



# USGS National Wildlife Health Center

**Paul G. Slota**  
**National Wildlife Health Center**

U.S. Department of the Interior  
U.S. Geological Survey





# USGS National Wildlife Health Center

*Advancing Wildlife and Ecosystem Health*

**The USGS National Wildlife Health Center mission is to provide national leadership to safeguard wildlife and ecosystem health through dynamic partnerships and exceptional science**







**“CDC for Wildlife”**

**Designed biocontainment (BSL-3) diagnostic and research facility for wildlife located in Madison, Wisconsin**

**Field station in Hawaii**

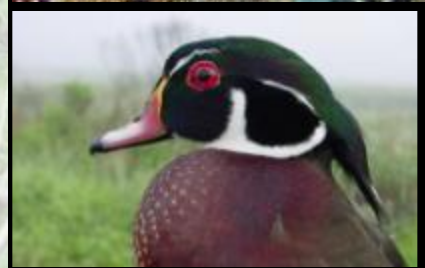




# What We Do

## *Advancing Wildlife and Ecosystem Health*

- Disease investigations
- Surveillance and monitoring
- Emergency response
- Applied research
- Education, training and outreach





# Epidemiological and Diagnostic Investigations

- **Work with partners to identify and respond to wildlife morbidity and mortality events**
- **Detect and identify both known and novel wildlife pathogens in samples submitted to the Center**
- **Provide information, investigation guidance, management options, and technical assistance regarding wildlife health and disease issues**





# **Epidemiological and Diagnostic Investigations**

## **Disease Investigations in FY2012-13:**

- **Sea star mortality on the West Coast**
- **Avian cholera in seabirds in Alaska**
- **Investigations of snake fungal disease east of the Mississippi**
- **Expanded marine mammal investigations (seal/sea otters)**
- **Suspected carbamate poisoning in Wisconsin songbirds**
- **Eustrongyoides mortality in Florida juvenile great egrets**
- **Amphibian mortality surveillance in the NE United States**
- **Coral disease outbreak investigation in Kauai**
- **Urchin, puffer mortality investigations in Hawaii**



# North American Wildlife Health Strategy

**Establish proactive, collaborative partnerships to address the most pressing wildlife health issues**





# National Fish and Wildlife Health Network

- **Wildlife Diagnostic Laboratories Network**  
Capacity to detect wildlife diseases following standardized protocols
- **Data Management and Information Dissemination**  
Timely and accurate data to manage wildlife diseases
- **Disease Surveillance**  
Framework for consistent, coordinated wildlife disease surveillance
- **Communications and Response Plans**  
Preparedness to effectively respond and manage wildlife diseases



# Epizootic Database-Quarterly Report



**USGS Home**  
**Contact USGS**  
**Search USGS**

## National Wildlife Health Center

...advancing wildlife and ecosystem health

Search NWHC:

Search

JRANK

You are here: > [Home](#) > [Publications](#) > [Quarterly Reports](#) > [2013 Qtr 4](#)

[Disease Information](#) >

[Mortality Events](#) >

[Our Research](#) >

[Publications](#) >

[Services](#) >

[Forms and Instructions](#) >

[Honolulu Field Station](#) >

[Education & Outreach](#) >

[Related Resources](#) >

[Information Desk](#) >

[Contact Us](#)

