

SUPPLEMENT TO THE JOURNAL OF WILDLIFE DISEASES

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President's Corner

News in WDA. Lots of things are changing all the time in our world, as well as in WDA. We have during the last two years within our association made a lot of improvements to get a more modern and up to date organization that can serve the members. One first big step was to hire an Executive Manager, which gave the organization an every day service and a more functional "office". There are nowadays so many questions that need to be taken care of immediately and we therefore need daily professional help that serves our association. I am convinced that this need will increase in the future.

WDA has also during the last years invested a lot of money and time in the electronic world. Our homepage is upgraded and modern and can now serve as a contact and information place for all members of WDA. We nowadays also have an On Line service with Allen Press which opens up a lot of possibilities for us to more easily communicate all over the world. One good example of this is the voting for new officers and members of council that took place over the web. The On Line service reduces the costs for many things as, for example, mailing, and it also gives you as member access to the membership directory and other benefits. Our Journal of Wildlife Diseases is today also On Line, which gives you easy access to the Journal as well as the Supplement. You can find it on www.jwildlifedis.org.

With all these changes in our association it was necessary to look over our Constitution and Bylaws and the members last year voted for a new Constitution. Following this, Council and different committees started to work with new Bylaws to get them in line with the new Constitution. A lot of changes have been made, mainly concerning the duties of the officers, the Executive manager, different sections and committees. We are at the moment also updating the Guidelines for the different committees. There is a lot of information about this in the minutes from Council meetings and telephone conferences, and the new Constitution and Bylaws can be read at the home page.

I would like to welcome our new officers and members of Council. The votes were in some instances very close but I am convinced that the members have made a good decision by electing the following people. I also hope that those that were not elected will come back and try again. WDA can not survive without help and work from people like you that are prepared to freely invest time and effort in our association. We need you!

Scott Wright is our new President, Michael Miller our new Vice President, Margaret Wild continues as Secretary, and Carol Meteyer is our new Treasurer. New members of Council are Marcela Uhart and Marguerite Pappaioanou. Congratulations to all of you!

Very soon several of us will meet in Cairns in Northern Australia. I hope to meet a lot of you there. I am convinced this International Conference will be a success and really look forward to our annual meeting, to meet a lot of good old friends and to see fantastic Australia again.

-Torsten Mörner, President

WDA NEWS

Dialing Up The Data On The Internet – Are We ‘Plugged In’ Yet?

There is a wide range of familiarity and use of the WDA online sites among us members. It seems particularly ironic that I am writing this note. After all, I am a 60-year-old who for a number of years didn't even access the WDA webpage [and didn't know what I was missing!]. The Association advertised for an executive manager on the webpage and if I hadn't been phoned by the Past President, I might not have known to apply for the job!

The WDA Council and our website Editor, Mike Ziccardi, have taken steps to make a lot more services and information available to us members of the WDA, and to a lesser extent, to non-members. We are now operating out of three internet addresses. Following are the services and information available on each site. Please read carefully because there is a quiz at the end of the article!

www.wildlifedisease.org (Home Page)

If you were ever wondering what Mike Ziccardi has been doing with his spare time after his job and working around home, have a look at this site and you will stop wondering! Mike, as Editor, has a contemporary site populated with ever increasing amounts of information:

- Focus of the WDA
- Contact information for management team
- Awards and past recipients
- Supplements to the *Journal of Wildlife Diseases* since 1998
- Information on publishing in the *Journal*
- Instructions for activating online subscriptions
- Constitution
- Resolutions supported by the Association
- Titles of presentations at past meetings (1996-2002)
- Information on upcoming annual meeting
- Notice of other wildlife/health meetings
- Contact information for WDA Sections
- Applications for student awards
- Career choices
- Employment and training opportunities
- Student activities (including applications for student chapters)
- Links to over 60 'wildlife health related' organizations
- Membership information and applications

Finally, Mike has links to our other sites, the business and journal sites. All of the above information is available to members and non-members.

<http://wda.allenmm.com> (Business Site)

Some of you may not recognize the above address. I encourage you to use this simplified address to get you to:

http://timssnet.allenpress.com/ECOMWDAS//timssnet/common/tnt_frontpage.cfm.

This site offers services and information only to WDA members. To access this site you require your "User I.D." [your membership number] and your password. Your membership number is on the address label when you receive a mailing from the Association and your password [if you have not changed it] is your surname. You can acquire information for access from myself [ecolink@aci.on.ca] or from Scott Starr [sstarr@allenpress.com]

Following are the services available to you:

- Membership directory with complete contact information updated daily
- Members can update their own personal information in the directory

- Electronic renewal of memberships/subscriptions [This is saving a lot of us the troubles of currency conversion and purchase of money orders]
- Purchasing of WDA products (e.g. back issues of journals) online
- Voting online
- Opportunity to make donations electronically

Members of the management team can monitor daily financial deposits and accrual of members. In addition, the management team can send 'broadcast emails' out to all members.

www.jwildlifedis.org (Online Journal)

This is the site run by HighWire Press. HighWire is being paid by the WDA to maintain the site with the online *Journal of Wildlife Diseases* and with many attributes to make it useful for searching for *Journal* articles.

This site is receiving a lot of interest from people who wish full open access to it while providing no support for the Association, the *Journal*, and the site. Since the *Journal* is our major product attracting memberships and subscriptions, it is only paid members and subscribers who can access the papers from the most recent 18 months.

- Full content of each recent issue (2004-2005) of the JWD (members only)
- Full text content available to all for JWD 1999-2003
- Abstracts are available to all users back to the January 1975 issue (Vol. 11)
- The full content is searchable by keyword
- Cited references are accessible through hyperlinks to Medline and the full texts of many other online journals
- Notification to members when a new issue comes available
- Table of contents and abstracts remain free for all site users
- Members can establish automatic searches using 'Cite Track'. Cite Track allows for identification of particular topics, authors, or articles and anytime they appear in participating journals, you can be notified automatically

The capability of this site to serve the interests of WDA members is very powerful. However, as of the end of April, only 27% of members and 23% of subscribers have activated their privileges on the site. Use is expected to increase over time.

The Association home page and journal sites allow the WDA to provide much needed information to specialists in countries with less developed economies. These sites are a major contribution towards the Association achieving its goal of increasing its international scope!

Quiz What does 'www' mean? Answer: **W**da **W**bsites are **W**onderful! Plug in and find out!

