

Jack's Nature Journal  
12-5-08

It was a lovely day today. For snowmen! There was ice on the ground, and mom nearly slipped once or twice. But it really isn't that cold, as the temperature is  $-1^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $30^{\circ}\text{F}$ . The ground in the woods, although it is still frosty, and less hard than on Wednesday. Winter is definitely just around the corner, and is letting us know that it is waiting to swoop in and smother us all with snow. The air pressure today is 30.45 inHg, the humidity is 36% and the wind is coming from the NE at 3.5 mph, although I'm sure it was windier than that sometimes on the walk.

This morning, we really didn't see a lot apart from some crows that waddled about, in that special way crows have of waddling without looking ungainly. Mom thought she remember seeing a red tail being mobbed by some crows out of the corner of her eye, but we aren't sure if she did. Overall, it is a pretty dreary, cold and gray day.

For our Keepers of the Animals project this week, we read the story of Turtle and Beaver, where turtle goes to hibernate (or brumate, which is the word for hibernation in cold-blooded animals) at the bottom of his pond, and wakes up in spring to find that beaver has dammed it to make it deeper. He is unhappy about this, and he and beaver have a race to determine who will get to live in the pond. Turtle wins by some clever trickery. Anyway, the point of this lesson was to get the idea of hibernation fully formed in my head. I think it has, as I have learned about both cold-blooded and warm-blooded hibernation, and other things animals do in the winter apart from hibernating. For our activity next week, we may do a play on the different ways animals beat the cold!