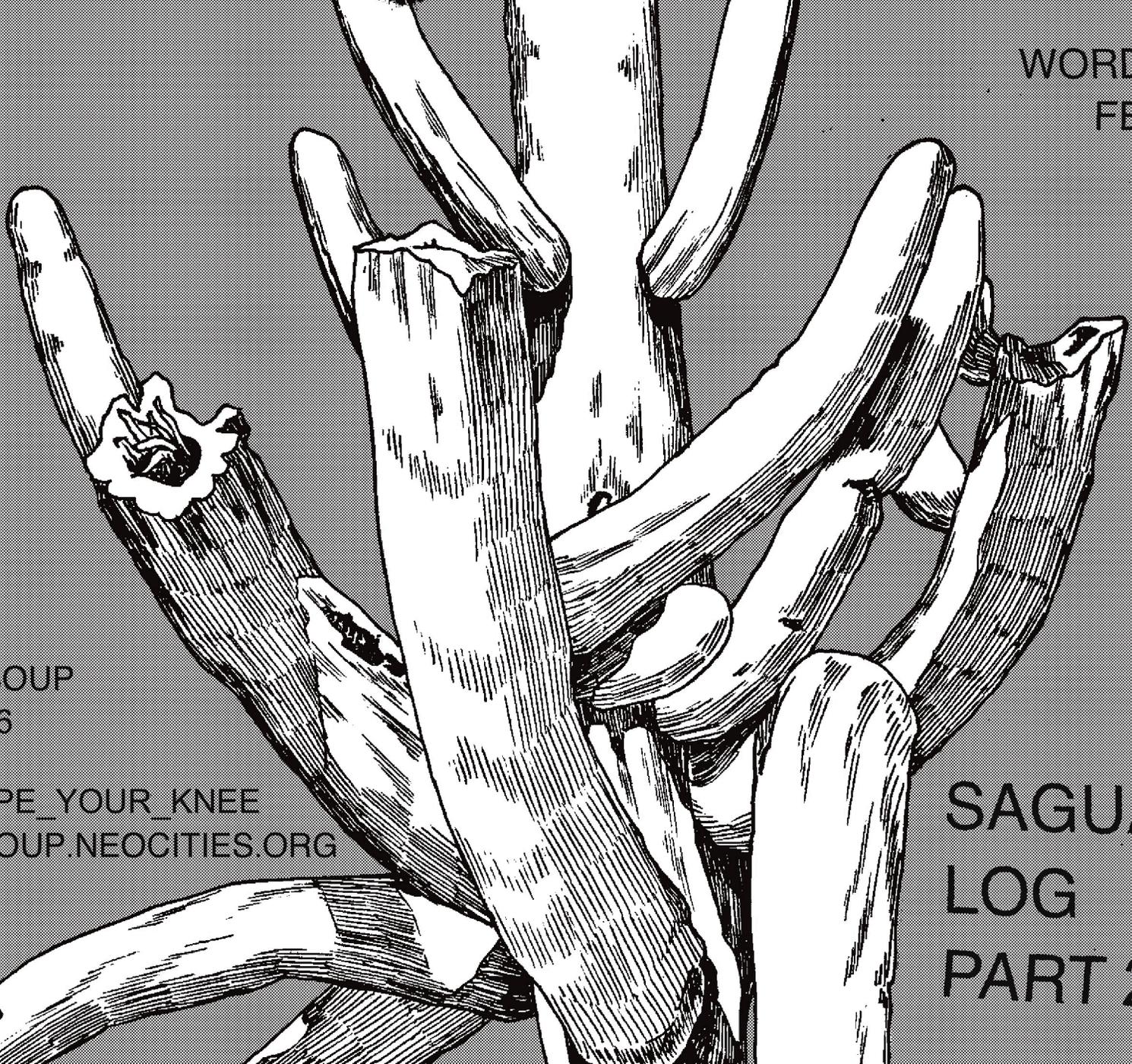


WORD SOUP
FEB 2026



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SAGUARO
LOG
PART 2

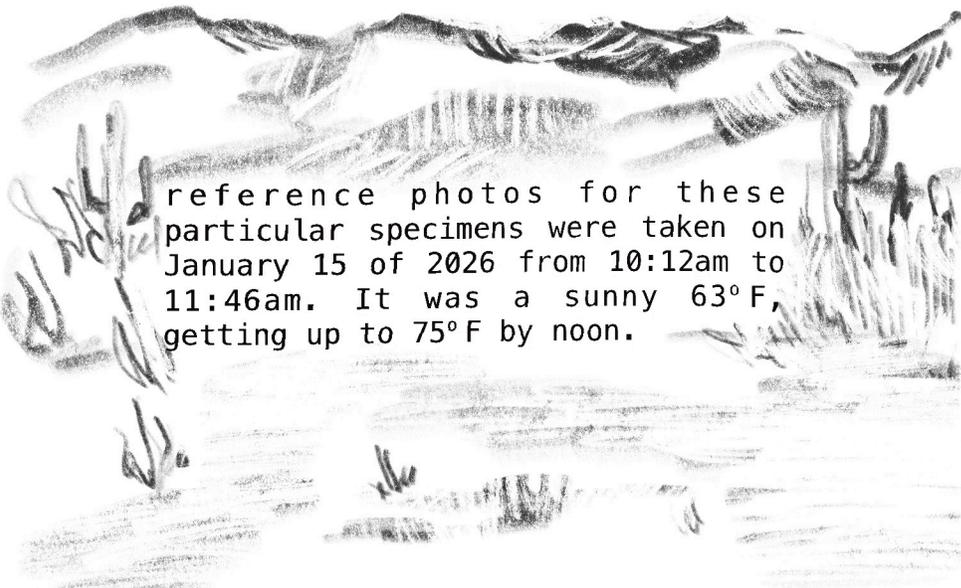
data taken by friends of saguaro national park during a 2020 census estimates that there are just over 2 million saguaro cacti currently residing in saguaro national park (with ~500,000 located in the rincon mountain district and ~1.6 million in the Tucson mountain district). this is a perpetually unending and unofficial log of every saguaro in saguaro national park. I will never finish this. eventually, I would like to catalog at least 0.1% of all the saguaros in the rincon mountain district (about 500 different cacti). here is part 2:



25, 26. coolidge and tilly (aka the jennifers)

3 and 7 feet tall, respectively
no arms on either

