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May 1999

The Probe, Issue 200 – May 1999

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As It Was in Region 5, 1949-1964

Clarence "Ki" Faulkner

It has been 50 years since I began employment in the Branch of Predator and Rodent Control (P&RC), Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, as a Mammal Control Agent. I was officed in my home in Westboro, MA and was responsible for the P&RC program in eastern Massachusetts. The Commonwealth appropriated \$8,000 for the employment of two cooperative employees in the state. Worcester County was the dividing line. Later, I was transferred to the P&RC program in western Massachusetts and also was responsible for the supervision of the Bait Mixing Station at the University of Massachusetts. Then I was transferred to Durham, NH as an Assistant District Agent and was responsible for the P&RC program in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York (except for Long Island). Again, my office was in my home. In 1958 I was transferred to the Regional Office in Boston, MA as a Regional Supervisor and was responsible for the supervision of the P&RC program in Region 5. The office was in a commercial building in downtown Boston. There I remained until 1964, when I was transferred to Region 3, Minneapolis, MN, as a Regional Supervisor.

The P&RC personnel in Region 5 were issued travel vouchers, purchase order books, credit cards, and a diary. The diary was to be completed each day and at the end of the week copied onto a weekly itinerary form. The diary information noted type of farm visit, work conducted, travel time, lecture or demonstration and number in attendance, and all other activities that day, as well as mileage at the close of the day. The itinerary, purchase orders, and credit card purchases (gasoline) were mailed to the Regional Office each week. Quarterly reports and an annual report were prepared and also sent to the Regional Office.

The P&RC field personnel were stationed at universities in the Region, where they received office space and secretarial assistance and could work closely with the State Extension Service personnel. Extension leaflets and radio tapes pertaining to P&RC activities were prepared on campus in cooperation with the various Extension Specialists. To conduct the P&RC program in each state, a Memorandum of Understanding was initiated with each agency and signed by the director of that agency and the Director of the Bureau. The agencies were as follows: State Department of Health, State Department of Fish & Game, State Department of Agriculture, State Extension Service, and Bureau of Sport Fisheries & Wildlife. Later a single Memorandum

was initiated and signed by all the State agencies and the Bureau.

The P&RC program was of the extension type and consisted of what we called farm or home visits. The visits were obtained by mail, telephone calls, or schedules made up by County Agriculture Agents. In most cases, the agents were well aware of the P&RC activities and became one of the major sources of requests for assistance. Control leaflets were prepared on the most damaging pest species and made available to the county agents for hand-outs. Such leaflets were also sent to individuals that requested assistance. However, many times information pertaining to the P&RC problem was lacking, thus farm or home visits were made to determine the species of animal responsible for the problem. The county agent usually liked to accompany the P&RC Agent on the farm or home visit. It made it much easier to locate the farm or home. In-

The county agent usually liked to accompany the P&RC Agent on the farm or home visit. It made it much easier to locate the farm or home. Information to control the problem was given to the farmer or homeowner and usually a follow-up visit occurred when economic losses were severe.

formation to control the problem was given to the farmer or homeowner and usually a follow-up visit occurred when economic losses were severe. Lectures were made on a timely basis to agricultural groups and civic organizations. Also, demonstrations were given at "twilight meetings" which were held on farms or in orchards and at farmers' field days.

The personnel changes during this period, in order, were as follows: eastern Massachusetts - Clarence Faulkner, Wesley Jones, Fred Courtsal, Normal Holgersen, Rene Bollengier; western Massachusetts - Charles Scott, Clarence Faulkner, John Peterson, Richard Smith; Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York (except for Long Island) - John Luderman, Clarence Faulkner, Fred Courtsal; Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut - Carl Henry, Wesley Jones, John Peterson; New York

Continued on page 6, col. 1

NWCOA Holds First Board Meeting

The first meeting of the newly elected Governing Board of the National Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators Association (NWCOA) met in Indianapolis on April 17th. The meeting was opened with inspirational remarks from Dr. Robert Schmidt being read by NWCOA's President Tim Julien. Dr. Schmidt encouraged the group to continue on its path of ethical and professional industry development. The governing board took these words to heart and began the process of developing the roadmap for the association.

