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4-1-1983

## The Probe, Issue 31 - April 1983

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"The Probe, Issue 31 - April 1983" (1983). *The Probe: Newsletter of the National Animal Damage Control Association*. Paper 105.  
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# THE PROBE



## National Animal Damage Control Association

NO. 31

APRIL, 1983

### **THEY DID IT TO US AGAIN !**

In December 1981, the USFWS applied to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for an Experimental Use Permit (EUP) to initiate limited studies of single dose lethal 1080 baits (SLD). EPA granted the permit on October 4, 1982. Study plans were developed for one site in Idaho, one in Montana, and one or more in Texas. In between the time the request was submitted and permission was obtained, laboratory tests indicated the preliminary smaller doses requested were ineffective. At least a 5 mg dose per bait was necessary to make certain they would actually be a lethal dose for all coyotes. USFWS also requested the EUP be amended to allow some flexibility in the bait selection sites for Texas. The Idaho tests were initiated and plans were made to carry out the studies in Montana and Texas. However, attention was called to the fact EPA had not responded to the request for the amendment of the first EUP, thus further action was stopped.

On March 11, 1983, EPA requested placement of 1080 baits be stopped until a review of the EUP could be completed and the changes requested by the USFWS be acted upon. We just received notice of a Humane Society brief (dated March 1st) to EPA claiming the EUP was illegally issued so this partially explains why EPA was dragging its feet. Initial tests from Idaho appeared good, the new administrative position on 1080 was promising, and the EPA hearing judge submitted a favorable report. Then the dung hit the dinghy -- Anne Burford resigned and William Ruckelshaus was appointed new EPA commissioner. Inasmuch as he was in charge when 1080 was first banned, I would not advise anyone to hold their breath while waiting to put out a 1080 bait.

**If you think the government doesn't care about little people - skip paying your income tax.**

### **WOT'S FOR DINNER ?**

Not very much if you listen to Michael Fox (FACTORY FARMING, Humane Society of U.S., 1980):

**Dairy Products-** Acceptable as dairy cattle are the least intensively raised and confined of all farm animals.  
**Beef-** Marginally acceptable even though they are raised on grass/range land, most are 'finished' in feedlots, consuming grain

which humans could eat.

**Turkey and chicken**- Marginally acceptable as animals have some freedom in deep-litter sheds.

**Lamb and mutton**- While the majority of animals are not subject to intensive confinement rearing, the meat is not acceptable because of questionable and indiscriminate predator control programs.

**Eggs**- Free range and deep litter house eggs acceptable; most eggs come from battery hens and are not acceptable.

**Duck and rabbit**- Not acceptable since most are raised in battery cages (and some ducks are crowded in deep litter sheds).

**Veal**- Unless obtained from new-born calves or organically raised on free-range, not acceptable.

**Pork, ham and bacon**- Least acceptable of meat products since more are being raised in total confinement and particularly because breeding sows are subjected to unnecessary privation.

Now if they can only save the bleeding beets and starved spinach, we'll have no food problems - there won't be anything to eat.

**Reality is for people who can't handle drugs.**

### **WATCH THE BIRDIE !!!**

George Harrison (OUTDOORS UNLIMITED, March, 1983) listed some good points on photographing wildlife that are not normally suggested:

**MAKE FRIENDS**- stay with the animals coming in slow and low, following them around quietly while not pushing them.

**HIDE YOURSELF**- use blinds or hides to conceal yourself, even the auto makes a good blind near a road.

**SHOOT THROUGH GLASS**- keep room dark behind you and hold lens and flash next to glass.

**GET THEM TO COME TO YOU**- bait animals within reach with feeders, salt blocks, water holes, etc.

**FIND TAME ONES**- parks where animals are accustomed to people or conversely very remote wild areas where they have less fear.

**KNOW YOUR EQUIPMENT**- practice with camera until you don't have to think about the mechanics but can concentrate on the animals.

