

# Wild in the City



A film produced by National Film Board  
of Canada, Pacific Production Center



National  
Film Board  
of Canada

Office  
national du film  
du Canada



# Wild in the City

Amid the concrete, glass and traffic of the modern city is a world of living creatures. *Wild in the City* is a look at the surprisingly large array of wildlife — birds and animals — that has taken up residence in the city.

Although filmed in Vancouver, many of the species in this film can be found in virtually every metropolitan area. They have established squatter's rights in human habitats: raccoons peer out from rooftops and skunks amble through backyards. From sparrows to bears, they feast on self-serve buffets at the city's garbage dumps.

Species of wildlife living in the city have an amazing ability to adapt to a changed physical environment. They learn to make do, to fit in. Herons and cormorants nest high in tree tops and cliff-crannies of urban parks, oblivious to throngs of visitors passing beneath them. Starlings are as common as fast-food restaurants and honking horns.

In the film, we see a coyote that has learned to use modern technology to his advantage. As a large commercial mower passes by in a field, the coyote, unfazed by man and machine, springs on mice and moles left visible in the wake of the cutting.

Some animals, such as raccoons and skunks, can wear out their welcome quickly. Deer, for instance, wreak havoc in gardens as they seek out hearty vegetarian meals. But, by and large, wild birds and animals offer a welcome respite from the concrete and noise of the city. A seagull fishing for his dinner or a team of squirrels playing tag in the park offer

the passerby a cheerful time-out from cares and pressures. This film is a reassuring reminder that by keeping our eyes and ears open throughout the seasons, the simple beauty and serenity of nature are still readily at hand.

## Discussion Questions

Which birds and animals did you see in the film?

Are there other wildlife species in your area not mentioned in the film?

In what ways have various species of wildlife modified their behaviour to adapt to city life?

Could birds and animals ever pose a health problem?

What suggestions does your local animal protection agency (such as the S.P.C.A.) have for coping with wild animals that are creating a nuisance?

## Suggested Audiences

Science and biology classes at the elementary and secondary levels, environmental groups, wildlife centres, animal rights associations, public library systems.

*Wild in the City* is part of the Ecology Series. The other three films are: *Estuary*, *The Temperate Rain Forest* and *The Intertidal Zone*.

*Director*  
Gordon Fish

*Editor*  
Shelly Hamer

*Music*  
J. Douglas Dodd

*Narrator*  
Susan Leslie

*Sound Recordist*  
Martin Fossum

*Re-recordist*  
Barry P. Jones

*Music Recording*  
Goldrush Recording

*Producer*  
George Johnson

*Executive Producer*  
John Taylor

**Produced by**  
National Film Board of Canada,  
Pacific Region

**Distributed by**  
National Film Board of Canada

**16 mm Color**  
**Screening time:**  
**16 minutes 12 seconds**

**16 mm: 106C 0185 039**  
**3/4": 116C 0185 039**  
**VHS: 113C 0185 039**  
**Beta: 114C 0185 039**



National  
Film Board  
of Canada

Office  
national du film  
du Canada

© National Film Board of Canada 1986  
P.O. Box 6100, Montreal, Quebec H3C 3H5  
Printed in Canada