

POWER OF THE EGG



75 YEARS OF RESEARCH ON PREDATOR AND PREY RESEARCH

EXAMPLE - Mossy Oak Gamekeepers with Dr. Mike Chamberlain Podcast - 2024

Dr. Mike Chamberlain of UGA to talk about his latest study regarding gobbler harvest. Mike has been managing a study of the largest group of radio collared gobblers ever for a scientific study. Mike carefully explains the data. If you're concerned about turkeys and considering adjusting harvest totals on a struggling property,

Predation Rates of Gobblers were same in both hunting and non-hunting areas 15%. One take away for me: If predation rates is 15% just for Gobblers from the ground and air. I don't know the breakdown. But why wouldn't you reduce some of it with trapping and have more gobblers next year.

EXAMPLE - 2021, 2022 & 2023 Missouri Wild Turkey Research Update

RATES OF PREDATION

2021 - About 75% of nests failed due to predation of the actual nest, and 8% failed due to predation of the hen that was incubating the clutch.

2022 - 74% of nest failed due to nest predation of the actual nest, and 6% failed due to predation of the hen that was incubating the clutch.

2023 - 49% of nest failed due to nest predation of the actual nest, and 11% failed due to predation of the hen that was incubating the clutch. (17%) had an unknown fate due to a lack of landowner permission on sites where the birds nested.

EXAMPLE - Iowa Wild Turkey Research – Follow Up – 2024

The 50 nest that did not hatch what was the cause of the failure to hatch?

Iowa DNR Biologist: Most of the nest failure was predation, which isn't uncommon for turkey. We did have a couple nests that were abandoned by the hens and one that was destroyed by cattle. We've seen a few nests over the last few years destroyed by hay mowing or spraying, but it hasn't been a large factor with our study birds.

The 10 nests, only 30 percent of the broods survived at least one poult into August – Do you know what the cause of death to the broods was?

Iowa DNR Biologist: We attempted in the first two years of our study to trap and mark poults, but it really wasn't effective. The survival in the first 3 days post hatch is very low and catching enough poults to get a good sample size was difficult. But it appeared we lose a large portion of poults right after hatching due to exposure to weather or simple lack of fit on the poults part. We've observed poults that died mid-pip in their eggs and dead poults in the nests. That the hatch process was too exhaustive. Otherwise, we did observe some predation, which again isn't uncommon.

2022 - A total of 73 hens were marked last winter.

- As of early August, 27 hens have died for a mortality rate of 38%.

- Of 63 hens available to nest starting on May 1, only 7 nests hatched successfully (i.e., hatched at least one egg; 11% hen success rate).

- Of 33 hens marked with GPS transmitters, 7 hens did not incubate a nest, 17 incubated 1 nest, 8 incubated 2 nests, and 1 incubated 3 nests.

- Most of the nest failure was due to predation, however, one nest failed due to hay mowing and one failed due to abandonment by the hen

EXAMPLE - 2023 - Missouri Quail Research Published – The Journal of Wildlife Management

459 Nest - 286 Nest Failed - 173 Nest Successfully hatched chicks. - THE PRIMARY CAUSE FOR FAILURE WAS PREDATION

955 Bobwhites - 443 Mortalities during breeding season - THE PRIMARY CAUSE FOR MORTALITY WAS PREDATION

EXAMPLE - 2023 MISSOURI - Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation - QUWF Preliminary Nest Predator Data is Very Promising for Turkey and Ground Nesting Birds

One mile study area consisting of 640 acres. During that time period on this particular study site, we trapped 130 nest predators (67% racoons, 32% possums, 1% other) from the landscape”. Several other satellite study farms in other counties in this study are also reporting high nest predator trapping results and increased positive nesting survival so far this year for turkey broods.

“This spring we filmed the earliest wild turkey brood discovery I have ever witnessed with 8 poults in the group accompanying the hens that were only 2 days old. They were utilizing some of the recently created brood habitat created just for this purpose coinciding with the additional increased trapping efforts. We also observed 7 other nesting hens which we did not disturb, that appear to be on track to producing quality broods as well on this farm.

