



## **SV WILDLIFE UPDATE:**

**At the beginning of February, Mark Pavlosky Jr. of MPJ Wildlife Consulting, LLC resumed monitoring the wildlife around Stable View. Mark inspected red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) cavities, checked nesting boxes of bluebirds and screech owls, and surveyed for any nuisance wildlife.**

**RWC cavities were inspected and any debris removed. In doing so, Mark logged that flying squirrels seem to find RWC cavities as suitable homes. In his report, Mark continued, “at least one cavity in each cluster was occupied by flying squirrels. A total of twelve flying squirrels were removed and dispatched.” Hurricane Helene may have also negatively impacted RWC cavities and Mark continued “pre-breeding season group composition surveys are required to determine the total population size.” More monitoring will be conducted in the future.**

**Bluebird and screech owl nesting boxes were also inspected. This maintenance includes cleaning boxes, replacing bedding, repairing damaged boxes, removing any obstructing limbs/ branches of trees, and relocating any flying squirrels. Mark noted an increase in male bluebird**

**calls as they established their territories. He also found two American Kestrels hunting on the cross-country course, 150 yards away from the nearest nesting box.**

**Mark was requested to investigate and also look for any possible nuisance wildlife on Stable View's property. Currently, there is no evidence of wild hog activity. Drainages were observed for signs of rooting, rubbing posts, scat, or tracks, but nothing was found.**

**Going forward, the RCW and bluebird surveys will continue to be conducted to determine population size. Bluebird and Kestrel populations are predicted to increase as nesting will start next month and weekly nesting box monitoring will begin early to mid-March.**