Endangered Species Coloring Book

United States
Environmental Protection Agency (7506P)
Washington, DC 20460
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Hi, Reader!

This coloring book is published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Office of Pesticide Programs.

Did you know that when people use pesticides to kill insects and other pests, they can also endanger the lives of plants and animals? That's why EPA has a program to protect threatened and endangered species from contact with pesticides that might be harmful.

If EPA determines that a pesticide may put at risk an endangered or threatened species, EPA will tell you on the label of the pesticide container how to find out what you need to do to protect that species. EPA will have a bulletin that explains how to use the product in a way that will not harm the species.

The plants and animals shown in this coloring book are not always threatened by pesticides; however, they do represent many different species our program is protecting.

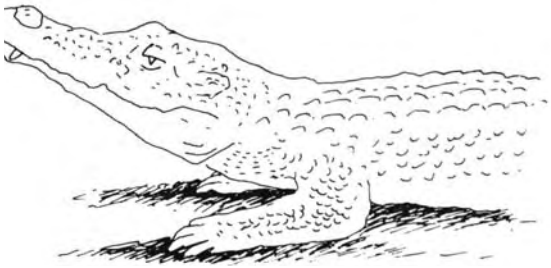
Endangered Species Protection Program

What Are Endangered and Threatened Species?

A century ago, a bird called the passenger pigeon lived in North America. There were so many passenger pigeons that people often saw thousands, even millions, of birds flying overhead. Today, there is not a single one left. What happened?

The passenger pigeon became **extinct.** All passenger pigeons disappeared from the earth entirely. The passenger pigeon became extinct for two reasons. First, the forests where it lived were cut down to make way for farms and cities. Second, many pigeons were shot for sport and because they were good to eat. At that time, there were no hunting laws to protect endangered species like there are now.

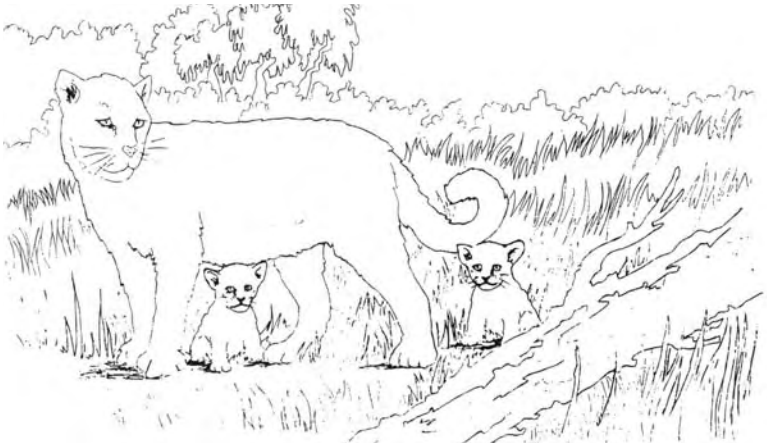
The passenger pigeon is one of the many plants and animals that once lived on our planet and have become extinct. For example, dinosaurs, mammoths, and saber-toothed tigers all became extinct long ago. More recently, the dodo bird and the sea mink also have disappeared. Extinction has been going on since life began on earth but today, extinction is happening faster than ever before.



There are more than 1,000 endangered or threatened species in the United States today. Can you count to 1,000? **Endangered species** are those plants and animals that are so rare, they are in danger of becoming extinct. **Threatened species** are plants and animals whose numbers are very low or becoming low quickly. Threatened species are not endangered yet, but are likely to become endangered in the future.

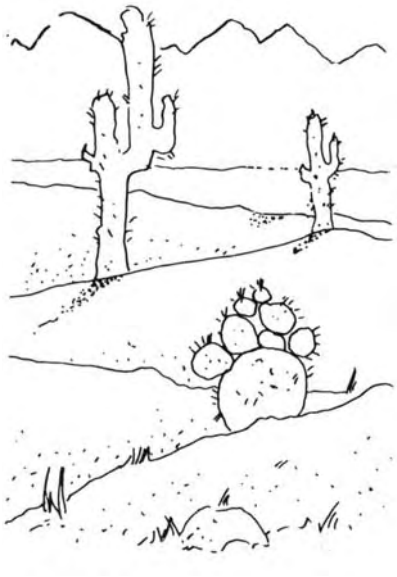
How Do Plants and Animals Become Extinct?

Species disappear because of changes to the earth that are caused either by nature or by the actions of people. Sometimes a natural event, like a volcano erupting, can kill an entire species. Other times, extinction will happen slowly as nature changes our world. For example, after the Ice Age, when the great glaciers melted and the earth became warmer, many species died because they could not live in



a warmer climate. New species that could survive a warmer environment took their places.

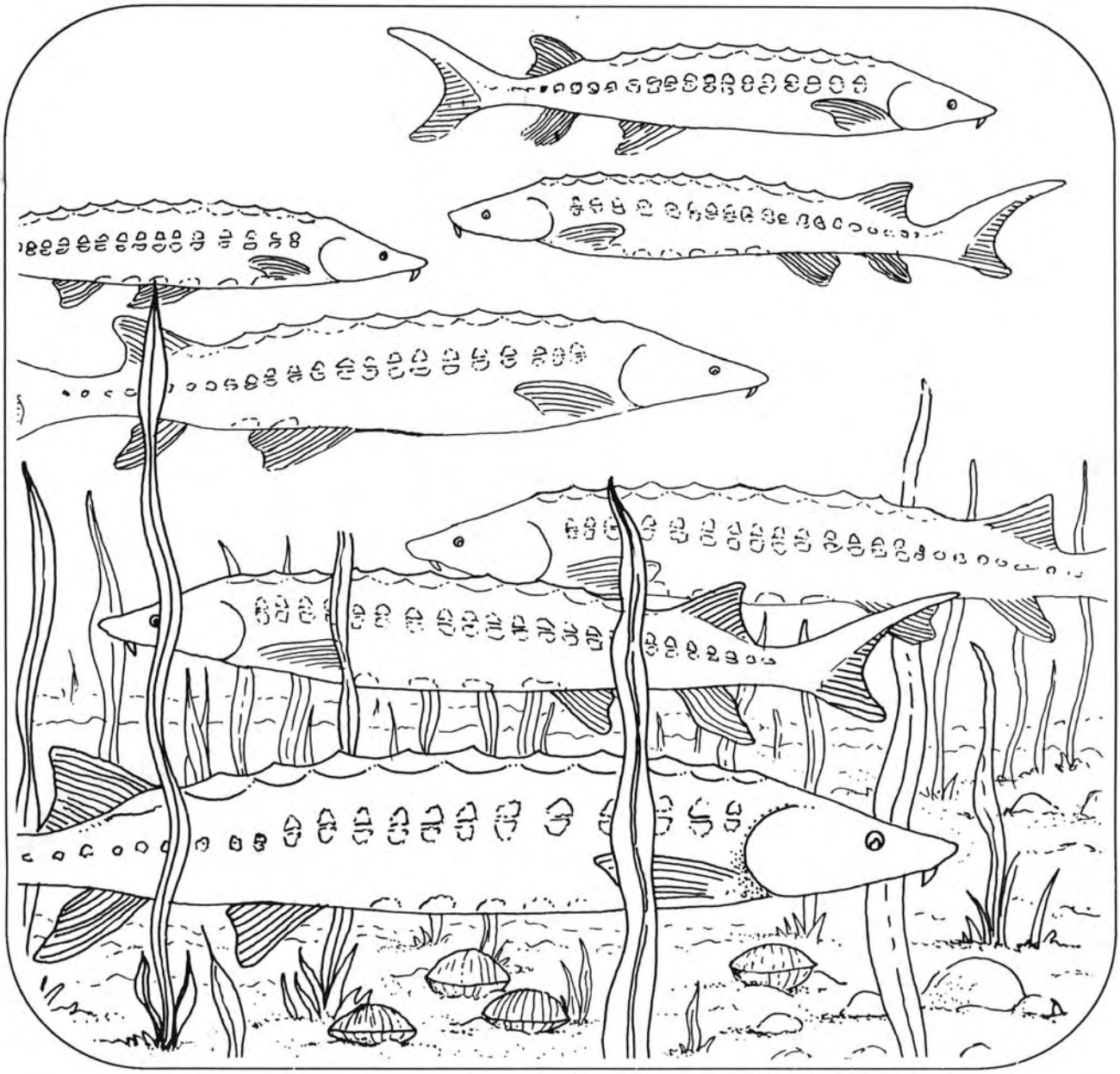
People can also cause the extinction of plants and animals. The main reason that many species are endangered or threatened today is because people have changed the species' homes or **habitats**. A habitat includes not only the other plants and animals in an area, but all of the things needed for the species' to live — food, water, and shelter. The United States has many habitats, from ocean beaches to mountain tops. Every species requires a certain habitat in order to live. A cactus, for example, needs the sunny, dry desert to grow. A polar bear, on the other hand, would not live in a desert, because it could not find enough food and water.



