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Wildlife Damage Management, Internet Center for

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# The Probe, Issue 93 - June 1989

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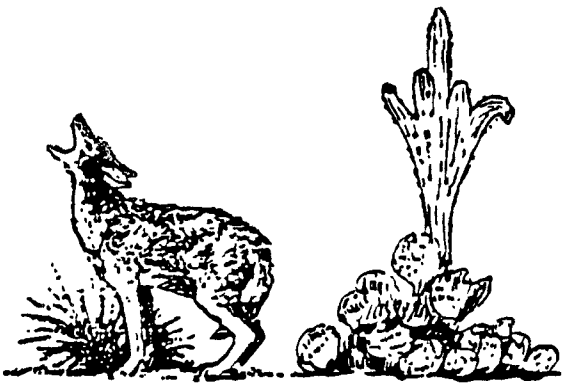
# THE PROBE




## National Animal Damage Control Association

**JUNE 1989** **NUMBER 93**


### NADCA LOTTERY

Thanks to J. BARTHELL JOSEPH, JR. of REED-JOSEPH COMPANY (the boom-boom bird bangers), you have another chance to win a book. He has generously offered to put up another copy of that great Ontario Trapper's book (WILD FURBEARER MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION IN NORTH AMERICA). Enclosed are another six tickets for the same price ($1.00 each; $5.00 for six). Write your name and address on the back of the tickets you purchase and send them and the money to YE ED. Keep the other part. We'll close acceptance of entries September 18, 1989 so we will be ready to have the drawing for this 10.5-pound, 1100+ page beauty sometime during the Conference in Madison (see MEETIN'). You don't have to be present to win as we'll send the copy to the winner. Hell! Life is a gamble anyway as anybody in ADC is well aware.

We wish to express our appreciate AGAIN to the REED-JOSEPH COMPANY, makers of bird scaring devices, for their continued generous support of NADCA.

*One place where you're sure to find the perfect driver is in the back seat.*

### APHIS ACTIVITY REPT.

*(The following are abstracted from the weekly activity reports of APHIS-ADC and newsletters like the TEXAS TRAPLINE, THE TRAPPERS' JAW, IDAHO TRAPPIN AND GRABBIN, 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** - (ND) Beavers chewed up a ground telephone cable putting the area out of service for several hours.

**COYOTE** - (TX) GLYNN RILEY reports a do-it-yourselfer who was having coyote problems. She set a trap at a lamb carcass and caught a raccoon. The next night she got a male coyote. But when she approached to do him in, her blasting with a .410 made him so nervous he broke the chain and dashed into a thicket. Nothing daunted she set fire to the thicket and when he couldn't stand the heat, he made a break. Though it took a half box of shells to get him, he never made it. Sounds like while her trapping is pretty good, she should brush up on her marksmanship.

**CROW** - (NM) A large crow roost in Yeso has cost the Santa Fe RR $20,000 in repairs to electrical switching equipment and wiring. Several thousand crows roosting along the lines have caused them to actually drop to the ground. The insulation wears off and nesting activities causes the wiring to short out. Propane cannons have not been successful and there are no other suitable roosting sites in the area.

**GROUSE** - (ID) A district supervisor tried unsuccessfully to contact one of his aerial gunners to warn him to stay away from an area where the State was trying to capture grouse for a study. When the gunner landed he heard about it

## IN MEMORIAL

### GREG ROST

We were shocked last month (June 20) with the untimely death of GREG ROST and his wife, JOY. GREG is the son of NADCA President GEORGE and JEAN ROST. The couple and a friend were flying from their home in Galena (AK) to Challis (ID) where they were to join GREG's sister and husband (SANDY & TOM BECK) in a float trip down the Salmon River. GREG was piloting his own plane when they ran into a sudden snow storm a few minutes from their destination. A wing tip brushed a tree top and the plane flipped over, killing all immediately. The funeral services were held on Monday (June 26) when they were buried together in Albuquerque. GREG had five sisters who came in from Germany, New Hampshire, Indiana, Colorado, and New Mexico to attend the funeral.

