

NN Fish and Wildlife seeking public's help – Raptors being killed for their tail feathers

Written by Staff Report

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The Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife is seeking information regarding the illegal killing of multiple hawks and a falcon in northwest New Mexico. Our office was notified on Nov. 10 that several dead hawks had been found dumped on the side of a dirt road near Tohatchi.

A total of eight birds were recovered by NNDFW Wildlife Conservation Officers, and include three Ferruginous Hawks, four Red-Tailed Hawks, and one Prairie Falcon.

All birds were confirmed to have been shot and all were left on the side of the road with their tail feathers removed. Although the birds were dumped in the vicinity of Tohatchi, it is possible that the poaching occurred elsewhere or at several locations.

Given the condition of the carcasses, the birds were probably all taken within a day or two of each other and likely on the same day (around the 9th or 10th of November).

If you have any information that may lead to the person or persons responsible for the illegal take or commercial trafficking of protected wildlife we encourage you to call our Operation Game Thief Hotline at: (928) 871-6451 (8 am - 5 pm Monday -Friday) or call: (928) 814-5243 (anytime).