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Module 11: Bird Migration

Urban EcoLab

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Bird Coloring Pages & Facts

Center for Urban Resilience

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Mourning Dove

Zenaida macroura

LENGTH: 12"

DESCRIPTION: A graceful and slim dove. Adult is a warm light brown-buff color overall, with a slightly rusty crown. Dark eyes

are ringed by a pale blue-gray eye-ring, the bill is

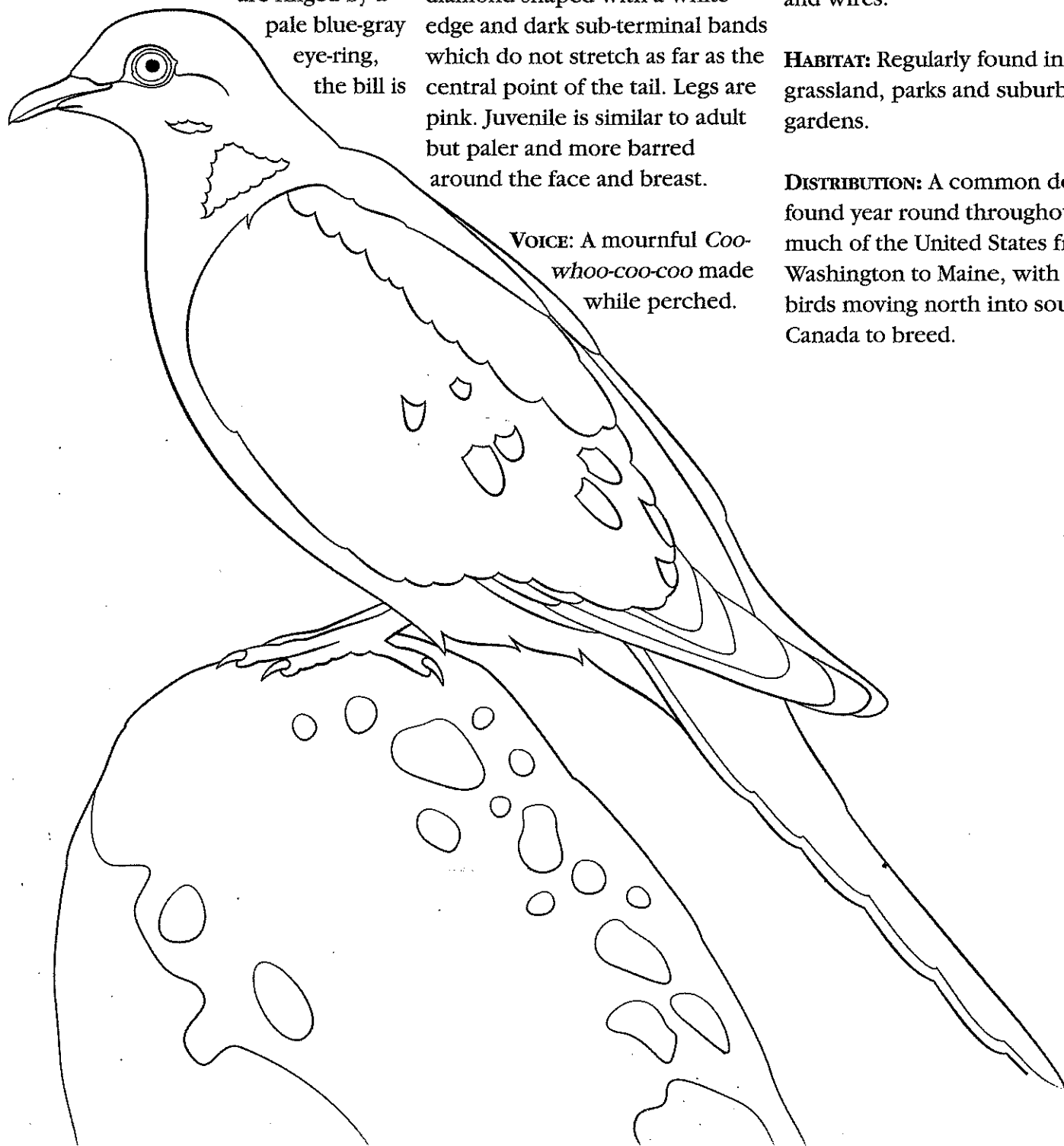
short and gray, and back and wings are slightly rufous with several black spots. Shows a gray underwing when in flight. Tail is diamond shaped with a white edge and dark sub-terminal bands which do not stretch as far as the central point of the tail. Legs are pink. Juvenile is similar to adult but paler and more barred around the face and breast.