GREG was 38 on the start of a very promising career in the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. He had gotten his B.S. from Utah State University where he made "Wildlifer of the Year" and an M.S. from Colorado State University. He went to work in ADC moving up to District Supervisor in Elko (NV). He left ADC to become a Pilot Biologist for USFWS Refuges stationed in Galena (AK) because of his love for flying. His wife, Joy Biggs, was also of Albuquerque. A "Gregory Rost Memorial Educational Fund" has been set up at the College of Natural Resources, Wildlife Dept., Utah State University, Logan, UT 84322-5200 to his memory. This has been a terrible blow to his family and all of us who knew him as a thoughtful, good-natured, and dedicated person.

### RON OGDEN

RON retired from the position of Illinois State Director in January, 1989, and moved to Bend (OR) on February 25th. He died May 22, 1989.

and called the supervisor to report that he had found a place where grouse poachers were trying to trap grouse and every trap had a grouse in it. He landed nearby and released all the grouse leaving the traps open to teach the poachers a lesson. When the silence got too long on the other end of the line, the trapper finally admitted that he was only kidding. No wonder District Supervisors age so quickly in the field.

**MOUNTAIN LION** - (TX) A young female mountain lion with the help of her mother killed 92 lambs valued at $5,520.

**ROOF RAT** - (TX) A roof rat infestation at a chicken layer operation caused a documented $176,000 worth of damage to electrical wiring, foam insulation, water pipes, sheetrock, freeze board, cooling rods and pipes, packaging material, and feed. Where PCO use of anticoagulants failed, ADC prebaited and took some 700 rats with zinc phosphide on apples. On a hog farm in a nearby county, another effort is planned as the manager has lost $38,000 in damage to buildings, equipment, and feed.

## READIN'

Herscovici, Alan (1988) FURS - AN ENVIRONMENTAL ETHIC, J. Theilade & Co., Copenhagen, Denmark. 57pp + 8 color plates, paperback (available from author - 856a Bloomfield Ave., Outremont, Quebec H2V 3S6, Canada for US$12 postpaid):
We reported on Mr. Herscovici's book, SECOND NATURE: THE ANIMAL-RIGHTS CONTROVERSY, in a previous newsletter. He has now published a new book that philosophizes on the future of the fur industry. He makes an excellent case for the fur trapper as closely related to a true environmental ethic preserving endangered human cultures.

The following reprints can be obtained from Diane L. Dwyer, Librarian, USDA/APHIS/ADC, Bldg. 16, DWRC, POB 25266, Denver, CO 80225:

Colvin, B.A. etal, (1988) Review of non-target hazards associated with rodenticide use in the USA, Bull. OEPP/EPPO Bull. 18, 301-308:
Zinc phosphide while not generally a secondary hazard, can pose primary problems to seed-eating birds; strychnine is a primary hazard to seed-eaters, but little secondary unless stomach and cheek-pouch contents are

eaten; 1080 causes primary poisoning, good possibility of secondary poisoning to mammalian predators but minimal risk to raptores; anticoagulants are toxic as both secondary and primary hazards, a substantial hazard to raptores but minimal to gallinaceous birds. Hazards vary considerably with use patterns (e.g. commensal vs field). Environmental concerns over rodenticide hazards to wildlife are increasing greatly and will influence future registrations.

DOLBEER, RICHARD A., etal (1988) Naphthalene shows no repellency for starlings, Wildl. Soc. Bull. 16:62-64:
Treatment of starling nest boxes with levels of naphthalene 32.5 times higher than EPA recommendations had no effect on starling use of the boxes nor apparently any repellency on raccoon predation of these boxes.

