

# AHWA09

## EFSA ECDC EURL scientific reports on the latest epidemic of avian influenza

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## Avian influenza overview December 2021 – March 2022

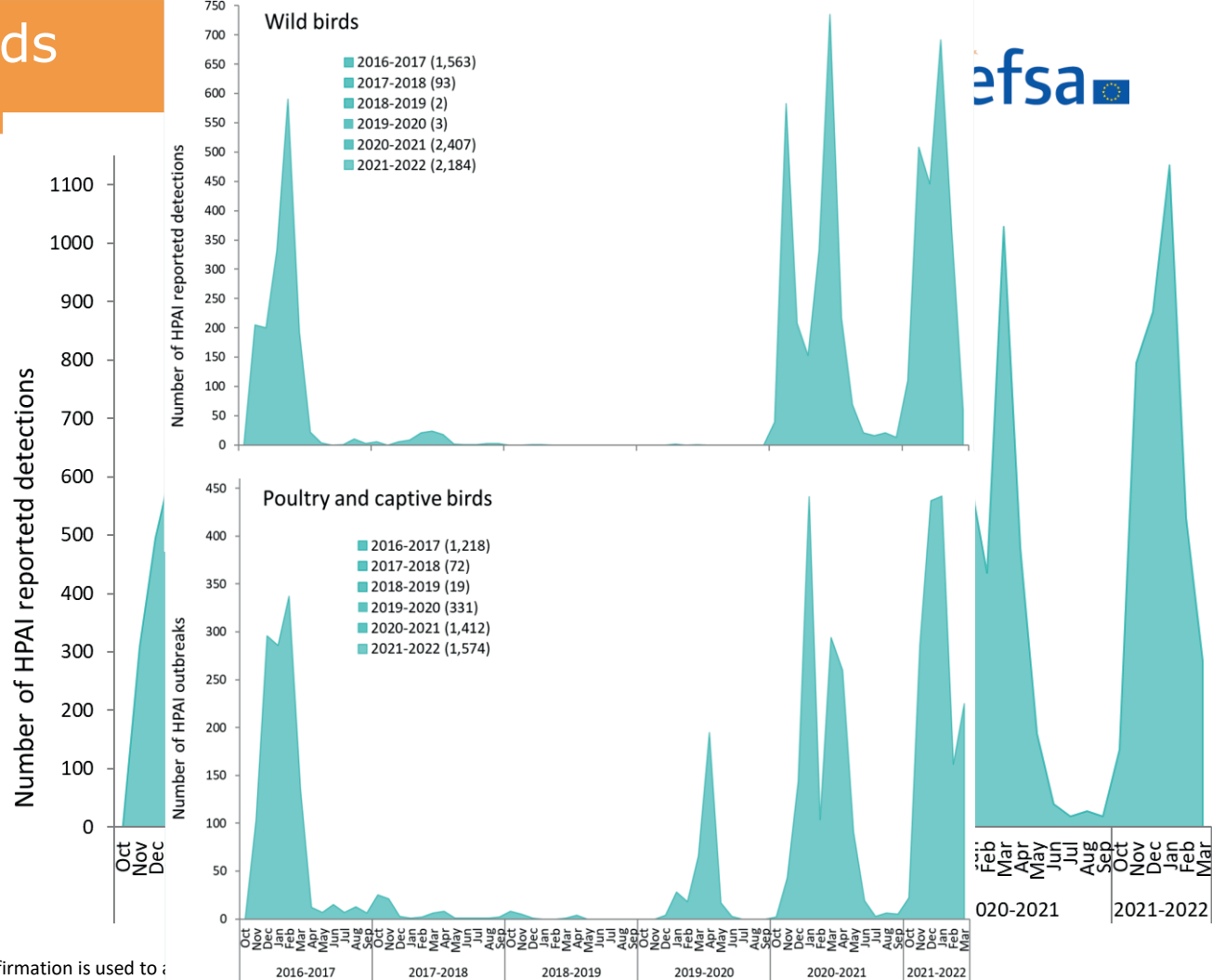
European Food Safety Authority,  
European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control,  
European Union Reference Laboratory for Avian Influenza,  
Cornelia Adlhoch, Alice Fusaro, José L Gonzales, Thijs Kuiken, Stefano Marangon,  
Éric Niqueux, Christoph Staubach, Calogero Terregino, Inma Aznar, Irene Muñoz  
Guajardo and Francesca Baldinelli

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# HPAI in Europe in birds

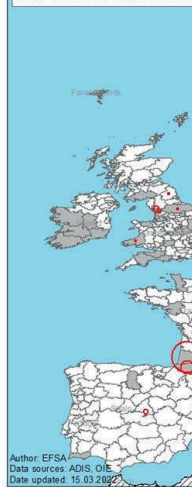


- Distribution of HPAI virus detections reported in EU/EEA and the UK by epidemic seasons and month of suspicion
- 1 Oct 2016 – 15 Mar 2022 (10,878)



