



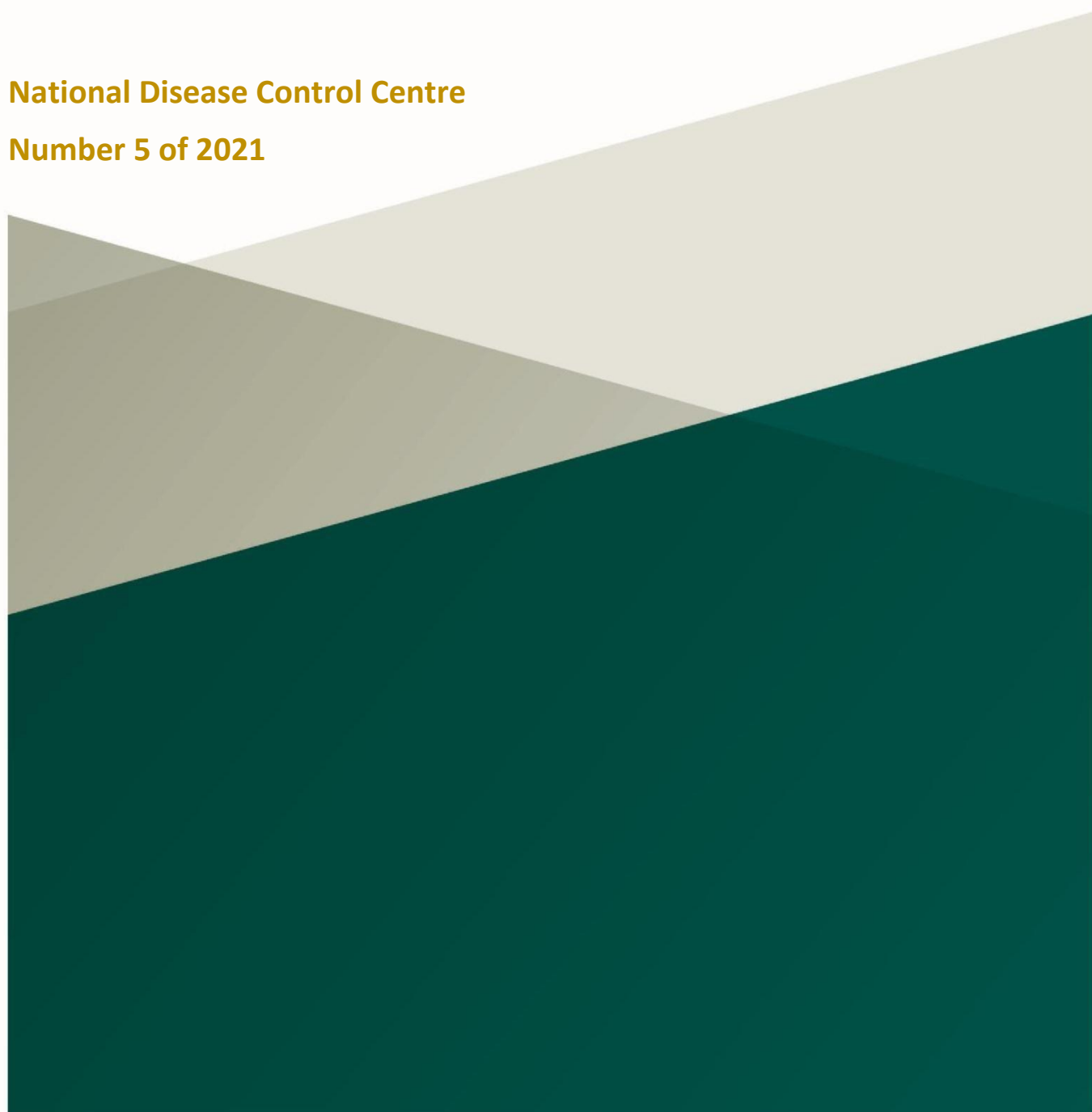
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Avian Influenza Update

