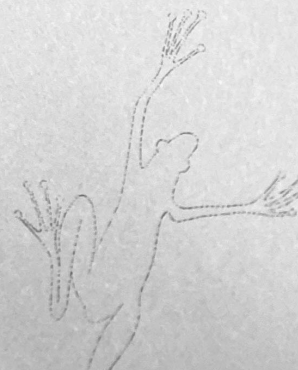
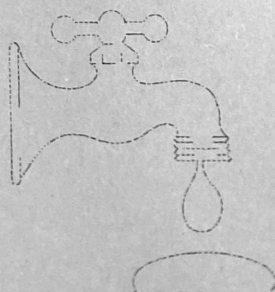
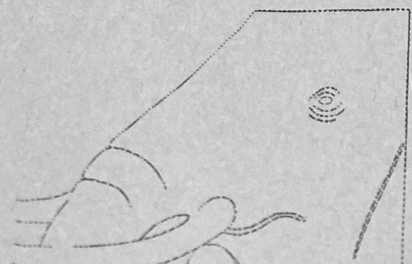
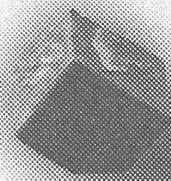
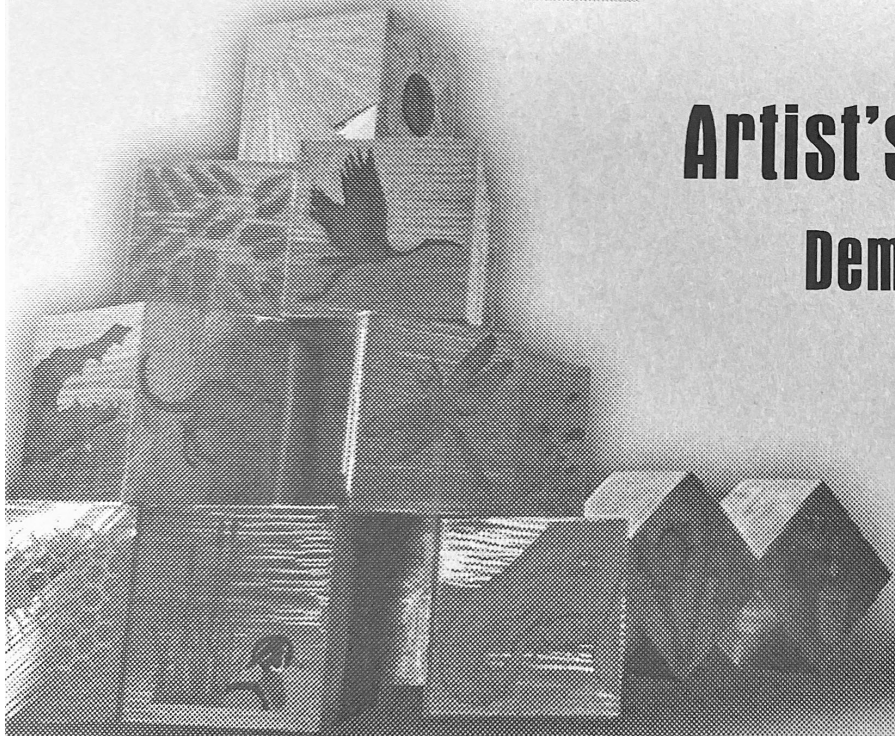




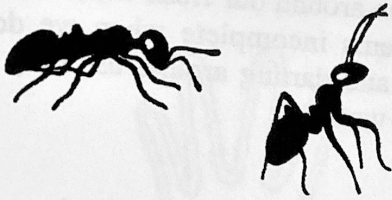
Sum *of the* Parts

Artist's Interpretation

Demsey R. Calhoun

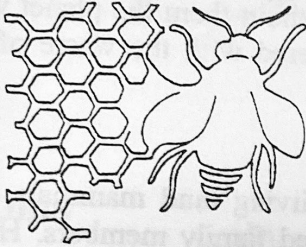


ANTS



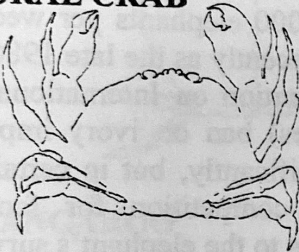
Tiny, tenacious, prolific and necessary, these subterranean marvels, along with their insect brethren, keep the forest floor tidy by processing dead and decaying plant and animal material. Without them, normal life cycles would bog down due to clutter. If humans had an ant's strength to weight ratio, we could toss automobiles like bales of hay.

