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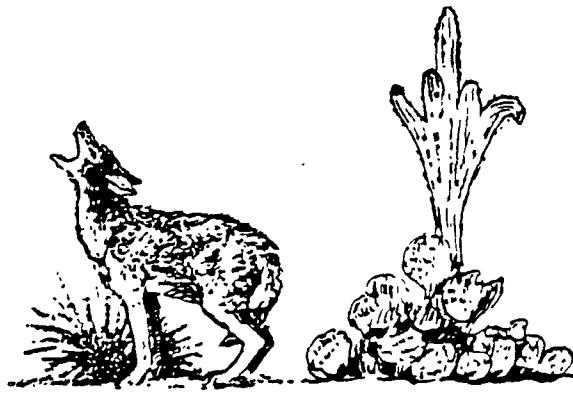


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THE PROBE



National Animal Damage Control Association

NOVEMBER, 1986

NUMBER 67

WHAT'S A PREDACIDE ?

Bob Schmidt, Hopland, CA, got a letter from the editor of the Merriam-Webster dictionary asking that question. Bob had called attention to their definition of "1080" as a "rodenticide and pesticide". The Editor said he had only 2 references to "predacide" and 1 to "predacidal" out of more than 13 million reference slips and questioned it as being a viable word. Bob set them straight with an erudite explanation on the word's derivation that should have them going back to their own dictionary.

● *Most people can keep a secret. The trouble is the people they tell it to can't.*

GUMMING UP THE MOLE WORKS

A time back I mentioned the use of gum as a mole control measure. Now Howard A. Merrill (rtd. USFWS Green Valley, AZ) has sent me a written account of the procedure (HARROWSMITH MAGAZINE #2, Mar/Apr '86 pg. 26). The technique originally appeared in a newsletter of the Dawes Arboretum, Cincinnati (OH). It seems Wrigley's JUICY FRUIT gum is the only brand that works. This is confirmed by a Wrigley's spokeswoman who said they get a number of letters from gardeners claiming it gums up the animal's digestive system causing death, but Wrigley's, understandably, is not pushing their gum as a lethal product.

A Dennis McKeown (Natorp's Garden Stores) claims the key to success is

that the gum must have absolutely no human scent at all. To plant a gum trap, don gloves and remove a stick of gum from its wrapper and foil. Roll it up like a cigarette, punch a hole in the mole tunnel, and drop the gum in the runway. Place the sticks 4-6 inches apart (I think Wrigley's is missing a good market at this rate) along the run and cover the holes with dirt. (Now parents have a precedent for admonishing kids, "Don't swallow your gum !")

● *If your wife wants to learn to drive, don't stand in her way.*

JUDGES AREN'T ALWAYS WRONG

We won at least one case in the continuing battle with the antis. The HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES (HSUS) has been dismissed as a plaintiff in the lawsuit filed against the Dept. of Interior to prevent hunting on the USFWS refuge system. Judge Thomas Flannery ruled that the HSUS had no right to remain as a party in the case, because the nation's largest anti-hunting organization's purposes have nothing to do with protecting recreational opportunities. This decision provides a ruling that an organization such as HSUS must limit its involvement to issues within its purposes - - the prevention of cruelty to animals. This may preclude animal rights organizations from objecting to opening areas for recreational activities such as hunting, trapping, or fishing unless they can identify a cruelty issue. WILDLIFE LEGISLATIVE

FUND OF AMERICA'S (WLFA) UPDATE Sept. 1986.

● *A man who gives in when he is wrong is wise. A man who gives in when he is right is married.*

TEXAS TALL TALES

Alvin Combs reported that coyotes got into an exotic game pasture and killed a young llama. Apparently they didn't realize the danger they were facing with several adult llamas in the same pasture. A trapper in Hays County had 35 Spanish goat kids killed by coyotes. The rancher has relied on guard dogs but has become more interested in APHIS services now. And so much for non-lethal controls!

Rod Krischke is working on a Randolph AFB auxillary field that is training pilots in touch-and-go landings. The coyotes have taken to chewing up cables which are supposed to stop planes that overshoot the runway. Add that to your collection of misdeeds by Don Coyote.

