

THE C.A.S.H. COURIER

THE COMMITTEE TO ABOLISH SPORT HUNTING

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Spring 2011

MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of C.A.S.H. - Committee to Abolish Sport Hunting - is to accomplish what its name says in the shortest possible time. Understanding that abolishing hunting entails a process, a series of steps taken and not a single action that would effect our goal overnight, a time frame cannot be established. We hope for building a succession of wins, and if not wins immediately then at least a succession of stirrings of consciousness. We hope to encourage those who are still silent to speak out, awakening community after community about the heavy hand of state and federal wildlife management agencies. We hope to alter whatever belief still exists that sport hunters are conservationists and champions of the environment to a realization that they are destroyers of wildlife and ecosystems in the narrow and broad sense. Where the natural feeling for wildlife doesn't exist, we strive to engender among citizens outrage that their own rights are violated by legal hunting and their quality-of-life diminished.

Luke A. Dommer was the founder of the Committee to Abolish Sport Hunting. He was its president from 1976 until his passing in August 1992. Mr. Dommer's research and publications served as the foundation for the anti-hunting movement. He remains, through this organization, an invaluable and dedicated warrior in the battle to save wild animals, the environment, and general public from the silent economy that encourages and preys on the passion of a few to kill the wildlife that belongs to all.

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THE REAL ALDO LEOPOLD: HERO OR VILLAIN?

BY PETER MULLER, VP, C.A.S.H.

killing of wild animals for sport.

Aldo Leopold is considered by those who promote hunting within our government as the Father of Modern Wildlife Management: The manipulation of habitat (home, cover, and food) of game animals to yield a continuous "harvestable surplus" of wild animals for hunters.

Leopold was born in 1887, in Burlington, Iowa, into an upper middle class family. His family's business consisted of manufacturing desks. His father, uncles and family friends were hunters – not at all unusual for 19th century Iowa. However, Aldo outdid them, enjoying killing at every opportunity. He killed stray cats and birds in unlimited numbers. On one occasion, he proudly wrote to his vacationing parents that he had shot "eight sparrows in a few minutes."

At 17, Aldo was sent to get an "Eastern Education" at the Lawrenceville School, a college-preparatory school in New Jersey. While there, he wrote home one day boasting about having shot 25 crows in one day.

Leopold later went on to Yale, where he earned a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in forestry. The Yale School of Forestry was oriented toward teaching how to manipulate nature to suit human goals and Aldo became indoctrinated.



Selected quotations of Aldo Leopold have been disturbingly embraced by some people in the animal protection and green movements who value individual animals in the wild. With the exception of game agents who revere Leopold, the general public knows little about him. C.A.S.H. wishes to let our readers have a fuller picture of Aldo Leopold. **While he wrote poetically at times and pulled at the heart-strings of many with his description of his wolf killing, he was the single-most influential person to put our government into the hunting business. He showed the firearms industry that by funding wildlife management, they would bring billions of dollars to their own coffers via the**

Please see ALDO LEOPOLD Story, Page 4

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The weather this winter has made things difficult for wildlife and wildlife rehabilitators across the country as they struggled to deal with stressed wildlife suffering from frost-bite and gunshot wounds.

State wildlife agencies lend a hand by offering incentives to landowners to keep their property usable for wildlife. Property owners are encouraged to maintain dense shrubs for ground-dwelling animals, and to sometimes maintain food plots for those trying to make it through difficult times. They are a fantastic source of information on what vegetation to have around for wildlife to feed upon through the winter, so take advantage of their knowledge in this regard.

But keep in mind that their intentions are not altruistic - they know that maintaining favorable conditions under which wildlife will thrive will result in more targets to shoot when the season begins. This is the underlying theme of "Wildlife Management." A quick glance at the mission statement of your state wildlife agency will explain this clearly, as does this statement from

the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish:

Mission Statement of the NM Game Agency

To provide and maintain an adequate supply of wildlife and fish within the state of New Mexico by utilizing a flexible management system that provides for their protection, conservation, regulation, propagation, and for their use as public recreation and food supply.

Words and phrases such as "flexible management system," "conservation," "regulation," and "their use as public recreation and food supply" make it clear that such agencies are formed to serve hunters and anglers and not wildlife. To this end, they enlist their friends in government to write legislation favoring hunters and hunting at the expense of individual wild animals and public safety.

Bow hunting is big news again in New York. Assembly Bill A.2021-A will allow children as young as twelve-years-old to hunt wild deer and bears with bows and arrows. In Michagin a law has been introduced to eliminate a minimum hunting age.

Please see our Action Alert on Facebook and at www.abolish-spoorthunting.org and make your voice heard.

As we keep our eye on legislation, reports of hunting accidents and violations continue to pour into our office. In this edition of the **Courier** you'll see our many activities on behalf of the hunted. You'll find my article explaining the difference between hunting and "poaching." The gulf between the two is not as wide as hunters would have you believe.

Spring approaches and the return of the sun brings us new opportunities to make a difference for wildlife and to drive another nail into the coffin that is soon to entomb sport hunting. On behalf of C.A.S.H. and the wildlife we work for, thank you for helping us to continue our efforts.

As always, your contributions will allow us to do more to help, and we'd like to take the opportunity to thank you for your generous donations.

Peace,



Joe Miele, President

DON'T LET NYS LOWER THE HUNTING AGE FOR BOW AND ARROW

A.2021-A which would reduce the minimum age for obtaining a junior archery license is currently under review (as of this writing) in the Assembly Codes Committee.

The sponsor of this bill in the Assembly is: Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther, 18 Anawana Lake Road, Monticello, NY 12701, gunthera@assembly.state.ny.us; 845-794-5807. **Thanks to Suzan Porto, Esq. of LOHV-Westchester, Sen. Latimer has withdrawn his sponsorship. Please see www.LOHV.org to help stop Bill A.2021-A.**

When you contact your state representative, please send along this recent photo of a deer who is gradually losing steam in the suburban "woods" of Rockland County, NY.

We'll tell you more about this poor deer in the next issue of C.A.S.H.



Sad photo by Lynn Westbrook of a recent archery victim shot in the neck standing with her fawn.

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

Action alert for Iowa – see page 11 for details



Domestic goose rescue arranged by Wildlife Watch with the State University of New York as a step towards non-lethal dissuasion of Canada geese from the New Paltz campus. See the enclosed **Wildlife Watch Binocular** or visit our website at www.wildwatch.org and link to the Spring, 2011 Binocular.

The geese playing follow the leader in one of SUNY's creeks in October, 2010.

In Croton-on-Hudson a village in Westchester County, New York, the village board of trustees decided to pass an ordinance to allow bow-hunting within the village. A group of local citizens organized as “Citizens Against Bowhunting” and approached C.A.S.H. for ideas to prevent the passing of the proposed ordinance. We referred them to our website <http://nocull.org> which discusses ways to deal with proposals for deer-culls which have unfortunately flourished this year in many locations throughout the state and nation.

They asked us to write a site-spe-

cific website for them to help them organize resistance to the culling proposal in their community.

Peter Muller created a web-site at <http://crotonalternatives.org> which helped them organize successfully to kill the proposed cull.

We are happy to say that the Croton-on-Hudson plans to allow deer hunting in the village with bows and arrows has been shot down by negative public opinion.