VOICE: A mournful *Coo-whoo-coo-coo* made while perched.

BEHAVIOR: Mainly ground feeding, will forage amongst vegetation looking for seeds. Flocks often seen perched on telegraph poles and wires.

HABITAT: Regularly found in open grassland, parks and suburban gardens.

DISTRIBUTION: A common dove found year round throughout much of the United States from Washington to Maine, with some birds moving north into southern Canada to breed.



House Finch

Carpodacus mexicanus

LENGTH: 6"

DESCRIPTION: A mid-sized finch with a short pale bill. Male has a red crown, malar, breast and rump. Cheeks and wings are brown-gray; belly and flanks are pale with heavy light brown streaking. Female is brown-gray above and pale with heavy streaks below.

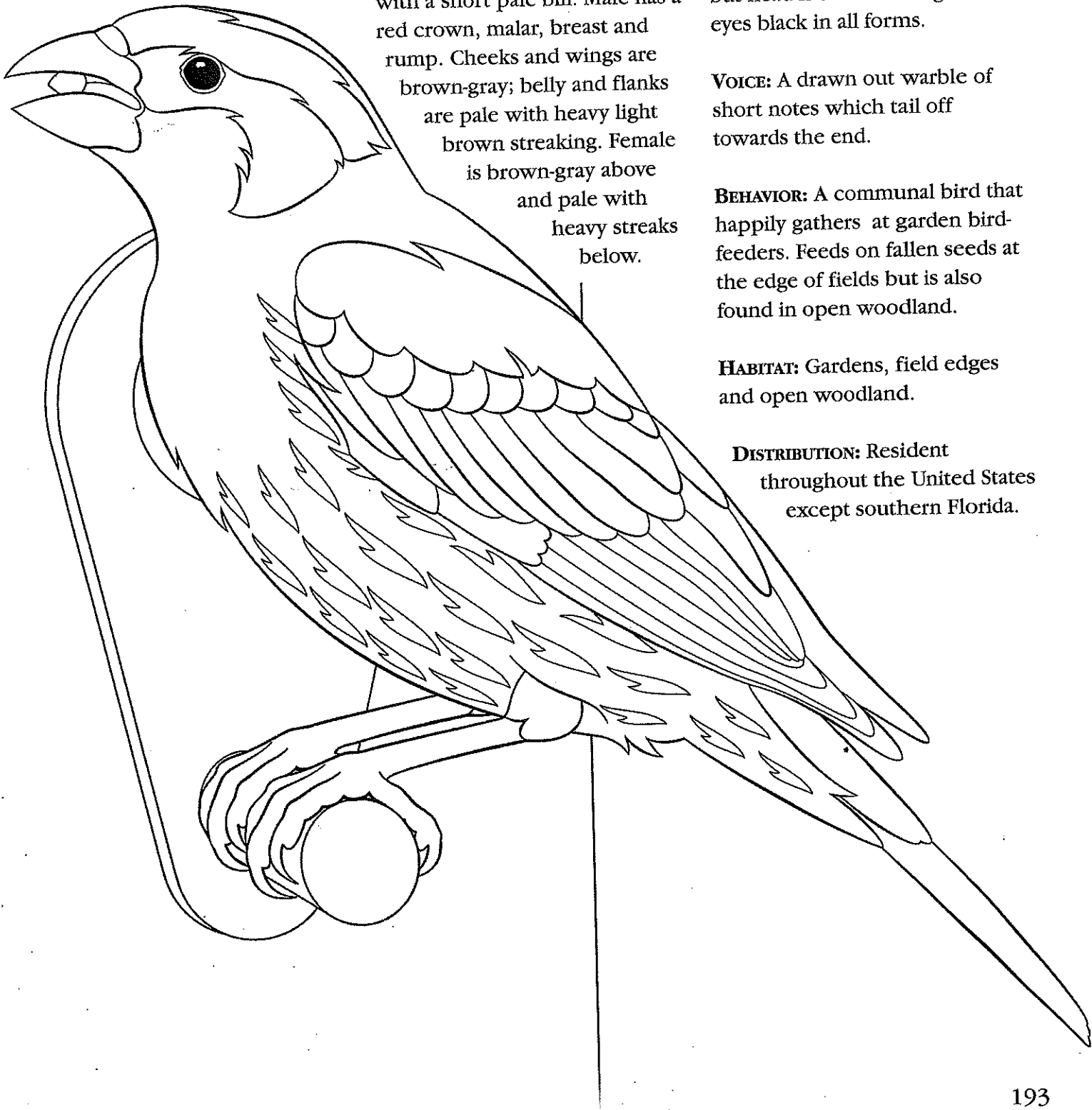
Juvenile looks similar to female but head is streaked. Legs and eyes black in all forms.

