

TENNESSEE WILDLIFE RESOURCE COMMISSION
PROCLAMATION 11-12
PROCLAIMING THE TAKING OF RAPTORS FOR THE PURPOSE OF FALCONRY
Proclamation 78-3

Pursuant to the authority granted by Title 70, Tennessee Code Annotated, and Sections 70-4-107, and 70-4-414 thereof, the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Commission hereby proclaims the following regulations governing the taking of raptors for the purpose of falconry.

SECTION I. Species, Limits, and dates of taking

- (1) Young raptors not yet capable of flight (eyasses) may be taken from the nest by General or Master falconry permit holders. Only one eyass may be taken from any one nest, and then only if two or more eyasses are present.
- (2) First year raptors capable of flight (passage birds) may be taken by any class of falconry permit holder. A qualified permit holder may not take such raptors in excess of his license authorization.
- (3) American kestrels (*Falco sparverius*) and great horned owls (*Bubo virginianus*) only may be taken when over one year old.
- (4) [Exception to (3)]. Any raptor other than endangered or threatened species taken under depredation or other special permit may be used for falconry by General or Master falconry permit holders.
- (5) Young raptors (eyasses) may be taken only during the period May 1 through June 30 each year.
- (6) First year (passage) raptors may be taken during the period of September 15 of each year through January 14 of the following year.
- (7) American kestrels and great horned owls over one year old may be taken during the period of September 15 of each year through January 14 of the following year.

SECTION II. Manner and Means

- (1) Eyasses may be taken by hand; however, the permit holder shall not damage the nest or other occupants in so taking.
- (2) First year (passage) raptors may be taken by the use of nets and/or traps approved by the executive director.

SECTION III. Special Regulations

- (1) Licensed falconers only may take raptors approved for their class during the periods designated herein only after written authorization from the executive director and approval of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which authorization shall state:
 - a. Approved species
 - b. Location
 - c. Time period
 - d. Device to be used
- (2) Raptors described under SECTION 1. Entitled "Species, Limits, and Dates of Taking" held under appropriate federal and/or state rehabilitation permits may be possessed by licensed falconers for the purpose of falconry upon authorization from the executive director and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approval.
- (3) Peregrine falcons may only be taken under authority of a drawn permit from counties located in TWRA Region 1. Interested parties must complete a no fee peregrine falcon application found on TWRA web site www.tnwildlife.org. Such application must be completed and postmarked no later than midnight on the second Wednesday of August each year. Send all applications to TWRA, Falconry Coordinator, P.O. Box 40747,

Nashville, TN 37204. All applications will be entered in a random draw to select the permit(s) available for peregrine falcon take in Tennessee. Permit drawing will be held on the last Wednesday of August each year. Permittees will be notified by phone and mail by the first Wednesday of September. Upon being awarded a permit, the following conditions will apply.

Peregrine falcons wearing a research band (colored alphanumeric leg band) or other research markings must be released immediately upon recording band number and location of capture, except that a falcon with a transmitter attached to it may be possessed temporarily in order to contact the researcher and see if they desire to replace the transmitter or batteries. Permit holders who trap a peregrine falcon wearing a transmitter should contact the TWRA Falconry Coordinator immediately 615-781-6647 for authorization and assistance.

Peregrine falcons may be trapped from 20 September through 20 October each year as set by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the Federal Register FWS-R9-MB-2008-NO156; 91200-1231-9BPP. All birds taken must be first-year (juvenile) and as passage birds (no resident birds may be taken). Take is allowed only by permit. Only general and master class resident and non-resident falconers are eligible for the permit drawing. A non-resident applicant who is awarded a permit must have a current non-resident Tennessee hunting license by the second Wednesday of September, in addition to their state's falconry permit. Any banded bird captured must be immediately released at the site of capture and the band number and location of trapping site reported to the TWRA Falconry Coordinator by the second Wednesday of November each year.

Immediately upon capture, permittee must remove/pluck 5 breast feathers from the falcon and place them in a plastic bag. The feather samples must be submitted to the TWRA Falconry Coordinator no later than the first business day of November each year. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture (release) of the trapped peregrine falcon and will be a violation of TWRA regulations. If no falcon was taken, permittee must return leg band to the TWRA Falconry Coordinator no later than the first business day of November each year. Failure to return the band by the first business day of November each year will be considered a violation of TWRA regulations.

Section IV. Repeal of Prior Proclamations

This proclamation repeals Proclamation No. 78-03.

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission



Chairman

I certify that this is an accurate and complete copy of a proclamation lawfully promulgated and adopted by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission on the 20th day of May, 2011.



Secretary

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 24 day of May, 2011.

Lisa Crawford
Notary Public

My commission expires: 5-5-15

Proclamation No. 11-12 received and recorded this 25 day of May, 2011; to be effective the 24 day of June, 2011.

Tre Hargett
Tre Hargett, Secretary of State

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