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What's Happening at the Denver Wildlife Research Center?¹ Part 2

Russ Reidinger, Director

REGISTRATION OF ALPHA-CHLORALOSE

An Investigational New Animal Drug Application was approved by FDA for alpha-chloralose. This approval allows us to cooperate with ADC personnel in conducting field trials of this compound for capturing waterfowl, coots, and pigeons. One such trial was conducted in Nevada, where nuisance mallards were removed from recreational areas in Las Vegas. The DWRC plans to complete bioassay pen trials this year with geese and pigeons which are required by FDA for full registration. They plan to pursue collection of required field data next fiscal year with the objective of registration by 1992.

RICE SEED REPELLENTS

In cooperation with Texas ADC and the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, a spring field trial of the effectiveness of Kocide, a registered fungicide, in protecting seeded rice from blackbirds was conducted in East Texas in March - April. Results indicated significant reductions in sprout losses and further testing is planned for next season.

PERIMETER NETTING OF CATFISH PONDS

Field evaluation of a commercially available netting system for deterring heron and egret depredation in Delta catfish ponds revealed that the system was not effective or cost-beneficial. A modified system will be tested in the future.

FRIGHTENING DEVICES FOR COYOTES

A final prototype frightening device consisting of a PVC pipe housing containing a strobe light, warbling siren, and battery was tested as a means of protecting range sheep on bedgrounds while on grazing allotments in Colorado. In such situations, use of available control tools are often restricted and locations are difficult to access. In 10 of 12 trials where the devices were used by herders around bedgrounds, sheep losses to coyotes were reduced an average of 73 percent (S. Linhart, personal communication). Producers using the frightening devices during the field trials lost far fewer lambs to

coyotes when the devices were in use. Further operations testing of prototype devices has been conducted by ADC program personnel and agricultural extension agents to better define potential uses. Efforts are underway to make such devices available to producers through the ADC program's Pocatello Supply Depot.

DRC-1339 REGISTRATION

The DWRC is cooperating with Purina Mills to reregister the 1339 technical product. Purina Mills is conducting 16 product chemistry studies and 2 residue chemistry studies for submission to EPA. DWRC has contracted with private laboratories to provide data on acute oral LD₅₀ (rat), acute dermal LD₅₀ (rabbit), eye irritation (rabbit), skin irritation (rabbit) and gene mutation (Ames) by August 1990 and on chromosomal aberrations and other genotoxic effects by September 1990. DWRC has also contracted private laboratories to provide data on acute avian oral LD₅₀ (quail and duck), avian dietary LC₅₀ (quail and duck), toxicity to rainbow trout, toxicity to bluegill sunfish, and invertebrate toxicity by January 1991. DWRC is monitoring the contracts and is conducting all of the backup analytical chemistry methods validation and sample analysis. Beginning this fall, DWRC will be conducting four environmental fate studies including hydrolysis, photodegradation on soil, leaching/adsorption/desorption, and aerobic soil metabolism.

The DWRC amended one registration and submitted three new registration packages for Compound DWRC-1339 98% Concentrate to the EPA. The amended registration more clearly defined the sizes and types of baits used, treatment rates, and application sites for controlling blackbirds and starlings at feedlots. The new registrations consolidated many 24 C registrations and were: 1) for controlling raven/crow depredations on livestock, or the eggs/young of endangered or other species designated to be in need of special protection; 2) for controlling pigeons causing health, nuisance, or other economic problems, in and around structures or non-crop areas; and 3) for controlling blackbirds, starlings, crows, and magpies in non-crop areas associated with roosts, (i.e., staging-area baiting).

¹Information presented at the Four Corners ADC Rendezvous, Mancos, Colorado, August, 1990.

Denver Wildlife Research Center

DRC-1339 FOR RAVEN CONTROL

The DWRC has been conducting a study of raven/crow depredations on eggs of nesting endangered California least terns at Camp Pendleton, California. FY-90 was the second year of a three-year renewable contract to study the ecology of tern/raven predation interactions and to develop a method for using DRC-1339 to control depredating ravens. This year's work objective was to determine hazards to nontarget animals exposed to egg baits used to deliver DRC-1339. Results showed virtually no nontarget visits to platforms containing untreated hard-boiled chicken eggs which would be used to deliver DRC-1339 to ravens and crows. Corvid carcasses were placed in a variety of habitats and were visited and scavenged only by opossums and striped sunks. No radio-instrumented ravens were known to be killed by a limited exposure of DRC-1339-treated eggs.

