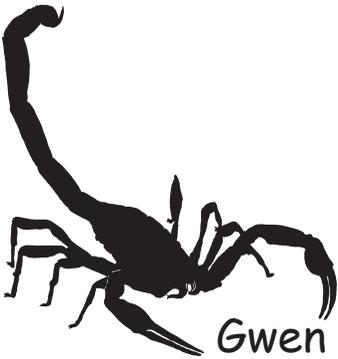




Creatures of the NIGHT

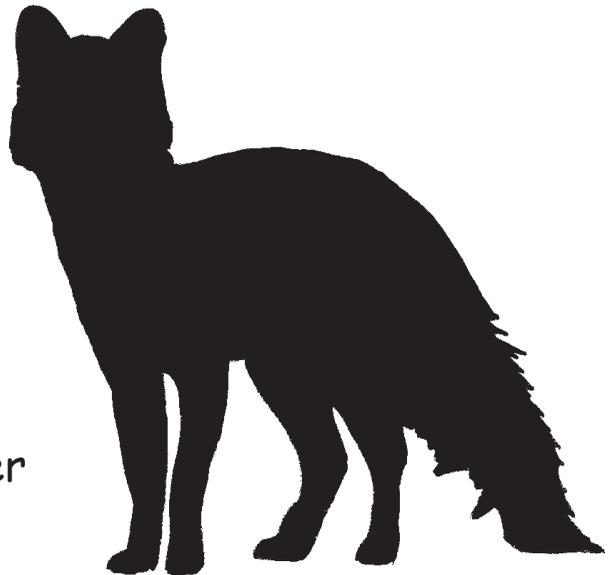


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Night



Can you imagine sleeping all day, and playing and eating all night long?

That's what **nocturnal** animals do - they sleep most of the day and party all night!

Nocturnal animals are "active at night."

As you turn the pages of "Creatures of the Night" you will meet the Great Horned Owl, which only likes to go out at night because its eyes are very **sensitive** to light. The Northern Flying Squirrel is not able to walk well, so it stays in trees during the day, and finds things to eat on the ground at night when it won't be seen. You'll also meet the scorpion, which travels and eats at night so it can rest under rocks and in cracks during the day to stay cool. The Little Brown Bat flies at night because it's the best time to catch its dinner - insects. Yum! Come meet the night crowd - party on!

Creatures

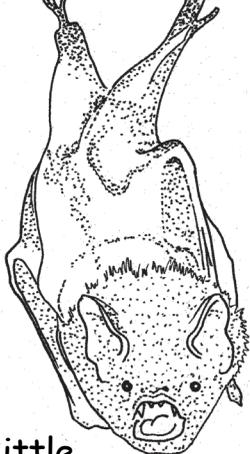


Nocturnal animals have special **reflective** eyes.

Their pupils, the dark parts of their eyes, open wider in low light, and are able to collect more light than human eyes. Instead of being able to see through walls like Superman, nocturnal animals can see through the dark! Can you imagine being able to see everything in your house at night, even with the lights off?



Bats



Little
Brown
Bat

Bats like to hang out
(upside down!).

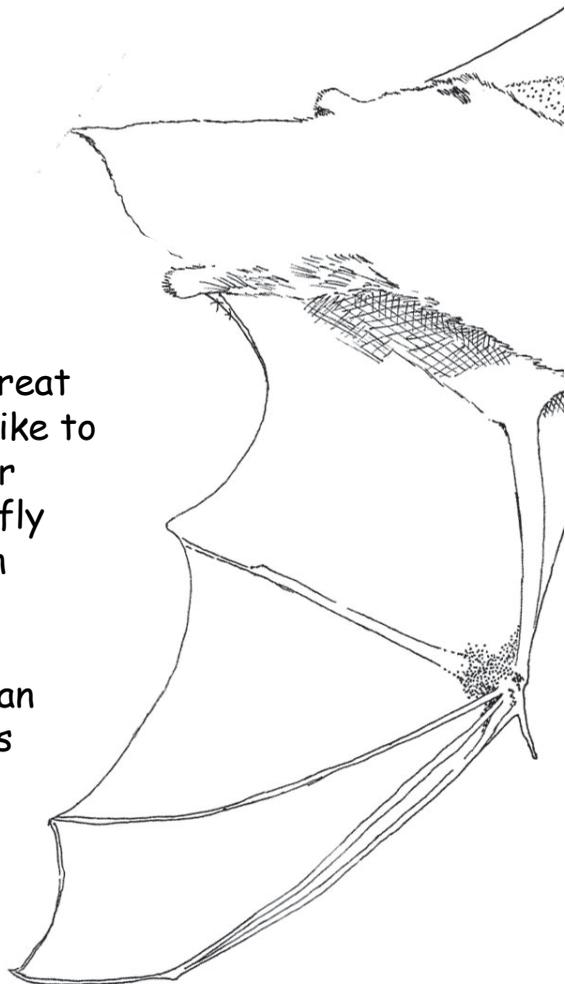


They are great
parents and like to
teach their
children to fly
and catch
insects.

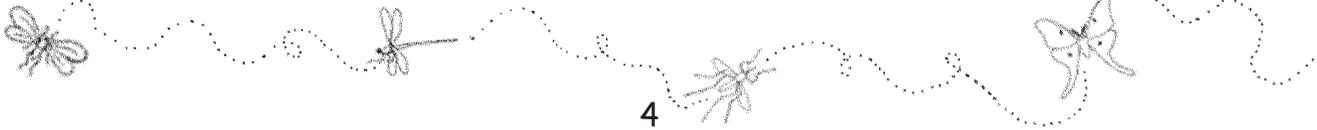
Some bats can
eat 600 bugs
in one hour!

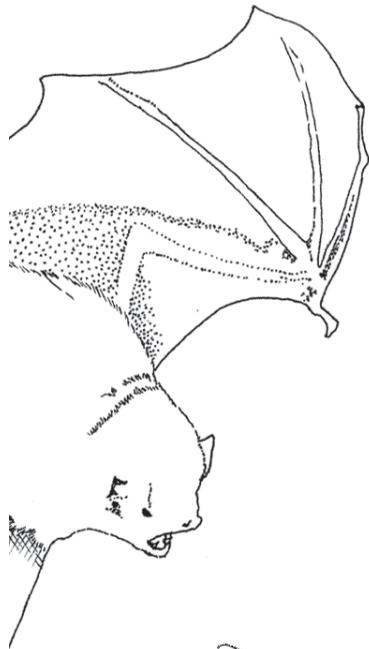


Silver-haired Bat

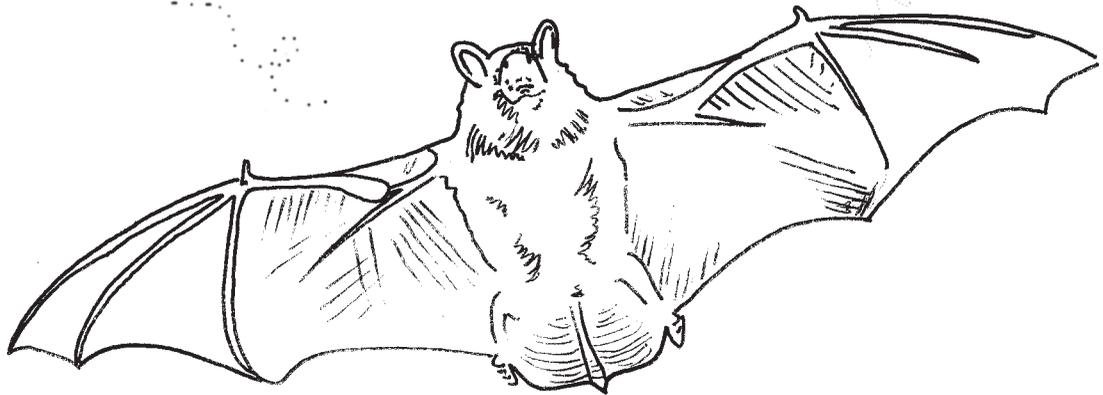
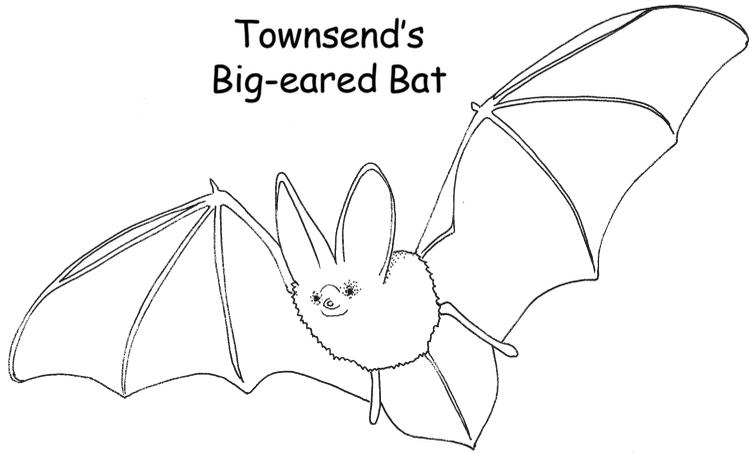


