

Deer are not just night visitors; this male was chasing a female mid-morning down my street during autumn's rutting season.



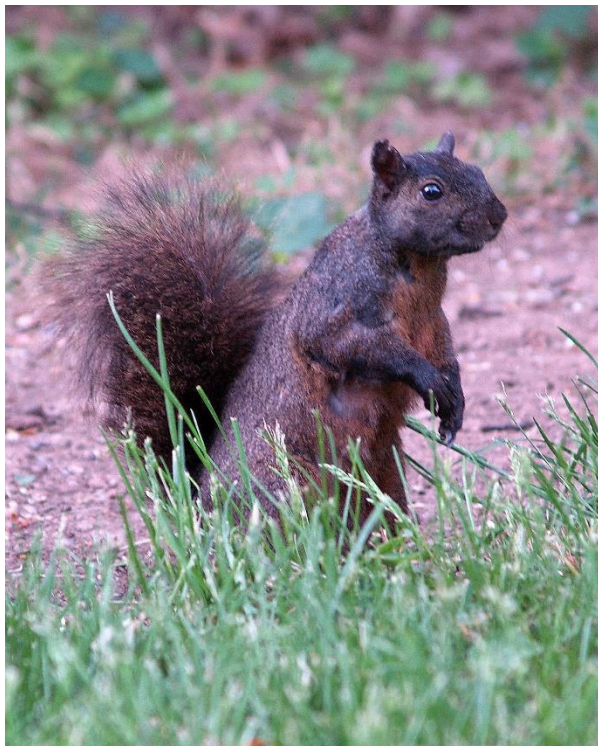
Getting used to humans, the deer no longer use rutting season as an excuse to visit neighborhoods. The two above strolled through yards in early spring about 11 a.m., while the doe to the left visited Minadeo School in late afternoon one March day.



Every neighborhood has squirrels. Gray Squirrels are common, and red tinged Fox Squirrels are found in many yards.



Chipmunks scurry through yards but are more often found in wooded areas.



Both Gray Squirrels and Fox Squirrels have melanistic subgroups of “Black Squirrels.”



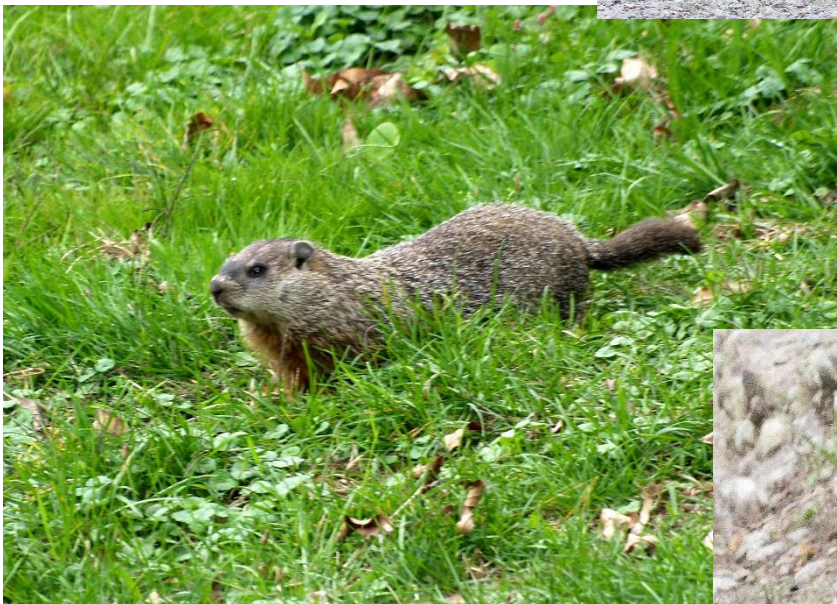


Raccoons live amongst us too. This one is emerging from a drainage pipe. They have lived in my neighbor's garage, and recently my car was stopped by a large raccoon crossing my home street.

As with any animal, baby raccoons can be cute, but when they grow up they may be a problem.



