

Coyote sightings on the rise around Marjol battery site

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THROOP - A casual glance out a window early one morning afforded Anne Adrian quite the startling view - eight coyotes cutting across a clearing near her Matarano Drive home.

"I got scared," she said. "My heart was like, 'Wow, that's just too many.' "

Her husband, Joe, once spotted a coyote as close as their yard. "I always have my binoculars at the ready, always looking," he said.

Their home is located at the tail end of the Marjol battery site near 48 acres of reclaimed mine land owned by Throop.

Borough officials are looking into complaints of coyotes in the area, said streets commissioner Robert Kalinoski, who's handling the complaints.

"It's kind of getting circulated now and blown out of proportion," he said.

He said coyotes have been in the area for years, but new commercial and residential developments may have pushed them out of their old habitats. He also said excavations on the battery site may have disturbed their denning area.

The state game commission has been contacted and plans to send a field officer to survey the area, he said.

Employees of Advanced Geosciences, a firm that monitors the battery site, have seen the coyotes as well, said spokeswoman Lisa Ayers.

The pack of furry interlopers spotted by Mrs. Adrian was the largest the couple has seen - they usually spot one or two from their backyard deck, she said. They've also found clumps of grey fur and small animal bones in their yard.

Despite signs the coyotes have gotten close to their home on more than one occasion, the couple manages to coexist peacefully with them, Mr. Adrian said.

Mr. Adrian said the coyotes haven't caused him any harm - they've even carried on conversations with the couple's two maltese dogs, answering the dogs' barks on more than on occasion.

In Pennsylvania, eastern coyotes are more common than black bears and are most common in the heavily forested northeast and northcentral regions, according to the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Web site.

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