



DESERTS & WOODLANDS Activity Book

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A habitat is a natural home of animals and plants. In this book we look at three habitats in Australia.

If you go inland from the wet coastal areas the habitats get drier. As the rainfall gets less most of the plants are smaller. The forests merge into woodlands with their smaller trees and then into scrublands with their large shrubs. Deserts are mostly covered by small shrubs and grasses as there is no longer enough water for larger plants to grow.



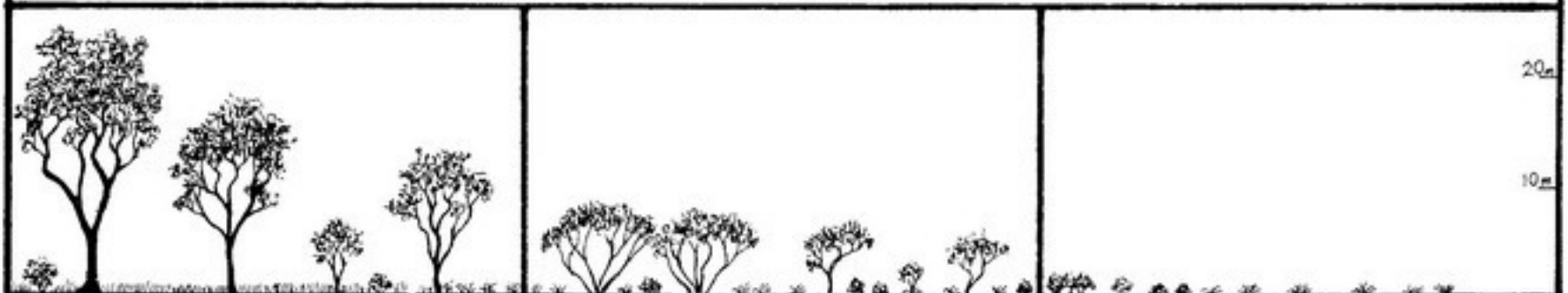
Mark on the map where you live and write the name of the habitat closest to you.

Deserts are found in the areas marked D, colour them red.
Scrublands are found in the areas marked S, colour them brown.
Woodlands are found in the areas marked W, colour them green.

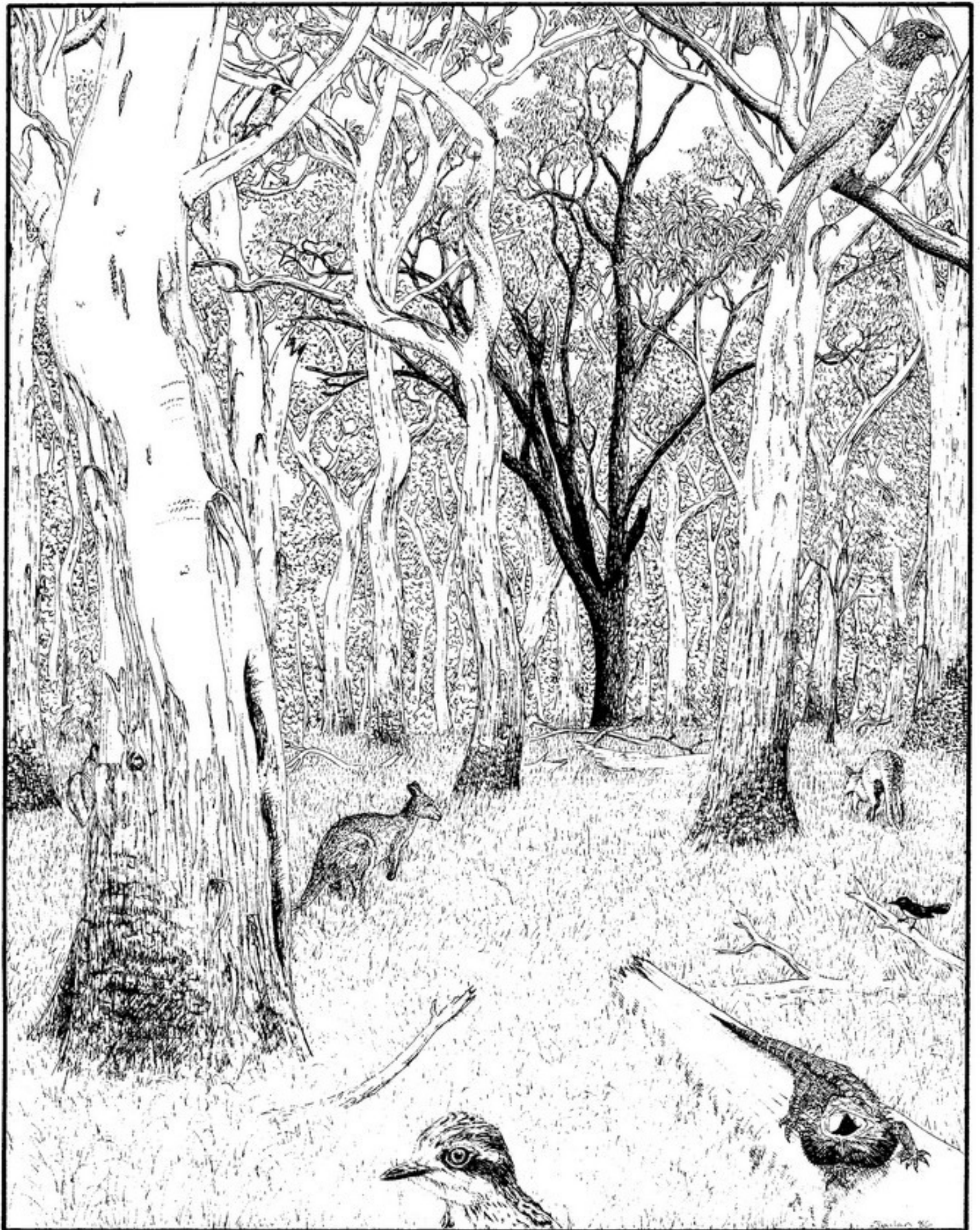
Woodlands p. 3

Scrublands p. 15

Deserts p. 21



Woodlands



Eucalypts and wattles are the main trees of the woodlands. The trees are not very tall and branch less than halfway up the tree. They grow apart so that their leafy crowns do not touch.

Grasses and small hard leaved shrubs grow under the trees. In the wetter areas the woodlands merge into open forests. In the drier areas more grasses grow as the trees become smaller and far apart. This is called savanna woodland.

Woodlands are the most widespread of Australia's tree habitats. As they grow in good farming areas most of them have been cleared and what is left is being damaged by non-native grazing animals.

Many native animals live only in the woodlands. In the past 200 years some others have died out from this and the drier habitats. More may soon die out unless we help them. When an animal is lost forever it is extinct.

Find the 7 animals on the other side of this page and colour them in.

Many types of animals live in the woodlands. Can you find the ones in this puzzle?

T	H	O	N	E	Y	E	A	T	E	R
D	R	O	N	G	O	A	N	N	A	E
K	O	O	K	A	B	U	R	R	A	T
A	C	U	R	L	E	W	R	E	N	O
D	U	N	N	A	R	T	O	A	D	P
A	C	O	C	K	A	T	O	O	W	L
P	A	S	K	I	N	K	I	T	E	E
D	R	A	G	O	N	U	M	B	A	T
R	O	S	E	L	L	A	N	T	C	A
D	O	V	E	A	P	I	G	E	O	N
B	E	T	T	O	N	G	F	R	O	G

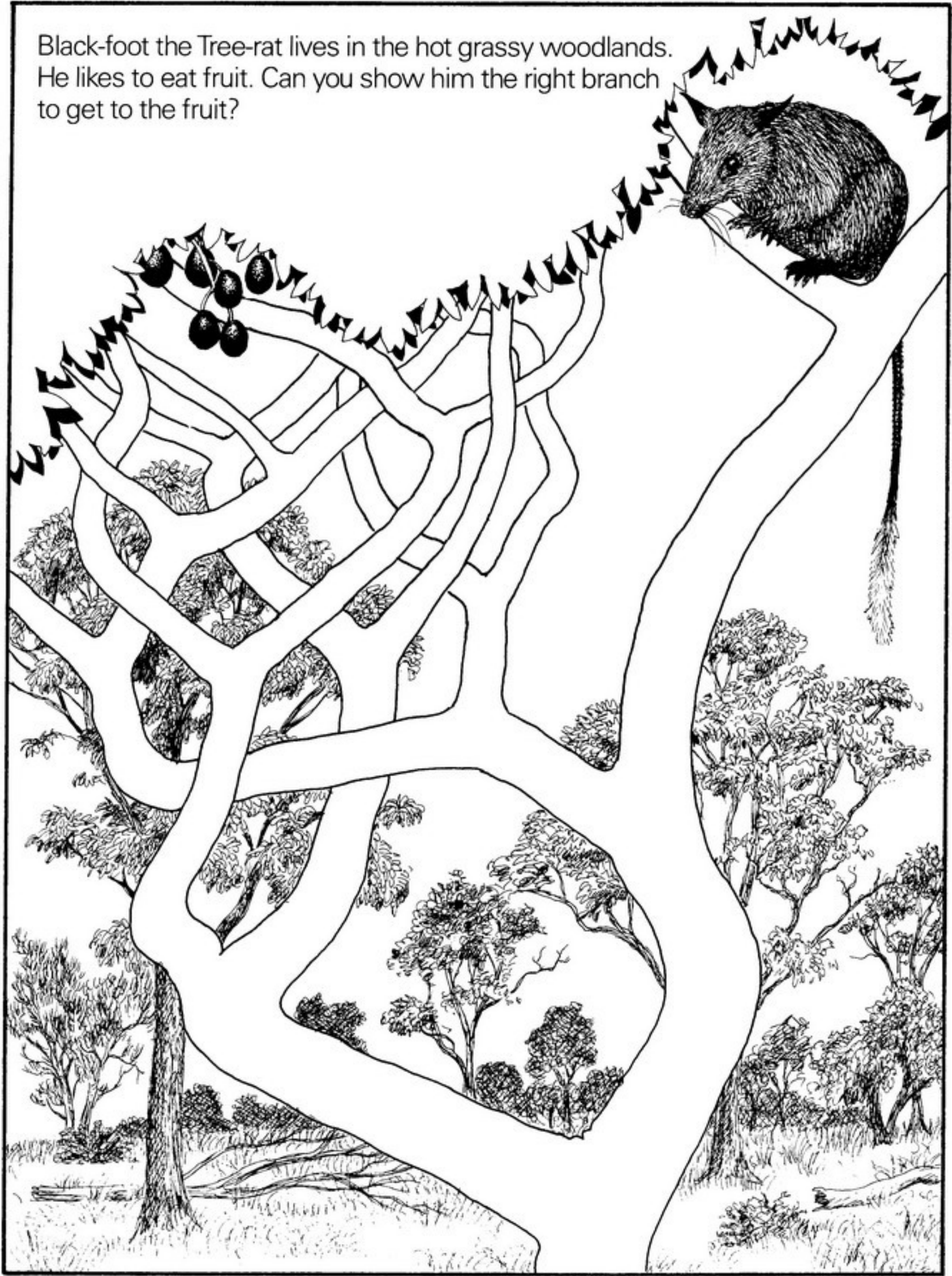
- | | |
|------------|------------|
| ANT | KITE |
| BETTONG | KOOKABURRA |
| COCKATOO | NUMBAT |
| CURLEW | OWL |
| DOVE | PIGEON |
| DRAGON | RAT |
| DRONGO | ROSELLA |
| DUNNART | SKINK |
| FROG | TOAD |
| GOANNA | WREN |
| HONEYEATER | |

Bandy the small Numbat lives in the Wandoo woodlands. She has scratched open a termite tunnel and they are all trying to get away, but she can catch them with her long sticky tongue. Draw Bandy a new tongue for each time she catches a termite. Colour the Kangaroo Paw flowers green with a red stem. How many times can you write Numbat along her back?

Numbat and Kangaroo Paw are emblems of Western Australia.



Black-foot the Tree-rat lives in the hot grassy woodlands. He likes to eat fruit. Can you show him the right branch to get to the fruit?



In each line circle the one animal that does not belong with the other animals.