Hoary Bat

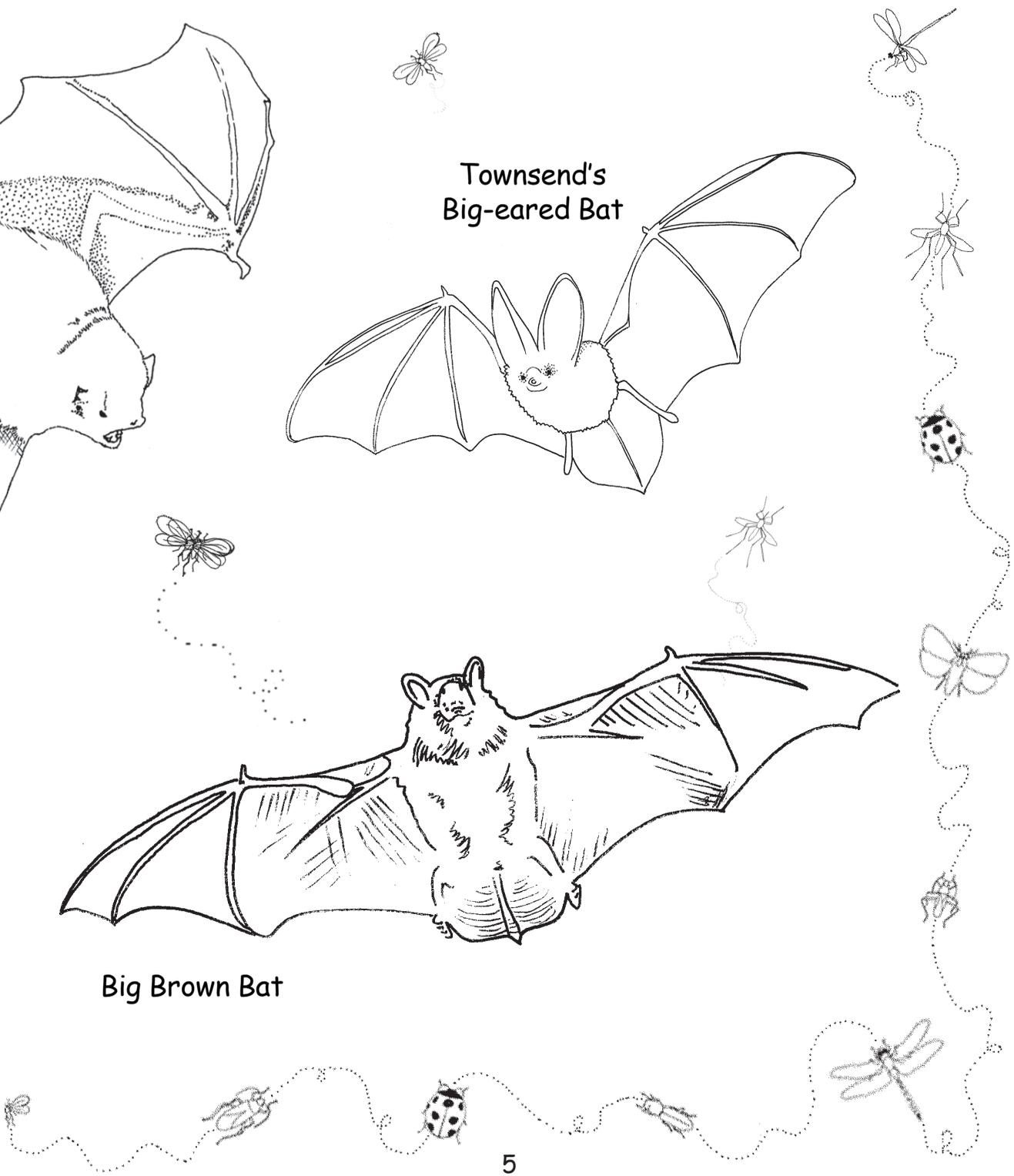




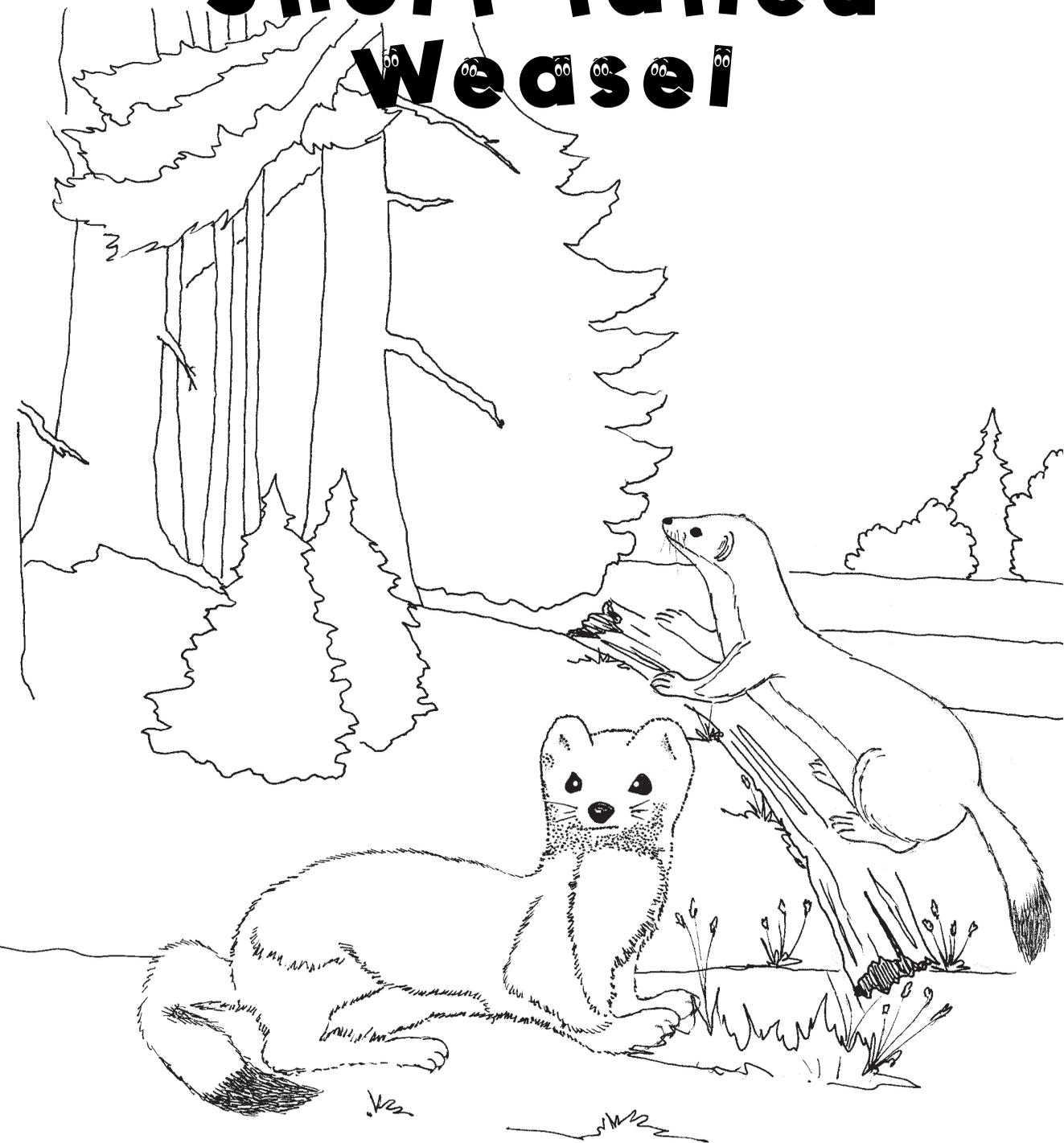
Townsend's
Big-eared Bat



Big Brown Bat



Short-tailed Weasel

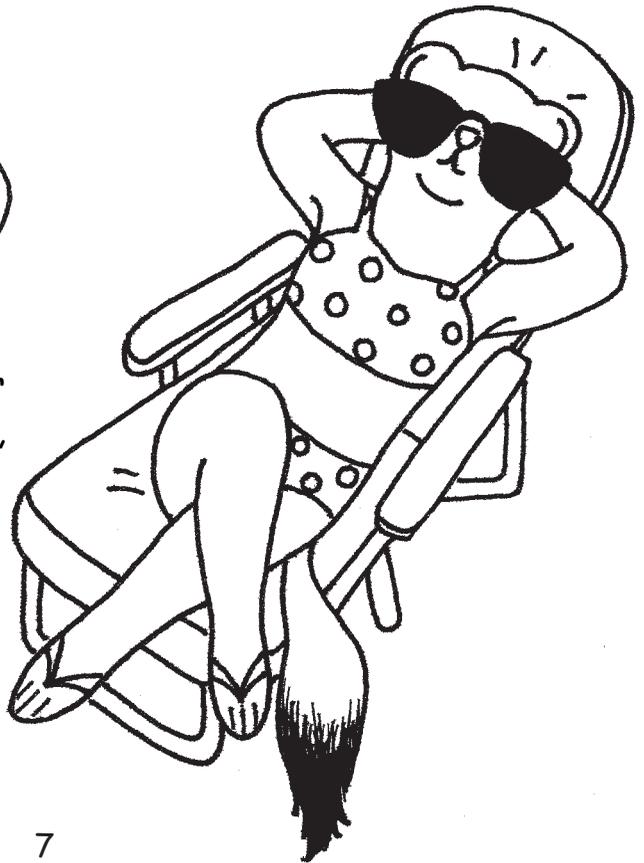


The Short-tailed Weasel is a little animal, but a **BIG** fighter. It has been known to fight a bear or even a porcupine! Ouch!

