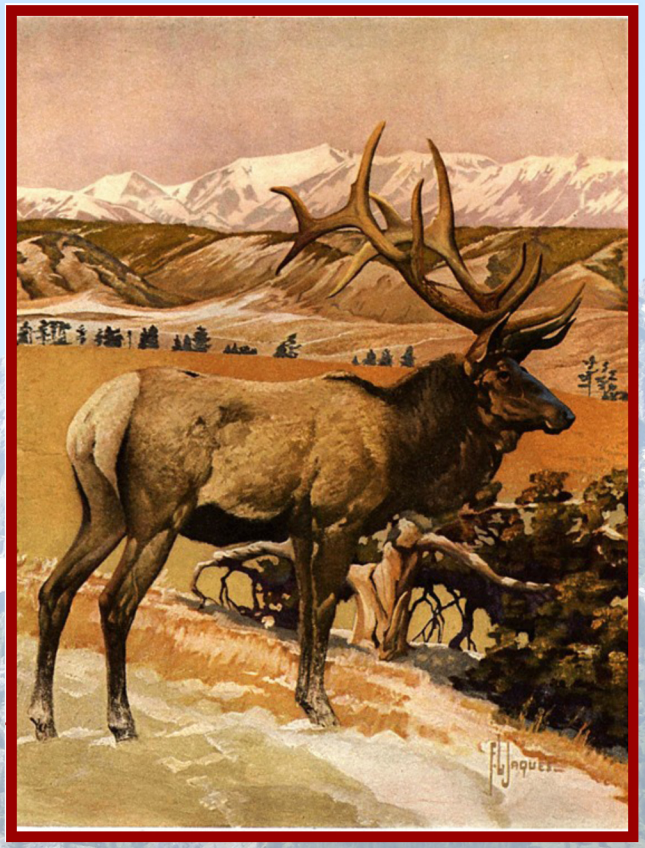
How Mountain Creatures Walk and Talk

... A book to be read to and by young people learning to read



By Ronald E. Johnson, C.Ph.D

Book 1 of 10

INTRODUCTION

How Mountain Creatures Talk and Walk is about the animals, birds, and snakes of the American west. The author created the book from memories as an Arizona Forest Ranger, Texas rancher, and parent of seven children who asked hundreds of questions as they learned to read and observe life. One day while sitting in a deer blind just before sunset, he listened to the numerous sounds of creatures as they either bedded down for the night or were beginning to eat under the light of a full moon. He was suddenly aware that each creature has a distinct way of "talking with" those of its kind or "talking to" creatures that are considered to be enemies or friends. The author has recorded his memories of personal experiences with most of the creatures in this book: some encounters were frightful while some were intriguing. A few were just amusing. This book is about mountain creatures as they were heard talking and seen walking in the mountains of western America. Someday you may be able to sit alone on a wooded slope to listen as America's mountain creatures talk to you, about you, or maybe even with you!

READING HINTS TO HELP YOU TALK TO WILD CREATURES

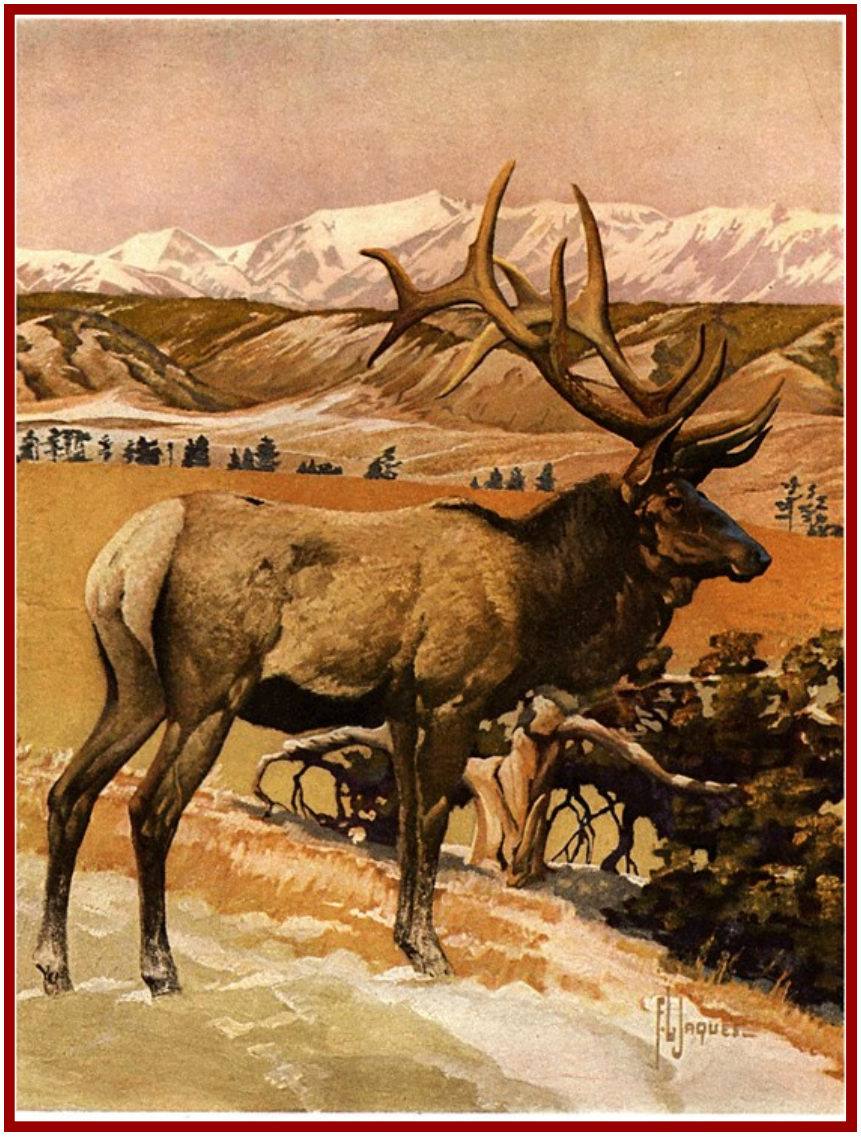
All English words have letters called vowels: **a, e, i, o, u,** and sometimes **y.**
When a word has two vowels side by side, or has two vowels divided by a consonant, the first vowel usually says its name and the second vowel is silent.
Examples: d**ee**r, sp**ea**k, **ea**ch, **ea**t, cr**ea**ture, r**oa**m, m**a**k**e**, wh**i**t**e**, s**i**d**e**, r**a**c**e**, sl**o**p**e**, l**o**p**e**, l**a**k**e**.
Words also have consonants (letters of the alphabet that are not vowels: **b, c, d, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, q, r, s, t, v, w, x, z).**
A vowel followed by a consonant usually has a short sound.
Examples: h**ad**, th**at**, **un**der, w**i**th, j**us**t, w**il**l.
Some consonants that are side by side make special sounds called blends.
Examples: **wh**, **sh**, **th, ch,** as in **wh**ite, **sh**out, **th**em, **ch**ase.
Some vowels that are side by side make a special sound.
Examples: **ou**, **ow**, as in y**ou**, **ou**t, **ow**l, and y**ow**l.

