

# SPECIAL ADVISORY

## Avian Influenza: How ready are you?

**THE RISK IS NEW, AND REAL.** Three new strains of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) have been identified in the past year, and there was a significant outbreak in the United States in spring 2015.

Birds are migrating south through North America, and it is likely that these birds carry the avian influenza (AI) virus. Areas affected by drought may find that waterfowl and shorebirds alter their migration pathways and aggregate in greater numbers than usual where water and food can be found.

AI can rapidly decimate complete flocks. It could happen in another province. It could happen to your neighbor. IT COULD HAPPEN TO YOU. Your livelihood could be wiped out.

What can you do? Don't be a sitting duck. Avian influenza isn't someone else's problem, it's everyone's issue.

**BIOSECURITY IS YOUR BEST DEFENSE.** You **can** control the risk. Complacency kills.

### TOP MUST DOs

- Change boots or use boot covers, and wear clean clothes into the barn, especially after working in the field or accessing other areas frequented by wild birds. **Everyone can be a carrier- don't let it be you;**
- Avoid non-essential entries to your farm premises and barns, and limit travel to other poultry farms;
- Avoid sharing of farm equipment (e.g. feed trucks, live haul loaders, pre-loaders, egg rack, pallets and flats, etc.) with other farms, or ensure it is cleaned and disinfected between farms;
- Maintain an effective, documented pest control program that includes barn maintenance and screen repairs to prevent wild birds from entering;
- Closely monitor flock health, including mortalities, feed and water consumption, and abnormal bird behavior;
- Immediately consult your veterinarian in cases of unexplained mortality or flock illness.

The Canadian Hatching Egg Quality (CHEQ™) program includes mandatory and highly recommended elements that can help reduce the risk of avian influenza entering your flock and it encompasses all of the biosecurity elements of the National Avian On-Farm Biosecurity Standard.

**SURVEILLANCE** in wild birds is one of a series of AI prevention and preparedness initiatives the Government of Canada has implemented in partnership with provincial/territorial governments, industry and animal and public health practitioners.

The better we understand the behavior of wild birds, the better prepared we can be.

### Waterfowl Migration Flyways



<http://www.ducks.org/conservation/where-we-work/flyways>



CANADIAN  
**WILDLIFE HEALTH**  
COOPERATIVE

Anyone who finds a dead wild bird should contact the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre at 1-866-544-4744 or visit [www.ccwhc.ca](http://www.ccwhc.ca).

**INVEST IN KNOWLEDGE:** Here are a few information resources with user-friendly wild bird mapping engines and mobile technology applications to keep you up to date.

### Ducks Unlimited

<http://www.ducks.org>



Check out the interactive map that provides information about waterfowl sightings.

<http://www.ducks.org/migrationMap/?poe=migrationHome>

Similar maps are available via email alerts or on mobile devices (<http://www.ducks.org/hunting/migration/>).

Search for Ducks Unlimited Apps that include Waterfowl Migration reports for your iPhone or Android device.

### Important Bird Areas in Canada

<http://www.ibacanada.ca/index.jsp?lang=en>



Canada's Important Bird Areas Program is a science-based initiative to identify, conserve, and monitor a network of sites that provide essential habitat for Canada's bird populations.

The purpose of this web site is to provide a one-stop resource for information about Canada's Important Bird Areas, including:

An IBA search engine you can use to access maps, and identify bird populations, habitat types, and land use activities at Important Bird Areas across Canada.

### eBird

<http://ebird.org/>



Global tools for birders, critical data for science

Record the birds you see - Keep track of your bird lists - Explore dynamic maps and graphs - Share your sightings and join the eBird community - Contribute to science and conservation

Explore data (<http://ebird.org/ebird/eBirdReports?cmd=Start>)



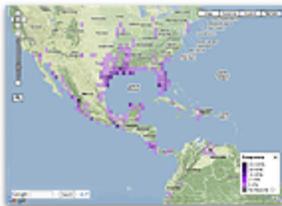
### [Explore a Region](#)

Recent sightings, checklists, birding activity, best hotspots, and top birders for a county, state, province, or country.



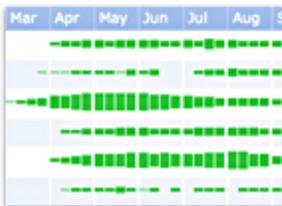
### [Explore Hotspots](#)

Discover the best places for birding nearby or around the world.



### [Species Maps](#)

Explore interactive range maps by species or subspecies — zoom in for details



### [Bar Charts](#)

Find out what birds to expect throughout the year in a region or location

General Avian Influenza information can be found at various sites online including [CIDRAP](#).