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Long Time Coming

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Editor's Introduction

Longtime Coming

Welcome to this inaugural issue of *Human–Wildlife Conflicts*. Much has changed during my lifetime. I can remember when there were no deer on my family's farm in Illinois. I can remember in 1979 seeing Canada geese feeding in a golf course in New Haven, Connecticut, and thinking they were a lost family of geese from the Arctic. I can remember going to a wildlife conference and seeing a presentation in the program, titled "Turkey problems in Wisconsin," and wondering if the turkeys they were referring to had wings or wore overalls. I can remember the editor of *The Journal of Wildlife Management* refusing even to consider publishing my first manuscript on human–wildlife conflicts because animal damage control (as it was called in those days) was outside the purview of the journal and not a part of the field of wildlife management.

(Photo by Davis Archibald)

Dr. Michael R. Conover

Things have definitely changed in the last few decades. Today, you cannot grow soybeans on my family's farm because deer eat all the plants. Now, geese are so numerous in New Haven that the locals call them "those #$@%### geese." Today, we have urban geese, urban foxes, urban coyotes, urban deer, urban elk, and you heard it here first—urban buffalo (see page 3). We have zoonotics diseases, such as avian influenza, West Nile disease, and Lyme disease that were unknown a few decades ago.

The only thing that has not changed is that it is still hard to find a home for articles on human–wildlife conflicts. Instead, articles on the subject are scattered across dozens of journals but constitute only a small percentage of the articles of any one journal.

What was lacking was a peer-reviewed scientific journal dedicated to the topic of human–wildlife conflicts. I'm pleased to report that such a journal has now been created by the Jack H. Berryman Institute (BI), which has a mission of helping to resolve human–wildlife conflicts through teaching, research, and outreach. The BI believes that one of the best uses of its funds is to create a high-quality journal where articles on human–wildlife conflicts can be published and to ensure that its journal is widely distributed and easily accessible. Two thousand copies of this journal have been printed and distributed to wildlife biologists. The journal can also be accessed and downloaded free over the internet at *www.BerrymanInstitute.org*. Hence, by receiving this journal, you are a beneficiary of the BI.

The intended readers of *Human–Wildlife Conflicts* are researchers, academics, professional wildlife biologists, USDA Wildlife Services employees, nuisance wildlife control operators, folks who want to stay abreast of the field, and anyone who want to see human–wildlife conflicts decrease in frequency and severity.

Human–Wildlife Conflicts will succeed only if you contribute material for publication. There are several avenues that you can follow to publish material in this journal. We accept peer-reviewed papers that deal with the broadly defined area of human–wildlife conflicts. We also seek reviews on books dealing with human–wildlife conflicts, letters to the editor, technique articles, commentaries, and much more. All of the different categories of material we accept are listed on the next page.

If you have an interesting opinion on human–wildlife conflict issues that you want to share with the world, now is your chance. Most of the readers of this journal do not have a Ph.D., and I hope that the same will be true of many, if not most, of our authors. So, stand up on that soap box, take pen to paper, fingers to keyboard, and share your ideas and knowledge.

Welcome aboard this literary adventure that has been a longtime coming! Don't let it pass by without your contribution.

Michael R. Conover, Editor

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Peer-Reviewed Articles. These are usually the results of scientific studies and are sent out to other scientists for review. We welcome articles that deal with all aspects of human–wildlife conflicts, including animal behavior, ecology, physiology, genetics, population dynamics, economics, human dimensions, and environmental history. These usually follow the standard format of a scientific article (abstract, introduction, methods, results, discussion, and literature cited). There is no size limit to a peer-reviewed article, but most cover 4 to15 journal pages (3 manuscript pages/journal page).

From the Field. These articles are about observations or reports that our readers would find interesting. They are usually 1 to 4 journal pages.

Technique Articles. Have you discovered a better way to do something? If so, let us know by writing a techniques article. These are shorter than peer-reviewed articles and usually cover 1-4 journal pages.

The Soap Box. This is a forum to allow readers to share their opinions or thoughts about items they have read in this journal or on any topic related to human–wildlife conflicts. They are short manuscripts, usually a few paragraphs in length. We encourage articles from students and may publish them separately as **Student Voices.**

Commentaries. These are manuscripts that are longer than a letter to the editor and are designed to allow the author to expound upon a unique idea or observation that would be of interest to our readers. Commentaries are sent out for peer review while letters to the editor are not.

In the News. These are short summaries (1 to 2 paragraphs) of articles about human–wildlife conflicts that have already appeared in the media. Please let us know if you see an article about a human–wildlife conflict in a magazine, website, or newspaper.

In Memory. There is an old saying that if we can see far it is because we are standing on the shoulders of giants. We want to pay tribute to those who have passed away. These tributes are usually a few paragraphs in length. ❇