

**TITLE 800. DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
CHAPTER 25. WILDLIFE RULES
SUBCHAPTER 7. GENERAL HUNTING SEASONS**

PART 7. FALCONRY

800:25-7-27. General provisions

Any person licensed for falconry in the State of Oklahoma must be in full compliance of federal and state falconry regulations. All federal falconry definitions, terms and provisions will be in effect in Oklahoma except those where state regulations are more restrictive than in federal regulation [Title 50, Sections 21.28 and 21.29 and Title 29 O.S., Sections 4-108 and 5-206].

800:25-7-28. Dates, open areas, bag limit, hunting hours and legal means of taking

The following hunting dates, open areas, hunting hours, bag limits and legal means of taking apply to licensed falconers hunting with legal raptors:

- (1) **Dates and open areas.** The following species are permitted to be hunted with legal raptors:
 - (A) Pheasant: The season is open statewide from October 1 through March 31.
 - (B) Rabbit: The season is open year-round; statewide.
 - (C) Prairie Chicken: The season will be open at the most liberal level allowed by the Falconry and Archery Adaptive Harvest Management Strategy (AHMS) for Prairie Chickens in Oklahoma. Season dates, open areas and bag limits are defined in the AHMS.
 - (D) Quail: The season is open statewide from October 1 through March 31.
- (2) **Bag limit.** The bag limit during falconry hunting dates that are outside of the regular hunting season shall be two animals of each species daily, four in possession after the first day, except prairie chickens, for which the bag limit is defined in the Falconry and Archery Adaptive Harvest Management Strategy for Prairie Chickens in Oklahoma. Bag limits during regular hunting seasons shall be the same as those listed in the Oklahoma Hunting Guide.
- (3) **Hunting hours.** The hunting period shall be sunrise to sunset. Non-protected wildlife may be hunted at any time.
- (4) **Legal means of taking.** The legal means of taking shall be with legal raptors only.

800:25-7-29. License requirements

- (a) No resident may take, transport or possess any raptor without having first obtained an Oklahoma Falconer's license. Nonresidents must possess a falconers license from their state of residence to transport or possess any raptor in Oklahoma.
- (b) Said license permits an Oklahoma resident to possess and use designated legal raptors in hunting during the regular and special falconry upland game and migratory bird seasons. Nonresidents are required to possess an Oklahoma hunting license and a falconers license from their state of residence to possess and use designated legal raptors in hunting during the regular and special falconry upland game and migratory bird seasons.
- (c) Individuals failing the falconry examination may reapply after a period of three months.
- (d) Licenses may be renewed upon expiration without examination following submission of annual harvest reports and provided the Director of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation is satisfied with the competency of the applicant whose license has expired. Falconers whose license has lapsed for more than five (5) years can re-apply for a falconry permit only after correctly answering 80 percent of the questions on the falconry exam.

800:25-7-30. Facilities and inspection

- (a) Before any individual shall possess a bird for falconry, the applicant's housing facilities and falconry equipment shall be inspected and certified by a representative or designee of the Department.
- (b) All raptor facilities and equipment shall be available for inspection by representatives of the Department at all reasonable hours.
- (c) Falconry birds may be housed in either an indoor or outdoor facility.
- (d) Each raptor must have clean water available for a portion of each day.

800:25-7-31. Taking provisions

- (a) Eyas: Young birds not yet capable of flight (eyases) may only be taken from the wild by a General or Master Falconer. No more than two eyases may be taken by the same licensee during the taking period. At least two birds must be left in any nest form which one or more birds is removed, except in the case of birds of the genus *Buteo* where a minimum of one bird must be left in the nest. Removal of eggs from nests is prohibited.
- (b) Passage: First-year (passage) birds, still in immature plumage, may be taken only from August 1 through May 31.
- (c) Raptors that are lost to the wild may be retrapped at any time. Raptors lost for more than 30 days shall be considered as lost and reported as such to the Department.
- (d) Legal raptors: Raptors that may be taken from the wild in Oklahoma are the same as those listed in CFR 50.
- (e) Golden eagles may be taken with permission of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation as allowed by pertinent state and federal statutes and regulations.
- (f) The Director of the Department of Wildlife may authorize resident general and master falconers to take passage gyrfalcons.
- (g) The take of any state or federally listed threatened species will require prior approval from the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.
- (h) The first bird acquired by an apprentice falconer must be one in which they actively participated in capturing from the wild. This bird may only be a Red-tailed Hawk or an American Kestrel. An apprentice can acquire a bird through transfer no sooner than six months following the capture date of their first bird. An apprentice falconer may only possess a Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel or a Harris' Hawk.

800:25-7-32. Prohibited raptors

- (a) The taking of any raptor from the wild in Oklahoma that is not listed in 800:25-7-31 (e) is prohibited.
- (b) Those species not listed in 800:25-7-31 (e) as legal for taking in Oklahoma and any other captive-bred individuals or hybrids of species may be possessed and used for falconry provided the license holder can provide evidence that the bird was legally acquired.
- (c) The taking or possession of endangered species or exotic birds, the import of which has been banned by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation Commission is prohibited at all times except those acquired through legal means such as from a breeding facility.

800:25-7-33. General stipulations

- (a) Nonresident General and Master falconers will be allowed to take legal raptors in Oklahoma provided that their state of residence reciprocates such approval for Oklahoma falconers. Nonresidents must make written application to the Department for a falconry license and hunting license prior to attempting to take a raptor from the wild. Nonresidents are required to show proof of falconer's license in their state of residence. Nonresidents shall be limited to taking one raptor per year.

- (b) A falconry license holder may release raptors native to Oklahoma at any time. Falconers may hack the bird to the wild.
- (c) Firearms shall not be used to aid in harvesting game while hunting with raptors.
- (d) Falconers shall submit any permanent address change to the Department within 30 days.
- (e) The Department may suspend or revoke a falconer's license for failure to comply with state or federal falconry rules or for improper care of birds in their possession.
- (f) A falconer may transfer a wild caught falconry bird to a raptor propagation permit.
- (g) No falconer may possess more than 5 raptors at any given time.

THESE RULES WILL BE EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2009