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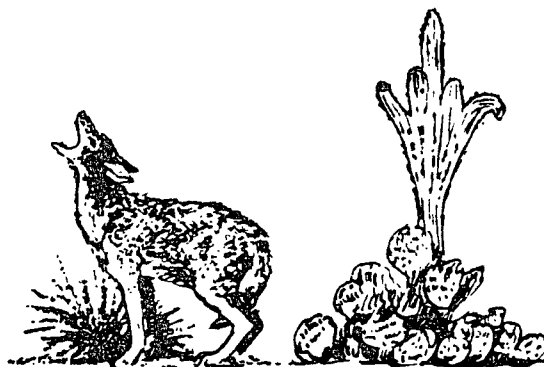


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THE PROBE



National Animal Damage Control Association

No. 33

June, 1983

CONFIRMED LIARS - NOTHING THEY SAY IS EVER CONFIRMED

The kangaroo protection lobby has just produced a film entitled "Goodbye Joey" which is to be exhibited in the U.S.A. in the near future. An interview with Mrs. Marion Newman (they call her "lilac" - she lies like crazy) was featured on Australian TV. She made the statement that there was now photographic evidence of the dreadful cruelty practised by kangaroo shooters and others. She produced a still photograph of a young kangaroo (a "Joey") which had been half skinned alive.

A representative of the ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS in Queensland has since stated that the kangaroo was brought to the Society by a man who had kept it as a pet. The damage had been done by dogs and the incident occurred in town and not in kangaroo country.

Two kangaroo shooters were recently prosecuted and found guilty in Queensland on a charge of cruelty to kangaroos. They stated they had been paid by the camera crew to stage various acts of cruelty just for the movie. The protectionists don't just tell white lies. As far as the truth is concerned they're colorblind. Thanx to Dr. Walter Howard UC-Davis

The end doesn't always justify the jeans.

LAWSY ME !

We're back in the silly season again or what is otherwise known as Congress in session. Clarence Long (D-MD) has introduced his perennial leghold trap bill in the House (HR-1797) banning the interstate shipment of traps and furs from trapped animals. The following are his cosponsors for the bill so if any belong to you, write 'em: (Democrat NY) Ackerman, Addabbo, Downey, Mrazek, Nowak, Ottinger, & Weiss; (Republican NY) Green, Lent & McGrath; (D-NJ) Dwyer, Guarini, Rodino, Roukema, & Torricelli; (D-CA) Beilenson, Berman, Brown, Dixon, Edwards, Lantos, Levine, Matsui, Mineta, Minish, Roybal, & Waxman; (D-MD) Barnes, Hoyer, Mikulski, & Mitchell; (D-FL) Bennett, Lehman, & L.J. Smith; (D-MA) Boland, Markey, Mavroules, Moakley, & Studds; (D-PA) Edgar & Gray; (D-MO) Clay; (D-MI) Bonior & Crockett; (D-DC) Fauntroy; (D-TN) Ford & Leland; (D-IL) Russo & Yates; (R-IL) Porter; (D-IN) Jacobs; (D-WI)

Kastenmeier; (R-WI) Roth; (D-CT) McKinney & Morrison; (D-NC) Neal; (D-RI) Schneider & St. Germaine; (D-OH) Stokes; (D-WA) Swift; (D-VA) Whitehurst; (D-TX) Wilson; & (D-MN) Vento. Tell 'em what you think of their position. THE TRAPPER, May 1983

If you can't say something nice about anybody, you're probably fun to talk to.

COYOTE GOSSIP

A 6-year old girl was bitten on her left inner thigh by a coyote as she sat on her front porch in the Verdugo Montains near Burbank, CA. Oregon Fish & Wildlife Department put transmitter collars on 38 pronghorn fawns. Within 21 days they were all dead and 25 of these were confirmed coyote kills. THE TRAPPER, May, 1983

The termite in the swanky office building had a suite tooth.



Thanks to RD Pink Madsen

ANY PICTURES OF RAT BITES ?

Walter Weber asks: "If you have any slides or prints in color showing rat or mouse bites, I would like to borrow them long enough to have duplicates made and return your originals. I have to prepare an educational display at the 1983 Indiana State Fair on 'Warning, rats

and mice are hazardous to your health'. Please send anything you might have on the subject to: Walter Weber, 36 W. Roberts Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46217. Thank you."

He who rows the boat, seldom has time to rock it.

RD Pink Madsen was kind enough to send me this card during Secretary's week. I was hoping for a night on the town and a kiss afterwards but have learned to take what I can get. Thanx Pink and Rose.



WHAT IS THIS WORLD COMING TO ?

