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Genetic evidence supports sporadic and independent introductions of subtype H5 low pathogenic avian influenza A viruses from wild birds to domestic poultry in North America

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1 **Genetic evidence supports sporadic and independent introductions of subtype H5**
2 **low pathogenic avian influenza A viruses from wild birds to domestic poultry in**
3 **North America**

4

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29 **Running title:** Introduction of H5 LPAIVs into US domestic poultry

30 **Key words:** low pathogenic avian influenza; subtype H5; wild birds; domestic poultry;
31 backyard poultry; live bird market; dabbling duck; goose; swan; evolutionary network;
32 reassortment; phylogenetic; United States

34 **Abstract**

35 Wild bird–origin influenza A viruses (IAVs or avian influenza) have led to
36 sporadic outbreaks among domestic poultry in the United States (US) and Canada,
37 resulting in economic losses through the implementation of costly containment practices
38 and destruction of birds. We used evolutionary analyses of virus sequence data to
39 determine that 78 H5 low pathogenic avian influenza viruses (LPAIVs) isolated from
40 domestic poultry in the US and Canada during 2001–2017 resulted from 18 independent
41 virus introductions from wild birds. Within the wild bird reservoir, the hemagglutinin
42 gene segments of H5 LPAIVs exist primarily as two co-circulating genetic sublineages,
43 and our findings suggest the H5 gene segments flow within each migratory bird flyway
44 and among adjacent flyways, with limited exchange between the non-adjacent Atlantic
45 and Pacific Flyways. Phylogeographic analyses provided evidence that IAVs from
46 dabbling ducks and swans/geese contributed to emergence of viruses among domestic
47 poultry. H5 LPAIVs isolated from commercial farm poultry (i.e. turkey) were descended
48 from a single introduction typically remain a single genotype, whereas those from live
49 bird markets sometimes led to multiple genotypes, reflecting the potential for
50 reassortment with other IAVs circulating within live bird markets. H5 LPAIV introduced
51 from wild birds to domestic poultry represent economic threats to the U.S. poultry
52 industry, and our data suggest that such introductions have been sporadic, controlled
53 effectively through production monitoring and a stamping-out policy, and are, therefore,
54 unlikely to result in sustained detections in commercial poultry operations.

55

56

58 **Importance**

59 Integration of viral genome sequencing into influenza surveillance for wild birds
60 and domestic poultry can elucidate evolutionary pathways of economically costly poultry
61 pathogens. Evolutionary analyses of H5 LPAIVs detected in domestic poultry in US and
62 Canada during 2001–2017 suggest that these viruses originated from repeated
63 introductions of IAVs from wild birds, followed by various degrees of reassortment.
64 Reassortment was observed where biosecurity was low and there were opportunities for
65 more than one virus to circulate existed (e.g. congregations of birds from different
66 premises such as live bird markets). None of the H5 lineages identified were maintained
67 long term in domestic poultry, suggesting that management strategies have been effective
68 in minimizing the impacts of virus introductions on US poultry production.

69

70

71

72 **Introduction**

73 Influenza A viruses (IAVs) are single-stranded, negative sense RNA viruses with
74 eight genomic segments. Wild waterbirds, especially migratory waterfowl, such as geese
75 and ducks, along with gulls and shorebirds are purported to be the natural reservoir for
76 IAVs of the hemagglutinin (HA) subtypes H1–16 and neuraminidase (NA) subtypes N1–
77 9. IAVs are maintained in wild waterbirds, and those of low pathogenicity result in
78 enteric infections with rare evidence of clinical illness. In contrast, IAVs typically result
79 in respiratory disease in gallinaceous birds, such as chickens and turkeys; clinical signs
80 and disease severity vary and are strain-dependent. Subtypes H5 and H7 low pathogenic
81 avian influenza A viruses (LPAIVs) demonstrate the potential to evolve from low to
82 highly pathogenic avian influenza A viruses (HPAIVs) through increased HA cleavability
83 by acquiring multiple basic amino acids (1-3) or insertions (4-8) at the cleavage site
84 during replication (8, 9). H5 and H7 HPAI causes high mortality among domestic poultry
85 leading to large economic losses.

86 Reassortment is another mechanism that can contribute to the generation of novel
87 and economically costly IAVs in domestic birds. For example, H7N9 and H10N8 IAVs
88 recently identified in China appear to have wild bird–origin HA and NA genes and
89 internal genes from IAVs circulating among domestic poultry (10, 11). Both of these
90 reassortant viruses have been associated with human disease that may have resulted from
91 contact with infected birds at live bird markets (LBMs). A H7N9 IAV that most likely
92 resulted from reassortment of H7, N9, and H9N2 avian IAVs has caused >1,566 human
93 infections and at least 613 deaths in China (11, 12); a H10N8 avian-origin IAV also

94 originated from reassortant of H10N8 and H9N2 IAVs in LBMs and caused human
95 infections (10, 13).

96 In the United States (US) and Canada (collectively referred to as North America
97 for the purposes of this study), poultry production systems include large commercial
98 poultry farms (CPFs), backyard poultry operations (BYPs), game bird poultry farms
99 (GBPs), and LBMs. CPFs are defined as large-scale commercial poultry farms
100 with >1,000 domestic birds per year. BYPs are defined as residential farms raising small
101 flocks of domestic birds; these, typically produce $\leq 1,000$ birds per year. GBPs are poultry
102 operations raising small flocks of game birds, such as pheasants and quail, often released
103 for sport harvest. LBMs are operations that typically supply live birds for on-site
104 slaughter to consumers. Some, such as botanicas, may sell live birds as well. LBMs may
105 acquire birds from both non-CPF and CPF sources. In the US, CPFs are located primarily
106 in the southern and midwestern regions, while many LBMs are located in urban areas of
107 the western and northeastern regions; and BYPs and GBPs are present in all regions (14-
108 16).

109 Detections of IAVs in domestic poultry are not uncommon (17); wild bird–origin
110 IAVs are usually identified as the source of virus across a variety of North American
111 poultry production systems (3, 9, 17-21). In rare cases, LPAIVs circulating in LBMs have
112 been associated with outbreaks at commercial farms (22). However, there is limited
113 information regarding the evolutionary patterns of IAVs detected in North American
114 poultry. Such information is necessary to improve our collective understanding of the
115 natural reservoirs (location and wild bird taxa) in which viruses that ultimately lead to
116 poultry outbreaks are maintained, how evolutionary mechanisms for IAVs might vary

117 between poultry production systems, and the frequency with which IAVs are shared
118 among CPFs, BYBs, GBPs, and LBMs.

119 In this study, we genetically characterized and compared inferred evolutionary
120 pathways of 78 H5 LPAIVs from the US and Canada during 2001–2017. This study
121 seeks to explore the evolutionary pathways of IAVs that move from wild birds into
122 domestic poultry. Better understanding of viruses at this interface will help improve
123 influenza surveillance and management strategies, reduce economic and animal losses,
124 and decrease opportunities for the generation of novel pathogens including those that can
125 infect humans and cause pandemic influenza threats.

126

127 **Results**

128 **H5 LPAIVs were sporadically detected in CPFs and LBMs.** In this study, an isolate is
129 defined as an IAV recovered from wild birds or domestic poultry, and an introduction is
130 defined as a case of IAV infection in domestic poultry; one or more isolates may be
131 recovered from the same introduction. A total of 78 H5 LPAI isolates from domestic
132 poultry in North America during 2001–2017 were included in the study. Isolates were
133 recovered from CPFs (n = 11), BYPs (n = 3), GBPs (n = 2), and LBMs (n = 62) (Table 1).
134 H5 isolates were identified on CPFs in turkey (n = 11, commercial turkey growers are
135 indoor operations with curtain-sides); from BYPs in a mallard duck, a domestic duck and
136 a guinea fowl; from GBPs in a pheasant and a quail; and in LBM samples collected from
137 domestic ducks (n = 42), chicken (n = 7), guinea fowl (n = 6), turkey (n = 1), quail (n =
138 2), pheasant (n=1), and unknown species (n = 3) (Table 1). Based upon the inferred
139 phylogenetic relationships and nucleotide identities for the HA gene segment, these 78

140 H5 poultry isolations result from 18 independent introductions (details in Materials and
141 Methods) (Figure 1A; Figure S1. Among the 18 introductions, 5 were detected in CPFs, 9
142 in LBMs, 2 from a BYP, and 2 from a GBP (Figure 1A). Each introduction event was
143 identified by the operation type, state, year, and HA/NA subtype from the first isolate; for
144 example ‘CPF-WI-2017(H5N2)’ denotes an H5N2 event in commercial turkeys from
145 Wisconsin during 2017. Where more than one event occurred in a state within one year,
146 the events are distinguished by a letter; for example ‘LBM-NJ-2006(H5N2)a’ and ‘LBM-
147 NJ-2006(H5N2)b’ represent two independent H5N2 events in New Jersey LBMs during
148 2006.

