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February 1983

## The Probe, Issue 29 - February 1983

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# THE PROBE



## National Animal Damage Control Association

No. 29

February, 1983

### FIRST EASTERN WILDLIFE DAMAGE CONTROL CONFERENCE

You should all be aware of this new rival to the California Vertebrate Pest Conference scheduled for September 17-20, 1983 in Ithaca, New York. Unfortunately, we received the first notice of the call for papers for this conference too late to mention in the previous PROBE. The closing date is February 15th for papers, but you might possibly sweet talk the conference chairman, NADCA member Dr. James Caslick (Department of Natural Resources, Fernow Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853-0188, telephone 607/256-2014), into extending the deadline if you have a particularly interesting topic. We will keep you posted on the progress of this conference as several Board members, including YE ED, will participate in the program.

*If you get in deep water - - keep your mouth shut.*

### SIXTH SOUTHEAST DEER STUDY GROUP

As in the case of the above notice, word of this meeting came too late to do much good. Jeff Jackson (Wildlife Extension, Univ. Georgia) who is hosting this session in Athens sent me the program. Starting February 21st and continuing on through a field trip to the Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge on the 23rd. They will have a good program according to the list of titles:

Human dimensions in deer damage control.

Soybean growth and the impact of deer damage.

Deer and soybeans.

An orchardist's view of deer damage.

Use of 5-wire electric fence to repel deer in Pennsylvania.

Electric fences to control deer movements.

Effects of extracts of human hair on deer activity in cotton fields.

Deer forage on a control-burned 13-year old loblolly plantation.

Comparison of two diet analysis techniques applied to deer.

Nutrient level changes in deer forage following forest fertilization.

Use of deer feces as an indicator of diet digestibility.

Effectiveness of helicopters to survey deer in pine plantations.

Use of helicopters to determine antlered/antlerless deer ratios.

Use of fixed-wing aircraft to census deer populations.

DPOP, an age structure and harvest population model for minicomputers.  
Survey of Louisiana deer using a computerized biological data base.  
Status report on Georgia deer herd and harvest since 1977.  
Pennsylvania's improved deer management program.  
Hunting as a technique to minimize water related deer mortality.  
Davis Island, a case history of private lands deer management.  
Managing white-tailed deer on an East Texas hunting club.  
Attitudes of nonindustrial forest landowners towards deer.  
Selected buck harvest.  
Behavioral response of white-tailed deer to prescribed fire.  
Use of a bottomland hardwood area by deer.  
Deer movements in Coastal South Carolina.  
Seasonal deer use of East Texas timber stands.  
Factors affecting home range size in white-tailed deer.  
Do white-tails defend territories ?  
Herd health aspects in the Everglades deer mortality situation.

Will try to find out if they are going to publish the proceedings and let you know.

*Impeccable - - a steel pole to a woodpecker.*

The city council of Berkeley, California in its wisdom, has banned pesticides and recommended cats for rats and neutered Angora goats for weed control. - *Thanks Walt Weber.*

#### CARE TO COMMENT ?

Tom Krause, Editor of THE TRAPPER (Box 648, Sutton, NE 68979), requested our cooperation in getting some input on the following. Please write directly to him. Thanks.

"As a member of the ad hoc committee of the *NATIONAL TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION* (NTA) to study the impact the reintroduction of compound 1080 might have on wildlife and people, I would like to have letters from ADC people who have had experience with the predacide. Please answer the following questions:

1. If 1080 is allowed for use against specific predators, is abuse for coyote population control likely ?
2. Is the delivery technology for single lethal dose baits (SLD) such that significant population reductions of grey fox, swift fox, and badger would not occur ?
3. If SLD 1080 baits were available as a tool for ADC work, do you think private interests would pressure you for a supply ?

Please be aware that our responsibility is to reflect the best interests of the members of NTA. We are aware opinions differ widely on this issue, and we would hope to make a fair and responsible decision based on all the information available to us. Letters need not be signed and anonymity will be protected."

