



WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT A FEDERAL MIGRATORY BIRD SPECIAL PURPOSE POSSESSION – EDUCATION PERMIT FOR LIVE BIRDS

A Federal Migratory Bird Special Purpose Possession - Education (Live) permit will authorize you to possess live migratory birds for educational purposes. You should review Title 50 parts 10, 13 and 21.27 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) with your application. **You are responsible for reviewing and understanding these regulations before you request and accept a permit.** These regulations can be found on our website at: <http://www.fws.gov/permits/ltr/ltr.shtml>.

1. What experience must I have to qualify for a Migratory Bird Special Purpose Possession – Education permit for live birds?

You must be at least 18 years of age and have a minimum of 240 hours of experience working with migratory bird education and husbandry, gained over the course of at least 1 year. Your experience must include: handling, caring for (including medical management), training, and exhibiting the species, or similar species, you intend to acquire and use in educational programs. In addition, if you intend to glove-train migratory birds for educational programs, your experience should include at least 20 programs using glove-trained migratory birds over the course of at least 1 year.

2. What are the caging requirements for live birds?

All migratory birds authorized by a Federal Special Purpose Possession – Education (Live) permit must be maintained under humane and healthful conditions as required in 50 CFR 13.41. Facilities must be adequate for each species you plan to possess. In evaluating whether caging dimensions are adequate for raptors, the Service will use as a guideline the standards established by the Raptor Center, University of Minnesota's "Raptors in Captivity: Guidelines for Care and Management". In evaluating whether caging dimensions are adequate for other migratory bird species, the Service will use as a guideline the standards established by the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association's "Wildlife in Education: A Guide for the Care and Use of Program Animals". These publications are available from the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association at <http://www.nwrawildlife.org/pubs.asp>.

Applicants should also contact their State wildlife agency for information about any additional caging requirements for migratory birds.

3. Is the Migratory Bird Special Purpose Possession Permit to be used for a specific type of education?

Yes. The intent of this permit is wildlife conservation education. Conservation, biology, and/or ecology must be a primary component of all educational programs conducted using migratory birds. Other topics (such as history or falconry) may also be included in the program.

4. Can I use migratory birds for commercial purposes?

No. Migratory birds possessed or transported for educational purposes may not be displayed in any manner that implies personal use. You may not use migratory birds to promote or endorse any product, merchandise, goods, services, business or organization except your own educational activities. Educational programs are not considered commercial activities.

5. How many programs must I present each year?

A minimum of 12 programs that are open to the public using each bird should be presented each year. The authority to possess migratory birds will be subject to re-evaluation if this requirement is not met.

6. Is the public allowed to handle or touch live birds?

All live birds must be kept under control at all times and may not come in contact with members of an audience.

7. How can I acquire migratory birds under a Special Purpose Possession – Education (Live) permit?

Migratory birds under a Special Purpose Possession – Education (Live) permit must be non-releasable and may be lawfully acquired from Rehabilitation, Falconry, Raptor Propagation, or other Federal Special Purpose Possession permittees. To acquire additional birds after the Special Purpose Possession – Education (Live) permit has been issued, you must submit a request form, Special Purpose Possession (Education) Permit Acquisition and Transfer Request/3-202-12 (<http://www.fws.gov/forms/3-202-12.pdf>), to your Regional Migratory Bird Permit Office for approval prior to acquiring any live migratory bird. Permittees should also contact their state wildlife agency for information about obtaining additional permits if required.

8. Will anyone inspect my records or migratory birds held for educational purposes?

By accepting a Federal Special Purpose Possession permit, you authorize an agent of the Service to enter your premises at any reasonable hour to inspect the wildlife in your care, your books or records. (See 50 CFR 13.47)

9. What procedures are required to transfer the migratory birds authorized by a Special Purpose Possession – Education (Live) permit to a new location?

Any change in address or other circumstances that affect your permit (e.g. change in principal officer, caretaker or physical location as listed on the permit) must be reported to your Regional Migratory Bird Office in writing within 10 days so your permit can be amended. In addition, if your physical address will change, you must obtain prior approval for your facilities for housing migratory birds at the new location by providing pictures and diagrams, including the L x W x H dimensions and a description of materials used for construction. (50 CFR 13.23)

10. Do I need a State permit to possess migratory birds?

Your Federal permit is not valid unless you also are in compliance with State requirements. This means that if your State requires a permit to possess migratory birds for educational or exhibit purposes, you must hold a valid State permit in order for your Federal permit to be valid. It is your responsibility to make sure you comply with State permit requirements.

11. Will I be required to keep records of my activities?

Yes. You must maintain accurate records of operations on a calendar-year basis. Your records should reflect each bird that is held, the number of presentations given with each bird and the disposition of each bird.

12. Will anyone inspect my records or birds held for educational purposes?

By accepting a Federal Special Purpose Possession permit, you authorize an agent of the Service to enter your premises at any reasonable hour to inspect the migratory birds in your care, your books or records. (50 CFR 13.47)

13. Will I be required to submit an annual report of activities?

Yes. You will receive an annual report form for your Federal Special Purpose Possession – Education (Live) permit from your Regional Migratory Bird Permit Office. Reports can also be found on our website at: <http://www.fws.gov/forms/3-202-5.pdf>. This report must be completed and submitted to your issuing office by January 31 of each year.

14. How do I renew my permit?

A renewal letter or form and annual report form will be sent to you at least 60 days prior to the expiration of your permit. If you want to renew your permit, you must return the completed renewal to your Regional Migratory Bird Permit Office at least 30 days prior to the expiration of your permit and include a copy of your current State permit, if one is required. If we receive your renewal request at least 30 days prior to the expiration of your permit, your permit will remain valid beyond the expiration date for the activity authorized on your expired permit until a decision on your renewal is made. If you allow your permit to expire before requesting renewal, you may be required to submit a new application. (See 50 CFR 13.22 and 13.11(c))