University of Nebraska - Lincoln
DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

The Probe: Newsletter of the National Animal Damage Control Association

Wildlife Damage Management, Internet Center for

4-1-1986

# The Probe, Issue 62 - April 1986

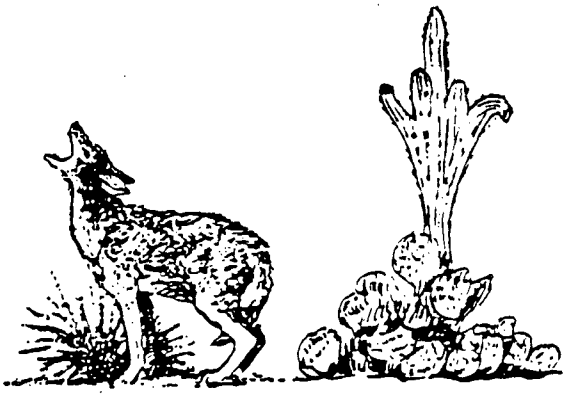
Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/icwdmprobe

Part of the Environmental Sciences Commons

"The Probe, Issue 62 - April 1986" (1986). *The Probe: Newsletter of the National Animal Damage Control Association.* Paper 135.
http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/icwdmprobe/135

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Wildlife Damage Management, Internet Center for at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Probe: Newsletter of the National Animal Damage Control Association by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

# THE PROBE



National Animal Damage Control Association

NUMBER 62 APRIL, 1986

**HERE'S A PLACE TO PUT YOUR MONEY !**
The Gita-magari Farm Community in Pennsylvania is offering the public a chance to "sponsor" cows on their farm to protect them from slaughter. For $30 a month, you get a photo of a "protected" cow along with the sweets made from milk products, pure butter, periodic news of the cow's progress, and a "get-acquainted vacation weekend completely free" to visit your cow. Plan B ($100/month) gets you the same thing along with a brass plaque to be displayed in the adopted cow's stall confirming the adoption. In Plan C, if you donate $3,000 or more the "cow will be under your protection for her entire life." Thanx to NATIONAL WOOLGROWER, April 1986.

*Most people who get credit for patience, simply can't get up enough nerve to start anything.*

**BINGO GOES THE DINGO**
As I am interested in how our ADC compatriots in other countries are handling their dingo (counterpart to our coyote) and feral dog problems, I'm printing a recent report written by Jim Backholer (Keith Turnbull Inst.) on A SURVEY OF LANDHOLDERS ON THE WILD DOG PROBLEM IN EASTERN VICTORIA (Australia), Feb. 1986:

The results of this mail questionnaire to 507 landholders were as follows:

Are wild dogs/dingoes a problem on your property ? Yes: 84.4%; No: 13.8%

Does your property adjoin uncleared Crown land such as forest or park ? Yes: 91.1%; No: 8.5%

Is the control of wild dogs/dingoes necessary on or adjacent to your property ? Yes: 91.9%; No: 5.7%

Have you ever requested the Dept. to carry out control ? Yes: 86.7%; No: 12.3%

If YES have you generally been happy with the service ? Yes: 76.4%; No: 9.7%

Do you prefer to see the money spent by the Dept. transferred into a compensation scheme for stock losses ?
Yes: 6.3%; No: 86.4%

During the last 12 months how many wild dog attacks have you sustained ? None: 30.4%; 1-10: 39.7%; Over 10: 23.8%

As a result of attacks how many sheep (lambs) were killed or destroyed ? None: 15.3%; 1-10:28.2%; Over 10: 38.8%

How many cattle ? None: 52.2%; 1-10: 16.0%; Over 10: 0.6%

The responses don't add to 100% because I ignored the "no response" to a question. There are certainly very interesting parallels between those responses and what we would get in coyote country here. The control methods mentioned were traps, shooting, private poison baits, and Dept. poison baits. The non-lethal methods were more

intensive stock management, running fewer sheep, running no sheep, and a large number installed electric fences.

