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## The Probe, Issue # 142 -- April 1994

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# How Many People Are Involved in Wildlife Management?

*Robert H. Schmidt, Editor, The PROBE*

**H**ow many people are involved in wildlife damage management? The question certainly begs a definition. What exactly IS wildlife damage management? I define wildlife damage management as the art and science of manipulating habitats, wildlife, and humans to alleviate damage issues. Thus defined, the profession involves a wide variety of people and talents. It includes, of course, the practitioners or field specialists. It also includes the administrators of wildlife damage management programs, the researchers involved in developing and assessing new materials and technologies, the office staff involved in coordinating the activities of offices, agencies, and businesses, the educators involved in teaching students topics related to the profession, and the manufacturers of wildlife damage management-related methods and materials. This should add up to quite a few people involved in wildlife damage management, a number certainly measured in the thousands.

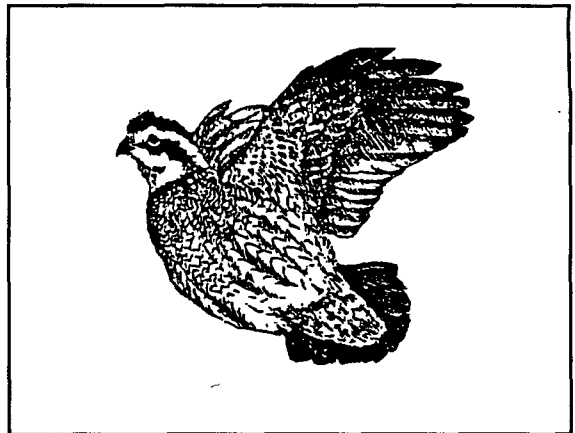
I know of no good estimate of this number, or how the total number of people involved in wildlife damage management breaks down by state, agency, damage focus, academic background, materials used, or any other sort of category.

The National Animal Damage Control Association (NADCA) had, as of 31 January 1994, 514 members. The majority (58%) of these members came from three self-described occupation groups: USDA-APHIS-Animal Damage Control (ADC) (26.5%), nuisance wildlife control operators (21%), and retired members (10.5%). The National Urban Wildlife Management Association (NUWMA) had 225 members in 1993, and I suspect that number is now closer to 300. The Wildlife Society, a nonprofit scientific and educational organization of professionals active in wildlife research, management, education, and administration, has approximately 9,000 members. However, only 423 of those members from the United

States actually listed "wildlife damage management" as an area of expertise in 1993.

Of these national organizations with a focus on wildlife, the actual number of members focusing on wildlife damage management totals no more than about 1,200, and I suspect there is considerable overlap in the membership. I know a number of wildlife damage managers that belong to all three, so the total number of people represented by these three organizations cannot exceed 1,000.

Does this mean that there are only 1,000 wildlife damage management practitioners to provide for a country of over 200,000,000 people? That comes out to 200,000 people for every wildlife damage manager!



Of course, an estimate of 1,000 wildlife damage managers is woefully low. First, there are a number of additional national organizations that have members involved in this profession. These organizations include the National Trappers Association, the National Pest Control Association, and even the Humane Society of the United States, among others. Employees of federal agencies other than USDA-ADC, including the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Manage-

*Continued on page 4*

# CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**April 12-15, 1994: 12th Eastern Black Bear Workshop, River Terrace Resort & Convention Center, Gatlinburg, Tennessee.** The theme is *Human-Bear Interactions*. For more information, contact Michael R. Pelton, Department of Forestry, Wildlife & Fisheries, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37901, (615) 974-7126; FAX (615) 974-4714.

**May 1, 1994: Gull Damage Management Techniques Short Course. Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center, Burlington, Vermont.** Contact: James E. Forbes, USDA/APHIS/ADC, P.O. Box 97, Albany, New York, NY 12201-0097, (518) 472-6492, FAX (518) 472-4364.

**May 2-4, 1994: Northeast Association of Wildlife Damage Biologists Annual Meeting, Sheraton-Burlington Hotel and Conference Center, Burlington, Vermont.** Contact: Richard B. Chipman, USDA/APHIS/ADC, P.O. Box 1436, Montpelier, VT 05602, (802) 828-4467, FAX (802) 828-4502.

**June 3-5, 1994: The Eastern Cougar Conference, Gannon University, Erie, Pennsylvania.** Contact Jay W. Tischendorf, American Ecological Research Institute, AERIE, P.O. Box 380, Fort Collins, CO 80522, (303) 224-5307.

**August 2-4, 1994: Bird Strike Committee—USA, Ramada Hotel O'Hare, 6600 N. Mannheim Road, Rosemont, Illinois.** Contact: James E. Forbes, USDA/APHIS/ADC, P.O. Box 97, Albany, New York, NY 12201-0097, (518) 472-6492, FAX (518) 472-4364.