ZINC PHOSPHIDE REGISTRATION

The initial work to develop a validated chemical-analytical method for estimation of zinc phosphide in a steam-crimped oats bait and in whole-carcass preparations of meadow voles was begun. Concurrently, a study plan titled "Residues of zinc phosphide and phosphine in meadow voles (*Microstus pennsylvanicus*) following lethal ingestion of a 2% zinc phosphide steam-crimped-oats bait" was prepared and sent to EPA for review. This study plan is the final step in filling the data gaps for zinc phosphide in an EPA Registration Standard (EPA-540/RS-82-010) issued June 23, 1982. DWRC is conducting this study to support the technical zinc phosphide registrations held by Bell Laboratories, Gallard-Schlesinger, and H.R. Harkins.

GAS CARTRIDGES

APHIS is in the process of converting the "old" rodent cartridge which contains 5 active ingredients to a "new" cartridge containing 2 active ingredients (charcoal and sodium nitrate) to reduce re-registration costs. New cartridge formulations were prepared by Pocatello Supply Depot personnel. Preliminary burn time tests have been determined for the "new" cartridge and the side burn time (time from ignition of contents to appearance of flame on side of cartridge) data appear to meet safety requirements. Two field

studies were conducted with the "new" cartridge to determine if it would be effective against yellow-bellied marmots and woodchucks. Results indicated acceptable efficacy of 80% for the yellow-bellied marmot and about 70% for the woodchuck. One draft final report has been prepared entitled "Gas Cartridge Effectiveness for Controlling Yellow-bellied Marmots".

COYOTE ATTRACTANT RESEARCH

Seasonal responses of captive coyotes to 9 chemical attractants (W-U lure, TMAD, SFE, FAS, CFA, artificial smoked fish flavor, artificial beef liver flavor, yeast autolysate, and decanoic acid) were evaluated. Twenty-six additional attractants were tested only during the summer. W-U lure and FAS produced the greatest total response times from coyotes during all seasons of the year. FAS and smoked fish flavor evoked the most lick-chew-bite and pulling behaviors during the summer and have potential for improving the performance of M-44 devices in warm weather.

COYOTE BAIT ACCEPTANCE

Low bait take by coyotes has been among the constraints to development of baiting techniques for controlling livestock predation. The low density bait applications that EPA might permit for toxicant registration further compound this problem. The winter and summer portions of a four-season coyote bait acceptance study have been completed. Nontoxicant tallow baits, containing physical and physiological agents for marking coyote scats and blood, were placed at densities of 2, 5, and 20 per square mile area. Marked scats and blood samples provided indices for determining the relationships among season, density, and acceptance by coyotes. At these bait densities, percentages of scats marked were 17, 17, and 33 during summer and 45, 58, and 100 during winter, respectively. Blood sample results indicated that 7, 18, and 27 percent of the coyotes were marked during summer; 60, 15, and 67 percent were marked at the same bait densities during winter. Nearly one-half of the summer blood samples were obtained from juvenile coyotes. Of these, only 6 percent indicated acceptance of marked bait, suggesting a possible age difference among coyotes that find and consume bait.

The Probe is the newsletter of the National Animal Damage Control Association, published 10 times per year.

Editors: Robert H. Schmidt and Robert M. Timm
Editorial Assistant: Pamela J. Tinnin

Your contributions to *The Probe* are welcome. Please send news clippings, new techniques, publications, and meeting notices to *The Probe*, c/o Hopland Field Station, 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.

This is the second article describing projects currently underway at the Denver Wildlife Research Center. If you have questions about any of their work, please contact the DWRC. This information was originally presented at the Four Corners ADC Rendezvous held at Mancos, Colorado, in August, 1990.

