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# Newsletter of The Wildlife Society Wildlife Damage Management Working Group Interactions: Volume 14 Issue 3 Summer 2008

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Newsletter of The Wildlife Society
Wildlife Damage Management Working Group

Volume 14 Issue 3

Summer 2008

# INTERACTIONS

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*Make plans for abstract submissions to the The 2009 WDM Conference NOW!*

**Special points of interest:**

- 2009 Wildlife Damage Management Conference
- Pre-call for papers
- IPM Conference
- Wild boar damage in Slovenia

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## A Look at Wild Boar Problems in Slovenia

The conflicts among humans and wildlife in Europe, mostly generated by the damages upon human property, have had long history. According to the Austrian legislation from 18th century, large carnivores (brown bear, wolf and the lynx), as well the red deer and wild boar have been persecuted and nearly exterminated on nowadays territory of Slovenia and of neighbor countries due to the then unbearable damages. In 20th century, when more wildlife-friendly legislation was adopted, the wildlife populations recovered quickly. Changes in forest management and agricultural practices provided suitable habitats with rich food and cover opportunities.

Slovenia (in red). Map courtesy of author.

Slovenia is a small Central-European country with the surface of 20.273 sq km, of which about 13.380 sq km are covered by the forests, mostly coniferous and mixed coniferous-deciduous ones. The greatest extent of agricultural land (5.628 sq km in total) is scattered in between large forest blocks, or situated in the vicinity of forest edges. Thus, crop surfaces are easy reached by the wildlife.

Continued on pg. 2

## Plan Ahead....The Wildlife Damage Management Conference is Coming!

### *Letters from Art*

I am writing this en-route to the Central Mountains and Plains Section meeting in Gimli, Manitoba. Often I use the time spent driving thinking about current and future projects or problems I'm encountering. I also ruminate about various odd things, and on this trip I've noticed a lot of pheasants along the roadsides.

The loss of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres has been a prominent discussion topic for many folks in South Dakota as CRP makes really great pheasant habitat, and the loss of CRP acres is expected then to result in fewer pheasants. These birds mean a lot to the South Dakota economy. The total dollars spent by the over 100,000 nonresidents who come to South Dakota to pheasant hunt is estimated at about $178,500,000. Combined with the $40,500,000 spent by the 80,000 or so resident pheasant hunters, one can see the potential economic impact each year.

Well, I am happy to report that it appears to me that if the pheasant population is lower, it is not noticeable. Initially I was going to count all of the birds I saw while driving the approximately 170 miles from Pierre, SD to I-94. However the massive number of birds seen alongside the road quickly made that impractical. So as an index to the bird numbers, I will report that I needed to swerve 5 times and brake hard twice to avoid birds over those 170 miles. And yes, I first looked to make sure no one was either behind me or alongside when I performed those maneuvers.

So what does any of this have to do with wildlife damage management you ask? (That is assuming someone is still reading this article). Pheasant depredation - that's what. Yup, now the Chinese chicken is a major source of complaints in the spring just prior to corn

Continued on pg. 3

# Wild Boar in Slovenia (Cont. from pg. 1)

Wildlife-caused agricultural damages in Slovenia have been increasing constantly. For the damages have to be reimbursed by local wildlife managers, their extent caused serious financial problems, but also affected other wildlife-related activities. The main non-financial impact of wildlife damages is reflected in the aversion of local communities toward general issues of wildlife conservation. Since, important stakeholder groups are negatively conditioned, it is hard for the managers to achieve other important goals of wildlife conservation.

A wild boar sow with young. (Photo: M. Adamic)

### Wild Boar: A Preferred Prey for Hunters, A Problem for Farmers

Among problem wildlife in Slovenia, the wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) is keeping 1st position. Wild boar is among most successful synantropic species of European mammals. Its population size and range have increased significantly in Slovenia and in other European countries during past decades. Consequently, the damage of this generalistic omnivore upon agriculture, increased as well. Currently it represents about 60% of all refunded wildlife damages in Slovenia. In the period 1970-2002, the harvest of wild boar increased at an average annual rate of 12.3% and has grown as much as 16-folds, from 472 in 1970, to 7500 individuals in 2002 (r=0,852***, n=33). When compared to neighbor countries, the harvest intensity of wild boar in Slovenia, with 0,56 individuals shot per 1 sq km of forest, is low (Adamic 2006).