The website can serve as a template for other locations where there is a core of local opponents to the cull.



Photo by Lynn Westbrook

From the West :

HIGHLIGHTS OF WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

- Maintained our popular Facebook page
- Sent letters to NY State Ag Committee urging passage of Senate Bill 5144, a bill that would protect wildlife under the animal cruelty statutes
 - Wrote an alert for NY SB 5144 and posted it to the Facebook page
 - Provided trapping information for NJ activists
 - Researched coyote hunting info for Michigan activists
 - Spoke with a C.A.S.H. supporter in PA about hunters shooting in the direction of her apartment complex. We advised her to call the police because it is a public safety issue, and to keep on them until they show up. Amazingly, the police responded and moved the hunters out of the area.
- CASH was interviewed by students looking for ideas for their research papers.
- Encouraged NY Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver to kill Bill A.2021-A which will allow children as young as twelve-years-old to hunt wild deer and bears with bows and arrows.
 - Worked with **Suzan Porto, Esq.** from LOHV-NY, in an effort to have her legislator withdraw his support for A.2021-A.
 - Wrote a Facebook alert for NY A.2021-A
 - Wrote to the sponsor of HB1135 and the IN Natural Resources Committee in support of the bill (bans coyote & fox penning)
 - Wrote an Action Alert for Facebook about Indiana HB1135

Upon graduation, he entered the newly formed US Forestry Service at the Apache National Forest in Arizona. His job consisted of accommodating the local lumber and livestock industries in exploiting the forest by enabling access to timber and by granting grazing rights to ranchers. He was by this time sold on exploiting nature in the Roosevelt/Pinchot vein of wise use: loving nature with a gun and an ax.

In describing the forest, he wrote, "Millions of acres, billions of feet of timber, all vast amounts of capital." While in Arizona, Leopold enjoyed shooting wolves, mule deer and ducks. He was tolerant of local poachers, suggesting to the forest rangers that they concentrate their enforcement duties on occasional wealthy tourists.

While on extended sick-leave from the Forest Service (he had contracted acute nephritis), he began thinking about maintaining wildlife in national forests for hunters. **He wrote to the Forest Service arguing that "an abundant supply of game" could bring as much revenue as all the timber receipts and grazing permits combined.**

Later he was assigned responsibility for "recreation policy" in District 3 (New Mexico and Arizona) of the Forest Service. In that capacity, he was responsible for turning the "great spectacles of nature" into tourist attractions.

At that time, he also began organizing the hunters of Arizona and New Mexico into Game Protective Associations (GPAs), advocating through the organized statewide GPA's for the creation of areas where regulated hunting was permitted and predators were subject to "wise control," i.e. extermination. He united ranchers and hunters in a common bond to eliminate predators from areas set aside for hunting. He further started to get the GPAs involved in political actions. When he resumed hunting, after his prolonged illness, he boasted that "he shot fifteen ducks before 10:00" one day.

In 1918 he left the Forest Service to become secretary of the Chamber of

Commerce of Albuquerque. There he suggested draining the Rio Grande valley to aid agriculture. He urged the adoption of a sustained annual kill of wildlife just as there was a sustained annual yield of timber.

His views were, at this time, totally committed to the exploitation of nature and wildlife as resources for human utility and pleasure. All native species of animals that had some utility to mankind, such as enhancing the hunting experience, were to be maintained to yield a sustainable surplus in perpetuity. Predators: wolves, mountain lions, bird of prey and species such as rattlesnakes were to be extirpated. To accommodate the farmers and ranchers, which was vital to his suggested program, elk were not to be sustained as a game species because of the crop damage they did to farmers.

Aldo rejoined the Forest Service and remained adamant about killing all predators. By 1924 there were only 12 wolves in New Mexico.

He was having success in organizing the GPAs, and was approached by the Sporting Arms and Ammunitions manufactures Institute (SAAMI) to research and publish his theory of wildlife management for a perpetual sustainable yield of game animals. In 1932 he finished his book, "Game Management," which was published in May, 1933. The first sentence reads: **"Game management is the art of making land produce sustained annual crops of wild game for recreational use."**

Just as when Leopold was a forester seeing his job as growing board-feet of timber, he now saw his job as growing game-species for hunters. He saw no conflict of interest in taking money from SAAMI. He was just doing his job using natural resources for the benefit and pleasure of man.

There were, of course, at the time, other views of wildlife which held that nature, wildlife and individual animals had intrinsic value. Muir and Thoreau had certainly left their mark on the society, and both Muir and Thoreau were

opposed to sport hunting. Yet, Leopold's biographers continue to muddy the waters of environmentalism by intertwining his name with those environmental greats who actually held sport hunting in low esteem.

In one of Leopold's most oft-quoted passages from his essay, "Thinking like a Mountain," he is seen as coming close to repenting for his human-utility approach to managing nature:

We reached the old wolf in time to watch a fierce green fire dying in her eyes. I realized then, and have known ever since, that there was something new to me in those eyes – something known only to her and the mountain. I was young then, and full of trigger-itch. I thought that because fewer wolves meant more deer, that no wolves would mean hunters' paradise. But after seeing the green fire die, I sensed that neither the wolf nor the mountain agreed with such a view.

That passage has won the hearts of those in the animal protection movement. However, it was a revelation at a time when the wolf was almost extinct from actions such as his. The revelation was hollow, devoid of compassion for the individual animal. Leopold would endorse killing wolves if sheep ranchers demanded it.

Fortunately, fewer people are hunting than ever before. The numbers are declining drastically with every new report that is published. Hunting is heading steadily and surely for the dustbin of history.

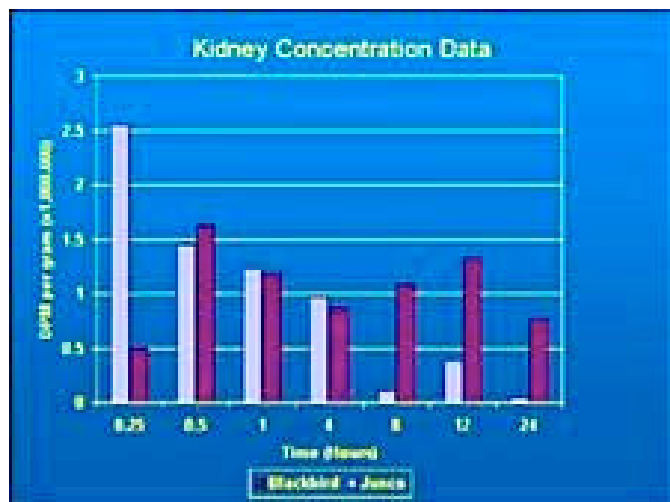
There are multiple factors contributing to that which we've previously written about: single-parent households controlled by women, hi-action video and digital games, absorption with social networking, the animal rights movement, the disgust of the public, shrinking lands and land access, and so on. Hunting is truly a dying "sport."

Peter Muller is VP of C.A.S.H.

Peter harvested most of the data in this article from "Aldo Leopold His Life and Work" by Curt Meine, The University of Wisconsin Press, 1988.

THE USDA'S WAR ON WILD BIRDS

REPORT BY E.M. FAY



From USDA APHIS — shows concentration of poison in birds' kidneys.

