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Wildlife Damage Management, Internet Center for

January 1986

The Probe, Issue 59 - January 1986

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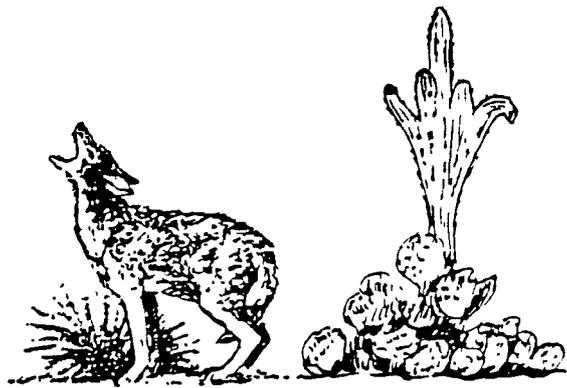


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"The Probe, Issue 59 - January 1986" (1986). *The Probe: Newsletter of the National Animal Damage Control Association*. 132.
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THE PROBE



National Animal Damage Control Association

No. 59

January, 1986

ANOTHER MILESTONE FOR ADC

Most of our readers are aware by now that the Animal Damage Control (ADC) program, formerly in the Department of Agriculture, has been transferred to the Department of Agriculture where it originated in 1931. This action was accomplished by Congress in the closing days of 1985, by including funding for the ADC program in Agriculture's budget in the final continuing resolution for FY1986.

This action culminates a hard fought battle, over a number of years, by various agriculture groups who believed the mission of the ADC program mandated by Congress in the Predatory Animal Act of 1931 could best be carried out in the Department of Agriculture. Many of us who spent our entire working careers in ADC supported and worked for this administrative change in responsibility for carrying out the program. I must warn you this is no time to rest on our oars. We have not heard the last of the protectionist groups who fought so hard to keep the program in Interior where they could keep their thumb on the program. They are not going to give up without a last ditch fight.

The official word verifying the transfer was made by Acting Deputy Director Lambertson (USFWS) in a December 24th memorandum which stated "...The receiving administrator in Agriculture projects a 90-day transition period. Until the transfer is complete, the Service will continue to manage the program. Procurements, personnel

actions, and other routine business may continue as scheduled. Major nonroutine actions and policy changes should be avoided." (underlining added)

It is on this last sentence in Mr. Lambertson's memo I want to focus your attention. The Department of the Interior has already been warned about the effort being made in the Regions to entice ADC personnel to stay with the Fish & Wildlife Service to form a Technical Assistance program. Some people in ADC have been pressed for an answer within 24 hours. Work schedules are being altered to place ADC personnel in non-ADC duties during the transition period. If anyone working in the ADC program feels the intent of Mr. Lambertson's memo is being violated, I would like to know about it as soon as possible. The source of this information will remain confidential. Many times in the past during changes in program management, the ADC program has been the one to suffer through loss of funds, personnel ceilings, and major property. We intend to see that it doesn't happen this time. I assure you that anyone attempting to juggle records or transfer equipment will get burned. The people in Agriculture who will be responsible for the ADC program are aware of my suspicions and are tracking this transfer very closely.

On a more positive note, I am very pleased with the prospects for the ADC program in the Department of Agriculture. I have seen the plans and preparations made by the people in the

ANIMAL & PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE (APHIS) to assume the leadership of the ADC program and they are to be commended. I think we will see a new, more effective ADC program while maintaining a high level of wildlife professionalism and integrity. Since the ADC program is funded with Federal, State, County, and private funds, it must be designed to be more responsive to the needs of the parties of the cooperative agreement. This has not always been the case with the program in Interior. Plans are already underway to insure that the new program will be more responsive to the ones sharing the cost. While we well know that nothing is certain in politics, the upcoming resignation of Agriculture Secretary Block will inevitably result in some administrative changes. However, we feel the current ADC power base in Agriculture is sufficiently well grounded so the basic ADC philosophy will survive much better than could have been expected from a similar shakeup in Interior.

We need new members in NADCA to strengthen our position as the true representative of the profession. So please carry on an individual recruitment campaign to get everybody to carry their share in a common cause. Anyone who has been reluctant to join in fear of reprisals will be glad to hear I have been assured NADCA now has the full support of the new management people in Agriculture - something which we never got from Interior. NADCA President George S. Rost

ut of the mouths of babes come words we shouldn't have uttered in their hearing.