here we find two relatively young cacti taking shelter under a nurse tree (in this case, a velvet mesquite). these two have an adoptive sibling, the humble fishhook barrel cactus. they are surrounded by dead grasses and prickly pear cactus.



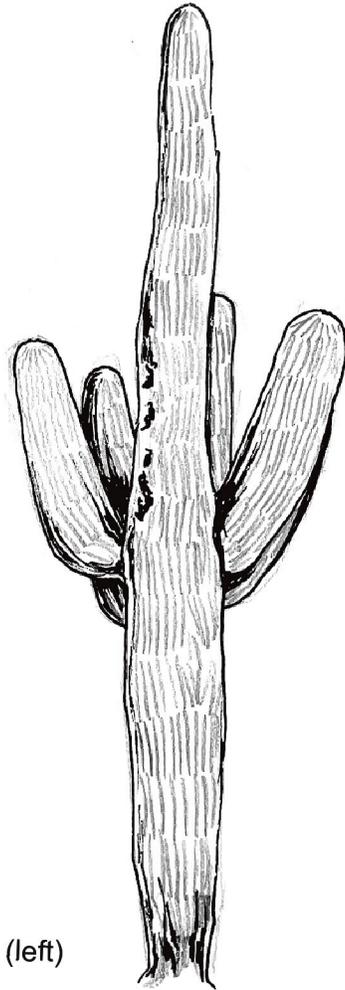
reference photos for these particular specimens were taken on January 15 of 2026 from 10:12am to 11:46am. It was a sunny 63° F, getting up to 75° F by noon.

27. tim tam (right)

23 feet tall

five arms

seems to have housed at least two large woodpecker nests at some point, as they have since collapsed in on themselves and left a giant sinkhole on the main spear of the cactus.

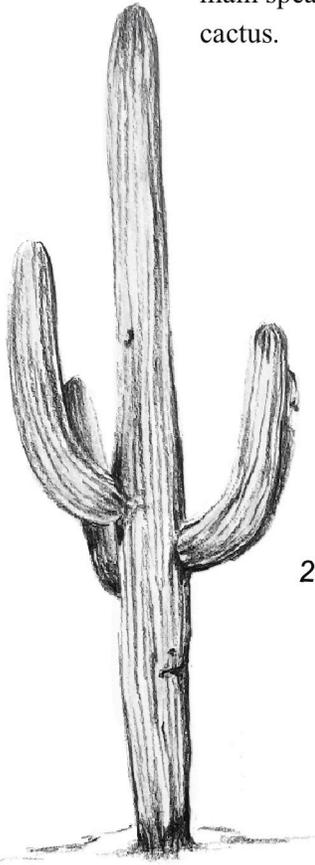


28. no problem (left)

25 feet tall

four arms

got some bird holes and some injuries near the base but it's really no problem. for this guy? no problem!

