

Wildlife Mortality Monitoring & Reporting

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Brief History of Wildlife Mortality Reporting on Sanibel

- ▶ Wildlife Advisory Committee (1984 - 2008)
 - ▶ "Animal Roadkill Survey" from 1988 - 1989
- ▶ Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF)
 - ▶ Reptile and Amphibian Survey from 2002 - present
- ▶ Sanibel Resident Doris Hardy
 - ▶ Eastern Screech Owl Survey from 2012 - 2022
- ▶ Department of Natural Resources
 - ▶ Wildlife Mortality Report from late 2021 - present
 - ▶ Natural Resources, Public Works, SCCF, CROW, DDNWR, General Public

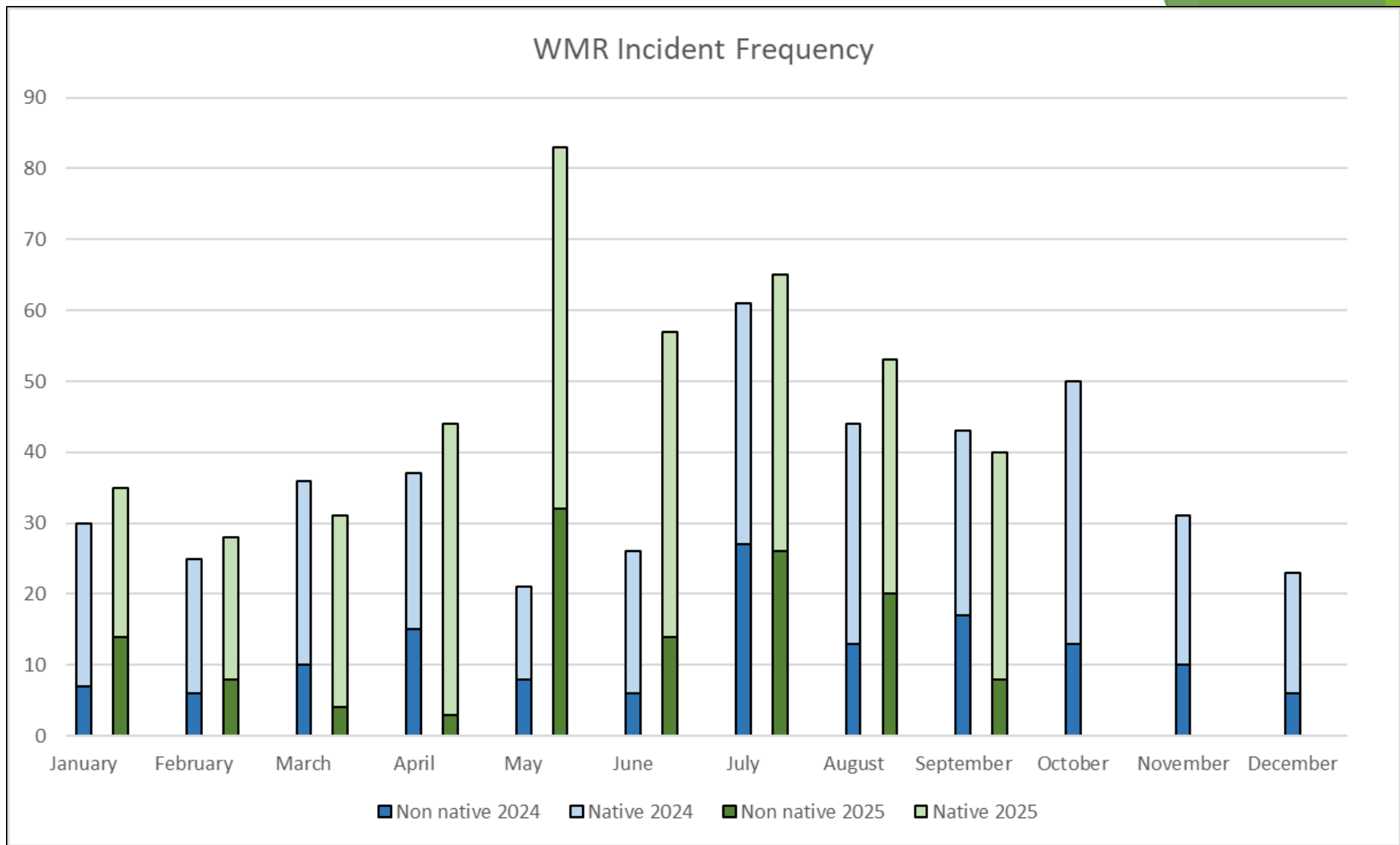


Wildlife Mortality Report

Key Findings



- ▶ 1,600 Total Incidents
 - ▶ 1,159 (January 2022 - December 2024)
 - ▶ 441 (January 2025 - September 2025)
- ▶ Represents 90 different species since start of WMR



- Invasive/nonnative species account for about 30% of the reported incidents each year.



