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for

September 1999

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USFWS to Explore Canada Goose Management Strategies

Editor's Note: The following is taken from a press release issued Aug. 3 by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, written by Chris Tollefson.

In an effort to reduce human conflicts with resident Canada goose populations in urban and suburban communities, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced that it has begun to develop a nationwide management strategy for resident Canada geese. The Service published a notice in August 3rd's *Federal Register* of its intent to study ways to control and manage increasing populations of resident Canada geese that pose a threat to human health or safety, or that cause damage to personal and public property. An Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared with the goal of providing states with more management flexibility and authority to deal with resident Canada goose populations, while establishing criteria for population goals and objectives, management planning and population monitoring.

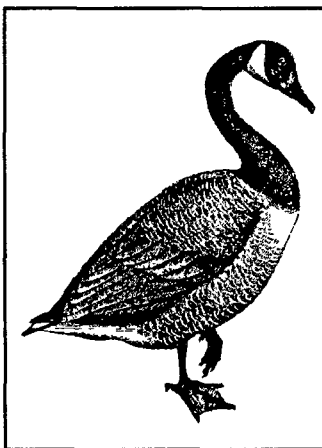
"Over the years, the Service has repeatedly taken action to address immediate problems caused by resident goose populations in our communities. But with populations continually multiplying across the nation, we recognize that new and innovative strategies will have to be developed to protect the public and ensure the long-term health of these waterfowl," said Acting Service Director John Rogers. "Our goal is to develop a long-term strategy to integrate management of these birds with other federal and state agency efforts, as well as our existing waterfowl flyway system."

Most Canada goose populations are migratory, wintering in the southern United States and migrating north to summer breeding grounds in the Canadian arctic. But increasing urban and suburban development in the U.S. has resulted in the creation of ideal goose habitat conditions—park-like open areas with short grass adjacent to small bodies of water—resulting in growing numbers of locally-breeding geese that live year round on golf courses, parks, airports and other public and private property. In temperate climates across the United States, these places provide geese with relatively stable breeding habitat and low numbers of predators. In addition, hunting is usually not allowed in urban and suburban areas, restricting the ability of state and local au-

thorities to control populations using traditional methods. Those resident populations that do migrate often fly only short distances compared to their migratory relatives that breed in Canada. For these reasons, resident Canada goose populations enjoy consistently high reproduction and survival rates.

In recent years, biologists have documented tremendous increases in populations of Canada geese that nest predominantly within the United States. Recent surveys suggest that the Nation's resident breeding population now exceeds 1 million birds in both the Atlantic and the Mississippi flyways and is continuing to increase. In the Mississippi Flyway alone, the 1998 spring Canada goose population estimate exceeded 1.1 million birds, an increase of 21 percent from 1997.

Resident Canada goose populations are increasingly coming into conflict with human activities in many parts of the country. In parks and other open areas near water, large goose flocks denude lawns of vegetation and create conflicts with their droppings and feather litter. Goose droppings in heavy concentrations can overfertilize lawns, contribute to excessive algae growth in lakes that can result in fish kills, and potentially contaminate municipal water supplies. Geese have also been involved in a growing number of aircraft



strikes at airports across the country, resulting in dangerous takeoff and landing conditions and costly repairs.

For decades, the Service attempted to address the problem by adjusting hunting season frameworks and issuing control permits on a case-by-case basis. But hunting restrictions in most urban and suburban communities have limited efforts to increase the harvest of resident geese, and the Service has been overwhelmed by requests for control permits. For example, the Service's Midwest region issued 149 permits authorizing resident Canada goose control efforts in 1994, including trapping and relocation, egg and nest destruction, and take of adults. In 1998, the region issued 225 permits. All of the Service's regions report similar growth in the num-

Continued on page 2, col. 2

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

September 24-26, 1999: Impact of White-Tailed Deer on the Biodiversity and Economy of Pennsylvania, Radisson Hotel, Harrisburg, PA. Conference will provide a complete overview of current state policy, the extent of the problem, and the policies of other jurisdictions; a review of practices used to control damage; proposals for amelioration; and opportunities to view damage first-hand in the field. Sponsored by Pennsylvania Chapter of the Sierra Club, Audubon Society of Pennsylvania, and the Western Pennsylvania Watershed Protection Program of the Heinz Endowments. For information, call (717) 763-4981.

