

MEMO

TO: Larry D. Voyles, Director

FROM: Bob Broscheid, Assistant Director, Wildlife Management Division *bb*

PRESENTER: Eric S. Gardner, Nongame Branch Chief

TITLE: Request to Adopt Commission Order 25: Raptors

DESCRIPTION: The Commission will be asked to vote to adopt Commission Order 25: Raptors, establishing open areas, season dates, and bag and possession limits for 2009 and 2010, as proposed by the Department.

DATE: September 25, 2008

Summary:

From May through June 2008, the Department received recommendations from stakeholders, other government agencies, and Department employees for proposed changes to Commission Order 25: Raptors. It was expected that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) would publish the new Federal Falconry Regulations in July 2008. In anticipation of this release, the Department submitted many recommendations for public comment that were consistent with these regulations. However, the new Federal Falconry regulations were not published in July. The Division of Migratory Bird Management has informed the Department that the Federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is reviewing them, with a deadline for approval at the beginning of November, 2008. The USFWS has assured the Department that they will publish the regulations within 10 days after they receive them from OMB.

After considering several options, the Department has chosen to recommend modifications to Commission Order 25 to reflect the new federal regulations and bring those forward at the October Commission meeting. This will allow the Department the appropriate time to finalize the Hunt Application Process before the January 2009 application period, and allow for a presentation at the Commission meeting. However, if the new federal regulations are not published by the end of the calendar year, the Department will need to return to the Commission to amend the regulations back to a previous version without the new federal regulations incorporated. The Department would then need to return to the Commission a third time to seek re-approval for those presented in October 2008. However, these following presentations would likely be short, and public input would have been already received at the October 2008 public meeting.

In July 2008, the Department brought forward nine recommendations for public comment:

1. Remove western screech-owl from the list of legal raptors harvested. This action is being recommended for two reasons: 1) there is no demand for the harvest of the species, and 2) they are not physically able to take a game animal and should not be allowed as a legal method of take as defined in R12-4-318.
2. Modify the Season Dates to allow greater opportunity to harvest during the summer months. In the past, season dates were set from May 1 to July 11 and October 16 to January 16 because of federal requirements of a 180 capture season. Those restrictions have been removed. Therefore, we are recommending modifying the season dates from May 1 to December 31 to further allow the harvest of raptors through the summer. Exceptions to these changes are maintaining a passage only merlin and ferruginous hawks harvest, a later northern goshawk harvest because of a later breeding season, and the shorter peregrine falcon season due to number 7 below.
3. Move American kestrel and great horned owl to eyas and passage capture only to prevent removal of adults during the nesting season and the possibility of violating the Migratory Bird Treaty Act by inadvertently taking nestlings.
4. Adjust the Open Areas for ferruginous hawk capture to address modifications in Unit numbers and boundaries. Specifically: Unit 42M is now 26M and 47M, the Granite Reef Aqueduct is not located in unit 24B, and rewording to be consistent with other Open Areas.
5. Remove the gender specific peregrine falcon hunts and combine the number of permits offered into one general nestling harvest. The gender specific hunts were established due to a federal requirement to have a process in place to manipulate the sex ratio harvest of peregrines. However, the gender specific hunts cannot be enforced due to the inability to determine the sex of nestlings until near-fledging (well outside the legal age limit for capture). The Department will continue to monitor sex ratio harvest over time to be consistent with federal guidelines of harvesting an equal sex ratio.
6. Add limitations on when an eyas can be harvested to not before 25% or after 75% of its average age in the nest. Nestling before an average 25% may not be able to thermo regulate which may cause mortality or the inadvertent mortality of siblings left in the nest. Nestlings after 75% or their siblings could prematurely fledge before they are physically able to fly causing injury or mortality.
7. Remove the 30 days after fledging restriction on the harvest of peregrine falcons as the federal regulation no longer exists. Federal regulations currently restrict the harvest of migrant peregrines. The date of August 15 is 2 weeks (on average) before peregrine migration begins.
8. Add northern goshawks to the list of species that must be banded within 5 days of capture per federal regulations.
9. Modify the Resident Licenses Required to include the many various types of hunting licenses available by using wording consistent with game hunts.

A tenth recommendation not specifically stated but in line with the intent of developing Commission Orders for 2009 and 2010, is the necessary update of effective dates.