The comments which are difficult to quantify included: keep the program going and insure the skills of the current dog-trappers are passed on; trap further back in "the bush" (Crown lands); the large steel-jawed trap shouldn't be banned yet; snares are not yet effective replacement for traps; aerial baiting which had been effective in the past should be continued; many fence problems with wombats, kangaroos, and emus (and you thought you had problems ?). They estimated their losses in terms of stock lost at $476,029 and in time lost moving stock, fencing repairs, etc. at $377,302.

And here's a piece of America - "The most striking feature of the responses on dog attacks and sheep killed is the wide disparity between this information and the level of losses formally reported to regional officers of the Department. This discrepancy appears to be of little consequence to landholders, but is probably viewed with growing skepticism by Government policy-makers. It would seem axiomatic that it would be in the landholders' best interest to provide the very data required to justify the continuation of a program designed for their benefit."

*Women like quiet men because they think they're listening.*

**1985 REPORT ON HUNTING ISSUES**

I have just received a copy of this study under Steven G. Heeringa, Inst. for Social Research, University of Michigan, Box 1248, Ann Arbor, MI 48106. He compares the views of (1) sportsmen leaders, (2) wildlife professionals, and (3) outdoor writers. It turned out not to be as useful a survey for ADC as I hoped it would. He questioned the attitudes of representatives of the above groups regarding their feelings on the relative importance of these major issues facing hunting in this country today. (The lower the rating the greater its relative importance to the group.)

| Issue | (1) | (2) | (3) | AV. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Habitat loss | 2.2 | 2.1 | 2.0 | 2.1 |
| Environmental damage | 3.4 | 3.7 | 3.0 | 3,0 |
| Private land closure | 4.2 | 3.0 | 3.3 | 3.5 |
| Anti-hunting activity | 3.4 | 4.0 | 4.3 | 3.9 |
| Gun control | 3.4 | 4.3 | 4.2 | 4.0 |
| Government land policy | 4.6 | 5.1 | 5.3 | 5.0 |
| Indian treat claims | 6.0 | 5.4 | 5.6 | 5.7 |

Asked about their opinions on the effects of animal rights groups on future hunting, the sportsmen were more pessimistic than the outdoor writers:

| Group | Immediate | Future | No threat |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sportsmen | 64.3% | 32.5% | 3.2% |
| Writers | 37.8% | 49.0% | 13.3% |

*The buck stops here. Please start a few this way.*

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Now that instead of a male bag lady, we've got an honest-to-goodness treasurer (Thanks, Wes !) who's got another of these magic boxes, we'll give quarterly reports whether you want them or not:

FIRST QUARTER - 1986

| | |
|---|---|
| INCOME | |
| Dues | $2,025.00 |
| Donations | 228.00 |
| Interest | 50.26 |
| Total | 2,303.26 |
| EXPENDITURES | |
| Postage, general | 65.72 |
| Postage, PROBE | 204.17 |
| Printing, general | 45.20 |
| Printing, PROBE | 433.27 |
| Telephone | 75.65 |
| Travel, auto & air | 250.00 |
| Office supplies | 89.39 |
| Miscellaneous | 100.83 |
| Total | 1,264.03 |
| BALANCE | 3,943.27 |

Don't <u>you</u> know somebody who should be joining up ?

*Nobody ever breaks a rule until somebody makes one.*

**FREE!! (well almost)**
Dale Kaukeinen of ICI Americas has given us another bargain - BIBLIOGRAPHY, VERTEBRATE PEST BIOLOGY AND CONTROL, THE WORLD SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE FOR 1984. This lists 915 world-wide references from Acephate, toxicity to zoonoses, vole. The indices really make it useful. Besides a detailed subject breakdown, there is an index by author, geographical location, and Latin name of birds and mammals. Unfortunately, he had only 6 copies. So the first 6 requests (with $2 for postage & handling) will get a copy of this excellent bibliography. It is not annotated, but it can point you in the right direction.