Like raccoons, a large rodent, the Groundhog (aka Woodchuck), has found a home amongst our homes. They do dare to appear in the daylight, but quickly run off if encountered.

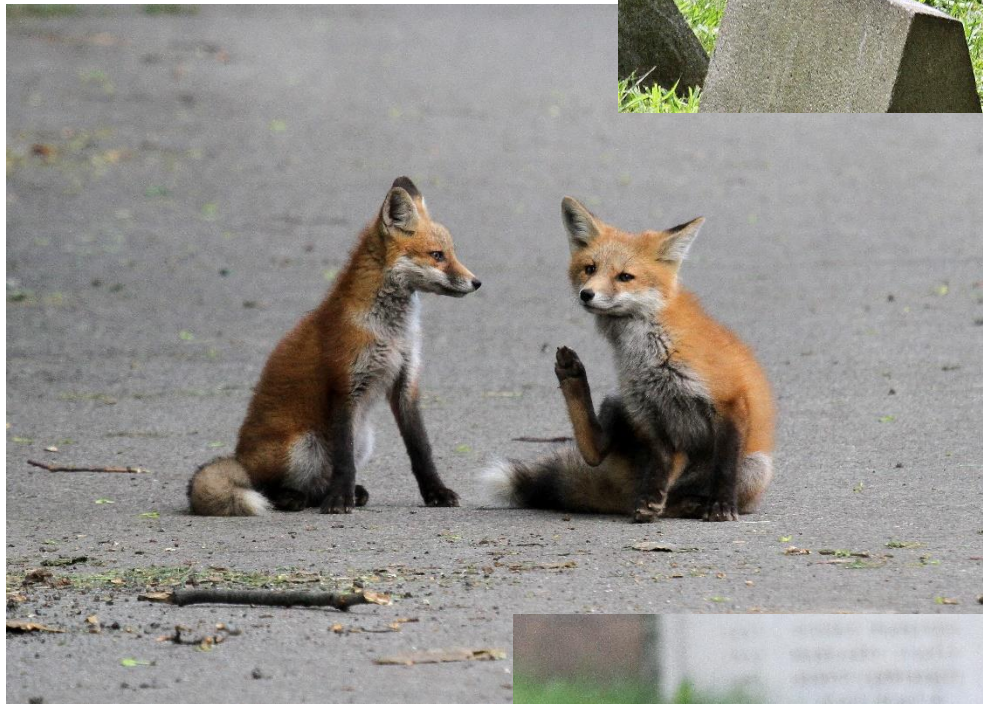


Again, baby groundhogs can be cute, but when they grow up they may also be a problem.





Here a pair of juvenile groundhogs spar with one another among the headstones in Homewood Cemetery.



The cemetery can also be the breeding grounds of Red Foxes. This young pair just emerged from their underground den also in Homewood Cemetery.

After much stretching, some playful sparring, and scratching of fleas, the pair set off for adventures in the cemetery grounds, not likely to be disturbed.







A secretive night visitor to my neighbor's garbage bag was this Opossum. It easily ripped open the plastic bag to find a nice morsel to eat.

I caught this opossum out in the daylight. It tried to escape through a cinder block but found the end blocked. It waited until I left before slipping away. Note its hairless tail.



After a light snow, I noticed tracks left by what I thought was a racoon. Ah, but the imprint of the dragging tail told me it was an opossum.



Eastern Cottontails breed in our neighborhoods like rabbits. This pair was venturing out early one evening sniffing around my bird food on the ground..



This pair of cottontails was not deterred by the home security sign. They were actually playing in this yard, running back and forth around each other.

A little cuteness showed up one afternoon in the form of this baby rabbit.







I did happen upon the neighborhood skunk one night. It was distracted, not noticing me as it was digging for grubs in a yard.

I moved closer taking photos with my Smartphone as I neared. The camera flashes did not alert the skunk.



Suddenly the skunk noticed this figure not 15 feet from it. It took a defensive stance with its tail raised. I thought it best to retreat facing this odoriferous threat.