149

150 **H5 LPAIVs from US and Canadian domestic poultry are of North American lineage**
151 **and share genetic ancestry with wild bird–origin IAVs.** Geographic lineage was
152 assigned based upon phylogenetic analyses of the HA gene for the 78 H5 LPAIVs; we
153 considered this lineage to be comprised primarily of four distinct sublineages (Figure 1B).
154 A total of 70 of the 78 domestic poultry isolates characterized in this study, as well as the
155 majority of the wild bird–origin H5 LPAIVs identified in the US and Canada from 2001
156 to 2017 clustered within sublineages 1 and 2. Viruses causing enzootic outbreaks of IAVs
157 among domestic poultry in Mexico are clustered in sublineage 3, whereas IAVs
158 circulating in both wild birds and domestic poultry in the US and Canada during 1966–
159 1990 were grouped in sublineage 4 (Figure 1B). Eight additional H5 subtype IAVs
160 identified in poultry from the US and Canada, along with a relatively small number of
161 wild bird–origin IAVs isolated from samples collected during 1987–2008, clustered in
162 clades not assigned to these four sublineages (Figure 1B).

163 We used the relationships inferred by phylogenetic and nucleotide sequence
164 identities to further distinguish genetic groups within sublineages 1 and 2. The 78 H5
165 isolates from North American poultry clustered into 18 distinct genetic groups. Five
166 genetic groups contained isolates detected in domestic birds sampled on CPFs, nine
167 genetic groups contained isolates detected in birds sampled from LBMs, two genetic
168 groups contained isolates detected in birds sampled from BYPs, and two genetic groups
169 contained isolates detected in birds sampled from GBPs. For most poultry isolates (67%),
170 nucleotide sequence identity at the HA gene segment of H5 LPAIVs was >99% similar to
171 that for wild bird–origin viruses (Figure 1B; Figure S1; Table S1); however, within a
172 genetic group, the poultry isolates were most similar to each other, suggesting a common
173 introduction event with subsequent spread (Figure S1). Based upon this analysis, each of
174 the 18 genetic groups was determined to represent discrete introduction events of IAVs
175 from wild birds to domestic poultry. Additionally, only one production system was
176 affected in each of the 18 inferred introduction events (e.g., CPFs, BYPs, GBPs, or LBMs)
177 (Table 1).

178 Based upon phylogenetic analyses, the NA and internal gene segments of the H5
179 LPAI from poultry (including CPFs, LBMs, GBPs and BYPs) were genetically diverse
180 (Figure 2). Phylogenetic analyses also identified potential precursor strains for 15 of the
181 18 purported introductions; three events were excluded: CPF-CA-2002(H5N2) had an
182 incomplete genome, LBM-NY-2016(H5N2) lacked wild bird progenitor genes and LBM-
183 NY-2007(H5N2) lacked wild bird precursors (Table 2). For 13 of the inferred
184 introductions, potential wild bird progenitor strains shared similar phylogenetic positions
185 in tree topologies with high nucleotide sequence similarity for 3 to 4 gene segments

186 (Table 2). Potential wild bird progenitor viruses across all eight gene segments were
187 identified for two purported introductions: a Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*) virus for
188 CPF-MO-2016(H5N1) and an American wigeon (*Mareca americana*) for BYP-OR-
189 2006(H5N2) (Table 2).

190

191 **Geographic and temporal patterns of H5 LPAIV lineages in North America.** Fifteen
192 of the 18 introductions were detected in only one flyway: seven within the Atlantic
193 Flyway (one CPF and six LBM detections), three within the Mississippi Flyway (two
194 CPF and one BYP detection); one in the Central Flyway (a CPF detection); and four
195 within the Pacific Flyway (one CPF, one BYP, and two GBP detections). The remaining
196 three introductions were LBM-associated detections in the Atlantic and Mississippi
197 Flyways. Of the LBM events, eight were genetically related other IAVs detected in
198 Canadian provinces or US states (Table 1).

199 To further evaluate gene flow for the H5 HA gene segment, we performed
200 phylogeographic analyses for viruses in sublineages 1 and 2. Viruses in sublineage 1,
201 which included viruses associated with 13 introduction events, were predominantly from
202 the Central (5.36%), Mississippi (31.07%), and Atlantic (63.57%) Flyways. Most
203 (81.03%) of the viruses in sublineage 2, associated with three introduction events, were
204 from wild birds sampled within the Pacific Flyway (Figure 1C). Two events were not
205 associated with either lineage 1 or 2: CPF-CA-2002(H5N2), and LBM-NY-2007(H5N2),
206 the latter of which involved seven LPAIVs detected during 2007–2009. Bayesian
207 analyses of viruses in sublineage 1 and 2 indicated unilateral or bilateral state transitions
208 suggestive of H5 HA gene flow among the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways

209 and among the Mississippi, Central, and Pacific Flyways (Bayes factor >3). However,
210 no state transitions suggestive of H5 HA gene flow were supported between the Atlantic
211 and Pacific Flyways (Bayes factor <3 , no significant transition was observed) (Table S2;
212 Figure S2). In summary, phylogeographic analyses suggested H5 HA gene flow across
213 adjacent or nearby flyways but not between the Atlantic and Pacific Flyways.

214
215 **H5 LPAIVs detected in domestic poultry are likely descendant from those in**
216 **dabbling ducks or geese/swans.** To understand whether specific hosts were associated
217 with virus introductions detected in domestic poultry, we categorized bird host species
218 into 9 functional groups based on taxonomic and ecologic attributes: dabbling duck,
219 diving/sea duck, goose/swan, gull/tern/seabird, raptor, shorebird, other avian, unknown,
220 and poultry (see Materials and Methods section for details). Phylogeographic analyses
221 were performed to estimate Bayes factors between the domestic poultry viruses and
222 viruses from each functional group. A combination of Bayes factor ≥ 3 and mean
223 indicator ≥ 0.5 was used as the threshold of statistical significance; a larger Bayes factor
224 indicates a higher probability that a specific functional group is associated with an
225 introduction event (3, 23).

226 Using phylogeographic analyses, we assessed the genetic origins for 16 of the 18
227 purported introduction events; two events were excluded: CPF-CA-2002(H5N2) had an
228 incomplete genome, and LBM-NY-2016(H5N2) lacked related wild bird samples. Our
229 results suggest that IAVs in wild waterfowl (dabbling ducks, swans/geese, or diving/sea
230 ducks) were the probable progenitor for at least one viral gene segment for 15 of 16
231 investigated introduction events; no probable wild bird IAV progenitor was identified for

232 LBM-NY-2007(H5N2) (Tables S3 and S4). Neither gulls/terns/seabirds nor raptors were
233 supported as probable sources of gene segments for H5 IAVs detected in domestic
234 poultry, and shorebirds were supported as a probable progenitor for only one gene
235 segment for a single introduction event [MP gene of CPF-VA-2007(H5N1)]. Dabbling
236 ducks, in particular, were associated with numerous gene segments from North American
237 poultry viruses, including all gene segments of viruses involved in the following
238 outbreaks: CPF-WI-2017(H5N2) (Bayes factor 6.59 to 35.12), CPF-MB-2010(H5N2)
239 (Bayes factor 3.24 to 189.74), LBM-NJ-2015(H5N1) (Bayes factor 4.65 to 138.71),
240 LBM-NY-2006(H5N2) (Bayes factor 6.89 to 1,244.25), and LBM-NJ-2006a(H5N2)
241 (Bayes factor 12.21 to >10,000) (Table S4). For recent introductions (2015–2017): CPF-
242 WI-2017(H5N2) was associated with dabbling duck origin viruses across all eight
243 segments (Bayes factor 6.59 to 35.12) (Table S3); CPF-MO-2016(H5N1) was associated
244 with goose/swan origin viruses across six segments (PB2, PB1, PA, HA, MP, and NS)
245 (Bayes factor 15.69 to 149.91) (Figure 3; Table S3); and LBM-NJ-2015(H5N1) was
246 associated with dabbling duck viruses (HA and NA; Bayes factor 53.98 and 8.12,
247 respectively), diving/sea duck virus (NP; Bayes factor 169.25), and goose/swan virus (NS;
248 Bayes factor 9.55) (Table S3). Functional groups associated with all eight gene segments
249 were identified for only four of the 18 purported introductions into North American
250 poultry during 2001–2017. Among them, all gene segments were associated with
251 dabbling duck, goose/swan, or unknown functional groups (Tables S3 and S4).