*Miser - - a person who lets the world go buy.*

IT ONLY TAKES A WHIFF

Aluminum phosphide has been recently registered as a burrow fumigant for ground squirrels. Place 2-4, 3-gram tablets down each open burrow. Cover the burrow mouth with newspaper and seal it off with soil. Treat all active burrows. Three to four days after the initial treatment, treat all reopened burrows. Best results are obtained when the soil is moist as moisture is required to release the hydrogen phosphide gas. - *Wildlife Management PROduction & CONtrol*, #142 (1983) UC-Davis.

*New farm program for farmers with silos - - adopt an MX.*

HEAR YE ! HEAR YE ! HEAR YE !

There's a good article on calling predators by Ralph Duren entitled (what else ?) *Calling Predators* in the December, 1982 issue (pages 12-15) of the MISSOURI CONSERVATIONIST. Nothing particularly new to you experts like Monte Dodson (*I'll never forgive him for dragging me out on the Papago Reservation one early morning with the brag he was going to bring me fang to fang with a panting coyote - - zilch !*), but there are good points for the neophyte and a good listing of predator call sources. - - *Thanks to Don Spencer.*

*Raving beauty - The gal who placed second in a beauty contest.*

HILL STREET BLUES

YE ED doesn't watch this popular NBC cops-and-robbers mellydrama, but Bill Jackson (Bowling Green State University) did on January 27th. In a typical example of media inaccuracy in favor of sensationalism, the Health Department reported a rat positive for rabies in that episode. As Bill pointed out to NBC, rabies is not a viable potential in a rat-human encounter. The script plays on the public's fears to the point that might result in undue pressure to apply the painful and hazardous anti-rabies inoculations as well as increased needless mental anguish. Responsible reporting today seem; to be losing out to the need for sensationalism.

*When arguing with a stupid person, be sure he isn't doing the same.*

GET 'EM WHILE THEY'RE HOT

The March issue of OUTDOOR LIFE will feature a chapter from the new book: *Coyotes: Predators and survivors* by Chuck Cadieux. This hardcover, profusely illustrated book will be published on April 2, 1983 by Stone Wall Press. It contains much New Mexico lore, and is "...all you ever wanted to know about coyotes, and probably a lot more."

Dr. Ed Kozicky, Conservation Director for Olin Industries, says that "...this beautifully written book is a must for anyone interested in coyotes." It can be ordered from the publisher (1241 30th St. NW, Washington, DC, 20007) for \$16.95 plus \$1.50 for postage and handling or from a local bookstore through Stackpole books. However, Chuck will give you a deal if you'll order from him directly (8209 Harwood NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110) before April 1, 1983. This would be \$15.00 post-paid. He'll even autograph it for you if you want, though he admits this might lower its resale value in the local flea market.

RAT BAIT

While anticoagulants have a history of being slow-acting (*YE ED remembers the early complaints of rats getting fat on old Compound 42*), the newer ones though just as slow don't require repeated feedings to be lethal. In a recent study at a dairy barn in central California, 13 wooden bait stations were baited with cracked corn. In a 12-day prebaiting situation, 220 grams were consumed per bait station. The bait was replaced for 24 hours with TALON<sup>R</sup> pellets. An average of 110 grams were consumed. The toxicant was replaced with clean bait and records resumed for the next 6 days after an 8 day waiting period. In this post-treatment census period, the maximum average daily consumption was 16.8 grams - - a decrease of 92.4%. The study showed a single overnight exposure of brodifacoum can result in good kills. However, prolonged exposure as specified on the label will probably result in even greater control as well as short stopping any rats moving into the area. - *Wildlife Management PROduction & CONtrol No. 142 (1983), UC-Davis, CA 95616.*

*What do you call a clone who chews tobacco ? A spitting image.*

FROM THE HEART

Getting out a newsletter is no picnic. If I print jokes - - people say I'm in bad taste; if I don't, I'm boring and stuffy. If I clip and use things from other newsletters - - I'm too lazy to write my own articles; if I don't, I'm too provincial and narrow minded. If I don't print everyone's contributions - - I don't appreciate good writing; if I do the paper is poorly written. If I change someone's copy - - I'm too critical; if I don't I was too stupid not to have caught an obvious typographical error. Now, like it or not, someone will say I swiped this piece from some other newsletter. I did.- *Thanks to Wyoming Department of Agriculture's Bull Sheet.*

*Conceit is a funny disease. It makes everyone sick except the fellow who has it.*

AND YOU THOUGHT ONLY MONKEYS HAD TAILS !

