March 1983

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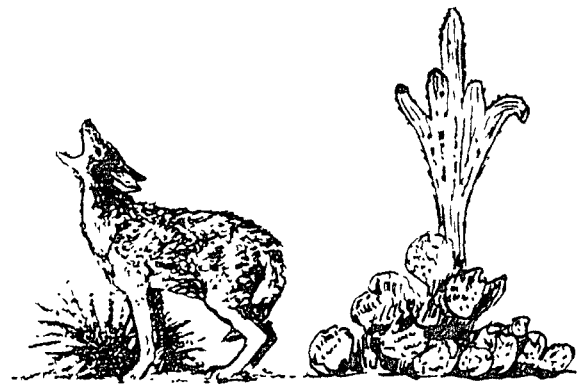
THE PROBE



National Animal Damage Control Association

No. 30 March, 1983

FROM OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF ------

EPA (you know, the outfit that's been keeping the media happy lately) sent me a copy of another doozy of a letter from a well-informed anti-1080 expert. Mr. Paul Kiepe (2141-1st Ave. S, Fayette, ID 83661) writes, "...When I moved to Idaho in 1946, I started roaming Idaho County and Valley County forests. At first, I encountered many varieties of woodpeckers 'working' the trees, particularly the wonderfully drought-resistant ponderosa pine. But within two years after the introduction of '1080' as a coyote control measure, the woodpeckers virtually disappeared, removing from the forests, it ultimately became apparent, that part of the balance of nature built up over untold centuries which protected the valuable ponderosa conifer. What came after you probably recollect. Foresters diagnosed a pine-bark beetle blight as vast stands of ponderosa began to show signs of failing, and they ordered a big aerial spray program. Killed along with the beetles was a broad spectrum of other bugs. This slaughter led either to the poisoning of stream and lake fish feeding on the poisoned insects or, soon after, to fish starvation from lack of whole populations of seasonal bugs to feed on. For five years in the sprayed areas Idaho sports fishing took a terrific beating. This eventually developed the public pressure that led to the '1080' ban. Things ought to stay this way. What sheep outfit that you know has gone broke during the past decade of '1080' non-use ?" *(chalk up another environmental disaster for 1080. Keep those letters comin', folks).*

This country is as free as it ever was - - unless you happen to be a taxpayer.

OL' MONEYBAGS REPORTS

Having the same car, camera, house and wife (definitely not in the order of importance as Annie reads this while helping put it together) is proof I wasn't able to skim much off the vast sums of money entrusted to the Sec/Treas:

Credits

Left over from 1981	$2,861.41
Dues, etc. collected in 1982	7,055.42
Total	$9,916.83

		Percent	
Expenses			
Postage	$ 956.61	16[1]	
Printing	1,668.63	28[1]	
Per diem for Board	167.88	3[2]	
Transportation	3,109.54	51[2]	
Other	110.32	2	
Total			$6,013.01
Balance			3,903.82

[1] 44% of your contributions went into THE PROBE.

[2] This included the Executive Board meeting in Monterey, CA, during the Vertebrate Pest Conference, plus the San Angelo (TX) predator symposium (still have some Proceedings left at $6.00 if you want to buy 'em) which NADCA sponsored, 1080 hearings, and Woolgrower meetings. The Board who thought it was hard getting travel monies from FWS tightwads find the S/T expects them to sleep on park benchs and steal peanuts from the pigeons.

At least we're still solvent. So far this year, we've collected $1,428.78 and spent $639.37 leaving a balance of $4,492.64. Will put out a new Directory for the year hopefully next issue.

Of course machines have feelings. Otherwise when the washer stops working, why would the furnace break down ?

REMEMBER THE SNAIL DARTER ?

