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TWS Wildlife Damage Management Working  
Group Newsletter

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2008

## Newsletter of The Wildlife Society Wildlife Damage Management Working Group Interactions:Volume 14 Issue 2 Spring 2008

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# INTERACTIONS

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*The 2009 Wildlife  
Damage Management  
Conference will be here  
before you know it!*

### Special points of interest:

- 2009 Wildlife Damage Management Conference
- We need student articles for future issues of Interactions
- VPC conference wrap-up

Visit us on the web at:  
<http://Wildlifedamagegroup.unl.edu>

## CONFERENCE WRAP-UP: 23RD VERTEBRATE PEST CONFERENCE

A good time was had by all (or at least one can hope) at the latest edition of the Vertebrate Pest Conference (VPC). While it was my first VPC, I hope that it will not be my last. The conference was well-run and I tip my big ol' hat to the organizers of this year's conference. The conference was in a beautiful location (San Diego), the field trip was excellent, and the conference hotel was an outstanding choice, even though they would not let me have a room. Although I must admit that it was mostly my fault due to my normal procrastination. I actually called at 1 am on the morning/night after the deadline (eastern standard time),



What did one conference attendee say to the other conference attendee. "Think we should be standing upwind?" Photo: USDA

reasoning that I had not actually missed the deadline because California (pacific standard time) was a few hours behind us in Indiana. Alas, it did not work out. But the helpful staff at the Westin put me in their sister hotel (the W;

## PLAN AHEAD....THE WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE IS COMING! LETTERS FROM ART

Hello one and all, hope your spring is doing well. Here in the northern plains, we've not yet had spring hit very hard yet. Morel season is done with, many birds are making nests, but I've seen little indication of widespread incubating, so summer does not feel like it will start in May as it does in some years. My message this time will be a short one ("... and there was much rejoicing!") as there is much more in this issue worth your time than reading this article.

Starting in this issue of Interactions you will see information coming around about our 13th Wildlife Damage Management conference. The location and

dates are found elsewhere in this issue, but I urge you to block those dates on your calendar. The WDM Conference is one of our flagship productions and is THE place to be every 2 years. The initial call for papers should be coming out shortly and will be advertised here and through various electronic media. Conference committees have been set, although there is still room for anyone who would like to help. By looking at those Working Group members already assigned tasks I'm sure the 13th will be as good or better than our past conferences. For those who are preparing their 2009 travel budgets, the conference planning committee and the Working Group Executive

Board are trying very hard to keep the registration costs near past conference's rates (pre-registration rates of approximately \$250 and approximately \$50 for students). Several options are being explored to come up with student travel grants as well, and information on that program will also be widely advertised when it is time. Much more will be coming out on the 13th, so please keep checking the Working Group's website (<http://wildlifedamagegroup.unl.edu/>) for additional information.

I'd like to close this article out by trying to plant an idea in you. Our Working Group is one of the most

Continued on pg. 2

## LETTERS FROM ART (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

active TWS working groups at the annual TWS conferences, consistently has the highest membership numbers, runs a biennial conference outside of the TWS, has produced several WDM-related instructional manuals in the past, and regularly advises TWS leadership on WDM issues when asked. There are 3 main reasons we've been as successful as we have; 1) "right place, right time" - WDM issues have been very prominent in the past, in the present, and will continue into the future, 2) "the right people and a lot of them" - the collection of WDM experts who have guided this Working Group is truly our greatest asset, and 3) regular communications among the membership. So here's my message:

- if you have a desire to have a larger say in what the WDM Working Group is doing, please consider running for office. Elections are never very far away, and helping run the

Working Group is an experience I think every member should have.

- if there is a project you'd be interested in creating (professional award, video, book, session at TWS, stand-alone workshop outside of TWS or WDM conferences, etc.) please bring the idea to any of the Working Group's Executive Board. The Working Group has some assets that could be used for such projects if the materials and interest is there.

