

First off i will tell you guys, I am not a biologist. I am just a concerned hunter. I am from Louisiana and have been hunting all different types of game here in our state. I am a dedicated Duck and Deer hunter. I noticed a lack of migration with waterfowl to the state of Louisiana since the late 90's. I have researched how this could be possible with the numbers that we have been showing that we see and kill here in our state. The research has been a hobby now for about 7 yrs but recent years become more of a mission.

I found out the reason for the lack of migration but I noticed a trend and the trend is why I am here talking to you right now.

I have talked with many biologists through email or conversation about this. I am now tied in with one of the leading biologist in Canada and he is actively looking into the similarities between CWD and Avian Botulism & other diseases. I spoke with 2 biologists from QDMA. The last conversation was with DR. Kip Adams, I told him about my theory with Avian Botulism, possibly being the missing link to CWD and Mad Cow. DR Kip Adams told me that my theory with CWD and Mad Cow had already been proven. CWD and Mad Cow is the same Sickness.

I asked why call it different names? If a human or an animal has cancer, It is still Cancer. Just because it is to different species of life does not mean the scientific name should be different. My research with Ducks would take me to large concentrations of waterfowl in the upper Mississippi Flyway, studying years, locations, populations, and time of the year that the concentrations were in the specific locations.

Since 1985 when large conservation movements became a part of the farm bill, the plan of 46million acres of breeding grounds to be restored due to habitat loss could have been a false dilemma. The breeding grounds restoration project started in the mid 1930's and ended in the 1950's.the largest concentration in the 69 year survey was in the 50's. The Canadian breeding grounds population counts did not show this drastic loss in populations of waterfowl, it actually shows large increases.

The landscape and ecosystems being put into effect with farm bill CRP/WRP funding could have been a good thing. YES they could have 100%. The more land for wildlife the better. The problem with the man made conservation areas was just because you have habitat does not mean that it will be utilized. Wildlife utilize there ecosystems and habitats just as humans do. We always know where home is but, if given the opportunity with better resources in an area that we do not work nearly as hard for those resources you move. Think of this like anything in history. The gold rush for example. Large concentrations of people flooded to an area of opportunity because they thought they could strike it rich. When this happened it was concentrating large populations in one area.

To get large concentrations of waterfowl in new areas of opportunity you have to attract them by utilizing baiting tactics. "GoldGold i say just over those hills" . It is the same with tactic with waterfowl and deer creating food plots in areas that historically fly over states. The next fact is, conservation areas 'CRP' that were being utilized for this so called "Critical Wintering Grounds" utilizes farm land and pays the farmer not to harvest his crop. Could this be good? yes possibly. The problem is flooding of a non-flood plain on a non-flood able crop is not good. It kills the crop and manipulates the soil it is planted in. The soil would have to be turned over, removed and managed to ever produce a quality crop.

The next fact is, the flooded unharvested crops attract large concentrations of birds and utilizing pumps to circulate water to prevent from freezing attracts birds as well when everything else around it is frozen. Avian botulism occurs when large concentrations of birds are in one general area. The fact that this areas just happen to be baited do to unharvested crops is even more of an attracting reason for waterfowl.

The areas now since 1998 when the migratory bird treaty reform was put into action and amendments made to allow legal baiting practices only to select locations for specific reasons, maybe because the farm lands now have become full time hunting lodges " be sure to call early to book the best dates " type of places. The waterfowl populations being at an all-time high and concentrated on small open spots of water throughout the flyway to hold them from day 1 of season until the last warm sit is no longer filled on the last day of season and the pumps are kicked off to basically open the cage and release them to migrate.

Final fact with my theory.....

- Fact Avian botulism occurs when large concentrations are in specific locations.
- Fact Conservation funding and expense is getting out of hand.
- Fact Conservation efforts to state and federally owned lands only goes to select areas with others habitats left to ruin.
- Fact Conservation efforts takes large amounts of funding from farmers that could use the funding to better feed Americans and properly maintain their property and equipment.
- Fact All other wildlife and farm animals are attracted to, or live on these farm lands.
- Fact The wildlife and farm animals eat grass/hay from the same area as the unharvested crop and on the unharvested crop.
- Fact the wildlife and farm animals drink from the water where unharvested crops are planted, on manipulated soils, with water being pumped and circulated to prevent freezing to hold large concentrations of waterfowl.
- Theory Biologist originally thought that CWD and mad cow was separate.
- Fact CWD and Mad Cow are the exact same.
- Theory Biologist thought CWD and mad cow originated from sheep. Which is still a theory.
- Fact CWD and mad cow is found very close to avian botulism areas shortly after it is found.
- Fact Avian botulism was found 2017 in Michigan and it is very common in this area and has moved south.
- Fact Avian botulism found right outside of a hunting facility in Arkansas Dec 2017
- Fact Hunter films whitetail die of CWD in Mississippi just across the river on the south east border of Arkansas.
- Fact IT IS NOT COMMON TO FARM SHEEP IN THE SOUTH!
- MY THEORY Avian botulism & diseases causes CWD and Mad Cow and the more land put in to critical wintering on the farms in the north for the new high priced sport of waterfowl concentrating is causing large cases of CWD in those areas.

- The further south they move down the flyway building these critical baited facilities concentrating the waterfowl for personal gain the more CWD becomes available in our white tails here. The facility where it was found outside of this in 2017 was known to be one of the locations holding insane amounts of waterfowl. It is also one of the last large projects of many more planned on the schedule.
- Man playing God has to stop; we can utilize funding to restore our state and federal lands. Construction of these new lands built with American tax dollars, only to be charged 1200 a day to utilize the area is wrong. The extra funding would boost the budget to the real farmers and would provide better quality of crops. Would allow rice farmers better funding and we could start utilizing more of our own quality product instead of importing a foreign soils product..
- Please start looking into all this and research yourself. Push the issue to research my theory. If i am correct this is only going to get worse. Thank you for reading. i know its long but there is not quick way of explaining this.

If you have any questions please contact me at josh.goins@flywayfederationlouisiana.com