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The Probe, Issue 231 – January/February 2004

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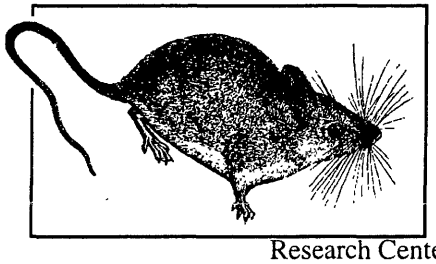
The Probe NADCA
ISSUE 231
January/February 2004

Call for Papers: Second National Rodent Summit

During the week of October 18th to the 22nd, 2004, The USDA - APHIS - Wildlife Services' National Wildlife Research Center, Fort Collins, Colorado will host the Second National Rodent Summit. This meeting will focus on rodent and Wildlife conservation issues.

Topics to be discussed include:

- *Insular rodent control issues both national and international*
- *Rodent control associated with wildlife management in mainland situations*
- *Ecological impacts of rodents on wildlife - nutria and wetland protection*
- *Prevention of new rodent introductions into or within the United States*
- *Current issues and techniques in agricultural and commensal rodent control and their application for conservation purposes*
- *National Emergency Response: Federal agency roles associated with rodent management*
- *The role of rodent borne diseases in wildlife disease management*
- *Rodenticide registration issues*
- *NEPA for rodent control for wildlife conservation*



This meeting is a follow up to the First Rat Summit held in San Francisco, California in July 2000, which was organized by Carol DiSalvo of the National Park Service and Linda Lyon of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The First Rat Summit focused primarily on rodent control issues related to Department of Interior properties with an emphasis on insular areas.

This initial call for papers is intended to judge interests of potential participants in the aforementioned topics. Final selection of meeting topics will be based on the relative interest and the need for a national meeting that address broad ranging issues for rodent control as it relates to wildlife management.

This meeting will include a tour of the USDA - APHIS - Wildlife Services - National Wildlife Research Center's Research Facilities. This is considered one of the world's premier facilities for wildlife damage management research.

Meeting Organizer: John Eisemann, National Wildlife Research Center, Fort Collins
John.D.Eisemann@aphis.usda.gov
(970) 266-6158

New Book on Mule Deer

A new book called *Mule Deer Conservation: Issues and Management Strategies* has just been published by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and the Jack Berryman Institute. This 240-page book contains the latest information on mule deer biology and management and is written by the Western States and Provinces' leading mule deer biologists. Chapters deal with diseases, predation, habitat changes, nutrition, elk/deer competition, weather, etc. This book is a must for anyone who studies, manages, hunts or appreciates this incredible animal.

Mule Deer Conservation: Issues and Management Strategies is available for $22 per copy, postpaid from The Jack H. Berryman Institute, Utah State University, 5270 Old Main Hill, Logan, UT 84322-5270. Credit card orders are also accepted by phone at (435) 797-8876 or by mailing a completed order form (available at www.berrymaninstitute.org) to the Berryman Institute. Bulk orders of 5 or more copies are discounted to $20 per copy.

Message From The Editor

NADCA members may have noticed that they have not received the Novemebr/December issue of *The Probe*. And here we are with the January/February issue!? Well I'm very sorry to say that there was no November/December issue.

I won't bore you with the details, but from mid-December to almost mid-February I worked on several projects, some of which were concurrent. I simply could not find time to get the issue put together. A better-organized person might have found the time. I didn't. My responsibility. I apologize.

That said, a major problem getting an issue of *The Probe* together is finding substantive, timely content that has not already been widely distributed electronically. As editor, I will continue to solicit articles and information from NADCA members and others.

NADCA's president, Art Smith, and some of the officers and directors and members will be attending the Vertebrate Pest Conference, March 1-4, in Visalia, CA. At some time during this conference we plan to have a meeting of NADCA members in attendance. During this meeting, I plan to bring up and solicit ideas to improve the content, usefulness and timeliness of *The Probe*.

Again, my apologies for the skipped issue.

Larry Sullivan

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Your contributions 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.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

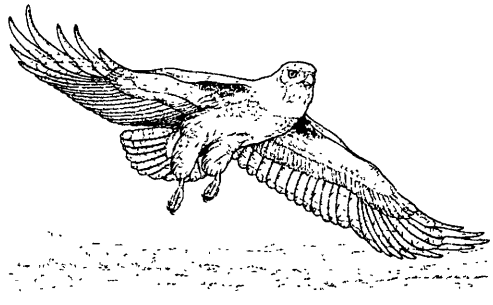
April 28- May 1, 2004 - The Eastern Cougar Conference, Morgantown, WV. This conference will focus on cougars in the East, Southeast, Midwest and Great Plains of North America. For more information visit the Eastern Cougar Foundation's website, www.easterncougar.org.

