

THE C.A.S.H. COURIER

THE COMMITTEE TO ABOLISH SPORT HUNTING

A DIVISION OF WILDLIFE WATCH, INC.

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Spring/Summer 2024

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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C.A.S.H. Courier

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Evil Must Be Exposed

by Jim Robertson



PHOTO ©JIM ROBERTSON

Truer words have seldom been spoken concerning the Wyoming wolf-torture travesty that occurred late last winter (but due to a state law protecting the names of wolf-hunters, didn't come to light until April). The quote, "It absolutely sickens me... but evil must be exposed" was from a patron at the Green River Bar who witnessed the wolf-abuse there that night. Had he stayed for the final act of the horror show, he would have seen Cody Roberts drag the animal out behind the bar and end her life ("euthanized" is the tactless term that state game departments are so fond of

spewing out). In case you haven't heard the latest wolf-kill injustice from the "Cowboy State," here's what went down:

On the 29th of February, Roberts was out on his snowmobile hunting for coyotes—or wolves—or whatever else he could find that is considered legal to kill there at that time of year. He was well within Wyoming's so-called "predator zone," which constitutes 85% of the state, where no game laws exist to regulate the "harvest" of "undesirable" species like coyotes, foxes, or wolves along

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Letter from the President

Greetings C.A.S.H. Members,
Supporters, Wildlife Enthusiasts
and Detesters of "Sport" Hunting,



I hope spring has been treating you well and the current headline-grabbing cases of animal abuse haven't been getting you down too far. As many of you may know, part of my job as President of the Committee to Abolish Sport Hunting is to keep tabs not only on hunting accidents, but also on sport hunting "successes." That requires daily google-searches of keywords like "hunting," "trapping" and "hunter," as well as "hunting accidents." This has led me to the news of the now-infamous case of cruelty inflicted upon a juvenile wolf in Wyoming, which you'll read all about in my article, "Evil Must Be Exposed" in this issue of the Courier.

As I write this, Kristi Noem, the Governor of South Dakota, heads the short list of Donald Trump's potential running mates. Let's hope that by the time you read this, he will have thought the better of it and she'll be out of the running for his Vice-Presidential pick, and this will all be a moot point. But judging by his track record of thinking the better of things, and doing what's right for all, I'm not holding my breath. Unless you're lucky enough to live in a cabin far off in the woods away from media bombardment (which, unfortunately, I don't so much anymore), you've no doubt been hearing ad nauseum about how Noem shot her young dog, "Cricket", after he proved himself overly enthusiastic and supposedly "untrainable" during one of her many pheasant hunts. As she revealed in her autobiography, Noem followed that act of insensitivity by shooting one of her goats because it "smelled"

(like a goat?). She wrote of these things, thinking it would make her appear more Vice Presidential—like her "country" background would help her as the second-in-command of the leaders of the free world.

These aren't the only acts of animal abuse Kristi Noem has committed. Not only has she shot a laundry-list of domestic animals and wildlife from pheasants to bear, but as South Dakota's Governor she is also responsible for the deaths of 240,000 raccoons, skunks, opossum, red fox, and badger since that state implemented a controversial bounty on any species who might have to stave off starvation by once in a while predating on a "game" bird's eggs. (Although pheasants are beautiful animals too, they're not even native to this continent—they were brought here so hunters like her could make "sport" of killing them.)

Politicians like Kristi Noem may well find that they're shooting themselves in the foot when they tout animal-killing, hoping to gain some kind of credibility, and that they're not speaking to the majority of Americans when they strut around with shotguns wearing orange vests and camouflage. When it comes to hunting, the average American has wised-up and is moving on.

Here's to a future without lethal destruction of wildlife in the name of "management" or "recreation." It's time for such backward thinking to be left in the dust.

Jim

Jim Robertson

President, the Committee to Abolish Sport Hunting

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PHOTO © JIM ROBERTSON

with raccoons, porcupines, jackrabbits, or even stray cats. Wolves, like coyotes in these zones, can be killed without limit, season or even the possession of a hunting license.

Indeed, anyone in a designated “predator zone” with a hankering to boost their flagging self-esteem by causing others to suffer can employ such strategies as baiting, trapping, snaring or even running them down with a snowmobile (a loathsome practice so popular in the state it’s perversely known as “chasin’ fur.”)

Cody Roberts must have thought himself a fine upstanding, law-abiding citizen when he spotted a 9-month-old female wolf and decided the chase was on. Young wolves can really move, but her pursuer gave his machine full-throttle, overtaking and “disabling” her—the common method is running over a victim

again and again until it stops moving.

At this point you, kind reader, are probably wondering what kind of tweaked, twisted person would do this to a beautiful animal?

