November 11, lesson 11 observing squirrels.
Lesson 11, observing squirrels, backyard weather:
cloudy, 50 F, 0 degrees F.

while outside
I guess what no squirrels yet. I hope it's very breezy, and there are a lot of red and black birds that are all over the ground. I think there's a difference between male and female red and black birds, because one is all black and one is red and black. I am going to walk around and hopefully see some squirrels. There is a real for squirrel on the ground eating a mushroom. He just ran away with the whole mushroom in his mouth. I am going to follow him. He is sitting on the branch of the mushroom and ran away with the stem. I can see a tree now and I can't see him anymore. There are a lot of rosebushes on the other side of the yard. There is a squirrel running in the grass. He keeps almost falling, but when he falls to one side he swings to the other side and doesn't fall.

summary
It looks like squirrels might use their tails for balance. It seems like the one on the fence was.

Posted by Sebastian at 11:49 AM | 0 Comments

Saturday, February 25, 2000

Duke TIP lessons 10 + 11. Observing animal behaviors, observing squirrels
Lesson 11, observing squirrels in the backyard, 5:00 pm weather:
cloudy, 70 F.

While outside
Today I can see many squirrels. There are some crickets chirping. It sounds like they are up in a tree somewhere. I can also hear a dove. It is on the telephone wire. I think a hawk just flew by. It is a really big one so it might be a turkey. I am going to walk around and look for some squirrels. I just got another mouse on my back, yuck. There is a squirrel in one of the trees. It just kind of showed up. I don't know where it came from. It can away. No more animals. I don't hear the squirrel talking, but now it stopped.

Summary
I wonder where all the squirrels have been. I hope I see more than just one in the very near future. hopefully tomorrow.

Posted by Sebastian at 3:51 PM | 0 Comments

Duke TIP lessons 10 + 11. Observing animal behaviors, observing squirrels
Lesson 12, observing squirrels in the backyard weather:
70 degrees, blue sky, slight breeze.

While outside
Today I am sitting near the tree. That is where the chirps are, and that is where the squirrels are. There aren't any squirrels out yet. I think it might be that the squirrels don't like to come out in the afternoon. Tomorrow I will try to come outside earlier, so I can see if that makes a difference. I don't think I am going to see any squirrels. The people next door aren't doing construction today so I don't think it is why there aren't any squirrels. I keep hearing a noise that sounds like squirrels running along the fence, but there aren't any that I can see. I think the noise might be the breeze making the
twice hit the frame. It seems like no animals are out today, only a bunch of ants and mosquitoes. Still no squirrels, and I just got a mosquito bite. A large butterfly just landed on a red and black bug. I think it is the same butterfly as before, where are the rest of the animals?

Summary
I didn’t see any squirrels today and I was outside for quite some time. I am not sure why I am not seeing any squirrels. My one hypothesis is, squirrels are nocturnal.

Monday, February 18, 2008
Duke TIP lessons 10 + 11. Observing animal behaviors, observing squirrels to pick a question
Lesson 11 observing squirrels, Feb 18, 08. In the backyard
Weather: Windy, cloudy. 65 degrees F.

Before I went outside
Today I am observing squirrels so that I can pick which question I am going to try to answer. It is pretty loud outside so I hope the squirrels will not be too scared to come out.

After being outside for 10 minutes.
I am trying to observe squirrels, but it seems that there aren’t any squirrels out at the moment. Maybe if I am really quiet the squirrels will come out. The people that live next door are doing construction and I think the noise might be scaring the squirrels away.

After being outside for 15 minutes.
Still no squirrels, but a huge black and yellow butterfly just flew by. I would guess that the butterfly is about 3 inches from the edge of one wing to the edge of the other. I can’t believe there still haven’t been any squirrels at all.

After being outside for 30 minutes.
I am walking around now so I can get a better look at the trees. I am hoping that I will see at least one squirrel today. Hey, the branch around one of the biggest clumps of dead leaves in one of our trees is shaking like something might be moving around in the clump. Yay! A squirrel just got out of the clump of leaves. He is running back and forth taking more and more leaves to what I think is his nest. This is really cool. He has gone back and forth 6 times now. Each time he runs out of the clump, gets some leaves and twigs in his mouth, runs back to the clump, sticks his head in the clump, and pulls his head out with no twigs or leaves in his mouth. This time when he went to the clump, he went all the way in and stayed there for quite some time. Every time he came out of the clump he stared at me for a few seconds and then gets his leaves.

Summary, and which question I picked.
Today I was able to answer question 12: Are the clumps of leaves in the tree squirrel nests. Now I know that at least one of the clumps is a squirrel’s nest. I will keep observing the clumps so that I can see if the other clumps are also squirrel nests.
I also picked another question to focus on. I chose question 13: Do squirrels use their tails for balance like some of the other rodents. I am hoping that I will be able to answer my question.

Sunday, February 17, 2008
I am doing the blog rehearsal from lesson 11 of the Discovering Science Outdoors course.
Before going outside to recon my yard 2:00 pm

I want to do a question about spiders, but I am not sure if we have any spiders in our yard. My Mentor and I are going to go around the yard and look for spiders.

After we went outside

I wanted to use a question about spiders, but when we went outside to look for spiders we found out that we have no web-spinning spiders in our yard. Because of this I had to pick a different animal to study the behaviors of. I chose squirrels. We observed squirrels for a while so I could come up with some questions. I think squirrels are very interesting.

My questions from initial observation session

1. How come I see squirrels on the fence and in trees a lot, but I hardly ever see them on the ground?

2. Are squirrels nocturnal?

3. Do squirrels use their tails for balance like some of the other rodents?

4. Do squirrels use their tails to communicate with other squirrels?

5. Are the clumps of leaves in the tree squirrel nests?

Next step

I will use my next observation session to choose my question. After I choose my question I plan to observe the squirrels in my yard for 3-4 more weeks in order to answer my question.

POSTED BY GREGSTAN AT 6:29 PM 6 COMMENTS

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