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## Wildlife Conservation in Metropolitan Environments

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## REVIEWS

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**Wildlife Conservation in Metropolitan Environments.**—Lowell W. Adams and Daniel L. Leedy (editors), 1991. National Institute for Urban Wildlife, Columbia. ISBN 0-942015-03-7.—Have you ever wondered where an urban raccoon sleeps, or what effects urbanization has on the foraging strategy of woodpeckers? Are you engaged in planning urban conservation corridors, or trying to get the public to participate in urban wildlife management? In other words, are you interested in “urban wildlife,” the vigorous new field in wildlife management? If so, then this new book should be of interest to you. This 264-page soft-cover book is the proceedings of the National Symposium on Urban Wildlife held 11-14 November, 1990 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Obviously, any “proceedings” book is only as good as the symposium that spawned it. This seems to have been a pretty good one. The book is divided into seven chapters. The first one sets the stage by including opening remarks of the symposium, revealing why urban wildlife study is important in a changing world, and giving various perspectives about the urban wildlife challenge from such diverse groups as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and an Iowa energy company.

The main text includes chapters on Ecology of Urban Wildlife, Planning and Design, Management Issues and Successes, Public Participation and Education, and Poster Papers. One rather unique chapter deals entirely with Planning for Natural Areas in the Portland-Vancouver, Washington Metropolitan Region. Although few of the papers attempt to provide “how-to” information for the urban wildlife specialist, readers will find some useful specifics on materials and methods from the introductory sections of many papers.

Of particular interest for Floridians is a study dealing with the management of the Econlockhatchee River basin, one of the few intact, relatively unspoiled river systems in the state. The fact that the basin embraces part of the Orlando area, where so much development has taken place, makes this an even more unusual river system. The paper, presented by three University of Florida researchers, contains sections dealing with wildlife (including habitat and home-range requirements), the local-state-federal regulatory framework, resource issues and problems, and a river-preservation management plan. Anyone attempting to conserve a river system in an urban setting will find this work useful.

One of the latest planning strategies to come from urban wildlife is the urban conservation corridor, a somewhat smaller version of the conservation biologist’s wildlife corridor. While some of these smaller greenways seem to be planned solely for the aesthetic pleasure of humans, they also provide important habitat for the conservation of arthropods and small vertebrates. Several papers in this book deal with planning for urban conservation corridors, their protection and/or ecological restoration. Cross-sectional diagrams for corridors that follow riparian habitats are included, demonstrating relative widths of corridors and the use of buffers adjacent to the corridors. Here, the reader will gain interesting insight into the background of corridors and the reasoning behind their implementation in an urban setting.

Most of the work in *Wildlife Conservation in Metropolitan Environments* does not bear directly on urban conservation in Florida. In fact, there is very little relating specifically to the southeast. Nonetheless, academic libraries and urban-wildlife specialists will still find this book essential. Urban wildlife is a young field and this book should find an important place on the research shelf of institutions. Other interested individuals would also find this book a desirable addition to their personal libraries if it were not for the exorbitant price (\$27.00).—Walter W. Timmerman, Florida Park Service, 13798 S.E. Federal Highway, Hobe Sound, Florida 33455.