6th October 2021

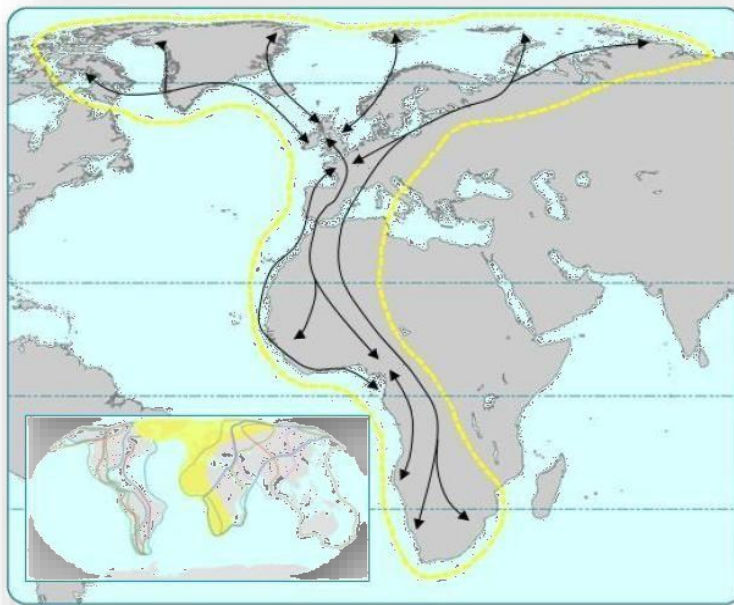
National Disease Control Centre

Number 5 of 2021



Ireland Enters Higher Risk Period for Avian Influenza

- October onwards, represents the beginning of the higher risk period for Avian Influenza in Ireland as wild birds, the natural hosts of many avian influenza viruses, start to arrive in large numbers to overwinter here. See *Figure 3* below for Higher Risk Period HPAI Outbreaks 2020-2021
- Once here, the birds congregate on Ireland's many wetland areas where they mix with resident wild bird species, with the potential for both transmission of disease to resident birds and contamination of the environment
- Colder weather and decreasing daylight levels can extend the survival time of avian influenza viruses in the environment
- Any outbreaks of avian influenza in Irish poultry can have a serious impact on international trade in poultry and poultry products
- All poultry owners, no matter how large or small, should ensure that strict biosecurity measures are in place to prevent infection of their flocks. Measures should be taken to deter susceptible wild birds from all poultry holdings, and to prevent poultry from having access to wild birds or areas where wild birds (particularly waterfowl, gulls and birds of prey) have been.



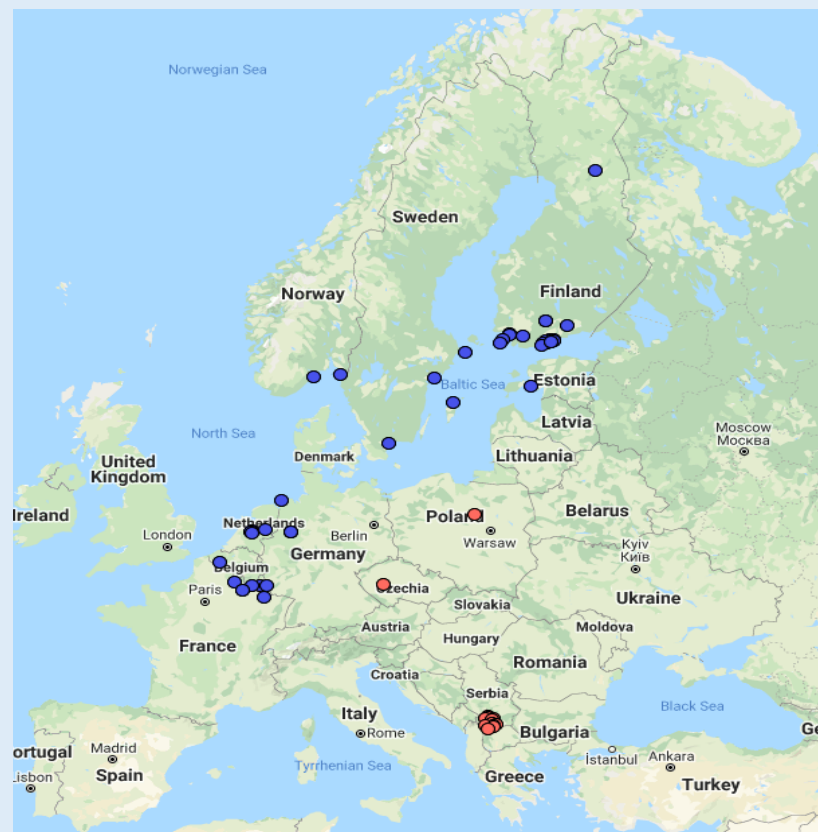
Millions of migratory birds travel each year from breeding grounds in the Arctic, Greenland, Iceland, Russia to overwintering sites in Western Europe and Western Africa. Colder weather in Europe leads to birds flying further west in greater numbers