The little minnow that blocked the $130 million dam until Congress passed a special law exempting the Tellico Dam from the restrictions imposed by the endangered species act made the papers again *(Albuquerque Tribune, 23 Feb. 83, pg. D-6)*. Secretary Watt announced that biologists have found darter populations in at least six east Tennessee waterways. This and the success of transplants means the darter is being downgraded from endangered to threatened status and according to Watt, they might even be dropped clear off the list. Chuck Cadieux has an interesting review on this conflict in his book, *These are the endangered (THE PROBE #13:3)*.

In the old days when a person missed a stagecoach, he was content to wait a day or two for the next one. Nowadays, we feel frustrated if we miss one section of a revolving door.

HA ! WE SCOOPED JACK ANDERSON & THE NATIONAL ENQUIRER ON THIS ONE

Dr. Walter E. Howard, Professor of Vertebrate Ecology at the University of California, Davis, has tracked down the evidence that the Environmental Protection Agency did not follow their own established guidelines when Compound 1080 was banned in 1972 for use in controlling coyotes. Falsification of evidence was used by the Council on Environmental Quality and the Department of the Interior to trap President Nixon, Congress, and EPA in this conspiracy. The next six pages are Howdy's. Read 'em and try to get some of the more literate "antis" to read them too. Unfortunately the facts will probably only confuse them.

THE COYOTE-1080 CONSPIRACY:

AN ABORTED ATTEMPT TO DRIVE LIVESTOCK OFF FEDERAL LANDS

Walter E. Howard
Professor and Vertebrate Ecologist
Wildlife and Fisheries Biology
University of California
Davis, California 95616

Compound 1080, a toxicant that was used for many years to poison coyotes, was banned for this purpose by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1973, and this is one example where the press failed to investigate government irregularities that many people reported at that time. The great coyote-1080 conspiracy that was perpetrated during the "Coyotegate Years" of 1971-73 still continues today. Perhaps the press was too involved in Watergate matters to take notice of the conspiracy. Anyway, it has taken an extensive Ph.D. thesis (Angus A. MacIntyre, "The politics of nonincremental domestic change: major reform in federal pesticide and predator control policy," University of California, Davis, 876 pp., 1982) to fully document how this conspiracy was orchestrated primarily by one individual in the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). His principal collaborator was the assistant secretary of the Department of the Interior (USDI). This well-documented and scholarly thesis provides fascinating reading on how the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and President Nixon also were tricked into assisting in the conspiracy.

I think the main reason EPA foolishly joined in the conspiracy was, as biology officials in EPA told me (3/21/73), they reasoned that since the U.S. could import all the livestock products needed from Argentina, Australia and New Zealand, why protect them from coyotes on federal lands in the West? There was a movement at that time to remove livestock from all government lands. They overlooked or didn't care, that sheep and cattle are also grazed on private lands, that coyotes do not recognize property boundaries, and that these lands have been designated by Congress for multiple use, including grazing.

Many innocent people and organizations, including the White House staff, EPA, and Congressional leaders, became entrapped in the conspiracy, and the general public and scientific community were equally fooled by the hoax that Compound 1080 was such a terrible poison. Even though EPA's hearings (FIFRA Docket No. 502) held March 30 to August 6, 1982 (which probably cost several million dollars) clearly proved that the earlier claims against 1080 were not true, the politics have not ended. It is going to be interesting to see if EPA can make a clean break from the conspiracy in its 1983 decisions.

The central question at issue is do coyotes have to be controlled? All sides now seem to agree in the affirmative. Next, are poisons still necessary? For those who have studied the matter, the answer, unfortunately, is clearly yes. There are many coyotes that cannot be controlled by any other means. Then, if poisons are still required, is 1080 the best toxicant to use, except for cyanide in the M-44 devices? The following is an attempt to clear the air on these matters.

As a faculty member of the University of California and a highly concerned resource person, environmentalist, and conservationist, I have been researching 1080 (sodium monofluoroacetate) for the control of rodents for 35 years and the control of coyotes for a decade; but, of course, I speak for myself and not for the University of California.