The existence of birds may be described, if somewhat poetically, as miraculous. From the lightness of hollow bones that aid in flight, to the astonishing variety of bird shapes and sizes, and the beauty of their varicolored plumage, birds are vertebrates of distinction in both an engineering and an aesthetic sense. And this is not even to mention the equally amazing flightless birds, such as penguins and ostriches, whose swimming and running abilities, respectively, are equally remarkable.

In all their wondrous variability, birds are undeniably fascinating individuals on many levels, and loved by humans the world over. On a practical note, they eat countless tons of insects every year — insects that would otherwise torment us humans in numerous ways, including by destroying crops we want to eat ourselves.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) does not, however, seem to have particularly benevolent feelings toward our avian friends, as is evident from their long-standing and widespread policy of mass slaughter of birds. One recent instance of large-scale bird poisoning by the USDA's Wildlife Services attracted some media attention, but was merely the tip of the iceberg as

regards large-scale bird killings by this taxpayer-funded government entity.

As reported by Mike Adams, Editor of Natural News, "Not all the mysterious bird die-offs that have been witnessed around the globe recently are due to unexplained causes. A recent mass die-off event witnessed in Yankton, South Dakota, was traced back to the USDA

which admitted to carrying out a mass poisoning of the birds."

http://www.naturalnews.com/031076_USDA_bird_deaths.html

Reuters news agency stated that the USDA was in this instance acting on behalf of a farmer who said the starlings were eating and contaminating his cattle feed. The USDA administered a poison known as DRC-1339 (active ingredient: 3-chloro-4-methylbenzenamine hydrochloride), which was eaten by the starlings. This poison is registered with the EPA for the control of blackbirds, cowbirds, grackles, and starlings.

"Lethal means are always a last resort," said USDA Biologist Ricky Woods. "In this situation it's what we had to do."

www.reuters.com/article/2011/01/21/us-southdakota-birds-deaths-idUSTRE70J7KU20110121

This seems to be a common refrain of Wildlife Services.

Woods said most of the birds died near the site of the feed lot, but about 200 were strong enough to fly 10 miles north to Yankton, where they died and were found by local residents. He could not say how many birds died altogether. **He said putting out poison is not common, but this statement is contradicted by the shockingly huge numbers of purposely**

poisoned birds posted on the USDA's own website. We urge you to visit:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/prog_data/2009_prog_data/PDR_G_FY09/Basic_Tables_PDR_G/Table_G_FY2009_Long_Method_Featured.pdf

Woods also said that the poison would not harm an animal which ate one of the birds, such as a cat or a hawk. This was affirmed by another Wildlife Services officer at the USDA Washington, DC office, Jeff (did not want last name printed), who added that there is no soil contamination, and that the poison metabolizes in birds' muscle tissue. It was, Jeff added, "a good thing about DRC-1339."

Even if this were true, it would hardly be a comfort to the millions of bird-lovers, and even less to the birds themselves, who suffer and die from the poison. But there is reason to doubt the sanguine attitude of the USDA, in any case:

For one thing, there are widespread unintended deaths of other birds who eat the contaminated bait. This is unavoidable, given the freedom of movement of bird populations. "Collateral damage" is one drawback. Secondly, the dead birds can be found in such widespread areas — witness the longer-surviving starlings' flight from Nebraska to South Dakota — thus, many predators who ingest the carrion are unlikely to be found and tested by authorities for any harmful effects. Thirdly, although DRC-1339 is supposed to degrade quickly in the sun's UV rays, some animals, such as crows, often bury their food for consumption later; the contaminant is not exposed to sunlight when buried.

The Pesticide Action Network (North America) Pesticide Database lists DRC-1339 as a "bad

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actor chemical,” which classification includes it being a probable carcinogen, a known groundwater pollutant, and a known reproductive/developmental toxin. http://www.pesticideinfo.org/Detail_Chemical.jsp?Rec_Id=PC35140 Is this something we should be putting into the environment?

WHY DRC-1339?

DRC-1339 is considered to be relatively species specific, and fast acting, reliably causing death in 1 – 3 days. It is disturbing that one version of DRC-1339, called “Starlicide,” is manufactured by the venerable pet food company, Ralston Purina.

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/nwrc/publications/90pubs/90-56.pdf

In one of numerous reports by USDA biologists, a clinical description of the toxic effects of DRC-1339 includes such phrases as, “The primary mode of action of DRC-1339 is irreversible necrosis of the kidney and a subsequent inability to excrete uric acid. Death occurs from uremia 24-72 hours from ingestion....” And, “very highly toxic to most pest birds but moderately-to-slightly toxic to raptors and most mammalian species.” During the pre-application period, when cruelly testing the efficacy of the poison, non-targeted birds such as Canada geese, mourning doves, sparrows, and meadowlarks were tested for susceptibility to DRC-1339. They were held captive and some fed with treated food, some with untreated food, and their reactions noted. Birds that survived the test were later “euthanized.”

www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/nwrc/symposia/blackbirds_symposium/cummings.pdf

At least one other US government department, the USGS/Department of the Interior, recognizes the danger of this poison, “DRC-1339 is a chemical of national concern.....” They add that there is a “potential loss of non-

target migratory birds to DRC-1339.” Yet, USGS has not taken any action against it:

www.umesc.usgs.gov/terrestrial/contaminants/tcuster_5003993.html

We also checked with Canada’s federal health department, Health Canada. Their Pest Management Regulatory Agency does not authorize the use of pesticides that contain the active ingredients in DRC-1339.

The PRMA puts the burden of proof that ingredients are not toxic to the environment on the companies who try to register product use in Canada, and DRC-1339 did not meet this requirement.

USDA POLICY

Wildlife Watch has long known of Wildlife Services’ lethal approach to wildlife “management,” involving many animal species. After the aforementioned mass poisoning of starlings in Nebraska, we investigated the USDA’s general policy.

According to the mission statement of the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Wildlife Services, they aim “to provide Federal leadership and expertise to resolve wildlife conflicts to allow people and wildlife to co-exist.”

APHIS says that their biologists apply an “integrated approach” to public requests for assistance with “nuisance animals.” They use a variety of methods to dissuade birds and other animals from doing things harmful to human health and safety – such as defecating in feed lots or on benches and statues in public parks, or nesting near airport runways. Some methods listed on the USDA website to reduce wildlife damage are habitat management, animal husbandry techniques, herders, night penning, shifting breeding schedules, guard animals, re-locating and rotating crops, using damage-resistant crops, and human behavior modification, e.g., “eliminate wildlife feeding and handling, and calm irrational fears of people towards wildlife.”

Nevertheless, on the APHIS Wildlife Damage Management web page, the Program Data Report reveals an alarming propensity to take the lives of wild birds, among other animals. Listed by species, by method of death, and by the state in which they were killed, the numbers are staggering, covering 745 pages (2009 report) and including many bird species. “Unintentional” deaths are also listed, when non-targeted birds are killed.