### USGS National Wildlife Health Center Quarterly Wildlife Mortality Report October 2013 to December 2013

Reported State	Location	Dates	Species	Mortality <sup>A</sup>	Diagnosis <sup>B</sup>	Laboratory <sup>C</sup>
AK	Saint Lawrence Island	11/18/13-12/31/13	Crested Auklet, Thick-billed Murre, Northern Fulmar, Glaucous Gull	1,000 (e)	Avian cholera	NW
CA	Andree Clark Bird Refuge	11/17/13-12/21/13	American Coot	5	Trauma	CAF
CA	Hayward Marsh	12/12/13-ongoing	Sora Rail, Unidentified Scaup, Ruddy Duck, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail	685	Avian cholera	CAF
CA	Madera	10/21/13-11/04/13	American Coot, Ruddy Duck, Unidentified Sandpiper	200 (e)	Botulism suspect	NON
CA	Merced NWR	12/12/13-ongoing	Ross' Goose, American Coot	200 (e)	Avian cholera	NW
CA	Nearys Lagoon, Santa Cruz	11/07/13-11/20/13	American Coot	4	Trauma	CAF
CA	Redwood Shores	12/23/13-01/31/14	Green-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Ruddy Duck, American Coot, Canada Goose	361	Avian cholera	NW
CA	San Joaquin River NWR	12/31/13-ongoing	Ross' Goose, American Coot, Aleutian Canada Goose	600 (e)	Avian cholera	NW
CA	Woodbridge Creek Ecological Reserve	12/30/13-01/15/14	American Coot, American Wigeon, Black-necked Stilt, Northern Shoveler, Killdeer	200 (e)	Avian cholera	CAF
MN	Lake Winnibigoshish	10/29/13-11/15/13	American Coot, Lesser Scaup	10	Parasitism: trematodiasis	NW

## 40 Years of Wildlife Mortality Data

Date, Number Dead, Diagnosis, Location





# National Fish and Wildlife Health Network

## Steering Committee:

**USFWS**

**NPS**

**BIA**

**USDA/APHIS/VS**

**USDA/APHIS/WS**

**CDC**

**USGS**

**NOAA**

**Env. Canada**

**AFWA (States)**

**SCWDS**

**CCWHC**

**AAWV**

**WDA**

**EcoHealth Alliance**

**Tufts**

**UC Davis**

**MMC**

National Fish and Wildlife  
Health Network

Concept Paper



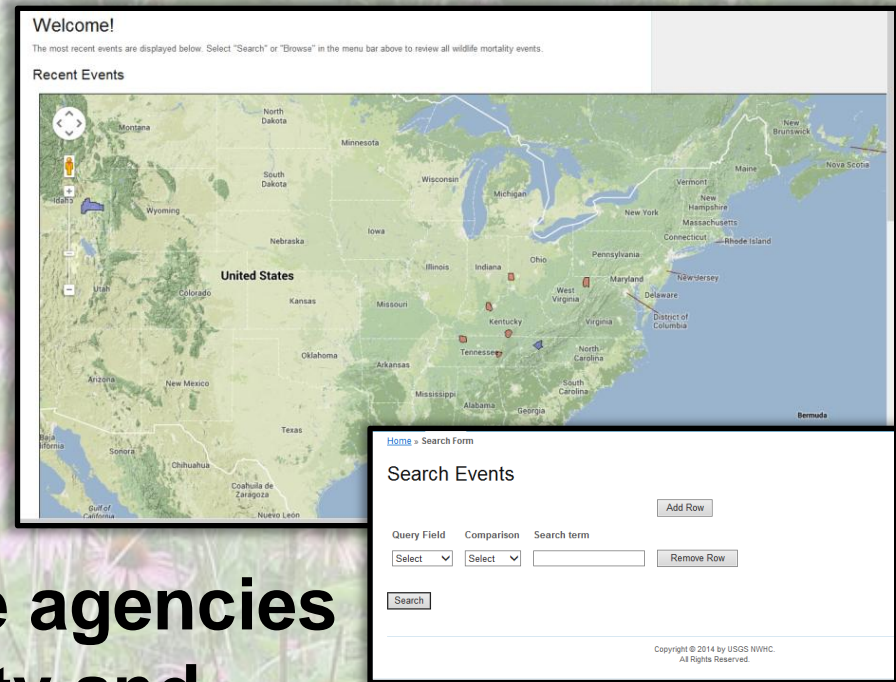
January, 2013



# Data Partnerships

**Manage and disseminate wildlife health information to enable natural resource agencies to monitor wildlife mortality and morbidity events across North America.**

**Partners and Stakeholders:  
Federal agencies, State & Tribal natural resource management agencies, academic & non-governmental partners, general public**





