

QUARTERLY DIE-OFF REPORT  
 April 1987 - June 1987  
 National Wildlife Health Center

Location	State	Date	Species	Mortality	Causes
Hawaiian Islands	HI	03/14/87-06/09/87	Owl, Barn Owl, Pueo	40	Emaciation: cause unknown
Lake Charles area - Iowa	LA	03/24/87-03/25/87	Cardinal Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Swamp	32	Toxin; OP suspect
Upper Klamath NWR	CA	03/27/87-04/09/87	Duck, Ruddy Duck, Scaup	3000 (e)	Avian cholera
Stillwater WMA	NV	04/01/87-ongoing	Pelican, White Duck, Pintail Duck, Mallard Heron, Great Blue	100	Botulism type C Emaciation
Back Bay NWR	VA	04/04/87-04/10/87	Cormorant, Double-crested Pelican, Brown Loon, Common Gannet	145	Drowning, net entrapment Trauma, gunshot
Upper Mississippi River NWR	IL	04/05/87-04/07/87	Duck, Scaup	55	Trauma
Port Canaveral	FL	04/13/87-04/20/87	Pelican, Brown Gull Loon, Common	40	Trauma Airsacculitis ( <u>Aspergillus fumigatus</u> ); emaciation
Menasha	WI	04/22/87-04/22/87	Swan, Tundra	3	Lead poisoning Aspergillosis
Baytown	TX	04/26/87-05/08/87	Egret, Snowy  Heron, Great-Crowned Night Egret, Great	87	Verminous peritonitis (Eustrongylidiasis) Salmonellosis
Jennings	LA	04/29/87-05/05/87	Duck, Fulvous Whistling	150	Toxin; OP suspect
Corvallis & Lacombe	OR	04/30/87-05/20/87	Dove, Mourning	65	Trichomoniasis

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Forest City	MO	05/03/87-05/04/87	House Sparrow	83	Suspect poisoning
Erie NWR	PA	05/04/87-06/15/87	Swallow, Tree	33	Emaciation
Casco Bay	ME	05/11/87-06/08/87	Eider, Common Gull, Black-backed Gull, Herring	550 (e)	Avian cholera
Penn's Beach Marina	MD	05/15/87-05/15/87	Duck, Mallard	130	none
Owyhee River, Nyssa	OR	05/28/87-05/28/87	Goose, Canada	7	Toxin; carbamate suspect
Mt. Airy	LA	06/02/87-07/01/87	Heron, Little Blue Heron, Louisiana Egret, Snowy	1000 (e)	Airsacculitis pericarditis; undeterm. etiology
Orient	OH	06/02/87-06/08/87	Duck, Mallard	15	Botulism type C Hepatitis
Horicon NWR	WI	06/07/87-ongoing	Duck, Mallard Duck, Ruddy Duck, Wood	5	Botulism type C
North Little Rock	AR	06/15/87-07/06/87	Duck, Mallard (cross) Duck, Muscovy Duck, Pekin	10	Botulism type C
Delano Sewer Ponds	CA	06/16/87-06/28/87	Duck, Mallard Coot, American Duck, Cinnamon Teal Stilt, Black-necked	112	Botulism type C
Lower Klamath NWR	CA	06/22/87-ongoing	Duck, Mallard Duck, Gadwall	450	Botulism type C
Evergreen Park	IL	06/24/87-06/29/87	Duck, Mallard	17	Suspect botulism type C
Long Lake NWR	ND	06/24/87-ongoing	Duck, Blue-winged Teal Duck, Green-winged Teal Duck, Pintail Coot, American	100	Botulism type C

Location	State	Date	Species	Mortality	Causes
<u>Update*</u>					
Cedar Key	FL	02/17/87-03/10/87	Loon, Common	23	Toxin; suspect
Rainwater Basin	NE	02/25/87-04/20/87	Goose: Snow, Canada, White-fronted Duck: Mallard, Pintail	4848 (e)	Avian cholera Lead poisoning Toxin: suspect Storms
Tulelake NWR	CA	03/04/87-05/01/87	Goose, Snow Gull, Ring-billed	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.

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 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.