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Group Newsletter

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Newsletter of The Wildlife Society Wildlife Damage Management Working Group Interactions: Volume 15 Issue 2 Spring 2009

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INTERACTIONS

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Information on the
2010 Vertebrate Pest
Conference in Sacra-
mento, California.
Abstracts due soon!

Special points of interest:

- 2009 Wildlife Damage Management Conference
- Another look at the TWS Conference
- Bird Strike Conference
- Call for papers for the VPC and Human Wildlife Conflicts

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

THE WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT MEETING WAS A SUCCESS!

LETTERS FROM GARY

The 13th Wildlife Damage Management Conference is over and by most accounts was a great success. An outstanding group of volunteers made the Conference successful. Last November because of the difficult economic times, there was a discussion of cancelling it for this year. However, the Board and members of the Working Group did not want to cancel and agreed to do what was necessary to make it work.

We planned a shorter conference without a field

trip, to help with the budget. Rich Chipman and Paul Curtis did the local arrangements, which mean they visited the hotel, worked out the contracts, negotiated with vendors, arranged for breaks and meal functions, argued for rooms, and addressed a multitude of details. The hotel also booked another conference during the same dates. While discussions were intense, the hotel was accommodating to our needs.

In addition to the cost of registration, a conference of this size requires fund raising and David Drake, Jason Suckow and

Continued on pg. 2

A BRIEF REPORT FROM THE WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

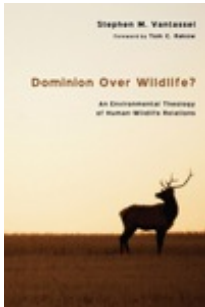
On May 4th through May 6th, the Wildlife Damage Management Working group hosted the 13th Wildlife Damage Management Conference in Saratoga Springs, NY. Despite economic restrictions, over 130 people attended the conference; including about a dozen vendors. Tuesday's morning was exciting, with discussions from a wide breadth of organizations including USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services, US Fish and Wildlife Service, The Berryman Institute, The Humane Society, and Critter Control. This year, the conference invited two very interactive speakers for the first afternoon's session: Peter Kummerfeldt and Joe La Barbera. Mr. Kummerfeldt entertained and informed us on outdoor survival. Mr. La Barbera gave us the scoop on the media and how to use them to our best advantage. Both of the speakers were excellent and provided a wealth of information on their respective topics. We also have one more use for cotton balls and Vaseline (yes, you had to be there).

On Wednesday, we had 34 papers presented on themes such as Wildlife Diseases, Human-Wildlife Conflicts, Prevention and Control of Avian Dam-

age, Evaluation of Wildlife Damage Control Products, and Urban Carnivores. Speakers did an excellent job on informing us on current trends, techniques, and new data in the wildlife damage management field. The conference concluded with banquet, where our guest speaker had us rolling off of our seats with stories from the time he spent as a NY Wildlife Biologist. It was a very successful conference, where the participants enjoyed catching up with each other and the topics of their profession.

We look forward to seeing everyone again in 2 years at the 14th Wildlife Damage Management Conference, possibly in your home town.

TWO NEW PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE
 DOMINION OVER WILDLIFE
 FIFTH EASTERN WDM CONFERENCE



Wildlife Damage Working Group Member Stephen Vantassel has recently published a book engaging the animal rights movement. The book entitled, *Dominion over Wildlife? An Environmental-Theology of Human-Wildlife Relations* (Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2009) 208pp, argues that the Christian animal rights movement's arguments against the consumptive use of wildlife fail on theological, ethical, and scientific grounds. He then proceeds to outline a perspective on human use of wildlife that is both theologically and scientifically sound. Although the book has a theological emphasis, the ethical and scientific sections will provide arguments against secular versions of the anti-consumptive movement as well. Book is available through various outlets or at <http://icwdm.org/credits/store.asp>



Fifth Eastern Wildlife Damage Conference Proceedings from 1991 is now available for purchase at the ICWDM Store. This proceeding is 225 pp., 8.5" x 11" paperback publication and covers a wide variety of wildlife damage topics. Review the table of contents or to purchase one of the remaining copies visit <http://icwdm.org/credits/store.asp>

FROM THE CHAIR (CONT. FROM PG. 1)

Stan Gehrt successfully solicited additional funds and sponsors. It is not always easy to ask for money especially when agencies and NGOs have to cut back on expenses and travel. Ben Tabor and Bret Dunlap lined up vendors and secured raffle donations. Many participants felt this was perhaps one of the best groups of vendors in a number of years. Jay Boulanger took on the task of organizing the papers, producing the programs and the conference proceedings. This task goes on long after the conference closes.

