



PRESS RELEASE

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**NAVAJO MAN FROM ARIZONA PLEADS GUILTY TO
VIOLATING MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT**

ALBUQUERQUE – U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales announced that this morning, Daniel Chee Walley, 47, a member of the Navajo Nation from Chambers, Ariz., pled guilty to violating the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Walley was arrested on Sept. 14, 2012, based on an indictment alleging that he unlawfully sold and bartered parts of a Swainson's hawk tail without previously obtaining permission from the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, in violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. According to the indictment, the offense occurred on Jan. 31, 2009, in McKinley County, N.M. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act makes it unlawful to possess, offer for sale, or sell any migratory bird, or any part or product of a migratory bird.

Today, Walley admitted that he unlawfully sold the feathers of a Swainson's hawk as alleged in the indictment. At sentencing, Walley faces up to two years of imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine. Walley remains on conditions of release and under pretrial supervision pending his sentencing hearing which has yet to be scheduled.

The case was investigated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Adam S. Rowley.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 545 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resources offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign and Native American tribal governments with their conservation efforts.

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