

# Animals store fat for winter

**F**ALL IS when living things in the temperate regions of the world prepare for the rigors of winter.

Man puts antifreeze in the radiator of his car, buys warm long underwear and puts storm windows on his house.

Wild animals, each in their own way, are in the process of preparing for winter too. Because insects are hard to find in winter, birds that feed on them begin preparations for their migration south.

But to fly there, birds must store enough energy for the long hard flight.

**BEFORE BIRDS** begin moving to their winter quarters, they may add up to 50 percent more of their body weight in fat. Though many birds

nature

**Timothy Nowicki**

feed en route to replenish their energy reserves, many birds fly such long distances that even a full stomach could not sustain them very long.

Fat is an excellent source of energy. Without it, they would not be able to fly the long distances required.

Animals that hibernate, such as

the meadow jumping mouse and the 13-lined ground squirrel, add as much as 100 percent of their body weight in fat. Even though their body functions are reduced to a bare minimum, they need this fat to keep those functions going during the seven months when they do not eat.

Much of the fat accumulated by hibernating animals is a high energy fat, called brown fat. It provides more energy than the usual saturated fats of animals.

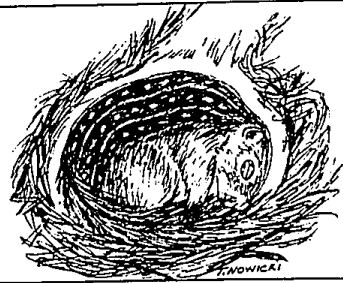
**IN GENERAL**, plants have unsaturated fats that remain liquid at lower temperatures than the saturated fats found most often in ani-

mals.

But animals that live in cold climates have both types in their body. Unsaturated fats are found in the lower portions of the body extremities. Hooves and paws must remain pliable even in cold temperatures, which is where unsaturated fats are found.

Farmers have known for a long time that neatsfoot oil, extracted from the feet of cattle, helps to keep leather boots flexible in cold temperatures.

Though fat is not something man wants much of in our culture, it serves a necessary function in both man and wild animals.



The 13-lined ground squirrel added as much as 100 percent of its body weight in fat during fall to stay alive while hibernating.

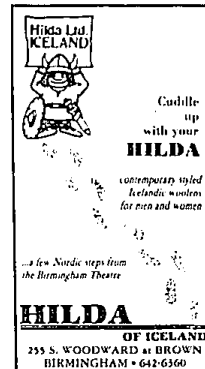
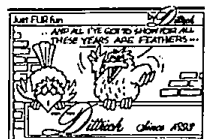
## Area history buffs to meet

Do you want to publish a family history? Are you interested in the background of your community?

"Publishing Local Histories," sponsored by the Oakland County Historical Commission, will tell you how to get material published and provide published works about your community.

The workshop will be held at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 29, in the Oakland County Commissioners Auditorium, 1200 N. Telegraph, Pontiac.

Featured speakers will be Jean Fox of Farmington Hills Historical Commission, Jennifer Radcliff of Clarkston Community Historical Society, and Pat McKay of Rochester Hills Historical Museum. Refreshments will be served.

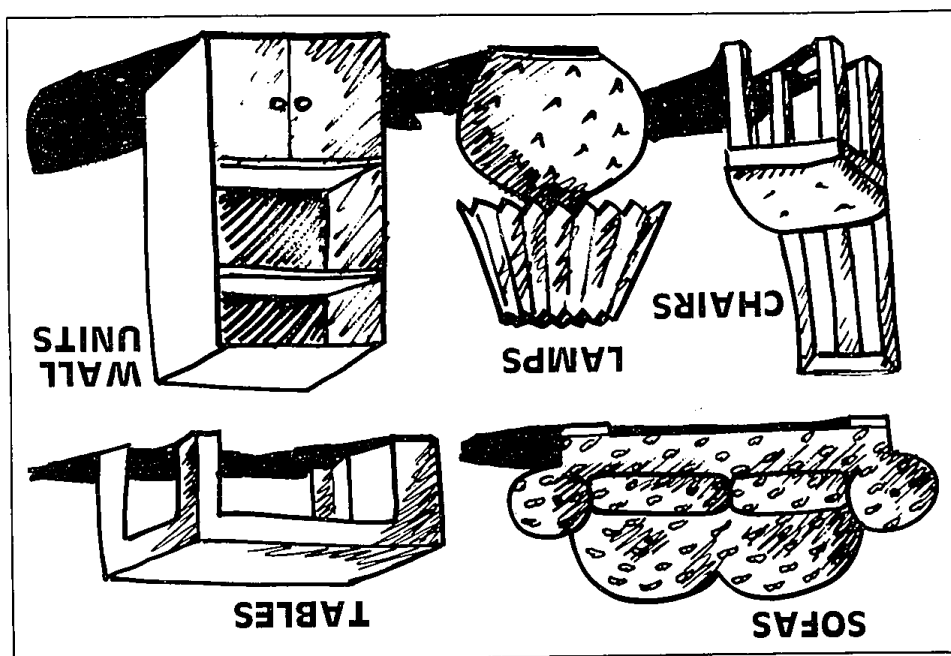


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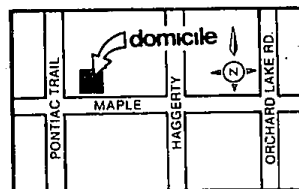
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