

## **WILD BIRDS AS PATIENTS OF THE EMERGENCY HOSPITAL OF THE FACULTY OF VETERINARY MEDICINE CLUJ NAPOCA, ROMANIA**

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### **SUMMARY**

Landscape changes and the environmental conditions that are related, are major factors associated with the disease occurrence at wild birds. The direct association between environment and human health has been recognized since ancient times (Friend and Franson, 1999).

The effects of the diseases occur at many different levels among the living beings, from molecular structures, through sub cellular levels to the individual animals and its population, ending with the effects on communities of organisms (Wobeser, 2006). The infectious diseases and the parasites exert the effect mostly on the population level (via virulence and individual cases), but some lesser-known causes (such as traumatism, electrocution) of diseases and mortality may become increasingly important in the future, mostly for the clinicians and for the bird rescue, because they act at individual level.

In this study we present the wild bird cases that we have met in 27-months-period time (between June 2005 and August 2007) at the Emergency Department and the Discipline of Infectious Diseases of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine Cluj-Napoca. The birds were injured, exhausted or captured and brought to our clinics and were examined using the physical examination and the x-ray (Sós et al., 2007). In this period we have consulted 22 wild birds: 7 (36%) adults and 15 (64%) juveniles. The species variation was high (14 species), belonging mostly to the order of *Falconiformes* and of *Ciconiiformes*. 59% of the examined birds showed major traumatic injuries (electrocution, wing and leg fracture, abnormalities), and at 41% of the cases we found minor injuries or they were completely healthy. In none of the cases have we found any infectious agents. The percentage of the rescued and released birds after the hospital treatment was 41%. In some cases we were forced to use euthanasia, because of ethics, animal welfare and because the relocation of the birds was impossible.

Besides of the presentation of the clinical cases, the ethical, clinical and pathological findings are discussed.

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