
West Nile Virus

2007 Alberta Fish and Wildlife Bird Testing

2007 WNV bird testing

Summary

In 2007, a total of 6 birds were tested for WNV as a response to public concern. These specimens included 2 Great Grey Owls (*Strix nebulosa*), 2 Snowy Owls (*Bubo scandiacus*), 1 Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), and 1 American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*). All four of the owl specimens were test positive for WNV. All other specimens (2) were test negative for WNV.

Specimen information

The following table contains summary information regarding each of the tested birds submitted to the Fish and Wildlife Division in 2007. A detailed report for each reported incident follows:

Species	Location	Date Collected	Test Result
Great Grey Owl (<i>Strix nebulosa</i>)	Alberta Birds of Prey Centre Coaldale, Alberta	August 15, 2007	Test Positive
Great Grey Owl (<i>Strix nebulosa</i>)	Alberta Birds of Prey Centre Coaldale, Alberta	August 15, 2007	Test Positive
Snowy Owl (<i>Bubo scandiacus</i>)	Alberta Birds of Prey Centre Coaldale, Alberta	August 15, 2007	Test Positive
Snowy Owl (<i>Bubo scandiacus</i>)	Alberta Birds of Prey Centre Coaldale, Alberta	August 15, 2007	Test Positive
Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)	Alberta Birds of Prey Centre Coaldale, Alberta	August 15, 2007	Test Negative
Common Crow (<i>Corvus sp.</i>)	Lethbridge, Alberta Twp 15, Rg 22	July 30, 2007	Test Negative

Specimens collected from Alberta Birds of Prey Centre

Five bird specimens were submitted to Fish and Wildlife Disease Section on September 7, 2007 (Date of collection August 15) for post mortem examination and West Nile Virus testing. The birds, which included 2 Snowy Owls, 2 Great Grey owls and 1 Peregrine falcon were received from Mr Colin Weir of the Alberta Birds of Prey Centre, Coaldale AB. Mr. Weir reported that the specimens were found dead at various times over several days prior to the issue of the incident report to Fish and Wildlife (August 15). Mr. Weir also reported that his centre was receiving calls regarding additional bird deaths in the local

area. All specimens were sent to the CCWHC in Saskatoon for West Nile Virus testing. Test results showed that all 4 of the owl specimens were positive for WNV. The Peregrine falcon was test negative for WNV and likely succumbed to other injuries.

Specimen collected from Lethbridge, Alberta

Staff at the Lethbridge Fish and Wildlife office received a call pertaining to multiple observations of dead/dying corvid species (crows/magpies) on July 30, 2007 in area: Township 15, Range 22. One fresh dead American crow and one partially decomposed American crow were collected from a local site by Fish and Wildlife staff members in the area. The fresh dead sample was submitted for testing. West Nile Virus testing (VEC test) was performed at OS Longman post mortem lab in Edmonton with negative result.