

# THE C.A.S.H. COURIER

THE COMMITTEE TO ABOLISH SPORT HUNTING

A DIVISION OF WILDLIFE WATCH, INC.

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Spring/Summer 2023

## 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.

### Wildlife Watch Inc.

a 501(c)3 Not-for-Profit Corporation.  
Contributions are tax-deductible.

### C.A.S.H. Courier

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## Avian Superstar Both Athlete and Egghead

From the book, *Exposing the Big Game: Living Targets of a Dying Sport*  
By Jim Robertson



**F**aster than a speeding bullet (wings tucked in, rocketing earthward); more powerful than the average passerine; able to scale tall mountains in a single updraft: It's a bird! It's a god! It's Super crow!

With four times the bulk of his familiar urban-dwelling cousin and sporting a four foot wingspan, the raven is the colossus of the crow family. But it's his brains, not his brawn, that's his claim to fame. In terms of intellect, the raven is the Steven Hawking of the feathered kingdom. Chances are, no more intelligent an animal has ever emerged from an egg. Tool

users with a rich culture, ravens have an extensive vocabulary unrivaled by any other species in the animal kingdom, aside from the all-too-common species of

*The raven is a superstar among songbirds (passerines) and the head of the Corvidae family, which includes a variety of gifted birds such as jays, nutcrackers and magpies.*

primate which natural historian David Attenborough calls the "Compulsive Communicators,"

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# Letter from the President



PHOTO © JIM ROBERTSON

**Dear C.A.S.H. Members, Wildlife Supporters  
and End-of-Hunting Enthusiasts,**

**M**uch has happened since the last issue of the Courier. The passing of Peter Muller was a sad day for animals and their advocates everywhere. Over his many years as Vice President of C.A.S.H., Peter used his wit and wisdom to help us see the savage ridiculousness of sport hunting through his articles (for example see, *The Real Aldo Leopold: Hero Or Villain?* - C.A.S.H. Committee To Abolish Sport Hunting) and the infamous Peter's Humor? page that included such gems as, "What do you call 10 hunters standing ear to ear at a bar? A wind tunnel," and "What do you call a hunter with half a brain? Exceptionally gifted!"

People sometimes ask why I hate hunting so much—have I ever personally known an animal who was killed by a hunter? The answer is, sadly yes, more than I care to count. But one victim of hunting that springs to mind was a friendly black bear who visited our place in coastal Washington.

The day after this photo was taken, while hiking on a logging road above the house, I came across a freshly cut trail through thick berry bushes where the bear had no doubt been foraging (easily within range of a high-powered rifle).

In the road was a package for a disposable camera the hunter used to record his thrill-kill, doubtless so he could re-live it over and over.

The point is people who take pleasure in killing are unbalanced and should not be the ones determining whether animals should live or die for their sport.

Fortunately, the Spring black bear hunt was recently cancelled in the state of Washington. Predictably though, a "sportsman's" group filed suit because a small percentage of the governor-appointed game commissioners were non-hunters (even though the vast majority of appointees to wildlife commissions have always been hunters and or trappers).

How these people can call themselves "sportsmen" is beyond me. Be forewarned, their type does not give in gracefully. When it comes to wildlife, they're used to making the rules and getting their way.

But take heart, the age of "Man the mightiest hunter" is coming slowly but surely to a close. Together we can see to it that sport hunting slips into the dustbin of history, where it belongs.

*Jim*

**Jim Robertson**

**President,**

**The Committee to Abolish Sport Hunting**

## Avian Superstar Both Athlete and Egghead Continued from page 1

homo sapiens. The raven's scientific name, *Corvus corax*, sounds suspiciously like their vernacular—the kind of thing you might hear them say as they fly by.

Yet another fitting metaphor for their overall character is the James Bond of the avian world. Like agent 007, ravens are sometimes secretive and mysterious, often articulate, clever, resourceful, opportunistic, playful, and always young at heart. Smooth operators with a sly sense of humor, they also enjoy frequent and fulfilling sex. But in contrast to the profusely promiscuous Bond, mated pairs of ravens are dedicated to their chosen partners for life.

The true founders of the mile high club, raven copulations consist of airborne acrobatics which can only be described as a dangerous and dramatic dance of devotion. Paired ravens fly only inches apart, and when the time is right, one turns completely upside down and locks claws with his or her mate. Thus joined, the pair plunge into a hair-raising earthward spin before letting go in unison and continuing on side by side without missing a wing-beat.

As scavengers they must ascribe to the credo, “Live and Let Die” (apologies to Ian Fleming, and Paul and Linda McCartney). Yet ravens are caring parents, working in cooperation to build and repair their nests and sharing in the raising and feeding of their hatchlings. Until they pair off and claim territories of their own, juvenile ravens travel in large social bands in a wholesome, co-ed rendition of *Lord of the Flies*, returning each evening to sleep at communal night roosts where they trade information on the locations of food sources they discovered that day.

