Outdoor Recreation

Outdoor Education

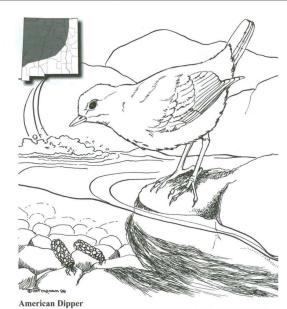
Grade level:

Pre-K to 4th

Objective:

Learn about the American Dipper in New Mexico by coloring the following illustration while reading about them. This species, like other dippers, is equipped with an extra eyelid called a "nictitating membrane" that allows it to see underwater, and scales that close its nostrils when submerged. Dippers also produce more oil than most birds, which may help keep them warmer when seeking food underwater.

The song consists of high whistles or trills :peee peee pijur pijur" repeated a few times. Both sexes of this bird sing year-round.



American Dipper
This songbird is commonly seen along rushing mountain streams searching for aquatic insects, such as this caddisfly larvae. Dippers get most of their prey from the water. They stride along the bottom completely submerged and 'fly' underwater using powerful beats of their wings as they search for food. They can do this even in streams where the current is too fast or deep for people to stand. Their feathers are very soft and dense and they have much larger oil glands than other songbirds to help keep them dry. Dippers like to build their nest behind waterfalls or on rocks in midstream. Their name comes from their almost constant 'bobbing' movement.