September 13-16, 2004 - Bird Strike Committee - USA/Canada Meeting, Hyatt Regency, Baltimore, MD. See www.birdstrike.org or contact Richard Dolbeer, USDA Wildlife Services, 419-625-8465, e-mail: Richard.a.dolbeer@aphis.usda.gov.

September 18-22, 2004 -11th Annual Conference, The Wildlife Society, Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Go to www.wildlife.org or phone 301-897-9770.

October 18-22, 2004 - Second National Rodent Summit, Ft. Collins, CO. Hosted by USDA/APHIS National Wildlife Research Center. For information contact John Eisemann at John.D.Eisemann@aphis.usda.gov, phone (970) 266-6158

November 14-17, 2004 - Defenders of Wildlife, Carnivores 2004: Expanding Partnerships in Carnivore Conservation, Santa Fe, NM. Go to www.carnivoreconference.org.



EVER WONDER?

Is what we normally think of as "the world's oldest profession" really the oldest profession?

"Some credit prostitution as being the oldest profession but before the first cave dweller could pay a couple of skins for the pleasure, he had to catch the original owners. So trapping is undisputedly (Sic) the oldest profession known to man. There is a similarity between trapping and prostitution, however, as in both arts the amateur feels he (or she) knows more than the professional. While not qualified to speak for the professional prostitute, I feel that in trapping, at least, the professional can produce more and give greater satisfaction than the amateur."

William D. Fitzwater, Extension Wildlife Specialist, University of California, Davis

Human-Wildlife Conflicts in India

Jason D. Robinson, Student, Berryman Institute, Utah State University

In India, wildlife belongs to the government. Since 1991, sport and commercial hunting within India has been outlawed, but some hunting still occurs due to a lack of law enforcement. Most viable populations of large mammals are confined to the country's network of wildlife parks and reserves. Both state and federal governments play a very active role in the regulations set up for wildlife. Wildlife is protected under the Indian Wildlife Act 1972. Animals are listed in Schedules; Schedule 1 species are those animals that are endangered. The other extreme is a Schedule 5 species are those animals that are considered vermin and may be killed with permission from the state government when causing damage to life or property.

Many human-wildlife conflicts occur in India. Predation on livestock is a major problem in certain parts of the country. Large mammals, such as Asiatic lions, wolves, leopards, and tigers, are limited in their range by available habitat. This lack of habitat often causes these large predators to look outside the boundaries of the established reserves and parks. Predation on livestock by lions has been documented in developing areas of India. Wolves are a major predator on livestock, taking many sheep, goats, cattle and even horses. Leopards, including snow and clouded leopards, are also responsible for large amounts of predation on livestock. Tigers have been documented taking livestock, especially near tiger reserves.

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Large predators may attack or prey upon humans, often on young children. Attacks by sloth-bears on humans were documented from April 1989 to March 1994; 735 human casualties were reported with 48 being fatal. Ways to reduce problems may be to avoid going within bear home ranges, and taking preventative measures to keep bears out of crops.

Wolf predation on children has been documented, with 80 children taken within a 2-year period from April 1993 to April 1995. Superstition, fear, poor public relations, ineffective wolf management, and the reality of death complicate the situation with wolf predation in India. Leopards have also been documented to attack and sometimes kill humans. Predation and attacks on humans by tigers have been documented as well. However, the number of attacks is declining as workers avoid hazardous work in tiger areas.

Crop damage to farmers that live near the wildlife reserves is often very high. Various animals, such as elephants, blackbucks, and rhinoceroses cause damage to crops. Elephants can cause great damage to crops by crop raiding, debarking trees, and competing for vegetation. Blackbucks and rhinos are another species that are responsible for large amounts of crop damage in certain parts of the country. Macaque monkeys have become a nuisance in the past few years by harassing people, and damaging agricultural crops. Nilgai and wild boar cause a considerable amount of damage in some parts of India.

From an economic perspective, various species of rodents are responsible for a significant amount of crop damage throughout India. Often, chemical control methods are used to control rodent numbers.

Many species of birds, including house crows, rose-ringed parakeets, purple sunbird, house sparrow, and red-vented bulbuls cause damage to crops, such as grapes, sunflowers, and jujube fruit. Black-crowned night-herons and little cormorants cause problems at aquaculture facilities.