The raven is a superstar among songbirds (passerines) and the head of the Corvidae family, which includes a variety of gifted birds such as jays, nutcrackers and magpies. Bernd Heinrich, author of *Mind of the Raven* and *Ravens in Winter* observes, “The corvid line of birds all share the capacity of curiosity. It is their trademark. One wonders if it is the key that has allowed them to flourish and diversify.” Whereas most corvids are specialists in their preferred habitats—gray jays and Clark’s nutcrackers choosing the high country; blue and Steller’s jays, dense woodlands; scrub and pinion jays, the desert and open pine forests—ravens have learned to adapt to all these environs and more.



PHOTO © JIM ROBERTSON

Wolves and Ravens have a symbiotic relationship wherever they both occur with ravens providing arial reconnaissance for the predators.

Circumpolar, they are one of the only birds found in the arctic during the long winter, or scaling the summits of the Himalayas; yet they are equally at home in the sweltering depths of Death Valley.

If you're a skier, like me, you've no doubt noticed the omnipresent raven at your local ski area, whether it's in the High Sierras, the Cascades or the Rocky mountains. The fanatically practical may write off their presence as merely the result of a daily supply of scavengable food dropped from chairlifts by skiers and snowboarders whose cold hands can't keep a grip on their sandwiches or granola bars. But there's another, equally rewarding reason ski hills are favorite stomping grounds for them: ravens are fellow fun-seekers! They like watching us glide down the mountain, almost as much as they enjoy participating in their own style of winter sports.

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## Avian Superstar Both Athlete and Egghead *Continued from page 3*

PHOTO © JIM ROBERTSON



*During the Middle Ages, a close encounter with a raven was thought a bad omen, on par with the dreaded black cat crossing your path.*

tribes along the Pacific Northwest coast. Sometimes called the “Owner of Daylight”, the Raven brought forth the sun, the stars, and the Earth, and even tempted the first humans out of a clam shell. Featured on many a totem pole, this deity also has a devilish side: the sly, conniving Trickster

who has been known to pull pranks such as stealing the sun from the sky.

Authors of the Old Testament would roll over in their graves at the notion that their creator resembled any species of animal besides their own, but they too saw ravens as a kind of merry prankster. As the story goes, the pair on board Noah’s Ark defied the rule against love-making. (You wouldn’t expect James Bond to abstain during an extended sea cruise, would you?) Even worse, they failed to return to the ark as instructed when Noah sent them to look for land.

Babylonians, Romans, Vikings and other ancient mariners also used them as scouts, surmising that if the birds did not return to the ship, land must be nearby. Technically, it was the ravens sent out on a reconnaissance mission, not the Vikings themselves, who first discovered Iceland, and for that they’re revered on the island to this day. A pair of ravens—one representing thought, the other memory—perched on either shoulder of the Viking god, Odin. Each morning they flew to the ends of the Earth and brought back news of the day. (This was before the age of FOX and CNN, or Odin would surely have forsaken the sacred birds and turned to these modern sources for fair and balanced reporting.)

During the Middle Ages, a close encounter with a raven was thought a bad omen, on par with the dreaded black cat crossing your path. But the early Irish also believed the future could be foretold by

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While the expert skier becomes one with the snow (knowing, through years of practice, the precise angle of descent and tilt of skis needed to adapt to the texture and resistance of hard pack or powder), ravens are one with the sky, adapting to gravity, wind speed and air currents simply by adjusting the slant of their wings, fine-tuning the angle of their descent with the slightest tweak of a single feather. And they really get a kick out of flaunting their talents for us lowly, flightless, earthbound two-leggers.

Many’s the time I’ve felt like I was at the top of my game on the ski slopes only to have an acrobatic raven steal the show by performing a spectacular series of forward barrel rolls, or some other astonishing feat. Once I watched in amazement as a raven swooped down and broke off a dead branch from the crown of an alpine fir tree. Clasp the branch in his talons, he handed it up to his beak (like a relay racer handing off a baton), continuing on without breaking speed. I don’t know if he was trying to impress his mate or the astounded human onlookers. Perhaps carrying that branch was his way of saying, “You humans have your ski poles, but I’ve got this stick—so there!”

It’s no surprise that wherever they’re found, ravens are infamous. People throughout history have drawn their own unique conclusions regarding ravens and what they symbolize. Raven is a god and humans are the product of His handiwork, according to the creation myths of several Indian

# Let's Boot the Firearms Industry Out of Government

**Kirsten Gillibrand, the US Senator from New York, writes:**

Friend, there have already been more than 200 mass shootings in 2023 alone. That's more than one shooting for every single day of the year.

America is in the midst of a gun violence epidemic — and families and communities across the nation are paying the price. It's heartbreaking. It's infuriating. And it's long past time we address this problem . . .



DOES SENATOR GILLIBRAND KNOW THAT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DIVISIONS IN BOTH FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT DEPEND ON - AND DEFEND - THE FIREARMS INDUSTRY? IF WE'RE EVER GOING TO GET MEANINGFUL LEGISLATION PASSED, THE GOVERNMENT MUST SEVER ITS TIES WITH THE FIREARMS INDUSTRY!

**Q.** How are firearms connected to the government?

**A.** In 1937, the Pittman-Robertson (P-R) Act conjoined the firearms industry with our government by placing an 11% excise tax (based on the retail amount) on rifles and ammo, and a 10% excise tax on handguns. The US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) administers the tax apportionments to each state and US territory based on the number of hunting permits it sells and its physical area. For their administrative services, the FWS keeps 8% of the P-R funds. In 2022, the total amount came to 1.1 billion dollars.

