

Mississippi

Migratory Bird Conservation



photo: Larry Richardson



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photo: Forest Service

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Inventory and Monitoring

- Mourning dove call count survey.
- December goose survey.
- Mid-winter waterfowl survey.
- Wood duck banding program.
- Nongame bird inventories on national wildlife refuge lands.

Research

- Effect of the frequency and season of burning on demographics, community structure, etc. in the Mississippi coastal plain.
- Wood duck management and survival.
- Food habitat of trans-Gulf migrating nongame birds.
- Management and restoration of Mississippi sandhill cranes.

Management

- Wetland protection/restoration/enhancement through "Fish & Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program."
- Wetland restoration including prairie restoration on Farmers Home Administration tracts transferred to the Service.
- Bottomland hardwood restoration.
- Hunting regulation development on 10 national wildlife refuges.
- Technical assistance to private landowners managing habitat for migratory waterfowl and other Federal trust species.

Partnerships

- Black Bear Conservation Committee.
- Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks.
- Mississippi State University.
- US Geological Survey's Wetland Research Center, Lafayette, LA.

- Ducks Unlimited (southern regional office).
- Mississippi Partners Project.
- North American Waterfowl Management Plan.
- Delta Wildlife Foundation.
- Partners In Flight.
- The Nature Conservancy.
- Natural Resources Conservation Service.
- US Forest Service - Delta National Forest.
- Mississippi "GAPS" Program.
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.
- Partners for Fish and Wildlife in MS via private landowners.

Outreach

- International Migratory Bird Day.
- Wood duck nest box program.
- 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

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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.

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.