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Book Review: Urban Wildlife Management

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Book Reviews

Urban Wildlife Management

by Clark E. Adams, Karen J. Lindsey, and Sara J. Ash. CRC. Boca Raton, Florida, USA. 2006. 331 pages.

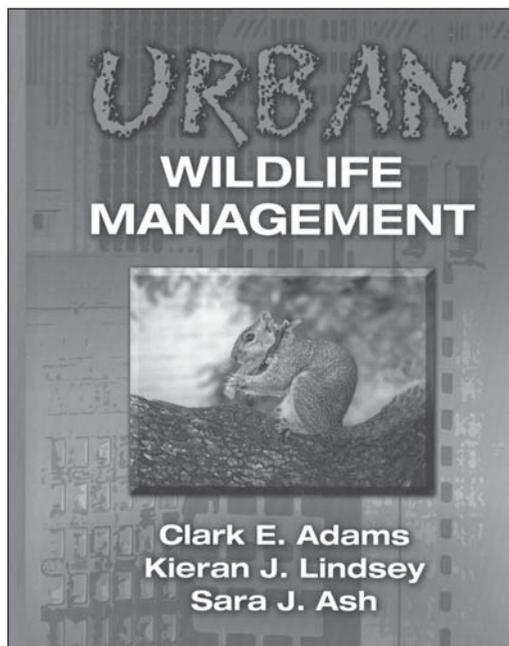
JENNIFER LYNCH, Wildlife Biologist, Lynch Wildlife Consulting, LLC, 16 Laurana Lane, Hadley, MA 01035, USA

THE EVER-GROWING FIELD of human–wildlife conflicts has lacked a comprehensive textbook that addresses wildlife management in the urban landscape. Professors teaching urban wildlife classes have drawn on peer-reviewed and popular articles to support the subject matter. Enter wildlife professors Clark Adams, Sara Ash, and Kieran Lindsey. Together, they have brought to us the first comprehensive book on urban wildlife management, titled (you guessed it) *Urban Wildlife Management*.

The 311-page text is divided into 5 sections devoted to urban landscapes, urban ecosystems, urban habitats and hazards, sociopolitical issues, and special management considerations. Hundreds of peer-reviewed articles on these topics were reviewed, along with many other sources, to bring us a thoughtful compilation in a concise text. Within the 12 chapters, we find examinations of some of the root causes of the urban wildlife problem. While texts such as Conover's *Resolving Human–Wildlife Conflicts* focus on solutions to wildlife damage problems, this book by Adams et al. explores the causes of urban wildlife issues and the increasing need for urban wildlife management strategies.

For example, both books address the nuisance problem of large seasonal crow roosts. Conover's book, however, makes management suggestions such as the use of distress calls and habitat manipulation, whereas Adams' book explains the philosophy of why communal roosting exists and explores hypotheses on why roosting crows are drawn to urban areas. The 2 books compliment each other in this respect.

In the book's introduction, the authors argue that university wildlife programs are doing a disservice to their students by omitting the urban aspect of wildlife management. They state that "too much time is spent memorizing



the names of stuffed and preserved animals from museum collections, and too little time is spent on understanding why the animal lives where it does and its relationship to both the habitat and other species found there!" (p. 6). Very few colleges and universities offer degrees in urban wildlife management, human–wildlife conflicts, or even a single course in the topic.

Human–wildlife encounters continue to increase as urban sprawl creeps farther into former wildlife habitat. Chapter 2, titled "The Changing Landscape of Wildlife Management," discusses the transition in the U.S. from a primarily agrarian society (prior to 1945) to a more urbanized one. Today, nearly 80% of people living in the lower 48 states live in urban areas (populations of >50,000), and the need for urban management is ever-growing.

As Adams et al. point out, wildlife managers enter the field of wildlife management because of their love of the outdoors and, more critically, their lack of interest in dealing with people. The human factor, however, plays a critical role in urban wildlife management. The book dedicates one of its 5 sections to sociopolitical issues where people are acknowledged as an important and growing factor in wildlife management today.

The 3 chapters of Section III, "Urban Habitats and Hazards," focus on the structure and function of urban ecosystems, with descriptions and discussions of the types of green spaces, gray spaces (buildings, roads, etc.), and urban streams where urban wildlife management takes place. The book also touches on the effects of habitat fragmentation, supplemental feeding, animal damage control activities, and environmental pollutants on wildlife population dynamics.

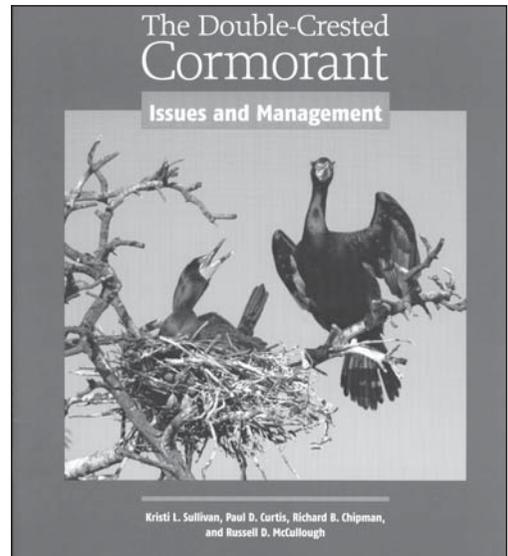
The authors selected several species to showcase in Chapter 11, "The Ecology and Management Considerations of Selected Species"; they include coyotes, black bears, American crows, Mexican free-tailed bats, feral cats, and feral hogs. I found the selection of species examined in this section to be unusual, with a disproportionate amount of text dedicated to feral hogs. Instead of their devoting 13 of the 40 pages of this chapter to feral hog management, I would have preferred to see other species addressed, such as blackbirds, gulls, and woodpeckers, that present widespread problems.

Chapter 12 is devoted to the distribution, abundance, and management considerations of resident Canada geese and urban white-tailed deer. I felt this chapter was done well, as it focuses on 2 species that pose an urban problem in most of the United States. Part of this chapter discusses the role of white-tailed deer in relation to Lyme disease and its potential threats to humans. This was a nice addition to this chapter, but it is the only in-depth discussion of a zoonotic disease in this book. Perhaps a chapter or a section on zoonoses could have been added to address diseases such as avian influenza, rabies, and other diseases that are currently at the forefront of public attention.

While *Urban Wildlife Management* is written in textbook style, it is easy to read and incorporates good anecdotal support. Most chapters include perspective essays or case studies related to the chapter topic. These perspective essays complement the rest of the chapters, and they provide a nice recess from the usual textbook writing style.

Overall, I feel that *Urban Wildlife Management* addresses an important area of wildlife management that generally has not received its due attention. Adams et al. have done a commendable job of compiling data and filling a void in the

study of urban wildlife management.*



The Double-crested Cormorant: Issues and Management

by Kristi L. Sullivan, Paul D. Curtis, Richard B. Chipman, and Russell D. McCullough. Cornell University, Department of Natural Resources. Ithaca, New York, USA. 2006. 32 pages.

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FISH-EATING BIRDS and their interactions with fisheries cause mixed feelings for many people. Avian and human fisheries are perceived to be in conflict throughout the world, particularly in areas where piscivorous bird populations are increasing numerically and expanding geographically. These interactions have long been the subject of research, with papers dating back to at least the 1930s. Not only are the conflicts of fish-eating birds of scientific concern, the birds also cause political, biological, ecological, and socioeconomic issues throughout the country.

The double-crested cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) is the most numerous and widespread North American cormorant. It is also the only cormorant that occurs in large numbers inland, as well as along the coast. Growing in numbers