



NEWSLETTER

Winter 2017



In this newsletter



- 🐾 President's corner
- 🐾 News from the EWDA board
- 🐾 EWDA Small Grants: First Recipients!
- 🐾 13th EWDA Conference, August 27 – 31, 2018, Larissa, Thessaly, Greece
- 🐾 Introducing the new EWDA Conference Attendance Fund
- 🐾 Update on the Mentoring Programme
- 🐾 1st Summer School for ECZM WPH Residents
- 🐾 Belgium's EWDA student symposium
- 🐾 Student Chapter Austria: Facts and Activities 2017
- 🐾 66th WDA conference in San Cristobal, July 2017
- 🐾 News from the North – 6 exciting articles; CWD, mystery lesions and more!
- 🐾 Infectious Keratoconjunctivitis at the wildlife-livestock interface
- 🐾 Avian flu among wild birds in the Netherlands, 2016-2017
- 🐾 EFSA Target list for passive surveillance of HPAIV among wild birds, EU
- 🐾 Progress in ASF-STOP Cost Action



President's Corner



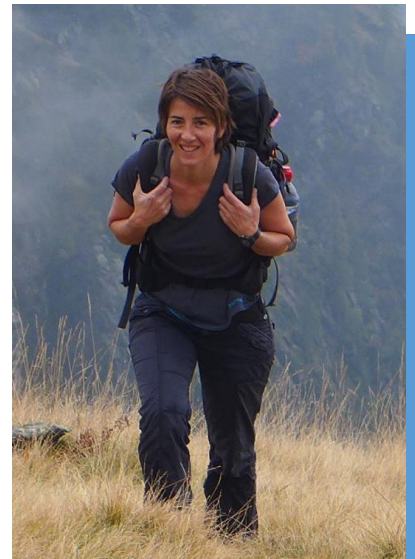
The end of the year is certainly a busy period for many, if not all of us. Whether travelling to meetings, working in the field or struggling with deadlines at the office, there is so much to do! But is that only at the end of the year? Looking at the content of this Newsletter, it seems that wildlife health activities are numerous enough to keep even more people busy all year round!

On the disease front, avian flu, fungal diseases in amphibians and African swine fever will obviously not lose their significance in the coming years. Avian flu has killed thousands of birds of multiple species in many countries a year ago – when will the next devastating outbreak occur, and will it affect humans? Experts warn that *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* represents an unprecedented threat to western Palaearctic amphibians – which population will be affected next, and will it go extinct? ASF has taken big jumps towards western European regions in 2017, and the number of cases has strongly increased – how will the situation look like in a year, both in wild boar and domestic pigs?

Not only vertebrates but also organisms such as sea stars, corals and bees heavily suffer of emerging diseases worldwide. This situation underlines again and again the need for a rapid exchange of information, harmonized approaches to diagnosis, and coordinated efforts to implement control measures. It also reminds us of the necessity to support the next generation to continue the work we have undertaken, to make it better, and to keep faith that something can be done. Surely, we also need to find better ways to educate people about the value of biodiversity and the need for health surveillance and biosecurity.

All this looks pretty much like a huge mountain with such a high summit that nobody will ever manage to reach it. But haven't humans managed to reach the moon? Surely we can do it. We may not have found yet how, but there must be a way. And besides working hard, carrying out research, implementing surveillance programmes, working across disciplines and engaging the public, we should not forget to encourage our children and all students to take care of themselves; not just to focus on learning fast, writing papers and being competitive on the job market, but also to enjoy life; to take time for friendship, time for good food, time to appreciate the beauty of the planet; time to laugh while going up the mountain, because we are strongest when heart, soul and brain are in harmony.

Very soon it will be holiday time, and I wish you all a happy, relaxing time with the people you love. Many thanks for the work done during this year, and best wishes for the new year to come. I hope to meet you again in 2018 - healthy, joyful, and richer of new exciting experiences. All the best!



Marie-Pierre Ryser

EWDA Chair

FIWI, University of Bern

News from the Board

Ho ! Ho ! Ho !

It is holiday season and when I was putting together this piece for the newsletter, I was feeling more than a little festive !

So what does the board have in store for your this winter ?

- ★ The first round of applications has come and gone and as you will see on the specific page, the EWDA small grants committee, in collaboration with the board, has afforded the first ever EWDA small grants for Wildlife Conservation Research. Many thanks to all of the talented teams that competed for these grants and congratulations to the two recipients !
- ★ Also publicized elsewhere in this newsletter, when you register for the conference in Greece, look out for the information of the EWDA conference attendance fund which was created thanks to the generosity of one of our esteemed members. If you have limited financial means and no institutional support, this fund is for you ! And if you wish to contribute to this fund as a donor, it is our sincere hope that this fund will grow thanks to you !
- ★ In the course of the board activities of the past year, it become clear to our chair that the bylaws of the EWDA needed some clarification and the board has been actively working on a new and improved version of them. These will include more detailed information on the board positions, which should assist all candidates or those still hesitating to come forward as potential board member in making an informed decision. The bylaws are still in the works, but the goal is that they are finalized by the next EWDA conference.
- ★ With these new bylaws achieved, beginning of 2018 the nomination committee, chaired by former EWDA chair Lisa Yon, will be confirming candidates for the positions that will open within the board in 2018. The candidates will be presented to the membership in the Spring and there will be an open call for additional candidates. To be a candidate to a board position, you must be an EWDA member in good standing and be sponsored by at least 3 EWDA members.
- ★ The EWDA students have been very active lately as you can witness by the pieces of the country representatives in this newsletter. We look forward to hearing from them at the next conference which also has several board members assisting with the hard work of the organizing committee.
- ★ Our new website is still brushing up on its new looks. Our website coordinator, Rogier Bodewes, is looking for some feedback and some beautiful wildlife pictures to illustrate it. So please check out it work so far at <http://108.179.213.60/~ewdaorg/> (also accessible via the current website <https://sites.google.com/site/ewdawebiste/>)

★ **And as they say in Europe :**

Joyeux Noël, Fröhliche Weihnachten, Merry Christmas, Chestita Koleda, Glædelig Jul, Feliz Navidad, Roomsaid Joulu Puh, Iloista Joulua, Kala Christouyenna, Kellemes Karácsonyi Ünnepeket, Nollaig Shona Duit, Buon Natale, Pricigus Ziemassvetkus, Linksmu Kaledu, Il-Milied It-Tajjeb, Vrolijk Kerstfeest, Wesolych Swiat Bozego Narodzenia, Feliz Natal, Craciun Fericit, Veselé Vianoce, Vesel Bozic, God Jul and Veselé Vánoce !



Karin Lemberger

EWDA Secretary

*Faunapath + Vet Diagnostics,
France*



EWDA BULLETIN

EWDA Small Grants: First Recipients !



