Paula Tibbitts

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Cc: Matthew Hayden; Michael Walker; Micki Jones; Phillip Lorica; Timothy Murphy
Subject: NYS DEC Advisory - Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Detected in NY

Good afternoon,

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has announced that multiple wild bird species in several areas of New York State have been found to be infected with Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI).

Infections have been found in Canada geese and other wild birds which are known to frequent school grounds.

What do you need to know?

- No HPAI human infections have been documented in the US.
- HPAI does not pose an immediate public health concern.
- Risk of human infection is low.

Actions to take:

- Avoid direct contact with wild birds and observe from a distance.
- Avoid contact with birds that appear ill or have died.
- Avoid contact with surfaces that appear to be contaminated with feces from wild birds, if possible.
- Report any suspicious deaths of species listed below to your local DEC regional office.
    - Region 4 (Albany, Columbia, Delaware, Greene, Montgomery, Otsego, Rensselaer, Schenectady and Schoharie):
        - (518) 357-2355, *Schenectady office*
    - Region 5 (Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Saratoga, Warren and Washington):
        - (518) 623-1200, *Warrensburg office*

What birds species are affected?

Wild bird species affected in NY include snow geese, Canada geese, tundra swan, mute swan, sanderling, mallard duck, redhead duck, ring-necked duck, wood duck, hooded merganser, great blue heron, bald eagles, great horned owls, snowy owl, cooper's hawk, red-tailed hawk, fish crow, and turkey vulture. Many species of waterfowl, including shorebirds, gulls, raptors, herons and cranes, are also vulnerable.
Captive birds in NY found with HPAI include captive chickens, pheasants, and ducks.

NY Counties where HPAI has been detected since April 19, 2022:

Cayuga, Clinton, Dutchess, Fulton, Livingston, Monroe, Montgomery, Nassau, Onondaga, Seneca, Suffolk, Ulster, and Wayne.

Resources:

- Avian Influenza Fact Sheet: https://cwhl.vet.cornell.edu/disease/avian-influenza
- 2022 Detections of HPAI in Wild Birds: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-2022/2022-hpai-wild-birds
- Reporting Dead Wildlife: https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/6957.html
- Avian Flu (CDC): https://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/spotlights/2021-2022/h5n1-low-risk-public.htm

Regards,

Hilary Hofstein

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