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March 1986

## The Probe, Issue 61 - March 1986

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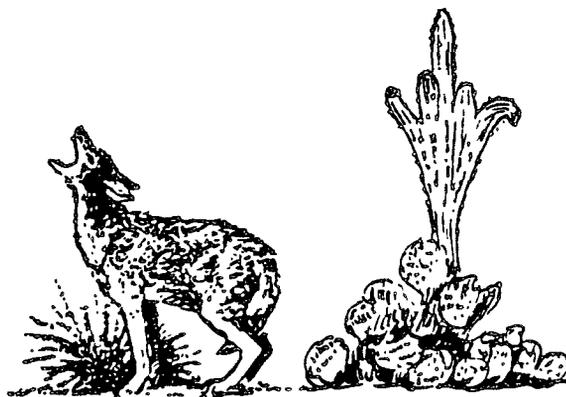
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"The Probe, Issue 61 - March 1986" (1986). *The Probe: Newsletter of the National Animal Damage Control Association*. 134.  
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# THE PROBE



## National Animal Damage Control Association

NUMBER 61

MARCH, 1986

### FOREIGN NEWS

A couple of years back at the appointed hour of 9:47 AM, hundreds and perhaps thousands of Britons suddenly jumped in the air. Astronomer Patrick Moore had broadcast over the BBC that the planet Pluto, would pass directly behind Jupiter at that moment which would produce a slight gravitational pull on Earth to make people feel lighter. Minutes later the switchboards at BBC lit up with people telling how it had worked for them. One man reported hitting his head on the ceiling and a woman reported that she and 11 others in her coffee klatch had floated around the room.

FLASH ! I have just learned that Michael W. Fox, former scientific director of the Humane Society, has just been appointed Deputy Director of APHIS to head up the Operations Branch of ADC.

By the time you receive this copy, look at the calendar - APRIL FOOL ! The British take April fool jokes seriously, but I hope you didn't on the FLASH note above.

*Impossible problems don't disrupt my routine - they are my routine.*

### SECOND EASTERN WDC CONF.

Just got my copy of the proceedings of the above conference in the mail, another worthwhile addition to the growing library on ADC. If you didn't attend the conference in North Carolina you can get a copy by sending \$20 to Dr. Bruce Winston, Div. for Lifelong Education, North Carolina State University, Box 7401, Raleigh, NC

27695-7401. Here's what's in it:

- D.I.Hall - Dispersal of a heron-egret rookery.
- R.C.Drewlen, etc. - The whooping crane cross-fostering: The role of ADC.
- S.R.Craven & E. Lev - Double-crested cormorant damage to commercial fishery in the Apostle Islands, WI.
- J.L.Waldon, etc. - Computerized fish & wildlife information to solve ADC problems.
- T.P.Salmon, etc. - Computer assisted extension program on ground squirrel control.
- D.S.DeCalesta - Estimating cost-effectiveness on controlling animal damage to conifer seedlings.
- R.M.Poche' & R.Sharp - Vole control in eastern U.S..
- R.J.Brooks & S.A.Struger - Relationship between seasonal changes in forage quality and feeding patterns in Microtus pennsylvanicus.
- R.J.Johnson - Repellents for rodents in conservation-tillage agriculture.
- H.T.Holbrook & R.M.Timm - Comparisons of strychnine and zinc phosphide in prairie dog control.
- W.E.Howard - Preventive control of pest rodents.
- K.G.Purdy, etc. - Landowner tolerance of beaver.
- D.K.Woodward, etc. - Economic and environmental impacts of beaver in North Carolina.
- J.M.Dyer & C.E.Rowell - Discouraging rebuilding of beaver dams demolished by explosives.
- T.J.Will - Air force problems with birds in hangars.

A.E.Bivings, IV - Birds in hangars, a messy problem.

T.C.Walker & C.W.Bennett - Efficacy of bird strike programs at naval AFBs.

D.I.Hall - Removal of nesting starlings with DRC-1339.

