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Wildlife Damage Management, Internet Center for

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The Probe, Issue 43 - May 1984

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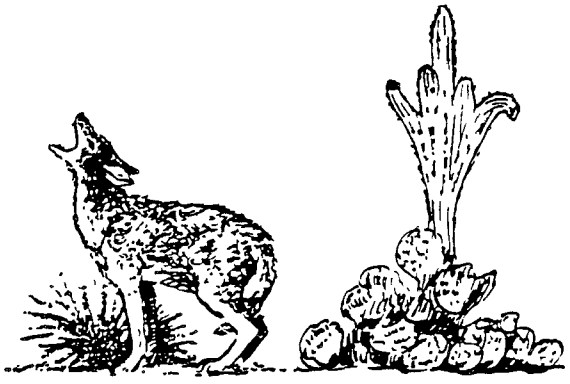
THE PROBE



National Animal Damage Control Association

No. 43 May, 1984

PROPOSAL TO REDUCE BLACKBIRD POPULATIONS

Bill Pfeifer sent me the NATIONAL SUNFLOWER ASSOCIATION's (Box 2533, Bismarck, ND 58502-2533) pitch for a balanced ADC research program to control blackbird damage to agricultural crops.

The proposal is for an appropriation of $2.5 million for each of the next 10 years beginning in FY 1985 to be given to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. These monies are to be expended to develop blackbird population reduction methods and associated studies under the direction of the Denver Wildlife Research Center (DWRC), Denver, CO. The research shall involve chemosterilants and lethal controls to reduce blackbird populations to "desirable levels". This will require an additional staff of 25.6 full-time equivalent personnel during the 10-year period. The USFWS will be responsible for implementing any and all blackbird population reduction methods to assure uniform and consistent application and to maintain a predetermined blackbird population.

The DWRC will submit an annual report to a Senate Subcommittee advisory group consisting of persons actively engaged in production of a crop affected by blackbird depredation (3), residing near a winter roost area (3), affiliated with a national wildlife organization (3), and in the private/public sector noted in a related scientific discipline (2) (I have some personal reservations on the practicality of the advisory group's qualifications.). Their responsibility shall be to monitor the research efforts and report to the Senate subcommittee of any needed suggestions to assure the intent of this appropriation.

The need for the project is that blackbirds and starlings annually cause an estimated $80 million crop loss. Spinoffs from this project would be of value in general bird control research in this country and I think the legislation should be supported by NADCA members.

I have worries I haven't had time to think of yet.

EPA IS AT IT AGAIN

I hate to admit that I'm not sure what this is all about but anything that comes out of EPA over Ed Johnson's signature is suspicious. This is a notice in the Federal Register (March 28, 1984) to the USDA of a proposed regulation to rescind the efficacy data waiver for vertebrate pest control products. I really wasn't aware (but presume somebody will tell me) that efficacy data was not required for any vertebrate control products. Though the scientific basis for the registration of repellents is most questionable. So until somebody explains it better to me, I don't

know what effect this regulation will have on the registration of vertebrate pest control materials. Thanx to Rick Griffiths

A profit is without honor except in your own pocketbook.

INFORMATION DISSEMINATION AND RESEARCH ACCOUNTABILITY ACT (HR5098)

I am certain you are intrigued with the title of this bill and anxiously awaiting its fate in Congress. This was introduced by R. G. Torricelli (D-NJ) and calls for all federal research grants involving experiments on animals to be reviewed by a presidentially-appointed panel (more taxpayer money) to consider the whole of the world's biomedical literature before approving individual proposals. This is "to prevent the duplication of experiments on live animals". While I am sympathetic with doing away with the practice of "reinventing the wheel", this is certainly a narrow objective on the part of our animal welfare friends. Further, the probable result would be to completely upset the turn around time for the federal granting system if its actions are dependent upon a review of political (undoubtedly non-scientific) panel. Also it is extremely probable that such a review at this time is technically impossible. The godfather of this legislation is a NY-based group, UNITED ACTION FOR ANIMALS. If any of you get a chance to burst Torricelli's balloon please do so. Thanx to Mike Fall

I like to sign checks, but only on the back.

