New York State Wildlife Health Program (WHP)



QUARTERLY REPORT

Q3- 2024 (JUL - SEPT)



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.





College of

Veterinary Medicine

Waterfowl Banding Workshops

This fall, Dr. Therese McNamee from Delmar's Wildlife Health Unit, Dr. Jenny Bloodgood from the Cornell Wildlife Health Lab, and veterinary interns, Drs. Jill Western and Emily McDermott from Cornell Wildlife Health, collected swabs and blood from waterfowl for avian influenza virus testing during a banding workshop. Waterfowl banding is an important conservation tool. By placing a uniquely numbered band on a bird, biologists can learn about an individual's natural history (e.g. survival, distribution, migration) when it is recaptured or reported. During banding events, biological samples like blood and swabs of the oral cavity and cloaca can be collected to learn more about potential disease exposure.

Drs. Bloodgood and Western drawing blood on a male wood duck.

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

Disease Alerts

- First Positive Case of EHD Reported in Orange County for 2024 Season
- Current WNV Positive Cases

Latest Publications

- <u>Vulnerability to lead toxicosis and bioindicator</u> <u>utility of deer scavengers in New York.</u> The Journal of Wildlife Management
- Stranded marine mammal detection by the public, trained responders, and drones using decoy carcasses. Marine Mammal Science

Grant Awards

- USDA APHIS- Regional cervid disease epidemiological assessment.
- USDA APHIS-CWD Risk in wild cervids: Expanding surveillance strategies to all susceptible North American species.
- *Prescott*-Supporting Marine Mammal Stranding Diagnostic Capacity and Training Opportunities in the Mid-Atlantic Region.

Under the **scope**...

Herpesvirus in an American Kestrel

An adult male American kestrel was found dead in Livingston County. At examination the bird was thin. Hundreds of random pinpoint white foci stippled the liver, and the spleen was small, pale, and friable. PCRs for avian influenza, West Nile virus, and Eastern equine encephalitis were negative.

Histology proved the pale areas in the liver to be areas of necrosis. Some of the hepatocytes along the edge of the necrotic lesions had unusual nuclei containing indistinct intranuclear inclusion bodies, consistent with <u>Columbid herpesvirus-1 (CoHV-1)</u> infection.

Pigeons and doves can act as asymptomatic carriers of the virus. When raptors are infected, mortality approaches 100% due to systemic infection. Diagnosis is made by detection of necrotic lesions, especially in the liver and spleen, along with the presence of intranuclear inclusion bodies. PCR is used to confirm the diagnosis. There is no treatment for CoHV-1 infection in raptors.

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 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 long-term sustainability of wildlife populations by advancing scientific tools and sharing knowledge to protect and improve the health of native wildlife populations

Cornell Animal Health Diagnostic Center