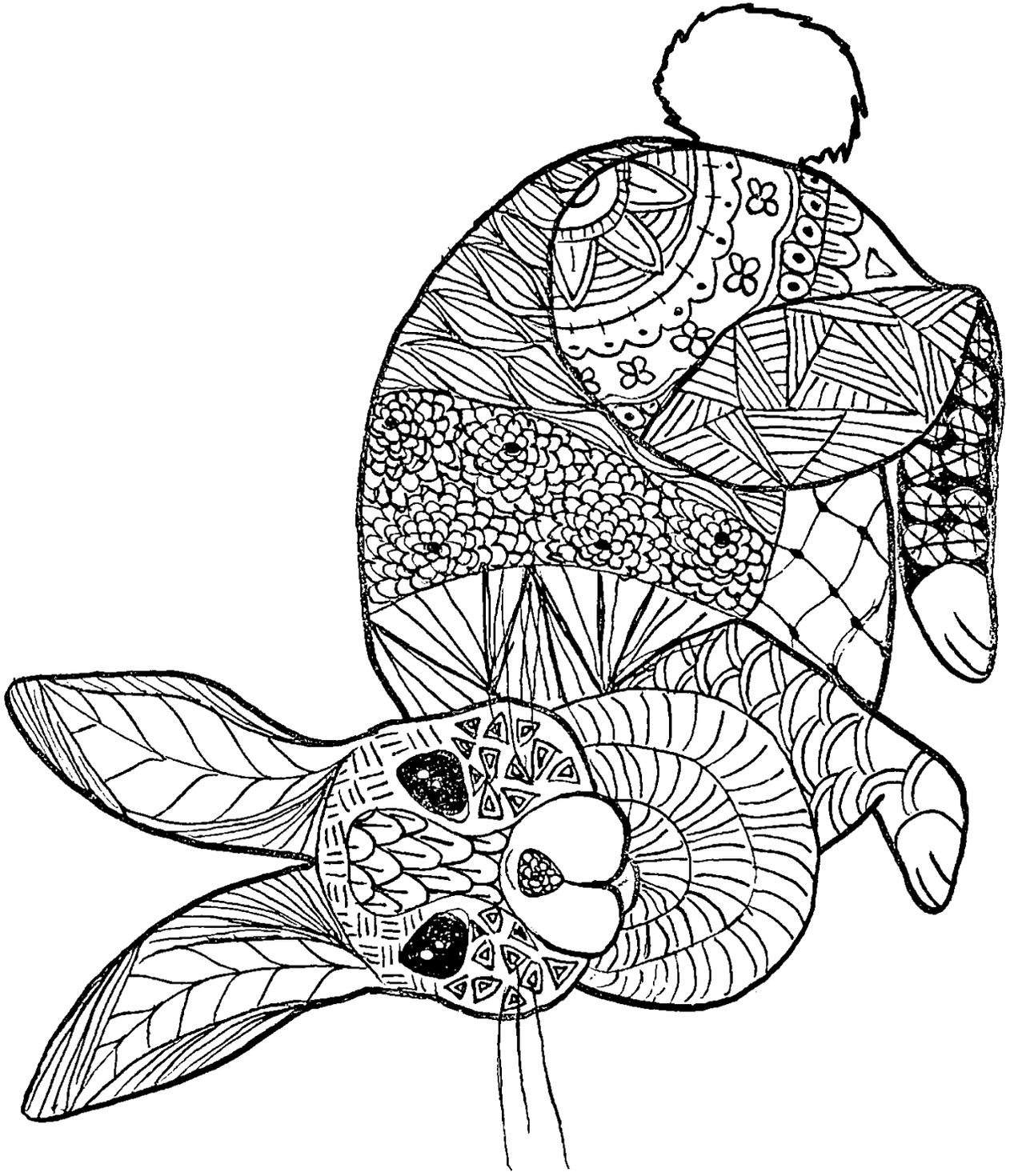
The roseate spoonbill is an indicator species whose presence indicates clean water and abundant food. Unfortunately, climate change is limiting where roseate spoonbills are able to live. Every day, human beings rely on functioning ecosystems for clean air, fresh water, and other necessities, so pollution and climate-intensified disasters also harm us by leading to birth defects, asthma, cancer, injury, displacement, and loss of life. You can live more sustainably, protecting animals like the roseate spoonbill and your own wellbeing, by reducing pesticide use in your yard, buying less, eating less meat, signing petitions, investing in reusables which only need to be purchased once, and planting Florida-friendly plants.



## Raccoon

### *Procyon lotor*

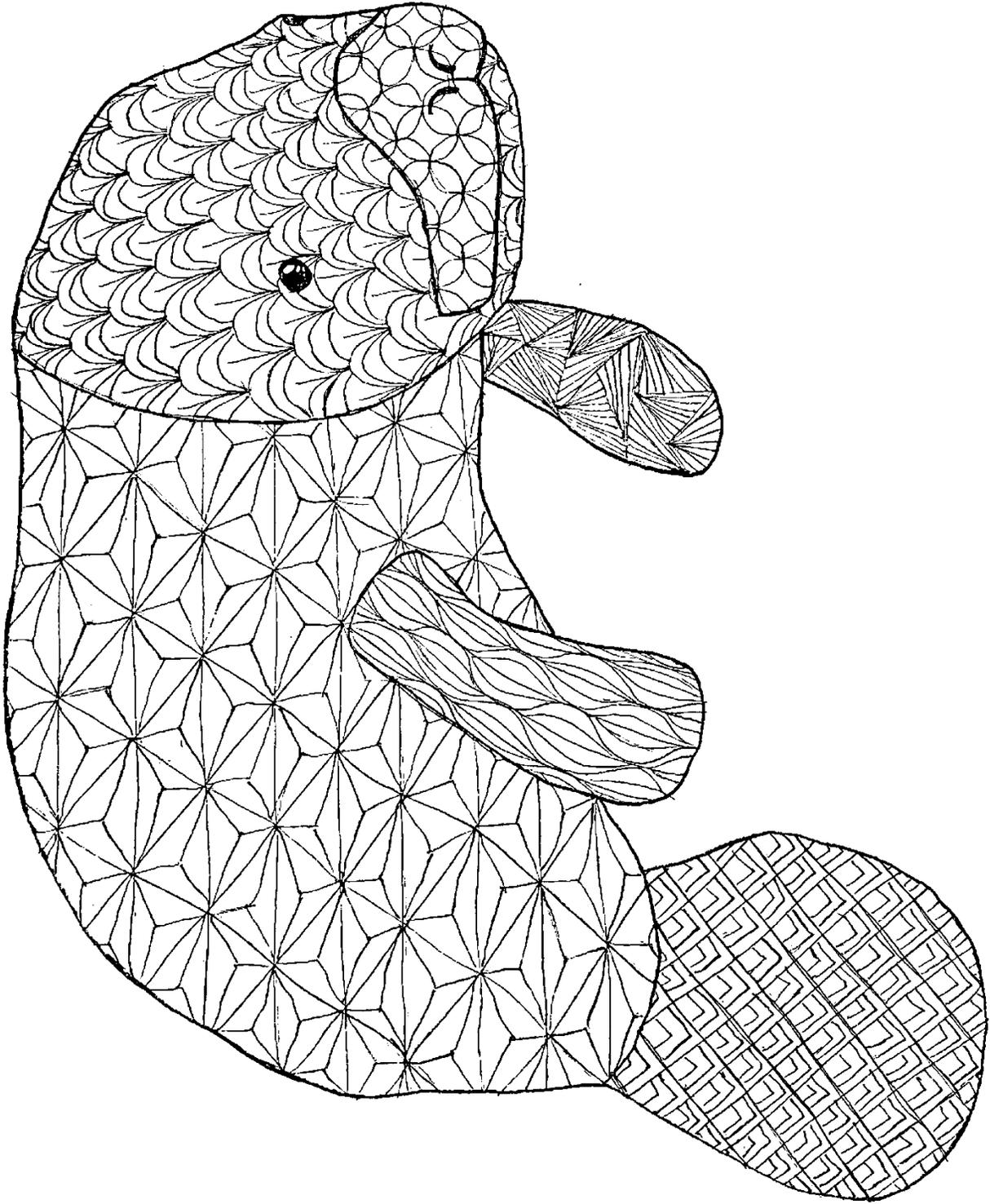
The raccoon is an omnivore known for its black mask pattern and opportunistic nature. Raccoons are able to run 15 miles per hour, scale tall trees, and cross water. Unfortunately, urbanization has led to some raccoon populations being considered a nuisance animal, so they are targeted. Every day, human beings rely on functioning ecosystems for clean air, fresh water, and other necessities, so pollution and climate-intensified disasters also harm us by leading to birth defects, asthma, cancer, injury, displacement, and loss of life. You can live more sustainably, protecting animals like the raccoon and your own wellbeing, by not feeding wild animals, buying less, eating less meat, signing petitions, investing in reusables which only need to be purchased once, reducing pesticide use in your yard, and planting Florida-friendly plants.



