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Please note: These instructions have changed from those provided for the VPC Proceedings at previous Conferences.

Please read and follow these revised instructions in preparing your manuscript. Manuscripts that do not conform to the instructions will be returned to the author(s) for correction and resubmittal, which may delay manuscript publication.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS

31st VERTEBRATE PEST CONFERENCE

March 11-14, 2024 Monterey, California, USA

Purpose

The objective of the Vertebrate Pest Conference and the resulting *Proceedings* is to help disseminate factual and ecologically sound information concerning human-wildlife conflicts and vertebrate pest damage and its control. The Conference continues to make significant contributions toward effectively understanding and resolving undesirable human-wildlife interactions and animal damage problems, promoting better management and control methodology, and minimizing adverse ecological effects. Vertebrate pest control uses applied ecology, with the goals of improving public health and conserving resources. The Conference is a forum for sharing knowledge and experiences among researchers, administrators, and practitioners in vertebrate pest control and wildlife damage management. It is organized by the California Vertebrate Pest Council, which also publishes the Conference *Proceedings*.

Manuscript Preparation

A manuscript for publication in the *Proceedings* is encouraged from every speaker and every poster presenter. Where a paper represents the work of more than one individual or where protocol demands, papers may be jointly authored.

In the event that your presentation at the Conference covers a topic for which you have submitted (or intend to submit) a manuscript to a journal or a different conference's proceedings, we ask that the author provide us with a manuscript that is sufficiently unique that the other publication will not prohibit your paper from being included in our *Proceedings*. Some journals allow publication of your paper if the proceedings has a print run of <500 copies, which will be the case for the 31st VPC *Proceedings*. An alternative, in the event your paper has already been published elsewhere, is for the author to secure from the publisher written permission for the VPC to reprint your paper in full in our *Proceedings*. Please discuss such situations with the VPC *Proceedings* Editor in advance of the Conference.

The Conference *Proceedings* are widely used for information and reference in the United States and in many parts of the world. For clarity and consistency, we request that you carefully follow these guidelines in the preparation of your manuscript.

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Your manuscript in final form must be submitted no later than April 19, 2024.

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Name all files with the first ("senior") author's last name: the manuscript itself, which includes the Literature Cited and List of Captions for Figures and/or Tables, should simply be named with the first author's last name (e.g., Thompson.docx). Name the files containing individual figures or tables as follows, also using the first author's last name (e.g., Thompson Figure 1.xlsx; Thompson Figure 2.jpg; Thompson Table 1.docx).

Abstract

Each manuscript must begin with an abstract. The abstract should be a *brief* summary of the paper (350 words, maximum). It should give the reader the gist of the paper. Avoid using species' Latin names in the abstract, unless the species has no familiar common name.

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Appropriate key words must be included with each manuscript. Key words should be selected that will allow for the general content of the paper to be identified, including Latin names as well as common names of species that are the main topic of the paper. Place the list of key words in alphabetical order, typically not to exceed 10 words, after the abstract and before the body of the paper. For suggested key words, see the publication "Key Word Standardization in Vertebrate Pest Control" (R. M. Timm, T. P. Salmon, and R. H. Schmidt. 1988. *In: Vertebrate Pest Control and Management Materials*, ASTM STP 974, pp. 3-11), which can be viewed or printed from the Conference's web site:

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The average manuscript has been about 12 double-spaced pages long (3,500 words). We strive to limit the length of each manuscript to a maximum of 20 double-spaced pages, including tables and figures, abstract, and references (maximum: 5,500 words, or approximately 275 words per page). Manuscripts longer than this limit may be returned to authors for condensing, unless prior approval has been obtained. (When tables or figures are included, the 5,500-word limit must be reduced commensurately.)

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- For expressing numerals, please use words for numerals one through nine, and digits for numerals 10 and above (e.g. four deer; 12 deer)
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- When listing multiple points within the text that are numbered or lettered, numerals are preferred, followed by a single parenthesis: e.g., 1), 2), 3), etc.
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- Latin names of species should be *italicized*. Vernacular names of animals should be accompanied by their scientific (Latin) names the first time mentioned within the body of the text. Do not capitalize the common name unless it includes a formal noun (e.g. mountain lion, American robin).
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Section headings within the text of the manuscript (except headings for “Abstract” and “Key Words”) should conform to the following example:

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In your manuscript, citations should be double-spaced and formatted with a hanging indent of 0.2 inch. Authors' names should be in "Title Case" (**not** in ALL CAPITALS) and author initials should be formatted as follows: "J. M. Bond" or "Bond, J. M." Note that there is a single space after each period. Please refer to the examples below and attached manuscript sample. Citation style is similar to that used by the *Journal of Wildlife Management*. Examples of the most common types of literature citations are as follows:

Journal Article

Bélisle, M., and A. Desrochers. 2002. Gap-crossing decisions by forest birds: an empirical basis for parameterizing spatially-explicit, individual-based models. *Landscape Ecology* 17:219-231.

