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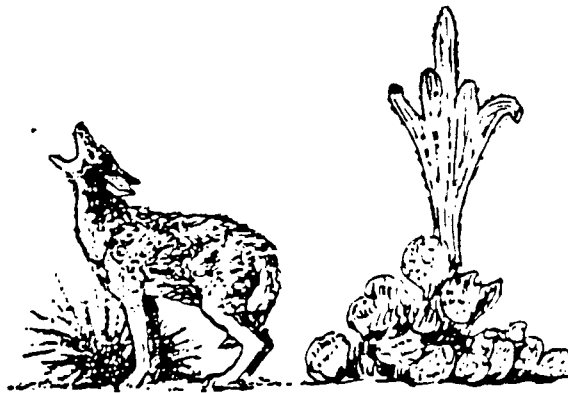


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THE PROBE



National Animal Damage Control Association

No. 53

May, 1985

HAVE I GOT A BARGAIN FOR YOU ?!

Dr. Dale Kaukeinen (ICI Americas - mfg. of Brodifacoum) has made a most generous offer to the NATIONAL ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL ASSOCIATION. His organization has available a limited number of proceedings entitled THE ORGANISATION AND PRACTICE OF VERTEBRATE PEST CONTROL edited by A. C. Dubock. This is a 662-page paperback printing of papers from around the world presented at a conference held in England in 1982. As they will be distributed on a first come basis, write to me if you can use a copy and I'll forward the list to Dale. Send me \$3 for handling and postage which is a bargain as the book retails for US\$30.

Despite the broad title, the papers are concerned mostly with commensal rodents, though there are occasional ones on such exotic species as the European mole, bank vole, neelgai, etc. and home grown ones like ground squirrels and prairie dogs. While the bulk of papers are given by experts in faraway places (they are all in English, however) like Kuwait, Cyprus, Finland, Hungary, etc., there is a good smattering of USA experts on projects closer to home, such as:

W.B.Jackson, URBAN RODENT CONTROL IN THE UNITED STATES - a good, but discouraging, review of the current status of community rodent control in this country.

D.E.Kaukeinen, ACTIVITY INDICES TO DETERMINE TRENDS IN VERTEBRATE PEST POPULATIONS - a resume of methods used to approximate rodent population sizes in the field which is an important but often overlooked aspect of evaluating the effect of a program or a method.

A.C.Dubock, PULSED BAITING: A NEW TECHNIQUE FOR HIGH POTENCY, SLOW ACTING RODENTICIDES - the effect of social hierarchy on feeding behavior in a rat population is overcome by using a large number of small bait sites.

R.E.Marsh, GROUND SQUIRRELS, PRAIRIE DOGS AND MARMOTS AS PESTS ON RANGELAND - a brief review of biology, economic status, and controls on these rodents.

R.E.Byers, ECONOMICS OF MICROTUS CONTROL IN EASTERN U.S. ORCHARDS - comparison of costs of cultural vs chemical controls (ground sprays, hand, and broadcast baiting).

G.H.Matschke, PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH DESIGNING FIELD STUDIES WHEN TESTING RODENTICIDES FOR EFFICACY, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO GROUND SQUIRRELS - a discussion of environmental and biological factors. (hibernation, movement, buffer width, feeding

behavior, plant phenology, and censusing) to be considered in designing field studies on ground squirrels.

W.B.Jackson, ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COMMENSAL RODENTS IN URBAN USA - points out difficulties of true evaluation of economic losses to commensal rodents and the current trends which favor increased house mouse impacts.

W.E.Howard, AN EFFECTIVE ORGANISATION IS ESSENTIAL FOR SUCCESSFUL RODENT CONTROL - an outline of factors essential to an effective rodent control program.

J.L.Seubert, RESEARCH ON NONPREDATORY MAMMAL DAMAGE CONTROL BY THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE - review of current and proposed research projects on various rodents, ungulates, and hares.

D.E.Kaukeinen, MICROTUS PROBLEMS AND CONTROL IN NORTH AMERICA AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF VOLID RODENTICIDE - field tests indicate potential of VOLID (pelletized Brodifacoum grain bait) in controlling meadow mice.

