

IT'S THE LAW

1. All birds are federally protected except for Pigeons, Starlings and English Sparrows (some municipalities have laws regarding the protection of these 3 species).
2. It is illegal to own a mounted/stuffed songbird, bat, game or furbearing mammal (this includes roadside kills).
3. Unless you have a permit, it is illegal for people to pick up orphaned birds and animals. Most people are not aware of this and it is hard to convince them that they can do more harm than good.
4. It is illegal for people to take an injured bird to a vet and illegal for the vet to treat the bird without the proper authorities or permit holder being involved. The vet must turn the bird over to a federally licensed rehabilitator.
5. It is against the law to pick up a feather of a protected species. The reasoning behind this law is there would be no way for the authorities to know if the individual had killed the bird in order to obtain the feather.
6. It is illegal to collect bird nests and bird eggs. It may seem harmless but most people have no way of knowing if the nest is an "active" one and this can affect the reproductive success in some species. Many birds return to use the same nest year after year. Bird nests should be left on the ground unless they can be returned and firmly attached to tree limbs or branches.

COMMENTS:

These laws may seem difficult to understand and many people are resentful of conservation laws viewing them as restrictive and an infringement upon their inherent rights as an American. These attitudes are what make it imperative that we have these laws!

Good examples are the Carolina Parakeet and the Passenger Pigeon -- hunted to extinction. The government now has established refuges and laws to preserve species and provide for their enjoyment of nature by present and future generations.