

Jack's Nature Journal
12-1-08

Ah, the first of December is here! Only twenty-five days left 'till Christmas, and there is a definite chill in the air that suggests that winter is on it's way. But even with the chill, it is much warmer today than it has been recently, and I am glad about that. Anyway, the wind was coming from the NE at 4 mph this morning, the air pressure was 29.9 inHg, which means there might be a storm coming towards us (the sky does look dark and menacing in one corner), the humidity was 44% and the temperatures were 48°F and 9°C.

On our walk this morning we saw loads of wildlife. When we started our walk we saw only little birds. But then a Great Blue Heron flew overhead. I was amazed by how prehistoric they look. We watched a walking with dinosaurs episode on pterodactyls a little while ago, and I was struck by how similar the heron's body shape was to that of the pterodactyl. Interesting! Anyway, we also saw a woodpecker-pecked post that looked like it was about to fall apart in the woods, and heard a Pileated Woodpecker, or at some kind of woodpecker at least. But the most amazing thing we saw was a huge kettle of Red-Tailed Hawks. There must have been at least ten in all! The Red-Tails were chasing each other off, screeching loudly, and generally just flying around in circles. Lastly, we saw a groundhog on our way back. I guess he didn't want to hibernate!