Cox, W. A., F. R. Thompson III, B. Root, and J. Faaborg. 2012. Declining brown-headed cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) populations are associated with landscape-specific reductions in brood parasitism and increases in songbird productivity. PLoS ONE 7(10):e47591.

Book

Kleinbaum, D. G., L. L. Kupper, A. Nizam, and K. E. Muller. 2008. Applied regression analysis and other multivariable methods. Fourth edition. Duxbury, Belmont, CA.

Miller, K. V., and L. Marchinton. 1995. Quality whitetails: the why and how of quality deer management. Stackpole, Mechanicsburg, PA.

Edited Book

Temple, S. A., editor. 1978. Endangered birds: management techniques for preserving threatened species. University of Wisconsin Press, Madison, WI.

Chapter in Edited Book

Zeleny, L. 1978. Nesting box programs for bluebirds and other passerines. Pages 55-60 in S. A. Temple, editor. Endangered birds: management techniques for preserving threatened species. University of Wisconsin Press, Madison, WI.

Newspaper, Newsletter, and Magazine articles

Associated Press. 1997. Feathers could fly over dove hunting. Columbus Dispatch. 28 December 1997; section E:15.

Eisler, P. 1996. Voters to get a shot at hunting laws. USA Today. 25 April 1996; section A:4.

Hogan, M. 1997. Political season as important as hunting season. Safari Times 9(8):18.

Jones-Jolma, D. 1993. The fight to reform trapping in Arizona. Animals' Agenda. March-April:20-24.

Paper in a numbered Proceedings volume

Palmer, T. K. 1976. Pest bird control in cattle feedlots: the integrated system approach. Proceedings of Vertebrate Pest Conference 7:17-21.

Agency or Government Publication

Anderson, D. R. 1975. Population ecology of the mallard: V. Temporal and geographic estimates of survival, recovery, and harvest rates. Resource Publication 125, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.

Thesis or Dissertation

Breitwisch, R. J. 1977. The ecology and behavior of the red-bellied woodpecker, *Centurus carolinus* (Linnaeus; Aves: Picidae), in south Florida. M.S. thesis, University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL.

Tacha, T. C. 1981. Behavior and taxonomy of sandhill cranes from mid-continental North America. Ph.D. dissertation, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK.

Web page

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration [NOAA]. 2005. National Weather Service internet services team. Monthly precipitation for Reno, Nevada.

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/rev/hydrology/monthly_precip.php>. Accessed 23 Aug 2005.

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All papers contained within the *Proceedings* of the 31st Vertebrate Pest Conference will be peer edited. Papers will be evaluated by the *Proceedings* Editor and by selected other academicians and resource professionals from within the Vertebrate Pest Council. This process of peer editing, while not as rigorous as peer review typically practiced by scientific journals, permits review of manuscript content and expedites more timely publication of the information presented at the Conference. Editorial liberties will be taken in instances where improved clarity is needed or where style is incorrect. In the case of most manuscripts, the authors will not be contacted during the peer editing process. Unfortunately, time does not permit circulation of galley proofs for authors' review. Manuscripts improperly prepared or formatted, or which need significant improvement to meet the *Proceedings*' standards for scientific merit and clarity of expression, will be returned to the authors.

Publication

For the 31st Conference, we're continuing the strategy first used in publishing the 29th *Proceedings*. We intend to review and edit manuscripts as quickly as possible following their receipt, and we will endeavor to make them available individually as open-access publications on the University of California's eScholarship site (https://escholarship.org/uc/vertebrate_pest_conference) within 6 months or less after the Conference. A print-on-demand hard copy of the entire *Proceedings* will be available for purchase in late 2024 or early 2025. Papers submitted after the due date may not be included in the 31st *Proceedings*. It is to the authors' advantage to submit their paper as soon as possible, as papers will be published in the order received (except for papers requiring revision).



The Vertebrate Pest Council appreciates your contribution to this upcoming Conference, and we look forward to your participation.

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Manuscript Sample

An example of the style to follow in preparing your manuscript for the 31st Vertebrate Pest Conference Proceedings.

