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Bats, bats, bats...Dealing With Unwanted Guests

Bat Conservation International, P.O. Box 162603, Austin, TX 78716

Most complaints regarding unwanted "house bats" are based solely on ungrounded fears. The primary problem is a misinformation, not bats. Nevertheless, bats can occasionally become a nuisance when too many roost in the wrong place. Here are some helpful hints.

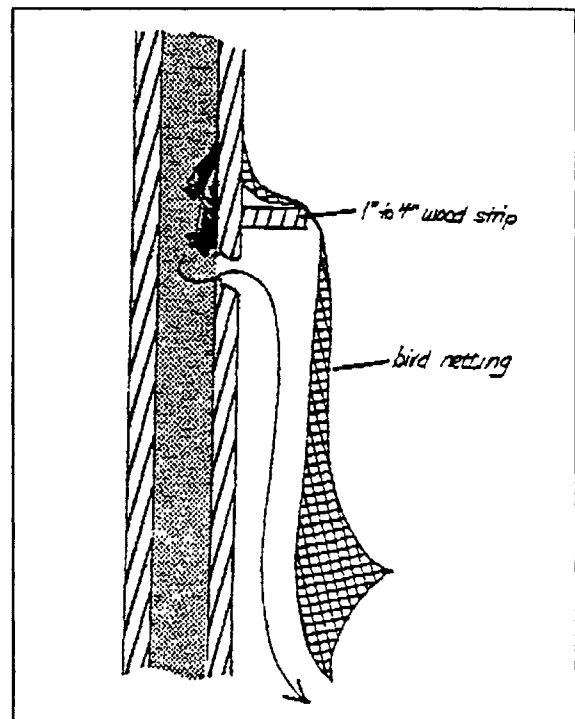
Bats can fly into human living quarters are usually lost youngsters whose primary goal is a safe escape. They often will leave on their own if a window or door to the outside is opened while others are closed. Bats are not aggressive, even if chased, but may bite if grabbed. As with any wild animal, bats should not be handled with bare hands. An exit can be hastened by catching the bat in flight with a hand net (swung from behind), or when the bat lands, covering it with a coffee can and slipping a piece of cardboard over the opening. Or you may also catch it by hand using leather work gloves to avoid being bitten.

Bats can be excluded from living quarters by covering chimneys and vents with half-inch hardware cloth screens, by installing draft guards beneath appropriate doors and by sealing any other possible access routes, especially around screen doors, windows and plumbing. Bats potentially can enter holes as small as 3/4 of an inch in diameter or crevices 3/8" x 7/8". They do not chew insulation or otherwise make new holes. Their entries can be plugged with silicone caulking, steel wool, or temporarily even with tape.

If a large bat colony must be evicted from a wall or attic, careful observations should be made at dusk to find entry holes (also sometimes recognizable by stains around used holes or crevices or by droppings beneath). The bats must emerge each summer evening to feed. Once roost entrances have been located, the bats can be excluded, though this should not be attempted when flightless young may be present (usually June or July in the U.S.). Starved young could create a serious odor problem, not to mention needless cruelty.

Most bat species leave in winter, permitting exclusion in their absence. When this is not the

case, or when one does not wish to wait for winter, there is a relatively simple exclusion technique using polypropylene bird netting.* This inexpensive netting** often is used to protect fruit trees from birds and can be obtained in quantity to cover areas of nearly any size. It can be hung during daylight hours above areas where bats emerge, but later they will fail to find their way back. Thus the netting acts as a simple one-way excluder until repairs can



make the exclusion permanent. In warm weather, allow two to three nights before commencing work. During cool periods in the fall or spring, allow at least a week.

Harmless repellent devices would seem ideal, but none are known to be effective. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency once fined a Chicago manufacturer \$45,000 for misleading claims involving an ultrasonic device. All ultrasonic sound generators thus far tested by reliable bat experts have proven ineffective, and some may endanger people or even attract bats.

Continued on page 4

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

August 2-6, 1993: Bird Strike Committee—USA, Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, Seattle, Washington. Will include two days of conference papers and a one-day field trip. Contact: James E. Forbes, USDA/APHIS/ADC, P.O. Box 97, Albany, NY 12201, (518) 472-6492.

