Ministero della Salute

HPAI outbreaks in Italy

PAFF Committee – Animal health and welfare

26-27 February 2025

HPAI H5N1 in Italy

✓ **21** HPAI outbreaks in poultry
(on 25/02/2025)

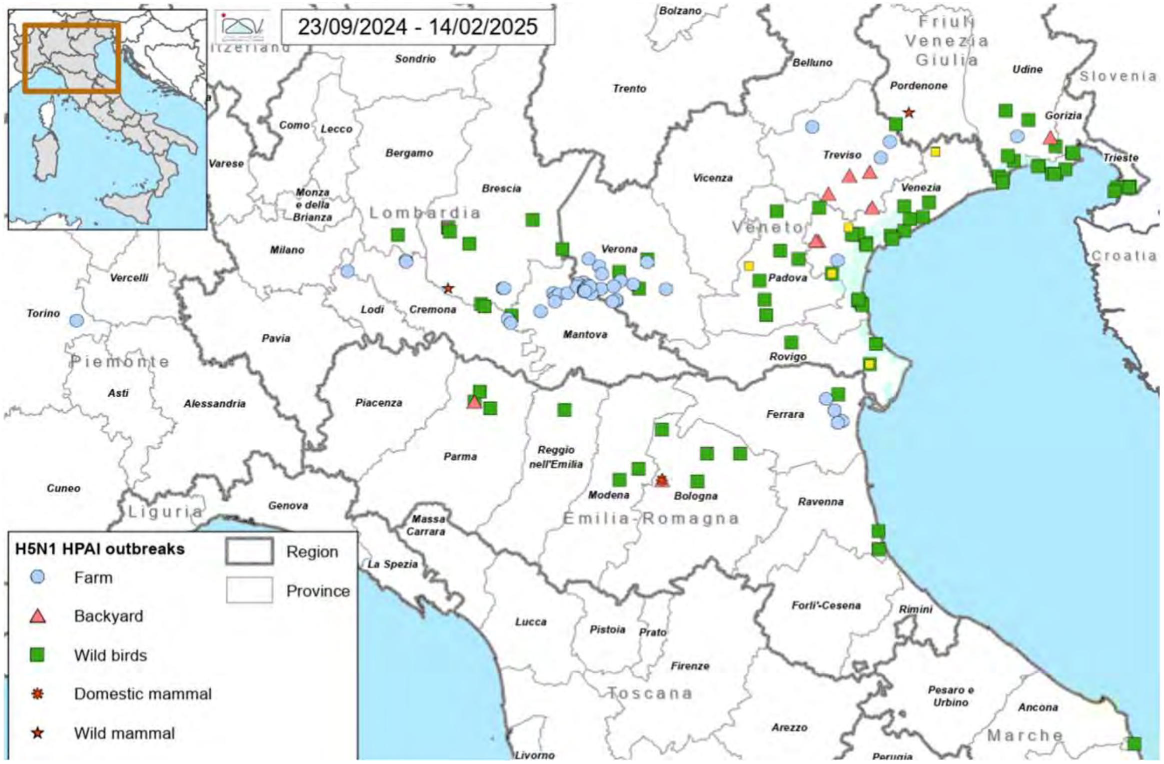
- **12** Veneto
- **8** Lombardia
- **1** Piemonte

+ 3 since the last PAFF

✓ **16** HPAI positive cases in wild birds (or mammals
(on 25/02/2025)

