

QUARTERLY WILDLIFE MORTALITY REPORT

January 1991 to March 1991

PAGE: 1

LOCATION	STATE	DATES	SPECIES	MORTALITY	DIAGNOSIS	*REPORTED BY
<u>Atlantic Flyway</u>						
Hobe Sound NWR	FL	02/04/91-02/12/91	Common Loon	28 (e)	Emaciation/Open	NW
Homosassa	FL	02/22/91-03/01/91	Cedar Waxwing	20 (e)	Open	NW
St. Andrew Bay	FL	03/11/91-04/01/91	Common Loon Brown Pelican Unidentified Gull	50	Emaciation/Botulism type C/ Botulism type E	NW
Palm Beach/Broward Counties	FL	01/25/91-01/26/91	American Robin	14	Toxicosis: organophosphorus compd.	SEC
Dade County	FL	01/07/91-02/04/91	Ring-billed Gull	33	Toxicosis suspect	SEC
Lawrenceville	GA	02/27/91-03/04/91	American Robin	20 (e)	Toxicosis suspect	SEC
Cambridge	MD	02/12/91-02/15/91	Mute Swan	5	Lead poisoning	NW
Cambridge	MD	03/20/91-05/03/91	Mallard Muscovy	16	Duck plague	NW
Sumter County	SC	02/18/91-02/18/91	American Robin	40 (e)	Toxicosis suspect	SEC
Hixon	TN	02/15/91-03/02/91	American Robin	32	Toxicosis suspect	SEC
<u>Mississippi Flyway</u>						
Aurora	IL	12/10/90-12/17/90	Canada Goose	2	Lead poisoning suspect	IL
Volo Bog State Natural Area	IL	02/01/91-02/15/91	House Sparrow Northern Cardinal Tree Sparrow	12	Salmonellosis	NW
Ballard County	KY	02/14/91-02/14/91	Snow Goose	21	Open	NW
Lake Ophelia NWR	LA	01/23/91-01/23/91	White Pelican	11	Open	NW
Bossier County	LA	02/01/91-02/02/91	Northern Cardinal	5	Toxicosis: carbamate suspect	NW
Lake Mills	WI	01/12/91-01/15/91	Northern Cardinal House Sparrow	16 (e)	Salmonellosis	NW
<u>Central Flyway</u>						
Monte Vista NWR	CO	11/27/90-02/20/91	Mallard	260 (e)	Avian cholera	NW
Billings	MT	12/30/90-12/31/90	Mallard	27	Aspergillosis	NW

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<u>Central Flyway cont.</u>						
Rainwater Basin	NE	02/19/91-04/03/91	Snow Goose Canada Goose White-fronted Goose Northern Pintail Gadwall	8,000 (e)	Avian cholera	NW
Bosque Del Apache NWR	NM	12/27/90-01/30/91	Snow Goose Ross' Goose Sandhill Crane	675 (e)	Avian cholera	NW
Las Cruces	NM	01/15/91-02/20/91	Mourning Dove	23	Trichomoniasis suspect	NW
Anglin Lake	SASK	07/20/90-07/20/90	Common Loon	1	Mercury poisoning	SAS
Sand Lake NWR	SD	02/26/91-04/15/91	Snow Goose White-fronted Goose Canada Goose Ross' Goose Mallard	204	Avian cholera	NW
Hutchinson County	TX	12/30/90-01/08/91	Canada Goose White-fronted Goose Mallard American Wigeon Sandhill Crane	800 (e)	Avian cholera	NW
Deaf Smith County	TX	12/14/90-02/25/91	Snow Goose Canada Goose	500 (e)	Avian cholera suspect	NW
Parmer County	TX	12/01/90-01/25/91	Northern Pintail Mallard Gadwall American Wigeon Green-winged Teal	900 (e)	Avian cholera suspect	NW
Gaines County	TX	01/21/91-01/28/91	Sandhill Crane	2,500 (e)	Mycotoxin suspect/Trauma	NW
Friona	TX	01/07/91-02/19/91	Snow Goose Canada Goose American Wigeon Northern Pintail	250 (e)	Avian cholera	NW
Wallace Lake	TX	02/08/91-03/18/91	Northern Pintail Mallard Green-winged Teal Sandhill Crane Unidentified Goose	4,000 (e)	Avian cholera	NW

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<u>Pacific Flyway</u>						
San Luis NWR	CA	12/26/90-03/01/91	Ross' Goose Snow Goose Unidentified Duck	105 (e)	Avian cholera	NW
Modesto	CA	12/28/90-03/15/91	American Coot Ruddy Duck Aleutian Canada Goose Northern Shoveler	4,200 (e)	Avian cholera	NW
Los Banos	CA	12/21/90-01/15/91	Ruddy Duck Northern Shoveler Unidentified Duck American Coot	2,042 (e)	Avian cholera	NW
Fresno	CA	11/16/90-11/18/90	Great Egret Snowy Egret Great Blue Heron	38	Toxicosis: organophosphorus compd. suspect	NW
Humboldt Bay NWR	CA	01/03/91-01/28/91	American Wigeon Red-tailed Hawk American Coot Mallard Northern Pintail	130 (e)	Avian cholera	NW
Crescent City	CA	01/01/91-01/28/91	American Coot Ruddy Duck Mallard Green-winged Teal Northern Pintail	481 (e)	Avian cholera	HUM
South Grasslands	CA	01/01/91-03/15/91	Unidentified Waterfowl	600 (e)	Avian cholera suspect	NW
North Grasslands	CA	01/01/91-03/15/91	Unidentified Waterfowl	100 (e)	Avian cholera suspect	NW
Irvine	CA	03/23/91-04/10/91	Cliff Swallow	60 (e)	Open	NW
Columbia Falls	MT	12/18/90-01/20/91	Mallard	100 (e)	Emaciation	NW
Lee Metcalf NWR	MT	01/02/90-02/01/91	Mallard American Coot	14 (e)	Aspergillosis	NW
Harold Crane WMA	UT	03/06/91-03/21/91	Northern Pintail Green-winged Teal Unidentified Duck	40 (e)	Botulism type C	NW