Oct. 13-14 (Denver CO); Nov. 1-2 (Woodbridge, NJ); Nov. 4-5 (Orlando, FL) 1999: Bird Barrier / Van Waters & Rogers Bird Control Classes. For further information contact persons for the specific class locations are: Denver, Randy Dodrill at (313) 388-5651; Woodbridge, Greg Ten Hoeve at (732) 636-4660; and Orlando, Jim Watson at (407) 843-2611.



Nov. 30 - Dec. 3, 1999: 12th Annual Conference of the Australasian Wildlife Management Society, Key Centre for Tropical Wildlife Management, Northern Territory University, Darwin NT 0909 Australia. Contact: Peter Whitehead, fax 618 8946 6712 or email <peterw@gis.ntu.edu.au>

Dec. 5-8, 1999: 61st Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference, Chicago, IL. Conference theme "Pathways to the Future." For more information, contact Larry A. Jahn, Steering Committee Chairperson, phone (309) 298-1266 or email <la-jahn@wiu.edu>.

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Editor: Robert M. Timm

UC Hopland Res. & Extens. Ctr., 4070 University Road,
Hopland CA 95449, (707) 744-1424,
FAX (707) 744-1040, E-mail: rmtimm@ucdavis.edu

Editorial Assistant: Pamela J. Tinnin

P.O. Box 38, Partridge, KS 67566.

E-mail: pamzack@earthlink.net

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.

February 7-9, 2000: Sixth Annual Wildlife Control Instructional Seminar, Imperial Palace, Las Vegas, Nevada. Sponsored by W.C.T. (Wildlife Control Technology). For more information, phone Lisa at (815) 286-3039, email <wctech@ix.netcom.com> or visit website <http://www.wctech.com>.

March 6-9, 2000: 19th Vertebrate Pest Conference, Mission Valley Hilton, San Diego, CA. One-day field trip (Mar. 6) plus three days of plenary and concurrent sessions covering diverse topics including rodent, bird, and predator research and management. To receive program and pre-registration materials, contact Dr. Terry Salmon, Wildlife Fish & Conservation Biology, UC Davis, One Shields Ave., Davis CA 95616-8571, phone (530) 752-8751, fax (530) 752-4154, or visit web site: <http://www.davis.com/~vpc/welcome.htm>

Continued from page 1, col. 2

Exploring Goose Management Strategies

ber of requests for permits. On June 17, the Service created a new special Canada goose permit that gives state wildlife agencies the opportunity to design their own management programs and to take actions to control specific resident goose populations without having to seek a separate permit from the Service for each action. Designed to give states greater flexibility to respond to specific problems with resident geese, the new permit should satisfy the need for an efficient short-term management program until a comprehensive long-term management strategy can be developed and implemented.

The Service has identified a series of potential alternatives for dealing with resident Canada goose conflicts that could be evaluated in the EIS. Potential options include non-lethal methods such as managing habitat to make it less attractive to geese; harassment, trapping and relocation of birds; as well as more direct population stabilization and reduction programs. The final set of alternatives to be analyzed in the EIS will be determined based on comments received during a public scoping process that began with publication of the Aug. 3, 1999 *Federal Register* notice. Public scoping meetings will be held in states experiencing conflicts with resident goose populations. The location, date and time of those meetings has not been determined, but will be announced in a future notice in the *Federal Register*.

