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August 1995

The Probe, Issue # 157 -- August 1995

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"The Probe, Issue # 157 -- August 1995" (1995). *The Probe: Newsletter of the National Animal Damage Control Association*. 12.
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Past, Present and Future: Berryman looks at wildlife damage management

Katherine Vaughn, Special Correspondent, The PROBE

"I think that, as a profession, the picture is brighter than it ever has been."

Encouraging words, indeed, — especially when you consider the background of the speaker: Jack H. Berryman, longtime wildlife biologist and veteran of the political battles that raged during the redirection of the federal wildlife damage control program.

Berryman was chief of the Division of Wildlife Services of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, US Department of Interior, from 1965 to 1974. When he came on board, the agency was under attack by Congress, the media, and the public. Under pressure by environmental groups and humane societies, Congress had mandated the 1964 "Leopold Report" on federal rodent and predator control programs.

We were getting about as much heat as we could stand," said Berryman, "And it was complicated by three Congressional investigations."

The upshot of all the attention was a complete redirection of the program. The agency was still struggling to continue the reorganization when it was hit by the "Cain Report" of 1972 and yet another wave of controversy. Berryman weathered it all, but found it to be a harrowing experience.

"The names that I was called in those Congressional hearings, you just wouldn't believe, but it all related to 'poisoners' and 'killers,'" he said.

Even after the redirection, few could appreciate the changes that had been made. Berryman said that public support was hard to come by, mostly because the media was antagonistic across the board.

"I think in the quarters that really counted, we had made progress. The Fish and Wildlife Service [FWS], state agencies, and wildlife societies thought we were giving it a good shot. The environmental organizations were either tongue-in-cheek or in disbelief, and figured it was a sellout, that we weren't doing anything."

Berryman rode out the storms and moved in 1974 to the Division of Technical Assistance, and then established the Office of Extension Education in the reorganized FWS, where he served as chief until 1978.

Berryman finally retired from the FWS in 1978 and went over to the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA), where he was Executive Vice President until his retirement in 1988. Loath to let a good man go, the IAFWA declared him Counselor Emeritus in 1992 — a position for life. In recognition of his service to wildlife conservation, Berryman received The Wildlife Society's 1995 Aldo Leopold Memorial Medal in March. And that is not the first award he's gotten — he has been honored many times for his work in conservation and wildlife management.

"I think that, as a profession, the picture is brighter than it ever has been."

Berryman's career has been successful and varied, including a stint in the Marines in World War II, an associate professorship at Utah State University, the presidency of The Wildlife Society (1964–65), and authorship of 115 publications on resource management, extension education, outdoor recreation, and animal ecology. With all that, Berryman admits that he will probably never truly retire. He loves his work too much.

"I like the field and I want to see it advance. I want to see the guys that have served so many years finally get a break, because there hasn't been any group of wildlife workers that have been maligned and beaten over the head for as many years as they have — and not just the trappers, but the guys that work in the states, the state supervisors and the regional offices. It's high time they were recognized."

Happily, things have gotten better for wildlife damage managers. Berryman feels that an entirely new period was begun with the Animal Damage Control (ADC) program's move to APHIS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service) under the US

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Letters to Editors

The Editors:

The July issue of **The PROBE** contains a brief piece describing the failure of a deer contraceptive project. The title, "Deer Contraception Proves to Be a Costly Failure" gives a misleading impression about wildlife contraceptive projects.

A number of factors contributed to the failure of the Coyote Hills Park project including the fact that the people involved, however well-intentioned, were inexperienced with the administration of contraceptives and the darting of deer. Simply put, the project was poorly designed and implemented.

The success of other ongoing contraceptive research projects on ungulates (wild horses in Assateague, VA and deer in Front Royal, VA and Fire Island, NY) illustrates the utility of this wildlife management tool. Opponents of wildlife contraceptives are quick to broadcast bad news, but I hope **The PROBE** will be interested in publishing some positive news—an article on one or more of these successful projects.

