

# Falconry Checklist



## Falconry Applicants Should Receive:

- Falconry Information Sheet
- Falconry Permit Application Procedures
- Louisiana Falconry Permit Application
- Federal Fish and Wildlife Permit Application
- State Falconry Regulations
- Raptor Housing Information
- Federal/State Qualifying Exam Fact Sheet
- Example Facilities & Equipment Inspection Report

## Falconry Applicants Should Return:

- Completed Louisiana Falconry Permit Application
- Completed Federal Fish and Wildlife Permit Application
- Signed Game Breeder License Application
- Cashiers check, or money order for Game Breeder License & Mew Inspection Fee, and separate cashiers check, or money order for State/Federal Falconry Permit

If you have questions contact one of the falconry coordinators below:

Central and North LA (LDWF Regions 1,2,3,4): Steve Smith – 318 / 487-5885  
[ssmith@wlf.louisiana.gov](mailto:ssmith@wlf.louisiana.gov)

South LA (LDWF Regions 5,6,7): Jimmy Ernst – 337 / 948-0255 [jernst@wlf.louisiana.gov](mailto:jernst@wlf.louisiana.gov)

## Falconry Information Sheet



- Falconry is jointly regulated by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In order to practice falconry in Louisiana, a State/Federal Falconry Permit is required. In addition, a State Game Breeders License is required if you keep any raptors.
- The sport of falconry involves hunting small game with a hawk. A falconry license is not issued to keep a hawk as a “pet”.
- The minimum age for obtaining a falconry permit is 16 years old.
- Prospective falconers should be aware that obtaining a falconry permit is much more involved than buying a hunting or fishing license. In order to be issued a falconry permit the applicant will have to demonstrate his/her knowledge of raptor biology and care.
- There are 3 falconry classifications, Apprentice, General, and Master. Beginning falconers will start at the Apprentice level and must remain at this level for at least 2 years. At this level they will be sponsored and supervised by an experienced falconer. Beginning falconers are responsible for finding a General or Master class falconer to sponsor them.
- Before a falconry permit is issued, the applicant will have to pass a written test on raptor care and biology.
- The applicant will have to construct mews (pens) for housing of his/her hawk. Mews will have to meet certain standards before they are approved and a permit is issued.

# Falconry Permit Application Procedures



1. Read the state falconry regulations.
2. Read and learn about falconry and raptor care.
3. Find an experienced falconer to serve as your sponsor. A list of potential sponsors in your area may be obtained by calling the falconry coordinator for your area – see checklist page for contacts.
4. Call the nearest Wildlife Division regional office and schedule a time to take the written falconry test.
5. Construct your mews. Information on raptor housing is included in this packet
6. Obtain the required equipment (jesses, leash, scale, etc.)
7. Apply for the state game breeders license. Call 225-765-2350 for an application. Information will be taken over the phone. You will be sent a completed application for your signature. The game breeders license cost is \$25.00. Also, there is an additional one time \$50.00 mew inspection fee.
8. Once the above documents are received, your application form will be sent to the appropriate Wildlife Division regional office. A biologist will contact you to schedule an inspection of your mews. The biologist will inspect the mews to be sure they meet the minimum requirements as listed in the accompanying state regulations. He/she will also check to be sure you have the required equipment.
9. Upon passing the written test, complete the state and federal falconry permit application forms. The federal falconry permit will cost \$100.00 for a 3-year permit. However, you probably will not get a full 3 years out of your first permit. The 3-year period is fixed and not dependent upon when your license was first issued.
10. Return the signed game breeders license application, a cashier's check, or money order made payable to LDWF for \$75.00, state falconry permit application, federal falconry permit application, and a second separate cashier's check, or money order made payable to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the federal permit fee (\$100.00) to the address below:

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
Falconry Permits  
Wildlife Division  
P.O. Box 98000  
Baton Rouge, LA 70898
11. Once your facilities and equipment pass inspection, the state/federal falconry permit and state game breeders license will be issued. Although you filled out separate state and federal forms for your falconry permit, you will receive only 1 permit. Your falconry permit will be jointly issued by LDWF and USFWS and mailed to you by USFWS. Remember, although the state/federal falconry permit is good for up to 3 years, the game breeder license must be renewed each calendar year. You will receive a renewal application each year for the game breeders license. If you fail to renew your game breeders license you will not be allowed to possess any raptors. If your game breeders license is renewed after 90 days of the expiration date you will be required to have your mews re-inspected at a cost of \$50.00.

