CANADIAN WILDLIFE HEALTH COOPERATIVE

CWHC QUARTERLY REPORT
Q2-2016: APRIL - JUNE

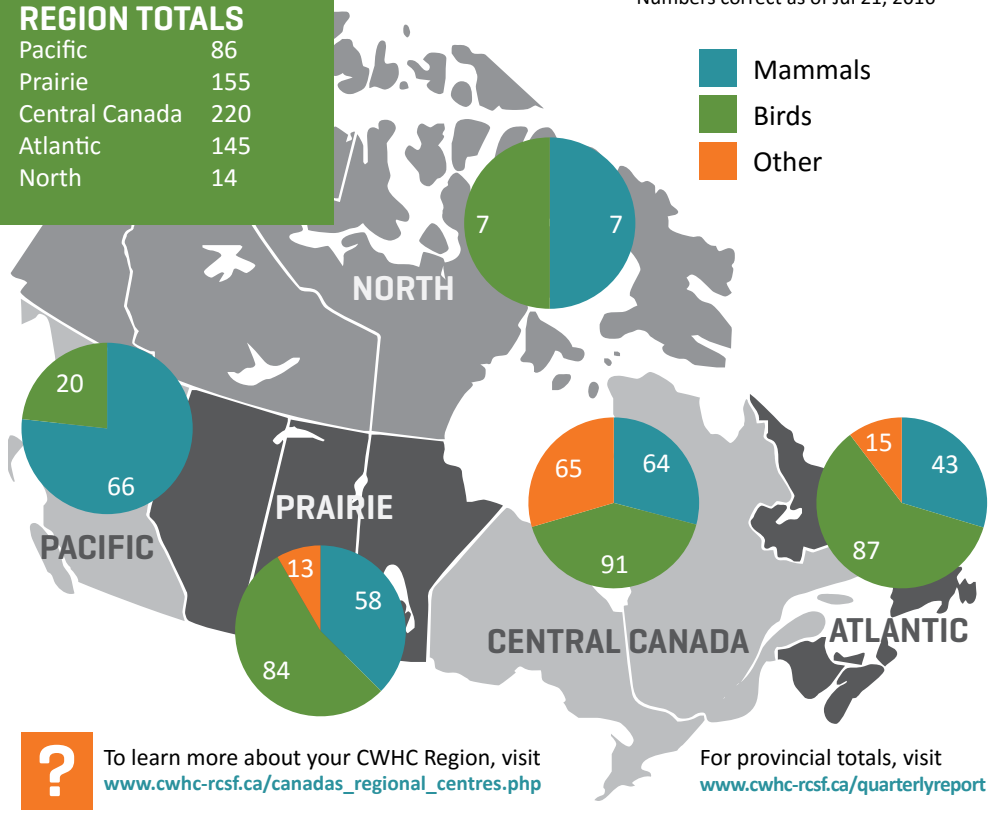
ANIMALS SUBMITTED by region

620 ANIMALS TOTAL

* Numbers correct as of Jul 21, 2016

REGION TOTALS

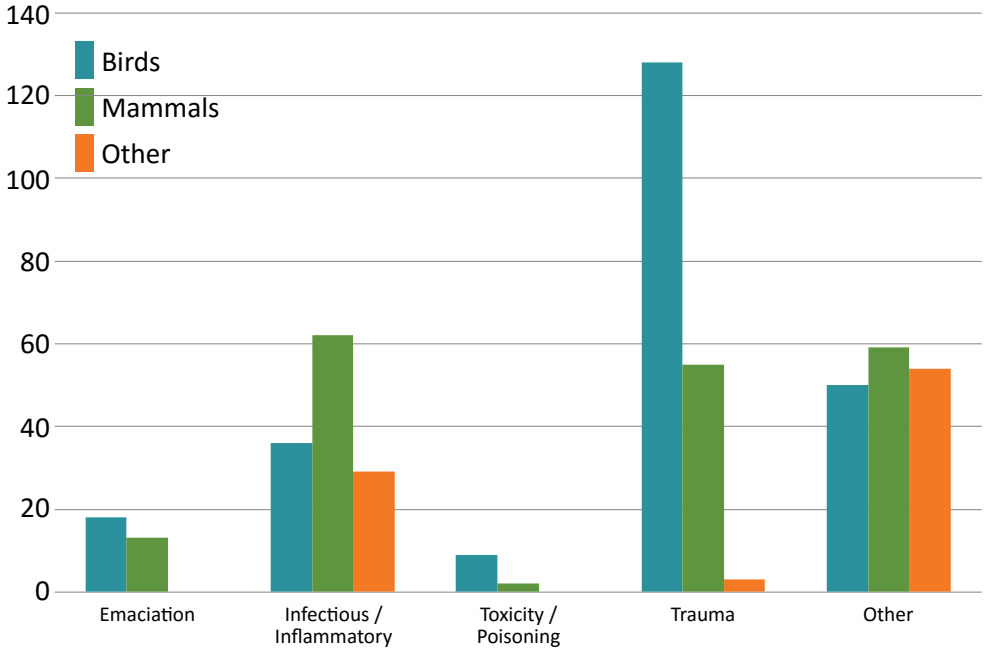
Pacific	86
Prairie	155
Central Canada	220
Atlantic	145
North	14



