

Wildlife-How Industrial Wind Turbines Affect Them

January 31, 2009

This of course is not a scientific study. It is just from daily living inside an industrial wind farm and the affect it has had on wildlife on our property and others in the Town Of Byron area here in Fond du Lac County, WI. We used to see 16 to 20 turkeys if not every day every few days before construction of the industrial wind turbines began. Now that construction has been completed and since March 3rd of 2008 we have seen ONLY one turkey.

The same goes for deer. We used to see on a regular basis a deer or two down our lane behind the house or in one of our two gardens. We have 6+ acres of land with over 3 acres in heavy pine trees and an acre of wild flowers. That is pretty good habitat for deer. We have not seen a deer or deer tracks on our property since construction began.

Our neighbor (...), across the road bought 40 acres when our neighbor discontinued farming. Part of that land has woods on it. (...)’s father many years ago built a hunting stand on a corner of the woods in a tree and shot many deer from it. I later used that same stand and now (...) hunts from that very same tree. This year he saw no deer from that hunting stand. The only thing he saw was shadow flicker from industrial wind turbines and the annoying sound from those same turbines.

Another neighbor, (...), whom I have known since a child has a 19 acre woods between turbines 6 and 7. He used to feed the deer from his back yard deck. Since construction of the wind turbines began he has not seen any deer accept on opening day of deer hunting in November of 2008. Three deer were being chased and they ran through his yard.

At a town hall meeting today (1-31-9) with state senator Joe Liebham with about 80 people in attendance I mentioned this (not seeing wildlife) and I heard many yeses and agreeing head nods.

We don’t see and hear the song birds like we used to at our feeders. If the turbines are turning we no longer hear song birds. A friend, who also lives in the project, recently told me he no longer sees the hawk that used to hang out by his home. We don’t see kestrels or hawks and I no longer hear the owl that would frequent the woods adjacent to my property. Yes, there definitely is an affect on wildlife when industrial wind turbines take over the neighborhood.

We know residents two miles north of this wind factory and they are seeing more deer than before the industrial wind turbines were erected.

Update June 15, 2010. We continue to see no deer and no turkeys. We used to see hawks and hear owls at night. It was so neat to hear them. They have not been present since the turbines began turning. We do have some Cardinals and a few other song birds that come to our feeders. There are very few compared to what we had prior to the turbine construction.

October 10, 2010 – We heard an owl tonight. It is the second time I have heard an owl since construction began. We used to have owls in the woods behind our house on a regular basis.

One of the first siting council meetings in the PSC center in Madison I asked A PSC staff member about no mention of wildlife in the items to be discussed. I was told that would be up to the DNR to respond to. I have read the DNR letter concerning wind and wildlife. It is so weak it is pathetic. It is all generalizations and no requirements. These happenings are going on world wide wherever large industrial wind turbines are places. Why is the PSC blind on this? Instead of promoting wind energy why isn't the Sierra Club and other environmental groups striving to protect the wildlife rather than kill it and stress it? Why won't the wind energy victims be heard? \$\$\$\$\$\$

Gerry Meyer