J.F.Besser & J.W.DeGrazio - Reformulated 4-Aminopyridine baits cost-effectively reduce blackbird damage to corn.

H.A.Allen, Jr., etc. - Effects of Canada goose grazing on winter wheat.

J.E.Davis, etc. - Alternative 4-AP baits for blackbirds.

N.R.Holler, etc. - Minimum effective level of methiocarb for protecting rice from blackbirds.

M.R.Conover - Management of nuisance Canada goose flocks.

D.F.Mott - Dispersing starling-blackbird roosts with helium-filled balloons.

A.R.Stickley & R.J.Weeks - Histoplasmosis impact on blackbird/starling roost management.

J.L.Guarino & J.L.Cummings - Management implications derived from damage assessments in sunflowers.

M.R.Ellington, etc. - Status of deer fencing in Northeast.

R.B.Roper & E.P.Hill - Evaluation of visual and auditory electronic devices to repel deer.

D.J.Decker & T.A.Gavin - Public tolerance of a suburban deer herd.

J.D.Scott & T.W.Townsend - Deer damage and damage control in Ohio's tree plantings.

J.B.Anich, etc. - Assessing deer damage in young fruit orchards.

L.A.Lyon & P.F.Scanlon - Evaluating reports of deer damage to crops.

S.E.Hygnstrom & S.R.Craven - State (Wisconsin) funded wildlife damage program.

J.E.Miller - Role & responsibilities of agencies for ADC.

H.S.Atkinson, Jr., - " "

J.L.Byford - " (State Coop. Ext. Services)

H.C.Black - " (US Forest Service)

L.W.Sowl - " (US Fish & Wildlife Service)

W.W.Jacobs - " (US EPA)

C.D.Kelley - " (State wildlife)

G.Lange - " (Indiana Fish & Wildlife)

G.W.Wendt - Commercial wildlife pest control permits. An alternative approach.

P.T.Bromley - Future of ADC and Cooperative Extension Service.

T.M.Franklin - ADC and the Wildlife Society.

W.T.Parker - ADC and the Endangered Species Act.

*Every argument has two sides. Sorry I haven't time for yours.*

#### READING

Barnes, Victor G. Jr., et al (1985) - HAZARDS TO GRIZZLY BEARS OF STRYCHNINE BAITING FOR POCKET GOPHER CONTROL. Wildl. Soc. Bull. 13:552-558

Underground strychnine baits killed pocket gophers underground and usually separate from each other. Chemical analysis showed mean residue levels of <0.3 mg in carcasses. Grain bait stored in nests and food caches was commonly located >40 cm below ground and the strychnine levels ranged from 0.2 up to 51.2 mg. We estimate the MLD of strychnine alkaloid for grizzlies to be 0.33 mg/kg. The gophers themselves and nests offered no threat to grizzlies. Strychnine bait in food caches could present a risk because some contained a high level of strychnine along with other food items preferred by the grizzlies. J CJ

Hegdal, P.L., et al (1986) HAZARDS TO WILDLIFE ASSOCIATED WITH 1080 BAITING FOR CALIFORNIA GROUND SQUIRRELS. Wildl. Soc. Bull. 14:11-21.

Study of aerial-dropped 1080 grain bait to control California ground squirrels: Squirrel population was reduced 85%. No effects were noted on California quail and mourning doves or raptors. Coyotes, bobcats, and striped skunks were found dead "presumably" from secondary poisoning but residues could not be reliably detected by current chemical methods. Dead ants "...contained 1080 residue and secondary hazards to insectivorous birds were recorded." The bait presented primary hazards to rodents and rabbits. As 9% of the marked and 20% of radio-equipped squirrels died on the surface, it is suggested that a secondary hazard exists

for mammalian predators. JCJ

Childs, J.E. (1986) SIZE-DEPENDENT PREDATION ON RATS BY HOUSE CATS IN AN URBAN SETTING. *J. Mammalogy* 67:196-200  
Some limited observations indicated that the cats invariably preyed on rats weighing less than 200 g. The cats usually ignored larger rats when encountered. So much for the cat controlling rats myth. JCJ