The meeting was attended by eighteen members from across the country, from as far west as Oklahoma and east from Delaware. The Bylaws were established; a Code of Ethics as a condition of membership was accepted; minimum licensing standard recommendations for state oversight were discussed and provided to NADCA's NWCO committee chairman Mike Dwyer (this issue is one of many that the two organizations hope to work together on). It was announced that the issue of liability insurance availability has been successfully completed, with a national policy written and made affordable for the smallest of operators. Publications, fundraising, a membership drive, euthanasia, communications, and organizational structure were among the many other subjects discussed. By the time the meeting was adjourned at mid-day on April 18th, a great deal had been accomplished.

Most impressive is the diversity of the governing group of this organization. The backgrounds of board members include degrees in Biology, Business, Philosophy, Communications, and Ministry. Also represented is a great amount of experience in Wildlife Damage Management, Wildlife Rehabilitation, Publishing, Business, Sales, and most importantly a total commitment to establishing an ethical industry. The years of planning and developing seem to have paid off with a good solid

Continued on page 5, col. 2

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

May 23-27, 1999: North American Aquatic Furbearer Symposium, Mississippi State University, Starkville, Miss. Presentations (papers and posters) will be given on ecology, economics, human dimensions, policy issues, population estimates, or techniques related to aquatic and semi-aquatic furbearers (beaver, mink, otter, nutria, muskrat, and raccoon). A variety of field trips are planned. Peer-edited symposium proceedings will be published. For conference information and registration forms, visit website at: <http://www.cfr.msstate.edu/naafs/naafs.htm>, or contact Richard B. Minnis, MS Coop. Fish & Wildlife Research Unit, phone (601)325-3158.

June 2-3, 1999: Feral Swine Symposium, Green Oaks Inn, Ft. Worth, TX. Speakers and sessions will explore multiple aspects of feral swine from perspectives of biology and distribution, hunting and trapping, game management, damage control, environmental impact, disease, and agency responsibilities. A Proceedings will be published. Pre-registration \$50 by May 15. For more information, call Claude Nelson or Rick Smathers at TX Animal Health Commission, (800) 550-8242

June 28-July 2, 1999: 2nd International Wildlife Management Congress, Hungary. To include a plenary session "Issues in Wildlife-Human Conflicts." Contact: Dr. E. Lee Fitzhugh, Extension Wildlife Specialist, UC Davis, phone (530) 752-1496, email <elfitzhugh@ucdavis.edu>.

August 5, 1999: Future Technology for Managing Problems with Vertebrate Pests and Over-abundant Wildlife, Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, VA. A special session to be held in conjunction with the 11th Triennial International Symposium of The Biodeterioration Society. Abstracts should be submitted to W. B. Jackson by May 15. Papers will be peer-reviewed and published as a special issue of International Biodeterioration & Biodegradation. For further information, contact: Dr. William B. Jackson, phone (419) 352-8058, fax (419) 372-2024, or Dr. Michael W. Fall, phone (970) 266-6084, fax (970) 266-6089.

September 7-11, 1999: 6th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society, Austin, TX. Conference will include the following symposia: "Educating the Public on Wildlife Damage Management Issues" (1/2 day); "Balancing Social and Ecological Factors in Management of Urban/Suburban Wildlife" (1/2 day); and "Bats and Humans: Education, Conservation, Controversy and Conflict" (1/2 day). Contact The Wildlife Society national office, phone (301) 897-9770, email <lorraine@wildlife.org>, or visit website <http://www.wildlife.org>.

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Your contributions of articles to *The Probe* are welcome and encouraged. The deadline for submitting materials is the 15th of the month prior to publication. Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of NADCA.



Call for Papers—19th Vertebrate Pest Conference: March 6, 2000 - San Diego, California

The Vertebrate Pest Conference is an educational event for discussing and exchanging information on problems and solutions to wildlife damage. This conference is held every two years and is one of the largest and most recognized conferences of its kind. Presentations range from practical management to more technical papers concerning research or new technology.

Papers will be accepted in (but not limited to) the following vertebrate pest categories:

- *Commensal rodent management*
- *Field rodent and rabbit management*
- *Bird management (urban or agricultural)*
- *Predator problems and their management*
- *Urban wildlife (problems and solutions)*
- *Wildlife and reforestation problems*
- *New wildlife management chemicals, materials, or techniques*
- *Human, domestic animal, and wildlife health*
- *Alternative management methods and materials (repellents, exclusion, etc.)*
- *Endangered species programs and vertebrate pest management*
- *Economic, social, and political aspects of vertebrate pest problems and their management*

Submit a proposed title and an abstract by May 30, 1999 to the Program Chairpersons:

Vertebrate Pest Conference
c/o Dr. Desley Whisson
Dept. of Wildlife, Fish and Conservation Biology
University of California
One Shields Ave.
Davis, CA 95616-8751 U.S.A.

