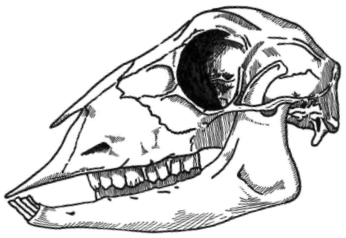
Time Required: 1 hour

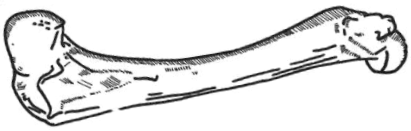
Suitable for Ages 8+

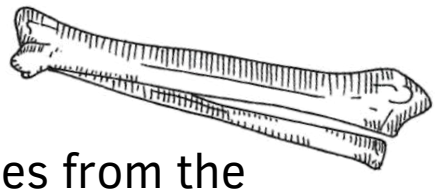
Activity

young archaeologists' club

Animal Skeleton Reconstruction







Background

When archaeologists find an assemblage of bones from the same animal (or human) they can often reconstruct and analyse the skeleton. From this they can determine many different things (depending on how complete the skeleton is, its condition etc.). such as the species, age at death, the health of the animal, why it died. It is also possible, through scientific tests, such radiocarbon dating and isotopic analysis, to identify where an animal was reared and/or when they died. This type of information can help us understand the types of environments present in the past, what activities humans were undertaking (i.e. farming) and what their diet was like for example.

In this activity you will have a go at reconstructing different types of animal skeletons.

You will need:

- Scissors
- A3 card stock/paper with printed skeletons and labels

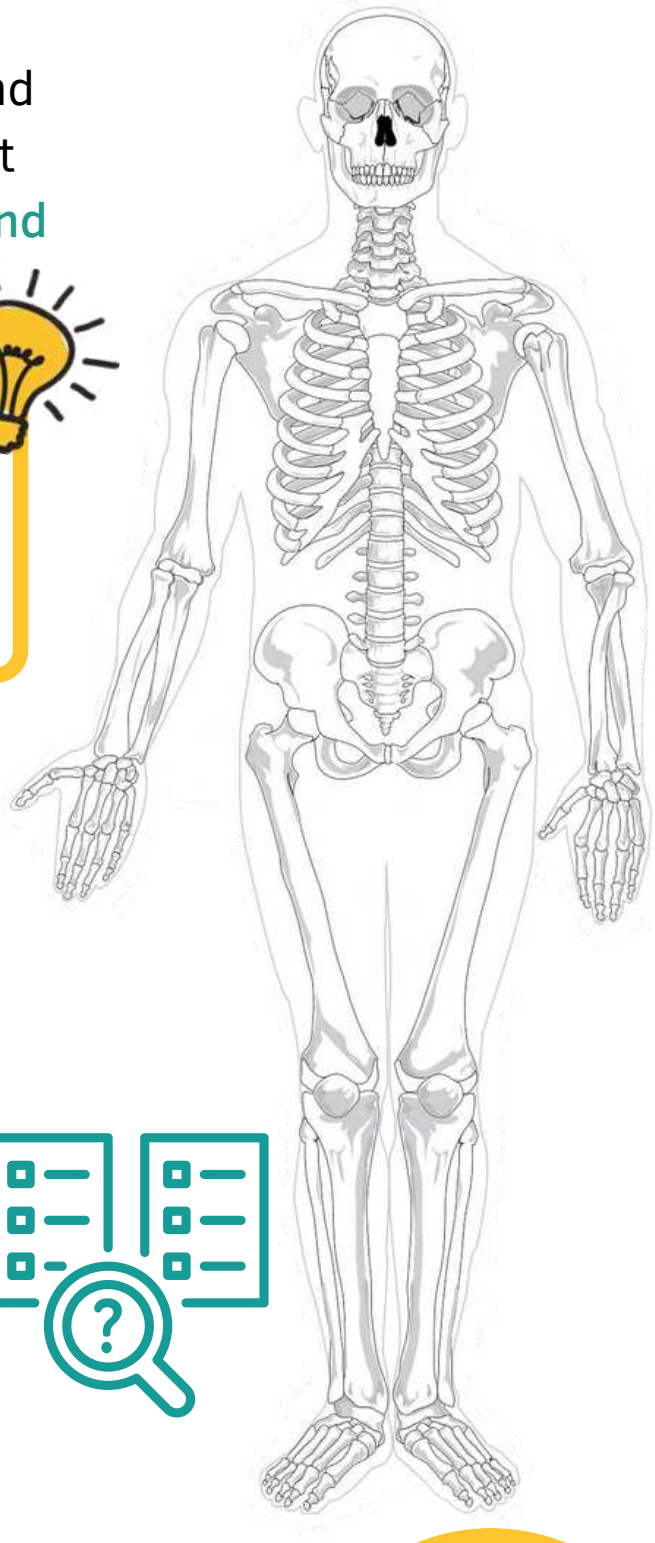
Safety Considerations

Use caution when using scissors to cut out the material. Younger children may wish to ask an adult for help

Activity:

Optional: As a group, start by naming all the bones from the human body you know. Do you know where they are?

1. Print the disarticulated skeletons and labels on A3 light card stock and cut them out. The skeletons can be found at a higher resolution here



TOP TIP

Make sure not to mix up different skeletons! Or mix them on purpose for an extra challenge?

2. In small groups, have a go at putting a skeleton back together.

3. When all the parts have been put into place, try matching the labels to the bones you see.

4. Compare your skeleton with another group's. What similarities and differences can you see?

Labels for Mammals

Humerus

Pelvis

Radius & Ulna

Femur

Metacarpal

Tibia

Scapula

Phalanges (front)

Cranium

Phalanges (rear)

Mandible

Metatarsals

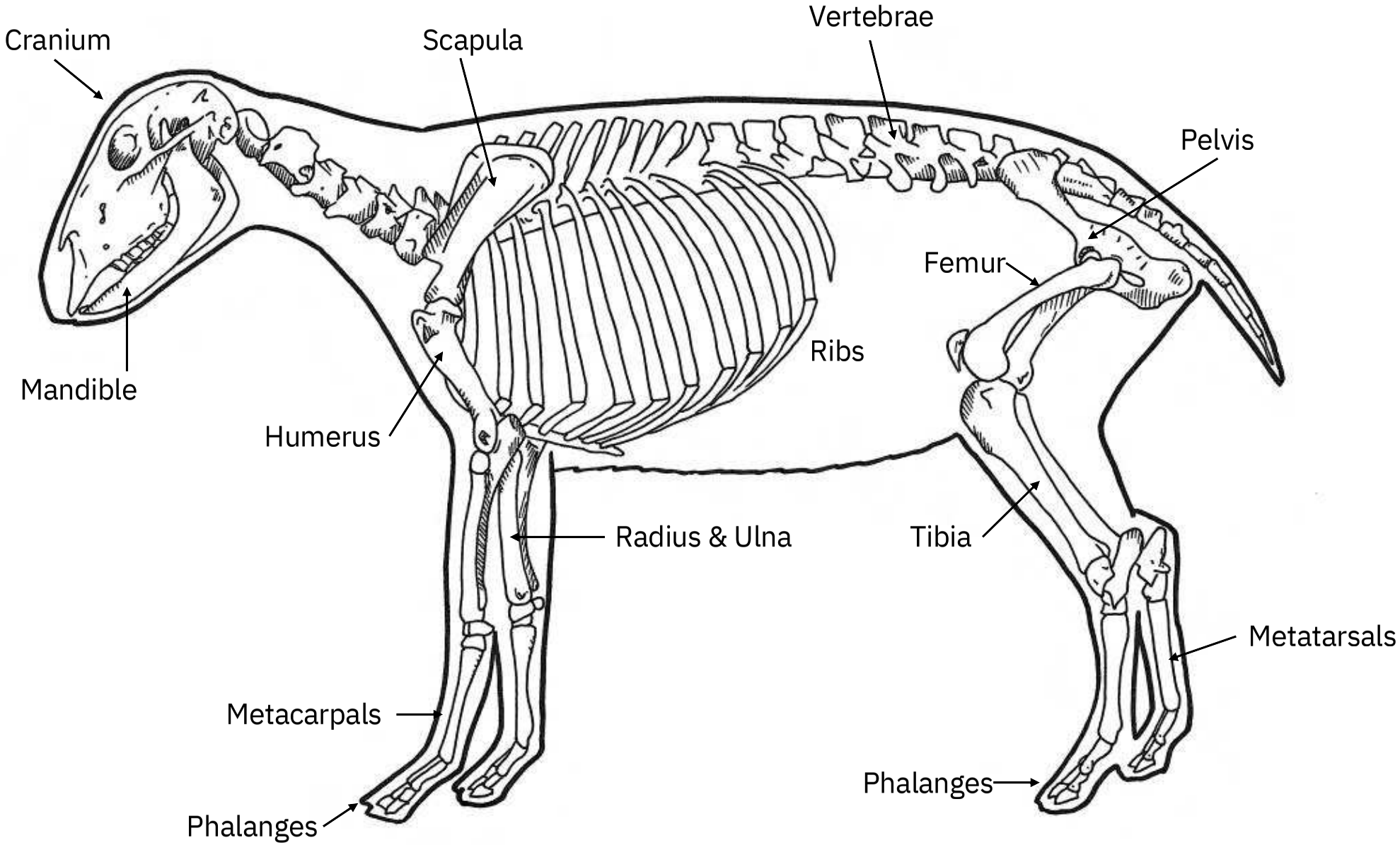
Ribs

Vertebrae

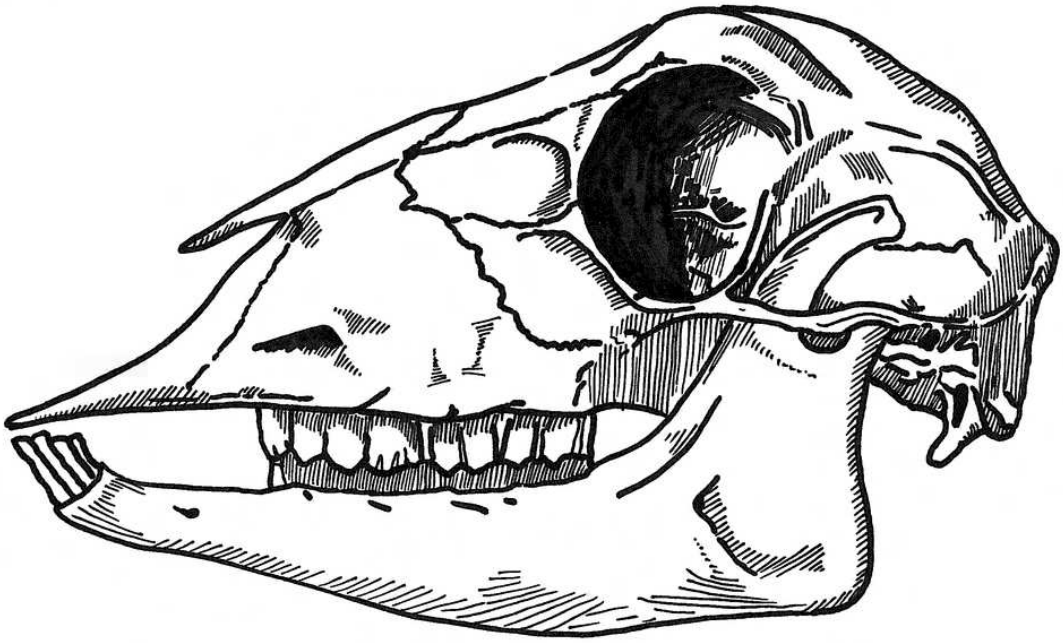
Labels for Birds

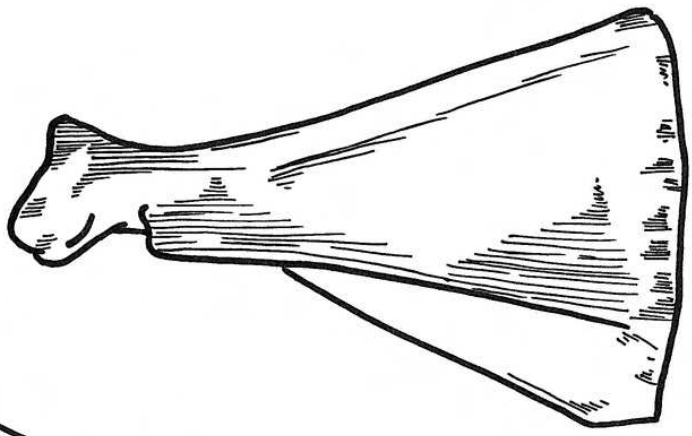
Cranium	Mandible
Ribs	Vertebrae
Scapula	Coracoid
Humerus	Pelvis
Radius	Femur
Ulna	Tibiotarsus
Carpometacarpus	Tarsometatarsus
Phalanges (wing)	Phalanges (foot)
Sternum	Furcula

