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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Avian Flu Not Impacting Feeder Birds
South Dakota, United States

The Wild Bird Feeding Institute has been diligently monitoring the outbreak of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza virus [HPAI A(H5N1)] outbreak in the United States and Canada. To date, there have been no recorded cases in this outbreak of any generic feeder birds contracting the Avian Influenza Virus, and the only wild birds reported to have been infected have been waterfowl, water birds, shorebirds, and birds of prey that consume infected birds.

WBFI encourages any bird feeding hobbyists that have waterfowl frequenting their bird feeders, or poultry nearby, to remove feeders temporarily. The United States Department of Agriculture reports that “Removing backyard feeders is not something the USDA specifically recommends preventing avian influenza unless you also take care of poultry.”

The CDC reports a “low threat” for the risk of humans contracting Avian Flu. “Transmission from wild birds that visit backyard feeders to the humans that feed them are extremely low,” WBFI’s partnered researcher Jenna McCollough stated in her February Avian Flu Report, “Regardless of disease outbreaks, backyard bird feeding enthusiasts should always wash their hands after coming in contact with their bird feeders and clean surfaces wild birds touch (feeders, baths, preferred perches) regularly.”

The Wild Bird Feeding Institute always encourages and supports regular care of your feeders for the health and safety of birds, especially during migration season. For helpful tips and resources on how to care for your feeder visit wbfi.org/feedsmart.

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About WBFI

The Wild Bird Feeding Institute (WBFI) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to connecting people with nature through the hobby of bird feeding. WBFI is international, but primarily serves members in the U.S. and Canada through education, awareness, research, and conservation partnerships.

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