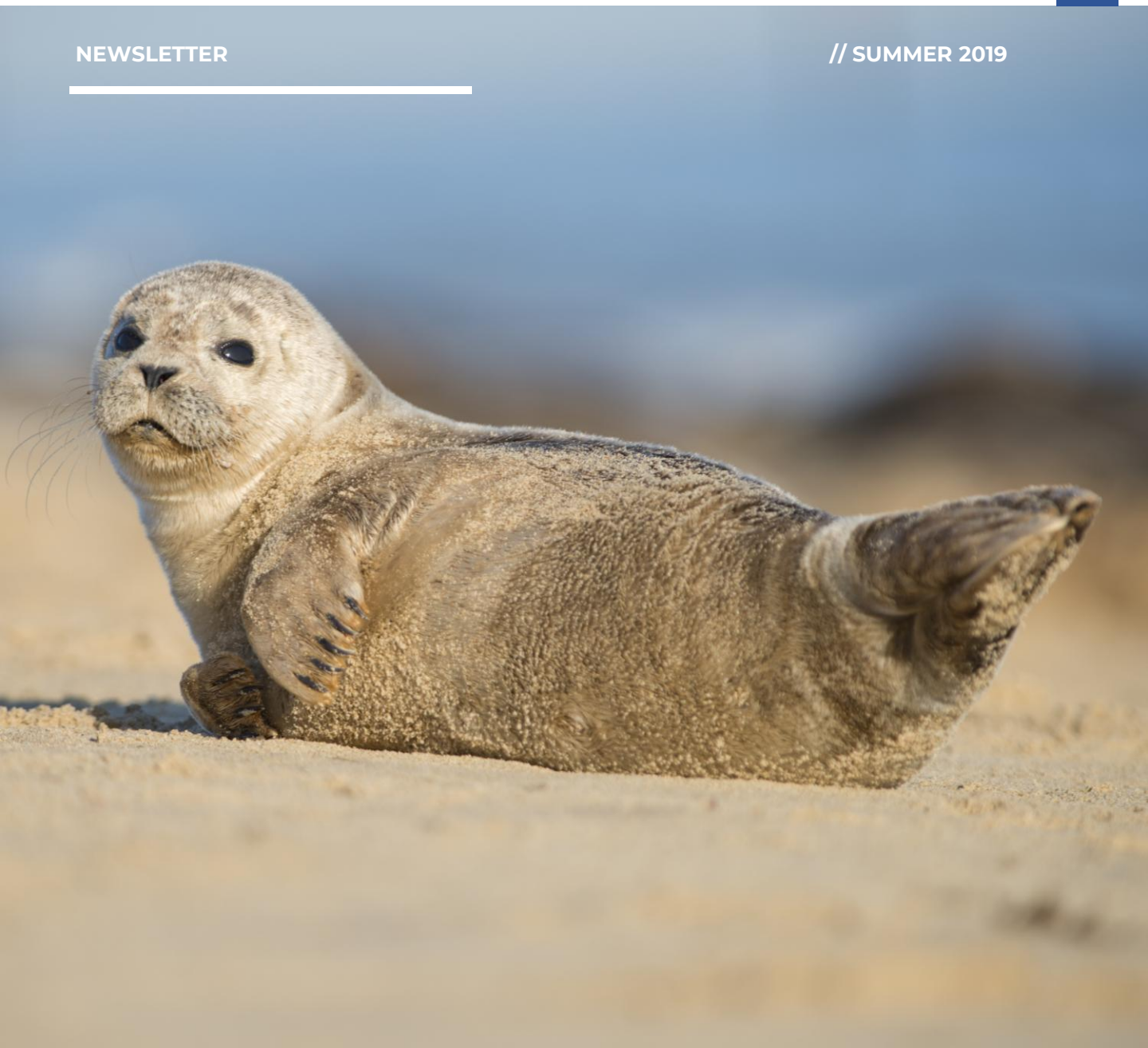
EWDA
European
Wildlife Disease Association

NEWSLETTER // SUMMER 2019



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ON THE COVER

Common seal (*Phoca vitulina)*

Cover photo by **Josh Jaggard**, wildlife photographer
Website: click here
Twitter: click here
Vimeo: click here

Disclaimer
The editors have tried to put this non-citable bulletin together as carefully as possible and apologise for any errors or omissions that may have been committed.

President's Corner

Already does the winter belong to the past and the longer days announce the imminent summer start. However, temperatures and precipitations continue to oscillate, certainly giving a hard time to all the wild animal babies born during the spring. Which disease will we be busy with during the course of the next six months? African Swine Fever in wild boar? Tick-borne diseases? Usutuvirus- and/or West Nile virus-induced mortality? Trichomonosis? Avian influenza? (obviously, birds may have a hard time!) An unexpected, newly emerging, infectious or non-infectious disease? In any case, I am confident that many – if not all – of us will continue to be busy and have something new to present at the next EWDA conference in Spain in 2020.