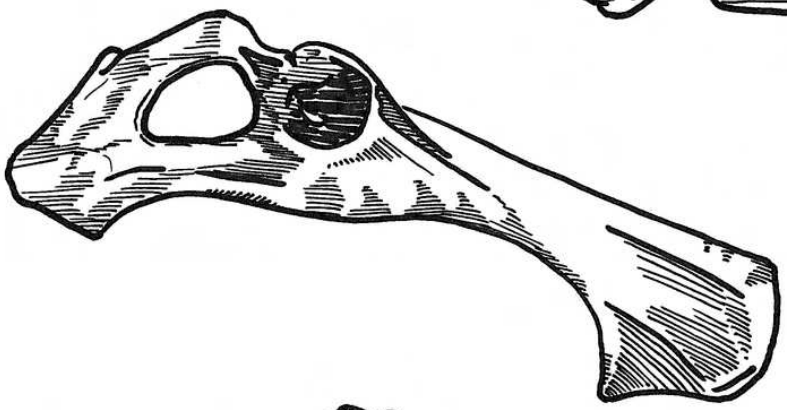
SHEEP

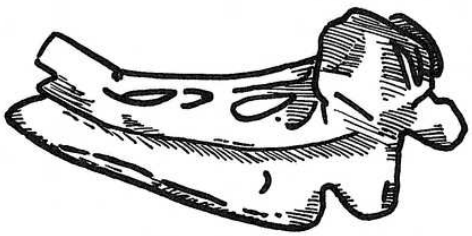

Cranium
Scapula
Vertebrae
Pelvis
Femur
Ribs
Mandible
Humerus
Radius & Ulna
Tibia
Metatarsals
Metacarpals
Phalanges
Phalanges

