

Step outside and you may see a...

Deer Mouse



All in the Name of Survival!

The tiny, adorable, but often disliked deer mouse is an important native animal in Minnesota's forest and prairie communities. Deer mice are the main source of food for many owls, hawks, coyotes, foxes and more.

Its low rank on the food chain has made the deer mouse a nervous mammal. Constantly being on "high alert" helps deer mice avoid potential predator attacks. Foraging for and storing food at night is another survival tactic. Before sunrise each day, deer mice return to their nests, usually found under brush piles or cracks in rocks.

In the winter, you may see signs of these interesting, non-hibernating mammals scattered throughout the snow. Tiny mouse-sized holes connect a network of tunnels under the snow. These tunnels allow the deer mouse to forage in nearby food caches and offer quick escape routes to the safety of their nests.