*All marriages are happy. It is the living together afterwards that causes all the trouble.*

**MORE READIN' - BUT NOT CHEAP**
"Western Elk Management - A symposium" can be obtained from Gar W. Workman, Ext. Specialist, Dept. Fisheries & Wildlife, Utah State Unersity, Logan, UT 84322-5210. The cost is $22.00 per copy. They still have a limited number of "Mule Deer Decline in the West - A symposium" for $12.00 per copy.

*If you don't think the dead come back to life just drop in at quitting time.*

**MEETIN'S - BE THERE !**
11/3-6/86: National Symposium on Urban Wildlife, National 4-H Center, Chevy Chase, MD. Contact: Dr. Lowell W.Adams, National Insti. for Urban Wildlife, 10921 Trotting Ridge Way, Columbia, MD 21044.

*The major side effect of medical treatment today is bankruptcy.*

**WE DIDN'T DO IT !!!**
As of March first, 5 California condors were known to remain in the wild. There may be another couple and hopefully one newly mated pair may produce an egg. There are now 21 individuals in zoos in southern California. The last few known deaths of condors have been attributable to lead poisoning - not ADC activities.

Along the same lines 96 whooping cranes wintered in Texas along with another 30-35 here in the New Mexico experimental flock started in 1975. The most conspicuous losses of whoopers lately has been to predators rather than our nefarious activities. Thanx to RD VI Johnny Jones & ORNITHOLOGICAL NEWSLETTER, April '86.

*To get them to work on time, provide 95 parking spaces for each 100 employees.*

**APPARENTLY IT AIN'T SO**
Despite what some school kids in the East think according to a recent survey, the "pronghorn" is not extinct or nearing extinction. Instead, despite expanding human populations and decreasing wildlife habitat, the American pronghorn antelope has increased more than 3000% during the past 60 years. A comprehensive inventory in 1924 found about 27,000 in Canada, USA, and Mexico. Current estimates suggest there are more than 1,000,000 in North America today. OUTDOOR NEWS BULLETIN, March, 1986.

*To lose weight - don't talk about it. Simply keep your mouth shut.*

**ANTI-TRAPPING LAWSUIT DISMISSED**
The New York lawsuit by the ANIMAL LEGAL DEFENSE FUND and 37 other buddies of ours (THE PROBE 59:3) that charged trapping violated New York's animal cruelty codes was dismissed by the Rockland County Circuit Court. The judge ruled the plaintiffs failed to state a cause of action - in effect saying no animal cruelty laws where being broken because trapping falls under the jurisdiction of state wildlife laws. Of course, it has been appealed so the lawyers can milk it for all it is worth, but at least we won a temporary respite on a case that would have nation-wide impact. There are anti-trapping bills being debated in Vermont (HB 505) and Indiana (SB 13). WILDLIFE LEGISLATIVE FUND OF AMERICA, UPDATE, March 86.

*They call it take home pay because you can't afford to go anywhere else with it.*

**LETTERS TO YE ED**

"In case your copy of DEFENDERS is late, I have enclosed their article on the USDI-USDA transfer (see HORRORS ! NASTY ADC IS GOING TO USDA). Some of it is comical (like their whole organization). I've also enclosed a copy of "Planning your estate; DEFENDERS can help." (among their suggestions include a pooled income fund starting at $5,000) telling how you can leave all your earthly possessions for the future protection of "Bambi". Why doesn't NADCA have a similar proposal ?" Charley Brown APHIS, Oklahoma City, OK.

