

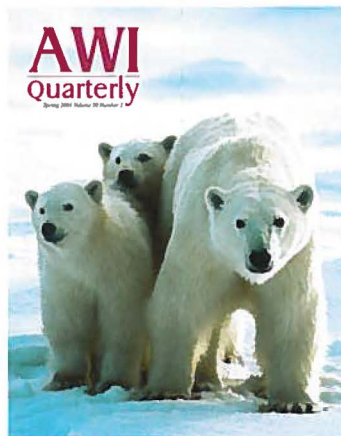
# AWI

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# Quarterly

*Spring 2001 Volume 50 Number 2*





#### ABOUT THE COVER

Polar bears are jeopardized by poaching and environmental contaminations such as toxic oil spills. They may suffer irreparably from melting polar ice caps triggered by global warming. Along with numerous other species, they could be in trouble in Alaska specifically if the Bush Administration and some Members of Congress succeed in opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling. Grizzly bears are similarly at risk from habitat loss, collapsing salmon stocks, and poaching for their body parts. In British Columbia, Canada, an absence of reliable grizzly population data led the Environmental Investigation Agency to wage a successful campaign against over-hunting there, persuading the Canadian Province's Premier to institute a three-year moratorium on grizzly hunting. Photographed by Daniel J. Cox/naturalexposures.com. (See stories on pages 10-11).

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## Caroline Lucas: "...politicians treat globalization like a god."

**T**he greed and indifference to animal welfare of the transnational agribusiness corporations has been strikingly revealed in Great Britain. The epidemic of foot-and-mouth disease, says *The Independent*, "is officially out of control—all because Whitehall's [the British government] priority has been agribusiness profits."

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Maff) has been forcing their mass slaughter policy on farmers. Hundreds of thousands of cattle and sheep have already been killed and often left to rot before Maff gets around to burning them up in the fields. Maff has refused to vaccinate against the disease. *The Guardian* clearly states, "...science has moved on a lot since Maff compiled its contingency plans. New vaccines are cheaper and more effective, and tests have been developed to distinguish between vaccinated and infected animals."

Prime Minister Tony Blair, according to *The Independent*, belatedly visited Cumbria "to show he was listening to the plight of the farmers. But, confronted with their fury, he was shaken..." The editorial further states that "Maff is only really concerned with protecting the profits of agribusiness. It was the same story with BSE [Mad Cow Disease], when human health was sacrificed to the same goal."

The editorial continues: "...if Mr. Blair had visited the Swedish countryside during last week's Stockholm summit, he might have got a clue. A salmonella epidemic that killed 200 people there in 1953 prompted a reappraisal of intensifying agriculture. Since 1972, the country has aimed to have 'the cleanest agriculture in the world.' Pesticide use has been cut by 70 per cent, pollution by fertilisers by 30 per cent, organic farming has boomed, family farms have survived—and agriculture has prospered."

To quote Caroline Lucas, a British Member of the European Parliament, in *The Independent*: "The sheer absurdity of this 'food swap' is shown by the fact that Britain...imported 240,000 tonnes of pork and 125,000 tonnes of lamb, while at the same time exporting 195,000 tonnes and 102,000 tonnes of pork and lamb respectively....It is the race for ever greater international trade and competitiveness that should go up in smoke, not our animals and the future for our farmers, tourism and the countryside." 🐾



# Animal Welfare Institute QUARTERLY

Spring 2001 Volume 50 Number 2

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Ginger Kathrens

While horsemeat consumption is on the rise throughout Europe, few people, if any, are willing to admit they are eating animals such as wild horses, family pets, race horses, or mares who had been kept pregnant for their entire lives to develop Pre-marin (Pregnant Mares' Urine), which is used for estrogen replacement therapy. (See story page 6).



USFWS

Both species of African rhinos exemplify the many threatened species that are rapidly disappearing as a result of human pressures. Humans kill rhinos to consume their valuable horns, and as the human population explodes in the region, the desire to save the rhino or share land with them deteriorates. (See story pages 8-9).

# AWI Helps Consumers Reject

BY DIANE HALVERSON



Family farm photos by D. Halverson

*Sows on Paul Willis's farm are comfortable with people. A remnant of farm families is preserving a culture of humane animal husbandry and distinguishing themselves from cruel and environmentally unsound animal factories.*

It is spring on a farm in Iowa. The pigs have left behind their winter quarters in bedded barns and snow-covered yards. Now they are relishing fields of fresh grass and alfalfa and earth that is still moist from ample winter snows and spring rains. At my post outside their pasture it is possible to observe their behavior undisturbed by human activity. The sows, with their piglets trotting close by, are moving to and fro through their "village" of tin huts with an apparent sense of purpose. One is headed to the water tank, one to investigate what is happening in another sow's hut, and another has moved to separate two piglets who are locked in playful but intense combat. The sow parts the contenders and then moves on. Before long, the piglets pick up where they left off. Other sows are grazing, with their piglets rooting for food nearby; some are nursing their litters or lying at rest in their huts with piglets asleep in the straw beside them.

In the next paddock the pregnant sows are due to deliver soon. For one sow, farrowing is imminent, and she is absorbed in moving straw from one uninhabited hut to her own well-bedded hut to enhance the nest in which she will give birth.

The air is balmy but breezes temper the heat. Even when the sun begins to blaze overhead or the rain moves in or the night temperature drops, these animals can cope, aided by the farmer who fashions a mudhole or sprinkler with which the pigs can cool off or who supplies fresh dry straw to wick away any dampness that enters the hut or to better insulate piglets from the cool night air.

With 105 million pigs sold for market in the United States in 1998, alternatives to the barbaric pig factories must be maintained. The products of farms like the one described above must be labeled distinctively in order to give millions of consumers a way to reject the products of pig factories.

There are 150 humane farms like the one shown here, owned by independent farm families who fulfill the *Animal Welfare Institute's* Pig Husbandry Standards. These farmers sell their animals to the Niman Ranch Company, which mar-



*AWI standards require that sows be able to build nests at farrowing.*



*Pigs living in a biologically sound environment and experiencing respectful handling exhibit good health and growth rates so routine antibiotic use is unnecessary.*



*In this spacious barn, pigs have opportunities to escape from more aggressive herd mates and are given straw with which to carry out natural exploratory and food-searching behavior.*



*Various types of structures provide shelter to small groups of pigs on pasture. Both farmer and pig have techniques to protect the pigs from rain and extreme heat. Pastures provide constant opportunities for expression of instinctive behavior.*

# the Products of Pig Factories

kets the meat across the United States. In 1997, Niman Ranch was the first marketing company to embrace the humane pig husbandry standards of an animal welfare organization—the *Animal Welfare Institute*—and to require adherence to these standards by farmers who sell to Niman Ranch.

For more information about this unprecedented and unparalleled program, visit the *Animal Welfare Institute's* website at [www.awionline.org](http://www.awionline.org). You can also learn more about Niman Ranch online at [www.nimanranch.com](http://www.nimanranch.com).

To improve the welfare of pigs, the *Animal Welfare Institute* (AWI) is working with the Niman Ranch Company and its network of farm families who raise pigs according to AWI's Pig Husbandry Standards.

## Highlights of the Standards:

- Sows must be able to build nests and pigs to root, explore and play.
- Well-managed pastures are recommended. When animals are sheltered in barns, they must be given straw or other suitable materials to serve as bedding and to allow for expression of instinctive behavior.
- Animal factory practices—such as intensive confinement of animals in barren crates and cages, tail cropping or the use of electric prods—are prohibited.
- Large-scale animal factory owners or operators who commit only a portion of their operation to humane management are not accepted in this program.
- The routine use of antibiotics to promote growth or productivity or to control or mask disease is prohibited.