What most people don't know is that the sole recipients of a state's firearms excise tax is a small bureau of wildlife "managers" ensconced within the larger environmental agency. So, in NY, for example, the Bureau of Wildlife (BOW) lies within the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and is referred to by that name.

BOW has many advantages by staying out of public view because the public thinks of the DEC as protecting the environment, ensuring clean air and water. So the larger agency acts as a shield for BOW's shocking activities. **The DEC's good reputation provides cover for BOW.**

**As the excise tax on firearms and ammo is collected at the point of manufacture or import, the bureau's take is actually from firearms and ammo that are used not only for hunting (another form of violence) but also from firearms used for target practice, street shootings, even mass murder.**

All excise taxes (with the exception of police and military weapons that are exempt from the tax) go to the wildlife managers of the states and the USFWS.

As one hand washes the other, this bureau of wildlife managers aids and abets the firearms industry by turning wildlife into living targets for hunters. **So, while BOW manages "game species" into high populations for hunters' guns and arrows, the bureau also looks for opportunities to sell more hunting permits, and what better way than to bring young people into the fold. Not only does lowering the hunting age lead to the purchase of more firearms and ammo, thus adding to the P-R pot, but it increases the number of hunting permits the state sells, causing a greater apportionment for the state.**

Does anyone believe that the NYS Governor, Kathy Hochul, came up with the idea of lowering the deer-hunting age on her own? Yet, this year, in the Governor's Budget Bill, a Part RR appeared that would permanently lower the deer-hunting age to 12.

BOW had hoped that when the Budget passed, the lower deer-hunting age would pass, thus side-stepping the democratic process of an introduced bill that entails public awareness and discussion, and the likely possibility that the stand-alone bill would fail.

Thanks to the Part's discovery by the League

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## ANOTHER VIEW ON TRAPPING

**A republished (shortened) letter by Jackie Compton, a longtime C.A.S.H. member**

I read Patrick Connelly's impassioned defense of trapping and the fur industry and thought – whoa! His piece contained so many errors, exaggerations, false assumptions and biases that to address them all point-by-point here would be impossible. Let's just say it's completely disingenuous to try and pass off the cruel and exploitative practice of fur-trapping as moral, humane, and scientifically justifiable. And as for trapping being good for the animals, well, that's like claiming Donald Trump won by a landslide. Both times. I can see why Mr. Connelly is worried

about what seems like a waste of the pelts of the animals he traps and kills. But that doesn't mean trapping is inherently thrifty, the way people used to save buttons or string. In fact, calling something "time-honored" often means it can no longer be justified by any other means, like the infamous "Rule of Thumb" law, where it used to be legal in some states for a man to beat his wife with a stick no thicker than her thumb. That law was eventually abolished everywhere – that's progress! It's also a sign of progress that wearing fur, despite its appeal, has become hugely unpopular. And far more people prefer to watch and appreciate wild animals now than to hunt and kill them – less than 1% of

Massachusetts' residents engage in hunting and even fewer in trapping. Even the rhetoric of hunting, which presumes that wild animals are the property of humans, to be "taken" and "harvested," seems abhorrent these days, as society becomes increasingly attuned to issues of fundamental justice. That proprietary way of looking at other species simply does not resonate anymore. So while you can argue, as Mr. Connelly does, that fur-trapping contributed to the early economic base of this country, so did the genocide of Native Americans. And slavery.

There are often humane alternatives to animal-human conflicts, as we've found with beavers and black bears. The rewards of seeking wise and compassionate choices are, as always, profound.

## Avian Superstar Both Athlete and Egghead Continued from page 4

interpreting a raven's call, which led to the phrase "raven's knowledge" meaning to see and know all. And for centuries, since they first took up residence in the Tower of London, ravens have been credited with keeping the kingdom of England safe from invasion. Nowadays, at least six ravens are kept on the tower grounds at all times—their wings clipped to ensure loyalty. Others are bred to replace aging sentinels when their time on Earth is up, which, considering raven longevity, could be a matter of decades. Jim Crow, the longest living raven to serve time at the tower, lasted 44 years.

News-bearing ravens are characters in stories by J.R.R. Tolkien and George Orwell, while destructive ravens appear in the works of William Shakespeare and others. The speaker in Edgar Allan Poe's classic poem, simply titled, "The Raven," had a haunting vision of the all-knowing bird as he pondered, "...What this grim, ungainly, ghastly, gaunt and ominous bird of yore Meant in croaking 'Nevermore.'" But his graven, unflattering, gloomy depiction reflects Poe's own tragic life and says more about the speaker's troubled state of mind than the personality of the poem's title character.

However, Poe's era, the mid-nineteenth century,

was undeniably a grim time for wildlife in this country and the raven, too, became the target of much misguided derision. By 1848, the year Poe penned his poem, ravens were scarcely more than phantoms east of the Rocky Mountains. Their disappearance in the West followed on the heels of the bison's demise—ravens were collateral damage in the frenzied campaign to rid the North American continent of its natural predators. Together with eagles and hawks, ravens were (and sometimes still are) inadvertently trapped and snared, while thousands perished from eating poisoned meat intended for wolves, coyotes, bears and cougars. Thanks to their currently protected status, ravens are now reclaiming some of their old territories.