- If there is something you think the rest of the Working Group would be interested in seeing, contact our newsletter editor, Joe Caudell. I'm pretty sure everyone would agree Joe has been doing an absolutely fantastic job as newsletter editor. But I also know he'd welcome member contributions. What you may think is widely known actually may not be



WDMWG President - Art Smith

and the newsletter is a great vehicle for getting information out to us.

That's all for now. Please consider attending the 13th WDM and look for more details as time passes. Also please consider what WDM-related products could be

created through the Working Group's assistance. Give some thought to taking a more active role in the Working Group if you have not already done so, and finally if you are working on something different, or see something of interest, please throw it Joe's way so the rest of us can see it. Thanks!

Article by Art Smith, Chair TWS WDMWG

## 23RD VERTEBRATE PEST CONFERENCE (CONT. FROM PG. 1)

and no, this is not named after our Presidents middle initial, although it is pronounce it the same). Let me spend just a few sentences on the W (pronounced the dub-ya). This is a very fancy, very modern hotel. But even with my hat and dirty boots, the treated me just like everyone else (well....maybe not like everyone else, but you get the picture). If you ever have a chance to stay in one of these, do. But I digress.

The following word are from Terrell P. Salmons closing remarks.

"We began with a exciting field trip visiting sites in San Diego County reviewing public health/rodent surveillance program, touring the world famous Balboa Park where squirrels too are enjoying the park, and finally cruising on San Diego Bay to see first-hand some of the



That gull has no idea who he is hitching a ride with. Photo: USDA

vertebrate pest problems in this unique marine/urban area.

The main conference included three days of excellent presentations on all aspects of wildlife/human conflicts. There were 273 people in attendance representing 39 U.S. states and 5 countries including Australia, Canada, Israel, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom. Fourteen posters were displayed, as were 15 commercial exhibits.

I want to thank the Vertebrate Pest Council for their tireless work to make this conference happen, the speakers for taking the time to prepare and present excellent material, and most of all you, the attendees, for coming and making this conference such a great success."

The 24th Vertebrate Pest Conference will be held in Sacramento, California, on February 22-25, 2010. Lookin' forward to seeing you there.

Article by Joe Caudell, Editor, Interactions

THIS SPACE FOR RENT OR FREE!!!  
SEE YOUR RESEARCH IN INTERACTIONS

See your graduate research featured in *Interactions*. Or, if your research is too boring, tell a friend so we can read about theirs. If you would like to tell the world about your research, contact Joe Caudell, editor supreme (Joe.N.Caudell@aphis.usda.gov) and tell me about your research.

Articles should be about 600 - 800 words. Include 2 - 4 photos (in a separate file) related to your research with captions. Write the article in the same style you might see in a magazine. Contact me with any questions about you article.

I look forward to hearing from you. *Joe*



Somebody wake Joe up! The articles are about to start rolling in.

## CALLS FROM THE FIELD (OR A HOUSE, OR A FARM, OR A...)

If you have interesting and truly unbelievable stories about experiences with the public, let us know. We will have a contest each quarter for the most interesting stories. Winners will receive a free subscription to Interactions.

### Maybe not the best way to take care of a trapped raccoon

A man called the Indiana Wildlife Conflicts Hotline trying to figure out what to do with a raccoon once it is trapped. He was specifically looking for a place that would euthanize the animal humanely. He was telling me that he did some research about how to solve his problem and relocation was not a good thing because they slowly starve and eventually die. He did not like the idea of shooting it, because that would be disgusting... We talked about the reason why most people end up hiring professional companies. Then, he began insisting that there should be a place to take it to have it euthanized because usually people do not want to deal with this problem. We eventually wound up on the subject of rehabilitators and that their purpose was to help the animals recover...He then says "well, you know about what happened to that famous figure skater that injured her knee cap...maybe I can whack the raccoon's knee and take it to a rehabilitator..." Yeah buddy.... Here's you sign.