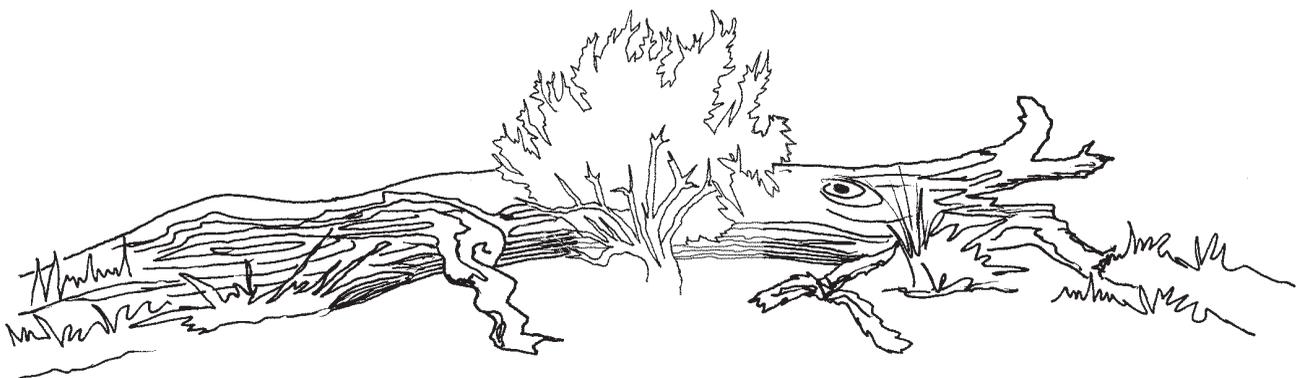
Just like you probably have a winter coat and a summer coat, the Short-tailed Weasel changes from a white coat in the winter (to blend in with the snow)

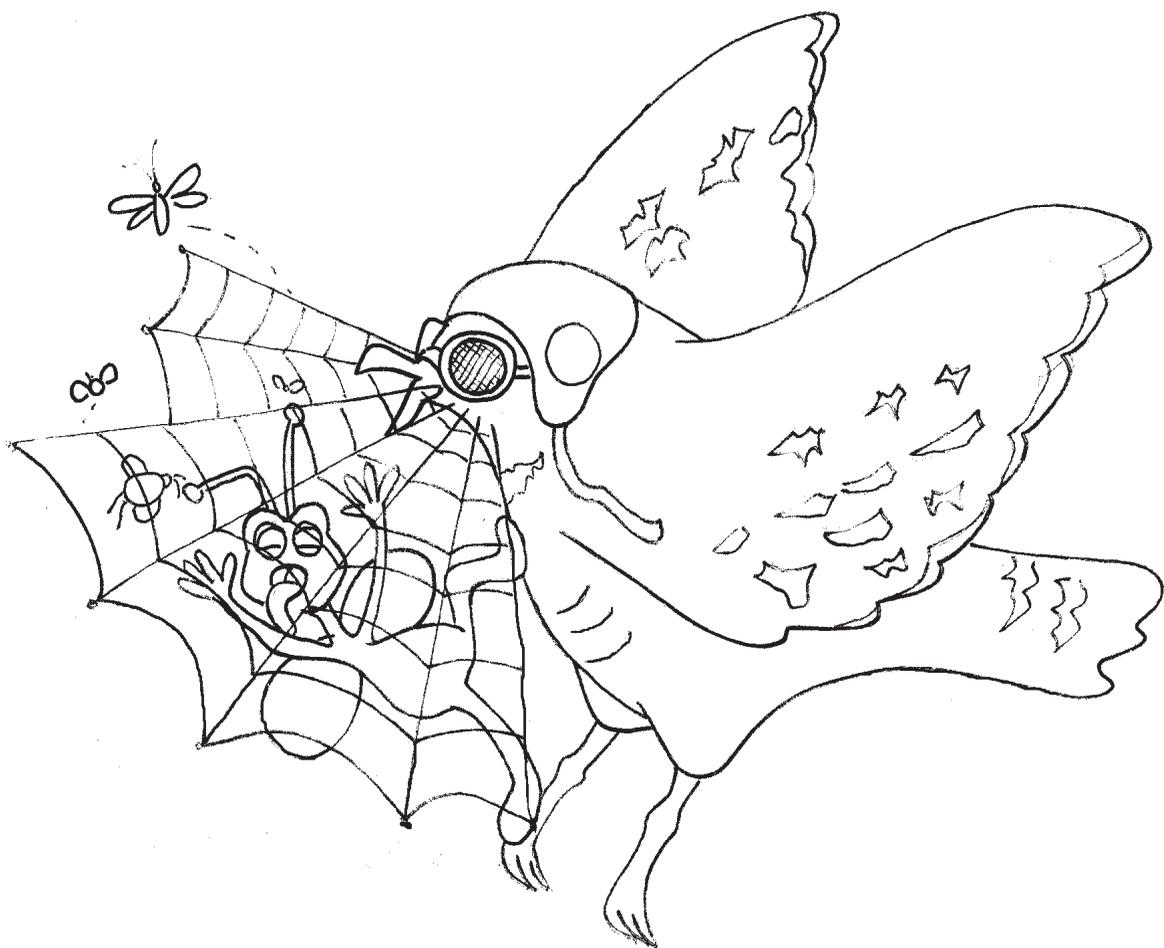


to a brown coat in the summer (to blend in with trees, bushes, and grasses).



Common Poorwill



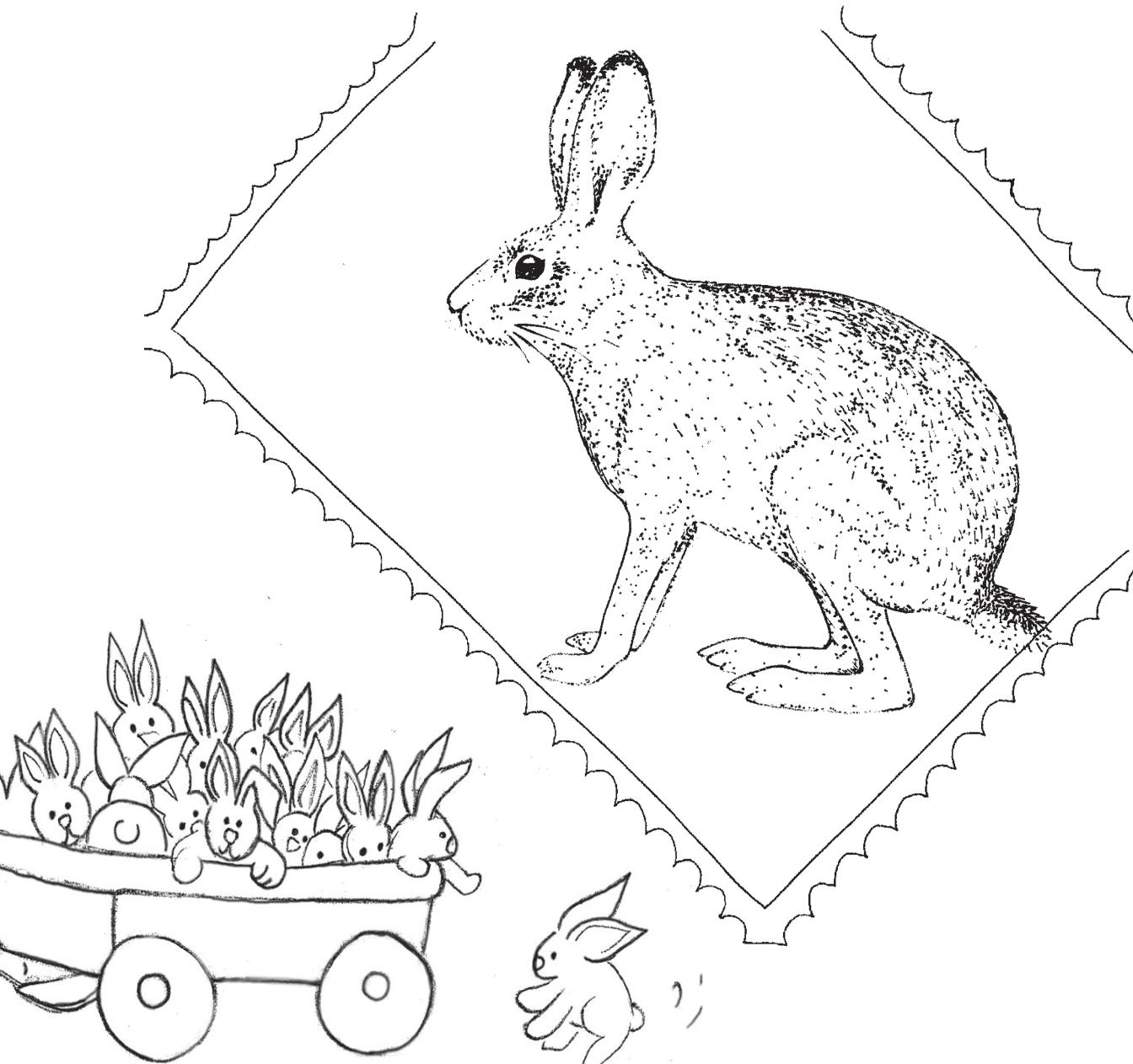


Have you ever swallowed a fly while riding your bike with your mouth open? That's how Common Poorwills catch their food. They fly with their mouths open so they can catch and eat bugs in the air. They are the only birds that **hibernate** in the winter.