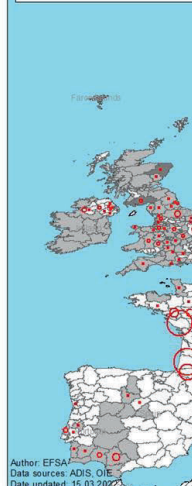
\*When the date of suspicion is not available then the date of confirmation is used to

2016-2017  
HPAI detections at NUT3 area



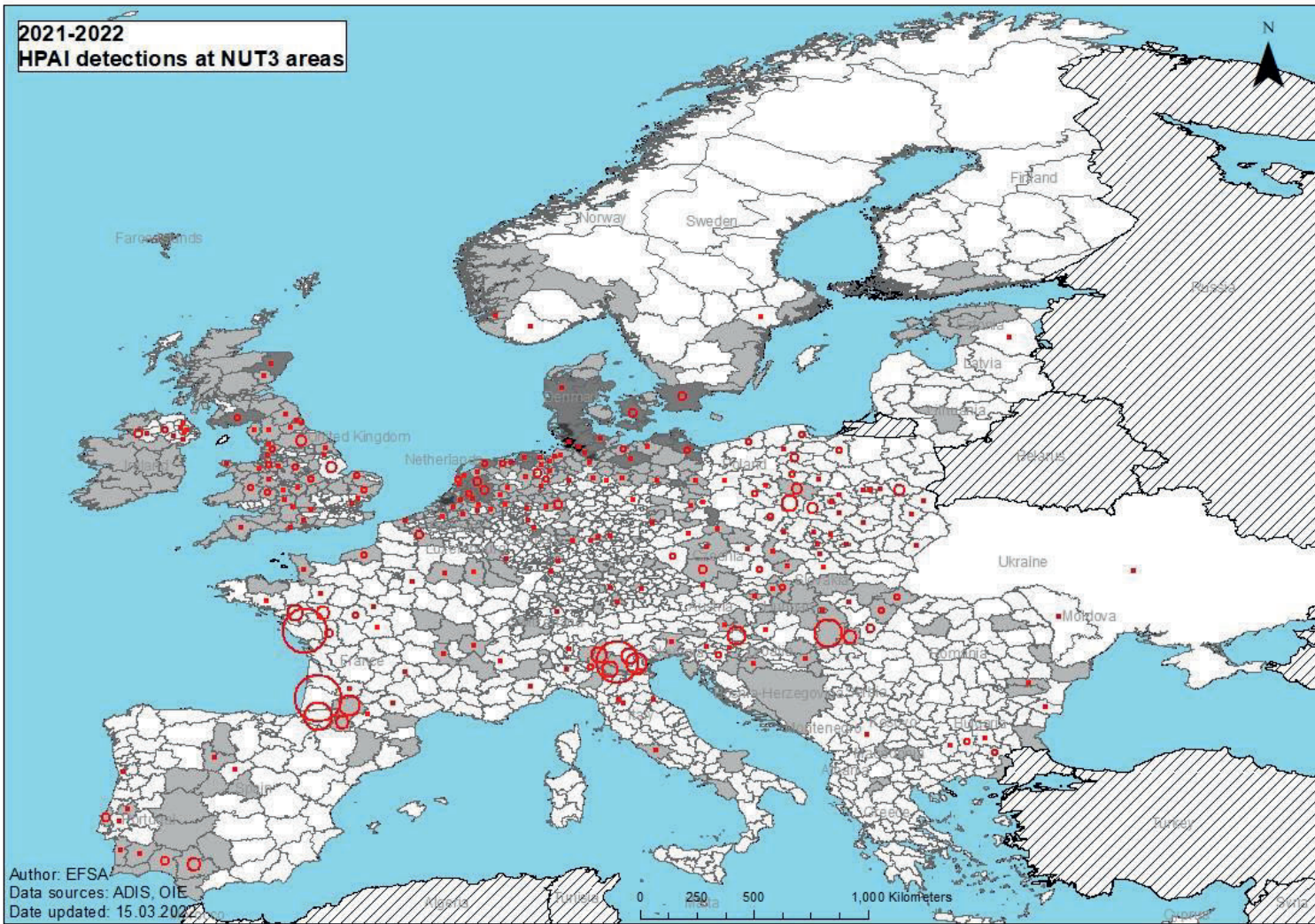
Author: EFSA  
Data sources: ADIS, OIE  
Date updated: 15.03.2022