Spectacled Hare-wallaby



Red-cheeked Dunnart



Spotted Grass Frog



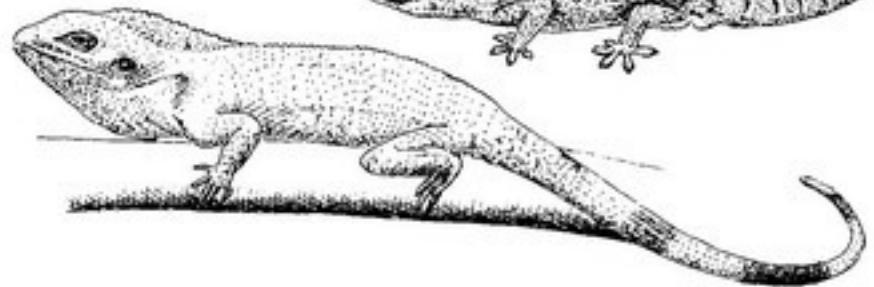
Eastern Barred Bandicoot



Yakka Skink



Bandy Bandy



Chameleon Dragon



Northern Dtella



Black-tailed Treecreeper



Blue-faced Honeyeater



Superb Blue Wren



Golden-backed Tree-rat



Black-shouldered Kite



Glasswing



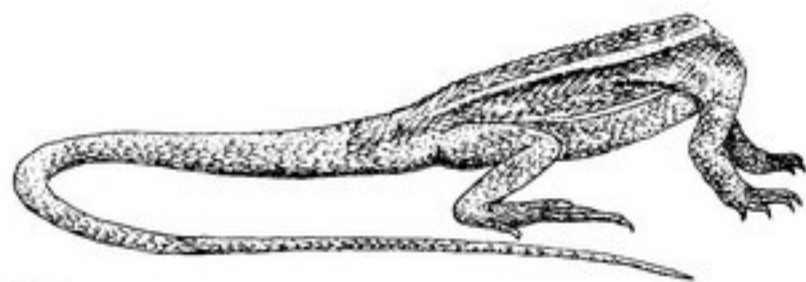
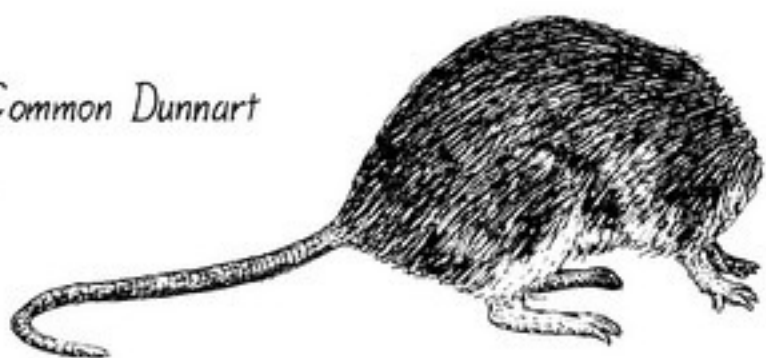
Peaceful Dove



Grey Butcherbird

These animals have lost their heads. Draw a line from each animal to its right head.

Common Dunnart

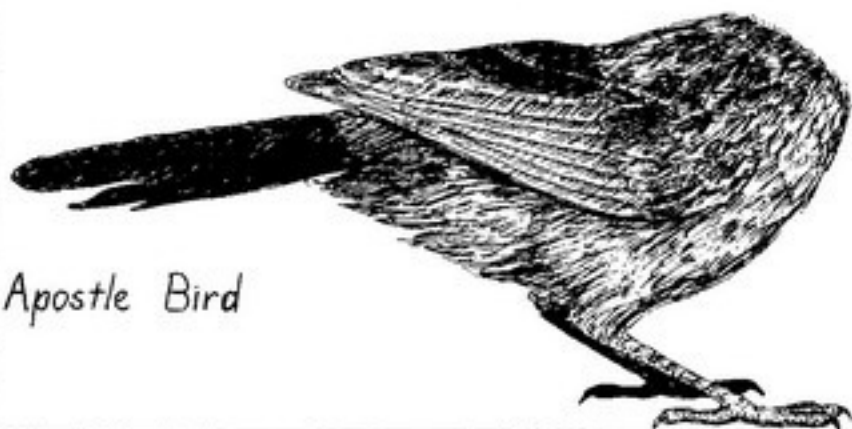


Nobbi

Marbled Frog



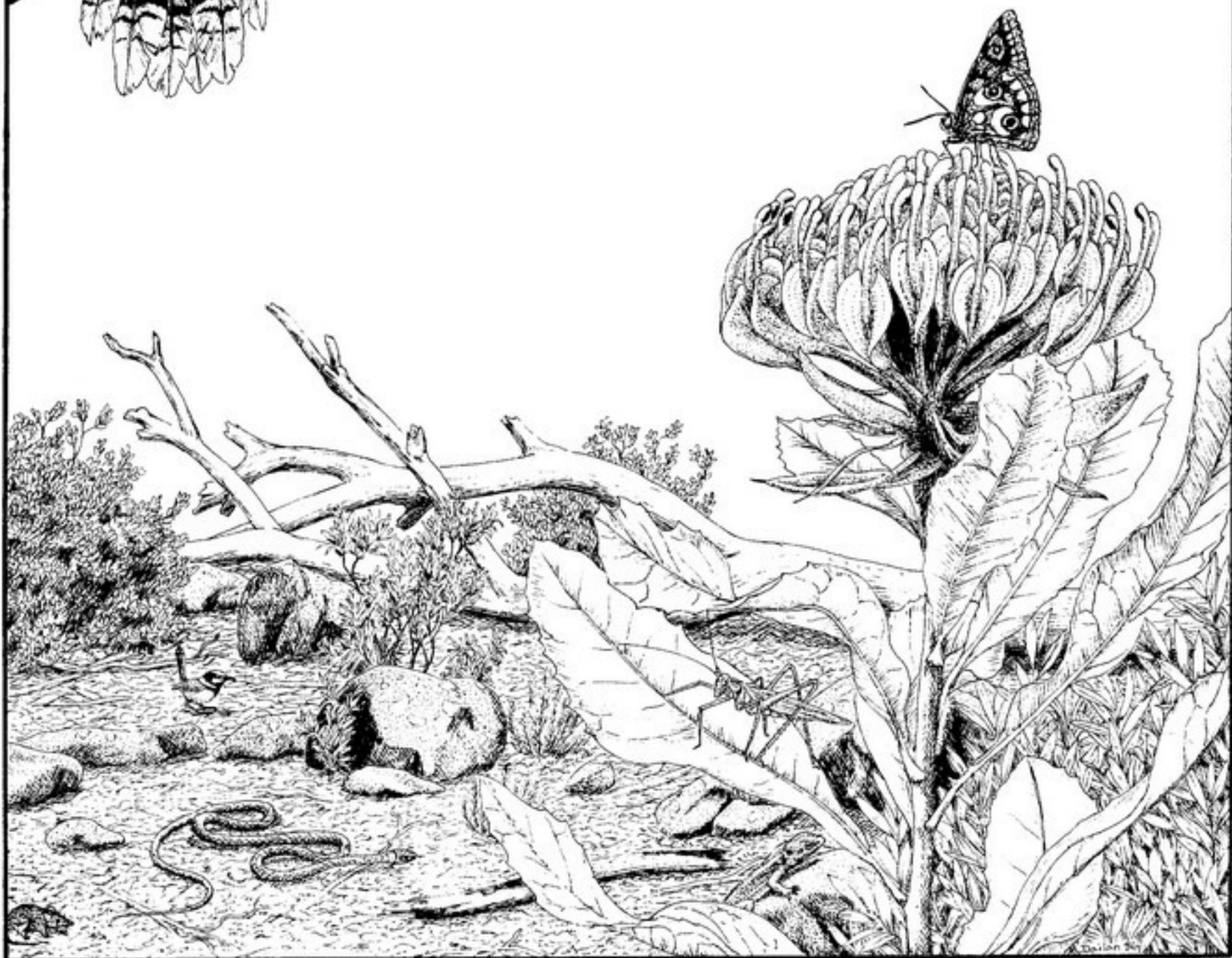
Apostle Bird





Kookaburra has been laughing so long she is now very hungry. Can you find the six animals in the picture for her to eat? Draw circles around them. Colour the Waratah flowers red.

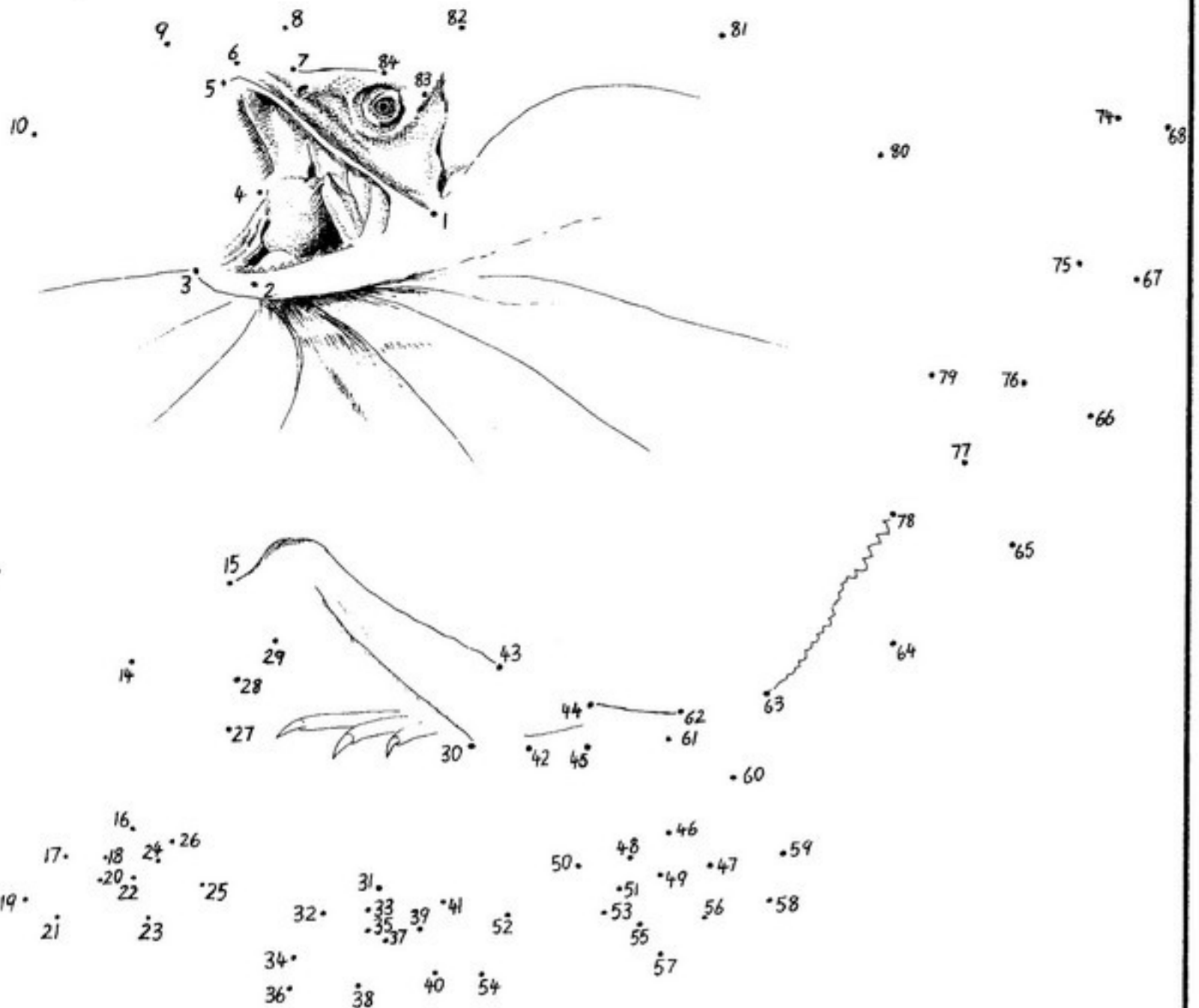
Kookaburra and Waratah are emblems of New South Wales.



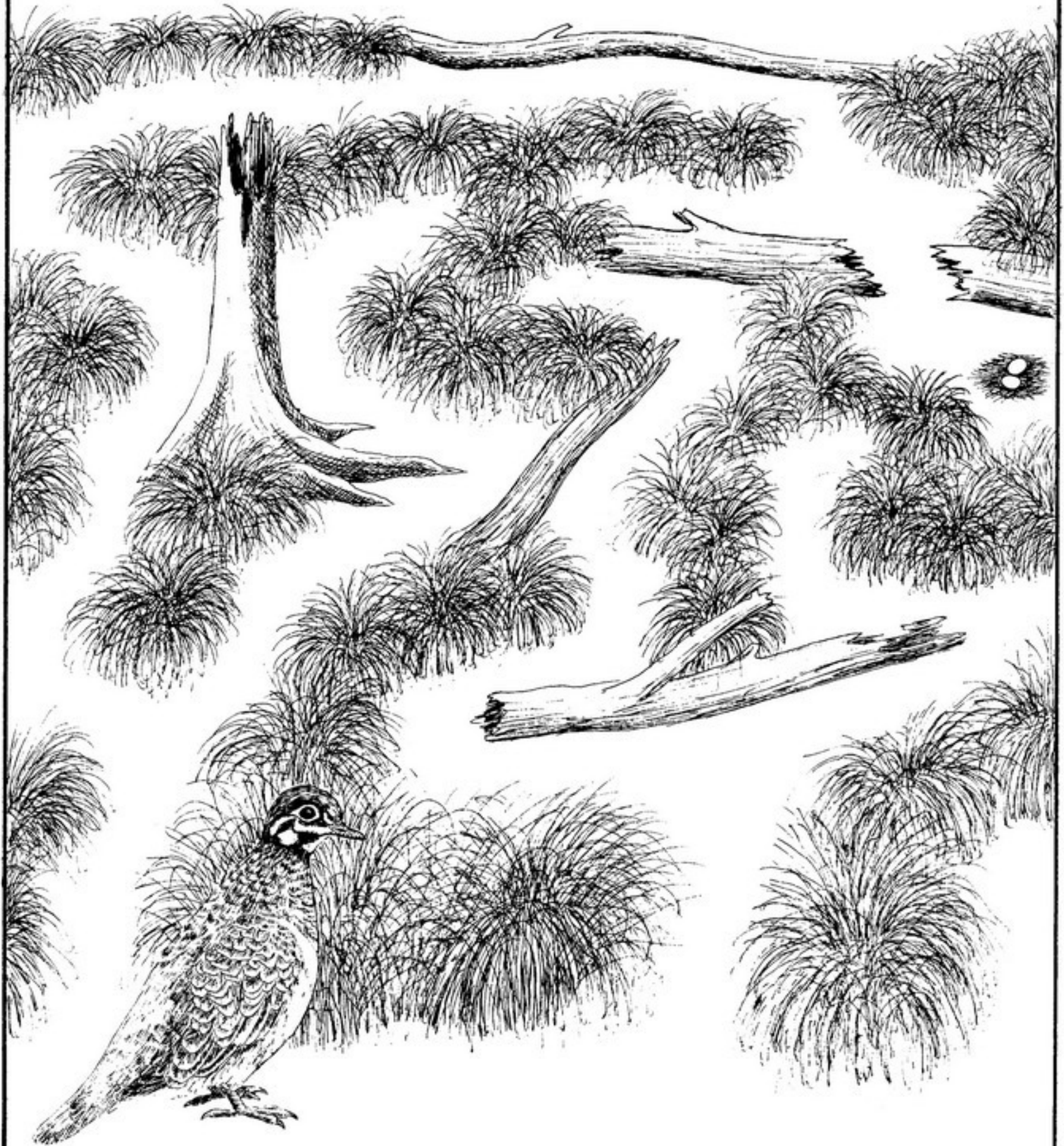
Join the dots to see what this strange woodland animal looks like. To find out its name change each of these coded numbers to the right letter shown in the box;

