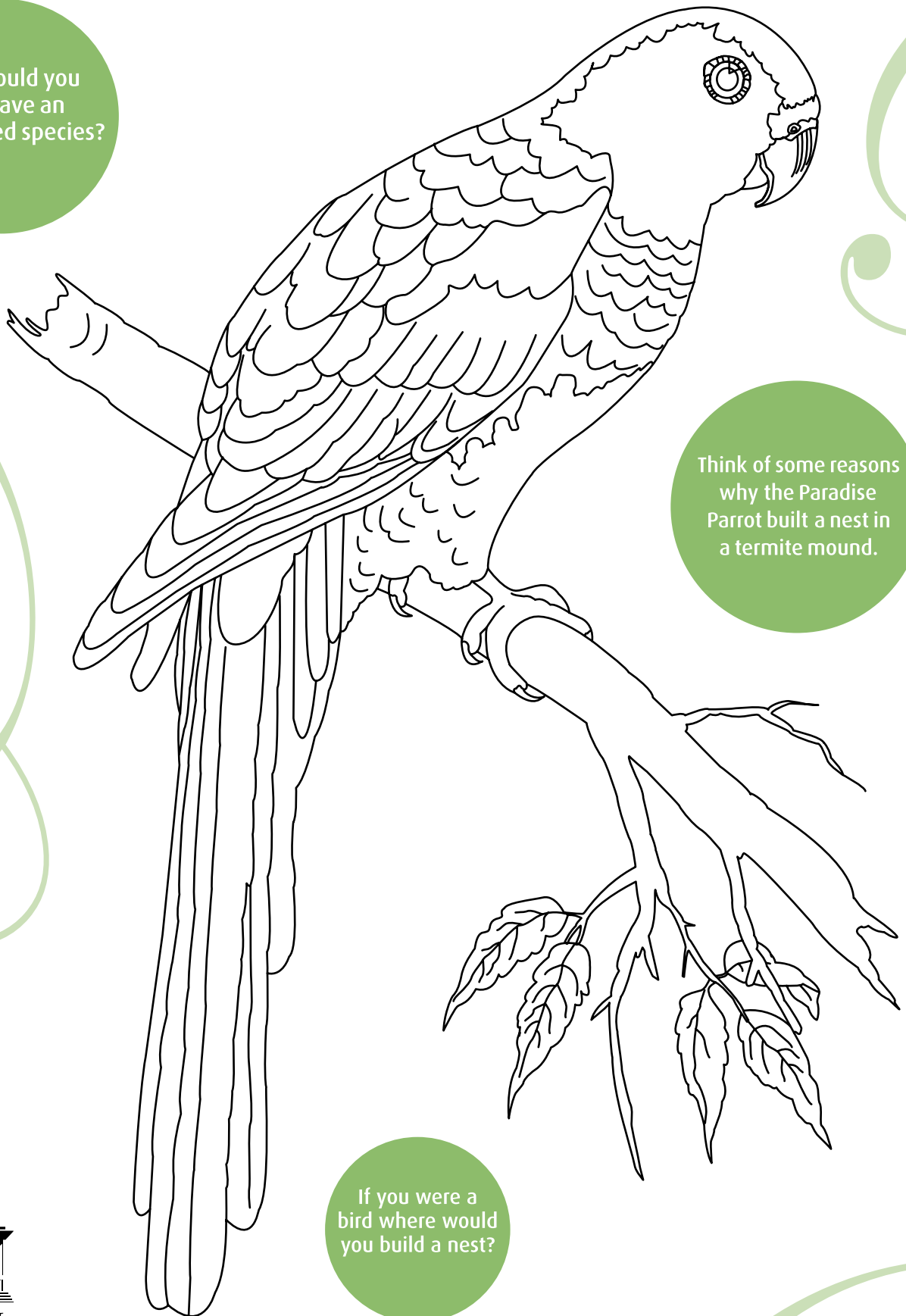


# COLOUR IN YOUR OWN BEAUTIFUL PARADISE PARROT.

What would you  
do to save an  
endangered species?



Think of some reasons  
why the Paradise  
Parrot built a nest in  
a termite mound.

If you were a  
bird where would  
you build a nest?



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# Mr Gilbert's Beautiful Parrakeet



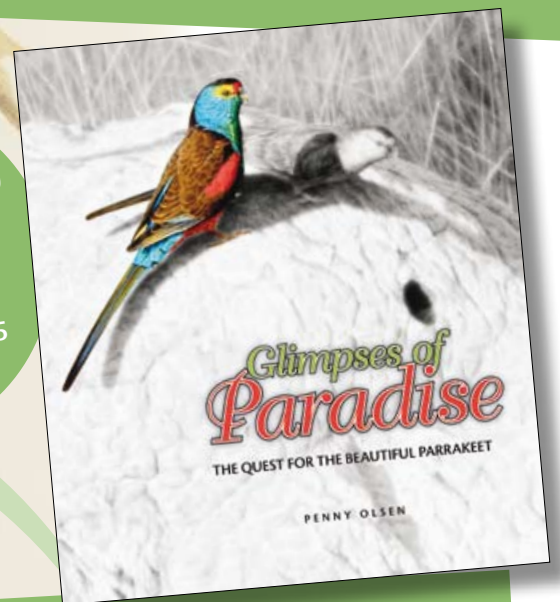
## THE PARADISE PARROT

This is a picture of a Paradise Parrot (originally named the 'Beautiful Parrakeet'). Paradise Parrots lived in small groups in grasslands in south-east Queensland. They built their nests in termite mounds. They dug a narrow tunnel in the mound where the female laid small white round eggs in a nest of crumbled earth.

The parrot was first spotted by an Englishman called John Gilbert over 160 years ago. He was collecting animals to send to England. He was very excited about seeing a bird that was so colourful and beautiful. When people saw the bird's beauty, they wanted to own one. Many Paradise Parrots were shot and their skins became ornaments in people's homes. Many others were captured and kept in birdcages, but their owners didn't know how to look after them and so they usually died soon after they were caught.

When Europeans started farming the Paradise Parrot's country, the parrot could not survive. Sheep and cattle destroyed the grasses they fed from and people made floors, ovens and tennis courts from the termite mounds that they used for their nests. The last time the Paradise Parrot was seen was eighty years ago. Most people believe that the bird is now extinct but others say it is still alive. One man has even reported that he saw a Paradise Parrot a few weeks ago!

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