

ANIMAL ISSUES **DIGEST**

**WELCOME MRS. WILKIN,
ANNA, MARLIN, VIOLET,
AND PRESLEY!**

PAGE 4

**PRO-TROPHY HUNTING
COUNCIL DISSOLVED**

PAGE 12

PLUS

CORONAVIRUS AND THE WILDLIFE TRADE

BORN FREE USA HONORARY COUNCIL



WELCOME

So much has changed in the world since we first started working on this edition of *Wildlife Times* – the coronavirus outbreak wasn't yet a pandemic, and people in the U.S. were going about their daily lives and generally living freely. Now, as I sit to write this letter, weeks into an official stay-at-home order, I cannot help but reflect on and compare my captive situation to the lifetime captivity experienced by animals around the world.

My confinement is temporary and not a totalitarian one. There are no locks on the outside of my doors; I can take a walk, and I can communicate with others, albeit through technology. I have plenty of food and adequate shelter. I also *choose* to remain confined for the good of others. I could hardly say I am anywhere near what would be called "suffering."

Animals in captivity do not have a choice; they are imprisoned at the hands of humans, and they suffer. Their confinement is permanent, and they have no hope of one day reuniting with their families. The "lucky" ones live in sanctuaries, like Born Free USA's Primate Sanctuary, with new friends, while the unlucky ones will spend a lifetime alone in tiny cages – abused in laboratory research or as props for human amusement.

This novel perspective underscores how vital Born Free USA's work is to free animals from cruel captivity and fight for their right to live as nature intended – in the wild.

On page 4 you can read about five monkeys – some of the lucky ones – who were rescued by Born Free USA and have a new life at our sanctuary. Mrs. Wilkin, Anna, Marlin, Violet, and Presley have large spaces to explore and expert care, far from their former conditions in a horrid roadside zoo.

You'll also read about a great horned owl (page 7) who, after being painfully imprisoned in a trap, is on the road to recovery thanks to our Trapping Victims' Fund. And, then there are the animals living freely in the wild, killed to be mounted on a wall (page 12) or senselessly culled (page 15). Our work to dispel the myths and misinformation of so-called conservation carries on.

Finally, our programs to end wildlife trafficking in West and Central Africa are more relevant now than ever before. With the COVID-19 virus, like other zoonotic diseases before, emanating from wildlife markets (page 8) a global

effort to end the trade in wildlife and their parts is urgently needed. Future epidemics and pandemics are avoidable, and it is time to end this destructive and deadly practice.



When we emerge on the other side of this difficult time, I am not hoping business as usual resumes – returning to ecologically destructive and consumptive ways. I am hopeful that we will have taken on board lessons and new perspectives on caring for others – human and non-human beings – with a stronger resolve to protect the natural world.

For the Animals,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angela". The script is fluid and cursive.

Angela Grimes
Chief Executive Officer
Born Free USA



WILD ANIMALS NEED YOUR HELP NOW

As you read through our magazine, are you inspired, moved, or sometimes even outraged? If you're asking yourself what you can do to help, please shop, adopt one of the monkeys at our primate sanctuary, or donate. Every contribution, every action taken on behalf of wildlife saves animals' lives.

WELCOME MRS. WILKIN, ANNA, MARLIN, VIOLET, AND PRESLEY! 4

Born Free USA has given a safe forever home to two macaques and three baboons rescued from a deplorable roadside zoo.

TRAPPING VICTIMS' FUND HELPS SAVE A GREAT HORNED OWL 7

Born Free USA provides financial assistance through our Trapping Victims' Fund.

COULD CORONAVIRUS CHANGE THE DYNAMICS OF WILDLIFE TRADE? 8

Scientists suggest that coronavirus (COVID-19) was transmitted through contact with exotic animals.

BORN FREE USA JOINS LAWSUIT FORCING TRUMP ADMINISTRATION TO HALT U.S. PANGOLIN TRADE 10

Learn about the lawsuit and our long and ongoing battle to get pangolin species listed under the Endangered Species Act.