## Family Farm Requirement:

- Each farm must be a family farm: one on which an individual or family owns the hogs, depends upon the farm for their livelihood, and participates in the daily physical labor of caring for the animals and managing the farm. 🐾



*Like her wild ancestors, the domestic sow is driven by instinct to isolate herself and build a nest when it is time to give birth. In pasture keeping, each sow has access to an individual hut in which she can prepare for farrowing and nurse her piglets.*



Factory photos by M. Halverson

*To maximize the number of sows per building, eliminate the need for husbandry skills among hired workers and minimize labor, pig factories continuously confine sows in crates so small they are unable to walk or even turn around. Pigs in factories never get to feel the warmth of the sun or take a breath of fresh air.*



*Restrained in crates, sows on industrial operations instinctively but vainly go through the motions of nest building on floors of perforated plastic or wire.*



*Above and Below: In factories, piglets, sows and breeding boars exist on slatted floors and are confined without bedding so that the massive quantity of manure they produce can be liquefied for ease of handling. Liquefied manure contaminates America's ground water, rivers and the air we breathe.*





Ron Antonelli/New York Daily News

Henrietta is held by Dr. Arnold Plotnick of the ASPCA in Manhattan. Henrietta was found by a bus driver and brought to the ASPCA.

## Transit Fowl Up

Why did the chicken cross the road? To get to the bus stop, of course. When a Transit Authority bus driver discovered an early morning rider who had not paid her fare was a hen, he enlisted the help of a handy kennel worker to deliver her to a most desirable destination, the *American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals* (ASPCA).

Like many of us on an early morning bus, Henrietta (newly named) was “stressed, undernourished and unkempt in appearance” according to press reports. Her mutilated beak indicates an unhappy home life in an egg factory, where beaks are cut to lessen pecking of other hens tightly crammed into the battery cages.

Dr. Arnold Plotnick, ASPCA veterinarian, declared Henrietta, uncaged and happy on a fattening regimen, to be a “nice chicken...calm, quiet and mellow.” To which we will add intelligent. In the grid of a complex public transportation system which some of us riders never quite figure out, Henrietta found the correct bus route and a compassionate driver. Adoption procedures for Henrietta, who presented Dr. Plotnick with a thank you egg, have now been finalized. 🐾

## America’s Horses Are Ending Up in Europe’s Restaurants

It is reasonable to say that most Americans would be shocked to learn of the thousands of horses, both wild and domestic, who are slaughtered in three US slaughterhouses, two in Texas and one in Nebraska, every year for their meat. In 1999, 62,813 horses were dragged through these slaughterhouses on their way to satisfy culinary demand in Belgium, France, Italy, Japan and other countries. With beef consumption dropping dramatically throughout Europe as a response to BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy) or “mad cow” disease, and the recent outbreak of foot and mouth disease, consumers are looking to other sources of meat, including horse.

Even America’s wild horses, protected from slaughter by federal law, are being sold for their meat. *The Salt Lake Tribune* recently reported that “nearly 300 federally protected mustangs were processed into meat and pet food in 1999, the most recent year data were available. Most of the wild horses slaughtered at the plants were less than 6 years old and were killed within months of owners receiving title to them.” Wild horse adopters sign affidavit language, under penalty of perjury, that they have no intention of selling the horses for slaughter.

The search for horsemeat has been on the increase in England also. According to British Customs, the export of horsemeat has doubled in the past five years. “People in Britain have been horrified that their Hampshire’s New Forest wild ponies have begun to disappear,” according to *Compassion in World Farming*. The rising demand for horsemeat is also being blamed for increased horse theft throughout Italy



Gail Eisnitz/Humane Farming Association

Many owners are unaware that the horses they have sold will end up being sent to slaughterhouses for their meat and other uses.

and the *BBC* has reported that Germany will slaughter 70,000 horses for their meat this year.

Closer to home, Canadian horsemeat prices have almost doubled in the past two months because of increasing demand from Europe, according to an *Edmonton Journal* article. The article points out, however, that Claude Bouvry, owner of Bouvry Exports in Calgary, isn’t bragging because “People in the horse-meat industry don’t like talking about slaughtering horses for food because of the horse’s almost mythical place in western culture.” 🐾

## Mourning Doves Win Important Victories Against Gun Lobby

**M**ourning doves have again staved off hunters in Iowa and Michigan's annual assault on their protection. Despite legislative sleight of hand tricks and political spin, citizens in Iowa and Michigan have again said **NO** to lifting their bans on the killing of the mourning dove.

In Iowa, the sponsor's strategy was to act quickly at the beginning of the General Assembly, before the public could react. However, the public did react and again told their legislators they do not want the ban lifted. Nevertheless, both the House and Senate passed legislation lifting the ban by very narrow margins. Fortunately, Governor Tom Vilsack, who opposed similar legislation while in the State Senate, vetoed the bill, calling it "seriously flawed." Iowan Merle Wilson summed up the entire dove hunting movement when he said, "The only shame here is from the underhanded tactics and deceit used to try and sneak a dove bill through disguised as a migratory-bird bill."

The defeat of this legislation in Michigan took the more traditional path. The *Wildlife Legislative Fund of America* (WLFA) and the guns and ammunition industry worked with state legislators to introduce this legislation at the very end of the legislative session when normal business had been finished. Once again, the tide of public opposition won out when, after the House had approved the bill by a slim majority, the Michigan State Senate defeated, by one vote, the repeal of Michigan's 90-year-old dove protection legislation.

The issue of mourning dove hunting has become more a symbol of legislative muscle flexing for the guns and ammunition industry than an actual hunting issue. With fewer Americans hunting, the industries and organizations such as the WLFA and the *National Rifle Association* (NRA) have desperately been going state to state attempting to reassert their dominance by attacking a peaceful bird that we all take for granted in our yards. During attempts by opponents to lift Michigan's dove hunting ban the Detroit Free Press reported that "Some senators said they were promised pet projects



*Mourning doves mate for life and are known to grieve the loss of a spouse. Illustration by Bob Hines/USFWS.*

or other enticements by fellow lawmakers in return for a 'yes' vote." The Ohio-based WLFA has already begun an assault on repealing Wisconsin and Rhode Island's ban on dove hunting.

However, despite the attacks on doves, there is a bright side. According to an article recently published in *The New York Times*, "As Their Numbers Soar, Birders Seek Political Influence to Match," nearly one-fifth of all Americans, or 50 million people, are bird watchers and feeders, spending over \$25 billion annually on bird watching and feeding devices, according to the US Fish & Wildlife Service. That is more than all hunters and anglers combined, making "birders" a powerful advocacy group for protecting feathered creatures including the mourning dove. Bird lovers even have a book on *The New York Times Best Sellers List* called "The Sibley Guide To Birds," which has sold over 300,000 copies in its first year of publication. With the growing interest and political influence of birders, mourning doves and all other birds will have a powerful ally to fight off and end these unwarranted attacks by misguided special interests. 🐾

## Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. to Present Medal to Andrzej Lepper

**T**he Albert Schweitzer Medal, given by AWI to a person who has made a significant contribution to the protection of animals, will be presented this year on June 11<sup>th</sup> to Andrzej Lepper. The charismatic President of Samoobrona ("self-defense" in Polish), a major Polish farmers' union, has led the so-far successful campaign to keep American industrial hog factories out of his country. "Let us not allow Poland to be invaded by this cancer, which we already experienced during the communist times," he said.

This significant honor, inaugurated in 1953, has

been awarded to deserving individuals ranging from those of modest position who have significantly bettered the welfare of animals on a hands-on basis to towering public figures who have engendered important changes that have improved the lot of hundreds of thousands of animals.

Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., the President of *Water Keeper Alliance*, is scheduled to make the presentation in the Mansfield Room of the US Capitol. A reception will follow. Invitations will be sent out later this spring; we hope you will be able to attend to honor Mr. Lepper. 🐾

# Wildlife Extinction: Homo Sapiens, Both Witnesses and Executioners

BY WERNER FORNOS

Thousands of visitors to the nation's capital this spring and summer will queue up at the National Zoo to delight in the antics of Mei Xiang and Tian Tian, those furry, roly-poly, black and white, recent arrivals from China. But few of the joyous, admiring spectators may realize that these two young giant pandas are among the rarest animals in the world.

Though these fabled, playful, bamboo-chomping creatures have, as one might readily surmise, few natural enemies (the leopard being a notable exception), it is estimated that less than one thousand giant pandas remain in existence.

Found only at altitudes of 5,000 to 10,000 feet in dense bamboo and coniferous forests in the mountains of central China, the giant panda is a prized target of poachers. The lush fur of this popular mammal brings exorbitant prices in the illicit markets of the Far East. Giant panda poachers convicted by the Chinese government face life imprisonment.