P.L.Hegdal, B.A.Colvin, & R.W.Blaskiewicz, FIELD EVALUATION OF SECONDARY HAZARDS TO BARN OWL (TYTO ALBA) AND SCREECH OWL (OTUS ASIO) ASSOCIATED WITH BRODIFACOUM BAITS USED FOR RODENT CONTROL - indications are there is a possibility of secondary hazards to predatory birds eating Brodifacoum-poisoned rodents.

For girls beauty is better than brains because most men can see better than they can think.

ANOTHER BARGAIN ?

Well, not quite as good. However, the latest edition - "1984 Yearbook of Agriculture" has just become available. This issue is on ANIMAL HEALTH - LIVESTOCK AND PETS. While it isn't an in depth treatment of the subject, you might find it a handy guide. It can be purchased from the Government Printing Office, but generally a call to your local Congressman's office will get you a free copy that is only defaced by a stamped - "From the office of-" your Congressman - a cheap price to pay. This is an attractive little handbook which contains brief accounts of diseases in various kinds of livestock and pets that might be of value in your library.

Money can't buy everything. Take poverty for example.

THE OLD ORDER CHANGETH

Secretaries Block and Hodel met March 26th and formally agreed to the transfer of animal damage control (ADC) from U.S. Dept. of the Interior to U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. First it was proposed that Agriculture would set up the transfer administratively, but Counsel decided it had to be a legislative action. Congressional support for the transfer still hope to get it done administratively rather than have to go through the legislative process. (NADCA has written to Secretary Hodel supporting this approach) The proposed schedule is a transition period starting about July with the formal transfer occurring at the start of the next fiscal year, October 1st.

Tentative plans for the administrative organization are the ADC field force will be transferred over as is. The only shakeup will in the central and regional offices. There are only four administrative regions in the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Veterinary Services where ADC will be assigned compared with 6 USFWS regions. These are in Denver, Fort Worth, Tampa, and Scotia (NY). A fifth region in Las Vegas is being deactivated, though this action may be reversed as ADC emphasis on the West may require it's retention. The next administrative level is the

Veterinarian-in-Charge in each State. The State Supervisor in ADC field offices will report directly to this person for administrative purposes and to professional ADC persons in the above regional offices for technical direction. As an example, State Supervisor Ron Thompson in California will report to the State Vet in Sacramento and for technical assistance to Denver. Some objections from the field have already been raised but our understanding is that ADC will be funded as a line item in APHIS so that state budgets are not at the whim of the State Veterinarian.

While USDA is committed to taking everyone wanting to keep their job, it was estimated that one-third of ADC personnel would not want to move from the USFWS (refuge managers and other wildlife types for example). No transfers of field men are contemplated. Interior has been warned to make no changes in assignments in the interim period so ceilings and personnel can be transferred intact. Apparently this has stopped the proposed transfer of southeastern employees from individual states into Atlanta, but while USDA was alerted on the dismemberment of the forest pest research centers in Olympia (WA) and Bend (OR) action had proceeded to the point where this may be an established fact and some personnel transferred or terminated. However, NADCA has been assured that steps have been taken to undo the damage and reinstate at least the Olympia station.

The Pocatello (ID) Supply Depot will be retained and expected to play a greater role in supplying ADC materials to the field. An attempt will be made to reinstate the Rodent Control Fund at Purdue University (IN) and even expand its role as a methods development center to work with Agricultural Research. I feel that ADC research will play a stronger role in the future. Transferring the migratory bird control problem has not been settled. USDA doesn't really want it because of the Lacey Act, but it may be part of the total package.

In the transition period, USDA will meet with ADC State Supervisors in Denver in the near future to discuss plans and policy, removing the expressed fear the field's expertise would not be acknowledged. A permanent Animal Damage Advisory Council of pro and con ADC people will be set up to discuss policy on a continuing basis. An Animal Damage Coalition consisting of NADCA and 14 producer groups, such as, cattlemen, woolgrowers, turkey raisers, etc., will be called on to provide political support and technical advice to the new ADC unit. USDA has expressed a deep interest in continuing the Management Information System which USDI had almost terminated. NADCA has expressed strong concern about this project and also will attempt to get back complete control of the specialized aircraft services we need.