The Service encourages public comment on the scope of the EIS. Written comments should be submitted by October 2, 1999, addressed to the Chief, Office of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, ms 634 ARLSQ, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20240. For further information contact the Office of Migratory Bird Management, (703) 358-1714.

Legislative News

Anti-Trapping Measure Passes House

In its first ever vote on the use of steel-jawed leghold traps and neck snares, the U.S. House of Representatives on July 14 approved by a vote of 259 to 166 an amendment offered by Representative Sam Farr (D-CA) to the Fiscal Year 2000 House Interior Appropriations Act to prohibit commercial or recreational uses of these tools on National Wildlife Refuges.

The Humane Society of the U.S., a strong proponent of this measure, quotes a report by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that states 71 National Wildlife Refuges allow commercial and recreational trapping with steel-jawed leghold traps or neck snares. This same measure, called the Torricelli anti-trapping amendment, is now before the U.S. Senate and is expected to come to a vote during the week of Sept. 7, following the Congressional Labor Day recess. According to the Wildlife Legislative Fund of America, if this amendment passes the Senate, NO TRAPPING on refuges will most certainly become law of the land. The WLFA believes this would also open the door for other federal legislation dictated by animal rights groups and directed against hunting, fishing and trapping.

Oregon Legislature Moves To Ensure Safety Of Its Citizens Against Cougars

The Oregon legislature has passed a public safety bill authorizing the taking of cougars. Representative Simmons (R-Elgin) introduced House Bill 2875 to protect the people of Oregon. It is presently waiting for the Governor's signature. The bill authorizes the taking of cougars that pose a threat to citizen's safety. A cougar is considered a threat to the public if it exhibits little or no fear of people, is aggressive, advances, or snarls when in contact with people. A cougar repeatedly sighted during the day around people is also considered a public threat and may be taken under this bill. The legislature worked with the Department of Fish and Wildlife to craft a bill that would focus upon the issue of public safety; this bill does just that.



The Editor thanks the following contributors to this issue: Guy Connolly, Lee Fitzhugh, Jim Miller, Chris Tollefson, and Stephen Vantassel. Send your contributions to THE PROBE, 4070 University Road, Hopland, CA 95449.

Acord Promoted Away From Wildlife Services

Bobby Acord, long time head of the USDA-APHIS Animal Damage Control/ Wildlife Services program, announced that he will leave Wildlife Services to become the Associate Administrator of APHIS. His new assignment began August 15, 1999.

Acord joined Animal Damage Control (ADC) in 1986 when Congress transferred the program from the U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, to USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). He served as Assistant to the Deputy Administrator for ADC and later as Associate Deputy Administrator before being promoted to Deputy Administrator for ADC in 1990.

Bobby Acord was the fourth Deputy Administrator to head the ADC/WS program since the 1986 transfer. James Lee, the first Deputy Administrator, served only 13 months before he was succeeded by Gerald Fichtner who also was a short-timer. Joe Packham then held the job briefly before he returned to Idaho as Manager of the Pocatello Supply Depot. Acord held the 'Deputy Administrator for ADC' post for 9 years, longer than all his predecessors combined. During Acord's tenure APHIS renamed the program in 1997, from 'Animal Damage Control' to 'Wildlife Services'.

Recruitment for a new Deputy Administrator will begin immediately. Meanwhile, Bill Clay serves as Acting Deputy Administrator.

New State Director USDA/APHIS in Mississippi

Kristina Godwin will be the new State Director of USDA/APHIS Wildlife Services programs in Mississippi, beginning about August 15, 1999. She replaces Phil Mastrangelo who left Mississippi early in 1999 to assume the State Director post in North Dakota.

In announcing Godwin's selection, WS Eastern Regional Director Gary Larson noted that she comes from the USDA Forest Service where she has worked on numerous wildlife management projects, been involved in NEPA compliance, and served in a Congressional liaison role. When hired by WS, she was Supervisory Planning Team Leader of the Tom Bigbee National Forest in Ackerman, MS. She has a B.S. in Wildlife Ecology from the State University of New York and an M.S. in Wildlife Management from Mississippi State University. She began her wildlife management career as a wildlife biologist with the Forest Service in 1991.

