



## **Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) 2022**

Introduced by migrating wild birds, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) is spread throughout the migration flyways. Waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors, and crows can become infected. HPAI is easily transmissible and is killing millions of domestic poultry as well as wild birds.

This outbreak is different from the last deadly outbreak in 2015. That year HPAI decimated turkey farms throughout the country, but it was not transmitted by wild birds. This one is.

After consulting with agencies and wildlife hospitals across the country, working together with our wildlife veterinarians and partner wildlife rehabilitation group in the area Messinger Woods, we have decided to try to attend to at-risk species under certain circumstances. The SPCA Serving Erie County's Wildlife Department will admit all animals and determine the benefit/risk assessment with rehabilitation for each individual animal. Suitable raptors will continue rehabilitation at Messinger Woods and suitable waterfowl will continue their rehabilitation at the SPCA. Our plans remain fluid and we'll continue to monitor the spread of HPAI and adjust our decisions as needed.

If you find sick, injured, or orphaned HPAI species, please call the SPCA's Wildlife Department at 716-875-7360 ext. 247 before bringing them to our organization. After it is determined that we can admit the patient via telephone, we then ask that you wear a mask and gloves and bring the animal in a carrier/box and ring the Wildlife Department's doorbell for assistance. Please do not bring the patient into the vestibule or building.

We appreciate your support as we do our best to navigate this situation.