

(b) A sponsor who is a holder of a general or master falconry permit is required for the first 2 years in which an apprentice permit is held, regardless of the age of the permittee.

1. A sponsor may not have more than 3 apprentices at any one time.

2. A sponsor shall submit an annual progress report in narrative form to the department by July 31 of each year.

3. The sponsor shall notify the department at any time when the progress or performance of an apprentice is unsatisfactory.

4. Upon completion of the apprentice requirement, the permittee must receive approval of the sponsor before advancing to the general class.

(c) A permittee shall not possess more than one raptor and may not obtain more than one raptor for replacement during any 12-month period.

(d) A permittee shall possess only an American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) or a red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*).

(2) GENERAL CLASS. (a) A permittee shall be at least 18 years old.

(b) A permittee shall have at least 2 years experience in the practice of falconry at the apprentice level and receive a written recommendation from the sponsor or produce documentation of qualified experience exceeding 2 years.

(c) A permittee may not possess more than 2 raptors and may not obtain more than 2 raptors for replacement birds during any 12-month period.

(d) A permittee may not take, transport or possess any golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), merlin (*Falco columbarius*) or any endangered or threatened species listed in s. NR 27.03.

(3) MASTER CLASS. (a) An applicant shall have at least 5 years experience in the practice of falconry at the general class level or its equivalent.

(b) A permittee may not possess more than 3 raptors, and may not obtain more than 2 raptors for replacement birds during any 12-month period.

(c) A permittee may not take, transport or possess any endangered or threatened species listed in s. NR 27.03, except captive reared species banded with seamless bands provided by the U.S. fish and wildlife service.

(d) A permittee may not take, transport, or possess as part of his or her three-bird limitation, more than one raptor listed as a federally threatened species as prescribed by 50 CFR s. 21.29 (e) (3) (r).

History: Cr. Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78; am. (2) (d), (3) (c) and (d), Register, August, 1982, No. 320, eff. 9-1-82; emerg. am. (3) (c), eff. 9-15-89. am. (3) (c), Register, March, 1990, No. 411, eff. 4-1-90.

NR 18.11 Duration of permits and renewal procedures. A permit or the renewal of a permit is valid when issued by the department and expires August 31 of each calendar year. New or renewal applications will be accepted for consideration by the department prior to August 31 pro-

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vided the applicant has obtained a valid hunting license expiring August 31 of the next calendar year.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78.

**NR 18.12 Taking and disposal restrictions. (1) SEASON FOR TAKING RAPTORS FROM THE WILD.** (a) Young raptors not yet capable of flight (eyasses) may be taken by a general or master falconer during the period of March 26 through April 5 and May 15 through July 15. No more than 2 eyasses may be taken by the same permittee during the specified period.

(b) First year (passage or immature) raptors may be taken only during the period of September 16 through December 31.

(c) In no case shall the total of all periods of raptor taking exceed 180 days during a calendar year, except that a raptor which has a federal marker attached may be retrapped at any time.

(2) **MARKING.** (a) Raptors held under a permit shall wear a numbered non-reusable marker supplied by the fish and wildlife service.

(b) The marker must be attached to the raptor immediately upon acquisition.

(c) It shall be unlawful to alter, counterfeit or deface a marker except that permittees may remove the rear tab on markers and may smooth any imperfect surface provided the integrity of the marker and numbering are not affected.

(d) Permit holders trapping previously marked raptors shall immediately report such trapping to the department.

(3) **EGGS TAKEN FROM THE WILD.** No person shall remove any raptor egg or eggs from any nest unless permitted under scientific collector's permit issued by the department.

(4) **NESTLING RAPTORS.** Holders of general and master class permits may take nestlings not yet capable of flight (eyasses) as provided under s. NR 18.10.

(5) **ADULT RAPTORS.** Only American kestrels (*Falco sparverius*) and great horned owls (*Bubo virginianus*) may be taken when over one year old, except that any raptor other than federally endangered or threatened species taken under a depredation or scientific collector's permit may be used for falconry by general and master falconers.

(6) **RAPTORS TAKEN IN WISCONSIN.** Title to raptors taken in Wisconsin remains in the state of Wisconsin and said raptors may be transferred in accordance with s. NR 18.16.

(7) **RAPTORS FROM OUTSIDE WISCONSIN.** Raptors obtained from outside the state by Wisconsin residents may not be possessed or transported within Wisconsin unless accompanied by legal authority from the state in which the raptor was acquired and provided a Wisconsin falconry permit is in the possession of such resident.

(8) **ESCAPE OR DEATH OF RAPTORS.** Permittees must report the loss of any raptor within 3 days to the nearest department facility. All carcasses are to be disposed of as directed by the U.S. fish and wildlife service.

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(9) **EXCHANGE OF RAPTORS.** Gift or transfer of a raptor to a holder of a Wisconsin permit is permitted, but must be reported by the permittee within 3 days of such gift or transfer to the nearest department facility.

(10) **TRAPPING OF RAPTORS.** (a) All live traps used in taking raptors shall be of humane design as to offer minimum harm to captured birds and shall be attended during reasonable time periods.