FLTR: Helle Bernstorf Hydeskov, Becki Lawson, Dominik Fisher and Luisa Zigler.

And because we will most probably need even more hands in the field of wildlife health in the future, I think it is really good news that one of our student members, Dominik Fischer from Germany, recently passed the ECZM Board exam for the subspecialty "Wildlife Population Health" . Just like Lieze Rouffaer (Belgium, board exam 2018), Helle Bernstorf Hydeskov (United Kingdom, board exam 2019) and Luisa Ziegler (Germany, board exam 2019), he is now entitled to be called "European Specialist in Wildlife Population Health". Congratulations! Many thanks to all ECZM-WPH diplomates, EWDA members and non-members, who are involved in the residency training, either as supervisors or examinators, or playing any other role, who certainly invested lots of time and obviously succeeded in their teaching job. Although it is a more personal issue, I wouldn't want to miss the opportunity to sincerely thank the numerous EWDA members, whether "seniors" or students, who have provided me an incredible support since last fall. It has been invaluable. Also, I think it has been a remarkable demonstration of how generous and solidary EWDA members are. We can be proud of being part of a very unique association in which bonds among members are not only related to professional interests but also correspond to true friendship.

I wish you all wonderful summer holidays, wherever you will spend them, whomever you will share them with, whether you have recently experienced a painful loss or a joyful birth. Enjoy your time and may you be blessed with many beautiful (healthy) wildlife observations!

Marie-Pierre Ryser
FIWI, University of Bern, Switzerland

News from the Board

The first EDWA board meeting in 2019 took place in January and the last one in early July. The chilly winter days changed into rather hot ambient temperatures, allowing everybody to sit down somewhere in the shadow and – to take time to write **EWDA Small Grants** applications ! As 2019 is a non-conference year the EWDA small grant committee is eagerly awaiting your proposals…

Two grants are offered: (1) Wildlife Conservation Research Grant and
(2) Grant for Wildlife Health Activities in Eastern Europe.

The **deadline for proposal submission** is **September 15th 2019.**
Please find more information on page 16 !

For the last winter newsletter I was interested in the number of members of EWDA. Unfortunately up to June 2019 the number dropped by 20 people – excluding the one member who just promised to wire transfer the 2019 membership fee immediately.
Hopefully, the decreased number is related to similar forgetfulness – if so, please make sure you keep your membership renewed as for example otherwise you won't be eligible for EWDA benefits like the EWDA small grants.

Likewise, for NWDA members who forgot to indicate their wish for **double membership for NWDA/EWDA** this will be the last newsletter distributed to non-EWDA members. If you do not want to miss out, please send a brief email to ewda.secretary@gmail.com to be included in the double membership list.

A little note for times to come:
Next year, in **2020** not only the joint EWDA/WDA conference will take place, but there will be **elections for a number of EWDA board positions** and the nomination committee will start to take up its work to search for candidates. Therefore, slowly start to nurse and grow your interest for the upcoming position(s)…

Have a great summer !!!

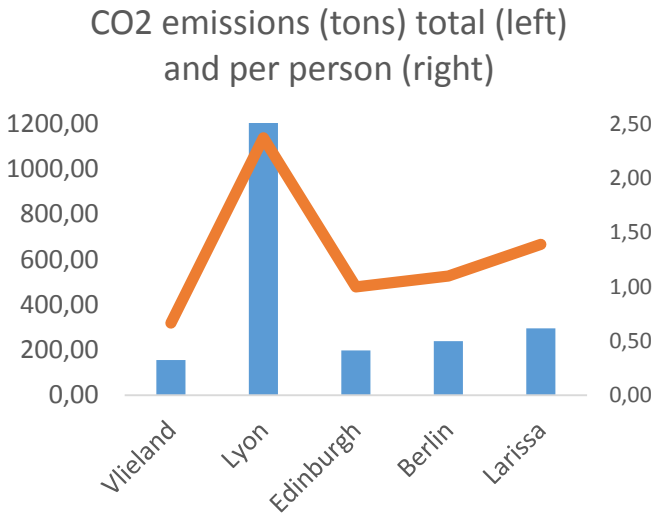
Gudrun Wibbelt

Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research, Berlin, Germany

EWDA Conference Carbon Footprints

"This adds one ton to your footprint."

As vets and biologists we are all concerned about the future of the planet, and the species we care about. I guess that most of us feel a personal responsibility to use the earths resources wisely. This or something similar to lead over more smoothly to the measuring. One of the first steps to reducing our environmental effect is to measure it. The EWDA Sustainability Committee collated information on the last five conferences: Vlieland, Lyon, Edinburgh, Berlin and Larissa, and analysed these data using established carbon emission calculators.