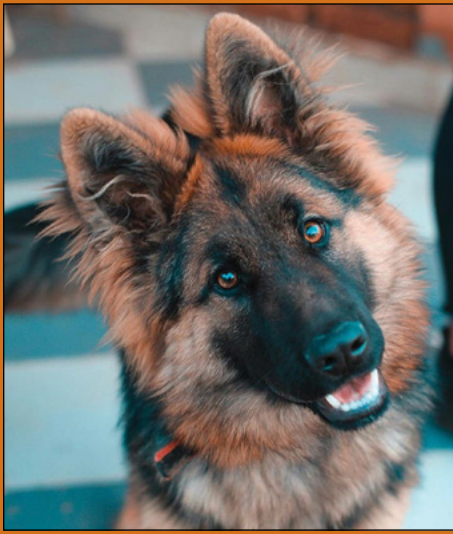
Well, the sad fact is, according to a long-time Wyoming rancher, “It is very common for people to take their entire families out on snowmobiles and train their kids to run down coyotes. To them, it’s considered just a normal activity. There’s no question they do it with wolves too. if they can. If they can’t run them down, they’ll chase them until they fall in the snow from exhaustion and then shoot them. It’s considered a fun, wholesome weekend activity.”

But Roberts crossed the legal line when he brought the “disabled” (read: crippled, incapacitated, exhausted,

internally-bleeding) juvenile animal back home with him. But that must have proved boring, so he traded his hunting cap for a thinking cap and came up with a bright idea—one that was sure to bring whoops of reassuring praise from his fellow hunters and wolf-haters. He decided to haul the wounded wolf to the Green River Bar in his local, small-minded town of Daniel, Wyoming. To ensure the severely injured creature was completely helpless, he taped the young females’ mouth shut.

Since the Green River Killer is the nickname of Washington’s Gary Ridgeway, the serial killer with the highest body count in the country to date, the Green River Bar is a fitting name for an establishment that caters to likes of animal abusers like Cody Roberts. Agents at the FBI

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DOG SHOTS AND KILLS HIS HUMAN COMPANION ON HUNTING TRIP

2/23/2024

The NRA's well-known slogan is, "Guns don't kill people, people kill people". In a sense, that's still right even though a dog activated the weapon. The victim had an unlocked, loaded rifle in the back of his car when his dog jumped on it sending a bullet into the back of the victim.

Man shot dead after dog steps on hunting rifle's trigger

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behavioral science lab have known for years that animal cruelty, like fire-starting and bed-wetting, is part of the "homicidal triad" that often leads to psychopathic serial-killing of helpless human victims.

Just yesterday, on April 17th. the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission heard hours of testimony from incensed citizens, many calling for harsher penalties for Robert's behavior than the paltry \$250.00 misdemeanor fine he paid (without ever spending a minute in court) for possessing a live, warm-blooded animal—the only Wyoming wildlife law they felt applied in this case. (Again, running over a panicked wolf with a snowmobile is still considered perfectly legal there even in this day and age). Others used their maximum two-minutes of testimony time to call for immediate changes in Wyoming's backward policy regarding wolves in the state's heinous predator zones. This approach seems more likely to head off this type of mindless, destructive behavior in the future.

This case is far from the first incidence of wolf-hating animal abusers making a public spectacle out of legally "harvesting" wolves. You may remember the U.S. Forest Service trapper, Josh Bransford from Grangeville, Idaho (one of the states next door to Wyoming), who posed for a loathsome photo with a live wolf he'd trapped.

Another self-proclaimed wolf-hater, Toby Bridges, hosted an anti-wolf page on Facebook cleverly entitled "lobo-watch" where he bragged, in gory

detail, about how he intentionally ran down a family of wolves who were trying to cross Interstate 90 at Lolo Pass on the Idaho/Montana border.

Barbaric, outdated customs like "chasing fur" are inevitably relegated to the past as any society moves forward. Countless cases can be sighted, but one animal-abuse tradition springs foremost to mind.

In the mid-nineteenth century, during the same shameful period that bison were being hunted down to virtual extinction in this country, a sick, sadistic practice (right out of early Rome or London in the Middle Ages) was threatening to become a tradition in California. For fun, profit and to entertain of the burgeoning masses, Spanish vaqueros lassoed grizzly bears—the animal chosen for California's state flag who actually have become extinct there—and brought them into town squares to be pitted against bulls and forced to fight to the death. These bloody displays of barbarity were usually held on Sunday, right after church let out.

Meanwhile, Aldo Leopold's understanding of the value of wolves came too late for one wolf family. In his enduring 1949 book, *A Sand County Almanac*, published shortly after his death, he wrote: "We saw what we thought was a doe fording the torrent, her breast awash in white water. When she climbed the bank toward us and shook out her tail, we realized our error: it was a wolf. A half-dozen others, evidently grown pups, sprang from the willows and all joined in a welcoming melee of wagging tails and playful maulings. What was literally a pile of wolves

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Tackling Wildlife Crime

By Bindu Gopal Rao



PHOTO © WILDLIFE TRUST OF INDIA (WTI)

HAWK (Hostile Activity Watch Kernel) is a suite of software tools, including mobile apps and server systems, designed to assist forest officials in real-time gathering, management, and analysis of information pertaining to forest and wildlife crime.

