

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

---

The Probe: Newsletter of the National Animal  
Damage Control Association

Wildlife Damage Management, Internet Center  
for

---

January 2002

## The Probe, Issue 220 – January/February 2002

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/icwdmprobe>



Part of the [Environmental Sciences Commons](#)

---

"The Probe, Issue 220 – January/February 2002" (2002). *The Probe: Newsletter of the National Animal Damage Control Association*. 79.

<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/icwdmprobe/79>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Wildlife Damage Management, Internet Center for at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Probe: Newsletter of the National Animal Damage Control Association by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

# HSUS Draft Recommendations For the Oversight of Wildlife Control Operators

Arthur E. Smith, *Certified Wildlife Biologist, NADCA Treasurer; TWS WDMWG Newsletter Editor; OFWIM President-Elect, Midwest Region Contact*

*Editor's note: The HSUS draft oversight recommendations document can be viewed on the HSUS web site at [www.hsus.org/programs/government/state.html](http://www.hsus.org/programs/government/state.html). Scroll down to "Recommendations for Wildlife Control Operators."*

I saw John Hadidian, Director of Urban Wildlife Programs for the HSUS, at the Midwest Fish & Wildlife conference last December and asked him directly about this project. His response was that, even though the document was labelled "Final Draft," it is a work in progress, and had received little/no influence outside of HSUS.

I mentioned that some of the language used and an overall tone to the document would simply not allow it to fly very far without a great deal of

---

*I mentioned that some of the language used and an overall tone to the document would simply not allow it to fly very far without a great deal of opposition from many sides.*

---

opposition from many sides. He understood that and said that he was looking forward to developing a dialogue with state agencies, professional organizations, and other stakeholder groups to further the development of the draft for future implementation. I can't remember what our conversation covered after that, but John has always treated me on the up and up, and I have tried to do the same with him.

What the HSUS draft clearly does for me is further strengthen my feelings that this sort of document will be developed at some point in the very near future. Obviously the interest is present.

And although the NWCO industry is expanding at a very rapid rate, human-wildlife conflicts are increasing both in numbers and in variety, and the industry will be hard pressed to keep up with society's demands on it. Whether the formation

---

*...he was looking forward to developing a dialogue with state agencies, professional organizations, and other stakeholder groups to further the development of the draft for future implementation*

---

of a draft national standard for NWCOs is derived from a special interest group, from inside the industry itself, or from a consortium of human-wildlife interaction groups remains to be seen. However, developing successful legislation projects which stand the course of time have a much better chance of success by including thoughtful and positive influences by stakeholder groups interested in producing such a product.

Presently in New York, Cornell University is in the process of writing a training/licensing program for Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators. It will personally be interesting to see what's developed at Cornell and the reaction to it by others. Although I do not agree with many parts of the HSUS draft I saw back in October, I feel guidelines to regulate the NWCO industry will be developed in some way, shape or form. There are many, many players currently interested in the development of such a product for a variety of reasons. Producing a biased document will not advance the science, industry, or interests of any group concerned with managing human-wildlife interactions.

# Wildlife Control Instructional Seminar in Las Vegas

One-hundred and forty five persons attended the 8th Annual Wildlife Control Instructional Seminar, in Las Vegas, February 4-6. The seminar was sponsored by Wildlife Control Technology (WCT) and the National Wildlife Control Operators Association (NWCOA).

The seminar opened with keynote speaker Dr. Jeff Jackson's presentation on the sociologic origins of value

---

*I was also impressed with the esprit de corps and camaraderie exhibited by all the practicing wildlife control operators. Everyone present was willing to share their knowledge and experience — even their “trade secrets.”*

---

judgements towards animals. Three full days followed with a wealth of information on both the technical and business aspects of wildlife damage management. The information presented included the procedure and criteria for certification as a NWCOA Certified Wildlife Control Professional. Speakers included private wildlife control operators, academics, and USDA/APHIS Wildlife Services.

