

**Sponsors:**  
**A02559**  
**Assemblymember Glick**



**S00845**  
**Senator Marcellino**

## LOHV League of Humane Voters

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### **BAN WILDLIFE KILLING CONTESTS**

These particular contests are springing up in which the greatest number of animals killed determines the winner.

#### **WHAT HAPPENS AT THESE CONTESTS?**

Wildlife killing contests target species for which there are few, if any protections. Most importantly, there are no limits on the number of animals that may be killed. Examples of such species include crows and coyotes. The participant of the killing contest who kills the highest number of animals is the winner. Many times these contests are sponsored by bars and are conducted in a party-like atmosphere.



#### **EFFECTS ON ANIMAL POPULATIONS**

**Crows:** No accurate population statistics exist, and the impact of West Nile virus on the crow population is unknown. The crow hunting season is almost six months long, and no count of the number of crows killed each year is recorded. At the 2005 Crow Shoot in Auburn, more than 1,000 crows were killed by hunting teams just in one weekend.

**Coyotes:** Coyotes have become the victims of contest killing in the Rochester and Watertown areas. This year more than 300 hunters are planning to participate in a month long killing event in Rochester. More than 50,000 coyotes were killed in New York State in 2002 and 2003.

The concern that more species will become victims of these slaughtering events seems a real possibility.

#### **CURRENT HUNTING REGULATIONS**

Oddly enough the DEC has deemed it legal, to conduct these "hunts", no attention is paid to the DEC's own regulations that specifically prohibit "wanton and wasteful" killing of wildlife. Unregulated hunting, specifically a killing contest where the winner is that person who kills the largest number of target animals, is a clear violation of this regulation. The drinking party atmosphere connected with these activities is also not considered; it often results in hunting while drinking.

In 2005, the DEC finally prohibited the hunting of crows on land that had been baited, a practice that was used in violation of the Federal Migratory Bird Act. This prohibition was enacted because concerned citizens challenged the DEC regulations. The use of lead shot, popular with crow hunters, fired over a small, concentrated area can cause environmental damage and pollution to the land and water.

#### **Conclusion**

This type of slaughter encourages the shooting off of many rounds of shells and the use of lead shot which leads to environmental problems. cannot be tolerated. The wanton and wasteful killing of any wildlife is not in accord with even the DEC's own regulations.

**Legislation to ban wildlife killing contests Bills to ban Wildlife-Killing Contests has been introduced in the Senate as S00845 by Senator Marcellino and the Assembly as A02559 by Assemblymember Glick.**

**The League of Humane Voters strongly supports these bills and encourages all Senators and Assembly members to work towards their passage into law.**