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3-3-1988

CLOSING REMARKS FOR THE THIRTEENTH VERTEBRATE PEST CONFERENCE

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Davis, Lewis R., "CLOSING REMARKS FOR THE THIRTEENTH VERTEBRATE PEST CONFERENCE" (1988). *Proceedings of the Thirteenth Vertebrate Pest Conference (1988)*. Paper 65.
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CLOSING REMARKS FOR THE THIRTEENTH VERTEBRATE PEST CONFERENCE

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Proc. Vertebr. Pest Conf. (A.C. Crabb and R.E. Marsh, Eds.),
Printed at Univ. of Calif., Davis. 13:319, 1988

This brings to an end the Thirteenth Vertebrate Pest Conference. Without the speakers and the session chairs, there would not have been a conference. Let us acknowledge them for the excellent job done.

Having listened to many of the papers over the past several days, chats over coffee, participation in the Council meetings and even reading and listening to the daily news media, it is evident that the next conference will see many continuing changes in vertebrate management. I say vertebrate management because as it was brought out by numerous papers, more and more traditional vertebrate pests are now becoming aesthetic animals for much of the population. No wonder this rapidly changing attitude, when you consider that during the last 88 years the agriculture-producing population of the United States has gone from more than 80% to less than 4% in 1988, and they are producing a surplus of food supplies. Dr. Brooks' paper, the fact that out of his class of 122 only one was from an agricultural background, adds verification to this figure. So with this trend, coupled with human population growth, declining populations of wildlife, toxic pollution factors, and the overall concern for the environment, your job is going to continue to be more difficult and have need for change. I see this conference as one of your tools for continuing to meet those challenges for a viable vertebrate pest management program.

As we bring this conference to a close, I wish to thank on behalf of the Council the following people: Charlie Crabb for his outstanding job as your chairperson of the 13th Conference; Rex Marsh and Terry Salmon for co-chairing the excellent program; Wendy Fitzgerald for the thankless job of getting publicity covered; Jerry Clark for the hotel and weather arrangements; Rex Baker and his students for the superb equipment display; Robin Breckenridge for the first-time photo display; and Paul Gorenzel for the inclusive overview of agriculture and pest problems in the Monterey area on the field trip. Special thanks goes to Sydni Gillette, Chris Maher and Dorothy Beadle for their dedication and endless hours put into the registration process.

Also, thanks goes out to all those behind-the-scenes people, especially the staff of biologists from CDFA, for the operation of projectors, lights and sound.

The next conference will be back to Sacramento in the first week of March 1990. Arrangements are already starting, so anyone who can give us on the Council feedback on how we are doing and what can be improved, we would appreciate your comments. We have had 430 registered at this conference representing 36 states and 13 countries. To me, this 13th Conference is going to be a tough act to follow.

I give thanks again for your participation and have an enjoyable and safe trip home.