*The Probe* is the newsletter of the National Animal Damage Control Association. No part of this newsletter may be reproduced in any form without written permission of the editor. Copyright ©2002 NADCA.

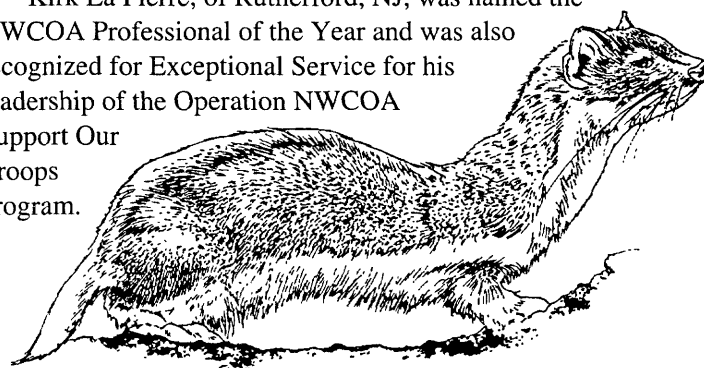
**Editors: Lawrence M. Sullivan,**  
**Extension Natural Resources**  
**Specialist, Wildlife Damage Management**  
**School of Renewable Natural Resources**  
**325 Biosciences East**  
**The University of Arizona**  
**Tucson, AZ 85721**  
**sullivan@ag.arizona.edu**  
**Voice 520-621-7998**  
**FAX 520-621-8801**

**Editorial Assistant:**  
**Pamela J. Tinnin**  
**P.O. Box 38, Partridge, KS 67566**  
**E-mail: PamT481@aol.com**

Your contributions to *The Probe* are welcome and encouraged. The deadline for submitting materials is the 15th of the month prior to publication. Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of NADCA.

I was very favorably impressed with both the quantity and quality of information presented. Of course, as is the norm for this annual seminar, much insightful and useful information was also garnered from informal discussions in the hallway — and occasionally in the casino. I was also impressed with the esprit de corps and camaraderie exhibited by all the practicing wildlife control operators. Everyone present was willing to share their knowledge and experience — even their “trade secrets.” This annual program is a must for all private wildlife control operators.

Kirk La Pierre, of Rutherford, NJ, was named the NWCOA Professional of the Year and was also recognized for Exceptional Service for his leadership of the Operation NWCOA Support Our Troops program.



## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**March 4-7, 2002 - 20th Vertebrate Pest Conference, Silver Legacy Hotel, Reno, NV.** Sponsored by the Vertebrate Pest Council, this conference makes significant contributions toward understanding and resolving undesirable wildlife-human interactions and wildlife damage problems. The pre-registration cost will be \$175/person, with an additional \$40 for the optional Monday field trip. Pre-registration deadline is Feb. 8, 2002. Registration cost after this date or at the door will be \$210. For information go to  
<http://www.davis.com/~vpc/welcome.htm>.

**March 5-9, 2002 - 20th Annual Wildlife Rehabilitators Association Symposium, Sheraton St. Louis City Center, St. Louis MO.**  
Information from: <http://www.nwrawildlife.org>; e-mail: [nwra@nwrawildlife.org](mailto:nwra@nwrawildlife.org).

**October 22-24, 2002 - 4th Joint Annual Meeting of: Bird Strike Committee USA/Canada, Sacramento International Airport, CA.**  
Theme: practical Wildlife Control Techniques for Airports. Will include papers, posters and demonstrations on wildlife control techniques, new technologies, land-use issues, training, engineering standards, wildlife strike statistics, and habitat management. For further information go to [www.birdstrike.org](http://www.birdstrike.org).

---

# Attending “Regular” Fish and Wildlife Conferences

Chad Richardson, NADCA Northern Plains Director

I recently attended the 63rd Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Des Moines, IA. The last time I attended a “regular” fish and wildlife conference was nine years ago as a wildlife student. After taking an interest in the field of wildlife damage, I started attending the damage conferences like the Great Plains Wildlife Damage Control Workshop and the Eastern Wildlife Damage Management Conference. Once I started attending the damage conferences, I never returned to the regular fish and wildlife conferences until now. It seems that most of us have probably done the same thing that I have done, that is, abandon these conferences so that we can attend the more specialized damage conferences.