MEMBERSHIP

The following have joined the ranks since the Directory was printed:

Baird, Charles D. (FWS) Box 32, Barksdale, TX 78828
Boyd, Frank L. (FWS) Rm.428, USFWS, 2520 S. 3rd St., Louisville, KY 40208
Butchko, Peter H. (FWS) USFWS, Ag. Comm., Agric. Bldg., Visalia, CA 93291
Hall, Harold W., W & R,3328 Vanderberg Road, Klamath Falls, OR 97601
Munz, Arthur (C) Rt. 2, Box 650, Moody, TX 76557.
Penna. Game Comm. Div. Law Enforcement (SA) Box 1567, Harrisburg, PA 17120
Vohs, Dr. Paul A. (FWS) 11732 W. Asbury Place, Lakewood, CO 80228

Promote more jobs for teenagers while they still know everything.

6TH GREAT PLAINS WILDLIFE DAMAGE CONTROL WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

I mentioned the availability of this in the last newsletter (42:6) but just got the official announcement. Copies are available for $5.00 postpaid (check payable to Extension Wildlife) from Wildlife Damage Control Workshop, Kansas State University, 1501 Fulton Terrace, Garden City,KS 67846.

All men are created equal but they soon get over it.

LETTERS TO YE ED

I've felt a little neglected as outside of a brief accusation of being a male chauvinist, I haven't been able to generate much controversy among my readers. Finally my day was made with the following unsigned letter whose only identification is it was mailed in Portland, OR on March 5th. This was in response to the advertisement I placed in the NATIONAL WOOLGROWERS MAGAZINE asking for more support from the sheepmen for NADCA objectives:

"I noticed your ad in the 'National Wool Grower', March Issue, and I must say your ad really irritates me. You show this picture of a half-eaten lamb by some animal yet you also show how many different ways there are to cook lamb. You say in your ad that the human animal has a right to survive. What a laugh ! Man would like to completely destroy any animal that does not fit his purpose. You only care about the

natural predator taking what you consider yours and so therefore you feel it's your right to wipe him out. What it seems to come down to is this. You only care about your sheep for the profit it makes you you don't care about the animals well being only what money it can make you. Heaven forbid should some other animal take anything away from man. Yet what has man done for his environment? So many animals have had to adjust to mans 'progress' and some have been made extinct because of man. Thank goodness there are those in this world that are trying to save the last remaining animals. For if they go so do the human animals...and who will be to blame then?"

Dave Nelson - USFWS, Morrison, CO:
I was glad to see Monte Dodson's comments on the new Montgomery round-jawed trap. I too am a stereotype ADC long-spring purist, but I enjoy experimenting with new products. I ordered a dozen #2s with off-set jaws for our State Office in Grand Junction and got a dozen for myself. These weren't offset, but I like them better because the inside of the jaws were rounded whereas the off-set jaws are simply cut out and sharp on the edges. The traps did not come with a swivel so a good quality swivel can be added to ones own liking. The most impressive thing about this trap is how quick and solid it beds in the ground. It has a large surface area on the bottom of the frame that gives it stability especially to the loose jaw. Depressing the ears on a bathroom scale turns up 30-50% more pounds of pressure than a 1.5 or 1.75. Maybe this isn't a fair comparison, but I didn't have any #2s to compare. The only thing I don't like is the pan is too big. If you jam a stick onto the pan of a set trap, the pan will catch between the inside of the ears as they come up not permitting the jaws to close. By cutting 1/4" off each side of the pan this problem is eliminated. Maybe it isn't even a problem, but knowing coyotes, anything is possible. The pan should be smaller anyway so a coyote cannot straddle the pan and the jaws at the same time as this is the cause of catching just toes. Two other improvements would be rounded jaws on th off-set and a longer kinkless chain. I'd feel naked without 3'Ns, but this new Montgomery sure is fun to work with and the price is right. You guys keep up the good work - sure do enjoy.

John Stair no PhD (in my senility I keep trying to make him one), Wildlife Ext., Univ. of Arizona, Phoenix, AZ:
I enjoyed reading your March PROBE as usual even though I don't believe everything I read. I question the value of a Texas bighorn according to Gary Nunley's MIS figures. If 18 bighorns are valued at $432, that would be $24/sheep. When Texans come to Arizona to hunt a sheep, they have to pay $750 just for the permit to hunt (plus $55.50 for the hunting license). To top that off, Arizona recently sold one bighorn sheep permit by sealed bid to a California hunter for $64,000 - that's $64 thousand .

