

RAPTOR TAKE POLICY



NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
FIELD OPERATIONS DIVISION
SPECIAL USE PERMITS PROGRAM
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This policy allows for the taking of certain species of raptors from the wild for use in falconry, with the appropriate New Mexico state falconry permit, pursuant to regulation 19.35.8 NMAC. Permitted falconers must also adhere to any and all federal regulations ([eCFR :: 50 CFR 21.82 -- Falconry standards and falconry permitting.](#)).

RAPTOR TAKE – General Provisions

The categories to be taken may include eyas, passage, and adult raptors as specified within.

EYAS raptors may be taken from April 1 through January 15 of the subsequent year, and only by holders of General or Master falconer permits, except Peregrine Falcons (see page 3).

PASSAGE raptors may be taken from April 1 through January 15 of the subsequent year.

- No Apprentice falconer shall take more than one raptor during the calendar year.
- No General or Master falconer shall take more than two wild raptors during the calendar year.
- Specific species may be taken by a draw permit only, available to permitted falconers (see pages 2-4)
- Raptor take shall not be construed to allow any falconer to exceed the number of birds or acquire a species other than indicated by the falconry permit class held by that permittee.
- Any raptor taken shall be reported to the Department within 10 days and filed through the USFWS 3186-A electronic reporting system, unless otherwise required or approved by the Department.
- No raptor may be taken on private land without written permission from the landowner, or on any public land where take is prohibited.
- A raptor may be taken from the wild by traps or nets that minimize the potential of physical injury and unnecessary stress to the raptor. Examples of acceptable devices are: bal-chatri, dho-gazza, harness-type, phi trap, bow net traps, or other trapping devices that are humane and acceptable as commonly used in falconry trapping procedures. The permitted falconer must continually attend trapping devices while in use.
- If a legally captured raptor has a research band, other than those instances outlined within this document, the band numbers and all other relevant information must be promptly reported to the Federal Bird Banding Laboratory at 1-800-327-2263 or www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBL/Bander_portal/login/reportband.php, and to DGF.Permits@dgf.nm.gov.
- Resident falconers do not need a take permit in addition to their falconry permit for the raptor species listed in TABLE 1 (page 2).
- Nonresident falconers must apply for a nonresident raptor take permit for the species listed in TABLE 1 (page 2). Only nonresidents who hold a valid falconry permit from a state that allows reciprocal take may apply. Proof of reciprocal take must be submitted with the application.

TABLE 1. Raptors Available for Take by Residents and Permitted Non-residents

Species	Take Areas	Categories Available for Take
American Kestrel	Statewide	Eyas, Passage, and Adult raptors
Great Horned Owl	Statewide	Eyas, Passage, and Adult raptors
Cooper's Hawk	Statewide	Eyas and Passage raptors
Prairie Falcon	Statewide	Eyas and Passage raptors
Red-tailed Hawk	Statewide	Eyas and Passage raptors
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Statewide	Eyas and Passage raptors
Ferruginous Hawk	Statewide	Passage raptors
Merlin	Statewide	Passage raptors

RAPTOR TAKE – Draws

An annual draw is held for the species in TABLE 2, following the guidelines specified within. Applicants must be a licensed General or Master falconer.

TABLE 2. Raptors Available for Take by Draw

Species	Take Areas	Total Number of Available Permits	Take Limits/Conditions
Harris's Hawk	South of I-40	Up to 6 permits	Eyas, Passage, and Adult raptors
American Goshawk (previously known as Northern Goshawk)	North and East of US 180/I-10	Up to 6 permits	Eyas, Passage, and Adult raptors
Peregrine Falcon	Eyas Take: West of I-25, North of I-10 Passage Take: Statewide	Up to 2 permits for Eyas/Passage and up to 2 permits for Passage only	A single passage and/or a single eyas per permit holder. Eyas shall be taken only from nests with at least 2 eyases.

- Applications must be submitted to the Department's Special Use Permit Program no later than end of the business day on the first Friday in March.
- The draw will be conducted within 10 days from submittal deadline, and results will be available within 5 days of the draw.
- Applications should be submitted on the appropriate Raptor Draw Entry Application form, available on the Special Use Permits website wildlife.dgf.nm.gov/enforcement/special-use-permits/.
- An application fee shall be required from each applicant, per application submitted. No refunds for unsuccessful draw.
- Applications may be rejected if not on the proper Raptor Draw Entry Application form or do not supply adequate fee or information.
- Applications and supporting materials should be submitted digitally where possible, to DGFPpermits@dgf.nm.gov. Applications that are mailed should be sent to the Santa Fe office at the address listed on the top of this document. Applications that have been mailed and postmarked but not delivered by the deadline date will be accepted up to 5 working days after that deadline.
- No person shall submit more than one application per species per year. Submitting more than one application per species will result in the rejection of all previous applications.
- If applications for permits exceed the number of available permits, the available permits shall be allotted by means of a random public drawing in the Santa Fe office in the order of: Peregrine, Harris's, Goshawk.