The main problem of crop damage suppression is to be sought in official harvest strategy, which is prepared in Slovenia by the Slovenia Forest Service. Only about 20% of total harvest of wild boar in the period 2000-2005 is represented by reproductive females (yearling females and sows ≥ 2years). Thus, the reproductive potential of wild boar populations is to the great extent unaffected by hunting. In fact, with current hunting practices new opportunities for hunting are provided (current hunting provides future hunting), regardless the extent of damage claims. In some parts of Slovenia, e.g.Prekmurje in northeastern Slovenia, we registered that the great extent of females in 1st year have been pregnant, carrying 4,5 ± 2,2 (median 5, max 8) fetuses.

Rural landscape in Slovenia. (Photo: M. Adamic)

Typical rooting damage to fields. (Photo: M. Adamic)

In 2005 reimbursed damage by wild boar in agricultural space reached 368.600 US$, or 18,2 US$ per each sq km of Slovenia. Crop damages represented 52,3% of total compensations, rooting on hay meadows and pastures 42,4% and others (fruits, grapes, etc.) 5,3%.

Supplemental feeding, mostly with maize corns is an obligatory part of wild boar management. Maize, thrown from electric powered feeders, placed in larger forest blocks ought to keep wild boar away from the agricultural space, but its success was less than expected. Nevertheless, we do believe that the distribution of supplemental feeders have an important influence on the wild boar spatial distribution and its local density.

Current range of wild boar distribution in Slovenia was identified using the spatial distribution of wild boar harvest locations (n = 5977) in 2005 (Jerina 2007). The analyses showed that around 55% of Slovenia is currently settled by the wild boar, while the potential species habitats extend to over 67% of the country. Wild boar prefer deciduous forests with high hard mast production (beech, oaks, chestnuts), warmer temperatures and less snow cover. According to our estimations the range, as well the densities of wild boar will increase in future in Slovenia. This potential increase will be even faster if current trends of environmental changes, e.g. increase of temperatures due to global climate changes, increase of forest cover, decreasing shares of conifer trees compared to hardwoods, will continue.

Crop damage to corn. Photo (M. Adamic).

### Literature Cited

Adamic,M. 2006. Population dynamics of wild boar (Sus scrofa), impacts of current environmental factors and future expectations in Slovenia. Project report for the Slovenian Ministry of Science. UNI Ljubljana,Biotechnical Faculty Ljubljana, 25 p. (in Slovene)

Jerina, K. 2006. The impacts of environmental factors on the distribution of wild boar (Sus scrofa) populations in Slovenia. Zbornik Gozd.Les. No. 81: 3-20,Ljubljana (in Slovene with English summary)

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*Internet Resources*

# New Wildlife Damage Management Blog

I writing to make you aware of a new blog on wildlife damage management issues. http://blog.icwdm.org This site is an excellent location for finding out what is going on in the wildlife damage management field. This blog is set up for RSS feeds and posts will be made weekly.

If you have topics you would like to see covered, please let me know. Additionally, if you can't find what you are looking for, and need content, please feel free to contact me at:

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*Publication Announcement*

# Issue 2-2 of Human Wildlife Conflicts Now Available

Volume 2-2 of Human-Wildlife Conflicts has hit mailboxes everywhere. This issue contained peer-reviewed manuscripts on wildlife damage management, commentary, editorials, book reviews, and obituaries, with a special focus on wildlife damage from bears.

For those of you who did not receive a copy of this publication, you can submit your request for a free copy tothe Managing Editor, Phil Parisi, at hwc@cc.usu.edu. Authors who are interested in submitting manuscripts should contact Phil at the above email for information and a Guide to Authors or they can find the same information by visiting www.BerrymanInstitute.org. (include your name and mailing address). An on-line version of the journal can also be found at the Berryman Institute website at www.berrymaninstitute.org.

# From the Chair (Cont. from Pg. 1)

emergence until the corn gets about 8" tall. As with any open field wildlife complaints, this is a hard complaint to address completely. Shortstopping the birds with grain piles along the edges of the field has some efficacy, planting the seeds slightly deeper reduces the damage in some instances, and a taste aversion product, Avitec, looks like it may have some positive effects at reducing the damage as well. But a quick spring warm-up, along with a little rain, probably has the best effect since that allows the cotelydon to quickly use up the endosperm and thereby shortens the time the plant is attractive to the birds.

