

# Biosecurity for Birds



## Social Media Resources for Migratory Season

When it comes to disease threats, you are your flock's best protection. Biosecurity – practiced carefully and regularly — is key to protecting backyard birds from infectious disease carried to and from farms, backyards or aviaries, by people, animals, equipment or vehicles.

Wild birds, particularly waterfowl like ducks and geese, can carry diseases such as Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), among others. With spring migration underway, bird owners should be aware of the increased threats and take steps to limit spread of germs and disease by following good biosecurity practices at all times.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) "Biosecurity for Birds" campaign includes social media resources on biosecurity and practices. We hope you will take part in promoting biosecurity during migratory season by sharing these resources on your channels and with your readers. Here are a few ways you can help:

### **FOLLOW #Biosecurity**

- Follow and share your biosecurity tips and practices using #biosecurity.
- Browse and download resources from our website: <http://1.usa.gov/1TfwKCu>
- Follow us on Twitter: [@Healthy\\_Harry](https://twitter.com/Healthy_Harry)
- Like us on Facebook: [Healthy Harry's Biosecurity for Birds](https://www.facebook.com/HealthyHarrysBiosecurityforBirds)
- Watch our biosecurity videos on YouTube: [Biosecurity For Birds](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvXqC)
- Email us for more information: Donna Karlsons at [Donna.L.Karlsons@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:Donna.L.Karlsons@aphis.usda.gov) or Joelle Hayden at [Joelle.R.Hayden@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:Joelle.R.Hayden@aphis.usda.gov)

### **POST**

**Use or customize these sample Facebook posts to increase awareness of the importance of biosecurity practices during migratory season.**

With migratory season underway, disease threat for bird owners is increased. It's important to include #biosecurity practices in your daily routine to protect your birds' safety. We are the best protection our birds have. Learn how to practice good #biosecurity at: <http://1.usa.gov/1UrqXqC>

Spring migration is underway, which means ducks, geese and other birds traveling for the spring have the potential to spread disease. Keep your flock disease-free this spring by incorporating biosecurity basics into your daily routines! <http://1.usa.gov/1UrqXqC>

Keeping flocks healthy should be a top priority for all backyard bird owners. As part of good biosecurity, you should prevent contact between your birds and wild birds. Check out this video on keeping flocks healthy: <http://bit.ly/1TKUUD1>

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Don't be chicken! Aim to protect your flock by practicing #biosecurity. Disease can spread from exposure to wild animals, contaminated water and equipment and much more. Learn how you can keep your flock disease-free at: <http://1.usa.gov/1UrqXqC>

Birds are migrating! Did you know migration increases the possibility of disease and virus harming your flock? Protect your birds by taking preventative measures, like keeping them in a screened-in area. Here are tips you can use: <http://bit.ly/2d24UI3>

### TWEET

**Share the sample tweets on Twitter to get your followers involved with #biosecurity.**

Spring migration is here. Keep birds disease-free by screening in their coop to prevent contact with wild animals <http://1.usa.gov/1UrqXqC>

Just 6 simple steps can keep your flock healthy during migratory season. Practicing #biosecurity prevents disease. <http://1.usa.gov/1NQpx3W>

#Biosecurity decreases risk of diseases with your flock, even during migratory season. Your flock counts on YOU! <http://1.usa.gov/1QFtJrL>

Migratory birds have potential to spread disease in US. #Biosecurity is crucial. Monitor 2017 fall patterns here: <http://bit.ly/2dqHiz3>

For poultry owners, #biosecurity can spell the difference between health and disease. Protect your flock this fall: <http://bit.ly/2cQlgaG>

#Biosecurity in migratory season is important because wild birds are likely to carry AI & other diseases. More here: <http://bit.ly/2d24UI3>

### SHARE

**Share the steps and graphics below on your social channels.**

*For backyard bird owners, there are six simple steps to keep your birds safe:*

- Step 1: keep your distance.  
<http://1.usa.gov/1NQpx3W> [[keep your distance graphic](#)]
- Step 2: keep it clean.  
<http://1.usa.gov/1NQpx3W> [[keep it clean graphic](#)]
- Step 3: don't haul disease home.  
<http://1.usa.gov/1NQpx3W> [[don't haul disease home graphic](#)]
- Step 4: don't borrow from your neighbor.  
<http://1.usa.gov/1NQpx3W> [[Don't borrow disease from your neighbor graphic](#)]
- Step 5: know the signs.  
<http://1.usa.gov/1NQpx3W> [[Know the signs graphic](#)]

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- Step 6: report sick birds.  
<http://1.usa.gov/1NQpx3W> [report sick birds graphic]



### HOW AVIAN INFLUENZA CAN SPREAD TO BACKYARD BIRDS

**1 DIRECTLY**

- As a result of contact between a sick or infected bird and a healthy bird or between carrier birds (those that already carry the disease but show no signs of illness) and healthy birds;
- Contact with infected manure, litter, debris, or feathers
- Aerosol transmission through respiratory droplets.

**2 INDIRECTLY**

- Virus-bearing material picked up on shoes, clothing, hands, and vehicles is then carried to healthy birds.

**3 OTHER CARRIERS**

- Wild animals, rodents, and insects

VISIT [HEALTHYBIRDS.APHIS.USDA.GOV](http://HEALTHYBIRDS.APHIS.USDA.GOV) FOR MORE INFORMATION

### why is biosecurity so important?

Biosecurity is essential to preventing occurrences of diseases within backyard birds.

Backyard flocks are **rising in numbers** and are expected to increase by **400%** over a 5 year period

**57** Salmonella outbreaks have been linked to live poultry since the 1990s.

**Migratory fowl** often carry disease such as Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease.

Avian Influenza can survive **long periods** at low temperatures.

VISIT [HEALTHYBIRDS.APHIS.USDA.GOV](http://HEALTHYBIRDS.APHIS.USDA.GOV) FOR MORE INFORMATION

### A GUIDE TO KEEPING BACKYARD BIRDS & BIRD OWNERS HEALTHY

do	don't
- Do wash hands thoroughly with soap and water right after touching live poultry, and supervise hand washing for young children.	- Don't let children younger than five, older adults or people with weak immune systems touch live poultry.
- Do thoroughly cook eggs from hens.	- Don't eat or drink in areas where birds live or roam.
- Do clean any equipment or materials associated with raising or caring for live poultry.	- Don't keep chicks and ducklings inside living areas, such as bathrooms and kitchens.
- Do assume live poultry is contaminated, and take proper steps to clean and disinfect regularly.	- Don't kiss or snuggle a bird.
- Do source birds from NPIP Salmonella monitored program hatcheries.	- Don't wait to report sick birds, call the USDA's toll-free hotline at 1 (866) 536-7593, or locate a local veterinarian or cooperative extension office.

VISIT [HEALTHYBIRDS.APHIS.USDA.GOV](http://HEALTHYBIRDS.APHIS.USDA.GOV) FOR MORE INFORMATION

## bio + security = life + safeguarding or protecting

Don't be a **chicken**, help **protect** your backyard birds!

Spring migration is underway, and there is an increased chance of disease as wild birds are in flight. Good biosecurity can reduce the spread of infectious disease.

Visit [healthybirds.aphis.usda.gov](http://healthybirds.aphis.usda.gov) for more information.

Thank you for helping promote biosecurity among backyard and hobby bird owners!

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