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January 1981

The Probe, Issue 10 - January 1981

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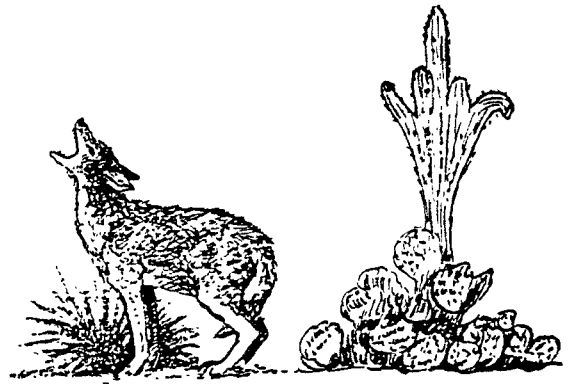


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THE PROBE



National Animal Damage Control Association

No. 10

January, 1981

THE USERS OF WILDLIFE

"People who love wild things and green places are immersed in a struggle... (picking) bitter fights with each other over what kind of wild things and what shades of green should get priority. One of the most widespread, divisive and irrational of these squabbles centers around the notion of consumptive vs. nonconsumptive uses of wildlife. In the popular mind, the test is simple: If you hunt, trap or fish, you are a consumptive user; if you photograph, watch, paint or study wildlife, you are a nonconsumptive user."

After that introduction, Robert Weeden [Nonconsumptive users: A myth, Alaska Conservation Review, Fall, 1976] goes on to point out that those who do not hunt or fish have a holier-than-thou attitude toward those that do. Weeden feels we all share the burden and responsibility of being consumers in fundamental ways. The hunter eats no more meat than the non-hunter but he gets it from a different source. Nature produces game without plowing the ground, spreading fertilizers or spraying pesticides. The energy consumed in transporting game home is less than the energy cost of shipping a beef from Colorado to Chicago. The conservationists who ate prime rib at an Earthcare Conference undoubtedly consumed more quail and quail habitat than if they had gone out and shot a couple of quail for their dinner. Also part of the money spent for quail habitat by hunters would have been used in quail habitat preservation whereas the money paid for the prime rib went solely into the pockets of the preservationists to further their narrow-minded views on the rest of us. So who is really a nonconsumptive user?

"To continue to make false distinctions between consumptive and nonconsumptive users is to play into the hands of those who don't give a damn about wildlife."

Life is like a dog sled team. Unless you're the lead dog the scenery never changes.

RABIES UPDATE

Rabies is feared over the world, though it is probably more imagination than actual fact. Eighteen European countries (Finland, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom are rabies free and no cases were reported from Bulgaria or Portugal) in 1979 reported only 4 human cases as compared with 16,816 cases in animals.

Of these, 20.6% were domestic animals and 79.4% were in wild animals. The fox, 88.3%, was the most important species. It is interesting that only in Turkey is "urban" rabies the most prevalent problem. There were 61.1% cases in dogs and only 1.5% involved wild species.

In that same year, the U.S.A. reported 5,150 laboratory-confirmed cases which is 67% above the average for the preceding five years. Only the District of Columbia, Idaho, Hawaii, Guam and the Virgin Islands reported no rabies cases. There were 5 human cases compared with 636 (12.3%) domestic animals and 4,509 (87.5%) wildlife species. In the latter category, skunks made up 59% of the total, bats 15%, raccoons 10% and foxes 3%.

Of the 2,500 patients receiving Merieux human diploid cell rabies vaccine (M-HDCV), it was found only 4 patients had systemic allergic reactions ranging from hives to anaphylactic shock. Half (.0016%) of these had a previous history of allergies to other drugs but the other two had no history of allergies. Four cases of fever and severe headaches were reported during the study. The headaches were not associated with other meningeal symptoms and usually disappeared within 24 hours following the injection. There were minor reactions, such as redness, swelling, or pain at the injection site in less than 25% of the persons treated. Thus M-HDCV which was licensed in the U.S.A. on June 9, 1980 appears to be a very acceptable substitute for the duck embryo vaccine previously used. There have been no cases that failed to develop protective antibodies when the 5-dose post-exposure prophylaxis regimen has been adhered to. [Mortality and Morbidity Weekly Reports, USPHS Center for Disease Control, 1980]

Ignorance of the law is no excuse - - unless you're a lawyer or a judge.

