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THE PROBE



National Animal Damage Control Association

No. 18

January, 1982

I trust each of you had a happy holiday and could spend some time with your family. I also hope you had time to sit and reflect on what the future may hold for vertebrate pest management. The attitude of some segments of the population towards ADC coupled with bureaucratic restrictions on tools and budgets drastically hampers the effectiveness of many wildlife programs.

NADCA was founded by dedicated individuals with the intent of putting voice and action into how many active ADC field personnel feel but are unable, for one reason or another, to express. I am very disappointed in the lack of response shown by a majority of persons who stand to benefit the most from a strong ADC organization. This Association is only as strong as its membership. In 1981 we had 133 members. At the start of 1982 we have 175 paid-up members. I know how easy it is to let renewing a membership slip by. On the other hand, you have to recognize the Executive Board's position. Without members there are no funds. Without funds there can be no telephone calls to Congressional delegates and others, no newsletter, no testifying at hearings, no stamps for letters to people who need to be made aware of the true situation ADC is in.

At the end of 1980 we sent a list of accomplishments of the Association to each member. Either you don't think we are accomplishing anything worthwhile; we are going about it the wrong way; or you are satisfied with the existing situation concerning ADC. We are having an annual meeting of members in February in Monterey, California at the same time the Vertebrate Pest Conference is being held. A decision will be made at that time whether to continue to build an organization to help obtain the proper climate in which to conduct ADC programs or to dissolve the Association. The decision is now in your hands. Please let us hear from you. *Happy New Year - George S. Rost, el presidente, NADCA.*

Sure I'd take Heaven for the climate; and hell for the company.

THE PARTY WINS AGAIN !!!

We must admit the first elections for NADCA did seem a bit rigged as there were only two candidates suggested for Secretary/Treasurer and no opponents for the incumbent RDs in Regions I and VII. The field has to make more input as to possible candidates when requested. The voter turnout wasn't up to communistic standards. It was typically democratic - - in other words, lousy. Out of a potential 404 votes, Homer Ford tallied only 118 legal ballots (29%).

You're stuck with the same Sec/Treas as YE ED got 94 votes to Milt Caroline's 10 (Imagine what you could have gotten, Milt, if I'd given you campaign space in THE PROBE ?!). Bill Nelson won RD-I with 30 votes (40% of the possible votes) with Bob Schmidt the sole write-in vote. Howard Merrill (RD-VII) had an easy victory with no opponents and 6 votes (this was 46% of the potential voter strength in that region). The next time we promise we will be a bit better organized and the ballots easier to mark, but we still need your cooperation in suggesting candidates. We thank Homer Ford and his committee for the work they did.

Patience is putting up with those you'd rather put down.

THE POOR BOX

This seemed a more appropriate title than TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 1981:

Credits		\$7,062.43
Carryover (1980)	\$1,945.43	
Actives' dues	3,120.00	
Support contributions	1,997.00	
Debits		\$4,156.99
Postage	753.21	
Printing	1,661.53	
Travel *	1,347.75	
Miscellaneous **	395.50	
Balance		\$2,904.44

* In this budget item, \$953 was paid to partially reimburse transportation expenses of Executive Board members who attended the annual Board meeting in Albuquerque. The remaining \$394.75 was again only partial repayment of expenses of Board members who attended hearings and other meetings on official NADCA business.

** Miscellaneous expenditures include: \$100 contribution to reward fund for killer of Idaho game agents (he hasn't been caught yet); \$187.31 for procuring 11 slide sets on NADCA activities; \$40 meeting registration fees; \$35 contribution to the Wildlife Legislative Fund of America; etc.

If you think you have no faults . . . that makes another one.

WHAT PRICE RABIES ?