Figure 1- Ireland's position in the East Atlantic Flyway (yellow line) and direction of wild bird migration (black lines)

Current Situation in Europe

- All poultry outbreaks in Europe since August 2021 have been confirmed to have been caused by HPAI H5N8. *Figure 2* below shows the location of poultry outbreaks (red) and captive and wild bird cases (blue) in Europe since August
- Wild bird cases have been reported in Finland, Sweden, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Estonia, Norway and Germany, predominantly involving HPAI H5N8
- France and Belgium have reported cases of HPAI H5N8 in backyard, captive birds which were kept outdoors. Contact with wild birds/contaminated environment has been suspected as the source of infection
- Several subtypes of avian influenza viruses are currently in circulation in Europe with HPAI H5N1 having been confirmed in Finland, Sweden Germany and Czechia and HPAI H7N7 confirmed in France in a swan found dead in an urban area
- A graph displaying the monthly detection of Avian influenza virus in birds in Europe from October 2020 to date can be seen in *See Figure 3* below
- More detail on the wild bird species reported with Avian Influenza across Europe and the subtypes involved during the Oct 2020 - Sept 2021 period can be found in *Annex 1* accompanying this update

Figure 2- HPAI Outbreaks in Poultry (Red) and Cases in Captive and Wild Birds (Blue) from 1st August - 4th October 2021 (courtesy of ADIS)