## Swamp Rabbit

### *Sylvilagus aquaticus*

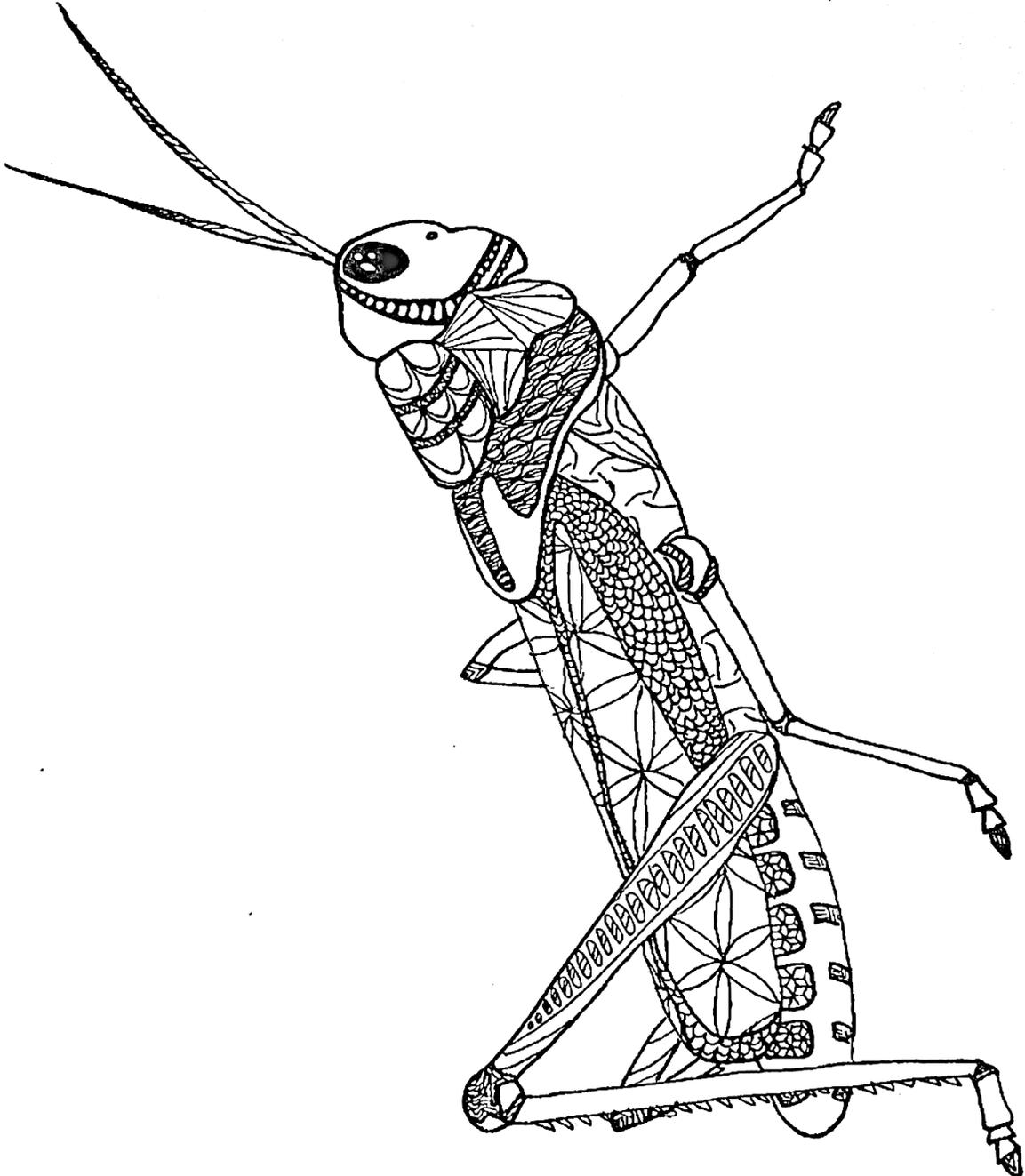
The swamp rabbit helps control vegetation by feeding on it and is important to many predators' diets. Unfortunately, swamp rabbits are sometimes hunted for their fur. Every day, human beings rely on functioning ecosystems for clean air, fresh water, and other necessities, so pollution and climate-intensified disasters also harm us by leading to birth defects, asthma, cancer, injury, displacement, and loss of life. You can live more sustainably, protecting animals like the swamp rabbit and your own wellbeing, by not hunting for sport, reducing pesticide use in your yard, buying less, eating less meat, signing petitions, investing in reusables which only need to be purchased once, and planting Florida-friendly plants.



## West Indian Manatee

### *Trichechus manatus*

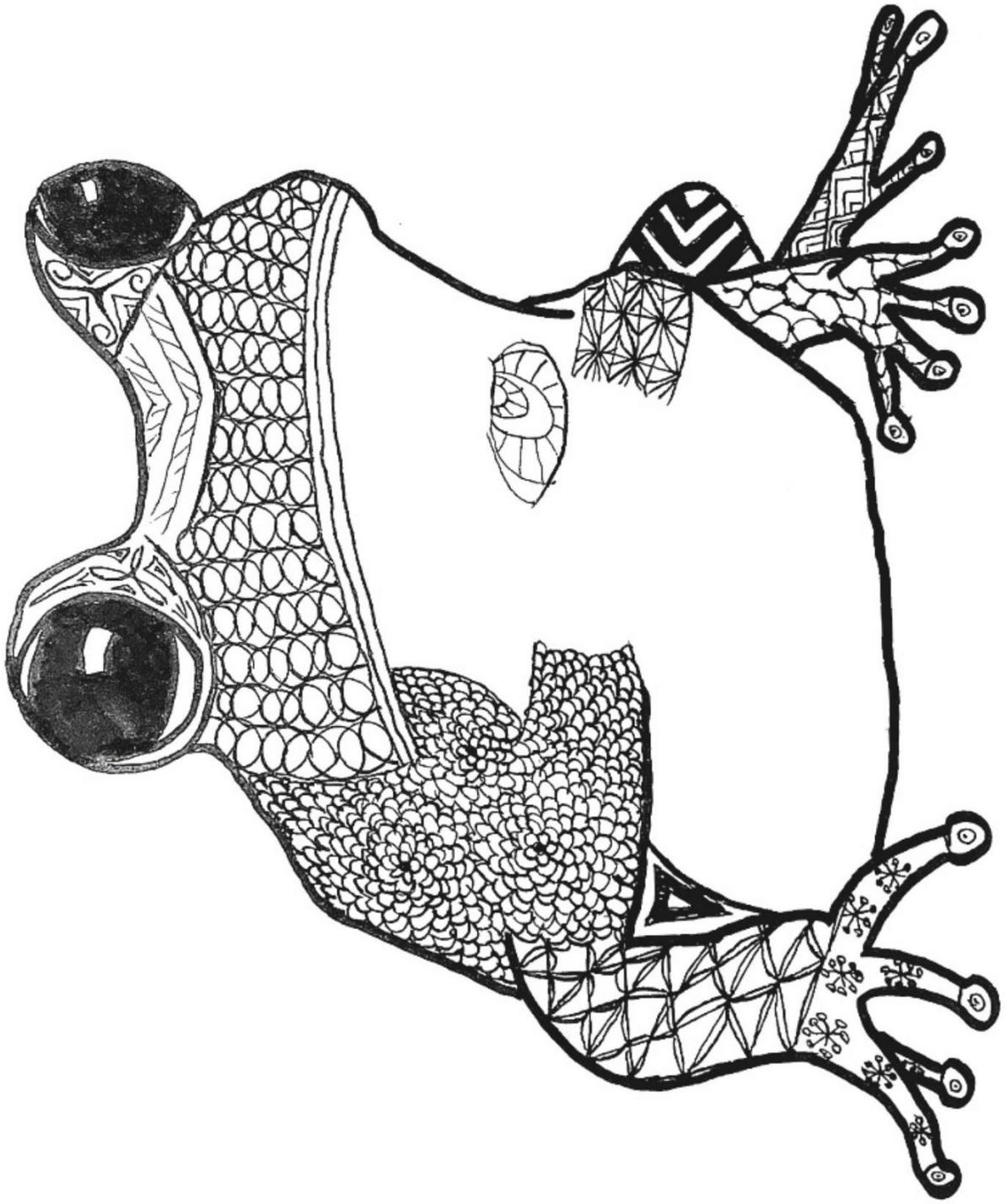
This piece depicts a West Indian manatee. Manatees are important for controlling aquatic vegetation, stimulating seagrass growth through grazing, and for serving as indicator species. Unfortunately, coastal development, boat collisions, and red tide are harming manatees. Every day, human beings rely on functioning ecosystems for clean air, fresh water, and other necessities, so pollution and climate-intensified disasters also harm us by leading to birth defects, asthma, cancer, injury, displacement, and loss of life. You can live more sustainably, protecting animals like the West Indian manatee and your own wellbeing, by choosing to live in an established neighborhood instead of a new build when moving homes, going slow when boating, reducing pesticide use in your yard, eating less meat, buying less, signing petitions, and investing in reusables which only need to be purchased once.