The proposed cut in USDA funding is reportedly a yearly ritual - all sound and fury signifying nothing. Thus the expressed fear that ADC might be jumping into a cut in funds for FY86 is unfounded. Present funding will be transferred along with 677 ceilings (USDI reported this as 316 federal, 263 state and local, and 98 state-reimbursed employees. Please document any shenanigans by Interior to abscond with ADC positions and money and send it to NADCA. We'll see it gets to the proper authorities in USDA.) ADC will be put in APHIS, not Agricultural Extension (AES), so will operate pretty much as it does today. However, the association should encourage better cooperation with the AES which in my experience in the East, at least, has been a rewarding association.

The intent of the move is to revitalize ADC to make it a more effective field organization as it was a couple of decades back before the preservationists gained a strong administrative position in USDI. While one can never be sure of how bureaucratic moves will really turn out, we believe this will result in more favorable climate for ADC. Agriculture has a record of tilting against EPA windmills that Interior never had the guts for. I think NADCA's Board has backed the right horse.

All things come to those who wait, but by the time they get there they're out of date.

BAT RABIES

The final story on the epidemiology of bat rabies has not been written yet. Denny Constantine, one of the country's foremost bat authorities, has indicated that insectivorous bats transmit the virus by biting or aerosol transmission. He feels transmission among colony bats occurs more commonly by aerosol inoculation in large communal roosts. While the furious phase is common in laboratory-inoculated animals, such symptoms, he feels, are unusual in nature. However, a field observation of a hoary bat that attacked several other bats and was positive for negri bodies shows that furious rabies might be more important in the transmission of bat rabies than is recognized. As bats are a migratory species, they could be a real factor in the dissemination of the disease. (G.P.Bell (1980) J.Mammal. 61:3:528-30)

Behind every successful man there's a woman who's way ahead of him.

WHICH INFLUENCES THE OTHER— PREDATOR OR PREY ?

This is like the classical question - which comes first - the chicken or the egg ? Despite a common belief that predators exert undue influence on their prey, responsible biologists generally concede the number of the prey individuals has more influence on numbers of a predator species than viceversa. This supposition is borne out in a recent study on the effect of raptors (red-tailed and rough-legged hawks, and short-eared owls) on meadow mice, as the prey population (J.A.Baker & R.J.Brooks, J. Mammal. (1982) 63:2:297-300). They concluded while it was possible avian predation may cause a decline, it was certain a decline can occur without significant predation.

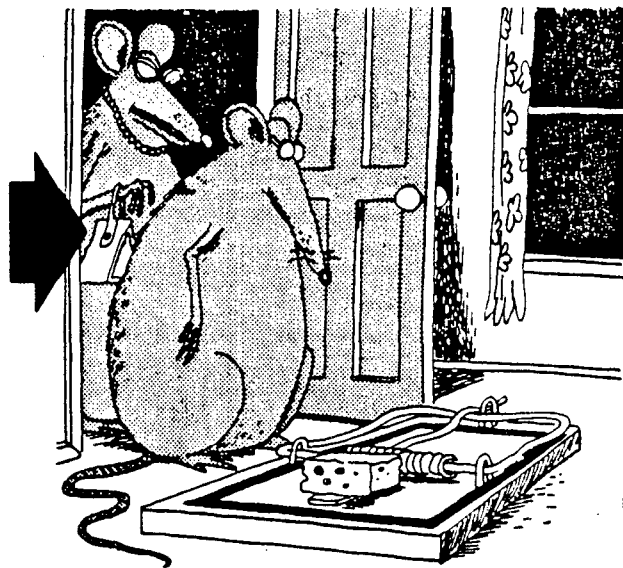
To make a long story short, just let the boss walk in.