The *Miami Herald* (1 Feb. 83, p. 2c) gave a peek at how the other half lives. The Humane Society had a big brawl at the Surf Club - - black tie and tails. No little old ladies with tennis shoes or ADC clowns were admitted. Only types like Camilo Noguera who owns 30 or more polo ponies and admitted, "My best friends are animals" and a psychiatrist, Marvin Isaacson, who said, "Animals get their neuroses from people." They had a nice touch with plastic doggie bags at each place to remind them who was paying for the affair.

*Never doubt your wife's judgement - - Look who she married.*

NOT ALL TERRORISTS ARE PALESTINIAN

ADC is not the only group concerned with animal rights activists. Dr. Harry Rowsell (Executive Director, Canadian Council of Animal Care) sent me the following release from the Association of Biomedical Research (13 Jan 83). On Christmas Day, a group called the ALF (Animal Liberation Front) broke into Howard University medical School and stole 28-35 cats. Property damage estimated at \$2,640. A woman spokesperson for the ALF said the raid was committed because "I have a passion and conviction about the

rights of my fellow creatures." In another incident, two women wearing lab coats walked into the U.S. Naval Medical Research Center and dog-napped a mutt because of the "callous and insensitive attitude" in the laboratory where it had been "...very badly chewed up." A Navy spokesman said the dog had been in a fight with another animal but had received proper medical attention.

In UC-Berkeley (where else ?) besides an Urban Gorillas group, the students have formed an ANIMAL RIGHTS CONNECTION to "...move from a human-centered universe to one which recognizes and respects the interconnection amongs: all species and living things on the planet." (*I wonder how the members would interrupt a mosquito from doing its thing on their arm ?*) Their boycotts and break-ins receive wide media attraction as usual.

In other parts of the world, a letter bomb sent to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher scorched the face and hair of an office manager. Inree others sent the same day, November 30, 1982, to officials were not opened. The ANIMAL RIGHTS MILITIA claimed responsibility for the act because of the government attempts to block a Common Market ban on imports of seal products. The Swiss are expected to vote on a nationwide referendum which would ban animal experimentation in that country. This has been forced by a petition signed by 150,000 Swiss. Several major pharmaceutical companies (Ciba-Geigy, Hoffman-LaRoche, Sandoz, etc.) are headquartered in Switzerland as though the price of developing new drugs that are safe for human use wasn't already astronomical.

In the same letter, Dr. Rowse mentions the DELTA SOCIETY which studies the positive side of human/animal interactions. Companion animals satisfy certain psychological needs for companionship as well as having healthful physiological effects like lowering blood pressure and lessening stress. YE ED is sure his attitude is shared by the majority of NADCA members of a common concern for humane treatment of other living creatures. We delight in their presence and don't want to see even the last rat disappear from the planet (*some of my best friends are rats*), but we also feel that in the natural order of things, each species must look out for its own well-being. I can't visualize a "planet of apes" where there is much concern for the welfare of subject races like *Homo sapiens*.

