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TWS Wildlife Damage Management Working  
Group Newsletter

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2002

## TWS Wildlife Damage Management Working Group Newsletter: Summer 2002 – Volume 9(2)

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"TWS Wildlife Damage Management Working Group Newsletter: Summer 2002 – Volume 9(2)" (2002).  
*TWS Wildlife Damage Management Working Group Newsletter*. 24.  
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**The Wildlife Society Wildlife  
Damage Management Working  
Group  
Newsletter, Summer 2002 –  
Volume 9(2)**

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## FORWARD

Fellow Members of our Working Group:

I hope many of you will attend our Working Group's annual meeting, at the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual TWS Conference in Bismarck. We'll convene on Weds. Sept. 25 from 12 noon to 2 P.M. in the Heart Room at the Radisson Inn. At this writing, our agenda includes the following items:

- Update on plans for the 10<sup>th</sup> Wildlife Damage Management Conference (April 6-9, 2003, Hot Springs, Arkansas)
- Future WG response on certification of private nuisance wildlife control operators
- Development of proposed symposia / workshops for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of TWS (Sept. 6-10, 2003, Burlington, Vermont)
- Response to a request from TWS Council to assist with funds for upgrading TWS's computer / web capabilities

If you have items for our agenda (whether you're able to be present or not), please let me know soon. Also at the Bismarck Conference, an excellent all-day symposium sponsored by our Working Group, *Management of North American Blackbirds*, will occur on Friday, Sept. 27. I thank **Mark Tobin, Kathleen Fagerstone, Robert Schmidt**, and other WG members who organized the comprehensive set of 21 papers being presented.

This issue of *INTERACTIONS* includes a ballot for your WG officers and board members; I encourage you to review the biographical information on each candidate and **vote** by returning your ballot to Gary Witmer **before the Sept. 6 deadline**. I appreciate the efforts of the Nominating and Elections Committee (Rich

Chipman, Larry Clark, Desley Whisson) in developing an excellent slate of candidates.

This is the final issue of *INTERACTIONS* edited by **Art Smith**, who has served as our newsletter editor for 5 years! Thanks, Art, for a job well done. And welcome to **Danny Martin**, our new editor.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as chairperson of our Working Group for the past two years. In Bismarck, I'll hand over the reins to chair-elect **Kathleen Fagerstone**, who will provide our Group with excellent leadership during the coming two years. With your continued support and involvement, we'll continue to be among the largest and most active working groups in TWS.

-Bob Timm  
<rmtimm@ucdavis.edu>

## **WANTED: Information on management of coyotes in urban/suburban locals**

Interested in cases from small towns to large metropolises, non-lethal to lethal to no control, and areas in which there have been conflicts with coyotes for few to many years. Particularly interested in the type(s) of conflicts and/or management techniques that have either worked well or have failed miserably, including those whose success was likely determined by public or interest group opinion. Also needed: publishable-quality photographs of coyotes in an urban/suburban environment. If you have reliable information or contacts, please contact:

Danny Martin, [danny.martin@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:danny.martin@dnr.state.mn.us),  
(507) 317-6046\*

\*please call **only if you do not** have access to electronic mail.



## **CANDIDATES FOR THE WORKING GROUP OFFICERS – July 2002**

The candidates are listed by office and then alphabetically by last name. The official ballot follows on page 4.

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### **Chair-Elect:**

#### **JIM ARMSTRONG -**

Jim Armstrong is an Associate Professor and Extension Wildlife Specialist in the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences at Auburn University. Jim and his wife have two daughters (ages 17 and 12). He received his B.S. in 1976 from Freed-Hardeman College (Biology) and his M.S. in 1978 from Abilene Christian University (Wildlife Biology). After getting his Masters, he worked as a Wildlife Technician and Wildlife Biologist for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. He was the Georgia Wildlife Biologist of the Year in 1984. Jim returned to school in 1985 and received his Ph.D. in 1989 from Virginia Tech (Educational Research and Evaluation). He began working at Auburn University in 1990. Jim's professional interests revolve around all aspects of wildlife damage management and human dimensions of wildlife management. He has served as President and Representative to the Southeastern Section for the Alabama Chapter, The Wildlife Society and is a Certified Wildlife Biologist (1987).

