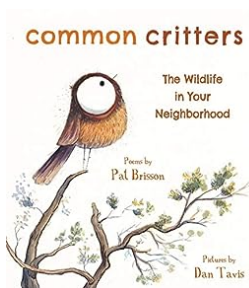


# Common Critters: The Wildlife In Your Neighborhood

Do you ever stop and wonder about the incredible wildlife right at your doorstep? From tiny insects to charismatic mammals, your neighborhood is teeming with critters just waiting to be discovered. In this article, we will explore the common critters that share our urban and suburban habitats and uncover their fascinating behaviors and adaptations. So, get ready to embark on an exciting journey into the fascinating world of wildlife in your own neighborhood!

It's easy to overlook the wildlife around us when our lives are busy and focused on our own human concerns. However, taking the time to observe and appreciate the critters in our neighborhoods can be incredibly rewarding. Not only does it deepen our understanding of the interconnectedness of all living things, but it also fosters a sense of wonder and appreciation for the natural world. So, let's dive into some of the most common critters you may encounter!

Insects make up the largest group of critters you're likely to encounter. The gentle buzz of bees pollinating flowers, the delicate flutter of butterflies, and the industrious antics of ants are all a part of the intricate tapestry of your neighborhood. These small creatures play a vital role in maintaining the balance of ecosystems and are essential for the pollination of plants.



## Common Critters: The Wildlife in Your Neighborhood by Dan Tavis (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.9 out of 5



One of the most recognizable critters is the honeybee. These diligent insects not only produce delicious honey but also ensure the survival of countless plant species. Sadly, honeybee populations have been declining in recent years due to habitat loss and pesticide use. By planting bee-friendly flowers and avoiding the use of harmful chemicals, we can help protect and support these essential pollinators.

Another fascinating critter is the spider. While many people have an aversion to these eight-legged creatures, they provide a valuable service by controlling the population of pests like mosquitoes and flies. Next time you find a spider's web in your garden, take a moment to appreciate their stealthy hunting skills and their mastery of silk-spinning techniques.

Step outside on a beautiful spring morning, and you're likely to be greeted by the melodic songs of birds. These feathered creatures add color, music, and charm to our neighborhoods. From the majestic red-tailed hawk soaring high above to the tiny house sparrows chirping in the hedges, each bird has a unique role in the ecosystem.

If you're lucky, you might even spot a nest tucked away in a tree or under the eaves of a building. Birds are remarkable architects, creating intricate structures using twigs, leaves, and even bits of trash like plastic or string. Take a moment to marvel at their resourcefulness and dedication to building a safe haven for their young.

Keep in mind that birds need our help too. By installing bird feeders and providing fresh water sources, we can support their survival, especially during harsh

winters or migratory periods. Creating bird-friendly habitats in our neighborhoods not only benefits these avian creatures but also enriches our own lives through the joy of birdwatching.

While it's easier to spot birds or insects, mammals also share our neighborhoods, often hidden from our view. From the curious raccoons rummaging through trash cans to the playful squirrels leaping across tree branches, their presence adds a touch of wildness to even the most urban environments.

One of the most iconic neighborhood critters is the urban fox. Adapted to thrive in urban landscapes, foxes are renowned for their cunning and adaptability. Their bushy tails and bright eyes make for a striking sighting amidst the concrete and chaos of city life.

Skunks are another common critter you might encounter in your neighborhood. These creatures are known for their distinctive black and white fur and their potent odor. While their smell may not be pleasant, skunks play an important role in controlling the population of pests like rats and mice.

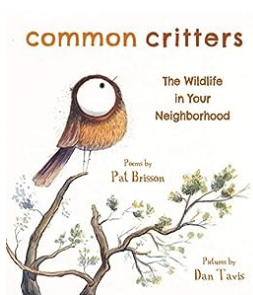
Now that you're more aware of the diverse critters that call your neighborhood home, it's important to remember that we share this space with them.

Coexistence is key to maintaining a healthy and balanced ecosystem, both in urban and suburban settings.

Simple steps like avoiding the use of harmful pesticides, providing shelter and food sources for wildlife, and respecting their space can go a long way in nurturing a harmonious relationship with the critters around us. By appreciating and protecting the wildlife in our neighborhoods, we create a better future for both us and the creatures we share our lives with.

The wildlife in your neighborhood is a constant reminder of the interconnectedness of all living things. From the vibrant insects that pollinate our flowers to the melodious birds that serenade us, and the charismatic mammals that bring a touch of wildness to our streets, each critter plays a vital role in our ecosystem.

By taking the time to observe, appreciate, and protect the common critters in our neighborhoods, we foster a deeper connection with the natural world and gain a greater understanding of its intricate wonders. So, step outside and allow yourself to be enchanted by the wildlife right outside your doorstep. You'll be amazed at the incredible stories unfolding in every nook and cranny of your neighborhood!



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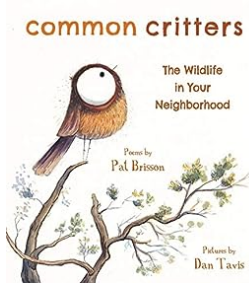


Common Critters celebrates neighborhood wildlife in verse. A familiar cast of characters—worms, slugs, caterpillars, ladybugs, robins, mourning doves, houseflies, spiders, squirrels, skunks, and others—crawls, runs, buzzes, and flits through these lively poems, which show how exotic these seemingly ordinary creatures really are.

Dan Tavis's humorous illustrations crank up the delight, and a child wanting to learn more will find it in the natural-history backmatter. Pat Brisson employs a

variety of verse forms in the book, and she shows how it's done in a back-of-book feature called "A Peek into the Poet's Toolkit."

Common Critters is a three-tool STEAM book with delightful reading, natural history, and language skills rolled into one.



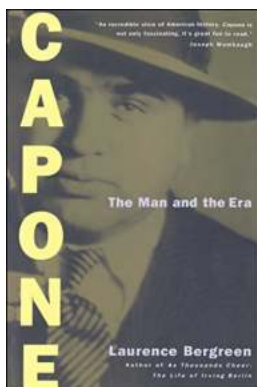
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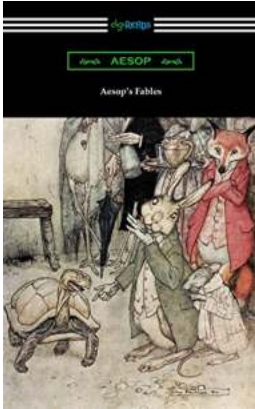
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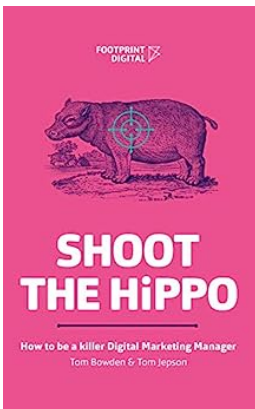
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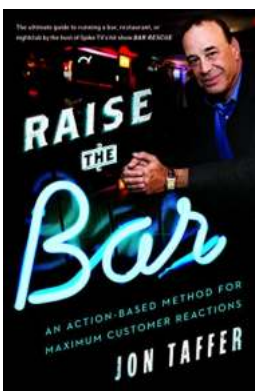
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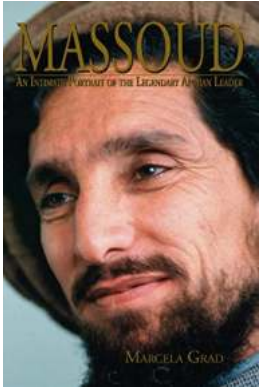
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