I remember sessions on wildlife damage topics at these regular conferences and at least a small following of wildlife damage folks who attended. This did not appear to be the case at this conference; the session on predators had a sort of anti-predator control tone. I also attended a few talks

in the wildlife rehabilitation session that were, in my opinion, borderline animal rights talks. I heard two different speakers use the term “so-called nuisance species” as if there were no such thing as a nuisance species. Of the 900+ attendees, I only knew of a half dozen or so who were wildlife damage people.

I also noticed a large number of students in attendance. These students, much the same as I was nine years ago, were looking for contacts or potential jobs in the wildlife field. This all leads to a couple of things that concern me and should also concern you.

First, I think the wildlife damage field should get back into the practice of attending and presenting at these confer-

---

*First, I think the wildlife damage field should get back into the practice of attending and presenting at these conferences.*

---

## Graduate Students’ Openings at Berryman Institute

MS or PhD Stipends  
Jack H. Berryman Institute  
Department of Fisheries and Wildlife  
Utah State University

Each year, the Berryman Institute awards a number of research stipends to graduate students with an interest in wildlife damage management and resolving human-wildlife conflicts. Stipends are \$10,000 per year plus free tuition.

If interested, please send a letter of interest, resume, GPA and GRE scores to:

Dr. Michael Conover, Director  
conover@cc.usu.edu  
Berryman Institute  
Department of Fisheries and Wildlife  
Utah State University  
Logan, UT 84322-5210

ences. Wildlife damage management is an integral part of wild life management and should be represented at these conferences. Many fish and wildlife biologists do not attend damage conferences and therefore may not be exposed to some of the current wildlife damage issues. By getting back into these conferences and rubbing elbows with “regular” biologists, we could potentially help improve relationships between wildlife agencies and damage control entities like the Extension Service, USDA/Wildlife Services, and the private sector.

Secondly, I think that we should be more involved at these conferences because of the large number of students that attend. Most students graduating from college are unaware of the opportunities that exist in our field. We need to be present to recruit those good students to our field, or at least make them aware of it. Since we have separated ourselves from these conferences, new students aren’t even being exposed to the “rest of the story” as Paul Harvey would say. So, the next time you are deciding on what damage conference to attend, consider taking a leap back to a “regular” fish and wildlife conference.

---

# Book Review: by Stephen Vantassel

*Joy and Celebration of Mole Control* by Jeff Holper. 41 pages. c. 198.

*Illustrated by Bob Noonan*

Jeff Holper of Missouri is a nationally known writer in one of the major pest control magazines. Having run a pest control business along with doing animal damage control, Mr. Holper brings a wealth of practical experience to the topic of mole control. As soon as you see the cover, you realize that this book takes a rather humorous and light-hearted look at mole control. Given the animosity and downright hatred people have for moles, I can see the need for a how-to booklet that takes a cheerleading approach to training the public.

Let's be clear about one thing. This booklet was written for the general public. To read this booklet from the perspective of a professional animal damage controller would be to hold the booklet to a standard higher than what was intended.

It opens with a brief introduction as to why mole problems are growing in number. Mr. Holper believes that the care people are taking of their lawns is providing excellent habitat for them, and as we all know, abundant habitat eventually means abundant animals. He proceeds to show his credentials by telling some of his success stories. Chapter Two gets into the heart of it by dispelling various myths about moles. In my opinion, chapter two is a chapter which every American living in mole territory should read. Although I would have preferred some stronger language about the non-

---

*Chapter two gets into the heart of it by dispelling various myths about moles. In my opinion, chapter two is a chapter which every American living in mole territory should read.*

---

effectiveness of some of the techniques, he gets the point across that trapping is the best in practice and an emotional satisfaction.