2021-2022  
HPAI detections at NUT3 area



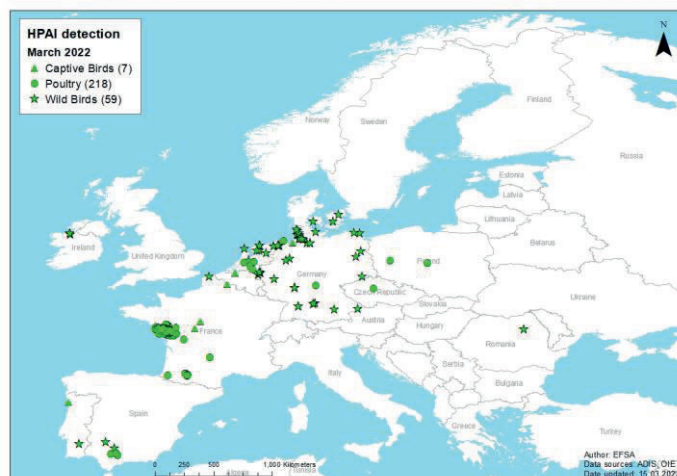
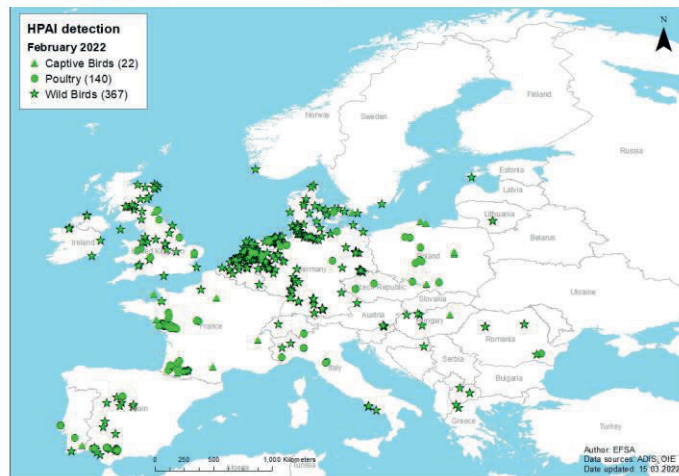
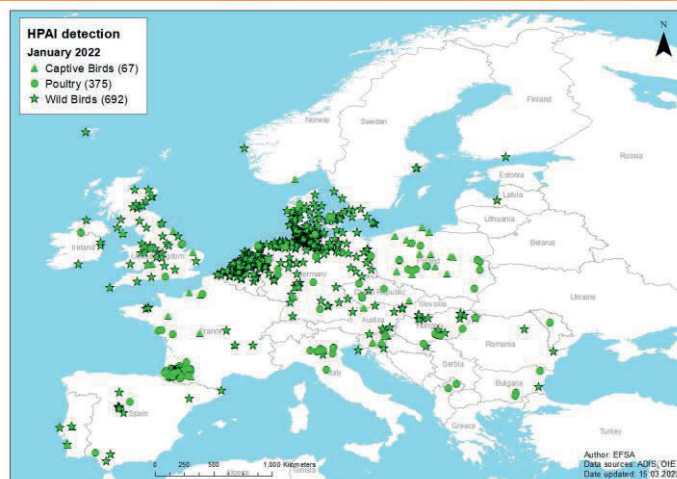
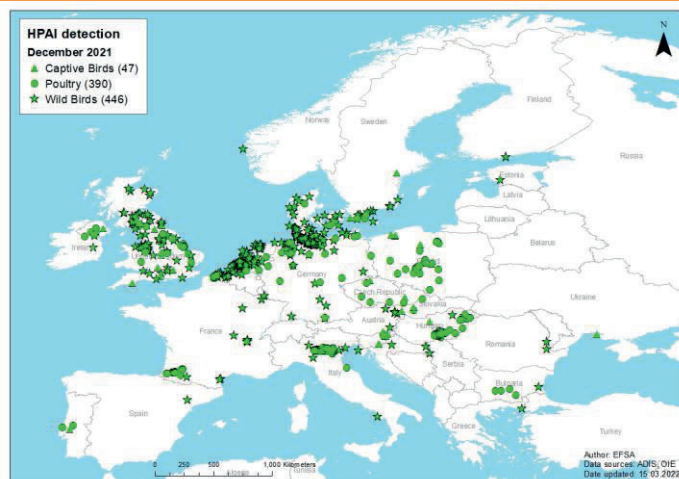
Author: EFSA  
Data sources: ADIS, OIE  
Date updated: 15.03.2022

## 2021-2022 HPAI detections at NUT3 areas



Author: EFSA  
Data sources: ADIS, OIE  
Date updated: 15.03.2022

# HPAI detections, December 2021- March 2022



A total of 2,652 HPAI A(H5) detections:

