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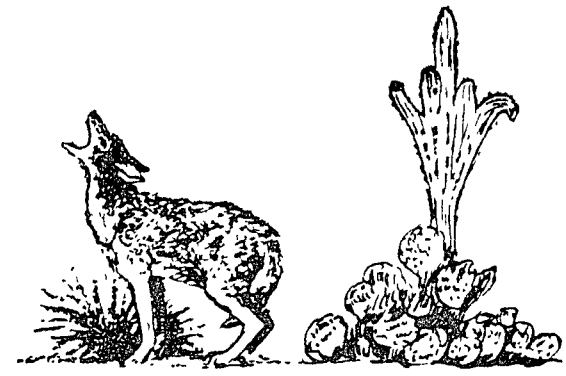
THE PROBE



National Animal Damage Control Association

No. 32 May 1983

BIOPOLITICS

The distortion of biological facts to serve political realities is not a pleasant thought to a biologist. We've fought it for most of our lives, but now we're going to get lots of company. David Samuel (DEER AND DEER HUNTING, 6:4:50-53, Apr. 1983) details the effects of this concept on the Smithsonian deer herd problem reported previously in the PROBE (#27). His is a good factual article on this and similar problems around the country (PROBE #26 & 29).

Among the testimony presented at the hearing was that of the New Mexico Fish & Game Dept. who captured 1,986 deer, radio-collaring 87 of them. Within 12 months, 55% of the relocated animals had died compared to 15% mortality in the herd present in the area before the transplanting took place. The cost of trapping and moving each deer averaged $153 (1979-80) excluding transportation expenses.

As Samuel points out, the really sad lesson from this is that after sound biological testimony from Fish & Wildlife experts all over the country, Protectionist (it gripes to call him a "congressman") Yates based his decision on emotion rather than facts. Samuel also had a good word for my fuzzy haired 'friend', Cleveland Amory. According to Samuel, Amory's testimony did not relate at all to the hunt but was designed to bolster his own ego and generate more media attention simply to get more sucker dues for his FUND FOR ANIMALS. Samuel also faulted the Smithsonian for poorly presenting their case and the Humane Society for not realizing their so-called 'options' are not biologically or economically feasible. Thanx to Guy Connolly.

I might as well take up skiing - I'm going downhill all the time anyway.

IT'S A CRUEL, CRUEL WORLD

Arizona Fish & Game got its fingers caught in the cookie jar. It seems a 20-year old, Tim Lane from Mesa, found a fox in a trap and took it home. When he tried to give it to the animal shelter, he got a citation from Fish & Game as a misdemeanor. The law is quite clear - trappers are licensed and have the right to be protected against people

who disrupt their traplines. Ah! but you should see all the letters to the Editor from the bleeding hearts !! Thanx to Pink Madsen

When a man decides to get married it's often the last decision he makes

READIN'

David Brown, The wolf in the southwest, (1983). University of Arizona Press, 1615 E.Speedway, Tucson, AZ 85719. Paper $9.95, hardbound $19.95.

J. T. Springer & C. R. Wenger, (1981). Interactions between and some ecological aspects of coyotes and mule deer in central Wyoming. Wyoming Game & Fish Dept. (Special Publications, Cheyenne, WY 82002) Tech.Rep.#8, $5.00

Anonymous, (1983) North American Furbearers, A Contemporary Reference from Worldwide Furbearer Conference, 1111 E. Cold Spring Lane, Baltimore, MD 21239 $14.00

J.S.Green & R.A.Woodruff, (1983). Guarding dogs protect sheep from predators USDA Agric. Info. Bull. #455. (you might write to Jeff Green - USDA ARS, Dubois, ID 83423)

