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May 2000

The Probe, Issue 210 – May/June 2000

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"The Probe, Issue 210 – May/June 2000" (2000). *The Probe: Newsletter of the National Animal Damage Control Association*. 56.
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NADCA Election in Progress

By the time you receive this newsletter, it is likely you will have received by 1st class mail a ballot to elect your NADCA officers for the period 2000 through 2001. Please vote and remember to return your ballot by mail prior to the published deadline! The decision to move ahead with this election stems directly from the NADCA membership held in March at the Vertebrate Pest Conference, as well as the willingness of a number of members to become candidates for election as officers or regional directors. About 15 respondents to the membership questionnaire (enclosed in the Jan-Feb issue of **THE PROBE**) declared their willingness to serve our Association— Thank you! This provided a great starting place for our nominating committee. (And to the few members who marked “Yes” to being willing to serve, but returned your questionnaire anonymously... well, what can we say???)

Many thanks are due to Gary Witmer for his leadership on behalf of the nominating committee in contacting prospective candidates, checking with current officers and directors regarding their willingness to continue, and generally twisting arms where needed. We are grateful to each person who was willing to have his or her name placed on the ballot.

It will be the challenge of our newly-elected officers to revitalize the Association, plan for the future, and determine new directions that will carry us forward as a group of professionals having a dedication to wildlife damage management. Please support your new officers and board in any way that you can.

One important way to support our Association is to check your mailing address block on this issue and take note of when your membership expires. If it says “JUL-00” or an earlier date, it’s time to renew your membership. Use the form on back of this issue by enclosing the completed form (or a photocopy thereof) together with your check, and mailing it to our Treasurer. **Check your membership expiration date now!** Don’t delay. Another way of giving a vote of confidence to our Association and its leaders is to renew your membership for more than 1 year, or become a Sponsor or Patron by re-enlisting at one of these higher levels.

An announcement of the election results, and information on when the new officers will take over their duties, will appear in the next issue of **THE PROBE**.

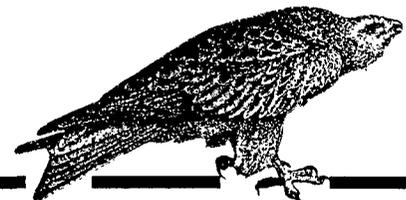
Berryman Institute Announces 1999 Awards

The Jack H. Berryman Institute, a national organization centered at Utah State University, works to promote human-wildlife relationships and to solve human-wildlife conflicts through its research, extension, and education programs. Each year the Institute recognizes superior work aimed at enhancing human-wildlife relationships and resolving human—wildlife conflicts by bestowing four awards: 1) Professional Achievement, 2) Leadership, 3) Research, and 4) Lifetime Achievement.

Rex E. Marsh received the Professional Achievement award for his decades of student mentoring at the University of California, Davis and for his service to the Vertebrate Pest Council and the field of wildlife damage management.

Dennis Slate, who is the New Hampshire and Vermont director for USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services (USDA/WS), received the Leadership award. Dr. Slate was honored for his work to improve human health and safety by reducing the threat of bird-aircraft collisions and preventing the spread of rabies in the northeastern United States.

Continued on page 2, col. 1



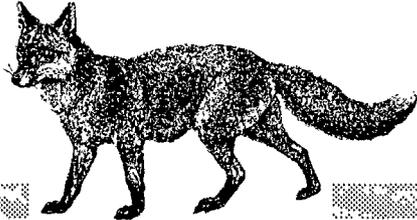
New Probe Editor to be Appointed

Larry Sullivan, Extension Natural Resources Specialist at the University of Arizona, has indicated to the NADCA nominating committee his willingness to serve as the new editor of **THE PROBE**. The editorship is an appointed position, which will be determined by the new incoming Executive Committee, as specified in the Association’s by-laws.

In anticipation of Larry’s assumption of the editorship by mid-summer, future submissions for our newsletter can be sent to Larry via email at <sullivan@ag.arizona.edu>, via fax to (520) 621-8801, or by mail to Larry Sullivan, Univ. of Arizona, 325 BioSciences East, Tucson AZ 85721-0043.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

August 1-3, 2000: Conference: Human Conflicts with Wildlife: Economic Considerations, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO. Sponsored and organized by National Wildlife Research Center, USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services. Regular registration fee \$250, which includes a copy of the published Proceedings. On-campus housing available at \$33.40/night single occupancy. For further information, contact program chairperson Larry Clark at phone (970) 266-6000 or email <Larry.Clark@usda.gov>, or visit web site <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ws/nwrc/econsymp.htm>.