But one figure convinced me to sell my wife and kids and take my dog to Texas and go into the chicken business (unless 'poultry' means something else in Texas). If chickens are valued at $16 in Texas, I've got a lot of Arizona chickens I'd like to sell to those rich Texans.

I'm sure I know where these figures originate - not with the USFWS, but when we quote figures like the ones in the table, it tends to discredit the entire value of MIS. This may not seem like an important issue to you, but the credibility of NADCA and USFWS is on the line any time some idiot with a 5th grade education can punch holes in a statement - regardless of any disclaimer.

(John's points are well taken. I had transmitted his comments on to Gary and hope to have an explanation in the next newsletter. However, I have to take part of the blame. I was getting down to the bottom of the page so I lumped all the avian prey into "poultry". The real breakdown is the following so don't everybody run to Texas to sell chickens - turkeys ? maybe !:

Species	*Numbers*	*Total value*	*Price/bird*
Chickens	*5080*	*$34,159*	*$6.72*
Turkeys	*1190*	*77,631*	*65.15*
Ducks	*158*	*7,075*	*44.78*
Geese	*198*	*2,305*	*11.64*
Peafowl	*16*	*1,157*	*72.31*
Guinea fowl	*219*	*597*	*2.72*
Quail	*30*	*90*	*3.00*
Pheasants	*940*	*2,940*	*3.13*
Poultry	*7831*	*$125,854*	*$16.07*

The turkey figure is based on two estimates- 1127-$77,156 ($68.46) and a more reasonable one- 63-$375 ($5.95).
The ducks and peacocks are probably expensive birds and their cost figures might be reasonable.)

Mike Hoggan, USFWS Wells, NV:
Sorry I haven't got ahold of you. They wanted me back in Nevada and have been camping 5 days a week and in the middle of the whole show I got married (that's an excuse I can understand). Been a cold and busy winter. Lots of coyotes here in Nevada. Sup Rost told me since Dec. 15 in the Elko District with one cub we've killed over 1,600 coyotes. I was born and raised here and have never seen a bumper crop like now. Wait till this summer, I may go to work in a grocery store. Really enjoy the newsletter.

Jim Caslick, Wildlife Ext. Spec., Cornell Univ., NY:
I, too, find it easy to use "ADC", but am now making an effort to use "WDC" (Wildlife Damage Control), instead. You might bring this up to NADCA Directors and members as to a policy change and name change to "NWDCA". Getting the word wildlife in there might be good for us professionally. In fact, if we're ready for a quantum leap, why not make it "National Association of Wildlife Managers"? In making this suggestion, I am not seeking dilution of The Wildlife Society, but the natural evolution in professional groups to form additional functional working groups. A working group of wildlife managers whose daily duties encompass management for fewer or more wild animals seems like a natural grouping, since skills needed for damage control and habitat management are often the same. I think the idea of a national association of wildlife managers is a timely one and that NADCA membership could be a foundation for it.

We did a lot of soul searching in trying to come up with a descriptive name for our main objectives when NADCA was founded. We liked the term 'management' as it seemed a more exact term for modern control concepts, but settled back on the familiar terms of the Agency we associated with - ADC. We just finished a final review of the bylaws the Board first established. These will be published in the next issue of THE PROBE and at that time I would appreciate your comments and suggestions as to the direction NADCA should take.

Give a man an inch and he'll try to be a ruler.

TEXAS TALL TALES

Gary McEwen reports a turkey farm manager had lost 7 birds to predators the last 3 weeks in February, but prior to that time he had lost as high as 40 birds per night. His losses to predators had run between $5-7,000 for each group of birds on the farm without a predator control program.

DFA Manuel De La Garza responding to a request for coyote control on a small farm where coyotes had killed a yearling calf and removed a large portion of the meat had to tell the rancher he couldn't handle his problem. These coyotes killed the calf with a blow of a sharp object between the horns and trimmed some of the better cuts off the hind quarters.

Bob Sims had to take exploders to a grower near the Santa Ana Refuge to reduce blackbird damage to cabbage fields. They lost $30,000 because of the birds pecking holes in the centers of young heads which grew in size to the point the cabbages couldn't be sold.

In what is known as the "dirty tricks" department, DFA Welch reports calling some call-shy coyotes who would come in to 500 yards and circle without coming in closer. They took 31 of these educated coyotes by then calling in a fixed wing aircraft. In the same way, DFA O'Bannon has found that after blowing his siren, he can get some coyotes to answer his call or howler that will not answer the siren alone. It's a case of getting their attention.