Michael W. Fox, (1980). **Factory Farming.** Humane Society and -
Anonymous, (1977). **Trapping: Facts and Fallacies.** Humane Society
(if you're really interested write me about them)
Anonymous, (1981). **Dead roadside animal spotter's guide.** DRASP, 635 Madison Ave., NYC, NY 10022 $15.00*
*Ye Ed would have used the flyer furnished by **Bill Rightmire** on this interesting book but the xerox copy was so poor we'll just have to retype it:
"A must for nature lovers, environmentalists, outdoorsmen, joggers...How many times have you driven past the remains of a dead animal on the road, clucked in sympathy and yet not been able to identify what kind of animal it was ! Have you been acutely embarrassed when your girl friend or your child asks you, 'Ugh...what was that ?' Chances are you'll answer by saying, 'Gee, I don't know. There's not much left to identify. It's kind of splattered all over the place.' If you'll pardon us, that's a cop-out. If you had a copy of the newest edition of **The Dead Roadside Animal Spotter's Guide** in the glove compartment of your car, you'd be able to spot and identify over 10,000 different animals from all over the world, in various stages of death, from the first contact with a vehicle to the last bloody, flattened-out remains of the carcass. The Spotter's Guide is an easy-to-use reference book divided into geographical areas with oversize spotter silhouettes of the animals native to each area. In no time at all you'll be able to identify everything from a beaver to a baby elephant. You'll amaze your friends and be able to converse intelligently with forest rangers, naturalists, backpackers, and campers, instead of just sighing ad looking away from the poor beasts."

You're old whem ya read the bible to look for loopholes.

THAT DEADLY 1080

It really makes me sick to think about this (biopolitics at its worst). **Livestock Weekly** (Feb.24, 1983) had a short piece on the EPA Burford problem which expressed the hope that the 'feeding shark pack' syndrome attacking EPA might not be appeased by the token gesture of tossing 1080 into the troubled waters and consequently it might fall between the cracks and be released. However, the March 31, 1983 issue of that excellent little journal changed their tune. They pointed out that though USFWS had requested written authorization to modify the Experimental Use Permit (EUP) nothing had been done a year later. USFWS finally went to EPA in January, but still no progress. Suddenly on March 1st, the Humane Society filed an objection to the EUP and ten days later, EPA issued an order stopping the USFWS experiment. As the article points out it was strange that the holding order appeared two days after Mrs. Buford was driven out of office. The name of the game is "Ed Johnson", Chief of EPA Pesticides Program. He has hung in there through all changes of administration and I know we've got to make him unemployed before we will make any progress. My supervisor, when I worked in EPA, showed me a personal letter from Johnson stating that Fitzwater was not to write any more reports as they did not reflect the official thinking of EPA.

Debra Danburg is kicking a dead horse. She's introduced a bill in the Texas legislature (HB 688) which would outlaw 1080 in the State by September 1, 1983. As this would apply to its use as a rodenticide too,

you Texas people better see what can be done to head this one off at the pass.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN TRAPPER published the results of their survey on 1080 (Tom Krause requested a similar survey for THE TRAPPER in PROBE #29). The original questionnaire was long and somewhat complicated and there was no way to determine the background and experience of the respondees. However, it appeared that 68% were against it, 14% for the return of 1080, 14% were neutral, and 6% had no opinion. some indication of the general position is that 66% felt the toxicant was not necessary for the survival of the sheep industry and 68% didn't think it would be needed when the demand for long coyote fur dropped (90% of respondees trapped for coyotes). The stupidest question was:
"EPA should scientifically test 1080 baiting before making any decisions". Inasmuch as 78% said "yes" to this and only 3% said "no", it indicates that the respondees are not in touch with the realities of life. Oh well! I'm afraid Dr. Howard's letter (PROBE #31) was too much to the point. Thanx to Pink Madsen.

I've been up against the wall so long the handwritim's on me.