—Ed Addison

Cairns, 2005!! The 54th Annual Meeting of the WDA takes place in Cairns, Queensland, Australia, June 26 to July 1, 2005. The theme of the conference is "Wildlife Health in a Shrinking World: Ecology, Management, and Conservation". Symposia on the ecology of introduced wildlife diseases, and sessions on lessons learned from management of diseases in wildlife, the health of marine ecosystems, amphibian diseases and population declines, and wildlife health in the tropics (including studies on cassowaries, crocodiles, alligators, mahogany gliders, and tree kangaroos) makes this conference highly relevant in our rapidly changing world. The Australasian Section is excited to host this meeting and we promise a unique conference allowing you to experience the tropical Australian environment. Cairns is located in beautiful north Queensland. The conference is being held at the Colonial Club Resort, within a short walk to ancient rainforest, amazing mangroves, the tropical botanical gardens, and Cairns city. We offer rainforest spotlighting trips to see nocturnal tree kangaroos, lemuroid possums, tree frogs, and more. You will learn about local conservation issues and a mid-week field day offers the option of a rainforest or barrier reef excursion. Families are most

welcome. The Australian Society of Veterinary Pathology annual conference is being held in Cairns the preceding week, to facilitate attendance at both meetings. Details on the conference are available at <http://www.rainforest-crc.jcu.edu.au/events/conferences.htm>, or under "Meetings" on the WDA website at <http://www.wildlifedisease.org>. Contact: Lee Skerratt, School of Biomedical Sciences, James Cook University, Townsville, Australia 4811. Email: Lee.Skerratt@jcu.edu.au, Ph: +61 (0)7 47814838, Fax: +61 (0)7 47791526.

WDA STUDENT ACTIVITIES

STUDENT AWARDS 2005

ATTENTION MENTORS AND ADVISORS! Please encourage your students to apply for WDA's student awards. The deadline has passed for 2005 but it's never too early to start thinking about next year!! Each year, the WDA sponsors a competition for student awards. Students are encouraged to apply for three awards. The WDA Student Awards Committee judges the research and scholarship awards. Members of the attending audience at the annual WDA meeting judge the Terry Amundsen Award. Criteria upon which each award is judged are available on the WDA website at the following URL: http://www.wildlifedisease.org/Student/Student_Awards.htm. These awards are non-renewable and can be received only once by a given candidate. For further information, please contact Dr. Todd Cornish, Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory, University of Wyoming, 1174 Snowy Range Road, Laramie, WY 82070 (TCornish@uwyo.edu).

Wildlife Disease Graduate Student Research Recognition Award: This award is given to the student judged to have the best research project in the field of wildlife disease, based on written communication and scientific achievement. The winner receives a plaque and up to \$2000 US to cover travel, housing, registration, etc. related to the annual conference. The student is the featured presenter during the Student Presentation Session at the conference.

Wildlife Disease Association Scholarship: This scholarship acknowledges outstanding academic and research accomplishment, commitment, and potential in pursuit of new knowledge in wildlife disease or health. The scholarship has a value of \$2000 US and is awarded annually to an outstanding student who is pursuing master's or doctoral degree specializing in research on wildlife disease. To be considered, the candidate must have completed a four-year baccalaureate degree. Candidates with an overall grade point average of 3.5 or above in 4.0 system or 80% or better in percentage system will receive priority. The candidate should be committed to leadership, scholarship, and service in the wildlife health profession.

Terry Amundsen Student Presentation Award: This award acknowledges outstanding oral presentation of research findings. Winner receives \$250.00 and a plaque. To be considered, the student must give an oral presentation of their topic of choice to participants in the special student session of the annual WDA meeting.

HAPPENINGS IN THE FIELD

Celebration of Ten Years of the MSc WAH!

An evening reception was held at the Zoological Society of London, Prince Albert Suite, at the time of the joint international conference of the British Veterinary Zoological Society, World Association of Wildlife Veterinarians, ZSL, and the Royal Veterinary College in November 2004 to celebrate ten years of the Masters Course in Wild Animal Health. Forty-five of the 127 graduates of

the course returned for the conference from as far away as Japan, Bhutan, and Australia and joined the current course participants at the celebration. Professor James Kirkwood, Executive and Scientific Director of the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare, and a former Co-Director of the Master's Course, introduced Dr. Milton Friend, former Director of the National Wildlife Health Center in the USA, and a firm supporter of the Master's course since its inception, who gave the address.

Dr. Friend's address entitled "Masters Course in Wild Animal Health - a Decade of Contribution" drew attention to the global emergence and resurgence of wildlife diseases and the need for greater effort to combat them. He recognised the "infusion of energised individuals" that the Masters Course has provided towards this goal and that these individuals are "potential leaders for developing wildlife health programs in their countries, agencies and institutions". Dr Friend went on to say "If we are to be successful in the conservation of biodiversity, it is important that the traditional training we have sought in the veterinary, wildlife, and related sciences be supplemented with enhanced understanding of disease as an outcome of society's behaviour and that we gain a greater appreciation of how ecological change can contribute to disease emergence".

-Tony Sainsbury, Institute of Zoology, Zoological Society of London

CWD found in wild white-tailed deer in New York State. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) announced that it has received the remainder of test results for chronic wasting disease (CWD) that were part of intensive sampling efforts in central New York. DEC has received 2 positive results for the disease out of 292 wild deer sampled.

The 1st positive result in a wild deer was announced on 27 Apr 2005, and came from a yearling white-tailed deer sampled from the Town of Verona, Oneida County. The 2nd positive result is from a 3-year-old doe (female), located within a mile of the location where the initial positive result was detected. The sample tissues were tested at the State's Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory at Cornell University. These are the 1st known occurrences of CWD in wild deer in New York State. DEC implemented intensive monitoring efforts after CWD was found in 2 captive white-tailed deer herds in Oneida County, the 1st incidents of CWD in New York State. On 8 Apr 2005, the State Department of Agriculture and Markets (DAM) completed testing of the captive deer and found a total of 5 positive results for CWD in the 2 captive herds.

DEC, along with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services program, completed intensive monitoring on 30 Apr 2005. The effort resulted in 290 samples of wild deer from Oneida County, 2 from neighboring Madison County, and 25 wild deer from the Town of Arietta, Hamilton County. Since 2002, DEC has conducted statewide sampling of wild deer for CWD. When combined with sampling efforts in Oneida and Hamilton Counties, DEC has collected more than 3,700 samples from wild white-tailed deer.

DAM continues to investigate, sample, and test white-tailed deer from 2 captive herds directly associated with the 2 herds that were confirmed positive for CWD in Oneida County. Results for these sampling efforts will be announced when available. Statewide sampling for CWD -- which has resulted in more than 1,000 tests each year -- will be increased to closely monitor the distribution and prevalence of CWD in wild deer. In addition, DEC has implemented emergency regulations regarding the handling, transport, and management of deer in the State. The emergency regulations are currently in effect and represent an aggressive response to the recent discovery of chronic wasting disease (CWD) in Oneida County.

DEC's emergency regulations are designed to ensure the proper handling of deer and prevent further spread of CWD in the wild herd. The emergency regulations are effective for 90 days. In addition, DEC will begin the process of developing permanent regulations, which will appear in the State Register and include a 45-day public comment period. Go to DEC's website at <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/wildlife/deer/currentcwd.html> for more information on CWD.