## Lubber Grasshopper

### *Romalea microptera*

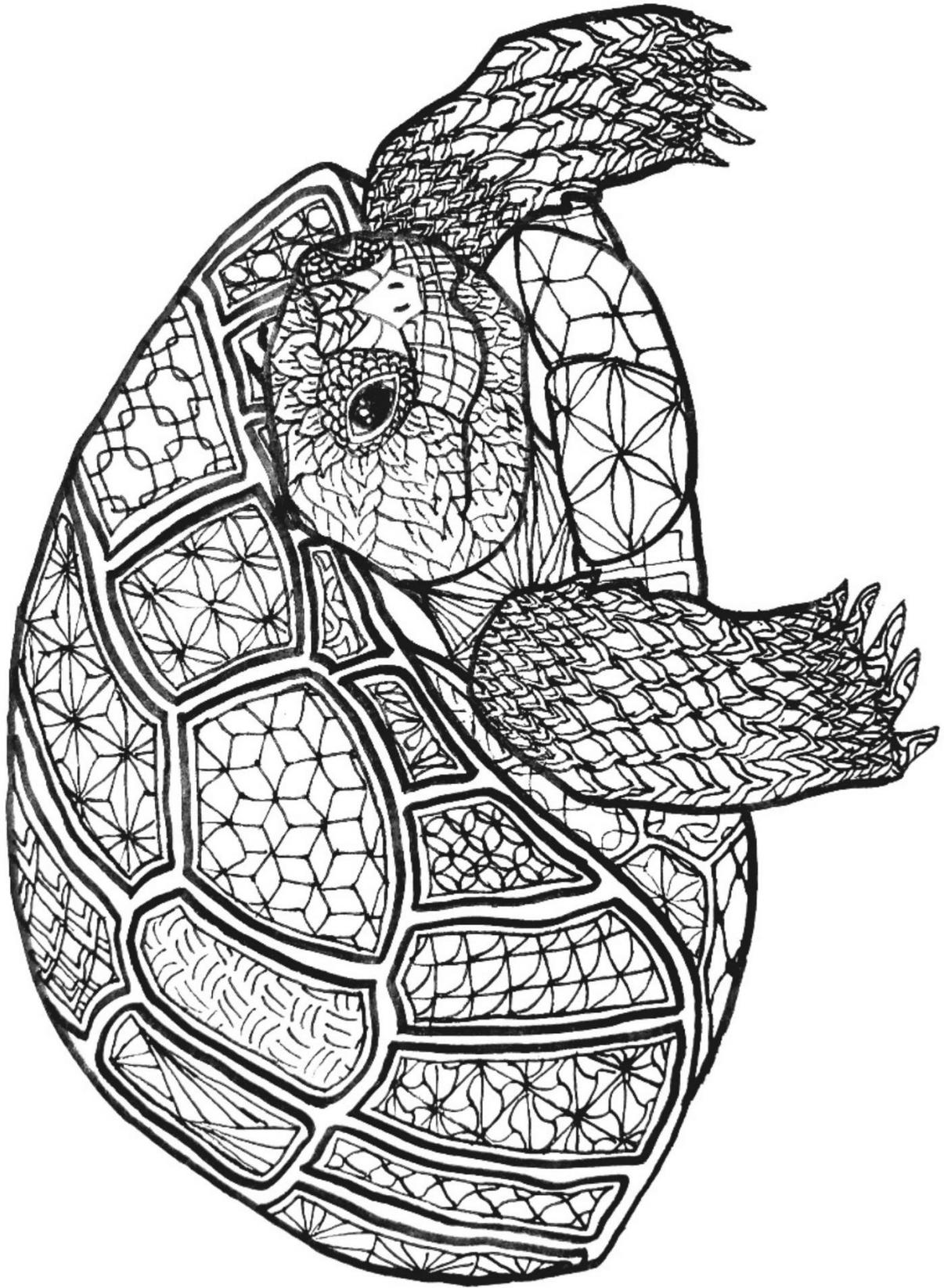
The lubber grasshopper is one of the largest grasshopper species. Known for its bright orange color, lubber grasshoppers play an important role through eating weeds and enriching the soil by their waste products. Unfortunately, habitat destruction threatens this insect. Every day, human beings rely on functioning ecosystems for clean air, fresh water, and other necessities, so pollution and climate-intensified disasters also harm us by leading to birth defects, asthma, cancer, injury, displacement, and loss of life. You can live more sustainably, protecting animals like the lubber grasshopper and your own wellbeing, by choosing to live in an established neighborhood instead of a new build when moving homes, buying less, eating less meat, signing petitions, investing in reusables which only need to be purchased once, reducing pesticide use in your yard, and planting Florida-friendly plants.



## Green Treefrog

*Hyla cinerea*

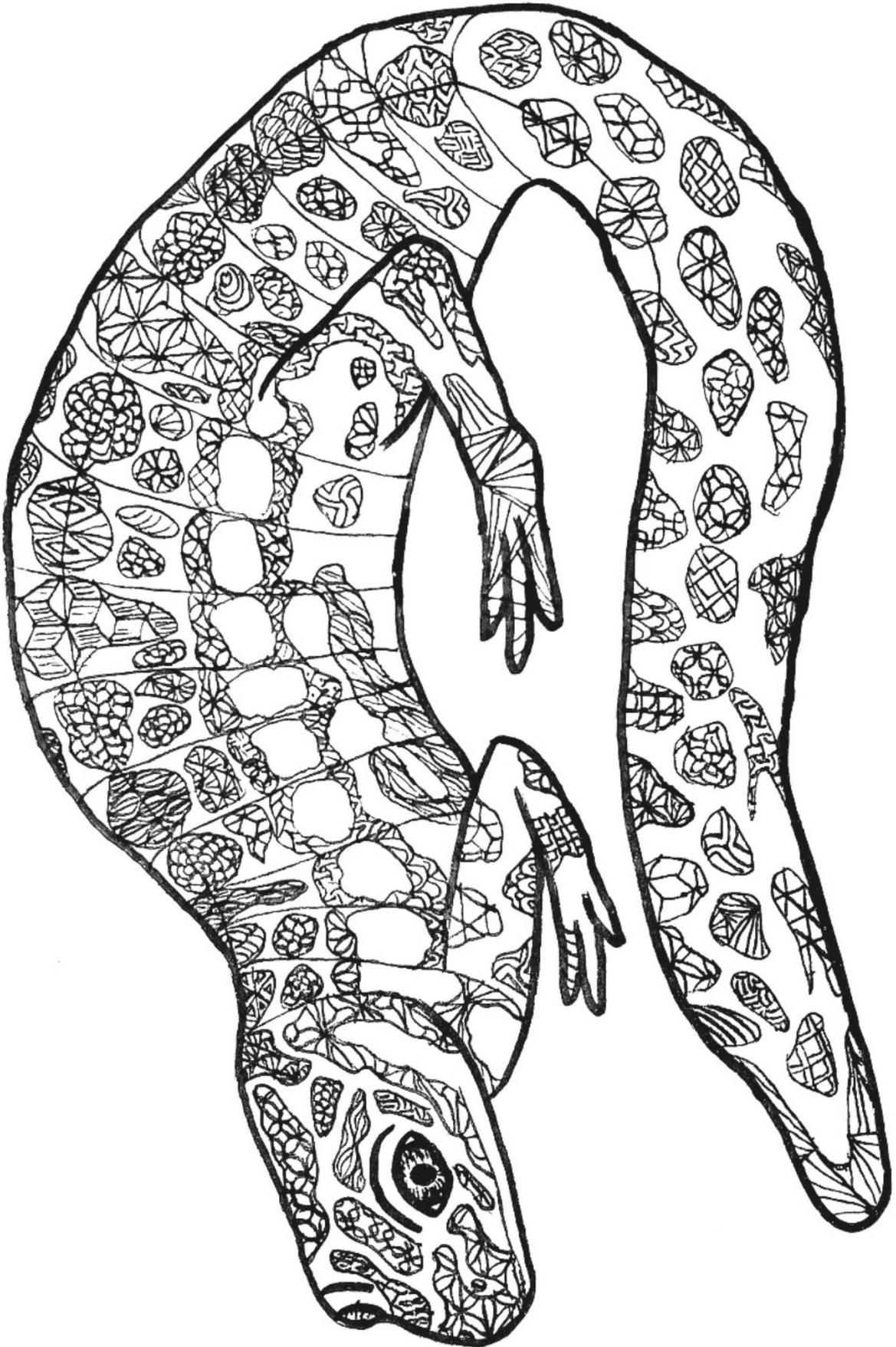
The green treefrog helps keep insect populations down by feeding on them and serves an important role sustaining predators like fish and snakes. Unfortunately, green treefrogs are threatened by pesticides and other chemicals. Every day, human beings rely on functioning ecosystems for clean air, fresh water, and other necessities, so pollution and climate-intensified disasters also harm us by leading to birth defects, asthma, cancer, injury, displacement, and loss of life. You can live more sustainably, protecting animals like the green treefrog and your own wellbeing, by reducing pesticide use in your yard, buying less, eating less meat, signing petitions, investing in reusables which only need to be purchased once, and planting Florida-friendly plants.



## Gopher Tortoise

### *Gopherus polyphemus*

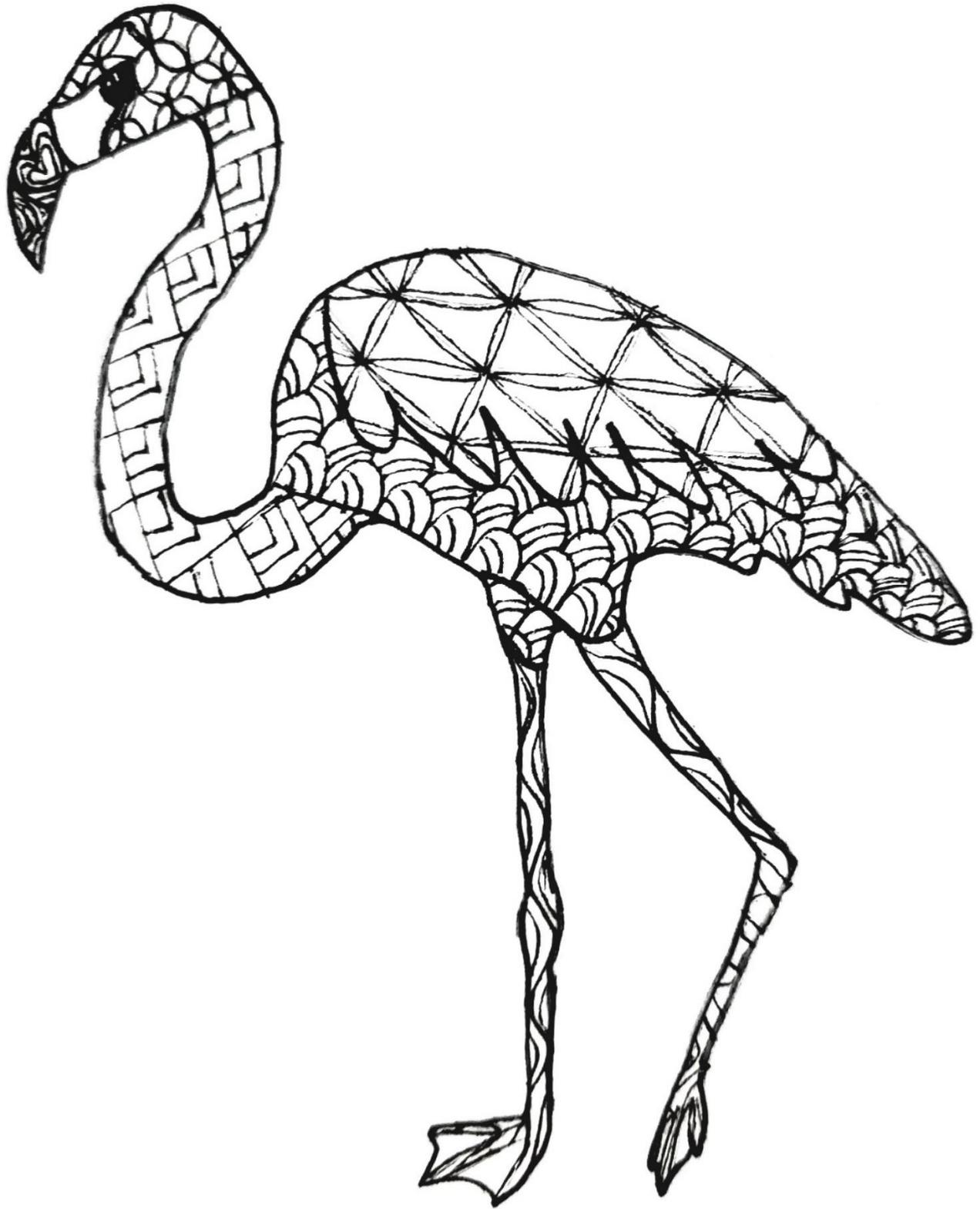
The gopher tortoise is a keystone species whose burrows are used by 360 other species. Unfortunately, this tortoise is threatened by urban development, which is causing habitat fragmentation. Every day, human beings rely on functioning ecosystems for clean air, fresh water, and other necessities, so pollution and climate-intensified disasters also harm us by leading to birth defects, asthma, cancer, injury, displacement, and loss of life. You can live more sustainably, protecting animals like the gopher tortoise and your own wellbeing, by leaving tortoise burrows undisturbed, choosing to live in an established neighborhood instead of a new build when moving homes, buying less, eating less meat, signing petitions, investing in reusables which only need to be purchased once, reducing pesticide use in your yard, and planting Florida-friendly plants.