ADOPT MRS. WILKIN, MARLIN, PRESLEY, ANNA, AND VIOLET! 11

Adopt one of these special monkeys and help provide medical care, nutritious food, enrichment, and more!

PRO-TROPHY HUNTING COUNCIL IS DISSOLVED, BUT THE MYTHS IT PROMOTED LIVE ON 12

The International Wildlife Conservation Council (IWCC) is gone, but trophy hunting continues.

BORN FREE USA LAUNCHES HONORARY COUNCIL 14

Born Free USA announces the formation of a new Honorary Council to strengthen our wildlife conservation.

ONTARIO'S WORST WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL, EVER! 15

Ontario takes aim at double-crested cormorants.

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We work to ensure that all wild animals, whether living in captivity or in the wild, are treated with compassion and respect and are able to live their lives according to their needs.

We seek to have a positive impact on animals in the wild and protect their ecosystems in perpetuity, for their own intrinsic value and for the critical roles they play within the natural world.

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WELCOME MRS. WILKIN, ANNA, MARLIN, VIOLET, AND PRESLEY!

On November 26, 2019, we received a call from Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF) asking if we had capacity for five new monkeys.

ALDF was in the process of carrying out a complex and ambitious rescue of more than 400 animals from a roadside zoo, which had been closed down following legal proceedings. Two macaques, Mrs. Wilkin and Anna, and three baboons, Marlin, Violet, and Presley, had been kept in squalid conditions and were in dire need of a safe forever home.

We had space for the two macaques and so began organizing the logistics to get Mrs. Wilkin, an elderly macaque hybrid, and Anna, a teenaged rhesus macaque, to our sanctuary. At that time, we had no space to house the baboons so we regretfully told ALDF we would not be able to take them on at this time. ALDF was so keen for the baboons to come to Born Free USA that they generously offered to fund the necessary construction work to bisect one of our existing large two-acre enclosures, creating a new space for the three baboons to live in. All was agreed and construction began immediately.

And so, it was that, on January 11, 2020, Mrs. Wilkin and Anna arrived in South Texas. Mrs. Wilkin, we knew ahead of time, suffered from various ailments. From her radiographs it was clear that she had severe and chronic arthritis. This was likely due to being taken away from her mother at too young an age, coupled with a poor diet, which impacted her development. Every long bone in her body is deformed and it is likely that this causes her persistent pain. Anna was healthy, if a little skinny. We estimate that Anna is probably around 17 years old and Mrs. Wilkin is likely well into her twenties.



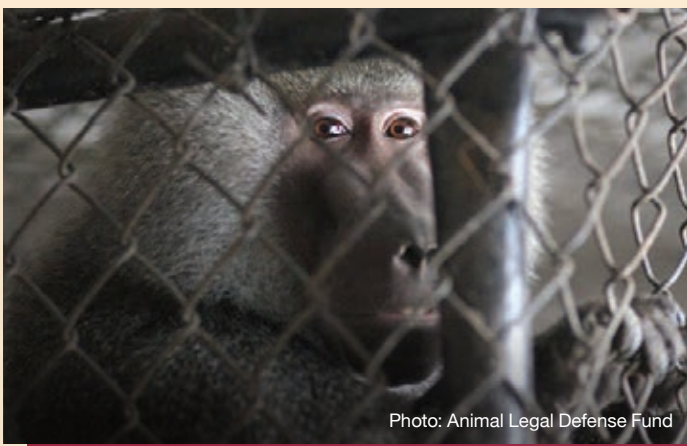


Photo: Animal Legal Defense Fund

We assumed, given the foregoing, that Mrs. Wilkin would be a frail elderly monkey and her younger friend would be the dominant of the pair, but we could not have been more wrong! As soon as she arrived, Mrs. Wilkin made it clear that she is in charge! On seeing her food bowl being brought to her, she impatiently signaled to us to give it to her – throwing her water at us when it appeared we were taking too long to serve her food. With no fear of making eye contact with us, Mrs. Wilkin has grown accustomed to stomping over to us when she sees us coming to check if we have anything tasty for her to eat. If not, she quickly goes about her day, sometimes throwing in a mild “threat face” to express her displeasure. Anna, in the meantime, idolizes her older friend and regularly looks to her for guidance. They can often be found grooming together or, when they are feeling bold, shouting at their next-door neighbors, Taz and Connie. Mrs. Wilkin is a daily reminder that you should never judge a book by its cover!