SHEEP

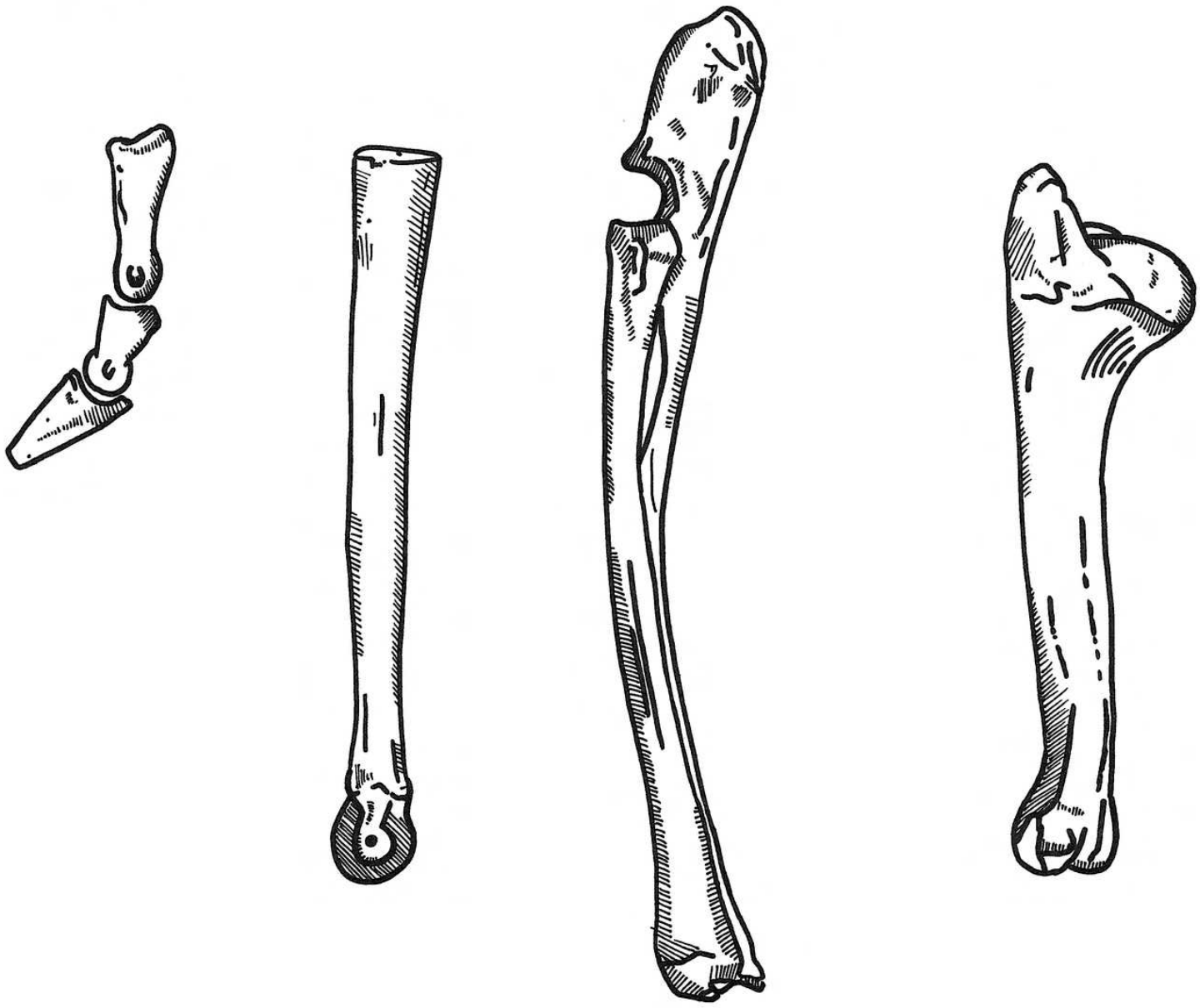




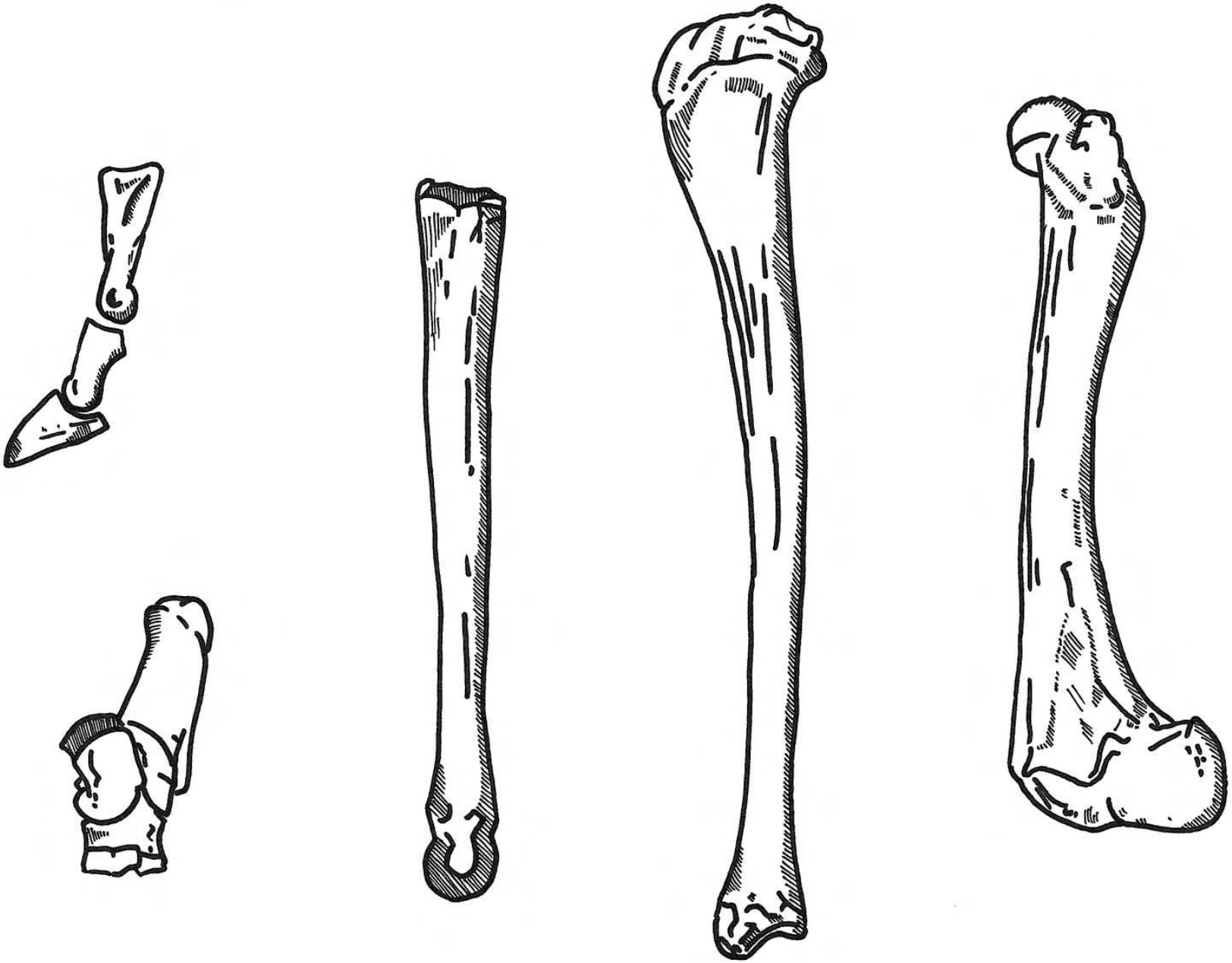




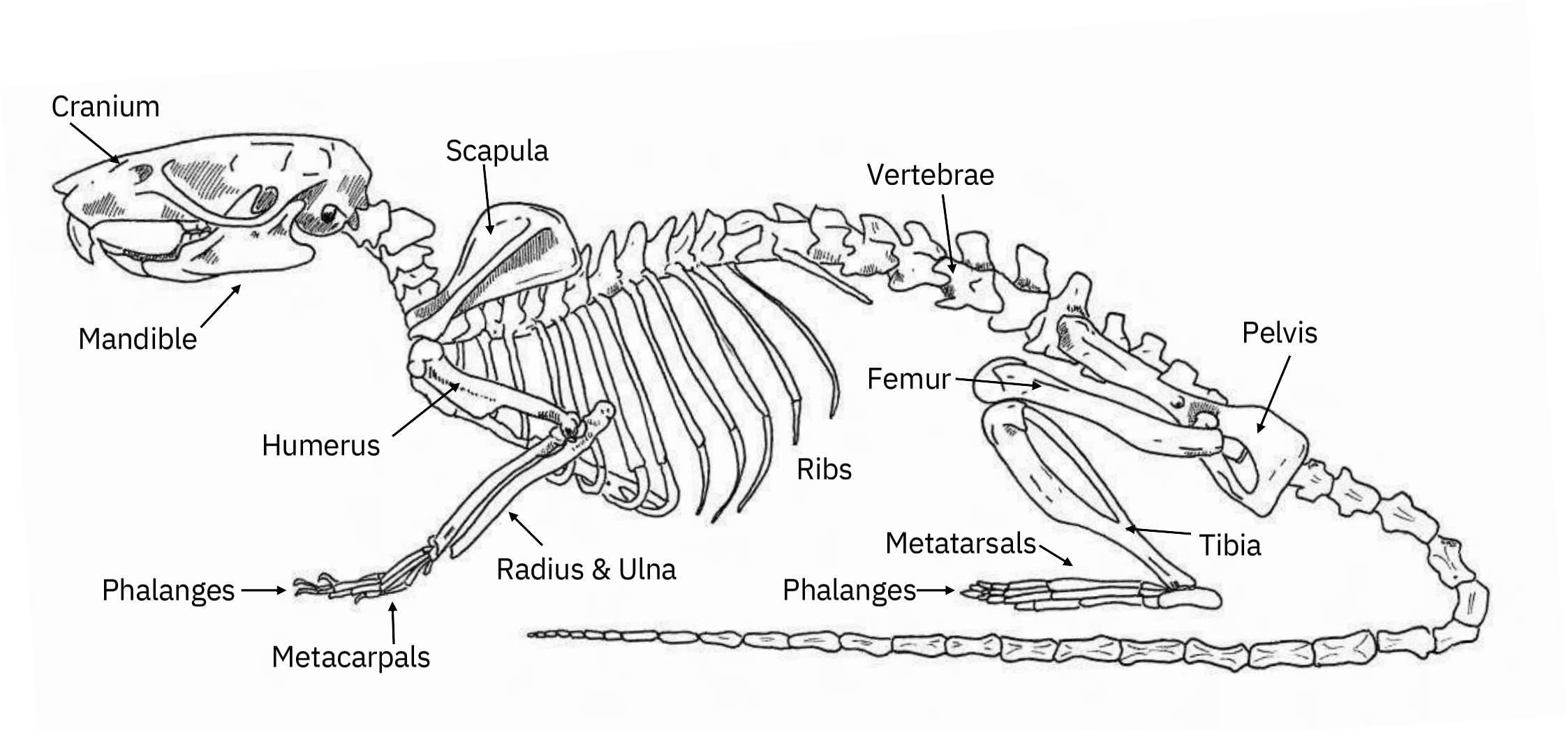
SHEEP - FORE LIMB



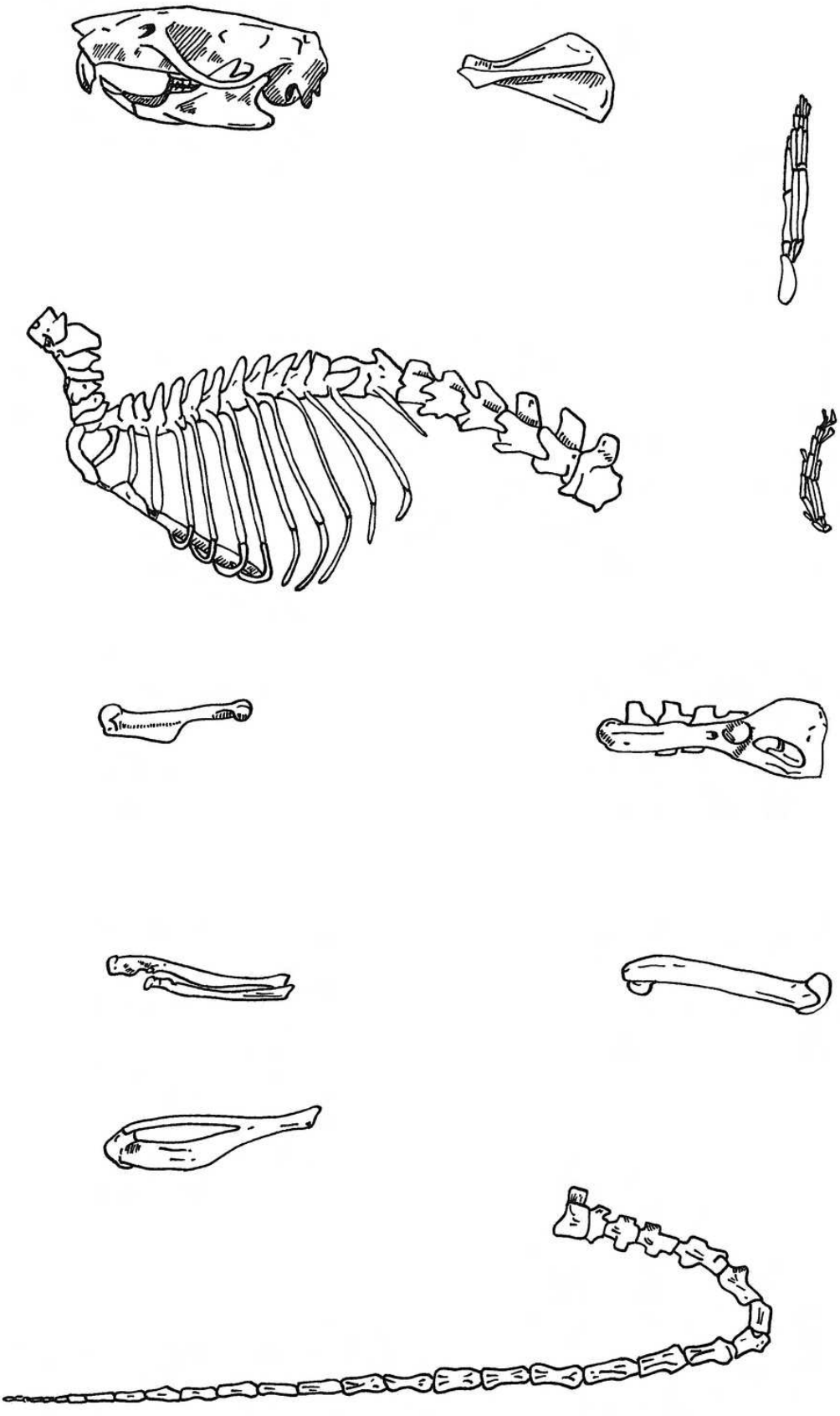
SHEEP - HIND LIMB



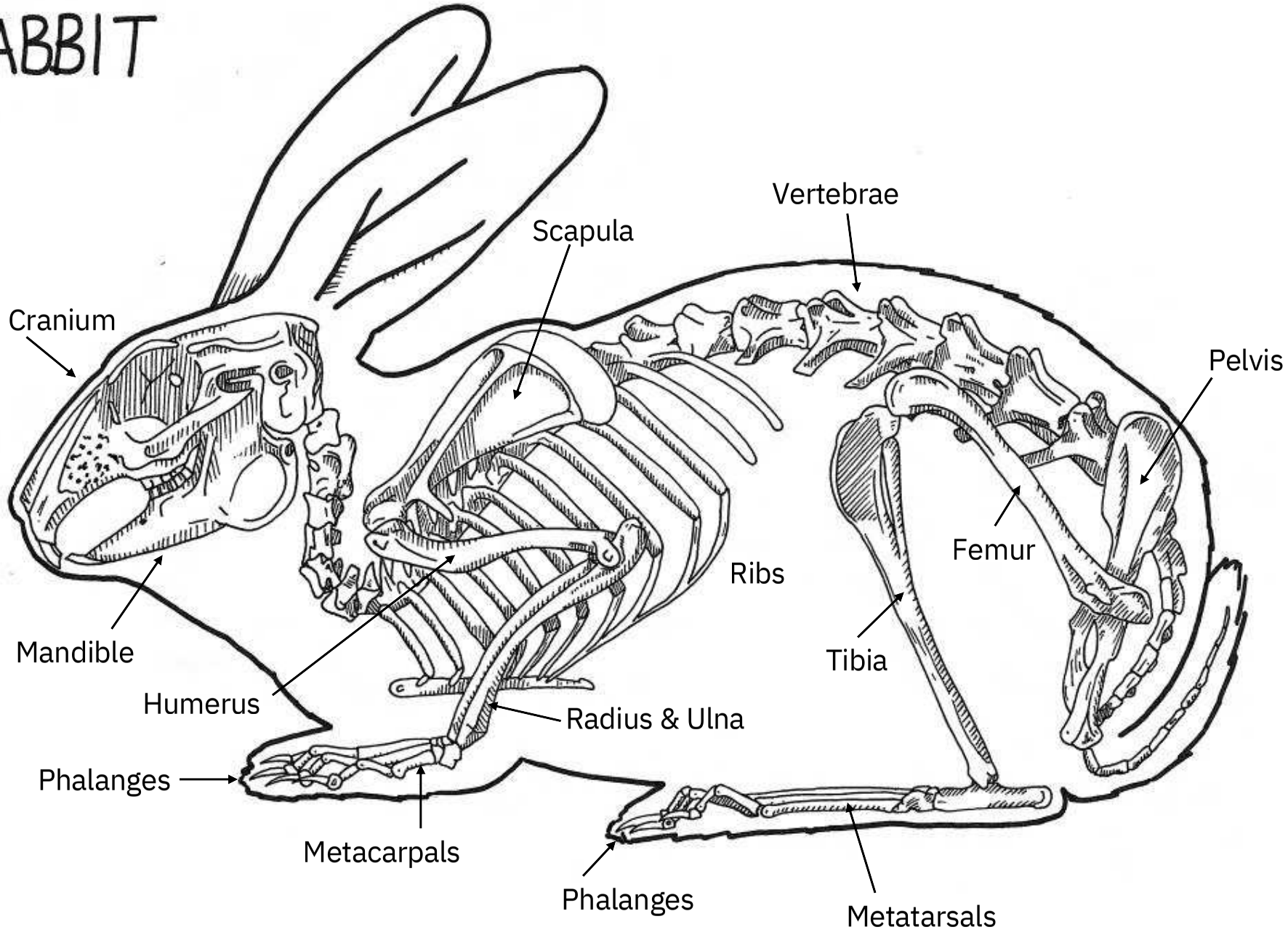
