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Reflections On An Onerous Deed

Fred Knowlton, USDA/APHIS/ADC/DWRC, Logan Utah

It has been over a month since the Denver Wildlife Research Center (DWRC) Predator Research Center near Millville, Utah, was vandalized and set afire. That is sufficient time to develop more thoughts than can be adequately shared here. Perhaps some, however, are worth pondering.

Development of the Millville Predator Research Facility began in 1973 to facilitate research of the Logan Field Station of the DWRC. Its primary function involved research related to understanding coyote population mechanics, coyote behavioral patterns, and predator-prey interactions. Secondly, it served as a preliminary testing facility for developing, maintaining, or improving depredation control techniques and procedures. The thrusts of the latter include developing procedures directed at reducing coyote motivations to kill livestock (e.g. conditioned food aversions, sterilization), selectively removing coyotes that attack livestock (e.g. the Livestock Protection Collar) and dealing with coyotes in more humane ways (e.g. tranquilizer tabs for traps). Practically all of the coyotes in experimental programs at the Millville facility were born and reared there, primarily because they are less subject to distractions associated with captivity.

Sometime during the evening of October 23rd or early morning of the 24th, intruders entered the 120-acre research site, cut fences on outlying pens in numerous places to release coyotes, forcibly entered the main research building, set an incendiary device in one office, spray-painted a "logo" on an outside wall, and left. The same evening, my office on the Utah State University campus was forcibly entered, files ransacked, and another incendiary device set.

While events at the USU campus were less than catastrophic, we were less fortunate at the Millville facility. Potentially, 54 coyotes could have escaped but only sixteen did. We can account for fifteen of the coyotes; fourteen were recaptured and returned to their pens following veterinary examination and treatment and one died from injuries sustained in fighting following the releases. We suspect,

but have not confirmed, the other animal was shot on adjacent property on the morning after the release. The main research building was extensively damaged by the fire, heat, and smoke. While the research program will be back on line in the coming weeks, the offices and laboratories will have to be rebuilt.

Late last week the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) claimed responsibility for the raid, justifying it on the basis of a variety of "illegal" and secret research activities. By design, the allegations were personally and professionally onerous and publicly inflammatory. It is uncertain whether the focus of the raid involved captive animals, animal experimentation, or the Animal Damage Control Program.

It is apparent this was not a spontaneous action but a carefully planned activity. Reflecting on the events, however, suggests a substantial number of rational incongruities. If releasing animals was the issue, why draw attention by starting fires? If animal welfare concerns are the point, does releasing territorial animals so they confront each other make sense (50 percent of the animals recovered required veterinary treatment and one animal died from fights)? In a comparable raid at another institution, six of eight coyotes released died as a direct result of the raid. Just as destroying data and records creates a need to repeat studies to reproduce the data, destroying facilities places added demands on natural resources. Trying to integrate these and other considerations, I have only been able to conclude the individuals responsible assume their values take precedence over everyone else's and that they are not subject to the civil conventions by which our society operates. Perhaps most unfortunate is the fact that they use, and frequently abuse, the very animals in whose behalf they profess to act.

Curiously, their motivations and mine may not be very different, namely trying to reduce human intervention in natural systems. Unfortunately, just as they use and abuse animals to attract attention to their views, their use of our facilities, animals, and research program to abet their cause temporarily reduced our ability to develop alternative techniques for resolving conflicts between wild animals and other human endeavors.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

January 5-6, 1993: Management of Fish Eating Birds on Fish Farms: A Symposium, New Orleans, LA. In conjunction with Aquaculture Expo IV, sponsored by National Aquaculture Association. Topics will include scope of the problem, control methods, and management programs/recommendations. For more information, contact: Janet Mulford, Alexandria Technical College, 1601 Jefferson St., Alexandria, MN 56308, (612) 762-4539, FAX (612) 762-4634

March 19-24, 1993: North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, Washington, D.C. Sponsored by The Wildlife Society. For more information, contact Dr. Lowell W. Adams, Chair, National Institute for Urban Wildlife, 10921 Trotting Ridge Way, Columbia, MD 21044, Phone: (301) 596-3311, or Dr. John M. Hadidian, Cochair, Center For Urban Ecology, National Park Service, 1100 Ohio Drive, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20242, Phone: (202) 342-1443.

March 22, 24, & 26, 1993: Vertebrate Pest Control Workshops: San Diego, Fresno, and Chico, CA. Principles of wildlife damage control, with specialized sessions at each location on species of particular geographic interest. For more information, contact: Terrell P. Salmon, Business Mgr., Vertebrate Pest Council, DANR-North Region, Univ. of California, Davis, CA 95616-8575, (916) 757-8621.