FALL, MICHAEL W. (1988) Control methods for the future, pp. 213-217 in F. Leydet, THE COYOTE, U.Okla.Press:
Discusses livestock-guarding dogs, frightening devices, trap improvement, livestock protection collars, and single dose baits. Concludes money for research of new techniques and improvement of older ones is hampered by regulatory restraints and low market potential.

Gionfriddo, James P., etal (1988) Comparative recovery rates of marked coyotes, Wildl. Soc. Bull. 16:310-311:
Study of 138 coyotes captured and marked with ear tags, vinyl collars, and radio-telementry collars showed a recovery rate of 32% with recoveries ranging from 1 to 51 months. While 50% of ear tagged/radio collared were recovered, only 21% of ear tagged only and 25% of ear tagged/vinyl collared were recovered. No age or sex differential was noted.

Hegdal, Paul L., etal (1988) Potential hazard to eastern screech-owls and other raptors of brodifacoum bait used for vole control in orchards, Envir. Toxicology & Chem. 7:245-260:
Minimum mortality of screech owls was 58% when more than 20% of the home range was treated with brodifacoum and 17% when less than 10% of the range was treated. Of 11 dead birds found - 6 were probably killed by secondary poisoning, 4 eaten by predators, and 1 unknown causes. Conclude a hazard to screech owls and potential risk to other raptores exists with this use pattern and formulation.

Knittle, C. Edward, etal (1988) Waterfowl damage and control methods in ripening grain: An overview, USDA/FWS, Fish & Wildl. Tech. Rept. 14:
Recommends: objective damage surveys to measure economics; define the criteria of Federal Crop Insurance; feasibility of lure-crops and baiting stations; use media to forecast waterfowl presence in localities; change farming practices. Research needs are on changing farming practices (particularly no-till) and chemical deterrents.

Matschke, George H. etal (1988) Comparative toxicity of strychnine to eight species of ground squirrels in Eighth Great Plains WDC Workshop Proc., pp75-80:
Baits with 0.20, 0.35, and 0.50 percentages of strychnine showed a differential response in the lab. Franklin's, Richardson's, and 13-lined ground squirrels were effectively controlled with the low 0.20%. Columbian, golden-mantled, Townsend's, and Unita were effectively controlled with concentrations between 0.20% and 0.35%. Only the rock squirrel needed a level between 0.35% and 0.50%.

NASS, ROGER D. etal (1988) Electric fences for reducing sheep losses to predators, J. Range Mgtm. 41:3:251-2:
Interview survey indicated anti-predation electric fences can reduce predation on sheep and are a feasible technique. Estimated a rancher would have to save 37 sheep/year to justify fencing 640 acres over a 20-year fence life expectancy.

Tobin, M.E., etal (1988) Reflecting tape fails to protect ripening blueberries from bird damage, Wildl. Soc. Bull. 16:300-3:
Reflective tape was ineffective in reducing bird damage (mostly starlings, robins, and house finches) in New York blueberries.

*The reason history repeats itself is because no one listened the first time around.*

## MEETIN'S

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

FOURTH EASTERN WILDLIFE DAMAGE CONTROL CONFERENCE, Sept. 24-27, 1989 at The Concourse Hotel, Madison, WI. Contact: JIM WINNAT, APHIS-ADC, 750 Windsor St., Sun Prairie WI 53590; TOM HAUGE, WI Dept. Nat. Resources, POB 7921, Madison,WI 53707; or Scott Craven, Ext. Wildl. Spec., 215 Russell Labs, Madison, WI 53706.

FOURTEENTH VERTEBRATE PEST CONFERENCE, Mar. 6-8, 1990 in Sacramento, CA (Red Lion Inn). Contact: Dr. Terrell Salmon, Wildl. Ext., Univ. Calif.-Davis, CA 95616.

MANAGING PREDATION TO INCREASE PRODUCTION OF WETLAND BIRDS, Aug. 15-17, 1990 at the Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Ctr., Jamestown, ND. Contact Alan B. Sargeant, NPWRC, POB 2096, Jamestown, ND 58402 (701) 252-5363. A call for papers/posters will be sent out this fall. Only single page abstracts will be published.