Submissions may be made by mail, by FAX (530) 752-4154 attn: D. Whisson, or by email to <dawhisson@ucdavis.edu>.

Contributed papers will be selected by the Vertebrate Pest Council on the basis of scientific merit, newness, uniqueness of topic, usefulness, and appropriateness for the overall conference program and its objectives. Summaries of work in progress are acceptable. Summaries received after May 30, 1999 will be considered as space is available. Contributed papers should not have been presented, submitted, or published elsewhere. All speakers are expected to submit an electronic version as well as a written paper at the conference. Papers meeting scientific publication standards will be published in the conference *Proceedings*.

Further information about the Vertebrate Pest Conference is available on the VPC home page:

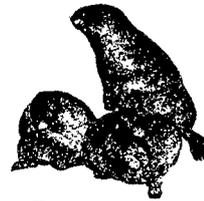
<http://www.davis.com/~vpc/welcome.htm>

or from the Program Chairpersons:

Dr. Desley Whisson <dawhisson@ucdavis.edu>

Dr. Robert M. Timm <rmtimm@ucdavis.edu>

If you wish to be added to the mailing list to received the preliminary program for the conference, contact Sydni Gillette at (530) 754-8491 or email <skgillette@ucdavis.edu>.



ADC in the News

Colorado County Bans Rodents

County commissioners in Prowers County, Colorado, have drafted an ordinance prohibiting importation of prairie dogs for the purpose of allowing them to run at large on public or private lands. This action was spurred by events in neighboring Baca County, where a group of animal preservationists from Boulder purchased over 1,200 acres of land for the purpose of relocating prairie dogs removed from Front Range lands being developed for housing construction.

—*excerpted from The Denver Post, Jan. 6 1999*

Oregon Hunters, Farmers Control Geese

Oregon farmers and hunters have begun a coordinated effort to reduce goose damage to agriculture. Beginning in December, the Oregon Department Fish and Wildlife has given farmers a list of hunters willing to come onto their fields and shoot the offending waterfowl. The goal is to convince the honkers to avoid croplands in favor of refuges or other non-croplands. An estimated 300,000 geese wintered in the heavily-farmed Willamette Valley last year, six times the numbers of two decades ago. These geese caused an estimated \$15 million in damage to grass and wheat fields, according to agricultural agencies. Some farmers report losing up to 30 percent of their crop.



The Editor thanks the following contributors to this issue: Guy Connolly, Mike Fall, Clarence "Ki" Faulkner, Rex E. Marsh, Karl Curtis, and Tim Julien. Send your contributions to The PROBE, 4070 University Road, Hopland, CA 95449.

Handbook Review

*Reviewed by Rex E. Marsh, Wildlife Fish & Conservation Biology,
University of California, Davis*

Wildlife Removal Handbook—A Guide to the Capture and Control of Wild Urban Animals
Revised and Expanded (1999) Authored by Stephen Vantassel

This guide for the control and capture of wild urban animals, initially published in 1993 by Stephen Vantassel, has recently been substantially revised and expanded. Not only have the chapters been expanded to include additional information, several pertinent and completely new chapters have been added. Beginning chapters discuss, from first-hand experiences, various aspects of the business of nuisance animal con-

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trol and include such topics as getting started in business and basic equipment needs. Telephone basics and contract preparation, including a sample contract, are discussed in the next two chapters.

Three chapters are devoted to box-type traps, the qualities that make them effective, techniques for improving their efficiency, and lastly, methods of baiting. Other chapters provide a wealth of how-to techniques and information based on the author's trapping experiences. Trapping skunks and resolving

their odor problems and capturing raccoons and evicting them from chimneys are the subject of chapters seven through ten. One chapter each is devoted to trapping gray squirrels, woodchucks, chipmunks, and feral house cats. Methods of dispatching animals and options for carcass disposal are covered in separate chapters, as are the hazards associated with wildlife control, e.g. rabies and raccoon roundworms. Renting traps, installation of chimney caps, and other exclusions methods represent other chapter topics. The final chapter provides suggested resources for further information.

