



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

Seth Riley

Hello Urban Wildlife Working Group Members. This is my last chair's message to you all; it has been a fast two years! First of all, be on the lookout for two things coming up. One is the installation of David Drake as the new chair of the working group in September. I have worked a lot with David in the last two years, and I am excited about his upcoming tenure as chair and about continuing to work with him over that time. Also, look soon for a ballot for this year's elections for working group officers. We will be electing a new chair-elect, as well as a secretary-treasurer and six board members. Be sure to mark your ballots and send them in!

I hope many of you are planning to come to the annual meeting in Tucson this year. As I mentioned in the winter newsletter and as is detailed elsewhere here, on Saturday we have another workshop on urban wildlife in the local area, in this case about Tucson as a laboratory for research on urban wildlife. I hope you will plan to attend. The Anchorage workshop was very interesting and valuable as well as just a fun day, and I am excited about the lineup and schedule in Tucson. Also, I hope you will plan to come to the annual working group meeting on Monday at noon. We are planning to have lunch this time, so that should help folks get through the midday meeting.

As part of the Wildlife Management and Development Special Committee, David Drake and Mark Hostetler are close to completing a draft of a paper evaluating and critiquing conservation subdivisions. This draft will go out to the rest of the committee, and will then be submitted for publication. This is an excellent opportunity to address how developments are, or are not, being built with wildlife conservation and coexistence in mind. I believe that working proactively with developers and policy-makers involved with development is a way that we, as urban wildlife professionals and as a working group, can potentially make a profound difference for wildlife in urban areas. We are also planning to propose a workshop or symposium on urban wildlife-friendly development for the 2008 TWS annual meeting in Miami. If you're interested in finding out more about this area and our efforts, please contact Mark Hostetler (contact information at the end of the newsletter).

We have also had some exciting developments in the area of sponsoring an urban wildlife-focused conference. Stephen DeStefano, chair of the special committee addressing this issue, has had some good conversations with folks at the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife). Rob Deblinger, Deputy Director, has agreed to serve as co-chair of the organizational committee along with Steve. MassWildlife is very interested in the possibility of an urban wildlife conference in the northeast, and would like to assist the

working group in organizing this effort. We are currently thinking of a meeting in the spring of 2009, likely in Providence, R.I., which is a good meeting place and apparently much more cost-effective and easy to organize than Boston. It sounds like we may also be able to enlist the state wildlife departments in Connecticut and Rhode Island to assist with the conference as well. I think it is an opportune time for a meeting in the northeast; there are certainly plenty of urban areas and urban wildlife issues there. Perhaps with an east coast venue we can also encourage participation from international urban wildlife scientists and managers from cities in Canada and Europe. We are thinking of 2009 in part because the spring of 2008 is less than a year away now and is probably too soon. We are also talking with the Arbor Day Foundation, which has sponsored urban wildlife management conferences every other year since 2001, about working together to organize the conference.

Thank you very much Steve for pushing ahead with the idea, for making these contacts, and for your willingness to help organize the meeting. Other folks with the working group will certainly be involved. I plan to assist significantly with the meeting myself, particularly since I will no longer have working group chair responsibilities.

Once again, remember to look for your ballot soon!

Thank you for allowing me to serve the working group these past two years, and for all that you do for urban wildlife.

--Seth

Fall Elections

Election of officers and board of the working group will take place soon, and winners will be installed at the annual meeting of the working group in September 2007. The working group charter calls for a slate of candidates proposed by the Nominating and Elections Committee to be circulated to working group members before the election (which will be by mail ballot in accordance with the charter). The charter calls for two candidates to run for each of the elective positions. At this point, we have two candidates for Chair-Elect, one for Secretary-Treasurer, and six agreeing to run for the six board positions. If you know of someone willing to serve as an officer or board member (and who has agreed to be a candidate), please consider nominating the individual. To submit the name of an additional candidate you need the signed support of six or more members of the working group. Please review (and save) this slate of candidates and look for an official ballot from the Nominating and Elections Committee soon. Please direct any questions or comments to committee chair Allan O'Connell at aoconnell@usgs.gov.