As my more than 300 research papers and reports will testify, my research goal, i.e., the applied aspects of my research, is to develop the most selective, safest, efficacious, humane, and environmentally desirable way of controlling wildlife that are pests to homeowners, farmers, ranchers and foresters, and I consider poisons a last resort. It is a pity that we can't all work together to benefit the environment by developing better alternative control methods. I take great pride in having probably saved more nontarget wildlife in nature than most environmental organizations, for they must create money-soliciting bonfires directed toward "anti" control legislation rather than seek better alternative solutions, which is the constructive approach that is needed.

The general public has been hoodwinked, bamboozled, duped, tricked, deluded or what have you, especially since the early 1970s, into thinking 1080, when used to control coyotes, then kills everything. When did all this start? Compound 1080 was first field tested in 1945 at the U.S. Forest Service's San Joaquin Experimental Range in California. It proved to be a highly effective rodenticide to use against the California ground squirrel to increase food production during World War II. However, since it was also selective for dogs, an obvious problem existed. Too many people want to poison their neighbor's dog. Also, no one wanted 1080 to get the bad name thallium sulfate had acquired in its effect on dogs. But since EPA did not exist at that time, it looked like it was not going to be an easy matter to get 1080 restricted so that only trained officials could use it. Therefore, the best way to achieve this restriction seemed to be to make 1080 look so dangerous that untrained people would not want to use it (personal communication with the five government and state officials who conducted the tests). The technique worked, and everyone was sufficiently frightened so that the only officials who wanted to use 1080 for rodent or predator control for many years were those who had no other toxicant available that would do the job so effectively and with so few environmental problems.

Later, when individuals and organizations began to object to the killing of any animal, it was only natural that they chose 1080 as a logical target, since the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) of USDI had already frightened most of its own personnel about 1080. And for the last 30 years or so, Interior has not permitted their own animal control research branch, the Denver Wildlife Research Center (DWRC), to carry out research on how to use 1080 for rodent and predator control in a more efficacious and safe way. The only research on 1080 that Interior has permitted is its use in the "toxic collar," a device placed on sheep to control coyotes. The reason for this is that the assistant secretary of USDI responsible for animal control is also in charge of National Parks, a hopeless conflict of interest.

The controversy about 1080 continued to smolder, with the Washington office of USDI never permitting the DWRC to keep the public properly informed about this toxicant, so it became a natural target for "anti" groups to exploit when the ecology movement started with the establishment of the National Environmental Protection Act of 1969 (NEPA), signed in 1970.

Actually in the late '60s and early '70s, few people really understood the true ecology of coyote control with 1080, and most of those who did were in the FWS and not allowed to speak out. In the late '60s and early '70s, it became politically possible for a new breed of environmental lawyers to maneuver public view--with intrigue and tacit actions from some officials in CEQ, USDI, and EPA--so that the public, including most biologists and conservationists were convinced that 1080 was an uncontrollable control, an indiscriminate toxicant that concentrates in food chains, causes mass secondary and direct slaughtering of nontarget species, and that it is one of the most toxic chemicals known to man, thus posing a serious human hazard. None of this is true.

The primary orchestration of this conspiracy occurred in CEQ (MacIntyre 1982). It was so successful that without justification Administrator William D. Ruckelshaus banned 1080, claiming that imminent hazards were so great there was not time to hold a public hearing which, of course, would not have supported CEQ's claims. Why this sudden urgency? Compound 1080 had been in use for about 27 years. Compound 1080 and other predacides were banned on the basis of two emotional petitions by environmental groups playing the advocacy game, but these petitions contained no objective evidence against 1080. EPA stated the decision was also based on recommendations of the Cain Report (Predator Control-1971. S. A. Cain, et al., Report to CEQ and USDI, 1972, 207 pp.). It is now known that the 15 "Recommendations" in the Cain Report were not written or approved by the distinguished authors of the report. Also, the National Academy of Sciences - National Research Council withdrew joint sponsorship of the Cain Report study because the key individual in CEQ insisted on selecting the participants.