This revised edition has increased usefulness because it contains more relevant information and a number of new illustrations. Because the volume is based on the experiences of the author, it is oriented toward wildlife problems found in the Northeast. Unfortunately, this somewhat limits its value at the national level since nuisance animals such as armadillos, opossums, ground squirrels, porcupines, pocket gophers, and moles are not included. Similarly, the coverage of diseases and parasites associated with nuisance wildlife control in the chapter on biological hazards is deficient when reviewed from a national perspective.

This revised edition has increased usefulness because it contains more relevant information and a number of new illustrations.

In summary, this revised handbook contains very useful information, especially for anyone wishing to start their own business. The tips on methodology and techniques will be of most help to the less experienced, rather than to the seasoned urban ADC trapper. However, even the experienced trapper will find this 67-page volume interesting and thought-provoking. Although about the same number of pages as the original volume, this revised volume is printed in a larger 8 1/2 x 11-inch format, greatly increasing the text. The book is well worth adding to the other references on your shelf. Priced at \$19.95 (postpaid), the book is available from Stephen Vantassel, 340 Cooley Street, Springfield, MA 01128, or by placing a phone order at (413) 796-9916 (credit cards are accepted). Checks should be made payable to "Wildlife Damage Control."



NWCO Tip

Renters who are having wildlife problems in apartments often call NWCOs and ask to have the problem taken care of or an assessment done. You should insist that the **landlord call you** to request your services. A landlord who won't bother to do this is not serious about contracting your services and likely will not be anxious to pay. And landlords do not appreciate a tenant who runs up a bill. So when a renter calls, find out what the problem is and tell them you'll be happy to take care of it just as soon as the landlord calls and requests your services.

— submitted by Karl Curtis, NWCO, Manlius, NY

Abstracts from the 5th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society (continued from the April 1999 Issue, #199)

Wildlife-Caused Losses of Catfish in 1996: Is Wildlife Services Providing a Valuable Service for Producers?

A.P. Wywiałowski, USDA/APHIS Policy & Program Development, Riverdale, MD

In January of 1997, the national Agricultural Statistics Service surveyed catfish producers about wildlife-caused losses in 1996. Of the producers in 15 states surveyed, 1,008 (68.8%) completed the survey. Producers spent a substantial amount of effort trying to prevent wildlife-caused losses of their catfish. Most frequently cited loss prevention methods were: shooting (57%), vehicle patrol (55%), and frightening (36%). Producers were estimated to have spend >\$5 million protecting their operations from wildlife. Overall, 69% of catfish producers cited wildlife-causes losses of their catfish. Producers cited losses to wildlife most frequently in Mississippi (81%) and Arkansas (74%). Birds were most frequently cited as a cause of the losses and double-crested cormorants were most frequently cited (53%). The next most frequently cited birds were herons (48%), of which 42% cited great blue herons. The main problem caused by wildlife was feeding on catfish (67%). Birds also were listed as causing losses by injuring catfish (40%) and disturbing feeding patterns of the catfish (23%). Some producers (16%) reported wildlife-caused damage to structures, such as burrowing in dikes and roads. The total estimated cost of losses was \$11.5 million. Overall, wildlife cost catfish producers \$17 million, about 4% of the total value of catfish sales at \$424 million in 1996, but an average of one-sixth to one-third of the average producers' profits. More catfish producers (44%) than other types of agricultural producers were familiar with the federal Wildlife Services (WS) program. Of producers familiar with WS, 51% had ever contacted WE for assistance, 55% used methods suggested by WS to reduce their wildlife-caused losses, and 40% received direct assistance from WS in 1996. Mississippi producers, who most frequently received direct assistance from WS, had low to intermediate proportionate amounts of wildlife-caused losses relative to the other regions.

ADC in the News

Border Collie Loses Interest in Geese

A border collie purchased by Ellsworth Meadows Golf Course, Hudson, OH, to chase Canada geese off the property was relieved of her job when she stopped chasing the geese. When the dog, "Jill," trained by Fly Away Geese Management of Espyville, PA, first arrived at the golf course, she "was just perfect," according to Denny Smith, golf course manager. But then she gradually lost interest in her appointed task. "She'd get off the golf cart, take a light little pass out at the geese, and come back to us as happy as would be. The geese only flew 50 feet," said Smith. The dog's trainer, Donna Lumme, noted she was unsure why Jill lost interest in herding geese. But the golf course, which had purchased Jill for \$2,000 a few weeks earlier, received a new dog.

