

QUARTERLY WILDLIFE MORTALITY REPORT  
October 1989 to December 1989

Location	State	Date	Species	Mortality	Diagnosis	Reported By *
<u>Atlantic Flyway</u>						
Wilmington	DE	11/27/89-12/04/89	Canada geese	30	Open: toxin suspect	DE
Assowoman	DE	12/25/89-12/29/89	Snow geese, black ducks	26	Visceral gout	DE;NW
Columbus	GA	08/01/89-11/28/89	Northern cardinals	30 (e)	Salmonellosis	SE
Blackwater NWR	MD	10/07/89-10/07/89	Mallards	12 (e)	Botulism type C	NW
Concord	NH	10/31/89-10/31/89	Canada geese	4	Open	NW
Ridgeway	SC	12/02/89-12/02/89	Ring-billed gulls	32	Toxin: cyanide	SE
Burke	VA	10/14/89-11/20/89	Mallards, Canada geese	22	Open	NW;VA
Lorty	VA	11/12/89-11/29/89	Canada geese, domestic geese, domestic turkeys, domestic mallards	19	Toxin: organo-phosphate	NW
Burke	VA	12/21/89-01/03/90	Mallards, unidentified gulls	20 (e)	Open	NW
<u>Mississippi Flyway</u>						
Douglas Lake	AR	09/30/89-10/01/89	White pelicans	10	Open	NW
Humphrey	AR	11/24/89-01/09/90	Mallards, pintails	30	Open	NW
Boone	IA	09/23/89-09/30/89	White pelicans	35 (e)	Trauma: powerline collision	NW
Rice Lake	IA	10/15/89-12/15/89	Canada geese	175	Lead poisoning	NW
Riverton	IA	11/06/89-11/07/89	Coots, scaup ducks, ring-necked ducks	30	Trauma: suspect weather	NW

QUARTERLY WILDLIFE MORTALITY REPORT - Cont.  
 October 1989 to December 1989

Location	State	Date	Species	Mortality	Diagnosis	Reported By *
<u>Mississippi Flyway (cont)</u>						
Panora	IA	11/06/89-11/06/89	Coots, scaup ducks	50 (e)	Trauma: suspect weather	NW
Desoto NWR	IA	11/18/89-12/13/89	Snow geese	41	Avian cholera	NW
Riverton	IA	11/20/89-12/20/89	Snow geese, mallards, coots	321	Avian cholera	NW
Richmond	IL	11/06/89-12/15/89	Canada geese	73	Lead poisoning	IL;NW
Ambroy	IL	12/11/89-12/21/89	Canada geese, mallards	72	Lead poisoning	NW
Union Co. Refuge	IL	12/25/89-01/15/90	Canada geese, mallards	2,953	Avian cholera	NW;SI
Crab Orchard NWR	IL	12/25/89-12/26/89	Canada geese	30	Open	NW
Lac qui Parle	MN	10/19/89-12/31/89	Canada geese, mallards	7,600 (e)	Avian cholera	NW
Big Stone NWR	MN	12/01/89-01/25/90	Canada geese	180 (e)	Avian cholera	NW
Swan Lake NWR	MO	11/20/89-12/27/89	Snow geese, Canada geese	100 (e)	Avian cholera	NW
Slater	MO	12/26/89-12/29/89	Canada geese	40 (e)	Avian cholera	NW
Montross Wildlife Area	MO	12/28/89-01/04/90	Canada geese, snow geese, mallards	45	Avian cholera	NW
Akron	OH	12/27/89-01/08/90	Mallards, unidentified gulls	19	Emaciation	NW

QUARTERLY WILDLIFE MORTALITY REPORT - Cont.  
 October 1989 to December 1989

3

Location	State	Date	Species	Mortality	Diagnosis	Reported By *
<u>Mississippi Flyway (cont.)</u>						
Memphis	TN	03/01/89-05/01/89	Mourning doves, house sparrows	250 (e)	Open: trichomoniasis suspect	NW
Fitchburg	WI	10/07/89-10/07/89	Mallards, green-winged teals	25	Aspergillosis	NW
Rush Lake	WI	11/27/89-12/08/89	Mallards, Canada geese, black ducks	1,500 (e)	Lead poisoning	NW;WI
<u>Central Flyway</u>						
Monte Vista NWR	CO	12/11/89-ongoing	Mallards, great blue herons	85	Avian cholera Trauma	NW
Kerwin NWR	KS	10/28/89-11/14/89	Double-crested cormorants, white pelicans, unidentified ducks, unidentified geese	200 (e)	Renal coccidiosis	NW
Bosque del Apache NWR	NM	11/06/89-ongoing	Snow geese, sandhill cranes, Ross' geese, mallards, pintails	400 (e)	Avian cholera	NW
Lake Yankton	SD	12/20/89-12/27/89	Mallards	60 (e)	Aspergillosis	NW
Rice Belt	TX	10/22/88-01/02/90	White-fronted geese, snow geese, Canada geese, pintails, shovelers	7,130	Avian cholera/ aflatoxicosis	TX;NW
Hagerman NWR	TX	10/03/89-10/03/89	White pelicans	3	Open	NW