—Animal Damage Control in the News—

TRAPPING IS A PROFESSION, NOT A SPORT

A letter which appeared in the December 1990 issue of the *Trapper and Predator Caller* called for the United States Department of Agriculture to get out of the animal damage control business. According to Patrick Rose, author of the letter, "The average trapper can do the same job, and do it cheaper than the government can. Each association will have to come up with a program (in conjunction with your state game department) for a free enterprise system." Rose also stated that a trapper should be judged by the services he provides and by the fee charged for those services. "Trapping is a trade not easily mastered by everybody. It is a profession and a way of life," said Rose. "...let's quit calling it a sport and put some pride and value into being a trapper." Rose is a member of the Michigan Trappers Association, Inc.

NADCA SECRETARY OBJECTS TO PREDATOR ARTICLE

An article in the January 1991 *Sports Afield* touched a raw nerve with NADCA secretary Bob Willging. Titled *Rethinking Predators*, in Part I, the article gives the author's interpretation of the ADC program for controlling predation by coyotes. Written by Ted Kerasote, *Rethinking Predators* refers to the ADC program as a "75-year-long war." According to a letter from Willging to Tom Paugh, editor of *Sports Afield*, "By using words like 'war', 'eradication', and 'extermination', Kerasote paints a picture of an irresponsible agency that is detrimental to wildlife resources." Willging stated that he feels that the author has "done a fair job of keeping middle of the road on ADC, but his preconceived attitudes about ADC are apparent." Willging concluded his letter to Paugh with, "It is time writers stop using symbols and opinions to present wildlife damage control issues, and start using objective, biological facts." Willging is a Certified Wildlife Biologist as well as an Associate Member of Outdoors Writers Association of America. Part II of *Rethinking Predators* will appear in the February issue of *Sports Afield*.

GALLUP POLL ON PUBLIC OPINION OF ANIMAL RIGHTISTS REAFFIRMED

A recent Gallup Poll stating that 90% of the respondents disagreed with the activities of animal rights groups was reaffirmed by the Gallup Organization. The public opinion survey, sponsored by the National Shooting Sports Foundation, had been attacked by various animal rights activists as inaccurate. In a recent news release by the NSSF, a letter from The Gallup Organization, Inc. stated that "...please be assured that the procedures which were followed in interviewing, coding, data processing, and analyzing the final results of this project are consistent with the procedures outlined by the Council for American Survey Research Organizations."

BOVINE TB IN ELK

Bovine tuberculosis in Cervidae is emerging as a major issue in North America, which was highlighted by Canada's recent termination of all importations of Cervidae from the United States. According to a December 18 report from the APHIS Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Montana animal health officials are preparing to tuberculin test an elk herd that is reportedly the source of an animal that died of generalized tuberculosis in an Alberta, Canada, elk herd. Movements of tuberculosis-exposed elk from this herd have been traced to 34 other herds in Alberta. United States origin elk have reportedly died of tuberculosis in at least one other Canadian elk herd.

HEART TRANSPLANTS FOR RATS?

According to an article in the December 30 issue of *Parade Magazine*, parents of a 6-year-old child have agreed to allow her to donate a kidney to an ailing chimpanzee. Young Brandy Oxenrider's father visited the sick primate at the Perkins Animal Clinic in Atlanta. "As a family, we are 100 percent committed to animal welfare," said Oxenrider. "...I heard about a laboratory rat out in California who needs a heart transplant. I'd really like to donate mine, but how will they fit it into that tiny little chest cavity?" A group called Dog's Best Friend arranges for human organ donors for sick animals.

The editors of The Probe wish to thank the contributors to this issue: Ron Thompson, Rick Severson, Wes Jones, Harvey L. Warnick, Bob Willging, and James Forbes. Send your contributions to Robert H. Schmidt/Robert M. Timm, The Probe, 4070 University Road, Hopland, CA 95449.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

NADCA member Ed Butler, and also State Director of the USDA/ADC Program in charge of New Jersey and Pennsylvania, has been selected as new State Director for Maine with office in Augusta.

New NADCA member Dr. M.R. Conover, with the Connecticut Agriculture Experiment Station in New Haven, Connecticut, has accepted a faculty position at Utah State University where he will be teaching and doing animal damage control research starting in January.