But pheasant depredation includes more than just the farmer and the WDM manager. Of course there is the hunter in this case, and just like the Green Bay Packers form a semi-religion in Wisconsin, pheasant hunting easily assumes similar stature in South Dakota. But in this era of high corn prices, driven partially by natural disasters in other states but more by local ethanol production demands, over the past several years pheasant complaints have become more numerous and the complaints themselves have become much, much louder.

WDMWG President - Art Smith

So at some point in the future pheasant complaints will eventually fade, likely not directly due to anything the WDM managers do but because of something else - replacement of corn as an attempted ethanol source, collapse of the pheasant population, or perhaps a new corn disease. And at that time my staff and I will likely be working on an entirely new wildlife complaint that we have yet to experience. All I know is I will continue to dodge pheasants (and deer, antelope, elk, raccoons, and skunks) as I drive. Last time I hit a pheasant, it cost $1,300 to replace the headlamps and all of the damaged plastic parts on the grill of my truck.

That is all for now. Please look through this issue and find when our annual meeting will be held in Miami. I strongly urge every Working Group member to attend. At that meeting details about our 2009 WDM conference to be held in Saratoga Springs and other Working Group activities will be presented.

*Conference Announcement*

# 6th International IPM Symposium

**International IPM Achievement Awards**

As we "Transcend Boundaries" for March 2009's International Integrated Pest Management Symposium, we are seeking nominations for the "International IPM Achievement Awards." Individuals or teams who have made significant contributions to the advancement of integrated pest management (IPM) may be nominated. Criteria for nominations must include at least one extraordinary achievement that has increased IPM in agriculture, communities or natural areas. Thus, the context can be agricultural or non-agricultural, such as schools and other institutions, recreational areas, municipalities, and waterways.

The following are some of the activities that meet the nomination criteria:

Developing new or improved IPM practices or technologies

Implementing and evaluating IPM methods

Facilitating or promoting adoption of IPM practices

Increasing economic benefits of IPM activities

Reducing potential human health risks through IPM

Minimize environmental impacts of pest management practices

Conducting an effective IPM program

Anyone may nominate another individual or group, and self-nominations will be accepted. Nominations are encouraged to recognize the contributions of growers, consultants, processors, commodity groups, scientists, administrators, municipalities, non-profit organizations, etc. We welcome nominations from the International IPM community.

The awards will be presented during a special ceremony at the International IPM Symposium in Portland, Oregon on March 24-26, 2009.

Award nominations must be submitted using the International IPM Achievement Award Application available at http://www.ipmcenters.org/ipmsymposium09/. Deadline for applications is Monday, November 17, 2008.

Awardees will be selected and notified prior to the Symposium. Individuals or one member of a team will be compensated for travel costs and receive complimentary registration for the Symposium.

For more information, contact Sherry Glick, Chair, International IPM Symposium Awards Committee, at glick.sherry@epa.gov or 702-784-8276.

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# WDM Working Group Meeting

**TWS Wildlife Damage Management Working Group Business Meeting**

Wednesday, November 12, 2008

12:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m., *Foster*

Please make plans now to attend the TWS Wildlife Damage Management Working Group annual business meeting. It will be the last working group meeting and will be held over lunch. We will plan on having sandwiches or something available for attendees. Please join us at the meeting to discuss important issues for the upcoming year.

*2009 Wildlife Damage Management Conference*

# Call for Papers and Abstract Guidelines

The *First Call For Papers* for the 2009 Wildlife Damage Management Conference will go out in mid-September. Begin planning on your submission now. The deadlines related to the conference are as follows:

Session topics are listed to the right of this column, however, submissions of manuscripts or posters are not limited to these areas. Other Papers on Contemporary Wildlife Damage Management Topics will also be reviewed. Details about abstract, length of manuscript, and other information about submissions and the conference will follow in future e-mails, issues of *Interactions* and the Wildlife Damage Management Working Group web site at http://wildlifedamagegroup.unl.edu/ . Begin making your plans now.

