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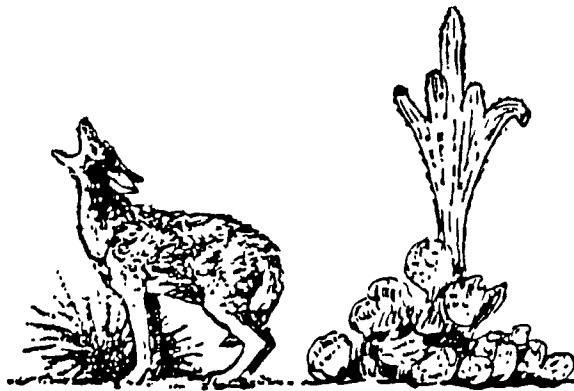


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THE PROBE



National Animal Damage Control Association

OCTOBER 1988

NUMBER 86

CONGRATULATIONS WLFA!

The WILDLIFE LEGISLATIVE FUND OF AMERICA is celebrating its tenth year of protecting the rights of sportsmen to hunt, trap, and fish. The story of the WLFA goes back to an Ohio ballot in 1977 which would have banned all trapping in that State. Jim Glass, with the help of the American Fur Industry, put together an effective coalition of all interests affected by the trapping ban, including wildlife, agriculture, public health, trappers, hunters, farmers, church groups, organized labor, etc. Despite pre-election surveys predicting trapping would lose by a big margin, the campaign worked and the bill was defeated by a 2:1 margin.

With the bill defeated, Glass resumed his duties as an executive for Rockwell International and the others involved went back to their respective jobs. But, the telephone began to ring with calls for help from other States experiencing the same problem. It was soon apparent that a full-time organization was needed to cope with the challenge of the animal rights movement. Thus a staff under Jim Glass was assembled and WLFA was born in 1988. Funding came from national, state, and local sportsmen's conservation organizations, individual sportsmen, corporations with a stake in the outdoor field, and philanthropic foundations. In the first year of incorporation, WLFA had been involved in legislative issues in 24 states and had made a difference for sportsmen in Georgia, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, California, etc.

By 1981 WLFA was recognized as the most formidable opponent of the anti-hunting forces in America. In 1982 WLFA launched a national effort to secure laws banning harassment of hunters, fishermen, and trappers in the field by animal rights activists. To date 27 states have passed such measures. As the animal rightists perceive trapping as the Achilles' heel of the hunting movement, WLFA has been particularly effective in combatting anti-trapping bills in several states. They have also been vigilant in thwarting local, municipal, and county government efforts to ban hunting and trapping in the local jurisdictions as these are in violation of State authority over resident wildlife.

When the courts ordered a halt to the export of bobcat skins for the 1980-1 season over the advice of wildlife professionals, WLFA swung into action to get this rescinded. It reasoned rightly that if courts could make such decisions regarding bobcats they could do the same for any wildlife species on an emotional appeal. The Common Sense Amendments to the Endangered Species Act overturned the bobcat ruling and for the first time established a national sportsman lobby in Washington. Another victory has been in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Here the anti-hunting organizations were using this treaty to knock out valid uses of abundant wildlife species. In 1985 CITES was considering a worldwide ban on hunting and trapping, but WLFA mounted a lobbying effort to defeat this measure. Right now they are gearing up for

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another fight that would ban hunting on
 wildlife refuges. While the Humane
 Society of the U.S. dropped a previous
 suit to achieve this, they have now
 taken the tactic of getting the law
 changed so this will be the stage for
 the next round. As America becomes more
 litigious-minded (after all we have to
 feed the voracious appetites of the
 hordes of law factory graduates), legal
 considerations rather than moral or
 economic will become more and more
 important in wildlife management than
 Aldo Leopold ever imagined. WLFA has
 been a good friend of ADC and we hope it
 will be around for many more decades.

If I had a little bit of humility, I'd
 be perfect.

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.