**KNOW YOUR SUBJECT**- study animal so you can anticipate its moves.

**USE LONG LENSES**- these permit you to stay further away and tend to blur the background.

**HOLD CAMERA STILL**- use a tripod or other support.

**ELECTRONIC FLASH WILL HELP**- lighten the deep shadows, add catch lights to the eyes, and freeze action.

**USE KODACHROME**- if you wish to publish your pictures use ASA 25 or 64 as second choice.

**THINK BEFORE YOU SHOOT**- check background, lighting, camera position, etc.

**I sent IRS a bad check. I figured they should appreciate deficit spending.**

### **NRA HUNTER'S GUIDE**

The NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION has just published a softbound, beautifully illustrated text called the BASIC HUNTER'S GUIDE. Chapters include: history of hunter education, role of the hunter and wildlife management, equipment, firearms, bowhunting, field

techniques, survival, hypothermia, first aid, physical fitness, and legal responsibilities.

While it is written for the beginner, the outstanding graphics and thoroughness makes in a good manual for any outdoorsman. There are excellent color plates on identification of game mammals, upland game birds, and waterfowl. It costs \$10.95 from NRA Hunter Information Dept., 1600 Rhode Island Ave., Washington, DC 20036.

**The income tax is the government program to handicap the hired.**

### **BIRDS HIDE FROM HYDE**

Marshall Hyde sent us his latest price list on bird control materials:  
Schreckpatronen (Scare cartridges) 12 ga. range 75 yds. 500/case/\$250  
Whistle bombs range 125 yds. 1000/case/\$250  
Racket bombs range 125 yds. 1000/case/\$280  
15mm Launchers (for whistle & racket bombs) \$20 ea., \$80/5  
Shipping paid to contiguous 48. 10% discount for payment with order.  
Better get them while they are still available.

**The government's reduced spending alright -- mine not it's.**

### **LET'S TALK ABOUT IT !!!**

Feast or famine ! We went along for many years with the California Vertebrate Pest Conference offering the only opportunity for us ADC types to listen to kindred souls and for a short time feel we were not an oppressed minority. Now we are suddenly in the midst of an embarrassment of riches. There is the **FIRST EASTERN ADC CONFERENCE, SIXTH GREAT PLAINS ADC WORKSHOP, NINTH BOWLING GREEN BIRD CONTROL SEMINAR, and ELEVENTH CALIFORNIA VERTEBRATE PEST CONFERENCE** all within the next 11 months. We will attempt to keep you posted on these if those associated with them will send us the information as it becomes available.

Jim Caslick says they are making progress on the Eastern Conference and in fact have more papers than they can handle. Bill Jackson just sent us the preliminary announcement for his Bird Control Seminar. The conference will open at 9:00 AM October 4th following registration on the previous day. It runs through October 6th. This is always a good meeting for those interested in bird control. Details on the meeting can be obtained by writing Dr. William B. Jackson, Director, Ctr. Environ. Research & Services, BGSU, Bowling Green, OH 43403.

And even though Bob Henderson ignored me, got a flyer on the Great Plains Workshop. This is slated for December 13-14 at Wichita, KS. He wants a 500-word summary (2 copies) by May 1, 1983. Write to F. Robert Henderson, Ext. Wildlife Damage Control, Umberger Hall, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506.

**A Man with money to burn soon meets his match.**

### **ALMOST GOT CAUGHT AGAIN.**

The anti-trap people tried again in Arizona. H.B.2464 would have prohibited the manufacture, sale, and possession of steel jaw leghold game traps in the State. The State Trappers Association and NADCA RD

Pink Madsen did an excellent job in rallying the troops. The bill was heard in Committee on March 7th with about 75 trappers and 25 anti-trappers attending. It was sent to the Agriculture Committee with a 'do not pass' recommendation (political doubletalk to be against something but not to let anybody know where you stand). Here it supposedly died.

The companion bill for the Senate (S.B.1286) has been stalled in Committee and hopefully will die there. But politics is a strange critter. Arizona trappers can expect the antis to continue with more legislative attempts, an initiative petition, or changing the trapping regulations. - Thanks to RD Pink Madsen.

**After listening to economic experts you can then draw your own confusions**

**THANKS, JOHN**

John Maestrelli (FWS-California) out of the goodness of his heart and to keep YE ED off the streets sent me a copy of the January, 1983 issue of CALIFORNIA VETERINARIAN. This is all about my favorite -- Animal Rights issue and the rest of that ball of wax. Frankly, I have been intimidated by its size and haven't read much of it, but it appears to give a balanced account of this controversy. I assure you, John, I'll have to read it as background for the talk I'm giving at the EASTERN ADC CONFERENCE, so thanks.