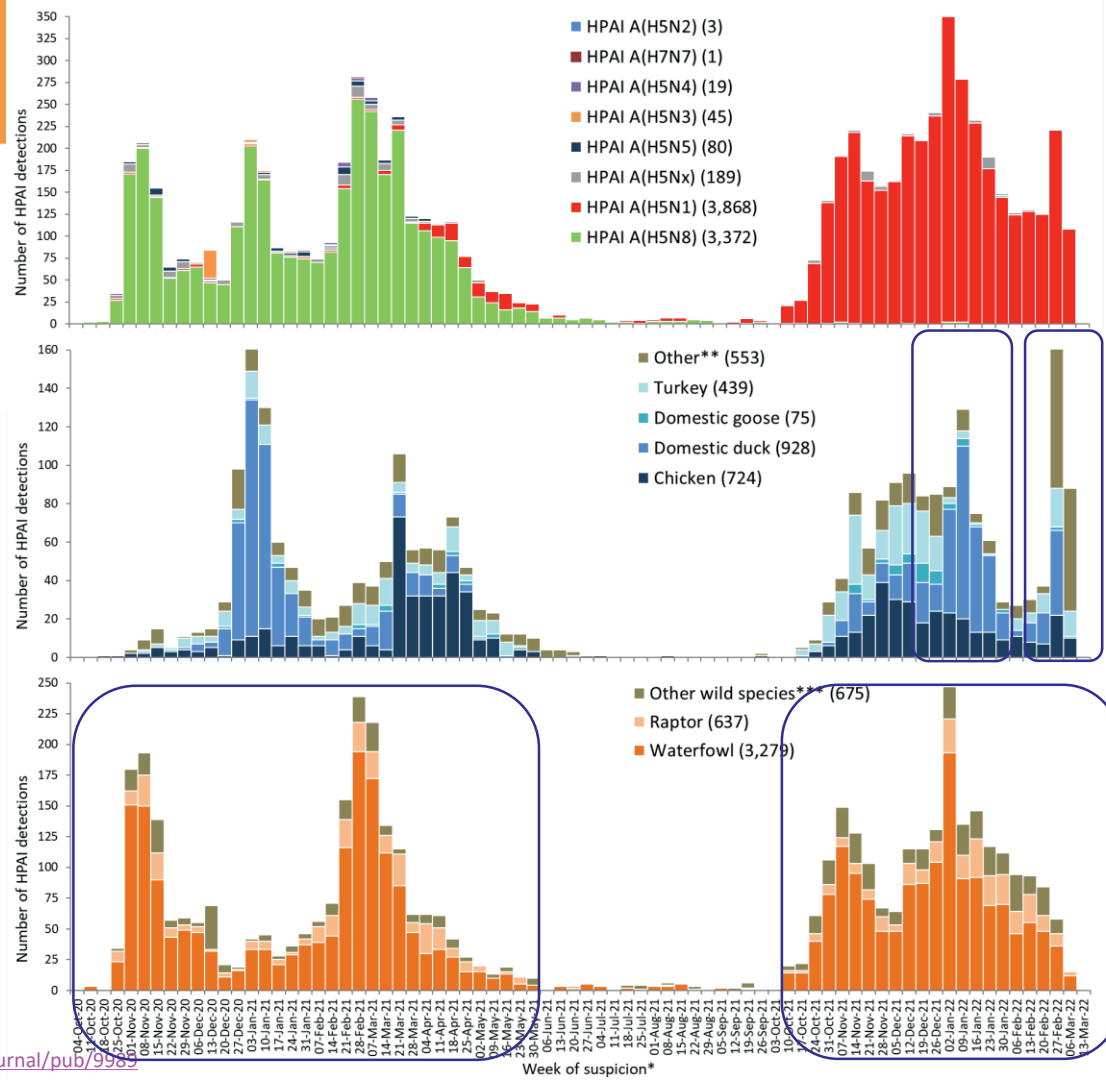
- 1,030 outbreaks in poultry
- 1,489 detections in wild birds
- 133 outbreaks in captive birds

# HPAI detections 2020-2021 and 2021-2022

Distribution of total number of HPAI virus detections reported in Europe by week of suspicion (dates indicate the first day of the week) and

- A. virus **subtype** (4,647)
- B. affected **poultry** categories (1,614)
- C. affected **wild bird** categories (2,920)

5 Oct 2020 – 8 Dec 2021



\* When the date of suspicion is not available then the date of confirmation is used to assign the week of suspicion. \*\* 'Other domestic species' category contains mixed, unknown bird species, or categories different from those displayed (i.e guinea fowl, peacock, pheasant and quail). \*\*\* 'Other wild species' category contains mixed, unknown bird species, or categories different from those displayed

Source: EFSA/ECDC/EURL avian influenza reports <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/it/efsajournal/pub/9969>

# HPAI detections in wild birds

Time period		Waterfowl species		Raptor species		Other wild bird species	
Epidemic season	Epidemic peak	Minimum number of species affected	Number of HPAI detections	Minimum number of species affected	Number of HPAI detections	Minimum number of species affected	Number of HPAI detections
2020-2021	1° peak (1/10/2020 to 27/12/2020)	20	601	8	88	20	124
	2° peak (28/12/2020 to 30/5/2021)	21	1,125	11	243	26	154
2021-2022	1° peak (1/10/2021 to 28/11/2021)	17	437	7	41	18	118
	2° peak (29/11/2021 to 15/3/2022)	18	1,081	12	255	33	252