Sincerely,
Cathy A. Liss, Executive Director
Animal Welfare Institute, Washington, DC

From the Editors - The following information and response were sent to us by PROBE reader Charles L. Dobbins.

According to an article in the May 13 issue of the *Canton, Ohio Repository*, students at Canton's Hoover High School had courtyard privileges rescinded when two ducklings were found dead and several others proved to be missing from the courtyard. The school principal Ted Issue announced the punishment as a consequence for the death of the ducklings which was under investigation. Issue said, "These small ducks are no longer living due to a despicable act by some individuals who

apparently have no respect for living creatures. Any information submitted to the administration will remain confidential. The courtyard is now closed and will remain closed until the individuals responsible for this act are identified."

Dear Editors:

I am sure that you remember the newspaper clipping I sent you about North Canton not allowing nuisance trappers to work within the city limits (skunks).

Here is a school principal trying to lay the blame of some missing ducklings on a human being.

Could these small ducklings have been prey of roaming house cats, stray dogs, skunk, mink, or raccoon? Why did the principal wait so long before informing the police? In time, maybe the tracks and signs of predators will have weathered away. Then since the police can't find predator sign, it will be

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

September 12-17, 1995: The Wildlife Society, 2nd Annual Conference, Red Lion Hotels, Portland, OR. Features some 20 topical symposia, including "Complexities of Addressing Human-Wildlife Conflicts" containing 17 papers on wildlife damage management. Wildlife Damage Management Working Group will meet Sept. 15 at 9:15 a.m. Pre-registration deadline: Aug. 14. For further information, contact TWS at (301) 897-9770.

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.

ADC News, Tips, Ideas, Publications . . .

Japanese "Scarecrow" May Protect Space Shuttle

NASA officials are using an imported Japanese "scarecrow" in an attempt to ward off woodpeckers from further damaging the 15-story fuel tank of the Discovery space shuttle. According to a report in the June 15 issue of the Port Clinton, Ohio *News Herald*, flicker woodpeckers had drilled 195 holes into the foam insulation that covers the shuttle's tank, forcing NASA to delay its planned June 8 launch and move the shuttle back to its assembly building for repairs.

NASA managers feared ice could form in the holes as super-cold rocket propellants were pumped into the tank prior to launch. Ice chunks could have fallen off the tank during liftoff, damaging the shuttle.

The "scarecrow" is actually a helium-filled balloon dotted with six menacing predator eyes. Two of the yellow balloons, the size of large beach balls, came to NASA this week courtesy of Jack and Mary Tepoorten, who own Bird Scare Predator Eye Inc., in Little Canada, Minnesota.

At Least Six Die From Rabies in 1994

In 1994 there were at least six rabies-associated deaths in humans in the United States, according to an April 14 report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In the June issue of **The PROBE**, a report from the *Journal American* was quoted which announced a Centralia, Washington girl's death as the first human rabies fatality since 1989. Apparently, this report was in error.

The CDC report stated that the six deaths in 1994 represent the highest human rabies toll since 1979. In eighteen cases of rabies-associated deaths since 1980, no animal bite was identified. Of these cases, ten cases were associated with variants present in insectivorous bats.



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Letters to the Editors

an easy matter to blame a member of the human race.

After all, isn't animal life more important than human life, according to "The Animal Rights Cult" way of thinking?

And the two small dead ducklings; could they have died of natural causes? Why weren't these dead ducklings taken to a veterinarian to learn exactly why they died? Because it would be easier to blame some person.

Charles L. Dobbins, Canton, Ohio

The \$1.5 Million Kitten!

A rabid kitten sold by a pet store in New Hampshire resulted in the largest rabies postexposure treatment project ever recorded. A kitten sold on October 5, 1994 was diagnosed to be infected with a raccoon strain of rabies on October 22, 1994. The pet store that sold the kitten routinely allowed kittens to roam the store where they were accessible to customers and many children from several day care centers who visited the store. The incident resulted in 665 people receiving postexposure prophylaxis at an overall cost of \$1.5 million.