252
253 **H5 LPAIVs in LBMs have potential opportunities for reassortment.** The opportunity
254 for reassortment exists whenever two or more viruses circulate simultaneously. For CPFs,

255 only a single genotype was associated with each introduction event, whereas, multiple
256 genotypes were identified among viruses associated with two of the LBM introductions
257 [LBM-NY-2006(H5N2) and LBM-NJ-2001(H5N2)]; (Figure 2). Neither LBM virus was
258 found to be related to other poultry introduction events in this study. Reassortment may
259 have played a role in the evolutionary pathways of viruses associated with LBM-NY-
260 2006(H5N2) and LBM-NJ-2001(H5N2). Phylogeographic analyses suggest that viruses
261 from several functional groups may have contributed to the evolution of viruses detected
262 in LBMs (Table S4). The viruses from the unknown group could include other reservoirs
263 (e.g. wild bird) for which we lack data or uncontrolled viruses in the LBMs. Thus, these
264 H5 viruses can be associated with a single introduction of H5 gene, but NA or internal
265 genes could be associated with viruses (all HA/NA subtypes rather than only H5 subtype)
266 that may circulate in LBMs or with introductions from other reservoirs (e.g. wild birds).

267 Compared with H5 viruses detected on CPFs, those detected in LBMs were more
268 temporally and spatially diverse. For example, four LBM introductions events included
269 detections over several years and/or multiple states [LBM-NJ-2007(H5N2), LBM-NY-
270 2006(H5N2), LBM-NJ-2006(H5N2)b, and LBM-NJ-2001(H5N2)], whereas CPF
271 introduction events did not occur across years.

272

273 **Temporal gaps exist between emergence and detection of H5 LPAIVs in domestic**
274 **poultry in North America.** The temporal gap between the time of H5 virus introduction
275 into poultry and flock detection was estimated. Molecular clock analysis was used to
276 determine the time of most recent common ancestor (TMRCA) between inferred wild
277 bird progenitors and poultry isolates, and documented detection dates were obtained for 9

introduction events (Table 3). Estimated temporal gaps for three CPF introductions were 146, 80, and 142 days (average 123 [± 37 standard deviation] days) (Table 3). The temporal gaps for seven LBM introductions varied from 97 to 487 days (average 231 [± 137 standard deviation] days) (Table 3).

Discussion

We investigated evolutionary pathways for 78 H5 LPAIVs detected in North American domestic poultry across CPFs, BYPs, GBPs, and LBMs during 2001–2017; our data suggest that the events were the result of 18 discrete virus introductions from wild birds. The H5 LPAIVs from North American poultry in this study share ancestry with viruses circulating among wild waterfowl, a finding generally consistent with those from other investigations of outbreaks in US poultry production systems (3, 9, 17–21). Our findings support that H5 LPAVs maintained in certain wild bird species represent an ongoing threat to domestic poultry in North America.

A previous study investigating the ancestral origins of H7 HPAIV reported among turkeys in Indiana, US, suggested that IAVs from diving ducks were associated with evolution of the virus ultimately introduced into the CPFs resulting in an outbreak (3). Our results show limited evidence for diving duck–associated IAVs contributing to the ancestry of H5 IAVs detected in North American poultry; instead, we found proportionally more evidence for contributions from dabbling ducks and geese/swans (Figure 3; Table S4). These findings suggest multiple potential evolutionary pathways for IAVs that are introduced to domestic poultry, and they highlight one of the challenges for avian influenza surveillance in wild birds: identifying the most pertinent wild bird species

301 to target for sample collection to obtain meaningful reference information for better
302 understanding the emergence of IAVs among poultry (24, 25).

303 We explored the time and location of H5 IAV introductions detected in various
304 poultry production systems, including multiple introductions into CPFs and LBMs but
305 did not identify any clear patterns for introductions. Instead, H5 IAV introductions
306 appeared to be sporadic throughout the year and occur in states/provinces in multiple
307 regions of the US and Canada. However, it is possible that the number of purported H5
308 introductions identified in this study was too small to detect patterns or that our data were
309 of insufficient resolution to accurately identify the true times/locations of introduction
310 events.

311 Our results suggest that sublineages of contemporary North American–origin H5
312 gene segments have different geographic distributions: sublineage 1 was predominantly
313 detected in the Atlantic Flyway but was also detected at a lower frequency in other
314 flyways, whereas sublineage 2 was most frequently detected in the Pacific Flyway but
315 was also identified at lower relative abundance in other flyways. Recent genomic
316 evidence indicates that viruses initially have modest fidelity to migratory bird flyways;
317 however, over multiple years, IAV lineages tend to disperse flyways (26, 27).
318 Sublineages 1 and 2 have been co-circulating in wild birds in the North America since
319 2002, so their restricted gene flow appears to be atypical. Post-hoc phylogeographic
320 analyses did not show similar geographic patterns for other HA gene segment sublineages
321 or for those of other genes (data not shown). Additional research is needed to identify
322 genetic barriers in North America for these two H5 sublineages.

323 Our results provide evidence that, compared with H5 IAV introductions in North
324 American LBMs, those in each CPF introduction had a single genotype and more recent
325 estimated TMRCAs with viruses circulating among wild birds. This may indicate that
326 poultry management activities in North America have successfully identified and quickly
327 stamped out low pathogenic H5 IAVs in domestic birds raised on CPFs before the viruses
328 have reassorted or become highly pathogenic. IAVs associated with introductions in
329 LBMs sometimes had more than one genotype and, compared with CPF-associated IAVs,
330 had longer mean TMRCAs with inferred wild bird predecessor viruses. Thus, viruses in
331 North American LBMs may have a longer opportunity to co-circulate with other IAVs
332 and subsequently form reassortants. Furthermore, the detection of genetically similar
333 viruses associated with a single introduction event across multiple years and US
334 states/Canadian provinces suggests that management activities relative to the detection
335 and stamping out of H5 IAVs may be less efficient in LBMs than on CPFs.

336 On the basis of our results, we propose a conceptual model (Figure 4) describing
337 generalized evolutionary pathways for low pathogenic H5 avian IAVs detected in North
338 American domestic poultry. Our results suggest that H5 viruses detected in domestic
339 poultry in the US and Canada are descended from IAVs circulating among wild birds,
340 typically waterfowl, that are periodically introduced into poultry production systems. It
341 appears that, on CPFs, H5 IAVs are detected relatively quickly through surveillance
342 efforts and that the viruses are effectively eradicated through slaughter and additional
343 preventative measures, as witnessed by apparent independent evolutionary pathways for
344 viruses of a single genotype associated with each introduction event. In contrast, our
345 study provides evidence that viruses in LBMs are not detected as rapidly as those on

346 CPFs and, therefore, may have a greater potential for genetic reassortment with other
347 wild bird–associated IAVs. The high mobility of birds sold in LBMs also facilitates the
348 geographic spread of viruses in the US states and Canada.

349 In summary, the apparent repeated introduction of H5 IAVs from wild birds to
350 domestic poultry in North America highlights the importance of avian IAV surveillance,
351 particularly at the interface of wild birds and domestic poultry. Proactive and strategic
352 surveillance covering multiple wild bird species and integrating genomic sequencing
353 approaches is critical to understanding the evolutionary pathways of IAVs; such
354 knowledge will be valuable in efforts to refine monitoring activities and optimize early
355 warning systems. In addition, our findings support the premise that avian H5 IAVs
356 introduced from wild birds present an ongoing threat to domestic poultry and can be
357 controlled effectively through management practices, particularly those implemented in
358 North American CPFs.

