



FAWN



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THE WILD SIDE

Slader Buck, NMFWA President



resource and his accomplishments for the

The Association lost a fellow colleague, a mentor and a good friend last month with the passing of Larry Adams. I encourage each of you to take a minute and think of Larry, his commitment to the

Association. We will not forget him. The Association has established an Endowment Fund in memory of Larry. There is information on this elsewhere in this FAWN.

Larry predicted challenge and change for us as professionals, and for the Association, and he was eager to face them. An issue he was concerned with, and one that is ongoing, has been our recognition:

professionally as individuals and for the resource as a whole. Both have been discussed previously in this column. One aspect, the recent rise in importance and emphasis on 'environmental' has left many resources personnel feeling that natural resources is not being treated with equal importance.

This is evident when we see the rapid growth in funding for 'environmental' programs. While almost no one would discount the importance of these programs, their growth does not discount the importance of natural resources programs. Why so much emphasis on 'environmental'? One reason is that many people can more easily understand (=see) the effects of, say, an oil spill instead of the slow degradation of habitat. And, as is often said for environmental problems; "Because the Commander can go to jail for that." This was emphasized by the Aberdeen case. Although nobody went to jail, the point was not lost. It got attention and action followed.

O.K. Out of frustration, and out of a recognition that maybe this is what it is going to take, some of us have stated - as bad as it may sound - "What we need is the natural resources equivalent of an 'Aberdeen'."

Well, we got it. 'We', meaning DoD. As many of you know, and will hear more about soon, three civilian employees at Fort Benning have been indicted on charges of conspiring to violate the Endangered Species Act.

I'm sure everyone will be following this closely. And Rumor Control will be out of control until this issue is settled. However, it is critically important to remember that within our system of justice, we assume and individual is innocent until proven guilty. I trust that Association members believe in this spirit of our laws.

Whatever the outcome of what may come to be known as the 'Benning Case', I see - in the long run - it will be beneficial for DoD natural resources. At the very least, it will remind decision makers that the Endangered Species Act has teeth (or fangs, however you want to put it..). It will focus more attention on the natural resources side of the 'house' and it just may result in additional funding to allow us to do the job of accomplishing the mission AND preserving natural resources.

It always seems that the good times go by too fast. It has been two years since I was fortunate to be elected your President. In just a few weeks Tom Wray will take

over. I look forward to continuing to assist the Association in any way I can. I thank you for your support - and I offer special thanks to those unrecognized (not unrecognizable) folk who, behind the scenes, stood up for us when it mattered.

Due to the dedication and continued hard work of Association members we offer (to name just a few) excellent Training Workshops, a one-of-kind law enforcement training session tailored to DoD needs, and a timely communication source via the FAWN. The new 'As I See It' column is another example of our efforts to improve communication. If it seems like I am tooting my own horn, no, I am tooting theirs - the Board of Directors and Committee chairs (and members) - they did the work; they deserve the credit. And, with your help, its going to get better. Among other things, we are working towards publishing the papers from our Training Workshop in a professional peer reviewed format.

This publication will provide benefits both for you and the Association, not the least of which is the opportunity to plop it down in front of some Doubting Thomas the next time he asks just what good the Association does.

Lastly, I'd like to echo what Larry Adams said in his last Wild Side in the January 1990 issue of the FAWN. I can't say it better that he did. We need to "dream new dreams" for the Association. Larry did. He succeeded. We can too.

I hope to see everyone at the Training Workshop. Slader Buck

EULOGY FOR LARRY D. ADAMS

It has been just over four and one half years since I first came to work for the Department of Navy. Not really knowing what to expect after working with the U.S. Forest Service, I was initiated with enthusiasm and expectations from one of the most notable wildlife biologists I have ever known. I have never before met a person who could exhibit such a ferocious tenacity for a principle that he truly believed in. When it came to the commitment and devotion to the resource Larry Dale Adams stood with few peers.

