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Wildlife Diseases Newsletter

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President's Corner

One hundred days in office is what elected politicians and others normally get to find their way into their new position. I have now been in office for almost a year and my hundred days are long over. It has been a great experience and a most interesting time. The work is an every day mission with daily or weekly contacts with our Executive Manager Ed Addison and the officers of WDA. Our organization has for the first time a president from outside North America and this has been an interesting experiment. However, after twelve months in office it is my assessment that it works well and I am convinced that our modern IT-world is one of the reasons why this is possible. The fact that we hired an Executive Manager and that this was Ed Addison is another. I live around 9,000 kilometres from our business office, but this does not seem to be an administrative problem, since most of our contacts go the electronic way. The negative thing is that the telephone bills get very large.

For the last four years there has been a mass mortality among waterfowl, especially herring gulls in Sweden. Thousands of birds are sick and the mortality is high. Birds are paralysed and cannot move their wings or feet. We have ruled out botulism and all investigations concerning infectious agents have been negative. The major hypothesis today is that the birds are affected by some kind of toxic substance; a substance that is present in the environment and could be anthropogenic. Pollution is another word for this.

At the same time we have had election to the European Parliament. It was interesting to hear how every politician talked about the environment and how important these issues are. "We must take action to prevent pollution and environmental disorders!" The slogans sound probably similar all over the world. Even though politicians consistently identify environmental issues as one of the most important issues, we have seen very little support from them when it comes to the bird mortality. The news reports are filled with pictures of convulsing and dying gulls but nothing happens in the political world. We do, on occasion, get calls from politicians who would like to inform themselves. But when it comes to discussions about money, the answer is almost always the same – No Money. My feeling is that environmental slogans are to get politicians into parliament and not to help the environment! I guess this situation is not unique for Sweden and that many politicians are the same in many countries worldwide.

It is important for us as scientists not only to identify diseases and anthropogenic factors affecting wildlife, but also to work with the political issues. Maybe it's not as fun as studying wild animal diseases, but nevertheless most important, all over the world. This is also something that WDA needs to consider. We need to establish networks so we can have influence on decisions concerning our environment and the health of wildlife. This is an important present and future challenge!

-Torsten Mörner, President

WDA ACTIVITIES

53rd Annual Meeting of the Wildlife Disease Association. August 28-September 3, 2004; San Diego, California, USA. The WDA will hold its annual conference jointly with the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians and the American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians on August 29th to September 3rd, 2004, in San Diego, CA. The meeting will be organized into joint sessions and a general WDA session, which includes the Student Competition. Joint Sessions are as follows: Captive and Free-Ranging Wildlife; Health and Conservation; Emerging Diseases; Pathology; Wildlife Law, Ethics, and Policy; Management of Introduced Exotics, Invasive Species and Pests; Health Issues of Captive Propagation and Translocation Projects; New Technology and Conservation Applications; Conservation Efforts of Marine Species; Animal Health and Applied Conservation for the California Ecoregion; Disease Ecology and Epidemiology; Anesthesia and Immobilization; In Situ Conservation; and Wildlife-Livestock Disease Interface. All information regarding the meeting can be found at both <http://www.aazv.org> and at <http://www.wildlifedisease.org>.

The following are AAWV Sponsored workshops being offered during the AAWV/AAZV/WDA meeting Aug. 29-Sept.3, 2004. Please see <http://www.aazv.org> for information on additional courses being offered at the San Diego meeting.

So You Want to be a Wildlife Veterinarian II ?

Instructors: Drs. Billy Karesh, Thierry Work, Dave Jessup

Wildlife veterinarians are called upon to work on a variety of biomedical problems in a variety of free-ranging species under a wide variety of circumstances. This workshop will be in a lecture/discussion format with three prominent wildlife veterinarians and will provide examples of where and how veterinary medical assistance is provided in three general areas: 1) capture and anesthesia to facilitate biological/ecological studies, 2) health studies of free-living wildlife that have interactions with humans or livestock and 3) dieoffs, disease diagnosis and management programs. The basic legal/jurisdictional issues, handling of controlled substances, and import/export of samples will be discussed. Examples of wildlife veterinary activities and projects in the Pacific islands, Africa, and North America will be used to illustrate what wildlife veterinarians do and how they do it. There will be organized presentations, several short question and answer sessions and handout materials provided. The course will be held in the morning on Sunday, August 27 and is a half-day session. Limit: 60 people. Course cost \$120 per registrant, students \$ 70. Course will accept up to 50% student registrants.

