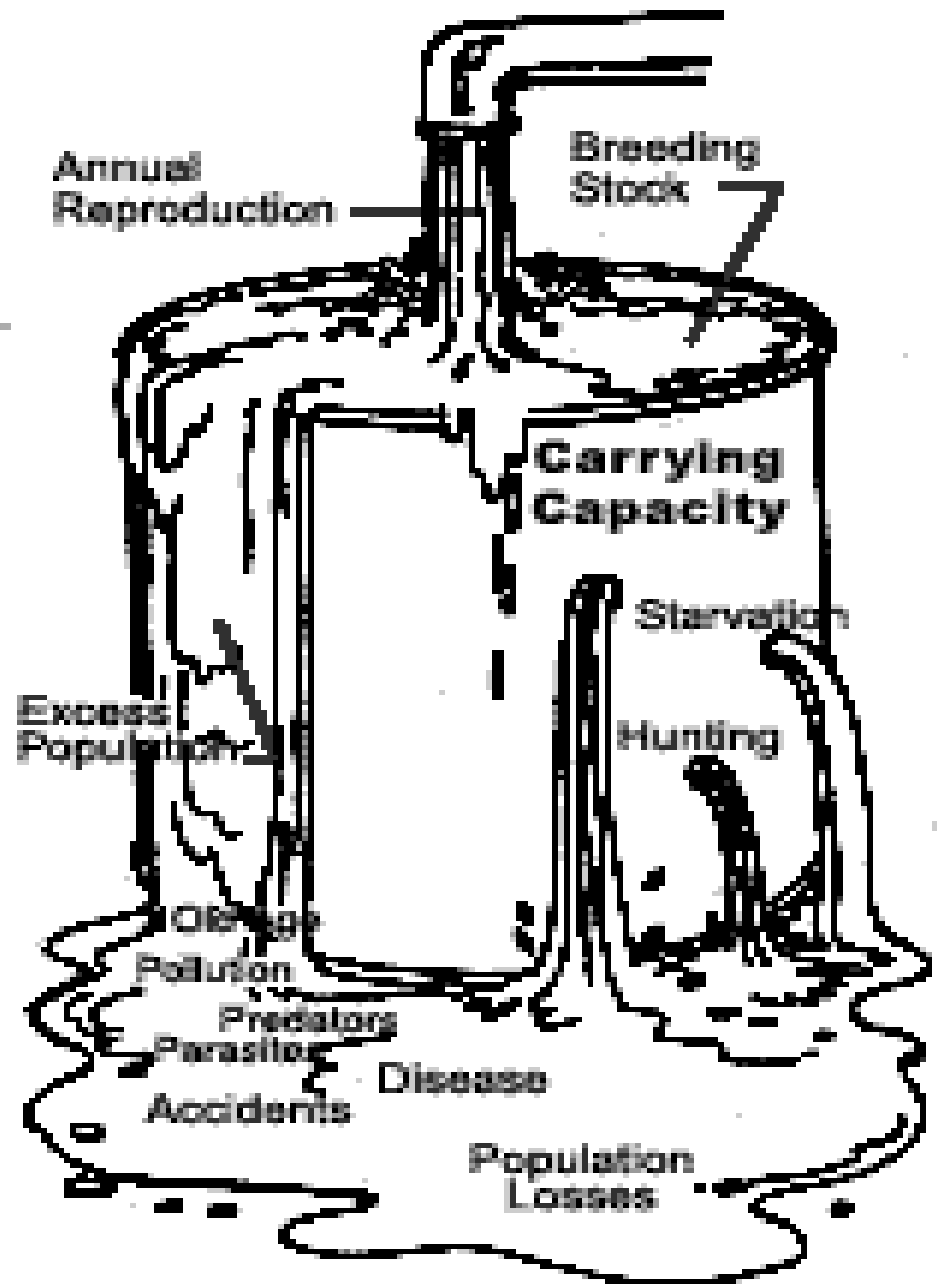
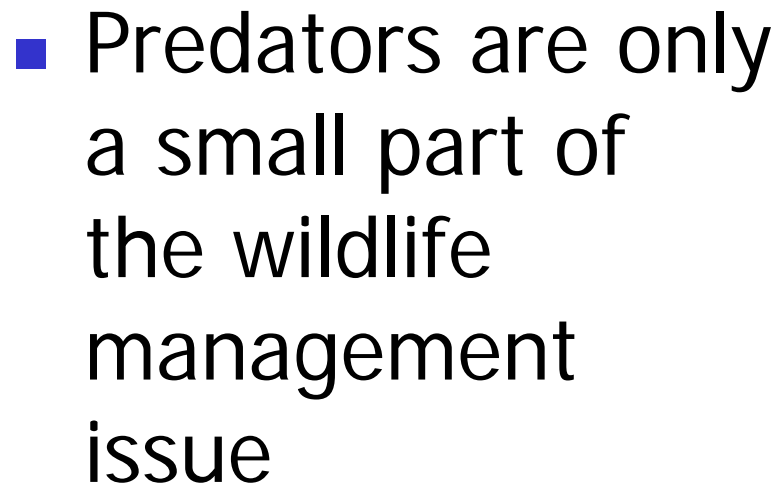




