


THE SCOTSMAN

Fri 9 Dec 2005

Migrating wild birds 'not to blame' for spread of flu

RUSSELL JACKSON

MIGRATING wild birds are not to blame for spreading bird flu west into Europe from Asia, a worldwide body of conservation experts said yesterday.

Contrary to reports about the potential for migrating birds to spread the virus, BirdLife International, a leading authority on birds and their habitats, claims wild birds are "victims" - and not carriers - of the disease.

The organisation said that as the migrating season draws to a close, the bird flu epidemic predicted for this autumn and winter has failed to materialise.

Dr Michael Rands, chief executive of Birdlife International, said: "The most obvious explanation is that migrating wild birds are not spreading the disease. Migratory wild birds were blamed for spreading bird flu west from Asia, yet there has been no spread back east, nor to South Asia and Africa this autumn. The hypothesis that wild birds are to blame is simply far from proven."

The organisation is calling on the government and agencies dealing with outbreaks not to blame wild birds and to concentrate instead on the poultry and caged bird trades.

It has proposed a series of measures aimed at halting the spread of the disease, including banning poultry and poultry products from infected areas and stopping use of poultry faeces as fertiliser and feed in fish farms and agriculture.

Web links

- [Dept of Health - pandemic flu](http://www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/EmergencyPlanning/PandemicFlu/fs/en)
<http://www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/EmergencyPlanning/PandemicFlu/fs/en>
- [WHO - Bird Flu fact sheet](http://www.who.int/csr/don/2004_01_15/en/)
http://www.who.int/csr/don/2004_01_15/en/

Related topic

- [Bird flu](http://news.scotsman.com/topics.cfm?tid=161)
<http://news.scotsman.com/topics.cfm?tid=161>

This article: <http://news.scotsman.com/topics.cfm?tid=161&id=2373722005>

Last updated: 09-Dec-05 01:35 GMT



Ads by Google

[Protect against bird flu](#)

Vira 38 - Inhibits bird flu virus No prescription needed. 40% savings
www.prbpharmaceuticals.com

[Infectious Diseases are a](#)

Major Cause of Death Worldwide. Learn More - You Can Help!
globalhealth.org

[New Zealand Site](#)

Features 110,000 Members. Discover Why It's So Popular!
www.smilecity.co.nz