By EPA regulations it was impossible to appeal the decision after 30 days unless overwhelming new information could be developed. Most of us did not know about the appeal limitations, and so little 1080 was used in predator control that the manufacturers of 1080 were not about to pay the expenses of the appeal process. The Animal Damage Control (ADC) people in USDI were muzzled by their assistant secretary boss in Washington.

Let's take a look at the "evidence" EPA used to justify its highly irregular and indiscreet cancellation of all registrations of poisons (predacides) for the control of coyotes and, in particular, 1080. EPA was the final conspirator, for its cancellation of 1080 was clearly unjust and done without adequate or proper analysis and by not insisting that the USDI assistant secretary release the environmental impact statement concerning 1080 and coyote control. All the incriminating evidence against 1080 used by the EPA Administrator has proved to have been false or based only on hearsay without direct evidence.

It was claimed that 1080 had no antidote. This is true. Almost all acute vertebrate toxicants are without good antidotes, yet dogs poisoned with 1080 are frequently successfully treated symptomatically by veterinarians. Hazard--not toxicity--is the important consideration when evaluating environmental consequences of poisons. Compound 1080 is not the most toxic chemical known. Some of the most toxic pesticides, such as warfarin--which in the pure form is as or more toxic than 1080--may be actually one of the safest rodenticides as used. Since 1080 is used in such small amounts, after the powder is dissolved in water and diluted, its hazard, especially in baits, is then even less than many other pesticides used to control vertebrate pests.

Many claim, but do not document, that 1080 is an indiscriminate toxicant that magnifies or concentrates in the environment like DDT, and that its use has slaughtered large numbers of nontarget species and endangered species by either direct or secondary poisoning. It is possible to cause secondary poisoning with many toxicants, but there is no bona fide evidence of endangered species being killed by 1080, yet congressmen were falsely told by personnel from CEQ and USDI that 1080 had even exterminated a number of species in the U.S. (personal communication, Congressman John Dingell, 3/21/73).

Depending on how 1080 was used, there have been some other carnivores (but not populations) killed from eating 1080 bait. When all civilians in an Asian country had to use 1080 each year in rat campaigns, many dogs and cats were killed as a result of inexperienced homeowners using 1080. The hazard of 1080, when used as a rodenticide or predacide, is minor with birds, as they are much more resistant to 1080 than the target mammals. No endangered bald eagles have been killed by 1080, but eagles have been killed with thallium sulfate. It is practically impossible for another animal to be killed by feeding on the carcass of a coyote killed with 1080 unless it is another coyote cannibalizing it. In the proposed uses of 1080 it is very unlikely that any coyote could ingest so much 1080 that it would vomit, with the vomitus then being hazardous to another animal that might eat it.

The claim was made that continued use of 1080 would result in irremediable and incorrectable losses, particularly of endangered species. No evidence was offered as to how this might happen. Of course, with high enough concentrations of 1080, it is possible to kill anything. The point is that, as used for coyote control, this claim cannot be substantiated. EPA's 1982 hearings exposed the falseness of the many charges against 1080.

Another statement against 1080 was that its use "conferred only ill-defined and speculative benefits." In 1971 and 1972, many in USDI and CEQ were inferring that most coyotes would not kill sheep, claiming they were only scavengers of sheep that had died from other causes. It has now been clearly shown that the coyote has put many livestock operators out of business and that coyote depredations are a serious economic problem (estimated at costing California alone nearly $75 million a year).

Livestock operators favor the protection of wildlife but they cannot afford economic ruin of their livelihood by wild animals. They are just like the homeowners who do not tolerate wildlife living in their attics and garages or destroying their landscaping and gardens If given free rein, native mammals would completely ruin our city parks and home gardens, because they are largely composed of exotic plants that have not evolved so as to coexist with many of our native mammals.