Jimmy Trampota reports dipping his M-44 ejectors in wax and having very few problems with corrosion or dirt fouling the units.

Personnel Changes: John Pritko and Roy Stevens have resigned. Manuel Pena and his wife have a brand new baby girl.

● *A lot of people are like blisters. They don't show up until the work is done.*

BACK TO NEW JOISEY

Trappers have sued the New Jersey Fish & Game council to legalize padded traps ("Soft Catch" mfg. Woodstream). The anti-trap bill passed in 1984 made it illegal to manufacture, transport, possess, or use steel-jawed traps in the State. The Council rejected padded jaw traps on the advice of the State Attorney General that they were still "steel-jawed traps". Our old 'friend', Alice Herrington (president of FRIENDS OF ANIMALS), told reporters, "We're doing our best to get trappers out of business...There will be no wildlife left by the year 2000 (she should live so long) in this country unless we do

something." Spokesmen for the anti-trappers boasted that the trapping ban was the first step toward a ban on hunting. Another buddy, John Grandy (HSUS), said, "This is part of a trend...We're going to Connecticut next...And we're working on the national level. We have the momentum. We're rolling." WLFA's UPDATE Sept. 1986.

● *The couple at the nudist colony got a divorce. They were seeing too much of each other.*

CATS AND MORE CATS !

Jerry Mix, Editor of PEST CONTROL, called me up to say the publisher had gotten a nasty letter from some Humane Society rep regarding my article on cat control (see PROBE #66). They intended to circulate it and bring down the wrath of the Animal Rightists. I hope I placated his boss with the observation it wouldn't hurt his circulation any because that type of person wouldn't be caught subscribing to a subversive magazine like PEST CONTROL, picking up a free copy in the Library. (Incidentally, cat hunting was a popular nighttime social activity of Chestnut Hill (PA) bluebloods in the thirties.)

Though I can't get painted any blacker (see Lynn Fiedler's letter), I'll pass on the following news item (ALBUQUERQUE TRIBUNE 28 Oct 86, pg. A5) without comment. Dateline (Ramona, CA): Sheriff's deputies called to investigate a suspicious package decided it contained a rattlesnake and blew it up - they got enough cat gut out of the box for a 3 piece string orchestra !

An X-ray had shown something live in a sealed cardboard box left outside the Home Savings Bank on Main Street. As they had a recent incident of a man leaving a box containing a rattlesnake at his mother's house in Ramona, they felt the safest thing to do was to blow it up. One kitten out of the four survived the blast and was named "Lucky". Thanx to Ann Fitzwater.

● *Middle age is when a woman's hair begins to turn from gray to black.*

EXECUTIVE TALK

Orientation: Move around until we find something for you to do.

Reorientation: Getting used to working again.

Reliable source: The guy you just met.

Informed source: The guy who told the guy you just met.

Clarification: To fill in the background with so many details the foreground gets lost in the underground.

See me or let's discuss: Come down to my office, I'm lonesome.

Let's get together on this: I assume you're as confused as I am.

To get the picture: A long, confused, and inaccurate statement to a newcomer.

Give us the benefit of your present thinking: We'll listen as long as it doesn't interfere with what we've already decided to do.

Consolidating our position in the market: We didn't make any money on it.

Unparalleled demand: Six orders in the mail.

Note and initial: Let's spread the responsibility for this.

For your consideration: You hold the bag for a while.

We're making a survey: We need more time to think of an answer.

Through the ranks: Worked one summer in the shipping department.

For your approval: Passing the buck.

For your comment: I haven't the faintest idea myself.

Promising young executive: Son of a fraternity brother.

Co-ordinator: An executive with a desk between two expeditors.

Implement a program: Hire more people and paint the office.

Middle management: An executive with his own pen and pencil set, but no water pitcher.

It is in the process: So wrapped up in red tape the situation is almost hopeless.

We will look into it: By the time the wheel makes a full turn, we assume you will have forgotten about it too.

