

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



TONY AVELLA
SENATOR, 11TH DISTRICT

CHAIR
SOCIAL SERVICES
VICE-CHAIR
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
COMMITTEES
BANKS
CODES
- EDUCATION
HOUSING
INSURANCE
JUDICIARY
TRANSPORTATION
NYC EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

ALBANY OFFICE: ☐
ROOM 902, LOB
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
(518) 455-2210 OFFICE
(518) 426-6736 FAX
DISTRICT OFFICE: ☑
38-50 BELL BOULEVARD
SUITE C
BAYSIDE, NEW YORK 11361
(718) 357-3094 OFFICE
(718) 357-3491 FAX
INTERNET ADDRESS:
AVELLA@NYSENATE.GOV

June 20, 2014

Hon. Joseph Martens
Commissioner
Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233

Fax and Mail

Immediate Attention Required

Dear Commissioner Martens:

I am writing to you regarding an outrageous incident which occurred at Black River Bay in Jefferson County, New York on Tuesday morning.

It has just come to my attention that, according to news reports, three Department of Environmental Conservation agents in an unmarked boat, mercilessly killed two mute swans on the banks of Black River Bay in order to "manage this invasive species," leaving several baby swans orphaned and vulnerable.

I am absolutely outraged at these horrific turn of events, which occurred almost simultaneously as the State Senate passed a two-year moratorium on your agency's careless and controversial plan to eradicate all wild mute swans in the state by 2025 and declare them a "prohibited species."

What is even more troubling is that the shootings happened in broad daylight, in front of passerbys enjoying their day near the Bay.

I should not have to remind you that after thousands of testimony submissions from individuals opposing your eradication plan and pressure from legislators expressing their outrage, your agency decided to make revisions to the plan, which were supposed to go through another public comment period. This has not yet occurred.

How then, can your agency justify these senseless, random, and sudden killings in front of families and children?

I demand your immediately halting all killing operations throughout New York State. I expect your personal and thorough review of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tony Avella".

Tony Avella
Senator
11th Senatorial District