Carbon Monoxide Gassing, Moles, and Pocket Gophers

QUESTION:

Is Carbon monoxide gassing considered an effective method for killing moles and pocket gophers? If so, from what source?

*Carl E. Carnahan
Bixby, Oklahoma*

ANSWER:

Two fumigants, aluminum phosphide (restricted use pesticide) and gas cartridges are registered for use against moles, according to F. Robert Henderson, Kansas State University. He does not mention carbon monoxide for moles.

Carbon monoxide from gasoline engine exhaust (without catalytic converters) is more effective for pocket gopher control than other fumigants because of its greater volume and pressure, according to Robert M. Case and Bruce A. Jasch, both of the University of Nebraska. They say aluminum phosphide and gas cartridges are also registered for gophers.

The degree of any fumigant's effectiveness also depends upon the texture and moisture content of the soil. In dry, porous soils, it is difficult to reach and maintain a lethal concentration of the fumigant.

Some users believe fumigants give poor success against pocket gophers because the rodents are very sensitive to foreign odors and air movement, and quickly construct a wall of soil within their burrow system to protect themselves. Results from fumigation can be highly variable. Further, the cost of using fumigants (materials plus labor) is usually several times higher than using toxic baits.

Answer supplied in part by James E. Forbes, NADCA President.



The editors of The PROBE thank contributors to this issue: Sam Linhart, Charles Dobbins, Cathy A. Liss, Stephen Vantassel, Mike Fall, James E. Forbes, and Wes Jones. Send your contributions to The PROBE, 4070 University Road, Hopland, CA 95449.

Book Review

Stephen Vantassel, *NWCO Corespondent*

Book Review: Tracking and the Art of Seeing: How to Read Animal Tracks and Sign. By Paul Rezendes. Camden House Publishing Inc. 1992. pp. 9-320 with Index.

From time to time you come across a book that truly impresses you as being a top-notch text. This work by Paul Rezendes is one of those books. I can understand if you are skeptical of such high praise. After all there are a number of fine tracking books already on the market. However, I believe that this text stands above the rest for the following reasons.

First, Mr. Rezendes educates the reader to look beyond a single track. He is correctly critical of our tendency to identify an isolated track rather than to see the track in a larger context of the animal's activity. In fact, he contends that identifying an individual track can in certain conditions be misleading. He believes that trail patterns are much more conclusive and accurate in identifying animal species. So not only does Rezendes give excellent illustrations of individual tracks, he also provides copious information about trail patterns. In keeping with a holistic approach to species identification, the text also includes information about the animal's behavior and sign.

Another reason why this text rises above the rest lies in the information provided by the author. Mr. Rezendes covers a total of 52 major North American species with the insight of one who has done his time in the woods. For example, I was deeply impressed with the way he suggested how to distinguish between the tracks of a Grizzly and Black Bear by measuring gaits and the relative distances between the pad and claw (p. 243). I think animal damage controllers will be especially interested in the way that he discusses scat identification. While noting that scat identification can be very difficult, the detailed clues he offered will help increase an animal damage controller's identification rate.

My final reason for believing that this is an excellent text lies in the manner the book has been compiled. It is no surprise that Mr. Rezendes has organized the text around the scientific classifications such as Rodentia, etc. But what is so remarkable is the spectacular color photographs of tracks, scat, dens, mittens, etc. Having taken photographs to illustrate my articles, I can only say that these photos must be the culmination of years of waiting and work. Nice wide margins also allow the reader plenty of room for personal observations. This book would make an excellent handbook for field use if it wasn't for its bulky 10x7-inch page size. But in my opinion, bring it anyway.