If we focus on just one bird species as an example – European starlings – and on just one method of poisoning (DRC-1339), in 2009 alone, the raw data is horrific: 4500 starlings killed in Minnesota, 181 in Nebraska, 4,028 in Wisconsin, 1,500 in Nevada, 16,468 in Wyoming, 372,900 in Washington, 28,633 in Vermont, 16,109 in Utah, 76,000 in South Dakota, 19,904 in Colorado, 18,260 in Iowa, 7,745 in California, 10,100 in Connecticut, 65,300 in Idaho, 18,676 in Illinois, 1816 in Indiana, 4000 in Massachusetts, 6,937 in Ohio, 12,020 in Maine, 100,094 in New York, 77,517 in Pennsylvania, 2,250 in Texas, and 217,649 in Michigan.

To get an idea of the enormity of this crime against nature, one has to note that this is only a subset of a subset. These are only figures for the poisoning of starlings related to feedlot contamination; and only those feedlot-related poisonings wherein the delivery method of DRC-1339 was via meat as bait.

In any event, neither the USDA nor any private poisoner can ever be sure of the long-term and far-ranging effect of their lethal methods. Air, water, and soil, as well as numerous species – including humans – may all be affected in ways that are unknown far into the future.

Eileen Fay has been an environmental reporter for over twenty years. She is Associate Editor and investigative reporter for the *Wildlife Watch Binocular* and *C.A.S.H. Courier*.

WHAT WE CAN DO



Daily Telegraph, UK

As long as casual attitudes exist in government agencies towards the mass murder of any creature, policies will not change. Also, as long as funding for avicidal programs exists, they will continue. Funding for Wildlife Services is

through a combination of federal appropriations and cooperator-provided funds. ("Cooperators" such as farmers, ranchers, municipalities and other government agencies.)

All citizens who disapprove of the poisoning of birds, whether on humane grounds or because of the damage being done to the environment that we all share, should contact their representatives – local, state, and federal – including the EPA, and tell them that they want an immediate halt to the use of pesticides such as DRC-1339. The Deputy Administrator of the EPA, Bob Perciasepe, may be reached at 202-564-4711.

Wildlife Watch further recommends that readers call and write directly to Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and to President Barack Obama, and ask them to give this issue a high priority. (Office of Secretary of Agriculture: 202-720-3631; White House comment line: 202-456-1111.) We should all question the use of chemical pesticides and other toxins that are used by our government agencies.

On Another Note....

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD TRAGEDY

When thousands of red-winged blackbirds dropped from the sky on New Year's Eve in the small Arkansas town of Beebe, townspeople and authorities were at a loss to explain it.

A story in the New York Times two days later reported that the birds began falling around 11 pm, "turning the ground nearly black." A final count found there were approximately 5000 casualties.

The Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission declared that the cause of the birds' death was "acute physical trauma." Autopsies clarified it as "blunt trauma to their organs." As the blackbirds' stomachs were empty, poisoning was ruled out. The USDA, which commonly poisons large numbers of blackbirds, starlings, and others, often at the behest of farmers, insisted that they had not done so in this case.

The birds apparently died in mid-air, so they were likely startled out of their roosts. Blackbirds do not normally leave their nests at night, so something out of the ordinary must have occurred to make them panic.

Cornell University's ornithology lab posited violent weather as the culprit. Although a storm had hit Arkansas earlier in the day, it had mostly passed Beebe by the time the birds died, according to a forecaster with the National Weather Service in North Little Rock. Other experts suggested that the birds could have been roused from their



Dead Redwings from Smithsonian website

roosts by the violence of New Year's Eve fireworks. The extremes of noise and bright lights from the multiple mini-explosions could have caused them to fly blindly into buildings, concussing themselves.

The next day, in neighboring Louisiana, 500 grackles, blackbirds, and starlings were also found dead.

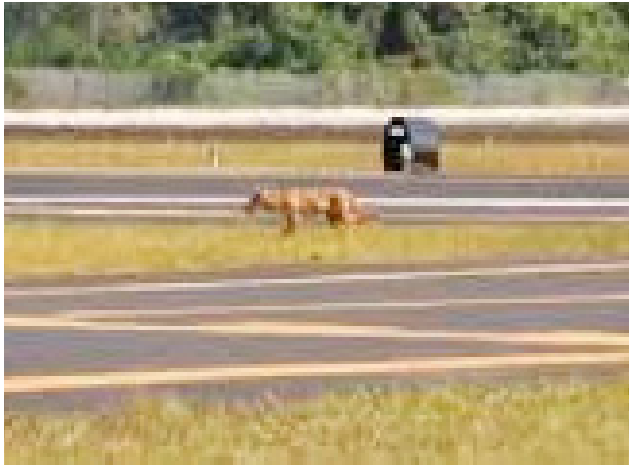
At Wildlife Watch, we have long railed against the use of fireworks, knowing they not only frighten domestic animals and wildlife, but can cause injury and death. Whatever is determined to be the definitive cause of this tragedy, there is no doubt that wild birds are in jeopardy from human actions on a frightening scale.

Eileen Fay has been an environmental reporter for over twenty years. She is Associate Editor and investigative reporter for the *Wildlife Watch Binocular* and *C.A.S.H. Courier*.

As always, we are grateful to **The Mary T. and Frank L. Hoffman Family Foundation** for hosting the C.A.S.H. website!

Coyote Management at Witham Field/Martin County (Florida) Airport

BY E.M. FAY



Unfortunately for coyotes and other wildlife who live near airports, deadly measures are often chosen to remove them from the area. Such was the case last November at Florida's Witham Field Airport, in Martin County. The airport initiated a contract with the USDA's badly mis-named "Wildlife Services" to trap the wild coyotes who were coming onto their fields.

Among other Martin County residents, wildlife advocate **Susan Beattie, Director of the Wildlife Rehabilitation and Refuge Center in Palm City**, strongly objected to the plan during a county commission meeting last November.

"We didn't even know there were coyotes in the Town of Stewart, where the airport is located," Beattie told us. "Just before Thanksgiving, a reporter called and told me about the proposed trapping. The excuse given was that residents didn't want their pets mauled. I contacted County officials and also **Becky Pomponio, of Project Coyote**. Becky came down last month and we went to the airport together. The airport gave us access and we took photographs."

Wildlife Watch wanted to know

how things stand for the coyotes now, three months later, so we called the Airport Manager, George Stokus, to ask for current information. He explained the situation from the airport's point of view.

"Coyotes have been an ongoing problem, causing actual safety hazards to aircraft and passengers. We had an

accident a year ago," Mr. Stokus said. "It was a collision involving a plane and two coyotes. It was a very sad thing for the coyotes, of course, but it was also a liability for the airport."

The USDA trapping contract had been made last year, when the airport was temporarily without a permanent manager (Mr. Stokus was just recently appointed). The airport personnel are not allowed to remove the coyotes themselves because Florida Fish and Wildlife Services classifies them as "exotic" animals, and it is illegal for private citizens to relocate them. Thus, the USDA is used, and they chose to employ leg-hold traps.

Over the time period of a month, and at a cost to the airport of \$5000, the USDA eventually caught and killed a total of three coyotes. Needless to say, this was not only cruel, but hardly cost-effective wildlife management.

Manager Stokus said that under Florida law, there are only two options for removal of coyotes: euthanize them or send them to canned hunt facilities. Stokus expressed distaste for both methods, regretting that the coyotes should have to suffer at all, but under the law he has no choice. He could be arrested or fined

if he tried to move the wild dogs humanely.