Many different methods of coyote control are needed because of the great diversity in coyotes and in the physical environment. The ecology of coyote depredations to livestock is highly variable in different situations. Control methods that do offer varying degrees of predator protection include herders, improved husbandry techniques, guard dogs, llamas, repellents, frightening devices, aversive conditioning with lithium chloride or other agents, electric fencing, gassing pups in dens, trapping, shooting, shooting from the ground or aircraft, hunting with dogs, snaring, and M-44s that eject cyanide. So far, at least in many parts of the west, no single or combination of these methods have been able to adequately protect livestock from coyotes (Dale A. Wade, "Impacts, incidence, and control of predation on livestock in the United States, with particular reference to

predation by coyotes." Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST), Special Publ. 10, 20 pp. 1982). It is in these situations where 1080 is still biologically the most desirable approach because it can be used without adversely affecting the environment or creating much hazard to man and other nontarget species.

Dogs are the principal nontarget hazard that must be considered when using 1080 to control coyotes, but other carnivores such as badgers, skunks, and foxes, are vulnerable to 1080, so care must be exercised. Nontarget animals are largely protected by the way baits are formulated, lure used, season, and the manner in which baits are exposed in the field.

Why are coyotes a problem? They are fruitful and multiply, like to eat, and evolved as a predator that likes to attack fleeing prey, like a running sheep. Coyotes can cohabit--live together--in some areas with large numbers of people, unlike species such as grizzly bears, wolves, or herds of bison. One reason the coyote is often a pest is because it can adapt so well to these altered environments, even living as a commensal (living with man) predator and feeding on garbage, cats and small dogs.

During the last century, coyotes have greatly increased in total numbers and extended their geographic range from just western United States to all contiguous 48 states, north through Canada to Alaska, and south through Mexico and Central America to Costa Rica. The diet of the coyote is highly variable and includes rodents, rabbits, deer, berries, melons, etc.; however, many coyotes are also very effective predators of man's possessions. They often also readily kill cats, dogs, sheep, goats, poultry, cattle, etc.

The way coyotes attack the throat of sheep and cause them to suffocate is an innate, not learned, behavior. Coyotes have evolved as a predator that naturally attacks living prey. Coyotes kill and eat livestock in a very inhumane way, as do most predators, and sometimes get into a killing frenzy and kill far beyond their needs (surplus killing). Research has shown that it takes coyotes an average of 13 minutes, depending upon the amount of experience, to kill sheep after they attack them in the throat, and that they often eat the entrails before the sheep is dead. It is easy to verify coyote kills of sheep by characteristic canine puncture wounds and evidence of hemorrhaging present on the neck of the dead sheep. Thus, claims that ranchers cannot usually distinguish between coyote predation and the scavenging of a dead carcass are not true. Most coyotes cannot be successfully conditioned (aversive conditioning) so they will not kill sheep (or other species) by using lithium chloride or other aversive agents on a bait.

Since coyotes are high up on the food-web pyramid, they are not very significant ecologically. The primary producers and first layer of consumers are the important key to adequate recycling of resources in the environment. The convictions homeowners and livestock operators have regarding the beneficial or detrimental value of coyotes, and other wild animals, seem to be determined by the manner in which these animals affect them.

If you do not agree that poisons are needed to control coyotes, there is no point in discussing 1080 (sodium monofluoroacetate). But if you, like me, recognize that some coyotes still have to be poisoned, then let's constructively analyze the pros and cons of using 1080.

When Compound 1080 is ingested by coyotes, it is primarily absorbed through the gastrointestinal tract. The consumed monofluoroacetate, that is not eliminated in urine, is converted into fluorocitrate, the lethal synthesis that inhibits citrate metabolism. Some fluorocitrate is also eliminated in urine. That which remains in the body ultimately blocks the citric acid or Krebs cycle and can cause death. Applied vertebrate ecologists classify 1080 as a slow-acting toxicant in contrast to strychnine and especially cyanide.

