

# Bird Habitat Mural

*Please use this checklist to confirm that all of the parts of this station are in this bag both when it is unpacked before the OSF Science Night AND when it is re-packed after your event.*

- Table and Wall signs, laminated
- Explanation/ What to Do sheet, laminated
- 12 pictures of birds, laminated (American Redstart, Canada Warbler, Black and White Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Broad-winged Hawk, Swallow-tailed Kite, Eastern Wood Pewee, Red-eyed Vireo, Acadian Flycatcher, Summer Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Toucan)
- 9 - bird coloring sheets to copy (American Redstart, Warbler, Northern Cardinal, Toucan, Swallow-tailed Kite, Broad-winged Hawk, Eastern Wood-pewee, Red-eyed Vireo, Summer Tanager)

## **What you will need to provide for this activity station:**

- Tape to attach signs, mural paper to the wall or floor and birds that are colored by students to the mural
- White Kraft paper roll for mural (approximately 3 yards)
- Markers and crayons
- 6-8 pair Scissors
- Copies of the bird coloring sheets

## BIRD HABITAT MURAL

### Explanation/Background:

Birds have major requirements when looking for a good habitat in the forest: food, water, shelter, nesting materials, and space to acquire all of these necessities and raise their young. If any one of these needs is not found, the birds may not survive. Food and water are obvious necessities for life of any living organism. Food is provided by many trees, shrubs, and flowers. Birds especially enjoy fruit and nut bearing plants such as blueberries, hollies, oaks, and pines. Water can be found in pools on leaves and puddles on the ground from a recent rain. Shelter is necessary for protection from the elements as well as hiding from prey and may be provided by trees and shrubs. Some birds require tree cavities like those found in large, dead standing trees. These are important for nesting, another necessity for a bird habitat. Nesting material includes small broken twigs, grass, straw, moss, hair, mud and any other strong item that would make a protective nest for the bird's eggs.

All of these requirements are important and must be available for a bird's survival. For neo-tropical migratory birds, both habitats must provide these necessities. Migratory birds live in North America for half of the year and then migrate to Central or South America for the rest of the year. This being the case, both forests homes must supply food, water, shelter, nesting materials and space for these long travelers to find the home they require.

### What You Will Do:

Learn the requirements for a good bird habitat (food, water, shelter, nesting materials and space), focusing on migratory birds in Georgia temperate forests and Ecuadorian rainforests.

### What You Need:

- Mural size piece of white paper (Kraft paper roll) – approximately 3 yards
- Markers and Crayons
- 6-8 pairs scissors
- Tape to affix the mural to the wall and to hang the coloring sheets on the mural
- Bird coloring sheets to color and cut out – 2 are not migrants
- Reference pictures of birds

### What To Do:

#### Set-up:

1. Attach the mural to a wall or place it on the floor.
2. The mural should be divided in half – the two sides representing the Georgia temperate forest and the Ecuadorian rainforest. Draw a line down the middle of the mural paper and title each side of the forest.
3. Draw a few trees on both sides (deciduous trees for Georgia, tropical/rainforest trees for Ecuador) to get the habitat started. *Some kids may be intimidated with a large blank piece of paper.*

4. Place the markers with the mural paper.
5. Place crayons, scissors, tape and the bird photos on the table with bird coloring sheets.

**Activity:**

1. Describe how all animals have certain habitats. Birds have important requirements when searching out a good habitat (food, water, shelter, nesting materials, space). Talk about the different forest ecosystems – Georgia temperate forest and the Ecuadorian rainforests. Focus on how migratory birds need both habitats since they live in each for half of the year.

2. Introduce the mural, pointing out the two forests.

3. The participants are to draw aspects of the forest that provide a good habitat for migratory birds in each forest. Refer to reference pictures of forests for ideas.

Food – trees with fruit and nuts; shrubs with berries; flowers.

Water – pools of water on leaves, puddles on the ground, rain.

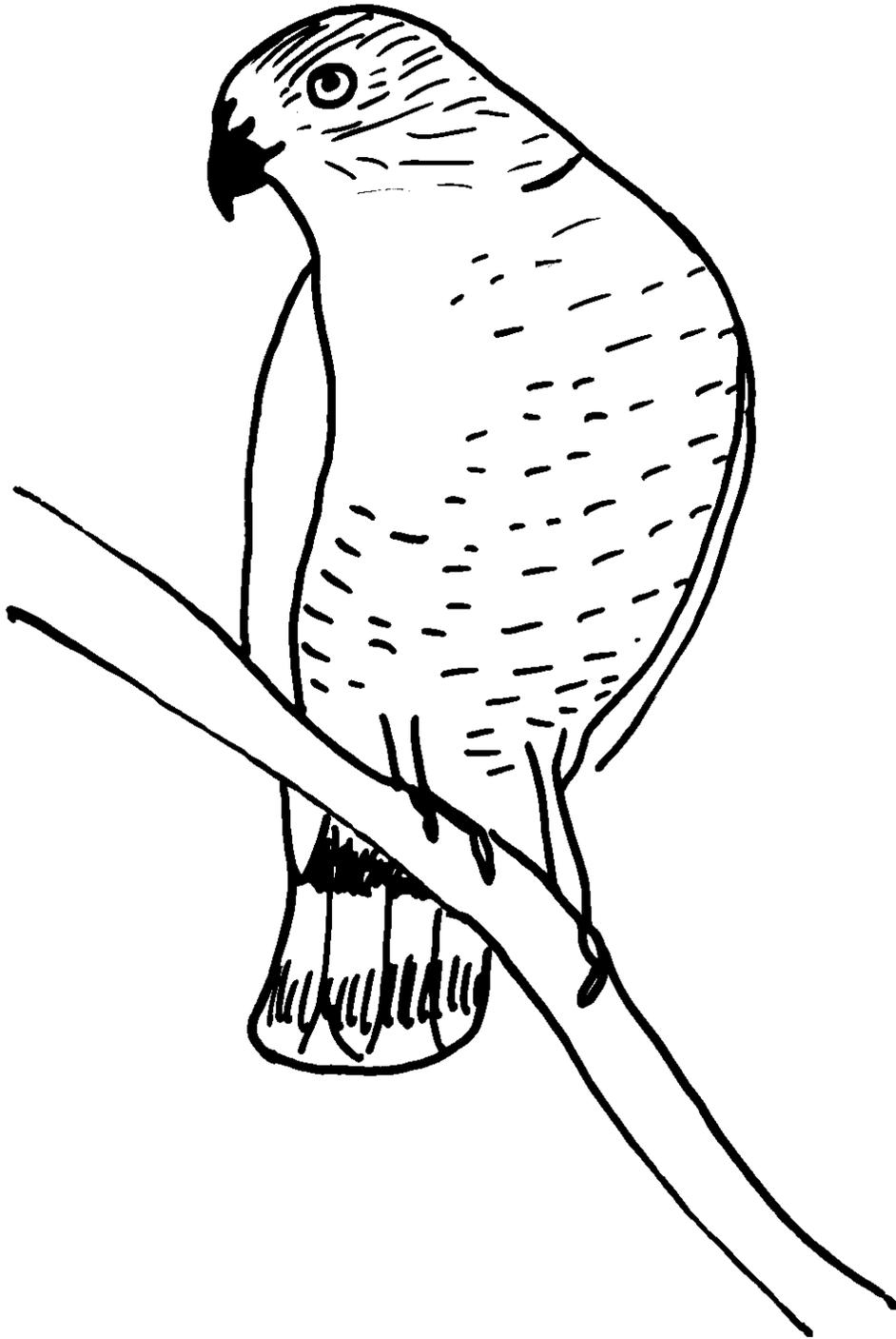
Shelter – trees, shrubs, open cavity dead trees, fallen logs, etc.