*To keep from being a bore just praise the person you're talking to.*

## MURPHY'S LAW OF PEST CONTROL

Non-target organisms always die first.
If you can't locate the well, the termiticide will.
The more toxic the pesticide, the more likely it is to spill.
Untrained technicians never quit, they just service the homes of lawyers.
On the pesticide label, if it's in parenthesis, ignore it. Thanx to RICH GRIFFITHS (DOD - Port Deposit, MD) & PESTICIDE & TOXIC CHEM. NEWS.

*Some folks think they're generous just because they give free advice.*

## KITTY LITTER

*(If you can't say anything good about cats - this column is for you.)*

GUY CONNOLLY & TIMES-NEWS (Twin Falls, ID) 05/27/89 had more details on the "cat hat" than furnished by CA ADC last issue. Their headline read, PURR-ESTROIKE COULD BRING BETTER LIFE FOR SOVIET CATS *(I said more details not any better )*. Cats are becoming increasingly popular and it is estimated 30 million Soviets have cats. Their foremost cat club, the Fauna Club, was established in 1986 and has 1,000 members. An opening cat exhibit was attended by 80,000 people. The Fauna Club spokesperson *(The names they give people in that country! I couldn't tell if it was male or female.)* said, "...the cats they were queing up to see were just household cats." *(I got the answer for the cats' apparent popularity - in that country 9 out of every 10 people jump in any que they see without finding what it is for. It's a way of life.)*

At least one of six cats clawed and smothered an eight-week-old Taylor boy to death in an incident "beyond reason" according to the medical examiner. The 22-year old mother disputes the coroner's findings apparently unwilling to believe her precious cats could do such a thing. CRITTER CONTROL NEWSLETTER 05/18/88

*Don't criticize your wife. If she was perfect she'd have married better.*

## GOOD LUCK, YOUNG TRAPPER

Welcome to the trapline, son.
May the ice and your boat never let you drown and your sets never freeze.

May your scents never weaken and the foxes on your line never have head colds or sinus problems.
My your competition use old motor oil for trap dye and aftershave lotion for lure.
May your traps never rust and the chains never break.
May the fur thieves on your line cripple with arthritis and the antis find something useful to be anti about.
May you realize how close we are to losing our profession.
May you fall for the Big Trapper's Church set and a fine girl's home set (But it wouldn't hurt if she were a trapper too).
And after your season closes, may the fur be prime when you and your wife move your trapline to a far corner of heaven.
MAINE TRAPPERS ASSN. Newsletter.

*Money may not make you happy but it sure keeps your creditors smiling.*

## LETTERS TO YE ED

**GLENN ANDREWS, Brazoria, TX:**
I am enclosing $30 to go towards a subscription and what ever else you can use the extra for this year. My Dad, ALBERT ANDREWS, works for ADC in Edwards County (TX) and I have thoroughly enjoyed being able to participate in his endeavors over the past few years when my work would allow me to go with him. I really enjoy reading your newsletter every time I visit my parents, but now that I have had to relocate down in the Houston area, I find myself needing my own subscription, so I can keep abreast of what is going on. By the way, my Dad is a great one to teach the art of controlling predators for livestock owners - and will help in any way that he can to educate young and older hands on methods and animal patterns. *(Nice to have your son think that well of you isn't it Al?)*
**********

**BILL CLAY, APHIS, North Dakota:**
Bill sent a note on some North Dakota ADC happenings in May. As I haven't the space to print all of these from your monthly reports, I try to pick out what I consider unusual or significant notes and include them in the above 'ACTIVITY REPORTS' so please keep 'em coming.
**********