Capture and Immobilization of Free-ranging Wildlife.

Instructors: Drs. John Arnemo, Dave Hunter, Mike Kock, Bill Lance, Kathy Quigley

This workshop will be offered in a lecture/question and answer format with some opportunity to handle and test equipment, but will not involve the handling of live animals. The course will present background materials and consideration as well as overview of the pharmacology of some of the newer and more important drugs and drug combinations used on free-ranging wildlife. Emphasis will be on what it takes to develop and carry out field immobilization and capture projects and the way they contribute to species conservation. Examples will be drawn from the instructors' experiences in Siberia, Europe, Africa and North America. This course is sponsored by Wildlife Pharmaceuticals Inc. A text that retails for \$60 (Handbook of Wildlife Chemical Immobilization, Kreeger, Arnemo and Raath) will be provided. Lunch and drinks will be provided. This course will be held on Sunday, all day. Limit: 40 people. Course costs \$ 240 per registrant, students \$ 160. Course will accept up to 25% students.

Marine Mammal Pathology

Instructors: Drs. Judy St. Ledger and Melissa Miller

The postmortem examination of stranded marine mammals is a critical component of determining what kinds of organisms and human activities are detrimental to marine mammals and marine ecosystem health. This wetlab will provide students with the opportunity to participate in marine mammal postmortem examinations and will provide basic information on marine mammal pathology. Emphasis will be on conducting gross postmortem examinations on sea otters, pinnipeds and cetaceans. Limited handout materials will be provided. The course will be conducted at a location in San Diego County remote from the hotel and transportation will be provided as well as snacks and drinks. Participants should be in good health and dressed to work outdoors on dead animals. The course will be held in the afternoon on Sunday, August 29 and is a half-day session. Limit: 25 people. Course costs \$150 per registrant, students \$ 85. Course will accept up to 25% student registrants.

WDA/AAZV Auction!

Remember to bring an item for the annual auction, to be held at the end of "zoo day" at the Wild Animal Park. Artwork of any type, clothing, local handicrafts, jewelry, stuffed animals and toys have all sold well in the past. You can drop off your item at the auction table when you pick up your registration packet. They can also be mailed to the San Diego Zoo ahead of time (a very good option): San Diego Zoo, 1354 Old Globe Way, San Diego, California 92101, Attn: Kim Williams. Be sure to clearly mark the box "AAZV Auction" or "WDA Auction".

International Wildlife Disease Association Conference, 2005!!

The 54th annual meeting of the Wildlife Disease Association will be held in **Cairns, Australia, 26 June to 1 July 2005**. (Note: these are revised dates). The theme of this conference will be: **"Wildlife Health in a Shrinking World: Ecology, Management and Conservation Implications"**. 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) will make 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 will be held at the Colonial Club Resort, within a short walk to ancient rainforest, amazing mangroves, the tropical botanical gardens and Cairns city. We will 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 will offer the option of a rainforest or barrier reef excursion. Families are most welcome. The Australian Society of Veterinary Pathology annual conference will be held in Cairns the preceding week, to facilitate attendance at both meetings. Please mark these dates in your diary! Details on the conference are available at <http://www.rainforest-crc.jcu.edu.au/events/conferences.htm>). 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

ATTENTION MENTORS AND ADVISORS! Please encourage your students to apply for WDA's student awards. The deadline for 2004 has passed; however, it is never too early to start preparing for next year's competition, which will take place in **Cairns, Australia!!** Each year, the WDA sponsors a

competition for three student awards. The WDA Student Awards Committee (comprising 11 members from US, Africa, Australia, and Europe) will judge the research and scholarship awards. Members of the annual meeting's attending audience judge the Terry Amundsen Award. Details and 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.

MEMBER NEWS

In Memoriam

Dr. Alan Woolf.

