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Purdue University Forestry and Natural Resources

Working With Wildlife: Animal Damage Management - Rules, and Regulations in Indiana

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Human-wildlife interactions and conflicts are increasing in Indiana. Hoosiers are choosing to commute to their jobs in the city from their homes in the country. Indiana's land area is one of the smallest in the country, yet it is the 14th most populous state. More people, less "wild" land, and a population that wants to live in the country brings people and wild animals in direct contact and conflict. The more that forests, old fields, and agricultural lands are converted into housing and shopping developments, the more that wildlife is forced to interact with people.

Many Hoosiers seeking a country home do not have a rural background. They are "city" people and often learn about wildlife and the environment from television, or a visit to a park, refuge, or other protected area. As a result, most people simply don't know what to do when a critter decides to call their backyard home. At first, there is great excitement when raccoons, rabbits, and squirrels are observed up close in their backyard. They actually encourage these animals to stay by feeding them. But the pleasure of their presence dissipates when the raccoon chews a hole into house, the squirrels in the attic make lots of noise at 4 a.m., the opossum fights with their pets over the dog food on the porch, or a child is bitten by a bat and requires rabies shots.

Just because you have wild animals using your backyard doesn't mean they will cause a problem. In fact, many people enhance their backyard for wildlife without experiencing any problems. However, sometimes conflicts with wildlife occur, even when the homeowners were not purposefully attracting



(Photo by USFWS)

Increased populations of several species of wildlife, such as the white-tailed deer, combined with more people living in rural areas has led to an increase of human-wildlife conflicts.

wildlife to their backyards. Conflicts may occur when your home is not properly sealed, or when normal food sources for wildlife are scarce like during harsh weather. The conflicts you have with wildlife can also depend upon your surrounding environment. For example, people that live in rural areas often have different experiences with wildlife than people that live in urban environments. When all else fails, just remember that wildlife is "wild" and we can never predict their behavior all of the time.

An animal is damaging my property, what do I do?

You can take care of the problem yourself, or hire a professional wildlife control specialist. If you the species causing the damage, determine all of the

control options available to you, capture the animal if necessary, and prevent the problem from reoccurring. After you identify the species, you will find that many of the nuisance animals are regulated and protected by federal, state, and/or local regulations. The purpose of these laws is to conserve a valuable resource, but also to provide a means of helping landowners properly deal with nuisance wildlife.

The following flow charts are intended to assist you interpret federal and state laws that pertain to the management of mammals, birds, and reptiles and amphibians. Permits and licenses that are mentioned in the flow charts are summarized in more detail in Table 1. For more information about managing wildlife damage, contact the USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services/IDNR Conflicts Hotline at 1-800-893-4116, the IDNR, Division of Fish and Wildlife at (317) 232-4080, the Purdue University, Department of Forestry & Natural Resources at (765) 494-3583 or www.agriculture.purdue.edu/fnr/, or your county extension office.

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank L. Floyd and M. Bulander for reviewing earlier drafts of this publication.

Related Publications

Vist www.agcom.purdue.edu/agcom/Pubs/ to view and download the Purdue Cooperative Extension Service publications found below and more, or call 1-888-EXT-INFO (398-4636) for ordering information.

FNR-FAQ-8W, Working with Wildilfe: Urban Canada Goose Management

FNR 175W, Assessing Your Land's Potential for Wildilfe

ADM-2, Chipmunks

ADM-5, Woodpeckers

ADM-10, Moles

ADM-11, Bats

ADM-16, Woodchucks



(Photos by Judy Loven)

Properly sealing off places that wildlife can enter your home, such as chimneys and under porches, can minimize nuisance wildlife problems.