WE CAN'T BE ALL BAD

Mike Harrison who works as a bird hazard specialist for the Federal Aviation Administration wrote the following letter:

"I have enclosed my annual dues in support of the gopher stompers. I'd like to have everyone take off those "Black Hats" and get a well deserved Kudo from the aviation community. As you are aware, a little publicized effort conducted by the USF&WS is bird hazard reduction. During 1979 and continuing through 1980, many of the animal damage control biologists have been working with airports to reduce the attractiveness of birds through habitat modification. In many cases, the FAA and the airport have applied these recommendations with good success. In the course of doing "negative wildlife management", we've seen substantial reductions in bird populations and bird strikes, directly affecting aviation safety. The "bad guys" of the Service are to be congratulated.

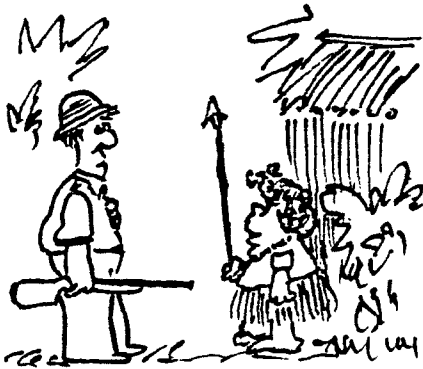
The airport manager lacks the technical knowledge to adequately assess his problem, this is where the biologist can step in and help with a local problem. In many cases, the problem can be solved through alteration of a food or water source for the birds or through harassment. The FAA is currently preparing special studies which will result in technical reports helpful to both the biologist and the airport manager." Thanks, Mike, that's a shift from what we usually hear.

If love is blind - - marriage must be a real eyeopener.

DISNEYWORLD, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

When OSHA ordered contractors to install beepers on all moving vehicles at building sites to call the worker's attention to moving equipment, EPA announced that workers should wear earmuffs to protect them from the noise on construction sites.

This from a letter to the Seattle TIMES: "I am writing to protest a flagrant violation of EPA standards. Recently Mount St. Helens, an unincorporated entity operating in southern Washington, went into full production causing an unacceptable increase in the level of suspended particulate matter without filing the proper environmental impact forms or troubling to acquire a waiver of EPA air pollution standards. It is hoped that EPA will crack down on the violaters with the same diligence they use on the business industry."



*We stopped eating Americans.
Laboratory tests showed they
caused cancer in crocodiles.*

EPA "scientific" review committee recently recommended the labeling of the insecticide, SEVIN, be expanded to include the possibility of fetal hazard. This edict was based on a study that beagles, fed large amounts of carbaryl, delivered a significant number of deformed pups. However, feeding studies in several other species, including monkeys, rats, rabbits, hamsters and guinea pigs found no increase in birth defects. Dogs seem to possess the unique inability to metabolize carbaryl to non-toxic components. Other test species, including human volunteers, break down carbaryl rapidly. Despite this larger body of evidence demonstrating the safety of carbaryl and a long history of use without incident, SEVIN stands accused.

"We tried hard - - but it seemed that every time we were beginning to form up into teams we would be reorganized...I was later to learn that we tend to meet any new situation in life by reorganizing; and a wonderful method it can be creating the illusion of progress while producing confusion, inefficiency and demoralization." I thought this was a statement of basic EPA policy but found it had been written by Gaius Petronius back in 66 A.D. - - bureaucracy will never die !

Rick Main (NADCA member) made the following statements in a talk on "Excessive Regulations" to the Pest Control Operators in San Jose, California in 1980:

- Just sit back and try to imagine a world without
- - - The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to recall all those Pintos and Firestone tires,
 - - - The Consumer Product Safety Commission to warn about asbestos in hair dryers,
 - - - OSHA to teach that manure is slippery,
 - - - Federal Election Commission to tell us who paid to elect the candidates of their choice,
 - - - The EPA to require catalytic converters on cars,
 - - - The National Environmental Policy Act to require environmental impact statements,
 - - - The Endangered Species Act to protect the snail darter and the Santa Cruz long-toed salamander.

Such a world existed only 10 years ago when none of these agencies or laws existed.

Tis the little things that bother you. Ya can sit on a mountain but not a tack.

