

The Struggle for Positive Change

One morning in February 2008 Tina and I dropped into a local restaurant for breakfast and we ran into Maple Ridge Mayor Gordy Robson and his wife Mary. The mayor asked me how things were going and I told him not so good as the Justice Department had charged me with 9 criminal counts for photographing a Species at Risk bird in the Okanagan and that the potential for fines came to a staggering \$2,250,000. I told them about the 463-page prosecution package. I mentioned to the mayor that as an ex-policeman I was concerned about the safety of peace officers after the receiving of the crown's prosecution package as it had given me the names, addresses, phone and fax numbers of all 17 crown witnesses that would be called to testify against Damon and I in court. I was curious if the crown followed the same procedure with people charged with more serious crimes such as murder and rape and if so then the JD would be placing many witnesses in harm's way. Mayor Robson said that he'd like to set up a meeting with our local Member of Parliament Randy Kamp.

A few weeks later Mayor Robson and I had our meeting with Randy and I expressed my concerns about government employees not being discreet with the blind carbon copy in their emails and crown prosecution packages providing the names of all witnesses. I explained that a biologist in the Okanagan had not used her blind carbon copy when sending an email and that later an investigator with the CWS had forwarded her email to me thus giving me the names of all 25 recipients of the originals email. My MP didn't seem all that concerned about my issues regarding safety for our government employees or peace officers.

I also told Mr. Kamp about the heavy-handedness of the JD with the 9 criminal charges against Damon and I. Mr. Kamp said that he'd make an effort to get us a meeting with Mark Warawa, the Parliamentary Secretary to James Prentice, the Federal Minister of the Environment. I was so dumb that I had to ask Randy about Mark's title of Parliamentary Secretary. He told me that it was similar to being the only Vice-President of a company but that it applied

to a position in government. In other words he was number three in the pecking order with respect to Canada's environment: Prime Minister Stephen Harper; Minister of the Environment James Prentice—and him. I then learned that Mr. Kamp was the Parliamentary Secretary to Gail Shea and then Keith Ashfield, the Ministers of Fisheries and that he was number three in the pecking order of all matters concerning fish in Canada. It was beginning to seem to me that Damon and I were reaching people with some clout in government.

In early January 2009 I attempted to contact Kamp about my trial and my legal action against Dr. Bishop. I explained to him in an email that it was imperative that I have my day in court regarding my slander case before I appeared in Penticton court to plead guilty on the chat fiasco. For the Justice Department, it was just a game. JD lawyer Danay knew that if I were to plead guilty then Dr. Bishop was off the hook for her slanderous remarks in her 13 June 2007 email. Maybe, just maybe, that was why our lawyer Howard Smith was offered such a sweet deal by JP lawyer Jane Luke. To me, it would be a pretty easy way to keep her conviction rate high if she was able to hold a \$2,250,000 ransom over the heads of her accused victims. As mentioned earlier, the government very likely spent \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 of taxpayers money to get a guilty plea and a small return of only \$6,000 from Damon and I.

Kamp's office got back to me but said that he'd be in Ottawa until the latter half of February. Our court appearance was slated for the 16 February. My strategy, identical to Danay's, was to get my case heard in civil court before I plead guilty to the chat charges. Unfortunately, it was four months after Damon and I plead guilty to the chat charges that we got to meet Warawa and Kamp.

On 20 May 2009 my wife Tina, Damon and I had our come together with the two parliamentarians. The meeting was slated for 2:00 p.m at Mr. Warawa's office in Langley Prairie. Tina and I got up early and drove over to Langley and scouted out the exact location of Mr.



Randy Kamp's signage at Albion.

Warawa's office as we didn't want to be late for such an important meeting. I then contacted Damon by cellular and asked him his location. He was on the Port Mann Bridge en route and I told him exactly the way to make the meeting on time. Tina and I had a leisurely lunch and arrived at Warawa's office 15 minutes early. Damon arrived a few minutes later but Randy was late. Once everyone got introduced to each other Damon, Tina and I, along with the two Members of Parliament went into a boardroom with a large rectangular table. I sat in the middle chair on one side of the table directly across from Mark. Damon sat on my left and Tina on my right. Randy sat to the right of Mark and that placed him directly across from Damon. Mark chaired the meeting and immediately asked me if it would be all right for him to tape record the meeting. I was very pleased that he was taking our concerns seriously. Just as he turned on the tape recorder, he asked his secretary Tanya Charles-Tait to come into the room and sit to his left and across from Tina and to take notes. I immediately began to suspect that the meeting was turning into a preliminary hearing, discovery or deposition. Were the two politicians going to attempt to get us to say something embarrassing on the tape about our bird photography in the Burns, Oregon, or Oliver in the Okanagan? I soon became very uncomfortable with the tactics and questioning of the two politicians.

