

Managing Disease Cases in the Philippines



As reported by [Dr. Rizza Araceli F. Salinas](#)

[Biodiversity Management Bureau](#)

[Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippines](#)

to the [South-East Asia Wildlife Health Network Meeting](#):

[Empowering Wildlife Trade Authorities to Protect Wildlife Health](#)

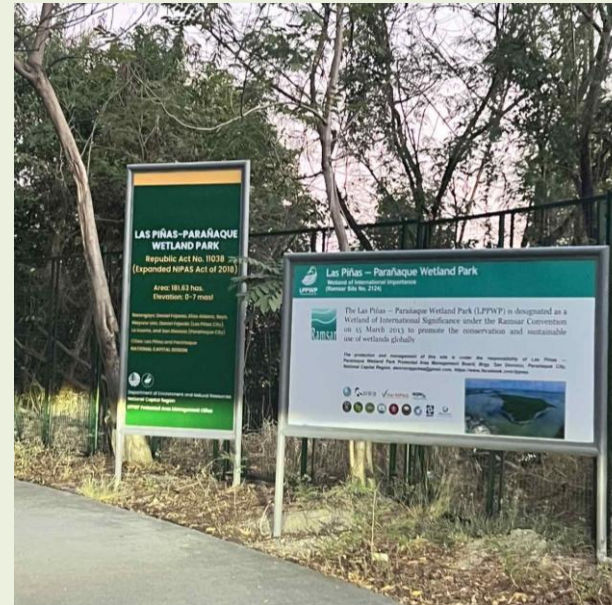
August 4-6, 2026, Singapore

Background

- Wildlife disease surveillance (WDS) is a routine procedure conducted and accomplished by regional field personnel of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).
- The Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) has been conducting WDS since 2018.
- Reference/Guide: Procedure on the Conduct of Wildlife Disease Surveillance (Non-Lethal Collection of Samples for Laboratory Examination)
- Samples are tested at the Department of Agriculture (DA) Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) – Animal Disease Diagnosis and Reference Laboratory (ADDRL) or the Regional Animal Disease Diagnosis Laboratory (RADDL)
- Target species: wild birds and bats; wild pigs (opportunistic)

Case number 1

- During a routine wildlife disease surveillance activity on March 26-28, 2025
- Total of 82 samples collected, 2 were positive for the avian influenza subtype H5N1
- Red shank (*Tringa tetanus*) and an clamorous reed warbler (*Acrocephalus stentoreus*)

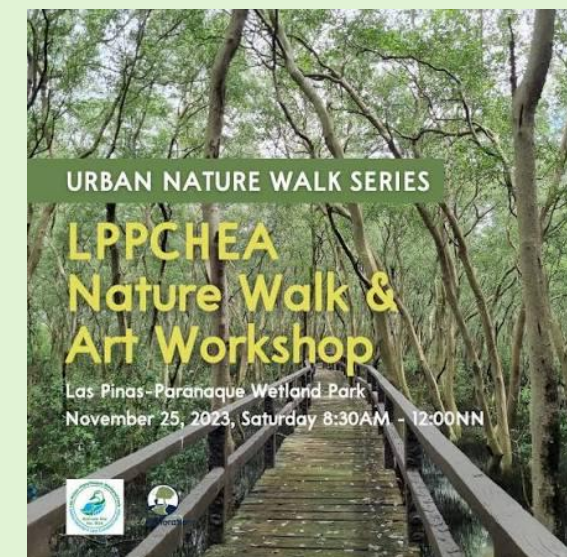


first detection of AI virus on wild birds



The Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park (LPPWP), recognized under the Ramsar Convention, is a globally significant wetland supporting migratory birds, mangroves, and wildlife along Manila Bay. As one of Metro Manila's remaining coastal wetlands, it is vital to urban biodiversity—providing habitat, shoreline protection, and refuge for nature in the city.

 The Protected Area Management Office of the
LAS PIÑAS-PARAÑAQUE WETLAND PARK



Risk management measures implemented

- Called for an emergency Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) meeting
- Board members included: DENR National Capital Region; other government agencies; Civil Society Groups/Non-Government Organizations; Local Government Units; Academe; Private Sector
- Sought the advice and recommendations of the members of the Philippine Inter-Agency Committee on Zoonosis (PhilICZ)
 - Department of Health
 - Department of Agriculture
 - Department of Environment and Natural Resources



Actions Taken (One Health approach)

- Temporary closure of the wetland park to tourists
- Issuance of a public advisory: on-going wild bird health assessment
- Collection of additional samples
 - From wild birds on site
 - From susceptible species within the 1-km radius
- Interview, monitoring and prophylactic medication/vaccination among Park staff

All of the additional samples were NEGATIVE of the virus.

None of the staff developed any sign/symptom.

Case has been reported to WOAHA.