We've mentioned in past PROBES that Refuge managers have always been against ADC so it was quite a shock to read job announcements for a GS 6/7 Biological Tech on a Wyoming Wildlife Refuge that listed the major duties as: "Incumbent censuses migratory and resident species of wildlife and performs predator/nuisance animal control work " and "Ranking factors: (1) Knowledge of wildlife management practices and techniques, and wildlife trapping methods. " Thanx to Guy Connolly

It often shows a fine command of the language to say nothing.

LETTERS TO YE ED

Marvin Kronberg, President, NWGA:

"I want to comment on a statement in a letter by Milt Caroline relative to the ADC transfer in your April issue of the PROBE. Mr. Caroline states that we 'dropped our push' when Andrus was replaced by Watt. Nothing could be further from the truth. We intensified our efforts. We furnished a transfer plan to the Reagan transition committee. We arranged to have questions asked about the ADC program at the Watt confirmation hearings. We furnished the Secretary, a list of suggested modifications in the ADC program, one of which was the transfer. We met with Secretary Watt on two occasions--at both meetings he insisted the program should be given directly to the States. We circulated a letter in the Senate and Congress requesting signatures supporting the transfer--and this is where we hit a brick wall. Several key Senators and Congressman wouldn't support the effort because they 'wanted to give him a chance to straighten the programs out.'

Without this support, we were nowhere, because even with an administrative transfer, membership on key committees are affected. As long as Watt is opposed to the transfer, it won't happen. Right now we are trying to get the Western Governors to convince him to change his position. Last week we met with the Secretary in Washington. He refuses to debate the merits of the transfer to USDA. We will keep trying, but second guessing won't help us much.

I always enjoy your newsletter and I appreciate the opportunity to 'straighten the record'."

Judy Choate, Secretary, ADC, College Station, TX:

"In November 1982 I started working for ADC in College Station and have read the last two PROBES with great interest. The secretarial supervisor recommends that we read in-coming mail to learn what our bosses do. Your newsletter is the most enjoyable reading task I have. I am entertained by your wit and style and informed by your data.

I received several copies of Dale Wade and Jim Bown's booklet for evaluating predation (I happened to begin reading just prior to lunch). You were correct in using 'explicit' to describe the photos; however, I was so busy learning coyote tracks from dog prints I forgot to be ill! Keep up the good work!" **Thank you, Judy. That's the best pay I've gotten.**

Nothing succeeds like an inheritance.

WHOS BEIN' THREATENED ?

Richard Christy of Fairfield, MT has been charged with killing a grizzly bear on the Blackfoot Indian Reservation last year. He had been having serious depredation problems from both black and grizzly bears on his sheep flock on the lease. On July 9th, 1982, two grizzlies approached moving in between the flock and his camp. He shot one and scared the other, though it returned twice during the night. On July 24th, he finally withdrew from his lease having lost 40 ewes and 44 lambs in the 40 days he had ranged there.

Under Montana law, grizzly bears are classified as "threatened", not "endangered" as in other states, so hunters are permitted to harvest 25 per year. As Christy says: "It's simply unfair that grizzly bears are allowed to be taken by trophy hunters but if one is taken by an individual protecting his life and property it is illegal." This reservation has also been the site of transplanted bears by the USFWS. The law suit brought on by the government is going to cost him at least \$10,000. Thanx to Guy Connolly.

Garbage is now being made into gas. Why not ? It's already being made into TV, movies, and books !

WHY GOATS ?

Ron Birk, pastor in San Marcos, TX writes: Raised in Texas Hill country (here in New Mexico we feel that if God had wanted Texans to ski he'd have given them a mountain) goats enabled him to survive and get his education besides being a relaxing animal to be with. Thus he takes Jesus to task for placing the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left headed for hell (Matthew 25) even though this refers to people. But he admits the bible usually mentions goats in a favorable manner. They were the principal source of milk for Israel, provided meat, hair for fabric, and skins to hold wine. There is even aesthetic appreciation. Proverbs: "There are four things that are impressive to watch as they walk: Lions...goats, strutting roosters, and kings in front of their people." The classic love poem, Song of Songs, has the bridegroom say, "How beautiful you are my love...Your hair dances like a flock of goats bounding down the hills of Gilead." "I like goats, I think God likes goats too. In fact, after all this research, I am so impressed that I think I will have a picture taken of me and my son with our goats and have it entitled: 'The father, the son, and the holy goats.' Thanx to Milt Caroline, Ranch Magazine, May 1983

Both the head of the house and the pedestrian with his right of the way are right - unless they try to prove it.