On February 4, 1992 the wildlife community and those of us who knew Larry lost an advocate and good friend. Larry passed away at home after a prolonged illness. To those who were around him at this time he exhibited great courage. Even in the face of adversity he was able to look forward

with a positive attitude. I will never forget his desire to make a difference with those around him and his devotion to our natural resources. Larry's life and home revealed the love of the wild that he cherished greatly.

Larry's career with the Department of Defense spanned nearly 15 years with the Army and Navy. Larry was an active member of The Wildlife Society, both the National and State organizations, and the National Military Fish and Wildlife Association, where he served as vice president, president from 1988 to 1990, and was current past president. His career with the Department of Defense, started at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He later moved to the Naval Air Station, Patuxent River, Maryland and then to the Naval Facilities Engineering Command in Norfolk, Virginia. His career ended at Army Headquarters in Fort Belvoir, Virginia as the Army's chief wildlife biologist. He often made decisions that were not always the most popular, but he once said to me that each of us must stand up for our beliefs because few will do it for us.

Born April 16, 1952 in a small farming community in rural Arkansas, Larry would often describe his love for the outdoors. He often told stories of duck hunting in the marshes and catfishing the Mississippi backwaters with his family. I have had the great pleasure to venture with Larry on many an outing where the natural resource was the center of discussion. His commitment was unparalleled. To anyone who knew Larry and worked with him, he carried his passion to the end. It is with much remorse that I realize what Larry's passing will mean to me. He was a true friend. We will miss Larry and all that he has done for natural resources and the Association. Larry played a major role in forging the direction of the Association from the conception to current status. His support was immense. He was a force that can never be replaced.

His passing will be remembered by each one of us that knew and worked with Larry. It is our fond wish that the wind that brings the waterfowl to the marshes will beckon a gentle breeze across his memory. Jeff Bossart

NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION ACT GRANTS

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act set up a system of grants for wetland conservation projects. A Grant Application Instruction booklet outlines the specifics for obtaining funding. Proposals are due 1

April and 1 August for FY 1993 funding.

The Association will have a copy of the booklet available for review at our Training Workshop, or you may obtain a copy by contacting the North American Wetlands Conservation Council Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington Square Building, Room 340, 4401 N. Fairfax Dr., Arlington, VA 22203 (703) 358-1784; FAX (703) 358 2282

TELECONFERENCE ON HUNTING

A national teleconference on Wildlife Conservation and the Hunting Tradition will be offered on April 7th. The purpose of the teleconference will be to examine the growing controversy surrounding recreational sport hunting. A panel of nationally recognized authorities on both sides of the issue, including Laurence Jahn, Raymond Dasmann and several members of Congress will be involved.

The conference will be available through the satellite downlink facility of the National University Teleconference Network (NUTN) and the Community College Satellite Network (CCSN). Audience members will be able to participate via two way audio.

For more information contact: Jeffery Gritzner, Director, Public Policy Institute, The University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812-1018. (406) 243-5626; FAX (406) 243-4067.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT SHORT COURSE

Colorado State University is offering a one week short course in Wildlife Management. The course, which offers a broad overview of wildlife and fisheries management, will be held during the week of 6-10 April 1992. It is designed for lay people and agency personnel with non-wildlife training. Although it may not be applicable for professionally trained individuals, it is beneficial for planners, engineers, and I&E personnel.

For further information contact Conference Services, Wildlife Short Courses, Rockwell Hall, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523. (303) 491-7501; FAX (303) 491-5091.

ENDOWMENT FUND

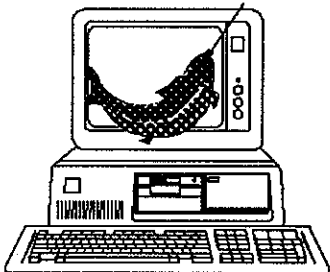
The passing of former National Military Fish and Wildlife Association President Larry Adams represents a major loss to the conservation community and our Association.

Rather than flowers, etc. being sent to mark his passing, Larry wished that donations be made to the Association.

Establishment of an Endowment Fund in memory of Larry is currently receiving considerable attention and will be one of several major topics of discussion at the upcoming Board of Directors (BOD) meeting on Sunday, 29 March 1992. We will be discussing the selection of a Board of Trustees, separate from the Association BOD, to govern the fund. Persons interested in helping to establish the fund and in defining its objectives should plan on attending the BOD meeting or communicate with their At-Large Director before the meeting.