From July through August 2008, the Department received 15 letters from the public on Commission Order 25. Comments fell into the following categories:

1. Proposed western screech owl removal.
2. Timing of changes to Commission Order 25 relative to the finalization of the new Federal Regulations.
3. Allow for a 365 day harvest as per the new federal falconry regulations.
4. Removal of adult American kestrels and great horned owls from the list of allowable species, or restriction of their harvest to a fall only season to protect nesting attempts.
5. Designation or description of Open Areas for taking ferruginous hawks and northern goshawks.
6. Peregrine falcon nestling take ages should include 30 days after fledging (stemming from concerns that the new Peregrine falcon harvest dates would eliminate harvesting passage birds).
7. The nestling age harvest restriction (25/75).
8. Banding requirements for northern goshawks.
9. Effects of replacing "replacement raptor" with "wild caught" on bag limits.
10. Definition of a Federal Falconry License.

At their request, the Department met with members of the falconry community to discuss the nine recommended changes. No requests for formal public meetings were received by the Department. The Department responses to the comment categories are as follows:

Comment 1. The Department put forward two reasons for removing western screech owls from the list of harvested raptors: 1) there is no demand for the harvest of the species, and 2) they are not physically able to take a game animal and should not be allowed as a legal method of take as defined in R12-4-318. In addition, we received public comments to remove the western screech owl because they are 3) strictly nocturnal and hunt only at night, 4) cannot be trained, 5) do not have a historic use in the sport of falconry, and 6) harvest could impact breeding populations of cactus ferruginous pygmy-owls or whiskered screech owls.

- While it is true that only three western screech owls have been harvested for falconry nationwide (and all three were harvested in Arizona in 2004), the Department does not consider non-use as viable rationale to remove the ability to harvest the species. Cooper's hawks, merlins, and ferruginous hawks all have been harvested at low numbers over the past five years. Biologically, the loss of three individuals over the course of four years has no impact to the population.
- The Department referred to Title 17-101 (A)(7) which defines falconry as the "the sport of hunting or taking quarry with a trained raptor." Quarry is not defined in A.R.S. Title 17, so quarry could mean any type of prey item. In addition, Commission Order 14 sets season dates and bag limits for some of western screech owls' prey such as sparrows and starlings.
- The third and fourth comments refer to a falconer's ability to train the raptor for the use in falconry. Comments from the falconry community state they can and have trained western screech owls to hunt during the day. The Department has no data to suggest

otherwise. In addition, hunting at night using Sport Falconry as a method of take is allowed by law.

- The Department found no biological data to support the fifth comment.
- The sixth comment suggests the harvest could affect other species of concern. The Department has taken steps to ensure whiskered screech owls are protected by setting elevation limits in counties where the two species ranges may overlap, and the Department believes the low level of take is biologically insignificant to have an effect on cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl populations.

Comment 2. The Department was recently informed by the USFWS Division of Migratory Bird Management that the Federal Falconry regulations would be published in November 2008. This later than anticipated release date gives the Department three options for making recommendations to Commission Order 25 for the 2009 and 2010 Hunting Season: 1) wait until the new regulations are published before bring forward any recommendations, 2) bring forward recommendations before the federal regulations are published but without the new federal regulations incorporated, and 3) modify the Commission Order 25 in anticipation of the new federal regulations.

- If the Department waited until the new regulations were published before bring forward recommendations to the Commission, this would delay the Hunt Application process which begins in January 2009, and timing may not allow for a presentation at a public meeting.
- If the Department brought forward recommendations without incorporating the new federal regulations in October 2008, we would have to return to the Commission to amend the Commission Order to reflect the new changes before January 2009, and timing may not allow for a presentation at a public meeting.
- If the Department chose to bring forward a Commission Order which reflects the federal regulations in October 2008, it would allow for the Hunt Application Process to proceed as normal in January 2009, and would allow for a presentation at a public meeting. However, if the new federal regulations are not published by the end of the calendar year, the Department will need to return to the Commission to amend the regulations back to a previous version without the new federal regulations incorporated. The Department would then need to return to the Commission a third time to seek re-approval for those presented in October 2008. However, these following presentations would be short, and public input would have been already received at the October 2008 public meeting.

The Department has chosen to recommend modifying the Commission Orders to reflect new changes in the federal regulations and bring those forward to the Commission as this will allow for appropriate time to finalize the Hunt Application Process before January 2009, and allow for a presentation at a public meeting. The Federal Falconry Regulations are being reviewed by the OMB with a deadline for approval at the beginning of November 2008. The USFWS has assured the Department that they will publish the regulations within 10 days after they receive them from OMB.