VOICE: A drawn out warble of short notes which tail off towards the end.

BEHAVIOR: A communal bird that happily gathers at garden bird-feeders. Feeds on fallen seeds at the edge of fields but is also found in open woodland.

HABITAT: Gardens, field edges and open woodland.

DISTRIBUTION: Resident throughout the United States except southern Florida.



American Goldfinch

Carduelis tristis

LENGTH: 5"

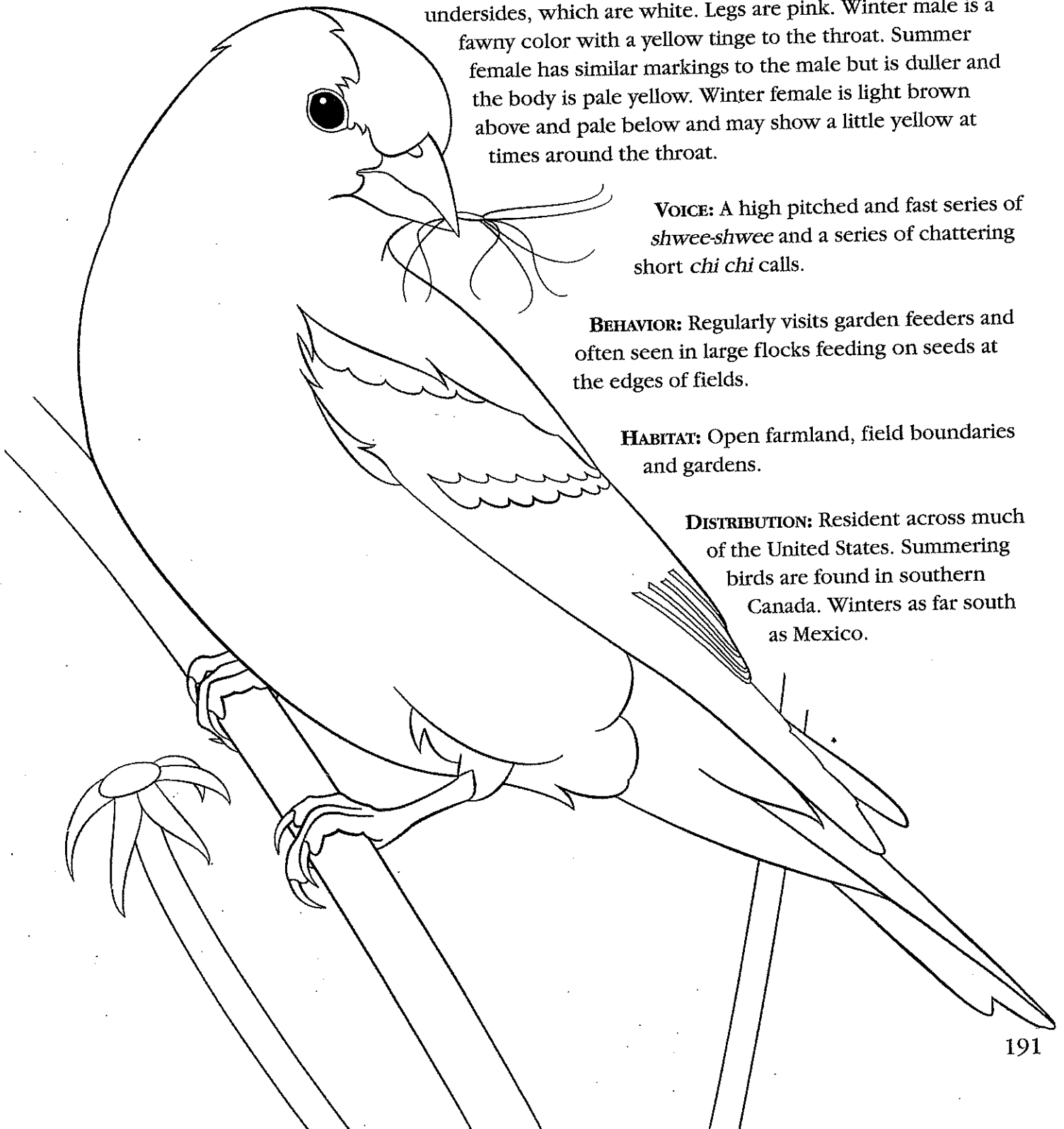
DESCRIPTION: Summer male has a pale, heavy, pointed bill. Forehead and tail are black. Wings are black with white wing-bars. The rest of the head and body is bright yellow, except for the rump and undersides, which are white. Legs are pink. Winter male is a fawny color with a yellow tinge to the throat. Summer female has similar markings to the male but is duller and the body is pale yellow. Winter female is light brown above and pale below and may show a little yellow at times around the throat.