The most common method of protecting livestock and crops from wildlife is for the people to watch over their livestock and crops constantly and try to scare away any depredating animals. The second most common method is to erect fences, both woven wire and electric fences. The government is trying to offer tech-

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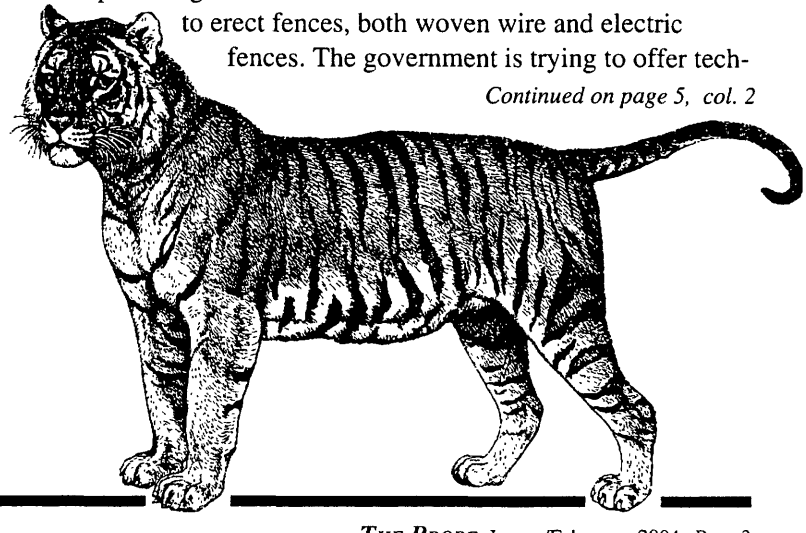
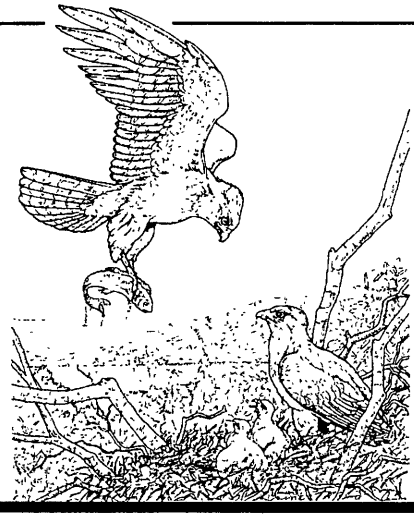


Position Available:
Extension Coordinator–Wildlife Damage Management

School of Natural Resources
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Develop, coordinate, and deliver programs in wildlife damage management, integrated pest management and wildlife disease to distance learners, rural and urban landowners, agricultural commodity groups, scientific and professional communities, and others using distance education, web-based instruction, learning modules, multi-media presentations, and electronic and traditional media. Manage the "Internet Center for Wildlife Damage Management" (http://wildlifedamage.unl.edu). Design, develop and maintain other websites in wildlife damage management. Bachelor's degree in wildlife, biology, or related field; two years of relevant experience in wildlife damage management; knowledge and skill in web design software and multi-media software; and valid driver's license required. Master's degree will substitute for experience. Skill in data collection, experimental design and analysis preferred. Position is grant funded. Salary starts at $28,000 plus UNL benefits. Resume review begins February 20. Position open until suitable candidate is found. UNL is committed to EEO/AA and ADA/504. Submit cover letter and resume to:

Dr. Scott Hygnstrom
202 Natural Resources Hall
University of Nebraska
Lincoln, NE 68583-0819.
(402) 472-6822
shygnstrom1@unl.edu



Consumption of Non-Human Primates Poses Health Risks

Inspectors at Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson airport, suspicious of a smoky odor wafting from the suitcase of a passenger arriving from Cameroon in Central Africa, peered, according to this story, into her bag.

The story says they were shocked by what they saw — an entire smoked monkey. The meat, the woman said, was intended for a traditional wedding reception of some African immigrants.

Authorities were cited as saying in August; two large monkey heads seized from a passenger arriving in Atlanta from Senegal apparently were intended for consumption by a family of immigrants.

Airport inspectors from New York to Hawaii are reporting similar findings as a demand for "bush meat," or wild animal flesh, mostly from Africa, increases in the United States. Mike Elkins, deputy wildlife agent in charge at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's regional office in Atlanta, was quoted as saying, "We're probably seeing only the tip of the iceberg."

Public health officials were cited as saying the wild meat may harbor deadly microbes that could cause epidemics in humans, from Ebola to AIDS.

