

Osprey Art Projects

Grades K to Adults

Here is an assortment of age-appropriate art projects to help you and your children learn more about ospreys. Everybody can draw and color for fun, but it's also an important way to learn. Drawing ospreys and other plants and wildlife helps you improve your powers of observation and sketches made out in the field are invaluable for remembering important details about the animal.

Visit and read about ospreys and then let your imagination soar! Go for it!

Watch artist and writer [David Allen Sibley](#) show three budding young birdwatchers how to draw an osprey at < <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQX3BJY2WfM> > and an osprey nest in a tree at < https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TG3z_0pANc8 >.

AWESOME OSPREY PROJECTS AGES K-GRADE 5

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Kindergarten can paint three eggs in a nest. Have students paint three white ovals on any color construction paper. Let them add pink dots to the eggs. Give students brown to complete the nest. Hint: Once again, only give them one color at a time with a clean brush each time.



Every Age likes to Make a Mask!

Any grade loves an osprey mask with feathers! To begin, cut an inexpensive paper plate in half. Use a hole punch to punch holes in the bottom edge on each side to attach rubber bands to hold the mask on student's head.

Color mask with brown markers or crayons. Add yellow eyes out of construction paper or use shiny yellow beads. Cut a black triangle for the beak. To make the beak stick out, fold the shortest two corners over and staple or glue to mask. Decorate with white and brown feathers.





First Grade can draw a flying osprey using simple shapes such as an oval, triangle and circle. Then paint a white chest, legs and belly, brown wings, head and tail. Have them add white stripes to the underside of wings and tail. With a smaller brush add black eye, beak and talons. – One color and one step at a time!

Second Grade can paint a perching osprey! Have students begin by drawing an oval around their hand in the center of the page. Add a circle for the head. Then add an eye stripe, feathers on back of head, beak, tail, wings, talons and perch. Paint white head, chest and tail. Paint yellow eye. Paint brown eye stripe, wings, stripes on tail and speckles on chest. Paint black beak and talons. Give them one color at a time. When completed, allow students to mix the white, yellow, brown and black to paint the perch.



Third Grade enjoys painting a flying osprey carrying a fish. Work through the process with them one step at a time. 1) Trace circle around hand just below the center of page. Before drawing, check hand placement. 2) Trace thumb for the neck and head. 3) Trace three fingers to make a tail. 4) Draw a swooping line upward from osprey's shoulder to make the front of wing. 5) Trace four fingers to make tips of wing. 6) Scallop downward to meet the osprey's body. 7) Draw a line from back of front wing off the paper. 8) Scallop edges of that wing to the osprey's body. 9) Add legs that are bent backwards. 10) Draw a fish in the bird's talons. Then Paint – give students only one color at a time – white, brown, yellow, and black. Let them choose the color of the fish.



Fourth Grade will enjoy painting healthy osprey habitat. After showing students several photos of osprey nests and talking about what makes good habitat for an osprey, have students draw a scene with an osprey nest in it. Did their painting include a tall tree for the nest and a lake or river for the osprey to fish in?

For fun, let students draw and paint their scene on a heavy-duty large oval paper plate. For a frame, glue small pinecones, pine needles, leaves, moss, sticks or grass around the outside edge to show the great outdoors.



5th grade and up will enjoy making watercolor osprey silhouettes!

To start, have students tape watercolor paper down to their desks with masking tape. Make sure the tape completely surrounds paper to hold the paper down and keep it from curling as it dries. Next, have them paint stripes across the paper using two or three sunset watercolor colors. Let it dry completely before pulling off tape. Overnight works best.

Next, have students draw an osprey flying, sitting on a perch, or in a nest. Have them cut the drawing out and trace onto black construction paper, which is pre-cut to the same size as the watercolor paper.

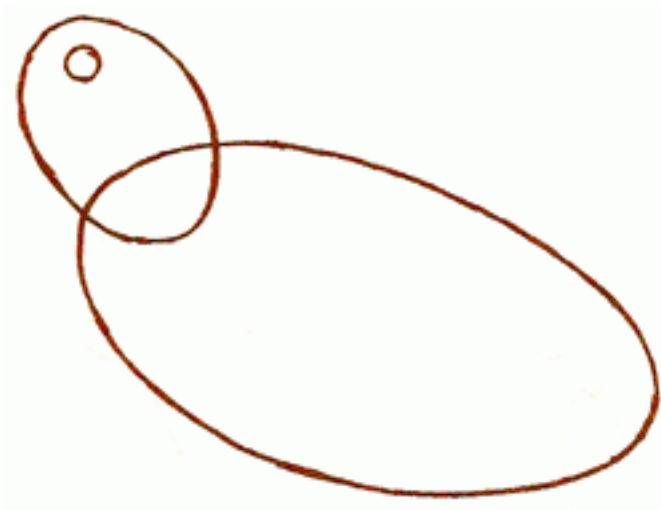
When watercolor sunset is dry, have students glue their osprey design onto the watercolor sunset. If they didn't attach a black construction paper frame to their osprey silhouette, they can add a black construction paper frame at this time and glue it down to watercolor sunset.



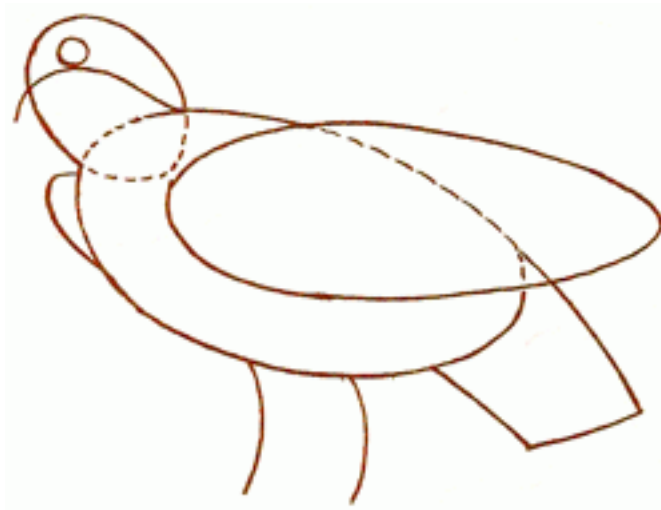
More projects on next page!

Draw an Osprey 6TH grade-Adults

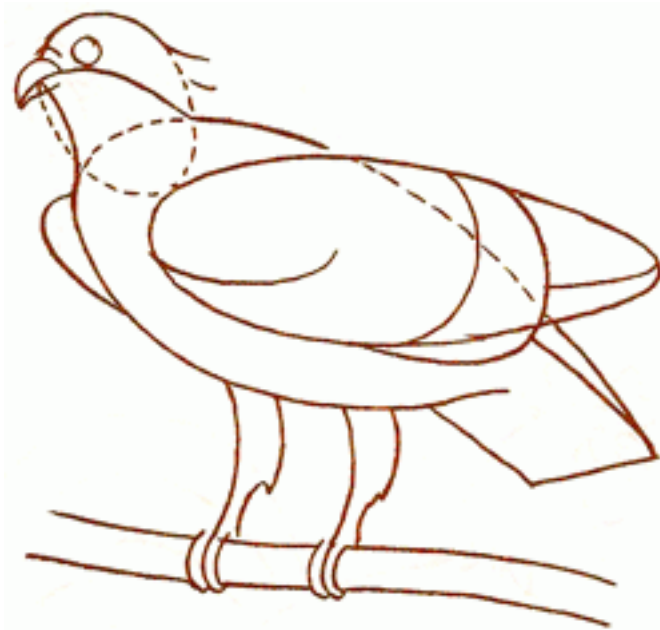
Start the drawing the Osprey! Step 1.