The new EWDA Small Grants Programme aims to promote selected activities hampered by a lack of funding, to increase the benefits of EWDA membership, to increase the visibility of the EWDA, and to provide the EWDA with a new means to accomplish the general WDA mission ("to acquire, disseminate and apply knowledge of the health and diseases of wild animals in relation to their biology, conservation, and interactions with humans and domestic animals"). Grant recipients will receive funding to accomplish a project that has defined and measurable goals that are in line with the WDA mission. Two types of grants are offered: (1) Wildlife Conservation Research Grant and (2) Grant for Wildlife Health Activities in Eastern Europe.

This first grant cycle, the small grants committee evaluated six applications in total. Regretfully, there will be not Grant for Wildlife Health Activities in Eastern Europe, and we sincerely encourage EWDA members to use/promote the opportunity of this grant for the next cycle.

Considering the goals of the Small Grants Programme and the close scores of the top applications, in agreement with the Board it was decided to share the second grant among the two other best scored applications.

CONGRATULATIONS to the winning teams !

1st: Feasibility study for using aptamers for ranavirus detection (RANAPTA)

Authors and collaborators: Jolianne M. Rijks, Bernardo Saucedo, Andrea Laconi, H el ene Verheije, Andrea Gr one, The Global Ranavirus Consortium, Aptamer group

Objectives

The objective of this grant proposal is to screen existing aptamers for their binding with ranaviruses in water. This should provide the aptamer binding/activity data required to make an informed 'go-no-go' decision regarding whether or not to pursue the development of an aptamer-based lateral flow immunoassay for detecting ranavirus in waterbodies.



Dr Jolianne M Rijks
Utrecht University



EWDA Small Grants: First Recipients !



2nd: Unraveling the causes of secondary hyperparathyroidism in a colony of wild storks (*Ciconia ciconia*)

Authors and collaborators: Ursula Höfle, Rafael Mateo, Paula Fernandez Garcia, Begona Jimenez

Objectives

Identification of the cause or causes of the appearance of secondary hyperparathyroidism in white stork nestlings using archived and newly gathered samples with targeted toxicological analysis of peripheral blood of affected and unaffected nestlings, analysis of prey items in the stomach and capture of prey items during the critical growth period of stork with analysis of Calcium, Phosphorous and contaminant contents.



Dr Ursula Höfle
IREC



3rd: Raptor health as an indicator of ecosystem health: development of novel surveillance tools for conservation

Authors and collaborators: Prof. Anna Meredith, Gabriela Peniche, Dr. Neil Anderson, Prof. Des Thompson, Dr. Mark Taggart, Prof. Richard Shore, Shaheed Karl Macgregor

Objectives

The overall objective of this project is to study and improve our understanding of the health status of Scottish golden eagle nestlings and the potential impacts that disease and environmental variables may be having on the wider population.



Prof Anna Meredith
University of Edinburgh



Deadline for applications of the next cycle: September 2019. The full guidelines can be found on the EWDA website.

Small Grants Committee Members: Andrew Breed, Gábor Czirják, Károly Erdélyi, Emmanuelle Gilot-Fromont, Jacques Godfroid (chair), Ignasi Marco, Tony Sainsbury



13th EWDA Conference

August 27 – 31, 2018

Larissa, Thessaly, Greece



Dear colleagues,

The 13th EWDA Conference is on its way. On behalf of the Organizing Committee allow me to express our confidence that it's going to be a really fantastic event!

But first things first... I would like to remind you that the Conference will be held on August 27 to 31, 2018 in Larissa, Thessaly, Greece and will be hosted by the University of Thessaly. The EWDA Wildlife Health Surveillance Network meeting (August 26th) and the annual meeting of ECZM (August 26-27, 2018) will take place in parallel. The title of the Conference has been defined as **“Wildlife health and conservation: expectations in a challenging era”** in our effort to focus on the changing environment and the need to promote disease and conservation management in a more effective manner.



Larissa center, Ancient Theater



Glareola pratincola

Further, we are proud to announce the members of our Scientific Committee, who are all famous in their fields and needless to say how kind they also are, as they are willing to help with the huge workload to come: Charalambos Billinis, Periklis Birtsas, Ezzio Ferroglio, Christian Gortázar Schmidt, Mike Hutchings, Richard Kock, Thijs Kuiken, Becki Lawson, Miriam Maas, Zissis Mamuris, Aleksija Neimane, Orusa Riccardo, Marie-Pierre Ryser Degiorgis, Ursula Siebert, Vassiliki Spyrou, Morten Tryland.

Abstract submissions will be open on the 1st of February and the deadline will be the 31th of March. We will be more than happy to see you presenting your latest work at our conference. So, we are looking forward to receiving your abstracts. **Early bird registration** will also be open on the 1st of February, while the deadline will be the 15th of May.

Various sessions and workshops are now being formulated. Besides the scientific program, we have planned for you an excursion to Meteora, which is a majestic World Heritage UNESCO site and a post conference tour (September 1st) to the island of Alonissos, which will give you an amazing opportunity to dive into the Aegean Sea famous blue waters and watch monk seals and wild birds during their migration period.

For the months to follow, you are kindly invited to visit our website EWDA2018.vet.uth.gr to watch our latest news. You can also find us on Facebook, please do not forget to Like our page “EWDA Conference 2018”. We are really excited and working on how to make the conference an unforgettable experience... But that will only happen if you will be there with us. Looking forward to meeting you at the 13th EWDA Conference, August 27-31, Larissa, Greece.



Charalambos Billinis

Professor

Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
University of Thessaly

Introducing the new EWDA Conference Attendance Fund



Vic Simpson, a wildlife veterinary pathologist who runs the Wildlife Veterinary Investigation Centre in Cornwall, has dedicated his career to investigating infectious and non-infectious diseases affecting a wide range of British species, and has made tremendous contributions to this knowledge. In 2016 he received the Wildlife Disease Association's (WDA) prestigious Emeritus Award, which recognises a lifetime contribution from a WDA member to the wildlife health professions. The WDA considers that Vic has influenced and inspired countless students and members in this field. This year, Vic was also awarded the International Otter Survival Fund 2017 'Special Award for Lifelong Commitment' to otter conservation.



Vic Simpson doing what he loves most: wildlife necropsies

A long-time member and friend to the EWDA, Vic has made a very generous donation to create the new EWDA Conference Attendance Fund. This fund has been specifically created to encourage colleagues with limited finances to attend our biennial EWDA conferences. The fund is not intended for students (as there are separate funding schemes to support them) but rather to support colleagues who do not have other financial support to attend our conferences. Particular priority will be given to colleagues who are largely (or solely) self-financed, who wish to give an oral or poster presentation, and have been EWDA members for at least 12 months prior to applying.

The grant is intended to cover conference registration, and reasonable travel costs; it is not intended to cover accommodation or meals, but will hopefully defray costs sufficiently to enable attendance at the conference for colleagues who would otherwise be unable to do so.

Further details on this funding scheme, and application forms, will become available on this year's EWDA conference website. We encourage applicants to submit their applications well in advance of the closing date for conference registration.

We are very grateful to Vic for this very generous support which we hope will help many of our colleagues to join us at our conferences.