*Want to get away from it all ? Don't worry - - one of these days, you will.*

#### BROMETHALIN

we gave a review of this new toxicant in PROBE #27:1 when it received experimental registration from EPA. The Federal Register for 8 December 1982 has now given the chemical official registration for use as an acute commensal rodenticide. The source is: Elanco Products Co., 740 S. Alabama St., Indianapolis, IN 46285. - *Thanks to Don Spencer.*

*There's no family tree without some sap.*

#### THIS WOULD BE BANNED IN BOSTON

Dale Wade and Jim Bowns have just released a beautifully illustrated booklet - *Procedures for evaluating predation on livestock and wildlife*. It's a little too gory for review just before lunch as it has very explicit (as they say in the sex manuals)

color photos (114 of them) of what the prey look like after they have been munched on by the various predators. The illustrations make it an excellent field guide to the typical types of damage caused by coyotes, dogs, foxes, cougars, bobcats, bear, hogs, eagles, scavenging birds (vultures, ravens, etc.), and snakes. The text aids in describing the differences in attack patterns between various predatory animals. You can obtain a copy by writing the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service or the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. - *Thanks to Bill Spalsbury.*

*No matter how much cats seem to fight - - there are always plenty of kittens.*

### DO YOUR SUNFLOWERS DROOP ?

This might be important. Some researchers (*Arkansas Farm Research, 31:6:10*) (1982) have pointed out that head droop and lack of head curl might be effective in reducing bird damage to sunflowers. Most of the damage is done sunflower seed crops in Arkansas by house sparrows and red-winged blackbirds. Both feed primarily by perching on the upper rim of a flower head and extracting seeds from that portion of the flower (house sparrow 92% and redwings 88% of the time). Studies showed the effect droop and curl had on damage potential:

<u>Position of sunflower head</u>	<u>% Damage</u>	<u>Sunflower head curl</u>	<u>% Damage</u>
Upright	28.0	No curl	4.6
Partial droop	15.2	Partial curl	10.6
Full droop	10.6	Full curl	25.6

The paper suggests genetic selection for varieties with early drooping flowers that do not curl backwards or towards the face would reduce bird damage.

*Farm prices go in cycles. They'll be bad for a while and then they get worse.*

### THE SINK OR SWIM EVERGLADES HERD

The *Miami Herald* (26 Jan. 83, p. 3) reported a state committee study of the Everglades deer problem. The committee decided they had a choice between a real low deer herd with no die-off from starvation or a maximum deer herd with the possibility of die-off (*I wonder what it cost to figure out those choices ?*)...Hunting starving deer in flooded conditions violates the public's idea of sport." The committee recommended hunters be allowed to kill more female deer than bucks until the herd is nearly equal (*tsk ! tsk ! That's against motherhood !*). They also recommended state and federal agencies devote more time to educating the non-hunting public about wildlife management, but "...they resigned themselves to probable failure on that point."

*Heredity is what sets parents off a teenager wondering about each other.*

### FOR SALE

"Help wanted. Husband for sale cheap. Comes complete with hunting and fishing equipment; also one pair of jeans, two shirts, a Lab retriever, and 25 pounds of deer meat. Not home much between September and January and April through October. Will consider trade."

In response to this ad in the Islanti (MN) paper, Mrs. Sheryl Weidall says her phone rang off the hook. Several women wanted to know the rock-bottom price. Another said she had no husband at all so half a loaf was better than none. - -  
*Miami Herald, 1 Feb. 83, p.2.*

*A yawn is bad manners - - but it's an honest opinion.*

### HAVE PATIENCE

On December 23rd, Judge June Green finally dismissed the bobcat suit by the DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE and lifted her injunction to prevent the export of bobcat pelts. On the 29th, good ol' DW was doing what it can do best - back in court for an appeal. This was denied and they filed again. This time the court gave them until January 21st. So the "optimistic" opinion is that DW appeals will be exhausted and the regulations permitting export of bobcat furs will be available in early February. - -  
*THE TRAPPER, 8:6:4 (Feb. 1983).*

*The Texas Aggies have artificial turf in the stadium so the cheerleaders don't graze during the game.*

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*Roger Nass (USEWS, Twin Falls, ID)*

Better late than never  
 Charter members do not sever.  
 To get the scoop, we must pay  
 So ADC can have its day.  
 Enclosed is ten for some stamps.  
 Hopefully, you won't get writer's cramps.

