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An Update on the ADC Brown Tree Snake Control Program

Tim J. Ohasi, USDA-APHIS-ADC, 3375 Koapaka St., Suite H-420, Honolulu, HI 96819

Two years have elapsed since wildlife biologists and technicians with the USDA-APHIS Animal Damage Control (ADC) program initiated the control of brown tree snakes on Guam for the U.S. Department of Defense and the Government of the Territory of Guam. Most of these people had never worked with reptiles before, and are outside their traditional role of protecting livestock and agriculture. It puts them and ADC at the forefront of a multi-government, multi-agency effort to prevent the spread of the brown tree snake to other islands in the Pacific. The purpose of the control program, as directed by Congress, is to prevent the inadvertent introduction of brown tree snakes from Guam to Hawaii by aircraft and vessels that transport personnel or cargo for the Department of Defense.

The chief conservation concern is that brown tree snakes could disrupt ecological processes and upset the economy of the State of Hawaii and other Pacific islands, as well as parts of the U.S. mainland. This snake has been recognized as one of the most serious non-indigenous species threats to Hawaii. It has the potential of interfering with deliveries of electrical power. On Guam, the snakes cause over 250 power outages every year, with estimated utility damages of millions of dollars per year. During the 1980's, herpetologists estimated the brown tree snake population on some parts of Guam to be as high as 30,000 per square mile, the highest density of any snake in the world. A single female snake is all that is necessary to establish a population of brown tree snakes in Hawaii, since the females store viable sperm and can fertilize eggs without a male for many years. The snake can grow up to 10 feet, it is arboreal and nocturnal, and it is strongly attracted to blood. Since its venom is mildly poisonous, a bite from the snake can cause painful swelling. Infants can be seriously injured, with respiratory arrest a serious threat. It has taken less than 40 years for the brown tree snake to cause the extinction of 9 out of the 11 species of native birds on Guam. Conservationists agree that brown tree snakes would wreak havoc on Hawaii's delicate native ecosystems if the snake becomes established there.

ADC specialists on Guam work night and day to control brown tree snake populations in and around military and civilian transportation terminals. All

cargo warehouses, terminal buildings, aircraft hangers, loading docks, vehicle storage yards, and repository locations for munitions are considered high risk sites for snake dispersal. Such areas and the surrounding jungle are subject to aggressive control measures. The control of introduced prey species is also vital to the success of the brown tree snake trapping operations, so populations of feral pigeons, introduced Eurasian sparrows, and rats are also subjected to control operations.

A simple minnow funnel trap was the prototype for the brown tree snake trap currently in use by ADC specialists. The design has undergone numerous improvements to allow multiple captures of large and small snakes, and to withstand rummaging by feral dogs, pigs, and the coconut crab. Trapping produces about 800 to 900 brown tree snakes per month at the various transportation sites on Guam.

Specially trained Jack Russell terriers are used to detect and capture snakes if they get through a control area and on board an aircraft, ship, or find their way inside cargo. The dogs, and the ADC specialists who handle them, go through daily training routines and assist, as requested, in the military inspection program to detect brown tree snakes in cargo about to leave Guam. ADC uses the expertise of Mel Robles, the Western Region's Canine Trainer with APHIS's Plant Protection and Quarantine to develop the brown tree snake detector dog program. Eight dog teams are now available on Guam to inspect for brown tree snakes.

The importance of the detector dog program in the total control effort was evident in December, 1994, when a brown tree snake was found at the U.S. Army's Schofield Barracks on the island of Oahu in Hawaii. It was deduced that the snake had stowed away in 1 of 14 suitcase-like containers that contained combat training laser equipment. The containers were sent to Guam for a military exercise. Before their return to Hawaii, the containers had passed through the air cargo terminal at Anderson Air Force Base on Guam, but ADC was not notified to inspect the containers. The containers were then loaded on a C-5 Galaxy cargo jet and

Continued on page 7, Col. 2

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

August 7-8, 1995: Southwest Predator Prey Conference. Red Barn Restaurant, Silver City, New Mexico. Sponsored by Cooperative Extension at the University of Arizona and New Mexico State University. This conference is designed to foster an understanding of population dynamics among large predators, other wildlife, and domestic livestock. The program will include presentations on the biology, habitat and dynamics of major Southwestern predator-prey species. Contact: Lawrence Sullivan, Extension Natural Resources Specialist, 325 Biosciences East, The University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721. Telephone (520) 621-7998 or FAX (520) 621-8801.

