

1710.23 Scientific Collectors for Wildlife

Issued: July 8, 2024
Revised:

PURPOSE

To provide the procedure for obtaining a scientific collectors permit from the Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Division.

APPLICATION

Executive Brance Departments and Sub-units, community colleges and state universities, educational institutions, zoos, nature centers, environmental consulting firms, and private citizens.

CONTACT AGENCY

Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Wildlife Division

Telephone: 517-284-9453

Email: DNR-Wildlife@michigan.gov

Web: <https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/managing-resources/wildlife/wildlife-permits/scientific-collectors-permits-wildlife>

SUMMARY

When wild birds and wild mammals, living or dead or parts thereof (including nests or eggs of wild birds) are to be handled off the premises of a qualified scientific or educational institution or transported, the Director of DNR has the authority to issue permits for the collection, possession/handling, transportation, or disposition.

Unless specifically indicated otherwise, a scientific collector permit for wildlife will expire on the third March 31 after the date of issue. Scientific collectors' permits may be issued in any of the following requested categories:

Category 1: Salvage Permit

Issued to any qualified applicant, including teachers at the high school level or below, for the salvage of specimens found dead. All permanently preserved specimens must be housed within the institution named on the application/permit form. No private maintenance or disposition of any specimens collected is allowed.

Category 2: Research Permit

Issued to qualified applicants directly affiliated with a college, university or a qualified scientific research organization for the collection or handling of animals from the wild for research purposes. These permits could include shooting or kill

trapping, as well as live trapping for release, euthanasia or for the holding of live animals.

Category 3: Live Animal Programs Permit

Issued to qualified applicants directly affiliated with qualified educational institutions for the holding of certain live animals for educational purposes. Live animals held for this purpose are usually permanently injured or otherwise non-releasable that have been legally held and donated by a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. These permits are required when legally acquired live animals are to be utilized off the premises of the institution. If protected migratory birds are held under this category, a federal permit is also required.

Category 4: Business Permits

Issued for businesses that are conducting research to determine post-construction impacts on wildlife.

Category 5: Bird Banding Permits

Issued to individuals possessing a current and valid federal Bird Marking and Salvage Permit for the purpose of authorizing federal permit activities in Michigan. Permittees under this category must adhere strictly to the conditions of the federal permit. Under this category, the qualified institution that the applicant/permittee is affiliated with is the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

APPLICABLE FORMS

[Scientific Collector Permit Application](#)

PROCEDURES

Agency

- Establishes a need for the collection, possession/handling, transportation, or disposition of wild birds or mammals, living or dead, or parts thereof (including nests or eggs of wild birds) for scientific or educational purposes when sufficient authority is not available through provisions of other laws.

Applicant

- Submits a request to the Wildlife Division through the online application procedure at <https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/managing-resources/wildlife/wildlife-permits/scientific-collectors-permits-wildlife>.
 - [Scientific Collector Permit Application](#).
 - Supervisors, professors, teachers and/or leaders desiring to have a sub-permittee(s) permitted to work independently under the approved permit must, on his/her application for permit, document the full name(s) of each sub-permittee listed on the permit.
 - To be considered for permit approval, students must provide the name of their sponsoring professor or teacher on the online application.

- Submits a request to the Wildlife Division through the email application procedure by contacting DNR-PermitSpecialist@michigan.gov.

Divisional Scientific Collector's Permit Program Manager

- Qualifies prospective applicant(s) in relation to permit criteria.
- Issues or denies permit within a reasonable period of time, but not more than 60 days. Issued permits shall list all restrictions or conditions.
 - In order to ensure a named responsibility to the permit conditions, permits are issued only to individual applicants, and not to companies, corporations or other business entities.
- Emails permit to the permittee along with directions for submitting the required activity/renewal report.
- Informs large collectors, operating over a wide area of the state, if they are responsible for initiating contacts with the DNR regional office, as well as the management units involved, prior to exercising permit privileges.
- Instructs permittees to maintain collections at specified minimum requirements and advises on standard procedures for wildlife taken in excess of scientific needs.
 - Maintains a database with information pertinent to each permit issued that is available upon request for use throughout the Wildlife and Law Enforcement divisions.

Permittee

- Must submit an activity/renewal report of the previous year(s) activities under the issued permit online at [Scientific Collector Permit Report](#). Bird banding permittees are not required to complete a state of Michigan activity/renewal report.
- At the time of permit expiration, if the permittee desires to continue activities covered by the expiring permit, they must apply for a new permit following the process outlined above.

Wildlife Division

- Reviews submitted permit activity/renewal reports to determine whether collections/activities were reasonable and whether conditions of the permit were followed.
- All information contained in the application and approved permit will be kept electronically in the Survey 1-2-3 "Scientific Collector's Permit Application." It is the permittee's responsibility to apply for a new permit at the time of permit expiration, if desired.
