

LETTER TO THE EDITOR . . .

Pearson's review of Wobeser's book

I am writing in response to the volume 34 (3) review of the book *Diseases of Wild Waterfowl*, 2nd Edition. I found the review of Dr. Wobeser's work very disconcerting for several reasons. The differing opinions concerning the significance of duck plague to wild waterfowl are well known. However, I feel that a book review is an inappropriate forum for Dr. Pearson to air his personal views on the matter. The reviewer's comments are not only distracting to the reader, but reveal a lack of objectivity on the part of Dr. Pearson, and because of these factors I feel that this review does a great disservice to both Dr. Wobeser and his work. Even more troubling than Dr. Pearson choos-

ing to include his comments concerning DVE in his review is the fact that you, as the journal editor, allowed him to do so. The issue here is not the politically contentious nature of the review, but how its inclusion serves to undermine the integrity of both the *Journal of Wildlife Diseases* and the Wildlife Disease Association itself. As you well know, politically charged issues and differing opinions are, and will always be, a component of both wildlife research and management. How we as an organization choose to deal with these factors has a direct bearing on the future growth and success of the Wildlife Disease Association.

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