Nesting materials – twigs, straw, hair/fur, grass, moss, bud.

4. Participants can also choose a coloring sheet, color it, cut out the bird, and tape it to the mural on the mural. All drawings are of migrants except for 2, the toucan and the cardinal. **Point out that migrants can go on either side of the mural; toucan and cardinal belong on Ecuador and Georgia sides, respectively.** Participants can refer to list of bird descriptions for coloring if desired.

4. The idea is that families will circulate in-and-out adding a bit more throughout the science night. The mural can then be displayed at the school the next week.



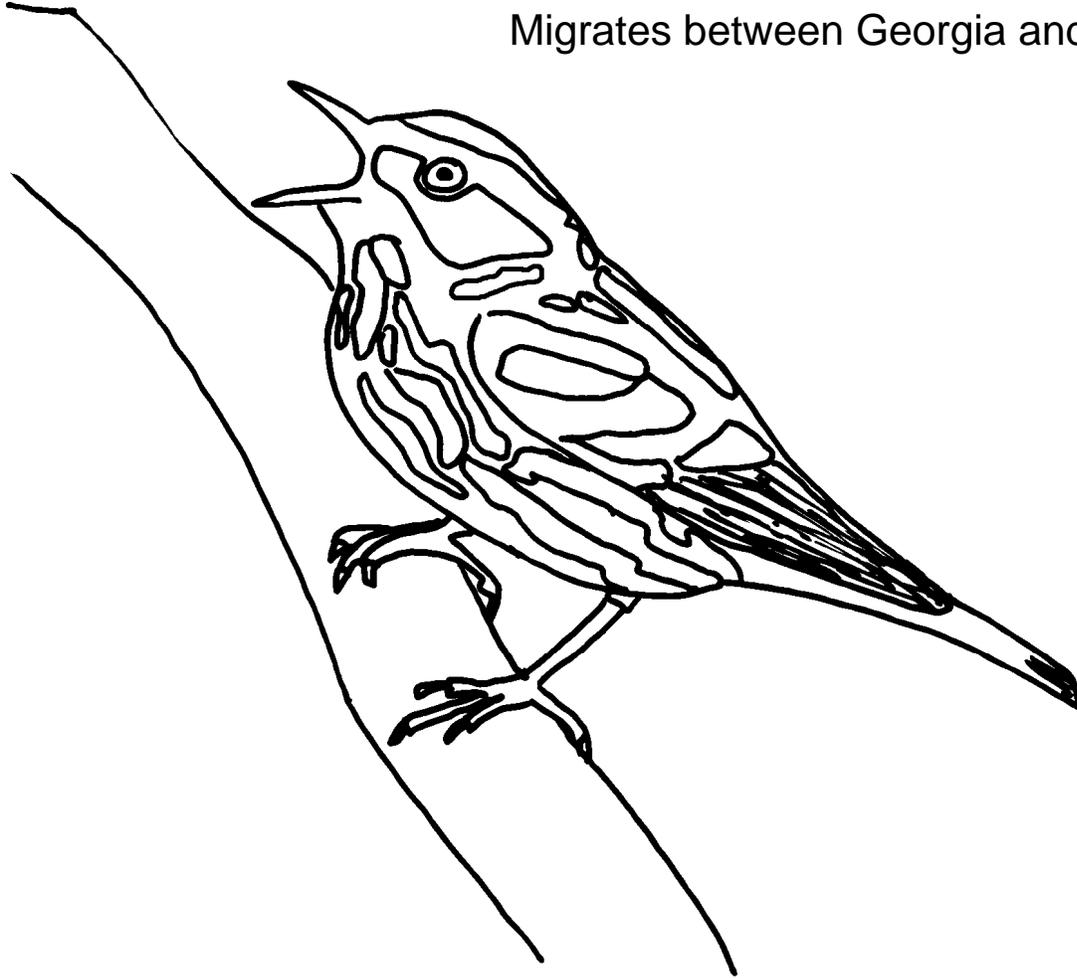


## **Broad-winged Hawk**

Migrates between Georgia and Ecuador

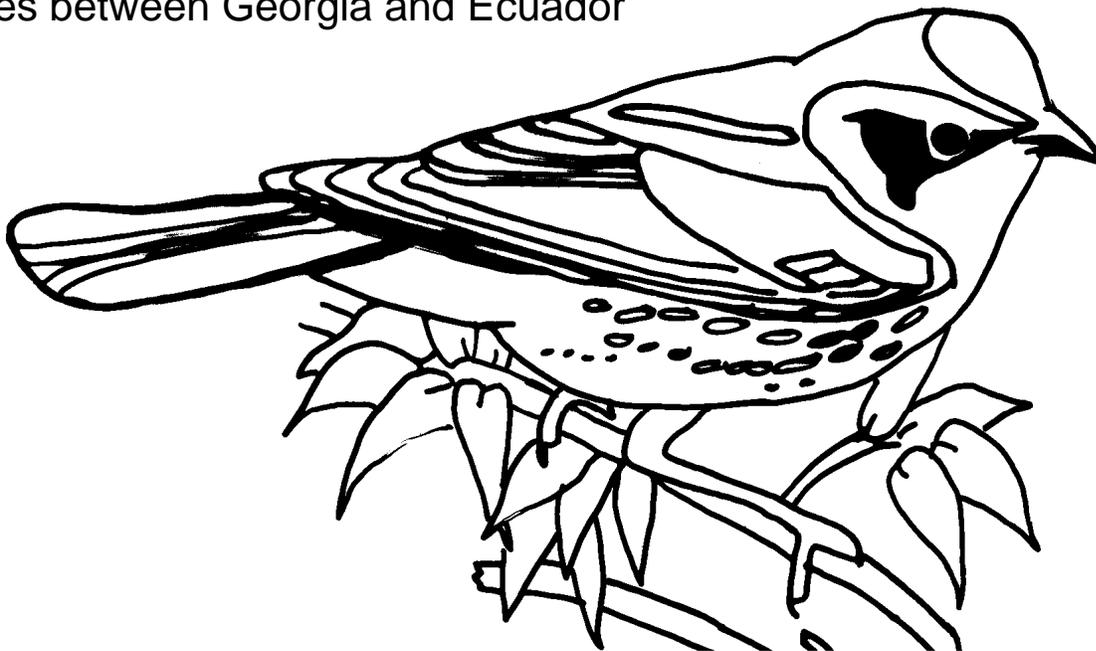
## **Black-and-white Warbler**

Migrates between Georgia and Ecuador



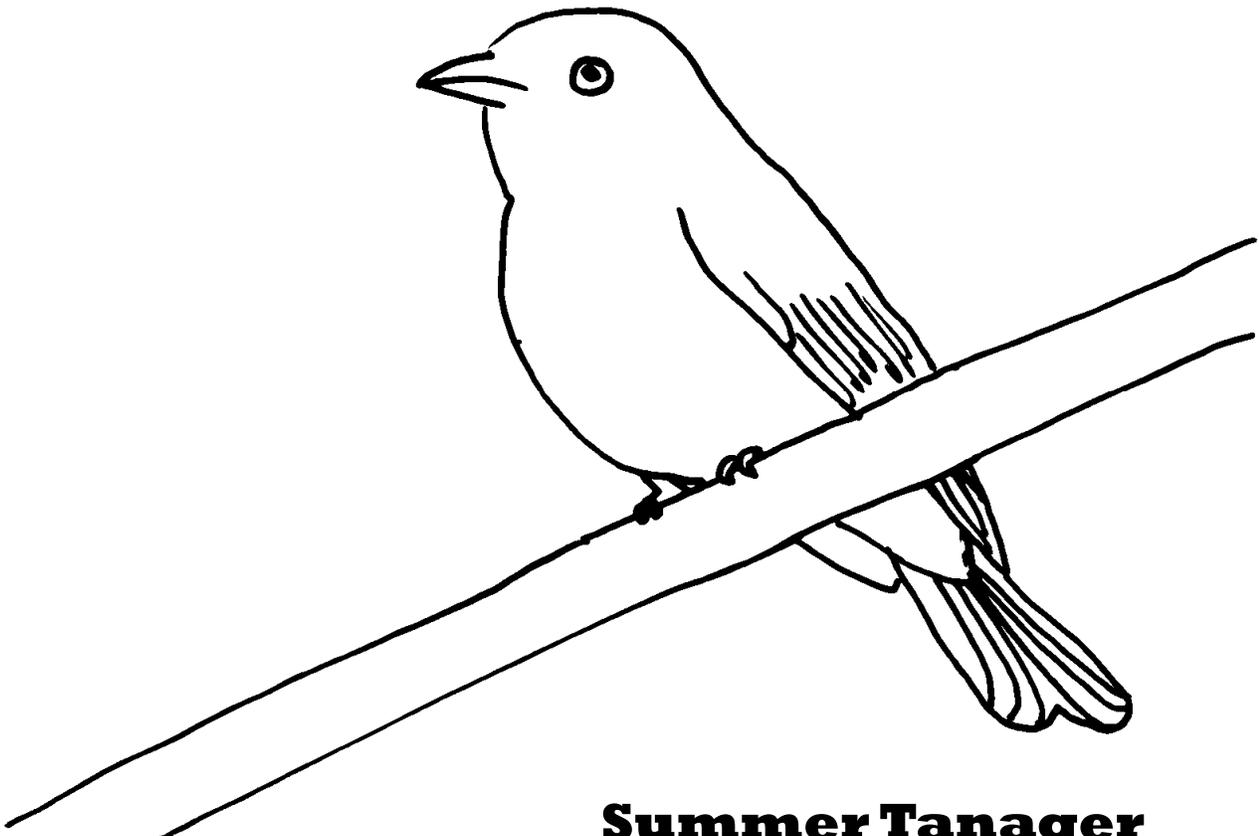
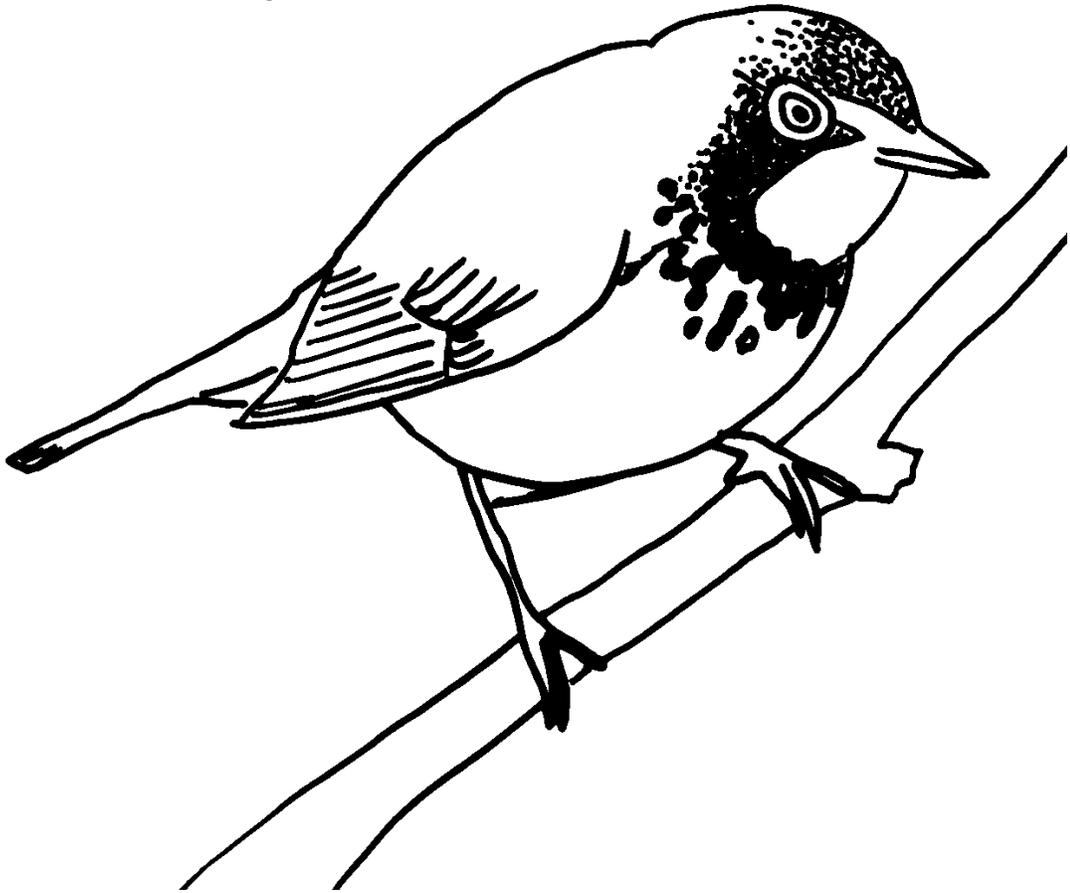
## **Blackburnian Warbler**

