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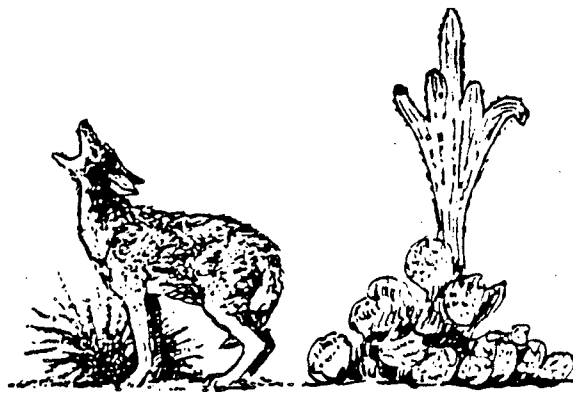


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THE PROBE



National Animal Damage Control Association

No. 48

December, 1984

MANATEE POWER

Got an interesting article (FORTUNE, 7/23/84, p106) questioning why we have laws requiring the preservation of species? "It's not as though the animals were doing fine until we humans came along. The fact is God personally wiped out maybe 500 million species over the numerous millenniums since He was in business and only a minuscule were done in since Homo sapiens appeared on the scene...Do we really want a country in which people can get a year in jail for possession of manatee meat?...Is it really bad news that the Palos Verde Blue, which is a butterfly, is now thought to be extinct?...Is it really good news that the number of royal Bengal tigers in the Ganges Delta has doubled over the past decade, and have the folks in the neighborhood been asked for a confirmatory opinion?...Is the nuclear power plant in Bay City, Texas, going to be resited because more than 100 alligators think it is a great place for nesting?...Here in New York we have this collapsed highway along the Hudson that had to be shut down as unsafe, and the proposed replacement is being thwarted because it conflicts with 'fish and wildlife values'...What about human values, folks? In this case nobody is even claiming that the striped bass all the shouting about is 'endangered'; in effect, the contention is that they would be inconvenienced by Westway construction and would have to move out of certain estuaries of which they are fond..." Thanx to RD Don Spencer

Santa Claus is the only man who shows interest in an empty stocking.

HOW DID BARNUM PUT IT ?

Under a Copenhagen, Denmark, dateline we learn that a Danish radio mechanic has the answer to the farmer's prayer - an electronic bird chaser that broadcasts the death scream of the starling.

Erland Joergensen, 25, said his "Onotronic Birdchaser plays a continual recording of a starling's death cry, scrambled slightly so birds cannot measure its rhythm and detect the degree of danger." Joergensen said the system will sell for between \$1,000 and \$1,500. It has speakers that can be adjusted to drive the birds in various directions. (WOW ! What a deal !)

This is supposed to be derived from an ancient French vineyard remedy for marauding birds - crucifying a live starling and letting its screams scare off others. He plans to market it in North America, Europe, and Australia. So here we go again.
GRAND RAPIDS PRESS 10/6/84.

Last year I explained to the children there is no Santy Claus. This year I'll try to explain to my wife.

SPEAKING OF CIRCUSES

The Animal Rightists have another cause. For 15 years, Butchie, Chipper, Tony, and Louie worked for the Ringling Brothers-Barnum & Bailey Circus circuit. They rode toy motorcycles and jumped through hoops, but now while still teenagers their careers are ended. The quartet are 150 pound chimpanzees whose trainer died of a heart attack and the government wants to use them to test hepatitis vaccines before they can be used on humans.

Another group (these people come out of the woodwork at the slightest rustle of greenbacks), International Primate Protection League, wants to retire them to an "Animal Retirement Village" near Waldo, Florida, so they can "...have some pleasure in life." (What's left in life for a castrated chimpanzee?) I have seen such places in India where sacred cows are kept. Hooves rotted away, gaping sores on the sides, minimum rations - it would be much more humane to put them out of their misery. But the anthropomorphic hold that Walt Disney put on the American psychic condones letting animals suffer rather than ending life quickly as Nature intended.

On the practical side of the picture, these animals had only one trainer and are difficult to control. They have been castrated so they can't be used in a breeding program. As chimps are a threatened species, this species can no longer be imported and the supply for U.S. research, zoos, and circuses is 1,500. Chimpanzees are the only animals suitable for hepatitis research studies. If these are shipped out they will have to be replaced with 4 younger, healthier males. And as the medical director at White Sands Research Center says, "People's lives hang in the balance." Morality is a one way street to the Animal Rightists. ALBUQUERQUE TRIBUNE, 10/3/84

An unemployed Santa Claus is a no-ho hobo.