# WHISPers

## Wildlife Health Information Sharing Partnership – event reporting system

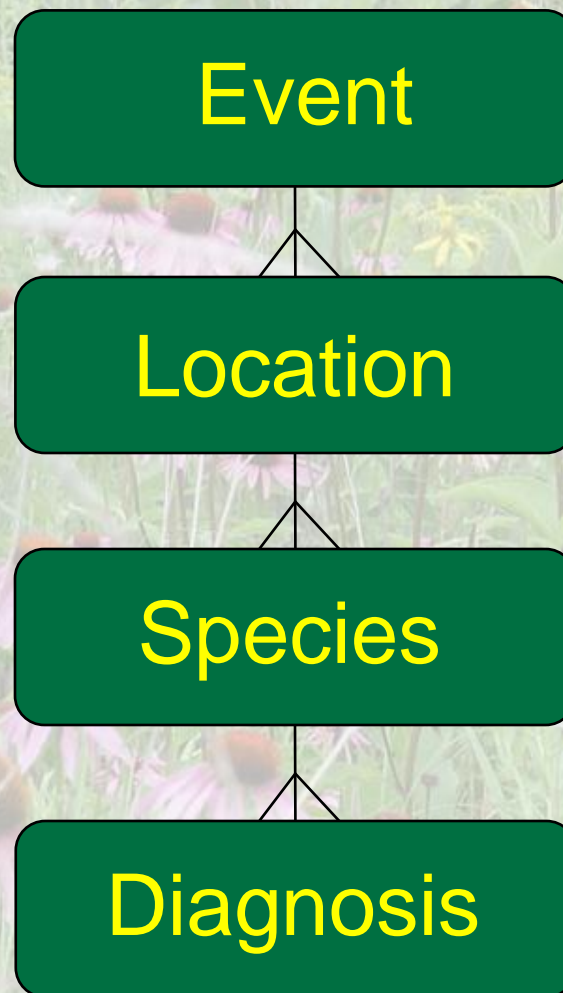
- Partner driven – Web based
- Search, sort, download – verified wildlife disease event data
- Provide enhanced situational awareness of wildlife mortality & morbidity events





# WHISPers

Data schema:





# WHISPers

- Public vs. Agency permissions
- Logins distributed to partners
- Data verification
- Data visibility
- “mortality event”
- Definition and exceptions
- Locational precision



Wildlife Health Information Sharing Partnership  
- event reporting system (WHISPers)

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is WHISPers?

WHISPers is a partner-driven, web-based system for tracking basic information about historic and ongoing wildlife mortality and morbidity events. The primary goal of the system is to provide natural resource management partners and the public with timely, accurate situational awareness regarding these events. The system also serves as a searchable archive of historic mortality and morbidity event data.

### What does WHISPers do?

The system is designed to allow users a variety of mechanisms to view information about wildlife mortality and morbidity events. Users can sort and filter records within the system by geographic area, date range, species, or disease of concern. Records can be viewed in a tabular (grid) format, or mapped by political jurisdiction (counties in the US). Users can create and run compound queries to further refine results. Query results (tabular format) can be downloaded for local use. Authenticated partners (login and password protected) will have the capability to enter information about mortality and morbidity events into the system, and edit/update those records.

### Who can access the system?

WHISPers is visible on the internet. All visitors to the WHISPers website will be able to query/view “publicly visible” data within the system. Agency users (login and password protected) will have the additional capability to enter and edit records regarding mortality and morbidity events.

### Why is a login and password required to enter data into WHISPers?

The system is designed to track verified information regarding mortality and morbidity events. As such, only approved partners (typically federal, state and tribal natural resource agencies, diagnostic laboratories, and academic wildlife health partners) will be granted logins.

### What level of data verification is required?

WHISPers is designed for laboratory-confirmed mortality/morbidity events. For timeliness, events can be entered with an “unknown” cause of death. Records will be updated if/when laboratory confirmation is received.

### Why is it important to track wildlife mortality events?

Diseases affect wildlife and wildlife populations. Many diseases are quite predictable, occurring in the same locations at similar times each year. By chronicling these “typical” events, we can develop a better picture of disease impacts on wildlife across North America. And with knowledge of “typical” events, it is easier to identify departures from the norm, including new species or geographic areas affected by known diseases, or new diseases as they emerge and potentially spread across the landscape. A centralized repository of this information promotes situational awareness of wildlife disease, and the augments opportunity for both proactive and timely reactive response by natural resource managers.