*Never underestimate the purr of a woman.*

***HORRORS ! NASTY ADC IS GOING TO USDA***

The DEFENDERS viewpoint on the transfer of ADC to Agriculture is one of shocked disbelief. "Western livestock interests" finally pushed the shift through on an appropriations ploy while Congress was rushing to adjourn before Christmas. This despite the fact that last fall the Dept. of Justice issued an opinion that ADC could be transferred only under new legislation. (This ignores the fact that President Roosevelt never intended ADC personnel in the Biological Survey would leave Agriculture in 1931) But on the whole it was an even-handed view of the shift (the writer is a free lancer rather than a dyed-in-the-wool DEFENDER). It quotes the DEFENDERS hoping for more of an educational thrust (through the USDA Extension Service) and directing research towards non-lethal methods. DEFENDERS, Mar/Apr, 1986.

*Where there's a will there's a way - of breaking it.*

**...BUT ON THE OTHER HAND**

Thurman Booth APHIS, Little Rock, AR is quoted in the ARKANSAS GAZETTTE (22 Mar. 1986) as saying, "...those pushing for the transfer felt animal control should not be a function of a wildlife agency, because a wildlife agency thinks more in terms of protection and enhancement of populations rather than controlling damage caused by those populations.....Quite frankly there were philosophical conflicts within the Interior Department concerning our work." The use of lethal methods is a delicate subject, but he points out that the blackbird problem in Arkansas rice fields consists of "...30,000 birds damaging 500 acres but only roosting in one or two acres." These birds have to be eliminated but Interior has ignored working on a lethal solution to this problem. Booth feels that under APHIS the planners will be more attuned to a situation causing this much damage to crops.

**END OF AN ERA**

Cedric R. Landon was head of the rodent and predatory animal control program in Texas from July 1, 1915 until August 31, 1958. He died on February 15, 1986 at the age of 97. Of those who entered into duty the same time, he was the last to survive.

"CR" was born in Canada and came to San Angelo in his late teens along with his mother who he supported throughout his life. He is survived by a son, C.R., Jr. (Houston) and a daughter, Lydia Mullins (Corpus Christi). As one of the "old school", C.R. built a program around the needs of urban and rural residents and businesses. He received the Distinguished Service Award from the Department of the Interior upon retirement for his many years of excellent service.

C.R. never looked at a hill or peak without planning to "top out" on it. And top out he did on the hills and the mountains and in his chosen field. - RD IV Milton Caroline

**THINKING OF HUNTING IN ALASKA ?**

Better do it soon ! Big game hunting by non-residents may be eliminated by as much as 70% in the next decade under new Alaskan game codes. Last year the Alaska Supreme Court ruled all Alaska residents are subsistence hunters, giving them priority to wildlife resources. Sheep hunts for non-residents have already been cut 25%.

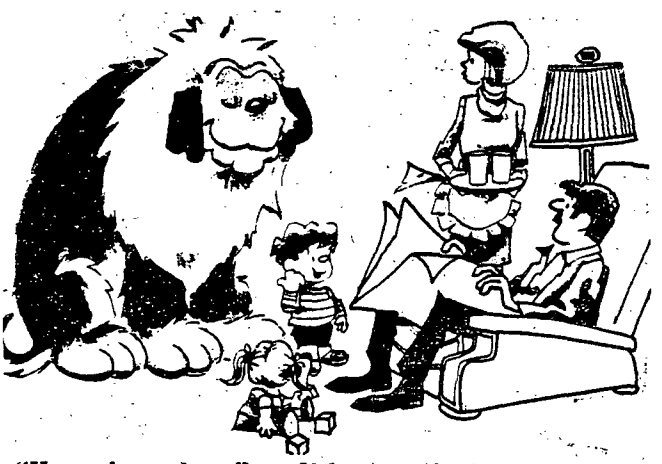
Anyone planning to hunt in Alaska this fall had better make certain with the State Game Dept. and/or the outfitter. WILDLIFE LEGISLATIVE FUND OF AMERICA, UPDATE, March, 86.