A program: Any assignment that can't be completed by one telephone call.

A meeting: A mass milling of master-minds.

A conference: A place where conversation is substituted for the dreariness of labor and the loneliness of thought.

To activate: Make more carbons and add more names to the memo.

Under consideration: Never heard of it.

Under active consideration: We are looking in the files for it.

To negotiate: To seek a meeting of minds without knocking heads together.

● *Middle age is that time of life when your narrow waist and broad mind change places.*

WHO'S BOSS ?

Local-level anti-trapping laws may be challenged by the State of California, which seems determined to settle once and for all the problem of local governments within the State taking wildlife management in their own hands. The Fish & Game Comm. has challenged the anti-trapping ordinances recently adopted by the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors. The Governor has asked the attorney general to review the jurisdiction question to prepare for a legal challenge to Santa Cruz's ordinances and others in the State. San Francisco passed an ordinance almost a decade ago which has gone unchallenged. Other communities like Monterey and Santa Clara are considering similar legislation. WLFA points out, "It's important that state agencies recognize that their ability to manage wildlife is threatened by this process...States need to re-define just who's in charge of wildlife management - and it looks like California is ready to do just that." WLFA's UPDATE Sept. 1986.

● *Fishing has been so bad lately that even the biggest liars haven't caught anything.*

LETTERS TO YE ED

Walter Weber, Rtd. Farm Bureau, Indianapolis, IN:

When I was in your favorite city (DC) in August I saw those Animal Rights protestors at the Natl. Health Inst. and altho it bothered me, I didn't stop to picket them. A few days later I saw an article about a special class at Elgin Community College and wrote for details:

ANIMAL RIGHTS & THE HUMANE ETHIC

09/10 Introduction

09/17 Wildlife laws. D.Goodwin, IL Dept. Conservation

09/24 Pet laws. S. Kornfield (Animal Legal Defense Fund)
10/01 Farm animals. M. Asproyerakas (Fund for Animals) & H. Johnson (Amer. Farm Bureau)
10/08 Hunting/trapping/fur farming. D. Meltzer (Fur Is For Life) & Don Rolla (ELSA)
10/15 Animals in entertainment. F. Dantzler (Humane Soc. of US)
10/22 Lab animals. L. Inchinose (Natl. Anti-Vivisection Soc.)
10/29 Pet Overpopulation. Film (Who cares, anyway ?)
(Looks like the deck is stacked for animal rights.)

Attached (will put in the next issue) is a brochure I prepared for distribution at the State Fair but was unable to be there all the time so I have some left over. If you wish to send copies to the members, you can have them. The next time you write about cats you could tie in toxoplasmosis and the approximately 3,000 babies borne mentally retarded annually. (Walter mentioned his troubles with cancer in the bile duct and pancreas. He has an excellent attitude on this problem.)

Norm Johnson, West. Reg. Dir. APHIS, Denver, CO:

We have initiated an operational ADC program in Hawaii. This is a first, at least to my knowledge, of course I don't go back as far as some folks. We have a native Hawaiian biologist, Tim Ohashi, whose first priority will be birds at airports as they have a full gamut of sea birds. The sugarcane growers are also asking for help with rats. Gary Oldenburg (ADC State Director in Washington) is supervising the work. With this and some preliminary work going on, we will have an ADC program in all the Western Region States. Things get done with the new program and the support in APHIS. It should have happened years ago.

Dr. (Congrats, Bob) Robert H. Schmidt, Area Nat. Resources Spec., Hopland, CA:
As you know, when people move from one place to another, all kinds of things get "lost". Therefore, I'm paying my

1987 dues. As the new natural resources specialist with Cooperative Extension, I plan to begin a program looking at regeneration problems in California's hardwood (oak mainly) range. My preliminary plans include developing a research program on rodent and bird depredation of acorns, and impacts on gophers, rabbits, deer, and livestock on seedling mortality. I would appreciate any comments you may have; I don't plan to reinvent the mouse trap! "Hope your tennis game is finally improving." (Get to be a PhD and you become real subtle at hurting a guy!)