Comment 3. One commenter asked the Department to investigate a 365 day season for rapture capture per the new federal regulations that allow unrestricted season dates. The Department

worked with the falconry community to determine the earliest breeding season records for all allowed species in Commission Order 25. Even though breeding season dates vary considerably from February to late April, the Department agrees with, and has always allowed, a season at the beginning of the calendar year for the harvest of passage birds. The Department would therefore recommend a January 1 to January 31 harvest season before the beginning of most species begin breeding in February, with exceptions. Exceptions are northern goshawks, merlins, and ferruginous hawks. Northern goshawks within the open areas as described do not start breeding until April, so a passage season could be extended from the beginning of the year until late February. Ferruginous hawks do not breed within the open areas as described so the season could be extended to year round. Merlins do not breed in Arizona, so the harvest season could be opened year round.

Comment 4. The Department has reviewed the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and has spoken with USFWS and AGFD Law Enforcement personnel regarding adult capture of American kestrel and great horned owls. While taking of breeding adults during the spring season may lead to violations of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, it is the responsibility of the falconer to comply with all laws (both federal and state). A state law put in place to ensure a falconer does not break a federal law is not required and would represent an added layer of regulation that is not necessary. Furthermore, because it is difficult to determine the difference between passage and adult American kestrels and great horned owls, a state law restricting take to adults could easily lead to a falconer violating a state law that was not established for that purpose. An option, purposed by the public and agreed upon by the Department, was to allow for eyas only harvest of these species during the spring and to adjust the passage and adult harvest season dates to the fall, to minimize take during the nesting season.

Comment 5. The Department received comments that the recommended action would reduce harvest areas for ferruginous hawks. This is neither the case nor the Department's intent. The Department redefined hunt unit boundaries during the last two year period this Commission Order was in place and those changes have not been reflected in this Commission Order. In addition, the Open Area terminology in the previous Commission Order 25 did not follow proper format by defining Open Areas as "Statewide south of the Gila River and Units 42, 42M and 24B south of Granite Reef Aqueduct." The Department has suggested the following terminology "Statewide except all Units north of the Gila River, excluding Units 42, 26M, and 47M." The harvest areas are the same just expressed differently with the new hunt unit numbers and is now consistent with Commission Order format.

One commenter asked the Department to allow for the harvest of ferruginous hawks and northern goshawks statewide. Due to the contraction of range the ferruginous hawk has experienced nationwide, the low numbers of breeding ferruginous hawks documented in the state, and incomplete data of juvenile migration, the Department cannot support opening ferruginous hawk harvest areas north of the Gila River. Additionally, the status of the northern goshawks south of the Gila River remains in question whether or not it is a subspecies (*A.g. apache*) and abundance of the population. At this point, the Department cannot support opening northern goshawk harvest areas south of the Gila River.

Comment 6. Peregrine falcon take, under previous federal regulation, was limited to nestlings between 18-27 days and 30 days post fledging within the nesting area with a season ending date of July 11. Due to the federal regulations for peregrine falcon harvest in the western United States, the Department must maintain a level of harvest that is below 5% of annual productivity, and harvest migrant birds is not allowed. The Department spoke with the Division of Migratory Bird Management to ensure the state could extend harvest dates past the 30 day limitation, to a time before migrants began appearing thus harvesting only Arizona hatched birds. With the removal of the 180 day season limitation in the new Federal Falconry Regulations, the Department was given the approval to extend the season date until two weeks prior to migrant peregrines appeared in Arizona. Using data from Hawkwatch International at the Grand Canyon, the first migrating peregrine falcon over a 4-year time frame was observed September 2. Therefore, the Department recommends extending the season dates from July 11 to August 15 to allow for the capture of Arizona hatched passage peregrine falcons. Harvesting migrant peregrine falcons is still prohibited by federal regulation until an Environmental Assessment is published in the Federal Register and the Flyway Councils allocate harvest levels.

Comment 7. The Department spoke with the USFWS and AGFD Law Enforcement personnel regarding application of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to the take of nestlings below 25% and over 75% of their nestling age and how this activity may impact nestlings remaining in the nest or the breeding attempt. Concerns were raised that entering a nest before the young could thermoregulate may cause nest failure, and entering a nest too late may cause pre-fledging resulting in mortality. Both law enforcement personnel and the Department agreed that although there is a possibility of violating the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, it would be difficult to enforce and there is not data to show that it is currently occurring. Furthermore, there is no need for a second layer of regulation when the falconer is already responsible for adhering to federal law. The Department met with members of the falconry community to discuss this issue, and agreed that the Department would help educate members of the falconry community on federal rules and regulations to prevent this concern from occurring.