Pollution can also affect wildlife and contribute to extinction. The Nashville crayfish is endangered mainly because the creek where it lives has been polluted. Pesticides and other chemicals can harm plants and animals if they are not used correctly. The bald eagle is one bird that was harmed by pesticides. In the past, a pesticide called DDT was used by many farmers. Rains washed the pesticide into lakes and streams, where it poisoned fish. After eating the poisoned fish, the eagles would lay eggs with very thin shells. These eggs were usually crushed before they could hatch. Today, people are not allowed to use DDT.

This coloring book will show you 21 endangered and threatened plants and animals found in the United States. As you color these pages, you will journey to oceans, swamps, deserts, and islands and bring to life a variety of plants and animals. If we all work together, we can continue to share the earth with these fascinating and important species and enjoy them in the wild — not only in the pages of books.

Shortnose Sturgeon



The fish gets its name from its short, pointy nose. The shortnose sturgeon is shaped like a torpedo. This helps it swim very fast. The fish lives in rivers. In the winter and spring, it swims upstream to lay eggs. The trip can be over 100 miles long! Then, in the summer and fall, the fish swims to its second home in the ocean.

In what states is this species found?

Dwarf Wedge Mussel

Do you see the squiggly line on the river bottom? It wasn't made by a snake or a worm. It was made by a dwarf wedge mussel when it dragged itself along the river bottom. These animals look like small clams. Like small clams, they have hard shells and soft bodies. Female mussels can carry thousands of eggs inside their very small shells!

In what states is this species found?

Nashville Crayfish

The Nashville crayfish looks like a very small lobster. Like a lobster, the crayfish has claws that can pinch. Ouch! As a young crayfish grows, it gets too big for its shell. When this happens, it grows a bigger shell. Then it casts off the old, smaller shell. This is similar to a snake shedding its skin when it grows.

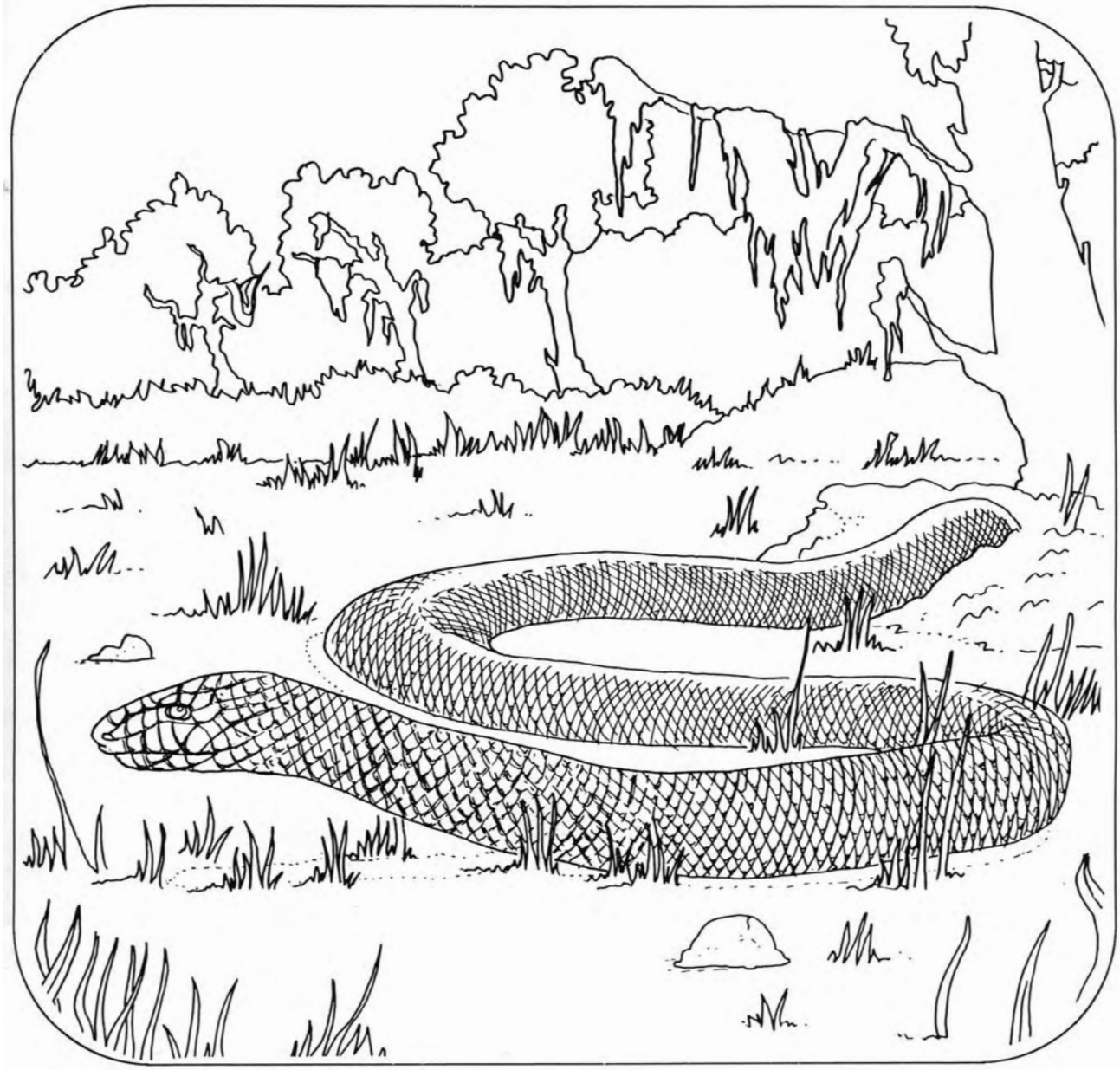
In what state is this species found?

Red-Cockaded Woodpecker

TAP TAP TAP! High up in the trunk of a pine tree, the red-cockaded woodpecker digs a hole with its sharp beak. Sap flows from the tree and collects around the hole. The sap is sticky like glue. This keeps the woodpecker safe from predators, such as snakes. We need to protect the pine trees so the red-cockaded woodpecker will have a home.

In what states is this species found?