## *Session Topics and Deadlines*

Urban Carnivores
Wildlife's Impact on Fisheries
Capture and Immobilization of Animals
Fertility Control
Human Dimensions of Wildlife Damage Management
Wildlife Diseases
Management of Damage Caused by Mammals
Prevention and Control of Avian Damage
How Future Demographics Will Affect Wildlife Damage Mgmt.
Evaluation of Wildlife Damage Control Products

Call for papers goes out mid-September, 2008
Second reminder goes out November 1, 2008
Abstracts due November 15, 2008
Paper acceptance notice on or about February 1, 2009

If you wish to make a presentation at the Conference, please submit an abstract or summary of your presentation according to the following guidelines. Abstracts received after November 15 will be considered only on a space-available basis.

On a single page, submit the Abstract/Summary formatted as a single paragraph preceded by the Presentation Title, and Authors' Name(s) and Affiliation(s). Following the abstract, identify the contact person by name, mailing address, telephone, and email address. Please indicate if this is a student presentation. Your presentation may describe work currently in progress.

Poster presentations are encouraged, particularly from graduate and undergraduate students with final or preliminary results. Please submit an abstract in the same manner as a paper, but indicate that it is for a poster in the email.

**Format the page as follows:**

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|---|---|
| Software: | MS Word |
| Margins: | 1" all around |
| Font: | Times New Roman, 12 pt |
| Spacing: | single |
| Justification: | left |
| Word limit: | 300 |

Email your submission to the address below as an attachment to an email message. The subject line should read, ""2009 WDM Abstract - Author's last name."
For the example provided, the subject line would read:
"2009 WDM Abstract – Gaukler et al."

You will be asked to submit a manuscript for the Conference Proceedings. Your presentation should not have been published (or in review) elsewhere.

Email Abstract/Summary to:
Jay Boulanger
Cornell University
phone (607) 227-5444
jrb69@cornell.edu

## *ABSTRACT EXAMPLE*

Pathogenic Diseases and Movements of Wintering European Starlings Using Feedlots in Central Kansas

Shannon M. Gaukler, Dept. of Biological Sciences, North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND, H. Jeffrey Homan, USDA Wildlife Services, National Wildlife Research Center, Bismarck, ND, Neil W. Dyer, Dept. of Veterinary and Microbiological Sciences, North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND, George M. Linz, USDA Wildlife Services, National Wildlife Research Center, Bismarck, ND, and William J. Bleier, Dept. of Biological Sciences, North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND
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Kansas is a major producer of livestock and has an abundance of over-wintering European starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*). Roosts size for over-wintering starlings can exceed 5 million individuals. Starlings cause a substantial amount of economic damage to farmers. Escherichia coli O157 and Salmonella can cause illness in both livestock and humans and cattle with Johne's disease must be culled. Crohn's disease in humans is suspected to be caused from Mycobacterium paratuberculosis. We banded, leg-flagged, and radio-tagged starlings using feedlots near Great Bend, KS. Our objectives were to track daily movements of starlings visiting feedlots and screen starlings for E. coli O157, Salmonella spp. and M. paratuberculosis. Our data show that starlings in Kansas move among feedlots rather than remaining at one feedlot. The results may be used to develop plans for the management of transmissible diseases carried by starlings.

Name
Mailing address
Phone
email

# 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 13th 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 excellent 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. 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

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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. 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. 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).

Atwood, T. C., and E. M. Gese. 2008. Coyotes and recolonizing wolves: social rank mediates risk-conditional behaviour at ungulate carcasses. Animal Behaviour 75:753-762.

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Breck, S. W., C. L. Williams, J. P. Beckmann, S. M. Matthews, C. W. Lackey, and J. J. Beechman. 2008. Using genetic relatedness to investigate the development of conflict behavior in black bears. Journal of Mammalogy 89:428-434.

Cariappa, C. A., W. Ballard, S. Breck, A. J. Piaggio, and M. Neubaum. 2008. Estimating population size of Mexican wolves noninvasively (Arizona). Ecological Restoration 26:14-16.

Gazzola, A., C. Capitani, L. Mattioli, and M. Apollonio. 2008. Livestock damage and wolf presence. Journal of Zoology 274:261-269.

Gubanyi, J. A., J. A. Savidge, S. E. Hyngstrom, K. C. Vercauteren, G. W. Garabrandt, and S. P. Korte. 2008. Deer impact on vegetation in natural areas in southeastern Nebraska. Natural Areas Journal 28:121-129.

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Hellickson, M. W., T. A. Campbell, K. V. Miller, R. L. Marchinton, and C. A. DeYoung. 2008. Seasonal ranges and site fidelity of adult male white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) in southern Texas. Southwestern Naturalist 53:1-8.

