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Damage Control Association

Wildlife Damage Management, Internet Center for

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The Probe, Issue 84 - June/July 1988

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THE PROBE



National Animal Damage Control Association

JUNE/JULY 1988

NUMBER 84

NADCAC

We were very disappointed when KI FAULKNER (NADCA RDVII) got us the list to learn that we (NADCA) had not been selected to serve on the NATIONAL ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL ADVISORY COMMITTEE appointed to serve USDA-APHIS-ADC. We offer a wealth of expertise in ADC not available to any other group selected. But at least the makeup of the group appears weighted in favor of ADC rather than its opponents:

Floyd T. Anderson, Natl. Sunflower Assn., 4023 N. State St., Bismarck, ND 58501-0629

Robert J. Anderson, Weyerhaeuser Co, Tech. Ctr. WTC 1A2, Tacoma, WA 98477

Robert E. Bash, Ohio Farm.Bur., POB 479, Columbus, OH 43216

Jack R. Berryman, Internatl. Assn. F&W Agencies, 444 N. Capitol St., NW, Washington, DC 20001

MIKE G. CASABONNE, POB 1416, Hope, NM 88250 (NADCA)

Richard E. Ekstrom, SD Farm.Bur., POB 1426, Huron, SD, 57350

*Dr. John H. Fitch (AUDUBON), 40 Buena Vista Dr., Augusta, ME 04330

*Dr. John W., Grandy (HUMANE SOC. U.S.), 2100 L St., NW, Washington, DC 20037

Floyd M. Grigory, POB 199, San Ardo, CA 93450

Dr. WALTER E. HOWARD, Dept. Wildl. & Fish. Biol., Univ. Calif.-Davis, CA 95616-5270 (NADCA)

Ms Debra Hughes, 163 Trail Canyon Road, Carlsbad, NM 88220

*Jay F. Kirkpatrick, East. Mt. Coll., 1500 N. 30th St., Billings, MT 59101-0296

Lester Myers, Indi-Bel, Inc., POB 878, Indianaola, MS 38751

Ms Carol Porter, Wildl. Leg. Fund of Amer., 1000 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 1002, Washington, DC 20036

Dr. D. Lamar Robinette, 307 Long Hall, Clemson Univ., Clemson, SC 29634-0362

Ronald Rolston, WY Dept. Agric., 2219 Carey Ave., Cheyenne, WY 82002-0100

John K. Shafer, PA Farm. Assn., RD#1, POB 441, Tamaqua, PA 18252

Jeffery C. Siddoway, HC 69, POB 3160, Terreton, ID 83450

Nick Theos, 6909 Country Rd. 49, Meeker, CO 81641

Robert R. Turner, TX Farm.Bur., Star Rt. POB 14, Voss, TX 76888

We have got two NADCA members as well as some good friends on the Committee. I've marked the three (*) that I know are ~~anti-control~~.

APHIS ACTIVITY REPT.

The following are abstracted from the weekly activity reports of APHIS-ADC and newsletters like the TEXAS TRAPLINE, THE TRAPPER'S JAW, etc. for the benefit of non-APHIS readers. This is not a publication source. Only names of NADCA members are used in situations in which they are involved.

BEAVER: ADC took 20 beaver from a nursery tree farm in Oklahoma after the owner thought "4 to 6" would do the job. Damage has not stopped yet.

JAN LOVEN/CHARLES WILLIAMS knew they were in for a long session at the Ft.

Worth (TX) Stock show when a woman walked up, pointed to a beaver skull, and asked, "How long was that snake?" (*They do grow them big in Texas.*)

A project to the tune of \$5,025 for ADC to protect the endangered Louisiana Pearlshell from beaver impoundments has been assigned to GREG HARPER.

BIRDS: Earlier last year, ~~Purina~~ ~~Mills~~, sole source of the bird toxicant ~~DRC-1999~~ was having problems getting a key component. What's the latest on this?

BIRD DEPREDATORS- FISH: THURMAN BOOTH is having trouble getting USFWS permits to use lethal controls around specific fishery operations. Eleven permits have been requested from the Atlanta RO, some since mid-October without any action. One of these even has a letter from a USFWS fish pathologist giving details of a yellow grubs transmitted to rosey red fathead minnows by great blue herons.

