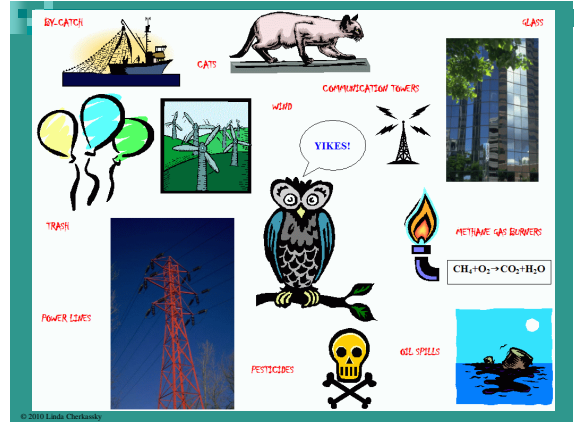


Who Let the Cats Out?

NWRA Symposium
March 2010

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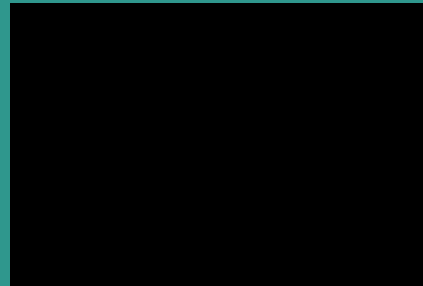
Cats and Birds and the People Who Love Them...

By cartoonist Dave Coverly
Property of Speed Bump cartoons



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Gentle Kneading...



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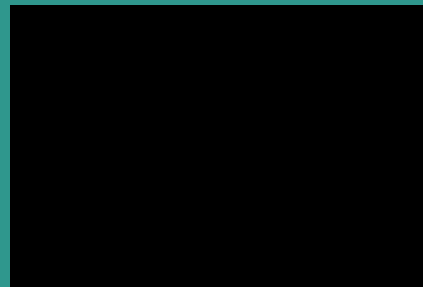
A Non-native, Invasive Predator...

- The domestic cat is not native to any North American ecosystem (American Bird Conservancy, 2007).
- Due to a combination of their opportunistic predatory behavior and their occurrence in numbers exponentially higher than native predators, cats can wipe out bird populations from otherwise suitable habitat (Dauphiné and Cooper, 2009).
- Well-fed or subsidized, domestic cats still kill native wildlife (Adamec, 1976).



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Must Kill Tail!



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Cat-Injured Wildlife

- Wildlife rehabilitation centers report a significant number of animals attacked by cats.
- Wild animals seldom survive the attack regardless of administered treatment.
- Cats carry several types of bacteria.
- Victims may appear healthy and die from internal hemorrhaging or injury to vital organs.
- Attacks on adults often result in orphaned offspring that may not survive.

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Cat-Injured Wildlife



Caught by cat adult Eastern Cottontail.
Photos by Judy Scott.

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Cat-Injured Wildlife



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Defenders of Wildlife

- Has stated that cats are, in fact, huge causes of avian mortality, and are widely-recognized as such throughout the fields of conservation research, management, and practice.



Adult Mourning Dove
Caught by Cat
Photo credit: Judy Scott

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Domestic Cats are NOT...

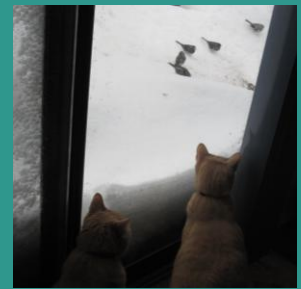
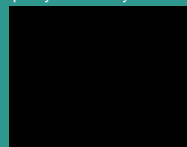
- 'green'
- non-toxic
 - Similar to pesticides, non-target species affected.
 - http://tnrrealitycheck.com/barn_cats.asp
- Good for Sustainability
- Environmentally-friendly



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Domestic Cats are...

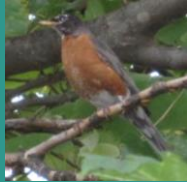
- companion animals that deserve responsible pet owners who will provide safe and loving homes or placements for them.
- the same species as feral cats.
- pretty darn funny!



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Campaigns

- Campaigns
 - The American Bird Conservancy, *Cats Indoors!*
 - Keep Animals Safe
 - The Poacher Approach
 - The State of the Birds



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Campaigns – *Cats Indoors!*

- Began in 1997
- The Campaign for Safer Birds and Cats
- Downloadable PSAs, posters, materials, new brochures
- Project PredatorWatch
 - Citizen-science project to determine the extent of predation at bird feeders and in backyards.
- <http://abcbirds.org/cats>



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Campaigns – Keep Animals Safe

- Began in 2009
- The Toronto Keep Animals Safe Campaign
- Coordinated by Toronto Wildlife Centre
- Mission and message are supported by the Canadian Cats Indoor Alliance.
- FAQs, resources, clever PSA video
- <http://www.KeepAnimalsSafe.ca/>

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Campaigns – Keep Animals Safe



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Campaigns – The Poacher Approach

- Published in the Winter 2007-2008 *ReMaine* Wild newsletter
- An Ethical-Hunting Argument for Keeping Cats Indoors
- Developed by Dianne Winn and Marc Payne of Avian Haven WBRC
- Initially targeted hunters
- Two downloadable posters
- <http://www.avianhaven.org/catpoachers.html>

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Campaigns – The State of the Birds