—Official News release, May 4, 2005, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation [edited]

Rabies cases spark emergency action in Western Europe. Rabies is once again threatening western Europe. This week emergency teams are fanning out across 4 German states and neighbouring parts of France, trying to vaccinate enough foxes to stop the disease spreading, as national and regional authorities trade accusations. The reason for the flare-up appears to be patchy vaccination of wild foxes in the German state of Hesse. Officials at Germany's national rabies laboratory in Wusterhausen say they will stamp out this nest of infection this year, by vaccinating foxes every 6 weeks if they have to. But their counterparts in France, Switzerland, and Belgium are expressing "serious concern" that unless recommendations about fox vaccination made by a panel of European Union scientists in 2002 are strictly applied, large areas of Europe where rabies had been eradicated could be reinfected. Rabies eradication was one of Europe's success stories. Switzerland became rabies-free in 1998, thanks to a huge campaign in which biscuits doped with vaccine were distributed in fox habitats. France was next to eliminate the disease, in 2000, followed by Belgium and Luxembourg in 2001. In 2000, this helped convince the rabies-free UK to end compulsory quarantine for mammals brought in from some European countries. But in Germany, stubborn nests of infection persisted. Part of the problem was ensuring even vaccination in urban areas, where placing baits can be difficult, says Thomas Muller, head of the Wusterhausen lab. "Another big problem was human error." States managed their vaccination campaigns themselves, with varying effectiveness. Muller's team is trying to get better cooperation. Several former problem states, including Bavaria, have not found any cases for several years. But there has been no let-up in Hesse, which found 24 rabid foxes last year [2004]. In December, one turned up in Baden-Wuerttemberg, which had been rabies-free since 1996 and stopped vaccinating in 2002. And in January 2005, Rhineland-Palatinate, rabies-free since 1998, found rabid foxes near the Hesse border. Late in 2004 all 3 states plus Bavaria carried out emergency vaccination in threatened areas, and this week they are air-dropping vaccine-laced bait across thousands of square kilometres. France stopped vaccinating in 2003, but Florence Cliquet, head of the French national rabies lab in Nancy, says her team will bait fox dens along the German border this week, and will vaccinate a 60-kilometre-wide border strip in May 2005. Europe's fox population has grown as much as 8-fold in the past decade, and this has raised fears that rabies could easily get out of control. "The virus could really spread fast if it got loose now," says Reto Zanoni of the Swiss Rabies Centre in Berne. Michel Aubert, former head of the French lab, blames the persistence of rabies in Germany on the ineffectiveness of the German vaccine, and points to figures suggesting that it takes twice as many German as French baits to clear an area of rabies. He also claims the virus in German vaccine sometimes reverts to the disease-causing form. This is known to have happened once in Austria, but Muller says there have been only 3 suspected cases in Germany in the past 5 years. He insists the main problem is the way the vaccination campaigns have been run. The EU must hope he is right. New member states such as Poland still have rabies problems, and most vaccination campaigns rely on the German vaccine.

—Byline: Debora MacKenzie, *New Scientist* magazine, 2 Apr 2005. Adapted from: ProMED-mail

USGS/National Wildlife Health Center's Quarterly Wildlife Mortality Report

Trematode-related mortality recurs at Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge. For the third consecutive fall, an estimated 2,300 lesser scaup, American coots, and other waterfowl were reported dead by hunters and Upper Mississippi NWR personnel. Waterfowl and coots were found along the shoreline and on islands in the Mississippi River from the end of September until mid-December, with the majority of deaths recorded in early October and early November. Snails were

collected by NWHC staff at the refuge from June through October. In some locations, over 50% of the snails were infected with stages of the trematodes, and the highest prevalence was detected in June. Infections by the trematodes *Cyathocotyle bushiensis* and *Sphaeridiotrema globulus* were identified in both chilled and frozen carcasses submitted to NWHC. These two trematodes species have been implicated in the death of over 10,900 water birds at Upper Mississippi NWR during the spring and fall migrations since 2002.

West Nile virus completes spread across continental U.S. in 2004. Since it was first detected in 1999, West Nile virus (WNV) has quickly spread across the North American continent into Canada, Mexico and into several Caribbean areas. In 2005, the sixth WNV season, WNV arrived in Oregon and thus completed its spread into the 48 continental U.S. states. Interestingly, although 2 dead birds and 2 horses were found with WNV infection in 2002, the state of Washington has not since detected WNV within their borders despite dead bird, mosquito, equine, and human surveillance. In 2005, many areas again reported WNV activity, with southern California and Maricopa County, AZ reporting high activity. As of January 13, 2005, over 7,300 avian, 1,400 equine, and 2,500 human cases have been reported to the CDC and on state websites. The list of species in which WNV has been detected continues to grow and currently has 289 wild and captive avian, 23 mammalian, and 1 reptilian species. With the end of the 2004 WNV season, state and local surveillance programs have already begun planning their 2005 WNV surveillance programs.

Avian Cholera in Eared Grebe on the Great Salt Lake. In late October 2004 Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) personnel contacted the NWHC to report the observation of an estimated 30,000 sick (1%) and dead (99%) eared grebes on the main body of the Great Salt Lake. The total estimated population of eared grebes on the lake was 500,000. Chilled and frozen carcasses were submitted to the NWHC for diagnostic evaluation. All of the grebes examined had similar lesions – focal liver necrosis, mucoid intestinal content, and pulmonary congestion. *Pasteurella multocida* was isolated from tissues of all birds tested. Previous outbreaks of avian cholera on the Great Salt Lake were documented in 1994, 1995, 1998, and 2002 with estimated losses ranging from 1,000 to 44,000 birds, mostly eared grebes. Personnel of the UDWR and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service continued to monitor the situation until early December when the die-off ended. Due to low lake levels and favorable wind conditions the majority of dead birds remained in high salinity, deep water areas of the lake away from freshwater wetlands on the south and east shores. Therefore, the extensive, labor-intensive carcass pickup and disposal efforts that were implemented during the severe 1998 die-off did not become necessary in this incident.