HAWK can digitize every facet of wildlife crime management within a state, transforming the entire process into a centralized system. Currently, the State Forest Departments of Kerala and Karnataka are using the software, with a pilot test being conducted in the state of Uttar Pradesh. This year, the team intends to commence operations in the state of Tamil Nadu as well.

THE SYSTEM

HAWK serves as an advanced wildlife crime intelligence gathering and management system. Leveraging cutting-edge digital technology, it centralizes information and discerns networks to ascertain pivotal elements in a crime or potential crime situation. **"This system has the capability to recognize location-based crimes and scrutinize associated data through machine learning. Subsequently, the predictive analysis module generates valuable insights into criminal networks derived from this data. The implementation of HAWK can enhance the efficiency of the state forest department by streamlining tasks such as data entry, document preparation, and approvals, thereby saving time,"** says a spokesperson from

Wildlife Trust of India.

MONITORING MODE

An offense is segmented into three phases - Case Registration, Investigation Stage, and Post-Investigation Stage. Throughout these processes, various activities such as case detection, documentation, submission to court, arrest, seizure, evidence collection, preparation of expert investigation documents, charge sheet submission, and court procedures occur. "At every stage, complete access is provided to managers, and real-time notifications are provided to the concerned officers. Moreover, features include tracking suspected vehicles and monitoring habitual offenders within the state. Additionally, the data collected during offenses can be utilized to generate various types of reports, aiding officials in making strategic decisions," says a spokesperson from Wildlife Trust of India.

Prior to the implementation of the centralized wildlife crime management system, offense reviews occurred only two or three times a year. However, with this system, officials receive real-time updates, enabling them to provide strategic guidance promptly. This guidance supports frontline forest staff in acting swiftly. Additionally, previously collected field data would often sit unused on shelves or in paper bundles. The system now allows users to utilize this data as per the end user's need.

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writhed and tumbled in the center of an open flat at the foot of our rimrock.

“In those days we had never heard of passing up a chance to kill a wolf. In a second we were pumping lead into the pack, but with more excitement than accuracy... When our rifles were empty, the old wolf was down, and a pup was dragging a leg into impassable side-rocks. 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 known only to her and to 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.”

Leopold opened the door for others who began to appreciate wolves for who they really are. As renowned naturalist Farley Mowat, author of the 1963 classic, *Never Cry Wolf*, observed: “We have doomed the wolf not for what it is, but for what we deliberately and mistakenly perceive it to be—the mythological epitome of a savage, ruthless killer—which is, in reality, no more than the reflected image of ourself.”

The first time I beheld the sight of wolves in the wild was outside a decrepit mining-town-turned-tourist-trap in a bear reserve on the Alaska/British Columbia border. Due to local persecution, wolves had not been seen in the area for decades, and their return that year was greeted with generous appreciation by an assembly of lucky bear watchers and photographers who shared in my elation.

But the spectacle lasted only one short season and by late fall a few resident tyrants—under the self-delusion that it’s all here for them—had trapped, shot or otherwise driven off the entire pack. Today the only sign of wolves is a hand painted plywood sign advertising “Wolf Hides for Sale” in front of a detestable trinket shop on a muddy back road of the wretched little town. Wolves in Alaska can legally be killed by anyone, practically anytime, by any means imaginable (former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin’s personal favorite is strafing from low-flying aircraft).

“Locals” of backwater towns in Wyoming seem to think that wolves were unwelcome non-residents



PHOTO © ISTOCK.COM

who were unfairly imposed on their happy hunting grounds by the big, bad federal government. They act like they were here first, but they forget that wolves have been on this continent for tens of thousands of years longer than any pioneering forefathers who swept through, replacing bison and elk for cattle and sheep.

Modern humans with their traps, snares, poisons, 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 the 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, without the comforting promise of immortality.

Jim Robertson is the President of the Committee to Abolish Sport Hunting. He can be reached at wolfcrest@hotmail.com

Tackling Wildlife Crime *Continued from page 5*

HELPING HANDS

By streamlining the completion time of case activities, staff can allocate their valuable time to other conservation efforts. Additionally, since staff typically rotate to different offices every three years, they may struggle to grasp all key information within this brief period. "Previously, they would invest significant time in poring over extensive documents to gain insights. However, with the system in place, logging in grants access to 50% of the information relevant to the specific range. Furthermore, with just a few clicks, they can access scrutinized data on various aspects such as offenders, poaching gangs, hotspots, major species, and conflict areas," says a spokesperson from Wildlife Trust of India.

CUSTOMIZED CUES

The system is developed using Vue.js, Node.js with the database MongoDB. In India, each state has its own set of forest laws, such as the Kerala Forest Act and the Karnataka Forest Act. During the initial phase of development, we recognized this diversity and designed the system to accommodate customization. This involved incorporating regional languages, adding office names and designations, and making basic structural adjustments to suit specific requirements.