Identification of Predator, Pest, and Nuisances Species

By Taylor Roy





Predators

- Predation implies tooth and claw, and blood and terror to most people
- To biologists, a predator is an animal that kills and eats other animals
- Special abilities of predators include speed, a sense of determining angles of pursuit, strength, and a sharp sense of smell and vision

Mountain Lion

- Also called cougar or pumas
- Large long tailed cats
- Their spotted fur is dull, tawny in color on the back sides, with white underneath
- Ears are small and rounded
- Main food is deer, but will also eat porcupines, livestock, and a variety of other small animals
- Live primarily in rocky canyons or dense brush



Bobcat

- Barely twice the size of a housecat
- Reddish brown or grayish fur spotted with black
- A ruff surrounds the face, and pointed tufts of hair rise from the tips of its ears that help in amplifying sound
- Prefer rocky canyons or outcrops, but often live in wooded areas
- Eats whatever is available



Coyote

- Number one predator of livestock in the U.S.
- They are light gray to dull yellowish color, with white underparts
- Fur is long and heavy, giving a shaggy look
- Only use dens when raising young, and do not hibernate
- Have expanded their range to all parts of the U.S.
- Well known for their high pitched yapping



Red Fox

- Most handsome of the wild canids
- It's coat is pale yellowish-red to deep reddish brown with light underparts
- Ears and lower legs are black; the tail is bushy reddish-yellow with a black and white tip
- Prefer brush as well as grasses and sedges
- Eat mostly mice, rats, squirrels and berries
- Sharp sense of smell, hearing, and eyesight



Gray Fox

- Compares in size to a small shepherd dog
- It is dark gray, except the reddish coloration on its side; it also has a white throat, and a black stripe down the long bushy tail
- Range throughout the Eastern Texas
- Able to climb small trees
- Eat small mammals, birds, plants, and insects



Osprey

- Also called the fish hawk because it flies over large bodies of water and takes aquatic prey
- They have a white head, dark eye stripe, and are dark brown above and white below
- Nest near fresh or salt water in dead trees, on rocky cliffs, or sand dunes and even in telephone poles
- Eat mainly fish, but will also eat water snakes and salamanders



Osprey Nest



Red-Tailed Hawk

- “Chicken Hawk”
- They have a dark reddish uppertail and paler red undertail
- Body feathers are highly variable, but usually are mottled brown
- Live in a variety of regions, but mostly in woods, to plains, and prairie groves, to deserts
- Prey mostly on rodents