PREVENTION AND CONTROL TIPS

This month's information is reprinted from Prevention and Control of Wildlife Damage (1983), published by Nebraska Cooperative Extension Service, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Tree Squirrels

EXCLUSION

Prevent squirrels from climbing isolated trees and power poles by encircling them with a two-foot (61 cm) wide collar of metal six feet (1.8 m) off the ground. Attach metal using encircling wires held together with springs to allow for tree growth.

Trim trees appropriately to prevent squirrels from jumping onto roofs. Prevent squirrels from traveling on wires by installing two-foot sections of lightweight 2- to 3-inch (5.1 to 7.6 cm) diameter plastic pipe. Slit pipe lengthwise, spread opening, and place over wire and cause traveling squirrels to tumble.

Close openings to buildings with heavy 1/2-inch (12.7 mm) wire mesh or make other suitable repairs.

REPELLENTS

Naphthalene (moth balls) may temporarily discourage squirrels from entering attics and other enclosed spaces. Supplement this method with lights. A cat in the attic may discourage squirrels.

Thiram painted on plant stems or bark may reduce or prevent chewing. Methyl nonyl ketone crystals are labeled for border treatments to protect vegetable gardens or floor treatments to repel squirrels from attics.

Paradichlorobenzene (moth crystals) is labeled for outdoor use at bases of trees, poles, and fence posts. The effectiveness of outdoor use of these last two repellents has been questioned.

FUMIGANTS/TOXICANTS

There are no fumigants or toxicants registered for controlling tree squirrels.

TRAPS

A variety of traps will catch squirrels, including No. 0 or 1 leghold traps, the "Better Squirrel and Rat Trap," box traps, and cage traps. Regular rat size snap traps will catch flying squirrels and small pine squirrels. Glue traps for rats will catch small squirrels. Good baits are slices of orange and apple, walnuts or pecans removed from the shell, and peanut butter. Other foods familiar to the squirrel may also work; for example, corn or sunflower seeds.

SHOOTING

Where firearms are permitted, shooting is effective. A shotgun with #6 shot or .22 rifle is suitable. Check with your state wildlife agency for regulations pertaining to the species in your area.



Fox squirrel, *Sciurus niger*

OTHER METHODS

Often several control methods used simultaneously are more successful than a single control. For example, to remove a squirrel from an attic, watch squirrels to determine where they enter. Then use repellents to drive out the squirrels. After squirrels appear to have left, use appropriate exclusion methods to keep them out. One or more baited traps will catch any squirrel accidentally closed in. This last step is very important because locked-in squirrels may cause damage when they try to chew their way out.

Squirrel damage in yards, gardens, forests, and orchards often is very difficult to control. This is because during population highs, new squirrels arrive quickly to replace those shot or trapped.

In high-value crop situations, it may pay to remove woods or other trees near orchards to block the "squirrel highway." Custom-designed wire mesh fences topped with electrified wires may effectively keep squirrels out.

LEGAL STATUS

Fox, gray, and western squirrels are usually classified as game animals in states where they occur. The tassel-eared squirrel is normally a protected species. Check with local or state authorities to determine legal status of squirrels in your area.

Author: Jeffrey J. Jackson

Readers are reminded that the status of registrations for pesticides differ among states and are constantly changing.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

March 22-27, 1991: 56th North American Wildlife & Natural Resources Conference, Edmonton, Alberta. Includes a session on "Managing Predator/Prey Populations." For further information, contact: Wildlife Management Institute, 1101 14th Street NW, Suite 725, Washington, DC 20005.

April 15-18, 1991: 10th Great Plains Wildlife Damage Control Workshop, Lincoln, Nebraska. Abstracts for papers to be presented were due Dec. 31, 1990. Contact: Scott Hygnstrom, Dept. of Forestry, Fisheries & Wildlife, 202 Natural Resources Hall, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE 68583-0819. Phone (402) 472-6822. NADCA will hold its annual meeting in conjunction with the Great Plains meeting.

April 8-10, 1991: 5th Biennial Symposium on Impacted Wildlife, Issues and Technology in the Management of Impacted Wildlife, Snowmass Village, CO. (Thorne Ecological Institute, 5398 Manhattan Circle, Boulder, CO 80303. (303)499-3647.

April 24-26, 1991: Mountain Lion - Human Interaction Symposium & Workshop, Holiday Inn Holidome, Interstate 25 & 120th, Denver, CO. (Robert Tully, Colorado Division of Wildlife, 6060 Broadway, Denver, CO 80216. (303)297-1192.