359

360 **Materials and Methods**

361 **Data.** To understand the genesis of low pathogenic avian H5 IAVs in North America, we
362 sequenced 37 isolates recovered from domestic poultry samples collected during 2001–
363 2017 (Table S5); 27 of the isolates were H5N2 viruses (including mixed viruses) from
364 LBMs, five were H5N2 viruses from CPFs, one was H5N2 virus from a BYP, one was
365 H5N2 virus from a GBP, and three were H1N1 viruses from turkeys ($n = 2$) and a chicken
366 ($n = 1$). Of note, if multiple isolates identified from the same case report had identical
367 genomic sequences, only one of the isolates was selected for this study. We analyzed
368 sequence data for these 34 poultry H5 isolates and 44 other North American poultry–

369 origin IAVs deposited in public databases (total of 78 H5 isolates) (Table 1). In addition,
370 we sequenced 127 H5 IAV isolates originating from wild birds (mostly during 2015 and
371 2016, n = 116) in 30 US states (Table S5); the isolates were from dabbling ducks (n = 94),
372 shorebirds (n = 16), geese/swans (n = 10), gulls/terns/seabirds (n = 3), diving/sea ducks
373 (n = 1), and unknown avian species (n = 3). Genomic sequencing and sequence assembly
374 were performed as previously described (3); the GenBank accession numbers are listed in
375 Table S5. The geographic, temporal, and host distribution of all viruses we sequenced are
376 shown in Figure S3. In this study, the IAVs from commercial flocks and LBMs were
377 isolated during poultry pre-movement monitoring activities, suspected IAV outbreaks or
378 surveillance activities; the IAVs from wild birds were isolated during active influenza
379 surveillance.

380 To perform systematic analyses, we retrieved the genomic sequences for all
381 avian-origin IAVs from the following public databases in April 2017: the Influenza Virus
382 Resources (28) (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genomes/FLU>), the Influenza Research
383 Database (29) (<https://www.fludb.org>), and GISAID (30) (<https://www.gisaid.org>). For
384 those viruses for which we obtained redundant sequences, we only included the longest
385 sequence contig per gene segment in analyses. In total, we used sequences from ~20,000
386 influenza viruses worldwide, including >9,000 IAVs of North American origin (Table
387 S6). Because our preliminary phylogenetic analyses of these genomic sequences
388 suggested that the low pathogenic H5 IAV isolates in domestic poultry were genetically
389 related to North American lineage IAVs (data not shown), we focused subsequent data
390 analyses only on sequences for IAVs detected in North America. The temporal and host

391 distribution of all viruses of North American origin included in this study are shown in

392 Figure S4.

393

394 **Sequence alignment and phylogenetic analysis.** Multiple sequence alignments were
395 generated using MAFFT v7.273 (31). Phylogenic analyses were performed using an
396 approximate maximum-likelihood method with a generalized time-reversible substitution
397 model and ‘CAT’ approximation rate model by using FastTree v2.1 (32). These
398 preliminary trees provided initial inference regarding tree topology among all sequences
399 in the public databases, specifically to differentiate gene segment sequences of North
400 American lineages from those of Eurasian lineages. A refined phylogenetic tree for each
401 gene segment was then re-constructed using a maximum-likelihood method by running
402 RAxML v 8.2.9 (33). A gamma model of rate heterogeneity and a generalized time-
403 reversible substitution model were used for these phylogenetic analyses, and
404 bootstrapping was conducted using the same rate and substitution model. Phylogenetic
405 trees were visualized by ggtree v1.6.11 (34) and FigTree v1.4.3
406 (<http://tree.bio.ed.ac.uk/software/figtree/>). Topologies of phylogenetic trees were
407 validated using MrBayes 3.2.7 (35), PAUP* 4.0 (36), and PHYLIP 3.6 (37).

408

409 **Genotype analyses and assignment of possible progenitor gene and potential**

410 **precursor viruses for low pathogenic H5 avian IAVs.** Genotypes for IAVs were

411 assigned through analyses assessing genetic similarity among viral genome constellations.

412 Gene segments were considered to be genotypically similar if they co-occurred in clades

413 with other gene segment sequences (as determined using inferred tree topology) with a
414 minimum bootstrap value of 70 and shared nucleotide sequence identities $\geq 95\%$ (18).

415 Possible progenitor gene segments and precursor viruses for H5 IAVs of North
416 American poultry origin were also assessed using tree topology and sequence identities.
417 Possible progenitor gene segments were inferred when the following criteria were met: 1)
418 the candidate gene segment shared a phylogenetic clade with a minimum bootstrap value
419 of 70 with a North American poultry gene segment; 2) the candidate progenitor gene
420 segment and North American poultry gene segment shared $\geq 98\%$ nucleotide sequence
421 identity; 3) the candidate gene segment shared the highest nucleotide sequence identity
422 with the poultry-origin IAV gene segment in its genetic cluster; and 4) the putative
423 progenitor gene segment was detected prior to detection of the North American poultry
424 IAV gene segment. A potential precursor virus was inferred when a virus had three or
425 more possible progenitor gene segments from an H5 IAV identified in North American
426 poultry.

427

428 **Definition of purported H5 introduction into North American poultry.** Multiple H5
429 IAVs detected in North American domestic poultry were inferred to have resulted from
430 the same introduction event if the following criteria were met: 1) the genetic sequence for
431 the H5 HA gene segment of these two viruses shared a common clade with a minimum
432 bootstrap value of 70; 2) the H5 HA gene segment of these two viruses shared $\geq 98\%$
433 nucleotide sequence identity; and 3) the nucleotide sequence identity shared with H5 HA
434 gene segments from IAVs originating from North American poultry was greater than that
435 shared with gene segments from wild bird-origin IAVs.

436

437 **Phylogeographic analyses to infer transition of viruses between wild birds and**
438 **domestic poultry and between North American migratory bird flyways.** To enable
439 inference of wild bird hosts associated with H5 IAV introductions in North American
440 domestic poultry, we performed phylogeographic analyses to assess support for
441 associations between specific functional groups of wild bird IAV hosts and H5 IAV gene
442 segments detected in domestic poultry. Hosts of influenza viruses were categorized into 9
443 functional groups: dabbling duck, diving/sea duck, goose/swan, gull/tern/seabird, raptor,
444 shorebird, other avian (i.e., American coot, double-crested cormorant, red-necked grebe,
445 rock dove, and western grebe; $n = 5$), and unknown (i.e., hosts for whom the species was
446 unclear or for which the domestic status was ambiguous, including ducks, geese, feces,
447 fowl, and poultry; $n = 22$). To minimize sampling bias, we balanced the number of
448 sequences in each host group by resampling: for each year, we randomly selected a
449 maximum of 10 sequences from each functional group.

450 Phylogeographic analyses were performed as previously described (3, 23). An
451 asymmetric substitution model with Bayesian stochastic search variable selection and a
452 strict clock model were applied in the analyses. We used Markov chain Monte Carlo
453 methods, setting the chain length to 100 million with sampling every 10,000 states. The
454 convergence of each run was checked by Tracer v1.6 (<http://beast.community/tracer>)
455 before continuing to the next step. All poorly configured states were removed according
456 to a 10% burn-in rate. After that, maximum clade credibility phylogenetic trees were
457 generated using TreeAnnotator v1.8.4 (38) (<http://beast.community/treeannotator>). Bayes
458 factor was calculated to indicate the statistical support level. Significant transition was

459 indicated by a combination of Bayes factor ≥ 3 and mean indicator ≥ 0.5 . Statistical
460 support levels were interpreted from Bayes factors as follows: Bayes factor < 3 indicates
461 no support; $3 \leq$ Bayes factor < 10 indicates support; $10 \leq$ Bayes factor < 100 indicates
462 strong support; $100 \leq$ Bayes factor < 1000 indicates very strong support; and Bayes factor
463 $\geq 1,000$ indicates decisive support. Maximum clade credibility phylogenetic trees were
464 visualized by FigTree v1.4.3 (<http://tree.bio.ed.ac.uk/software/figtree/>).