Kris is very active in the wildlife profession, having served as President of the Mississippi Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Currently she is President Elect of the chapter and is on the Board of Directors of the Mississippi Wildlife Federation.

Book Review: Stephen Vantassel, NWC Correspondent

"Living With Wildlife: How to Enjoy, Cope With, and Protect North America's Wild Creatures Around Your Home and Theirs," The California Center for Wildlife, with Diana Landau and Shelley Stump. San Francisco: A Sierra Club Book. 1994. 340 pp. + index \$15.00.

Living with Wildlife was written to help encourage readers to learn more about wildlife and how each of us can protect our wild neighbors. Part of this emphasis flows from the mission of the California's Center for Wildlife to rehabilitate injured animals. It follows that if the Center can teach people how not to harm wildlife in the first place, then the Center could spend limited resources helping animals they presently can't help.

The book is not your typical animal damage control text. In fact, it could be argued that the information on animal damage control constitutes such a small part of the book's focus that the book shouldn't even be considered a text on the subject. Instead, the authors take a macro approach. Rather than providing a lot of strategies about how to handle problem wildlife, they tell you to consider how urbanization, cars, pollution, and hunting are impacting our fauna. They even tell the reader that personal action can only go so far to protecting wildlife. They call the reader to join in the political fight for our wild heritage.

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Nevertheless, the authors do spend time on teaching readers how to protect their homes and property from wildlife damage. Readers are told to secure their homes; but this advice, like most of the animal damage control advice, is too often given in vague and general terms. I got the impression that some of their advice was based more on their opinion that it would work, rather than from their experience that it would work. Don't misunderstand. They will give advice on handling animal damage, but the advice relies too heavily on repellents that we all know don't work as often as we would like.

Chapter 3 deals with helping injured wildlife. As can be expected, the authors have provided some important information. They advise the reader not to try to rehabilitate wildlife without a license and training. They correctly tell the reader that helping wildlife properly requires special knowledge and training. The authors did suggest that the reader call for help and/or bring the animal to help. What disturbed me was the lack of emphasis on disease transmission. On page 43 they suggest bringing the animal to help but don't talk about diseases

until page 46. One hopes readers read far enough into the book to get all the safety information.

The lion's share of the book focuses on the animals. The authors have covered a sizable number of species. They talk

I was impressed with the attention to species classifications. If you would like to know more about the various scientific names for wildlife and the characteristics of the animals in those families, this would be a good book to read.

about the natural history of everything from small mammals to newts. I was impressed with the attention to species classifications. If you would like to know more about the various scientific names for wildlife and the characteristics of the animals in those families, this would be a good book to read. Each species or family is described in regards to physical characteristics, range and habitat, other characteristics, enemies and defenses, how to observe, and finally situations and solutions. Like typical modern adherents to scientism, they pay due homage to the morally vague gods of evolution.

As stated earlier, the book covers a sizable number of species. Since the interests of our readers lies in animal damage control, I will focus the review on their advice for the most common nuisance species. The section on animals begins with a chapter entitled "Small Mammals." A cursory reading by anyone experienced in animal damage control would find that the authors really are animal damage control novices. Let repeat what I said above, these authors rely far too heavily on repellents. For example, when describing how to stop raccoons from raiding trash cans, they advise using ammonia rags as a last resort. Yet the second piece of advice was to put the cans in a shed. It would seem to me that sheds stop raccoon raiding when the shed is properly constructed. The authors spend too much ink talking about ammonia, cayenne pepper, and mothballs. Finally, the suggestion to relocate raccoons at least five miles is laughable in light of various relocation studies. A relocation distance of 12-15 miles would be preferable. (I should also point out that they suggest relocating skunks ten miles. I didn't know that skunks move farther than raccoons.) You should also note that these writers do not think it is likely that a whole beaver colony can be trapped and relocated.

