



City of South Haven

Department of Public Works

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For Immediate Release

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Bird Carcasses on City Beaches Due to Die-Off

South Haven, MI – The City of South Haven is urging residents and visitors to be aware of an ongoing wild bird die-off affecting local beaches and natural areas. Reports of deceased birds have been increasing, and the public is encouraged to report any significant die-offs to the DNR at Michigan.gov/EyesInTheField.

Per Michigan DNR, if you observe a die-off of six or more wild birds, it is important to report it, we also encourage reporting wild birds or other wildlife that appear sick.

City Staff will continue to monitor the public beaches and remove any deceased wildlife. Please note, property owners are responsible for the removal of deceased wildlife on private property.

Safety Guidelines for Encountering Dead Wild Birds || We advise the public to leave dead wild birds undisturbed whenever possible. Dead birds should be left to naturally decompose if they are in remote areas where they do not pose a risk to people or pets. Fresh carcasses can carry diseases, but as decomposition occurs, the risk of virus transmission decreases.

Potential Connection to Avian Influenza || Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) is a known threat to wild bird populations. While some birds may carry the virus without showing symptoms, they can still spread the disease. HPAI can only be confirmed through testing, and caution should be exercised with all wild birds as HPAI is easily transferred to other wildlife (potentially pets as well).

How to Report and Stay Informed || Residents are encouraged to remain vigilant and report die-offs to the DNR at Michigan.gov/EyesInTheField. If bird flu is suspected in a domestic flock, contact Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) immediately at 800-292-3939 (daytime) or 517-373-0440 (after hours). Additionally, report cases of unusual or unexplained deaths among wild bird populations by contacting the Michigan Department of Natural Resources at 517-336-5030. For additional information on wildlife health and safety measures, visit the DNR website or contact local wildlife authorities.

MDARD is closely monitoring and responding to reports of sick domestic birds and HPAI throughout the state.

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