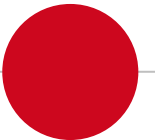


# Avian influenza in Italy: epidemiological update



# HPAI in Italy

November 2020 – January 2021

Species	H5*	H5N1	H5N5	H5N8	Total
Common teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> )	28	2	1	19	50
Eurasian wigeon ( <i>Mareca penelope</i> )	17	5		16	38
Mallard duck ( <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> )	1			4	5
Northern shoveler ( <i>Spatula clypeata</i> )	2			1	3
Northern pintail ( <i>Anas acuta</i> )	1				1
Greylag goose ( <i>Anser anser</i> )		1			1
Greater white-fronted goose ( <i>Anser albifrons</i> )				1	1
Common buzzard ( <i>Buteo buteo</i> )				2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>101</b>

\* Not yet characterized

**101 wild birds tested positive**  
**8 species** (mostly waterfowls, one raptor)

- shot in hunting areas
- found moribund/dead
- sampled *intra vitam*





# HPAI in Italy

Region	Province	Production type	No. animals	Confirmation date	Subtype	Depopulation date
Emilia-Romagna	Ravenna	Backyard/hobby flock	14	23/01/2021	H5N8	24/01/2021

**11** chicken for self-consumption and **3** ornamental **grey crowned cranes** (*Balearica regulorum*)

*Cranes*: 'other captive bird' (Directive 2005/94/EC, art. 2, paragraph 1, point 6)

15 January - **2** cranes showed neurological symptoms

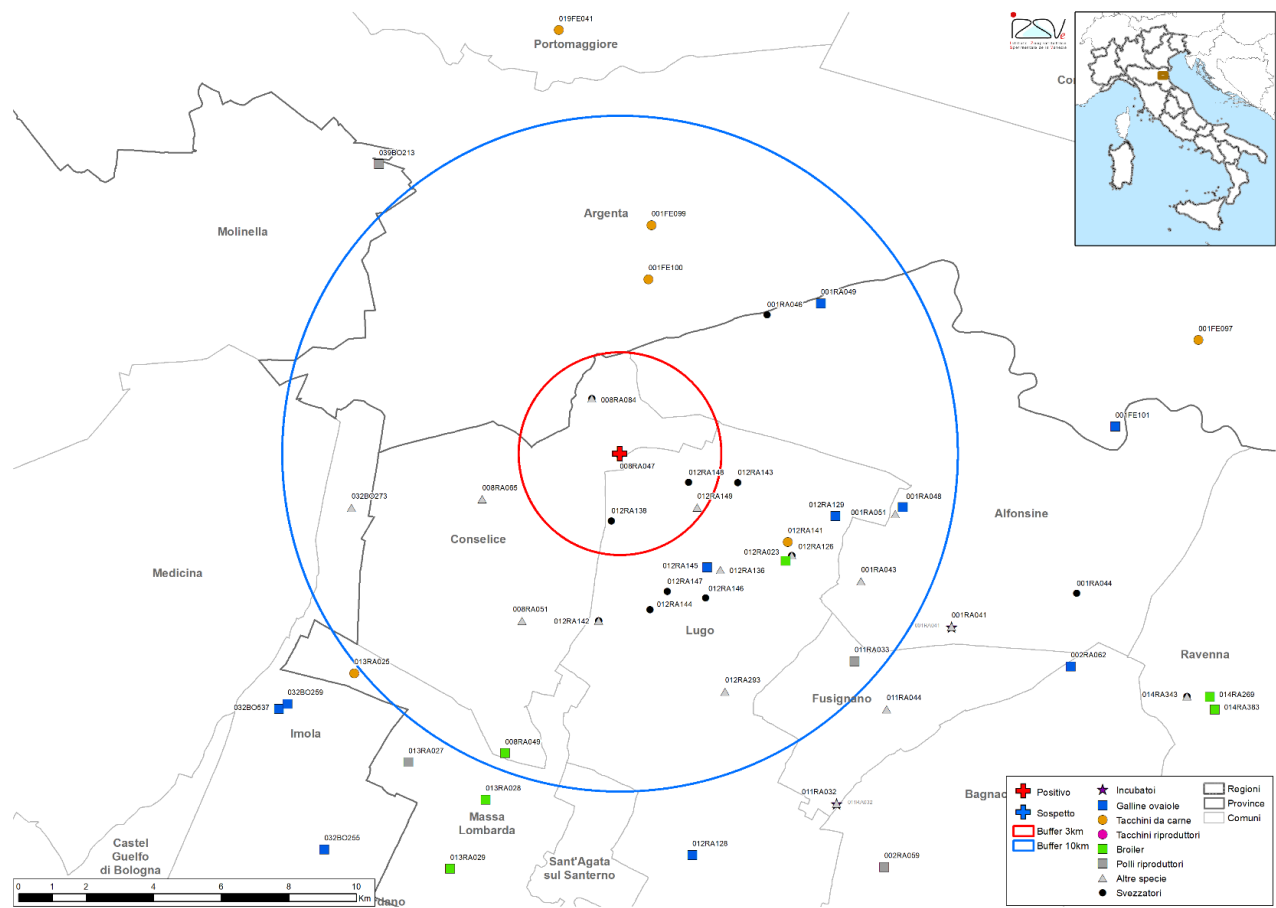
19 January - were euthanized

23 January - NRL confirmed positivity for HPAI H5 (characterized as H5N8 25 January)

24 January - culling procedures/carcasses disposal

All the chicken on the infected premises tested negative for AI

# Control measures: Council Directive 2005/94/EC



- Protection and surveillance zones (3 and 10 km)
- Restrictions on movements of poultry and poultry products (with derogations)
- Epidemiological investigation
- Clinical examinations and collection of samples in protection zone

# ● Integration of epidemiological data and genetic analyses

## Epidemiological investigation

- Cranes and chicken separately housed (20 meters away)
- One contact holding (grower farm -> negative for AI)
- No other at-risk contacts in 30 days prior onset symptoms
- Premises <100 meters from a river (direct/indirect contacts with wild birds)
- ~ 25 km from Comacchio wetlands complex (Po River Delta)

## Laboratory analyses

- HPAI H5N8 virus closely related to HPAI H5 viruses of clade 2.3.4.4B circulating in wild birds in Europe and Italy
- all commercial poultry holdings in the protection and surveillance zones tested negative both virologically and serologically



Integration of epidemiological data and genetic analyses indicates that so far the domestic poultry sector in Italy has not been affected by the circulation of HPAI viruses

# ● Measures in force to mitigate the risk of transmission from wild birds to poultry

## ● 02/10/2020:

- Strengthening biosecurity measures (other than poultry confinement)
- Housing order for poultry in high risk areas
- Early detection of HPAI in poultry (*any change in normal production and health parameters such as mortality rate, feed and water intake and egg production*)
- Early detection of HPAI in wild birds (passive surveillance activities)
- Increasing awareness of the stakeholders and the general public

## ● 04/11/2020:

- Using live decoy birds belonging to the Orders Anseriformes and Charadriiformes for hunting is suspended

## ● 26/11/2020:

- The release of poultry intended for restocking wild game is suspended (with derogations in accordance with Execution Decision 2018/1136)
- Housing order for poultry on the entire national territory
- Enhanced surveillance during fairs, bird exhibitions and any other gatherings of poultry or other captive birds



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**Thanks for your attention!**