March 24-25, 1993: Feral Swine: A Compendium for Resource Managers, Y.O. Hilton, Kerrville, Texas. Sessions include: *Biology of Feral Hogs, Depredation Problems, The Florida Experience, The California Experience, and The Pakistan Experience.* For more information, contact Dr. Dale Rollins, TAEX, 7887 N. Hwy. 87, San Angelo, TX 76901, Phone (915) 653-4576.

April 18-22, 1993: Northeast Association of Wildlife Damage Biologists, Annual Meeting, Atlantic City, New Jersey. For further information, contact: James E. Forbes, USDA/APHIS/Animal Damage Control, P.O. Box 97, Albany, New York 12201, (518) 472-6492.

April 26-29, 1993: 11th Great Plains Wildlife Damage Control Workshop, Hyatt Regency, Kansas City, MO. For further information, contact: F. Robert Henderson, Ext. Wildlife Specialist, Kansas State University, (913) 532-5654, or Robert A. Pierce II, Ext. Wildlife Specialist, University of Missouri, (314) 882-7242. *The Annual Meeting of the NADCA membership will be held in conjunction with this meeting. Watch the Probe for future details of agenda items to be discussed, as well as specific date and time of this meeting. Plan to be there!*

May 25-26, 1993: The Wild Pig in California Oak Woodland: Ecology and Economics. Embassy Suites Hotel, San Luis Obispo, CA. Contact: Dr. William Tietje, Forestry & Resource Management, 2156 Sierra Way, Suite C, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401. (805) 549-5940.

July 4-10, 1993: Sixth International Theriological Congress, Sydney, Australia. This is an international meeting of scientists interested in mammalogy, and will include symposia and workshops including such topics as population biology of mammals, the role of disease in population regulation, and wildlife management. Will include sessions on *Management of Problem Wildlife* and *Predation As a Regulator of Mammal Populations.* For further information, write: The Secretariat, 6th Int'l Theriological Congress, School of Biological Science, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia 2033.

August 2-6, 1993: Bird Strike Committee—USA, Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, Seattle, Washington. Will include two days of conference papers and a one-day field trip. Contact: James E. Forbes, USDA/APHIS/ADC, P.O. Box 97, Albany, NY 12201, (518) 472-6492.

September 19-25, 1993: First International Wildlife Management Congress, Hotel Cariari, San Jose, Costa Rica Includes session *Conflicts Between Man, Agriculture, and Wildlife.* Send abstracts before 31 March 1993 to: Dr. Paul R. Krausman, Sch. of Renewable Nat. Resources, Univ. of Arizona, 325 Biological Sciences East, Tucson, AZ 85721. For further information, contact IWMC Secretariat Director, The Wildlife Society, 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814, phone (301) 897-9770.

October 1993: 6th Eastern Wildlife Damage Control Conference, Asheville, NC. For further information, contact: Greg K. Yarrow, Ext. Wildlife Specialist, G08 Lehotsky Hall, Clemson University, Clemson, SC 29634-0362, (803) 656-3117.

The Probe is the newsletter of the National Animal Damage Control Association, published 10 times per year.

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Your contributions to *The Probe* are welcome. Please send news clippings, new techniques, publications, and meeting notices to *The Probe*, c/o Hopland Field Station, 4070 University Road, Hopland, CA 95449. If you prefer to FAX material, our FAX number is (707) 744-1040. The deadline for submitting material is the 15th of each month.

In Memoriam

Anna Saviks, a long-time secretary in the Animal Damage Control Washington, D.C. office, died on August 25. Miss Saviks served as Jack Berryman's secretary for 13 years. Prior to that, she was secretary to Dorr Green and Clifford Fresnall. Green and Fresnall are also past chiefs of ADC.

Anna Saviks came to Washington from her home in Colorado Springs, Colorado, during World War II and remained after her retirement on December 31, 1978. Services and burial were in Colorado Springs.

Animal Damage Control in the News

Coyote Urine Translocated by Flora

Russ Mason, Dale Nolte, and Gisela Epple of the Denver Wildlife Research Center's Monell Field Station have been studying the repellent effects of coyote urine. Mountain beavers, deer, and other mammalian herbivores are bothered by certain fractions within the urine.

Recent experiments have shown that when roots are immersed, plants will translocate the aversive substances. Analytical chemistry is being utilized to uncover the identity of the translocated fractions. If the fractions can be identified, it may be possible to develop an effective, biologically-based systemic repellent for mammalian herbivores.

Dr. Gisela Epple is a member of NADCA and Dr. Russ Mason is applying for membership.

