Game Managers Hear “Respect for Life” Ethic

“It is wrong for animals to be reduced to animate targets, with no meaningful purpose in their deaths, save one of personal pleasure and satisfaction of the hunter,” declared HSUS President John A. Hoyt in a speech before the U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife Regional Training Conference in April.

Hoyt, speaking before more than 100 federal wildlife management personnel at the Salt Lake City, Utah conference, questioned man’s purpose in killing wildlife: “Man, in his interaction with animals, has the same right as they do to consume other animals in order to sustain his existence. But man, who is both subject to and controller of nature, bears an extra burden of responsibility in ending life. He must decide whether death is in the best interest of all that nature effects. Man should kill wildlife only when he regards it in the interest of the common good of man and animal alike.”

Hoyt said it is no longer necessary for man to kill wildlife for physical nourishment. He pointed out that there is enough meat available through commercial channels to satisfy man’s needs. He charged that the wide variety of weapons used in killing today’s wildlife causes a far greater degree of animal suffering than those methods used in commercial animal slaughtering.

He said he believed it was wrong for wildlife to be managed or manipulated for the benefit of those who wish to kill for sport and pleasure, especially when the animal hunted is not cleanly or humanely killed. “I am not convinced that wildlife is managed primarily in its own interest, but rather in the interest of man,” he said.

Hoyt acknowledged that on occasion animals must be killed in the interest of human safety or because they destroy property. But he charged that the mass killing of wildlife by cattlemen and sheepmen with poisons that cause agonizing death is motivated by economic self-interest, intermingled with historic biases against predator animals. He concluded that animal control techniques that result in cruel treatment of animals must be replaced by humane control methods that can be discovered through scientific studies of animal damage problems.

HSUS Conference to Open With Tour of Houston Zoo

A tour of the Houston zoo conducted by HSUS zoo reformer Sue Pressman and a presentation on wildlife education programs by HSUS education specialist John Dommers will open the 1975 HSUS Annual Conference on Oct. 16.

The conference, which is open to all members and friends of HSUS, will be held at the Houston Oaks Hotel, Houston, Texas, from Thursday, Oct. 16, until Sunday, Oct. 19. It will feature speeches by leaders in various aspects of animal welfare concerns addressing themselves to the conference theme “Animals: Assessing Their Future.” A series of workshops has been planned to provide expertise and up-to-the-minute information that will help humanitarians in local programs and crusades.

For the second year, a special forum on humane education will be held during the conference to bring humanitarians and educators up to date on the latest techniques and materials for incorporating the teaching of humaneness and respect for animals into school curricula.

The educational tour of the zoo will be conducted from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. on the 16th, with registration limited to the first 50 persons who register. (See registration coupon on page 15.) Dommers and John Ripley Forbes, president of the Natural Science for Youth Foundation, will present a slide show and lecture presentation on “The Nature Center’s Key Role in Humane Education” at 7:30 p.m. the same day.

Featured conference speakers will be:

• Naturalist Roger Caras, a regular member of the ABC TV “AM America” show and an HSUS vice president, who will deliver the keynote address Friday morning.

• Mrs. Ruth Harrison, international authority on the cruelties of factory farming of animals, who will speak on “Factory Farming: Ecological Plunder” Friday morning.

• Dr. Lloyd C. Faulkner, chairman of the Dept. of Physiology and Biophysics at Colorado State University and a leading investigator of contraceptive methods for dogs and cats, who will speak on “The Pet Population Problem” Friday afternoon.

• Victor B. Scheffer, international authority on the biology of marine mammals and author of several books on marine mammals and other wildlife, who will speak on “The Future of Wildlife Management” Saturday morning.

—Scheffer has also been selected to receive the HSUS Joseph Wood Krutch Medal “for significant contribution towards the improvement of life and the environment." The medal will be awarded during the Annual Awards Banquet Saturday evening. Scheffer received acclaim for his books “The Year of the Seal,” “The Year of the Whale,” “A Voice for Wildlife,” and “The Seeing Eye.”

A special feature of the 1975 conference will be a dance following the Saturday banquet. Persons who are unable to attend all 3 days of the conference are invited to make reservations for the banquet. (See registration coupon for details.)

Registration for the entire conference is $20 for registrations received by Sept. 1. After that date, the registration fee will be $25. The fee includes admission to the Annual Awards Banquet. Lunches will not be provided for conference participants because a variety of restaurants are located in the immediate vicinity of the hotel.

The Houston Oaks is located in the Galleria, a beautiful shopping mall containing many specialty shops and several prestigious department stores, including Neiman-Marcus, Tiffany, and Lord & Taylor.

Hotel reservations must be made directly with the hotel. Upon receipt of conference registration, HSUS will send registrants a reservations form to be mailed to the Houston Oaks, along with other detailed conference information. Room rates are $30 for singles and $37 for doubles, with a charge of $8 for each additional person in a room. All hotel reservations must be made by Oct. 1.

The complete conference agenda is printed on page 15.