



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Washington, D.C. 20240



MIGRATORY BIRD PERMIT MEMORANDUM

MBPM-3

Date: JUL 29 2004

SUBJECT: Falconry Education Programs

PURPOSE: This memorandum serves as guidance to Service personnel that issuance of migratory bird permits for falconry education must conform to existing regulations and policies governing falconry and the possession of birds for educational purposes, as described below.

POLICY: For purposes of this memorandum, "falconry education" means the conduct of educational programs that demonstrate falconry techniques using trained raptors which are held under educational use permits.

The Service issues migratory bird educational use permits for the purpose of educating the public about migratory bird conservation and/or ecology. Falconry education permittees, like other educational use permittees, must include migratory bird conservation and/or ecology as a primary component of their educational programs.

The Service may issue permits that authorize participants to temporarily hold trained falconry raptors on the glove in accordance with Education Permit Standard Condition #12, which reads: "[B]irds must be kept under control at all times and are not allowed to come in contact with audience members *unless otherwise authorized*" (italics added). However, no one without a falconry permit issued under 50 CFR 21.28 and 21.29 (and any other permit or license required to legally hunt) may release a raptor at prey, even indirectly, as from a perch pole. The Service will not authorize any participant contact with migratory birds unless the program includes adequate instruction to enable the participant to safely hold a raptor on the glove. Programs must be conducted and all activities closely supervised by federally permitted general or master class falconers.

As with other permitted migratory bird educators, falconry education permittees must conduct a minimum of 12 programs per year that are open to the public. Only captive-bred raptors may be used. Programs involving audience contact with migratory birds may be conducted only at the location(s) authorized on the face of the permit.

In order to ensure consistency with falconry permit regulations at 50 CFR 21.28 and 21.29, which limit the number of birds a falconer may possess, raptors held under an educational use permit may not be used to take quarry, unless first transferred to a falconry permit under 50 CFR 21.28 and 21.29. As with other educational use permit holders, falconry education permittees will be authorized to hold only the number of birds needed and used for the permittee's educational programs, and that can be housed in adequate enclosures.

Participation in falconry education programs conducted under the authority of this permit does not confer any knowledge or experience that can substitute in any manner for the elements required to obtain a Federal falconry permit under 50 CFR 21.28 and 21.29

Deputy

DIRECTOR