PETA Indictments Expected Soon

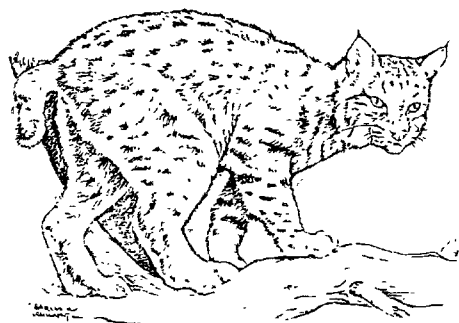
Federal grand juries in three states are expected to indict leaders of the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act.

According to the Wildlife Legislative Fund of America (WLFA), a spokesman for the FBI has said that indictments are pending. Juries in Michigan, Washington, and Oregon are investigating the involvement of Ingrid Newkirk and Alex Pacheco with the terrorist Animal Liberation Front. If convicted, the pair may face prison terms up to 25 years, millions of dollars in fines, and forfeiture of PETA assets. After accepting immunity from prosecution, ten PETA members agreed to testify before the juries about multi-million dollar bombings of animal research laboratories at Michigan State, Oregon State, and Washington State universities. An August report by the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment has declared ALF one of America's ten most dangerous terrorist organizations.

Colorado Voters Ban Spring Hunt; Arizonans Defeat Trapping Ban

Election day saw Colorado voters ban the annual spring bear hunt by a 2-1 majority. The measure also forbids the use of baits and dogs to hunt bears in any season. Supporters of the measure included Fund for Animals, Washington, D.C. and Coloradans United for Bears.

In Arizona voters defeated a referendum that would have outlawed trapping. Agriculture interests helped defeat the measure 62-to-38 percent. The measure would have halted many predator control efforts in a state that loses an estimated \$9.5 million to predators each year.



Plague Claims Bobcat Hunter

A Wyoming hunter has died at a Billings, Montana hospital after contact with a plague-infected bobcat. According to a report in the November 9 issue of the *Salt Lake Tribune*, Mike Dahl, 34, of Sheridan, Wyoming, was exposed to the disease on Oct. 31 when he skinned a bobcat shot on the Crow Indian Reservation near the Wyoming/Montana border.

The plague is carried by fleas or infected animals, stated Dr. Ronald Smith, an infectious diseases specialist. Health officials concluded that Dahl was probably infected through cuts on his hands.

According to an article in the November 7 issue of the *Billings Gazette*, tests were performed on the bobcat carcass at the federal Centers for Disease Control laboratory in Fort Collins, Colorado. On November 6 the Center confirmed that the animal was infected.

Dahl was admitted to a Billings, Montana, hospital in early November, but his condition continued to deteriorate. He is only the second plague case fatality ever confirmed in Montana, but is the second plague death in the United States this year.

Two others who helped skin the bobcat were admitted to Sheridan (Wyoming) Veterans Affairs Medical Center with mild symptoms.

Publications Available

Ecology and Management of the Eastern Coyote. Compiled and Edited by Arnold H. Boer. Available from Dept. of Forest Resource/Continuing Education in Forestry, University of New Brunswick, BAG Service #44555, Fredericton, N.B. CANADA E3B 6C2.

The DWRC Research Update, Fall 1992. 20 pages. Available from: Information/Technical Transfer, Denver Wildlife Research Center, P.O. Box 25266, Denver, CO 80225-0266.

The editors of *The Probe* thank contributors to this issue: Everett Whiteaker, Don Hawthorne, Franklin Anderson, James E. Forbes, and Wes Jones. Send your contributions to *The PROBE*, 4070 University Road, Hopland, CA 95449.

In My Opinion

Editors' note: This page will be a new regular feature of the **The PROBE**, highlighting various contributors' opinions regarding topics in the wildlife damage field, controversies, political issues, cartoons (? non-copyrighted, of course) and whatever else you'd like to share with the membership.

Probe Should Be Advocate for ADC Activities

To the Editors:

I'm concerned that our organization is taking a direction that's different from its original purpose. Seems like recent issues of **The PROBE** have devoted lots of space to "environmentalist" concerns such as humane trapping, wolf reintroduction, and so forth. While these are valid issues, we can read this stuff in many other publications. We should be advocates for ADC activities and spend our efforts defending the way we protect agriculture and other resources. Otherwise, we'll lose the support of those for whom this outfit was started!

Name Withheld by Request

Editors' Reply:

We want **The PROBE** to meet the needs of all members of NADCA. To meet that goal, we've largely printed nearly all original submissions we've been sent. The materials we reprint from other sources are those we hope will be of general interest and are timely—and these receive lower priority than original contributions of our own members. We continue to solicit from all our members articles on your experiences, descriptions of useful techniques or products you'd like to share, documentation of the value of ADC, etc. We think our current membership has broader interests than in the past, but we want **The PROBE** to continue to meet *your* needs. You can help us stay on track by returning the questionnaire on page 5 of this issue...and by continuing to send us original submissions of all types!

R.H.S. and R.M.T.



