



## WDA Updates

### WDA Members Only Photo Library Coming Soon – Please contribute!

*Membership and Promotions committee, Lisa Shender*

The Membership and Promotions Committee would like to sincerely thank all WDA members who participated in the Photo Library Survey that was distributed via email in March. The 223 responses guided us in the development of a photo library, which we hope will grow over time and become a valuable

membership benefit. Below is a summary of the survey results, as well as an introduction to the new photo library and its features.

The survey confirmed that a photo library would be highly utilized by members. Fifty percent of members responded that they often (several times a year) prepare presentations that include photo content, and 29% indicated that they perform this task on a frequent basis (once a month on average).

More than 97% of members stated that they rely upon outside sources for photo content, such as colleagues, the internet, and photographers. All but two respondents replied “yes” when asked if they would find it useful to have a WDA photo library at their disposal.

After weighing the pros and cons of several different commercial photo sharing sites, it was decided that “Yogile” can best accommodate our initial needs. You can find out more about Yogile by referring to the FAQ page at the following link: <http://www.yogile.com/faq>. The photo library will be housed on the WDA membership only webpage (a link on the general WDA webpage will take you to this site). The albums have two security levels: 1) the URL addresses are private and are only accessible to WDA members through the WDA members’ only website, and 2) each individual album is password protected. We expect that members will respect the library as a members’ only privilege and not share the site and password with non-members.

A few useful facts on the photo library organization scheme and content:

Photos will be categorized into subject-specific albums (e.g. Necropsy, Animal Captures, etc.). In addition there will be a “Temporary Dropbox” album from which photos can be later sorted into new subject-

### Inside this issue

WDA Updates 1

WDA Section News 8

News From the Field 11

Training, Education and Employment Opportunities 13

Meetings and Conferences 14

# WDA Updates

appropriate albums as the library grows. Having both specified albums and a general dropbox was an organization scheme preferred by 66% of survey respondents. Members can freely upload and download photos without establishing an individual Yogile account.

Contributors are strongly encouraged to add a title and caption their photos (65% of the survey respondents requested that photos include captions to help ensure that images used in presentations are accurately represented).

It is suggested that contributors also include in the caption "By Member Name" or "By Agency Name" so that members/agencies can receive a photo courtesy credit or can be contacted if questions arise about their photo. The survey indicated that 74% of members would like to be acknowledged when their photo is used. Within each album, subject material can be searched, simply by entering a search term in the "search box." This will pull up all photos in an album that contain the search word in either the title or caption.

Numerous members advised that the photo library remain professional and not become a "social realm." In particular, the inclusion of people in photos was of concern. Initially, we will only accept photos that do not include people, unless the person pictured is the same person who contributed the photo. Photos should be restricted to professional activities and display the use of personal protective equipment (gloves at a minimum) when appropriate.

The membership survey was essential in getting this library established. **If each member contributes one or two photos, we will soon have the beginnings of a great library!**

## Lifetime Achievement Award presented to Joan Belcher Budd

*Ian Barker*



Joan Belcher Budd, probably the most senior member of the Wildlife Disease Association, was recognized recently with a Lifetime Achievement Award in the area of science, technology and research at the Women of Distinction Awards, organized by the

Guelph YM-YWCA. Joan, who had her hundredth birthday in November, 2011, holds the Distinguished Service Award and the Emeritus Award of the WDA (both 1977). In addition, she is a Life Member of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association and the College of Veterinarians of Ontario, and an Ontario Veterinary College Distinguished Alumnus (2000).

From a farm background in Manitoba, Canada, Joan had an early interest in a veterinary career, but was discouraged from applying by the Ontario Veterinary College

# WDA Updates

(OVC), from which there was only one Canadian female graduate prior to World War II. She became a rural public school teacher, but during the war joined the Royal Canadian Air Force – Women's Division, where she was involved in surveillance for air intrusions by the Japanese on the Pacific coast of Canada. After the war, she again applied to the OVC, at the time the only English-speaking veterinary college in Canada. She was one of three women admitted to the large class (127 students) of 1950, comprised mainly of war veterans.