4 7 5 6 6 3 2 6 5 9 1 7 2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A	D	E	F	I	L	R	S	Z



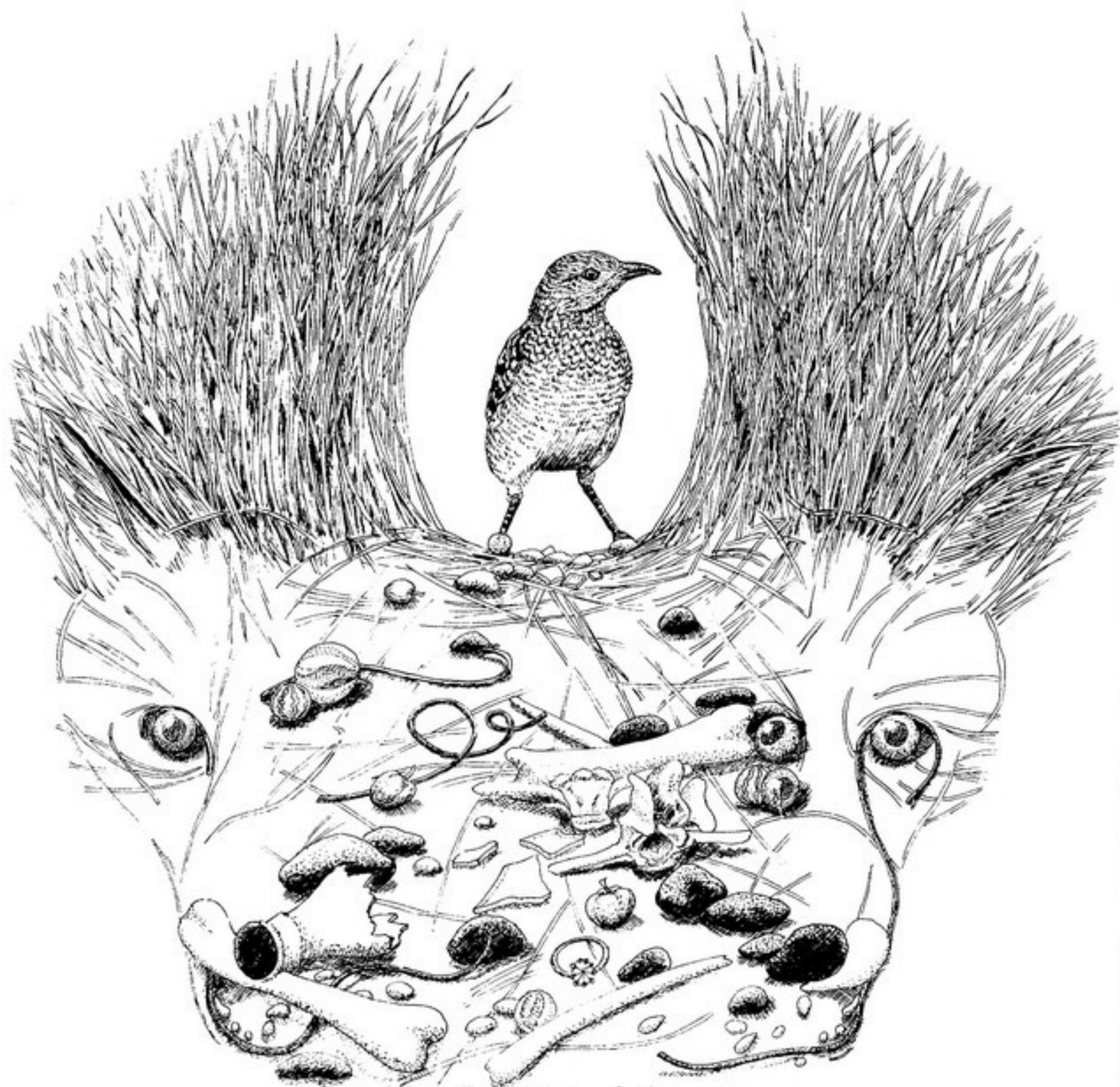
Squatter the Pigeon spends most of her time walking around feeding on grass seeds. She has to get back to her eggs but can't remember the way. Can you show her a way so that she doesn't have to fly over anything?



A▶

◀B

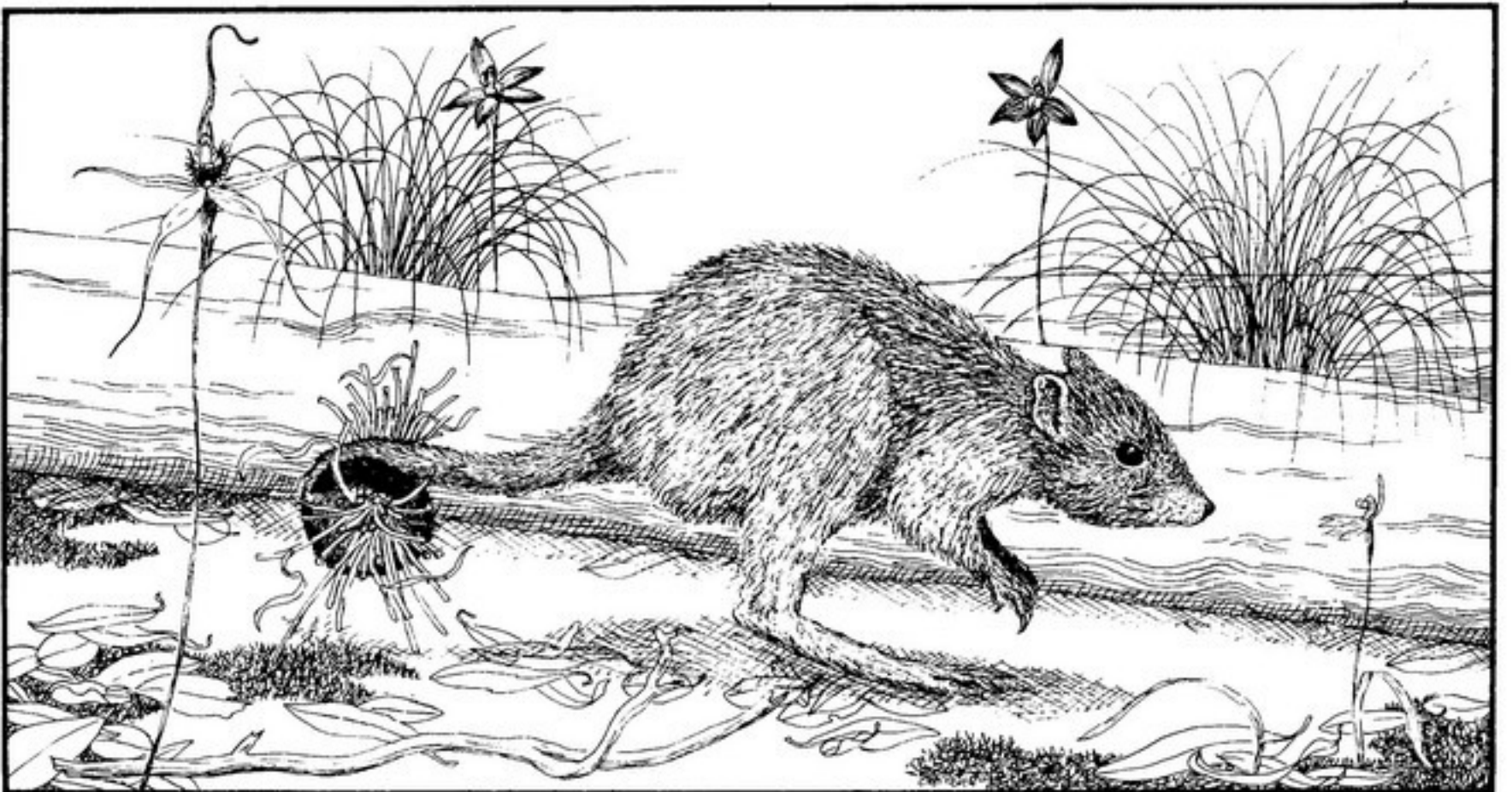
Spot the Bowerbird builds an avenue of grass and sticks in which he dances to females. Spot sleeps at night in a tree so that he will not be eaten by a non-native animal that kills many Australian animals that live on the ground. Fold A to B to find out what the non-native animal is.



Spot has collected lots of things to decorate his bower; stones, a ring, glass, fruit, marbles, wire and even the bones of an ox.

Brush-tail the Bettong carries grass in her tail to build a nest. Can you find the eight differences in these 2 drawings? Cross out all the A's in this word to find what sort of flowers these are

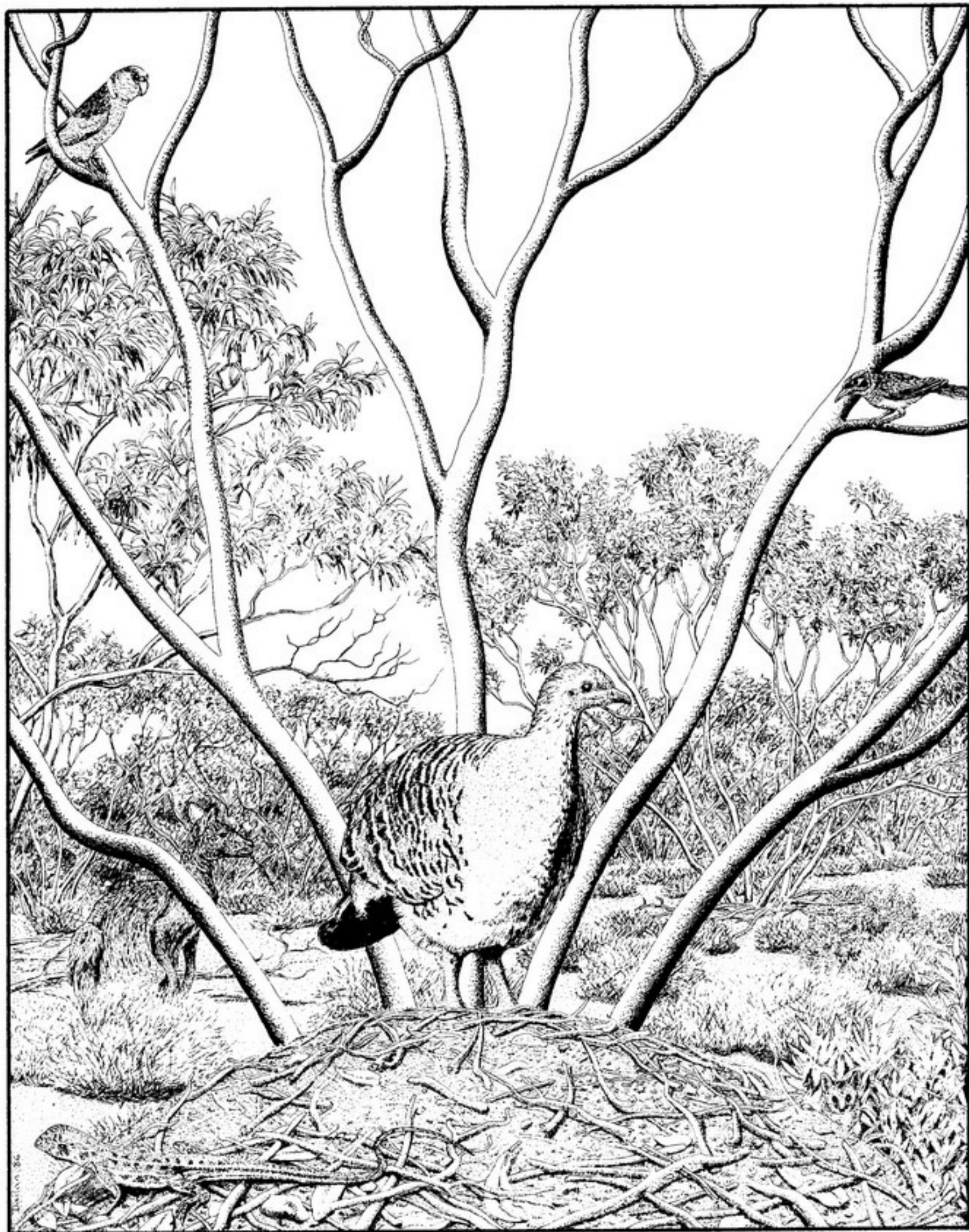
O A R C A H A I D A S



Draw a woodland home for Grey the Kangaroo.