The meeting lasted 80-minutes and at times

became very heated. At one time Tina spoke up and told the two members that she felt that the Canadian Wildlife Service had targeted Damon and I. When Mr. Warawa told me that the government was in the process of increasing the fines under the Migratory Birds Convention Act and the Species at Risk Act, I became most upset and accused the Canadian lawmakers of being crazy. He said the government was in the process of raising the maximum fines for individuals from \$250,000 to \$300,000. I became most upset when he compared our actions with a large ship dumping raw sewage into the ocean. He was comparing apples with oranges and he simply didn't get it that the different sections of the two federal acts didn't take this into consideration when dealing with the wording of any new amendments and legislation.

I later emailed Mr. Warawa requesting copies of the tape recording but was told by Tanya that the tapes were his property, for his personal use, and that he was not prepared to give a copy of it to me. I should never have agreed to allow Warawa to tape record the meeting unless it was with the express understanding that I be permitted to get a copy or have my own tape recorder on the table. Eventually Tanya sent me a boiled down version of the 80-minute meeting that consisted of a miserly 2-pages of transcription that managed to get some of the dialogue wrong. Tanya's transcription indicated that Damon mentioned that Environment Canada had spent \$6,000,000 on our prosecution. I always suspected that the government had spent \$500,000 to a \$1,000,000 to gather the evidence against us from the 17 witnesses but Damon never mentioned \$6,000,000 to anyone during the meeting. Was it possible that Kamp or Warawa said that the government had spent \$6,000,000 to get a conviction to make us "poster boys" for the Species at Risk Act and that comment was his reason for withholding the tape recording? According to Tanya's notes, Warawa said that he'd discuss our plight with the environmental enforcement officers and ask the committee if there was a plan to bring forward permits for photographing birds.

Tanya had my wife, instead of me, being the one having the anxiety attack while on the air photo flight. She made mention of my Oregon ticket but not the "mandatory monetary penalty". Had

the Canadian government learned something from their southern neighbours that could potentially place a great deal of money into government coffers? I wonder how many birders and biologists have even heard of “mandatory monetary penalties”. My “ticket” for harassing the bluebird in the United States in 2006 was maximum \$299 American with a “mandatory monetary penalty” of \$225. They called it a misdemeanor but it meant the same thing.

At one point during the meeting Randy asked me if we had broken any federal law. I believe I told him that any birder or biologist that wasn't exempt with a government permit and who wandered into a Species at Risk residence would technically be guilty of breaking the law.

He also talked about Damon possibly appearing before the SARA review committee. I later learned that he was referencing the Standing Committee on Environmental and Sustainable Development.

At the conclusion of the meeting I suggested to Damon that he gift signed copies of his ‘Flights of Fantasy’ book to Mr. Harper, Mr. Prentice, Mr. Warawa, Mr. Kamp and their respective wives. Mark said that he's give a copy of a book to his boss while Randy said that he'd give a copy to the prime minister. Outside Mr. Warawa's office Randy told Tina and I that the government had “the best lawyers” and the “government the deepest pockets” and that I had no chance of having my day in court without it costing Damon and I a great deal of money.

It took Warawa until September 2009 to write a letter to The Honourable Jim Prentice. On 1 March 2010 I finally received a reply from the Minister of the Environment. Paragraphs 2,3 and 4 were as follows: “Given the harm or distress that a species may suffer from activities such as photography, a Species at Risk permit is required. Upon receipt of your application, a scientific assessment will be conducted to evaluate if such an activity is detrimental to the species in question, as well; as whether authorization can be granted under federal legislation.

Enclosed is the appropriate Species at Risk application form. Please submit the completed form to Should you require assistance or clarification in regards to completing the application, please contact.... I trust that the infor-

mation provided is helpful.”

