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The Probe, Issue 185 – February 1998

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"The Probe, Issue 185 – February 1998" (1998). *The Probe: Newsletter of the National Animal Damage Control Association*. Paper 32.
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Animal Rights Groups Should Give Shelters Money

*Susan E. Paris**

For the amount of money raised and spent by U.S. animal rights groups, every cat and dog in America ought to have its own condominium. Why then, do more than 15 million pets a year end up in underfunded local humane shelters with overworked staff who are frustrated that they cannot even adequately feed and care for them?

And why are 11 million of these animals—three out of every four cats and two out of every three dogs—destroyed for lack of a home?

The true measure of the success or failure of the animal rights movement in America ought to be the number and condition of animals in local humane shelters. Animal rights groups claim to corner the market on compassion for animals, so what more valuable a service could they provide? What more deserving an animal than one that has no home, food, and medical care?

News stories from around the country attest to the deplorable condition of local animal shelters. Among the problems cited: food shortages, overcrowding, open sewage pits of animal waste, rodent, ant, and cockroach infestation, and lack of medical treatment. At least one shelter, due to a lack of funds, had been forced to destroy unwanted animals using an old carbon monoxide chamber, or worse, because of difficulties obtaining the drug needed for a less painful death. Euthanizing an animal using carbon monoxide is considered inhumane because it is often a prolonged death which causes fear and suffering.

In a 1995 direct mail solicitation, the president of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, Ingrid Newkirk, wrote about the condition of one local humane shelter. She noted that the animals "suffered from overcrowding, lack of regular food and water, and a failure to provide veterinary care." Newkirk wrote that, "Shelter services have been drastically curtailed to the point where... people with animals have been turned away at the door."

So what has PETA done to help these homeless, hungry, and sick animals and others that suffer and die in shelters each year?

According to its fiscal 1995 tax documents, next to nothing. Less than \$5,000, or 0.03 percent of PETA's \$13.4 million budget was allocated to shelter or spay and neuter programs in the United States. Ninety percent of the \$1,485,076 PETA donated, or \$1.3 million, went to itself—that is,

PETA's satellite offices in Germany, the Netherlands, and England. The next largest donation, \$45,200, was sent to animal rights terrorist Rodney Coronado to help him avoid going to jail for firebombing medical research facilities. Coronado is now serving a 57-month jail sentence.

The Humane Society of the United States, for its part, raises and spends close to \$50 million, enough to bankroll at least one well-run animal shelter in every state and have enough left over to spay, neuter, feed, and save the lives of tens of thousands of dogs and cats every year.

So how many HSUS-run animal shelters benefit from the HSUS budget? None. Yet the HSUS managed to pinch enough of its precious pennies to pay its president, Paul Irwin, \$237,831 and its chief executive officer, John Hoyt, \$209,051 in addition to providing tens of thousands of dollars in bonuses to the pair.

What programs did the HSUS fund? Legislative initiatives to ban horse trapping, a national effort to ban bear wrestling, and contraception programs for elephants and deer. Why attack scientists for working with less than 150,000 dogs and cats, which live in comfortable surroundings and receive the best medical care, and yet do nothing for the 11 million hungry, sick animals destroyed in animal shelters each year?

The animal rights movement's main goal is not, and never has been, to save or help individual animals. Its mission is to market its philosophy and lifestyle to the American public—a lifestyle which is predicated on the belief that the life of a rodent deserves the same moral consideration as the life of a child. This sales pitch is most effectively done through massive media events, attention-grabbing legislative initiatives, and fancy Hollywood galas. Shelter animals are sacrificed in the short-term so that animal rights groups can gain the money, power, and influence needed to sell their view in the long-term.

