

Introduction of Avian Influenza-related Research on Wild Birds at the National Institute for Environmental Studies

Manabu Onuma

Chief Senior Researcher, National Institute for Environmental Studies

The highly pathogenic avian influenza virus is a pathogen that causes mass mortality in poultry and is also a causative agent of zoonotic diseases. There were also reports of mass mortality events of wild birds caused by this virus, which raises concerns about its impact on biodiversity. The National Institute for Environmental Studies has conducted surveys on this virus in migratory birds, improved the sensitivity of virus detection, and assessed the risk of the virus infection in wild birds. We have also attempted to evaluate the pathogenicity of highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses in endangered species using cultured cells. In this presentation, the results of these studies will be presented.