



TOWN OF PLYMOUTH

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REMOVAL EFFORTS OF DECEASED WATERFOWL AT BILLINGTON SEA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 1/27/2025

PLYMOUTH, MA – The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) returned to Billington Sea on Monday, January 27, 2025, for a follow-up assessment to evaluate the numbers of deceased and/or sick birds and the pond's ice conditions. Following the reassessment, state officials advised that due to the continued presence of thin ice, conditions remain unsafe for crews to proceed with the removal process on Billington Sea at this time.

State officials have indicated that state-contracted removal efforts will begin as soon as conditions allow for safe and effective action. The Town will continue collaborating with state officials to monitor environmental conditions and track the number of deceased birds to determine when it will be safe to proceed with a second large-scale collection effort on Billington Sea.

The Town of Plymouth has been safely removing deceased birds along the shoreline whenever environmental conditions permit. Between Saturday, January 18, 2025, and Monday, January 27, 2025, the Town of Plymouth's Division of Public Health has responded to 202 phone calls and safely removed 29 birds and three wildlife. The Town's removal efforts will continue in support of the state's ongoing response and until this outbreak subsides.

Town and state officials advise the community of personal protective measures that include but are not limited to:

- Keeping all domestic animals away from any deceased birds/wildlife and to avoid contacting deceased wildlife themselves.
- Removal of deceased birds or other wildlife should be left to Town and state officials.
- All backyard poultry should be corralled for the foreseeable future and **not** let to roam free range.
- Residents who have poultry should always use protective gear when dealing with their flock (feeding, shoveling feces, etc.) and should wash their hands well with soap and warm water after handling.

If you discover a deceased animal, either domestic or wild, residents should report to the Town's Health and Human Services Public Health Division by calling 508-322-3339 and to the Animal Control Office by calling 508-888-1186.

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