

Managing waterfowl



Avian Influenza Key Facts

- Waterfowl (geese, swans, **ducks**) terns, gulls and shorebirds are natural reservoirs for avian influenza (AI) A viruses. **Native ducks** and **migratory waders** are the biggest concern to Australian poultry farmers.
- Low-pathogenic AI can develop into highly-pathogenic AI within poultry.
- Waterfowl shed AI in their droppings, so it is **vital** that they are kept away from sheds and ranges as faeces can easily be spread in dirt, dust, shoes and water.



AVIAN INFLUENZA IS A
NOTIFIABLE DISEASE IN ALL
STATES AND TERRITORIES.

IF YOU SUSPECT AI ON THE FARM
CONTACT A VET **IMMEDIATELY**
OR THE EMERGENCY
ANIMAL DISEASES HOTLINE
1800 675 888

Developing a strategy to deter waterfowl

PASSIVE deterrent strategies are most effective and **must be in place** on the farm at all times. Additional **ACTIVE** strategies should be used to scare away any waterfowl that attempt to land in 'no-go' zones as this will minimize the use of the deterrents and keep them effective for longer.

PASSIVE	ACTIVE
Ensure that the farm is unattractive for waterfowl.	Eliminate or reduce waterfowl through scaring tactics.
Exclusion Keep fences and other barriers maintained to prevent waterfowl and other animals accessing the range, production system or farm.	Biosonics/Bioacoustics Have proven to be effective as a short-term deterrent but long-term efficacy is not confirmed. The acoustic signals played need to be species-specific. (e.g. BirdXpeller Pro V2™).
Habitat modification • Minimize access to water, food and roosts in and near shed and range areas. • Keep grass low as it's a potential food source for ducks. • Eliminate non-essential water storages on the farm and cover all water storage that is necessary. • For dams or large bodies of water there are a few products on the market which can cover the surface of the water, making it impossible for birds to land (e.g. Bird Balls™, Armor Balls™). • Where possible, encourage neighbours to cover dams or similar water bodies which attract waterfowl. • Netting of the range area is an effective way to keep out waterfowl, but generally cost prohibitive.	Dogs Providing biosecurity risks are managed, dogs can be an ideal deterrent for waterfowl.
	Lights Lights which mimic moving flashlights (e.g. Foxlights™) have been used successfully in the Australian rice industry and may present a cost-effective deterrent for range areas.
	Radar- activated systems These systems detect bird movement and trigger a deterrent response (e.g. a strobing light) to scare away waterfowl. Commercial LiDAR systems are available such as the Leddar™ system.
	<i>Effigies, flags and reflective tape have limited long-term efficacy as the birds get used to them.</i>

For the full Avian Influenza Guidelines go to:

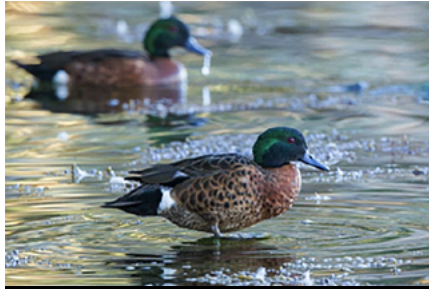
www.australianeggs.org.au/for-farmers/resources/avian-influenza-guidelines



Birds to look out for



Australian Wood Duck



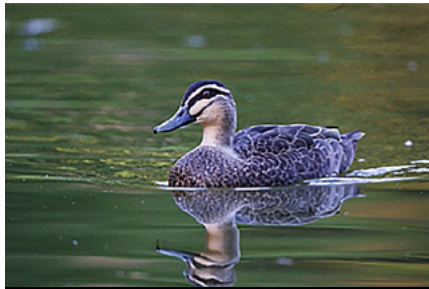
Chestnut Teal



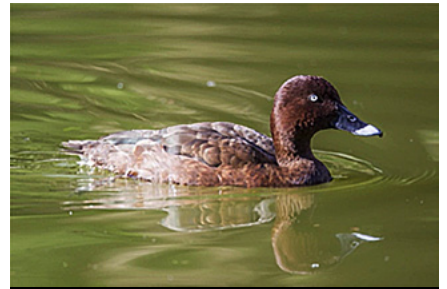
Wandering Whistling-Duck



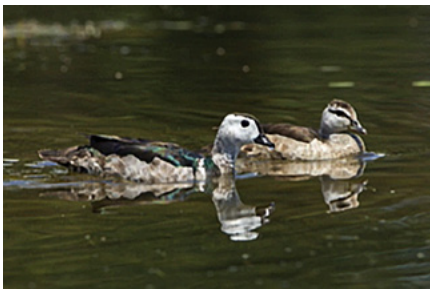
Plumed Whistling-Duck



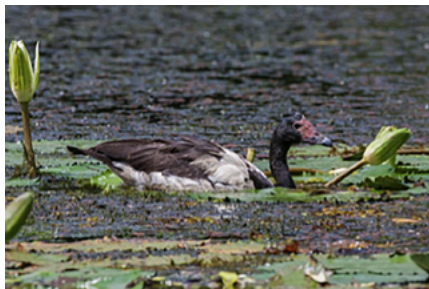
Pacific Black Duck



Hardhead



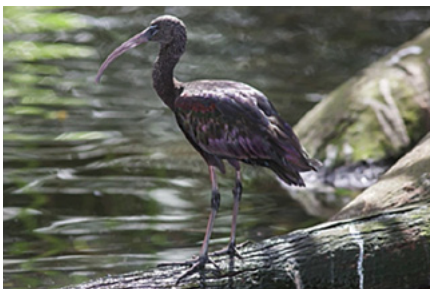
Cotton Pygmy-Goose



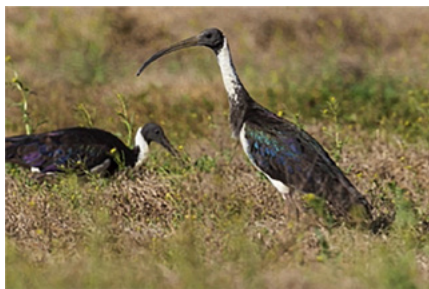
Magpie Goose



Australian Bin Chicken



Australian Glossy Bin Chicken



Straw-necked Ibis



Cattle Egret



Rufous Night Heron



White-necked Heron



White-faced Heron