Can you imagine having 31 brothers and sisters? Because Black-tailed Jackrabbits have many **litters** of babies every year, their families are huge. Their ears are up to five inches long to help them hear and to help them stay cool on hot days. They can run up to 35 miles per hour over short distances - that's as fast as a car drives around town!



Black-tailed Jackrabbit



Black-crowned Night Heron

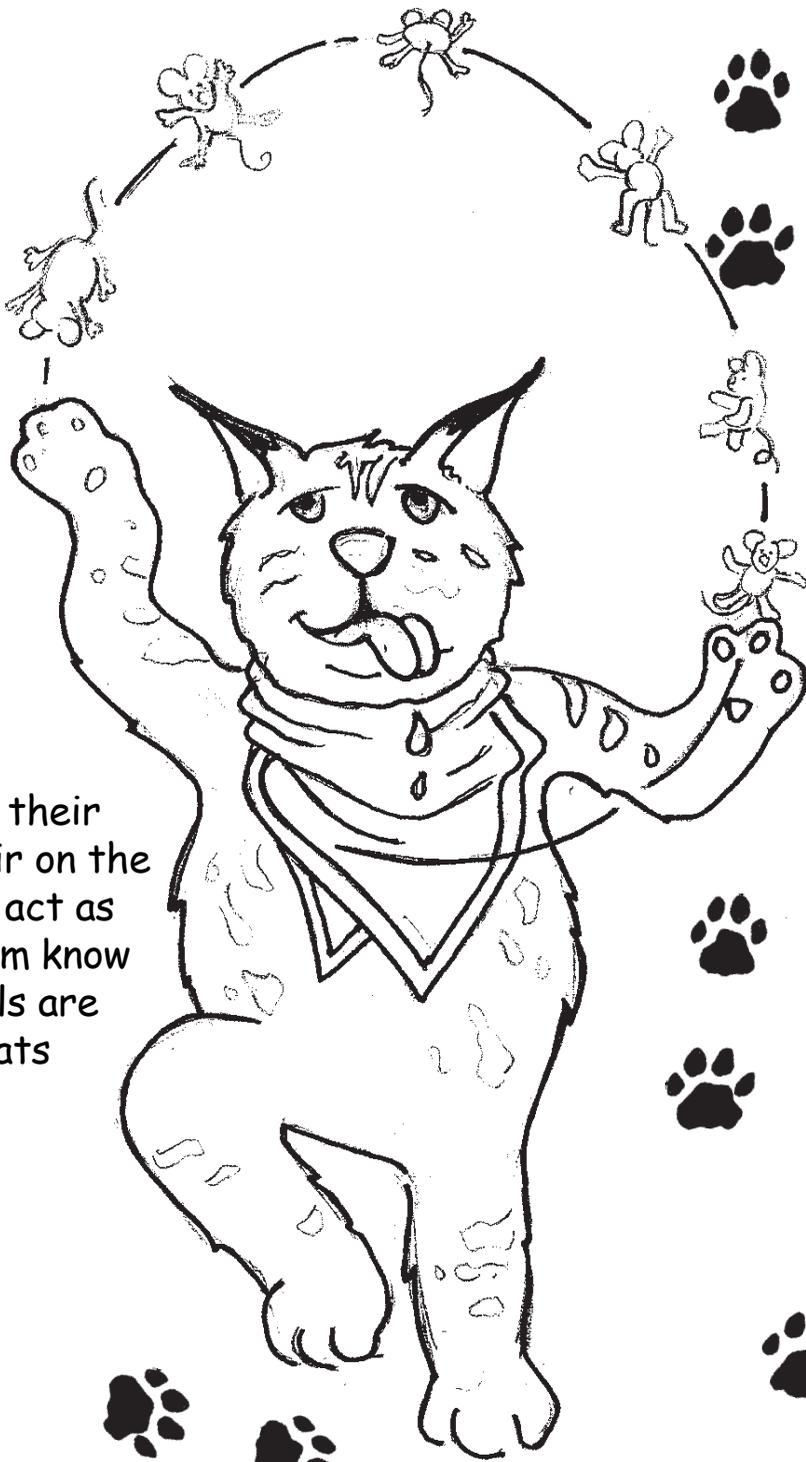


Watch out fish! Black-crowned Night Herons are excellent fishermen and like to eat at night. They keep their head tucked into their shoulders, and don't stretch out their neck very often. ☆



Bobcat





Bobcats play with their food. Tufts of hair on the tips of their ears act as **sensors** to let them know when other animals are in the area. Bobcats are excellent climbers.

**Barn
Owl**



screeecchh
(raspy)

Owls

(whistles)
hoop!

**Pygmy
Owl**



An owl's face is shaped like a satellite dish, but instead of picking up TV channels, it picks up sound.

Each species of owl has its own fun sound.