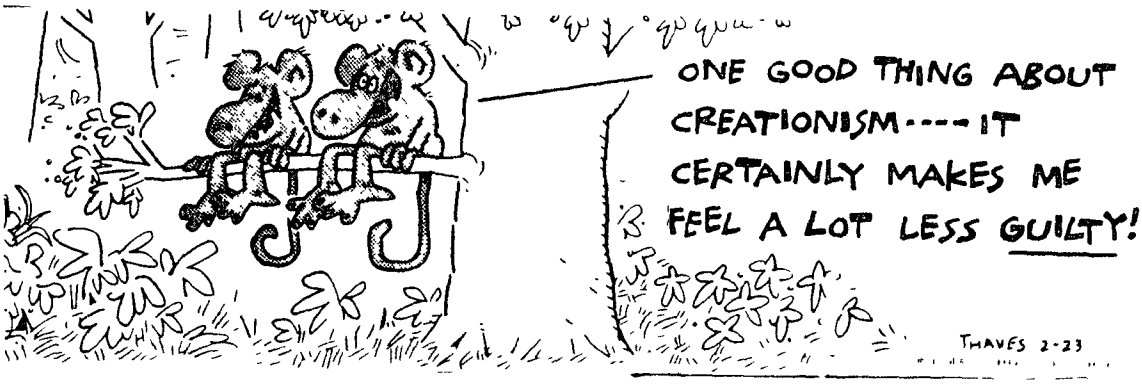
In coyotes and other carnivores death from 1080 typically results from central nervous system disorders, with the animal presumably being unconscious prior to death since they often run blindly into walls and fences. Extreme pain has never been reported as a symptom in the many human suicides in Asia from drinking 1080 rat poison, but pain in animals, unfortunately, cannot be measured. Just because 1080 is slow in taking effect does not mean it is less humane than faster-acting poisons. And, of course, in nature, no animal has a nice death, including the sheep disemboweled by coyotes.

Both 1080 and fluorocitrate are highly stable but decompose fairly rapidly in the soil. There are no really good antidotes for 1080 or any of the poisons used to control wildlife, except for anticoagulant rodenticides where vitamin K_1 is effective. However, since 1080 is slow acting, veterinarians have been able to save many dogs poisoned with 1080 with symptomatic treatment.

No one knowledgeable about 1080 denies that if it is used carelessly, 1080 can become lethal to all species, but there are no data that show that the proposed future uses of 1080 to control coyotes pose any significant effects on the environment, other than removing individual and highly localized populations of troublesome coyotes. There is no field evidence indicating that animals which consume a sublethal dose of 1080 may suffer deleterious effects such as occurred with thallium sulfate, which is now banned.

Many of the charges about the killing of nontarget species when poisoning coyotes with 1080 are biological impossibilities. Some people fail to recognize that the very principles of natural survival in wildlife populations, which enable them to escape the numerous dangers they constantly encounter, would make even their intentional control very difficult. Even if the objective was to poison all these other species, it couldn't be done. There are no recent data whatsoever that incriminate current animal damage methodologies of causing mass slaughtering of beneficial wildlife. Improper live-trapping and other research problems have probably killed more rare or endangered wildlife than the combination of all recent animal damage control practices

If a chemical is to be used for coyote control, I contend that 1080 is by far the best chemical to use from the point of view of the welfare of the environment and safety. To oppose the consideration of new registrations of 1080, with adequate use restrictions that will be required before registration is granted, means you may be encouraging increased use of less-selective poisons to protect livestock. If anyone has reliable evidence of significant secondary poisoning by 1080, please share it with me. Also, if you know of a poison that is more desirable than 1080 for controlling coyotes, I would sure like to learn about it. Better yet, do you know of an effective nonlethal approach that has not been tested that could make poisons unnecessary?



ALLEY OOP !

Once upon a time, Chicken Little ran around screaming, "The alligators are going. There's no more alligators." So in 1967 alligator hunting was made illegal in the U.S.A. and the disappearing alligators were put on that most sacred endangered species list. This despite the fact they have been a very prominent part of the Louisiana bayous ever since Jefferson conned ol' Napoleon into selling us that part of the country to finance Nap's European excursions.