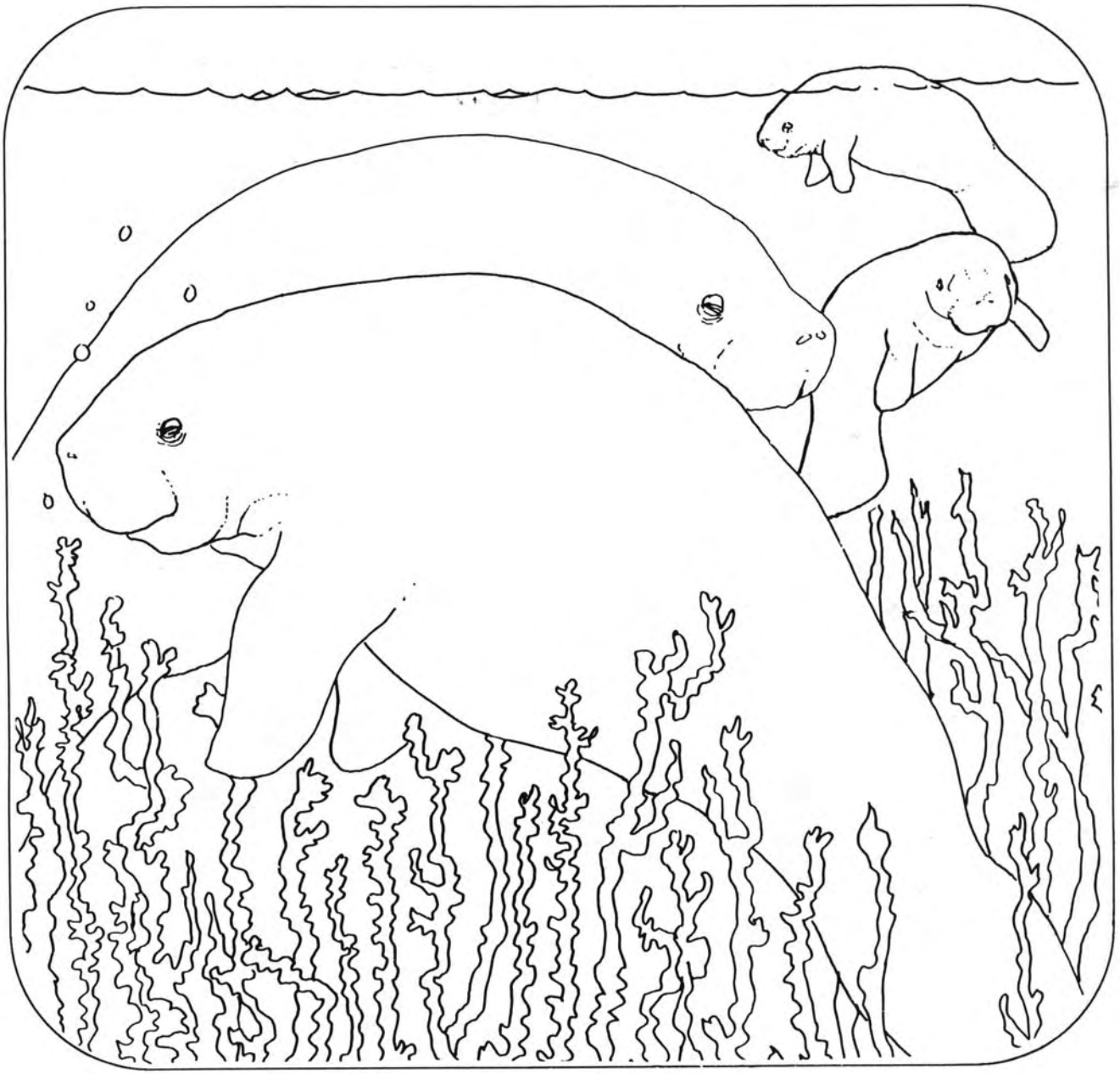
Eastern Indigo Snake



When full grown, the eastern indigo snake is longer than most people are tall! Indigo is the blue-black color of the snake's skin. This snake eats birds, frogs, and even other snakes. Snakes smell with their tongues. Stick out your tongue like a snake. What do humans smell with?

In what states is this species found?

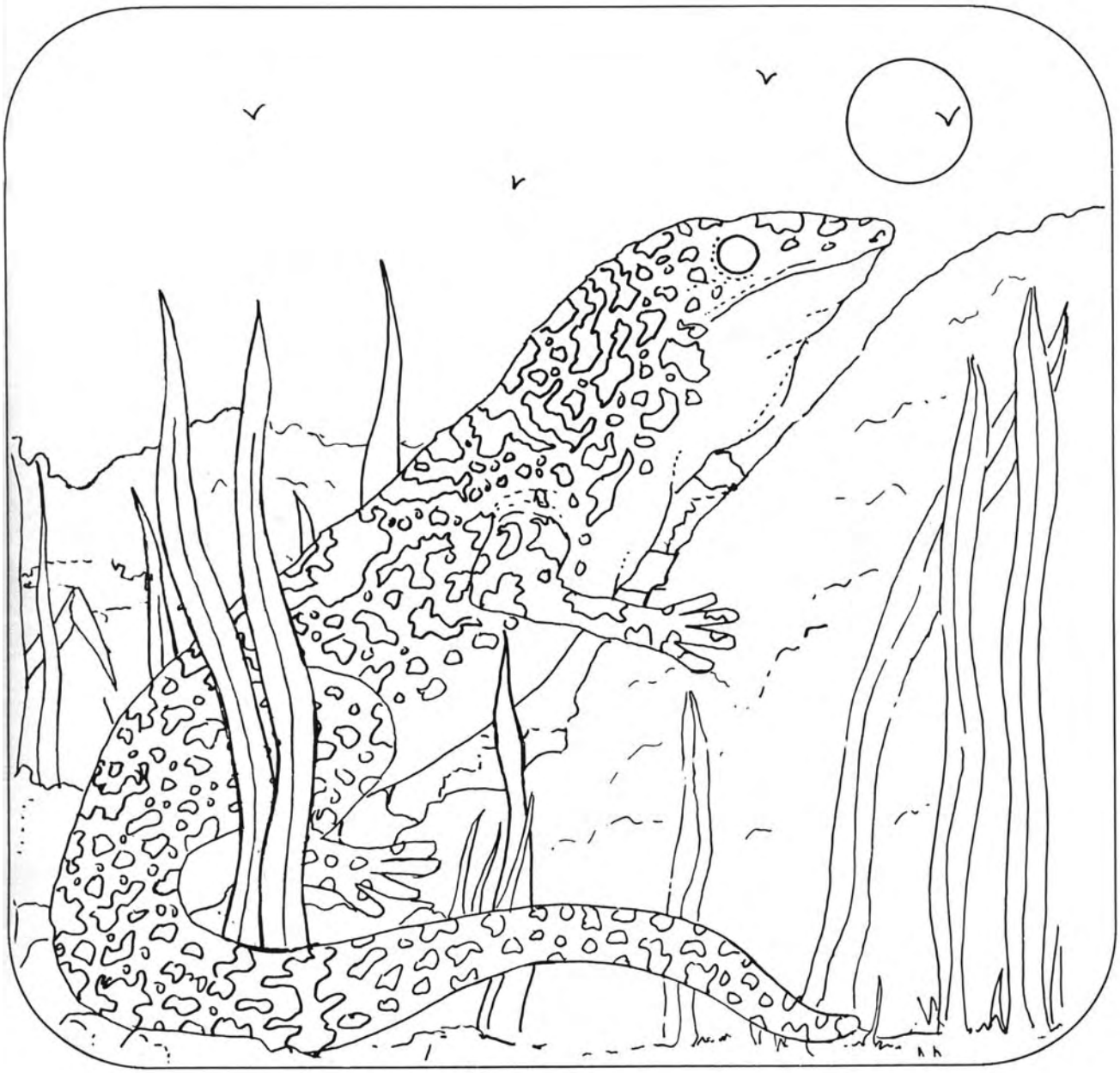
West Indian Manatee



This gentle animal lives in the coastal waters of Georgia, Florida, Texas, and Puerto Rico. It is about 10 feet long and can weigh up to 2,000 pounds — as much as a car! Manatees are **herbivores (meaning they eat only plants).** After eating they may swim to the bottom of the water and rest. Manatees can hold their breath for up to 12 minutes at a time!

In what states is this species found?

Monito Gecko



This little lizard with bulging eyes is quite an acrobat. It races easily across cliffs and can even walk upside down! Full-grown Monito geckos are about as big as your thumb — only 1-1/2 inches long.

In what state is this species found?

Florida Panther

The Florida panther has a cowlick of fur in the middle of its back that sticks out. Like housecats, the Florida panther keeps clean by licking its fur. These graceful cats make a lot of different noises to communicate with one another. They chirp, peep, growl, and hiss. Panther kittens make a sound like a whistle to tell their their mother where they are.

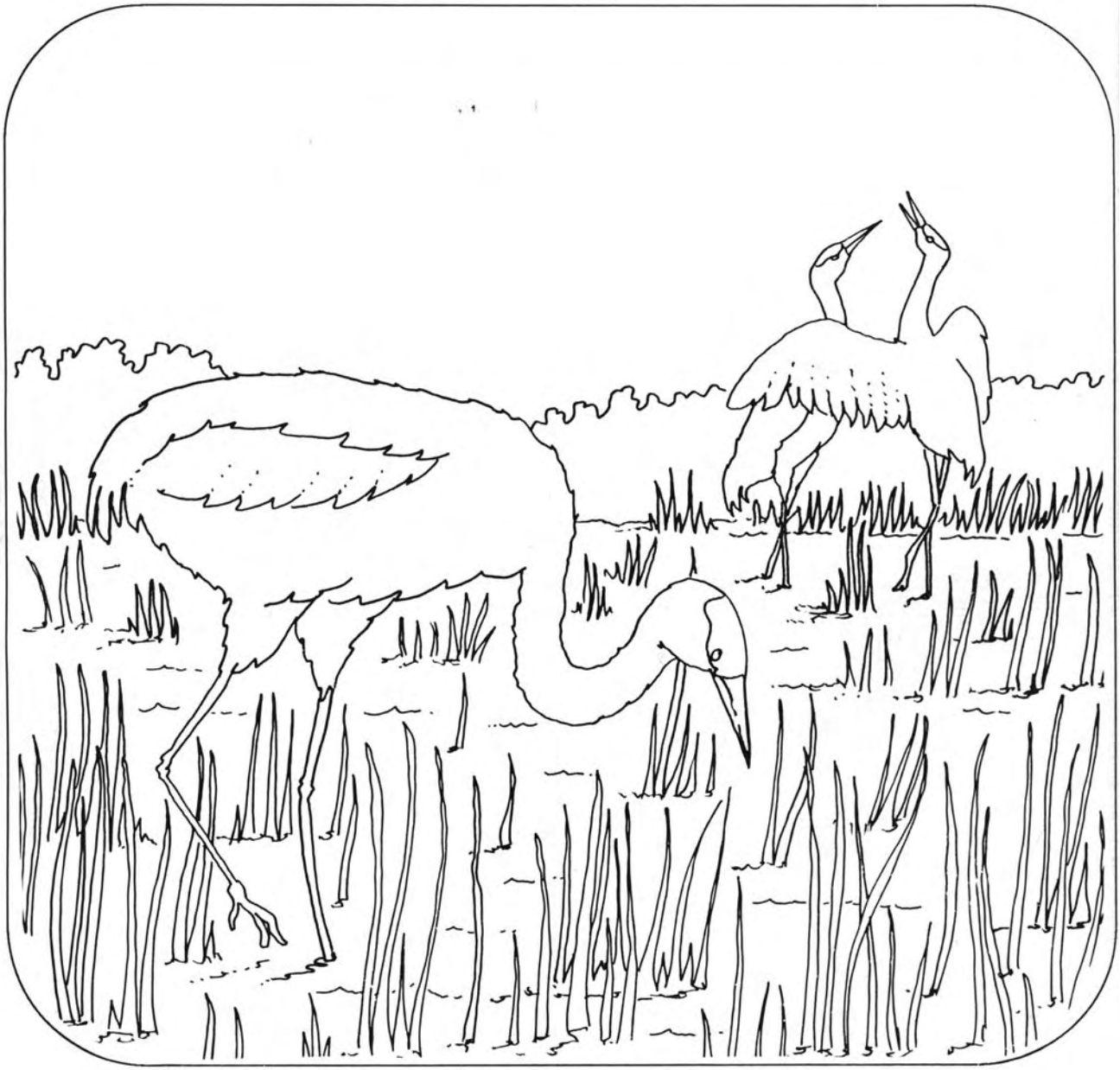
In what state is this species found?