Despite my glowing recommendation, I do have a problem with Mr. Rezendes's brief comments on ecological philosophy found in his introduction. In short, he tends to agree that the ecological problems in the New World stem from a European theology's understanding (translate Christian understanding) of mankind's relationship to Nature (p. 16-17). Although I have criticized animal researchers for writing about too much philosophy and not enough on research in a previous edition of

The PROBE, I think that Mr. Rezendes' perspective needs to be challenged.

While Christianity teaches that God has given humanity dominion over the earth (Gen 1:28; Psa 8), it also teaches that man has been given responsibility to tend and to keep the world (Gen 2:15). It even teaches that the world groans because of it being under the curse because of Adam and Eve's bringing sin into the world (Gen 3:17f; Rom 8:22). So in a real sense the problem with the world is because of mankind, but mankind is not the problem in the way that many environmentalists would like to believe. In Christian theology, humanity has been given dominion over the world, not to destroy it, but to manage it for the world's real owner, God himself. We are to be stewards. Regrettably, our rebellion against God results in our being selfish, greedy, proudful which has resulted in the inappropriate exploitation of the planet.

Unknown to many, I would also like to point out that non-Christian religions have also exploited the planet. Dr. Richard T. Wright in this article "Responsibility for the Ecological Crisis" (BioScience vol 20: 15 pp. 851-3) writes that ecological problems existed during the times when Taoism and Buddhism prevailed over mainland China. Obviously, the Europeans and their view of God haven't cornered the market on ecological destruction. Dr. Wright contends correctly, that just because Christianity fathered Science doesn't mean that Christianity was able to control what this new child was going to do. I think one should also be made aware that simply bowing to nature would be unacceptable for many people. After all, how many people think that the polio virus has as much right to exist as a healthy active child? In Christian theology, the polio vaccine is just one example of taking appropriate dominion over Nature.

In regards to Rezendes' belief that the Indians lived in harmony with the earth, I think that claim is questionable. I remember hearing that the Mayan civilization ended because of ecological catastrophe due to their farming practices. I think that other native Americans were able to live in so-called harmony with the land because their populations remained small. Thus if they over hunted a piece of land, they could simply move on to an uninhabited portion. I don't think that harmony with nature has been demonstrated unless one can have harmony with nature while still reducing the infant and adult morbidity and mortality rate.

So in conclusion, buy this book for its excellent information on tracking, not for its environmental philosophy. You can order a copy by contacting your local bookstore. When I called one, I was quoted a price of \$29.95 for the hardcover and \$20.00 for the soft. I can assure you that you will not be disappointed by this marvelous text.

Stephen Vantassel ADCTRAPPER@aol.com

Nominations for Officers and Directors

Elections are coming up, and the search for candidates is on. Would you like to influence the direction of NADCA? Care to help in the continuation of existing activities, or establishment of new programs? This is your chance. You don't need to have someone else submit your name — a note or phone call to any member of the nominating committee (or Email to wrjones@mail.wiscnet.net) will get you on the candidate list. The Committee members are Rich Chipman, Craig Coolahan, Wes Jones, Don Mott, and Steve Vantassel. Every current NADCA member is eligible, with the only imitations being related to the residence requirement for the two Veeps and 9 Regional Directors. And not one dime will be required for campaign funds!

Wes Jones, Route 1 Box 37, Shell Lake WI 54871
Telephone: 715/468-2038
Internet: wrjones@mail.wiscnet.net

Reprint policy update for The PROBE

NADCA encourages organizations and individuals to reprint from past issues of **The PROBE** if the current Editor determines that the reprinting will further the goals of NADCA. Reprinting of entire articles is preferred, but reprinting of excerpts may be authorized by the Editor. All reprints should acknowledge NADCA and **The PROBE**. The Editor may seek advice from the Board of Directors if there is a question about the reprint request. Issues and complaints regarding reprint requests shall be referred to the NADCA Board of Directors. There will be a statement printed in all issues of **The PROBE** as follows: "Copyright © [current year] NADCA. No part of this newsletter may be reprinted in any form without the written permission of the Editor."