Immediately after graduation, Joan, whose brother had a mink ranch, began graduate work on canine distemper in mink at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where she worked with Dr. Robert Hansen, who mentored many other pioneers in the field of wildlife diseases as well. Returning to join the faculty of the OVC in 1951, Joan became an expert on pathology and diseases of furbearing animals, a very active area in the College at the time.

In 1957, Joan married Dr. John Budd, who worked at an Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources fisheries research station on Manitoulin Island, in northern Lake Huron. Leaving her position at OVC, Joan joined him there. In 1962, after her husband suddenly died, Joan returned to OVC, where she developed an interest in fish diseases and pathology, in which she did pioneering work for the rest of her academic career.

With Dr. Lars Karstad, who returned to OVC from Wisconsin in 1961, she established a unit in Furbearing Animals, Fish and Wildlife Diseases, which ultimately became part of

the Department of Pathology (now Pathobiology) in the mid 1960s. This was a very productive period at OVC, associated with the founding of the University of Guelph in 1964, as graduate programmes developed in many areas, including fish and wildlife diseases. Joan mentored several graduate students in fish diseases, beginning during this era and extending to her retirement as an Associate Professor in 1976.

Joan was an early member of the WDA, and assisted Lars Karstad during the transition of the Bulletin of the Wildlife Disease Association to the Journal of Wildlife Diseases in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Her work on diseases of furbearing animals and fish, and her contributions to the Journal, were recognized by award of the Distinguished Service Award and the Emeritus Award the year after her retirement.

Since then, Joan has maintained an active lifestyle and her interest in natural history, moving from Guelph to her residence on Manitoulin Island each spring, and back in the fall. Periodically she visits OVC, where she is recognized as a role model for Canadian female veterinarians, and as a pioneer in the field of Wildlife Diseases internationally.

## Passing of Dr. John Gorham *Dave Jessup*

In the 1950's and 60's, even though they did not yet have a veterinary school, the University of Wisconsin (U of W) had some outstanding faculty in veterinary sciences and wildlife management. One of the very special people to come out of U of W, a person who



# WDA Updates

contributed a great deal to the developing field of wildlife health/disease, died recently. John Gorham was a student and contemporary of Barney Easterday, Bob Hansen, and Joan Budd (see previous article in this Newsletter) among others.

John was born near Sumner, Washington and received his DVM from Washington State University in 1946 and his MS in 1947. He went on the University of Wisconsin and received a PhD in virology in 1955. John authored or coauthored over 500 scientific papers with over 250 coauthors. He died in 2011.



Dr. Gorham was largely responsible for the development of the egg attenuated canine distemper vaccines of the 1960's and 70's that would lead to the various modified live

cell culture animal vaccines of today. Prior to that time almost all animal vaccines were killed products, many of marginal efficacy and safety. He was a founder of the USDA Fur Animal Disease program at Washington State University and longtime USDA unit leader there. The fur animal disease program was able to significantly advance the study of diseases that occurred in captive and free-ranging wildlife, as well as discovering new diseases, nutritional deficiencies and genetic syndromes that had not previously been described. Some of these were Aleutian disease, type E botulism in mink, equine infectious anemia, Chediak-Higashi syndrome, the rickettsial causes of salmon disease, yellow fat disease in cats and mink,

combined immunodeficiency in Arabian foals, and early work on "slow virus diseases" that turned out to be caused by prions.

John Gorham strongly supported the concepts of comparative medicine and what is now called "One Health". He was a very popular speaker, won dozens of awards, several from AVMA and Washington State University, the American Epidemiology Societies gold headed cane, and the highest awards given by USDA. Although he was not active in the Wildlife Disease Association, more than 40 articles in JWD over the years had Dr. Gorham as an author or coauthor. And John was genuinely funny (he had the Lake Wobegone sense of humor long before Garrison Keillor,) and he was a kind man who was extremely generous with his time and resources.

