



Credit: DesertUSA.com/animals/cliff-swallow.html



City of Phoenix
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

Migratory Bird Treaty Act

(Applies to many birds in Phoenix)

The purpose of this flyer is to provide City of Phoenix employees with basic knowledge to reduce the risk of impacting species protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA)

Under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, as amended, listed birds and their parts (including eggs, feathers, and nests) are fully protected. They are also protected under Arizona State Law, Title 17-101, Title 17-235, and Title 17-236. The MBTA states that it is illegal to:

- Pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill, possess, sell, purchase, barter, import, export, or transport any migratory bird, or any part, nest, or egg of any such bird.
 - 'Take' is defined as to "pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or attempt to pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect."

More information regarding the MBTA can be found at:

- <http://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations/laws-legislations/migratory-bird-treaty-act.php>
- <https://www.fws.gov/laws/lawsdigest/migtrea.html>

Where/When are they active?

- The nests of birds protected by the MBTA can be found in many places, including trees, shrubs, cacti, cattails, on the ground, in holes in the ground and on man-made structures including culverts, bridges, buildings, etc.
- The breeding cycle of most birds in Phoenix occurs between February 1 and August 31, although there are a few species that may nest outside that period. Some birds may be present year-round and others migrate, often during the late summer/early autumn period.

How to avoid impacting birds protected by the MBTA:

- If your project might impact active bird nests/burrows, work with the contact below during the design process to make appropriate arrangements before the project activity begins. Necessary actions may include active nest surveys, seasonal restrictions, or obtaining a project-specific relocation permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- When actively working, be aware of your surroundings. If you see a nest that appears active (chirping, aggressive or distracting adult bird behavior, eggs present, etc.) **STOP WORK** within 30 feet of the nest and call the contact below.

Questions? Work may impact birds protected by the MBTA? Contact the City of Phoenix Office of Environmental Programs, Environmental Programs Coordinator, Tricia Balluff at (602) 534-1775 or tricia.balluff@phoenix.gov