August 8-10, 1995: Bird Strike Committee—USA 1995. Dallas-Ft. Worth, Texas. Contact: James E. Forbes, USDA/APHIS/ADC, P.O. Box 97, Albany, NY 12201-0097. Telephone (518) 431-4190.

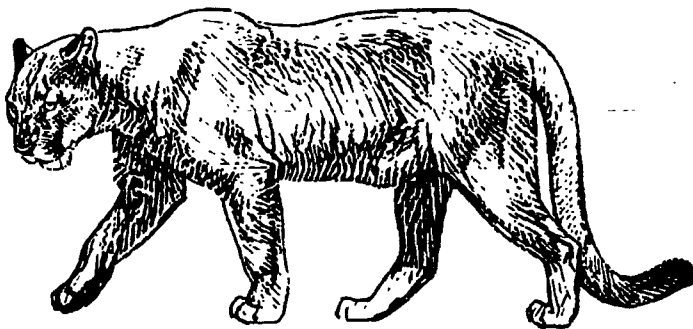
August 8-10, 1995: Symposium on Repellents in Wildlife Management. Sheraton Hotel, Denver Tech Center, Denver, Colorado. Includes papers on these topics: *Characteristics of Repellency, Bird and Mammal Repellents, Sensory and Feeding Repellents, Conservation Use Applications, Requirements for New Products, and Future Research Needs.* Contact: Office of Conference Services, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523. Telephone (303) 491-7501 or FAX (303) 491-0667.

October 8-11, 1995: Annual Conference of The Society for Vector Control. Holiday Inn University Park, Fort Collins, Colorado. Contact: Justine Keller, P.O. Box 87, Santa Ana, CA 92702, Telephone (714) 971-2421, FAX (714) 971-3940.

October 18, 1995: Deer Damage Management in New Jersey: Alternatives for Landscape Professionals. Haggerty Education Center, Morristown, New Jersey. Sponsored by Amer. Society of Landscape Architects, NJ Chapter. Contact: Helen Heinrich, ASLA, phone (201) 379-1100, FAX (201) 379-6507.

November 5-8, 1995: Seventh Eastern Wildlife Damage Management Conference. Holiday Inn North, Jackson, Mississippi. Contact: Phil Mastrangelo, USDA/APHIS/ADC, P.O. Drawer FW, Room 200, Forest Resources Bldg., Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS 39762. *NADCA Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with this Conference.*

December 13-14, 1995: Coyotes in Texas: A Compendium of Our Knowledge. San Angelo, Texas. More than 30 speakers will discuss the state of the science relative to coyote biology, ecology, and management. Contact: Dale Rollins, TAMU, 7887 N. Highway 87, San Angelo, TX 76901, phone (915) 653-4576, FAX (915) 658-4364.



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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.

NADCA Caps Available Again

We have received a new shipment of NADCA caps. We have a few of the more popular colors from the past, and several new colors. Your choices are Burgundy, Red, Teal, Green, Tan, White, and Grey. These are high-quality hats, USA-manufactured of Oxford cloth, with a leather adjustment strap, and NADCA logo embroidered directly onto the cap. It would probably be a good idea to name a second choice color, if you don't get in on the earliest orders.

Caps are available for ten dollars each, with a shipping and handling charge of \$2.50 for either one, two, or three units in a package. Regional Directors and meeting sponsors may request arrangements for larger quantities. Send your orders to Treasurer Wes Jones, Rt. 1, Box 37, Shell Lake, WI 54871.

Wear one around town and cause people to ask "What is NADCA?"

Any Books, Videos, Etc. for Review?

If you have a book, video, or other Animal Damage Control-related item you would like reviewed, contact **The PROBE** special corespondent, Stephen Vantassel. His address is 332A Cooley Street, Box 102, Springfield, MA 01128, or E-mail ADCTRAPPER@aol.com

ADC News, Tips, Ideas, Publications . . .