Challenges Encountered

- Fear of the “label” associated with positive avian influenza cases
 - Conflicting interests
 - Proper message to be conveyed
- Cooperation of the local community to have their animals tested

Key Lesson Learned

- Communication, cooperation and timely sharing of accurate data and information play significant roles in managing the case

Next case

- Positive detection of Avian Influenza Subtype **H5** on 23 February 2026 in a hyacinth macaw (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*)
- Captive breeding facility within Metro Manila
- Laboratory examination was part of the requirements prior to transport
- 19 samples were submitted, only 1 was positive



Risks involved

- Being a captive breeding facility:
 - Disease transmission to other birds
 - Animal caretakers getting infected
- Trade/transport concerns

Agencies involved

- Breeding facility management
- DA-BAI-ADDRL
- DENR-BMB

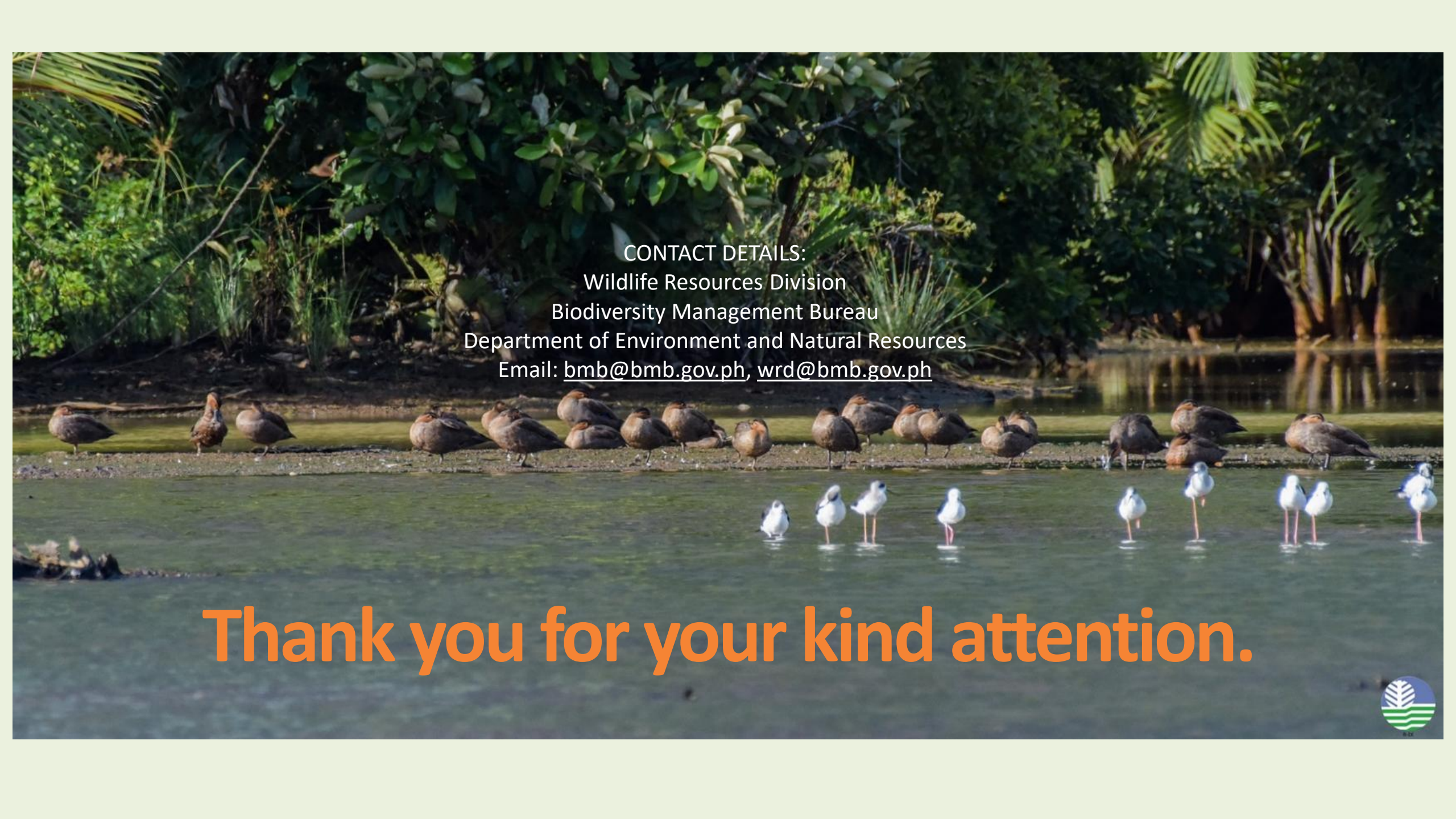
Risk management measures implemented

- Immediate recollection and retesting of the H5-positive bird, as well as all other birds co-housed in the same area
- Suspend all bird transport until supplemental negative test results are confirmed
- Continuous monitoring of the facility's bird population
- Strengthen facility-wide biosecurity protocols, including rigorous cleaning and disinfection

All of the additional samples were NEGATIVE of the virus.

The 18 birds were cleared for export.

Positive bird was prohibited from export,
until negative results for 2 consecutive PCR results.



CONTACT DETAILS:
Wildlife Resources Division
Biodiversity Management Bureau
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Email: bmb@bmb.gov.ph, wrд@bmb.gov.ph

Thank you for your kind attention.