Migrates between Georgia and Ecuador



## **Canada Warbler**

Migrates between Georgia and Ecuador

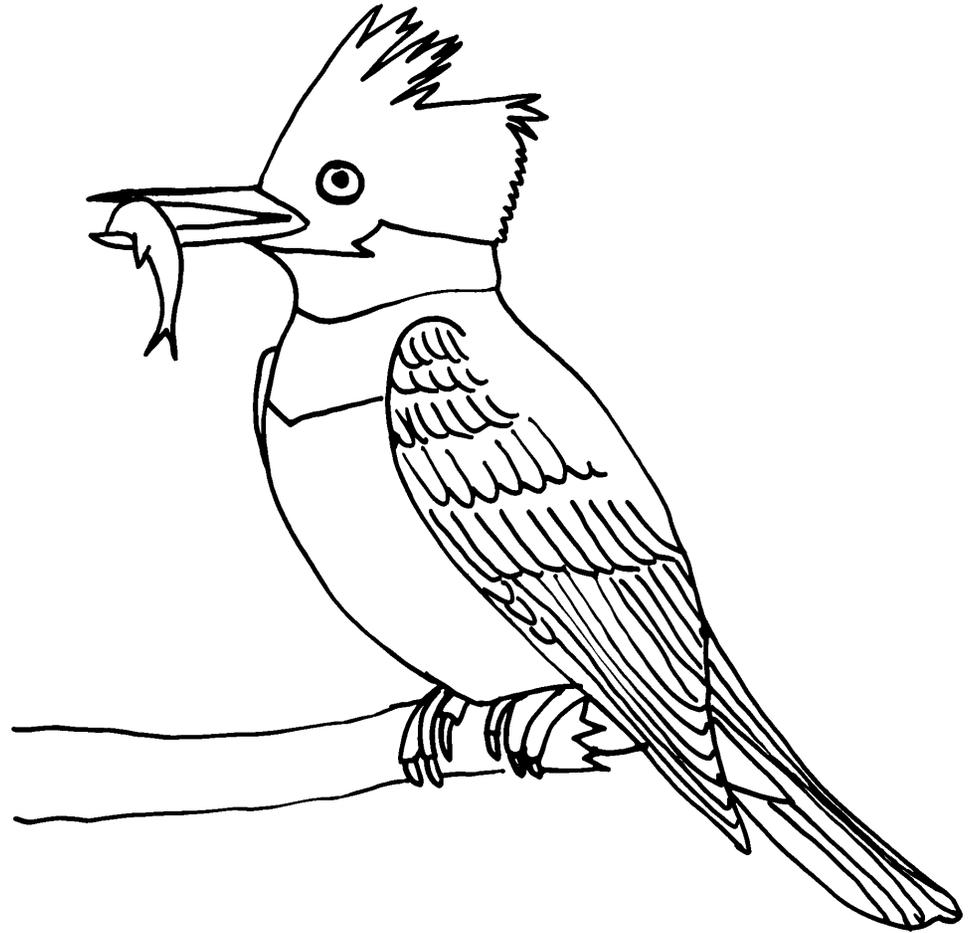
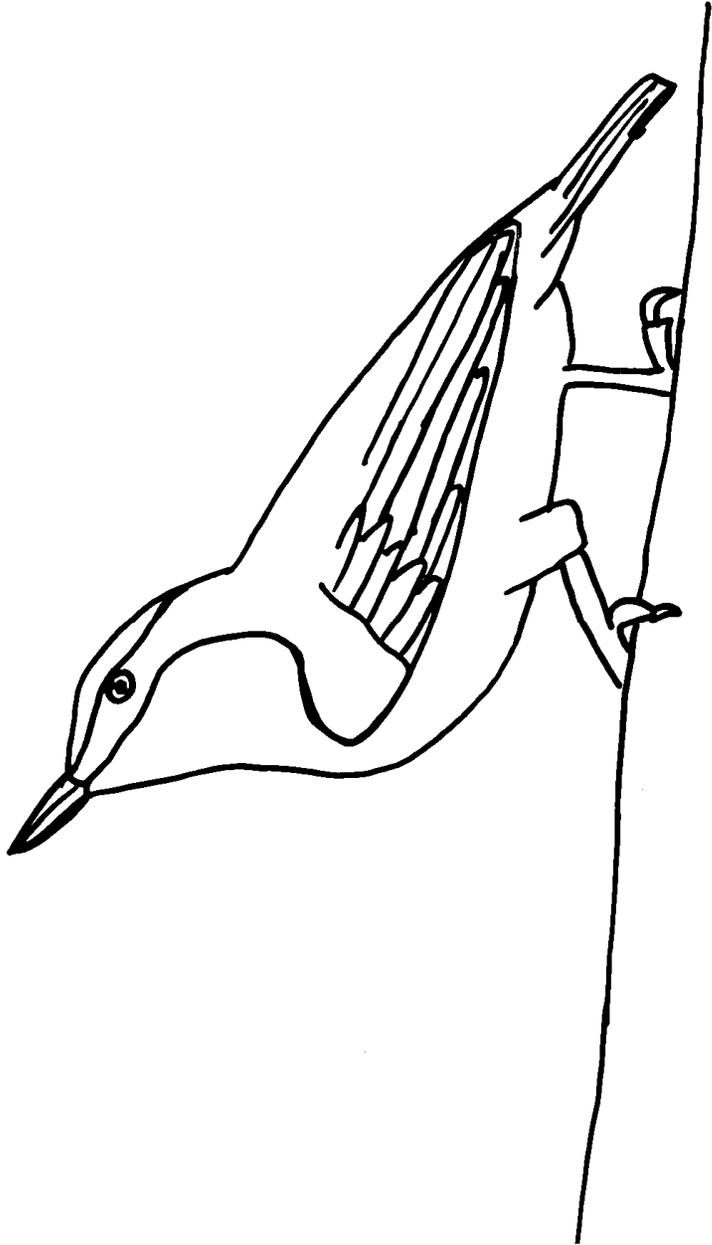