Colleagues, friends remember Alan Woolf. Southern Illinois University Carbondale lost one of its brightest stars when Alan Woolf, 63, died at home. Woolf, director of the nationally acclaimed Cooperative Wildlife Research Laboratory, had battled cancer for about a year. A native Mount Vernon, N.Y., Woolf was named the director of the CWRL in 1979. "His organization brought great recognition to the university from scholars all over the country," said SIUC Chancellor Walter Wendler. "Because Al was involved with it, people were confident it was worth looking into. It's a tremendous loss for the university. He was very plain spoken, civil with everybody and no-nonsense. He was a gracious gentleman. He was a man's man. You can't say that anymore, but that's what he was in an old-fashioned sense. "Colleagues and friends remember Woolf as a driven, outspoken, passionate man with a sometimes biting sense of humor. I was on the stinging end of his humor occasionally", said Bob Bluett, head of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' furbearer program. "I think his practicality showed through too. Sometimes in the scientific world, we lose sight of that. He kept his feet on the ground and was able to direct people back to earth when they needed it. He had high standards for himself and for his students," Bluett said. "I'm sure many of them were challenged highly and didn't realize they were on the winning end of that relationship in the long-term. He's done more in the last 5-10 years than many people accomplish in a lifetime." While Woolf was held in high regard by colleagues, his students were frequently in awe of him. "I taught a class at SIU, certainly the students were in awe/fear of Dr. Woolf," said Mike Baltz, the Southern Illinois director of The Nature Conservancy. "It was really palpable and impressive in a way. They were supposed to give student presentations and I mentioned Dr. Woolf might be there. I could have knocked them over with feathers. The interesting thing is, I heard these stories, and when I finally met him, he was a great guy. I thought, 'Is this the guy?'" Woolf's laboratory, which he took over from founder William Klimstra, worked on projects dealing with bobcats, deer, trumpeter swans, river otters and strip mine reclamation. A deer disease project his students work on resulted in the discovery of toxic heavy metal pollutants at Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge. "The lab itself is an important and unique part of the university," said John Koropchak, vice-chancellor for research at SIUC. "I don't think there is another university laboratory like it in Illinois. As an example, they were recognized by The Wildlife Society when they celebrated their 50th anniversary. They led a lot of efforts in about the '80s towards the reclamation of mined land. That work was of international importance. The result of that work is being applied all over the world. A lot of the mine facilities in Illinois, you can hardly tell there was a mine there." Woolf was nothing, if not passionate about the work of the CWRL. "More passionate?" Koropchak said. "I think it would be hard to say that anyone was more passionate about their work. There may be many equally passionate. I don't think there was anyone more passionate. I was fortunate enough on Saturday to spend three hours with him, discussing the last details he thought he needed to tie together for the lab. That's the perfect example. He was suffering substantially, but not so much that he didn't want to spend three hours talking to me about work and the future of the laboratory." Koropchak said the university is now faced with the prospect of hiring someone to build

on Woolf's legacy. "Alan would have kept on going, given any choice," said Jack Nawrot, senior scientist at the CWRL. "He would have loved to turn over this program to someone who shared the beliefs he did. He really believed, and made it his No. 1 goal, that every student we turned out would make a professional contribution. More than 300 students have passed through the program since Woolf took charge in 1979. In the past two decades, the lab has attracted more than \$13 million in contracts and grants. Woolf had a bachelor's degree in wildlife management from Cornell University. He received a master's degree in wildlife ecology from Colorado State University. Woolf returned to Cornell for a doctorate in wildlife science and veterinary pathology. "Al was a great professional, an exemplary teacher, committed to excellence," said Ben Shepherd, former vice-president of academic affairs who helped bring Woolf to SIU. "He was a rugged individualist who raised the bar high, the bar by which he lived. I think that was one of the trademarks that made him an excellent administrator. You knew where he was coming from. He put the university first. His interests weren't first, it was the program." Woolf was also generous with his time, lending his expertise to the Sesser-Valier Outdoorsman Club for a class project. The club was conducting a study on the health of deer around Rend Lake that required inspection of fatty tissue around the heart. "He went out that morning, harvested a deer, took the meat to a locker and brought the warm heart to school and showed the kids how to analyze the fat," said Gene Morgan, former director of the club. "He did that on his own time. He was a teacher's teacher. The university will conduct a search to replace Woolf as director of the CWRL. "It will be hard to replace Al," Koropchak said. "I would like to see us move forward to even greater heights. It was almost a promise to Al."

-Les Winkler, *The Southern*, April 14, 2004.

WDA ARCHIVES

WANTED! We are requesting:

- 1) **WDA NEWSLETTERS PRIOR TO 1983** and
- 2) **PHOTOS FROM MEETINGS** (with participants identified when possible).

Thank you very much to a number of members who have made generous donations of material to the WDA archives. Please contact Ed Addison (ecolink@aci.on.ca or at 905-727-4476) if you have material to donate. Thank you.