Deer Contraception Proves to Be Costly Failure

A \$60,000-a-year-deer contraception program has recently been abandoned in Fremont, California. According to a report in the April issue of the *WLFA-gram* (published by The Wildlife Legislative Fund of America), the East Bay Regional Park District has abandoned the program after admitting it was too costly and time consuming. In 1993 some 15 female deer at Coyote Hills Park were injected with birth control drugs and have since received annual booster shots. Despite these efforts, the deer population has outgrown the park's carrying capacity by 20 percent in just two years. Consequently, park officials have announced they will shoot abundant deer and donate the venison to local food pantries.

Kangaroos Off the Threatened Species List

Australia's red, western gray and eastern gray kangaroos were recently removed from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's threatened species list after a Wildlife Legislative Fund of America (WLFA) petition pointed out that, by the government's own conservative count, the populations of those species is significantly high. According to the WLFA, it was the first time a petition effort has been successful in obtaining a delisting. The WLFA told the service that to continue listing the kangaroos would detract from protecting other, truly endangered species. Additionally the organization noted that delisting did not preclude the service from monitoring Australia's kangaroo management program for future actions.

Animal Rights Protesters Target AT&T Gopher Experiments

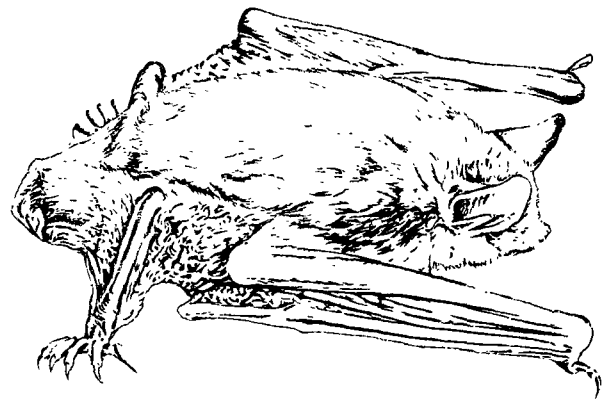
Animal-rights protesters picketed the 110th Annual Meeting of AT&T Corp. in April to complain about alleged AT&T-sponsored gopher experiments. According to an article in the April 21, 1995 issue of the *Denver Post*, the protesters claimed records showed that for years at AT&T's request, government researchers trapped pocket gophers and submitted them to a variety of tests. Demonstrators claimed the tests included subjection to 12 hours of intense light and to conditions which resulted in dehydration, diarrhea and eye infections.

Kathy Fagerstone of the Denver Wildlife Research Center, where the tests were conducted, disagreed with the protesters' description, saying the animals were treated humanely. "They live a lot longer in the lab than they would in the field," Fagerstone said. She also stated that the experiments were actually designed to save the lives of gophers by seeking nonlethal ways to stop them from chewing on telecommunications equipment. AT&T spokeswoman Sue Adams also added that the tests "are run according to guidelines set up by (the U.S. Department of) Fish and Wildlife."

Vampire Bats Plague Mexican Ranchers

Vampire bats are stalking livestock in the hills and plains surrounding Alamos, Mexico. According to a report in the May 5, 1995 issue of the *Denver Post*, 300 to 340 cows have died since last fall from what appears to be paralytic rabies transmitted by vampire bats. In a place where cattle are people's lifeblood, the rise in stock losses is serious business.

"You would see all these little bite marks around their necks" said Cesar Murillo, a weather-beaten rancher who stood in the sunbaked street outside the Alamos ranchers' association. The cows would get stiff, said Murillo, develop paralysis that left them dragging themselves about by the front legs, and then would die.



The bat above is not a vampire bat, but the more common Little Brown Bat (*Myotis lucifugus*).

Rexford Lord—a consultant for Bat Conservation International Inc. in Austin, Texas—said the Alamos cattle deaths reflect a huge rise in the regional numbers of vampire bats. The proliferation of vampire bats—which can spread rabies as they are doing in Alamos—is not a happy development, Lord said. He said the number of vampire bats in the world should be declining.

Instead it's rising due to hundreds of years of human development. Manmade wells and mines give vampire bats new roosts, and livestock at farms on former virgin forest provide creatures with blood.

Since the 16th century, the number of vampire bats has increased tenfold in Latin America. Lord said, "We humans are responsible for the tremendous increase in the vampire bat population."