ARMADILLO: (TX) ADC responding to a
 complaint about gophers in a yard,
 diagnosed the damage as armadillo.
 While the homeowner was sure it was
 gophers, they tried trapping the
 armadillo with no luck. Then MARTIN
 MENDOZA recommended BOB BEACH's
 armadillo bait - boiled macaroni.
 Their credibility with the homeowner
 dropped even lower, but shortly
 afterwards they caught the wildest
 armadillo they had ever seen.

BEAVER: (OK) Beaver flooded a
 construction site along Hwy. 59
 resulting in a \$10,000 two-week delay on
 the project. The highway agency
 determined it would cost the State an
 additional \$10,000 if the beaver were
 permitted to remain. ADC personnel took
 4 beaver and stopped the damage.

COYOTES: (WY) Wyoming sheep
 producers lost 88,600 sheep and lambs to
 all causes in 1987. Predation by
 coyotes accounted for 38.8% of the loss
 while the losses to all other predators
 was 13.7% - a total loss to predation of
 52.5%

(UT) A sheepman put 300 ewes in a
 pasture that had not been used for
 years. When an ADC specialist visited
 the camp he found only 12 lambs left
 alive. Bodies of 50 others killed by
 coyotes were found. The trapper took
 three adults and eight pups from the
 area.

(CA) An orchardist blamed coyotes for
 chewing off 100 plus tee-joints on the
 main line of his irrigation system and
 several hundred feet of feeder lines had
 to be spliced or replaced.

(OK) Two ranchers reported the loss of
 22 calves valued at \$1,350 plus others
 injured. Fifty-four coyotes were taken
 from the area with aerial hunting.

(TX) GARY MCEWEN reported a cattle
 rancher splitting his 3,500-acre ranch
 into three pastures. On the two having
 coyote control he had a 93% calf crop
 while the one without control had only a
 70% crop.

(CO) GLYNN RILEY, JOHN DORSETT, and their wives after vacationing in Crested Butte (CO) were returning home. GLYNN said, "Well, it's back to the sheep and goats in Texas." At that instant a coyote loped across the road in front of them and JOHN said, "All you have to do is mention sheep and goats and the coyotes show up!"

From Wyoming weekly report: Approximately one year after they were in place, guarding dogs were regarded favorably by the ranchers, 33 dogs being placed with 26 cooperators. One camp tender reported seeing a guard dog catch and kill a coyote while his sheep were being trailed to a new area. Another cooperator reported very few losses whereas a neighbor was having considerable loss. "He attributes the reduction in losses to a combination of efforts -- the guard dog, the ADCS who has taken six coyotes from the area, and the herder who shot four coyotes and his neighbor." (*Don't you think that last control measure was a little extreme?*)

EGRETS: (CA) After losing 2,400 pounds of mosquito fish at an estimated loss of \$15,600, a Mosquito Abatement District requested assistance in setting up a scare device program.

FERAL HOGS: (TX) GARY MCEWEN had a complaint on feral hogs damaging rice, maize, and corn crops in Jackson County. They aerial hunted 40,000 acres using dogs to flush the pigs from the brush where they were hiding. Twenty-one hogs were taken.

FOX: (TX) ADC picked up a fox from a man who had set snares for the fox killing his cats. The man had watched a cat go through the snare but the female gray fox chasing it didn't make it. Her two pups had also been seen chasing cats.

~~GEESE, CANADA:~~ (OH) APHIS research used alpha-chloralose (A-C) in four operations to take some 18 geese. A-C was mixed in margarine and spread on bread baits at the rate of 25-125 mg per bait. A goose consuming 75-150 mg of A-C is immobilized within 0.5-1.5 hours and recovers 4-18 hours later. They

concluded the technique to be effective, safe, and acceptable to the public.

MOUNTAIN LION: (CA) Using a homemade, elevated shooting tower and night vision equipment, an ADC specialist took a male mountain lion that had killed eight sheep the week before.

(CA) ~~A~~ ~~lamb~~ rancher lost one breeding animal to mountain lions at a value of \$6,000.

(TX) The Parks & Wildlife Dept. reported 20 of the original 36 and at least six of another band of 25 bighorn sheep have been lost to lions.