HAPPENINGS IN THE FIELD

National Wildlife Health Center Quarterly Mortality Report

Avian Cholera at the Salton Sea, California. Wildlife biologists from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Salton Sea Authority identified mortality in ruddy ducks, American coots, and eared grebes at the mouths of agricultural drains on the northwestern shoreline of the Salton Sea in early February, 2004. Carcasses of freshly dead Ruddy ducks were submitted to the NWHC and intensified airboat surveys and carcass collections on the Sea were initiated by the USFWS and California Department of Fish and Game. *Pasteurella multocida* was isolated from the liver of five ruddy ducks submitted to the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC). Over the next ninety days, field crews observed mortality in ducks and other aquatic birds across the expanse of the Salton Sea. Later in the mortality, NWHC confirmed *P. multocida* in herring and ring-billed gulls, an American avocet, black-necked stilt, and an eared grebe. The NWHC notified waterfowl biologists of the USFWS and state wildlife management agencies in surrounding states of the occurrence of avian cholera at the Salton Sea in species that might migrate through their areas this spring. Of the total 4,272 bird carcasses retrieved during this die-off, there were 3,839 ruddy ducks, 95 American coots, 83 eared grebes, and birds from 21 other species.

Widespread Common Murre Mortality in Alaska. In late March, 2004 USFWS biologists reported mortality of common murres along the south central Alaska coast. Estimating mortality in wide-ranging pelagic birds is a very inexact undertaking but their estimate was 1,000 to 2,000 dead murres at that time. The USFWS organized beach surveys to collect suitable specimens and attempt to quantify the mortality. The NWHC received common murres and one common loon carcass from two National Wildlife Refuges and the Alaska SeaLife Center. The observations of emaciation and possible heavy GI parasitism, and traumatic injuries in murres from one Refuge, were consistent with those made by pathologists examining birds submitted for rehabilitation at the Alaska SeaLife Center. Diagnostic investigations at the NWHC have not identified any significant toxicological or infectious disease agents in the specimens submitted. The NWHC Epizootic Database contains records of 19 epizootics in common murres since 1982 along the Pacific Coast from Alaska to central California. Estimated mortality in these events ranged from 9 birds to 11,000 birds with one large scale epizootic of 120,000 murres along the south central Alaska coast in the spring of 1993. The primary diagnoses were emaciation in 9 epizootics, open in 8 epizootics and petroleum toxicosis in 2 epizootics.

Salmonellosis Kills Cattle Egrets, Gulls in Florida. In November 2003, cattle egrets roosting at a retention pond in Marion County began dying. Specimens submitted to the University of Florida and to the NWHC were diagnosed with salmonellosis. Cattle egrets using nearby roosting areas were not affected. The mortality ended in early March 2004. A total of 214 carcasses were collected over 4 months. In January and February approximately 250 ring-billed and laughing gulls were found dead or dying at two lakes in Polk County, Florida. They feed at a nearby landfill. There have been three mortality events in that area involving the two gull species; botulism was confirmed or suspected in two outbreaks and salmonellosis was confirmed in one outbreak. Gulls from the latest die-off were submitted to the University of Florida and to the NWHC and were diagnosed with salmonellosis.

Quarterly Wildlife Mortality Report
January 2004 to March 2004

State	Location	Dates	Species	Mortality	Diagnosis	Reported by
AK	Valdez - Cordova County	02/25/04-04/25/04	Common Murre	8,800 (e)	Emaciation	NW
AL	Marengo County	08/29/03-09/05/03	Mourning Dove	50 (e)	Parasitism: trichomoniasis	SCW
AZ	Pima County	02/18/04-04/23/04	Mourning Dove	108	Parasitism: trichomoniasis	AZ
CA	Lake County	01/17/04-02/29/04	Ruddy Duck	7,400 (e)	Avian cholera	CFG
CA	Ventura County	01/24/04-03/08/04	Unidentified Cowbird	50 (e)	Salmonellosis	NW
			House Sparrow			
			Western Gull			
			Mallard			
			Unidentified Goose			
			Western Grebe			
CA	Sonny Bono Salton Sea NWR	02/04/04-04/15/04	Ruddy Duck	4,272	Avian cholera	NW
			Ring-billed Gull			
			American Coot			
			Eared Grebe			
			Herring Gull			
FL	Polk County	12/20/03-03/01/04	Ring-billed Gull	225 (e)	Salmonellosis	FL, NW
			Laughing Gull			
FL	Duval County	01/30/04-04/01/04	Eastern Brown Pelican	50(e)	Open	NW
FL	Gulf County	03/08/04-04/03/04	Bottle-nosed Dolphin	105 (e)	Toxicosis: domoic acid (red tide) suspect	FMR
GA	Monroe County	09/21/03-09/22/03	Mallard	13	Necrotizing myocarditis	SCW
			Canada Goose			

