

# Cave Coloring Book



Hoosier National Forest

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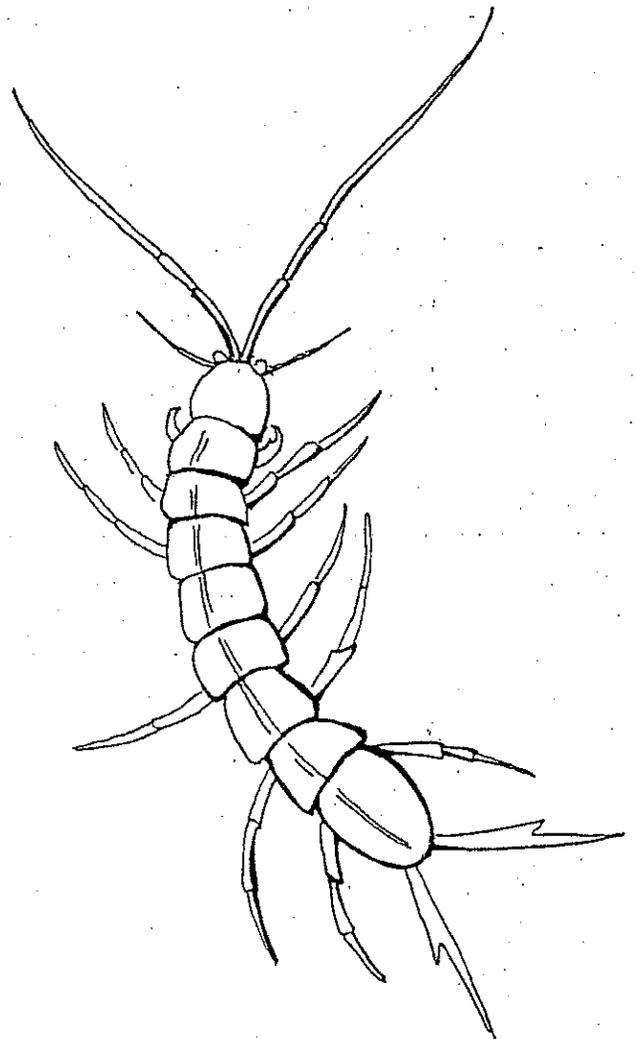
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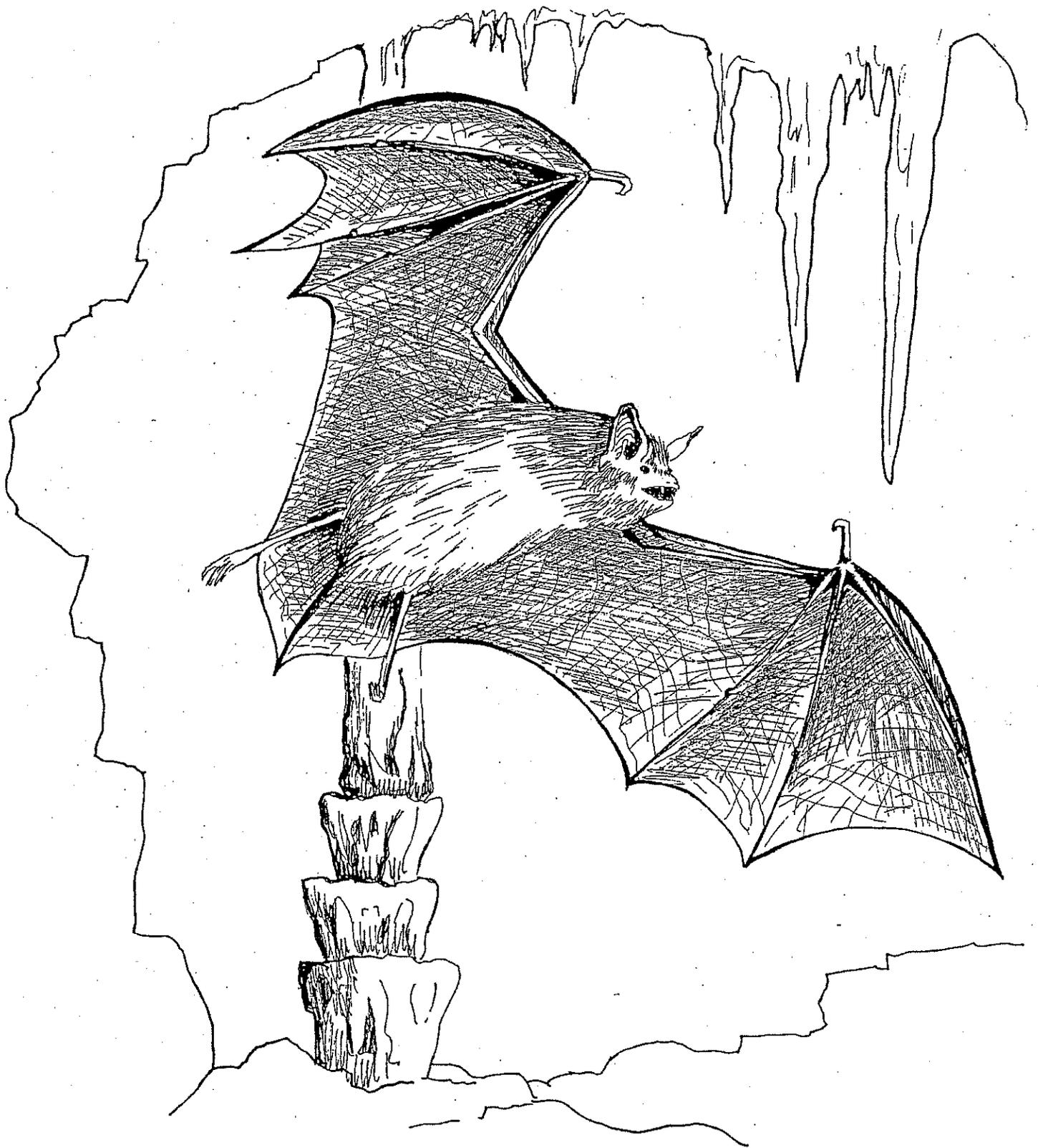