At the dawn of the recognition of the field of wildlife disease research, his discoveries and descriptions of the pathogenesis of many diseases in captive wild carnivores would ultimately prove fundamental to understanding wildlife health. John fostered the careers of many, many students, some of whom made careers in comparative pathology and wildlife health. Those of us lucky enough to have been mentored by John feel very fortunate every day to have known him.

## JWD Endowment Drive Hits a Rough Patch

*Anne Fairbrother, David Jessup, Tom Yuill*

WDA's effort to endow the Journal of Wildlife Diseases and its worldwide distribution has

# WDA Updates

hit a bump in the road. As you may remember, we are trying to raise \$25,000 from WDA's leaders and members as a first match to the \$25,000 grant we got last Fall from USDA-Wildlife Services. The leadership half (\$12,500) was fairly quickly raised between March and May this year. Since May 1 we have raised about \$5500 of the other \$12,500. We have a third \$25,000 lined up when this first match is made. But donations have been slowing over the last month and we run the risk of falling short. But, you work hard for your money and pay your membership, why should you care? Why should you give? Because endowment of JWD will:

- Reduce reliance on memberships fees and allow WDA to keep membership costs low, perhaps at the current level for a decade.
- Reduce reliance on author page charges and allow WDA not to have to increase them as rapidly as inflation might otherwise dictate.
- Allow WDA to increasingly use interest and increase on invested funds to support JWD and its worldwide distribution.
- The above may allow increased, and perhaps eventually total, "open access".
- Allow continuation of programs providing JWD content in the most economically challenged nations.
- Allow WDA to use more of its financial resources for other member benefits.
- And making this match will: Show foundations, non-profits and other potential donors that WDA is firmly behind the endowment and distribution of JWD without strict reliance on ability to pay. We plan to raise up to \$1 million from those sources over the next 8 years.

**We are now asking all WDA members to make a donation at a level they can afford \$25 (member), \$50 (bronze), \$75 (silver), \$100 (leadership), \$150 (gold) and \$200 (platinum).** Credit card donations can be made at the WDA website by clicking on the prominent "Donate" button on the left hand side. Checks can be sent to Dr. Laurie Baeten, WDA Treasurer, 129 N. Frey Ave., Fort Collins, CO 80521 USA.

## **Tulane University's Newcomb Alumnae Association Honors Karoun Bagamian with the Young Alumna Award**

*Aidan Smith, External Affairs Officer Newcomb College Institute*

The Newcomb Alumnae Association is proud to announce the recipient of the 2012 Young Alumna Award as Karoun Bagamian, a 2001 graduate of Newcomb College. Karoun recently completed her doctoral work at Emory University as a student affiliated with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Special Pathogens Branch, under the mentorship of Dr. James N. Mills, a foremost expert in the field of disease ecology. During her graduate education, she was awarded a CDC Public Health Dissertation grant and a CDC ORISE Fellowship. Her dissertation just received the 2012 Wildlife Disease Association



# WDA Updates

## Graduate Student Research Recognition Award.

Born in Los Angeles, Karoun grew up in the Armenian community there. She showed an interest in biology quite early—as a child, she would dig for dinosaur fossils in the backyard and memorize field guides of mammals. Karoun's interest in the evolution and ecology of diseases emerged in her Darwinian Medicine course during her undergraduate education at Tulane University. Karoun's first research endeavor was in Prof. David Heins' lab, where she wrote an honors thesis about the effects of parasitism on the threespine stickleback fish. She graduated with a BS in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. In fact, Prof. Heins, Chair of Tulane's Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, nominated Karoun for the award as a result of her progress in their field, "She has made a number of important advances in the study of infectious diseases. Her research on an emerging infectious disease contributes in important ways to theoretical ecology and to applied science affecting the wellbeing of many people."

The Young Alumna Award will be presented at the Newcomb College Institute's Under the Oaks ceremony at 2pm on May 18 at an event that honors Tulane's graduating senior women, student and faculty award recipients, and the Newcomb College Class of 1962, who will gather to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their graduation.