Scrivner, J.H. (1985) SHEEP LOSSES TO PREDATORS ON A CALIFORNIA RANGE. *J. Range Mgt.* 38(5):418-421.  
Eleven-year study on Univ. Ca. Hopland Field station: An average of 2.7% of lambs and 1.5% ewes placed on range were killed each year. WDF

R.R. Bjorge & J.R. Gunson (1985) EVALUATION OF WOLF CONTROL TO REDUCE CATTLE PREDATION IN ALBERTA. *J. Range Mgt.* 38(6):483-487.

Number of wolves declined from 40 prior to control to 3 over two winters. While only 26 were poisoned, natural mortality and dispersal following the removal of packmates resulted in the steep loss. Ingress of wolves occurred within 1-2 years. Total mortality of cattle declined from a mean of 64 (3.4%) during the 4 years prior to 36 (2.0%) during 2 years following control. WDF

Howard, W. E., et al (1985) UNDERSTANDING COYOTE BEHAVIOR. *Calif. Agriculture*, Mar-Apr pp. 4-7.

Predation particularly by coyotes has become a serious challenge to California sheep producers particularly since the ban on predicide registrations. A state-wide survey projected an annual loss of 33,602 sheep valued at \$1,414,000. To prevent more serious losses, control operations by government agencies cost \$1,212,000 while private sheep producers spent \$1,050,000.

Tests of so-called 'repellents' such as lithium chloride, mercaptan and naphthalene, and oleoresin of capsicum proved ineffective over the long run because the strong predatory drive in coyotes prevents any permanent avoidance patterns from becoming established. Thus rather than repellents, they turned

to a study of possible 'attractants' to draw coyotes to traps, M-44s, etc. They found trimethylammonium decanoate (TMAD) as the best attractant. In later tests, sulfide and ketone additives further increased the attractiveness of TMAD. The TMAD/sulfide mixture was patented in 1984 as "WU Lure" for field use. Another development is the single bait delivery system (CLOD) which is not yet registered. This consists of a plastic vial containing 10-15 ml of syrup, dye, and a toxicant. This is screwed onto a stake at ground level and treated with the WU lure.

Other studies showed that coyote populations are resilient, able to increase or maintain numbers unless the level of control is high. Populations reduced by intensive control will recover to precontrol densities within 3-5 years without continued control. WDF

*All you need to grow fine, vigorous grass is a crack in the sidewalk.*

#### VASECTOMIES FOR HORSES ?

They are now rounding up 20 bands of wild horses in Oregon and performing vasectomies on the dominant stallion in each band. The "theory" according to Nancy Ryan (wild horse & burro specialist for BLM's Lakeview (OR) district) is, "If you geld a horse he's not going to protect his harem. When you 'vasecatomize' them they'll still act like stallions." Thank to the Vancouver (WA) COLUMBIAN (2/26/86) and VP Homer Ford NADCA, Ridgefield, WA who suggests the next way they might spend taxpayer money is to round up the mares for shots to keep them from coming in heat !

*If God had wanted everything to be done today, he wouldn't have invented tomorrow.*

#### CULL THE GULL

It is becoming very evident along the east coast that the herring and black-backed gulls are taking over the country with a good assist from man. Unlike many of the sea birds that feed on fish, anything is food to the gulls. They are called the raccoon of the bird family

due to their scavenging habits. Strong flyers they can move 30-40 miles a day to dumps and other prime feeding areas. As they nest earlier than most other sea birds, they preempt choice nesting sites and drive the other birds out. They cause half the aircraft strikes in the area. In an effort to save nesting colonies of other birds along the coast, the USFWS and the Audubon Society have been poisoning gulls off the coasts of Maine and Massachusetts amidst the objections of many residents. Alexander Sprunt, Audubon Society and no lover of ADC, remarked, "A great many people in this country do not understand wildlife management." Join the club, Alex. Thank to Phil Eggborn VA Dept. Agric., Mechanicsville, VA and RICHMOND TIMES DISPATCH (28 Feb. 86).

