



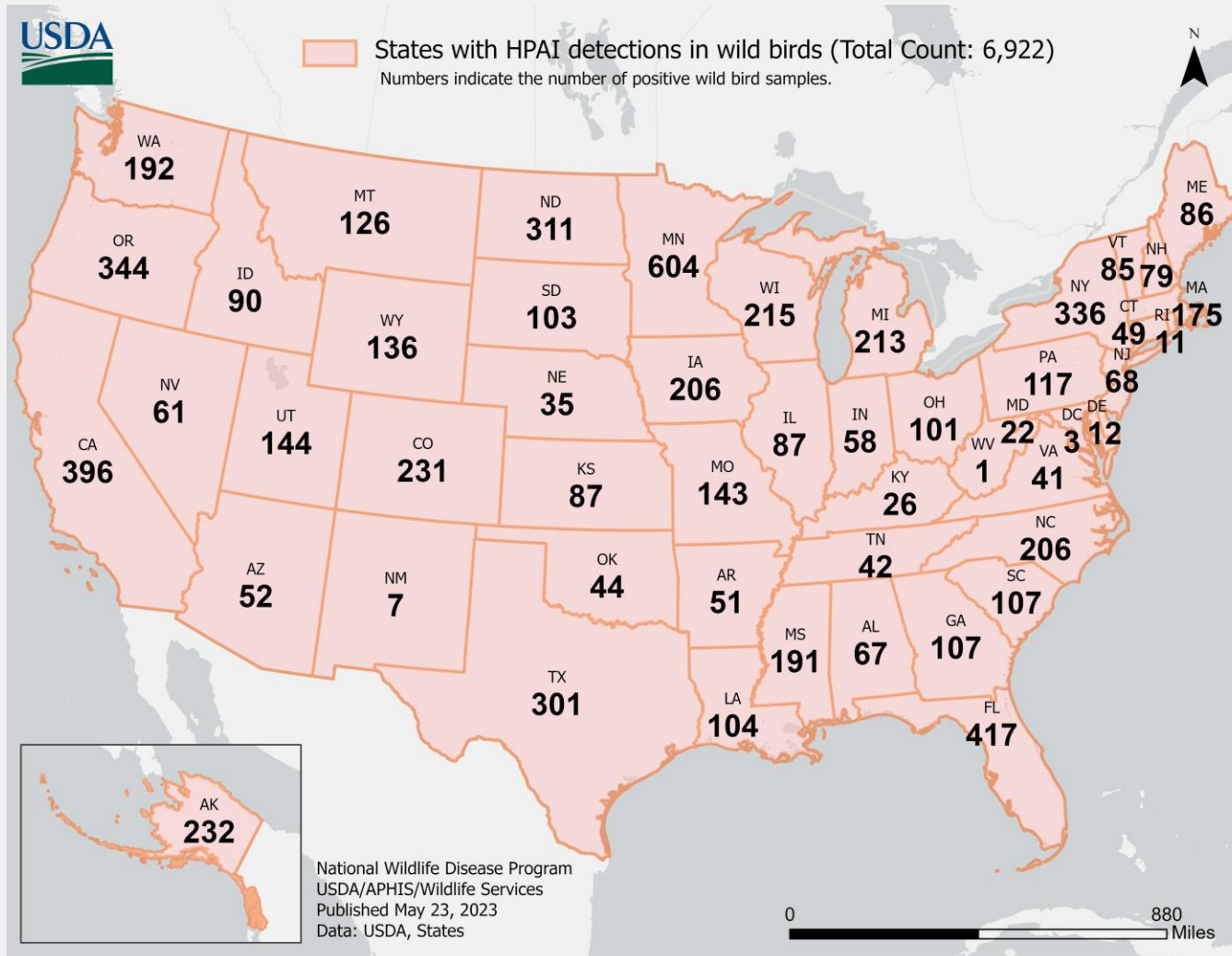
HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI):
UPDATE FOR ALASKA REGION