# Louisiana Falconry Permit Application



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address of mews if different from mailing address or if mailing address is a box number:

\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

.....  
To be completed by sponsor:

*I agree to sponsor this applicant and provide assistance as needed to develop the applicant's skill and knowledge in raptor care and the sport of falconry. If at any time I become aware of violations of the falconry rules by the applicant, or have reason to believe the applicant is neglectful of his/her responsibilities as a licensed falconer, I will notify the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife Division.*

Sponsor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Federal Permit #: \_\_\_\_\_

.....  
To be completed by applicant:

*I am applying for a state/federal falconry permit. I have received a copy of the Louisiana Falconry Rules. I understand that I am required to have a valid Game Breeder License in addition to my State/Federal Falconry Permit if I possess any raptors. I also understand that it is my responsibility to notify the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife Division, of any changes in my address, phone number, or location of my mews.*

Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Department of the Interior  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
**Federal Fish and Wildlife Permit Application Form**

Expires 7/2007  
OMB No. 1018-0022

**Return to:** Migratory Bird Permit Office  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**Type of Activity:**  
Falconry Permit

P.O. Box 49208  
Atlanta, GA 30359

Complete section A or B, and sections C ~~and D~~ of this application. See attached Permit Application Instructions.

A. Complete if applying as an individual				
1.a. Last name:		1.b. First name:		1.c. Middle name or initial:
				1.d. Suffix
1.e. Doing business as (dba):		2.a. Mailing Address (line 1):		2.b. Mailing Address (line 2):
2.c. Mailing Address (line 3):		3.a. City:	3.b. County:	3.c. Province:
				3.d. State:
3.e. Zip code/postal code :	3.f. Country:	4. Date of birth (mm/dd/yyyy):		5. Social Security No:
6. Occupation:		7. List of any business, agency, organizational, or institutional affiliation associated with the wildlife or plants to be covered by this permit:		
8. Home telephone number:	9. Work telephone number:	10. Fax number:	11. E-mail address:	

B. Complete if applying as a business, corporation, public agency or institution				
1.a. Name of business, agency, or institution:		1.b. Doing business as (dba):		2. Tax identification no.:
3.a. Mailing address (line 1):		3.b. Mailing address (line 2):		3.c. Mailing address (line 3):
4.a. City:	4.b. County		4.c. State:	4.d. Zip code:
5.a. Principal officer - Last name:		5.b. First name:		5.c. Middle name or initial
				5.d. Suffix
5.e. Principal officer title:		6. Describe the type of business, agency, or institution and provide state of incorporation:		
7. Home telephone number:	8. Work telephone number:	9. Fax number:	10. E-mail address:	

C. All applicants complete	
1. Do you currently have or have you had any Federal Fish and Wildlife permits? (For simplification, all licenses, permits, registrations, and certificates will be referred to as a permit.) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, list the number(s) of the most current permit you have held: _____ No <input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Have you obtained all required State, Federal or foreign government approval(s) to conduct the activity you propose? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If yes, provide a copy of the approval(s). Have applied <input type="checkbox"/> Not required <input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Enclose a check or money order payable to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the amount of \$100.00. Federal, tribal, state, and local government agencies or individuals and institutions acting on behalf of such agencies are exempt from the application processing fee (50 CFR 13.11(d)).	
4. <b>Certification:</b> I hereby certify that I have read and am familiar with the regulations contained in Title 50, Part 13, of the Code of Federal Regulations and the other applicable parts in subchapter B of Chapter I of Title 50, and I certify that the information submitted in this application for a permit is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that any false statement herein may subject me to the criminal penalties of 18 U.S.C. 1001.	
5. Signature (in blue ink) of applicant/person responsible for permit in Section A or B. (Photocopies/stamped signatures are not accepted.)	6. Date (mm/dd/yyyy):

# STATE FALCONRY REGULATIONS:

## Title 76 Wildlife and Fisheries Part 5. Wild Quadrupeds and Wild Birds

### Chapter 3. Wild Birds

#### 301. Falconry

- A. 1. Raptors for use in falconry may be captured or kept in captivity in Louisiana only under permit issued by the department. Raptor as used in these regulations means a live migratory bird of the family Accipitridae, other than the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) or of the family Falconidae, or the great horned owl (*Bubo virginianus*) of the family Strigidae. Before any falconry permit is issued the applicant shall be required to answer correctly at least 80 percent of the questions on a federally approved examination provided and administered by the department. The examination shall apply to all applicants for their first permit.
2. Applicants who show written proof of having successfully passed a federally approved falconry examination in another state may be issued a Louisiana falconry permit.
- B. Falconry permits shall be valid for a period of one year<sup>1</sup> and shall be renewed on July 1 of each year. There shall be four classes of permits issued:
1. Apprentice Permit
- a. An applicant for an apprentice permit shall be at least 16 years old and shall be sponsored by a person holding a general or master falconry permit. A sponsor may not have more than three apprentices at anyone time.
- b. Apprentice permittees may not possess more than one raptor and may not obtain more than one raptor for replacement during any 12 month period.
- c. Apprentice permittees may take and possess only a passage American Kestrel (*Flaco sparverius*), a red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), or red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*). Such a bird may be taken from October 1 through February 26.
2. General Permit
- a. An applicant for a general falconry permit shall be at least 18 years old and shall have at least two years experience at the apprentice level or its equivalent.
- b. General permittees may not possess more than two raptors and may not obtain more than two raptors for replacement during any 12 month period.
- c. Passage and eyas birds may be taken from October 1 through February 26 and eyasses only from May 1 through May 31 by general permittees.