A hardup preservationist is one who doesn't know where his next Cadillac is coming from so generally money is no object unless it involves tax monies used for ADC work. They completely ignore the costs that might arise without ADC. For example, a dog bit 3 persons in a parking lot in Olivehurst, California on May 10, 1980. Because it appeared sick it was killed and 2 days later found positive for rabies. Health Department investigations eventually resulted in identification of 70 persons who had to receive anti-rabies prophylaxis treatment because of known or probable exposure to the dog. As only 20% of the dogs and cats in the neighborhood had up to date vaccinations, clinics were held in which 2,000 dogs were vaccinated and over 300 unclaimed dogs and cats destroyed. The costs generated by this single rabid dog were estimated at \$92,650 for human anti-rabies treatment, \$4,190 for

veterinary services, and \$8,950 for health department and animal control programs. The total cost was \$105,790 or over \$1,500 per person treated, not counting time lost from work, patient travel, and the 6-month quarantine imposed on animals exposed to the rabid dog. That could have funded several good ADC programs. *Communicable Disease Center MMWR 30(42):527 (1981).*

Many a bigamist's defense is he didn't really mean any harem.

TRAPPED !!!

Remember back in PROBE No. 13 when I was taken to task by Ms Krisjon Pettijohn for my male chauvinist pig one-liners? Well YE ED got a very nice Christmas card from that young lady saying: "Since I am no longer poisoning prairie dogs I did the only other option left for a woman out of work ... marriage!" She married Lyle Crosby, Predator Control Administrator for the State of Wyoming. I saw Lyle at the Great Plains ADC workshop last fall and all he said about "Johnie" was their prairie dog program had folded and she was catching "coyotes". I'm not touching that one any further except to wish them both the best of luck and a full trap line.

Bachelors should learn to cook and sew. They might get married some day!

YELLOW JOURNALISM MAKES ME SEE RED !!

Dale Wade sent me an article by columnist Harold Scarlett (Houston Post, 12/13/81) who writes like he had been bitten by the dog previously mentioned. Scarlett loves to quote *Defender of Wildlife's* leading evangelist, Dick Randall, who used to work for the dirty old FWS until he saw the true light and now unselfishly (but highly paid) devotes his life to exposing all the naughty things he did [I would like to do a profile on Randall so would appreciate hearing from anybody who worked with him in the field]. Randall cites several gory, but stale, tales on how horrible 1080 is in attempts to prejudice the jury for the EPA hearings on 1080. Scarlett brings in another big gun of the antis with a few choice quotes from Hope Ryden. His final shot reveals how truly knowledgeable he is - - "Yet many sheep raisers, while clamoring for taxpayer subsidized 1080 programs, ignore more effective predator controls like herders, guard dogs, shed lambing, night corrals, and coyote-repelling lithium chloride. The livestock industry might do better if it stopped killing wildlife and started protecting its herds."

Dale sent another column at the same time. This was by Edgar Gomer (Salt Lake Tribune, 11/29/81), but this writer is handicapped by knowing something on the subject. Gomer points out 1080 was not "scattered all over our hills and mountains." Regulations that called for one bait station per township means one bait for 23,040 acres which could hardly be called scattering. As for the danger to humans when used in coyote control, he says it is probably less dangerous than the malathion used for the medfly which even Jerry Brown admitted (when the chips were down) was not a health hazard. Gomer points out 1080 for rat control is still permitted in even a dense population center like New York City but yet they can't use it in remote parts of Utah. The "needless" destruction of non-target species has been refuted by studies showing minor predators like skunks, bobcats, etc. actually increased in areas where 1080 was used for coyote control. Nor is 1080 a permanent environmental hazard as it naturally occurs in many native plants around the world and is broken down in nature by heat and bacteria.

The whole problem is Gomer is writing for an audience closer to its rural roots and the problem of livestock predation, whereas Scarlett has an urban, "out-of-this-world" (spaced out ?) following in Houston.

Its only a woman who can skin a wolf and get a mink.

GOOD GNUS FOR EWES



"So they can shoot one another, but we'd git in a bunch of trouble if we shoot at a coyote !" Thanks to Vic Keenan.