TRAINED HANDS

Introducing the system among frontline forest staff is relatively more challenging than software development itself as it involves a behavioural change. "Many forest department officials still adhere to old case management techniques

inherited from the British era. Consequently, they may initially resist adopting new technology, as it requires building trust. Moreover, documents generated by the system are directly used in court proceedings, causing apprehension among staff about potential career implications if errors occur. Therefore, effective training is vital for frontline staff. This training not only imparts technical skills but also raises awareness about the benefits and usage of a centralized crime management system. The training of frontline forest staff has been a key intervention and the successful adoption of this system in Kerala is a direct result of this," says a spokesperson from Wildlife Trust of India.

STAYING SAFE

As time progresses, so do the methods used to commit wildlife crimes. Consequently, enforcement agencies must also adapt to the latest technology. To effectively manage these challenges, WTI has developed a unique module known as 'Cyber HAWK.' Cyber HAWK is a Citizen Science Initiative developed by the Wildlife Trust of India to gather information from citizens all around the country on cyber illegal wildlife trade. Through the Cyber-Hawk mobile application, individuals can conveniently report wildlife trade incidents encountered online or offline. The reported crime is validated under the 4*4 grid verification method by dedicated WTI analysts and qualified actionable intelligence is shared with the enforcement agencies. This initiative also provides a platform to manage and store data related to the illegal wildlife trade.

PHOTO © WILDLIFE TRUST OF INDIA (WTI) JOSE LOUIES



Wouldn't it be a blessing to have government wildlife divisions concerned enough about the welfare of wildlife to have a HAWK system. Instead, wildlife managers boost populations of huntable wildlife so that firearms and ammunition, bows and arrows, crossbows and bolts are bought and used against wild animals. If you are reading this, I'm sure you agree that wildlife management in the US needs to change.

MUTE SWANS: BAD (Translation: They **can't** be hunted) **TRUMPETER SWANS: GOOD** (Translation: They **can** be hunted) by Anne Muller

PHOTO © KAREN STAMPER



ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

After reading this article by Emma Misiaszek, cnycentral.com/news/local/manlius-battles-decs-mandate-sterilize-swans-or-swap-for-native-species, I was filled with memories of the many flyway meetings I'd attended. I was also filled with disgust, shock, and grave concern that, once again, the Bureau of Wildlife (BOW), a small division that profits from the sale of firearms and ammunition within the Department of Environmental

Conservation (DEC), is attempting to baffle and confuse the public into seeing the mute swan as bad and the trumpeter swan as good. Each of BOW's self-serving reasons to replace the mutes with trumpeters can be easily countered, and I am happy that Manlius is sticking to its guns and saying, "ENOUGH IS ENOUGH."

In this article, it was reported that the game agency wanted to eliminate mute swans and replace them with trumpeters. When

Manlius' mayor objected, the game agency said the remaining four mute swans would have to be kept from reproducing surgically, or only all males or all females would be allowed to stay in the pond.

The frightening truth is that BOW's purpose is to eliminate mutes entirely from the NY environment.

Mute swans have lived in our country since the mid-1800s. They bring immense pleasure

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MUTE SWANS: BAD (Translation: They **can't** be hunted)

TRUMPETER SWANS: GOOD (Translation: They **can** be hunted) *Continued from Page 8*

and peace to their many admirers, which Manlius' residents can vouch for. Yet, BOW wants mute swans eliminated and replaced with trumpeter swans who will remain aloof, migrate, and can be hunted without causing the same stir.

BOW'S ARGUMENTS

BOW's arguments are that mute swans are aggressive; uproot submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV); degrade waters; and aren't native.

While they claim that mute swans are aggressive toward native birds, they fail to mention that aggression only occurs when they are protecting their nests and young, as would be the case with any species. **Isn't it then puzzling to suggest replacing mutes with trumpeter swans whose aggression would have a greater impact as they are larger and heavier than mutes?** In fact, trumpeters are the largest waterfowl in the world with wingspans that average 6 feet; there are even reports of trumpeters with 10 foot wingspans. (That's exactly why hunters like to kill them as trophies.)

In the Manlius article, BOW claims that mutes forage and uproot submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) important for many native fish and wildlife species. **Isn't it then puzzling to suggest replacing mutes with trumpeters, as trumpeters require even more SAV and have longer necks to dig deeper than mutes?**

BOW further claims that mutes have potential impacts on

native plants and wildlife, they conflict with human interests, degrade waters used for drinking, swimming or shell fishing, and, if that's not enough, they pose direct threats to human health and safety. One would think that there's no more dangerous species on the planet than the mute swan. **Isn't it then puzzling to suggest replacing mutes with trumpeters when all of these terrible threats to the environment that BOW claims are caused by the mute swan would apply even more so to the trumpeter swan, the largest aquatic bird in the world?**

IN A NUTSHELL

Mutes are seen as a detriment to increasing trumpeter swan populations throughout the state as they occupy the areas where trumpeters could be. In fact BOW's game managers have actually euthanized mutes in NYS.

Mutes don't make a good "game" species in that they don't migrate. They tend to become permanent residents of parks and areas with a human population.

They're anathema to game agents as they attract human fans who keep a watchful eye on them. That's not what game managers want. To have hunting, the birds need to fly and definitely should not have a fan club that would be shocked and infuriated by seeing them shot.

