



# SNOWSHOE HARE

*Lepus americanus*



The snowshoe hare, also called the varying hare, is a member of the order of mammals that includes the rabbits, hares, and pikas. Its name is derived from its very large feet, which allow it walk more easily on top of deep snow. During the summer months, the snowshoe hare has a brown coat and feeds on herbaceous plants and grasses. During the winter it has a white coat, feeds on twigs and bark, and burrows in the snow for shelter. A very quick animal, the snowshoe hare is almost always on the run from foxes, coyotes, lynx, and birds of prey.



## SPECIES QUICK FACTS

### SIZE

An adult snowshoe hare averages between 16 and 20 inches in length.

### WEIGHT

The snowshoe hare typically weighs between two and three pounds.

### FOOD HABITS

The snowshoe hare is an herbivore. It mainly eats green plants, fruit, bark, and twigs.

### HABITAT

The snowshoe hare is frequently found in swamps, thickets, and fields.

### GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

The snowshoe hare is found throughout the northern regions of North America. Found predominantly in Canada and Alaska, it can also be found in the northern United States, including Michigan.

### FUN FACT

The snowshoe hare's fur turns white in the winter and turn brown during the spring and summer months.