I ONLY KNOW WHAT I READ IN THE PAPERS

Pennsylvania confirmed 405 rabies cases for 1985 - the most since 1946. The heaviest infected countries were Cumberland, Adams, York, and Perry. Thanx to Jeff Howath, USFWS, Alexandria, VA

The Fairfax County School Board was requested to eliminate "cruel and senseless" dissection of preserved

animal specimens in biology classes and substitute films, models, diagrams, or computer programs by a student claiming to represent 900 members of a Students for Animal Protection group. They don't know what they're missing! You haven't lived until you've sunk elbow deep into a barrel of formaldehyde fishing around for the remains of the cat you started to work on a couple of weeks ago. Thanx to Jeff Horwath Alexandria, VA.

The Alexandria (VA) Health Department after considering a small cannon "with boom but no ball" decided to order 12-ga shotgun shells and 16-mm pistols to break up a blackbird roost in that town. City Council member Redella Pepper brought out snickers from the other board members when she suggested that the city be "papered" just before the operation. She was insulted that they would think she intended to wipe their little butts when what she really meant was that leaflets explaining the shooting should be distributed around the neighborhood before the program started. Thanx to Gary Simmons USFWS, Washington, DC.

You're never too old to learn except at 19.

WHAT BIG EYES YOU HAVE, GRANDMA!

The use of simulated "predator eyes" has received some attention lately as possible visual scares. The British have done some experimental work, the Japanese use them on some field exploders, and in Europe and this country as reflector "eyes" along highways to minimize deer highway encounters. The latest is the painting of large eyes on the turbines of a Boeing 747 in Japan's All Nippon Airways system to scare birds away from the aircraft. If it works, the \$40 paint job might save over \$600,000 a year.

See me when you want a little help. I can give you as little as anyone.

MEETINGS. BE THERE!

03/4-6/86: 12th Vertebrate Pest Conference, San Diego, CA. Contact: Rex Marsh, Dept. Wildl. & Fish. Biol., UC-Davis, Davis, CA 95616.

03/07/96: 5th Symposium on test methods for vertebrate pest control and management materials. San Diego, CA. Contact: Dr. William B. Jackson Bowling Green SU, Bowling Green, OH 43403. Both of the above programs were listed in full in PROBE #58.

03/21-26/86: 51st North American Wildlife & Natural Resources Conference, MGM Grand Hotel, Reno, NV. Contact: Wildl. Mgmt. Insti., 1101 14th St., NW, Suite 725, Washington, DC 20005.

nowadays if you want to teach your kids the value of a dollar you'd better hurry up.

ENDANGERED SPECIES AND FIFRA

This concerns a subject and an agency which frequently clash with my basic philosophy, but some good might come out of it. EPA in a rare acknowledgement that some species are rare because they are not found all over the country, is at work on bulletins which will define the range boundaries of "endangered species". The project will include generic labels on various pesticides warning against their use within the range of listed endangered species. So instead of complete cancellation of a pesticide they may permit its use if you get one of EPA's bulletins related to the problem. Don't hold your breath waiting because EPA is only fast when jumping to the wrong conclusion. Thanx to RD Don Spencer

The best way to inspire courteous treatment from other drivers is to drive a police car.

OUR DEAR BUDDIES IN THE NEWS

Now that the Animal Rightists won out in outlawing the steel-jaw trap in New Jersey, there is some stuff starting to hit the fan. This law not only outlaws the steel-jawed trap, but makes it illegal to transport, sell or even possess them - "unless you are affiliated with an animal rights group (how come the traps don't hurt as much in their hands ?) or an educational institution". Susan Russell (NJ Friends of Animals) states: "Trappers

are uncontrollable. That is why the ban on possession is so critical. If they have traps they'll use them." Trappers with a view of what this will do to the State's \$2.5 million trapping industry feel they were tricked as they thought the new law would allow them to use new padded traps but the State Attorney General has included these too. This, I think is the horrible example of what happens when some single-minded, legal weasels are able to foist their misconceived philosophy on an unformed public. Thanx to Gary Simmons USFWS, Washington, DC

A lawsuit recently filed in New York, threatens hunting and trapping nationwide. THE WILDLIFE LEGISLATIVE FUND OF AMERICA (WLFA) is attempting to defeat the measure. The suit filed in Rockland County (NY) argues that the State's cruelty codes prohibit leghold traps ignoring the State legislature permitting the use of traps. Because New York's codes are virtually identical in other states, a win on this would set a legal precedent to challenge the legality of trapping in other states. It is also easy to see how these animal cruelty codes would be extended to include hunting.