Comment 8. The Department added language in Commission Order 25 regarding the banding of northern goshawks as it will be a requirement in the new Federal Falconry Regulations.

Comment 9. One commenter suggested that using the term "wild caught" as stated in the federal regulations instead of "replacement raptor" in the Live Bag Limit Only for Class I falconers reduced the number of raptors they could obtain. The Department agrees and it is not the intent of the Department or federal regulation to reduce this number. The Department therefore recommends new language that is clearer to the intention of the new federal regulation and removes the levels of falconry from the Live Bag Limit section. The text will read, "Two wild caught raptors per 12-month period (R12-4-422.F-H)," instead of "Class I falconers may capture one wild caught raptor, and Class II and Class III may capture two wild caught raptors alive per 12-month period (R12-4-422.F-H)."

Comment 10. The commenter asked the Department to define the need for a Federal Falconry License if an attempt was being made to meet the requirements of the new Federal Regulations. The Department is aware the publication of the new federal regulations will remove Federal

authority over falconry permitting and give the responsibility to the States. The States will have five years to adjust their rules to become consistent with the new regulations, and to have an appropriate permitting process and tracking database in place. While the States develop their program, federal oversight will continue for the interim. The Department has been planning, and is ready to test its permitting procedures, but we are not ready to take over control of the permitting process this year. Many of the new changes will have to be reflected in Article 4. Article 4 is currently in the Rule Review process, and changes have been suggested for the upcoming Rule Writing Team to become consistent with the new federal regulations. In addition, the changes we have recommended for this Commission Order reflect Season Dates, Bag Limits, Open Areas, and Legal Raptors. These are the changes we can recommend during the Commission Order process to get closer to being in compliance with the new federal regulations.

The Department recommends the following with regard to Commission Order 25 for 2009-2010:

1. Modify the Season Dates from January 1 to January 31 and May 1 to December 31 to allow more opportunities to harvest raptors. Exceptions include: 1) January 1 to February 28 and June 1 to December 31 season date for northern goshawks with open areas described, 2) open season dates for passage merlins, 3) open season dates for ferruginous hawk within the open areas described, 4) fall only season for adult and passage American kestrel, western screech owl, and great horned owl harvest, 5) a shorter peregrine falcon eyas season due to Federal Regulations on Migrant Take.
2. Move adult and passage American kestrel and great horned owl to a fall season.
3. Modify the language within the Open Areas for ferruginous hawk capture.
4. Remove the gender specific peregrine falcon hunts and combine the number of permits offered into one general nestling harvest.
5. Remove the 30 days after fledging restriction on the harvest of peregrine falcons and extend the season end date to August 15.
6. Add northern goshawks to the list of species that must be banded.
7. Modify the language within Resident Licenses Required.
8. Modify the language within Live Bag Limit Only.
9. Update the effective dates of the commission order.

Recommendation:

The Department recommends the Commission VOTE TO ADOPT COMMISSION ORDER 25: RAPTORS, ESTABLISHING OPEN AREAS, SEASON DATES, AND BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS FOR 2009 and 2010, AS PROPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

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Commission Order 25: Raptors

RESIDENT FALCONERS - RAPTOR CAPTURE SEASONS

Statewide - As defined in ARSS§17-101, excluding wildlife areas not opened for hunting under R12-4-802.

Open Areas do not include any area closed to hunting, fishing, or trapping under ARSS§17-303, 304, or R12-4-301, 801, 802, 803.

Hunt Number	Season Dates	Notes	Open Areas	Legal Raptor	Annual Permits
-	Jan 1 – Jan 31, 2009, 2010	(1,2,3)	Statewide.	Eyas American Kestrel, great horned owl, and western screech owl.	-
-	May 1 – Dec 31, 2009, 2010	(1,2,3)	Statewide.	Eyas or passage Cooper's hawk, prairie falcon, red-tailed hawk, and sharp-shinned hawk.	-
-	Jan 1 – Jan 31, 2009, 2010	(1,3)	Statewide.	Passage and adult American kestrel, great horned owl, and western screech owls.	-
-	Sept 15 – Dec 31, 2009, 2010	(1,2,4)	Statewide except Yuma and La Paz counties.	Eyas or passage Harris' hawk.	-
-	Jan 1 – Jan 31, 2009, 2010	(1,2,4)	Statewide except all Units south of the Gila River.	Eyas or passage northern goshawk.	-
-	Jan 1 – Feb 28, 2009, 2010	(1,2,4,5)	Statewide.	Eyas or passage peregrine falcon.	5
-	Jun 1 – Dec 31, 2009, 2010	(1)	Statewide	Passage merlin.	-
-	Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2009, 2010	(1)	Statewide except all Units north of the Gila River, excluding Units 42, 26M, and 47M.	Passage ferruginous hawk.	-

