

Collection of botulism-suspect carcasses for submission to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Disease Laboratory (WDL) for examination

1. Any bird collected for botulism testing must be freshly dead. Presence of a foul odor or maggots are evidence that the bird has been dead longer than 24 hours and is not acceptable for testing. Decomposed carcasses can cause false positive results.

2. Submission of birds for botulism testing should be limited to two to three birds of the same species from the same county. Once the disease is confirmed in a species in a county no additional testing will be done on that species.

3. Individuals handling dead birds should wear rubber, plastic, or disposable gloves. Place the carcasses in a garbage bag and seal the bag. **Collected specimens can be bagged together if they are from the same location. The history should include date collected, location (county, township, range, and section if possible), the numbers and species involved in the die-off, and a contact name and address.**

4. Citizens observing dead birds should report them to [Eyes in the Field](#) or contact the DNR Wildlife Disease Lab (517-336-5030) or their local DNR Wildlife Field Office to report the die-off. It may be possible for DNR personnel to pick up specimens, but it may be necessary to deliver them. DNR field staff will forward the specimens to the Wildlife Disease Lab for necropsy and botulism testing.

5. The individuals on the Northern Lake Michigan Botulism contact list below can provide information on botulism for their respective counties. Any birds found bearing a band should be reported using the contact information printed on the band. If a banded loon is found and is not needed for or suitable for botulism testing at the WDL, please contact Damon McCormick or Joe Kaplan listed below. They would like to obtain blood, feather and tissue samples from banded loons.

Northern Lake Michigan botulism contact list

COUNTY coordinator	Counties	Phone	Email
Anna Watson	Alpena, Charlevoix Cheboygan, Emmet Presque Isle	231-347-1181 x 109	awatson@watershedcouncil.org
Vincent Cavaliere Erica Plesha	Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore	231-326-4751 231-326-4757	vincent_cavaliere@nps.gov erica_plesha@nps.gov
Joe Kaplan	Delta, Menominee	906-487-9060	commoncoast@gmail.com
Damon McCormick	Benzie, Leelanau Mackinac, Schoolcraft	906-202-0602	d1m@commoncoast.org
Heather Smith	Antrim, Grand Traverse	231-935-1514 x 3	hsmith@gtbay.org