**September 11-17, 1994: Fur Takers of America Trappers College Short Course, Limber Lost Camp, LaGrange, Indiana.** Contact: Charles Park, 410 S. Poplar Street, LaGrange, Indiana 46761, (219) 463-2072.

**September 22, 1994: NADCA Membership Meeting, Albuquerque, New Mexico.** Held in conjunction with the First Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society (see below). Contact James E. Forbes, (518) 472-6492, FAX (518) 472-4364.

**September 21-25, 1994: First Annual Conference, The Wildlife Society, Albuquerque, New Mexico.** Theme: "Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship through Science and Education." Contact: (301) 897-9770.



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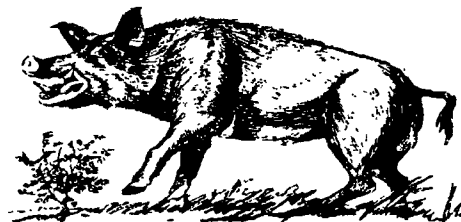
**Pamela J. Tinnin, 160 Mulford Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA 94720**

Your contributions to *The Probe* are welcome. Please send news clippings, new techniques, publications, and meeting notices to *The Probe*, c/o Hopland Research & Extension Center, 4070 University Road, Hopland, CA 95449. If you prefer to FAX material, our FAX number is (707) 744-1040. The deadline for submitting material is the 15th of each month. Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of NADCA.

## Berryman Institute Offers Graduate Fellowship

The Berryman Institute at Utah State University announces the availability of a Berryman Fellowship to start Fall 1994. This fellowship will be awarded to a graduate student with an interest in attending USU and in the broadly-defined area of wildlife damage management (i.e., management of problems caused by animals, exotic species management, wildlife-agriculture interactions, improving of human-wildlife relationships, etc.). The fellowship includes a \$12,000 stipend, \$1,200 for tuition and \$1,800 for research support. The fellowship is for two years (\$30,000 total), with the second year contingent upon satisfactory progress during the first.

For more information, contact Dr. Michael Conover, Berryman Institute, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Utah State University, Logan, UT 84322-5210.



# ADC News, Tips, Ideas, Publications...

## Eagle Attacks Bear in British Columbia

In a rare attack, a Canadian golden eagle swooped down on a startled bear family and successfully killed a cub. The attack was observed in British Columbia and reported in the *Toronto Globe*. According to observer Wayne Campbell, a mother black bear was leading her two cubs along a ridge when the eagle struck one of the bear cubs, knocking it down a 600-yard slope. The eagle was later observed feeding on the carcass. Campbell speculated that the cub may have been killed in the fall, or bled to death from the talon strike. The bear cub's weight was estimated at approximately 100 pounds.

## California Mountain Lion Permits Increase

More California mountain lions are being killed than at any other time in history. A spokesperson for the California Fish and Game Department told the Wildlife Legislative Fund of America (WLFA) that by the end of the year more than 200 permits were expected to be issued. Only 586 permits have been issued since the 1990 passage of Proposition 117 which banned mountain lion hunting. Since that time there have been mountain lion attacks reported across the state. The Winter 1994 issue of *Update — Hunting • Trapping • Fishing*, published by the WLFA, reported that in September, 1993, a mountain lion invaded a San Diego-area state park picnic ground and attacked a 10 year-old girl who survived. The lion was destroyed by park rangers. Tests revealed that the lion was close to starving.

## NADCA Caps Available!

A new order of high-quality baseball caps with the NADCA logo are now available. Cap colors include light blue, dark blue, teal, maroon, khaki, and black. The logo is embroidered in bright, contrasting colors.

In your NADCA cap, you'll look as handsome as the two individuals pictured on page 7 of the August '93 PROBE!

Order caps from Wes Jones, NADCA treasurer: Rt. 1, Box 37, Shell Lake, WI 54871. Prices: \$10 each, plus shipping charge of \$2.50 for up to 3 hats shipped together to the same address.

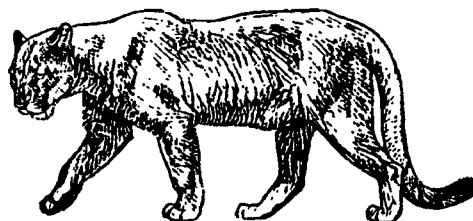
Get yours now while they last!