SQUEAKY CLEAN / FILTHY DIRT

I've always advocated dirty traps over bright, new ones for house mouse control. A recent study (K.L.Wuensch (1982) J. Mammal. 63(2):315-317) indicates trap response is strongly influenced by the biological scents left on the traps. Sex-ratio, dominance, age, or reproductive status of the captured animals can reflect the types of scents left on the traps. The data presented were:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Clean</u>	<u>Dom.</u>	<u>Subdom.</u>
H. mouse	M	12	25	1
H. mouse	F	15	3	13

The traps were set in groups of 3. One was free of odor and the others sprayed with scent from dominant (Dom.) or subdominant (Subdom.) individuals. The figures indicate the number of animals caught at each type of set. This study



"Well, heaven knows what it is or where it came from—just get rid of it. But save that cheese first."

shows we have a good deal to learn about odors and their effect on control measures or behavioral studies. While I still think my premise about clean versus dirty traps is valid, the character of the "dirt" is apparently an important factor.

Reduce daily errors at work. Arrive late, leave early.

BLACKBIRD SHOW AND TELL

An experimental study (J.R.Mason & R.F.Reidinger, (1982) The Auk, 99:548-554) indicates that red-winged blackbirds can learn food preferences and aversion by observing other blackbirds. These observations are enhanced when there are visual clues present. Also aversion learning was stronger and lasted longer than food preferences (J.R.Mason, A.H.Arzt, & R.F.Reidinger, (1984) The Auk, 101:796-803).

For every silver lining, there's got to be a cloud.

SECONDARY HAZARDS TO OWLS

A paper by Hegdal, et al, in the conference proceedings previously mentioned (HAVE I GOT A BARGAIN FOR YOU ?!) indicate the potential for secondary hazards to owls with Brodifacoum-poisoned rodents. Another study (B.A.Colvin, (1984) PhD Thesis, Bowling Green State University, who was also a junior author on the paper mentioned) showed that selective foraging behavior by barn owls was believed to reduce considerably the secondary hazards to owls from rodenticides on farmsteads. Thanx to W.B.Jackson

Lord ! Give me patience. Right now !

UNICORNS !!!!!

The sad demise of the unicorn was dolefully recorded by the "Irish Rovers", but Barnum & Bailey Circus brought the legendary animal back for a brief spell - until the Humane Society got into the act. Being of cynical nature, I could readily believe the Humane Society (ASPCA) was paid by circus publicity con men under the table to raise a fuss. The circus really cashed in on its publicity and ASPCA got in its righteous shudders at the display "...of a cruel and horrifying animal freak show." (In the pictures I saw, the goat looked very smug standing in his well curried coat beside a pretty girl. It didn't look like he had an excedrin headache, and it certainly isn't an animal one would turn his back on !) When it was finally decided the "unicorn" was merely some clever surgery, the newspapers dropped the story like yesterday's dirty diaper.

Never put off until tomorrow what you can enjoy today.

PHD - PILED HIGHER AND DEEPER

Another thesis out of Bowling Green State University (OH) (Damena Assefa (1984)) investigated contamination of feed in a warehouse by pigeons and sparrows. The study found millet and sorghum, respectively, were preferred significantly over other types of food (in my experience, food preferences of these birds vary from region to region or even between localities). He reported that preference was associated with shape - round rather than spindle - and low protein value. The smaller the bird the more it consumed relative to body weight. As could be expected, fecal amounts varied with the diet - those fed on higher fiber content grains had bigger BMs. In the simulated grain storages, fecal contamination by sparrows was 1.4% (fall) and 2.7% (winter). Pigeons spread it around a little bit better causing 3.5% (fall) and 5.3% (winter) contamination. A practical finding was a bird repellent chemical (polybutane) on perches effectively prevented consumption and contamination by sparrows in the simulated storage areas. This protection only lasted 15 days in the fall and 12 days in the winter against pigeons due to the buildup of feathers coating the perches. Thanx to W. B. Jackson

When you don't get what you want, console yourself by thinking of all the things you get that you don't want.

