



Ruby-throated Hummingbird Nectaring on Coralbean

The coralbean (*Erythrina herbacea*) offers the nectar of its scarlet red tubular flowers to the ruby-throated hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*). The female of this tiny iridescent green bird has a white throat, while the male's throat is a metallic shade of ruby.



Woodpeckers and Palm Trees

The sabal palm (*Sabal Palmetto*) is Florida's state tree. Seminole and Miccosukee Indians call the sabal palm the "tree of life" because it has long provided them with shelter, food, tools, utensils, and fibers. Here we see a family of pileated woodpeckers (*Hylatomus pileatus*) in dead sabal palms, which the birds use for nesting and to find insects to eat.



Conradina - Scrub Mint

Conradina grandiflora, with its lavender colored flower, is a native mint which attracts several types of native bees, including this green metallic halictid bee. The halictid family of bees has 55 species in Florida. Their solitary nature may make them especially important for plants such as the Conradina, which occur in small patches and thus may be overlooked by more wide-ranging pollinators.



Bobcat with Palmetto

A reddish brown bobcat (*Felis rufus*) finds shelter and shade under a saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*). The saw palmetto is an important source of food and shelter for many creatures.



Zebra Longwing Nectaring on Firebush

The tubular red-orange flowers of the firebush (*Hamelia patens*) attract hummingbirds and insects including the black and white striped Zebra longwing (*Heliconius charitonius*), Florida's state butterfly. The dark purple fruits are enjoyed by small mammals and songbirds.



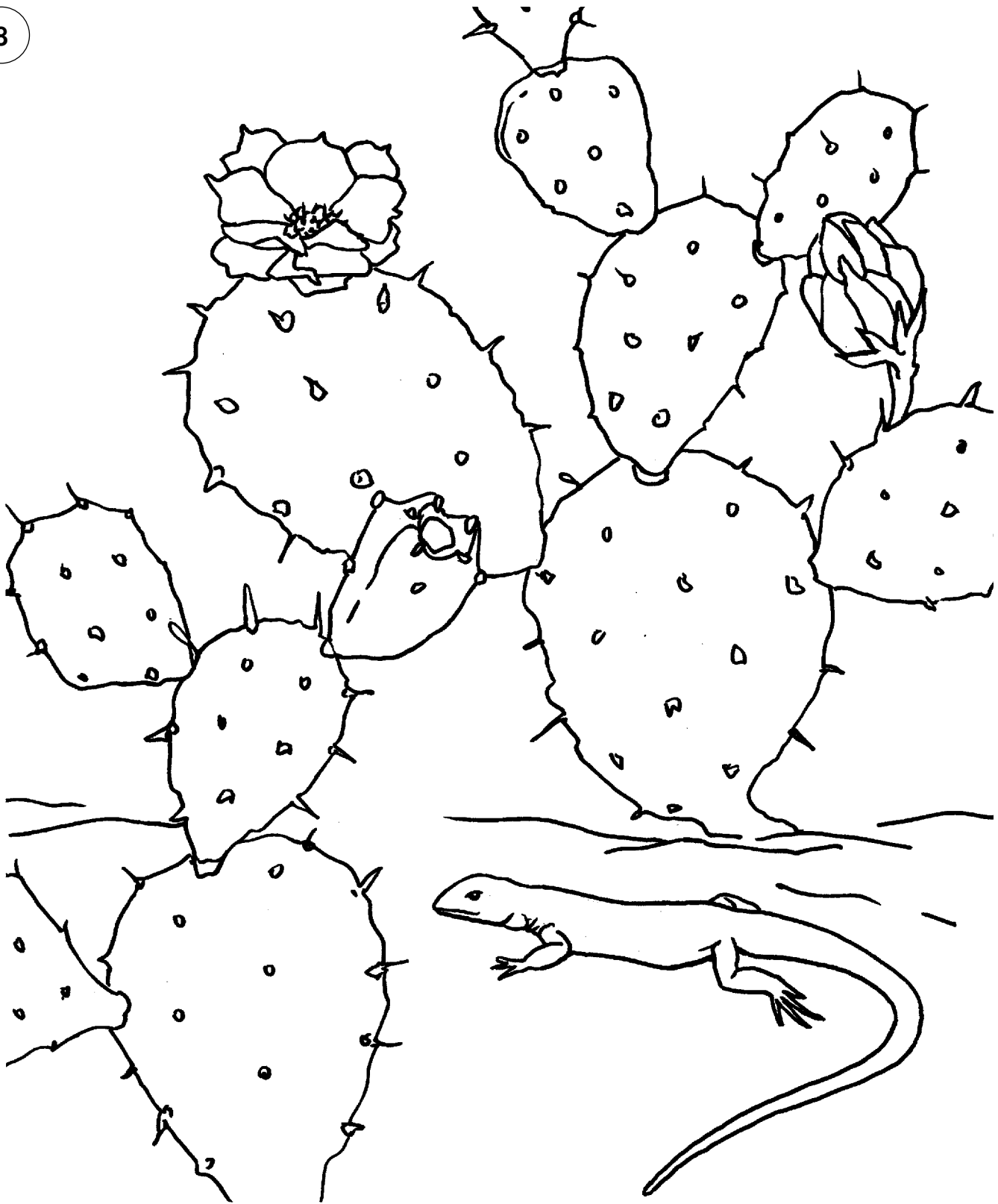
Eastern Cottontail Rabbit with Sand Blackberries

