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Java Talk
(for March 27 to April 2, 2008)

Every Age Is The Best Age

Who's That Hammering at My Window?

Many long-lived and short-lived creatures have lodged here with me, over the past 30 years, either inside the house or outside; and they are all special to me, from the tiniest to the largest, whether they are usually welcomed by most people or not—and probably mostly not, when I think of the spiders and even the deer.

At one of my first Native Plant Study Group meetings, when a guest speaker asked the audience who liked deer in their yards, I was the only one (of easily 100 people) who still put up my hand after hearing about how the problem with deer isn't just that they eat all the plants, but that they eat plants like nettles, from elsewhere, and then sow the seeds from these unwanted weeds, with their droppings, while eating the plants we want to protect. But, around here, I see how all of these beings are harmless, harmonious, useful, and good. When I was at that meeting, much of the noticeable wildlife that used to frequent this place, such as quails, owls, raccoons, and deer, had disappeared because of so much subdividing and the consequent housing developments. Nowadays, my property is situated on a three-sided cliff with the fourth side blocked off by fenced in houses hidden behind a tall row of planted cedars.

Anyway, I appreciate the watch birds, too. Rarely, but sometimes, there are trespassers who get caught, inevitably, by either the birds' sudden silences or loud and effective alarm calls. So, I was startled by the loud hammering outside my kitchen window, from under the eaves, and then surprised to see it was a woodpecker (one of at least two that still return every year), especially since their usual pecking tree still stands.

Then, this morning, when I looked out the window, I was surprised, again, to see a deer out there. Oh, yes, not so surprising, the little ants are back, too.

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