*I'm very humble with just enough strength of character to overcome it.*

#### **A LITTLE HELP FROM A FRIEND**

Eugene McFerran  
Early one fine morning  
In the merry month of May  
On the ranch I'm going  
To see about a-stray.

Not paying much attention  
To what was in the way,  
I came across a gully  
While looking for that stray.

The rear wheels hung there useless  
The front was in the mud.  
To move sure did prove fruitless,  
I'll have to get a tug.

There in the back of that pickup  
Was my Big Red Honda bike.  
I'll catch myself a coyote,  
I'll rope him off that trike.

This took a bit of doing,  
But I roped one sure enough.  
I showed where we're going,  
But he darn called my bluff.

The coyote was positioned  
Beneath the spinning rear.  
His job, there was no question -  
To get me out of there.

~ About that time that morning  
The critter could stand no more.  
He bit a hole into the muffler  
And made the pickup roar.

Now that was not the problem,  
For leaking near the tire  
A gas can had tipped over.  
The muffler caused a fire.

The pickup spun free right then  
And bounced upon the bank.  
A fire was burning brightly  
And the flames were near the tank.

The coyote's job was over  
And glad that he was free,  
He licked my hand to thank me  
His tail - waggin' up a breeze.

The fanning from the waggin' tail  
Had blown the fire out.  
The coyote split for parts unknown.  
It's over - there's no doubt.

Now sometimes I go riding  
In that same old pickup truck,  
I'll see that coyote hiding -  
He's afraid I might get stuck.

Thank to RDIII Norton Miner Laurel, MT

*Nothing is more often opened by mistake than the human mouth.*

#### **EXPLODING MYTHS**

Ron Baker (Friends of Animals) has published a short disclosure on what hunting is really all about:

#1 - The hunter is a sportsman.

The hunter goes out for only one reason - to kill. Where is the 'sport' where one of the players isn't aware a contest is on and doesn't have the same equipment.

#2 - The hunter as conservationist.

Hunters are interested in about 30 species they call 'game'. They encourage the manipulation of land to produce more game, forgetting the other species.

#3 - The hunter saves deer from starvation.

Mother Nature doesn't like to be fooled! She puts her animal populations in balance with the available food supply and with other species of wildlife, when 'Wildlife Managers' stop the habitat manipulation.

#4 - The hunter as a predator.  
The natural predator disperses the deer and keeps the gene pool in order by catching the old, weak, and genetically defective individuals. The hunter does his utmost to kill only the best.

#5 - The hunter pays for conservation.  
The Pittman-Robertson Act takes money from the general treasury and puts it into more habitat manipulation. He is subsidized by the taxpayer who doesn't hunt.

#6 - The hunter respects endangered species.  
The hunter has caused the extinction of the eastern elk, passenger pigeon, plains wolf, etc. They are stealing 'meat' from the general public which they should be buying from the butcher. They generally shoot anything that moves and who ever heard of a hunter eating crow ?

#7 - Hunting - the All-American sport.  
Friends of Animals recently protested the opening of deer-hunting on Great Swamp Natl. Wildlife Refuge. Hunters broke out flags and tried to equate it with apple pie.

#8 - I eat what I kill.  
The hunters should buy their meat from a butcher shop instead of stealing it from the public as wildlife is public property. How many hunters eat crow ?

#9 - Wildlife management. is scientific.  
Schools are turning out people who "play God and act the fool". All they know is habitat manipulation.

#10- The hunter is a manly man.  
The hunter is a man so lacking in virility he uses hunting as a masculine ploy.

Just thought you might be interested in knowing what the other side thinks of you. Thanx to Dick Wetzel APHIS, Hudson, WI.

Money in the bank is like toothpaste in the tube. Easy to get out and much harder to get back in.