ANIMALS SHOW EXTREME CAUTION WHEN BEING GRANTED MORE FREEDOM AFTER YEARS OF CAPTIVITY; NO DOUBT THEY ARE FEARFUL OF THE UNKNOWN.

Soon after the arrival of the macaques, construction for the three baboons was completed, and on March 1, Marlin, Violet, and Presley arrived at the sanctuary. After a few days of acclimatization in their smaller lockout space and indoor enclosure, they were let out into their large one-acre, open topped yard. Initially, they were reluctant to go outside. One might think that animals who have been long confined to small spaces would jump at the chance to run and play in such a large space. But, rescuers have seen over and over that animals show extreme caution when being granted more freedom after years of captivity; no doubt they are fearful of the unknown. While some animals might take days or even weeks to pluck up the courage to explore their new surroundings, after some initial reticence, Violet led the way and was the first of the small troop to move into the large yard. As soon as Marlin and Presley saw Violet outside, they quickly followed and, from that moment on, there was no stopping them.

Initially staying close to their now familiar lockout and warm room, the three stuck close together and walked a little way along the perimeter of their new home, quickly returning back if anything startled them. As the hours passed, they began moving further and further, venturing into the undergrowth and exploring the brush and trees. Finally, by the afternoon, the three of them could be seen



Photo: Born Free USA

calmly foraging and spending time further apart from one another – a clear sign that their confidence was growing.

The following day, we allowed the small troop of male baboons who live in the adjoining enclosure back out into their own large yard, which shares a fence with the new arrivals. While they are separated by a fence, this process was very closely monitored by our team as, even through chain-link, there is potential for fighting and injury. Thankfully, the two groups were interested in one another but showed no sign of aggression. This bodes well for the coming months as the new arrivals grow in confidence and become more accustomed to their new lives.

It is always a privilege to be able to witness animals who have come to us from traumatic or abusive backgrounds take their first steps into a new life and begin their journey of recovery. And, it is thanks to the support of people like you that we are able to offer a home for life to Mrs. Wilkin, Anna, Marlin, Violet, and Presley. We look forward immensely to updating you as our newest residents settle into life here at their forever home.

Learn more about the Cricket Hollow Zoo rescue and these five special monkeys at bornfreeusa.org/fivenewlives

Dr. Liz Tyson, Primate Sanctuary Director

ANNA, IN THE MEANTIME, IDOLIZES HER OLDER FRIEND AND REGULARLY LOOKS TO HER FOR GUIDANCE.



TRAPPING VICTIMS' FUND HELPS SAVE A GREAT HORNED OWL

If you have ever broken a bone and experienced that intense, sharp throbbing pain shooting through your body, you can imagine the terror and agony of a great horned owl who was caught in an illegal leg-hold trap in Massachusetts. The owl was not the trap's intended target, but she was its victim. She struggled alone in the woods until an animal control officer was alerted to her plight and took her to the New England Wildlife Center for help. Her injuries were severe; her leg had been almost entirely

severed from her body and she was suffering from severe soft tissue trauma and an open metatarsal fracture.

Born Free USA is a strong advocate against trapping and we continuously work to end this inhumane and archaic practice. Alongside enduring the intense pain and fear, animals caught in traps can suffer for days without food, water, and shelter or the ability to defend against predators.

There is also a common misconception that traps only target certain species, but the truth is that, for each targeted animal

trapped, many more non-targeted creatures can have the misfortune of stumbling upon a trap. We have documented hundreds of these



Photo: New England Wildlife Centers, Zak Mertz

incidents in our Non-Target Trapping Incidents Database, recording that, since 2010, 35 cats, 127 dogs, and 6 humans have been caught in traps!