Mr. Stokus is willing to work with wildlife advocates, has walked the field with them, identifying coyote scat, and suggests that Project Coyote and other concerned citizens negotiate with the FWS and other government entities to change the status of coyotes, as well as come up with more humane methods of dealing with them. As long as the law deems them "exotic," options are limited.

C.A.S.H. applauds the fact that they are now trying to ensure a safe flying environment without harming wildlife. Witham Field is putting up \$500,000 worth of new fencing, using "nuisance" technology such as loud noises to frighten coyotes away, and instituting a wildlife hazard assessment program. Stokus also asks that people living near the airport not feed wildlife, as this puts the animals in harm's way.

Meanwhile, Beattie and Pomponio have discussed this matter with local officials.

Martin County Administrator Taryn Kryzda said, "I believe it is important for those concerned to know that we are sensitive to their concerns and are doing what we can to prevent our prior situation from repeating. We will be working with Ms. Beattie to provide information to our residents relative to co-existing with wildlife in our County."

Becky Pomponio has also networked with Portland International Airport (Oregon), whose wildlife management practices are mostly humane, including using exclusionary fencing and non-lethal re-locating of animals. Pomponio has also prof-

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Coyote Management

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ferred several suggestions on how to humanely discourage coyotes from Witham Field.

When relocating coyotes, the following conditions have to be considered: The new location has to provide sufficient habitat, clean water and food sources for the coyotes; families should not be broken up; there may be other predators already there who will compete with the newcomers for resources; and the already resident human population may be at odds with the plan.

For now, the USDA killing contract at Witham Field has expired, but that is no guarantee it will not be renewed in future, which makes citizen action imperative. Unless state law is changed, coyotes may be needlessly trapped and killed.

Beattie's positive contact with County Administrator Kryzda includes plans in progress for her to add a section to the County Parks and Recreation website about how people can live in harmony with wildlife. Beattie hopes that such a resource might well save the lives of some of Florida's coyotes and other wildlife.

Wildlife Watch urges airport managers everywhere to collaborate with their local wildlife rehabilitators, and come up with kinder, more effective measures for protecting our wild fellow residents.

Please visit the Wildlife Watch Binocular, Spring 2011 issue www.wildwatch.org to see an example of pro-active, non-lethal methods of wildlife management at airports.

God's Dog

We were happy to learn from Hope Ryden that her amazing book, *God's Dog* is back in print. We encourage you to read it and give it to others to read. Ask libraries to order it, and give it to friends for holidays and birthdays. It will be a gift that will last a lifetime, for it will change the reader's perspective of coyotes forever.



*God's Dog :
A Celebration
of the North
American
Coyote
by Hope Ryden*

"Full of charm and tenacious inquisitiveness as the appealing animal she pleads is allowed to live."—The Washington Post.

\$24.95 or \$20.95 members.

Legacies

Stark still
we stare at each other,
neither saw the other approach,
a weathered old man
and a striking young fox.

Warmth blooms in my heart —
an instant chill in his.

Can my good intentions
prolong this precious moment?

No chance !

With riveting intensity he scans,
With lightning speed he's gone.

Thousands of years
of fleeing genocide
are woven into his DNA,

Thousands of years
of ruthless brutality
is the legacy I carry.

As I stand quietly,
the myriad emotions

suddenly distill

to
Love,
Grief,
and Shame.

Poem by John Cannon

A Discordant Swansong for Mute Swans Composed and Conducted by the Michigan State DNR

BY KAREN STAMPER



Photo by Karen Stamper

Today, one of my struggles is to save the mute swans. The Michigan DNR is proposing a mute swan management plan that will eradicate nearly the entire population of mute swans in Michigan.

The Michigan DNR claims the swans are non-native; this has never been established. There is evidence showing that they are native: there are drawings and archeological findings which indicate that they are native. Any claim that mute swans are not native to the region is, at best, an unproven conjecture.

The Michigan DNR claims that there are now 15,000 mute swans in Michigan, according to their spring count. This seems incongruous since these swans have been in Michigan for almost 200 years and in the year 2000 the total population was only 5,400. How can the population increase to 15,000 by 2010 notwithstanding construction, boats and jet skis on the lakes, turtles and raccoons that prey on cygnets, and the permitted kill of swans.

The DNR is claiming that the swans are a non-native, invasive species and they are destroying the submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV). They have no factual Michigan based studies to prove this. They are speculating based on other states' studies and one of the main states is Maryland. The major difference between Maryland and Michigan is that Maryland has NO natural lakes. There are, according to the DNR website, 26,857 inland lakes

in Michigan. This does not include the rivers, streams, marshes, private lakes and ponds, lakes under an acre, or retention ponds. We have asked for the Michigan studies that have allegedly been done by the DNR, or any hunting group, and have yet to receive any.

Russ Mason, head of the wildlife division, was asked at the last Natural Resources Commission (NRC) meeting about the studies, and he admittedly said that all states join together and help each other out with studies. You can't compare Michigan to Maryland. I grew up in Maryland. The Bay was never that clean when I was going there for camp. There are way too many restaurants serving Maryland crabs. The so called fishermen are taking the crabs way too early. It's the pollution, the fishermen, the industrial runoff, and the large freighters that are affecting the Bay. It's not the swans. The swans are the scapegoats because they can control them.

Finally, the DNR claims that the mutes are invasive to the loons, the "native" trumpeter swan, and the Canada geese.

According to the DNR website, it's humans and pollution that cause the demise of the loons. They never once mention the mute swans.

Just a little side Note: Joe Johnson from the Kellogg Bird Sanctuary was given an award by the DNR for introducing the Canada Goose to Michigan. He has now begun bringing eggs from the trumpeter swans in Alaska to Michigan. They place these eggs under the mute swans and have

the mutes hatch them. If the trumpeter population becomes as great as they say the Canada goose population is, look out, the hunters will be in their glory.

Most of the groups attending the Mute Swan forum last August were from organizations that had a vested interest in hunting. It also included the Audubon Society, which works closely with federal and state game agencies. In the minutes of the forum meeting, it says that the swans will be killed and dumped in landfills.

The most recent blow to the mutes came on February 10, 2011, The Natural Resources Commission (NRC) voted not to allow the rehabilitators to take in any mute swans. Even though they only take in about 40 swans total in a year, they still voted "no" to let them continue to take care of them. Now when a swan has a fish hook in his beak, or fishing line wrapped around his legs, or has been hit by a jet ski or car, or has been shot, they must be left on the lake or someone's yard to die. People get prosecuted for animal cruelty in this country, and government agencies should likewise be challenged on their institutionalized animal cruelty. No animal, native or non-native should ever be treated this way.

People should know that the Department of Natural Resources in Michigan, as well as in other states, and the US Fish and Wildlife Services are deceiving the public. They promote hunting, whether to make way for eventual trumpeter swan hunting or just to allow the goose population to continue to rise so they can have longer hunting seasons on them. It is wrong, the facts are not admitted, and it is endangering individual mutes, trumpeters, the geese, and I am sure the ducks as well. **We must take a stand and defend our wildlife. We need to be their VOICE!**

We have a petition site, <http://www.change.org/petitions/stop-the-killing-of-mute-swans-in-michigan#signatures>, please help us by signing it and if you know anyone in Michigan please forward the link to them.