465 In addition to the above analyses on the potential sources of wild bird hosts for
466 the H5 IAV gene segments detected in domestic poultry, we also inferred the transition
467 patterns of influenza A viruses across North American migratory bird flyways. We first
468 designated each US state and Canadian province into either the Atlantic, Mississippi,
469 Central, or Pacific Flyway based on the administrative definition of North American
470 migratory bird flyways (<https://www.fws.gov/birds/management/flyways.php>) (Figure
471 1C). Phylogeographic analyses were then performed to assess support for transitions of
472 IAVs between among migratory bird flyways. To minimize the biases for sample
473 selection, we included all viruses in sublineages 1 and 2 (identified from phylogenetic
474 tree of H5 gene) in the phylogeographic analyses. Phylogeographic analyses and data
475 interpretation are the same as described above.

476
477 **TMRCAs estimation.** The Bayesian Markov Chain Monte Carlo method implemented in
478 BEAST v1.8.4 (38) was used to estimate the substitution rates and TMRCAs between
479 inferred predecessor HA gene segments of IAVs identified in the wild bird reservoir and
480 H5 IAVs detected in poultry for which specific dates of detection were available. SRD06
481 partitioned substitution model, uncorrelated lognormal relaxed clock model, and

482 Bayesian skyline coalescent tree prior were implemented in the molecular clock analyses.
483 Two independent runs with 100 million chain length (sampling frequency = 10,000) were
484 combined by LogCombiner v1.8.4 (<http://beast.community/logcombiner>) and then
485 analyzed by Tracer v1.6 using a 10% burn-in rate
486 (<http://tree.bio.ed.ac.uk/software/tracer/>).
487

488 **Accession number(s).** Sequence were deposited in GenBank under accession numbers
489 CY235315 to CY235322, KU310460 to KU310475, KY131302 to KY131333,
490 KY131357 to KY131364, KY550909 to KY550916, MF046190, MF046211, MF046222,
491 MF046227, MF046237, MF046275, MF046276, MF046280, MF046298, MF046299,
492 MF046306, MF046330, MF046351, MF046361, MF046366, MF046376, MF046389,
493 MF046403, MF046406, MF046412, MF046415, MF046416, MF046434, MF046442,
494 MF046448, MF046452, MF046468, MF046472, MF046481, MF046490, MF046496,
495 MF046504, MF046507, MF046509, MF046514, MF046523, MF046531, MF046536,
496 MF046544, MF046547, MF046556, MF046567, MF046570, MF359819 to MF359890,
497 MF613674, MF613685, MF613713, MF613716, MF613724, MF613731, MF613745,
498 MF613747, MF613753, MF613755, MF613762, MF613766, MF613772, MF613776,
499 MF613777, MF613792, MF613809, MF613812, MF613817, MF613823, MF613869,
500 MF613881, MF613903, MF613905, MF613918, MF613924, MF613928, MF613937,
501 MF613940, MH341739 to MH341906, and MH546139 to MH547031.

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506

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523

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525 ASB, TJD, MLK, SK, JMN, MKT, AMR, ABR, and DES collected data; LL and X-FW
526 performed experiments; LL and X-FW wrote the first draft of the manuscript; and ASB,
527 TJD, SK, JMN, MKT, AMR, ABR, DES, RJW, and X-FW revised the manuscript.

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- 650
- 651

Figure Legends

Figure 1. Detections of low pathogenic H5 avian influenza A viruses in domestic poultry in the United States and Canada (2001–2017). **A)** The temporal distributions of introductions of H5 viruses detected on commercial poultry farms (CPFs), backyard poultry (BYPs), game bird poultry (GBPs,) and in live bird markets (LBMs) during 2001–2017. An introduction was defined by a tree topology of the H5 gene with a bootstrap value ≥ 70 (Figure S1) and shared nucleotide sequence identity $\geq 98\%$. **B)** Simplified phylogenetic tree displaying general topology for North American sequence of influenza A viruses at the H5 hemagglutinin gene. The distribution of functional groups of wild bird hosts for influenza A viruses in the tree are summarized by pie charts. **C)** US state and Canadian province of origin for H5 subtype influenza A virus isolates detected in North American domestic poultry during 2001–2017 and geographic distribution of the influenza A viruses of H5 sublineages 1 and 2 in wild birds based on the North American administrative definition of migratory bird flyways (<https://www.fws.gov/birds/management/flyways.php>). Circle sizes indicate the number of H5 influenza A virus isolates in the corresponding US state/Canadian province. Based on ecologic attributes, the hosts of influenza viruses were categorized into 9 different groups: dabbling duck, diving/sea duck, goose/swan, gull/tern/seabird, poultry, raptor, shorebird, other avian, and unknown. Viruses from avian species that did not fit into any of these functional groups were categorized as ‘other avian’, and viruses for which the species sampled were unclear or for which the domestic status was ambiguous were categorized as ‘unknown’.

675

676 **Figure 2.** Summary of genotypic analysis of low pathogenic H5 avian influenza A
677 viruses detected in domestic poultry in the United States (2001–2017). Genotypes were
678 assigned by unique combinations of sublineages for each gene, which were determined
679 based on tree topology with a bootstrap value ≥ 70 and a nucleotide sequence identity \geq
680 95%. To simplify the illustration, only the representative viruses were selected for each
681 genotype including those with unique combinations of location of detection
682 (state/province) and year. Numbers on the tree indicate individual H5 low pathogenic
683 introductions and were linked to unique IDs of those introductions to the right.

684

685 **Figure 3.** Summary of analyses to assess transition of influenza A viruses from a specific
686 functional group of wild birds to the low pathogenic H5 avian influenza A viruses
687 detected in domestic poultry. In this figure, phylogeographical analyses showed one
688 recent and representative H5 low pathogenic introduction in North American poultry,
689 CPF-MO-2016(H5N1), which is an introduction of virus in Missouri turkey as an
690 example. The trees shown in the figure are constructed on the basis of the maximum
691 clade credibility phylogenetic trees. Phylogeographical analyses were performed using all
692 isolates for each inferred H5 introduction. Branches of the phylogenetic trees were
693 colored according to the estimated ancestral state of the functional group of wild birds
694 from discrete trait reconstruction. Arrow widths are based on the Bayes Factor support
695 levels. Statistical support is provided in greater detail in Table S3.

696

697 **Figure 4.** Conceptual model summarizing the generalized inferred evolutionary pathways
698 for low pathogenic (LP) H5 avian influenza A viruses (IAVs) detected on commercial
699 poultry farms and in live bird markets (LBMs) in the United States and Canada during
700 2001–2017. H5 viruses introduced by wild waterfowl were inferred to circulate for a
701 longer time in LBMs than on commercial poultry farms. Furthermore, we found evidence
702 suggesting reassortment between H5 viruses and other influenza A viruses in LBMs,
703 resulting in multiple genotypes associated with a single introduction event. The blue and
704 red lines denote genetically distinct gene segments; in each virus, the segments were
705 vertically sorted in the order of PB2, PB1, PA, HA, NP, NA, MP, and NS.

Table 1. H5 LPAI viruses detected in domestic poultry in the United States and Canada (2001–2017).