—excerpted from an Associated Press article, Mar. 11, 1999

Responses to Regional and Emotional Information About a Trapping Ban Ballot Initiative

H.C. Zinn* and M.J. Manfreda, *Recreation and Parks Mgmt. Program, Penn. State University, University Park

In 1996, Colorado voters passed a ballot initiative severely restricting wildlife trapping in the state, prompting questions about the role of information in influencing voter behavior. In response to these questions, this study used an experimental design to examine responses to appeals about the trapping ban issue. After casting mock votes on a trapping ban proposal and 4 other proposals, a sample of university students was exposed to rational or emotional, pro-, anti-, or balanced appeals about the issues. The comparative effectiveness of appeals was tested with 2 post-treatment mock votes, the first immediately following treatments and the second a week later. Differences in pre- and post-treatment votes were tested using logistic regression, in which post-treatment vote was the dependent variable, while appeal type (rational or emotion), appeal direction (pro-, anti-, or balanced), and pre-treatment vote were independent variables. One-sided appeals influenced votes in the intended directions. Balanced appeals had little influence. No differences were found between the influence of rational and emotional appeals. Across issues, vote shifts in response to trapping ban appeals were among the smallest shifts observed, a result consistent with the high levels of personal involvement and certainty that subjects reported about the trapping ban issue. These findings are consistent with other research suggesting that many people, whether students or members of the general populations, were resistant to persuasion regarding the trapping issue because their positions are rooted in strongly-held, basic human values.

Continued from page 2, col. 1

NWCOA Holds First Board Meeting

foundation for this trade association to accomplish good things for the operators it represents. We also intend to provide a resource to the agencies charged with oversight responsibilities of our industry.

Elected officers are as follows:

President: Tim Julien <tjulien@iquest.net>

Vice President: Carson Kennard <WildLifeDE@aol.com>

Treasurer: Roger York

Secretary: William Knapp

General Organizer: Vince Angotti

Regional Directors: Carl Carnahan, <wildlife@juno.com>

Stephen Vantassel <admin@wildlifedamagecontrol.com>

Susan Greene <wildrun2@yahoo.com>

Tim Julien, President, NWCOA

As It Was in Region 5, 1949-1964

(Long Island), New Jersey, Delaware - Ernest Mills; Pennsylvania - Clinton Studholme; Washington D.C., Maryland - John Jones; Regional Supervisor - Howard Merrill, Clarence Faulkner, Bill Hickling. Later federal funds were made available for field personnel in Maine - Edward Ladd, and New York - James Caslick, Daniel Stiles. The Directorate in the Region and in Washington D.C., in order, was as follows: Regional Director - Rodney Gascoyne, John Gottschalk; Chief of P&RC - Dorr Green, Nobel Buell, Clifford Presnall.

Ernest Mills initiated the Rodent Control Revolving Fund in Region 5. He sold rodent control supplies obtained from the Pocatello Supply Depot out of the trunk of his government vehicle. Later, the Revolving Fund was transferred to Amherst, MA where a bait mixing station was established. John Luderman was in charge of the bait mixing station which was set up in the cavalry building on the University of Massachusetts campus. Rodent control materials supplied by Pocatello were sent to the station at Amherst for Region 5 sales. In those days, one boxcar full of woodchuck gas cartridges was shipped annually to Amherst. One-half of the gas cartridges were unloaded at the Eastern States Farmers Cooperative headquarters in New York for their distribution and sales. Prepared baits were mixed at the station, including zinc phosphide-treated oats, strychnine-treated oats, and Warfarin rat bait. The clean steam-crushed oats were supplied by Pocatello. Rodenticides were canned at the bait mixing station and included zinc phosphide concentrate, zinc phosphide rodenticide, and red squill. None of these products were commercially available at the time. A college student, paid from the Revolving Fund, prepared the products at the bait mixing station.