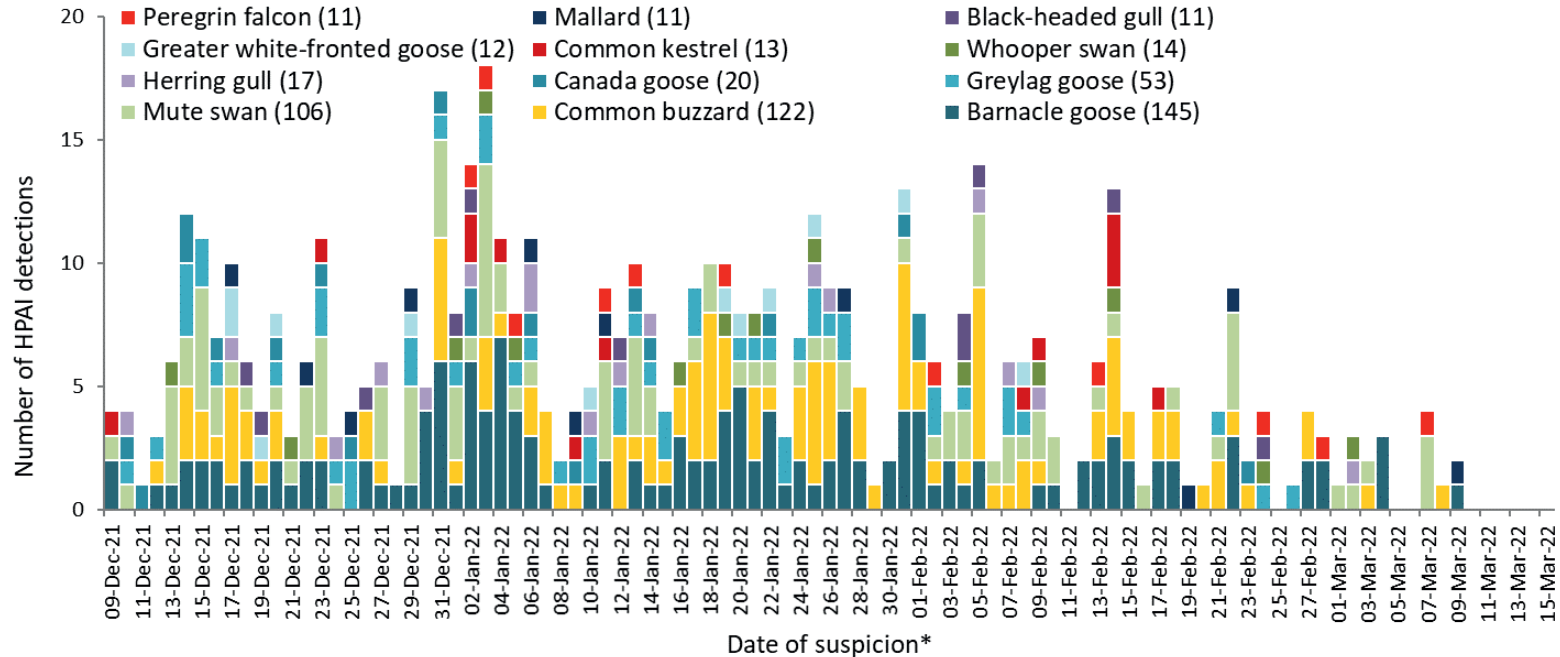
## Current reporting period – 62 species involved:

- 17 waterfowl, 1,007 detections
- 12 raptors, 241 detections
- 33 other, 241 detections