Next Mr. Holper gives some natural history of the mole to prepare you for the next section on trapping. Mr. Holper spends most of his time with the harpoon trap. I would agree that this trap is a good one for novices. However, the recent introduction of the no-mole trap may change my mind. He provides typical strategies for trapping moles such as gang setting, setting the fresh areas, proper technique etc. I do wish that he emphasized the need for finding the long straight tunnels, however, to stop people from trapping the

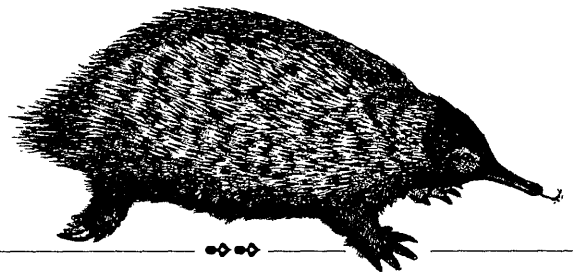
feeder tunnels. Perhaps he thought the diagrams showed that. Mr. Holper does discuss the out-of-site trap and the Nash trap, but only briefly. The same applies for his discussion of a "live mole trapping" technique. As one who lives in a state that has banned effective mole traps, I would have liked to have seen more information on the live technique.

The booklet closes with lists highlighting the common mistakes people make and the strategies they need to use to catch moles. I did appreciate the brief statement on voles. Voles and moles are so often confused that it is important for people to learn to distinguish them. The last few pages provide letters from satisfied customers and an order form to buy the t-shirts and traps. (I had to admit, I thought the t-shirt idea was a good one).

The booklet is a standard 8-1/2 x 5-1/2 inches in size and 42 pages in length. You should be able to read it in less than 20 minutes. Those who know Bob Noonan will recognize his artistic style in the cartoons and illustrations. If you are looking for an inexpensive booklet to sell to clients to teach them mole control, I think this would be a good one. My two concerns would be: First, the booklet should have covered safety a little more. In light of our litigious age, you have to protect idiots from themselves. Second, the booklet really centers on harpoon traps. If you plan on teaching your client to use another trap, I think you should look elsewhere.

To obtain your copy of the booklet, contact Animal & Insect Solutions Inc., 9223 Gravois St. Louis, MO 63123 Phone: (314) 544-7378; 2nd Phone: (314) 544-5133 Fax: (314) 638-3395 [jhmolehunter@aol.com](mailto:jhmolehunter@aol.com) Cost is \$11 post paid to Continental U.S.

Stephen Vantassel, Wildlife Damage Control  
340 Cooley St. Springfield, MA 01128  
(413)796-9916, [admin@wildlifedamagecontrol.com](mailto:admin@wildlifedamagecontrol.com),  
<http://www.wildlifedamagecontrol.com>  
©2002



The editor of **The PROBE** thanks contributors to this issue: Stephen Vantassel, Chad Richardson, Michael Conover, and Arthur E. Smith.



## NATIONAL ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL ASSOCIATION

### ***2002 Membership Directory***

#### **OFFICERS**

*President:* **Mike Conover - UT**  
*Vice President (West):* **Scott Hygnstrom - NE**  
*Vice President (East):* **Pete Butchko - MI**  
*Secretary:* **Kevin Sullivan - MS**  
*Treasurer:* **Art Smith - SD**

#### **REGIONAL DIRECTORS**

##### **Region**

Western (AK, CA, HI, NV, OR, WA)	<b>John Consolini - WA</b>
Southwest (AZ, CO, NM, UT)	<b>John Baroch - CO</b>
Northern Rockies (ID, MT, WY)	<b>George Graves - ID</b>
Southern (AR, LA, OK, TX)	<b>Kevin Grant - OK</b>
Northern Plains (IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD)	<b>Chad Richardson - KS</b>
Great Lakes (IL, IN, MI, OH, WI)	<b>Mike Dwyer - OH</b>
Northeastern (CT, PA, RI, MA, ME, NH, NJ, NY, VT)	<b>Lynn Braband - NY</b>
Central-Eastern (DC, DE, MD, NC, SC, VA, WV)	<b>Carson Kennard - DE</b>
Southeastern (AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, TN)	<b>Sam Linhart - GA</b>
<i>Probe Editor</i>	<b>Larry Sullivan - AZ</b>