## **Summer Tanager**

Migrates between Georgia and Ecuador

## **Brown-headed Nuthatch**

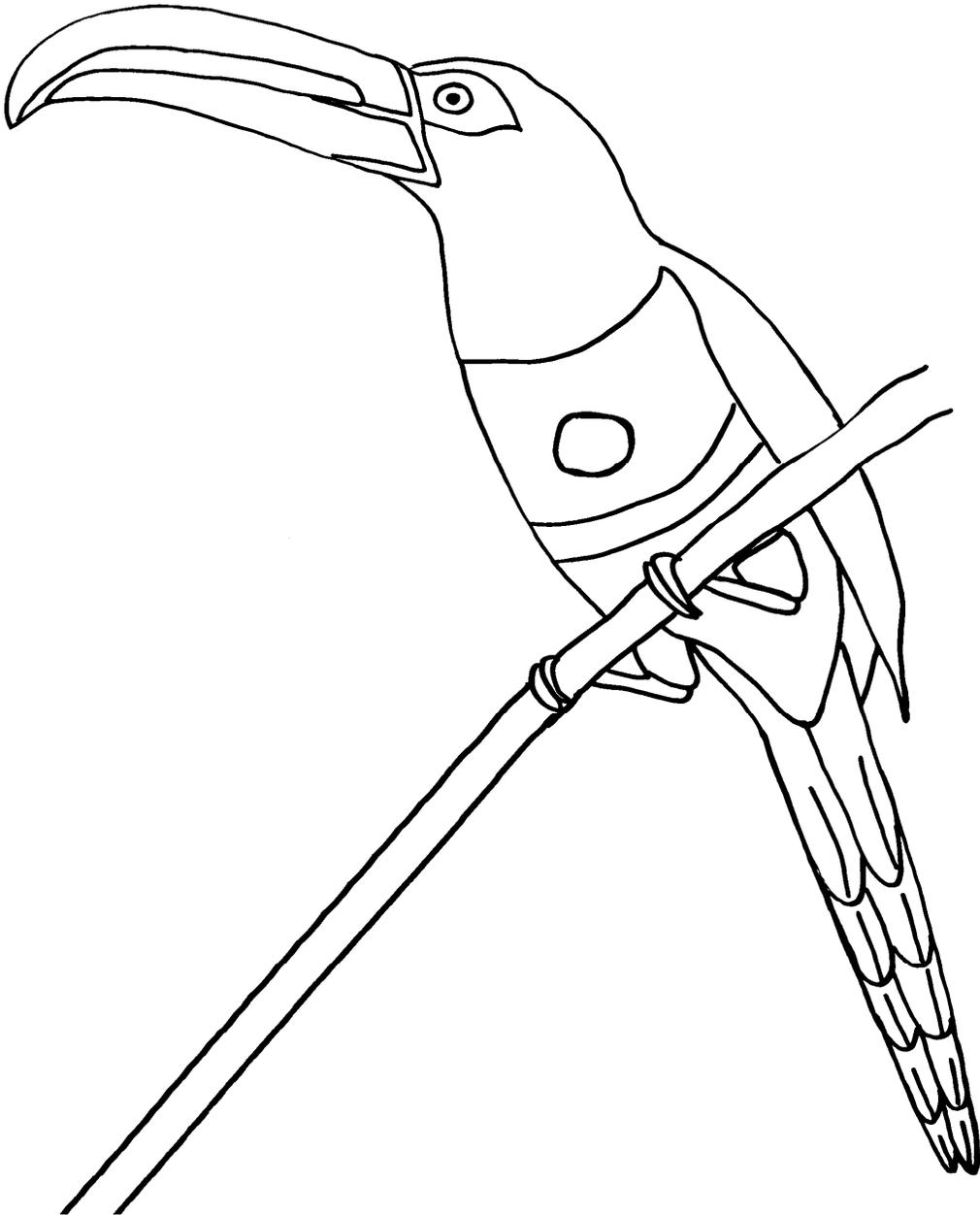
Year-round resident in Georgia



**Belted Kingfisher**  
Year-round resident in Georgia

