

IV. Journalism and Writing

The Birds and the Bees: Communicating/Recording Urban Wildlife Differently

The city is a space that is in constant conversation with nature. To most of us, this conversation is invisible. When we think of the city, we are not thinking of its animals or its trees. The term wildlife refers to all those large beings that inhabit the forest. What happens to this term when we place it within the city? When we force ourselves to look at animals within our every day?

This course will equip the student to write about urban wildlife in a city. We will look at dogs, insects, birds, cows, and identify the gap between experience and writing. Does the presence of cows in one part of the city signify something? Do fruit flies only live in specific areas? In the process of looking at wildlife, can we uncover a new way of looking at the urban?

Tasks will involve conversation with scientists and environmentalists; going on walks around the city to document wildlife. Students will take videos/pictures/audio recordings to document the wildlife they find, and use the course as a means of understanding design and science communication.