

## Macro Roundup Article

**Headline:** [Bird Flu Is Infecting More Mammals. What Does That Mean for Us?](#)

**Article Link:** <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/04/22/health/birdflu-marine-mammals.html>

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**Tweet:** [H5N1 is killing tens of thousands of marine mammals across South America and has likely evolved to spread directly among that population.](#)

**Summary:** A highly pathogenic strain of H5N1 was identified in 1996 in domestic waterfowl in China. The next year, 18 people in Hong Kong became infected with the virus, and six died. The virus then went silent, but it resurfaced in Hong Kong in 2003. Since then, it has caused dozens of outbreaks in poultry and affected more than 800 people who were in close contact with the birds. All the while, it continued to evolve. The version of H5N1 currently racing across the world emerged in Europe in 2020 and spread quickly to Africa and Asia. It killed scores of farmed birds, but unlike its predecessors, it also spread widely among wild birds and into many other animals. In the mink, at least, the most likely explanation was that H5N1 had adapted to spread among the animals. The scale of the outbreaks in sea mammals in South America underscored that probability. Related: Bird Flu Outbreak in US Cows: Why Scientists Are Concerned and How the Current Bird Flu Strain Evolved to be So Deadly and Bird Flu Sample from Chilean Man Showed Some Signs of Adaptation to Mammals

**Primary Topic:** Science

**Topics:** News article, Science

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