## Frosted Flatwoods Salamander

### *Ambystoma cingulatum*

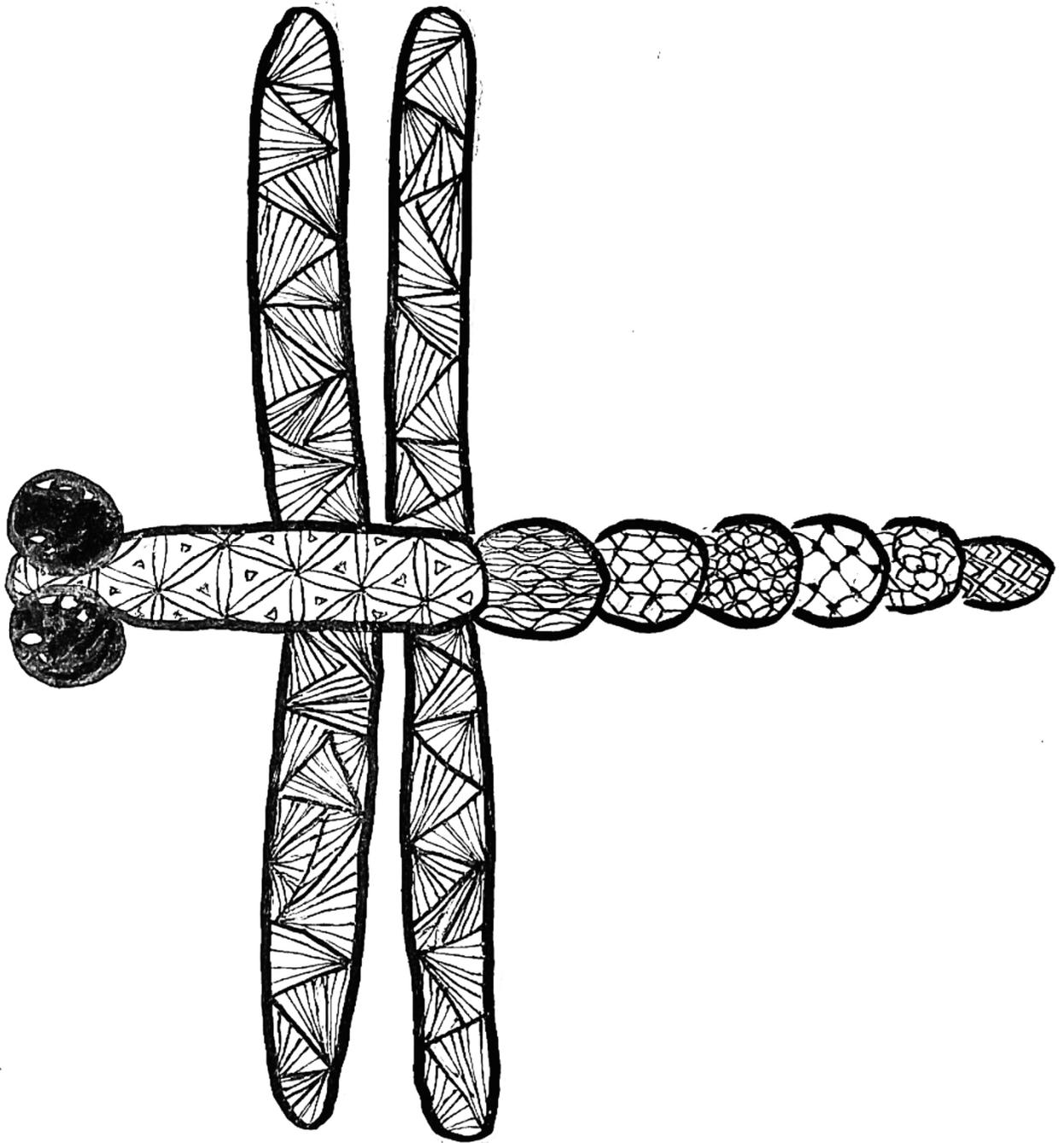
The frosted flatwoods salamander serves an important ecological role as an indicator species, meaning their health reflects the wider ecosystem's health. Unfortunately, the frosted flatwoods salamander is endangered, largely due to habitat loss, so signals wider degradation in the near future. Every day, human beings rely on functioning ecosystems for clean air, fresh water, and other necessities, so pollution and climate-intensified disasters also harm us by leading to birth defects, asthma, cancer, injury, displacement, and loss of life. You can live more sustainably, protecting animals like the frosted flatwoods salamander and your own wellbeing, by choosing to live in an established neighborhood instead of a new build when moving homes, buying less, eating less meat, signing petitions, investing in reusables which only need to be purchased once, reducing pesticide use in your yard, planting Florida-friendly plants, keeping pet cats indoors, and driving slowly when it has recently rained.



## American Flamingo

### *Phoenicopterus ruber*

This piece depicts an American flamingo. Flamingos use their feet to stir up organisms on the bottom of water bodies, which helps aquatic ecosystems through mixing organic material and oxygenation. Unfortunately, flamingo behavior often changes from things as seemingly-minor as human observation, which sometimes causes these birds to abandon their breeding grounds. Every day, human beings rely on functioning ecosystems for clean air, fresh water, and other necessities, so pollution and climate-intensified disasters also harm us by leading to birth defects, asthma, cancer, injury, displacement, and loss of life. You can live more sustainably, protecting animals like the American flamingo and your own wellbeing, by not disturbing wild birds, reducing pesticide use in your yard, buying less, eating less meat, signing petitions, investing in reusables which only need to be purchased once, and planting Florida-friendly plants.