***** ***** *****

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1 **An Evaluation of Potential Repellents for Botta's Pocket Gophers**

2
3 **Gary W. Witmer and Rachael S. Moulton**

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5 **Roger A. Baldwin**

6 Dept. of Wildlife, Fish, and Conservation Biology, University of California, Davis, California

7
8 **Abstract:** Pocket gophers are fossorial rodents that cause substantial damage to crops,
9 reforestation, and property. We tested potential repellents to identify candidates to reduce
10 irrigation tubing damage. We dipped carrot chunks in the test materials, using mineral oil as the
11 solvent. Gophers prefer tuberous roots and, when kept in captivity, are often fed carrots as part of
12 their maintenance diet. None of the materials tested proved effective as repellents, even at
13 concentrations as high as 20% active ingredient or in combinations. Wood blocks soaked in a
14 few of the repellents received nearly significantly less damage than the control blocks and could
15 be looked at further as repellents. However, it appears that the quest for an effective gopher
16 repellent will continue to elude researchers.

17
18 **Key Words:** Botta's pocket gopher, drip irrigation, repellent, rodent damage control, *Thomomys*
19 *bottae*

20 21 **INTRODUCTION**

22 There are numerous species of pocket gophers in North America with most species belonging
23 to the genera *Geomys* and *Thomomys* (Nowak 1991). Pocket gophers cause various types of

24 damage to agricultural and rangeland resources and to reforestation (Witmer and Engeman
25 2007). Pocket gophers (*Thomomys* spp.) are generally considered one of the most damaging
26 wildlife pests in California (Marsh 1992, Clark 1994). A recent study estimated average losses
27 ranging from 5.3-8.8% across a variety of crops in CA (Baldwin et al. 2014), with one study
28 showing a loss of 36.5% of annual production in alfalfa in fields with high density gopher
29 populations (Smallwood and Geng 1997). The most widespread pocket gopher in California is
30 the Botta's pocket gopher (*Thomomys bottae*) (Case and Jasch 1994).

31 Primary control options for pocket gophers include trapping, burrow fumigation with
32 aluminum phosphide, and baiting with rodenticides (Barnes et al. 1982, Baroch and Poché 1985,
33 Evans et al. 1990, Case and Jasch 1994, Witmer and Engeman 2007, Baldwin 2012, 2014). Both
34 trapping and burrow fumigation can be highly effective at controlling pocket gophers (Lewis and
35 O'Brien 1990, Proulx 1997, Baker 2004), but are typically more time consuming and costly than
36 baiting (Marsh 1992, Engeman and Witmer 2000). ...

37

38 **METHODS**

39 Pocket gophers (henceforth, gophers) used in this study were Botta's pocket gophers live-
40 trapped in California and transported to NWRC, Fort Collins, CO. Gophers were kept in
41 individual numbered shoebox cages in a climate-controlled animal room. ...

42

43 **RESULTS**

44 A sizable number of potential repellents were tested in our study. Some of these are already
45 known to have some repellency with certain vertebrate or invertebrate species. Additionally,
46 some have been identified in research studies as having repellency to some rodent species (e.g.,
47 Fischer et al. 2013, Cowan et al. 2014). Unfortunately, we did not find any of the tested materials
48 to show significant repellency during our trials with Botta's pocket gopher. This was true even

49 when the concentration was increased and when we combined two or three of the active
50 ingredients (see Tables 1 and 2). ...

51

52 **DISCUSSION**

53 Other researchers have noted that potential repellents that work for some rodent species may
54 not work for other rodent species and that ones that work for one gender may not be very
55 effective for the other gender (Hansen et al. 2015, 2016). In our previous trials to identify
56 effective gopher repellents, it was only predator odors that showed the most potential promise as
57 repellents (Witmer et al. 1997). In their review, Lindgen and others (1997) also noted the
58 potential for predator odors as repellent for various rodent species. ...

59

60 **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

61 This study was conducted under the NWRC IACUC approved study protocol QA-2285. The
62 study was funded by Netafim Irrigation, Inc., Fresno, CA. We thank the landowners that allowed
63 us to live trap pocket gophers on their properties in California.

64

65 **LITERATURE CITED**

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67 controlling valley pocket gopher. *Proceedings of Vertebrate Pest Conference* 21:253-257.
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74 of Nebraska Cooperative Extension, Lincoln, NE.

75 Clark, J. P. 1994. Vertebrate pest control handbook. Fourth edition. California Department of
76 Food and Agriculture, Sacramento, CA.

77 Mattson, D. J. 2016. Exploitation of pocket gophers and their food caches by grizzly bears.
78 Journal of Mammalogy 85: in press. doi:10.1644/BJK-125.

79 ...

80

81 Captions for Tables and Figures

82

83

84 Table 1. Carrot consumption after 1 day and 2 days by treatment groups and control groups of
85 pocket gophers.

86

87 Table 2. Amount of wood block removed by gopher chewing after 3 days by treatment groups
88 and control group.

89

90

91 Figure 1. A single Botta's pocket gopher (*Thomomys bottae*) housed within a shoebox cage
92 containing a repellent-treated wood block.

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