

## QUARTERLY WILDLIFE MORTALITY REPORT

October 1992 to December 1992

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LOCATION	STATE	DATES	SPECIES	MORTALITY	DIAGNOSIS	*REPORTED BY
<u>Atlantic Flyway</u>						
Sanibel Island	FL	12/07/92-01/06/93	Laughing Gull Herring Gull Royal Tern	21	Aspergillosis/Open	NW
Alpharetta	GA	10/11/92-10/11/92	Blue Jay Unidentified Sparrow	6	Open	SC
Fort Benning	GA	12/10/92-12/11/92	Great-horned Owl Unidentified Pigeon Unidentified Wren Unidentified Passerine	15	Open	SC
Radnor	PA	10/01/92-10/14/92	Canada Goose	15	Aspergillosis	NW
Richmond	VA	09/24/92-09/25/92	Rusty Blackbird Mourning Dove European Starling Common Grackle	8	Open	SC
Henry and Henrico Counties	VA	07/15/92-07/30/92	Mourning Dove Unidentified Blackbird Blue Jay American Robin	27	Trichomoniasis suspect	SC
Manassas	VA	10/16/92-10/17/92	Domestic Goose Unidentified Duck	5 (e)	Toxicosis: Brodifacoum	NW
Whitesmill	VA	11/08/92-11/10/92	Canada Goose	4	Toxicosis: organophosphorus cmpd.	NW
Augusta County	VA	06/10/92-07/10/92	Mourning Dove	15 (e)	Trichomoniasis suspect	SC
Hillsboro	WV	10/19/92-10/20/92	Canada Goose	9	Open	SC
<u>Mississippi Flyway</u>						
Arlington Heights	IL	10/07/92-10/14/92	Common Crow	30 (e)	Toxicosis: organophosphorus cmpd. or carbamate suspect	NW
Pocahontas	TN	10/10/92-10/11/92	Northern Pintail Gadwall Northern Shoveler American Wigeon	55	Trauma	NW
Crex Meadows WMA	WI	10/28/92-11/02/92	Canada Goose Snow Goose Unidentified Duck	260	Aspergillosis	NW

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<u>Central Flyway</u>						
MARC Reservoir	NE	11/01/92-11/23/92	White-fronted Goose Canada Goose Snow Goose Northern Pintail	1,437	Avian cholera	NW
Kearney	NE	11/04/92-12/11/92	Common Crow	134	Toxicosis: strychnine	NW
Bosque del Apache	NM	11/25/92-ongoing	Snow Goose Ross' Goose Lesser Sandhill Crane American Coot Mallard	450	Avian cholera	NW
Texas Rice Belt	TX	10/19/92-ongoing	Snow Goose White-fronted Goose Ross' Goose Green-winged Teal	701	Avian cholera	NW
Sabine Pass	TX	10/25/92-11/25/92	Gadwall Green-winged Teal Blue-winged Teal American Wigeon American Coot	4,300	Botulism type C	NW
Aransas NWR	TX	11/14/92-11/17/92	Snow Goose White-fronted Goose	45 (e)	Septicemia: <i>Plesiomonas shigelloides</i>	NW
Muleshoe NWR	TX	11/18/92-11/24/92	Sandhill Crane	53	Open	NW
<u>Pacific Flyway</u>						
East Chester Lagoon	AK	10/19/92-10/19/92	Mallard	4	Trauma: gunshot	NW
Sun City	AZ	10/06/92-10/15/92	Mallard Hybrid Mallard	100 (e)	Botulism type C	NW
Maricopa County	AZ	10/20/92-10/23/92	Brewer's Blackbird Boat-tailed Grackle Mourning Dove Rock Dove	315 (e)	Open; toxicosis suspect	NW
Sacramento NWR Complex	CA	11/17/92-02/02/93	Snow Goose Ross' Goose Greater White-fronted Goose Cackling Canada Goose Northern Pintail	250 (e)	Avian cholera	NW