SQUIRREL REPELLENT

A study at Bowling Green State University indicated methiocarb was a possible repellent seed dressing to prevent tree squirrel depredation. The chemical was applied to seed corn at 0.05%, 0.1%, and 0.5% concentrations and fed with untreated corn to captive gray squirrels for a week. There was a significant decrease in consumption of the corn treated at the 0.1% and 0.5% concentrations over the other two baits. There was no significant difference in methiocarb - treated corn seed germination and the untreated seeds in the green house. Weathering had no significant effect on the repellency of sprouting corn planted with 0.5% methiocarb plus a Rhoplex sticker. This concentration provided the best repellency to both captive and free-ranging squirrels. Thanx to William B. Jackson

Why do you have to know so much before you know so little ?

NOW WE'RE CONTAMINATING YOUNG MINDS

The DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE are taking exception to an environmental education program for schoolchildren on the grounds it doesn't adequately project the anti-hunting view. This is "Project Wild" sponsored by the Western Assoc. of Fish & Wildlife Agencies and Western Regional Environmental Education Council. Dan Smith, DW spokesperson (a commodity they have plenty of), objects to referring to wild animals as "renewable resources". Although the DW takes no formal position on hunting, Smith said many on the staff oppose the sport, "We're at a stage of civilization where we don't need it. Animals have rights."

They'll probably get their way as Ms Cheryl Charles, project executive director, stated the criticisms of DW are "thoughtful and well prepared" and would "help us meet our goal: To present ideas fairly." The National Wildlife Federation which is an associate sponsor reported differently, "I think it's a pretty distorted story they're putting out. They were given the chance to have some input in the development of the materials and the didn't." So what else is new ? Thanx to RECORD SEARCHLIGHT (CA) 2/14/85 and Rex E. Marsh

It's great to work here. You not only get a pension - you age quicker.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Orvis "Gus" Gustad

As many of you probably know by now, Gus retired from the Animal Damage Control USFWS program effective January 1, 1985. A sendoff was given for Gus and Connie in Denver on February 13th. Gus held various positions in the Service during his career including Asst. State Supervisor, Washington Office Staff Specialist, and Senior Staff Specialist for Region VI. As you might suspect, he is not retiring but changing jobs. He has several endeavors already underway on the West Slope in Colorado. We all wish Gus and Connie success and happiness. His son, Kirk, who is also in ADC has been transferred out of Houston to Abilene, TX. George S. Rost

Dr. M. E. R. Godfrey

Mike reports he's out of a job as of June 30th. He is a transplanted New Zealander but speaks the language well who has been working on horticultural pests in Washington State. He had an excellent reputation for ADC research in New Zealand that hasn't been hurt during his American sojourn. Any openings ?

Don Zeliesch

A farewell party was given for Don by his coworkers and friends at the Denver

Wildlife Research Center on February 15th. After Don had spent several years working for freight transport companies, he came to work for the ADC program's state office in Denver to replace Ross Norr. He did "time" in the Washington office working with Jack Berryman until he was "paroled" to again replace Ross Norr at the Research Center as administrative officer. Don will be a hard act to follow, but I'm sure he had someone trained to step into his shoes. Don is a railroad buff and will ride anything that has iron wheels and runs on a steel track. We wish Don happiness in his retirement and trust he will not get sidetracked or derailed in whatever he pursues. George S. Rost

Cyd Fossler/Charlie Brown

In a real radical personnel change, Cyd Fossler has resigned her position in San Antonio to travel up to Sooner Country to marry Asst. State Supervisor Charlie Brown. Best wishes to you both.

The way some people find fault - you'd think there was a reward.

