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(1995)

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April 1995

## THE COYOTE

Baxter Black

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Black, Baxter, "THE COYOTE" (1995). *Symposium Proceedings—Coyotes in the Southwest: A Compendium of Our Knowledge (1995)*. 41.  
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## THE COYOTE

*by Baxter Black<sup>1</sup>*

*Take him for what he's worth, nothing more, nothing less.*

I think I can speak for the coyote  
With more understanding than most.  
Especially those who defend him  
And live on the New Jersey coast

They raise up a pitiful cry  
And claim he's a mistreated critter.  
Who'll soon be extinct if the ranchers out west  
Don't put down their rifles and quit'er.

But like all of God's creatures around us  
There's always two sides to the tale.  
I think if the coyote were human  
That most of 'em would be in jail.

Cause there's no doubt he preys on the weaklings  
Or the youngsters too little to run  
He slits the throats of cute little lambs  
And drags little calves from their mom.

So if you must describe him in terms  
Such as wily, and clever and keen  
You must also include homicidal,  
Sadistic, demented and mean

But I will choose to do neither  
And somehow I wish you would too.  
For the coyote he has no conscience  
He's just doin' the best he can do.

You can like and dislike the coyote,  
Many ranchers I know do both  
When he trespasses he'll get shot at  
But his song in the night brings a toast

A toast to our neighbor the coyote  
Who'll outlive the earth and the sky.  
And be here long after we've parted  
Like the cockroach, the rat and the fly.

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