data should be used with caution because of positive relationships to pelt prices, both pelt prices and number of trappers declined during the last 20 years (Armstrong and Rossi 2000), denoting a true increase in raccoon numbers and not intensified trapping efforts. Additionally, based on these harvest data, raccoons now occur in counties where they previously did not, a fact that is unrelated to trapping pressure and verifies an actual range expansion of raccoons. Although raccoons did not historically occur in western Utah and central Nevada, our review confirms their occurrence there after an apparent range expansion during the past 20–30 years. Similar to other arid and semiarid regions in temperate North America, raccoons likely expanded in this region due to human activities related to the increased distribution of water. The recent expansion of raccoons in the Great Basin should be a concern to biologists because raccoons have been documented as major nest predators throughout their range (Sargeant et al. 1993, Heske et al. 2001, Rollins and Carroll 2001) and thus potentially could have negative impacts on many bird species in the region.

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