July 29-31, 1991: "Wildlife 2001: Populations", Oakland, California. For researchers and agency personnel interested in the science, conservation, and management of vertebrate animal populations. For further information or to submit an abstract to give a paper, contact: Dale McCullough or Reg Barrett, Dept. of Forestry and Resource Mgmt., 145 Mulford Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA 94720.

October 6-9, 1991: 5th Eastern Wildlife Damage Control Conference, Ithaca, New York. Contact: Carol Rundle, Cornell Coop. Extension, Dept. of Nat. Resources, Rm. 108, Fernow Hall, Cornell Univ., Ithaca, NY 14853-3001.

March 2-5, 1992: 15th Vertebrate Pest Conference, Newport Beach, California. Contact: Mr. John Borrecco, USDA/Forest Service, 630 Sansome Street, San Francisco, CA 94111.

POSITION AVAILABLE

Resident rodenticide/vertebrate biology expert with the Insecticide-Rodenticide Branch of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. This position involves reviewing product labeling for rodenticides and reviewing efficacy data for rodenticides, predacides, and vertebrate animal repellents. Requirements include: a bachelor's degree or higher in biological or physical sciences, including studies in animal behavior; skill in both written and oral communications; experience analyzing and evaluating scientific data; and some knowledge of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and the Federal Food Drug and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA). Position level is GS-5 through GS-11 with salary range from \$16,305 to \$38,855. (A higher level will be considered.)

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

NADCA members have been very generous in supplying the editors of *The Probe* with news material. This demonstrates the interest and commitment of our members to the NADCA. As this organization grows, the NADCA's commitment to you is to provide you with current, useful, and innovative information on ADC materials, technologies, and policies. Thanks for your help!

Terrell P. Salmon, President

PUBLICATION AVAILABLE

Wildlife Damage Management Program is the title of a new leaflet published by Cornell Cooperative Extension. The publication describes the Wildlife Damage Management program at Cornell and has an interesting section called "Answers to Frequently Asked Questions." It deals with species such as deer, bear, coyote, skunk, raccoon, and birds. Copies are available from: Dr. Paul Curtis, 109 Fernow Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14853.

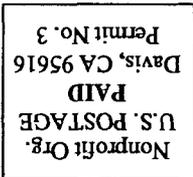
NADCA OFFICIAL SPONSOR OF FIFTH EASTERN WILDLIFE DAMAGE CONTROL CONFERENCE

Paul D. Curtis, Extension Associate at Cornell University, expressed appreciation to NADCA for its sponsorship of the 5th Eastern Wildlife Damage Control Conference. In a letter to James Forbes of NADCA, Curtis said the "5th Eastern Wildlife Damage Control Conference Planning Committee appreciates the support and sponsorship offered by the National Animal Damage Control Association (NADCA)." Curtis went on to say "I am glad to see that NADCA promotes professional animal damage control activities, and is addressing many human and wildlife conflicts."

INFORMATION ON SNARING NEEDED BY MAINE READER

In a letter to NADCA treasurer Wes Jones, Herbie Pulk of Pembroke, Maine requested assistance in learning snaring techniques. Pulk told Jones, "I do some ADC work for the State around deer yards and etc. We are just getting our feet wet on snaring. Slim Pederson and some of the Federal Fish and Wildlife have been up to help us and show us some techniques. It all helps, but is there a book, diagrams, people that I could get in touch with that might give me some pointers on snaring in the cover we have here? I know the best teacher is doing it day after day, but any info helps."

Send snaring information to Herbert Pulk, East River Road, P.O. Box 50, Pembroke, Maine.



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

Membership Application

NATIONAL ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL ASSOCIATION

Mail to: Wes Jones, Treasurer, Route 1 Box 37, Shell Lake, WI 54871

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP _____

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

(Underline: Student \$7.50, Active \$15, Sponsor \$30, Patron \$100)

Check or Money Order payable to NADCA

Select one type of occupation or principal interest:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Foreign | <input type="checkbox"/> Trapper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ADC Equipment/Supplies | <input type="checkbox"/> University |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe) _____ | |

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