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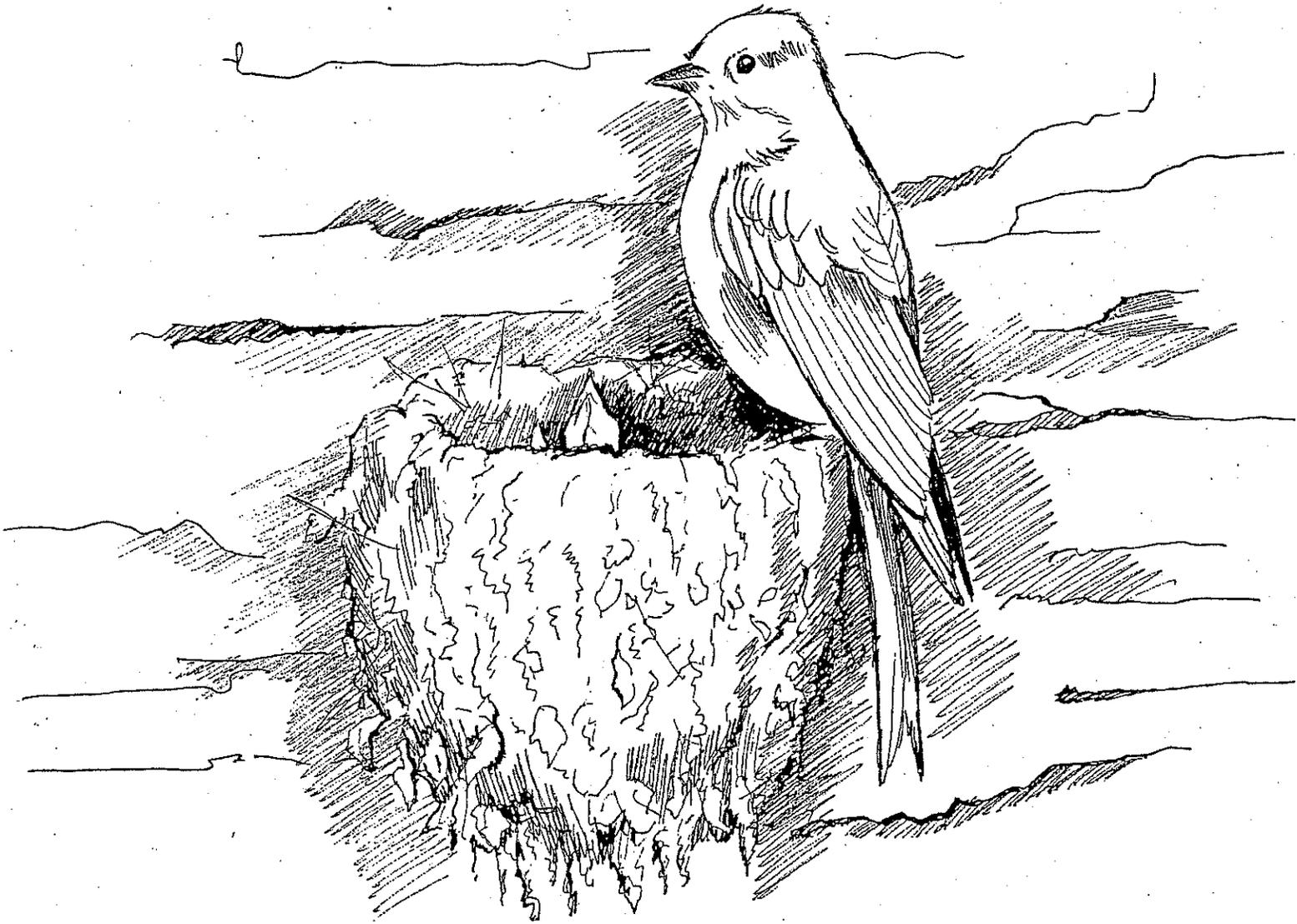
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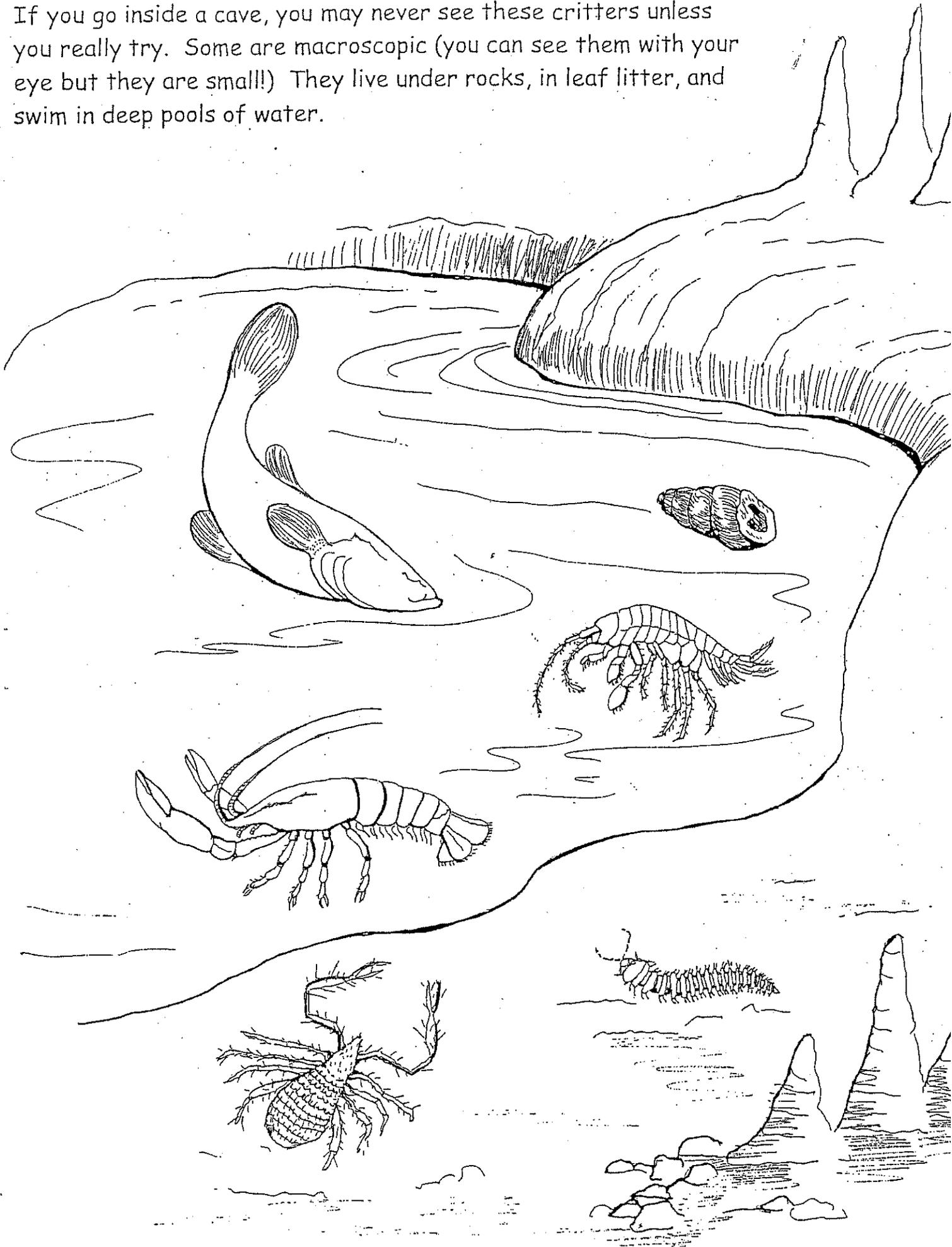


