

October 1989

The Probe, Issue 96 - October 1989

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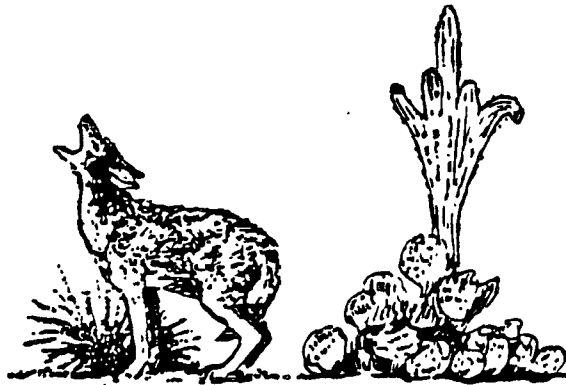


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THE PROBE



National Animal Damage Control Association

OCTOBER 1989

NUMBER 96

NADCA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

In conjunction with the 4th Eastern Wildlife Damage Control Conference in Madison (WI) September 25th, your Executive Board had its annual meeting. These are timed so most Board members can attend while on company per diem and spare our fragile coffers. As it was we had to pay for the presence of FAULKNER, FITZWATER, WES JONES, and ROST but we had five other Board members present for gratis.

The "good news" is that we decided to carry on the organization as long as we can find competent and dedicated personnel to run it. The "bad news" is that we are losing some tired but dedicated and experienced top management personnel which must be replaced and we have no volunteers in the open. On MIKE FALL's suggestion we are streamlining the organization by having five officers (president, two vice-presidents, secretary, and treasurer) constitute the Executive Board. The Regional Directors become an Advisory Board with input to the two vice-presidents (East includes those states east of the Mississippi and West are the states west of that boundary with swing state Minnesota included in the West). Fresh blood is definitely necessary but willing bleeders are few and far between.

President ROST pointed out that NADCA had assisted in the shift from USDI to the more friendly bosom of USDA and had supported JOE PACKHAM in some internal

horror that JOE PACKHAM has resigned for personal reasons to go back to the Pocatello Bait Mixing Station which leaves the ADC direction in APHIS vulnerable). We agreed that our main objectives, however, would be on education of the public, closer interaction with professional wildlifers and related organizations, and improvement of ADC professional standards.

YE ED subscribes to the saying, "Don't be indispensable. If you can't be replaced, you can't be promoted," and thus has agreed to continue THE PROBE only UNTIL a dedicated masochist has been found. However, he has sloughed off the dirty mechanics of printing and mailing the scandal sheet to either FAULKNER or GARNER and we drop down to a bimonthly schedule starting next year - six instead of ten issues. The search committee is composed of Messrs. MILT CAROLINE (rtd. USFWS TX), GUY CONNOLLY (DWRC), "HOWDY" HOWARD (UC-Davis), RON JOHNSON (UNE-Lincoln), and JIM MILLER (USDA Ext.) (Any of those would be excellent candidates if they would agree). So if you have any recommendations or suggestions or care to VOLUNTEER please contact one of those gentlemen.

In order to sound out the membership, YE ED was requested to ship out a survey form which will assist the Executive Board in making decisions for the coming years. This form is attached. Please return it by November 15th if you wish your voice to be heard.

MAJOR BODDICKER (CO) won the Canadian fur manual with #083862 and MIKE FALL (DWRC) won Pink's carved beaver with #084882. Lucky stiffs. As Wes has the final total I'm not quite sure how much we collected but it was probably around \$350. Again thanks to the generosity of REED JOSEPH COMPANY (superior bird bangers of Greenfield, MS) who donated the second copy too, this was almost all profit.

This Savings & Loan thing is scary. We used to worry about bouncing checks - now they're bouncing banks.

