

National Wildlife Health Center Quarterly Mortality Report. The following summarizes bird mortalities reported by NWHC for April-June 1987.

NWHC received reports of 27 wildlife disease die-offs; primary causes of mortality were botulism type C (30%), avian cholera (15%), and toxins (15%).

Avian cholera and lead poisoning killed an estimated 3,500 ducks and geese in the Rainwater Basin of Nebraska from February through April. During this time, 225 lead-poisoned carcasses were found and 923 coots and ruddy ducks died from snow and ice storm-related injuries. Avian cholera mortality has principally been in the eastern basins which traditionally have only minimal losses. Peak populations of 850,000 waterfowl in the east and 300,000 in the west occurred in early March; by April waterfowl use was 250,000.

During late April, over 170 waterbirds died in two incidents apparently associated with fish nets near Back Bay, Virginia. In one incident, 15 pelicans and several loons and other waterbirds were found dead. Of two pelicans received at NWHC for necropsy, one was killed by gunshot and the other by blunt trauma. In the second situation, 114 double-crested cormorant carcasses were found washed up on shore. Specimens submitted to NWHC had lesions compatible with net entanglement and drowning. An additional 30 cormorants were found trapped in a pound net.

Barn owls and Pueo (Hawaiian short-eared owls) continue to die from an as yet undetermined cause(s) in the Hawaiian Islands. Initial mortality was noted in late March and until recently morbidity/mortality was limited to Kauai. At least 40 owls have been reported sick/dead on Kauai to date with recent mortality now also occurring on the Island of Hawaii.

During late April and early May 1987, an estimated 74 snowy egrets and several black-crowned night heron young died in a rookery in the Houston ship channel near Bay City, Texas. Verminous peritonitis caused by *Eustrongylides* sp. was diagnosed in several carcasses submitted to NWHC for necropsy. The total number of nests in the rookery was about 95; 30 snowy egrets, 35 great egrets, and 30 black-crowned night herons. Great egrets were apparently not affected.

An estimated 550 nesting eiders died of avian cholera during May and June on three islands off the coast of Portland, Maine. Nesting populations of females were nearly decimated on two of the islands.

QUARTERLY DIE-OFF REPORT

April 1987-June 1987

National Wildlife Health Center

Location	Date	Species	Mortality	Causes
Hawaiian Islands, HI	3/14/87-6/9/87	Barn owls, Pueo owls	40	Emaciation: cause unknown
Lake Charles area— Iowa, LA	3/24/87-3/25/87	Cardinals, white-throated sparrows, swamp sparrows	32	Toxin: OP suspect
Upper Klamath NWR, CA	3/27/87-4/9/87	Ruddy ducks, scaup ducks	3,000 (e)	Avian cholera
Stillwater WMA, NV	4/1/87-ongoing	White pelicans, pintail ducks, mallards, great blue herons	100	Botulism type C, emaciation
Back Bay NWR, VA	4/4/87-4/10/87	Double-crested cormo- rants, brown pelicans, common loons, gan- nets	145	Drowning, net entrap- ment, trauma, gun- shot
Upper Mississippi River NWR, IL	4/5/87-4/7/87	Scaups	55	Trauma
Port Canaveral, FL	4/13/87-4/20/87	Brown pelicans, gulls, common loons	40	Trauma, airsacculitis (<i>Aspergillus fumiga- tus</i>), emaciation
Menasha, WI	4/22/87-4/22/87	Tundra swans	3	Lead poisoning, asper- gillosis
Baytown, TX	4/26/87-5/8/87	Snowy egrets, herons, great-crowned night herons, great egrets	87	Verminous peritonitis (eustrongylidiasis), salmonellosis
Jennings, LA	4/29/87-5/5/87	Fulvous whistling ducks	150	Toxin: OP suspect
Corvallis and Lacombe, OR	4/30/87-5/20/87	Mourning doves	65	Trichomoniasis

QUARTERLY DIE-OFF REPORT

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(Continued)

Location	Date	Species	Mortality	Causes
Forest City, MO	5/3/87-5/4/87	House sparrows	83	Suspect poisoning
Erie NWR, PA	5/4/87-6/15/87	Tree swallows	33	Emaciation
Casco Bay, ME	5/11/87-6/8/87	Common eiders, black-backed gulls, herrings	550 (e)	Avian cholera
Penn's Beach Marina, MD	5/15/87-5/15/87	Mallards	130	None
Owyhee River, Nyssa, OR	5/28/87-5/28/87	Canada geese	7	Toxin: carbamate suspect
Mt. Airy, LA	6/2/87-7/1/87	Little blue herons, Louisiana herons, snowy egrets	1,000 (e)	Airsacculitis pericarditis, undeterm. etiology
Orient, OH	6/2/87-6/8/87	Mallards	15	Botulism type C Hepatitis
Horicon NWR, WI	6/7/87-ongoing	Mallards, ruddy ducks, wood ducks	5	Botulism type C
North Little Rock, AR	6/15/87-7/6/87	Mallards (cross), Muscovy ducks, Pekin ducks	10	Botulism type C
Delano Sewer Ponds, CA	6/16/87-6/28/87	Mallards, American coots, cinnamon teals, black-necked stilts	112	Botulism type C
Lower Klamath NWR, CA	6/22/87-ongoing	Mallards, gadwalls	450	Botulism type C
Evergreen Park, IL	6/24/87-6/29/87	Mallards	17	Suspect botulism type C
Long Lake NWR, ND	6/24/87-ongoing	Blue-winged teals, green-winged teals, pintails, American coots	100	Botulism type C
<i>Update*</i>				
Cedar Key, FL	2/17/87-3/10/87	Common loons	23	Toxin: suspect
Rainwater Basin, NE	2/25/87-4/20/87	Snow geese, Canada geese, white-fronted geese, mallards, pintails	4,848 (e)	Avian cholera, lead poisoning, toxin: suspect, storms
Tulelake NWR, CA	3/4/87-5/1/87	Snow geese, ring-billed gulls	759	Avian cholera, aspergillosis

(e) = estimated mortality.

* = final mortality information from cases ongoing last quarter.

For specific information, contact the following Resource Health Team members: Pacific Flyway—Kathryn Converse, Central Flyway—Ronald Windingstad, and Mississippi and Atlantic Flyways—Chris Franson.

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Following summarizes bird

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Avian cholera mortality
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City, Texas. Verminous
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Causes

Emaciation: cause unknown

Toxin: OP suspect

Avian cholera

Botulism type C, emaciation

Drowning, net entrapment, trauma, gunshot

Trauma

Trauma, airsacculitis
(*Aspergillus fumigatus*), emaciation

Lead poisoning, aspergillosis

Verminous peritonitis
(eustrongylidiasis), salmonellosis

Toxin: OP suspect

Trichomoniasis