



Found a Dead Wild Bird? Here's What To Do Next

The United States is experiencing a widespread outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). Although this disease primarily kills domestic poultry (chickens and turkeys), it can also affect more than 50 species of wild birds.

If you find dead wild birds on your property, contact your State wildlife agency or State health department so they can collect and test them for HPAI.

- **State Wildlife Agencies**
fishwildlife.org (search “member list”)
- **State Health Departments**
cdc.gov (search “state health departments”)

Report large-scale wild bird die-offs or other unusual signs in wild birds to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) by calling 1-866-4-USDA-WS or 1-866-487-3297.

Disposing of Dead Wild Birds

If local authorities tell you to dispose of the bird's carcass (body), wear disposable gloves to pick it up.

If you don't have gloves, turn a plastic bag inside out and use it to pick up the carcass. Double-bag the carcass and throw it away in your regular trash.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, handling HPAI-infected birds is unlikely to lead to illness in people. However, you should seek medical attention if you experience any influenza-like symptoms or illness within 10 days of handling sick or dead birds.



Disinfecting Shoes and Clothing

Because 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. The mixed solution is good for 7 days.
- Spray your shoes with a benzalkonium chloride-based commercial disinfectant (such as Lysol* spray or similar product) and allow them to dry.

For More Information

To learn more about HPAI or view a list of affected States and bird species, go to aphis.usda.gov and search “HPAI.”

To learn more about HPAI and human health, go to cdc.gov/flu/avianflu.

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Learn more about stopping avian influenza:
aphis.usda.gov/animalhealth/defendtheflock

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