

Do lizards hibernate? I saw so many in the summer but none in the winter here.

Yes, lizards do hibernate. Specifically lizards that live in areas that have a cold winter hibernate. Dessert dwelling species often do not hibernate.

Lizards are ectothermic, or cold blooded. They do not regulate their own body temperature but need to go places that are warmer if they are too cold or cooler places if they are too hot.

When the weather gets too cool for a lizard to live in they will find a small hole in the ground or maybe a tree trunk, fallen log or a similar place and will stay there until outside conditions are more to their liking. Hibernation is similar to your computer going to sleep; it is not active but waiting.

In places where the weather gets very hot, like in a desert, lizards will look for a deep hole in the ground to crawl into to escape the heat. Going "off line" to get away from heat is not called hibernation, it is called estivation.

The largest lizard in the world is the Komodo Dragon (*Varanus komodoensis*), it can weigh up to 300 pounds!

The smallest lizard in the world is the Dwarf Gecko (*Sphaerodactylus ariasae*), a full grown adult is only about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch long! It is also the smallest of all the reptiles, birds and mammals combined—it is very small, there are about 23,000 animal species that are bigger than it is. The Dwarf Gecko was discovered only ten years ago in 2001.