

Q: Are other game birds susceptible to HPAI H5N1?

A: Indications are that upland game birds are susceptible. Hunters should practice proper hygiene with all hunting activities to prevent exposure to this and other diseases that occur naturally in California.

Q: How can I protect myself from potential bird diseases while hunting?

A: The following suggestions are precautions that hunters should follow normally when hunting:

- Do not handle birds that are obviously sick
- Keep your game birds cool, clean, and dry
- Place birds in washable container for transport (ice chest etc. that can be sanitized)
- Wash hands before eating, smoking, drinking (use hand sanitizer in duck blinds)
- When cleaning game, use cleanable work space, properly dispose of feathers/innards, and use disposable gloves
- Wash your hands with soap and water or alcohol wipes after dressing bird
- Clean all tools and surfaces immediately afterward; use hot soapy water, then disinfect with a 10 percent chlorine bleach solution (1/4 cup bleach to 1 gallon water) or use Lysol concentrated disinfectant
- Cook game meat thoroughly (155-165°F) to kill disease organisms
- Clean clothes, boots, back of truck, bird prep station well
- Use proper sanitary practices in the kitchen when handling raw meat (wash hands, counters and cookware thoroughly)



Q: Are bird hunting dogs at risk of getting HPAI H5N1?

A: Dogs exposed to avian influenza have developed antibodies. They do not seem to become ill, but contact with dog saliva and feces should be minimized. Wash hands frequently and avoid letting the dog lick hands or faces.

Q: Who do I call if I find a dead bird?

A: For domestically reared birds – CA Dept. of Food and Agriculture at 800-491-1899

For single sick or dead birds – West Nile Virus Hotline at 877-968-2473

For 5 or more dead wild birds observed over short period of time (at once or over 2-3 days) – DFG at the local office listed under government agencies in the phone book or a DFG office listed below:

Department of Fish and Game

Northern California-North Coast Region
(530) 225-2300

Sacramento Valley-Central Sierra Region
(916) 358-2900

Central Coast Region
(707) 944-5500

San Joaquin Valley-Southern Sierra Region
(559) 243-4005

South Coast Region
(858) 467-4201

Eastern Sierra-Inland Deserts Region
(562) 590-5132

Bishop Office
(760) 872-1171

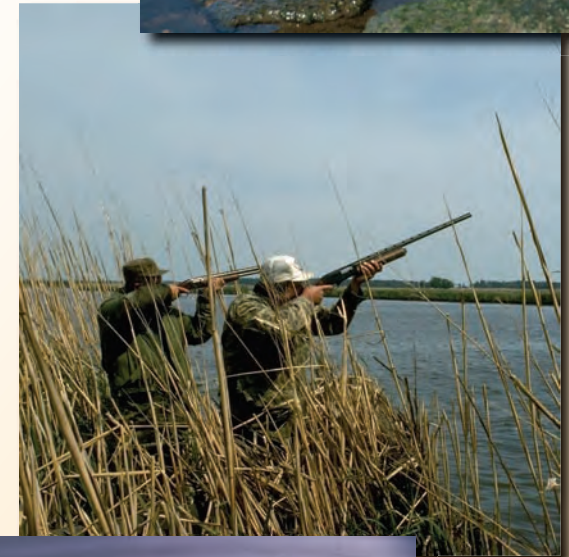
Eureka Office
(707) 445-6493



**Additional information available at
www.dfg.ca.gov/avianflu**

Alternate communication format available upon request. If reasonable accommodation is needed call (916) 322-8911 or the California Relay (Telephone) Service for the deaf or hearing-impaired from TDD phones at 1-800-735-2929 or 711.

Avian Influenza: What every hunter should know



Avian influenza basics

Avian influenza is typically a bird disease. Wild birds are a natural reservoir for avian influenza viruses, most of which do not present a threat to either the wild birds or to humans. Occasionally, a strain of avian influenza will mutate into what is known as a highly pathogenic variety (HPAI). HPAI specifically means the virus kills 75 percent or more of domestic chickens inoculated with the virus. In even rarer instances, an avian influenza will mutate and affect humans.

About H5N1 strain

The highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza (HPAI H5N1) is primarily a bird disease that is transmitted from bird to bird through contact with infected bird secretions, feces (bird manure), and contaminated water or food. HPAI H5N1 has infected humans who have had intense contact with infected sick or dead birds, almost exclusively poultry.

The HPAI H5N1 virus that is causing high mortality in poultry in other countries has been identified in Asia, Africa, India, and Europe, but as of July 2006, it has not been found in North America.

The HPAI H5N1 virus could enter North America by several means, possibly including through the migration of wild birds in the Pacific Flyway. In conjunction with other states and federal agencies, California Department of Fish and Game personnel are currently monitoring for this and other diseases that could affect California.

Frequently Asked Questions about Avian Influenza

Q: Can humans catch AI from wild birds?

A: As of August 1, 2006, one report of potential transmission of HPAI H5N1 from wild bird to human has been made. In this case, infection from wild swans being de-feathered in Azerbaijan was the most likely source of the human infection.

Q: How could HPAI H5N1 enter North America?

A: HPAI H5N1 is most likely to enter through the movement of infected poultry, legal or illegal importation of contaminated birds or bird products, or migratory waterfowl and shorebirds.

Q: Should bird hunters be concerned about HPAI H5N1?

A: Because HPAI H5N1 has not arrived in North America, hunters do not need to be overly concerned at the present time about AI, but all hunters should practice good hygiene in the field when working with any wild bird or mammal. Good hygiene, proper preparation and cooking procedures will prevent infection from a variety of germs and viruses like AI.



Occurrence of Avian Influenza by bird group

