New York State Wildlife Health Program (WHP)

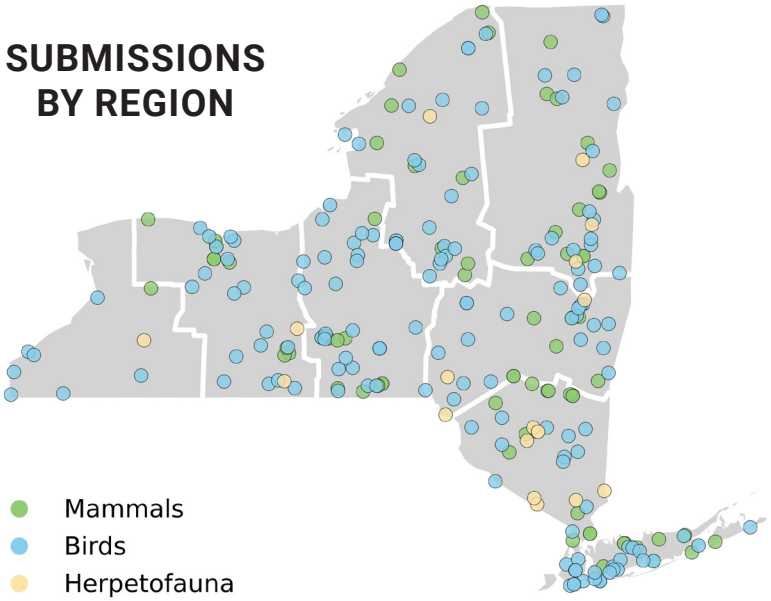
NEW YORK STATE | Department of Environmental Conservation

QUARTERLY REPORT

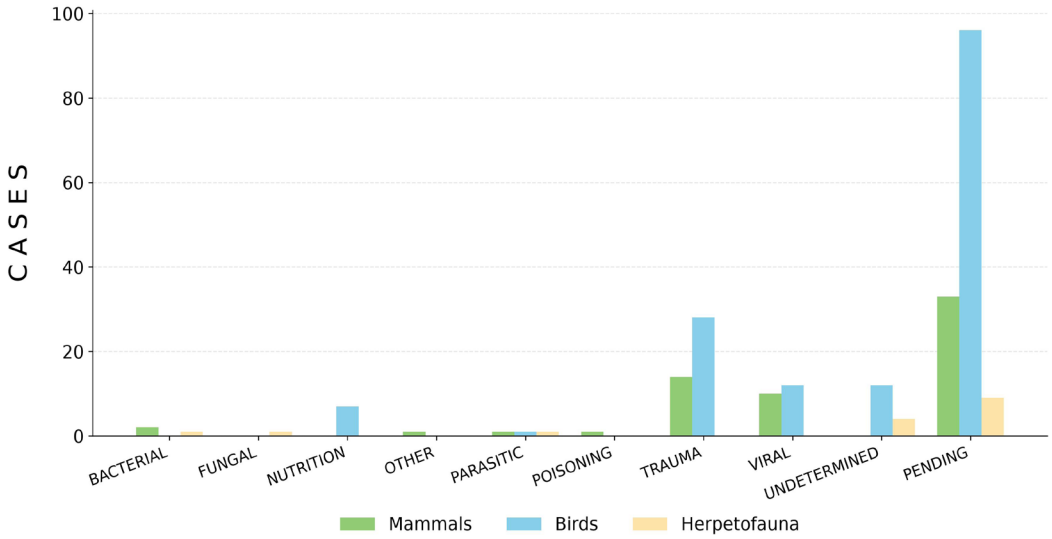
Q3- 2026 (JUL-SEPT)



