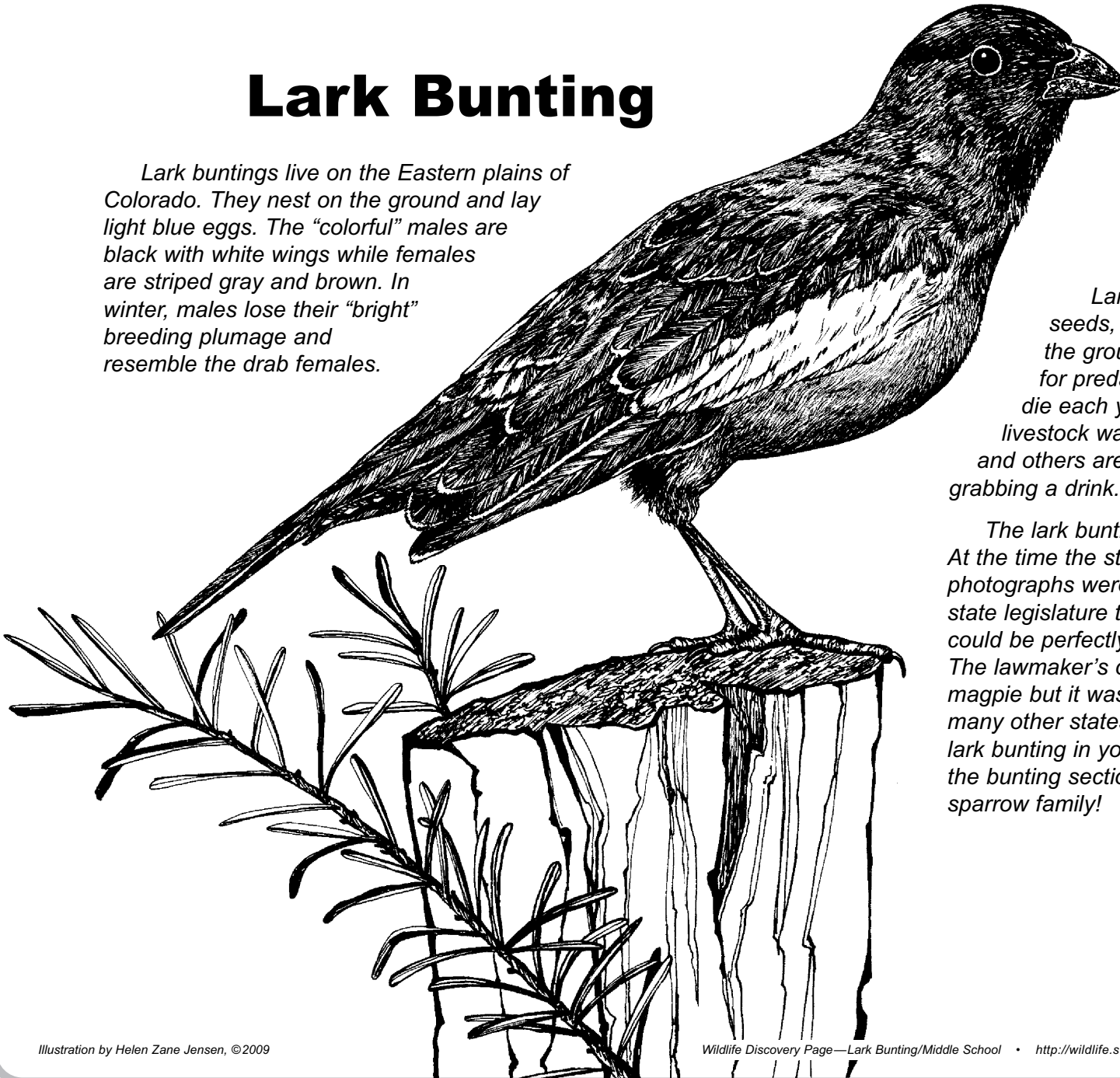


Lark Bunting

Lark buntings live on the Eastern plains of Colorado. They nest on the ground and lay light blue eggs. The “colorful” males are black with white wings while females are striped gray and brown. In winter, males lose their “bright” breeding plumage and resemble the drab females.



Lark buntings eat insects, seeds, and fruits. They feed on the ground in open areas to watch for predators. Several lark buntings die each year trying to drink from livestock water troughs. Some drown and others are preyed upon while grabbing a drink.

The lark bunting is Colorado’s state bird. At the time the state bird was chosen, all photographs were black and white. The state legislature thought the lark bunting could be perfectly represented in pictures. The lawmaker’s other choice was the magpie but it was already the state bird of many other states. If you are looking for the lark bunting in your field guide, don’t look in the bunting section. They belong to the sparrow family!

