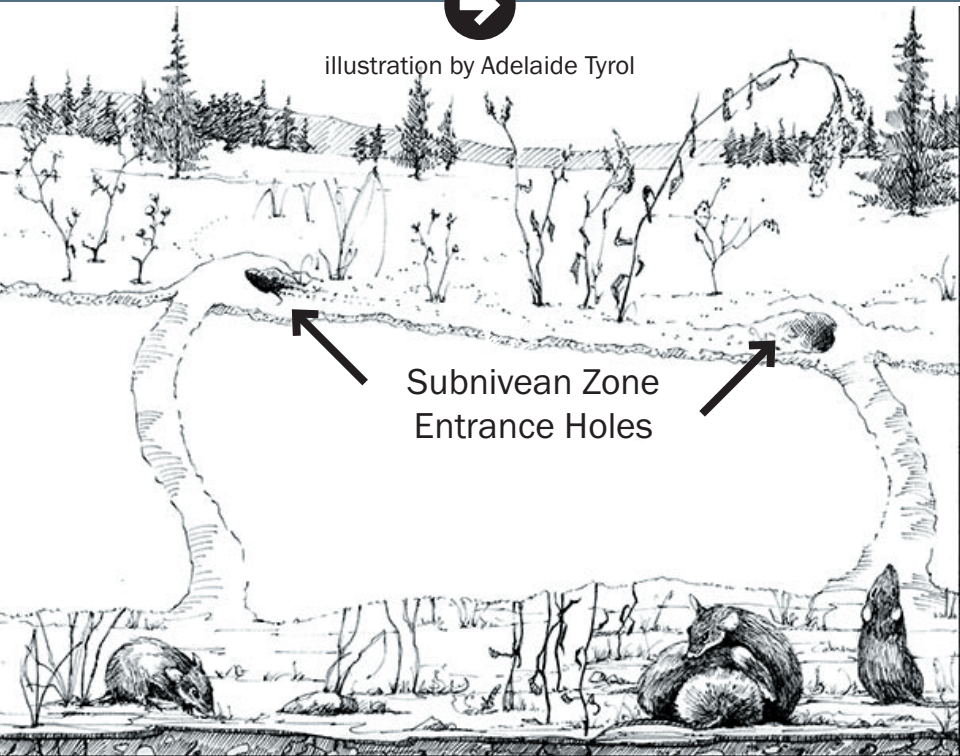


THE SUBNIVEAN ZONE



illustration by Adelaide Tyrol




Subnivean Zone
Entrance Holes

This cozy area deep beneath the snow's surface is used by mice and voles during the cold winter months. The space remains approximately 32°F regardless of outside temperatures. These temps are comfortable for mice and voles, who create a system of tunnels that allow access to food and warm sleeping quarters.



Look for holes (often with many tracks leading to and from) in the snow's surface which typically mark entrances to the subnivean zone.





In the spring, look for remnants of elaborate tunnel systems at the bottom of the melting snow layer or on the ground in the grass and think about all the work and activity these small mammals do to make it through the cold winter months.