Notes: 1. Class I falconers are limited to capture of passage American kestrels and red-tailed hawks between Sept 15 and Dec 31.

2. No eyas shall be removed unless 1 (one) or more live eyas raptors remain in the nest (R12-4-422.K.3).

3. In Pima, Pinal, Graham, Santa Cruz, and Cochise counties, Western screech-owls may only be captured in Sonoran Desert habitats below 2500 ft elevation.

4. Harris' hawks, northern goshawks, and peregrine falcons must be banded by Department personnel within five days of capture (R12-4-422.K.6).

5. Eyas peregrine falcons may only be taken between 18 and 27 days of age in the nest.

Live Bag Limit Only: Two wild caught raptors per 12-month period (R12-4-422.F-H).

Possession Limit: Class I falconers may possess 1 raptor; Class II falconers may possess 2 raptors; Class III falconers may possess 3 raptors (R12-4-422.F-H).

Licenses Required: Any valid hunting or combination license except a Three-Day Hunting (Class H), a Sport Falconry License, and a Federal Falconry License.

Definitions: Eyas and passage raptors - As defined in R12-4-422.A.1, A.3, and A.4.

Commission Order 25: Raptors

NONRESIDENT FALCONERS - RAPTOR CAPTURE SEASONS

Statewide - As defined in ARSS§17-101, excluding wildlife areas not opened for hunting under R12-4-802.

Open Areas do not include any area closed to hunting, fishing, or trapping under ARSS§17-303, 304, or R12-4-301, 801, 802, 803.

Hunt Number	Season Dates	Notes	Open Areas	Legal Raptor	Annual Permits
-	Jan 1 – Jan 31, 2009, 2010 May 1 – Dec 31, 2009, 2010	(1,2,3)	Statewide.	Eyas American Kestrel, great horned owl, and western screech owl. Eyas or passage raptors of the following species: Cooper's hawk, prairie falcon, red-tailed hawk, and sharp-shinned hawk.	-
-	Jan 1 – Jan 31, 2009, 2010 Sept 15 – Dec 31, 2009, 2010	(1,3)	Statewide.	Passage and adult American kestrel, great horned owl, and western screech owl.	-
20002	Jun 1 – Dec 31, 2009, 2010	(1,2,4)	Statewide except all Units south of the Gila River.	Eyas or passage northern goshawk.	3
21003	May 1 – Aug 15, 2009, 2010	(1,2,4,5)	Statewide.	Eyas or passage peregrine falcon.	3
22001	May 1 – Dec 31, 2009, 2010	(1,2,4)	Statewide except Yuma and La Paz counties.	Eyas or passage Harris' hawk.	10
-	Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2009, 2010	(1)	Statewide	Passage merlin.	-
-	Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2009, 2010	(1)	Statewide except all Units north of the Gila River, excluding Units 42, 26M, and 47M.	Passage ferruginous hawk.	-

Notes: 1. Class I falconers are limited to capture of passage American kestrels and red-tailed hawks between Sept 15 and Dec 31.

2. No eyas shall be removed unless 1 (one) or more live eyas raptors remain in the nest (R12-4-422.K.3).

3. In Pima, Pinal, Graham, Santa Cruz, and Cochise counties, Western screech-owls may only be captured in Sonoran Desert habitats below 2500 ft elevation.

4. Harris' hawks, northern goshawks, and peregrine falcons must be banded by Department personnel within five days of capture (R12-4-422.K.6).

5. Peregrine falcons may only be taken between 18 and 27 days of age in the nest.

Live Bag Limit Only: Two wild caught raptors per 12-month period (R12-4-422.F-H).

Possession Limit: Class I falconers may possess 1 raptor; Class II falconers may possess 2 raptors; Class III falconers may possess 3 raptors (R12-4-422.F-H).

