

Avian Conservation Center

The Center for Birds of Prey

SPECIAL CLOSING NOTICE

The Avian Conservation Center / Center for Birds of Prey **will be CLOSED TO ALL VISITORS** until March 8, 2022, as we elevate our biosecurity protocols to help ensure the health of the birds in our care after Avian influenza was detected in low levels in wild waterfowl in Colleton County.

Two herring gulls recently admitted to the Medical Clinic presented with neurologic symptoms and subsequently died in our care. The gulls were transferred to the Clemson University Veterinary Diagnostic Center for testing and were determined to have been infected with avian influenza.

Out of an abundance of caution, the Center invited Clemson University Livestock Poultry Health, Office of the South Carolina State Veterinarian, and assessed the Center's bird enclosures and facilities and reviewed our biosecurity measures. We are happy to report that our current bird population is showing no clinical signs of avian influenza and we have strengthened biosecurity protocols to keep them safe from the threat of future infection.

Under strict and enhanced biosecurity terms, the Center will continue to receive injured birds until a change in circumstances warrants a revision to that policy.

We apologize for this unexpected shift on such short notice but trust that you will understand our responsibility is to keep the health and welfare of the birds held at the Center as our top priority.

If you purchased tickets to visit the Center, we will be in contact with you to reschedule or provide refunds.

While this virus remains active in South Carolina's wild bird population, we may need to take further safety precautions that could impact our hours of operation or visitor access in the future. We will communicate any future changes through our website and social media platforms.

We thank you for your patience as we work to maintain the health of our birds.