We had online registration as well as registration available at the conference for those who did not get the opportunity to register online. Scott Henke interviewed companies, gave the Board a recommendation and it was accepted. The process worked well and when Scott was unable to attend the meeting Nicki Frey, our new Secretary/Treasurer, took over the process. We would have been happy to have 90 people at the Conference. However, administrators of agencies, and officers of societies saw the value of the meeting and encouraged and supported it; we had over 130 people register.

In addition to the 54 papers, posters, and plenary presentations, we added workshops titled "Could You Be a Survivor" and "Dealing With the Slings and Arrows of Media Involvement". A special session

on "White Nose Syndrome and Management of Commensal Bats" was held and broadcast to numerous individuals who had an opportunity to ask questions. It was a lively session and linked the researchers with field practitioners. The Wildlife Damage Management Extension Community of Practice used the venue to educate and solicit input from the group.

Sponsors like USDA/WS, Critter Control National Park Service, TWS Wildlife Damage Management Working Group, New York Chapter of the Wildlife Society and New York Department of Conservation supported the conference on many levels. Numerous volunteers sat at the registration desk to answer questions and pass out packets. A number of the volunteers spent hours before the reception organizing the last minute details.

The session chairs skillfully worked with presenters, moderated the sessions, worked the lights, and staffed the computers to make the session run as smoothly as possible. All were willing to help with any request. The Board of the Working Group and TWS assisted with advice, support, and helping hands to make things work in a seamless fashion. Thank you to all who presented, supported, sponsored, and helped in any way. I appreciate your efforts very much.



WDMWG Chair—Gary San Julian

Finally, our next conference will be in 2011. If you would like to host the conference, please let us know of your interest and we will be able to discuss it in more detail at the Wildlife Damage Management Working Group meeting at TWS's 16th Annual Conference in Monterey, California September 20 - 24, 2009.

Article by WDMWG Chair—Gary San Julian

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

TWS CONFERENCE PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

Plenary Session

Sunday, September 20 at 1:30 pm: The Use and Abuse of Science in Wildlife Policy Decisions

Workshops

All workshops will be held on Thursday, September 24

- Conducting Effective Peer Reviews for Manuscript Submissions
- Wildlife Applications of Bayesian Survival Analysis Using WinBUGS
- Landing a Wildlife Job
- Map Your Study Area – Intro to GIS
- Introduction to Spatial Analyst Tool Box
- Urban Wildlife and Parks in the San Francisco Bay Area
- Avian Interactions with Power Lines
- Yes We Can: Achieving Biologist Diversity Within Our Profession
- Wildlife Communication Workshop
- Developer/Land Trust Partnerships for Conservation: The Santa Lucia Preserve

Breakfast Round Table

Educational Institutions as Distance Learning Publishers: Real World Challenges and Learning Copyright Law the Hard Way

Panel Discussion

Integrating GIS Ground-truthing into Habitat Surveys

Symposia

- Improving Wildlife Habitat Through the Effective use of Plants
- Trophic Matches and Mismatches for Wildlife in Changing Environments
- Broad-scale Wildlife Dynamics: A System Perspective
- Diseases Affecting Marine Wildlife: Causes, Conflicts, and Solutions
- Climate Change: Effects on Western North America Avifauna
- Greater Sage-Grouse: A Landscape Species and its Habitats
- Conservation Reliant Species: Our New Relationship with Nature
- Department of Defense Lands – Islands of Biodiversity

- Sea Level Rise and Impacts on National Wildlife Refuges
- The Cultural and Ecological Significance of American Bison Restoration
- The Challenges of Conserving Wildlife in a Changing Climate
- Interaction between Economic Growth and the North American Wildlife- Conservation Model
- Non-lethal Methods to Manage Wildlife
- Predator Management for Threatened and Endangered Species Protection
- Cross Border Issues In The Conservation of Wildlife
- Advocacy, Science, Policy and Professional Societies

Contributed Paper and Poster Session Topics

- Conservation and Management of Birds
- Ecology and Habitat Relationships of Birds
- Population Dynamics of Birds
- Conservation and Management of Mammals
- Ecology and Habitat Relationships of Mammals
- Population Dynamics of Mammals
- Reptiles and Amphibians

SAVE the DATE

The Wildlife Society 16th Annual Conference
MONTEREY, CA - September 20-24, 2009

THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
 MONTEREY 2009



WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT

DEER DAMAGE MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

**As of May 28, 2009,
only 10 slots remain.**

The Deer Damage Management Workshop is a hands-on experience of the various tools available to manage damage by white-tailed deer. Attendees will be taught by leading experts in deer damage management. The workshop will be held in Omaha, NE.