Licenses Required: Nonresident Class F or G license, a Falconry License from a Non-Arizona State recognized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as meeting Federal Falconry Standards, and a Federal Falconry License.

Definitions: Eyas and passage raptors - As defined in R12-4-422.A.1, A.3, A.4.

**RESIDENT FALCONER
HUNT APPLICATION PROCEDURES
PEREGRINE FALCON (21001)**

Capture of peregrine falcons by resident licensed falconers is allowed with a valid Arizona peregrine falcon hunt permit-tag from May 1 – August 15. Only Class II (General) and Class III (Master) falconers are allowed to capture peregrine falcons.

Peregrine falcons must be banded by Department personnel within five days of capture (R12-4-422.K.6). We request that you contact the Department's Regional Falconry Coordinator prior to, or at the start of, your hunt to schedule an appointment for banding.

Five hunt permit tags (total) will be drawn annually (R12-4-114 and R12-4-104). The odds of being drawn are based on the number of applications received.

2009 Hunt Permit-Tag Application Schedule and Procedure: Applications (Forms 624/390) will be accepted on or after Monday, January 5, 2009 by U.S. Mail only. The deadline for application receipt is Tuesday, February 3, 2009. No applications will be accepted after this date regardless of the postmark. Hunt permit-tags will be mailed by Monday, February 23, 2009. Any unfilled hunt permit tags will be made available on a first-come first-serve basis by U.S. Mail only on Monday, March 2, 2009.

2010 Hunt Permit-Tag Application Schedule and Procedure: Applications (Forms 624/390) will be accepted on or after Monday, January 4, 2010 by U.S. Mail only. The deadline for application receipt is Tuesday, February 2, 2010. No applications will be accepted after this date regardless of the postmark. Hunt permit-tags will be mailed by Monday, February 22, 2010. Any unfilled hunt permit tags will be made available on a first-come first-serve basis by U.S. Mail only on Monday March 1, 2010.

Use this procedure if you are requesting an Arizona peregrine falcon hunt permit-tag. This procedure does not apply to other raptors that may be legally taken under Commission Order 25. Use Forms 624 and/or 390 (Hunt Permit Application/Application for Hunt License) available at Arizona Game and Fish Department offices or any licensed dealer.

Be sure to: (1) On Form 624, in the box marked FIRST CHOICE HUNT NUMBER write 21,001 for peregrine falcon. (2) Include your Arizona Hunting License Number for year 2009 and/or 2010 as requested, or complete the license request (Form 390) and include the proper fees. **All applicants must have an Arizona Hunting license to be eligible for the draw (R12-4-104). Applicants not drawn will still be issued an Arizona Hunting license.** (3) Fill in your social security number, this is a Federal requirement. A Department I.D. number may also be used to track hunter information including bonus points, but must be obtained before submitting your hunt permit-tag application. (4) Include the application fee with your application. Personal check, certified check, cashier's check or money order must be payable to the Arizona Game and Fish Department. **Cash will not be accepted.** (5) Send the application (Form 624) with a valid license number or a completed license request form (Form 390) with the proper fees in the envelope to P.O. BOX 52002, Phoenix, AZ 85072-2003. (6) Use the correct postage.

Complete and proper preparation of an application is the sole responsibility of the applicant. The Department may assist, but cannot inspect applications or guarantee they are correct.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY U.S. MAIL ONLY BY TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2009 (FOR 2009 PERMITS) OR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2010 (FOR 2010 PERMITS) AT THE ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT, PHOENIX OFFICE.

**NONRESIDENT FALCONER
HUNT APPLICATION PROCEDURES
NORTHERN GOSHAWK (20002)**

Capture of northern goshawks by nonresident licensed falconers is allowed with a valid Arizona northern goshawk hunt permit-tag from June 1 - December 31. Only Class II (General) and Class III (Master) falconers are allowed to capture Northern Goshawks.

Northern goshawks must be banded by Department personnel within five days of capture (R12-4-422.K.6). We request that you contact the Department's Regional Falconry Coordinator prior to, or at the start of, your hunt to schedule an appointment for banding.

Three hunt permit tags (total) will be drawn annually (R12-4-114 and R12-4-104). The odds of being drawn are based on the number of applications received.

2009 Hunt Permit-Tag Application Schedule and Procedure: Applications (Forms 624/390) will be accepted on or after Monday, January 5, 2009 by U.S. Mail only. The deadline for application receipt is Tuesday, February 3, 2009. No applications will be accepted after this date regardless of the postmark. Hunt permit-tags will be mailed by Monday, February 23, 2009. Any unfilled hunt permit tags will be made available on a first-come first-serve basis by U.S. Mail only on Monday, March 2, 2009.

