



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

United States Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr.
Western District of New York

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Barbara Burns

PHONE: (716) 843-5817

FAX #: (716) 551-3051

HEADLINE-PLEA

BUFFALO, N.Y.-U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul Jr. announced today that Kirk Canfield, 54, of Wilson, N.Y., pleaded guilty to a violation of Title 16, United States Code, Section 668(a) [violation of the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act], before U.S. Magistrate Judge Hugh B. Scott. The charge carries a maximum penalty of a term of one year imprisonment, a fine of \$100,000 and a term of supervised release of 1 year.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Aaron J. Mango, who is handling the case, stated that the defendant operated a produce farm in the Town of Wilson, New York. In or about August of 2014, the defendant placed a meat pile that had been mixed with Golden Malrin Fly Bait at the edge of a cornfield on his farm in an attempt to kill coyotes. The fly bait used by the defendant contained Methomyl, which is an insecticide that is not to be used in a manner where animals can eat it. Three juvenile bald eagles died after eating the contaminated meat pile, and on or about August 22, 2014, the three dead bald eagles were found and photographed in the immediate vicinity of the contaminated meat pile by a person riding an ATV. Thereafter, the defendant knowingly took and moved the three dead bald eagles from the field, and removed the contaminated meat pile. By placing the contaminated meat pile on his field, the defendant acted with wanton disregard for the consequences of his act.

The plea is the result of/culmination of an investigation by Special Agents of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Honora Gordon and Environmental Conservation Officers with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Sentencing is scheduled for October 2, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. before Magistrate Judge Hugh B. Scott.

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