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# THE ILLOGICAL POGROM AGAINST CATS\*\*



*by Miles Mathis*

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[GetPocket republished](#) a 2016 article from *Smithsonian* today, setting me off. It is entitled *The Moral Cost of Cats*, by Rachel Gross. Appropriate surname, at any rate. Gross is reporting the crusade of Pete Marra\* (above), author of *Cat Wars* and head of the Migratory Bird Center at the Smithsonian. Marra calls himself a cat lover (he's not), but he wants to kill millions of cats in order to protect birds. Australia already does this, and Marra wants to bring the killing machines (robots, lasers, poison, etc) to the US and Canada.

We get the usual wildly dishonest arguments in Gross' article, but she forgets to mention one very important thing: humans kill *far* more birds than cats. The cat lover Marra also forgets to mention that in his books and presentations. And I am not just talking about people hunting ducks or quail for sport. I am talking about *all* human causes.

We can start with this 2005 breakdown from Erikson et al. at the Fish and Wildlife Service, which I have modified and updated to include factors they ignored.

[Mortality Sources Compared—Erickson et al.](#)

Table 2—Summary of predicted annual avian mortality.

Mortality source	Annual mortality estimate
Habitat loss	1,000 million
Buildings <sup>1</sup>	600 million
Power lines <sup>2</sup>	130 million
Cats <sup>3</sup>	100 million
Automobiles <sup>4</sup>	80 million
Pesticides <sup>5</sup>	72 million
Hunting/Poaching	50 million
Communications towers <sup>6</sup>	4.5 million
Other sources (oil spills, oil seeps, fishing by-catch, etc.)	3 million
Wind turbines <sup>7</sup>	28.5 thousand
Airplanes	25 thousand

<sup>1</sup>Mid-range of fatality estimates reported from Klem (1990), 1 – 10 bird fatalities per house, extrapolated to 100 million residences. Miles: updated to [FWS numbers](#).

<sup>2</sup>Based primarily on a study in the Netherlands (Koops 1987), extrapolated to 500,000 miles of bulk transmission line in U.S.

<sup>3</sup>One study in Wisconsin estimated 40 million (Coleman and Temple 1996), there are 60 million cats claimed as pets in the U.S.

<sup>4</sup>Based primarily on one study in England (Hudson 1965, Banks 1979) that estimated 15.1 fatalities/mile of road each year, no searcher efficiency or bias adjustments in that study, updated based on increase in vehicle registrations

<sup>5</sup>Conservative estimate using low range of empirical fatality rate (0.1 to 3.6 birds/acre), studies typically adjusted from searcher efficiency and scavenging

<sup>6</sup>Estimates from models derived by Manville and Evans (M. Manville, pers. comm.).

<sup>7</sup>Mid-range of per turbine and per MW estimates derived from empirical data collected at several wind projects (table 1).

The major way I have updated that list is by including habitat loss on it, in the first position. The US Fish and Wildlife Service admits [here](#) that “habitat loss is thought to pose **by far the greatest threat** to birds, both directly and indirectly, however, its overall impact on bird populations is very difficult to directly assess.” So they just leave it off the lists, of course.

Given that, you can see for yourself that humans kill roughly 20 times as many birds in the US as cats do. That is just what you would expect, since there are more of us and we are far more lethal. Cats have only their little paws to kill with, but we have a whole slate of deadly instruments to kill with.

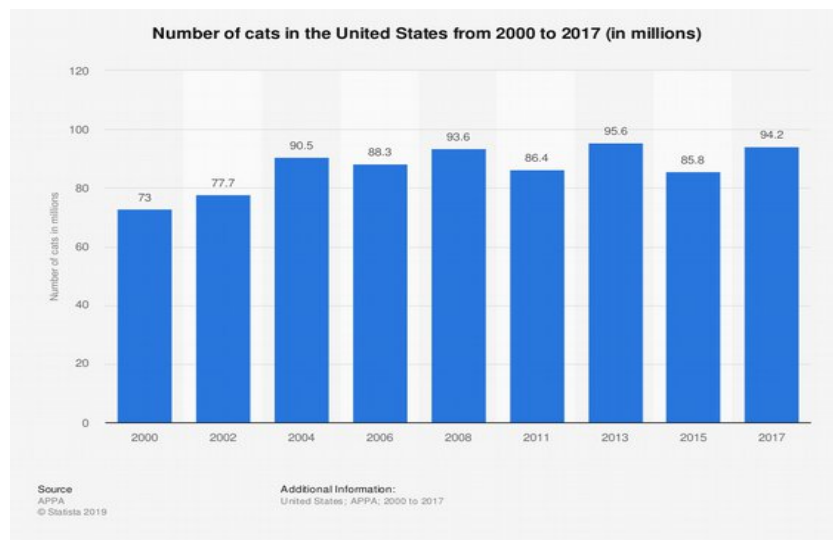
So, logically, the birdman Marra should be lobbying for drivers to be euthanized. He should be lobbying for the burying of all power lines. He should be lobbying for the destruction of all buildings, including all houses that have any windows in them. He should be lobbying for the banning of all pesticides. He should be lobbying against deforestation, clear cutting, urban sprawl, military sprawl, and all other wild area encroachment. Is he? No. According to him, this will all be solved by murdering millions of cats.