BEE



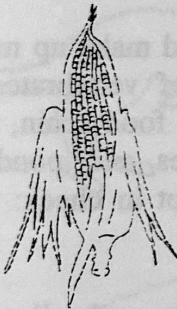
The insect world is the smallest and largest. The tiny size of its members is in stark contrast with its sheer number and diversity of species. Much of their contribution to the sustainability of life's biodiversity takes place out of sight from humans. Honey bees are one of our chief crop pollinators as well as producers of honey.

CORAL CRAB



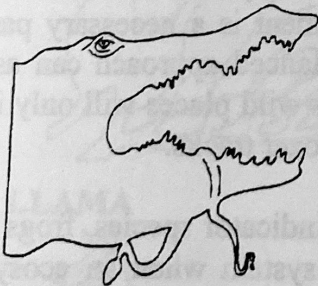
Crustaceans are an important part of the food chain as both predator and prey. The dramatic color of the coral crab is symbolic of the brilliant hues among our underwater brethren.

CORN



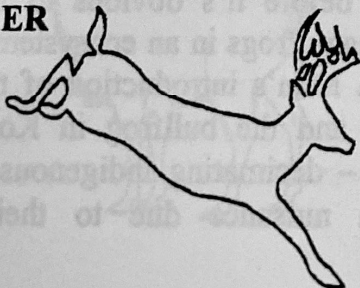
Corn is an essential staple in much of the world for both humans and animals. Few plants are as valuable and versatile.

CROCODILE



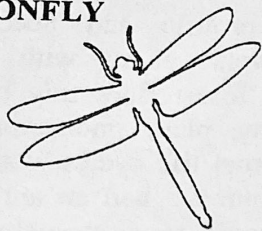
African crocodiles are the largest living reptiles on earth. Its cousins, the American alligator and the American crocodile are endangered. Loss of habitat and exploitation have contributed to their status, especially the little known American crocodile. Reptiles provide hides and meat for humans but also help keep the waterways free of dead and dying animals. As scavengers and hunters, crocodiles rule the underwater world.

DEER



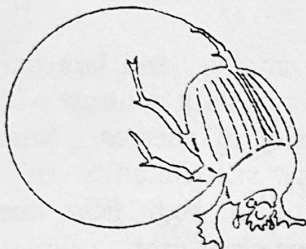
One of our more graceful mammals, white tail deer range through out Eastern America and are a supplemental food source for larger predators (humans included) and scavengers.

DRAGONFLY



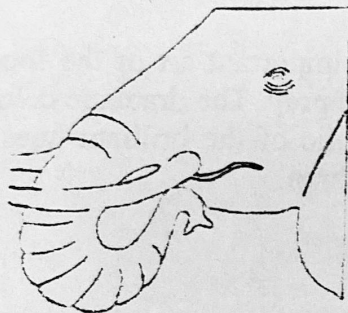
Dragonflies, damselflies, and a host of other nimble flyers are so at home around our fresh water sources that the picture seems incomplete when we don't see them hovering and darting around us. They are jewels in the insect world.

DUNG BEETLE



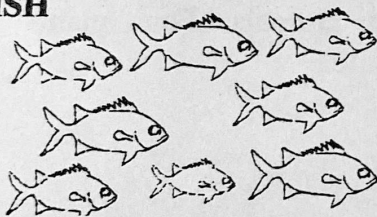
As world-class recyclers, the dung beetles keep the ground clear of mammal droppings, incubating and feeding their young in balls of dung they so deftly form, roll and bury. Without them the planet would become impossibly littered with the waste of herd animals in a short time.

ELEPHANT



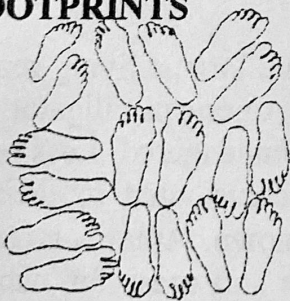
As the earth's largest living land mammals, these gentle giants are devoted family members. Hunted and poached for their ivory tusks (an overgrown tooth), as many as 2,000 elephants per week were being slaughtered as recently as the late 1980's. The 1990 CITES's (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) ban on ivory importation slowed poaching significantly, but in certain areas loss of habitat and competition for food have created new challenges to the elephant's survival.