Please see Discordant Swansong Story, Page 11

Discordant Swansong From page 10

Please take note of what is happening to the mute swans and the Canada geese in your state. If enough of us call and write our state reps and senators, maybe we can get the DNR to stop all the killing. We as tax payers should not have to pay for killing these innocent birds. The hunting groups should not be running our Department of Natural Resources. We need to take it back!

Karen Stamper is a photographer and activist. While out in the field, she became aware of injured animals, especially waterfowl, which led her to do animal rescue. In recent years, she has seen first hand how Canada geese and mute swans are treated in Michigan, and throughout the United States. She said, *It is my mission now to fight for these birds and give them a voice. Cruelty to any animal should never be accepted in our society, whether it be abuse to an animal by an individual or by our government.*

In the next issue of the C.A.S.H. Courier we will publish Ms. Stamper's personal relationship with Brute, Baby Girl and their two babies, a Canada goose family that was rounded up by the DNR in 2008.



Photo by Karen Stamper

IOWANS OPPOSE SPORT HUNTING

Herman Lenz, Merle Wilson, and Laurie Crawford Stone have been supplying C.A.S.H. with information about the Iowa game agencies and their victims (the hunted, victimized companion animals, and property owner victims) for a long time. We are grateful to them for sharing their personal harrowing experiences, insights, and their perseverance.

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

Thanks to **Herman Lenz**, we send a postcard mailing to our IA members as follows. Please take action on behalf of the IA wildlife.

Dear Friend,

Would you like to see hunters who trespass upon and/or shoot into private property face a felony rather than a misdemeanor charge?

Property owners are at risk, and in some documented cases they have been charged with hunter harassment for ordering armed individuals off their land. Shockingly, law enforcement agents have often sided with the hunter and not the property owner!

We urge you to contact your IA legislators to ask that they remove any provision from the concealed carry law or other law that would allow

loaded rifles and shotguns to be carried in vehicles. These provisions encourage spontaneous shooting of wildlife and concomitant trespass, thus endangering the public, companion and agricultural animals, and wildlife.

*Please contact your legislators to let them know that you are counting on them to **protect property owners from armed hunters trespassing and shooting onto their property by changing the penalty to a felony for such violations of law to a felony.** Contact the Iowa Legislative Information Office at (515) 281-5129 or lioinfo@legis.state.ia.us for your elected official's contact information. Please let us know if we can be of further help to you.*

Joe Miele, President, C.A.S.H.
cash@abolishsportshunting.org

Merle Wilson let us know that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has proposed a "new three-year \$2.2 million pilot program to open up private land for public hunting. The Farm Bureau itself urged their members to OPPOSE this program proposal saying the following:

"The official program proposal is alarmingly short on details. It doesn't give landowners absolute liability protection from lawsuits, including ones resulting from personal injuries and property damage caused by hunters. And it doesn't address other important issues for participating landowners, including cost-share, incentive rates, contract cancellation process and penalties, weed control, law enforcement responsibilities, limits on hunting in standing crops and possible land management or endangered species restrictions.

It also creates another program to fund while the state government tries to cope with a \$263 million budget shortfall and the DNR's Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund remains on pace to run out of funding in 2014!!!!

The letter was sent by Zach Bader, Grassroots Program Manager, Iowa Farm Bureau.

Hooray for Zach!

Merle wrote: "I for one will not do any business with the DNR!" YAY, Merle!!!!

POACHING? HUNTING? IS THERE ANY DIFFERENCE?

BY JOE MIELE

We often hear from hunters who tell us that legal hunting is not what we should be addressing when there are poachers who are disrespecting conservation laws and making all hunters look bad in the process. It is these unethical clods, they say, who are doing damage to the “wildlife resource” and should be punished. C.A.S.H. agrees that poaching is unethical and that poachers should be locked up, but we also believe that the difference between legal and illegal hunting is negligible.

Typically, hunters define poachers as those who: trespasses on private property; kill in excess of legal bag limits; kill out of season; have no passion for the outdoors and no respect for the law. Poachers, they say, disrespect wildlife as they brag about their kills.

A hunter will tell you that “legitimate” hunters pursue game in ways that comply with the law, respect the boundaries of property owners, conserve natural resources, and help keep wildlife populations in balance. They will not use the word “hunter” when talking about poachers as they try to distance themselves from poachers as much as they can.

Why do some people hunt illegally? Perhaps it’s the thrill of the kill (the same thrill that law abiding hunters get when they kill legally). Perhaps it is wanting a trophy they couldn’t get during the regular season. Maybe it’s that they had a craving for rabbit meat and didn’t want to wait until spring to eat one? Maybe because they know that the penalty for poaching is light and that the chance of being caught is next to nil? Perhaps it’s all of the above.

Those who respect wildlife however, don’t see much of a difference between hunting and poaching and we will give several reasons why.

*Unlimited killing
is legal in some states.*

For example, in certain counties in Texas there is no closed season on hunting coyotes, squirrels, rabbits &

hares. There are also no bag limits on some of these animals. Additionally, there are no state bag or possession limits or closed seasons on exotic animals or fowl on private property. **What is considered poaching in New Jersey, is just plain vanilla hunting in Texas, and considered as legal and ethical there. This makes hunting and poaching appear as identical twins.**

*I’m sorry officer –
my watch is slow...*

Hunting wildlife during a closed season or after legal hours will have you branded a poacher by the hunting community. But take this into consideration: if deer season runs until sundown on Oct. 29, and sundown is 5:37 PM, a hunter whose watch is 5 minutes slow can shoot a deer “out of season” while thinking that he’s totally legal. **When the difference between a poacher and a hunter comes down to a malfunctioning watch battery, it’s clear that the activities are the same.**

My dogs like to hunt also

Hunting with dogs is a violent, sick and barbaric activity. Dogs are released to track the scent of an animal, who is then torn to pieces by the dogs if she is unable to climb a tree or otherwise flee to an area that a hound cannot reach. There is no safety for wildlife pursued in this way, because the unskilled and violent hunter will shoot her as she hides from the dogs. In some states if you do this to a mountain lion you’re a hunter, but if you do it to a bear you’re a poacher (despite bears being game animals that you can kill in other ways). **If the law changes and treeing bears becomes legal, the same violent killing that was “poaching” one day becomes “ethical hunting” the next, because the Game and Fish council said so. Hunting or poaching? – Once again, the lines are blurry.**

*I don’t need no permit to be huntin’
on my own property, boy...*

As astounding as it is, many states have laws which exempt property owners from needing to purchase a hunting permit. You have real life situations where someone can hunt legally from the edge of their property without a permit, but if they step one inch over their property line onto a state park they become a poacher. Yet their bullets can travel well beyond their property line. **When the difference between a hunter and a poacher can be less than the length of your thumb, I say hunting and poaching are one and the same.**

Killing wildlife illegally is more widespread than hunters would have us believe. In an article from the Sacramento Bee, California game wardens estimate that only about *five percent* of illegal hunting activity is discovered. Flip this around and you can see that a hunter has a ninety-five percent chance of getting away with his crime if he hunts illegally in California. With odds like that, would most hunters pass up one last shot?

The line between legal hunting and illegal hunting is so slim that in many cases there is virtually no difference at all between hunting and poaching. It is important that we, as the defenders of wildlife, always point out that poachers are hunters. **You can’t be a poacher if you’re not out hunting.** So when a hunter tells you that he’s disgusted with poachers and thinks they should be locked up, ask him to check his watch.

