

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

Species Data Sheet: Semipalmated Sandpiper

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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 pusilla* Semipalmated Sandpiper

Photograph © C. Gratto-Trevor

Reason for inclusion in the Wild Bird Influenza Survey

The Semipalmated Sandpiper is a secondary target species for the survey because it may contact trans-Atlantic migrant geese or Red Knots on the Canadian breeding grounds.

Migratory range

The Semipalmated Sandpiper, like most of our shorebirds, travels to Central America or South America for the winter. In the summer it is found in Canada's northern Arctic region, mainly on the mainland, but also on some of the southern islands of the Arctic archipelago. Yearlings normally remain in the south for their first summer, returning only when they are two years old.

Dates in Canada

Semipalmated Sandpipers are in Canada, either on the breeding grounds or in migration, from April to October.

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
- Approximate location of Canadian sampling site
- ➔ General post-breeding migratory routes



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

Catalogue no. CW66-265/9-2006E-PDF ISBN 0-662-43522-2

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