



Patuxent Science Meeting 2004 Poster Abstract

Zinc poisoning of waterfowl in the Tri-State Mining District

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The Tri-State Mining District was once the world's greatest producer of lead-zinc ores. The names of the local towns, such as Galena and Zincville, recall the District's early mining history, dating back to the middle of the 19th century. Metals were dispersed into the habitat during mining, milling and smelting. Metals were dispersed further in sediments carried by streams and on trucks spreading waste rock on roads. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service had little evidence of poisoning of wild birds in the District, other than a textbook on waterfowl by Phillips and Lincoln that reported deaths of many mallards, pintails, and teal on Spring River, near Riverton, KS, in 1923. In response to a request from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, we investigated whether metals in the District were harming wild birds. In this poster, we describe the histopathological injury to the pancreases of three zinc-poisoned Canada geese collected in the District.