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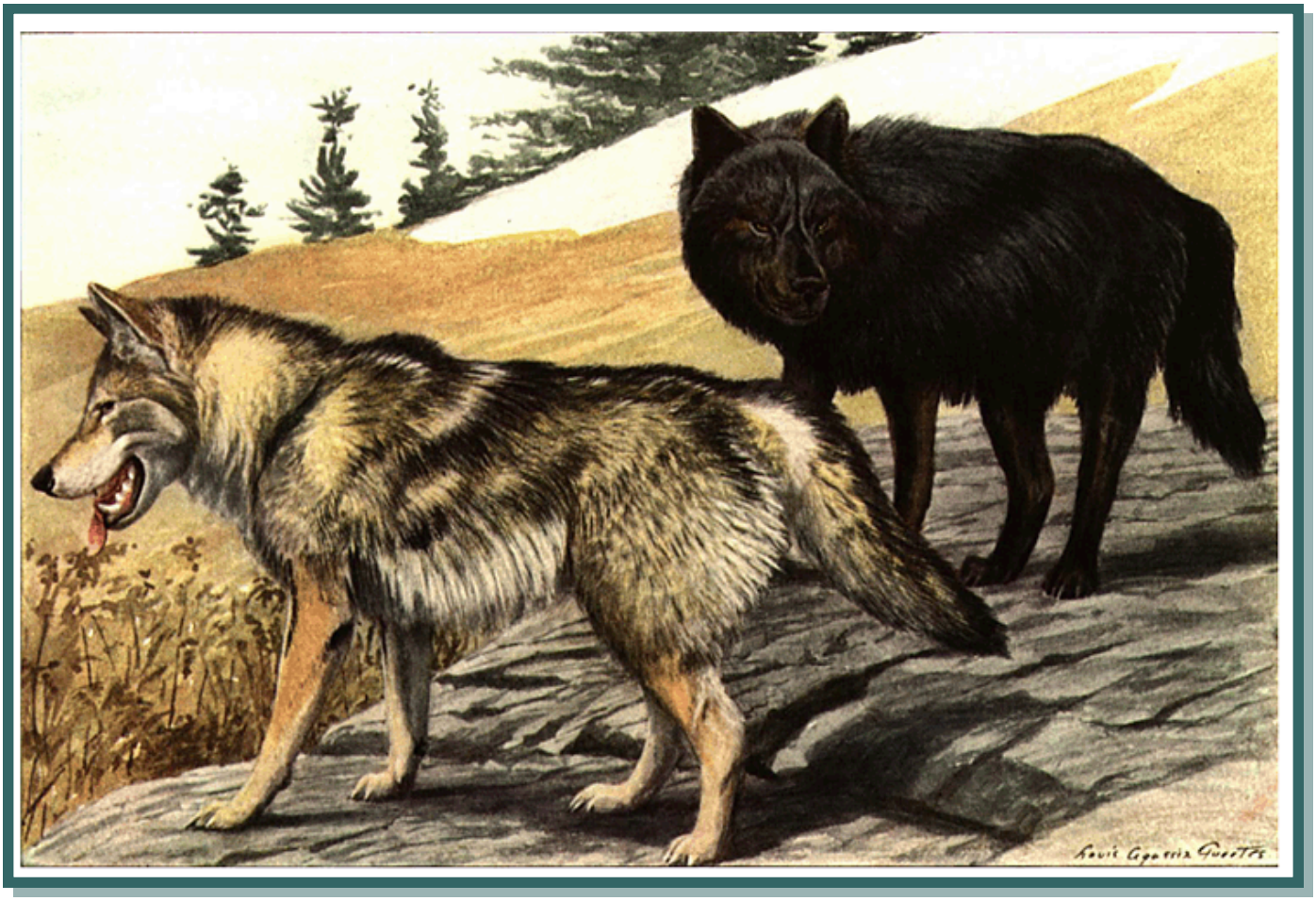
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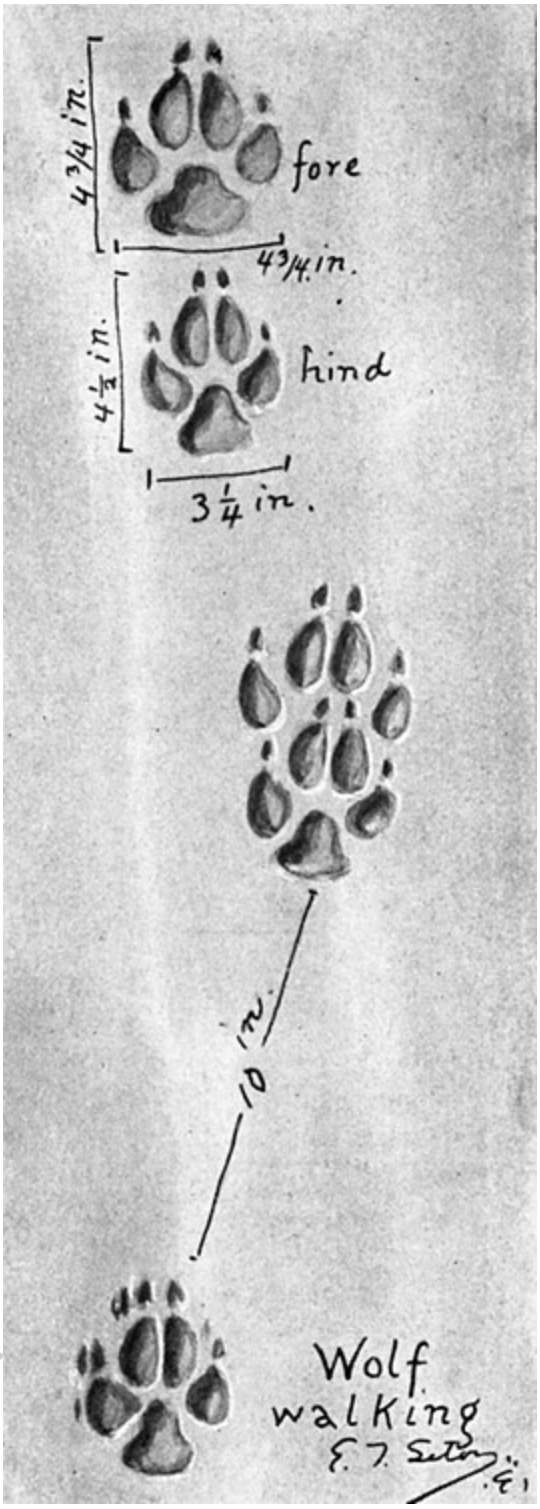


Elk bugle and sometimes **snort** while munching twigs, grass, and leaves in dense forest and lush meadows. They **walk** while eating, and **gallop** when frightened. Sometimes they **pronk** (leap and hop) through meadows and forests to evade lions, bears, wolves, or humans.



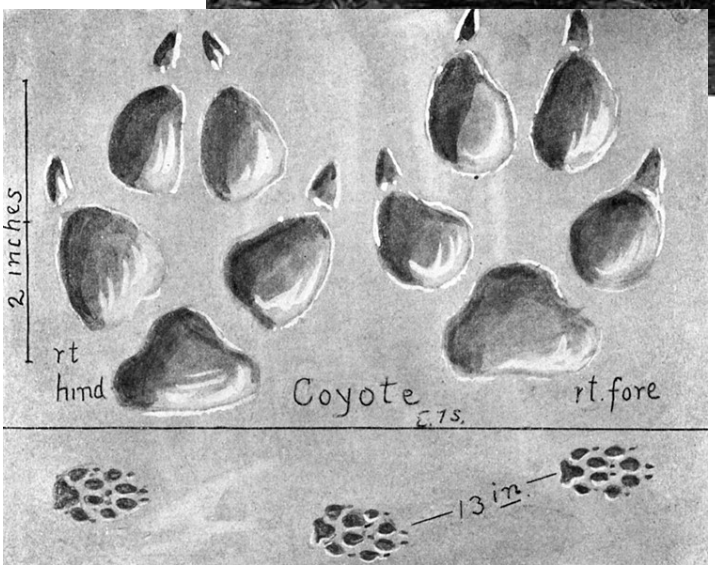
Wolves howl while watching the yellow moon or chasing a brown deer. They **walk**, **trot**, **lope** (rapid leaps), and **gallop** (rapid running) when hunting for food or escaping from danger.






Louis Agueiz Fuentes





Coyotes yelp when hunting grey rabbits through green brush or fields of yellow grain. They **walk**, **trot**, and **lope** when looking for food or escaping from danger.

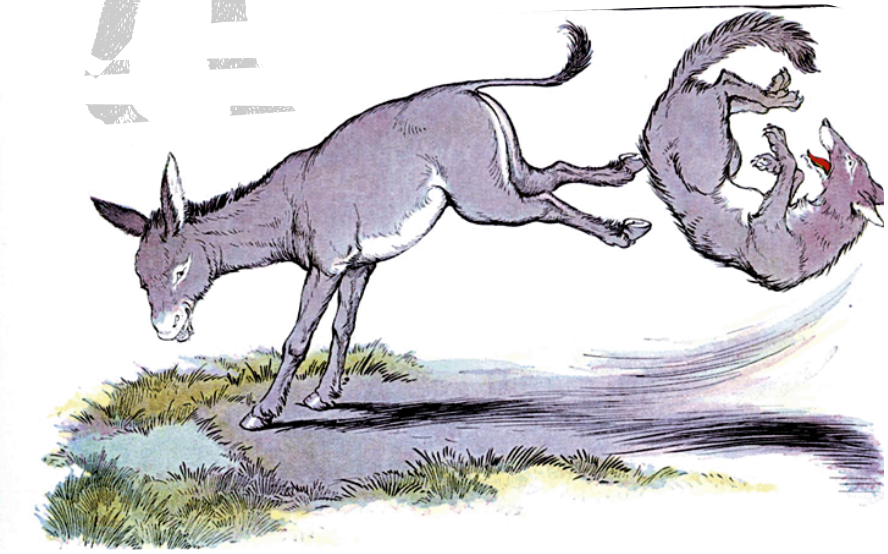




Deer grunt and snort as they graze for brown acorns, and green leaves and grass in yellow meadows and golden fields. They walk while browsing for food, and **pronk, stot (**prance**), trot**, and **gallop** to avoid wolves, bears, mountain lions, and humans.



