

Old North Church *Cont. from page 3*

Trapper T-Rex Rat Snap Traps in combination with Protecta EVO Express and Protecta LPs with Contrac Blox for exterior baiting. “The Protecta LPs were a big advantage for this job because they are lower profile and could be slid under sheds and other tight places.”

The integrated approach worked out. “It was a great success,” said Galvin Jr. “It’s been about two weeks and there are no signs of rats. It has completely quieted down and the burrows are dormant at this time.”

Thanks to Yankee Pest Control, visitors to the Old North Church can once again take in the beauty of this Boston gem, now, free from rodents. ■

Did you know? These Bell rodenticides can be used to burrow bait for Norway Rats



THE BELL REPORT

North American Edition

VOLUME 36 | NUMBER 1 | JANUARY - MARCH 2017



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Albatross on MIDWAY ATOLL

Contrac Blox *Cont. from page 2*

Weather Blox and other rodenticides, which included an expansion to bait for 11 more species including Meadow Voles and Peromyscus. The expanded label gave PMPs greater flexibility to obtain control against invasive non-commensal rodent species while closely adhering to label guidelines.

Accurate was able to put the new label to the test at their account by using a combination of Contrac All-Weather Blox and Bell’s Protecta EVO Landscape bait station along with Trapper T-Rex Rat Snap Traps.

“I’ve been recommending clients looking to bait for voles to use a combination of Contrac Blox and EVO Landscapes. Voles can live in

fields, gardens and yards or close to a house or building. With the EVO Landscape, the bait station can easily be disguised wherever you need it,” said Kelley Altland, Technical Rep for Bell Labs in New England.

“EVO Landscape allows technicians to securely place bait right where the voles are living, without causing an eyesore because it looks like a rock. Technicians can simply use a duck-bill anchor to place it in the yard.”

The combination of baiting and trapping was a deadly cocktail to the Meadow Vole population at Richards’ account. “We were able to effectively gain control of the situation in about a two-month period,” says Richards. ■



Occupied by U.S. Military Forces in the Pacific during World War II, Midway is now facing a different conflict – the fight against predatory house mice.

Located 1,300 miles from Hawaii, Midway Atoll is a small ring of coral reef in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, and part of the Hawaiian archipelago. Historically known as the island where the U.S. defeated Japan at the Battle of Midway in 1942, the turning point of World War II, it is most recently the site of the world’s largest protected marine reserve.

The island is home to more than 7,000

species, some of which are considered endangered for many reasons. From warming waters and plastic debris washing ashore, to the more nefarious house mouse, many species that call Midway home are struggling for survival.

Midway Atoll also boasts the world’s largest colony of albatross. About 70 percent of the world’s Laysan albatross and 40 percent of the Black-footed albatross, rely on the reserve.

Like other remote seabird nesting islands overrun with rodents, Midway’s bird species have suffered the domino effects of invasive

pests. House mice were introduced to Midway decades ago. Until recently, the nesting seabirds and mice co-existed, but refuge managers began noticing an alarming behavior change among the mice - from cordial to grisly.

In December of 2015, refuge scientists found open wounds on the nesting albatrosses on the atoll. Through the use of cameras and close examination, scientists identified the cause of the injuries as house mice on the atoll.

It is an all too common occurrence for invasive rodents to prey on the eggs and hatchlings of birds. To discover cases of house mice prey-

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Midway Atoll boasts the world's largest colony of Albatross.

ing on fully-grown albatross, at almost three feet tall with a wingspan of more than six feet, is more unusual.

Albatross lay only one egg a season, and as a result, have adopted a steadfast determination when incubating eggs. This evolutionary strategy, meant to survive adversity and fierce weather, has caused the albatross to be vulnerable to predatory rodents.

In a recent article written by the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP), the organization cited, "Over 1,200 bitten birds have been discovered, 211 of which have died. Nearly one thousand abandoned nests have been documented. Mice may also be having impacts on other seabirds here but it would be more difficult to detect, especially for the burrow-nesting species."

Midway remains the only atoll in the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument that suffers from invasive rodent populations. While plans to eradicate mice were under-

way, the recent discovery of the damage mice were inflicting on the nesting albatross expedited control measures.

To that end, researchers turned to Bell products and employed a variety of baiting techniques.

In January 2016, Bell donated 120 Trapper 24/7s, 240 Trapper Mini-Rex Snap Traps and more than 60 pounds of Terad3 (Vitamin D3) Blox. These were used to limit the attacks on the nesting baby albatross as well as to study the movement patterns of the mice.

In November 2016, Bell supplied a second shipment of over 3,160 pounds of Terad3 pellets, which are being used to mitigate this year's outbreak.

Bell's Vitamin D3 rodenticide, Terad3, kills anticoagulant resistant rats and mice. Terad3 is an extremely weatherable bait with a high melting point, and is mold and moisture resistant due to its advanced preservation system. It's a good choice for the tropical climate of Midway Atoll.

Talks are currently underway to develop a complete eradication strategy, rather than annual control projects, to completely rid the atoll of the invasive house mouse.