The total emissions may surprise some, with an estimated 1,200 tons CO2 for the joint WDA/ EWDA Lyon conference – equivalent to the emissions of 200 Europeans for a full year. The average carbon cost per person across these conferences was just over one ton (red line).

In general at least 90% of this footprint is due to flying to the venue, but that does not mean we can't make savings elsewhere. While more people travelling by train would help reduce emissions, meaningful reductions can be made by choosing greener hotels, or eating vegetarian for two meals each day at the conference. Interestingly, the savings through not printing conference abstracts is much smaller.

Now that we have a measure of the carbon cost of our conferences and have identified the main factors, we will work on ways to encourage reduction, or carbon offsets. We plan to work with future conference organisers to help minimise the full environmental cost of our conferences, not just carbon.

We would also appreciate your thoughts on ways to reduce the environmental cost, and we encouraging use of sites such as atmosfair.de to measure and help reduce our footprint. We can be reached at ewda.sustainability@gmail.com.

Graham Smith, Thijs Kuiken, Ana Vale, Lineke Begeman, Emmanuelle Gilot-Fromont

Investigating Effects of Radiation on Wildlife

- Field campaign in Chernobyl 2018 -

Bank vole being examined to check for eye cataracts.

This summer members of the Environmental Contaminants Group from the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH) carried out a field campaign in the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone (CEZ). The overall aim of this work was to assess whether exposure to radionuclides effects the health, abundance and diversity of small mammal populations in the CEZ.

Although the CEZ includes the Red Forest, which contains the most radiologically contaminated ecosystem on Earth, there is significant variation in contamination levels across the CEZ which allows us to study dose dependent effects of exposure.

"It was a great experience working intensively in a multi-disciplinary team in such an interesting study site as the CEZ"

Prof. Nick Beresford (CEH) at work in the CEZ

During our field work we caught a wider range of small mammals than we would do back home in the U.K. but the most prevalent species were bank voles (*Myodes glareolus*) and wood mice (*Apodemus sylvaticus*). We gave each individual an eye examination to look for cataracts, recorded the number and type of ectopasarasites, and took blood samples to measure blood chemistry and identify blood parasites. In addition to these effects measures we also used a newly developed live-monitoring device to measure whole-body activity concentrations of ^{137}Cs and ^{90}Sr.

From each of the sites in the Red Forest we also took vegetation samples and placed bait lamina strips to measure recovery in soil invertebrate activity following a major fire that occurred in summer 2016.

This field work was a collaboration between CEH, Salford University, Univeristy of Cambridge, University of Manchester, McMaster University, and Chornobyl Center, Slavutych, Ukraine and supported by the TREE project (NERC grant NE/L000318/1). To find out more about the TREE project go to https://tree.ceh.ac.uk/

Lee Walker
Centre for Ecology & Hydrology

Rare earth elements in wild birds from Northwestern Italy

Rare Earth Elements (REEs) are a chemically uniform group of substances belonging to Group IIIb in the Periodic Table, that share similar physical and chemical properties. There are 17 REEs, 15 named lanthanides (LNs), plus yttrium and scandium (Sc); despite their name, they are not that rare in nature, being the 15th most abundant components of the earth's crust (USEPA, 2012). REEs are non-essential elements for life. However, due to their unique physical and chemical properties, such as high densities, melting points, conductivity and thermal conductance (Goecke, 2015), they are essential in a variety of technologies worldwide. REEs are well known as indicators of geochemical soil processes and tracers of water masses (Censi *et al*., 2004; Oliveri *et al*., 2010) and, as recently reviewed (Pagano *et al*., 2015; Gwenzi *et al*., 2018), there are several routes which transfer REEs to the environment and, as a result, multiple different sources could exert damage to biota due to cumulative and synergic effects.
In this study, we determined REEs in wild birds (Eurasian jay, common kestrel, sparrow hawk, northern goshawk, hooded crow) from Northwestern Italy (Aosta Valley); liver was the organ of choice due to its key role in the metabolism of REE and its ability to detoxify by excreting REE into the bile in animals and human.
Samples were mineralised using a microwave digestion lab station and simultaneous determination of the presence of REEs was performed using a Inductively Coupled Plasma-Mass Spectrometer.

Dose response studies have already suggested that REE concentrations in animal organs decrease from liver > kidneys > rib bone > muscle (Schwabe et al., 2012). As a consequence, SREE (sum of REEs) were often undetectable in muscle but we recorded a mean level of 0.030 mg Kg^{-1} in wild birds liver, confirming the ability of this organ in bio accumulate REEs and suggesting its potential role of bio-indicator of animal exposure. The LNs were found with the following decreasing concentrations:
Sc>Y>Ce>La>Nd>Pr>Sm>Gd>Er>Yb>Eu>Ho>Tb>Tm>Lu.