The Nominating and Elections Committee offers this proposed slate of candidates:

Chair-Elect (will vote for one)

Kieran Lindsey
Chris Moorman

Secretary – Treasurer (will vote for one)

Harry Zinn

Board Members (will vote for six)

John Davis
Stephen DeStefano
Stanley Gehrt
Lesley Kordella
Allan O'Connell
Mark Wallace

Brief resumes of candidates, listed in alphabetical order, are found below.

John Davis

John Davis is one of eight Urban Biologists working for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. From 1994 to the present, he's been stationed in the Dallas / Ft. Worth area. In 1991 John received his Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Sam Houston State University. He received his Master of Science degree in Biology from the University of Texas at Arlington in 1993. He later received a Master of City and Regional Planning from the University of Texas at Arlington in 2006. Research has shown that wildlife is of great importance to our society. Therefore, John partners with many entities to blend the needs of humans with the needs of wildlife. As an Urban Biologist, he works with municipal governments, parks departments, corporations, developers, schools, homeowner's associations, etc. to improve wildlife habitats and maintain biodiversity within our urban areas.

Stephen DeStefano

Stephen DeStefano received B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees in wildlife ecology from the Universities of Massachusetts, Wisconsin, and Idaho, respectively. He was a research associate with the USGS Oregon Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit and Assistant Unit Leader with the Arizona Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. Currently he is Unit Leader and Adjunct Professor with the Massachusetts Unit at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Steve's primary research interests are in suburban wildlife ecology and human-wildlife interactions. Among his urban-related research, he studied the distribution and habitat use of greater roadrunners in Tucson, Arizona, survival and movements of white-tailed deer in suburban and rural Massachusetts, the demography and

movements of beavers along a suburban-rural gradient in Massachusetts, and has collaborated with human dimensions specialists on studies of human-wildlife interactions in suburban environments. He also developed and taught a seminar course in suburban wildlife ecology. Steve has been a member of The Wildlife Society since 1978 and is a member of the TWS Urban Wildlife Working Group.

Stanley Gehrt

Stan Gehrt is currently Assistant Professor and Extension Wildlife Specialist at The Ohio State University, and adjunct Senior Scientist at the Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation. Prior to his current position, he was Director of Research at the Foundation where he focused on urban wildlife research in the Chicago area. His research has focused on various aspects of mammalian ecology, including long-term projects on urban raccoons, coyotes, and skunks, and he has published multiple papers on carnivore and bat ecology in urban areas. Stan was raised in Kansas (not an urban area), where he developed a fascination for wildlife, and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Bethany College (Lindsborg, Kansas), and Master of Science degree in Biology from Emporia State University (Emporia, Kansas). He ventured from Kansas and received a PhD in Fisheries and Wildlife from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Stan is also an active member of The Wildlife Society since 1989, having served on committees at every level.

Lesley Kordella

Lesley Kordella received her B.S. in Biology from George Mason University and her Master of Natural Resources from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Lesley is the Ecological Restoration Program Manager for the Wildlife Habitat Council, based in Silver Spring, Maryland.

She manages the Council's Land Restoration Program. For the past three years Lesley has also managed the Wildlife Habitat Council's Backyard Conservation Program, and provided consulting expertise to businesses nationally on how to improve their lands for wildlife and environmental education. She has also worked for the Smithsonian's National Zoological Park in Washington, D.C. and Front Royal, Virginia. Lesley presently participates as an active member and instructor for the Interstate Technology Regulatory Council's Ecological Land Reuse Team, which focuses on the ecological restoration of contaminated lands. She is completing her Masters of Urban and Regional Planning at Virginia Tech. Lesley was born in Washington, D.C., and grew up in Loudoun County, Virginia.

Kieran Lindsey

Kieran Lindsey was first introduced to the concept of urban wildlife in 1997 when she accepted a job as Executive Director at a non-profit wildlife center in Houston, Texas, and she took to it like Canada geese to golf courses. During her tenure as E.D., the center operated a wildlife hotline that handled over 20,000 queries annually on every imaginable urban wildlife topic, offered public educational and interpretive programs, and served as a rehabilitation drop-off and triage clinic. Kieran expanded the organization's educational outreach efforts with a regular column on urban wildlife issues for the *Houston Chronicle* newspaper. In 1998 she received a regional "Emmy" award from the National Academy of Television Arts and Science as the producer of a feature about the center that aired on Houston Public Television. Kieran moved to Albuquerque in 1999, started a private consulting business there, and served as executive producer and host of *Wild Things Radio* at KUNM-FM. From 2002-2007 Kieran pursued graduate degrees in wildlife biology at

