



Pigeon Paramyxovirus

February, 2016



What is Pigeon Paramyxovirus?

Pigeon paramyxovirus (PPMV-1) is a specific type of avian paramyxovirus that primarily affects doves and pigeons. It is endemic in the United States, but was first found in wild birds in Wyoming in May of 2014 when it caused a die-off of Eurasian collared doves in Green River. From May 2014 to January 2016, this virus has been identified in Eurasian-collared doves from Green River, Cheyenne, Ft. Laramie, Douglas and Casper, as well as a mourning dove from Pine Bluffs.

Species Affected in Wyoming

- Eurasian collared doves (invasive species).
- Potentially native doves (mourning doves, band-tailed pigeons).

What to Look For

- Die-offs of doves, with 3 or more birds found dead in a small area.
- Sick birds that do not fly away when approached.

Transmission

PPMV-1 is spread by direct contact between birds. Control of the disease includes limiting congregation of birds by removing bird feeders and bird baths, and disposing of carcasses. PPMV-1 has been isolated from one mourning dove in Pine Bluffs, but large die-offs of mourning doves have not been reported. While all die-offs of wildlife (3 or more animals/birds) should be promptly reported, even single mourning dove deaths should be reported in areas where PPMV-1 is active.

Public Health Considerations

Although PPMV-1 has not been reported to infect humans, other avian paramyxoviruses can cause mild conjunctivitis (pinkeye) in humans that have directly handled infected birds. If instructed to dispose of carcasses by wildlife authorities, wear gloves or use a bag to pick up the carcasses. Dispose of the carcasses in an outdoor, closed-lid dumpster and immediately wash hands. Birds may be carrying other diseases of concern. Never handle sick or injured wildlife. Avian paramyxoviruses are not known to cause disease in non-avian domestic animals such as dogs and cats, but other diseases may be present in carcasses. Always prevent pets from eating carcasses.

How to report sick or dead birds

To help further our understanding of this disease and its distribution across the state, we request that you report sick or dead birds to your local WGFD wildlife biologist, game warden, or WGFD office. For additional information on PPMV-1 or any other wildlife disease, please contact the WGFD Wildlife Health Laboratory.