The 38 plaintiffs, include such as FUND FOR ANIMALS, DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE, HUMANE SOCIETY, PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL TREATMENT OF ANIMALS, ASPCA, etc. so you can see they are really concentrating on this new legal backdoor. So far they have been unable to get a temporary restraining order against the trappers, but a preliminary injunction against the current trapping season is being considered.

As Jim Glass, WLFA, says, "We've seen a real shifting of gears by the animal rights people toward the use of the courts to achieve their goals. The anti-hunters have not been as successful as they'd like to be in the legislative area, so they're turning to the courts." To keep posted on what you can do to help, contact: Rick Story, WLFA, 50 W. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43215.

Smack 'em down - and another pops up.

Protestors dressed in Santa Claus outfits were arrested for trespassing in demonstrations in fur departments in shopping centers across the nation the Sunday before Christmas. The organizers of this group is TRANS-SPECIES UNLIMITED based in Pennsylvania. Where do they get these names ?

THE RUSSIANS HAVE INVADED AMERICA and the Committee to Abolish Sport Hunting (CASH) has picture proof. In an effort to stop the Alaskan F&G from culling its wolf herd, CASH sent out a press release showing a picture of a wolf lying in the snow while a helicopter (presumably with shooters in it) hovers above. The caption reads - "Mortally wounded the wolf lies helpless as the helicopter moves back for the kill."

There is only one slight oversight. The markings on the helicopter read - "CCCP 1054". In international code this translates to "Russian". Thus we are faced with two possibilities - (1) CASH used a non-American photograph hoping that no one would notice or (2) the Soviet invasion has finally materialized and CASH must have been in on it. Given CASH's past performances in sticking strictly to logic and facts to support their arguments rather than the use of half truths and emotionalism I don't think we really need to worry that - The Russians are coming ! The Russians are coming ! (Thanx to NRA Monitor 12:16:2 (1985))

Honest confession is good for the soul, but hard on the reputation.

WOT'S UP, DOC ?!

I'm trying a new column of scientific reports relating to ADC that are brought to my attention. Some are probably old, others will be of no interest, but I intend to cover all aspects of ADC giving the source and a very brief outline of conclusions which might help keep you current on research in your particular area. I would appreciate your suggestions on this column, particularly, if you could send me xerox copies of a paper to be considered.

W.E.Southern, S.R.Patton, L.K.Southern,

& L.A. Hanners (1985) Effects of nine years of fox predation on two species of breeding gulls. THE AUK 102:827-833. Ring-bill and herring gull reproductive capabilities were almost totally wiped out by fox predation each year of the study between 1975-83. The feasibility of limiting pest seabird colonization on islands with introduced natural prey populations has good potential. (JCJ)

W.F.Andelt (1985) Behavioral ecology of coyotes in south Texas. WILDLIFE MONOGRAPHS #94. THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY 45pp

Home ranges averaged 42.8 km² for males and 31.2 km² for females (this was a very high density population with little human interference). Distances moved were 8.1 km (males) and 7.8 km (females) in 24-hours. More information on social interactions (JCJ)

Nymphomaniacs are like Santa Claus - they don't really exist but it makes you feel better to believe in them anyway.

FICTION CAN BE STRANGER THAN TRUTH

Farley Mowat's NEVER CRY WOLF was an enjoyable book to read and a colorful movie. However, while I liked his humor and style, I was upset by some of his improbable biological situations. It goes against my grain to be fed fiction under the guise of a scientific treatise. Jim Reardon's article ("Fairy tales & wolves", MILEPOST/ALASKA, Jan. 85, p27+) reawaken my interest in the article as he tells the true story of Mowat's Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) career. Dr. Banfield did a caribou study for the CWS in 1948-9 and Mowat was one of his assistants. Mowat's instructions never were to "prove the wolf was destroying Canada's caribou herds". Neither did he spend any time alone in the wilderness and he was fired after six months. Mowat ordered and got his own supplies and not the cases of beer so vividly portrayed in the movie as an example of bureaucratic inefficiency. It is most unfortunate that ADC cannot attract writers with the fluency of a Mowat and a philosophy of not letting facts interfere with a good story so we could change our black hat image. Thanx to Monte Dodson rtd.

