

HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI):

UPDATE FOR ALASKA REGION



SPECIES AFFECTED IN ALASKA

Raptors: **Bald Eagle**, Northern Harrier, Snowy Owl

Waterbirds: American green-winged teal, American wigeon, Black Brant, Cackling Goose, Canada Goose, Snow Goose, Lesser Scaup, Mallard, Northern pintail, Northern shoveler, Unknown Eider, Red-necked Grebe

Corvids: Common Raven

Waders: Sandhill Crane, Great Blue Heron

Gulls/Terns/Jaegers: Arctic Tern, Blacklegged Kittiwake, **Glaucous Gull**, Glaucous-Winged Gull, Parasitic Jaeger, **Sabine's Gull**, Short-Billed Gull, Thayer's Gull , Unknown gull

Shorebirds/Passerines: Dunlin, Tree Swallow

Domestic Poultry: Chickens/ducks/emus

Mammals: Red Fox, Black Bear, Brown Bear

ADVICE TO SUBSISTENCE HUNTERS

Advice developed with tribal and State health agencies is very similar to USDA advice for hunters:

Even though HPAI is of low risk for human health, Alaska hunters should still exercise caution while hunting and eating migratory birds by following these steps to reduce infection risk:

- Do not harvest game that appear sick or are found dead.
- Wear rubber or disposable latex or nitrile gloves while handling and cleaning game.
- When done handling game, wash hands thoroughly with soap or disinfectant, and disinfect knives, equipment, and surfaces that were in contact with game.
- Do not eat, drink, or smoke while handling game.
- Cook game and eggs thoroughly to an internal temperature of 165 degrees.



Photo ByClayton Ferrell/USFWS

REPORTING

Birds with HPAI infections may appear disoriented, be walking in circles, have jerky head movements, or hold their neck or heads in an unusual position, or may be dead. Helpful information to include when reporting: location of the bird(s), species; number of birds; and whether the birds are dead, dying, injured or behaving in an erratic or abnormal manner, or have lost their fear of humans.

To report dead or sick wild birds: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Avian Flu Hotline Toll free: **866-527-3358** or **907-229-6357** (thru Oct. 31, 2023)

To report dead or sick **wild mammals**: ADF&GWildlife Veterinarian, <u>dfg.dwc.vet@alaska.gov</u>

> To report sick or dead **domestic birds**: Office of the State Veterinarian 907-375-8215

RESOURCES

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service NWRS Wildlife Health **Office Avian Flu** sharepoint: https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/sites/NWRSW
 ildlifeHealthoffice/SitePages/AVIAN-INFLUENZA.aspx
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service information about Avian Influenza in wild birds: (https://www.fws.gov/node/379666)
- Alaska Bird FAQ: if it's sick, abandoned, injured or dead (https://www.fws.gov/node/271056)
- Alaska Department of Health Avian Flu Page: (https://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/influenza/avian (default.aspx)
- National Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Avian Flu Page (human health information): (https://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/index.htm)
- National HPAI case counts in wild birds: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalheal th/animal-disease-information/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-2022/2022-hpai-wild-birds
- Case counts in Alaska: https://dec.alaska.gov/eh/vet/announcements/avian-influenzaoutbreaks.

- **AK Forum.org HPAI Technical Session:** Access through your Virtual Hub if registered; January can share the presentation if interested

Hunter Information:

- The Centers for Disease Control believes that the public health risk from HPAI in North America is low.
- Alaska hunters should still exercise caution while hunting and eating migratory birds by following these steps to reduce infection risk:
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