Charter Member Says Good-Bye

Dear Editors:

My membership of NADCA expires this month, but I have decided, rather sadly, not to renew it.

The main reason for this is that in the four years since I retired from active wildlife work with the CSIRO's Division of Wildlife and Ecology I have not had the time to keep up with the vertebrate pest control literature, even from within Australia. In retirement I have been concentrating on a long-time hobby—the narration of books and magazines (e.g. *Time*) onto cassettes for use by print-handicapped people. This requires a large commitment of time and effort.

Also, I've developed a major interest in practical botany, and am spending more and more time as a volunteer guide in the Australian National Botanic Gardens in Canberra where we have 5,000 species of the Australian flora. So, if you or other friends of NADCA visit Canberra, the national capital, contact me to show you the beautiful Gardens!

Best wishes for the continuing success of NADCA, particularly in relation to education about vertebrate pest-control.

*Sincerely,
Bunny Fennessy,
Braddon, Australia*

From the editors: We regret "losing" charter member Bunny Fennessy, but with all his activities, we certainly understand his decision. We wish him all the best.

Bill Fitzwater III

Bill Fitzwater, past Secretary/Treasurer and **PROBE** founding editor (issues #1 through #103), suffered a stroke in September and is recovering slowly from paralysis on his left side. Bill reports, "I can only type with one hand."

You may wish to send greetings and wishes for a full recovery to Bill at: 7104 Bellrose Avenue NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110.

Next Issue Jan/Feb

The next issue of **The PROBE** will arrive several weeks later than normally. It will be a combined January/February issue. The January/February issue will contain the updated membership list for the National Animal Damage Control Association. (If you have moved recently, please send in your change-of-address as soon as possible.)

NADCA Renewals and Donations

—from *Wes Jones, NADCA Treasurer*

My request for your timely renewal based on the date on your mailing label has been honored by several of you. We appreciate that, and thank you for your response. Can we interest more of you in doing the same?

We also recognize those that include a donation along with their membership dues. We are not an organization with a "treasure chest" and every dollar is critical to meeting our objectives. Thanks again to you, and also to a few of you that provide a gift membership for a friend or relative. An increase in the member count always has value.

Another category of appreciation is due to those renewing at membership class levels above Active. Special thanks go to our Sponsor and Patron members—and more would be welcome.

New Logo Chosen for NADCA!

At the Fifteenth Vertebrate Pest Conference, the Logo Committee agreed to go with a new log suitable for us in *The PROBE*, brochures, and any other publications, as well as in letterheads and on hats. A professional artist has consolidated our thoughts into the log you see on the current cover page. It appears to be the consensus, although there was considerable discussion pointing to the use of more flying birds in the design. It was the opinion of the artist that more than three birds would make the design unbalanced and cluttered and I have concurred.

This will be our logo, unless we hear from you to the contrary. The logo committee will review any objections you care to submit. Please be constructive in any criticism; a flat "I don't like it" will not be of much help! And, of course, we would appreciate hearing from those that support the current design. Send comments or phone calls to me at the application form address.

Wes Jones

Tell Us What You Think... ...about *The PROBE*

1. I'd like to see more articles in *The PROBE* about: _____

2. The best thing *The PROBE* could do to support the work of ADC professionals is: _____

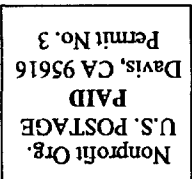
3. The part of the *The PROBE* that I always read is: _____

4. The things in *The PROBE* that are of little or no value to me are: _____

5. If there's one thing about *The PROBE* that I'd change, it would be: _____

6. Name and Address (optional): _____

Please complete this questionnaire by January 15, 1993 and send it to: *The PROBE*, UC Hopland Research & Extension Center, 4070 University Road, Hopland, CA 95449. FAX (707) 744-1040



Terrell P. Salmon
DANR-North Region
University of California
Davis, CA 95616-8575

Membership Application

NATIONAL ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL ASSOCIATION

Mail to: Wes Jones, Treasurer, Route 1 Box 37, Shell Lake, WI 54871

Name: _____ Phone: (____) ____ - _____ Home

Address: _____ Phone: (____) ____ - _____ Office

Additional Address Info: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP _____

Dues: \$ _____ Donation: \$ _____ Total: \$ _____ Date: _____

Membership Class: Student \$7.50 Active \$15.00 Sponsor \$30.00 Patron \$100

(underline one)

Check or Money Order payable to NADCA

Select one type of occupation or principal interest:

- Agriculture
- USDA - APHIS - ADC or SAT
- USDA - Extension Service
- Federal - not APHIS or Extension
- Foreign
- Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator
- Other (describe) _____
- Pest Control Operator
- Retired
- ADC Equipment/Supplies
- State Agency
- Trapper
- University