**C.R. "PINK" MADSEN, rtd. NADCA RDII, Florence, AZ:**
Some of the family (both sides) are ailing and aging and we're hanging around for them to visit. Some deal! We are the ailing ones. Rose has slowed down to a walk, while I whine and cry a lot. Really, we are doing good and are mostly worried about our old trailer with its dents and cracks and the truck with 250,000 hard miles. It's a race to see who'll outlast who. Our two main problems are getting old and being poor. Neither one is for sissies. Saw a sign - "Jobs are for people who don't fish." I can't do either one.
**********

**MARK WORCESTER, rtd. USFWS 415 Century Ave., Bismarck, ND 58501:**
Finally got moved out of Minnesota with the help of the kids. The apartment manager gave us the wrong number *(what is the right one? I have Apt.#111 in my records)* which means extra work and cost in changing our mailing address. We have a very nice apartment but after 14 years in the woods it is going to take some getting use to. After 53 years we have too much junk to fit in the kitchen storage we have now. I'm only 79 but after a couple of weeks of moving I find muscles I never thought I had. They all hurt!

My good friend, Dale Hanager, Game & Fish Comm. is being replaced as the Governor put his buddy in (former aide) with the excuse people wanted a change. Dale has really improved the fishing here. Much better than Minnesota. They have a Walleye Whooper Club with a minimum of 10# entry and had over one thousand entries last year. Dale introduced salmon in Lake Sackowee.ja and Minnesotians can't believe the fishing is so much better here. Keep up the good work. The hell with the purists and I am totally with you in your war on cats. To me all they are good for is to melt down as bait. A coyote will go a mile up wind for a cat scent.

Did you know when you cross a pit bull with Lassie, you get a dog that will chew your leg off and then run like hell for help?!
**********

*A reckless driver is one who passes you on the road no matter how much you speed up when you see him coming.*

## PERSONNEL

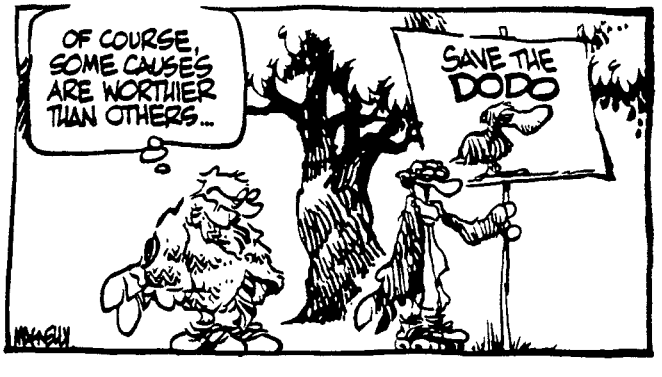
First Texas ADC takes DON HAWTHORNE from us. When Washington tagged him for the Western Regional Supervisor, they have the nerve to come back and take GARY NUNLEY. Admittedly he was more Texan than New Mexican, but we managed to overlook that. He has been a good friend to NADCA and YE ED personally so he will be missed. Best of luck to CURT MULLIS who takes Gary's place.

VERNON VERMAAS (Nebraska) has been awarded the APHIS Defensive Driver Award in recognition of his excellent driving record. He was to receive a plaque and cash award at a dinner in Washington the middle of June. KIRK GUSTAD *(Nice goin', Vern - from one who put more than his share of dents in government property.)*

*Don't smoke in bed. The ashes you shake may be your own.*

## HUMANS GOT RIGHTS???

*(This is confined to Fitzwater's personal vendetta against the Animal Rights (AR) movement so any purists should skip it.)*




*I'm tolerant of all opinions - even your stupid ones.*

## NOW HEAR THIS!

*(This is devoted to ADC tips and tools so it will be your responsibility to keep it filled.)*

*Never lend money to friends. It ruins their memories.*

## ALL THE NEWS THAT'S PRINT TO FIT

*(Interesting, not necessarily informative, ADC-related news from around the world.)*

MORE PROBLEMS FOR THE COLONEL

A band of monkeys came out of the Al-Tharawat mountains and raided a half-empty restaurant in southwestern Saudi Arabia. They made off with several roast chickens and left a mess of broken glasses and dishes behind. ALBUQUERQUE (NM) TRIBUNE 07/01/89.