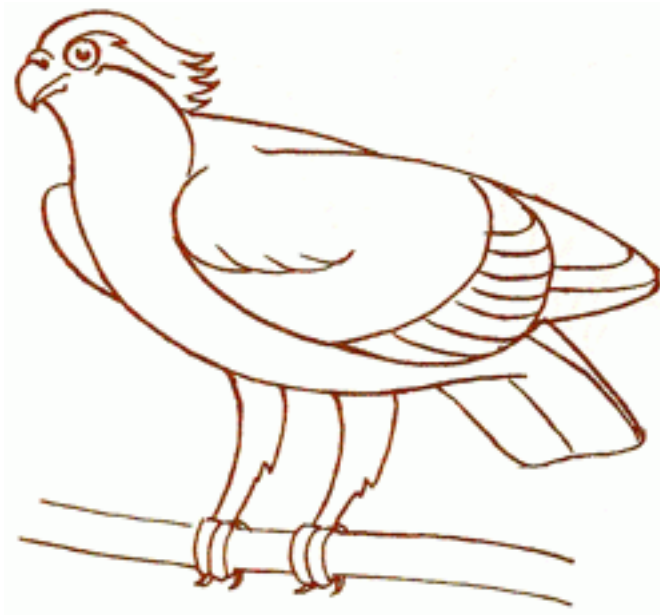
The drawing the Osprey! Step 2.



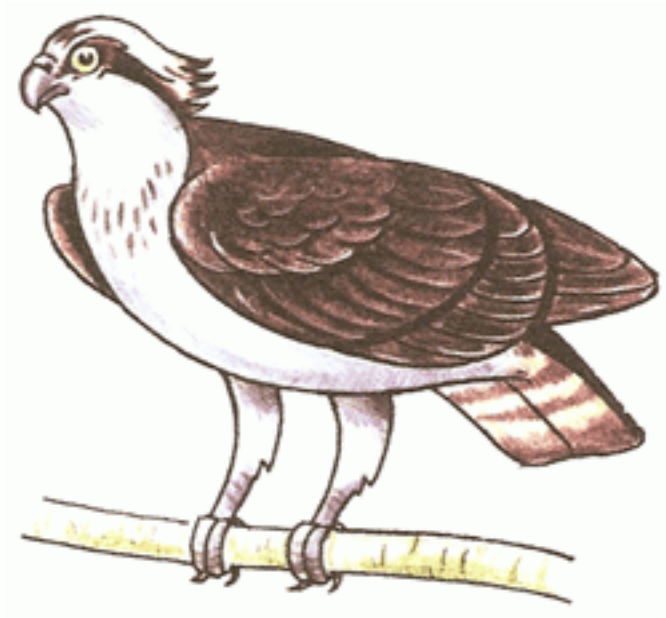
The drawing the Osprey! Step 3.



The drawing the Osprey! Step 4.



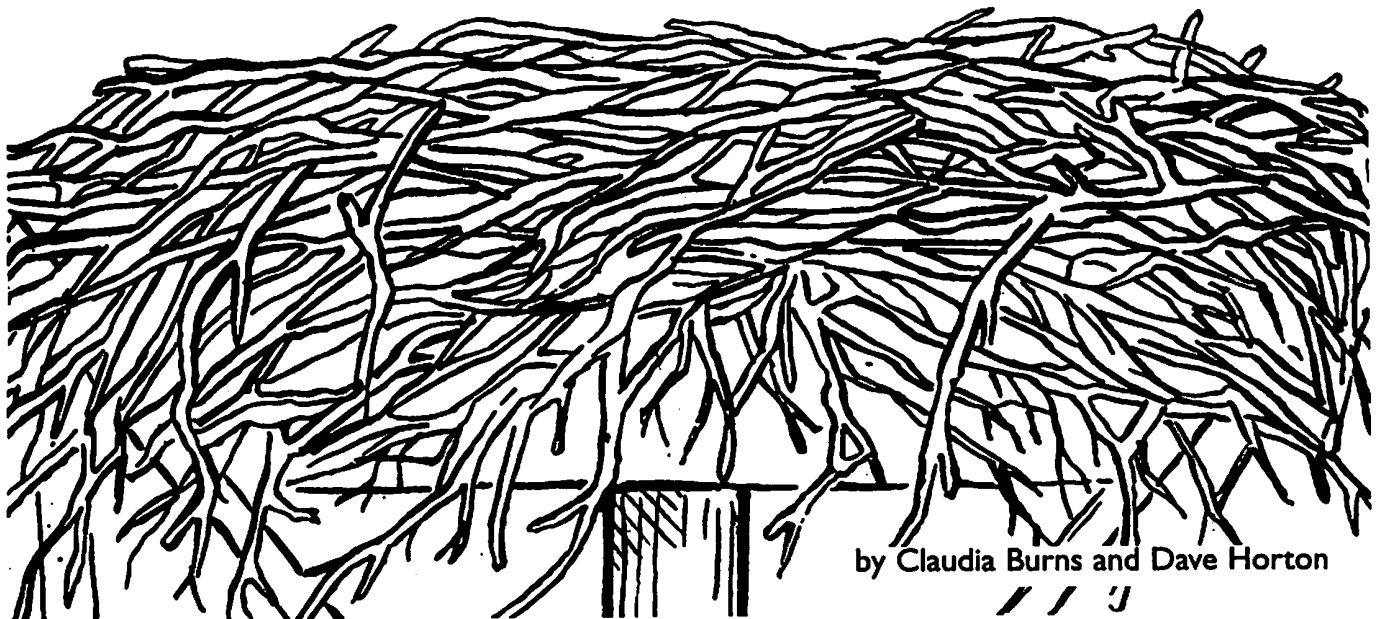
The drawing the Osprey! Step 5.



Congratulations!!!

More projects on next page

LOOK WHO'S FLYING!



by Claudia Burns and Dave Horton



What are those big brown and white birds that build huge stick nests on utility pole platforms?

Most likely, they are ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*) - birds of prey (raptors) that are sometimes called fish hawks or sea eagles.

Because ospreys prefer to eat live fish, they build their nests near their food source and are an indicator species for the health of local waters. If ospreys are unable to raise babies, there may be a problem with water quality that humans should be concerned about.