GA	Fayette County	12/10/03-01/16/04	Canada Goose	4	Vacuolar myelinopathy	SCW
IN	Patoka NWR	03/01/04-03/08/04	Common Grackle Rock Dove Mourning Dove	50 (e)	Trauma	NW
KY	Boone County	01/13/04-01/14/04	American Robin American Goldfinch	56	Open	SCW
LA	Jefferson Parish	01/07/04-01/15/04	Eastern Brown Pelican	50 (e)	Open	NW
MS	Harrison County	02/10/04-ongoing	Bullfrog Southern Leopard Frog	30	Parasitism: Perkinsus-like organism	NW
NC	Martin County	01/19/04-01/21/04	Common Grackle	70 (e)	Open: toxicosis	SCW
NM	Bosque Del Apache NWR	08/30/03-09/04/03	American White Pelican Western Grebe	4	Viral Infection: West Nile Trauma: Gunshot Viral Infection: West Nile suspect	NW
NM	Bosque Del Apache NWR	01/05/04-01/15/04	Unidentified Goose Unidentified Sandhill Crane	41	Avian cholera	BDA
SC	Anderson County	01/15/04-01/24/04	Common Grackle European Starling Northern Cardinal	40 (e)	Toxicosis: Famphur	SCW
TN	Anderson County	03/03/04-03/04/04	Spring Peeper Chorus Frog	15 (e)	Toxicosis suspect	NW
TX	Nueces County	01/02/04-01/04/04	Northern Gannet	8(e)	Open	NW
TX	Nueces and San Patricio Counties	01/05/04-01/21/04	Eastern Brown Pelican	26	Emaciation: Parasitism	NW
TX	Buffalo Lake NWR	01/10/04-01/30/04	Lesser Sandhill Crane	100(e)	Trauma: Impact Mycotoxicosis suspect	NW
TX	Deaf Smith County	02/14/04-02/28/04	Unidentified Dove Unidentified Hawk Barn Owl	10 (e)	Open	NW
TX, LA, FL, CA, GA, NY	Multiple Counties	01/02/04-ongoing	American Crow Northern Cardinal Blue Jay House Finch Unidentified Gull	20	Viral Infection: West Nile	CDC, NW, ST
UT	Salt Lake County	11/15/77-12/15/77	Eared Grebe	7,500 (e)	Bacterial infection	UNK
WI	Calumet County	07/11/03-07/17/03	Purple Martin	95 (e)	Starvation	WI
WI	Sauk County	01/09/04-02/29/04	Bald Eagle	7 (e)	Toxicosis suspect	NW
WI	La Crosse County	02/02/04-02/05/04	Mallard	6	Bacterial infection: Riemerella anatipestifer	NW
WI	Milwaukee County	03/13/04-04/16/04	Lesser Scaup American Coot Herring Gull	71	Parasitism: Cyathocotyle bushiensis Parasitism: Sphaeridiotrema globulus	NW
WI	Upper Mississippi NWR	03/21/04-05/01/04	Lesser Scaup American Coot Unidentified Duck Ring-necked Duck Ruddy Duck	1,100 (e)	Parasitism: Cyathocotyle bushiensis Parasitism: Sphaeridiotrema globulus	NW
WY	Carbon County	02/05/04-03/11/04	Unidentified Elk	300 (e)	Toxicosis: Parmelia spp. (lichen)	WY
Updates/Corrections						
CA	San Joaquin River NWR	12/01/03-02/18/04	Aleutian Canada Goose Ross' Goose White-fronted Goose American Coot	121	Avian cholera	NW

FL	Marion County	11/15/03-03/15/04	Snow Goose Cattle Egret Great Egret	214 (e)	Salmonellosis	FL, NW
MO	Saline County	11/01/03-01/13/04	Snow Goose Mallard	200 (e)	Avian cholera	NW
WA	Whatcom and Skagit Counties	12/01/03-03/30/04	Trumpeter Swan	400	Lead poisoning	BC, WAS
WA, OR, CA	Coast	10/20/03-03/15/04	Northern Fulmar	10,000 (e)	Emaciation	NW, SWD

(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), Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources (WI), Unknown (UNK), various states labsites (ST), Center for Disease Control (CDC), Florida Marine Research Institute (FMR), Bosque Del Apache NWR (BDA), B.C. Ministry of Environment (BC), Sea World of San Diego (SWD), Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WAS), California Fish and Game Wildlife Investigations Lab (CFG), Florida Game and Fish Department (FL), Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZ), Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WY) .

