

Thank you for wanting to help injured wildlife!

Western South Dakota has incidence of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) (Spring 2023). We expect it to die back in the heat of summer, and return full force in the colder months. It is almost always fatal in raptors (hawks, owls, eagles, falcons, and vultures).

In order keep the Black Hills Raptor Center avian ambassadors safe, and still help raptors that are found injured, please do the following:

1. Get the bird in a box with an old towel in the bottom. No hay, straw or grass, please. A cloth towel or a paper towel.
2. Call Town and Country Veterinary Clinic at 605-430-7513 and inform them you want to bring them an injured bird of prey.
3. During transport, keep things quiet. The bird is already stressed, and you want to minimize its stress.
4. Town & Country staff will arrange to meet you at a set time at 580 Seger Dr, Rapid City.
5. Dr. Burke will run a test for HPAI.
6. If the bird is found to not be sick with HPAI, it will come to us for care.
7. If the bird is sick with HPAI, it will be humanely euthanized and the body disposed of correctly to help end the spread of the disease.

If you do not feel comfortable picking up the bird, please call Maggie at 605-391-2511. She will arrange a volunteer to come get the bird, if you can provide a specific location.

Do NOT bring the bird to the Black Hills Raptor Center. This is only to protect the ambassadors we work with. As soon as we know the bird is cleared of HPAI, it will come here for care.

We will not run the tests on any species other than birds of prey. The tests are expensive, and we must be thoughtful with the money provided by our donors.

If you want to know more about HPAI, please go here:

<https://umnadvet.instructure.com/courses/524>