Wildlife Mortality Report

Key Findings



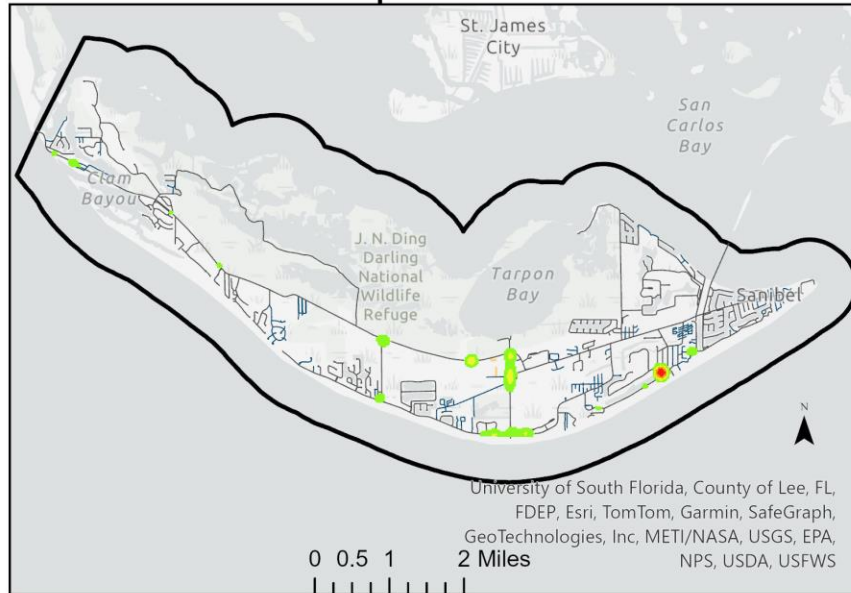
- GPS data points were used to generate heat map. Image was made in partnership with City, SCCF and Unity Environmental University.



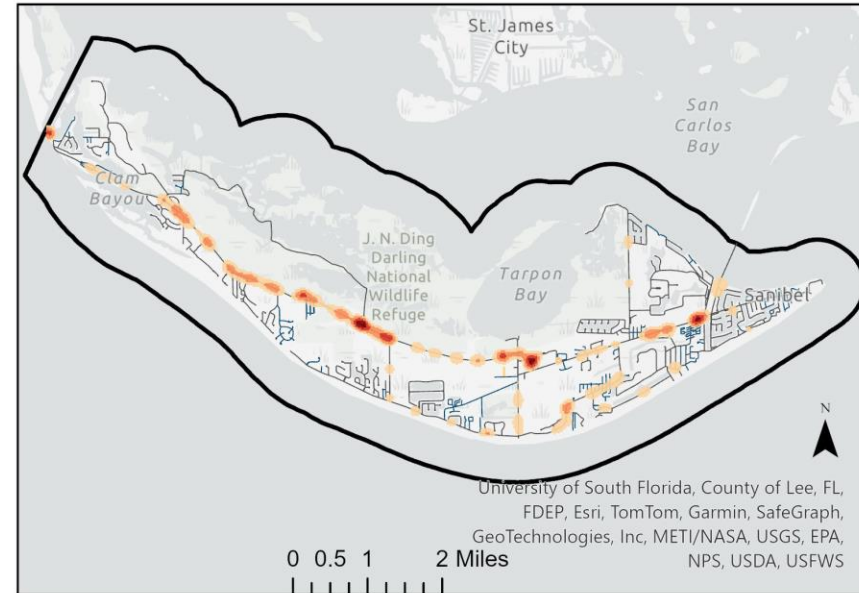
- ▶ **Most Frequent Species:**
Eastern Screech Owl (60YTD)
- ▶ **Road with Most Incidents:**
Sanibel Captiva Road (147YTD)



