



# **POLAR BEAR**

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**TO STAY TO  
MOVE TO  
RETURN**

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# **CARI BOU**

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# **NIGHT HAWK**

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# **SAL MON**

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# **ZEBRA MUSSEL**

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# ZEBRA MUSSEL

Small, striped, and inconspicuous, the zebra mussel is a native of the Black and Caspian seas but today readily found in what we know as the Great Lakes. The zebra mussel unknowingly travelled from Europe by way of ballast water in ships.

These incredibly hardy and highly adaptable mussels are also generous eaters of phytoplankton, the basis of many aquatic food webs, and so competes with a number of other hungry animals. Since this competition puts them at odds with other living things already present in the Great Lakes, they have been labeled with the uncomfortable title of "invasive species."

# SALMON

The Atlantic salmon is a notorious traveler. They used to thrive throughout tributaries of Lake Ontario but in less than a century they have all but vanished.

Still, their journey back to the ocean is renowned; teenage salmon, feeling the tickles of adulthood, travels down lakes and rivers to reach a vast ocean they have never before seen. After a handful of years in the great blue, they return to freshwater to make life, and to end their own.

How they know where to go is something of a mystery, but generations of salmon will travel the very same streams, repeating a long cycle of migration.

# NIGHT HAWK

From the start of the European settlement on Turtle Island, the common nighthawk likely took advantage of the mass deforestation that came with colonization. Favouring areas with few leafy plants, such as forest clearings and rock barrens, the nighthawk enjoyed the eruption of open spaces created by urbanization.

In Toronto it enjoys flat gravel roofs on which it makes nests. However, since the 1900s the common nighthawk has slowly been declining with the push for reforestation, intensive agriculture, and the movement away from gravel roofs to tar.

# CARI BOU

Barren-ground caribou can be found north of here, and migrate seasonally from snowy tundra to sparsely treed taiga.

While their favourite food, lichen, helps them live in snow-covered terrains, many barren-ground caribou cross boundaries and borders in the spring to seek out fresh green vegetation because it contains more protein, protein needed to make baby caribou!

Since European settlement, caribou movement has receded northward and continues to do so today.

# POLAR BEAR

Churchill, Manitoba, is central to polar bear life. Every year polar bears travel to Churchill, along the Hudson Bay, in anticipation of one great moment: the forming of sea ice. The polar bear relies on ice for everything: to hunt, breed, and den.

Increasing global temperatures have not boded well for the bears as they are forced to stay inland longer, awaiting ice and therefore seals, relying on energy reserves to survive.