*Work is what you'd rather not.*

**FWS HAS BUDGET WOES**

The White House has recommended significant federal funding cuts for wildlife management for fiscal 1987. The USFWS budget will be pared by 22% hitting hardest on land acquisition, endangered species grants to states, and refuge maintenance. Too bad we didn't stay there so they could have taken the whole 22% out of the ADC budget. NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION, TIPSHEET, March '86.

*A Laplander is a person who can't keep his balance on a bus.*



***"Howard says that all our Valentine gifts this year should go to the Fund for Animals."***

**BUFFALO BILL**

The big stink in Montana the end of last year was Cleveland Amory and his FUND FOR ANIMALS (FA). When the Montana legislature passed a bill to permit licensed hunters to kill buffalo who strayed out of Yellowstone Park, they were immediately challenged by FA and the loud mouth. Amory suggested that the Park build a fence to keep the buffalo in Park limits, but as usual didn't offer any monetary assistance from the swollen FA coffers.

The situation arose from the outcry set up the previous year when State Game people shot 88 animals who had strayed over the Park limits. The background for this was Montana had been declared brucellosis-free and the Park buffalo are heavily infected with this bacterium. When the public heard about this they demanded a chance at the meat and trophies themselves. The first "hunt" was December 30th when 3 hunters killed 3 buffalo before an array of TV and news persons. Talk about a "tempest in a teapot"!!!!

Since then Amory has put the pressure on the Royal Teton Ranch (a church-owned property on which 82 of the 88 buffalo were shot the previous year) to lease FA a strip of land to put up a 2.5 mile, 6-foot high fence. The Park objects to this as it will interfere with normal travel routes of deer and elk besides the buffalo. Amory has also suggested that they start an adopt-a-buffalo program (needless to say he doesn't have to pay anything on the adopt-a-horse/burro program he helped foist on the taxpayers). There was a good letter from a gal in Wyoming that answers this 'brain-storm'. She says they have a hundred buffalo on their ranch east of the Park. She invites Amory to spend a weekend and observe the buffalo firsthand. "I don't think he realizes that the buffalo has been, is and always will be a wild animal, with the ability to outrun any horse and jump a 6-foot fence from a standstill...They are extremely difficult to transport because of their fear of confinement - how does Amory propose to move them ?"
The world could do with a few less theoritical wildlife experts like C.A. Thanx to RD III Norton Miner and Dec.-Jan. '85-6 from the BILLINGS GAZETTE.

*You have to give Americans a lot of credit. How else could they buy all that stuff ?*

**ANIMAL SHORTIES**

A Washington, D.C. physician beat a Canada goose to death with a golf club, allegedly after the bird's honking interfered with his putting.

In Newport (CA) a turtle named "No. 6" won a turtle race and then showed how he felt about being forced to move 'fast' by latching onto the upper lip of his trainer, who sought to give him a congratulatory kiss. It took a dose of valium to unfasten his grip.

After one burglary in which narcotics were taken, a Falls Church (VA) doctor caught the burglar in the act. He was lured away from the hard stuff with peanut butter and sardines. The burglar, a raccoon, was released several miles away in an effort at self-rehabilitation.

A San Francisco (CA) dentist constructed a new beak out of bright pink acrylic for a black-crowned night heron whose lower beak had snapped in two. He attached it with fine wires in a 6-hour operation. The heron is back to spearing fish.

In Los Angeles (CA) a man opened his door to a stranger who flashed a knife and a snake he threatened to release in the house. The thief escaped in the victim's car with $400 in cash and jewelry.

Australian customs officers frisked a nervy traveler from Bali. They impounded 5 pythons he had tried to smuggle into the country in his underpants and in pouches strapped to his legs.