An eastern cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*) seeks shelter and protection in a thicket of sand blackberries (*Rubus cuneifolius*). The white flowers in spring attract butterflies and insects, while the sweet juicy berries are a favorite among birds, reptiles and mammals.



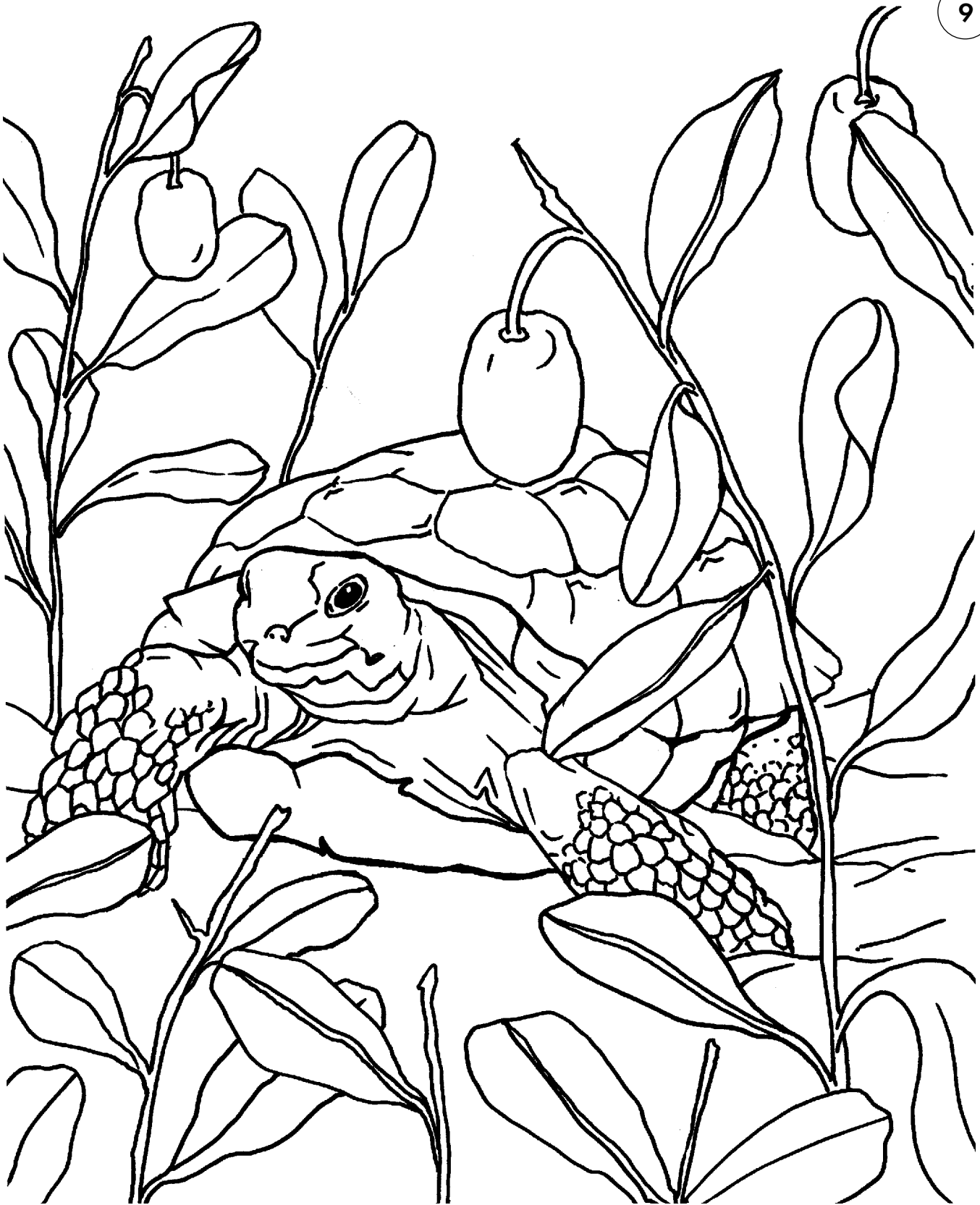
Mockingbird Feeding on Beautyberry

The mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) is Florida's state bird. This lucky mockingbird enjoys the purple fruit of the American beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*).



