

# CONSERVANCY

FOR CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

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Animals in the Wintertime

# Hibernation

Hibernation is a way animals conserve energy to survive cold, dark winters. When animals hibernate, they are not sleeping. Instead, they become inactive, their heart rate slows down and their body temperature drops.

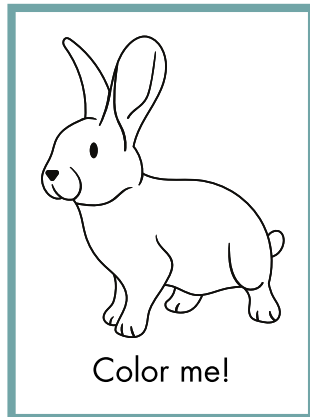
Hibernators prepare for winter with extra eating. Their stored fat keeps them alive during the months they do not eat. Examples of hibernators in CVNP are groundhogs and bats.



# Active Animals

Many animals in Northeast Ohio have a series of mini-hibernations, called torpor, in which they experience short periods of dormancy during harsh conditions, but wake to forage for food when the weather isn't as bad. Examples include squirrels, skunks, opossums and racoons!

Other animals have adaptations that help them survive and stay active all winter. The red fox or the snowshoe hare, for example, have winter coats that protect them from cold and snow!

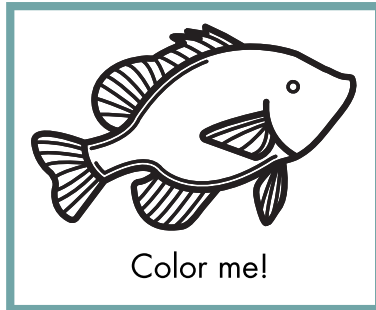


Pretend you are an animal preparing for hibernation. What do you have to do before turning in for the winter? What habitat will you hibernate in?

# Fish in the Winter

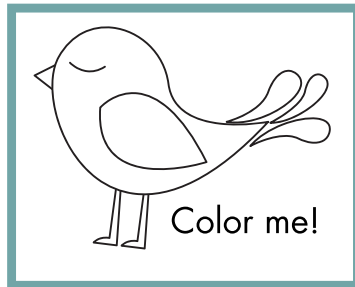
The layer of ice that forms on top of a lake, pond, river, or stream provides some insulation that helps the water retain its heat. Fish often gather in groups near the bottom of the body of water and begin to slow down, however, they are not hibernating!

Fish experience torpor too, or a state of decreased activity. The fishes' heart rate slows down, their needs for food and oxygen decrease, and they move about very little. Torpor is a lighter, more temporary state than that of true hibernation.



# Flying South

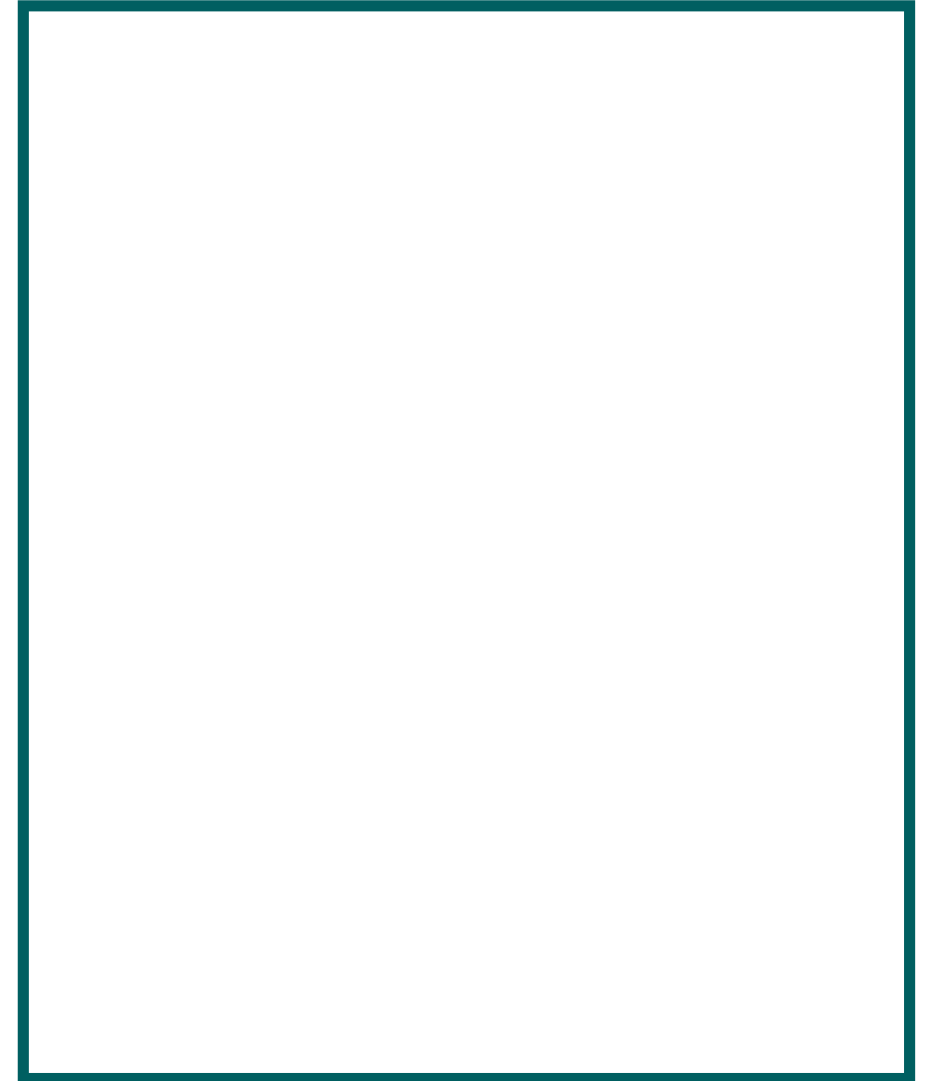
Many animals head south for the winter, because often there's more food for them further south. This is true for birds, especially those that eat nectar or insects, monarch butterflies, and even salmon.



In the summer, there is often better places for habitat further north. Northern climates provide birds more places to have baby birds safely and protect their young from predators. So, lots of birds go back and forth every season. This process is known as migration.

# Compare and Contrast

Look outside a window in your home. How does what you see in the wintertime compare to what you see in the summertime? What changes have you noticed? What has stayed the same?



# Snowflakes

Snow was falling,  
so much like stars  
filling the dark trees  
that one could easily imagine  
its reason for being was nothing more  
than prettiness."  
-Mary Oliver



Snowflakes are all different and unique. Write about the ways in which you are unique and special!

A large empty rectangular box with a dark teal border, intended for writing about unique snowflakes. It contains two faint light blue snowflake illustrations: one in the top right corner and one in the bottom left corner.

# Poetry

Write an acrostic poem about winter. Write a word, phrase, or line that starts with each letter in "winter."

**W**

**I**

**N**

**T**

**E**

**R**

A large empty rectangular box with a dark teal border, intended for writing an acrostic poem. The letters W, I, N, T, E, R are arranged vertically on the left side of the box.

# A Bird's Migration

Fill in dialogue and color in the comic strip!