Some NADCA members have commented on the appearance of previous materials from **The PROBE** in a newsletter of Wildlife Damage Review (WDR), a group dedicated to the abolishment of the federal Animal Damage Control program. WDR requested permission to reprint portions of two articles from **The PROBE** in their newsletter in December, 1993. In January, 1994, the NADCA Board of Directors denied permission to WDR to utilize this material. WDR chose to utilize the materials anyway. We encourage all readers of **The PROBE** to bring to our attention any use of materials without permission so that we can document patterns of unauthorized use. — *The Editors*

Trapping Weasels

James Forbes, NADCA President

Wes Jones and I were running the old Weasel Trapline back on June 20th and at 1:45 p.m. we made an interesting catch in our famous "E-mail set". It was a rare little critter called "RE: New ADC Newsletter?".

Wes and I skinned it out and when we put it on the stretcher it said: "I am interested in starting a new newsletter that would not need to rely on advertising but would provide hard hitting and accurate information on animal damage and human interaction issues in bi-monthly newsletter (six pages?). We are looking at a potential cost of 20 dollars per year. [Do] ...you folks think there is a need...for this newsletter?". The message went out to the WDAMAGE List on E-Mail.

Now I'm not sure who said what, but I think one of us said, "What's wrong with this picture?", and the other said, "Lotsa luck."

Obviously, such a newsletter would give **The PROBE** competition. Currently, **The PROBE** is sent to about 700 members. But let's look at the figures. There is probably a universe of less than 1,000 people out there who would actually pay \$20.00 to subscribe to any ADC newsletter. Why would I subscribe to a six-page, \$20.00, six-issues-per-year newsletter, when I can get **The PROBE** at eight pages, \$20.00, 11 issues per year, plus NADCA Membership?

The first problem any newsletter editor has, is to get articles and other input. The NADCA Directors have agreed to increase **The PROBE** to 12 issues per year and eight pages per issue—the problem is getting enough news to fill this expanded **PROBE**.

What do **PROBE** readers want? NADCA sent out over 400 member questionnaires a while back to answer that question—and received fewer than 12 responses. I asked five people who have told me something like: "**The PROBE** lacks substance," or "lacks meat," if they would care to contribute something to **The PROBE**—none did. Getting people to contribute is very difficult. If you check out the contributions to **The PROBE** over the past two years, you will notice the same 6 - 8 names occurring month after month. That is why I asked Rich Chipman to chair the NADCA Publication Committee—to seek out and collar authors for **The PROBE**.

The other problem any new newsletter will have is in obtaining enough subscriptions at \$20.00 to cover the cost of printing a quality newsletter. Other than the NADCA officers and Membership Committee members, few realize how difficult it is to attract new members and keep old members (I'll admit that some of our old members are young). Some expired members have to be reminded up to five times that their membership has expired.

In short, we don't need another ADC newsletter. We need to continuously strive to increase the quality, quantity, and content of **The PROBE**. There is only one person who can do that—the person reading these lines.

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...Past, Present & Future

Department of Agriculture.

"It has had good leadership and good direction at the Washington and field levels, and it's been very responsible. They've really moved it in a fine direction," said Berryman.

Aside from APHIS, things have also improved on Capitol Hill, and at the state level there is support from fish and wildlife agencies. In addition, The Wildlife Society has a wildlife damage management working group, and the IAFWA has a wildlife damage management policy committee.

Berryman is pleased to see that ADC now works with The Wildlife Society in getting its employees certified as wildlife biologists, and with the support of APHIS they've established the Berryman Institute for Wildlife Damage Management at Utah State University — the first institute of its kind. Jack Berryman, in whose honor the Institute was named, is on its national advisory committee.

"This Institute is a landmark event in the field as a whole, because it's an academic and professional recognition of a legitimate function. I think it's a very important event no matter whose name is on it," said Berryman.