Northern Harrier

- They have a white rump and a owl like facial appearance
- Males are grayish above and mostly white below with black wing tips; Females are brown above and have heavy brown streaking and spotting on a whitish belly
- Common resident of the wetlands
- They prey on mice, rats, and frogs



Great-Horned Owl

- They have a wing span up to five feet
- They are molted brown, yellow, and black; They also have horn-like feathers that protrude from the brow of the bird
- Head rotates up to 200 degrees, and their eyesight is ten times better than humans
- They are nocturnal and eat game birds and domestic fowl



Bald Eagle

- Endangered species and are the national emblem of the U.S.
- Immature bald eagles look like the golden eagle
- Live around sea coasts and areas along rivers and lakes
- Prey mainly on fish
- Their population has diminished due to shooting, pesticides and human encroachment



Bull Frogs

- One of the larger frogs in Texas
- Usually a drab, green color, with a sticky tongue
- They have a slimy wet skin that allow for air exchange between the body and the environment
- Live on land and water
- Eat insects and smaller frogs



American Alligator

- Size: 6-16 feet
- Dark, appearing black
- This reptile can be found in a variety of freshwater habitats, including swamps, lakes, and bayous. It also occurs in the brackish waters of coastal marshes
- Feed on fish, turtles, birds, crawfish, crabs, and other water life



Western Diamond Rattlesnake

- Named after its diamond shape pattern on its back
- Ranges from 5-8 feet
- It is venomous that vibrates its tail to scare predators
- It is responsible for more serious snake bites than any other North American snake
- Eats rabbits, rats, mice, and gophers



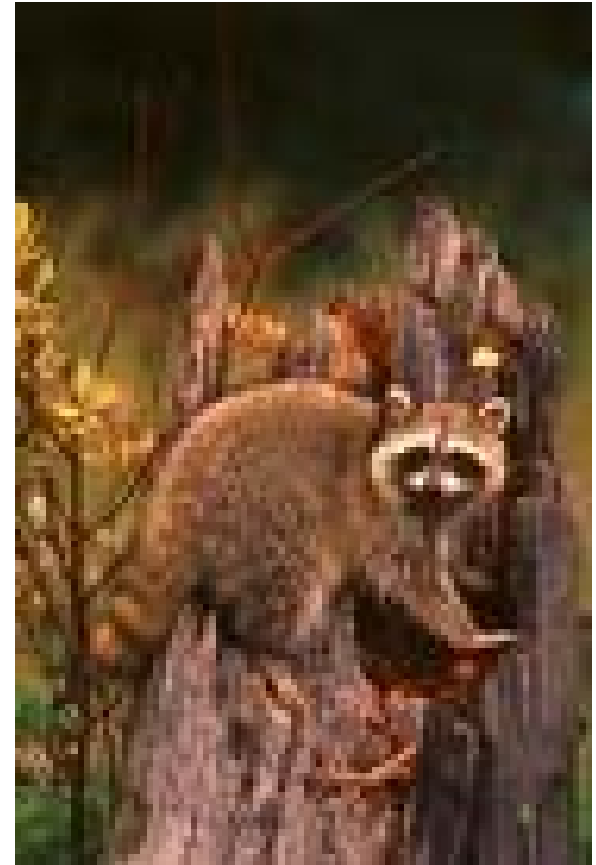
Badger

- They are short-legged, heavy bodied animal with a short, stubby tail
- They have a long, curved foreclaws and shovel-like hind claws; Head is broad and flattened
- Fur is long, shaggy, and yellowish-grey; Also have a white stripe that extends from its nose to shoulders
- Eat Squirrels, gophers, mice, and other small mammals
- Prefers open country and plains that range over the western U.S.



Raccoon

- The most economically important furbearer in Texas
- Black mask over the eyes and ringed tail
- Nocturnal
- Has gray coarse shaggy fur with some brown on sides and black on the back
- Eats animal matter and plants
- Carry diseases harmful to human



Pest and Nuisance Species

- Wildlife species that become overabundant in area and may cause crop and livestock damage
- Pests are harmful to humans in some way
- Nuisances are usually just annoying or unpleasant





Nuisance Wildlife



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Nuisance Wildlife...