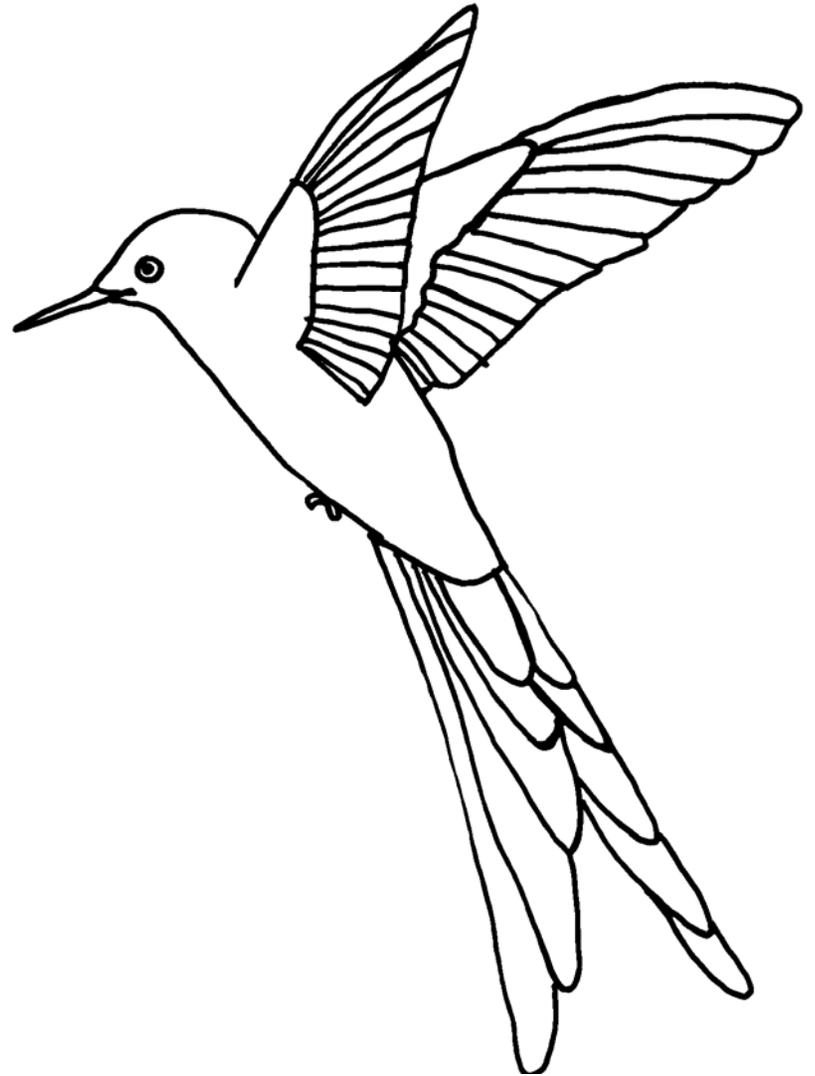
## **Pale-mandibled Aracari**

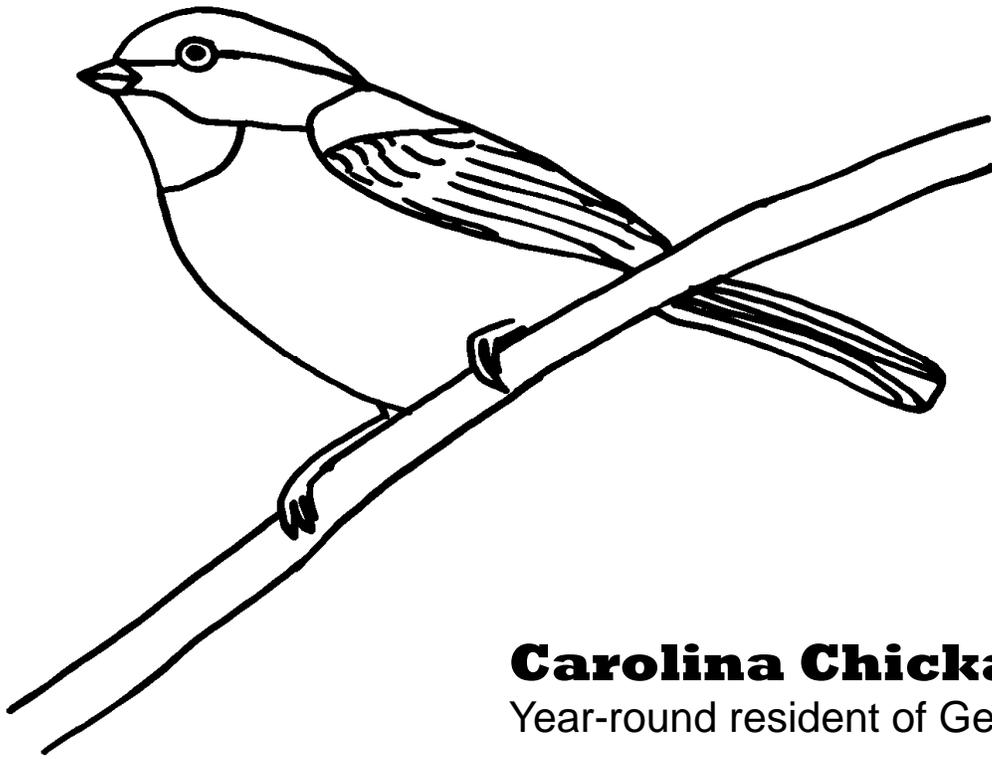
Year-round resident in Ecuador



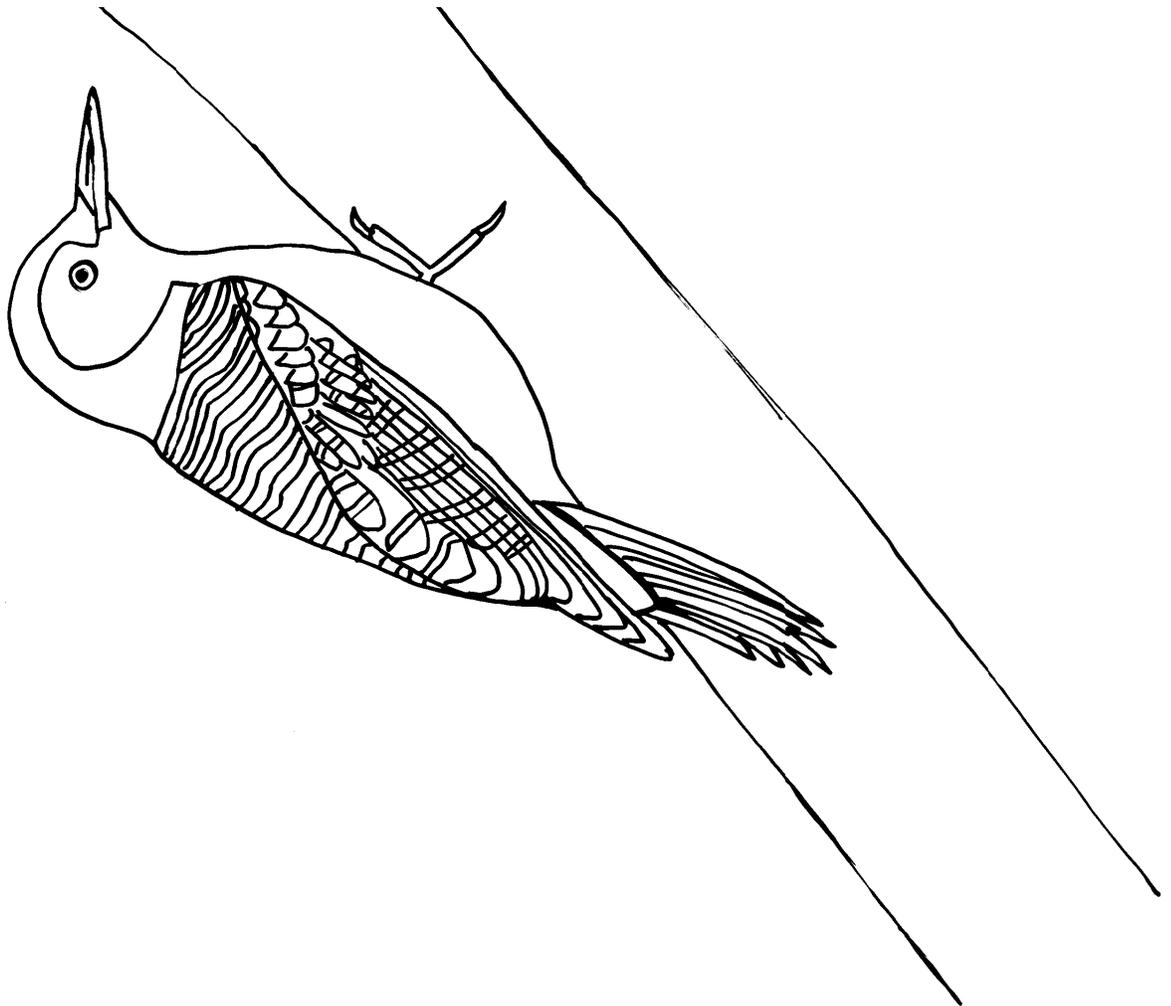
## **Sylph**

Year-round resident in Ecuador





