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Spurling, Norman

From: Miller, Robert
Sent: Thursday, November 13, 2014 12:29 PM
To: Spurling, Norman
Subject: FW: Loss report for Canada geese in San Luis Obispo County
Attachments: P2850.pdf

From: McMillin, Stella@Wildlife [mailto:Stella.McMillin@wildlife.ca.gov]
Sent: Thursday, November 13, 2014 12:27 PM
To: agcommslo@co.slo.ca.us; Thomas, Casey@Wildlife; Bireley, Richard@CDPR; Daniels, Debbie@CDPR; Kratville, David@CDFA; Miller, Robert
Subject: Loss report for Canada geese in San Luis Obispo County

Hello, Please find attached a loss report for Canada geese in San Luis Obispo County. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Thank you.

Stella

Stella McMillin
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Wildlife Investigations Laboratory
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DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
WILDLIFE BRANCH
WILDLIFE INVESTIGATIONS LABORATORY
PESTICIDE INVESTIGATIONS
1701 NIMBUS ROAD
RANCHO CORDOVA, CA 95670
PHONE (916) 358-2954

Lab Number P-2850
Necropsy N14-390

Date of loss: October 6, 2014
Sample: Canada geese
Branta canadensis
Listing status: No special status

To: Martin Settevendemie,
San Luis Obispo County Agricultural Commissioner

Report Date: November 13, 2014

Remarks
Investigation of pesticide intoxication in Canada geese in San Luis Obispo County.

Background
On the evening of October 5, 2014, nine Canada geese were observed to land on a pond in a vineyard in Creston. Shortly after landing, the geese began to thrash around and all were dead within an hour. The geese were collected and CDFW Enforcement staff picked them up the following morning. The property owner also stated that there were another 17 geese that usually arrived in the evening but did not. The geese were submitted to the CDFW Wildlife Investigations Laboratory to determine the cause of death.

RESULTS OF EXAMINATION

The two geese in the best condition were submitted to the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory in Davis for diagnosis. Goose A was thin with no obvious lesions with sand in the gizzard and a small amount of green gastrointestinal contents. Goose B was in good body condition with free blood in the coelomic cavity and grass and sand in the gizzard. Tests for avian influenza, West Nile Virus, and strychnine were negative, and metals were within normal ranges. Zinc phosphide was found in the gizzard contents of both geese. A trace of brodifacoum was also found in the liver of Goose B. Zinc phosphide is a vertebrate toxicant which causes death by respiratory distress and asphyxiation. Symptoms usually appear 1 to 4 hours after exposure and death occurs within 24 hours for birds.

The cause of death of the Canada geese was likely zinc phosphide toxicosis.

WILDLIFE INVESTIGATIONS LABORATORY

Stella McMillin

Stella McMillin, Senior Environmental Scientist
Wildlife Investigations Laboratory

Approved

Steve Torres, Program Manager,
Wildlife Investigations Laboratory

Cc: **Casey Thomas,**
CDFW LED

Rich Bireley,
DPR Registration

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