



# Wisconsin NatureMapping Newsletter

[www.wisnatmap.org](http://www.wisnatmap.org)



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## Wisconsin NatureMapping Data From November 2009

**129** Total NatureMapping Observations  
(compared to 93 in October)

**4.3** Observations/day  
(compared to 3 in October)

**565** Animals observed  
(during 129 total NM observations)

### Top 5 Animals

Animal	# observed
American Crow	129
Eastern Gray Squirrel	66
Mourning Dove	54
Blue Jay	38
Black-capped Chickadee	35

**NOTE: Try to enter your observations on the website before the end of each month so they can be included in our monthly calculations!**

Photo © A.B. Sheldon



### Western Ribbon Snake

Although this reptile may be mistaken for a garter snake at first glance, the western ribbon snake is a bit different. This snake is more slender than a garter snake and has lateral greenish-white stripes that stretch along its body. Its lip scales and underside are white. The western ribbon snake has been an endangered species in Wisconsin since 1979. This is partially due to the modification and cultivation of land by humans. This snake is extremely sensitive to any modifications in its habitat, and will disappear shortly after any changes take place. There have been less than half a dozen sightings of this creature in Wisconsin, so keep your eyes open for this endangered reptile when you are around wetlands, particularly sandy floodplains near marshes.

### December Phenology from EEK!

River otters search the river bottom for frogs, crayfish and carp to feed on while ruffed grouse peck their way through the snow to find food. The shortest day of the year occurs on the winter solstice on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Phenology information is from EEK! – Environmental Education for Kids, [www.dnr.wi.gov/eeek/](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/eeek/), WI DNR.

## Animals Observed by Category for November 2009

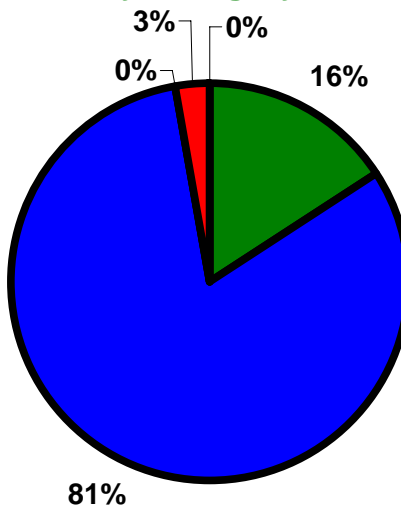
**Birds – 81%**

**Mammals – 16%**

**Amphibians – 0%**

**Reptiles – 3%**

**Worms – 0%**



### What's Being Observed in Wisconsin?

**460** Birds  
**90** Mammals  
**0** Amphibians  
**15** Reptiles  
**0** Worms