P&RC activities were mostly seasonal: woodchuck control in the spring; fox, skunk, raccoon, hawk and owl control on poultry ranges in the summer; orchard mouse control in the fall; and squirrel and commensal rodent control in the fall and winter. (Note: When Congress enacted the Act in 1931 for the eradication, suppression and control of predators and rodents and suppression of rabies, the U.S. Public Health Service and the Agency negotiated an agreement to include the control of commensal rodents.) Rat control was one of the major programs due to the large population of Norway rats in poultry houses with dirt floors, on open faced dumps, and a lack of rat-proofing in commercial buildings. Rat surveys were made in Baltimore, MD; Cambridge, MA; and Springfield, MA. Many open-faced dumps were treated with zinc phosphide rodenticide mixed with canned cat food each fall. Also, open-faced dumps that were to be closed were treated a week after closure. Orchard mice (vole) surveys were made in the fall to determine population levels. In addition, the search for pine mice was intensified. It was found that the species preferred well-drained soils and Delicious apple trees. Pine mice were already present in orchards in Massachusetts and in orchards south of the state. The first pine mouse was found in a New Hampshire orchard in 1954, and in Maine and Vermont in 1956.

During the early 1950s, Carl Henry, Assistant District Agent, P&RC, Westboro, MA, and Galen Oderkird, District Agent, P&RC, Purdue University, were each working on a machine that would make a furrow along the apple tree drip line into which poison bait would be placed. Neither were aware of each other's work. The machines were brought to Westboro and tested against each other. Carl Henry's machine was the more efficient, thus a government patent was obtained. The machine, called an 'orchard mouse trail builder,' was manufactured by a local machinist and sold to fruit growers. Meanwhile, Bob Eadie of Cornell University advanced the idea of broadcasting 2% zinc phosphide-treated cracked corn by aircraft or seeder to control orchard mice. Both the orchard mouse trail builder and the broadcast of zinc phosphide-treated corn did control voles, but not pine mice. Thus, a continuous spread and population increase of pine mice in orchards occurred.

Bird control at airports became a major factor when, in 1962, a propeller-driven aircraft crashed at Logan Airport, Bos-

Bird control at airports became a major factor when, in 1962, a propeller-driven aircraft crashed at Logan Airport, Boston, as a result of a bird strike.

ton, as a result of a bird strike. Specifically, the cause was a flock of starlings coming in to roost in stands of reeds around ponds between the runways. Habitat management practices were initiated to eliminate the reeds and ponds. The action at Logan Airport stimulated activities at both military and other commercial airports. Gulls were captured and dyed to determine their movements from open-faced dumps in the airport areas. Bird surveys, when requested, were made at airports. Various sound and chemical stresses were tried in order to frighten birds from the airports. Finally, the Division of Management and Enforcement (M.E.), when requested by P&RC, authorized the employment of shotgun patrols at airports. Habitat management practices were initiated at the airports when airport managers requested such assistance.

P&RC provide predator control at duck banding sites in Maine and New Hampshire. This was done in cooperation with M.E. The Division, now the "Division of Law Enforcement," had migratory bird management responsibility as well as law enforcement authority. Raccoons and fox caused a considerable amount of mortality to the captured ducks in traps. P&RC also assisted M.E. in the woodcock survey on the woodcock singing grounds.

Brief P&RC projects were conducted throughout the period, as follows:

- *Porcupine control in Vermont, during winter months, using sodium arsenate-treated apples*

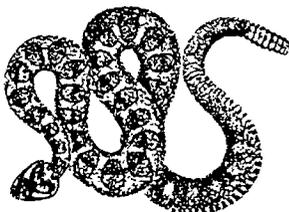
As It Was in Region 5, 1949-1964

- Rabies control in northern Maine, along the Canadian border, Fort Kent to Jackman, using 1/2 strychnine predator tablets in beef tallow baits
- City-wide pigeon control in Boston, MA using strychnine-treated whole corn
- Ring-billed gull reduction on Muskeget Island, MA to test use of strychnine-treated bread
- A test of the use of a sprinkling system using detergent in water, to control birds on roosts during winter months

The cooperative program in Massachusetts was an excellent training situation for new P&RC employees. It enabled the Assistant District Agent in Massachusetts to work closely with them. They received training on problem species just prior to each control season. All P&RC field personnel met annually to receive additional training and to discuss policies, budgets, and management problems. Such meetings usually took place near a National Wildlife Refuge so that training on predator control techniques could be employed on the refuge.