- What do you consider a “nuisance”?
- What laws/regulations apply?
- What landscaping or gardening decisions can you make to avoid potential problems?



Nuisance Wildlife

- Exclusion
- Cultural Methods & Habitat Modification
- Frightening
- Repellants
- Toxicants
- Trapping
- Shooting



Nuisance Wildlife

Some Resources for you:
(Besides your local
Extension Office)

-Purdue's FNR-FAQ-16-W

-IDNR Nuisance Wildlife
Information Hotline

(1-800-893-4116)



Rabbits

Plants frequently damaged:

Tulips	Mountain Ash
Carrots	Basswood
Peas	Red/Sugar Maple
Beans	Honey locust
Beets	Ironwood
Rose family	Red/white oak
Apple trees	Willow
Blackberries	Japanese barberry
Raspberries	Sumac
Cherry	
Plum	
Nut producing trees	
Evergreens	

Less frequently damaged:

Corn
Squash
Cucumbers
Tomatoes
Potatoes
Some peppers





More rabbits...

- HABITAT ELIMINATION - brush etc.
- REPELLENTS – 44 registered
- TRAPS - box traps, live traps, etc.
- EXCLUSION - fencing does not have to be tall or especially sturdy

More Rabbits...

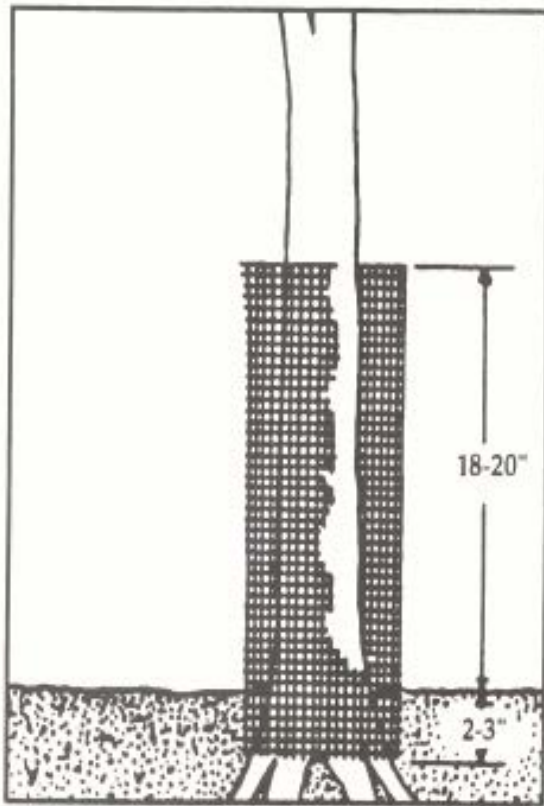


Fig. 5. A cylinder of hardware cloth or other wire mesh can protect trees from rabbit damage.

POISONS - none registered

TRAPS - box traps, live traps,
bait with ear corn, apples,
etc.

SHOOTING - permit must be
issued BEFORE shooting the
animal

Deer

- Deer are here to stay, so we need to learn to deal with them
- Deer are selective feeders
- Careful plant selection can prevent problems
- In severe cases, exclusion practices may be needed ("Peanut butter fence, polytape fence, etc.)



Deer Plant Selection

Frequently Damaged:

Balsam/Fraser Fir

Norway maple

Eastern Redbud

Atlantic White Cedar

Clematis

Cornelian Dogwood

Winged Euonymus

Wintercreeper

Catawba Rhododendron

Apples

Cherries

Plums

Rhododendrons

Evergreen Azaleas

English Ivy

Pinxterbloom Azalea

Hybrid Tea Rose

European Mountain Ash

Yews (Eng., West., Jap.)

