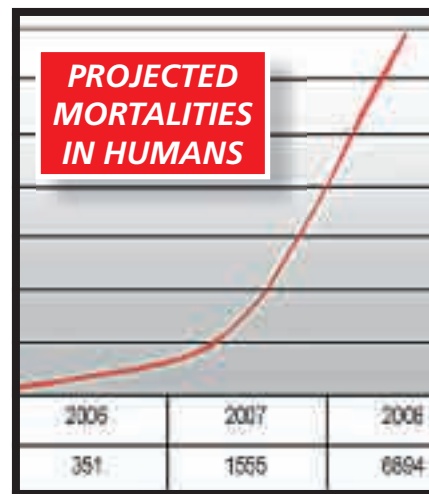
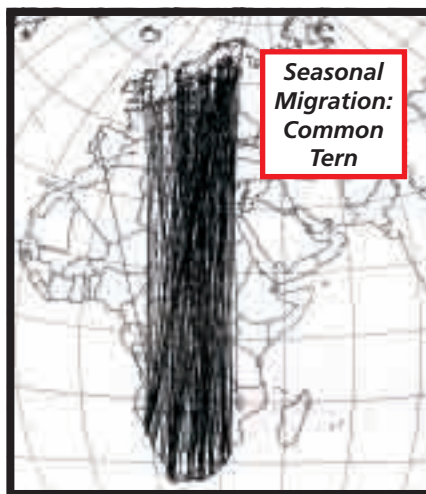


AVIAN Flu



SA WINGSHOOTERS announces Early Warning Programme

An early warning programme for the Asian variant of H5N1 Avian Flu in South Africa is to be established in South Africa. SA Wingshooters is working with scientist Celia Abolnik of the Onderstepoort Veterinary Research Institute and is setting up a work group of experts to ensure national co-ordination of the programme. The Avian Flu Early Warning Programme will involve the setting up of a national network of

wingshooters who will act as voluntary field officers to collect samples of gamebirds and wild waterbirds for analysis.

This was announced this week by the executive chairman of SA Wingshooters, Dr Raoul van der Westhuizen. He said Avian Flu is spread globally by migrating wild birds and the earlier the arrival in South Africa of the Asian strain of H5N1 virus is detected, the earlier proper control measures can be

taken to limit public exposure.

He said: 'As wingshooters we are in close contact with gamebirds, especially waterfowl, which are the first point of contact with migrating wild birds such as terns and waders. Any of our members, especially waterfowlers, who wish to volunteer as field officers must please contact me at the SA Wingshooters office (012-346.1220).'



WINGSHOOTING

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