### Who is the intended audience?

The primary audience for WHISPers is natural resource managers who need timely situational awareness of wildlife mortality and morbidity events. Knowledge of recent and ongoing events affords these professionals the opportunity to (1) proactively monitor for disease in their jurisdiction, and (2) prepare for and appropriately manage these events.

### Why should I participate?

In order to create a more thorough and accurate picture of mortality and morbidity events in North America, natural resource agencies who monitor wildlife health are invited to participate. Situational awareness of wildlife mortality and morbidity events will be enhanced if partners are willing to share information regarding events in their jurisdiction.

National Wildlife Health Center



# WHISPers



## North American Wildlife Mortality Event Reporting System

[Home](#) [Search](#) [About](#) [Contact](#) [Logout \(admin\)](#)

[New Event](#) [Events](#) [Locations](#) [Location Species](#) [Species Diagnosis](#)

[Species](#) [Agencies](#) [Contacts](#) [Diagnosis List](#) [Labs](#) [Nations](#) [States](#) [Counties](#)

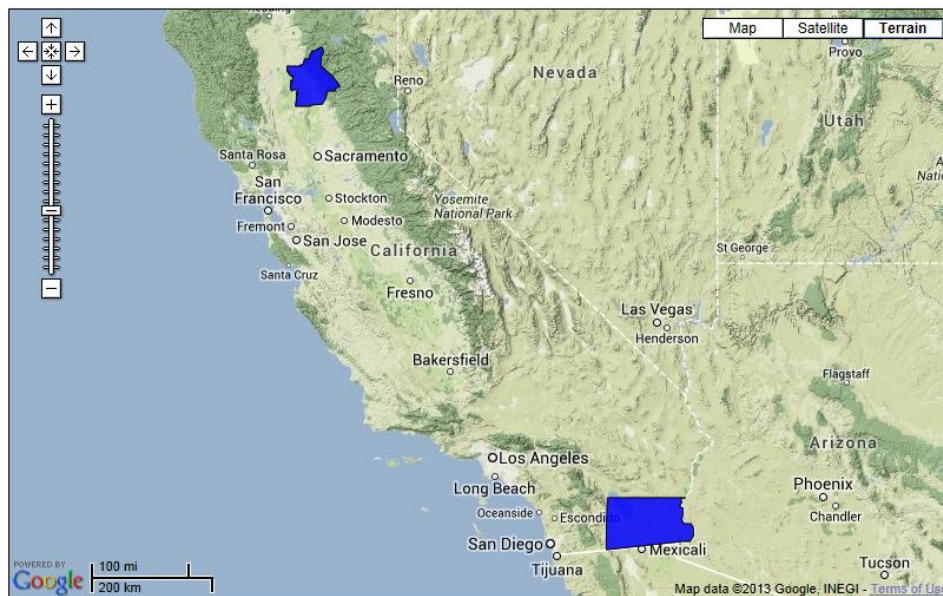
[Home](#) » [Search Form](#)

### Search Events

Query Field \* Comparison \* Query \*

☒ And ☐ Or

Copyright © 2013 by USGS NWH  
All Rights Reserved.



### Results

[Export to Excel](#)

Total 4 results.

#	Event Name	Onset	Cessation	State	County	Species	Diagnosis	Dx Priority
0	1915-004	1/1/1915	3/1/1915	California	Butte	Tundra Swan	Avian cholera suspect	2
1	1915-004	1/1/1915	3/1/1915	California	Butte	Tundra Swan	Avian cholera suspect	2
2	2001-182	1/20/2001	4/30/2001	California	Imperial	Eared Grebe	Avian cholera	2
3	2001-182	1/20/2001	4/30/2001	California	Imperial	Eared Grebe	Avian cholera	2





# One Health

## Human-Agriculture-Wildlife-Ecosystem