EXAMPLE - 2023 - Taylor Fork Ecological Area is a 60-acre site near Eastern Kentucky University main campus in Richmond.

Results

- 1545 imaging events recorded across 230 trap-nights

Species	Imaging Events	Primary Depredation	Secondary Depredation
American Crow	15	0	0
Blue Jay	3	0	0
Coyote	18	7	3
Eastern Gray Squirrel	34	0	0
Mouse Species	141	0	0
Raccoon	350	37	208
Striped Skunk	1	0	0
Virginia Opossum	230	3	62

- 13 of 17 artificial nests were depredated (76%)



- 126 of 180 eggs were depredated (70%)



EXAMPLE – 2023 & 2022 - Turkey for Tomorrow – Tennessee – Dr. Craigh Harper – Ongoing Wild Turkey Research in Tennessee –

Dr. Craig Harper and Dr. David Buehler, both with University of Tennessee, have led a comprehensive study of wild turkey ecology and management in five counties of south-middle Tennessee for the past six years. Their preliminary findings are both striking and encouraging.

In brief, findings indicate low nest success and poult survival as a result of predation is limiting the population.

On properties where somebody is interested in turkeys and managing specifically for turkeys you better believe that you can have an impact on turkey.

If you go in and trap those mammalian Nest predators in the months preceding the nesting season.

Working with so many properties we have seen tremendous increases in in Turkey numbers when some trapping began.

On average of that the nests that are preyed upon about 60 of those are from mammals and around 10 to 15 percent are avian.

EXAMPLE - Michael Chamberlain - 2023

Terrell Distinguished Professor of Wildlife Ecology and Management at University of Georgia

Predation is the primary cause of death for hens, nests, and poults. Using data from >1000 nests across the south, we've seen that nest success (% that hatch) hovers around 21% on average annually – most nests are taken by predators. Of the 21% that hatch, ~ 35% of them produce at least 1 poult that survives the first month. So, <10% of nests produce a poult that lives to be a month old – producing poults is a challenge!

EXAMPLE - 2022 – ALABAMA RESEARCH UPDATE (YEAR 1) - Turkeys For Tomorrow

TFT's preliminary results of this study are as follows:

A total of 20 hens were monitored during spring/summer 2022.

18/20 hens survived (90%).

15 hens (75%) attempted to nest. All hens in the study were adults at time of capture.

2 hens (10%) successfully hatched at least one poult. All other nests failed.

Brood survival was 0% (none of the hatched poults lived).

EXAMPLE - 2022 - Oklahoma

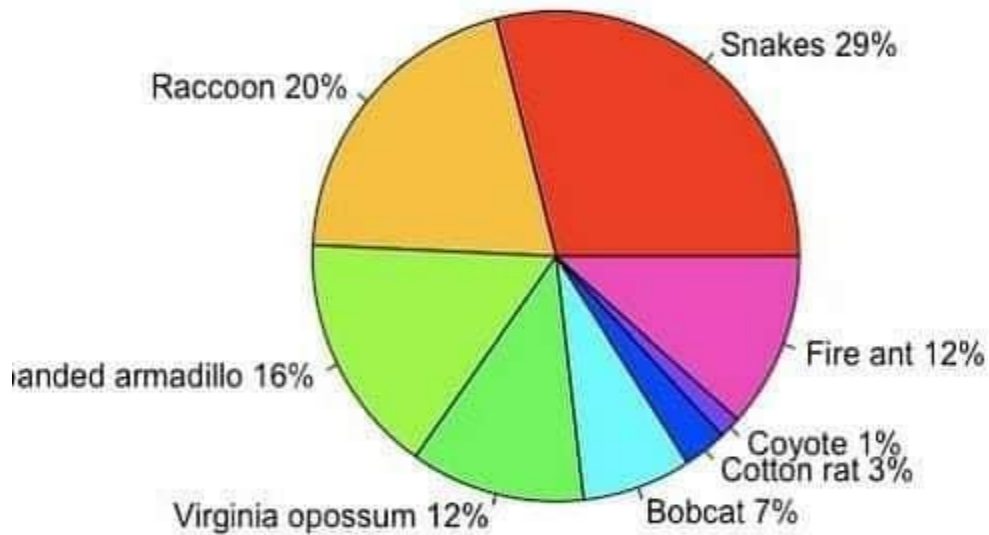
Work started with 28 hen turkeys fitted with GPS or VHS radio trackers. Predators killed seven during mating season. Of 21 remaining, only nine are documented to have attempted a first nest and all those nests were lost.