Dr. Paul Argwin, a global health specialist with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, was quoted as saying, "It certainly poses public health risks."

A report in the ***Journal of the American Medical Association*** last year warned that many monkeys captured in Cameroon harbored a plethora of viruses that are close cousins of the AIDS virus. The microbes pose a major health risk to people who eat the animals, the report warned.

Importation of nonhuman primates is prohibited under an international treaty.

This year scientists linked the widespread consumption of wildlife in China to the outbreak of SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome, a viral disease new in humans, and often fatal to them, that was rapidly spread by travelers from East Asia.

—Source: ***Animal Net****, 18 December 2003*

The editor of **The PROBE** *thanks contributors to this issue: Scott Hyngstrom, John Eisimann, Jason D. Robinson, and the late Bill Fitzwater.*

Report Available on Whitetail Management in the Northeast

In response to a request by the Northeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, to develop recommendations for a scientific approach to achieve deer management goals based on a synthesis of deer population data, sociopolitical influence, and strategic planning efforts that have occurred within the Northeast, the Wildlife Management Institute (WMI) recently completed and released its report.

The report is posted on WMI's website at www.wildlifemanagement.org. For additional information, contact Scot Williamson, at wmisw@together.net.

*Source - WMI, **Outdoor News Bulletin**, Vo. 57, No. 11, November, 2003*

Bird Strike Committee USA/Canada

Every year, over $1 billion is wasted and lives are endangered worldwide when birds and other wildlife collide with aircraft. To meet this ongoing challenge, the Bird Strike Committee of USA and Canada present the 6th annual joint meeting, September 13-16, 2004, hosted by the Maryland Aviation Administration and the Baltimore/ Washington International Airport. Located on bird-rich Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Flyway, Baltimore provides an ideal location to address wildlife-aviation issues.

For further information go to www.birdstrike.org

Continued from page 3, column 2

...Human Wildlife Conflicts in India

nical assistance in terms of how to erect better wildlife-proof fencing, in some cases subsidizing part of the costs of erecting the barrier with the agreement that the people will maintain them. Some state governments offer subsidies for damage caused by wildlife, though usually only a small fraction (~3%) of the actual damage. In some cases, park rangers will come to help chase off or trap a problem animal.

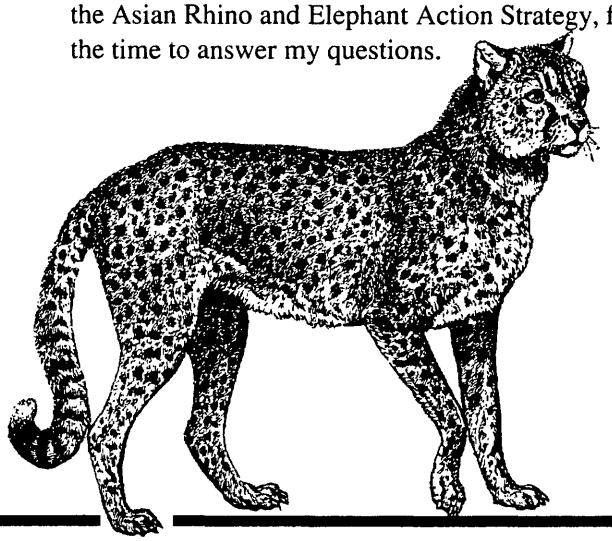
One solution to reduce the number of attacks on humans by large predators may be to regulate the population

One solution to reduce the number of attacks on humans by large predators may be to regulate the population of these animals with public hunting or some type of professional government hunter to trap and relocate

of these animals with public hunting or some type of professional government hunter to trap and relocate. Many of the problems in India mirror those of the U.S. The same types of methods used to alleviate the problems in the U.S. may be useful in India. However, human population growth and lack of funding are major impediments to successful problem solving. There are no easy answers to any of India's human-wildlife conflicts.

For more information, see ***Environmental Conservation*** 24:338-343.

Also, many thanks to A.C. Williams, Coordinator of the Asian Rhino and Elephant Action Strategy, for taking the time to answer my questions.



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Membership Renewal and Application Form

NATIONAL ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL ASSOCIATION

Mail to: Art E. Smith, South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks, 523 E. Capitol Avenue, Pierre, SD 57501

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

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

Additional Address Info: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP _____

Please use 9-digit Zip Code

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

Membership Class: Student $10.00 Active $20.00 Sponsor $40.00 Patron $100 (Circle one)

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Select one type of occupation or principal interest:

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