REE content in animal tissues is related to the geochemical characteristics of the regions where animals live, than our study constitutes the baseline data for future investigations of this area, moreover, it allows future comparisons worldwide since REE in wildlife have been scarcely investigated.

Stefania Squadrone[1], Maria Cesarina Abete [1] , Serena Robetto [1,2], Riccardo Orusa [1,2*]
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EWDA Student Symposium and Workshop 2019

In April this year, the 7th biannual EWDA Student Workshop took place VetAgro Sup in Lyon, this time uniquely preceded by two days of symposium. This way, we provided an intense, interactive workshop for a selected group of about 40 students, while at the same time, the knowledge and lectures of all the renowned speakers could be enjoyed by a much larger (about 120) group of students, from 19 different countries of Europe. The topic of this year's event was 'Conflict or Coexistence: Facing the Human-Wildlife Interface'.

On the 13th and 14th of April, the event started with two days of symposium, during which experts from all over Europe introduced Human-Wildlife Conflicts from their different perspectives. Besides veterinarians and biologist, specialists from the social science field presented their visions. This promoted the importance of collaborating with each other to accomplish a far better and more comprehensive approach to this issue.

Parallel to the lectures, smaller groups of students could follow workshops in marine bird necropsies, which were well appreciated. Lectures were alternated with panel discussions, during which also the students could give their input and raise questions.

Following the symposium, from the 15th until 17th of April, the traditionally biannual student workshop took place. The lectures of the previous two days served as background knowledge.

EWDA Student Symposium and Workshop 2019

The workshop started off with fourteen student presentations. This gave students the opportunity to gain experience in public speaking and to share with the others their own research/project, knowledge and passion. All presenters received feedback to further improve their future performance.

These presentations were followed by an introduction to scientific writing. The students spent the remainder of the time working in small groups under the supervision of one of the seven mentors. Each of their groups worked on their own topic of conflict and was challenged to come up with a practical solution, as well as means to communicate this to the relevant stakeholder.

They presented their results on the last days, and it was very interesting to see how all the different groups came up with very diverse, as well as creative ideas in the short amount of time available!

Besides the hours of serious work, we had fun and got to know each other during the social programme. This consisted of an excursion to the Grand Parc de Miribel-Jonage (a great place for bird-watching) and a movie night during which Blood Lions™ was watched, about captive bred lions. The latter was followed by an interesting discussion about hunting and wildlife conservation and the dark side of voluntourism. An EWDA Student Workshop is not complete without the traditional Student Chapter Auction – this year for the first time presented by the Austrian team made up of Julian Keleş and Katharina Seilern.

All participants were challenged to arrive to Lyon in a creative way, avoiding the plane, and send in some evidence of their travel. Anna and Nadine, who hitchhiked from Vienna surprised us all with their very creative short movie and are now the lucky first caretakers of EDWART (photo), the challenge prize. EDWART is hoping to visit many new homes in the coming years and is looking forward to all the different ways he will arrive there!

All in all, it was a very inspiring event and source of many new friends!

"Big smiles, laughs, hours after hours of productive discussions and an incredible need to meet these people again filled my suitcase on the way back home."
- Stefania Tampach, EWDA Country Representative Greece

2019 Student Workshop
- Photo Corner -

Student Chapter Austria – EWDA Wildlife Days-

On May 22nd and 23rd the Austrian Student Chapter organised the first Austrian "EWDA Wildlife Days". The focus was mainly on Reptiles, Amphibians, Birds and small Mammals inhabiting gardens all over Europe. In total we invited four speakers to give lectures to approximately 20 interested students. On Wednesday the 22nd Dr. Steve Thompson from Purdue University (USA) gave a two-hour presentation about transmitter implantation in North American Rattlesnakes. Afterwards there was a little get-together with cake and drinks.

The next day we had three speakers presenting more details about diseases and management of garden wildlife populations. First, Steve Smith from the Institue for Wildlife and Ecology (Vetmeduni Vienna) was giving a talk about Using molecular techniques to monitor for pathogen infection in wildlife species where he presented a case study of *Batrachochytrium* screening in populations of *Salamandra salamandra* throughout Austria.

Katharina Seilern-Moy from ZSL (UK) presented their Garden Wildlife Health project where citizen science is being used for wildlife diseases surveillance in garden birds and hedgehogs. After Katharina´s talk, Pia Cigler from the Reptile and Exotics Service (Clinics for small animals, Vetmeduni Vienna) presented important clinical diseases in the species being presented before and went into detail on treatment and diagnostics of these diseases.
All in all the EWDA Wildlife days were a great opportunity for wildlife interested students to widen their horizon about some conservation topics which don´t get that much focus during their studies. Last but not least we really would like to thank Vetmeduni Vienna´s International Office for supporting and advertising activities organized by the EWDA Student Chapter Austria.

