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**Discussion**

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## Discussion

Adaptation to the environment is a vital element for many animals because it enables them to continue living. The process of natural selection is critical in allowing animals to adapt to their changing environment. Gardner (2017) defined natural selection as the process in which animals adapt to their ecosystem and thus initiate evolution. Snowshoe hares are among the animal species that use the natural selection process to adapt to their environment and camouflage. Specifically, snowshoe hares live in an environment where the climate tends to change; therefore, they need to use natural selection to hide from their predators through their ability to live both in snow and dry land. Banse (2018) claimed that snowshoe hares are food for many predators. Natural selection has thus factored in their changing their color because they can change to white during the winter to enable them to blend with the snow and during spring or summer, they change to reddish-brown to allow them to camouflage with rocks and dirt. Also, the hind legs of the hare are larger and have more fur and bigger toes which makes them adaptable in walking on the snow because of the large surface area.

On the other hand, currently, the natural selection process impacts Snowshoe hares color because of climate change. This makes them stay with the same color, brown since the process is not so quickly. This makes them more vulnerable to predators. Natural selection will not function quickly to save the Snowshoe hares because they are affected by climate change. Animals have two alternatives to avoid extinction which are to either adapt or move. Therefore, since the Snowshoe hares are straightforwardly affected by climate change, their camouflage becomes mismatched with the environment making them susceptible to predators (Banse, 2018). The only way to save the Snowshoe is through implementing mitigating measures and decreasing the stressors of habitat loss. The measures include decreasing carbon footprint.



### References

- Banse, T. (2018). With Less Snow, Can Color-Changing Northwest Hares Adapt To Avoid Predators? *Northwest Public Broadcasting*. <https://www.nwpb.org/2018/02/22/less-snow-can-color-changing-northwest-hares-adapt-avoid-predators/>
- Gardner, A. (2017). The purpose of adaptation. *Interface Focus*, 7(5), 20170005.

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