*John Peterson (USEWS, Jefferson, ME)*

"In the interests of self-preservation and an accumulated postage due (HA! HA! I'll get you one way or the other.) because I didn't send my change of address, I am enclosing my membership fee together with my new address. After 16 years in the Regional Office, I became disenchanted with reorganization, commuting 90 miles per day and helping generate reams of useless paperwork and accepted a voluntary reassignment as State Supervisor for Maine.

In spite of the obvious difference between eastern and western perspectives and priorities, I must admit that you have made an effort to expand coverage to include critters other than coyotes. Further, I recognize that you do one hell-of-a-lot of work for little or no monetary compensation and I applaud you for this. You are also a very witty, comical writer and I must confess I enjoy reading the PROBE. It takes someone with your enthusiasm, wit and knowledge to make it a success." - -  
*Thanks, Pete, you wrote that just the way I asked you to.*

*This country is as free as it ever was - - unless you happen to be a taxpayer.*

### OL' TIMER'S CORNER

YE ED feels that while the following may go over the head of most of you young sprouts, he can really relate to this article on "How to know when you're growing old." - -

- You look forward to a dull evening.
- The best part of the day is over when the alarm clock goes off.
- You decide to procrastinate but never get around to it.
- A dripping faucet creates an uncontrollable bladder urge.
- The little gray-haired old lady you help across the street is your wife.
- Last week you had an unforgettable experience but can't remember what it was.
- What turned you on seems to have turned off.
- You get convinced you couldn't feel worse - - and are wrong.
- You see Bo Derek in the Tarzan movie and are more interested in the monkey.
- You rest up after not having been anywhere.
- The only thing worse than staying home is going out.
- Nothing is easier to resist than temptation.

Well at least that got those out of my system so we can go on - -

*You're getting old when your back goes out more than you do.*

But now for an unpleasant report:

*Louis H. Laney* passed away in Albuquerque, NM on December 30, 1982. Lou was 93. He was the fourth son of a pioneer New Mexico family who homesteaded in the small Mormon settlement of Luna. Lou served overseas in World War I with the army. On his return, he started a government career of 43 years that took him through the Forest Service, Soil Conservation Service, and to the Fish & Wildlife Service. He was appointed District Agent for ADC in New Mexico when Ted Cates became Regional Supervisor, retaining that position until he retired in 1959. Lou Laney was a man of convictions who stood by them. While he had a temper, he also had a dry sense of humor that served him well in dealing with both the Regional Office and the State Game & Fish. "I respected Lou Laney as a man, as a supervisor, and as a friend. I miss him." - - *Fred Carpenter.*

*Elmer Sternhagen* died January 15, 1983 at the Chadron (NE) Hospital. He went to work for the US Fish & Wildlife Service November 1942 and was a trapper for most of his life in Dawes County, Nebraska. Elmer was such a hand, he didn't appear to be working hard, but let a coyote make tracks in the County and Elmer had him by the throat. He retired June 30, 1970 after 28 years of dedicated service. - -  
*Jennie Sternhagen & Norm Johnson.*

We were also saddened to learn of the death of *Walter W. Dykstra* on February 2nd. Walt was one of the real ol' timers in ADC. Born and brought up in the Dakotas, he entered government service in 1936 on the shelter belt project during the depression. He was moved to the Amherst (MA) station, going into the army during World War II to serve as a malaria control officer in the South Pacific. After the war, he returned to Amherst, replacing George Lay in the Regional Office in Boston when Lay went to the Far East. Oneregret in his career was when he hired YE ED for the Fish & Wildlife Service back in '46. He paid for that mistake when he was shipped to Washington, D.C. for the rest of his career. He headed up rodent control activities for PARC in the U.S.A. in 1950. Then in 1956 he transferred to wildlife research and became internationally known. Walt retired in 1972. He entered the hospital two weeks before he died for observation on cancer in his colon. He was reportedly getting better and ready for release when he suddenly died from renal failure. - *John C. Jones.*