REFERENCE

A good source book on repellents and rodenticides has just been made available - - *AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS BOOK III - Fumigants, Growth regulators, Repellents and Rodenticides*. This provides a handy resume of important chemicals used in vertebrate pest control (avicides, fumigants, repellents and rodenticides). The common names, chemical name and structure, origin of the chemical, its toxicity, formulations, sites on which it can be used and the pests against which it is used, application instructions, precautions and other information are given for each chemical. The soft-cover book (1981 edition) costs \$13.50 and can be obtained from THOMPSON PUBLICATIONS, P.O. Box 9335, Fresno, CA 93791.

I wouldn't say my job's shaky, but they put my name on the door in pencil.

JAPAN HAS ADC PROBLEMS TOO !!!

Motokazu Hirao, Technical Director of Teiso Kasei Co., Ltd., Shizuoka, Japan, and an active member of NADCA, before attending the NPCA conference in New Orleans stopped to visit George and I in Albuquerque. He furnished us a copy of his review of the vertebrate pest problem in Japan which I have briefed up below as it is interesting to see what is happening in other parts of the world.

The problem with vertebrate pests did not become serious until around 1955 possibly because the increase in afforestation efforts furnished greater breeding opportunities. An animal protection law in 1963 accelerated the problem. The government made a survey in 1974-5 and found that bird damage would reach 7,200 million yen (\$34 million) and mammal damage 1,800 million yen (\$11 million) annually.

The following bird species were responsible for damage in 1974:

<u>Bird Species</u>	<u>Crop Damage (million yen)</u>			
	<u>Rice</u>	<u>Bean</u>	<u>Fruit</u>	<u>Vegetable</u>
Crow (<i>Corvus leuillantii</i>)	120		296	499
Sparrows (<i>Passer rutilans</i> , <i>P. montanus</i>)	3,308			
Duck (<i>Anas poecilorhynchos</i>)	944			
Starling (<i>Spodiopsar cineracea</i>)			541	
Brown-eared bulbul (<i>Microscelis amaurotis</i>)			107	408
Pigeon (<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i> , <i>C. livia</i>)	68	266		125
Pheasant (<i>Phasianus versicolor</i>)		14		38
	<u>4,440</u>	<u>280</u>	<u>944</u>	<u>1,070</u>

This damage occurs over 210,000 ha (518, 910 acres) which is 3.9% of the 5,421,000 ha of cultivated cropland in Japan. Mammal damage survey in 1975 was:

<u>Mammal Species</u>	<u>Crop damage (million yen)</u>
Wild boar	1,672
Hare	75
Deer	69
Serow	7

Based on these surveys, the government budgeted funds to start animal control research in 1978.

Dr. Hirao rated the various devices used for frightening birds away from crops as follows: [1] No effect; [2] Little effect and/or of short duration; and [3] Effective:

<u>Type of Device</u>	<u>Effectiveness</u>
Gallon can with clapper, oil lamps, lanterns, flashing tape, glass, mirrors, searchlights, camera flash, wind wheels, streamers, kites, flags, cloths, vinyl tape, paper, rope, bottles, cans, boots, poles, umbrellas and eye-pattern objects	1-2
Scarecrows, mannequins, models of snakes or hawks, dead birds, smoke puffs and balloons	1-3
Firecrackers, fire rockets, fireworks, automatic exploding devices, blank shot, electric synthesized sounds (AVALARM), distress calls, water wheels, moving man-like dummies which wave flags, rotary frightening objects and hawk models moved by batteries	2-3
Frightening projectile on 10-meter rod propelled by propane gas - (Razzo missile tm)	3

As you can see only the last item is rated completely satisfactory. This is a scare device that shoots an object (one looks like an 18-inch butterfly with conspicuous "predator-eye" markings and the other a brightly-colored ring of rotating wind vanes) up a 10-meter rod. The noise as the device explodes and the sight of the object suddenly appearing up in the air and then slowly dropping back down the rod would seem to be an excellent scare device. One unit is claimed to protect 0.5 to 1.0 ha. If you know of anything similar that is available in this country, I'd like to know about it.

The physical methods they use to protect crops include: birdproof nets, fish nets, wire and fiber nets, ropes and other lines, porcupine roost wires (Nixalite types) and electric shockers on roost sites. Dr. Hirao also lists a number of chemicals but their effectiveness and their availability either in Japan or the U.S.A. is not discussed. The Japanese are not permitted to poison birds so they are in even worse shape for vertebrate pest control than we are.

Nostalgia is when ya find the present tense and the past perfect.

