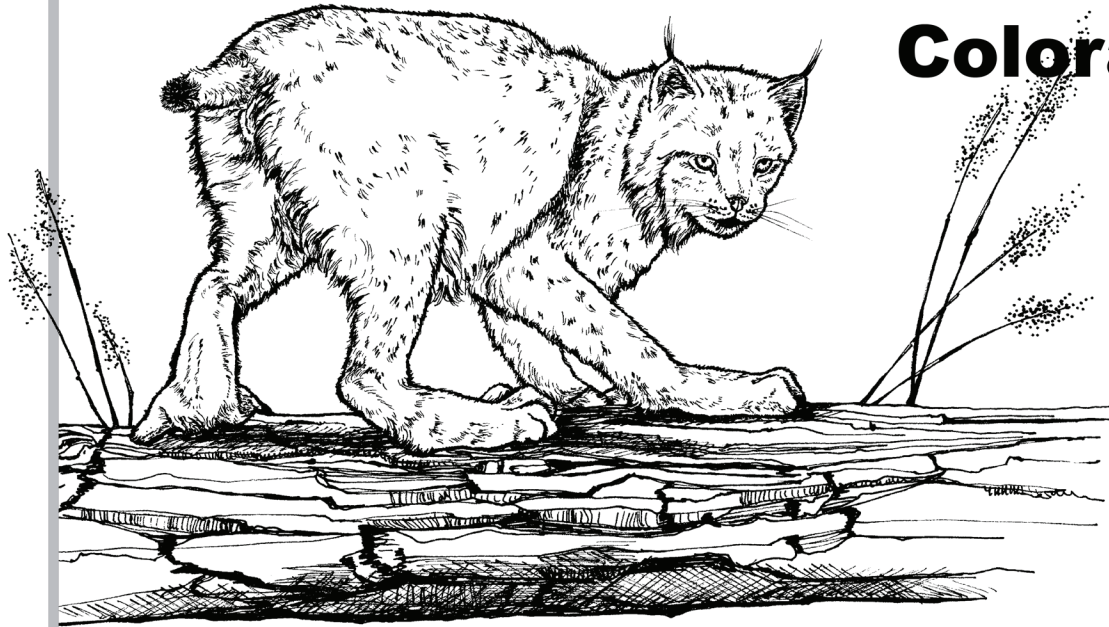


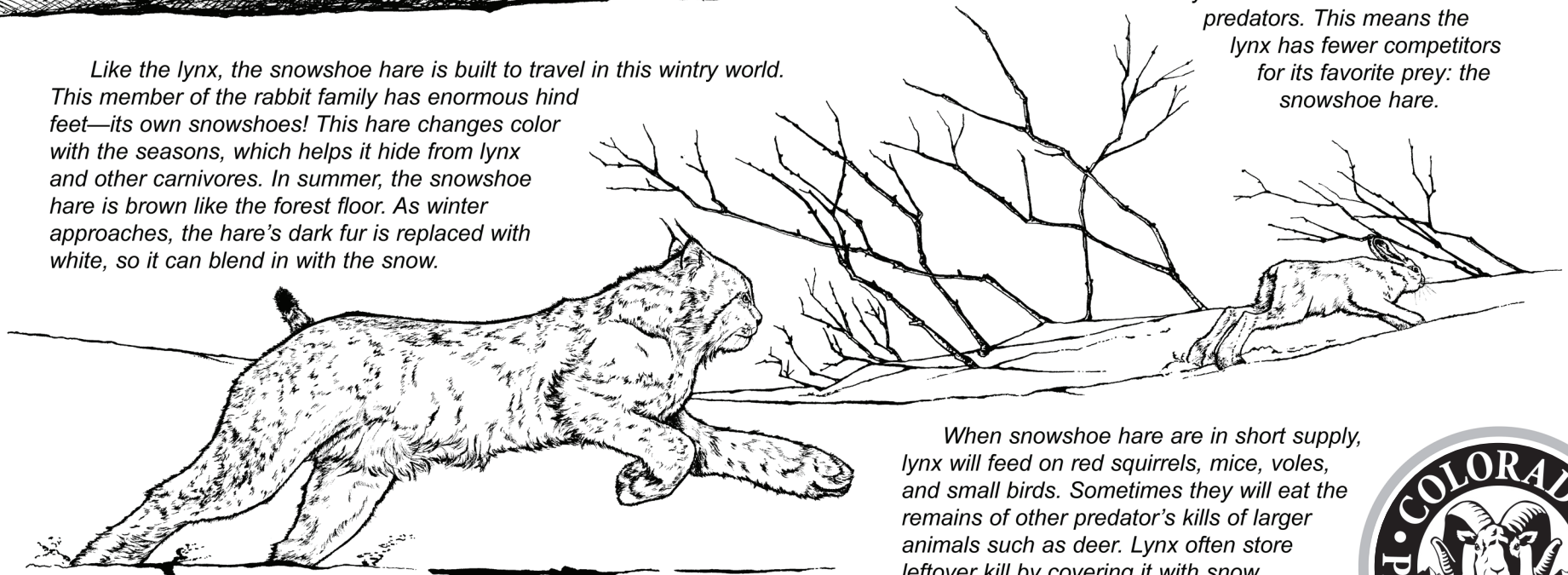
Colorado's "Canada" Cat



One of Colorado's three native species of wild cat is the Canada lynx. The lynx makes its home in Colorado's high mountains and throughout Canada. Climate conditions are the same in both places—cool and shady, with short summers and long, snowy winters. Hardy evergreen trees grow closely together to shield each other from wind and frost. These are boreal forests—northern woodlands dominated by spruce, fir, and pine.

The lynx is perfectly adapted to survive in the boreal forest. Its thick, grayish-brown coat keeps it warm and blends perfectly into the wooded shadows. The lynx has huge feet—the same size as the larger mountain lion's—to help it bound over the snow. The lynx can move more easily over these lands than other predators. This means the lynx has fewer competitors for its favorite prey: the snowshoe hare.

Like the lynx, the snowshoe hare is built to travel in this wintry world. This member of the rabbit family has enormous hind feet—its own snowshoes! This hare changes color with the seasons, which helps it hide from lynx and other carnivores. In summer, the snowshoe hare is brown like the forest floor. As winter approaches, the hare's dark fur is replaced with white, so it can blend in with the snow.



When snowshoe hare are in short supply, lynx will feed on red squirrels, mice, voles, and small birds. Sometimes they will eat the remains of other predator's kills of larger animals such as deer. Lynx often store leftover kill by covering it with snow.