Once established, individuals or groups may make personal, tax-deductible donations to the fund. During the interim, a special savings account has been opened in the name of Thomas Wray II to receive donations. Until further notice, please forward any donations on behalf of Larry to Thomas Wray at Route AO2, 530 Pinecrest Lane, Newburg, MD 20664. *Thomas Wray II*

FISHERY INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS



Fishery Information Management Systems, Inc. (FIMS) is a small business concern that provides professional assistance to fishery, forestry, and wildlife

biologists and managers. Since 1986, FIMS has entered into contracts with 24 different government and private organizations in the United States and four foreign governments. In 1991, FIMS developed a cooperative work agreement with Auburn University's Department of Fisheries and Allied Aquaculture. Through this agreement, FIMS now serves as the primary investigative unit on a commercial mussel project and a state-wide fish consumption survey.

FIMS provides professional assistance or field personnel through service contracts, or continuing education services through its Fisheries Technical Services Cooperative (FTSC). At the present time, FIMS has service contracts with Alabama Power Company, the American Fisheries Society, South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department, Tennessee Valley

Authority, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, and the Aquatic Ecology Laboratory at Auburn University. The current members of the FTSC are Alabama Power Company, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, and Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

Service contracts are developed when FIMS provides specific input on a program or a research project. FIMS has in-house expertise in the following areas: survey and experimental designs for biological, nutritional, recreational and socioeconomic assessments of aquatic resources; quality control measures for data entry and data base management; statistical analyses of data through SAS (Statistical Analysis System) programs written to project specifications; age and growth analyses of fish populations using otoliths or scales; desk-top-video productions; and natural resource education programs for school age children (K through 12) and the general public.

The FTSC is designed primarily for organizations or groups that have ongoing technical or continuing education needs. Memberships in the FTSC are renewed annually. FTSC members can purchase one or all of the following program options: age and growth analyses of fish populations; biostatistical services; continuing education workshops. Currently, FIMS provides workshops on the following topics: Sport Fishery Assessment and Creel Surveys; Use of Microcomputers for Data Management and Analysis; Electrofishing; Age and Growth of Fish; Statistics for Fishery Managers; Fish Stock Structure and Condition Indices; the Fish Health Assessment Index (HAI); and Integrating the Public into Management Goals and Objectives. In 1991, FIMS personnel presented 13 workshops; workshops ranged from 1.5 to 3 days in length. FIMS will develop workshops on additional topics upon request.

If you would like more information about FIMS, contact Mike Hudgins toll free at 1-800-659-8160 or care of FIMS, 500 Dumas Drive, Auburn, AL 36830.

"AS I SEE IT"

Looking Professional

Points offered last issue concerning neat appearance and appropriate attire were well taken. We, as biologists, should strive to present ourselves in a professional manner. However, I disagree with the notion that we

should strive to "look like" other professionals. Yes, biologists are often easily picked out in a crowd with their facial hair, unique attire, and longish hair. This appearance does not represent a profession, but individuals. A certain, special type of individual devotes their life to wildlife/fisheries conservation. Things click a little bit differently for them than for others. This difference is sometimes reflected in their general overall appearance. Is this wrong or unacceptable?

As one who wears his hair long, often sports a beard, and doesn't own a 3-piece suit, the notion of looking like "someone else" is unappealing. Become a clone? I'll take a rain check. Let's concentrate on substance and not judge a book by its cover. *Thomas Wray II*

NMFWA MEMBER RESPONSE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

A preliminary tabulation of the responses to the questionnaire included with the September 1991 FAWN was received from William Sigler. Twenty-one law enforcement officers on military installations responded to the questionnaire. He summarized the results as follows:

Educational requirements were as follows: 38 percent require a high school graduate; 5 percent, two years of college; 33 percent a college degree; and 24 percent a B.S. degree in liberal education. One to three years experience is required for 30 percent of the law enforcement personnel. All are required to enforce more than just wildlife laws. Time spent on duty is as follows: management, 24 percent; public relations, 29 percent; law enforcement 47 percent.