QUARTERLY WILDLIFE MORTALITY REPORT - Cont.  
 October 1989 to December 1989

4

Location	State	Date	Species	Mortality	Diagnosis	Reported By *
<u>Pacific Flyway</u>						
Delevan NWR	CA	09/16/89-10/22/89	Shovelers, pintails, wigeons, coots, white-fronted geese	6	Botulism suspect	NW
Crowley Lake	CA	10/01/89-10/13/89	White pelicans	350 (e)	Open	NW;CA
Tule Lake NWR	CA	11/01/89-12/04/89	Snow geese, white-fronted geese, Ross' geese	55	Avian cholera	NW
Butte Sink NWR	CA	11/21/89-12/24/89	Ross' geese, snow geese, white-fronted geese, mallards, tundra swans, pintails	1,224	Avian cholera	NW
Colusa NWR	CA	12/08/89-ongoing	Snow geese, Ross' geese, white-fronted geese, coots, cackling Canada geese, wigeons	390	Avian cholera suspect	NW
Modesto (Mapes Ranch)	CA	12/17/89-ongoing	Aleutian Canada geese, cackling Canada geese	14	Avian cholera	NW
Merced NWR	CA	12/17/89-01/10/90	Snow geese, Ross' geese, pintails, unidentified teals, sandhill cranes, mallards	60	Avian cholera	NW
Mill Creek	OR	09/13/89-09/14/89	Domestic ducks	15	Toxin: gasoline	NW
Sacramento	CA	11/07/89-ongoing	Snow geese, Ross' geese, wigeons, coots, white-fronted geese, pintails	1,276	Avian cholera suspect	NW

QUARTERLY WILDLIFE MORTALITY REPORT - Cont.  
 October 1989 to December 1989

5

Location	State	Date	Species	Mortality	Diagnosis	Reported By *
<u>UPDATE</u>						
Alaska Peninsula	AK	08/28/89-10/09/89	Shearwaters, black-legged kittiwakes, murrelets, tufted puffins, unidentified gulls	1,404	Emaciation	NW
Sacramento	CA	07/07/89-10/20/89	Wigeons, mallards, pintails, shovelers, coots, green-winged teals	1,002	Botulism type C	NW
Oregon Coast	OR	07/02/89-10/31/89	Common murrelets, Cassin's auklets, rhinoceros auklets	1,543	Emaciation/starvation	NW
Prince William Sound	AK	03/24/89-10/18/89	Murrelets, sea otters, waterfowl, grebes, cormorants, loons	38,000	Toxin: oil	NW

(e) = estimated mortality.

\* National Wildlife Health Research Center (NW); Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SE); Illinois Department of Conservation (IL); Southern Illinois University (SI); Texas A&M University (TX); California Fish and Game (CA); Delaware Department of Agriculture (DE); Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WI); Virginia Department of Agriculture (VA).

Prepared by the NWHRC. For specific information on these mortalities contact the following NWHRC Resource Health Team Members: Pacific and Atlantic Flyways, Kathryn Converse; Central and Mississippi Flyways, Ron Windingstad. 608-271-4640 FTS-364-5411 - National Wildlife Health Research Center, 6006 Schroeder Road, Madison, WI 53711.

Quarterly Wildlife Mortality Report. The following highlights wildlife mortality reported to the National Wildlife Health Research Center (NWHRC) for October to December 1989.

NWHRC received 45 reports of wildlife disease die-offs; the primary causes of mortality were avian cholera (38%) and lead poisoning (9%)

An estimated 350 white pelicans and a few grebes died on Crowley Lake in Mono County, California. Carcasses were necropsied by California Fish and Game, the University of California, Davis, and the NWHRC; no cause of death was identified. Pelicans began using this lake 2-3 years ago as a stopover on their migration south from the Central Valley of California. No other areas reported pelican mortality.

Renal coccidiosis was diagnosed as the cause of death of 200 double-crested cormorants at Kirwin National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Kansas, in late October. Ducks, geese, and pelicans using the lake were not affected. Renal coccidiosis was diagnosed in cormorants at two other reservoirs in eastern Kansas during 1984 and 1986.

The first reported outbreak of avian cholera in Minnesota and the first in the Eastern Prairie Population of Canada geese since 1980 occurred this fall at Lac qui Parle Wildlife Management Area. More than 5,000 of the 160,000 geese at risk there were found dead the first week with daily losses of 50-60 birds continuing into December. Despite hazing of geese from identified "hot spots" on the lakes and concerted pickup efforts, 7,600 Canada geese died. In addition to avian cholera, geese were diagnosed as lead poisoning, esophageal impaction, and trauma.

A die-off of 80 woodcocks was reported at Cape May, New Jersey, in December; another 17 were found at the Eastern Shore of Virginia NWR, Cape Charles, Virginia. The NWHRC received nine emaciated woodcocks that weighed 50-60% of normal; no lesions of infectious disease were found. Weather conditions prior to these die-offs were severe and woodcocks were reported to be showing signs of stress and displaying unusual behavior.

Bosque del Apache NWR in New Mexico lost 400 snow geese and sandhill cranes to avian cholera. There was great concern for Gray's Lake flock whooping cranes that were using the same refuge impoundments. Disease control measures included raising water levels within impoundments to reduce attractiveness for the cranes; flushing impoundments with "clean" water from canals in attempts to dilute any Pasteurella multocida released from birds with avian cholera; knocking down nearby cornfields to make them attractive as food for cranes but not geese; and the release of water into a nearby dry river bed that was subsequently used by cranes. No whooping cranes were lost.

Avian cholera, aflatoxicosis, and lead poisoning occurred for the second year in snow and white-fronted geese in the Texas Rice Belt, an area where 7,000 geese died last year. More than 7,100 geese of the million geese at risk on the Rice Belt and nearby coastal marshes died this year despite early detection of mortality and flooding of rice stubble that provided additional roost sites and reduced concentrations of waterfowl.

Lead poisoning was reported by the Wisconsin DNR Disease Specialist for the second year near Rush Lake, Wisconsin; 951 mallards, 35 black ducks, and several hundred Canada geese died. Several proposals are being discussed to reduce the risk of exposure to lead for birds using this area.