Internet Resources

USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services

www.entm.purdue.edu/wildlife/wild.htm

Purdue Pesticides Programs

www.btny.purdue.edu/PPP/

Purdue University, Forestry and Natural Resources

www.agriculture.purdue.edu/fnr/

IDNR, Division of Fish and Wildlife

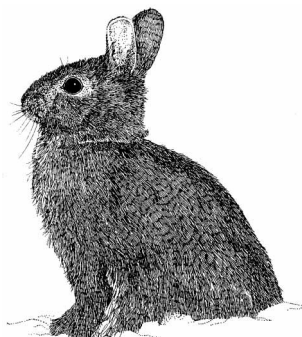
www.state.in.us/dnr/fishwild/index2.htm

The Berryman Institute for Wildlife Damage Management, Utah State University

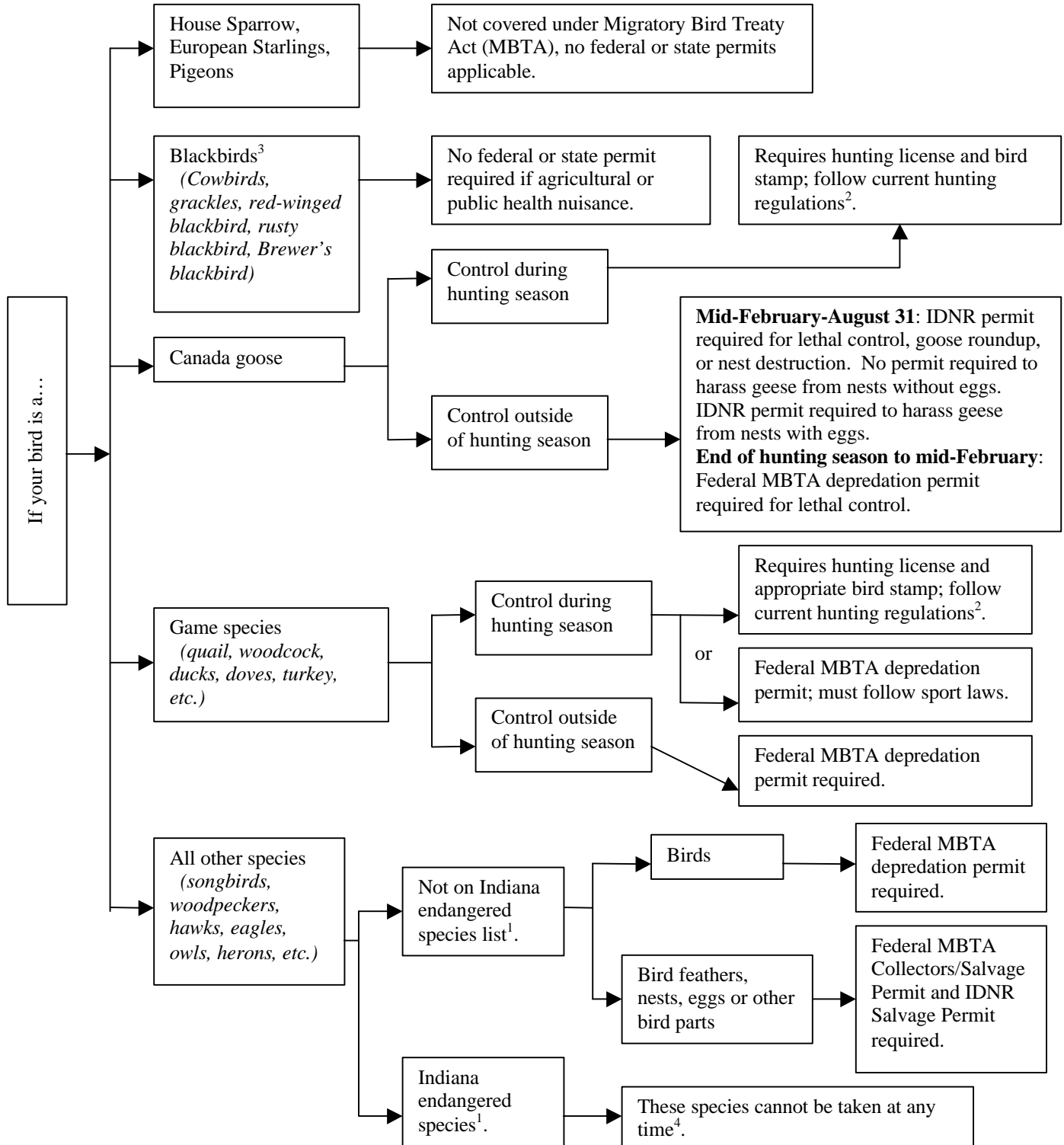
www.berrymaninstitute.org/

University of Nebraska, Internet Center for Wildlife Damage Management

www.wildlifedamage.unl.edu



Permits for Controlling Nuisance Birds



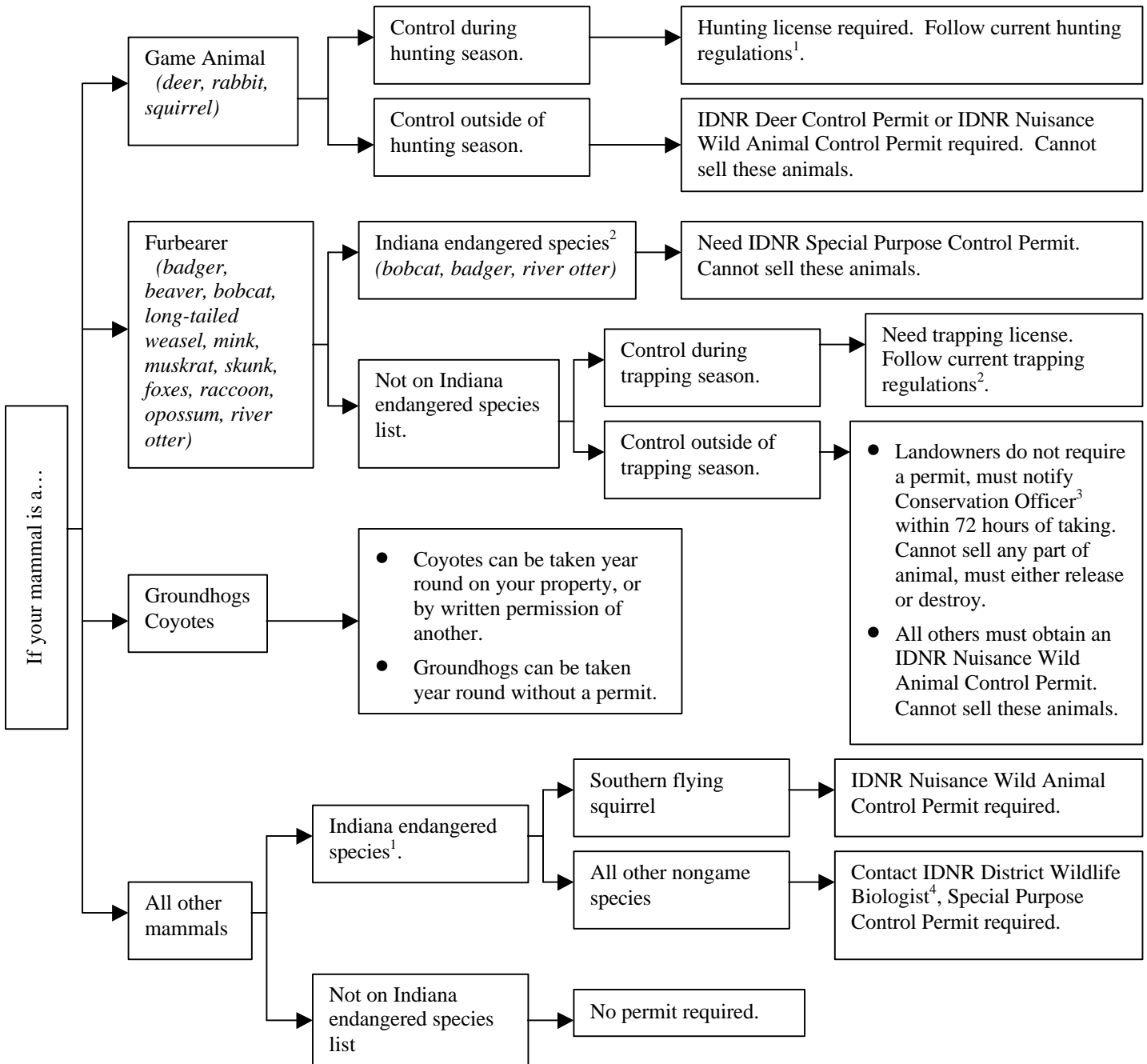
¹ See www.state.in.us/dnr/fishwild/nongame/e-list.htm or call IDNR at (317) 232-4080

