



## Another Successful Wildlife Week - Over 4,800 Wildlife Sightings! Special Thanks to All Who Participated!

**Wildlife Window** - By Sue Remy, Ponds & Preserves Committee

[Woodlands Word – January 2023]

During the week of November 12-19, 2022, the Ponds and Preserves Committee hosted the **Fall Rivendell Wildlife Week**. As a condition of the grants used for pond plantings to control erosion, Rivendell residents became **Nature Watchers** to help observe and record sightings of the diverse wildlife in our community. 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 found here.



**Overall, wildlife sightings increased from previous Wildlife Week observations.** Despite a drought, two recent and strong hurricanes, plus large, new developments all around us, we are continuing to see wildlife active in our community. While our ponds and plantings survived fairly well, there was debris clutter in and around our ponds and preserves that can make it harder on wildlife. Kudos to our management teams and contractors who helped remove some of the debris to keep our wildlife habitats attractive for these wonderful animals.

Many thanks to the 30+ residents who participated in Wildlife Week! **Nature Watchers** captured sightings of **4,894 wildlife friends**. Below is a breakdown of what residents observed this Fall compared to previous sightings.

WILDLIFE TYPE (examples)	FALL '22	Spring '22	Fall '21
<b>Blackbirds, Crows, Grackles, Starlings</b>	<b>1,187</b>	605	1,144
<b>Wetlands/Wading:</b> Herons, Egrets, Ducks, Cranes, Ibis	<b>1,370</b>	2,067	1,530
<b>Perching Birds:</b> Warblers, Cardinals, Mockingbirds, Jays	<b>708</b>	794	402
<b>Birds of Prey:</b> Eagles, Ospreys, Vultures, Owls, Hawks	<b>294</b>	199	218
<b>Insects:</b> Butterflies, Moths, Dragonflies, Spiders, Bees	<b>178</b>	149	157
<b>Amphibians:</b> Green Frogs, Cuban Treefrogs	<b>42</b>	38	28
<b>Reptiles:</b> Alligators, Anoles, Turtles, Snakes	<b>575</b>	360	467
<b>Mammals:</b> Deer, Bobcat, Rabbits, Squirrels, Raccoon	<b>540</b>	353	347
	<b>4,894</b>	4,565	4,293

### Fun Facts About Fall 2022's Wildlife Sightings



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

**Perching Bird** sightings continue to delight residents with their color and musical sounds.

**Wetlands/Wading Bird** sightings showed a decrease from previous weeks. Drought, hurricanes, migration and "non-nesting" season may have contributed to their absence.

**Mammals** were more abundant during this week. **Gray Squirrels** especially, were spotted more often than previous Wildlife weeks and are commonplace in our community.



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 next Wildlife Week. **Thanks again to all!**

Click here to visit the Ponds & Preserves website at <https://www.rivendellcommunity.com/ponds>.