

# Nuisance and Exotic Wildlife



<http://www.geekbase.org/squirrelproblem/>







# Nuisance wildlife

- Create problems in residential areas
  - Urban and rural
- Bears and garbage/food sources
  - Juneau, Anchorage, Kenai, North slope
  - Habituation
  - Requires people willing to accept bears living close by
  - Requires people willing to alter their own behavior, otherwise ...
  - Requires strong ordinances – politicians not always receptive

# Wildlife Conservation Community Program

- Illegal fish carcass dumping
- 6 instances in each of previous 2 years
- Strong enforcement
- Pilot program in 2003—one neighborhood
- Alaska Audubon, Pen San
- 2 years of free garbage pickup if they used bear-resistant containers
- NO problems
- When subsidy stopped, homeowners stopped using service (only 3 of 47), problems increased
- Now Kenai-wide
- Bear resistant dumpsters



- Moose and other cervids
  - Eat ornamentals and gardens
  - Congregate in urban and suburban areas in severe winters
  - Bull moose tangling in fences during rut
  - Moose-vehicle collisions
  - ~300 per year on Kenai Peninsula
  - Public education project – Give Moose a Brake



# Exotics

- Introduction of non-native species
- Elk and plains bison in Alaska
- Most common in Texas
  - 5,000 private “game ranches”
- Construct high fence to keep exotics in and keep native species out
- Charge top dollar to trophy hunters