In BOW's effort to replace mutes with trumpeters, BOW needs to remove public sympathy. But neither mute swans nor the public will allow that.

Wildlife Watch urges Manlius to continue to protect the mute swan and continue to oppose BOW's outrageous demands. **ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!**

UNDERSTANDING THE GOAL OF SWAN MANAGEMENT

BOW's obsession with ridding Manlius of mute swans and "replacing" them with trumpeters only makes sense when viewed through the lens of "waterfowl management" meaning the management of waterfowl for hunting.

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"Bookend" Trumpeter Swans

PHOTO © JIM ROBERTSON

MUTE SWANS: BAD (Translation: They **can't** be hunted)

TRUMPETER SWANS: GOOD (Translation: They **can** be hunted) *Continued from Page 9*

As mentioned above, I have attended five waterfowl management meetings that included swan management. It's where I first learned that there were, and still are, efforts underway to turn the trumpeter into a game (hunnable) species for the benefit of those who are clamoring to kill them.

"Flyway" meetings are held throughout the country to bring waterfowl managers together from various states along a flyway [Zoom may be used now] to haggle over hunting seasons and bag limits (the number of birds a hunter can kill). One special interest group consists of managers who solely focus on trumpeter swan hunting.

CREATING A "GAME" SPECIES

BOW in NY works with other states to bring the trumpeter swan to a point of sufficient population to allow hunting to begin. Currently, nine states have trumpeter swan hunting: Alaska, Nevada, North Carolina, Virginia, Delaware, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and Idaho.

Turning a species into a "game species" (one that can be hunted) can be a decades-long process of removing natural predators, habitat manipulation, and putting laws and regulations into effect that would eventually lead to the conditions required for hunting. Even beavers are used to create and expand wetlands for waterfowl. In keeping with the game managers lack of concern for individual wild animals, once the beavers have done their job, BOW sic traps on them.

SNAFUS TO BE OVERCOME

IS IT A TUNDRA OR TRUMPETER?

While tundra swan hunting is legal in many states, trumpeter swan hunting isn't. In order for states to implement hunting seasons on trumpeters, the population has to increase. What do you do when trumpeters and tundra swans fly together and look similar?

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) decided to "educate swan hunters" about how to recognize the difference so they could avoid hunting trumpeters in states where it's still illegal.

Instead of protecting both species from hunters, the FWS ask hunters to notice that the trumpeter has a straight bill, while the tundra swan's bill is slightly



curved. Even if hunters wanted to accommodate the law, it is an impossible task. Even the most diligent hunter would not be able to distinguish the species based on the bill curve while the birds are flying at a distance. This distinction is both laughable and shocking, but speaks to the basic indifference to even their "conservation" goals.

If a state wants to allow the hunting of trumpeters, the species needs to be removed from the state's threatened species list. While for C.A.S.H. it's nothing to celebrate, that has just occurred in Ohio. Here's Governor DeWine's announcement: The delisting culminates a 28-year effort by the ODNR Division of Wildlife to restore a population of trumpeter swans in Ohio. Please see the link below and understand what it means.

[Governor Dewine Announces Trumpeter Swans Removed From Threatened Species List](#)

GAME AGENCIES' OBSESSION WITH HUNTING

To understand wildlife management's obsession with hunting to the exclusion of, say, wildlife watching, we have to know that this small government entity is supported by the excise tax on firearms and ammunition, and hunting license sales.

To understand how obsessive and horrific swan hunting is, please see this [video](#). For more information, see our former articles here:

[Wildlife Watch Comments on the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's \(DEC\) Third Draft Plan for Mute Swan Management in New York](#)

[The Voice of the Mute Swan](#)

You can also search on our website for "mute swans." abolishsporthunting.org

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MUTE SWANS: BAD (Translation: They **can't** be hunted)

TRUMPETER SWANS: GOOD (Translation: They **can** be hunted) *Continued from Page 10*

DEMONIZING MUTE SWANS WORKS

To demonize mute swans, game agencies often work with local government and homeowner associations as you will see in this [video](#) that was provided to **Karen Stamper** who works to protect mute swans in Michigan.

Karen Stamper wrote on May 6, 2024:

The Lake Doster Home Owner Association (HOA) in Gun Plain Township MI, had a pair of docile mute swans shot and killed on their lake, and no rules were followed regarding permitting or notifying the residents on the lake. A few people filed police reports, but are afraid to speak up because they are afraid of the HOA bullies and losing privileges on the lake.

*The HOA did not notify any members that this was going to happen and that there would be people shooting swans on the lake while people were on it, or on their docks, etc. The kids were also home from school that day. 2 people were having their morning coffee and watching the birds like they do every morning and had witnessed the shootings. **The first swan was run over by the boat and then shot 2 or 3 times. Unfortunately, you cannot see the man on his dock right in the direction of where the shooters were shooting the swans.***

Karen has shared many photos of mutes who've been run down by wreckreational boaters, hit with firecrackers, and shot. That, in addition to the deliberate killing of mutes by game agents!