USFWS, Crookson, OK.

If you've ever wondered why there are more rabbits than squirrels, try doing it in a tree.

READIN'

Jerry Besser sent me a copy of a limited edition entitled, A GROWER'S GUIDE TO REDUCING BIRD DAMAGE TO U.S. AGRICULTURAL CROPS. This is a compilation of the DENVER WILDLIFE RESEARCH CENTER'S (DWRC) experiences with various bird control tools and methods over the years. It is conveniently broken down into individual crops, e.g., corn, sorghum, rice, wheat, sunflower, peanut, grapes, cherries, blueberries, pecans, vegetable crops, root crops, hay, etc. Under each it outlines the economic losses, methods of loss assessment, and the applicable methods of damage control. Unfortunately, I don't know how available it is but you might write to DWRC (Bldg. 16, Federal Ctr., Denver, CO 80225) asking for a copy of "Bird Damage Research Rept. # 340". Supposedly a slightly updated version will eventually appear which will be more widely distributed than this publication.

One way to live a long life is to give up all the things that make you want to live a long life.

CYANIDE GUNS

According to the TEXAS TRAPLINE, Jerry Bean who retired from the Pocatello Supply Depot (USFWS) has purchased Poteet's interest in the M-44. Jerry's company (Wildlife Services, Harper Rt., Box 2B, Fredericksburg, TX 78624) will now produce and sell improved M-44s and cyanide capsules to private applicators.

Adam was created first to give him a chance to say something.

TEXAS TALES

A 60-65 pound female beaver caught in a snare, pulled up the stake, and was found swimming around the tank hauling some 100 pounds of pondweed that had become entangled in the snare cable. (sounds like it might be a water hyacinth control possibility.)

Randy Smith (Wichita Falls) had a man come in wanting information on availability of steel traps. After informing him about city ordinances, Randy asked where and what he planned to trap. The man said he had a problem with a sister-in-law snooping around the house everytime he left town. Randy is still wondering how to fill out a Technical Assistance card for this one.

Lee Hintze of Richfield, UT died October 13, 1985. Lee had long been associated with the livestock industry. He first became acquainted with the USFWS program while foreman at Tom Jeromy ranches in Utah. Lee spent most of his career as a government trapper in southern Utah. During his time with the USFWS Lee contributed immeasurably to the success of the livestock industry. He is survived by his wife, Marie, and their children. Marie remains a staunch supporter of NADCA. George S. Rost

Paul T. Quick, retired Regional Director for the USFWS, died December 4, 1985 at the age of 82 in Portland, OR. Paul was born in Salt Lake City. His family was in the sheep business. He began his USFWS career in McCammon, ID in 1924 in the old Predator & Rodent Control program and remained with the agency for 43 years. Early in his career he was largely responsible for development of the Pocatello Supply Depot which produced ADC tools for use of the Service. Almost single-handedly he drafted the legislation and prepared the budget to put the Supply Depot on line, a non-profit organization to aid farmers, orchardists, ranchers, poultry growers, and foresters with wildlife damage problems.

He was assigned to the Portland Regional Office in 1941, becoming Asst. Regional Director in 1947. In 1958, he was named Chief of the Division of Wildlife for the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife in Washington, DC. He returned to Portland as Regional Director in 1961, retiring in 1967.

In 1964, Mr. Quick received the U.S. Interior Department's highest honor, the

Distinguished Service Award, from Secretary Stewart L. Udall. The accompanying citation credited him in guiding nationwide development of waterfowl hunting regulations and managing the national wildlife refuge system. RD Homer S. Ford

FERAL HORSE-BURRO (PROGRAM ?)

This situation is rapidly evolving into an even greater mess. Legislation introduced in 1971 requiring humane treatment and control of feral horse and burro populations was supported by protectionists and conservationists alike. But before it was passed it was amended to prohibit the sale of excess animals for slaughter or other purposes which made it unworkable. The Bureau of Land Management administers most of the land used by the animals and has tried to dispose of them through an adoption program which has been a miserable failure.

The House Interior Appropriations has added language to the FY1986 BLM funding that prohibits the removal of more horses and burros from public land until all captured animals have been adopted. And since no one is anxious to adopt, we have a stalemate in reducing feral horse/burro populations.