If any single phrase sums up their own outlook, it is the French expression, "joie de vivre." Ravens transform the utilitarian act of flying into a pursuit of purest pleasure. Shameless show-offs--unsatisfied with simply soaring from place to place--ravens will suddenly drop into a breathtaking free-fall or glide upside down for hundreds of yards for no apparent reason. Call it anthropomorphism, but ravens revel in entertaining their audience. They get their jollies whenever possible--genuinely enjoying life.

## Woe to the Many Hunters in Utah Who Don't Pay Child Support

The Utah State Legislature took action when some constituents complained that child support wasn't being paid while ex-partners were spending "lots and lots of money" hunting and fishing. This creative legislature passed a law to withhold hunting and fishing licenses from folks who didn't pay child support. They report that child support payments have gone up since the law went into effect! (The legislators obviously had the deadbeats figured out.)

## Let's Boot the Firearms Industry Out of Government

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of Humane Voters of New York, quick lobbying efforts resulted in extending the lower deer-hunting age for two years rather than permanently. While it wasn't the win that LOHV/NY wanted, it was far better than a permanent reduction in age.

### DO THE MATH

For every hunter in the woods, there's a firearm and ammunition purchased! AR-15 style rifles are normally the firearm of choice for "big game." They are relatively lightweight, easy to fire, and inexpensive. Besides, it's probably fun to shoot out a ton of bullets quickly. It's also highly lucrative for the firearms industry. Don't forget that the success of the firearms industry is the success of this little division of government, BOW in NY.

So, thinking about it financially as they do: If you lower the hunting age in NY by two years so that 12- and 13-year olds can now hunt big game, likely with an AR-15 style rifle, and if approximately 9,400 12- and 13-year olds hunted deer in the fall of 2022, as they claim, that means that 9,400 more AR-15 style rifles were sold along with an unlimited number of magazines carrying 5 rounds.

In NY, magazines can't have more than 5 rounds and 1 in the chamber. So imagine how many magazines are sold which can be replaced within seconds after they run out. Then add the 11 year olds who will come of age the following year and enter the firearms use market (called "hunting"). While BOW denies that AR-15 style rifles aren't used much by "youth hunters," they highlight a young girl with her AR-15 resting on a deer she has killed, see here:

[newyorkalmanack.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/youth-hunter-with-whitetail-deer-courtesy-DEC.jpg](https://www.newyorkalmanack.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/youth-hunter-with-whitetail-deer-courtesy-DEC.jpg)

The price of a 5-round magazine for an AR-15 style rifle is between \$14 and \$20. Visit this site: [opticsplanet.com/promag-rm5-ar-15-rollermag-223-remington-5-56-nato-5-rd-polymer-black-finish.html](https://opticsplanet.com/promag-rm5-ar-15-rollermag-223-remington-5-56-nato-5-rd-polymer-black-finish.html)

**Consider how much money is flowing into the firearms industry from these sales. And let's not forget the state and county sales tax on these weapons that encourage counties to protect this economy. No wonder most NYS counties voted to lower the deer-hunting age!**

**Excise taxes on alcohol and tobacco go to the state's general fund, but excise taxes on firearms go to the hunting division of the state leading to more income for the firearms industry, which in turn funds the bureau that supports it. Not only does BOW contribute nothing to the general fund, but the general fund is a potential and likely source of the 25% matching amount from the state required by the P-R Act. For every three dollars of P-R money the state receives, it must add a dollar of state money to BOW.**

We urge our readers to keep calling out the Bureau of Wildlife, which will have different names in different states. If we're going to get the firearms industry out of our government, we need to start there. No other division of government is in a self-serving relationship with a private enterprise – and one that wreaks havoc on the society. The public and wildlife need a different system for sure! The firearms industry must be booted out of our government in order for meaningful legislation to pass.



**THE LEAGUE  
OF  
HUMANE VOTERS®  
OF NEW YORK**  
POLITICAL ACTION FOR ANIMALS

April 4, 2023

**MEMO OF OPPOSITION TO PART RR OF FY 2023-2024 NYS BUDGET BILL**

THIS BILL ALLOWS 12 AND 13-YEAR-OLDS TO HUNT DEER PERMANENTLY

**DEAR GOVERNOR HOCHUL:**

The League of Humane Voters/NY strongly opposes Part RR of FY 2023-2024 NYS Budget Bill.

While the country is being traumatized by individuals who have easy and legal access to semi-automatic rifles including AR-15s, the Bureau of Wildlife (BOW), within the DEC, recklessly wants to lower the hunting age for deer in order to profit from more hunting permit sales and the excise tax on firearms, ammunition, and archery equipment.

New York State must reduce and eliminate this deadly source of income in order to protect its citizens. By allowing 12 and 13 year olds to hunt deer (big game), when AR-15 rifles are more likely to be used, is to deny the reality of the risks.