Alligators present difficult problem situations. People think baby alligators are cute, but little alligators lay no eggs. 'Gators have to be six feet or more before they realize there is something else to life besides eating. And when they get that big, pets and even children are delectable entrees. Florida claims to have between 600,000-1,000,000 alligators. This is one of the few success stories about wildlife (except obnoxious species like the grass carp, walking catfish, etc.) in Florida, but the problems between wildlife and Florida's migrants are increasing. One game commission officer says, "People want us to come and catch frogs. They'd rather hear a freight train at night than frogs croaking." Another talking about the deer hunt (*THE PROBE, 26:2, 29:6)* said, "People didn't want the hunting. They either wanted us to capture the deer *(Incidentally, hunters killed 723 deer and the conservationists captured 18 of which 12 died later. See the next article.)* and put them somewhere else, which was impossible to do, or let Nature take its course...Well, Mother Nature is not a rosy-cheeked grandmother. They (deer) don't die peaceful deaths in their sleep."

The contrast between deer and alligator hunters (state licensed hunters who take care of nuisance complaints) is there has been no great outcry over the latter's actions. Alligators are neither soft nor cuddly. One of the trappers reported taking a 14-footer last year that had destroyed a man's boat dock and eaten his 75-pound Irish setter.

Don't get me wrong. I am in favor of stopping the hide trade on alligators, but I'm just pointing out the conflicts between humans and wildlife are not as clearcut as the preservationists would have us believe. *Thanx to Johnny Jones and the WASHINGTON POST, 14 February 1983, pg. 4.*

We wonder what future historians will say about a society that pays double for a shirt just because it has an alligator on the pocket.

"RESCUED"DEER

Remember the Angel Island (Calif.) deer herd which had expanded beyond its ability to survive (*THE PROBE, 22:11, 23:2)* ? The Game Department wanted to have biologists shoot the excess. The protectionists did what they do best, sued and forced the state to capture and transplant the animals in excess to another area at the cost of $3,000 per animal. Dale McCullough, professor of forestry and resource management at the University of California, has reported that 85% of the transplanted deer have died in the first year and over half of these died in the first three months. He blamed the poor condition of the deer at the time of capture and their lack of experience outside a controlled refuge environment. Of the 15 fitted with radio transmitters, 2 have died of malnutrition, 2 were killed by predators, 2 were run down by vehicles, 2 were victims of poachers or vehicles, 1 was killed by dogs, and 3 died of unknown causes. Of the 2 left alive, one has disappeared (*I know that adds up to 14. McCullough must be a PhD and wearing shoes cuts his mathematical talents in half.) - NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION NEWSLETTER 2/11/83, pg. 4.*

Half of the people aren't interested in hearing of your troubles, and the other half are glad you're finally getting what you deserve.

BIRD BOOK

"Bunny" Fennessy (a really great chap. He got his nickname because he was one of the pioneers in the development of myxomatosis to control rabbits in Australia) put me on to an excellent reference text: John L. Long (1981) *Introduced birds of the world. The worldwide history, distribution and influence of birds introduced to new environments.* David & Charles (Newton Abbot, London, UK TQ12 4PU).

This is truly a monumental work. It lists 425 introduced species and each species account has a distribution map showing its native and introduced ranges. For most species it gives distinguishing characteristics, general distribution, introduced distribution, and general habits (numbers, habitat, gregariousness, movements, foods, breeding, and notes on dates and success of introductions around the world) There are about 1800 references (*YE ED was flattered to find two of his in there. The guy must have read everything including the labels on cereal boxes.)*

Bunny said it cost about $35 in Australia (ISBN 0 589 50260 3) but a local bookseller gave me the Devon address and I sent them £16. I got the book back in 38 days which is remarkable along with a check for £1 27p (it would cost me $3 to cash it) so I'm really not sure what it cost.

Every person has forty-five miles of nerves in his body. More, if you're a used car salesman.