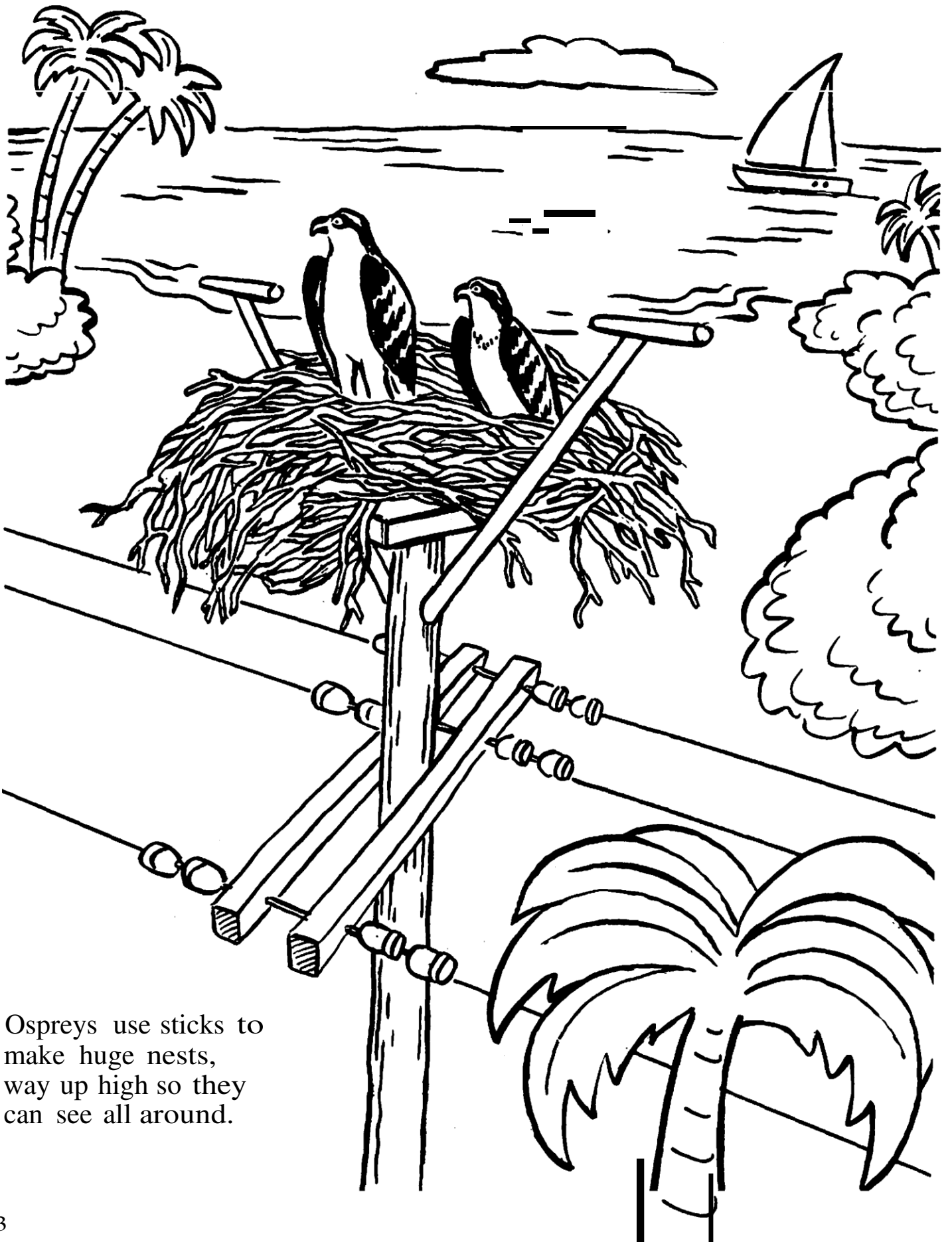
Unlike most birds, ospreys do not hide or camouflage their nests. On land, they build in plain view on lofty platforms, utility poles, the tops of broad-branched trees, or sometimes even on chimney tops. In water, they use channel markers. So, we humans are privileged to observe all facets of osprey behavior - nest building, courting, mating, incubating, hatching, feeding, shading, and, eventually, teaching their chicks how to fly.

The female osprey lays two or three eggs and does most of the incubating (keeping eggs warm so they will hatch). The male osprey brings fish to his nest-confined mate, and periodically relieves her of nest-sitting duties.

If all goes well, the eggs hatch in about 35 days. Osprey nestlings reach adult size in just seven weeks, so parents work hard to feed their rapidly-growing, constantly-hungry hatchlings. Dad brings fish to his family, and Mom uses her beak to tear small strips from the fish and drop them into her babies' mouths. If a chick is slow to fledge (learn how to fly) Mom might take off and leave the rest of the upbringing to Dad.

Adult ospreys are 21 to 25 inches long and weigh 4 to 5 pounds. Males are usually a little smaller than females. When osprey chicks fledge they are the same size as adults, but their chocolate-brown upperpart feathers have white tips, as if they were dipped in marshmallow creme. Also, their eyes are orange, whereas an adult's eyes are yellow.

For more facts about ospreys, go to www.ospreys.com.



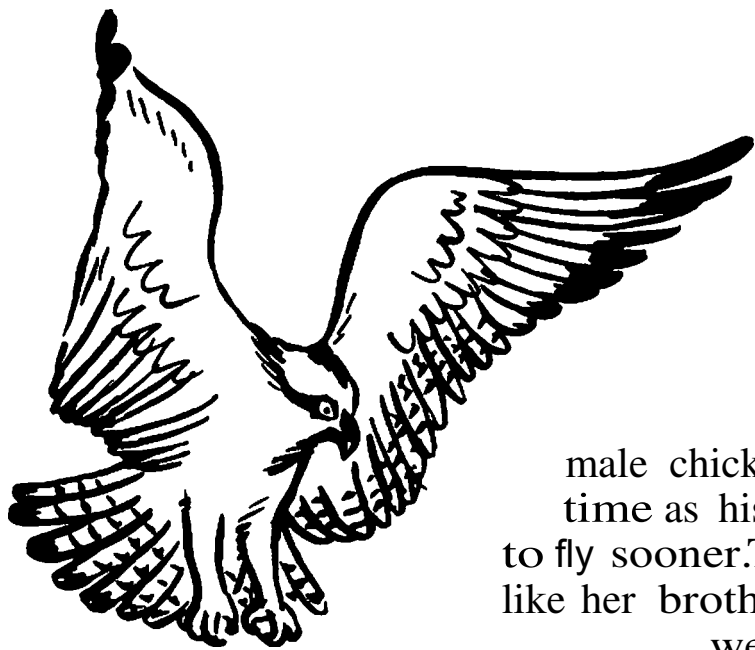
Ospreys use sticks to make huge nests, way up high so they can see all around.

These large hawks pick up things their human neighbors throw away and weave them into their nests.

