**What should I do with the dead bird that I found?**

**Is it an eagle? Contact Emily Spencer immediately with the date, description (bald, golden) and exact location you found the eagle. If it is obvious, indicate how the bird likely died (hit by a car, electrocuted, shot). Take pictures if you have a camera.**

**If you feel comfortable and have the proper equipment (gloves and a trash bag at a minimum), record the date and location (GPS coordinates if possible) and take a few pictures. No matter the physical condition of the bird, gently collect the bird in the garbage bag and bring it to Emily or a member of the natural resources staff. If you are on the Green River side of the monument, find a maintenance staff person to direct you to the wildlife freezer and place it in there. Be sure your notes are attached to the bag.**

***What happens to the eagle?* Natural resources staff will store the eagle in a freezer until the regional USFWS Migratory Bird Permit office and/or a USFWS special agent can be reached. They will direct us what to do with the eagle, which could include shipping it to the USFWS National Eagle and Wildlife Property Repository in Denver, where eagle parts are made available for Native American religious and cultural ceremonies and practices.**

**Is it a federally listed (threatened or endangered) species? Please follow the same instructions given above. In this area, T&E bird species include the Mexican spotted owl and the yellow-billed cuckoo. The greater sage-grouse is NOT listed, thus no need to collect.**

***What happens to these special status birds?* Natural resources staff will store the bird in a freezer until the regional USFWS Migratory Bird Permit office and/or a USFWS special agent can be reached.**

**Is it a migratory species? Dinosaur is home to many migratory bird species, so there is a good chance the bird falls in this category of protection. A permit is not needed to collect and retain a migratory species (that is NOT an eagle or a T&E species) that has been discovered during the course of normal park operations (AKA not *intentionally* salvaged or collected). However, Dinosaur does not generally have an interest in collecting and keeping dead birds. An exception to this may be a bird that is of interest to park staff for interpretive or scientific study, such as a sage grouse with a GPS receiver, raptor, or crane. Please refer to the updated 4/2017 staff memo on** procedures for handling dead animals in developed areas.

***What happens to these birds?* Call Emily Spencer if you are unsure if the bird is of interest to park staff. Otherwise, properly dispose of the bird in an area** beyond the edge of the developed area. This is accomplished by digging a shallow grave and burying it or placing the bird in the bushes and grass where it can decompose naturally or become a meal for scavengers, such as magpies. It is not necessary to bag them or place them in the trash or dumpster.

Notes:

* While DINO is not required to have a permit to retain and store migratory birds, a federal permit is needed by the taxidermist selected to prepare any bird that will be used for interpretive or scientific purposes. Call the regional migratory permit office once a taxidermist is selected to initiate the permit process.
* USFWS considers “proper” disposal methods to include burial or incineration.
* List of Migratory Bird Species Protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act as of December 2, 2013: <https://www.fws.gov/birds/management/managed-species/migratory-bird-treaty-act-protected-species.php>

**Is it just a bird? These are all other birds that do not occur on the Migratory Bird List of Protected Species, which are usually non-native species. Migratory or not, dead birds can be properly disposed of using the procedure outlined above. Please also refer to the updated 4/2017 staff memo on** procedures for handling dead animals in developed/front country areas.

**WILDLIFE FREEZER LOCATION:** Green River District bunkhouse garage. Please see GRD maintenance staff for access if natural resource staff is not available. NO FOOD STORAGE IN THE WILDLIFE FREEZER!

**Contact information**

Emily Spencer

DINO Natural Resource Specialist

(970) 374-3055 (office)

(970) 629-1137 (cell)

emily\_spencer@nps.gov

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