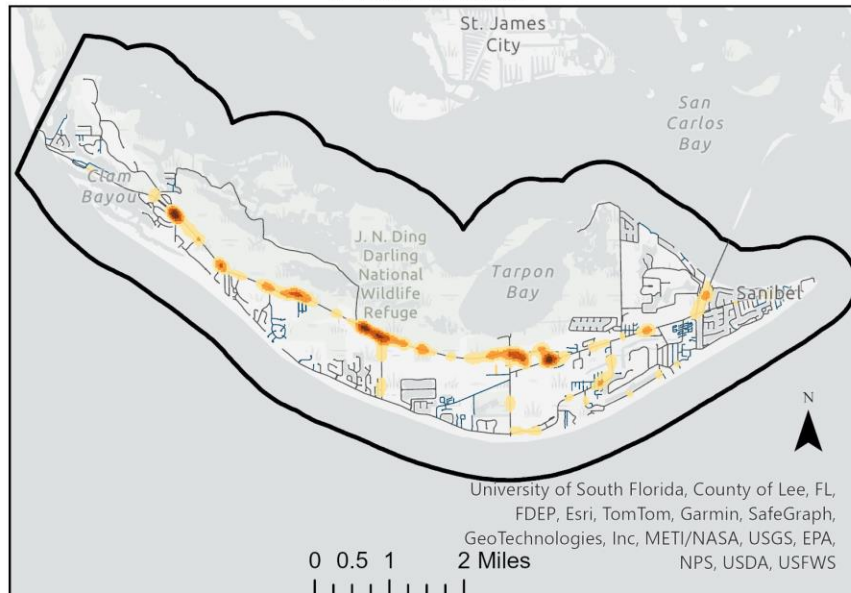
Amphibians



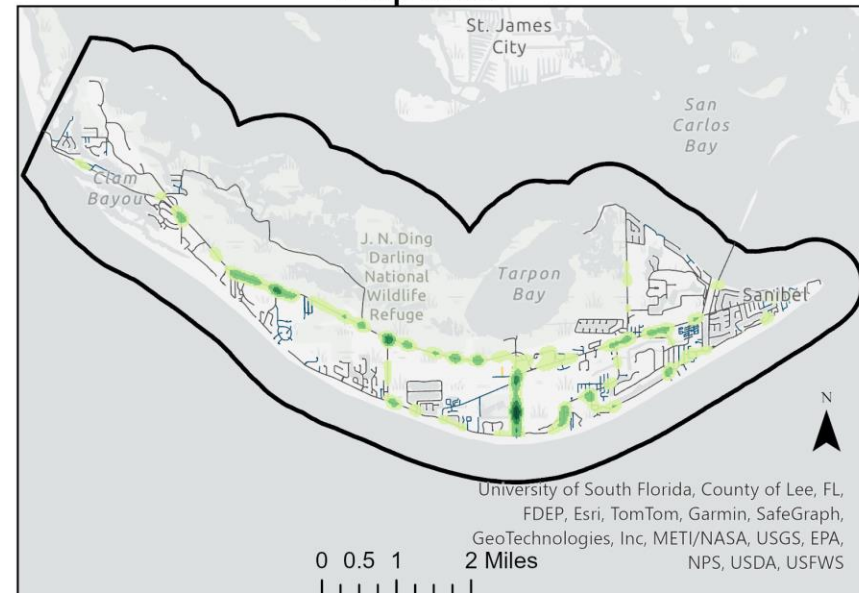
Birds



Mammals



Reptiles



Staff Recommendations for Wildlife Signage

- ▶ Based on the WMR, staff recommends deployment of wildlife crossing signage at the following locations:
 - ▶ Sanibel Captiva Road (near Tarpon Bay Road 4-way stop)
 - ▶ Sanibel Captiva Road (near Rabbit Road intersection)
 - ▶ Sanibel Captiva Road (near Wulfert Road/Wildlife Drive access)
 - ▶ Tarpon Bay Road (near entrance to Bailey Tract)
- ▶ Staff would also recommend further discussion on traffic calming strategies at the following location:
 - ▶ Sanibel Captiva Road (Legion Curve)





"Low Flying Owls" Wildlife Signage

- ▶ Pair of signs that were placed on either side of MM5 and MM7 following citizen-led initiative by resident Doris Hardy.
 - ▶ April 2015 - City Council approves installation of (2) lighted owl signs
 - ▶ June 2015 - Lighted owl signs installed
 - ▶ November 2018 - Lighted signs removed for repair
 - ▶ January 2019 - Signs replaced without lighting (per City Council direction)
 - ▶ March 2019 - City Council votes to replace signs with amended verbiage and no lighting
 - ▶ July 2019 - Replacement signs (amended verbiage, no lighting) installed
- ▶ Signs were damaged from Hurricane Ian and have yet to be reinstalled.