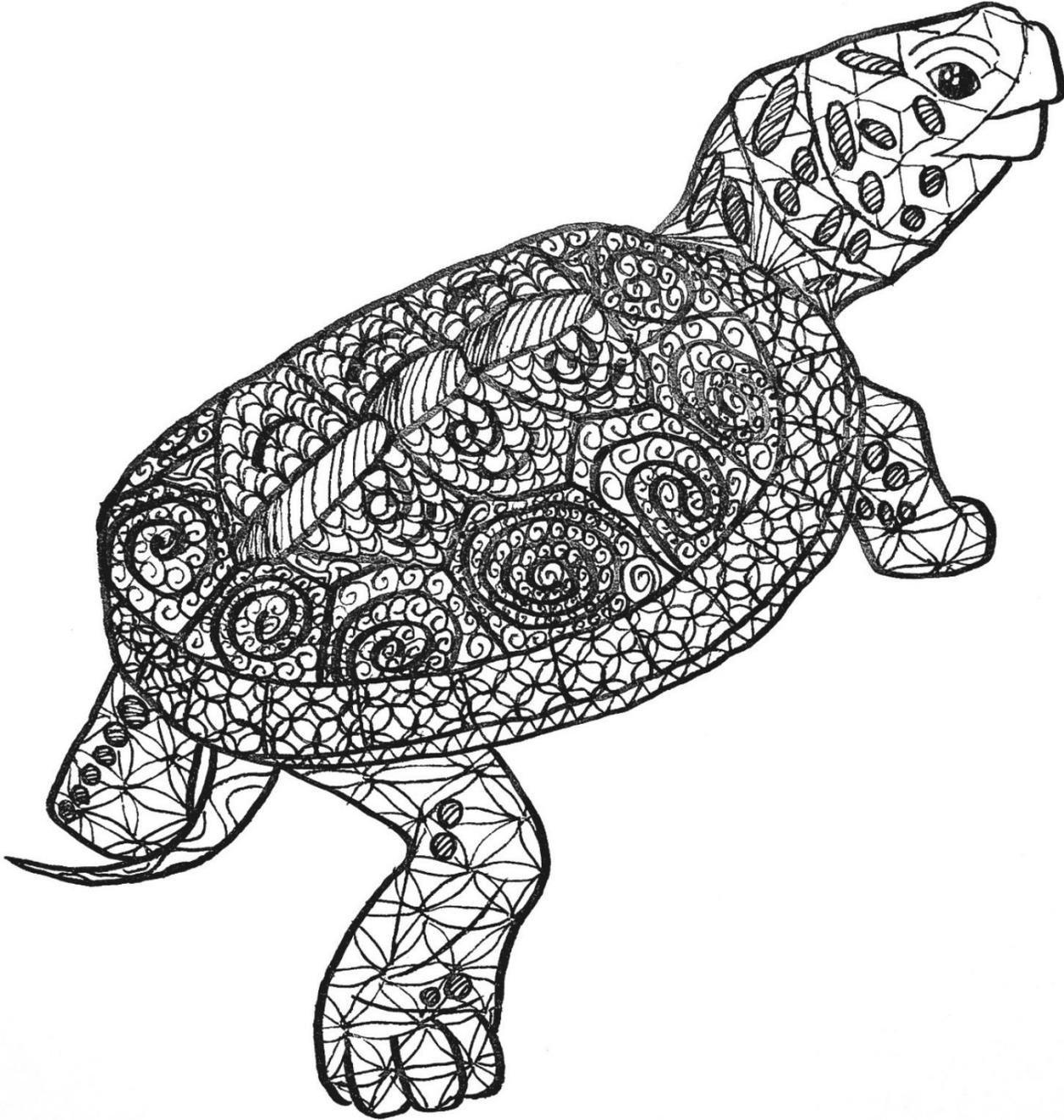


## Great Blue Skimmer

### *Libellula vibrans*

This piece depicting a great blue skimmer dragonfly. Dragonflies serve as natural pest controllers, including by eating insects. Since dragonflies require clean water, their presence indicates a healthy aquatic ecosystem.

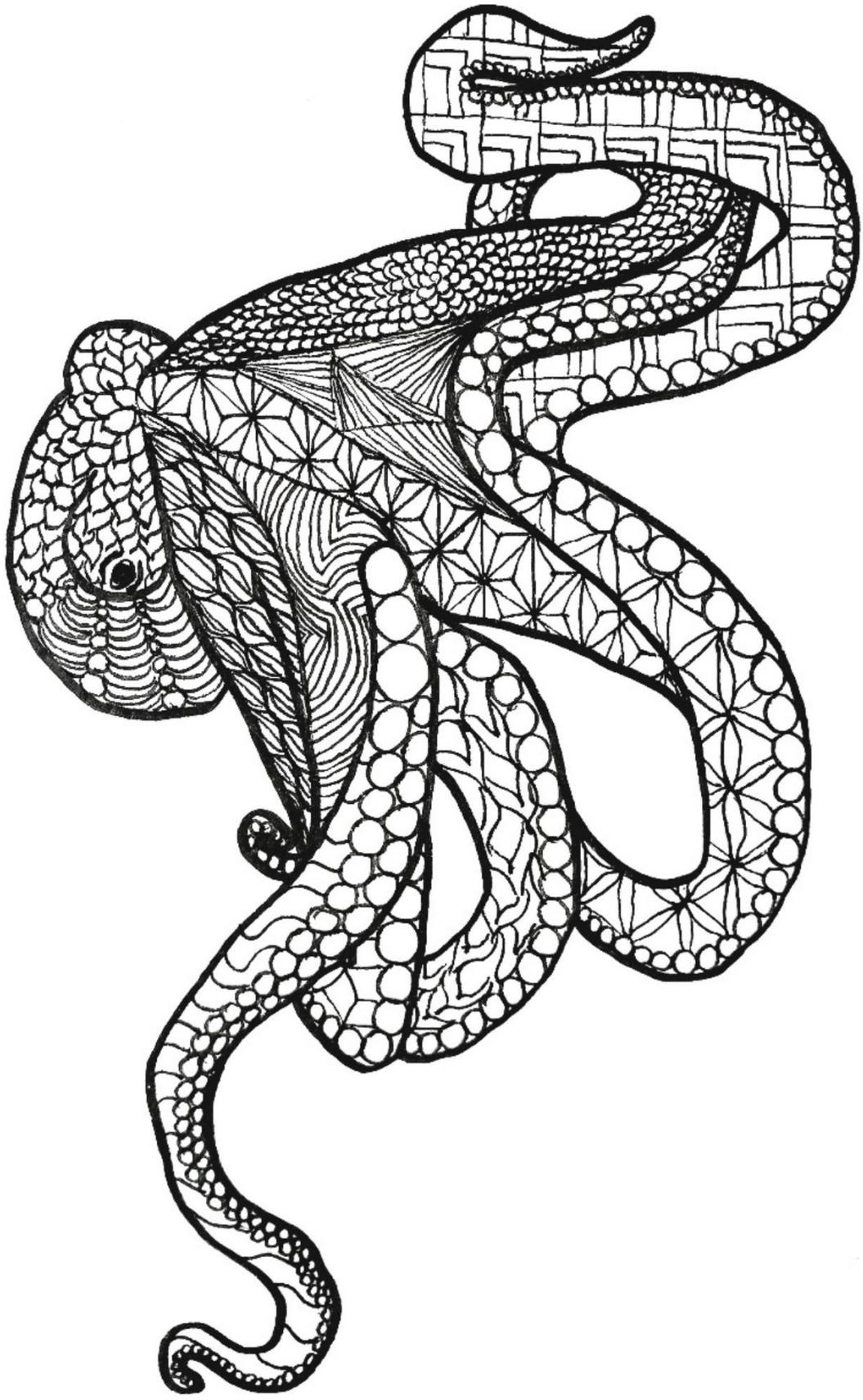
Unfortunately, great blue skimmers and other dragonflies are harmed by water pollution, including pesticides. Every day, human beings rely on functioning ecosystems for clean air, fresh water, and other necessities, so pollution and climate-intensified disasters also harm us by leading to birth defects, asthma, cancer, injury, displacement, and loss of life. You can live more sustainably, protecting animals like the great blue skimmer and your own wellbeing, by reducing pesticide use in your yard, installing a water feature, buying less, eating less meat, signing petitions, investing in reusables which only need to be purchased once, and planting Florida-friendly plants.



## Eastern Diamondback Terrapin

### *Malaclemys terrapin*

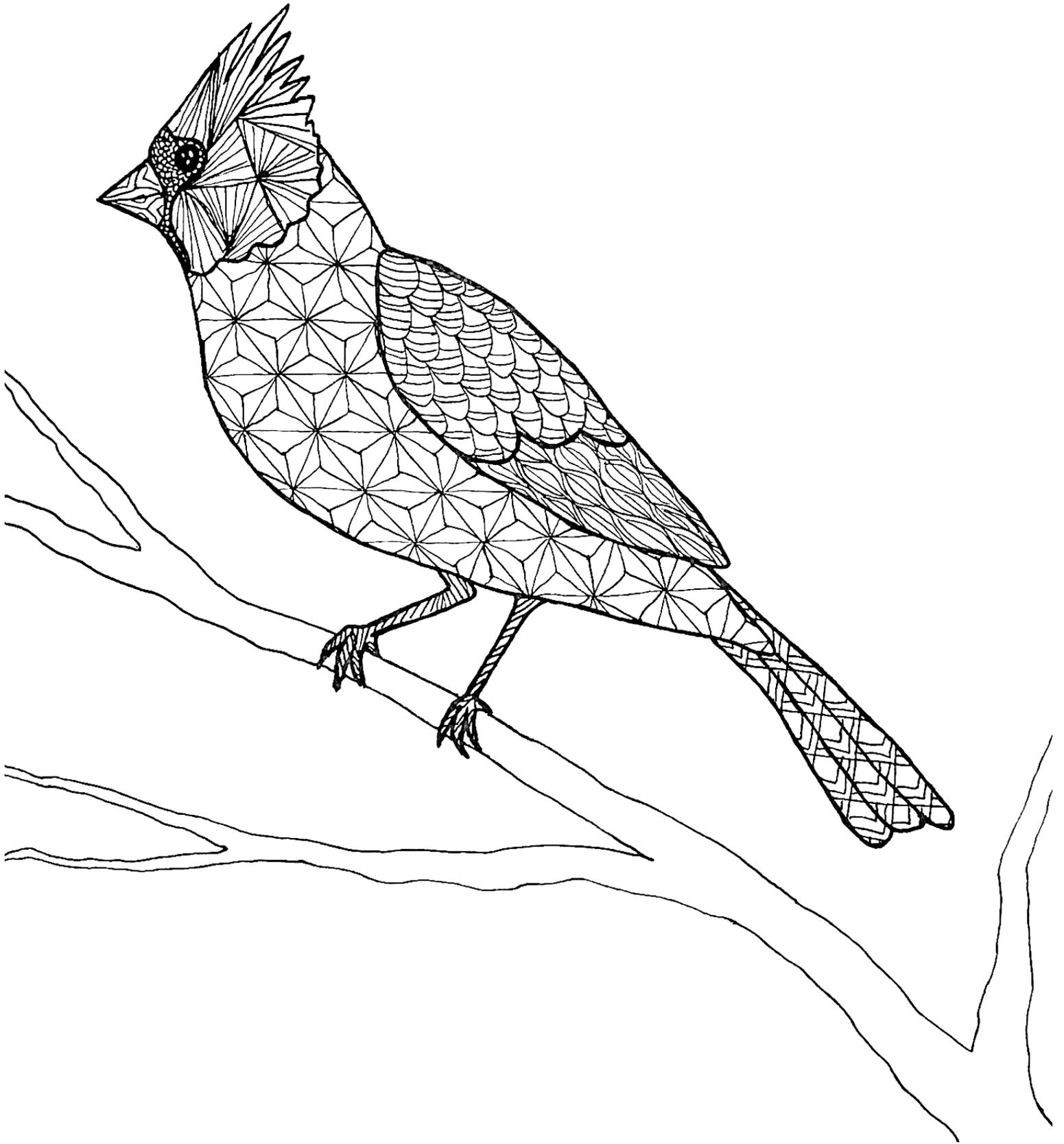
The eastern diamondback terrapin is a keystone species which lives in salt marshes and mangrove swamps. Unfortunately, this turtle is a vulnerable species due to habitat loss, the pet trade, car collisions, boat strikes, drowning in crab traps, and pollution. Every day, human beings rely on functioning ecosystems for clean air, fresh water, and other necessities, so pollution and climate-intensified disasters also harm us by leading to birth defects, asthma, cancer, injury, displacement, and loss of life. You can live more sustainably, protecting animals like the eastern diamondback terrapin and your own wellbeing, by choosing to live in an established neighborhood instead of a new build when moving homes, not adopting wild-caught pets, driving slowly, respecting wake limits when boating, avoiding eating crab, reducing pesticide use in your yard, buying less, signing petitions, investing in reusables which only need to be purchased once, and planting Florida-friendly plants.



