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Media alert from the Media Scanning & Verification Cell, IDSP-NCDC.

Alert ID	Publication Date	Reporting Date	Place Name	News Source/Publication Language
6127	29.03.2021	30.03.2021	Kangra Himachal Pradesh	The Hindu English Newspaper 29 th March, 2021/Page No. 10
Title:	27 migratory birds found dead at wildlife sanctuary in district Kangra, Himachal Pradesh			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU-Kangra, SSU-Himachal Pradesh			

Avian influenza (H5N1) led to the death of over 5,000 migratory birds in the Pong Dam Wildlife Sanctuary area in Kangra district

As many as 27 migratory birds have been reported dead on account of avian influenza in Himachal Pradesh's Pong Dam Wildlife Sanctuary area since March 25, setting off alarm bells and forcing authorities to shut down the sanctuary.

Archana Sharma, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (wildlife), told The Hindu on Sunday that 14 migratory birds, mostly bar-headed geese, were found dead in the sanctuary on March 25.

"Another 12 birds were found dead over the next two-days. We have sent the samples to Regional Diseases Diagnostic Laboratory in Jalandhar. Any confirmation about presence of avian flu could be ascertained only after the reports have come," she said.

Save Water- Save Life, Save a tree- Don't print unless it's really necessary!

Disclaimer:- This is a media alert subject to verification.

**Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), National Centre for Disease Control,
Ministry Of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India**

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“At this time of the year, the migratory birds are on their way back to their breeding grounds in central Asia. Some of them may be infected because immunity levels are low as they are coming from different wetlands. We are assuming that it could be avian influenza — H5N1 or H5N8 — but until the reports come nothing can be confirmed,” she said.

“As a precautionary measure, we have closed the sanctuary area for now. The wildlife wing of the Forest department is working actively to monitor the situation and field staff has been directed to maintain strict vigil and active surveillance on the situation,” added Ms. Sharma.

Earlier in January this year, avian influenza (H5N1) led to the death of over 5,000 migratory birds in the Pong Dam Wildlife Sanctuary area in Kangra district of the State.

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