Fabian Bagó
Student Chapter Country Representative
Vienna, Austria

Update on the status of African Swine Fever in wild boar and on ASF-STOP COST Action

African swine fever (ASF) keeps spreading outside its original boundaries after the second historic incursion from Africa. Even though ASF virus failed to persist after the incursions in the XXth Century (with the exception of the Italian island of Sardinia), it took profit of the second chance it was given after entering Georgia in 2007. Ever since, the virus spread slowly but continuously along the eastern European wild boar and domestic pig populations, recently reaching the south-western shores of the Black Sea in Bulgaria. Its westward spread, most probably aided by the illegal/uncontrolled transport of infected pork products from eastern Europe and by the high densities of wild boar, reached the Czech Republic in 2017 and the south of Belgium in 2018, the two most recent examples of a successful control of the spread of ASF in wild boar. Eastwards, ASF virus progressed across the Russian territory and it jumped into the highly populated Chinese domestic swine population in Aug 2018. In Asia, ASF has become a serious threat for Chinese, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian, Mongolian and North Korean pig farmers. ASF could also seriously threaten the conservation of the scarce numbers of individuals of other Sus species that may, as *Sus scrofa*, be highly affected by ASF if ASF virus reaches the Malay Peninsula or the south-eastern shores of the South China Sea.

In the EU, ASF is enzootic in wild boar populations in the Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania even though wild boar densities had severely dropped down caused by ASF and hunting. ASF is also enzootic in eastern Poland and it is present in east-central Hungary and Romania. Whereas the Czech Republic regained its ASF-free status, Belgium continuous to report cases of wild boar dead from ASF infection although within a controlled area in the south of the Luxembourg province. Intensive surveillance and preparedness to fight against the introduction of ASF is in place in several ASF-free EU countries. Preparedness and a quick response are currently the only efficiency-proven tools to control the spread of ASF in wild boar after a primary outbreak. ASF-STOP COST Action started in 2017 as a networking action on ASF. ASF-STOP gathers knowledge on ASF from different fields in a single platform (http://www.asf-stop-com) offering senior and young scientists the opportunity for knowledge exchange to control the spread of ASF in the EU (and beyond).

The Action finishes its activities in April 2020 but it will celebrate an International Final Conference - "African swine fever: knowledge and future challenges; contribution from the COST Action ASF-STOP"- in the lovely Italian city of Brescia in January 2020. Everyone is welcome! Let's tackle the ASF challenge together, we need each and all of you!

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

ASF-STOP COST Action Vice-Chair

Report Of West Nile Virus Outbreak In Greece

West Nile Virus (WNV) is a mosquito-borne flavivirus causing fatal encephalitis in humans, horses, domestic and wild birds. Wild birds play an important role as reservoir hosts and in the introduction of the virus to new unaffected areas. Sentinel birds are typically used for arbovirus surveillance and the detection of WNV activity in a specific area.

The largest European outbreak took place in Greece, with more than 624 confirmed cases of human infection and 79 deaths reported from 2010 to 2014 (1). Extensive exposure of wild birds to WNV in Greece prior to the 2010 human outbreak was reported (2). Results showed association of human cases with wild birds' exposure to the virus; no avian sera were found positive in prefectures not affected by the WNV outbreak. In contrast, positive avian sera were found in every prefecture that human WNV cases occurred in 2011 (3). A similar WNV strain to the one detected in humans was also detected in hunter-harvested Eurasian magpies, however there were no reports of wild bird showing neurological signs or avian deaths during the period (4). Findings of high virus neutralization titres in many samples suggested a possible recent exposure to WNV. Various criteria have been established by the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the National Blood Donation Centre (EKEA) to be used for the classification of a municipality as affected or unaffected by WNV, including domestic and wild bird surveillance results that indicate a lack of continued WNV circulation in the area. Candidate blood donors who travelled and stayed for at least one night in one of the affected areas are not allowed to offer blood for 28 days, unless their blood is examined in a molecular technique (5).

After a two-year hiatus, in 2017, a total of 48 laboratory confirmed human cases of WNV infection were reported to Hellenic Centre of Disease Control and Prevention (HCDCP) in various areas of the Peloponnese region (southern mainland Greece) previously unaffected by the outbreak. Among the WNV disease cases, five deaths were reported in patients over 70 years of age (6).

