

APRIL 15 – 30, 2018 NATURAL HISTORY NOTES FOR EASTVIEW
By Dick Harlow

CLIMATE CONCERNS

Insulated as we are here at EastView and only in touch with current weather conditions, it may be hard for some to notice the changes in climate throughout the Globe. There are 9 critical climate conditions that indicate that our planet is in serious trouble.



© Earth Times

The following quotes are from NASA, Global Climate Change.

1. Global increase in temperature.

“The planet’s average surface temperature has risen about 2.0 degrees Fahrenheit (1.1 degrees Celsius) since the late 19th century, a change driven largely by increased carbon dioxide and other human-made emissions into the atmosphere.

2. The world’s oceans are increasing in temperature.

Not all the temperature increases have escaped into the atmosphere; the increases have also been absorbed into the oceans.

3. Land mass ice sheets of the Antarctic and Greenland are smaller.

NASA’s Data bank shows the rapid decrease of ice that has occurred in the past 10 years.

4. Loss of glaciers.

Across the Globe countries are losing glaciers. Glaciers are melting faster in the last 20 years than in past centuries.

5. Less spring snow cover.

The Northern Hemisphere is losing the amount of spring snow cover needed to recharge the water table for the summer months.

6. Increased sea level rise.

The world has seen the sea level rise about 8 inches in the last 100 years.

7. Arctic sea ice declining.

Massive Arctic sea ice that once covered the North Pole is melting rapidly.

8. Increased deleterious weather events.

The duration and number of high temperature events: droughts, high wind events, forest fires, and floods within the past 50 years are notable.

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9. Acidification of all oceans; CO₂ + H₂O yields H₂CO₃ (Carbonic Acid).

“Since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, the acidity of surface ocean waters has increased by about 30 percent, according to NASA Global Climate Change. This increase is the result of humans emitting more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and hence more being absorbed into the oceans. The amount of carbon dioxide absorbed by the upper layer of the oceans is increasing by about 2 billion tons per year.”

WHITE-TAILED DEER



White-tailed Deer, *Odocoileus virginianus*, in
back of Deer Meadow Drive. © Dick Harlow

Here at EastView it is very enjoyable for members of the community to have a chance to see local wildlife. This includes any organism that is wild, birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, butterflies, etc. But, being a relatively new facility, those chances vary. Occasionally, healthy wildlife will venture close enough for a sighting or a picture. Such was the case on the morning of April 8, 2018 when this lone doe decided to venture into the meadow in back of Deer Meadow Drive.

Although alert, (her eyes looking keenly around) she was certainly calm, not anxious, (due to her tail hanging down). As far as I could see there were no people out and about, no animals to give her cause for concern. White-tailed Deer, when anxious or nervous tend to twitch their tail and look around most intently. This gal certainly didn't sense anything except caution.

The above picture was taken through our patio window, therefore she had no concern about me. We have had deer come as close as the backyards of the cottages or even across Deer Meadow Drive between the cottages and the Inn.



White-tailed Deer close-up picture cropped from
the previous image. © Dick Harlow

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White-tailed Deer, *Odocoileus virginianus*, are known colloquially, dependent what part of the country you are from, as Whitetail, Whitey or simply as a Virginia Deer.

The White-tailed has a wide range being found in all of North America and South America. Although it is found throughout the United States, in the west the Mule Deer, also known as the Black-tailed Deer, is more abundant.

White-tailed Deer like mixed deciduous forests with openings, some clear cutting and land converted to agriculture. Two hundred years ago the grass prairies dominated by Buffalo (Bison) were transformed from all grass to agricultural farms. Rural and urban housing is probably why the White-tail is more wide-spread today enjoying a diverse habitat.

My guess is that this doe was checking out the meadow for spring shoots, or young grass to feed on. The greening is just beginning, so it is early yet for her to stay long munching on fresh new shoots.

OBSERVATIONS

MAMMALS

White-tailed Deer

NOTE: No one has reported seeing evidence of Brown Rats/Norway Rats in the garden. As a matter of fact, as of the last day of April, no rodents have been reported being seen.

Weather Tidbits

APRIL 1-30, 2018

All Measurements taken at solar noon (1230 EST).

PRECIPITATION

Total Precipitation: 87.0 mm or 3.5 inches for the month.

Overcast Days: 20 (2/3 of the month was overcast)