Lisa Yon

*Past chair of EWDA
University of Nottingham*

To check out a great educational video by Vic Simpson on a bird necropsy, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=57P3joNMGvA>



Update on the Mentoring Programme



Earlier this year, a mentoring programme was set up by the WDA Student Activity Committee in collaboration with the AAZV (American Association of Zoo Veterinarians). After a successful first application round, a second application round was opened in October.



THE POWER OF *MENTORING*

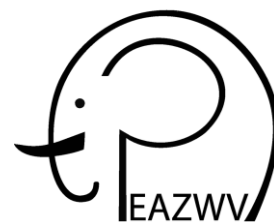
For the second round, the EAZWV (European Association of Zoo and Wildlife Veterinarians) joined the initiative. The involvement of the EAZWV has increased the mentor applications from Europe. Unfortunately, we only had 26 mentors joining the programme so far, leaving many mentees without a mentor.

Mentors	Africa	Asia	Australia/NZ	Europe	North America	South America	Total
Round 1	7	5	6	2	40	9	69
Round 2	0	0	2	16	8	0	26
Mentees	Africa	Asia	Australia/NZ	Europe	North America	South America	Total
Round 1	7	2	8	10	41	45	113
Round 2	1	0	1	56	34	3	95

The call for mentors has therefore been extended. Apply as a mentor **now** to make a difference to the career of a student!



More information about the programme can be found [here](#).
The application form for mentors can be found [here](#).



For questions, suggestions and feedback about the programme, the coordinators can be contacted via vwwet@yahoo.com.



We look forward to welcoming you as a mentor.

Please help spread the word!



WDA Student Activities Committee

1st Summer School for ECZM Residents in Wildlife Population Health



In the first two weeks of August, six out of the eight current residents in Wildlife Population Health of the European College of Zoological Medicine (ECZM-WPH) attended the first ECZM-WPH Summer School in Utrecht. The interdisciplinary programme was kindly put together by Dr. Jolianne Rijks at the Dutch Wildlife Health Centre and included lectures, group exercises, practicals and fieldwork. The areas covered included applied epidemiology, gross necropsy, histopathology, disease risk assessment, wildlife tracking systems and field anaesthesia.



ECZM-WPH residents observing European bison in the Kraansvlak area



ECZM-WPH residents (white lab coats) assisting Lonneke Ijseldijk (red lab coat) during a necropsy of a harbour porpoise. Residents from left to right: Helle Bernstorff Hydeskov (United Kingdom), James Hassell (United Kingdom), Anja Reckendorf (Germany), Simone Pisano (Switzerland), Miljenko Bujanić (Croatia) and Luisa Ziegler (Germany)

During one of the three scheduled excursions, the residents visited the European bison project in the Kraansvlak area. There they learned about the ecology and the details of the reintroduction of the European bison. Finally, they had practical exercises on radiotelemetry and tele-immobilisation with Dr. Mark Hoyer. In the second week, the residents collected water samples in the field and then extracted environmental DNA in the laboratory.

On the last excursion, the residents visited the De Hoge Veluwe National Park to deepen their knowledge about the ecology and management of the wild boar with special regard to the current situation of African swine fever in Europe.

The first ECZM-WPH Summer School was an incredibly rich experience for all participating residents. The scientific programme was broad and adhered to the requirements of the ECZM-WPH. It also allowed the residents, who are based at universities in different European countries, to share a common basic knowledge, strengthen their relationships and it laid foundations for potential scientific collaborations in the future. The next ECZM-WPH resident Summer School is planned for 2018 in Zagreb and the residents hope that these great learning opportunities will become an annual tradition.

Special thanks again to Jolianne for the organization of the Summer School!

The ECZM-WPH residents



The Summer School coordinator Dr. Rijks with the ECZM-WPH residents receiving their certificates

Belgium's EWDA Student Symposium



And it's done ! On the 17th and 18th of November 2017 the first edition of the Belgian EWDA Student Chapter symposium took place, and we do think it was a great success! About 150 students and professionals from over 15 European Countries came together to learn and discuss about wildlife health and conservation... and we're secretly proud to think that it was one of the first vet events bringing together Flemish and Wallonian students.



*Marie-Pierre Ryser
presenting the lecture
"Turning Science into
Practice"*

The red line of the symposium was inspired on an article in the first journal of the WDA of this year: 'Wildlife Health 2.0: Bridging the Knowledge-to-Action Gap' by C. Stephen. Hence, the topics covered were very broad, but all of the speakers, one way or another, aimed to their research findings into action, or were working on ways to do this. Topics included vulture conservation, dolphin vaccination, breeding programmes, amphibians, lyme disease, elephant herpes, and many more. We learned how field work, collecting data, collaboration between vets and scientists, social aspect and fun are all important elements in order to finally make an impact on wildlife conservation. The first day, two sessions were organized parallel: one on terrestrial and one on marine mammals. Both sessions followed two lectures and two wildlife necropsy demonstrations. On the second day, we started off with a series of lectures, followed by discussion sessions with the speakers in small groups in the afternoon, and of course... chocolates and beers (and other drinks) were the main ingredients of the final part of the programme.



*Our volunteer team with us and some
speakers (left to right) : Rosario Volpe,
Géraldine Lacave, Jacques Godfroid,
Katharina Seilern, Stéphane Lair and
Anthony Kohler*

We were honestly, really overwhelmed by the enthusiasm of all of the participants, coming to Liege from so many different places and backgrounds. It was really very nice to meet so many different people from different countries having the same interest. We were also very touched by the motivation and passion of the speakers. They all volunteered to speak for us (some travelling quite long distances even) and all of them really inspired us... So a big thank you to them! And another big 'thank you' goes to the sponsors, collaborators, and volunteers, who made this symposium possible.

Now, we enjoy having some extra spare time... but we keep very nice memories from this event and are looking forward to meet the EWDA family again at a next event!

If you're curious to discover more about the symposium in detail, you can still check the website: www.wildlifeconservation.be.



*Anna Baauw and Marianthi
Ioannidis*

Student Chapter Austria – Facts and Activities 2017



As a country representative I am aiming on getting students interested and involved in our student chapter's activities and spreading the word about the EWDA. This year we organized three lecture events - „Ornithology“, „Veterinary Roles and Research in Conservation and Wildlife Medicine“ and „Nordic Fauna“ with around 140 attendees. We were also lucky to have BirdLife Austria honour president *Prof.Loupal* guiding us on three ornithology field trips through the Nationalpark „Donauauen“ with a total of 45 participants.



Ornithology Field Trip

Our audience consists mainly of veterinary and wildlife ecology/management students. Also some faculty members and external guests join us.

We invited lecturers from Germany, Italy, Austria and India. They came from various backgrounds such as Wildlife and Conservation Medicine, Exotic Pet Veterinary Medicine, Pathology, Physiology, Ornithology and even an Outdoor Adventurer (<https://janosch-hagen.de>).