##### **Membership Class**

A = Active   P = Patron   S = Sponsor   T = Student

##### **Membership Type**

A = APHIS	R = Retired
E = ADC Equipment/Supplies	S = State
G = Agriculture	T = Trapper
N = Foreign	U = University
O = Other	W = Nuisance Wildlife Control

FNAME	LNAME	ADDRESS1	ADDRESS2	CITY	ST	ZIP	LAS	TYPE
Andy	Aderman		P. O. Box 1124	Dillingham	AK	99576-1124	A	T
Terry	Anderson		12008 Tivoli NE	Albuquerque	NM	87111	S	R
Peggy	Angermaier	Gentle Jim's	84 Sylvan Drive	Wading River	NY	11792	A	W
Ron	Bailey	Animal Capture & Removal	PO Box 1465	Dixon	CA	95620	A	W
Kevin	Baker		247 West Brooks Rd	Midland	MI	48640	A	W
Rex O.	Baker		1776 Bobbitt Ave.	Corona	CA	92881	A	W
Lloyd	Barker		10436 132nd Avenue NE	Kirkland	WA	98033-4750	A	E
John	Baroch		343 W.C.R. 66E	Fort Collins	CO	80524	A	O
Gary L.	Bauhof	Remedy Pest Control	402-A W. Palm Valley Blv	Round Rock	TX	78664-4200	A	W
John A.	Benedetto		P.O. Box 60	Wakefield	MA	01880	A	T
Pat	Benzo		1906 Sunset Avenue	Utica	NY	13502	A	W
David	Bergman	USDA-APHIS-WS	2224 W. Desert Love Ave., Ste 209	Phoenix	AZ	85029	A	A
George	Bernethy		Box 522	Sultan	WA	98294-0522	A	W
Byrl	Bierschwale		P. O. Box 173	Medina	TX	78055	A	R
W. K.	Birchfield		P. O. Box 37	Roaring Springs	TX	79256-0037	A	R
Mike	Bonnheim	Las Tablas Ranch	12820 Chimney Rock Road	Paso Robles	CA	93446	A	G
Lynn	Braband		47 Roslyn St.	Rochester	NY	14619-1824	A	U
Charles S.	Brown	Nuisance Wildlife Cntrl	133 Starwood Lane	Holly Springs	NC	27540-8345	A	A
Mark D.	Brown		6628 Austin Lake Road	Webster	WI	54893	S	T
Burton T.	Brown		4904 Overton Avenue	Ft. Worth	TX	76133	A	R
Dan L.	Campbell	Wildlife Services Co., Inc.	5227 Gifford Road SW	Olympia	WA	98512	A	O
Richard B.	Chipman		259 Schoduck Drive	Castleton	NY	12033	A	A
Sandy	Christiansen	Valley Oak Pest Control	407 West Saint John	San Jose	CA	95110-2301	S	P
Tim D.	Christie	Wildlife Mgt. Services	1352 Wild Rose Place	W. Terre Haute	IN	47885-9146	A	W
Edward L.	Christopher		P. O. Box 4677	Stockton	CA	95204	A	P
Kevin D.	Clark	Critter Control	9435 E. Cherry Bend Rd	Traverse City	MI	49684	P	W
Jack L.	Clucas		1725 Highway 14	Shell	WY	82441-9601	A	A
Mark D.	Collinge		9134 W. Blackeagle Drive	Boise	ID	83709	A	A
Guy	Connolly		8080 W. 22nd Avenue	Lakewood	CO	80215-1802	A	A
Dr. Mike	Conover	Utah State Univ.	5210 Old Main Hill, F/WL	Logan	UT	84322-5210	A	U
John R.	Consolini	Northwest Nuisance W. C.	P.O. Box 2982	Redmond	WA	98073	A	W
James	Cooper	Delta ADC	407 Weaver Loop	Georgetown	SC	29440	A	W
Matt	Cornell	6776 Gilead St., Apt #1	P.O. Box 2483	Whitehouse	OH	43571	A	W
Richard	Curnow	Wildlife Control Services	4219 Durango Pl.	Fort Collins	CO	80526-4103	A	A
Richard	Daniotti Jr.		PO Box 330568	West Hartford	CT	06133-0568	A	W
Diane	DeLorimier		746 Vertin Avenue	Salinas	CA	93901-4583	A	E
Anthony J.	DeNicola		54 Grandview Avenue	Hamden	CT	06514-3515	A	O
Plant Pest	Diagnostic Ctr.	Ref. Lib./CDFA	3294 Meadowview Road	Sacramento	CA	95832-1437	A	S
Monte	Dodson		PO Box 12	Cookson	OK	74427	A	R





