

## News from Europe

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### **AIV isolations from Wild birds: Europe: Sept.2006-June.2006.**

The results of AIV surveillance in wild birds for European countries have been summarised by several organisations e.g. ProMED and in the web report below -

<http://defraweb/animalh/diseases/monitoring/pdf/hpai-europe300606.pdf>

Collaborators from Western Europe were asked for summaries of AIV surveillance in wild birds from their respective countries, and the responses, which we stress are not official data, are given below.


Country	HPAI/H5N1 isolated?/ region/ isolates in which months	Species	HPAI – how many (geographical) foci of infection in your country.  Regions affected	HPAI – date of last isolation	LPAI – how many isolates	Comment
Austria	See summary below					
Belgium	no	N/a	N/a	N/a	1 x H3N6 (in a mallard)	
Denmark	See summary				23 May '06	
France	See Summary					
Germany	See summary					
Great Britain	H5N1 x1 Scotland April	Whooper swan	1 focus Scotland	April 2006	6 isolates (see <a href="http://www.Defra.uk">www.Defra.uk</a> )	Origin of H5 not known
Netherlands	No	N/a	N/a	N/a	405 PCR positive samples	Period 1 July 2005 to 31 May 2006
Italy	H5N1 Puglia, Calabria,Sicilia, Umbria February	Mute swan;Purple swamphen; Buzard; Mallard	6xPuglia, 2xCalabria,7xSicilia, 1xUmbria	February 2006	7 isolates	Origin of H5 not known
Spain	H5N1 x1 Saburua lake, Alava	Great crested grebe	Alava x 1	June 2006	N/a	Origin of H5 not known
Sweden	H5N1, along east coast of Sweden, from southern tip up to, and including Stockholm region, from Feb to April	Tufted duck, Mute swan, Goosander, Scaup, Canada goose, Smew, Herring gull, Mallard, Common buzzard, European eagle owl, American Mink	12	21 April 2006	18 PCR positive samples from 250 healthy farmed Mallards.	

Notes – N/a – not applicable. Species cited - Whooper swan (*Cygnus cygnus*), Tufted duck (*Aythya fuligula*), Mute swan (*Cygnus olor*), Goosander (*Mergus merganser*), Scaup (*Aythya marila*), Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*), great crested grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*) Smew (*Mergus albellus*), Herring gull (*Larus argentatus*), Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) Common buzzard (*Buteo buteo*), European eagle owl (*Bubo bubo*), American Mink (*Mustela vison*).

A summary for events in March 2006 is given below -

## H5N1 virus surveillance in wild birds

- EU winter '05-'06 -



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**Dead/sick birds**

534 positives in 14 countries!


**Healthy birds**

- 22 member states
- 24093 birds tested
- 1060 influenza A virus positive
- No HPAI virus found

Source: EU DG SANCO  
CRL Wexbridge, UK  
March 2006


## HPAI H5N1 in wild birds in Europe

- Rough numbers -



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	Austria	Germany	Denmark	France	Greece	Hungary	Italy	Poland	Sweden	Slovenia	Slovakia	Bulgaria	Romania	Switzerland	Totals
Ducks	17	30	12	5	0	1	1	0	35	2	1	0	0	26	130
Swans	11	126	1	44	30	43	12	6	2	22	0	4	14	0	315
Geese	1	21	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	28
Gulls	1	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	11
B. of prey	0	13	1	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	21
Others	11	5	0	3	1	3	1	0	0	1	1	0	3	0	29
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>534</b>



Source: EU DG SANCO  
CRL Wexbridge, UK  
March 2006

Slides 1 and 2 - acknowledgements as on source, and Thijs Kuiken. Please note that these data were produced in March 2006.

### Austria

So far we have examined more than 3295 wild birds, that have been found dead and because of legal provisions been sent to the competent authority. We have detected H5N1 in 125 wild birds. The table shows the species affected against the calendar weeks:

Calendar week	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
coot						1						1
Wild duck	12	2	4	2	3	1	1	2	1			28
Wild goose	1							1				2
chicken	6											6
Gull			1									1
heron								1				1
Swan	8	1		5	2	10	15	21	10	7	3	82
Waterfowl spp.	2		2									4
	29	3	7	7	5	12	16	25	11	7	3	125

The results of the screening program in wild birds can however not be published yet.

### Germany

Since February 15<sup>th</sup>, a total of 343 wild birds, three stray cats and one stone marten have been identified in Germany as being infected with the HPAIV H5N1 of the so-called Qinghai lineage. All cases were identified through passive monitoring, i.e. by examining more than 40.000 dead birds/animals. Since the second week of May no new cases have been reported in wild birds, however, passive monitoring intensities are regressing constantly since early May. A single outbreak of HPAIV H5N1 has occurred in a mixed poultry holding in early April in the federal state of Saxonia demanding the culling of approximately 25,000 birds in the restriction zone. No further outbreaks in poultry have been noticed since. The poultry isolate showed a very close relationship to H5N1 viruses circulating at that time in the wild bird population of North-eastern Germany.

### Netherlands

Between 1 July 2005 and 31 May 2006, the Erasmus MC in Rotterdam examined swabs from 10,086 apparently healthy wild birds by RT-PCR, of which 405 were positive for low pathogenic influenza A virus and none for high pathogenic influenza A virus. Up to 24<sup>th</sup> April 2006, the Central Institute for Animal Disease Control in Lelystad examined 6,288 wild bird carcasses, none of which were positive for high pathogenic influenza A virus.