**A honeymoon is a vacation a guy takes before goin' to work for a new boss.**

**LETTERS TO YE ED**

DON DONAHOO (rtd. USFWS, Rexburg, ID):

"Thanks for the article by Dr. Howard (PROBE #30). Never met him, but heard about him for many years. The article is very well done, and since it reflects my feelings it must be correct.

Seriously, these are things we have known for all these years, but have been unable to express with any degree of acceptance outside of our own very small circle. As a trapper, district supervisor, and state supervisor, I butchered and treated carcasses with 1080 in five different States. To the best of my knowledge no species except the coyote was seriously depleted as a result of this activity. I could never relate to the wild claims by all the anti-control groups. No matter where I was, there was no indication that 1080 was 'promiscuously' scattered across the landscape...our greatest supporters - the livestock growers - were not always pleased when I remained within established procedures. I do not think my adherence to those guidelines was unusual, because that's how my first supervisors taught me.

The Cain report was a series of badly organized unfounded insinuations. And yet, those of us who knew better were muzzled into an ineffective minority."

JOHNNY WHITE (rtd. USFWS, Water Valley, TX):

"You are doing one hell of a good job and we are proud of you. I look

forward to the PROBE. Spent the winter doing what I like best, trapping coyotes and cats in east Texas with the Dept. of Texas Agric. Like Hinton Bridgewater told his wife on his way home after being hired as a hunter 'I just can't believe I'm going to be paid for what I would gladly do for nothing.' Enclosed is my check for one year's subscription to the PROBE for Glenna Ivy, widow of Darwin 'Shorty' Ivy."

BOB REYNOLDS (USFWS, Sandy, UT):

"After spending the last two years glued to the keyboard of our new MIS computer, I decided to take the day off and think of something else besides the Utah ADC program...reading the past 7 issues of the PROBE.

I'm impressed by its improvement over the past year. Viewed from the perspective of a 10-11 month period, you have provided a wealth of interesting items. Most of all I am impressed by your own ability to stay with the job and to pursue publication when I know it must have seemed a thankless job at times.

I was particularly impressed with the Chuck Cadieux letter and your response. Regardless of where one stands on an issue the freedom to express it without reprisal must exist if the organization is worth it's salt. I must admit that there has existed and still does exist a strong undertone (in that segment of NADCA's membership which is composed of the old guard predator control leadership) that one does not take exception to their hardline positions without being labeled soft or having their loyalty questioned. Because the 'Outfit' has been so close knit and cemented by such fraternities as the ORDER OF YELLOW DOGS, the ability to adapt to changing situations has sometimes been difficult if not impossible. Young people with differing views are not let in or don't last long. Movement from east to west is nearly unknown unless it is a return trip. Successes that challenge tradition are viewed with pessimism or scorned. The end result is that we either conform or remain silent. Maybe it's just the nature of the beast, but let us hope that this nature doesn't cause it's eventual extinction !

Last week both Utah's District Supervisors (Ray Piggott & Bob Oppenheimer) got their 30-year pins. Both are still going strong and...will be on the job for a long time to come.

Aided by 3 new state-owned supercubs, we have increased our coyote take this FY by 66%. When we get 1080 back, Katy bar the door ! Loss information from Utah sheepgrowers indicates 5.1% loss to all predators during 1982...Utah's Legislature ...began a system of Head Tax on range cattle and sheep and poultry. This effort will allow us to rehire 2 of the 5 employees we have lost in the past two years because of decreasing federal support.

Our new MIS is fantastic...we are now being provided information which we have wanted for years. The challenge as I see it will be for management to improve and better utilize our available resources. So far upper levels of management have not shown much interest in using information being produced to effect changes for the better.

The new Vice President of the National Wool Growers is Steven T.

Gillmor. He is our Commissioner of Agriculture...In just 6 months he has obtained the Governor's support of the ADC program; has improved our State funding levels and given me 100% support. I know there has been a deterioration in relationships between the recent leadership of the National and some of our key State Supervisors. I hope with new leadership we can improve over the past."

**DR. WALTER E. HOWARD** (UC-Davis) to Tom Krause questionnaire (PROBE #29):

"Right off it looks like you are trying to split the ranks so those of us not in fur trapping but in wildlife control will begin to wonder why we have fought so hard for the trappers...We need to join ranks. The environmentalists have been trying to split us for a long time. You surely know that the answers to your three questions by an informed trapper is going to be NO."

