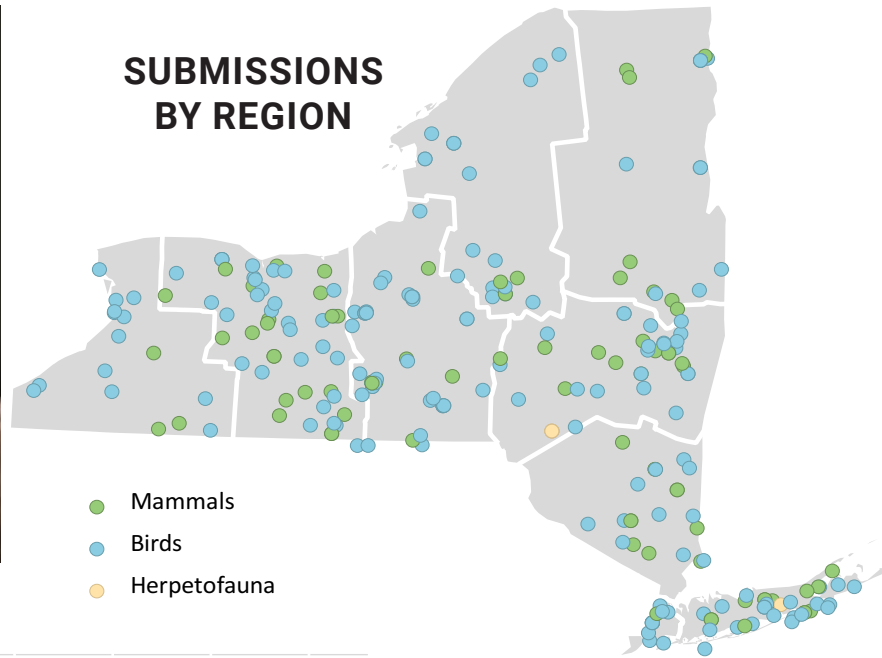


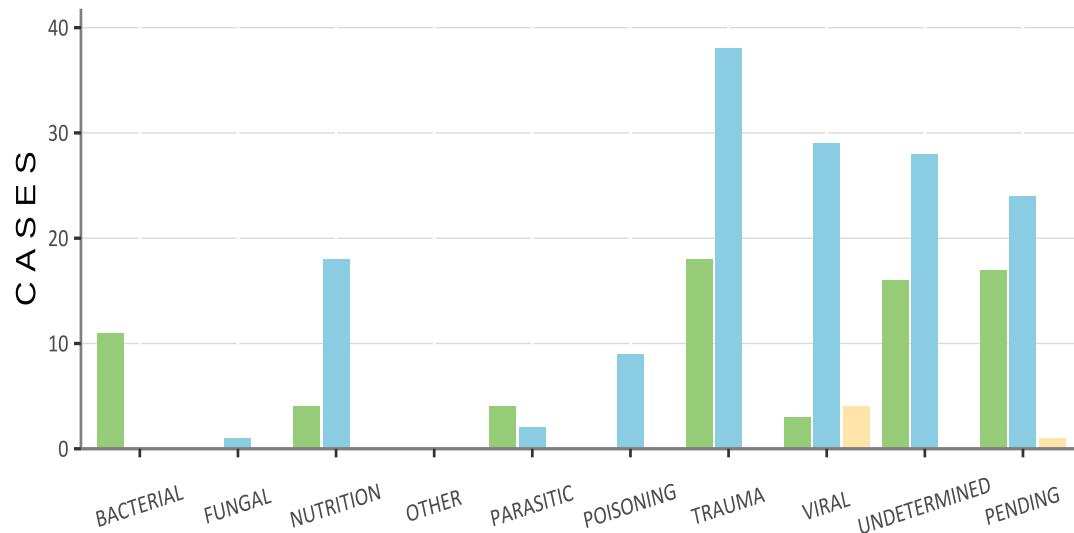


101
raptor species
submissions

*27 bald
eagles



CAUSES OF DEATH



272 Total submissions

30 Rabies tests
1 Positive

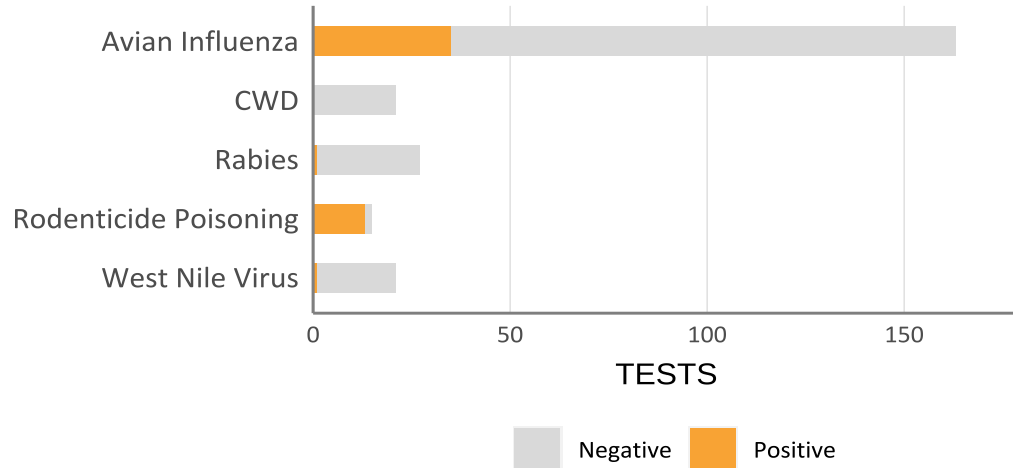
163 HPAI tests
35 Positive

33 Bird species
184 submissions

2 Herp species
5 submissions

20 Mammal species
83 submissions

TARGETED HEALTH SURVEILLANCE





Tackling Avian Influenza at Reynolds Game Farm

In mid-March, DEC Reynolds Game Farm in Tompkins County noticed an increase in mortality in their primary breeding pheasant flock. With concern for [Avian Influenza](#), they expedited getting birds to Cornell Wildlife Health Lab for diagnostics; all birds tested positive for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) subtype H5N1. The farm was quarantined immediately, and the NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets and USDA assisted in management of the outbreak and development of a depopulation protocol to prevent spread of the disease.

The Game Farm conducts regular disease surveillance in its flocks and maintains strict biosecurity protocols, including use of netting over enclosures to keep wild birds from mingling with the pheasants, rodent control measures, and thorough disinfection practices. Avian Influenza can be spread easily, even potentially from feces dropped by infected waterfowl or other birds flying over the facilities. The Game Farm staff are participating in post outbreak surveillance research and actively sampling equipment and facilities throughout the farm. The farm raises thousands of pheasants annually to support hunting opportunities in New York. Their Day-Old Pheasant Chick Program (DOCP) distributes close to 40,000 chicks to approved cooperators throughout the state for raising and release each season. Farm management is currently investigating alternatives to the DOCP until the facilities are cleared to raise birds again.