According to the website for personal injury attorneys at the Miley Legal Group in West Virginia, the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) reported that, "Youth hunting accidents may occur more often because of low skill. Youth don't have the same discernment and handling skills as adults when it comes to hunting. They are more likely to make simple mistakes and injure themselves or others." Later in the report, Jonathan Guzzo of the Washington Trail Association is quoted as saying "Young people do not have the judgment that adults have. For the most part, 14 year-olds do not have the judgment that a 16-year old has." Please visit: [mileylegal.com/child-hunting-accidents](http://mileylegal.com/child-hunting-accidents)

The Bureau of Wildlife (within the DEC) receives its portion of the federal excise tax based in part on the number of hunting licenses it sells. It is, therefore, not surprising that the wildlife division of the DEC would like to encourage more hunting permit sales, as well as increased purchases of firearms and ammunition to increase the P-R excise tax pot of which they get a portion based on hunting permit sales.

For New York, one of the best states for gun control, to pass this bill that encourages firearms use, including AR-15s by children as young as 12 and 13 against animals the size of humans, sends a mixed and frightening message to New Yorkers. It puts the priorities of a government bureau that is dependent on the firearms industry above the priorities of the 97% of New Yorkers who don't hunt.

LOHV/NY believes that New York legislators must not further increase revenue from firearms and ammo at the expense of putting the public at greater risk, inflicting more misery on our wildlife, and belying the government's commitment to rational gun control.

We urge you to remove part RR of the NYS Budget Bill.

Sincerely,

Anne Muller

LEAGUE OF HUMANE VOTERS®/NY

914-388-5221

The Mission of the League of Humane Voters® (LOHV®) is to create, unite, and strengthen local political action committees, which work to enact animal-friendly legislation and elect candidates for public office who will use their votes and influence for animal protection.

# Violent Entanglements

John Eberhart of LOHV/JGA sent an amazing article published by JSTOR “a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive.”

In an exceptional article published by JSTOR, two assistant professors at two different universities: John P. Casellas Connors in the Department of Geography, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, and Christopher M. Rea of the John Glenn College of Public Affairs and Dept. of Sociology, the Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, collaborated to research and write: Violent Entanglements. It’s a long journal article, and if you’ve no time to read it, please see their conclusion, titled: “Conclusion:



Guns, Conservation, and the State.”

Here are a few gems from their conclusion:

*The Pittman-Robertson Act is central to codifying the relationship between conservation and firearms, even as firearms are increasingly dissociated from hunting, and as hunters slowly become an increasingly marginal group of wildlife “users.” As a matter of ethics and democracy,*

*this shifting relationship between conservation and firearms demands that conservationists consider how this model benefits from social violence, reproduces gun users, and prioritizes a narrow set of wildlife users.*

The bravery of Asst. Prof. Casellas Connors of A&M University is not lost on us, as Texas is one of the largest beneficiaries of the P-R funds. In 2022, Texas wildlife management division received over 51 million dollars, more than any other state including Alaska.

You can see their full article here: [tinyurl.com/violententanglements](https://tinyurl.com/violententanglements)

See the P-R apportionment here: [tinyurl.com/PRapportionment2022](https://tinyurl.com/PRapportionment2022)

Image from: [guns.com/firearms/handguns/semi-auto](https://guns.com/firearms/handguns/semi-auto)

## Letter to the Editor

*Herman Lenz is a farmer in IOWA and longtime C.A.S.H. member. He writes:*

*Hunters often have three or four heated pickup trucks parked along the roads, while a few comrades walk the fields. When an animal is frightened out of hiding, they use their trucks to chase, or head off the animal. The Iowa Legislature now allows them to keep loaded and uncased guns in vehicles, and recently made it legal to use “assault rifles.” The legislature eased or eliminated other laws for hunters, so there is little left to enforce. Iowa lawmakers know where their election funding comes from, and it doesn’t come from the “non-hunting community” on these issues.*

*Why should rural Iowans be subjected to armed strangers chasing around on the roads, needing to dodge stray bullets, and hiding with family and pets in the basement during the very long “hunting season”?*

*The truth is that hunters think it’s fun to kill, wound, and cause misery to another species. Religion is hostile to “animal rights,” but if the animals and birds had any input in writing the bible, it would have read differently.*

Please contact C.A.S.H., P.O. Box 562, New Paltz, NY 12561 or email [wildwatch@verizon.net](mailto:wildwatch@verizon.net) if you would like to comment or submit a letter. Put C.A.S.H. COURIER in the subject line.



# "TAKE YOUR SHOT": Governor Hochul Uses Tasteless and Frightening Puns, As Well As Your Taxes, to Give Hunters Perks

*Grand Prizes Include Choice Of Lifetime Fishing and Bowhunting Licenses and Deluxe Equipment - All Entrants Receive Subscription to DEC's Conservationist Magazine and a Tree Seedling*

Normally, hunters are a protected class by the DEC and the Bureau of Wildlife (BOW) in that nothing negative can be said about them. By implication, however, that they need such incentives to take the job to minimally protect the folks they come into contact with suggests that this is, indeed, a resistant group. But belligerence goes along with gun use, doesn't it?