More seriously, a 12-year-old boy who lived in hills dotted with caves, was evidently bitten last fall. He fell ill with a paralytic disease and subsequently died.



The editors of **The PROBE** thank contributors to this issue: Robert H. Giles, Jr., Tim J. Ohasi, Stephen Vantassel, Mike Fall, James E. Forbes, and Wes Jones. Send your contributions to **The PROBE**, 4070 University Road, Hopland, CA 95449.

Do Mixed Gender Teams Complicate Fieldwork?

Robert H. Giles, Jr., Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA 24061-0321

In the modern climate of sexual harassment suits, the fear of such claims and suits makes it risky for any pair of gender-different people to go to the field together. This is very, very tragic for students of natural resources and the agencies or organizations for whom they work. It either increases the cost of any field work (requiring a minimum of three people to be present); prevents such outings because of the costs and risks; or requires single-sex sharing of ideas, knowledge, and work experience and abilities.

In the modern climate of sexual harassment suits, the fear of such claims and suits makes it risky for any pair of gender-different people to go to the field together.

I make these observations partially out of frustration and uncertainty about how universally they are held, and partially in an attempt to learn of solutions, if any. My creative juices are dry on this topic. One reason for dryness is my fear of attack from enthusiasts on both sides of gender-employment issues. I write, suspecting that someone 20 years from now will see this note in a file-cleaning exercise and realize that

there was another factor — the gender-in-the-field factor — that changed the nature of field work and studies, the transmitted knowledge base and agency progress. The 1990's will be noted as the brief temporal zone between nominal periods (I do not know what that will be called). I do not advocate a return to pre-1990's conditions; I know that will not occur. I merely note losses with gains and hope for net positives. Without fairly specific action, I fear net positive gains will not occur. Not knowing what action(s) to take is the root of my concern and frustration.

There are conspicuous biological and cultural gender differences among field workers and these situations (e.g., all-day work in waders; a push by a colleague up a steep hill or over a log; all day work on a small boat on a lake; overnight camp and motel stays; the bunk-house crew; and actions during pregnancy). These make modern field work (of most types) in wildlife management (broadly defined) significantly different from that in the past. The difference may not be a problem. Zero-net-change is "no problem." The question remains, for me at least, can or will there be significant improvements in the current situation?

It is amusing to discount my apparent frustrations as "old-foggism," but cultural and social changes appear to TV watchers to take place faster than in reality. Unisex attitudes and mores may arise, but laws of social change must be violated for them to occur in my lifetime. Gender does influence public attitudes and behavior toward wildlife (Kellert and Berry, 1987, Wildl. Soc. Bull. 15:363-371).

Unisex attitudes and mores may arise, but laws of social change must be violated for them to occur in my lifetime.

My concerns are for how to create an appropriately gender-diverse, cost-effective work force that can do the integrated vertebrate pest damage management system work — the total production system work — needed in the modern world. Certainly, both women and men have talents and abilities essential in solving these complicated problems. I submit that we are on the leading edge of a learning curve, a curve that we should observe very closely.

Just a Reminder — NADCA Membership Meeting November 5-8, 1995

The Annual Membership Meeting of NADCA will be held in Jackson, Mississippi in conjunction with the 7th Eastern Wildlife Conference (Nov. 5-8, 1995). This meeting is an opportunity for all members to get together to discuss NADCA and to conduct business of the organization. The exact date and time of the meeting will be announced at a later time. For information on the Conference, see the listing in the "Calendar of Upcoming Events." To submit agenda items for the meeting, contact Jim Forbes.

Bird Strike—USA Committee Meeting

James E. Forbes, Chairperson, BSAC—USA

Collisions between wildlife, particularly birds, and aircraft jeopardize human lives and cost the air transport industry hundreds of millions of dollars each year. Over 100 civilian and military biologists, engineers, and airport personnel from North America and Europe will gather at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport on August 8 -10, to discuss means of reducing the costs and hazards to aviation caused by wildlife at the 5th Annual Meeting of Bird Strike Committee—USA (BSC—USA).

Technical presentations at the conference will include papers on bird strike statistics, engine testing standards for bird strikes, habitat management programs on airports, landfills as bird attractants, and new wildlife management techniques. In addition to the scientific program, panel discussions, airport field trips and training sessions are being held. Ten exhibitors, from the United States and Canada, will display and demonstrate various devices and techniques for separating wildlife from aircraft at airports to make air travel safer and more economical for people.