CHIMNEY SWIFT: SARA DRUMM removed a chimney swift from a residence in San Antonio (TX). She asked the lady, "Ma'am is your flue open?" "I don't know," the lady replied, "I've been divorced for three years."????

COTTONTAILS: Following a heavy snowstorm, 20,000 apple trees were damaged in an Oklahoma nursery to the point they could not sold for a total loss of \$160,000. With permits, night spotlighting/ shooting reduced the damage.

COYOTES: Coyote control seminars in the East are drawing large crowds these days. DON GNEIGY had over 200 attendees in Wytheville (VA) and LEONARD WALKER had about the same number at a couple of meetings in WV.

Holloman AFB (NM) has requested coyote control around their runways as a number of them have been seen. A previously planned project to keep coyotes from harassing research monkeys on the base had to be postponed because of objections from pro-coyote activists. But this time the flyboys could see it as a direct hazard to take-off/landings,

So ADC was given the go-ahead but told to keep a low profile. They took 20 coyotes within 3 weeks on or near the runways. One trapper was arrested briefly by MPs for "eradicating coyotes" as he had four dead ones in his truck.

GARY MCEWEN reports taking 170 coyotes over two months from a Texas Wildl. Mgt. Area. However, the dog people resent these traps on what they consider their personal range. PHIL MASTRANGELO received a lecture on how good these dog owners are, and how they respect the law but don't like the government trying to take away their pastime pleasure. Says PHIL, "These pillars of the community stole traps, stole animals that were in the traps, and also scattered nails across the bridge I regularly crossed...I was assured by the local game warden that they probably wouldn't shoot me; the worst I could expect was to be "roughed up" by a gang of half-crazed dog men...I still removed my equipment."

A Texas trapper snared a coyote that had one snare around the lower jaw, another around its head, and the one that caught it was around his neck. *That is one slippery coyote!*

~~CHARLEY WILLIAMS~~ had a coyote give birth to six pups while in a trap. As CHARLEY remarked, "Den hunting gets easier every day."

FERAL DOGS: A rancher in Midland Co. (TX) lost 48 ewes worth approximately \$4,000 to three feral dogs within a week. The rancher had two guard donkeys on duty at the time, but they were last seen at the sale barn after the dog episode.

FERAL HOGS: These caused \$30,000 damage to sprouting peanut crops in Texas.

GEESE: Nonmigratory Canada geese are causing problems in the Puget Sound area of Washington. Health concerns, water quality, deterioration of waterfront structures, and general nuisance problems amount to approximately \$250,000 per year.

GRACKLES: DON HARKE reported a

grackle die-off on a roost in North Carolina was linked to mold infections in the birds' lungs with tick paralysis as a possible secondary cause. *We didn't do it.*

MONK PARAKEETS: During an unofficial visit to New Orleans, EUGENE LEBOEUF went to visit a previously observed nest site for monk parakeets. As was to be expected the sites had increased from one to three active nest sites. GENE reports, "It is discomfort to see a potential problem growing before your very eyes. On the other hand, one can look at the bright side and view this growing menace as future job security."

RABIES: There has been a major outbreak in Hermosillo (Mexico), 175 miles south of Nogales (AZ), earlier this year. The U.S. became aware of it only through an unofficial request for strychnine through the Arizona APHIS-ADC office. As of last year there were 1,803 human exposures.

RACCOON: GARY MCEWEN got a request from a College Station (TX) man who reported a raccoon getting into his back porch to get stored pet food. At the premises, the back gate had a big sign stating his backyard was registered with the National Wildlife Federation as an "Official Urban Wildlife Habitat". *Sounds like discrimination to me.*

CATS

Knowing my interest in these creatures, you keep sending me enough articles to set up a regular column. However, as the only column head I can think of is KITTY LITTER - that turns even my stomach - I'll just print 'em as I get 'em.

ALAN FOSTER (APHIS, Grand Junction, CO) sent me a Glenwood Springs (CO) article about their City Council trying to get an ordinance "...so we can eliminate these pesky creatures." The residents are complaining about the overabundance of stray cats in town. The only one against a "cat-at-large" law is the Chief of Police who says, "They are physically impossible to catch." Alan suggested I might hang out a shingle, but there are easier ways of making a living.

