

BIRD DISEASE UPDATE: DEC 2013

Saint Lawrence Island, Alaska

During late November, numerous murrelets, auklets, and fulmars washed up on beaches at Saint Lawrence Island. Lab results indicate these birds have a common bacterial infection that affects birds, called *Pastuerellosis* or “avian cholera”. Every year it kills thousands of waterfowl in the US and worldwide but seeing an event like this is new to our region. It is not related to a different disease in people with a similar name. We need your help in reporting any dead birds.



DON'T WAIT: PLEASE REPORT DEAD BIRDS

If you find dead birds, please contact:

- Gay Sheffield: **1-800-478-2202** or **443-2397** (UAF-MAP, Nome)
- Brandon Ahmasuk: **443-4265** (Kawerak, Nome)
- Peter Bente: **443-8188** (ADF&G Division of Wildlife Conservation, Nome)
- Kimberlee Beckmen via email dfg.dwc.vet@alaska.gov (ADF&G Wildlife Veterinarian, Fairbanks)

SAFE HANDLING

- Do not eat sick birds, birds with white spots on the liver, or birds that have died from unknown causes.
- Wear rubber gloves when picking up dead birds.
- Wash your hands in warm soapy water to prevent infection through cuts in your skin or from touching your mouth.
- Wash or throw away your gloves after use.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Take photos using your cell phone or camera and call in what you saw!
- Please report: Date, Location or GPS Coordinates, Species, number of birds