## New York State Wildlife Health Program (WHP)



#### **QUARTERLY REPORT**

Q4- 2023 (OCT - DEC)



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.









# Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Update

In New York, 2023 marked the second year of highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreaks. First introduced into North America via Canada in late 2021, the HPAI virus H5N1 2.3.4.4.b has moved across the U.S. with multiple, separate introductions occurring on both coasts. Domestic poultry operations continue to be impacted most severely with 341 detections across 25 states. NY had 12 poultry detections in flocks and live bird markets. For wild birds, 2,625 cases were reported across 48 states with NY at 100 birds. There were 89 species identified with confirmed infections, most commonly mallards. For wild mammals, there were 89 detections in 12 species across 20 states with NY having 11 cases, 9 of which were red fox. Other states documented cases in raccoons, bobcats, harbor seals, black bears, fisher, and marten, which are all species that occur in NY.

Samples were collected by state wildlife agencies and USDA-Wildlife Services. Data provided represents all cases submitted to the USDA-National Veterinary Services Laboratory. Data summaries provided by Dr. Hon Ip, USGS-National Wildlife Health Center.

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

### Publications

- "Sample Size for Estimating Disease Prevalence in Free-Ranging Wildlife Populations: A Bayesian Modeling Approach," Journal of Agricultural, Biological, and Environmental Statistics
- "Social-psychological factors influencing risk perceptions of chronic wasting disease on social media," Human Dimensions of Wildlife

# Under the scope...

### When it rains, it pours...

A hatch-year female red-tailed hawk was found down and submitted to rehab. After feeding, it suffered a seizure and died suddenly with blood in its mouth. At necropsy, the bird was extremely thin with significant blood found in its respiratory system. The airsacs were heavily compromised with *Aspergillus*-like plaques and caseous material. Histopathology and ancillary testing revealed a multitude of maladies: West Nile virus infection, air sacculitis, multicentric hemorrhages (high level of Brodifacoum present in the liver: 554 ppb), and parasitic esophagitis.

> Rodenticide poisoning was determined to be the primary cause of death, as the levels remained high after even three weeks of rehabilitation.

## 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