

Jack's Nature Journal
11-11-08

It was less chilly this morning, but I still bundled up with my thick coat and woolly alpaca hat. All the leaves fell off the trees in one big whoomph a couple of days ago, and now all that is left is their scraggly branches waving about in the wind. Anyway, enough of that. The wind was coming from the NW at 3.5 mph this morning, although I'm sure it got higher than that! The air pressure was 30.5 inHg, the humidity was 40%, and the temperatures were 5°C and 42°F this morning.

For our Keepers of the Animals project, I found out how spiders make their webs. I searched on eHow.com to find this answer:

“Spiders begin their webs by letting out a single thread that is carried by the wind. Using even the very slightest of breezes, the spider is patient as it waits for the thread to stick to a surface. This surface can be just about anything, such as walls, trees or windows. Once this is accomplished, the spider will crawl over it while adding additional layers of thread for the support of the rest of the web. The size of the web is determined by the size of the spider. The bigger the spider, the bigger the web. Different types of spiders design different types of webs, but generally the main thread is used as a support while the spider spins radials around it. Circles of thread in the center finish the process giving it the familiar design of a spider web. The web is thoroughly tested by the spider for stability. If it proves to be unstable, the spider will usually build a new one, opting not to do any repairs.”

On our walk this morning, we tried to look out for spiders, but we didn't see any. However, we did see a little woodpecker flying through the woods, and heard a very squeaky bird. When we got back, I saw a great big blue jay trying to eat from our bird feeder, and after he left, I saw a tufted titmouse and a black-capped chickadee.