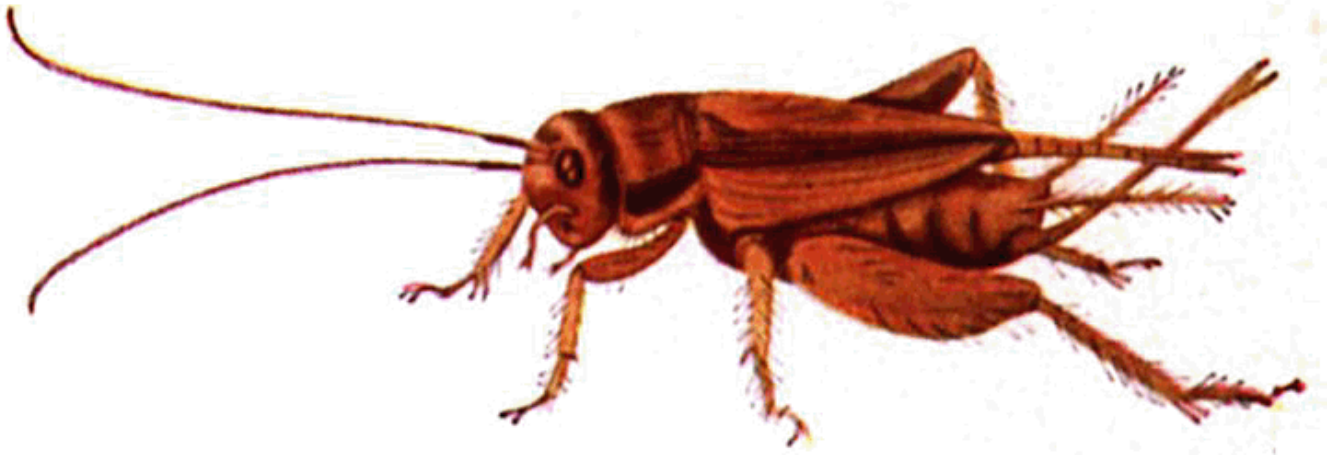
Donkeys bray when they chase coyotes away from white sheep and goats as they eat in green pastures or sleep along blue streams. Donkeys **walk, trot, and gallop** to do their job of protecting sheep and goats on ranches.



Prairie Dogs whistle with their lips while they flare their ears and flip their tail to warn that a red-tailed hawk or grey fox is near. They **stride** (take long steps), **bound** (hop quickly), and **trot** to look for seeds and to get away from varmints looking for a furry meal.



Crickets chirp on black nights and sleep in bright daylight among brown twigs, green shrubs, and piles of yellow grass. Their chirps are really love songs to other crickets. They sleep during the day because they stay awake late at night. They **crawl**, **jump**, and **fly** to find food to eat.







Crows caw to mock Blue jays or black and white Magpies in cold canyons or snow-covered fields. They **waddle** (swing their back end), **stride** (take long steps), and **hop** on the ground while searching for food, and **fly** to escape danger, or to look for nests of other birds to steal their eggs for a meal.



Pigs grunt and sometimes **squeal** and **snort** while eating orange roots and brown acorns. They **walk**, **trot**, and **gallop** while forging (eating) and avoiding predators. Wild pigs are called peccary, javalina, or feral hogs.

Mice squeak while chewing tan seeds or **squeal** while running away from a yellow Bobcat on a cold winter night in a snow-white field. They **scurry** (quick motions), **trot**, and **bound** while searching for food or eluding (avoiding) varmints such as foxes, coyotes, wolves, hawks, and owls.



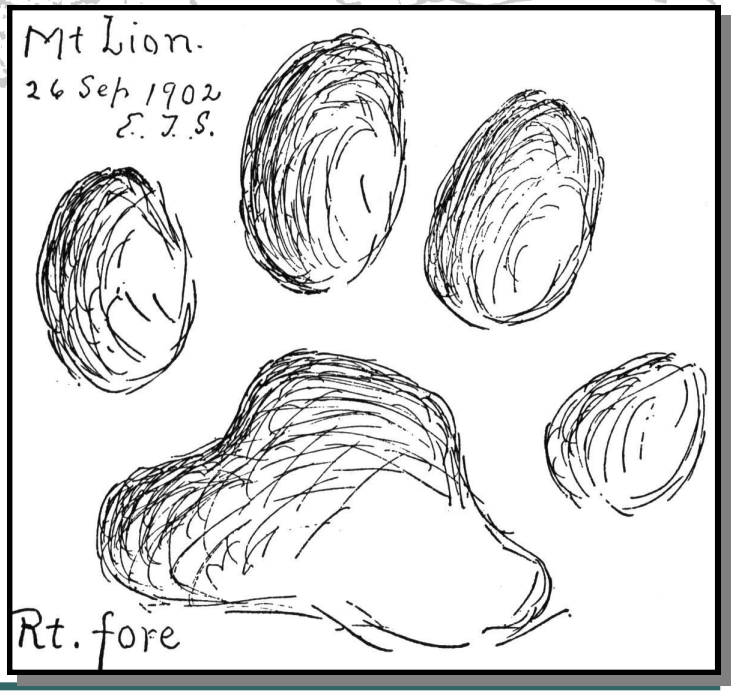


Bees buzz as they visit flowers that are purple, white, red, yellow, orange, and blue to make honey for me and you. They **crawl** along branches, but mostly they **fly** from flower to flower looking for nectar.





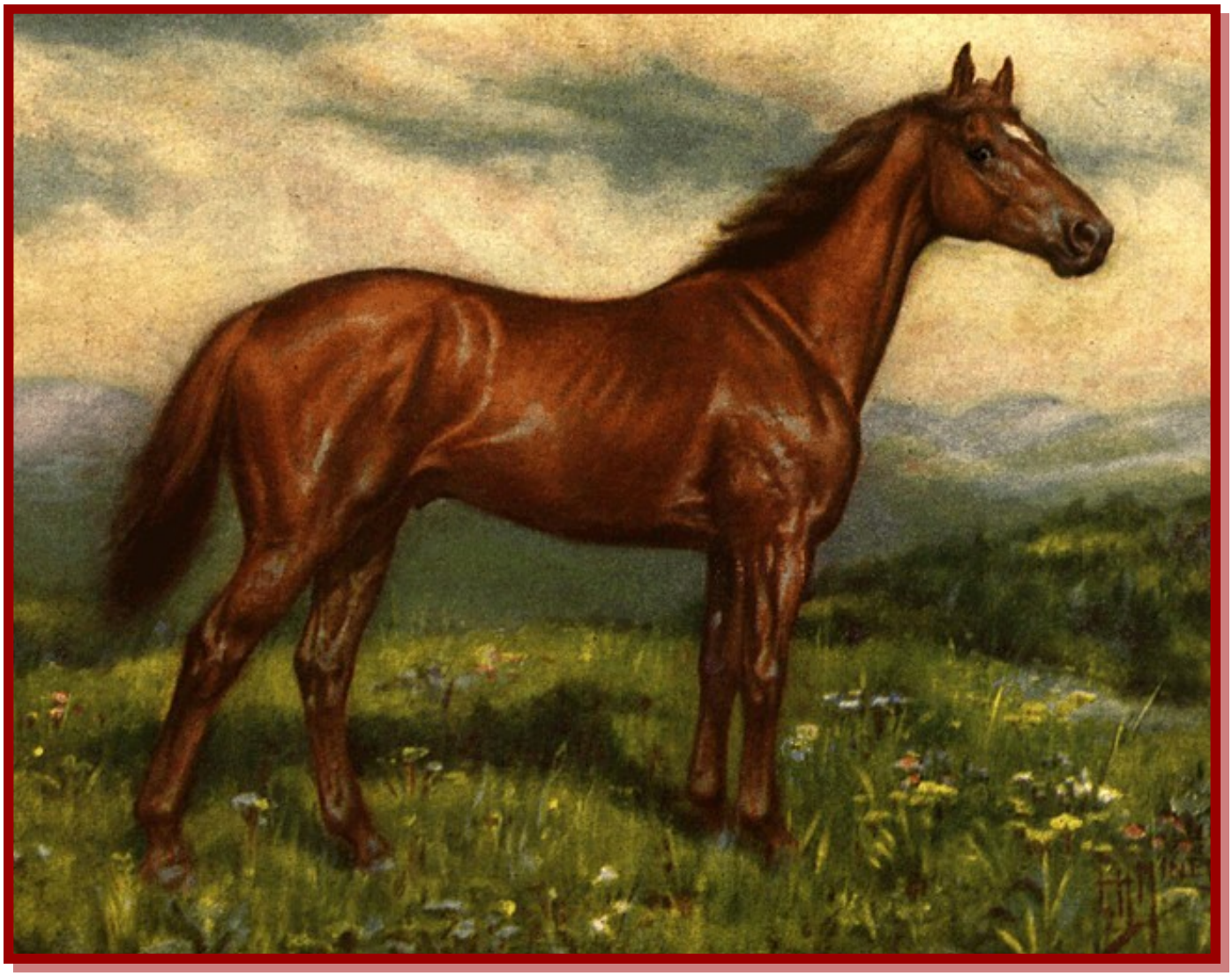
Mountain lions scream when alarmed or when hunting grey deer, brown gophers, and white sheep along rugged trails or lush green meadows. They **walk**, **stride**, and **bound** when sneaking up on a prey or trying to get away from danger.