Peace officers make up 59 percent of the personnel, 67 percent are protected by civil service. Women make up 4.8 percent of the field forces. Personnel did not carry firearms on only ten percent of the bases. On those that did, the choices were the 9 millimeter automatic pistol, 50 percent; 45 colt automatic, 27 percent; 38 special, 17 percent; and the .357 magnum revolver, 6 percent. Seventy-two percent of the officers wore uniforms all of the time on duty and 28 percent part of the time.

The problems as viewed by military wildlife law enforcement personnel are a bit difficult to categorize. They include lack of cooperation between state and federal agencies and the military, heavy pressure use, no training for patrolmen in natural

resources, the judicial system does not back up the laws, illegal import/export trade, need for base commander support, lack of funds and low pay, and lack of ethics on the part of sportsmen.

One respondent, stating that he was speaking on behalf of himself and not the Department of Defense (in one sense all respondents are), said that wildlife law enforcement problems are physically in the hands of the security or military. There should be an agreement between the Fish and Wildlife Service and the DoD in both enforcement and training but to date this has not happened. One game warden supervisor stated that under DoD, police wardens have full arrest authority for violation of all laws occurring on the installation. However, each military installation handles their wildlife law enforcement differently. Some installations have civilian natural resource personnel also doing wildlife enforcement work. Other installations have military law personnel assigned to wildlife law enforcement. In other words there is no clear cut standard in the DoD for the hiring or administration of wildlife law enforcement officers. From the DoD perspective there is a need to establish clear cut requirements for the hiring and training of wildlife enforcement personnel. At present there are no clear guidelines and the level of competency varies greatly from installation to installation. *William Sigler*

PEST MANAGEMENT - FOR THE BIRDS?

Early each spring, an overpowering primordial calling prompts thousands upon thousands of swallows to begin their ancient journey north, into Canada and across the central provinces to Quebec, northward through the Yukon and into central Alaska. From countries as far south as Brazil, Chile and Argentina they come, devouring tons and tons of insects enroute, to stop only when the instinctive yearning has ceased its incredible beckoning. Here they nest, raising their young and feed on the abundance of food maintained for them by Mother Nature, until fall, when they return to their winter homes again to prepare for spring's mass exodus.



One of the species, the Cliff Swallow,

Petrochelidon pyrrhonota, is identified as a special concern. Their original nesting sites were cliffs and walls of canyons with vertical banks. However, structures built by man have increased the number and distribution of accessible nesting sites, and it is here that the cliff swallow has come into conflict with man. They attach wall staining mud nests freely to homes, industrial, recreational, and office buildings. Ectoparasites abound. The northern fowl mite, *Ornithonyssus sylviarum*, fleas *Sarcophagus petrochenidoni*, bird lice *Mallophaga* and the swallow bug *Oeciacus vicarius* have all been attributed to the swallows presence, and these parasitic creatures will enter buildings if allowed to do so. To further widen the rift between man and swallow, the birds defecate freely, scattering their feces over government and personal property, staining, discoloring, and occasionally "hitting" the occupants themselves. As such, the possibility of disease transmission increases significantly, with psittacosis and salmonellosis heading the list, to say nothing of morale problems associated with such an arrangement.

All things considered (to include insect depredation), it remains a sound policy to separate the cliff swallow from man, providing alternative nesting sites if possible - forcing the majority of these birds back into their natural nesting areas.

From the pest management perspective then - easier said than done! Historical documentation (1978-1990) here at Fort Greely, Alaska, when assembled and studied, reflects the following:

Deters Nesting

- Nest removal
- Exclusion (includes netting)
- Substrate modification
- Future architectural design
- Habitat modification
- Alternative nesting (Paper mache nests)
- Mechanical repellent (Nixalite)

No effect on nesting or illegal

- Chemical repellents
- Chemical toxicants
- Trapping
- Shooting
- Frightening devices
- Ultrasonic devices
- Alternative nesting (Most designs)

As you can see, those steps that deter

nesting are relatively expensive to implement and/or are labor intensive, and even then, good swallow control is never guaranteed. Additionally, the swallow is protected species, covered under agreements between the U.S., Mexico, Great Britain, Japan and the U.S.S.R., dating from 1918 to present. Therefore, any control measures must not harm the swallow or depredate the eggs or fledglings.