Rat skeleton



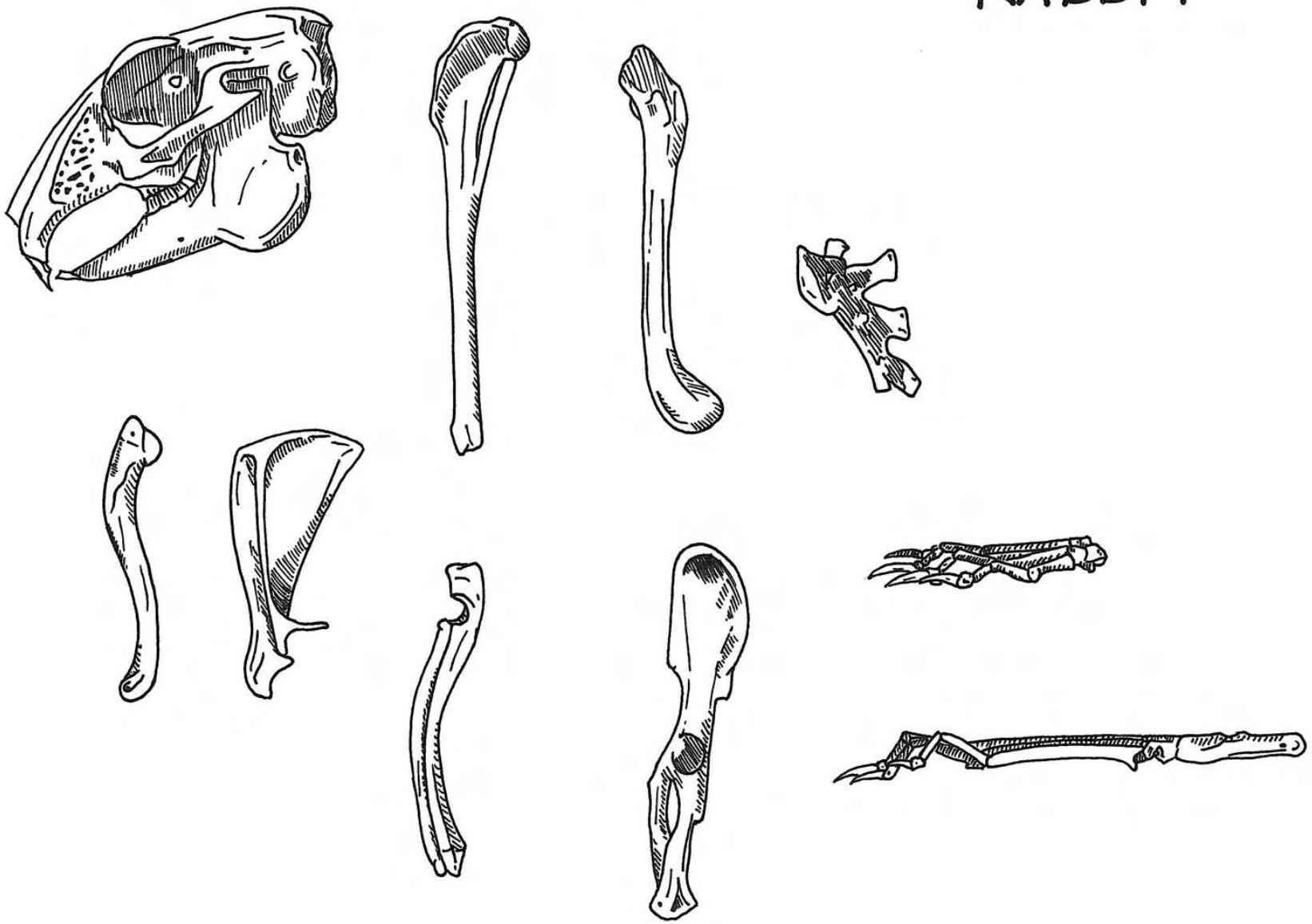
RAT



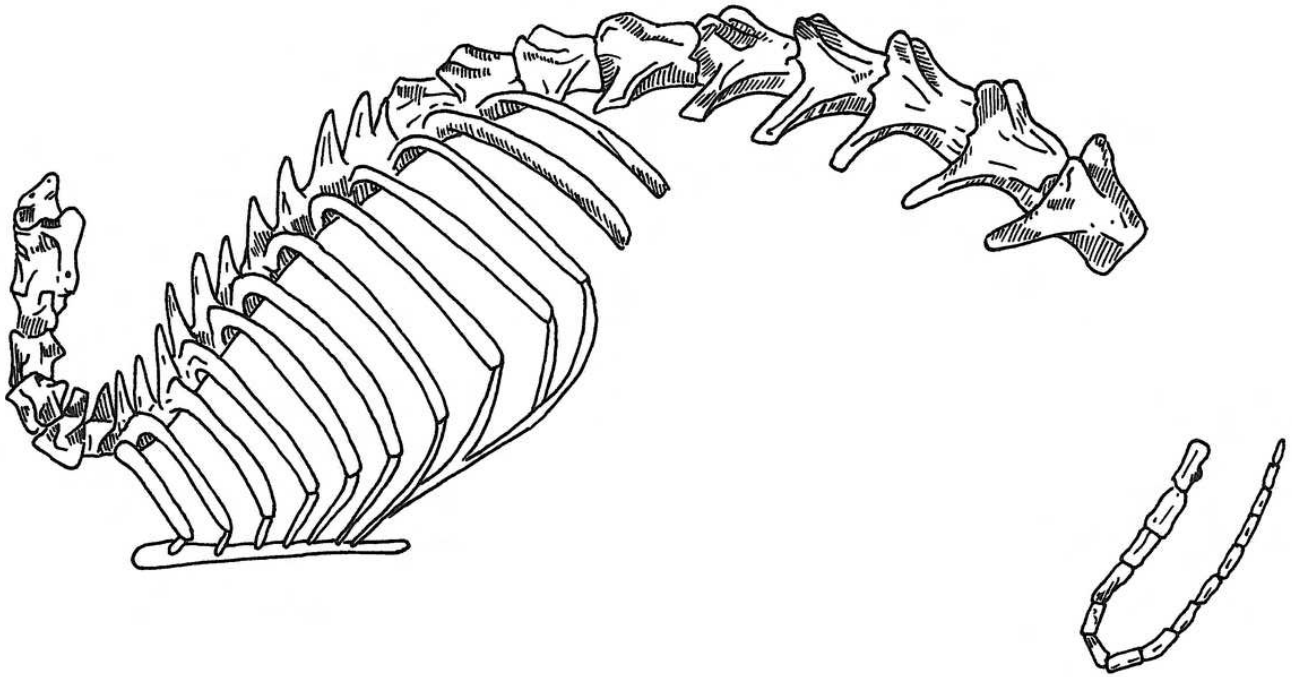
RABBIT


Vertebrae
Scapula
Cranium
Pelvis
Femur
Ribs
Mandible
Tibia
Humerus
Radius & Ulna
Phalanges
Metacarpals
Phalanges
Metatarsals