R.E.
Todhunter

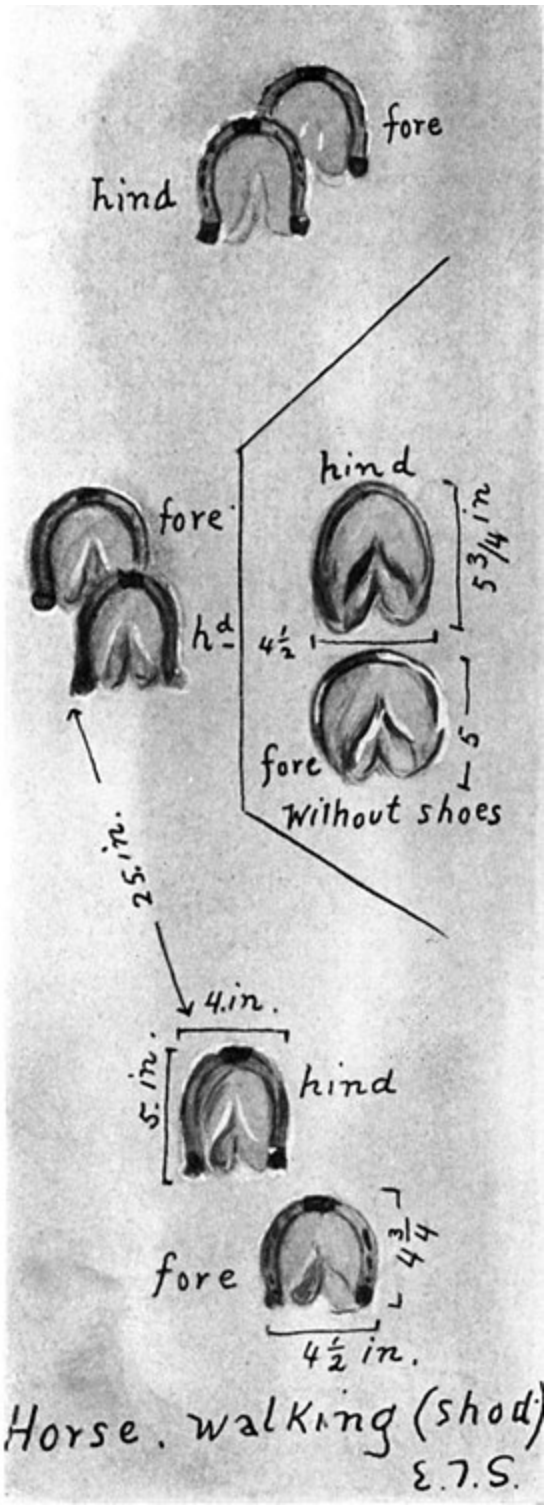
Doves coo while sitting on green tree branches or grey pasture fences when the orange sun yawns at dawn and rests its golden rays just before night. They **walk** and **fly** to search for food or avoid danger.







Horses whinny as they **walk**, **trot**, **lope**, and **gallop** on purple hillsides and in green valleys. Usually they **graze** (eat while walking slowly) for food. Sometimes they whinny and gallop for the mere unbridled joy of life!




Bob Hines



Activity Page

Color this Elk.



Copy these words.

Elk _____ _____ _____

bugle _____ _____ _____

gallop _____ _____ _____

pronk _____ _____ _____

snort _____ _____ _____

Activity Page

Color this Coyote.



Copy these words.

coyote _____ _____ _____

yell _____ _____ _____

walk _____ _____ _____

trot _____ _____ _____

hope _____ _____ _____

Activity Page

Color this Bee and Flower.



Copy these words.

cricket _____ _____ _____

buzz _____ _____ _____

horse _____ _____ _____

bear _____ _____ _____

sheep _____ _____ _____

Activity Page

Draw and Color Your Favorite Animal in this Book.

Bears growl while eating red berries, chasing silver fish, or attacking a brown moose. Bears **walk** and **amble** while eating, and **lope** and **gallop** when frightened or attacked by an enemy. Sometimes they swim while fishing.

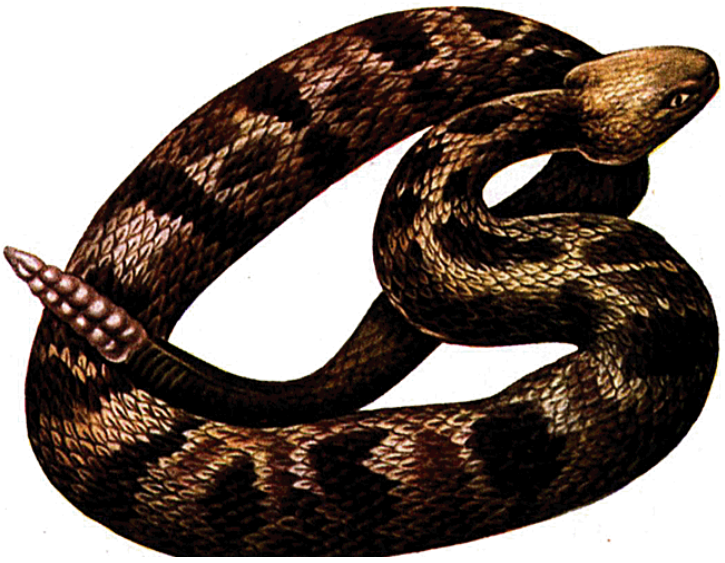
Some bears are black.

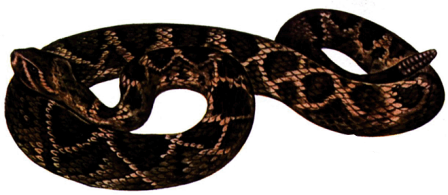
Some bears are brown.

Some bears are white.



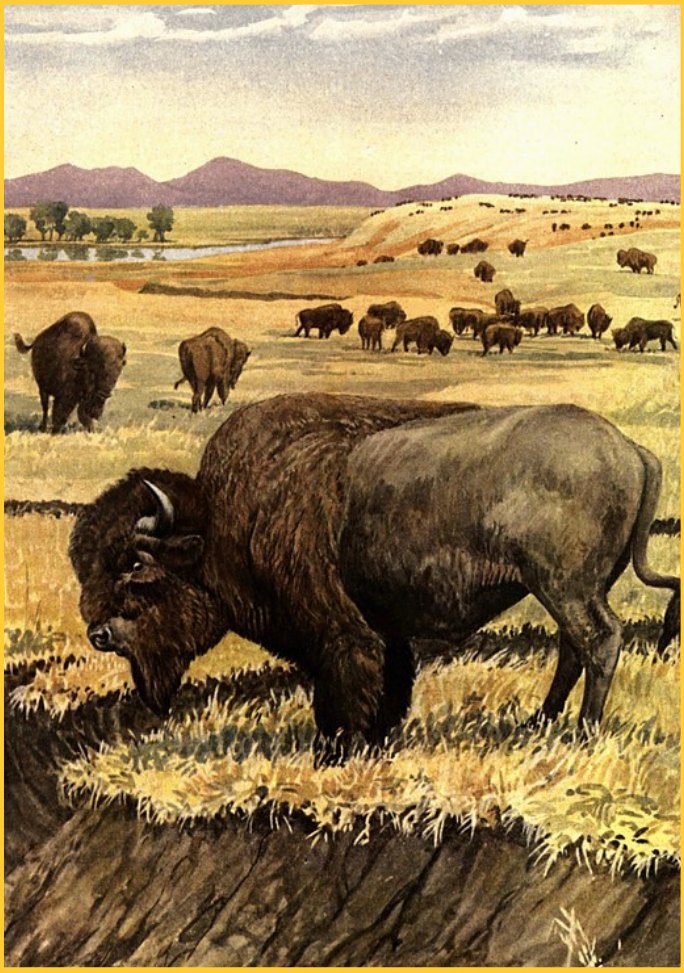
Rattlesnakes hiss or rattle to warn their enemies along dusty dirt paths or dry rocky trails during Spring, Summer, or Fall. They coil to **strike** an enemy or a mouse. They **wiggle** and **slither** to move from place to place, except in Winter when they sleep in holes in rock piles.





Sheep **bleat** when they eat, or when they are tired from grazing, or when they are scared by tan coyotes, grey wolves, or brown bears! They **walk**, **trot**, and **gallop** along trails, paths, and gullies. Sometimes they **jump**, **leap**, **run**, and **hop** for their great joy of life!