COY DOG OR COYOTE ?

~~The first report of a coyote in Tennessee was a female taken in Maury County back in 1939. Yet coyotes have not been seen in abundance in the State until recently when they have become well-established. Stock losses due to predation from coyote-like canids have been reported from 30 counties.~~

A recent Memphis State University study examined the situation. Taking 12 basic skull measurements from a pool of known specimens - coyotes, red wolves, and dogs - they examined 61 unknown skulls from animals taken in the State. They found the characteristics for these specimens clustered around the coyote and were statistically separate from known dog and red wolf groups. Thus they believe that crossing among coyotes, dogs, and wolves in Tennessee is negligible at this time. Lots of luck with your coyotes, boys : CHATTANOOGA NEWS-FREE PRESS, 7/8/84

Christmas bills are the real mourning after.

LETTERS TO YE ED

I am writing with regrets that I have not joined your fine organization sooner; I am a hopeless procrastinator. Are sinners forgiven in the NADCA? After reading the last edition of THE PROBE, I realized that I was included in that group of animal damage controllers who supports the NADCA's principles in theory and at the same time sends no monetary support. Worse yet, I work for the USFWS as a wildlife biologist at the Crowley Wildlife Assistance Office in Louisiana, which was not far from the eastern ADC offices that were supported by you in their time of need. The character defamation does not end here. I have actually been enjoying THE PROBE for approximately three years by the "back door" method of borrowing from subscribers that I work with. As I realize we ADC personnel have image problems from time to time, I hope you will risk including my name among the ranks. Eugene A. LeBoeuf

Here is my renewal and keep one person in mind who really enjoys those one-liners - me. I prepared an exhibit for the State Fair on PESTICIDES - THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTORS. I also have my third book out (FLEAS, TICKS, AND COCKROACHES - DISEASE TRANSMITTERS - Thompson Publications, Box 9335, Fresno, CA 93791, \$10.75 postpaid). You are doing a great job, Bill. Walter J. Weber

In #46 of THE PROBE you said that only half of the threatened Southeastern USFWS were members of NADCA. Check your Directory (#42). All 4 of us are members of NADCA. John Williamson

Dammit, caught in a bit of yellow journalism. It made such a good story to fish for new members! But geographic stupidity and poor research of my own lists made me a liar. My apologies to the 2 maligned individuals (I'm not going to say which two I overlooked). I was wrong.

Enjoyed THE PROBE that arrived yesterday. You do an excellent job just keep in there. We still enjoy Idaho. I caught a few fish this summer and went elk hunting but as usual did not see a thing. However, one of the good hunters of our party got one. This has been a hectic summer with my mother's death in late June and Jo's trip to the hospital. Except for that Jo has felt better this year than she has for years. I seem to get a little tired but maybe it's my age. I plan to give the pheasants hell when the season opens this weekend. Give our best regards to our friends, especially Howard Merrill. Green Valley is warmer than Vermont. Besides dues am enclosing some items from the NORTHWEST WILDLIFER (see next item), The Wildlife Society NW Section newsletter. W. O. Nelson, Jr.

Thanks for the dues reminder - forgot. Earl and Mary Seyler dropped in awhile back to show me his patented live trap (see LIVE TRAP). Has a simple and effective trigger system.

It's sure been busy around here getting ready for winter and hunting. Dorothy drew an antelope, cow elk, and deer tag. Got her antelope on 10/14, deer 10/21, and yearling calf on 10/22. I'm nothing but an African gun bearer, cutter-outer, packer outer, and boner-outer. My deer tag is still in my pocket! RD Norton Miner

Thought you might like this story (see PSYCHO COYOTE). It sounds like they are overrun with coyotes in that area but it just ain't so. The only damage I'm aware of this summer was one lamb and one baby calf. I'm in touch with the Rowans and keep coyote "tools" on them about the year around. They are nice folks but this incident really has them "shook up". Don Heinbaugh

I've decided that 18 more years until retirement was too long. So I quit CSU (he was the Wildlife Extension Specialist for Colorado) to go into private business. After a career at the public trough I am finding private enterprise to my liking. Plans are to stay active in ADC at some level, so will keep in touch with the profession. Dr. Major L. Boddicker (Best of luck)

I'd like to join the Christmas club but don't have time to attend meetings.