The Indiana Bat is Federally & State endangered. Ninety seven percent of the bats only live in 7 caves! These bats love cold caves to hibernate in during the winter. The Forest Service counts these bats while they are hibernating to check on their population.



The Eastern Phoebe loves to build its nest at the entrance of a cave. Their nests are made up of moss and mud. They will also build their nests under ledges, under bridges, and on porches. Phoebes eat insects and sometimes berries in the winter.

If you go inside a cave, you may never see these critters unless you really try. Some are macroscopic (you can see them with your eye but they are small!!) They live under rocks, in leaf litter, and swim in deep pools of water.

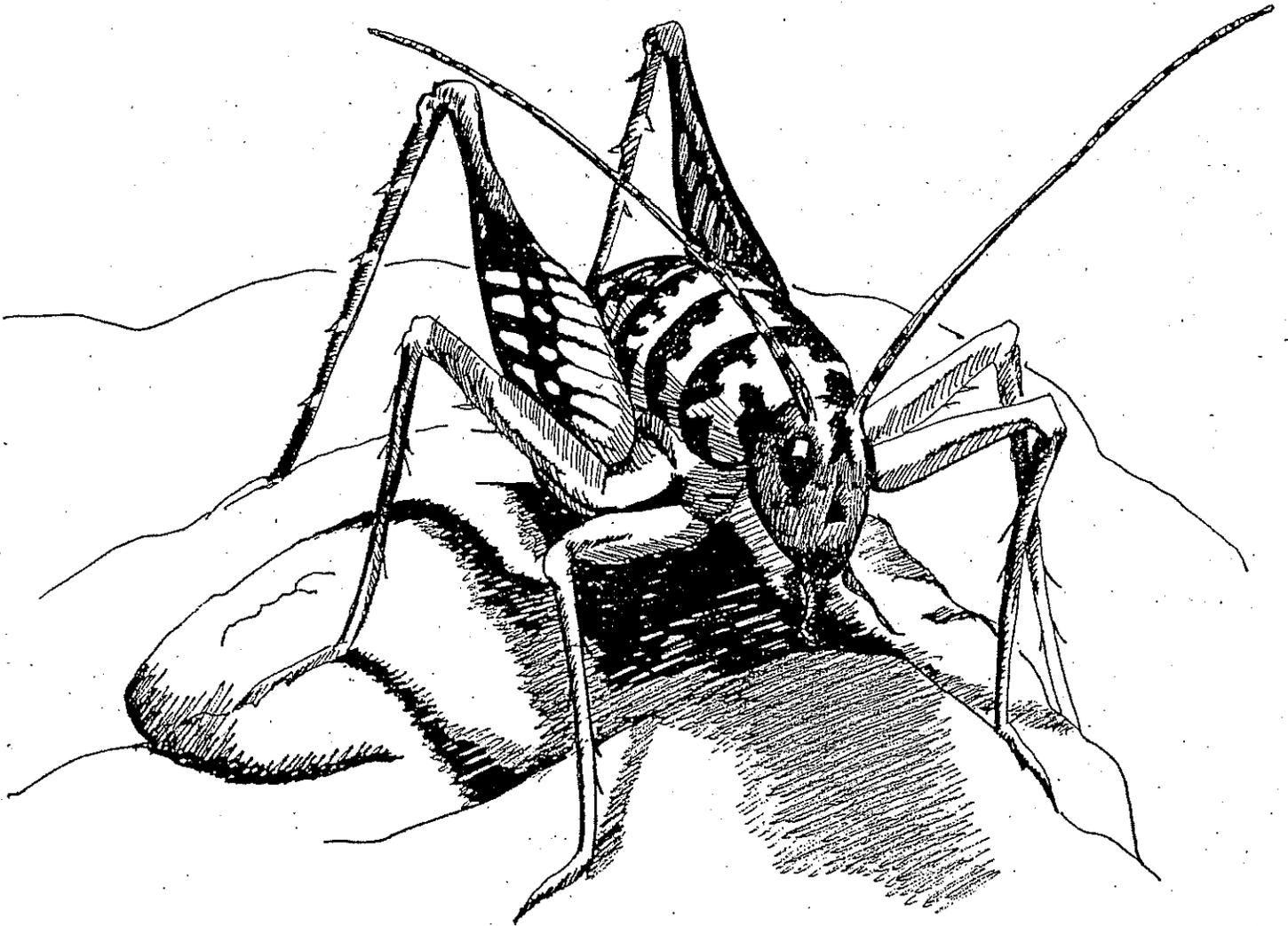