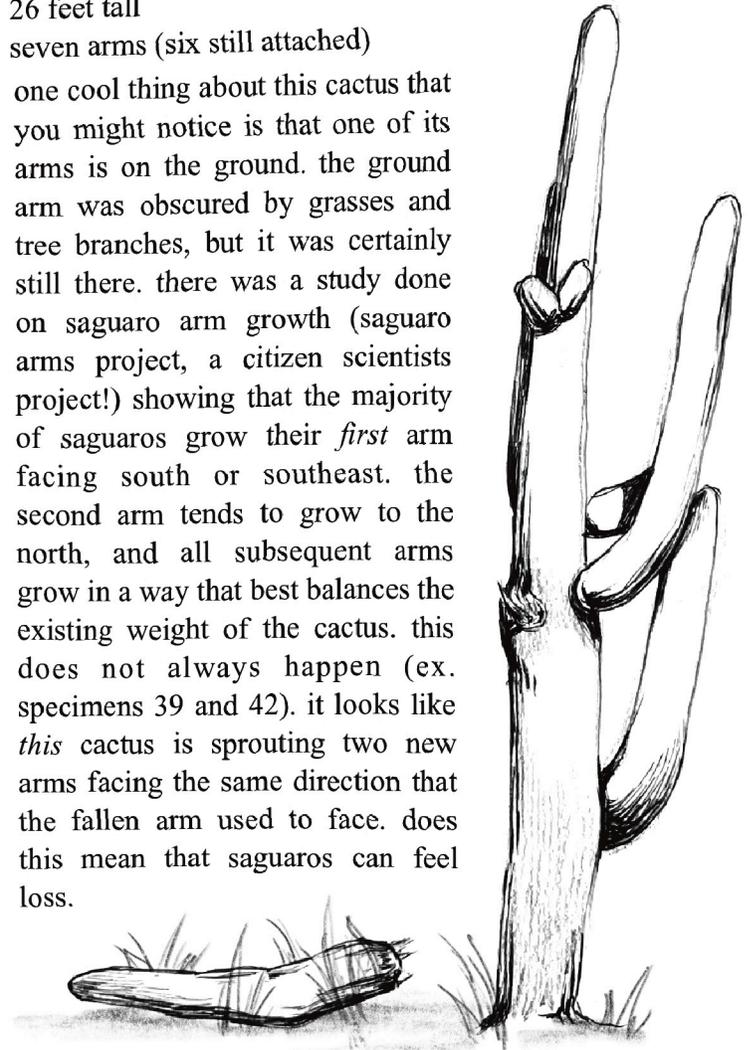


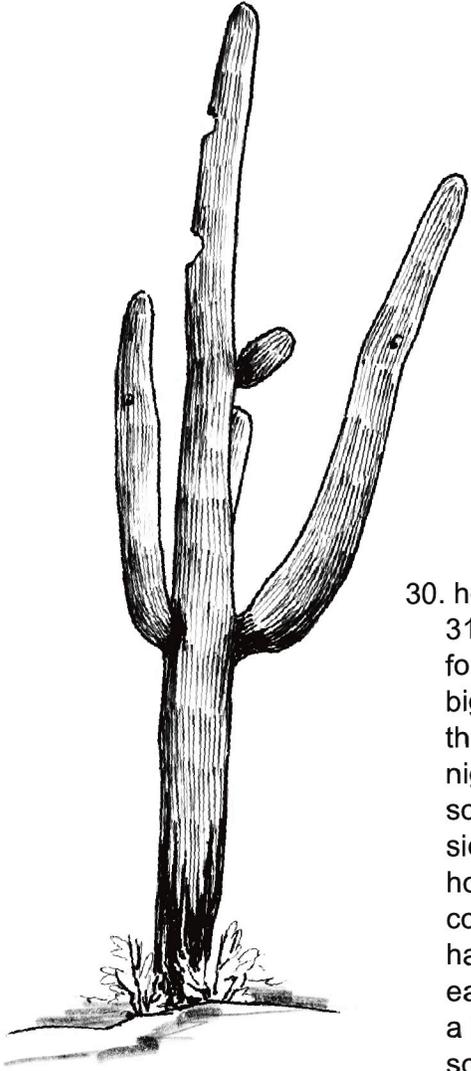
29. j walter weatherman

26 feet tall

seven arms (six still attached)