THE NAME OF THE GAME

Jeff Jackson (*Public support for nongame and endangered wildlife management: Which way is it going?*, Trans. 47th North American Wildlife & Natural Resources Conference, p. 432-440 (1982)) in an excellent article points out "nongame" suggests a non-entity. It tells what a thing isn't rather than giving a positive description. The phraseology has the tendency to split wildlife management into "nongame" and "game" camps both at odds with one another to the disadvantage of "wildlife" as a whole. (*Reminds me of the semantic problem of the hunter who met a beautiful girl in the woods. She stripped down and said, "I'm game." so he shot her.*)

Jeff points out that despite surveys showing overwhelming support for wildlife, in practice very little actual support appears. Wildlife protection laws can protect the environment, the habitat, or individual animals. There is little argument against the first two categories because it is like being against motherhood. Everybody wants (unless it comes directly out of their own pockets) clean air and water and favors rewarding good management practices that encourage wildlife. But when it comes to the third category, then the law starts to alienate the public with such ridiculous situations as the snail darter in the Tellico Dam project. The increase in special laws to protect individual species has resulted in an increasing number of arrests but a decreasing number of convictions which irritates the general public. The endangered species list of June 1981 listed 13 insects, 25 clams, 16 amphibians, and 80 reptiles. He compares this with a stack of cards that as it gets higher, public support weakens so the whole stack will eventually collapse.

As O'Gara (PROBE #28) pointed out, public attitudes on wildlife uses are polarized, creating a problem for the wildlife manager. Jeff states we may mistakenly feel the growing interest of citizen groups in wildlife is on the side of the anti-hunting fraternity. He contacted the anti-wildlife management groups (FUND FOR ANIMALS, HUMANE SOCIETY, and FRIENDS OF ANIMALS) and found their membership is under 500,000. They admit the memberships increase in response to a well-publicized cruelty issue like killing burros or clubbing harp seals. Contact of the environmental groups that are not necessarily opposed to wildlife management (AUDUBON, NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION, and SIERRA CLUB) revealed their memberships well over 5,000,000. They credit their growth as a response to the Reagan Administration's attempt to dismantle environmental safeguards.

Jeff advises wildlife management professionals to enlist public support for nongame and endangered species within the mainstream of wildlife management programs. Laws protecting these species should address real needs. The diverse attitudes towards wildlife must be recognized and understood.

*Confidence is that great feeling you have before you understand the problem.*

THIS PUBLICATION IS INTENDED AS AN INFORMAL NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS OF NADCA. IT IS NOT AN OFFICIAL DECLARATION OF NADCA POLICY OR A CONSENSUS OF OPINION IN ALL INSTANCES.

YE ED - William D. Fitzwater

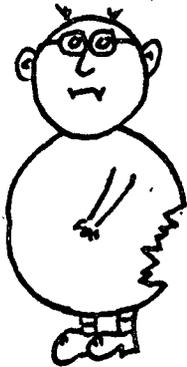
(Over)

Thanks to the Purdue University Fish Fry and Walter Weber for the one-liners in this issue.

We had a good time in Florida. Our weather timing was fantastic. We were supposed to go down before the weekend of the 27th but stayed home and watched the Dolphins play the Jets in the rain, flying down the next day. Had good weather until we got out of the car at the Miami airport 9 days later and the rain and hail came down. It was so bad our flight was delayed an hour. Our son, Terry, took us on a 5-day cruise on his girl friend's 45-foot sailboat from Ft. Lauderdale to Key Largo and back. Found deep water sailing was all Terry claimed for it: "Long hours of incredible boredom punctuated with moments of sheer terror." You don't know terror until you watch the end of the anchor rope slide effortlessly over the side before you can wrap it around a cleat or watch a landing dock plunging at you recklessly while you feel you are trying to keep a mad elephant from hitting a brick wall by twisting its tail. It is also quite an experience to get chewed out by the skipper on the boat, particularly when you can remember the time you used to change his diapers. But we had a good time, especially when we learned Albuquerque had its worst snow storm of the year while we were gone.

Adios,

**Fitz**



Nothing serious.

Just a little chat with the skipper.

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