



Spring Wildlife Week: 80+ Different Wildlife Animals! Thanks to All Our Nature Watchers!

By Sue Remy, Ponds & Preserves Committee

Woodlands Word - May 2023

During the week of March 18-25, 2023, the Ponds and Preserves Committee hosted another **Rivendell Wildlife Week**. Residents became **Nature Watchers** to help observe and record over **3,000 sightings** of diverse wildlife, representing **over 80 different animals**, spotted in our own community. **Special thanks to all of the neighbors who participated in Wildlife Week!** We appreciate your support!

Our Nature Watchers said they saw more wetland/wading and perching birds than other animals. This seems like a strong indication that our current pond and preserves management strategies are working to keep wildlife habitats healthy and attractive. Great news!

WILDLIFE TYPE (examples)	Spring 2023
Blackbirds/Crows: Grackles, Starlings	571
Wetlands/Wading: Herons, Egrets, Ducks, Cranes, Ibis, Cormorants, Storks	1,109
Perching Birds: Warblers, Cardinals, Mockingbirds, Doves, Finches	577
Birds of Prey: Eagles, Ospreys, Vultures, Owls, Hawks	159
Insects: Butterflies, Moths, Dragonflies	111
Amphibians: Green Frogs, Cuban Treefrogs	15
Reptiles: Alligators, Anoles, Turtles, Snakes	197
Mammals: Deer, Bobcat, Rabbits, Squirrels, Raccoons	304
	3,043

Ibis Earns Top Spot. Nature Watchers reported that the most sightings of wildlife this Spring was the beloved **Ibis**. In Rivendell, two species were often seen with their distinctive long curved bill – the **White Ibis** and the **Glossy Ibis**. Let's learn more about these visitors commonly seen in our ponds, wetlands, yards, and flying overhead.

[Photos: Bob Frank. Source: AllAboutBirds.org]



WHITE IBIS (*Eudocimus albus*)

The white ibis is a midsized bird, about 22 inches long with a wingspan of 37 inches. They often gather in groups in shallow wetlands. Adults are mostly white with black tipped wings, a red face, red legs, and a very distinct downcurved, pink bill which is used to probe the ground for food while foraging. Their diet consists of crabs, crayfish, fish, snakes, frogs, and insects.



GLOSSY IBIS (*Plegadis falcinellus*)

At a distance, Glossy Ibises look uniformly dark, but a close look in good light reveals stunning colors: deep maroon, emerald, bronze, and violet. Similar in size to the White Ibis, this long-legged, long-billed bird forages in flocks through wetlands and wet agricultural fields, searching for insects, small fish, and seeds. When flying, their necks and feet are outstretched.

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