



Migratory Bird Permits

Authorized Activities Involving Migratory Birds

Migratory Bird Management

Mission

To conserve migratory bird populations and their habitats for future generations, through careful monitoring and effective management.



What Is the Migratory Bird Treaty Act?

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) is the primary legislation in the U.S. established to conserve migratory birds. Under the MBTA, no one may take, possess, import, export, transport, sell, purchase, barter, or offer for sale, purchase, or barter; any migratory bird, or the parts, nests, or eggs of such a bird except under the terms of a valid permit issued pursuant to Federal regulations. The MBTA covers migratory bird species protected under four international treaties between the U.S. and Canada, Mexico, Japan, and Russia. All but a few of the bird species naturally occurring in the U.S. are protected under the Act.

What Are Migratory Bird Permits?

The MBTA greatly restricts what activities may be undertaken involving migratory birds. However, the Act also provides that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may issue permits authorizing otherwise prohibited activities for scientific, educational, cultural, and other purposes. Pursuant to this provision, the Service issues permits to qualified applicants for the following activities involving migratory birds:

Import/Export. Permits are issued to authorize the import and export of migratory birds and their parts, nests and eggs. (Certain permit exceptions apply to lawfully taken game birds.)

Scientific Collecting. Permits are issued to individuals collecting migratory birds on behalf of scientific institutions and agencies for educational and/or scientific purposes.

Taxidermy. Permits are issued to qualified individuals to mount or otherwise perform taxidermy services on migratory birds, their parts, nests or eggs, belonging to someone else.

Waterfowl Sale and Disposal. Although a permit is not required to possess properly marked captive-bred waterfowl or their eggs, a permit is necessary to engage in the sale or transfer of such birds. Properly marked captive-bred mallard ducks are an exception, requiring no permit to sell, buy or keep.

Falconry. Permits are issued to individuals engaging in falconry, which is the art of training raptors for pursuit of game and the sport of hunting with raptors.

Raptor Propagation. Permits are issued to qualified individuals and institutions breeding raptors for falconry and conservation purposes.

Depredation permits. Permits are issued to take, possess or transport migratory birds for damage control purposes, such as protection of personal or public property or for human health or safety reasons.

Special Purpose. Permits are issued where the applicant demonstrates a legitimate purpose not otherwise provided for by any standard permit.



Eagle Permits

Eagles are covered by the MBTA, but have additional protection under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA). The BGEPA is more restrictive than the MBTA, prohibiting the Service from authorizing the sale, purchase, barter, trade, importation, or exportation of eagles, or their parts or feathers. Activities which can be authorized by permit include:

Eagle Scientific Collecting/Research. Permits are issued to researchers affiliated with public museums, scientific institutions, or zoological parks for scientific purposes.

Eagle Exhibition. The permit authorizes the holder to possess and transport eagles or their parts and feathers for the sole purpose of educating the public about the biology, ecology, and conservation needs of eagles.

Eagle Falconry. A permit is required to possess and transport golden eagles for falconry purposes.

Eagle Indian Religious. Permits are issued to enrolled members of a federally recognized tribe to obtain eagles, or their parts or feathers, for Native American religious and cultural practices.

Eagle Depredation. This permit authorizes the holder to take or disturb bald or golden eagles that have become injurious to wildlife, agriculture, personal property, or human health or safety.

Eagle Transport. This permit authorizes the temporary transport of lawfully possessed eagle specimens and parts out of and into the United States for either Native American religious use, or for scientific or exhibition purposes.

Take of Golden Eagle Nest. This permit is available only to parties engaged in a resource development or recovery operation, and it only applies to inactive golden eagle nests.



Decorated Eagle Feather

credit: H.C. and Lucille W. Holling

Regional Migratory Bird Permit Offices

Migratory bird permit policy is developed by the Division of Migratory Bird Management and the permits themselves are issued by the Regional Migratory Bird Permit Offices.

Region 1 (CA, HI, ID, NV, OR, WA)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Migratory Bird Permit Office
911 N.E. 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97232-4181
Tel. (503) 872-2715

Region 2 (AZ, NM, OK, TX)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Migratory Bird Permit Office
P.O. Box 709
Albuquerque, NM 87103
Tel. (505) 248-7882

Region 3 (IA, IL, IN, MN, MO, MI, OH, WI)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Migratory Bird Permit Office
One Federal Drive
Fort Snelling, MN 55111
Tel. (612) 713-5436

Region 4 (AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, PR)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Migratory Bird Permit Office
P.O. Box 49208
Atlanta, GA 30359
Tel. (404) 679-7070

Region 5 (CT, DC, DE, ME, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VA, VT, WV)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Migratory Bird Permit Office
P.O. Box 779
Hadley, MA 01035-0779
Tel. (413) 253-8643

Region 6 (CO, KS, MT, ND, NE, SD, UT, WY)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Migratory Bird Permit Office
P.O. Box 25486
DFC(60130)
Denver, CO 80225-0486
Tel. (303) 236-8171

Region 7 (AK)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Migratory Bird Permit Office
1011 E. Tudor Road
Anchorage, AK 99503
Tel. (907) 786-3693



Bird Nest

credit: Barbara Counsellor

Applying for a Migratory Bird Permit

What form do I use to apply for a migratory bird permit? An application (Form 3-200) specifically tailored to the proposed activity must be used. The information collected through permit applications is used to determine whether or not the individual meets the requirements of the law for the type of permit requested. Applications and regulations can be found at <http://permits.fws.gov>.

Where do I mail my application?

Prospective permittees must apply to the Regional Migratory Bird Permit Office that covers their state of residence.

Is there an application fee when I apply for a migratory bird permit?

For most non-eagle migratory bird permits, the Service charges a standard fee per application to help offset the costs of processing the application.

How long will it take to process my permit?

You should allow at least 60 days for processing a complete application.

Do I need any other permits?

Most States require a State permit for activities involving migratory birds. In addition, some migratory birds are protected by other federal laws with permit requirements, including the Endangered Species Act, Wild Bird Conservation Act, and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. See the Service website for more information.

For More Information:

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Division of Migratory Bird Management
4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 634
Arlington, VA 22203
703 358 1714
<http://permits.fws.gov>**

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