Of those hens, seven attempted a second nesting. By the first of June only four nests remained active. Predators took the eggs of one nest, two nests failed due to predators killing the hens and one nest of four eggs saw a successful hatch of three poults.

The day after the poults were fitted with transmitters all three were killed. One died of unknown causes, one was killed by “a mammalian predator,” and one transmitter was found inside a cottonmouth snake. None of the hens attempted a third nest.

EXAMPLE – 2020 - Martin Labs Research will Tall Timbers dealing with quail.

NOBO Nest Predators



martinamelab

EXAMPLE – 2019 - Missouri Quail Ecology Project

Raccoon Predator Zone = Raccoons distance from Escape Trees from other predators – Coyote, Bobcats etc. - 43 yards to 83 Yards will roam looking for food.

Potential for Raccoons to Find Nests

Area	Average Distance Travelled from Mature Woody Cover (m)	% Nests Within Raccoon Travel Corridor
Stony Point	40	27%
Talbot	76	50%

- Our research shows that nests on Talbot CA are much more likely to be discovered by raccoons than those on Stony Point Prairie CA.
- Raccoons travel further into grassland areas on Talbot CA because there are more potential places to escape predators.

Predation and quail management revisited.

By David Hoover, Small Game Coordinator, Missouri Department of Conservation.

Many meso-mammal (medium size furbearers) nest predator populations have steadily risen over the past several decades and 60% to 80% of the quail in a given population may die as the result of predation over the course of a year. Furthermore, a recent study in the southeastern U.S. Showed a 10% increase in nest success and 43% increase in chicks produced on sites where meso-mammal nest predators were intensively trapped and removed during the quail breeding season.

EXAMPLE 2015 - Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Bureau of Wildlife Management - Ecology of Wild Turkeys in Wisconsin - A Plan for their Management: 2015-2025 - This is a report of the Wisconsin DNR Turkey Advisory Committee

- Predation accounts for the vast majority (>80%) of nest mortality in most studies.

- Poult survival through the first month of life has varied from 11-76% in published studies of eastern wild turkeys and, though annual variation is tied to weather conditions, predation is often the direct source of mortality.

-Hen and Gobbler Survival. Annual survival for both adult and juvenile hens averaged 53% but varied from 43% to 63% for 224 hens monitored during the study. Survival varied seasonally, with higher mortality occurring during the reproductive period (March-July). Predators accounted for 70% of mortalities for which the mortality agent could be identified, with fox and coyotes responsible for at least 78 of 94 mortalities. Two hens were killed on roosts by great horned owls.

Of 66 radio-marked gobblers monitored, 59% were harvested during the spring hunting season.

Predators, primarily coyotes, accounted for a further 27%.

Production. For hens alive in early April, 98% of adults and 79% of juveniles attempted to nest. However, nest survival was low, with only 14% of nests successfully hatching >1 egg. Over half (55%) of hens that lost their first nest attempted to reneest, and in total 22% of hens were successful in hatching eggs in a given year. Of all nests destroyed, 92% were destroyed by mammalian predators. Nests contained an average of 11.2 eggs, with slightly fewer eggs in renests and nests of juvenile hens. Most first nests were initiated from mid- to late April and hatched in late May through June.

WILD TURKEY SYMPOSIUM PUBLISHED RESEARCH – FROM 1948 TO 1980

EXAMPLE - ALABAMA - 1980's Nest Losses – 44.5% - 40 cases.

Raccoon – NO. 1 Predator

Dogs – No. 2

Opossums

Crows

Snakes

Skunks

Gray Foxes

Bobcats caused destruction of the nests by killing the hens in 3 cases but they did not eat the eggs.