The keynote address on economic safety and military issues related to bird strikes will be delivered by the Air Force Safety Agency.

Bird Strike Committee—USA is an organization sponsored by three U.S. Government Departments: Agriculture, Defense and Transportation. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal Damage Control Program is coordinating the meeting.

For more information, contact James E. Forbes, Chairperson, BSAC—USA, USDA/Animal Damage Control, P.O. Box 97, Albany, New York 12201-0097, phone (518) 431-4190; FAX (518) 431-4192.

Errata from June PROBE

Dennis Slate, not Guy Connolly, is chair of the Spokesperson Committee, which, as reported by Wes Jones, is working on "white papers" for NADCA.

Also the recent North American Wildlife & Natural Resources Conference at which Jack Berryman received the Leopold Award from The Wildlife Society was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

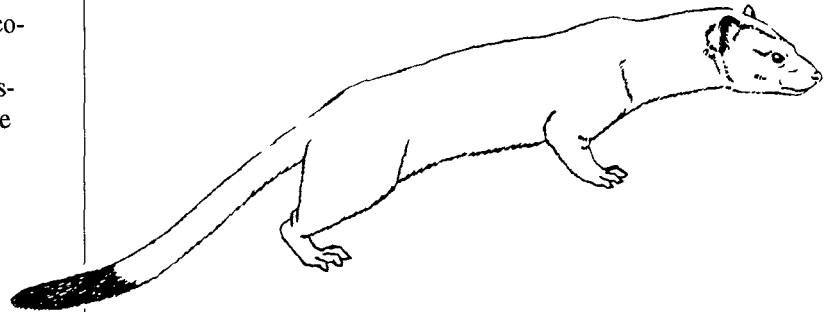
Trapping Weasels

James Forbes, NADCA President

The International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) is currently circulating a draft version of its Nuisance Wildlife Damage Control Survey. This survey will be the basis for developing a Prototype Nuisance Wildlife Control Certification/Licensing Program for use by many states. NADCA, along with The Wildlife Society, is cooperating with the IAFWA on this project.

This is your opportunity to have input into the process. Don't come around five years from now complaining about your state's licensing program if you are not willing to speak up now. Also, you should realize that this program will probably affect more than just NWCO's. It could also cover the federal ADC specialists, extension wildlife specialists, and state wildlife technicians in your state—think about it.

If you have comments or suggestions regarding this subject, you should write or call your NADCA Regional Director or contact Lawrence Brown, Chairman of the NADCA Certification Committee, as soon as possible.



Did you realize that this is an election year in NADCA? If you have someone in mind that you feel would make a good Officer or Regional Director, feel free to nominate him/her. It would be nice to have two candidates for each office this year.

I remember several years ago, one bright, young, go-getter-type fellow made the comment, "What's the point of voting in an election with only one candidate for each office?" I then made it a point of asking him twice in two years if he would care to run for either President or Regional Director. Both times he said no. If you have a nominee, first be sure to find out if he/she is willing run.

Now is a good time to start thinking about the (I think it's the 16th) Annual NADCA Meeting which will be held in Jackson, Mississippi, in conjunction with the 7th Eastern Wildlife Damage Management Conference. This is an excellent opportunity to learn a lot of new ADC information; meet new and interesting (and sometimes weird) people; and to find out the latest inside NADCA. Plan now—the November Meeting is only four months away.

That reminds me, also in November the weasel pelts will turn white. That tells me that by then, we will be once again—*Trapping Weasels*.

Video Review – “Removing Raccoons From Chimneys”

Stephen Vantassel, NWCO Coorespondent

Anyone in the animal control field will, sooner or later, have to deal with a chimney-dwelling raccoon. The problem, of course, is how to get the mother and her babies out of the chimney in a fast, safe, and professional manner. Many of you are probably aware of techniques like moth balls, radio, smoking the mother out, or using a chimney brush and then noosing the raccoon. Each one has its problems of either being too slow, too dangerous, or too unprofessional in appearance.

It was because of these problems that Rich Daniotti developed the “Chim-Trap”. This was a box trap that was affixed over the flue and would catch the mother overnight. But since Rich wanted to finish these jobs in one visit, he developed the Chim-Trap System II. This video explains how he removes chimney raccoons, with emphasis centered around the Chim-Trap System II.

