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## OPENING COMMENTS — NINTH VERTEBRATE PEST CONFERENCE

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## **OPENING COMMENTS — NINTH VERTEBRATE PEST CONFERENCE**

**JERRY P. CLARK**, Biologist, California Department of Food and Agriculture, Ceres, California  
95307

I am pleased to welcome you to the Ninth Vertebrate Pest Conference. We are here to get acquainted with each other and to learn some of the best methods of controlling vertebrate pests.

This Conference is sponsored by the Vertebrate Pest Council composed of representatives from the California Department of Food and Agriculture; Wildlife and Fisheries Biology and Cooperative Extension Service, University of California, Davis; Division of Wildlife Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Denver Wildlife Research Center, Davis Station; California Departments of Health Services, Fish and Game, and Water Resources; and the California Association of County Agricultural Commissioners.

The purpose of the Conference is to consider the problems caused by vertebrate pests, to set goals for environmentally safe and biologically sound vertebrate pest management programs for the protection of California Agriculture, natural resources and public health, and to collect and disseminate information pertaining to vertebrate pest management.

We are grateful for the efforts of the many people who have worked to put this Conference together and to those of you who have traveled so far to participate with us.