Introduction ^a	Host	Region	Year	Isolate name ^a	Sample date	Subtype
BYP-MI-2015(H5N2)	mallard	Michigan	2015	A/mallard/Michigan/15-031493-1orig/2015	2015-10-01	H5N2
BYP-OR-2006(H5N2)	duck guinea fowl	Oregon	2006	A/duck/Oregon/459674-3/2006	2006-09-29	H5N2
				A/guineafowl/Oregon/459674-5/2006	2006-09-29	H5N2
GBP-CA-2014(H5N8)	quail	California	2014	A/quail/California/K1400794/2014	2014-04	H5N8
GBP-ID-2008(H5N8)	pheasant	Idaho	2008	A/pheasant/Idaho/08-002590-63/2008	2008	H5N8
CPF-WI-2017(H5N2)	turkey	Wisconsin	2017	A/turkey/Wisconsin/17-007146-1/2017	2017-03-02	H5N2
				A/turkey/Wisconsin/17-007146-2/2017	2017-03-02	H5N2
				A/turkey/Wisconsin/17-007146-3/2017	2017-03-02	H5N2
				A/turkey/Wisconsin/17-007319-3/2017	2017-03-03	H5N2
CPF-MO-2016(H5N1)	turkey	Missouri	2016	A/turkey/Wisconsin/17-007981-6/2017	2017-03-09	H5N2
				A/turkey/Missouri/16-014037-7/2016	2016-04-29	H5N1
CPF-MB-2010(H5N2)	turkey	Manitoba	2010	A/turkey/MB/FAV11/2010	2010-11-25	H5N2
				A/turkey/MB/FAV10/2010	2010-11-26	H5N2
CPF-VA-2007(H5N1)	turkey	Virginia	2007	A/turkey/VA/505477-18/2007	2007-07-11	H5N1
				A/turkey/Virginia/505477-17/2007	2007-07-11	H5N1
CPF-CA-2002(H5N2)	turkey	California	2002	A/turkey/CA/D0208651-C/02	2002	H5N2
LBM-NY-2016(H5N2)	duck muscovy duck	Ontario New York New Jersey	2016	A/domesticduck/ON/FAV-18CS46/2016	2016	H5N2
				A/duck/NewYork/16-020978-2orig/2016	2016	H5N2
				A/duck/NewYork/16-021467-1orig/2016	2016	H5N2
				A/duck/NewYork/16-021916-1orig/2016	2016	H5N2
				A/duck/NewYork/16-021920-1orig/2016	2016	H5N2
				A/muscovyduck/NewJersey/16-021456-4/2016	2016	H5N2
				A/muscovyduck/NewJersey/16-021457-2/2016	2016	H5N2
LBM-NJ-2015(H5N1)	chicken	New Jersey	2015	A/chicken/New_Jersey/15_002659_2/2015	2015-01-20	H5N1

LBM-NJ-2011(H5N2)	duck	New Jersey	2011	A/duck/NewJersey/11-064045-002/2011	2011-12-20	H5N2
LBM-NY-2007(H5N2)	duck muscovy duck	New York	2007-2009	A/duck/NewYork/07-002127-001/2007	2007-10-30	H5N2
				A/muscovyduck/NewYork/08-000560-002/2008	2008-03-13	H5N2
				A/duck/NewYork/08-000759-001/2008	2008-04-22	H5N2
				A/duck/NewYork/08-000937-001/2008	2008-05-22	H5N2
				A/muscovyduck/NewYork/09-002670-002/2009	2009-03-04	H5N2
				A/duck/NewYork/09-005059-001/2009	2009-04-14	H5N2
LBM-PA-2007(H5N2)	chicken duck guinea fowl muscovy duck pleasant	Pennsylvania New York New Jersey	2007-2008	A/muscovyduck/NewYork/09-005059-002/2009	2009-04-14	H5N2
				A/duck/Pennsylvania/07-002198-003/2007	2007-11-09	H5N2
				A/muscovyduck/NewJersey/07-002376-001/2007	2007-12-05	H5N2
				A/guineafowl/NewYork/08-000170-003/2008	2008-01-07	H5N2
				A/pheasant/NewYork/08-000170-002/2008	2008-01-07	H5N2
				A/guineafowl/NewYork/08-000238-001/2008	2008-01-28	H5N2
				A/chicken/NewJersey/251-4/2008	2008-02-01	H5N2
				A/chicken/NewJersey/577-6/2008	2008-03-27	H5N2
				A/chicken/NewJersey/08-000640-006/2008	2008-04-03	H5N2
				A/guineafowl/NewJersey/08-000640-008/2008	2008-04-03	H5N2
LBM-NY-2006(H5N2)	duck quail turkey	New York Pennsylvania	2006-2007	A/guineafowl/NewJersey/08-000841-001/2008	2008-05-14	H5N2
				A/muscovyduck/NewJersey/08-000912-001/2008	2008-05-28	H5N2
				A/duck/NewYork/465571/2006	2006-10-23	H5N2
				A/duck/NewYork/465976/2006	2006-10-24	H5N2
				A/duck/NewYork/466787/2006	2006-10-31	H5N2
				A/turkey/NewYork/465977/2006	2006-10-31	H5N2
				A/duck/NewYork/470179/2006	2006-11-07	H5N2
				A/avian/NewYork/466812/2006	2006-11-09	H5N2
				A/duck/Pennsylvania/07-467189-1/2006	2006-11-09	Mixed
				A/duck/NewYork/469961/2006	2006-11-13	H5N2
				A/duck/NewYork/489761/2007	2007	H5N2

				A/duck/NewYork/481172/2007	2007-01-23	H5N2
				A/duck/NewYork/483239/2007	2007-02-02	H5N2
				A/duck/NewYork/484057/2007	2007-02-06	H5N2
				A/duck/NewYork/484680/2007	2007-02-12	H5N2
				A/duck/NewYork/490722/2007	2007-03-21	H5N2
				A/duck/NewYork/492652/2007	2007-04-05	H5N2
				A/duck/NewYork/494165/2007	2007-04-18	H5N2
				A/quail/NewYork/07-501360-1/2007	2007-06-02	H5N2
				A/quail/NewYork/501360/2007	2007-06-12	H5N2
				A/duck/NewYork/504371/2007	2007-06-22	H5N2
				A/duck/NewYork/504372/2007	2007-06-22	H5N2
LBM-NJ-2006(H5N2)a	chicken duck muscovy duck	New York New Jersey Pennsylvania	2006	A/avian/NewJersey/437109/2006	2006-05-09	H5N2
				A/chicken/NewYork/439236/2006	2006-05-10	H5N2
				A/chicken/NewYork/439235/2006	2006-05-15	H5N2
				A/muscovyduck/NewYork/62095-1/2006	2006-05-15	H5N2
				A/duck/NewYork/440410/2006	2006-05-17	H5N2
				A/duck/NewYork/440409/2006	2006-05-23	H5N2
				A/duck/NewYork/445743/2006	2006-06-19	H5N2
				A/chicken/Pennsylvania/446080-7/2006	2006-07	H5N2
				A/duck/Pennsylvania/446080-6/2006	2006-07	H5N2
LBM-NJ-2006(H5N2)b	guinea fowl	New York New Jersey	2006-2007	A/duck/Pennsylvania/446080-7/2006	2006-07	H5N2
				A/avian/NewYork/448534/2006	2006	H5N2
				A/guineafowl/NewJersey/447114/2006	2006-07-19	H5N2
				A/guineafowl/NewJersey/07-002030-001/2007	2007-10-23	H5N2
LBM-NJ-2001(H5N2)	duck	Maine New Jersey	2001-2002	A/duck/NJ/117228-7/2001	2001-07-16	H5N2
				A/duck/ME/151895-7A/2002	2002-01-29	H5N2

^aAn isolate is defined as an avian influenza virus recovered from wild birds or domestic poultry. An introduction describes a case of avian influenza infection detected in domestic poultry, and one or multiple isolates can be recovered from the same introduction.