FISH



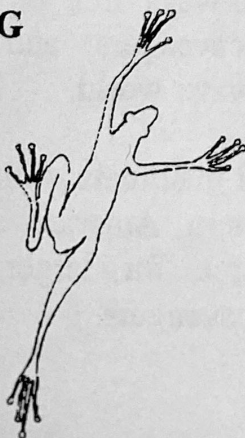
Fish are cold blooded and make up more than half of the known species of vertebrates. Occupying many links in the global food chain, fish thrive in our oceans, rivers, lakes and ponds when two important factors are kept in check: pollution and over-harvesting.

FOOTPRINTS



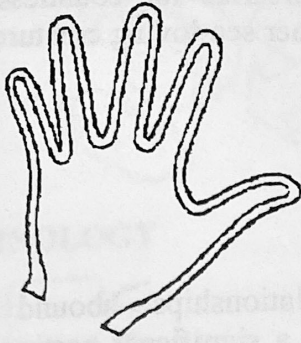
Humans have made their mark all over the earth, having trod to the most inaccessible and remote places imaginable. Our footprints are even on the moon. Though development is a necessary part of human expansion, a balanced approach can assure that some of the world's wild places will only incur our footprints, not bulldozer tracks.

FROG



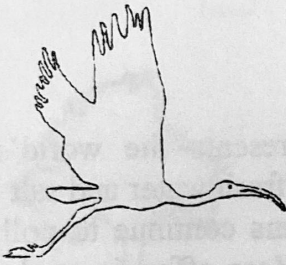
Often referred to as an indicator species, frogs are a kind of early warning system when an ecosystem begins to decline. A reduction in their numbers can telegraph trouble before it's obvious to humans. Conversely, too many frogs in an ecosystem can be counterproductive. Man's introduction of the cane toad in Australia and the bullfrog in Korea had disastrous results – decimating indigenous species and becoming a nuisance due to their sheer numbers.

HAND



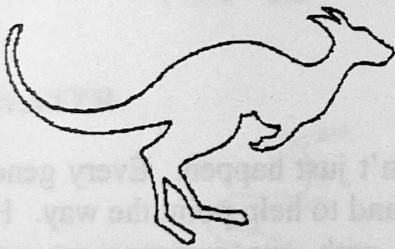
The hand symbolizes the hand of mankind and its involvement (whether positive or negative), in plant and animal management throughout the world. Good conservation practices, the sustainable use of natural resources and other positive efforts will help the planet and its inhabitants. The hand of man can stabilize the cubes of endangered species by drawing them back into the fold — the nurturing, interdependent core of healthy balanced cubes. The hand of man could also, by action or default, topple the cubes of endangered species away from the thriving, sustainable core and into the finality of extinction. The choice is ours.

IBIS



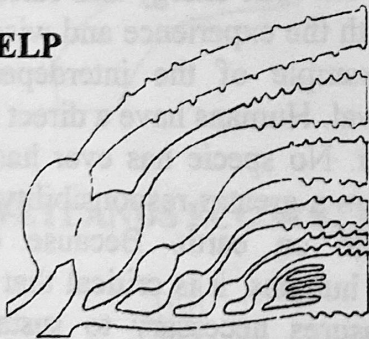
Symbolic of all birds whose plumage have been a threat to their survival, the beautiful Ibis has thus far avoided decimation. Some of its cousins haven't been so lucky.

KANGAROO



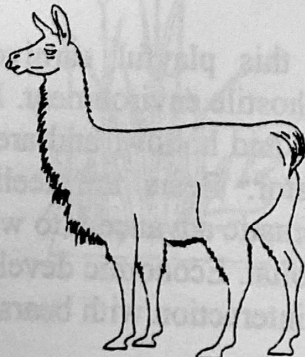
Kangaroos are perhaps our most recognizable marsupial. The female's protective pouch has the warmth and security necessary for its young to finish developing after birth. Although the kangaroo is the most familiar, other marsupials, such as the wombat and koala, are prevalent on the islands of Australia and Tasmania. Regulating the "roo" population in Australia is an ongoing challenge.

KELP



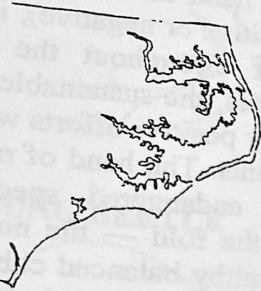
The Giant Monterey Kelp has great value as a food and nutrient source for both humans and ocean dwelling species.