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

Epidemiological review of selected wildlife diseases observed in Europe in 2003

Foreword

For several years, EWDA, the European section of the Wildlife Disease Association, has collected through its network of volunteers, relevant data on the occurrence of significant diseases of wildlife across the European continent. A similar process has resulted from the activity of the WDA Nordic Section.

Each year this information provides a valuable contribution for the Report of the OIE Working Group on Wildlife Diseases. The number of European countries carrying out disease surveillance in wildlife is growing annually. The most efficient of these reports appear to rely on a coordinator who gathers results on disease investigations from various sources, both official and non-official, on a country scale. At present, this type of procedure is producing satisfactory results in Austria, France, the Netherlands, and the UK. In several other European countries, the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) directly collects the information from state or provincial government laboratories and agencies, but in some instances this data collection is still not comprehensive. Nevertheless, on the continental scale, the overview on diseases in European wildlife is reasonably satisfactory. That is, satisfactory, in the sense that most of the known diseases which threaten human health, economic trade, or domestic animal welfare have known approximate distributions, and have assessed epidemiological trends among their wild European populations.

For the year 2003, this is illustrated by the fact that despite a good coverage by the Report, no “new” disease or outbreak has been reported: **bovine tuberculosis** remains the problem of most concern in Europe, but this year no new country was declared infected for the first time; nevertheless in France the situation is deteriorating, as two new foci were declared in the past two years, in a country where bovine TB was not reported before in wildlife.

Rabies and **Classical Swine Fever (CSF)** are the other two main concerns for veterinary services in Europe. The eradication of fox rabies is progressing as a result of oral vaccination with fox baits in the central area of the continent. A similar method is under trial to attempt to immunise wild boar in western Germany and Luxemburg. The results here are quite encouraging despite a question which remains unanswered at a more global scale: is it reasonable to vaccinate boar against CSF, since due to management practices, populations of this species are still increasing? Wild boar populations may act as maintenance hosts for **Aujeszky’s disease, swine brucellosis (biotype 2), trichinellosis** and, in France, Spain and Italy, they appear to be a reservoir host for **bovine tuberculosis**. None of these diseases limit the growth of the wild boar populations, at least in the short term; so wildlife managers are not disposed to attempt to control these populations since hunters are encouraging them to allow the population to growth. Should we wait for another outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease or even Avian Influenza to reconsider the ecology of Malthusian-like growth of wild boar populations as a potential threat to the farming industry in Europe? This risk at present is probably exaggerated, but would it not be worthwhile to try to estimate it, in order to be prepared to respond to an exotic animal disease occurring in wildlife?

For the 2003 Report actually very few significant events were considered by the OIE working group on wildlife disease, but those that were, included **CSF** and **Tularaemia** among the listed diseases; **Giant liver fluke** and a mysterious **mortality of Baltic gulls** among the non-notifiable diseases. This short list does not reflect the extensive activity of surveillance carried out in Europe. But there is little value in expending reports over many pages for endemic diseases that have been known for years, and most of the infectious pathogens, parasites and diseases reported are known to occur regularly or sporadically. Our EWDA section would like to give the scientific veterinary community a broader and more detailed view of the situation on a country scale. We would suggest putting on the EWDA web site each of the relevant reports from the countries where surveillance is properly centralised (such as the countries cited above). It is our hope that this will encourage European countries to continue reporting wildlife diseases over the continent, to improve our knowledge, and possibly, to improve our capability to face emergencies.

These and other issues will be discussed at the 6th *European Conference of the Wildlife Disease Association*, in UPPSALA, Sweden, September 9-12th 2004. An editorial review from the medical point of view on the importance of wildlife diseases surveillance (to human health) can be found in: -

Getting out into the field, and forest (2004) *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*, editorial, Vol. 4 March 2004, p.127.

Marc ARTOIS, Chairman & Paul DUFF, secretary

List A Diseases

Classical swine fever (CSF)

Dr. Artois reported to the Working Group on CSF in wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) in Europe. The report included current information on the distribution of infected wild boar populations, disease surveillance

activity and a brief description of the experimental program of oral vaccination of wild boar underway in Germany and Luxembourg. In 2003 this disease was reported from France, Germany, Luxembourg and Slovakia. Outbreaks in domestic pigs in Slovakia apparently are linked to the persistence of the infection in wild boar in this country. Different approaches have been taken to control CSF in wild boar: such as increased hunting to reduce boar numbers, strategically timed moratoriums on hunting to reduce disturbance and prevent dispersal of infected boar to new areas, and vaccination to reduce the number of susceptible animals. Each technique had varying results. All of these approaches are under evaluation in Europe.