Topics covered were bird migration, clinical wild bird cases, wildlife diseases in birds, field anesthesia, surgery and pain management related to conservation projects with wild mammals, reptiles and birds, a student's wildlife veterinary externship experience, unmanned aerial vehicles as a tool in captive wildlife management and reproduction biology and reproduction management in large european carnivores.



Lecture Event

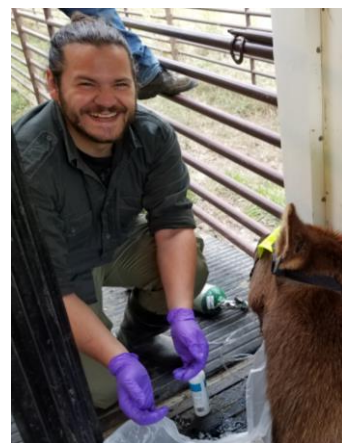
Our next lecture event will take place at the *University of Veterinary Medicine*, in Vienna, on the 5th of April 2018. Details will be announced once all the speakers are confirmed.

We are looking forward to seeing some of you at upcoming events in Europe and would love to hear from you if you're passing through Vienna.

Our main communication tool is our Facebook group: *EWDA Student Chapter AUSTRIA*.

You can find detailed reports about our activities on the EWDA Student Chapter Homepage <https://ewdastudent.wordpress.com/> (Click the Activities-button → EWDA Student Symposia → Past Student Symposia).

A huge **“Thank you”** goes out to all our lecturers and supporter (Especially AVE-Akademikergruppe Veterinärmedizin for helping with organization).



Sinan Julian Keleş

*Student Chapter Austria
Representative*

66th WDA Conference in San Cristobal, July 2017



The 66th annual WDA conference was held from 23-29th July in San Cristobal, Chiapas, Mexico. It was also the 3rd conference of the WDA Latin American Section and the 5th Kalaan Kab International Congress on Disease Ecology.

Attending this conference were 245 delegates from 24 countries from four continents, including several EWDA members from at least Norway, Sweden, UK, France and Switzerland.



Well known members of the EWDA enjoying Mexican food (Marc Artois, Erik Ågren, Becki Lawson)



More current and former (Javier Millán) EWDA colleagues enjoying Mexican chocolate drinks after a busy afternoon session at the conference



Colonial-style architecture for which San Cristobal is noted

The invited speakers included Carol Meteyer (U.S. Geological Survey-Environmental Health), Rodolfo Dirzo (Stanford University), Frances Gulland (Marine Mammal Centre, Sausalito, California), and Jean-François Guégan (French Institute for Research on Sustainable Development).

Carol Meteyer presented a talk entitled “Emerging Disease and Wildlife Conservation - When does intervention work?”. Taking significant examples (e.g. White nose syndrome in bats and Diclofenac poisoning in vultures), she described the criteria that can constitute ‘an emerging wildlife disease event’. Other factors were described such as, how minimum data can be used for predictive modelling; the critical factors that are required for effective control of an emerging wildlife disease event; and wildlife disease agents as environmental contaminants of concern. She stressed the importance of rapid response mitigation. It was demonstrated that in the case of Diclofenac, the science showing that this anti-inflammatory agent was the cause of a 95% reduction in vulture populations across Asia, was delayed by several years in publication, and this resulted in significant mortalities of vultures, which may have been prevented. Carol was advocating from her own experience in the two example diseases, that although mitigation in free-ranging wildlife is difficult, rapid responses to wildlife disease events were essential otherwise there was little point in investigating the causes in the first place.

Rodolfo Dirzo’s talk focussed on biodiversity loss in the Anthropocene. He explained the novel term “defaunation” - as an analogy to deforestation - and went across the cascade of events that it can cause.

Frances Gulland presented the massive efforts deployed to save the vaquita from extinction, a small porpoise endemic to the Gulf of California. Unfortunately, after having hoped that the implemented conservation measures would save the population *in situ*, a further population decline has occurred and it currently appears that an *ex situ* programme is additionally required.



Monkeys, alligators and pelicans were seen from motor launches on the spectacular Cañón del Sumidero field trip

Jean-François Guégan talked about how land-use changes, climatic patterns and biodiversity alterations contribute to disease emergence in many parts of the world, using Buruli ulcer disease as an example.

An emerging theme at the conference was the evidence for global warming in northern (sub-arctic) Canada where environmental change is suspected to be behind declining populations of salmon, killer whales and large ungulates (musk ox and caribou). How this climatic change is impacting these populations and whether infectious disease and parasitism are playing a direct role is as yet unclear.

Another noteworthy topic was presented by Richard Kock, who described the continuing plight of Saiga antelope, which live in fragmented populations across Russia, Kazakhstan and Mongolia. In 2015 a huge mortality occurred probably involving deaths of 150,000 animals from haemorrhagic septicaemia (*Pasteurella multocida* infection) over a period of just 4 weeks.

Meanwhile the isolated Mongolian population - conserved from 750 individuals to a population (in 2015) approaching 10,000 - became infected in December 2016 with the virus of the Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) for the first time. The virus infected Mongolian livestock for the first time in August 2016 and domestic animals in turn infected the Saiga through co-grazing. 54% of the population died in 3 months and only 15 young animals were known to have been born in 2017. Other species of wild Asian ungulates were also affected by the virus, in contrast to African ungulates/antelopes, which are highly resistant to infection by this virus.

Last but not least, multiple contributions from Latin America hinted at the variety of activities in the wildlife health sector in this part of the world.

The Abstract Book of the conference is available as PDF from the WDA website (www.wildlifediseases.org > conferences > past international conferences).



Paul Duff &

Marie-Pierre Ryser

(The intense programme required an energy giving refill with more Mexican chocolate)



News from the North!

1. Eco-epidemiology of tick and rodent-borne pathogens in boreal forests of Finland

The geographical repartition of the tick *Ixodes ricinus* is undergoing changes particularly visible on the northern edge of its distribution. For instance, in Northern Europe tick-borne diseases are growing in importance to human. Ubiquitous rodents such as the bank vole (*Myodes glareolus*) feed ectoparasites and are natural hosts for a plethora of vector-borne pathogens. We aimed at elucidating the dynamics and mechanisms of maintenance of ticks, tick-borne pathogens and the endemic Puumala hantavirus in bank voles populations of Central Finland. Four years field monitoring revealed that *I. ricinus* was the only species found in the vegetation, whereas bank voles were parasitized with *I. ricinus* and *I. trianguliceps*. The abundance of immature *I. ricinus* in nature was positively associated with the bank vole abundance. The highest risk periods for tick bites on humans were May–June and September and *I. ricinus* was commonly found in urban forests surrounded with open water. The infection of bank voles with the Lyme disease pathogen, *Borrelia burgdorferi* s.l., was associated with the abundance of *I. ricinus* at the site, whereas the vole tick *I. trianguliceps* alone did not ensure the pathogen maintenance. We found that *Borrelia burgdorferi* s.l. can modify the spacing behaviour and breeding success of its rodent host, and these effects are both sex- and size-specific and density-dependent. State-space modelling revealed that individuals previously infested with ectoparasites were more likely to become infected with the Puumala hantavirus. Altogether, our study shows how seasonality, co-infecting pathogens and host population density influence the risk of tick-borne pathogens and the zoonotic risk in Northern Europe.