We believe that deer damage management will be a growth industry for the wildlife damage management community. While states have resisted allowing wildlife damage management personnel to handle deer complaints, the numbers have increased to such a level that states may not be able to maintain that position for much longer.

Our Workshop is designed to provide attendees with the information necessary to respond to deer damage management complaints in a responsible and effective fashion.

Attendance is limited to 40 due to the hands-on nature of the program. As of May 28, 2009, only 10 slots remain.

Missouri River Valley Nebraska is hot and muggy during August. Attendees who have sensitivity to heat, humidity, and physical exertion are cautioned to contact us prior to registering.



Topics to be Covered

- Deer Biology
- Deer borne diseases
- Human-Wildlife Management Issues, including:
 - Public hearings
 - Navigating laws
 - Handling Media
- Vehicle Collision Prevention
- Control Methods
- Habitat Modification
- Repellents—Chemical use and efficacy (Demonstration)
- Frightening Devices (Demonstration)
- Fencing—Non-Electric and Electric
- Shooting—Managed Hunts, Sharp Shooting
- Trapping—Cage, Chemical Capture
- Fertility Control—Darting Principles and Techniques

Presenters (Partial listing)

- Dr. Scott Hygnstrom**—University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- Dr. Paul Curtis**—Cornell University
- Dr. Kurt VerCauteren**—National Wildlife Research Center
- Dr. Tony DiNicola**—White Buffalo Inc., Sharpshooting Company
- Mike Anderson**—Deer Fencing Consultant

When

August 4-6, 2009. Ends at Noon, Thursday August 6.

Meet and Greet, Monday Aug 3, 2009, 7-9 p.m. food, beer, wine, spirits, non-alcoholic beverages.

For More Information

Inquiries should be made to

Stephen Vantassel Project Coordinator
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
414 Hardin Hall
Lincoln, NE 68583-0974

To register visit <http://nebraskamaps.unl.edu/viewPrd.asp?idcategory=598&idproduct=10757>

CALL FOR PAPERS

SPECIAL ISSUE OF *HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICTS* TO FOCUS ON THE MANAGEMENT OF NORTH AMERICAN GEESE

The peer-reviewed journal, *Human-Wildlife Conflicts*, will have a future issue focusing on the ecology and management of North American geese. The style for this journal is similar to *Journal of Wildlife Management*. Add that manuscripts must be received by October 1, 2009 to make the issue. They should be emailed to mike.conover@usu.edu.

Authors can find back issues and a Guide to Authors at the website: www.BerrymanInstitute.org.

For more information, contact the editor, Mike Conover, at mike.conover@usu.edu.





CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

BIRD STRIKE NORTH AMERICAN CONFERENCE

REGISTRATION IS OPEN for the 2009 Bird Strike North America Conference!

The next conference will be September 14-17, 2009 at the Delta Victoria Ocean Pointe Resort in Victoria, BC Canada.

2009 will be the 11th combined meeting of Bird Strike Committee USA and Bird Strike Committee Canada. Previous separate meetings of the two organizations have occurred over the last decade throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Presentations have included papers, posters and demonstrations on wildlife control techniques, new technologies, land-use issues, training, engineering standards, and habitat management. These presentations have all contributed to an enhanced awareness of the bird hazard issue.

Who attends a Bird Strike Conference?

- Airline personnel
- Aircraft owners and airline pilots
- Aircraft & aircraft engine manufacturers
- Airport operations personnel
- Land-use planners
- FAA and Transport Canada airport inspectors
- Military aviation groups
- University researchers
- Waste management operators
- Wildlife agencies
- Wildlife control specialists

To register visit:
www.birdstrikecanada.com

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

There is SOMETHING under my bed....And it is my friend.

A recent caller to the Indiana Wildlife Conflicts Information Hotline left a voice message saying that she had been living with a skunk that was sleeping under her bed and that she wanted to get rid of it.

