

PROPOSAL 19 – 5 AAC 92.037. Permits for falconry. Change the nonresident season for taking passage raptors as follows:

Amended regulation should read:

- (7) take is limited to one passage, hatching-year raptor;
- (8) the annual nonresident season for acquiring a passage raptor is from **September 5 – November 20**;

The regulation currently reads:

- (7) take is limited to one passage, hatching-year raptor;
- (8) the annual nonresident season for acquiring a passage raptor is from [AUGUST 15 – OCTOBER 31];

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal’s intention is to roll the nonresident passage take season start date back 20 days from August 15 to September 5, thus allowing young raptors to mature and disperse from their natal sites, making it less likely that targeting certain genetic progeny of certain nesting pairs can occur repeatedly over the years. Current nonresident effort with ever increasing demand could cause the loss of certain scarce genetics by concentrated excessive harvest from the wild gene pool year after year.

Taking of young birds before dispersal, allows for the undesirable impacts of targeting the progeny of specific nest pair genetics from the same nest sites, year after year.

A majority of the nonresident permit applicants are raptor breeders and/or their affiliates and are targeting certain localities and very specific genetic stock. Concentrated attention toward the offspring of these individual birds can ultimately effect the presence and maintenance of certain scarce genetics in the wild.

As nonresident demand for Alaskan birds increases, (demand already surpasses current resident take), we need to have measures in place to preclude undesired affects that will be most likely harmful to the wild gene pool in the future.

It is ok to retain the 76-day nonresident passage season, but adjustments must be made to the start date to better protect nesting pair genetics from the potential long-term impacts of nonresident over selective harvest. Rolling back the start date will greatly dilute concentrated nonresident effort impacting targeted pairs, yet allow nonresidents a reasonable opportunity to take a randomly encountered passage bird.

PROPOSED BY: Kurt Schmidt (EG-F17-090)