Since June 2017, one month before human cases occur, dead wild birds, more specifically Eurasian magpies (*Pica pica*) and Hooded crows (*Corvus corone cornix*), were reported in the area of the epicentre. Until mid-July, a noticeable reduction of the native wild bird population, especially Eurasian magpies, was mentioned by locals. Moreover, presence of wild birds with neurological signs was verified in the area; affected birds were lethargic, unable to fly, stayed low to the ground and had no reaction to external stimuli (i.e. human presence).

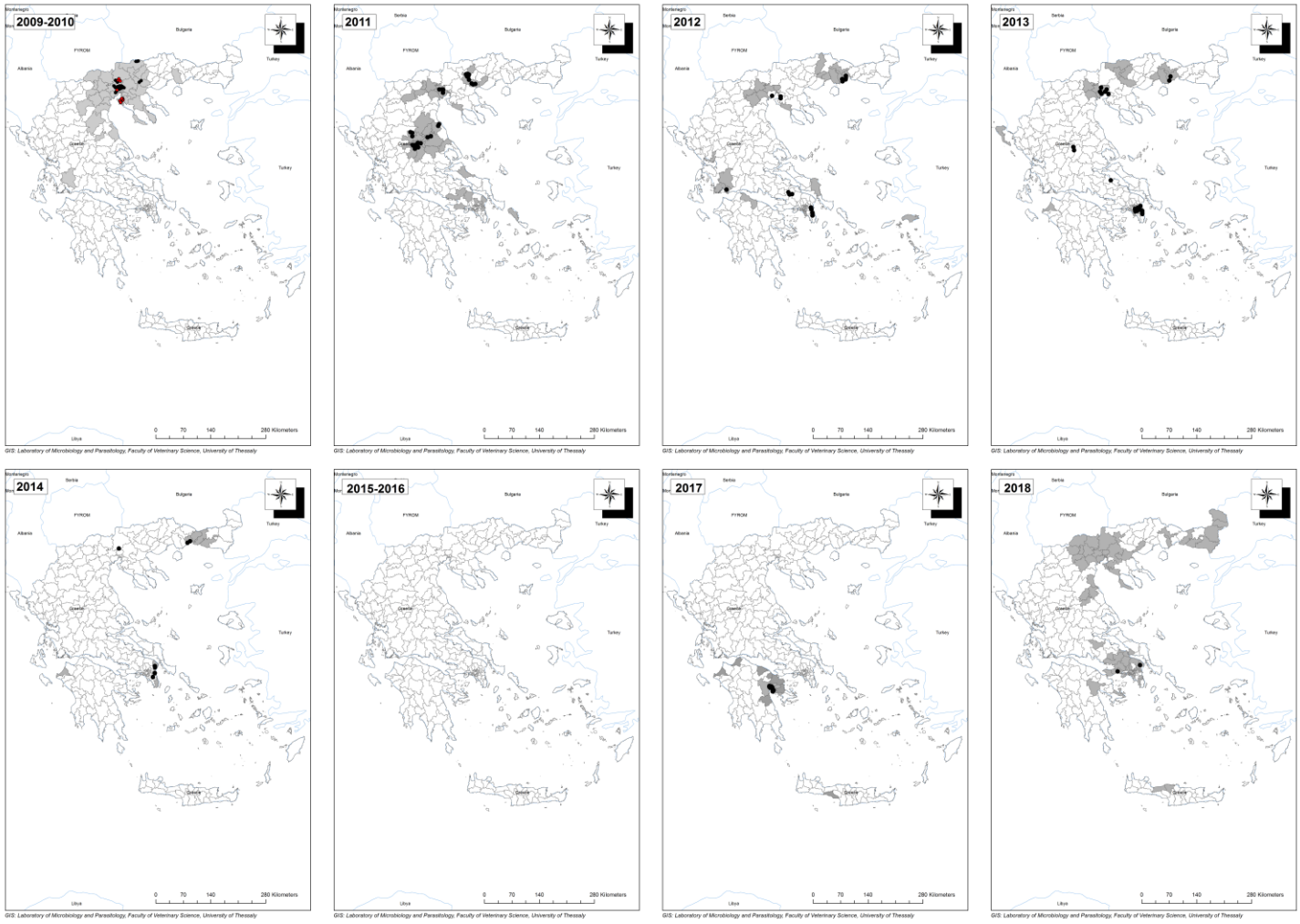
During July and August 2017, 29 dead Eurasian magpies were collected in the area for WNV molecular detection. RT-PCR positive results for WNV RNA were obtained in Eurasian magpies (*Pica pica*) with neurological signs: This is the first report of mass wild bird deaths, taking place in Greece in the epicentre of an ongoing human disease outbreak. Mass deaths of wild birds showing neurological signs create concerns about increase of the viral pathogenicity or of the viral transmission rate. Sequence analysis confirmed the detection of WNV that was subsequently clustered with lineage 2 strains and demonstrated local genetic evolution (Valiakos *et al.*, under review; Laboratory of Microbiology and Parasitology unpublished data).