Jimmy Trampota reported no success with the coyote lure strips developed by Tex Isbel (PROBE, #38:6). They did catch some other coyotes in the area with other lures. This poor success has been reported elsewheres, and while it reputedly is a male only lure, female coyotes have been caught on it.

Texas coyotes are smart. Glynn Riley reports a sheepherder moving a flock of sheep from one pasture to another with his dogs, looked back over his shoulder and saw a coyote following the procession choosing his entree for the evening meal.

Gary Simmons left College Station to serve penitence in Washington, D.C. as ADC staff specialist (our sympathies). Roye Skaggs retired this year after 17 years in the ADC program. Thanx to THE TRAPLINE from the Texas ADC people.

Keep your temper - - some day it may come in handy.

HOW TO ENSURE THE FUTURE OF HUNTING

Dale Jones (Outdoor Ethics, vol.2, #4, 1983) summarizes that to have huntable wildlife, we need an annual surplus produced by suitable habitat. To have habitat, we need the combined support of all wildlife interests. To have this support we need a broad-based state wildlife program with a broad revenue base. To get this revenue base, we need the support of lawmakers.

Then to have hunters, we need to improve their image. To improve their image, we must teach respect for private land and the resource pursued. To teach this we need mandatory training programs. For these to become a reality, we need the support of lawmakers.

And finally, to have a place to hunt we need private lands. To gain access to private lands, we need to convince the private landowner. To convince the private landowner, there has to be incentatives. To provide incentatives, we need the support of lawmakers.

So it all boils down to getting the support of lawmakers. This applies to ADC's problems too.

A bridegroom is a man in state of shock from what he thought was a harmless flirtation.

WHAT ARE OUR PRIORITIES ?
Somebody wrote in to a columnist for the San Antonio Express pointing out that Crime Stoppers were offering $1,000 for one week only for information leading to the indictment of motel bandits that killed a man during a holdup. A few pages over, the Audubon Society and USFWS were offering $3,500 for information about shooting a bald eagle near Leakey, Texas. Thanx to RD Milt Caroline.

One thing about miniskirts, they give your imagination a rest.

A GOOD WORD ABOUT 1080 ??
EPA admits it could not reach a final decision of the 1080 Position Document 2/3 last year. However the initial reactions were the PD is outdated, has little definitive data to support the contention 1080 presents a hazard to nontarget species, and the rationale for reducing bait concentration is not adequately justified. But there was also a letter from Rep. Wirth (CO) mouthing the old baloney about the effect of 1080 on soil and water. Thanx to Gern Terrell.

Work is fun - - to watch.

ON THE ANTI- FRONT
Woodstream Corp. had been sued by a Connecticut woman who alleged her cat had lost its leg in a mishap with one of the firm's Victor traps. The suit charged that Woodstream was negligent for not packaging some sort of warning of the trap's dangers. At the trial, the plaintiff admitted she had been egged on to file suit by FRIENDS OF ANIMALS and it was a publicity ploy.

The U.S. Connecticut District Court dismissed the case as frivolous and ruled Woodstream is entitled to recover court costs and attorney fees - "Plaintiff's concerns were more appropriately judged in a political, rather than judicial, forum", Judge Ellen Burns ruled. WE WON ONE.

The news on the Dingell-Johnson bill which gives excise tax money from sporting gear to states for wildlife management is good and bad. An expansion of the tax to fishing gear not covered would increase the money available. It has a good chance of passing. However, raids on this money to compensate crime victims by taking away the excise taxes on handguns are still in the mill.

Of all the states in which hunting, fishing, and trapping are threatened by Animal Rights groups, New Jersey stands out. Despite strong opposition, the state legislature passed a bill to outlaw the steel leghold trap earlier this year. State trappers were given time for one more season with the standard leghold trap while Rutgers University wildlife management department has 18-months to submit a substitute device to the NJ Game & Fish Comm.

WLFA recognizes that trapping restrictions will be followed by attacks on hunting and fishing. They feel the antis success after a hard fight lies mainly in the fact the FRIENDS OF ANIMALS is based in the New Jersey. They have put considerable money in the State to test out legislative moves. They are aided by the fact that New Jersey is the most densely populated state in the union with 979 people per square mile. So it is easy for FoA to con the predominant urban population and their gullible

legislators, neither of which understand wildlife management needs. This is a sobering thought for the future. Thanx to UPDATE, The Wildlife Legislative Fund of America.

