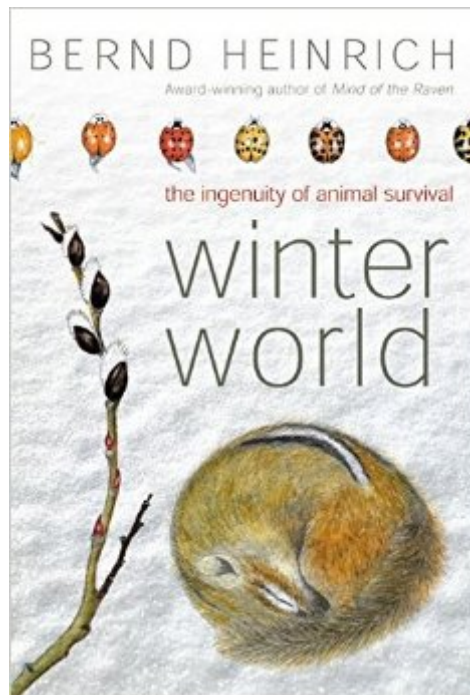


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# Winter World: The Ingenuity Of Animal Survival



## Synopsis

From flying hot-blooded squirrels and diminutive kinglets to sleeping black bears and torpid turtles to frozen insects and frogs, the animal kingdom relies on staggering evolutionary innovations to survive winter. Unlike their human counterparts, who alter the environment to accommodate physical limitations, most animals are adapted to an amazing range of conditions. In *Winter World: The Ingenuity of Animal Survival*, biologist, illustrator, and award-winning author Bernd Heinrich explores his local woods, where he delights in the seemingly infinite feats of animal inventiveness he discovers there. Because winter drastically affects the most elemental component of all life -- water -- radical changes in a creature's physiology and behavior must take place to match the demands of the environment. Some creatures survive by developing antifreeze; others must remain in constant motion to maintain their high body temperatures. Even if animals can avoid freezing to death, they must still manage to find food in a time of scarcity, or store it from a time of plenty. Beautifully illustrated throughout with the author's delicate drawings and infused by his inexhaustible enchantment with nature, *Winter World: The Ingenuity of Animal Survival* awakens the wonders and mysteries by which nature sustains herself through winter's harsh, cruel exigencies.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

If you have enjoyed the nature writing of Farley Mowat or David Attenborough (*The Life of Birds*, *The Private Life of Plants*), you'll enjoy this wonderful book. There are books on nature which are dry and distanced: this is just the opposite. There are also books on nature which are primarily observational,

such as Thoreau's Walden Pond and Annie Dillard's Pilgrim at Tinker Creek. Neither Thoreau nor Annie Dillard measured the rectal temperature of insects in the winter to help determine the mechanics of heat regulation. Most of the mammals, birds, insects, and trees looked at by the author are his neighbors in the winter woods: the love and enjoyment and the curiosity about his environment is very evident. He wants to know what these creatures do to cope and survive the severe winters where he lives in Maine and Vermont. Heinrich writes with great warmth and humor throughout the book. You'll follow his thoughts and discoveries about how the tiny golden-crowned kinglet survives the winter, when logic seems to say that it shouldn't even survive a single below-zero night. On sunny days, even when the temperature is well below freezing, several dozen honeybees may emerge from the hive and just a few seconds later will all be lying dead on the snow: this is a sacrificial testing mechanism by the hive to ensure that when the first flowers open up that a head start can be obtained for foraging. There are all kinds of fascinating things that you could never imagine going on. Most of the nature in the book centers on Heinrich's own environment, but he also readily and often talks at length about other species from around the world.

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