

QUARTERLY WILDLIFE MORTALITY REPORT
January 1990 to March 1990

LOCATION	STATE	DATES	SPECIES	MORTALITY	DIAGNOSIS	LAB
<u>Atlantic Flyway</u>						
Grove Hill	AL	03/07/90-03/26/90	White-throated Sparrow Mockingbird, Barred Owl	11	toxicosis: chlorinated pesticide	SE
Stuart	FL	02/09/90-02/09/90	Cedar Waxwing American Robin	30 (e)	toxicosis: Nemacur	SE
Alexander Stephens State Park	GA	03/01/90-03/01/90	American Robin	7	toxicosis: chloropyrifos (Dursban)	SE
Arthurkill	NJ	01/02/90-ongoing	Mallard, Black Duck Unidentified Teal Lesser Scaup, Canvasback	215 (e)	toxicosis: oil suspect	NW
Eastern Shore NWR	VA	12/26/89-01/02/90	American Woodcock	97	emaciation	NW
Savannah	GA	02/06/90-02/06/90	Cedar waxwings	8	toxicosis: suspect	SE
<u>Mississippi Flyway</u>						
Rend Lake	IL	01/18/90-02/01/90	Canada Goose	500 (e)	avian cholera	NW
Ballard Co.	KY	12/31/89-01/04/90	Canada Goose, Mallard	400 (e)	avian cholera	NW
Tensas NWR	LA	01/29/90-01/29/90	Mallard, Northern Pintail Gadwall, Ring-necked Duck American Wigeon	95	open	NW
Duck Creek WMA	MO	12/30/89-12/30/89	Ring-necked Duck	40	lead poisoning	NW
St. Louis	MO	01/26/90-02/02/90	Exotic Waterfowl Canada Goose, Mallard Mute (domestic) Swan	86	avian cholera	MO
Maumee Bay	OH	12/25/89-01/12/90	Mallard, Black Duck Great Blue Heron Unidentified Gull	140 (e)	aspergillosis	NW
Franklin Co.	TN	01/30/90-01/30/90	Canada Goose	25	open	SE

Central Flyway

Cortez	CO	02/20/90-03/02/90	Canada Goose	60 (e)	toxicosis: organophosphorous suspect	NW
Lacygne	KS	12/24/89-01/01/90	Mallard	100 (e)	lead poisoning	NW
Fall River WMA	KS	02/10/90-02/15/90	Canada (captive) Goose	10	avian cholera	KS
Rainwater Basin	NE	02/22/90-04/10/90	Snow Goose, Canada Goose White-fronted Goose Mallard, Northern Pintail	698	avian cholera open	NW
Rainwater Basin WMD	NE	03/13/90-03/15/90	Snow Goose, Ross' Goose White-fronted Goose, Canada Goose Unidentified Goose	10000 (e)	trauma: tornado	NW
Albuquerque	NM	01/11/90-01/11/90	House Sparrow Unidentified Finch	9	toxicosis: carbamate suspect	NW
LaCreek NWR	SD	12/01/89-01/04/90	Trumpeter Swan, Mallard Unidentified Goose	3	lead poisoning	NW
Dressing Point Island	TX	12/25/89-01/02/90	Brown Pelican, White-faced Ibis Laughing Gull, Snowy Egret	27 (e)	exposure suspect	NW
Galveston	TX	02/01/90-02/02/90	Snow Goose	70 (e)	aflatoxicosis	TX
Buffalo Lake NWR	TX	01/28/90-02/14/90	Snow Goose, Canada Goose	50 (e)	avian cholera	NW
Angelton	TX	03/05/90-03/29/90	Common Grackle Blue Jay, Mourning Dove	14	toxicosis suspect	NW

Pacific Flyway

Los Angeles	CA	02/07/90-ongoing	Surf Scoter, Western Grebe Brown Pelican, Common Murre Rhinceros Auklet	2000 (e)	toxicosis: oil suspect	NW
Lake Talawa	CA	01/04/90-01/12/90	American Wigeon, Tundra Swan American Coot, Lesser Scaup Green-winged Teal	150 (e)	avian cholera	HM
Salton Sea	CA	02/01/90-02/15/90	Ruddy Duck, Eared Grebe	100 (e)	avian cholera	CA
Salton Sea NWR	CA	03/26/90-04/06/90	Northern Shoveler, Ruddy Duck American Wigeon, American Avocet Black-necked Stilt	80 (e)	avian cholera	NW

Tule Lake NWR	CA	03/15/90-04/15/90	Snow Goose, Ruddy Duck Western Grebe	120	avian cholera	NW
Lower Klamath	CA	02/15/90-02/25/90	American Coot	220	avian cholera suspect	NW
Delevan NWR	CA	12/11/89-02/22/90	Snow Goose, Ross' Goose White-fronted Goose, American Coot	602	avian cholera	NW
Sutter NWR	CA	12/05/89-02/27/90	Snow Goose, Ross' Goose White-fronted Goose, American Coot	347	avian cholera	NW
Ladd Marsh, LaGrande	OR	12/30/89-01/09/90	Mallard	20 (e)	lead poisoning suspect	NW
Toppinish NWR	WA	01/19/90-01/19/90	Canada Goose	6	toxicosis: organophosphorous suspect	NW
Dyes Inlet, Finley Bay	WA	03/03/90-03/16/90	Mallard, American Wigeon	85 (e)	toxicosis: organophosphorous suspect	NW