August 16-19, 1993: Endangered Species "Pesticide" Protection Programs, Eccles Conference Center, Utah State University, Logan, Utah. A conference to assist states within the Great Plains and the West in developing and administering workable endangered species pesticide management programs, the Great Plains Agricultural Council in conjunction with federal, state, and private sponsors have organized a three-day symposium. For program information contact Dr. Terry Messmer, Chair, Fisheries and Wildlife Department, College of Natural Resources, Utah State University, Logan UT 84322-5210. Phone (801) 750-3975; FAX (801) 750-1871; e-mail: Wildext@cc.usu.edu; for registration information: Registration Services, Conference & Institute Division, Utah State University, Logan, UT 84322-5005. Phone: 1-801-750-1692. FAX (801) 750-3771.

September 12-18, 1993: F.T.A. Professional Trappers College, Limberlost Camp, LaGrange, IN. Contact: Charles Park, 410 S. Poplar, LaGrange, IN 46761.



The Probe is the newsletter of the National Animal Damage Control Association, published 11 times per year.

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Your contributions to *The Probe* are welcome. Please send news clippings, new techniques, publications, and meeting notices to *The Probe*, c/o Hopland Research & Extension Center, 4070 University Road, Hopland, CA 95449. If you prefer to FAX material, our FAX number is (707) 744-1040. The deadline for submitting material is the 15th of each month. Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of NADCA.

September 19-25, 1993: First International Wildlife Management Congress, Hotel Cariari, San Jose, Costa Rica. Includes session *Conflicts Between Man, Agriculture, and Wildlife*. For further information, contact IWMC Secretariat Director, The Wildlife Society, 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814, phone (301) 897-9770.

October 3-6, 1993: 6th Eastern Wildlife Damage Control Conference, Ramada Inn, Asheville, NC. Conference theme: "Wildlife Damage Management in the 90's: Balancing the Needs of Society." For more information, contact: Ann Coughlin, 6th Eastern WDM Conf., No. Carolina State Univ., College of Forest Resources, Box 8001, Raleigh, NC 27695-8001, (919) 515-3184.

October 3-8, 1993: First International Congress of Vector Ecology, Hanalei Hotel, San Diego, California. Sponsored by the Society for Vector Ecology. The Congress will provide a unique forum to present recent advances in our knowledge dealing with the ecology and epidemiology of vector-borne diseases, host/pathogen interface, and effective management of vectors and human pests. The Society for Vector Ecology is dedicated to promoting research, training, and application of sound integrated management strategies in an ecological context for the control of pest vectors and vector-borne diseases. The Congress will consist of oral and poster presentations as well as a variety of hosted social activities. For more information, contact: Society for Vector Ecology, P.O. Box 87, Santa Ana, CA 92702, (714) 971-2421, FAX (714) 971-3940.

October 26-28, 1993: Symposium: Contraception in Wildlife Management, Sheraton Hotel, Denver Tech Center, Denver, Colorado. Conference topics will include population management, theories and biology of contraception, delivery systems, potential applications, and public attitudes, policy, and regulations. For more information: Diana L. Dwyer, USDA-APHIS Denver Wildl. Res. Ctr., P.O. Box 25266, Denver, CO 80225-0266, (303) 236-7874.

December 11-15, 1993: 55th Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference, St. Louis, Missouri. The theme is *New Agendas in Fish and Wildlife Management: Approaching the Next Millennium*. Features include an *Urban Deer Management Symposium*. For more information, contact: Wayne Porath, 1110 S. College Ave., Columbia, MO 65201, (314) 882-9880.

December, 1993: 2nd International Symposium on Wild Boar (*Sus scrofa*) And On Order Suiformes, Torino, Italy. For more information, contact: Secretariat, 2nd International Symposium on Wild Boar and on order Suiformes, c/o Prof. P. Durio, Dipartimento Produzioni Animali, Epidemiologia ed Ecologia, Via Nizza 52, 10126 Torino (Italy), Telephone 39.11 . 6503734 - FAX 39.11 . 655455.