The writers also fail to come to grips with the fact that some animals need to be killed, not relocated. Animals like mice and rats should certainly be destroyed, as relocation where there are no humans would likely to be inhumane as well. Box trapping

Book Review

mice and releasing them outside the house is also foolish, as it may be difficult if not impossible to totally exclude them. This "never kill unless the mice have a gun to your head" attitude demonstrates a rather skewed understanding of humanity's relationship to nature. Too often so-called environmentalists see humans as the problem, when some species would be out of balance whether humans were here or not. Do we really believe that mosquitoes were in harmony with the environment in this country when the Indians ruled the land? These writers also neglect that time and expense is also a factor in animal damage control. With their attitude, they have in effect suggested humans become slaves to the interests of individual animals. A more responsible attitude would be to suggest that human interests should be balanced against the interest of an entire species of animals, NOT an individual animal.

I was also tired of their continuous insinuation that hunting is at least partly responsible for the decline of various species. They tend to not inform the reader that money from sporting has brought many animals back from extinction and purchased land for open space preservation. Like many who lean to the animal right persuasion, these authors couldn't understand that using nature doesn't always result in the destruction or loss of nature. For example, I reject their idea that bullfrog jumping contests are somehow unfortunate. What is wrong with people deriving some enjoyment over watching some bullfrogs jump? The threat to bullfrogs is not contests, it's the destruction of their habitat. Appropriate regulations on the sport are of course assumed.

The book isn't a total loss. I strongly agree with the authors' concerns about cats and cars. If animal activists and ecologists could agree on anything, we should agree on the leashing of cats and the construction of passage-ways under roads. The authors have also compiled a rather large number of addresses and numbers of organizations that work with animals. Unfortunately, one cannot know how many of these addresses and numbers are still valid.

You can probably surmise at this point that I don't consider this book a "must have" for animal damage controllers. If you want to learn about various species and the characteristics of their classifications, then you want this book. Of course it never hurts to say that I am aware of how those opposed to consumptive uses of wildlife view the issues of animal damage control.

You can obtain a copy of this book through most major bookstores. The ISBN number is 0-87156-547-1.

Stephen Vantassel, NWCO Correspondent
PMB 102
340 Cooley St.
Springfield, MA 01128
<http://www.wildlifedamagecontrol.com>
admin@wildlifedamagecontrol.com
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NADCA Candidates Needed

Are you willing to promote the purposes of your professional organization in a formal way? Consider serving a 2-year term as a Regional Director or national officer for NADCA. Nomination (including self-nominations) are now needed to keep NADCA viable for the years 2000 and 2001.

If you're willing to be considered for office, or if you simply have some ideas about what NADCA could accomplish in the next two years, we invite you to contact NADCA President Robert Schmidt (email <rschmidt@cc.usu.edu>) or Treasurer Grant Huggins (email <jghuggins@noble.org> or U.S. Mail c/o Noble Foundation, PO Box 2180, Ardmore, OK 73402).

Wildlife in the News

French Shepherd Protest Predators

Hundreds of shepherds marched through the town of Foix in southwest France in early August to protest against bears, which have been successfully reintroduced to the wild and are now a threat to sheep. "Shepherds can no longer sleep in their huts. They have to spend the night with their flocks," declared local member of parliament, Augustin Bonrepeaux. "Predators and flocks cannot live together."

Three brown bears from Slovenia were set loose three years ago in a Pyrenees mountain area where they once were plentiful. Their numbers have now grown to six. Farmers say 45 sheep have been killed in the region this year and many others mauled or jumped to their deaths in fear. They want the bears confined to enclosures. "Our forefathers did away with bears, why bring them back?" one shepherd asked. Similar protests have taken place in the French Alps following the reintroduction of wolves.