"I think as a field, wildlife damage management looks bright and it certainly has a lot of challenges in it. If I didn't feel all of those things, I wouldn't be proud that my name was on that Institute — if they'd asked me, I'd have said 'No way, I've had it.'"

To become more professional and respectable, Berryman says, means that the whole field has got to become more sophisticated. He feels that organizations like the Berryman Institute can help solve that problem.

Berryman says there's a good future for people who want to be in the field, and that wildlife damage management as a profession is in the best shape that it's ever been in. However, he adds that at the same time it's confronted with more difficult, complex problems than ever before, and many of those problems are related to urbanization. People want to enjoy wildlife, but they want to be free of the problems.

According to Berryman, more wildlife damage is occurring east of the Mississippi than west, and the main complaints now are about ungulates and birds, not just the predators of western states. For example, in his native northern Virginia, 80% of the migratory geese aren't migrating — they're living on golf courses and in beautiful suburban areas. At the same time, the migratory birds that Virginians can still hunt are declining.

"We have them in the community where I live and, why, if you shot a goose, they'd hang you. The geese are ahead on this one," said Berryman.

But there's a potential silver lining to the problems the public is having with wildlife: an increased awareness of the need for professional wildlife damage management.

"Bird aircraft strikes — people are aware of that, and they're aware of starling concentrations all through the East," Berryman said.

But just waiting for the public to find out about the need for wildlife damage management on its own isn't enough.

"We need to get better information out to the public. For example, I don't think that the public has any idea about the problems the telephone companies and others that use electricity have had with underground cables and rodents, or that NASA down at Cape Canaveral and Kennedy [are having] problems of bird droppings on satellite installations."

Berryman adds that if wildlife damage managers do a responsible, professional job with these urban high-visibility issues, they're going to have more public support. However, with an increasing population, there are increasingly complex problems, and more demand for new kinds of methods — both lethal and nonlethal. This can pose serious public relations problems.

"People are pretty darn sensitive about what you do with animals. Some of them don't even want them managed, let alone killed. It's always going to be a very sensitive issue no matter how you slice it."

Berryman stresses that although humaneness is extremely important, the public needs to understand that some animals simply have to be taken by leghold traps.

"It's not the most pleasant thing in the world, but we haven't found an effective alternative for it and it's still the most effective tool in some areas. We must continue to search for improvements."

"We're always getting hell because we don't try the non-lethal [methods], but if you get one of the programs [from the Vertebrate Pest Conference] and you count how many papers there are on various kinds of non-lethal approaches, there's a lot more information coming out on non-lethal than there is on lethal — it just doesn't have the sex appeal."

Berryman knows all too well that part of the reason the future looks so bright for wildlife damage management is that the need for it will only increase as the human population increases.

"Despite all the philosophy and all the hoopla and all the criticism, as long as we continue to have more people in the world, we're going to have to manage our resources. It's just that simple," said Berryman.

"You can talk about ecosystems and biodiversity, but we're going to end up managing [our resources]. And if we manage, and if we're going to produce crops and food and fiber, to that extent there's going to be a necessary management of animals. There's no way of denying that — it's just true," he said, adding with a chuckle that the need for wildlife management won't go away, "not if we want to keep eating and wearing shoes."

Video Review

Stephen Vantassel, NWCO Coorespondent

Video Review: "Moles Make Lousy Pets: A Guide to Effective Control" by Thomas F. Schmidt, Aztec Productions 1993. 48 minutes.

If you want to know how to trap the eastern mole, then you should consider purchasing this video. Tom Schmidt has been trapping eastern moles for ten years and remarkably he traps them pretty much year-round, even in snow. The tape opens with a scene of a mole burrowing his way below the ground surface. For the next few minutes, the viewer is educated about mole biology. Among the facts you learn is that moles are insectivores and they aren't blind. You also are shown in a comical way just how stupid non-trapping methods are against moles.

