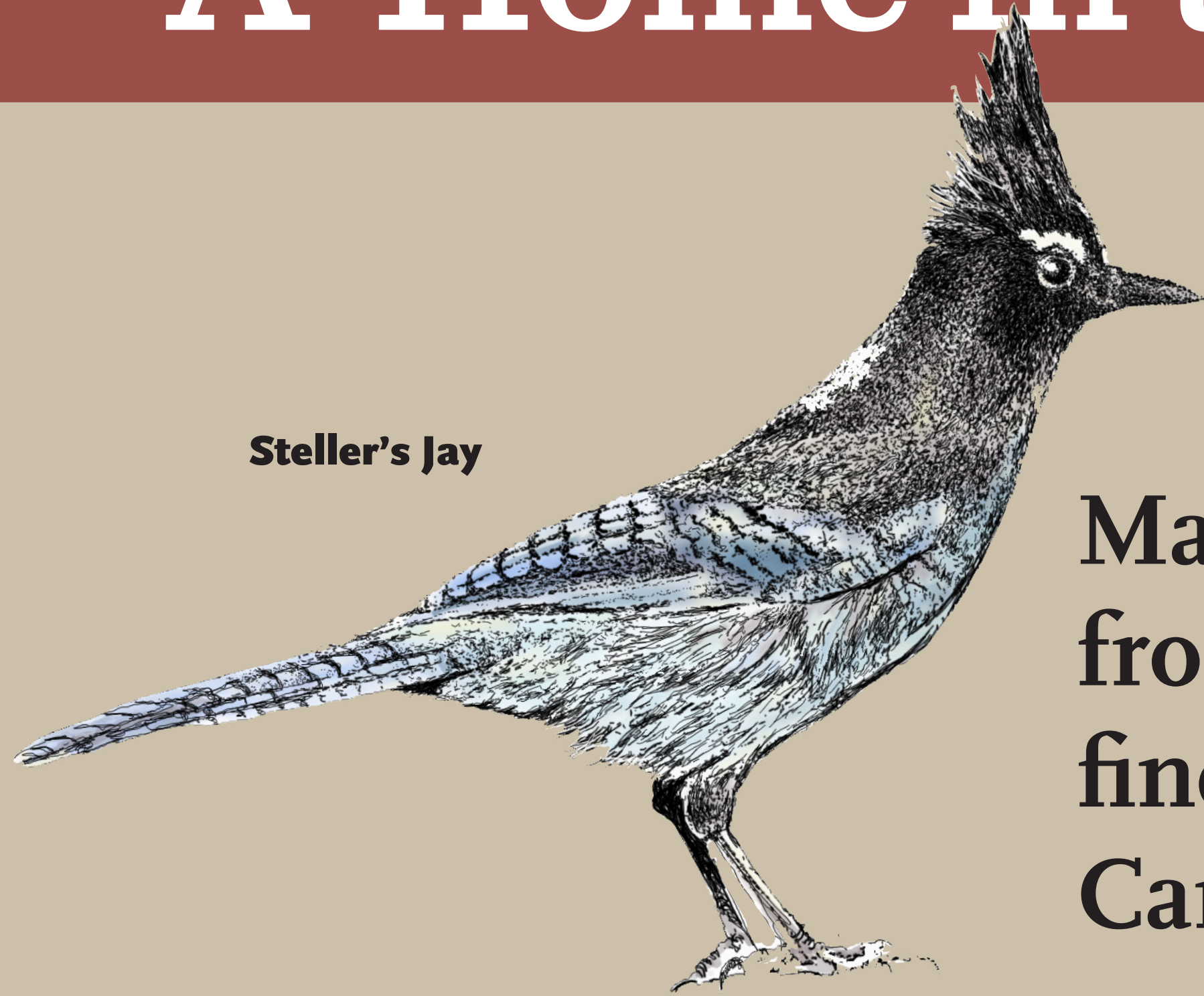


A Home in the Woods



Steller's Jay

Many animals, ranging in size from tiny birds to large mammals, find homes in Oak Creek Canyon's ponderosa pine forest.



Allen's Lappet-browed Bat

Bright blue **Steller's jays** and shiny black ravens fly from branch to branch. On the ground, a spotted towhee scratches in the pine needles. In the distance a downy woodpecker drums on a tree trunk while a **white-breasted nuthatch** gives its nasal yank-yank call as it spirals headfirst down the trunk. Woodpeckers chisel cavities into the pines, making neat nests both for themselves and later for a nuthatch family.



Ringtail Cat

Did you know that some bats roost in trees? **Allen's lappet-browed bat** roosts under the thick, flaky bark of old ponderosa pine trees. A bat can eat its weight in bugs each evening.

Ringtail cats den underground during the day but come out at night to look for mice and other small prey. This cat-like mammal, named for its bushy, black-and-white-striped tail, actually belongs to the raccoon family.



Mule Deer

All four of Arizona's **skunk** species—striped, spotted, hooded, and hog-nosed—live here. They snuffle around campsites looking for trash and leftover food. When threatened, they lift their tails and spray a strong, offensive scent, which is not good for us, or the skunks, since they have a limited supply of this chemical deterrent.

Mule deer and **black bears** frequent the canyon, and both can be found foraging for acorns in the fall. Bears feed furiously to fatten up for winter hibernation. They emerge hungry from their dens in spring and are on the prowl again for food.



White-breasted Nuthatch



Spotted Skunk



Ponderosa Pine

To protect wildlife, keep a clean campsite, make sure all food is put away, and keep pets on a leash.



Narrow-headed Gartersnake

Home to a Rare Snake

The nonvenomous, **narrow-headed gartersnake** lives near the water where it hunts small fish. Oak Creek Canyon is home to one of the last populations of this snake in Arizona. For its protection, it is against the law to harass, handle, hurt, or kill this rare reptile. Stay on designated trails to avoid harming its streamside habitat.

El Hogar de Una Culebra Poco Común

La **culebra garter de cabeza angosta** ("narrow-headed gartersnake" en inglés) no es venenosa y vive cerca del agua donde caza peces pequeños. El Cañón Oak Creek es el hogar de una de las últimas poblaciones de esta culebra en Arizona. Es contra la ley molestar, recoger, herir o matar este réptil poco común. Manténgase en los senderos señalados para no dañar su hábitat ribereño.