TRY THIS ONE ON YOUR SUPERVISOR
Vollie Bisnett claims he got this leave request from Harold Hettma, Siskiyou County, CA: "While hunting dens in a canyon area I found a den on a ledge of rock about 20 feet high. I needed loose rocks to plug the den so I could trap the coyotes. Finding a wooden barrel, rope, and a pulley, I rigged it to an oak tree on the ledge. I filled the barrel with rocks and pulled it up to the ledge with the pulley and secured the rope. I then climbed up, plugged the den, and set traps. I put extra rocks and traps in the barrel, climbed down, and released the pulley rope. Unfortunately, the barrel of rocks and traps weighed more than I did. I was jerked off my feet and pulled upward by the descending barrel which struck my shoulder causing a dislocation. I continued on to the top, badly mangling my hand in the pulley. The barrel split on striking the ground and I descended almost as fast as I had gone up. I met the barrel coming up getting a painful bruise on my knee. When I landed on the rocks and traps, I suffered cuts and abrasions causing me to let go of the rope. The barrel came down, hitting me on the head, causing a concussion and a lump that will not permit me to wear a hat. I am requesting a few days leave to recover as without my hat I may suffer sunburn on my bald head."

How do you catch a unique bird ? Unique up behind him.
How do you catch a tame bird ? The tame way.

BLACKBIRD SPRAYING DOESN'T RUFFLE FEATHERS
About half of an estimated flock of 1,000,000 blackbirds in a communal roost near Lawrenceburg, TN died from a air drop of detergent which destroyed the protection of their feather coats. While similar sprayings in the past have drawn sharp criticism, surprisingly there was no opposition this time. The environmentalists must have been whitewashed.

Anybody who sleeps like a baby doesm't have one.

HELP !

Don Spencer reports he opened his big mouth and is now slated for a talk at the Cornell meeting on a comparison between eastern problems and those in the west. He has started a rather comprehensive survey of Game Departments in 30 eastern states, but would certainly appreciate assistance any of you state people can give him on other possible sources of this data.

Another name for a morning grouch is a surly riser.

RAT BITES

Unfortunately, this really isn't news as it is all too common, but a 7-week old baby in Kendleton, TX had to undergo plastic surgery on his face after receiving 150 rat bites on his body. The house was condemned and burned. It sickens me that the innocent always suffer when adults are too lazy and/or too ignorant to clean up their act and reduce the chance of attracting rodent livein companions. Thanx to Milt Caroline

Happy is the person who can laugh at himself. He will never cease to be amused.

THOSE DUCKS HAVE TO BE SAVED

The cost of raising a duck is not an important economic consideration, but killing a predator is. It is laughable the restrictions the refuge people put on themselves when it comes to doing predator control. In one area, they livetrapped 77 skunks, 18 raccoons, 44 housecats, 3 red fox, 27 Franklin's ground squirrels, and 69 assorted muskrats, badgers, mink, woodchucks, turtles and song birds. Imagine the cost of maintaining a trap line of live traps for a total of 4,700 trap nights with a resultant catch of only 0.0413/trap night ? Because of "legal and social constraints" only the skunks and ground squirrels were "disposed of" and even this partial reduction of predators resulted in a measurable 18% increase in nesting success. The refuge personnel made an atypical observation - "We feel that removal of other nest predators, such as raccoons, housecats, and red fox, would further increase nest success." They've got to be kiddin'. In another area the use of barrier fences at costs that are not quoted (for very good reasons, probably) gave control successes ranging from 0-10%.

Today it isn't facing the music that hurts - it's listening to it.

THEY'RE STILL DOING IT TO US

For those still convinced there is a future for ADC in Interior, Bob Jansen showed the ADC committee of the International Association of Wildlife & Fish Agencies (IAWFA) the latest draft on ADC options. The one they are favoring is that beginning in FY 86 close out <u>all</u> operational ADC activites, retaining only ADC research and technology transfer (Washingtonese for extension). Most of the States are worried about the monkey on their back and the IAFWA has made a strong recommendation that the project be transferred to USDA.

Only two kinds of men don't understand women - husbands and single men.

CONTROVERSY WITHIN THE RANKS OR WHAT ELSE IS NEW ?

