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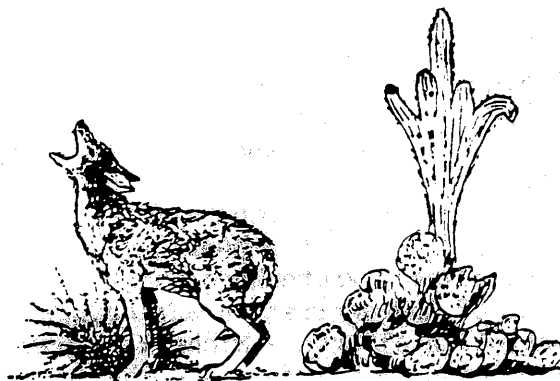


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THE PROBE



National Animal Damage Control Association

No. 39

January, 1984

6TH GREAT PLAINS ADC WORKSHOP

This was another good session held in Wichita (KS) in early December which YE ED was able to attend. Will advise you when the proceedings are available. In the meantime I did take a few notes. Dr. Robel (KSU) gave an excellent review of the communication problems facing ADC. He pointed out that surveys showed 65% of the population were against causing pain to individual animals even though they might not object to population control. The trend to a naturalistic and anthropomorphic philosophy grew during the 60s and will remain in effect as long as our society is affluent. "We can no longer afford the luxury of talking to ourselves, but each of us must assume an active role as a spokesperson on ADC philosophy and methods." Terry Salmon (UC-Davis) gave an interesting report he had prepared for the WILDLIFE SOCIETY (TWS). Was impressed to learn that in a survey of ADC Wildlife professionals, 33% belonged to TWS and 35% belonged to NADCA. Inasmuch as TWS started in the 30s and we started in 1979, we aren't doing so bad after all.

Howdy showed a concrete bait station used overseas with a removable plug to restrict the diameter that appeared to be as close to tamperproof as I have seen. Jim Knight had some interesting examples of rat glue boards used to catch 4.5 foot rattlenakes. The glueboard area was 12x7" on 24x16" plywood boards. Put against walls, the snakes instead of backing off usually whip themselves further onto the boards. He warned about placing boards near an object the snake can use as leverage. Also recommended drilling a 1/2" hole near the edge of a board placed under a house so that it can be hooked and pulled out without having to get too familiar with a trapped snake. Steve Shumake had negative reports on the efficacy of ultrasonic rodent repellent devices he has tested so far. He stated that at 28-feet, the sound from devices he checked were useless.

YE ED was very pleasantly surprised to receive an award in the honors program just initiated by KSU Extension Wildlife Damage Control. Those receiving the Wildlife Damage Control awards were: Orvis Gustad (Reg.Super.VI, USFWS), Dr. Walter E. Howard (UC-Davis), Dr. Edward L. Kozicky (Texas A & I), James E. Miller (USDA, Washington, DC), and Dr. Robert J. Robel (KSU). Those receiving the State awards were: Colorado - Kathleen Fagerstone, Kansas - Johnny Ray, Montana - William Perry, Nebraska - Bob Timm, North Dakota - Bill Pfeifer, New Mexico - Bill Fitzwater, Oklahoma - Jack McPhetridge, South Dakota - Jerry Riedel, Texas - Dale Wade, and Wyoming - Craig Maycock. Those underlined are members of NADCA - 9 out of 15 which is another indication NADCA appeals to a higher class of ADC professionals.

Marriage is the only remedy for a man in love. If that won't cure him, nothing will.

11TH VERTEBRATE CONFERENCE

The oldest ADC conference in the country that has been run on a continuous basis will be held March 6-8, 1984 in Sacramento, CA. The tentative professional program is as follows:

Vole control in field crops - Jerry Clark
New concepts in pocket gopher control - Allen Tunberg
A two-ingredient pyrotechnic fumigant on Richardson's squirrels - G.H.Matschke
Potential of 2nd generation anticoagulants for ground squirrels - Rex Marsh
Rat control in Alberta - Michael J. Dorrance
Plague studies in California - Charles R. Smith
Kuwait's rat control project - M. Tantawy Omar
Control of commensal rodents in poultry houses - Jeffrey J. Jackson
Rodent resistance to 2nd generation anticoagulants - Mogens Lund
Cholecalciferol: A unique rodenticide - Edward F. Marshall
Treatment of accidental anticoagulant toxicity in dogs - James G. Miller
EPA-FWS efficacy evaluations of ultrasonic repellents - Stephen Shumake
Improving cyanide ejectors - Guy E. Connolly
Strobe-light and siren devices in coyote control - Samuel B. Linhart
Biological rationale of fluorocitrate (toxic entity of 1080) - Peter Savarie
Biological rationale for 1080 as a predicide - Walter E. Howard
Repellents in sheep neck collars - Richard J. Burns
Predator management for ducks on waterfowl production areas - Alan Sargeant
Nuisance bats - Robert W. Corrigan
Feral equine management at Naval Weapons Center - Tom McGill
Evaluating bird hazards to aircraft at airports - Richard W. DeHaven
Use of overhead wires as gull deterrent - George Laidlaw
Winter roosting blackbirds and starlings in SE USA - Donald F. Mott
Reducing blackbird damage to sunflower - Joseph L. Guarino
Potential primary & secondary hazards of avicides - Edward W. Schafer, Jr.
Woodpeckers - A serious urban problem - Scott R. Craven

In addition there will be day-long concurrent vertebrate pest control workshops on March 7th.

Our government will never be overthrown - there's too much of it.

"CONSERVATION"

This term first came into prominence in this country through the conservation doctrine of Teddy Roosevelt. His basic idea was "conservation through wise use" regarding renewable organic resources. While this concept has not changed over the years it has come to mean different things to different people, but should never be confused with wildlife preservation. "Wise-use" implies a balance between production, habitat, natural mortality, and harvest. It also implies different types of uses for different types of wildlife.

Horned larks lack a 'sporting value' but they have a high aesthetic image which is complicated by the significant damage they can cause to agricultural crops and aircraft. Thus a balance must be sought between enough birds for the nature enthusiast with acceptable levels for economic damage. As the annual mortality for mourning doves is close to 80%, a regulated harvest of 30-40% does not affect mourning dove populations on an annual basis. Habitat alteration has a more pronounced effect on total numbers. Thus the wise use of this resource involves regulated harvesting and habitat enhancement.

Wildlife conservation is best served through an ecosystem approach rather than a species specific approach. Proper conservation of barn owls, for example, would involve an understanding of interactions with other species, including humans, in that same environment, habitat requirements, and basic biology. Wildlife Conservation is neither total preservation nor total exploitation of our wildlife resources, but a balance between human and wildlife needs. Thanx to Bob Schmidt, Burrowing Owl (1983) 12:10:2.

One disadvantage of falling in love with a tennis player is that to him love means nothing.

WHO YA CALLIN' A CLOD ?

Dr. 'Howdy' Howard (UC-Davis) writes that EPA has finally granted them an EUP (Experimental Use Permit) to continue their research on Coyote Lure Operative Devices (CLOD - what else ?). These are placed at ground level like getters. Treated with a scent lure that elicits a biting and licking behavior by the coyote, a plastic reservoir is punctured when the coyote chews on the unit. This releases a 15 ml dose of sucrose which can be used as a toxicant carrier.

Howdy claims that the unit is less attractive to dogs and livestock than to coyotes. The lure called W-U (trimethylammonium deconate) is repulsive to humans, discouraging tampering. Right now the toxicant of choice is 1080. This device appears to have considerable promise. If any are interested in field testing they can contact Dr. Howard for further information.

Nobody knows the age of the human race, but we all agree it is old enough to know better.

HELP SAVE THE DOGWEED

Roddy Stinson in an impassioned plea in his column in the San Antonio Express points out the horrible situation concerning Dyssodia tephroleuca (ashy dogweed). According to an Interior release, this occurs on only one acre in Zapata County. There are approximately 1,300 individuals on this site, but a call to the Zapata County extension service indicated that nobody there knows anything about it. "Clearly, the people of Zapata County do not appreciate the gravity of the problem...I propose the formation of a Save the Ashy Dogweed (SAD) group...If you want to join this noble effort, send me your name and address...please enclose a recent psychological evaluation." Thanx to Milt Caroline

A political convention is called to decide who is going to be the life of the party.

OH ! THOSE POOR ENDANGERED

The brown pelican which was considered on the brink of extinction back in 1972 has become so populous in Florida and South Carolina that the USFWS is considering taking it off the endangered list. Thanx to Johnny Jones and the Washington Post Nov. 11, 1983.

We're all in favor of progress, providing we can have it without change.

