



TOWN OF PLYMOUTH

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REMOVAL OF DECEASED WATERFOWL AT PLYMOUTH'S BILLINGTON SEA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 1/19/2025

PLYMOUTH, MA – On Friday, January 17, 2025, the Town of Plymouth received a report from a resident stating several deceased waterfowl on the frozen Billington Sea Pond. Upon receiving the report, the Town's Health and Human Services Public Health Division and Animal Control Officers were immediately notified and were able to safely remove three of the deceased waterfowl on Saturday, January 18, 2025.

The Town has actively been collaborating with state officials. Clean Harbors, contracted by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, will be on-site Sunday morning, January 19, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. alongside state and town officials to safely assess and remove the affected birds. Testing will begin to determine the cause of death. We advise residents to continue to keep all domestic animals away from any deceased birds and to avoid contact themselves.

The Town will continue to collaborate with state officials regarding this matter and will update the public as information becomes available. Plymouth's Department of Health and Human Services highlights the following to advise the community:

- If you encounter a bird or any animal on ice, do **not** attempt a rescue. Rising temperatures are causing frozen ponds to melt, making such efforts dangerous.
- 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.

“Poultry owners should keep their birds away from wild waterfowl, limit the number of people that have access to your flock, and if you share equipment with other bird owners, clean and disinfect between locations,” **states Plymouth's Public Health Director, Karen Keane.**

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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