Green Pitcher Plant

This plant eats insects! Do you like to eat insects? When an insect lands on one of the plant's leaves, it gets stuck in a gooey liquid. Then the insect slides down the leaf and into the plant's empty stem. The insect is digested just like we digest food in our stomachs.

In what states is this species found?

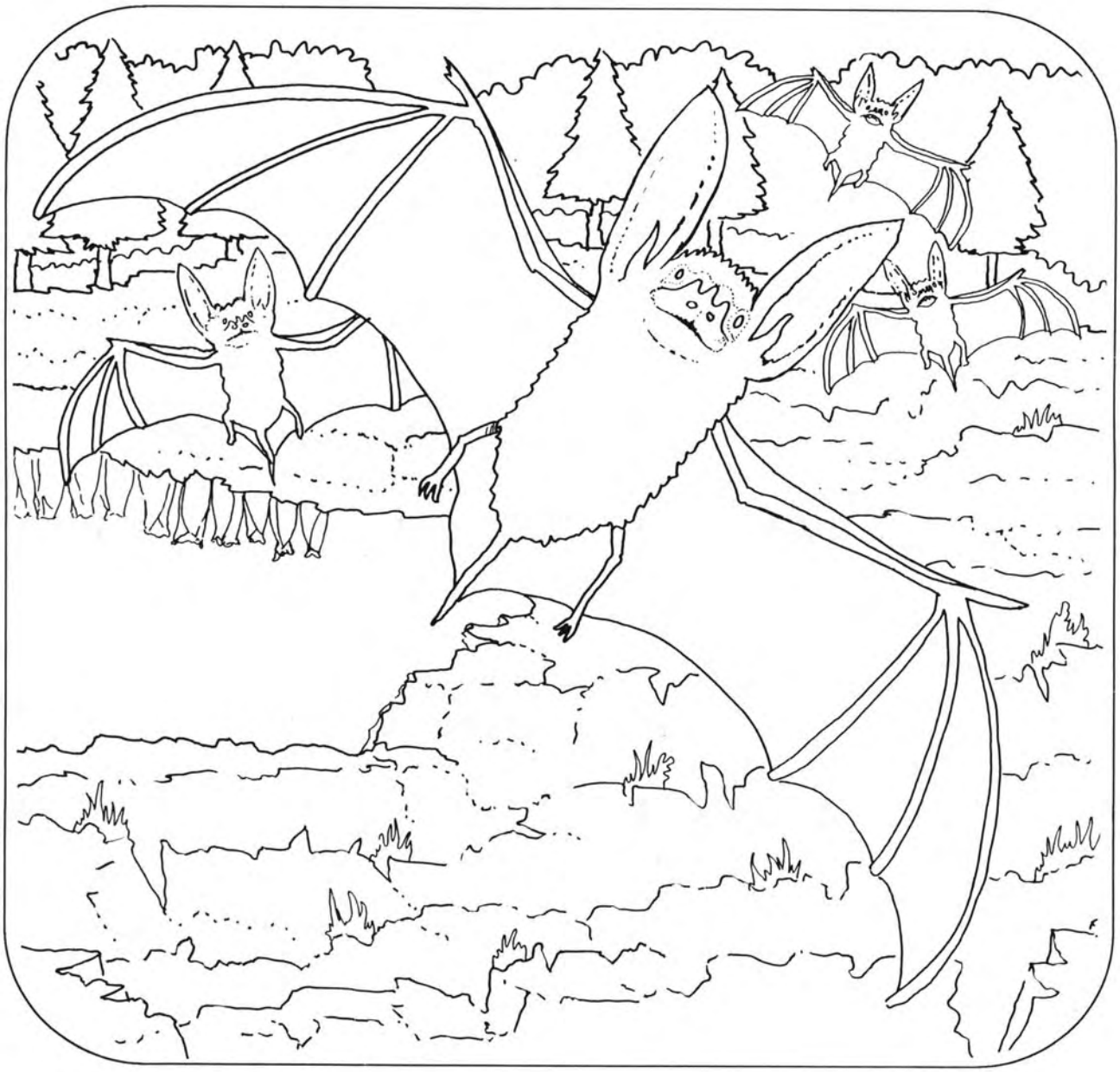
Mississippi Sandhill Crane



These birds are about 4 feet tall when standing straight up on their feet. Sometimes, a group of cranes will dance in a great circle. The cranes bow to their partners and leap into the air. This tall, grayish bird lives in savannah habitats and is very rare.

In what state is this species found?