Before watching the video, the viewer should understand that Mr. Daniotti is not only an animal damage control professional, but he is also a businessman. You won’t find sterile academic discussion about the various options of chimney raccoon removal. Mr. Daniotti has developed his system to achieve two interrelated goals. First, he wanted a system to provide a professional removal that would not offend the sensitivities of his clients (or himself). Second, he wanted a system that would be fast and practical so as to increase the profit potential—for as the saying goes, time is money and the faster a job can be completed, the more money you can make.

First, he wanted a system to provide a professional removal that would not offend the sensitivities of his clients (or himself). Second, he wanted a system that would be fast and practical so as to increase the profit potential

After briefly outlining the scope of the video, Mr. Daniotti discusses how chimneys are designed. He properly explains to the viewer that one shouldn’t confuse a flue with a chimney, because one chimney can have more than one flue. I found his unscripted extemporaneous lecture and his use of diagrams to be very informative and surprisingly rather well organized. I especially appreciated the anecdotal information of problems or situations he has encountered at other jobs. I found it refreshing to hear that even he has had some difficult jobs and things sometimes don’t go as planned.

In the next section, Daniotti reviews the equipment needed to remove chimney raccoons. He suggests that one should have a respirator (rated for asbestos), welder’s gloves, rubber gaunt-

let gloves, 9-volt flashlight, surgical gloves, drop cloth, and an inspection mirror. While not the main focus of this video, Mr. Daniotti does spend a few minutes of this ninety-minute video discussing his Chim Trap. If you don’t already know, the Chim-Trap was designed to be strapped to the chimney flue and left overnight. Since the raccoon has nowhere to go, it will eventually trigger the trap and get caught. He briefly explains how the trap works and how to use it in different situations. But, as I stated earlier, most of the video centers on explaining the Chim-Trap System II.

Without giving away the whole story, the Chim-Trap System II utilizes chimney brushes and a small cage into which to lift the mother raccoon. But these are no ordinary chimney sweep brushes. Daniotti has welded steel plates onto them so

But these are no ordinary chimney sweep brushes. Daniotti has welded steel plates onto them so that the raccoon can’t easily squeeze past it once it’s inside the flue.

that the raccoon can’t easily squeeze past it once it’s inside the flue. I say “easily” because Rich says that he has had raccoons blow through his brushes to get back to the babies. Being a demonstration video, Mr. Daniotti takes us on location to an actual job. His explanations are relaxed and detailed, describing his actions step by step. Of course, the raccoon dutifully climbs into the cage and the babies were removed relatively quickly. But I appreciated the fact that Mr. Daniotti said that this doesn’t happen all the time. He even suggests that if the raccoon doesn’t come up after a couple of tries with the Chim-Trap System II, then you should just put the Chim-Trap on and come back the next day. The video also briefly covers chimney capping and cleanup.

Before continuing, I should disclose to the reader that I know Mr. Daniotti personally and consider him a friend. I should also make you aware that although I have performed sub-contracting work for him, I am not receiving any cut of the sales of his products. I wanted you to be aware of my relationship with Mr. Daniotti so that you may evaluate my review of his products appropriately.

Having owned the Chim-Trap for a year, I must say that it is a useful tool. However, I have never left one over night. I have also recently purchased the Chim-Trap System II (Retail \$374.95 plus shipping) and used it on a couple of jobs. On the first job, the raccoon actually came up into the cage just like the video said. I was quite impressed. My experience would have been much more pleasurable if I had only wrench-tightened the

Update on the Brown Tree Snake Control Program

quick connects to the chimney rods before going onto the roof.

The next two jobs weren't quite as easy. I wasn't able to use the brush system because the flues were either too narrow or too angled for the brush sizes I had. You see, the plate, even though it is a couple of inches narrower than the bristles, can still get hung up on mortar joints or misaligned flue tiles if they stick out too far. I have spoken to Mr. Daniotti about this problem and he will be sending out brushes where the plate isn't quite as large. In fairness to Rich, he does tell the viewer that he has a number of brushes available to handle these different situations. In case you're wondering, we had to smoke the mother into the System II cage, which, by the way, was easier than smoking her into the Chim-Trap cage.

