

Species Data Sheet: Red Knot

Canada's Inter-Agency Wild Bird Influenza Survey — 2006

The goal of the survey is twofold: to characterize the strains of avian influenza viruses and to ensure early detection of highly pathogenic avian influenza strains in wild birds in Canada. Expanding on the 2005 nation-wide survey of influenza virus strains of wild ducks, this survey places a greater focus on birds that migrate regularly between Canada's North Atlantic region and Europe or that spend some part of their year in close proximity to birds that winter in Europe. The expansion of the survey complements work being carried out in the United States, which is surveying western (Pacific Flyway) populations.



Species: *Calidris canutus islandica*
Red Knot (Iceland subspecies)

Photograph © Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada
(G. Morrison, Environment Canada).

Reason for inclusion in the Wild Bird Influenza Survey

The Iceland subspecies of Red Knot is a primary target for the survey, as it is a trans-Atlantic migrant. It breeds in eastern Arctic Canada and Greenland and travels to the North Sea in Europe to overwinter.

Migratory range

While the Red Knot as a species is more famous for its long journeys from the Canadian High Arctic to the tip of Tierra del Fuego in the southern hemisphere, the Iceland subspecies is unusual in that it is one of the few Canadian breeders to travel to Europe to overwinter. These Red Knots fly by way of Iceland to the northern coast of the Netherlands and Germany, where they gather in the tens of thousands during August and September. Following a moult, they move west to winter in bays and estuaries of the United Kingdom; some also spend the winter on the coast of France and perhaps Portugal.

Dates in Canada

Red Knots are in Canada from May through August.

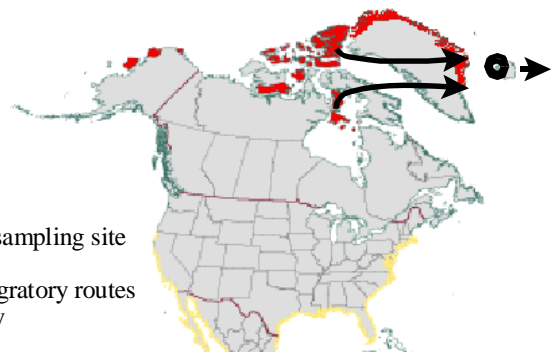
Canada's Inter-Agency Wild Bird Influenza Survey Partners

The survey is coordinated by the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre. Partners include the Public Health Agency of Canada, the Canadian Food Inspection

Agency, Environment Canada, provincial/territorial representatives of public health, animal health, and wildlife, the Centre for Coastal Health, Ducks Unlimited Canada, and the government of Iceland.

Species Range

- Breeding Only
- Wintering Only
- Approximate location of sampling site
- General post-breeding migratory routes of Iceland subspecies only



Contacts

Survey Director:
Dr. Ted Leighton
Room 1622, Veterinary Medicine Building
52 Campus Drive
Saskatoon, SK S7N 5B4
Telephone: 306-966-7281
Ted.Leighton@usask.ca

Migratory Birds:
Canadian Wildlife Service
Environment Canada
70 Cremazie St.
Gatineau, QC K1A 0H3
Telephone: 819-997-2800
or 1-800-668-6767
Fax : 819-994-1412
enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca

The Red Knot is protected in Canada under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994*, administered by the Canadian Wildlife Service.