LLAMA



The llama represents a renewable fiber source for not only the indigenous peoples of South America but for people throughout the world who cherish the high quality wool. They also serve as pack animals like their fellow dromedary, the camel.

NORTH CAROLINA COAST



Wetlands and estuaries are crucial to the North Carolina coast as well as throughout the world. They serve as nurseries for countless species of plants, fish and other sea-loving creatures.

OWL



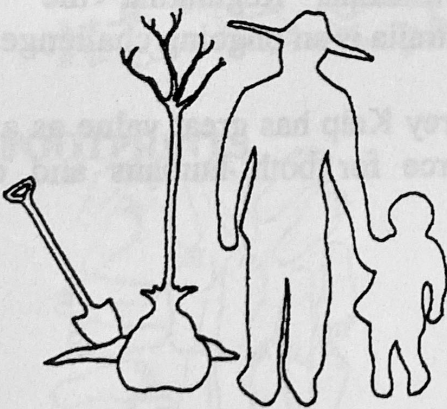
Predator/prey relationships abound in nature. Rodents make up a significant portion of the barn owl's diet – helping maintain a balance.

PELICAN



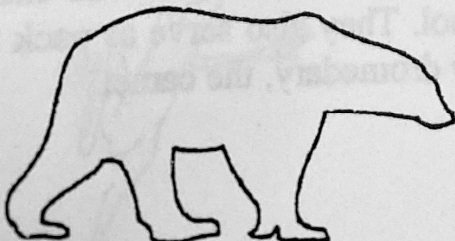
The pelican represents the world's water fowl. Water fowl, both fresh water and salt water, feel the pressure as humans continue to pollute water and drain wetlands. More effort is needed if we are to avoid adding more species along side the brown pelican.

PLANT A TREE



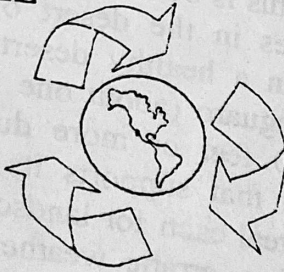
Knowledge doesn't just happen. Every generation needs a guiding hand to help point the way. How to live in harmony with our environment must be learned and passed on. The energy and curiosity of youth combined with the experience and wisdom of age is another example of the interdependence necessary for survival. Humans have a direct impact on the environment. No specie has ever had more control and therefore a greater responsibility to the continuation of life on earth. Because of the potential impact of humans, it is critical that we all recognize the measures necessary to sustain the world's resources.

POLAR BEAR



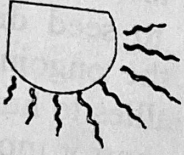
As our largest bear, this playful carnivore has perfected survival in a hostile environment. Its hairs are not white, but clear and hollow, and are highly effective as an insulator. Bears are feeling the pressure of man's systematic advance into what was once their exclusive habitat. Economic development has accelerated human interaction with bears.

RECYCLE



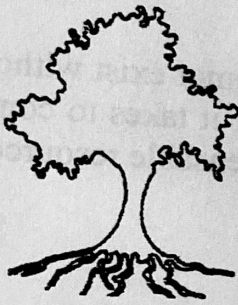
Recycling, in all its many forms, is a major contribution toward the sustainable use of the earth's resources. Individuals and industry have made progress in recycling programs over the past decade, but we must increase our efforts and encourage others to recycle. The concept is not regional; it is global.

TECHNOLOGY



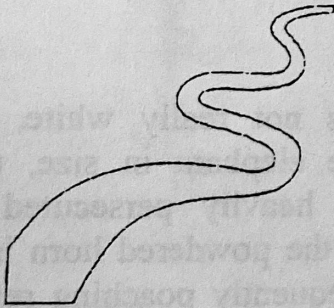
Solar energy is just one of the many alternate energy technologies available for our use and is an example of how technology can be used to protect and sustain our planet. Clean and renewable, solar energy can help reduce our dependence on fossil fuels.

TREE



Trees provide food, shelter, fuel, erosion control, beauty and oxygen for the world environment. Trees sustain man and beast, requiring and deserving our most thoughtful plant management practices. With a little effort, this renewable resource can continue to be an integral part of our lives.