She added somewhat proud of herself in the message that she had even touched it. Preparing for the worse and expecting anything, I called her back. She said that 3 months ago a skunk fell down from the attic to her bedroom and that she remembers the exact day...This skunk had been living under her bed ever since and sometimes she feels it crawling in her bed and sleeping next to her feet. She even had seen it sleeping in her pillow. She explained that she had touched it with her own hands in the hind legs and that she had tried to trap it with a trap, but had been unsuccessful because she imagines that it had been eating the mice in her house. She mentioned that her husband who is not sleeping in the bedroom (you may wonder why?) does not believe her and that she knows it is a skunk because of the smell. She added that she used to have a cat (now its dead) that would pee on the floor beside her bed and now that skunk is peeing and pooping on the same spot. After she stopped talking I took a deep breathe and pretending I was not in shock asked her if she could describe the animal. She said that one day she saw him in the dark because



Yeahhhh...I can see how these two animal could be confused with each other.



that is when she actually sees it, standing on her pillow and on its hind legs trying to climb the head board and it looked grayish and that it arched its body and made a hissing sound when it saw her. She did not see its tail. However, she was sure that it is a skunk because the odor is exactly how a skunk smells. And adds that she

is sure it is not a raccoon because it did not have a mask and that if it was a raccoon, then her house would be more trashed, since she knows that raccoons can do a lot of damage. Her house was messy, but it had not changed ever since this skunk was living with them. I was pretty sure it was not a skunk and that the roommate was an opossum...and I told her what I thought it was. Even though I was still disturbed about her collected and as a matter of fact attitude, I needed to go to next step which was to find out how she had tried to trap it. Well, she said she had tried everything... she eliminated all the water in her house and she thinks that it had made a difference because it is walking slower than before. She has 4 dogs in another room and she thinks it is not able to get to that room and have access to the dog food. Well, she mentions that she really wants to get rid of this animal because she is tired of all its loving.... Then I thought to myself that after 10 years, I thought that I had heard everything... I was soooo wrong.

Article by S. Munoz-Eifler

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

24TH VERTEBRATE PEST CONFERENCE

INVITATION TO ATTEND

You are cordially invited to attend and participate in the Twenty-Fourth Vertebrate Pest Conference. This Conference is an educational event for discussing and exchanging information on human-wildlife conflicts. The Conference will be held February 22-25, 2010 at the Holiday Inn Sacramento-Capitol Plaza. The hotel is located within easy walking distance to historic Old Sacramento, which includes tourist attractions, excellent dining, and captures the historic atmosphere of California's Gold Rush era. The hotel is adjacent to the Sacramento Capitol Mall and many historic state buildings, including the State Capitol. It is only 10 miles from Sacramento International Airport. More information about the hotel can be found at: <http://holidayinn.sacramento.ihotelsgroup.com>



The Vertebrate Pest Conference, which is held every two years, is the largest and most recognized Conference of its kind. Participants and attendees include leading authorities on vertebrate pest management from the United States, Canada, and throughout the world. All papers are presented in English.

This announcement is intended to alert you to the next Conference and encourage you to participate. Set aside these dates on your calendar and make plans to attend. A preliminary program for the Conference will be mailed to you in November 2009. If you are not on the mailing list for this Conference, contact Terry Salmon at (858) 694-2864 or email: <tpsalm@ucdavis.edu>. For additional information on the Conference as it develops, refer to the VPC web site: <http://www.vpconference.org>

The pre-registration fee of the four-day self-supporting Conference is expected to be about \$300. This fee will include a copy of the *Proceedings* which is published following the Conference and provides a collection of papers while the subjects are still fresh in mind.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Simultaneous (concurrent) sessions will be held at the Conference to maximize information exchange to satisfy all interests in vertebrate pest management (i.e., birds, rodents, predators, etc.). Presentations range from practical management to more technical papers concerning research or new technology.

CALL FOR PAPERS

24TH VERTEBRATE PEST CONFERENCE

Papers Due By June 15th

CALL FOR PAPERS

This call for papers is an effort to attract a wide array of potential contributors. Papers can be of a practical nature or more technically or research oriented.

Format for abstracts:

Submit the abstract formatted as a single paragraph preceded by the title, authors' names, and affiliations. Following the abstract, identify the contact person by name, mailing address, telephone number, and email address. Please indicate if this is a student presentation. Your presentation may describe work currently in progress.

