

GUIDANCE FROM ENVIRONMENTAL MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT

TREE-TRIMMING AND LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

What you should know:

Passed in 1918, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) protects birds that live, reproduce or migrate within or across international border areas. The law applies to federal agencies including the U.S. Marine Corps. Through the MBTA, Congress has made it unlawful to harm protected birds or their nests.

At MCMWTC, this law protects virtually all bird species. One notable exception is the common pigeon (Rock Dove).

What you should do:

- **Tree trimming:**
 - July through January, no restrictions.
 - Is not recommended during the nesting season months of February through June.
 - When these date recommendations cannot be observed, notify Environmental Section at least 3-5 days prior to trimming. Enviro will inspect the trees for nests prior to the action.
- **Movement of nests:**
 - With coordination from the Environmental section, under some circumstances, nests can be moved or dismantled before eggs are laid
 - Only certain Environmental section personnel may move a nest with eggs or hatched young! (This action requires a permit from the United States Fish & Wildlife Service).
- **Landscaping:**
 - Ensure that plant/tree species selected for landscaping are allowed under the Base Exterior Architecture Plan (BEAP).
 - Contact Environmental for specific circumstances and recommendations (e.g., soil / nutrient requirements of plant species).

Who you should call:

Environmental 760-932-1457 / 1564 / 1545