A newly found alternative to expensive control came through a recommendation based on information received from Richard Griffiths, a wildlife biologist with the Army Environmental Hygiene Agency, Aberdeen Proving Ground Maryland. Rick recommended experimentation using monofilament fishing line as a nesting deterrent. Such research, I am told, has been ongoing for some time against pigeons, starlings and other birds with good results. He felt that this system could possibly be adapted for use with swallows.

In April and May of 1991, specific areas on Fort Greely were protected using a locally fabricated, modified, monofilament system. One inch wide slats were cut from 1/4 inch plywood. Holes, 0.063 inches in diameter, were staggered and drilled on a random basis, averaging 8, 10, and 12 inch intervals. Through these holes then, 3 to 4 foot monofilament lengths were knotted at one end, then drawn through the holes to be left "dangling." These "penny's a foot" 8 foot slats were then expeditiously installed through the birds flyway into their proposed nesting areas by nailing (on wood) or using a spot adhesive on concrete. With breezes gently moving the hard-to-see spiraling monofilament, this "net-like" barrier became too much for the swallows and they abandoned these selected test areas in around 24 hours.

Not being an ornithologist, I can only speculate, based upon my observation, as to why the system works so well. It appears that the birds cannot readily see or perceive the presence of the monofilament, especially since I installed it against a light background. Its constant swaying with the wind and its placement into the flyway of the nesting area further insures contact by the confused birds. Lastly, it would seem that an abrupt collision with the unforeseen monofilament obstacle would trigger an immediate motor reaction in the swallow, further stressing the bird. All combined, this inexpensive and quickly installed system rendered prime nesting areas immediately undesirable.

Field experimentation with the monofilament

system continues. Considerations: 5 pound monofilament strength versus 60 pound (smaller diameter, harder to see); using treated slats or painting slats for durability and to match the treated area; using no slats at all - simply stapling the monofilament to the overhang of the area to be protected; different colors of monofilament (clear monofilament against a dark background will not work well. The birds can apparently see the "fishing line" and fly around it); weatherability of the monofilament; length of monofilament used; monofilament tangling in high winds; 1/8 inch or thinner slat material to promote quicker installation; two rows of slats as opposed to only one row; etc.

Eventually, research and field experimentation should yield an inexpensive swallow repellent system, quickly installed and aesthetically pleasing. Such a system would return the cliff swallow to it's native habitat and would significantly contribute to an environmentally sound and socially acceptable policy of peaceful coexistence - the way nature intended. Thomas Lassek

References

- Salmon, Terrell P. and Warner P. Gorenzel. 1983. Cliff Swallows. Univ. Nebraska, Lincoln.
- Kerns, Junior D. 1978. Swallow management program. Fort Greely, Alaska.
- Lassek, Thomas E. 1990. Information Paper, Swallows. Pest Control Shop, Fort Greely, Alaska.
- "Nixalite." Nixalite of America, East Moline, Illinois.

MAILING ADDRESS UPDATE

As the Association membership grows, it becomes harder for the Secretary/Treasurer to keep track of everyone, especially since with have several pairs of members whose names differ only by their middle initials. In addition to members changing jobs and locations, many of their phone numbers have changed. In order to update the Association records and to find out if you are still interested in receiving the FAWN, please complete the form below and return it to the Secretary/Treasurer: Commander; Yuma Proving Ground; ATTN: STEYP-ES-E; Yuma. AZ 85365-9102.

IF WE DO NOT HEAR FROM YOU, WE WILL ASSUME THAT YOU EITHER DID NOT RECEIVE THIS FAWN OR THAT YOU ARE NO LONGER INTERESTED IN THE ASSOCIATION. THEREFORE, PLEASE FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS FORM TODAY!!

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