

# SENDING ITEMS TO THE NON-EAGLE FEATHER REPOSITORY

- ***How do the Repositories get their non-eagle feathers?***

Each Repository is authorized to acquire feathers, parts and/or carcasses of migratory birds – other than eagles – from any U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) permittee specifically allowed to donate these items. Certain zoological, scientific, and educational institutions that are lawfully exempt from permit requirements may also provide these items.

- ***Can I send feathers or dead birds that I find, even though I do not have a permit?***

No. It is not legal to pick up federally-protected migratory bird feathers, parts and/or carcasses. A salvage permit is required to pick up, possess and transport these items.

- ***What should I do if I want to report a dead bird?***

You may contact the USFWS, your State Fish and Game office, or a Repository to report the bird's location. These entities can salvage the bird or attempt to locate another salvage permit holder that may be in a nearer location.

- ***Why is it illegal to salvage a bird without a permit?***

Unfortunately, birds are often killed by illegal activities such as shooting, poisoning, or lethal hazing. Even deaths that result from unintentional causes like disease, collisions or electrocutions may require the proper authorities to be involved. If the bird is moved, it is difficult to survey the scene and accurately assess what might have happened. Permits became necessary when poaching and market hunting put many migratory bird populations at risk. To ensure that birds have not been taken illegally, no person may possess or transport a salvaged bird without the proper permit.

- ***What bird species do the Repositories accept?***

The Repositories operate as a collection point for feathers, parts and carcasses that have religious and cultural significance to Native Americans. Because there are so many Native American nations and tribes in the United States, virtually any species could be of cultural value and requested as an integral part of a traditional ceremony. It is up to the individual Repository to accept items according to anticipated demand and storage space.

- ***How can permittees donate birds and feathers?***

The conditions on your permit will show the authorized methods of disposal. If you are unsure about what your permit covers in regard to disposal or donation, contact your Regional Migratory Bird Permits Office. Once you are sure you are permitted to donate, [see Donation Fact Sheet for more information](#).

***Please contact any of the following with additional questions:***

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