(b) All traps shall bear a legible label containing the name, address and state falconry permit number of the permittee.

(11) **TRAINING OF RAPTORS.** Persons may train raptors by using or killing game birds obtained from licensed game farms. A game farm receipt is required for any bird in possession. Such birds may be possessed year round and shall be treated in a humane manner and confined under sanitary conditions with proper care.

(12) **CAPTIVE REARED RAPTORS.** Raptors hatched and reared in captivity may be used for falconry purposes provided each raptor is banded with a seamless band provided by the U.S. fish and wildlife service.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78; r. and recr. (8), Register, August, 1979, No. 284, eff. 9-1-79; cr. (11), Register, August, 1982, No. 320, eff. 9-1-82; emerg. cr. (12), eff. 9-15-89; cr. (12), Register, March, 1990, No. 411, eff. 4-1-90.

**NR 18.13 Temporary care.** (1) Qualified persons other than the permittee may temporarily care for the birds of a permittee if written authorization from the permittee accompanies the birds when they are transferred.

(a) Care periods not exceeding 30 days shall meet the standards established in s. NR 18.14.

(b) Care periods exceeding 30 days shall meet the following requirements:

1. The department shall be informed in writing by the permittee of this action within 3 days of the transfer and informed where the birds are being held, the reason for the transfer, who is caring for them and approximately how many days they will be in the care of the second person.

2. Such temporary care shall provide facilities which meet the standards established by this chapter.

(2) Diseased or injured raptors may be transported to the nearest, qualified rehabilitation facility. A report of the event including the diagnosis by the facility shall be filed with the department within 5 days of the occurrence.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78.

**NR 18.14 Transportation.** (1) **TEMPORARY HOLDING.** A raptor may be transported or held in temporary facilities for a period not to exceed 30 days. Such facility shall provide an adequate perch and protection from extreme temperatures and excessive disturbance.

(2) **OUT-OF-STATE USE.** A resident permittee may remove raptors licensed by this chapter from Wisconsin for meets, trials, hunting and other falconry activities provided the permittee obtains such permit or license as may be required by another state.

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(3) **IN-STATE USE.** Except for species listed in s. NR 27.03, nonresidents may possess and transport raptors authorized by permit by their state of residency into Wisconsin without additional license. Such raptors may be used for meets and trials provided the event is approved by the department.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78; r. and recr. Register, August, 1979, No. 284, eff. 9-1-79; cr. (3), Register, August, 1982, No. 320, eff. 9-1-82.

**NR 18.15 Release of marked raptors.** A falconry permit holder shall obtain written authorization from the department before any raptor not indigenous to Wisconsin is intentionally released to the wild, at which time the marker from the released bird shall be removed. The marker from an intentionally released raptor which is indigenous to Wisconsin shall also be removed. A standard federal bird band shall be attached to such birds by the state or service-authorized federal bird bander whenever possible.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78.

**NR 18.16 Permit conditions.** In addition to the general conditions set forth in this chapter, every permit issued shall be subject to the following special conditions:

(1) **PROHIBITIONS.** A permittee shall not take, possess or transport a raptor in violation of the restrictions, conditions and requirements contained in this chapter.

(2) **TRADE OR TRANSFER OF RAPTOR(S).** (a) A permittee may trade or transfer a raptor to another permittee if the transaction occurs entirely within the state and no money or other consideration is involved.

(b) A permittee may trade or transfer a raptor to another permittee in an interstate transaction if prior written approval of the state agency which issued the permit is obtained and no money or other consideration is involved.

(3) **ANNUAL REPORT REQUIREMENT.** (a) By July 31 of each year, a permittee shall submit a falconry report to the department containing the following information:

1. Name and address of permittee.
2. State permit number.
3. Past year's hunting license and indicator of migratory bird hunting stamp purchase if the game species hunted requires such a stamp by federal law.
4. Species, sex, (if known), age (if known), and marker number of each raptor added since the last reporting period. Where and from whom acquired.
5. Species, sex (if known), age (if known), and marker number of each raptor disposed of since the last reporting period and the method of disposition.
6. Species, sex (if known), age (if known), and marker number of each raptor in possession as of June 30 of the year in which the report is filed.
7. Number and species of quarry captured during the legal season.

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(b) Failure to report by July 31 may result in non-renewal of permit.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78.

**NR 18.17 Other restrictions.** (1) A person who possesses a lawfully acquired raptor before the enactment of these regulations and who fails to meet the permit requirements shall be allowed to retain the raptors. All such birds shall be identified with markers and cannot be replaced upon death, loss, release or escape of such raptors.

(2) A person who possesses raptors before the enactment of these regulations in excess of the number specified by the falconry permit shall be allowed to retain the extra raptors. All such birds shall be identified with markers and no additional raptors may be obtained until the number in possession is at least one less than the total number authorized by the class of permit held by the permittee.

(3) Feathers that are molted or those feathers from birds held in captivity that die, may be retained and exchanged by permittees only for imping purposes.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78.