What's his problem? He is just one more evil bastard? Well, yes, but there is more to it than that, I would guess. My guess is he has been paid by Monsanto, the National Chamber of Commerce, the Farm Bureau, the Dept. of Transportation, and the Pentagon to misdirect here. They need the heat to be taken off of them, so they misdirect you onto cats instead. They can't have you lobbying against any of those things I mentioned, so they try to add you to the anti-cat lobby instead. A couple of those things I

mentioned are jokes—like euthanizing drivers or destroying all houses—but most of the others are very logical targets here, and the governors know it. There are already large numbers of people who are against pesticides, deforestation, clear cutting, urban sprawl, wind turbines, skyscrapers, military bloat, habitat destruction, unnecessary road building, car culture, and all the rest. So people like Marra are hired to get your mind off that.

We can tell Marra isn't honestly pursuing this, just due to his professed\* love of birds, since his arguments are the usual finesses, full of unctiousness and outright lying. In [this interview](#) from 2017, he claimed cats kill “between 1.3 and 4 billion birds a year.” Four billion? Up from 100 million just a decade ago? That's an increase of 40 times in about 11 years. Yes, cat populations (may) have gone up slightly since then, but not by 40 times. In fact, you can see there that experts answered him that by some estimates, there are only about 4 billion birds in the US to start with. So cats would have to be killing every single bird every year. Marra answered that the number was more like 10-40 billion, but even so, that would indicate outdoor cats were killing around a quarter of all living birds. Do you believe that?

For myself, I don't even believe the old number of 100 million. It was already being inflated to blame cats for a human problem. We can see that straight from the posted statistics, since even the number of cats is being inflated. In 2005 the Fish and Wildlife Service reported 60 million domestic cats in the US (see above), but the experts are now reporting 95 million. And they aren't just reporting 95 million for 2020, they ([Statista.com](#)) are reporting about that many for 2004.



As you see, they are reporting 90.5 million for 2004. So you should ask yourself how statisticians can back-change a statistic by 50% from just 16 years ago? I will just tell you: they made it up. Like Marra, they were paid by Monsanto or someone to make up whatever numbers they needed. The US has a long history of lies like this. Just ask the Natives.

As a long-time multiple cat owner, I can tell you the preferred prey of cats isn't birds. It is rodents. Mice are a lot easier to catch than birds, and they have a lot more meat. My cats take a few mice, a lot of grasshoppers, and the occasional bird. I am a bird lover myself, and I don't like it when birds are taken, but that's nature. I can't stop coyotes from taking cats, either. It would be like going to the Serengeti and trying to stop lions from killing gazelles. It isn't our function.

I will told the humane way to deal with this problem is to trap, neuter and release cats, but I am not for that either. As I have told you before, they are pursuing that here in Taos when they don't even need to. The coyotes keep the feral cat population in check here, and then some (they also take domestic cats). Cats are not at the top of any food chain, so they can always be checked by higher predators like coyotes, wolves, eagles, owls, etc. Cats also lose huge numbers to roadways, as you know. Cars kill even more cats here than coyotes, and that is saying something.

But mainly, trap/neuter/release is unnecessary because this is mostly a manufactured problem, as I just proved. The war against cats is being waged dishonestly by the usual coalition of evil bastards, and they have tricked people into buying it by the usual propaganda methods—the first of which is always the pushing of fake statistics. The second of which is to blame someone else for what they are doing themselves. If they aren't blaming the other political party, the patriarchy, or Nature herself, they will be blaming cats, dogs, polluting trees, farting cows, or burping budgies.

\*And yes, Marra is a Jewish name, think Rooney Mara, Kenneth Marra, and many others. They are related to Barclays. Look at his eyes: another guy who never sleeps, and we can guess why. For the record, I don't believe Marra is a bird lover, either. If he were he would be trying far harder to save them from people, not from cats.

\*\*I almost entitled this "Cats are gonna git you, sucka". But from the way Marra is aging, I think they are already getting him. Bastet is a powerful goddess, and you shouldn't mess with her.