

FINAL REGULATIONS - CHAPTER W-6 - RAPTORS

ARTICLE VI - Use of Raptors

#616 - Education

- A. General or master falconers may use any raptor possessed under the authority of their state falconry license in any conservation education program presented in a public venue. Apprentice falconers shall only participate in any conservation program under the direct supervision of a general or master falconer. Further, the following provisions must be met for all conservation education programs:
1. Except for those birds possessed under the provisions of regulation #616.C, any raptor used in a conservation education program must be possessed and used primarily for the practice of falconry.
 2. Any fee charged for a conservation education program may not exceed the amount required for the presenter to recoup their cost of the presentation.
 3. The conservation education program must include information about the following:
 - a. Biology of raptors.
 - b. Ecological roles of raptors.
 - c. Conservation needs of raptors and other migratory birds.
 4. This section does not authorize presentations that do not address falconry or conservation education.
 5. The presenter assumes all responsibility and liability associated with any conservation education program they present under this section.
 6. Live raptors must be kept under control at all times and are not allowed to come in contact with the public.
- B. A state falconry licensee may allow photography, filming, or other such uses of any falconry raptor to create sources of information on the practice of falconry, or on the biology, ecological roles, and conservation needs of raptors and other migratory birds if no compensation is received by the licensee for such use.
- C. Raptors possessed under the authority of a valid federal permit issued for the express purpose of conducting conservation education with non-falconry raptors, shall be subject to the provisions of that permit. Federal permittees are required to comply with all the terms and conditions of their federal permit. No state license is otherwise required to possess the raptor or conduct conservation education activities in Colorado.
1. Any individual that holds a valid federal permit issued for the express purpose of conducting conservation education with non-falconry raptors may also possess any non-Migratory Bird Treaty Act species of raptor that was legally acquired and any captive bred non-Migratory Bird Treaty Act species of corvids that were legally acquired and bred in the United States of America. All terms and conditions listed on the federal permit will also apply to the care and use of the non-Migratory Bird Treaty Act raptor(s) and corvids.
- D. Nonresidents holding either a valid federal permit issued for the express purpose of conducting conservation education or a state general or master falconers license may

conduct conservation education programs in Colorado for no more than 30 days within a calendar year. A nonresident falconry license is also required. The conservation education program must meet the requirements listed in #616 A.

- E. Persons previously licensed to possess corvids pursuant to Chapter W-13 ("Possession of Wildlife, Scientific Collecting, and Special Licenses") for educational purposes prior to November 1, 2016 shall be authorized to continue to possess those individual birds for the life of the birds provided the birds are otherwise maintained in facilities that comply with the provisions of #605 and subject to inspection by the Division. Further, escape, theft, death or other disposition of the birds must be reported to the Division in accordance with #620, #621 and #622. Under the provisions of #622, only the Division form is required.

Basis and Purpose:

In February 2025, CPW received a citizen petition from Nature's Educators to change the allowed birds used for educational purposes. The petition was supported by the division and moved to the commission process at the May 2025 Parks and Wildlife Commission meeting. Under the previous regulations, Nature's Educators and other federally licensed facilities could feature non-Migratory Bird Treaty Act (non-MBTA) raptors in educational programs but they could not use non-MBTA corvids. This regulatory change intends to benefit the public by allowing the display of non-MBTA corvids to create a significant and impactful connection with a live ambassador. As part of this regulatory change, the only birds that could be displayed would be non-MBTA corvids that were bred in captivity in the United States. It is important to the commission that these corvids will not be collected from the wild or imported from outside of the United States so a provision has been added to this change to prohibit wild or imported corvids from being used for education.

The statements of basis and purpose for these regulations can be viewed and copies obtained from the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife, Office of the Regulations Manager, Policy and Planning Unit, 6060 Broadway, Denver, CO 80216.

The primary statutory authority for these regulations can be found in § 24-4-103, C.R.S., and the state Wildlife Act, §§ 33-1-101 to 33-6-209, C.R.S., specifically including, but not limited to: §§ 33-1-106, C.R.S.

EFFECTIVE DATE - THESE REGULATIONS SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2025 AND SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT UNTIL REPEALED, AMENDED OR SUPERSEDED.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE PARKS AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO THIS 17TH DAY OF JULY 2025.

**APPROVED:
Richard Reading
Chair**

**ATTEST:
Eden Vardy
Secretary**