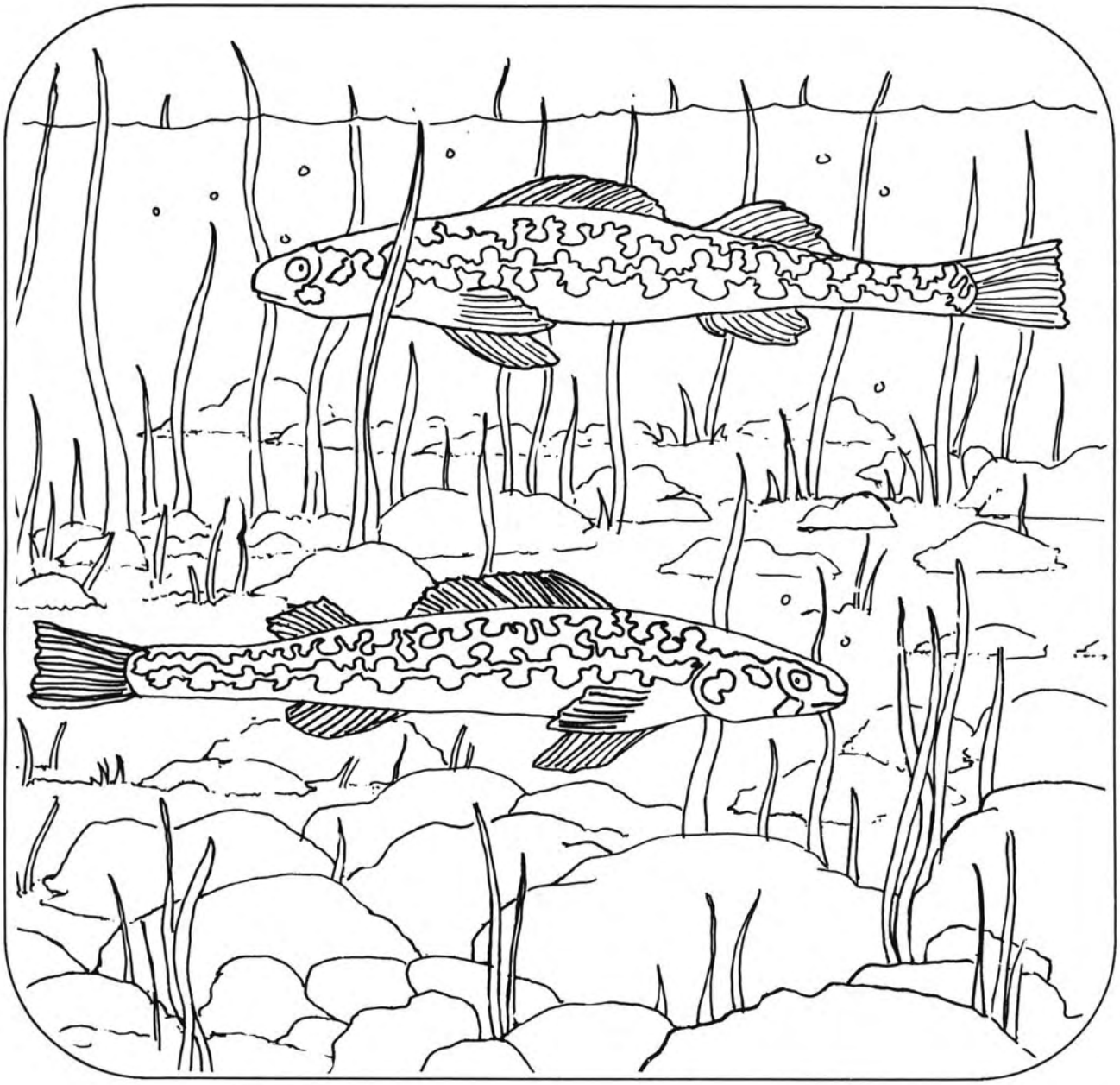
Ozark Big-Eared Bat



This bat has big ears and orange-red fur. During the day, it sleeps hanging upside down inside caves. At night, the bat hunts for moths and other insects. On summer evenings, you might see bats flying back to their caves. Hungry babies are waiting to be fed!

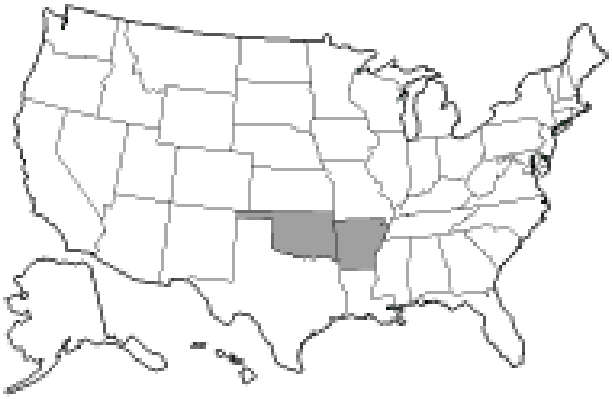
In what states is this species found?

Leopard Darter



These little fish have leopard spots and leopard speed! They zip through rivers in a wink of an eye, darting after the insects they eat. Leopard darters grow to only 3 inches long and live for 1 to 3 years.

In what states is this species found?

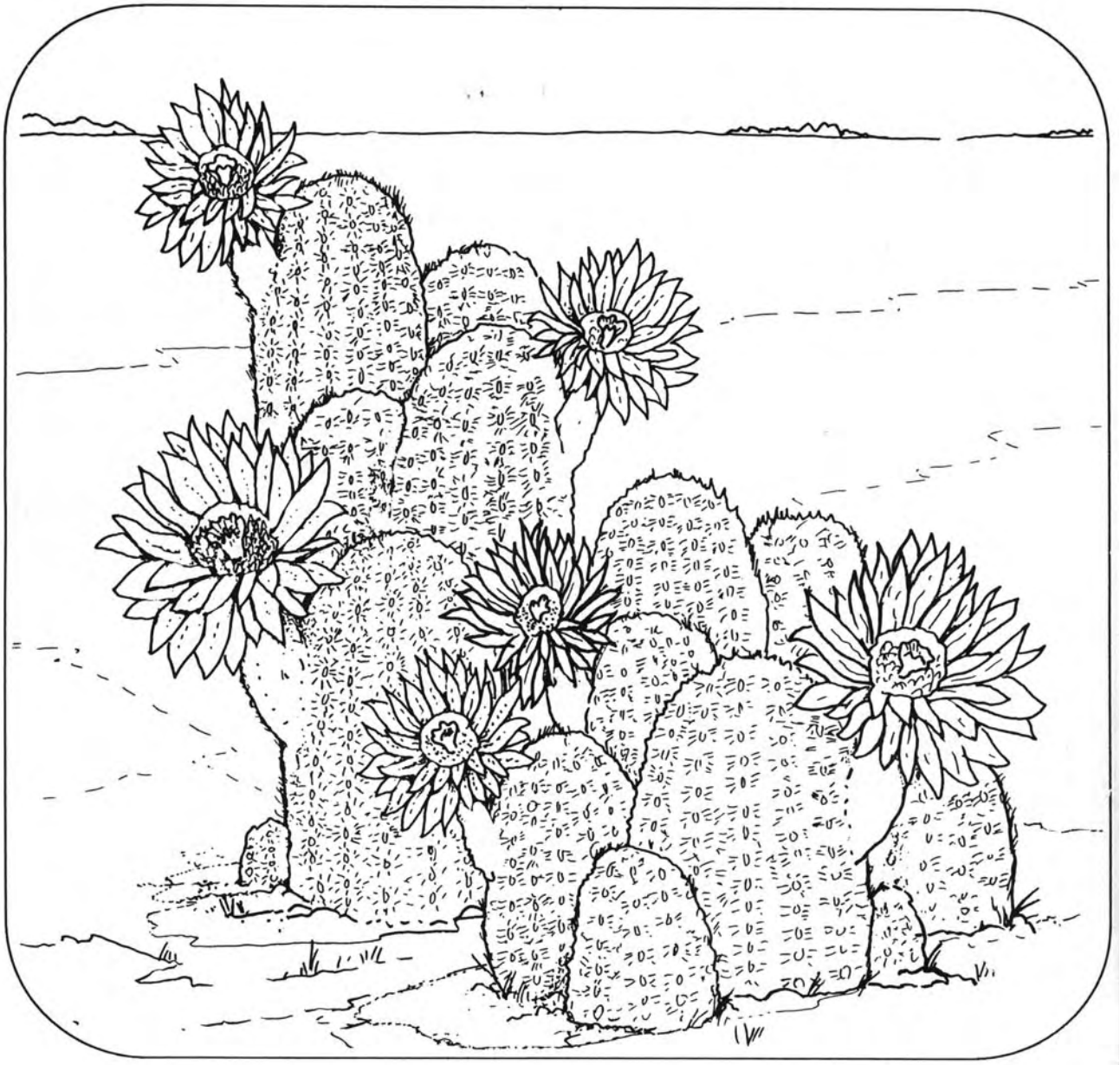


Wyoming Toad

The Wyoming toad has green skin with dark blotches. This coloring helps it blend into the grass to hide from animals that might want to eat it. These toads have lived in Wyoming a long time — since the great glaciers of the Ice Age disappeared more than 12,000 years ago!

In what state is this species found?