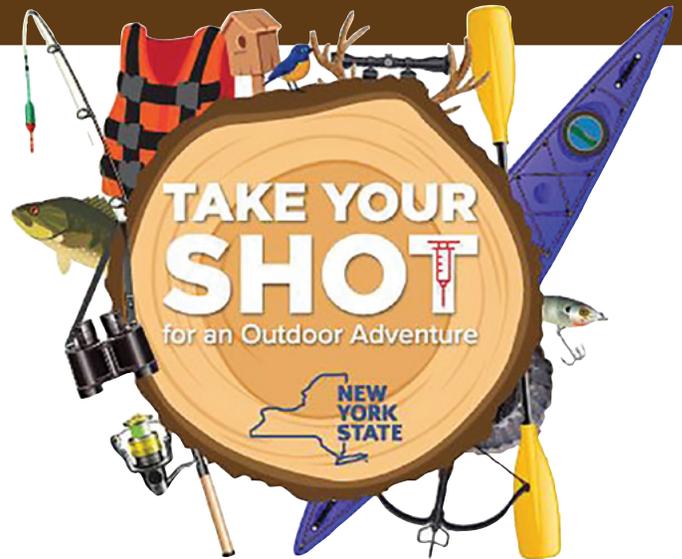
The governor, in the press release said, "Beginning Dec. 1 through the end of the year, anyone that receives their first vaccine dose will have the opportunity to enter the "Take Your Shot for an Outdoor Adventure" sweepstakes and a random drawing to win special prize packages tailored to anglers, hunters, and other outdoor enthusiasts."

Notice that while you can clearly see the fishing rod, binoculars, kayak, crossbow and bolt, you don't see the semi-automatic rifle. Is it too close to the shooting in Oxford, Michigan, to be a "good look"?

Also note that consumptive use of wildlife is conflated with nonconsumptive use, but the impact is different.

In other words, if you are a wildlife watcher, the animals watched will still be there for others to enjoy (and to continue to live their lives). That also means that those they were bonded with, or those dependent on them, or the seeds they will disperse will all be intact. I think we can all agree that animals are individuals, have feelings, and familial and social ties with each other.

Gov. Hochul's press release provides a link to "sign up." That goes to a page where the first box is to inform readers about deer hunting seasons,



the second is to "Take Your Shot," and the third is about not using styrofoam. In other words, it's all good, it's all sanctioned by the State of New York.

**DEC Commissioner Seggos said, "DEC is proud to support Governor Hochul's efforts to get more New Yorkers vaccinated to protect themselves, their families, and their communities. New York is home to world-class opportunities for outdoor recreation, particularly hunting, fishing, and birding. The Take Your Shot for an Outdoor Adventure sweepstakes is a great way to get more New Yorkers outside in nature while encouraging aspiring hunters and anglers to get vaccinated."**

If Gov. Hochul really wanted to protect New Yorkers, she would not encourage putting firearms into the hands of children, nor would she mix birders with hunters. Clearly, she's trying to lock in with this special interest group early on.

Hunting requires the use of firearms and ammo, bows and arrows, and crossbows and bolts against animals. The excise tax on those weapons goes from the federal government to the states to promote more use these lethal products. The more hunting licenses the state sells, the more excise tax it gets. In addition to being anachronistic in today's society, it's time to condemn this despicable form of wreck creation. Animals should not serve as targets for hunters and trappers.

## Deadeye Deb

By Lauren W.

It's not always easy to describe my mom. In some ways, it can seem like she's a bunch of contradictions that somehow might make sense. But anyway, let me try to tell you a bit about her.

As a teenager in the 70s, my mom was a peace-loving hippie who went out into the streets, with her long brown hair, to protest the Vietnam War. Patriotism, for her, meant bringing our troops home from a war they should've never been sent to fight. She had big dreams of being a first-generation college graduate, but as a homeless youth, there was no way she could afford it. So, she did what many people in poverty do and enlisted in the Army.

Following in the footsteps of her WWII veteran father, my mom was not the first generation in her family to join the military. As a talented clarinetist, who had played in the All City Wide Band at Kleinhans Music Hall, she was offered a position in the US Army Band, where she had the opportunity to travel around playing music. She declined. Instead, she traded her clarinet for a gun and became one of the first few dozen women to be trained as a police officer in the Army. Young and idealistic, she hoped to truly be an officer of the peace, both serving and protecting.

In the Army, they called her "Deadeye Deb." It was not an ironic nickname. With a knack for hitting the bullseye, she won awards for her precise shooting (Marksman with a 45 & Sharpshooter with a 38). And her skill with a gun was equally matched by her enthusiasm for target practice. There's a zestfulness in her voice as she professes, "I do enjoy shooting!"

I, on the other hand, have always felt really uncomfortable about guns, outside of maybe a Super Soaker or Nerf gun (the cool toys for any child of the 90s). So I hated the family trips to the countryside to shoot. As sounds of gunpowder exploding flooded the air, I still remember wishing I had more hands to muffle the noise. But with only two hands, I pressed one up against my own ear while using the other hand to cover a single ear of my canine sister, Mandy. The victims

of the bullets, with holes pierced through their skin, though, were thankfully only empty cans of soda pop.

My mom has always been an animal lover. And not long after I chose to become vegetarian as a young child (before going vegan as an adult), she joined me in removing meat from our plates. So, despite her love of shooting, hunting was never something even on the table. As she explains, "I never wanted to kill an animal... It made me feel sick... I just could never think of doing it."