one cool thing about this cactus that you might notice is that one of its arms is on the ground. the ground arm was obscured by grasses and tree branches, but it was certainly still there. there was a study done on saguaro arm growth (saguaro arms project, a citizen scientists project!) showing that the majority of saguaros grow their *first* arm facing south or southeast. the second arm tends to grow to the north, and all subsequent arms grow in a way that best balances the existing weight of the cactus. this does not always happen (ex. specimens 39 and 42). it looks like *this* cactus is sprouting two new arms facing the same direction that the fallen arm used to face. does this mean that saguaros can feel loss.





30. hole punch

31 feet tall

four arms

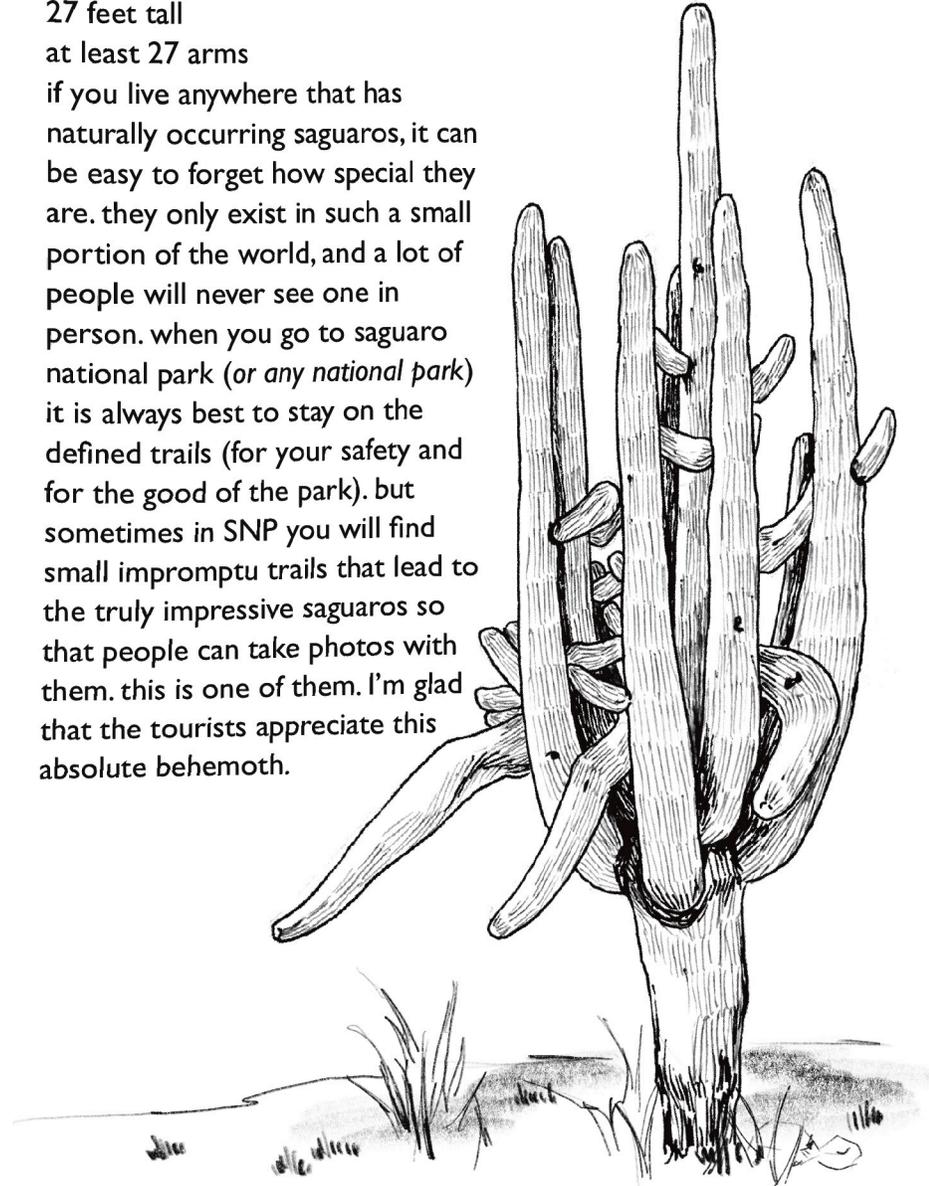
big fan of this one. I like to think that a really big bat came out at night and he was really hungry so he took a chomp out of the side of this cactus and that's how the holes got there. of course this could not really happen because bats do not eat cactus and it is unlikely that a bat could be that big but sometimes imagination is all we have.

