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Closing Remarks - Twenty-First Vertebrate Pest Conference

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Published at Univ. of Calif., Davis. 2004. P. 365.

Once again, we come to the end of another Vertebrate Pest Conference. I would like to cover three broad topics in these remarks. The first deals with some specifics of this, the 21st Vertebrate Pest Conference, and acknowledges the people who made it possible. Secondly, as we know, things always change and this conference was significant in the emergence of something new, and the probable extinction of something now generally considered obsolete. The third relates to the upcoming 2005 VPC.

As you are very much aware, it takes many people to produce this conference. If anyone is left out of these acknowledgements, it is unintended. Paul Gorenzel, the Council Chair, oversaw the whole production. Duane Schabel and Kathy Fagerstone arranged the program, which featured 72 speakers. Desley Whisson was in charge of registration, helped speakers download their papers, and solved problems. Terry Salmon was in charge of arrangements. According to reliable sources, we have a new record (unofficial) of 2,631 arrangements. Congratulations, Terry! Craig Coolahan and Bob Timm organized the field trip with great support from personnel at the Kearney Agricultural Center, and from folks at the Fresno County Agriculture Department.

We had nine paid commercial exhibitors, plus a great pocket gopher trap collection, on view for all to see. Charles Smith and Minoo Madon coordinated the commercial exhibits. The evening buffet and social was sponsored by our exhibitors - a great addition to the conference. Ray Sterner, Don McQuery, and John Nichols provided great entertainment.

Continuing education credits were available for those who needed or wanted them. Our thanks to PAPA for handling that so well!

There were 291 attendees. Eighteen came from six foreign countries: Australia, Canada, Fiji, Great Britain, New Zealand, and Mexico.

This conference had a record number of students- 20 attended. They came from four states and one foreign country. At the current growth rate, the 2010 conference will have 128 students. It is rewarding to see student participation increase, and we hope it continues to do so.

Another new "organism" has emerged at this conference. It was first observed in 1996, and it was suppressed by the Council until it resurged at Reno in 2002 and became dominant. I am talking about PowerPoint. This year every presentation, except the last, Guy Connolly's, used PowerPoint to present visuals. As Guy indicated, his slide presentation will probably be the last ever at the VPC. You are welcome to come up after my remarks to observe this last captive collection of slides - each in its own carousel slot. This may be your last chance.

The next conference in 2006 will be at the Berkeley Marina Doubletree Hotel, on March 6-9, 2006. It is a great location. Oakland and San Francisco airports are close by. Field trip possibilities are enormous.

Thank you all for attending this year. See you in 2006. Have a safe trip home.

