

Protocol for dead bird report referral to USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services

USDA-APHIS-WS is cooperating with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division (WFF) Wildlife Section and other federal and state agencies to test certain species of dead or sick birds for Highly Pathogenic H5N1 Influenza Virus.

If the county health department receives reports of certain dead birds that will not be tested for WNV, we might be interested in obtaining the bird.

Please refer any callers that present the following scenario:

1. The dead or sick bird is described as a duck, heron or egret, pelican, goose, swan, or shorebird. You can glean this information from the caller by asking if the bird has long, slender legs or webbed feet. You may also ask if the bird has a long, slender and pointed beak (shorebird). We can only test birds that have been dead. We are NOT interested in any other bird type if it is found in groups of 4 or less.
2. There are more than 5 dead birds of any species found at the SAME time in the SAME area.
3. The bird(s) have been dead less than 48 hours and show no other signs of injury or trauma.

To summarize, we are interested in any number of dead/sick birds if it/they are a duck, goose, swan, egret, heron, pelican or shorebird. If the bird is associated with water, we are interested in testing it. In addition, we are interested in any species of dead/sick bird if there are more than five found at the same time and location.

You may refer the calls to our state office in Auburn at 334-844-5670. Someone will be available during normal business hours to take the calls.

Thank you for assisting us with this important project. If you have any questions, you may contact Ashley Lovell at 334-240-7217 or at Ashley.R.Lovell@aphis.usda.gov.