**RABIES IN RODENTS**

In 1983, rodents were diagnosed as rabid in 7 states, mostly on the eastern seaboard but as far west as Minnesota. There were 17 woodchuck, 2 beaver, 1

squirrel, and 1 chipmunk. Historically, rodents and lagomorphs are not thought to be an important vector or reservoir of rabies. No human cases have ever been reported, but rodent bites count for a high portion of animal bites of humans. CDC data for the past 13 years confirms rodents are minimal rabies hosts. However, the number of confirmed cases jumped from an average of 3 cases/year in 1971-3 to 16 cases/year in 1981-3. Woodchucks are the only species having an increase in the number of cases. They were all carrying raccoon virus indicating they had all gotten it from encounters with rabid raccoons. Thanx to Dr. Bill Jackson BGSU, Bowling Green, OH and CDC ANNUAL REPORT 1983.

*If the knocking on the door is unusually long, don't think it is opportunity - it's the relatives.*

**COYOTES VS. ANTELOPE**

Environmentalists have long claimed that predator control was useful only to stockmen and thus somehow 'tainted' with commercialism. However, a recently released study by Arizona on the Anderson Mesa antelope herd that started in 1944 indicates predator control can be of benefit to wildlife as well. A 10-day blizzard in 1967 killed 650 antelope out of a herd of 765. A coyote control program allowed the remainder to rebuild to 350 within 3 years and it peaked at 481 head in 1971. Then came the Nixon toxicant ban and EPA's brake on coyote control efforts left only shooting and trapping. Within 2 years the fawn survival rate had dropped from a mean of 76/100 to a low of 7/100 does in 1979. Studies confirmed the drop was due to coyote predation on young fawns. Then helicopter gunning was added to the means of taking coyotes. Coyote take jumped from 42 in 1980 to 73 in 1981 and the fawn survival was up to 69/100 does in 1982. By 1983 the Anderson Mesa Herd had increased to 842 head, higher than the pre-blizzard figure and nearly four times higher than it was in 1979 prior to the onset of intensive coyote control.

However, the program cost. It was estimated that the per coyote cost for

for trapping and shooting was \$89-385 and for the helicopter was \$235-296. However, a computer model indicated that every other year of intensive coyote control would generate a net benefit of nearly a half million dollars in the Anderson Mesa area alone over a decade.

Another claim by the environmentalists is that rodents will become a plague when coyotes are controlled. Rodent censuses taken in conjunction with the anelope study showed the rodent numbers in 1976 when coyote pressure was greatest were higher than at any time during the following coyote-control period. One rodent species was caught 22.3 times per 100 trap nights in 1976 and only 5.6/100 trap nights by the end of the study. Jackrabbit and cottontail counts based on roadside spotting were inconclusive. These seemed to follow cyclic curves irrespective of coyote numbers. Thank to RDIV Milt Caroline NADCA San Antonio, TX and LIVESTOCK WEEKLY (23 Jan 86).

Sure things could get worse. The IRS could start charging for forms.

#### IMAGINE A WORLD...

in which your only contact with wildlife is through books, films, or television? Picture a trip to the zoo or aquarium the same size as an average home, where you sit and watch a tape of starved elephants knocking down a baobab tree for food. Move two feet and you can see a tape of a pride of lions resting - and resting. Further on is a tape of the dorsal fins of killer whales in Puget Sound. And so it goes, monitor after monitor, tape after tape explaining nature in stentorian tones.

William Braker of the Shedd Aquarium (San Antonio's NEWS FROM THE ZOO, Oct. 85) speaks out against the Animal Rightists groups. Zoo people should be another ally of ours. The Animal Rightists contend that it is morally and ethically wrong to keep animals in captivity - that animals are harmed under confinement. They claim the brains of dolphins shrink in captivity despite the fact there is no evidence of this. "Dolphins go mute in captivity" though 70% of what we've learned about dolphin communication has been gathered in captivity. Captive animals have a high death rate even though killer whales now living in North America are living an average of 9 years (plus the fact these were not displayed in marine parks until 1965 which explains why some have not lived more than 17 years at this time). The complaint about low birth rates overlooks that lowland gorillas were exhibited in this country for 100 years without any young being born. The first zoo birth occurred in 1956 and since then there have been approximately 200 births. Furthermore some endangered species like Pere David's deer and Przewalski's horse exist only in zoos.