### It was wearing BLUE GOGGLES!!! Really!!!

At the Indiana Wildlife Conflicts Information Hotline, we get a few strange calls. We thought this one was pretty good. A man calls saying that a "bird has dropped out of the sky with blue goggles on it. I feel really bad for it. It is the size of a chicken and I have it now inside of a trashcan." The Hotline technician told him to start again and tried really hard to focus on the description of the bird, since maybe instead of actual goggles

maybe it looked like goggles on the bird. He insisted that the bird was wearing blue goggles. The Hotline technician was not able to identify the bird because the goggles still were in her mind. Maybe it was a bird with blue eye rings. She asked him if the goggles were man-made and he said YES! The technician asked one of the other folks in our office to try to identify the bird. Well, he knew what the goggles were... frontal blinders... Someone must have put these on one of their more valuable exotic upland game they were raising to protect it and it must have gotten out of its enclosure. Just goes to show you, sometimes the customer is not just talking crazy talk!



These are yellow, but you get the picture. Photo from: [www.nationalband.com/nbtgame.htm](http://www.nationalband.com/nbtgame.htm)

### Creep squirrels

A lady called because she has a squirrel that is behaving creepy (I don't know how you could tell because don't all squirrels 'creep'). She (the squirrel) follows her (the lady) and it has a bump on her side of the face, as if she (the squirrel) has mumps. She has talked to a rehabilitator and she thinks the squirrel has squirrel pox. She explained that she had been treating all her squirrels for mange and, of course, she had been feeding the squirrels. This particular squirrel is a "recovering mange victim," and she does not know what to do. Someone once told her (the lady) that animals look for help from people when they are not feeling well.....More of that crazy talk I do believe.

## HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT IN THE NEWS

The *Chronicle Herald* in Nova Scotia reported in May that the Nova Scotia Agriculture Department would provide an annual compensation program of \$250,000 for farmers experiencing wildlife damage. Producers will apply to the program for compensation for damage from deer, black bear, foxes, coyotes, crows, and birds of prey. The Canadian government has similar programs in Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Ontario.

On May 13, 2008, *AM New York* reported that a black bear in the upstate suburbs of New York City was captured and euthanized after the bear spent the day roaming around neighborhoods. Because of the growing population in New York, bears are moving into areas where they have not recently been found.

I used this article in the Human-Wildlife Conflict "In the News" for the Vol 2-2 issue. I thought it was too good not to use it here as well. The April 22<sup>nd</sup> (2008) issue of the *Journal and Courier* in Lafayette, Indiana, provided a classic example of how not to conduct wildlife removal operations in urban areas. A family in a local apartment had their Friday night interrupted with the sounds of a raccoon screaming from pain after being caught in a body-gripping trap. The raccoon screamed for 15 minutes before it slid off the roof, hanging itself, still twitching, in front of the family's window. Of the six children in the house, the oldest (age

17) cried for the longest stating that she "could still hear it screaming in my head" and that it sounded like a child being beaten to death. The animal carcass hung in front of the family's window from 9:30 pm until 3:30 or 4:00 pm the next day. While the trapper's actions were probably legal (I checked with the area biologist later, and the trapper was within Indiana regulations), this was probably not the best way to handle an urban trapping job. This will not only leave a family traumatized but also can provide ammunition for anti-trapping initiatives and fodder for animal activist groups.

The *Arizona Republic* reported on April 20, 2008, that the State is designing roads that will reduce collisions between mule deer, elk, desert tortoises, and other common species of wildlife, incorporating techniques such as over and underpasses built into animal movement corridors and warning lights to let drivers know that large wildlife are nearby roads.



Sheep in Colorado preparing for a vehicle-wildlife interaction. Photo: USDA

# SAVE THE DATE!!!

## THE 2009 WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE IS COMING SOON!!!

Start getting ready and set aside the first week in May 2009 for the 13<sup>th</sup> Wildlife Damage Management Conference. The Conference will be held from May 4-8 in beautiful Saratoga, New York. The Saratoga area is a blend of historic significance and modern tourism and will be fun for the entire family. The Saratoga National Historic Park "commemorates the site where our emerging nation fought for its first victory in the Battle of Saratoga during the American Revolution." This is considered one of the fifteen most decisive battles in world history. Saratoga also boasts world

class golf, outdoor recreation, shopping in the historic downtown area, and romance. In addition to this setting, we are expecting a record setting WDM Conference at the luxurious Saratoga Hilton.