George Valiakos [1], Alexios Giannakopoulos [1], Charalambos Billinis [1,*]

[1] *Laboratory of Microbiology and Parasitology, Faculty of Veterinary Science, School of Health Sciences, University of Thessaly; * billinis@uth.gr*

Report Of West Nile Virus Outbreak In Greece

In 2018, until mid-November, a total of 313 laboratory confirmed human cases have been reported from various regions of Greece (see figure below), 239 of which showed neurological signs; a total of 46 human cases were reported, making this the worst year of the WNV outbreak in Greece (7). The 2018 West Nile fever transmission season started earlier than in previous years and with a steeper increase of locally-acquired human infections, but also has been substantially increased in duration (8), with many reported human cases in September and October, in contrast to previous years. Wild bird and especially Eurasian magpie (*Pica Pica*) deaths showing neurological signs have been reported from various areas of mainland Greece, and especially Attica region; positive avian sera were detected in the same region (Laboratory of Microbiology and Parasitology unpublished data).



Maps of regional distribution of WNV affected areas in Greece, during the disease outbreak. Grey areas show WNV affected regional units (at least one laboratory confirmed human case) in each year of the outbreak. Black dots show serological and/or molecular positive wild bird cases during the outbreak (2010-2017). Red dots show serological positive wild bird cases prior to the human disease outbreak (2009).

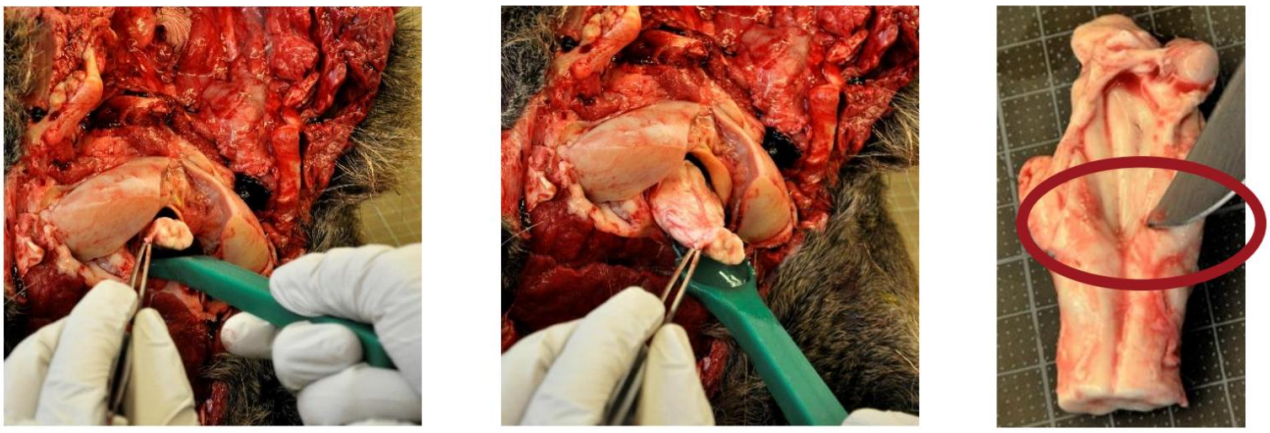
CWD in Europe
- First cases in Sweden -

In 2016, the first case of CWD in Europe was from the Nordfjella wild reindeer (*Rangifer t. tarandus*) herd in southern Norway. Presently, 19 wild reindeer, 1 red deer (*Cervus elaphus*), and 4 moose (*Alces alces*) have been found positive for CWD in Norway. A EU regulated CWD surveillance runs between 2018 - 2020. A minimum of 6 000 cervids are to be tested in all six EU member states with moose or reindeer, both free-ranging cervids, farmed red deer, and semi-domesticated reindeer.

In March 2018, Finnish Food Safety Authority EVIRA stated that the first case of TSE in cervids in Finland had been diagnosed in a 15-year-old moose that had died naturally in the municipality of Kuhmo in the Kainuu region.

In March and then in May 2019, the Swedish National veterinary institute SVA diagnosed the first two cases of CWD in Sweden. Both cases were 16-year-old emaciated female moose found 70 km apart in the northernmost county in Sweden, Norrbotten, circling and with loss of shyness towards humans. The moose were both euthanized and the heads were sent for CWD screening in the national CWD surveillance program. The brainstem, but not lymph nodes, were positive for CWD (confirmed with Western Blot). The circumstances of these Swedish cases are similar to the cases in moose in both Norway and Finland.

The origin of CWD in the Nordic countries is unknown. The reindeer cases in Norway are similar to the transmissible form of CWD. But, the disease in moose and red deer appears to be different, an atypical form, as only sporadic cases are found in each area. Intensified surveillance in each region with a positive moose case and ongoing studies of positive moose tissues will with time increase the understanding of this disease in moose.



