

Disease Biologist, (SAC)  
Willows, CA

April 24, 1981

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. Waterfowl 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)

# WILDLIFE DISEASE LOSS REPORT

Location of outbreak Merced National Wildlife Refuge

Date of onset January 15, 1981 Date of termination March 9, 1981

Diagnosis Avian Cholera

Source of Diagnosis Sacramento Laboratory - California Department of Fish & Game

Circumstances which may have initiated the outbreak or influenced its severity \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Species</u>	<u># dead</u>	<u># sick</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u># dead</u>	<u># sick</u>
1 <u>snow goose</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>      </u>	10 <u>gadwall</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>      </u>
2 <u>Ross' goose</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>      </u>	11 <u>common egret</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>      </u>
3 <u>coots</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>      </u>	12 <u>lesser sandhill crane</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>      </u>
4 <u>pac. wh. fronted goose</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>      </u>	13 <u>snowy egret</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>      </u>
5 <u>pintail</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>      </u>	14 <u>great blue heron</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>      </u>
6 <u>cackler</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>      </u>	15 _____	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
7 <u>mallard</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>      </u>	16 _____	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
8 <u>shoveler</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>      </u>	17 _____	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
9 <u>green-winged teal</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>      </u>	18 _____	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>

ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS OR REMARKS:

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

