

# THE EASTERN COYOTE: SO ELUSIVE ONE

OUR EARS TELL US WE HAVE COYOTES.

unseen coyotes howling, yipping, and Tibetan throat singing?

MAYBE YOU'VE SEEN A FURRY SCAT IN THE WOODS...

...OR LIKE CHRIS DUFFY OF NELSONVILLE YOU TOO HAVE FOUND A HALF-EATEN CARCASS IN YOUR BACKYARD.

THERE'S EVIDENCE ALL AROUND, BUT FEW EYEWITNESSES.

MELISSA GILLMER, HEAD ZOOKEEPER, TRAILSIDE ZOO BEAR MOUNTAIN STATE PARK, COLD SPRING RESIDENT

Eastern Coyotes, or coywolves, are a hybrid between Western Coyotes and wolves. They entered New York through Canada, north of the Great Lakes, in the 1930s and expanded their range to Queens and Long Island. They are filling a niche left vacant by wolves (extirpated from New York due to hunting and trapping in the late 1800s).

Human approaching. Time to go.

BUT EVEN GILLMER HAS ONLY SEEN A COYOTE IN COLD SPRING TWICE.

The neighbors dog is loose-wait-that's a coyote!

EVAN THOMPSON PARK MANAGER FAHNESTOCK, HUDSON HIGHLANDS AND WONDER LAKE STATE PARKS

Their hearing is better than ours, their eyesight is better than ours, and their sense of smell is better than ours. They know when we're coming and get out of our way.

sniff, sniff

JOHN STOWELL FACILITY MANAGER ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATOR 2 NYS PARKS RECREATION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION TAICONIC OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER

Most of the time when you see a coyote, it's moving away, but its head is looking back.

Look! Oops, she's gone.

GILLMER SAYS THEIR TERRITORY CAN VARY FROM 1/2 SQ. MILE TO 40 SQ. MILES. IF FOOD IS PLENTIFUL, TERRITORIES ARE GENERALLY SMALLER.

THOMPSON POINTS OUT IF THE GAME IS DOWNTOWN EATING YOUR ORNAMENTAL SHRUBS, YOU CAN EXPECT THE COYOTES TO BE THERE AS WELL.

# MIGHT'VE SLIPPED RIGHT OFF OF THIS PAGE.

GARRISON RESIDENT JONILANZA, USED TO HAVE GOATS... A.K.A. COYOTE MAGNETS.

There was a blizzard and I needed to feed the goats. I had the baby in a snuggly and my two boys (ages 6 and 7 at the time) with me. Our two Maine Coon cats followed.

When we reached the three-sided hay shed I saw eyes shining out. At first, I thought it was one of the cats...

...but it was a coyote.

We backed up very, very slowly the whole way until we were out of sight...the whole time calling the cats.

Here, Kitty. Here, Kitty.

When we were clear, my son threw up from nerves, just like Stan on South Park.

THE COYOTE PROBABLY THREW UP TOO. NO DOUBT SHE SWORE TO BE MORE ELUSIVE NEXT TIME.

I was listening to a podcast, The dog stiffened, there was movement in the woods. But I couldn't see what it was and we went ahead. A coyote charged at us...

MARGOT KINGON WALKS HER DOG IN A LARGE OPEN SPACE CALLED CARNWATH FARMS.

... but it was weaving and bobbing. Its legs were so unsteady it fell over. We got away. I reported it as possibly rabid.

NYS DEPT. OF HEALTH REPORTS 2 COYOTES TESTED POSITIVE FOR RABIES IN 2018. CONFIRMED RABIES STATISTICS FOR A TWELVE YEAR PERIOD SHOW 8 COYOTES OUT OF A TOTAL OF 5,572 CASES OR 0.14%. SO BE WARY, BUT MOSTLY OF BATS, SKUNKS, AND RACCOONS.

Hold on. Raccoons get rabies?

By Deb Lucke

IF YOU'RE LUCKY ENOUGH TO LAY EYES ON A COYOTE, JOHN STOWELL SUGGESTS, "STAND STILL, KEEP AWAY, AND ENJOY."