About the Newcomb Alumnae Association: The Newcomb Alumnae Association has over 23,000 members worldwide. The mission of the NAA is to strengthen personal,

collegiate and professional connections among its members. The Association honors the legacy of the H. Sophie Newcomb Memorial College by supporting undergraduate women's education at the Newcomb College Institute and Tulane University. For more information about the NAA and the Newcomb College Institute, visit us online at [tulane.edu/newcomb](http://tulane.edu/newcomb).

## Inaugural Wildlife Disease Workshops by the Northeast Wildlife Disease Cooperative

*Julie Ellis*

The Northeast Wildlife Disease Cooperative (NEWDC) conducted two workshops, "Field Investigation of Wildlife Mortalities" in March 2012. The first was held at the Connecticut



Workshop participants conducting a necropsy of a coyote.

Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (University of Connecticut) and the second at the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University. Participants were wildlife professionals from New Hampshire Fish and Game, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries



# WDA Updates

and Wildlife, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, USFWS, and USDA APHIS Veterinary Services. Each full day workshop included morning lectures on diseases encountered in the field, including emerging diseases, as well as field investigation and necropsy techniques. In the afternoon, board-certified pathologists Drs. Sal Frasca, Joan Smyth, and Francois Courtin (UConn), Inga Sidor (New Hampshire Veterinary Diagnostic Lab), and Rachel Peters (Tufts) demonstrated avian and mammal necropsies. Participants then practiced their skills through hands-on necropsy of a variety of species including coyotes, fishers, beavers, hawks, owls, opossums, and various waterfowl. Lectures and wet labs emphasized the importance of personal protective equipment and precautions to prevent transmission of zoonotic diseases. Proper documentation, sampling, packaging, and shipping were also emphasized as essential steps for a successful field investigation.

All participants received a thumb drive that included PDFs of all the lectures, a glossary of pathology terms, manuals on general avian, mammal, and reptile necropsy procedures, disease fact sheets, a Northeast wildlife disease resource directory, and NEWDC submission forms and shipping instructions.

Special thanks to the other workshop instructors, Drs. Krysten Schuler (Cornell University) and Maureen Murray (TCSVM)! Thanks also to workshop sponsors: Safari Club International (Connecticut and New

England chapters), North Star Science & Technology, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A third workshop is currently being planned for fall 2012 and will be held in Maine. For more information about NEWDC, please see our website: <http://sites.tufts.edu/newdc/>



## EWDA/WDA meeting the largest ever!

Over 500 people registered to participate, and over 400 papers and posters were submitted to the 2012 WDA 61st and EWDA 10th Conference Jul 22-27 in Lyon, France. This was by far the largest WDA meeting **ever!**

## Welcome new council members!

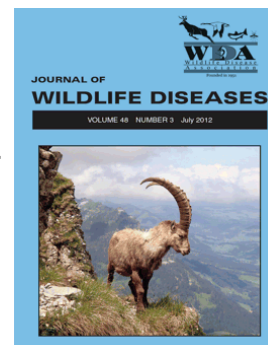
**Patti Bright**, USGS, Reston, Virginia

**Rick Gerhold**, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee

**Lisa Shender**, University of California, Davis, California

## Major revision of instructions to authors and reviewers

Substantive revisions to the instructions to authors and reviewers were made and are posted on the JWD web site. The new instructions describe the word limits of manuscript categories, give the authors more specific requirements, simplify the reference citation style and give more detailed information on requirements for graphics that are submitted to the Journal. It is anticipated that



when the new instructions go into place with the 2013 volume, there will be significant savings in terms of time for the editor, assistant editors, reviewers, and Allen Press production staff.

For complete details, see:

[http://www.wildlifedisease.org/document/jwd/JWD\\_ITAR\\_6-10-2012.pdf](http://www.wildlifedisease.org/document/jwd/JWD_ITAR_6-10-2012.pdf)

## Australasian Section

*David M. Spratt*

*(WDA-A Executive member and acting Chairperson)*

The annual general meeting and scientific session of the WDA-A was held at Camp Coorong, Meningie, South Australia September 26-30, 2011.

