



Genesee County Prosecutor's Office

David Leyton, Prosecutor



Gaines Township Man Charged with Shooting Bald Eagle

FLINT – Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton has charged a man from Gaines Township with shooting a bald eagle near his home in the area of Van Vleet and Ray Roads in southwest Genesee County.

James Allen Nelson, 65 (d.o.b. 12/23/1945), is charged with shooting an endangered species and reckless discharge of a firearm both of which are misdemeanors punishable by up to 90 days in the county jail.

The case came to light on February 14th when a Michigan DNR Officer was dispatched to the area of Van Vleet and Ray Roads to investigate what was reported to be an injured bald eagle that was discovered by a local resident in the woods. After locating the eagle and recovering it from the field, DNR officials transported it to the Canton Center Animal Hospital for examination and treatment. The medical examination determined the eagle had suffered gunshot wounds and it was treated for its injuries. The eagle was then taken to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator for further treatment and rehabilitation.

A law enforcement investigation by the DNR lead them to Nelson and based on the DNR's report and evidence, Prosecutor Leyton authorized the two misdemeanor counts against him.

Nelson will be arraigned on the charges in 67th District Court.

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