

records for this species documented since the early 1900s. Of the 2001 records, 66% were reported in or after July, also an unusual seasonal pattern, as most stray hooded seals arrive in the U.S. New England region during winter (mid-January to April). Individuals of the species were reported from the eastern seaboard of the United States (from Maine to North Carolina), Bermuda, Bahamas, Turks and Caicos islands, Puerto Rico, Anguilla, St. Barthélemy, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Germany, Denmark, France, Spain, and Portugal. The hooded seals found were mostly emaciated and dehydrated, many suffering from heat exhaustion, and in need of immediate medical assistance to secure their survival.

The reasons for these hooded seal wanderings are unknown, but an increasing number of strandings and sightings have been reported in the past 6 years (4–6), as it has been also observed with other arctic seal species (7). Before this, sightings and strandings of these arctic seals were infrequent. The Caribbean Marine Mammal Laboratory at the Universidad Metropolitana in Puerto Rico and the Seal Conservation Society in the United Kingdom are coordinating, in participation with government organizations,

research establishments, and rescue and rehabilitation organizations on both sides of the Atlantic, to attempt to determine the cause of this anomaly. Among the factors that are being examined are annual stranding patterns and the pathological condition, genetics, toxicology, and virology of the seals.

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References and Notes

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8. We acknowledge the help of all stranding network officials and volunteers along the U.S. eastern seaboard, Europe, and the Caribbean for their dedication to tending to these events and in providing important information to document this anomaly. We thank D. Lavigne and G. Early, whose comments and assistance in this effort have

been exceptional. The hooded seal work at the Caribbean Marine Mammal Laboratory, Universidad Metropolitana, is supported by the NSF's Model Institute of Excellence (MIE) Project and through private corporate sponsorship. Further information is available at <http://rcv.caribe.net>

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

NEWS OF THE WEEK: "Livestock feed ban preserves drugs' power" by D. Ferber (4 Jan., p. 27). It was mistakenly reported that Abbott Laboratories, the maker of enrofloxacin, was fighting the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on a proposed ban on the antibiotic. The FDA has in fact proposed banning enrofloxacin. But Bayer Corporation, not Abbott Laboratories, makes the drug and is fighting the proposed ban. It was also reported that the FDA has proposed banning enrofloxacin from its use in livestock feed. Enrofloxacin is not permitted in livestock feed in the United States; the FDA has proposed banning it from use in poultry drinking water.

BOOKS ET AL.: "A scientific Kokopelli" by B. Edgar (7 Dec., p. 2103). In the second paragraph, Francis Crick instead of Francois Jacob was mistakenly credited as one of the three scientists (the other two being Sydney Brenner and Mathew Meselson) who proved the existence of messenger RNA.

NHLBI Mammalian Genotyping Service



The Mammalian Genotyping Service is funded by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute to assist in linkage mapping of genes which cause or influence disease and other research purposes. Genotyping is carried out using whole genome polymorphism scans at Marshfield, Wisconsin under the direction of Dr. James Weber. Capacity of the Service is currently about 7,000,000 genotypes (DNA samples times polymorphic markers) per year and growing. Although the Service was initially established for genetic projects dealing with heart, lung, and blood diseases, the Mammalian Genotyping Service will now consider all meritorious applications. Genome scans for humans, mice, rats, dogs and zebrafish are available.

To ensure the most promising projects are undertaken, investigators must submit a brief application which will be evaluated by a scientific advisory panel. At this time, only projects with at least 10,000 genotypes will be considered. DNA samples must be in hand at the time of application. Most genotyping within the Service is currently done with multiallelic STRPs (microsatellites). However, genotyping with human diallelic polymorphisms has been initiated and will likely expand. **There are no genotyping fees for approved projects.** The Service is funded through September, 2006. Application deadlines are every six months.

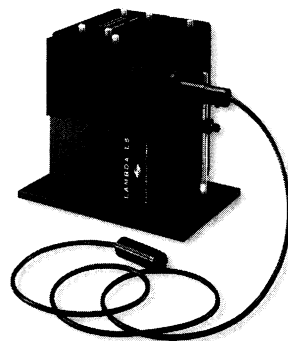
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