The higher they are the easier they fall according to a veterinarian study of cats falling from high buildings. In this 132 fallen felines, the worst case scenario fell 32 floors onto solid concrete. It was released after two days observation with nothing worse than a cracked tooth and mild pneumothorax. Seventeen of the cats were euthanized by owners who couldn't afford treatment. Of the remaining 115, 104 survived. The higher the building, the greater the rate of death and injuries - UNTIL the seventh floor, above which the rate declined. *That apparently rules out that method.*

And then Ann Landers (ALBUQUERQUE TRIBUNE 06/06/88) busted my bubble and found (in answer to an irate reader) that this was not a scientific study but records of cats that had accidentally dropped out of high rises and still had more to go on their "nine" lives.

To avoid hangovers -stay drunk.

~~RO-PEE~~

I heard of a "new" repellent (multi-species, taste/smell) that I've been trying to get information on from the manufacturer. Ingredients are benzy-diethyl methyl ammonium saccharide and thymol. Anybody have experience with this?

The best thing about elections is that not all candidates can win.

READIN'

The Proceedings for the EIGHTH GREAT PLAINS WILDLIFE DAMAGE CONTROL WORKSHOP and THIRD EASTERN WILDLIFE DAMAGE CONTROL CONFERENCE are now available. I am not too certain of their availability but these are worth getting if you can. The first one is "Gen.Tech.Rept. RM-154" published by the Rocky Mountain Forest & Range Exp. Sta., Ft.Collins, CO 80526. There is no source of publication on the Eastern one but you can write to NICK HOLLER, Wildlife Ext. Spec., Auburn University to see if any copies are available.

Much as I would like to, I have neither the space nor time to properly review the above publications. The Gt. Plains has 56 articles dealing with prairie

dogs, ground squirrels, black-footed ferrets, pocket gophers, waterfowl production and depredations, coyotes, cougar, beaver, big game, purple martins, policies, etc.

The Eastern one has 60 articles spread over a wider array of species: crows, gulls, geese, beaver, nutria, economics, deer, blackbirds/starlings, squirrels, pigeons, frogs, coyotes, eagles, wolves, voles, etc. Too much - I repeat you need each of the above in any decent ADC library.

The worst thing about middle age is that you outgrow it.

WON ONE

The proposal by a British trade minister to put a "cruelty label" on fur coats made of such animals as lynx and wolf has been scrapped. We would like to think it was on its own merits, but the timing is suspicious. The announcement was made on the eve of Mrs. Thatcher's departure for the economic summit in Canada. It was felt its passage might be embarrassing to Mrs. T.. Canada had protested the move as threatening the livelihood of Eskimo trappers. Furthermore, Britain and France are bidding for a 3 billion pound order for nuclear submarines for the Canadian navy and it is suggested this might help influence the decision. *But like our opponents, we don't care how we win 'em just as long as we do.*

By the time a man gets to greener pastures, he can't climb the fence.

MEETIN'S

SECOND INTERNATIONAL SHORT COURSE IN VERTEBRATE PEST PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, Aug. 14-27, 1989 at Colorado State University. Contact: Dr. Julius Nagy, Dept. Fish. & Wildl.. Biol., CSU, Ft. Collins, CO 80523.

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

ADC-WOOLGROWERS

Dan Murphy (Natl. Woolgrowers Assn.) explains some of ADC's problems in his column (NATIONAL WOOL GROWER, 02/88) which might help the troops understand

USDA a bit better. It is not unusual for government policies to be contradictory - often to the point of being absurd. Such is the funding for APHIS-ADC. When ADC was transferred to USDA in 1985 it became one of the most popular in the Department. USDA reorganized the program to improve its operations. Much of the overhead and bureaucracy was eliminated. Sheep and other agricultural commodity groups lined up to expand their programs in these areas.