Through our Trapping Victims' Fund, Born Free USA provides financial assistance to help cover the costs of veterinary expenses incurred by cruel traps, and we were happy to contribute to the New England Wildlife Center to help them rehabilitate the great horned owl after numerous surgeries to save her leg. As of writing, the owl is doing well and is making progress toward a full recovery.

You can learn more about the Trapping Victims' Fund, meet past fund recipients, and donate to support the fund at bornfreeusa.org/trappingvictims

Julie Kluck, Campaigns Associate

FOR EACH TARGETED ANIMAL TRAPPED, MANY MORE NON-TARGETED CREATURES CAN HAVE THE MISFORTUNE OF STUMBLING UPON A TRAP.

COULD CORONAVIRUS CHANGE THE DYNAMICS OF WILDLIFE TRADE?



Photo: Dan Bennett / CC BY
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While we do not yet know how the new strain of coronavirus (COVID-19) first came to infect humans, scientists suggest that it was transmitted through contact with exotic animals in a market in Wuhan, China, part of China's poorly regulated trade in wild animals for food and traditional medicine. As we watch cases of coronavirus spread across the globe, this epidemic showcases how, in addition to precipitating the extinction of many animal species, wildlife trade also seriously threatens global public health.

In response to this growing emergency, China first temporarily shut down markets where wildlife like civets, snakes, bats, and baby crocodiles were sold, both as carcasses and as live specimens. Then, on January 26, Chinese authorities announced a temporary ban on the trade of wild animals, forbidding catching, selling, or eating wildlife. On February 24, the National People's Congress went one step further and voted to pass decisions to permanently prohibit illegal wildlife trade and to ban the consumption of non-aquatic wild animals.

Wildlife trade was already banned in China during the 2002-2003 SARS crisis, the transmission of which was also linked to the consumption of wildlife, but it quickly resumed after the end of the outbreak.

While conservationists consider China's new legislation a major step forward, the current coronavirus pandemic also has collateral effects on wildlife and other animal species. Environmental Investigation Agency's (EIA) investigators discovered that the outbreak has in fact boosted some illegal wildlife trafficking, with traders in China and Laos taking advantage of

the health crisis to sell rhinoceros horn and other products from endangered species as alleged treatments for the illness. Additionally, China's new law does not seem to tackle the issue of trade in wild animals for medicinal use. And, as cases of humans infected with coronavirus multiply around the globe, scientists are now working hard to find a vaccine to protect humans, that will be tested on mice and then on larger animals, such as monkeys, which will cause more animal suffering.

Born Free USA joined other wildlife conservation organizations in an open letter to key international

organizations including the World Health Organization (WHO), the Office International Epizootologie (OIE), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), asking these entities to encourage governments across the world to shut down wildlife markets and work to reduce demand for wild animals and wildlife products.

This open letter reminds the senior leaders of the international community that trade in wildlife not only threatens human health but is also a major contributor to the global decline in wildlife and biodiversity. According to the Global Biodiversity Assessment published by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) in 2019, the decline of the natural world is “unprecedented in human history” with a million species at risk of extinction. The extraction of wild animals for domestic and international trade is a significant part of this decline and is identified as the second most important driver of biodiversity loss, behind changes in land and sea use.

Ending the direct exploitation of wildlife species is a true worldwide emergency – for the sake of both global public health and the health of our planet’s biodiversity. We must not wait any longer to act!

Learn about our response to COVID-19 at bornfreeusa.org/covid19

Aurora Luongo, Africa Policy and Capacity Building Program Associate



STOP THE WILDLIFE TRADE – OUR FUTURE DEPENDS ON IT.

