

The North Shore Leader

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Vol. 74 No. 7 March 31, 2021

Locust Valley, New York 11560

www.theleaderonline.com

\$1.00

Coyotes Return to the North Shore



Coyote sightings in Lloyd Harbor near Caumsett Park.

By CHRIS O'NEILL

A rash of recent coyote sightings in Muttontown and Upper Brookville near the Muttontown Preserve confirm what has long been predicted: wild coyotes are now back on the north shore.

"I just saw a coyote on Chelmsford Drive in Muttontown," stated Karen Seltzer of Muttontown. "Be careful if you have small dogs. It looks like it might have wandered out of the Muttontown Preserve. I have seen foxes in the neighborhood for years, and know it wasn't that. And it was not a dog. People have been r."

There have been numerous coyote sightings locally in recent years, with a 2018 coyote sighting in Roslyn, captured on a security camera, and in 2019, several coyote sightings in Lloyd Harbor near Caumsett Park.

Coyotes have been moving into the north shore area from both east and west. There have been documented sightings in recent years at LaGuardia airport and Woodside in Queens. From the east, there have been sightings in the past four years at Holbrook and Kings Park. It was only a matter of time before coyotes appeared in Oyster Bay and Huntington - and it seems that time is now.

In 2019, a Lloyd Harbor resident, Urte Franitza Goldstein, reported that "We just saw our second coyote near my house on Lloyd Neck. It was definitely NOT a fox, and looked more like a wolf. Since this is the second time, and there are not wolves in the area - at least I hope not - I am assuming coyote."

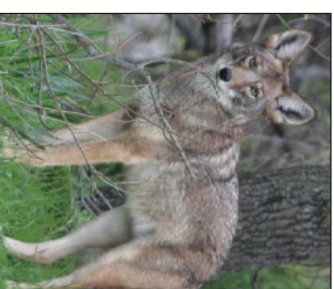
Another Lloyd Harbor resident who rides his bicycle through Caumsett - sometimes after dark on moon-lit nights - said that "there are definitely coyotes loose in Caumsett. I have seen them and heard their cries in the night."

The spread of the coyote population is tied to the decline of hunting in the area, and the explosion in the population of coyotes' food animals - squirrels, raccoons, and deer. Over the past 20 years, the deer population has spread across the north shore into Huntington - which now has thousands of deer - to Oyster Bay and Locust Valley - which had not had a local deer population for over 100 years.

Coyote attacks on humans are rare, but do occur, with children, the elderly, and family pets particularly at risk. In 2019, a 53-year old woman and a family dog were attacked in two separate attacks by coyotes in Ramapo Valley Park in New Jersey. State authorities closed the park to protect the public.

Coyotes have also attacked humans in Massachusetts; Mahwah, New Jersey; and a woman and her four-year-old son were attacked in Fairfield, New Jersey.

In Westchester, a rabid coyote attacked and ripped-open the forearm of a



Coyote population is growing.

5-year-old girl, right in front of her mother and 3-year-old sister. An off-duty police officer who was present lunged at the animal, and was able to pin it down until back-up arrived and killed the coyote.

Family pets are particularly at risk from coyotes, with hundreds of attacks in America reported over just the past few months, by coyotes on pet dogs and cats. Every major metropolitan area with a coyote population reports numerous coyote attacks on family pets. Often pet attacks turn into human attacks, as owners try to shield or protect their pets.