

Emerging Bird Disease - Bird Feeding and Monitoring Protocols

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What is Happening

- Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) has found an unidentified disease that is impacting blue jays, common grackles, starlings, and robins
 - **Symptoms include:** Eye swelling, crusty discharge from eyes, neurological issues, death
- At this time, it does not appear that other species are impacted/infected
- **Cease feeding birds and empty/remove bird baths in the infected counties**

Positive (Infected) Counties

- Boone, Bullitt, Campbell, Jefferson, Kenton, and Madison
- Other states have also seen the issue: Indiana, Maryland, Ohio, Virginia, and West Virginia

Outside of Known Positive Counties

- Clean your feeders and bird baths immediately and then weekly thereafter with a 10% bleach solution
- Monitor the birds visiting your feeders for the signs of sickness listed above
- Keep pets away from sick or dead birds as a precaution

- If you are concerned about the disease you can wear disposable gloves while filling and cleaning your feeders to help reduce risk
- Monitor KDFWR Website (<https://fw.ky.gov/>) and the Bird Mortality Event Webpage (<https://fw.ky.gov/Wildlife/Pages/Bird-Mortality-Event.aspx>) for more information as it becomes available

What Should You Do If You Find a Potentially Infected/Sick Bird?

- If you notice a potentially sick bird immediately remove the any feeders, dispose of the seed in a plastic bag and place in an outdoor trash receptacle, then clean the feeders with a bleach solution
- Fill out a report for KDFWR found at <https://www.research.net/r/2021KYSickBirdReports>
- Do not handle birds unless absolutely necessary
 - Use disposable gloves if you have to handle a sick or dead bird
 - Place dead birds in a sealable plastic bag and dispose in an outdoor trash receptacle



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Issued 7-2021