# Garbage Cleaner Than Fish In Sea, Says DDT Expert

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If it's a question of people with pesticides or pelicans without pesticides, says one California scientist, then it must be people.

The danger from pesticides is so great, says another California scientist, that there's no longer much excuse for continuing other scientific activities.

Dr. Donald G. Crosby, Department of Environmental Toxicology at the University of California at Davis, favored continued use of pesticides.

"We're not talking about a cockroach in the bedroom," he told a symposium of 400 scientists studying the pesticides.

"We're talking about insects that devour up to 80,000 tons per day—that can strip bare an area the size of Rhode Island in one day."

Dr. Robert Risebrough of the Institute of Marine Resources at the University of California at Berkeley, said DDT was a pollution problem.

"We can't afford to throw garbage into our environment," he said.

He showed slides taken this spring on Anacapa Island off Southern California showing the eggs of brown pelicans which were so thin that only 3 of some 1,000 birds hatched.

"But the gulls are doing fine," he said. "Unlike the fish-eating species, they feed primarily on garbage, which, it turns out, in that area is substantially cleaner than the fish in the sea."

An earlier speaker, Dr. Lucille F. Stickel, of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, Md., told of the studies by her and her husband of thin egg shells.

"Thin egg shells constitute a recently recognized expression of the long -standing problem of the effects of DDT and related chemicals on wild populations of birds," she said.

Dr. Crosby noted that other living things in nature used chemicals. He mentioned the moth, stink beatle, bombadier beatle, redwood and black walnut.

"Insects take man's food, ruin cotton that might be used to clothe him, feast on trees that might shelter or heat him," he said.

He said big increases in population forced man to act to protect his food supply.

"We should accept the self interest of our species," Dr. Crosby argued. Cities, dams, highways, agriculture—all represent important ecological changes.

"I'm not advocating the destruction of the pelican," he said. "But they, like men, are part of a dynamic evolution."

He urged society to take the responsibility to use chemicals to the extent needed.

Dr. Kenneth J. Macek spoke of the biological magnification of pesticides, using the fish of Lake Michigan as an example. He is with the fish-pesticide research laboratory, U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Columbia, Mo.

He said small amounts of DDT found their way into the lake, but only in low parts per trillion. Yet fish in the lake show DDT residues of three to 10 parts per million.

"In light of this evidence," he said, "one must conclude that the food chain is, in fact, the major source of DDT . . . for salmonids in Lake Michigan."

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## Texas Farm Spray Found In Oysters

**When Texas farmers spray their crops with pesticides, a Florida scientist said today, it soon shows up in oysters in the nearby gulf.**

**Phillip A. Butler of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, Gulf Breeze, Fla., discussed studies that showed the pesticide residue of oysters increased when farmers sprayed their crops. Texas sea trout were likewise affected, he said.**

**The Florida laboratory where Butler is director has collected oysters from both coasts and many contain some amount of DDT and other pesticides.**

**But, he said, there is no danger to humans from eating the oysters taken from any part of the United States.**

**Dr. Denzel E. Ferguson of Mississippi State College said earlier Tuesday that, although some animal species had been wiped out by pesticides in limited areas, he knew of no documented case in which any native species had been made extinct by pesticides.**

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