4TH EASTERN WDC CONFERENCE

You missed a good conference. Unfortunately, I was tied up with NADCA business for part of it and then had to leave early because of personal commitments, but enjoyed (except for Bill Jacobs (EPA) presentation) what papers I managed to hear. Jacobs said the following vertebrate pest chemicals were out because of failure of registrants to reregister: DDT (bats), fumarin, coal tar, ANTU, Antimycin A, Biomet 12, and R-55. I really don't have a complaint on those but he painted a dark picture for any new materials. EPA is charging \$450 for each registration which I understand is a yearly fee in addition to the many thousands of dollars it takes in research data to obtain EPA's "blessing". Furthermore this fee is going to go up as they are aiming for \$14 million a year from these fees. As more products drop registration, the fee for the remaining ones has to cover the costs. Vertebrate pesticides do not command a significant proportion of the pesticide market. So they are not going to entice commercial interests into paying these fees with no prospect of getting their money back.

While the spread of the coyote in New York State was interesting and I was enthralled by the account of what nasty predators house cats are, the best session I was able to attend was the urban goose panel. This was well done giving various viewpoints of the problem with quite a scattering of innovative ideas from the audience. Interesting recommendations included a 5-yard grid

grid of monofilament line spread six inches under the water and a three-foot wall separating water edge from the land surface. Other habitat modifications included draining ponds in extreme situations, use of native vegetation, and brushy plants on water fronts. It was stated that Mesurool which showed promise in repelling geese is now off this market. It was made clear many, if not most of urban goose problems, were self-inflicted by residents feeding bread to those cute moochers.

How many Pentagon workers does it take to screw in a light bulb? Just one, but he has to be careful as it costs \$16,000.

MEMBERSHIP

At the end of NADCA's first full year of operation (1980), we had 445 members. Ten years later the head count is 429. Despite the good we feel we have done for ADC, we haven't been able to arouse the support we need to become more effective. This is why YE ED is bowing out with the hope a fresh start will make this a better organization.

As could be expected Texas (43) had the most members, followed by California (37), Colorado (34), New Mexico (25), Oregon (25), Montana (21), and the only eastern state in double digits, Virginia with 19. We have members in all but four states (Delaware, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Vermont) as well as from five other countries (Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom). Further examining the Directory for 1989, we find that 84.4% of the membership pay the basic fee of \$15. The remainder contribute over and above the line of duty to help make us breathe a little easier financially but there are only seven individuals who really contribute generously. We would like to thank them at this time: GLENN ANDREWS son of the ALBERT ANDREWS' a long-time Texas trapping family. BERT BAKER of the EATON CO. who sell rodenticides to the PCO industry. MARIE GELLERSTEDT who produces NIXILITE bird repellent devices. DAVID KINCAID, a sheep rancher from Pinon (NM). JUPE MEANS who runs the H-Y Ranch out of

Buckhorn (NM).

Members of the REED and JOSEPH families importers of the REED-JOSEPH CO. bird-scaring devices who in addition to their regular contributions supplied us with the Canadian furbearer books for both our raffles.

CLAYTON WRIGHT of B&G Chemical Co., one of our longest supporters.

Our sincere thanks to these individuals for their current support and also to some who have supported us generously in the past like MARSHALL HYDE (out-of-business bird fireworks), NORM ROUSSELOT (sheepman from Texas), as well as some old PARC people like NADCA REGION I DIRECTOR BILL NELSON and DON DONAHOO, etc.



Playing around with the figures gleaned from the Directory we find that 54% of the membership have APHIS (or USFWS-ADC) backgrounds. So this is no longer strictly a Federal ADC organization and our leadership needs to be more diversified. This is shown by its 9% of private trappers and pest control operators, 7.7% farmers and ranchers who recognize the threat of vertebrate pests, 6.7% State ADC employees, 5.8% manufacturers/distributors of vertebrate pest control materials, and 5.6% University staff, we have only 3 students enrolled (common prof's, recruit!). The support from "old folks" is still good, 19% of the membership, are retired individuals who are still willing to give a helping hand.

Finally, WES "Moneybags" JONES reports that even including travel advances to attend the Board meeting in Madison (WI), we still have \$4,155 in the treasury.

I can pinpoint the exact moment our marriage went bad. After we bought a water bed, we kind of drifted apart.