Animal rights activists cannot blame researchers, hunters, circus owners, meat-eaters, fur- and leather-wearers, fishermen, or zoo keepers for the sorry condition of shelter animals. It is the animal rights movement that has turned its back on the suffering of these animals. Every local humane shelter should demand that animal rights groups show them

Continued on page 3, col. 1

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

March 2-5, 1998: 18th Vertebrate Pest Conference, Doubletree Hotel, Costa Mesa, California. All-day field trip March 2. Plenary and concurrent sessions dealing with rodent, bird, predator, and other vertebrate pests issues from both a research and management perspective on March 3, 4, & 5. Pre-registration \$110 before Feb. 6, students \$25. Field trip, \$30. Hotel reservations due by Feb. 7, with rooms for 1-4 persons, \$90. Contact: Sydni Gillette, DANR-North Region, UC Davis, Davis, CA 95616, (530) 754-8491 or visit website <http://www.davis.com/~vpc/welcome.html>

April 19-24, 1998: 11th International Conference on Bear Research and Management, Park Vista Hotel, Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Contact: Michael R. Pelton, Univ. of TN, Dept. of Forestry, Wildlife & Fisheries, P.O. Box 1071, Knoxville, TN 37901, (423) 974-7126, FAX (423) 974-4714, e-mail: <pelton@utkux.utcc.utk.edu>

May 3-8, 1998: 11th Australian Vertebrate Pest Conference, Lord Forrest Hotel, Bunbury, Western Australia. Particularly relevant to those involved in research, extension, management, and administration of vertebrate pests in Australia and New Zealand. Bunbury is located 2 hours south of Perth. Contact: Promaco Conventions Pty Ltd., PO Box 890, Canning Bridge, Western Australia 6153, telephone 08 9364 8311, or e-mail: <promaco@promaco.com.au>, or visit <http://www.promaco.com.au>.

May 17-20, 1998: 1st National Extension Natural Resources Conference, Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge, Deerwood, Minnesota. Aimed at natural resource educators focused on environmental education, fisheries, forest products, forestry, range, recreation, water, and wildlife. Contact: Larry Biles, National Program Leader - Forestry Management, USDA-CREES, Washington DC, at (202) 401-4926, or e-mail <lbiles@reeusda.gov>

June 16-18, 1998: 8th Annual Meeting, Bird Strike Committee USA, Holiday Inn Lakeside / Burke Lakefront Airport, Cleveland, Ohio. Of particular interest to military and civilian personnel responsible for airfield operations, land-use planners, researchers, FAA inspectors, engineers, pilots, and aviation industry representatives. The meeting will emphasize hands-on demonstrations and activities, and will include papers and posters on topics such as wildlife control techniques, new technologies, land-use issues, engineering standards, and habitat management. Pre-registration \$60 before May 1, \$75 afterward. For hotel reservations at room rate of \$89, call (216) 241-5100 and mention BSC-USA. For conference registration, contact Betsy Marshall, USDA-APHIS-WS, Sandusky, OH at (419) 625-0242, fax (419) 625-8465, or email: <nwrscsandusky@lrbcg.com>

Oct. 5-9, 1998: International Conference on Rodent Biology and Management, Beijing, China. Organized by Instit. of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Science, and CSIRO Div'n. of Wildlife and Ecology, Australia. For additional information and mailings, contact: Zhibin Zhang, Secretary General, Int'l. Conference, 19 Zhongguancun Road, Haidian District, Beijing 100080, P.R. China, or e-mail: <zhangzb@panda.ioz.ac.cn>

In Memoriam

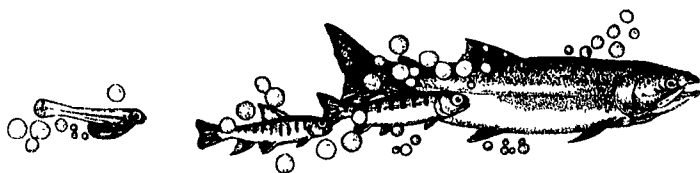
Obituary: Norton R. Miner

NORTON MINER, who served as State Supervisor of Animal Damage Control in Montana from 1996 until his retirement in 1980, died at his home in Billings, Montana, on December 9 following a long struggle with cancer.

Mr. Miner was a veteran of World War II, serving in the Army in the South Pacific, and having been awarded the Soldier's Medal for Heroism.