hoo-hoo-hoooooo
hoo-hoo



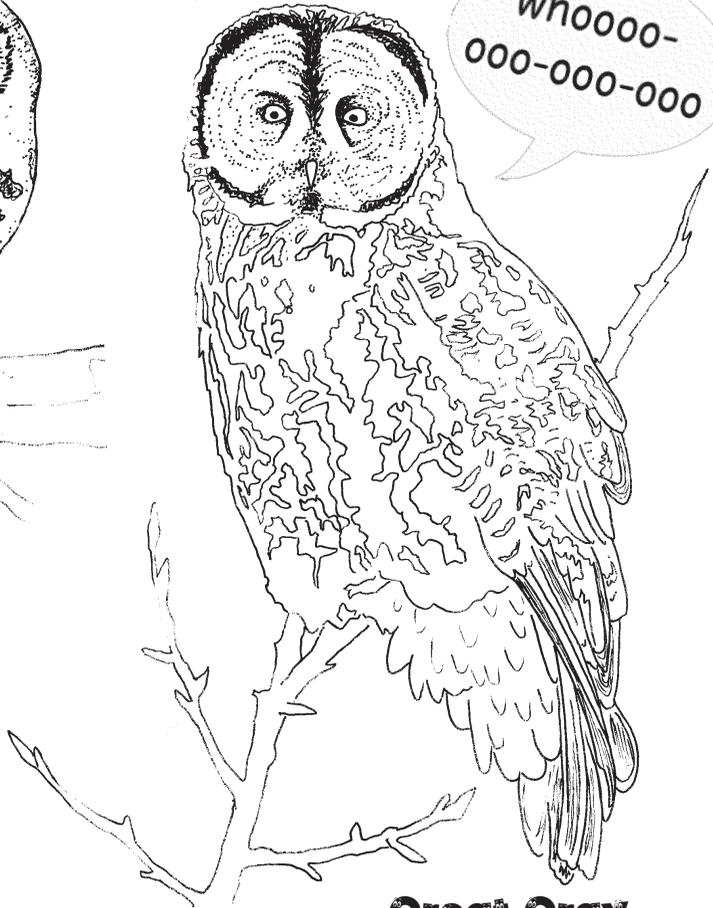
**Great
Horned
Owl**

boot
boo-boot



**Flammulated
Owl**

whooooo-
ooo-ooo-ooo



**Great Gray
Owl**

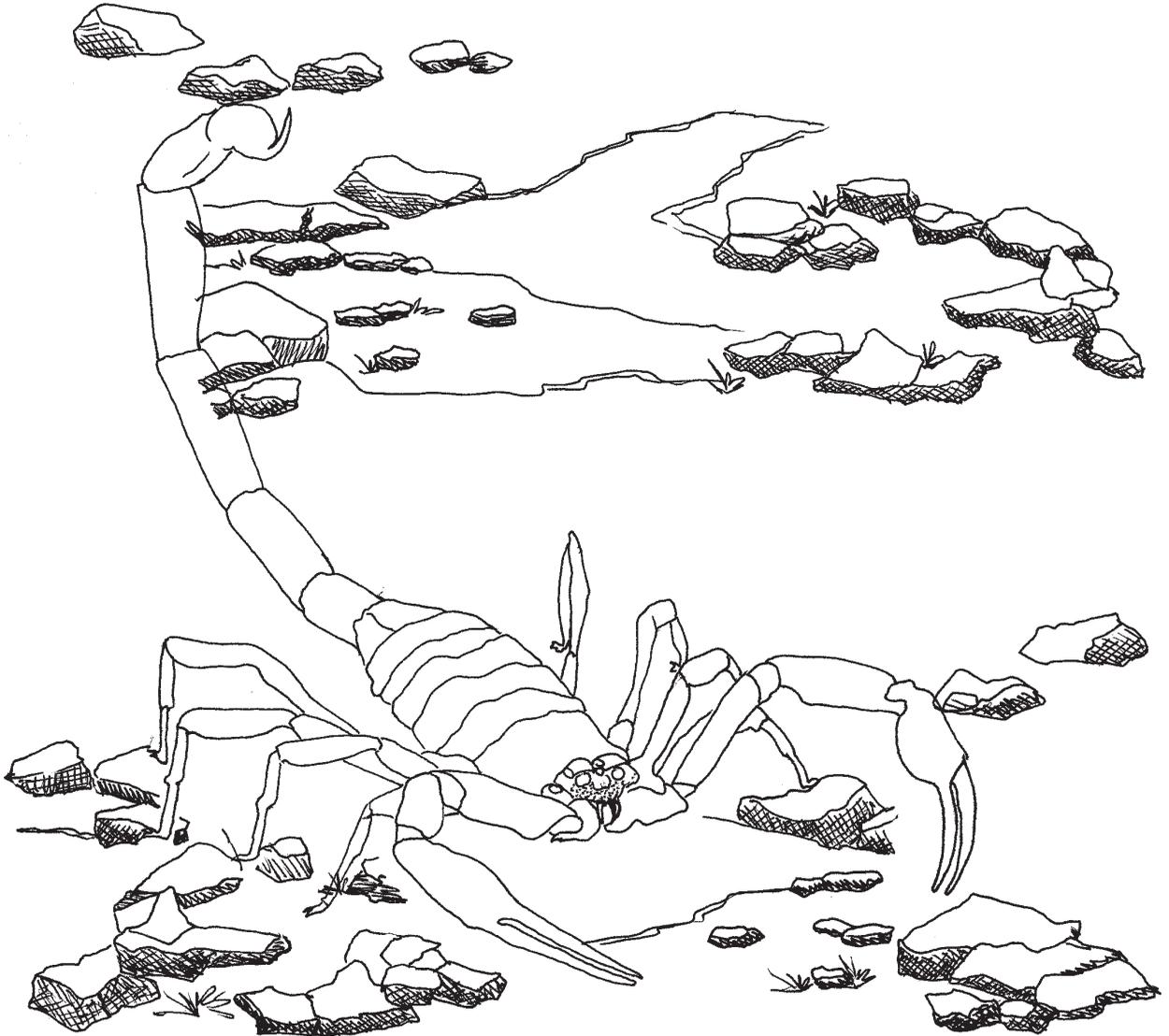
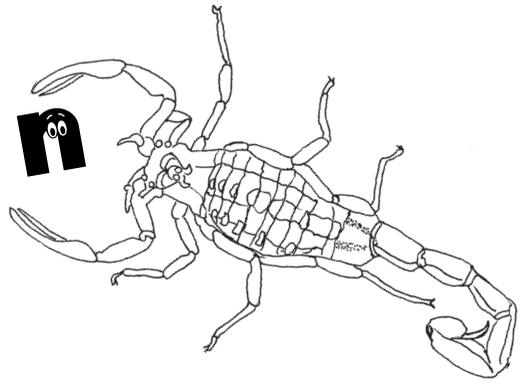
(whistles)
too-too-too
too-too-too



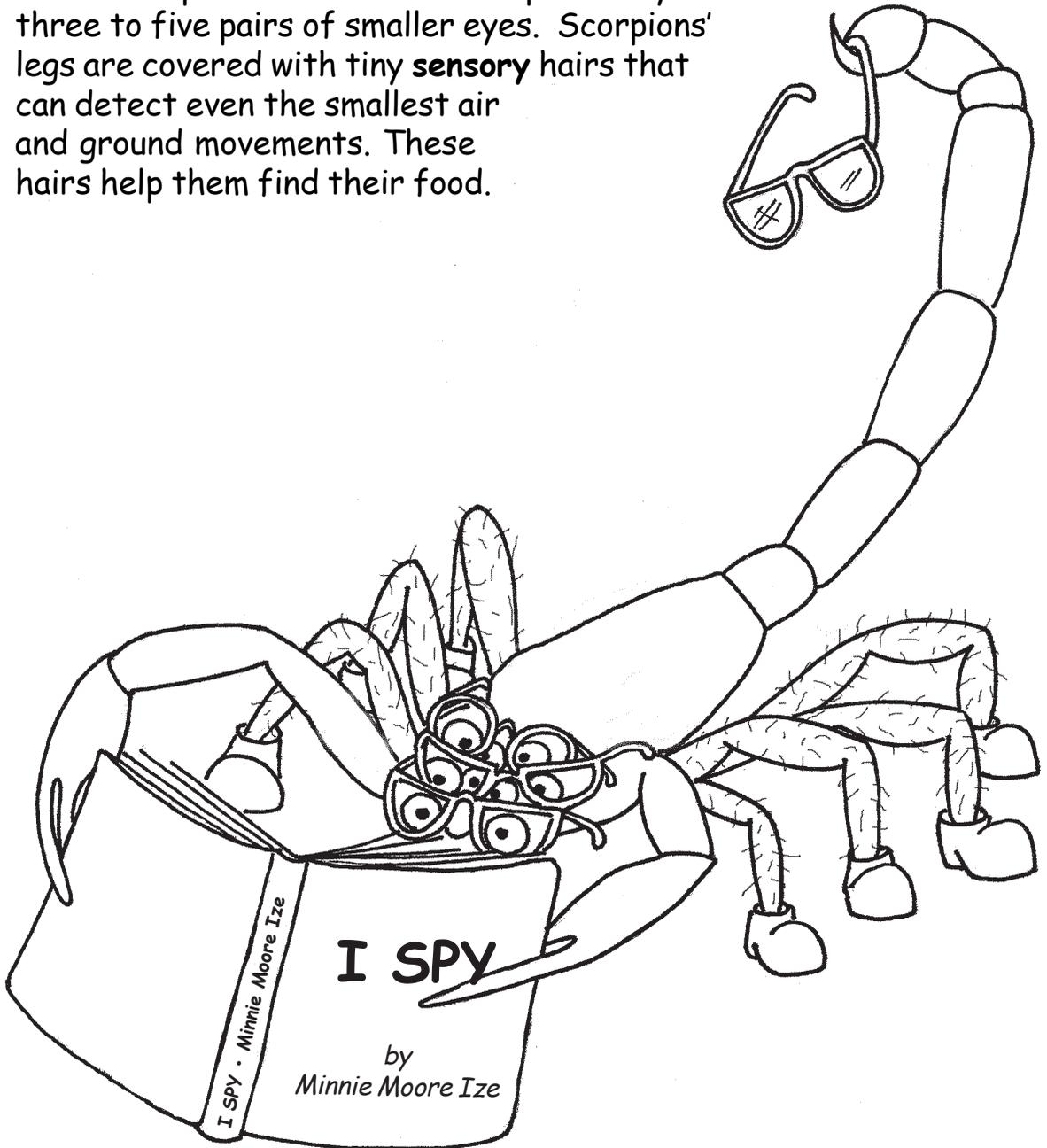
**Saw-whet
Owl**

Owls can turn their heads so far around that it can look like their heads are on backward.