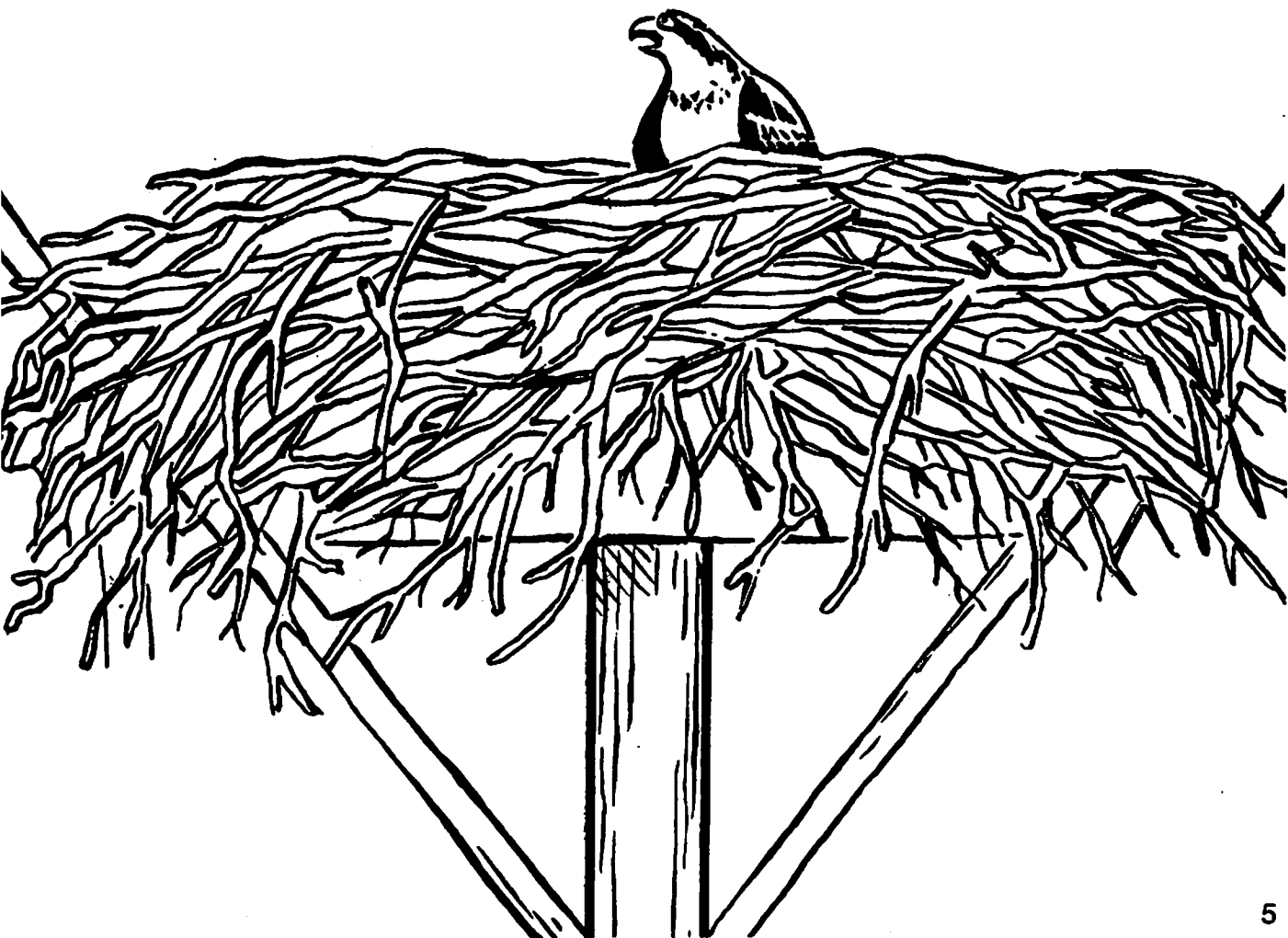
At seven weeks, an osprey chick is as big as its parents but not yet able to feed itself.



This



male chick hatched at the same time as his sister but learned to fly sooner. The female chick looks a lot like her brother, but she is bigger and wears a necklace of brown feathers.



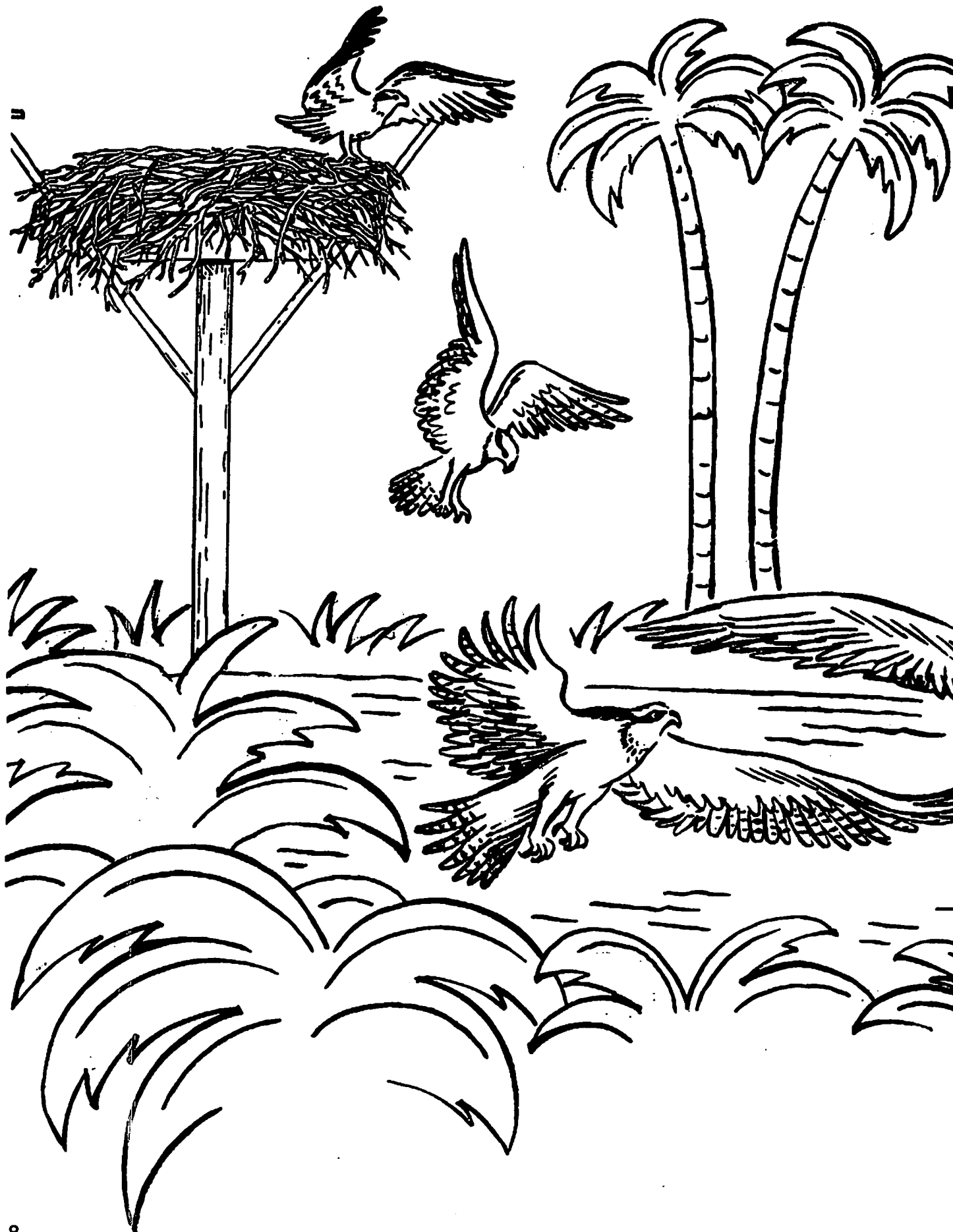


The hungry nestling squawks as her father glides by with a fish, but he doesn't bring the food to her.