Let’s not leave the victims of “poaching” or “hunting” out of the equation. What would they say?

A recent call to the NY DEC law enforcement division regarding poaching brought the following response: “It has been a bad economy and it’s causing more poaching. We can’t be everywhere.” The problem is that enforcement is nowhere. Would this response be tolerated by banks that call the police to a stop robbery?

LANDOWNER ABUSE NO ENFORCEMENT TO PROTECT EITHER WOMEN OR BEARS WHO LIVE IN RURAL NC

Two fresh bullet holes mar the address sign at the bottom of O’Nan’s driveway.

Elizabeth O’Nan says a group of bad apples have kept up a campaign of harassment and intimidation for 14 years in an attempt to gain access to the public woods via her driveway. Just last week she had her address sign shot up.



Photo by E. O’Nan

A glove with the middle finger extended in a rude gesture was left perched on the “no trespassing” sign.

O’Nan said the trouble starts each year with bear season. Over the years, she said, her daughter’s chickens, geese and ducks have been killed by hunting dogs. She stated that hunters have blocked her gate, preventing her family from getting in or out of their home. At one point, someone cut the lock off her gate and replaced it with a larger lock she had to cut.

O’Nan’s driveway is a full 1 mile long off of Sugar Cove Road, high above and parallel to a creek. As both her driveway and Sugar Cove Road are private, the only way to access the national forest that adjoins her property are to either trespass or walk several miles through dense woods.

“Some of these guys are not very physically active,” she said. “They’d rather drive their trucks or ATVs across

our home to get where they’re going.”

She said deer hunters ask if they can hunt on her place and, when she tells them no, they go about their way. It’s only the bear hunters, she said, that get mad and trespass anyway.

Calling the McDowell Country Sheriff’s Office, she stated, usually gets good results.

“All the (deputies) have always been polite and professional,” she said, but the isolation of her property means trespassers usually have cleared off before law enforcement arrives.

Sheriff Dudley Greene told The McDowell News he was aware of the dispute.

“We have responded a number of times over the years,” he said. Asked if the department was investigating her sign getting shot, Greene answered, “I wasn’t aware of anything recent. I know she has had a number of issues with bear hunters over the years.”

He explained that when boundaries are not clear then officers in the field have no way of determining a dispute over trespassing and right-of-way. “We have no way of knowing boundary lines. In that case our role would be a peacekeeping role,” he said. “It would be up to the individual homeowner to seek a warrant for trespassing.”

O’Nan said the recent bear season, which ended Jan. 1, was better in some ways than past ones, due to the dogs being leashed this time. But the hunters have kept up what she believes is a deliberate campaign of intimidation.

“It’s taken a toll on our health,” she



Photo by E. O’Nan

said. “We’ve lost at least \$10,000 worth of livestock over the years.”

Credit: Reprinted with permission. Author Britt Combs, The McDowell News of Marion, N.C. copyright 2011 Media General

C.A.S.H. believes that continuing to expose the agencies that are entrusted to protect lands and wildlife, yet fail to do so, will help to change the mission, policies, and personnel, and finally bring a chance for peace to residents and wildlife.

Ms. O’Nan needs the full protection of the law enforcement agencies of the area. We’ve had reports from many people, mostly women, that hunters feel free to trespass, shoot, and run their hunting dogs on their property and near their homes.

This has got to stop. Communities would not tolerate having their citizens harassed and abused under any other circumstances, and hunting season should be no exception.

We urge law enforcement officers to make single women a high priority during hunting season. If the number of officers is insufficient, then hunting should not be allowed until the ratio of law enforcement officers to the number of hunters is raised. Ms. O’Nan and her family have been victimized by the FS, which falsely claimed they owned part of her property. They were using it for bear hunters to trespass with impunity. Men lurking about the woods with firearms at all hours of the night and day are literally a lethal lot.

C.A.S.H. will write more about the abuse of Ms. O’Nan in the next issue of the Courier because it is clear that the Forest Service cooperates to the fullest with the game agencies to promote hunting.

If you are suffering from trespassing or aggressive hunters, please contact wildwatch@verizon.net.

ASK UNCLE JOE



BY JOE MIELE

GOT A QUESTION FOR UNCLE JOE? YOU CAN E-MAIL IT TO ASKUNCLEJOE@HOTMAIL.COM. WOULD YOU RATHER SNAIL MAIL YOUR QUESTION? SEND IT TO:

**ASK UNCLE JOE,
P.O. Box 13815, LAS CRUCES, NEW MEXICO 88013**

UNCLE JOE GETS A LOT OF MAIL SO DON'T BE OFFENDED IF HE CANNOT ANSWER YOUR QUESTION IN THE COURIER. HECK, HE'S GOTTA WORK A DAY JOB, TOO.

LETTERS ARE PRINTED AS RECEIVED. THEY ARE UNEDITED.

Dear Uncle Joe 2-27-11

Dear Uncle Joe:

I am not a hunter and I share your organization's overall view on the issue, but I am disappointed with some of the things posted on your Facebook page by some of your "friends." Many of the comments express an incredible amount of negativity and ill-will toward hunters. People are animals too and should be given respect even if their values differ from ours. It is not my wish to cause a stir, only to bring to light that the representation of your organization on its Facebook page is, I hope, out of line with your organization's mission.

Sincerely,

Mary

Midland, TX

Dear Mary:

Thanks for the feedback! I understand that you're troubled by some of the comments posted to our Facebook page. As with any public forum there are going to be comments made by some people whose opinions differ from our own. We understand the frustrations of those who work tirelessly to protect wildlife from hunters and others who abuse them, and we also understand that for many people, venting these frustrations is cathartic. Our Facebook page is intended to be a place where information can be shared and like-minded people can communicate. We do not necessarily stand behind or agree with everything posted to the page, but we will not allow racist, homophobic, misogynistic, or pro-hunting comments to remain on our page. That's where we draw the line.

Peace,

Uncle Joe

Dear Uncle Joe:

People like you should be ashamed of yourselves. I was reading on your web page and noticed something in common with all you trapping stories. They were all illegal sets. You shouldn't be against trapping, but against poaching. Or if you've ever seen the effect on coyotes here because of over population you might change your mind. In fact I shot two coyotes last Monday and both were almost hairless because of the mange on their bodies. I would rather trap and shoot them then have them starve to death or die a long death by disease

spread by over population. But what do I know....Im only a conservationist.

Just so you know here's my take for the month... 15 bobcats pelts, 10 kit fox pelts, 3 red fox pelts, 23 coyotes pelts, and 52 muskrats pelts. Nice antelope shot with a bow. Didn't get a deer but did shoot a nice tom mountain lion (it will make a lovely rug). 307 geese shot this year between me and a few buddies. 42 ducks (didn't have time to hunt them to much because I was trapping). a few hundred jack rabbits. (me and a cousin shot over 300 in one night on their ranch, we call this bunny blasting). It has just been an awesome season.