PAPERS FROM NORTHWEST SECTION (TWS) WILDLIFE MEETING 1984

(Anybody interested in any particular paper, write me and I'll give you author's name and address as there appear to be some good ones)

CARIBOU CALF MORTALITY: New born calves suffered 55% mortality in first month and 82% in 4 months in 1979 compared to 22% and 50% in 1980. Difference due to snow melt that restricted females and increased predation by wolf and grizzly. Herd needs +35% to survive and excess predation has lead to a decreased herd over the past decade in the region.

VOLE DAMAGE TO FOREST REGENERATION: Grass-seeding in Mt. St. Helens blast zone created favorable habitat for meadow mice up to 21x populations in similar habitats outside of blast zone. This resulted in girdling of conifer seedlings until controlled by zinc phosphide-grain baiting.

CHARACTERISTICS OF LAMBS KILLED BY COYOTES: Study of 210 lambs killed out of 2599 in Alberta showed selection of single lambs over twins or triplets. They picked lambs from very young or very old dams over middle-aged ones, those from crippled dams over healthy ones, and those smaller than flock median. Estimated that toxic collars on these groups would have killed depredating coyotes in 41% of the attacks.

USE OF PREDATOR SCENTS IN CONTROLLING HARE & VOLE DAMAGE (2): Studies indicate that predator scents (weasel, fox, wolverine, etc.) may have some value as area repellents for voles and snowshoe hares.

BIRD DAMAGE TO BLUEBERRIES: Average annual crop loss to birds is 10%. Shooting most common method, followed by propane cannons. Suggests methiocarb, plastic netting over crop, and starting distress calls.

PREDICTION & ASSESSMENT OF ANIMAL DAMAGE TO FOREST REGENERATION: Study added little to ability to predict, but provided "...damage descriptions required to determine the need for control."

INTERACTIONS BETWEEN COYOTES AND SHEEP FARMING: Recommends exclusion fencing or night confinement of sheep, accompanied by either hauling carcasses away or burial with lime. Thank to W.O. Nelson, Jr.

I spent more for Christmas than I intended. Ann exchanged my present for something expensive.

LIVE TRAP

Longtime NADCA member Earl Scyler (Box 1226, Townsend, MT 59644 - (406) 266 5590) has patented an enclosed sheet metal live trap for skunks, raccoons, feral cats, etc. It has a plexiglass door so the trapped animal can be examined without getting a faceful of what skunks are best known for. As it is watertight, it can be gradually filled with water and set up on one end to dispose of the trapped animal by drowning. It's not cheap but it looks like a good idea. RD Norton Miner

Why don't women start wearing neckties so men can get even at Christmas?

TEXAS TALES

Boy, does Texas have vicious vultures!? Texas ADC people answered a call for help from people being attacked by a gang of black vultures near Lake Striker who were destroying lawn furniture, a tractor seat, and a screened-in porch plus a lot of other crap.

Guy Connolly passed on information regarding the note about fire ants cleaning off M-44 tops. In Western Australia they solved a similar problem with 1080 dingo baits by adding 0.5% "pyrethrum/piperonyl butoxide" which repels insects but not the dingoes.

Gary Nunley reports the availability of copies of an article, RELATIONSHIPS AMONG MULE DEER FAWN MORTALITY, COYOTES, AND ALTERNATE PREY SPECIES DURING SUMMER, from Texas ADC office in San Antonio. This was written by Ken Hamlin, et. al., and appeared in the Journ. Wildlife Management in 48(2):489-499 (1984) issue. This ties in microtine population levels with fawn mortality (low microtine population/high fawn mortality), but mortality is not related to population levels of coyotes, deer, mice, jack rabbits, or cottontails. Concludes that coyote predation can reduce fawn survival in healthy deer populations, but alternative prey population levels and cycle phase should be determined by managers prior to decisions about predator control to increase deer populations. TEXAS TRAPLINE, 10/84

Santa has a big garden as he likes to hoe, hoe, hoe.

