



# United States Department of the Interior

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE



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Falls Church, VA 22041

MBPM-11-03

Date: September 10, 2025

### **MIGRATORY BIRD PERMIT MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT: Temporary Use of Certain Zip-tie Bands for Raptors Hatched in 2022-2025**

**PURPOSE:** For captive-bred raptors hatched and banded between January 1, 2022 and October 1, 2025 only, this memorandum authorizes the use of Service-issued blue or fluorescent green, numbered, zip-tie bands (“zip-tie bands”) as equivalent to numbered, seamless, metal bands (“metal bands”) for the requirements of a Raptor Propagation permit. Metal bands are required for all raptors hatched prior to January 1, 2022 and after October 1, 2025.

**BACKGROUND:** Captive-bred raptor nestlings held under a Raptor Propagation permit (50 CFR 21.85) must be banded with a metal band provided by the Service within 2 weeks of hatching (50 CFR 21.85(e)(2)(i)). Only raptors marked with a metal band provided by the Service may be transferred, sold, or bartered (21.85(g)(1)).

If a raptor nestling is not banded with a metal band within two weeks or a metal band must be removed, captive-bred raptors must be marked with a yellow, zip-tie band (50 CFR 21.85(e)(4)). Raptors banded with yellow, zip-tie bands may be transferred but cannot be sold or bartered.

Few companies in the United States have the capacity and experience to manufacture metal bands. The Service was unable to obtain metal band stock between 2021 and 2025. As a result, the Service had limited availability of certain sizes of metal bands between 2022 and 2025. This policy authorizes the use of certain zip-tie bands from 2022 to 2025.

**POLICY:** The Service considers Service-issued blue or fluorescent green, numbered, zip-tie bands as equivalent to Service-issued numbered, seamless, metal bands for the hatch years 2022 through 2025. As long as the captive-bred raptor remains marked with the blue or fluorescent-green, zip-tie band, the captive-bred raptor may be transferred, sold, or bartered for the life of the bird.

This policy does not apply to captive-bred birds hatched prior to January 1, 2022 or hatched after October 1, 2025. A blue or fluorescent-green, zip-tie band may be replaced with a yellow, zip-tie

band; however, the prohibitions on sale of yellow, zip-tie-banded birds apply. This policy applies to all permit types that authorize the possession and use of captive-bred raptors, including abatement, falconry school, and raptor propagation.

**Revisions:**

02 – Extended date from 2023 to 2027 due to continued limited availability.

03 – Revised date range of applicability to 2022 to 2025. Adequate supplies of numbered, seamless, metal bands were acquired in August 2025.

/s/ Jerome Ford, 9/10/2025

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