2010 Hunt Permit-Tag Application Schedule and Procedure: Applications (Forms 624/390) will be accepted on or after Monday, January 4, 2010 by U.S. Mail only. The deadline for application receipt is Tuesday, February 2, 2010. No applications will be accepted after this date regardless of the postmark. Hunt permit-tags will be mailed by Monday, February 22, 2010. Any unfilled hunt permit tags will be made available on a first-come first-serve basis by U.S. Mail only on Monday March 1, 2010.

Use this procedure if you are requesting an Arizona northern goshawk hunt permit-tag. This procedure does not apply to other raptors that may be legally taken under Commission Order 25. Use Forms 624 and/or 390 (Hunt Permit Application/Application for Hunt License) available at Arizona Game and Fish Department offices or any licensed dealer.

Be sure to: (1) On Form 624, in the box marked FIRST CHOICE HUNT NUMBER write 20,002 for northern goshawk. (2) Include your Arizona Hunting License Number for year 2009 and/or 2010 as requested, or complete the license request (Form 390) and include the proper fees. **All applicants must have an Arizona Hunting license to be eligible for the draw. Applicants not drawn will still be issued an Arizona Hunting license (R12-4-104).** (3) Fill in your social security number, this is a Federal requirement. A Department I.D. number may also be used to track hunter information including bonus points, but must be obtained before submitting your hunt permit-tag application. (4) Include the application fee with your application. Personal check, certified check, cashier's check or money order must be payable to the Arizona Game and Fish Department. **Cash will not be accepted.** (5) Send the application (Form 624) with a valid license number or a completed license request form (Form 390) with the proper fees in the envelope to P.O. BOX 52002, Phoenix, AZ 85072-2003. (6) Use the correct postage.

Complete and proper preparation of an application is the sole responsibility of the applicant. The Department may assist, but cannot inspect applications or guarantee they are correct.

Northern goshawk capture is closed in all Game Management Units south of the Gila River.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY U.S. MAIL ONLY BY TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2009 (FOR 2009 PERMITS) OR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2010 (FOR 2010 PERMITS) AT THE ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT, PHOENIX OFFICE.

**NONRESIDENT FALCONER
HUNT APPLICATION PROCEDURES
PEREGRINE FALCON (21003)**

Capture of peregrine falcons by nonresident licensed falconers is allowed with a valid Arizona peregrine falcon hunt permit-tag from May 1 – August 15. Only Class II (General) and Class III (Master) falconers are allowed to capture peregrine falcons.

Peregrine falcons must be banded by Department personnel within five days of capture (R12-4-422.K.6). We request that you contact the Department's Regional Falconry Coordinator prior to, or at the start of, your hunt to schedule an appointment for banding.

Three hunt permit tags (total) will be drawn annually (R12-4-114 and R12-4-104). The odds of being drawn are based on the number of applications received.

2009 Hunt Permit-Tag Application Schedule and Procedure: Applications (Forms 624/390) will be accepted on or after Monday, January 5, 2009 by U.S. Mail only. The deadline for application receipt is Tuesday, February 3, 2009. No applications will be accepted after this date regardless of the postmark. Hunt permit-tags will be mailed by Monday, February 23, 2009. Any unfilled hunt permit tags will be made available on a first-come first-serve basis by U.S. Mail only on Monday, March 2, 2009.

2010 Hunt Permit-Tag Application Schedule and Procedure: Applications (Forms 624/390) will be accepted on or after Monday, January 4, 2010 by U.S. Mail only. The deadline for application receipt is Tuesday, February 2, 2010. No applications will be accepted after this date regardless of the postmark. Hunt permit-tags will be mailed by Monday, February 22, 2010. Any unfilled hunt permit tags will be made available on a first-come first-serve basis by U.S. Mail only on Monday March 1, 2010.

Use this procedure only to request an Arizona peregrine falcon hunt permit-tag. This procedure does not apply to other raptors that may be legally taken under Commission Order 25. Use Forms 624 and/or 390 (Hunt Permit Application/Application for Hunt License) available at Arizona Game and Fish Department offices or any licensed dealer.