I ONLY KNOW WHAT I READ IN THE NEWSPAPERS

While coming back on the plane from Greece we only had some British papers to read during that long day. As their news was only slightly more comprehensible than the Greek language papers, it was rather hard scraping up possible news items for this PROBE so this is the best I could do:

SUNDAY TELEGRAPH, May 15th: Work on a \$750,000 land reclamation scheme at Dowlais, Merthyr Tydfil, has been halted by the RSPCA (Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) to try and save owls and other birds nesting in a wall due for demolition.

SUNDAY MIRROR, May 15th: A flock of pigeons have been given the bird because a hospital has been closed down. The 30 homing pigeons used to wing their way between Devonport Hospital and Freedom Fields Hospital, Plymouth, transporting vital specimens in harnesses strapped to their backs. The unemployment was due to cuts in health care but most of the pigeons have been found new homes.

NEWSDAY, May 15th: Pitcairn Island, the home of mutineers from Charley Laughton's HMS Bounty, is one of the most isolated communities

on earth since the opening of the Panama Canal as ships stop there once a year, sometimes. An American millionaire, Smiley Ratcliff from Grundy, VA, wants to build a small airstrip on Henderson Island, an adjacent uninhabitated coral atoll. He made an offer to the British government to donate \$800,000 to the Pitcairn Island government (more than \$10,000 per person) for permission to build the strip and open it up for the Islanders as well as his own use. This would make delivery of supplies, mail, and medical services available to the Islanders. It looks like a good deal as it would make life more bearable there as the young people are leaving the island. At the same time there would not be the danger of a typical development scheme. So the Islanders were anxious to take advantage of the offer, but there is now a campaign against the deal in Britain.

"A unique and precious environment is being threatened by the crass and unfeeling Ratcliff, claims the ecological lobby." The "N.J. Collar of the International Council for Bird Preservation" states that Henderson Island has 4 unique species of birds and 10 unique kinds of flowers and "...at least two and probably six endemic land snails and several endemic insects awaiting discovery."

Unlike most media in this country the columnist who wrote the article feels that while the environmentalist's campaign may well succeed, "...it is arrant nonsense." She points out that every geographically isolated locale will produce variants, but the deviations from norm are not usually major nor valuable. "The only truly unique and irreplaceable species in the Pitcairn Islands is the people: the only Anglo-Tahitian community on earth, with a history no novelist would dare to invent. If Ratcliff and his airstrip will help preserve them, then the Nature Conservancy Council and all the other busybodies should be told to go hang." And she's bloody well right you know. SUNDAY EXPRESS, May 15th: "When I read that Mr. Joseph Murray (Letters, last week) had taken 72 photos of that blue-tit I looked at the picture thinking it must be good. It was very good. But I'm afraid it is not a blue-tit but a great-tit. CB (aged 9)" no other comment.

Lots of political timber is the result of clever grafting.

OUR 'WELL-INFORMED' PRESS

The A-4 TIMES-NEWS (Twin Falls, ID 1 Feb 83) comments that last year Idaho was undulated with rabbits and predictions were they'd have another bumper crop this year. However, they haven't been the problem as expected and the paper wonders where they all went to. "There is some evidence that populations go up and down with predator cycles...but no one seems to know why." (They miss the point that predator cycles are dependent upon prey cycles rather than the reverse. Also that Fred Knowlton's monitoring showed jack rabbit populations to be declining even before the drives last year.) "There are some bright spots in this. We don't have the Fund for Animals and other so-called protection groups telling us how we ought to solve the problem. Nor, do we in the media have to drive all across Idaho this winter doing rabbit counts and quoting farmers on haystacks being devoured (we're thankful too - the less 'well-informed' media the better chance for

practical ADC). Nor, do we have politicians offering all kinds of solutions, from shooting to poisoning." Thanx to Guy Connolly

Most politicians don't have much to say - but ya gotta listen too long to find out.

WHAT'S THIS ?

Marv Kronberg's article missed the point concerning federal vs. state ADC programs in a previous issue of the NATIONAL WOOLGROWER MAGAZINE. The federal government got into ADC primarily to help rural economics during the Depression. Later, Interior's motives were more for control over the methods rather than help to the livestock industry (The writer overlooks the shift from Agriculture to Interior under FDR as another shift in objectives.). The battle should be joined on the basis of assuring the needed control tools to provide cost-effective protection for the livestock industry, regardless of which level of government is doing the work. Giving in to the federal government at this time and taking the program over without tools, access to government land, and legitimatizing population management would leave range sheep operations without legitimate means of protecting the industry. Thanx to Milt Caroline, NWGA magazine May 1983

The number of times the average man says no to temptation is once weakly.

ANYONE FOR FOOTBALL ?