Government officials responded to this gush of interest in an odd fashion. On one hand, USDA has formed a high-profile, prestigious Advisory Committee (NADCAC) to advise on measures needed to improve ADC operations and has begun the expensive exercise of rewriting the Environmental Impact Statement for ADC activities for the coming decade. On the other hand, the budget sent to Congress for the past three years has been cut in half, no new programs started, and no new areas involved despite their interest or need. The blame for this inconsistency is in the Office of Management & Budget (OMB). This agency has intentionally cut popular USDA programs that it knows Congress will fully-fund thus shifting the blame on Congress when the budget is exceeded. These bureaucratic ploys are fully understood in Congress and the rest of Washington and taken as the way to do business. Hopefully we can persuade our friends in Congress to give a careful look when it comes to funding the activities of OMB and maybe change their attitude. *(I believe in Santa Claus too.)*

I don't want to start any arguments I just want to explain why you are wrong.

LETTERS TO YE ED

WALTER WEBER, Lecturer/author, Indianapolis, IN:

Walter made an INDIANAPOLIS STAR feature article (04/20/88) on his humorous collection of signs. As he is working on a book on these, he sends out a request of NADCA members for any pictures of old, unusual, historical, hysterical, or just plain interesting unflushable outhouses. He needs these

for a book on outhouses (*and you thought there wasn't anything left to be written*). Walter offers to pay for your pictures. Send them to him (36 W. Roberts Road, Indianapolis, IN 46217) or call collect (317-786-7251). He also wants humorous signs like "Your flatter bladder room", "Happiness is getting there on time", etc.

DR. HARRY PRATT, rtd. USPHS-CDC, Atlanta, GA:

Read your article, PARADISE ON EARTH (Vertebrate pest control in the zoo) in PEST CONTROL 56:6:44-46 (1988). Aren't those toxicant percentages rather high? (*Sorry, Harry, imprecise captions. The percentages (i.e. diphacinone 26%) relate to the percentage of zoos that reported using that particular rodenticide.*)

MILTON WEBSTER, rtd. USFWS, Mercer Island, WA:

According to an article in DISCOVERY (Jun 88) prairie dogs are not the cuddly little buff-colored squirrels we thought them to be. Long term observations in SD show they kiss, muzzle, groom each other, and play together for hours on end. But there is a sadistic side to the relationships. The researcher found a lactating female would slip into her sister's burrow for 20 minutes or so. Investigation found she often decapitated the babies in this burrow. The researcher suggests this is "...to remove future competition, weed out over-crowded colonies, or simply to satisfy hunger...lactation is a stressful period." (*First two sound anthropomorphic to me. Can't believe a prairie dog with population regulation on his mind.*)

DR. WALTER E. HOWARD, Prof. Emeritus, Univ. Calif., Davis, CA:

At the request of the County Agric. Comm. Assoc., the Director of Calif. Dept. Food/Agric. has appointed a task force of representatives from agriculture, university, and government to advise on future needs of vertebrate pest control in California. I have been appointed to that committee. I have also recommended to the new Chancellor at UC-Davis that a new department, (~~Dept. of Pest Mgmt. Ecology~~) bring together applied plant and animal people as we

both have suffered from the philosophical differences prevalent in our respective departments.

DAVID NELSON, APHIS, Pierre, SD:

I went broke with the ADC caps, but the company that made them says they will continue on at the same rate (\$5.00 each for five or more and \$5.50 for less ppd.) Anybody needing them (coyote in the crosshairs chasing a sheep with a plane diving on him) can order them from: The Connection Imprinted Sportswear, POB 459, Pierre, SD 57501 (605) 224-9547.

(*JOHN MAESTRELLI, 7824 Lemon St., Fair Oaks, CA 95628, sent me another cute one - Society for prevention of the yellow dog. Has an emaciated yellow coyote in the crosshairs.*)

NICHOLAS HOLLER, Ext., Wildl. Spec., Auburn Univ., AL:

I apologize again for not being able to respond more promptly to your letter but my teaching duties have kept me fully occupied and it has allowed some time for reader response. My concern for THE PROBE and its content goes beyond the Xmas poem. I enjoy humor, but I guess we differ as to what is appropriate for an organization newsletter. My real concern is the effect some of the material currently included will have on the professional credibility of our discipline with the public and the wildlife profession.