Scrublands



In the hot dry areas of Australia the woodlands merge into scrublands as shrubby eucalypts and wattles grow up to 8 metres high.

In Mallee scrublands eucalypts are the most common tree. Here they grow many stems from an underground swollen trunk known as a tuber. It is as if the tree's trunk had been buried and only its branches were showing. When a fire burns the Mallee the eucalypts quickly regrow from the tuber.

Wattle scrublands replace Mallee where there is less rain. These shrubs grow in small clumps or as single plants wherever there is enough water, even in the deserts. Of the many different wattles, Mulga is the most common.

Small shrubs, grasses and bare ground are found between the eucalypts and wattles. Most of the Mallee has been cleared for farms.

A few animals live only in the scrublands but many use this and other dry habitats. Find the 6 animals on the other side of this page and colour them in.

How many words can you make from the word **scrubland**?

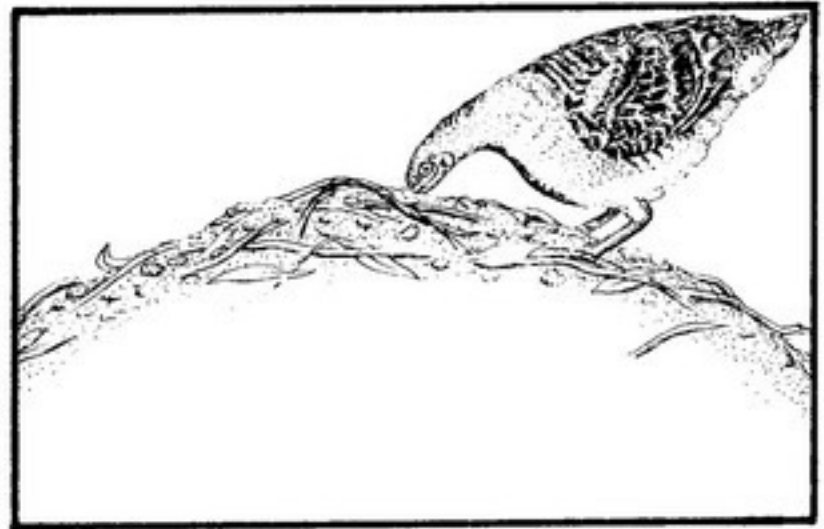
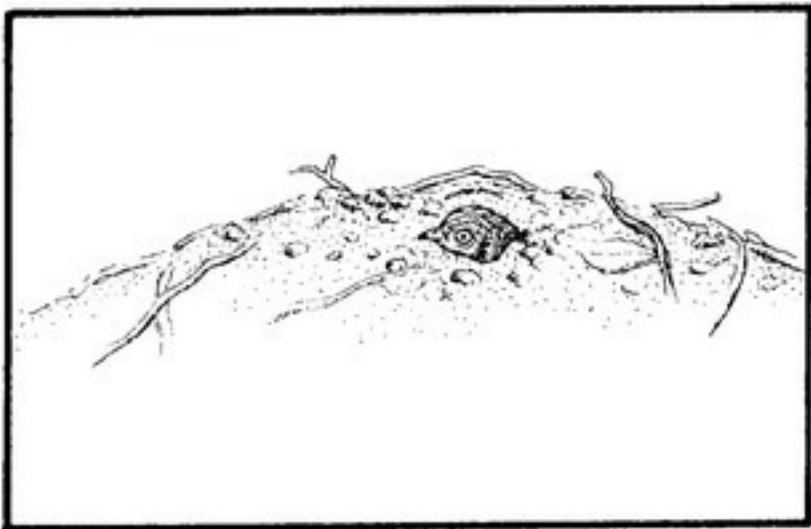
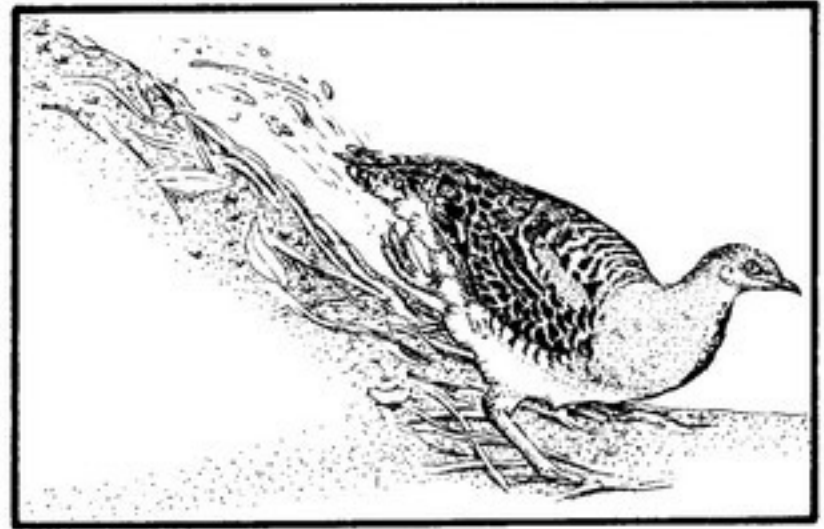
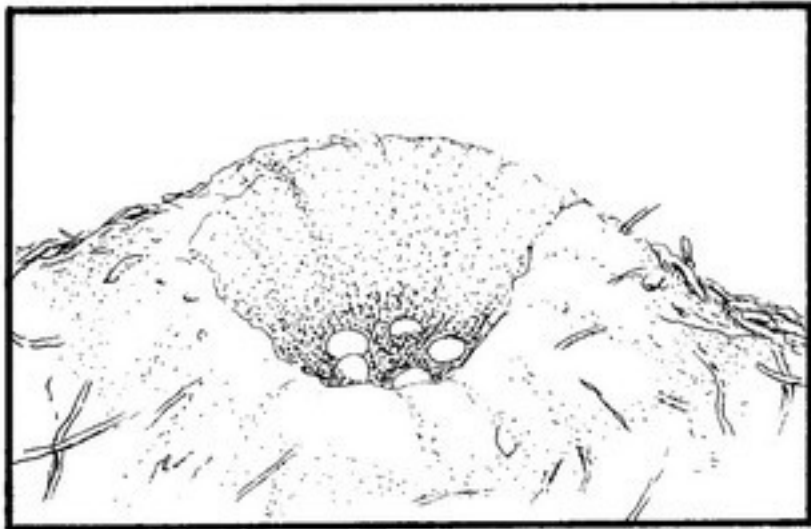
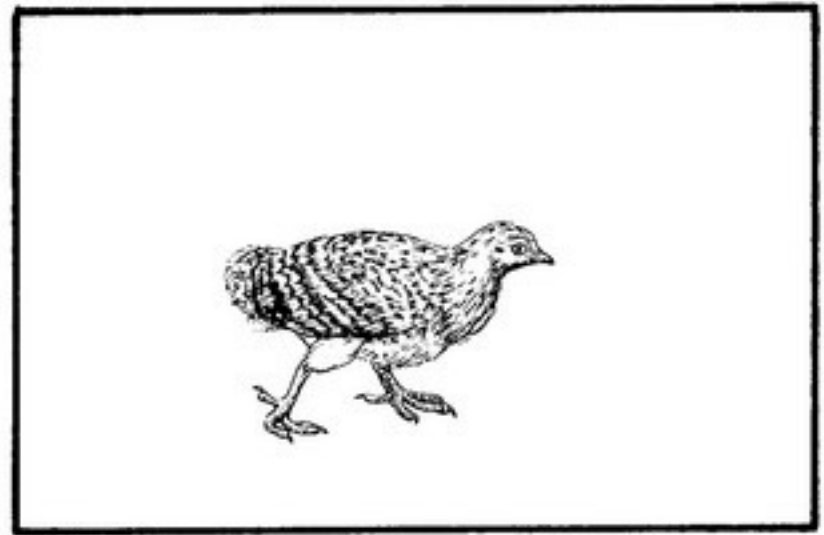
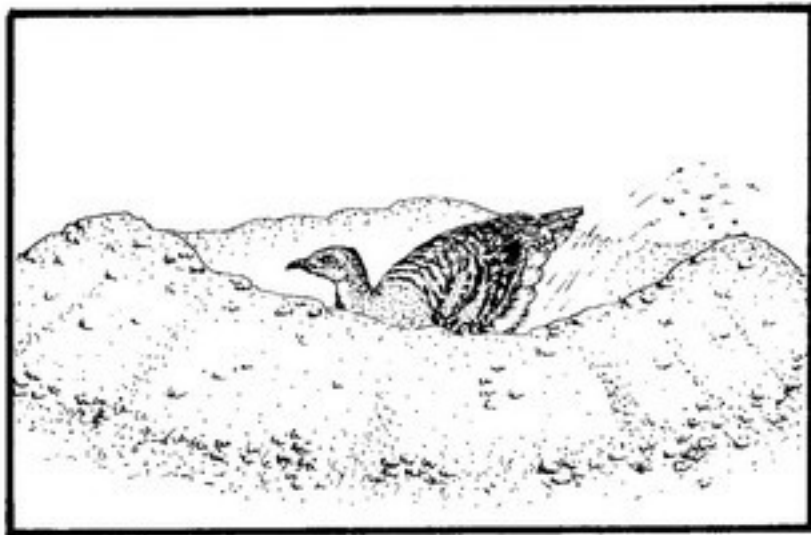
After you have finished the other scrubland activities see if you can do this one.

Write the answers and then read down the first letters to find out what Mallee Fowls eat.

First part of the name of a scrubland parrot	<input type="text"/>	_____ p.19
Main plant of Mallee	<input type="text"/>	_____ p.16
Female Mallee Fowls lay these in mounds	<input type="text"/>	_____ p.17
How a baby Mallee Fowl gets out of the mound	<input type="text"/>	_____ p.17
First name of a desert pea	<input type="text"/>	_____ p.20

Mallee the Fowl lives in the Mallee scrublands . For nesting; 1. He digs a big hole. 2. Then he fills it with leaves, twigs and sand to make a mound. 3. The mother bird lays her eggs in a deep hole which he later fills in. 4. He checks the temperature with his bill and adds or takes off dirt if needed. 5. When the baby hatches it digs its way out. 6. Then it runs off to look after itself.

These pictures are mixed up, can you work out the right order and number them 1 to 6?

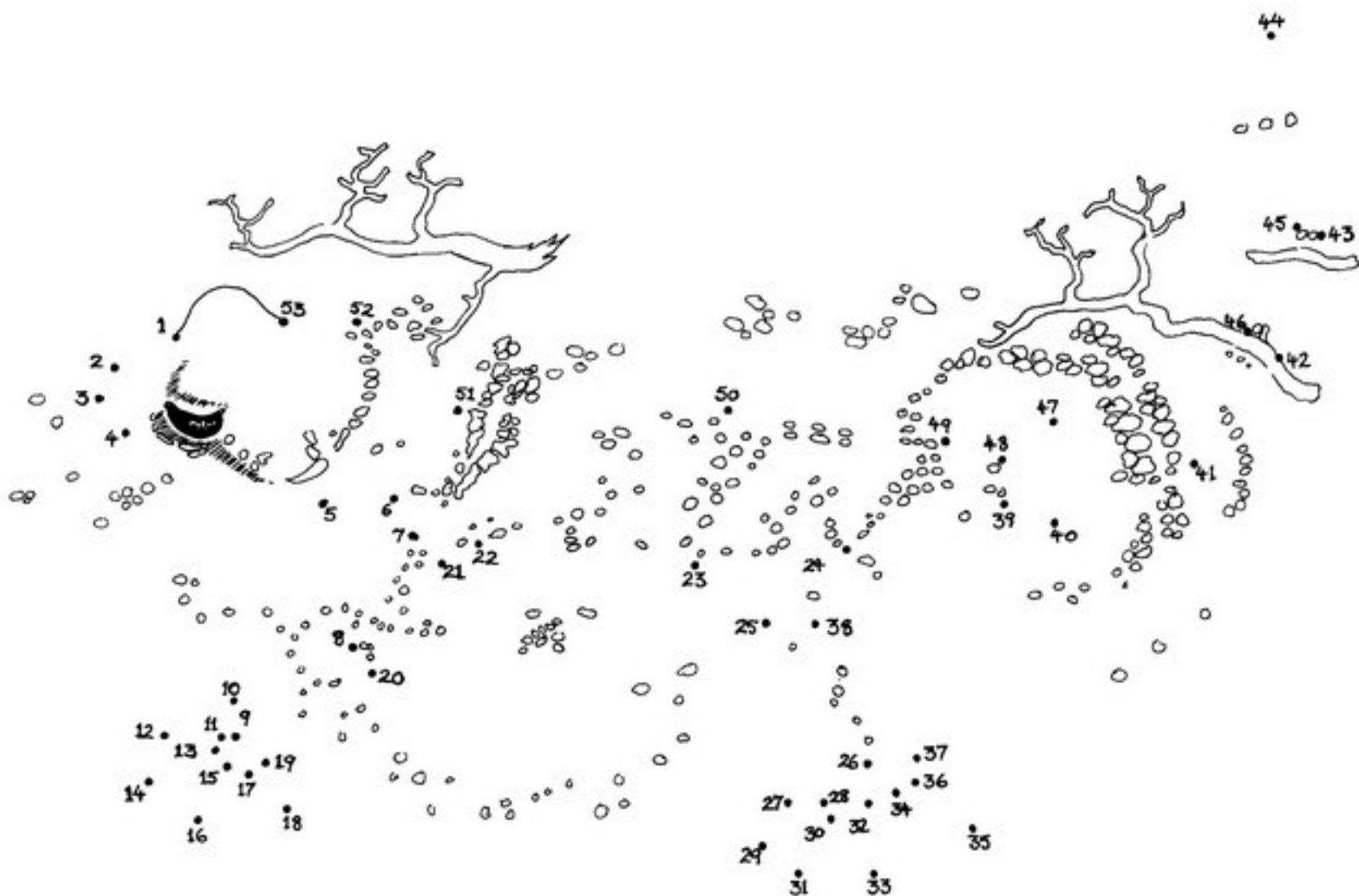


Something is hiding on the ground, join the dots to find out what it is.
 Work out it's name by replacing each letter in this name with the one that comes before it in the alphabet;

U I J D L - U B J M F E

H F D L P

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ



A sparrowhawk called Collar likes to eat other birds. Scarlet-breast the Parrot and his mate are hiding from him. Colour in the picture by number to find them.