PSYCHO COYOTE

Helen Rowan, Mills, NE, had an interesting experience with a coyote. She found the coyote attacking pheasants in a pen on the farm. She ran to her son's home and rapped on the glass to get his attention. As she turned from the window the coyote leaped on her, chewing her upper arm in an attempt to get at her throat. She screamed and the 50-pound family dog, Alkali, pinned the coyote to the ground. The coyote, a young male, was killed and examined but was found negative for rabies. It had killed a goose and mauled a duck before attacking the woman showing it "was in a killing mood." Thanx to Don Heinbaugh (OMAHA SUNDAY WORLD HERALD (NE)) and Bob Timra (THE LINCOLN (NE) STAR)

Dear Santa- I want a plane, my bike fixed, and my violin busted.

JUST REMEMBER WHERE THEY'RE COMING FROM

"You are correct in thinking that we in the Animal Rights movement are fighting trapping as a "warm-up" for an assault on hunting; we want to see the killing of helpless and harmless animals stopped, in all of its forms." Mobilization for Animals' Sean O'Gara. "It is past time to outlaw all trapping and the place to start is with the leghold trap." Friends of Animals which is also "opposed to hunting". And Fund for Animals' Lewis Regenstein admits his group is "opposed to all hunting and trapping." Thanx to Wildlife Legislative Fund of America, UPDATE Sept. 84

I didn't get any presents last year. My stocking had a big hole.

NATIONAL PARK SYSTEMS DO DIFFER

The Australians have a somewhat different concept of national parks than our NPS does. They are not above taking a tract of land that has been badly degraded by man and in the process of getting it back to more natural conditions are not adverse to doing some animal damage control. A recent example of this is the Hattah-Kulkyne Park in Victoria. The degradation started over a hundred years ago, when the forests were cleared and the land badly overgrazed by cattle, sheep, and rabbits.

When it became a Park in 1980 it was easy to remove the sheep and cattle and only slightly more so for the rabbits. With rabbit control, the western gray kangaroo are now in turn overgrazing the area. In countering this problem, they have reached a philosophy I wish we could promote in this country. "It is inhumane to attempt to remove kangaroos from their home ranges. Even if this could be completed humanely, it would simply transfer the problem from one area to another and further intensify the problem. To date the most humane method of reducing overgrazing by kangaroos is by culling using a shot to the head from the high powered rifle of a trained and experienced marksman." This culling is used solely to stop overgrazing by the "threatened" kangaroo (which situation exists only in the minds of some "protectionists" that we are so adapt at exporting - it's too bad they don't count in our balance of trade). Until this overgrazing threat is stopped, the land will never recover. Thanx to J.R.Backholer Victoria government.

If Christmas comes, can bills be far behind?

OUR WELL-INFORMED CONGRESSMEN

All the money spent in getting those jokers elected could be better used in educating them. Our old friend, Congressman Yates of Chicago (who of course got elected again) is still at it. He learned nothing in the fiasco of thwarting the Washington zoo of ridding needed pasture land of excess native deer to raise threatened exotic species. The Senate passed a 10-year project to develop toxicants, chemosterilants, or behavior modifiers to reduce blackbird populations, but when the proposition got to his committee in the House, Yates argued that the plan was to use carcinogenic materials in reducing blackbird numbers. The fact that is not the truth is given

added emphasis in that the USFWS in Washington is believed to have given him these arguments. One really wonders whose side those people are on. The upshot was that an additional \$200,000 was given ND State University to develop a sunflower hybrid resistant to blackbird damage. As Yates is still around, the National Sunflower Association is considering moving the appropriations and research to USDA to bypass "...Rep. Yates and the Fish & Wildlife Service." With that kind of a reputation, I still feel that ADC would be much better off in USDA than getting repeatedly stabbed in the back by its fearless "leaders" in the Washington NeverNever land. Thanx to Bill Pfeifer

Santa went to the psychiatrist and said: "Doc, I don't believe in myself."

LET'S YAK

Got this a little late, but for those of you in the DC area there is an interesting conference (SYMPOSIUM ON PESTICIDE RESISTANCE MANAGEMENT) being held November 27-28. This will be in the National Academy of Science Auditorium, 2100 Block of C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20418. Of particular interest will be a talk by NADCA member, Bill Jackson, on TACTICS FOR PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF VERTEBRATE RESISTANCE as well as a couple of other papers by British workers.

Our store has two Santas. One is an express line for kids who ask for only 5 toys.