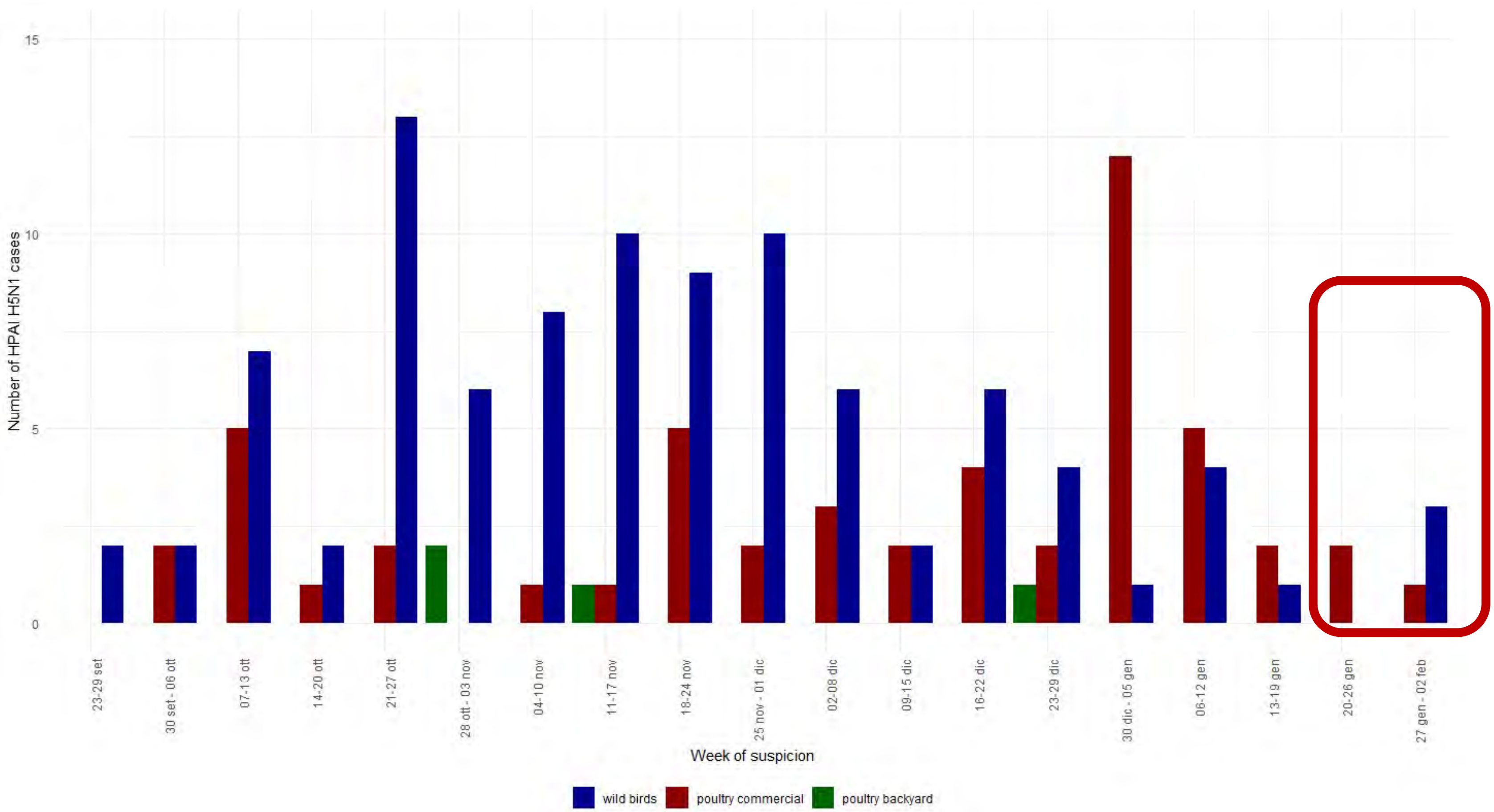
- **10** Veneto
- **2** Friuli-Venezia Giulia (1 red fox)
- **2** Emilia Romagna
- **1** Lombardia (red fox)
- **1** Maritime area

+ 15 since the last PAFF



Regular update on: https://www.izsvenezie.com/reference-laboratories/avian-influenza-newcastle-disease/italy-update/
https://eurlaidata.izsvenezie.it/

HPAI 2024-25 epidemic season in Italy



HPAI H5N1 in domestic poultry

ADIS Reference	National reference	Disease type	Region	Province	Municipality	Species	Susceptible
IT-HPAI(P)-2025-00021	2025-21	H5N1	Piemonte	Torino	Verolengo	Broiler	60000
IT-HPAI(P)-2025-00020	2025-20	H5N1	Veneto	Verona	Sona	Laying hens	117209
IT-HPAI(P)-2025-00019	2025-19	H5N1	Veneto	Verona	Isola Della Scala	Fattening turkeys	14005