"Refuge managers are working with a team of rodent control and wildlife experts to develop and deploy strategies to suppress mouse population levels in order to stop the attacks or minimize their incidence," said the ACAP. "With thousands of albatross chicks hatching out of their eggs daily on Midway over the next month, the Service and partners are determined to preserve and maintain suitable predator-free habitat where albatross parents can adequately protect and raise their chicks." ■



CONTRAC BLOX FOR MEADOW VOLES



Meadow Voles are rarely seen pests that wreak havoc on perfectly plush lawns and decimate ornate gardens. The damage they cause goes far beyond simply landscape eyesores. Voles burrow into root systems, destroy shrubs and trees, gnaw on tree bark and the base of shrubs. They eat stems and blades of grass, damage flower bulbs and construct distinctive looking surface runways. These eyesores can quickly mount to thousands of dollars of landscape damage.

This was the experience for Jeremy Richards, Service Manager at Accurate Termite & Pest Control in Wilbraham, Mass. The family-owned business of Kevin & Nancy Cox has been servicing residential and commercial accounts for more than 28 years, and know all too well the challenges they are up against every day in eliminating meadow voles from customers' homes and businesses in the New England region.

"We had a situation where Meadow Voles were living in retaining walls throughout the property and were wreaking havoc on the lawn, even falling into the swimming pool," says Richards. "The voles were also actively foraging and feeding on grass seed throughout the day."

Situations like this are not unusual in the New England region, where Meadow Vole populations tend to thrive due to ample vegetation. Until recently, Pest Management Professionals (PMPs) had relatively few options for controlling the populations with rodenticides.

In 2015, Bell revised the label for Contrac All-

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Meadow Vole tunnels and surface runways have visible entry and exit holes. The two inch-wide runways form as voles constantly scurry back and forth between burrows and food sources.



Baiting the Historic Old North Church of Boston

"One if by land, and two if by sea"

This historic church became the site of a rodent catastrophe ... that is until Yankee Pest Control and Bell Laboratories stepped in.

The historic Old North Church is Boston's oldest surviving church building and one of the most visited historical sites in the city. Visitors head to the church to take in the historical significance of the starting point of the American Revolution. It is the site where Paul Revere instructed the church sexton to put lanterns in the steeple to notify the Charlestown patriots if the British troops were coming by land or sea.

Tourists come from all over the world to view this national treasure and learn about the American Revolution. When rodents began to show their faces among the daily activity around the site, not just any rodent eradication program would do.

Galvin Murphy Jr., and his father, Galvin Murphy of Yankee Pest Control were the perfect duo to take on the challenge. As a family-owned business in Boston's backyard, Yankee volunteered their services to ensure that one of Boston's most treasured historical sites would be rodent-free.

As Galvin Jr. and his team of technicians began the inspections to lay the groundwork for their rodent control program to follow, they soon learned why rodents were turning into more than a small nuisance.

"To start, the church had done no pest control at all, and it is located in one of the most densely populated neighborhoods in the city,"



Ditrac Tracking Powder was an invaluable tool on this tough job.

said Galvin Jr. "They were having a pretty substantial rodent problem. Dead rats were on the walkways outside; rodents were going into the basement crypt through open vents. They were burrowing in the garden, going into the administrative building and gift shop, and mice were in the sexton's house across the street, which is also the oldest brick building in Boston. After our inspection, it was clear why others didn't want to entertain the project."

So, Galvin Jr. and his team were dealing with fairly heavy rodent pressure in a couple of buildings in a densely populated neighborhood. Is this situation really different from your day-to-day accounts in a city? The answer is a resounding yes. In a historic city like Boston, where buildings are 300 to 400 years old, the old-world charm that draws in tourists is what also makes rodent control difficult, and rodent populations boom.

Historical landmarks have their own set of rules when it comes to rodent control. You want to maintain the appearance of the exterior without ruining the look with an unsightly black box. You need to ensure that tourists can safely maneuver the area without coming into contact with anything dangerous.

To top it off, exclusion is often restricted, if allowed at all, making rodent returns difficult to prevent. Add on a crypt with 1,100 buried bodies located underneath the church, a sacred area where rodent control might not be welcomed. All of this made this rodent job a bit more tricky, and could be the reason why rodent control was not of top priority – or successful – in the past.

With this in mind, Galvin Jr., Galvin Murphy and two technicians formalized a robust strategy along with Bell Laboratories Vice President of Sales – East, Sheila Haddad. They set out to Old North Church, not to tour, but to set up a baiting strategy that would return this site to its historical beauty, not to be marred again by rodents.



Burrow baiting was the primary method used at the historic Boston site.



"Burrow baiting was our primary method to get the rodent issue under control," explained Galvin Jr. "The church did not want black boxes ruining the look of the site, and did not want them near walkways due to possible tripping hazards. So we were limited to how much baiting we could do with bait stations."

The team used a combination of Ditrac Tracking Powder and Fastrac Pellets to eliminate rodents that were burrowing in the gardens, and gaining entry to the basements through their burrows. "Ditrac Tracking Powder is really such an invaluable tool for urban rat control," said Galvin Jr.

Ditrac Tracking Powder contains the active ingredient, Diphacinone, and is a restricted-use tracking powder that is good to use under controlled conditions. Just teaspoon amounts will control Norway rats, roof rats and house mice. The powder is ingested when the rodent grooms and is insoluble in water, which prolongs the effects of the powder, making it ideal for tough jobs.

For a complete rodent control strategy, Galvin Jr. and his team did not stop at burrow baiting. "We really ran the gamut of Bell products we used," said Galvin Jr. The team used

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