

Alaska Center for Climate and Health E-News
Raising Awareness about Climate Change Impacts on Public Health
No. 53, January 28, 2011

Canadians Research Mysterious Bird Disease (January 24, 2011) A new bird disease has arrived in Canada's Arctic, one so lethal it can kill thousands of ducks in a dense colony in a lightning-fast outbreak. Eider ducks stricken with avian cholera can die so fast that they remain upright on their eggs, eyes open. Some fall out of the sky, dead. Others survive unharmed, surrounded by corpses. [Ottawa Citizen](#)

E-News Note: *During a trip to Kivalina this week, I was informed that a large number of dead ducks were just found near town. This reminded me of the recent article in the Ottawa Citizen. If other readers have observed die-off events of birds, in Alaska please let us know.*

Here is some information about reporting dead or sick birds in Alaska. You can call the USFWS Bird Hotline at: 1-866-527-3358. According to [ADF&G](#), the investigation of sick or dead wildlife is handled on a case-by-case basis. They also have a contact number for the ADF&G Wildlife Veterinarian in Fairbanks: 907-459-7257 or email dfg.dwc.vet@alaska.gov

Loss of Weather Observers Worries Alaska Pilots (January 24, 2011) Two dozen manned weather sites across Alaska are getting a closer look by the National Weather Service, and aviators are worried about losing what they say is vital weather data for flying around or over dangerous terrain. [Anchorage Daily News](#)

Climate a Factor in Lemming Population (August, 2010) The public health community is interested in how climate may effect lemming populations and their potential to spread infectious disease. A study by the University of Tromso in Norway finds that lemming population explosions are triggered by low temperatures. [National Academy of Sciences](#)

Melt Season a Record in Greenland; (January 21, 2011) New research shows that 2010 was a record melt season for the Greenland Ice Sheet, stretching up to 50 days longer than average expected. Melting of these ice sheets is expected to be a major contributor to projected sea level rises in coming decades [ScienceDaily](#)

Alaska Climate Events Map, Weekly Updates (January 28, 2011) [See our Google Map](#) The Climate and Health E-News is received by people interested in climate change impacts on Arctic health. To be added to the list or to view past editions, visit our website.

Regards - Mike

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Safe, Healthy, Sustainable Communities

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