Richard A.	Dolbeer		1228 Laguna Drive	Huron	OH	44839-2607	A
Robert	Dyer	Nature's Way	16264 62 Rd. North	Loxahatchee	FL	33470	A
Wayne	Edgerton	Minn Dep Nat Res Library	500 Lafayette Rd. Box 21	St. Paul	MN	55155-4021	A
Michael W.	Fall		3925 La Mesa Drive	Fort Collins	CO	80524-9530	A
Clarence	Faulkner		710 Jenny Lind Drive	Harpers Ferry	WV	25425-9603	A
James E.	Forbes		409 Norwood Court	Fort Myers	FL	33919	A
Kris	Godwin		610 Hospital Rd	Starkville	MS	39759	A
Mike	Goldstein	Woodstream Corp.	69 N. Locust Street	Lititz	PA	17543	A
Faye	Good	Prairie Wolf Enterprises	Box 296	Circle	MT	59215-0296	S
George E.	Graves		9134 W. Blackeagle Dr.	Boise	ID	83709	A
James M.	Green	Green Engineering	120 Kalmia Drive	Asheville	NC	28804	A
Darrell	Gretz		171 South Benton Street	Lakewood	CO	80226-2420	A
Kirk E.	Gustad		2869 Via Verde Dr.	Springfield	IL	62703-4325	A
John	Hadidian	HSUS	2100 L Street NW	Washington	DC	20037	A
Helen H.	Heinrich, ASLA		71 Green Village Road	Madison	NJ	07940	A
Jeffrey H.	Holper	Holper's Pest Control	9233 Gravois Rd	St. Louis	MO	63123-4525	A
Dr. Walter E.	Howard		24 College Park	Davis	CA	95616	A
Scott	Hynstrom		202 Nat. Res. Univ of NE	Lincoln	NE	68583-0819	A
William B.	Jackson		315 Donbar Dr.	Bowling Green	OH	43402-2716	A
Robert	Jacobson	HY-C Company, Inc.	2107 N. 14th Street	St. Louis	MO	63106-4196	S
Chris	Johansen		46 Burgher Road	West Shokan	NY	12494	A
Dr. Ron J.	Johnson		6320 Oaks Hollow	Lincoln	NE	68516-3752	A
Jeff	Jones		PO Box 95	John Day	OR	97845-0095	A
Barthell	Joseph, Jr.	Reed Joseph Internat.	P. O. Box 894	Greenville	MS	38702	P
Stephen P.	Kincaid		15 Lakeview Drive	Woodstown	NJ	08098-2081	A
Alex R.	Lara		7 Hendrix Lane	Los Lunas	NM	87031-6917	A
Gary E.	Larson		2868 Artfield Rd	Raleigh	NC	27606	A
Marisa K.	Lee-Sasser		545 Tippens Eddy Road	Brewton	AL	36426-5504	A
Sam	Linhart		1910 Shoreline Trace	Grayson	GA	30017	A
Jonathan W.	Linn	A. D. C. by Trapper Jon	2704 S.Glenwood	Independence	MO	64052-1337	A
Damien	Lunning		1224 N. Gerber	Mio	MI	48647	A
C. R. "Pink"	Madsen		P. O. Box 648	Florence	AZ	85232	A
John	Maestrelli		561 S. Harvest Ln.	Sun Prairie	WI	53590-3407	A
Ted	Mantel II		5456 South Blvd	Maple Heights	OH	44137-3568	A
Rex	Marsh		549 Reed Drive	Davis	CA	95616-1806	A
Daniel C.	McLean	Commonwealth Wildlife Cl	1 Richard Street	North Revere	MA	02151	A
Bob	Meakin		5721 Middle Road	Munnsville	NY	13409	A
Vincent C.	Megargel		67 Center Avenue	Mt. Pocono	PA	18344-1641	A
Dennis	Mikkelson		8050 Cook St., #A12	Montague	MI	49437	A
James E.	Miller		1436 Pinecrest Rd	Starkville	MS	39759-7857	A



