



Urban Wildlife News

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

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A Word from the Chair

Chris Moorman

Cross-disciplinary Efforts Required to Conserve the Blank Spots on the Map

In his book, *Last Child in the Woods*, Richard Louv coined the term nature-deficit disorder and attributed childhood obesity, attention deficit disorders, and depression in part to lack of time spent exploring the outdoor environment. Outdoor play facilitates physical activity and helps children sharpen their senses and develop creativity. On the other hand, indoor play typically limits both exercise and the use of imagination. Because today's indoor generation spends less time in nature, there is a growing fear that conservation programs will lose public support when today's generation of children joins the voting public. In *A Sand County Almanac*, Aldo Leopold wrote,

“Man always kills the thing he loves, and so we the pioneers have killed our wilderness. Some say we had to. Be that as it may, I am glad I shall never be young without wild country to be young in. Of what avail are forty freedoms without a blank spot on the map?”

Although, as Leopold noted, society tends to destroy what it loves, I worry more that future generations with almost no connection to (or love for) the land will prove even more prone to destroying natural areas.

Urban landscapes rarely are designed to include natural areas for children to explore.

Therefore, children in cities have few opportunities to develop a connection with the land or develop a fondness for plants and animals. On the contrary, my childhood home in South Georgia made appreciation for nature unavoidable. My family's backyard at the edge of town was a sand ridge with longleaf pine, encroaching turkey oaks, and gopher tortoise burrows. Some of the burrows still were active, and we even had a tortoise that burrowed under the foundation of our home. The time I spent unsupervised while exploring the woods, trying to feed the poor tortoise with lettuce, and searching for other critters no doubt shaped my passion for wild places. Today, that passion has evolved into a career focused on conservation.

As urban wildlife professionals, we most often focus on the ecological value of the animals, plants, or green spaces we seek to conserve. More importantly, however, we have the chance to protect those small blank spots in the built environment so that tomorrow's youth will have a place to form their own connections with nature. To be successful, efforts to conserve places for children to experience nature in urbanizing landscapes must be collaborative and cross-disciplinary. Partnerships among biologists, environmental educators, land-use planners, and landscape architects are essential if an occasional nature park is to prevail over another soccer field or baseball diamond in community planning. As a working group, we can facilitate these cross-disciplinary collaborations at annual meet-

ings and conferences, but it will be up to each of you to develop the grassroots collaborations necessary to protect the blank spots, no matter how small or isolated, in each and every community.

--Chris

October Symposium and Workshop

The Wildlife Society has accepted our proposed session on **Urban Wildlife Management: Present and Future** for its 2010 Annual Conference. There is a growing worldwide interest in integrating nature into human inhabited areas. Conservation development, greenway expansion efforts, native planting programs, backyard conservation programs, and efforts to improve utilization of nature in education programs (e.g., no child left inside) provide examples of this phenomenon. Urban wildlife plays a prominent role in most of these emerging initiatives. This symposium provides an opportunity for students, educators, researchers, biologists, urban planners, and land developers to participate in an interdisciplinary dialogue about the benefits, challenges, and future opportunities associated with using urban wildlife management as a nexus between people and nature. Presentations in this session include: *What is "urban wildlife" anyway?* (Bob McCleery, Western Illinois University); *A brief history of urban wildlife ecology and management* (Lowell Adams, University of Maryland); *What have the LTER's taught us about urban wildlife management?* (Charlie Nilon, University of Missouri); *Building a successful urban wildlife program* (John Davis, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and Kirsten Leong, National Park Service); *Animal welfare and urban wildlife management* (John Hadidian, Humane Society of the United States); *Urban wildlife management in Los Angeles* (Seth Riley,

National Park Service); *Urban carnivore management* (Stan Gehrt, Ohio State University); *Urban wildlife management on the beach* (Luanne Johnson, Antioch University New England); *Suburban interactions between humans and wildlife* (Steve DeStefano, University of Massachusetts); and *The suburbanite's land ethic* (David Drake, University of Wisconsin, and Mark Hostetler, University of Florida). The symposium is being organized by Nils Peterson and Chris Moorman of North Carolina State University, Luanne Johnson of Antioch University, and David Drake of the University of Wisconsin. For further information, please contact Nils Peterson (phone: 919-515-7588, e-mail: nils.peterson@ncsu.edu)