COWBOY'S VIEW OF REINCARNATION

Wally Mcree

What is reincarnation?...a cowboy asked his friend...
Starts...his old pal told him...when your life comes to its end...
They comb your hair and wash your neck and clean your fingernails...
And put you in a padded box away from life's travails...
Now the box and you goes in a hole that's been dug in the ground...
Reincarnation starts in when you're planted beneath the mound...
Them clods melts down...just like the box and you who is inside...
And that's when you're beginning your transformation ride...
And in a while the grass will grow upon your rendered mound...
Until someday upon that spot a lonely flower is found...
And then a hoss may wonder by and gaze upon that flower that once was you and is now
become your vegetative bower...
Well the flower that the hoss done eat along with his other feed...
Makes bone and fat essential to the steed...
But there's a part that he can't use and so it passes through...
And there it lies upon the ground this thing that once was you...
And if by chance I should pass by and see this on the ground...
I'll stop awhile and I'll ponder at this object that I've found...
And I'll think about reincarnation and life and death and such...And I'll come away
concludin'...
Why you ain't changed all that much !
Thanx to the TEXAS TRAPLINE, Feb. 1985

I'm always busy but never to busy to stop and explain how busy I am.

OTHER TEXAS TALES

DFA Wayne Ables was checking his M-44 line and noticed the tire tracks of the rancher double checking him. One day he found a dead raccoon. A couple of days later the rancher asked him about it and told him, "You'd better put a new wrapper on that thing so it'll work again." Wayne went back to check and found the individual warning sign missing. Who took it is not known but the rancher was convinced that the "new wrapper" was necessary if any more kills would be made at that site.

DS Glynn Riley told Hoppy Turman that the only tools we'd have left soon would be clubs and rocks, not thinking he would be taken seriously. Later Hoppy and a couple of DFAs went out to call coyotes. Hoppy succeeded so well they had one right in their laps in no time. However, they'd made a slight error in equipment and didn't

have a gun in the car. One of the DFAs had to throw a rock at the coyote to keep it from getting too friendly. He claims he missed it only because it was not written down as a method of control in the cooperative agreement !

Mike Acklin gave an interesting account of his day as a trapper which unfortunately I haven't the space to repeat. But after a very frustrating day most of which was spent watching a coyote out of range while waiting in the company of an impatient owner for the aircraft to get decent weather, it ended up with him walking towards one coyote they had cornered. Mike didn't have his gun (?) but he had a pistol Dayton had given him. He pointed that at the coyote and the coyote grabbed it in his mouth. Mike decided it was close enough to hit so he pulled the trigger - no bullets ! After getting his gun back from the coyote, the coyote took off again to be ambushed by a shotgun in the hands of Dayton. And so ended another soap opera day in the life of a trapper. Thanx to TEXAS TRAPLINE, April, 1985.

Tomorrow is the first day of the rest of your strife.

LETTERS TO YE ED

Dr. John L. Seubert DWRC, Denver, CO:

I wish to add my voice to the chorus of support for your work and the goals of NADCA. I am appalled that we do not have membership from the many who are the intended beneficiaries of NADCA efforts. It seems to me that ADC professionals no longer can be confident that their futures are secure even though their endeavors are of the highest quality and even though there is a great need for ADC research and management programs. For example, in spite of an outstanding research and high economic losses due to forest mammals, the DWRC is losing one of the best research projects in the Service - the Forest Animal Damage Research Program under the outstanding direction of Jim Evans. There is little logic left. Research and management programs must develop grassroots and congressional constituencies if they are to survive today. Membership in NADCA is one way of doing this.

One of your respondents stated that NADCA should become more of a professional organization rather than being "activist". The writer is naive. What have the professional organizations (to which many of us belong) done in support of professional ADC research and management ?

It may be almost too late to preserve even a modicum of expertise in the FWS in overall ADC research capability. For example, in 1977 there were 14 research biologists engaged in non-predatory mammal damage research. By October, 1985, there will be two. Further, there are losses of personnel occurring in other ADC functions. Many major ADC problems remain, but the problem solvers are disappearing.

I, for one, believe you are doing an excellent job as editor, that THE PROBE, is an outstanding newsletter, and that NADCA is needed today more than ever to counteract the great amount of disinformation and lobbying by those interests who are opposed to ADC in any context. NADCA can be a strong organization as long as our words or printed statements are based on the most accurate information available.