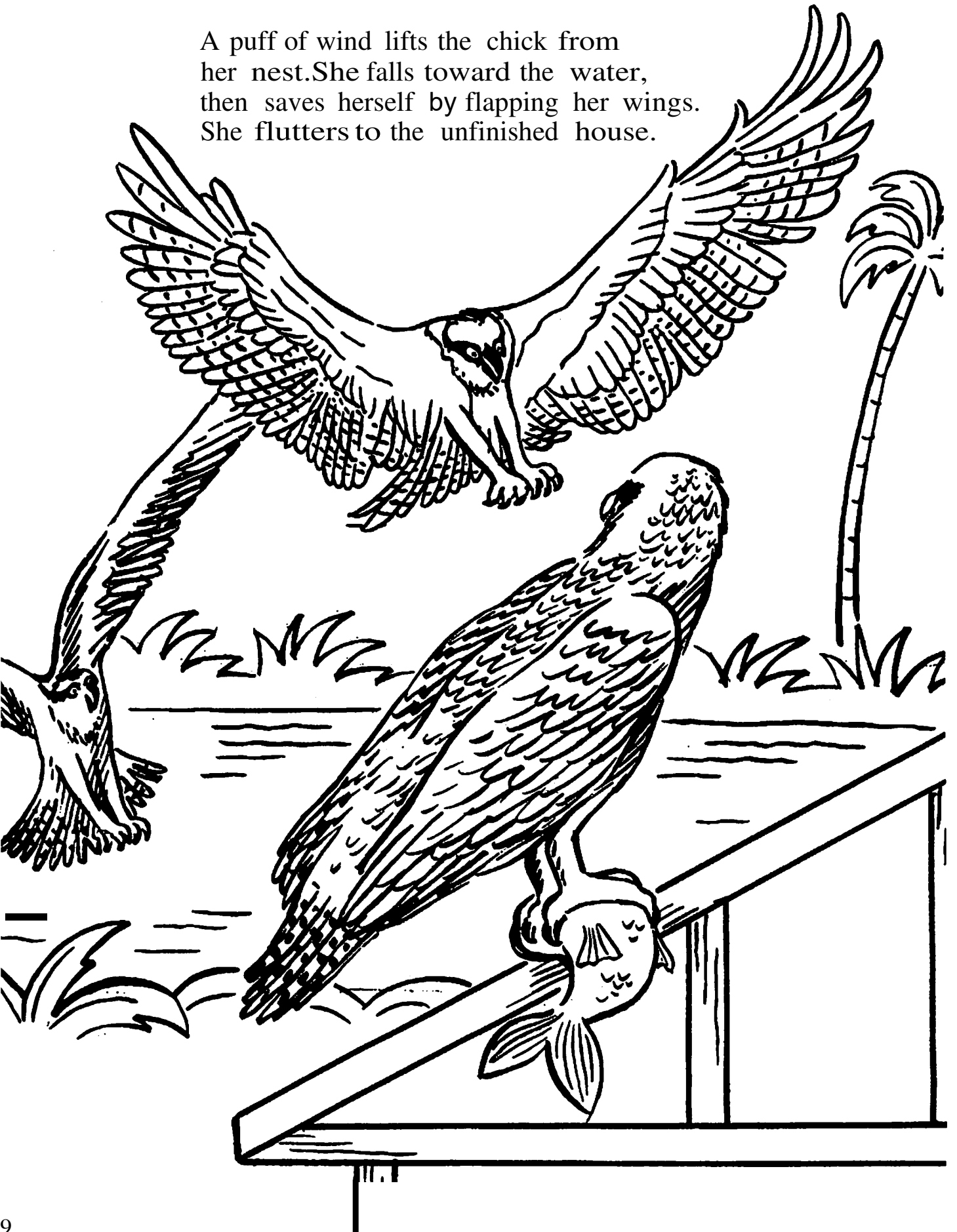


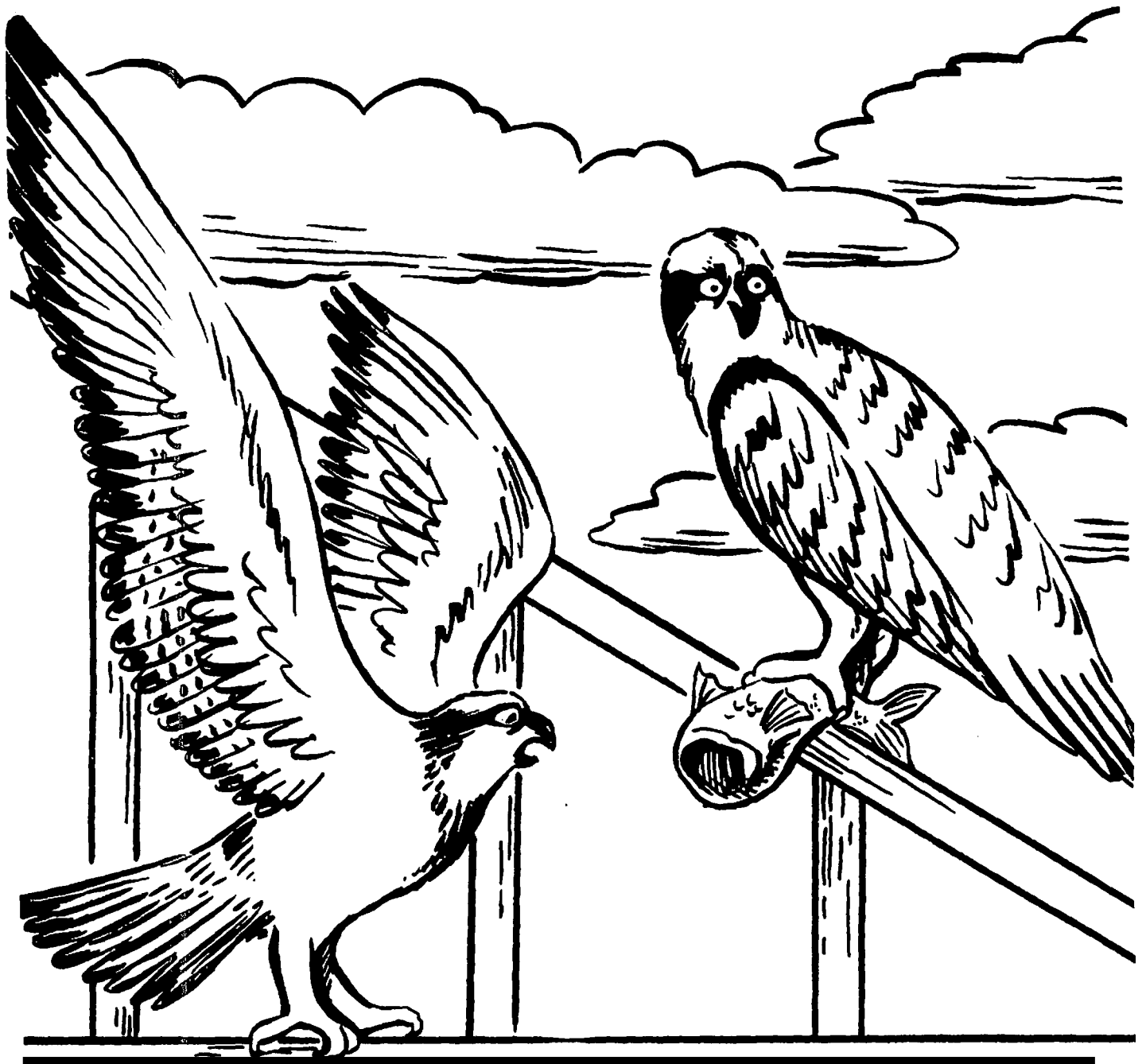
He settles on the frame of a house being built across the river. His baby screeches and hops up and down.