Using an interview format, Mr. Schmidt discusses the mole behavior and why trapping is the best way to control them. I found his use of diagrams to illustrate and analyze mole digging behavior and trap placement extremely informative. But don't worry, the bulk of this video is consumed in actual field demonstration.

He begins by showing how to trap in mulch. He says the reason why moles like mulch is because that is where the worms and bugs are. As he is digging to find the tunnel, Mr. Schmidt is constantly reminding the viewer to distinguish between the surface tunnels which are more temporary and the deeper tunnels which are more permanent. Since moles may use a deep tunnel two-three times a day, it behooves a trapper to set a trap in one of those. Of specific interest to me was how the video taught you to trap a mole dirt mound. Schmidt's step-by-step instruction will make you want to trap these sites, too. With his experience, it is little wonder that he can trap in the winter, too.

Mr. Schmidt explains in detail how to use both the Woodstream Harpoon trap and the Woodstream Out o' Sight® scissor trap. I found the training and photography to be so clear that I would have a difficult time understanding why someone couldn't become a reasonably good mole trapper after seeing this tape. But don't think you will be seeing lots of dead moles. For some reason, Mr. Schmidt decided not to show any trapped moles. However, with the quality of this video, you will soon have your own deal moles to look at.

Fortunately mole trapping equipment is pretty inexpensive. All you need are the traps, a good pair of gloves, safety goggles, orange stick flags and a four-pronged cultivator. The goggles, which Schmidt doesn't wear (perhaps because he has glasses on) are to protect your eyes from any flying objects that may be flung up by a trap's firing. The orange stick flags are so that people can identify and avoid your traps. Although he neglected to mention it, the flags also protected the Out o' Sight® traps from being run over by lawn mowers.

There are three areas I would have liked to have seen covered and/or covered in more detail. First, trap care and mainte-

nance was only covered by Mr. Schmidt's brushing dirt off a scissor trap and showing a can of WD-40 standing nearby. His traps looked like they were painted red but no mention was ever made about painting them. By contrast, another video, which will be reviewed later, talks about using a file on the harpoon trap to keep the tines sharp and using non-petroleum lubricant on the traps. A second neglected area was the business side of mole trapping. Although Mr. Schmidt isn't required to talk business in a video explaining trapping, potential purchasers should be aware that issues of liability and pricing must be discovered on their own. Finally as a New Englander, I would have liked to have learned about trapping in rocky soil. My problem with both mole videos is that they are done in parts of the country that aren't as rocky as New England. In fairness to Mr. Schmidt, I should say that I haven't tried the scissor trap yet. I suspect that it will provide a needed alternative to the harpoon trap which is useless in rocky soil. Along with the problem of rocky soil, Mr. Schmidt didn't talk about inground sprinkler systems. In my part of the country, they are becoming more common. The fear, of course, is damaging the plastic piping with the traps. Unfortunately, Mr. Schmidt provides no insight into this problem, although I suspect that the scissor trap may solve this dilemma as well.

In sum, I give this video an animal damage control rating of "A". His thorough, hard-hitting practical information makes it an educational gold mine for the professional animal controller. To put it bluntly, this video will put dollars into your pocket because it will teach you how to catch moles. The only reason why this video didn't receive an "A+" rating was because of its neglect of trap maintenance and different property conditions.

You can purchase a copy of the video by sending a check for \$34.95 plus \$4.00 shipping and handling payable to: Tom Schmidt, 2533 Orland Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45211. If needed, you can call (513) 662-3017 for more information.

Stephen Vantassel ADCTRAPPER@aol.com

Errata From July PROBE

Dr. Richard Dolbeer, not James E. Forbes, was the author of "Bird Strike Committee—USA Meeting", as reported on page 5 of the July PROBE.

TIME VALUED MATERIAL - DO NOT DELAY

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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

Name: _____ Phone: (____) ____ - _____ Home

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)

Check or Money Order payable to NADCA

Select one type of occupation or principal interest:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <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) _____ | |