Research personnel from the Denver Research Laboratory visited the Region each year and gave a briefing on the latest research findings. Also, they assigned various field projects to test the results from the laboratory findings. Field projects included the following: woodchuck control using a modified gas cartridge; mole control using contact poisons; orchard mouse control using contact poisons and also anticoagulants; and rat and mouse control using anticoagulants.

Each year the P&RC Directorate met with all of the P&RC Regional Supervisors at a regional office to discuss budgets, policies, and personnel. In addition, the same group met at the Denver Research Laboratory or Patuxent Wildlife Research Center to discuss animal control research and problems. The Regional Supervisors were, in order of service, as follows: Region 1 - Nelson Elliot; Region 2 - Ted Cates; Region 3 - William Nelson; Region 4 - Robert Dean; Region 5 - Howard Merrill, Clarence Faulkner, Bill Hickling; Alaska - Maurice Kelly. Two national P&RC conferences were held during the period. The first was held at Denver, CO in 1950, and the second in Fort Worth, TX in 1954. Participants traveled both conferences by use of government-owned vehicles.



ADC in the News

Colorado Deer Herds Decline

Deer numbers in Colorado's Unit 62, located in the Colorado and Gunnison River watersheds, have dropped from an estimated 38,000 head to 26,000 or fewer for reasons that are not well understood. Colorado Division of Wildlife representatives are proposing a 50% reduction in hunters on the Uncompahgre Plateau area for the coming hunting season, but hunters' groups are pressing for at least an 80% cut in mule deer hunters, or even a complete elimination of hunting in that area this year. Among the theories being considered as plausible are encroachment of roads and development into deer habitat, competition from elk, and predator impacts. Biologists who radio-collared 70 does and fawns in the area last year found that 51% of fawns and 18% of does died over the winter. Coyote were the largest single cause of mortality, taking 45% of the collared deer. Other predator impacts from mountain lions and bobcats were also noted, while some deer died of nutritional problems. CDW biologists will continue to monitor predation throughout the coming winter, while also looking at changes in habitat and forage. A decision on whether to limit hunting will be made at the Colorado Wildlife Commission's May meeting.

—excerpted from an article by Nancy Lofholm in the *Denver Post*, 3/25/99

Texas Wildlife Specialists Solve Predation Problems

Managers of a Houston County, TX ranch with approximately 2,500 head of Mouflan and Barbado sheep reported the loss of 500 lambs to coyotes over a 6-month period, as well as losses of calves. Total value of the losses was estimated to be \$10,000. These losses had occurred despite the presence of three Akbash guard dogs and the confinement of sheep to small (200-acre) rotational grazing pastures. Texas Wildlife Damage Management Service specialist Greg Ashabranner, at last report, had taken 15 coyotes from the area where the losses occurred, using M-44s, snares, and calling.

On a Real County, TX ranch, raccoons were responsible for killing seven Spanish kid goats. Texas WDMS specialist Lynn Stotts removed 11 raccoons in a two-week period using cage traps and snares, effectively stopping the killing.

Feral hogs in Kimble County, TX were thought to be the culprits in killing 200 head of kid goats over a three-week period, according to a rancher's report. Investigating Texas WDMS specialist Jimmy Weaver it was found that the hogs were also killing livestock on neighboring ranches as well. An aerial hunting effort, with helicopter pilot Mike Acklin participating, resulted in removal of about 50 hogs. While the livestock predation has stopped, hog control efforts are being continued because fresh hog sign is still in evidence.

—from *The Trapline*, newsletter of the Texas Wildlife Damage Management Service, March 1999

**DO NOT DELAY
- TIME VALUED MATERIAL -**



Scott Hynstrom
Forestry, Fisheries & Wildlife
202 Nat. Resources Hall
University of Nebraska
Lincoln, NE 68583-0819

Membership Renewal and Application Form

NATIONAL ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL ASSOCIATION

Mail to: Grant Huggins, Treasurer, Noble Foundation, P.O. Box 2180, Ardmore, OK 73402

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

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

Additional Address Info: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP _____

Please use 9-digit Zip Code

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

Membership Class: Student \$10.00 Active \$20.00 Sponsor \$40.00 Patron \$100 (Circle one)

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 - Wildlife Services | <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) _____ | |