Mute Mom Protecting Her Babies

PHOTO © KAREN STAMPER

Karen often does FOIA requests to expose the swan abuse that she witnesses every day. She wrote:

*I have a few FOIAs out there. **They wanted over \$1000 for one**, because I asked them how many mute swans were removed in 2022 & 2023 for human-swan conflicts and wanted to know if those reports were investigated before the swans were removed. I also wanted to know how they were disposed of and I also wanted the current Mute Swan count. They told me it would take a lot of man hours to locate the information.*

I tell you, for a government agency trying to eradicate an entire species of swan, you would think they would have all this info at their fingertips.

You can reach Karen here if you would like to help or report mute swan killing or abuse.
karenstamper2022@gmail.com

FUN AND GAMES WITH AR-15s

An unwelcome side-effect of lowering the hunting age is that firearms manufacturers, as well as companies that sell "skins" and paints for covering plain old AR-15s, are cashing in on the demand for colorful AR-15s by female hunters, and young hunters and their parents. Shockingly, AR-15s are sold in baby blue and pink or you can make your own designs for these lethal weapons. Google "Pink AR-15" to see what pops up. And check out this link to enter another world.

[Built my daughter an AR-15. It's VERY Pink...](#)



©Stock

PEREGRINE FALCON

Painting and text by Barry Kent MacKay

When I was a kid the Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) was known here in North America by the rather unfortunate name, “Duck Hawk”. The name was misleading because the species is not a hawk, but a falcon, and had no special affinity for eating ducks, although Peregrine Falcons generally do consume a lot of birds, including ducks, geese and swans. **In those days these birds were often targeted by hunters who assumed that every Peregrine Falcon shot meant that the number of ducks or other “game” birds that bird would eat would thereafter survive to be available for them to hunt.** At one time all the falcons, hawks, eagles, owls, and other birds of prey were deemed “competitors” for “game” birds, and also, in those days when poultry was all free range, hawks and owls were seen as threats to farming profits and many species of raptor were colloquially named “chicken hawks”. **When acts were passed to protect migratory birds shared by Canada and the U.S., the birds of prey were left off, although each province and state could, if it chose to, enact its own protective legislation – or not.**

But by far the greater risk to the Peregrine Falcon’s survival was the invention and widespread use of Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane, better known as DDT, an organochlorine insecticide that, following World War II, was widely and usually indiscriminately used to kill insects and other arthropods. The bioaccumulation of organochlorines in the fat of birds led to a reduction of calcium available for eggshells. Not only could falcon eggs have shells too weak to be viable, collapsing under the weight of the incubating bird, so were the eggs of some of their avian prey species, for the same reason. It took a ban on DDT to allow the recovery of populations of many avian apex predators, including pelicans, Ospreys, eagles and cormorants, many of which by then were listed as endangered.

In cities Peregrines often prey extensively on Rock Pigeons (*Columba livia*), the common, feral “pigeon” of urban environments everywhere. Both the falcons and the pigeons, in natural settings, may nest on



PHOTO AND PAINTING © BARRY KENT MACKAY

cliff ledges, and the ledges of buildings make a fine substitute for both species, although the falcons prefer nesting high up on skyscrapers, with long sightlines, while pigeons nest at lower heights, even in underground parking garages.

Peregrines are apparently the fastest species in the world, with the reported top speed in a dive being 389 km per hour, or about 242 mph. Only we, with machines, can go faster, and since the birds are highly maneuverable, they capture much of their prey in flight. But they may also take other prey, including lemmings and other small mammals, up to fox or hard size, reptiles, even large insects, on the ground.

This painting, approximately life size, is in oils on compressed hardboard and is 24 by 18 inches in size.

Barry Kent MacKay is a bird artist and illustrator. Learn more about him and his work, please visit: barry-mackay.pixels.com, fineartamerica.com/profiles/barry-mackay. He can be emailed at mimus@sympatico.ca.