Bank vole (Wikimedia commons)



Claire Cayol

DVM, PhD

University of Jyväskylä, Finland

2. Web atrophy among free-living anseriform birds in Iceland



In Iceland we have occasionally observed web atrophy on legs of anseriform birds that have been raised or have lived for prolonged time in geothermal areas where water temperature varies from approximately 30 to up to almost 50°C. Legs of four subadult mallards *Anas platyrhynchos* - siblings raised during summer in the Landmannalaugar area in the centre of Iceland (Photo 1 & 2), are depicted (photograph 2). The tissue between the toes has completely disappeared in two of the birds and it has partially disappeared, to various degrees in two birds. Photographs 3 & 4 show web atrophy on legs of a Grey-lag goose *Anser anser*. Two subadult birds showed identical lesions after spending the autumn months on a pond with warm water, actually run-of water of a geothermal power plant in Iceland. If the readers of the **EWDA newsletter** have noticed similar web atrophy and know or imagine what might be the causative of these degeneration, we welcome a note from you!



Photos 1 & 2. Geothermal area in central Iceland, and complete and partial absence of web between toes of mallards

Photos 3 & 4. Web atrophy on feet of a greylag goose (*Anser anser*). Two sub-adult birds showed identical lesions after spending the autumn months in a pond with warm water derived from a power plant in Iceland.



Karl Skirnsson

Biologist

University of Iceland

Karlisk@hi.is

3. Zoonoses in bats and seals in Finland



Lyssavirus in a whiskered bat

A lyssavirus that was not either of the common European bat lyssaviruses (EBLV1 or EBLV2) was found in a whiskered bat *Myotis mystacinus* in Leppävirta, eastern Finland in August 2017. The bat was found dead and was unfortunately already rather decomposed. However, brain sample could be obtained and examined for bat rabies. RT-PCR for lyssaviruses was positive. The virus seems to be of a new species, not described earlier. Further studies on the virus are ongoing. EBLV2 has been found in Finnish Daubenton's bats *Myotis daubentonii* twice in the 2000's (2009 and 2016), both times close to the southwestern coast.

Brucella in Baltic grey seals

Baltic grey seals *Halichoerus grypus* may carry zoonotic *Brucella* bacteria. *Brucella pinnipedialis*, the species found in seals, was found in liver abscesses of three grey seals with concurrent liver fluke (*Pseudamphistomum truncatum*) infection. This was the first time *B. pinnipedialis* has been isolated in the Baltic Sea. Livers of Baltic seals – hunted of by-catch - from Finnish waters are examined regularly for parasites as part of population health monitoring of HELCOM (Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission - Helsinki Commission). Earlier, *B. pinnipedialis* has been found in Europe in the common seal *Phoca vitulina* in Scottish waters and *Brucella* sp. in the grey seal and the common seal in German North Sea.

Publication: Hirvelä-Koski, V., Nylund, M., Skrzypczak, T., Heikkinen, P., Kauhala, K., Jay, M., Isomursu, M. 2017: Isolation of *Brucella pinnipedialis* from Grey Seals (*Halichoerus grypus*) in the Baltic Sea. Journal of Wildlife Diseases 53(4): 850 - 853.



Marja Isomursu
Scientist

Finnish Food Safety Authority

4. Introduction of golden jackal (*Canis aureus*), *D. reticulatus* ticks, and *Rickettsia raoultii* in Denmark



Since 2015, three golden jackals have been reported in Jutland, Denmark. One jackal that was necropsied in 2017, carried the tick, *Dermacentor reticulatus* (Figure), which has not previously been detected in Denmark, furthermore, the tick was infected with *Rickettsia raoultii*, a zoonotic bacterium that has not been found in Danish wildlife before. This example clearly shows that long distance migration of large carnivores like the golden jackal poses a risk for introduction of exotic pathogens to new areas.

Reference: Klitgaard K, Chriél M, Isbrand A, Jensen TK, Bødker R (2017). Identification of *Dermacentor reticulatus* Ticks Carrying *Rickettsia raoultii* on Migrating Jackal, Denmark. *Emerg Infect Dis.* 23, 2072-2074.

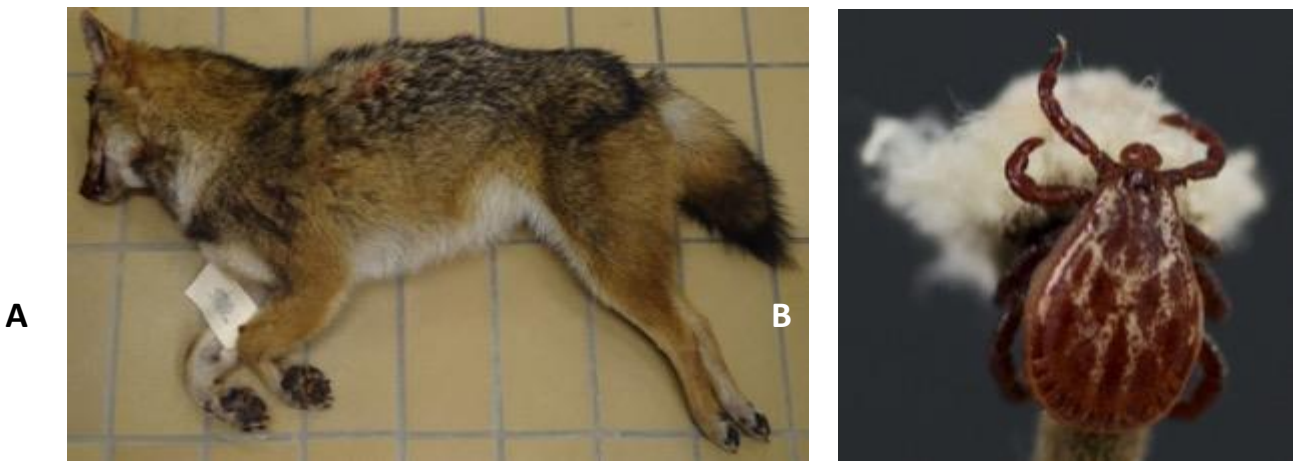


Figure: A) Golden jackal (*Canis aureus*). B) One of the 21 male *Dermacentor reticulatus* ticks collected from the golden jackal



Mette Sif Hansen

Senior Researcher

Danish Technical University

5. CWD surveillance, moose dermatitis, tularemia, and a new app in Sweden



CWD surveillance, moose dermatitis, tularemia, and a new app in Sweden

In Sweden, much of the focus of the past year has been on the finding of chronic wasting disease, CWD, in neighboring Norway. Since 2016, all cervids necropsied within the National Veterinary Institute's (SVA) passive surveillance have been tested for CWD. Targeted surveillance was not financed. Preparing surveillance plans and response plans have slowly gone forward, awaiting the decision on a EU member state CWD surveillance protocol for 2018 – 2020. One of the three CWD-positive moose in Norway (so far), was found only 20 km from the Swedish border. This finding in 2017 led to financing of a first trial of targeted surveillance within the county of Jämtland, so that also hunted moose could be tested. But, legislation concerning meat control creates logistic issues when screening cervids for TSE prions in an abattoir, especially when situated in remote areas. The EU-directive for CWD surveillance 2018 – 2020 has set a minimum level of 6 000 cervids tested over three years, for all EU member states with moose or reindeer; Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland. Fallen or sick, euthanized cervids, as well as road-killed cervids are to be tested, except for fallow deer. Hopefully, there are no findings of CWD within the EU, but if you don't look, you won't find!