Pink Madsen wrote the following to the editor of ROCKY MOUNTAIN TRAPPER: "I was dumbfounded on reading in the lead editorial by Scott Skinner the statement...'wolves are very selective predators which take only the very old, the weak and sick and occassionally the very young.' This statement followed one that said...'wolves subsist on a variety of large and small game and rarely attack livestock.'

In other places in your paper you reported that fur trappers continue to have trouble with 'Friends of Animals and Defenders of Wildlife', so I am sure you are not subsidized by these anti-trapping groups. But your statements about wolves is so exactly the line of the anti-trapping groups that it makes me very suspicious of your motives and/or background.

S cientific records have documented the extensive wolf predation of cattle in the western U.S. during the last of the 1800's and the early 1900's. But if you don't want to look this up, then you can contact some of the Minnesota agricultural interests now and learn of the 1982 killing of livestock in that state by wolves with disasterous regularity for the owners.

Scientific records also have long ago refuted the 'emotional claim' so often parroted by Defenders of Wildlife that most predators take only the sick, weak, deformed from the population they prey upon. It is true that some of these weak and deformed individuals are taken, but rarely in proportions which exceed their percentage of the total population, and they never make up even 50% of the food supply. Wolves, coyotes, bobcats, mountain lions, etc. are opportunisitic predators, and they mostly take whatever animals become easily available to them. Because domestic animals are less instinctive for survival, they often become available in greater numbers than the wild game. To wildlife managers, a claim that predators take only, (or even mostly) sick and weak prey is a laughable signal of misinformation or incompetence."

RMT Editor's Note: "Anti-trapping ? Hell, I'm a trapper. You don't have to be an 'anti' to be opposed to 1080, poaching, or aerial hunting and you certainly don't have to be an 'anti' to regret the extermination of a species.-SS".

PROBE Editor's Note: Pink really hit a sore spot, but that's what you get when you critize an editor. Also note how he never answered Pink's statements but equated 1080 with poaching and extermination of a species. Us editors are sneaky people. Also note how both of us have the last word.

It's that time of year again when the Government for the people, by the people, do it to the people.

BIRDS HIDE FROM HYDE

It's gonna cost more to get a bang out of the birds. Marshall Hyde (Box 497, Port Huron, MI 48060) sent a copy of his May prices. The scare cartridges are going up:

Schreckpatronen (scare cartridges)12ga. 75 yds.range 500/case/$300
Whistle bombs range 125 yds. 1000/case/$250
Racket bombs range 125 yds. 1000/case/$280
15mm launchers (for whistle & racket bombs) $20 ea., 5/$80

Money ism't everything, but it keeps you im touch with the kids.

LET'S HOPE THEY GET OFF THEIR ASSES

Senator McClure (Idaho) has introduced a bill, S. 457, which would permit BLM to sell off the excess feral burros and horses that have been captured in efforts to save western rangelands from devastation by excess number of these feral animals. Inasmuch as it is costing $2,500/day of my taxpayer's money to care for about 1,500 of these animals the government can't get anybody to adopt, I sure hope it goes through. If Amory and his cohorts would only put the money they'll spend fighting it they could probably pay for their keep for a few months.

Patience is often a simple case of not knowing what to do.

FIDO WOULD NEVER DO THAT !!

A North Dakota study of the dog-deer/antelope problem indicated the following:

* The great majority of dogs chasing big game had homes and were fed regularly. Both big and small dogs chase deer.
* Some of the dogs traveled up to eight miles to chase deer. Some packs involved dogs from residences and towns miles apart.
* Some of the packs of dogs were working on more than one deer or antelope herd.
* Many of the animals attacked by dogs were fed on while they were still alive.
* Most dog owners when confronted with evidence of their dog's involvement in chasing deer or antelope were surprised and unaware of what their dog had been doing.

Thanx to Don Spencer

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 CONCENSUS OF OPINION IN ALL INSTANCES.

Ye Ed - **William D. Fitzwater**

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