In JIM MILLER's closing talk at the 3rd Eastern WDC, he addressed the need for professionalism in ADC. I would like to quote from his introduction: "As we pursue the topic (professionalism) we need to keep Pogo's statement (we have met the enemy and they is us) in mind and strive to eliminate the negative image both in and out of the profession...we have the responsibility to conduct ourselves and our programs in a professional manner and to remain persistent and positive in our efforts to strength credibility and to eliminate inequities both perceived and real."

I believe Jim expressed the truth and an objective review of THE PROBE would show not infrequently items are printed that result in us being our own enemy. THE

PROBE is the only written document regularly reflecting views, philosophies, and beliefs of NADCA and its members. I do not believe the printing of emotional, negative attacks on organizations is helpful to our cause (*if this applies to SO THAT'S WHERE THE MONEY GOES! I just can't do any different.*). I wonder how many members would compare the activities of professional employees of wildlife agencies to communists (re:Boddicker #81). Why when we report a positive (in our view) action by the USFWS do we have to do it in a negative way? (re:Jones #81)

THE PROBE can be used to credit or discredit NADCA and its members. In its present form I wonder how many members feel it would be helpful in establishing their professional credibility if copies were introduced in a hearing? I know many professionals working in ADC are not members of NADCA. I believe this is often a direct result of the negative approach taken by THE PROBE (*and I thought they were just cheap or unaware.*). I believe there are other members who believe as I do but for reasons of their own have not voiced their opinions.

In my opinion, THE PROBE should not automatically include all items sent in regardless of content. Items should be judged on whether they serve the purpose and credibility of the organization. Items expressing personal opinion should be objective and based on fact. I respect everyone's right to their opinion but do not believe THE PROBE is the place to vent one's emotions. The brochure indicates members "receive a periodical newsletter with up-to-date information on legislation, control methods and materials, notice of training courses and technical publications, useful field programs, activities of other members, etc." The specific topics are all worthy of inclusion and you do a commendable job of covering them. I guess I feel too much negative emphasis is put on "etc."

I consider myself a strong supporter of wildlife damage control as a discipline. I spent 12 years as an employee of DWRC and suffered through all of the

frustrations of lack of agency support. I believe that ADC needs more emphasis at both national and state levels and in our academic program. I think we are developing more support from TWS. I believe NADCA can play an important role in strengthening ADC at all levels. But I believe that it can hinder progress if it continues to maintain an actively negative approach.

I do not question your dedication, Bill. I know you have contributed many hours to not only the newsletter, but other secretarial duties of NADCA. I'm also confident you do so because of a genuine concern for the organization and the discipline. I guess my feelings about the proper approach are quite divergent from those expressed by yourself and some other members.

I guess my only answer is differences in background and philosophy may lead in different directions to the same goal. I admit to a perverse sense of humor, but, outside of attempting to clean my act up a bit, that is my style and I'm stuck with it. Whether writing or lecturing I try to be "funny" according to my standards. My concept of editing is also somewhat different. I try to print every expression I get from the field whether I agree with the content or not (I do clean them up sometimes which may not be enough as my standards are low.). Anything else smacks of censorship in my book. Outside of whittling verbage down (need for space and to eliminate extra typing), I do make every effort to retain the intent and personal viewpoint of the contribution.

I realize the ideal process on an organizational paper is to have an editorial board instead of being the work of one person. This I feel is impractical at present with the constraints NADCA suffers from time, money, and "volunteer labor". So until then, or the appointment of another willing to take on the whole ball of wax, you will have to live with (or without) THE PROBE. I, personally, do not feel that it puts ADC in such a bad light you can't live with it.

The worst thing about the younger generation is that we're not in it.

SO THAT'S WHERE THE MONEY GOES!!

The president of The Humane Society of the United States, John Hoyt, a former Presbyterian minister, draws \$100,000 annually - more than the Vice President of the U.S.A. Compensation for its officers and directors came to \$460,000 in 1985 and other salaries and wages come to \$1,613,302 annually. Not surprisingly, the National Charities Information Bureau states that HSUS does not meet standards of reasonable program management and fund raising expenses. The Massachusetts Society for Protection of Cruelty to Animals is one of the world's most richly endowed organizations having a bankroll of \$67 million.