- Applicants who successfully applied but did not draw may accept an undrawn permit for a different species. However, if the number of unsuccessful applicants exceeds the number of leftover permits per species, then a second draw will be conducted. If any leftover permits remain, they may be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis at any time within the take season.
- The permitted falconer must be present at the time of capture or any attempted take; another person may assist during any take attempt.
- No one may transfer, barter, sell, or trade a raptor take permit; the permit shall only be valid for the person in whose name it is issued.
- All raptor take permits expire at the end of the respective season, regardless of success.
- A non-reusable numbered band must be attached to every wild Harris's Hawk, American Goshawk, and Peregrin Falcon captured; bands shall be obtained by submitting the Raptor Take Permit results to the Special Use Permits Program.

Further provisions for Harris's Hawk & American Goshawk

- Eligible residents and non-resident falconers may apply for the take of Harris's Hawks and American Goshawks; all applicants will be entered into the same draw pool.

Further provisions for Peregrine Falcon

- Eligible residents and non-resident falconers may apply for the take of Peregrine Falcons; nonresidents will only be awarded if there are permits left over from the resident draw.
- A Peregrine Falcon that is marked with a federal Bird Banding Laboratory aluminum band cannot be taken; the permittee must document band numbers and location/date of capture, and then must immediately release the Falcon. This information must be reported to the Federal Bird Banding Laboratory at 1-800-327-2263 or www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBL/Bander_portal/login/reportband.php. A Peregrine Falcon that is marked with a research band (such as a colored band with alphanumeric codes, or some other research marking attached) must also be released after documenting band data, unless the Falcon has a transmitter attached to it- in this case the permittee may hold the Falcon up to 30 days in order to contact the researcher to determine if they wish to replace the transmitter/battery, or if they do not wish to continue their study and will allow the permittee to retain the Falcon.
- **Eyas Capture:** Eyas season is April 1 through July 31.
- At least one eyas must remain in the nest.
- In advance of attempt to take, the falconer awarded the Peregrine permit must submit an Observation Report Form to the Special Use Permits Program with 3 eyrie locations, providing GPS coordinates [Map Datum NAD83 and UTM's preferred].
- Each eyrie location shall be reviewed by the Department, and approval must be obtained prior to a take or attempt to take. The Department will respond within 10 business days of submittal, and either approve or deny the locations for the take. If all 3 sites are rejected, or if one or more sites prove to be unoccupied, the applicant may submit additional sites for consideration, within the confines of the permitted take season.
 - Potential capture sites may be denied by the Department based on appropriate biological data.
- While scouting for Peregrine nests/eyries, the permittee must provide to the Department approximate GPS coordinates [Map Datum NAD83 and UTM's preferred] and long distance, panoramic photographs of all Peregrine nest sites that were observed.
 - Scouting observations must be conducted without causing disturbance to the nesting birds, and shall be conducted at a distance of ¼ mile away or greater.

- For each nest site location where a take is either attempted or is successful, the following must be submitted:
 - Exact GPS coordinates [Map Datum NAD83 and UTM's preferred].
 - Photographic images, including a panoramic view of the nest site and surrounding geographic features.
 - Photographic images of the nest that depict the exact number of eyases that are in the nest before *and* after removal or attempted removal.
- The permittee shall submit a final Observation Report Form and may be required to provide additional information to ensure Department staff can conduct a follow-up examination on any eyrie(s) visited, and the eyrie from which the eyas is taken. This information may be used to determine reproductive outcome in the year of the take, and in the following nesting season.
- **Passage Capture:** Passage season: April 1 through August 31.
- A passage Peregrine may be taken from the wild by traps or nets that minimize the potential of physical injury and unnecessary stress to the raptor. The permittee must continually attend trapping devices while in use. Examples of acceptable devices are the bal-chatri, dho-gazza, harness-type, phi trap, bow net traps, or other trapping devices that are humane and acceptable as commonly used in falconry trapping procedures.
- **Reporting Requirements:** Upon successful take of a Peregrine Falcon, the permittee must provide the following to the Special Use Permits Program within 10 days of capture:
 - On the Permit to Take Raptor report form, provide the capture date, sex, approximate age, GPS coordinates of take site [Map Datum NAD83 and UTM's preferred], and a photographic image of the Peregrine Falcon.

POLICY MODIFICATION & REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL RAPTOR TAKE

- The take by permitted falconers as described herein may be withheld or modified for any species whose wild populations in New Mexico may be adversely affected by such harvest.
- The Director may modify this policy at any time.
- Any raptor taken shall be reported to the Department within 10 days, using the proper form(s) and database. The database notification shall be filed through the USFWS 3-186A electronic reporting system unless otherwise required or approved by the Department.



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Effective Date: September 1, 2026

Michael B. Sloane, Director