

POSTER ABSTRACTS

Veterinary Pathology: Exotic, wildlife & zoo animals

156 | BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA IN THE CANARIAN HOUBARA BUSTARD (CHLAMYD-OTIS UNDULATA FUERTAVENTURAE) PRODUCED BY COLLISION WITH OVER-HEAD LINES

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Background

The mortality of birds resulting from collisions and electrocutions with overhead lines, such as power lines, and phone line among others, has been implicated in the decline of various avian species globally. Specifically, overhead line collisions pose a significant threat to the conservation of the Canarian houbara bustard (*Chlamydotis undulata Fuertaventurae*), an endangered sub-species endemic to the Canary Islands.

Materials & Methods

This study centres on the postmortem findings of Canarian houbara bustards that have collided with overhead lines, providing insights into the post-collision outcomes for these birds.

Results

A complete standardized necropsy of nine Canarian houbara bustards revealed that polytrauma was the cause of death in all cases. The most notable gross lesions associated with trauma included bone fractures, soft tissue lacerations, haemorrhages, luxations, and hemocoelom, with certain body regions being more frequently affected. Histopathology, immunohistochemistry, and entomology analysis confirmed that numerous birds survived the initial trauma, exhibiting variable survival intervals before succumbing to their injuries.

Conclusion

We concluded that when a houbara bustard collide with an overhead line it frequently survives the initial trauma. The histopathology, immunohistochemistry, or entomologic analysis may be helpful to approximate the timing interval between trauma and death.