Thanks for offering to help, but I don't have the time.

CONDOR CONTROVERSY

That sacred bird, the California condor, killed last year is still a mystery victim, despite the best efforts of the L.A. County coroner's office (Quincy, were are you when you're needed ?). It was first blamed on 1080, but nobody could find a trace so the environmentalists jumped on the M-44 cyanide gun. This was based on minute flecks of fluorescent particles resembling the tracer used in this device. As these have not been identified conclusively and none were found on the head or neck of the bird where they would normally occur if the bird had pulled the device, the environmentalists are now claiming the bird ate a cyanide-poisoned coyote. This total disregard for scientific facts on this chemical is presented in a loud voice typical of ADC's opponents. Thanx to RD Milt Caroline and LIVESTOCK WEEKLY, 23 Feb 84.

You never have to explain something you never said.

CONTROL LEAFLETS

Bob Timm, Extension Vertebrate Pest Specialist, University of Nebraska, has just issued 3 new leaflets on "Controlling Rats" (G79-470), "Controlling Mice" (G79-461), and "Pocket Gophers and Their Control" (G76-319). The first two have good tables on the rodenticides currently available. You can get copies by writing to him 202 Natural Resources Hall, UNL, Lincoln, NE 68583-0819.

Save our trees. Stop printing tax forms.

OTHER READIN'

"The Complete Book of Tanning Skins and Furs" by James Churchill has all you ever wanted to know about skinning everything but politicians. It is a complete text on making soft leather and dressed furs from peeling the skin, fleshing, drying, mixing tanning solutions, cleaning the fur, and finishing the pelt or leather. Stackpole Books, Box 1831, Harrisburg, PA 17105. Price $14.95.

Love a nurse. They call the shots.

ANOTHER MEETING

This is kinda disguised under the title of "6th International Biodeterioration Symposium", but it will have some good papers on wildlife damage, damage assessment, control methods, etc. They need papers for the session, "Organisms as Biodeteriorgens" which, believe it or not, includes rodents, birds, and predators. Papers will be published in the proceedings (4000 word maximum) but abstracts are due May 31. The meeting will be held August 5-10, 1984, at George Washington University (Washington, DC). The only catch is there is a $200 registration fee. Further details can be obtained from Bob Timm whose address is given above.

No creditors need call
The IRS has got it all.

WOODPECKER WARFARE

RD Milt Caroline sent me a clipping (ROADRUNNER, Southwest Research Inst., 6220 Culebra Road, San Antonio, TX 78284) of a recent breakthrough on woodpecker repellents. They have found a chemical (ST-138) that can be brush painted or sprayed

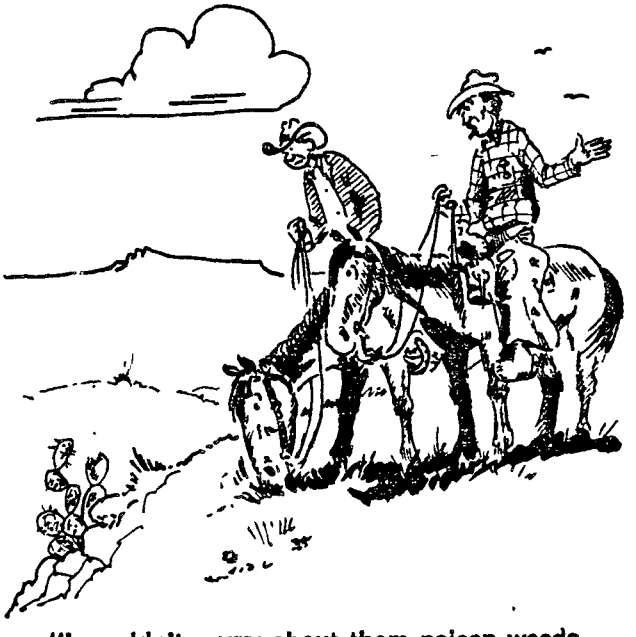
on wood surfaces that apparently distasteful enough to protect wooden utility poles from damage and is long-lasting. The chemical does not hurt the birds and it is suggested that the chemical solvent penetrates the protective mucus in the birds' beaks. Mixing with the saliva, it makes the treated wood distasteful. It has been licensed through the WPR Company but the article did not give an address for this. If any of you get more information, please let me know.