We need YOUR help!!! As always, we need your help to get ready for this conference. Committee Chairs (see below) are beginning their work to make this conference happen. Committees include program, site and arrangements, fundraising, travel grants, registration, continuing education, exhibits and displays, proceedings, and field trips. These committees are an excel-

lent opportunity for students to gain valuable experience in learning how a major conference operates. If anyone is interested in helping, please contact Gary San Julian at [jgs9@psu.edu](mailto:jgs9@psu.edu). Let Gary know what you are interested in helping with and he will put you in touch with the appropriate conference chair.

Be sure to share this information early with anyone you think would like to attend or submit papers or posters. Additional information will follow in future issues of *Interactions*.



The view from the Saratoga Monument.  
Photo: National Park Service

## 2009 WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES AND CHAIRS

### 2009 Conference Committee and Chairpersons

#### Conference Co-Chairs

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*We need your help to  
for this conference.  
Volunteer TODAY!*

# RECENT WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT RESEARCH

This section will highlight current research in our field each quarter. Articles are located by conducting a search of periodical databases which contain possible relevant content. If you have wildlife damage management related article that has been accepted for publication and want to ensure that your peers are aware of its publication, please send a copy of the article to the editor at [joe.n.caudell@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:joe.n.caudell@aphis.usda.gov). Nothing is inferred by an articles exclusion or inclusion in this column. Articles that appear in *Human-Wildlife Conflicts* do not appear in this column because the entire journal is available on open-access by contacting the Jack H. Berryman Institute at [www.berrymaninstitute.org](http://www.berrymaninstitute.org). Many of these articles can be found on-line at the APHIS USDA Wildlife Services National Wildlife Research Center web site (<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ws/nwrc/is/publications.html>).

Baker, S. E., S. A. Ellwood, D. Slater, R. W. Watkins, and D. W. Macdonald. 2008. Food aversion plus odor cue protects crop from wild mammals. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 72:785-791.

Campbell, T. A., and D. B. Long. 2008. Mammalian visitation to candidate feral swine attractants. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 72:305-309.

Figuroa, J.A., B. A. Kimball, and K. R. Perry. 2008. Lagomorph and rodent responses to two protein hydrolysates. *Crop Protection* 27:851-854.

Harper, E. K., W. J. Paul, L. D. Mech, and S. Weisberg. 2008. Effectiveness of lethal, directed wolf-depredation control in Minnesota. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 72:778-784.

Kretser, H. E., P. J. Sullivan, and B. A. Knuth. 2008. Housing density as an indicator of spatial patterns of reported human-wildlife interactions in Northern New York. *Landscape and Urban Planning*, 84:282-292.

## Abstract:

Compromises in biodiversity and biotic integrity from human development alter native wildlife communities. Anecdotal evidence suggests that increases in residential development contribute to increases in human-wildlife interactions; however, little empirical research has addressed this issue. We tested whether housing density could be used to indicate patterns of reported human-wildlife interactions in Northern New York. We used a novel application of univariate and bivariate K-functions to assess the spatial relationship of reported human-wildlife interactions along a gradient of housing densities. We found that reported human-wildlife interactions are not completely spatially random in Northern New York State and the reports tend to cluster more in areas dominated by suburban and exurban housing densities compared to areas with urban or wildland housing densities. Low-density developments have unintended ecological consequences including an increase in reported human-wildlife interactions. Further work is needed to determine specific reasons for cluster-

ing of reported human-wildlife interactions in suburban and exurban areas. However, planners should consider human-wildlife interactions as a potential negative outcome of low-density development and devise development designs, such as clustering, to reduce future human-wildlife conflicts. (Copyright 2008 Elsevier)

Petersen, M. L., G. M. Linz, G. Forcey, W. Thogmartin, and W. J. Bleier. 2008. Evaluation of stop-level vs. route-level Breeding Bird Survey counts for modeling the influence of land use and climate on breeding blackbird abundance in North Dakota. 30th National Sunflower Association Sunflower Research Forum online [www.sunflowernsa.com/research/research-workshop/documents/Petersen\\_BreedingBirdSurvey\\_08.pdf](http://www.sunflowernsa.com/research/research-workshop/documents/Petersen_BreedingBirdSurvey_08.pdf).