- Announced March 2009
- Unprecedented partnership among government wildlife agencies and conservation organizations
- Report showed that nearly one-third of the more than 800 wild bird species documented in the U.S. are endangered, threatened or in significant decline
- Report synthesized data from three long-running bird censuses conducted by thousands of citizen scientists and professional biologists
- Identifies challenges for species of birds in various habitats and describes how folks can help
- <http://www.stateofthebirds.org/2009/>



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Resources

- The ESA
- The MBTA
- Municipal, County and/or State Laws
- The CatBib
- Poster Projects and Fact Sheets
- Outreach at Off-site Events
- Intake and Survival Data



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Resources – ESA

- Unauthorized take of a listed species can occur through a variety of means, including but not limited to wounding, killing, harm, and harassment.
- Failure of an agency or municipality to take action to reduce the likelihood of death or injury to T & E species from feral cats could result in a violation of the ESA for which the agency or municipality may be held responsible for unauthorized "take" if free-ranging cats kill, injure, or harass T & E species.
- The ESA not only prohibits any person from directly taking wildlife, but it also prohibits any person from causing an ESA violation to be committed (16 U.S.C. section 1538 (g)).

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Resources – MBTA

- Migratory birds are Federal trust resources and are afforded protection under the MBTA, which prohibits the take of a migratory bird's parts, nest, or eggs.
- Migratory birds could be subject to predation from State, municipality, or land manager-authorized cat colonies and free-ranging feral or pet cats.

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Resources – Other Laws

- Know your municipal, county and state laws pertaining to domestic cats.
- Case in point
 - Voorhees, NJ
 - No dog or cat shall run at large at any time within the limits of the Township
 - No dog or cat shall be permitted off the premises of the person owning, keeping or harboring it unless accompanied by a person who is capable of controlling it and who has the dog and/or cat securely confined and controlled
 - Meet Hershey

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Resources – Other Laws

- July 2009
 - Cat regularly making beeline for my yard
- August and September
 - Talked to and attempted to educate owner
- October
 - Filed complaint in municipal court
- November
 - Owner did not show for mediation
 - Owner fined at court hearing
- December
 - Cat roaming less
- January through now
 - Collecting photo evidence to return to court



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Resources – The CatBib

- Invented by a 'bird-feeding, cat-loving gardener'
- "CatBibs stopped 81% of cats from catching birds, 45% of cats from catching mammals, and 33% of cats from catching herpetofauna."
- Does not address other free-roaming cat issues
 - Disease transmission to wildlife and humans
 - Safety of roaming feline
 - Property rights and/or nuisance issues
 - Legality of letting a cat run at large
 - Principle of responsible pet ownership
- BIG CatBib
 - Claim is that this size bib is 98% effective in stopping cats from catching birds
- <http://catgoods.com/>



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Resources – Posters, etc.

- Provide information via your own brochures and/or fact sheets
- Utilize the brochures and/or fact sheets from organizations working on this issue
- Pictures and posters depict the tragedy, waste and inhumanity of cat predation
- Link to other websites working on this issue



Animal agency (Photo: Linda Cherkasky)
Photo: Linda Cherkasky

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Resources – Outreach



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Resources – Data

- What is the percentage of known caught-by-cat (CBC) patients you intake?
- Do you derive this percentage based on total number of animals received or based only on prey animals?
- How do you code for a nest of squirrels orphaned because Momma was killed by a cat?
- What is your survival data?

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Treatment of CBC Patients

- Birds
- Mammals
- Reptiles



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Treatment of CBC Patients

- Medical
 - Fractures
 - Internal Injuries
 - Air sac damage, etc.
 - External Injuries
 - Degloving, etc.
 - Antibiotics
 - Euthanasia
 - Time in rehab
 - Intake Percentage and Survival Rate

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Some Diseases from Domestic Cats

- Feline Panleukopenia Virus (FPV)
 - Can be transmitted to raccoons and wild cats.
- Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV)
 - Can be transmitted to wild cats (bobcats, panthers/mountain lions).
- Rabies
 - Can be transmitted to mammals.
 - Zoonotic
- Toxoplasmosis
 - Many species affected.
 - Zoonotic

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Conclusion

- "A wildlife rehabilitator should...promote a responsible concern for living beings and the welfare of the environment."
- "A wildlife rehabilitator should work on the basis of sound ecological principles, incorporating appropriate conservation ethics and an attitude of stewardship."
- Conservation is 'planned management of a natural resource to prevent exploitation, destruction, or neglect'.
- Rehabilitators are
 - Healers and Menders
 - Educators
 - Conservationists
- **Your impact makes a difference!**

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Literature

Adams, R. E. 1976. The interaction of hunger and preying in the domestic cat (*Felis catus*): an adaptive hierarchy. *Behavioral Biology* 18:263-272.

Dauphine, N. and R. J. Cooper. 2009. Impacts of cats on birds in the United States: A review of recent research with conservation and management recommendations. *Proceedings of the 4th International Partners in Flight Conference*.

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Media

- Audio
 - Feral Cat Blues
 - Written and performed by Pamela Jo Hatley, accompanied by J. Steele Olmstead on harmonica. Inspired by Professor Tom Ankersen, University of Florida College of Law.
 - <http://pamelajohatley.com/articles.html>
- Video
 - Funny Cats clip
 - Property of ABC (American Broadcasting Company)
 - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xkIK8hEORY>

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Thank You!



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