Table 2. Potential precursor viruses for predominate genotype of low pathogenic H5 avian influenza virus introductions in domestic poultry in the United States and Canada (2001-2017)

Representative isolate	Introduction	Potential precursor virus ^a	No. ^b	Sequence Identity (%) ^c							
				HA	NA	PB2	PB1	PA	NP	MP	NS
A/turkey/Wisconsin/17-007146-1/2017	CPF-WI-2017(H5N2)	A/northernpintail/Ohio/15OS5861/2015(H5N2)	4	99.14	98.81			98.26	98.96		
A/turkey/Missouri/16-014037-7/2016	CPF-MO-2016(H5N1)	A/canadagoose/DelawareBay/601/2016(H5N1)	8	98.82	99.29	99.43	99.56	99.35	99.53	99.47	99.52
A/turkey/MB/FAV10/2010	CPF-MB-2010(H5N2)	A/americangreen-wingedteal/Illinois/2975/2009(Mixed)	4		98.74		98.18		98.88		99.29
A/turkey/VA/50547718/2007	CPF-VA-2007(H5N1)	A/mallard/PA/454069-9/2006(H5N1)	4	98.74	99.39		98.31			99.40	
A/turkey/CA/D0208651C/02	CPF-CA-2002(H5N2)			ND ^d							
A/duck/NewYork/16-020978-2orig/2016	LBM-NY-2016(H5N2)			ND							
A/chicken/NewJersey/150026592/2015	LBM-NJ-2015(H5N1)	A/americangreen-wingedteal/Wisconsin/11OS3580/2011(H11N2)	4					98.18	98.33	98.55	99.16
A/duck/NewJersey/11-064045-002/2011	LBM-NJ-2011(H5N2)	A/mallard/Ohio/11OS1961/2011(H5N2)	4	99.60	99.86		98.92			99.80	
A/duck/NewYork/08-000759-001/2008	LBM-NY-2007(H5N2)			ND							
A/chicken/NewJersey/2514/2008	LBM-NJ-2007(H5N2)	A/mallard/Maryland/07OS2433/2007(H5N2)	3	98.90	98.25						98.24
A/turkey/NewYork/465977/2006	LBM-NY-2006(H5N2)	A/americanwigeon/Iowa/463993/2006(H5N2)	4	99.08	98.54		98.53	98.29			
A/chicken/Pennsylvania/4460807/2006	LBM-NJ-2006(H5N2)a	A/mallard/Maryland/897/2004(H5N2)	4	98.63	98.75		99.01		99.29		
A/avian/NewYork/448534/2006	LBM-NJ-2006(H5N2)b	A/mallard/Ohio/468158/2006(H5N2)	4	98.34	98.63			98.14		98.30	
A/duck/NJ/1172287/2001	LBM-NJ-2001(H5N2)	A/mallard/Maryland/302/2001(H5N2)	3		98.58			98.48			99.42
A/mallard/Michigan/15-031493-1orig/2015	BYP-MI-2015(H5N2)	A/mallard/Ohio/11OS2156/2011(H5N2)	4	98.68	98.96				98.57		99.30
A/duck/Oregon/4596743/2006	BYP-OR-2006(H5N2)	A/americanwidgeon/Oregon/467919/2006(H5N2)	8	99.60	100.00	99.83	99.78	99.86	99.81	99.73	99.88
A/quail/California/K1400794/2014	GBP-CA-2014(H5N8)	A/mallard/California/1479/2013(mixed)	3		98.05			98.07		99.20	
A/pheasant/Idaho/08-002590-63/2008	GBP-ID-2008(H5N8)	A/ruddyturnstone/NewJersey/AI06-582/2006(H6N7)	3			98.40	98.78			98.40	

^aA potential precursor virus was defined by the virus with at least three possible progenitor genes (see method section for details); ^b Number of possible progenitor genes; ^cOnly sequence identity >98% are shown; ^dND, not done because complete genome was not available.

Table 3. Time to most recent common ancestor estimation of HA gene for low pathogenic H5 avian influenza A virus introductions from commercial farms (CPFs) and live bird markets (LBMs) in the United States and Canada (2001-2017).

Source	Introduction ^a	Mean TMRCA	95% HPD ^b low	95% HPD high	First detected ^c	Difference ^d (days)	Average (days)	Standard deviation
Commercial Farms	CPF-WI-2017(H5N2)	2016-10-07	2016-01-01	2016-06-18	2017-03-02	146		
	CPF-MB-2010(H5N2)	2010-09-06	2010-11-16	2010-06-02	2010-11-25	80		
	CPF-VA-2007(H5N1)	2007-02-19	2007-06-10	2006-10-09	2007-07-11	142	123	37
Live Bird Markets	LBM-NY-2007(H5N2)	2007-07-24	2007-10-18	2007-04-02	2007-10-30	97		
	LBM-PA-2007(H5N2)	2007-06-23	2007-09-23	2007-03-14	2007-11-09	138		
	LBM-NY-2006(H5N2)	2006-02-12	2006-06-17	2005-10-09	2006-10-23	253		
	LBM-NJ-2006(H5N2)a	2005-09-26	2006-01-18	2005-05-17	2006-05-09	225		
	LBM-NJ-2006(H5N2)b	2006-01-09	2006-06-22	2005-07-10	2006-07-19	191		
	LBM-NJ-2001(H5N2)	2000-03-16	2001-03-01	1999-01-23	2001-07-16	487	231	137

^a For each introduction, all isolates with exact sampling date were included in analysis; ^bFirst detected date of an introduction was defined as the earliest sampling date among all isolates within this introduction; ^c HPD, highest posterior density; ^dDifference between date of first detection and mean time to most recent common ancestor.

Figure 1

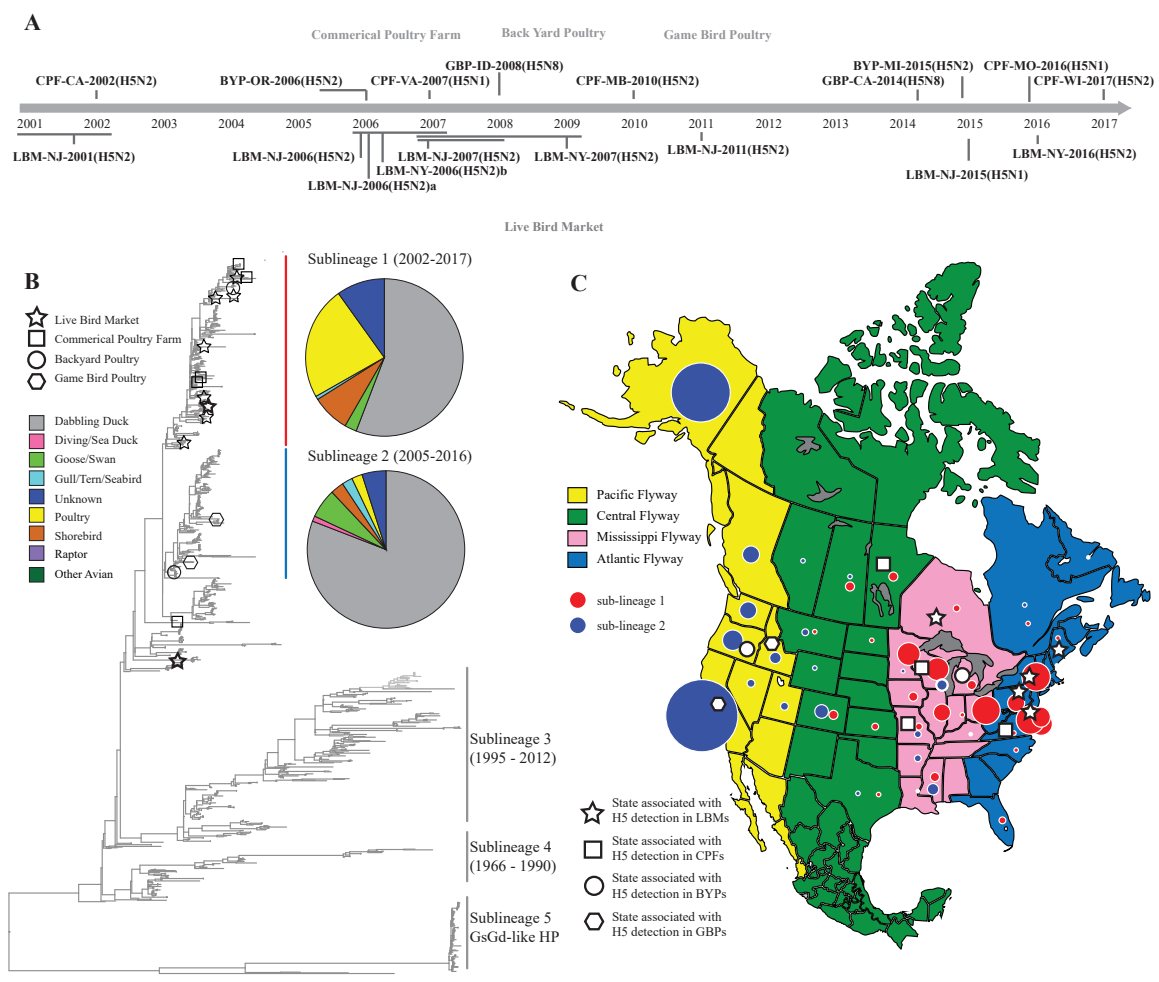
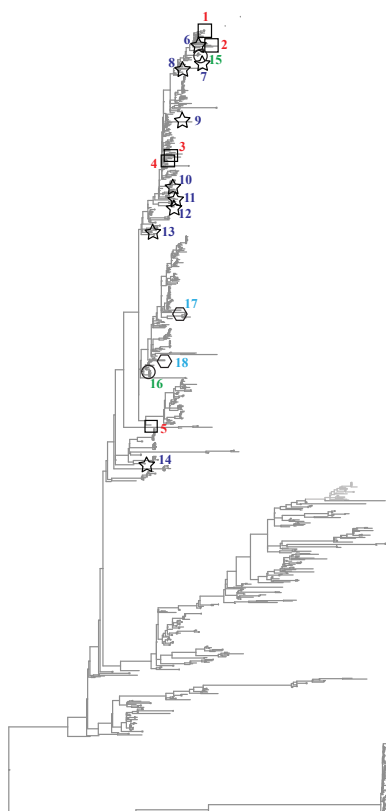