² See www.state.in.us/dnr/fishwild/huntguide1/hunting1.htm or call IDNR at (317) 232-4080

³ Yellow-headed blackbird is an Indiana endangered species

⁴ Contact the IDNR Endangered Species Coordinator at (317) 232-4080 for exceptions

Permits for Controlling Nuisance Mammals



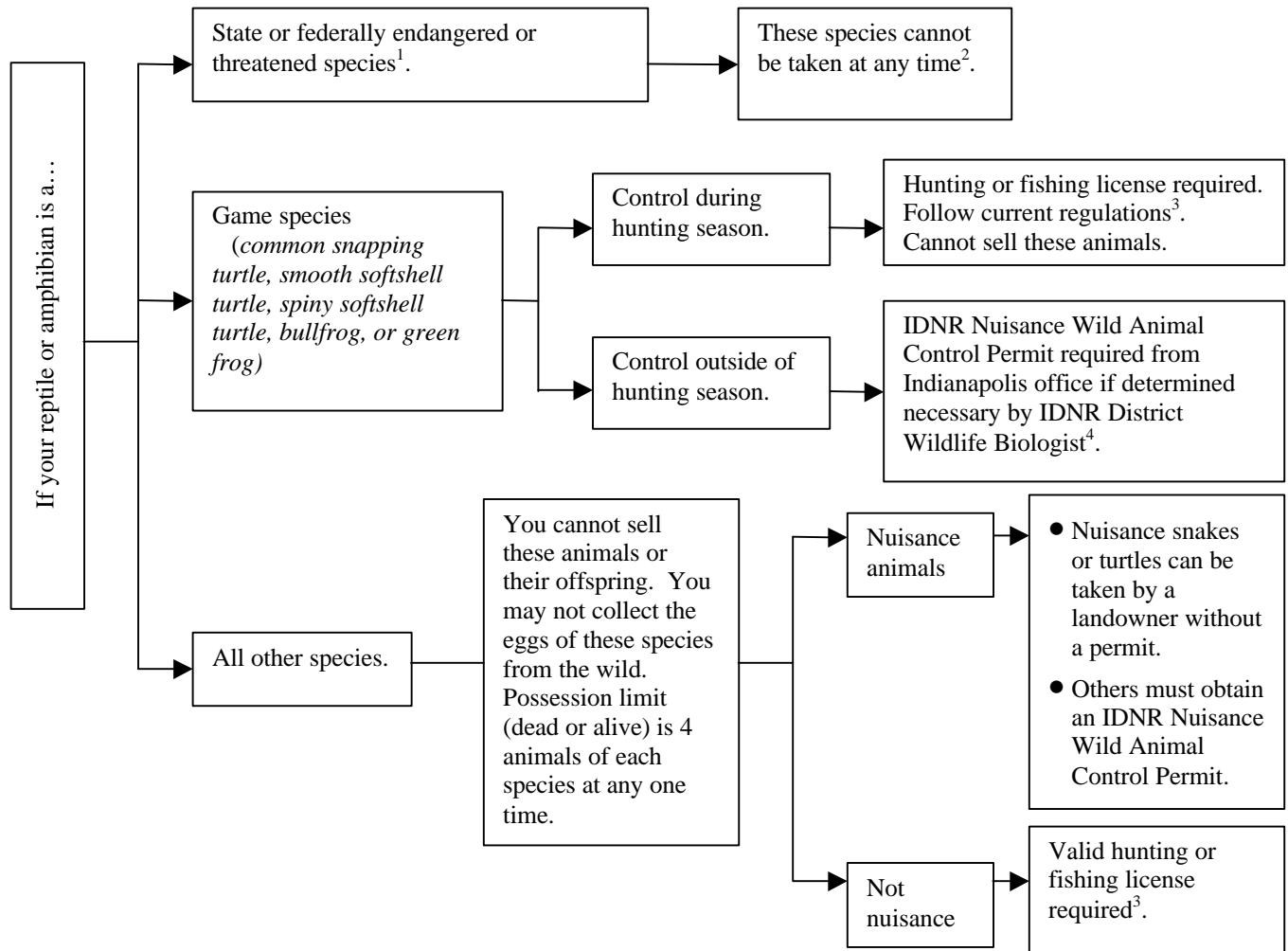
¹ See www.state.in.us/dnr/fishwild/huntguide1/hunting1.htm or call IDNR at (317) 232-4080

