### Mid-October: Spot Wildlife along the Nayfield Trail







### 1. Black Walnut (Juglans nigra)



On the ground in the parking lot are round objects with soft black coverings. Inside are the ribbed very hard shells of the Black Walnut. These nuts will be eaten by **Mice and Voles**, among others. **Squirrels** unknowingly aid in the spread of Black Walnut trees when they hide some nuts for later use, but then sometimes leave them buried.



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#### 2. Blackhaw Viburnum (Viburnum prunifolium)



The large blue fruits hanging in clusters from the branches on this shrub provide food for many animals. Chipmunks, Squirrels and many bird species, including Hermit Thrush, Cardinals, Bluebirds and Whitethroated Sparrows, are among those that eat the fruit.















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## 3. Shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*)

As you find nuts on the ground along the trail, look around for the trees with the very shaggy bark. **Eastern Chipmunks**, **Foxes , Raccoons, and Rabbits** all eat Hickory nuts. **Squirrels** may bury some of the nuts rather than eating them right away. Wild Turkeys, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, and **Blue Jays** are among the birds that consume this tasty species of hickory nut.



















# 4. American beech tree (Fagus grandioflora)





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Thin, smooth light gray bark on mature trees is a unique characteristic of the beech tree. It is able to sprout new seedlings from its roots, and a dense thicket may form. The animals that feed on the nuts that grow on this tree are: Opossums, White-tailed Deer, Rabbits, Ruffed Grouse, Gray Squirrels, and others.











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### 5. Red oak (Quercus rubra)

Acorns are one of the most valuable food resources. available for wildlife. Acorns can compose more than 75 percent of a White-tailed Deer's diet in late fall and early winter. Other wildlife for whom acorns are an important food source are Squirrels, Chipmunks, Wild Turkeys, Crows, Rabbits, Opossums, Bluejays, Quail, Raccoons and Flying Squirrels.



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# 6. Spicebush (Lindera benzoin)



A very few berries now remain on these female spice bush shrubs that were recently laden with red berries. The berries on this native shrub are extremely large and contain many nutrients important for many migrating birds such as the Magnolia Warbler.



Bhwp image database



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Sources: Plant photos: Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center and as noted