Prickly Pear Cactus

Six-lined racerunners (*Cnemidophorus sexlineatus*) and prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia humifusa*) thrive in Florida's scrubby upland habitats. The prickly pear's yellow flowers ripen into edible, deep red colored fruits that are enjoyed by birds, reptiles and mammals.



Gopher Tortoise with Gopher Apple

The fruit of the gopher apple (*Licania michauxii*) is a favorite food for the amiable gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*).



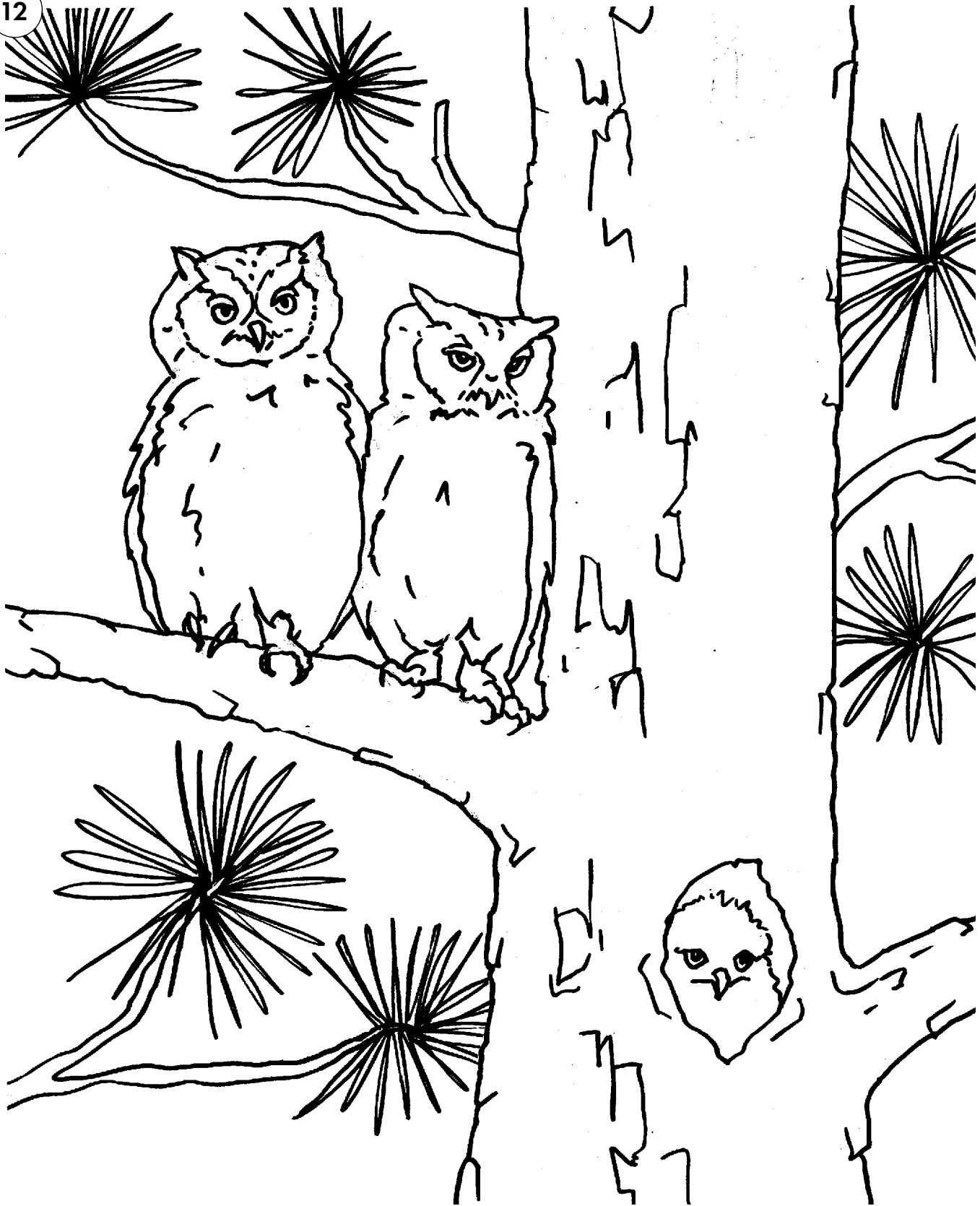
Blackeyed Susan

A native green tree frog (*Hyla cinerea*) finds a better view and maybe an insect or two on the yellow Blackeyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*). This yellow flower, with dark brown center, provides nectar for insects and tiny seeds for birds.



Dragonfly with Water Lily

A green darner dragonfly (*Anax junius*) takes a break on a white water lily (*Nymphaea odorata*). The green darner's thorax is green but its abdomen is bright blue.



Screech Owl Family in Pine Tree

A slash pine (*Pinus elliottii*) provides a nesting cavity for a family of reddish-brown screech owls (*Otus asio*). The screech owl is Florida's smallest owl.