

Efforts to save distressed duck in St. John's fail

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[CBC News](#)



A black duck slowly starved to death in a St. John's, N.L., pond while residents tried to save it. (CBC)

People who spent nearly a week trying to save a distressed duck from slowly starving in a St. John's pond are angry its death seemed to be the result of littering.

Residents from the Mundy Pond area, in central St. John's, started calling wildlife officials about a week ago, looking for help for the black duck after it was spotted with a large yellow ring around its neck.

The ring, which appeared to be from a large juice bottle, had become wedged around the duck's neck and head. A portion of the ring was inside the duck's beak, and the bird wasn't able to eat or close its mouth.

Residents, who said they couldn't get any help from wildlife officials, tried to entice the duck to shore with bread so they could dislodge the ring. But the bird seemed frightened and flew away whenever it was approached.



Memorial University scientist Bill Montevecchi tried to capture the duck to remove a plastic ring that kept it from eating. (CBC)

On Thursday, Bill Montevecchi, a Memorial University scientist who studies seabirds, went to Mundy Pond to try to reach the duck but had no luck.

On Friday morning, a passerby spotted the duck, dead near the edge of the pond.

"At least the bird isn't suffering any more," Montevecchi told CBC News. "It really had a hard time ... just had a brutal time with it."

Montevecchi said that by the time he tried to help, the duck was very thin, as if it hadn't eaten for days.

Gary Hand, one of the people who tried during the week to rescue the duck, said he's angry that littering probably killed the bird.

"People should really, you know, watch what they're doing," he said. "It's just sad how something like this could come to an end like that, you know."

Montevecchi said the positive side to the story is the large number of people who dropped by Mundy Pond at different times during the week wanting to help. He said he was overwhelmed by the response.

Read more: <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/newfoundland-labrador/story/2010/01/08/nl-duck-dead-080110.html#ixzz0e1RHckb0>