WATER



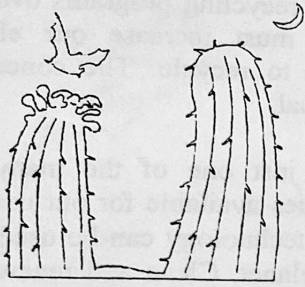
The river represents water. The biodiversity of life must begin with water – clean water. Clean water is necessary for life; it is not an option. How humans use water has a dramatic impact on its quality and availability. Avoiding wasteful practices that use too much water or pollute existing water sources (such as our rivers) can help assure that our future needs will be met.

WETLANDS ECOSYSTEM



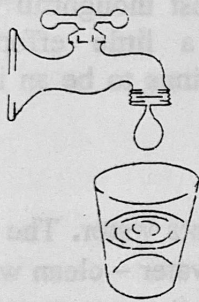
A common sight around lakes and ponds, the simple, elegant beauty of cattails delights the eye. Important to fish, birds and insects for food, habitat and cover, they are an integral part of nature's balance. The Carolina Woodduck is perhaps the most beautiful duck in the world. Its survival is directly linked to human conservation practices.

DESERT ECOSYSTEM



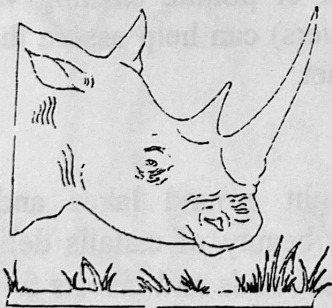
The saguaro cactus is both water source and habitat for many species in the desert of the southwest United States. In a healthy desert ecosystem, the slow growing saguaro (about one foot per decade) can grow to 60 feet or more due to the strong woody skeleton that supports its pulp-like body. Poachers who steal cacti for landscaping, pollution, diminished habitat, erratic weather and decline of pollinators (such as bats and bees) are responsible for the alarming decline in total saguaros and other cacti. From insect control to seed dispersal, Bats play an important role in the ongoing balance of nature. They are important allies to humans; not the fearful creatures depicted in horror movies. Bats are the designated representative of a number of misunderstood, feared and persecuted animals, including snakes, wolves, spiders and sharks.

DRINKING WATER



Life as we know it cannot exist without clean water. We must do whatever it takes to conserve, preserve and renew this indispensable resource.

GRASSLANDS ECOSYSTEM



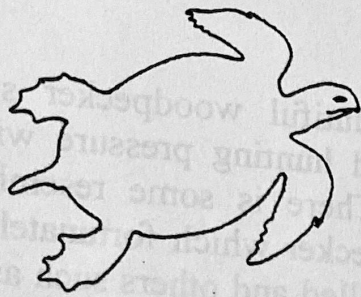
The white rhino is not really white, but gray. Second only to the elephant in size, these land grazers have been heavily persecuted for their horns. Demand for the powdered horn is still high in the Orient, consequently poaching remains as a definite threat though it has been substantially reduced in recent years. Rhinos and other herd animals eat the grasses of the grasslands at different times and heights thereby encouraging the growth cycles and maintaining the balance necessary to sustain the ecosystem and meet the needs of the various indigenous species.

RAINFOREST ECOSYSTEM



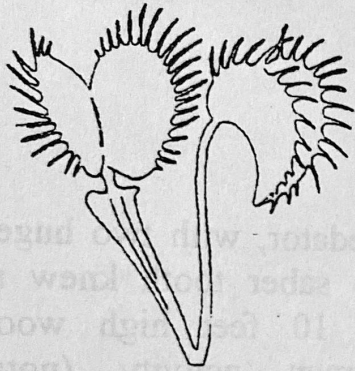
Sometimes called the lungs of the earth, the rain forests are disappearing at an alarming rate. The sheer biodiversity of species within this ecosystem is mind boggling, with plant life alone holding potential answers to innumerable medical breakthroughs. Their salvation may be our own.

SEA TURTLE



There are 15 different species of turtles and tortoises that are either threatened or endangered due mainly to habitat loss and exploitation. Sea turtle eggs are in great culinary demand in some cultures, which further reduces the declining sea turtle population.

VENUS FLYTRAP



Occupying a unique place in the plant world as a predator, this fascinating species is native to Eastern North Carolina.

WHALE



The humpback whale employs a unique technique called bubble net feeding. As the whale surfaces, it swims in a spiral pattern while emitting bubbles – first large ones and then smaller ones. The net of bubbles confuses the baitfish allowing the humpback to open its mouth and scoop in huge numbers as it surfaces.