MORE ABOUT MEESE

You are probably aware that Maine voters turned down the antis in their attempt to thwart good wildlife management on their growing moose herd with a 2:1 vote for herd reduction. Another news release showed what could happen. The moose, almost extinct in Sweden 100 years ago, is now a traffic hazard with a population estimated at 400,000, quintripling in the past decade. And, horrors !, they are even requiring a 30% harvest of calves. They found restricting the hunting to adults was inefficient

as it kept the reproduction rate low and left calves without mothers.

If hard work is the key to success, most people would rather pick the lock.

LETTERS TO YE ED

Thanks first for the Christmas cards from many of you along with the comments. I received several complaints on some items in the last PROBE (#38). Some sharp-eyed readers were disturbed with the red checks on their mailing labels as they had already paid their dues. I worked for the Government too long and don't do anything the easy way. A check on the label meant you were paid up. A red circle on the back page meant you weren't. I also had some long distance calls about missing page 6. I'd like to say I did this intentionally so you could make notes, but most of you know me better than that. Frankly, I found out about this when the xerox operator told me. I simply misnumbered page 7 and never checked out the final copy (very sloppy work but I was damn sick of writing by that time) before turning it in.

A more serious complaint was on my pushing the computer MIS-ADC system. The correspondent who wishes to remain anonymous (as I have repeatedly stated I will protect my sources if they wish) objected on the grounds I was putting the cart before the horse. The funding for the system has to come out of operating funds. This shorts field funds which were needed to get the information for the computer in the first place. My reply to this is that the lost of funding is a short-term loss that I would hope be offset over the long run by better management practices and evaluation as to how different control tools can best be used.

A second objection concerned the data collected - 'so we have all these data, why should they believe it anymore than all the 1080 data we submitted?' My response here is 1080 is an emotional problem. We'll probably never clear up the public misconceptions about this toxicant. However, not all the opposition has a closed mind on all ADC work. While undoubtedly some will argue about the figures, they are from a broad base and provide documentation which the preservationists don't have.

When I tried to get NADCA off the hook by pointing out the Executive Board made me print clearly that all unattributed articles were the ravings of Fitzwater and not to be confused with the NADCA policy, he asked why the Executive Board didn't have a policy. The answer to that is rather simple. Like the USFWS we come from, this is a pennyante outfit. We don't have money (or FTS) to keep in touch with each other as we probably should. I print the PROBE when the mood strikes me and I have sufficient material and time. As we are scattered all over the country this would never be printed if I had to wait for approval of any articles. The Board gets an equal chance to gripe with the rest of you. We all volunteered for the project because we felt we could help the profession. Despite the belief of active employees that when you retire you just sit around wondering where to go fishing, we all have other interests most of which don't involve ADC. Furthermore, it is difficult to maintain our contacts as the date of separation slips further into the past. So all I can do is put out the facts as I see them. My conclusions may be wrong, but they are based on my forty years of experience in the field of ADC and the best source of information available to me under the constrictions of time, money, travel, and lack of official status. If you object I will gladly print your objections but do not expect to get a policy statement except under rare circumstances. (The Board is even split on the possible shift from Interior to Agriculture though the majority are in favor of it.) YE ED

"We are still trying to make the M-44 a useful control tool. Seems like years ago when we camped in a sand wash on the Papago Indian Reservation field-testing the 'POP-UP' cyanide device. The series of events that have taken place are hard to

believe. We are still fighting the problem of M-44 capsules caking when placed in the field for any period. With all the money and print spent on single lethal 1080 baits - here we have a legally registered toxicant which may be more effective than the drop bait for corrective action (especially in the summer when the drop baits work poorly). However, the term '1080' does strange things to people, both pro and con, so the M-44s have drifted with very little direction.

Would like to see you address this issue in one of your newsletters, perhaps going back to when you and I were testing the POP-UP to show how other devices have been left out." James 'Mike' Laughlin, USFWS, MT.

I agree with you that those first handmade units seemed very satisfactory. At the risk of alienating my friends in Research, I have always believed the knowledge of animal habits and the handyman ingenuity of DFAs is too rarely consulted in the sophisticated experimental statistical designs so beloved by research personnel. While we maintain there is no single answer to controlling coyotes, if a device doesn't immediately work under all situations, it is generally abandoned. YE ED

"...I am winding up my tour as District Supervisor here at College Station (TX). I've been selected to fill the Staff Specialist (Predator) position in our Washington, D.C. office...I'm looking forward to the move and the new challenge but I sure hate to give up working in the field, and the many good friends both trappers and ranchers that I have had the privilege to know while stationed here." Gary Simmons, USFWS, TX