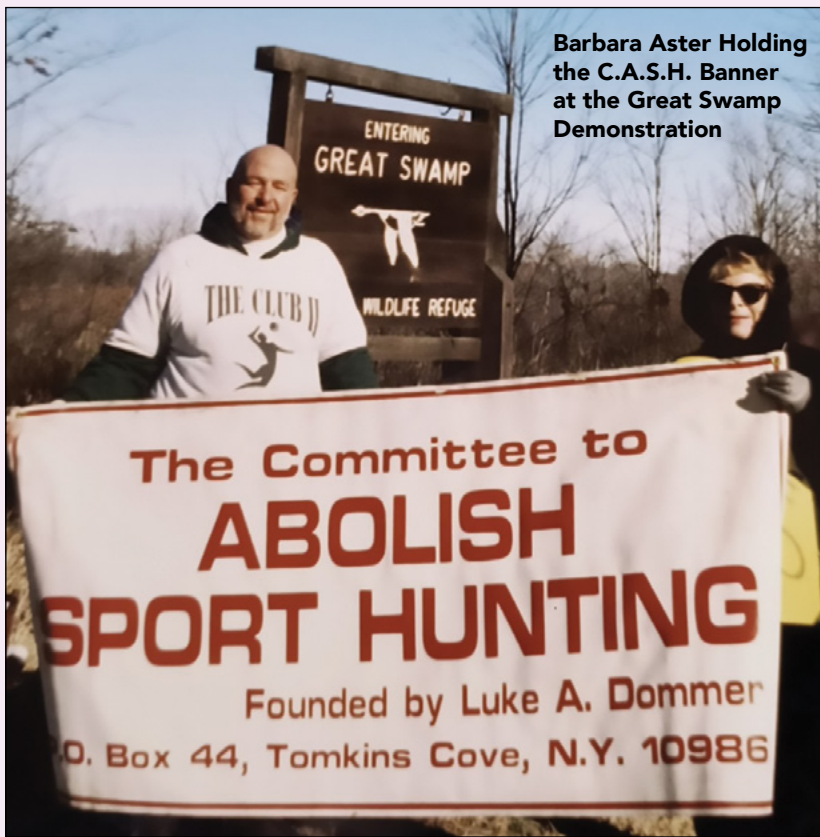
BARBARA ASTER

Barbara served as the treasurer of the Committee to Abolish Sport Hunting (C.A.S.H.) since 1994. She had been an original and strong supporter of C.A.S.H. until the end. Barbara loved wildlife and abhorred hunting, and participated in the many demonstrations that were held at the Great Swamp in NJ to stop their hunting program. Later, she participated in demonstrations at Ringwood State Park in NJ to stop the Canada goose killing at their lake.

Barbara rescued Sadie, her beloved pet white dove. She took Sadie with her wherever she traveled. Sadie was only caged during drives, other than that, she had free rein of the house and hotel rooms.

Both Barbara and her mother were generous supporters of C.A.S.H. from the time Luke Dommer formed the organization in 1986, and she continued her support after Luke's death in 1992.

Barbara's passing came as a shock shortly before our annual meeting in 2023. We will miss Barbara and her love of all animals; and we are confident that she and Luke have met again at Rainbow Bridge.



Barbara Aster Holding the C.A.S.H. Banner at the Great Swamp Demonstration



SADIE EVELYN RASMUSSEN

Sadie Evelyn Rasmussen, was a longtime C.A.S.H. member who loved wild animals. Her obituary in *The Seattle Times* shows her holding a lion cub. C.A.S.H. is extremely grateful to Sadie for her generous support of our organization. We were sorry to hear about her passing, and will always cherish her and her work on behalf of wild animals.

ASK Uncle Jim



By Jim Robertson

GOT A QUESTION FOR UNCLE JIM? You can e-mail it to: 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 Uncle Jim,

Although I don't have anything against any other kind of weapon a hunter chooses, I myself use a black powder rifle when I hunt for whitetail deer or black bear. Lately the game department in my state has been thinking about allowing people with modern rifles or shotguns to be able to hunt along with muzzle-loaders like myself, who up until now, had been given our own special season. To keep it more sporting, would C.A.S.H consider joining us in opposing modern rifles during black powder or archery seasons?

Dale Clements,
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Dale,
Sorry, but C.A.S.H. doesn't take sides between one weapon-wielding group and another. As far as we're concerned, it's all unnecessary killing. Just because "primitive" weapons, like bows and arrows, crossbows or single-shot black powder rifles are less accurate (and possibly less likely to result in a quick, "clean" kill) certainly doesn't make them preferable to us...or the deer, elk, bear or whatever victim you're seeking to bring down for that matter. At the same time, the fact that modern, high-powered rifles can be more accurate, does not mean the Committee to Abolish Sport Hunting will argue its merits either. To be accurate, a shooter must be calm and unhurried (which often is not the case when a trophy animal is in their range of fire—hence the high numbers of hunting accidents, which include countless mortally wounded animals who scamper off and die somewhere—

never to be discovered, before their carcass begins to rot).

I personally know black powder as well as archery hunters who have wounded deer and watched them flee without a trace (except possibly a blood trail). A bowhunter, whom I worked with in Montana, said he was up in a tree stand and had a clear shot, but the arrow went clear through the deer which ran out of sight and was never recovered. A black powder hunter (who happened to be my old high school track coach) approached the trail crew I was working with and asked us if we'd seen a wounded deer around there? At least he was able to eventually locate the deer he'd shot, but not until sometime the next day. Meanwhile, I'll never forget the modern rifle hunter who bragged to me that he got off a couple of good "sound shots" that day. You can't be too accurate if all you're shooting at is a rusting in the bushes...