While in college at Colorado State University, Mr. Miner began his career in animal damage control with the US Fish & Wildlife Service. Following his graduation with a degree in wildlife management, he served as District Supervisor in Monte Vista, CO. Subsequently he became Assistant State Supervisor in Utah, and then State Supervisor in the Oklahoma-Kansas District. Prior to moving to Montana, he served as Assistant Regional Supervisor for six northwestern states at the Portland, Oregon ADC office.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy, and four children. Memorials may be made in Mr. Miner's name to a charity of choice. Condolences to Mrs. Miner may be addressed to: 3134 Lynn Avenue, Billings MT 59102.



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Your contributions of articles to *The Probe* are welcome and encouraged. The deadline for submitting materials is the 15th of the month prior to publication. Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of NADCA.

From the President

Thoughts....

I titled my note in the last issue of the Probe as "An Opinion." I realized later that the word suggested a weak start. Everyone has opinions. The universities assert that everyone should have them. There may be trouble in such assertions for what is badly needed is deep thought, study, discussion, research, and synthesis leading to formal statements...to thoughts, even if inadequately or clumsily stated. There is, it seems to me, too much talk, jabber, and mindless musings about everything with no prior thought, as if silence were evil.

My thought is that we can work together as NADCA members, with others, to develop the foundations of reasonable vertebrate animal damage management. Perhaps they have been developed, and if so, we need to present them and make them more evident, and as "foundation" implies, begin to build upon them actively. I doubt that such a synthesis and a coherent presentation has been done. NADCA members reflect very diverse interests. The diversity is evident in the current officers. Achieving some foundations, some corners at least, on which we can build does not seem to be a bad idea. Diversity, claimed to be good, can be re-written as chaotic or entropic. We can work together, at least on the foundations, to reduce the chaos felt by some of us and to achieve our objectives.

We live in an era in which most people realize that there are very few absolutes. There are conditions that make the same act in a different time or place good or bad. Everything depends. Trying to understand the vertebrate animal damage management system well so that major premises and conditions can be written is a task that is daunting but possible, and I think needed.

Teachers try to find words that help them teach, to package ideas that will be lasting for their students. Silviculture, for example, seems to be just such a well-known word. It usually implies a small set of forest harvesting procedures such as

single-tree selections, clearcutting, and shelterwood, etc. It remains a debated term and many people now realize it only as a teaching device. Types and intensity of tree harvests exist along a continuum from no cutting at all to complete tree removal. Whether tree replanting is part of silviculture is debated and whether logging equipment, financial considerations, wildlife, or pests of seedlings should be included is also debated. A lot of time and energy can be wasted if the word symbols are chosen poorly or too quickly. I think we can talk and write about and share ideas on the foundations of reasonable vertebrate animal damage management without committing to a name or debating the nature of the packaging.

Doing so may help us each see our special and necessary role in a profoundly important but very diverse activity. It seems to me that there are central thoughts, things held in common, no matter whether we work with rats, mice, birds, or other creature problems; whether our real interests are disease, only slightly the reservoir or vector; whether we are trappers, economists, toxicologists, or electronic specialists.

There are name concepts being promoted almost monthly like "adaptive management", "ecosystem management", and "landscape health." These usually have real advantages. NADCA members need to use the strengths of each, perhaps becoming noted because we are eclectic. Perhaps we can find the foundations first, then these can enlighten decisions about what are the strengths of the ideas, concepts, techniques, methods, and systems that are sound and needed for the hard work ahead, benefiting people and retaining important wild animal populations.

*Robert H. Giles, Jr.
President, NADCA*

Job Announcement

*Coordinator, Isabela Project
Galapagos National Park Service*

The Charles Darwin Research Station and the Galapagos National Park Service will employ a Coordinator for a long-term project to restore Isabela Island to conditions as close as possible to pristine. The project has components of research, management, education, social aspects, public relations, and fund-raising. During the next 3-5 years, the principal focus of the project is the eradication of goats from northern Isabela. In addition, main components are research on the native flora and fauna and its restoration, and work with the Isabela community. Post-graduate education is preferred, with fluency in both Spanish and English. Applicants should have experience in management of large projects in natural resources. Available June 1998 for an initial appointment of 2 years with possible renewal. Send application (curriculum vita, letter of application, and names of 3 references) by email to: Dr. Linda Cayot, <lcayot@fcdarwin.org.ec> by February 15.