"I don't understand the problem you have getting subscribers. I watch the membership list and sure know a bunch of trappers that aren't on it. I would think anyone that has sheep and coyotes or anyone that traps fur would be glad to spend a few bucks to keep track of what's going on. It's the only news I get on what's happening in ADC. The FWS newsletter is nothing but what Refuges are doing and what big shots are going where, and who got incentive awards. Funny no DFAs even have their name on those things...Do you know any place we can get 5 or 10 gallons of seal oil?? We need some H-40 here in Nebraska and can't find seal oil. Don Heinbaugh, USFWS, Ainsworth, NE

The success of today's rock songs proves that rhyme doesn't pay.

NICE PUSSYCAT

New Mexico livestock growers in the southeastern part of the State have been experiencing losses from mountain lion to the point the Legislature asked the F&G Dept. for a position paper. Stating that the biological data for manipulating populations of this particular species are not available, the paper points out two options: (1) mitigating damage costs or (2) ignoring losses. Under the first option regarding losses to wildlife and thus reduced hunter success, it suggests that hunter permits be reduced 15-25% thus increasing chances of success for those permitted to hunt. For livestock losses it suggests an insurance program for livestock growers to spread the cost of losses over a greater number of producers. But it raises the fear of opening up the way for payment of damage by other species of wildlife which is not done by New Mexico today. The second option of ignoring losses admits this would condone the status quo and would not be acceptable by livestock producers and possibly result in political action to remove the cougar from the protected list.

Nobody told me it couldn't be done so I went ahead and found out for myself.

RODENTS, BIRDS, AND PIGS

Nebraska has published a survey on rodent and bird pests in swine production units. Of the producers surveyed, 90% reported mouse problems and over half had rat problems. Primary bird pests were house sparrows followed by starlings and pigeons. Sparrow numbers reportedly exceeded 100, starlings 25, and pigeons 10 or less resulting in general sanitation problems.

Control measures for the rodents consisted mostly of multidose rodenticides. Some mowing and exclusion of rodents from feed was done but was generally not that effective. Bird control attempts (mainly in removing sparrow nests) increased as a result of the survey. Shooting was judged very effective in pigeon control and less so for starlings.

The final objective to evaluate an intensified extension program in making producers aware of bird and rodent problems was very gratifying. Awareness of the Extension Service as an information source in these areas increased about 40%. There are some good extension publicity materials in the report and Bob told me he had a few copies left. Write: Bob Timm, UNebraska-Lincoln

Bigamy is the only crime on the books where two rites make a wrong.

WELL YOU CAN'T KNOW EVERYTHING

Some high powered Oak Ridge (TN) scientists were exchanging research with the Lovelace Medical Center here in Albuquerque. One project involved hamsters, so these little rodents were shipped in a nice cardboard box. Needless to say the box arrived without the hamsters so the brains put their heads together and made future shipments in wire cages. What did they think those sharp incisors were for? Albuquerque Tribune, Dec. 1983

To parents today youth is stranger than fiction.

NEW COYOTE LURE

A retired chemist, Tex Isbell of Texas A&M, recently described a new coyote lure for males only. This will be marketed in the form of treated cloth strips. He claims they caught 36 coyotes in 36 traps in one day. When they were reset they caught 36 more the next day. (I only know what I read in the papers) Thanx to Don Heinbaugh, USFWS, NE from Belle Fourche Bee, SD 19 Aug 83.

My doctor operates only in an emergency- like meeting a car payment.

WASHINGTON STATE ADC PROGRAM

In May of 1975, the USFWS signed a cooperative agreement transferring the Federal ADC program to Washington State Dept. of Game on a 60/40 basis resulting in a \$500,000 program. After 3 years, U.S. auditors found the money was not properly accounted for besides being used for F&G activities in no way related to ADC work. They sued for \$476,201. Just recently they settled out of court for \$180,000, leaving WF&G in Uncle's pocket for approximately \$300,000 for a program not worth a tomcat's hide. Thanx to Homer Ford (Homer breathed a sign of relief as he was being called as a witness for both sides)

Politics make strange bedfellows, but a lot of them seem fond of the same bunk.

WONDERFUL AND TOTAL EXTINGUISHING RESOURCE

Imperial Chemical Industries of Australia have just announced the development of a new fire extinguishing chemical. It is suitable for dealing with fires under most situations and is cheap to produce. However, it is under attack from safety and environmental groups. They point out that if anyone immersed his head in a bucket of the chemical for more than 3 minutes, it could possibly kill. It is also been found to make clothes shrink. Thus an environmentalist group has been formed to stop its introduction under the acronym of the initials of the above chemical - WATER.