- The Annual Research Award (\$2000 Aus) went to Bronwyn Fancourt a PhD candidate at the University of Tasmania for her project entitled, "Drought, disease or destiny? Identifying the causes of decline of the eastern quoll (*Dasyurus viverrinus*)."
- The Barry L. Munday Recognition Award recognising the significant contributions to wildlife health made by a member of the Section in the preceding 5 years was presented to Rupert Woods for his outstanding efforts in establishing and growing the Australian Wildlife Health Network.
- The Section continues to provide financial prizes to students for the best spoken (\$200) and the best poster (\$200) presentations.
- The WDA-A also continues to provide financial support annually for the Australian Registry of Wildlife Health

(\$1000) and the Australian Wildlife Health Network (\$1000).

WDA-A is one of a large number of bodies (universities, research institutes, industry professional organisations, and publicly funded scientists) supporting a proposal to National eResearch Collaboration Tools and Resources (NeCTAR) by the Taronga Conservation Society Australia for a Wildlife Health Virtual Laboratory. NeCTAR is an Australian Government project conducted as part of the Super Science initiative and financed by the Education Investment Fund.

Future meetings of the WDA-A:  
September 23-29, 2012 Stradbroke Island, Queensland  
2013 The Grampians, Victoria  
2014 New Zealand  
2015 International WDA, Australia (possibly Darwin).

## Latin America Section

*Marcela Uhart*

*Chairperson, Latin America Section*

We actively invited and stimulated researchers and students in the region to attend the WDA conference in Lyon. As a result, there were 31 Latin America colleagues at the conference (from 8 countries), who gave 47 oral and/or poster





presentations. This is a record number of Latin American participants to a WDA meeting outside of Latin America! However, 17 of the 31 Latin America speakers/presenters are currently not WDA members and we hope to encourage them to join the WDA during the upcoming conference. We devised a number of support mechanisms for Section members attending the Lyon conference, including editorial/language assistance with abstracts and logistics support for shared lodging.

## Nordic Section

*Erik Ågren*

*Chair Nordic section*

The Nordic section has slowly increased in numbers, and student activities have been initiated. Cecilia Tegner is the new Swedish representative in the EWDA student chapter, as the Nordic section at this time does not have its own student chapter.

WDA president Dolores Gavier-Widén and NWDA chair Erik Ågren presented the WDA and wildlife pathology work in Sweden for the Swedish veterinary student one evening in May.

The Nordic section board initiated the first Nordic section student travel grant, with two grants of approximately 150 EURO for student members of WDA attending the EWDA/WDA conference in Lyon and also having an accepted abstract. Two applicants fulfilled the stipulated rules and received a grant each. One student was from Sweden and one from Finland.

The next Nordic section meeting will be in Sweden, end of May, venue is not decided yet.

## European Section

*Thijs Kuiken*

### European wildlife health network committee

Current committee members are Dolores Gavier-Widen, Christian Gortazar, Thijs Kuiken (chair), and Marie-Pierre Ryser. The long-term goals of this network are to improve exchange of information among wildlife health surveillance programmes in Europe; develop standard operating procedures for diagnostic investigation of wildlife; develop common criteria for diagnosis of wildlife disease; share specialist expertise; and provide training opportunities in wildlife health surveillance. Activities of the committee in the past year were:

- An e-mail discussion list (<http://groups.google.com/group/ewda-network>) for people involved in European wildlife health surveillance, in order to facilitate rapid exchange of information and ideas. As of July 2012, there are 153 members. Between July 2011 and June 2102, 82 messages were posted on subjects including “Brucella suis biovar 2 in cattle, Belgium: link to wild boar?”, “Second area in Sweden with Echinococcus multilocularis detected in red fox”, “Dolphin morbillivirus in white-beaked dolphin, The Netherlands”, “First evidence of Crimea-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus in Spain”, and “Blackbird die-off, Germany”.
- Diagnosis Cards to share and spread knowledge on appropriate diagnostic

methods for diseases or disease agents in wildlife. Currently, cards for avian influenza, Trichinella, and bovine tuberculosis are on the EWDA website, and cards for morbillivirus, rabies, and classical swine fever are in the pipeline.