Our all-day workshop, **Salt Lake City: Wildlife Conservation in an Urbanizing Environment**, also was accepted for the annual conference and will be held on Saturday, October 2. Organized by David Drake, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Nicki Frey, Utah State University, and Chris Moorman, North Carolina State University, the workshop focuses on the urban wildlife management challenges unique to Salt Lake City, Utah. All activities will be held in the field with presenters at various stops. Tentative stops include: 1) Silver Lake Nature Preserve, which overlooks Salt Lake City and provides an excellent vantage point to see the sprawl around the city; 2) Salt Lake City Airport, which is embedded in a suburban environment; and 3) Kennecott and Butterfield Canyons, where we will learn about cougar research in the urban/wildland interface, and post open pit copper mine housing development. Each stop and associated presentation is designed so that participants can see conservation in an urban environment first hand. Participants will be encouraged to interact with presenters via discussions at stops. The workshop will provide opportunities for

participants to compare notes about urban wildlife management practices in different locales. At the end of the day, a wrap-up discussion will identify relevant points and concepts. Cost of the workshop is \$40 for students and \$60 for others, which includes transportation. For further information, please see the program announcement on The Wildlife Society's conference website (www.wildlifesociety.org) or contact David (608-890-0445; ddrake2@wisc.edu) or Chris (919-515-5578; chris_moorman@ncsu.edu).



Urban Wildlife Management and Planning Conference

Austin, Texas 2011

Save the Date - May 21-25, 2011

This conference focuses on the challenges and consequences for wildlife when humans are the architects of the ecology of urban environments, as well as the impact of wildlife on humans in urban settings. Conference proceedings result from the contributions of national and international participants in wildlife management, research, and education, as well as urban planning and architectural design. Participants provide contemporary research, design, and management practices targeting urban ecosystems. Sessions include ecological and economic value in urban design; planning for the inclusion or exclusion of

urban wildlife; challenges in urban wildlife management, research, and education; urban ecosystem research; and implementation of innovative strategies for co-existing with wildlife in urban settings. The conference provides a diversified and well-balanced exchange of ideas and information of significant benefit to the resource itself, as well as the entire community of stakeholders professionally involved with urban wildlife and its habitat. Conference organizers represent researchers, planners, and practitioners from state and federal agencies, universities, city/county governments, architects and urban planners, and private organizations. For more information, contact Diana Foss (diana.foss@tpwd.state.tx.us).

International Symposium on Sustainability Science

Leading international scientists, policy makers, and decision makers will convene in a forum to address the sustainability challenge at the **International Symposium on Sustainability Science: The Emerging Paradigm and the Urban Environment**.

The symposium will be held October 25-27, 2010, at Montclair State University, Montclair, New Jersey. Key topics will focus on emerging research and policy in sustainability science, the ecology of cities, landscape ecology, the valuation of natural and social capital, habitat and biodiversity conservation, social learning, ecosystem-based management, integrated watershed and coastal zone management, and related topics in resource exploitation and management. For further information, please see the symposium website (csam.montclair.edu/sustainabilitystudies/conferences) or contact Dr. Michael Weinstein (phone: 973-655-3037, weinsteinmi@mail.montclair.edu).

Shooting in Sensitive Environments Workshop

The Shooting in Sensitive Environments Workshop is the third of a series of workshops hosted by the School of Natural Resources, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The goal is to provide intensive training in accurate shooting to improve the safety and effectiveness of shooting in non-traditional shooting locations. Dr. Anthony DeNicola of White Buffalo Inc will be the lead instructor. He has vast experience in the effective use of firearms in wildlife damage management. Participants will experience high level training in ballistics, shot choice and placement, and overall firearm use suitable for wildlife damage management. The 2 ½ day workshop will be held in Lincoln, Nebraska, Tuesday-Thursday (August 3-5, 2010). Further details can be obtained at <http://icwdm.org> or by contacting Stephen Vantassel (svantassel2@unl.edu, phone: 402-472-8961). The workshop is sponsored by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln School of Natural Resources, the Wildlife Damage Management Working Group of The Wildlife Society, and the National Wildlife Control Operators Association.