Continued from page 1, col. 2

Berryman Awards

Michael Jaeger, a scientist with the USDA/WS National Wildlife Research Center, and Dale McCullough, a professor with the University of California, Berkeley received the research award in recognition of superior achievement in the creation of new knowledge. They were honored for a series of four articles published in *The Journal of Wildlife Management* on predator—livestock relationships.

James Miller, who is the USDA National Program Leader for Wildlife Extension and Past President of The Wildlife Society, won the Lifetime Achievement Award. Mr. Miller is the consummate wildlife professional and has served as a role model for many wildlife extension specialists and wildlife professionals. He is one of the fathers of the field of wildlife damage management and has done more than any individual to help this field become an essential part of wildlife management.

These awards were presented at the recent 19th Vertebrate Pest Conference held in San Diego, California, in March 2000.

August 7-10, 2000: Bird Strike Committee USA and Bird Strike Committee Canada: 2nd Joint Meeting, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, Minnesota. Presentations will include papers, posters, and demonstrations on wildlife control techniques, new technologies, land-use issues, training, engineering standards, habitat management, and vendor exhibits. A Wednesday field trip will include hands-on demonstrations and activities. Pre-registration fee \$90 by June 16; \$100 afterwards. Hotel rate is \$91/single for government employees or \$109/single for others at Holiday Inn Select by mentioning BSC-USA. For further information, contact Dr. Richard Dolbeer at (419) 625-0242, email <richard.a.dolbeer@usda.gov>, or visit web site: <http://www.birdstrike.org>.

October 5-8, 2000: 9th Eastern Wildlife Damage Management Conference, Nittany Lion Inn, State College, Pennsylvania. Proposed session topics: "Sustainable Ecosystem Management: The Course for 2000," "Wildlife Wars: Writing the Peace Agreement for the New Century," "20/20: The Latest News on Wildlife Damage Management," "Population Dynamics: When is Enough Enough?" "Origins, Innovations, and Futures of Wildlife Damage Management." For further information, contact Conference Chairperson Gary San Julian, Penn State University, phone (814) 863-0401, or email <jgs9@psu.edu>, or visit web site: <http://wildlife.cas.psu.edu/>.

September 9-14, 2001: 3rd European Vertebrate Pest Management Conference, Kibbutz Ma'ale Hachamisha Guest House, Israel. Abstracts and posters for the conference are invited and due by March 2001. For further information, contact Conference Secretariat: Ortra Ltd., P.O. Box 9352, Tel Aviv 61092, Israel, email <vert@ortra.co.il> or visit web site <http://www.ortra.com/vertebrate>.

Ken Garner Retires

Ken Garner, State Director of Wildlife Services for the Tennessee-Kentucky program, retired on June 2 after 38 years of public service. He began his career with the federal government in 1962 working for the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta. Later that year, he accepted a position with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, stationed in Houma, Louisiana.

In 1965, Ken became the State director for the Tennessee/Kentucky animal damage program. Many changes have taken place since then. From Ken's stories, it snowed much more then than it does now, and the roads were in terrible condition. Under Ken's leadership for 35 years, the TN/KY program has expanded greatly to meet the needs of the customers in the two-state area. The program has grown from a State Director and a part-time budget assistant to one of the largest operational programs in the eastern region of Wildlife Services.


The Editor thanks the following contributors to this issue: Guy Connelly, Mike Conover, Monte Dodson, Mike Fall, Sam Linhart, Stephen Vantassel, and Yanin Walker. Send your contributions to THE PROBE, c/o of Larry Sullivan, Univ. of Arizona, 325 BioSciences East, Tuscon, AZ 87521-0043.

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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.

Abstracts from the 6th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society: Continued from Probe Issue #209

Monitoring of *Sin Nombre* Hantavirus in deer mice of the Southwest, USA

Robinson, Rhonda J., Kathryn D. Bennett, James R. Biggs, Timothy K. Haarmann, David C. Keller, and Mary E. Salisbury

Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, NM

In 1993, following an outbreak of a new strain of hantavirus (*Sin Nombre*) in the Four Corners region of the southwestern US, the deer mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*) was found to be the primary carrier of the virus. To establish baseline data and a trend line, the biology team of the Ecology group at Los Alamos National Laboratory beginning in 1994 monitored seroprevalance rates of hantavirus antibodies in Arizona and New Mexico. Over the five-year period, 188 deer mice were sampled in northeastern Arizona, and 98 deer mice were sampled in northwestern New Mexico. Also, 242 deer mice were sampled in Los Alamos County, NM. Live trapping took place over four to six nights each year. Personal protective equipment used to minimize potential exposure to hantavirus included laboratory gowns, disposable gloves, boot covers, surgical hats, and full-face air-filtered respirators. The animals were anesthetized with metofane. Each animal was identified to species, sexed, weighed, measured, and ear tagged. Blood samples were taken and submitted to the University of New Mexico School of Medicine for analyses. From 1994 through 1998, seroprevalance rates among deer mice in northeastern Arizona were 25%, 30%, 23.5%, 9.3%, and 20%, respectively and 32.3%, 3.7%, 0%, 22%, and 9.5%, respectively in northwestern New Mexico. Results of seroprevalance rates among deer mice for Los Alamos County from 1994 to 1996, and 1998 were 9%, 5%, 0%, and 4%, respectively. Seroprevalance rates varied widely within years by geographic area. Annual rates were higher in the four corners region (the area of initial outbreak) than in Los Alamos County.

Predators in the classroom: A prickly paradigm for educators

Rollins, Dale

Texas Agric. Extension Service, San Angelo, TX

Predators are perhaps the most contentious group of wildlife species. Depending on one's perspective, they may be either a rangeland icon or a pariah. As evidenced by Leopold's *Thinking Like a Mountain*, predators have a way of stirring deep-seated emotions and affording a fertile seedbed for critical thinking. I have been conducted educational programs on predator management since 1988, most of which were targeted for adults (specifically ranchers). Some of these efforts, e.g., "Predator Appreciation Days" (with emphasis on "appreciation" defined as "to judge with heightened awareness) have met with great educational success, but considerable political risk. Since 1996 however, my point of attack has been in the classroom, with the inception of a 4th grade multimedia school enrichment curriculum called "Predators in the Classroom." Subsequent testing suggests that "kids do say the darndest things", at least about predators. Once again predator politics reared its head forcing me to try and integrate the gray areas among science-based management, political correctness and stakeholder allegiance to the university. My presentation will chronicle these and other educational programs and what I've learned about the Extension process as a result. Therein are several "prickly

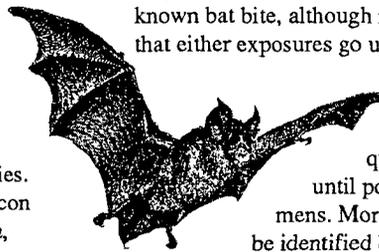
paradigms" that underscore the need for, indeed an "appreciation" of, conflict resolution. It also underscores the importance of having achieved a trust relationship with one's peers and various stakeholder groups. Predators and their management indeed offer an excellent entree for teaching critical thinking skills, but one must always keep his nose to the wind and appreciate the emotion attached to the subject. Else your best intentions about predator education just might jump out and bite you in the rear!

Trends in bat rabies in the U.S.: Shaping public health policy

Rupprecht, Charles E., Sharon B. Messenger, and Jean S. Smith

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA

Insectivorous bat rabies, first recognized in 1953, is endemic in the U.S. with the exception of Hawaii. Although bats as a group may account for 10% of the approximately 7000-9500 cases of animal rabies reported annually by state public health laboratories, neither the incidence of the disease nor its impact upon bat populations are known. Typically, > 5% of suspect bats are diagnosed with rabies. Recently, indigenous human rabies cases have increased slightly compared to the 1980s, and most of this increase has been associated with variants of rabies virus maintained in bats, rather than those associated with terrestrial wildlife species, such as raccoons (*Procyon lotor*), skunks (primarily *Mephitis mephitis*), foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*, *Urocyon cinereoargenteus* and *Alopex lagopus*) or coyotes (*Canis latrans*). Since 1990, 20 of 27 fatal human cases diagnosed in the U.S. have been attributed to rabies virus variants associated with bats. These humans dying from bat-associated rabies rarely have a history of bat or any other animal bite that account for their exposures. For example, only 1 of the 20 human cases had a definitive history of a known bat bite, although many had bat contact. These data suggest that either exposures go unrecognized, or the relative risk associated with bat bite is not appreciated. In part, because of the missing history of animal bite, these rabies cases are frequently misdiagnosed or are not identified until postmortem examination of autopsy specimens. Moreover, although distinct rabies viruses can be identified by phylogenetic analysis from big brown bats (*Lasiurus cinereus*) (among others), the majority of bat-associated human cases have been caused by a specific silver-haired (*Lasiurus noctivagans*)/eastern pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus subflavus*) rabies virus variant that may possess unique virulence properties. These observations have led to more conservative public health measures concerning animal submissions, diagnostic testing, and considerations for prophylaxis, when humans may be exposed to bats. Proper public education about bats and rabies, together with the exclusion of bats from human dwellings, should be balanced with the message of the overall ecological utility that bats provide.



