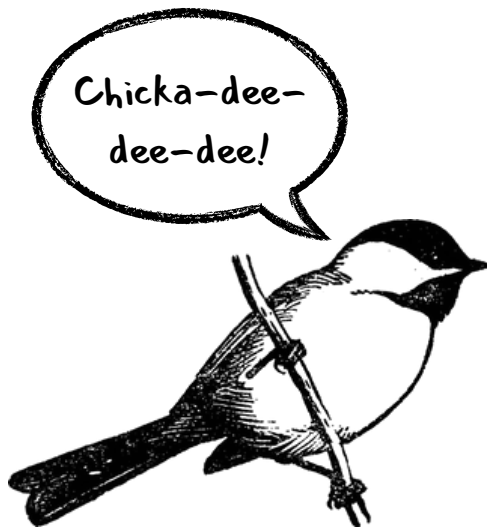


# A Bird's Eye View of Winter

An outdoor winter  
walk adventure!

Hi! I'm Chip the Chickadee. Welcome  
to my home. Do you see my house?  
It's all around you! Join me in  
exploring wintertime!



MATTHAEI BOTANICAL GARDENS  
AND NICHOLS ARBORETUM  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

**Exploring the outdoors is a great time to practice using your different senses. As you enjoy the outdoors, try out some of the following.**



**Look:** pay attention to details that you haven't noticed before. Do you see patterns? Textures? Colors? Shapes?



**Listen:** maybe close your eyes. What do you hear? Leaves blowing in the wind? Birds calling? Water flowing or dripping?



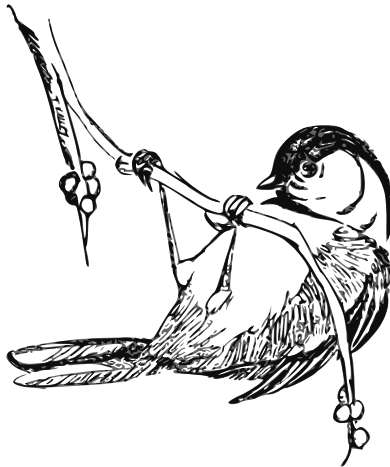
**Feel:** notice how the cold air feels on your face. Notice how different surfaces and textures feel under your hand. Tree bark? A fallen leaf? A stone? Ice or snow?



# Welcome to my kitchen!

Without as many active insects to catch or berries to find in the winter, I have to literally get smarter about how to eat in the winter! My hippocampus (part of the brain) increases in size during the autumn months when I store food, like seeds or insects, in various places. This bigger brain helps me remember where I put all my food so that I can re-locate it!

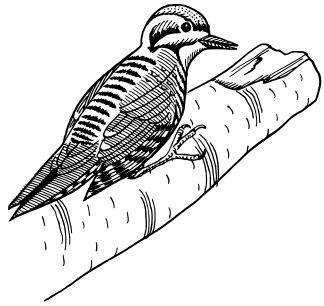
This would be like storing all the food you needed for the winter in various places in your house, like under the couch, tucked in corners of rooms, or in the bathtub!



**If you were a bird, where do you think you'd hide food so that you could find it later?**

# Where do birds sleep?

To stay warm at night, I will try to find a protected area such as in a tree or bush that remains green. Some of us, such as woodpeckers and my fellow chickadees, also may stay in tree cavities or in boxes put up by humans.



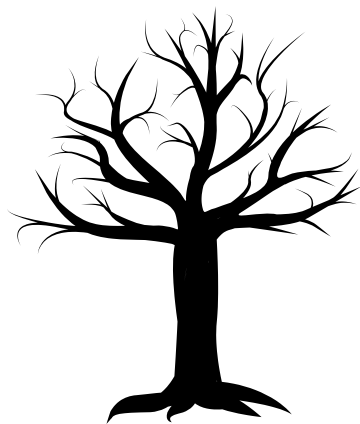
What about nests? Birds build elaborate nests during the spring and use them to lay eggs and keep our young safe. These nests are normally not used by birds year-round! Sometimes other critters such as mice may use an old bird's nest in the winter.



Can you spot any old trees that have holes in them? This hole may be a safe place for small mammals or birds. Wintertime is also a good time to spot old bird's nest in trees.

# The Wonder of Trees

Trees serve so many purposes to lots of different animals! Take a wide look at the trees around you. Are there any trees that are still green? The trees that remain green throughout the winter are very important for providing animals with protection and shelter from the winter weather. But the deciduous trees, which have lost their leaves, also serve many purposes.



**Look** at the trees that don't have leaves. What sort of shapes do the branches make? Do you see any repeating patterns?

# Sammy the Squirrel

Squirrels are one of the more active winter critters and are easy to observe in the winter.

They are a common neighbor and are often seen sharing bird feeders with us birds, but most of their food source comes from acorns produced by oak trees which they find in the fall and store to eat during the winter.



**Look** on the ground around you. Do you see any larger oak leaves with lots of lobes around your feet? Can you spot any acorns or nuts that a squirrel might want to eat?



**Look** high into the trees that don't have leaves. Do you see any large piles of leaves high in the branches? This may be a squirrel nest! Birds aren't the only animals to build nests in trees!