First of all, I never asked for a permit to photograph a Species at Risk. I asked for a permit to photograph Migratory Birds. The application form was definitely designed to be used by government biologists and had no room for an application from a ordinary citizen. I went through the motions of completing the very complicated government form that was designed for research biologists doing scientific studies. Eventually I received a phone call from Coral deShied, Head, Program and Planning Coordination, Candian Wildlife Service, Pacific & Yukon Region, who explained to me that no such permit existed. She sent me a letter dated 31 May 2010 to that effect. I took her letter to be a heads up warning to anyone even thinking of attempting to photograph a bird at the nest in Canada. There was absolutely no way that a novice to the challenge of nest photography could go about his business without breaking laws—and this applied equally to government biologists.

A short time after writing me the letter, Prentice stepped down as the Environment Minister and took a position as Vice-Chairman of the Imperial Bank of Commerce. He was replaced by Peter Kent, former Deputy Editor of the Global Television Network. Warawa forwarded my letter dated 6 May 2010 about the new penalties under the MBCA and SARA to The Honourable Peter Kent and he responded on the 3 August 2011. It was interesting to read what he had to say: “In your message you enquire about the minimum fine that would be imposed in a case where a birder lowered a branch and caused young birds to abandon a nest prematurely. Although that action could result in an offense, every fact situation is assessed on a case-by-case basis. At this time, there is no statutory minimum fine that can be assessed against an individual.

However, certain statutory minimum fines will come into force in 2012 as a result of the implementation of the provisions of the Environmental Enforcement Act. Those fines will apply only to “most serious” offences. Offences categorized as “less serious” will not be subjected to a statutory minimum penalty; instead, fines in such cases will be determined by the courts. The Crown and defence counsels generally rec-

Meeting with Member of Parliament Mark Warawa and Member of Parliament Randy Kamp

Taken 20 May 2009 by Tanya Charles-Tait

Don Waite Don has been photographing birds for more than 30 years, inside and out side of North America. He has worked for top bird photographers. Has knowledge in bird photography that he would like to share with others who wish to pursue this.

Don wanted to get back into bird photography during the nesting season, which is about a 10 week window. While in Oregon in 2006, he was often stopped by US authorities and one trooper gave him a ticket for harassing a bluebird, which had transitioned into a robin's nest. This is an unusual occurrence, as they normally nest in cavities in trees, not other birds nest. Mr. Waite was told the ticket would be \$299 US, but if he plead guilty, the judge would reduce it. He was also told that he should have a permit. The US Wildlife Service only showed a permit for teachers to take students on an outing.

There is no permit for bird photography.

He plead guilty and had the fine reduced to \$225. He sent post-dated cheques as per the Judge's order. In Burns, Oregon, he invited a biologist, Ron Garneau, to join him to photograph a strike. Mr. Garneau said he would try to develop a permit.

He says that farmers wait for the nesting season to be over before they disrupt the nest to bring in their hay. He was told to call Washington, DC. He did so in an attempt to lobby for a birding permit.

Fast forward a year later, they are charged for photographing a bird. Mr. Waite, a former policeman, feels he was set up.

Damon Calderwood Damon wished to get back to the Oregon thing because it relates to here.

The officer claimed the ticket was because he had sawed off a low branch in order to place the tripod. Vegetation disruption.

No permits existed.

In early June 2007, we were in the Penticton area, north end of Osoyoos Lake. I was advised to go to the area by someone I knew. I removed some rose bush, not near the nest, but to put my blind up. I was there for three (June 10,11,12) days photographing the birds. Don did not take any pictures in those three days. On the fourth day, June 13th, Don went in the blind for 15 minutes and was instantly approached by the CWS people.

While he was doing the photography, there were incidents where I felt as though we were being watched.

Nigel Jackett came the day before, and he claimed to be an employee of the CWS.

Tina Waite On June 12 we arrived and met three women who wanted to know where some rare butterflies were. I felt there was something wrong, something suspicious, and someone was watching. The next day, we saw the women again sitting on a knoll. They said they never did find the butterfly. It was too early in the season.

Don Waite There was a man, Nigel Jackett. Tina was photographing the bird with Damon's camera, although she is not a photographer. Damon and Don went looking for new nests. Nigel approached them and said, "I was talking to those three women and they say you have been photographing a Great Grey Owl". Damon and Don asked for his cellular and said if he found one that perhaps they would go and film it. Then he asked "have you found any chat nests?" - I felt this was a trap and shut up and Damon also said "we've seen some chats" but didn't tell him about the nests. I'm sure Nigel was planted there and reported to someone afterwards. At that time Damon and I were photographing the chats, neither of us had any idea that they were a species at risk and were under study.