Continued from page 1, col. 2

Animal Rights—Money for Shelters?

the money. And every animal rights donor should find a local humane shelter to support rather than PETA's "naked celebrity" campaign or some executive's bank account.

*Ms. Paris is President of Americans for Medical Progress in Alexandria, Virginia. She is a nationally recognized expert on the trends, campaigns, and tactics of the animal rights movement.

Editor's Note: This article was submitted by Carl Carnahan of Nuisance Wildlife Control, Bixby, Oklahoma, after it appeared in his local newspaper. Mr. Carnahan secured permission to reprint it in The Probe.

More Reports From the 4th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society:

Continued from the January Issue of *The Probe* (Issue #184)

Linking Spatial Heterogeneity and Social Behavior to Carnivore Population Dynamics: Development and Evaluation of a Simulation Model for Managing Feral Cats

Randy O. Farrar, R. Brand Phillips, and Robert H. Schmidt
Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife, Utah State University

A simulation model was developed for predicting individual carnivore survival and population persistence with respect to environmental heterogeneity and management. The objective of the model was to predict the effect of management and carnivore social behavior, activity, energy intake, and environmental conditions on individual carnivore energy balance, body condition, and survival over time. The model uses a series of finite difference equations to calculate the energetic balance, body protein, fat composition, and survival of individuals at user defined time steps. Model parameters, initial conditions, and genetic potentials can be varied by the user to simulate individual differences in a population. A user defined spatial dimension allows differentiation of resource abundance in a heterogeneous environment, and allows individual movement over the landscape. Individual movement patterns are dependent on factors of terrain, resource abundance, and social hierarchy. The model is applied to feral cats, a species that is intensively managed when its presence is considered a threat to the survival of rare species or the integrity of community structure. Model prediction of feral cat population dynamics with respect to spatial heterogeneity of habitat and intensity of cat removal will be compared to density estimates of manage populations of feral cats on San Clemente Island, California. Sensitivity analysis, implications for the management of wild carnivore populations, and additional research required to expand or improve the model will be discussed.

Mountain Lion Population Trends in the Guadalupe Mountains (1987-1996)

Louis A. Harveson*, Bill Route, Fred Armstrong, and Michael E. Tewes.

**Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Kingsville, TX*

We studied a mountain lion population on 3,063 km² of privately owned lands in south Texas from March 1994-97. Seventeen (7F, 10M) mountain lions were captured using leg-hold snares and trained hounds, mortality-sensitive radio collars were attached, and animals were monitored weekly with aerial telemetry. Average annual ranges for adult females (25km²) were smaller ($P < 0.01$) than for adult males (99 km²). Estimated mountain lion birth dates ($n=11$) occurred in all seasons. Juvenile mountain lions dispersed at <13 months with male ($n=5$) and female ($n=4$) dispersal distances ranging from 11-96 km and 5-18 km, respectively. A total of 29 mountain lions (collared and uncollared) died from sport hunting predator control practices, and other causes on the study area during the 3-year period. Female mountain lions were more vulnerable to man-related mortality than males ($P < 0.1$).

An Evaluation of Conditioned Taste Aversion to Deter Nest Predators

Fidel Hernandez, Dale Rollins, and R. Cantu.

Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M University

Traditionally, reducing game-bird nest depredation has involved lethal means of predator control. We evaluated a non-lethal alternative, conditioned taste aversion (CTA), in Tom Green County, Texas. Simulated nests were constructed and baited with 3 eggs inoculated with lithium chloride, an aversive chemical. Simulated nests were constructed along the perimeter of a pasture (15 ha). A 21-day treatment phase was conducted with depredated nests being rebaited daily with treated eggs. A 28-day post-treatment phase involved establishing 24 simulated nests in both the treated pasture and a control pasture. The study was replicated over 2 sites; the Management, Instruction, and Research Center (MIRC) and Stone Ranch (SR). There was no difference ($P=0.11$) in nest survival between treatment and control pastures at MIRC. At SR, nest survival was higher ($P=0.02$) in treated pasture vs. control pasture. Principal nest predator species differed between sites and may have caused the variable results. Raccoons accounted for 83% of the depredated nests at MIRC, while turkey vultures accounted for 92% of the depredated nests at SR. These preliminary results suggest that CTA may be achieved for some predator communities. The feasibility of using CTA to deter nest predators may be affected by extent of area to be treated, chemical toxicity, and predator movements.

Activity of Generalist Mammalian Predators and Patterns of Nest Predation on Different Kinds of Edges

Edward J. Heske*, Scott K. Robinson, Jeffrey D. Brawn, and William D. Dijak

**Illinois Natural History Survey, Champaign, IL*

Generalist mammalian predators such as raccoons have often been implicated when high rates of nest predation were detected along edges. Such predators probably take nests as they are encountered incidentally, as eggs and nestlings constitute only a minor component in their diets. Predation rates may be high along edges because generalist predators forage there for other resources, or use edges as travel lanes. If physical characteristics of edges affect the use of these edges by predators, then factors that reduce predator activity could also increase nest success. In Illinois we examined the relationship between predator activity (indexed using Trailmaster automatic cameras and track stations) along 32 250-m edge transects, success of songbird nests located and monitored along these transects, and several vegetative characteristics of each transect. We also radio-tracked raccoons in this highly-fragmented landscape to determine their habitat use and movement patterns, and relate these data to observed patterns of nest success in this landscape. In Missouri we used track count stations to determine predator abundance along different types of edge and forest interior. Raccoons were more abundant along forest edges bordering agricultural fields and streams than roads, clearcuts or forest interior. Opossums were more abundant along agricultural edges.

Continued from page 4

Reports From the 4th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society

Management of Wildlife-Related Power Outages in Electrical Substations

John B. James*, Eric C. Hellgren, and Ron E. Masters

*Dept. of Zoology, Oklahoma State University

Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC) operates in a broad area from northern Texas through 54 counties in Oklahoma to southern Kansas. Wildlife species, especially snakes and birds, cause power outages costing an estimated \$50,000 to >\$500,000 annually in equipment repair and related salary cost. This study investigated the nature of these outages and provides recommendations to minimize losses. Objectives were to: (1) characterize geographic, species, and seasonal distribution of wildlife-related outages in the WFEC system; (2) describe habitat associations and land use practices surrounding WFEC substations and relate these to a level of wildlife damage; and (3) examine the role of lighting, electronic repellents, and perhaps other deterrents in eliminating bird nesting and damage to WFEC substations. Bird surveys, nest counts, and reptile and amphibian surveys were conducted in May-July 1996 to determine animal activity at damaged versus undamaged substations (N=62). Bird activity and nest abundance were significantly higher at frequently damaged sites than at undamaged sites. Data on small-scale habitat characteristics were also collected. During the second year, use of deterrents will be initiated in an attempt to minimize animal use (especially bird nesting to reduce prey base for foraging snakes) of the substation. Also, habitat on a landscape scale will be analyzed and related to level of damage.

Canada Geese in Northwestern Oregon / Southwestern Washington: Too Many and Too Few

Robert L. Jarvis* and Robert E. Trost

*Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife, Oregon State University