*Money is what things run into and people run out of.*

**RAT-FREE ALBERTA !**

The province of Alberta (Canada) lays claim to being the only rat-free province or state in North America. The provincial government once had to buy 125 of them pickled in formaldehyde for an exhibition. The crackdown began in 1950 when Norway rats first appeared on the eastern border (Saskatchewan). While there are many volunteers in this battle, the main force is a squad of 7 border guards. These continually check every possible rat harborage in an 18 mile-wide strip along the Saskatchewan line, providing residents with 10,000 pounds of free warfarin bait a year. Alberta is helped a little bit by their isolation and northern location. To the south is a very sparsely settled part of Montana which was the last state in the U.S.A. to be invaded by the Norway rat. Thanx to Treas. Wes Jones and the WALL STREET JOURNAL, 22, Jan., 86.

*The thing about modern music is that if the acoustics are bad you can't tell.*

**ENDANGERED VS UNWANTED**

The timber wolf is having a tough time of it. He is being pulled between opposing philosophies. On one side is the desire to see his numbers expand over his old range by those who don't live in the area. On the other are the neighbors of the targeted release sites in the Yellowstone area who can see only another efficient predator on their livestock added to the problems they already have. The latter group also has a legitimate gripe with the secrecy with which the USFWS is handling the project. If it has to be, they want permission to take wolves preying on livestock on their property. However, USFWS says the wolf is a endangered species and could not be taken unless it was declassified. Declassification could not be given unless there was a viable population in the area. It looks like a "Catch 22" situation for our former "brothers". Joe Helle (spokesman for the woolgrowers) is not only against the idea but also against setting up a fund for reimbursing losses - "We're totally against the fund. We're not in the business of raising animals to feed predators. To spend a whole year producing an animal and feed it to a predator and be compensated for that is ridiculous." Another objection is the cost of the program estimated at $200,000 to $500,000 annually. Furthermore, the fear is expressed that the feds will set up the program and then withdraw funding leaving the State stuck with the whole bill. Thanx to RD III Norton Miner and a series of clippings he sent from BILLINGS GAZETTE and AGRI-NEWS, Jan-Apr, 1986.

*Thank heaven for bad luck. Without it I wouldn't have any luck at all.*

**SO YOU'VE GOT TO GO ON TV ?!** Here are some good tips I culled from an old issue of THE TRAPPER that might help you be better prepared:

1. Be prepared with your factual information. Research State Game Dept. for animal complaints, rabies cases and trends, numbers and species of wildlife restored through hunter/trapper fees, and State laws regarding wildlife, particularly trapping regulations. Contact livestock organizations regarding wildlife depredations in your area. Find out all you can about the various anti- groups and the animal shelters that you might be debating.

2. Your appearance and conduct are most important. Look professional. Be clean and neat. Talk in a clear concise manner, using common terms. Hide your emotions - nervousness or anger. Use no obscenities. Have an adequate number of props, such as, traps,photos, etc. (Amen ! Personal experience - I ran out of props just before the end of a live half-hour TV show. It was the five longest minutes of my life.) If you are debating an anti- don't be distracted if they break into your talk and don't sidetracked. Don't speak of cruelty, talk about the necessity for trapping.

3. Explain the trap. Show it has no teeth. The smooth surface jaws are to restrain the animal only. The trap does not break legs as the antis- claim or the trap would not be able to hold the animal. In the rare cases where the leg is broken it was probably caught in a trap too big for the target species, like a muskrat caught in a coyote trap.

4. Emphasize the domestic animal problem. The humane societies exterminate over 13.8 million dogs and cats a year due to unrestrained populations. The taxpayers pay for this program.

5. Prepare a note sheet with reminders. Set this in front of you on the table or make large cue cards that can be positioned out of the camera view to help you keep your train of thought.

6. Only present the facts and tell the truth. Invarably the TV station is against you and will jump on any opportunity to trip you up.

If you have enough warning before the show, contact your local APHIS representative for facts and assistance, and also Trapper's Associations and the WILDLIFE LEGISLATIVE FUND OF AMERICA. Local State game departments may or may not be on your side.