Positive cases in wild birds

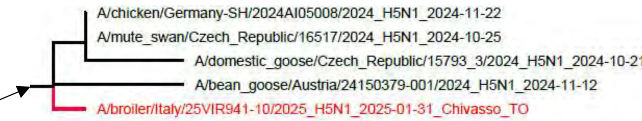
+ 12 wild birds cases since the last PAFF

+ 2 invasive wild birds (Sacred ibis)

+ 2 mammals since the last PAFF

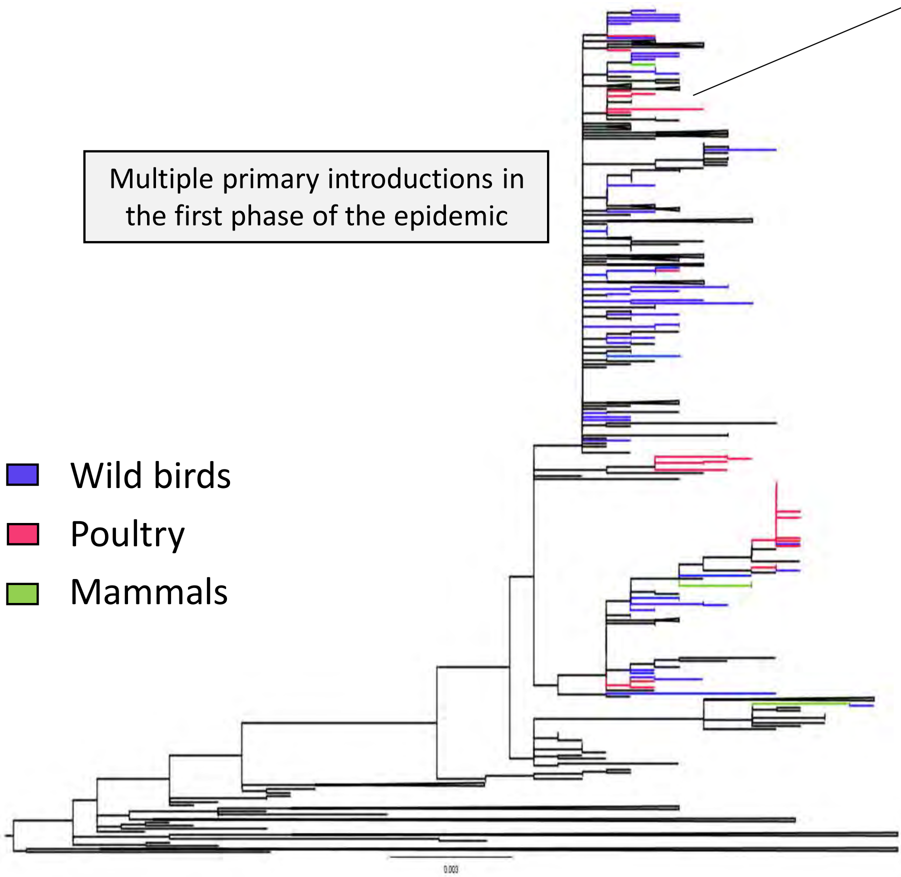
Reference	Disease type	Region	Province	Municipality	Species	Cases	Additional info
IT-HPAI(NON-P)-2025-00016	H5 (N untyp	Veneto	Venezia	Pramaggiore	Eurasian buzzard (common buzzard)	1	Animal brought to the Rovigo Wild Animal Recovery Centre where it died
IT-HPAI(NON-P)-2025-00015	H5N1	Veneto	Padua	Galzignano Terme	Eurasian buzzard (common buzzard)	1	Animal brought to the Rovigo Wild Animal Recovery Centre where it died
IT-HPAI(NON-P)-2025-00014	H5N1	Veneto	Padua	Padova	Yellow-legged Gull	1	Animal brought to the Rovigo Wild Animal Recovery Centre where it died
IT-HPAI(NON-P)-2025-00013	H5N1	Veneto	Padua	Stanghella	Yellow-legged Gull	1	Animal brought to the Rovigo Wild Animal Recovery Centre where it died
IT-HPAI(NON-P)-2025-00012	H5N1	Lombardia	Brescia	Quinzano d' Oglio	Red Fox	1	Fox culled in the Province of Brescia. Sample tested for HPAI following confirmation of negativity for rabies.
IT-HPAI(NON-P)-2025-00011	H5N1	Friuli-Venezia Giulia	Pordenone	Porcia	Red Fox	1	retrospective survey as part of the INF-ACT research project on samples of wild carnivores analysed in the first instance for rabies, from areas where the circulation of HPAI influenza viruses has been detected for spill-over events in mammals
IT-HPAI(NON-P)-2025-00010	H5N1	Friuli-Venezia Giulia	Udine	Lignano Sabbiadoro	Eurasian buzzard (common buzzard)	1	Found dead
IT-HPAI(NON-P)-2025-00009	H5N1	Maritime area			Common Shelduck	1	Found dead
IT-HPAI(NON-P)-2025-00008	H5N1	Emilia-Romagna	Parma	Fontevivo	Eurasian buzzard (common buzzard)	1	Found dead
IT-HPAI(NON-P)-2025-00007	H5N1	Emilia-Romagna	Parma	Fontanellato	Eurasian buzzard (common buzzard)	1	Found dead
IT-HPAI(NON-P)-2025-00006	H5N1	Veneto	Verona	San Martino Buon Albergo	Sacred Ibis	1	Found dead
IT-HPAI(NON-P)-2025-00005	H5N1	Veneto	Verona	San Martino Buon Albergo	Sacred Ibis	1	Found dead
IT-HPAI(NON-P)-2025-00004	H5N1	Veneto	Padua	Campo San Martino	Grey Heron	1	Deceased at Wildlife Recovery Centre
IT-HPAI(NON-P)-2025-00003	H5N1	Veneto	Venezia	Venezia	Herring Gull	1	Deceased at Wildlife Recovery Centre
IT-HPAI(NON-P)-2025-00002	H5N1	Veneto	Padua	Trebaseleghe	Wildlife (species unspecified)	1	Deceased at Wildlife Recovery Centre
IT-HPAI(NON-P)-2025-00001	H5N1	Veneto	Verona	San Martino Buon Albergo	Western Cattle Egre	2	Found dead

