Preventing Unwanted Wildlife Encounters

In the process of attracting wildlife to your yard, you may find yourself with some unwanted guests. Food put out for birds is also eaten by squirrels, mice, and raccoons. Flowering plants readily attract hummingbirds and butterflies, as well as woodchucks, rabbits, and deer. An animal may like your yard so much it decides to live in your attic or under your deck. Depending on your tolerance level, you may be thrilled to have these animals around or you may not. When it comes to unwanted wildlife, prevention is always best. Here are some tips for discouraging wildlife from your yard or home.

Tips for Discouraging Wildlife:

- Check your house thoroughly for holes or loose boards that could allow access to your wildlife neighbors and replace or repair them. Place wire screening over any vents coming out of your house. Make sure your deck or porch has a fence or barrier to prevent animals from getting underneath it.
- If you have a chimney, have it professionally capped.
- Avoid setting out food (table scraps, bread products, pet food, etc.) that may attract scavengers like raccoons and opossums.
- If you have fruit trees, pick up fallen fruit on a regular basis.
- Keep garbage cans in a secure area or use metal cans that animals cannot chew through. Keep lids secured with bungee cords.
- Always keep your window wells covered to prevent small animals from falling in.
- Deterrents can be purchased at garden stores or in catalogs to discourage chewing, digging, climbing, etc.

The methods of deterrence often depends on the species you are dealing with. If you ever need help with a wildlife related problem, feel free to call the McHenry County Conservation District Wildlife Resource Center.

McHenry County Conservation District
Wildlife Resource Center
(815)728-8307