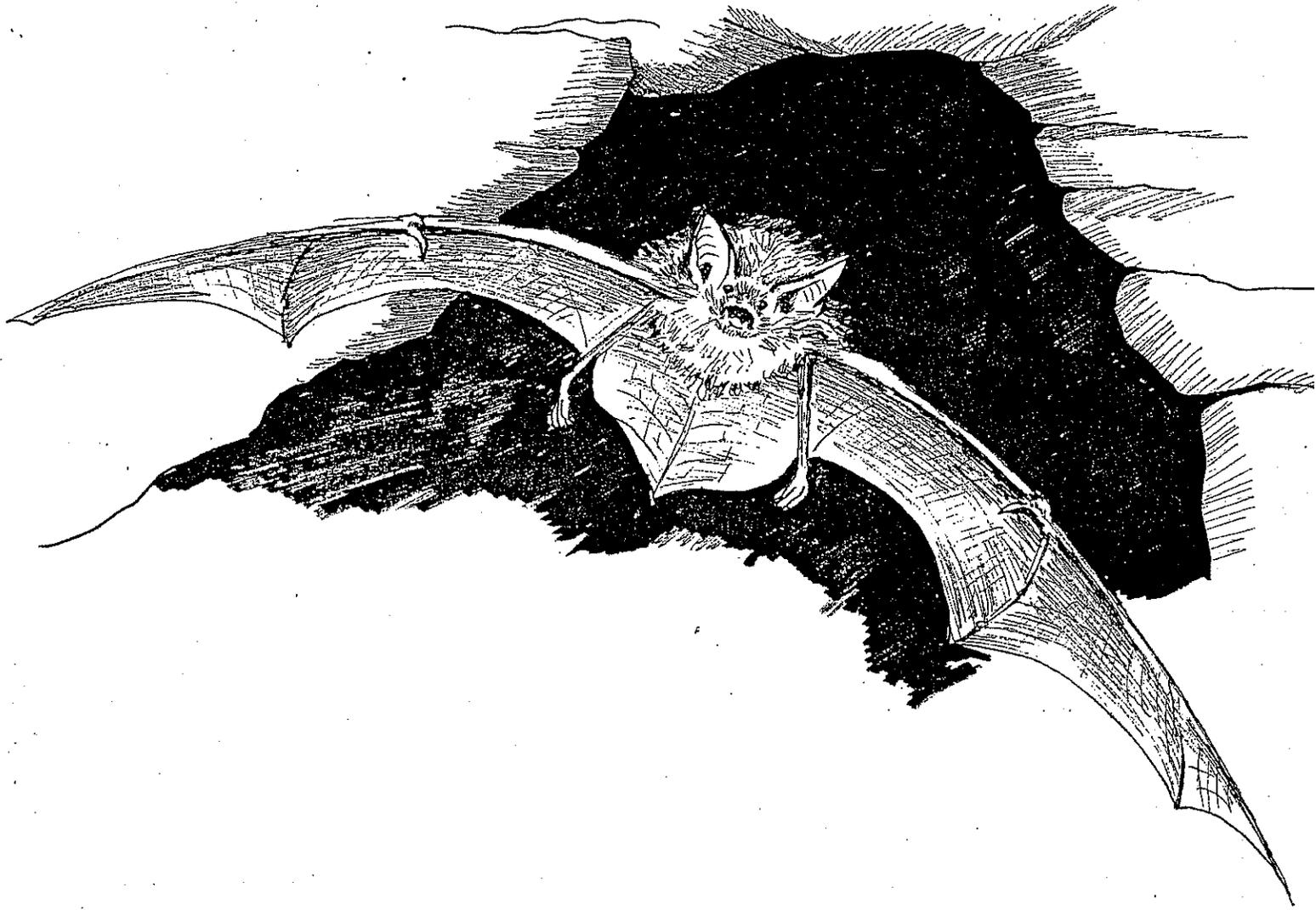
The cave salamander is one of the most colorful animals found in the caves. They are a bright orange with black spots. They are also great climbers and will hide inside cracks & crevices of the cave.



The range of Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat includes southern Indiana, but it is rare on the Forest. It likes to eat moths and other night-flying insects. Their wing span is 10-12 inches long.

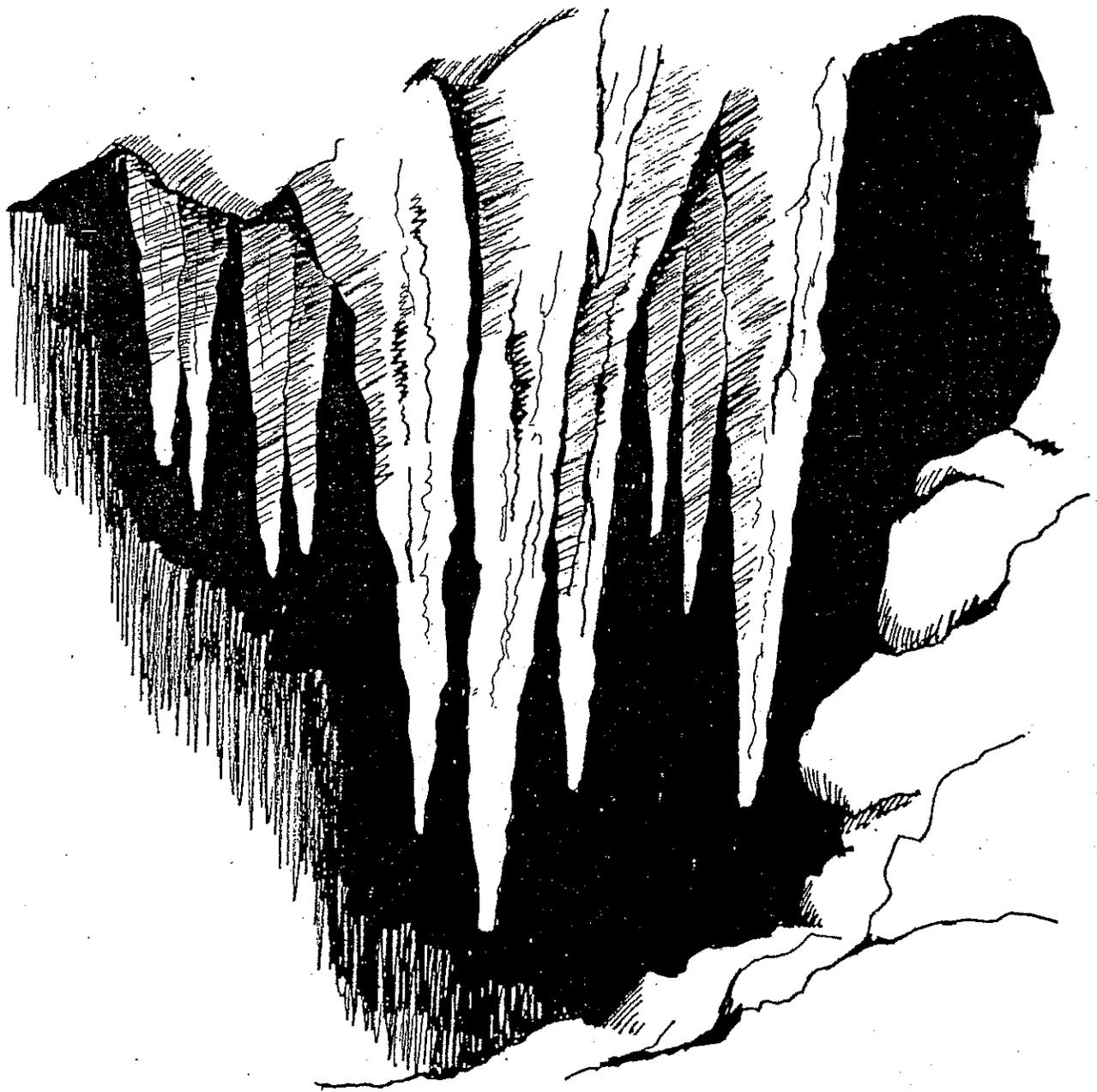


These insects can be found on ledges, walls, and ceilings of Indiana caves. Cave Crickets can be very plentiful. They also leave the cave at night to feed. The cricket's antennae are longer than their bodies and they do not "chirp" like crickets do on the surface.