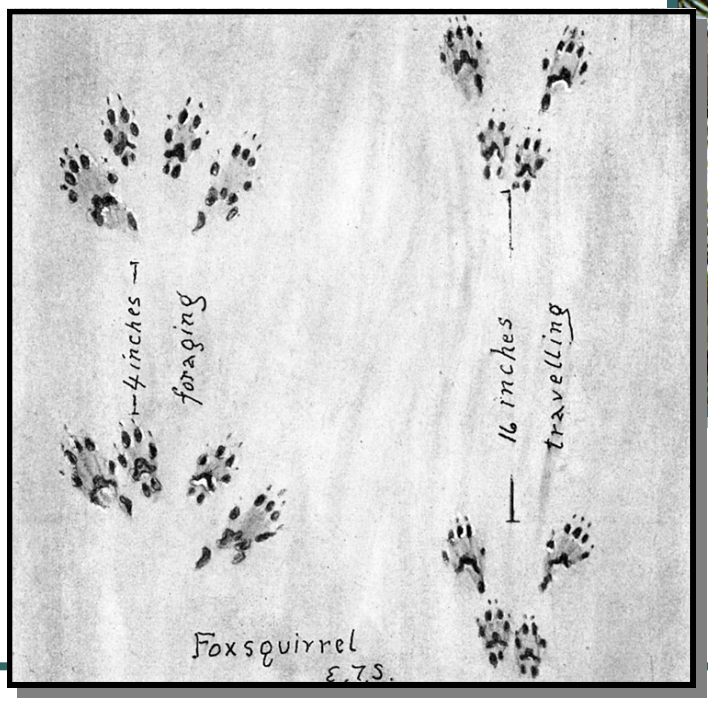


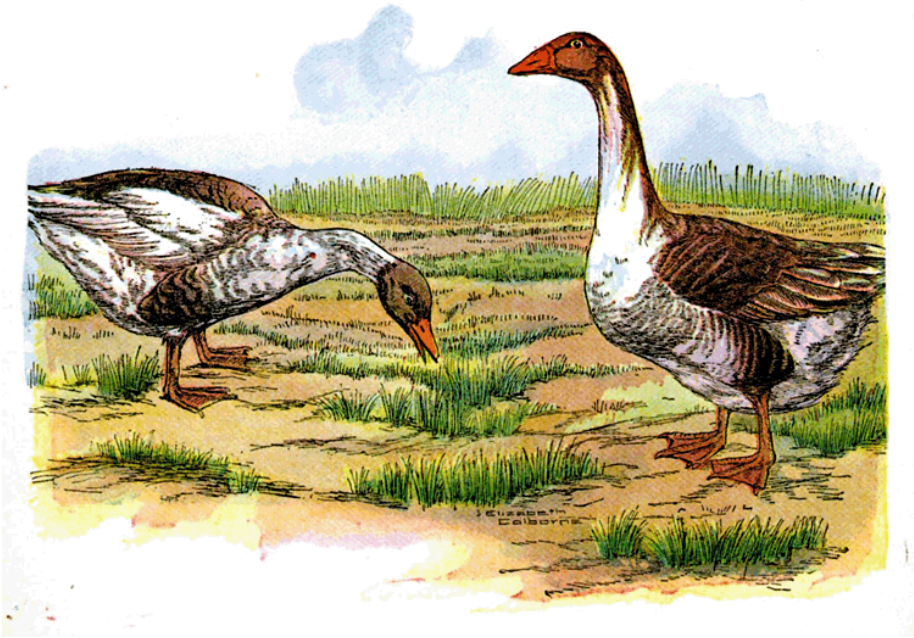


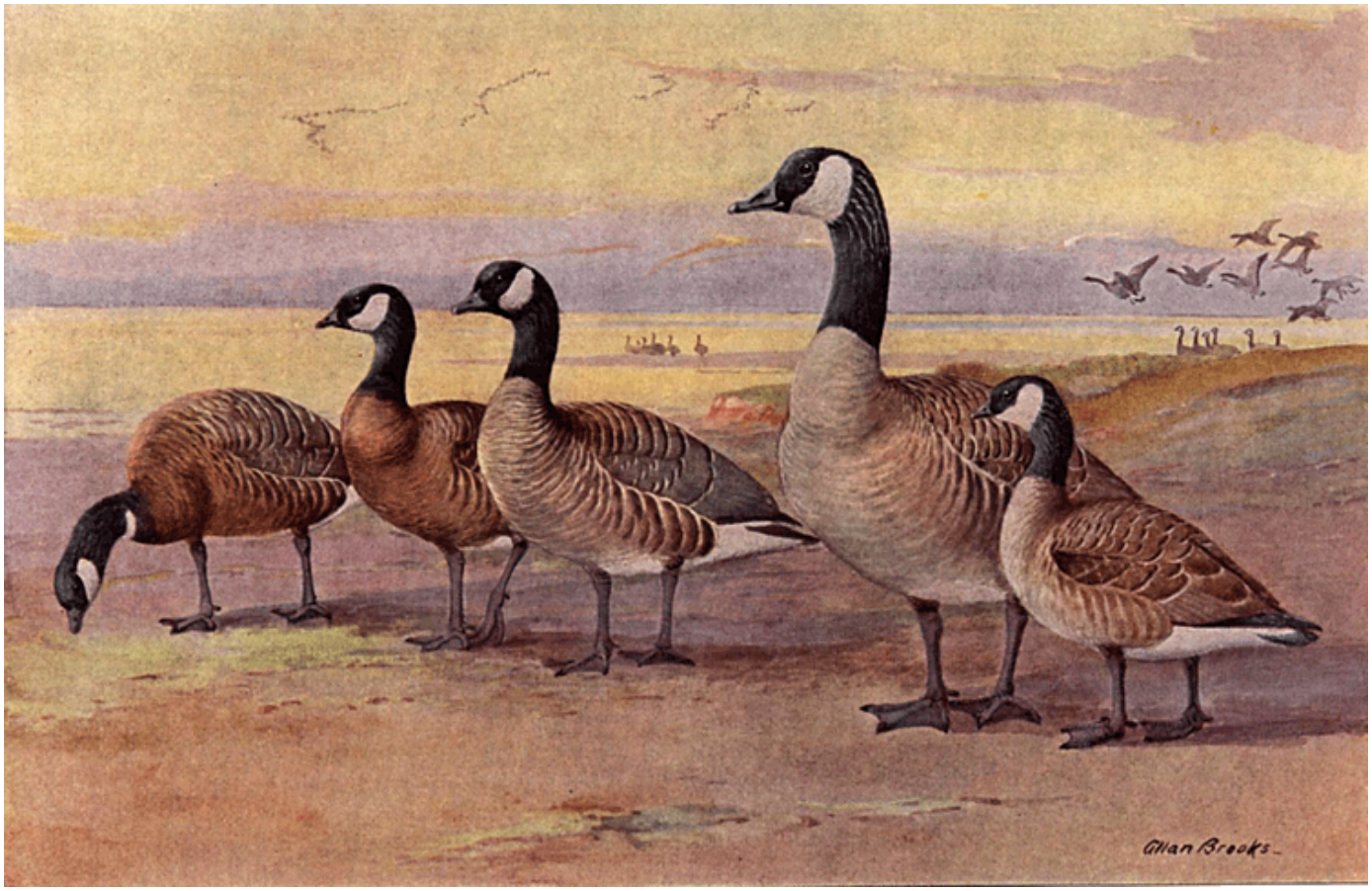
Buffalo bulls bellow, cows **moo**, and calves **bawl** when green Summer grass turns brown and dry in Winter months. They **walk**, **trot**, **graze**, and **gallop** as they move across golden prairies and green valley meadows to find grass.

Squirrels chatter and **bark** as they play on limbs of green pine trees with brown cones, and brown oak trees with green acorns. They **bound** on the ground and **climb** in trees. Often, they **scamper** from limb to limb as they play with their friends.