(NM) A lion killed a ewe and two lambs the day before a lion permit expired. It was renewed and the lion taken 14 days later. This animal had killed 14 lambs the first time it preyed on this ranch.

OWLS: (LA) A lady called the ADC office complaining about ~~screech owls~~, ~~keeping her awake at night.~~ DWIGHT LEBOEUF after explaining the many benefits screech owls may provide finally had to recommend pyrotechnics to haze the owls. As there were horses being kept near the owls' roost, this method couldn't be used either.

PRAIRIE DOGS: (NM) This species has caused considerable damage in the northeast section of the State. The biggest loss, estimated at \$17,312, was to rangelands, but crops, pastures, dikes, and other property suffered some damage.

~~RATS, COMMENSAL:~~ (TX) JOHN DORSETT in response to the request of a San Angelo animal shelter recommended a single dose anticoagulant. They had killed about 50 rats when the Humane Society who helps run the shelter wanted them to stop using the poison and install ~~sonic~~ devices.

ROCK SQUIRRELS: (NM) These rodents built a grass nest on an automobile engine causing it to burn up and requiring replacement of the vehicle.

SKUNKS: (ND) Skunks caused a \$1,500 loss to an apiary. They destroyed the insulation on the hives and killed bees which had been stored for the winter.

Everyone is like a carpet tack - he can't go any farther than his head will let him

BEAVER FEVER

Diarrhea has recently become acceptable in Rocky Mountain cocktail parties as a status symbol. Now you can raise your status as an outdoorsman by attesting to the severity of your infection with *Giardia lamblia*. This little intestinal protozoan that causes a severe case of diarrhea is becoming a world-wide pest as it lives and reproduces in the intestines of many mammals including man and beaver. A resistant cyst stage is passed in the feces of an infected mammal. This stage can remain viable for over two months in cold water, so those "cold, pristine mountain waters" you may drink may not be all that "pure". Virtually any drainage in this country today can contain infective cysts of this parasite so don't tempt fate - don't drink running water in the woods unless it has been properly disinfected. Cysts can be killed by boiling for 2-5 minutes (the longer times at higher elevations) or by treatment with chemical disinfectants like chlorine/iodine tablets or household bleach.

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

READIN'

MUSKRAT TRAPPER'S GUIDE by Mitchell S. Ricketts paperback 182pp ill. \$13.95. ELK RIVER PRESS, POB 488, Independence, KS 67301

This new entry in a trapper's guide series published by our member organization, ELK RIVER PRESS, is a good companion to the previously published **BOBCAT TRAPPER'S GUIDE** (see flyer). Well illustrated and researched, it appears to be a definitive text on muskrat trapping. After an excellent description of muskrat habitats, it goes into more background on muskrat populations, movements, diseases, predation concepts, environmental

emergencies, and reproductive biology than most other books I have read written for the fur taker, besides the usual detailed instructions on trapping techniques and marketing the catch. While he includes a most comprehensive and updated bibliography, the text is not keyed to the bibliography. This makes for a much more readable work in general as his writing is clear and concise but it annoys the researcher in me not to be able to check his statements with their sources.

The second flyer in this issue is for the publications of a recent NADCA member, THOMPSON PUBLICATIONS. These are of a more general pest control nature, but he also lists two books by NADCA member, WALTER WEBER (DISEASES TRANSMITTED BY RATS AND MICE and HEALTH HAZARDS FROM PIGEONS, STARLINGS AND ENGLISH SPARROWS) which were reviewed in THE PROBE when they first appeared as being worthy additions to the ADC library.

THE BIG GAME OF THE WORLD by Werner Trensse. 400pp ill. \$160 IR Publ. Ltd., 150 E. 27th St., New York, NY 10016
This is a classic revision of a German-language worldwide listing of big game species. There is a slight reduction and a "collectors edition" with a prepublication order before the end of the year. In case you are interested you can write the publishers directly.

TRANSLOCATION OF WILD ANIMALS edited by Leon Nielsen and Robert D. Brown. Paperback ill. 353pp \$19.50 IR publ. 150 E. 27th St., Suite 1A, New York, NY 10016.