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PAGE: 4

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<u>Pacific Flyway cont.</u>						
Kent	WA	02/18/91-02/21/91	Mallard hybrid American Coot	32	Toxicosis: organophosphorus compd. suspect	NW
Nisqually NWR	WA	12/15/90-04/15/91	Pine Siskin	25 (e)	Salmonellosis	NW
<u>Update</u>						
Barton County	KS	12/09/90-12/12/90	Red-tailed Hawk	6	Toxicosis: Phosphamidon	NW
Haskell County	TX	12/05/90-12/12/90	Sandhill Crane Canada Goose Mallard	60 (e)	Avian cholera/Open	NW
Castro County	TX	12/07/90-02/28/91	Canada Goose Snow Goose Northern Pintail Mallard Gadwall	2,500 (e)	Avian cholera	NW

(e) = estimated mortality

*National Wildlife Health Research Center (NW); Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SEC); Illinois Department of Conservation (IL); University of Saskatchewan Department of Pathology (SAS); Humbolt State University (HUM).

Written and compiled by Gregory Kidd, NWHRC. For specific information on these mortalities, contact the following NWHRC Resource Health Team members: Pacific Flyway, Charlotte Quist; Central Flyway, Linda Glaser; Mississippi and Atlantic Flyways, Kathryn Converse; Endangered Species and Legal Cases, 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 mortality reported to the National Wildlife Health Research Center (NWHRC) from January to March 1991. NWHRC received 43 epizootic reports this quarter, the predominant causes being avian cholera (37%) and toxicosis (28%).

Avian cholera has been the cause of several large die-offs this spring. In the San Joaquin Valley of California, over 7,000 waterfowl died including 59 Aleutian Canada geese, the highest mortality reported at one time in this species. Lead poisoning was diagnosed in several of the Aleutians. It is thought that the cold weather between December 25 and January 1 in California may have been a factor in these outbreaks. In the Texas Panhandle area, avian cholera continued throughout the spring with five separate areas incurring large losses. Despite efforts to create new habitat by pumping water, the Rainwater Basin of Nebraska reported losses of an estimated 8,000 waterfowl (86% geese). This was the highest spring mortality due to avian cholera in recent years. In South Dakota, snow geese, Ross' geese and sandhill cranes died of avian cholera for the first time since 1980.

The cold weather that struck California also hit Montana and has been implicated in the deaths of 100 mallards in Columbia Falls. The -25 to -30° F weather froze virtually all waterways and snow covered most feeding areas, severely affecting wintering birds.

As the ice went off the Great Salt Lake in Utah, waterfowl on three State Wildlife Management Areas began showing clinical signs of botulism. About 40 birds died, however, several hundred were reported sick. Pre-formed toxin, still present from the massive die-off during the fall of 1990 is thought to be the cause.

Mortality in mourning doves at a backyard feeding station near Las Cruces, New Mexico, occurred in January and February. A total of 23 birds were found. Other species, primarily passerines, were also using the area but remained unaffected. Preliminary results indicate a Trichomonas sp. infection.

In Gaines County, Texas, 2,500 sandhill cranes are suspected to have died from mycotoxicosis. The cranes had been feeding on waste peanuts; this field has since been plowed under by the farmer. Crane mortality from mycotoxicosis was reported in this same area in recent years.

Four epizootics involving robins were reported by Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS). In Palm Beach County, Florida, 14 robins died of a organophosphorus toxicosis; the source is unknown. Forty robins were found dead on the University of South Carolina campus from suspected toxicosis and termite control pesticides may have caused the death of robins in Lawrenceville, Georgia and in Hixon, Tennessee.

Tick paralysis is suspected as the cause of death in a number of passerines submitted to SCWDS from Georgia, North Carolina, and Arkansas; NWHRC also suspects tick paralysis caused the death of several red-tailed and sharp-shinned hawks in Arkansas. All birds were found with engorged ticks on their head or neck.

Mortality of 34 loons and three brown pelicans occurred along the northwest coast of Florida, primarily in the St. Andrews Bay area. Another 12 loons were found dead along the eastern coast of Florida near Hobe Sound NWR. One pelican died of type C botulism and another pelican died of botulism type E. There are no previous reports of botulism type E in pelicans or in Florida. Loons submitted to NWHRC were emaciated; ancillary tests have been negative to date. FWS Environmental Contaminants Specialists are coordinating mercury and PCB analyses on the loons.