**The wild bird species was not identified in the 56% of HPAI detections**

# HPAI detections in wild birds

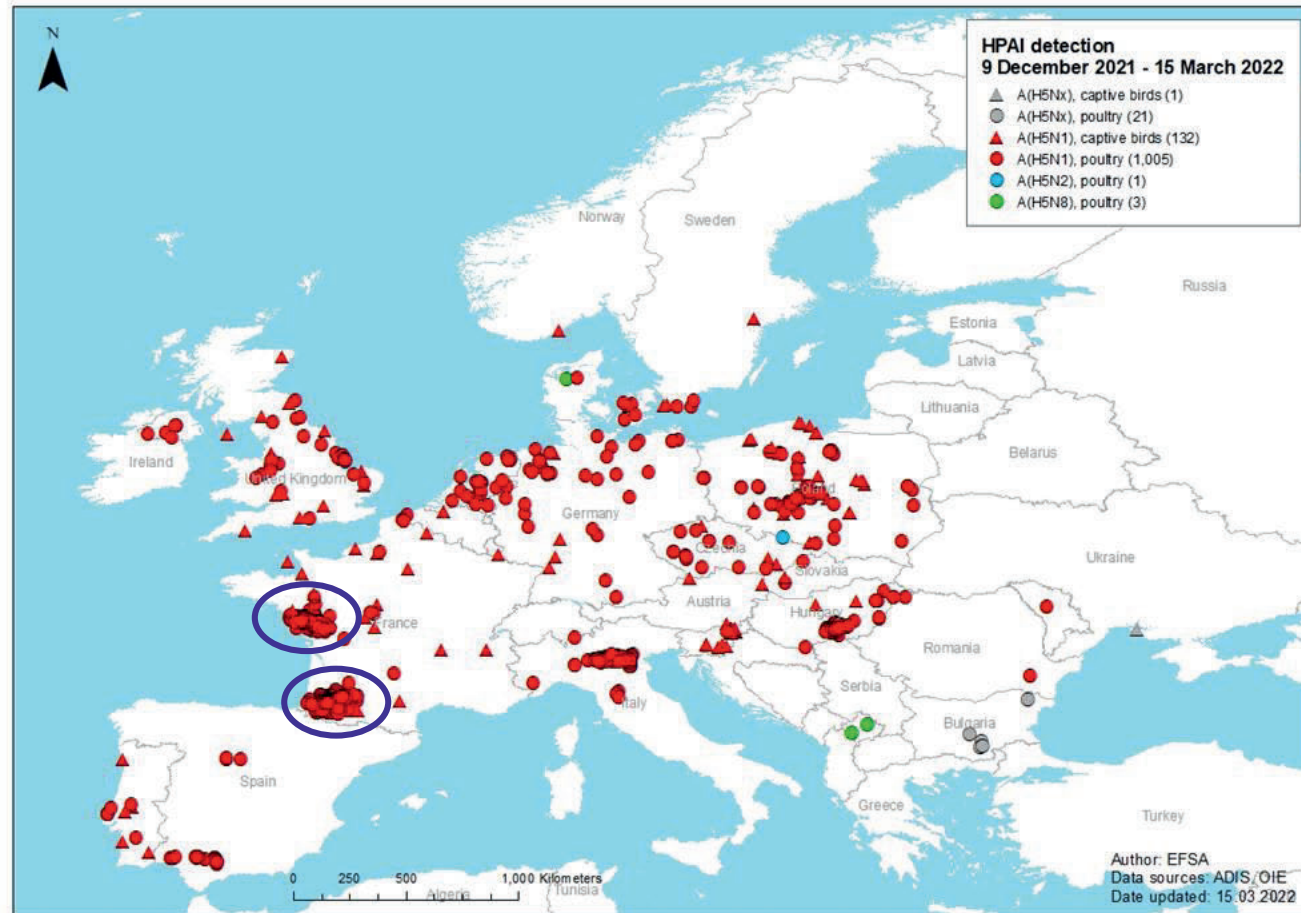
- Most affected species:



- New HPAI detected species: grey-headed gull, little owl, Anambra waxbill, pink-backed pelican, western gull, western sandpiper



- Most affected countries: France (609), Italy (127), Hungary (73) and Poland (52)
- $\approx$  17.7 million birds affected
- Moldova affected for the first time
- France: 2 spatio-temporal cluster identified

