

Preliminary Outbreak Assessment

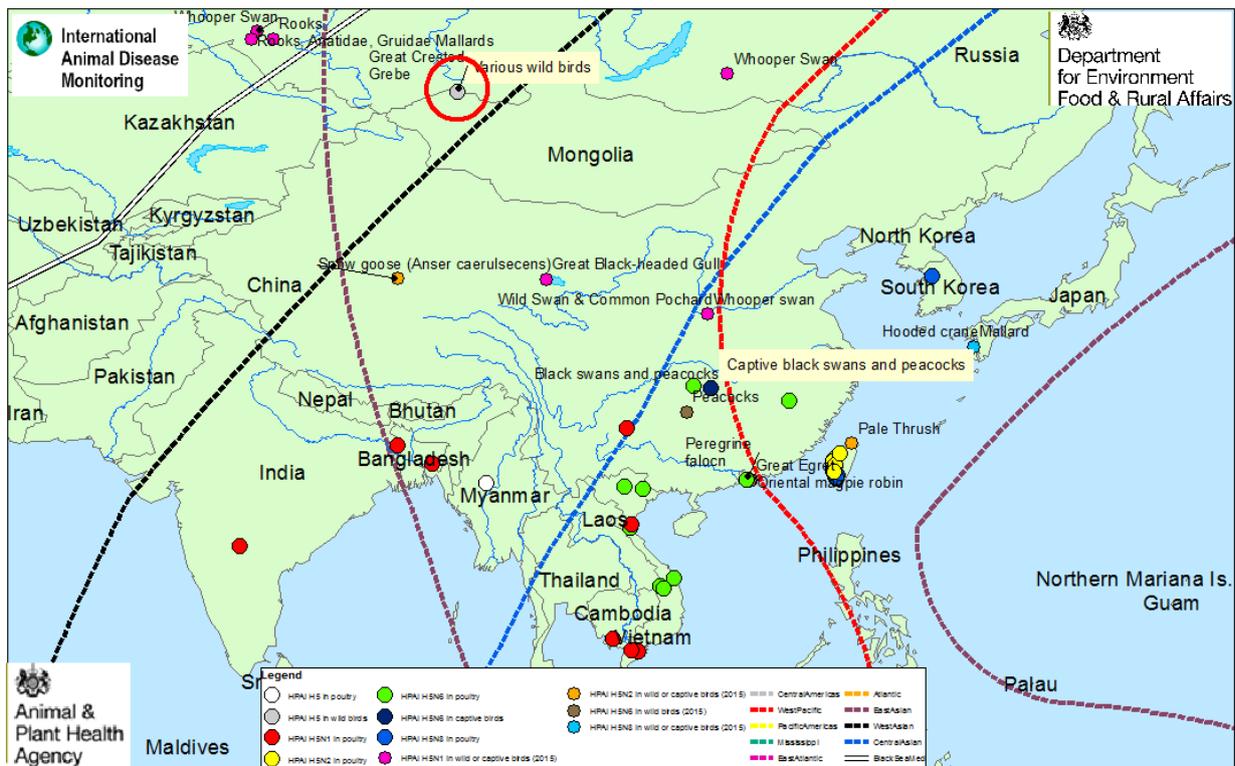
H5 Avian Influenza of high pathogenicity in wild birds in Russia

27th June 2016

Ref: VITT/1200 HPAI in Russia

Disease Report

The Russian Authorities have detected H5 HPAI infection in several species of wild bird in Tuva Republic region, on the border with Mongolia (OIE, 2016; see map). According to the disease report, the following birds tested positive during active surveillance around Ubsu-Nur lake: Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*), Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*), Black-headed gull (*Larus ridibundus*), Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*), Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) and unidentified dabbling ducks (Anatidae). All 17 carcasses were positive for the H5 viruses of the 2.3.4.4 clade.