*Be yourself today, but don't overdo it.*

**OH ! RATS !!!**
In Boulder (CO) a city policeman says his patrol car was attacked by thousands of rats in the parking lot of a recycling firm. He was in the lot when he heard scratching and squealing noises. Turning on his spotlight, he could see countless numbers of rats coming out of the dumpsters and garbage cans and running across the hood and over the trunk. "I could hear their feet on the roof of the car. They must have toenails like banjo picks." Well, looks like we will have rats, coyotes, and cockroaches with us always.

*If a man tells his wife she is beautiful, she will overlook his other lies.*

**RED PEPPER TOO HOT FOR BIRDS**
A county agent in Blount Co. (TN) claims that a resident old lady got tired of birds pulling corn in her garden. So she sprinkled red cayenne pepper on the dew-laden young sprouts early one morning. After a couple of birds pulled the sprouts and "screamed loudly" that ended her problem. (Any comments ?)
TIMELY TIPS (Tenn. Agric. Ext. Serv.) 4(2): 12 (1982).

*Any man who has to ask for advice probably isn't married.*

**NEW DIRECTOR APPOINTED TO USFWS**
President Reagan today ended speculation on his choice for the new Director in FWS when he nominated a 14-pound white rabbit named "Flopsy" to head the federal unit. In defending his selection of a lower animal to head a

major government organization he said, "We wanted to show conservationists that Republicans love animals and endangered species, but at the same time select someone who has the qualities that we feel reflect our positions on environmental protection - - Flopsy is soft, harmless, male, and white."

Although the nominee, like many animals, is incapable of speech or rational thought, the Administration maintained that this would not be a problem, given the current plans for FWS now that the black-hat ADC misfits had slipped over to USDA. A White House spokesman pointed out the symbolism of the choice far outweighed the difficulties, and it was expected that Flopsy would grow into the job, as have many other FWS Administrators of the past. He pointed to the administrative and leadership skills attributed to rabbits in fairy tales and in such best sellers as WATERSHIP DOWNS. If the American people did not believe in fairy tales, they would not have elected this Administration, he said. Thanx to VP Homer Ford.

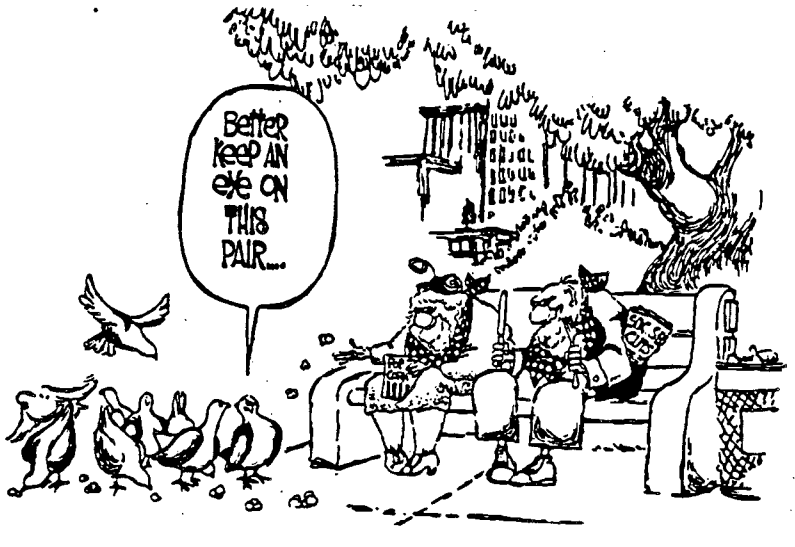
*Politics is a very promising career.*

**WHO'LL WATCH THE BIRDWATCHERS ?**

The public's conception of 'bird-watching' has undergone a significant transformation in recent years. It used to be a genteel pursuit of nature lovers interested in only watching the birds. Now in a tremendous growth in popularity, it has become more competitive. Even the name has been changed from 'birdwatching' to 'birding' which has subtle implications. The new type of birder is more interested in compiling as long a life list as possible and actually has no real interest in the birds themselves.

