

Course- FRW- 602 Wildlife Management & Research

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3rd Lecture

Animal damage problems

Damaging and nuisance wildlife

Wild animals can bring a sense of wonder and thrill to our lives, but sometimes, when they get a little too "up close and personal" they can become a bit of a nuisance. Some wildlife can even damage our property: chewing or pecking on the wood siding of our houses, nibbling our garden produce, destroying our farm crops, digging up our flower bulbs or turning our over our garbage cans and backyard grills.

Wild animals need food and shelter just like people. Animals may move into basements, attics, or garages in search of a place to live. They may also be attracted to food such as garbage, pet food, or birdseed. When this happens, it's not safe for the people or pets in the home or the wildlife. Wild animals can damage electrical wiring and destroy insulation. They can also carry diseases like rabies, or parasites such as **fleas** and **ticks** into your home. Never approach a wild animal and keep children and pets away from all wildlife. Contact your local animal control officer if you suspect a wild animal is sick.

- Prevention Tips: Know your pest! Its habits, preferences and needs will determine your control strategy. Your local **Cooperative Extension Service** or **state wildlife agency** can help.
- Periodically check for openings in the roof, under the porch, or to the basement. Cover or seal openings to prevent wildlife problems.
- Keep your garbage in containers with tight-fitting lids. A metal container may be needed to keep out persistent wildlife.

- If pets are fed outside, empty their bowls after they are finished eating. Store pet food indoors or in heavy-duty containers.

Control Tips:

- Find out how the animals are getting into your home. Block entrances with durable materials like wire mesh or sheet metal.
- Seal all cracks and openings, including holes for wiring. A persistent animal can widen almost any crevice or opening.
- Birds or other animals may get trapped in chimneys or use them to enter your home. Special caps or dampers are available to block chimneys.
- Many animals enter homes by way of the roof. Trim overhanging branches at least 8 to 10 feet away from the home.
- State and federal laws protect many animals, including most birds and their nests. Always check with your **state wildlife agency** before disturbing, trapping or poisoning a wild animal.
- If you are concerned about disease or the risk of being bitten, consider seeking **professional help**. Many counties provide 'animal control' services.
- **Mothballs** are not animal repellents. If you choose to use a pesticide, always **follow the label**. Try a **lower toxicity** product first. Only use products designed for use in your home and for the type of wildlife you want to control.

Human–wildlife conflict refers to the interaction between wild animals and people and the resultant negative impact on people or their resources, or wild animals or their habitat. It occurs when growing human populations overlap with established wildlife territory, creating reduction of resources or life to some people and/or wild animals. The conflict takes many forms ranging from loss of life or injury to humans, and animals both wild and domesticated, to competition for scarce resources to loss and degradation of habitat.

Human–wildlife conflict is defined by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) as "any interaction between humans and wildlife that results in negative impacts on human social, economic or cultural life, on the conservation of wildlife populations, or on the environment."

Conflict management strategies earlier comprised lethal control, translocation, regulation of population size and preservation of endangered species. Recent management approaches attempt to use scientific research for better management outcomes, such as behaviour modification and reducing interaction. As human-wildlife conflicts inflict direct, indirect and opportunity costs, the mitigation of human-wildlife conflict is an important issue in the management of biodiversity and protected areas.

Outcomes of conflict

Human–wildlife conflict occurs with various negative results. The major outcomes of human-wildlife conflict are:

- Injury and loss of life of humans and wildlife.
- Crop damage, livestock depredation, predation of managed wildlife stock.
- Damage to human property.
- Trophic cascades.
- Destruction of habitat.
- Collapse of wildlife populations and reduction of geographic ranges.

Human impact on the environment or **anthropogenic impact on the environment** includes impacts on biophysical environments, biodiversity, and other resources. The term *anthropogenic* designates an effect or object resulting from human activity. The term was first used in the technical sense by Russian geologist Alexey Pavlov, and was first used in English by British ecologist Arthur Tansley in reference to human influences on climax plant communities. The atmospheric scientist Paul Crutzen introduced the term "anthropocene" in the mid-1970s. The term is sometimes used in the context of pollution emissions that are produced as a result of human activities but applies broadly to all major human impacts on the environment.