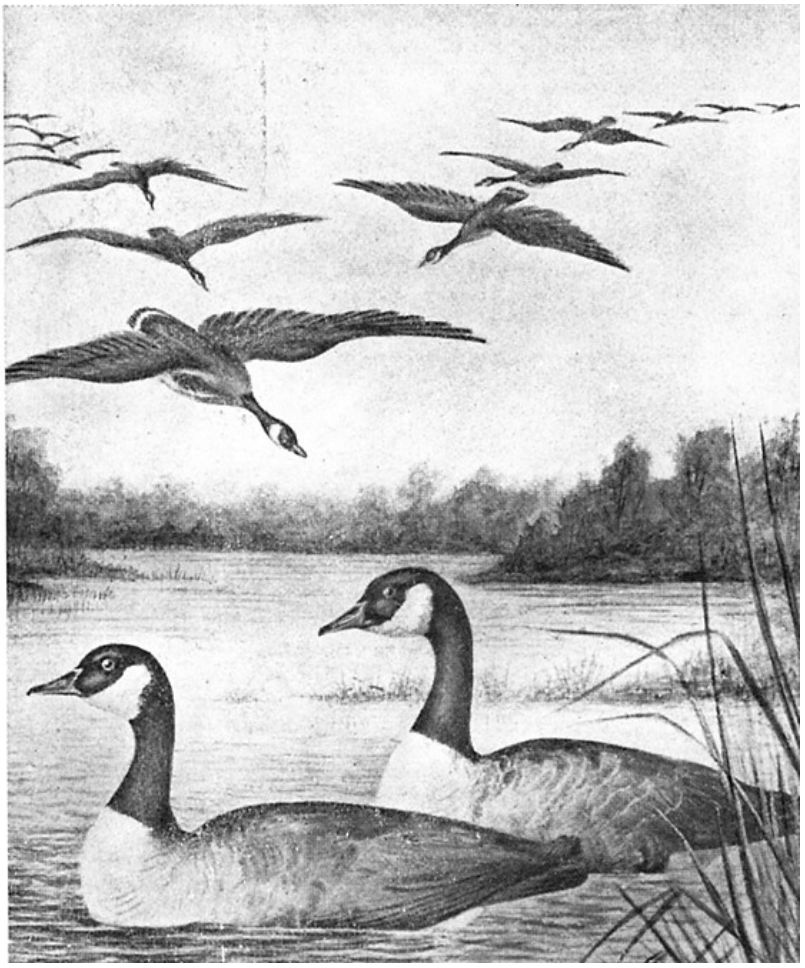






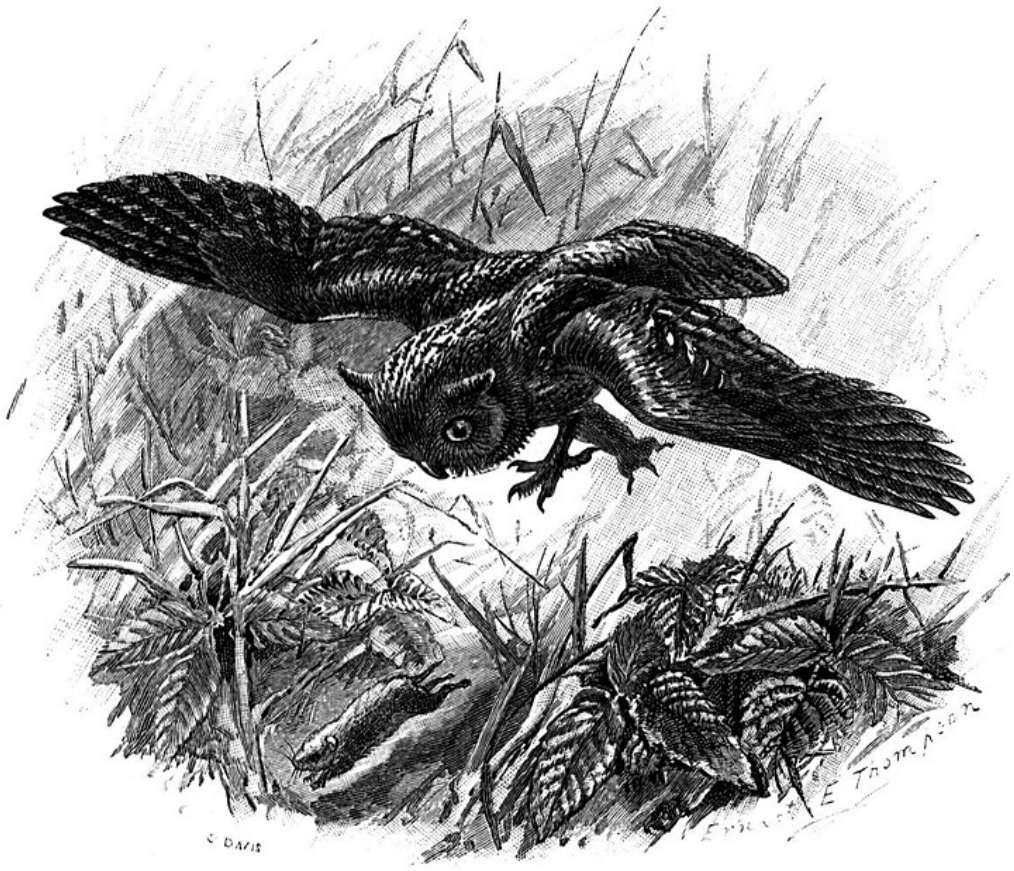

Allan Brooks

Geese honk and **ducks quack** as they fly in formation during migration over purple mountains, golden fields of grain, and shimmering blue lakes. They **waddle** and **stride** on the ground while eating grain and grass, and spread their great wings when they **fly**.



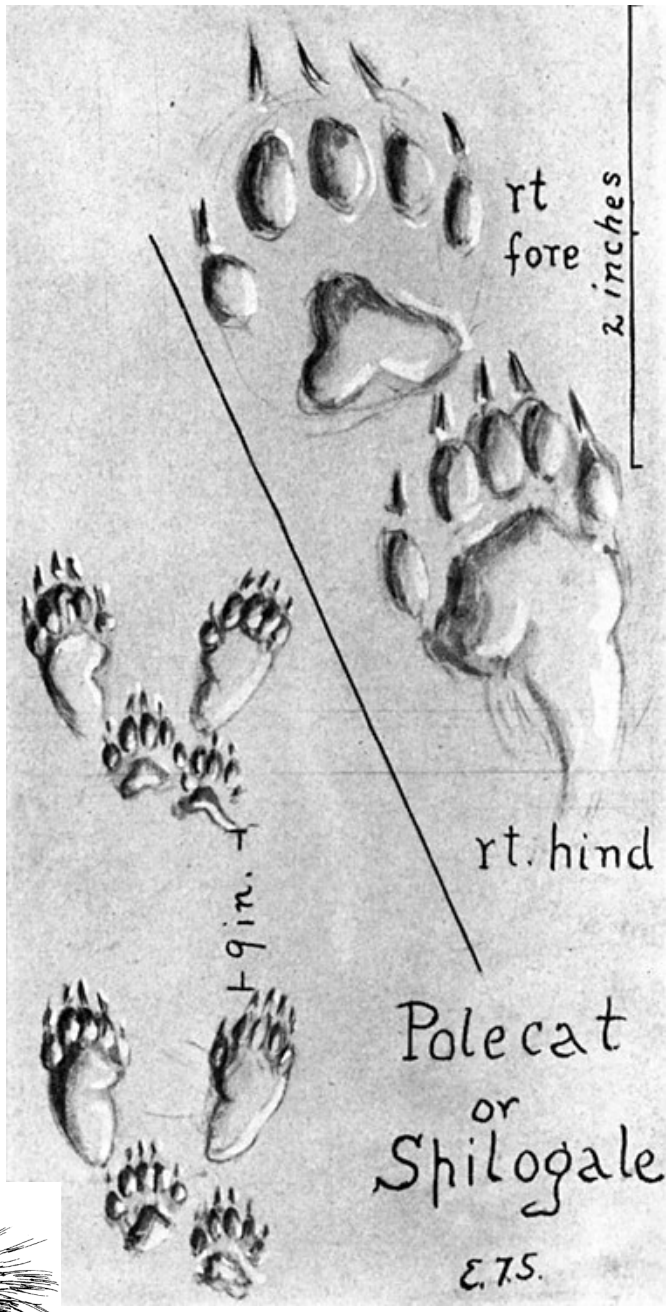


Owls hoot as their yellow round eyes look for grey mice, red squirrels, and brown chipmunks. Owls **hop** and **waddle** on the ground and **glide** silently on great big wings through forest trees on moonlight nights.





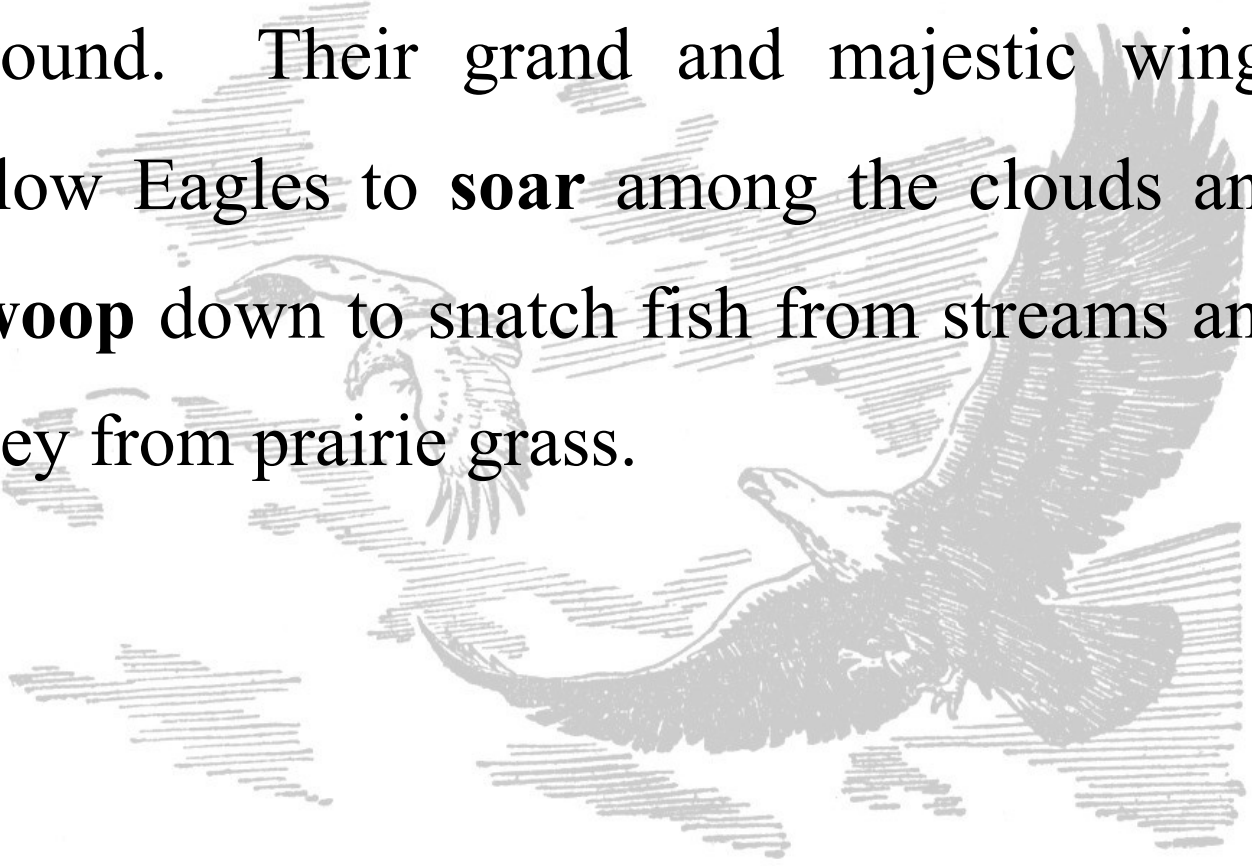
Skunks hiss and **bark** when disturbed. But the real message from these black and white "friends" is spewed from their hind ends! They **hop**, **stride**, **meander**, and **lope** as they look for grubs, chickens, insects, worms, and scraps of food to eat.