Eurasian Collared Doves in Plumas County, California

We have been seeing Eurasian collared doves (*Streptopelia decaocto*) in Plumas County, California. The birds are most notable in the Quincy area at the rural edges of the city. The doves seem to be associated with cattle. At first, only a pair of the birds was seen. More recently, about six pairs or more have been showing up in the spring. This year, for the first time, we observed a pair 34 miles east of Quincy about 4 miles outside the little town of Portola. The collared doves were near some mourning doves (*Zenaida macroura*) that were

feeding at our bird feeder. The collared doves did not feed at the feeder. We observed the collared doves for about 4 days until we got some snow. We have not seen the birds since. This was the first sighting of Eurasian collared doves in the Portola area. It seems that the birds have been spreading in the county and surrounding area over the last 4-5 years. They have now been observed on the south side of Sierra Valley, near the town of Loyalton, at the very north end of Sierra County.

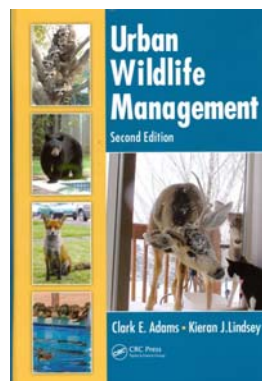
--Raymond Gipson
Portola, California

Other News

The Wildlife Society announces the availability of travel grants for TWS student members presenting a technical paper or poster at the Society's 17th Annual Conference in Snowbird, Utah, October 2-6, 2010. For further details, please see The Wildlife Society's conference website (www.wildlifesociety.org).

The Wildlife Society's online job board just got better. If you are looking for a job or are looking to hire, please check it out (<http://careers.wildlife.org>).

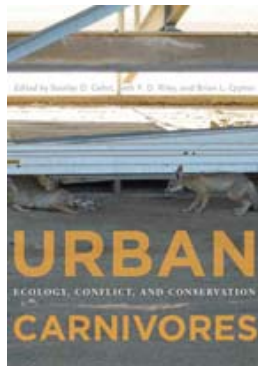
New In Print



Urban Wildlife Management, Second Edition, authored by Clark Adams and Kieran Lindsey, was published by CRC Press in 2009 (www.crcpress.com). It updates the original text with added contributions from an extended list of

leading wildlife specialists, contains new chapters on soils, waters, economic issues, and zoonotic diseases, and more perspective essays and case studies. The text includes "key concepts" at the beginning of each chapter and "suggested activities" following chapter conclusions. It presents case studies, perspective essays, and species accounts that reinforce concepts and provide real-world examples. The second edition discusses habitat conservation issues more in-depth than the first edition. A solutions manual is available with qualifying course adoption.

Urban Carnivores: Ecology, Conflict, and Conservation, edited by Stanley D. Gehrt, Seth P. D. Riley, and Brian L. Cypher, was published by Johns Hopkins University Press in 2010 (www.press.jhu.edu).



The volume brings together leading international carnivore researchers to explore the unique biological and ecological issues associated with mammalian carnivores in urban landscapes. The first section discusses the field of urban ecology and the many potential roles of carnivores in urban ecosystems, details the general behavior and ecology of this group of mammals, and addresses the human side of potential conflicts between people and carnivores in cities. The second section provides species accounts of the most common urban carnivores, including raccoons, coyotes, foxes, skunks, and mountain lions. A separate chapter examines the very specialized place of domesticated cats and dogs. The last section compares how various carnivore species fare in cities, looks at the utility of existing conservation and conflict management efforts, and suggests directions for further research and future management initiatives. The book includes an extensive bibliography.

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