American Arborvitae

Seldom Damaged:

Barberry

Common Barberry

Paper Birch

Common Boxwood

Russian Olive

American Holly

Drooping Leucothoe

Colorado Blue Spruce

Japanese Pieris



Opossums



- They like garbage, compost, pet food, etc.
 - Very smart animals, more intelligent than dogs!
 - When a nuisance, not protected legally
 - Exclusion - “build them out” of structures
 - Traps
- SHOOTING** - legal if interfering with property, report to conservation officer

Chipmunks/Ground Squirrels



- feed on seeds, insects, berries, fruit
- hardware cloth for buildings
- hardware cloth covered with soil on flower beds
- keep birdfeeders away from house
- trapping (with rat traps) most effective, use peanut butter and raisin bran or oatmeal for bait.
- generally not destructive, some people even enjoy watching them!



More Squirrels...

- Many different types of bird feeders are designed to exclude squirrels...pick your favorite
- If you can't beat 'em, join 'em! Some people set aside special feeders just for the squirrels

Voles

They are similar in appearance to mice, but with more compact bodies & shorter tails.





More Voles...

- **EXCLUSION:**
 - hardware cloth cylinders around trees (1/4 inch mesh) buried 6 inches deep - 2 feet high
- **TOXICANTS** - many rat/mouse poisons labeled for voles
- Rarely in homes - use mouse traps if needed
- **TRAPPING** - use peanut butter bait

Moles

Insectivore – feed on insects almost exclusively

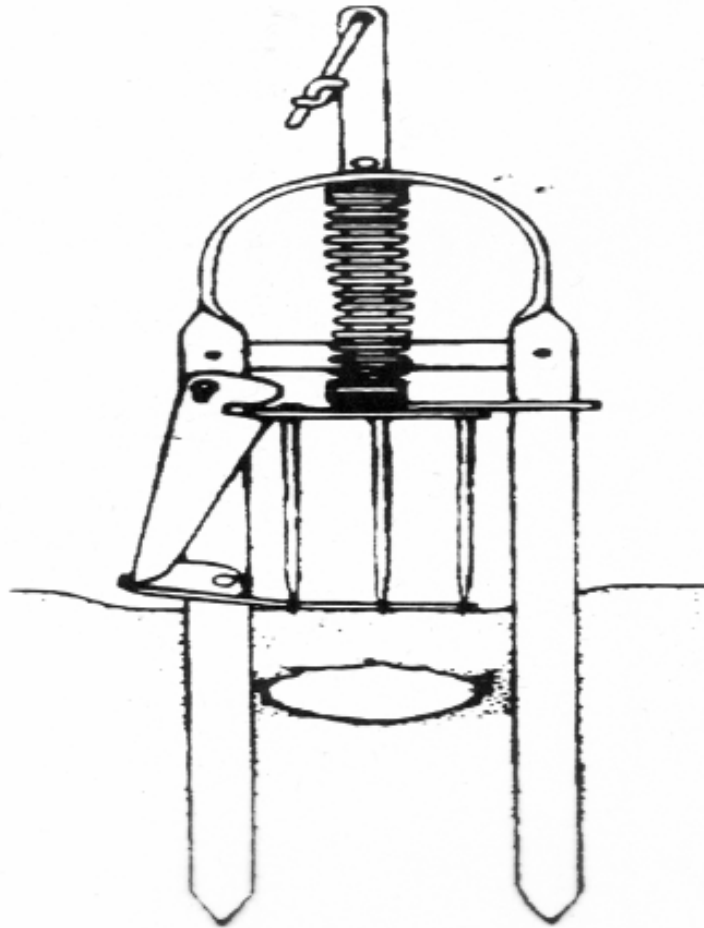
Active day and night

Like moist soils – easier to move about

Not blind, but rely on smell to find food in the dark



Moles...my favorite remedy?