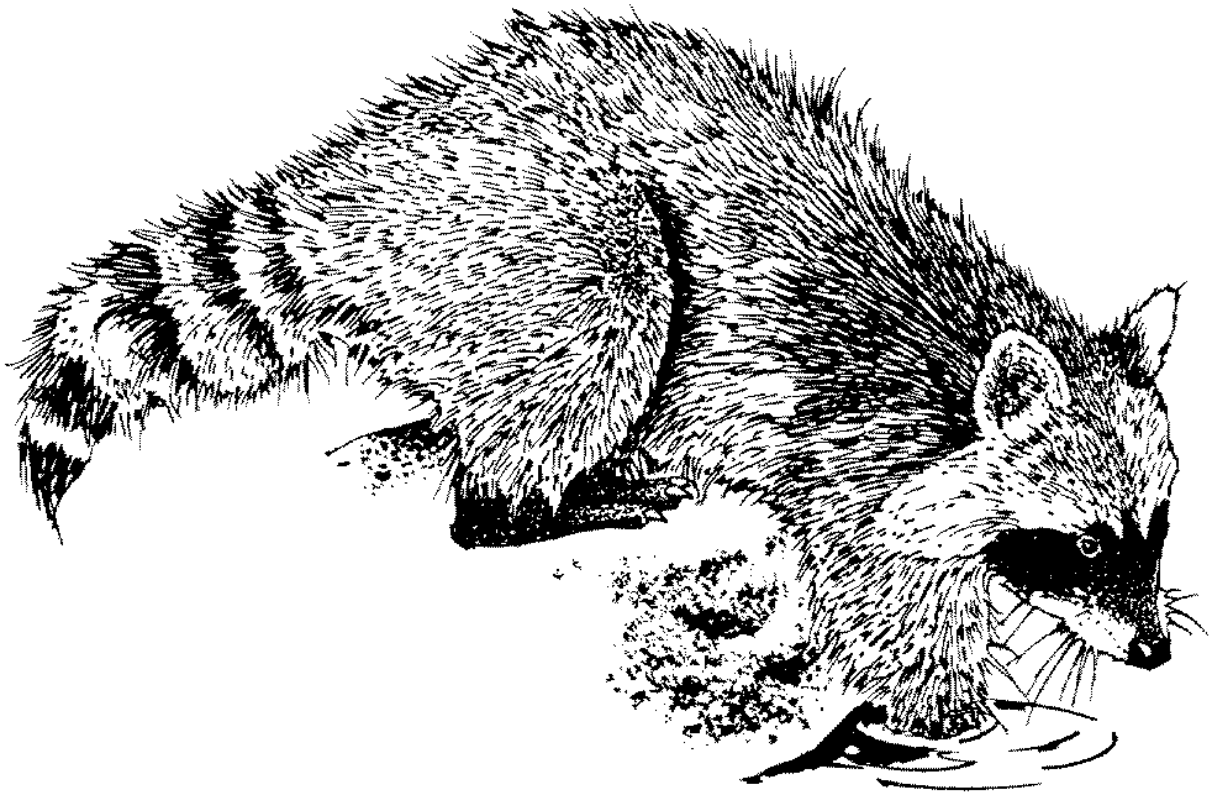



Allan Brooks.

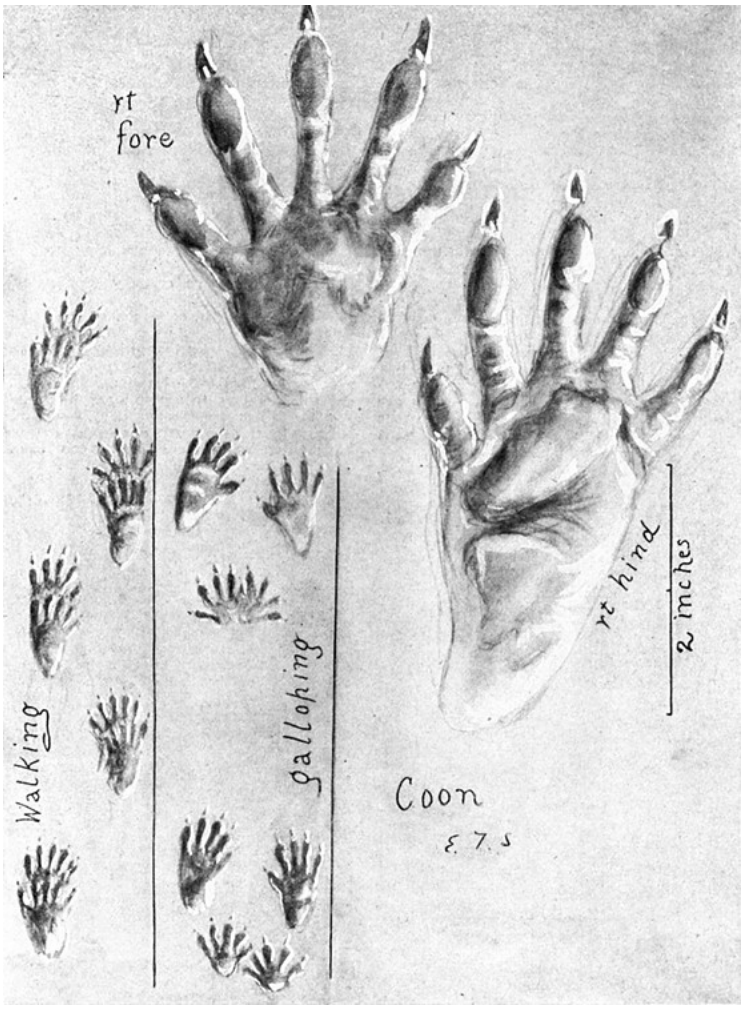
Eagles screech from rocky cliffs and high pine trees as they watch over God's purple mountain slopes, white snow peaks, and beautiful green valleys. They **waddle**, **stride**, or even **run** to catch their prey on the ground. Their grand and majestic wings allow Eagles to **soar** among the clouds and **swoop** down to snatch fish from streams and prey from prairie grass.







Raccoons hiss and growl when they are alarmed. They may **squeal** and sort of **purr** when looking for crawfish, worms, and frogs. They **stride** when not disturbed as they browse for food, and **gallop** sideways when evading a predator or attacking an enemy.





Quail whistle when they want to talk with a friend, especially just before sundown in meadows and forests. Their whistle sounds sort of like "Bob White" or "Good day." They **walk** or **fly** as they forage for yellow seeds or evade a tan coyote, red fox, or brown hawk. The flutter of the quail's wings sound like a race car motor!





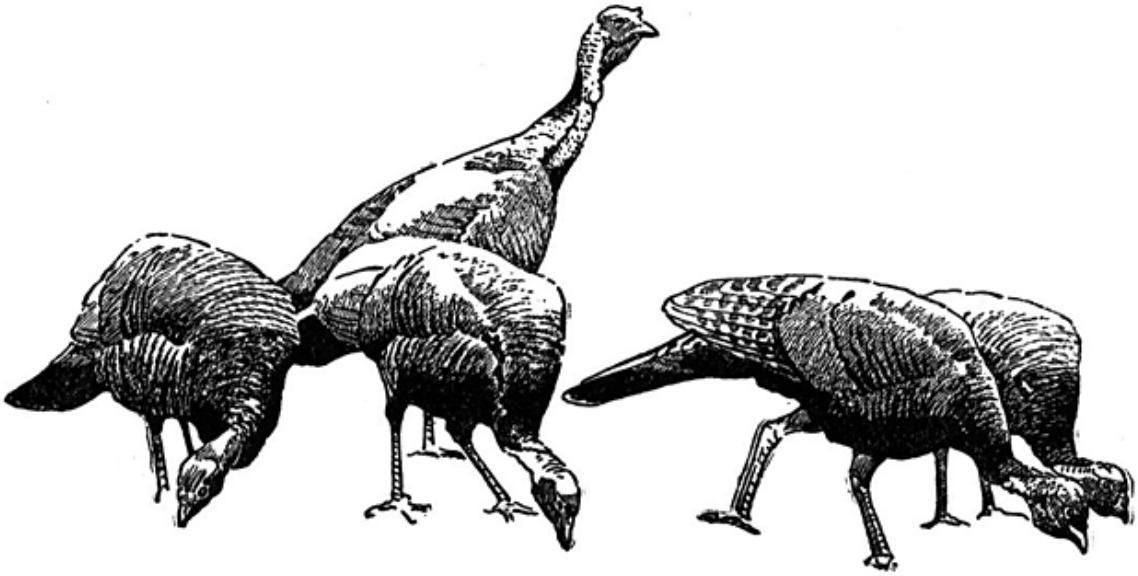


Porcupines growl and **rattle their quills** when they are mad at other creatures like bears, wolves, and lions, or humans. They **stride** and **waddle** on the ground or **climb** trees when they move from place to place in search of bark, buds, and fruit.