There are two sections to this collection of papers. The first is on the principles and guidelines of translocation of wild animals and the last part on selected case studies. Translocation is discussed as a complicated, costly, and "often overrated wildlife management technique". "While translocations appear to have great public and political appeal, they are best limited to situations where the purpose is justified and the benefits...clearly outweigh the difficulties and expense..." Method of

capturing, processing, and transporting the animals is discussed. The selected case studies deal mostly with exotic species. In this country (with the exception of Alaska) only translocation of wolves and various ungulate species are mentioned. None of these efforts appeared economically or biologically outstanding successes.

*When the metric system takes over,
what'll we call 'pound cake'?*

MEETIN'S

THIRD NATIONAL MOUNTAIN LION WORKSHOP,
Dec. 5-8, 1988 at Prescott (AZ).
Sessions on current research/management
of population monitoring, harvesting,
and law enforcement. Contact: Harley
Shaw, POB 370, Chino Valley, AZ 86323

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.

*The nice thing about trivia is it
keeps us from worrying about important
problems.*

PERSONNEL

W. K. BIRCHFIELD retired August 31st
after 32 years of service. He has been
invaluable to the Texas ADC program and
will be badly missed! Good luck in your
retirement.

*I have an incurable disease. I'm
lazy.*

LETTERS TO YE ED

DR. HARRY D. PRATT, rtd. USPHS, Atlanta,
GA:

Thought you "westerners" might be
interested in these of interest to us
"easterners" (see ALL THE NEWS...).
Many "endangered species" seem to be
making a comeback: alligators, deer,
black bear, etc. In the way of larger
birds, the brown pelican seems to be
regaining its numbers and Georgia now
has American eagles and osprey nesting
in secluded, unidentified places. Keep
up your good work which we all enjoy and
look forward to.

WALTER WEBER, Pesticide Consultant,
Indianapolis, IN:

I am writing to ask a favor and I'm not
even running for vicepresident on the
Republican ticket. I hope you will
continue those clever one liners along
with all the latest information just as
in the past. It is so important that we
have you as a source of up-to-date ADC
information. After God created the
world, he made man and woman, then to
keep the whole thing from falling apart,
he invented humor. Don't let anyone
talk you out of those important
smile-makers.

*Old pineapple growers never die. They
just go on Dole.*

THE LABEL THAT NEVER RETURNED!!

We submitted a label for our new
material
To the boys in the EPA.
Now for months we have been waiting,
Just to hear what they would say.

Did it ever return?

No it never returned;

And its fate is yet unlearned.

*It may hide forever 'neath a pile of
paper,*

Our label may never return.

*We gathered data from a hundred trials
From across the USA.*

*We put them together, with our brand new
label*

And sent them to the EPA.

Chorus

When we finally heard about our label,

We thought our waiting days were o'er.

*They said, "We like so well the data you
sent us,*

Please go out and get some more!"

Chorus

*To comply with the rules for a new
registration*

Is hard to be arranged.

When we finally get the job completed,

*They say, "We're sorry but the rules
have changed."*

Chorus

(Thanx to GLENN HOOD (rtd. APHIS, Denver, CO) and GUY CONNOLLY (NADCA RD III, APHIS, Twin Falls, ID)

*The most conceited man in the world?
He calls Dial-A-Prayer to see if there
are any messages.*