## Find Out About Furbearers Unlimited

Furbearers Unlimited is dedicated to sound conservation and scientific wildlife management principles of sustained use of our renewable resources. The officers are comprised of individuals dedicated to the perpetuation and wise use of all furbearer species, and will work to enhance appreciation for the beauty and value of furbearers. Furbearers Unlimited concentrates its efforts on the informational needs and skill enhancement of wildlife managers and exists to help the fur industry, and industries and manufacturers associated with the fur industry. It constantly addresses the needs of consumptive use of furbearers on a sustained basis, and encourages the preservation and enhancement of furbearer habitat. For more information, contact Furbearers Unlimited at P.O. Box 4129, Bloomington, IL 61702.

## Arlette Gilson Presented NADCA Outstanding Student Award

Arlette Gilson, Ph.D. candidate at University of California-Davis, was presented the NADCA outstanding Student Award by Bob Timm at the 16th Vertebrate Pest Conference. Her presentation, entitled "An Introduction to Urban Geographical Information Systems and Its Applications to a Study of Striped Skunks" was recognized as the best among a field of five student posters and presentations. The panel of judges included Charlie Crabb, Scott Craven, Scott Hygnstrom, Terry Mansfield, John O'Brien, and Bob Timm. Previous student award winners include Kim Kessler, University of Nebraska; Kurt VerCauteren, University of Nebraska; and Chad Philipp, Auburn University. Each outstanding student receives an engraved plaque and a copy of the book "Prevention and Control of Wildlife Damage" from NADCA.



The editors of *The PROBE* thank contributors to this issue: Mike Fall, James E. Forbes, and Wes Jones. We also wish to thank those who sent material that we were unable to use because of space limitations. Send your contributions to *The PROBE*, 4070 University Road, Hopland, CA 95449.

# Berryman Institute Announces Awards

The Jack H. Berryman Institute is a national organization, centered in the College of Natural Resources at Utah State University, that works to promote human-wildlife relationships and to solve human-wildlife conflicts through its research, extension, and educational programs. It gives research, communication, and professional service awards annually to the person or group that has contributed significantly to enhancing human-wildlife relationships.

The 1994 Research Award went to **Dr. Larry Clark** and **Dr. Pankay Shah** for their research on repellents that can be used to keep birds away from toxic cyanide ponds. The work was conducted at the Monell Chemical Senses Field Station of the Denver Wildlife Research Center, which is part of the USDA/APHIS/ADC Program. Their work was published last year in the *Journal of Wildlife Management* (vol. 53, pp. 657-664) and was entitled "Chemical bird repellents: possible use in cyanide ponds."

The 1994 Communication Award went to **Dr. Dale Rollins** for his video "A Matter of Perspective." This video examines the ecology and management of coyotes. It points out that the lethal control of coyotes to protect livestock is controversial and one's position on

this issue is a matter of perspective. Dale Rollins lives in San Angelo, Texas, and works as a wildlife extension specialist for Texas A & M University.

The 1994 Professional Service Award went to **Mr. Layne Bangerter** of the Idaho Animal Damage Control Program, **Mr. Jim Buck** of the U.S. Corps of Engineers, and **Mr. Dave Pauli** of the Humane Society of the U.S. These people faced the problem of burrowing rodents, particularly marmots, threatening the integrity of levies along the Snake and Clearwater Rivers. They solved the problem in a manner that was simultaneously effective, socially acceptable, and humane.

All of the award winners were on hand at the Berryman Institute's Annual Awards Program, which took place March 2 in Santa Clara, California. According to its director, Dr. Michael Conover, the institute felt privileged to have such fine projects and individuals to honor this year. Dr. Conover said, "Although the award winners differed in their approach—one created new knowledge, one fostered communication, and one solved a serious problem in a professional manner—all exemplified the Berryman Institute's goal of enhancing human-wildlife relationships."

*Continued from page 1*

## **How Many in Wildlife Damage Management?**

ment, and the US Forest Service, are involved in wildlife damage management. Many of the 200 or so colleges and universities around the country that teach wildlife-related courses probably include some aspect of wildlife damage management in their curriculum, since most of the major textbooks include wildlife damage management to some degree. Finally, at the state and local levels, there are literally thousands of state wildlife agency employees, local animal control specialists, nuisance wildlife control operator businesses, and private hunters and fur trappers that are involved in wildlife damage management. There are probably over 1,000 permit-holding full and part-time wildlife damage practitioners in New York State alone.

From this, I would estimate that at least 10,000 people in the US are directly involved in wildlife damage management. This averages out to only 200 people per 50 states. Looked at on a per capita basis, this comes out to one wildlife damage practitioner per 20,000 people. When you add in administration and support staff, the number of people involved in the profession obviously in-

creases. If you add in the number of people that take care of their own wildlife damage problem, whether it is keeping mice out of the garage, robins out of the cherries, or pocket gophers out of the alfalfa, the number of people involved in wildlife damage management soars. Just think how many snap-traps for mice and rats are sold every year!