In the previous paragraph, I wrote about the varying attitudes of columnists quoting from a couple that Dale Wade sent me. These diverse viewpoints have appeared in the articles many of you have sent me (thanks to John Jones, Guy Connolly, Norton Miner, Greg Pina, Mark Worcester, and others.) Columnists around the country are having a field day with the news that EPA is about to open the controversy on Compound 1080 again, but this time some attention may be given the views of the livestock industry and biological field data rather than the emotional hatred of the preservationists. The lack of understanding of the problem by this group is exemplified in a letter by Thelma A. Kelley (Florida) being circulated by EPA Hearing Clerk with a typical disregard for the waste of government xerox paper:

"Recently it has come to my attention the plight of the defenseless kangaroos and this Compound 1080 being used routinely and a final rule to permit the import of kangaroos and kangaroo products...What happened to the Rule issued in Feb. 1972 by former Pres. Nixon ? which prohibited the field use of any chemical toxicant for the purpose of killing mammals, birds, animals or reptiles. I trust that Executive order 11643 will be given consideration & that Sec. of Interior Watt will review this policy & consider damage to our wildlife. Keep our sanctuaries & refuges for the protection of our Wildlife."

About the only thing she got right is the number of the Executive order. This lack of understanding of the facts of life and her attempt to make our Aussie friends subject to Nixon's political shenanigans [maybe she thinks kangaroos are imported from Texas ?] is very typical of the type of stupidity to which our legislators listen.

The return of 1080 is viewed by some as almost as good as the Resurrection while to others it is the opening of Pandora's box to inflict irreparable damage on all wildlife. As is usually the case, neither extreme is the true picture of what will actually happen. Any knowledgable ADC specialist realizes 1080 is just another tool to use against a wily adversary. There is no one answer to the coyote depredation problem, but we must have options based on biological efficacy of a material or method

rather than regulations based on emotional appeals from an uninformed public. Thus we look upon the forthcoming EPA hearings as an opportunity to move in the opposite direction to which we have been pushed over the last couple of decades. NADCA intends to enter into the hearings in as many places as possible.

The trouble with inferiority complexes is the right people don't have them.

DISNEYWORLD, D.C.

From the California Cannery League - News & Views: The manufacturer of a well-known rat poison has been asked to remove the red dye from his bait formulation. This has been found to cause cancer in rats !!

From National Republican Senatorial Committee, Off the Record: The National Endowment for the Humanities has given large grants of taxpayer money to groups for the following studies:

MEDIEVAL DOCTRINAL ATTITUDES TOWARD MALE SEXUAL ABERRATION
 IMPACT OF CICERO'S JOKES ON RENAISSANCE FRANCE AND ITALY
 THE ROMANTIC POETRY OF THE YOUNG KARL MARX
 DEATH AMONG URBAN POLISH AMERICANS
 THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE GAY EXPERIENCE TO AMERICAN VISUAL ARTS
 It's a mad, mad, mad world.

Women prefer something tender about a man - especially if its LEGAL.

ADC AND THE RELATED PROFESSIONS

YE ED resigned from the American Society of Mammalogists in 1966 when the editor of their Journal refused to publish his paper on the life history of the Indian desert gerbil because it contained one paragraph on control implications [the article was later published in *MAMMALIA*, a less fascist European publication]. He has remained a member of the Wildlife Society (TWS) since 1942 as this organization appears to keep an open mind on ADC. However, a check of the 1981 publications of that Society show that of 162 articles published only 7 (4%) were of any practical interest to ADC. This is another reason we feel you should support NADCA as the proceedings of the California Vertebrate Pest Conferences, Bowling Green Bird Control Seminars, and the Great Plains ADC Workshop are published irregularly. Thus THE PROBE could be a vehicle for keeping the faithful posted on new techniques and investigations in the field of ADC. The following are brief resumes of the TWS publications mentioned above as being the ones of some interest in the ADC field:

Althoff, D.P. & P.S.Gipson: *Coyote family spatial relationships with reference to poultry losses*, 45(3):641-649:

In a Nebraska study 16 out of 19 coyotes were radio-tagged. These made up 8 family groups that ranged within 5 km of 2 turkey farms, but only 3 tagged coyotes from 2 different families and some untagged coyotes were responsible for turkey losses. However, 2 or more turkeys were killed during 112 of the 137 day period in which the turkeys were available [the researchers seemed to gloss this over but it seems like a hell of a lot of turkeys to me]. They point to a winter mortality of 11 out of 16 coyotes and the highest turkey-predation occurring in the post-denning season as indication prophylactic population control during summer and fall is not warranted.