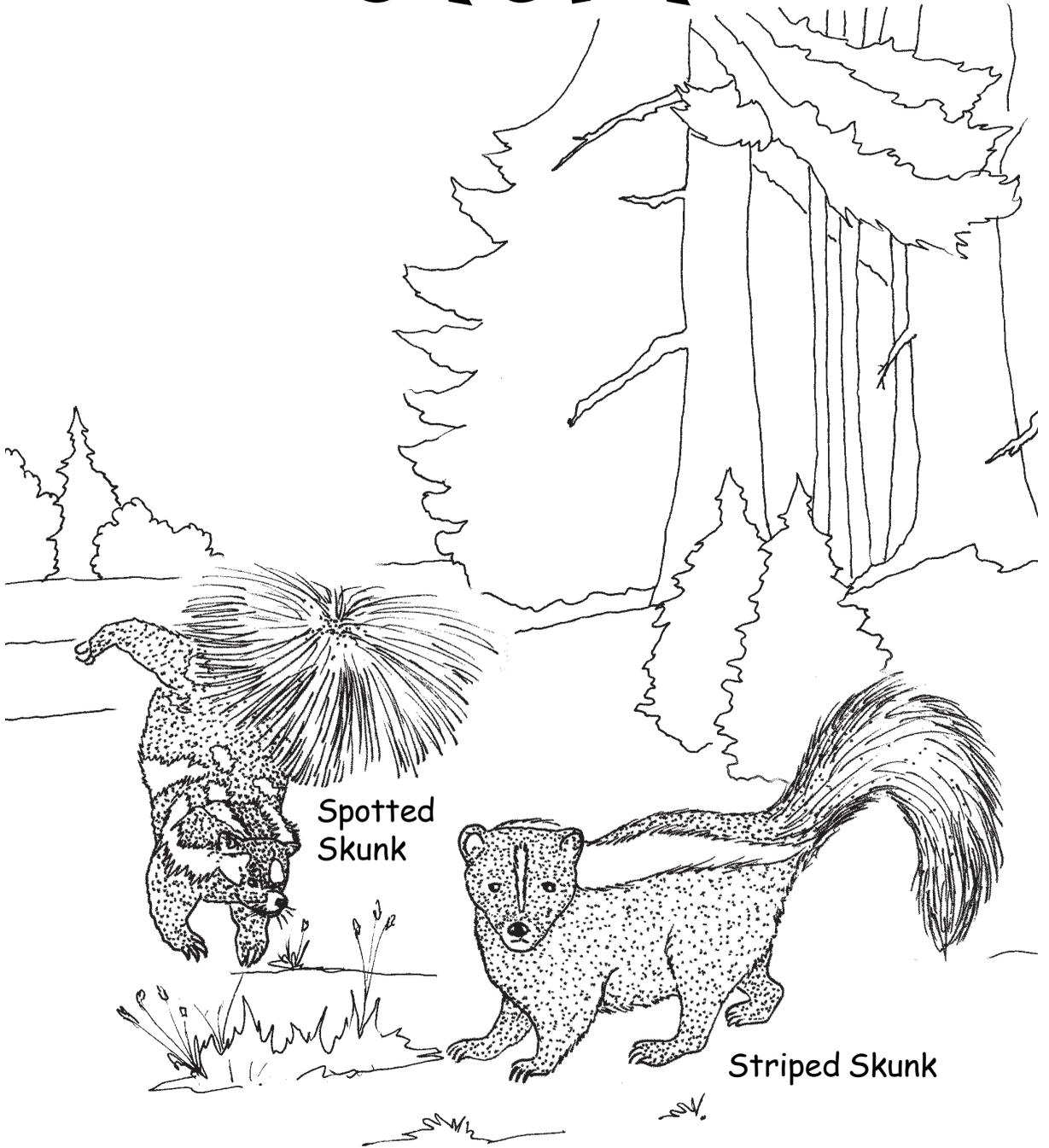
Scorpion



Can you imagine having twelve eyes that don't see well? Scorpions have one central pair of eyes and three to five pairs of smaller eyes. Scorpions' legs are covered with tiny **sensory** hairs that can detect even the smallest air and ground movements. These hairs help them find their food.



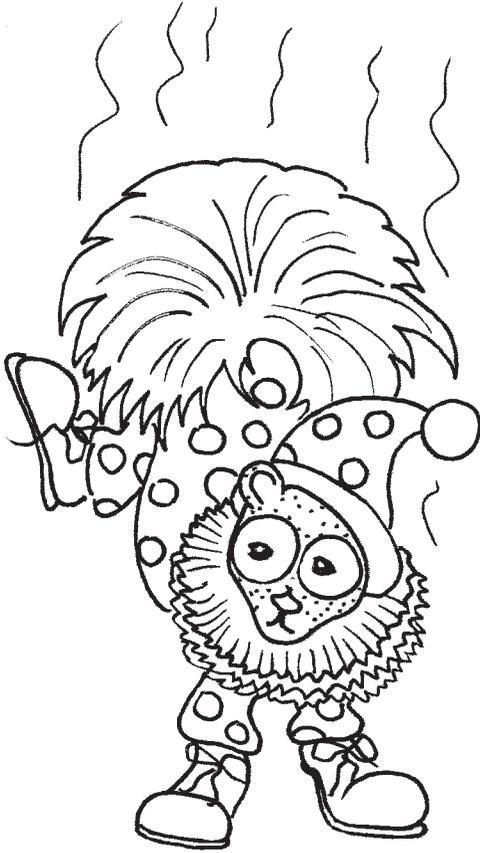
Skunk



Spotted Skunk

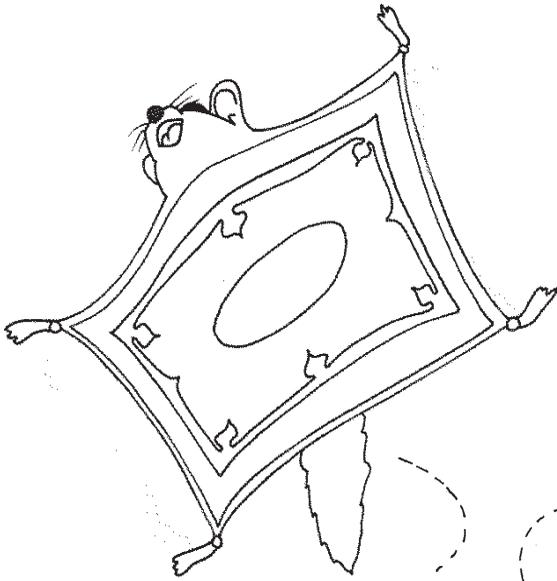
Striped Skunk

Did you know skunks are helpful to people? They eat annoying critters like wasps, rats, and moles. Skunks have black and white markings to warn other animals to keep away. Any animal that's been sprayed by a skunk won't forget those colors.