1. Brown

2. Green

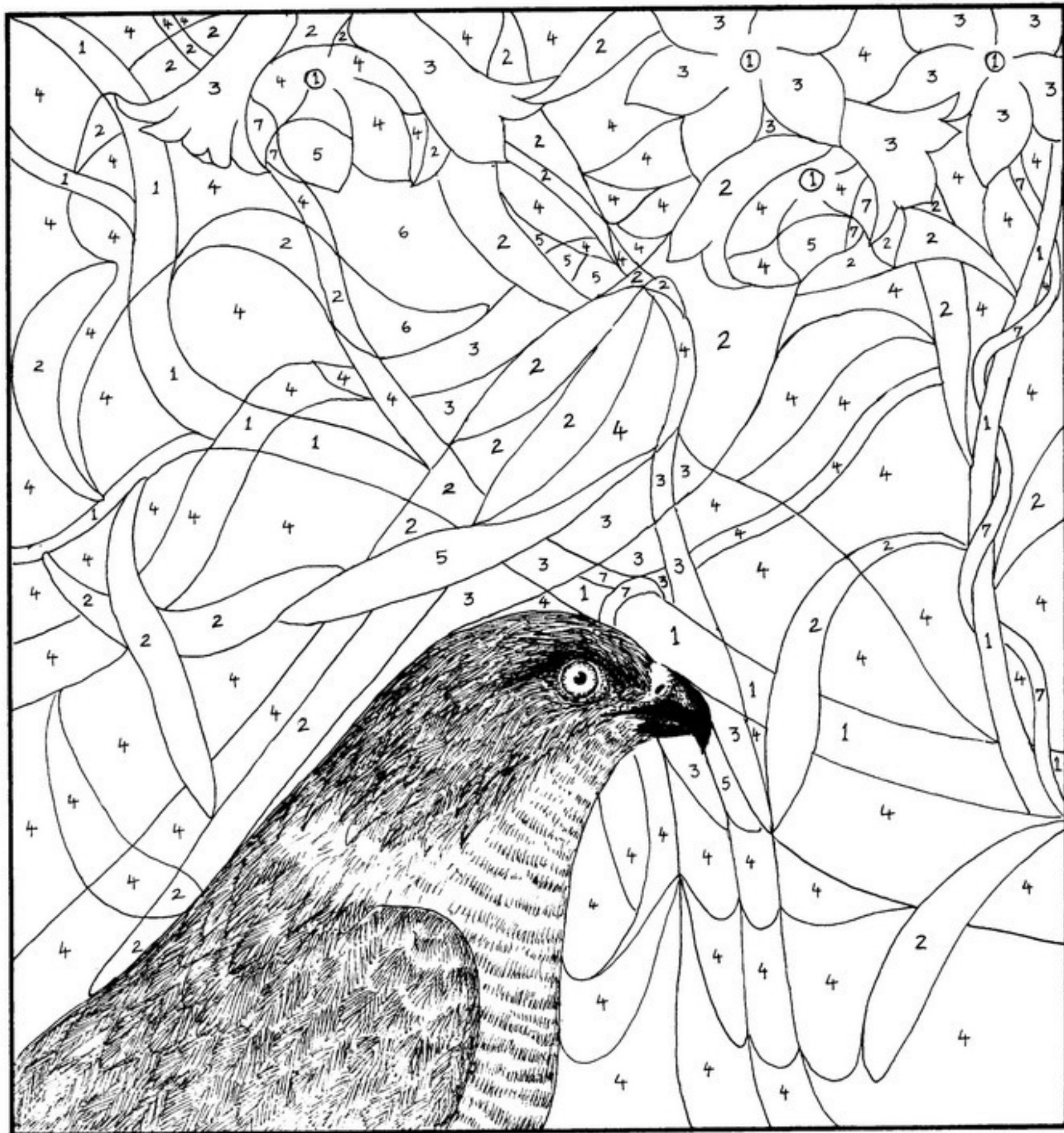
3. Yellow

4. Light Blue

5. Dark Blue

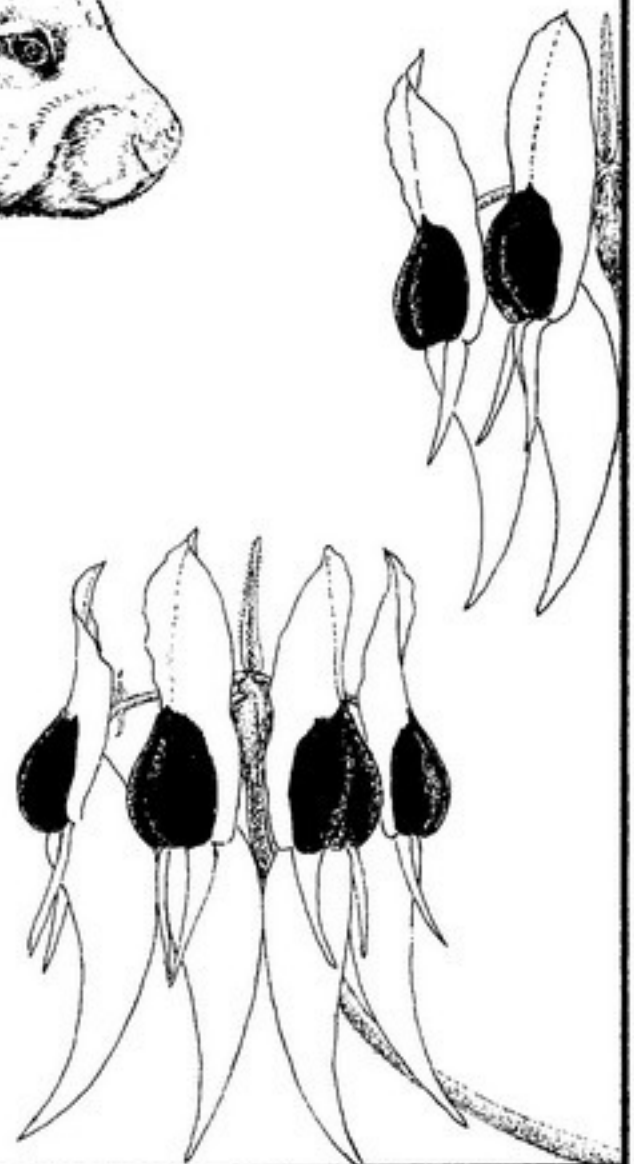
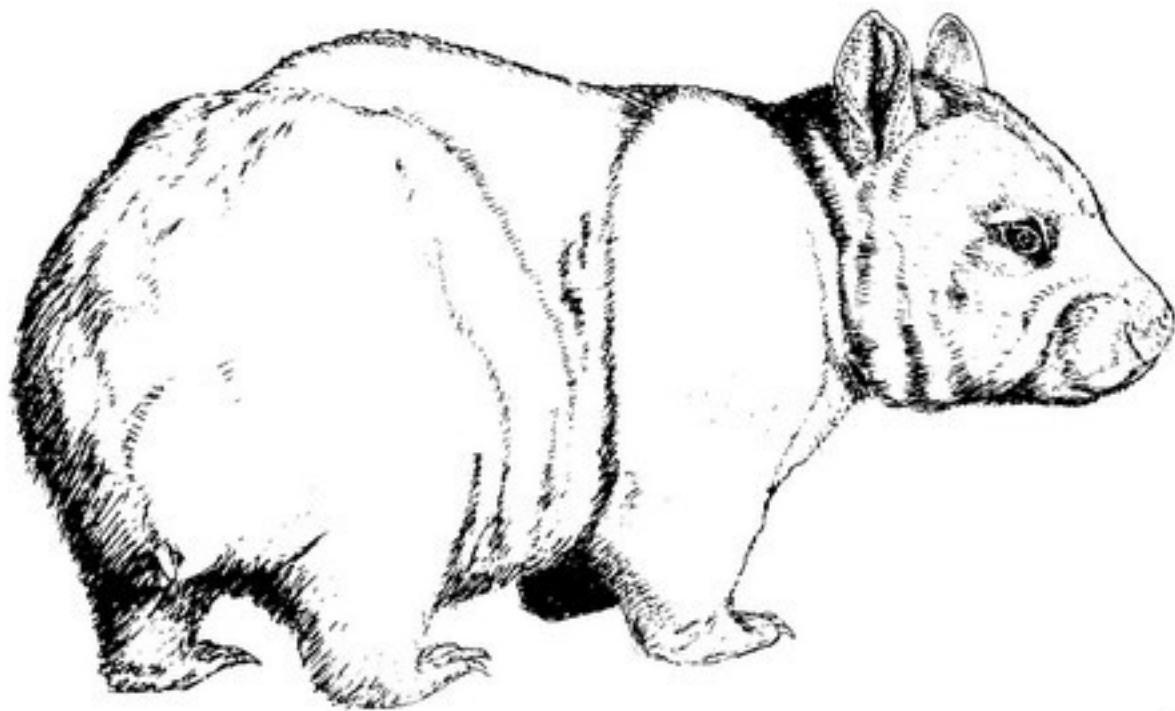
6. Red

7. Grey

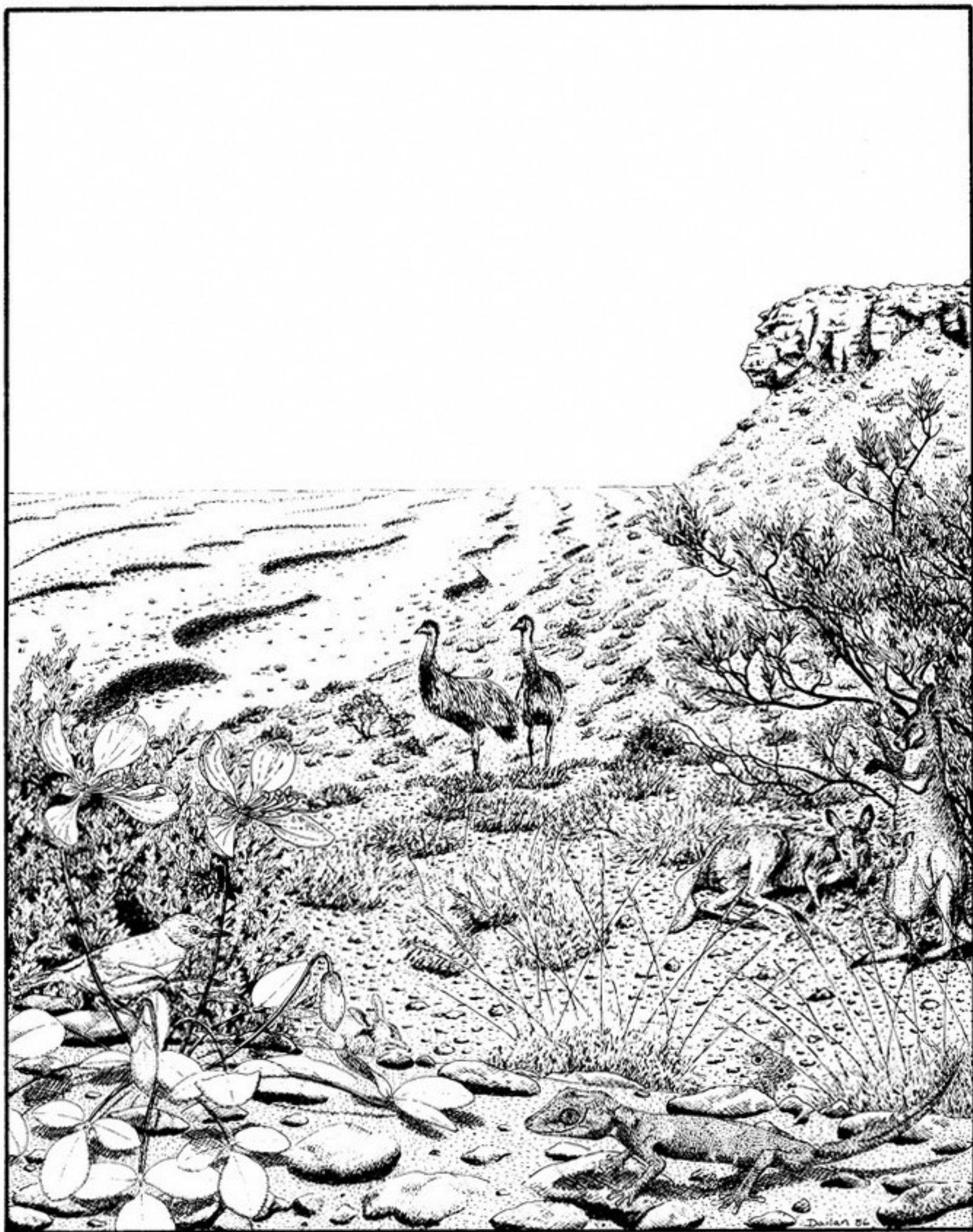


Hairy-nose the Wombat can be found in the dry scrublands. Colour her grey, draw a big black hole in the ground for her to live in and draw lots of green grass to eat. Colour the Sturt's Desert Pea flowers red.