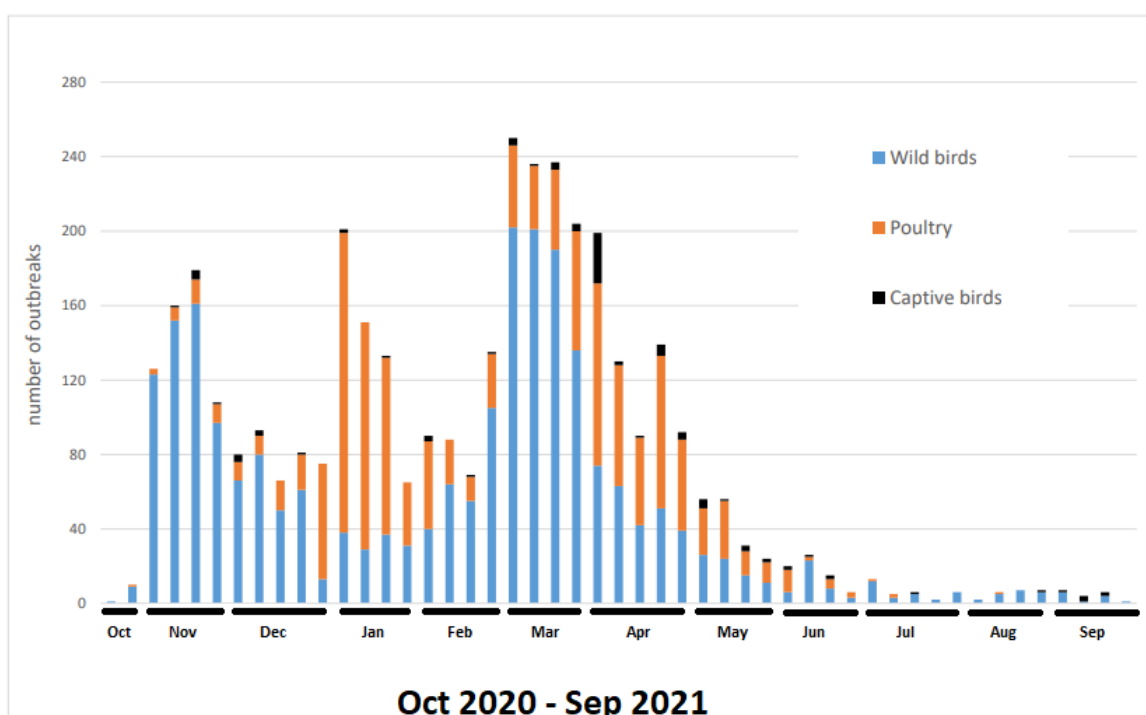


Figure 3- Weekly Reports of HPAI Events Notified in Europe to EU (ADIS) 1st January 2021 to 28th September 2021 – Wild Birds (Blue), Poultry (Orange) and Captive Birds (Black)

What is DAFM doing to reduce the risk of avian influenza?

- DAFM implements avian influenza surveillance measures which take place right throughout the year in both wild birds and poultry and form part of our well established Early Warning System for the detection of avian influenza. The submission of dead wild birds which are on the target species list for avian influenza surveillance for testing at the Central Veterinary Research Laboratory forms part of this programme
- Members of the public are advised not to handle sick or dead wild birds. Please report sick or dead wild birds to the local Regional Veterinary Office or contact the DAFM disease hotline on 1850 200456

Sick or dead wild birds can also be reported to DAFM using the Avian Check - Wild Bird App
<https://aviancheck.apps.rhos.agriculture.gov.ie/>

What can poultry owners do to reduce the risk of avian influenza?

Flock owners should **remain vigilant for any unexplained signs of disease** in their flocks, and report any disease suspicion to their nearest [Regional Veterinary Office](#)

1. Be vigilant- Monitor your birds carefully for any clinical signs of disease. If in doubt, contact your veterinary practitioner for advice. Signs of avian influenza include:

- Death/high mortalities in a flock
- Depression/lethargy
- Loss of appetite
- Respiratory distress such as gaping beak, coughing, sneezing, gurgling, rattling
- Swelling and blue discolouration of combs, wattles, neck and throat
- Diarrhoea
- Reduced egg production or no egg production

2. Biosecurity

[Advice on biosecurity to prevent Avian Influenza](#) including clinical signs and leaflets can be found on the Gov.ie website

Personnel and Visitors

- Wear disposable or dedicated outer clothing when in contact with your birds
- Wear boots that can be disinfected, disposable gloves and wash hands after contact with poultry
- Only allow essential personnel access to your birds

Buildings and Equipment

- Regularly clean and disinfect hard surfaces such as paths and walkways
- Provide clean boot washing and disinfection facilities at all entrances/exits and ensure that people use them
- Clean and disinfect any vehicles or equipment that comes into contact with the birds after use
- Have suitable pest control in place

Wild Birds

- Feed and water birds inside or at least under cover
- Clean up any waste feed in outdoor areas frequently
- Use netting or wild bird decoys or deterrents to keep wild birds away from poultry areas

Management

- Keep ducks and geese separate to other poultry species
- The Department also reminds all poultry owners, including those who keep only 1 or 2 birds, of their legal obligation to register their premises with the Department.
- Use an [approved disinfectant](#) against Avian influenza in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions

Further information:

DAFM has a wide variety of biosecurity resources for avian influenza- please see:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/7e230-poultry/>

To register a poultry flock:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/service/984df6-poultry-register/>

RVO contact details:

[Regional Veterinary Office](#)

List of target species of wild birds for avian influenza surveillance:

[List of Target Species for Avian Influenza Surveillance](#)

European Commission

https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-diseases/diseases-and-control-measures/avian-influenza_en

National Disease Control Centre

6th October 2021

Annex 1: Wild bird species involved in 2020-2021 HPAI epidemic, by order and number of cases