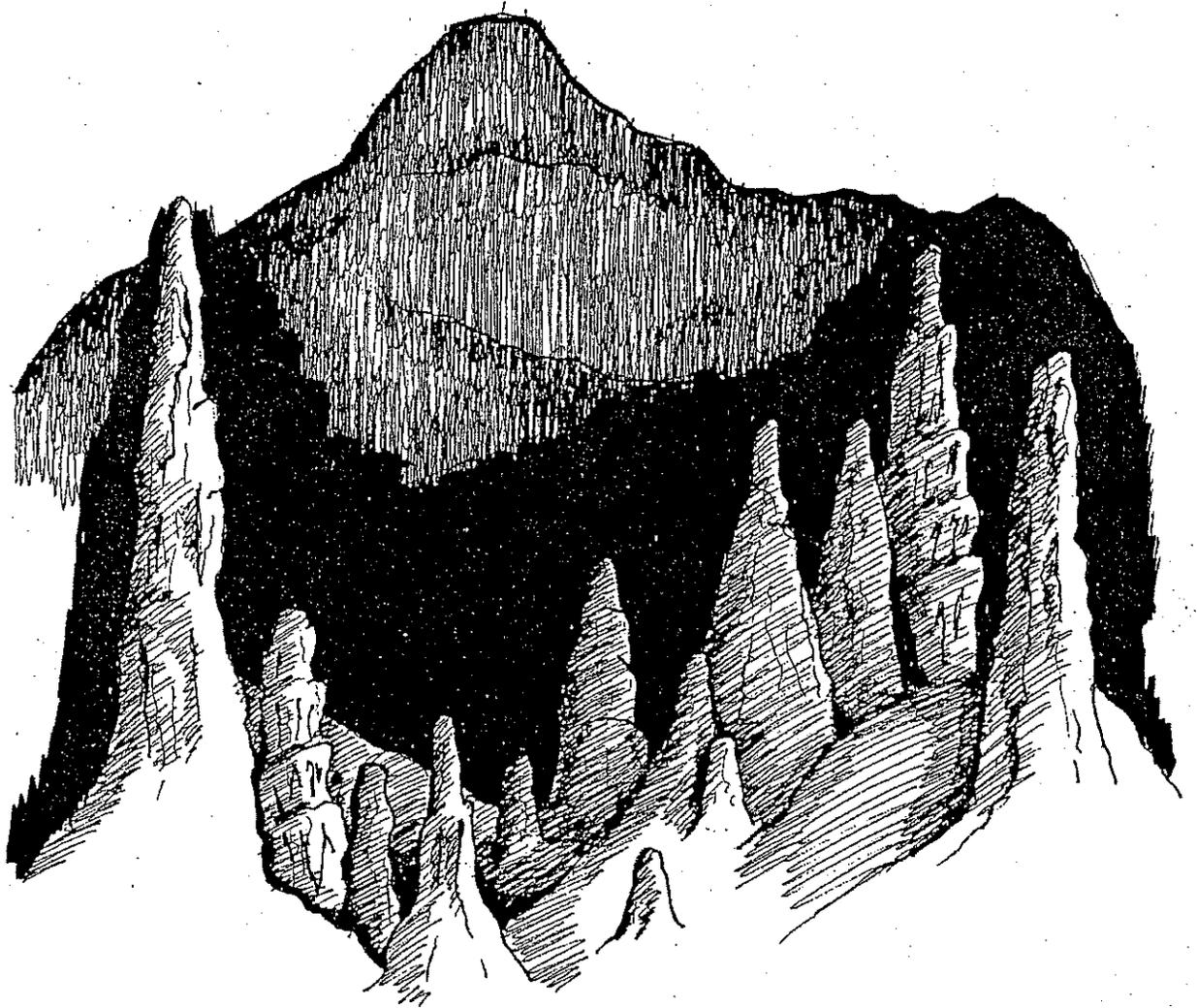


Little Brown Bats are common cave residents in Indiana. They can be 9-11 inches long. Along with all bats in Indiana, they are insectivorous and will eat gnats, wasps, beetles, crane flies, and moths.