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

Training Events

- *The annual Safe Capture Chemical Immobilization virtual training was completed in March with 50 bios, technicians and ECOs.*
- *Dr. Jenny Bloodgood attended field training in Wildlife Capture & Chemical Immobilization provided by the Center of Wildlife Studies in Minnesota this March. While there, she was trained to handle several large carnivore species, including black bears, gray wolves, and mountain lions.*

New Publications/Articles

[Immune priming prior to pathogen exposure sheds light on the relationship between host, microbiome and pathogen in disease.](#)

[Researching Vaccination in Wildlife Leads to New Insights in Amphibian Disease](#)

[Weird & Wonderful Wildlife - The Coyote](#)

[A Behind the Scenes Look at Wildlife Chemical Immobilization Training](#)

Under the scope...

HPAI in Striped Skunk



A striped skunk was found dead in the Cornell Botanic Gardens in February 2023 and buried where it was found. Subsequently a Canada goose in the same area died from HPAI virus subtype H5N1. After the goose was diagnosed, the skunk was exhumed and submitted for diagnostics. A necropsy performed by the CWHL showed that the skunk was in good body condition and had no specific gross lesions.

However, histopathology revealed large areas of hepatic necrosis. Recent evidence has shown that skunks with HPAI, unlike other mammals, suffer primarily from hepatic necrosis. PCR on samples collected at necropsy confirmed infection with HPAI H5N1.

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.