It's not lost on my mom, however, that she may be defying expectations. "I can see the dichotomy of the whole situation... there's one thing here and one thing there and they don't seem to meet." She further explains, "I think people think 'she's gonna chow down on a steak and tear it apart because she's a military person.' And then when I tell them I'm an ethical, you know, vegetarian, they're like, 'well, wait just a minute. That doesn't make any sense.'"

My mom still finds target practice exhilarating, but she draws a clear distinction between that and hunting. "One is a sport to just shoot at a target and the other one is to actually kill an animal."

As a military police officer, her job involved ensuring safety, so she particularly understands the importance of stronger gun control laws. She takes aim especially at assault weapons, describing them as "not necessary" and "not practical" for defensive purposes. Hunters, though, drive up the demand for these high capacity guns because it takes less skill to hunt someone down when you are loaded with an arsenal of bullets. And as my mom points out, these so-called "sportsmen" can't even eat the meat because the animal's body ends up filled with lead. For defense, however, my mom is a big fan of non-lethal weapons like tasers. In fact, she recently pulled out her taser to defend herself against an attempted assault. "Sometimes you just have to make [the taser] crackle to get people to leave you alone."

In the wake of so many tragic shootings, the national conversation has increasingly focused on the issue of gun control. For both my mom

*Continued on Page 12*

# MOMMY, WHERE'S MY LITTLE BLUE AR-15?



**A** horrifying part of the NYS Budget Bill was Part RR that would have permanently lowered the deer-hunting age to 12.

AR-15 rifles are far more likely to be used for deer than for squirrels, simply due to the cost of ammunition!

Upon discovery, LOHV®/NY started contacting key legislators asking them to ensure that this part be removed. The NYS Senate "intentionally omitted" Part RR in their response to the Budget Bill, the Assembly compromised and recommended a two-year extension of the lower deer-hunting age.

LOHV/NY had put out the following petition early April:

## STOP 12 AND 13-YEAR-OLDS FROM KILLING DEER IN NYS

***The AR-15 style rifle above looks like a toy. It is not a toy, it kills!***

Dear Wildlife and People Protectors:

It's absurd that a small division of our government, namely the Bureau of Wildlife (BOW), is dependent on the federal excise tax on firearms and ammo, bows and arrows, and crossbows and bolts. They receive their portion of the firearms excise tax based, in part, on the number of hunting permits they sell.

While in New York an AR-15 can "only" have a magazine of 5 bullets with one in the chamber (total of 6 bullets – or 6 dead people) – a magazine can be changed in seconds, allowing for almost uninterrupted firing.

Please see this link that demonstrates why we have a problem getting meaningful gun legislation passed:  
[s3.amazonaws.com/cdn.congressionalsportsmen.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/03182721/Youth-Hunting-Industry-Sign-On-Letter-of-Support.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/cdn.congressionalsportsmen.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/03182721/Youth-Hunting-Industry-Sign-On-Letter-of-Support.pdf)

Please support C.A.S.H.'s efforts to boot the firearms industry out of government: [abolishsporthunting.org/donate](https://abolishsporthunting.org/donate)

## OPINION

### Dead Eye Deb *Continued from page 11*

and myself, it feels even more personal in our community of Buffalo, N.Y. Within walking distance of my apartment, 10 lives were taken and 3 people were injured as my neighbors were hunted down by a white supremacist terrorist while shopping at Tops Market. And the daughter of a family friend had just left the grocery store mere minutes before the shooting. Unsurprisingly, the terrorist had a background of torturing and killing animals before inflicting the same kind of violence onto humans. Traumatized by all the carnage and filled with grief, people are tired of waiting for changes to gun laws. But with the hunting and the gun industry so tightly intertwined, there's been a full-scale assault against enacting sensible gun control legislation. So the interests of hunters are being protected

rather than protecting lives.

To quote one of my favorite YouTubers, John Green, "truth resists simplicity." And my mom isn't afraid to be complex. Among these seemingly contradictory views, she's actually stayed consistent –from protesting Vietnam to becoming a military police officer (and then paying for college with the G.I. Bill to become a nurse) to speaking out against hunting and in favor of gun control, she's chosen paths where she can try to bring about safety for humans and nonhuman animals alike. **My mom and I might not see completely eye to eye about guns, but that's kind of the point. We don't have to feel exactly the same way about guns to agree that no one should be hunted down and killed.**

# In Loving Memory of **BETTY BUTLER**

By Sue Russell

Reprinted with the permission of the author and the *Animal Protection League of NJ.*

I met Betty W. Butler at a conference she held in the early or mid-nineties to oppose USDA's then incipient gassing of Canada geese. She was outraged by the brutality of the program and spent the rest of her life opposing it.

Betty grew up on the Navesink River and later lived with her family on the Shrewsbury. She knew the water (science major, Rutgers) and had a mystical connection to this peninsula, but most of all she knew its birds. She lived with them, knew them, cared for them, defended them; they owned her heart.

She had been a rehabilitator, supported rehabilitators and their work, supported swan-related lawsuits and the people who rescued wildlife, and facilitated countless rescues. APLNJ was in regular contact with Betty seeking her input on calls we received regarding goose issues and rescues.

