

Smart Stuff

with Twig Walkingstick



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION
OHIO AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER

For the week of
June 7, 2009

By Kurt Knebusch
(330) 263-3776
knebusch.1@osu.edu

Notes: The rosy-finch study took place in the Sierra Nevada mountains of California. The first two studies mentioned were done in Minnesota in 1941 and Ohio in 1978, in that order. A book you might have read called *Chipmunk at Hollow Tree Lane* has a part in it where the chipmunk, the one who lives on Hollow Tree Lane, eats a worm (raw, not fried). A Web site on birds (to be exact, about birds in Ohio, where I live) (to be exact, about birds that people see in Ohio and where and when they see them) (I check it out to stay alert to birds that might try to eat me) had a report a few weeks ago where someone saw a chipmunk catch a goldfinch and eat it.

Section of Communications and Technology

2021 Coffey Road
Columbus, OH 43210-1044
(614) 292-2011

208 Research Services Bldg.
1680 Madison Ave.
Wooster, OH 44691-4096
(330) 263-3780

OSU Extension embraces human diversity and is committed to ensuring that all educational programs conducted by Ohio State University Extension are available to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, age, gender identity or expression, disability, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, or veteran status. Keith L. Smith, Associate Vice President, Agricultural Administration and Director, OSU Extension. TDD No. 800-589-8292 (Ohio only) or 614-292-1868

Q. Dear Twig: Do chipmunks eat meat?

A. Yes. Sometimes. If by "meat" you mean parts of animals and by "animals" you mean them in general, including invertebrates.

One study called "Food Habits of Chipmunks" found parts of **birds, beetles, grasshoppers** and **caterpillars** in the stomachs of the chipmunks it studied.

Another study called "Chipmunk Feeding Ecology" mentions **ants, flies, frogs, moths, mice, bird eggs, crickets, salamanders** and even **other chipmunks** in the diets of chipmunks too.

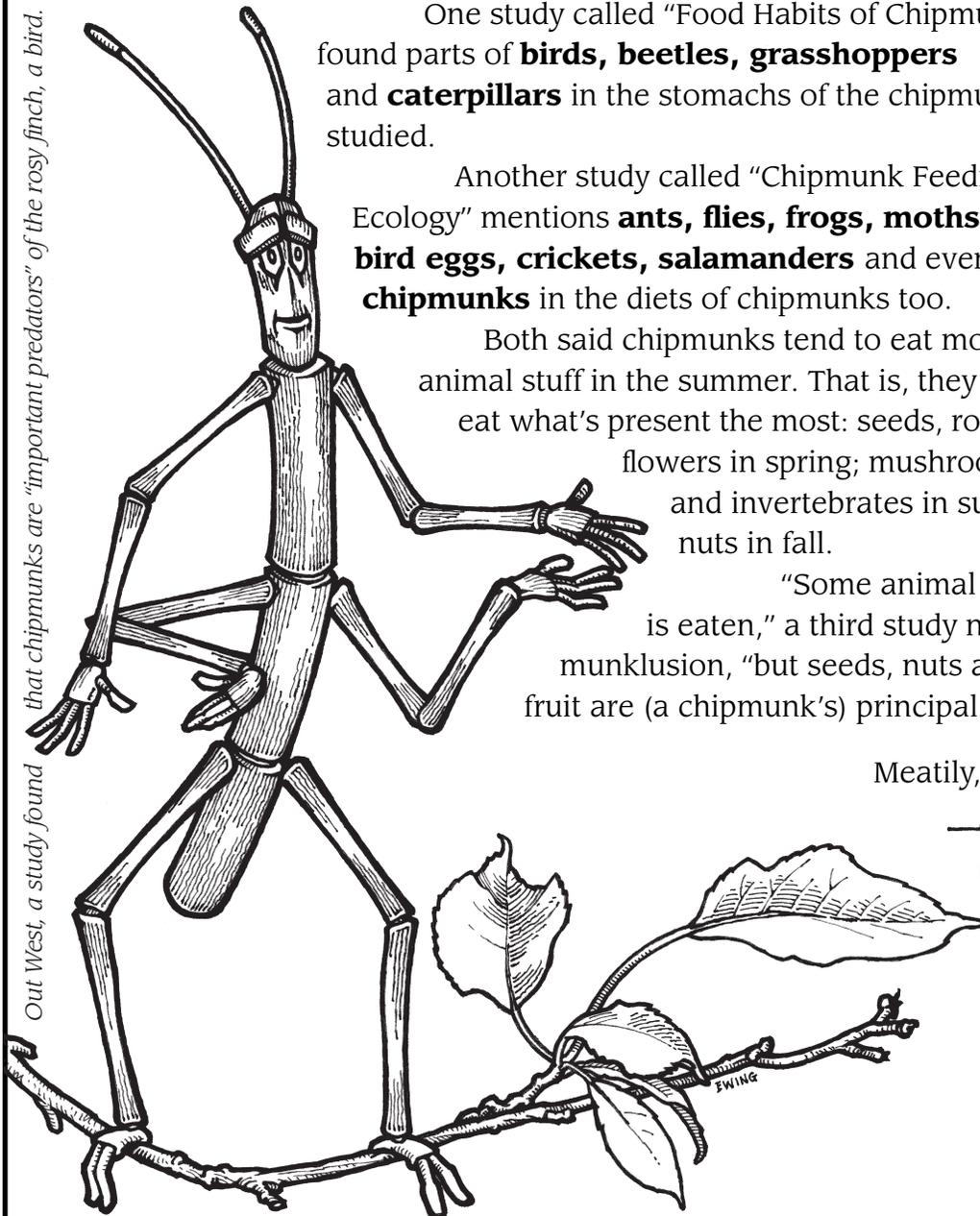
Both said chipmunks tend to eat more animal stuff in the summer. That is, they tend to eat what's present the most: seeds, roots and flowers in spring; mushrooms and invertebrates in summer; nuts in fall.

"Some animal matter is eaten," a third study notes in *munklusion*, "but seeds, nuts and fruit are (a chipmunk's) principal food."

Meatily,

Twig

Out West, a study found that chipmunks are "important predators" of the rosy finch, a bird.



From your scientific friends at The Ohio State University — specifically, the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (www.oardc.ohio-state.edu) and OSU Extension (extension.osu.edu).