## Common Octopus

### *Octopus vulgaris*

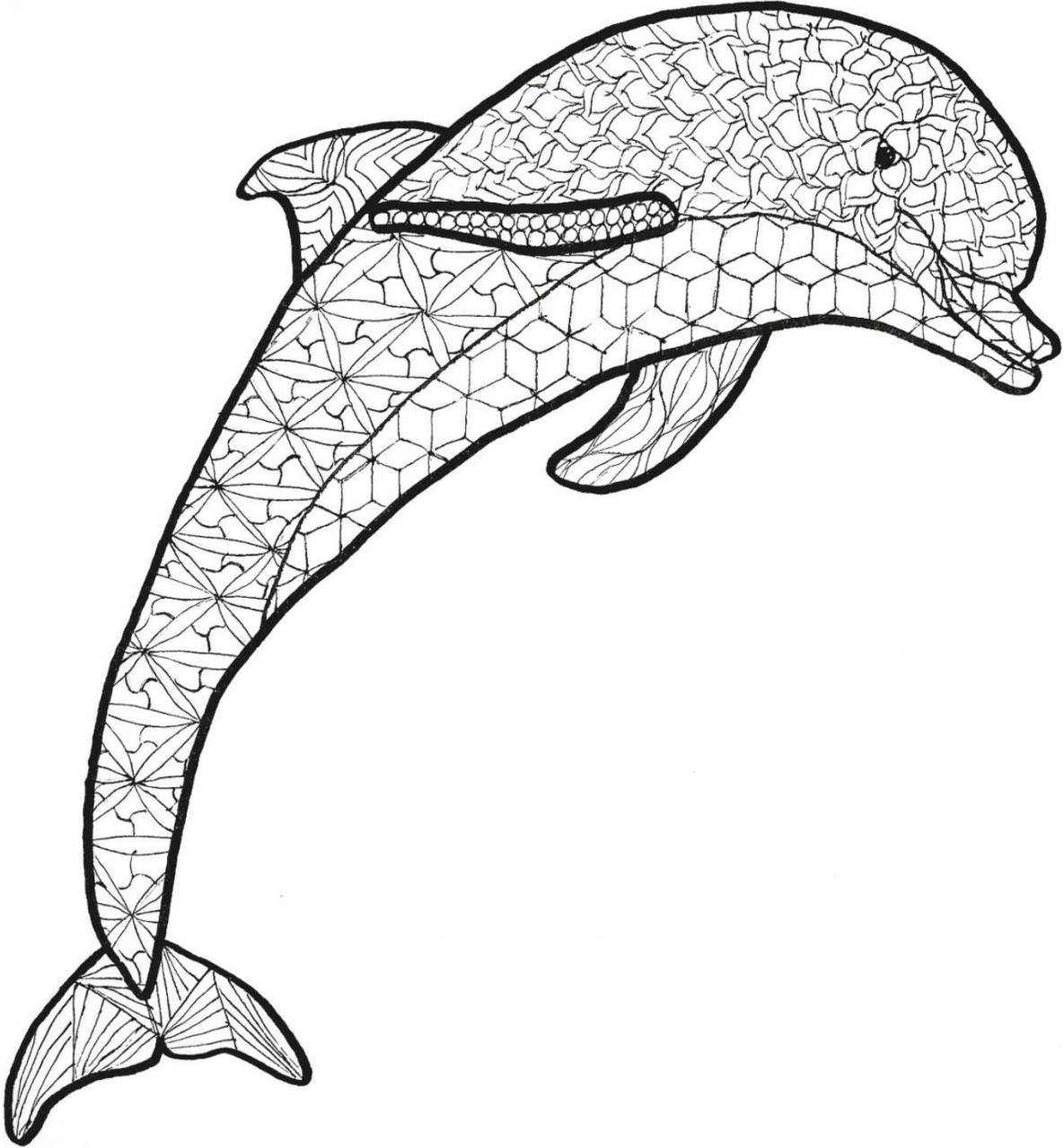
This piece depicts a common octopus. Octopuses help control the populations of other marine animals by eating them. Octopuses also serve an important ecological role as their burrows provide shelter for other animals. Unfortunately, common octopuses are threatened by ocean warming and pollution. Every day, human beings rely on functioning ecosystems for clean air, fresh water, and other necessities, so pollution and climate-intensified disasters also harm us by leading to birth defects, asthma, cancer, injury, displacement, and loss of life. You can live more sustainably, protecting animals like the common octopus and your own wellbeing, by reducing pesticide use in your yard, buying less, eating less meat, signing petitions, investing in reusables which only need to be purchased once, and planting Florida-friendly plants.



## Northern Cardinal

### *Cardinalis cardinalis*

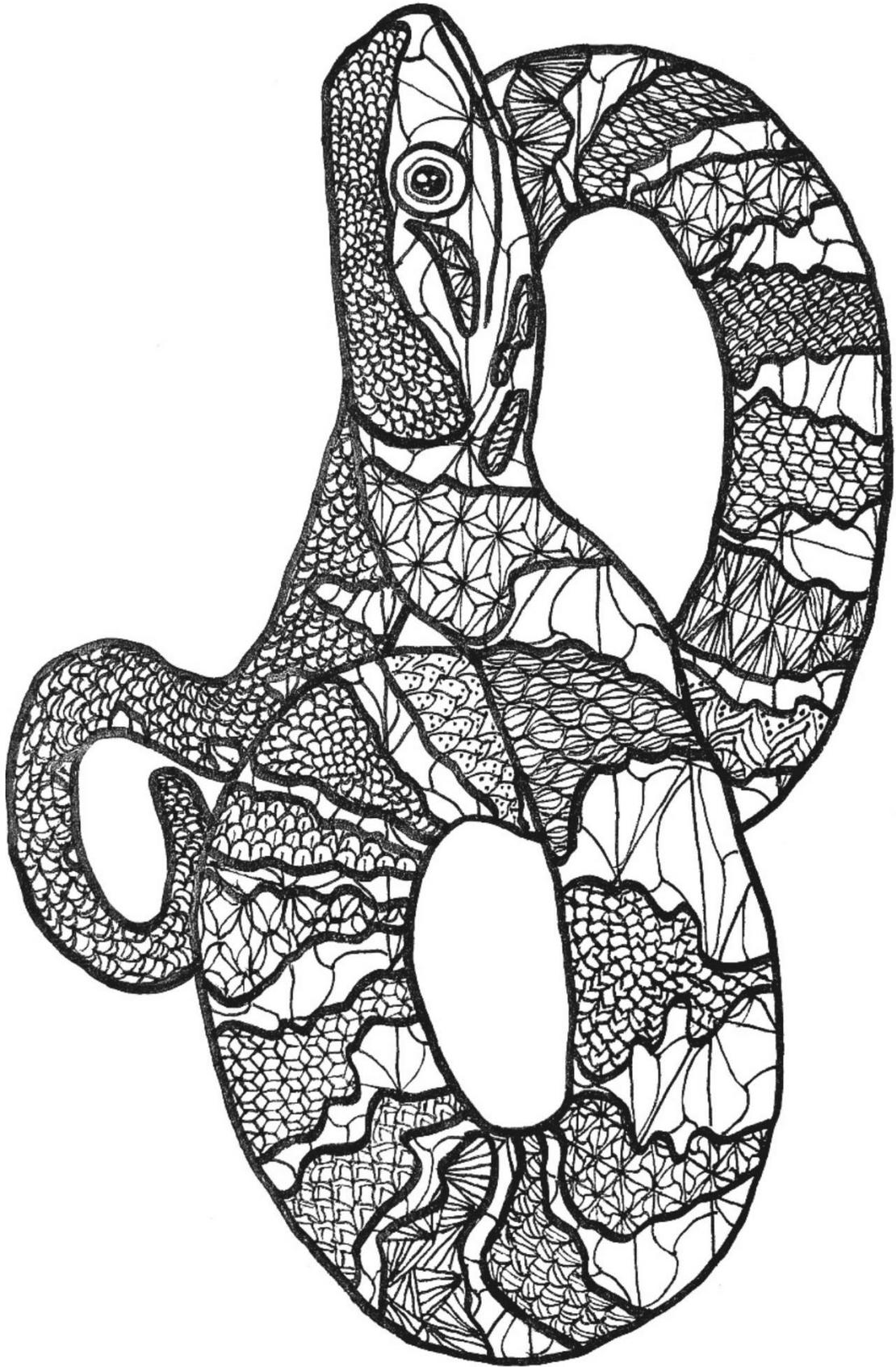
Northern cardinals are ecologically important for dispersing seeds, providing food for other animals, and eating bull weevils. Unfortunately, cardinals are often attacked by cats. Every day, human beings rely on functioning ecosystems for clean air, fresh water, and other necessities, so pollution and climate-intensified disasters also harm us by leading to birth defects, asthma, cancer, injury, displacement, and loss of life. You can live more sustainably, protecting animals like the northern cardinal and your own wellbeing, by keeping pet cats indoors, leaving undergrowth in your yard, putting out a bird feeder, reducing pesticide use in your yard, buying less, eating less meat, signing petitions, investing in reusables which only need to be purchased once, and planting Florida-friendly plants.