Lynwood A. Fiedler, Actg. Chief, Internat. Programs, DWRC, Denver, CO:

I was "purring" over your cat control article awaiting for a reference to using aspirin in milk as a control technique. Since you neither refuted nor proposed this simple method, I'm wondering how well known it is in this country. A colleague from "Down Under" recently referred to this method as "commonly used and effective." No data was available, but prebaiting was said to be helpful. I'm wondering if your readers, or good ole "Fitz" the feral cat fighter" could shed some light on the subject? (My daughter, the Vet, tells me it is very effective, but I'm in enough hot water on this now so I'll back off. I'm sure going to look into it though.)

Richard Reece, APHIS, Ainsworth, NE:

When I got the newsletter, it reminded me of something so here is my ten bucks. The fellow that wrote DON COYOTE (PROBE #66) is nuts. Take care and keep up the good work on the newsletter. I really enjoy it. I sorta miss shooting the breeze with Don H. since he left us down here.

Monte Dodson. (rtd. USFWS) Cookson, OK:
Do you have any info on physical properties of lecithin? We used to heat it in syrup to treat strychnine maize. I can't dissolve it in water base solutions and mixes. What are the best emulsifying results? Also I am

paying \$20.00/10 cc of SUCOSTRIN (succinylcholine chloride) to kill skunks. Works very well at 0.5 cc/skunk. Have also tried KETASET (Ketamine hydrochloride), but doesn't seem as good. Do you know of anything less expensive? "Skunks Unlimited" used carbon tetrachloride but it takes 10 cc and that takes a lot of doing to get a skunk to hold still for - also it doesn't seem too humane. Pure quill (skunk) is bringing up to \$10.00/oz. It is so volatile that I bet you'd have to keep it at way below zero to prevent loss.

(I'm sending Monte (Box 12, Cookson, OK 74427) what little information I have on the above, but would like to have what help you can offer him.)

Howard A. Merrill, (rtd.) USFWS, Green Valley, AZ:

Don't know if you saw the news release (see BIG PUSSY CAT) re cougar mauling! It so happened the next day I read the article in the SMITHSONIAN while waiting for a haircut. I would say the cougar:people ratio in such a populated area as 60 miles out of LA is a little out of balance. I wonder what reaction one would get out of Margaret Owings (politiscal activist credited with the moratorium on killing all but stock killers) or Hornocker (leading lion researcher)?

I wish we could know a little earlier about people retiring (so do I!). For an old Brooklynite I was suprised you used CN for a neighboring state; or maybe your Apple did it? (Nope, I've got a mental block on CT and have been corrected before - right FLP?)

"Pink" Madsen, rtd.USFWS,Florence,AZ:

Had a good visit with Gar Workman who is working with Game & Fish (UT). I suggested more publications on ADC. While he agreed, he said Extension was already working on a "quota" of new publications and he wasn't sure he'd be able to get something in soon. While in Logan (UT) also saw Fred Knowlton. He has some good data on coyote home ranges

from radioed coyote. He also found some coyotes won't flush from the air until the choppers stayed right over them. Fred also feels that coyotes return to the same denning area and protect the home range from intruding coyotes. If they could catch one or both and at least sterilize the female, there wouldn't be the need to kill them as they were not feeding young providing the loss wasn't too damaging. (I can imagine the selling job we'd have to do on your average sheep rancher.)

● *The success of a marriage is based on "Love, Honor, and Negotiate."*

BIG PUSSY CAT

Rangers and trappers are hunting a cougar in a wilderness park some 60 miles southeast of LA that mauled a 16-year old boy. The cougar snatched the boy as he was hiking a trail with several companions and tried to drag him off by his head. He was scared off by the boy's knife-wielding father.

Seven months earlier there had been a similar incident when a 5 year-old girl lhad been mauled in the same park. Her family has filed a \$28 million lawsuit. Biologists say a combination of encroaching development and a 14-year ban on cougar hunting combined to bring the animals in closer contact with people.