- Publication of a manuscript "Establishing a European network for wildlife health surveillance" (Rev. sci. tech. Off. int. Epiz., 2011, 30 (3), 755-761).
- Inclusion of the EWDA network in an EMIDA ERA-Net project (European research on emerging and major infectious diseases of livestock) to establish a European wildlife disease network that is capable of providing reliable estimates of abundance of wildlife species and of pathogen distribution in these wildlife species.

## Wildlife Veterinary Section/AAWV

*Colin Gillin and Peregrine Wolff*

### Newsletter and Facebook

During the 2011-12 Newsletter editor, Anne Justice-Allen, produced a Fall 2011, Winter 2012 and Spring 2012 newsletter. We anticipate a summer 2012 newsletter immediately following this WDA conference. The AAWV Facebook page has proven very useful with information provided by site monitors Jennifer Ballard and Peri Wolff.

### Strategic Affiliations and Other Communications

AAWV's Board of Governors set up a new Legislative affairs committee made up of AAWV members Robert Adamski and Cindy Driscoll. This committee will liaison with AVMA CEI representative Jim Sikarskie to bring the nations policy and wildlife health

issues before the AAWV Board of Governors and Advisory Council.

At this year's WDA meeting, AAWV will be hosting cutting edge speaker Dr Richard Delahay, Food and Environment Research Agency, U.K. Dr. Delahay's talk is titled "Weighing Costs and Benefits of Wildlife Disease Control." President Colin Gillin and Secretary, Peri Wolff, will also be present to help take part in the handing over of the Wildlife Veterinary Section Reigns to the newly elected officers. The Tom Thorne and Beth Williams Memorial Award committee met via email during 2012 and selected this year's recipient. AAWV members Helen Schwantje and John Fischer served as the AAWV committee members for this year's award.



During the 2011 TWS annual conference held in Hawaii (November 5-10, 2011), AAWV President Gillin met with the TWS conference organizers and proposed holding a joint meeting in October in Portland at their annual conference. The TWS council approved this proposal and AAWV will not only help in the co-hosting but also co-sponsor a second plenary session titled "One Health, Ecology, and Conservation: Why Wildlife Diseases Matter" and a symposium Wildlife Diseases Impacting Wildlife Conservation in North America." John Fischer has been selected as this year's Al Franzmann Memorial Speaker and will lead off the presentations for this symposium with his lecture on "Reducing Risk Factors for Wildlife Diseases". AAWV will also be

# News from the Field

putting on a workshop on necropsy and sample submission.

AAWV was the official sponsor of the Wildlife Medicine & Conservation program at the North American Veterinary Conference annual meeting, held January 2012 in Orlando, FL. The day-long wildlife session is moderated by an AAWV member and focuses on wildlife rehabilitation and wildlife medicine topics.

## **USGS National Wildlife Health Center Quarterly Mortality Report – January 2012 to March 2012**

*Written and compiled by the U.S. Geological Survey National Wildlife Health Center Field Investigations Team*

### **Avian Cholera in California**

*Pasteurella multocida* (avian cholera) epizootics were reported in various locations within nine California counties (Alameda, Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Siskiyou, Sutter and Yolo) during



the first quarter of 2012 (January – March). Cases were investigated and reported by the California Department of Fish and Game in partnership with USGS National Wildlife Health Center.

