



## Wildlife Monitoring Program 2025 Summary



A coyote near Bowes Pond. Photo by Jeff Krause.

Sponsored by the  
Open Space Advisory Committee

## Introduction:

The Superior Wildlife Monitoring program, sponsored by the Open Space Advisory Committee, completed its third full year of reporting in 2025. This community volunteer effort is designed to build an observational database of wildlife activity within the town borders and closely adjacent properties. By increasing our knowledge of where wildlife is present and the behaviors of the wildlife common to our area, the Town can continue to limit human/wildlife conflicts, increase relevant educational opportunities for citizens, and better ensure the protection of our wildlife. In addition, the wildlife monitoring program will provide the Town with the opportunity to document and tell the story of our commitment to co-existence with wildlife, ranging from the original Town design incorporating wildlife corridors to today's monitoring and educational programs. The monitoring program observes and supports a broad range of native species, including coyote, fox, bobcat, deer, elk, raccoon, muskrat, mountain lion, and bear.

In 2025, volunteers reported sightings via an easy online platform called [CitSci](#), and there was no minimum number of observations required per month.

This monitoring program is in addition to the successful Raptor Monitoring Program being managed and staffed by town volunteers.

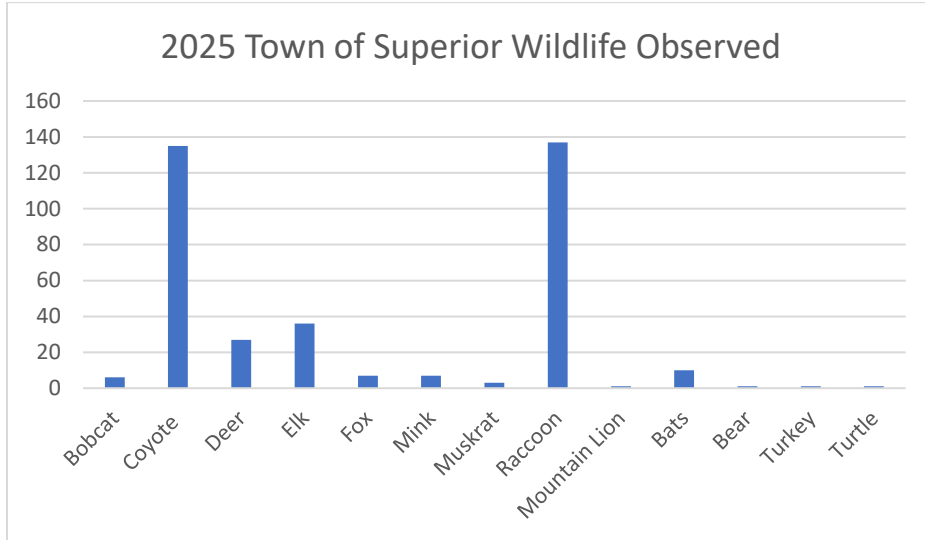
## 2025 Results: An Evolving Program

From the seven volunteers in the pilot program, the program has established a committed base of volunteers and observations as outlined in the table below:

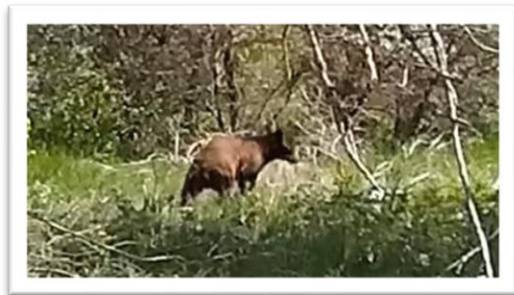
	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of Participants	7	35 total, 14 with multiple observations	19 total, 13 with multiple observations	39 volunteers, 2 cameras
Number of Observations	37	132	98	266*
Wildlife Observed	81% coyotes	55% coyote, 34% bobcat	69% coyote, 3% bobcat, 7% fox	36% coyote, 37% raccoon*

\*Note that the addition of two wildlife trail cameras dramatically changed the data year-over-year. In previous years, we had almost no raccoon reports, but the cameras captured many sightings of these largely nocturnal animals.

