

### NEWCASTLE DISEASE

Exotic Newcastle disease was diagnosed in Yellow-naped Amazon parrots of a Southern California bird dealer on March 20, 1980, as a result of a monitoring program developed by Veterinary Services and the California Department of Agriculture. On April 5, 1980, the National Veterinary Laboratories (NVSL), Ames, Iowa, diagnosed VVND in Pennsylvania from the same type of parrot. Epidemiology revealed that the Pennsylvania bird was associated with the same birds involved in the California outbreak. This was also true of an April 7, 1980 VVND diagnosis by NVSL from a Virginia aviary which had received Yellow-naped Amazon parrots from California. The Virginia outbreak resulted in the depopulation of 2,399 birds in 6 states on 174 premises and indemnities of \$98,847.50. Investigations involved 16 different states.

VVND was diagnosed by NVSL on August 9, 1980, in pet birds which were part of a shipment from California to two aviaries in Massachusetts. Appraisal figures for the 457 birds involved amounted to \$22,581.05. Birds on 18 premises were swabbed and were placed under surveillance for possible exposure to VVND.

About August 20, 1980, sickness was first noted in a group of 8,000 birds by employees in a large commercial bird-holding facility in Florida. Sick birds were submitted to Iowa State University for diagnosis of suspected Pacheco's disease. Lesions of VVND were observed by the diagnostician and the birds were immediately sent to NVSL for diagnosis on September 2, 1980 where VVND was diagnosed on September 10, 1980. As a result of this infection, a total of 45 VVND positive cases had been identified (20 with laboratory isolations of VVND and 25 based on clinical and epidemiological evidence) in 17 states by the end of FY 1980.



As of October 1, 1980, a total of 18,638 birds were removed from 425 premises and appraised and depopulated for \$872,162.27. Shipments from all affected aviaries were sent to 45 different states. Total costs of eradication of this outbreak are expected to be close to \$3 million when completed.

Nine cases of VVND were isolated from pet birds belonging to individual owners in California who could not identify the persons who sold them the birds. Most were purchased at "swap meets" or from street peddlers. This is a continuing problem in California.

Regulations published during 1980 provided for the possible salvaging of smuggled birds by testing and quarantining in USDA facilities constructed at Mission, Texas, and San Ysidro, California. Cultures submitted from birds seized by U.S. Customs resulted in 24 VVND isolations.

A change was made on January 15, 1980, for individual owners in the importation program for two pet birds. The change required all pet birds, except from Canada, to be tested and placed in quarantine for 30 days at the owner's expense in USDA facilities located at nine designated ports of entry. One case of VVND was detected in a pet bird in this program during FY 1980.

Puerto Rico had been under Federal quarantine for exotic Newcastle disease since the early seventies. After an extensive survey during the fall of 1979, no evidence of velogenic viscerotropic Newcastle disease (VVND) was detected on this island. As a result, the quarantine of Puerto Rico for exotic Newcastle disease was removed on January 7, 1980.

A new system of surveillance to improve and quickly diagnose VVND and psittacosis in pet birds through veterinary practitioners was reported at the general session by Dr. Lucas and Cooper of California. The later report is published in these proceedings.



The committee was concerned and discussed at length the seriousness of the outbreaks and the extreme variations in the manifestations of the disease in the various species of birds. A subcommittee was appointed to evaluate procedures for classification and differentiation of endemic NDV strains and to recommend a regulatory policy of disposition of infections with the more virulent velogenic but not necessarily viscerotropic strains of NDV.