

Merriams Kangaroo Rat

(Dipodomys merriami)

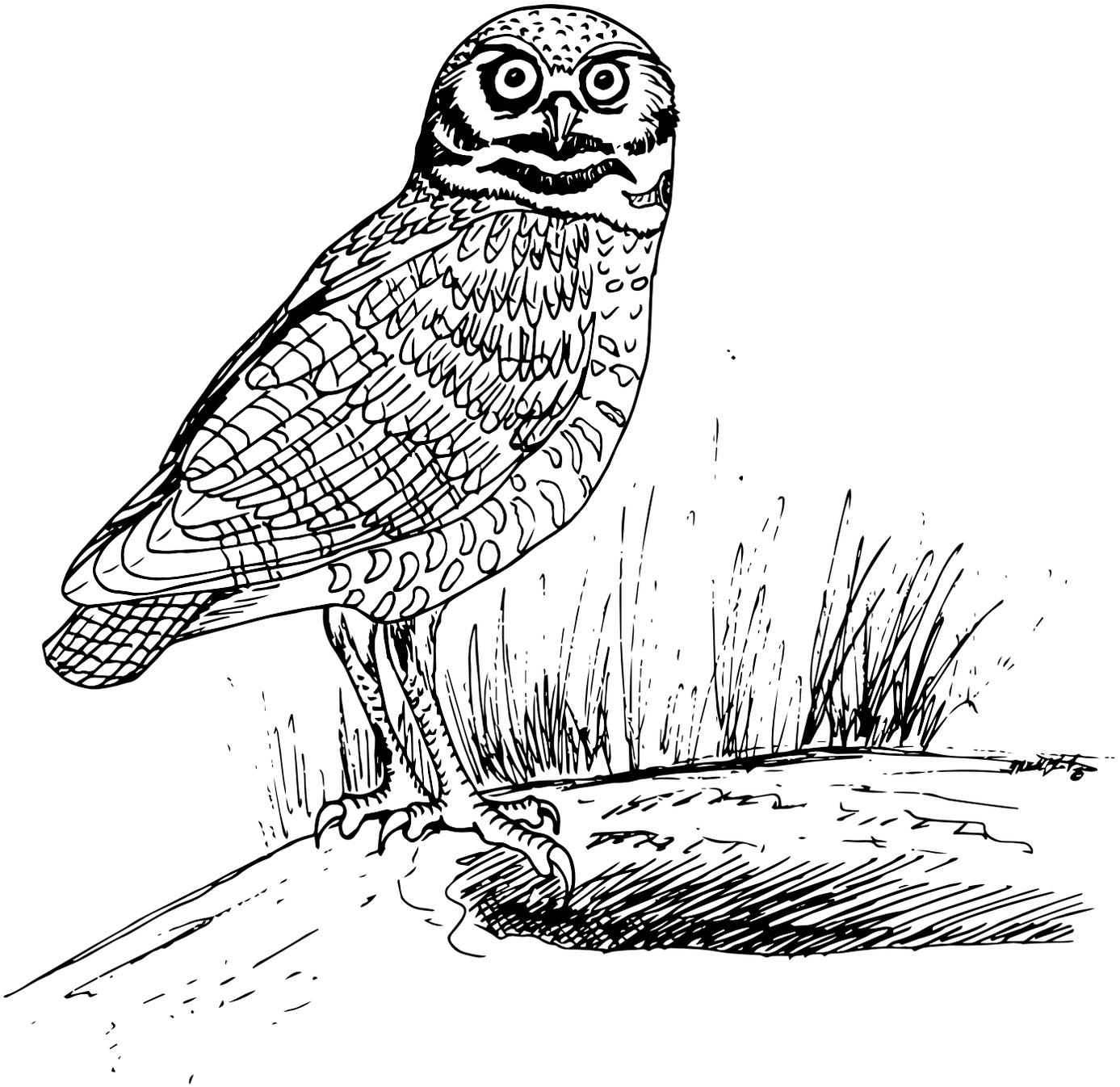
The kangaroo rat is brown with a white under belly and tail. They have an extensive range in other southwestern states but are restricted to Washington County in Utah. Preferred habitats include sagebrush, shadscale, creosote brush, and other desert shrub communities. These animals get most of their water from their food.