Lyon, L.A. & D.F.Caccamise: *Habitat selection of roosting blackbirds and starlings; Management implications*, 45(2):435-443:

Studies of blackbird-starling roosts in New Jersey showed sites selected for roosts had high tree densities, low mean basal areas, and compact enclosed canopies. They suggest that normal site succession [if you can wait that long and the guano doesn't burn the trees] will eventually make the site unsuitable for the birds. If more rapid management is needed, the thinning of stems to less than 720 per hectare is felt to be more practical.

Luce, D.G., R.M.Case, & J.L.Stubbendieck: *Damage to alfalfa fields by plains pocket gophers*, 45(1):258-260:

Alfalfa density on areas occupied by pocket gophers were 32% and 28% less on two areas compared to control plots that had no gophers.

Schaefer, J.M., R.E.Andrews, & J.J.Dinsmore: *An assessment of coyote and dog predation on sheep in southern Iowa*, 45(4):883-898:

Based on questionnaire and field studies, 41% of 1,251 respondents reported predator losses to coyotes and/or dogs in 1975. Of these losses, 40.5% were due to predation, 46.4% nonpredator (disease, weather, starvation, etc.), and 12.9% unknown. 57% of the respondents reported predator-flock losses greater than 4% and 25% greater than 10%. Of interest to non-believers is that in 227 necropsies on sheep reported predator-killed, the investigators found sheepman claims were 94% accurate. They point out Iowa woolgrowers now have predation problems similar to western ranges.

Somers, J.D., F.F.Gilbert, D.R.Joyner, R.J.Brooks, & R.G.Gartshore: *Use of 4-aminopyridine in cornfields under high foraging stress*, 45(3):702-709:

Use of AVITROL reduced blackbird damage to field corn in Ontario but the cost/benefit ratio in 1977 showed that only 6 out of 16 corn growers received positive benefits from its use. They found efficacy was not related to bird pressure, non-target mortality minimal, and no differences in efficacy or non-target species hazards between ground or aerial applications.

Todd, A.W., L.B.Keith, & C.A.Fischer: *Population ecology of coyotes during a fluctuation of snowshoe hares*, 45(3):629-64.

In Alberta, winter coyote densities were directly related to hare numbers but the fluctuations varied from 3-6 fold for coyotes as compared to 20-40 fold for snowshoe hares. The percent of biomass of hare in coyote diet varied from 0-77 (94% of the variation due to hare numbers). Large mammals, chiefly livestock carrion, substituted for cyclic hare lows. During 3 years of hare decline, breeding by yearling females dropped over 50% and the mean litter size showed a 25% loss in adult female coyotes [show this to those who think coyotes control rabbit numbers instead of the other way around].

Wornecki, P.O., R.A.Dolbeer, & R.A.Stehn: *Response of blackbirds to mesurool and sevin applications on sweet corn*, 45(3):693-701:

Application of MESUROL (insecticide with repellent qualities) and SEVIN (insecticide with limited repellent qualities) to sweet corn fields in Ohio reduced bird damage in both instances. Points out this correlation between bird activity and insect numbers in a given area is an argument for better ecological and integrated viewpoints in developing bird damage control techniques.

In addition, TWS published a series of 6 monographs during the year. Of these 3 had possible application to ADC, two by Mech etal on wolf packs in Minnesota and the third on one of my favorite subjects - - feral burros:

Seegmiller, R.F. & R.D.Ohmart: *Ecological relationships of feral burros and desert bighorn sheep*, Wildlife Monographs No. 78:

A study of ecological relationships between feral burros and desert bighorns in the Bill Williams Mountains (Arizona) revealed their tastes for plant species and habitats overlapped 47% and 51%. respectively. Burros consume roughly from 1.5 to 2.0 times as much of the shared forage as bighorns on overlapping habitats. They conclude that in the Southwest... "decision makers must carefully weigh the benefits of maintaining burro populations relative to the costs and potential threats that they present to our natural resources. It is our view that desert bighorn sheep are too valuable a natural resource and too limited in numbers and distribution to accept the risks of coexistence with burros. We recommend the removal of burros from areas where they are sympatric with desert bighorn sheep and from areas that have the potential for future bighorn sheep transplants." [Oh well ! Preservation-ists will continue to spout off on the sancity of burro life and ignore biologically sound data.]