*Severe dermatitis in moose (*Alces alces*) bull from Sweden. Photo: SVA*



Hunter-submitted samples for the passive surveillance of CWD in Sweden, that recently (Nov 2017) transformed into active surveillance in the county of Jämtland (encircled). Graphics: SVA



(continued) CWD surveillance, moose dermatitis, tularemia, and a new app in Sweden

Another wildlife disease of concern has been an increased number of cases of extensive dorsal dermatitis in trophy moose bulls in the autumn of 2017. After the first large outbreak of cases in the second half of 2015, the number of reports in 2016 was very low. The cause or causes of a re-occurring outbreak in 2017, again in moose only from the southern half of Sweden, have not been clarified. Massive hatching of deer ked (*Lipoptena cervi*) in 2015 and 2017 is one association according to reports from the field, but there are of course lots of deer ked infested moose without dorsal ulcerations. Other factors contributing to the chronic scratching, resulting in traumatic pyodermitis changes with secondary *Staphylococcus aureus* infection, could be humid warm climate, chorioptes mite infestation, or other unknown etiologic agents.

The pathology of tularemia in hares and other wildlife species has been studied by wildlife pathologist Gete Hestvik at the National Veterinary Institute SVA, and the University of Agricultural Sciences SLU, resulting in a dissertation in December 2017. The finding of antibodies in predators and scavengers are reported for the first time in Sweden, as well as descriptions of chronic tularemia lesions in the European brown hare, and more acute cases in yellow-necked mice.

A smartphone friendly reporting form to improve the collection, collation, and communication of wildlife cases and reports from the public, has been launched at SVA. Using citizen science to scan for wildlife mortalities and disease outbreaks, reports are submitted for the general wildlife disease surveillance database so that outbreak maps can be produced. Improving this with syndromic surveillance algorithms for early warning systems, will further develop the Swedish wildlife diseases surveillance program, which this year has been running for 70 years! Happy anniversary!



Erik Ågren

Veterinary Officer

National Veterinary Institute

6. Surveillance and eradication efforts towards CWD in Norwegian free-ranging reindeer proceeds



The professionals have taken over

During the 2017 hunting season, hunters harvested about 700 animals leaving some 1500. These are to be handled by professionals, 30 hunters from or engaged by the government. The Norwegian Veterinary Institute will test all animals taken out for CWD, providing opportunities for collection of positive cases. From this, the government will provide knowledge of disease prevalence for the area. Sampling will further give opportunities for research and increased understanding of this severe disease in cervids. Despite increasing winter, and periodically bad weather the culling teams have been successful, resulting in about 350 animals so far. For efficiency, the hunters are aided by helicopter for transport of carcasses, and make use of snowmobiles, as conditions are getting better.



Lifting carcasses out of the mountain. (Photo by Knut Madslie, NVI)

Reduced intensity – awaiting next step

Apart from the culling of free-ranging reindeer in Nordfjella mountain area and regular slaughter of semi-domesticated reindeer the CWD sampling has toned down as the hunting season also for red deer is ending soon

Depending on hunting efficiency this winter the government strategy include possible gathering of herds into fences for a more slaughter-like handling. Poles are in the ground, awaiting to be covered. Such slaughter is done annually with some 125.000 semi-domesticated reindeers. The culling plan is scheduled with efforts to clear this area of cervids by 1th of May next year. As the sun turn and the light returns in January / February, we will know how the plan proceeds.

Surveillance and restocking

Since detection in 2016 Norway has sampled and analysed about 31.000 individuals across the four species reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus tarandus*), red deer (*Cervus elaphus atlanticus*), roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*) and moose (*Alces alces*). CWD has so far, primo December 2017, been detected in 9 free-ranging reindeer, three moose and one red deer.

The plan for eradication includes a period of at least five years following, after the last reindeer has been removed, prior to a restocking process of which the details have not been determined. 2018 surveillance will include efforts to find possible healthy donor populations with favourable genetics for restocking.



Knut Madslie and Jørn Våge
Norwegian Veterinary Institute
(NVI)

New insights on Infectious Keratoconjunctivitis at the wildlife-livestock interface



Infectious keratoconjunctivitis (IKC) is an old-known ocular disease of wild and domestic Caprinae that interact at the wildlife-livestock interface in alpine areas. Whereas IKC in domestic small ruminants has low economic importance, outbreaks in wild mountain ungulates (i.e. chamois and ibex) can cause severe population impact.



Pyrenean chamois with IKC.
Photo by Benoît Dandonneau.

The development of culture-independent methods for the detection of *Mycoplasma conjunctivae* has been essential to ascertain its etiological role in IKC and also to demonstrate a widespread occurrence of asymptomatic infections in domestic sheep flocks. At a lesser extent, asymptomatic infections had also been reported in wild ruminants, but without clear information on *M. conjunctivae* persistence. A growing body of evidence suggested that domestic sheep might have been acting as *M. conjunctivae* reservoir at the wildlife-livestock interface and a source of IKC outbreaks in alpine areas. However, based on disease field records, sporadic IKC can remain in some wild host populations. The lack of targeted surveillance on *M. conjunctivae* (not only IKC) conducted in all potential hosts and without enough spatio-temporal range prevented from performing most epidemiological assumptions.

Recent studies have shed light and contributed greatly to our understanding of IKC at the wildlife-livestock interface by combining different methodological approaches. Gelormini et al., 2017 described the dynamics of several recent outbreaks based on disease field records and the epizootic spread of a specific *M. conjunctivae* strain cluster in a 100km straight-line distance during a seven-year period in the Southern French Alps. The emergence of secondary outbreaks associated to eventual mutations, and sporadic IKC associated to diverse *M. conjunctivae* clusters is also described. In Fernández-Aguilar et al., 2017a we also came out with similar results by studying the dynamics of *M. conjunctivae* in host communities from different areas in the Pyrenees. Despite few cross-species transmissions being evidenced, independent *M. conjunctivae* sylvatic and domestic cycles accounted for most of the cases in each epidemiological unit. Persistence of specific *M. conjunctivae* clusters in chamois populations was associated with recurrent epizootics after a temporal fading out and also to a low but steady prevalence (six and nine-year period, respectively).