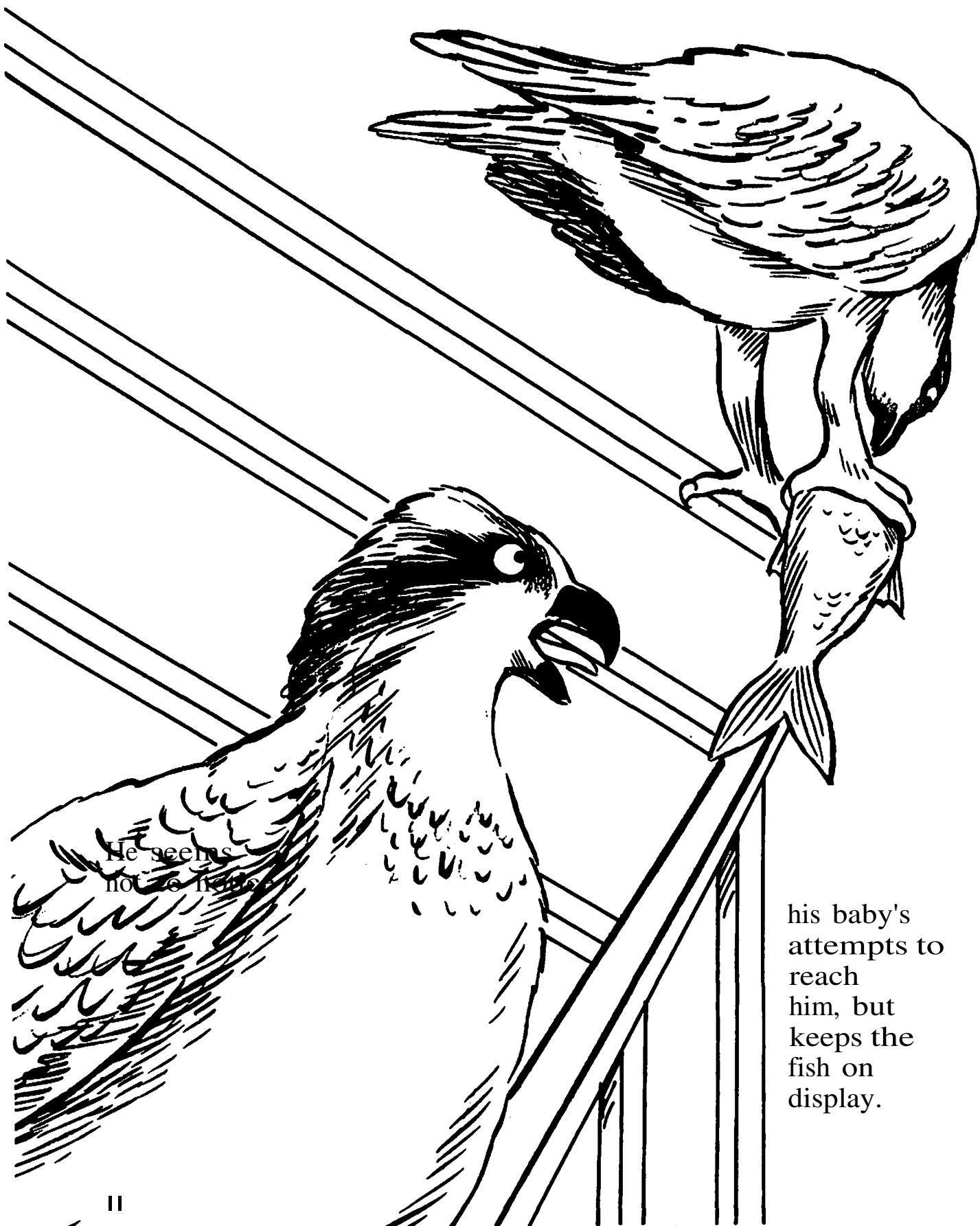


A puff of wind lifts the chick from her nest. She falls toward the water, then saves herself by flapping her wings. She flutters to the unfinished house.