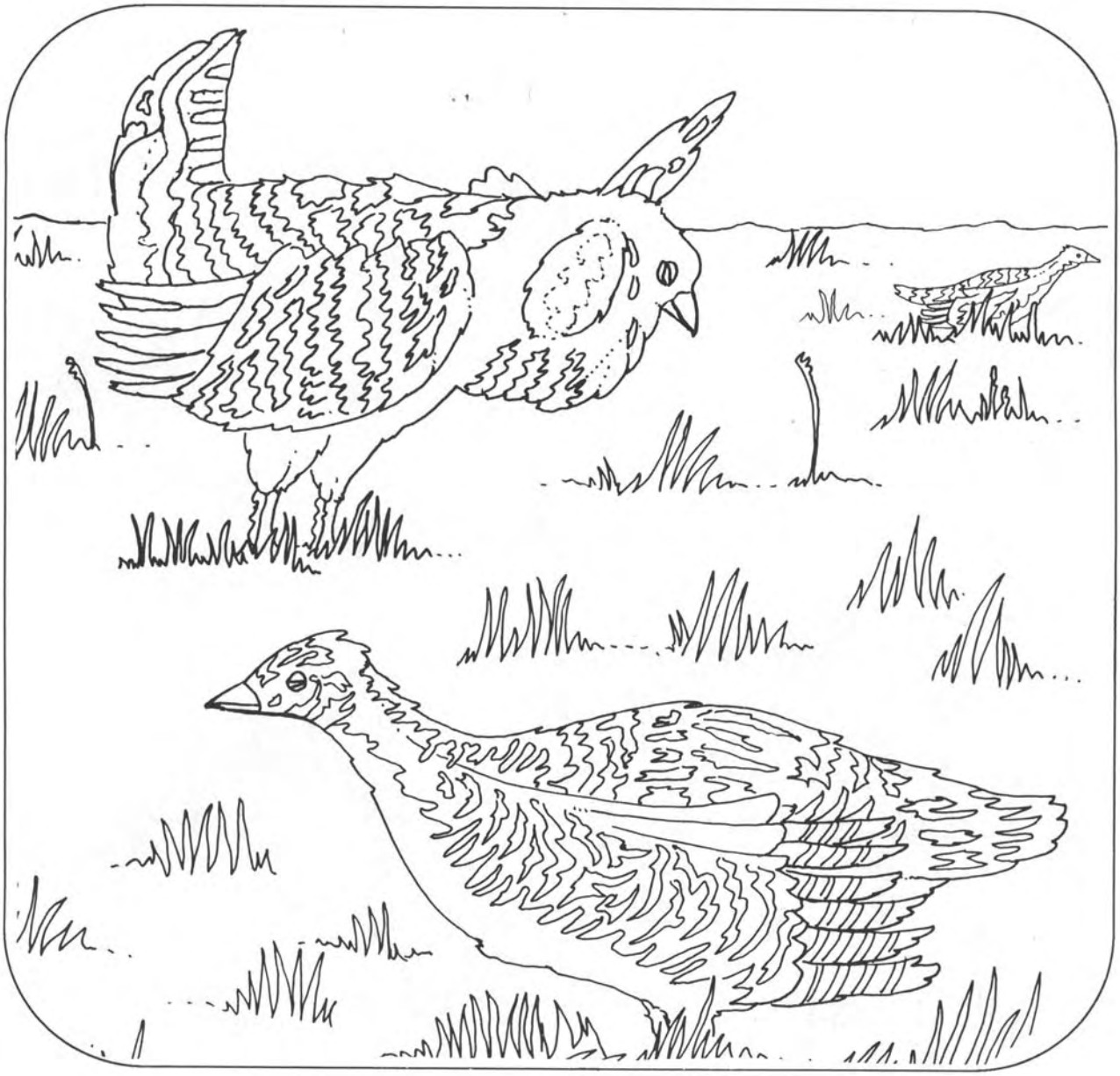
Black Lace Cactus



This tiny cactus is only 6 inches tall. and grows in the desert of southern Texas. The plant's pink and purple flowers with red centers are very pretty but watch out because this plant, like most cacti, has spines as sharp as pins!

In what state is this species found?

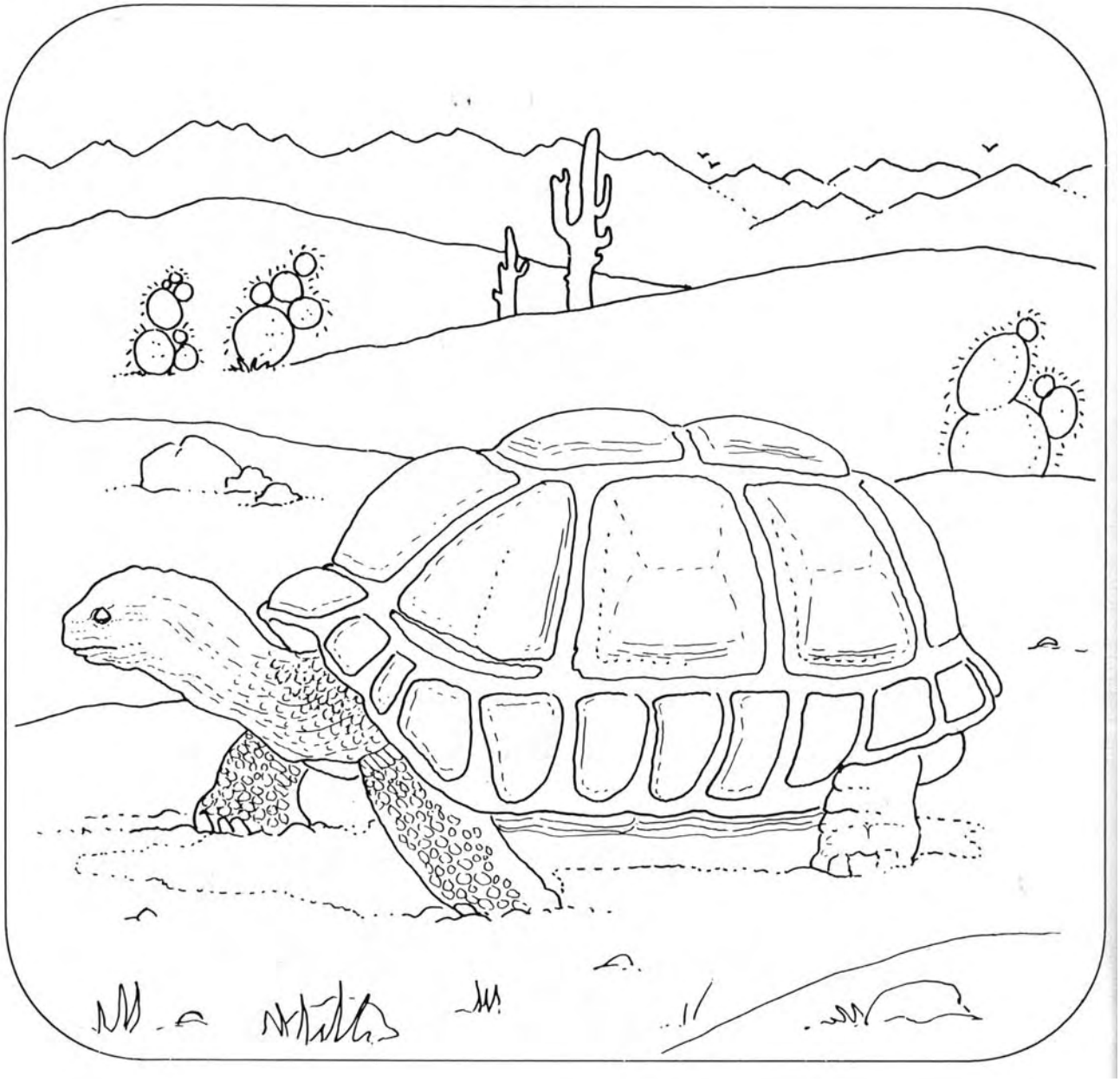
Attwater's Greater Prairie Chicken



Oo-loo-woo, sings the male prairie chicken to his mate. Prairie chickens sing and dance every spring in the grasslands of Texas. Their dancing area is called the "booming ground" because of the loud songs of the males.

In what state is this species found?