As usual the Senate didn't go along with the House provision and is recommending a \$15.6 million increase over the Administration's request to feed the 13,675 animals now in corrals and pay for removal of 17,000 more horses during the year. The ridiculousness of this situation is that BLM would spend \$5 million more to manage the relatively few feral horses and burros on public land than it would to conserve all native fish and wildlife habitat under its care. OUTDOOR NEWS BULLETIN, 10/18/85.

As Mark Twain once said - "It could probably be shown by facts and figures that there is no distinctly American criminal class except Congress." Congressional actions over the last month have only reinforced this opinion.

I would also like to quote a recent Mark Russell column: "Once again, Congress has put off funding the government until the last minute. There is a Spanish word for this sense of urgency - siesta. The Omnibus Spending bill was extended from October to November, then to December 17. On that day it was extended to December 18. In Congress, procrastination spells statesmanship. We have gone from 'In God We Trust' to 'One Day at a Time.'"

Completing a tax form seems like doing-it-yourself mugging.

BEARS HAVE A DRUG PROBLEM

At least one bear had a multi-million dollar high before he passed on. Last September, a drug smuggler made a cocaine drop but was killed near Knoxville (TN) when his own parachute failed to open. Investigators looking for the drop were beaten to the spot by a sharp bear. When they got there all they found was the duffel bag ripped open and some forty packets of about 88 pounds of sweet-smelling cocaine eaten or scattered around. Not far away was the body of a bear. I wonder what dreams he had. (ALBUQUERQUE TRIBUNE (NM) 12/23/85)

If the taxpayer revolt is satisfactory, taxpayers may wind up owing less to the government than some foreign countries.

THIS IS WHAT GIVES PRIVATE ADC ENTERPRISE A BAD NAME !

California Fish & Game has found marijuana growers have been using poisons to prevent deer and other wildlife from eating the buds of their precious crop. They estimate that the illegal kill of deer by marijuana growers exceeds the number legally taken by hunters. The kill in Humboldt County alone was estimated at 1,600 deer in 1984. In addition they set booby traps along trails and F&G personnel have found deer with parts of their bodies blown away by triggering traps. This marijuana problem in California is really becoming a problem and the State is finally considering legislation to help combat it. (NRA MONITOR, 1985)

Men without opinions are fit only for jury duty.

LET'S GET THE PROPER PERSPECTIVE

If you listen to EPA, pesticides are the most important toxic substances in the country, but let's take a look at a comparison of instances of all lethal poisonings reported in the USA:

YEAR PESTICIDES ALL OTHER SUBSTANCES

1970	44	5299
1971	43	5313
1972	38	5380
1973	32	5302
1974	35	5499
1975	30	6241
1976	31	5699
1977	34	4936
1978	31	4741
1979	29	4608
1980	24	4331

Marriage is like a violin. After the beautiful music is over, the strings are still attached.



"Way I look at it—you chew one tree, you've chewed 'em all!"

NEVER THOUGHT OF BEAVER AS AIRPORT HAZARDS

In Marion (IL) the county airport commission had trouble with deer on the runways which they managed to scare away, but now they have a tougher problem with beaver. Beavers have dammed up a drainage canal with the result the pond threatens to flood the nearby airstrips. They've tried

trapping, blowing the dams out, and drainage pipes and confess the beaver outwork the entire airport crew.

Psychologists feel girls tend to marry men like their fathers which may explain why mothers cry at weddings.

REINVENTING THE WHEEL

RD Pink Madsen sent me a couple of news clippings from Djakarta. In one, President Suharto was mobilizing the Indonesian Armed Forces to do battle against the hordes of rats which have destroyed more than 55,000 acres of rice. In the other one, farmers are catching rats, sewing up their anuses with plastic, and releasing them. The constipated rodents turn on their fellow rodents and bite them to death before dying themselves. As Pink says, "Don't know how long before they decide that plaster of paris is a sure cure. It's too bad that all countries seem destined to travel the same routes of learning rather than utilize the experience of others." Amen.

Clothes may not make the man, but a good suit has made many a successful lawyer.

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

This letter is a little short, but then you had a long one in December. Furthermore, I ended up with two knee operations instead of one, picked up a couple of serious infections, and am operating in low, low gear.



**National
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