

Kentucky

Migratory Bird Conservation



photo: Larry Richardson



photo: Larry Richardson



photo: Forest Service

Emily Jo Williams
Chief, Migratory Bird Program
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1875 Century Blvd., Suite 420
Atlanta, GA 30345
Phone: 404/679 7188
Fax: 404/679 7285
E-mail: emily_jo_williams@fws.gov

Inventory and Monitoring

- Land bird point counts on refuges.
- Periodic waterfowl surveys on refuges.
- Wood duck banding.
- Mourning dove call count survey.
- December goose survey.
- Mid-winter waterfowl survey.
- Nongame bird inventories on refuges.

Management

- Wetland protection/ restoration/ enhancement.
- Grassland restoration.
- Bottomland hardwood restoration.
- Hunting regulations development.
- Technical assistance for migratory bird management.
- Green River Refuge.

Partnerships

- Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.
- Ducks Unlimited.
- Natural Resource Conservation Service.
- Kentucky Partners for Wetland Wildlife.
- Fish and Wildlife Foundation.
- North American Wetlands Conservation Act.
- Partners In Flight.
- Murray State University.

Outreach

- International Migratory Bird Day.
- Youth hunts.

Questions and Answers

Why is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service so involved with migratory birds?

The Service, as a result of Congressional action and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (1918) has responsibility for this group of federal trust species. Because migratory birds (game and nongame species) move across state, provincial and national borders, they are recognized as an international resource requiring conservation on a continental basis. Protection in North America is provided for by conventions between the United States, Canada, Japan, and Mexico. There are migratory bird treaties with these countries that require the United States to determine when, to what extent, and by what means it is compatible with the terms of treaties/conventions to allow use of these birds and their habitats. The Secretary of the Interior has been charged with such determinations.

Are there permit requirements to protect migratory birds, their nests and eggs, or body parts?

Yes, each Service region has a migratory bird permit branch(es) that decides if permits are needed for various actions involving migratory birds. The types of permits that may be issued or required are:

Eagle Exhibition

Eagle Indian Religious

Eagle Scientific

Eagle Depredation

Taxidermy

Waterfowl Sale/Disposal

Scientific Collecting

Depredation

Rehabilitation

Special Purpose (Possession)

Salvage of Dead Birds

Kentucky Migratory Bird Conservation

Miscellaneous Special Purpose

Falconry

Raptor Propagation

How are migratory bird hunting regulations established?

The Service collects population, habitat, hunter, and harvest data on an annual basis to gauge the status of hunted species. This is a cooperative effort with the states, Canada, and Mexico. Waterfowl hunting regulations for migratory species use flyways (broad geographical areas traveled by groups of migrating birds) to establish regulation frameworks for hunting. The states within a flyway work with Service biologists to analyze data and propose regulations to the Service's Regulation Committee. This committee judges the proposals and recommends a broad set of hunting regulations that include season dates, bag/species limits, etc. These framework regulations are approved by the Service Director, and states are then allowed the flexibility to choose specific state regulations within the flyway frameworks.