BLACKFOOTS COMING OUT YER EARS

Wyoming reports a 41% increase in the Meeteetse blackfooted ferret population, finding 24 litters compared to 16 last year. So now they are starting a captive breeding program near Laramie. The goal is to build up a population of ferrets to get surplus animals to transplant to locations which historically had ferrets. They plan to take between 8-12 young of the year to start their breeding program. I greet this with mixed emotions. Inbreeding killed off the captive stock at Patauxent and the transplanting to other locations means more areas (and a disproportionately larger buffer area) will be closed to prairie dog control.

Another store had a sign: "Five Santas, no waiting!"

REMEMBER THE GOOD OLD DAYS WHEN THEY SWALLOWED GOLDFISH ?

The Animal Liberation Front struck at the Sacramento State University freeing 23 laboratory rats in a "daring raid in the early morning hours". The rats were taken from the psychology department and "transferred to new and safe homes". They only took 1/3 of the rats (blatant discrimination) leaving notes in the cages: "The animal previously occupying this cage has been liberated from confinement and torture...because the animal is an independent sentient being with inherent worth, value, and self-interests." They also painted "AFL" on the walls "not as vandalism but as a warning to those who abuse animals".

Apparently the American movement has not reached the high levels of attainment in Europe as they also listed the 'accomplishments' of their European counterparts:

- 1) A daytime raid where 80 activists stormed a research lab, hurling smoke bombs, forcing doors open with crowbars while taking video film of animal experimentation.
- 2) Activists (Commando Fourpaws) attacked a man who supplied dogs for laboratories, cutting his hair off and daubing his face with red paint.
- 3) Activists infiltrated a society dinner for those who watch greyhounds tear rabbits apart and released stink bombs.

Thanx to John Maestrelli & NORTHERN CALIFORNIA ANIMAL RIGHTS COALITION UPDATE June/July 84.

All Ann wants for Christmas is a 5-pound box of money, gift-wrapped.

SWEETCORN COONS

Maturing sweetcorn and melon patches brings out raccoons in Colorado. Methods of repelling raccoons include: electric fencing around the crop, radios turned to talk shows and tuned up at night, dog tethered in the garden, bright white lighting moved around each night, scarecrows of white flags, can lids and newspapers hung in the vicinity of damage may lessen damage. But as problem 'coons are generally urbanized these sometimes fail. They can be livetrapped but must be transported at least 20 miles, moving less than 5 miles may mean the raccoon resuming its raid the same night. Dumping a problem raccoon can mean creating a problem for someone else. In Colorado a landowner can trap and/or kill a raccoon without a license or permit. But a permit is required to possess or transport a live raccoon as is a release from a landowner before the raccoon can be turned out on his land.

Destroying a raccoon by shooting, drowning, or fumigation is the most reasonable solution. The latter method is done by covering the trap with plastic, sealing it, and running the exhaust of a gasoline engine in the bag or putting in several pounds of dry ice. Thanks to THE COYOTE REPORT vol.2, no. 2 by Major Boddicker

When they asked Ann what I was getting for Christmas, she said, "Balder and latter."

I ONLY KNOW WHAT I READ IN THE PAPERS

IRS released tax returns for the ANIMAL PROTECTION INSTITUTE for 1982. They had gifts and grants amounting to \$2,066,893 and paid out \$405,097 in that to API personnel, \$146,000 for data processing, \$90,000 for postage, and \$210,000 for printing and publications. They also gave a \$5000 grant to make a film on how to "liberate lab animals" and \$1000 to an individual to "rescue beaver" from an Idaho beaver farm. (THE TRAPPER, Feb. 84)

The Humane Societies are mounting an all out drive to oppose rodeos on the grounds they result in torment, harassment, and stress to animals and are not an accurate harmless portrayal of ranching skills. (RENO GAZETTE-JOURNAL 6/21/84, John Maestrelli)

Under the headline, COLD SHOWER WON'T END COYOTES' HUNGER, there was a report at a public hearing in Denver one well-meaning lady suggested: "Why don't we just trap all the males, castrate them and turn them loose?" To which a rancher replied, "Lady, they ain't raping our sheep, they're eating 'em." (ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS 11/6/83, Vic Garcia)



RUDOLPH I I SAID THE SCHMIDT HOUSE.

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 CONSENSUS OF OPINION IN ALL INSTANCES.

YE ED - William D. Fitzwater

This is the last issue of THE PROBE you'll get if you have a little slip inside pleading for your hard earned money. My heartfelt thanks to you thoughtful souls who have made my life easier by already contributing. And to all of you -

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

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