

## QUARTERLY WILDLIFE MORTALITY REPORT

October 1991 to December 1991

PAGE: 1

LOCATION	STATE	DATES	SPECIES	MORTALITY	DIAGNOSIS	*REPORTED BY
<u>Atlantic Flyway</u>						
Washington, D.C.	DC	11/10/91-11/10/91	European Starling	20	Open	NW
Wilmington	DE	12/28/91-12/29/91	Blue Jay Common Grackle Northern Cardinal English Sparrow Brown-headed Cowbird	75 (e)	Toxicosis: organophosphorus compd. suspect	NW
Savannah	GA	11/20/91-11/21/91	Boat-tailed Grackle	30 (e)	Toxicosis suspect	NW
Atlanta	GA	11/17/91-11/18/91	Common Grackle European Starling Blue Jay Red-winged Blackbird	300 (e)	Toxicosis: Famphur	SC
Stevensville	MD	09/26/91-09/27/91	Great Blue Heron	9	Steatitis	NW
Cape Lookout	NC	11/01/91-11/05/91	Northern Gannet Unidentified Loon Unidentified Heron Unidentified Egret Ruddy Duck	150	Open	NW
Perch Lake	NY	11/29/91-12/10/91	Common Merganser	21	Open	NYS
Virginia Beach	VA	03/01/91-ongoing	Mallard American Coot Muscovy Duck Black-necked Cormorant Pekin Duck	455	Open/aspergillosis/trauma	NW
Nottoway County	VA	09/07/91-09/08/91	Kentucky Warbler Common Yellowthroat	50 (e)	Toxicosis suspect	SC
<u>Mississippi Flyway</u>						
Riverton WMA	IA	11/12/91-01/16/92	Snow Goose Mallard Northern Pintail Gadwall Green-winged Teal	1,624 (e)	Avian cholera	NW
Desoto NWR	IA	11/15/91-11/25/91	Snow Goose Mallard	261	Avian cholera	NW

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PAGE: 2

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<i>Mississippi Flyway cont.</i>						
Benton Harbor	MI	12/05/91-12/17/91	Lesser Scaup Greater Scaup	400 (e)	Trauma: water intake pipes	NW
Thief Lake	MN	09/04/91-09/18/91	Mallard American Coot Northern Pintail American Wigeon Blue-winged Teal	350	Botulism type C	MN
Appleton	MN	10/20/91-10/25/91	Mallard Green-winged Teal American Coot Redhead Northern Pintail	73	Botulism type C	NW
Lac qui Parle WMA	MN	10/17/91-ongoing	Canada Goose Mallard Green-winged Teal American Coot Northern Pintail	5,974 (e)	Avian cholera	NW
Big Stone NWR	MN	11/19/91-12/02/91	Mallard Canada Goose Lesser Scaup American Coot Ring-necked Duck	404	Avian cholera	NW
Bob Brown WMA	MO	11/15/91-11/24/91	Snow Goose Mallard Green-winged Teal Lesser Scaup American Coot	1,864	Avian cholera	NW
Squaw Creek NWR	MO	11/17/91-11/22/91	Snow Goose Mallard Lesser Scaup Northern Pintail White-fronted Goose	1,370	Avian cholera	NW
Malden	MO	02/19/91-02/19/91	Unidentified Icterid Red-tailed Hawk	40 (e)	Open	NW
Sandusky Bay	OH	11/14/91-11/18/91	Ring-billed Gull	30 (e)	Open	NW
Graytown	OH	11/15/91-11/15/91	Brown-headed Cowbird	17	Open	NW

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PAGE: 3

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<i>Mississippi Flyway cont.</i>						
Big Stone City	SD	11/19/21-01/21/92	Canada Goose Mallard Common Goldeneye Western Grebe Snow Goose	555	Avian cholera	NW
<i>Central Flyway</i>						
Alamosa/Monte Vista NWR	CO	12/04/91-ongoing	Mallard Canada Goose	400 (e)	Avian cholera/trauma/aspergillosis	NW
Jefferson County	KS	11/04/91-11/06/91	Snow Goose	35 (e)	Open	NW
Elwood	KS	11/04/91-11/06/91	Snow Goose Lesser Scaup	27	Aspergillosis	NW
Billings	MT	10/30/91-11/05/91	Mallard	74	Aspergillosis suspect	NW
Merrick County	NE	11/04/91-11/05/91	Mallard Lesser Scaup	33	Aspergillosis	NW
Enders Reservoir	NE	11/10/91-11/17/91	Mallard Unidentified Duck	380	Aspergillosis	NW
Clay County	NE	12/01/91-12/06/91	Mallard Snow Goose Canada Goose White-fronted Goose	117	Aspergillosis	NW
Hydro	OK	11/03/91-11/04/91	Sandhill Crane	4	Mycotoxicosis suspect	NW
Little Goose Lake	SD	09/15/91-10/02/91	American Wigeon Mallard American Coot	1,000 (e)	Botulism type C	NW
Medicine Lake	SD	10/30/91-10/31/91	Snow Goose	2,500 (e)	Salt toxicosis	NW
Huron	SD	10/20/91-10/26/91	Eared Grebe American Coot Ruddy Duck	20 (e)	Trauma	NW
Texas Rice Belt	TX	10/30/91-02/25/92	White-fronted Goose Snow Goose Canada Goose Pie-billed Grebe Ross' Goose	2,200 (e)	Avian cholera	NW