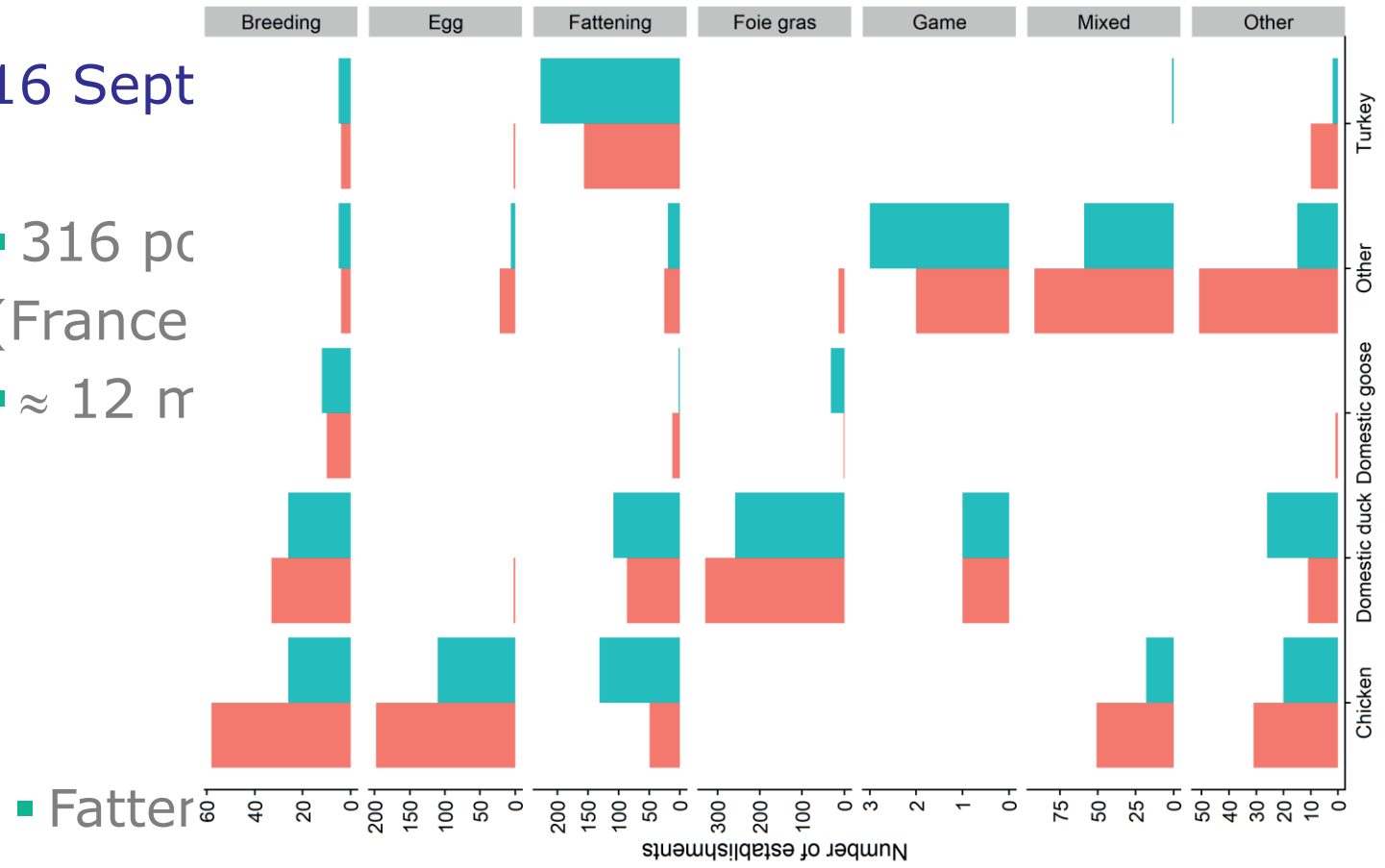


# HPAI outbreak

Season  
 2020-2021  
 2021-2022

16 Sept

- 316 pc (France)
- ≈ 12 m



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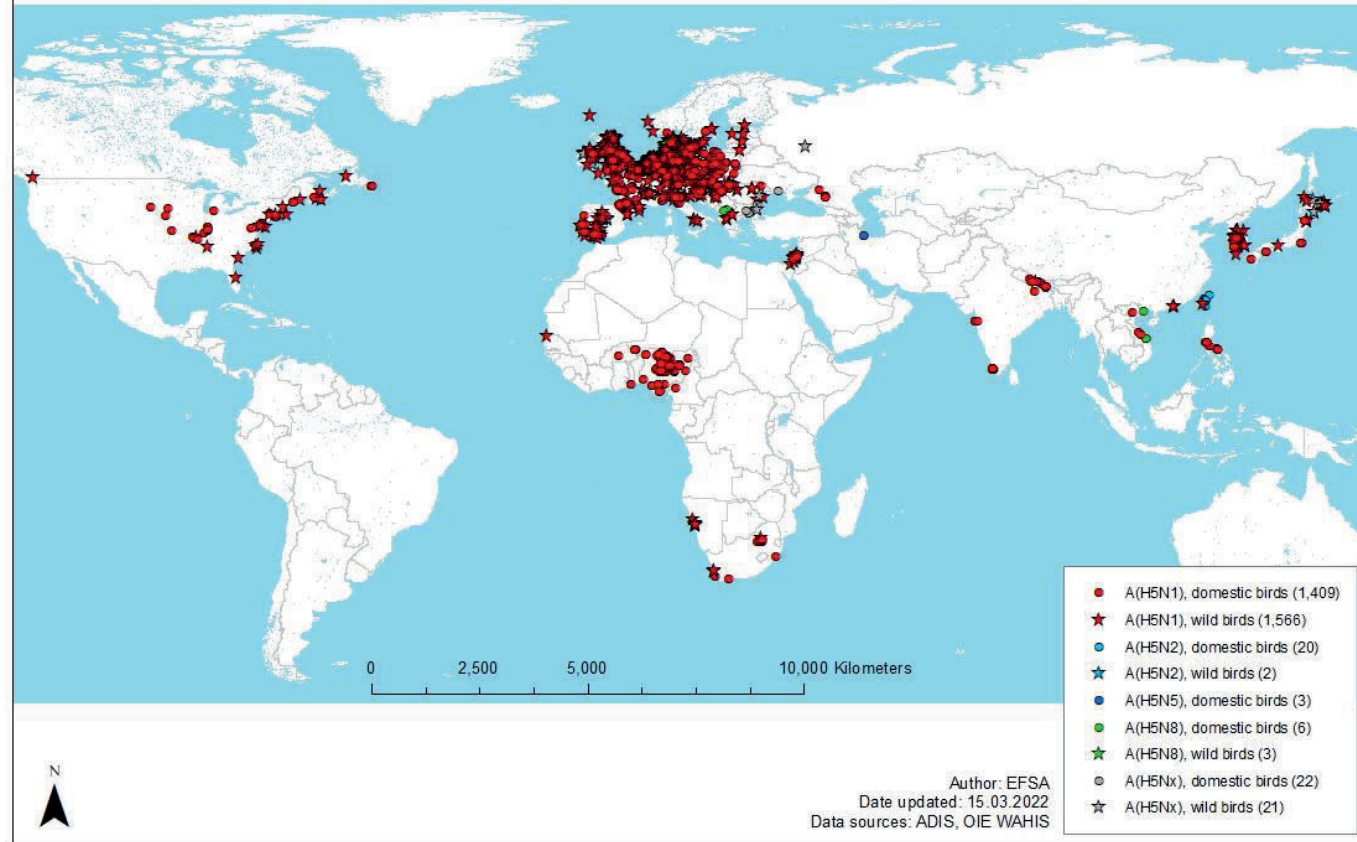
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# H5N1- infected wild mammals