**Carolina Chickadee**  
Year-round resident of Georgia



**Red-bellied Woodpecker**  
Year-round resident of Georgia

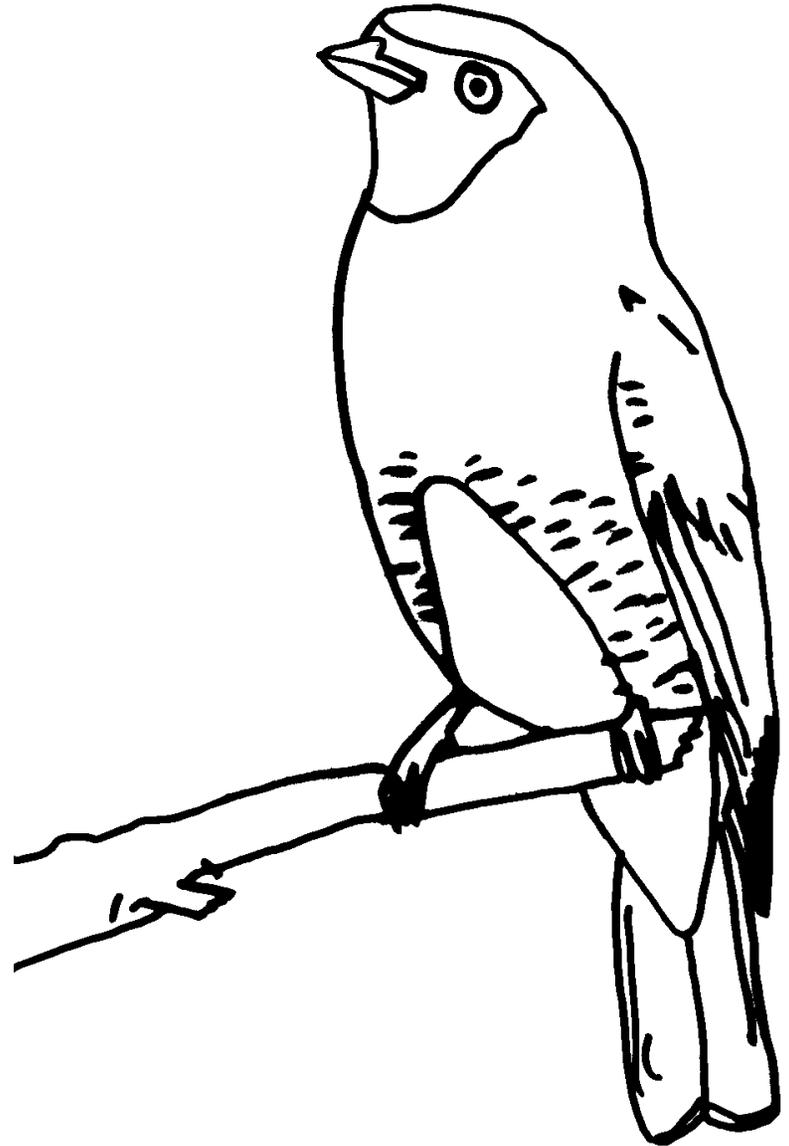
## **Toucan Barbet**

Year-round resident in Ecuador



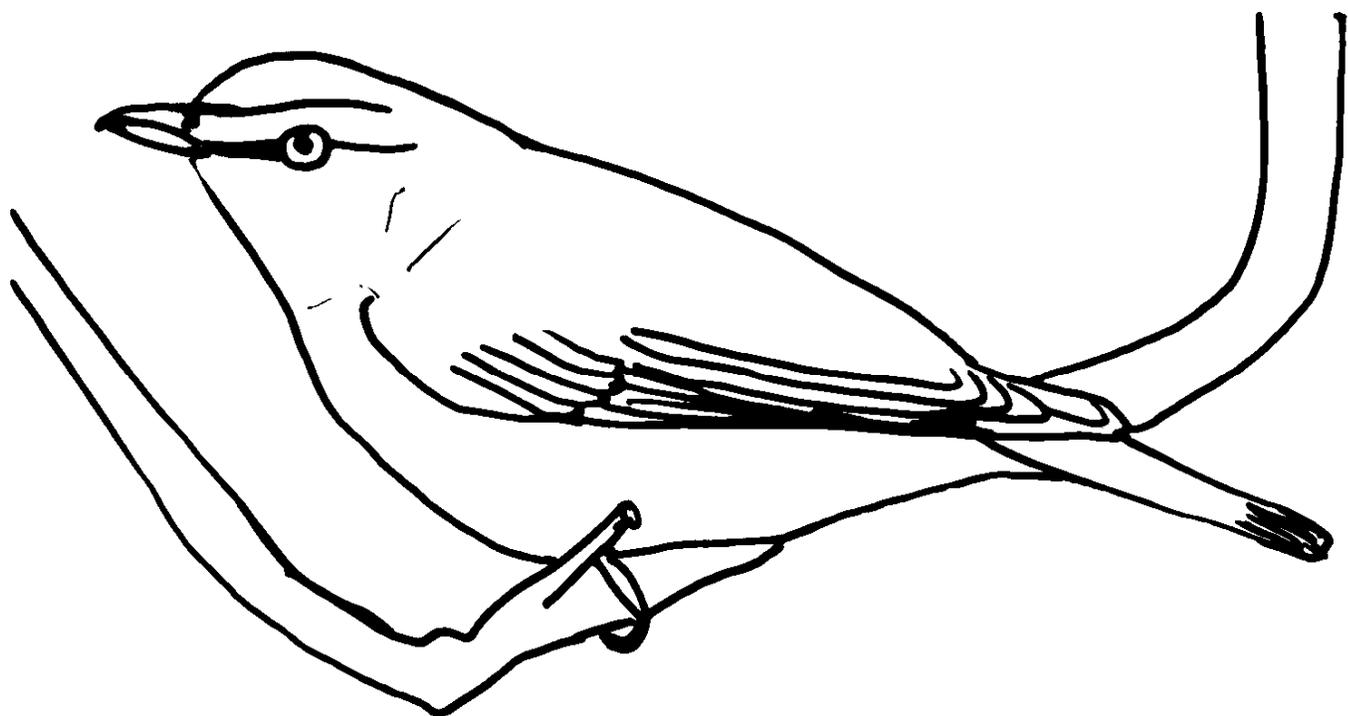