Talk about a political football, 1080 has really had the wind knocked out of it. We had been hoping that for just once in ADC history, objective data would outrule emotional appeals, but in the smokescreen over toxic waste dumps, the environmentalist-laden EPA staff who have so successfully managed to do it to us, did it again. Howdy (Dr. Walter E. Howard, UC-Davis) has been doing his gadfly act but the odds appear almost insurmountable. His reasonable complaint is that in December, 1981, he applied to EPA for an Experimental Use Permit (EUP) for research with Compound 1080 for a safe bait delivery system. While only 5 grams were going to be used over a test period of 18 months, EPA pulled its usual shell game by apparently losing track of it under Ed Johnson's fast hands. Of course, all matters concerning 1080 are now in limbo.

On the other hand, a California bill which would have 'prohibited the sale, use, or possession of Compound 1080 for predator control' was defeated on 25 April 1983.

Specialists are doctors whose patients have to confine their ailments to office hours.

HORRIBLE OL' STRYCHNINE

The latest draft Rebuttable Presumption Against Registration (RPAR-makes me sick enough to gag) from EPA determines that strychnine outdoor, above-ground uses are not acceptable because of the acute toxicity of the chemical to birds and mammals and result in a significant reduction in populations of nontarget organisms and (horrors !) fatalities to members of endangered species. The decision

is to cancel uses for the control of prairie dogs, deer mice, meadow mice, chipmunks, marmots, and other small mammals on rangeland, pasture, and cropland with the exception of ground squirrels, marmots, and porcupines on agricultural sites. Label modifications will be made for ground squirrels, jackrabbits, kangaroo rats, and cottonrats.

This is another instance where EPA had made up its 'mind' and didn't want to be confused with the facts. We have fought this battle for some time now but it looks like we've lost another war.

Somebody's figured we've passed 35 million laws to improve on the 10 commandments.

BOOK REVIEW

Ron Arnold: AT THE EYE OF THE STORM: JAMES WATT AND THE ENVIRONMENTALISTS

This is a carefully documented book that gives another view of Secretary Watt's speeches which have apparently been grossly misreported by both the environmentalists and the media. Arnold lists the accomplishments in his administration pointing out the fury he has raised by cutting down on public funds used to support environmentalist groups (which accounts for much of their hatred). It appears to be a rather balanced estimate of the man and his objectives. Thanx to Rex Marsh

College usta to be fun -- now it's a riot.

JOIN THE CLUB

The newsletter of the National Capital Chapter of THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY complains that they are being confronted, challenged, and even creditability and motivations being discredited by those who pass themselves off as wildlife professionals, but represent animal welfare organizations. They cite an example in the Michigan House Bill 6099 which, if passed, would redefine animal rights and cruelty to animals according to anti-hunting groups. Section 2015(1)(L) states, "A person shall not do any of the following -- or be party to or cause -- fighting, baiting, or shooting of any bear, dog, cock, fowl, or other animal." Sounds good but it would effectively eliminate all hunting. Thanx to Johnny Jones

Be nice to Girl Scouts. Today's Brownies will be tomorrow's cookies.

GOODIES FROM RESEARCH

A quick review of the Denver Wildlife Research Laboratory's report for the last quarter of 1982 shows the preliminary progress on some studies of interest to ADC: Ultrasonic devices tested as rodent repellents produced only marginal and short-termed repellency in a 3-week test; repellency with strobe or siren devices for coyotes gave mean protection for 91 nights (7-136); and three sorghum hybrids that have high tannin activity in early dough stages are being studied at the University of Arkansas as bird repellent possibilities.

What will women's skirts be up to next ?

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

Had a very interesting trip to Greece the first of this month. Never thought it could be so interesting looking at old ruins besides my wife (sorry, typho) beside my wife. Thought that when you'd seen one ruins you'd seen them all, but they were different piles of rocks. The Oracle at Delphi was in strikingly beautiful country with stately cypresses sticking up among the olive trees. The best was last at Ephesus in Turkey on our last day. Got the feeling though that modern Greek guides have the same vivid imagination as the ancient Greeks who could conjure up ladies with heads full of snakes and a dude who put goose feathers on his arms with wax and flew until he got too close to the sun. Could believe in a 24-holer unisex john. Those marble seats wouldn't be too cold in that country and you didn't have to worry about splinters in the can. The day we got back home, had to join the ol' folks camera club (of which I am unfortunately president) on a field trip to a local ghost town. It was quite a contrast. These ruins were less than 100 years old and were mostly formless piles of mud compared with the beautiful relics dating 2-5,000 years ago. Made me a little ashamed of our roots.

Adios,



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