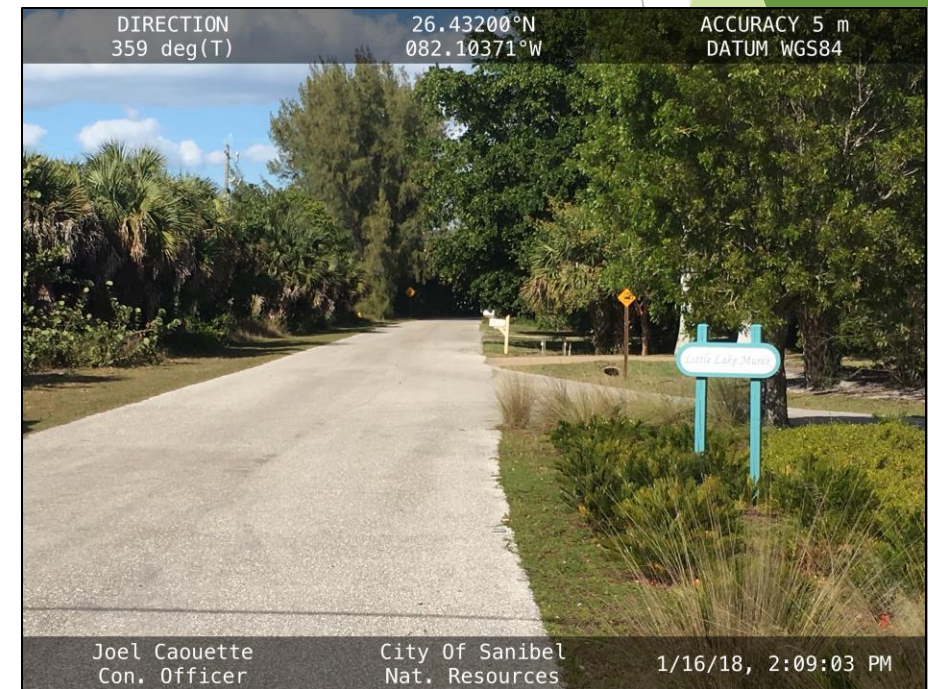
"Please" "Slow" "Down" "For Us" Wildlife Signage

- ▶ Series of 4 multilingual signs with different animals located on Sanibel Captiva Road (near Tarpon Bay) and another on Sanibel Captiva Road (near Blind Pass).
- ▶ Sign size was 3x4 and each animal had reflective eyes for nighttime visibility (compared to lights on low flying owl signage).
- ▶ They were removed in 2013 due to being "at the end of their useful life".



"Gopher Tortoise Crossing" Wildlife Signage

- ▶ Gopher tortoise crossing signage has been historically used on Sanibel and is still in use today.
- ▶ Based on historical placement, current site conditions, and population density, residents will contact Natural Resources to request signage.
- ▶ City staff then schedules meeting with residents to evaluate signage location and installation schedule.



Benefits of Wildlife Mortality Monitoring & Reporting

- ▶ Wildlife Conservation and Biodiversity Monitoring
- ▶ Transportation & Infrastructure Planning
- ▶ Public Safety & Welfare
- ▶ Scientific Research & Education