RPAR ON STRYCHNINE

For those of you fortunate enough not to know about RPAR this is EPA gobbledygook for "Rebuttable Presumption Against Registration". What it means in English is that EPA is gonna take another chemical away from us, but to make it look good they give you the opportunity of telling them how asinine their actions are. Strychnine was brought up before along with 1080 back in 1976 and beat down at that time, but now they tried to slip it through again. We didn't know about it until the middle of November with a deadline for response set at December 5th. Pink Madsen and Ye Ed at least got in personal screams and did manage to

get a dispensation set to submit an official NADCA statement by January 15th. NADCA members, Milt Caroline and Dale Wade, also appeared before the EPA "scientific" advisory panel and apparently convinced them to tell EPA to stuff it as strychnine is an essential alternative in the very limited field of present vertebrate pesticides. This is an excellent example of why you in the field need an organization like NADCA. The USFWS administration in Washington did not even alert their western field supervisors on this EPA action and probably didn't even bother to register an official complaint against the action on the behalf of ADC.

I wish Congress would stop improving my lot in life - - I can't afford it !

Cartoon courtesy of NEW YORK SPORTSMAN (OWAAR M. Paul Keebler, publisher)

INTRODUCING H.U.T. (HUMANE ULTIMATE TRAP)

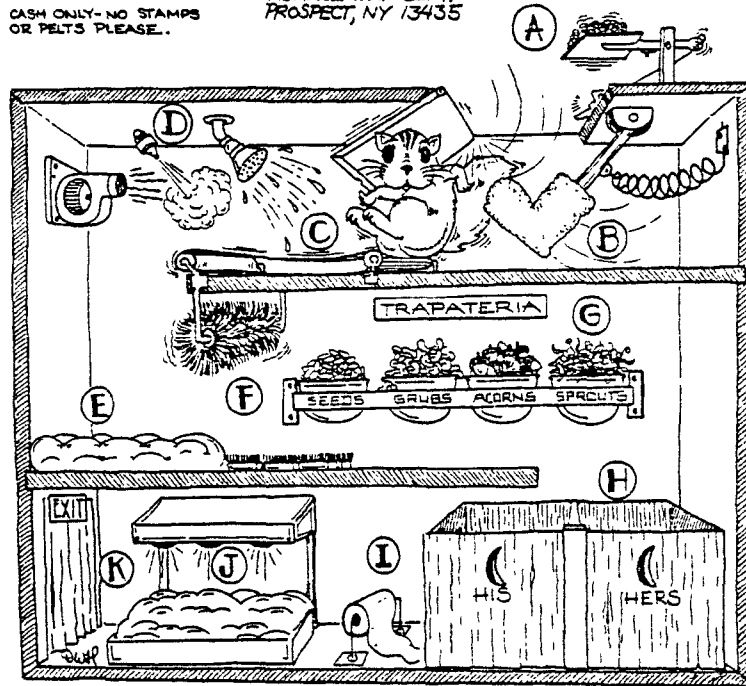
WE ARE VERY HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE SEARCH FOR A HUMANE ANIMAL TRAP HAS ENDED. OUR RECENTLY DEVELOPED AND THOROUGHLY TESTED HUT INSURES THAT OUR FURRY FRIENDS OF THE WILDWOOD RECEIVE THE KIND OF TREATMENT THEY DESERVE. YOU CAN BE SURE THAT H.U.T. WILL BECOME A LEGEND AMONG ANIMALS EVERYWHERE. MODEL #1 IS DESIGNED FOR SQUIRREL, RABBIT, MUSKRAT & MICE. LATER MODELS WILL HANDLE FOX, COYOTE, WOODCHUCK, RACCOON, BEAVER, BEAR & BAMBI!

OPERATION: WILD CREATURE, LURED BY TASTY BAIT (A), TRIPS TRIGGER RELEASE ON TRAP DOOR. ANIMAL DROPS INTO TRAP WHERE FOAM RUBBER BOOT (B) DIRECTS HIM GENTLY ONTO CONVEYOR BELT (C) WHICH CARRIES HIM THROUGH A HOT SHOWER, DEODORIZER & SLOW DRYER (D). AFTER BEING RID OF THAT NASTY ANIMAL ODOR, THE CRITTER DROPS ONTO CUSHION (E) WHERE HE SIGHTS FOOD AND RUNS THROUGH COAT BRUSH & PAW SCRUBBER (F). SQUEEKY CLEAN - THE LITTLE DEVIL FILLS HIS TUMMY WITH YUMMY STUFF AT THE FOOD BAR (G) THEN TUMBLES INTO COMMODE (H) WHERE FACILITIES ARE PROVIDED FOR HIS MORE BASE NEEDS. ONCE FINISHED, THE TRAPEE CRAWLS OVER ROLL (I) AND IS AGAIN RENDERED SANITARY, CURLING UP IN NESTING BOX (J) ALL TOASTY WARM UNDER THE HEAT LAMPS, OUR GUEST HAS A NICE SNOOZE. IF, UPON AWAKING, THE ANIMAL DECIDES BEING CAUGHT IS NOT FOR HIM - HE EXITS THROUGH CURTAIN (K) AND FROLICS WILD & FREE ONCE AGAIN.