QUARTERLY WILDLIFE MORTALITY REPORT

October 2004 to December 2004

| State | Location | Dates | Species | Mortality | Diagnosis | Reported by |
|-------|------------------------------|-------------------|--|------------|--|-------------|
| AK | City of Juneau | 11/29/04-01/05/05 | Pine Siskin | 40 | Salmonellosis | NW |
| AZ | Pima County | 05/25/04-05/31/04 | Tiger Salamander | 4 (e) | Open | NW |
| AZ | Pima and Gila Counties | 06/01/04-ongoing | Collared Peccary | 30 (e) | Parasitism: <i>Clinostomum</i> sp. Open | AZ, CO |
| FL | Pinellas County | 06/09/04-06/25/04 | Mallard Unidentified Cormorant American Coot | 53 (e) | Open: botulism suspect | FL |
| GA | Houston County | 11/02/04-11/03/04 | Mallard | 10 | Toxicosis: diazinon | SCW |
| IL | Cook County | 10/12/04-11/05/04 | Canada Goose | 34 (e) | Open: botulism suspect | IL |
| MD | Poplar Island, Talbot County | 10/12/04-11/10/04 | Great Blue Heron | 21 (e) | Steatitis | MD, NW |
| MT | Glacier National Park | 05/25/04-06/11/04 | Boreal Toad | 29 (e) | Fungal Infection: chytrid | NW |
| NM | Grant County | 05/20/04-ongoing | Chiricahua Leopard Frog | 2 | Open | NW |
| NV | Clark County | 12/05/04-12/20/04 | Green-Winged Teal | 50 (e) | Botulism suspect | NV |
| OR | Ankeney NWR | 11/06/04-12/03/04 | Cackling Goose | 15 | Open | NW |
| OR | Yamhill County | 12/20/04-12/28/04 | Cackling Goose Taverner's Canada Goose Canada-Dusky Goose | 47 (e) | Open | NW |
| OR | Marion County | 11/12/04-ongoing | Cackling Goose Herring Gull American Coot | 312 (e) | Open Aspergillosis | NW |
| UT | Great Salt Lake | 10/20/04-12/03/04 | Eared Grebe | 30,000 (e) | Avian cholera | NW |
| VT | Addison County | 10/25/04-11/09/04 | Snow Goose | 600 (e) | Aspergillosis | NW |
| WA | Cowlitz County | 09/15/04-12/05/04 | Mallard | 100 (e) | Botulism type C | NW |
| WA | Multiple Counties | 11/22/04-ongoing | Trumpeter Swan | 199 | Lead Poisoning suspect | BC WA |
| WI | Dane County | 12/11/04-12/14/04 | Northern Leopard Frog | 25 (e) | Open | NW |
| WY | Sweetwater County | 10/06/04-10/08/04 | Unidentified Teal Unidentified Grebe American Coot Shoveler Unidentified Phalarope | 53 | Drowning suspect Exposure: hypothermia Toxicosis: salt suspect | NW, WY |

Updates/Corrections

| | | | | | | |
|----|-------------------------|-------------------|---|-----------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| FL | Manatee County | 07/01/04-07/31/04 | Wood Stork White Ibis Great Blue Heron Roseate Spoonbill Unidentified Pelican | 24 (e) | Open: toxicosis suspect | FL, NFL, NW |
| IA | Jackson County | 06/28/04-06/29/04 | Little Brown Bat Big Brown Bat | 50 (e) | Open | IA |
| IL | Multiple Counties | 07/20/04-12/31/04 | White-Tailed Deer | 34 (e) | Epizootic hemorrhagic disease | IL |
| MD | Talbot County | 09/23/04-10/15/04 | Unidentified Sandpiper Mallard Shoveler Lesser Yellowlegs Green-Winged Teal | 250 (e) | Botulism type C | MD, NW |
| PA | Presque Isle State Park | 06/18/04-ongoing | Common Loon Long-Tailed Duck Ring-Billed Gull | 1,000 (e) | Botulism type E Emaciation | CCW, NW, NY |

| | | | | | | |
|-----|---|-------------------|---|-----------|---|----------------|
| ONT | Lake Ontario, Canada | 08/21/04-ongoing | Herring Gull Great Black-Backed Gull Long-Tailed Duck Double-Crested Cormorant | 1,600 (e) | Botulism type E | TOR |
| US | All continental states except DC, MD, and WA | 01/02/04-12/31/04 | Herring Gull Common Loon Ring-Billed Gull Blue Jay American Crow Northern Cardinal Steller's Jay Yellow-Billed Magpie House Finch | 7,263 (e) | Viral Infection: West Nile | CDC, NW, ST |
| WI | Upper Mississippi NWR | 09/25/04-12/20/04 | American Coot Lesser Scaup Mallard Wood Duck Ruddy Duck | 2,315 (e) | Parasitism: <i>Cyathocotyle</i> <i>bushiensis</i> Parasitism: <i>Sphaeridiotrema</i> globules Trauma: gunshot | NW |

(e) = estimate; * = morbidity, not mortality

New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation (NY), Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCW), USGS National Wildlife Health Center (NW), Colorado State University (CO), Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FL), Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IL), Maryland Diagnostic Laboratory (MD), Wyoming Game and Fish (WY), National Forensics Laboratory (NFL), Iowa State Diagnostic Laboratory (IA), Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Center (CCW), Environment Ministry Laboratory of Toronto (TOR), Center for Disease Control (CDC), various state laboratories (ST), Nevada Division of Wildlife (NV), Washington State Diagnostic Laboratory (WA), B.C. Ministry of Environment (BC).

Written and compiled by Christine Lemanski, Kathryn Converse/Rex Sohn - Western US, Grace McLaughlin - Eastern US, NWHC.

The Quarterly Wildlife Mortality Report is available at <http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov>. To report mortality or receive information about this report, contact the above NWHC staff, or for Hawaiian Islands contact Thierry Work. Phone: (608) 270-2400, FAX: (608) 270-2415 or e-mail: kathy_converse@usgs.gov. USGS National Wildlife Health Center, 6006 Schroeder Road, Madison, WI 53711.

WDA SECTION NEWS

NEWS FROM THE AUSTRALASIAN SECTION

The international conference in Cairns from June 26– July 1 is rapidly approaching and the organising committee is continuing to work extremely hard to provide what promises to be a fantastic week. Detailed information on the conference can be found at www.rainforestcsrc.jcu.edu.au/events/conference.htm. I would encourage all Australasian section members to attend, as this is one of the few opportunities where the parent body comes to us. In the setting of an international event we can really gain a deeper insight into the diversity and scope of the broader organisation to which we belong. As I have mentioned in a previous newsletter there is a high level of international interest and it would be a shame not to match this with an equally high level of local interest. Pam Whiteley and Lee Berger have been working towards a post conference workshop in Canberra, capitalising on the significant expertise and experience in wildlife disease monitoring and policy development at a state and national level that many of the attending international guests will bring with them. The aim of this Fenner Workshop on the Environment is to showcase wildlife disease monitoring systems in place worldwide to policy makers at all levels and encourage debate and discussion about and hopefully further development of systems in Australia. This workshop aims to enhance the work that the Australian Wildlife Health Network, under Rupert Woods' direction, continues to undertake in terms of lobbying for increased attention of wildlife health issues in Australia. There will be a number of important issues to discuss and vote on at this year's AGM; perhaps the most important of these pertains to our status as a section. This issue was discussed at Kinchege last year and I have outlined discussions that took place during council meetings in San Diego and a subsequent telephone conference late last year. Essentially our current position as a

geographic section is unconstitutional with only 15 members also being parent body members and the remaining 100 or so members belonging only to the local “section”. There are a number of implications to this, which I have discussed previously and won’t detail in this newsletter, so we will need to develop and vote on a motion at the AGM. To date I have received limited feedback on this matter and I would really encourage anyone with opinions or questions on this matter to discuss this further. I will aim to have a motion formulated in rough form at least so that anyone not attending the AGM can comment prior to voting. Encouragingly local memberships continue to grow, particularly student membership. The Association continues to provide support for the Australian Registry of Wildlife Pathology with a donation this year of \$2000, which will go towards digital photographic equipment. We are happy to be able to continually support the Registry, which provides direct and indirect diagnostic services to many of our members. Suggestions for the 2006 annual conference are being sought. This matter was discussed at Kinchega and the general consensus seemed to be a preference for a low key, low cost affair in either of New South Wales or Victoria. So if you feel like organising a conference at a picturesque location near you please let us know and we will come to a decision at the AGM. I look forward to seeing a large number of local delegates in Cairns in a few months time.

