

If you find a dead bird

Pick up dead birds only if you are prepared and know the safety precautions.

There are many causes of wildlife mortality; some can be a risk to human health. Environment Yukon is interested in monitoring causes of wildlife (including birds) mortality.

Certain diseases, some naturally occurring and some introduced, can be found in dead birds. For example:

- West Nile Virus (not yet found in the Yukon) and
- Avian Influenza (some mild forms occur naturally in birds; the highly pathogenic form (that has caused human deaths in other parts of the world) is not yet found in North America.)

If you find a dead bird:

- **Do not touch it with your bare hands.**
- Note the bird species, where you found it and call Yukon Department of Environment 1-800-661-0408 ext 5652 toll free or 1-867-667-5652.

Pick up dead birds only if you are prepared and are familiar with safety precautions:

- Wear good, leak proof hand protection (for example, rubber gloves or plastic bags)
- Avoid touching bird feces or body fluids.
- Double bag the bird in sturdy plastic bags.
- Freeze as soon as possible or deliver it immediately to the most convenient Yukon Department of Environment office (see below).
- **Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water.**
- Use bleach (1part household bleach to 9 parts water) to clean counters or any equipment that came in contact with the dead bird.

To deliver a dead bird bring it to the Department of Environment Laboratory at 10 Burns Road in Whitehorse, or to any Department of Environment District office located in Haines Junction, Dawson City, Mayo, Faro, Ross River, Teslin or Watson Lake.

For more information on wildlife diseases, including West Nile Virus and Avian Influenza go to the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Center at <http://wildlife1.usask.ca>