Hairy-nose and Sturt's Desert Pea are emblems of South Australia.



Deserts



The deserts are in parts of Australia that get little rain. Sometimes there is hardly any rain for up to 8 years. Tough grasses and small shrubs cover most of the desert with patches of bare ground in between. Trees and large shrubs only grow where their roots can collect enough water.

After heavy rains numerous seeds stored in the red desert sands quickly cover the bare ground with masses of colourful flowers. Within a few weeks they make more seeds to wait in the ground until the rains come again.

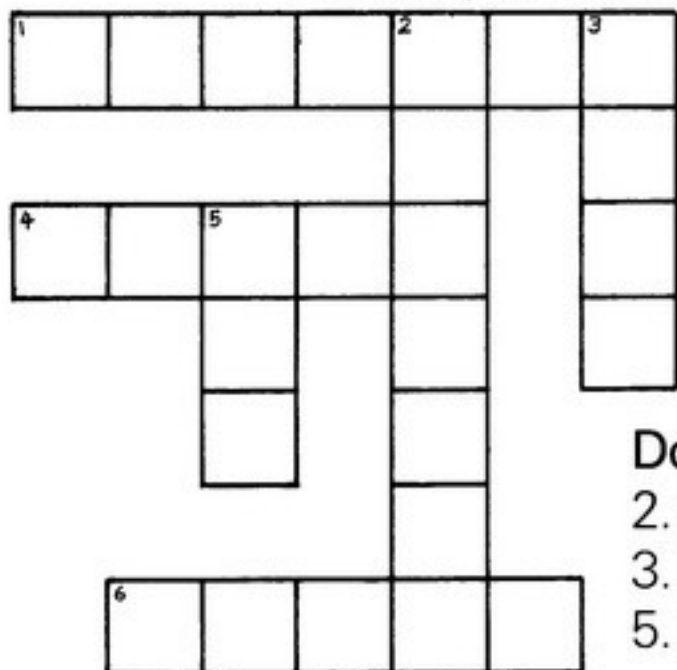
Rows of long sand dunes, plains of gibber stones, large dry salt lakes and bare rock outcrops are found in the deserts. In many areas non-native animals are eating most of the plants and turning parts of this habitat into wasteland.

The native animals that live only in the deserts have many ways to cope with this dry habitat. Some live in damp burrows during the hot days and come out in the cool of the night. Others can stay buried for years waiting for the rains.

After heavy rains, many birds come from other habitats into the desert to eat the plentiful food. Find the 8 animals on the other side of this page and colour them in.

After you have finished the other desert activities see if you can do this crossword.

- Across**
- 1. Wedge-tail likes to eat _____ . p.30
 - 4. Many types of Grass-_____ live in the deserts. p.25
 - 6. Dusky is a Hopping-_____ . p.27

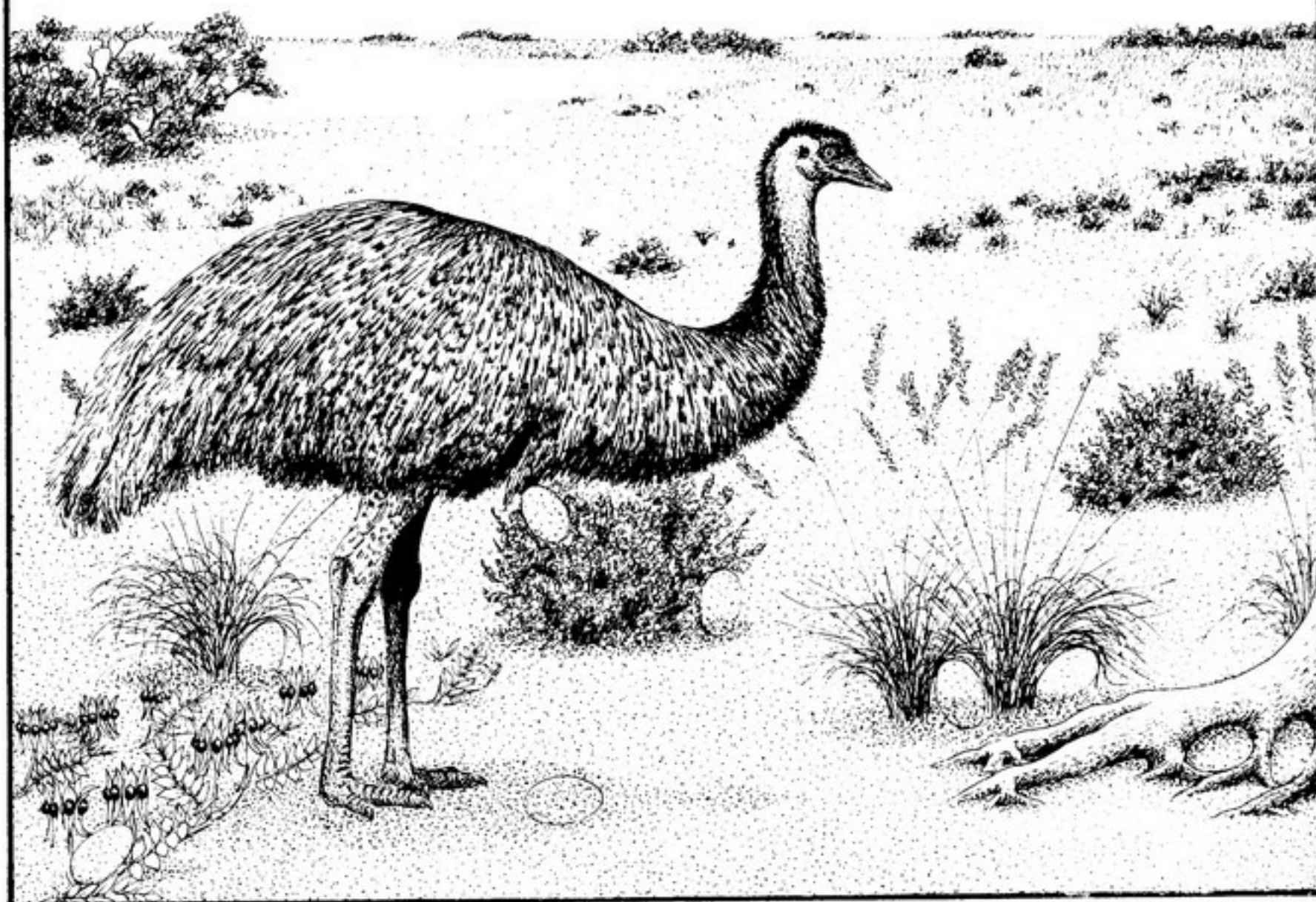
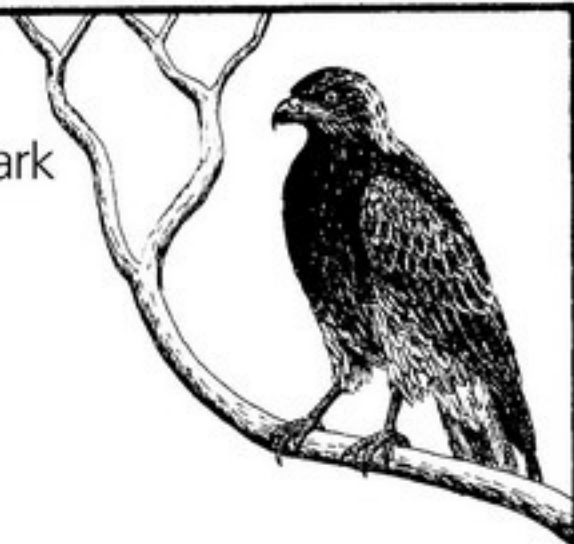


- Down**
- 2. Crimson eats _____ . p.28
 - 3. Mole burrows in _____ . p.27
 - 5. Black-breast likes to eat _____ eggs. p.23

Black-breast the Kite likes to eat emu eggs. Emu has hidden his 9 eggs. Can you find them? Colour them dark green. Unjumble these words to find out what else Black-breast eats.

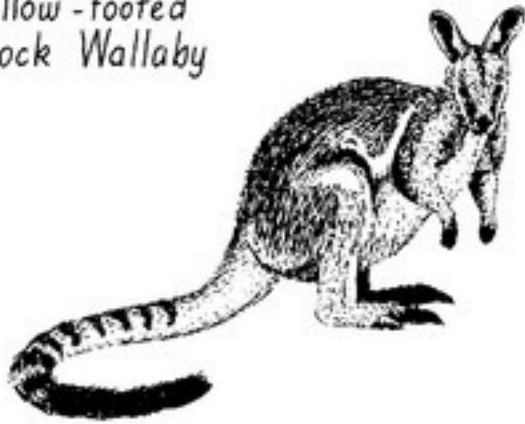
D A R Z I L S

B A R T I B S



Say the names of these animals and their desert homes. Draw a line from each animal to the place it lives.