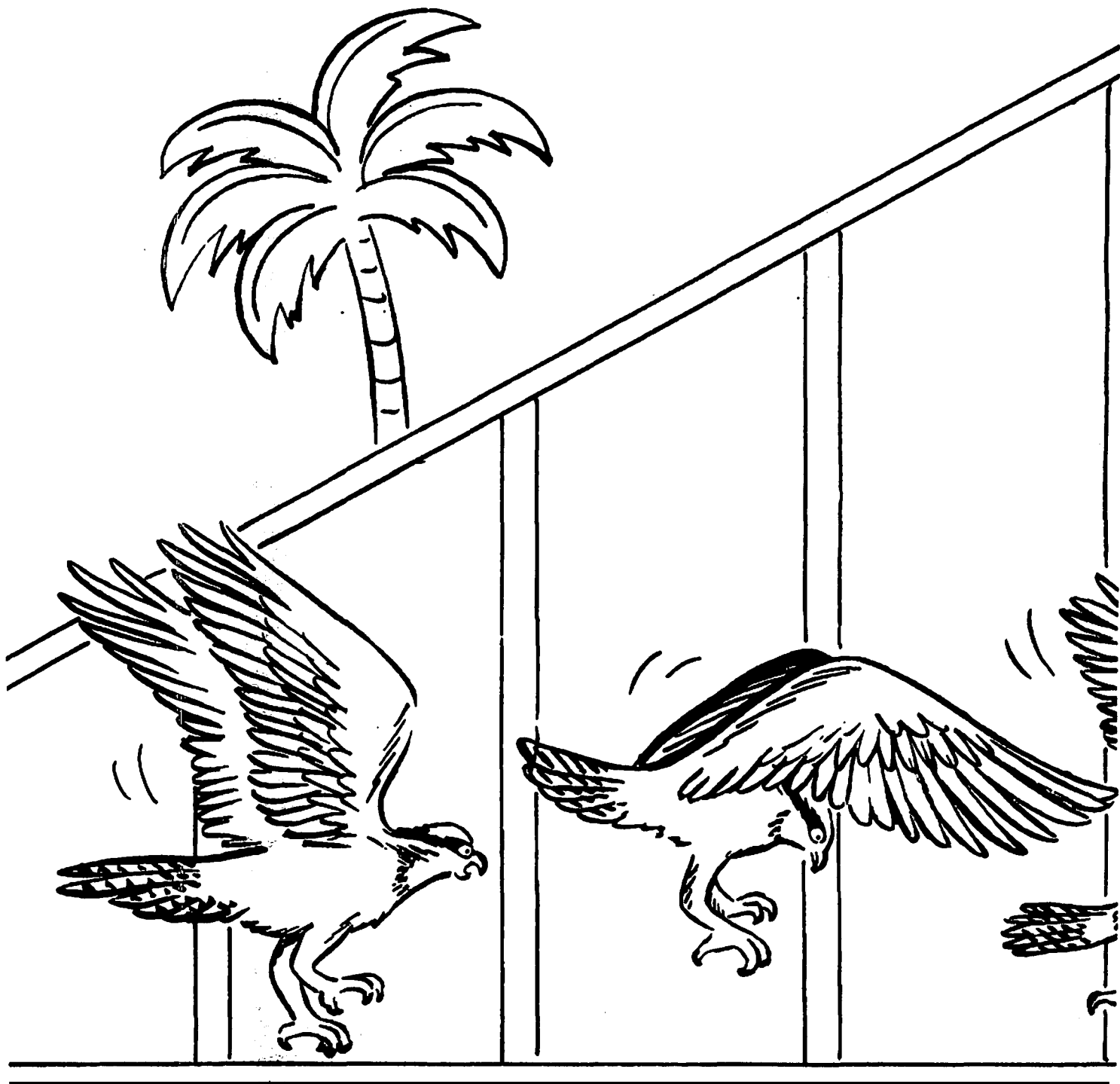


The young hawk lands on a naked beam, then teeters on talon-toes toward her father and the fish.

