

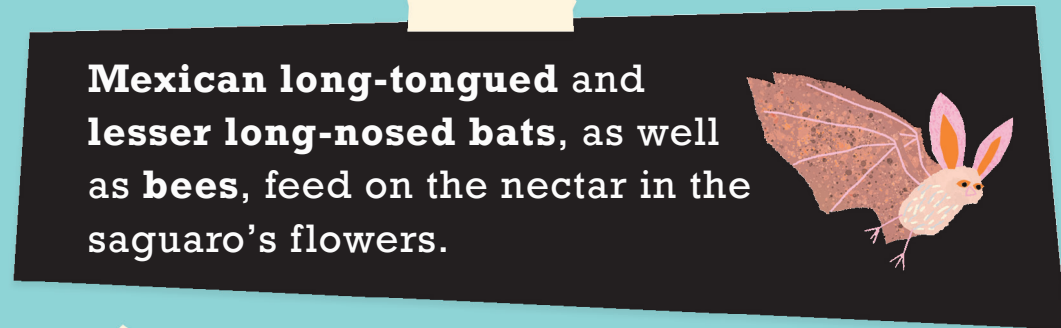


Cactus Joe is a **saguaro cactus** (pronounced *sah-wah-ruh*), found only in the Sonoran Desert in the southwestern United States and northwestern Mexico. The saguaro is the largest cactus in the United States, and one of the largest in Mexico, and can grow over 40 feet tall. Saguaro cacti support lots of life in the desert.

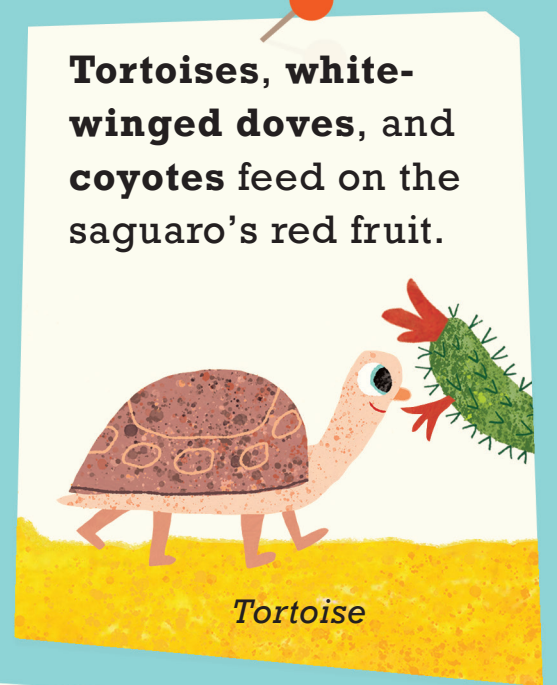


Harris's hawks and **red-tailed hawks** build nests among the large arms of the saguaro.

Harris's hawk



Mexican long-tongued and **lesser long-nosed bats**, as well as **bees**, feed on the nectar in the saguaro's flowers.



Tortoises, **white-winged doves**, and **coyotes** feed on the saguaro's red fruit.

Tortoise

Elf owls, **screech owls**, **purple martins**, **finches**, and **sparrows** move into empty woodpecker nests.



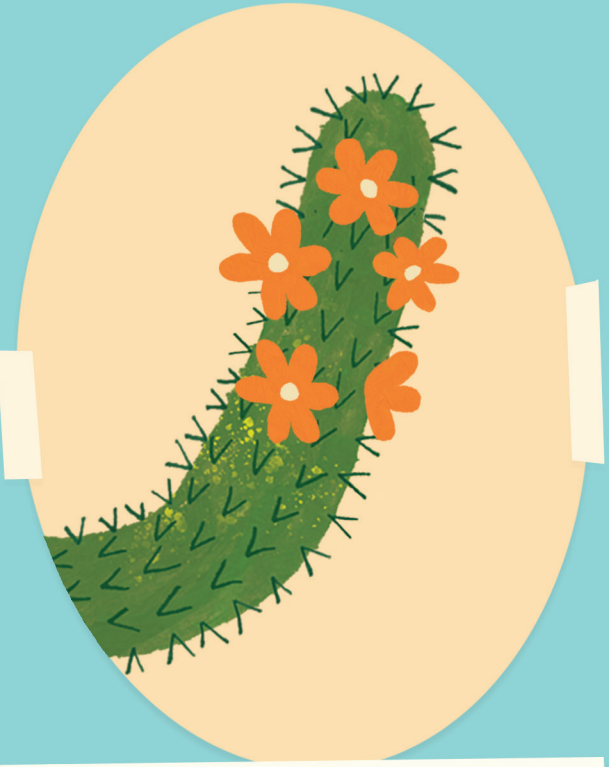
Elf owl

Finches

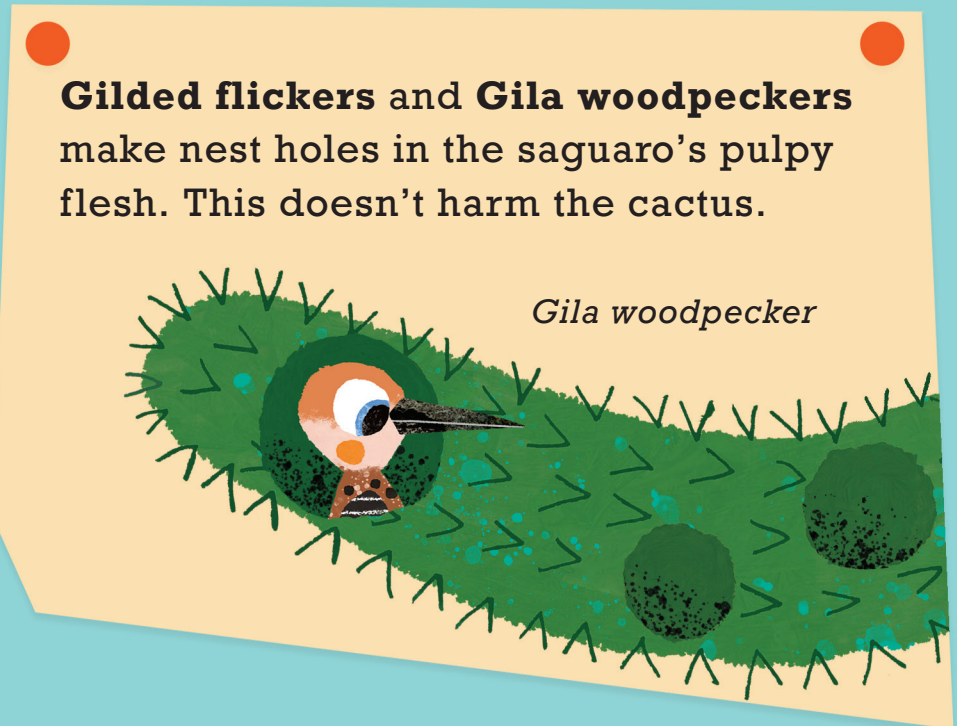


Great horned owls and **ravens** take over abandoned hawk nests.

Raven



Saguaros flower when they reach between 30 and 65 years old.



Gilded flickers and **Gila woodpeckers** make nest holes in the saguaro's pulpy flesh. This doesn't harm the cactus.

Gila woodpecker



Jackrabbit

Jackrabbits, **mule deer**, and **bighorn sheep** will eat a young saguaro's flesh when other water sources aren't available.



Wood rats nest in old cacti.