31. big papa

27 feet tall

at least 27 arms

if you live anywhere that has naturally occurring saguaros, it can be easy to forget how special they are. they only exist in such a small portion of the world, and a lot of people will never see one in person. when you go to saguaro national park (or any national park) it is always best to stay on the defined trails (for your safety and for the good of the park). but sometimes in SNP you will find small impromptu trails that lead to the truly impressive saguaros so that people can take photos with them. this is one of them. I'm glad that the tourists appreciate this absolute behemoth.

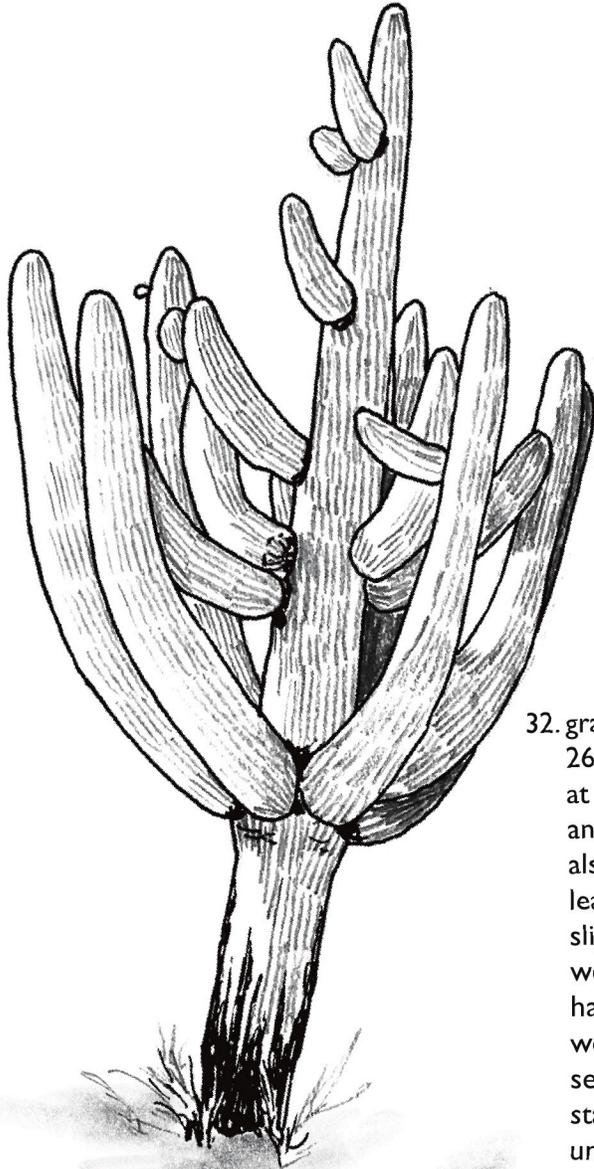




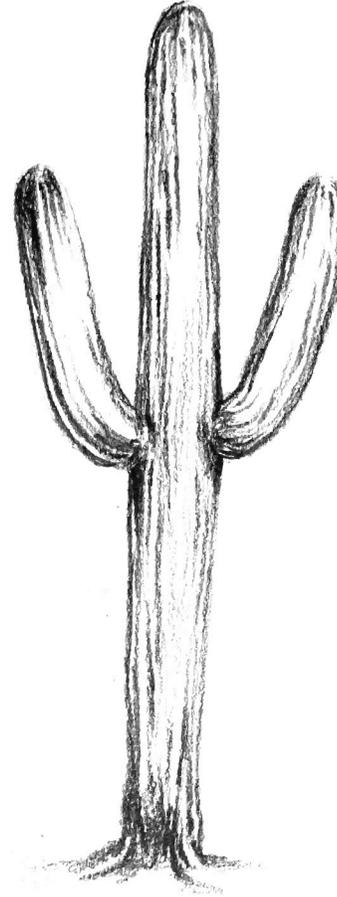
1112 12:51 PM V15 SNP 10:01 AM
 ~60°F, Windy 2:46 PM ~63°F Sun
 3 H Sparrow III
 Phain III Pyw?
 N Mocking Merlin
 A Towhee II Cuckoo
 Anna's III
 H Finch III
 Cactus Wren III II
 Gln
 Curve Billed T III
 Verdin III III
 Oriole III III III III III
 Mo Do III III III III
~~Wren~~
 Sparrow
 Song IA
 Rufous Wing Sp
 Black Throat Sp
 Lesser GF III