Book Review: Stephen Vantassel, NWCO Correspondent

"Master Land Snaring: Canine and Coon Techniques, Effective in All Terrains."
by Newt Sterling as told to Bob Noonan. 1999. 58 pages, illustrated.

I may be wrong, but I think snaring activities will continue to grow in the U.S. As more pressure is brought against footholds, snaring will be sought after as the tool of choice for controlling predator species. I think it behooves all NWCOs to become familiar with snaring. Even those who live in states where snaring is currently illegal may eventually find that people formerly opposed to snaring may embrace it as an alternative to footholds. Nor should this potential future shift surprise us, as snaring is, after all, a live trap.

Newt Sterling, with the help of Bob Noonan, has produced a booklet that will help you learn the fundamentals of land snaring. You probably already know Bob Noonan—he is a prolific free-lance writer, a member of the Outdoor Writers Association, and former editor of *Wildlife Control Technology* magazine. Newt Sterling may not be so familiar. But the Government thinks highly enough of Mr. Sterling's skills that it hires him to control predators on islands off the New Jersey coast. Mr. Sterling has also been an instructor at the prestigious Fur-Takers Trappers College.

The point of all this information is to show that the book has been produced by pedigreed trappers—no armchair thinkers here. This booklet provides real-world information. It covers the fundamentals in wording and illustrations that can be clearly understood. Sterling takes us through the world of snaring, step by step.

...no armchair thinkers here. This booklet provides real-world information. It covers the fundamentals in wording and illustrations that can be clearly understood.

First, Sterling covers the equipment, cables, locks, and cable binds. No great detail here, just the fundamentals. One of the things I liked about the book was that Mr. Sterling doesn't take on airs. He doesn't make snaring more complicated than it needs to be. Sometimes writers can make trapping seem like some sort of convoluted science, but not Mr. Sterling. He lays out the information in a straightforward manner because he rightly believes that snaring is easy to learn and perform.

The next several pages cover loop sizes and snare anchoring and support. The author offers enough information to cover a variety of trapping situations. One device I thought would be rather useful is the support wire driving rod. This tool is used when you don't have a place to anchor the support wire in any place other than the ground. Mr. Sterling also claims to have developed a way to bend the snare loop holder that holds the snare more effectively than the typical "u" shaped bend.

Sterling then proceeds to talking about making sets. Again, he presents a method of setting the snare that is contrary to the typical way people have taught snaring. He is careful to talk about fencing and deer guards. I think his instruction on these points would be most valuable to all potential users of snares.

The remainder of the booklet, a total of 25 additional pages, is dedicated to choosing snare location. I believe his instruction on location is invaluable. Mr. Sterling even illustrates how to use a topographical map to help you in finding good snare locations. Although Mr. Sterling's snaring experience occurs in an eastern U.S. environment, his principles for finding good snaring sites can be applied everywhere.

Master Land Snaring is an excellent land snaring book. I found the information to be clear and concise. The line drawings were excellent, although the photos less so. I wasn't sure why Courier type fonts were chosen over New Times Roman. The boxy character of the Courier fonts seemed to be a poor choice for readers. I also would have liked more detail on how to use the snare as a live trap and a kill trap. However, this book doesn't bill itself as an animal damage control piece. Maybe Mr. Sterling will produce a book with an ADC focus in the future.

I think this text is also important in that it shows how effective snaring can be used for fur trapping purposes in states that have banned footholds. New Jersey has banned footholds since 1986. As one of the nation's most densely populated states, New Jersey has demonstrated that snaring can be used safely and effectively in other urbanized states.

I sincerely hope that state biologists take another look at allowing snares in their states. For with proper training and regulations, snares can be used to safely live catch wildlife.

You can purchase a post-paid copy of this book by sending \$9.95 to Newt Sterling, P. O. Box 378, Port Republic, NJ 08241.