Texas A&M University; her dissertation work was an examination of privatization and regulatory oversight of urban nuisance wildlife control in the United States. Kieran co-authored, along with Clark Adams and Sara Ash, *Urban Wildlife Management*. The textbook, published in 2006, was selected for inclusion in *CHOICE* Magazine's annual Outstanding Academic Title list and was chosen as the 2006 Outstanding Book by the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Kieran recently accepted a position as Visiting Assistant Professor in the Natural Resources Program at Virginia Tech.

Chris Moorman

Chris Moorman is currently an Associate Professor and Extension Wildlife Specialist at North Carolina State University. His responsibilities as an Extension Wildlife Specialist include working with professionals and private landowners interested in the effects of rural and urban land management practices on wildlife. In urban settings, Chris works with homeowners, landscape architects, gardeners, land use planners, and county extension agents to advise them on ways to conserve wildlife. He also advises wildlife damage control agents and others on controlling wildlife damage in urban environments. He has taught Urban Wildlife Management at NC State since 2002 and advises or co-advise numerous graduate students with research focus on a variety of topics, including: 1) the value of suburban greenways as wildlife habitat; 2) Canada Goose ecology and management in urban landscapes; 3) effects of timber harvest on birds and other wildlife; 4) effects of prescribed fire on reptiles and amphibians; and 5) design of Farm Bill programs (e.g., CRP, WHIP) to yield the greatest benefit to quail, songbirds, and other wildlife. As the human population expands in the US and globally and rural lands rapidly are converted to urban uses, TWS and

the wildlife profession must place increasing emphasis on wildlife conservation in urban landscapes. These conservation efforts will require creative partnerships between wildlife ecologists and a diversity of other stakeholders, including the general public. Chris sees the Urban Wildlife Working Group as a conduit for wildlife professionals with an interest in urban wildlife to share technical expertise, develop regional, national, and international collaboration, and advocate for more focus on urban wildlife issues within TWS. He believes that it is important for the Working Group to grow its membership, increase participation by current members, provide technical expertise to TWS, and spearhead new projects related to urban wildlife. The Working Group should encourage greater visibility of urban wildlife issues within TWS technical and lay publications and promote new opportunities to train students and professionals about urban wildlife conservation.

Allan O'Connell

Allan O'Connell is a research biologist at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Laurel, Maryland. He earned his Ph.D. in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Massachusetts and has directed natural resource management and science programs for the National Park Service and U.S. Geological Survey in New York and Maine. At the graduate level, he has taught courses in Natural Resource Policy on Federal Lands and "Ecology and Management of Exotic Species." Born and raised in New York City, he has an intimate knowledge of urban conservation needs and issues as they relate to wildlife ecology and management. He has worked on a variety of wildlife issues with implications for the urban environment including beaver population damage control and disease transmission, endangered species protection in the coastal zone, wildlife disease vectors and public

health, white-tailed deer ecology, predator-prey interactions, the effects of habitat fragmentation on forest birds, biodiversity assessments using natural history collections, and currently is studying the population dynamics of isolated raccoon populations and their influence on endangered prey. He believes that the two most important issues with respect to urban wildlife are 1) the need for the public to understand the importance and value of wildlife in the context of wildlife as an integral component of our changing landscapes, and 2) the importance of urban wildlife ecology to the wildlife profession as we move toward an ever increasing urban environment in the 21st century. He would welcome the opportunity to continue serving as a board member.

Mark Wallace

Mark Wallace obtained his B.S. at the University of Washington (1981), and his M.S. (1984) and Ph.D. (1991) in wildlife at the University of Arizona. He has been on the faculty at Texas Tech University (TTU) since 1996. His research focuses on animal-habitat relationships, particularly on the effects of human land use patterns on wildlife and habitats. While at TTU he has worked on modeling elk populations in New Mexico, studying the effects of red imported fire ants on white-tailed deer, prairie dogs in fragmented habitats, urban burrowing owls, and swift fox ecology and the effects of landscape changes on wild turkey population dynamics. Mark is a member of The Wildlife Society and a charter member of the TWS Urban Wildlife Working Group. He welcomes the opportunity to support the Urban Wildlife Working Group by serving as a board member.