February 21-23, 1994: 1st Eastern Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators Short Course, Lexington, Kentucky. This conference will be the first of its kind in the United States and will serve as the primary training for the control of nuisance wildlife animals in urban environments. For more information, contact Tom Barnes, Extension Wildlife Specialist, Department of Forestry, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40546-0073.

ADC News, Tips, Ideas...



ADC Shares Wildlife Society's Group Achievement Award

On March 22, the Black Bear Conservation Committee, which includes Animal Damage Control (ADC), was awarded The Wildlife Society's Group Achievement Award in recognition of its unique contributions to the management and restoration of the threatened Louisiana black bear. James Bullock, Chairman of the Committee, was on hand at the annual award banquet held in Washington, D.C., to accept the honor.

Senate Bill Bans Hunters From California Desert

The Wildlife Legislative Fund of America (WLFA) has proposed an exemption amendment to a U.S. Senate bill that would otherwise ban hunting in the Mojave Desert. The exemption to the California Desert Protection Act permits hunting, but also allows the secretary of the Interior to designate non-hunting public safety and habitat zones. According to the May issue of the *WLFA-gram*, the bill currently would effectively stop all hunting and trapping on 8 million desert acres through the establishment of national parks and wilderness designations.

The bill would also prohibit mining, grazing and other economic activities that funnel an estimated \$650 million annually to California's economy. Sponsored by Sen. Diane Feinstein, D-Calif., the bill, S. 21, has had two hearings before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The Senate measure is similar to the one sponsored for many years by former California Senator Alan Cranston.

Oregon Refinery Plans to "Scare" Birds

An Oregon refinery near the town of Toledo is attempting to use life-sized plywood cutouts of humans in conjunction with high-pitched sounds to keep birds away from their wastewater retention ponds. According to an April 2 article in the Port Clinton, Ohio *News Herald*, more than 100 birds, mostly ducks, were inadvertently poisoned after landing in one of the ponds. The birds were searching for open water and must have confused the ponds for a natural lake. The wastewater is held in the pond for treatment. Daniel LeClair, special agent for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, said that although a few birds are found each spring, "there has never been more than one or two here and there."

Vultures Pull the Plug in Tennessee

Tennessee Valley Authority officials recently contacted ADC with an urgent request for assistance. In Robertson and Wilson Counties, Tennessee, electrical service was disrupted by power outages to two 500 kilowatt transmission lines. An accumulation of feces deposited by black vultures roosting on power line support structures had pulled the plug for local power users. ADC officials relocated the roosts using a variety of pyrotechnics. Power was restored after structures were cleaned using high water pressure.

Bison Brucellosis Research Halted

The Agriculture Department has attempted to get bison in Yellowstone National Park to wander outside the Interior Department's park so researchers can capture them for a federally-funded research project. According to a report in the February 25 issue of *The Washington Post*, the researchers' plans have run into a snag. A federal judge ruled that the plan was illegal and ordered USDA to stop the project that called for capturing and slaughtering a portion of the park's 2,400 bison.

The project is part of an attempt to discover whether the park's buffalo were carriers of cattle brucellosis, a bacterial infection that can cause aborted pregnancies and other illness in cattle. In some instances, the disease also affects humans, causing fever and swelling of joints. Local ranchers' concerns had risen to the point where Montana state officials with federal assistance began a program to destroy bison that left the park. In the February ruling by U.S. District Judge Louis F. Oberdorfer, the research program, which involved hay-baited traps, was ordered to stop. The research had been initiated by Texas A&M University scientists with a \$94,000 USDA grant.

The editors of The PROBE thank contributors to this issue: Mike Fall, Mike Worthen, George Graves, Dallas Virchow, Rex E. Marsh, James E. Forbes, and Wes Jones. Send your contributions to The PROBE, 4070 University Road, Hopland, CA 95449.

Nominations Open for 1993-94 NADCA Officers

The NADCA Nomination Committee is soliciting nominations for the 1994-95 election of Officer and Regional Director positions. All positions (14 in total) will be open for nominations. The only three restrictions placed on nominations are: 1) the nominated person must be a standing member of NADCA; 2) the person must be a resident in the Region or area for which he or she is being nominated; and, 3) the nominee must give approval that he or she is willing to serve in the position being nominated. Only one person will be elected by popular vote to each of the positions. The lists below provide Officer and Regional Director positions for which nominations may be made and their appropriate geographical locations.

