

THANK GOODNESS THEY GOT ALL THE DRAGONS

*Wildlife Damage Management
through the ages*

Integrated Pest
Management
Conference 2015

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

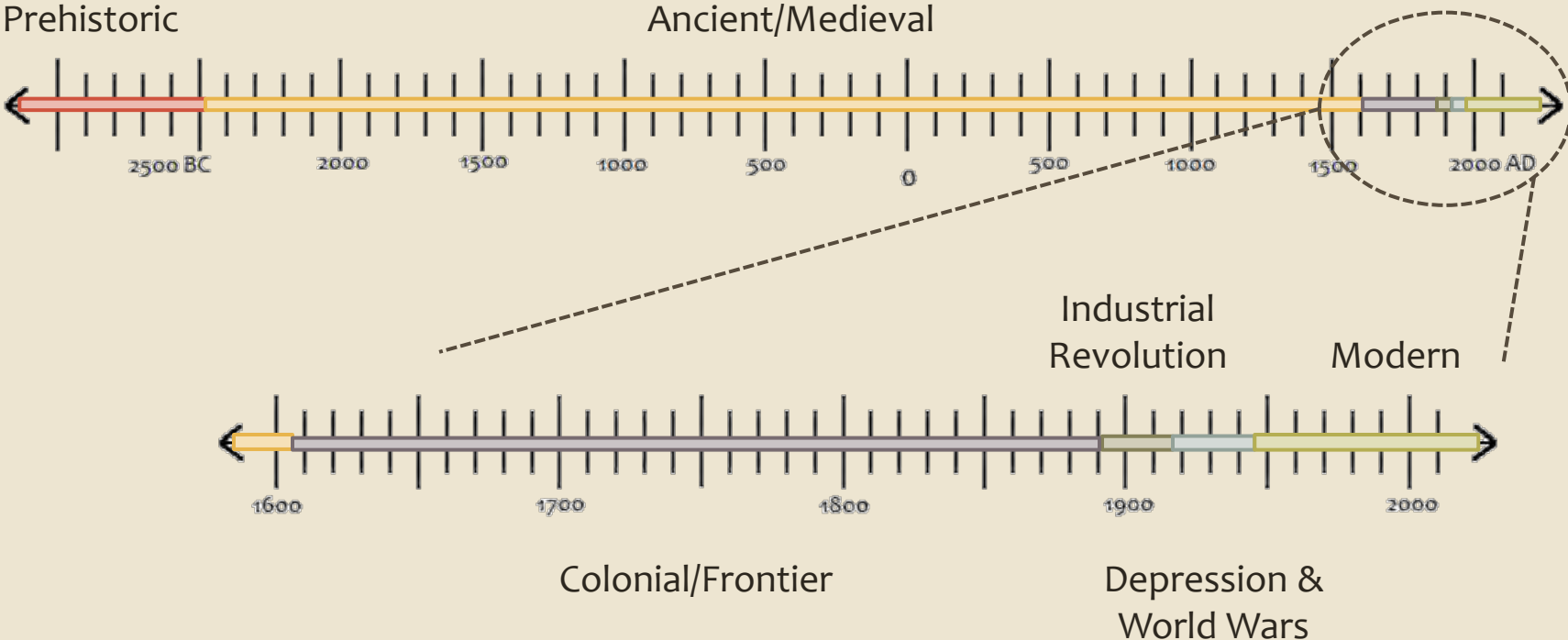
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- USU Ecolunch peers

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TIME PERIODS OF WDM



FACTORS IN WDM HISTORY

- Human population needs
 - Food and safety
 - Organization of society
- Economic (in)stability
 - Lean times/war/conflict
 - Times of plenty/peacetime
- Social paradigms
 - Value of nature and wildlife
 - Societal trends
- Tools and techniques
 - Changes in technology
 - How managers respond

WORLD'S FIRST PROFESSIONAL NUISANCE WILDLIFE CONTROL OPERATORS



PREHISTORIC

 Pre-2500 BC 

PREHISTORIC

- Hunter/gatherer societies
 - Food: competition
 - reduce predator populations
 - Safety: humans = food
 - reduce predator populations
- Pre-economics
- Utilitarian view of natural resources
 - Survival



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ANCIENT/MEDIEVAL

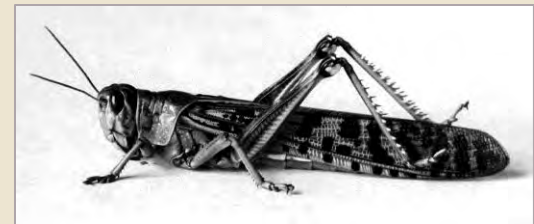


2500 BC – 1607 AD



ANCIENT/MEDIEVAL

- Agricultural societies
 - Food: prevent damage to *our* food
 - Growing season and storage
 - Protection of domestic animals
 - Safety: reduce predator populations
- (Economics)
- Utilitarian views



ANCIENT/MEDIEVAL



Quelle: Deutsche Fotothek



ANCIENT/MEDIEVAL





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MESSRS. RATS AND Co., — Having taken quite a deep interest in your welfare in regard to your winter quarters I thought I would drop you a few lines which might be of some considerable benefit to you in the future seeing that you have pitched your winter quarters at the summer residence of * * * * No. 1 Seaview Street, I wish to inform you that you will be very much disturbed during cold winter months as I am expecting to be at work through all parts of the house, shall take down ceilings, take up floors, and clean out every substance that would serve to make you comfortable, likewise there will be nothing left for you to feed on, as I shall remove every eatable substance; so you had better take up your abode elsewhere. I will here refer you to the farm of * * * * No. 6 Incubator Street, where you will find a splendid cellar well filled with vegetations of (all) kinds besides a shed leading to a barn, with a good supply of grain, where you can live snug and happy. Shall do you no harm if you heed to my advice; but if not, shall employ "Rough on Rats."

Yours, * * * *

COLONIAL AND FRONTIER AMERICA

 1607 AD – 1890 AD 

COLONIAL AND FRONTIER AMERICA



- Constant risk of starvation
- (Economics)
- Manifest destiny
 - Elimination of “bad” wildlife
 - Taming of the wilderness

COLONIAL AND FRONTIER AMERICA

- Native American techniques
 - Platforms for throwing stones at birds
- Hunting and trapping
 - Bounties
 - Predators
 - Nuisance bird species
 - Blackbirds
 - Crows
 - Passenger pigeons



INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

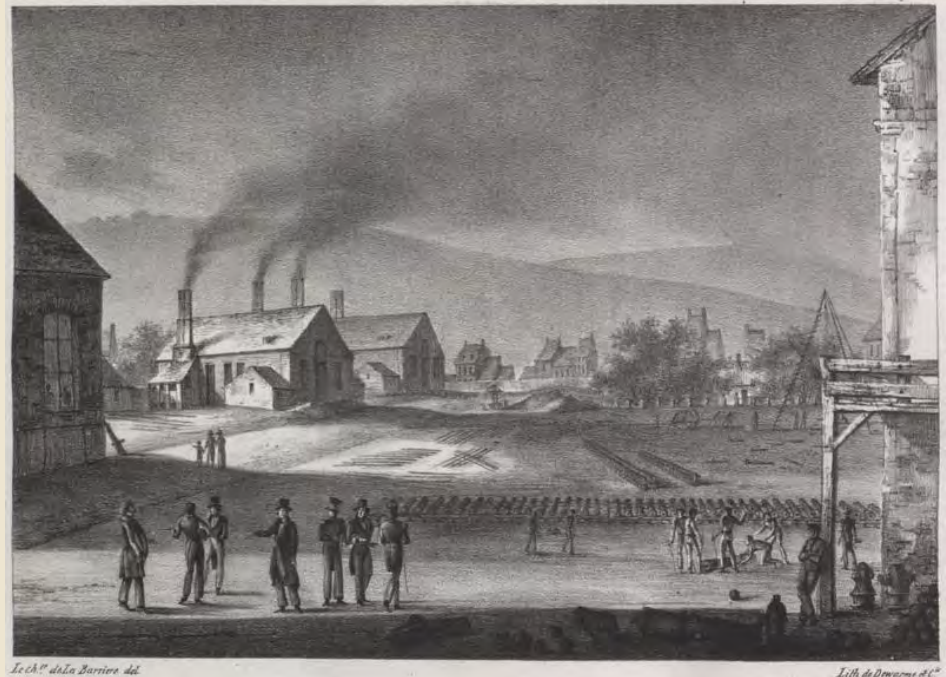


1890 AD – 1914 AD



INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

- Increased, efficient production of food
- Decreased sense of predator threat
- Stable economy



Lith. de Boncompagni & C.

INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION





- Nostalgia for lost wilderness
 - 1890 – closing of the frontier
- Sport hunting and game conservation
 - Theodore Roosevelt
 - Redefining of “good” and “bad” wildlife
- Spiritual and intrinsic values
 - John Muir

INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION



- New tool: Education
 - 1885 – First WDM appropriation from Congress
 - USDA Branch of Economic Ornithology
 - Questionnaires about bird damage
- Beginning of WDM as a profession

THE GREAT DEPRESSION AND WORLD WARS

 1914 AD – 1945 AD 

THE GREAT DEPRESSION AND WORLD WARS



- Food shortages, high prices
 - Increased funds for predator management
- Economic concerns
- Back to utilitarian
 - Managing for “useful” wildlife and against “harmful” wildlife



THE GREAT DEPRESSION AND WORLD WARS

- Increased \$ for predator control
 - Toxins
 - Trapping
 - Shooting



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MODERN AMERICA

 1945 AD – Present 

MODERN AMERICA



- Abundant food, safety, and leisure time
- Increased population
- Urbanization
 - Urban sprawl/decreased open space
 - Diversification of land use
- Conflict between local “commodity” interests and environmental interests
 - Rural vs. urban
 - Hunters vs. anti-hunters

MODERN AMERICA

- Media as experience
- Silent Spring values and viewpoints
 - Environment is fragile and interconnected
 - Leopold Report (1964)
 - Cain Report (1972)

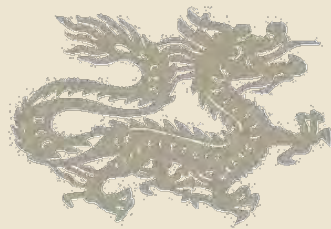


MODERN AMERICA



- Increasing professionalism of WDM
 - GI Bill → increased number of wildlife biologists
 - University classes
 - Professional organizations and conferences
- Human dimensions studies
- Private-sector wildlife control
 - Ability to pay someone else > damage tolerance

LOOKING FORWARD



LOOKING FORWARD: PREDICTIONS FOR WDM IN THE FUTURE

- Human pop'n needs
 - Water
 - Health
- Economic (in)stability
 - Resilience
- Social paradigm
 - Overabundant wildlife
- Tools and techniques
 - Digital tools and resources
 - Collaboration with IPM

THANK GOODNESS THEY GOT ALL THE... PASSENGER PIGEONS?



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Letter: Newell, W. W. 1892. Conjuring Rats. *Journal of American Folklore* 5:23—32.

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