Verdin III I 12:05 PM
 Phain II
 Rufous Crown Sp III
 Black Throated Sp III III
 White Crowned Sp I
 Cactus Wren II
 Gln
 Ladder backed
 Gambels Q I
 Yellow Rumped III
 Red shafted W Flicker III
 Roadrunner ^{new} still rattle
 RCK
 Black Tailed Grack
 Curve Billed
 Raven

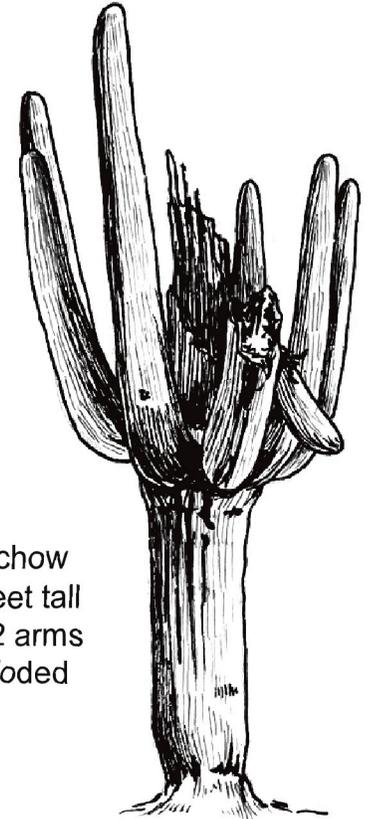
all of the birds I saw that day



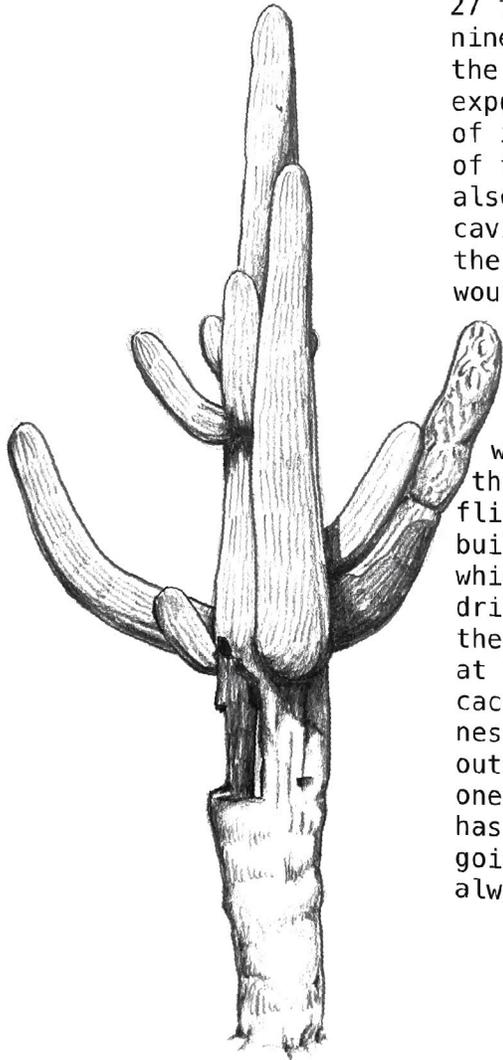
32. grand slam
26 feet tall
at least 18 arms
another monster. this one
also had a short trail
leading to it. also has a very
slight lean to it, which
would be fine if it didn't
have all the arms in the
world. you can actually
see where the rind is
starting to split and pull
under the weight of the
main arms.