The SMITHSONIAN (Sept. 1985, pp. 68-79) article that Howard sent me is a layman's approach to the mystery surrounding this animal's habits and conflicting views concerning it. Howard underlined Honocker's closing statement, "The cougar has made a beautiful, beautiful transition in a relatively short period...from vermin to a very desired animal by people in the West." It's not just a trophy for hunters. It's an inspirational species for a lot of people, just knowing that the animal is there." Thanx to Howard A. Merrill (rtd. USFWS Green Valley, AZ).

● *My wife was complaining about a test she took. "Look at this box marked "Sex". They gave me an "F" and I didn't know I was taking it."*

EDITOR'S DILEMMA

The thing that destroys an Editor's composure is learning new facts that make him retract a juicy bit of gossip that he enjoyed repeating, but though admittedly biased I do try to be fair. My favorite whipping boy, Cleveland Amory, was the subject of a newspaper article (AMORY ANNULLED, PROBE #64) reporting his being cited for inhumane treatment of a calf kept without feed and water in a Animal Rights demonstration in D.C. WLFA (UPDATE Sept. 1986) after falling for the same line had a letter from Amory's attorney (fortunately Amory's not on my mailing list) stating Amory was not cited. They investigated and found that in truth Amory had only been cited by the media. The facts were, the calf was turned over to the D.C. Humane Society, but that organization declined to file charges because they would be criminal in nature and they were reluctant to bring charges against another animal welfare organization. (talk about "double standards" !!!) Instead Alex Hershaft (President of the Farm Animal Reform Movement which orchestrated the demonstration) was "...called into the Humane Society office and 'talked to'." Hershaft said he brought the calf to the demonstration because a well-known animal rights activist told him he would not attend unless animals were part of the demonstration. Thus Amory, being the most prominent person in view (in more ways than one), got the blame for the impropriety of his lesser-known associates. (Slap me with a wet noodle. I was wrong.)

● *A person who keeps going to college is known as a professor.*

BYE BYE BIRDIE

A 1985 federal court ruling permitting Indians to kill eagles on reservation lands has been reversed by the U.S. Supreme Court. The court ruled 9-0 that Indians may not kill bald eagles without being subject to federal prosecution under the Bald Eagle Protection Act.

In 1984 a federal district court convicted several Indians of killing more than 200 bald eagles on reservation lands in Nebraska and South Dakota. A

Court of Appeals ruled that Indian treaty rights permitted the killing of eagles and other endangered species. The Supreme Court in turn reversed this decision only so far as taking eagles was concerned without reference to other endangered species.

WLFA's UPDATE Sept. 1986.

● *Card playing can be expensive, but then so is any game in which you hold hands.*

ANOTHER VIEW

As could be expected the Sierra Club has another view of the transfer of ADC to Agriculture (May/June, 1983 pp. 28-32). They liken it to putting W. C. Fields in charge of a child-care center. While quoting some ADC advocates like Ron Thompson and Terry Salmon who state that the shift will not mean indiscriminate use of toxicants, they very carefully refute this philosophy with such pundits as Dick Randall and Congressman John Seiberling (D-OH). Thanx to Walter Weber (rtd. Farm Bureau, Indianapolis, IN).

● *Legally the husband is head of the household and the pedestrian has the right-of-way. Both are safe as long as they don't try to exercise that right.*

READIN'

Dale Kaukeinen (ICI Americas) sent me an educational brochure on the barn owl research program with which ICI has been associated. It is attractively illustrated and contains an unusual plastic record which plays various calls of this owl. In addition there is resume of their findings on habitat, capture, movements, nesting, rodent prey, and population influences. They also have a pamphlet outlining methods of encouraging barn owls including plans for nest boxes. A copy can be obtained by writing: Dr. Mike Tysowsky, Environ. & External Affairs Mgr., Agri.Chem.Div., ICI Americas Inc., New Murphy Rd. & Concord Pike, Wilmington, DE 19897.