He was referred to a nest that was already under observation by the CWS. He feels it was entrapment. Then Christine Bishop of CWS sends out a broadcast email that indicates he cut vegetation that was five feet in diameter. I was confronted on June 13 at about noon. This was libel and slander, there was no investigation.

After I was told to stop, the Indian woman (Mario Hall, an Osoyoos First Nations man) who was on the site told me to go to the band office in Osoyoos and see her brother and he would give me permission to

them to film on band land with no permits.

By 2:14 pm the email went out to 26 people. Four hours after the original email went out, Margaret Holm sent out an email to the originator, saying that her husband Dick knows the photographer and that he should be charged with offences.

Tina Waite My husband, after the email, had a complete mental breakdown. They defaced him. Then they targeted the sales of Damon's book.

A few days after I was confronted I was on a flight. I had an anxiety attack and thought I was having a heart attack. The pilot re-routed the plane to land at another airport.

I am not the type of person to go after people, but what they (CWS) have done... For some reason they (Don and Damon) got targeted. I want something done about it. I want a retraction and an apology.

Don Waite I was a vegetable, non-productive, I slept 12 hours a day. I waited 11 months and then decided to sue Christine Bishop for libel.

June 2008, ten months later - In order for them to get us - they charged us jointly with nine indictable charges under the species at risk act, carrying maximum fines of \$250,000 together, or jail time.

Feb 16, 2009 - court appearance where we plead guilty to get over the stress of it all. Judgement. Within a week, CWS issued a press release that said we plead guilty and issued the fine.

The investigator was not out for the truth. He was out for a conviction.

(Something about the movie that was edited incorrectly) and was intended to be used as evidence. They set up some type of confiscated experiment in the studio with strobe lights etc.

Randy Kamp Whether you were set up or not, did you actually violate federal law? And what are you asking for Mark and I do do?

Don Waite I would like to see the laws changed to allow for people to get a permit for photographing birds.

The charges - the area we were in there was nothing posted to say it was a species at risk. The only sign was 9 kms away which said "species at risk, keep out" with a picture of a bear and a raccoon. Still yet, there was another sign that said "birdwatching".

It is only a species at risk in that little pocket of BC. We didn't know.

Damon Calderwood We were given a discharge, which means there is no record attached to it, with a stipulation not to commit within a year.

The SARA needs to be revised. We'd like to be part of the review of the act.

Mark Warawa If you feel that you would like to testify at the current review of SARA, you could write a letter to request that. What you have shared with me today, is pretty much what is in the material you had already provided. I have read that and can sense the frustration and tension that lingers there.

Damon Calderwood One of the issues when you do the math - Environment Canada spends \$6 million dollars on our prosecution and issues a press release - why?

Mark Warawa SARA is going through a legislative review and it will be going on into the fall. The other thing is C-16 the Environmental bill which will make penalties more severe.

Damon Calderwood We were charged under a law that maybe wasn't designed for people like us.

Mark Warawa It will give me a chance to discuss this with one of the environmental enforcement officers. Ask the committee if there is a plan to bring forward permits for photographing birds.

The Waites and Mr. Calderwood agreed to do so and will make arrangements via the office of Randy Kamp, MP to request to appear before the SARA review committee.



RR1, 5421 Robertson Road
Delta, BC
V4K 3N2

May 31, 2010

Donald E. Waite
Waite Bird Photos Inc.
#1 – 23233 Kanaka Way
Maple Ridge, BC
V2X 2B7

Re: Permit Application for Bird Photography

Environment Canada received your application for a permit to photograph birds under the *Species at Risk Act* on April 3, 2010.

The permit application has been reviewed to assess whether the activities are likely to result in impacts to species at risk. As a result of this review, we have determined that a permit is not required for the proposed photography activity.

Environment Canada's federal statutes aim to protect birds listed under SARA and all migratory birds in Canada. These birds are an integral and vital component of Canada's heritage and they are protected under two primary pieces of federal legislation.

The principal federal statute which protects all migratory birds in Canada is the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994*. The Government of Canada has also enacted the *Species at Risk Act*. The goal of this new act is to designate species at risk, protect their habitats, and develop recovery plans so that these species do not disappear from the Canadian landscape.

As stated in the above legislations, the activity must not result in killing, harming, harassing, capturing, or taking a bird listed under SARA as endangered or threatened or a migratory bird. In particular, any intrusive methods of photography that could change the behaviour of a migratory bird should not be used as this could be construed as harassment.

