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Biodiversity concepts and urban ecosystems

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Abstract

The association of biodiversity and urban ecosystems has usually concerned the impact of urbanization on biodiversity. However, biodiversity concepts can easily be applied to the urban ecosystem itself. As more and more people live in cities, restoration, preservation and enhancement of biodiversity in urban areas become important. Concepts related to biodiversity management such as scale, hierarchy, species identity, species values, fragmentation, global approaches can be used to manage urban biodiversity. Application of these concepts in such artificial ecosystems may yield important insights for the management of natural ecosystems. Birds are highly visible and quite sensitive to changes in habitat structure and composition. Bird species richness in urban ecosystems is influenced both by local and landscape characteristics and a multi-scale approach is essential to its proper management. People's wildlife conflicts are an integral component of wildlife management in urban ecosystems and must be addressed. Enhancement of biodiversity in urban ecosystems can have a positive impact on the quality of life and education of urban dwellers and thus facilitate the preservation of biodiversity in natural ecosystems.



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Keywords

Biodiversity concepts; Urban ecosystems; Birds in cities

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Jean-Pierre L. Savard is a Research Scientist for the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) in QuÃ©bec. He holds a bachelorâ€™s degree from UniversitÃ© Laval, QuÃ©bec, an M.Sc. from the University of Toronto, Ontario, and a Ph.D. from the University of British Columbia. He spent 14 years with the CWS in British Columbia, where he studied the distribution and ecology of molting and wintering seaducks (scoters, goldeneyes, Harlequin Duck), the breeding ecology of Barrowâ€™s Goldeneye and the Eared Grebe, old-growth forest birds, and seabirds (Marbled Murrelet). His current research interests in QuÃ©bec include urban wildlife ecology, impact of forest practices on birds, bird survey techniques, seaduck ecology (breeding, staging, moulting and wintering) and biodiversity concepts. He has adjunct status at several QuÃ©bec universities where he co-supervises graduate students.

Philippe Clergeau is a wildlife biologist at Institut National de Recherche Agronomiqueâ€™ in France. He had received his Ph.D. and his â€˜Habilitation a Diriger

des recherches^{â€™} from Rennes University. He teaches wildlife management and biodiversity control in agronomic schools and universities, and he collaborates with a ^{â€™}Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique^{â€™} team (UMR EcoBio) on landscape ecology. His research activities focus on the pest bird biology and management, and on biological relations between rural and urban areas. He is project leader for several Publications on relations between humans and animals in towns.

Gwenaelle Mennechez has just received her Ph.D. from Rennes University. She has studied behavior and fitness of European starlings in different landscapes (gradient of urbanisation). She has participated in research projects on biodiversity and avifauna in urban areas.

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making mechanisms akin to artistic and productive thinking.

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