



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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BALD EAGLE GIVEN PROTECTION IN ALASKA

Further protection for the bald eagle, our national symbol, was provided recently when a closed season in Alaska was put into effect by Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman.

The regulation, recommended by the Fish and Wildlife Service and made official by Secretary Chapman by virtue of his authority under the Alaska Game Law, reads as follows:

"No open season. These birds may be killed only when committing damage to fishes, other wildlife, domestic birds and animals. No carcass or any part thereof, including feathers of birds so taken, may be possessed or transported for any purpose."

Bald eagles in the United States have been protected by law since 1940. In Alaska, however, where this species is more abundant, little or no protection has been provided.

Since these birds are said to be predatory, there has been a bounty on them in Alaska where damage to fishes, other birds, and animals by the eagles has been claimed.

At its sessions in February of this year the Alaska Game Commission, recognizing the need for conservation measures, recommended that the bounty on these birds be discontinued.

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