PRESERVE ' POSSUMS

LYLE CROSBY (APHIS, Casper, WY) sent an article (R.L.Hill - FUR AGE WEEKLY, 6/27/88) regarding the paying for a "spotted owl coordinator" who is to check that species' presence in Oregon with the purpose of preserving habitat at the expense of local industry. He suggests other animals are more at risk than the owls. (1) Dead opossums litter the highways. (*Boy! Can they litter!*) He suggests they prohibit driving anywhere in the State where there is a chance of running over a opossum (98% of the State) or fitting them out with Nikes so they can move faster. (2) ~~Many gardeners kill slugs indiscriminately because they leave a trail of slime about as Hall points out, so do many TV evangelists and we don't kill them.~~ (3) It was a traumatic shock when his daughter found out people eat real bunnies besides chocolate ones. As rabbit may be passed off as chicken by some unscrupulous butchers, he suggests the banning of all meat eating in Oregon. (4) As many deer are killed by hunters annually and this would be difficult to stop politically, he suggests rifles be banned and hunters permitted to use only rocks. The NRA would have to change its name to the NATIONAL ROCK ASSN. and hunters would have to file Geologic Impact Statements. (5) The high death rate of mice is blamed on entrepreneurs trying to build better mouse traps even though it has already been invented under the trademark C-A-T. He suggests all entrepreneurs would be jailed and tortured until they agree to become CPAs, all journalists using "build a better mousetrap" would be executed, and all cats sold to medical laboratories. Of course they would have to shoot all spotted owls to keep them from getting out of hand.

*Hardly anything is as upsetting as
picking up a lunch check for someone who
is too rich to carry money.*

ALL THE NEWS THAT'S PRINT TO FIT

The UC Hopland Field Station (Hopland, CA) reports that predator depredations are interfering with the important sheep research activities of that facility. During 1987, there were 202 confirmed predator kills on the Station's flocks (143 by coyotes, 31 by mountain lions, 25 by dogs, and 3 by foxes). In addition 175 were found dead but could not be positively identified as predator kills and another 214 were listed as missing. With a base flock of 1,500 adult sheep this represents a serious loss of research data. BOB TIMM (Station Superintendent) is reported to have said, "It is easy to see why ranchers in this county have abandoned sheep production. If the field station had to rely on the sale of lamb and wool to fund our operations, coyotes would have put us out of business a long time ago." Sheep raised in Mendocino County have dropped from 48,800 head in 1967 to 14,835 in 1987. BOB said, "Increased livestock use of our rangelands would improve our local economy, reduce fire danger, and enhance wildlife habitat." UKIAH DAILY JOURNAL 8/3/88

Roy McBride, manufacturer of the 1080 toxic collar, at a talk to the Texas Sheep & Cattle Raisers Assn., reported that ranchers in Wyoming can't use the collar as EPA has ruled the proposed Wyoming label doesn't warn the user that the red dye marker is a suspected carcinogen, "As if you really need to worry about getting cancer 20 years down the road from a poison that is going to kill you right away." (*Typical EPA philosophy - swallow a camel and gag on a gnat.*) LIVESTOCK WEEKLY 7/21/88

~~The USFWS is still unable to come to a conclusion on why duck production is so low.~~ A study on hatch success on the Union Slough NWR showing only 10% success due mainly to predation has lead to the conclusion, "Future research will focus on evaluating a predator management program whereby predators will be removed by humane methods, followed by another estimation of nest success." (*Our old agency not only likes to reinvent the wheel, but they deflate the tire so it looks different.*) They also found in a

study of wood duck nesting success in the Yazoo NWR that contaminants they were blaming were not the problem but rather predation by bobcats. FISH & WILDLIFE NEWS (USDI), May-July, 1988.

Stoneham (MA) has an increasing problem with Canada geese. The gaggle that gags has risen from a "handful" ten years ago to about 650 today. The problem is due to people who started feeding migrant geese who were just passing through and found this to be a sucker handout. Now residents are complaining about the noisy night parties, traffic jams, destruction of lawns, increased bacteria count in the local water supply, and the tons of recycled food products. TIMES-NEWS (Twin Falls, ID) 8/2/88

California zookeepers are in a twitter over a condor egg. Every so often, they strike the egg with a thin steel rod that supposedly resembles a mother condor pecking to encourage the chick to emerge. As soon as the chick gets out, there will be one more ugly vulture in the world. It works better if you hit the egg with a thick steel rod, like a crowbar - here, let me show you... (Some real animal lovers out there!) Column in (Butte) MONTANA STANDARD 5/2/88.