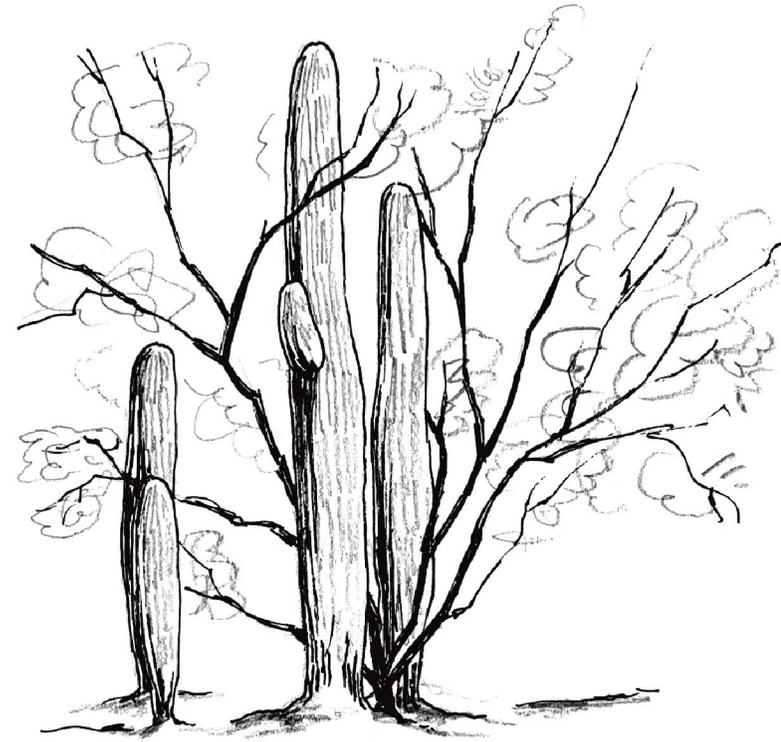
33. poster child
18 feet tall
two arms
I love finding super interesting
looking cacti for this project,
but sometimes it's also fun to
find the most generic
cardboard cutout looking
cactus possible. not even the
birds want to disturb how
perfect it looks.



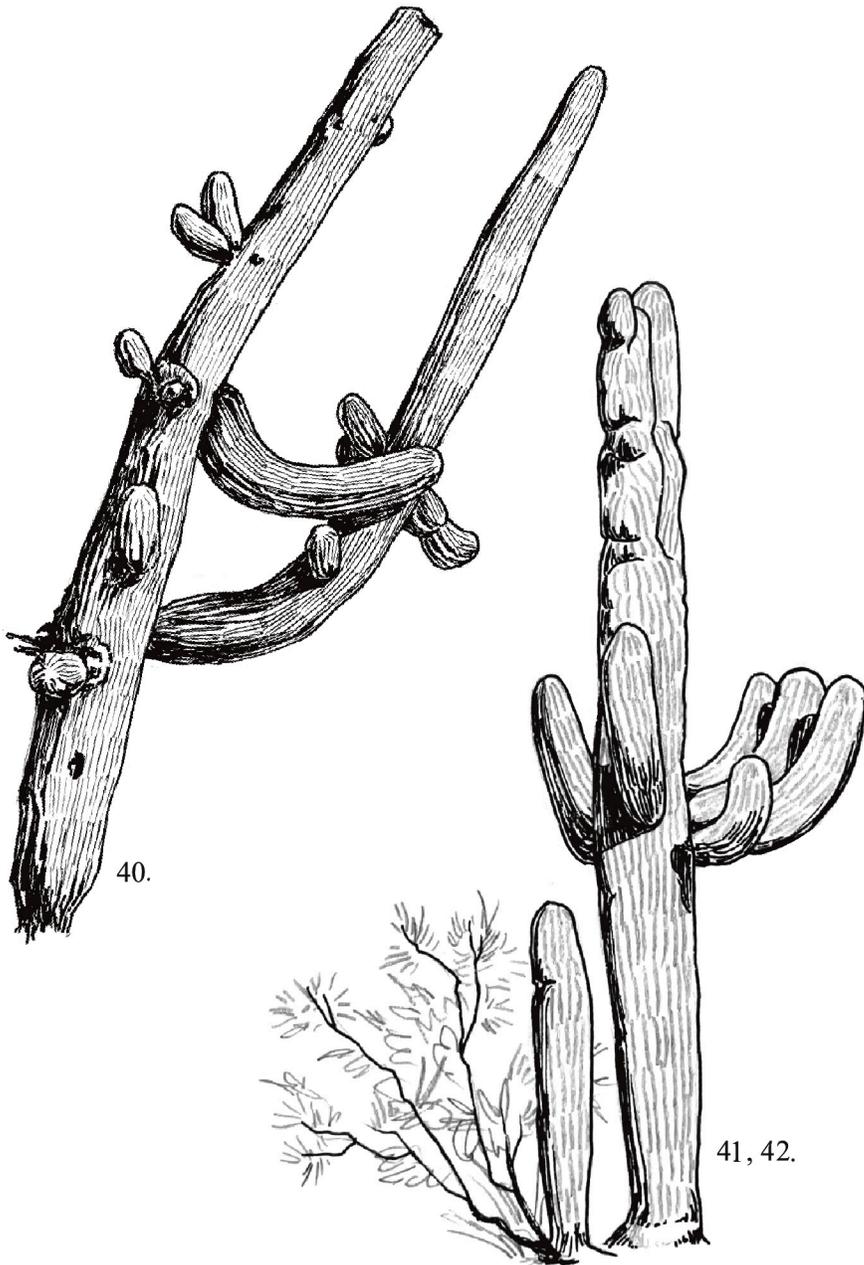
34. kerchow
15 feet tall
7 1/2 arms
it *sploded*