READIN'

E.A.Wilson, E.A.LEBOEUF, K.M.Weaver, & D.J.LEBLANC, (1989) DELAYED SEEDING FOR REDUCING BLACKBIRD DAMAGE TO SPROUTING RICE IN SOUTHWESTERN LOUISIANA. Wildl. Soc.Bull. 17:165-171.

Studies in 1986-7 showed rice sprout loss to blackbirds was related to the numbers of birds in the field and these numbers declined during the spring planting period. Thus they recommend delaying rice seeding until mid-April in Louisiana.

DR. WALTER E. HOWARD (Chr. Vert. Pest Control Task Force), (1989) VERTEBRATE PEST CONTROL TASK FORCE REPORT, 51pp; free, Contact Janet Masters, CA Dept. Food & Agric. (916) 445-4521.

Economic losses by vertebrate pests sometimes exceed losses by other organisms. Recent environmental laws and the lack of research in this area are causes for concern. There is need for balanced public education, improvement of chemical registration, coping with predation problems, and research. Without greater funding and increased personnel these needs will not be met.

I couldn't find alphabet soup at the grocery. I guess it's out of print.

MEETIN'S

FOURTEENTH VERTEBRATE PEST CONFERENCE, Mar. 6-8, 1990 in Sacramento, CA (Red Lion Inn). Contact: Dr. Terrell Salmon, Wildl. Ext., Univ. Calif.-Davis, CA 95616.

MANAGING PREDATION TO INCREASE PRODUCTION OF WETLAND BIRDS, Aug. 15-17, 1990 at the Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Ctr., Jamestown, ND. Contact Alan B. Sargeant, NPWRC, POB 2096, Jamestown, ND 58402 (701) 252-5363. A call for papers/posters will be sent out this fall. Only single page abstracts will be published.

Light travels faster than sound. That's why some folks appear bright until they speak.

HUMANS GOT RIGHTS???

(This is confined to Fitzwater's personal vendetta against the Animal Rights (AR) movement so any purists should skip it.)

Vandals under the pseudonym of ANIMAL LIBERATION FRONT broke into the Health Science Center at Texas Tech and stole research data, vandalized equipment to the tune of \$70,000, and took five cats used in medical research. These materials were all being used in a medical research project on Sudden Infant Death Syndrome and sleep apnea. SIDS kills more than 7,000 children each year. The columnist also deplors the fact that "...more mainstream animal-rights groups, such as People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, allow themselves to be used as sympathetic front...for the AFL." As further proof of where the columnist's feelings lie, "...those who hinder medical research through outright criminal acts give legitimate and well-meaning (the underlining is mine) protest a bad name by association." Thanks to BILL CLAY (APHIS, ND) and FT.WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM.



Thank to JEFF HORWATH

I miss the days when you had to have an ear for music instead of a stomach for it.

LETTERS TO YE ED

GLENN ANDREWS, Scientific Drilling International, Houston, TX:

Since subscribing to THE PROBE, I have been transferred to Manila (PI). I was promoted to Directional Drilling Mgr. for Far East. Means more paper work and less time off. I oversee directional (slant hole wells) drilling and surveying of oil, gas, and geothermal wells for two years and am already counting the months until I get back to HOME SOIL. Enclosed is a check for \$105 to pay for patron membership and take my chances on the raffle. Thank you for putting out such a good down to earth paper. Over here a person sure does enjoy having good news from the home front.

GUY CONNOLLY, DWRC, Denver, CO:

It would be sad to see THE PROBE pass out of existence -- for most of us it is the only tangible asset of NADCA. So if NADCA folds please keep producing THE PROBE somehow. It is tough working for an ADC program that is changing to keep up with the times, when you liked it better the way it used to be.

If the best part of waking up is Folgers in your cup - you're sleeping with the wrong person.

WHAT'S NEW?

The in-thing now is Lyme disease. Wisconsin Pharmacal Co. (POB 198, Jackson, WI 53037) has just announced a "REPEL Deerhunters Insect Repellent".