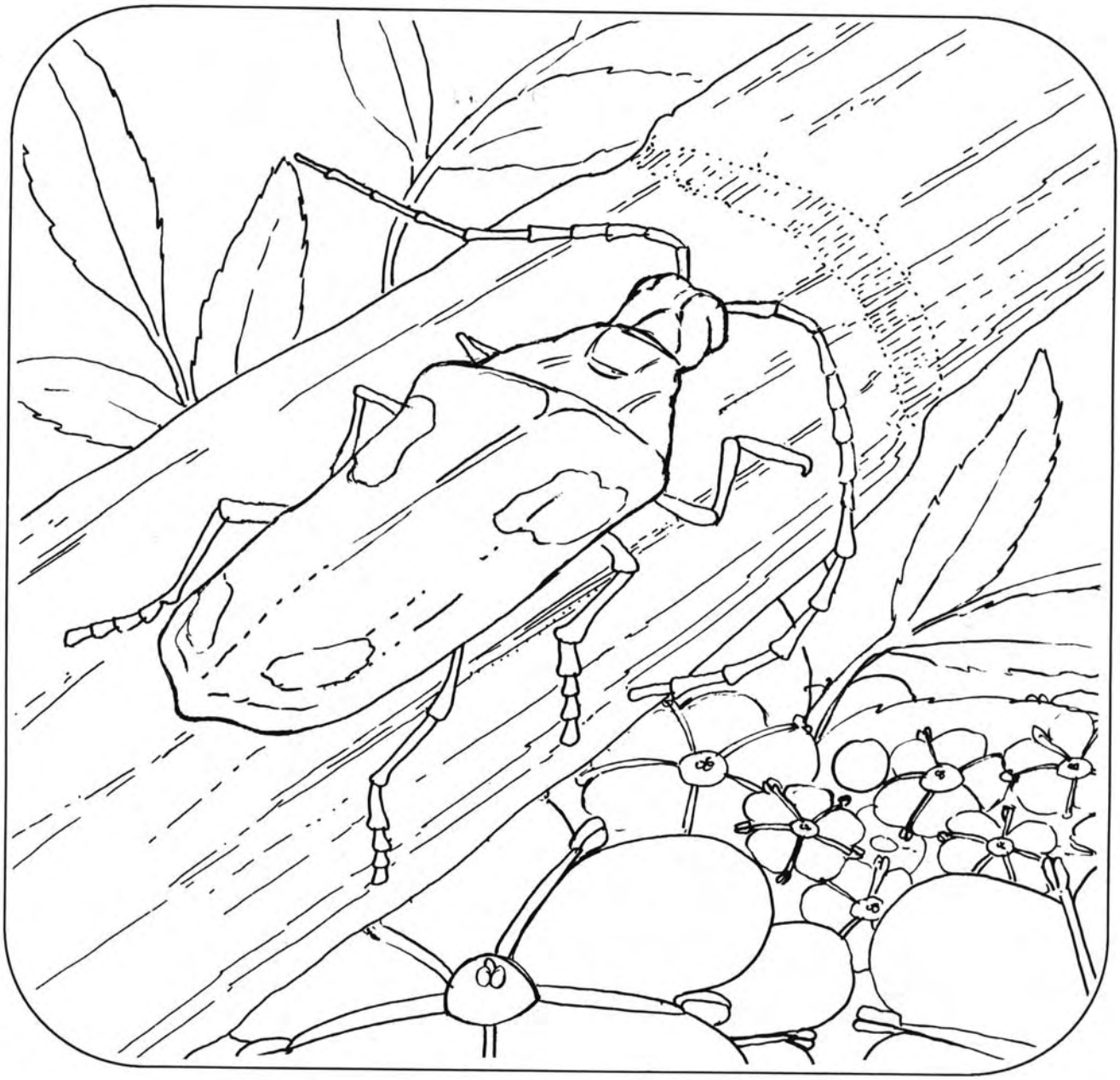
Desert Tortoise



This tortoise lives in the deserts of Arizona, southern Utah, Nevada, and California. Actually, it mostly lives under the desert! In the summer, the tortoise digs tunnels underground to hide from the sun. Then all winter it sleeps, or "hibernates," in deep holes.

In what states is this species found?

Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle



Some insects are endangered, too. The valley elderberry longhorn beetle lives only in California. Female beetles lay their eggs in cracks and crevices in tree bark. From the time egg is laid, it takes 2 years for an adult beetle, with its bright green wings trimmed with orange, to appear!

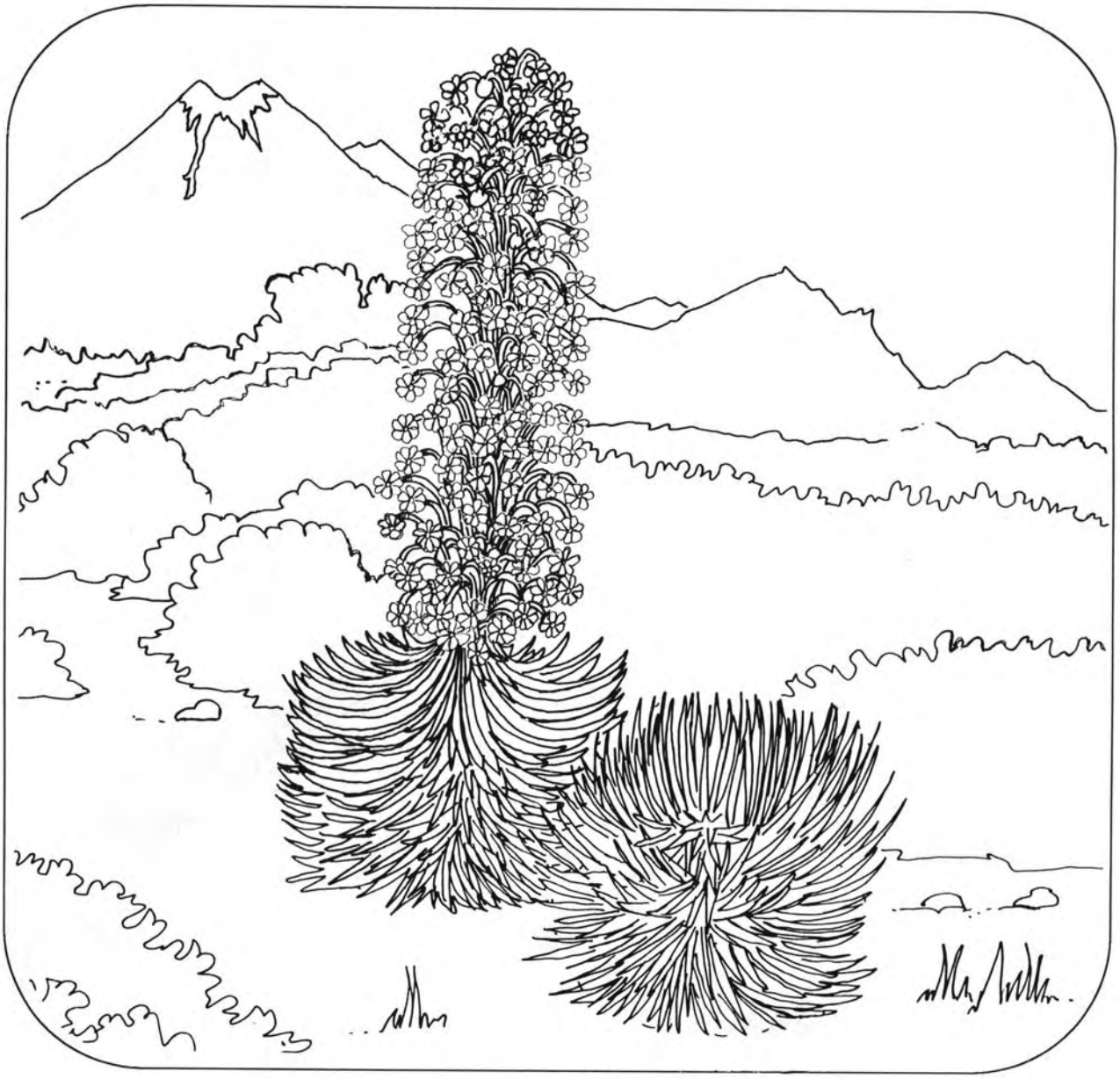
In what state is this species found?

Mission Blue Butterfly

The mission blue butterfly flies and flutters, looking for just the right flower in which to lay its eggs. In a few weeks, these eggs hatch into caterpillars. Sometimes, these caterpillars are guarded by ants that protect them from enemies like flies and other insects. The caterpillars "pay" the ants back by giving off a sweet liquid that the ant likes to eat.

In what state is this species found?