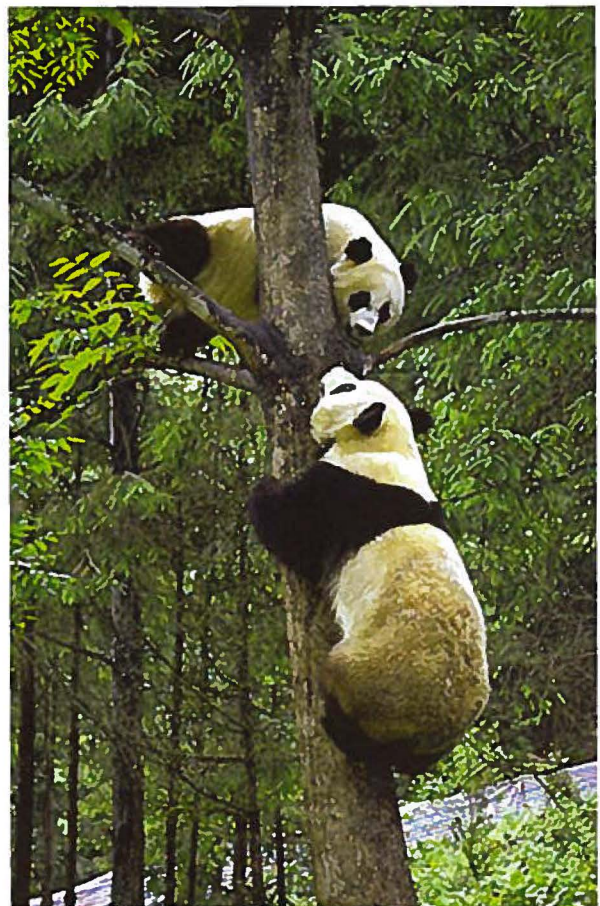
But the most ominous threats to these enormously charismatic, thoroughly captivating, though nearly extinct, mammals are habitat encroachment and destruction, resulting mainly from the land and natural resource demands of China's more than one billion inhabitants.

In an effort to protect this rapidly vanishing breed, the Chinese government has designated 11 areas, where bamboo is plentiful and these celebrated animals are known to live, as nature preserves. The plight of the giant panda, however, is only a small part of a considerably larger concern: extinctions of wildlife species today have been compared with the disappearance of the dinosaur some 65 million years ago. Unlike the passing of the great reptiles of the Mesozoic Era, the human species is both a witness to and responsible for the contemporaneous mass extinctions.

Severe penalties for poachers and perpetrators of habitat loss cannot be construed as the solution to maintaining and restoring the world's biological health. While obviously needed, these measures are tantamount to treating the symptoms rather than the underlying causes of a disease.

The underlying causes of the modern mass extinctions can be summed up as follows: rapid population growth in developing countries and over-consumption in the more affluent regions. Ecologists blame recent species losses on the degradation of wildlife habitat by pollution, dredging, felling of trees and other vegetation, over-grazing, plowing under or paving over—all repercussions of rapid population growth. Extinctions are running anywhere from 100 to 1,000 times the natural rate.

Twenty-seven thousand species are lost each year, according to conservative estimates by the *National Wildlife Federation*.



Jessie Cohen/National Zoological Park

*At the China Research and Conservation Center for the Giant Panda, Mei Xiang (top) and Tian Tian (bottom) greet each other moments after being introduced for the first time in the same yard.*

Previous mass extinctions of species, such as during the Permian period—some 250 million years ago when 90 percent of the Earth's animal species disappeared—were attributed to their inability to adapt to a changing environment.

Recent species losses are caused by changes resulting from human growth that disrupt the many relationships that link wildlife into ecosystems. Throughout Latin America, Asia and Africa, wildlife are displaced from their natural habitats by urban growth and industrialization. As people in the developing world struggle to earn a livelihood, they directly degrade the environment. Each new child born in an industrialized country has an even greater impact on wildlife population worldwide—the result of natural habitat destruction to make way for expanded suburban housing, highways and shopping malls, and through greater human consumption of oil, minerals, timber and energy sources.



Approximately one in four vertebrate species—mammals, amphibians, reptiles, fish and birds—are in serious trouble, according to the Washington, DC-based *Worldwatch Institute*. In contrast to most species that are unknown and unmonitored, the relatively well-studied vertebrates offer scientists convincing evidence for determining why and how species are declining.

Nearly half of the world's 233 primate species are threatened, largely because of their dependence on vast expanses of tropical forest, a habitat that is threatened throughout the world. Approximately 70 percent of primate species face extinction in regions where there has been severe tropical forest loss, such as the Atlantic rainforest of eastern Brazil, Southeast Asia and Madagascar.

Humans have driven the rhino to the brink of extinction. Only five species of rhinoceros exist today, though there were once dozens of species. All of the five remaining are threatened and most are considered to be in grave danger. In 1960, there were 10,000 black rhinos on the savannas of Africa; today there are less than 2,600. This is a relative abundance compared to what has happened to the Javan rhino. Fewer than 85 exist in the wild in Southeast Asia today, partly because of habitat destruction, but primarily to satisfy the demand for rhino horns that are used in traditional Asian medicines and as decorative dagger handles in the Middle East.

The greatest threat to all of Africa's great apes is the loss of habitat due to agriculture and logging. It is no coincidence that West Central African countries, where many of the remaining gorillas live, have one of the world's highest rates of human population growth.

From Asian and African elephants to the California yellow-legged frog, scores of animal species are threatened with extinction. Every four years, the *World Conservation Union*, headquartered in Switzerland, publishes a survey on the status of the Earth's plant and animal life. The results of the latest survey, released last fall and called the most comprehensive study of its kind, found more than 11,000 animal and plant species at risk of extinction due to the influence of humans on the environment. The report found 180 types of mammals were in immediate danger of disappearing.

The leading threats to animal life in the world today are no different than the leading threats to the human species: overpopulation, overconsumption, deforestation, desertification and global warming. If, through neglect and greed, *Homo sapiens* continue to allow one species after another to disappear from the planet, the supposedly most intelligent form of life may be paving the way for its own untimely demise.

Friends of animals everywhere should insist that international population assistance from our government continue to be a high priority so that voluntary family planning may be accessible to the 350 million women worldwide who either do not want to have another pregnancy, did not want their last, or would, at least, prefer longer intervals between pregnancies. 🐾

—Werner Fornos is the president of the Population Institute, a Washington, DC nonprofit organization dedicated to a more equitable balance between the world's population, environment and resources.

## It's the Population

From people per square mile to  
square miles per person

BY LANCE OLSEN

If you were in pain, and went to a doctor who told you that your pain is caused by a deadly but curable problem, and then gave you only medication to ease your pain, but nothing to cure the dangerous problem that was causing it, the doctor would be guilty of malpractice. Why? Because treating the symptom (pain) without treating the cause (cancer) could kill you. There's an analogous situation in human overpopulation.

All today's major environmental crises are symptoms of human overpopulation. Deforestation, soil losses due to overproduction of farm crops, the changing climate, the increases of deadly UV radiation slipping through the pollution-damaged stratospheric ozone shield—all driven by human overpopulation and none would be a serious problem on a planet with, say, only one human cutting down trees, planting crops, or pouring chemicals into the atmosphere. It is mostly because there are now six thousand million of us that we do these things on a scale vast enough to endanger Life on Earth.

Canadian scientists have estimated that if everyone on earth used up as many resources as Americans do, we would need three Earth-sized planets to meet the demand. But there's cheer here, because everyone on earth could live very well indeed on one planet, if our numbers were at 2 billion instead of 6 billion. In fact, the American scientist David Pimentel has estimated that a human population of somewhere in the vicinity of 2 billion would be "sustainable" on this planet.

With 2 billion of us, we could measure our wealth and our freedoms in terms of square miles per person, instead of persons per square mile. With more of everything to go around, our economic anxieties could be greatly eased. It would also leave enough room for the rest of Life, including bears—wildlife conservation would be vastly improved with the decreased need to fuss and fret each time one of us wanted to cut a tree. In a way, nothing we do to the environment endangers it, except that now we do it on such an extreme scale. Symptom-treatment won't save the world. 🐾

—Reprinted with permission from *Bear News*, Vol. 15, No. 3, 2000

# British Columbia Grizzly Hunt Suspended for the First Time Ever

BY MARTIN POWELL, EIA

**F**or the first time in Canadian history, grizzly bears in the Province of British Columbia (BC) will not face hunters' bullets when they emerge from hibernation this spring.

