



Urban Wildlife News

The Newsletter of the Urban Wildlife Working Group
of The Wildlife Society

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Editors: Lowell Adams and Jennifer Cotting

A Word from the Chair

John Hadidian

It gives me great pleasure to let my first formal communication with the membership of the Urban Wildlife Working Group begin with a note of thanks and appreciation to those individuals who have worked to strengthen and keep this group going these past few years. Behind the scenes, Tom Franklin, Dan Leedy, and Vagn Flyger have been major contributors, not only to the concept of what the group was about, but to the practical and necessary steps that had to be taken to keep it going. Mark Wallace, Bob Bruleigh, Clark Adams, Bill Shaw, Lisa Harris, Lori Thiele, Laurie Dohm (now Laurie Dohm Brown), John Herron, Seth Riley, Larry VanDruff, Charlie Nilon, Kate Stenberg, and others have contributed through work on committees, as board members, or through keeping group activities moving in a positive direction.

None of this would have ever been possible had not Lowell Adams been willing to take on the formidable challenge of chairing and guiding the group's movement through some very shallow and precarious shoals. We all owe Lowell a debt of gratitude for his leadership at a time when we needed to be led. It is our job to strengthen and improve and make better what we now have, and I would like to challenge all members of this working group to become active and full participants in its activities. The current mem-

bership must define what our agenda will be for the coming years, making our task between now and the annual meeting in 2003 to chart a course that brings this group fully on board as one of TWS's most active and productive working groups.

I would like to be able to hand Kate Stenberg, our incoming chair, that agenda, but I will need a lot of help from the membership to be able to do that. I hope we can use and benefit from the listserv that Mark Wallace oversees, URBWLF. If you do not currently subscribe to this listserv, please consider doing so. Mark also maintains our web site, <http://www.rw.ttu.edu/urbwlf/>, which I hope we all will make more use of.

I look forward to a tremendous two years. We are off to a great start with a series of conference events, as enumerated here. If we can strengthen the publications and outreach functions of the group, we will become better. I think we can, and I hope you will join me in making this possible.

Notes from Reno

Nearly twenty members of the Urban Wildlife Working Group (UWWG) were present at the annual meeting held September 27, 2001 as a part of The Wildlife Society 8th Annual Conference in Reno, Nevada. Lowell Adams, then Chair, reported that current UWWG membership was approximately 120 individuals.

Newly elected UWWG officers were installed at the Reno meeting as well. Members had a strong group of candidates to choose from in the working group elections.

The new officers are as follows:
John Hadidian – Chair
Kate Stenberg – Chair-Elect
Kelly Bender – Secretary-Treasurer

The new Board Members are: Clint Boal, Laurie Dohm Brown, Lisa Harris, Craig Johnson, Seth Riley, and Bill Shaw.

Unfinished business discussed in Reno included: a report on UWWG participation in the May 2001 Urban Wildlife Symposium held by the Arbor Day Foundation in Nebraska City; the upcoming (Dec 2003) 3rd International Wildlife Management Congress in Christ Church, New Zealand; the 2003 meeting of the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Winston-Salem, North Carolina; and the Defenders of Wildlife Carnivores 2002 meeting.

The “Plants for Wildlife and Landscaping” project that several UWWG members have been working on is moving along. The material has been divided into regional areas (Southeast, Northeast, Southwest, Northwest). Details regarding the best distribution method to reach audiences outside the wildlife community are still being discussed.

UWWG members Lowell Adams and Larry VanDruff, along with Maciej Luniak of the Polish Academy of Sciences, are preparing an urban wildlife chapter for the 6th edition of *The Wildlife Techniques Manual*. To share feedback on the last

edition, contact Lowell Adams at la3@umail.umd.edu.

The Wildlife Society 9th Annual Conference



Mark your calendars if you haven't already, **The 9th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society will be held in Bismarck, North Dakota September 24-28, 2002**. The more than 30 symposia, workshops, contributed papers, and poster sessions will address this year's conference theme: “Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship through Science and Education.” Information on The 9th Annual Conference is available at www.wildlife.org.

On Tuesday, September 24th, the UWWG will offer the workshop “**Media Self-Defense: Skills and Strategies for Wildlife Professionals**” in conjunction with the Environmental Leadership Program. This workshop was suggested at the UWWG annual meeting in Reno as a way to provide wildlife professionals with the communications tools necessary for successful interactions with members of the media.


During the morning session, professional media consultant and former investigative reporter for the *Miami Herald*, Clarence Jones will discuss the skills and strategies wildlife professionals need to deal with the media successfully. Participants will have the opportunity to polish their skills during the afternoon session with on-camera exercises and peer critiques.


This workshop is free and full-day participants will receive Jones' book *Winning with the News Media: A Self-Defense Manual When You're the Story*. For more information on workshop content, contact

John Perrine at per-rine@nature.berkeley.edu. For registration information contact Lisa Moll at lisa@wildlife.org.

The UWWG annual meeting will be held on Thursday, September 26, 2002 from 12 noon to 2pm in the Heart Room at the Radisson Inn, Bismarck.


Upcoming and of Interest

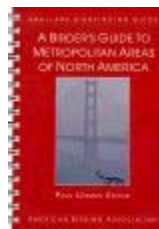
 Seth Riley will be chairing a session on urban carnivores at the upcoming **Carnivores 2002** conference being organized by Defenders of Wildlife for November 17-20 in Monterey, California. The session will feature ten presentations in two sessions that will cover an entire morning. As currently scheduled, this will include talks on urban coyotes, raccoons, bear, fox, bobcats, raptors, and kit foxes. Also included will be talks on attitudes, as well as on relationships between such species as fishers, cats, and coyotes. Further information is available and will be forthcoming on the website www.defenders.org/carnivores2002/.

 The UWWG will sponsor “**Trouble in the City: Human/Wildlife Conflicts in Urban and Suburban North America**” as a special session of the **68th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference**. The conference is scheduled for the last week of March 2003 and will be held in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

The session, co-chaired by Craig Miller of the Illinois Natural History Survey and Jeff Duguay of Stephen F. Austin State University, will aim to increase understanding

of the causes, consequences, and potential solutions to the escalating problem of wildlife/human conflicts in urban North America. For more information contact Craig (Ph: 217-333-7485, e-mail: craigm@inhs.uiuc.edu).

 The National Arbor Day Foundation will offer the **2003 Urban Wildlife Management National Conference** May 5-7, 2003 at Arbor Day Farm in Nebraska City, Nebraska. The conference is presented in cooperation with the UWWG as well as The Humane Society of the United States and the Habitat Restoration Branch of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. There is currently a call for presentations with proposals due by August 15, 2002. For more information on the conference or submitting a proposal, contact The National Arbor Day Foundation by phone at 402-474-5655 or by email at conferences@arborday.org.



New In Print

A Birder's Guide to Metropolitan Areas is the latest publication in the American Birding Association's (ABA) guide series. The book recommends prime birding sites, complete with maps and directions, for more than 30 major North American cities. Each chapter is written by local birding experts, and the book is edited by former *Birding* magazine editor Paul Lehman. The book is available through ABA's web site. For more information or to purchase this book, contact ABA at 800-634-7736 or visit their web site at www.americanbirding.org.

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Gray fox by Bob Hines

Urban Wildlife News Survey

Now that *Urban Wildlife News* is up and running, we would like to know about the most efficient way to get the information to you. Included with this newsletter is a brief query in this regard. Please take a moment to respond so we can best meet your needs.