

Fall Migration Brings the Return of Avian Influenza in Wild Birds

December 27, 2024



Avian Influenza H5N1 is again circulating in susceptible wild birds in California during fall migration.

The Golden State sits at the epicenter of the Pacific Flyway, one of America's migratory routes that brings millions of visiting birds through the State each fall and winter.

The last confirmed detection of Avian Influenza H5N1 in wild birds in California was in July. Avian Influenza in free-ranging wild birds is primarily a disease of water fowl and shore birds, the natural hosts of avian influenza viruses whose wetland and other variety habitat is a significant factor for disease transmission among these species.

You can help by contacting Dept. of Fish and Wildlife and reporting dead or sickly wild birds at 1(866) 922-2473. Please do not handle sick fowl or bring them back to your home.