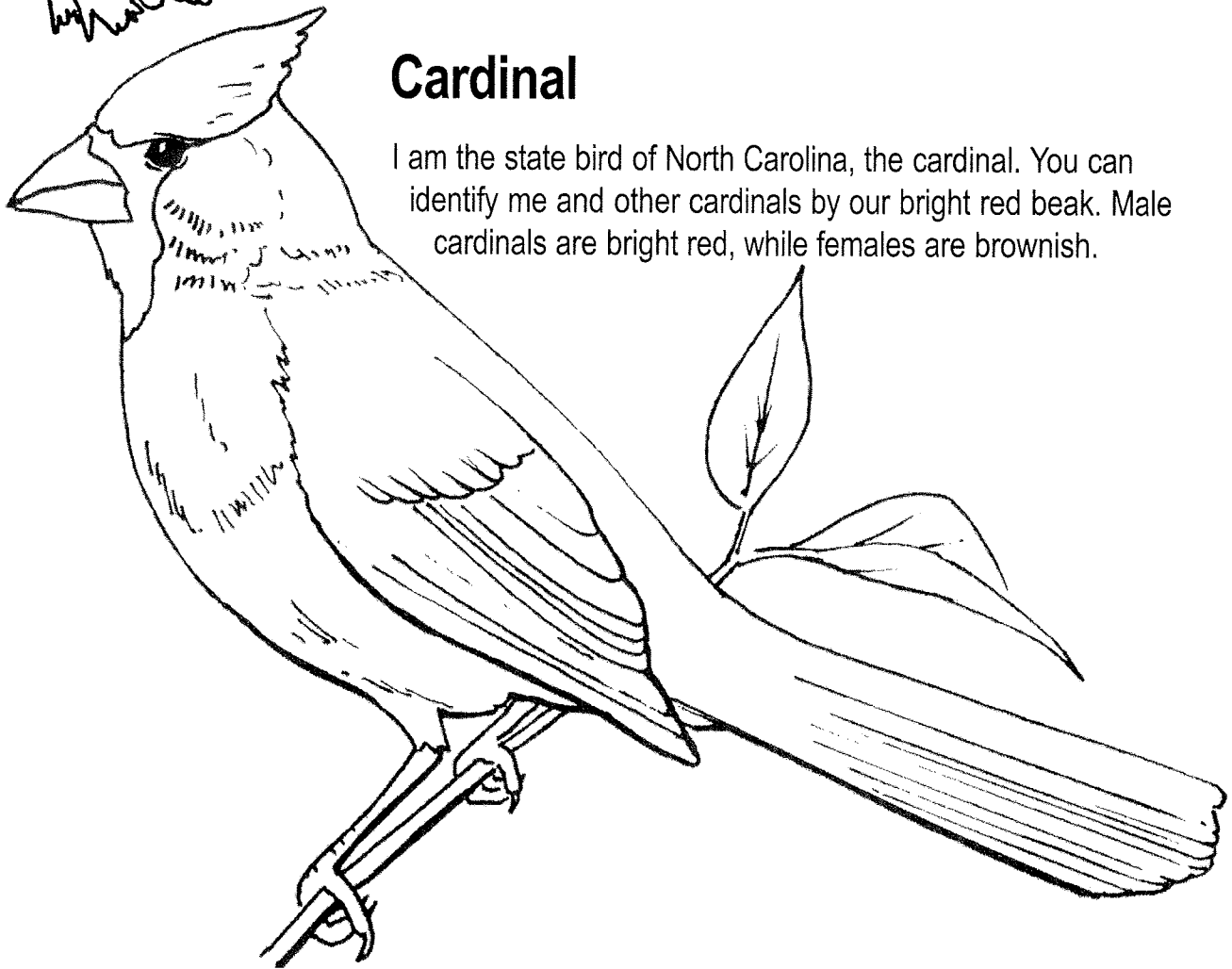


Soloman's Seal

The long arching stems of this native plant may be two to three feet in length. The white flowers bloom from April through May, followed by black fruit in early fall.



