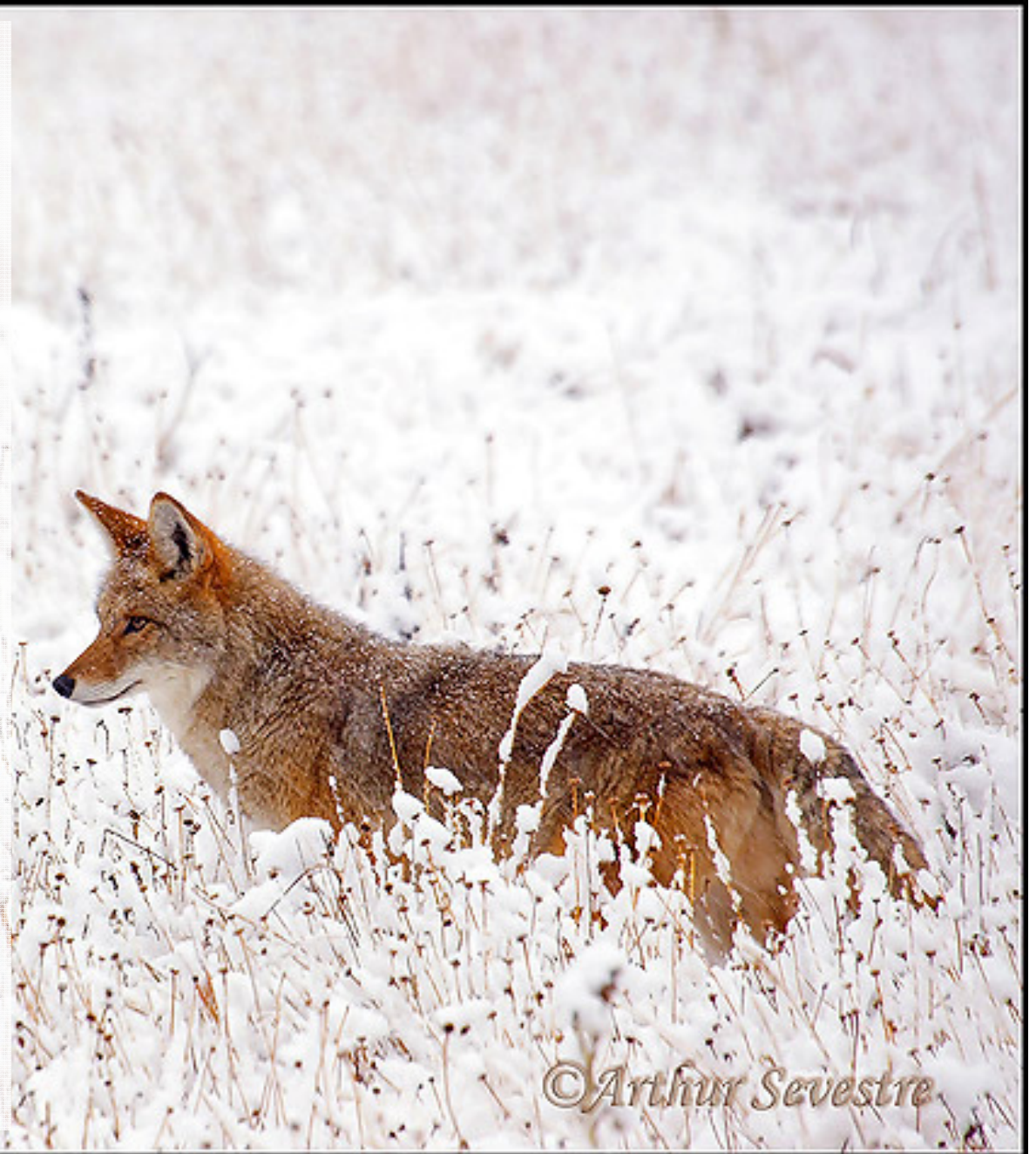


## **If you're not strong, you have to be clever!**

Bears, wolves, cougars and other North-American large predators have suffered a lot under the ever-growing activities of humankind. Decimated and pushed back into the last remaining wildernesses, their future is far from certain. The coyote however does not follow this trend, even though humankind has killed more coyotes than all other large predators taken together. How is that possible? The coyote is better able than other predators to compensate a high death-rate by increasing reproduction. Besides, on a whole they profit more than suffer from humankind. Because of their opportunistic nature and intelligence, they manage to find easy food in great abundance near humans. Even the decline of other large predators is a blessing for coyotes because in healthy ecosystems their numbers are kept in check especially by bears, wolves and cougars. They compete with coyotes for food and even hunt them when given a chance. However, when bears, wolves and cougars are removed from the ecosystem by human activity, coyotes are free to flourish.

*Arthur Sevestre*



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