

How to Handle a Dead or Dying Bird Found on Campus

Updated Policy for 2003

The city of Detroit Health Department's Environmental Health Services has suggested that anyone who finds a dead **crow, blue jay, or raven** report the findings directly to their office. Only these types of birds are to be called into the city. The city Health Department wants to confirm birds infected with West Nile Virus in each zip code in Detroit. Here is the procedure to follow when you find a dead or dying bird on the WSU campus, as recommended by the Detroit Health Department:

1. If you are certain the bird has been dead for less than 24 hours:
 - Most importantly, **DO NOT TOUCH** the bird.
 - Call the city of Detroit's Environmental Health Services at **313-876-4516** to report the finding. Call as soon as possible, the office closes at 4:00 PM. The city will have someone come out to collect the bird for you.

2. If you cannot be sure the dead bird is less than 24 hours old, the city has been asking whoever finds the bird to dispose of the carcass in the following way:
 - Remember, **DO NOT TOUCH** the carcass. Wear latex, rubber or canvas gloves.
 - Pick up the carcass and place it in a double-bagged garbage bag and dispose of in the garbage. Throw away your gloves in the same garbage bag.
 - If you do not want to pick up the carcass with your hands, use a shovel to scoop it into a double-bagged garbage bag.
 - The shovel should then be decontaminated with a diluted bleach/water solution (1 part bleach and 9 parts water).

If you find a dead bird on the weekend you can leave a message at 313-876-4516 or 888-668-0869 (Michigan Department of Community Health). Even if the dead bird is disposed of and not collected by the city of Detroit they still want it called in for tracking purposes. The Detroit Health Department's Environmental Health Services is keeping a file to track all cases of dead crows, blue jays, and ravens found within the city limits.

Note: Contact OEHS at 577-0045 or 993-7597 of any dead or dying birds on campus for proper collection/ disposal.