



Regulatory Authorizations for Migratory Birds and Eagles

Effective December 31, 2024, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published the Final Rule for Regulatory Authorizations for Migratory Bird and Eagle Possession by the General Public, Educators, and Government Agencies. This rule both revised and created new regulatory authorizations under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (Eagle Act).

Regulatory authorizations are rules that establish eligibility criteria and conditions without requiring a permit to conduct those activities. This table summarizes the regulatory authorizations revised and created with this rule. A list of migratory birds protected under the MBTA can be found at [50 CFR 10.13](#).



Peter Pearsall/USFWS

Regulation	50 CFR	Summary
1. Birds in Buildings (revised)	21.14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who: Any person What: May humanely remove a migratory bird from the interior of a building or structure in certain circumstances and under prescribed conditions.
2. Salvage (new)	21.16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who: Any person What: May opportunistically salvage whole birds found dead, parts, feathers, inactive nests, and nonviable eggs under prescribed conditions, including possession and disposition.
3. Exhibition of Specimens (revised)	21.18 & 22.15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who: Qualified public entities What: Possession and use of migratory bird specimens for public conservation education purposes. Does not apply to live birds.
4. Licensed Veterinarians (revised)	21.22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who: Licensed veterinarians What: Temporary possession of sick, injured, and orphaned migratory birds for stabilization.
5. Mortality Events (revised)	21.32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who: Natural resource or public health agencies What: Collection of migratory birds found sick or dead from a mortality event. Does not apply to uninjured or asymptomatic birds.
6. Natural Resource Agency Employees (new)	21.34	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who: Federal, state, territorial, and federally recognized Tribal natural-resource agencies What: Salvage; exhibit specimens (excludes live birds); transport sick, injured, or orphaned birds; and relocate birds when birds or humans are at risk.
7. Law Enforcement Personnel (revised)	21.40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who: Law Enforcement What: Conduct law enforcement activities to enforce the MBTA or Eagle Act.

This rule also made the following changes:

- Airborne Hunting Act and Drone Usage: Expanded the permit types available to comply with 50 CFR 19
- Humane and Healthful Definition: Added a definition for 'humane and healthful' as it applies to migratory birds (50 CFR 21.6) and eagles (50 CFR 22.6)

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