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P-15

REHABILITATION OF BIRDS IN THE TAFIRA WILDLIFE REHABILITATION CENTER IN GRAN CANARIA ISLAND, SPAIN: 2003-2013

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ABSTRACT

Birds have widely used as sentinels of ecosystem health, showing that birds living on islands with high human population density may be at higher risk. Human participation through wildlife rehabilitation centers is essential for conservation purposes. A total of 2,515 birds (excluding raptors and seabirds) belonging to 16 taxonomic orders admitted to the Tafira Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Gran Canaria Island, Spain, from 2003 to 2013 were studied. Primary causes of morbidity were classified into eleven categories: trauma, fishing gear, infectious/parasitic disease, metabolic/nutritional disease, glue trapping, orphaned young birds, crude oil, toxicosis, captivity, other causes, and unknown/undetermined. Overall (and also stratified by causes of admission) euthanasia (E), unassisted mortality (M), release (R), and permanent captivity (C) rates were also calculated. Eurasian Thick-knee (*Burhinus oedicnemus*) (n=496) and Eurasian Blackbird (*Turdus*

merula cabreræ) (n=339) were the species most frequently admitted. The most frequent causes of morbidity were orphaned young (25.8%), trauma (25.6%) and unknown/undetermined (23.4%). Among the birds admitted alive (2,276) the overall rates were: E=16.7%, M=26.5%, R=54%, C=2.7%. Birds admitted due to metabolic/nutritional diseases had the highest M values (48.5%). Among birds included in our study four species are currently included in the Spanish Catalogue of Menaced Species as "vulnerable" and three species as "in danger of extinction". M and R rates were worse than rates obtained in the rehabilitation of raptors and seabirds in the same period.

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P-16

REAL-TIME PCR AND IMMUNOHISTOCHEMICAL DETECTION OF JAPANESE ENCEPHALITIS VIRUS (JEV) IN MYELOID LINEAGE CELLS OF YOUNG WILD BIRDS IN TUSCANY

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ABSTRACT

Japanese Encephalitis Virus (JEV) can be responsible for encephalitis in humans and horses and for reproductive disorders in pigs. Birds are amplifying hosts and JEV has been detected in different organs. There are no published data showing the presence of the virus in the organs of healthy birds, captured during inter epidemic periods. We report the results obtained from samples from 12 young birds collected in Italy in 2011 - 2012. Serial sections from formalin-fixed and paraffin-embedded tissue samples were routinely processed for histopathology, immunohistochemistry (IHC; pAb, PG 10004, *Genesis Biotech Inc.*) and Sybr Green real time PCR.