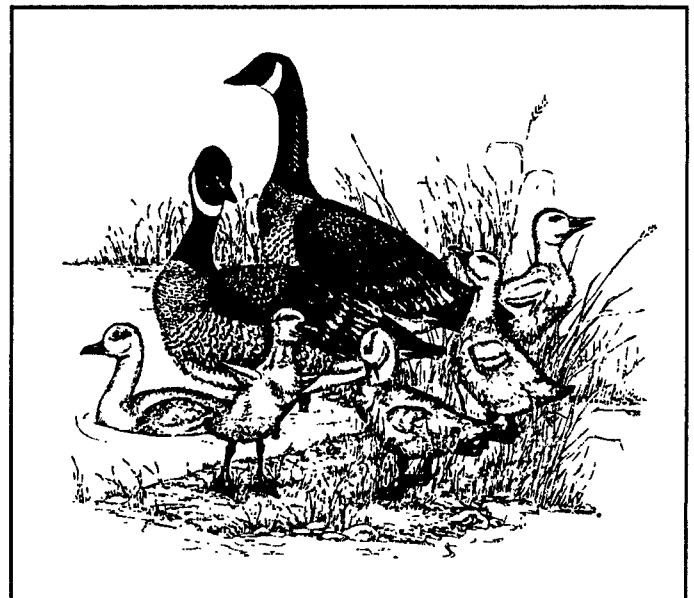
Seven races of Canada geese winter in the valleys of the Willamette and the lower Columbia Rivers. One race is a recently established resident; one is a recovering threatened species; one is a rapidly expanding population that has recently taken up winter residency, two established winter residency in the 1970s but have widely dispersed breeding and wintering distributions; one is a resident of SE Alaska, but a few migrate to our area; and one is a long established (early 20th century) winter resident that has recently declined and whose prognosis is questionable. Total numbers of wintering geese have increased from 10-20,000 in mid-century to 160,000 in 1996-97. Despite fluctuations, the trend is clearly upward. Hunting is severely restricted to protect Dusky geese, although their decline is the result of a geobiological event on the breeding grounds. Complaints of crop depredations are increasing and political solutions are being sought. Restrictive hunting regulations to protect Dusky geese eliminate economic opportunities for farmers. The dynamic nature of wintering flocks, and the complexity of the problems probably insures that a resolution satisfactory to all parties will be extremely difficult to achieve. Innovative management that involve all parties, address the conservation needs of Dusky geese, provide effective relief from depredation, and meet the desires of the expanding human population are the goals of current management efforts detailed in this presentation.

Supplemental Feeding of Predators to Reduce Nest Depredation

Richard L. King, Jaime E. Jimenez, Michael R. Conover,
and Terry A. Messmer.

The Berryman Institute and Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife,
Utah State University

High predation rates on nests is considered the major cause of population declines of several bird species in the Prairie Pothole Region of North America. Populations of generalist carnivores, such as red fox, raccoon, and striped skunk are the primary predators implicated in the depredation of eggs of upland nesting waterfowl in North Dakota. Traditionally, managers have attempted to reduce depredation rates on nests by either lethal or non-lethal control of predators. The latter approach is aimed at reducing the vulnerability of nests by excluding predators or decreasing their foraging efficiency. During 1996, in North Dakota, we tested supplemental feeding of predators as a non-lethal technique to decrease predation on nests. At 5 sites (10.4km² each), we established 64 feeding stations. At each station, we placed 5 chicken eggs and replaced them as they were eaten or removed. In late June, we increased the amount of eggs placed at feeding stations by 500%. Five additional sites served as controls. Eggs at feeding stations were readily taken by predators, and most were consumed within 5 days. We estimated nest success of upland nesting waterfowl on all 10 sites. Overall we found 411 duck nests. Mean nest success at sites ranged between 3 and 29%. There was no difference in nest success between treated and control sites even after we increased the amount of supplemental food 5-fold. The results indicate that our supplemental feeding program was ineffective at reducing predation on waterfowl nests.



