

# 'Birds Falling From The Sky': Nonprofit Confirms At Least 35 Snow Geese Test Positive For Bird Flu In Lehigh Valley

By Rose Itzcovitz 69 News

PA - A wildlife nonprofit in the Poconos has confirmed dozens of snow geese in various parts of the Lehigh Valley have tested positive for H5N1, which is also known as the bird flu.

This, as the Pennsylvania Game Commission announced it suspects bird flu killed hundreds more.

"I have never seen it this bad," Janine Tancredi said.

Tancredi, the co-executive director of The Wilderz at Pocono Wildlife, has been spending the past few days doing the tough part of her job.

"We're euthanizing on arrival," she said. "We don't really have a choice."

She and her team found hundreds of birds already dead, she said, when they arrived to a quarry in the Nazareth area on Thursday.

"People were reporting like birds falling from the sky," Tancredi said. "And it seems far-fetched, but because they become so neurologically disabled, they don't know their whereabouts. They're flying into trees. They're flying into houses."

She says over the past few days, over four sites in the Nazareth area, and one in the Bethlehem area, every snow goose her team has tested for H5N1 — that's at least 35 birds — has come back positive.

"So, at the first place, there was 15 dead on arrival," she said. "We had to euthanize one."

Tancredi added some of the sites were private property, and owners did not want the locations to be made public, but she says residents within the areas were notified.

She also said she believes the total number of those affected is "probably more like thousands."

Her findings came as the Pennsylvania Game Commission just announced the deaths of 200 snow geese in the Lehigh Valley are suspected to be bird flu cases.

The game commission said results are yet to be confirmed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at its National Veterinary Services Laboratories.

Tancredi said it's unlikely those cases are anything but the "highly pathogenic avian influenza," as H5N1 is known, considering the game commission recovered the geese from Lower Nazareth Township in Northampton County and Upper Macungie Township in Lehigh County.

"Less than 4 miles from the location that they all tested positive," Tancredi said.

Still, the Pennsylvania Department of Health says it, along with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, are "confident" the current outbreak "poses a low risk to the health of the general public."

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture said the commonwealth has been on "high alert" since the outbreak that happened in 2022, and stated:

"To date, there have been no infections in...humans in Pennsylvania."

But the virus is particularly contagious and lethal to domestic poultry, the Pennsylvania Game Commission said.

"It doesn't matter how clean you are," Tancredi said. "I mean, somebody can be going out there, the reality is, five times a day and cleaning their chicken coop, and it takes one bird to fly over that is contaminated and droppings and there's exposure."

So what should we be doing? Officials say to avoid contact with bird feces and saliva, where the virus is spread.

Tancredi said organic materials can't be disinfected, but hard surfaces should be cleaned with a 10% bleach solution, or what's called Rescue Disinfectant.

If you have a dog, consider staying away from waterways, and maybe buy some dog booties on Amazon.

"I know it's like extreme," Tancredi said, "but would you rather avoid walking your dog for the next several months? Because this is not going to be over soon."

If you see any dead birds or other animals — or if any look disoriented to you — officials urge you not to touch them, but to report them to the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

You can call 1-833-PGC-WILD (1-833-742-9453), or email [pgc-wildlifehealth@pa.gov](mailto:pgc-wildlifehealth@pa.gov) or use the online Wildlife Health Survey tool.



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### Bangor Area School District 2025-2026 Kindergarten Registration

**Do you know a child who will be 5 on or before August 25, 2025? If so, register for kindergarten and follow these three steps:**

**A complete registration must be submitted by Monday, August 18, 2025 to guarantee a first day start on Monday, August 25, 2025.**

**1**

**Gather Your Documents**

- Parent/Guardian Photo Identification
- Proof of child's birth date
- Two Proofs of Residency

**One proof from List A:**

- Mortgage agreement
- Lease agreement
- Rent payment receipts (with address)
- Property tax payment receipts
- Moving permit

**One proof from List B:**

- Utility bill with current address (dated within the last 3 months)
- Paycheck stub with employer and employee's address
- Current voter registration with Bangor residency address
- PA Driver's license with Bangor residency address
- PA vehicle registration with Bangor residency address

**2**

**Register**

Visit [www.bangorslaters.com](http://www.bangorslaters.com) OR

[Register Online Here](#)

**If you do not have access to a computer or cell phone, please call District registration at 610-588-2163 to schedule a time to complete it at the District office.**

**To complete registration all documents must be:**

Uploaded online OR Submitted to the registration secretary.

**Once online registration is complete and approved by the registration secretary, Five Points Elementary School will contact you to schedule a kindergarten screening appointment.**

**3**

**Attend Screening Appointment**

**Kindergarten screening appointments for the 2025-2026 school year are in June.**

**All screenings are by appointment only, and are only scheduled when the online registration process is complete and approved by the registration secretary. Completed packets must be received and approved no later than May 15, 2025 to guarantee a June screening appointment.**

**When attending the appointment be sure to bring...**

- Your child(ren).
- Photo Identification to verify parent/guardian identity.
- Any other updated documents.

- Immunization Record
- Physical Exam Record
- Dental Exam Record