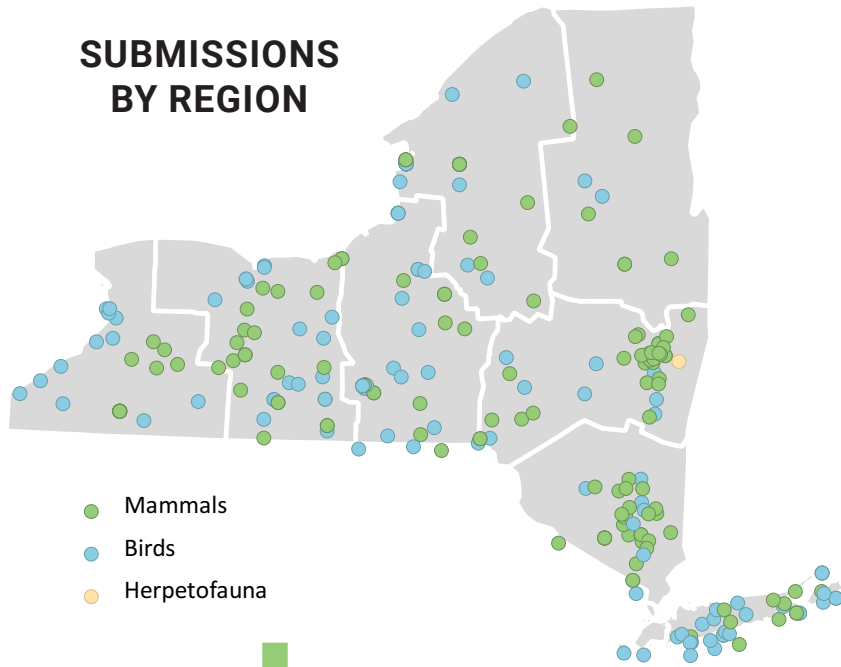
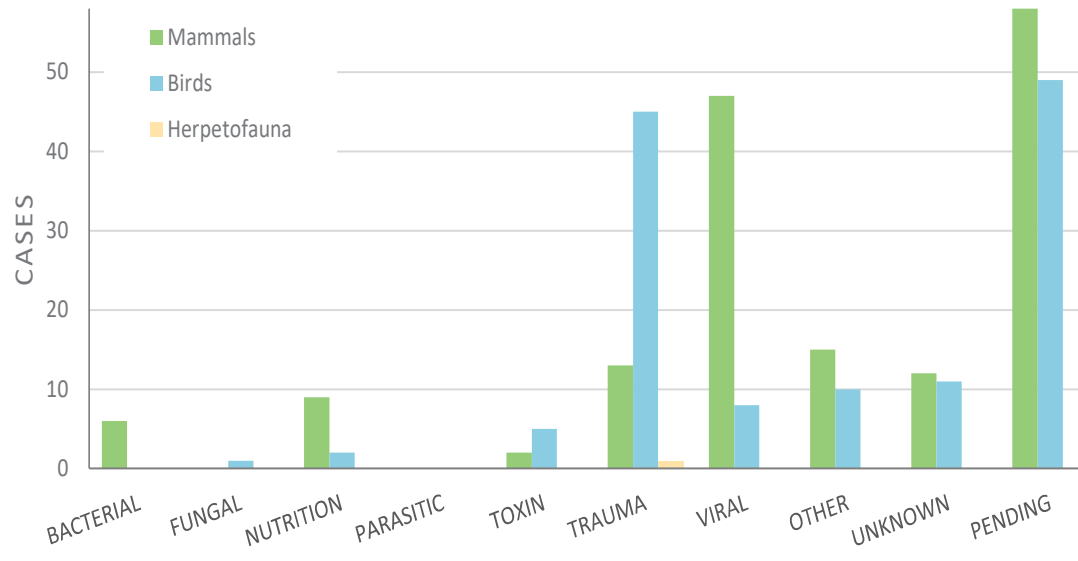