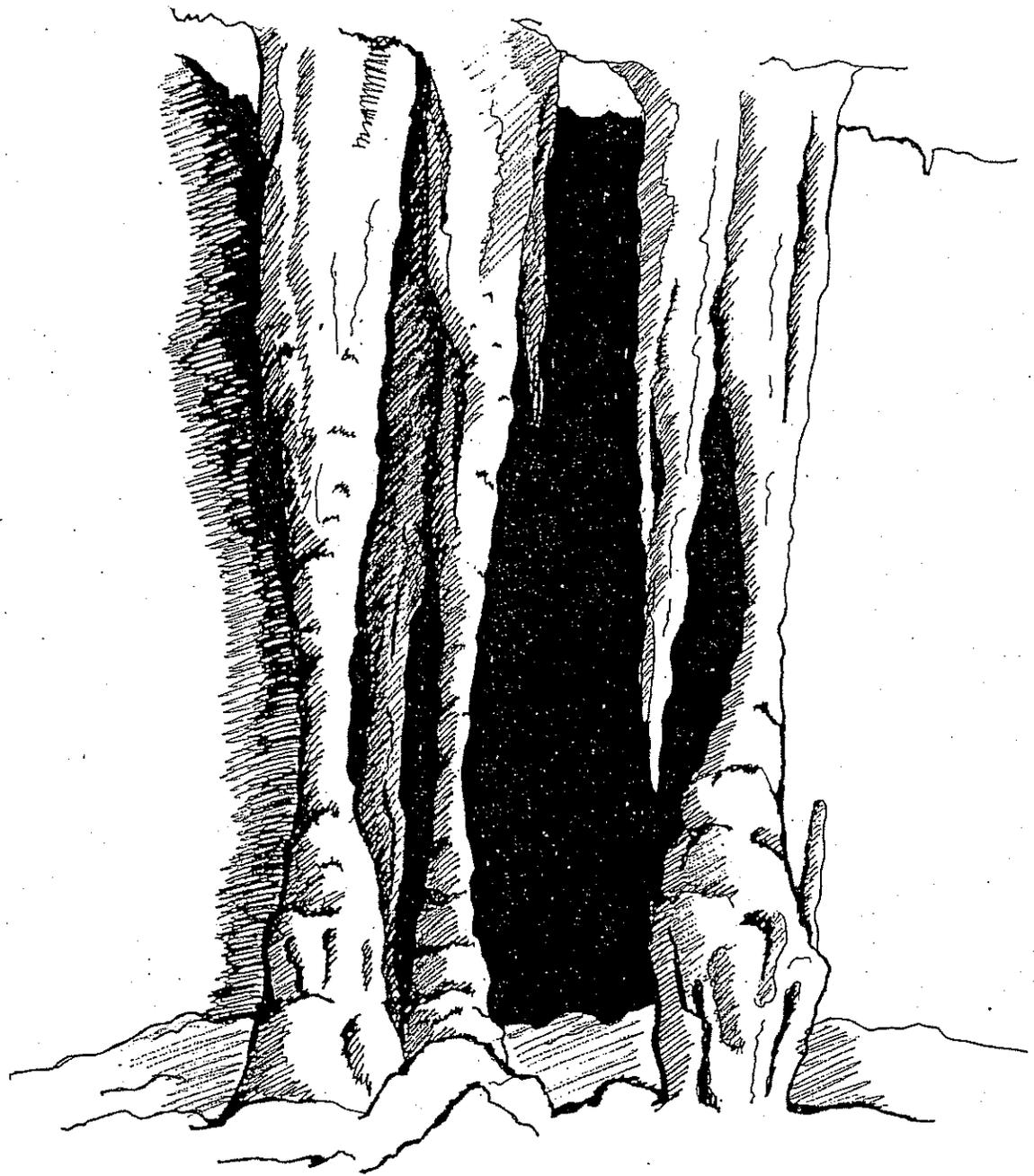




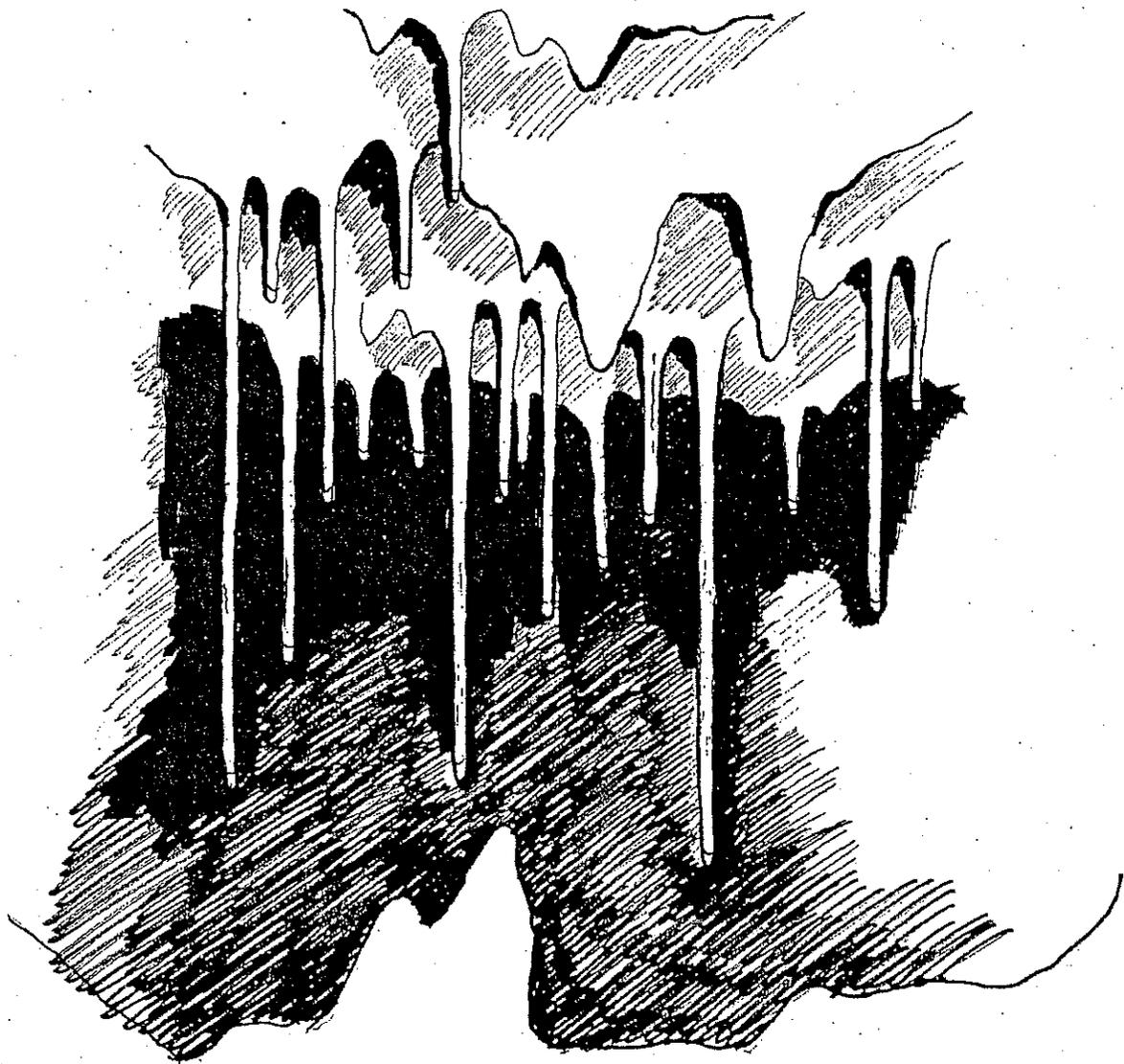
These speleothems (which is a fancy word for cave deposits & formations) are everyone's favorite. Stalactites are found on the *top* of caves. They grow down from the ceiling. The length of the stalactite slowly grows from the calcite which deposits on the outside of the formation.