I don't say my wife always gets her way, but she writes her diary a week ahead of time.

SNOB APPEAL

"Some people know so much about one thing they look down on those who aren't so knowledgeable. They are snobs. There are wine snobs, art snobs, literary, fashion, food, even money snobs. 'I can change the world', boasts the politician. 'But he can't even change a tire', sneers the garage mechanic. Both are snobs because they look down on those who don't share their special interests. Don't let your knowledge turn you into a snob. Find out what the other guy knows, before you show off what you know." (I'd thank Bill Spalsbury for that except I think he meant it for me personally.)

The best substitute for experience is being 16.

AN EXCLUSIVELY WESTERN PROBLEM NO LONGER

In Rockingham County, VA, animal control officers killed a coyote on a farm with the aid of night vision goggles. They believe the 36-pound female killed 50 sheep in the last six months. Washington (DC) Post 10/26/83

Mummies are Egyptians that were pressed for time.

WELL IT SOUNDED GOOD AT THE TIME

Many towns and cities in Minnesota have relaxed anti-hunting and trapping laws hurriedly passed as symbolic humane gestures. Unable to adequately control raccoon populations these urbanites are suddenly faced with the twin problems of rabies and distemper from increased encounters with the masked marauders. NRA Reports from Washington, 11/15/83

The campaign promises of today are the taxes of tomorrow.

REDUCTION OF NONTARGET SPECIES CAUGHT IN MODIFIED STEEL TRAPS

The field evaluation of modifying coyote leghold traps with pan tension devices to reduce the take of nontarget animals has been completed by the Denver Lab (USFWS). In 1981 92-100% of representative nontarget species (gray and kit fox, striped skunk, opossum, and jackrabbits) were excluded from modified traps as compared to only 6% of nonmodified. The capture rates for coyotes were 86-92% in traps equipped with the modified tension device compared to 98% with unmodified traps.

If you have half a mind to get married - that's all it takes.

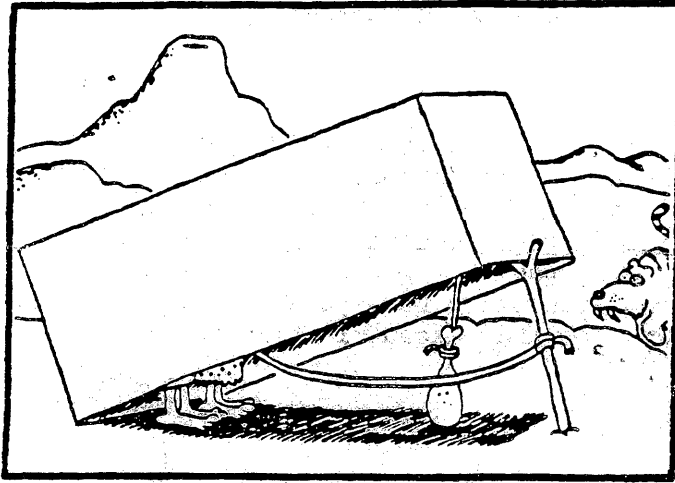
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YE ED - William D. Fitzwater

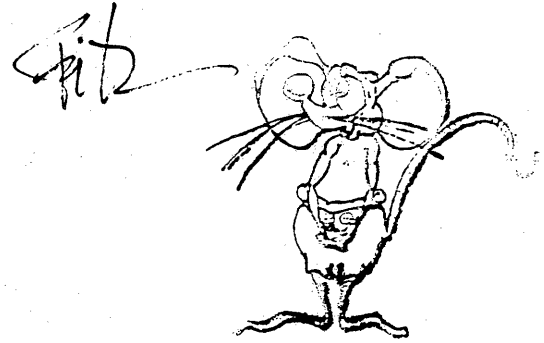
I had planned to attach the Directory for 1984 with this issue but had some problems. Further the dues are still coming in and I would like to have to run only one printing of the Directory for this year. So my thanks to you who took pity on my plea to get your dues in before the first of the year as it makes this routine aspect of getting out the PROBE so much easier.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

AGGIE TRAPPER



"Shhhh, Zog! ... Here come one now!"



Blame Bill Spalsbury. I'm not going to get into this !!!

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