

JULY 1 - 14, 2020 NATURAL HISTORY NOTES

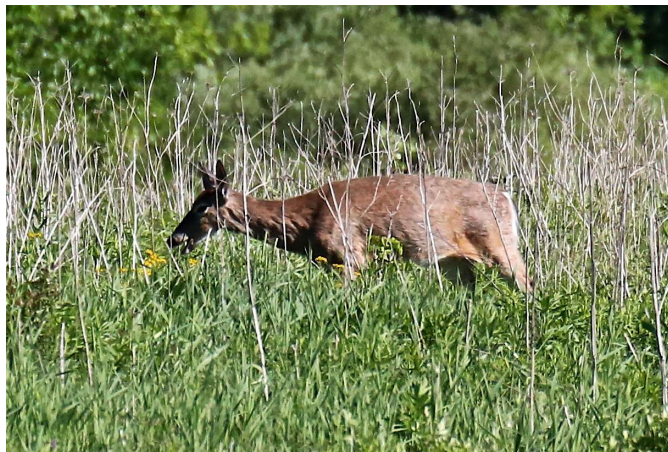
By Dick Harlow

WHITE-TAILED DEER



White-tailed Deer, *Odocoileus virginianus*,
Female (Doe), browsing, © Dick Harlow

I have been asked if I have seen any deer as the name of our street is Deer Meadow Drive. The concern is that folks haven't seen any for a long time. How do I say to them that I see them every year!



White-tailed Deer, *Odocoileus virginianus*,
Female (Doe), browsing, © Dick Harlow

They may not come as close to EastView as they once did, but they are very visible in the meadow or by the reeds in back of EastView, as witnessed by these pictures taken 08 June 2020.

I stood watching this doe move from far across the meadow in back of Deer Meadow Drive. She got fairly close to the reeds and cat-o-nine tails near the wooded island in back of Deer Meadow Drive, near the RR tracks.



White-tailed Deer, *Odocoileus virginianus*,
Female (Doe), browsing, © Dick Harlow

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You can tell she is an older doe due to the length of her body and the relative shortness of her legs. The grass is not that high when I took these images and a young doe or buck would be standing taller. So far this year, does and this year's fawns have been observed in the meadow.

The White-tailed Deer, *Odocoileus virginianus*, is found throughout eastern North America as well as in many states in southern and western North America. This species is also found in Central America and South America as far south as Peru and Bolivia.

Generally, we have here in Vermont, the Northern White-tail Deer, the largest and darkest of the subspecies.

The Whitetail are called generalists because they can adapt to a variety of living conditions and habitats along with feeding on many different plant types. With the removal of forested areas in this country for agriculture, it has helped increase the Whitetail population. There are now approximately 38 subspecies of Whitetail in the world and of that 38, 17 are found here in North America. If you are interested in the names of those 17 subspecies, you can look them up on Wikipedia.

GRAY FOX



Gray Fox, *Urocyon cinereoargenteus*,
© Tim Mishkit

These Gray Fox pictures were taken in Vermont and close to EastView. Tim did an excellent job with his captures. Even though a Gray Fox has been observed on EastView property, we don't have any images, but for these very good pictures. Thanks Tim!

The Gray Fox is a native to Vermont and most of the United States venturing into Central America, unlike the Red Fox which was brought here from England. The Gray Fox is much more elusive than its cousin the Red Fox.

This is an interesting canid as it is the only canid in North America that can climb trees. Therefore, the Gray Fox is quite at home in areas that are wooded, rocky and with a lot of shrubby habitat.

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The Gray Fox is omnivorous, eating berries, grass and hunts alone. This species is partial to hunting the Eastern Cottontail rabbit. Even though Red Fox has been seen around our cottages, the Gray Fox was only seen once leaving EastView property. I suspect both foxes along with the Coywolves could be responsible for eliminating my garden's Meadow Vole population these past winters.



Gray Fox, *Urocyon cinereoargenteus*,
© Tim Mishkit

We have had, over the years, several rodent species that began to take up winter residence in our garden; but come spring they were gone. We do not use poisons or anything that could cause harm to an animal; consequently, my only conclusion is that a predator such as a bird or mammal is preying on them. Eventually, over the winters the rodents become depleted in numbers or there are so few of them that it is not worth the effort for predators to continue to hunt for what is left.

OBSERVATIONS

MAMMALS

- White-tailed Deer
- Eastern Coywolf, 1 individual
- Gray Squirrel
- Eastern Cottontail Rabbit

REPTILES

- Common Garter Snake

AMPHIBIANS

- Northern Leopard Frog
- American Bull Frog
- Green Frog
- Gray Treefrog
- American Toad

BUTTERFLIES

- Cabbage White
- Clouded Sulphur
- Eastern Tiger Swallowtail

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- Pearl Crescent
- Milbert's Tortoiseshell
- Mourning Cloak

Weather Tidbits

Month of JUNE 15-30, 2020

All Measurements taken at solar noon (1230 EST).

PRECIPITATION

Total Precipitation: 11.6 mm or 0.5 inches

Overcast Days: 1



Waved Sphinx Moth on EastView's South Door,
Thanks to Terry Kline, © Dick Harlow

Sorry a closer image was not possible due to the dark shadow impeding cropping the image.