Join us to combat the illegal wildlife trade and increase protections for animals around the world to end wildlife markets. Please use the enclosed envelope in this magazine to donate or visit bornfreeusa.org/donate



Photo: Shukran888 / CC BY-SA
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BORN FREE USA JOINS LAWSUIT AIMED AT FORCING TRUMP ADMINISTRATION TO HALT U.S. PANGOLIN TRADE

Born Free USA is proud to join the Center for Biological Diversity, Humane Society of the United States, Humane Society International, and the Natural Resource Defense Council in a lawsuit aimed at forcing the Trump administration to halt the U.S. pangolin trade. Pangolins are world's most heavily trafficked mammals. Between 2004 and 2014, more than a million were illegally traded – an average of nearly 300 animals killed per day! While most illegally sourced pangolins are destined for markets in China and Vietnam, the United States also drives demand, with some 26,000 imports of pangolin products seized in the U.S. between 2004 and 2013. We believe that it is past time for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to take action!

Learn more about the lawsuit, and our long and ongoing battle to get all pangolin species listed under the Endangered Species Act, at bornfreeusa.org/pangolinlawsuit.

PANGOLINS ARE WORLD'S MOST HEAVILY TRAFFICKED MAMMALS. BETWEEN 2004 AND 2014, MORE THAN A MILLION WERE ILLEGALLY TRADED – AN AVERAGE OF NEARLY 300 ANIMALS KILLED PER DAY!

ADOPT MRS. WILKIN, MARLIN, PRESLEY, ANNA, AND VIOLET!

Born Free USA has rescued five monkeys from Cricket Hollow Zoo, a deplorable roadside zoo with a long-standing history of keeping animals in cruel and inhumane conditions. We are giving them a home for life at our sanctuary in Texas. Healing from past traumas takes time and these monkeys will require care and support for years and possibly decades into the future, and we can't do it without your support!

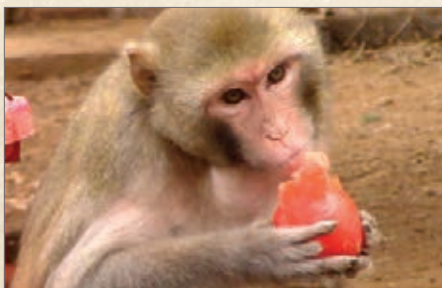
For only \$1 per week (\$52 per year) you can adopt one of these special monkeys and help provide medical care, nutritious food, enrichment, and more! Each adoption comes with an adoption package that includes an adoption certificate, beanie toy, and your monkey's bio and portrait.

MRS. WILKIN



Mrs. Wilkin suffers from various physical ailments, including chronic arthritis, bone deformity, and poor vision. Despite this, she lives life to the full and does not let her physical restrictions slow her down!

ANNA



Anna is a shy and gentle monkey who spends her time quietly foraging and sitting in the sun in her outdoor enclosure. She will often look to her older friend, Mrs. Wilkin, for guidance and support.

MARLIN



Marlin is the handsome and calm leader of his small troop of three and his two daughters, Violet and Presley, look to him for protection and support when they feel nervous.

VIOLET



Violet is a gregarious and inquisitive baboon who, since she arrived at the Born Free USA Primate Sanctuary, has taken a great interest in her new neighbors. She can usually be found sticking close by to Marlin or Presley.

PRESLEY



Presley has a shy and nervous disposition. When she, Marlin and Violet are out and about in their large enclosure and they stray too far away from her, Presley calls them back with a short, sharp noise, or runs to find them.

**ADOPT A MONKEY AT
[BORNFREEUSA.ORG/ADOPT](https://bornfreeusa.org/adopt)**



PRO-TROPHY HUNTING COUNCIL IS DISSOLVED, BUT THE MYTHS IT PROMOTED LIVE ON

The International Wildlife Conservation Council (IWCC), formed in 2017 by the U.S. Department of the Interior, was dissolved in February. Born Free USA campaigned against this council which, despite what its name suggests, had little to do with promoting wildlife conservation. Its membership was composed of a who's who of pro-hunting interests, and the council existed to advise about the supposed benefits of trophy hunting and promote trophy hunting, rather than engage in honest evaluation. We were delighted to learn that our work, and that of other conservation groups, was successful in helping disband the Council. The IWCC no longer exists to further the myths that trophy hunting supports species conservation and communities.