Short-horned Lizard

(Phrynosoma douglassi)

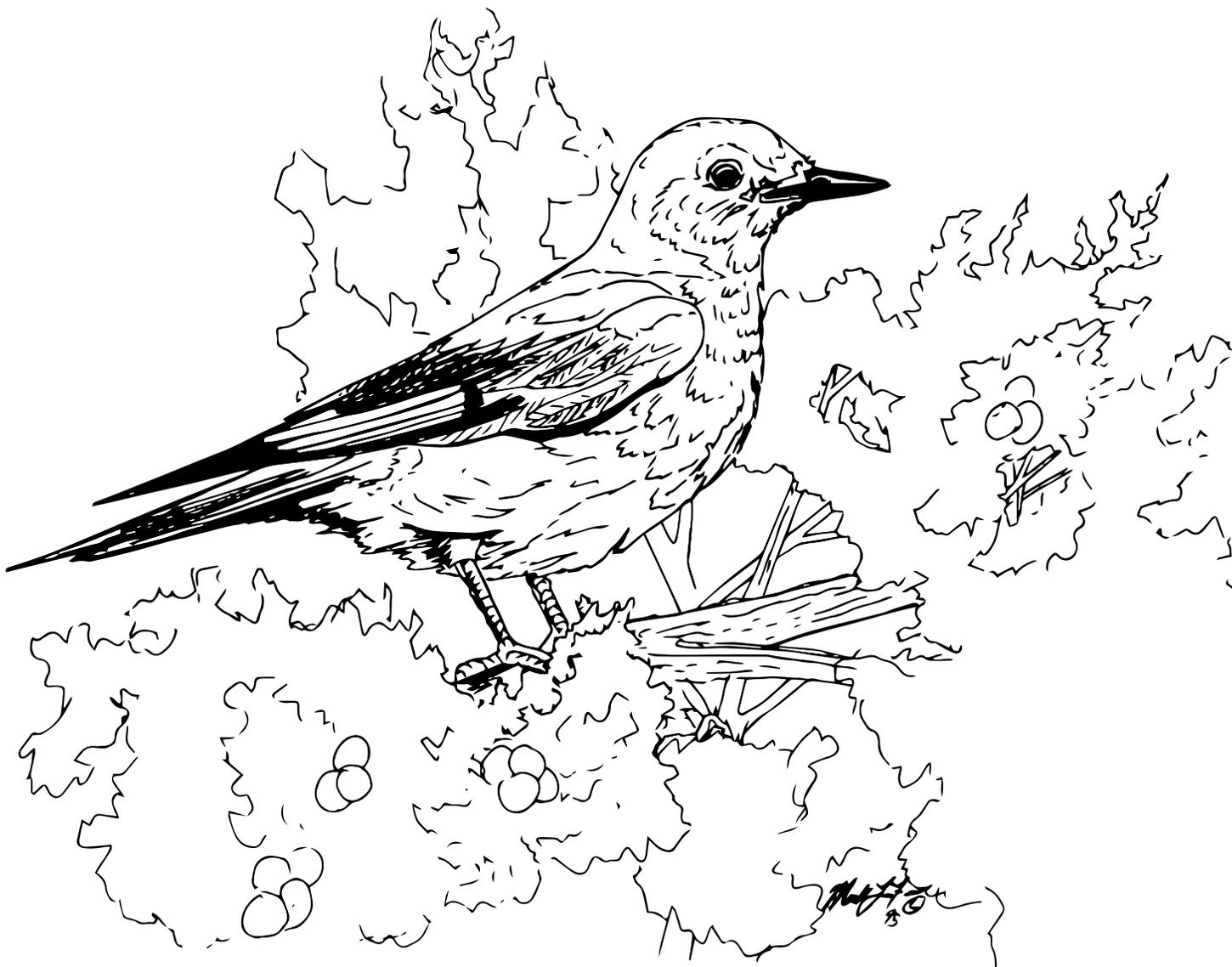
There are two species of short-horned lizards in Utah: the Mountain and Salt Lake. These lizards, commonly called “horned toads,” are really members of the reptile family. They are easily recognized by short pointed horns found on the back of the head. Their broad and flat, gray-to-brown bodies are colored and patterned to resemble the soil on which they live. Short-horned lizards can be found in sandy or rocky plains and forested areas throughout Utah. They are mostly active during midday, and at night burrow into the soil. All reptiles are protected wildlife in Utah.



Burrowing owl

(Athene cunicularia)

