

Passage Peregrine Falcons trapping season information

General Information

In August 2008, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service created rules allowing take of 36 passage Peregrine Falcons by falconers anywhere in the U.S. east of 100° W longitude. The three flyway councils east of the 100° W longitude agreed to an equal division among the Central, Mississippi and Atlantic flyways of the total number of birds that may be taken each year. In 2017, The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service increased take from 36 to 144 birds per year. The three flyway councils agreed to a continued equal division among the three flyways of the total number of birds that may be taken each year. In 2018, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) modified regulations that allows our state to participate in the passage Peregrine Falcon season. The Central Flyway Council approves the allocation of passage Peregrine Falcon take to participating states during the first half of each year. A proportion of the overall take is expected to be allocated to Nebraska each year.

Falconer Eligibility

Nebraska residents and non-residents who are classified as Master or General Class falconers are eligible to apply to take a passage Peregrine Falcon. Resident falconers may apply for written permission and non-residents may apply for a Raptor Collecting Permit annually to take one (1) passage Peregrine Falcon per year. Both residents and non-residents should use Nebraska Passage Peregrine Falcon Application Form that is available at <http://outdoornebraska.gov/falconry/> or by request from NGPC. If the number of applications exceeds the available number of birds that may be taken in Nebraska (three in 2024), regulations dictate how individuals will be selected. Pertinent regulations (Title 163, Chapter 4, Wildlife Regulations, Section 009, Falconry, Sub-section 009.09) are provided on the following page.

Non-residents applying for a Raptor Collecting Permit may request to capture species in addition to a passage Peregrine Falcon. A Raptor Collecting Permit is valid for capturing no more than two raptors during a twelve-month period. Passage birds of other species may be captured during the period 1 August through 31 January. Once a non-resident submits a copy of the 3-186a form to NGPC within five (5) days of capturing a second passage bird, the Raptor Collecting Permit is canceled. Non-resident falconers applying for a Raptor Collecting Permit must include a copy of their valid falconry permit. If a non-resident applicant is selected to have the opportunity to take a passage Peregrine Falcon in Nebraska, NGPC will contact the individual after 1 August requesting payment. Once payment is received, the Raptor Collecting Permit will be issued. If a selected non-resident falconers voluntarily forfeits the opportunity and withdraws their Raptor Collecting Permit application, another falconer will be selected in accordance with regulations.

Trapping season Requirements

- The passage Peregrine Falcon season is from September 20 – October 20.
- Only one passage Peregrine Falcon may be captured and possessed by a falconer.
- No banded Peregrine Falcons may be taken. If a banded raptor is accidentally captured, NGPC requests band numbers and colors be recorded and photographs taken if possible. The bird must be immediately released. Band numbers and photographs of such incidentally-captured birds should be submitted to NGPC no later than October 31.
- A Peregrine Falcon that falconers take and intend to possess for falconry must be banded with a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service black falconry band. If you do not have a USFWS falconry band, contact NGPC.
- A falconer must submit a 3-186A form within five (5) calendar days of capturing a Peregrine Falcon.

Nebraska regulations regarding Passage Peregrine Falcon take

009.09 PASSAGE PEREGRINE FALCON TRAPPING SEASON

009.09A Applications: Resident falconers may apply for written permission and non-residents may apply for a Raptor Collecting Permit annually to take one (1) passage Peregrine Falcon. To be considered, all requests and applications must be received by August 1 of the trapping year and authorizations and permits will be issued no later than September 19 by the Commission.

009.09B Available Take: The overall number of passage Peregrine Falcons that may be taken and not to be exceeded in the Central Flyway during any one year shall be determined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Central Flyway Council will determine the number of passage Peregrine Falcons each state within the Central Flyway will be allotted.

009.09C Preference: Applications for written permission submitted by resident falconers may be preferred and issued over applications for Raptor Collecting Permits submitted by non-residents. If the total number of applications from residents and non-residents combined does not exceed the available take, then all requests for written permission and Raptor Collecting Permits may be issued. If the number of applications for written permission submitted by resident falconers exceeds the available take, all resident applications may be considered equally in a drawing. If the total number of applications submitted by nonresidents for a Raptor Collecting Permit exceeds the remaining available take once resident applications have been considered and filled, then all non-resident applications for a Raptor Collecting Permit may be considered equally in a drawing.

Important Regulations pertaining to the capture of raptors in Nebraska

NOTE: The following is NOT a complete set of all Nebraska falconry statutes and regulations. This is a listing of the regulations that falconers should be familiar with when submitting a Raptor Collecting Permit application. Complete Nebraska regulations with respect to falconry are available upon request or at <http://outdoornebraska.gov/falconry/>.

009.05 GENERAL REGULATIONS. It shall be unlawful:

009.05D for any General or Master Class permittee to take no more than two (2) young raptors not yet capable of flight (eyases) during any calendar year.

009.05E for any permittee to take eyases birds of the following species in Nebraska without written authorization from the Commission: Prairie Falcon, (*Falco mexicanus*), Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*), Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*), Merlin (*Falco columbarius*), Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), or Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*).

009.05F for any permittee to take a first year (passage) bird in Nebraska, except during a period from August 1 through January 31. It shall be unlawful for legally-possessed raptors that have escaped to be trapped at any time.

009.05G for any permittee to take a raptor over one year old, except American Kestrels (*Falco sparverius*) and Great-horned Owls (*Bubo virginianus*). Any raptor, other than endangered or threatened species, or a Bald Eagle, taken under a depredation permit may be used for falconry by permittees in the General or Master Class. A Master Falconer authorized to possess Golden Eagles for use in falconry may capture a Golden Eagle under the provisions in 50 CFR part 22.

009.07 RAPTOR COLLECTING PERMIT

General Regulations for the Collection of Raptors. In addition to the unlawful restrictions described in 009.05A through 009.05Z, it shall be unlawful:

009.07A for any permittee to sell, trade, purchase or barter any wild raptor. Wild raptors may only be transferred.

009.07B for any permittee to take more than two wild raptors in any twelve month period.

009.08 RAPTOR COLLECTING PERMIT QUALIFICATIONS

009.08A A resident of another state must provide completed raptor collecting permit application and provide a copy of the home state falconry permit held prior to being issued a raptor collecting permit in Nebraska.

009.08B Raptor collecting permits will be issued at the discretion of the Commission.

009.08C An applicant must submit an Acquisition/Disposition report, to be supplied by the Commission, completed in accordance with the instructions on the form and within five (5) calendar days of collecting any wild raptor.

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