

January 26, 2023: HPAI Wild Bird Detection in Santa Barbara County

The Eurasian strain H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) has been detected in a wild bird species in Santa Barbara County, California.

As of today, HPAI has previously been detected in domestic flocks in the following 16 California Counties: Butte, Calaveras, Contra Costa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Mendocino, Monterey, Sacramento, San Diego, San Joaquin, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Tehama, and Tuolumne. With this new detection, HPAI has been detected in wild birds in 44 counties: Alameda, Amador, Butte, Colusa, Contra Costa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Imperial, Kern, Lassen, Los Angeles, Marin, Mendocino, Merced, Monterey, Napa, Orange, Placer, Plumas, Riverside, Sacramento, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Trinity, Ventura, Yolo, and Yuba.

It is important to note that HPAI is widespread in California and may also be present in other counties that are not listed (due to not having any lab submissions from those counties). Enhanced biosecurity is critical in the face of ongoing disease outbreaks. Please continue to practice good avian biosecurity protocols according to your plans.

Avian influenza is a highly contagious and often fatal disease in birds. The disease is spread through the movement of infected or exposed birds, direct or indirect contact with infected wild and domestic birds or contact with the virus on fomites (surfaces) such as hands, shoes, clothing, or feet and fur of rodents and other animals.

Report any unusual or suspicious sick or dead domestic, pet, or collection birds immediately via the CDFA Sick Bird Hotline at (866) 922-2473.

Report any unusual or suspicious wild bird deaths to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) online at www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Laboratories/WildlifeHealth/Monitoring/Mortality-Report. If you have questions about wildlife rehabilitation, please contact the CDFW directly.