As for the manner in which he removed the babies from behind the damper, I can only say I wish I had it that easy. Ninety-eight percent of the cases I handle require the damper to be completely removed, but then again, I don't blindly reach for the babies with a gloved hand either. The reader should be aware of one caveat. Neither the Chim-Trap or the Chim-Trap System II are designed to remove raccoons from chimneys with a slate roof over the flues. Both systems require that one have clear access to the flues.

As a final caveat, Mr. Daniotti doesn't suggest having the customer light a fire in the fireplace to sterilize it. I always recommend that the client let a fire burn for 6-8 hours in the chimney in order to burn up the nest, feces, and any organisms that may be harbored in the smoke shelf. The smoke smell also keeps momma raccoon (or any other raccoon) from using the flue in the near future. I have heard reports of mom raccoons returning and chewing on the chimney cap even though she was released with all of her babies. The smell of smoke will help prevent that unfortunate event from occurring. Let me also warn you that you should only advise the client to have a fire if he/she trusts the integrity of the chimney and if they are going to remain in the house while the fire is burning. I have had clients leave the house only to have the damper close, forcing smoke into the house.

In summation, I highly recommend this video to people who want to learn about removing chimney raccoons from someone who has been in the ADC business for over 7 years. Rich has provided us with a non-nonsense guide to this aspect of the business and will educate all who see it. You can purchase a copy of this video by sending \$75.00 and about \$3.00 for shipping to Wildlife Control Service, P.O. Box 330568, West Hartford, CT 06133-0568. Phone inquiries can be placed to (203) 236-2683.

Stephen Vantassel, E-mail ADCTRAPPER@aol.com

flown to Hickam Air Force Base in Honolulu and trucked to Schofield Barracks, where the snake was eventually found. This incident is the seventh incident where a brown tree snake was found at a port facility on Oahu. Five of these incidents were at military installations.

While existing control methods are effective, work is underway to improve the existing control technology. ADC's Denver Wildlife Research Center is evaluating existing methods along with various substances that may be useful as snake toxicants or fumigants. A statistician is assisting the trapping efforts by analyzing the effectiveness of the trapping program on a given population of brown tree snakes. Mike Pitzler is the current District Supervisor for the ADC program on Guam. He is being assisted by Danny Rodrigues and Ernest Muna, ADC specialists and natives of Guam. The brown tree snake control program is managed out of the state of Washington ADC office by Gary Oldenburg.

The major political thrust to actuate control of the brown tree snakes comes out of the Hawaii, both at the State and Congressional levels. The brown tree snake control program is as much a bio-political issue as any of the major wildlife damage management programs undertaken by ADC and its cooperators. The exception is that no one seems to be against controlling the snakes, but given the limited funds to do the work, there has been considerable controversy over what should be done and by whom.

To resolve these complications, the Brown Tree Snake Control Committee, operated under the auspices of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, and authorized under the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990, released for public comment a draft Brown Tree Snake Control Plan in April, 1995. The plan is a comprehensive document that lays out an environmentally sound and integrated control program which will be undertaken by various governmental agencies with local, state, territorial and regional jurisdictions. The plan also provides Congress with operational and research funding needs for an integrated brown tree snake control program over a 5 year period.

Funds for the current brown tree snake control effort are not permanent. Each year, there is a real risk that the control program supported by ADC and the Department of Defense will cease. The Brown Tree Snake Control Plan is one way to present to Congress the need to allocate the necessary funds to maintain the operational and research work to keep this serpent out of paradise.

TIME VALUED MATERIAL - DO NOT DELAY

Scott Hynstrom
Forestry, Fisheries & Wildlife
202 Nat. Resources Hall
University of Nebraska
Lincoln, NE 68583-0819

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Membership Application

NATIONAL ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL ASSOCIATION

Mail to: Wes Jones, Treasurer, Route 1 Box 37, Shell Lake, WI 54871, Phone: (715) 468-2038

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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"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Pest Control Operator |
| <input type="checkbox"/> USDA - APHIS - ADC or SAT | <input type="checkbox"/> Retired |
| <input type="checkbox"/> USDA - Extension Service | <input type="checkbox"/> ADC Equipment/Supplies |
| <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) _____ | |

The Probe