Viral introductions in the Italian territory



New introduction of H5N1 HPAI virus in Piedmont region (Chivasso) on 31 January 2025 (last outbreak in poultry). No genetic correlation with viruses from Lombardy and Veneto

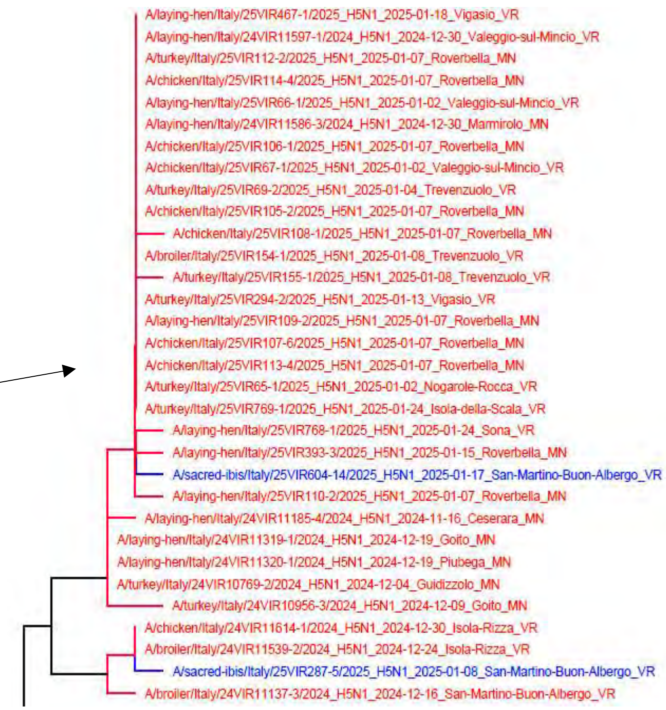
Multiple primary introductions in the first phase of the epidemic