EVERY MODEL COMES WITH EITHER WOOD GRAIN INTERIOR OR CHOICE OF PASTEL COLORS. (DEODORANT, FOOD STUFFS & TOILET TISSUE NOT INCLUDED)

AND ALL FOR THE UNBELIEVEABLE PRICE OF \$568.98! (ADD \$316.42 POSTAGE & HANDLING) ORDER FROM: NEW YORK SPORTSMAN HUMAN TRAP DEPT. PROSPECT, NY 13435

CASH ONLY - NO STAMPS OR PELTS PLEASE.



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1931 NADCA - Region II

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 *Nunley, Pat
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 *Pitts, Janice F.
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 *Roach, Bill
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 *Rost, Jean
 *Rousselot, Norman W.
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 *Thomas, Larene
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 Lundquist, Larry
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 Pfeifer, William K.
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 *Stephan, Fredric J.
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 *Wetzal, Wilda F.
 Worcester, Mark D.

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 *Faulkner, Irene
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 *Jones, Wilma
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 *Presnall, Ruby D.
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 Spencer, H.J.
 Tramel, Bobby R.
 *Tramel, Marie T.
 Walker, Leonard O.
 Williamson, N.F.

Regions	ACTIVES		SUPPORTING		TOTAL	
	1980	1981	1980	1981	1980	1981
1	133	70	34	15	167	85
2	133	60	31	16	164	76
3	44	19	9	4	53	23
4	34	24	4	4	38	28
5	16	6	2	1	18	7
0	5	4	0	0	5	4
Total	365	183	80	40	445	223

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 *Merrill, Evelyn
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 Walker, Thomas C.
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OVERSEAS

Fennessy, Bernard V. (AUSTRALIA)
 Fiedler, Lynwood (USAID/PI)
 Gooding, C.D. (AUSTRALIA)
 Hirao, Motokazu (JAPAN)

* Supporting members

DUES AND BLUES

As you can see we have only half of the membership signed up for next year. I'm certain many of you intend to rejoin and as it is cheaper to send out the PROBE by bulk mail rather than additional copies first class, I am sending the newsletter to the old mailing list for the last time. Please try to get more of the field men involved as this Association is for their benefit and not just an ego trip for a bunch of old foggies. We have the best chance since the ADC Act was first passed to take off the black hats and turn things around a bit after January 20th. But we must show our united strength.

If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember all the details.

MUSKRAT MEATLOAF

1 Muskrat	1/4 tsp thyme
2 eggs, beaten	1 tsp salt
1/8 cup-dry bread crumbs	1/4 tsp pepper
1 cup evaporated milk	1 tsp Worcestershire sauce
1/4 onion, minced or grated	

Throw a tablespoon of salt and a dead muskrat into a quart of water (preferably when the wife is out of town). Soak overnight. Remove the meat from the bones and grind (the meat, not the bones, dummy). Mix this mess with all the other junk and place in a meatloaf dish in a pan of hot water. Bake at 350° for 90-120 minutes. Serves six brave humans or a dozen average alley cats (The Northdiv Gotcha - U.S. Naval facilities Engineering Command, Philadelphia, PA)

Washington's specifications for a cat:

A self-motivated, mobile anti-rodent system

*Our thanks to
Greg Pina for this*

OL' TIMER'S CORNER

Lee Bacus (723 Willow, Trinidad, CO 81082), former Colorado State Supervisor, writes: "In a left handed sort of way I am still active. I catch some of the more dumb coyotes or cats once in a while and shoot a particularly stupid coyote on occasion. Frequently I get into heated arguments with 'nature lovers' once in a while."

Some men go through life never knowing their faults. They're called "bachelors".

YE ED - William D. Fitzwater

**National
Animal
Damage
Control
Association**



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Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