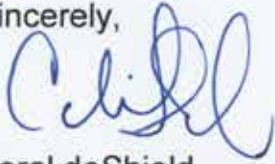
In addition, the activity must not result in damage or destruction of the residence of a bird listed under SARA as endangered or threatened or a migratory bird or its eggs. Note removal of any vegetation or cover at or near the nest could constitute damage or destruction.

Note that in carrying out the activity you propose, that the provisions of the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*, the *Migratory Birds Regulations*, and the *Species*

at Risk Act, continue to apply along with the provincial and municipal laws specific to the various areas you work in.

I trust this information is of use.

Sincerely,



Coral deShield
Head, Program and Planning Coordination
Canadian Wildlife Service, Pacific & Yukon Region

commend fine amounts upon conviction, but it is the judge alone who determines the penalty. Environment Canada enforcement officers do not decide on the manner by which the trial will proceed (i.e. Summartily or by indictment), nor do they choose or negotiate fines.

At present, the Species at Risk Act does not authorize any statutory minimum penalties, and the Environmental Enforcement Act implementation will not result in any changes to that effect.

With respect to your reference to “a special permit for the photography of wildlife,” there is no such permit available for issuance, and we have not identified a need for that type of exemption.”

On 22 June 2012 without much fanfare from the Harper government, the penalties upon conviction under the MBCA and the SARA jumped fourfold overnight. The maximum penalty for an individual on an indictment charge went from \$250,000 to \$1,000,000. The maximum penalty on summary conviction was set at \$300,000. The government lawmakers had added a new twist. They introduced “mandatory monetary penalties”. A person upon being found guilty or on pleading guilty on a criminal charge would be hit with a minimum \$15,000 mandatory monetary penalty. For summary conviction the minimum monetary penalty was \$5,000. The judge was left out of the equasion.

In Canada the same charge for an individual

is now \$1,000,000 maximum for an indictable charge with a mandatory monetary penalty of \$15,000. On summary conviction the maximum for an individual is \$300,000 (as per Mr. Warawa) with a mandatory monetary penalty of \$5,000. Both indictable and summary conviction charges carried hefty jail penalties of up to 3 years for an indictable conviction and up to 6 months for summary conviction. In other words, anyone that plead guilty or was found guilty had to pay \$5,000 minimum. The amount of the sentencing had been taken away from the presiding judge. All these changes came about in July 2012.

For a second offense in order to keep everything simple for the lawmakers, everything doubled. All these new changes came into effect under Harper’s Conservation government with little or no fanfare. It’s incredible but absolutely true. In Canada peace officers are able to charge a person with several multiple criminal offenses for the same incident—over several consecutive days. These new laws give the JD the power to bully anyone who has been charged into pleading guilty to a lesser summary conviction violation or having several charges stayed or dropped. The JD lawyers have turned into deal-makers or plea bargainers more concerned with making the government money than getting to the truth.

I read that Canada’s Species at Risk Act came into law in 2002 some five years before the Yellow-breasted Chat incident but I’ve never been able to learn the year that the chat was put at

risk. Was it 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 or 2007? If it was in 2006 or 2007 it's little wonder that neither Damon nor I knew anything about it being at risk in the tiny portion of the Okanagan.

That summer Tina and I drove east to Ontario. It was a working holiday for me as I gathered material for my gold and espionage books. On 7 July 2009 I received an email from Mr. Robert J. Danay, the Justice Department lawyer in Vancouver who had been assigned to Dr. Bishop's file. The letter stated that Dr. Bishop was preparing to counter sue me and that the JD would be asking for damages. When I asked him the amount of the damages, I was told that it was solicitor-client privileges and that he couldn't tell me but he did reveal that he'd be initiating his law suit on 22 July. I emailed Danay back explaining that I was on a working holiday in Ontario and that I wasn't planning on being back in BC until early August. I explained to him that I didn't have easy access to either the Internet or lawyers since I was in Northern Ontario. I requested that he defer the the 22 July date until the 1 September. I looked Danay's biography up on the Internet and learned that he was a specialist with defamation cases over the Internet. I found it amusing that the government had hired him to defend one of their own for writing misleading information about me that went viral.