Vernon L.  
Dave  
John W.  
Johnny W.  
Dr. Gary  
Roger  
Paul P.  
James H.  
Kazushige  
Joe

VerMaas  
Wallace  
Weeks  
White  
Wittmer  
Woodruff  
Woronecki Sr.  
Wurz, Jr.  
Yaguchi  
Yarchin

Crittter Ridder  
  
USDA-APHIS  
  
Bonide Products, Inc.

544 16th Avenue  
P. O. Box 148  
7505 Parkview Road  
Box 85  
4101 Laporte Ave.  
1518 W. Harvard  
1608 Seminary Road  
6301 Sutliff Rd.  
604 E Avenue E  
7200 E. University

Sidney  
Kila  
Upper Darby  
Water Valley  
Fort Collins  
Shelton  
Milan  
Oriskany  
Alpine  
Mesa

NE 69162-1229  
MT 59920  
PA 19082-1513  
TX 76958-0865  
CO 80521-2154  
WA 98584  
OH 44846-9470  
NY 13424  
TX 79830-4818  
AZ 85207

A  
W  
W  
R  
A  
A  
R  
E  
U  
S

---

# Wildlife Damage Management in the News

## Roof Rats in Phoenix

The Arizona office of USDA/APHIS Wildlife Services has reported the positive identification of roof rats (*Rattus rattus*) in Arizona. Several carcasses of rats electrocuted on overhead power lines in the Phoenix area have been identified as *Rattus rattus*. Reports of roof rat damage to citrus crops and rats invading residential attics seem to imply an established, at least temporarily, population of roof rats.

Although there have been incidental reports of roof rats in Arizona, this rat is typically found in coastal areas and has not ever been considered established in this arid state. However, the current peak of citrus crops coupled with an abundance of irrigation canals may provide a suitable environment for these rats for some time. The rats were likely introduced into the area through some sort of freight — possibly a shipment of fruit or other foodstuffs. The population may decrease when the citrus season ends and temperatures rise. At that time USDA, Wildlife Services and county vector control personnel will attempt to exterminate the rats.

— Sources: USDA/APHIS Wildlife Services, Arizona, and the *Arizona Daily Star*, January 30, 2002.

## Pigs' Last Stands

An estimated 5,000 wild descendants of a herd of domestic pigs are wreaking havoc on Santa Cruz Island. Santa Cruz is the largest of the Channel Islands, a group of islands off the southern California coast, and is part of the Channel Islands National Park. In addition to ripping up plants and terrorizing the environment, the pigs pose a serious threat to the continued existence of endangered animals such as the island fox and the Santa Cruz bushmallow.

Santa Cruz is the last pig stronghold in the islands and plans are underway to eradicate them. The Interior department budget earmarks \$2.1 million to corral and kill the destructive swine. Forty-four miles of wire "pig proof" fence will be constructed to contain the pigs which will then be trapped or shot.

"We are on the verge of losing species," park ecologist Gary Davis said. "How long can we hold off extinction of the island fox? Removing the pig is a critical step."