Her passion was opposing the scandalous conflict of interest and bias of U.S. wildlife policies, the enormous amounts of public moneys used by USDA and others to kill Canada geese – and swans.

In 2002, In Defense of Animals awarded Betty its first "Goose Savior Award."

But she was more than an activist to me – Betty was a dear friend. I liked her the minute I met her – direct, no-nonsense, funny, in a striped, crew neck sweater. Her stories of living in Rumson in the early years when the kids were young, the river's cast of characters, floods, pistol-packing neighbors, were hilarious. Her turns of phrase ("she could bounce a nickel" ; "I got off *that* bus") peppered conversation. She was generous and hospitable, ordering copious amounts of food for gatherings. Her big heart was broken by life blows and losses that would embitter others. Not Betty, not her spirit. She loved her family and her devoted best friend, all of whom shall remain private.

I fear that Betty's passing signifies the loss of people who are rooted in a sense of place, the area in which they are born, whose lore, people, and wildlife



are in their bones. Betty loved the Two Rivers, she was a part of it, and knew it like the back of her hand.

She suffered a long illness, every single second of it borne graciously.

That great heart stopped beating on April 29. We will miss her.

---

**Editor's Note:** I met Betty Butler when so many Rocklanders were fighting for the lives of Canada geese in Rockland County, NY. A town supervisor threatened to kill what he falsely claimed were 25,000 Canada geese who were pooping in the Town's parks. Betty immediately jumped in with her ideas and experience. You will see many articles by visiting [abolishsports hunting.org](http://abolishsports hunting.org), clicking on the "Publications" tab, and searching for "Canada geese."

# ASK

Uncle Jim



**By Jim Robertson**

**GOT A QUESTION FOR UNCLE JIM?**

You can e-mail it to: [wildwatch@verizon.net](mailto:wildwatch@verizon.net)

**WOULD YOU RATHER SNAIL MAIL YOUR QUESTION?**

Send it to: C.A.S.H., POB 562, New Paltz, NY 12561

Uncle Jim gets a lot of mail so don't be offended if he cannot answer your question in the Courier.

**Dear CASH**

I know you anti-hunters are squeamish about us hunters shooting a buck during open season. But why is it okay for wolves to take down a deer, but not for us?

**Austin, Sweetgrass, KS**

**Dear Austin,**

Although I know the type (usually hunters or at least meat-eaters), I'm not one to froth and foam or get otherwise excited when I see wolves or other predators make a kill. I have witnessed wolves feeding on carcasses many times, but since wolves most often hunt at night, I was gladly never present for the actual act of "harvesting" food for their pack—until one unseasonably warm afternoon in late October, when Yellowstone's Hayden wolf pack spotted an unwary deer who stepped out of the trees into the clearing across from where I'd been watching through binoculars.

The whitetail deer population was booming in Yellowstone that year and the wolves were efficiently playing their part in nature's saga—a role that has served populations of both predator and prey for eons. Like rightful kings returning from exile, wolves are far from new to the Yellowstone ecosystem. Their 71-year absence from the area was the result of the senseless

bounty set by the real newcomers on the scene.

Modern humans with their traps, snares and rifles are the only thing new to the fine-tuned system of checks and balances that has regulated itself since life first evolved. New to the scene are cowboys and their monoculture "crop" of cows, along with barbed wire fences and four-wheelers. New are pack trains of sport hunters, intolerant of any competition from mere canines, yet eager to take trophies of wolf heads and hides, while leaving the unpalatable meat to rot. New is the notion that humankind can replace nature's time-tested order with so-called "wildlife management"—a regime that has not yet managed to prove itself worthy.

Unmatched manipulators, modern humans have moved so far beyond the natural order that population constraints like disease or starvation are no longer a threat to our species' survival (as long as society continues to function). But wolf packs are at the mercy of nature's generosity. Wolves can't afford to be acquisitive; without a plentiful prey base, they perish. Theirs is a precarious struggle, devoid of the "creature" comforts of heated homes, overstocked grocery stores, motor vehicles and the promise of immortality.

**Uncle Jim**

**Dear Uncle Jim,**

I'm a female hunter who shares photos of my trophies on Facebook and other social medias. I'm wondering why the comments I get from anti-hunters seem angrier and more hateful than comments to male hunters?

**Sally, Abernathy, South Carolina**

**Dear Sally,**

C.A.S.H. discourages personal attacks against hunters of either sex, but yes, I've noticed some folks sound even more resentful of female hunters when they proudly pose with the animals they've shot and killed. The underlying reason, I've decided, must be disappointment in and disgust with a "sportswoman's" unnatural lack of compassion for the innocents (such as children or in this case, animals).

That's not to say a lack of empathy on a male hunter's part is natural or acceptable, but it's much more common, unfortunately, in our world not-so-far-removed from the stone age (geologically speaking). Why else would some humans still feel the need to make a sport out of behavior, like hunting, we should have moved beyond centuries ago?

**Uncle Jim**

## C.A.S.H. CATALOG

### *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

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X-LARGE,  
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Front of shirt

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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.

## HUMOR

C.A.S.H. apologizes if you are not amused



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Next they'll ban us from sleeping with our sisters!"

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