

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) has been detected in Colorado.

Recently, residents of Lyons have reported the deaths of geese near the McConnell Ponds. Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) has confirmed that Lyons has met the State's threshold of an outbreak of HPAI. Town staff has notified Boulder County Health Dept, Colorado Health Dept and the Colorado Dept of Agriculture. The State agencies are dealing with a severe outbreak impacting Weld, Morgan and Logan Counties, with over 4,500 snow geese having died earlier in eastern Colorado.

It is difficult to see the death of wildlife. CPW has let us know that it will likely impact wildlife species including swans, gulls, geese, grebes, pelicans, raptors, vultures, cranes, and some species of ducks. Staff is monitoring the impacts near the ponds.

Below are some useful links and information:

Please do not handle or touch the dead wildlife. Do not remove them from the ponds/water.

If you find birds you believe to be sick, do not pick them up or remove them, as transmission to humans is rare but possible.

If walking outdoors in areas where there is goose or duck feces, remove the feces from your footwear so you do not potentially spread the virus.

If you find three or more dead wild birds in a specific area within a two-week period or you see live birds swimming or walking in circles, appearing lethargic and not escaping if approached, call the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Northeast Regional Office at (970) 472-4300 or Rocky Mountain Raptor Program in Fort Collins at (970) 484-7756.

For sick birds or birds that have died from unknown causes, call the Avian Health Hotline at Colorado State University at (970) 297-4008.

For multiple sick domestic birds or multiple unusual domestic bird deaths, call the Colorado State Veterinarian's Office at (303) 869-9130 or the USDA-Veterinary Services Colorado Office at (303) 231-5385.

Domestic bird owners should take extra precautions to avoid introducing the HPAI virus to their flocks, including:

- preventing interaction between domestic and wild birds,
- keeping food and water sources away from migrating birds,
- and monitoring flocks for signs of illness or death.

According to the American Veterinary Medical Association, the likelihood of cats and dogs catching HPAI seems low. For more information, please visit the [American Veterinary Medical Associations website](#). If your dog or cat is showing signs of illness, then please contact your veterinarian for further evaluation. Visit the CDC's website for [more information on HPAI in pets](#)

To learn more about Avian Flu in Colorado visit:

<https://cpw.state.co.us/learn/Pages/Avian-Influenza.aspx> They also have a FAQ section which is very informative.

<https://ag.colorado.gov/animals/reportable-diseases/avian-influenza>

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January 9, 2023