



October 1, 2016

All Wildlife Diseases, All Conservation, All One Health, All the Time!

## NEWS ON ARTICLES FROM JOURNAL OF WILDLIFE DISEASES 52(4)

Health of wildlife, domestic species and human beings, and the environments that support them (One Health), has been a focus of the Wildlife Disease Association for more than 50 years. The Journal of Wildlife Diseases (JWD) issue 52(4) has several articles with particular conservation and wildlife management significance that we would like to make you aware of.

A group of **South African** researchers led by **Tiny Hlokwe** warn us **Wildlife on the Move: A Hidden Tuberculosis Threat to Conservation Areas and Game Farms Through Introduction of Untested Animals**. They show how bovine tuberculosis (BTB) can remain unnoticed for considerable periods of time in free-ranging wildlife populations, can be introduced into an ecosystem with translocated wildlife, and emphasize the need for validated diagnostic tests in monitoring programs. This is especially important for species with maintenance host potential and those in high demand at game auctions.

Tick paralysis, a neurotoxin-mediated paralytic syndrome described in mammals, reptiles, and wild birds has not previously been reported in eagles. **Anne Justice-Allen** and co-workers from several institutions report on clinical signs in 8 stranded Bald Eagle nestlings and response to treatment that strongly resembled tick paralysis. Construction of a nest platform in a different tree was necessary to break the cycle of infection in **Bald Eagle Nestling Mortality Associated with *Argas radiatus* and *Argas ricei* Tick Infestation and Successful Management with Nest Removal in Arizona, USA**

**Annemarieke Spitzen-van der Sluijs** and a group of **Dutch** colleagues show the importance of **Monitoring Ranavirus-Associated Mortality in a Dutch Heathland in the Aftermath of a Ranavirus Disease Outbreak**. This follow-up study of a major mortality event due to common midwife toad virus (CMTV)-like ranavirus showed mortality in increasing fractions of adults and subadults compared to juveniles and larvae, which was unrelated to any other measured site characteristic. Their findings suggest that a CMTV-like ranavirus can persist long term in an ecosystem, affecting a diversity of amphibian species and life stages for a prolonged period.

Avian cholera, caused by the bacterium *Pasteurella multocida*, is an endemic disease globally, often causing annual epizootics in North American waterfowl populations with many thousands of mortalities. **Michelle Wille** and a number of **Canadian** colleagues report on an unusual **Pelagic Outbreak of Avian Cholera in North American Gulls: Scavenging as a Primary Mechanism for Transmission?** The deaths were largely centered 300–400 km off the coast of the island of Newfoundland and involved gulls (*Larus* spp.) as well as Black-legged Kittiwakes (*Rissa tridactyla*). Avian cholera was diagnosed in 85 cases and was disproportionately high relative to abundance of scavenging gulls, particularly when compared to non-scavenging species. The presence of feather shafts in the ventricular lumen of the majority of larid carcasses

diagnosed with avian cholera suggests scavenging of birds that died from avian cholera as a major mode of transmission.

In the **United States**, the Public Trust Doctrine, makes conservation of free-ranging wildlife largely a State and Federal government responsibility. **Dan Decker** and co-authors argue that wildlife health is essential to fulfilling public trust administration responsibilities, due to the central responsibility of trustees in insuring the well-being of wildlife species (i.e., the core resources of the trust). **Wildlife Health and Public Trust Responsibilities for Wildlife Resources** concludes that wildlife health professionals have great opportunity to play a critical role in protecting the wildlife trust.

Abstracts of these and other articles in JWD 52(4) are available at:

<http://www.wildlifedisease.org/wda/PUBLICATIONS/JournalofWildlifeDiseases/OnlineJournal.aspx>  
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