OFFICERS

President
Vice President (East)
Vice President (West)
Secretary
Treasurer

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Region	Geographical Location (States)
1	AK, CA, HI, NV, OR, WA
2	AZ, CO, NM, UT
3	ID, MT, WY
4	AR, LA, OK, TX
5	LA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD
6	IL, IN, MI, OH, WI
7	CT, PA, RI, MA, ME, NH, NJ, NY, VT
8	DC, DE, MD, NC, SC, VA, WV
9	AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, TN

Please mail or telephone your nominations to Wes Jones, Chairman, Nomination Committee, by September 20, 1993 at the following address:

Wes Jones
NADCA Nomination Committee Chairman
Route 1, Box 37
Shell Lake, WI 54871
(715) 468-2038

Be sure to include; 1) the name, address, and phone number of the person you are nominating, and, 2) the Office or Regional Director position for which the nomination is made.

This is our opportunity to provide nominations and candidates and to elect individuals who will provide leadership and direction to NADCA and who will represent and serve you and all members of our fine organization. The Nomination Committee hopes you will take advantage of this opportunity and use it to build upon and strengthen our Association.

Continued from page 1

Bats, bats, bats...

Naphthalene flakes (moth balls) are hardly any better. Their primary usefulness is in generating repeat business for the pest control industry. To be at all effective, they must evaporate rapidly, requiring frequent replacement.

Aerosol dog and cat repellents can discourage bat use of a particular roosting spot for periods of up to several months. They have been used effectively to prevent bats from night roosting above porches. The spray is applied by day when bats are not present. Aerosol repellents are not an adequate substitute for exclusion in the case of day roosts and never should be applied when bats are in a roost.

Poisons used against bats, including methyl bromide and tracking powders, may pose serious health hazards to humans and are not effective in eliminating bat colonies. In most cases, the only safe, permanent solution is exclusion.

For illustrated methods of excluding bats from your home and a detailed discussion of public health concerns, Merlin Tuttle's book *America's Neighborhood Bats* is an excellent resource and delightful reading. With generous

use of color photographs, the book covers all of the most common bats of North America. Write the Bat Conservation International for ordering information.

**Editors' Note: This technique was first described by Frantz (Proceedings, 12th Vertebrate Pest Conf., pp. 260-268).*

***Wildlife Control Technology, 6408 South Fig., Fresno, CA 93706. (This company markets a bat net kit which includes the netting, velcro tie-downs, and instructions for using in difficult situations.)*

Conweb bird netting: Conweb Corp., 620 Taft Street N, Minneapolis, MN 55413. Phone 800-422-9123. (This company manufactures bird netting.)

New Pest Control Handbook Out

Review by Rex E. Marsh, *Wildlife Fisheries & Biology, UC Davis*

There is a new book out entitled *Wildlife Pest Control Handbook (How to run a successful full or part-time business solving problems between people and wildlife)* by Philip J. Nichols (1993), 103 pp.

This easy-to-read how-to book is written for the potential entrepreneur and provides some basics on how to start a business in urban wildlife pest control. The book, based upon the author's own experiences, is simply written and sprinkled with colorful comments. It will be most useful to those who have no experience in the field of vertebrate pest management or animal damage control.

The first portion of the book is devoted to business considerations. All are covered in very basic terms which makes going into business (at least in the author's area) seem relatively easy provided you are well motivated and not afraid of hard work.

Chapters on how to control the various pest species found in the author's region take up roughly two-thirds of the 103-page book. Detailed are the author's methods of controlling skunks, raccoons, groundhogs, tree squirrels, muskrats, and feral cats. Many good examples of specific problems are presented, along with solutions.

Some techniques, such as drowning trapped skunks or raccoons or kill-trapping feral cats, will be unacceptable to most, if not all, humane societies, and in my

opinion, shouldn't be suggested for someone starting a new business. Such practices, even when legal, can lead to adverse public reactions which will put the business in a bad light. Other, more acceptable, euthanasia methods should be advanced, especially for newcomers into this field.

