



SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

Public Service Announcement

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Melvin J. Baker, Chairman – 970.563.2320

Summer Begay, Communication Specialist – 970.563.2313

FOR RELEASE: October 16, 2025

Avian Influenza Advisory: Staying Safe Around Wild Birds

Southern Ute Indian Reservation: The Southern Ute Division of Wildlife Resource Management is monitoring a recent detection of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), or “bird flu,” in wild birds within the Reservation boundary. While HPAI can affect wild and domestic birds, **the risk to human health is very low**. This notice is intended to provide clarity and guidance to help protect the Tribal Membership, our Reservation, and the beings we live alongside.

What You Should Know:

HPAI is a virus that spreads among birds, especially when flocks of wild birds congregate during migration seasons. It can be transmitted through contact with infected birds, droppings, or contaminated surfaces.

What We Are Doing:

Wildlife staff are actively monitoring and testing affected birds. We are working closely with veterinarians and public health partners to protect wildlife and the community.

How You Can Help

- Report sick or deceased birds to the Division of Wildlife at 970-563-0130
- Avoid handling wild birds
- Keep domestic birds away from wildlife and outdoor water sources
- Do not consume products from exposed birds
- Wash hands and clean footwear after outdoor activities

Stay Informed, Stay Safe

Seeing sick or deceased birds can be distressing, but outbreaks like this are not unusual during migration. The Tribe is taking proactive steps, and your awareness helps. Updates will be shared as available.