Be sure to: (1) On Form 624, in the box marked FIRST CHOICE HUNT NUMBER write 21,003 for peregrine falcon. (2) Include your Arizona Hunting License Number for year 2009 and/or 2010 as requested, or complete the license request (Form 390) and include the proper fees for the license requested. **All applicants must have an Arizona Hunting license to be eligible for the draw. Applicants not drawn will still be issued an Arizona Hunting license.** (3) Fill in your social security number, this is a Federal requirement. A Department I.D. number may also be used to track hunter information including bonus points, but must be obtained before submitting your hunt permit-tag application. (4) Include the application fee with your application. Personal check, certified check, cashier's check or money order must be payable to the Arizona Game and Fish Department. **Cash will not be accepted.** (5) Send the application (Form 624) with a valid license number or a completed license request form (Form 390) with the proper fees in the envelope to P.O. BOX 52002, Phoenix, AZ 85072-2003. (6) Use the correct postage.

Complete and proper preparation of an application is the sole responsibility of the applicant. The Department may assist, but cannot inspect applications or guarantee they are correct.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY U.S. MAIL ONLY BY TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2009 (FOR 2009 PERMITS) OR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2010 (FOR 2010 PERMITS) AT THE ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT, PHOENIX OFFICE.

**NONRESIDENT FALCONER
HUNT APPLICATION PROCEDURES
HARRIS' HAWK (22001)**

Capture of Harris' hawks by nonresident licensed falconers is allowed with a valid Arizona Harris' hawk hunt permit-tag from May 1 – December 31. Only Class II (General) and Class III (Master) falconers are allowed to capture Harris' Hawks.

Harris' hawks must be banded by Department personnel within five days of capture (R12-4-422.K.6). We request that you contact the Department's Regional Falconry Coordinator prior to, or at the start of, your hunt to schedule an appointment for banding.

Ten hunt permit tags (total) will be drawn annually (R12-4-114 and R12-4-104). The odds of being drawn are based on the number of applications received.

2009 Hunt Permit-Tag Application Schedule and Procedure: Applications (Forms 624/390) will be accepted on or after Monday, January 5, 2009 by U.S. Mail only. The deadline for application receipt is Tuesday, February 3, 2009. No applications will be accepted after this date regardless of the postmark. Hunt permit-tags will be mailed by Monday, February 23, 2009. Any unfilled hunt permit tags will be made available on a first-come first-serve basis by U.S. Mail only on Monday, March 2, 2009.

2010 Hunt Permit-Tag Application Schedule and Procedure: Applications (Forms 624/390) will be accepted on or after Monday, January 4, 2010 by U.S. Mail only. The deadline for application receipt is Tuesday, February 2, 2010. No applications will be accepted after this date regardless of the postmark. Hunt permit-tags will be mailed by Monday, February 22, 2010. Any unfilled hunt permit tags will be made available on a first-come first-serve basis by U.S. Mail only on Monday March 1, 2010.

Use this procedure only to request an Arizona Harris' hawk hunt permit-tag. This procedure does not apply to other raptors that may be legally taken under Commission Order 25. Use Forms 624 and/or 390 (Hunt Permit Application/Application for Hunt License) available at Arizona Game and Fish Department offices or any licensed dealer.

Be sure to: (1) On Form 624, in the box marked FIRST CHOICE HUNT NUMBER write 22,001 for Harris hawks. (2) Include your Arizona Hunting License Number for year 2009, and/or 2010 as requested, or complete the license request (Form 390) and include the proper fees for the license(s) requested. **All applicants must have an Arizona Hunting license to be eligible for the draw (R12-4-104). Applicants not drawn will still be issued an Arizona Hunting license.** (3) Fill in your social security number, this is a Federal requirement. A Department I.D. number may also be used to track hunter information including bonus points, but must be obtained before submitting your hunt permit-tag application. (4) Include the application fee with your application. Personal check, certified check, cashier's check or money order must be payable to the Arizona Game and Fish Department. **Cash will not be accepted.** (5) Send the application (Form 624) with a valid license number or a completed license request form (Form 390) with the proper fees in the envelope to P.O. BOX 52002, Phoenix, AZ 85072-2003. (6) Use the correct postage.

Complete and proper preparation of an application is the sole responsibility of the applicant. The Department may assist, but cannot inspect applications or guarantee they are correct.

Harris' hawk capture is open in all Game Management Units except those in Yuma and La Paz counties.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY U.S. MAIL ONLY BY TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2009 (FOR 2009 PERMITS) OR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2010 (FOR 2010 PERMITS) AT THE ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT, PHOENIX OFFICE.