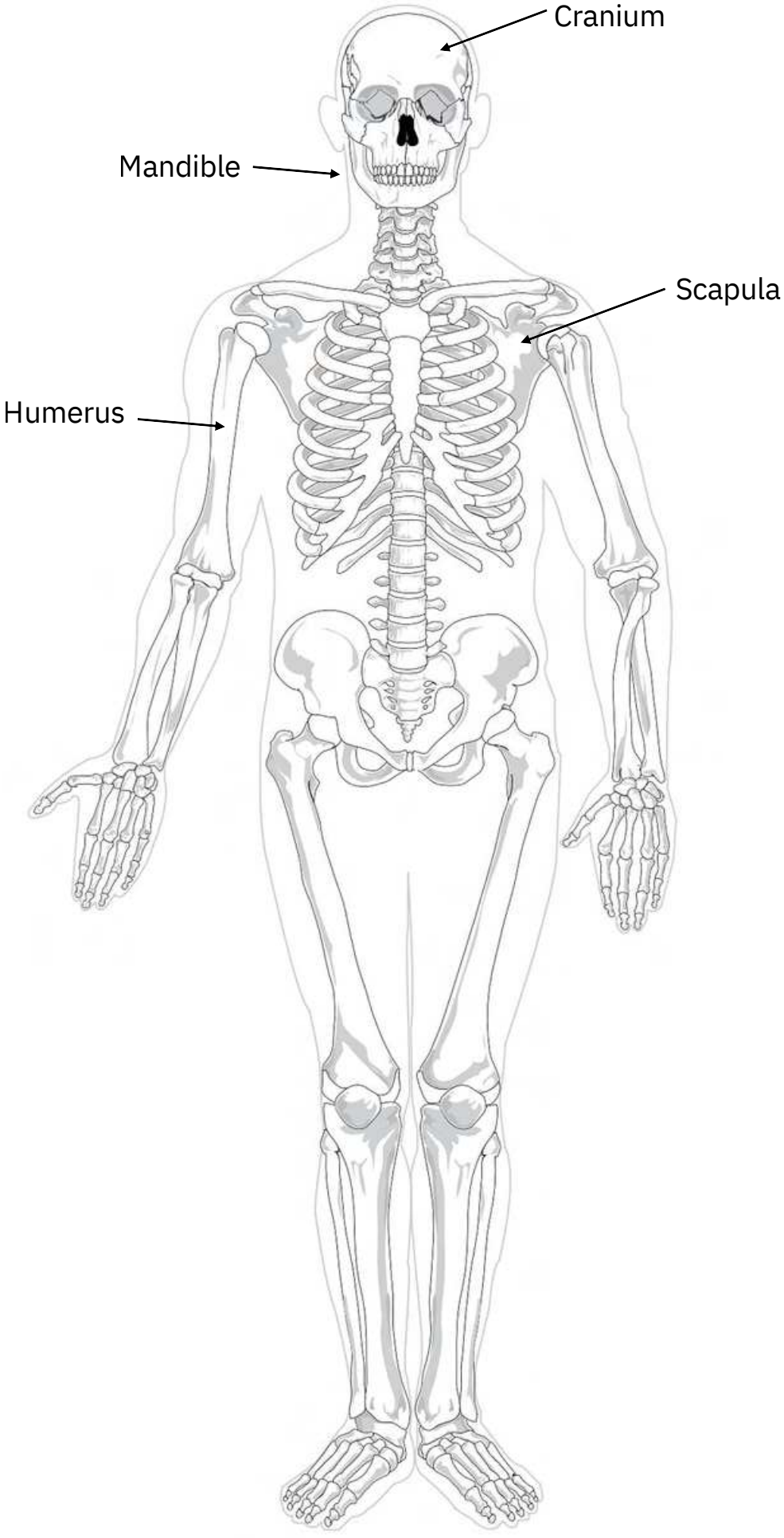
RABBIT

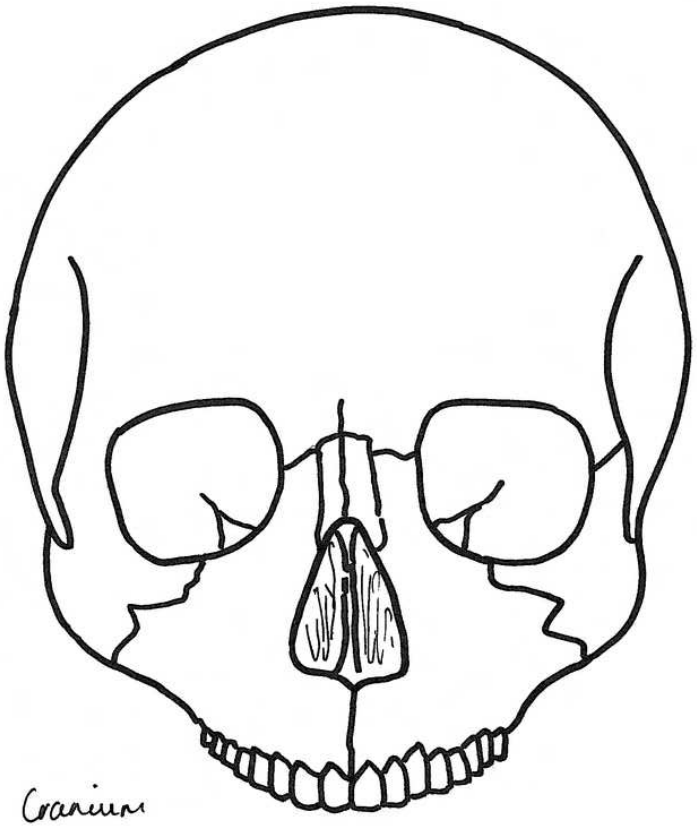


RABBIT



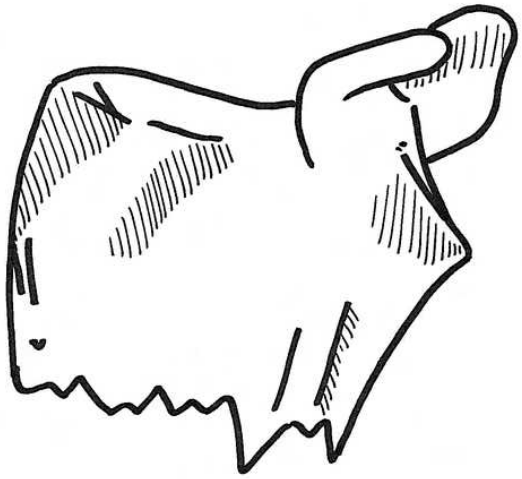
Human



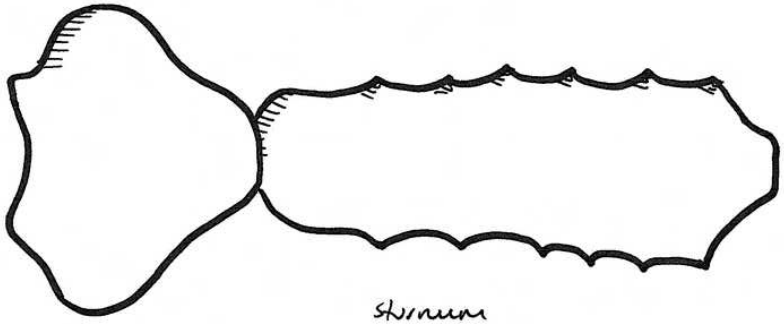


Cranium

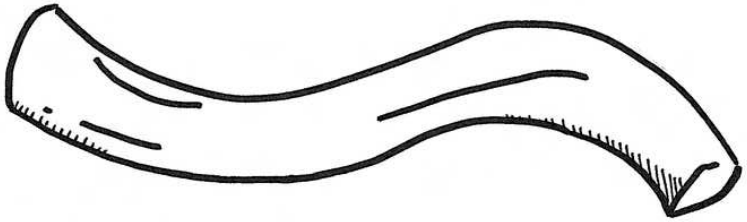
Right scapula



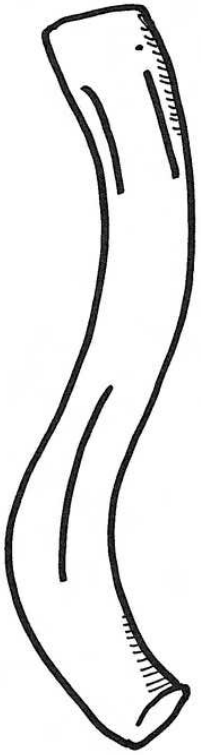
Left scapula



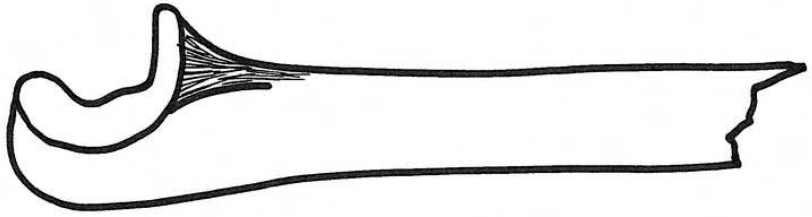
Sternum



Left clavicle

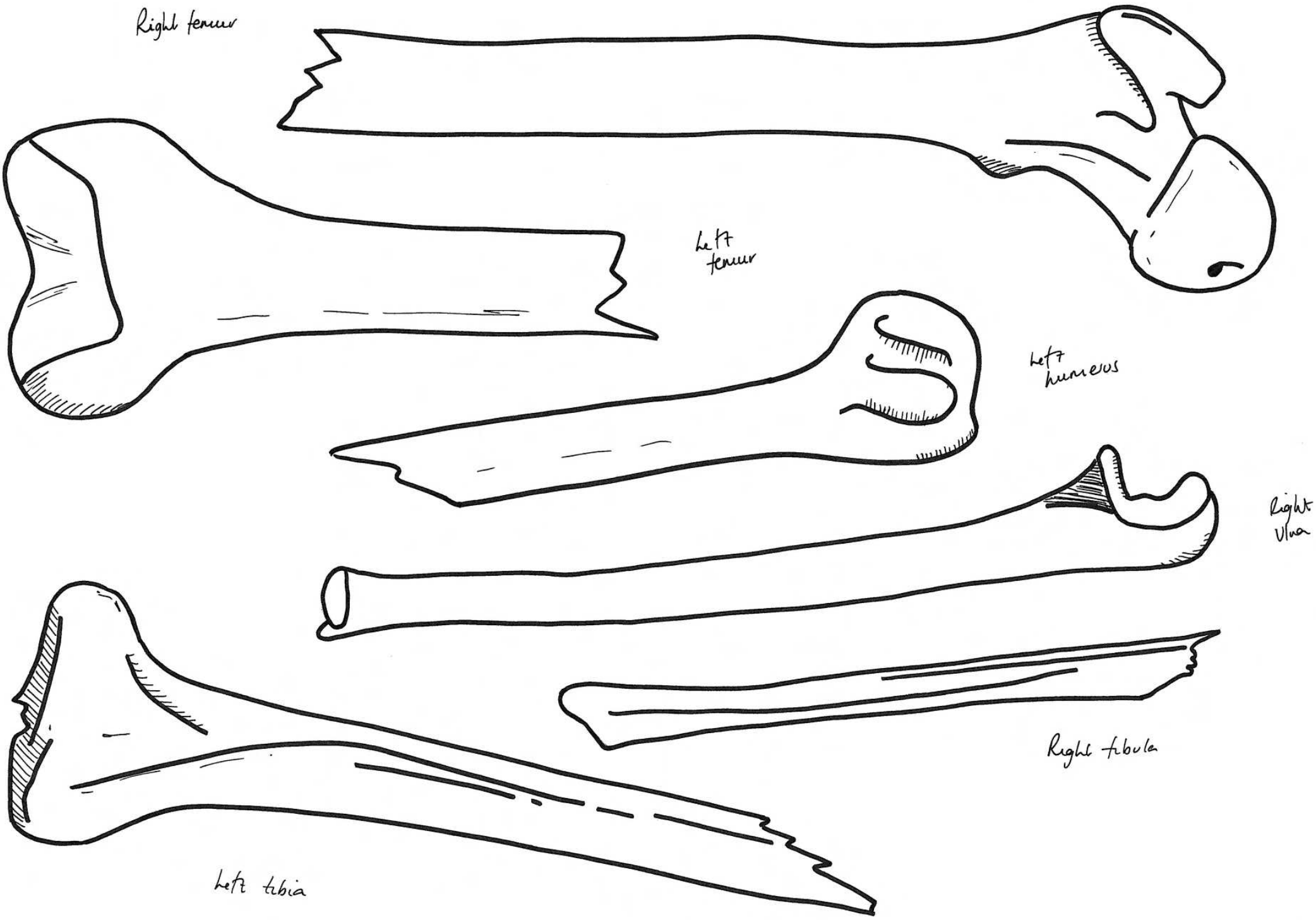


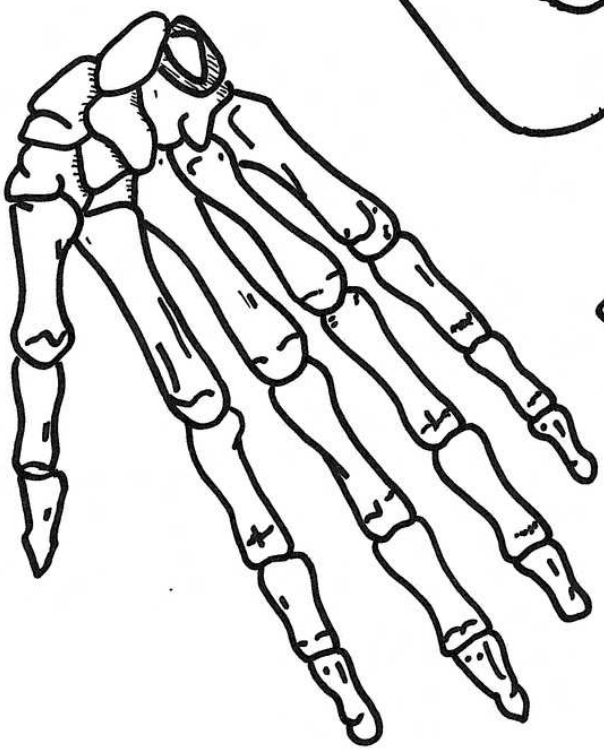
Right clavicle



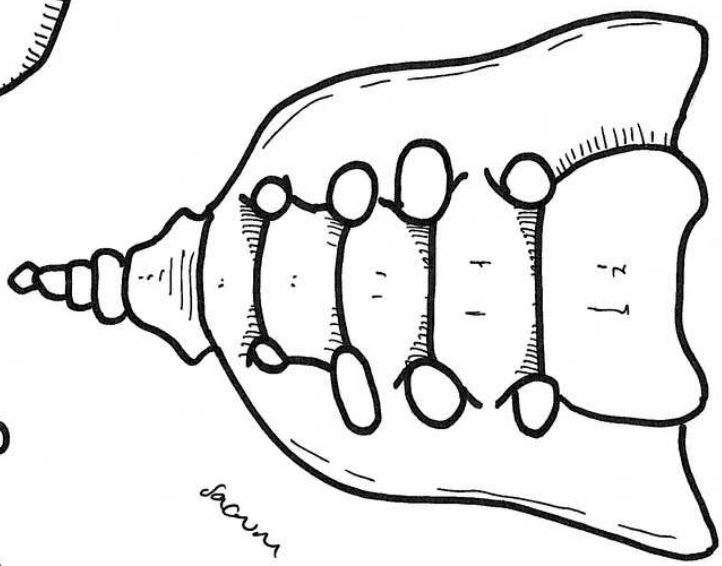
Left ulna

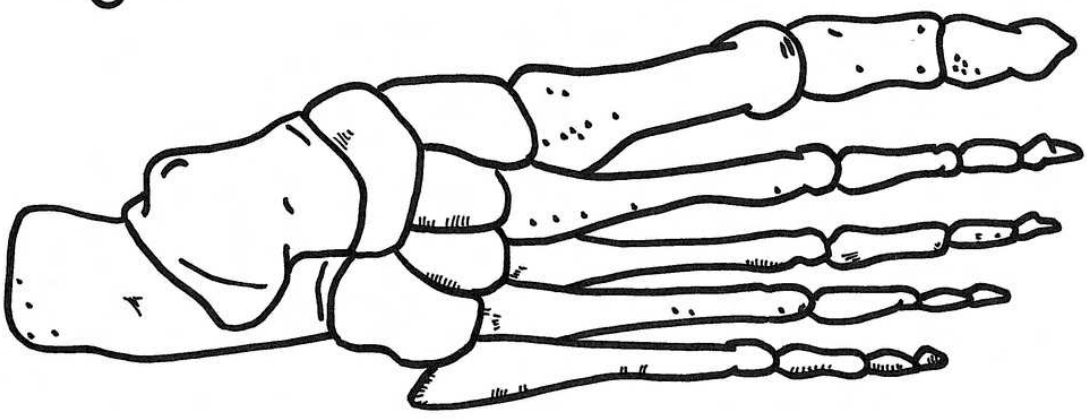
HUMAN 1


Right femur
Left femur
Left humerus
Right Ulna
Right fibula
Left tibia

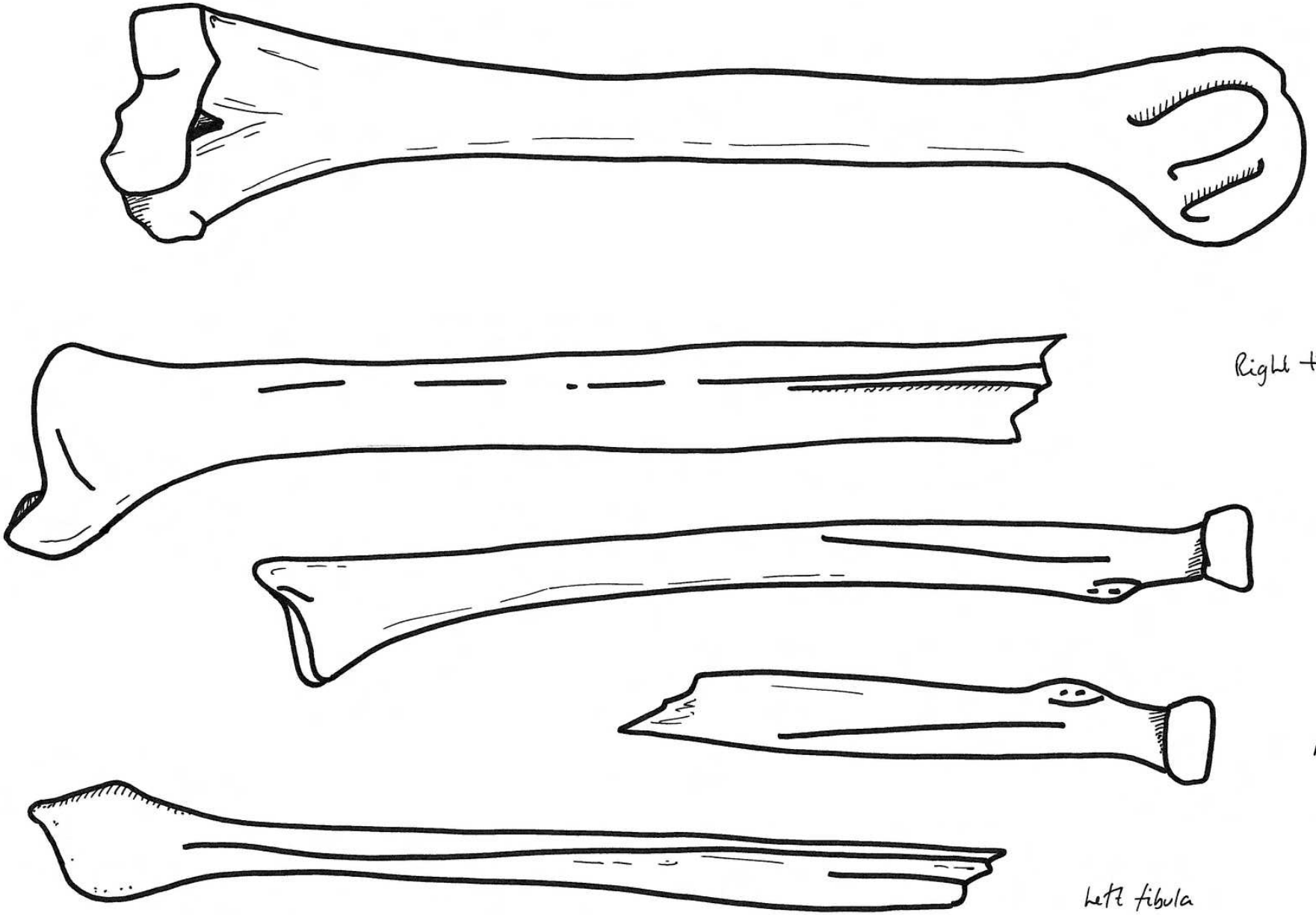


Right hand

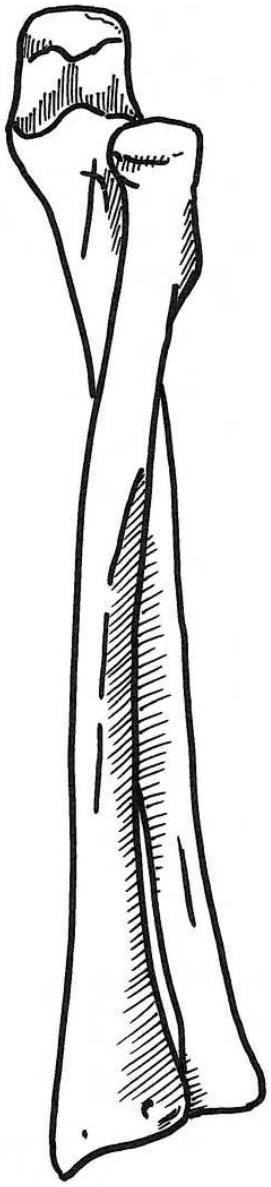




