

Vole



Voles, also known as meadow mice, are small mammals similar to house mice but typically darker in color. They are pudgy with a blunt face and small eyes and ears. There are eight species in Colorado. Voles are a food source for coyotes, foxes, badgers, owls, bobcats, shrews and snakes.

Habitat:

Voles like marshy or damp areas to live and forage in.

Diet:

A variety of grasses, herbaceous flowering plants and agricultural and garden crops. In the winter they will eat bark on trees and shrubs.

Behavior:

They are active day and night and do not hibernate. Typically voles construct tunnels one to two inches wide that will travel out from under a bush. These runways are pathways to food.

Reproduction:

Three to six young per litter and three to 12 litters per year.

Size and Life Span:

About four to eight inches. Life span is between two and six months.



Possible Conflicts:

Voles may girdle trees, chew on roots underground and create "runways" in your lawn over the winter.

What to Do:

- Encircle young trees and shrubs with mesh hardware cloth or Vexar plastic-mesh cylinders.
- Mow grass short in the fall.
- Rake their "runway" as soon as you discover it to discourage them.
- Trim up ground cover, such as juniper bushes, to reduce their habitat.
- Clean up fallen seed under your bird feeders.

For More Information:

Broomfield Wildlife Masters, 303-464-5554

Wildlife Observation:

Look for wildlife. Remember to watch from a distance and don't get too close.

Listen for wildlife. Even if you can't see wildlife, you may hear them.

Learn about wildlife. Talk to a wildlife master or naturalist, borrow a book about wildlife.

Love and Respect the Outdoors!

The more we know about wildlife, the less likely we are to harm or fear wildlife.

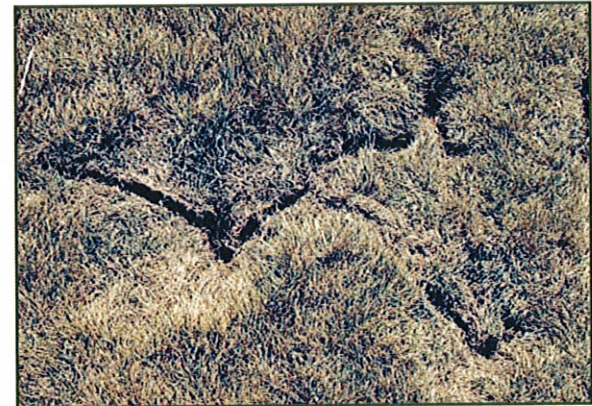


Photo by Sheri Hoffman

vole runway



City and County of Broomfield
Open Space and Trails
303.464.5803
www.broomfield.org/openspace