As April 15 draweth nigh,
My spirits start to droop.
A poor, downtrodden slave am I,
In short, an income poop.

KISSED BY A RAT

Dateline Toledo, Ohio (DAVIS ENTERPRISE, 19 March 84, p4): A pet rat named "Yentl" saved her owner from a firey death by licking the woman's face until she woke up. The owner claims the tame rat was sleeping with her, when a short circuit in an electric blanket started a fire in the mattress (as I believe the worst in any rat story, I'll bet the rat's chewing caused the short circuit). Thanx to Bob Schmidt

Income tax is almost due
And this makes me today
Another shaking member of
The I.O.U.S.A.



"I wouldn't worry about them poison weeds, the coyotes will eat your sheep before they get to this pasture."

NEVER CRY WOLF

I just saw that in the movies and had read the book several years ago, so it was gratifying to realize that some reservations I had about the story were held by others. In fact Annie was giving me a hard time about my typical negative reaction to that and Disney stories. Guy Connolly who has been a faithful contributor sent me two reviews on Farley Mowat's book. Both of these (John Gunson- SCAT Bulletin 8:28-32 (1969) and Doug Pimlott- Journ. Wildlife Mgtm. Book Reviews (1966), respected Canadian wolf specialists) recognize Mowat's flair for building fictional and semifictional narratives around grains of truth and publishing the results as nonfiction. While Mowat's prose is excellent reading, they point out that his pretense of writing nonfiction is an excellent piece of fiction. Mowat's connection with the Canadian Wildlife Service was of 6 month's duration as an assistant accompanying a graduate biologist contrary to the book jacket's claim, "Farley Mowat is a biologist who spent many years of service with the Canadian government." So while it made an interesting dilemma he was never dumped in the middle of winter on a frozen lake to subsist on beer and asparagus as the movie portrayed. Mowat's sense of humor and brilliant prose make the book worth reading, but caution others that it is fiction not a textbook on the wolf or the Canadian Wildlife Service.

Old comedians never die - they just go to the old jokes home.

SPEAKING OF POISONED PENS

The Animal Righters really write and we are going to have to do the same in this fight for public opinion. I know we are handicapped by a biased media (I had a factual article on coyotes turned down by "Animal Kingdom" as it didn't fit in with the NY Zoological Society's 'editorial policy' and it wasn't my writing as they had just purchased a weaver finch article in which I had downplayed control measures

against that bird), but we ought to try to get in the "letters to the editor" column more often. Gern Terrell sent me this little gem from the Rocky Mt. News, 8 Mar. 84.

"The numerous articles dealing with the feeding of the unfortunate starving deer and elk and antelopes throughout the West have missed important points:
- The artificial overpopulation of these animals is the result of deliberate manipulation by (state game departments). Please recall the yearly controlled burning of public land, which causes death to all dwellers of the burned acres, from grasshoppers to small rodents and birds. Burning promotes forage for grazers and browsers. Well-fed animals left in peace (between hunting seasons) will produce maximum offsprings, a 'resource', a surplus.
- The same Division of Wildlife with the generous help of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (using your taxes) and the enthusiastic support of woolgrowers, trappers, vermin hunters, many stockmen and politicians and the administration have been systematically eradicating predators that would utilize at least some of the game surplus. Wolves are no more. Mountain lions and bobcats are trapped/hunted. The coyotes are killed all year-round in any manner: shot, stomped to death, poisoned, burned alive in their den.

Thus the cycle of predator-prey is being destroyed and the 'surplus' animals are dying...It is depressing when animals suffer and die. Be it visible wildlife or hidden victims: 50.2 billion in slaughterhouses, 60-100 million in laboratory torture chambers and 20 million in leghold traps for the luxury fur trade. They have only one life, just like you. GEORGIE LEIGHTON, Aspen."

And Mike Fall found the following in SCIENCE, 2 March 84.
The Humane Society is embarking on a major campaign to promote more humane treatment of livestock. Overcrowding, poor living conditions, and physical impairment are cited as common occurrences. "Humane Society veterinarian Michael Fox says the crusade is part of a larger goal, which includes the promotion of more healthful eating habits (Why do these people want to make a vegetarian out of me ?) and the encouragment of small producers. Ultimately the purpose is to demonstrate that large-scale agribusiness is unsound both economically and environmentally, leading to what Fox calls 'agricultural nemesis'."

