New York State Wildlife Health Program (WHP)



WHP QUARTERLY REPORT

Q1 - 2021 (JAN-MAR)



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

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Chronic Wasting Disease Sampling

New York continues to conduct CWD surveillance to detect the disease at the earliest intrusion into the state. Support and participation from meat processors and taxidermist is critical for surveillance efforts. No deer were reported as positive of the 2720 tested from hunter harvest and 206 clinical suspects during the 2020-2021 season.

Left: Deer tested for CWD from hunter harvest by region for 2020-2021.



Songbird Salmonellosis

Another salmonellosis outbreak in feeder birds has been confirmed in NY, in pine siskins and common redpolls. Many backyard observers have contacted the WHP or submitted samples. This outbreak is a good reminder to clean or remove feeders.

Surveillance Optimization Project for Chronic Wasting Disease (SOP4CWD)

There are now 18 states and provinces involved in the CWD Surveillance Optimization Program

Master Herpetology Certification Underway

Melissa Fadden is participating in the Amphibian Foundation's Master Herpetology course.

Under the **scope...**

Spring has brought the expected influx of raccoons and skunks to the WHP. Region 1 submitted 38 raccoons between September 2020 and April 2021. In January 2020 through March 2020, only six animals were submitted. All animals tested positive for canine distemper virus, often diagnosed during this time frame. Four of the 38 raccoons had interstitial nephritis (swelling between tubules) of the kidneys, prompting the pathologist to test for Leptospira. Three of the four animals tested positive. Leptospirosis is a zoonotic disease and is transmitted via contact with urine or contaminated water/soil sources. It is preventable with appropriate PPE, always good practice when handling wildlife.

Keeping YOU in the loop!

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

Promoting the health and sustainability of wildlife populations through integration of wildlife ecology and veterinary medicine

