The British Columbia Interagency Wild Bird Mortality Investigation Protocol & the 2014 Avian Influenza and West Nile Virus Surveys

Reports of sick and dead wild birds are of interest to the following government agencies:

- Environment Canada - Canadian Wildlife Service (migratory bird species)
- BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (resident bird species)
- BC Ministry of Agriculture – Animal Health Centre (diagnostic examination)
- BC Centre for Disease Control (corvids for WNV surveillance)

Disease diagnosis and outbreak investigations are managed collaboratively by these agencies following the BC Interagency Wild Bird Mortality Investigation Plan (WBMIP). For details please consult the full document.

In 2014, two national surveys are continuing to monitor for two types of viruses in wild bird populations, Avian Influenza (AI) & West Nile Virus (WNV). The BC Wild Bird AI Survey is coordinated by Wildlife Agencies and is summarized below. The BC West Nile Virus Monitoring Program is coordinated by the BC Centre for Disease Control; further details about this program are available at the BCCDC website (http://www.bccdc.ca/default.htm).

If you find a dead wild bird – please participate in our monitoring program.

What to report to Wildlife Agencies:

1. Priority is given to reports of 3 or more dead birds (any species) found in the same geographic location.
2. We are also interested in the following individuals of these species:
   a) Species at risk (http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/species/default_e.cfm)
   b) Highly susceptible species (swans, ducks)
   c) Raptors (eagles, hawks, owls)
   d) Water adapted bird species (waterfowl in general, shorebirds, water-associated birds).

Please report the above by calling **1-866-431-BIRD (2473)**. Reports will be recorded, assessed to determine if further investigation is warranted, and if so, guidance will be provided on a case by case basis.

What to report to Public Health Agencies:
Individual dead corvids (crows, jays, ravens, magpies) should be reported to BCCDC on-line at http://westnile.bccdc.org/

Collection of birds for submission:
All birds must be in good diagnostic condition (limited decomposition or scavenging).

Dead birds must be handled using common sense sanitary precautions to reduce risks to human health. Carcasses should be handled using a shovel or, if one is not available, disposable gloves or inverted plastic bags, followed by thorough hand-washing with soap and water (20 seconds to remove debris). Avoid contact with feces, blood, body fluids, & sharp parts of the bird. For further information please see websites under Human Health Concerns.

Carcasses should be:
a) stored in double plastic bags
b) in bags clearly labeled with an attached tag stating date of death, location & species
c) kept cool until further instructions are provided by the investigating Wildlife Agency representative.

For further information and contact numbers:

BC Interagency Wild Bird Mortality Investigation Plan – Agency Contacts:

- Environment Canada-Canadian Wildlife Service (Laurie Wilson: 604-350-1979 or Erika Lok: 604-350-1904)
- BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (Dr. Helen Schwantje: 250-953-4285 or Cait Nelson: 250-751-3219)
- BC Ministry of Agriculture-Animal Health Centre (Dr. Vicki Bowes: 1-800-661-9903)

2014 National Avian Influenza Survey:

- Information line: 1-866-544-4744
- Website: http://www.ccwhc.ca/avian_influenza_virus.php

Human Health Concerns:

- BC Centre for Disease Control: http://www.bccdc.ca/default.htm
- Your Regional Health Authority
- BC NurseLine 1-866-889-4700 or 604-215-4700 in Greater Vancouver
- Public Health Agency of Canada: http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/influenza/avian-eng.php
- US Centre for Disease Control: http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/

1-866-431-BIRD (2473)

BRITISH COLUMBIA | Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Environment Canada | Environnement Canada
Canadian Wildlife Service | Service canadien de la faune

BRITISH COLUMBIA | Ministry of Agriculture