Turkeys gobble as they browse beneath oak trees to gather acorns from the forest floor. They **stride** or **run** to escape foes such as foxes, coyotes, and wolves. They usually **fly** to safety among high branches of red oak, white birch, and silver-green spruce trees when danger is near.







Frogs croak when they sing to each other at night while sitting on green



lily pads or brown logs in murky ponds, blue lakes, and silver streams.

Bullfrogs sing like mad Bison bulls. A chorus of frogs singing together on a dark summer night sounds like a choir of church people with very sore throats.

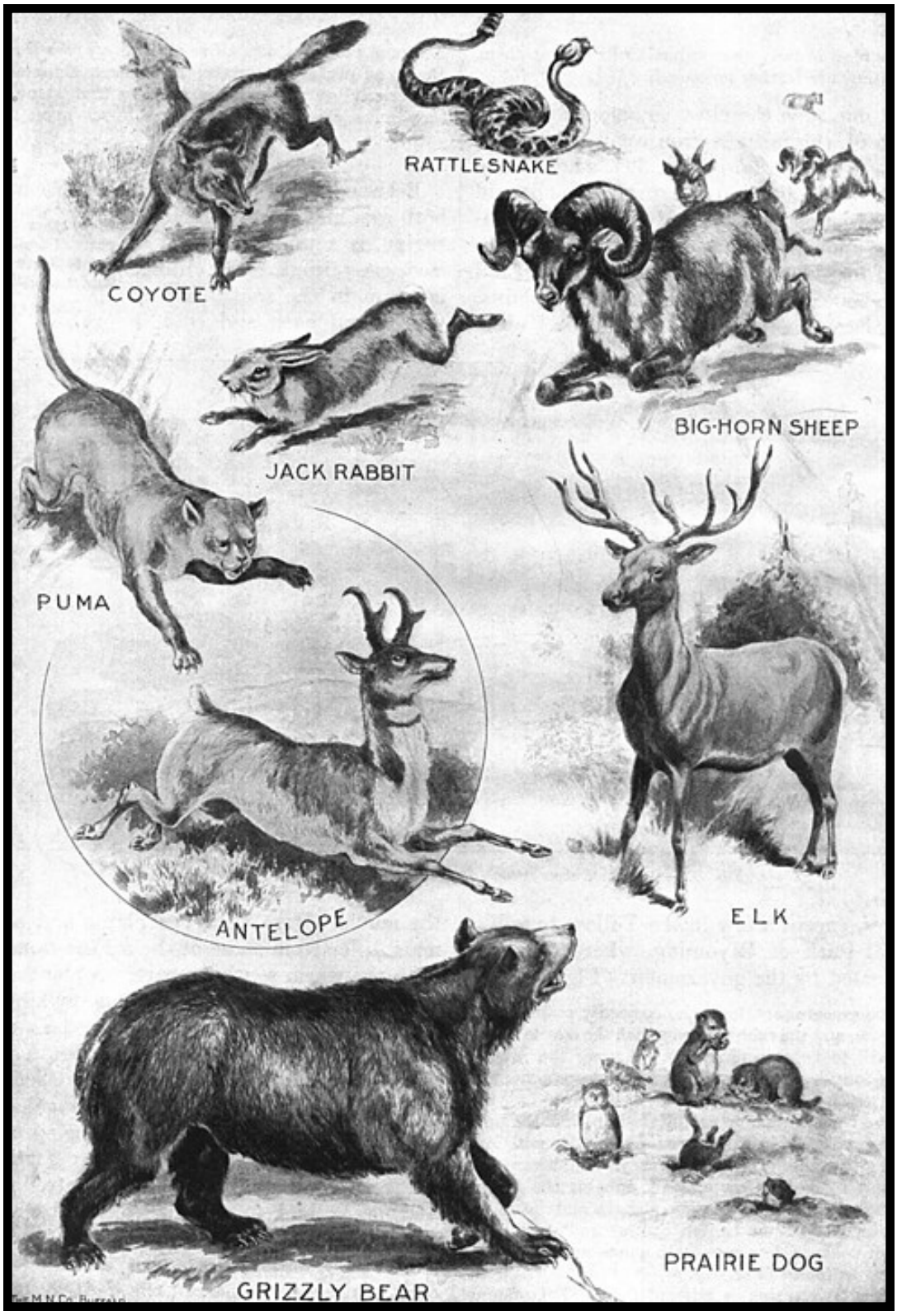




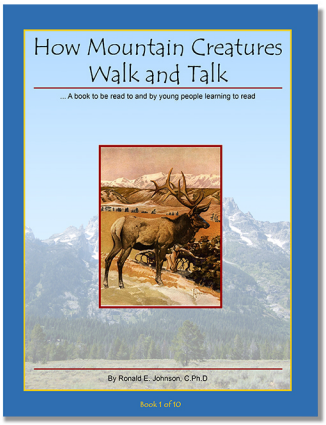


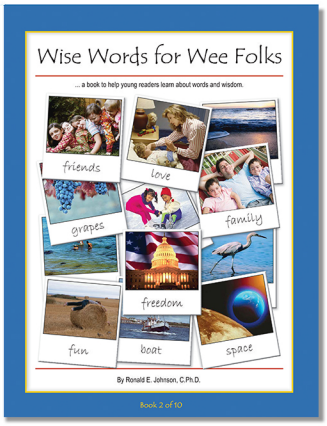
Bobcats yowl as they prowl at night to catch tan mice, green frogs, and grey rabbits. Bobcats **walk**, **slink**, **stride**, and **bound** toward their prey.

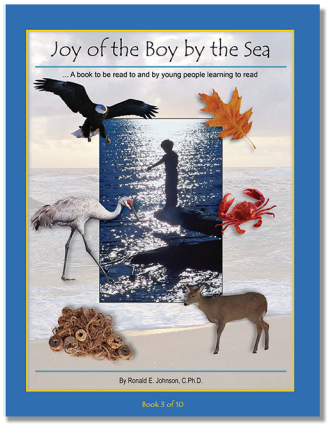

COTTON-TAIL RABBIT
MINK
WEASEL
MUSKRAT
DOG
DEER MOUSE
RAT
CAT
WOODCHUCK
Right hind
fore
hind
CHIPMUNK
RACCOON
Right fore
RED SQUIRREL
SKUNK

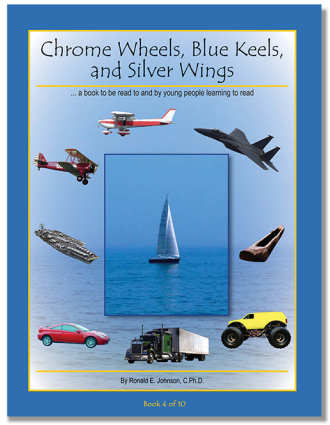

RATTLESNAKE
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BIG-HORN SHEEP
JACK RABBIT
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GRIZZLY BEAR
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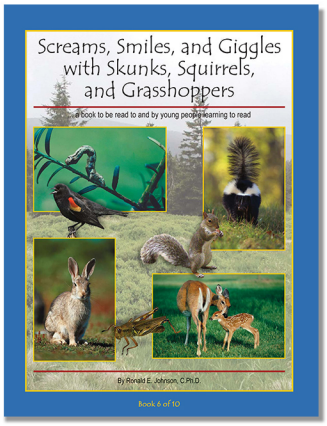


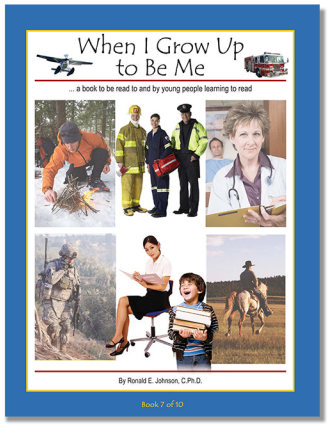


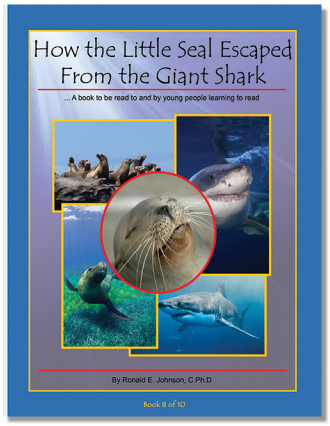


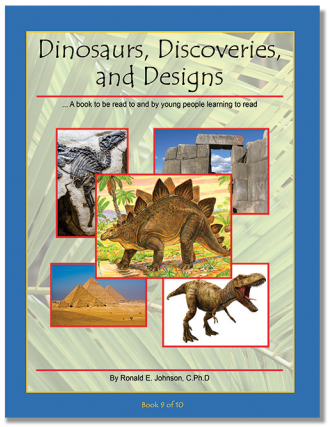


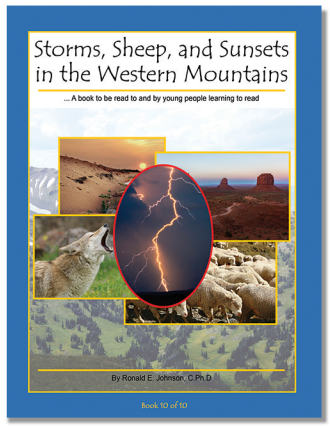












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