

**QUARTERLY WILDLIFE MORTALITY REPORT**  
**October 1994 to December 1994**

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LOCATION	STATE	DATES	SPECIES	MORTALITY	DIAGNOSIS	*REPORTED BY
<u>Eastern Region</u>						
Riverton	IA	12/05/94-12/21/94	Snow Goose Ross' Goose American Coot	300 (e)	Avian cholera	NW
Upper Mississippi NWR	IL	11/14/94-11/15/94	American Coot	1,500 (e)	Drowning suspect	NW
Glen Ellyn	IL	10/27/94-10/31/94	Canada Goose	10	Esophageal impaction	NW
Columbia	MD	01/01/94-03/29/94	House Sparrow	15 (e)	Salmonellosis	MDA
Minnesota Valley NWR	MN	10/03/94-10/04/94	American White Pelican Double-crested Cormorant Green-winged Teal American Coot	8	Trauma	NW
Kragero	MN	11/13/94-11/15/94	Canada Goose	4	Esophageal impaction	NW
Tonawanda	NY	10/10/94-10/24/94	Unidentified Duck	40 (e)	Botulism suspect	NYS
Sidney	OH	10/17/94-10/20/94	Canada Goose	8	Esophageal impaction	NW
Ottawa NWR (Boggy Bottoms)	OH	11/05/94-11/05/94	Ring-necked Duck	14	Toxicosis: organophosphorus compound	NW
Providence	RI	10/04/94-10/05/94	Herring Gull American Crow Northern Cardinal American Robin	6	Aspergillosis	NW
Shenandoah County	VA	05/28/94-06/03/94	Unidentified Blackbird	20 (e)	Starvation	SC
Brown/Kewaunee County line	WI	09/27/94-09/29/94	Pekin Duck Mallard	15	Aspergillosis	NW
Grafton	WI	10/14/94-11/04/94	Canada Goose	46	Aspergillosis	WI
Neilsville	WI	10/26/94-10/28/94	Canada Goose	12	Aspergillosis	WI
<u>Southern Region</u>						
De Gray Lake	AR	11/24/94-01/15/95	Bald Eagle	27	Open	NW
Hillsborough Bay	FL	11/09/94-11/26/94	Northern Shoveler Blue-winged Teal Green-winged Teal	434	Open: botulism suspect	NW

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<i>Southern Region cont.</i>						
Upper Keys-Florida Bay	FL	11/15/94-01/13/95	Double-crested Cormorant	26	Emaciation	NW
Escambia County	FL	12/01/94-12/02/94	Common Grackle	800 (e)	Toxicosis: diazinon & chlorpyrifos	SC
Lubbock	TX	11/29/94-12/15/94	Canada Goose Northern Pintail Green-winged Teal Mallard	25	Avian cholera	NW
<i>Mid-Continent Region</i>						
Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Plant	AZ	11/29/94-ongoing	Ruddy Duck Northern Shoveler Unidentified Shorebird Eared Grebe	880	Open	NW
Glendale	AZ	11/22/94-12/02/94	Inca Dove	15 (e)	Toxicosis suspect	NW
Central Missouri	MO	11/28/94-12/07/94	Snow Goose Mallard	300 (e)	Avian cholera	NW
Noonan	ND	11/01/94-11/07/94	Snow Goose	150 (e)	Necrotizing enteritis	NW
Harlan County Reservoir	NE	11/01/94-11/15/94	Double-crested Cormorant	200 (e)	Parasitism: renal coccidiosis	NW
Schilling	NE	12/05/94-12/15/94	Snow Goose	40 (e)	Avian cholera	NW
Bitter Lake NWR	NM	11/05/94-11/30/94	Snow Goose Ross' Goose	20 (e)	Avian cholera	NW
Lake Mead Marina	NV	10/15/94-10/30/94	Mallard	20 (e)	Botulism type C	NW
Tulsa	OK	11/15/94-ongoing	American Robin	10 (e)	Parasitism: <i>Knemidocoptes</i> mite	NW
Farmington Bay	UT	11/10/94-12/26/94	Northern Shoveler Eared Grebe California Gull	15,000 (e)	Avian cholera	NW
Salton Sea NWR	CA	09/23/94-11/02/94	American White Pelican Western Sandpiper Northern Shoveler Brown Pelican Green-winged Teal	300 (e)	Botulism type C	NW

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<i>Western Region</i>						
Mono Lake	CA	11/20/94-11/20/94	Eared Grebe	600 (e)	Trauma: weather suspect	NW
Lower Klamath NWR	CA	11/21/94-12/12/94	Mallard Northern Pintail White-fronted Goose	300 (e)	Lead poisoning	NW
Gray Lodge WMA	CA	12/01/94-01/06/95	American Wigeon Northern Pintail American Coot Northern Shoveler Gadwall	1,050 (e)	Avian cholera	CFG
Sacramento NWR Complex	CA	12/08/94-01/06/95	American Wigeon American Coot Northern Pintail Gadwall Snow Goose	5,000 (e)	Avian cholera	NW
Humboldt County	CA	12/02/94-12/31/94	American Coot Unidentified Duck Northern Shoveler Ruddy Duck Gadwall	625 (e)	Avian cholera	HS/CFG
Lower Klamath NWR	CA	12/01/94-02/01/95	Mallard White-fronted Goose American Wigeon Northern Pintail	4,370 (e)	Avian cholera	NW
Salton Sea NWR	CA	11/08/94-11/08/94	Snow Goose	2	Avian cholera	NW
Butte Sink	CA	10/15/94-12/08/94	Northern Pintail	100 (e)	Lead poisoning	NW
Ashland	OR	07/07/94-07/16/94	American Kestrel Red-tailed Hawk Western Bluebird American Robin Osprey	8	Deformities: etiology undetermined	NW
Ankeny NWR	OR	10/23/94-10/31/94	Canada (Cackling) Goose	50 (e)	Aspergillosis	NW