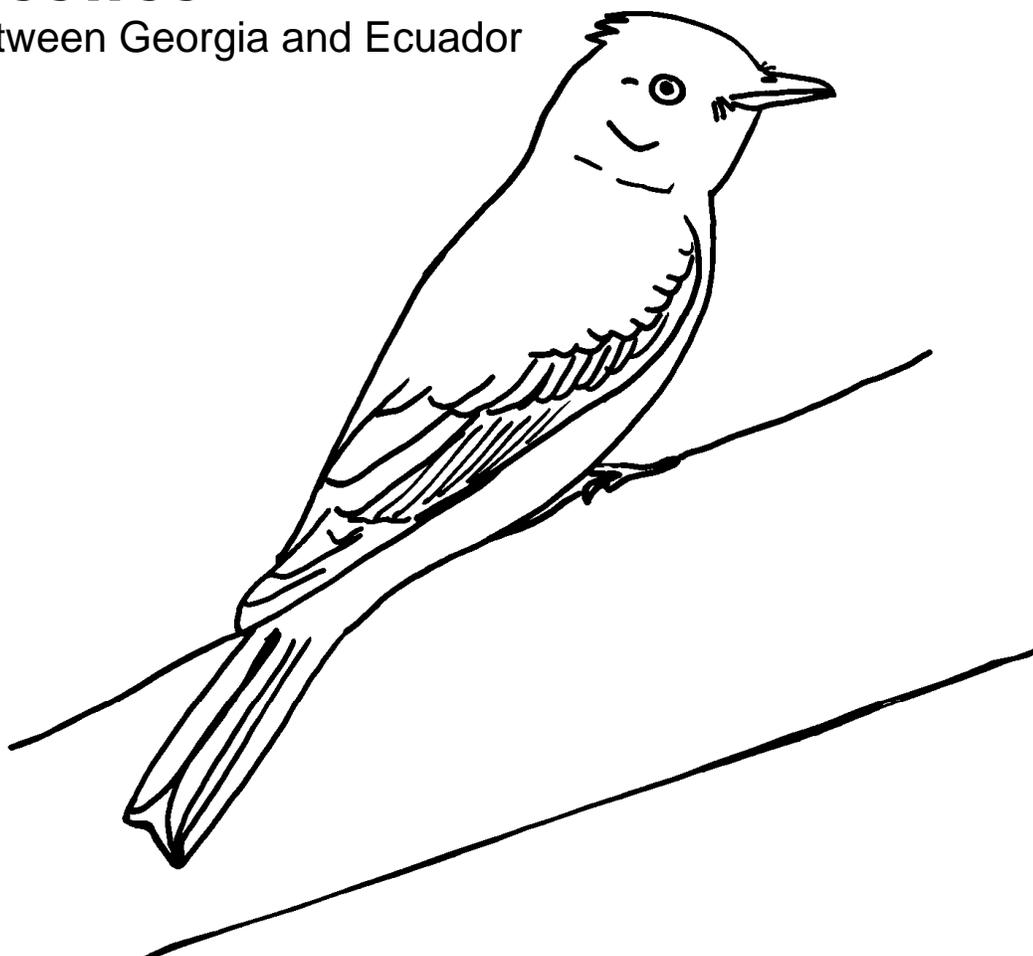
## **Swallow Tanager**

Year-round resident in Ecuador



## **Wood Peewee**

Migrates between Georgia and Ecuador



## **Red-eyed vireo**

Migrates between Georgia and Ecuador