The smallest event involved an estimated 75 dead wood ducks on a pond in Butte County. State waterfowl areas such as Woodbridge Ecological Reserve, Upper

Butte Basin, North Grasslands, and Yolo Bypass Wildlife Areas estimated losses ranging from 200 to 1,500 birds including ducks, geese, and shorebirds. Sutter, Stone Lake and Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge Complexes, which serve as wintering areas for an estimated 2 million migratory birds, estimated final mortalities ranging from 100 to over 10,000 waterfowl, shorebirds and gulls, respectively. Refuge staff and volunteers at Tule Lake/Lower Klamath Lake NWR (Klamath Basin NWR Complex) retrieved 3,908 dead birds between mid-February and late April. The staff estimates this is approximately one-third of the birds that died during the event. The species most affected were the snow goose, American coot, American wigeon, white-fronted goose and northern pintail. This was the largest outbreak of avian cholera the Klamath Basin NWR staff has seen since 2008 when an estimated 10,000 birds died due to avian cholera.

### **Avian Cholera in the Midwest United States**

Avian cholera was the second leading cause of avian mortality events (after trematodiasis), reported to the USGS National Wildlife Health Center, in the Central and Mississippi flyways during the first quarter of 2012. Greater and lesser snow geese and Ross's geese were the primary species involved in all four mortality events in the Midwest. The first 2012 cholera event in the Midwest occurred in Pike County, Missouri at the beginning of February and involved less than ten geese. The other three events in the Midwest were reported shortly thereafter, first in northwestern Missouri (Holt County) followed by Iowa and Nebraska.



# News from the Field

The event in Iowa involved an estimated 150 geese in Fremont County on a wildlife management area. The last avian cholera event on that area was reported in 2003. The largest event in the Midwest in 2012 occurred in Nebraska across multiple Waterfowl Production Areas in Clay, Phelps, and Kearney Counties and involved almost 1,300 birds, primarily snow geese and Ross's geese, as well as a few other species of waterfowl - such as Northern pintails and mallards. The avian cholera mortality in 2012 in Nebraska was the highest for the state since 1999 when an estimated 1,400 died from this disease.

## North America White-nose syndrome Update for Winter 2011/2012

*Geomyces destructans*, the fungus that often causes fatal skin infections of hibernating bats in eastern and central North America, continued to spread this past winter season. Most notably, characteristic skin lesions of white-nose syndrome (WNS) were confirmed on little brown bats at a hibernaculum west of the Mississippi River for the first time in Lincoln County, Missouri and the southern Appalachians of northern Alabama (Jackson County). While no mortality was detected at either location and mortality remains low along the western disease front, an estimated 5.5 million bats are believed to have died from WNS since it was first recognized five years ago near Albany, New York. Winter bat populations have been reduced more than 80% in the northeast and mid-Atlantic United States although there are some early indications that bat populations may have stabilized at some of the original affected sites in New York. White-nose syndrome was also con-

firmed at the only known bat hibernaculum in Delaware for the first time this past winter although *G. destructans* had been previously detected on bats returning early to known maternity roosts from this hibernaculum. WNS has now been confirmed in 18 states and 4 Canadian provinces, and it continues to expand into new counties and districts within the affected area. Iowa recently announced the detection of low levels of *G. destructans* DNA on a single big brown bat showing no clinical signs in Jackson County. The viability of the fungus at the Iowa site is still unknown. In addition to range expansion of WNS, the federally-



Marvin Moriarty USFWS

listed endangered gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*) was also added to the list of North American hibernating bats confirmed with the disease which includes little brown bats (*M. lucifugus*), Northern long-eared bats (*M. septentrionalis*), Eastern small-footed bats (*M. leibei*), endangered Indiana bats (*M. sodalis*), tricolored bats (*Perimyotis subflavus*), and big brown bats (*Eptesicus fuscus*).

# News from the Field

For updates on collaborative WNS research activities by USGS, please visit [http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/publications/fact\\_sheets/pdfs/WNS\\_Factsheet\\_2012.pdf](http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/publications/fact_sheets/pdfs/WNS_Factsheet_2012.pdf).