Continued on page 6 col. 1

Job Announcement

Leader of Eradication Program Galapagos National Park Service

The Charles Darwin Research Station and the Galapagos National Park Service will employ a Leader of the Eradication Program, with the objective of eradication of introduced mammals in the Galapagos Islands. Current projects involve eradication of goats and donkeys on Isabela Island (north part), goats from Pinta Island, and pigs from Santiago Island. The project has components of research, management, education, social aspects, public relations, and fund-raising. The Leader will be responsible for operations within the Plan for the Eradication which was developed by experts during an international workshop held in September 1997. Also included are major responsibilities in data management and interpretation, coordination of operations with major contractors, and training, management, and supervision of personnel. Post-graduate education is preferred, with fluency in both Spanish and English. Applicants should have experience in natural resources management, and ability to work with diverse teams. Available April 1998 for an initial appointment of 2 years with possible renewal. Send application (curriculum vita, letter of application, and names of 3 references) by email to: Dr. Linda Cayot, <lcayot@fcdarwin.org.ec> by February 15.

Continued from page 5

Reports From the 4th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society

Effects of Large Predators on Cervid Mortality and Population Trends In and Near Glacier National Park, Montana

*Kyran E. Kunkel and Daniel H. Pletscher
Wildlife Biology Program, School of Forestry,
University of Montana*

The effects on prey of the full complement of native large carnivores has not been previously reported. We examined predator/prey relationships between carnivores and cervids from 1992-1996 to determine prey selection patterns and predation effects on cervid population trends. Survival rates were 0.74, 0.83, and 0.88 for white-tailed deer, elk, and moose, respectively. Cougars and wolves were the most significant source of mortality for deer and elk, and wolves and bears were the most significant source of mortality for moose. Deer made up the greatest proportion of both wolf (0.83) and cougar (0.87) diets, but elk and moose made up a larger portion of wolf (0.14, 0.03, respectively) than cougar (0.06, 0.02, respectively) diets. Wolves and cougars both selected older and younger deer and elk than hunters did and they both selected fewer males than hunters did.

Continued in column 1

Brochure Provides Advice to Ranchers on Wolf Livestock Kills

A new brochure advises ranchers on what they can do legally when wolves attack their livestock. The brochure, "Dealing with Wolf Predation on the Ranch," was published recently by the Wyoming Department of Agriculture.

"We know that wolves kill livestock," said Hank Uhden, WDA Predator Control Program Coordinator. "With the growing number of wolves in Wyoming, it's essential that livestock producers know what they can and cannot do. This brochure will help them."

The brochure advises the rancher for each of three scenarios: What to do if you suspect a wolf has killed your livestock; what to do if you see a wolf on your property, and what to do if the taking of a wolf is necessary. We've included warnings, definitions, and suggestions that we believe are important to help ranchers protect themselves from both the wolves and federal regulations," said Uhden.

The brochure was edited for content by the Wyoming State Predatory Animal Board, Wyoming Growers Association, Wyoming Stock Growers Association, Wyoming Game & Fish Department, Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation, the U.S. Department of Agriculture - Wildlife Services, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Copies of the brochure are being distributed within Wyoming to weed and pest offices, county cooperative extension offices, county predator animal control boards, the Wyoming State Predatory Animal Advisory Board, Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation, Wyoming Stock Growers Association, Wyoming Wool Growers Association, Wyoming Conservation District offices, USDA-WS trappers, and regional Wyoming Game & Fish offices. Copies may also be obtained by writing to the Wyoming Dept. of Agriculture, 2219 Carey Avenue, Cheyenne, WY 82002-0100.

Continued from column 1

More Wildlife Society Reports

Cougars generally killed animals in poorer condition than wolves did. Moose survival rates were higher where wolves were absent and where white-tailed deer were present. Deer and elk populations declines were positively correlated with wolf numbers. The moose population remained mostly stable, possibly resulting from the predator dilution effect provided by more vulnerable deer. Predation appeared to be the major factor limiting deer and elk populations in this system. Predator/prey managers may be able to manipulate cougar and alternate prey densities to enhance prey populations that are significantly impacted by wolves, cougars, and bears.

ADC News, Tips, Publications, etc...

Seattle Coyote Gets A Lift

A coyote being chased by crows ducked into the Seattle's downtown Federal Building to escape. But when the coyote ran into an open elevator, the door closed, trapping the hapless canine. "Fortunately, there was no one in the elevator," said Ken Spitzer of the General Services Administration, who has responsibility for building maintenance. Animal control officers removed the coyote unharmed after about 2 1/2 hours, but it reportedly left a clean-up job behind for building custodial crews.

