



500 Lafayette Road • St. Paul • MN 55155
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Nongame Wildlife Nest Removal Permit Application

GENERAL PERMITTING INFORMATION:

All **occupied** nests of migratory birds are protected by federal and state regulations. Permitted removal of occupied nests would only be for health and human safety concerns. Disturbance of occupied osprey nests is also permitted (again, allowed for health and human safety). Health and human safety are usually fire, electricity, or 911 access (on cell towers).

Unoccupied nests that are protected are eagle and osprey (85-90% osprey nest on man-made structures which is why their unoccupied nests are protected). Permitted removal of unoccupied osprey nests generally occurs between Oct through Mar, but urgent cases are permitted throughout the year. More leeway is given for removal of unoccupied nests.

- Non-breeding season **unoccupied** osprey nest removal permits
 - Non-urgent **unoccupied** osprey nest removal permits are issued from Oct. 1 to April 1, and are issued within two to four weeks of a request. Please start submitting this type of request no earlier than Sept. 1. Justification is not necessary during this time, as it is non-use/non-nesting season. Multiple nest removal may be requested at this time. Some companies send a list of five to 10 sites they plan to work on over the winter, or add sites they plan to do maintenance on as issues arise. **This type of maintenance should be planned in advance.** This type of permit expires April 1.
 - However, sometimes sites that you had not proposed maintaining may suddenly fail. If it is an emergency, you should indicate that in the email and subject line.
- Emergency osprey nest removal permits for both **occupied** and **unoccupied** osprey nests may be issued April 1 to Oct. 1. Emergency osprey nest removal permits are issued upon request for individual nests that have specific health and human safety concerns (fire/electrical hazards or 911 outages/eminent outages). These permits have a short expiration window, usually two weeks.
 - Urgent **unoccupied** osprey nest removal permits may be issued April 1 to Oct. 1. These are often nests under construction, but not yet occupied. Emergency osprey nest removal permits are issued upon request for individual nests that have specific health and human safety concerns (fire/electrical hazards or 911 outages/eminent outages) or their location is inappropriate (such as cranes or grain silos). After April 1, we usually request photos or another form of confirmation that birds are not on site – in addition to the justification.

- **Occupied** osprey nest removal also requires federal permitting (USFWS).
- Disturbance permits are required when working on towers with **occupied** nests (even if removal is not necessary). Unless absolutely necessary, work on towers requiring disturbance permits should be conducted before late-July or after late Sept (after fledging). Older chicks are more likely to jump out of nests when startled, but cannot yet fly. The situation can be dangerous to the workers as well as the chicks.

Please note: Occupied and Unoccupied **eagle nests** require a state permit through Lori Naumann (lori.naumann@state.mn.us) and federal permit (USFWS). **Threatened and endangered** species require additional permitting through Bridget Henning-Randa, (bridget.henning-randa@state.mn.us). Find a list of state Threatened and Endangered bird species at MR 6134.0200 subp. 2.

PLATFORMS AND DETERRENTS:

We do recommend nesting platforms to help deter osprey from nesting on sensitive equipment. They are regularly used by the power companies to deter nesting on electric poles. Please let me know if you would like more information on nesting platforms. Providers should consider constructing nesting platforms at the highest point on the structure or on a nearby pole that is higher than the structure to encourage birds to move away from nesting on or near sensitive equipment. Deterrents are also highly recommended to prevent re-nesting on sensitive equipment.

REQUESTING A NONGAME BIRD SPECIES NEST REMOVAL PERMIT:

Within your email to nongame.permits@state.mn.us please supply the following information to start the permitting process for nest removal for nongame migratory bird species except eagles and threatened or endangered species.

- Migratory bird species
- **(March 1-November 1)** Are there birds in and around the nest? Is this nest occupied (young or chicks)? Observe the nest and site for at least an hour or use a drone to determine if the nest is occupied. Photographs may be required. We may require DNR personnel to verify on site that there are no eggs or young in the nest.
- **(April 1-October 1)** Justification for removal during the breeding season: why is nest removal necessary? Is this an emergency? If so what type: fire/electrical hazard or eminent 911 outage. Can the work wait until after the nest becomes unoccupied / after the nesting season (after Oct 1)?
- **(April 1-October 1)** Will you need to remove the nest to complete the repairs? If not, how close to the nest will you need to be to complete repairs? Is the work above or below the nest?

- Does the site have a platform or will a platform be constructed? Platform construction information can be supplied upon request.
- The exact location of the nest(s) for removal. If it is not located at property with a mailing address, you can use lat/long (**please include city and county**). Outside breeding season (after Oct.1): If you are requesting multiple sites, you can combine the information into a table format for convenience.
- Will you be the permittee or should someone else be listed as the permittee? You can have a crew or subcontractors do the work; however, the permittee is responsible for ensuring that all permit conditions are met. Permits are issued to a named individual within a company. Please provide the following information on the permittee (whether it is you, someone else at your company, or a different company):
 - name
 - company
 - address
 - phone
 - email

If the permittee is out of state, please provide the name and number for the local contractor as well (if available).

Please note: standard maintenance permits are generally issued within two to four weeks, workload dependent. Please have patience and plan the work accordingly. If your request is for emergency work (**eminent** 911 outage or fire/electrical hazard), please clearly indicate the issue in your request and subject line so the request can be properly prioritized. Emergency work permits are generally issued within 24 to 72 hours.

Permit requests should only be sent to nongame.permits@state.mn.us. Please do not send nongame permit requests to any other email address or additional DNR staff (they do not issue this type of permit). All permit requests and information should be directed through one point person within your corporation. Please do not send multiple requests for the same nest unless the above timelines have lapsed.