#### **DAVID DRAKE -**

David Drake is currently an extension wildlife specialist and assistant professor at Rutgers University. He completed his Ph. D. in Forestry at North Carolina State University, received a Master's degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from Texas A&M University, and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Biology from Macalester College in St. Paul, MN. David's research interests include wildlife management on private lands, wildlife damage management, and wildlife policy. During time away from work, David enjoys sailing, flyfishing, and spending time with his family.

### **Secretary-Treasurer:**

#### **LARRY CLARK -**

Larry Clark is Project Leader of the Avian Zoonotics and Repellents Projects at the USDA's National Wildlife Research Center. Larry has worked in the area of avian ecology since 1975. He received a B.S. in zoology from the University of Maryland, a M.S. in ecology from Northern Arizona University, and a Ph.D. in population and evolutionary ecology from the University of Pennsylvania. He was a post-doctoral

fellow and faculty member at the Monell Chemical Senses Center for 12 years before joining the USDA. Larry has served on the Board of the Wildlife Damage Management Working Group and has served as an Associate Editor of the *Journal of Wildlife Management*. He is the author on over 110 scientific publications in the areas of wildlife damage management, chemical ecology, and sensory physiology and behavior. Larry has four patents on animal repellents, two of which were licensed for commercial development.

## **RAY STERNER -**

Ray is the currently Project Leader (research of improved assessment, sampling, and economic methods for wildlife damage management) at NWRC. He received his B.S. from Penn State University and his M.S./Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin.

Ray has extensive comparative research experience (>20 species)—animal behavior focus, 90+ refereed/non-refereed / technical/popular publications involving studies of environmental, nutritional, toxicological, and chemical factors impacting animal behavior. He is the study Director, Co-Principal Investigator, or Technical Representative (contract monitor) for 13 studies needed to either maintain the registrations of DRC-1339 and strychnine alkaloid or maintain/expand the registrations for zinc phosphide ( $Zn_3P_2$ ); experienced in registration/re-registration of APHIS pesticides under FIFRA-88 and GLP/QA GDLNs, and has received Superior or Outstanding Performance Awards for 9 of 10 past years. Ray is a lecturer for courses in Comparative Animal Behavior and Research Methods at University of Colorado – Denver and Metropolitan State College of Denver, and is a co-developer of The Electronic Guard and the Livestock Protection Collar (EPA Reg. No. 56228-22). Since 1996, he has edited, published, and mailed the minutes, abstracts, and supplementary materials for the Annual Meeting of Western Coordinating Committee-95, "Vertebrate Pests of Agriculture, Forestry, and Public Lands." In 1996 he was elected Secretary of the Coordinating Committee, which entailed subsequent rotation through Vice-Chair (1998) and Chair (1999) Positions. Ray was Chair of the Membership Committee of the Rocky Mountain Regional Chapter of the Society of Quality Assurance in 1997-99, and a member of the Elections Committee in 1995.

## **Executive Board:**

### **RICHARD CHIPMAN -**

Rich is a Certified Wildlife Biologist living in Castleton, New York with his wife and two sons. He has worked for the USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services since 1991 including seven years as a Wildlife Biologist in Vermont and as the New York State Director since 1997. He is also an Adjunct Professor at the State University of New York

at Cobleskill in Cobleskill, New York. Prior to that he worked for various State Fish and Wildlife Agencies and Universities on rare species in Vermont, Maine, Kansas and Costa Rica, Central America. Rich received his B.A. in Biology and B.S. in Wildlife Management from the University of Maine and his M.S. in Wildlife Biology from the University of Vermont. He is the Past President (1994-1997) and Newsletter Editor for the Northeast Association of Wildlife Damage Biologists and former Secretary of the National Animal Damage Control Association (1997-2000). He has been an active member of the

Wildlife Society since 1987 and served as the Vermont Representative to the New England Chapter (1994-1998) and on the Conservation Committee (1996-1997). He has also served as the Secretary for the New York Chapter of TWS (1998-2001), been a member of the WDWG since 1993 and served on the Board since 1999. His primary management interests include: reducing the impact of colonial waterbirds and other wildlife at airports; management of conflicts associated with double-crested cormorants; the management of raccoon and bat rabies and other zoonotic diseases including West Nile virus and promoting the teaching of wildlife damage management skills and concepts.