## Common Bottlenose Dolphin

### *Tursiops truncatus*

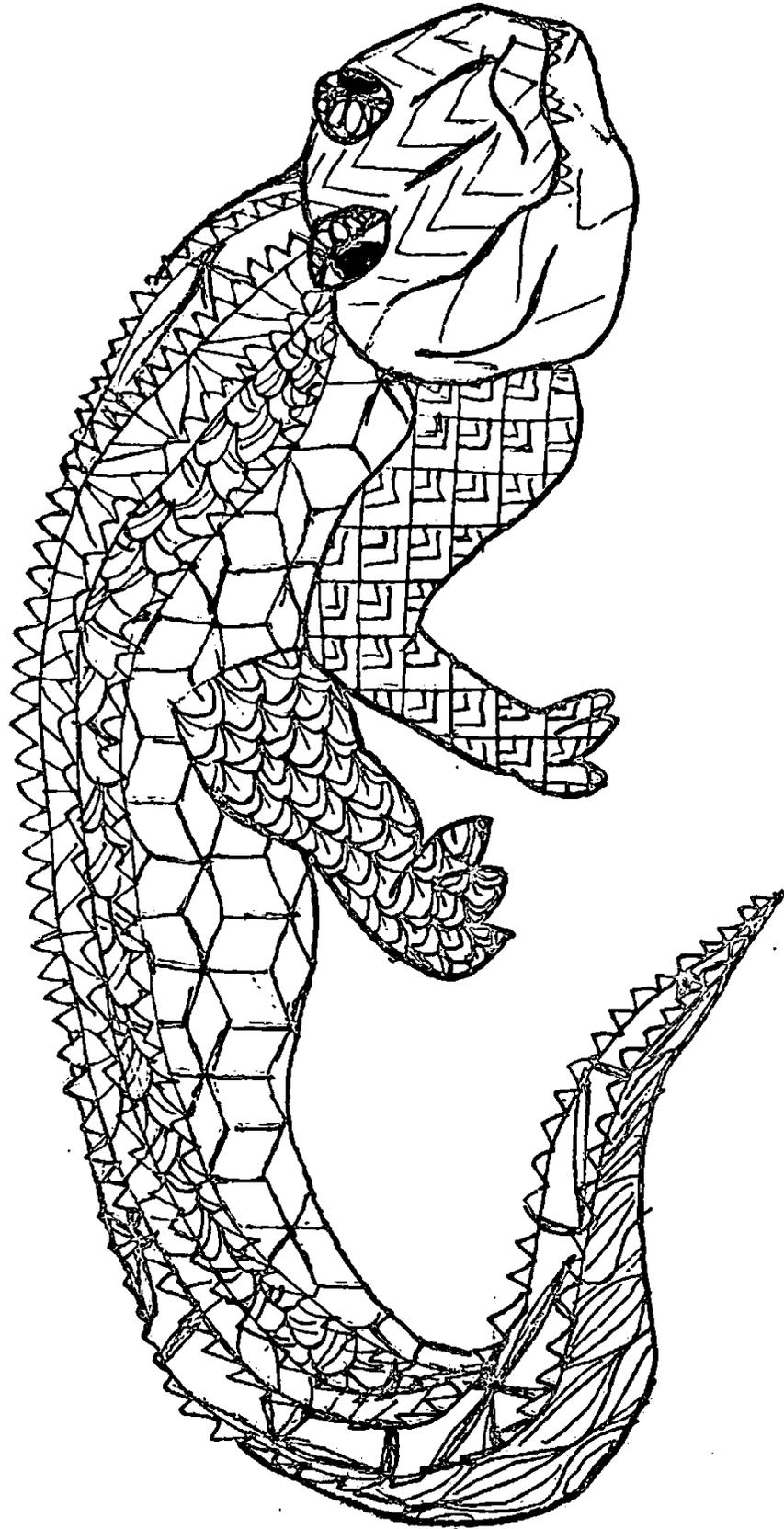
Common bottlenose dolphins control fish populations and increase habitat productivity. Unfortunately, dolphins are harmed as bycatch in fisheries and are threatened by pollution. Every day, human beings rely on functioning ecosystems for clean air, fresh water, and other necessities, so pollution and climate-intensified disasters also harm us by leading to birth defects, asthma, cancer, injury, displacement, and loss of life. You can live more sustainably, protecting animals like the common bottlenose dolphin and your own wellbeing, by eating less fish, reducing pesticide use in your yard, buying less, eating less meat, signing petitions, investing in reusables which only need to be purchased once, and planting Florida-friendly plants.



## Banded Water Snake

### *Nerodia fasciata*

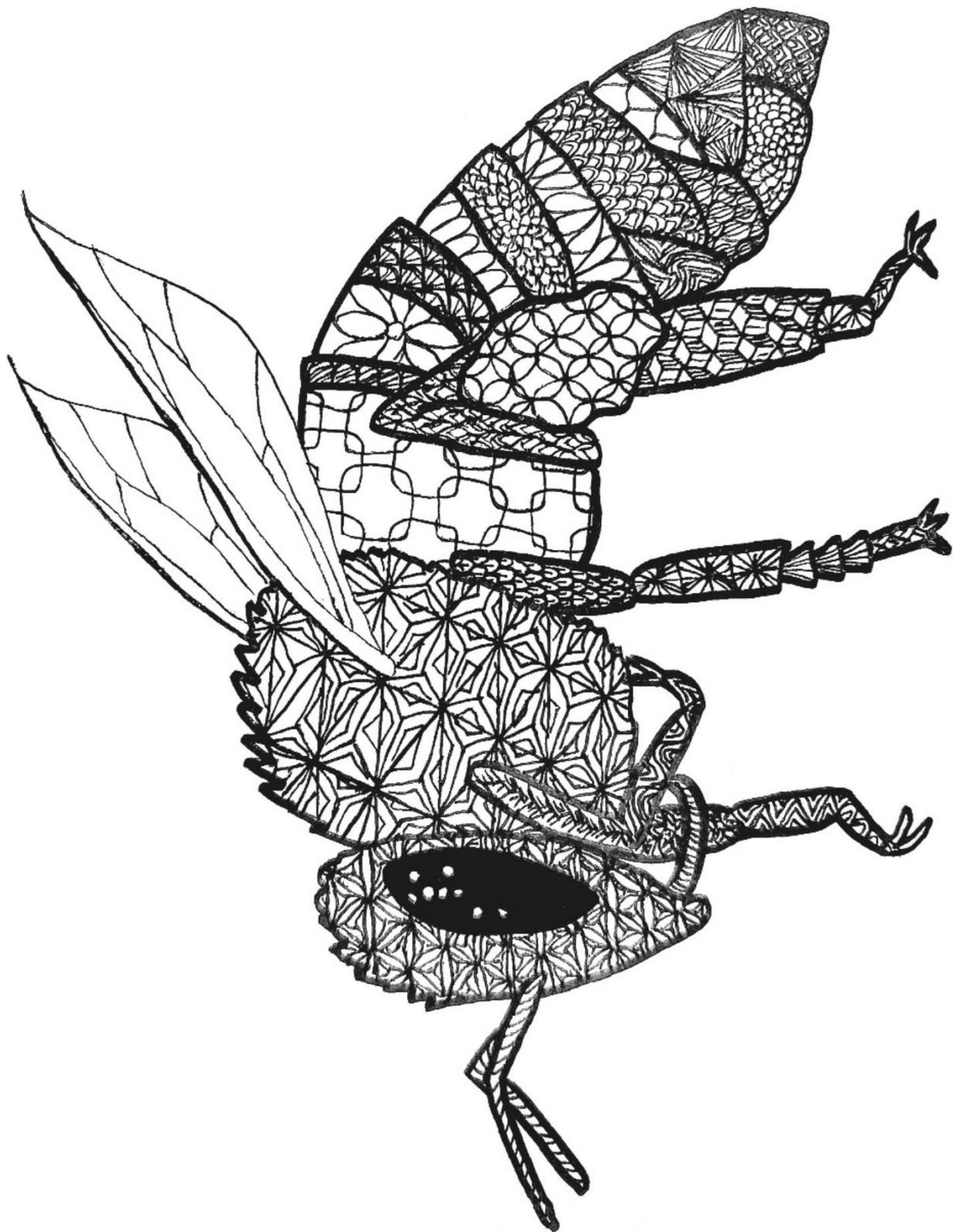
Snakes, like the banded water snake, play important roles by eating mice, rats, and other pests which spread disease. Unfortunately, the banded water snake faces habitat loss from the drainage of wetlands and is often killed by people who mistake the snake for the cottonmouth. Every day, human beings rely on functioning ecosystems for clean air, fresh water, and other necessities, so pollution and climate-intensified disasters also harm us by leading to birth defects, asthma, cancer, injury, displacement, and loss of life. You can live more sustainably, protecting animals like the banded water snake and your own wellbeing, by driving slowly in wooded areas, not killing snakes, choosing to live in an established neighborhood instead of a new build when moving homes, buying less, eating less meat, signing petitions, investing in reusables which only need to be purchased once, reducing pesticide use in your yard, and planting Florida-friendly plants.