² See www.state.in.us/dnr/fishwild/nongame/e-list.htm or call IDNR at (317) 232-4080

³ Contact your county sheriff's office, or see www.state.in.us/dnr/lawenfor/index.htm

⁴ See www.state.in.us/dnr/fishwild/huntguide1/wbiolo.htm

Permits for Controlling Nuisance Reptiles and Amphibians



¹ See www.state.in.us/dnr/fishwild/nongame/e-list.htm or call IDNR at (317) 232-4080

² For safety concerns from endangered venomous snakes, call the IDNR Endangered Species Coordinator at (317) 232-4080.

³ See www.state.in.us/dnr/fishwild/huntguide1/hunting1.htm or call IDNR at (317) 232-4080

⁴ See www.state.in.us/dnr/fishwild/huntguide1/wbiolo.htm

Table 1. Permits and licenses applicable to the control of nuisance mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians in Indiana.

Permit	Agency	Purpose/Contact
Migratory Bird Treaty Act Depredation Permit	USDA-APHIS, Wildlife Services ¹ (765) 494-6229	Authorizes holder to “take” a migratory bird on a case-by-case basis.
Migratory Bird Treaty Act Collectors/Salvage Permit	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (612) 713-5360	Authorizes holder to collect the eggs, nests, feathers or other parts of migratory birds.
IDNR Goose Permit (goose roundup, nest destruction)	IDNR, Div. of Fish & Wildlife [contact your IDNR District Wildlife Biologist]	Authorizes holder to destroy the eggs of Canada geese, or the roundup of flightless Canada geese. Details on the number of eggs, etc. are described on the permit.
IDNR Deer Control Permit	IDNR, Div. of Fish & Wildlife [contact your IDNR District Wildlife Biologist]	Authorizes holder (up to 5 people) to take white-tailed deer out of season due to severe property damage or a safety hazard. The number (1-10) of deer and method of taking are described on the permit.
IDNR Special Purpose Control Permit	IDNR, Div. of Fish & Wildlife [contact your IDNR District Wildlife Biologist]	Authorizes holder to take a state endangered species on a case-by-case basis. Approved by District Biologist with final authorization from Indianapolis office.
IDNR Nuisance Wild Animal Control Permit	IDNR, Div. of Fish & Wildlife [contact your IDNR District Wildlife Biologist or IDNR Law Enforcement Officer]	Authorizes holder to take a mammal (game or nongame) that is causing property damage or poses a safety hazard. Approved by IDNR District Biologist or IDNR Law Enforcement Officer with final authorization from Indianapolis office.
IDNR Salvage Permit	IDNR, Div. of Fish & Wildlife [contact Indianapolis IDNR office at (317) 233-6527]	Authorizes holder to collect the eggs, nests, feathers or other parts of migratory birds.
Hunting and Fishing License	IDNR, Div. of Fish & Wildlife	Authorizes holder to hunt game species during the designated season. Landowners do not require a hunting license to hunt on their own property. You can obtain a hunting license from independent agents, county clerks, and most IDNR properties.
Trapping License	IDNR, Div. of Fish & Wildlife	Authorizes holder to trap furbearer species during the designated season. You can obtain a trapping license from independent agents, county clerks, and most IDNR properties.

¹ USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services will help you complete the permit application. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Regional Office reviews and authorizes MBTA permits.

The Working with Wildlife series is part of a cooperative effort among the Department of Forestry & Natural Resources, Purdue University, USDA-APHIS/Wildlife Services, and the Purdue Pesticide Program to minimize potential conflicts between people and wildlife.



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