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<i>Update/correction</i>						
College Station/Bryan	TX	07/01/94-09/01/94	Cattle Egret	600 (e)	Metabolic Bone Disease	TA&M
Multiple Counties	NY, NJ, PA VA, DE, MD CT, NC, NH VT, MA, WV SC	03/21/94-ongoing	House Finch Purple Finch Blue Jay Lincoln Sparrow Junco	1,000's (e)	Conjunctivitis/sinusitis	NW+

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(e) = estimate

\* National Wildlife Health Center (NW); Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA); New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS); Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SC); Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WI); California Department of Fish and Game - Wildlife Investigations Laboratory (CFG); Humbolt State University (HS); Texas A&M (TA&M).

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: Western Region - Lynn Creekmore; Mid-continent Region - Linda Glaser; Eastern Region - Kathryn Converse; Southern Region - Kimberli Miller; Hawaiian Islands - Thierry Work. (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 October through December, 1994. In October, NWHC reorganized data reporting from US Fish and Wildlife Service Migratory Bird Flyways to National Biological Service regions. This mortality report reflects that change and is arranged accordingly (see attached map).

In mid December, NWHC received a report of bald eagle morbidity and mortality occurring on DeGray Lake, a Corps of Engineer lake near Arkadelphia, Arkansas. Between late November and mid January, 27 bald eagles were found sick or dead. Sick birds were reported to have seizures progressing to flacid paralysis and difficulty flying. Birds necropsied by three diagnostic facilities were in good body condition with few, if any, gross lesions. Extensive microbiological and toxicological analysis have been completed with no consistent findings. More tests are pending and the case remains open.

The Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study reported residents of Escambia county, Florida, describing hundreds of "black" birds falling dead out of the sky in early December. Examination and analysis of common grackle stomach contents revealed poisoning by diazinon and chlorpyrifos. The source of the toxins remains unknown.

Unusual morbidity with mortality is being reported in American robins from one residential area in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Robins have migrated through this area the last two winters and feed on persimmon trees. Robins are observed with a white powdery substance on the legs. This appearance progresses to scab formation and proliferative appearing growths. Eventually some birds lose of all or part of the leg or legs. Diagnostic evaluation has determined Knemidocoptes mites to be the cause of the leg lesions. The species has not been confirmed but is suspected to be K. mutans, also known as the scaly-leg mite. This species of mite is very contagious and in advanced cases can cause considerable deformity and crippling. K. mutans has been reported in a number of avian species including bullfinches, goldfinches, parakeets and passerine birds. An estimated seven hundred birds have been affected, however mortality due to this infection is unknown. Susceptibility to predation and inability to feed increases the likelihood of mortality once birds have lost part of their legs.

Avian cholera was diagnosed from several areas in California this quarter. The Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) Complex in California reported losses of an estimated 5,000 waterfowl on Butte Sink Waterfowl Management Area (WMA). The primary species affected were wigeon, coots and pintails from an estimated population at risk of over 500,000 at Butte Sink alone. The heavy rains that hit California in early January increased waterfowl habitat and helped to disperse birds and slow the mortality. Lower Klamath NWR, lost an estimated 4,370 waterfowl, 80% of which were mallards. The large eagle population (200-300) in the area scavenged carcasses making the initial carcass pickup difficult. California Department of Fish and Game - Wildlife Investigations Laboratory (CFG-WIL) reported avian cholera mortality of 625 birds, primarily coots, collected from three separate areas in Humbolt County. CFG-WIL also reported mortality in waterfowl at Gray Lodge Waterfowl Management Area near Butte Sink NWR. The breakdown of affected species is similar to that of Butte Sink.

Waterfowl using the Farmington Bay area of the Great Salt Lake in Utah began dying of avian cholera in November just as an avian botulism outbreak was ending. This first reported epizootic of avian cholera on the Great Salt Lake resulted in the loss of an estimated 5-10,000 northern shovelers and 4,000 eared grebes out of a record high population of 500,000 eared grebes using the Lake. Other species of waterfowl in the area were not affected to the same extent.

The Upper Mississippi NWR reported finding about 1,500 American coots dead below a dam near Fulton, Illinois. Refuge staff suspected coots were caught in the water vortex at dam gates and baffles. NWHC necropsy findings were consistent with drowning. Dam workers frequently see coots float over the dam when winter water and ice are released but have not noted any large scale mortality in the past. Birds are seen sitting on the ice until it starts moving over the dam.

# National Biological Service Regions

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