Sampling of brainstem from a moose head, submitted within the EU-regulated surveillance of CWD in Europe. Photo: SVA

Erik Ågren
EWDA Newsletter Editor & Veterinary Officer, Swedish National Veterinary Institute, Sweden
erik.agren@sva.se

The EWDA Small Grants are waiting for your applications

The 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 grants are offered:
(1) Wildlife Conservation Research Grant
(2) Grant for Wildlife Health Activities in Eastern Europe.

Proposal submission will be closed September 15th 2019.

The main applicant and project leader must be an EWDA member, with membership duration of more than two consecutive years (e.g. membership renewed at least twice) including the years immediately preceding the grant application.
The proposed project must have measurable objectives which are achievable within 24 months (including reporting to the EWDA board).
The budget requested from EWDA cannot exceed 2000 Euros per project.
Project proposals calculating with a higher total budget than that requested from EWDA can be considered as long the applicants provide evidence that the rest of the budget has been secured from other funding sources.

We would like to promote the Grant for Wildlife Health Activities in Eastern Europe and specifically request applications for this year.
Every EWDA member from East European Countries are eligible to apply for this grant and the funds can be used for any kind of activity related to wildlife health, which are in line with the WDA mission.
Moreover, from this year, the EWDA offers the help of a mentor for the whole period of the project. The aim with this mentorship is capacity building and to improve wildlife health research and education in Eastern European countries. The Small Grants Committee and EWDA Board will search for suitable mentors, so from July onward is possible to work on the application.

For more information: https://ewda.org/ewda-small-grants/

Jacques Godfroid
UiT - The Arctic University of Norway
Tromsø
Norway

Save the date:
- BVZS Wildlife Health Day -

The British Veterinary Zoological Society (BVZS) is holding this year's Wildlife Health Day on Saturday 2nd November, in Manchester, UK, as part of their annual conference running from 1st-3rd November. The call for abstracts closes on 24th June, and submissions on all aspects of wildlife health are welcome.

The theme of our Wildlife Health Day this year is 'Wildlife Research'. Kim Willoughby from the Home Office will discuss legal aspects relating to wildlife research both in the field and in veterinary practice.

The day will also feature an inaugural Vic Simpson memorial session, with presentation of the inaugural Vic Simpson Award(s): Vic left a legacy to BVZS to enable those not lucky enough to have their conference attendance covered by their employer/institute to present research at the conference. Information on how to apply for an award can be downloaded from the BVZS website (https://www.bvzs.org/meetings/bvzs-conference-2019). To recognise the inaugural session, Becki Lawson will present an overview of Vic's research work over his lifetime.

Further information and submission details can be found on the BVZS website, as above. Please submit talk or poster abstracts by email to Liz Mullineaux (lizmullineaux@hotmail.com) by Monday 24th June 2019 following the guidelines available on the website. Speakers will be informed if their talk has been selected for the programme by Monday 8th July 2018.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Katie Beckmann
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Interventions in Wild Animal Health Field Course

ZSL
LET'S WORK FOR WILDLIFE

भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान
Wildlife Institute of India

RVC
Royal Veterinary College
University of London

THE ROYAL (DICK) SCHOOL OF VETERINARY STUDIES

The Zoological Society of London, The Wildlife Institute of India, The University of Edinburgh and The Royal Veterinary College have been motivated to run this Interventions in Wild Animal Health (IWAH) field course in recognition of the need to conserve globally important biodiversity. Wildlife diseases are relatively unstudied and unchecked. There is an important need for greater expertise in, and greater numbers of, wildlife health professionals to undertake interventions in the health, welfare and conservation of wild animals, to investigate emerging infectious diseases and to ensure human well-being. IWAH is an accredited Masters level field course for aspiring wildlife veterinarians.

What will I do?

Tuition will be carried out in the field to develop skills in human-livestock-wildlife conflict management, disease outbreak investigation, forensic investigation and monitoring of the health of declining species. The Course will include techniques for field monitoring of wildlife (using animal tracks and signs, dung/pellet identification and quantification, census techniques, camera trapping, and radio telemetry), biological management, best practice in wild animal anaesthesia techniques, demonstration and hands-on practice, clinical examination in the field, sampling techniques for infectious disease screening, pathological examination in the field, and disease surveillance scenarios.

Location

The Course will be held in a highly biodiverse host country in South Asia or Africa. Find out the next location from the website.

Eligibility

Candidates ideally have a recognised veterinary qualification to attend this course. Veterinary students in their clinical years of study may be considered if space is available

How to apply

For more information, including costs, the location for this year and to apply for a space please use the contact forms available on the course website.

https://iwah.org