When talking some never stop to think - - others never think to stop.

A LOOK AT THE COMPETITION

Just to give you an idea of what we are up against here is a comparison of the 1980 IRS returns (yep it's that time again) of a couple of biggies against ADC:

	DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE	FUND FOR ANIMALS	NADCA	
Contributions	\$ 349,259	\$1,657,215	\$1,725	
Dues	662,653	- - - - -	3,155	
Interest, dividends, etc. ..	285,357	83,015	- - -	
TOTAL CREDITS	1,297,269	1,740,230	4,880	
Compensation of officers ...	792,841 (42%)	273,128 (16%)	0	
Printing & postage	684,096 (36%)	50,460 (3%)	2,047 (70%)	
Travel	63,323 (3%)	62,720 (4%)	789 (27%)	
Other expenses	344,771 (18%)	1,279,603 (77%)	98 (3%)	
TOTAL DEBITS	1,885,031	1,665,911	2,935	

The *Defenders of Wildlife* has a prestigious board of directors who work for nothing (just like NADCA directors only they don't need the money) except for the Executive Vice President John Grandy IV who knocks down \$41,205 a year for his tremendous efforts. *Fund for Animals* has only one paid officer - - Lewis Regenstein who gets \$23,200. Their shining star, Cleveland Amory, was paid only \$18,273 for expenses. The dedication of these organizations would astonish me more if I was only sure of how they spent a million dollars for "compensation of officers" as well as that one and a half million for "other expenses".

To me - foreign currency is anything over a twenty dollar bill.

CALLING ALL COYOTES

NADCA member Chuck Cadieux is researching a book under contract for publication in mid-1983. The book will be titled simply, THE BOOK OF THE COYOTE. In his research, Chuck is looking for two things right now:

- (1) Eyewitness accounts of any coyote killing any big game animal, such as deer or antelope.
- (2) News of any research conducted by any state or federal wildlife agency into the question of whether or not coyote numbers affect wildlife population numbers such as populations of pheasants, or quail, or grouse, or even cottontail rabbits.

If any NADCA member knows of such eyewitness accounts, or can put Chuck in touch with the coyote-vs-prey research he speaks of, please write him at the following:

Charles L. Cadieux
8209 Harwood N.E.
Albuquerque, NM 87110

Today the only way to save money is to forget who ya borrowed it from.

IT CAN'T BE !? A NEW RODENTICIDE ???

Just when I was feeling comfortable telling my audiences there is no incentive to develop any new toxicants in today's climate of revulsion for toxic materials, I hear a rumor of a new poison. Eli Lilly & Company is supposed to seek registration for this new chemical from EPA this year. What worries me is it is starting out with a number instead of a name (look what happened to 1080!!). Of course with a chemical name like *a,a,a-trifluoro-N-methyl-4,6-dinitro-N-(2,4,6-tribromophenyl)-o-toluidine* you have to have something like EL-614 or more hopefully - bromethalin.

Bromethalin is an acute toxicant with an LD50 of 2 mg/kg for Norway rats and cats. For house mice and dogs, it is 5 mg/kg. Tests indicate mice can discriminate against it more than rats, but will usually consume enough to be killed. One day's feeding is sufficient to kill, but death doesn't occur until 2-4 days later. Symptoms appear to be delayed for 12 hours, but unlike anticoagulant baits (this is not an anticoagulant), the animals do not continue to feed on the bait. *Proceedings 1979 British Crop Protection Conference: Pests and Diseases. (1980) pp 491-498.*

Starting tomorrow, I'm going to stop putting things off.