Yellow-footed
Rock Wallaby



Gibberbird



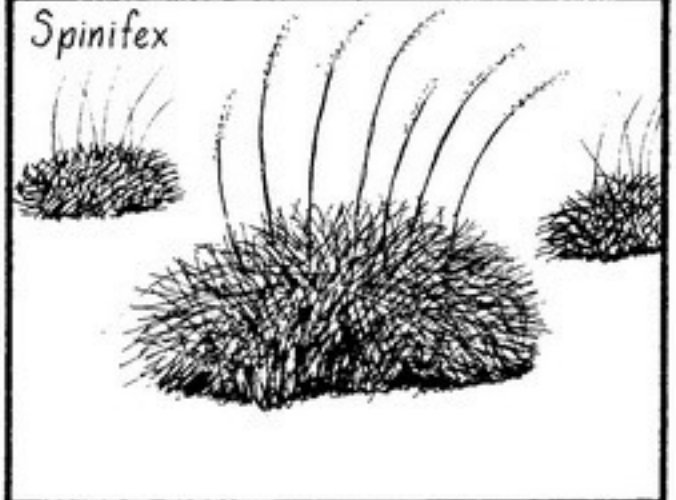
Spinifex Pigeon



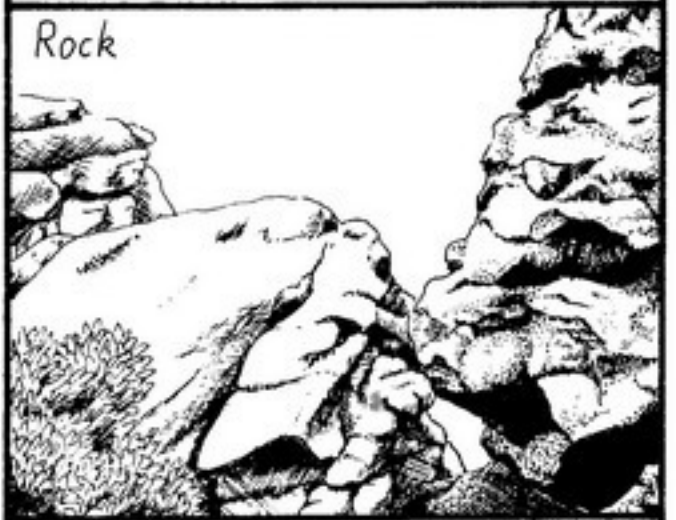
Broad-banded Sand Swimmer



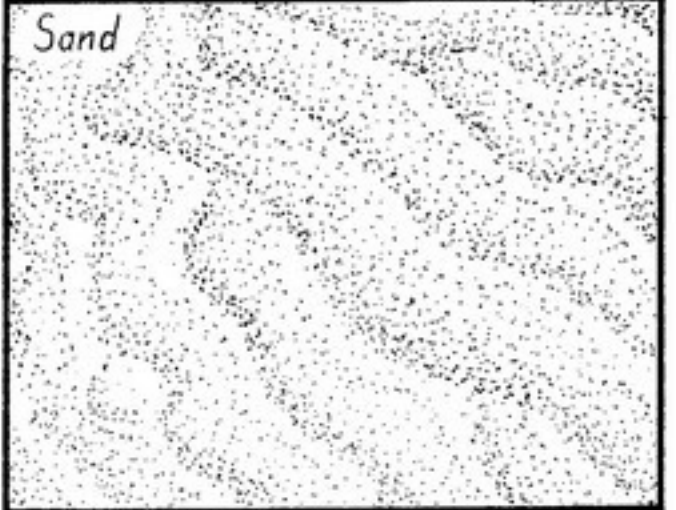
Spinifex



Rock



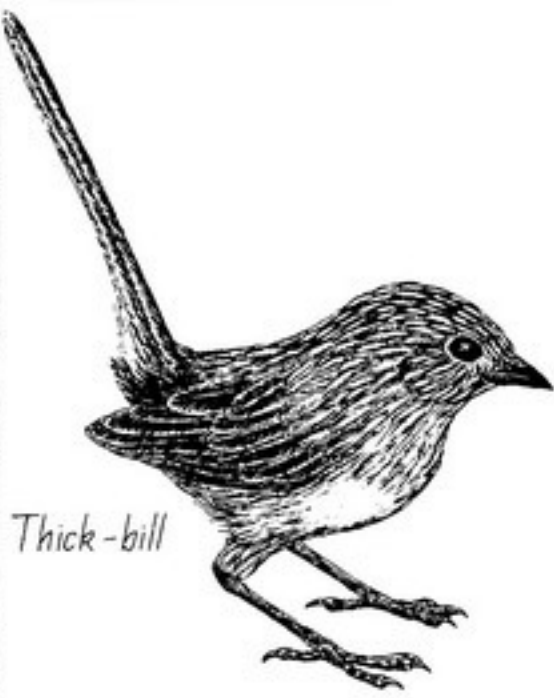
Sand



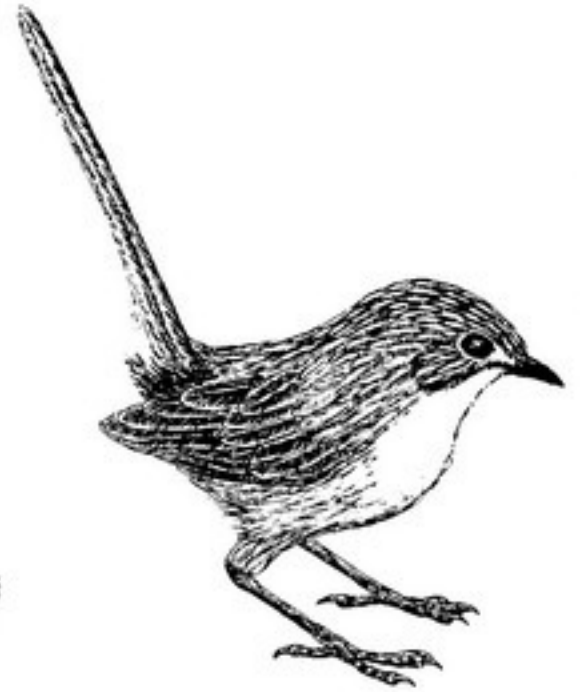
Gibber



Many types of Grass-wrens live in different areas of the desert grasslands. Some of them have come together here. Thick-bill is having trouble finding his mate. Can you help him?



Thick-bill



Bustards live in the desert grasslands. This poor Bustard is all mixed up. Cut along the dotted lines and see if you can get him back together. Which of these words are not made out of the word **Bustard**?

