



October 6, 2018

All Wildlife Diseases, All Conservation, All One Health, All the Time!

NEWS RELEASE ON ARTICLES FROM JOURNAL OF WILDLIFE DISEASES 54(4)

Health of wildlife, domestic species and human beings, and the environments that support them (One Health), has been a focus of the Wildlife Disease Association for more than 55 years. The Journal of Wildlife Diseases (JWD) issue 54(4) has several articles with particular conservation and wildlife management significance that we would like to make you aware of.

Opportunistic bacteria residing on the skin of apparently healthy animals, may cause brain infections and mortality in male white-tailed deer. In **A headache from our past? Intracranial abscess disease, virulence factors of *Trueperella pyogenes*, and a legacy of translocating white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*)** by Bradley Cohen and co-authors found the incidence of brain abscess in Georgia seemed to be associated with areas that were restocked with white-tailed deer from a high-fenced property in Wisconsin, US. They speculate that these genetic differences in *T. pyogenes* may have arisen from deer restocking efforts, and as such, would be a legacy of an introduced disease manifesting itself generations later.

Sea turtles are among the most frequent victims of bycatch in drifting longlines, and the ingestion of fish hooks and fishing lines is one of the most frequent causes of death. **Ultrasonographic detection of ingested fishing lines in loggerheads (*Caretta caretta*)** by **Delia Franchini** and Italian colleagues identified characteristics, number, and severity of the bowel wall lesions, ensuring a correct surgical procedure would be used. Ultrasound examination should be complementary to radiographic survey when ingestion of fish hooks and lines is suspected.

A major cause of bird eating raptor mortality is investigated in **Prevalence and risk factors of *Trichomonas gallinae* and trichomonosis in golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) nestlings in Western North America** by **Benjamin Dudek**. Historical (1971–1981) and recent (2014–2015) diet data and incidence of trichomonosis lesions of nestling eagles in Idaho were compared. The proportion of pigeons, a reservoir of *T. gallinae*, in eagle diets was higher in recent versus historical periods, as was the proportion of eagle nestlings with trichomonosis lesions. These results suggested that localized shifts in eagle diet resulting from habitat degradation and loss of historical prey have the potential to affect golden eagle nestling survival.

Rabies virus has been enzootic in raccoons in the US since the late 1940s. Oral rabies vaccination was implemented in the 1990s to halt the spread of raccoon rabies and continues to be used as a wildlife management tool. **Field trials of Ontario Rabies Vaccine bait in the northeastern USA, 2012–14** are summarized by **Amy Gilbert** and co-authors. The rabies virus antibody levels found in West Virginia field trials, as well as those along the New York, New Hampshire border with Canada, were considered adequate to stop raccoon rabies transmission.

An outbreak of rabbit hemorrhagic disease in Finland is described by **Marja Isomursu** and Finnish co-workers. Rabbit hemorrhagic disease (RHD) was detected in European rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) for the first time ever in Finland in 2016. Reports of dead feral rabbits in Helsinki started to accumulate from April 2016. The Finnish virus did not group with RHD strains from a concurrent outbreak in neighboring Sweden, suggesting another origin. The outbreak peaked in May and lasted until August, after which sightings of both live and dead rabbits became rare. No major outbreaks in domestic rabbits were observed.

Abstracts of these and other articles in JWD 54(4) are available on the [WDA website](#). If you are interested in access to the full article, contact wda.manager@gmail.com