To learn more about your CWHC Region, visit www.cwhc-rcsf.ca/canadas_regional_centres.php

For provincial totals, visit www.cwhc-rcsf.ca/quarterlyreport

CAUSE OF DEATH category



PLEASE NOTE: An additional 102 cases submitted to CWHC in this quarter are still pending cause of death determination; 48 birds, 47 mammals, and 7 other species. 'Other' diagnoses include neoplastic, metabolic, and degenerative diseases as well as those cases where no cause of death could be determined.

SELECTED disease counts

RABIES

Examined	311
Positive	16

WHITE NOSE SYNDROME

Examined	51
Positive	9

AVIAN INFLUENZA

Examined	505
Positive	4

PLEASE NOTE:
The AI viruses detected were of low-pathogenicity and North-American lineage. Both live bird samples and dead animal submissions are included.

SNAKE FUNGAL DISEASE

Examined	21
Positive	5

NEWCASTLE DISEASE

Examined	289
Positive	0

WEST NILE VIRUS

Examined	289
Positive	0

PLEASE NOTE: The cases reported above represent the data that are currently available in the CWHC database and should be considered preliminary. These data do not include all diagnostic testing for the selected pathogens carried out in Canada; additional testing is performed by other agencies and organisations. Examined refers to any candidate species for this disease. Testing is not always performed, unless the disease is suspected during necropsy or histological examination. Numbers are correct as of July 21, 2016.

For more information visit www.cwhc-rcsf.ca/quarterlyreport

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HIGHLIGHTS

Death by dinner: a case of natural poisoning

- In April 2016, a Barred Owl (*Strix varia*) was submitted to CWHC BC at the BC Animal Health Centre. The owl was emaciated and had a mostly-intact rough-skinned newt (*Taricha granulosa*) in its proventriculus (the avian equivalent of a stomach).
- Rough-skinned newts are extremely toxic, producing a type of tetrodotoxin, a potent neurotoxin.
- Because they are so toxic, rough-skinned newts are highly unusual prey. In this case, the owl was severely emaciated, so perhaps starvation drove it to eat this highly unusual prey-item.

Trichomonosis in PEI finches

- In June 2016, unusual mortalities of purple finches (*Carpodacus purpureus*) in PEI were diagnosed as Trichomonosis, an infectious disease caused by the *Trichomonas* parasite that causes lesions in the throat and emaciation.
- The disease is transmitted by feeding regurgitated food to young during the breeding season and by contaminated food and water. Bird feeders are a common site of transmission.
- CWHC engaged with birders in PEI on social media to raise awareness of the disease and recommend temporary removal of bird feeders and feeder disinfection.

FEATURED project

HEALTH INTELLIGENCE FOR THE MODERN AGE

CWHC Ontario/Nunavut in partnership with Wilfrid Laurier University and the CWHC National Office are currently developing and piloting a web-based reporting tool that aims to enhance wildlife disease surveillance in Ontario. It is important to incorporate wildlife health and disease knowledge into domestic animal and public health planning and disease management. Web-based reporting of wildlife mortality and morbidity events in wildlife populations will enable us to fill important gaps in our disease surveillance activities.

There are 3 main components to this project: 1) development of the tool; 2) piloting the tool with select groups of hunters and biologists; and 3) assessment of the tool as a way to enhance ongoing wildlife disease surveillance activities in Ontario. Our long term goals are to adapt and distribute the tool for use by other groups with interest in wildlife health and disease and explore options to link this tool with other wildlife related citizen science initiatives.

This project was partially funded by the OMAFRA-University of Guelph Strategic Partnership, under the Disease Surveillance Plan, which is a joint federal-provincial Growing Forward 2 project.

WILDLIFE HEALTH tracker

BC responds to threat of white-nose syndrome

Since white-nose syndrome was discovered in Washington State, BC has ramped up monitoring efforts. Recent tests of 24 bats were all negative.

First European detection of CWD in a wild reindeer.

Of grave concern to Canadians, as this indicates the disease (well known in SK deer) could spread to Canada's at risk caribou populations.

Engaging with trappers

CWHC is building partnerships with trappers and the fur industry to monitor parasites which impact wildlife health but also reduce the quality and value of pelts.

2015 a tough year for BC black bears

Parasitic infections and malnutrition due to poor berry crops may have lead to high level of cub abandonment and stunted growth in black bears.

For more information, click the image, or visit
www.cwhc-rcsf.ca/quarterlyreport

CREATING A WORLD THAT IS SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE FOR WILDLIFE AND SOCIETY