Update

Monte Vista NWR	CO	12/11/89-03/02/90	Mallard	85	avian cholera, open	NW
Bosque del Apache NWR	NM	11/06/89-01/30/90	Snow Goose, Ross' Goose Sandhill Crane	376	avian cholera	NW
Colusa NWR	CA	12/08/89-01/10/90	Snow Goose, Ross' Goose White-fronted Goose, American Coot Cackling Canada Goose	391	avian cholera	NW
Modesto (Mapes Ranch)	CA	12/17/89-01/08/90	Aleutian Canada Goose Cackling Canada Goose Unidentified Goose	17	avian cholera	NW
Sacramento	CA	11/07/89-01/09/90	Snow Goose, Ross' Goose American Wigeon, American Coot White-fronted Goose	1,876	avian cholera	NW

(e) = estimated mortality.

* National Wildlife Health Research Center (NW); Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SE); Missouri State Diagnostic Laboratory (MO); Kansas State University (KS); Texas A & M University (TX); Humboldt State University (HM); California Department of Fish & Game (CA).

Prepared by NWHRC. For specific information on these mortalities contact the following NWHRC Resource Health Team Members: Kathy Converse, Charlotte Quist, Ron Windingstad or Linda Glaser. 608-271-4640 FTS-364-5411 - National Wildlife Health Research Center, 6006 Schroeder Road, Madison, WI 53711.

NWHRC received 35 reports of wildlife disease die-offs; the primary causes of mortality were avian cholera (37%) and toxicosis (31%).

Avian cholera continued to be a leading cause of mortality this winter; although overall, there were fewer incidents and they were not as widespread as in previous winters. Union County, Illinois lost an estimated 6000 Canada geese from a population of 190,000 at risk; they also lost approximately 500 ducks (mostly mallards). Losses at Rend Lake, IL were estimated at 500 Canada geese. In adjacent Ballard County, Kentucky, 400 of 170,000 geese at risk died. Mortality was estimated to be less than 1000 at nearby Horseshoe Lake, IL. Avian cholera involved in the loss of 900-1200 waterfowl in the Nebraska Rainwater Basin with an estimated 375,000 geese and 158,000 ducks at risk during the outbreak. California lost birds at Lake Talawa in Del Norte County, at both state and federal lands near the Salton Sea, Tule Lake and Lower Klamath NWRs in northern California, and all the refuge areas in the Sacramento region. Nonetheless, California's estimated losses of 4500 birds are still much reduced compared to other years. A second upsurge in mortality reported last quarter in snow geese spread losses to new areas of the Texas rice belt. Cholera was responsible for 75% of the mortality but other factors included aflatoxicosis, gunshot, and other minor findings. Carcass pickup and adequate habitat with improved water quality were the primary disease control mechanisms employed in Texas. By the end of January mortality had abated. Total mortality in that area was estimated at greater than 7500.

Organophosphorous compounds were implicated in a number of die-offs. An estimated 85 birds were killed in Dyes Inlet, part of Puget Sound in Washington; six Canada geese died at Toppenish NWR on the Yakima Indian Nation in Washington and the SECWDS reported OP toxicity in robins in Alexander H. Stephens State Park, Georgia. The birds were found near an historic house site that had been treated about a week earlier for termites. Namacur applied on a golf course was determined by SECWDS to be the cause of death for songbirds in Stuart, Florida. They also reported the loss of 8 cedar waxwings from toxicity in Savannah, Georgia.

Lead poisoning continues to be a problem; this quarter accounting for 11.5% of reported epizootics although actual bird mortality count remains low. Areas losing birds to lead poisoning include Duck Creek Wildlife Management Area, Missouri; Lacygne, Kansas; LaCreek NWR, South Dakota and Ladd Marsh in Oregon.

An estimated 140 mallard and black ducks died of acute aspergillosis during late December in Maumee Bay near Lake Erie, Ohio. The source of the Aspergillus sp. remains a mystery. Despite the fact that the largest concentration of black ducks in the nation were at risk, few were lost. In another mystifying case, 95 dead ducks were picked up in a field near Tensas NWR, Louisiana. Necropsy of 6 ducks did not provide a cause of death.

A tornado killed an estimated 10,000 geese in Nebraska's Rainwater Basin. Carcasses necropsied at NWHRC confirmed massive internal injuries.

Texas A & M suspects aflatoxicosis as the cause of death in 70 geese picked up in a cornfield near Galveston, Texas by Texas Parks and Wildlife.

Investigation continues into the mortality suspected to be caused by the Los Angeles, California and Arthurkill, New Jersey oil spills.