—Tim Portas, President Australasian WDA

NEWS FROM THE EUROPEAN SECTION

EWDA WEBSITE - www.ewda.org Visit the EWDA website at www.ewda.org and find information on conferences, members’ interests, publications, and lots more. The website is kindly provided free of charge by the UK Central Science Laboratory. We are currently considering a new look for the site so if you have any further suggestions or material then please send them to r.delahay@csl.gov.uk.

WIREDs - Wildlife Related Emerging Diseases

Just how important are emerging infectious wildlife diseases in Europe today? This was discussed formally and informally at the 2004 EWDA conference at Uppsala, Sweden. By the time that you read this, in spring 2005, a formal electronic debate to brainstorm the subject will have occurred. This conference is held under the auspices of the EWDA at <http://www.ewda.org/> and is intended to exchange scientific contributions on WIREDs.

WIREDs pose significant challenges. They may lead to infection in man and livestock, as well as wildlife; their emergence and consequences are unpredictable, and as a result, preparedness for WIREDs is difficult. The potential range of threats that WIREDs may pose indicate that all unusual diseases of wildlife should be investigated. These topics will be debated.

***Neospora caninum* in wild animals: a review.** *Neospora caninum* is a recognised protozoan parasite of the dog and livestock, but infection has been also reported in free-ranging wild ruminants, i.e. black-and white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus hemionus* and *O. virginianus*), chamois (*Rupicapra rupicapra*), roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*) and red deer (*Cervus elaphus*), Alpine ibex (*Capra ibex*), white rhinoceros calf (*Ceratotherium simum*), brown hare (*Lepus europeus*), zebra (*Equus burchelli*), eland (*Taurotragus oryx*), African buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*), Thompson gazelle (*Gazella thompsoni*), impala (*Aepyceros melampus*), warthog (*Phacochoerus aethiopicus*), and carnivores, i.e. coyote (*Canis latrans*), red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*), lion (*Panthera leo*), and in a captive cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*), spotted hyena (*Crocuta crocuta*), and in free-ranging cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*). Infection has been recently revealed also in marine mammals. This wide range of host species from both the old and new worlds suggests that many animal orders are susceptible and also that the epidemiological cycle of this parasite commonly occurs in wild environments.

The majority of the above mentioned studies relied on serological tests, mainly the *Neospora caninum* Agglutination Test (NAT), which does not require a species-specific secondary antibody. Unfortunately the specificity, sensitivity and cut-off value of serological tests have not been evaluated in wild species and moreover they indicate only exposure to the parasite. Considering that available data mainly refer to sero-positivity and only a few authors have reported stillbirths or neurological disorders, the pathological effect of *N. caninum* infection in wild animal health is largely unknown. Vertical transmission has been demonstrated in both herbivores and carnivores, however the pathological importance and the incidence of vertical transmission in maintaining infection in wild species remain unknown.

The role of the wild carnivore as a possible *N. caninum* definitive host is largely unknown. While experimental trials in coyote and fox did not demonstrate the shedding of oocysts in infected animals, further testing using more sensitive assays, such as PCR, showed that the coyote is a definitive *N. caninum* host. The hypothesis of possible transmission of the parasite between wild canids and cattle is also epidemiologically consistent and has been suggested by several authors. Some authors report that grazer herbivore species showed a higher seroprevalence than browser species, and they suggested that this was due to a greater exposure to *N. caninum* oocysts shed on pastures by definitive hosts.

Another important point in *N. caninum* research is the possible role played by small mammals in maintaining the epidemiological cycle of the parasite. Recently, infection has been demonstrated in European brown hares and in rats, but the importance of small species in the wild and rural transmission cycle is largely unknown. Studies on *N. caninum* sylvatic cycles could be of great value not only to understand its epidemiology in wildlife, but also to clarify the epidemiology of the infection in domestic species and improve control measures in livestock. In fact *N. caninum* is considered to be one of the major causes of abortion in cattle, and studying infection in wild species can allow a better understanding of the transmission of the parasite, its pathological effects, and its role in abortion.

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Material for publication in News from Europe can include recent wildlife disease outbreaks and new diseases in Europe, short case and meeting reports; job and scholarship announcements. We encourage submissions, and will help with the English language, if required. Please mail, fax or e-mail submissions to, Paul Duff, VLA Diseases of Wildlife, VLA Penrith, Merrythought, Calthwaite, PENRITH, Cumbria, CA11 9RR, United Kingdom, e-mail p.duff@vla.maff.gsi.gov.uk Fax ++44(0)-1768-885314 /phone ++44(0)-1768-885295.

NEWS FROM THE NORDIC SECTION

Salmonellosis in passerines and cats. Local outbreaks of septicaemic *Salmonella* Typhimurium infection among small passerines are regularly observed at feeding sites during especially late winter in the Nordic countries. In southern Norway, during February and March 2005, an especially high number of outbreaks have been seen. The most commonly affected species was the Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*). Several cases of transmission of infection to domestic cats have also been observed. One case of fatal salmonella-enteritis was diagnosed in a cat originating from a household with a concomitant passerine outbreak around the feeding place in the garden. In Sweden Bullfinches, Redpolls (*Carduelis flammea*), and Siskins (*Carduelis spinus*) from the southern half of the country have been diagnosed with salmonellosis. The same fag-type of salmonella has been isolated from about 50 cats this year, compared to 118 positive cats 1999, about 10 every year 2000 – 2002, 84 in 2003, and 33 cats with salmonellosis in 2004. Also Denmark reports several cases of mortalities due to S.

Typhimurium among finches at feeding tables this winter. To ensure that the disease is not spread by the feed in bird feeders, commercially produced mixed bird feeds have been tested for Salmonella in Denmark, but it was not possible to isolate Salmonella from the feed. The proposed epidemiology is that in wintertime feeders attract sick birds and rodents, which increases the possibility for cats (and humans, especially children) to come in contact with the disease.

Sarcoptic mange in wolves and lynx in Finland. Sarcoptic mange caused by the skin-burrowing mite *Sarcoptes scabiei* was first noted to cause morbidity and mortality in Finnish wildlife in the 1960's. The first cases were recorded in foxes in southern Finland. Since then, the disease spread to Sweden and northwards in Finland and is now seen in the whole country. The red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) and raccoon dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*) appear to be the main host species for this strain of *S. scabiei*.