**For the full NWHC quarterly mortality report, please see** [http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/publications/quarterly\\_reports/index.jsp](http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/publications/quarterly_reports/index.jsp)

To report mortality or receive information about this report, please contact the USGS National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC), 6006 Schroeder Road, Madison, WI 53711

## Eastern United States

Dr. Anne Ballmann  
U.S. Geological Survey  
NWHC Wildlife Disease Specialist  
Phone: (608) 270-2445  
FAX: (608) 270-2415  
Email: [aballmann@usgs.gov](mailto:aballmann@usgs.gov)

## Central United States

Dr. LeAnn White  
U.S. Geological Survey  
NWHC Wildlife Disease Specialist  
Phone : (608) 270-2491  
FAX : (608) 270-2415  
Email : [clwhite@usgs.gov](mailto:clwhite@usgs.gov)

## Western United States

Barb Bodenstein  
U.S. Geological Survey  
NWHC Wildlife Disease Specialist  
Phone : (608) 270-2447  
FAX : (608) 270-2415  
Email : [bbodenstein@usgs.gov](mailto:bbodenstein@usgs.gov)

## Hawaiian Islands

Dr. Thierry Work  
U.S. Geological Survey  
NWHC Wildlife Disease Ecologist  
PO Box 50167  
300 Ala Moana Blvd. Rm 8-132  
Honolulu, HI 96850  
Phone: (808) 792-9520  
FAX: (808) 792-9596  
Email: [thierry\\_work@usgs.gov](mailto:thierry_work@usgs.gov)

**For single animal mortality, nationwide, please contact:** Jennifer Buckner, USGS National Wildlife Health Center Biologist by phone: (608) 270-2443, fax: (608)-270-2415, or email: [jbuckner@usgs.gov](mailto:jbuckner@usgs.gov)  
To view new and ongoing wildlife mortality events nationwide visit [http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/mortality\\_events/ongoing.jsp](http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/mortality_events/ongoing.jsp)

## Training and Education

### Exotic Animal Medicine for the Clinical Practitioner

*Presented by the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians, Continuing education credits endorsed by the American College of Zoological Medicine*

The American Association of Zoo Veterinarians is presenting an in-depth, 2- day course on exotic, zoo, and wild animal medicine Saturday, October 20, 2012 to Sunday, October 21, 2012 at the Oakland Marriott City Center, Oakland, CA. Lectures will be geared to the private exotic animal clinical practitioner and are expected to include topics such as exotic animal thera-

## Training and Education

peutic and marsupial medicine as well as cutting edge topics in avian, herpetologic, small mammal, and fish medicine. Registration includes lecture materials, break refreshments, Sunday evening reception (AAZV conference ice breaker), and certificate of attendance for display in your practice. Class offers 15 hours of CE credits sponsored by the American College of Zoological Medicine.

Registration fee: \$350 by 28 September, 2012, \$400 after 28 September, 2012  
Rooms available at \$139 per night at the Oakland Marriott City Center, 1001 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94607; via the following link: <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/americanzooveterinarians>  
or if you wish to reserve a room by phone, call: 1-877-622-3140.

Register for the Conference by following this link:  
<http://www.aazv.org/displayconvention.cfm?conventionnbr-11282>; or follow the links at [www.aazv.org](http://www.aazv.org); or contact AAZV for a registration form: Telephone (904)225-3275; Fax (904)225-3289, Mail: AAZV, 581705 White Oak Road Yulee, FL 32097



## Meetings and Conferences

**The Wildlife Society Annual Conference**, Held jointly with AAWV. Portland Oregon, October 13-18, 2012. <http://wildlifesociety.org/>

### 101st AFWA Annual Meeting

September 9-12, 2012 Hilton Head, South Carolina.

<http://www.fishwildlife.org/index.php?section=annual-meeting&activator=19>

**International Wildlife Tuberculosis Conference**, Kruger National Park, South Africa, September 9-12, 2012.

<http://web.up.ac.za/default.asp?ipkCategoryID=17190&subid=17190&ipklookid=13>

The next **Wildlife Disease Association International Meeting** will be summer of 2013 in Knoxville, Tennessee! The meeting will be immediately preceded by the **Second International Ranavirus Symposium**.