**HOMER S. FORD** (NADCA Vice President, Ridgefield, WA):

"In 1981 **Wayne E. Kirch** was installed as an honorary member of NADCA for his long years of service in the development and maintenance of a sound cooperative ADC program in Nevada and his work at the National level with congressional delegates and the Dept. of the Interior.

In 1952 Mr. Kirch was appointed to the Nevada P&RC Committee as chairman where he served until his retirement in 1977. Through much of that time he was chairman of the Fish & Game Comm. as well as a number of other conservation committees, but was still able to unselfishly give much of his time and considerable personal expense to promote a strong ADC program for Nevada. He recently received a USDI citation for Public Service from Secretary Watt, listing no less than 35 individual meritorious actions. We are very proud to have Wayne Kirch a member of NADCA."

**KI FAULKNER** (USFWS, Falls Church, VA):

"Last November, I left ADC to become Chief, Div. Resource Contaminant Assessment (RCA). This new division has picked up the activities of pesticide surveillance and monitoring as well as oil and hazardous spills which responsibilities I held in Region 3 from 1964-75.

After 28 years in P&RC, ADC, and Old Yellow Dogs, I have left the fold. However, I will still be around for a while to remark my scent posts and to visit practical ADC wildlife biologists."

**KEITH CARPENTER** (USFWS San Angelo, TX) is retiring April 30th after 28 years of federal service, the last 13 being in the Texas ADC organization.

**LEE BACUS** (rtd. USFWS, Trinidad, CO) had a heart attack recently according to Don Zielesch which has slowed him down a little. Our best wishes, Lee.

**The trouble with most tax loopholes - - when you find them they don't apply to you any more.**

**BAN BIRD BANDERS**

Now maybe we can get some sympathy from the bird banders. According to a NY TIMES article, questions are being raised about the "ethics and morality" of slapping those anklets on birds to check their movements and other habits. The antibirdbanders claim it is cruel because it involves capturing a wild creature and disturbing its life and furthermore "few of its benefits are disclosed to the public by scientists." Do you ever get the feeling there are a lot of people in this world who don't have to devote all their energies to making a living and sit around just dreaming up ways to harass the rest of us? I liked the good ol' days when air was clean and sex was dirty. -  
THANK TO RON JOHNSON.

**A paycheck is a receipt for payroll deductions.**

**NORM ROUSSELOT NWGA CHAIRMAN**

We were happy to learn that Norman Rousselot was just elected Board Chairman of the National Woolgrowers Association. Norm who is from Sonora, Texas has been a very good supporter of NADCA since its inception. As Bob Reynolds mentioned in his letter, Steve Gillmor is vice-chairman. So we have strong support for ADC in that organization now. NWGA passed a resolution supporting the transfer of the ADC program from Interior to Agriculture, a move many of us in NADCA have been pushing for some time. We are afraid this is a case of 'too little, too late'. They missed the boat by inadvisedly dropping their push when Andrus was replaced by Watt as Secretary of the Interior. Now they are worried again with the trend to turn over the federal program to the financially-strapped state governments. - THANK TO RD MILT CAROLINE.

**Crime wouldn't pay if the government ran it.**

**COYOTE**

There was a beautifully-illustrated article by Gary Blonston of that title in SCIENCE 82 (3(8):62-71 (1982)). The impression is that the writer personally was against ADC but the article comes off as a reasonably well balanced picture of the coyote and its ecological niche. THANK TO RD PINK MADSEN

**Old bureaucrats never die - they just waste away.**

**ROADRUNNERS WITH A NARCISSUS COMPLEX**

ADC problems crop up in unusual places. The Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory on Mt. Hopkins, AZ has a reflector of 248 mirrors and 10 meters wide in its equipment. Engineers were puzzled by ground-level scratches on the mirrors, until they noticed a roadrunner sunning itself by the reflector's anchor pads. Soon the bird noticed another roadrunner staring at it and attacked it putting more scratches on the glass. It has been suggested that they put up a picture of the hairbrained coyote in the cartoon that so unsuccessfully chases the speedy roadrunner.

**Save string while you're young. Later on you'll have a ball.**



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**

Who says ya can't teach an old dog new tricks ? At a slight strain in the family relationships, I am now the proud possessor of an Apple II word processor. It still outsmarts me but I'm learning.



Adios,

"We don't communicate anymore!"

*Ann's Comment.*

**National  
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