This contains 55% DEET, an effective repellent against ticks and mosquitoes too. The addition of a concentrated natural plant extract (earth scent) masks the odor of the repellent chemical to which the deer might object.

If at first you don't succeed become a consultant.

PERSONEL

The Remington Arms Co. which owns and operates a wildlife demonstration farm near Chestertown (MD) is looking for an assistant manager. They want someone with a M.S. or Ph.D., a few years experience, a writer/speaker to host at

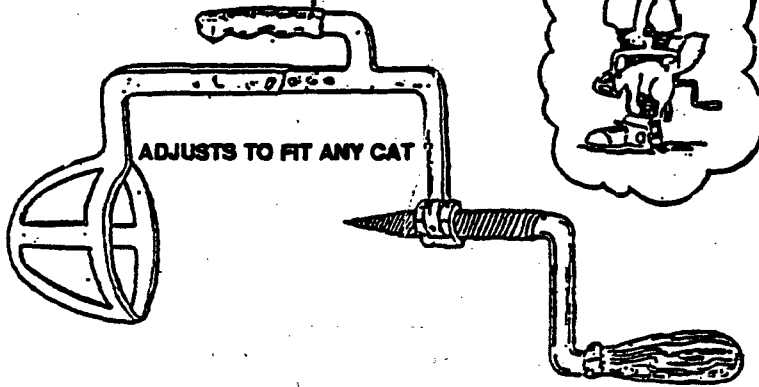
at various functions at the Farm. Contact Hugh Galbreath, Mgr. Remington Farms, Chestertown, MD 21620 [(301) 778-1565].

Death and taxes are unavoidable, but at least death isn't an annual event.

KITTY LITTER

(If you can't say anything good about cats - this column is for you.)

Cat Carrier Now \$3.99



I've made so many mistakes on this job, people think I'm the boss.

ALL THE NEWS THAT'S PRINT TO FIT

The Rocky Mountain Humane Society protested the circus opening in Denver claiming the animals are "psychologically battered" during training. They also claim circus animals are "forced to perform unnatural acts" (there must be a new meaning to that word or circuses have changed since I attended them). Ringling Bros. etc. officials claim this is just an attempt by a small group of animal rightists to draw attention to their extremist views. "Their ultimate aim is to deny children and their parents the opportunity to experience and admire beautiful animals that have been a tradition... (of circuses)". RMHS spokesperson, Robin Duxbury (*wouldn't you know a kook like this would have a name like that!*), admits the circus animals appear healthy and happy. "Obviously, the animals are getting fed. They are clean and they look great. But, it's the psychological battering they have been subjected to for most of

their lives. These animals are nothing but freaks." Thank to MIKE FALL (DENVER WRC) and DENVER POST 10/6/89.

The "University of Colorado's Animal Rights Group" has started a hotline for students who squirm about slicing critters in their biology classes. Lisa Stein who runs this CU Animal Concerns Line admits she has yet to hear a complaint. Amazingly she is a molecular, cellular, and developmental biology major. (*sounds to me like a way to get out of lab*) Thank to MIKE FALL (Denver WRC) and ROCKY MT. NEWS, 10/6/89.

I'm in favor of lowering the voting age to 14. After all, that's when they know everything.

NOW HEAR THIS!!!

(This is practical tips from the field. If this column is missing it's YOUR fault.)

Francis Scott Key never realized he was writing a torch song.

APHIS ACTIVITY REPT.

(The following are abstracted from the activity reports of APHIS-ADC and newsletters like the TEXAS TRAPLINE, THE TRAPPERS' JAW (NM), IDAHO TRAPPIN' AND GRABBIN', etc. for the benefit of non-APHIS readers. This is not a publication source. Only names of NADCA members are used where they are involved. If you want to see your name in print, better join up.)

EAGLES - (NM) Golden eagles have been killing up to 250-pound calves on a Socorro Co. ranch for over five years. They hit the calves on the back of the head and neck. This results in a fatal wound or one that requires intensive doctoring and possibly death through infection. Losses to date have been over \$12,000. Control by trapping with leghold and pen traps have been unsuccessful. The next step was using a chopper and a Codanet gun. This device shoots out a 10x10-foot net from a modified rifle. With a fixed-wing flying overhead cover, one eagle was brought down but it escaped when a corner of the net hung up on a bush.