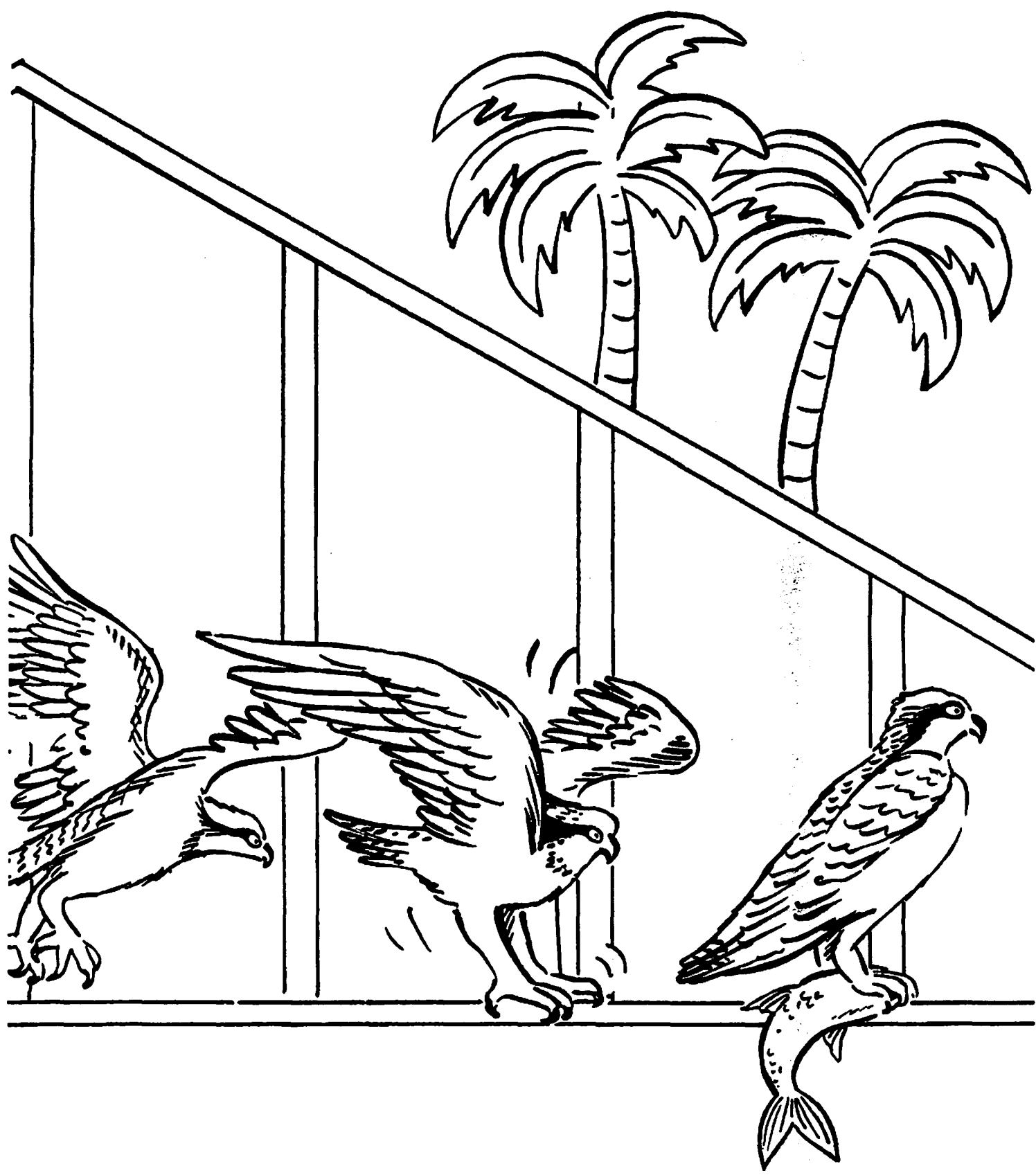


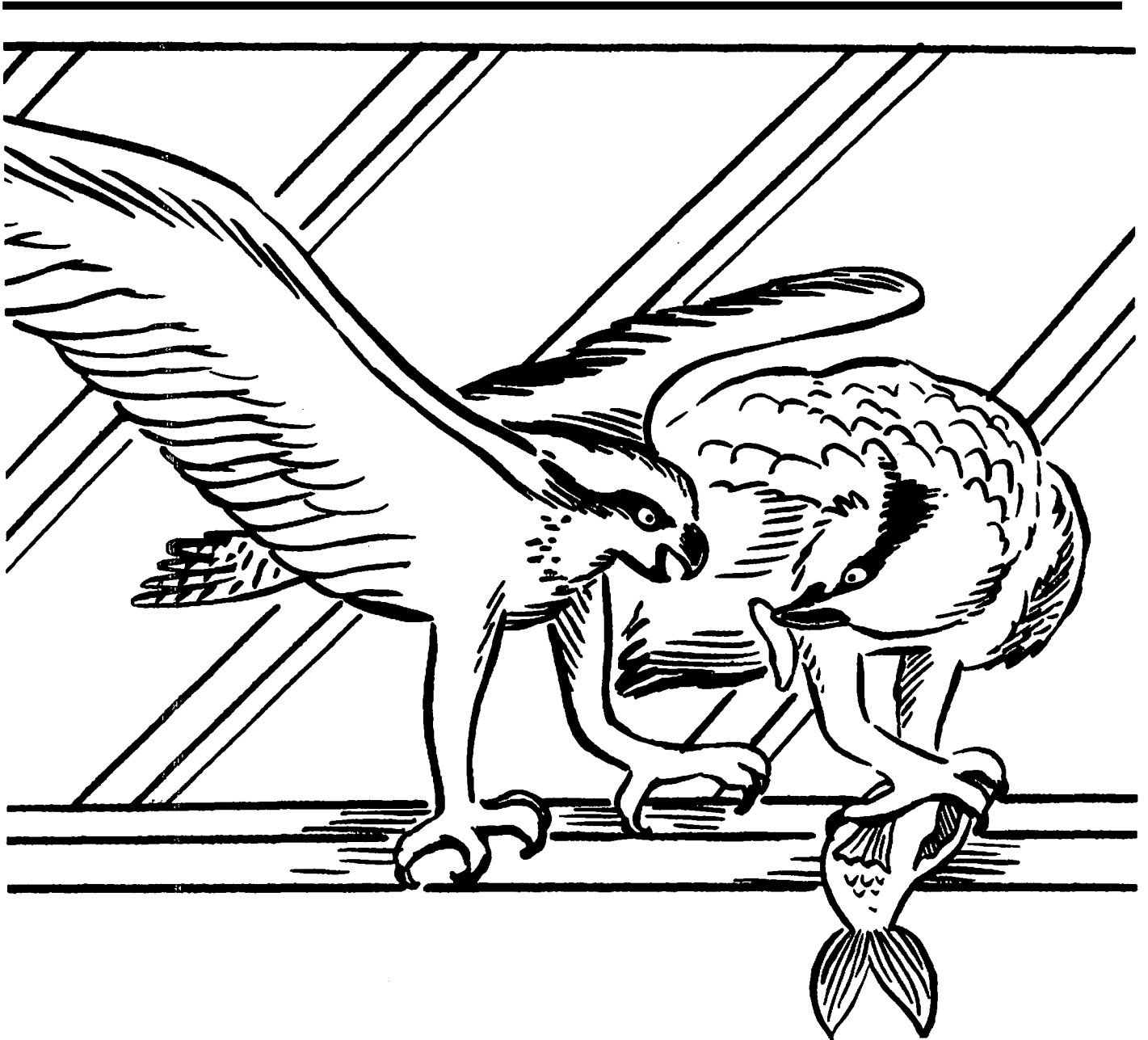
He seems
not to notice

his baby's
attempts to
reach
him, but
keeps the
fish on
display.



She struggles to reach her father
by spreading and folding her wings,
flapping and hopping ever closer to her goal.





The osprey chick has taken her first flight, and is now a fledgling. When she totters to her father's side, he tears small strips from the fish and places them in her open beak.

What did you learn about ospreys from this book?

The scientific name for the osprey is _____ (page 2).
Ospreys are sometimes called _____ or _____ (page 2). Ospreys
prefer to eat _____ (page 2).
Ospreys use _____ to make their nests (page 3) on

(page 2). In the water, they use _____ (page 2). An
osprey chick is as big as its parents at _____ -
(page 4). Ospreys weave human objects into their nests, such as _____
_____ (page 4).

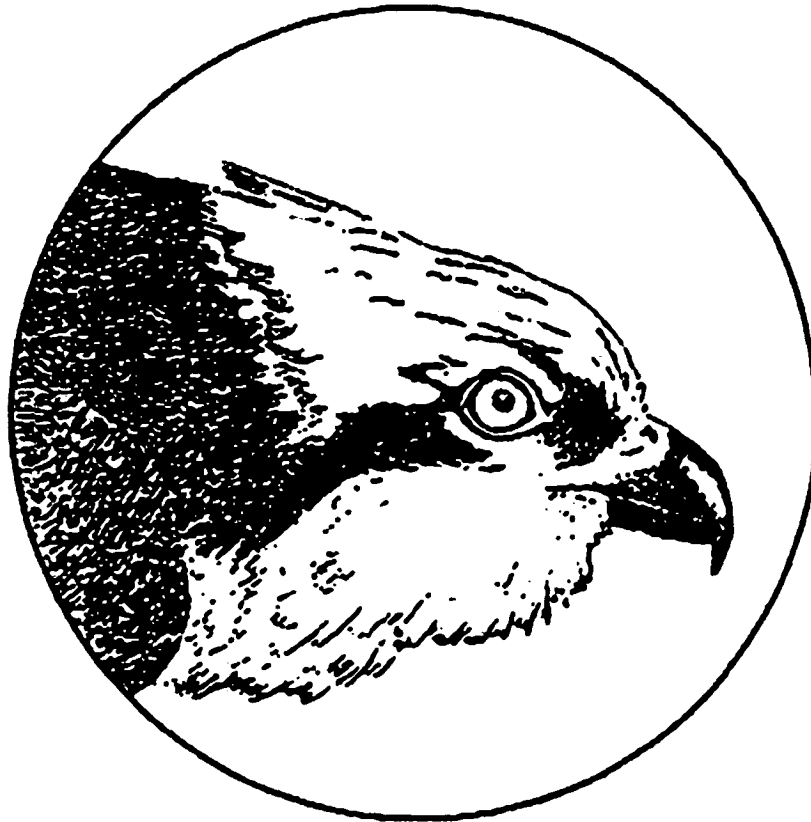
Female ospreys lay _____ eggs, which hatch in about _____ days (page 2). A female osprey is
_____ than a male, and often wears a _____
_____ on her white chest (page 5).

The _____ osprey does most of the incubating (page 2). Adult ospreys are
_____ to _____ inches long and weigh _____ to _____ pounds (page 2). When osprey
chicks fledge, they are almost as _____ as the adults, but their upperpart feathers have
_____ and their eyes are _____.
(page 2). Why do you think the osprey chick finally fledged (started to fly) _____.

After learning about ospreys, do you like them? _____

What is your favorite thing about ospreys? _____

The International Osprey
Foundation
P.O.Box 250
Sanibel Island, FL 33957



www.ospreys.com

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