

## Wildlife in the Classroom

Information taken from <http://www.dnr.state.il.us/education/CLASSRM/wildlifeintheclassrm041409.pdf>

I am not including the entire set of guidelines that are required but just a brief synopsis for your information. Please make sure that you're up to date on all required information before you except or bring any animal into the classroom.

### Possessing Wildlife or Wildlife Remains in the Classroom

#### Scenarios

**Q: A 10-year old student brings to class a turtle that she found on her uncle's farm. Can the student legally possess the turtle? Can the teacher keep the turtle in the classroom?**

A: It is legal for the student to retain possession of a legally taken turtle so long as the student is under the age of 16. Once the student turns 16 years of age, he/she is required to have a current Illinois fishing license or a current Illinois combination sportsman's license in order to possess the turtle. If the turtle is to become the possession of the educator, he or she is required to have one of the licenses or permits listed above.

**Q. A teacher wants to raise tadpoles in the classroom then release them in a local pond when the frogs/toads reach maturity. Is it legal to do so?**

Teachers should only raise tadpoles that have been purchased from a pet store. As long as they are in possession of the tadpoles or frogs/toads, they should keep the purchase receipt. Should any of the frogs/toads reach maturity, they cannot legally be released into the wild without the permission of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. This law is important because it prevents diseased wildlife and wildlife that is not native to Illinois from being released and harming native populations. Teachers who raise tadpoles should be prepared to keep any resulting frogs or toads, and there could be many of them.

**Q: Students on a nature hike find a monarch butterfly chrysalis at their local state park and ask to collect it so they can watch the butterfly emerge in the classroom. Should the teacher let them collect the pupa?**

A: No. It is unlawful to remove flora or

fauna from state parks. Collection of unprotected species on private land is permissible with consent of the landowner. Protected species cannot be collected anywhere without a scientific collection permit.

**Q: A local hunter has legally harvested a turkey and her son would like to take some of the turkey's tail feathers and the beard to his class for display. Can he legally do so?**

A: Yes. An educator may legally obtain inedible parts of all huntable species in Illinois from a licensed hunter who has legally harvested the animal. Inedible parts include bones and feathers for birds and bones and pelts for mammals. The educator is required to keep the name of the donating hunter on file.

**Q: You are walking around your yard and find a blue jay feather. As you will be teaching about bird feathers in the next few weeks, you pick it up to take to school. Is possession of this feather legal?**

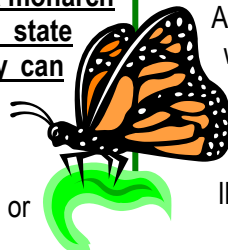
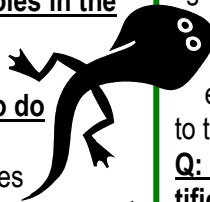
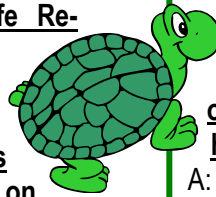
A: No. You are required to have an Illinois scientific collection or salvage permit to possess nonmigratory bird feathers. Feathers from migratory birds require additional permits because they are under the jurisdiction of the federal government. An exception is noted in the Q/A prior to this one.

**Q: You, the educator, have obtained a scientific salvage permit. It is mid-June, and the Canada geese in your area are molting. Near a local pond that your neighbor owns, you notice numerous flight feathers on the ground. You obtain permission from your neighbor to collect these feathers. Is it legal for you to collect these feathers?**

A: No. For migratory species you are required to have a federal collection permit as well as a permit from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

**Q: You are a teacher and are out for a walk in the woods. You spot a shed antler that you would like to take to your classroom. Can you collect and keep it?**

A: It depends on where you are taking your walk. If you are on private property, and you have permission from the landowner to collect shed antlers, there is no law to prohibit you from doing so. If you are on an Illinois Department of Natural Resources



# Nuts About Nature

Compliments of the  
Fayette County SWCD



## WORD FIND

There are  
twenty, green bold words.  
Search for those words  
in our Conservation Word  
Find at the right.

B	W	S	S	N	B	S	E	N	T	U	N	S	N	R
I	U	L	R	O	A	G	G	A	E	O	P	L	O	R
I	K	T	N	E	A	T	D	O	I	S	L	B	O	R
J	I	E	T	V	L	P	U	T	R	U	T	I	C	B
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P	L	U	N	O	I	E	J	X	V	K	T	V	W	A



State Fish and Wildlife Area, you are also allowed to collect and keep inedible parts of deer. If you are in a state park or a **nature** preserve you are not allowed to collect and keep **shed** antlers.

**Q: On a nature walk at a local nature camp, one of your students notices a small bird's nest on the ground, and she would like to bring it back to the classroom. Is it legal to do so?**

A: By law, you must meet two requirements. First, it must be legal to remove the bird's nest according to the rules and regulations of the nature camp. If there is no rule prohibiting the removal of the **nest** from the camp, you must have a scientific collection or **salvage** permit to retain possession of the nest.

**Q. On a walk in the woods, you find a raccoon skull. You would like to use it in your classroom to illustrate the skull shape and dentition of these mammals. Is it legal for you to take it?**

A. Inedible parts, including bones, may be kept if found on private property, with the landowner's permission. They may not be taken from Illinois state parks. City parks, nature preserves, forest preserve districts and other areas may have their own **rules**. It is imperative that you talk to site staff before removing any natural object from public land. You must have a scientific **collection** or salvage permit to retain possession of the skull.

## RECYCLING IN FAYETTE COUNTY

In Fayette County we now have the ability to recycle a variety of products. Every Wednesday from 1:00-5:00 you can bring all eRecycling to the Fayette County SWCD at 301 South Third Street, Vandalia. eRecycling includes but is not limited to things such as computers, monitors, microwaves, batteries of all kinds, keyboards, stereos, cameras and old cell phones. We are not limited to these items. We will take **almost** anything that plugs into the wall. But no large appliances like refrigerators, stoves and dishwashers, I can make arrangements for these large appliances to be recycled for you, just call me for the information.

We are no longer in charge of the paper, plastic, cardboard, newspaper, magazines, old books, and metal cans recycling that is going on in the county. We have given this recycling effort over to Fayco Enterprises. Everyone can drop off their recycling at the Fayco Building on Sunset Street in Vandalia. You could even drop your recycling off when your taking the kids to school in the mornings since the building is so close to the schools. They also have recycling bins set up at variety of locations throughout the county. Not finding a drop site should never be an issue they are expanding almost daily, or at least it seems like it.