Another freebie for you yankees is: NEW ENGLAND WILDLIFE: HABITAT, NATURAL HISTORY, AND DISTRIBUTION. You can get this by writing the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station, Forestry Sciences

Laboratory, 359 Main Road, Delaware, NH 43015. It is a 491 page paperback describing over 300 species of amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. There are tables on habitats (forest and nonforest), good bibliography, New England range maps, and line drawings of each animal. The monograph on each species gives range (USA), relative abundance in New England, habitat, special habitat requirements, nesting/reproduction, territory size, sample densities, food habits, comments, and key references. It doesn't talk control but it is an excellent concise information source on the various animals. I was particularly interested in the current ranges they give for the house finch and coyote (practically all New England which is quite an extension over the time I was working there.)

● *A sense of humor is the ability to laugh at your own jokes when your wife tells them.*

THIS IS A SECURITY GUARD ?

A security guard in a aluminum foundry plant in Cleveland (OH) has sued the company for \$100,000. He claims he was hurt when he slipped on a patch of ice while running for his life from "two huge rats". The incident occurred about 4:00 PM on a Sunday when Michael Gangley (early 30s) was patrolling the plant. His lawyer claims overflowing garbage cans in an empty lot behind the plant attracted the rats and that the terrified Gangley "...was not provided with anything to protect him". Thanx to Mike Godfrey (Director Research, J. T. Eaton & Co.)

● *Taking your wife to a convention is like going fishing with the game warden - if you catch anything illegal you have to throw it back.*

A LITTLE LATE

I'm sorry I overlooked a submission by Rick Griffiths (Port Deposit, MD) of a notice by EPA to reconsider cancellation of strychnine for controlling skunks to suppress rabies on October 7th in D.C. This is another in a long list of important developments affecting ADC on

which I would appreciate being kept informed.

Remember I have no official ties today and need input from you in the field.

● *Architects cover their mistakes with ivy; gardeners with sod; and wives with chile.*

THERE'S SOME JOY IN EVERYTHING

The army has found out that white, Sprague-Dawley rats can be trained so that a whiff of TNT evokes a subtle but detectable change in their brain waves. A surgically implanted wire delivers an electrical brain stimulus that, when activated, pleases the rat with a most delectable sensation (think they can sell that to the Animal Rightists? They don't want to seek pleasure in anything.) It only takes a month to teach the rats to associate the smell of TNT with their profound pleasure. Their response alters their brain waves which can be monitored by a minicomputer. These rats are cheaper to rear and train and may be more effective than dogs in detecting TNT in booby traps, bombs, and land mines. Environmental conditions, chemical odors, and other background influences that normally hamper conventional detection equipment have no effect on the rats. PEST CONTROL, Aug. 1982, pg. 14.

● *Comment of the man who fell in the threshing machine. "I've been reaped!"*

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

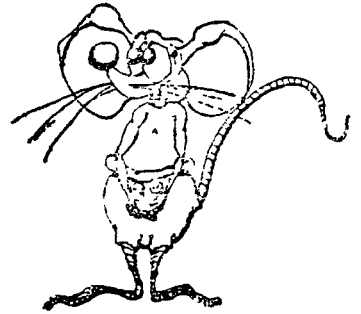
IT'S THAT TIME !

Thanks to those of you who took the hint and sent in your dues for 1987. Your membership cards should be in this issue. If, however, you get a yellow card, please pay up. I don't mind the time spent writing a newsletter - that's fun. But I do not like to type up

mailing addresses and fiddle around with registration cards. As I would like to get the list together and have everybody in who is going to come in. I would appreciate your cooperation in getting them in as soon as possible. I would also like to have your latest address as that saves you and NADCA money. Thank you. With regard to "occupation" please put in the organization you work for or if private put down trapper, supplier, student, or whatever states your case. Thank you again.

Ann and I are spending two weeks in Spain Nov-Dec. Therefore, I will try to get the December issue in the mail before I go. This will contain the ballot for elections. Therefore, it is important that you mark them and put them back in the return mail as the poles will be closed December 31st and you are competing with Xmas cards which will make the mail even slower than normal.

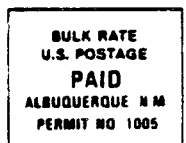
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