List B Diseases

Tularemia

An increased number of human and animal cases of tularemia have been observed in **Sweden** in recent years and the disease is now occurring in areas where it has not been seen before. More than 500 human cases were recorded in 2003 and epidemic outbreaks seem to be relatively more frequent in the European continent in recent years. The disease was also observed in several mountain hares (*Lepus timidus*), European brown hares (*Lepus europaeus*), and squirrels (*Sqiurus vulgaris*). The reason for this expansion is unknown. Tularemia was also reported from Finland, Austria, France, and USA.

Other Diseases

Giant liver fluke – *Fascioloides magna*

Infection with the giant liver fluke *Fascioloides magna* in 2003 was reported from red deer (*Cervus elaphus*), chamois (*Rupicapra rupicapra*) and wild boar in France and in roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*) in France and Austria. This North American parasite was introduced into Europe (Italy) in the late 19th century, and it causes mortality in different ungulates, domestic as well as wild. The recent findings indicate that the parasite may be spreading in Europe at the moment.

Mass mortality of gulls in the Baltic sea

The mass mortality in the Baltic Sea among herring gulls (*Larus argentatus*) and other species of water birds noted in 2002 has also been observed in 2003. Mortality was observed in gulls, ducks, geese, swans, waders and passerines. The aetiology of the disease is still unknown, but, based on laboratory and field investigations, the origin of the disease is today believed to be some type of biotoxin or a man made toxin.

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. The deadline for the next issue is August 2004. Please mail, fax or e-mail submissions to, Paul Duff, Diseases of Wildlife, VLA Penrith, Merrythought, Calthwaite, PENRITH, Cumbria, CA11 9RR, United Kingdom, *e-mail*: p.duff@vla.defra.gsi.gov.uk; *Fax*: ++44(0)-1768-885314 /*Phone*: ++44(0)-1768-885295.

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@fvvet-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> for up to date job listings.

TRAINING/EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

ACZM Ultra-Short Course. Saturday August 28, 2004 in San Diego, California. The American College of Zoological Medicine (ACZM) will offer a one-day examination prep course on Saturday, August 28, 2004 in conjunction with the 2004 joint annual meeting of the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians, the Wildlife Disease Association, and the American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians, in San Diego, California. The purpose of the course is to introduce participants to the ACZM board certification examination. Information will be presented on requirements and strategies for credentialing, studying, and taking the examination, and didactic lectures will be given on topics covered in the examination (diseases of waterfowl, carnivores, and emerging diseases and zoonoses of wildlife). Registration is \$125 if received by 5 pm August 2, 2004, \$150 if received after August 2, 2004, including the day of the course. Minimum enrollment: 10. Maximum enrollment: 25. Enrollment determined on a first come, first served basis. More information and registration forms will be included with conference registration materials, and are available on the ACZM website (www.aczm.net). Send your registration form and a check (in US dollars, payable to ACZM) to: ACZM Education Committee, c/o Kirsten Gilardi, Wildlife Health Center, UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, 1 Shields Ave, Davis, CA 95616. Questions may be directed to kvgilardi@ucdavis.edu.

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, 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.

PUBLISHING OPPORTUNITIES

Veterinary Clinical Pathology invites the submission of high quality research articles, research communications and reviews on all aspects of veterinary clinical pathology and clinicopathologic mechanisms of disease. The journal features PubMed/MEDLINE indexing, no submission fees or page charges (minimal charges for color plates), rapid turnaround time, and e-mail manuscript submission (send to: asvcp@vetclinpathjournal.org). See online instructions for authors at <http://www.vetclinpathjournal.org/authorinfo.html>. You also are invited to visit the Veterinary Clinical Pathology website at <http://www.vetclinpathjournal.org> for browsable archives. For articles on aquatic, exotic, and wildlife see <http://www.vetclinpathjournal.org/archive/exotic&wildlife.html>. For a table of Contents see <http://www.vetclinpathjournal.org/currentissue.html>. To receive an e-mail table of contents for each issue, please send a request to asvcp@vetclinpathjournal.org.