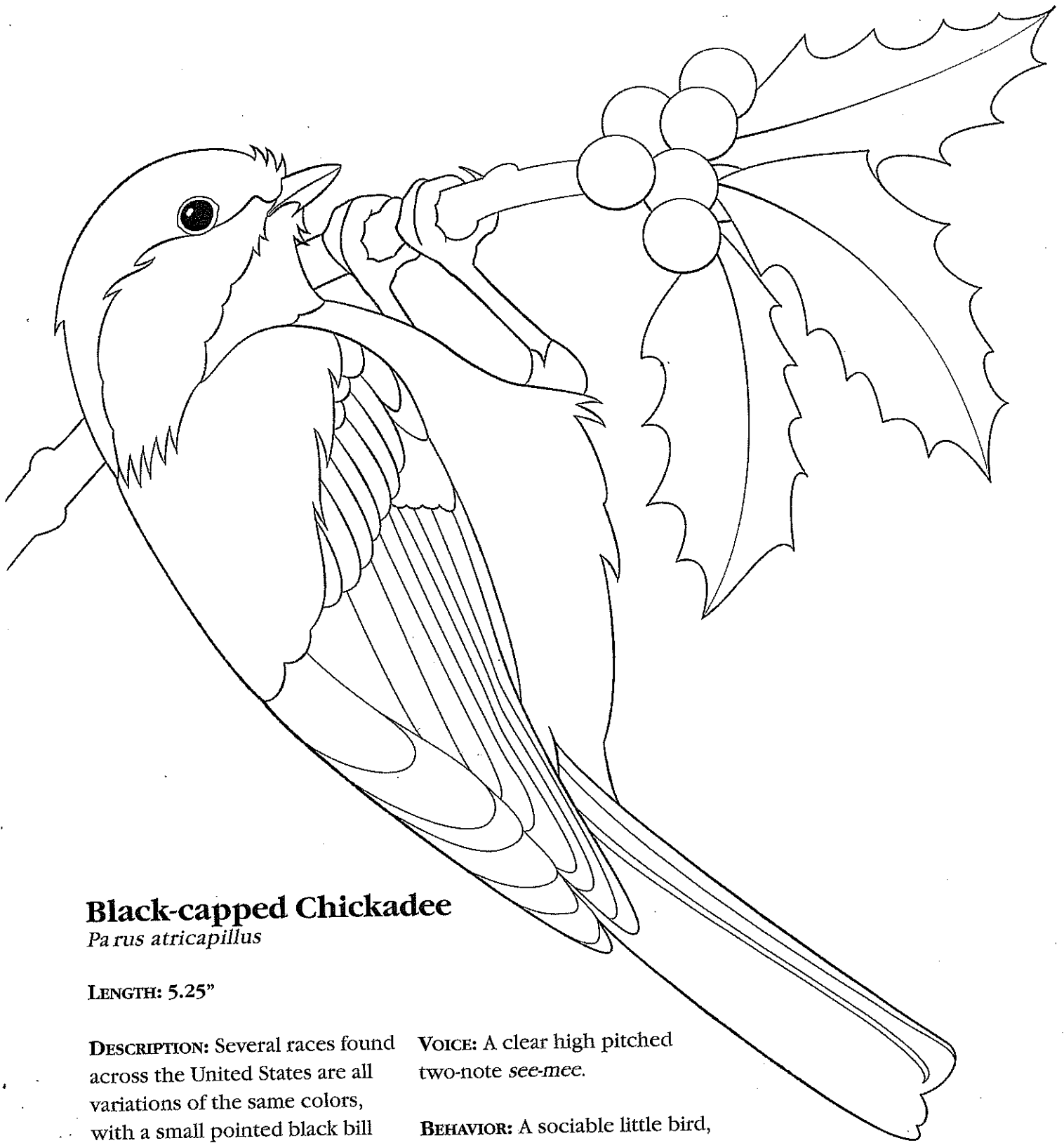
VOICE: A high pitched and fast series of *shwee-shwee* and a series of chattering short *chi chi* calls.