I kept Mr. Kamp in the loop as to the strategy being implemented by the Justice Department. He said he'd make a phone call to Mr. Danay on my behalf. Tina begged me to drop my case against Dr. Bishop and as a result I emailed Danay on 21 July and told him that I had decided to discontinue my action against Dr. Bishop. He responded 9 minutes later saying that he'd be preparing a Notice of Discontinuance for my signature upon my return to BC.

serious" will not be subject to a statutory minimum penalty; instead, fines in such cases will be determined by the courts. The Crown and defence counsels generally recommend fine amounts upon conviction, but it is the judge alone who determines the penalty. Environment Canada enforcement officers do not decide on the manner by which the trial will proceed (i.e. summarily or by indictment), nor do

they choose or negotiate fines.

At present, the Species at Risk Act does not authorize any statutory minimum penalties, and the Environment Enforcement Act implementation will not result in any changes to that effect.

With respect to your reference to 'a special permit for the photography of wildlife', there is not such permit available for issuance, and we have not identified a need for that type of exemption."a maximum \$250,000 fine or jail time. Upon conviction, Damon and I would have to be photographed and fingerprinted—and that could possibly restrict travel outside of Canada.

My Dad had an expression that he used frequently: "You know or you think you know?" I think that his remark could certainly be applied to many of the biologists turned wildlife photographers or vice versa. Alexander C. Bent eventually wrote the 20-book series of the 'Life Histories of North American Birds'. Most of the contributors were ordinary bird watchers with a pair of binoculars. It reminded of a gentleman that I met in Burns, Oregon. He was a retired policeman who never once had his evidence challenged in a court of law. One day he was watching a family of Canada Geese on top of a 20-foot haystack when he happened to notice a gosling climb onto a parents' back. The goose glided down to the ground with its passenger. The former lawman went down to the local wildlife office and told the biologist what he had just witnessed but the biologist refused to believe him. Incidentally, my wife Tina purchased me a complete of A.C. Bent's books that were in mind condition. It was a Christmas present. I've since given them away.

The Honourable Peter Kent and Coral deShield both say that a permit is not required to photograph birds at the nest. It is pretty obvious by the content of deShield's letter that an inexperienced photographer attempting to photograph a nest could easily get himself or herself into a great deal of trouble.

Why couldn't the government embrace such an idea that could increase our knowledge of birds, and wildlife in general, while at the same time generating legitimate income for the government?

New CEPA fines took effect June 22, 2012

The *Environmental Enforcement Act* established a range of heavy fines for individuals, corporations, ships and "other persons" that are convicted of any of a number of designated offences in *CEPA 1999* or the regulations made under that Act. Effective June 22, 2012, amended section 272 of *CEPA 1999* sets minimum and maximum fines for the most serious statutory and regulatory offences, ranging from \$5,000 for a first offence by an individual to \$6 million for a large corporation. The fines are doubled for second and subsequent offenders. This table summarizes the increased penalties, as well as the statutory provisions to which they may apply. The table on page 4 lists the designated regulatory offences.

Fines for Designated Offences¹ (Minimum ² and maximum fines)				
Offender	Summary Conviction		Conviction on Indictment	
	1st Offense	2nd and Subsequent³	1st Offense	2nd and Subsequent³
Individuals	\$5,000 to \$300,000 (and/or 6 months)	\$10,000 to \$600,000 (and/or 6 months)	\$15,000 to \$1,000,000 (and/or 3 years)	\$30,000 to \$2,000,000 (and/or 3 years)
Small revenue corporations ⁴ or ships under 7,500 tonnes of deadweight	\$25,000 to \$2,000,000	\$50,000 to \$4,000,000	\$75,000 to \$4,000,000 (see note 5)	\$150,000 to \$8,000,000 (see note 5)
Corporations or ships of 7,500 tonnes deadweight or over	\$100,000 to \$4,000,000	\$200,000 to \$8,000,000	\$500,000 to \$6,000,000 (see note 5)	\$1,000,000 to \$12,000,000 (see note 5)

A person in Canada has to take a Canadian Firearms Safety Course in order to obtain a Possession and Acquisition License to be able to carry a rifle or shotgun. The course and permit comes to about \$150.00.

Why couldn't the government come up with a course for people outside of government biologists to photograph birds at the nest providing they have a permit? The permit would show that have taken a course that was offered by the CWS that was given by a knowledgeable biologist and a professional wildlife photographer



A pair of Blue-gray Naticatchers busy themselves feeding a Brown Cowbird chick in Medford, Oregon, in 2010.