

**QUARTERLY WILDLIFE MORTALITY REPORT**  
**April 1994 to June 1994**

LOCATION	STATE	DATES	SPECIES	MORTALITY	DIAGNOSIS	*REPORTED BY
<u>Atlantic Flyway</u>						
Polk County	FL	12/31/93-02/10/94	Ring-billed Gull Laughing Gull Common Grackle	1,600 (e)	Botulism type C	SC
Trenton	GA	04/11/94-04/11/94	Mallard	2	Toxicosis: organophosphorus compound	SC
Dover-Foxcroft	ME	04/19/94-04/19/94	Common Grackle	50 (e)	Toxicosis	NW
Waves, Outer Bank	NC	05/05/94-05/18/94	Mallard Laughing Gull	35 (e)	Toxicosis: organophosphorus compound suspect	NW
Rothrock State Forest	PA	05/25/94-05/25/94	Scarlet Tanager Red-eyed Vireo	3	Trauma	NW
Blacksburg	VA	02/27/94-03/10/94	Ring-billed Gull	7	Trauma	SC
Brunswick County	VA	02/08/94-02/16/94	Ring-billed Gull	100 (e)	Toxicosis suspect	SC
Multiple Counties	VA MD	03/21/94-ongoing	Northern Cardinal House Finch Purple Finch	50 (e)	Conjunctivitis	NW
Virginia Beach	VA	04/15/94-06/06/94	Muscovy Duck	70 (e)	Duck plague	NW
Poquosen	VA	06/23/94-06/28/94	Mallard	6	Open	NW
Elkins	WV	04/20/94-04/21/94	Evening Grosbeak American Robin Red-winged Blackbird Brown-headed Cowbird Common Grackle	6	Trauma: gunshot	SC
<u>Mississippi Flyway</u>						
Marblehead	IL	06/03/94-06/03/94	Canada Goose	3	Toxicosis: organophosphorus compound	NW
Marksville	LA	10/01/93-04/19/94	Northern Mockingbird Cedar Waxwing Red-headed Woodpecker Unidentified Sparrow Northern Cardinal	46	Salmonellosis ( <i>S. typhimurium</i> )	NW

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<u>Mississippi Flyway cont.</u>						
Saginaw Bay	MI	06/02/94-06/16/94	Herring Gull Double-crested Cormorant	28	Emaciation	NW
Nashville	TN	05/30/94-06/15/94	American Robin European Starling	30 (e)	Electrocution	SC
Lake Onalaska, Upper MS NWR	WI	04/11/94-04/11/94	Lesser Scaup Greater Scaup	47	Trauma	NW
<u>Central Flyway</u>						
Collbran	CO	05/15/94-06/15/94	Evening Grosbeak Cassin's Finch Pine Siskin	50 (e)	Salmonellosis ( <i>S. typhimurium</i> )	NW
West San Luis Valley	CO	04/04/94-06/15/94	Pine Siskin American Goldfinch Evening Grosbeak Cassin's Finch	100	Salmonellosis ( <i>S. typhimurium</i> )	NW
Cedaredge	CO	04/25/94-05/09/94	Pine Siskin Cassin's Finch	35 (e)	Salmonellosis ( <i>S. typhimurium</i> )	NW
Missoula County	MT	02/01/94-05/31/94	Black-billed Magpie Common Raven	26	Toxicosis: organophosphorus compound	NW
Lacreek NWR	SD	04/04/94-04/08/94	Beaver	2	Tularemia	NW
Cedar Lake	TX	01/01/94-01/25/94	Sandhill Crane	200 (e)	Mycotoxycosis suspect	NW
Seagraves	TX	02/05/94-02/10/94	Sandhill Crane	25 (e)	Mycotoxycosis suspect	NW
Haskell County Playa	TX	10/20/93-11/04/93	Sandhill Crane	7	Open	NW
Excel Packing Plant Playa	TX	02/01/94-02/15/94	Northern Pintail Mallard	200 (e)	Avian cholera suspect	NW
Dallas	TX	03/20/94-05/17/94	Muscovy Duck Domestic Mallard	225 (e)	Duck plague	TA&M;NW
Point Loma Lake	TX	05/09/94-06/30/94	Domestic Mallard Muscovy Duck	30 (e)	Botulism type C	NW

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<i>Central Flyway cont.</i>						
Amarillo (Medi-Park Lake)	TX	05/31/94-07/10/94	Domestic Mallard Domestic Duck Blue-winged Teal Northern Pintail	45 (e)	Open	NW
Mustang Island beach	TX	05/04/94-05/05/94	Laughing Gull Snowy Egret Unidentified Passerine	40 (e)	Trauma: gunshot	NW
Dallas	TX	06/15/94-06/30/94	Cattle Egret Great Egret Snowy Egret	100 (e)	Salmonellosis (not typed)	NW
<i>Pacific Flyway</i>						
Craig	AK	05/02/94-05/03/94	Bald Eagle	19	Emaciation	NW
Alamo Lake	AZ	04/15/94-04/29/94	Western Grebe Clark's Grebe	55 (e)	Open	NW
Santa Rosa	CA	04/07/94-04/15/94	Muscovy Duck Hybrid Mallard Canada Goose Chinese Goose	4	Duck plague	CVDLS
Napa	CA	05/12/94-06/01/94	Muscovy Duck	14	Duck plague	CVDLS
Point Loma	CA	05/03/94-ongoing	Great Blue Heron Black-crowned Night Heron	18	Steatitis	NW
Rancho Mirage	CA	06/18/94-06/20/94	Mallard	20 (e)	Botulism type C	NW
William L. Finley NWR	OR	05/08/94-05/17/94	Western Bluebird	17	Emaciation	NW
Malheur NWR	OR	05/30/94-06/23/94	Sandhill Crane	10	Trauma	NW
Dugway Proving Ground	UT	04/28/94-05/01/94	Eared Grebe	6	Open	NW
Bear River MBR	UT	06/29/94-07/19/94	American Wigeon White-faced Ibis American White Pelican Unidentified Gull American Avocet	75 (e)	Botulism type C	NW