## American Alligator

### *Alligator mississippiensis*

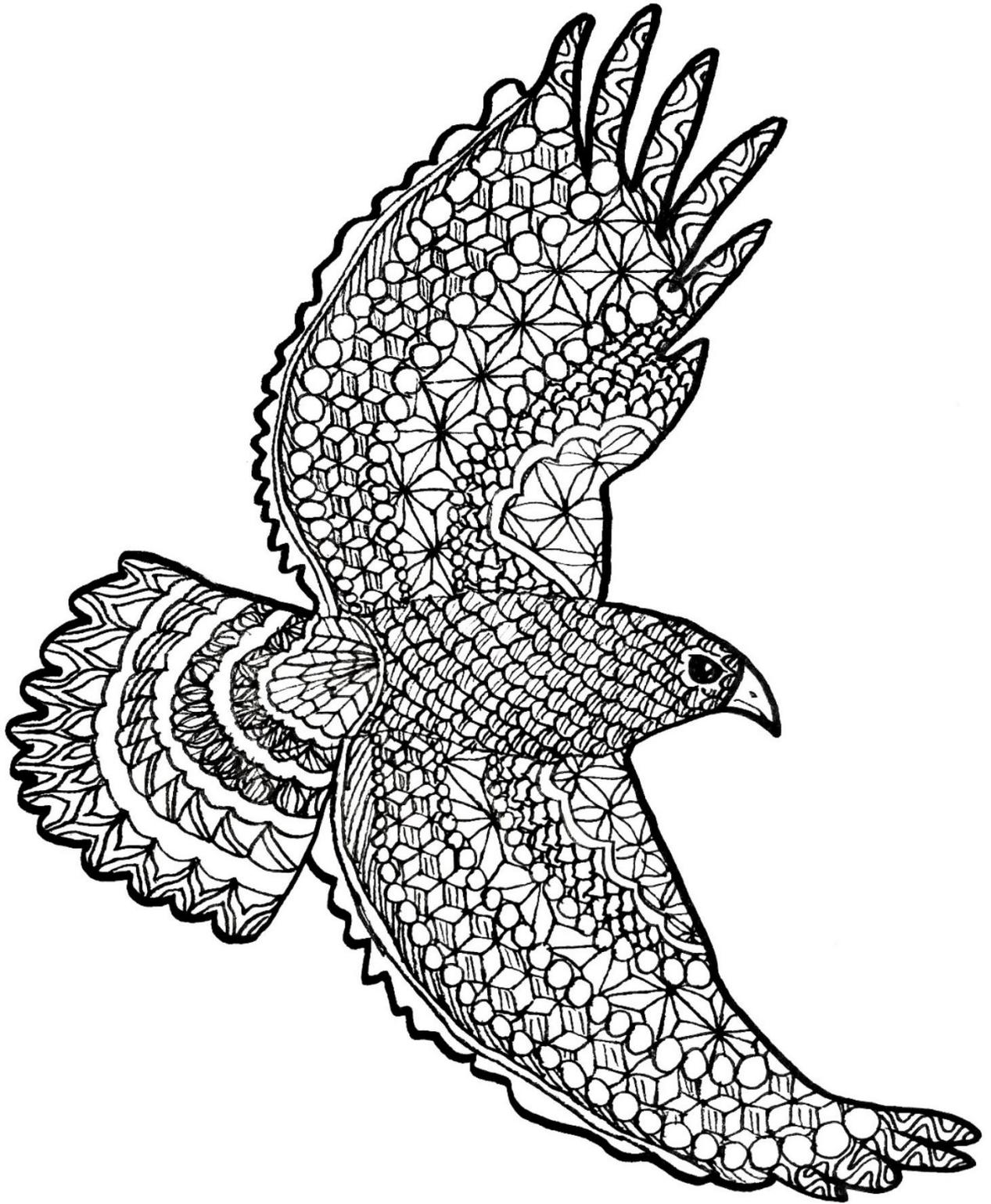
The holes American alligators dig provide an important source of water for other wildlife during the dry season. Alligators also serve as a keystone species, as many other species rely on them. Unfortunately, alligators who are fed learn to approach humans, so are deemed problem animals and removed. Every day, human beings rely on functioning ecosystems for clean air, fresh water, and other necessities, so pollution and climate-intensified disasters also harm us by leading to birth defects, asthma, cancer, injury, displacement, and loss of life. You can live more sustainably, protecting animals like the American alligator and your own wellbeing, by not feeding wildlife, reducing pesticide use in your yard, buying less, eating less meat, signing petitions, investing in reusables which only need to be purchased once, and planting Florida-friendly plants.



## Western Honey Bee

### *Apis mellifera*

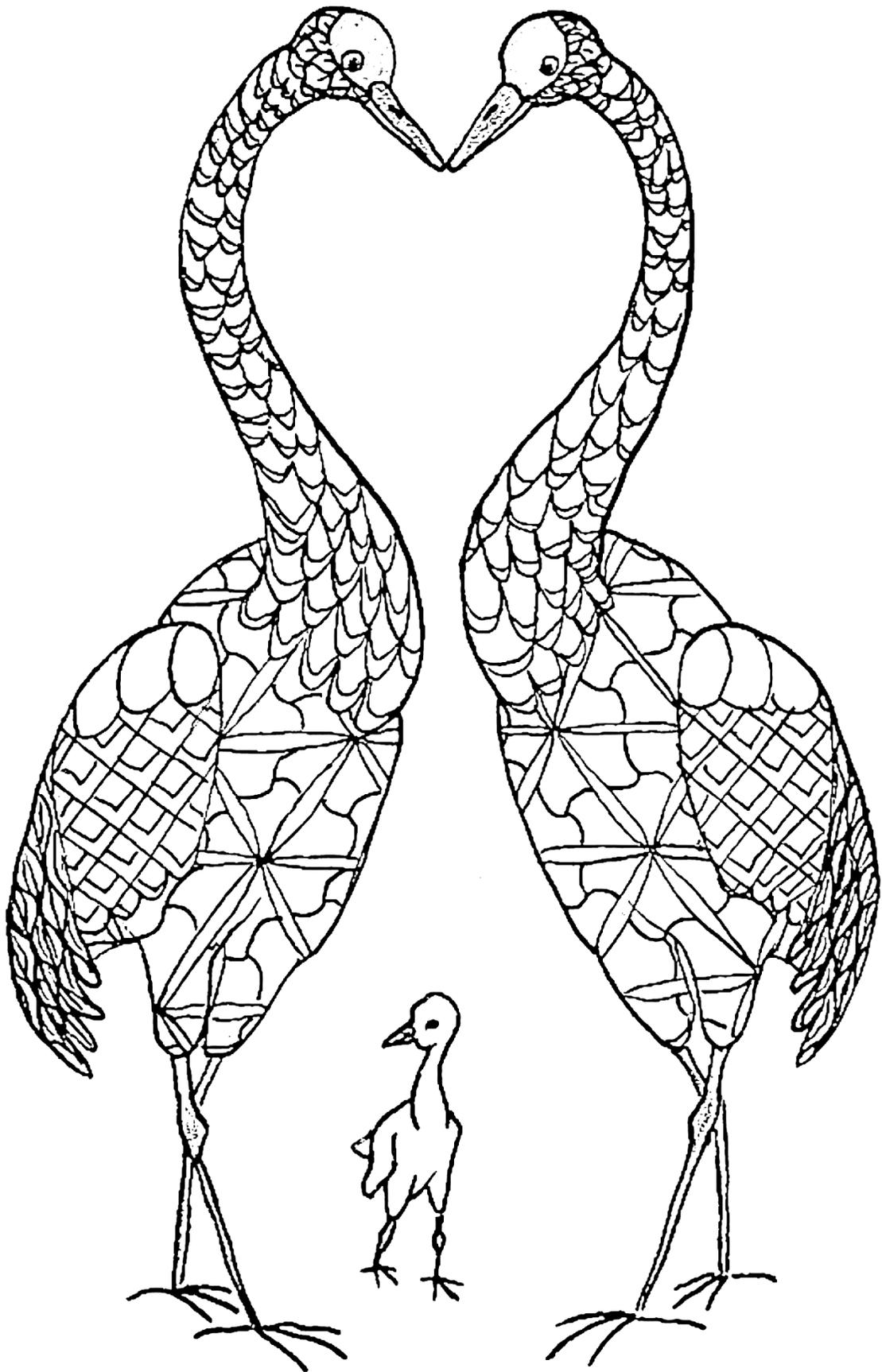
The western honey bee is one of the most common bee species in Florida. Bees play an important ecological role as pollinators, aiding agriculture and wild plants. Unfortunately, the western honey bee is threatened by pesticides, a reduction in flower diversity due to monocultures, and urbanization. Every day, human beings rely on functioning ecosystems for clean air, fresh water, and other necessities, so pollution and climate-intensified disasters also harm us by leading to birth defects, asthma, cancer, injury, displacement, and loss of life. You can live more sustainably, protecting animals like the western honey bee and your own wellbeing, by buying less, eating less meat, signing petitions, investing in reusables which only need to be purchased once, reducing pesticide use in your yard, and planting Florida-friendly plants.



## Red Shouldered Hawk

### *Buteo lineatus*

The red shouldered hawk is a raptor named for the red feathers on its shoulders. Living near rivers and woodlands, these hawks often decorate their nests with green plants. Unfortunately, red shouldered hawk numbers are declining due to habitat loss and vehicle collisions. Every day, human beings rely on functioning ecosystems for clean air, fresh water, and other necessities, so pollution and climate-intensified disasters also harm us by leading to birth defects, asthma, cancer, injury, displacement, and loss of life. You can live more sustainably, protecting animals like the red shouldered hawk and your own wellbeing, by choosing to live in an established neighborhood instead of a new build when moving homes, driving slower, buying less, eating less meat, signing petitions, investing in reusables which only need to be purchased once, reducing pesticide use in your yard, and planting Florida-friendly plants.



## Sandhill Crane

### *Antigone canadensis pratensis*

Avalon celebrates Florida wildlife with her geometric renditions, like this piece depicting a family of sandhill cranes. These cranes play an important ecological role by dispersing seeds and acting as indicator species of their wetland and grassland habitats. Unfortunately, sandhill cranes are threatened by habitat loss, hunting, and power line collisions. Every day, human beings rely on functioning ecosystems for clean air, fresh water, and other necessities, so pollution and climate-intensified disasters also harm us by leading to birth defects, asthma, cancer, injury, displacement, and loss of life. You can live more sustainably, protecting animals like the sandhill crane and your own wellbeing, by choosing to live in an established neighborhood instead of a new build when moving homes, not hunting for sport, reducing pesticide use in your yard, buying less, eating less meat, signing petitions, investing in reusables which only need to be purchased once, and planting Florida-friendly plants.