Social behaviour and spatial structure of mountain ungulates probably enables *M. conjunctivae* persistence for relatively long time periods with different transmission dynamics, which ranges from the epidemic to the endemic occurrence, but also to the local fading out. In Fernández-Aguilar et al., 2017b the transition between two of these epidemiological scenarios is demonstrated entailing *M. conjunctivae* persistence. Overall, *M. conjunctivae*, as well as other mycoplasmas, shows high adaptability and persistence capacity once a spillover event occurs.



Xavier Fernández Aguilar

DVM, PhD

SEFaS and CRESA-IRTA

Avian flu among wild birds in the Netherlands, 2016-2017



The highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N8 outbreak in the Netherlands caused high mortality among wild waterbirds in the winter 2016-2017, as published recently (Kleyheeg E, Slaterus R, Bodewes R, Rijks JM, Spierenburg MAH, Beerens N, et al. Deaths among wild birds during highly pathogenic avian influenza A(H5N8) virus outbreak, the Netherlands. *Emerg Infect Dis.* 2017 Dec). Here is a brief summary of the study.

In this study, we assembled daily mortality data from organizations gathering death reports or removing carcasses in the Netherlands during November 2016–January 2017. This collection was facilitated by close cooperation between ornithologists, virologists, animal health organizations, and other organizations involved in managing the H5N8 outbreak. After potential double-counts were excluded as much as possible, ≈13,600 wild birds of 71 species were reported dead; 49% of all carcasses were identified to species, most of which were tufted duck (*Aythya fuligula* [39%]) and Eurasian wigeon (*Anas penelope* [37%]). Unidentified waterbird carcasses probably also mostly represented these species. H5N8 infection was confirmed in 21 species and not detected among the low numbers of sampled birds representing 13 other species. Because these data are based on numbers of reported carcasses, they provide an underestimation of actual deaths. Although carcass detection rates during daily searches at two locations (Gouwzee and Wolderwijd) were estimated to be 90%–95%, search efficiency was probably much lower at other outbreak hotspots. Collection rates of waterbird carcasses during typical avian botulism outbreaks are 10%–25%, suggesting that the number of carcasses reported during this H5N8 outbreak represented a limited proportion of total deaths.



Dead tufted ducks along the waterside, the Netherlands (Source: Roy Slaterus, SOVON)

The quality of reporting of wild bird deaths during this H5N8 outbreak was vastly improved compared with earlier outbreaks, when species names, death rates, and spatiotemporal patterns of deaths were rarely recorded. However, documentation and management of future outbreaks in wild birds can be further improved. Monitoring of wild bird deaths can be optimized (e.g., by timely investigation at sites where migratory birds first arrive, especially when surrounding countries report outbreaks). Detailed, real-time, active and passive surveillance during outbreaks might help assess acute risk for infection in poultry.

In summary, the 2016–2017 H5N8 outbreaks in the Netherlands were associated with unprecedented high HPAI-related mortality rates in a wide range of wild bird species. This changes the paradigm of wild birds as unaffected agents of HPAI viruses, with increasing concerns about potential effects on their populations. The Netherlands and other important staging areas for migratory waterbirds across Eurasia that have been affected by the 2016–2017 H5N8 outbreaks are at risk for substantial numbers of bird deaths during future HPAI outbreaks. International responsibilities regarding migratory bird populations should stimulate national authorities to avert HPAI outbreaks not only in poultry and humans but also in wild birds.

Note from the NL Editor: HPAIV H5 was detected in dead wild birds and poultry in the Netherlands again in December 2017. So far in a limited area.

Thijs Kuiken

Dept Viroscience,

ErasmusMC Rotterdam



EWDA BULLETIN

Target list of wild bird species for HPAI passive surveillance of H5 HPAI viruses in the EU, based on passive surveillance data from 2005 to 2017

This document will be published as part of the Scientific report on Avian influenza (EFSA-Q-2017-00649) in December 2017. It has been decided to distribute this information already to support the AI passive surveillance activities conducted in wild bird species as soon as possible.

This list is produced as a guide to operators involved in passive wild bird surveillance for early warning of H5 HPAI in their region. The purpose of this list is to provide information on which bird species to focus in order to achieve the most effective testing of dead birds for detection of H5 HPAI viruses. It should be noted that the programmes within countries should be modulated according to demographics of local wild bird populations. Also, this list does not imply that only the carcasses of wild bird species on this list should be examined for H5 HPAI virus; the carcasses other wild bird species also should be examined, if there are reasons to do so.

The list is based on the data on the detection of H5 HPAI viruses in wild bird carcasses reported in the AI passive surveillance system by Member States between 2005 and 2017, excluding data from 2011 to 2013 where no epizootics occurred. Therefore data included are from the H5N1 HPAI outbreak starting in 2005, the H5N8 HPAI outbreak starting in 2014, and the H5Nx HPAI outbreak starting in 2016. Overall, the list consists of wild bird species associated with an aquatic habitat, or wild bird species that prey on wild waterbirds or scavenge their carcasses. An exception is the fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*). In principle, the list indicates which free-living wild bird species in the EU are more likely both to be exposed to H5 HPAI virus and to suffer a fatal infection. For this reason Muscovy duck (*Cairina moschata*) and Wood duck (*Aix sponsa*) that are exotic species only present as free-living population in a very few places in EU, were excluded. Some species were included, even if the high rate of positivity was from a single outbreak in one country, because it means that the species in question can be exposed to H5 HPAI virus in the field and can suffer fatal infection.

The list includes all species for which the rate of detection of H5 HPAI virus was 0.4% or greater; that is, a chance of at least 1 in 250 of being detected positive. Careful consideration has been given to the thresholds for inclusion and some species tested at in large numbers but with low rates of detection have been excluded. It may well be that these excluded species would be targeted for active surveillance, i.e., testing apparently healthy wild birds. However, the cut-off point of 0.4% is a pragmatic choice and may be changed up or down by MSs based on local conditions including number of reports of dead wild birds and available funding.

Table: Fifty wild bird species targeted for passive surveillance of H5 HPAI viruses in the EU. This list is based on data reported by Member States to the AI EU

Reference Laboratory in the AI passive surveillance system between 2005 and 2017 (years 2011, 2012, 2013 excluded). Only those submissions that were identified to species and having a detection rate of 0.4 % or higher were included. The species are arranged in families (for the large family Anatidae also in subfamily, tribe or genus), and ordered according to the species with the highest detection rates.

