



Another Successful Wildlife Week - Over 4,500 Wildlife Sightings! Special Thanks to All Who Participated!

Wildlife Window - By Sue Remy, Ponds & Preserves Committee

[Woodlands Word – May 2022]

During the week of March 13-20, 2022, the Ponds and Preserves Committee hosted our **Rivendell Spring Wildlife Week**. The Rivendell Community agreed to conduct semi-annual community wildlife reports as one of the conditions of a grant received to install aquatic plants in our ponds. These plants help control erosion, improve water quality, and attract wildlife.



Rivendell residents became **Nature Watchers** to help us observe and record sightings of the diverse wildlife that calls Rivendell home. While these sightings do not provide a scientific count of each species, they do give us an indication of the diversity and numbers of animals in our community.



Many thanks to all 29 residents who participated in Wildlife Week. Nature Watchers captured sightings of **4,565 wildlife friends** covering over **95 different species**. We plan to have a Wildlife Week each spring and fall to compare the findings. Here's a brief breakdown of what residents saw this Spring, with a comparison to last Fall's sightings. (*Thanks to Bob Frank for compiling the Wildlife counts.*)

<u>Wildlife Type</u>	<u>Examples of Species Observed</u>	<u>SPRING 2022</u> <u>(95 species)</u>	<u>FALL 2021</u> <u>(80 species)</u>
Blackbirds, Crows, Grackles	Red-winged Blackbirds, Fish Crows, Common Grackles, Boat-tailed Grackles	605	1,144
Wetlands/Wading	Herons, Egrets, Ducks, Cranes, Ibis, Anhinga	2,067	1,530
Perching Birds	Warblers, Cardinals, Mockingbirds, Woodpeckers	794	402
Birds of Prey	Eagles, Ospreys, Vultures, Owl, Hawks	199	218
Butterflies	Monarchs, Gulf Fritillary, White Peacocks	149	157
Amphibians	Green Frogs, Cuban Treefrogs	38	28
Reptiles	Alligators, Anoles, Turtles, Cooter, Snakes	360	467
Mammals	Deer, Bobcat, Rabbits, Squirrels, Opossums	353	347
TOTAL:		4,565	4,293

Fun Facts About Spring's Wildlife Sightings

Let's continue to keep our ponds healthy and vibrant for these beautiful creatures.

- **Perching Birds** showed the greatest increase in sightings. This is possibly due to nesting season during the Springtime. We love seeing (and hearing) these beautiful birds.
- **Wetlands/Wading Bird** sightings also increased from the Fall. Migration patterns and nesting time may have contributed to these additional sightings. Lucky us!
- **Glossy Ibis** had the highest of sightings – surpassing the Common Grackle in the Fall.
- **Birds of Prey (Raptors)**, including our town's namesake, **the Osprey**, were also well represented. While we saw fewer Raptors than in the Fall, there were several new species observed.
- **Florida Softshell Turtle & Gopher Tortoise** are two species protected by law and on the "endangered" list. In our community, how exciting that both species were spotted!



Many **Nature Watchers** commented on the positive experience of watching Rivendell's wildlife and how wonderful it is to live in such beautiful natural surroundings. Most of the Nature Watchers said they would participate in next Wildlife Week! Stay tuned! We hope more residents will join us for the Fall Wildlife Week. **Thanks again to all!**