I agree that my figure of 10,000 is a crude estimate, and I look forward to more refined estimates in the future. An interesting feature to note, however, is that there is no one agency, organization, or professional group that represents all of these individuals. NADCA seems to have the broadest membership base. To capitalize on a buzzword of the 1990s, diversity is the key to future growth. Is NADCA's diversity of membership also its strength? Send me your ideas for capitalizing on NADCA's diversity of membership, and I will include your comments in **The PROBE** for a future article on this topic.

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# Book Review: The Eastern Coyote

Walter (Howdy) Howard, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Biology, University of California, Davis, CA 95616.

Ecology and Management of the Eastern Coyote. 1992. A.H. Boer, Ed. Symposium held in Fredericton, New Brunswick, 7-9 November 1991. Wildlife Research Unit, University of New Brunswick, Canada. 194 pp., 12 articles, paper.

Space does not permit a complete report on each of the 12 interesting papers contained in this Proceedings. The book certainly reaches its goal of providing a better understanding of coyotes (*Canis latrans*) and their role in the recently occupied ecosystem of northeastern North America, with a thorough review of the literature about what is known concerning the ecology and management of coyotes in general.

Based on an analysis of mtDNA genotypes, R.K. Wayne and N. Lehman propose that genes flow from the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) to coyote populations. The southeastern Canadian wolves are small, and the coyotes are exceptionally large. Speculation is that these unique sizes of wolves and coyotes may be a consequence of prey size and abundance, or of hybridization. The eastern coyotes are more closely related to western coyotes than to wolves or dogs. Even though offspring are fertile, dogs and coyotes have difficulty interbreeding in the wild.

Pregnancy rates and litter sizes are somewhat larger than western coyotes, thus R.E. Chambers calculates that reproductive responses to changes in conditions means control efforts would probably fail. I don't see this happening because there would be fewer coyotes to breed. Control is done primarily to remove problem animals.

The paper by D.J. Harrison summarizes and compares information on movements, social behaviors, and foraging ecology of both the recently established and historic populations of coyotes. The lower food availability and the high use of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) as a winter food item may be the cause of the larger home ranges of northeastern coyotes.

According to J.A. Litvaitis, in the northern regions, where food is limited, gray wolves are dominant over coyotes, who in turn dominate red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*). Coyotes and lynx (*Felis lynx*) are spatially segregated.

Interference competition occurs between cougars (*Felis concolor*) and coyotes, and between coyotes and female and juvenile bobcats (*Felis rufus*).

The diet of eastern coyotes in contiguous forests is primarily snowshoe hare (*Lepus americanus*) and white-tailed deer (P.J. Pekins). F.F. Knowlton and L.C. Stoddart report on two long-term coyote-prey studies. Coyotes were the proximate cause of death of a high proportion of white-tailed deer fawns at the Welder Wildlife Refuge. The other study suggests that coyote predation on black-tailed jackrabbits (*Lepus californicus*) in Curlew Valley may be an important factor in the cyclical nature of these hares.

N.E. Mathews and W.F. Porter discuss how intrusion of human or wolf predators when fawns are very young increases home range size of white-tailed deer does. According to G.R. Lavigne, coyotes killed significantly more doe fawns and old deer of both sexes, but killed buck fawns, mature bucks and does in the same proportion as they occur in the winter herds. Nearly half of those killed were mature deer. Only 10 to 23 percent of deer killed were considered malnourished based on femur marrow fat values.

The diversity of coyote damage, including livestock, poultry, property, and 56 human health and safety incidents are reported by Guy Connolly. Sheep, cattle and goats were the most important economically, with their reported damage to Animal Damage Control of APHIS, USDA, in fiscal year 1990, being \$9,201,915.

An analysis of coyote damage was provided by M.J. Dorrance. He predicts that public concern for the environment and humane treatment of animals will increase, and that changes in control practices may follow. In Maine the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has found that localized and focused removal of coyotes in winter and spring may reduce predation rates on livestock and, speculatively, white-tailed deer (H. Hilton). Liberal opportunity for recreational hunting and trapping are important management components.

If you want information about coyotes, this is a must reference.

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**NATIONAL ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL ASSOCIATION**

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ Office

Additional Address Info: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Dues: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Class: Student \$10.00 Active \$20.00 Sponsor \$40.00 Patron \$100 (Circle one)

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Federal - not APHIS or Extension   | <input type="checkbox"/> State Agency           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foreign                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Trapper                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator | <input type="checkbox"/> University             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe) _____             |   |