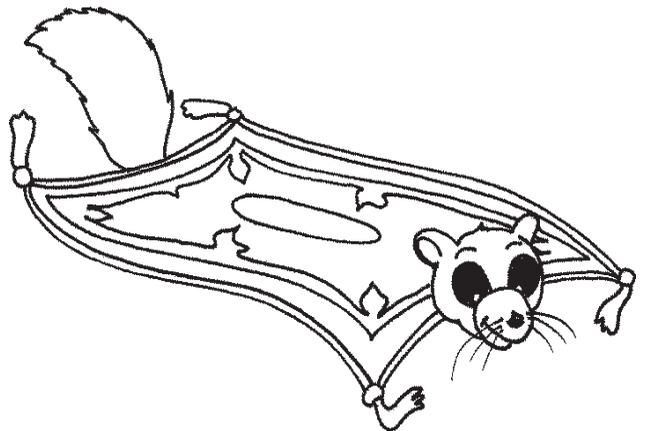


Northern Flying Squirrel

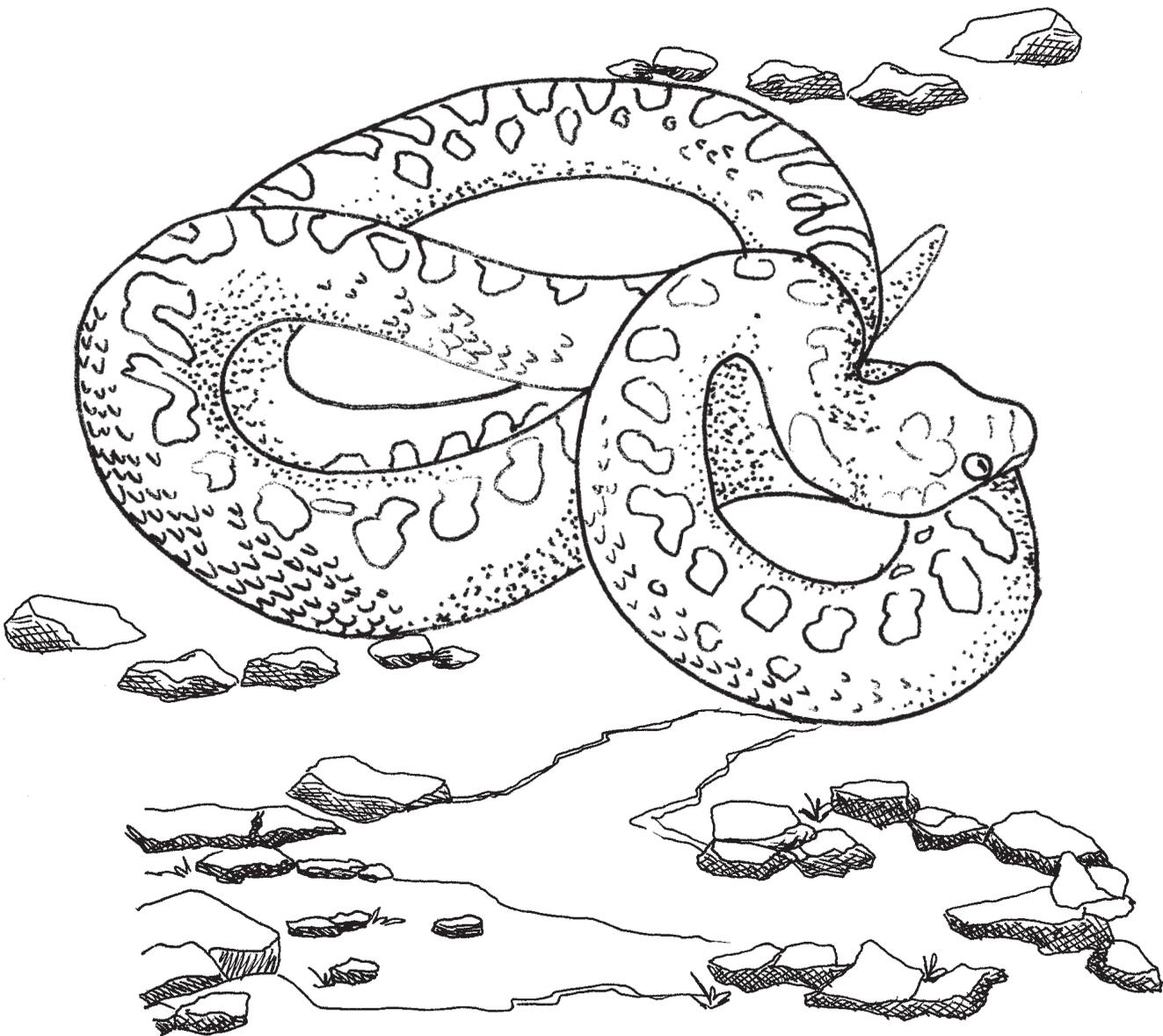




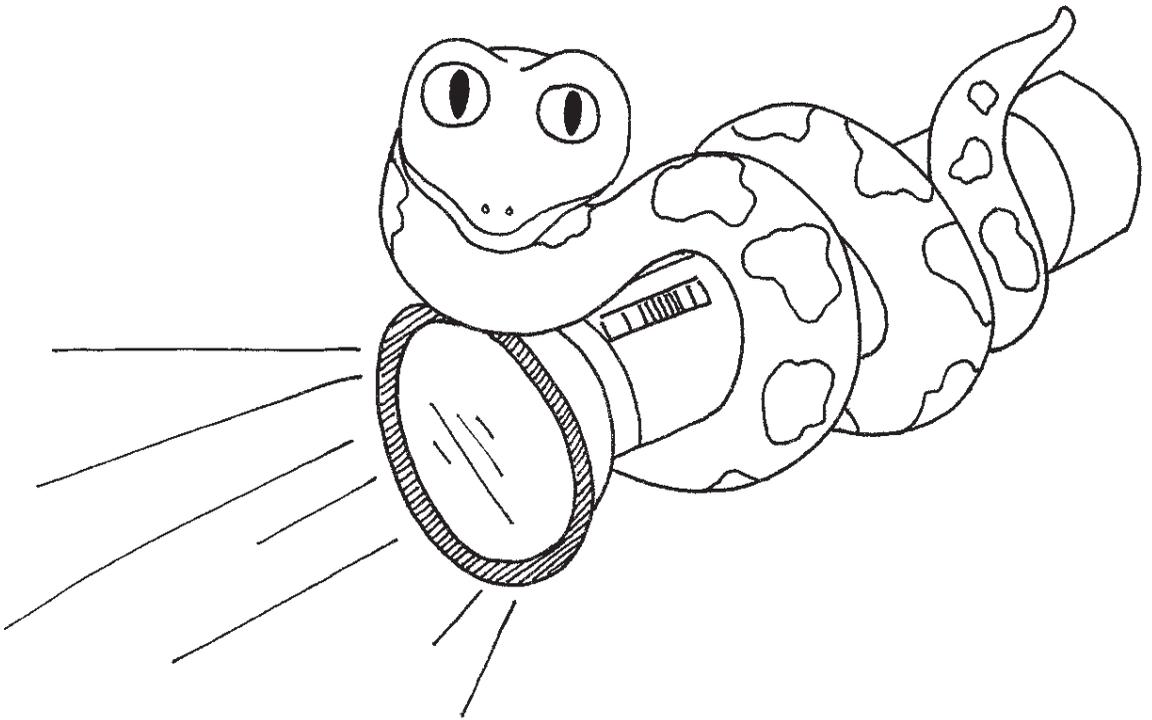
Just like the flying carpet in *Aladdin*, the Northern Flying Squirrel can glide between trees that are over half a football field apart. These squirrels stretch out their legs and use the skin between their front and back legs as parachutes. Like **rudders** steer boats, they use their tails to turn and to brake.



Night Snake



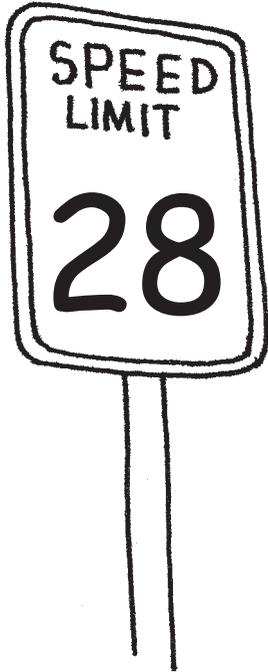
Night Snakes live in a wide variety of **habitats**. They are often mistaken for young rattlesnakes, but don't have rattles on their tails and are not harmful to humans.



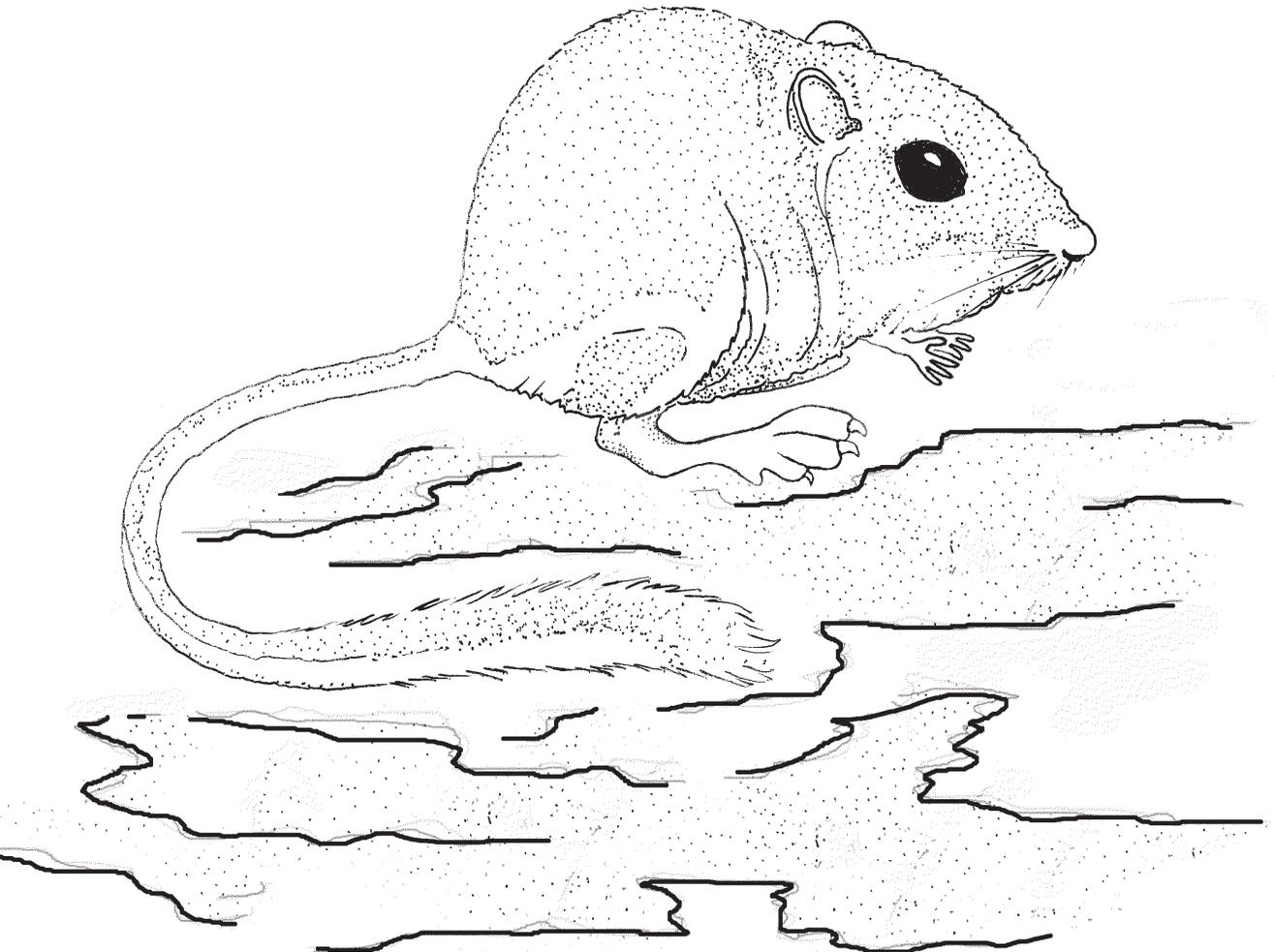
Gray Fox



The Gray Fox is sometimes called the "tree fox" because it is known to climb trees, and often spends its days in the **protective** cover of trees while eating birds, insects, and berries. It can run at speeds up to 28 miles per hour for short distances!



Ord
Kangaroo
Rat



Have you ever seen a kangaroo fight? Ord Kangaroo Rats fight with their hind legs by jumping in the air and kicking at each other. To drink, they use their forefeet to scoop water into their mouths.