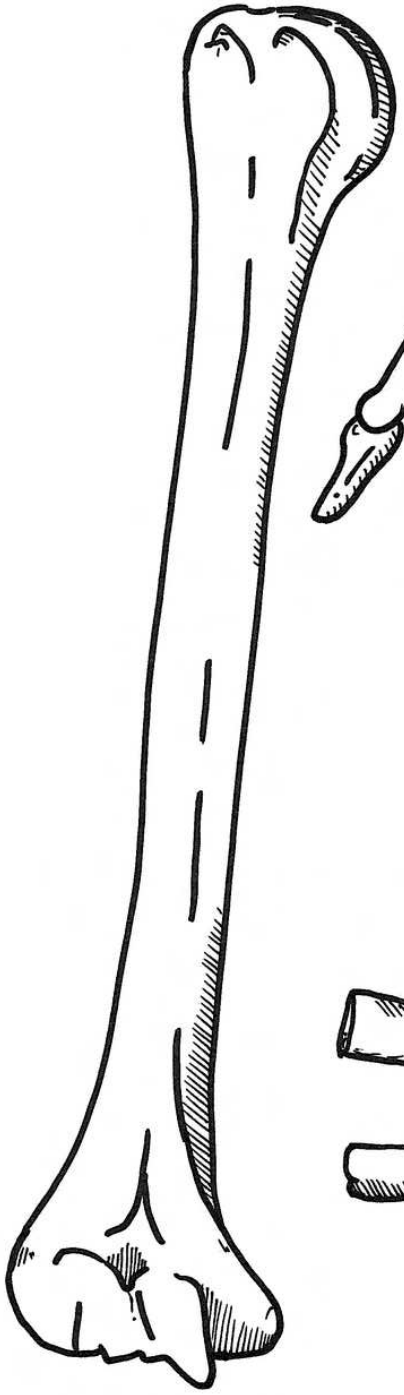
Right foot


Right humerus
Right tibia
Right radius
Left radius
Left fibula

HUMAN 2

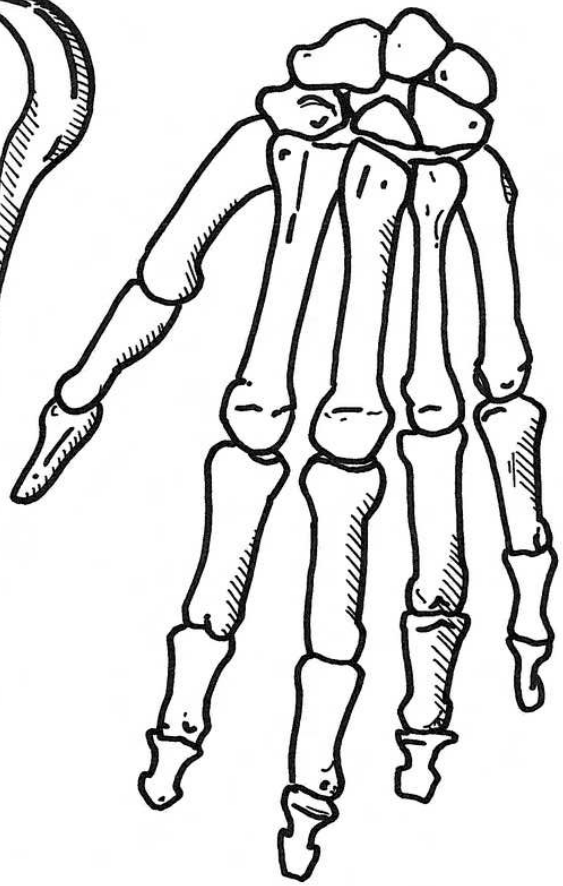


Left radius + Ulna

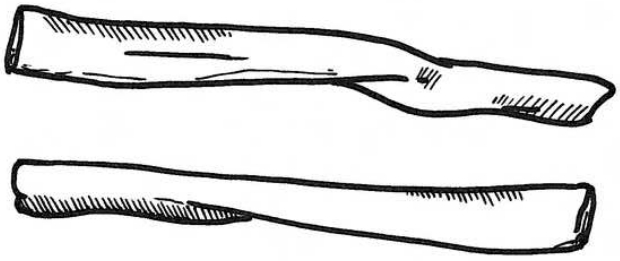


Right humerus

Left hand

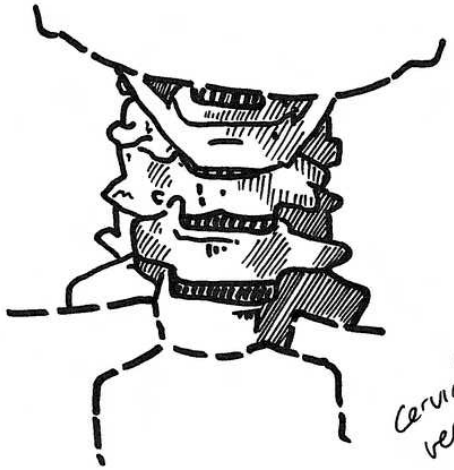


Left foot



Left clavicle

Right clavicle

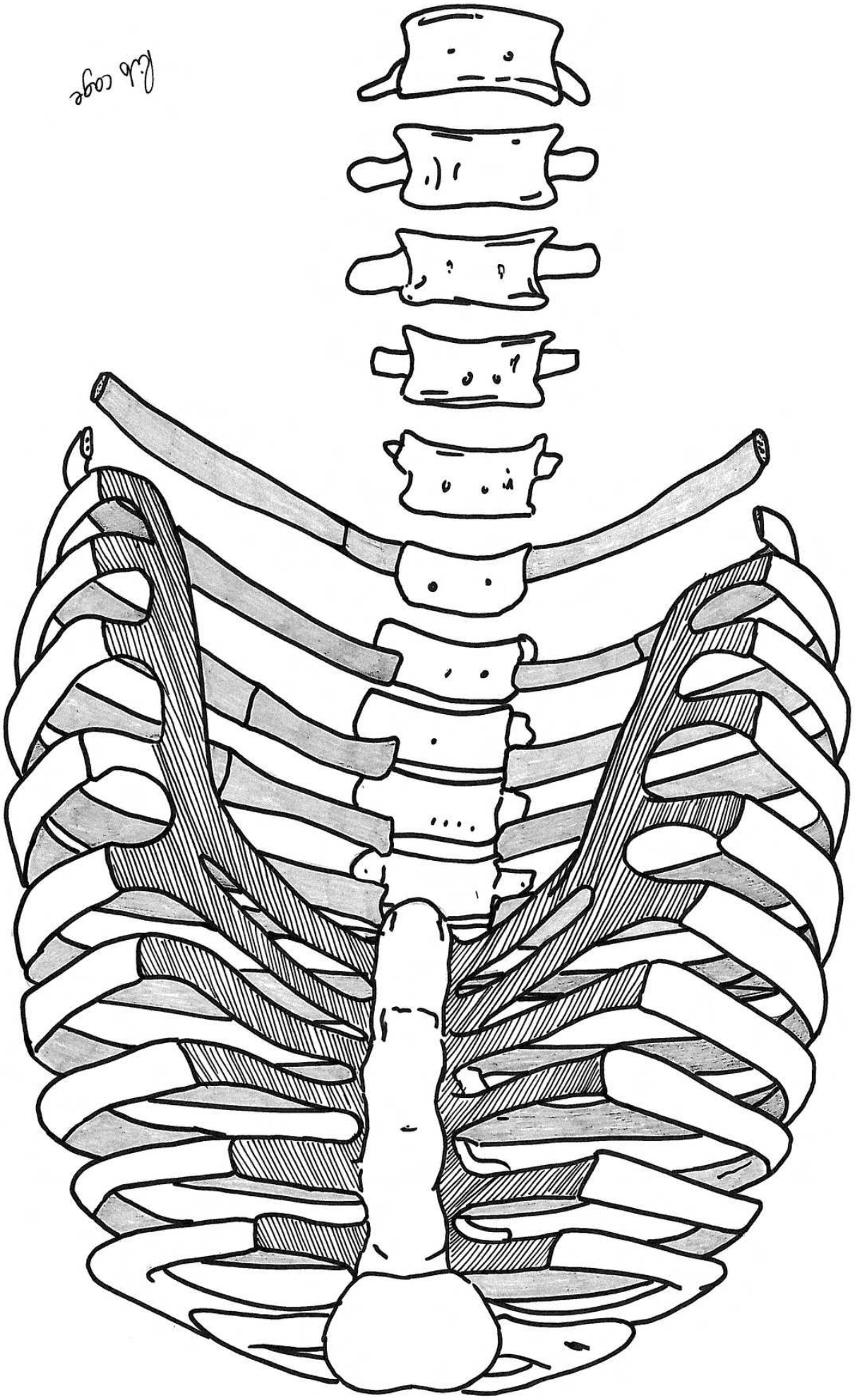


Cervical vertebrae

Pelvis

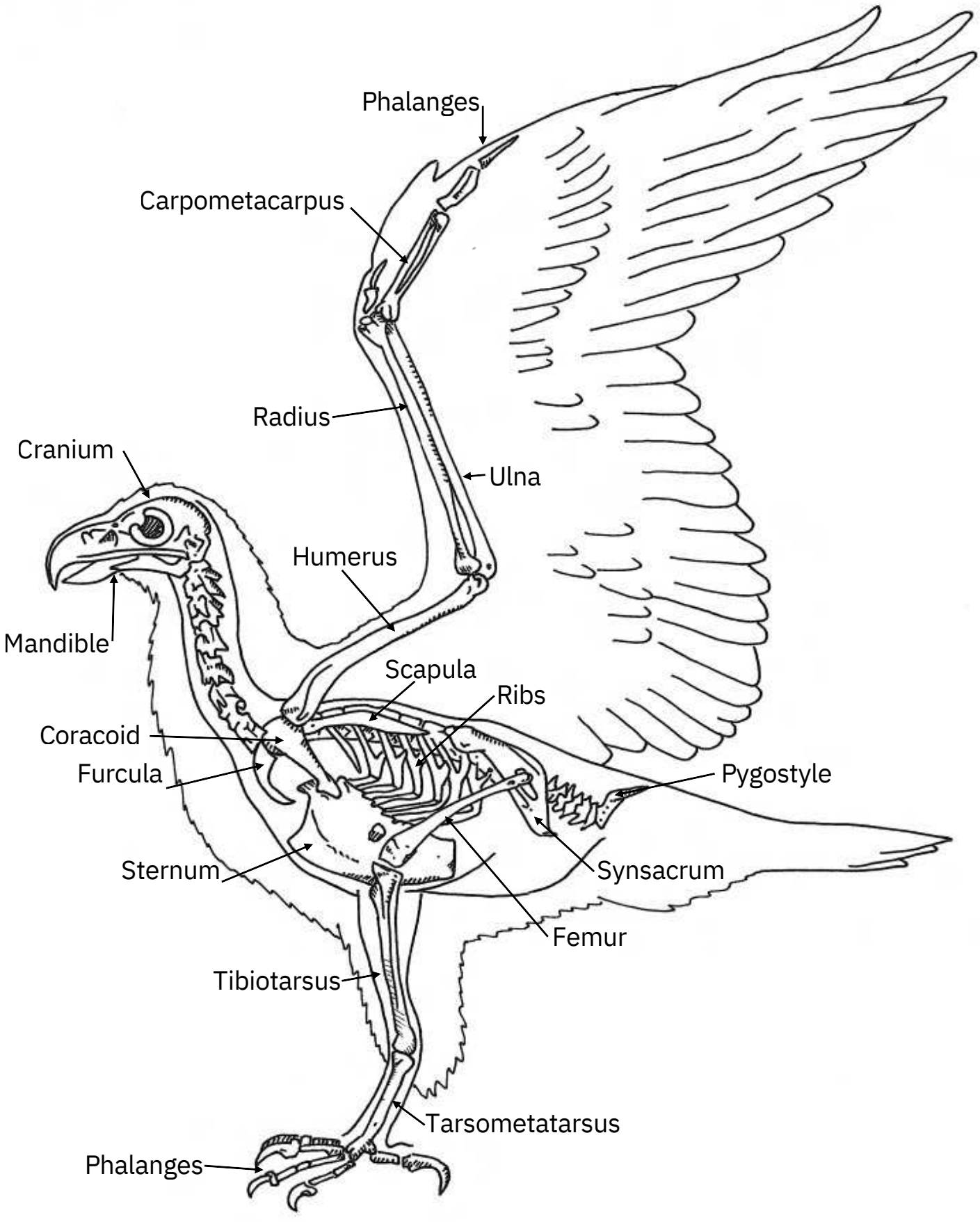
Right hand

Right foot

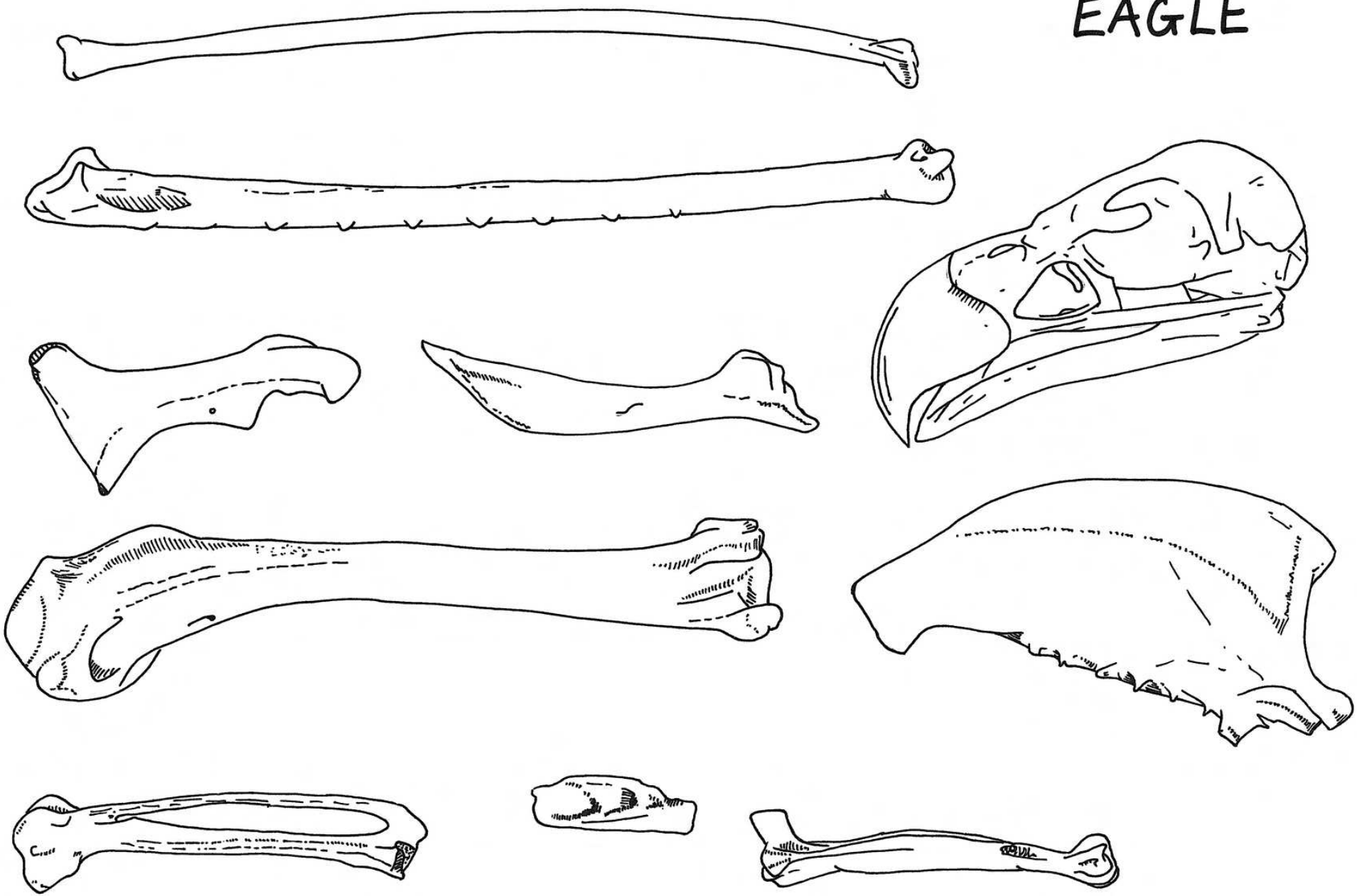


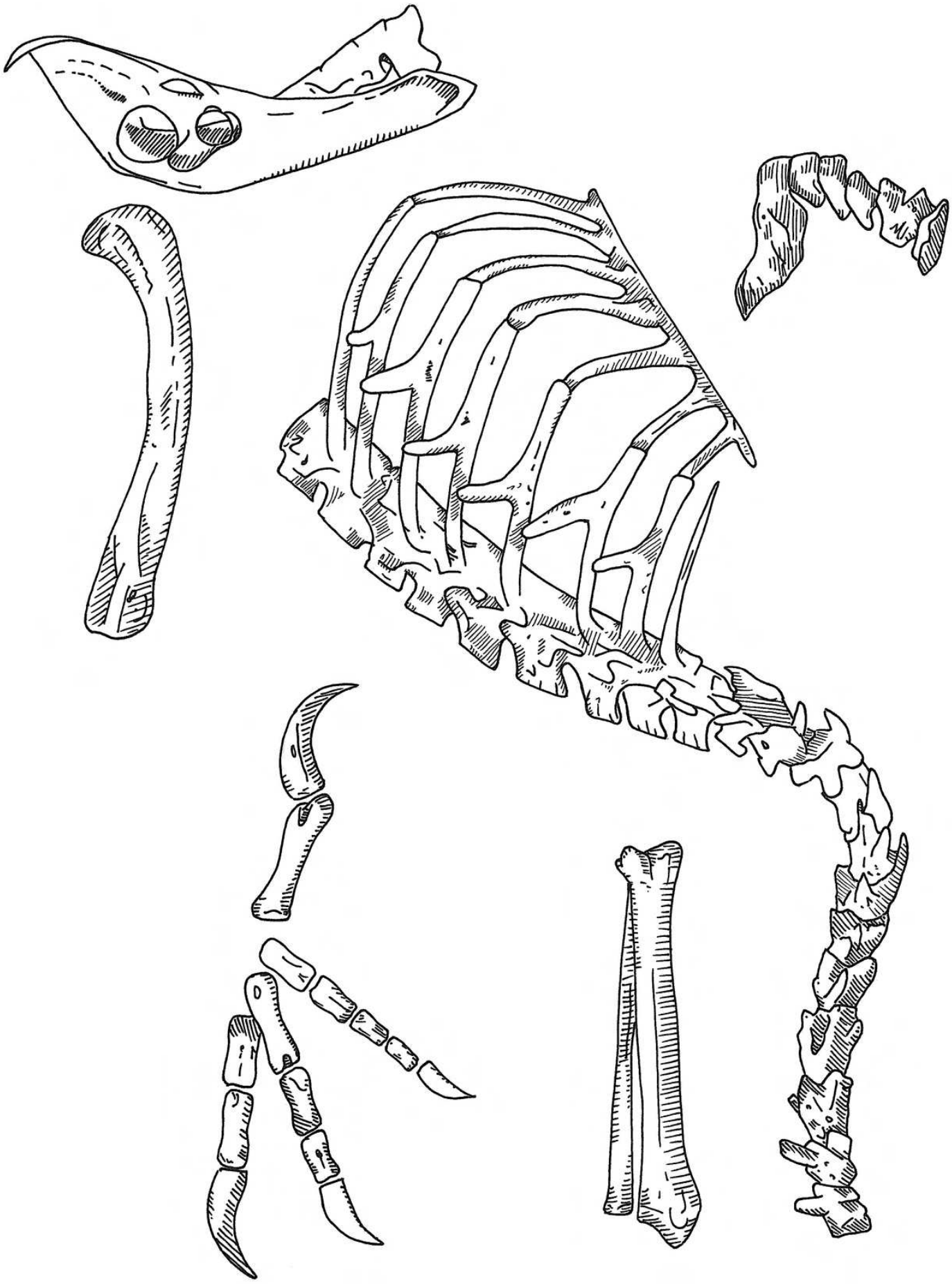

Left tibia
Left femur
Right tibia
Left patella
Right femur
Right patella

EAGLE

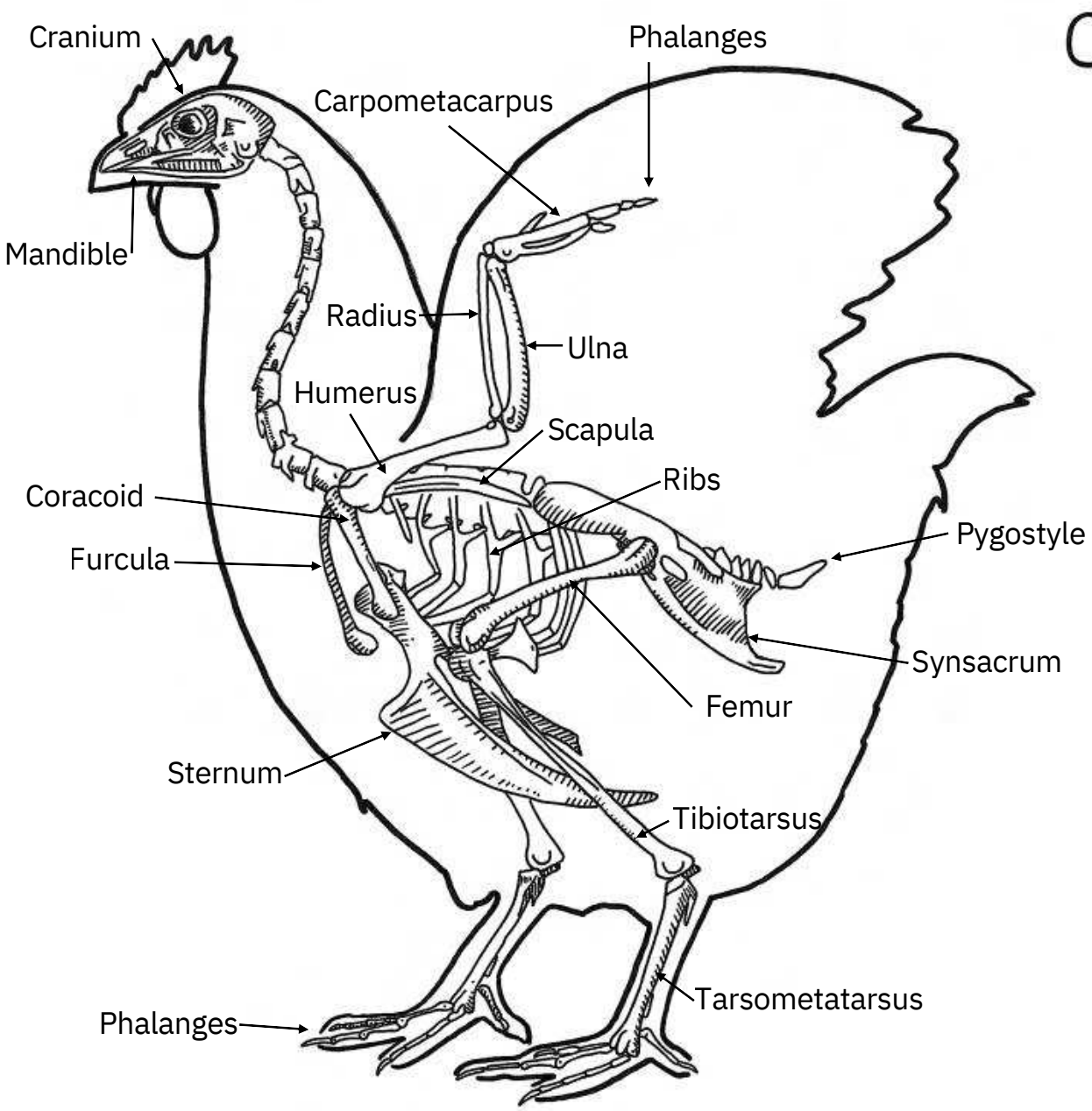

Phalanges
Carpometacarpus
Radius
Ulna
Cranium
Humerus
Mandible
Scapula
Ribs
Coracoid
Furcula
Pygostyle
Sternum