The chart below shows a more detailed breakdown of the species reported in town:



In addition to the more “expected” wildlife such as coyote, bobcat, and fox, we had several notable and more rare sightings. A bear was reported by Town staff in Autrey Park, and a mountain lion was captured on a doorbell camera near the fire station.



### Open Space Sightings by Property

The following animals were observed at the various Town open space properties:

Location	Animals Observed
88 <sup>th</sup> Street Ponds	Mink, coyote, bobcat, raccoon
Autrey Park	Bear
Bowes Pond	Coyote, bobcat, muskrat, fox
Coal Creek	Coyote, bobcat, deer, raccoon
Coalton Trailhead	Elk

Community Park	Coyote
Coyote Ridge	Coyote
Grasso Park/Original Town	Coyote
HHR	Coyote, mink
Meadowlark-Mayhoffer/Singletree	Coyote, elk, deer
Purple Park/Heartstrong	Coyote, mink, fox
Riverbend Pond	Coyote
Rock Creek south of Coalton	Coyote, raccoon
Town 15	Coyote

## 2025 Progress and Takeaways

**1.** The most significant enhancement to our wildlife monitoring program was **the addition of two trail cameras**. One trail camera was added in December 2024 and contributed observations throughout 2025. The camera was primarily installed along Coal Creek in Original Town and later along Rock Creek, plus was deployed for a month on Town 15 toward the end of the year. Notable observations included deer, bobcat, coyote, and raccoon.

A second trail camera was added in the latter half of the year to augment our capabilities. The camera was initially installed off 88<sup>th</sup> Street, then moved to Purple Park late in the year. Notable observations included mink, coyote, and raccoon.

The pictures below and on the following page show a selection of images from the cameras.

Left: Bobcat along Coal Creek. Right: Coyote on Town 15.



Left: Deer along Coal Creek. Right: Raccoon in the dry bed of Rock Creek.



Left: Coyote along Coal Creek. Right: Mink off 88<sup>th</sup> Street.



2. 2025 was the first full year of [managing the data for the wildlife monitoring program in CitSci](#). This new platform has offered a nice interface for volunteers that includes a forum/communication capability, plus improved membership management and reporting capabilities for the program coordinator.



3. We're working to integrate more closely with **Boulder County Animal Protection**. All members of the Animal Protection team were given access to the CitSci data, and supervisor Janee Boswell has access to view the trail camera images.
4. Observations showed our coyote population is again **struggling with mange**. Below are photos of affected animals, one in Community Park and the other in the Bowes Pond area.



In past years, coyote observations have typically been centered around Bowes Pond. In 2025, coyote activity has been more dispersed around town. Note that the trail camera placed on Town 15 for approximately a month showed consistent coyote activity in that area. Likewise, the trail camera that was placed along the dry creek bed of Rock Creek just north of Calmante also showed consistent coyote activity.

**5.** Due to the link between the use of rodenticides and the development of mange in wild animals that consume poisoned prey, OSAC developed **an educational program designed to discourage the use of rodenticides by citizens and local businesses.** Rodenticides pose a significant threat to wildlife that was not the intended target of the poison. A mouse that has eaten poisoned bait usually takes several days to die and during that time is sluggish and more easily caught and consumed by predators. Secondary poisonings are a significant cause of death among many raptor species and can result in mange in bobcats and coyotes. Serious cases of mange can result in a slow and painful death from starvation, dehydration, cold exposure, or secondary infections. Mange also changes the behavior of affected animals, making it more likely for residents to have encounters with coyotes during the day as they become weak and desperate for easy food during the warmth of the sunlight hours. As evidenced by the reports from the program volunteers and the photos above, multiple coyotes in town have mange.



#### How to safely manage pests

You've likely seen the small black boxes labeled "Do Not Touch - Poison" lurking outside a business or restaurant. Perhaps you've even used these rodenticides - rodent poisons - around your home or business to control a mouse or vole problem. These poisons carry a heavy price for our natural world, and understanding the alternatives is important for our Town and local wildlife.