Date	Country	Animal (species)	Virus
November 2016, April 2017	Poland	2 grey seals ( <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> )	A(H5N8) clade 2.3.4.4b
December 2016 to May 2017	France	Domestic pigs ( <i>Sus scrofa</i> ), serological detection	A(H5N8) clade 2.3.4.4b
2017; August 2021	Germany	Wild boar serological detection; three harbour seals ( <i>Phoca vitulina</i> )	A(H5N8); A(H5N8) clade 2.3.4.4b
Late 2020	UK	4 juvenile common seals ( <i>Phoca vitulina</i> ), 1 juvenile grey seal ( <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> ), 1 juvenile red fox ( <i>Vulpes vulpes</i> )	A(H5N8) clade 2.3.4.4b
April, February, and September 2021	Sweden	1 grey seal ( <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> ), 2 red foxes ( <i>Vulpes vulpes</i> )	A(H5N8) clade 2.3.4.4b, A(H5N1) clade 2.3.4.4b, A(H5N1)*
September 2021	Denmark	1 harbour seal ( <i>Phoca vitulina</i> )	A(H5N8) clade 2.3.4.4b
May 2021 2022		2 red fox cubs ( <i>Vulpes vulpes</i> )	A(H5N1) clade 2.3.4.4b
	Netherlands	Foxes, otter, polecat ( <i>Mustela putorius</i> )	
September and November 2021		2 foxes ( <i>Vulpes vulpes</i> ), 1 otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> )	A(H5N1) clade 2.3.4.4b
February 2022	Finland	1 lynx ( <i>Lynx lynx</i> )	A(H5N1)*
November 2021	Estonia	Fox ( <i>Vulpes vulpes</i> )	A(H5N1) clade 2.3.4.4b
November 2021	Italy	Domestic pigs ( <i>Sus scrofa</i> ) (serological detection in HPAI poultry outbreak)	A(H5N1) clade 2.3.4.4b
January 2022	Slovenia	Ferret ( <i>Mustela furo</i> )	A(H5N1) clade 2.3.4.4b
February 2022	Ireland	Fox ( <i>Vulpes vulpes</i> )	H5N1) clade 2.3.4.4b

## HPAI detections in domestic and wild birds from 9 December 2021 to 15 March 2022

Geographical distribution of HPAI detections reported in domestic birds (1,460) and wild birds (1,592), by virus type, 9 Dec 2021 to 15 Mar 2022



- The risk of infection for the **general population** in the EU/EEA is assessed as **low**, and for occupationally **exposed people low to medium** with high uncertainty due to the high diversity of circulating avian influenza viruses in bird populations
- The continuous detection of HPAI virus in wild and domestic mammals, highlight the need to **intensify surveillance in mammals**, particularly in high-risk areas with intensive viral circulation

- HPAI A(H5) continues to be maintained in wild bird populations in Eurasia, including **detection in resident wild birds** in Europe, and was detected in a **wider range of other wild bird species**; this enlarged host range of HPAI A(H5) in wild birds indicates an **increasing and changing risk for virus incursion into poultry** farms
- The dynamics of the current HPAI epidemic indicate that an **elevated environmental pressure** of infection will likely persist in the coming months posing a **risk for further virus introduction and spread in the poultry** sector

- The frequent occurrence of HPAI A(H5) virus incursions in **commercial farms** where birds are kept indoors including poultry production types considered at low avian influenza risk raises concern about the capacity of applied **biosecurity measures** to prevent virus introduction

- The persistence and continuous circulation of HPAI viruses in wild birds will continue to pose a risk for the poultry sector requiring the **definition and the rapid implementation** of suitable and sustainable HPAI **strategies**:
  - appropriate **biosecurity** measures, **surveillance** plan, and **early detection** strategies must be **regularly applied** in the different poultry production systems



## Biosecurity:

- **systematic application** of strict biosecurity and hygienic practices **at the line of separation** between the environment inside each poultry house, where birds are raised, and the outer farm environment
- the implementation of sustainable levels of biosecurity must be **guaranteed and checked** along the entire poultry production chain

## Surveillance and early detections:

- to **reduce the high-risk period** of an epidemic and to **limit the secondary spread** of avian influenza from affected establishments, particularly in high-risk areas and production sectors
- veterinary authorities should continuously ensure **high awareness** among all stakeholders in the poultry sector: this is crucial for the immediate reporting of any increase in daily mortality and drop in production parameters

## Member State representatives for avian influenza

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