**1455 EHD Mortalities**



### CAUSES OF DEATH



**300** Total submissions

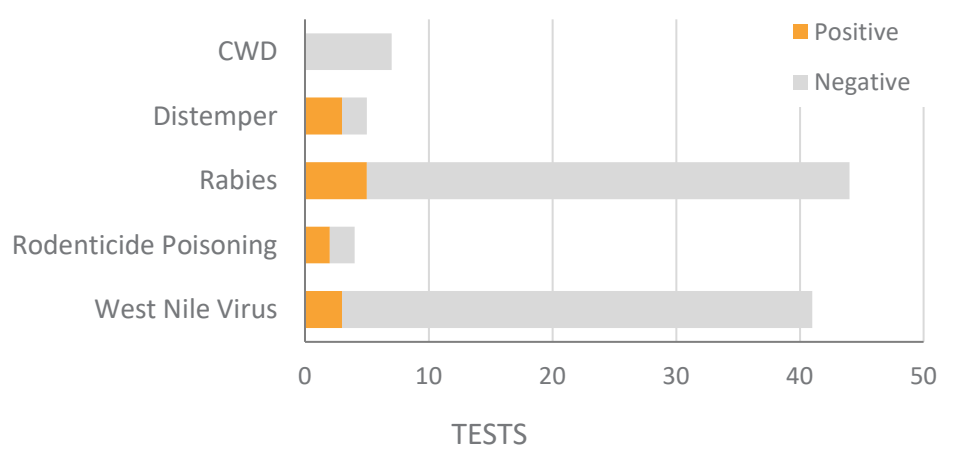
**47** Rabies tests  
5 Positive

**36** Bird species  
131 submissions

**1** Herp species  
1 submissions

**18** Mammal species  
168 submissions

### TARGETED HEALTH SURVEILLANCE





DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
**EPIZOOTIC HEMORRHAGIC DISEASE  
WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

**QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE: EHD**  
Hemorrhagic disease is a general term for illness caused by TWO DIFFERENT VIRUSES that are related: Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease virus (EHD) or bluetongue virus (BTV).  
EHD is a viral disease of white-tailed deer that is transmitted by a biting midge in the family *Culicoides*. Outbreaks are most common in the late summer and early fall when the midges are abundant. Deer can DIE QUICKLY within 8 to 36 hours.  
EHD is TRANSMITTED to deer by *Culicoides* midges. They are tiny biting flies most commonly known as "no-see-ums" or gnats and are smaller than mosquitoes and other flies. Live deer do not spread the virus directly to other deer.  
In deer, the SIGNS of EHD include fever, small hemorrhages on the mouth and nose, and swelling of the head, neck, tongue, and lips.  
A deer infected with EHD may appear lame or dehydrated. Acutely infected deer may die WITHIN 1-3 DAYS after being bitten by the midge. Chronic disease may progress more slowly over weeks to months. NYS deer are naive to EHD and do not have immunity or resistance.  
Frequently infected deer will SEEK OUT WATER sources and carcasses are often found near water. Often, a large number of dead or sick deer are found in a limited area.  
EHD DOES NOT INFECT HUMANS, and generally causes mild or no apparent infection in domestic cattle and small ruminants. Dead deer do not serve as a source of infection for other animals because the virus is not long-lived in dead animals.  
There is NO TREATMENT for EHD or BTV in wildlife populations and no wildlife prevention plan currently exists. A HARD FROST will kill midges, effectively ending EHD outbreaks.  
SEE BACK FOR VISUAL REPRESENTATION OF COMMON SYMPTOMS THAT COULD BE SEEN IN THE FIELD.



## Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD)

New York experienced its first EHD outbreak in white-tailed deer since 2011. The DEC received reports of dead or sick deer across Regions 3 & 4 with positive results from counties including Putnam, Orange and Dutchess initially. Deer mortalities continued to increase and deaths hit 1455, with 650 East of the Hudson and 805 West of the Hudson by late October when the outbreak ended. Serotyping by Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS) shows in NY it was the EHDV-6 strain. We all waited for a good hard frost to kill the *Culicoides* midges responsible for transmission. To support outreach efforts, the WHP created an "[EHD What You Need to Know](#)" quick reference guide to help answer questions and provide visual representation of some notable clinical signs of EHD.



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

### Wildlife Health Virtual Webinars

Using technology to keep you informed on current wildlife health news with monthly WHP Wildlife Health Webinars. If you missed any, you can see them here:

- [COVID-19 in Wildlife \(June\)](#)
- [Common Diseases in Wildlife \(July\)](#)
- [Emerging Risks to Wildlife \(August\)](#)
- [The NYS Wildlife Health Program \(Sept\)](#)
- [Wildlife Forensics \(Oct\)](#)

### Like these webinars?

Complete this quick 5 question survey and let us know what topics you would like to see covered in 2021.

[Wildlife Health Webinar Survey](#)

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

### Curious case of cottontails

While on the lookout for Rabbit hemorrhagic disease virus (RHDV2) in wild rabbit populations, we came across a few interesting cases in cottontails. Cottontails are not commonly seen in pathology and trauma is the most frequent cause-of-death. However, we had two rabbits with high coccidia (single-cell parasite) burdens that haven't been previously reported. There was another case in which a cottontail had a notably large cyst in the mesentery filled with 800 mL of fluid. There were numerous abscesses as well and further tissue examination by histopathology is pending.

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

- Interested in getting the "WHP Weekly Case Reports?" Email us at [cwhl@cornell.edu](mailto:cwhl@cornell.edu) 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 [cwhl.vet.cornell.edu](http://cwhl.vet.cornell.edu).