# Reasons for introducing exotics

- Enjoyment or curiosity
- \$\$\$
- Preserve rare or endangered species

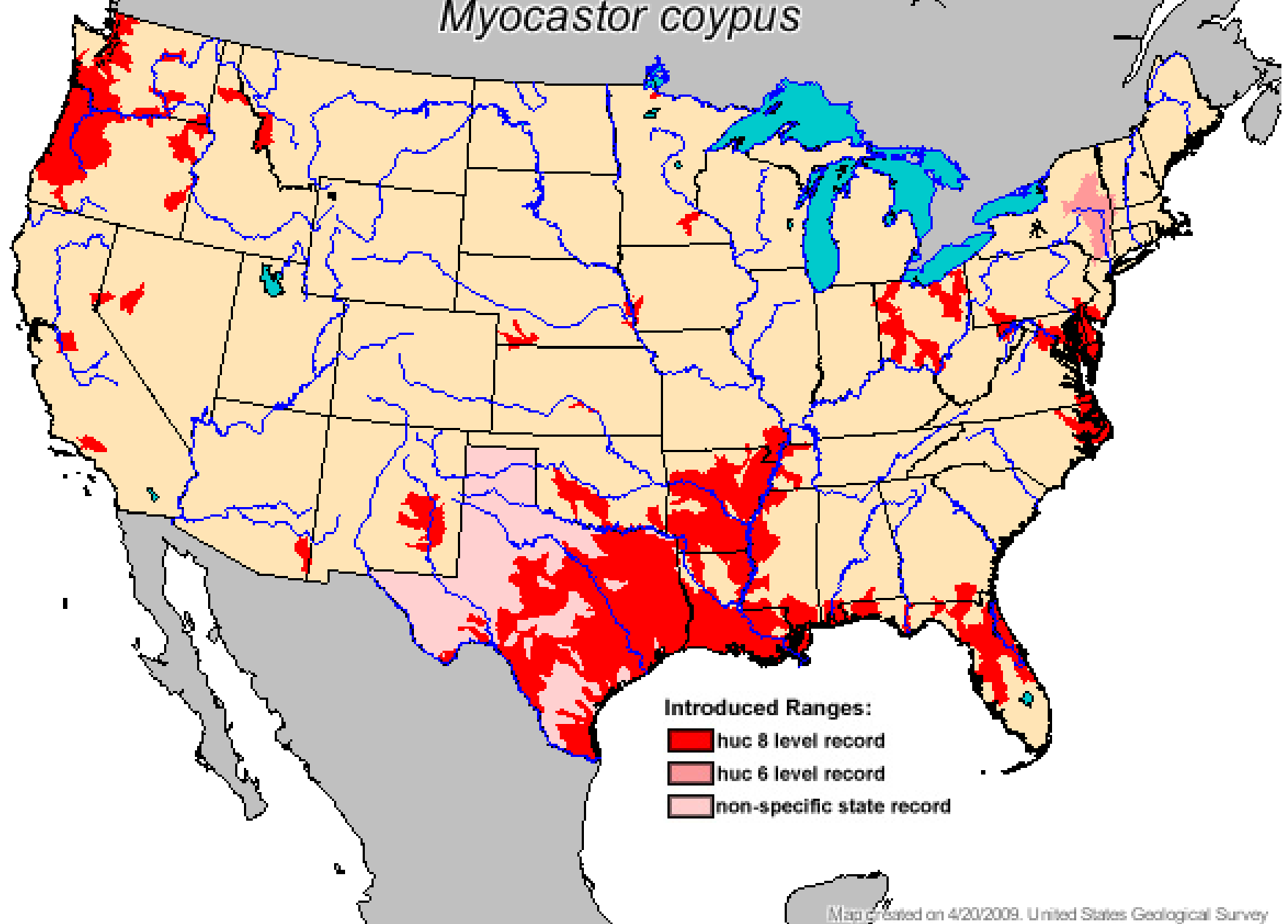
# Game ranching in Alaska

- Four species are legal
  - Reindeer
  - Bison
  - Muskox
  - Elk

# Reasons not to introduce exotics

- Cause problems on ranges that are already at carrying capacity
- Exotics can out-compete native species
  - Sika, fallow, axis deer can out-compete whitetails
- Alterations of habitat or community structure
- Provides a reason not to focus on native species conservation
  - Elk in southeastern Alaska
- Money spent on exotics drains resources from native species
- Promotes commercialization of other wild species
  - Moose in Alaska
- Escape
  - Axis deer, nilgai antelope, blackbuck, aoudad, mouflon, sika deer, fallow deer, Himalayan tahr in southwest
- Introduction of new diseases and parasites
- Hybridization with native species
  - Reindeer in Alaska
- Exotics often are not under control of state agencies