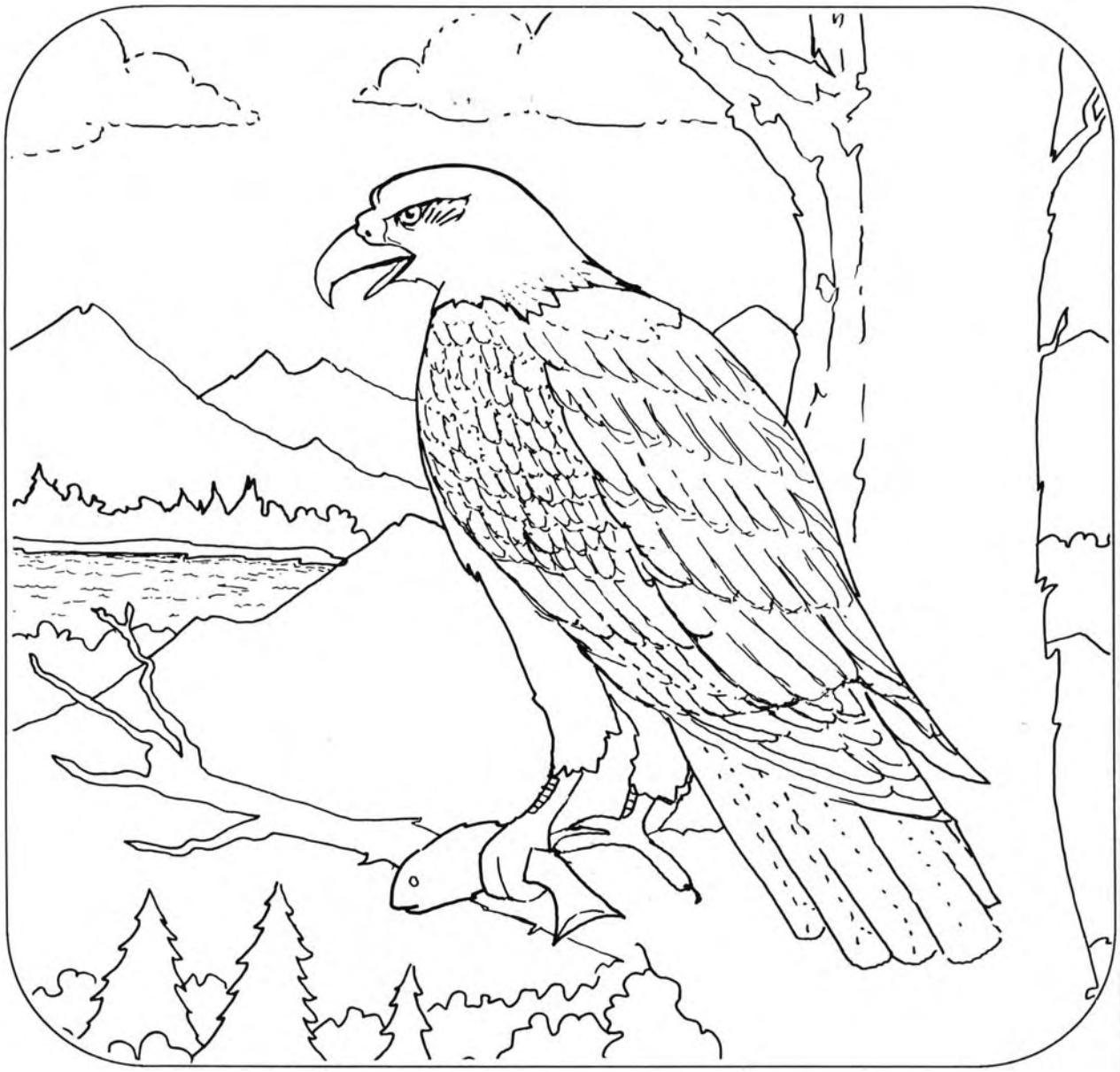
Mauna Kea Silversword



The Mauna Kea silversword is found only in the State of Hawaii on the island of Maui. The pretty pink flowers of this plant can rise over 7 feet high! At the bottom of the plant is a ball of pointed, silvery leaves that look like swords. The leaves are sharp like swords, too.

In what state is this species found?

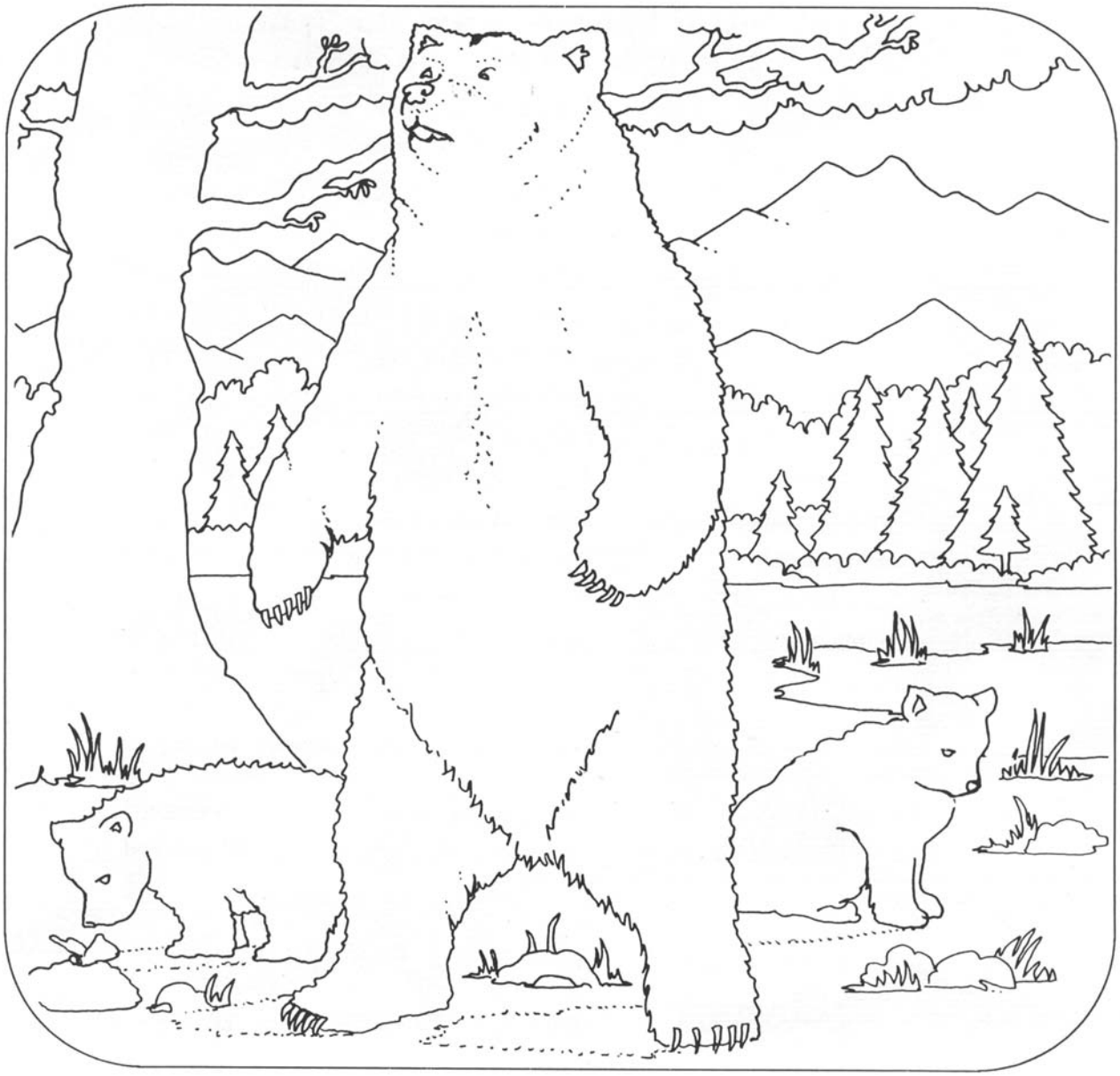
Bald Eagle



The bald eagle is our national symbol and represents strength, courage, and freedom. Its eyesight is so good that it can spot a fish from more than a mile away! It is so fast that it can swoop down through the air at 100 miles an hour to catch this tasty meal with its strong claws. Until recently, it was endangered. The population of eagles had gone down rapidly with the use of DDT. DDT was banned and now the eagle population is rebuilding.

In what states is this species found?

Grizzly Bear



You'd look pretty short standing next to this 8-foot tall bear! The grizzly bear is one of the biggest animals in North America. Adult grizzly bears are shy and usually live alone. Young cubs stay with their mother for several years while she teaches them to hunt, fish, and find berries and nuts.

In what states is this species found?

Index of Species' Common Name, Scientific Name, and Status

PAGE	COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	STATUS
3	Shortnose sturgeon	*Acipenser brevirostrum*	Endangered
4	Dwarf wedge mussel	*Alasmidonta heterodon*	Endangered
5	Nashville crayfish	*Orconectes shoupi*	Endangered
6	Red-cockaded woodpecker	*Picoides borealis*	Endangered
7	Eastern indigo snake	*Drymarchon corais couperi*	Threatened
8	Florida manatee	*Trichechus manatus*	Endangered
9	Monito gecko	*Sphaerodactylus micropithecus*	Endangered
10	Florida panther	*Felis concolor coryi*	Endangered
11	Green pitcher plant	*Sarracenia oreophila*	Endangered
12	Mississippi sandhill crane	*Grus canadensis pulla*	Endangered
13	Ozark big-eared bat	*Plecotus townsendii ingens*	Endangered
14	Leopard darter	*Percina pantherina*	Threatened
15	Wyoming toad	*Bufo hemiophrys baxteri*	Endangered
16	Black lace cactus	*Echinocereus reichenbachii var. albertii*	Endangered
17	Attwater's greater prairie chicken	*Tympanuchus cupido attwateri*	Endangered
18	Desert tortoise	*Gopherus agassizii*	Threatened
19	Valley elderberry longhorn beetle	*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*	Threatened
20	Mission blue butterfly	*Icaricia icarioides missionensis*	Endangered
21	Mauna Kea silversword	*Agyroxiphium sandwicense spp. sandwicense*	Endangered
22	Bald eagle	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	No longer Endangered (As of June 2007)
23	Grizzly bear	*Ursus arctos (=U.a. horribilis)*	Threatened

To learn more about how EPA, the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries Service protect endangered species, please visit the following Web sites:

EPA - www.epa.gov/espp

FWS - http://www.fws.gov/endangered/wildlife.html

NOAA Fisheries Service - http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/

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If you would like more information about EPA's Endangered Species Protection Program, contact:

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
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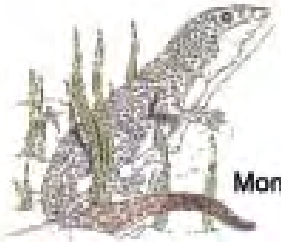

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