

## **Avian (Bird) Influenza: Fact Sheet # 3**

### **NWT Surveillance**

The GNWT supports the national survey of Influenza A viruses in wild birds conducted by the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre. The Canadian Wildlife Service is taking the lead on the surveillance program, which is sampling all migratory waterfowl flyways in Canada, including those that come into the NWT. In addition, the GNWT submits any found dead birds for testing. Strains of the virus have been found in as many as 90 species of wild birds around the world. Sporadic outbreaks of avian influenza in domestic birds also occur worldwide.

Currently, there have been no reported cases of H5N1 avian influenza in NWT wild birds.

Renewable Resource officers throughout the NWT should be notified of dead bird sightings so they can collect and send them out for testing, using appropriate techniques.

Avian influenza is a reportable disease under the *Health of Animals Act*. This means that all suspected cases must be reported to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

Additional information on the national surveillance is available at:

[http://wildlife1.usask.ca/ccwhc2003/current\\_news.php](http://wildlife1.usask.ca/ccwhc2003/current_news.php) (Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre)

#### **For further information:**

Contact the Office of The Chief Medical Health Officer at (867) 920-8877.

Visit the following websites:

[www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca](http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca) – NWT Department of Health and Social Services (See Programs & Services Section)

[www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/influenza/avian\\_e.html](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/influenza/avian_e.html) – Public Health Agency of Canada