



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

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BALD EAGLE, SYMBOL OF FREEDOM, PROTECTED FROM HUNTERS' GUNS

The bald eagle, symbol of American ideals of freedom, is now protected from all hunters and collectors by an act of Congress which has been approved by President Roosevelt, Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes announced today. Enforcement of the act will be delegated to U. S. game management agents and deputy agents of the Bureau of Biological Survey, who are charged with the conservation of the country's wildlife resources.

The "Bald Eagle Act" was sponsored by Senator David I. Walsh and Representative Charles R. Clason, of Massachusetts. Declaring that the bald eagle is now threatened with extinction and expressing the desire to protect the bird that was adopted as the national symbol by the Continental Congress in 1782, the Act prohibits anyone from possessing bald eagles in any manner, whether by taking, bartering, selling, or other means. The act protects the bird throughout the United States and its possessions, except Alaska.

Persons taking, possessing, or dealing in bald eagles will be liable to fines up to \$500 or imprisonment up to six months or both.

Secretary Ickes, however, has been authorized to issue permits to take, possess, or transport bald eagles after investigations show such action is compatible with the preservation of the bird. The Act specifies he may issue these permits, when deemed advisable, to public museums, scientific societies or zoological parks, or when he finds such action necessary for the protection of wildlife or of agricultural or other interests in any particular locality.

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