Synsacrum
Femur
Tibiotarsus
Tarsometatarsus
Phalanges

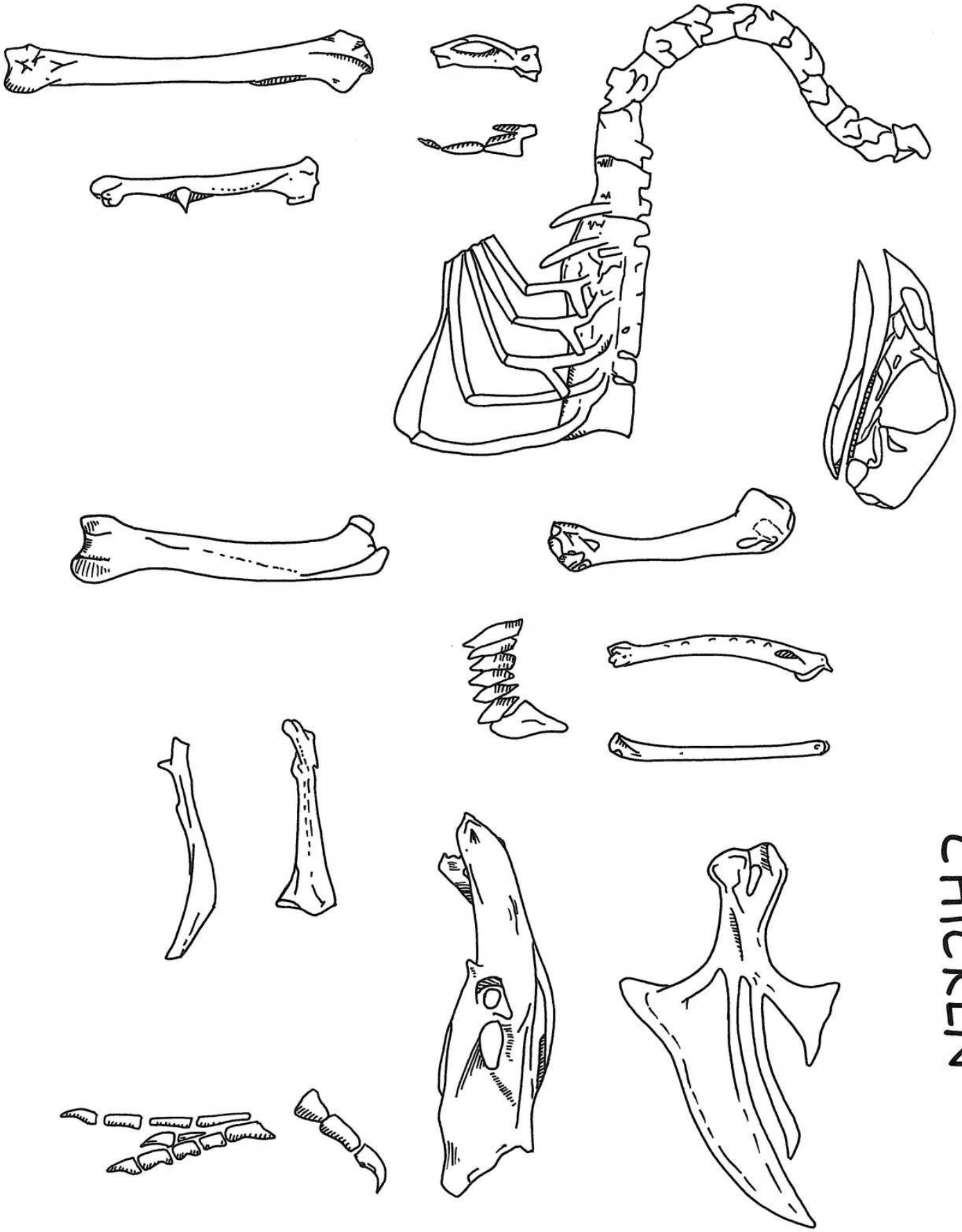
EAGLE





CHICKEN


Cranium
Phalanges
Carpometacarpus
Mandible
Radius
Ulna
Humerus
Scapula
Ribs
Coracoid
Pygostyle
Furcula
Synsacrum
Femur
Sternum
Tibiotarsus
Tarsometatarsus
Phalanges



CHICKEN

Skeleton References

Barone, R., Pavaux, C., Blin P.C. and Cuq, P., (1973): Atlas of Rabbit Anatomy. Paris: Masson et Cie.

Cohen, A., and Sarjeantson, D. 1996. A Manual for the Identification of Bird Bones from Archaeological Sites. London: Archetype Publications

Greene, E. C. 1935. The anatomy of the rat. New York: Hafner Pub.

Pales, L., and Lambert, C. 1971. Atlas ostéologique pour servir à l'identification des mammifères du Quaternaire, I. Les membres Herbivores. Paris: Éditions du CNRS

Pales, L., and Lambert, C. 1971. Atlas ostéologique pour servir à l'identification des mammifères du Quaternaire, I. Les membres Carnivores. Paris: Éditions du CNRS

Pales, L., and Garcia, M. A. 1981. Atlas ostéologique pour servir à l'identification des mammifères du Quaternaire, II. Tête – Rachis, Ceintures, scapulaire et pelvienne. Membres Herbivores. Paris: Éditions du CNRS

Pales, L., and Garcia, M. A. 1981. Atlas ostéologique pour servir à l'identification des mammifères du Quaternaire, II. Tête – Rachis, Ceintures, scapulaire et pelvienne. Membres Carnivores, Homme. Paris: Éditions du CNRS

Schmid E. 1972. Atlas of Animal Bones. Amsterdam: Elsevier Publishing Company.

White, T. D., and Folkens, P. A. 1999. Human Osteology. Dan Diego & London: Academic Press.