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From: "Ronnie Kramer" <[REDACTED]>
Date: Feb 5, 2013 4:59 PM
Subject: Concerning the Habitat between Wells Branch and Capitol Memorial Park
To: "Glen Coleman" <[REDACTED]>

C4

Hi Glen,

As you know I wanted to be at the meeting tonight in person, but a family emergency has prevented that. Please forward this email to the Council regarding the site between Wells Branch and Capitol Memorial Park.

Honorable Councilpersons,

I was fortunate to be asked to help locate and photograph a beaver dam near Wells Branch. As an ecologist and a nature enthusiast for 23 years I have become intimately familiar with many of the habitats in central Texas. On my first visit to the site, Tuesday, January 29, 2013, I found a developed wetland right on Wells Branch. This environment is supporting snakes, frogs, fish, aquatic plants, white-tailed deer, and migratory water fowl. For a site of this size, I was very surprised to see the diversity of wildlife I found.

I returned on Saturday, February 2, before dawn in hopes of hearing birds that sing at dawn but otherwise stay hidden during the day. Though spring is not quite here yet and dawn singing has not started in earnest, I found Marsh Wrens, Swamp Sparrows, and Wilson's Snipe, as well as many other birds. All three of these species are migratory wetland birds. Wilson's Snipe is a game bird.

That same day I returned at 1:00 P.M. and met Mr. Glen Coleman there. We proceeded to search for the beaver pond he believed was there. After a short hike through very thick brush we found an outflow with a very low flow of very clear water. We followed this upstream and found the beaver pond. This is a unique environment that I am amazed is within the city limits. The water here is crystal clear as the dam filters the water. Having spent years visiting natural areas on a weekly basis in central Texas, I can say I have never seen the likes of this habitat, except in Colorado. While we did not see any beavers, we found their characteristic gnawed stumps.

As Glen knows, I am not familiar with the details of the business before you, other than it may effect this habitat. Any action that might disturb this habitat would be very distressing to me.

In the short amount of time I have been at this site I have recorded 37 species of bird as follows.

Gadwall -
Anas
strepera
Canvasback -
Aythya
valisineria
Ring-necked
Duck -

Aythya
collaris
Lesser Scaup
- Aythya
affinis
Pied-billed
Grebe -
Podilymbus
podiceps
Black Vulture
- Coragyps
atratus
Turkey
Vulture -
Cathartes aura
Northern
Harrier -
Circus
cyaneus
Sharp-shinned
Hawk -
Accipiter
striatus
Red-tailed
Hawk - Buteo
jamaicensis
American
Coot - Fulica
americana
Killdeer -
Charadrius
vociferus
Wilson's
Snipe -
Gallinago
delicata
Eurasian
Collared-
Dove -
Streptopelia
decaocto
White-winged
Dove -
Zenaida
asiatica
Mourning
Dove -
Zenaida
macroura

Great Horned
Owl - Bubo

virginianus
 Barred Owl -
 Strix varia
 Red-bellied
 Woodpecker -
 Melanerpes
 carolinus
 Downy
 Woodpecker -
 Picoides
 pubescens
 Loggerhead
 Shrike -
 Lanius
 ludovicianus
 Blue Jay -
 Cyanocitta
 cristata
 Carolina
 Chickadee -
 Poecile
 carolinensis
 Marsh Wren -
 Cistothorus
 palustris
 Carolina
 Wren -
 Thryothorus
 ludovicianus
 Ruby-
 crowned
 Kinglet -
 Regulus
 calendula
 Northern
 Mockingbird
 - Mimus
 polyglottos
 Yellow-
 rumped
 Warbler -
 Setophaga
 coronata
 Vesper
 Sparrow -
 Poocetes
 gramineus
 Savannah
 Sparrow -
 Passerculus
 sandwichensis

- Melospiza
melodia

Swamp

Sparrow -

Melospiza

georgiana

Northern

Cardinal -

Cardinalis

cardinalis

Red-winged

Blackbird -

Agelaius

phoeniceus

Great-tailed

Grackle -

Quiscalus

mexicanus

House Finch -

Haemorhous

mexicanus

American

Goldfinch -

Spinus tristis

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns.

Ronnie Kramer

11525 Church Canyon Drive

Austin, Texas 78754

512/750-8797