*Dear Uncle Jim,
As a hunter, I'm a firm believer in motto of non-interference; in letting nature take its course as much as possible. On the other hand, I notice that some animal protection groups seem to want to help every animal they can, no matter whether its species is endangered or not. What do you think about the idea of stepping in to save an animal any time it needs help?*

Ted Schlumberger,
Salem, Oregon

Dear Ted,

It depends on the situation. Recently, my wife and I found ourselves in one of those situations when we knew we needed to step

in and lend a hand. It was 6:00 a.m. when our yellow lab, Honey, let us know that it was time for a break in our travels so we pulled into a practically deserted shopping center parking lot. Of course, nearly every square inch of land was paved over, leaving only a tiny strip of greenery for Honey to do her business. To our surprise, out of the bushes marched a mother mallard and her entourage of day-old ducklings.

While she confidently led them out across the barren asphalt in search of water, we feared for their safety. One wrong turn would take them into the middle of a four-lane highway. Mother mallard continuously quacked encouragement to keep the kids moving, but they undoubtedly needed our help in stopping traffic along the way to a small pond at the opposite side of the lot.

The ducklings were tiring and had difficulty ascending the final curb barrier. We had to give some of them the final boost they needed so they could catch up, but they happily tumbled through the grass to join the others at the welcome pool below. Their mother savored a long, celebratory drink from the pond, while her youngsters—though they'd never seen water before—took to it instantly as though feeling right at home.

Across the country, ever more shopping centers and parking lots are being built on top of drained wetlands and other important wildlife habitats. Although we may feel powerless to stop urban sprawl, at least we can sometimes be in the right place at the right time to help a few individual animals.

C.A.S.H. CATALOG

A Voice in the Wilderness

Videotape approximately
20 minutes.

\$12.00 and \$8 for
members.

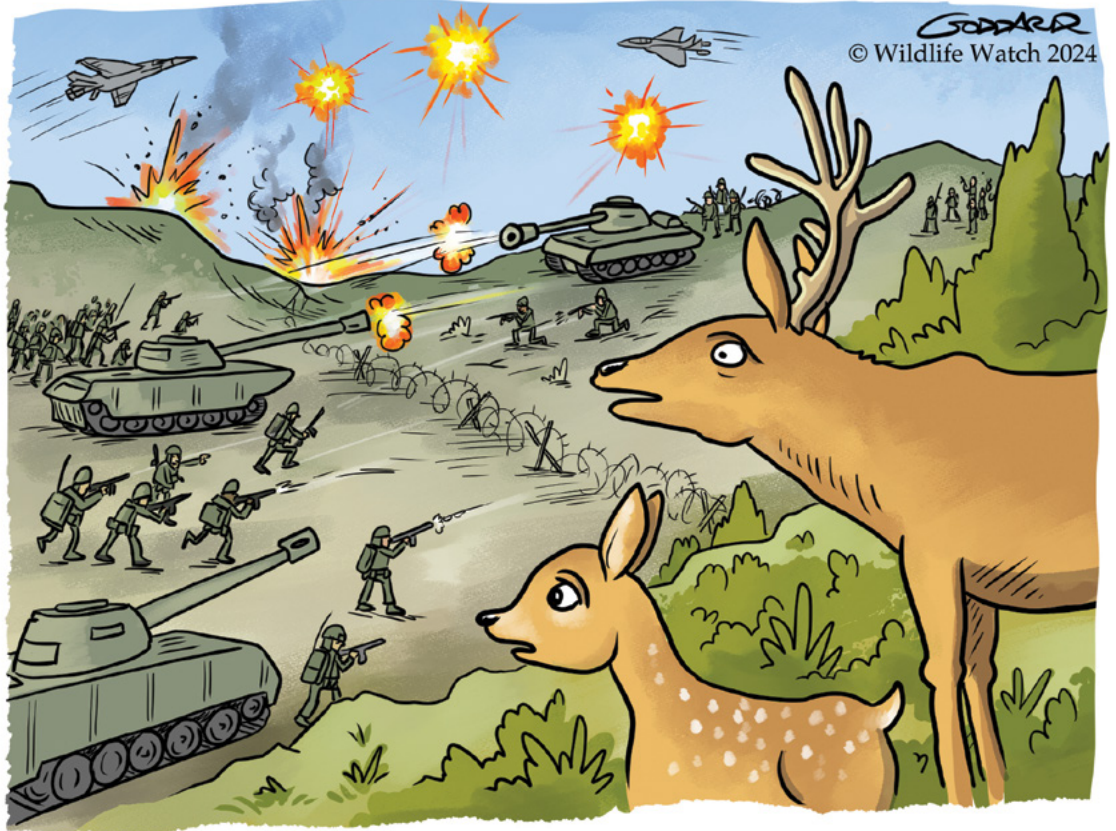


Luke Dommer

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
donated by Nancy
Gordon, founder of the
former audio-visual
company, HAVE.

HUMOR

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



ARTWORK ©WILDLIFE WATCH, COURTESY OF CLIVE GODDARD

"It might look like a barbaric tradition, son, but it's
necessary to control their numbers."

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.). Please include Wildlife Watch Inc. in your Will or Trust, and/or make Wildlife Watch one of the beneficiaries of your life insurance policy.
- ✓ 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.

*C.A.S.H. is grateful to
the Mary T. and Frank L.
Hoffman Family Foundation
for hosting the
C.A.S.H. website.*

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