Com'on get off your butts and get writin'. Editors may not like what you say, but controversy sells newspapers.

Old bactiologists never die - they just go out to Pasteur.

THAT'S WHERE THE MONEY GOES
"Congress restored or increased funding for almost every fish, wildlife, parks, and natural resource program for which Audubon lobbied strongly. The Reagan Administration had asked for only $17.4 million for endangered species for example. Congress appropriated $21.7 million." Thanx to RD Don Spencer from AUDUBON ACTION, Feb 84.

Old psychiatrists never die - they just shrink away.

OPEN LETTER - RD PINK MADSEN
"Dear Congressman-----:
I have recently learned that you are listed as a co-sponsor for HR 1797--a bill to ban interstate shipments of fur pelts that have been taken with leghold traps.

All of these "anti-steel trap" and associated bills are stupid. They are promulgated

by conniving and shrewd people and groups to create emotional dissention and thus permit solicitation of paying memberships to finance travel and expenses for their officers. Their efforts have never once resulted in benefiting any particular animal or population. They don't even profess to do anything positive, but negatively oppose all forms of management, either by harvesting surplus furs or the reduction of damage caused by a variety of excess animals. They harp on inhumanity, but inhumanity entails a primary intention of causing pain, suffering, tension, and stress. In truth, animal damage controllers and fur trappers try to capture animals by the most economical, fastest, and easiest methods available. They are definitely not inhumane.

If you will contact the (state) Department of Agriculture and/or woolgrowers, I am sure you will learn of the very critical services and assistance provided by private trappers, as well as from organized animal damage control agencies.

I am inclined to think that your name being listed as a "co-sponsor" for HR 1797 is primarily a result of the "system" - - and now you will take time to become better advised as to the true impact of such a bill. Hopefully, you will not only withdraw your name for co-sponsorship, but will also contact other co-sponsors to advise them of the very negative aspects of the bill."

Old actors never die - they just lose their parts.

COWBIRD PARASITISM

A study of brown-headed cowbird populations in the forested regions of eastern North America shows that their rate of brood parasitism on forest songbirds within isolated forest habitat has increased since 1900. This reduction in reproductive rate of the songbirds may be responsible for the decline in forest songbird populations in the East. BioScience, 33:1:31-35 (1983) Can the dickybirders sit still and let a subversive species like the cowbird do in the flycatchers, thrushes, redstarts, warblers, tanagers, indigo buntings, etc. ? Why not ? Any interference would upset the 'balance of nature'.

Old librarians never die - they just get renewed.

WOODSTREAM EXPLAINS ITS PADDED TRAP

New Mexico Trappers Association 6 Jan 84

"We understand your concerns about our new trap. Recent articles about this project did not originate with Woodstream, and so are understandably incomplete and inaccurate, nor do they explain why we have undertaken this project.

As you know, there has been persistent pressure from the anti's to ban the leghold trap...We've been fairly successful in defeating them but what if we eventually fail ? Some 'experts' have said we are in no danger of losing trapping. But where were these experts last week when the New Jersey legislature was considering taking away the leghold trap from that state's trappers ? Many trappers, particularly those in west, fail to realize how well organized and well financed the anti's are. And most are unaware of just how successful they've been outside the United States.

In 1982, they succeeded in maneuvering through the European Economic Community a ban on imports of Canadian seal pup pelts...With this victory under their belt, the anti's have now taken aim at trapping practices in North America. Their goal is to prohibit the importation into Europe of pelts of animals taken in leghold traps. Since approximately 60% of the wild fur harvested in North America is exported to Europe, it's easy to see that with such a ban, the price of furs will drop dramatically...But what does this have to do with Woodstream developing a 'padded

trap' ?...A smart fighter knows his enemy. Although we are convinced that the true objective of most of the anti's is the elimination of all trapping, and even hunting and fishing, they have chosen to center their attacks on trapping, the leghold trap in particular...Our primary concern...is that the so-called horrors inflicted by the leghold trap could lead to the loss of trapping for all of us...

Thus far, the emphasis (in Canada) has been on killer traps and powered leg snares. If such devices are adopted in Canada, the pressure to adopt them in the United States would be intense and they could spill over the border as a replacement for the leghold trap...(we figure the best replacement should retain the configuration of the present leghold trap)...