Since the arrival of Europeans, grizzlies have been driven from 99 percent of their range in the continental United States, and much of Canada. BC forms the heartland of the species' remaining habitat, with the future of US populations to the south dependent on BC's bears, of which only 4-6,000 may remain.

As evidence has grown that hunting 300 of this officially at risk species each year in BC is unsustainable, so has the number of people who consider it unethical to sport hunt North America's slowest reproducing land mammal.

On an ecological level, some of the world's leading grizzly experts have expressed concern over the hunt for years, culminating in 68 professional biologists petitioning the BC Government in 1999. With fee-paying foreign tourists killing about half of all grizzlies hunted in BC in order to take the trophies home, the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) decided to seek a ban on these exports under Canada's obligations to CITES—the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. As a result, in January biologists commissioned by the Canadian Government to review the issue sharply criticized the hunt, one stating "My professional opinion is that the hunt will be, and has been, harmful to the survival of grizzly bear populations."

As for economics, grizzly bear viewing is already worth far more than grizzly hunting, and tourism as a whole is worth \$10 billion per year to BC. So it caused a huge stir last year when 50 UK and Irish travel companies and over 100 BC-based tourism businesses called for a suspension of the hunt because it harms the image of BC as a tourism destination.

With opinion polls showing 80 percent of people in BC supporting a ban, it was to widespread acclaim when the BC Premier announced in February a three year grizzly hunt moratorium whilst reliable population studies are carried out. The Premier described it as "...a prudent decision to protect and sustain grizzly bears in BC." 🐾

*After billboard campaigns were launched in BC and the UK by EIA, the grizzly hunt threatens to be a hot issue in the upcoming Provincial election.*



Craig Bennett/EIA

*Presumably, fewer grizzly bear cubs in British Columbia will end up as orphans now that Premier Ujjal Dosanjh wisely stopped the hunt.*

**ACTION** There is one shadow hanging over the moratorium. The BC Liberal Party (which is ahead in the polls) currently plans to overturn it if elected later this year. Please write to the BC Liberal party urging them to reconsider:

Gordon Campbell, BC Liberal Party Leader  
Room 201 Parliament Buildings  
Victoria BC V88 1X4, Canada  
Facsimile: (250) 356-3090  
Email: [gordon.campbell@bcliberals.com](mailto:gordon.campbell@bcliberals.com)  
Website: <http://www.eia-international.org>



Environmental Investigation Agency



## Wildlife Refuge or Oil Industry Haven?

BY ADAM M. ROBERTS

The United States Fish & Wildlife Service's (USFWS) brochure on Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) notes that it "is a vast and beautiful wilderness" that is unique "because the systems are whole and undisturbed, functioning as they have for centuries, largely free of human control and manipulation." All that could change if President Bush, powerful United States Senators and the exploiting forces of the entrenched oil and gas industry have their way.

In support of President Bush's plan to open up ANWR's coastal plain to drilling, Alaska Senator Frank Murkowski (R) has introduced the 370-page "National Energy Security Act of 2001." Included in the bill is a provision authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to establish a competitive land leasing program to facilitate "the exploration, development, and production of the oil and gas resources" of the northeastern area of ANWR.

A fierce battle over oil drilling in the refuge is bubbling up as Senator Joe Lieberman (D, CT) has introduced competing legislation to protect ANWR. According to Lieberman, opening ANWR "would immea-

surably and irreversibly damage one of the last preserves of its kind in the world." Senator John Kerry (D, MA) has promised a filibuster of any attempt to open ANWR to oil and gas exploration. Kerry said, "On this issue, there is no legislative compromise which wouldn't compromise our commitment to the environment."

But Democrats are not the only ones defending the Refuge; after all, it was a Republican President, Dwight D. Eisenhower, who initially established this protected area of Alaska in 1960. One organization, Republicans for Environmental Protection (REP), notes, "We can have affordable energy without disturbing a spectacularly beautiful land with oil drilling and all its fumes, noise and toxic waste." REP continues: "We all know the oil industry has a terrible environmental record. The Prudhoe Bay oil complex emits more pollution than Washington, DC. Oil spills, gas flaring, gravel mining, vehicle traffic, toxic waste...the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge would be changed forever." Moreover, as reported by the Environmental News Service: "According to a 1998 US Geological Survey study there is a 50

percent chance of finding, at most, a nine month supply of oil in the Arctic Refuge, which would take about ten years to enter the domestic market."

In the misguided quest for oil in this area, wild species and their habitat could potentially be ruined forever. The refuge is home to 45 species of mammals including gray wolves, arctic foxes, lynx, moose, caribou, walrus, seals, endangered bowhead and other whales, and bears. Bird species, 180 of them, thrive there as well: threatened Steller's eiders, red-throated loons, tundra and trumpeter swans, Canada and snow geese, harlequin ducks, hawks, bald and golden eagles, peregrine falcons, sandhill cranes, American golden-plovers and snowy and other owls. (For a full list of wildlife in the refuge, go to <http://arctic.fws.gov/wildlife.html>)

The USFWS notes that the area of the Refuge in question "is critically important to the ecological integrity of the whole Arctic refuge, providing essential habitats for numerous internationally important species such as the Porcupine Caribou herd and polar bears." On March 20, 2001, over 500 scientists and natural resource managers sent a letter to President Bush recognizing "the importance of maintaining the biological diversity and ecosystem integrity of our nation's Arctic" and urging him to protect permanently the "wilderness character of the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from future oil and gas development."

In the coming months we will find out whether Congress will blindly pursue the shortsighted, imprudent quest for oil in ANWR, doing irreparable harm to one of the last great, pristine wildernesses in America. 🐾

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*Above: Caribou live in arctic regions of Alaska and Canada. Oil and gas development on their calving grounds and migration routes jeopardize the herds. The USFWS notes, "Pregnant caribou, and females with young calves, are especially sensitive to disturbances such as the presence of humans, vehicles and sounds," all components of oil exploration.*

# The War in the Woods— A Personal Journey

BY BEN WHITE

Most of my work with AWI involves the protection of whales and dolphins, but for over twenty-five years I was a professional tree climber and arborist. Recently I was asked to help out some kids in Humboldt County, California who are trying to stop the cutting of the old-growth forests.

Five years ago I fought the cutting of another ancient forest after President Clinton had signed the Salvage Timber Rider, allowing the logging of wildlife preserves set aside as “refugias.” These had been preserved to spread their original flora and fauna eventually to the surrounding denuded hillsides. Rocky Brook was one of these refugias. I slept 100 feet up a cedar tree for three days and nights and was arrested blockading a logging road and leading 200 people into the area deemed off limits. On my third arrest, I was put in manacles and chains and sent to federal prison for violating the “forest closure law.” This law enables police to arrest anyone within a three mile radius of a logging site on grounds of “safety.” Eventually, we knocked down this law on the grounds that it violated my rights to speak, assemble and worship in a place I considered sacred. But Rocky Brook forest was clear-cut to the ground while I was in jail.

I thought I knew a little about the struggle to protect these forests.

Just back from a trip to the forests of Northern California, I realize that I knew nothing about the duration, intensity, difficulty and danger of the war over the woods now being waged from California to British Columbia.

I met a young climber named Bob in Arcata, about to hitchhike with many pounds of climbing gear to a huge threatened forest called Rainbow Ridge. Rainbow Ridge runs above the Mattole Valley, a remote and precious green swath along one of the few undammed rivers in California. Charles Hurwitz (the butcher of the Headwaters Forest who commandeered the Pacific Lumber Company through a hostile takeover ten years ago) also has claim to thousands of acres of ancient trees along Rainbow Ridge.

I gave Bob a ride down to the edge of the ridge, dropping him off at a gate stretched across a logging road. He hoisted his packs to hike five miles to a blockade where twenty kids have been camping in the snow since November 1, braving strong winds and heavy rain, stopping the trucks and loggers.

Bob was equipped to set up tree-sit platforms in the trees slated to be cut first, another seven miles from the blockade. Whereas Rocky Brook had been in a National Forest, all twelve miles of land from the gate on is private property: hostile territory for anti-logging protesters. Many of the rights I took for granted in my fight do not apply



Tigger

*Climbers erecting a tree-sit platform in a California redwood to prevent its cutting.*

here, and the police and loggers have on occasion been brutal in their protection of clear-cut logging. Just last year, a young *Earth First!* activist and tree climber named David (Gypsy) Chain was killed when a logger dropped a tree in his direction.