Raccoons

EXCLUSION - electric wires— 3 & 6 inches high

Tight fitting lids on garbage cans

Chimneys - chimney cap

HABITAT MODIFICATION - remove food

FRIGHTENING - lights, radios, dogs, windmills

TRAPPING - bait with cat food, tuna, chicken

- Live traps – what then?

SHOOTING - legal if interfering with property, report to conservation officer



Sssssnakes!



Woodpeckers



What in the world?



Skunks





More Skunks...

- Their range is 2 - 3 miles from home den.
- Mate in Feb.-March, 4 -6 in a litter 60 days later
- Nocturnal, slow moving, very confident animals
- Live in trees, hollow logs, groundhog holes as homes.
- Eat both plants and animals, as well as insects
- Feeding on grubs – skunks can tear up a yard in a single evening and may come back!



More Skunks...

- Skunks are not protected furbearers
- SHOOTING - legal if interfering with property, report to conservation officer
- Normally, they do not climb...fences generally work if 3 ft high+ hole is small enough (2.5 inches)
- Mothballs/ ammonia rags are temporary, at best
- Gas cartridges work well for burrows

Red-Winged Blackbird

- Abundant in North America
- Males are black with red and yellow shoulder patch
- Females resemble large, brownish sparrows
- Cause considerable damage to corn, sunflowers, oats, and rice



Black Crow

- One of the most familiar birds in U.S.
- Cause a variety of damage
- Pull up corn plant sprouts and eats the kernels, consume peanuts, grains, pecans, and fruits
- Sometimes attack small calves, pigs, and lambs
- They eat young water fowl, pheasants and other nesting birds



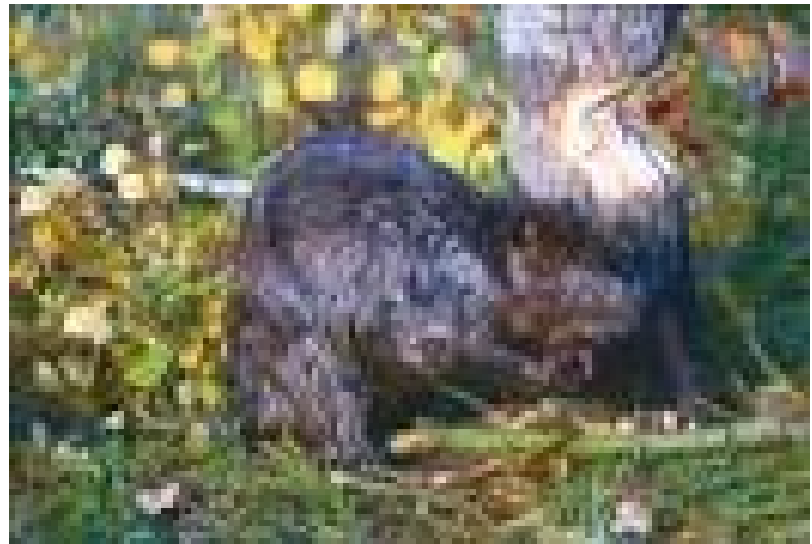
Pigeon

- Also known as rock doves
- Typically gray with a whitish rump and black band on the tail and wings
- Their droppings damage buildings, cars, and vegetation
- Carry and spread diseases, and threaten the human safety around airports



Beaver

- Largest North American rodent
- Hind feet are webbed
- Fur is long and coarse usually reddish-brown
- Tail is flat, scaled, and almost hairless
- Most damage is result of dam building, bank burrowing, tree cutting, or flooding



Nutria

- Imported to Louisiana in 1930's for fur
- Damage dams, drainage ditches, vegetation



House Mouse

- Small slender rodent with slightly pointed nose
- Very troublesome cause damage to consumption and contamination of foodstuff and animal feed
- They can transmit diseases to humans



Armadillo

- Horny protective plate covering its head, body, and tail
- Prefers dense brush, woodlands, or forest near creeks and rivers
- Annoy humans by rooting in lawns, golf courses, vegetable gardens, and flower beds



The End...