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<i>Pacific Flyway cont.</i>						
Solano County	CA	10/17/92-10/18/92	Green-winged Teal Mallard Unidentified Duck	200 (e)	Botulism type C	CFG
Lower Klamath NWR	CA	12/14/92-01/05/93	Mallard Northern Pintail White-fronted Goose	1,000 (e)	Lead poisoning	NW
McClellan Air Force Base	CA	10/30/92-10/30/92	Mallard	13	Open	CFG
American Falls Reservoir	ID	10/21/92-10/24/92	Ring-billed Gull	75 (e)	Toxicosis: starlicide	NW
Sauvie Island	OR	10/19/92-11/01/92	Cackling Canada Goose Dusky Canada Goose Sandhill Crane	58	Aspergillosis	NW
Tooele County	UT	07/29/92-08/05/92	California Gull Sabine's Gull	16	Emaciation	NW
<i>Update</i>						
LaCrosse	WI	07/01/92-08/29/92	Mallard	200 (e)	Botulism type C	NW
Upper Mississippi NWR	WI	08/25/92-10/29/92	Mallard Wood Duck Unidentified Shorebird American Wigeon American Coot	1,000 (e)	Botulism type C	NW

(e) = estimated mortality

\* National Wildlife Health Research Center (NW); Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SC); California Department of Fish and Game (CFG).

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 Creekmore; Central Flyway - Linda Glaser; Mississippi Flyway - Ron Windingstad; Atlantic Flyway - Kathy Converse. (608) 271-4640, (608) 264-5411 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 - December 1992.

Peracute to acute aspergillosis was identified as the cause of mortality in cackling Canada geese from Sauvie Island, Oregon. Fifty eight birds died out of a population of approximately 2,000. A pile of waste rice hulls and grain were identified as a possible source of the fungus. Aspergillosis was also confirmed in Canada geese from Crex Meadows in Wisconsin. A pile of wheat silage was found to be the source of the fungus.

Anahuac NWR personnel reported waterbird and shorebird mortality on a 1,200-acre private wetland near Sabine Pass, Texas. Texas A&M and NWHRC diagnosed botulism type C from carcasses submitted for evaluation. Most of the mortality occurred within a one week period. Control efforts focused on hazing areas where mortality was the greatest. Cooler weather and rain occurred during the hazing efforts and may have further mitigated the die-off.

Muleshoe NWR in western Texas reported unusual mortality in sandhill cranes on the Refuge in mid-November. Fifty-three birds were found dead within a few days after the cranes arrived on the refuge. The carcasses submitted had lesions of disseminated visceral coccidiosis, but the lesions were not severe enough to cause the death of the birds. The significance of this parasite in sandhills is difficult to assess, however, it is pathogenic in whooping cranes.

Avian cholera mortality was reported from several areas in the Central Flyway. The first report was from Nebraska at the USDA Meat Animal Research Center's (MARC) Reservoir in Clay County. Populations of 100,000 white-fronted geese and 250,000 snow geese had been in the area about two weeks before mortality was observed in the beginning of November. Mortality increased in mid-November; with poorer weather conditions and increasing populations, it was anticipated that total mortality would escalate. Fortunately, the geese moved out of the area before major disease control measures were undertaken. The Texas Rice Belt was the next area to report mortality in goose populations. Conditions were dry in early fall, and water availability was minimal. However, heavy rain later in the fall created additional habitat and resulted in local dispersal of goose populations. After this dispersal, mortality occurred on over forty sites in the area. Bosque del Apache NWR in New Mexico reported increased mortality in mid-December, although low level mortality had been observed since Thanksgiving. While significant mallard populations have always occurred on the Refuge, this is the first time a substantial part of the mortality at Bosque has occurred in mallards.

Avian cholera mortality was also reported in the Pacific Flyway. Low level mortality among geese was reported from the Sacramento NWR complex. The majority of these geese arrived on the Refuge approximately one week before the mortality began. Goose populations in the Sacramento Valley were large, numbering greater than 500,000. Avian cholera was confirmed in snow and Ross' geese submitted to NWHRC from Sacramento, Sutter and Colusa NWRs.

Lower Klamath NWR in California reported mortality in mallards, pintails and white-fronted geese. Avian cholera was initially suspected, but large numbers of sick birds were observed. This observation is atypical in avian cholera outbreaks. Collection of fresh carcasses was hindered by a large raptor population (500+) scavenging the dead waterfowl. Subsequently, diagnostic workup of several carcasses confirmed lead poisoning as the cause of mortality instead of avian cholera.

Strychnine toxicosis was diagnosed as the cause of death in crows submitted from Kearney, Nebraska. An estimated 500,000 crows winter in the Kearney area, and it is suspected the birds were illegally poisoned because they were a nuisance.