The people who live in the Mattole Valley have been fighting the threats to their corner of the world for over twenty years, including proposals to dam or divert the water and the ongoing decimation of the forests. When major logging actions begin, local folks (ranchers and farmers and schoolteachers) have been known to set up their own blockades to stop the loggers and police from heading up into the hills to battle the kids.

Court proceedings and deals made with the state and federal government give little hope for justice or the preservation of the forests. Habitat Conservation Plans approved for the Headwaters allow Maxxam (Charles Hurwitz's mutation of the Pacific Lumber Company) to cut trees known to contain endangered species. These wink and nod deals actually override the Endangered Species Act, allowing the cutting of some areas if others are left alone. Charles Hurwitz bilked the American people out of over a billion dollars during the Savings and Loan debacle a decade ago and a just arrangement would be a debt for nature swap. We'll let the guy off the hook for the billion dollars he owes taxpayers if he leaves all of the old trees alone to live for another thousand years.

Back home in Washington, I pulled out a videotape from the Headwaters Action Video Collective that I had bought from the Trees Foundation in Garberville. The film is entitled "Fire in the Eyes," a reference, I thought, to the intensity and dedication of the kids involved. I sat down with my fourteen-year-old daughter Julia to watch the short film. Julia was a turtle at the WTO meeting in Seattle, and is a tree climber and avid young activist. The kids obstructing the logging are her tribe.

Within ten minutes both of us were in tears. Using police footage obtained through court discovery, the film showed the technique the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office is using against young protesters. In one scene, protesters filed into the office of conservative lawmaker Frank Riggs in order to protest his facilitation of clear-cut logging. They brought in a stump and a bucket of sawdust, sat in a circle around the prop and joined their arms with lockboxes. Lockboxes are steel tubes that slide over the forearms of two adjacent people, with rebar welded on the inside. Each participant has a carabiner attached to their wrist with a rope that locks onto the rebar. Unless cut off, they can only release themselves. No amount of pulling will separate the protesters unless they choose to let go.

In "Fire in the Eyes," police officers announce to the protesters that they have five minutes to disconnect or "chemical agents" would be used. Then, one officer bends back the head of a protester while another puts a Q-tip soaked in pepper spray into the corner of each eye. Nothing much happens for forty seconds or so while the police go to the next person. Then the pain begins. Excruciating, debilitating pain that makes the kids scream out.

Still they do not release. One girl cries out for compassion, asking the officers if they don't have daughters of their own. After another warning the police spray a canister of pepper spray directly into the eyes of each protester. In spite of the torture, the kids amazingly stayed locked together, even when the cops eventually pick up the entire circle and carry them out of the office.

The film ends with the devastating news that when the kids tortured by the police sued, the technique was upheld as acceptable use of force. A plea from the American Civil Liberties Union that the torture was prohibited under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was ignored. An appeal is pending.

The war over the woods in the northwest is one of the most intense, most dangerous efforts to protect animals' habitat (the trees and rivers on which they depend) in North America. Hundreds of people have mortgaged their homes, faced arrest, torture and death, and braved week after week either up in a tree or freezing in a road blockade. These folks need the rest of us.

The movie *Gandhi* has a scene where Indian men illegally gathering salt are beaten by British troops, one after another. Some believe that the British Empire died that day in India when Brits decided they couldn't stomach the degree of brutality that would be necessary to crush the drive for independence. Seeing the torture of kids trying to protect these forests makes me wonder how much repression Americans will tolerate.

Instead of being depressed over yet another natural tragedy of huge proportions unfolding, what stays with me from my short trip into the war zone of Northern California is hope. Kids in their teens and twenties are offering their lives to protect the last of the ancient forests. Even knowing they might be tortured or killed, they persevere.

This fight is not a passing fancy. North of my home stretches the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world. Five million acres of salmon, grizzlies, eagles and trees ten feet thick stretch along the western coast of British Columbia. Logging roads are slated to invade almost every pristine valley. For those who believe that a very important part of who we are depends on the existence of wildlife and wild places, and our refusal to acquiesce to its destruction, protecting these places may well be the fight of our lives. 🐾

*How strange and wonderful is our home, our earth,  
With its swirling vaporous atmosphere,  
Its flowing and frozen climbing creatures,  
The croaking things with wings that hang on rocks  
And soar through fog, the furry grass, the scaly seas...  
How utterly rich and wild...  
Yet some among us have the nerve,  
The insolence, the brass, the gall to whine  
About the limitations of our earthbound fate  
And yearn for some more perfect world beyond the sky.  
We are none of us good enough  
For the world we have.*

—Edward Abbey

# Courts Release 73-year-old Forest Defender on Time Served

On January 25, 2001, “Grandma K,” Betty Krawczyk, was freed after serving four months of a year-long sentence imposed upon her for her actions in blockading logging roads in the Elaho Valley of Canada. Her trial judge justified the lengthy sentence because of “criminal contempt.” Vancouver Judges Ian Donald and Kenneth McKenzie overturned the sentence, quoting extensively from the original trial transcript.

What follows are excerpts from the transcript of her original sentencing hearing. Betty Krawczyk is responding to a challenge from the judge to explain why she has done what she has done—blocked a road—and why she doesn’t respect the law. She has pointed out that in fact she respects the law greatly and wants it to be in harmony with the universe, the trees, the spirit. Then she continues:

“In my opinion, my attempt to try to help stop Interfor’s rapid destruction of the Elaho Valley by standing in front of the logging trucks was not an evil, criminal, crazy thing to do. In my scheme of things, it was the eminently sane thing to do. I believe it to be crazy and insane to stand by mutely while our collective life support systems are being destroyed.

“I do not regret my actions in the slightest. And when I am in jail I consider myself a political prisoner and I act accordingly.

“But, in reality, the only real freedom that anyone actually finds is with the confines of one’s one mind and spirit. It sounds trite, I know, but that kind of freedom really can’t be imprisoned.

“You can put me in jail, sir, but I will not be your prisoner. I will not be Interfor’s prisoner, or a prisoner of the Attorney General, or a prisoner of these nice deputy sheriffs, or a prisoner of BCCW. I am only a prisoner of my own conscience, sir, and only of my own conscience and that makes me a free woman, a free person.

“And, as a free person, I refuse to enter into any sort of collusion with this court in terms of potential house arrest or electronic monitoring as part of my sentences. I will never be a party to assisting in my own punishment in ways that would force me to internalize prison, to internalize confinement, to internalize guilt, to internalize the power of Interfor and the Attorney General’s office to punish me for trying to protect public property, property that every citizen has a right, not only a right but also a duty to protect and enjoy and love.

“As well, sir, I will not accept any kind of community service as part of punishment. I have done more than my share of community service in my lifetime. I have done it freely and as a labour of love and I will not have it imposed on me as punishment. I will also resist paying a fine, however small. To pay a fine, at least for me, would be tantamount to admitting guilt. This would imply that my actions in the Elaho were harmful and antisocial and must be atoned for. And again if I pay the fine, however small, I would have to internalize a sense of guilt that I do not feel.

“There have been actions in my life that I truly regret and feel sorry for, but trying to protect the ancient forest of the Elaho is not one of them. I love the Elaho. I love all of the old growth forests of British Columbia. To fight to preserve what one loves is to act in harmony with oneself and with nature.

“So, sir, I refuse anything that would dilute the reasons of why I am here, of why I tried to stop the logging of the Elaho. So I refuse fines, community service and the internalized guilt of a shamed and shameful compliance. You must lock me up, sir, or let me go. Thank you.” 🐾

—Reprinted from Green Fuse Newspaper. The background photograph was taken by Dean Rimerman of redwood trees from Headwaters Forest in Northern Humboldt County, California.