A new genetically-altered rabies vaccine is being tested on Eastern coastal islands by baiting for wild carnivores. Developed by the Wistar Inst., it is hoped this will be successful in immunizing wild animal populations against rabies. WASHINGTON (DC) POST HEALTH, 5/10/88.

A report on the predator symposium held in Lubbock (TX) last April quoted Stephen Kellert (statistician) as emphasizing the wide differences in predator control concepts between the public in general and producers directly concerned. He found age ("people, as they grow older, become more practical" and more favorable towards ADC), gender (women more staunchly opposed ADC than men), socioeconomic level and urban vs rural life style (lower income and rural groups are more in favor of predator control). "Only in rare circumstances of unequivocal support for the human

'beneficiary of predator control and the protected animal, accompanied by overwhelming hostility toward the predator as a species, will predator control be an uncontroversial issue. An 'ostrich mentality' that seeks to promote predator control in a social vacuum is increasingly vulnerable to political attack and confrontation ...Society is more concerned with wildlife than ever before and yet has less contact with it than ever before." ~~Dr. Shultz~~ (TX Extension Service) gave examples of ADC being "...merely a matter of priorities." A friend who was passionately concerned about killing depredating golden eagles as being federally protected, was out with a shotgun blasting away at hawks that were going after his pigeons. He was proud of his hawk score until it was pointed out these were federally protected too. ~~In another case a distraught woman called about a fireplace full of birds. They were screened in but the flapping was scattering ashes around her living room.~~ She became so desperate she lit a fire but claimed, "You could smell burning feathers, but they still wouldn't leave." ~~This woman wouldn't dream of hunting an animal, "...but she willfully and knowingly set fire to a bird..." because it was causing a mess in her own living room.~~ LIVESTOCK WEEKLY 4/21/88.

Thank to GUY CONNOLLY, NADCA RD III, APHIS, Twin Falls, ID for all the above items.

A USFWS sting operation ended in the arrest of 43 persons accused of poaching bear in the southern Appalachians. They confiscated 266 bear gallbladders, 385 bear claws, 77 bear feet (no shoes?), live bear cub, 3 stolen vehicles, 1 gallon of moonshine, etc. The gallbladders (considered a powerful Asian aphrodisiac) are worth \$1,000 on the Oriental market. Other wildlife parts, such as, swan testicles, camel humps, and hyena/turtle penises, are also believed to have the same powers. (Thank to Dr. HARRY PRATT, rtd. USPHS, Atlanta, GA and THE ATLANTA (GA) JOURNAL

& CONSTITUTION, 8/24/88.

Along the same theme, Florida alligators have made a comeback since being placed on the endangered list in 1962. So much so that a ten-foot bull alligator lurched out of a lake near Sarasota and dragged off a four-year old girl. It was caught six hours later with the girl's body still in its jaws. Overnight the offices of the Game & Freshwater-fish Comm. was inundated with calls demanding the annihilation of the alligator population. (*just a matter of "priorities" and whose ox is being gored*) Thanx to WALTER WEBER and TIME 8/20/88.

*The income tax is the fairest for all.
It gives everybody an equal chance at poverty.*

NOW HEAR THIS!

E.E.Littrell, WILD CARNIVORE DEATHS DUE TO ANTICOAGULANT INTOXICATION, Calif. Fish & Game, 74:183 (1988).

A raccoon and a mountain lion were found dead near a mountain stream. On

autopsy the raccoon and lion were found to have 55 ppm and 45 ppm diphacinone in the blood, respectively. The details of the poisoning are unknown but it points to exposure to illegally high dosages of this anticoagulant and its danger to non-rodent species. (Thanx to REX MARSH, UC-DAVIS, CA).

*They say you can't take it with you.
I just want it to last until I'm ready to go.*

EDITORIAL COLUMN

This is coming a little earlier as I am trying to get things out of the way. I have a couple of meetings to go to here in New Mexico this month and I'll be out of the country most of October so the next one will be late.

YE ED

William D. Fitzwater

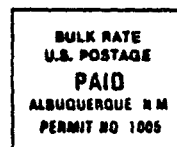
Adios,



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