

Interviewer:

Can you please tell me a story about an experience you've had with coyotes in Vermont?

Interviewee:

Sure. I've only had one experience. And it was recently, I think it was March of this year. I take our dog out for a walk in the morning, and I had to get up a little earlier than usual, so it was still kind of dark. It was just, dawn was breaking. I go across the street and go to a recreation field here in Hinesburg. So there's a gravel road that leads to the field but to the soccer field, the recreation field, but there's also a fallow field that the farmers have left. And so it's nice and fairly secluded. And other people take dogs on their walk. So I was walking with Bert and I see what I think is a dog but I'm not really sure, because it's kind of dark, but I can see it's a dog shape and has a tail, but there's no owner. Now I was thinking, well, maybe the dog is loose and the owner is off leash and the owner somewhere else. But as we're getting closer, I realized that wasn't a regular dog and it was coming closer to us and Bert was very attentive, you know, his ears were pricked up. And as it was coming closer, I realized that was probably a coyote and remember that we would see coyote poop whenever we go on the walks and there was a lot of it recently. So I had to turn back really quickly because I wasn't sure what to do about Bert meeting a coyote or me meeting face to face with a coyote but he was curious. As we turned around, and headed back toward the house, the coyote kept coming towards us. But I booked it out because I really didn't know what was gonna happen. So I didn't stay.

Interviewer:

Can you explain why that story was meaningful to you? If it was meaningful?

Interviewee:

Yes. So it is meaningful because I had a little bit later, I was talking to a friend of mine and her husband is actually really quite, quite ill and they were planning a trip to California and they had to cancel the trip. And one of the things that she said about it is that she had also on, it was like on their way to the airport they had come across a coyote that ran across the road. And when they had to cancel the trip because his health wasn't good enough to take the trip, she ended up looking up about coyotes and looked up more Native American meanings of coyotes and that they're tricksters and that you want to change your plans. I don't remember specifically, but you want to change your plans because of them and there was something positive about coyotes to in the Native American mythology or interpretation of them. That I don't remember but it was, it was like, "oh, I, I've just seen a coyote too". And it felt like a moment of change was happening for me at that period.

Interviewer:

Now let's talk about coyotes more generally, can you rank your experience of coyotes in Vermont on a scale of one to 10, with one being negative and 10 being positive?

Interviewee:

Eight.

Interviewer:

Can you explain why you ranked your experience that way?

Interviewee:

Well, one, it was really cool to see the coyote after only seeing their scat for a long time. And two in the same field that I talked about, not recently, but in the past, we would hear a pack of coyotes howling and we think I mean, I assumed it was coyotes howling in the nighttime, and it was really cool. Couldn't see him but I could hear him.

Interviewer:

We're almost done. I just have a few quick background questions for you now. Think back to the coyote story that you shared. Can you tell me where it took place?

Interviewee:

Hinesburg Vermont. On the road leading to the Bissonnette recreation field.

Interviewer:

And can you tell me what year your coyote story took place in?

Interviewee:

2020.

Interviewer:

What kinds of things do you do outside for work or for recreation?

Interviewee:

And there was silence. I walk the dog. That's about it. I go for some walks.

Interviewer:

How long have you lived in Vermont?

Interviewee:

33 minus 5 (28 years).

Interviewer:

What town do you live in?

Interviewee:

Hinesburg.

Interviewer:

What year were you born in?

Interviewee:

1964.

Interviewer:

What is your gender?

Interviewee:

I'm female.

Interviewer:

What is your ethnicity?

Interviewee:

I am white, and I affiliate as Jewish.

Interviewer:

You're done! Thank you so much for your story and your time.