## AWI Offers Educational Brochures

The Animal Welfare Institute is pleased to announce the availability of three fact-filled color leaflets on Endangered Species, Humane Education and Whales & Dolphins. Each of the brochures includes a section on how “you can make a difference.” Production of the brochures and distribution of them at the annual meeting of the National Association of Biology Teachers was made possible thanks to a grant from The Kenneth A. Scott Charitable Trust, a KeyBank Trust. Single copies are available free with a stamped, self-addressed envelope, each additional copy is 5 cents. 🐾

# Uncovering Hidden Treasures

BY ADAM M. ROBERTS

An international scientific team in Madagascar, the large island off the southeastern coast of Africa, reportedly has uncovered three previously nameless mouse lemur species there. Thousands of miles away, near Tibet, a new camel species may have been discovered. Sadly, Madagascar's forests are dwindling rapidly, and illegal gold diggers and hunters are reportedly blowing up the camels with land mines for their meat.

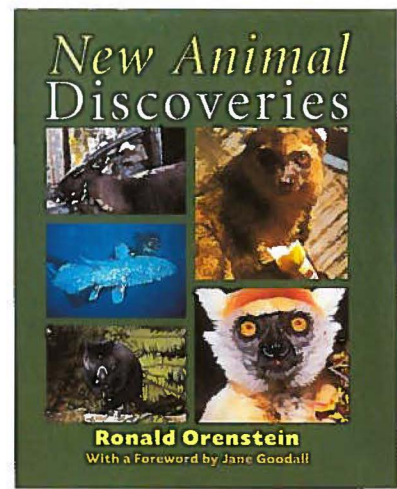
In *New Animal Discoveries*, Dr. Ronald Orenstein, a zoologist and a lawyer, has compiled a number of similarly fascinating stories of new animal discoveries from across the globe, and the threats these species face. Jane Goodall writes in her Foreword to the book, "Ron Orenstein is devoting his life trying to save wild animals in their wild homes."

I have known Ron for almost a decade, working with him on wildlife conservation issues, and have had the good fortune to journey with him to some of the most incredible places on Earth, including Madagascar. When traveling with Ron, one need not bring along a wildlife guidebook for he is an encyclopedia of knowledge about the animals we see (or sometimes only hear!)—and with *New Animal Discoveries*, he shows how much he already

knows about animals that have not only just been discovered, but some that have yet to be named.

As he points out, the book is not about finding "new" species, but discovering species that have long-since existed outside the knowledge of the western world. In many instances, indigenous peoples have lived among these animals for centuries. The book is written for children, most suitably around ten, but would be appropriate for younger readers too (especially with the vibrant, remarkable pictures). It should be of interest to anyone passionate about majestic wildlife and excited by the quest to uncover the buried treasures of the natural world. *New Animal Discoveries* opens with a world map highlighting the home of each species discussed in the book, presenting a useful visual geographical accompaniment. The following pages constitute a motivating primer for budding "cryptozoologists" (those who study "hidden" animals).

Ron takes us on a journey of discovery through South America, Africa, Australia, Asia and Europe. We are treated to a discussion of rare turtles, lonely birds, ground-dwelling tree-kangaroos, multi-sized barking deer, tiny tamarins and beaked whales. In the course of discovering and describing these creatures, entire animals may be

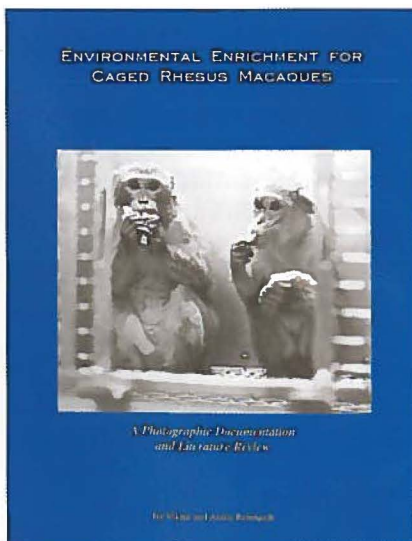


*New Animal Discoveries*  
By Ronald Orenstein  
64 pages, The Millbrook Press  
Brookfield, Connecticut, \$23.90

captured, they may be photographed, they may be uncovered already dead, or their peculiar parts such as twisted horns may be found.

These species are often in danger. Gold miners invading Madagascar "are hunting the golden-crowned sifaka for food." Some people in Vietnam hunt forest animals and since "they need more and more land to grow their rice... they cut down the forest to get it." Foreign logging companies cut down trees for timber. Devious dealers collect exotic, rare animals to be sold for profit.

As Ron notes, the first step in protecting species is finding them, since "it is hard to protect something if you don't know it exists." With this book comes inspiration to conserve wildlife—known and unknown—and the habitats that provide them haven. Ron is right, "Discovery can make a difference!" 🐾



## *New Edition of Environmental Enrichment for Caged Rhesus Macaques*

This collection of 108 annotated photos speaks of the authors' concerns to the traditional, as well as legally and ethically unacceptable, ways in which macaques are housed and handled in research laboratories and of their success in developing and implementing simple, inexpensive and effective refinement alternatives. The goal of this book is to "inspire animal care personnel, scientists, veterinarians, and colony managers to allow themselves to feel compassion for the animals in their charge and to have the courage to translate these feelings into action, for the well-being of the animals and for their own happiness." AWI offers single copies to individuals at research facilities, all others \$2. 🐾

# Drug Kingpin Returns to Animal Dealing

**M**ario Tabraue is a convicted felon who is supposed to be in prison. In 1989, a federal judge gave Tabraue a 100-year prison sentence. The government agents who worked on the case thought he would be in the penitentiary for the rest of his life.

Not so. Tabraue is out of prison. He has returned to the exotic animal business, in which he was involved before he served time. Tabraue runs Zoological Imports 2000, Incorporated, out of a Miami warehouse with hundreds of exotics including 28 varieties of venomous snakes, pythons, sloths, crocodile monitors, Paraguayan Agatis, turtles and tortoises. The web site for the business boasts "...a proven track record of successful importing, exporting and captive breeding of exotic wildlife.... We know what it takes to get the job done."

In 1987, Tabraue was arrested and charged in a federal racketeering indictment that included murder, drug trafficking, corruption and obstruction of justice. His case went to trial 2 years later. Tabraue was described by a Miami prosecutor as the "Chairman of the Board" of a drug ring, recognized as one of South Florida's most prolific and violent. He bribed police in Miami and Key West and committed an execution-style murder to protect his smuggling operation. The person killed was a government informant. At the trial, witnesses described how Tabraue and an associate dismembered the informant's body using a circular saw, after finding that a machete wouldn't do the job. They then placed it in a horse trough and burned it using charcoal and lighter fluid.

The case was called "Operation Cobra" in reference to Tabraue's exotic animal business that served as a useful front for his drug dealing. Tabraue's ring allegedly smuggled thousands of tons of marijuana and hundreds of pounds of cocaine into the United States and was said to have made \$75 million in a decade.



*The poisonous West African Green Mamba is one of hundreds of exotic animals sold by convicted felon Mario Tabraue.*

Tabraue was found guilty of 61 acts of racketeering. He was cleared of only one charge—complicity in the murder of his estranged wife, Maria, who was shot 10 times. The two were getting a divorce, and according to testimony, Maria had threatened to expose her husband's drug dealings. The jury could not agree on his guilt in this murder.

Though he was to have served 88 more years in the penitentiary, Tabraue was freed because he was used as an informant. The *Miami Herald* noted that the federal agents who worked on the case against Tabraue "question the logic of freeing a general in the drug trade only to capture corporals, and whether the price of justice often runs too high." 🐾

—The information cited was obtained from a series of *Miami Herald* news stories which ran from 1989 to 2000.

## Dolphins Win in Virginia Beach

**T**he plan to expand the Virginia Marine Science Museum to include a new 55 million dollar dolphin tank has been pulled by the Virginia Beach City Council after a firestorm of protest over the last year.

AWI international coordinator Ben White and friend MacDonald Hawley traveled to Virginia Beach twice to speak at the request of *Dolphin Liberty*, the grassroots organization that coordinated opposition to the proposed dolphin tank. The visits became an issue when revealed that local police sent an undercover police officer to the meetings. When questioned by the press, the police chief explained that the group had invited people with "criminal backgrounds" to speak. The reference was to Mr. White, who has accumulated misdemeanor charges from non-violent interference to protect wildlife.

For some City Council members, this inappropriate surveillance of legal protest activity was the last straw. However, the primary reason for pulling the project was money. In the end, the public and the council were convinced the project was a very controversial frill they couldn't afford.

