

**ENVS 195 N What Does the Fox Say: Sustainability from a Non-Human Perspective**  
**96276 / 3 Credits / Trish O’Kane / M 7:30-10:30am / Centennial Woods**



An urban ecology and wildlife observation course that puts students in charge of finding urban wildlife around campus, and in Burlington, and studying how these animals survive. The three main goals of this course are: 1) to get you outside; 2) to connect you with this place and our non-human neighbors; and 3) to teach you the science of phenology and how to record fieldnotes. The type of energy sources we use, the food we eat, the waste we produce, the way we move from one place to another, the types of structures we build, and the noise we make, greatly affect non-human species. This course explores these impacts through weekly walking lectures and field outings on campus where we will study how a red fox survives in Centennial Woods and why a tiny migrating bird that winters in Latin America spends the summer on the edge of the UVM campus. In this course we will walk together, observe together, learn together and teach each other. Half of the lectures will be held outside in Centennial Woods or other urban wild areas.

Guest speakers range from exterminators to wildlife rehabilitators. Readings will also help you see urban nature from the viewpoint of wildlife biologists, fanatical birders, an artist-turtle detective and the perspective of the urban animals, themselves. The heart of this course is a daily 30-minute nature observation and research practice five days a week. This nature observation and journaling practice is worth 50% of the final grade.

**Prerequisite:** boundless curiosity and an adventurous spirit.