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Wildlife Damage Management in the News

NPCA Gets New Name

The National Pest Control Association has changed its official name to "National Pest Management Association," effective January 1, 2000. Voted upon by the membership at the Pest Management '99 meeting in Atlanta, the name change from "control" to "management" was cited by members as having more positive connotations. NPMA executive vice president Rob Lederer calls the name change "more consumer-friendly."

Lobster Plates

PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) is fighting to prevent the return of the lobster to Maine's automobile license plates. Spokesperson Dawn Carr wrote to Maine's Governor Angus King, saying, "We hope you'll agree that the license plate is no place to put the image of an animal that has to be boiled alive." Governor King responded, "If God didn't intend for us to eat meat, why did he give us those two sharp front teeth?"

—*excerpted from the NWLF website*

Active Antis in the Northwest

Animal rights groups, led by the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), have filed language with the Oregon Secretary of State to send an issue to the voters to ban trapping in that state. Petitioners need 66,876 valid signatures by July 7, 2000 to qualify for the November ballot. A similar effort is being planned in neighboring Washington, according to HSUS. The proposals would ban the use of leghold traps, Conibear traps, snares, and two poisons used primarily for animal control. In similarly worded issues, California voters banned commercial trapping, leghold trapping for wildlife damage control, and the use of two restricted toxicants (sodium fluoroacetate and sodium cyanide) in 1998. Arizona banned trapping on public land in 1994. The continuing western offensive at the ballot box has not been limited to trapping. Since 1990, animal rights groups have defeated sportsmen nine out of 11 times at the ballot on issues ranging from mountain lion hunting to bear hunting.

—*excerpted from the NWLF website*

Animal Rights Violence on Increase

Violence in the name of animal rights continues to escalate across the country. Terrorists have been vandalizing research facilities, fur ranches and sportsmen's clubs at an alarming rate. The animal rights terrorists count on fear to force their ideals on honest citizens. No one is immune to this type of violent activity. Case in point - Iowa hunters. Leaders of the effort to legalize mourning dove hunting in Iowa were stunned on December 8, 1999 as a letter containing an explicit death threat arrived in the mail. Recipients of the death threat were all members of the Iowa Committee for the Wildlife Legislative Fund of America (WLFA). The letter warned, "We know where you live. Stop

your actions now..." and threatened, "If you do not stop, your homes will be firebombed...your children's and grandchildren's throats will be slit..." The terrorist letters shocked the Committee. "You'd like to think that this sort of thing is just a hoax, but the letter was very explicit about my kids, both of whom are very young," said Rick Tebbs, Ft. Madison resident and spokesman for the Iowa Committee. "Quite frankly, my wife and I were unnerved." Another Committee member echoed Tebbs feelings. "It really concerns me that a few mourning doves would be deemed worthy of bombing my house and threatening my children and grandchildren," said Doyle Adams, an Indiana resident, and former staff member with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. "These people are obviously very sick." Tebbs reported that all recipients of the letter have filed police reports in their hometowns as well as with the Des Moines police, the Iowa Attorney General's office and the FBI.

Some animal rights extremists go beyond threats, however. The U.S. Department of Justice in 1997 reported that there have been at least 313 instances of animal rights terrorism in the United States resulting in more than \$150 million in damages to research labs, farms and more. Most believe it is only a matter of time until human lives are lost to this violence. FBI Director Louis Freeh categorized the animal rights groups performing these violent acts as "the most recognizable single issue terrorists of the present time."

—*excerpted from the NWLF website*



Letter to the Editor

Editor:

Last winter while running my trapline in Texas I had the chance to witness a true wildlife experience. I watched a blackbird harassing an eagle. The blackbird would dive down from above the eagle and attempt to peck it. The eagle would dodge it somewhat each time. Then on a last dive, just as the blackbird was about to reach the eagle, the eagle turned upside down and grabbed the blackbird. Then the eagle flew off with the bird to consume it, I suppose.

My long-time friend, Glynn Riley, in Brownwood, Texas, told me later that he had witnessed the same incident in his area. I'm curious if this is something seen by others.

Cordially yours,
Monte Dodson
P.O. Box 12
Cookson, OK 74427

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Membership Renewal and Application Form

NATIONAL ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL ASSOCIATION

Mail to: Grant Huggins, Treasurer, Noble Foundation, P.O. Box 2180, Ardmore, OK 73402

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Address: _____ Phone: (____) ____ - ____ Office

Additional Address Info: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP _____

Please use 9-digit Zip Code

Dues: \$ _____ Donation: \$ _____ Total: \$ _____ Date: _____

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