The nest predation rate (Table 2) for all areas combined (119 nests) was 44.5%. Almost all of these nests were discovered after incubation had begun so this is not a complete picture of the impact of predators on turkey nests. No attempt was made to locate the nests until hens exhibited incubating behavior and numerous nests could have been, and probably were, destroyed during the period of egg laying.

Nest predators were identified in 40 cases of nest destruction and in 13 cases evidence was insufficient to identify the predator. The raccoon was the number 1 nest predator and the second most important was free ranging dogs. Opossums, crows, snakes, skunks, and gray foxes were also implicated as nest predators.

Bobcats caused destruction of the nests by killing the hens in 3 cases, but they did not eat the eggs.

Poult Losses - 74.5% - Summary

One hen and 7 poults were killed by a bobcat 3 days after hatching.

On predator control areas a total of 55.1% of the hens (1971-75) was accompanied by poults compared to only 24.4% on non-predator control areas.

Total poult production was much higher in predator control areas than non-predator control areas for the 5 years.

176 hens and 609 poults seen in predator control areas. 5-year average of poult:hen ratio of 3.5 on predator control areas.

156 hens and 169 poults seen non predator control areas. 5-year average of poult:hen ratio 1.1

EXAMPLE - FLORIDA- 1980's

TURKEY NESTING SUCCESS ON A FLORIDA STUDY AREA

Nesting success of wild turkeys was measured for 108 nests of radio-tracked hens on a Florida study area during an 8-year period.

The turkey had a 59% success rate when predator control was not practiced.

The turkey had a 72% success rate where predator control was being carried out during the nesting season.

EXAMPLE - KENTUCKY - 1980's

Numbers of nests predatorized and percentages for identified nest predators at Land Between the Lakes.

Raccoons, opossums, and skunks were the primary nest predators at the Land Between the Lakes nest predators. TOTAL 107 Nest - 100.0% Destroyed

Raccoon - 52 Nest Destroyed 48.6%

Opossum - 21 Nest Destroyed 19.6%

Striped Skunk - 17 Nest Destroyed 15.9%

Grey Fox - 6 Nest Destroyed 5.6%

Birds - 5 Nest Destroyed 4.6%

Ground Hog - 4 Nest Destroyed 3.7%

Small Rodents - 2 Nest Destroyed 2.0%

EXAMPLE - ALABAMA - 1948

RESULTS OF 107 "DUMMY" WILD TURKEY NESTS – 16 Nest Successful

Raccoon – 31 Nest Destroyed.

Skunks – 23 Nest Destroyed.

Opossum – 15 Nest Destroyed.

Snakes – 9 Nest Destroyed.

Crows – 6 Nest Destroyed.

Foxes – 2 Nest Destroyed.

Unknown – 2 Nest Destroyed.

Cattle – 1 Nest Destroyed.

Wild Hogs – 1 Nest Destroyed.

Dogs – 1 Nest Destroyed.

RACCOON POPULATION IN NON-TRAPPING AND HUNTING AREA

What does Raccoon Population look like – When no hunting of Raccoons with dogs or trapping take place look like? This could easily be your area!

National Wildlife Refuge System -

EXAMPLE 1 - 1948

Raccoons – A Natural History - Zeveloff, p. 98 - Biologist Allen Twichell and Herbert Dill reported the highest raccoon density known to occur: During the winter of 1948, 100 were removed from den trees on 41 ha (102 acres) tract of Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge, a waterfowl reserve on a Missouri Marsh, yielding an astounding density of about 1 raccoon per acre or nearly 250 km².

Missouri Raccoon population indicated that it could replace itself in 7.4 years.

EXAMPLE 2 - 2012

Trapping has been prohibited at Clarence Cannon and Great River National Wildlife Refuges (the Refuge) in previous years for raccoons, opossum, and other mammals.

The estimate of 90.79 raccoons per square mile is well above the average of 9 – 45 individuals per square mile across Illinois. Trapping is allowed on all other lands in the surrounding area and is considered a form of compensatory mortality, thus the effects of trapping are not drastically reducing raccoon abundance. The manager can assume that unless trapping effort is much higher on the Refuge than surrounding landscapes that densities will not be adversely affected. Therefore, the manager can feel confident in a decision to implement a trapping program.