April, 2023

OUTBREAK HISTORY

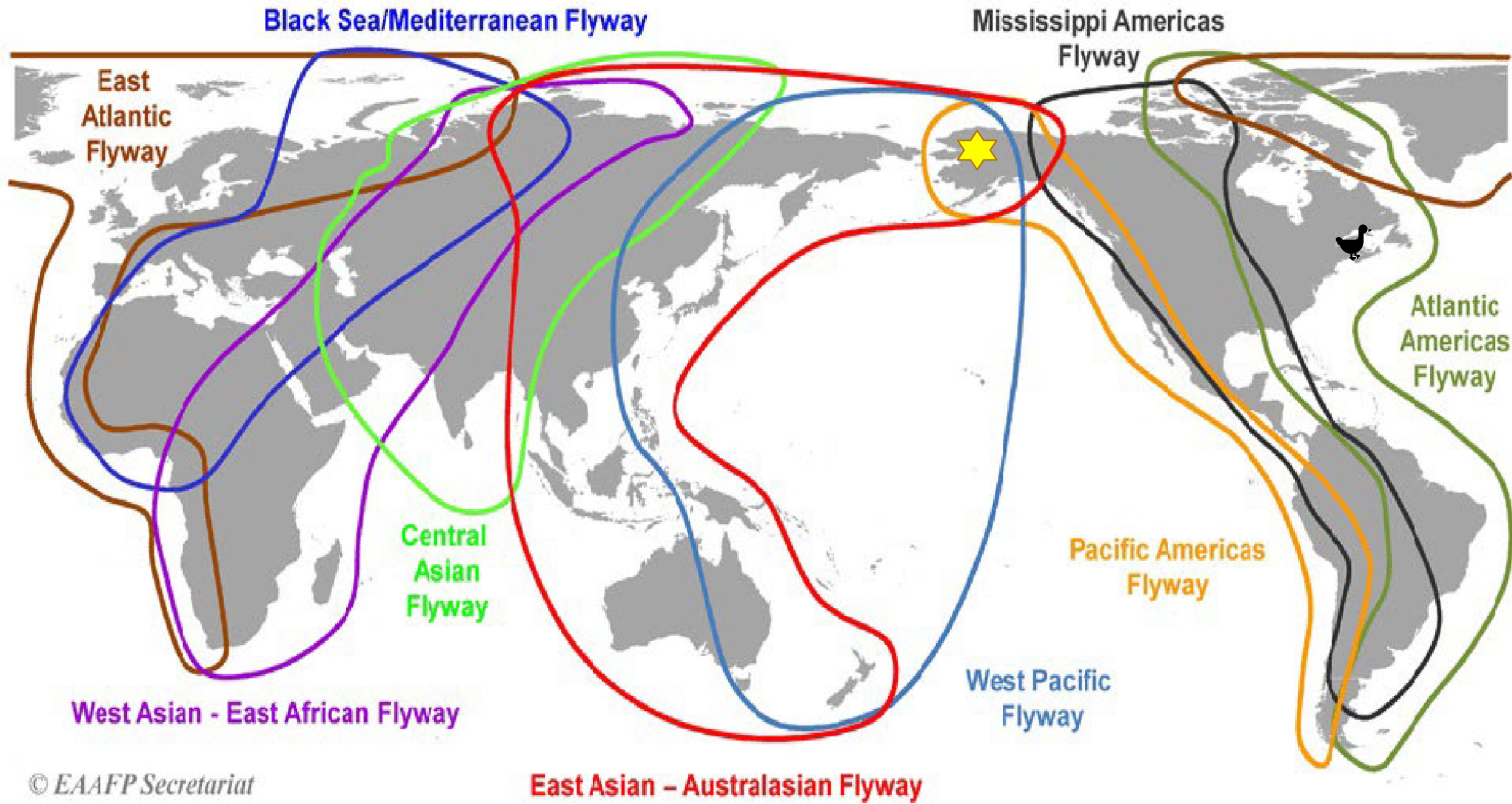
- Current HPAI outbreak began in 2020 in Europe
 - Previous global outbreaks – different strains - in 2004 and 2014-16
- First detected in North America in Dec 2021 in eastern Canada.
 - Spread westward across the continent, in domestic/commercial poultry and in wild birds.
- First Alaska confirmations: Late April, 2022
 - Also appears to have been three independent introductions into Alaska from East Asia throughout the year.
- Current detection totals in AK (23 May 2023)
 - Wild birds: 232 confirmed cases
 - Backyard poultry: 6 confirmed flocks (1,140 birds)
 - Wild mammals (3 red fox, 1 black bear, 1 brown bear).