Format the page as follows:

Software: MS Word
 Margins: 1" all around
 Font: Times New Roman, 12 point
 Spacing: Single
 Justification: Left
 Word Limit: 300

Email a copy of the Abstract as a MS Word attachment by June 15, 2009 to:

Terrell P. Salmon
 UC Cooperative Extension – San Diego County
 5555 Overland Ave., Suite 4101
 San Diego, CA 92123
 Phone: (858) 694-2864
tpsalm@ucdavis.edu

Contributed papers will be selected by the Vertebrate Pest Council on the basis of scientific merit, newness, uniqueness of topic, usefulness, and appropriateness for the overall Conference program and its objectives. Abstracts received after June 15, 2009 will be considered if space is available.

All speakers are expected to submit a manuscript, both in electronic and hard copy format, which is due at the time of the Conference. All manuscripts will be peer edited and published in the Conference *Proceedings*.

Contributed papers will be accepted in (but not limited to) the following vertebrate pest categories:

- Urban Wildlife Management Workshop
- Food Safety and Vertebrate Pests Workshop
- Hazards of vertebrate pest control
- Commensal rodent management
- Field rodent and rabbit management
- Bird management (urban or agricultural)
- Predator problems and their management
- Invasive vertebrate species management
- Vertebrate pesticides—benefits and risks
- Wildlife and reforestation problems
- New wildlife management techniques
- Human, domestic animal and wildlife health
- Alternative management methods and materials
- T&E species and vertebrate pest management
- Economic, social, and political aspects of vertebrate pest management

RECENT WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT RESEARCH

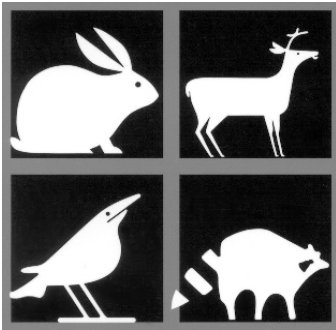
This section highlights current research in our field each quarter. Articles are located by conducting a search of periodical databases which contain possible relevant content. If you have a wildlife damage management related article that has been accepted for publication and want to ensure that your peers are aware of its publication, please send a copy of the article to the editor at joe.n.caudell@aphis.usda.gov. Nothing is inferred by an article's 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 (see below). Many of these articles can be found on-line at the APHIS USDA Wildlife Services National Wildlife Research Center web site at (<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ws/nwrc/is/publications.html>).

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- Mitchell, J., W. Dorney, R. Mayer, and J. McIlroy. 2009. Migration of feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*) in rainforests of north Queensland: fact or fiction? *Wildlife Research* 36:110-116.
- Nel, M. 2009. Tree trashing baboons. *African Wildlife* 63:31.
- Parsons, J. G., D. Blair, J. Luly, and S. K. A. Robson. 2009. Bat strikes in the Australian aviation industry. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 73:526-529.
- ABSTRACT - Bat collisions are a threat to commercial and military aircraft in Australia. We examined bat strike records from Australia during 1996-2006 and found that risk of impact from bats is increasing, is greatest in tropical versus temperate regions, and is more likely during early evening and while an aircraft is landing rather than departing. Temporal patterns of bat strikes differ from those of birds, highlighting the need to employ taxon-specific management strategies to minimize animal impacts on the aviation industry. The use of genetics for identification of strike remains and the implementation of nocturnal survey techniques by wildlife managers at airports will contribute to the mitigation of bat strikes.
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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 2009

June 15, 2009 is the deadline for abstracts to be submitted to the 24th Vertebrate Pest Conference in Sacramento, California. Contact Terrell P. Salmon, Program Chair, at tpsalmon@ucdavis.edu for more information.

The Urban Wildlife Ecology and Management Conference will be held in Amherst Massachusetts, on June 22-24, 2009. Details about the conference can be found at http://www.people.umass.edu/sdestef/urban_conference.html

August 2009

A deer damage management workshop will be held in Carter Lake, Iowa on August 4-6, 2009. Details about the workshop can be found at <http://icwdm.org/credits/deerdamagemanagement.asp>.

September 2009

The 16th Annual Meeting of The Wildlife Society will be held in Monterey, California on September 20-24. Visit www.wildlife.org or see conference information in this issue of Interactions.

The 2009 Bird Strike North America Conference will be held September 14-17, 2009 at the Delta Victoria Ocean Pointe Resort in Victoria, BC Canada. Visit www.BirdStrikeCanada.com for more information.

February 2010

You are cordially invited to attend and participate in the Twenty-Fourth Vertebrate Pest Conference. This Conference is an educational event for discussing and exchanging information on human-wildlife conflicts. The Conference will be held February 22-25, 2010 at the Holiday Inn Sacramento-Capitol Plaza.

