

Nature goes underground in winter

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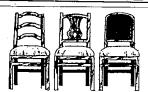


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## Where did all the creatures go?

Walking trails in Autumn reveals a marked contrast from the same area in summer. Hidden leaf pig-ments show their colors. Few, if any insects are seen. Turtles, frogs and snakes are nowhere to be seen. Even familiar birds are gone from their perches.

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When one considers the extreme contrast between the 90 degree temperature of summer and the sub-zero emperatures of winter. It is remarkable that animals, other than man, can survive such extremes for such long periods of time.

An allen from outer space walking trails in winter would think the area was devold of life. Yet when it returned again in spring it would find a myriad of life forms that auddenly appeared.

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Where dld the snakes, turtles, frogs, insects, and birds come from?

Well, some birds stay in the area all year, white other species migrate.

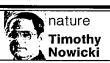
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Care

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Snakes, however, cannot migrate and thus must adapt to the extreme climatic conditions encountered in our area. In fall, some garter snakes find traditional group wintering caves where thousands of individuals find traditional group wintering caves where thousands of individuals huddle together to stay warm. Staying warm is only relative, since they are all about the temperature of the surrounding air.

Some individuals find deep rock crevices to shelter themselves from the cold. Other species of snakes find protection in the underground burrows of animals.

Paws Line

PE*a*ce

Insects remain inconspicuous dur-ing cold temperatures in a variety of forms. Some pass the winter as eggs, such as grasshoppers. Lady-bird bea-tles are an example of an insect that seeks shelter in the adult form and

will remain that way until spring.

Aquatic insects like dragonflies,

have immature stages that exhibit reduced activity in unfrozen water of lates and areams. Representatives of butterflies and moths pass the winter in the pupal stage — co-con or chrysalis.

Frogs and turtles that spend most of their time in the water will bury themselves in the mud. Painted turtless and snapping turtles can be active in the water beneath the lech liter activity is greatly reduced compared to that of summer. Contrasting activity cycles throughout the year allow us to reflect on the amazing adaptation that have enabled animals to survive.







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