RACCOON HISTORY - UNITED STATES



The Raccoon U.S. harvest averaged about 360,000 per year in the 1930s, increased to about 900,000 per year in the 1940s, and increased further to 1.3 million pelts per year in the 1960s (40 times greater than the Canadian harvest).

In the 1970s the U.S. harvest more than doubled to 3.1 million pelts, and thus far in the 1980s the harvest has averaged about 4.2 million pelts per year (26 times greater than the Canadian harvest).

The Raccoon populations, although they had declined to low levels by the 1930s, then experienced a continent-wide population explosion from 1943 to the late 1940s. Since that time, high population levels have been maintained to such an extent that the raccoon range has expanded to include areas where they were rare or absent during the 1930s.

Hence the large harvest of raccoons during the 20th century is mainly a reflection of the increase in the sizes of raccoon populations.

Additionally, in the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s, raccoon coats were extremely popular in the United States, especially among college students, and this popularity has continued to the present partly as a result of the moderate price of raccoon coats.

The total North American yearly average harvest of more than 4.4 million pelts in the 1980s makes the raccoon harvest the most valuable of all North American furbearers. The value of the North American harvest of raccoons was estimated to be about \$94 million (CDN) in 1982–83, about 3.3 times greater than the value of the second most valuable species, the muskrat (\$28 million CDN).

Feb 2023 - International source - The harvest of raccoon for United States fur value is the lowest it has ever been, less than 100,000 and could be far less.

The Trapper - December 2023 - Latest Fur Market Insights

Raccoons remain at dismal prices until Russia comes back to table. Until war is over it won't happen.

Raccoon prices going upward for the NEXT THREE YEARS!

VIRGINIA OPOSSUM HISTORY



Prior to the 20th century the average annual harvest of opossums by American companies increased from slightly more than 34,000 pelts in the 1850s to more than 546,000 in the 1890s.

In the 20th century the opossum usually has been harvested in greater numbers than most other furbearer species. For example, in the 1970s and 1980s, only raccoons, muskrats, and nutrias were harvested in greater numbers than opossums.

An average annual harvest of nearly 1.4 million pelts was taken in the 1930s and an average of 1.6 million was taken in the 1940s. The harvest dropped to slightly more than 340,000 in the 1950s and 180,000 in the 1960s, then increased greatly to more than 940,000 by the 1980s.

Although the harvest of opossums is large, it is probably largely incidental to the capture of other furbearers. Hence the large increase in the harvest of opossums since the 1960s may reflect increases in population sizes of opossums.

Prior to European settlement the northern limits of the Virginia opossum were Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio, but during the last century the range of the opossum has expanded northward and westward. The distribution of the opossum on the western coast of North America resulted from planned introductions and escapes from captivity in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

The opossum held the foremost position in the fur trade among marsupials because quantities obtainable were large and the pelts could be dyed to simulate the appearance of higher price pelts.

You think you know Opossum is just another EGG EATER with a population 2 or 3 times more than Raccoons giving birth to around 18 to 20 but only 13 can nurse, the rest just fall off and die.

They disperse more ticks across your property in a day than they eat in a lifetime.

Opossums are scent hunters that's why they find and eat on dead animals and love wet spring, nothing like the smell of a wet hen.

The earliest research (1851) was by John James Audubon², which described the stomach contents of an opossum that he had shot and gutted in the woods. Subsequent research was more

comprehensive, especially a paper by Bill Hamilton that described the diet items of 186 opossums much in the same manner we were doing: recording the amount of each type of insect, flower and vertebrate species found. In total, the literature presented the results of diet analysis of over 1,280 opossums from across their range in the United States. Not a single paper reported ticks being found in the stomachs, or in any other section of the gastrointestinal tract, of Virginia opossums.

The latest research (2022) New Study Says Possums Don't Like Eating Ticks: According to Dr. Bret Collier, associate professor of wildlife ecology at Louisiana State University's School of Renewable Natural Resources, "No, not at all, period. Ticks are not, in any manner, selected for by Virginia opossums." He cites a 2021 peer-reviewed paper called "Are Virginia opossums ecological traps for ticks? Ground truthing laboratory operations," by Dr. Cecilia Hennessy and Kaitlyn Hild of Eureka College's Division of Science and Mathematics.

Although the number of opossums harvested typically has been higher than most other furbearers for most of the 20th century, the average pelt price for the opossum in both 1982–83 and 1983–84 exceeded only that of red squirrels and weasels. In the 1940s, European markets usually dyed the pelts to simulate skunk pelts and then used them as they used skunk pelts. Harding (1915) also noted this practice and concluded that the price of opossum pelts fluctuated and was largely governed by skunk prices. This may partially explain why the harvest of opossums was at its lowest levels during the 1950s and 1960s, when skunk harvests were also low.

SKUNKS HISTORY



The average annual harvest of skunks in North America prior to the 20th century increased from nearly 50,000 pelts in the 1850s to more than 500,000 in the 1880s. Harvest by the Hudson's Bay Company during this period accounted for 13% of the total harvest at most.

Harvest by the American companies increased from more than 43,000 pelts per year in the 1850s to more than 500,000 per year in the 1880s.

In the 20th century the average annual harvest of skunks was intermediate in number of pelts harvested when compared with other species, being lower than the harvest of such species as the beaver, red squirrel, mink, opossum, red fox, raccoon, nutria, and muskrat.

Because both striped skunks and spotted skunks have increased their geographic ranges in North America with the spread of settlement this relatively low harvest probably reflects a reduced market and lower prices for skunk pelts. In 1982–83 and 1983–84, only the red squirrel and weasels had average pelt prices that were lower than those of the skunks.

The total North American average annual harvest of all skunk pelts was only about 113,000 in the 1920s (but note the lack of U.S. data). It then increased dramatically to more than 1.2 million in the 1930s and 1940s, before decreasing just as dramatically to about 140,000 in the 1950s and about 38,000 in the 1960s.

Although skunk populations are susceptible to outbreaks of leptospirosis, tularemia, and distemper, and skunks are vectors for rabies, the distribution of striped skunks and spotted skunks was likely increasing during the 1950s and 1960s.

Hence the reduced harvests in the 1950s and 1960s were the result of reduced market demand. In part this was due to garment labeling laws introduced in the late 1930s which prohibited the use of names that obscured the true identity of the fur used in the garments. For example, skunk coats were often marketed as “American Sable” by the garment industry. After labeling legislation was passed, skunk coats were not popular. The price of pelts and subsequent harvest of skunks dropped drastically during the early 1940s.

Since the 1960s the average annual harvest of skunk pelts has increased somewhat to more than 130,000 in the 1970s and 270,000 in the 1980s. As with the pre-20th century harvest, the United States dominated the total North American harvest in the 20th century, with Canada contributing at most 11% of the harvest from the 1930s onwards. In general, Canadian harvests of skunks declined from an average of 137,000 pelts per year in the 1930s to 600 per year in the 1960s, before increasing slightly to about 1,200 per year in the 1980s.

Harvests of all skunks in the United States declined from an average of 1.2 million per year in the 1930s to only 38,000 per year in the 1960s. The average annual harvest has increased since the 1960s and was more than 271,000 in the 1980s. Even lower today!

DO YOU KNOW YOUR STATES PREDATOR AND PREY HISTORY? DOES YOUR STATE GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT PROVIDE INFORMATION TO CITIZENS OF YOUR STATE?

Missouri - PREDATOR HISTORY

1940 – 1941 – 834,935 pelts harvested (most pelts sold) (over 70% were opossum and skunk pelts) most pelts sold

1945 – 1946 – Missouri Fur Dealer Permit 1,192

1979 – 1980 – 634,338 (2nd highest pelts sold - when average raccoon pelt values were estimated at \$27.50.

1997 – 1998 – Over 200,000 Raccoons were trapped.

1980 – 1981 – 13,248 trapping permits sold in the state of Missouri

2009, MDC estimated the statewide raccoon population at 1.4 million with annual trapping of 100,000 to 200,000.

In 2010, MDC estimated the statewide raccoon population at 1 to 2 million with annual trapping of 100,000 to 200,000.

2017 – 2018 – Just Over 26,000 Raccoons were trapped.

2017 – 2018 – Only 7,189 trapping permits sold in the state of Missouri.

2018 - 2019 – 6,956 trapping permits sold in the state of Missouri

2018 - 2019 – Raccoon totaled 22,562 trapped

2018-19 season resulted in the lowest raccoon harvest since 1942 and the longest duration of decline in harvest numbers over the last 25 years with seven consecutive years of decline.

2018- 2019 – Opossum harvest totaled 593 lowest opossum harvests on record.

2018- 2019 – Skunk also resulted in the lowest Skunk harvest since 2000-01 only 156.

2018 – 2019 - Coyote population appears to be on a slight increase since the 1970s.

2018 -2019 - Bobcat season was down 28.40% from 2017-18. The decline in harvest and in the number of bobcat pelts purchased by fur dealers also is likely attributed to a poor global fur market.

2019 - 41 Fur Buyer Permits

2020-21 - Raccoon harvest in totaled 21,589 and included individuals harvested by both trapping and hunting methods. The 2020-21 season resulted in the second lowest raccoon harvest since 1942.

HISTORY MATTERS

It is simple - Add something you must take something away.

Just 1 example of 1 nest predator

1930s & 1940s - The Raccoon U.S. harvest averaged about 360,000 per year in the 1930s, increased to about 900,000 per year in the 1940s,

1953 - Restoration of the Wild Turkey Started in Missouri

1960s - The Raccoon U.S. harvest averaged increased further to 1.3 million pelts per year.

1979 - Restoration of the Wild Turkey Ended in Missouri

1980s - The total North American yearly average harvest of more than 4.4 million pelts in the 1980s makes the raccoon harvest the most valuable of all North American furbearers.

2023 - The Raccoon U.S. harvest will hit a historical low of 100,000 or less pelts per year in the 2023

THE WORST THING YOU CAN DO FOR WILDLIFE IS FAILURE TO MANAGE IT!

Ever seen a bird dog on point in the best habitat, you can provide a pheasant or quail.

You think a Raccoon, Opossum, Skunk, Fox, Bobcat, or Coyote just to survive, can't do the same thing in the best habitat money can buy, 365 days a year. You're kidding yourself.

There have been broad-scale changes in the landscape, which has led to losses in quality nesting and brood-rearing habitat, while the un-natural high and historical nest predator populations have exploded, reaching carrying capacity, along with nest predators and food competitors, that did not exist in some areas. More animals are using the same habitat, it's that simple –

Add something, take something away!

Planting native warm-season grasses and wildflowers, prescribed burning edge feathering, timber stand improvement, creating forest openings, woodland restoration are some of the best ways to improve nesting and brood-rearing habitat and along with trapping.

Habitat & Trapping cannot exist without each other!

This should be the message from every conservation group and game and fish department!!! That is how you increase participation and retention of hunters and trappers.

Don't worry about what others say, the size of property or others predator removal numbers – If you saved 1 hen, 1 nest, 1 egg, or 1 poult you made a difference more than others doing nothing!!!

Or fighting to prevent you from being the solution!

On-Line Version of this information and additional information can be found by scanning QR code.

Power of the Egg

Raccoon, Opossum, and Skunk History

Comprehensive Raccoon Bait List

Chernobyl Raccoon Eggs

Wild Turkey Symposium



The birth rate for ALL predators does not change because the fur market is high or low.

Game and Fish Departments relying solely on the International Fur Trade to manage predator is a complete failure.

THE NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION MODEL

Wildlife is managed under the principles of The North American Wildlife Conservation Model. The Model should not be exclusive to game species but predators and invasive species.

In cases where population ****REDUCTION**** is the management goal, managers must implement ****FEMALE**** harvest beyond the level at which the population can replace itself in the short-term.