Wild birds

Poultry

Mammals



The cluster in domestic poultry between Mantua - Verona (Nov 2024 - Jan 2025) suggests possible horizontal transmission between farms happened in the second phase of the epidemic, potentially also favoured by invasive wild birds (sacred Ibis) showing a synanthropic behaviour

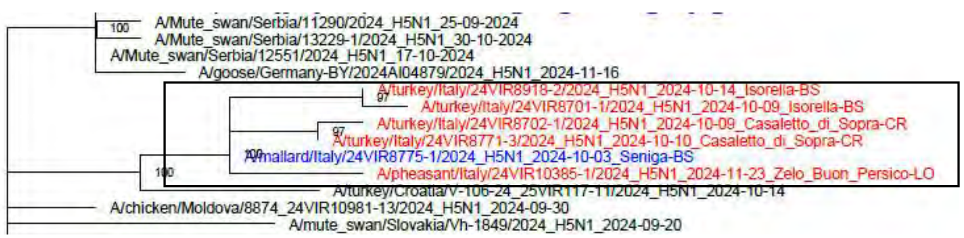
Genome analysis of H5N1 viruses identified in foxes

- The H5N1 virus identified in a fox in Friuli V.G. Region (Porcia - PN), which was found dead on 30 October 2024, forms a cluster with strains found in wild birds in the province of Venice during the same period.

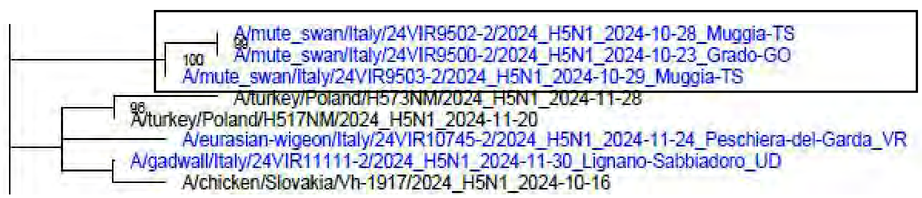
- The H5N1 virus identified on 14 December 2024 in a fox (hunted) in Lombardy region (Quinzano D'Oglio - BS), shows high similarity to a virus identified in a wild bird in the same province;
- The virus has the 627K mutation in the PB2 segment marker of mammalian adaptation.

Wild birds Mammals

Markers of mammalian adaptation in viruses found in birds



The 701N mutation of the PB2 segment, which promotes virus replication in mammals, was found in 6 avian viruses (5 from domestic and 1 from wild birds) identified between the provinces of Brescia, Lodi and Cremona between October and November 2024



The 627V mutation of the PB2 segment, which promotes virus replication in mammals, was found in 3 viruses identified in wild birds in the provinces of Trieste and Gorizia in October 2024

Wild birds   Poultry

Measures in high-risk areas

New provision will be in force from 1/03/2025 to 15/03/2025, provides for an **attention zone** (AZ) where reinforced measures will be applied, including:

- ✓ **Pre-moving control on turkeys and hens:** clinical examination within 72 hours prior to the first loading to slaughterhouse and sampling of 20 dead animals for shed repeated every 72 hours (10 samples) until the end of loading. All animals should preferably be loaded within 4 days.
- ✓ **Monitoring plan for fattening turkeys, laying hens and broilers** with an inter-establishments prevalence of 3% and a 95% confidence level.
- ✓ **Criteria for the housing of poultry:** in the entire *AZ* prohibition of restocking mixed-sex fattening turkeys as well as thinning activities in broiler herds, except when aimed at emptying the flock within a maximum of 14 days. Compliance with biosecurity criteria is a prerequisite for allowing the restocking. On fattening turkey farms, production cycles should last no more than 150 days for males and 105 days for females. Re-housing can only take place after 4 weeks of emptying; shorter emptying times can be envisaged to ensure compliance with the cycle times of the homogenous fattening areas, where envisaged by regional regulations.

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Thank you

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