One clever maneuver used by these giant national animal rights groups is to become involved with smaller local units, which they undermine and claim recognition for the efforts and success of these smaller groups in soliciting funds. Their publicity comes from militant acts like the raid on the labs at the University of Calif. by what the State DA claimed was the third worst terrorist group in the State. A recent article in the ANIMAL AGENDA MAGAZINE (an AR rag), encourages individuals to bust traps for fun and exercise and tells how to locate, steal, and destroy traps. (VOICE OF THE TRAPPER, 28:3:10 (1988)).

(There is no way I can consider these people professional biologists - professional fund-raisers, yes. Give them enough rope and they'll hang ADC. If, you can't live with these "emotions", I can't write THE PROBE to suit you.)

I want my children to have all the things I never could afford. Then I want to move in with them.

NO JUDGE OF BEAUTY

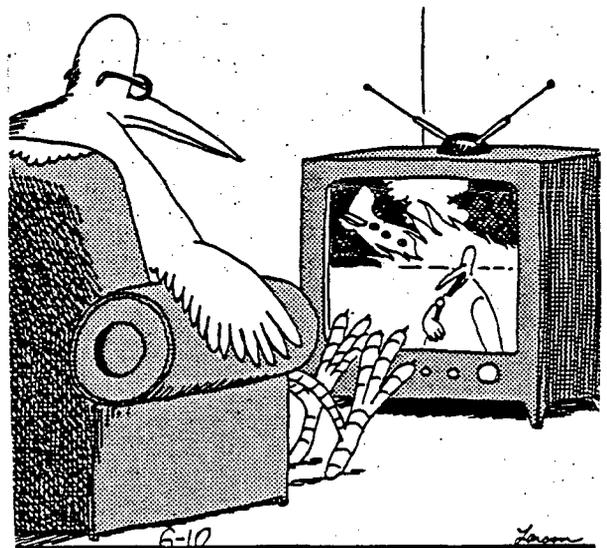
Bob Barker who raised the stink last year on giving fur coats to the beautiful contestants, quit the U.S.A. beauty pageant this year. He was replaced by Alan Thicke who runs a kiddy show with anti-hunter overtones. When asked about this apparent conflict with

his views, he is reported as saying, "I feel that those of us concerned with the plight of animal rights have progressed beyond the point where we need to protest about fur coats in beauty pageants." (Thicke evidently thinks TV exposure is more important at this stage in his career than the ARs.)

A major illness is one that keeps you from work when the kids are out of school.

EUROPEAN AIR STRIKES

BERT HAWKINS (APHIS, Stuttgart, AR) had his Naval Reserve training take him to Spain when he got to sit in on the BIRD STRIKE COMMITTEE EUROPEAN meeting. Problem as usual is with people and regulations. Says they have a Griffin vulture problem on a bombing range. The 12-15 pounders with 9-foot wingspans have cost us two planes and two out of three men.



"Details are still sketchy, but we think the name of the bird sucked into the jet's engines was Harold Meeker."

He sent me the Gary Larson comic and a table of contents of papers presented (but no way to get them). These include: MINIMIZING BIRD HAZARDS AT LOW LEVEL (W. German), RADIO-CONTROLLED BIRD DEFENSE (W. & E. German), BIRDSTRIKE RESISTANCE OF WINDSHIELDS (USA), BIRD DETECTION & DISPERSAL (UK), BIRD TARGETS ON WEATHER RADAR (USA), BIRD AVOIDANCE (UK), etc.

Gossip is what you pass on quickly before you find out it's not so.

ADC AND ECONOMICS

A couple of economists (THE VALUE OF CONTROVERSY: Oregon Agric. Program, Win/Spr 88 ppl4-19) tip-toed right into the middle of fur trapping controversy in Oregon by making an economic study without regard to moral values. They found that a complete ban on fur and ADC trapping would cost agriculture (\$3.5 million), forestry (\$6 million), and recreation (\$7.3 million) - a total of over \$16 million annually. Fur pelts have increased greatly from about \$150,000 in the sixties to \$1.3 million in 1985. They estimated that a 50% trapping ban would cost the State treasury \$8 million; whereas a 10% reduction would cost \$2 million. The DEFENDER OF WILDLIFE rep is quoted as blaming the trapping on federal employees. She says it should be, "...when you want to set a trap yourself, you pay. When you want to use a guard dog, the government pays." In all events the conclusion of the study was: "...trapping has benefits to economic interests in agriculture, recreation, and forestry which are of larger magnitude than the fur values." Thanx to TOM HOFFMAN (APHIS, Portland, OR).

