

Mystery Hike #2 Nature Notes

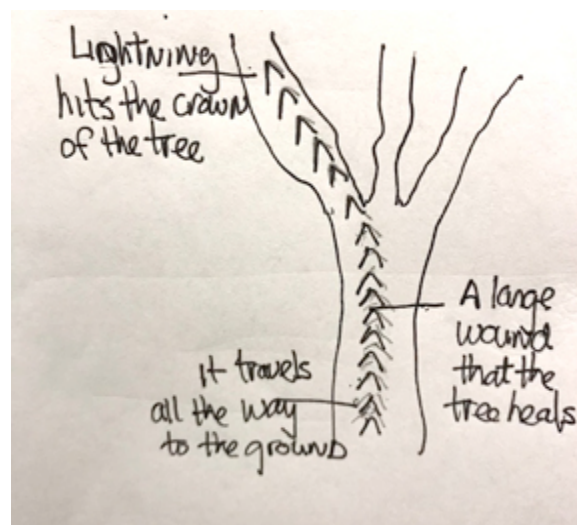
Station # 1 Fox Den



A fox will make a 9-12 inch hole for their den. The one in the video was at the base of a tree. They will also enlarge a groundhog burrow that is on a slope. The burrow may run 20 feet underground. Generally fox dens are only used to raise young kits in the spring.

Station #2 Lightning Tree

If lightning hits a tree, it causes a big wound on the trunk. The tree will try to protect the wound by growing more bark around the tree. The tree in the video was probably a lightning tree because the wound was visible from the crown all the way down the trunk.



Station #3 Shrew/Mouse Tunnels



Shrews and mice are generally not seen because they are active at night. The night before the video was made there was a snow and the animals were moving around just under the snow eating seeds or small creatures living in the lawn. Thus leaving an interesting pattern in the snow.

Station #4 Rabbit Signs

An animal sign is evidence that the animal was there. In this case we saw the M&M shaped scat, the trail and the bed where the rabbit rested for a period of time before moving on. The tracking pattern of a rabbit is another good sign, but was not obvious.