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PAGE: 4

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<i>Central Flyway cont.</i>						
Amarillo	TX	07/25/91-08/03/91	Mallard Domestic Duck	25	Botulism	TX
Laguna Atascosa	TX	12/06/91-12/08/91	Ocelot Raccoon Opossum Coyote Green Jay	6 (e)	Toxicosis: Aldicarb	NW
Amarillo	TX	11/18/91-11/18/91	Mallard	5 (e)	Avian cholera	NW
<i>Pacific Flyway</i>						
Sacramento NWR	CA	10/30/91-01/20/92	Snow Goose Ross' Goose White-fronted Goose Northern Pintail Canada Goose	3,132	Avian cholera	NW
Vandenberg AFB	CA	11/10/91-11/15/91	Barn Owl	12	Emaciation/open	NW
Menlo Park	CA	11/20/91-11/30/91	House Finch	5 (e)	Avian pox suspect	NW
Klamath Basin NWR	CA	12/17/91-12/30/91	Mallard American Wigeon	250 (e)	Avian cholera	NW
Salton Sea NWR	CA	12/15/91-ongoing	Eared Grebe	150	Open	NW
Riverside County	CA	11/15/91-11/30/91	Mallard	20 (e)	Trauma: gunshot	NW
Lee Metcalf NWR	MT	11/26/91-11/27/91	Mallard	19	Toxicosis: organophosphorus cmpd.	NW
Hamilton	MT	12/13/91-12/30/91	Red-tailed Hawk	4 (e)	Toxicosis suspect	NW
Central Montana	MT	08/06/91-10/27/91	White-tailed Deer	52 (e)	Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease	NW
Holden to Cedar City	UT	12/11/91-12/11/91	Eared Grebe	2,000 (e)	Trauma	NW
Fish Springs NWR	UT	12/26/91-02/14/92	Trumpeter Swan	22 (e)	Systemic protozoan infection	NW
Pothole Reservoir	WA	10/31/91-11/04/91	Ring-billed Gull	100 (e)	Toxicosis suspect	NW

(e) = estimated mortality

\*National Wildlife Health Research Center (NW); Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SC); New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS); Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN); Texas A&M (TX).

Written and compiled by Gregory Kidd, NWHRC. For specific information on these mortalities, contact the following NWHRC Resource Health Team Members: Pacific Flyway, Lynn Hayes or Louis Locke; Central Flyway, Linda Glaser; Mississippi and Atlantic Flyways, Kathy 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 October to December 1991. NWHRC received 49 epizootic reports this quarter; 24% were reports of avian cholera outbreaks.

As of February, 1992, avian cholera continued to cause losses of Canada geese and ducks at Lac qui Parle Wildlife Management Area in Watson, Minnesota in what was reported to be the first epizootic of the disease this fall. Losses of over 6,700 birds have been reported at Lac qui Parle and the surrounding areas of Big Stone NWR, Marshall Lake, Big Stone Power Plant and several smaller lakes. In November, one month after mortality began at Lac qui Parle, avian cholera was confirmed in birds from several areas in northwest Missouri and southwest Iowa. A population of about 700,000 snow/blue geese appeared to be traveling daily between five management areas in the two states where a total of 5,119 geese were picked up. In the Riverton/Forney area of Iowa, a population of 35 eagles was eating the dead birds, however, no losses were reported. Losses remained relatively low this fall in the Central flyway. The Rice Belt area of southwestern Texas had the greatest losses where an estimated 2,200 birds died. Mortality in the area slowed after heavy rainfall and subsequent flooding provided alternate habitat. In the Pacific Flyway, two areas in California reported losses. The Sacramento NWR complex reported mortality of 3,132 in an estimated population of 214,000 geese and 410,000 ducks. Klamath Basin NWR of northern California also reported low level losses in their duck population of 250,000.

Severe weather in northeastern South Dakota concentrated birds into the few remaining areas of open water. Medicine Lake in Codington County was one such area and within 24 hours of arrival, an estimated 2,500 snow geese were sick or dead. Mortality attributed to salt toxicosis and necrotic enteritis has occurred on this lake in previous years.

Several areas reported low levels of mortality due to aspergillosis this year. Early cold weather and snowstorms in Kansas and Nebraska forced waterfowl to feed in agricultural areas. Aspergillosis was diagnosed in birds from an area in southwestern Nebraska where 380 birds were found dead. Mallards were also the primary species found affected in a sand pit near the Platte River. Snow geese and lesser scaup were affected on sewage treatment lagoons in Elwood, Kansas. Mortality suspected to be caused by aspergillosis was reported from an area in Montana that had aspergillosis last year.

Thousands of migrating eared grebes "rained down" on houses, roads, and frozen fields in central Utah. The birds were concentrated in communities and lighted areas, and it is theorized that the migrating birds became disoriented when they hit a storm front and tried to land on areas that appeared to be water. It is estimated between 5,000-10,000 birds were affected, and hundreds died from trauma in the area from Holden to Cedar City. Many birds were found alive and transported to water in hopes they would survive. Diagnostic evaluation supported trauma as a cause of death.

An estimated 400 lesser and greater scaup were found dead in the debris collection bins within a nuclear power plant on Lake Michigan. It is speculated that the scaup were feeding on zebra mussels attached to the intake pipes. Upon examination, all birds were found to have recently ingested zebra mussels, and lesions consistent with trauma and drowning were seen.

A systemic protozoan infection was diagnosed as the cause of death for a minimum of 14 relocated trumpeter swans at Fish Springs NWR, Utah. Because of the potential detrimental effects the disease could have on the Rocky Mountain population of trumpeter swans, the remaining eight swans were euthanized, and subsequent necropsies showed lesions suggestive of infection for six of the eight.