There seems to have been an exceptionally wide spread of mange in Finnish wildlife during the winter 2004-2005. At the National Veterinary and Food Research Institute (EELA), we examined not only mangy foxes and raccoon dogs, but also four wolves (*Canis lupus*) and four lynx (*Lynx lynx*) with *S. scabiei* infection. This is, to the best of our knowledge, the first time that mange has been diagnosed in wolf in Finland. Because of the mangy appearance and tendency of the animals to move near human settlements the four wolves were shot, after the police gave permission. The four wolves were juveniles born the previous spring and they were all found in a relatively restricted area in southeast Finland. All had nearly identical macroscopic lesions: they had lost all hair from the posterior part of the body, but the head, neck and shoulders still had a thick hair coat. There was hardly any scaling or crust formation in the skin, which was slightly thickened and pigmented, and had minor infected scratch marks. The number of mites in skin scrapings was very low. Two of the wolves were in very poor condition but the other two still had a fair amount of fat reserves left. According to the local police, there are sightings of at least one other mangy wolf living in the same area where the four wolves were shot. According to the Finnish findings, it seems that wolves do not necessarily have to succumb due to sarcoptic mange. The infestation may become widely spread within the population as wolves are social animals, and individuals can roam long distances. Unlike the wolves, all four Finnish lynx, one adult and three juveniles, were found dead, one inside a doghouse. The animals were emaciated and dehydrated with generalised sarcoptic mange. The skin was covered with a thick, foul-smelling crust and skin scrapings revealed large amounts of mites and mite eggs. The fur came off easily from the skin.

The situation in Finland mirrors the experiences with mange in wolves and lynx in Sweden. Mange affecting a family group of Swedish wolves in the winter of 2001 - 2002 resulted in three adult animals, all in a very poor or emaciated body condition, being shot. Two juveniles, also with mange were found dead. In Norway one adult male with sarcoptic mange was shot in July 2000. Concerns have been raised about the risk of spread of mange in the rather small wolf population of Sweden and Norway. In March 2005 a new case is suspected as a mangy wolf was sighted in Sweden, and attempts to track it down are ongoing. In Sweden the Lynx population has increased to such numbers that licensed hunting is allowed again, to protect domestic animals and especially the free ranging semi-domesticated reindeer. The National Veterinary Institute in Uppsala now receives emaciated lynx with severe sarcoptic mange on a regular basis. The Lynx probably contract the disease from killing and eating foxes.

—Edited by Erik Ågren, Department of Wildlife, Fish, and Environment, National Veterinary Institute, Uppsala, Sweden.

WDA SECTION CHAIRS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

African Section. For information regarding the African Section, contact Elizabeth Wambwa, Kenya Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 40241, Nairobi, Kenya. Telephone: 254-2-504180; Fax: 254-2-505866; email: ewambwa@yahoo.com

Australasian Section. For information regarding the Australasian Section, contact Tim Portas, Western Plains Zoo, P.O. Box 831, Dubbo, NSW 2830, Australia. Phone: 61 2 6881 1460; Fax: 61 2 6884 1496; email: tportas@zoo.nsw.gov.au.

European Section. For information regarding the European Section, contact Marc Artois, ENVL, Unite Pathologie Infectieuse, BP83, 69280 Marcy l'Etoile, France, Telephone: 33-487-87-27-74, email: m.artois@fvet-lyon.fr.

Nordic Section. For information regarding the Nordic Section, contact Eric Agren, Department of Wildlife, National Veterinary Institute, SE-751 89 Uppsala, SWEDEN, Phone +46 18 67 40 00 Fax +46 18 30 91 62 or E-mail: Erik.Agren@sva.se.

Wildlife Veterinarian Section. For information regarding the Wildlife Veterinarian Section, contact Dave Jessup, California Department of Fish and Game, 1451 Shaffer Rd., Santa Cruz, CA 95060, USA. Telephone: 831-469-1726, email: djessup@ospr.dfg.ca.gov.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

Visit the JWD website at <http://www.wildlifedisease.org/Jobs.htm> for up to date job listings.

TRAINING/EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Visit the JWD website at <http://www.wildlifedisease.org/Training.htm> for more information on training opportunities.

Island Species Conservation Course. August 29-September 9, 2005. We are now advertising places on our island species conservation course- ISLA (Island Species-Led Action)-that will be running from 29 August to 9 September, 2005. The course is being run by the International Training Centre of the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, based in Jersey, UK Channel Islands. The provisional destination for the course is St. Lucia, Caribbean, though this will be confirmed shortly. The course will last for 12 days, providing time for a combination of theoretical and practically-based activities focused on developing understanding of the management of endangered species on islands. This shift in venue will build on the success of the first ISLA course run in Jersey in 2004, in which 12 participants from islands as far apart as Samoa, Ascension Island, and the Seychelles were able to learn from each other's experiences of island species conservation as well as from our core group of international lecturers, experts in the fields of island species management, fund-raising and advocacy. By basing the course in St. Lucia in 2005 we will be able to provide participants with firsthand experience of conservation initiatives to save species such as the St. Lucia parrot (*Amazona versicolor*) and the St. Lucia whiptail lizard (*Cnemidophorus vanzoi*) from extinction. Participants will also be encouraged to develop their research skills in the field helping them to better understand threatened species and their needs and threats. As in 2004, the target audiences for the course in St. Lucia are the conservation managers and fieldworkers that work directly with the species in the wild, and who are responsible for taking decisions that influence their survival. Although we hope to attract many applications from within the Caribbean region we would welcome applications from any organisation that is concerned with saving island species from extinction. Flyers on the course and application forms are available on the Trust website: <http://www.durrellwildlife.org>.

ACZM Ultra-short Course. October 15, 2005. As in previous years, the ACZM Education Committee will sponsor a 1-day ultra-short course in conjunction with the American Association of

Zoo Veterinarians Annual Conference. This year's AAZV annual conference will take place in Omaha, NE October 14-21, 2005. The ACZM Ultra-short Course will be held on Saturday, October 15, 2005 from approximately 8 am to 5 pm. The ultra-short course is divided into two main sections. The first section is meant to introduce to the attendee to the ACZM, reasons for becoming a Diplomate of the American College of Zoological Medicine, how to become eligible to take the ACZM examination, and provide study and test-taking strategy, including a short mock exam. The second section consists of lectures intended to cover specific topics in-depth. The lecture topics to be covered at this year's ultra short-course will be posted in the AAZV registration materials; however, this course is specifically designed not to overlap with the content covered at the ACZM Short Course which will be held in June at the University of Wisconsin. All instructors for the Ultra-short Course are ACZM Diplomates. The cost of this course will be approximately \$120 and will include a binder of ACZM information handouts, lecture materials and refreshments. The course will be limited to 25 attendees. To register for this course, please see the AAZV registration materials (posted on the AAZV website, www.aazv.org, as we get closer to the conference registration time). If not planning on attending the AAZV conference, but still interested in attending the Ultra-short Course, please contact Sonia M. Hernandez-Divers (shernz@aol.com) or Kirsten Gilardi (kvgilardi@ucdavis.edu) directly. The Ultra short-course is held approximately once per year in conjunction with AAZV, WDA, IAAAM, or related organizations.

