

ALL ABOUT THE ANIMALS' SANTA

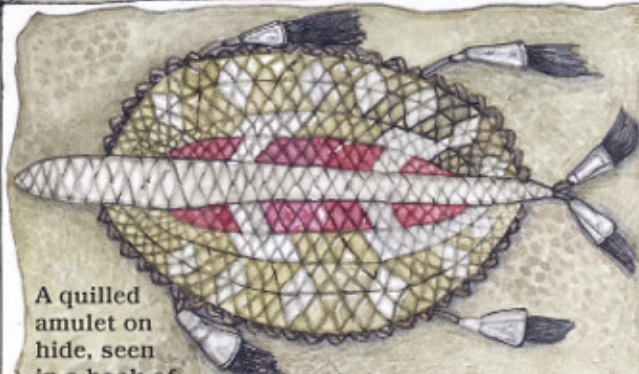


On the hottest night of the summer at our cabin, an odd question flew into my head; "Do animal's have a Santa?"

Then I remembered telling stories with a group of friends. My friend George Beyer told about when he tried to catch Santa with a beartrap in the fireplace.

My advice for finding story ideas? Be ready to capture weird thoughts and listen to the stories your friends tell!

Jan Brett



A quilled amulet on hide, seen in a book of native artwork.

A North American Porcupine



Boxes by Lorraine Besito, A. Pargowish and Irene Desmoulin

I decorated my book with North American Native Porcupine quill embroidery, which I first saw at the Peabody Museum at Harvard. I began collecting boxes with designs of this work. Porcupine quills are dyed with plant material, bloodroot for red, lichen for yellow and walnut for black, then softened and sewn in intricate patterns. Only a few people know how to craft this beautiful art form.



- summer
- breeding
- winter



The largest of the North American Owls, the Snowy is a Great Avian Nomad or bird traveller. It can be seen day or night and is very quiet in flight. Some individuals are marked with black barring and some are pure white. 2013-2014 was a year when there was an abundance of arctic rodents. In what is called an "eruption" by biologists many Snowys appeared south of their usual range. One was seen in the town next to us in Massachusetts Norm Smith, Audubon Society Owl expert relocated Snowys from Logan airport in Boston to safer environments. Google Norm Smith Snowy Owl to see great photos and video. His work is risky, snowy have sharp talons and beaks. They are large but also extremely fragile when handled.

THE LEMMING

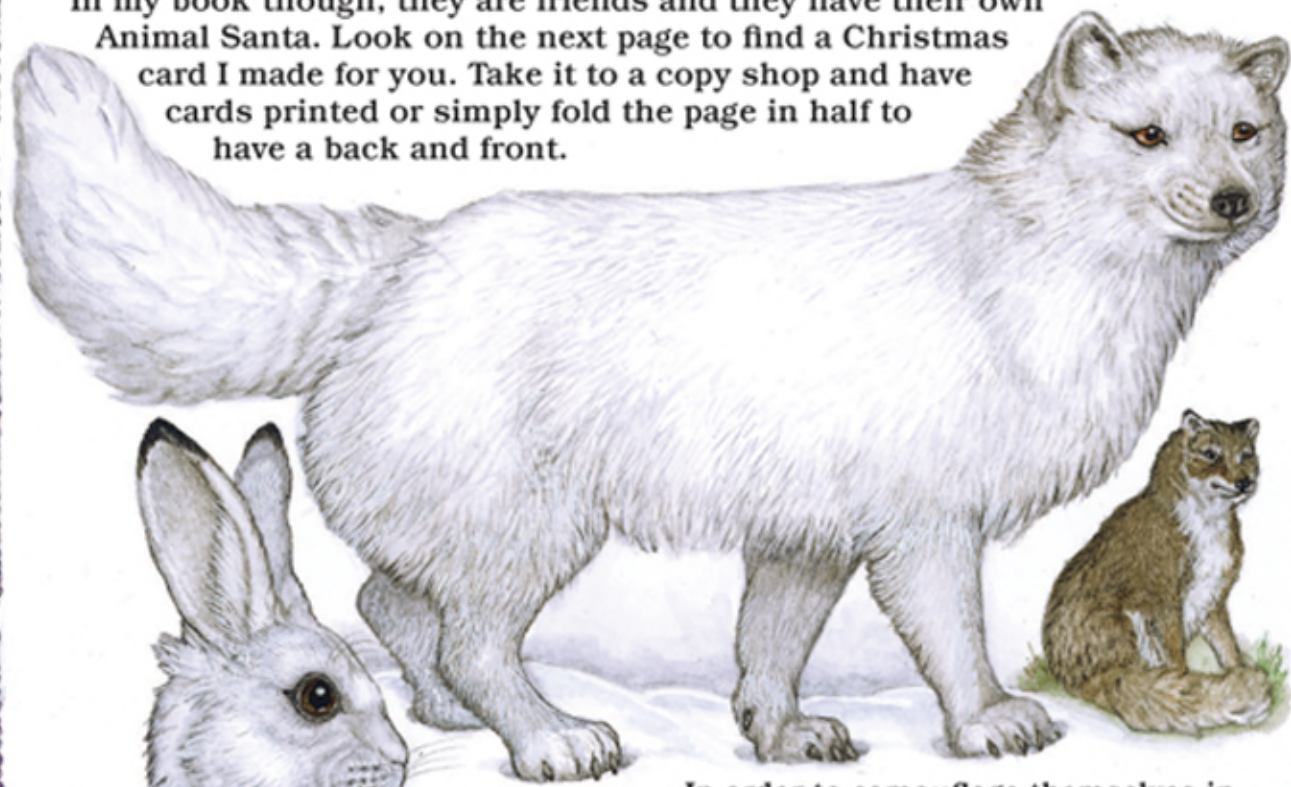
Lemmings are related to voles and are mouse-like creatures that live in Northern North America in burrows. They make tunnels under the snow. Although they do not live as far north as the North Pole they make excellent elves for Santa. They do not jump off cliffs into the ocean in large groups. That is a myth.



Southern Bog Lemming

ARCTIC ANIMALS

I set my book in Northern Canada. I wanted my animals to be like a lost tribe where magical things could take place. I dressed them in trade cloth and was inspired by First People's designs, especially Porcupine Quill Embroidery. In the wild these animals would be predators and prey! In my book though, they are friends and they have their own Animal Santa. Look on the next page to find a Christmas card I made for you. Take it to a copy shop and have cards printed or simply fold the page in half to have a back and front.



In order to camouflage themselves in winter and in summer the Arctic Fox and Snowshoe Hare change their coats. The Arctic Fox's warm fur enables it to live in extreme cold, 50° below zero. It uses its tail to cover its face like a big scarf.

The Snowshoe Hare can leap on top of deep snowdrifts without sinking because its hind feet are extra, extra large and furry.

Fun fact: A young hare is called a Leveret



I'm Hedgie, Jan's muse; A Hedgehog is a different animal family than a porcupine, even though we both have prickles.