Killdeer

(Charadrius vociferus

How to Identify:

- Medium sized shore bird with two black bands across its chest.
- Slender "stick" like legs, rufous feathers down its back, black and white banding down its face and breast, white underbelly, and red eye.
- Call is frequent, whinnying that sounds like "kill-dEEEEr, kill-dEEEEEr"

> They often lay a clutch of 4 eggs but can have anywhere between 3 and 5.

Explore Idaho with Scout the Fox!

Scout

Habitat:

- Widespread and found all over North and Central America
- Often found at the water's edge, but can be found far from the water in fields
- Their nesting sites are found on the ground, camouflaged into rocky soil, gravel sites or even in lawns

Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation

parksandrecreation.idaho.gov

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Fun Facts!

- They pretend to have a broken wing or leg to lure potential predators away from their nests (as seen in image below).

- Chicks are about the size of a large cotton ball and sit down when threatened
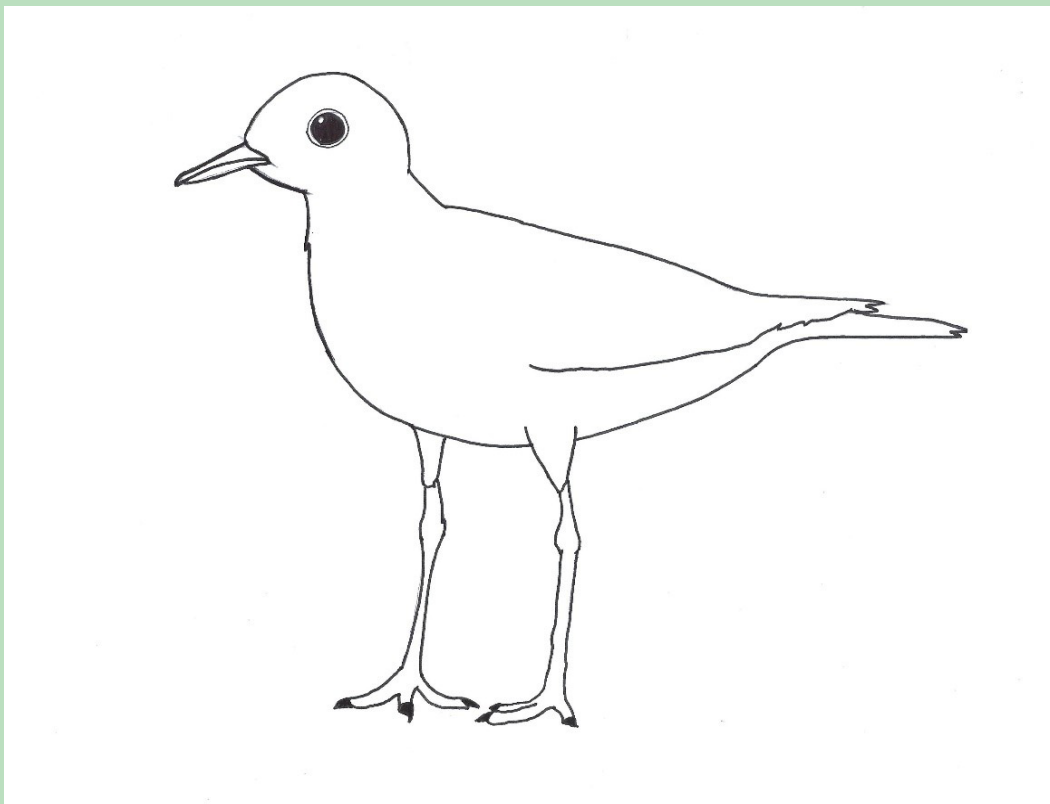
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Help Protect the Killdeer

- Killdeer have integrated themselves within human development. Their nests have been found on golf courses, sports fields, and gravel parking lots. Be aware of nesting sites and leave them alone. Perhaps place a marker near by so you know where to give a wide berth when mowing the lawn.
- Killdeer are poisoned when eating insects that have been contaminated with pesticides. Try alternative lawn and garden care.

COLOR ME

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VOCABULARY

clutch: grouping of eggs laid

camouflage: coloring to disguise and blend into the environment

rufous: reddish brown coloring often used to describe the coloring of birds

ACTIVITY TIME

1. Watch a video on a Killdeer 'broken-wing' display and 'ungulate display.' How are they similar and how are they different in the killdeers effort to protect against predators?

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