rat

read

dust

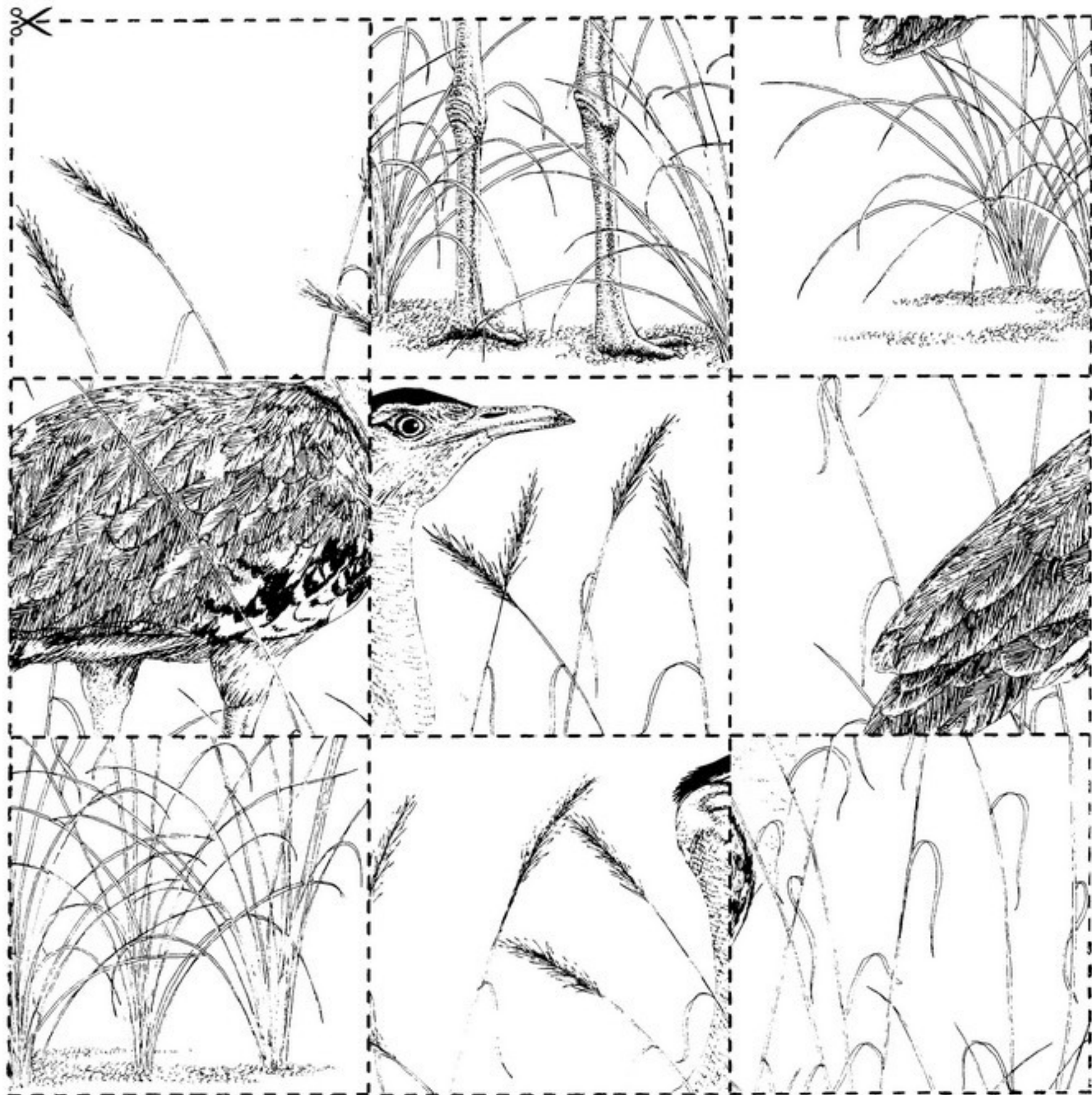
star

rod

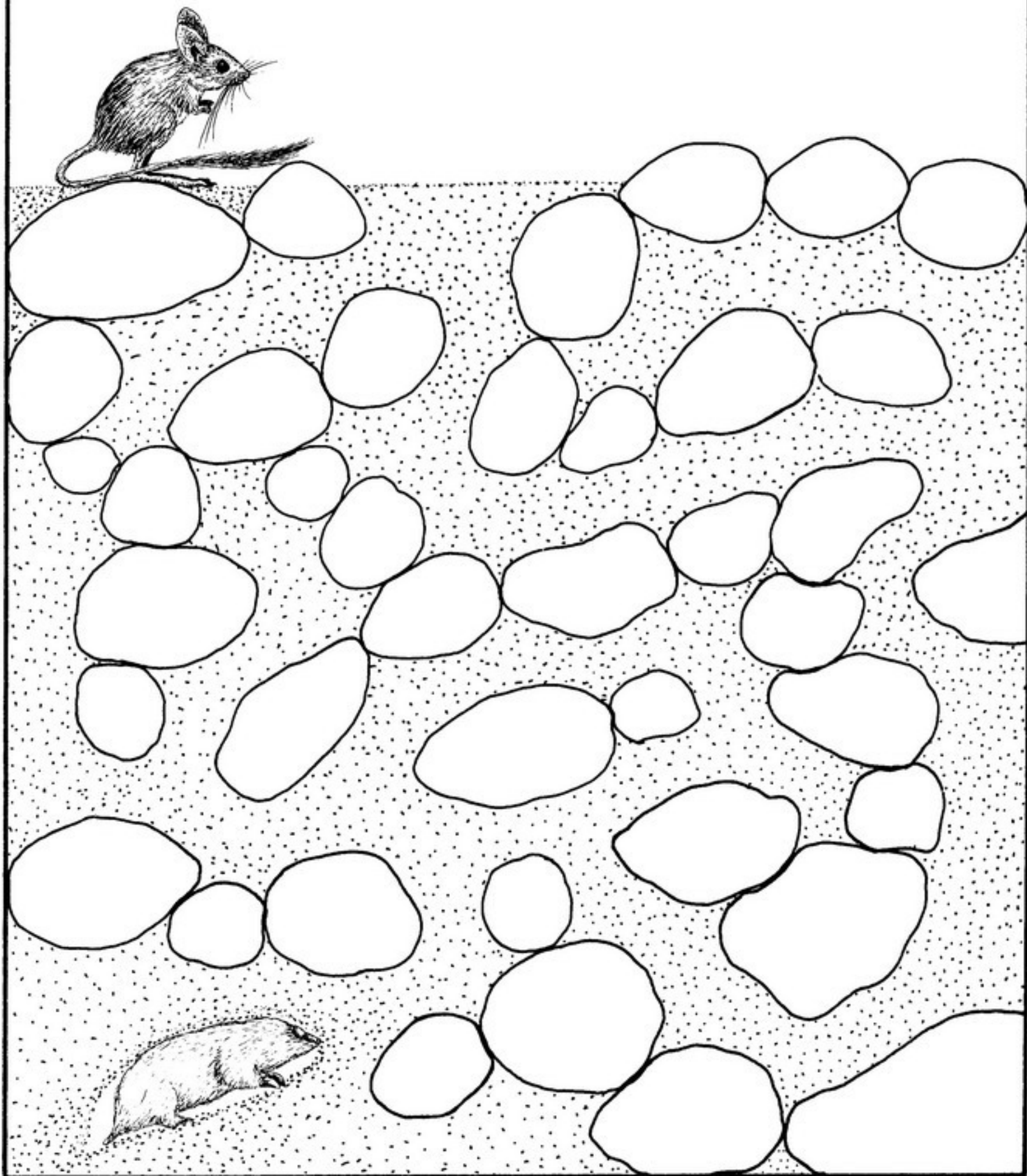
sad

tear

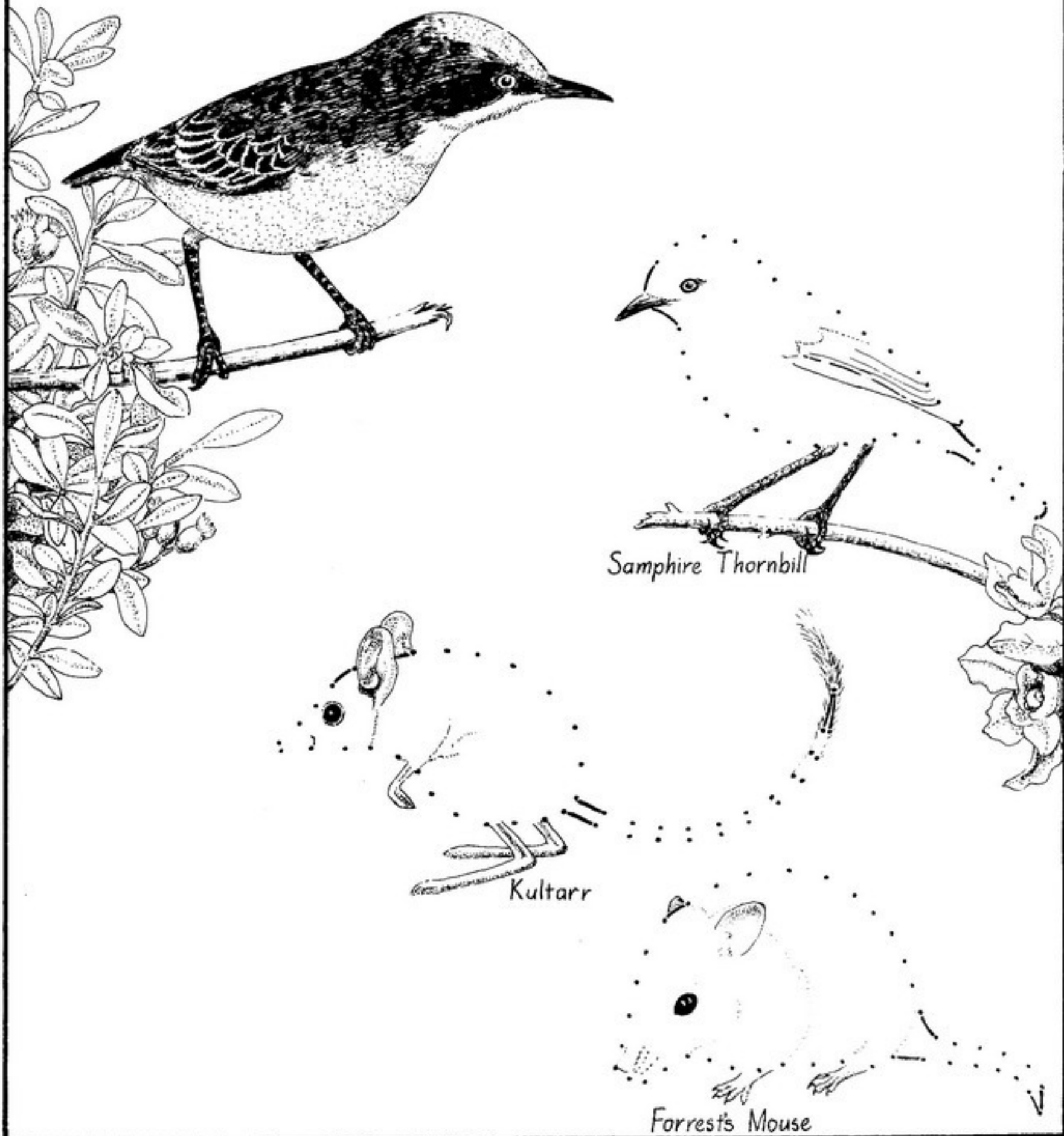
part



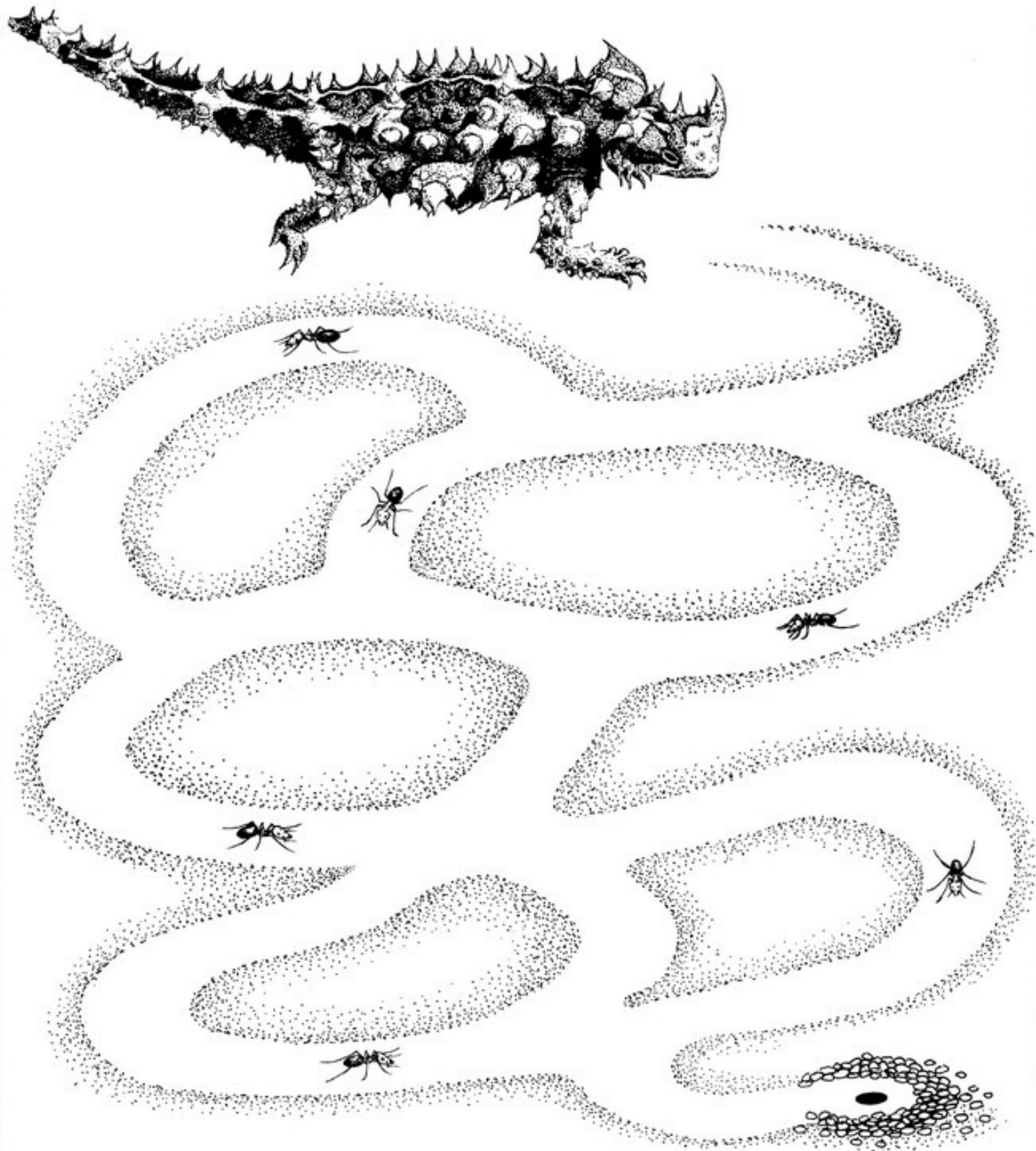
Dusky the Hopping-mouse has her home in the sand dunes. Her friend Mole spends most of his time burrowing through the sand. He wants to visit Dusky but there are lots of rocks in his way. Can you show him the way to get to her? Count the rocks.



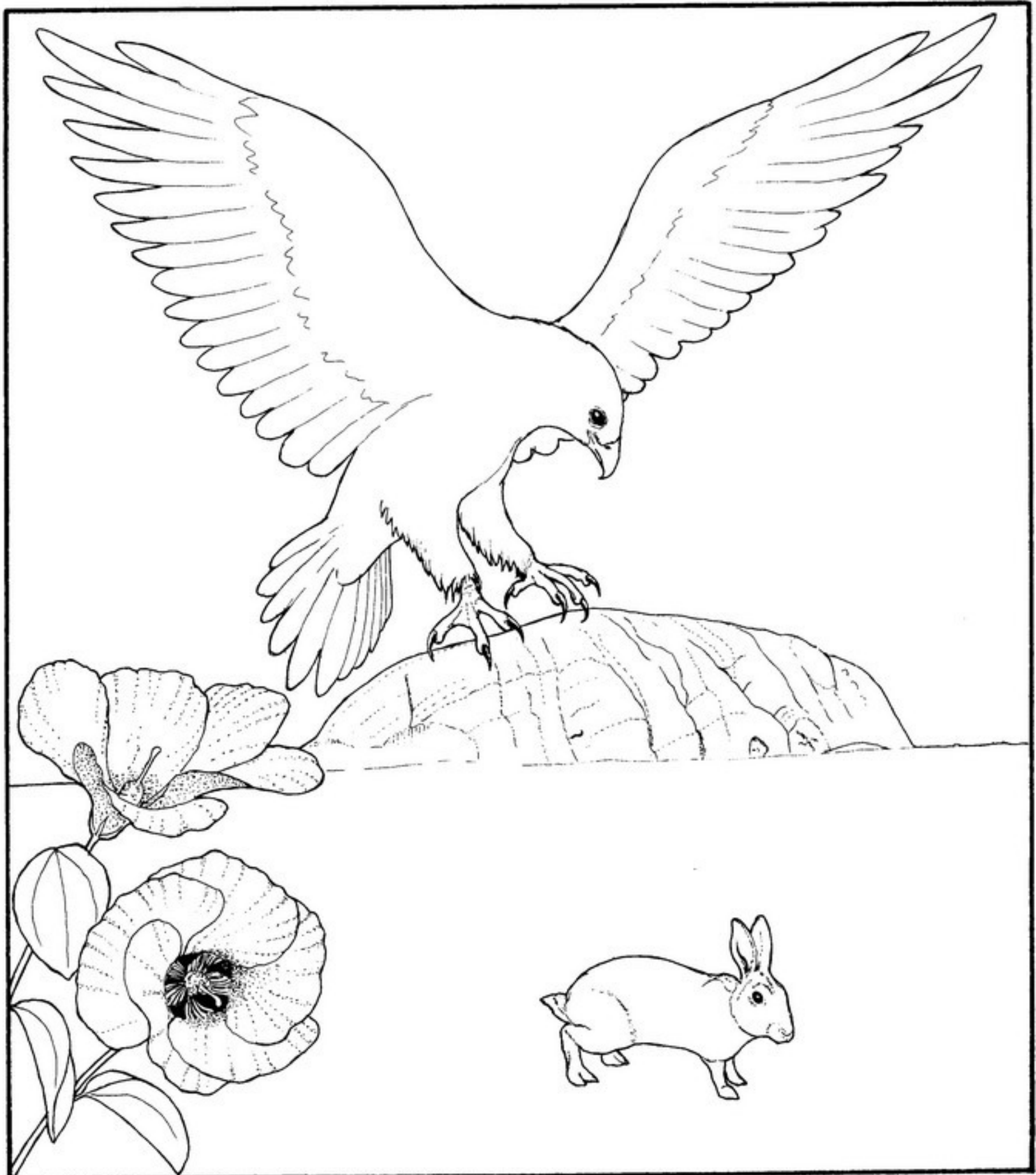
Crimson the Chat spends most of his time looking for insects in saltbushes. Join the dots to see what his 3 tiny friends look like. Colour them brown. Crimson has red on top of his head and on his stomach but has a white neck.



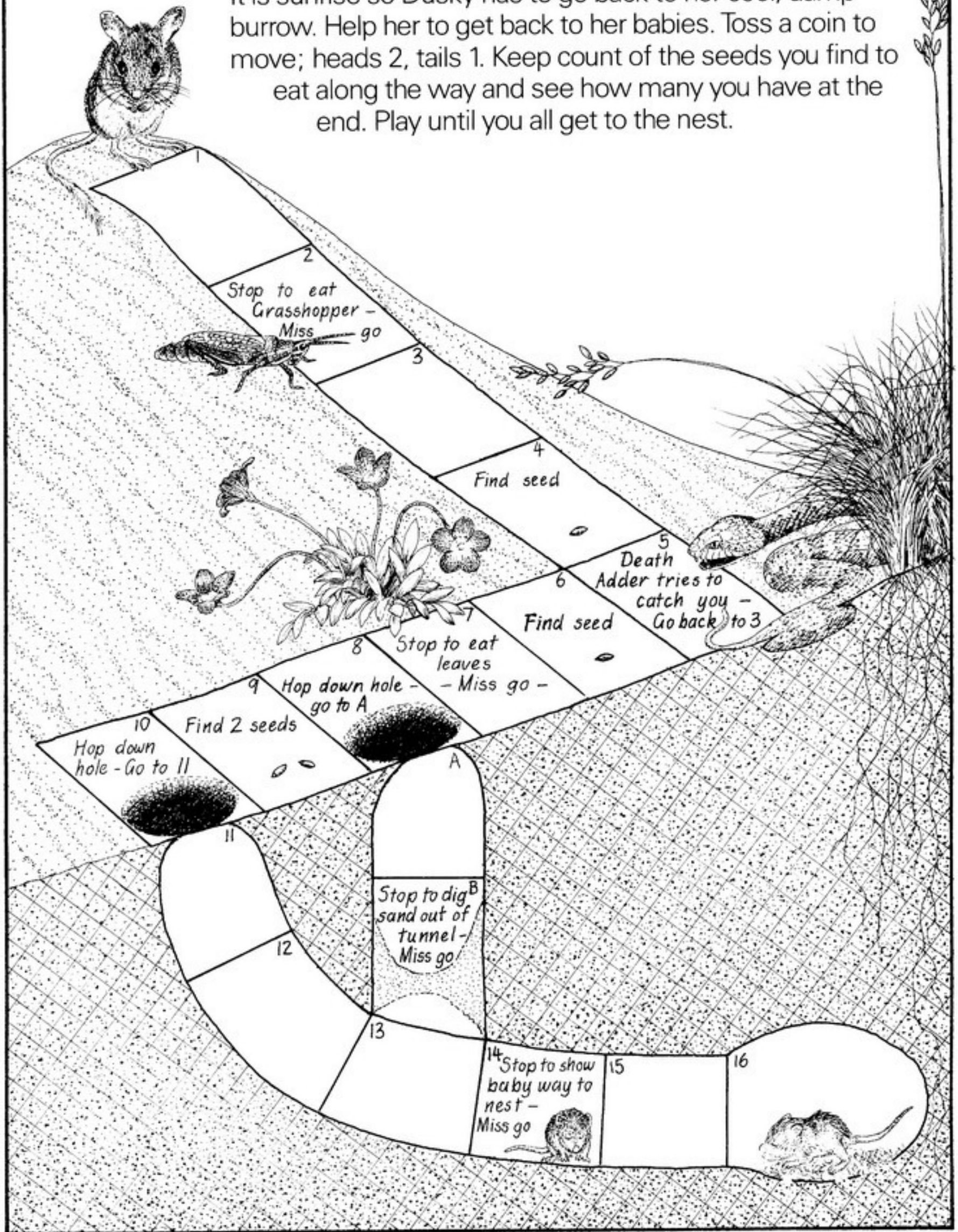
Thorny the Devil lives in the sand and spinifex deserts and eats ants. Can you show her the best way to go to the ant's nest, finding as many ants as possible on the way? Don't go on the same track twice or cross your path.



Rabbits damage and kill many plants. Wedge-tail the Eagle helps control them as they are her favourite food. Colour the picture. Wedge-tail is black with yellow feet, Rabbit is brown and Sturts Desert Rose is pale purple. You can pretend it's just rained and draw lots of flowers on the ground. Wedge-tail and Sturt's Desert Rose are emblems of the Northern Territory.



It is sunrise so Dusky has to go back to her cool, damp burrow. Help her to get back to her babies. Toss a coin to move; heads 2, tails 1. Keep count of the seeds you find to eat along the way and see how many you have at the end. Play until you all get to the nest.



Draw a desert home for big Red the Kangaroo.