Rabbit Calicivirus Kills 65% of Rabbit Population

Rabbit numbers across New South Wales, Australia have been reduced by more than 65 percent and in some areas by up to 90 percent since the introduction of the rabbit calicivirus. According to the *Daily Telegraph* newspaper, scientists are now also awaiting approval for a second mass release of the virus through a carrot-type bait—rather than releasing infected animals into the wild. This means of disease introduction is expected to be more effective in wetter areas of the country, where the initial impact of the disease has not been as dramatic. The Australian research organization, CSIRO, predicts the virus will continue to have an impact for another 10 years before its effectiveness begins to wear off.

—excerpted from articles by Reuters news services

Abstracts from the 2nd International Wildlife Management Congress, Hungary — June 28-July 2, 1999

Editor's Note: Abstracts from this recent meeting were kindly provided by E. Lee Fitzhugh of UC Davis, who was of one of approximately 300 persons attending the Congress. Publication of the full papers presented in a Proceedings is scheduled at a later time. The abstracts included here and in future issues of THE PROBE should be of interest to those of us who work in wildlife damage management.

Crop Damage by Wildlife in Northern Ghana

O. I. Aalangdon* and A.S. Langyintuo

**Dept. of Renewable Natural Resources, University for Development Studies, Tamale Northern Region, Ghana*

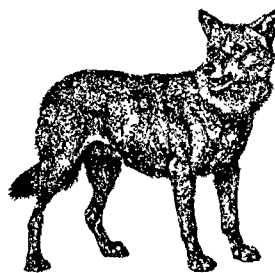
Crop damage by wildlife is a problem to farmers in Ghana. However, no standard methods in assessing and controlling wildlife crop damage in the country have been developed. We conducted a study in an attempt to assess the damage caused by wildlife to 3 major staple crops, groundnut, maize, and sorghum in Northern Ghana. The study was conducted in the West Gonja and Bole districts. We selected 2 farms each of the 3 crops in 4 villages and monitored the incidence and damage of the crops by wildlife from planting through the mature stages of the crops. We also interviewed farmers in a number of villages in the study area as to the type of wildlife that damage crops during the different growth stages. All crops in the region suffer wildlife damage in one way or the other and this occurred throughout the various stages of crop growth. Most notorious wildlife species that cause crop damage were francolin (*Francolinus* sp.), ground squirrel (*Epixerus* spp.), parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*), monkeys (*Cercopithecus* spp.), weaver birds (*Ploceus* spp.), and warthog (*Phacochoerus aethiopicus*). Elephant damage of crops was infrequent but when it occurred, the damage was intensive. More than 1 species was involved in damage of a particular crop and a species can damage more than 1 type of crop. Damage ranged from total destruction of crop (100%) to negligible amount of damage (<10%) depending on type of crop, distance of farm to village, proximity of farm to wildlife park, and the control effort of the farmer. The time of planting also influenced level and degree of damage. Farmers used various methods and techniques to control crop damage by wildlife. The importance of crop damage by wildlife in the economy and food security of the people of Northern Ghana is discussed.

Large Predators in Slovenia On the Way from Near Extinction to Overprotection and Back: Is Conservation Management of Large Predators in Cultural Landscapes Possible At All?

M. Adamic, Chair of Wildlife Ecology, Biotechnical Faculty University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

Due to the persecution and near extermination of large predators in the 19th and first half of the 20th centuries, the brown bear, wolf, and lynx were put on the Red List of threatened animals in Slovenia and have been protected since October 1993. Despite legal protection they face new threats, provoked by the impacts of human economies. Following the practice of the European Union, livestock support is given to

