

Threat of bird flu hangs over Europe

The deadly bird flu virus which has killed at least 88 people, mostly in south-east Asia, has made its first appearance on European Union soil, with confirmation of the H5N1 strain in wild birds from Greece, southern Italy and Bulgaria

1 July 2005: Cases of H5N1 strain of bird flu confirmed in **Siberia**. Carried by migratory birds, virus spreads towards western **Russia**

6 Jan 29, 2006: H5N1 strain confirmed in sample from poultry in northern **Cyprus**

2 Oct 13: Turkey confirms H5N1 in domestic birds. Virus later spreads to several provinces, causing four human deaths in Jan 2006

3 Oct 15: Wildfowl deaths in **Romania's Danube delta** confirmed as first incidence of H5N1 in mainland Europe

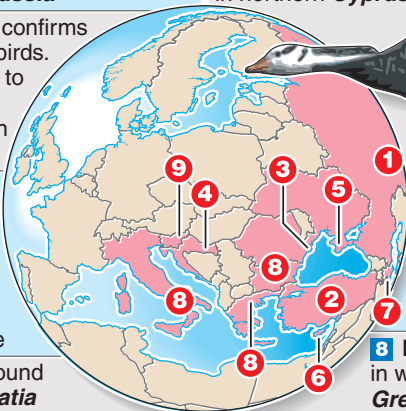
4 Oct 26: H5N1 found in wild birds in **Croatia**

5 Dec 3: First outbreak of bird flu among poultry in **Ukraine's** southern **Crimea** region

7 Feb 10: First H5N1 outbreak reported in wild birds in **Caspian Sea** region of **Azerbaijan**

8 Feb 11: Virus found in wild swans in **Italy, Greece** and **Bulgaria**

9 Feb 12: Further tests being carried out on H5 virus found in wild swan in **Slovenia**, close to Austrian border



Bar-headed goose