Figure 2



- H5 IAVs detected in CPFs
 ☆ H5 IAVs detected in LBMs
 ○ H5 IAVs detected in BYPs
 ⬡ H5 IAVs detected in GBPs

ID	Introduction Name	HA	NA	PB2	PB1	PA	NP	MP	NS	Isolates(n)	Representative Isolate Name	Subtype	Year
Commercial poultry farm													
										11			
1	CPF-WI-2017(H5N2)									5	A/turkey/Wisconsin/170071461/2017	H5N2	2017
2	CPF-MO-2016(H5N1)									1	A/turkey/Missouri/160140377/2016	H5N1	2016
3	CPF-MB-2010(H5N2)									2	A/turkey/MB/FAV10/2010	H5N2	2010
4	CPF-VA-2007(H5N1)									2	A/turkey/VA/50547718/2007	H5N1	2007
5	CPF-CA-2002(H5N2)									1	A/turkey/CA/D0208651C/02	H5N2	2002
Live bird market													
										62			
6	LBM-NJ-2015(H5N1)									1	A/chicken/NewJersey/150026592/2015	H5N1	2015
7	LBM-NY-2016(H5N2)									7	A/duck/NewYork/16-020978-2orig/2016 A/domesticduck/ON/FAV-18CS46/2016 A/muscovyduck/NewJersey/16-021456-4/2016	H5N2	2016
8	LBM-NJ-2011(H5N2)									1	A/duck/NewJersey/11-064045-002/2011	H5N2	2011
9	LBM-NY-2006(H5N2)									17	A/turkey/NewYork/465977/2006	H5N2	2006
											A/quail/NewYork/501360/2007		2007
										2	A/duck/NewYork/492652/2007	H5N2	2007
10	LBM-PA-2007(H5N2)									1	A/duck/Pennsylvania/07-467189-1/2006	Mixed H5/H11 N2/N9	2007
											A/duck/Pennsylvania/07-002198-003/2007		
										11	A/muscovyduck/NewJersey/07-002376-001/2007 A/chicken/NewJersey/2514/2008 A/guineafowl/NewYork/08-000170-003/2008 A/chicken/Pennsylvania/4460807/2006	H5N2	2007 2008
11	LBM-NJ-2006(H5N2)ja									10	A/duck/NewYork/445743/2006 A/avian/NewJersey/437109/2006	H5N2	2006
12	LBM-NJ-2006(H5N2)b									3	A/guineafowl/NewJersey/447114/2006 A/guineafowl/NewJersey/07-002030-001/2007	H5N2	2006 2007
13	LBM-NJ-2001(H5N2)									1	A/duck/ME/1518957A/2002	H5N2	2002
										1	A/duck/NJ/1172287/2001	H5N2	2001
14	LBM-NY-2007(H5N2)									7	A/duck/NewYork/492652/2007 A/duck/NewYork/08-000759-001/2008 A/muscovyduck/NewYork/09-005059-002/2009	H5N2	2007 2008 2009
Backyard flock poultry													
										3			
15	BYP-MI-2015(H5N2)									1	A/mallard/Michigan/15-031493-1orig/2015	H5N2	2015
16	BYP-OR-2006(H5N2)									2	A/duck/Oregon/4596743/2006 A/guineafowl/Oregon/459674-5/2006	H5N2	2006
Game bird flock poultry													
										2			
17	GBP-CA-2014(H5N8)									1	A/quail/California/K1400794/2014	H5N8	2014
18	GBP-ID-2008(H5N8)									1	A/pheasant/Idaho/08-002590-63/2008	H5N8	2008

Figure 3

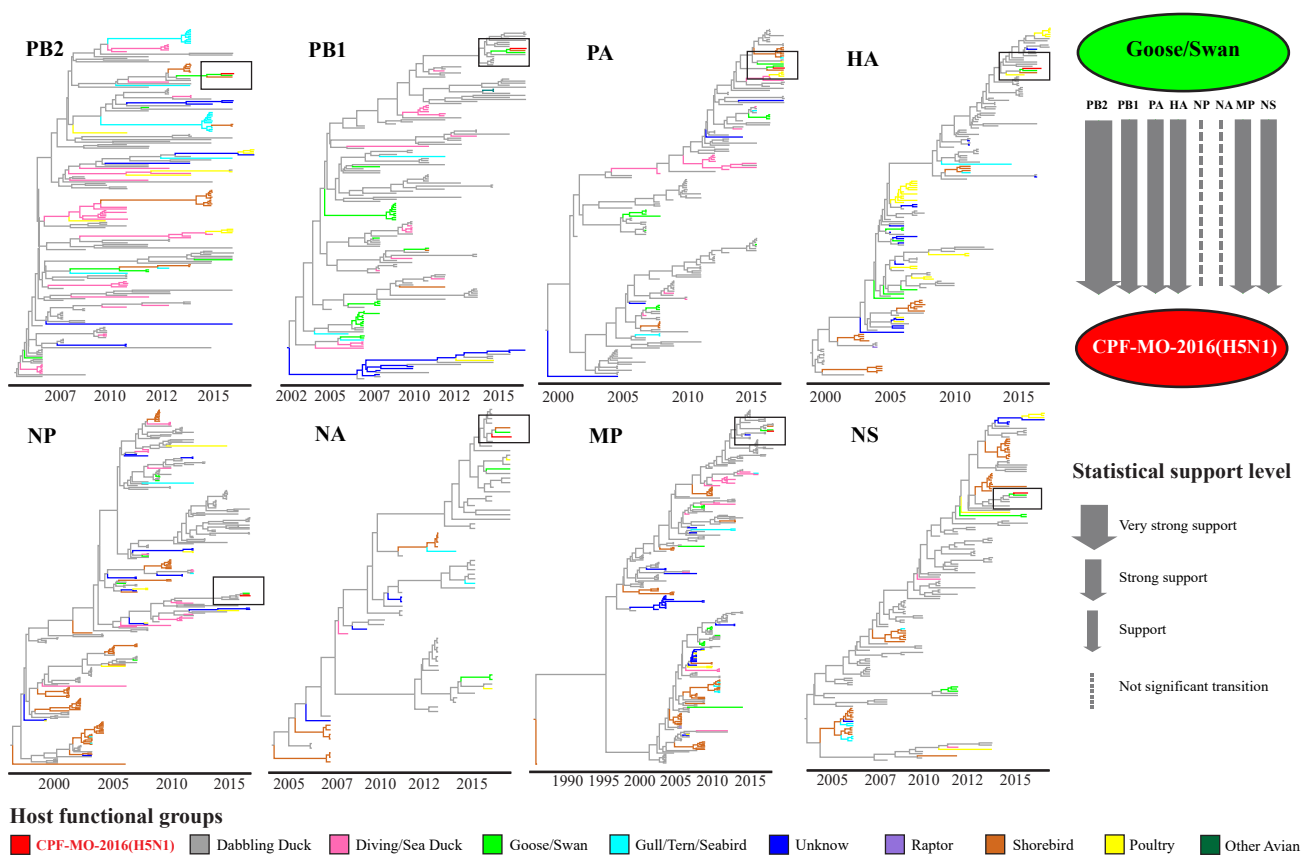


Figure 4