

# Nature Sounds at Night

Did you know that many of our parks are open until 11 pm? On a night walk, you can discover the many sounds of nature's second shifters. Twilight thrushes sing and owls call back and forth to their young. Frogs and insects take over where the daytime songbirds left off. On spring evenings, ponds are filled with the piercing calls of spring peepers. On summer nights, cicada songs give way to the rhythmic “katy-did... katy-did-it” chant of the common katydid and tree crickets sing in the background.

Did you know that the most common squirrel in Ohio is the tiny southern flying squirrel? Flying squirrels don't actually fly—they glide through the air and can be heard scampering up and down tree trunks after dark. If you stand quietly on the trail and listen, you may hear their high-pitched mouse-like squeaks. You may also see raccoons, skunks, foxes and opossums scramble and fight over food, mates and territory at night. If you pay attention to the timing of coyote vocalization, you may notice that it is sometimes triggered by the sound of a late night train whistle or a passing police siren.

To get the most out of your night hike: tell someone where you are going, don't hike alone, take a fully charged (but silenced) cell phone, walk quietly and listen. Check out the links below if you hear a sound you don't recognize, and see if you can identify the animal that made the noise.

Juvenile barred owl - *Strix varia*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Zh-XSgIkR8>

Barn owl - *Tyto alba*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JDmRmRb2OpE>

Screech owl - *Megascops asio*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCVDBaUfIQk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ymp2NnK3gw>

Eastern whippoorwill - *Caprimulgus vociferus*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jlxvVSS\\_65o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jlxvVSS_65o)

Northern mockingbird - *Mimus polyglottos*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NNNX3f3\\_svo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NNNX3f3_svo)

Southern flying squirrel - *Glaucomys volans*

<http://www.wildlifeofct.com/southern%20flying%20squirrel.html>

Dog-day cicada - *Tibicen canicularis*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mah26og11ms>

Katydid – *Tettigoniidae* sp

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XfW0ntqbQLw>

Black field cricket - *Gryllus pennsylvanicus*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ehle1jo4Sp4>

Bat - *Myotis lucifugus*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ppLsu5Z2Np0>

Frog - (numerous)

[http://www.umesc.usgs.gov/terrestrial/amphibians/armi/frog\\_calls.html](http://www.umesc.usgs.gov/terrestrial/amphibians/armi/frog_calls.html)

Beaver - *Castor canadensis*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nozYpQuoQj8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nxI0hZkojKo>

Coyote - *Canis latrans*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ga0i1FSXZQ>

Red fox - *Vulpes vulpes*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J6NuhlibHsM>

Rabbit in distress - *Sylvilagus floridanus*

<http://www.varmintal.com/circlec.mp3>

Black bear - *Ursus americanus*

<http://www.bear.org/website/bear-pages/black-bear/communication/29-vocalizations-a-body-language.html>

Raccoon - *Procyon lotor*

<http://soundbible.com/1853-Raccoon.html>

[http://www.partnersinrhyme.com/soundfx/animals/animals\\_sounds/TreeAnimals\\_sounds/animal\\_raccoon4\\_wav.shtml](http://www.partnersinrhyme.com/soundfx/animals/animals_sounds/TreeAnimals_sounds/animal_raccoon4_wav.shtml)