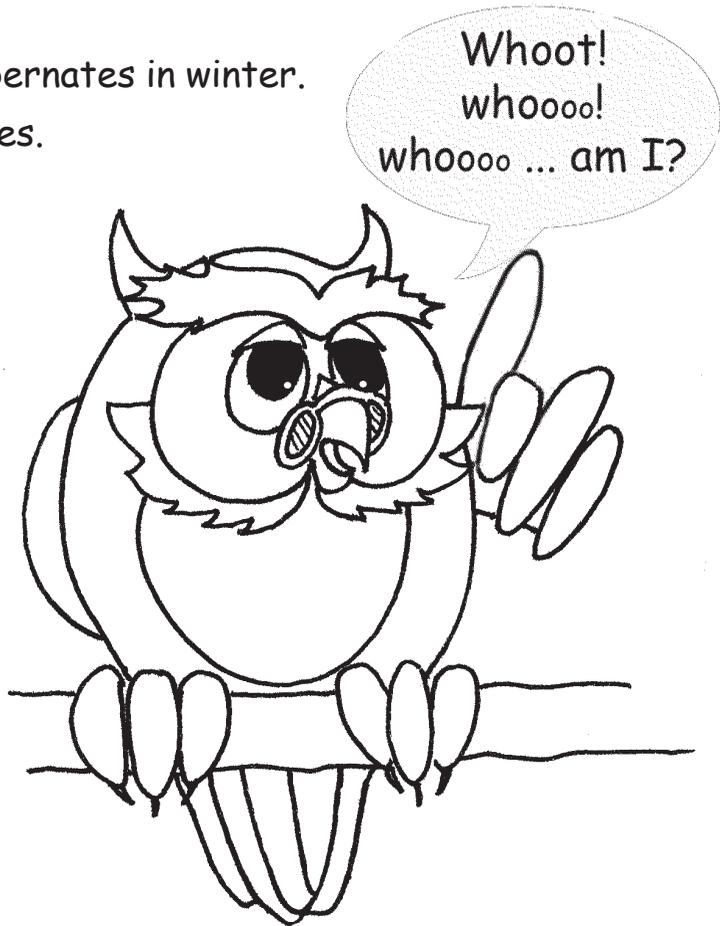
Who am I?

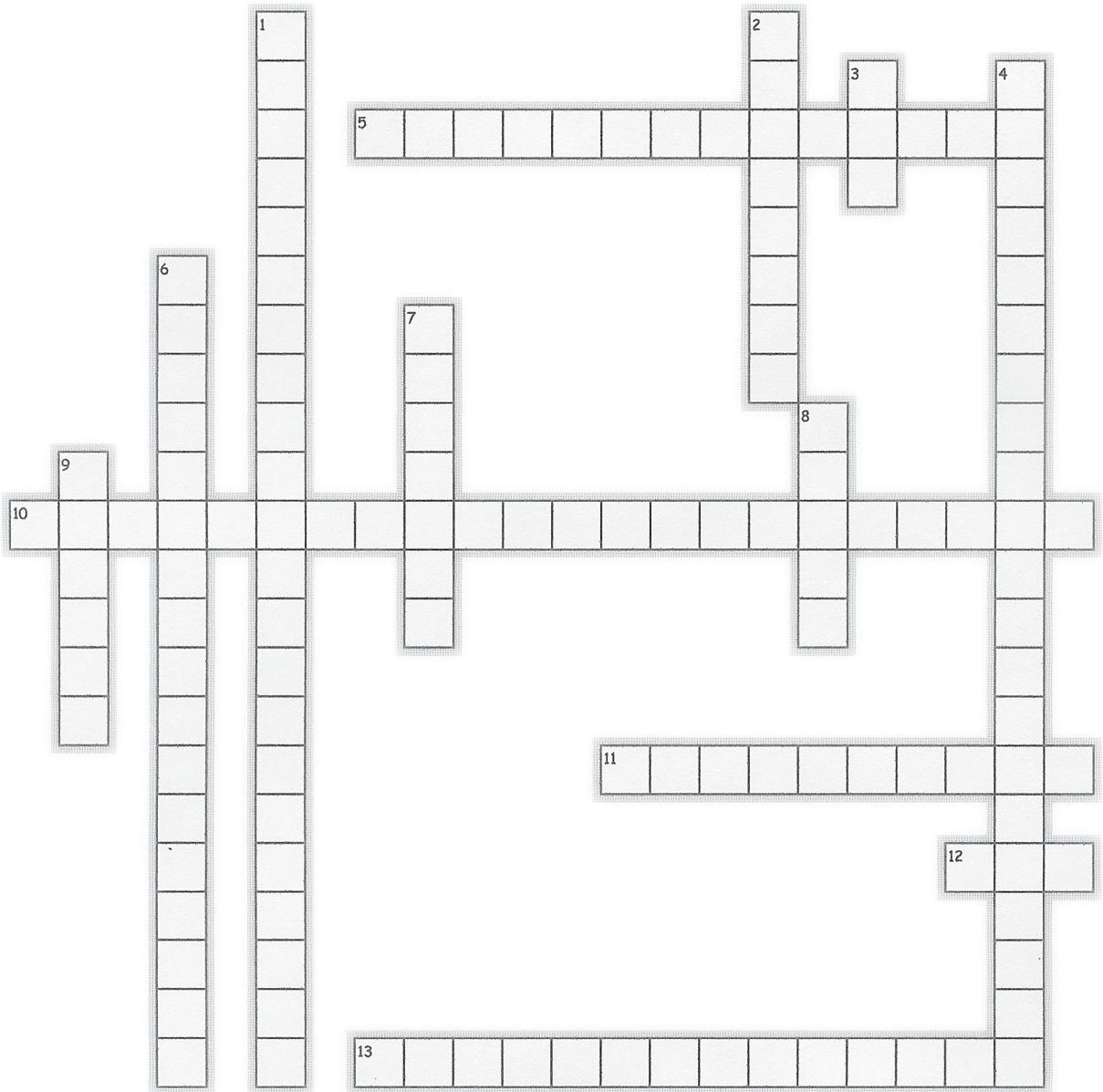
Across

5. I am the only bird that hibernates in winter.
10. I like to glide between trees.
11. I am often mistaken for a rattlesnake.
12. I am a great parent.
13. I like to kick box.

Down

1. Fish fear me.
2. I have many pairs of eyes.
3. I sometimes look like my head is on backward.
4. I have long ears.
6. I may be small, but I am tough.
7. I can run up to 28 mph.
8. My bold markings warn animals to stay away.
9. I like to play with my food.





Word Bank

BLACKCROWNEDNIGHTHERON
 COMMONPOORWILL
 NORTHERNFLYINGSQUIRREL
 SCORPION

BAT
 GRAYFOX
 OWL
 SKUNK
 BOBCAT

BLACKTAILEDJACKRABBIT
 NIGHTSNAKE
 ORDKANGARORAT
 SHORTTAILEDWEASEL

Glossary

habitat - the area where an animal lives - like the forest, desert, or wetland.

hibernate - to spend the winter sleeping.

litter - a group of babies born at one time; a dog gives birth to a litter of puppies.

nocturnal - active at night.

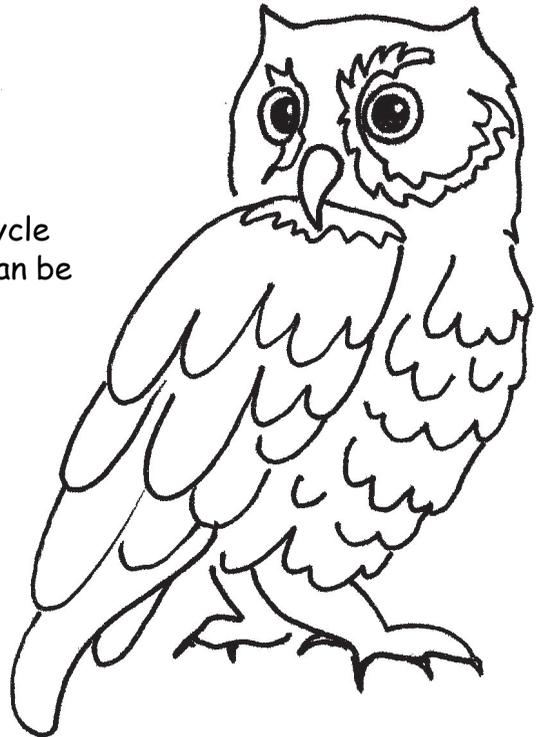
protective - keeping safe.

reflective - acting like a mirror; your bicycle has reflectors on it so you and your bike can be seen at night.

rudder - a piece of wood or metal at the back of a boat or ship used for steering.

sensitive - easily hurt; when you are sunburned, your skin is sensitive.

sensor - something that detects even the smallest movement.



- ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE**
- DOWN**
1. black-crowned night heron
 2. scorpion
 3. owl
 4. black-tailed jackrabbit
 6. short-tailed weasel
 7. gray fox
 8. skunk
 9. bobcat
- ACROSS**
5. common poorwill
 10. northern flying squirrel
 11. night snake
 12. bat
 13. ord kangaroo rat