Rodenticides pose a risk to your family and pets due to unintentional poisoning and negatively affect the entire food chain of local wildlife. Weakened immune systems in predators of rodents, caused by the toxins present in rodenticides, can be to blame for mange in the local coyote population. Let this be a friendly reminder to [keep your dog on a leash!](#)

#### What can be used instead of rodenticides?

No matter what you do, pests can still persist, and the best thing that you can do is be informed about what alternatives are available.

- Seal holes that rodents may use to enter your home
- Mouse traps (preferably catch and release)
- Nature's Mace natural pest repellent
- Spices and oils undesirable to rodents: peppermint, cinnamon, cayenne pepper and citronella
- If a rodent problem persists, contact a pest control company that practices Integrated Pest Management to help get to the root of the problem

For a more detailed discussion of options, check out the [avoiding unintentional poisoning webpage](#) for more information from the National Park Service or visit this article from [Friends of Coal Creek](#). Thank you for keeping our Town and wildlife safe!

The multi-pronged educational program conducted in 2025 included the following elements:

- A "Discouraging the Use of Rodenticides" plan was presented to Town Council
- Volunteers manned an educational booth at both National Trails Day and World Migratory Bird Day
- Multiple articles were published in the Town newsletter and Parks and Open Space newsletter
  - 4 mentions in PROS newsletters (February, April, June, Sept)
  - 3 mentions in Sentinel (March, May, Aug)
  - 2 standalone social media posts in June and late Sept
- The Town refreshed their rodent control practices to use a modern birth control option rather than rodenticides

### Recommendations for 2026:

- Continue to **educate the public on the dangers of rodenticides.**
- Continue to explore **new camera locations.** One promising location is the underpass between Harney-Lastoka and Calmante.
- Consider a **wildlife corridor as part of the planning for Town 15.** In the month that a camera was deployed on Town 15, a coyote was observed six times. The area also includes an abundance of deer and elk scat.
- **Leave dead trees in open space areas** due to their value as a food source, habitat, and hiding place for a variety of wildlife species.
- Consider and adopt as many of the Wildlife Encouragement Team's suggestions related to the **Coyote Ridge Master Plan** as reasonable.
- **Conserve the remaining Plains Cottonwoods** in Town and plant new Plains Cottonwoods as replacements for lost or removed older trees.

## **Coming in 2026:**

A training session for 2026 volunteers is scheduled for January 6<sup>th</sup> at the Community Center. Program coordinator Tracey Bain and wildlife ecologist Ashley DeLaup will lead the session, which was promoted through various Town communications vehicles including the Recreation Guide, PROS newsletter, and social media. Colorado Parks and Wildlife district manager Cassy Penn will also attend to highlight her priorities for our area.

Results of the 2026 monitoring program, including images from the trail cameras, will be reported quarterly to the Parks, Recreation and Open Space director and ranger for the Town of Superior, as well as to the Open Space Advisory Committee.

## **Acknowledgements:**

Report prepared by Tracey Bain, 2025 OSAC liaison and Program Coordinator.

Special thanks to our camera crew. Jeff Krause and Peter Ruprecht lend their expertise to camera placement and set up, while Cristi Verbeck and Karen Repine upload the images from the cameras.

We are grateful for the observational work and data reporting by the volunteers in the 2025 wildlife monitoring program. The following volunteers each contributed observations: Peter Ruprecht, Jeff Krause, Sandy Hardy-Reigel, Karen Repine, Brian Beamer, Kara Neuse, Jamie Dixon, Joann Maneri, Gayle and Rob Welch, Dima Kyle, Bonny Roberts, Jean Folsom, Lynn Benham, Kevin Homan, and Stephanie Miller.

The program participants are also grateful for the involvement and assistance from Phary Om, Town Ranger during the 2025 reporting period.

Photo credits to Jeff Krause and Tracey Bain.

For more information about the wildlife monitoring program, or to volunteer, please contact [OSAC@superiorcolorado.gov](mailto:OSAC@superiorcolorado.gov).