Family	Subfamily, tribe, or genus	Species	% positive (no. positive/no. tested)
Ducks, geese, and swans (Anatidae)	Diving ducks (Aythyini)	Tufted duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>)	33.4% (338/1011)
		Greater scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>)	12.7% (9/71)
		Common pochard (<i>Aythya ferina</i>)	11.4% (26/228)
		Red-crested pochard (<i>Netta rufina</i>)	0.9% (1/112)
	Dabbling ducks (Anatinae)	Northern pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>)	5.4% (3/56)
		Eurasian wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>)	3.7% (8/219)
		Gadwall (<i>Anas strepera</i>)	1.7% (3/179)
		Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>)	0.5% (96/20672)
		Eurasian teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>)	0.4% (5/1145)
		Sea ducks (Mergini)	Goosander (<i>Mergus merganser</i>)
	Sea ducks (Mergini)	Common goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>)	5.7% (3/53)
		Smew (<i>Mergus albellus</i>)	5.0% (1/20)
		Common eider (<i>Somateria mollissima</i>)	1.3% (3/228)
	Shelducks and sheldgeese (Tadorninae)	Common shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>)	0.5% (1/218)
		Egyptian goose (<i>Alopochen aegyptiacus</i>)	0.4% (1/234)
	True geese (<i>Anser</i> , <i>Branta</i> , <i>Chen</i>)	Lesser white-fronted goose (<i>Anser erythropus</i>)	13% (3/23)
		Greylag goose (<i>Anser anser</i>)	3.5% (68/1968)
		Taiga bean Goose (<i>Anser fabalis</i>)	2.8% (4/143)
		Canada goose (<i>Branta canadensis</i>)	1.8% (19/1061)
		Pink-footed goose (<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>)	1.3% (1/75)
		Brant goose (<i>Branta bernicla</i>)	1.2% (1/84)
		Greater white-fronted goose (<i>Anser albifrons</i>)	0.6% (2/350)
		Swans (<i>Cygnus</i>)	Black swan (<i>Cygnus atratus</i>)
	Swans (<i>Cygnus</i>)	Whooper swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>)	9.3% (169/1818)
		Mute swan (<i>Cygnus olor</i>)	7.6% (931/12268)
		Grebes (Podicipedidae)	Black-necked grebe (<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>)
Great crested grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>)			8.5% (50/588)
Little grebe (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>)	7.8% (6/77)		
Storks (Ciconiidae)	White stork (<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>)	0.5% (5/911)	
Herons (Ardeidae)	Eurasian bittern (<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>)	2.9% (1/35)	
	Little egret (<i>Egretta garzetta</i>)	2.9% (2/69)	
	Great white egret (<i>Egretta alba</i>)	0.9% (4/441)	
	Grey heron (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>)	0.8% (40/5093)	
	Pelicans (Pelecanidae)	Dalmatian pelican (<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>)	27.5% (11/40)
Great white pelican (<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>)		9.5% (2/21)	
Cormorants and shags (Phalacrocoracidae)		Great cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>)	0.6% (12/2090)
Raptors (Accipitridae, Falconidae, Strigidae)	White-tailed eagle (<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>)	6.6% (28/426)	
	Rough-legged buzzard (<i>Buteo lagopus</i>)	3.7% (1/27)	



		Common buzzard (<i>Buteo buteo</i>)	1.1% (72/6307)
		Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)	3.4% (10/297)
		Northern goshawk (<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>)	1.3% (8/616)
		Eurasian eagle-owl (<i>Bubo bubo</i>)	0.9% (3/340)
Coots, crakes, and rails (Rallidae)		Western swamphen (<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>)	6.7% (1/15)
Sandpipers (Scolopacidae) ^b		Green sandpiper (<i>Tringa ochropus</i>)	33.3% (1/3)
Gulls, terns, and allies (Laridae)		Great black-backed gull (<i>Larus marinus</i>)	13.8% (22/159)
		European herring gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) ^a	3.1% (66/2135)
		Mew gull (<i>Larus canus</i>)	0.8 (4/481)
		Black-headed gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>)	0.7% (30/4075)
Corvids (Corvidae)		Eurasian magpie (<i>Pica pica</i>)	0.6% (7/1232)
Thrushes (Turdidae)		Fieldfare (<i>Turdus pilaris</i>)	0.5% (1/192)

^a This does not include the Caspian gull (*Larus cachinnans*) or the yellow-legged gull (*Larus michahellis*), which are considered separate species.

^b Another wader, *Numenius* species was not included in this list because it was not identified to species. However, in the EU, the two most likely *Numenius* species are the Eurasian curlew (*N. arquata*) and the whimbrel (*N. phaeopus*).



Progress in ASF-STOP Cost Action



African swine fever (ASF) is a devastating infectious disease of pigs that also courses with high lethality in infected Eurasian wild boar. The economic impact of ASF in Europe is high because of the losses it causes in the affected pig farms and due to the restrictions in the pig trade within and outside the EU borders. ASF cannot be understood in the EU scenario without taking its two main hosts - the domestic pig and the wild boar - into account.



Wild boar aggregated at a feeding point. Photo courtesy of Dr. Pelayo Acevedo (IREC, Spain)

ASF has made great progress in the European Union since the first cases were reported in 2014 in Lithuania and Poland. After expanding in Lithuanian, Latvian, Estonian and eastern Polish wild boar populations, ASF spread in 2017 throughout Ukraine and reached North-western Romania and Moldova. ASF jumped 400-500 km from the closest known infected areas into the Czech Republic where around 70 wild boar cases have been reported in 2017. New incursions into western Polish wild boar populations have been also recently documented demonstrating the key role that the wild boar is playing in ASF spread within the EU and the difficulties of controlling a disease in wildlife.

The ASF-STOP COST Action gathers expertise from different fields of knowledge on ASF in a single platform (<http://www.asf-stop-com/>) and it brings opportunities for research exchange between highly diverse disciplines with a clear objective in mind: stop ASF spread in the EU.

ASF-STOP Action has brought several networking opportunities along its 18 months of life including the organisation of an international conference in Pulawy (Poland) in December 2016, a joint meeting of ASF-STOP Action, the European Union Reference Laboratories for Classical swine fever and ASF & the EWDA wildlife health network in Madrid (Spain) in June 2017, as well as several independent meetings of ASF-STOP Working Groups. ASF-STOP has supported training activities in different aspects of ASF through launching the Short-Term Scientific Missions' tool - of which 9 researchers have benefited - and organised together with the Estonian University of Life Science the training school 'ASFv passive surveillance in wild boar' in Tartu (Estonia) in October 2017. New countries have joined the Action in 2017 and currently 30 COST countries as well as 3 approved Near Neighbour Countries (Albania, Russia and Ukraine) participate in ASF-STOP. Altogether ASF-STOP COST Action gathers 219 participants. If you want to join ASF-STOP COST Action send an email to the chair (dolores.gavier-widen@sva.se) or the vice-chair (josefrancisco.ruiz@uclm.es) with your interest.



Francisco Ruiz-Fons
Researcher, DVM, PhD
ASF-STOP CA Vice-Chair
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Ciudad Real, Spain



SAVE THE DATE:
2018 EWDA Conference in
GREECE from August 27-31!
More info on page 7!



Disclaimer

The editors have tried to put this non-citable bulletin together as carefully as possible, we apologize for any errors or omissions that we may have committed.

Acknowledgements

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Summer Newsletter Deadline

1st of June 2018



Bulletin Editors

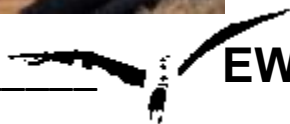
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EWDA BULLETIN