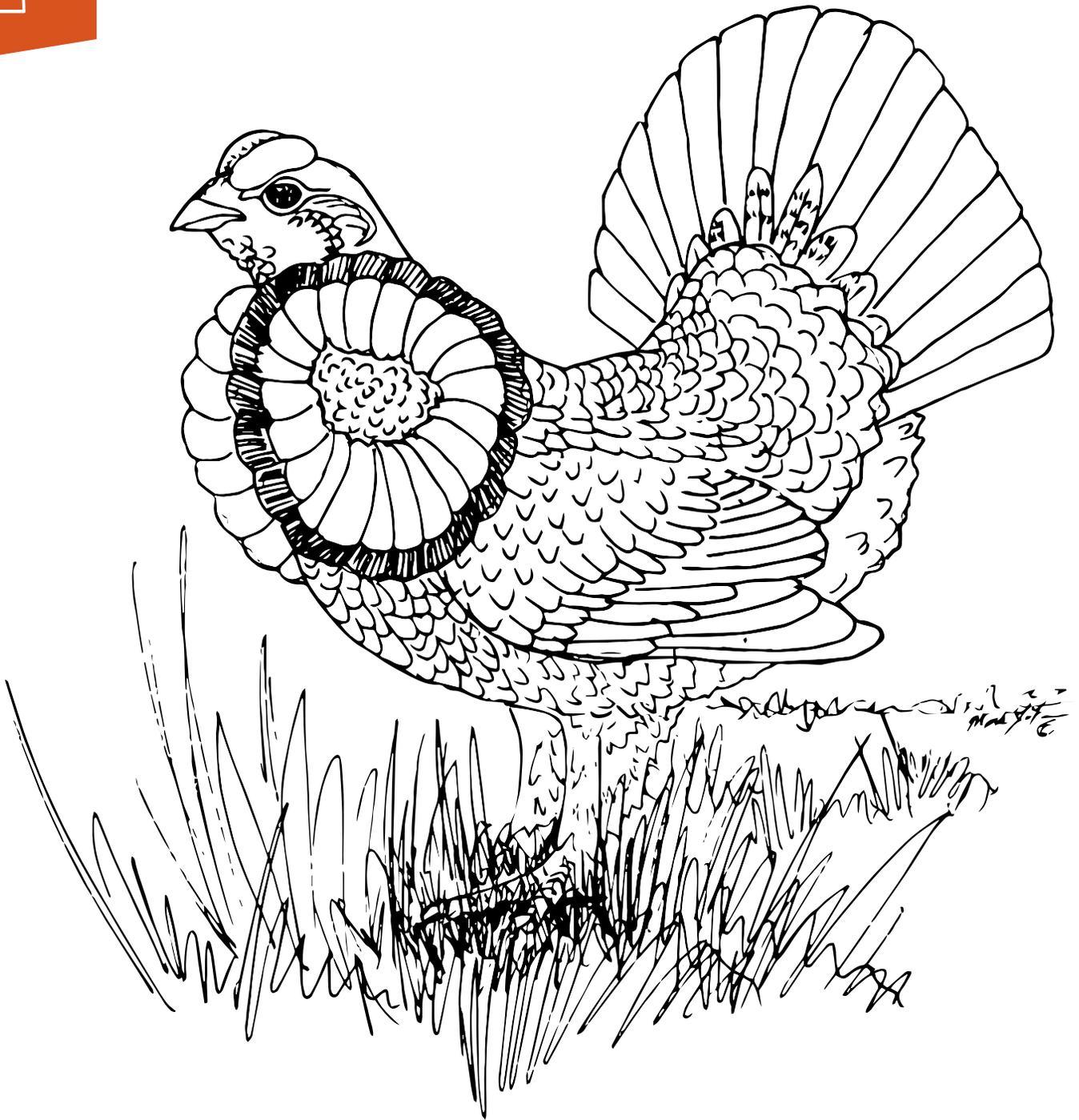
This small, long-legged, brown and white owl can be found nesting in close association with prairie dogs. It inhabits deserted burrows and can be seen bobbing up and down as it sits perched on prairie dog mounds. Young owls in a burrow have the ability to mimic a rattlesnake when frightened. Because of habitat disturbances the burrowing owl is on the "Utah Birds of Special Concern List."



Mountain Bluebird

(Sialia currucoides)

Mountain bluebirds live in open coniferous and deciduous forests, subalpine meadows and open country across Utah. This bird with its brilliant blue feathers was once numerous in Utah. Their numbers are declining because of increased competition by introduced species for limited nest sites and loss of habitat.



Blue Grouse

(Dendragapus obscurus)

The blue grouse is a woodland mountain bird, found in the foothills of deciduous forests of the montane and in the alpine zones. During the spring the males establish a lek or dancing area to attract females. The grayish-blue grouse is also sometimes called a "fool grouse" because of its habit of "freezing" to avoid detection rather than fleeing. In the spring, the males inflate the large reddish air sac on their necks to create loud sounds and make drumming sounds with their wings to attract females.



Pine Marten

(Martes americana)

This brown mammal is also a member of the weasel family. It is only found in areas where dense conifer stands of fir, spruce, and lodgepole pine grow. The marten is extremely sensitive to habitat disturbance. Any activities that remove dense conifer stands or the dead, downed, and woody debris in old undisturbed forests destroy marten habitat.



Great Basin Rattlesnake

(Crotalus viridis lutosus)

Great Basin Rattlesnakes can be found throughout Utah in brushy or rocky areas. It is easily recognized by its greenish-gray to greenish-brown body with a rattle on the end of the tail. Utah is home to several different species of rattlesnakes. Rattlesnakes feed primarily upon small rodents and birds. Their venom is used to immobilize their prey before swallowing it whole. When alarmed, rattlesnakes use their rattle to make a warning sound. These snakes as well as all reptiles are a protected species in Utah.