Eat, drink, smoke, and be merry. Why spend time in the hospital dying of nothing?

RATS

The Annual Report of the Danish Pest Infestation Laboratory (M. Lund) 1986 (87) is usually a good source of control data on the Muridae. One study in the current issue concerns acceptance of 0.01% bromadiolone in fresh bait as compared to bait stored for three months.

Bait type	Fresh		Stored	
	Rat	Mouse	Rat	Mouse
Oat meal	14.3	16.8	9.2	17.9
Rolled oats	7.2	22.5	17.2	18.7
Whole oats	24.0	48.2	62.4	55.3
Roll barley	54.5	12.5	11.2	8.1

Rats (Norway) changed from rolled barley to oats when stored. The house mouse kept to the whole oats in both cases.

In a study of the differential effect of water deprivation on Norway and roof rats, both species consumed equal amounts of water in relation to body weights, and both reacted almost immediately by cutting consumption of oat feed with removal of water. But death was more pronounced for roof rats than the Norways. In ten days 10/10 and 9/10 roof rats were dead and 9/10 and 2/10 in the Norway rat tests.

Any intelligent consumer knows what a warranty means. It means that whatever happens isn't covered.

PERSONNEL

SARA DRUMM is resigning from her San Antonio (TX) station to get married the end of June. Best of luck.

LINDA PENRY has been transferred from the Kentucky program to San Antonio (TX).

KIRK GUSTAD is moving from North Dakota to a more favorable climate, Nebraska.

Two can live as cheaply as one but only half as long.

ALL THE NEWS THAT'S PRINT TO FIT

With typical newspaper disregard for the facts, the WASHINGTON POST (04/14/88) reported a story about a couple who bought a house only to find it infested with bats. The PCO who did the job claimed that since "bats are endangered species" they cannot be killed but must be removed with "special traps or sonar sound devices." Thanx to JEFF HORWATH (APHIS, Alexandria, VA).

Bambi is causing Georgia residents to have second thoughts about the resurgence of this symbol of cutesy, familial love. The herd in this State has grown so far out-of-bounds the urban types are getting deer through their windshields and complete devastation of their expensive landscaping. Thanx to DR. HARRY PRATT (rtd. USPHS-CDC) and ATLANTA JOURN. & CONSTITUTION, 06/12/88.

"Drinking toad slime is illegal in Australia." That's the headline (CHRONICLE (San Francisco, CA 04/15/88)) that caught REX MARSH's eye. I really had thought their worst habit was drinking warm beer, but in reading

further, I found the skin of the ugly little cane frog has hallucinogenic properties. However, boiling the skin to extract the slime and then drinking it has all the charm of playing Russian roulette. The skin contains the poisonous drug, bufotenine, which has killed dogs, cats, snakes, and other wildlife in Queensland (Australia). It was also used as an arrow poison by some of the natives of its original South American home. But as a Queensland University zoologist has said, "People have tried lots of things up here in the tropics. There is a long list of bizarre tropical goodies in the state that are boiled, smoked, ground or chewed by people with nothing better to do."

A 19-year old girl is sitting in jail in Maryland because she refuses to divulge who she gave her pet ferret to after it bit a 5-year old boy. The health authorities want to test it for rabies, but she refused to surrender it and the animal has disappeared. Us (human) animals ain't got no rights no more. Thanx to JEFF HORWATH and THE WASHINGTON POST 06/21/88.

Ten bald eagles have died in Maryland (March 12 to May 3) "apparently because they ate illegally poisoned animal carcasses". The story goes on that there have been carcasses near all the eagles and "officials speculate the animals were poisoned by farmers trying to kill predators that prey on livestock." This is the type of news coverage we get in the West. If the autopsy uncovers causative agents other than predicides, nothing more will be heard. I wish somebody back there will bug the USFWS for the complete story as I'd like to follow it up. Thanx to KI FAULKNER (NADCA RD-VII) and WASHINGTON POST 05/14/88.