The next day two eagles were captured and shipped to Denver for pesticide research. If this doesn't solve the problem, the next step is procuring a kill permit. CURT MULLIS.

I'm not upset the Arabs don't recognize Israel. Our high school students don't recognize any country.

FLASH!!!

(When I wrote the above article I had the nagging feeling that shipping those eagles to Denver for pesticide research was throwing faeces into a quickly revolving appliance for creating wind. I had THE PROBE ready for the printer when I got a message from MIKE FALL with the following headline. Mike said it was on the front page of the DENVER POST right next to an article on Nobel Prize winners. As he said that's the closest ADC will ever get to a Nobel peace prize.)

THE DENVER POST
October 13, 1989

Eagles to be poison-test guinea pigs

Animal rights group denounces experiment in controlling coyotes

By Steve Gamaas
Denver Post Staff Writer

LAKESWOOD — Federal researchers plan to use 15 injured golden eagles to see if the raptors will feed on lamb carcasses containing a small amount of a highly toxic coyote poison.

If the eagles don't die — and researchers claim they won't — the poison, Compound 1080, likely will be revived for use by Wyoming and Montana sheep ranchers to control predatory coyotes. It will be the first time the toxin has been allowed for commercial use since it was banned in 1972.

Animal rights activists of the Rocky Mountain Humane Society already have denounced the use of eagles in the experiment, saying they hope "pressure from public opinion" will stop the research.

In the eagle experiment, researchers want to determine if the birds will intentionally or accidentally ingest the toxin while feeding on a carcass. A small amount of poison will be left on the lamb's wool near the collar.

The carrion will be the sole source of food for the eagles for one week.

"I don't think the eagles will die from it," said Pete Savarie, a USDA researcher in the animal damage control division who will conduct the tests.

"That's a bunch of bull," Duxbury said.

EDITORIAL

God said, "Let the Earth bring forth green herb and such as may seed." The EPA agreed, so long as native seed was used.

Then God said, "Let the waters bring forth the creeping creatures having life and the fowl that may fly over the Earth." Officials pointed out that this would require approval of the Game and Fish Commission coordinated with the Heavenly Wildlife Federation and Audubonogenic Society.

Everything was O.K. until God wanted to compete the project in six days. Officials said it would take at least 100 days to review the application and impact statement. After that there would be public hearings. Then there would be 10 or 12 months before...and God said: "The Hell with it." Thank to Navy Dept. Newsletter, GOTCHA.

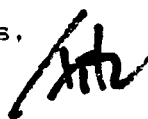
NOTE CHANGE OF ADDRESS: We are moving to 7104 Bellrose Ave. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110 - same telephone: (505) 883-9249. Not to worry, my in-laws are taking over 3919 so we'll continue to get mail (eventually) sent to the old address.

Please detach, fill in, and send the next page as soon as possible to WES JONES, Rt. 1, Box 37, Shell Lake, WI 54871.

I wish Congress would get back to normal. This "kinder and gentler" stuff is getting brutal.

EDITOR
WILLIAM D. FITZWATER

Adios,



NATIONAL ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL ASSN.
SURVEY

1. What do you think NADCA's objectives should be?

2. Who do you feel would be a good candidate for NADCA office?

PRESIDENT

VICE-PRESIDENT (EAST)

VICE-PRESIDENT (WEST)

SECRETARY

TREASURER

REGIONAL DIRECTOR IN YOUR REGION

EDITOR - THE PROBE

3. Are you really interested in establishing a logo? Any other comments on dues, PROBE contents and columns, educational materials, etc.:

Please detach this last page and send it with your dues for 1990 to Treasurer WES JONES, Rt. 1, Box 37, Shell Lake, WI 54871. THANK YOU.

NATIONAL ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL ASSN.
WESLEY R. JONES, Rt.#1, Box 37, Shell Lake, WI 54871

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