CURRENT OUTBREAK OF HPAI IN NORTH AMERICA WILD BIRDS AND POULTRY



As of 23 May 2023...

- Confirmed detections in 49 U.S. states and all Canadian provinces
- 58.79 million domestic birds affected in U.S.
- >100 spp. of wild birds affected in U.S.
- 6,922 confirmed wild bird detections in U.S.



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, Black-legged 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

SYMPTOMS IN WILDLIFE

Birds with HPAI infections may:

- Appear disoriented,
- Be walking in circles
- Have jerky head movements
- Hold their neck or heads in an unusual position
- May be dead
- May be asymptomatic!



RISKS TO OTHER ANIMALS

- Multiple species of mammals have been infected during the current HPAI outbreak, presumably through scavenging behaviors.
- In North America, current outbreak detected in bears (two in Alaska), bobcat, coyote, dolphin, fisher, gray seal, harbor seal, mink, opossum, raccoon, red fox, and striped skunk.
- Dogs eating infected carcasses may be at risk.
- Not yet detected in marine mammals in Alaska:
 - Can be found in marine mammals
 - Has been detected in seals in Maine
 - The National Marine Fisheries Service Stranding Network has tested for it; they are currently monitoring/archiving samples

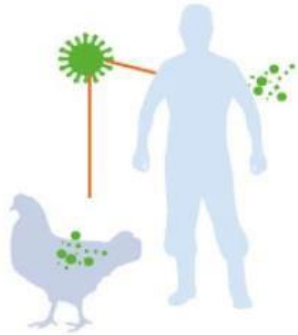


Photo By Lisa Hupp/USFWS

HUMAN INFECTIONS WITH BIRD FLU VIRUSES ARE RARE BUT POSSIBLE

1. DIRECT CONTACT

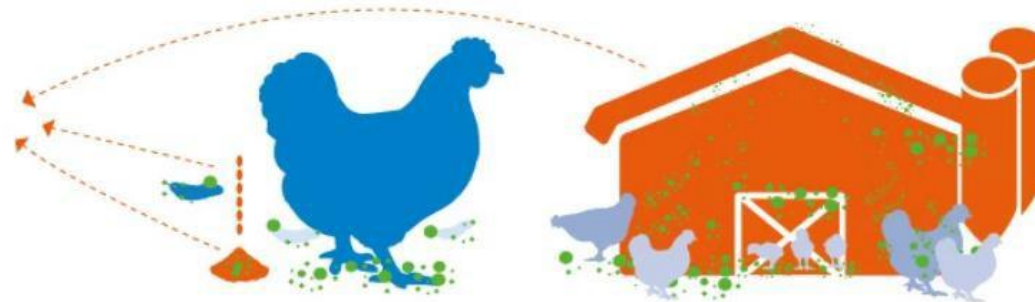
Bird Flu Virus



Touching virus and then touching the eyes, nose or mouth

2. CONTAMINATED SURFACES

Bird Flu Virus



Healthy looking birds can still spread bird flu

3. BIRD FLU VIRUS IN THE AIR (IN DROPLETS OR DUST)



Flapping wings



Scratching



Shaking head

SYMPTOMS IN HUMANS

Signs and symptoms to watch out for include:

- Fever or feeling feverish
- Cough
- Runny nose
- Sore throat
- Headache
- Muscle aches
- Eye redness
- Difficulty breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Diarrhea

If you've been around wild birds and start to feel sick, make sure to let a doctor know it could be HPAI!

Monitor your health starting on the first day of exposure and for ten days after the last exposure, and report any illness signs or symptoms to a physician and the local and state public health department as soon as possible.

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/hpai/hpai-background-clinical-illness.htm#:~:text=Signs%20and%20symptoms%20to%20watch,public%20health%20departments%20are%20recommended.>



FIRST RESPONDERS

Minimum PPE for carcass or live bird collection:

- Face coverings – Masks
- Eye protection
- Hair tie
- Gloves – nitrile exam inner; larger rubber or nitrile outer if handling messy or large numbers of carcasses
- Washable/bleachable boots (e.g. Xtratuffs)
- Raingear that can be sprayed with bleach or clothing that can be washed in hot soapy water

Other items:

- Carcasses: coolers, ice packs, plastic bags (double-bag all carcasses)
- Data submission form – protect in a ziploc and something to write with
- Carcass tag: species, number, location (lat/long if possible, nearest waterbody), age, sex if known, circumstances
- Hand sanitizer



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.