Dwight LeBlanc USFWS, Lafayette, LA:

Mixed feelings of amusement, amazement, and pity (for Rep. Mae Schmidle) overtook me as I read about the bill in Connecticut PROBE, 51:2). Here in Louisiana and Arkansas where damage to sprouting and headed rice have been estimated to exceed \$6 million annually, farmers would welcome a variety of rice, that in uncooked state, would kill birds. Perhaps you know a distributor of this cultivar and could let rice growers in on the secret.

To date, no effective solution to depredation problems has been found. We believe the answer is in integrated pest management utilizing physical, biological, cultural, and chemical techniques. The first three are used by the farmers when possible, but we are in desperate need of chemical control agents, both non-lethal and lethal. Methiocarb seems to be the forerunner in non-lethal measures if we can find an effective sticking agent to withstand the wetting it must take. But little emphasis has been given to lethal control agents, which we believe are necessary to reduce the large winter roosts often found adjacent to rice-growing areas.

I am proud to be part of an organization that takes an active and realistic approach to ADC problems. I am also dismayed to find that NADCA may be disbanded due to member apathy. I will do my part to try and prevent its demise. Please send me a small supply of membership cards as several farmers with whom I work have expressed an interest in joining NADCA. A larger and more diverse membership may further the "cause".

On behalf of ADC personnel in the southeast, I thank you for the time and effort you have dedicated to this organization. I also urge other members to do their part to make NADCA a real "goin' Jessie" outfit.

I certainly appreciate those two letters along with the other comments of support we've gotten from the questionnaire.

James E. Miller Wildlife Ext. Spec., USDA, Washington, DC sent a copy of the report of his ADC committee to THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY which was approved by TWS at the March convention:

"Wildlife sometimes causes significant damage to private and public property, other wildlife, their habitats, agricultural crops and livestock, forest and pastures, urban and rural structures, and they may threaten human health and safety or be a nuisance. Prevent or control of wildlife damage which often includes removal of the animals responsible for the damage, is an essential and responsible part of wildlife management. Before wildlife damage control programs are undertaken, careful assessment should be made of the problem, with assurance that the techniques to be used will be effective and biologically appropriate.

The Policy of The Wildlife Society in regard to wildlife damage control and the alleviation of wildlife problems is to:

1. Support those wildlife damage prevention and/or control programs that are biologically, environmentally, and economically valid, effective and practical.
2. Encourage research to improve the methods of: (a) preventing and controlling wildlife damage, including health hazards and nuisance problems; (b) delineating the effectiveness and environmental impact of damage control programs; (c) assessing the damage caused by wildlife; and (d) assessing the alternatives available to landowners/managers for wildlife damage prevention and/or control.
3. Recommend wildlife damage control programs that are cost-effective with benefits outweighing the risk that might be encountered in preventing, reducing, or eliminating the damage problem.
4. Support the use of efficient, safe, and economical methods of controlling depredating animals.
5. Encourage and support educational programs in wildlife damage prevention and

control.

6. Support biologically sound laws and regulations governing wildlife damage prevention and control directed at individual animals and/or populations.

7. Examine and consider the impact on all wildlife resources when landowners/managers do not have effective control measures and resort to the elimination of wildlife habitat to reduce serious depredation, or threats to human and domestic animal health and safety."

This is quite a shift in policy from the time ADC was treated like the bastard child at the family reunion.

The following is a copy of the reply I wrote to Jim Forbes USFWS, New York, which I hope will address some other complaints:

"I don't have the time to answer the many good comments I received from the troops on the questionnaire, but as you brought up the Eastern viewpoint so well I'll try to answer yours and let it serve to answer some of the others.

I do stress coyote control. One reason is that it is of primary interest to the majority of the membership which consists of western ADC types. But the real reason is that I have to use what material I get. My personal interests are in bird and commensal rat control, but as I have little opportunity to pursue either here in New Mexico, I have to rely on outside sources for items of interest. How many of these have you sent me during the last year? I have repeatedly stated I will try to print anything I get in. Some of it does get lost in the considerable amount of material I do get from the field (for which I am eternally grateful - for the material not its loss). It may never get printed because it became outdated (when I finally found it), I can't figure out the way to present it (us geniuses have our bad days too), or had something similar from others.