Harry Zinn

Harry Zinn received his Ph.D. in Human Dimensions of Natural Resources (Department of Natural Resource Recreation and

Tourism) from Colorado State University and his M.S. in Forest Management from the University of Maine. He is currently an Associate Professor of Recreation, Park and Tourism Management at Penn State University. Harry's primary research focus is investigating changing human responses to wildlife and the environment, including public responses to issues in managing wildlife and protected lands and waters, as well as participation patterns in wildlife- and nature-dependent recreation and tourism. His urban-related research includes studying public responses to cougars, coyotes, beaver, and prairie dogs in urban areas of Colorado, and studying visitor responses to feral horses and domestic dogs in an urban-interface estuarine reserve in North Carolina. Harry has been a member of The Wildlife Society since 1995. Since joining the TWS Urban Wildlife Working Group in 2002, he has been a steering committee member for the TWS Urban Wildlife Workshops, and he led this committee in 2005. He welcomes the opportunity to increase his support for the Urban Wildlife Working Group by serving as Secretary-Treasurer for another term.

-- Submitted by the
Nominating and Elections Committee:
Allan O'Connell, chair

Urban Wildlife Activities in Tucson

The working group is sponsoring or co-sponsoring two events for members at The Wildlife Society's 2007 Annual Conference in Tucson, Arizona. On Saturday, September 22, an all-day workshop "**Tucson, Arizona: Laboratory for Urban Wildlife Research**" will be conducted. An indoor morning session will be followed by afternoon field trips designed to reinforce material covered in the morning session. Presenters

include William W. Shaw, University of Arizona, *An Overview of 2 Decades of Urban Wildlife Work in Tucson*; Carolyn Campbell, Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection, *The Role of Non-Governmental Organization in Promoting Urban Wildlife Conservation*; Bill Arnold, William G. Arnold, Limited (Land Realtor), *Challenges and Lesson in Urban Wildlife Conservation from the Perspective of a Housing Developer*; Sherry Ruther, Pima County Government, *The Role of the County Government in Promoting Wildlife Conservation Planning*; E. Linwood Smith, EPG, Inc., *Contributions from Environmental Consultants*; Allysa Ostergaard, Arizona Game and Fish Department, *Urban Wildlife Perspectives from the State Wildlife Agency*; Sherry Barrett, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, *The Perspective of the Federal Agency Responsible for Enforcing Federal Laws Including the Endangered Species Act*; R. William Mannan, University of Arizona, *Contributions of Academia to Tucson's Urban Wildlife activities*; and Lisa K. Harris, Harris Environmental Group, Inc., *Summary*. Advance registration (\$65 regular, \$50 student) is required by August 24 in addition to the conference registration fee.

On Monday, September 24, the working group will hold its annual meeting from 12:15 – 2:15 p.m. (lunch provided). Your active participation is needed to continue the work of the group. Please attend if at all possible.

For more details, including registration, go to The Wildlife Society's web site (www.wildlife.org).

Coyote Workshop – National Wildlife Visitor's Center

Two workshops on urban coyotes were held on April 21, 2007 at the National Wildlife Visitor's Center in Laurel, Maryland un-

der the sponsorship of the U.S. Geological Survey's Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, The Humane Society of the United States, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's Patuxent Research Refuge. The sessions featured prominent coyote researchers, Drs. Seth Riley of the U.S. National Park Service and Stanley Gehrt of The Ohio State University. The DC metropolitan area may be one of, if not the, last place in the eastern U.S. to be colonized by coyotes in an eastward expansion that has been monitored by wildlife professionals for many decades now. Coyotes will represent an apical predator for most urban areas, and how they and people adjust to one another is an issue of some importance to urban

biologists. Drs. Riley and Gehrt drew on research from the west coast and mid-west, respectively, to present findings from comprehensive, multi-year studies that have elucidated many previously unknown aspects of urban coyote behavior and ecology. The public sessions were intended to provide a sound informational base to anyone interested in urban coyotes. Human-coyote conflicts will be an issue of continuing and probably growing concern for some time now that range expansion seems complete. Public education sessions such as this might help address concerns before they rise to the point of controversy.

--John Hadidian

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