The aquarium expansion project was especially hard fought because of the precedent it would set. There have been no new captive dolphin tanks built in the United States for a decade. Many facilities such as the Great America Amusement Park and Knott's Berry Farm have stopped holding dolphins in captivity during this period. We hope that the idea of taking these highly sentient beings from their homes and families in order to entertain us is now seen by most reasonable people as unacceptable. 🐾



## *Mortality and Mismanagement at Lion Country Safari USDA Cites Facility for Apparent Violations of Federal Law*

In zoos with barren, restrictive, cement enclosures and prison-like bars, exotic wildlife on exhibit lead bleak lives. Keeping these animals in a different manner—with lots of room, companionship and enrichment to enable them to exhibit their rich behavioral repertoire—should represent a huge leap forward for them. Sadly, this does not appear to be the case at the drive-through commercial exhibit, Lion Country Safari (LCS), in Loxahatchee, Florida.

According to US Department of Agriculture (USDA) inspection reports, there have been extensive apparent violations of the minimum requirements for animal care under the federal Animal Welfare Act. Mortality reports maintained by the facility and written up by USDA described:

- At least 3 animals who died of “blunt trauma” after apparently being hit by cars;
- An adult blackbuck who died after his head was caught in a hay rack;
- A zebra who suffered from a severely lame hoof for a week, and when an attempt was made to catch her

for treatment, she ran into a canal and drowned;

- Deaths of Dall’s sheep, aoudad, waterbuck, nilgai, and blackbuck from gore wounds because of conflicts with other animals housed with them.

The zoo plans to spend \$2.5 million in September to improve and expand the facilities for the visitors, but it is the animals who are maintained there that are in need of attention. Since at least 1987, LCS has been promising USDA that it would construct a building for the separation and restraint of the free-ranging chimpanzees to allow for management and veterinary treatment. Construction hasn’t even been initiated. LCS needs to hire and train sufficient employees to observe the public while they are driving through the park to guarantee the protection of the animals and the people. The elephants and the chimpanzees are in need of sufficient shelter from inclement weather. Based on these problems and others cited by USDA, it would appear that greater oversight of and provision for the well-being of the animals is needed. We hope LCS will take heed. 🐾

## *Good News: No Movement on Resumption of Commercial Whaling*

An intercessional meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) in Monaco from February 6-8 failed to act on a “revised management scheme” (RMS) that would allow the resumption of commercial whaling. In fact, the three day long wrangle in the palatial setting of the Oceanographic Museum illustrated the severity of the rifts between whaling countries and those who support whale protection. In the discussions, Japan and Norway refused to consider the inclusion of elements into the RMS that would establish international observers on whaling boats, an international DNA tracking system of whalemeat sold and consideration of humane methods of whale killing.

The drive towards embracing an RMS is fueled by concern that whaling countries will again go to CITES next year and claim that the IWC is dragging its feet on allowing commercial whaling, and request that the issue be taken away

from the IWC. CITES would usurp the IWC’s primacy on this issue if whale populations now listed as protected under CITES are “downlisted,” reducing their protection and allowing the international sale of their parts.

This threat by whaling countries is given weight by the Japanese recruitment of small developing countries to attend IWC and CITES. Currently, five Caribbean countries vote in lockstep with Japan in trade for economic assistance.

AWI opposes any management scheme that would legitimize commercial whaling. The history of whaling details a long litany of cheating and lying about numbers and species of whales killed. Urgent threats to whales such as climate change, disease, toxic contamination and the dramatic increase of manmade sound in the oceans must be recognized by the IWC; it should not legitimize commercial whale killing with no thought to these basic problems. 🐾

### *Bequests to AWI*

*If you would like to help assure the Animal Welfare Institute’s future through a provision in your will, this general form of bequest is suggested:*

*I give, devise and bequeath to the Animal Welfare Institute, located in Washington, D.C., the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ and/or (specifically described property).*

*Donations to AWI, a not-for-profit corporation exempt under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3), are tax deductible. We welcome any inquiries you may have. In cases where you have specific wishes about the disposition of your bequest, we suggest you discuss such provisions with your attorney.*

# Creature Choirs

## Dangerously Disappearing Biophonies of the Natural World

**B**ernie Krause's autobiography, *Into a Wild Sanctuary, A Life in Music and Natural Sound*, is a fascinating account of his musical life, his precocious attraction to bird song and insect voices, his family's love of classical music, and his ability at age 3 ½ to play a violin melody, to his mastery of the guitar, adventures in the pop music world, and creation of synthesizer sound tracks from more than 100 films, including *Apocalypse Now*.

Now he is devoting himself to "recording the sounds of living organisms and natural habitats." He writes: "To me, this is the most beautiful music on the planet. It is also its collective voice. Armed with various types of sound recorders, a pair of earphones, and microphones, I search out rare undisturbed sites, set up my equipment, and sit quietly and patiently for hours waiting for this symphony of the natural world to unfold before me, all to capture those precious moments on tape."

On January 31, 2001 he made a speech to the San Francisco World Affairs Council entitled "Loss of National Soundscape: Global Implication of Its Effect on Humans and Other Creatures," excerpts from which appear below:

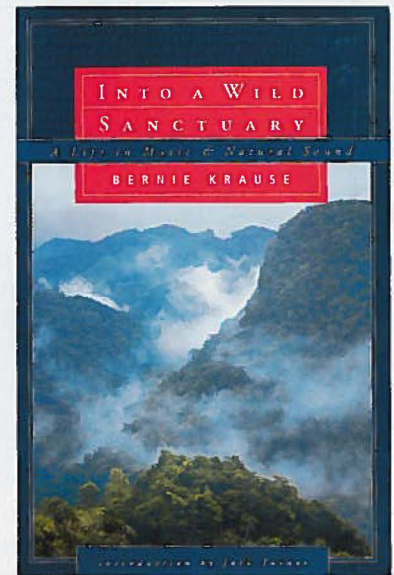
"In 1968, when I first began my odyssey, I could record for about 15 hours and capture about one hour of usable sound on my equipment. A ratio of about 15:1. Now it takes nearly 2000 hours to record 1 hour. Why the change? There are several reasons. The most serious, of course, is the unimaginable loss of representative habitats. The second is the increase of human mechanical noise which tends to mask the subtle aural textures of the remaining environments. And the third—as a direct result of the first two issues—is the decrease in certain key vocal creatures, both large and small, that make up typical natural soundscapes.

"In the short time I've plied my craft, I have seen the radical changes nearly everywhere, but most notably in North America. This evening, I will dis-

cuss in general terms, from the perspective of bio-acoustics, what I believe has contributed to the loss of our forsaken habitats and the precious voices I refer to as biophonies. I will address what this loss augurs for our future if significant shifts are not made at every level of our culture very soon to help preserve what little remains.

"In its pure state, where no human noise is present, natural soundscapes are glorious symphonies. However, the combination of shrinking habitat coupled with an increase of human clamor has produced conditions where non-human communication necessary to creature survival at all levels is in the process of being stilled altogether.

"In *Nature & Madness* (Sierra Club Books, 1982), one of the first books to address the human dimension of ecology, the late Dr. Paul Shepard described how certain signs of pathological human behavior originating in Euro-American culture are directly related to the loss of wild habitat and our connection to the natural world. He understood that creature voices were our window to the wild natural because they are the root music of our language, our songs and dances. He lamented both our lack of oversight of natural soundscape as being important to our lives, and also the significant loss of creature voices over the course of his 20<sup>th</sup> Century lifetime. Canadian composer/author R. Murray Schafer, father of the word, *soundscape* and the concept of *acoustic energy*, wrote a book titled *Turning of the World*. He observed that human-induced noise is both a contributing factor to soundscape loss in the wild and, at the same time, particularly emblematic of Western models of power. The louder the sounds we can produce, the more virile we are supposed to feel absent anything else of consequence that provides us with a sense of self or spiritual worth. Schafer sees these symbols as attempts to overwhelm and supersede voices evident in the natural world. Those include organisms of all sizes, thunder, wind, leaves quaking in the



*Into a Wild Sanctuary*  
By Bernie Krause  
198 pages, Heyday Books  
Berkeley, California, \$14.95

branches of aspens, ocean waves in a storm, and shaking of the earth, itself. As James Watt, Secretary of the Interior under Ronald Reagan, once observed: "To most people noise and power go hand in hand." It was a doctrine Watt obsessively promoted. Like Watt, we have learned to numb the emptiness within us with ever-louder noise at the expense of those voices which actually *do* have the power to affect our lives in more productive ways.