### **NOEL MYERS -**

Noel E. Myers has worked for APHIS, WS for the last 10 years. Presently he is a Staff Officer for WS, Operational Support Staff (OSS) in Riverdale, Maryland, serving as a technical advisor to the Director on a wide variety of issues involving wildlife damage management. Prior to Noel's appointment to WS in Riverdale, Maryland, he worked as a field biologist for WS programs in the States of California, Missouri, and the Maryland/Delaware/District of Columbia. Practical, hands-on experience in dealing with urban wildlife issues, airport-wildlife hazards, migratory birds, and predators has provided Noel with a well-rounded and diversified wildlife damage management background. Noel has a B.S. degree in Wildlife Resources Management from West Virginia University. He is currently a member of the United States Animal Health Association, The Wildlife Society (TWS), and TWS Wildlife Damage Management Working Group.

### **LISA MULLER -**

Lisa Muller received a B.S. and M.S. in Wildlife Science from Auburn University. She received a Ph.D. in Wildlife Management from the University of Georgia. Her research focused on potential management practices for overabundant white-tailed deer. Lisa worked at Delaware State University and came to the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in 1999. She has been active with the state chapter of The Wildlife Society. Her research interests include the use of remote sensing tools to evaluate white-tailed deer damage to agriculture.

### **ART SMITH -**

Art is a Certified Wildlife Biologist living in Pierre, South Dakota with his wife and two sons. He has worked for South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks since January 2001. Prior to that, he worked at the USGS National Wildlife Health Center and the Department of Wildlife Ecology, University of Wisconsin, Madison. Art received his B.S. in Ecology and Systematic Biology from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, California, and his M.S. from the University of Wisconsin. He has been the Wildlife Damage Management Working Group newsletter editor since 1998, and is an active member in The Wildlife Society at the international, state & Section levels, he chaired a 1999 TWS annual conference session sponsored by this Working Group, and served on the TWS Conservation Education Awards Committee in 1999, 2001, & 2002. He is also a member of the National Animal Damage Control Association (Treasurer since 2001), Organization of Fish and Wildlife Information Managers (President-Elect 2002), and the International Biometric Society 1992-2001. His primary management and research interests are the development of useful wildlife damage databases, the integration of research, management, and private industry in the wildlife damage field, and the effects of wildlife disease on the hunting public and wildlife management. Art's personal interests include hunting, fishing, bird watching with his sons, volleyball, making sawdust in his garage shop, and spending time with his family.

### **KURT VERCAUTEREN -**

Kurt is a Research Wildlife Biologist with the USDA/APHIS/WS/ National Wildlife Research Center in Fort Collins, CO. Kurt is responsible for developing innovative and integrated methods to reduce ungulate, waterfowl, and rodent conflict with humans in a variety of agricultural and urban settings. Recent research focuses have included developing methods to reduce disease transmission between deer and livestock and evaluating a reproductive inhibitor for resident Canada geese. He obtained Ph.D. and M.S. degrees at the University of Nebraska and his B.S. at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point. He has been a member of The Wildlife Society for 15 years and is a Certified Wildlife Biologist. Previous TWS positions Kurt has held include President and Secretary of the Nebraska Chapter, and Secretary of the Colorado Chapter. He is also a member of the National Animal Damage Control Association. Kurt is an avid hunter, chasing bucks, bulls, and birds for pleasure.

## **DESLEY WHISSON -**

Desley received her Ph.D. in wildlife management from the Queensland University of Technology, Australia in 1994. Her present position is as Extension Wildlife Specialist at the University of California at Davis. Desley's dissertation focussed on cultural control techniques for rodent pests in Australia sugarcane. Prior to moving to California in January 1995, Desley spent a year in Mexico at the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de México where she was primarily involved with research on pocket gophers. While at the University of California at Davis, she has been involved in research and extension activities related to vertebrate pest management. She is a member of the Vertebrate Pest Council and was Program Co-Chair for the 19th Vertebrate Pest Conference.