Again I may dwell too much on the DEFENDERS. This too relates to the amount of material I receive. That is a popular item as that group thrives on headlines and controversy. Here the second reason is I personally feel we tend to ignore those opposed to our actions on the grounds they are rarely scientifically objective. We feel what we are doing is right and everyone should see it our way, not realizing that the public is swayed by Bambi-style emotionalism. The voting public makes their opinions, however stupid they may be (there again my tendency to overkill after years of suppression), known to their legislators. Thus I think ADC must constantly be reminded we are faced with clever adversaries whose income depends upon how well they can use us for whipping boys.

You suggested we get John Peterson for Region VII Director. At least 3 of our Directors wrote John a personal letter requesting he take the position. John politely declined all offers. Frankly, I think he is smarter than the rest of us. If I had known I would spend over one week a month working gratis for NADCA, I'm not too sure I would be suckered in so easily. That is why we have the same Board of Directors we started with. We're getting a smarter breed of retirees these days who feel they have had it with all the ADC controversy and unlike Greg Rost's masochistic jackrabbit, know enough to quit while they are ahead. As far as paying expenses for traveling around getting new recruits, 50% of our current income is spent on office expenses getting out the PROBE. So that leaves about \$3000 to be split among 10 officers or \$300 each. You can't travel very far on that amount these days so we have to make up the difference out of our own pockets as unlike the government we don't spend money we don't have. I personally am against increasing dues, though we

would be really up against it except for those good souls who contribute more than they are required, which by the way includes most of the Directors as we don't get a free ride.

You gave a very good listing of groups that we should have contacted for support, such as, Farm Bureau, Trappers Associations, various Producer groups, etc. There is no denying we need a broader base. We have missed the boat here, but I disagree with you that it is the Board's duty to contact these groups for support. We don't have contacts with these people anymore. In my own case the contacts I developed have either died or retired whichever came first and you would be surprised at the loss of your influence when you stop drawing a paycheck. In view of our limited travel funds, recruiting for this non-profit organization must be done by those still active which is not against regulations.

I question your complaint NADCA has nothing to offer USFWS Region V personnel. In this you are luckier than Region IV where transfers were contemplated and we helped get that stopped. With the pending move to Agriculture, I feel NADCA will have more input to a proposed Advisory Board that will be set up in the new organization. Finally, NADCA is a voice (it may not always say what individuals want it to say) for ADC that the profession has never had before. It is also a reference point for ADC information if you take the trouble to ask. I try to keep current myself and can always call on more knowledgeable authorities for questions I can't handle."

Be logical and go wrong with confidence.

POISON CONTROL - ARIZONA

During 1983, the Arizona Poison Control system reported a total of 2,244 exposures to pesticides in that State which represented only 4.6% of the total 47,498 toxins involved in case reports. Of the pesticide cases, 158 involved rodenticides, 151 herbicides, and 1933 insecticides and others. Classes of substances for which higher incidents were reported included bites and envenomizations, 7101; cleaning substances, 4826; analgesics, 4003; plants, 3856; alcohols, 2915; and cosmetics/personal care products, 2344.

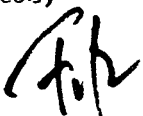
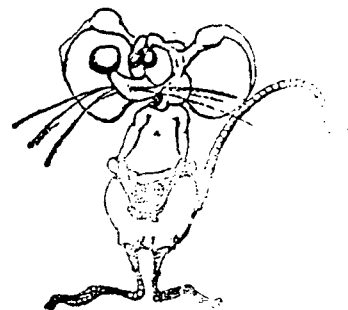
Whose afraid of recessions? I failed during the booms.

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~~

The questionnaires are still dribbling in and we now have over 50% returns. Thanks. The percentage of responses has only changed about 1 percentage point on a few items. Thus I won't bother to reprint the figures, but will put in the written responses in the next newsletter when I'll have more space.

Adios,



"SOME OF THE FLOCK ISN'T GETTING ENOUGH PASTURE—SO I'VE BROUGHT YOU A REDISTRIBUTION EXPERT..."

**National
Animal
Damage
Control
Association**



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