The book contains a useful list of tools (e.g. traps, ladders, safety, glasses, etc.) of the profession. The appendix provides a very short list of a few manufacturers and distributors of products and equipment. A list of vertebrate pest management associations and their publications is provided, along with the names of several relevant commercial periodicals.

In summary, the book contains some useful information which will be helpful to anyone who wants to go into the Wildlife Pest Control business and has no previous business experience. It provides, in brief, what is involved in getting started. While the portion of the book devoted on how to control specific species is limited in scope and in species covered, there are several other good references available which could be used as companion books. This book is not intended for seasoned professionals in the vertebrate pest management field. Priced at \$15.95 plus \$3.00 shipping, the book is available from PVE, P.O. Box 84, Pennsburg, PA 18073.

In My Opinion

To the Editors:

Along with my renewal of membership is an article whose contents, in part, may be of interest to your readers because of its attack upon USDA-APHIS-ADC. I've found *The Wild Rockies Review* to be flippant, cynical, and tongue-in-cheek at best; hostile, degrading, and defiling at worst. Its use of esoteric and vulgar language is sophomoric and unpublishable for general readership.

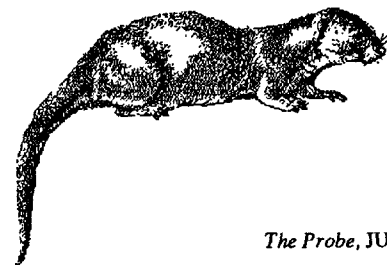
The organization specializes in negativism and belligerence toward almost all government agencies and their personnel. To them, bureaucracies are abhorrent and lack credibility. This lack of trust sometimes emerges when their articles attribute grandiose schemes and hidden agendas to government programs.

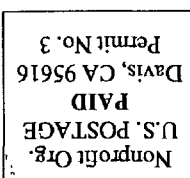
The organization combines a modern mysticism toward animals and "nature" with an extreme antagonism toward government. I don't think that their views are representative of many people today, but are noteworthy because of their "spiritual" underpinnings; a spirituality that, I believe, is rapidly gaining followers among first world nations and one that is antithetical to Christianity.

Sincerely,
Dallas Virchow

From the Editors: In Vol. 6, No. 1, 1993 issue of *The Wild Rockies Review*, two articles appeared concerning USDA/APHIS/ADC. The first, titled "ADC Now Has BO (Biological Opinion, that is)", severely criticized the "biological opinion of ADC" released by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Fish & Wildlife report resulted from a suit filed by the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund claiming that ADC had committed a "violation of the Endangered Species Act" and that ADC failed to "...comply with Section 7 of the ESA, which requires all federal agencies to initiate consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) before initiating actions that may worsen the plight of the imperiled species (the result of which is a 'biological opinion')." After getting the result they had sought—the "biological opinion"—the SCLDF was still not satisfied.

A second article, "ADC - A Rose By Any Other Name," ridiculed the possible consideration of a name change for ADC, concluding "Ain't public relations great stuff?!!"





Terrell P. Salmon
DANR-North Region
University of California
Davis, CA 95616-8575

Membership Application

NATIONAL ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL ASSOCIATION

Mail to: Wes Jones, Treasurer, Route 1 Box 37, Shell Lake, WI 54871, Phone: (715) 468-2038

Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____ - _____ Home

Address: _____ Phone: (____) _____ - _____ Office

Additional Address Info: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP _____

Dues: \$ _____ Donation: \$ _____ Total: \$ _____ Date: _____

Membership Class:	Student \$7.50	Active \$15.00	Sponsor \$30.00	Patron \$100 (Circle one)
(After 7/31/93)	Student \$10.00	Active \$20.00	Sponsor \$40.00	Patron \$100

Check or Money Order payable to NADCA

Select one type of occupation or principal interest:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Pest Control Operator |
| <input type="checkbox"/> USDA - APHIS - ADC or SAT | <input type="checkbox"/> Retired |
| <input type="checkbox"/> USDA - Extension Service | <input type="checkbox"/> ADC Equipment/Supplies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Federal - not APHIS or Extension | <input type="checkbox"/> State Agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foreign | <input type="checkbox"/> Trapper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator | <input type="checkbox"/> University |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe) _____ | |