WILD BIRDS THREAT POULTRY INDUSTRY

By
Zakia A M Ahmed, Ehsan Y. Bashandy and M.A. Kamal
Department of Veterinary Hygiene and Management, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Cairo University, Giza 12211, Egypt

SUMMARY

Wild and migratory birds cross one or more national boundaries and use various habitats (marshes, grain stores, pasture and other water bodies). This will create novel foci of emerging or reemerging bacterial diseases that posing public health hazards, along bird migration routes. The role of wild birds as reservoir hosts for some Zoonotic pathogens as disseminator for E. coli, S. typhimurium and S. enteritidis is evident. The higher genetic similarity between two E. coli serotypes belonged to human O128:K67 isolate and Dove O26:K60 strain supported an evidence of interspecies transmission of zoonotic E. coli. The adaptation of Mycoplasma gallisepticum, MG to a free-flying avian species presents potential problems for the control of mycoplasmosis in commercial poultry. Both wild and captive ostriches, emus and rheas may be infested with their own specific parasites as well as with external and internal parasites of other birds, some parasites of ruminants and raccoons. The isolation of VVND virus from wild birds during ND outbreaks in poultry has led to the suggestion that wild birds could be important vehicles for the spread of the disease in the country. Such information is necessary for strategic planning for ND control in the country. Avian poxviruses that infect garden birds are probably specific to those wild species affected. The disease could potentially be transmitted to poultry, cage or aviary birds. Poultry owners, who have affected wild birds in their gardens, can reduce the risk of infection spreading to their captive birds. Employing measures to reduce their birds’ exposure to biting insects where feasible; prevent contact between captive and wild birds as far as possible; ensure wild bird feeders and water baths are inaccessible to captive birds; and wash and disinfect their hands thoroughly after handling wild bird feeders or equipment.

Keywords:
Wild bird, reservoir, poultry production