BEHAVIOR: Regularly visits garden feeders and often seen in large flocks feeding on seeds at the edges of fields.

HABITAT: Open farmland, field boundaries and gardens.

DISTRIBUTION: Resident across much of the United States. Summering birds are found in southern Canada. Winters as far south as Mexico.





Black-capped Chickadee

Parus atricapillus

LENGTH: 5.25"

DESCRIPTION: Several races found across the United States are all variations of the same colors, with a small pointed black bill and black eye. Black crown and throat are split by a white cheek stripe that widens towards the nape. Gray-green above with white outer flight feathers. Underside pale to warm buff with white breast. Tail is long for the bird's size. Legs are gray.

VOICE: A clear high pitched two-note *see-mee*.

BEHAVIOR: A sociable little bird, and regular at garden bird tables. Can become incredibly tame. Also found in mixed winter flocks with other small woodland birds in search of food.

HABITAT: Open woodland, parks and suburban gardens.

DISTRIBUTION: Resident from Tennessee westward to Oregon, north to Alaska and northeast to Newfoundland. Rarely seen outside their usual range.

Blue Jay

Cyanocitta cristata

LENGTH: 11"

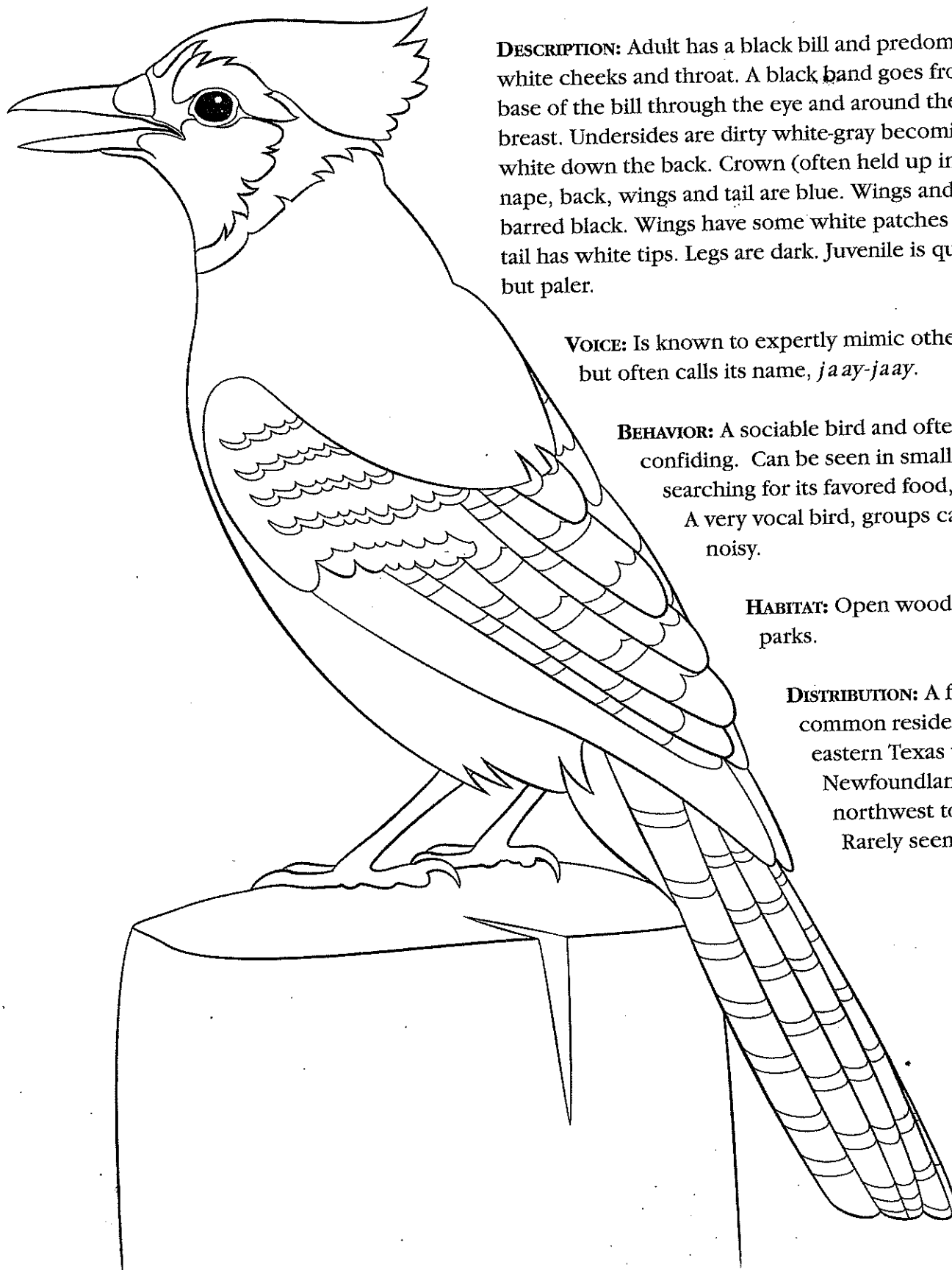
DESCRIPTION: Adult has a black bill and predominantly white cheeks and throat. A black band goes from the base of the bill through the eye and around the head and breast. Undersides are dirty white-gray becoming more white down the back. Crown (often held up in a crest), nape, back, wings and tail are blue. Wings and tail are barred black. Wings have some white patches and the tail has white tips. Legs are dark. Juvenile is quite similar but paler.

VOICE: Is known to expertly mimic other species but often calls its name, *ja ay-ja ay*.

BEHAVIOR: A sociable bird and often quite confiding. Can be seen in small flocks searching for its favored food, the acorn. A very vocal bird, groups can be quite noisy.

HABITAT: Open woodland and parks.

DISTRIBUTION: A fairly common resident from eastern Texas to Newfoundland and northwest to Alberta. Rarely seen elsewhere.



Tufted Titmouse

Parus bicolor

LENGTH: 9.75"

DESCRIPTION: Two races differ in their head patterns. Both have a tiny black bill and black eye with a white eye patch leading down