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Art Smith  
Game, Fish & Parks  
523 E. Capitol Ave  
Pierre, SD 57501

PLEASE PLACE  
FIRST CLASS  
UNITED STATES  
POSTAGE  
HERE

**Gary Witmer  
USDA-APHIS-NWRC  
4101 LaPorte Ave.  
Fort Collins, CO 80521-2154**

# **BOOK REVIEW - RESOLVING HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICTS: THE SCIENCE OF WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT**

Author: Michael Conover. Lewis Publishers, CRC Press LLC. 2000. 418+ pp. \$69.95. ISBN 1-56670-538 (hardcover).

Writing this review was a challenge, given that the object was not to repeat everything that was presented, but to give my impression of the book and summarize the information between the covers. The first part was easy – I very much enjoyed reading this book. My dilemma was how to summarize the information without taking 20 pages! This book not only covers a vast majority of topics, but does so through the use of plenty of citations, personal comments, relevant side-bar examples, tables, and graphics. This is not a technical manual, a reader will not learn how to properly set a foothold trap or moderate a task force. That is not its intent. But it should be a welcomed tool for the novice, as well as the experienced, wildlife damage management (WDM) professional. Mike Conover has filled a void by presenting the scientific side of WDM.

The book has 16 chapters which can be separated into 5 main sections. Chapters 1-6 define WDM, discuss the philosophy of management, the history of WDM, and how wildlife damage affect humans and safety, the economy, and the environment. Chapters 7-13 cover how to reduce human-wildlife conflicts by reducing animal populations, removing individual animals and changing animal behavior. Chapter 14 presents the reduction of human-wildlife conflicts by changing the resource so it becomes less vulnerable to damage. Chapter 15 talks about changing people's perceptions about wildlife, and the final chapter covers the idea of integrated management approach.

Dr. Conover's writing style included the use of in-text (scientific style) citations, extensive use of tables - at times running for multiple pages, and separate literature cited sections by chapter. People uncomfortable with large tables and in-text citations may be bothered by them, but to compensate, the use of scientific names of animals and plants were restricted to an Appendix and common names used throughout the book. Also, any references to dollar amounts were standardized to US dollars in the year 2000, and most chapters contained a short, final summary of its main points. Case studies were used throughout to illustrate specific topics or points, however I felt that some of these actually detracted from the flow of information. But that may be due to my personal preference for in-text citations.

By using the citations, one can continue to explore specific topics if desired, however even without them, this is an excellent tool to teach the scientific bases of WDM issues. In most cases, topics are covered very completely. For instance, Chapter 2 covers the history of WDM. Not an unusual topic, but the coverage starts with pre-historic examples, and continues through to the present while discussing WDM in the ancient world (15,000 – 2,000 years ago), medieval Europe, colonial and frontier America, and the industrial revolution.

My main criticisms of this book are first, with the exception of a few specific pages, most wildlife damage examples were from North America. But given the heavy distribution of scientific study, research funding, and suburbanization of the United States landscape, the focus is perhaps justified. Another concern I had was that information presented in some sections was not as complete as in others. An example is a comparison of Chapter 2 (above) or Chapter 4 (zoonosis) with Chapter 5 (economics). Chapters 2 and 4 presented so much information that saturation points may be reached for some. But in Chapter 5, although basic ideas and facts on the economics of wildlife damage were presented, I left feeling that there was so much more that could have been covered, or perhaps expanded upon, but wasn't.

But perhaps that is how it should be. No matter what level one is involved at, be it as a private control operator, extension specialist, agency representative, university student or professor, or private citizen, serious WDM practitioners quickly realize that it is a very complex subject. This book introduces the science of WDM at basic levels and proceeds through the different topics with varying layers of complexity. If readers wish to continue their education on a particular topic, they are given ample citations to do so on their own. After all, if I want to learn more on wildlife damage economics, there are shelves upon shelves of relevant economics, agriculture, and biology books just down the street at the library, and this book certainly provides the basic tenets to begin a search.

- Art Smith

(NOTE: this review previously appeared in the May/June 2002 issue #222 of The PROBE)