"The exponential acceleration of this process began during the early 17<sup>th</sup> Century when European economic and political philosophy undermined the aesthetic value of the wild natural. For instance, René Descartes abhorred the natural world and seemed quite terrified of it. After elevating humans to rational omnipotence, he asserted that non-human animals felt no pain, were incapable of rational thought, and had no spiritual life.

"That human noises affect those of the natural world couldn't be more clearly expressed than through an article that appeared last year in the *Los Angeles Times*. It reported that Rock star Tina Turner's voice was found to

be the most effective means of scaring birds from the runways of England's Gloucestershire Airport. Airport staff previously used recordings of avian distress calls to frighten birds away from landing strips, with only limited success. However, when they switched to recordings of the famed rock singer, there was an immediate and dramatic effect. Airport chief fire officer Ron Johnson said, '...what the birds really hate is Tina Turner.'

"I discovered that in an undisturbed natural environment, creatures vocalize in relationship to one another like instruments in an orchestra. On land, in particular, this delicate acoustic fabric is almost as well-defined as the notes on a page of music when examined graphically in the form of what we sometimes call *voice prints*. In healthy habitats, certain insects occupy one sonic zone of the creature bandwidth, while birds, mammals, and amphibians occupy others not yet taken and where there is no competition. This system has evolved in a manner so that each voice can be heard distinctly and each creature can thrive as much through *its* iteration as any other aspect of its being. The same type of event also generally occurs within marine environments. This *biophony*, or creature choir, serves as a vital gauge of habitat's health. But it also conveys data about its age, its level of stress, and can provide us with an abundance of other valuable new information such as why and how creatures in both the human and non-human worlds have learned to dance and sing. Yet, this miraculous biophony—this concerto of natural world—is now under threat of annihilation. Not only are we moving toward a silent spring, but a silent summer, fall and winter, as well.

"The fragile weave of sound just described is being torn apart mainly by three factors: One is the incredible amount of noise we humans make. The second, by our undiminished lust for precious natural resources further exaggerated by the effect of the GATT and NAFTA treaties. And last, by our seemingly boundless need to conquer aspects of the natural world rather than to find a way to abide in consonance with them. I mentioned earlier that it now

takes nearly two thousand hours to capture one hour of pure natural soundscape. Compare that to 45 percent of our undisturbed North American forests still standing in 1968 where now less than 2 percent are left only 32 years later. Please note that the major portion of that percentage was leveled in the last decade. This staggering circumstance, combined with the noise of chain saws, leaf blowers, snowmobiles, ATVs, ORVs, trail bikes, jet skis, deep-throated boat engines propelling ever faster water craft around otherwise pristine lakes, has created a recipe for tragedy. That is unless the heavily industrialized countries of the world—and North America, in particular, are willing to take the lead and make an immediate shift in their use policies of these mechanical toys and their virulent effects.

"Many types of frogs and insects vocalize together in a given habitat so that no one individual stands out among the many. This chorus creates a protectively expansive audio performance inhibiting predators from locating any single place from which sound emanates. The synchronized frog voices originate from so many places at once that they appear to be coming from everywhere. However, when the coherent patterns are upset by the sound of a jet plane as it flies within range of the pond, the special frog biophony is broken. In an attempt to reestablish the unified rhythm and chorus, individual frogs momentarily stand out giving predators like coyotes or owls perfect opportunities to snag a meal. While recording the rare spadefoot toads (*Scaphiopus hammondi*) about the north shore of Mono Lake in the Eastern Sierras one spring, a similar event actually occurred. After the military jet disappeared, forty-five minutes passed before the toads were able to reestablish their protective chorus. In the dusk light we saw two coyotes and a great horned owl feeding by the side the small pond. Because of the unique manner by which we record and measure sound, we have discovered that the relatively intense sound produced by a low-flying jet aircraft can cause changes in the biophony that induce certain creatures to lose the life-saving protection of their vocal choruses.

"Because of the noise introduced

into their environment by cruise boats traveling in Glacier Bay, humpback whales have been observed trying to swim away and hide from the noise, ducking behind spits of land or large blocks of ice that had broken off glaciers apparently in an effort to get into quieter 'shadow' zones. In recent years, fewer and fewer whales have been seen in the Bay.

"There are many important reasons to reconsider the value of unimpeded natural soundscape as a resource. For one thing, it is clear that natural soundscape cannot be replaced as evidenced by the 25% loss of viable North American biophonies collected in my library. These are habitats no one will ever hear again. They are forever silenced, fully extinct, or hopelessly altered. Yet, there are rays of hope. We are beginning to understand late in the game that pristine natural soundscapes are reserves and resources critical to our enjoyment, understanding, and awareness of the natural wild as well as our own history and culture. Without these links, a fundamental piece of fabric of life is sadly compromised. That is why the National Park Service implemented a strong educational and administrative model to protect natural soundscapes as a valued resource. Soundscape is now treated as a component of great value worth preserving for visitors and creatures, alike. Visitor reaction to the noise in the national parks convinced the National Park Service that it is important to attempt to hear and treat soundscapes differently—as important to our well-being and health as the preservation of pure fresh water, clean air, and non-polluted soil. Indeed, snowmobiles are being phased out of Yellowstone Park. Tourist overflights over Rocky Mountain National Park have been eliminated altogether. Over Grand Canyon they have been severely restricted although, given the current political 'Wise Use' mindset, we remain uncertain as to the manner in which these policies will be implemented. If the Park Service succeeds in its effort to convince the visiting public of the importance of this noise-free model, the idea will spread and we will have come a long way toward our goal of responsive stewardship of the wild natural." 🐾

## Manatees Win Long Overdue Protection Through Legal System

**T**he docile, herbivore commonly referred to as the "sea-cow" may finally receive some of the protection it has desperately needed and been promised for decades. Recently, two important lawsuits aimed at forcing state and federal agencies to implement long-standing laws protecting the Florida West Indian manatee, have nearly reached final settlement.

The settlement of the federal suit brought against the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) and US Corps of Engineers (Corps) was announced at a press conference on January 4 at the National Press Club in Washington DC, hosted by *Save the Manatee Club* (SMC), lead organization for the coalition of 19 animal protection and environmental groups, including AWI, that brought the suit. Later that month, the tentative state suit settlement with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) was announced in Florida.

The federal settlement, as presented by lead attorney Eric Glitzenstein of the law-firm Meyer & Glitzenstein, "requires the USFWS to establish 'new manatee refuges and sanctuaries throughout peninsular Florida' and to issue comprehensive regulations (already required by the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act) for ensuring that projects permitted by the Corps—which includes all new docks, piers, boat slips, and similar structures in manatee habitat—have no more than a 'negligible' effect on manatees." Glitzenstein goes on to say that the settlement also "requires the USFWS and Corps to analyze, in an Environmental Impact Statement, or an Environmental Assessment (as required by the National Environmental Policy Act) the 'direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts on manatees and their habitat' of all Corps-permitted projects in manatee habitat."



Douglas Faulkner

The attorney for the State suit against the FWC, David Guest of Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund said, "this settlement will take the necessary steps to rebuild the Florida manatee population. It is a strictly science-based settlement, which will establish shoreline buffer speed zones, and 14 safe havens that will reverse the alarming increase in manatee deaths and injuries. The speed zones will add on average less than ten minutes travel time for a typical boater. It's a small price to pay." While the State has agreed to the terms of the settlement they will not finalize the agreement until numerous public hearings are held throughout the State. For more details about both settlement agreements please visit AWI's website at <http://www.awionline.org> or write us.

Scientists from the Florida Marine Research Institute have estimated that 3,276 manatees live in Florida waters. With the manatees' slow reproductive cycle they cannot sustain the high mortality rate, which has been on the rise every year. Something had to be done and the lawsuit along with the state and national attention to the issue have done a great deal to draw critically needed attention to this situation. Pat Rose of SMC was right when he said "now is the time to act when boaters and environmentalists can work together to save the manatee; this may be the last chance." 🐾

*According to the US Fish & Wildlife Service, "manatees play an important role in Florida's marine ecosystem. The sea-dwelling vegetarians eat up to 100 pounds of aquatic plants a day, clearing up weed-choked waterways that plague boaters."*



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