To forward their cause (a euphemism for getting more money) they release captive animals in unfriendly environments, usually with excellent media coverage. Animal Rightists attempt to force regulations on all of us by lobbying legislators, admittedly not the brightest collection of humans, into permanently prohibiting the display of killer whales and making it not only a crime to train animals but subjecting zoo visitors who watch to a \$3000 fine

COULD YOU  
MAKE IT SNAPPY?  
.. I'M AN  
ENDANGERED  
SPECIES!



and prison terms of up to two years.

Braker outlines their mode of action very well. "First, the media must be captured. Emotional issues are used. Facts and detailed explanations are ignored. Political pressure is brought to bear and public debate is avoided. Be sure to be first with your message, then others will be on the defensive...For without a drum to beat, without an army to muster, without a cause to espouse, their coffers will soon be empty. Thanx to RDIII Milt Caroline San Antonio, TX.

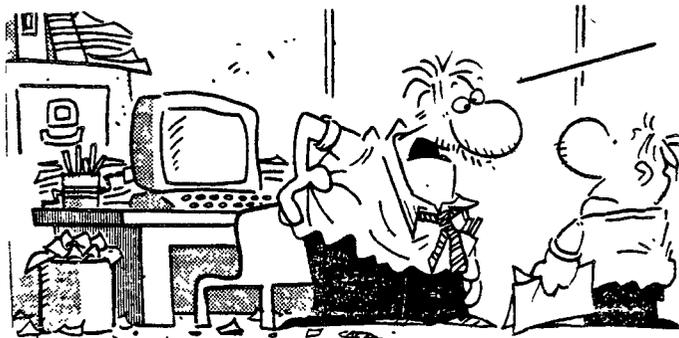
*A pin has as much head as some people - and a lot more point too.*

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

I am not looking for sympathy, but want to explain the troubles I had getting out the last two issues hopefully so you will make allowances. Two Thanksgivings back I had a total left knee replacement. It worked good and I was playing tennis by the summer, but subsequent checkups found the knee cap degenerating. So last November I had that taken out. No problem until they found I had a staph infection. Four weeks treatment for that and they found a deep Enterobacteria was making soup of the meat in my left leg. So Christmas Eve I had another operation which took

out some of the spoiled meat in my leg and repluced the whole damn joint again. This time the medication closed down my urinary tract and I developed a form of tropical crud in the crotch. Now I had to have a prostate operation. The doc showed me a cup full of what looked like good fish bait he scraped out of there. I accused him of not knowing when to stop and taking out the essentials in my privates. So then he found coccidioidiomycosis spores in the scrapings. In fact he showed me a beautiful slide of a spore and I now am part of his teaching collection. This I had apparently picked up in California 15. years ago and was probably lucky as they were all set to spread out. I got out of the hospital one day and went back in the next with severe chills. This turned out to be an E. coli infection in my kidneys. The second day in the hospital I developed an agonizing back pain and lost my sense of humor about all these ailments. Honestly, I had been doing pretty good up until then but this really hurt. Eventually, it turned out to be a ruptured disk pinching my sciatic nerve. And this has been pure hell. Epidural blocks have helped a little, but apparently it is going to take time before I can walk around without pain. Of course I picked up a case of viral bronchitis and each cough sends a flash of pain through my hips. Finally, the doc found my blood sugar too high and suggested diabetes. I'm hoping however it is the gluco-steroids I'm getting in my antifungal IV with which I'm hooked up to 3 times a week for the next 5 weeks, but with my luck I've probably eaten my last chocolate bar. I hope this explains some of the errors in the past few letters as I have been under some stress.



I'VE BEEN SITTING AT  
MY PERSONAL COMPUTER  
SO LONG I'VE DEVELOPED  
A FLOPPY DISK.

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