—from the *San Diego, CA Union Tribune*, 12/4/97

Radio Says "No Thanks" to Fund

In response to a recent mailing to radio and TV stations advertising the availability of anti-hunting talk show guests from the Fund for Animals, WDIS station manager W. F. Walker in Norfolk, Massachusetts provided a polite, well-reasoned "thanks, but no thanks" reply:

"On an issue as personally important to me as wildlife conservation..., my conscience will not allow me to assist in the denigration of [the work of the professionals within Massachusetts state wildlife agency]," Walker responded to spokesperson Heidi Prescott. "As I find Fund for Animals' efforts counterproductive... I am unable to wish you well, or offer any support whatsoever, in your anti-hunting endeavor."

If other radio and TV executives were to deny animal rights activists access to the air, the American public would be much less concerned with conservation non-issues and more likely to focus on loss of habitat and other real problems facing wildlife in America.

—from the *wildlife Legislative Fund for America Update*, Nov. 1997

Oregon Mink Farms Attacked

Twenty-five incidents of vandalism and animal release at U.S. mink farms have occurred during the last 18 months, and the number seems to be escalating. According to Marsha Kelly, spokeswoman for Fur Commission USA, the latest incident in Mount Angel, Oregon resulted in the release of nearly 10,000 minks. Rick Arritola, who owns the property and other farmers were able to retrieve about 1,300 animals following the raid. But many females and unweaned young died, or are expected to perish in the wild. The day following the raid, cages filled with dying mink marked the grounds as Arritola patiently cared for the survivors. "It just makes you realize that the people who did this don't care about animals at all," noted Kelly. "There were thousands of dead mink in the yard." The FBI joined in the investigation with the Marion County Sheriff's Office, which sent extra patrol cars to the county's eight mink farms. There are

about 80 mink farms in Oregon. Although no one claimed responsibility for the raid immediately afterwards, the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) and other groups have waged a battle for years with the fur industry in Oregon and elsewhere.

—adapted from the *Associated Press*, June 1997

Rabies Down, Tapeworms Up in European Foxes

Aerial distribution of rabies vaccine in European countries has led to the virtual eradication of rabies in France, Belgium, Switzerland, Germany and northern Italy. "In Europe, rabies is now close to extinction," says Dr. Winfried Muller of the animal viral diseases research agency. Germany scientists noted, however, that once annual bait application is suspended, as it was in cash-strapped regions of Germany in 1994, rabies can return rapidly. Presumably as a result of rabies control, the fox population has increased three- to five-fold and fox numbers are visibly higher in the Black Forest. So many foxes are straying into urban areas that the vaccine baits have been placed in some city parks.

However, a concurrent upsurge in the tapeworm parasite, *Echinococcus granulosus*, has been noted in foxes during this same period. The eggs of this parasite can infect humans, leading to "hydatid cyst disease." While human infection rates are believed to have increased sharply in recent years, European biologists are in disagreement as to whether this parasite's success is due to the control of fox rabies.

Dogs, foxes, or other canines become infected with the tapeworm when they eat the remains of dead sheep. Mature tapeworms develop in the canids' intestine, shedding up to 800 eggs daily, which are excreted. Dog owners can become infected from grooming or stroking their pets and then failing to wash their hands before eating. In humans, the eggs lodge in the liver, lungs, brain, or other organs, where they grow into sometimes sizeable hydatid cysts that must be surgically removed. Infection of the liver is particularly dangerous and difficult to treat.

Hydatid cyst disease is also present in North America, and persons who handle coyotes or other canids or their feces can be at risk.

—adapted from *The Sunday Times*, London, Nov. 26, 1997



The Editor thanks the following contributors to this issue: Carl Carnahan, Mike Fall, Jane Rohrbough, and Hank Uhden. Send your contributions to **The PROBE**, 4070 University Road, Hopland, CA 95449.

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