*Myocastor coypus*

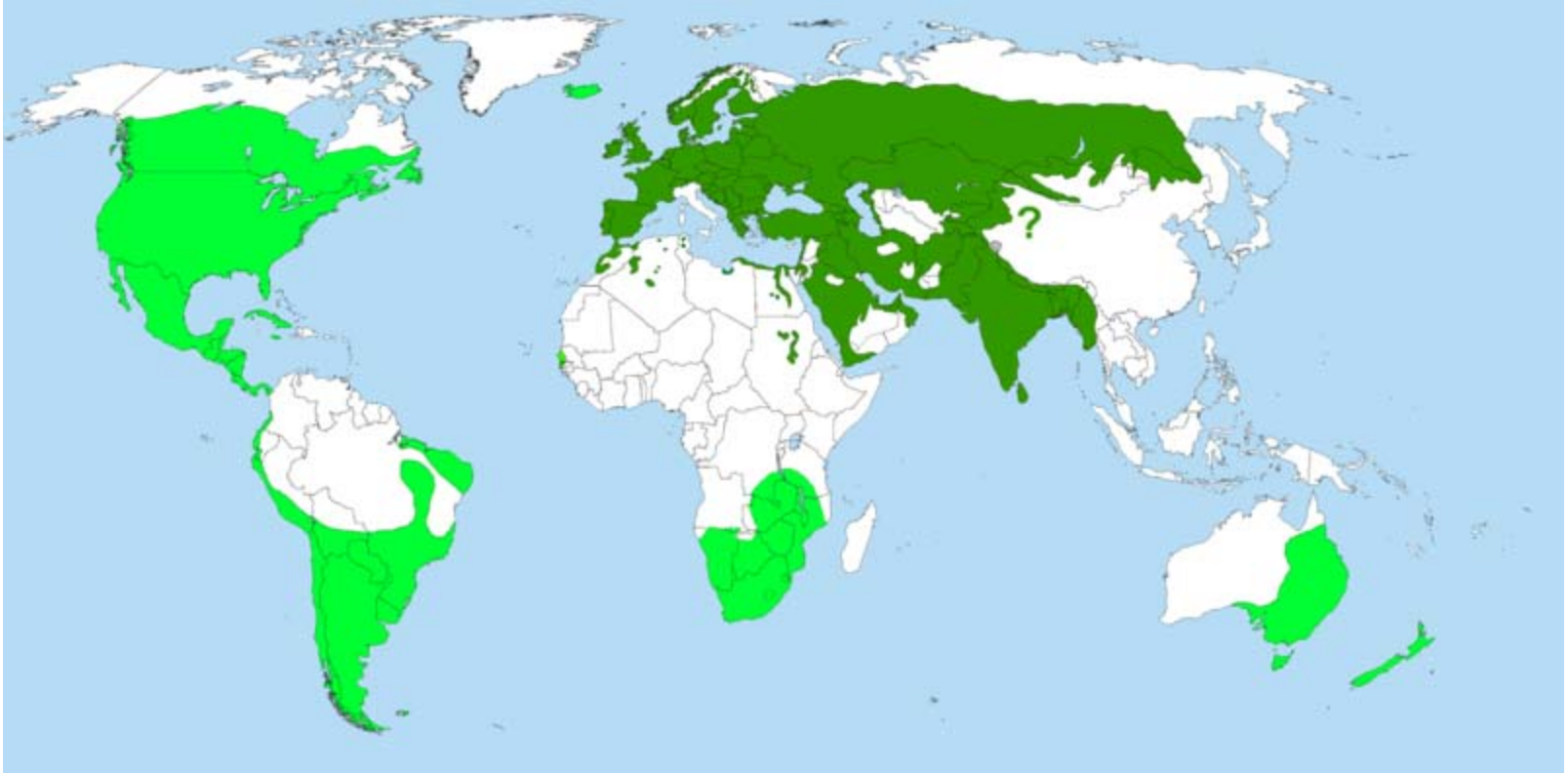




# Other invasives

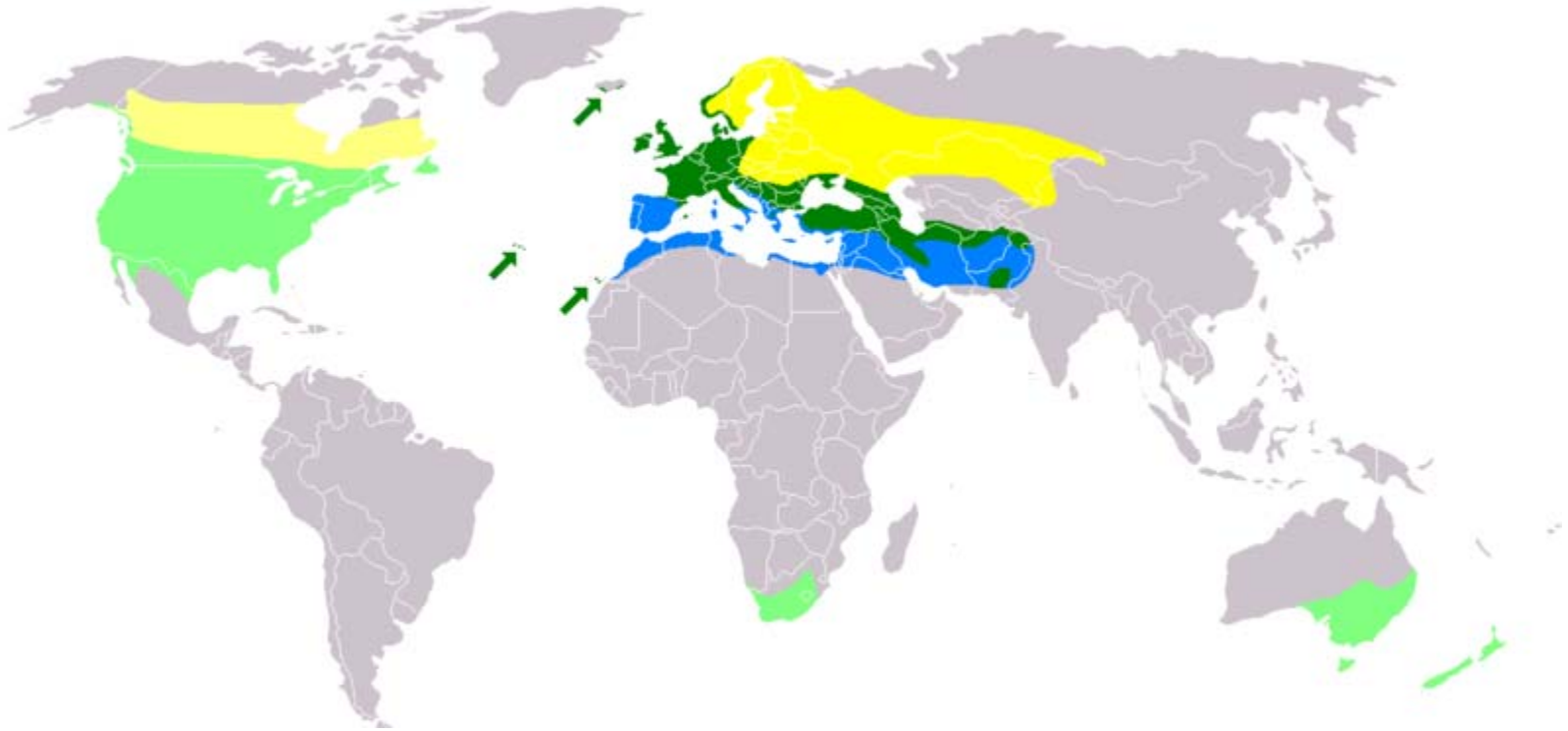
- Norway rat
- House mouse
- Wild horse
- Burro
- House sparrow—100 released in NYC in 1851
- European starling—15 pairs in NYC in 1890
- Gypsy moth—1869 in Massachusetts, for silk production

# House sparrow



<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:PasserDomesticusDistribution.png>

## European starling



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Sturnus\\_vulgaris\\_map.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Sturnus_vulgaris_map.png)

# Gypsy moth