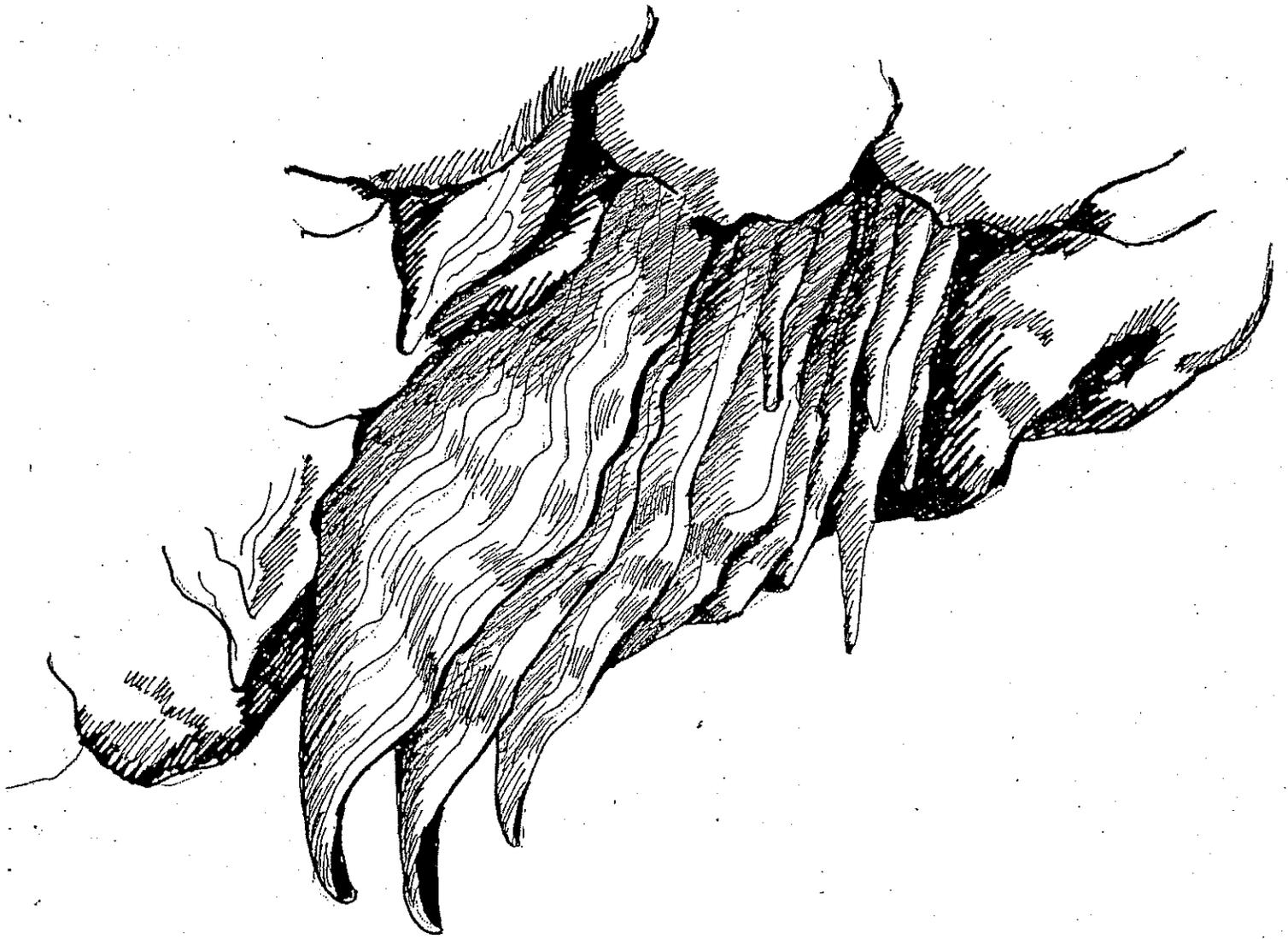
Stalagmites are found on the cave floor. These formations point up and can be very impressive. They are usually formed from dripping water from the stalactites above, but not always.



These formations, called columns, are either formed when a stalactite joins with a stalagmite, or when one of them grows all the way to the ceiling or floor.



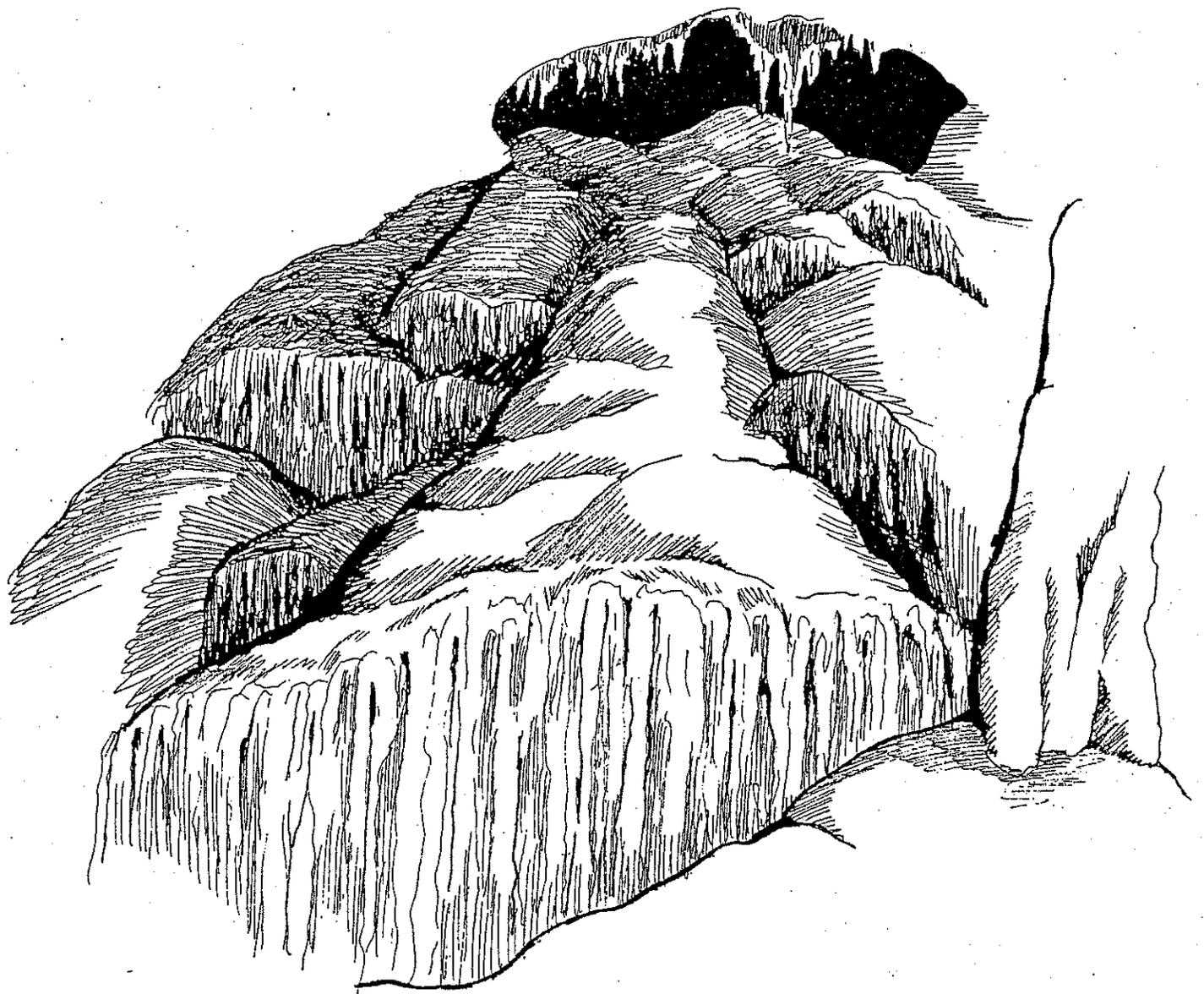
Soda Straws are hollow tubes that grow from cave ceilings. It is easy to see where their name came from. Water flows inside them and deposits calcite. That's how they grow longer.