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<i>Pacific Flyway cont.</i>						
Park City	UT	04/10/94-04/10/94	Canada Goose	1	Toxicosis: zinc phosphide	NW
<i>Update</i>						
Texas Panhandle Area	TX	12/01/93-ongoing	Golden Eagle	20	Electrocution	NW
Kaloko-Monokahau National Park	HI	01/15/94-05/15/94	Hawaiian Coot Northern Shoveler Hawaiian Stilt Northern Pintail	62	Botulism type C	NW

(e) = estimated mortality

\* Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SC); National Wildlife Health Center (NW); Texas A&M (TA&M); California Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory System (CVDLS).  
 Written and compiled by Gregory Kidd, NWHC. To report wildlife mortality or if you would like specific information on these mortalities, contact the following Resource Health Team Members: Pacific Flyway - Lynn Creekmore; Central Flyway - Linda Glaser; Mississippi Flyway - Kim Miller; Atlantic Flyway - Kathy Converse; Flyway Alternate - Ron Windingstad. (608) 271-4640, FAX (608) 264-5431 National Wildlife Health Center, 6006 Schroeder Road, Madison, WI 53711.



**Quarterly Wildlife Mortality Report.** The following highlights wildlife mortality reported to the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) from April through June, 1994.

Mortality due to duck plague was reported by Texas A & M in late March. The die-off involved park ducks, primarily muscovies, from three suburbs in Dallas: Addison, Carrollton and Farmers Branch. Tissues were sent to NWHC for virus isolation and confirmation. Following the isolation, Texas Parks and Wildlife along with NWHC made quarantine and disinfection recommendations. All three areas followed through on the recommendations, however the fate of the quarantined birds once again became a debated issue. In the end, one suburb euthanized and incinerated the affected birds, one suburb gave the birds to a wildlife group for permanent quarantine and the third, Farmer's Branch, decided to release the birds back onto the site. Subsequently, birds continued to die at Farmer's Branch from duck plague (confirmed) until mid May. Duck plague was also confirmed in muscovies submitted from Virginia Beach, Virginia. The ducks were found at Lynn Haven Inlet, on a creek that runs through a housing area. Further monitoring of the site indicated that no waterfowl use was occurring at the site and control measures were not necessary.

Salmonellosis was diagnosed by NWHC in birds collected near bird feeders from three areas in Colorado. This is part of a larger Salmonellosis die-off from this past winter/spring involving thousands of passerines along the front range of the Rockies. Species involved were pine siskins, gold finches, evening grosbeaks and Cassin's finch. Colorado Division of Wildlife will be summarizing this information in the future.

Morbidity and mortality of house finches was reported throughout Virginia and Maryland. All finches affected have swollen eyes and an inability to see and eat adequately. Numerous tissue samples have been analyzed by Maryland and Virginia State Diagnostic Laboratories, Virginia Tech, National Veterinary Services Laboratory, Center for Disease Control-Atlanta, University of North Carolina, the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS) and NWHC. To date, no consistent etiology of the swollen eyes has yet been determined. There is no estimate of total sick or dead birds, but hundreds of calls were received by the Maryland DNR following a press release requesting reports of finch mortality. Attempts to assist homeowners with the handling of sick birds and proper care of bird feeders are continuing.

Mortality involving gulls from Polk county, Florida was reported by SCWDS. Dead birds were discovered on Lake Lena and Lake Ariana in late December and again in early February. An aerial survey in mid February revealed at least 1,000 dead gulls in the same general area with many live gulls flying from a nearby landfill. Subsequent laboratory tests indicated botulism type C toxin was present in at least a few gulls and botulism may have been the cause of the die-off.

Nineteen bald eagles were found dead in the vicinity of a whale carcass near Prince of Whales Island, Alaska. All eagles were emaciated and covered with very viscous whale oil. It is speculated that the feeding eagles became oiled from the blubber, were unable to fly, became hypothermic and died. Further communications revealed that this situation has been observed before in eagles feeding on whales and sea lions.

Steatitis has been diagnosed as the cause of death in herons submitted from Point Loma nesting colony in California. While steatitis is more often seen in captive herons, it is rarely seen in the wild. Similar lesions of steatitis have been seen in herons from Point Loma the past several years. Speculation as to the etiology of the disease includes rancid bait fish and/or contaminant involvement.