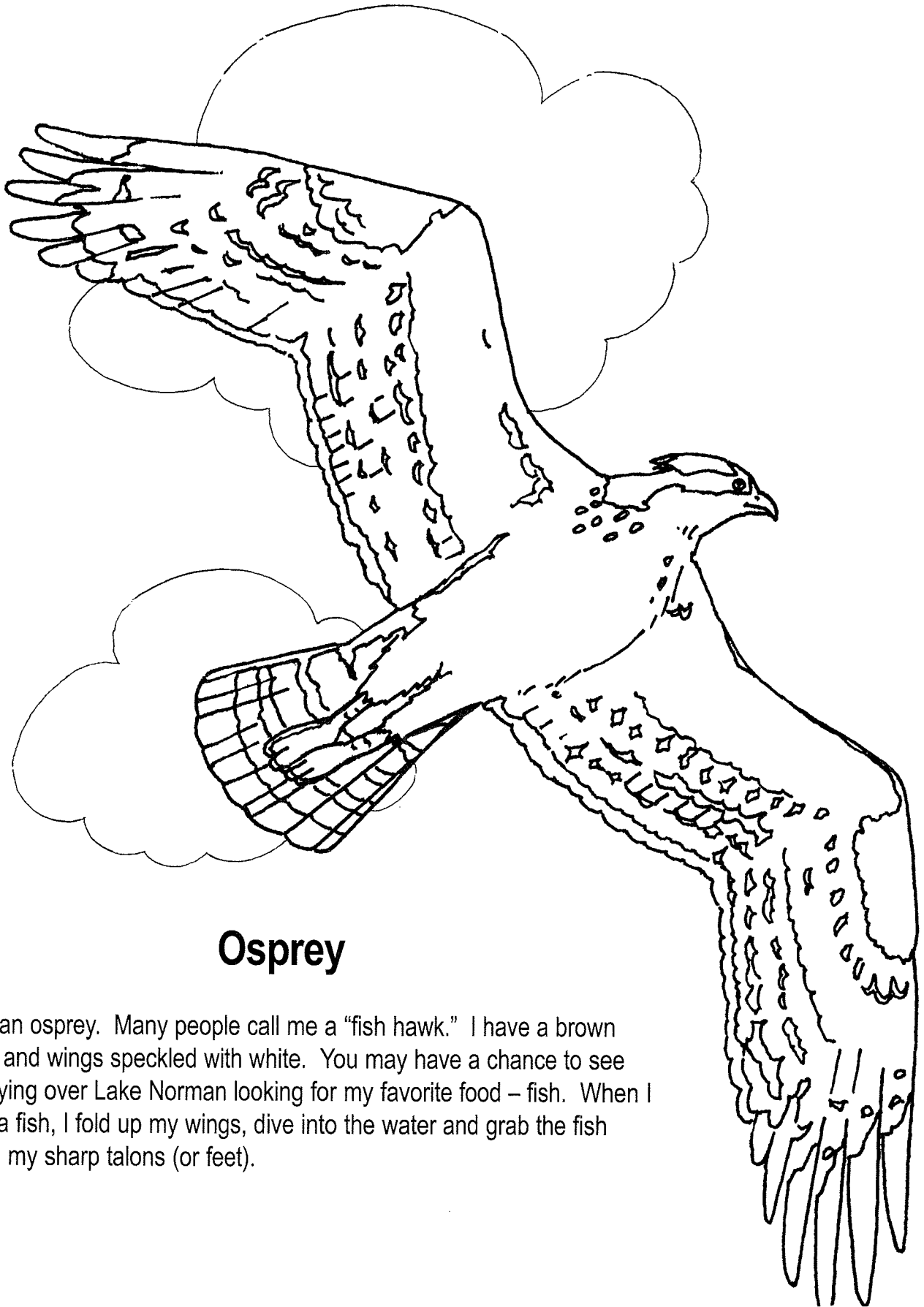
Cardinal

I am the state bird of North Carolina, the cardinal. You can identify me and other cardinals by our bright red beak. Male cardinals are bright red, while females are brownish.

Birdfoot Violet

The birdfoot violet is a native of the eastern U.S., and is found on roadsides throughout the mountains and the Piedmont. Sometimes the upper two petals are deep purple and the three lower ones lavender. The leaves look like a bird's foot. It blooms from March through May.





Osprey

I am an osprey. Many people call me a "fish hawk." I have a brown body and wings speckled with white. You may have a chance to see me flying over Lake Norman looking for my favorite food – fish. When I spot a fish, I fold up my wings, dive into the water and grab the fish using my sharp talons (or feet).