The modifications we have now developed include a shock absorbing spring to reduce the possibility of dislocations due to the lunging, swivels at the center-mount on the bottom of the trap and at the staking swivel to permit the trap to rotate with the captured animal, and medium strength coil springs engineered to provide enough spring pressure to catch and hold but not damage the animal. In addition, our modified trap utilizes tough, but soft durable pads with a concave face that rotates in against the leg, wedging it to prevent pull-outs when the animal jerks or lunges. These rubber-like, relatively odorless, pads can be boiled, dyed and waxed in the normal manner.

(Prototypes have been tested in the field and they will be available in the U.S. in time for the 1984 trappng season.)

We understand very clearly that many anti's won't accept these new traps since their underlying motive is to stop the killing of all animals. However, we believe they will be readily accepted by the general public and the majority of our nation's lawmakers who are being bombarded by the anti's demand for action...

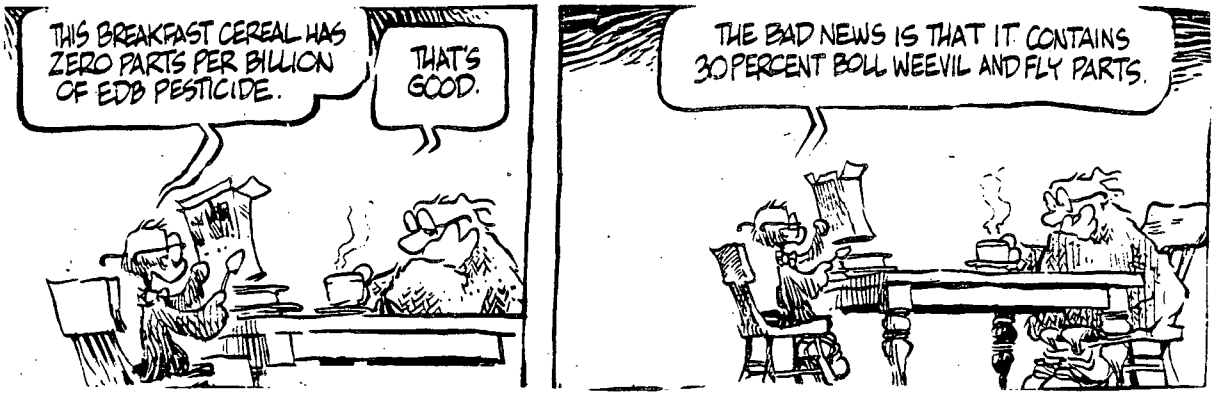
Like any new and more complex product, these new traps will cost more than current leghold traps...but we've already found ways to reduce their cost. In the #1.5 size, for example, each will cost less than $1.50 more than conventional traps...J. Hibbard Robertson"

A fund raising dinner is a fete worst than debt.

STRYCHNINE FOR 1080 ??

Lyle Crosby sent a resume of the Wyoming, etc. vs EPA hearing on the use of strychnine for prairie dog control. One statement I hope to get cleared up is: "At the Administrative Law Judge's request for possible resolution without a hearing, Wyoming submitted that if EPA would grant a registration of Compound 1080 of sufficient concentration to provide efficacy and without unnecessary use restrictions, Wyoming may reconsider continued action of strychnine. EPA counsel indicated that 1080 has some advantages over strychnine as well as some disadvantages. EPA further indicated that they would study the possibilities of a 1080 registration." I sure hope they are talking about 1080 bait for prairie dogs and not a trade of strychnine prairie dog bait for coyote 1080 bait.

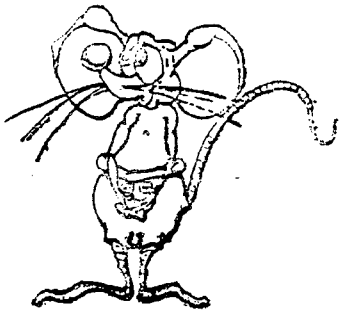
THIS PUBLICATION IS INTENDED AS AN INFORMAL NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS OF NADCA. IT IS NOT AN OFFICIAL DECLARATION OF NADCA POLICY OR A CONCENSUS OF OPINION IN ALL INSTANCES.



YE ED - William D. Fitzwater

As we were told to cut costs, we will print only 10 issues of THE PROBE this year so there will be no issues for June and August. The Board is considering holding another symposium in Kentucky sometime next year at which we'd like to get more members to attend. Any comments would be welcome.

Adios,



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