Dallas Zoo and Dallas Aquarium Veterinary Student Preceptorship. A four to eight-week preceptorship offers exposure to clinical zoo and aquarium veterinary practice at a large metropolitan zoo. The student will work closely with the veterinary and keeper staff and receive an introduction to husbandry, restraint/immobilization, basic medical procedure techniques, and necropsies of zoo animals, the unique aspects of veterinary management of animals in a zoo setting, and the MedARKS recordkeeping system. An onsite library is available for use. Responsibilities will be assigned based on the student's areas of interest and experience level. The student is expected to complete a project and present results to the veterinary staff, and will be responsible for local transportation, housing, and food. Applicants should be a fourth year veterinary student (or in final year of non-U.S. veterinary program) and have completed four weeks of a clinical medicine or surgery rotation before the start of the preceptorship. Negative tuberculin skin test within 60 days of the start of the preceptorship, current tetanus vaccination, and personal health insurance are required. Applicants should send a letter of intent, curriculum vitae, contact information for three references, and the name of their Zoo/Exotic Animal advisor to: Tim Storms, Associate Veterinarian at Dallas Zoo and Dallas Aquarium, 650 South R.L. Thornton Fwy., Dallas, Texas 75203-2996.

Training Available in Fish Diagnostics, Inspections, and Laboratory Methods. The US Fish and Wildlife Service Fish Health Centers provide laboratory and field examination services to the National Fish Hatcheries. Our main emphasis is to assist the hatcheries in producing quality fish that will contribute to the enhancement and restoration of aquatic ecosystems. At the Olympia and Idaho Fish Health Centers, the work may involve travel to field sites to perform diagnostic examinations and collect samples that are then evaluated in our laboratories. Routine testing procedures include bacteriology (biochemical, ELISA, and PCR methods), virology (cell culture, serological, and PCR methods), parasitology (microscopic and PCR methods), histology, and clinical chemistry. Training may be arranged for one day or several weeks at one or both of these laboratories depending on the interests and availability of the individual. In general, most broodstock inspections are performed from September through November, juvenile inspections are performed from January through April, and wild fish surveys are conducted from March through September. Routine diagnostic examinations are performed year round and special projects are conducted as time and necessity permit. For more information, please contact Joy Evered DVM, at the Olympia Fish Health Center; email

joy_evered@fws.gov or Marilyn Blair DVM, at the Idaho Fish Health Center; email marilyn_j_blair@fws.gov.

Sr. Veterinary Student Preceptorship in Avian and Conservation Medicine. A four to six-week preceptorship in Avian and Conservation Medicine is being offered to a senior-year veterinary student by the International Crane Foundation (ICF) in Baraboo, Wisconsin. The preceptor will train with the Veterinary Services Unit of the Conservation Services Department in all phases of the clinical practice, but have opportunities for interaction with the Crane Conservation Department to learn captive propagation, husbandry, and management of this unique family of birds. The preceptor can expect to gain practical experience in crane capture, transport, anesthesia, preventive medicine, disease surveillance, and the contribution of veterinary medicine to crane conservation including field project support and professional consultations. Preceptors are encouraged to complete and report on a research or laboratory project during their stay. Opportunities for visiting the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine and the National Wildlife Health Center in Madison, WI will be made available to interested preceptors. No stipend is available for this position; however, on-site housing in the ICF Guesthouse will be provided depending on availability at the time the preceptorship is scheduled. Applicants should send a cover letter, curriculum vitae, or resume and one letter of recommendation from a faculty member of their home institution to: Barry Hartup, DVM, Director of Veterinary Services, International Crane Foundation, E-11376 Shady Lane Road, Baraboo, WI 53913, email hartup@savingcranes.org. Please view our website at www.savingcranes.org.

Directory of Post-Graduate Educational Opportunities in Zoo and Wildlife Medicine. The World Association of Wildlife Veterinarians has recently produced a Directory of Post-Graduate Educational Opportunities in Zoo and Wildlife Medicine. The Directory covers opportunities in over fifty countries and is a must for veterinary students or graduates interested in furthering their careers in the field of wildlife medicine. For further information, please contact the Secretary of the WAWV at: F.Scullion@zoo.co.uk.

MEETING AND CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Visit the JWD website at <http://www.wildlifedisease.org> for more conference listings.

54th Annual Meeting of the Wildlife Disease Association. June 26th - July 1, 2005. The 54th Annual Meeting of the WDA is taking place in Cairns, Queensland, Australia, June 26 to July 1, 2005. See **WDA ACTIVITIES** in this issue. Details on the conference are available at <http://www.rainforest-crc.jcu.edu.au/events/conferences.htm>, or under "Meetings" on the WDA website at <http://www.wildlifedisease.org>. Contact: Lee Skerratt, School of Biomedical Sciences, James Cook University, Townsville, Australia 4811, Email: Lee.Skerratt@jcu.edu.au, Ph : +61 (0)7 47814838, Fax: +61 (0)7 47791526.

Second International Chronic Wasting Disease Conference. July 12-14, 2005. The Second International Chronic Wasting Disease Conference will be held July 12-14, 2005 at the Monona Terrace Convention Center, Madison, Wisconsin, USA. Sponsors of this meeting are Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, USGS National Wildlife Health Center, and USDA-APHIS Veterinary Services. The symposium will include plenary sessions, concurrent sessions, and panel discussions on current topics important to understanding and managing CWD in free-ranging and

farmed cervids. There will also be a poster session. Field trips will be offered. Sessions include State and Provincial CWD Management Update; Biology of Prions; TSE Diagnostics; Environmental Contamination, Disposal & Disinfection; Management and Control of CWD; Regulatory Agencies and CWD; Human Dimensions of CWD; Ecology and Epidemiology of CWD; CWD Policy and Administration; and CWD and Other Species. Additional information, including a Title/Abstract Submission Form, is available from the CWD Alliance at <http://cwd-info.org> and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/whealth/issues/CWD/conference.htm>. The deadline for title/abstract submission was March 15, 2005.

Association of Avian Veterinarians Annual Conference. August 8-12, 2005. Monterey, California, USA. For more information contact AAV Conference Office, 90 Madison Street, Suite 502, Denver, CO 80206, USA. Ph 303 756 8380, Fax 303 759 8861. Website: www.conferenceoffice.com/aav. E mail: aav@conferenceoffice.com.

27th Congress of the International Union of Game Biologists (IUGB). 28 August-3 September 2005. The German Union of Game and Wildlife Biologists and the Institute of Wildlife Research at the School of Veterinary Medicine Hannover announce the 27th Congress of the IUGB to be held in Hannover, Germany, from 28 August to 3 September 2005. Wildlife researchers, wildlife managers, ecologists, conservationists, and veterinary and agricultural scientists worldwide are invited to share their knowledge and present their latest research. Main topics are as follows: habitat networks for large wildlife and habitat fragmentation; wildlife in urban areas; small game and predation; wildlife diseases; wildlife ecotoxicology; sustainable use, population assessment; and biomonitoring. More information contact Anne Strattner, Institute of Wildlife Research, School of Veterinary Medicine Hannover, Bischofsholer Damm, 30173 Hannover, Germany, T: +49-511-856-7360, E: Info@IUGB-2005.de Homepage: <http://www.iugb-2005.de>

Raptor Research Foundation Conference. October 12-16, 2005. Green Bay, Wisconsin, USA. The meeting will be held at the KI Convention Centre in Green Bay, Wisconsin (<http://www.regencygb.com/convention.html>) and hosted by the Cofrin Centre for Biodiversity, which is part of the University of Wisconsin, Green Bay (<http://www.uwgb.edu/biodiversity>).

Joint Conference of The American Association of Zoo Veterinarians and the American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians. October 14-21, 2005. The American Association of Zoo Veterinarians and the American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians will be holding a joint conference in Omaha, NE October 14-21, 2005. Topics for sessions will include: Nutrition; Health Issues Associated with Mixed Species and Complex Exhibits; Preventative Medicine/Reproduction and Contraception; Legislative and Regulatory Issues; Hoofstock, Carnivores, and Small Mammals; Herps/Invertebrates/Aquatics; Avians; Primates; Case Reports; Conservation Projects in your Backyard and Conservation Updates; Guidelines for Veterinarians Working Abroad and Reports from the Field; Wildlife Epidemiology using Remote Imaging and Sensing Technologies; Anesthesia; and Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases of Captive and Free-ranging Wildlife. For additional conference information, please visit the AAZV website at <http://www.aazv.org>. Deadline for submission of titles to session chairs was March 16, 2005.

The XVI International Conference Rabies in the Americas (RITA). October 16-21, 2005. The 16th International Conference Rabies in the Americas, to be held October 16-21, 2005, will be hosted by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency of the Federal Government of Canada. The venue will be the Delta Ottawa Hotel and Suites, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. This annual meeting presents current

information regarding surveillance, diagnosis, and epidemiology of rabies, progress in disease control efforts in dogs and wildlife, and public health issues relating to this disease. Contact: Susan Nadin-Davis, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Tel: (613) 228 6698 (5900); email nadindaviss@inspection.gc.ca. For full details about the meeting, including registration and submission of abstracts, see the RITA website <http://www.rabies-in-the-americas.org>.

5th International Mouflon Symposium. October 19-22, 2005. The 5th International Mouflon Symposium will be held 19-22 October, 2005 at Het Nationale Park, De Hoge Veluwe, The Netherlands. The National Park, De Hoge Veluwe and the Saint Hubert Guild of Huntsmen will organize this meeting in cooperation with the Division of Avian and Exotic Animal Medicine, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Universiteit Utrecht, and the Central European Institute of Wildlife Ecology. This symposium is a continuation of a series started in Sassari (Italy), and continued in Nicosia (Cyprus, 1997), Sopron (Hungary, 2000), and Nuoro (Sardinia, 2002). This symposium will replace the symposium which was originally planned for 2004 in Židlochovice in the Czech Republic. Emphasis will be on genetics, disease and management, but other topics are also welcome. The 2-day symposium will be followed by a field excursion on Saturday morning in the National Park where a free ranging population of 200 mouflon is present. The main language is English, but German contributions are also possible. Proposals should be sent to the chairman of the Scientific Committee (J.T.Lumeij@vet.uu.nl) before June 15, including title, author(s) affiliation, and a 400-word-abstract. Final abstracts in English are due by September 1 for distribution to the participants at the symposium. Peer reviewed proceedings are scheduled to be published after the symposium. Early registration before the deadline of June 15 is possible for a reduced rate of €220, which includes 2 days symposium, one excursion, lunches and dinners. Early registration fees for bed and breakfast for 3 nights are €10. Registration fees after June 15 are €245. Hotel rooms at cheap rates can not be guaranteed when registered after June 15. Detailed information on the symposium, the registration procedure, and submission of abstracts will be published at www.mouflonsymposium.info. For information on the National Park “De Hoge Veluwe” consult www.hogeveluwe.nl. Further information can be obtained at: directiesecretaress@hogeveluwe.nl.

14th Annual Mid-Western Exotic Animal Medicine Conference. November 5-6, 2005. The 14th Annual Mid-Western Exotic Animal Medicine Conference will be held in Manhattan, KS, November 5-6, 2005. Topics include the medicine, surgery, and diagnostic techniques used in reptiles, birds, and small exotic mammals (9.5 CE hours). Drs. Mark Mitchell and Teresa Bradley are among the speakers. An optional wet-lab on “Diagnostic and Surgical Procedures in Chelonians” and a Master Class on “Rabbit Medical and Surgical Cases: An Interactive Session” will be offered. Info: Dr. James W. Carpenter, College of Veterinary Medicine, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506, USA. Tel: (785) 532-5690; FAX: (785) 532-4309; e-mail: carpentr@vet.ksu.edu

Migration of Wild Birds and Avian Diseases, Special International Meeting of The Waterbird Society. November 24-28, 2005, Tainan, Taiwan. The Wild Bird Federation of Taiwan, the Council of Agriculture and the Waterbird Society invite you to attend an International Scientific Meeting of The Waterbird Society in Tainan, Taiwan. Our generous hosts are the Taiwanese Council of Agriculture and the Wild Bird Federation of Taiwan. The scientific conference will present symposia on avian influenza and other diseases, the migration of waterbirds in Asia and workshops on conservation themes. This meeting promises to be an exciting event with legendary Taiwanese hospitality and a full program of international scientists. Taiwan was known as *Ilha Formosa* – the beautiful island. Field trips are planned to see the outstanding beauty of Taiwan, the endangered black-faced spoonbill and many other Asian waterbirds. For more information or to arrange a symposium or workshop, please contact: Dr. Robert Butler, Pacific Wildlife Research Centre, 5421 Robertson Road,

Delta, British Columbia V4K 3N2 Canada; e-mail Rob.Butler@ec.gc.ca; telephone: 1-604-940-4672.
Dr. Malcolm C Coulter, SIS, PO Box 480, Chocoura, NH 03817 USA. e-mail: CoulterMC@aol.com;
telephone: 1-603-323-9342. For more information please see our website www.waterbirds.org.

Note from the Editor

Send any items such as reports, meeting announcements, diagnostic riddles, position and grant announcements, or anything else deemed appropriate for the Supplement to the Journal of Wildlife Diseases or the WDA website, to Pauline Nol (Supplement Editor) at USDA/APHIS, National Wildlife Research Center, 4101 LaPorte Avenue, Fort Collins, CO 80521 USA, Ph: (970) 266-6126, Fax: (970) 266- 6157, Email: pauline.nol@aphis.usda.gov, or Michael Ziccardi (Website Editor) at Wildlife Health Center, University of California, Davis, CA, 95616, USA, Ph: (530) 754-5701, Fax: (530) 752-3318, Email: mhziccardi@ucdavis.edu. Files in Microsoft Word sent electronically or via disk are preferred, though submissions in any form are welcome. **MANY THANKS!**

—*Pauline*