people interested in sheep-breeding. Projected numbers of sheep in Slovenia will increase from the current 60,000 to 92,000 in the year 2003. New pastures will be created in yet unaffected areas, and new conflicts will arise in areas to be established for conservation management of large predators. Accelerated spatial expansion of the wolf since 1993 was unexpected by hunters, as well as by sheep-farmers. The share of wolf-caused damages in yearly amounts of compensation is rapidly growing. The use of predator-safe fences and other protective tools is not an obligatory part of state-supported livestock projects; therefore state agencies are in fact co-responsible for increased predation upon poorly protected flocks. About US\$20,000 were paid to the farmers in 1993 to compensate the predation on livestock, but in 1998 the amount exceeded US\$160,000. Wildlife conservation, based on population-habitat relationships, was mostly unsuccessful in the case of large predators. Successful conservation of large predators and other problem species depends to a great extent on positive public attitudes. State agencies will therefore have to pay more attention to natural processes, but also must take into account that human attitudes depend on the costs of cohabitation with large predators. The use of protective tools as an obligatory part of any supported project on livestock breeding will therefore have to be accepted as an integral part of conservation management of large predators.



Human-wolf Conflicts in the East Baltic: Past, Present, and Future

Z. Andersone*, L. Balciuskas, and H. Valdmann.

**Kemer National Park, Kemer Jurmala, Latvia*

This study is a review of human-wolf interactions in the Baltic countries during more than 100 years. The wolf is the most common large carnivore in the Baltic that still has viable popula-

tions in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. It is regarded as a pest whose presence is incompatible with human interests. In mid-19th Century a maximum population size was reported to be 1,000 individuals/country. In this century, there were 2 major peaks: after World War II and in the 1990s. In 1947-50, the total wolf population of the Baltic countries exceeded 3,000 individuals. In 1997, each country's population was close to 1,000 animals. Higher predator numbers escalate the conflict between humans and wolves. Three main causes of contradiction can be outlined: attacks on humans, livestock depredation, and competition for the game animals. The last wolf-caused human death was documented in eastern Estonia in 1873. Damage to livestock was extremely high in the 19th Century and also after WWII. Nowadays we lack precise information on the damage because no compensation is paid for the livestock losses. The lack of preventive measures from the livestock owners contributes to the damage. Mostly sheep and cattle suffer from depredation. Results of wolf-wild ungulate interactions show that roe deer and wild boar endure the strongest hunting pressure by the predator. Possible solutions for diminishing the conflicts include the use of preventive measures by livestock breeders, compensation systems for losses, and control of wolf populations.

International Congress Wildlife Management Abstracts

Gray Wolf Restoration in the Northwestern United States

E.E. Bangs, J.A. Fontaine, D.W. Smith, C. Mack, and C. C. Niemeyer.*

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Helena, MT*

Sixty years after being exterminated, the gray wolf was restored to 3 vast tracts of public land in Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming. Recovery efforts in northwestern Montana began in the late 1970s and encouraged natural dispersal from nearby Canadian wolf populations and control of any wolves that attacked livestock. About 80 wolves now live in the area and livestock losses have been rare, annually averaging 5 cattle and 34 sheep. After years of planing and exhaustive public involvement, 61 wolves were reintroduced to wilderness areas in central Idaho (via hard release) and Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming (via soft release) in 1995 and 1996. Wolves adapted better than predicted and by late 1998 there were 120-130 wolves in each area. Wolves settled primarily on remote public lands where biologists hoped they would live. The wolf restoration program caused no disruption of traditional human activities such as logging, mining, livestock grazing, hunting, or wildland recreation. More than 30,000 visitors to Yellowstone National Park have seen wolves and public interest in wolves is extremely high. Livestock losses have been lower than predicted, annually averaging 2 cattle, 20 sheep, and 1 dog in the Yellowstone area, and 4 cattle, 13 sheep, and 1 dog in central Idaho. Livestock producers who experienced wolf-caused losses were compensated by a private fund and about \$60,000 has been paid to date. The federal, tribal, and state wolf recovery program concentrates its efforts on interacting with people who live near wolves and removing the few wolves that do cause conflicts. Wolf populations should be fully recovered (30 packs for 3 successive years) and will no longer need protection under the federal Endangered Species Act in 2002.



The Impact of Changing U.S. Demographics on the Future of Deer Hunting

R. D. Brown, Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX

The population of the United States is changing, and that change will have a significant impact on the future of deer hunting. Currently, only 8% of the U.S. population hunts, and participation by age group has been declining since 1955. The population of the U.S. is growing, but the rate of population growth is slowing, except in California, Florida, and Texas. Unfortunately, even where numbers of

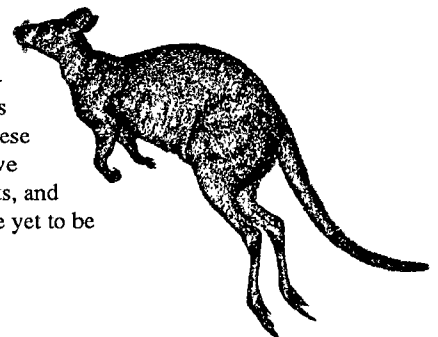
Americans are increasing, hunting is not. Between 1980 and 1990, 66% of the U.S. population growth was due to minorities, and Hispanics, African Americans, and Asians have historically low rates of participation in hunting. Likewise, our population is aging; the average age of a hunter is 38. Within the next 30 years 20% of the U.S. population will be over 65. That trend will continue as "baby boomers" mature. Women will numerically dominate the elderly population. Participation in nearly every outdoor activity except bird watching declines with age, and only about 0.5% of women in the U.S. hunt. Another trend impacting hunting is urbanization; over 75% of the U.S. population lives in urban areas. Participation is low in urban areas, and

those urban dwellers who do hunt tend to come from rural backgrounds. Family size is decreasing, from 3.67 in 1940 to 2.63 in 1990, and the percentage of non-family households, and those headed by women, is increasing. Nationally, 61% of children spend some time in a single parent household, and the person least likely to hunt or fish is a single female parent. As our population becomes older, more ethnically diverse, more urban, and less affluent, attitudes toward hunting as an acceptable sport may become less tolerant. Despite such efforts as 4-H shooting sports programs, youth hunting associations, and Women in the Outdoors, this declining trend in hunting continues. If hunting is to continue as a wildlife management tool, if license sales and excise taxes are expected to continue to fund wildlife management programs, and if hunting is to continue to be a source of recreation, even for the few, then agencies must analyze their demographics and develop means of reversing the trend.

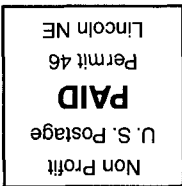
Management of Overabundant Macropods in Nature Reserves: 6 Case Studies from Southeastern Australia

G. Coulson, Dept. of Zoology, University of Melbourne, Parkville, Victoria, Australia

Kangaroos and wallabies (macropods) have become overabundant in many parts of southeastern Australia. Rapid rates of population increase and high population densities are attained in conservation reserves that provide suitable habitat, plentiful food and water, and security from predators. The negative effects of macropod overabundance include decline in body condition and reproduction, overgrazing impacts on other components of the biota, and threats to human life and property. I review macropod control programs conducted in 6 conservation reserves over the last decade in the Australian Capital Territory, Tasmania, and Victoria. These programs involve 6 species: the eastern grey kangaroo, western grey kangaroo, and red kangaroo, and Bennett's wallaby, black wallaby, and Tasmania pademelon. Each control program aims to arrest and reverse the impacts of overabundance by reducing population density, using culling or fertility control separately or in combination. However, few of the programs have specified goals, and fewer have measured their success. The results of most of the program are confounded by unintended outcomes that have delayed or even negated the process in some reserves. There has been a negative impact on 1 species caused by prey switching, and increases in the populations of nontarget macropods in 2 reserves resulting from competitive release after culling. Although the control of overabundant macropods has intuitive merit in each of these case studies, such programs have high political and financial costs, and their management benefits have yet to be convincingly demonstrated.



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

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