Skip,

Cottonwood, CA

Dear Skip:

Poaching and legal hunting is pretty much the same thing. When the distinction between the two can be nothing more than a wristwatch that is set 5 minutes fast, I have a hard time thinking one is any different than the other. And lest you think it's just a few bad apples killing animals illegally – think again. In a 9/12/2010 article published by the Sacramento Bee, state game warden estimated that only five percent of poachers are caught. In 2009, there were 3,400 violations handed out – meaning that another 64,600 violations took place that went undetected. With roughly 250,000 hunters in California, the numbers indicate that more than twenty-five percent of hunters do so illegally.

And yes, I've heard the "gotta kill them so they don't suffer – nature is cruel" argument before. But I'm asking you to think about it and not merely repeat it just because you heard someone say it a few times. Cancer, leprosy and AIDS can do some pretty cruel things to people, so why don't you feel the need to "manage" people with those diseases? They are suffering, no? Go to a children's cancer center and kill the suffering kids if you are so upset with nature being cruel. It's certainly more important to end the suffering of children than that of coyotes, no?

And with no bag or season limits on coyote killing, it's clear that hunting is not helping to prevent the spread of disease.

Do yourself and the public a favor - make an appointment with a psychiatrist to address your violent behavior and bring a copy of this e-mail with you to show how many animals you've

needlessly killed and how much you've enjoyed doing so. Hopefully that will be the first step toward getting the help you so desperately need.

Peace,

Uncle Joe

Dear Uncle Joe:

This may be a stupid question, but is there a humane way to prevent the birds I feed from pooping all over my husband's car and our walkway? My husband wants to take out the bird feeders and bird baths but my cat Sidney and I derive so much enjoyment from watching them that I would hate to see them leave. Please tell me that you can help! Thank you and everyone at C.A.S.H. for all you do.

Melissa,

Davenport, IA

Dear Melissa:

That's not a stupid question at all. In fact, I'm glad you turned to us. There's good news and bad news about your situation, so let's get the bad news out of the way first. As long as you have bird feeders you'll have birds doing their business under them. The world's greatest ornithologists tell us that what goes in a bird must come out, and since Sir Isaac Newton figured out that gravity pulls things toward the earth, that stuff coming out of the birds you love to watch is going to land on the ground.

But there are several things that can prevent your property from becoming a mess. First, relocate the feeders to an area where the mess will be less annoying. Next, most gardening supply shops will have humane roosting deterrent products. There are many different types and you will have to find the one that works best for you. Some are a series of angled plastic spikes that can be fastened where birds roost. They will not hurt the birds but they will prevent them from having a comfortable place to sit. Others look like a cat lover's dream – they are little units with flexible wire "arms" that move and bounce in the breeze, thus preventing birds from roosting. Also, please invest in a car cover. That will protect your husband's car.

I hope this answers your questions, Melissa. Thanks for wanting to take care of your problem in a humane way.

Peace,

Uncle Joe

PETER'S HUMOR? C.A.S.H. apologizes if you are not amused

C.A.S.H. CATALOG

Anticipating a day of hunting, Joe gets up early, dresses quietly, puts on his long johns, thermal socks and heavy boots, grabs his gun and goes to the garage to warm up his truck and head down to his favorite hunting spot. As he backs his truck out of the garage, he discovers a torrential downpour; moreover there is snow and ice mixed in with the rain; the wind is blowing at over 50 miles per hour.

Very disappointed he makes the hard decision to forget about hunting this day. He puts his truck back into the garage; he quietly undresses and slips back into bed. Looking for some marital comfort to soothe his disappointment he cuddles up to his wife, and whispers, "Sweetie the weather out there is really terrible." To which she sleepily replies, "Honey, can you believe my stupid husband is out there hunting in that weather?"

☺☺☺

To increase license revenues the Fish and Game agencies in several states have decided to sell licenses to hunt trappers and trap hunters for sport. The following restrictions apply:

Any person with a valid small game hunting license may harvest

By PETER MULLER, V.P. C.A.S.H. trappers.

The taking of hunters with traps is permitted. The use of beer cans and Jolly Rancher candy as bait is prohibited.

It shall be unlawful to shout, "Free Booze" for the purposes of hunting trappers.

It shall be unlawful to trap hunters within 200 yards of beer and liquor stores.

[Can YOU think of other rules and regs that should apply here? Just e-mail them to PeterMuller@verizon.net]

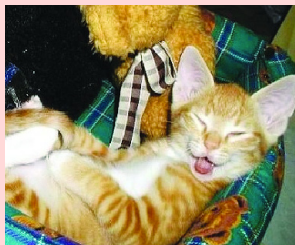
☺☺☺

As many hunting accidents involve hunters shooting their buddies due to mistaking them for turkeys — wouldn't you think that anyone mistaken for a turkey is better off dead anyway?

☺☺☺

A hunter who had recently married was very depressed and sulking in his favorite watering hole over his nasty in-laws. The bartender took pity on him, gave him a drink on the house and asked him to talk about his problems. He confided, "This is my third marriage and I still have the same in-laws."

We are asking our readers to help out. You will be fully credited if we use your jokes. Please submit your jokes to petermuller@verizon.net



Fans of Pete's Humor

www.ebaumsworld.com/pictures/view/557305/#

A Voice in the Wilderness
Videotape approximately 20 minutes.
\$12.00 and \$8 for members.

This video is an expose of wildlife management by **Luke Dommer, founder of C.A.S.H.** It was produced by **Focus on Animals, CT.** **Esther Mechler** of Focus has generously given C.A.S.H. the right to sell this videotape. Copies have been generously donated by **Nancy Gordon of HAVE**, an audio-visual company in Hudson, NY.



Luke Dommer

CASH HAT
Neon Orange, one size fits all. **\$7.50**



C.A.S.H. T-SHIRT,
X-LARGE,
BRIGHT ORANGE—\$12.00



Back of shirt, left. Front of shirt, right.

HOW YOU CAN HELP US DO MORE:

- ✓ Become a member
 - ✓ Include WILDLIFE WATCH, INC. in your will (you may earmark bequests for C.A.S.H.). If you have general questions about leaving a bequest in your Will to Wildlife Watch, or making Wildlife Watch the beneficiary of life insurance or other assets, you can contact Frances Carlisle, Esq. at 212-213-0172. Frances Carlisle is a trusts and estates attorney with expertise in advising clients about bequests and other types of disposition to charitable organizations.
 - ✓ Donate shares of stock, avoid capital gains and get a tax deduction! Notify your broker or the company whose stock you hold. Ask them to transfer stock to Wildlife Watch, Inc. Federal Tax Identification Number: 13-3076705
- A copy of our latest annual report may be obtained from Wildlife Watch, Inc., or from the Office of the Attorney General, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271.

**YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS WILL
HELP US TO DO MUCH MORE.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT. Visit:
www.all-creatures.org/cash/join.html**



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- ☺ I am happy to become a Basic member for \$35 _____
I will receive the C.A.S.H. newsletter and return address labels.
- ☺ I am happy to contribute but cannot become a member now _____

C.A.S.H. accepts MasterCard or Visa:

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All donations are tax-deductible.

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You can also pay through PayPal at www.abolishsporthunting.org link to "Donate" Thank You!

C.A.S.H. CATALOG ORDER BLANK

Description	Qty	\$ Each	\$ Total

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 Ship to address below (if different from above):

Please make checks payable to: C.A.S.H. or Committee to Abolish Sport Hunting or Wildlife Watch, Inc.