NO COMMENT

The palila, a small bird of the honeycreeper family, lives on the upper slopes of Hawaii's dormant volcano, Mauna Kea. It feeds only on the seeds of the flowery mamane tree which is disappearing as its habitat is being eaten away by the sheep and goats brought onto the islands some 200 years ago by the European explorers. In 1978 the palila sued the State of Hawaii and won. In view of this 12 grizzly bears from Wyoming are suing the federal government for granting mineral exploration rights in an area they inhabit on the grounds this violates the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act. Damn clever animals, but I bet they know some big-mouthed humans. *Animal Welfare Inst. 30(2):6 (1981) Thanks to Rex Marsh.*

OL' TIMER'S CORNER

One of the few pleasures associated with being Sec/Treas, YE ED, and general bottle washer around here is getting to hear from old friends from PARC days like Lee Bacus, Monte Dodson, Joe Lindsey, Mark Worcester, etc. I would really like to keep current on what retirees are doing now, not only USFWS but those who have given so much to ADC like Dick Dana of California. Percentagewise the response to NADCA has been much better from those who have left the field over those who are still employed and have more to gain by a stronger association. So send in the names and addresses of these grand ol' people who scalped their share of coyotes or stomped a number of rats. I'll send copies of the PROBE to them with a request for an update on their status.

There is a practical side to this as Monte Dodson recently wrote: "Bill, you better pick those old timer's brains while they are still around. Many trapping secrets have gone with others to the grave. How about a directory? I'll help pay for it." The directory is a good idea. In the next issue I'll publish a list of names and addresses of those in NADCA.

Speaking of others -- George Johnston (Rt. 1, Box 11, Jacumba, CA 92034) is running a fur trappers museum. You'll need to write George for directions on how to get there as we found it a little difficult when we visited him a couple of years ago. George has an interesting display of traps and enjoys talking over the art of trapping with anybody who stops in.

Mark Worcester (Rt. 3, McGregor, MN 55750) is keeping me posted on the wolf problem in his area and the constraints placed on ADC. He is still active (you have to be to stay warm in that country !!). Joe Lindsey showed a little more sense as he is running the Willow Springs golf course (PO Box 116, Haslet, TX 76052). A more recent retiree, Vic Keenan (PO Box 743, Chromo, CO 81128) is running a ranch back in the brush putting his considerable talents to work turning out short cuts in farming practices. So let's hear from you'll.

An ol' timer's a guy who remembers when space exploration taxed only yer imagination.

FRUIT BAT SOUP

In our efforts to get something for everybody, we offer this recipe from the Caroline Islands: Place 3 fruit bats, well washed but neither skinned nor eviscerated in large kettle. Add water to cover plus 1 tablespoon ginger, 1 large onion quartered and sea salt to taste. Bring to a boil for 40 minutes. Strain broth into second kettle. Skin bats, remove meat from bones, and return meat and any viscera fancied to the broth. Reheat. Liberally sprinkled with chopped scallions, soy sauce and/or coconut cream it serves four.

A less exotic recipe is this one from Norton Miner: Select an old coyote that has seen better days. Draw and quarter. Hang for three weeks in the neighbor's garage. Boil in an oil barrel over an open fire, preferably on the outskirts of town. Cool by pouring out the water and then cut the meat into chunks. Add potatoes,

Turnips, onions, cabbage, carrots, tomatoes, parsnips, love, celery, and more love. Cook until the vegetables are tender. Serves 60 brave souls. [unfortunately, I don't like parsnips].

YE ED - William D. Fitzwater

There is some doubt as to who owes dues for 1982. As I am not interested in becoming a bookkeeper, I made up the rule all memberships are for the calendar year no matter when you signed up. I try to give late comers all back issues of THE PROBE for that current year, but anybody who signed up before September 1st last year was a member for that year only. The Board decided anybody who signs up after September 1st will get only the current newsletters but will be paid up for the next year. As this explanation has been sufficiently confusing - - if the following line is marked in colored ink you must pay your dues to continue your membership or this is your last issue of THE PROBE:

If you insist, I'll pay my dues to keep my membership and the PROBE coming.

Dell Clark says NADCA can use the main meeting room at the Hyatt after the no-host cocktail hour on the 23rd for the NADCA annual meeting.

Bill Nelson is out of his cast and learning to live with a knee brace. YE ED starts the New Year with a cracked rib. In giving the old college try in racquetball, he suddenly encountered a masonry wall that easily withstood the onslaught of 200 pounds of fatty pot roast.

HAPPY NEW YEAR



**National
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