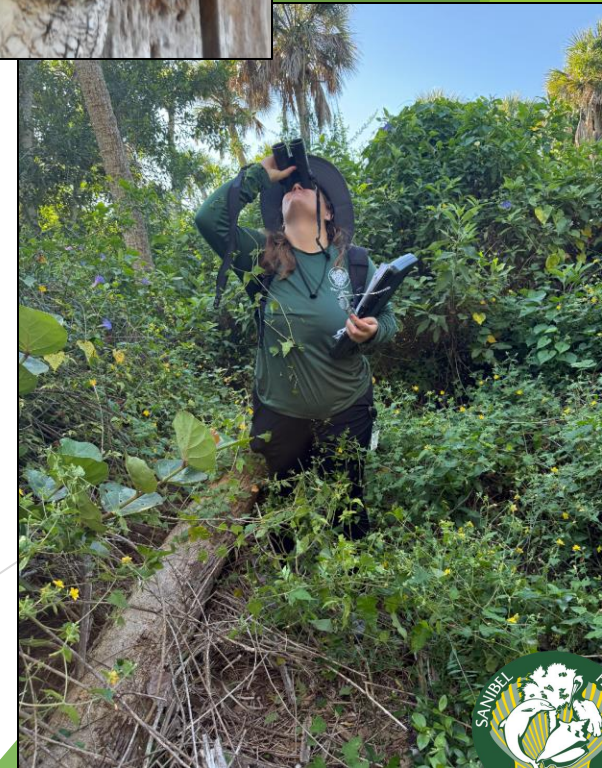
Photo Credit: FWC



City Staff Striped Skunk Sighting - Dec 2024

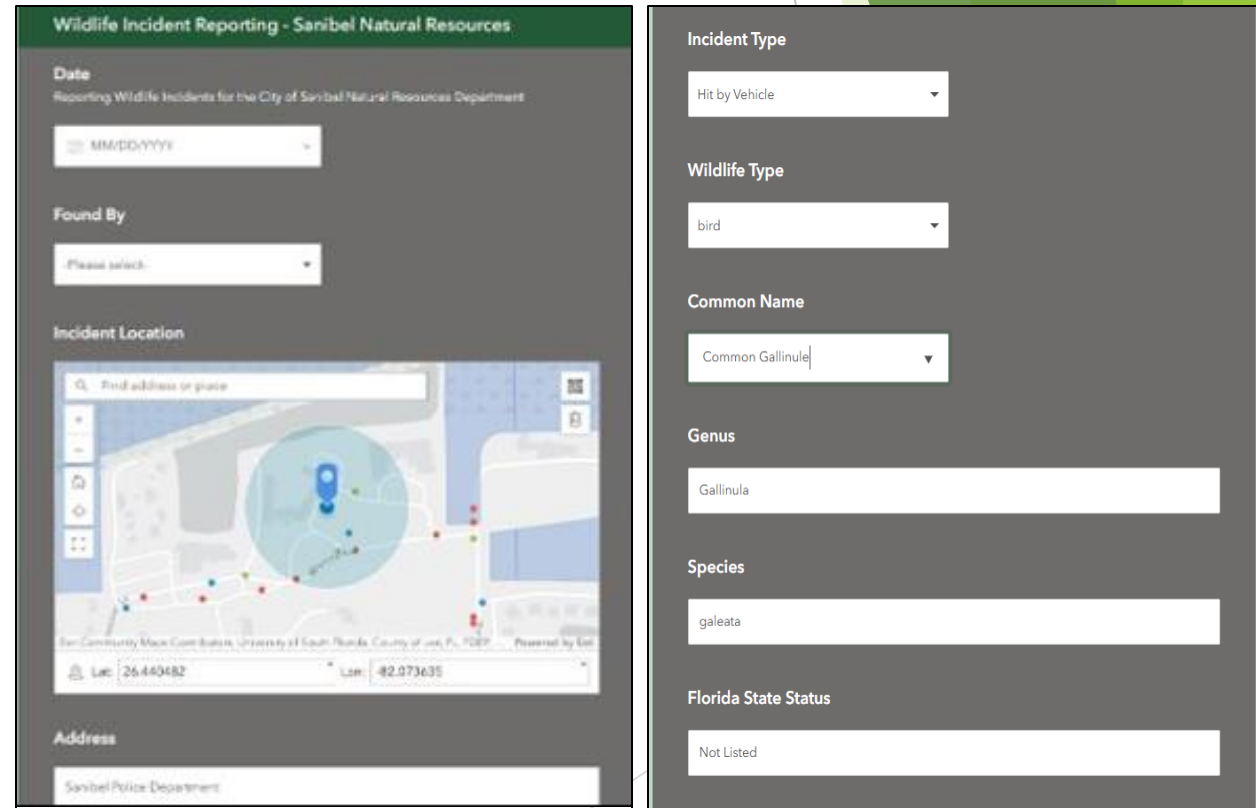


Florida Softshell Turtle - Post Hurricane Ian



Wildlife Mortality Report Surveying Tool & Dashboard

- ▶ As of October 2025, the WMR data points were fully integrated into ESRI Survey123, a GIS-enabled platform created by the locally owned Hammerhead Technology firm.
- ▶ The platform is designed to make data collection simple and intuitive, especially for field workers, and integrates the collected data with the rest of the City's preexisting license with ArcGIS.
 - ▶ Public dashboard can be generated to communicate the data with clear visual displays in an open, user-friendly format.



Wildlife Incident Reporting - Sanibel Natural Resources

Date
Reporting Wildlife Incidents for the City of Sanibel Natural Resources Department
MM/DD/YYYY

Found By
Please select

Incident Location
Find address or place
Sanibel Community Map Contributors, University of South Florida, County of Lee, FL, 33957
Powered by ESRI
Lat: 26.440482 Lon: -82.073635

Address
Sanibel Police Department

Incident Type
Hit by Vehicle

Wildlife Type
bird

Common Name
Common Gallinule

Genus
Gallinula

Species
galeata

Florida State Status
Not Listed



Questions?

Demonstration of Survey123 Application