Animal-rights activists oppose the plan and want the park to use contraceptive darts or euthanasia to eliminate the pig population. "We don't understand why they are being slaughtered in the name of conservation," said Stephanie Boyles, a wildlife biologist with People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. "They are here because we put them there — it is our fault they exist there in the first place."

— excerpted from an Associated Press release

# Big Cat Caught on Camera

Sittin' around the campfire tellin' windies is still a part of the Arizona lifestyle for at least some folks. Many of these stories relate to sightings of "el tigre", the jaguar. Although these stories may be as plentiful as ticks in a wet spring, actual sightings of jaguars are about as rare as finding bird droppings in a cuckoo clock.

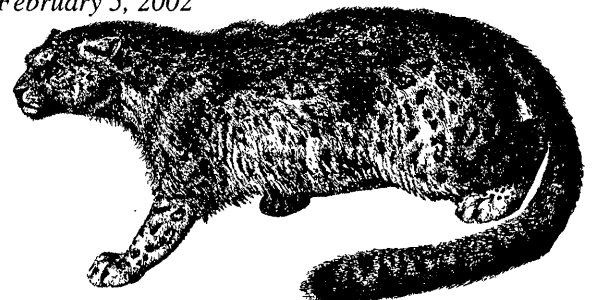
The jaguar (*Felis(Panthera)onca*) is the largest cat, and the only cat that actually roars, in the Western Hemisphere. The jaguar, listed as endangered in 1997 and protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), is the third-largest cat in the world. Adults typically weigh between 125 and 210 pounds and have been known to travel as far as 500 miles in search of food or a mate.

The presence of jaguars in southern Arizona has long been established and the jaguar is considered part of Arizona's fauna. However, sightings of the elusive cat are rare. Most reports of jaguars in Arizona were made before 1950. Three jaguar kills were documented in the 1950's, four in the 1960's, and one in 1971. The last known photographs of a jaguar in Arizona were taken in 1996, one west of Tucson and one east of Tucson along the Arizona-New Mexico border. The most recent photograph of a jaguar in Arizona was taken in early December 2001 by a remote, motion-activated camera that was set out to monitor potential jaguar corridors near the U.S.-Mexico border. These cameras have been in place since 1997, but until this December none had recorded a jaguar. Biologists believe that the three photos represent three separate cats.

"It is great to know that jaguars are roaming our borderlands, at least occasionally," said Brad Van Pelt of the Arizona Game and Fish department. "We will continue to monitor the area to see if the animal is a transient or attempting to establish a territory."

Domestic livestock would be a potential food source for these cats. Biologists believe that the three jaguars photographed have mostly preyed upon deer and javelina.

— Sources: Hoffmeister, Donald F. 1986. *Mammals of Arizona*. University of Arizona Press. And *The Arizona Daily Star*, February 5, 2002



*The Probe*, January/February 2002, Page 5

— TIME VALUED MATERIAL — DO NOT DELAY

Non Profit  
U. S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit 46  
Lincoln NE

Scott Hynstrom  
Forestry, Fisheries & Wildlife  
202 Nat. Resources Hall  
University of Nebraska  
Lincoln, NE 68583-0819

## Membership Renewal and Application Form

### NATIONAL ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL ASSOCIATION

Mail to: Arhtur E. Smith, Certified Wildlife Biologist, Game Harvest Surveys Coordinator, South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks, 523 E. Capitol Avenue, Pierre, SD 57501

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Home

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Office

Additional Address Info: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Please use 9-digit Zip Code

Dues: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Class: Student \$10.00 Active \$20.00 Sponsor \$40.00 Patron \$100 (Circle one)

Check or Money Order payable to NADCA

Select one type of occupation or principal interest:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Pest Control Operator  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> USDA - APHIS - ADC or SAT          | <input type="checkbox"/> Retired                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> USDA - Extension Service           | <input type="checkbox"/> ADC Equipment/Supplies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Federal - not APHIS or Extension   | <input type="checkbox"/> State Agency           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foreign                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Trapper                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator | <input type="checkbox"/> University             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe) _____             |   |