Kluever, B. M., S. W. Breck, L. D. Howery, P. R. Krausman, and D. L. Bergman. 2008. Vigilance in cattle: the influence of predation, social interactions, and environmental factors. Rangeland Ecology & Management 61:321-328.

Meyerson, L. A., R. M. Engeman, and R. O'Malley. 2008. Tracking non-native vertebrate species: indicator design for the United States of America. Wildlife Research 35:235-241.

Miller, L. A., J. Gionfriddo, K. A. Fagerstone, J. Rhyan, and G. Killian. 2008. The single-shot GnRH imunocontraceptive vaccine (GonaConTM) in white-tailed deer: comparison of several GnRH preparations. American Journal of Reproductive Immunology 60:214-223.

Munoz-Igualada, J., J. A. Shivik, F. G. Dominguez, J. Lara, and L. M. Gonzalez. 2008. Evaluation of cage-traps and cable restraint devices to capture red foxes in Spain. Journal of Wildlife Management 72:830-836.

Palmeria, F. B. L., P. G. Craivshaw Jr., C. M. Haddad, P. M. B. Katia Maria, and M. L. Verdad. 2008. Cattle depredation by puma (*Puma concolor*) and jaguar (*Panthera onca*) in central-western Brazil. Biological Conservation 141:118-125.

In this study, data on cattle depredation by puma (Puma concolor) and jaguar (Panthera onca) were recorded for six years (1998 - 2003) in a cattle ranch in central-western Brazil. Depredation represented 18.9% of the overall cattle mortality, being predominant on calves. in biomass, kills represented 0.4% (63.8 kg/km2) of the ranch's annual stock. in economic loss, kills represented 0.3% of the cattle stock value. Depredation was mainly associated with cattle's age class and location along with the time of birth of calves. The proportion of pastures next to forest with depredation (n=33, 48.5%) was not distinguished to the proportion of pastures not bordering forest with depredation (n=35, 51.5%). However, the proportion of pastures next to forest with depredation represented 54% (n=33) of the 61 total pastures that were at least partially surrounded by forest patches or riparian forests that comprised eight continuum blocks of forest fragments of different sizes in the ranch and adjacent areas. No kills occurred in the central portion (main house) of the farm, close to the headquarters where the pastures not bordering forest. The distances of the kills in relation to areas of native forest was 1317.48[plus or minus]941.03 m. In order to reduce depredation, calves should be kept as far as possible from forest areas and concentrated cattle breeding and calving seasons should be encouraged. [copyright] 2007 Elsevier Ltd.

Sementelli, A., H. T. Smith, W. E. Meshaka Jr., and R. M. Engeman. 2008. Just Green Iguanas?: The Associated Costs and Policy Implications of Exotic Invasive Wildlife in South Florida. Public Works Management & Policy 12:599-606.

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Newsletter of The Wildlife Society
Wildlife Damage Management Working Group

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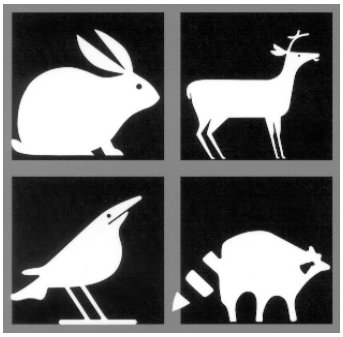

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# The Wildlife Society
# Wildlife Damage Management Working Group

## 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

### October 2008

PestWorld 2008 is being held October 22-25 at the Gaylord National™ Resort & Convention Center on the Potomac. Visit their website at https://www.npmapestworld.org/Events/ for more details.

### November 2008

Make preparations early for The Wildlife Society 15th Annual Conference. Visit www.wildlife.org for more information on the conference.

National Pest Management Associations' first ever Nuisance Bird and Wildlife Management Conference will be held November 19-21, 2008, at the Westin St. Louis in St. Louis, MO. For hotel reservations, call 314-621-2000 by November 4 and mention "NPMA" to receive the group rate of $119 per night. If you are interested in exhibiting click here e-mail Alexis Wirtz at awirtz@pestworld.org.

### January 2009

The 15th Annual Wildlife Control Technologies/National Wildlife Control Operators Association Training Semiar will be held on January 26-28, 2009, in Indianapolis, Indiana. Visit the WCT web site at http://www.wctech.com/ for more details.

### 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.