

### The Roadkill Cafe - Continued from page 5

off the bird feeder with the .22, but I haven't especially fond memories of them. There are recipes for groundhogs, too, though these seem scarce nowadays. I ate groundhog once and didn't like it, but it may not have been cooked with the loving care the cookbooks espouse.

I have to say a word about the muskrat, though we find only an occasional one on the road. The cookbooks lament the name "muskrat" because of the stigma attached to the "musk" and the "rat" part. My cookbooks prefer the name "marsh rabbit". Just as restaurants use the name "Dorado" or "M'ahi M'ahi" for dolphin, chefs are not hesitant about renaming a meat because it may have unfortunate connotations. So if you ever see Marsh Rabbit on the menu.....

Then there are real rabbits, and this year they must be beginning a rise in the population cycle because there were many roadkills. Rabbits must work real hard because they have hardly any fat. Those in the north reduced to a diet of rabbits apparently exhibit many symptoms of starvation. According to a Colonel Townsend Whelen, there is a saying, "starving on rabbits" which reflects this phenomenon. Most of us don't have to worry about that, because if anything we could use less fat in our diets. Or we could simply burn off a little of the fat we carry around on our waists.

So, what do you think? Crows, songbirds, muskrats, turtles, rabbits, groundhogs, raccoons, rabbits, squirrels... the list goes on. The Roadkill Calendar has a future, I think, providing us all with good protein while snatching it away from the turkey vultures and coyotes.

- George Underhill

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