Disease Biologist, (SAC) Willows, CA

Assistant Refuge Manager, (SNL) Los Banos, CA

Refuge Annual Disease Report - AWPA 120

A total of 127 birds were picked up at Merced NWR from January 15, 1981, to March 9, 1981. Disease mortality was pretty much spread out for the two months with no large or major die-off at any one given time. No disease loss occurred at San Luis or Kesterson Refuges.

The east grasslands unit normally accounts for 75% of the total birds picked up. This year it accounted for only approximately 35%, while field 3 and fields B and C, accounted for 35% and 15% respectively.

Waterfowl use for the period from October through March was up 123% compared to last year. Disease loss was down considerably from last year's total of 471.

I attribute the increase in bird use and decrease in disease loss to our changes in marsh management techniques. Water-fowl responded well to our changes, in that birds were better distributed throughout the marsh and not concentrated in the area where cholera traditionally occurred.

I have enclosed your form "Wildlife Disease Loss Report" for the whole period from January 15, 1981, to March 9, 1981. Additionally, I have enclosed a copy of the lab report since we only sent seven birds this year. Cathy, if you have any questions, call me.

LRRAUEN:dh
Enclosures (2)

Location of outbreak_	Merced National Wi	ldlife Refuge	
			*
Date of onset	ary 15, 1981	Date of termination	March 9, 1981
Diagnosis Avia			
	_		
Source of Diagnosis_	Sacramento Laboratory	- California Departmen	t of Fish & Game
Circumstances which m	ay have initiated th	e outbreak or influence	ed its severity_
	•		
		Consider	" 1 - 1 " - 1 - 1
<u>Species</u>	# dead # sick	10_gadwall	# dead # sick
snow goose	40		1
2 Ross' goose	31	ll common egret	
3 coots	-19	12_lesser sandhill c	
4 pac. wh. fronted goose 12		13 snowy egret	
5 pintail		14 great blue heron	
6_cackler	6	15	
7 mallard	2	16	
8 shoveler	1	17	
9_ green-winged teal	1	18	
ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIO	NS OR REMARKS:		
Submitted by:		Date:	
Address:			



LABORATORY REPORT

No. NO8-81

Collector Gary Zahn

Address Merced NWR

P.O. Box 2186

Los Banos, Calif. 93635

Remarks Collected from Merced NWR on

1/5/81, 1/8/81, and 1/14/81.

Date Received Netrops ted 1/15/81

O Materialia * Asian

Animal 1 Pintail, 1 Northern Shoveler,

1 American Coot, 1 Ross' Goose,

2 White-fronted Geese, 1 Snow

Goose

Specimen Whole/frozen

RESULTS OF EXAMINATION

Necropsy findings:

- 1. Immature male pintail; good physical condition, no body or ingested shot, petechial hemorrhages on heart, necrotic foci on liver, blood smear positive for bipolar staining rods.
- 2. Adult male shoveler; good physical condition, 3 body shot, no ingested shot, no visible lesions, blood smear negitive for bacteria.
- 3. Female coot, age ?; same as #1.
- 4. Adult male Ross' goose; good physical condition, 3 body shot, no ingested shot, blood smear negative for bacteria.
- 5. Adult female white-fronted goose; good physical condition; 4 body shot, apparent old wound (well granulated), no hemorrhages remaining; petechial hemorrhages on heart, necrotic foci on liver, blood smear positive for bipolar staining rods.
- 6. Adult male white-fronted goose; good physical condition, no body or ingested shot, wing broken and apparent pellet hole in other wing, blood smear negative for bacteria.
- 7. Adult snow goose, sex ?; same as #1.

Diagnosis:

#1,3,5, and 7, Avian Cholera. #2,4, and 6, crippling loss.

WILDLIFE INVESTIGATIONS LABORATORY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BRANCH

By Jussell C. Moar

Russell C. Mohr, Seasonal Aid