Common name	Scientific name	Order	H5	H5N1	H5N2	H5N3	H5N4	H5N5	H5N8	H7N7	Total
Mute swan	(<i>Cygnus olor</i>)	Anseriformes	155	6	1			21	535	3**	721
Barnacle goose	(<i>Branta leucopsis</i>)	Anseriformes	6	39				6	350		401
Greylag goose	(<i>Anser anser</i>)	Anseriformes	17	20		1	3	3	343		387
Swan ns	(<i>Cygnus spp</i>)	Anseriformes	5				2	19	241		267
Common buzzard	(<i>Buteo buteo</i>)	Accipitriformes	4	4		2	2	5	130		147
Wooper swan	(<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>)	Anseriformes	26	3				5	102		136
Anseriformes ns	(<i>Anseriformes</i>)	Anseriformes	5	78			1		50		134
Red knot	(<i>Calidris canutus</i>)	Charadriiformes				108		1			109
Eurasian wigeon*	(<i>Mareca penelope</i>)	Anseriformes	27	11				1	49*		88
Common pheasant	(<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>)	Galliformes		5					68		73
Mallard duck	(<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>)	Anseriformes	12				2	1	55		70
Accipitriformes ns	(<i>Accipitriformes</i>)	Accipitriformes		5			1	3	50		59
European herring gull	(<i>Larus argentatus</i>)	Charadriiformes	3	6			2	2	36		49
Eurasian teal	(<i>Anas crecca</i>)	Anseriformes	28	2				1	12		43
Gull ns	(<i>Laridae</i>)	Charadriiformes	3	9			2	2	27		43
Canada goose	(<i>Branta canadensis</i>)	Anseriformes	4	1				1	36		42
Peregrine falcon	(<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)	Falconiformes	1			2	2	2	31		38
Eurasian eagle-owl	(<i>Bubo bubo</i>)	Strigiformes	4	1				1	19		25
Grey heron	(<i>Ardea cinerea</i>)	Pelecaniformes	3						20		23
Wild black swan	(<i>Cygnus atratus</i>)	Anseriformes							20		20
Greater white-fronted goose	(<i>Anser albifrons</i>)	Anseriformes							19		19
Northern goshawk	(<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>)	Accipitriformes	3	1				1	14		19
White-tailed eagle	(<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>)	Accipitriformes	1	9				2	7		19
Pink-footed goose	(<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>)	Anseriformes							18		18
Black-headed gull	(<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>)	Charadriiformes	1	3				1	13		18
wild bird non-specified			12						5		17
Curlew	(<i>Numenius arquata</i>)	Charadriiformes	1	1		1	1		12		16
Brant goose	(<i>Branta bernicla</i>)	Anseriformes	4						11		15
Common eider	(<i>Somateria mollissima</i>)	Anseriformes	1						14		15
Great cormorant	(<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>)	Suliformes		5					10		15
Taiga bean goose	(<i>Anser fabalis</i>)	Anseriformes						2	11		13
Sparrow ns	(<i>Passeridae</i>)	Passeriformes	10						1		11
Common kestrel	(<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>)	Falconiformes				1			10		11
White stork	(<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>)	Ciconiiformes							10		10

