

Immediate notification report

Report reference: , Ref OIE: 6917, Report Date: 31/03/2008 , Country: Switzerland

Report Summary

Disease	Highly pathogenic avian influenza	Animal type	Terrestrial
Causal Agent	Highly pathogenic avian influenza virus	Serotype(s)	H5N1
Clinical Signs	No	Reason	Reoccurrence of a listed disease
Date of first confirmation of the event	26/03/2008	Date of Start of Event	22/02/2008
Date of report	31/03/2008	Date Submitted To OIE	31/03/2008
Diagnosis	Laboratory (advanced)	Date Of Last Occurrence	06/2006
Number Of Reported Outbreaks	Submitted= 1, Draft= 0	Name of Sender of the report	Dr Heinzpeter Schwermer
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Outbreak (this report - submitted)

LUZERN	Oberkirch	Unit Type	Location	Latitude	Longitude	Start	End
LUZERN	Oberkirch	Not applicable	Oberkirch	47,16117	8,12324	22/02/2008	22/02/2008
Species	Measuring units	Susceptible	Cases	Deaths	Destroyed	Slaughtered	
Wild species	Animals	6	1	0	0	0	

Affected Population

Two tufted ducks (*Aythya fuligula*), one common pochard (*Aythya ferina*), one mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and two great cormorants (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) that were caught in a bird fyke on Lake Sempach. These birds were sampled in the frame of the national programme for HPAI and released after sampling. The common pochard (*Aythya ferina*) that tested positive showed no clinical signs of the disease at the time of sampling. The other birds tested negative. Until now, there was no indication of the presence of clinical infection in this region of Switzerland. This region can be considered as one with the highest surveillance activity for avian influenza virus in Switzerland. Since October 2007, 200 living birds have been sampled and tested negative in that region.

Outbreak summary: Total outbreaks = 1 (Submitted)

Species	Susceptible	Cases	Deaths	Destroyed	Slaughtered
Wild species	6	1	0	0	0

Epidemiology

Epidemiological comments

There was no evidence for a suspicion of HPAI at the moment of sampling as neither clinical signs nor an increase in morbidity or mortality could be observed in the area (neither in wild birds, nor in backyard or farmed birds). Monitoring samples are typically analysed in batches, explaining why the result was obtained only recently and notified with a delay of approximately one month. The sequence determined (303 BP) showed high homology to the viral sequences found in Eastern Europe in 2007. The obtained sequence at the hemagglutinin A cleavage site revealed that the H5N1 strain detected was highly pathogenic and the pathogenicity index could not be determined.

In the past five weeks after sampling, no increased morbidity or mortality was observed in wild or domestic birds in the area of Lake Sempach nor in other regions of Switzerland. Proportionately to its wild bird population, Lake Sempach is the best monitored water place in Switzerland, as it is the home base of the Swiss Ornithological Station.

Nevertheless, measures were taken in line with the Swiss and European Union legislation and disease notification to the European Committee and to the OIE was done, since the information about this isolated, random finding might be of importance to the scientific community and to policy makers.

Source of the outbreak(s) or origin of infection • Unknown or inconclusive

Control Measures

No Control Measures	Animals treated	No
Vaccination Prohibited	Yes	

Country / Zone

Country or zone the whole country

Diagnostic test results

Laboratory Type	Name of Laboratory	Species	Test Type	Date Results Provided	Result
National laboratory	Institut für Viruskrankheiten und Immunprophylaxe (IVI)	Wild species	polymerase chain reaction (PCR)	26/03/2008	Positive

Future Reporting

What further reports will be submitted in relation to this event? The event is resolved. No more reports will be submitted.

Outbreak map