SUBMISSIONS BY REGION



CAUSES OF DEATH



286 Total submissions

18 Rabies tests
2 Positive

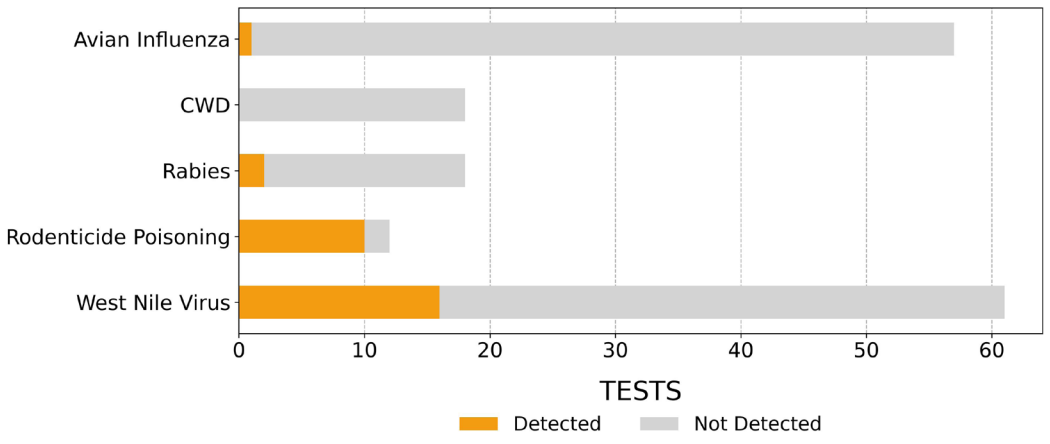
56 HPAI tests
1 Positive

36 Bird species
191 submissions

10 Herp species
19 submissions

20 Mammal species
76 submissions

TARGETED HEALTH SURVEILLANCE



The New York State Cooperative Wildlife Health Program (WHP) is a partnership between the DEC Bureau of Wildlife and Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine that works to safeguard the long-term health of the wildlife populations of New York.



Fur School Workshop

In September, Jenny attended the Northeast Furbearer Management Workshop (Fur School) to lecture about furbearer diseases and give a beaver necropsy demonstration.

NYSDEC Fur School workshops are taught by furbearer biologists and experienced trappers to provide students with practical experience in trapper education and management. The course includes how to trap responsibly and selectively using Best Management Practices, discussion of the value of trapping to conservation research and society at large, and strategies to communicate information about trapping with the public and media. It also provides hands-on experience handling and setting traps, identifying trapping locations, and handling pelts to produce marketable furs.

Understanding furbearer diseases and recognizing normal versus abnormal tissues are important skills that help trappers identify wildlife health concerns that may warrant further investigation, identify potential human health risks, and minimize exposure to zoonotic pathogens when handling harvested animals. At the conclusion of the course, students receive their NY Trapper Education Certificate.

*Program **happenings** in the **field** and in the **lab***

Latest Presentations

Northeast Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Annual Conference

- Melissa Fadden " Eastern Box Turtle Pathogen Dynamics in a Pre-Repatriation Cohort"

Training Events & Outreach

- *Fur School with Jenny Bloodgood*
- *Skype A Scientist with Alyssa Kaganer*

More News

Research Projects

Is Chronic Wasting Disease spreading like wildfire? Or is wildfire spreading CWD?

Articles

September - A Day in the Life of...Mariel Vandegrift

***Right**: Histo image of the American toad*



*Under the **scope**...*

Chytrid in an American Toad

In August, the Wildlife Health Unit received an adult female American Toad from a wildlife rehabilitator. On the days close to death, this specimen had a reddened abdomen, swollen and reddened toepads on all four limbs, emaciation, and small patches of skin that were whitened. In addition to these signs, necropsy showed reddened lungs.

Histology showed that the epidermis was thickened and covered by increased amounts of keratin and contained numerous nests of fungal sporangia consistent with *Batrachochyrtrum dendrobatids* (*Bd*). In the most heavily infected areas, some epithelial cells were necrotic and large numbers of bacteria were present in the lesions. The damage to the skin caused by the fungi, including the thickening and hyperkeratosis was sufficient to have compromised respiration and the environmental barrier provided by the skin. This, along with the secondary bacterial infection, contributed to the toad's death.

Chytridiomycosis is one of the leading causes of death in wild amphibians globally and can be easily spread between individuals through human activity.

*Keeping **YOU** in the loop!*

- Interested in getting the "WHP Weekly Case Reports"? Email us at cwhl@cornell.edu to get registered & keep up to date on all WHP cases! Access to the case reporting system is available to agency staff.
- Check out the latest WHP disease watch alerts, Wildlife 411, or Lab news impacting wildlife health at cwhl.vet.cornell.edu.