
West Nile Virus

2008 Alberta Fish and Wildlife Bird Testing

2008 WNV bird testing

Summary

In 2008, a total of 3 birds were tested for WNV as a response to public concern. These specimens included 2 American crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) and one magpie (*Pica hudsonia*) all of which were test negative for WNV.

Specimen information

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

Species	Location	Date Collected	Test Result
Common Crow (<i>Corvus sp.</i>)	Edmonton, Alberta	June 16, 2008	Test Negative
Common Crow (<i>Corvus sp.</i>)	Athabasca, Alberta	July 23, 2008	Test Negative
Black-billed Magpie (<i>Pica hudsonia</i>)	Settler, Alberta	October 9, 2008	Test Negative

Specimens collected from Edmonton

Specimen was collected upon receiving a call from an Edmonton resident whom observed it on her property falling over and having trouble keeping upright. Members of the Wildlife disease unit arrived on the property to find the specimen, a juvenile crow with broken legs. The specimen was euthanized on site and taken to the OS Longman laboratory for WNV testing. The specimen was test-negative for WNV.

Specimen collected from Athabasca, Alberta

Specimen was submitted by Boyle Veterinary Service. Specimen was witnessed flopping and acting strangely in water at the south end of Flat Lake (12-65-20-W4). Bird was submitted to the OS Longman for WNV testing. Results showed the specimen was test-negative for WNV.

Specimen collected from Stettler, Alberta

Specimen was collected on a reindeer farm near Stettler, AB. This specimen was of particular interest as several reindeer on this farm were sero-positive for WNV and one individual reindeer exhibited abnormal neurological signs. The bird was submitted to the OS Longman for WNV testing. The specimen was found to be test-negative for WNV.

Summary

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