35. marjorie
27 feet tall
nine arms
the ribs are fully exposed from some sort of injury near the base of the cactus. there is also a woodpecker cavity much lower to the ground than you would generally see. cavities seen lower in the cactus are generally made by gila woodpeckers, while those close to the top are made by flickers (flickers build larger nests, which requires them to drill through the ribs. these are much weaker at the top of the cactus. woodpecker nests usually sit outside of the ribs). one of the arms also has some fasciation going on, which is always cool to see.



- 36, 37, 38, 39. the monkeys
range from 3-14 feet tall
one arm on michael nesmith (#39)
as established earlier, young saguaros grow under the shade and security of a nurse tree. one could say that they hide 'neath the wings of the bluebird as she sings (the six o'clock alarm would never ring). but it rings and I rise, wipe the sleep out of my eyes. my shavin' razor's cold and it stings. cheer up sleepy jean, oh what can it mean to a daydream believer and a homecoming queen? *you once thought of me as a white knight on his steed. now you know how happy I can be. oh and our good time starts and ends without dollar one to spend, but how much, baby, do we really need? cheer up sleepy jean! oh what can it mean to a daydream believer and a homecoming queen?*



40. sugar

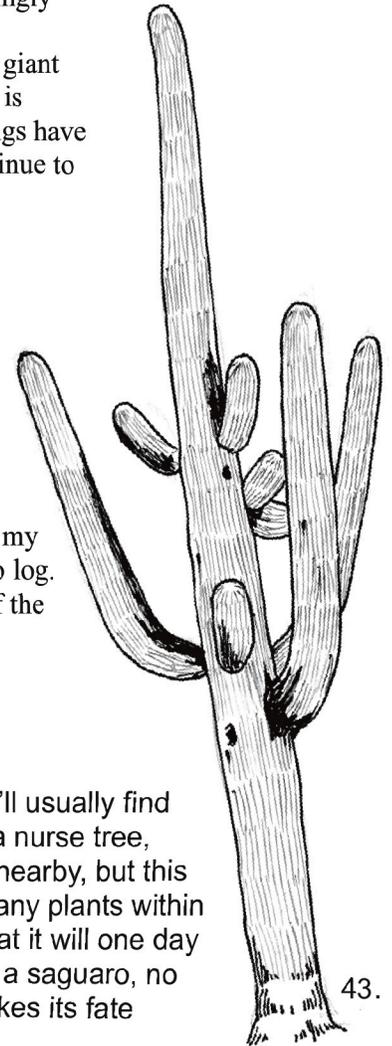
currently ~30 feet tall
 currently has 12 arms
 so much is happening here. the top of the main spear is gone. at least two arms have fallen off. it is leaning at an increasingly precarious angle. five new arms are sprouting to try and balance out the giant arm on the right. but it is too late. it is much too late. its fate is sealed. things have happened here, and things will continue to happen. but boy, she's going down swinging.

41, 42. tiny tim and big tim

6 and 20 feet tall
 six arms on 41
 let's be tall with mama.
 just kidding. saguaros don't have mama. and I would never spread misinformation about cactus for the sake of a little joke, certainly not in my very factual and data driven saguaro log. the top of #41 is forked, with one of the tines showing intense fasciation.

43. entwistle

28 feet tall
 eight arms
 oddly barren surroundings. you'll usually find some shrubs, the remnants of a nurse tree, some grasses, or other cactus nearby, but this saguaro doesn't seem to have any plants within five feet of it. can they sense that it will one day come crashing down? a lean in a saguaro, no matter how slight the angle, makes its fate known.



43.