

## Urban Wildlife

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### Research: **Relationship between Urbanization and Bat Community Structure in National Parks of the Southeastern U.S.**

Urbanization and development are predicted to increase considerably in the United States over the next several decades, and this is expected to result in large-scale habitat loss, fragmentation and loss of wildlife species. Thus, natural parks and preserves are becoming increasingly important in the conservation of regional biodiversity. This research, conducted by USFS Southern Research Station scientists, surveyed bats in 10 national parks in the southeastern U.S. and examined the relationship between bat community structure and development in the surrounding area. Data suggests that urban parks may be important for conserving regional bat biodiversity. However, the low species evenness in these parks suggests that some bat species may be susceptible to the effects of urbanization and may become extinct over time. Thus, management of urban as well as rural parks should strive to conserve as much bat roosting and foraging habitat as possible.

For more information about this research, visit:

<http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/32769>

### Upcoming Event: **Urban Wildlife Ecology and Management: An International Symposium on Urban Wildlife and the Environment**

The Urban Wildlife Working Group of The Wildlife Society, together with the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, University of Massachusetts Amherst, and USGS Massachusetts Cooperative Research Unit, is sponsoring an International Symposium on Urban Wildlife Ecology and Management. Those who may be interested in this conference include urban planners, landscape architects, policy makers, developers and builders, and ecologists of all backgrounds from countries around the world. Topics of discussion will include roadways and wildlife, urban area birds, managing highly successful urban wildlife, and more.

This event takes place at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst from June 21-24, 2009.

For more information visit: [http://www.people.umass.edu/sdestef/urban\\_conference.html](http://www.people.umass.edu/sdestef/urban_conference.html)



# Interface South Update

For more upcoming events visit InterfaceSouth at: <http://www.interfacesouth.org/resources/events.html>

## In the News: **Wild Turkey Living in Parking Lot**

AUSTIN (KXAN) - A wild turkey, a member of one of the state's most reclusive species, is strutting his stuff in the Southeast Austin parking lot of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The building backs up to McKinney Falls State Park and the bird occasionally slips back into the brush there. However, he also spends many of days wandering between the parked cars in the lot, looking for bugs and whatever morsels his human neighbors drop on the ground. "Typically those animals that do well in urban areas, they have this tendency to acclimate to human presence," said TPWD urban biologist John Davis. "And we've seen that in this particular turkey. He has gotten more and more familiar with human beings."

To read the full story, visit: [http://www.kasa.com/dpp/news/strange/strange\\_texas\\_kxan\\_Wild\\_turkey\\_living\\_in\\_parking\\_lot\\_200905111703\\_2397976](http://www.kasa.com/dpp/news/strange/strange_texas_kxan_Wild_turkey_living_in_parking_lot_200905111703_2397976)

For additional current news articles on WUI topics, visit InterfaceSouth at: <http://www.interfacesouth.org/inthenews.html>

## Literature: **Urban Wildlife: Challenges and Opportunities**

Cities across the country are home to a variety of wildlife species. In addition to the species you see every day, many more are present but are active only at night. Many species of urban wildlife receive little attention from homeowners. They are present in such numbers that they become part of our everyday life. Often times we actively promote the presence of wildlife near us for personal or aesthetic purposes. Millions of people put out bird feeders to attract wildlife to their backyards, for example. Maintaining intimate contact with wildlife in this way helps humans retain a sense of their interconnection with the natural environment.

In some cases, however, the interaction with wildlife is unintentional and unwanted. Raccoons in garbage cans or bats in attics are not-so-welcome visitors in our home environment. This fact sheet was developed by the Local Government Information & Education Network (LGIEN) to inform readers about the basic requirements of wildlife, why wildlife may be attracted to urban settings, and how to discourage wildlife presence in certain situations.

To read the full article, visit: [www.extension.uiuc.edu/factsheets/LGIEN%202002-0014.pdf](http://www.extension.uiuc.edu/factsheets/LGIEN%202002-0014.pdf)

For more articles on WUI issues visit InterfaceSouth at: <http://www.interfacesouth.org/resources/literature.html>



# Interface South Update

## Website: **Center for Wildlife Information**

The Center for Wildlife Information is a non-profit organization focused on educational outreach related to bears and other conflict animals. The objective of this site is to reduce human/wildlife conflicts, especially with bears and alligators. It contains the latest safety techniques for hiking, camping and viewing and photographing wildlife as well as a guide on how to make your community “Wildsmart” about human-wildlife interactions. The Bear Aware section contains useful information on identification, safety, and common behavior of bears. There is also a section for related publications, news articles, books, photos and more. The information found on this site helps to educate and spread the word about how to co-exist with wildlife in an increasingly urbanizing world.

To view this website, please visit: <http://www.centerforwildlifeinformation.org/>

For more Web links about interface issues visit  
<http://www.interfacesouth.org/resources/websites.html>

*The USDA Forest Service created Interface South to heighten awareness of and provide information about wildland-urban interface (WUI) issues, serving a diverse audience of natural resource professionals, private forestland and homeowners, planning departments, local policy-makers, and many more.*

## Contact Us!

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