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Great black-backed gull	(<i>Larus marinus</i>)	Charadriiformes	1					8		9
Eurasian sparrowhawk	(<i>Accipiter nisus</i>)	Accipitriformes						7		7
Dalmatian Pelican	(<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>)	Pelecaniformes						7		7
Common starling	(<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>)	Passeriformes						6		6
Eurasian magpie	(<i>Pica pica</i>)	Passeriformes	2					2		4
Goose ns		Anseriformes						4		4
Great egret	(<i>Ardea alba</i>)	Pelecaniformes						4		4
Common coot	(<i>Fulica atra</i>)	Gruiformes	1					3		4
Charadriidae ns	(<i>Charadriiformes</i>)	Charadriiformes		2				2		4
Common tern	(<i>Sterna hirundo</i>)	Charadriiformes		4						4
Eurasian oystercatcher	(<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>)	Charadriiformes		1				3		4
Strigiformes ns	(<i>Strigiformes</i>)	Strigiformes	1					2		3
Eurasian woodcock	(<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>)	Charadriiformes				2		1		3
Common shelduck	(<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>)	Anseriformes	1					2		3
Muscovy duck	(<i>Cairina moschata</i>)	Anseriformes	1					2		3
Rough-legged Hawk	(<i>Buteo lagopus</i>)	Accipitriformes						3		3
Tawny owl	(<i>Strix aluco</i>)	Strigiformes	1					2		3
Common gull	(<i>Larus canus</i>)	Charadriiformes		1				3		3
Common merganser	(<i>Mergus merganser</i>)	Anseriformes		1				2		3
Lesser black-backed gull	(<i>Larus fuscus</i>)	Charadriiformes						2		2
Northern shoveler	(<i>Spatula clypeata</i>)	Anseriformes	2							2
Great crested grebe	(<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>)	Podicipediformes	2							2
Common wood pigeon	(<i>Columba palumbus</i>)	Columbiformes	2							2
Garganey	(<i>Spatula querquedula</i>)	Anseriformes						2		2
Duck ns	(<i>Anseriformes</i>)							2		2
Gadwall	(<i>Mareca strepera</i>)	Anseriformes						2		2
Crow ns	(<i>Corvidae</i>)	Passeriformes					1	1		2
Scolopacidae ns	(<i>Scolopacidae</i>)	Charadriiformes	1			1				2
Common goldeneye	(<i>Bucephala clangula</i>)	Anseriformes	1				1			2
Common raven	(<i>Corvus corax</i>)	Passeriformes						2		2
Eurasian Jackdaw	(<i>Corvus monedula</i>)	Passeriformes					1	1		2
Eurasian jay	(<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>)	Passeriformes	1					1		2
Western marsh harrier	(<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>)	Accipitriformes		1				1		2

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Golden eagle	(<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>)	Accipitriformes		1							1
Tufted duck	(<i>Aythya fuligula</i>)	Anseriformes						1			1
Merganser ns	(<i>Mergus spp</i>)	Anseriformes	1								1
Hen harrier	(<i>Circus cyaneus</i>)	Accipitriformes							1		1
Yellow-legged gull	(<i>Larus michahellis</i>)	Charadriiformes					1				1
Common crane	(<i>Grus grus</i>)	Gruiformes							1		1
Gruidae ns	(<i>Gruiformes</i>)	Gruiformes							1		1
Common moorhen	(<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>)	Gruiformes	1								1
Curlew sandpiper	(<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>)	Charadriiformes							1		1
Egyptian goose	(<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>)	Anseriformes	1								1
Falcon ns	(<i>Falconidae</i>)	Falconiformes							1		1
Little grebe	(<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>)	Podicipediformes							1		1
Northern gannet	(<i>Morus bassanus</i>)	Suliformes							1		1
Northern lapwing	(<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>)	Charadriiformes							1		1
Northern pintail	(<i>Anas acuta</i>)	Anseriformes	1								1
Short-eared owl	(<i>Asio flammeus</i>)	Strigiformes							1		1
Thrushes ns	(<i>Turdidae</i>)	Passeriformes	1								1
Tundra bean goose	(<i>Anser serrirostris</i>)	Anseriformes							1		1
Greater scaup	(<i>Aythya marila</i>)	Anseriformes							1		1
Water rail	(<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>)	Gruiformes							1		1
Montagu's Harrier	(<i>Circus pygargus</i>)	Accipitriformes		1							1
Finch ns	(<i>Fringillidae</i>)	Passeriformes							1		1
Common murre	(<i>Uria aalge</i>)	Charadriiformes		1							1
Mediterranean gull	(<i>Ichthyaeus melanocephalus</i>)	Charadriiformes							1		1
Ardeidae	(<i>Ardeidae</i>)	Pelecaniformes							1		1
Carion crow	(<i>Corvus corone</i>)	Passeriformes							1		1
Little egret	(<i>Egretta garzetta</i>)	Pelecaniformes							1		1
Total			358	222	1	118	19	84	2423	3	3228

*one of the wild birds was positive for both H5N8 and H5N1.

**2 H7N7 positive cases were not confirmed by the EURL (insufficient sample material).

Information courtesy of the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie (IZSVe) European Union Reference Laboratory for Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease