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Resolution 1997-05-08 Control and Management of Feral and Free-Ranging Cats

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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Resolution 1997-05-08

**CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF FERAL
AND FREE-RANGING CATS**

WHEREAS, free-ranging pet cats and feral domestic cats are non-native predators; and

WHEREAS, feral and free-ranging domestic cats exist in significant numbers throughout most areas populated by humans, with reliable estimates in the millions for the United States; and

WHEREAS, feral and free-ranging domestic cats are skillful and voracious predators of small mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and other wildlife; and

WHEREAS, feral and free-ranging domestic cats are estimated to kill millions of native birds and other small animals annually in the United States; and

WHEREAS, birds represent 20-30% of the prey of free-ranging pet cats and feral domestic cats, and many of these birds, especially migratory songbirds, are in decline; and

WHEREAS, state wildlife agencies and federal natural resource management agencies are making significant efforts to reverse these declines in songbird populations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies recognizes cat predation as an important inimical factor affecting wildlife that resources agencies are charged to manage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies supports efforts to increase awareness of these problems and implement actions to resolve them.