Wildlife Without Lead

WHAT HAPPENS TO BIRDS WITH LEAD POISONING?
A single lead sinker can be lethal. Birds with lead poisoning act strangely. They often show signs of neurological dysfunction including wing and head droop, inability to walk, fly, or digest. Once weakened by the effects of lead, birds are more vulnerable to predators and the elements. In addition, they have trouble feeding, mating, nesting, and caring for young. There is no way to cure a bird that has ingested lead, and they face certain death, often in a matter of weeks.

Ways to Reduce Lead Poisoning in Wildlife:

Use non-lead ammunition. There are numerous alternatives to lead shot and bullets available. Ask for them from your ammunition supplier.

Take lead out with you. Collect spent slugs and any meat from wounds that may be contaminated with lead.

Bury gut piles. Find ways to dispose of carcasses and the dressed down remains of animals so scavengers will not find them.

Learn More. Visit our website at www.hawkwatch.org/lead_site

Spread the word. Ask for non-lead products from your ammunition dealer and tell other hunters about the dangers of using lead products.

Contact Us:
1800 S. West Temple
Suite 226
Salt Lake City, UT 84115
801-484-6808
800-726-HAWK
www.hawkwatch.org

These deaths can be prevented.
**WILDLIFE WITHOUT LEAD**

**Progress in Upland & Big-game Hunting**

Since there is no legislation regarding the use of lead in upland or big game hunting, use of alternative ammunition has largely been voluntary. Most secondary lead poisoning in wildlife is due to carcasses and unburied gut piles, where scavengers are tempted to feed on lead-tainted remains.

Many hunters are reporting that alternative ammunitions work as well or better than lead. These include alloys such as Tungsten-Nickel, Bismuth and Copper. For many of these lead alternatives, range is excellent, pellet density, deformity and impact is very good, and crippling rates are no different that those found in lead.

The sport of hunting is already expensive when you consider travel, fees/permits, equipment and more. Increased cost of alternative ammunition is a fraction of what hunters spend each year. According to a recent Fish and Wildlife Service Study, hunters only shoot an average of 36 shells in a typical hunting year. With this few shells expended annually, switching to alternative ammunition only increases annual ammo costs from $2 - $75. Many hunters have decided that this is an acceptable cost when they weigh the benefits of their contribution to a healthier game population and environment.

**Complex Problem**

There’s good news for hunters and wildlife. In the last decade, hunters have helped decrease the amount of lead deposited in the environment, resulting in healthier and larger game populations. Though hunters’ skills and pocketbooks were challenged with early alternatives to lead ammunition, positive steps are being made – both in terms of ballistic performance and cost.

Since the ban on lead shot for waterfowl hunting in 1991, lead based mortality in ducks, loons, and other birds decreased substantially across the country. Hunter compliance with the ban has decreased Mallard lead poisoning 64% in the Mississippi flyway and decreased American Black Duck mortality by 44%!

**Easy Solution**

To learn more about how hunters can help ensure healthy wildlife populations while continuing to enjoy their sport and the environment, talk to your local ammunition retailer or contact one of these vendors:

- **Cabela’s** 1-800-237-4444
- **EnvironMetal** 541-367-3522
- **Federal Cartridge Company** 208-799-3944
- **Kent Cartridge America** 1-888-311-5368
- **Bismuth Cartridge Company** 818-763-9011

Since its debut in January 2000, HEVI-SHOT™ brand shot has revolutionized the non-toxic shotshell market by producing loads with extremely tight pattern density and unattached down-range pellet energy.

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**Ammo Toxicity and Cost**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Toxicity</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lead</td>
<td>Cabela’s Xtreme Lead</td>
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*Prices drawn from Cabela’s [www.cabelas.com](http://www.cabelas.com).*