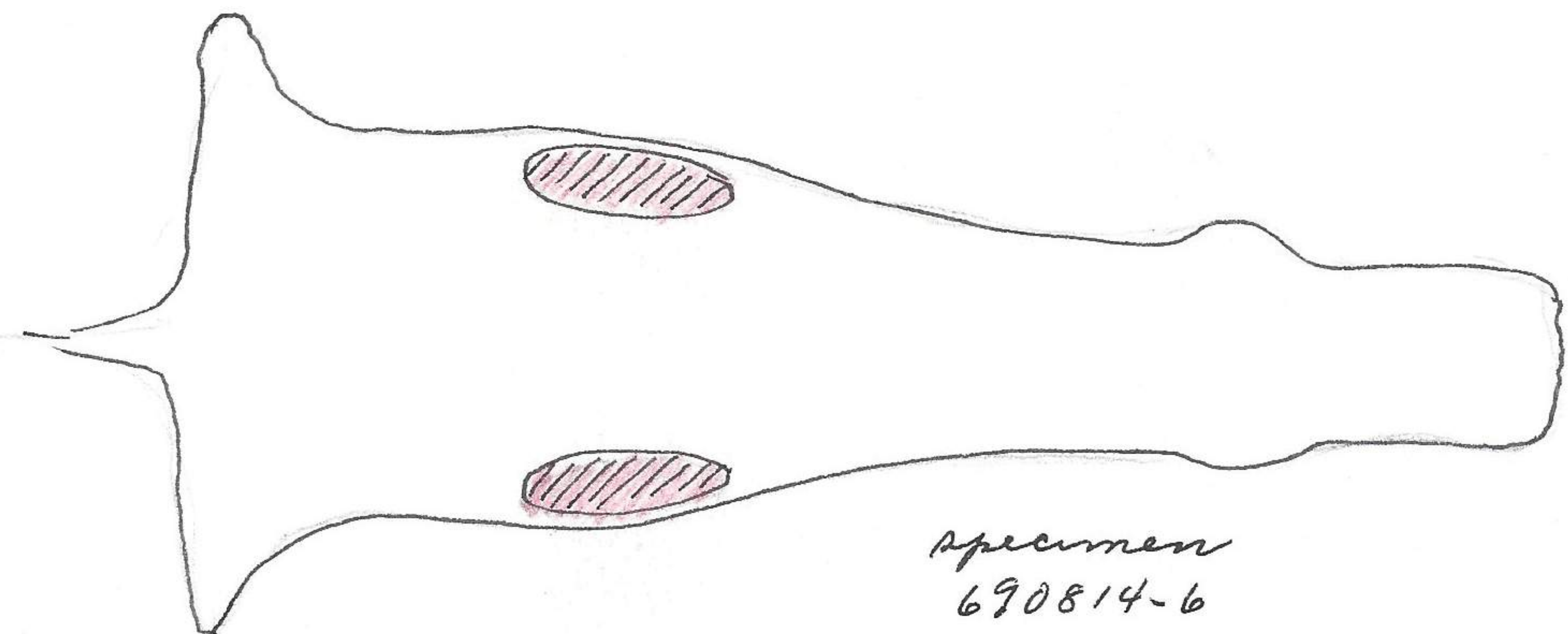
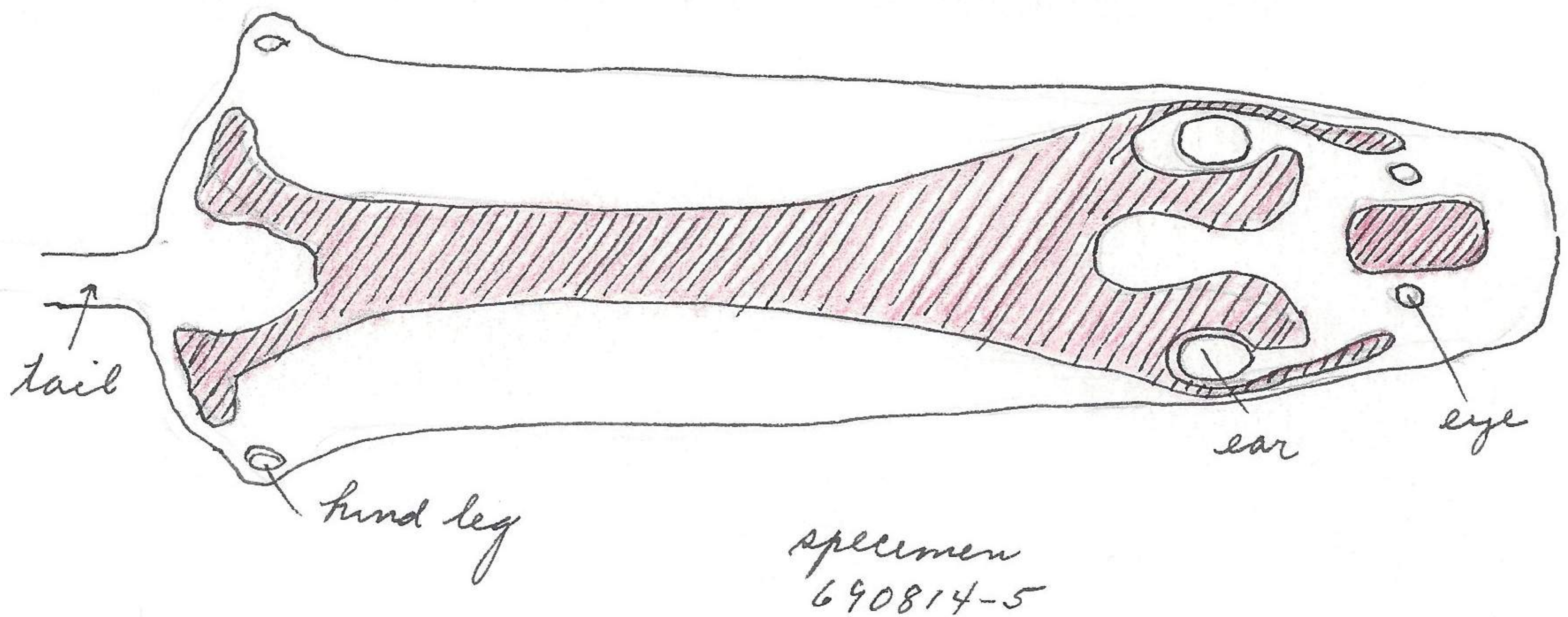




The forest ranger for this area reports that this year has been the driest year in the last ten year. Except for a storm approx. 1 week ago there has been no moisture since June 17. There has been good snows this winter but the water table was low and the spring runoff was abrupt. The area is in fire warning no ³ which is severe and unusual for this area. From my experience, the storms of Aug 10 and 11 produced a revival of plants that suggest a picture of excessive moisture for the area, but apparently this impression is not correct. The ranger also reported a depreciation in small mammals (chipmunks in particular) and a decided increase in the marmot population. My own impression is that there is also a depreciation in numbers of the marmots & pika as well as small mammals & birds. This is demonstrated by relative ^{few} numbers of mammals caught this year in comparison with those captures in the same places last year. The bird life is especially low when compared to my memory of bird life in the 1930s. There is apparently a regional crash of mammals & birds as we found the same condition in the Medicine Bow Range and is probably controlled by climate or atmospheric contamination by man.