Reidy, M. M., T. A. Campbell, and D. G. Hewitt. 2008. Evaluation of electric fencing to inhibit feral pig movements. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 72:1012-1018.

Safratowich, B., G. M. Linz, W. J. Bleier, and H. J. Homan. 2008. Avian use of rural roadsides with cattail (*Typha* spp.). *American Midland Naturalist* 159:162-171.

Seamans, T. W., and D. A. Helon. 2008. Evaluation of an electrified mat as a white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) barrier. *International Journal of Pest Management* 54:89-94.

Stahl, R. S., J. J. Johnston, and G. M. Linz. 2008. Estimating the efficacy of DRC-1339-treated rice bait in blackbird staging areas in North Dakota using a bioenergetics simulation. 30th National Sunflower Association Sunflower Research Forum online [www.sunflowernsa.com/research/research-workshop/documents/Stahl\\_DRC1339\\_08.pdf](http://www.sunflowernsa.com/research/research-workshop/documents/Stahl_DRC1339_08.pdf).

Wambuguh, O. 2008. Human-Urban Wildlife Interface: Interactions Around Tilden Regional Park, San Francisco Bay Area, California. *Human Dimensions of Wildlife* 13:71-72.

Werner, S. J., B. A. Kimball, and F. D. Provenza. 2008. Food color, flavor, and conditioned avoidance among red-winged blackbirds. *Physiology & Behavior* 93:110-117.

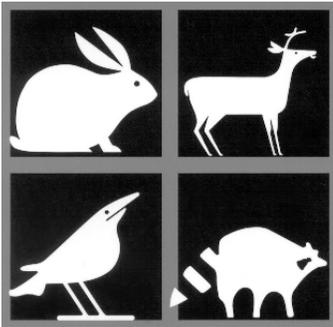
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Werner, S. J., J. L. Cummings, S. K. Tupper, D. A. Goldade, D. Beighley. 2008. Blackbird repellency of selected registered pesticides. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 72:1007-1011.

Newsletter of The Wildlife Society  
Wildlife Damage Management Working Group

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## The Wildlife Society Wildlife Damage Management Working Group

**Our Mission:**

The mission of the Wildlife Damage Management Working Group is to promote better understanding of the challenges of managing human-wildlife conflicts and to provide a forum for TWS members to advance their skills and knowledge of wildlife damage management practices.

**Our Goals:**

- Enhance understanding within the profession and various stakeholder groups of the need for responsible wildlife damage management activities.
- Facilitate information transfer to wildlife management professionals and various publics.
- Serve as a professional catalyst, clearinghouse, and conduit for wildlife damage management information.
- Assist TWS Council and resource management agencies with wildlife damage management policy formulation, analysis, and decision making.
- Promote development of new technologies and maintenance of existing cost-effective management tools.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS, CONFERENCES, AND EVENTS

**June 2008**

The National Wildlife Control Association's Integrated Goose Management Workshop will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana, on June 12 and 13, 2008. Visit the NWCOPA website at [www.nwcoa.com](http://www.nwcoa.com) for more details.

**November 2008**

Make preparations early for The Wildlife Society 15th Annual Conference. Visit [www.wildlife.org](http://www.wildlife.org) for more information on the conference.

**May 2009**

The 13th Annual Wildlife Damage Management Conference will be held on May 4-8, 2009, in Saratoga, New York. See this issue for details.

**Network. Learn. Explore. Enjoy!**

Take your seat in the sun!

Registration opens June 2008

**The Wildlife Society 15th Annual Conference**

November 8-12, 2008

**Miami, Florida**

[www.wildlife.org](http://www.wildlife.org)

C. Alex Bramwell