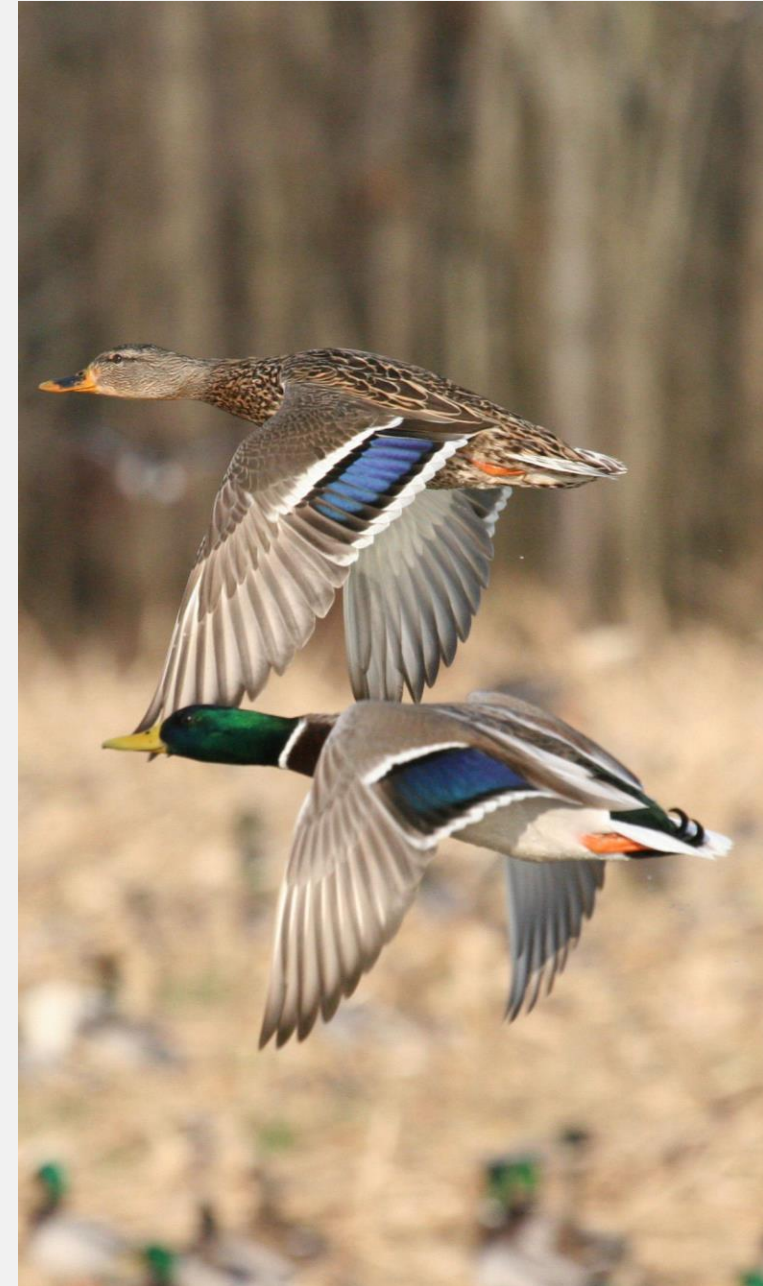


Photo By Clayton Ferrell/USFWS

REPORTING

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)

or report to the Local Environmental Observer Network:

www.leonetwork.org

*To report dead or sick **wild mammals**:* ADF&G Wildlife Veterinarian,

dfg.dwc.vet@alaska.gov

*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://doimsp.sharepoint.com/sites/NWRSWildlifeHealthOffice/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/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-2022/2022-hpai-wild-birds>
- **Case counts in Alaska:**
<https://dec.alaska.gov/eh/vet/announcements/avian-influenza-outbreaks>.

- **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.
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January_Frost@fws.gov

Kinkela_Vicich@fws.gov

A large group of ducks is swimming in the water. In the upper center, one duck is spreading its wings. The ducks have white bodies with black wings and tails, and some have black caps. The water is dark and rippled. A white rectangular box with a black border is centered over the image, containing the text "THANK YOU! ANY QUESTIONS?".

**THANK YOU!
ANY QUESTIONS?**