



# ***National Wildlife Health Center***



**MADISON, WISCONSIN**

**Dr. Scott D. Wright**  
**Disease Investigations Branch Chief**

# An Early Detection System for Asian H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Wild Migratory Birds

- Investigation of Morbidity and Mortality Events in Wild Birds



# What is a Morbidity and Mortality Event?

- aka: die-off, disease outbreak, epizootic or epornitic
- Event can result from infectious and non-infectious factors
- ***Usually*** involves many individuals of a species in the same geographic area over a short time period

# **Why do we conduct a disease investigation of a mortality event?**

- **It is important to know what limiting factors are affecting wild populations**
- **The investigation can provide the opportunity to discover new pathogens**
- **More information leads to better understanding and better management of wildlife**

# How does a disease investigation work?

- Communication is a **critical first step**
- All questions are worth asking
- First contact is the Field Investigation Team
- **608-270-2400**  
that's  
**608-270-2400**





# How does a disease investigation work?

What are we looking for:

- Significant population impacts
- Undocumented species or locations
- Species of special concern or unique disease presentations
- High profile (legal, political, etc)

Questions? **Call 608-270-2400**

# How does a disease investigation work?

- **You help us by** providing *information*
- A good description of the area, animals involved. Photos are nice too.
- List of species affected and numbers involved
- Think back to events in the area that may contribute to the situation



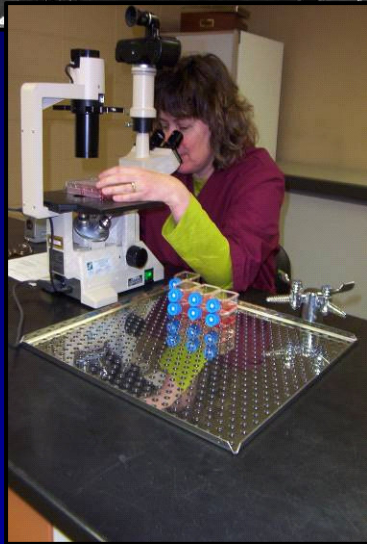
# How does a disease investigation work?

- **You help us by** collecting *carcasses*
- Fresh is best, if you would eat it, send it
- If it can't be shipped soon, freeze it
- If several species are involved, send a good mix of carcasses
- If you have any questions please call us
- **608-270-2400**

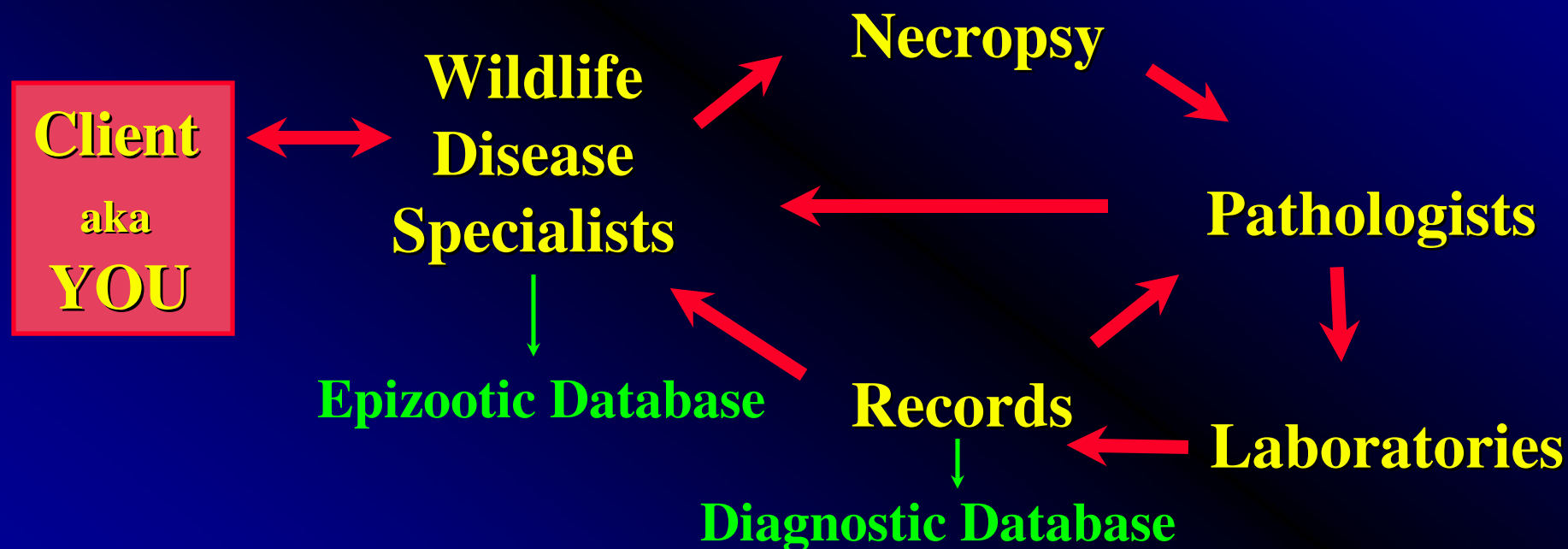




# What do we do with the stuff you send us?



# The Process



# Training Training Training



**Questions? Call 608-270-2400 Ask for Rex**