### Spain

In Spain active and passive surveillance for HPAI is in place for poultry and wild birds. Sample collection and submission is handled differently in different communities. In most communities the sampling effort is above the numbers set by the ministry of agriculture. All samples are analysed by the central veterinary laboratory however in some communities parallel testing is in place. Sampling of wild birds has declined after the spring migration. A Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*) found dead at the Salburua lake near Vitoria in the province of Alava (Northern Spain) has tested positive for H5N1. Apparently the strain shows similarities to others isolated in Northern Europe. The case has alerted the public and caused passive surveillance to pick up again with more carcasses reported by the public.

## France

In France, since February 13<sup>th</sup>, HP H5N1 of the so-called Qinghai lineage was isolated from 42 pools corresponding to 66 dead birds. 83% of the infected birds were mute swans (*Cygnus olor*).

41 pools came from the “département” of Ain (most of them from the famous wetland of Dombes, located in the north-east of the city of Lyon):

- 32 positive pools of Mute Swans corresponding to 32 to 54 dead birds (some birds were tested alone, some others by pools of 2, 3, 4 or 5 birds)
- 4 positive pools of Common Pochards (*Aythya ferina*), corresponding to 6 dead birds
- 1 positive Tufted duck (*Aythya fuligula*)
- 1 positive Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*)
- 1 positive Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*)
- 1 positive Greylag goose (*Anser anser*)
- 1 positive Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*)

Only one dead Mute Swan was found positive, the 28<sup>th</sup> February, out of the Ain, in the “département” of the Bouches du Rhône, in the South of France, near the city of Marseille.

All cases were identified in February, March and April, through passive monitoring, i.e. by testing more than 3 000 dead birds. Since the 18<sup>th</sup> of April no new cases have been reported in wild birds in the Doimbes. A single outbreak of HPAIV H5N1 has occurred in a turkey farm (the 23<sup>th</sup> February), very close to the first cases identified in Common Pochard on the 13<sup>th</sup> February. No further outbreaks in poultry have been recorded since that time.

France – active surveillance: Concerning the active survey performed since September 2005 throughout France, more than 4000 captured or hunter-killed birds were analysed (Anatidae, Laridae, corvidae...) from which no HP H5N1 was isolated. Approximately one hundred isolates of LPAI strains from wild ducks were identified, of which 9 were H5 LP non-N1, and one was H7N1 LP.

## Sweden

Passive surveillance of dead wild birds resulted in finding the HPAI positive birds in Sweden. Of 519 PCR-tested bird carcasses, 68 tracheal swabs were found positive for H5 avian influenza. The birds were all water-living species, or predators feeding on these birds. There were no mass die-offs, only single or very low numbers of dead birds were found within the surveillance zones, in spite of large congregations of birds. A few HPAI positive birds were seen showing neurologic signs, mainly as uncontrolled “spinning”, i.e. swimming in tight circles on the water. One wild mink with neurological signs found within one of the surveillance zones, was euthanased, and was found positive for H5 avian influenza on PCR. The positive cases were found along the ice-free areas of the eastern coast where birds congregated whilst waiting for the spring thaw. As soon as warmer weather arrived in late April, the birds dispersed to their breeding grounds, and no further positive cases were found. One game farm with mallards and pheasants within a surveillance zone was tested, and from the samples a single healthy mallard was positive for HPAI, which led to destruction of all birds at that farm. LPAI was found at this farm as well. There were no outbreaks of avian influenza in Swedish poultry farms. Active surveillance of migratory birds is continuing, but has so far not shown any finding of HPAI.

## Denmark

The first case of HP H5N1 in Denmark was a common buzzard (*Buteo buteo*) found dead in the southern part of Sealand 13 March 2006. Since then the Danish Institute for Food and Veterinary Research has examined samples from approximately 1300 wild birds and HP H5N1 has been detected in samples from a total of 44 birds. The positive birds have primarily been Tufted ducks (*Aythya fuligula*), swans and raptors (mainly buzzards). Positive findings have mainly been located in the Baltic region, Roskilde fjord and the northern part of Sealand. All cases in wild birds were identified through passive monitoring, i.e. birds found sick or dead and submitted for analysis. Until now there has been only one outbreak of HP H5N1 in domestic poultry. This outbreak was identified 18<sup>th</sup> May and involved a mixed poultry holding on the Island of Funen. No further outbreaks in poultry have been identified since. The last positive finding in Danish wild birds was a magpie (*Pica pica*) found dead on the property of the mixed poultry holding with the HP H5N1 outbreak 23. May. More information concerning HP H5N1 analyses of Danish wild birds is available from the official website of the Danish Institute for Food and Veterinary Research: [http://www.dfvf.dk/Files/Filer/Husdyrsygydomme/Avi%E6r%20influenza/Al\\_resultater.xls](http://www.dfvf.dk/Files/Filer/Husdyrsygydomme/Avi%E6r%20influenza/Al_resultater.xls)

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European Section

Material for publication in News from Europe can include recent wildlife disease outbreaks and new diseases in Europe, short case and meeting reports; job and scholarship announcements. We encourage submissions, and will help with the English language, if required. The deadline for the next issue is October 2006.

Please mail, fax or e-mail submissions to, Paul Duff, VLA Diseases of Wildlife, VLA Penrith, Merrythought, Calthwaite, PENRITH, Cumbria, CA11 9RR, United Kingdom, *e-mail* [p.duff@vla.defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:p.duff@vla.defra.gsi.gov.uk) Fax ++44(0)-1768-885314 /phone ++44(0)-1768-885295.