BROMETHALIN

Rick Griffiths had some personal comments on bromethalin which I received just after writing a paragraph on it (*THE PROBE, No. 29:5*). "I talked with Steve Spaulding of Elanco recently and he told me that Bromethalin marketing is still undecided. The chemical is so potent that a little goes a long way and the market may be too small for Elanco to pursue it. They are trying to license it to some other company for

actual production and marketing. This is an example of a good product in search of a market to justify its existence.

I feel that it may be effective for some of our field rodent problems, but there is no data available to support this use. If enough people were to promote products such as this and the field studies necessary to register these items we might have more tools at our disposal. The makers of *TALON*^{R} (brodifacoum) are going after the field rodent business even though they have some secondary hazard problems in some applications. We need to keep looking for new compounds with low hazards (when used correctly) to keep ahead of the environmentalists and the non-target hazard symdrome. *If everyone who had a potential use for Bromethalin contacted Elanco, they might consider further uses and maybe release some of the compound for testing. (italics by YE ED)*"

The fact that silence is golden explains why there is so little of it.

BIRDS VS. FISHERMEN

Dr. Terry Salmon (Wildlife Extension, UC-Davis, 95616) sent me a copy of a new extension publication (*Wildlife Management Leaflet #475 - Control of bird damage at aquaculture facilities*). It is an excellent guide with simple illustrations for simple folks like YE ED to consult on problems of this nature.

If at first you don't succeed, try a little ardor.

OL' TIMER'S CORNER

FINALLY, *Fric Peacock* writes from Boise, ID. "My apologies for not having written sooner since Reganomics cut me loose (bless him). I have been ricocheting around the country doing what the season or the spirit dictates and being my lazy unreliable and irresponsible self. I hope you understand my giddy plight.

I began with P&RC in March 1950 in San Diego County, California. The military caught up with me a year later and I spent two years in the Army. Upon my return, went back on the trapline and worked in several southern California counties. In 1957 transferred to Placerville, California as District Supervisor. Then moved to Arcata from where I worked the North Coast Counties subsequent to being moved to Roseburg, Oregon in 1961. Worked in SW Oregon for 5 years. Transferred to Seattle as State Supervisor. After 6 years transferred to the Sacramento Refuge.

In 1974 transferred to Idaho ADC to work on non-lethal control of fish-eating birds and other ADC related activities. In Idaho crossed trails with Bob Quiroz with whom I had shared many memorable experiences in the past. This event resulted in escalation in the price of red wine but no apparent impact on Idaho's game populations.

I have had the good fortune and priviledge to have worked with some of the best in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I sincerely hope that those that remain and those that follow will be as fortunate."

Xerox never makes anything original.

OREGON REVISITED

The "antis" headed by Sarah Palnek (DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE) filed a lawsuit shortly

after the 2:1 victory in Oregon over the anti-trap forces. They alleged the pro-trapping group had demonstrated a "...reckless disregard for facts..." (*don't know anybody better qualified than DW to know what the term means.*) The jury heard testimony for 2 weeks, deliberated for 2 days, and returned a verdict for acquittal. The judge awarded the defendants attorney fees and dismissed all pending matters related to the case. When the jury foreman read the verdict, one of the plantiffs spit across the table at WILDLIFE LEGISLATIVE FUND OF AMERICA's Jim Glass. (*When one has a childish mentality, one is prone to act like a child.*)

One sad note in the victory celebration occured when Abner Rice (Woolgrowers Predator Control Supervisor) died of an apparent heart attack "...hours after the jury returned with the verdict." Mr. Rice was one of the defendants and the trial was a very stressful one. *THE TRAPPER, January, 1983.*

YE ED - William D. Fitzwater

THIS PUBLICATION IS INTENDED AS AN INFORMAL NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS OF NADCA. IT IS NOT AN OFFICIAL DECLARATION OF NADCA POLICY OR A CONCENSUS OF OPINION IN ALL INSTANCES.

Adios,

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