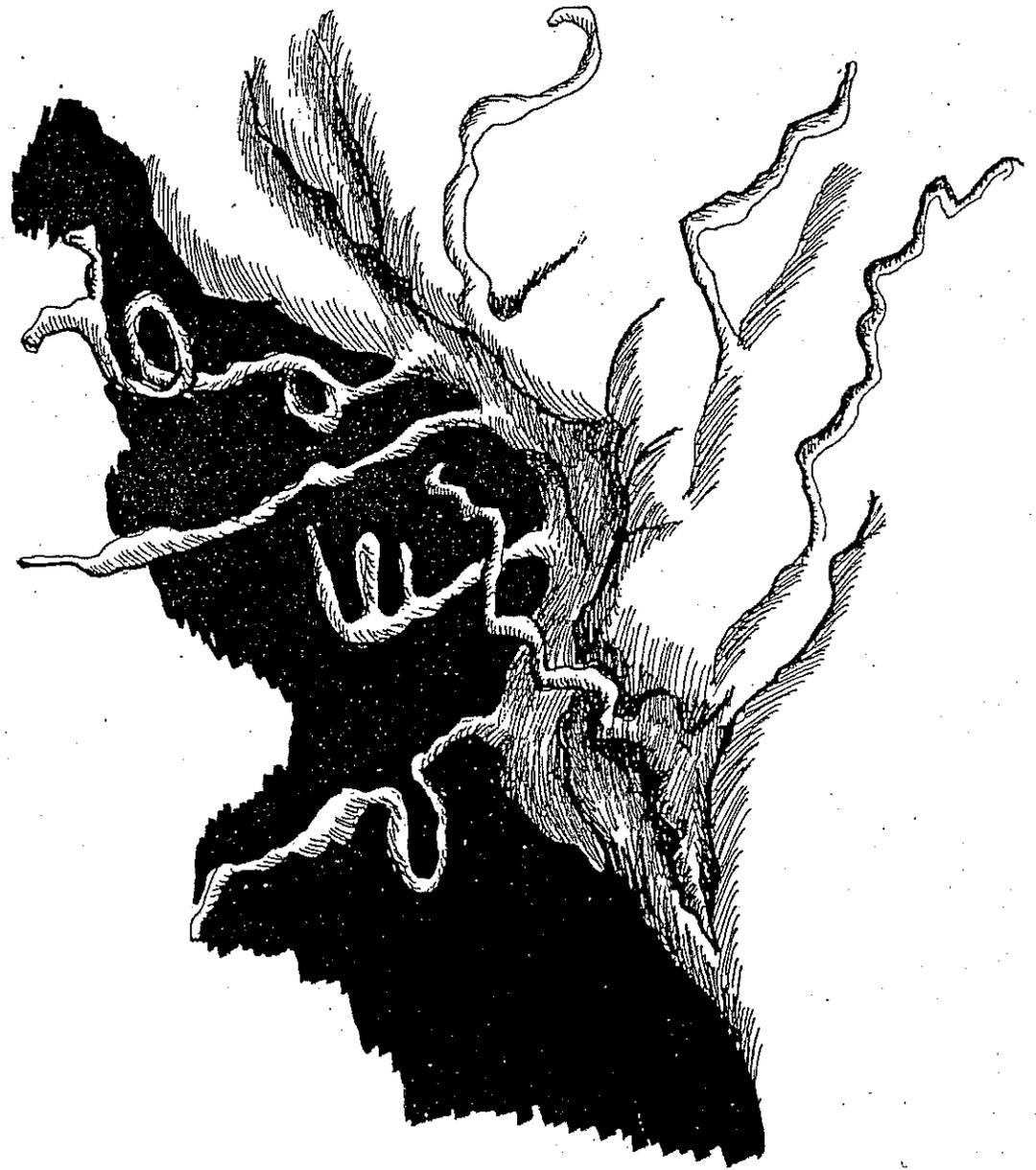
This speleothem is also called "cave bacon" because sometimes it has bands of color flowing through it. Draperies are formed by drops of water running down a slanted ceiling.



Gypsum Flowers are actually crystals that are growing inside the cave. They are very fragile and can be made up of different minerals. Usually the mineral is gypsum.



Flowstone is formed when water flows over cave floors or down cave walls and then deposits calcite. It can even form over other formations. Flowstone looks like waterfalls made of solid rock.



Helictites are believed to be formed by seeping water and/or the airflow inside caves. They seem to defy gravity by growing sideways on walls at varying angles. They can grow on ceilings and floors also. Helictites are the most unusual of all the speleothems.