Date Prepared 24/06/2016

Outbreaks of HPAI in poultry (Jan 2016 - July 2016) and wild birds (2015) in South East Asia and East Russia, Overlay: the wild bird migration flyways

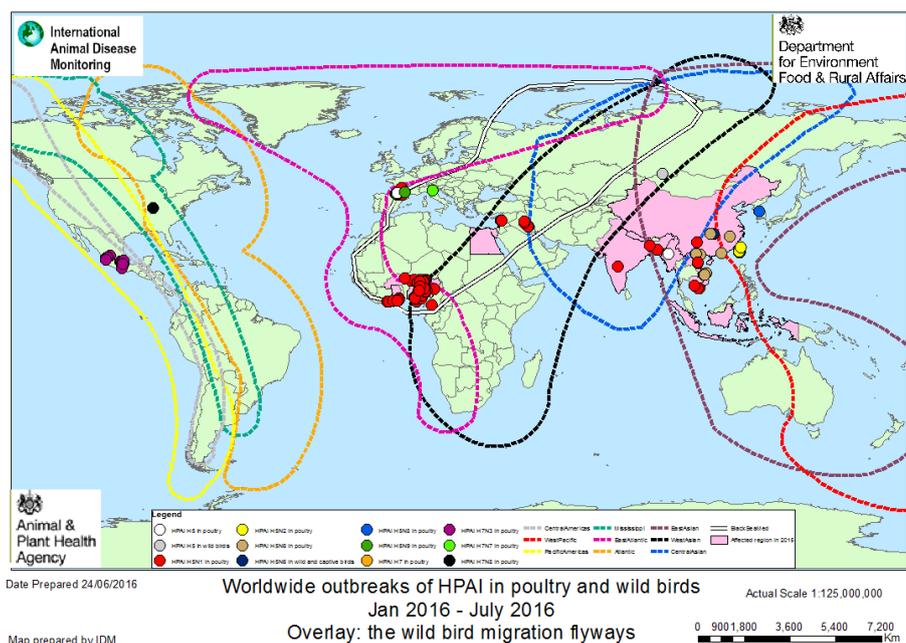
Actual Scale 1:35,000,000

0 900 1,800 Km

Map prepared by IDM

Situation Assessment

The map below shows the global situation and the regions covered by the various wild bird migration flyways. As can be seen, the current wild bird incident lies within two flyways and is located close to a third flyway with overlap into the EU. The bird migration season can start as early as August, for example, Pochards (*Aythya ferina*) are often some of the first birds to arrive in the UK in September, originating from the breeding grounds in Russia (Delaney *et al.* 2005).



Although this is the first report for several months of avian influenza H5 in wild birds, other strains are reported in South East Asia and further afield in a variety of wild and captive birds, and we should remain vigilant of potential for contact between wild birds and poultry being a significant risk for the incursion of any notifiable avian disease. The virus strain was confirmed as H5N8 by the EURL.

Conclusion

We will continue to monitor the situation closely. We would like to remind all poultry keepers to maintain high standards of biosecurity, remain vigilant and report any suspect clinical signs promptly and in addition using the testing to exclude scheme for avian notifiable disease where appropriate for early safeguard. For more information, please see www.defra.gov.uk/ahvla-en/disease-control/nad

The risk level for the UK remains at low, but heightened.

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Animal & Plant Health Agency
Veterinary & Science Policy Advice Team - International Disease Monitoring

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References

Delany, S., Veen, J. & Clark, J.A. (eds) 2006. Urgent preliminary assessment of ornithological data relevant to the spread of Avian Influenza in Europe. Report to the European Commission. Study contract: 07010401/2005/425926/MAR/B4. Authors: Atkinson, P.W., Clark, J.A., Delany, S., Diagana, C.H., du Feu, C., Fiedler, W., Fransson, T., Gauthier-Clerc, M., Grantham, M.J., Gschweg, M., Hagemeijer, W., Helmink, T., Johnson, A., Khomenko, S., Martakis, G., Overdijk, O., Robinson, R.A., Solokha, A., Spina, F., Sylla, S.I., Veen, J. & Visser, D.
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/nature_conservation/focus_wild_birds/avian_influenza/index_en.htm

OIE (2016) Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, Russia. Date submitted to OIE, 17/06/2016
http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Reviewreport/Review?page_refer=MapFullEventReport&reportid=20335



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