Mary Christopher, DVM, PhD, Dipl ACVP, Dipl ECVCP

Karen Young, VMD, PhD
Co-Editors-in-Chief

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sixth Conference of the European section of WDA. September 8-12, 2004. The sixth European Conference of the European Section of Wildlife Disease Association will be held in Uppsala, Sweden on September 8th – 12th, 2004. The Conference will consist of presentations and posters on all aspects of wildlife diseases worldwide. Special sessions will be arranged covering “Disease interactions between prey animals and their predators” and “Emerging diseases of European Wildlife”. Free papers are also welcome. In addition, a full day workshop on Chronic Wasting Disease will take place on the 8th of September, which will include a histology wet lab examining various TSE’s. For more information, contact Program Chair, Dr Dolores Gavier-Widén, Department of Wildlife, National Veterinary Institute, SE-751 89 Uppsala, SWEDEN, Phone +46 18 67 4XXX, FAX +46 18 67 42 96, E-mail: Dolores@sva.se. For full information on registration, housing, costs and more visit the EWDA website: www.sva.se/ewda.

11th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society, Calgary, Alberta, Canada. September 18-22, 2004. The Wildlife Society will hold its 11th Annual Conference in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, September 18-22, 2004. The meeting will include symposia, workshops, contributed papers (oral presentations), and posters. We invite submission of technical papers and posters on topics of wildlife science, management, education, or policy within the broad theme of *Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship through Science and Education*. Presentations will not be published, so we encourage reports from the author's most recent scientific investigations and management experiences. Papers and posters should present results from completed studies or completed phases of long-term projects. Deadline for submissions was February 16, 2004. Please visit the TWS website at www.wildlife.org for more information. Questions about abstract preparation and submission may be directed to Program Committee Chair Rick Baydack at baydack@ms.umanitoba.ca. For all other conference questions, please contact The Wildlife Society office at (301) 897-9770 or lisa@wildlife.org.

The 5th International Symposium on Physiology, Behaviour and Conservation of Wildlife. September 26-29, 2004. The 5th International symposium on Physiology, Behavior and Conservation of Wildlife will be held in Berlin, Germany, from 26th to 29th of September 2004. The main topics of this year’s symposium will be management of captive and small populations, stress and disturbance, behaviour, reproduction biology and wildlife conservation. The symposium also includes several workshops (e.g. animal welfare and conservation, olfactory communication in mammals, chronoecology-chronoethology, and ultrasonography in conservation biology). Further information is available from Dr. Christian C. Voigt, Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research, Alfred-Kowalke-Str. 17, 10315 Berlin, Germany, symposium@izw-berlin.de and the web: <http://www.izw-berlin.de>.

Zoological Society of London Conference 2004. 12-14 November, 2004. A joint BVZS/WAWV/RVC/ZSL conference will be held Friday, November 12 to Sunday, November 14, 2004 at the London Zoo, UK. Sessions include advances in exotic, zoo, and wild animal medicine; wild animal disease investigation; wild animal pathology; environmental toxicology; wild animal medicine; conservation medicine; primate medicine and surgery; British wildlife; reptiles and amphibians; aquatic medicine and surgery; exotic mammal medicine and surgery; and avian medicine

and surgery. For more information go to the following websites:

<http://www.zoo.cam.ac.uk/ioz/index.htm> (Institute of Zoology) www.zsl.org (ZSL); or please contact Lucy Stead, Secretary/Admin Assistant, Wellcome Building, Institute of Zoology, Regent's Park, London NW1 4RY, tel: +44 (0)20 7449 6671 fax: +44 (0)20 74832237, or Tony Salisbury (WAWV) at tony.sainsbury@ioz.ac.uk ; Tel (+44) (0) 20 7449 6671; Zoological Society of London, Regent's Park, London NW1 4RY.

3rd Annual Meeting of the African Section of the WDA, 11th – 13th December 2004. The third annual meeting of the African Section of the WDA will be held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, December 11-13, 2004. This meeting will be hosted by Abu Dhabi Wildlife Center. Meeting objectives are: to raise awareness of emerging and re-emerging wildlife health issues within the UAE, regionally and internationally; to expose local and regional veterinarians and wildlife managers on the current trends and status of wildlife health; to highlight health issues relating to wildlife species of national importance. The deadline for submission of titles for papers and posters was May 15, 2004. Please contact: Secretariate: Dr. Jacob Mwanzia, Department of Environment & Wildlife Management P. O. Box 77, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. Tel: +971-50-6129502, Fax: +971-20-583990, Email: manhal@dpanet.org.ae, Website: www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/whc/wdaafrica.

54th Annual Meeting of the Wildlife Disease Association. 26 June-1 July 2005. The 54th Annual Meeting of the WDA will take place in Cairns, Queensland, Australia, June 26 to July 1, 2005. See WDA activities for complete information.

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!! The deadline for submission of articles for the next issue (October 2004, JWD Vol. 40, No. 4) is August 31, 2004.