Public opinion is firmly against trophy hunting, yet the laws do not reflect that. The killing of Cecil the lion almost five years ago brought it front and center in the world spotlight. Sadly, not much has changed, and it remains a hotly debated issue. According to official figures for the decade of 2008-2017 for trophies derived from species regulated under international agreement, there were a total of 300,000 trophy items, from 300 threatened species in 100 countries. The U.S. by far is the largest perpetrator, accounting for almost half of all trophies taken.

TROPHY HUNTING IS NEITHER A VALID METHOD OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION NOR A MAJOR SOURCE OF REVENUE FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

Proponents of trophy hunting say those 300,000 lives lost saved many more – that killing a mature lion makes the pride stronger, and the

money earned benefits the people in the community. A report issued by Born Free Foundation in 2019 busts the myths, exposing the truth about trophy hunting.

The pro-hunting lobby says trophy hunting helps local communities. In fact, as the report by Born Free Foundation shows, the annual income gained could be as low as three one-hundredths (0.03%) of the Gross Domestic Product of the top 11 African countries that allow it. The vast majority of the fees hunting companies charge go to government agencies, the outfitters, and individuals in national capitals or overseas. As little as 3% of the revenues are contributed to communities in the hunting areas.

It is also claimed that trophy hunting benefits conservation through wildlife management. The fact that many species are in decline in the countries that allow them to be hunted belies this statement. Hunters value specific traits, such as the darkest mane or the longest tusks, removing specific genetics that can weaken the overall health and sustainability of the entire population. Often, adult males, who manage their herds and prides, are killed. This can lead to cubs of the former lion pride leader being killed, or in the case of elephants, bachelor groups, suddenly without their older bull, have an increased risk for conflict within the herd and with humans.

PROponents OF TROPHY HUNTING SAY HUNTING AID IN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION EFFORTS AND THAT THE MONEY EARNED BENEFITS PEOPLE IN COMMUNITIES WHERE HUNTS TAKE PLACE. BORN FREE USA HAS SHOWN THAT BOTH OF THESE IDEAS ARE MYTHS.

This is the tip of the iceberg of fallacies and obfuscation. It is time to recognize that trophy hunting is nothing more than an inhumane blood sport, perpetrated through ego and vanity.

A U.S. ban on all trophy imports into the country would have a significant impact on the industry and the lives of wildlife. Please sign our petition calling for Fish and Wildlife Service to cease all permitting of trophies entering the country at bornfreeusa.org/trophyhuntpetition

To read Born Free Foundation's trophy hunting report, please visit bornfreeusa.org/thmythsreport

Julie Kluck, Campaigns Associate

BORN FREE USA LAUNCHES HONORARY COUNCIL

Born Free USA is proud to announce the formation of a new Honorary Council to strengthen our wildlife conservation initiatives and raise awareness and funding for vital programs. Our founding Council members are: **CORRY BAZLEY**, a sales professional with more than 15 years of successful experience marketing to financial services firms; **ERIC BEAR**, film actor, serial entrepreneur, and founder of the award-winning R&D lab, MONKEYmedia; **ROCKY DAWUNI**, a GRAMMY-nominated Ghanaian-born Afro Roots Reggae musician, activist, and United Nations Ambassador; **PHIL HAMMOND**, manager and veterinary assistant for his husband's concierge-style, house-call, holistic veterinary practice in Los Angeles; **LOUISE LINTON**, actress, director, philanthropist, and animal welfare advocate; **DR. PATRICK MAHANEY**, veterinarian (VMD), certified veterinary acupuncturist (CVA), and certified veterinary journalist (CVJ); **ELLEN O'CONNELL**, President and founder of Sankhara Consulting and the President of Ngaren: The Museum of Humankind; **TONY SAXTON**, Founding Partner of Terra Group Holdings; **CHARLES SIEBERT**, poet, journalist, essayist, and a contributing writer for *The New York Times Magazine*; and **GINNY TRANCHIK**, Senior Director of Capacity Building at the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC). Each member of the Council brings a rich background of experience and dedication to animals and, together, they form a vibrant and diverse network to help keep wildlife in the wild!