In an apparent bizzare rent collection approach, two California men are in jail on charges of beating up an allegedly delinquent renter and putting him in a cage with a "black wolf" (*knowing newspaper taxonomy - it was probably a tan poodle*). According to the police, the "wolf got in two good licks" but they were not serious. Thanx to GUY CONNOLLY (NADCA - RDIII) and IDAHO

STATESMAN.

JEFF HORWATH and WASHINGTON POST (04/25/88) sent a followup to the news item about Takoma Park's replacing bait handouts with live traps (THE PROBE #76). The City Council bought TWO Havahart traps that are gathering dust at the Public Works Dept. Nobody has requested them. They also made a videotape showing residents how to set them but were unhappy with it and plan a new one and got some glue traps (*More humane than toxicants??*).

I think our No. 1 problem is that nobody wants to take responsibility for anything, but don't quote me.

~~PREDATORS TAKE~~

~~ONLY THE SICK PREY~~
GUY CONNOLLY (NADCA-RDIII) sent me an article I wish I could understand. It is a statistical paper (*I doubled my mathematical capability when I learned I could take my socks off and use my toes.*). The part written in English indicates that red-tailed hawks do not take substandard (young, weak, aged, injured, etc.) individuals of a prey species (chipmunks, cottontail rabbits, and gray squirrels) disproportionately out of a population despite balance of nature adherents. He also gives 12 instances each in the literature on predator studies where this has gone either way. (S.A. Temple, ECOLOGY, 68:3:669-674 (1987))

If you have to ask you can't afford it - but I never believed this would apply to postage stamps.

CONIBEAR HOLDER

Texas ADC described a Conibear trap holder that looks practical for setting from a boat in deep water. Designed by Kevin Grant, it consists of two metal rods welded together with a piece of angle iron at the bottom. The Conibear is set and slipped down over the burrow entrance. It is difficult to carry over long distances, but it might keep from getting your feet wet. See drawing on other side.

A pun is the lowest form of humor - until you get a chance to use it.

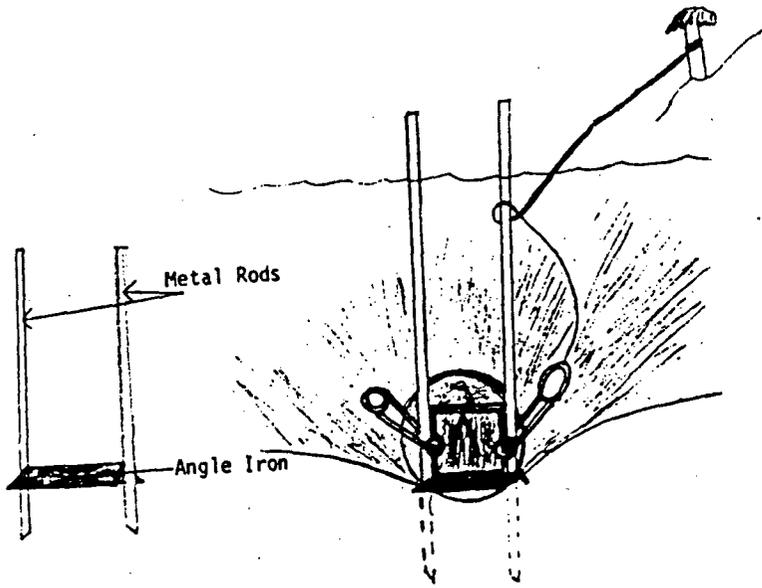
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YE ED -
William D. Fitzwater

I only get copies of Texas and New Mexico newsletters. Surely some of you have a newsletter. What about putting me on the mailing list? Also what about starting a drive to get some new members from the troops or does the editorial comment of *THE PROBE* really turn them off? This is a good time. Anybody can join for half price (\$7.50) for the rest of this year.

I'm permitted to write only 10 letters a year (money, money, money). This is one double (June/July). The next will probably be for August/September. I kinda like taking the pressure off too as this isn't all that easy. PLEASE GIVE ME YOUR CHANGE OF ADDRESS as this job is difficult enough.

adios,

**National
Animal
Damage
Control
Association**



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