

Reports of dead wild birds? What to do next.

If you receive a report of someone finding dead wild waterfowl or shorebirds, it is important to remove the carcass from the environment.

Why?

Scavengers, such as gulls, hawks, and turkey vultures may become infected with HPAI from eating an infected carcass.

How do you safely remove the carcass?

If available wear disposable gloves to pick up the carcass. Place the carcass inside a trash bag, seal bag and then place inside another bag and seal. If disposable gloves are not available turn the trash bag inside out and carefully use it to pick up the carcass.



To report sick or dead wild birds use the following link;

Department of Fish and Game, Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

(MassWildlife) – [Report Wild birds here.](#)

Disinfecting Shoes and Clothing after handling dead birds

Because Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) spreads easily on contaminated surfaces, be sure to wash your clothing in hot water and disinfect your shoes after handling a dead wild bird.

To disinfect your shoes, use one of the methods below:

Prepare a solution of 1 part bleach to 10 parts water and submerge shoes in the solution for 10 minutes.

Spray your shoes with a benzalkonium chloride-based commercial disinfectant (such as Lysol spray or similar product) and allow them to dry

Reports of sick or dead domestic poultry? What to do?

When you receive a report of sick or dead domestic poultry please call 617-626-1795 or the flock owner can use the online [Poultry Disease Reporting Form](#)

Once the department receives the report, someone from Animal Health will call the flock owner to get a history and determine if testing for HPAI is warranted.

What can poultry owners do to mitigate the risk of introducing HPAI into their flocks?

Practicing flock biosecurity and preventing poultry from co-mingling with wild waterfowl are two of the best actions you can practice to keep your flock healthy.



Biosecurity practices can prevent disease from entering your flock. It is important to make simple daily biosecurity practices a habit. Keep a dedicated pair of footwear that is only worn when caring for your flock OR use a bucket and brush with disinfectant to scrub the soles of your footwear prior to entering the poultry house. Do not allow poultry to free range. This increases the risk of contact with wild waterfowl or their droppings. Prevent waterfowl from accessing ponds, waterways, and wetlands on the property.

Information on mitigating water access is available here

www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/wildlife_damage/fsc-hpai-wildlife-practices-reduce.pdf

MDAR's biosecurity for poultry resources are available in

English, Español, Português, 简体中文, Tiếng Việt, عربي

Visit [USDA's 2022-2023 HPAI Detection Page](#) for information on cases in **Wild birds, Domestic Poultry and Mammals**