Learn more about the Honorary Council
at bornfreeusa.org/honorarycouncil



CORRY BAZLEY



ROCKY DAWUNI



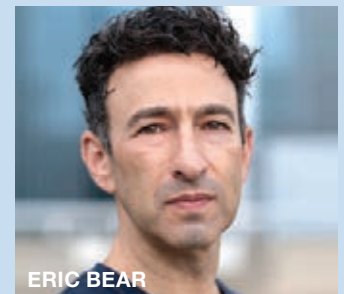
LOUISE LINTON



ELLEN O'CONNELL



CHARLES SIEBERT



ERIC BEAR



PHIL HAMMOND



DR. PATRICK MAHANEY



TONY SAXTON



GINNY TRANCHIK

ONTARIO'S WORST WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL, EVER!

In 2019, the provincial government of Ontario proposed what I believe is the single worst wildlife management policy in Canada in more than 100 years.

With indifference to compassion, facts, and science, the policy sought to change the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act to redefine double-crested cormorants as “game” birds, so that they may be killed by hunters holding small game licenses. The “bag” limit will be a staggering 50 birds per day from March 15 to December 31 (the birds are mostly absent in winter).

But, what is astounding to anyone familiar with the trajectory of wildlife management over the last century or so is that there is no requirement for the meat of dead birds to be utilized! Their fish diet makes them unpalatable and therefore not a bird anyone would want to eat.

“Ethical” hunters are disgusted at this, since a cornerstone argument in favor of their “sport” is that the meat of game should not be wasted. It is illegal to allow game to spoil.

A brief public consultation period was held over the Christmas season, maximizing the likelihood that the public would be too distracted to respond. Government experts at both provincial and federal levels opposed the plan. The government responded with lies, such as the accusation that cormorants wiped out the only great blue heron colony on the shores of Lake Ontario – this is categorically untrue. Also categorically untrue is the government’s claim that cormorants are wiping out great egrets; on the contrary, great egret numbers are increasing.

As fish-eaters, cormorants are blamed for real or imagined declines in game and commercial fish species, although, with very few exceptions, the science indicates no such problem exists. The presence of cormorants, pelicans, loons, Ospreys, and other fish-eating wildlife indicates robust populations of whatever fish species they are consuming. Cormorant excrement can kill trees and other vegetation, but there is already a mechanism in place where, if needed, lethal

control can be permitted. The largest Ontario colony of cormorants is non-lethally managed by the Toronto Region Conservation Authority (on whose advisory committee I sit), with success at protecting trees and nesting night-herons. And, the fishing is best in adjacent waters!

Cormorants form strong pair bonds and share care of eggs and the newly hatched young, who have to be kept warm, shaded from the sun, and fed. Killing even one parent can leave young to die of heat, like being cooked alive, or from starvation, thirst, or predation.

The exact number of cormorants in Ontario is unknown, but indications are that the population has peaked and stabilized. They endanger no plant or fish species. There is no funding to provide enforcement of these changes. The scheme caters to the slob hunter who just enjoys killing. It is a horrific idea that ignores all we have learned about cormorants, ecology, predator-prey relationships, and wildlife food chains over more than a century of research and favors instead the worst attitudes we have against the natural world.

Barry Kent MacKay, Director of Canadian and Special Programs



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YOUR LIFESAVING LEGACY FOR WILDLIFE

Your estate gift creates a legacy of hope and compassion for animals for the next generation. When you name Born Free USA in your will or trust, you support the lifetime care of animals at our sanctuary, help protect entire species, and keep wildlife in the wild.

**Please contact us at info@bornfreeusa.org
or by phone at (301) 448-1407 to discuss a planned gift.**