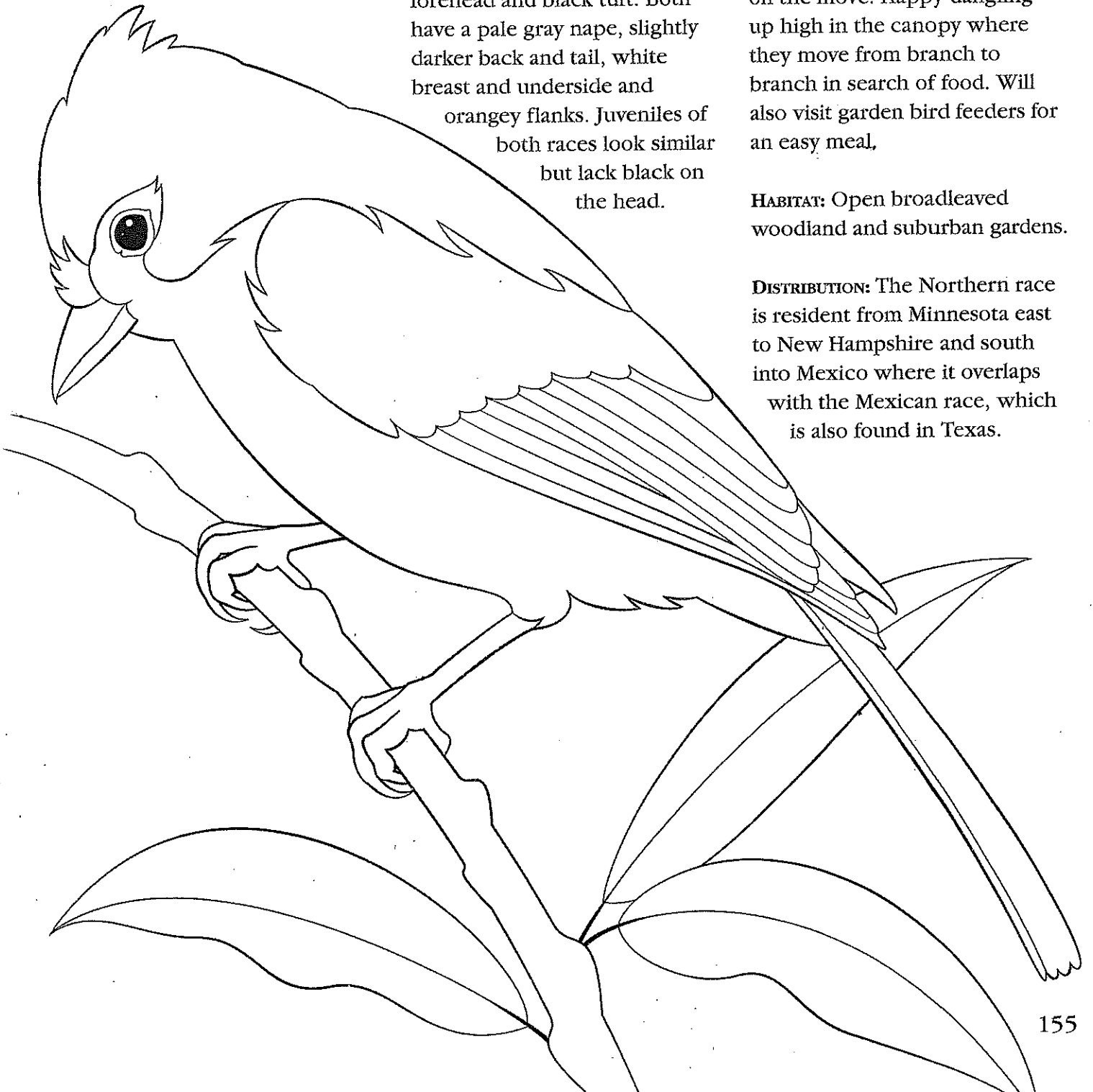
to the bill. The Northern race has a black forehead and pale gray tuft, while the less common Mexican race has a white forehead and black tuft. Both have a pale gray nape, slightly darker back and tail, white breast and underside and orangey flanks. Juveniles of both races look similar but lack black on the head.

VOICE: A clear and repetitive *peter-peter-peter*.

BEHAVIOR: Energetic and forever on the move. Happy dangling up high in the canopy where they move from branch to branch in search of food. Will also visit garden bird feeders for an easy meal.

HABITAT: Open broadleaved woodland and suburban gardens.

DISTRIBUTION: The Northern race is resident from Minnesota east to New Hampshire and south into Mexico where it overlaps with the Mexican race, which is also found in Texas.



Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Archilochus colubris

LENGTH: 3.75"

DESCRIPTION: A little gem. The male has a thin black bill, a vivid green crown, back and tail although outer-tail can show some black and white banding. A black eye patch and white breastband help set off a bright red throat. The underside is off-white with a touch of green and wings are black-green above, pale below. Legs are black. Female retains green on the back and head although head is a little duller. A dark spot behind the eye and white throat replace the red and black of the male. Juvenile is similar to female but with a shorter bill.

VOICE: A trill *ch-i-i-i-ci-ci-ch-i-i*.

BEHAVIOR: An aerial genius, this bird can stop on a dime. It will fly up, down, backwards or forwards or hover at natural and artificial food sources.

HABITAT: Parks, open woodland and suburban gardens

DISTRIBUTION: A summer breeder in much of the eastern half of the United States and Southern Canada, from Louisiana up to North Dakota and along to

Alberta. Can be seen as far north as Nova Scotia on the east coast. Winters in southern Mexico and South America.

