

OUR MISSION

The Lamont Ecosystem Impact & Stewardship Committee seeks to build a community with a stronger sense of ecological place through activities and efforts that preserve and restore the land we share to enhance its ecological value. With this in mind, we hope to engage Lamonters in incorporating and amplifying stewardship on campus.

The intention of this newsletter is to provide another way to connect with each other by pooling shared resources, opportunities, and experiences, as well as shining a light on achievements across campus that are stewardship-positive.

2024 GOALS

The Lamont Ecosystem Impact & Stewardship Committee started this past Spring. Since its start, the Committee has formed three Working Groups focused on:

- Landscaping for wildlife value, removing invasives (coordinator – [Sheean Haley](#))
- Monitoring and improving bird well-being (coordinator – [Linda Pistolesi](#))
- Evaluating and curbing light pollution (coordinator – [Andrew Goodwillie](#))

Email working group coordinator(s) if you would like to participate.

SUNSHINE ON MY SHOULDERS...

Makes me happy. It also makes those without shoulders happy, too! Please watch for snakes basking on roads and sidewalks.

A native, non-venomous Eastern rat snake

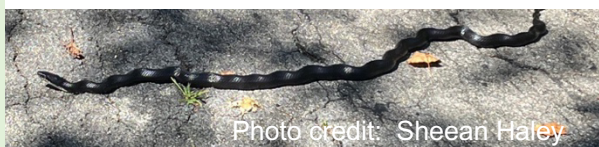


Photo credit: Sheean Haley

LAMONT CREATURE FEATURE

The Eastern Box Turtle, *Terrapene carolina carolina*, is a hinge-shelled turtle native to the Eastern United States. The Lamont campus is home to these turtles and a striking specimen (photo at right) was seen twice crossing the entrance road in August 2024. The sighting was reported to staff at the [NYSDEC](#) and added to the Amphibians and Reptiles database.



Photo credit: Sheean Haley

DID YOU KNOW?

While not endangered on a national level, New York is one of several states on the East Coast that list the Eastern Box Turtle as a species of special concern.

WHY DO BIRDS HIT GLASS?

According to the [American Bird Conservancy](#), up to 1 billion birds die each year after striking glass surfaces. Why does this happen? There are few reasons, but one of the biggest has to do with how birds perceive glass. Humans learn visual cues that signal the presence of glass, such as a door frame, a window sill, or door handles, and these help us to navigate “invisible” glass. Birds do not learn these same cues. If they survive an impact with glass, they may learn about that particular piece of glass, but it does not become a life skill. Learn more about ways to prevent bird strikes with glass [here](#).