An incident which illustrates this new attitude occurred at the Reifel Bird Sanctuary in Ladner (British Columbia). The arrival of a rare sandpiper was announced in the press. One afternoon a gentlemen arrived in a taxi and asked where the bird could be seen. It happened to be close at hand, so he glanced at it briefly, made a note in his notebook, climbed back in the taxi, and flew back to Chicago anxious to confront his compadres with another mark on his life list. A wealthy businessman from Jackson (MS) set out to break the record of 657 species in 365 days. He spent $500,000, travelled 150,000 miles, and ended the year with 698 birds because two uncooperative rare birds had failed to make their appearance in Florida on December 31st.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE reports of a gray owl that appeared at Lloyd's Harbor (NY). It upset the town when 500 visitors a



day came into look at the birds. Hoping to get a glimpse, some visitors shook the tree in which it was nesting while others tried to scare it out by shouting and even throwing rocks at it. In northern California birders organized a drive across a marsh to flush out a rare black rail. It was spotted and the group surrounded the location. One man vigorously poked into the bushes while the rest stamped around in the high grass. They finally gave up but one man stayed behind. He eventually found the bird mangled and dying after having been stomped into the mud. When he picked it to assess its injuries, he was castigated by his companions for his thoughtless behavior. It seems one of the rules of birding is that if the bird is touched by hand, it cannot be added to the life-list.

None of this is intended to reflect in any way on the true bird lover who is content in recognizing these beautiful creatures and oftentimes make enormous contributions to our knowledge about them. But the problem of the aggressive minority is so serious that the American Birding Association which did so much to foster the movement is having second thoughts. The Audubon Society has suggested a code of ethics:

o Avoid use of taped bird songs, particularly when the birds are nesting.
o Observe birds from a distance so they are not disturbed.
o When photographing birds, do not use flash and never damage foliage in the vicinity of nests.
o Respect private property and obey posted signs.

Seems we have slob birders as well as slob hunters. OUTDOOR NEWS BULLETIN, V35 #19 (1981)

*There are 3 ways to get something done: Do it yourself, hire someone else, or absolutely forbid your kids to do it.*

**BIRD SCARES**

Welcome a new sponsor to the fold. The REED-JOSEPH INTERNATIONAL CO. is a pioneer company in supplying gas cannons for controlling bird depredations, etc. and has worked with us in the FWS for many years. Their latest flyer on suppplies is attached.

*When working toward the solution of a problem, it helps to know the answer.*

**THERE'S ALWAYS AN OBJECTOR**

A letter to the editor of the DALLAS MORNING NEWS from Bryan (TX) is highly antagonistic to the use of 1080. He objects to Texas registering the toxic collar citing what a toxic material it is - "A single teaspoon can kill 100 adult men...People who have handled (1080-poisoned) carcasses or their vomit have also been poisoned. There are many alternatives...The use of guard dogs, non-lethal taste deterrent baits such as lithium chloride, and livestock pens at night, as well as grazing herds away from the open range...Why should we contaminate our Texas land and threaten our wildlife, even putting our own lives and the lives of our children and pets in jeopardy, for the sake of a few who don't want to bother looking into safer alternative methods ?" (This is why I put in the TV hints. We've got to stand up and be counted.) Thanx to Sally Erdman rtd. blackbird stomper, Denton, TX

*The first 90% of the task takes 90% of the time. The last 10% takes the other 90%.*

*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***

*I want to thank those of you who sympathized with my tale of woe in the last issue. I wasn't complaining just explaining why I made some hooboos in THE PROBE. Unfortuately, that is a hard act to follow when I want to explain away future mistakes.*

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.
PERMIT NO. 1005

National
Animal
Damage
Control
Association

3919 Alta Monte, NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

FORWARDING AND RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED