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OPENING REMARKS—THE CONFERENCE'S EDUCATIONAL MISSION IN VERTEBRATE PEST CONTROL

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Welcome to the Tenth Vertebrate Pest Conference.

It has been 20 years since the First Vertebrate Pest Control Conference was held (Sacramento, California, 1962).

The conference objectives which prevailed at the first conference have not changed. Our goal today continues to be the advancement of technology by an exchange and discussion of information on vertebrate pests and their control. The overall objective is education.

The conference has grown from a local or state meeting into a national and international conference, and from a 2-day to a 3-day event. In attendance it has grown from 268 at the first to what we expect will be over 400 at this meeting.

Collectively, the published Proceedings of the Conference now represent one of the finest collections of vertebrate pest control information found anywhere. They are used as references across the country and throughout the world. To increase the value of the conference proceedings as references, the Council will be publishing a comprehensive index for all ten proceedings which will include the proceedings of this conference. The index will be by title, author, and cross-indexed by subjects. We hope to have it completed and printed by August or September of this year.

The Vertebrate Pest Conference Proceedings, coupled with the Proceedings of the Bowling Green State University Bird Control Conference, the Great Plains Animal Damage Workshop, and the Eastern Pine and Meadow Vole Symposium, are a must for any newcomer into the field of vertebrate pest control.

The Council, which is responsible for arranging and putting on this conference, is dedicated to the dissemination of information and to further educational efforts in the principles, concepts, and methodology of vertebrate pest control.

For this conference, we have changed our traditional format and have incorporated three workshops separate from the main session. This afternoon, the workshop on "Fundamentals of Commensal Rodent Control" will be held in the Terrace Room III-IV. The workshop on "The Basics of Field Rodent Control" will be held tomorrow morning, and "Solutions to California Agricultural Bird Problems" will be held Wednesday evening. These are designed for those at the working level of control.

We regret that the conference program will only accommodate about 40 presentations, for there are far more potential speakers which must be passed by for lack of space. The Program Chairperson, Terrell Salmon, and the Conference's Council have strived hard to bring together a talented group with many first-time speakers from organizations or geographic areas not previously represented. More consideration has been given to the applied aspect of vertebrate pest control while yet maintaining a balanced program which best meets the interests of the attendees.

Enough for opening remarks...let's get on with the program.