BACK TO PRIORITIES AGAIN

A California judge issued a restraining order against a BLM project to poison ravens who were eating (HORRORS!) an endangered species - Mojave desert tortoises. The Humane Society of the U.S. (who else!) objected to the program of placing poisoned hard-boiled eggs on platforms to kill ravens who were causing a 45% decline in the tortoise population over the last ten years by eating the softshelled young ones. BLM has a permit to kill up to 1,500 raven with poisons and rifles at 3 desert tortoise sites. HSUS's argument is that many more ravens will be killed including some that are not attacking the tortoises. BLM counters that shooting only ravens attacking the reptiles is too expensive and impractical. Maybe Grandy (VP-HSUS) could give up some of his obscene salary to pay for halos on non-turtle eating ravens.

PETUNIA IN GARLIC PATCH

In upstate New York a 500-pound elk joined a herd of cows last November. The family named her Elsie and kept quiet about it until after the hunting

season. Where she came from nobody knows, but as the warden says, "There's no open season on elk in New York so elk cannot be hunted." ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL 03/19/89

FIGHTER PILOTS VS GUARD DOGS

When sheep are turned loose on public lands, some are going to be killed by predators, and that is a fact. So the sheepmen want the Forest Service to eradicate coyotes, and even black bears and mountain lions. That is expensive and improper. Idaho Environmental Council is against aerial gunning of "coyotes and other predators", claiming it is unnecessary if sheepmen would use better-trained herders and guard dogs. There is no disagreement that sheep losses are 5% a year in the Targhee National Forest, but how does that stack up against armed men in a plane or helicopter to gun down a coyote? It might be cheaper to provide an army of guard dogs - or pay for the sheep. THANX to ED HARTIN (ID APHIS) & IDAHO STATE JOURNAL 06/11/89.

The Supreme Court ruled 8-1 that a Montana rancher had to pay a fine for shooting a grizzly bear that was killing his sheep. The majority said, "The Constitution does not explicitly recognize a right *(neither does it explicitly recognize the right to desecrate the flag, but that's lawyers for you.)* to kill federally protected wildlife in defense of property." Byron White (CO) the only dissenting voice said, "...the rancher was asked to bear the burden of feeding endangered grizzlies and might have a legimate claim that the government had taken his property without just compensation in violation of the Fifth Amendment." Thanx to MARK COLLINGE (APHIS - MD) & WASHINGTON TIMES 06/13/89

*You know you're growing old when your problem isn't resisting temptation, but finding it.*

## EDITORIAL

*Sorry, I got out of synch on this newsletter. Had several projects going on in June, so I didn't get this finished up until the start of July - just in time to get it in the mail before we left for a couple of weeks in Oaxaca (Mexico). I had planned anyway that July/August would be my last bimonthly issue for 1989 (remember our budget permits only 10 issues/year?!) so I should be back on schedule in August. In the meantime, please send me what you'd like to read about, particularly for the NOW HEAR THIS! column.*

*BARGAIN TIME! I hate bookkeeping so subscriptions to THE PROBE run for a full year. But as getting back issues to those who sign up later in the year is a bigger nuisance, halfway through the year we make half-year memberships available for half price. So get those friends who have been reading over your shoulder to sign up for their personal copies - try it! you might like it! The rates are $3.75 for students, $7.50 for actives, and $15 for supporting members for the rest of 1989.*

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YES, I'D LIKE TO JOIN.

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| STUDENT | ~~$7.50~~ 3.75 | SPONSOR | ~~$30~~ 15.00 |
| ACTIVE | ~~15.00~~ 7.50 | PATRON | 100.00 |

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Albuquerque, NM 87110

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WILLIAM D. FITZWATER

Adios,

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