<sup>1</sup> Permit is good for up to three (3) years.

3. Master Permit
  - a. An applicant for a master falconry permit shall have at least five years of experience in the practice of falconry at the general license level or its equivalent.
  - b. Master permittees may not possess more than three raptors and may not obtain more than two raptors for replacement during any 12 month period.
  - c. Passage and eyas birds may be taken from October 1 through February 26 and eyasses only from May 1 through May 31 by master permittees.

4. Nonresident Permit
  - a. An applicant for a nonresident falconry permit shall possess a general or master falconry permit or license in his state of residence. A copy of this permit or license shall be submitted with the application.
  - b. Nonresident permittees may not import into or possess more than two raptors in Louisiana and may not obtain more than two raptors in this state for replacement during any 12 month period.
  - c. Passage and eyas birds may be taken from October 1 through February 26 and eyasses only from May 1 through May 31 by nonresident permittees.

C. Permittees shall have in possession a falconry permit and a valid hunting license when engaged in the practice of falconry. In addition, a state game breeder's license is required to keep any raptor in captivity. This license may be obtained from the department at a cost of \$10 dollars<sup>2</sup> annually.

D. Permittees shall abide by all seasons, bag limits, and other regulations of the department when practicing falconry on game species. Protected birds and mammals taken incidentally by a raptor shall not be retained or possessed by a permittee.

E. Another person may care for the birds of a permittee if written authorization from the permittee accompanies the birds when they are transferred. If the period of care is to exceed 30 days, the department shall be notified.

F. All raptors obtained shall, be marked immediately upon acquisition by numbered non-reusable markers supplied by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. These markers shall not be altered and shall be removed from birds which die, or are released into the wild, and surrendered immediately to the department.

G. Permittees must submit a report to the department by July 31 indicating the following information:

1. A listing of all raptors in his possession on June 30 by species, marker number, sex, age, and date and where or from whom acquired.
2. A listing of all raptors possessed or acquired since the previous annual report but no longer possessed, by species, marker number, sex, age, date and where or from whom acquired or given to, whether escaped, died, or released, and the date the event occurred.

<sup>2</sup> Current Game Breeders Permit cost is \$25.00 annually.

3. A listing of all birds and mammals taken while engaged in the practice of falconry.
- 
- H. The department may deny issuance or renewal or revoke any falconry permit if the applicant or permittee has been convicted of a violation of any federal or state falconry regulation. A permittee whose permit has been denied or revoked shall immediately dispose of any raptors possessed under the authority of the falconry permit as directed by the department.
  - I. All facilities and equipment shall be maintained at or above the standards established by these regulations.
    1. Indoor facilities (mews) shall be large enough to allow easy access for caring for the raptors housed in the facility. If more than one raptor is to be kept in the mews, the raptors shall be tethered or separated by partitions and the area for each bird shall be large enough to allow the bird to fully extend its wings. There shall be at least one window, protected on the inside by vertical bars, spaced narrower than the width of the bird's body, and a secure door that can be easily closed. The floor of the mews shall permit easy cleaning and shall be well drained. Adequate perches shall be provided.
    2. Outdoor facilities (weathering area) shall be fenced and covered with netting or wire, or roofed to protect the birds from disturbance and attack by predators, except that perches more than 6- 112 feet high need not be covered or roofed. The enclosed area shall be large enough to insure the birds cannot strike the fence when flying from the perch. Protection from excessive sun, wind, and inclement weather shall be provided for each bird. Adequate perches shall be provided.
    3. The following items shall be in possession before a falconry permit can be issued:
      - a. At least one pair of aliymeri or similar type jesses constructed of pliable, high-quality leather or suitable synthetic material to be used when the raptor is flown free. Traditional one-piece jesses may be used on raptors when not being flown.
      - b. At least one flexible, weather-resistant leash and one strong swivel of acceptable falconry design.
      - c. At least one suitable water container, two to six inches deep and wider than the length of the raptor for each raptor.
      - d. At least one weathering-area perch of acceptable design for each raptor.
      - e. A reliable scale or balance suitable for weighing the raptors held and graduated to increments of not more than one-half ounce.

*AUTHORITY NOTE:* Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6.

*HISTORICAL NOTE:* Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries,  
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 4:299 (August 1978).



## INFORMATION ON RAPTOR HOUSING

A person applying for his first Louisiana falconry license will now be required to successfully pass a supervised examination, have his raptor housing facilities inspected, and obtain a sponsor before the Department will issue an apprentice license.

Proper housing is not only essential to successful falconry, but is required by the Department to assure that birds are adequately cared for. It is not our intent to establish specifications for hawk houses or mews. Such specifications are readily available in reliable falconry texts if a falconer wishes to construct such a facility. We recognize that raptors can be retained in captivity and properly cared for without recourse to construction of mews. Many falconers house their raptors in the home or garage and utilize the backyard to meet the needs of their raptors. Consequently, we can only provide a general description as to what constitutes adequate or inadequate facilities leaving final judgment to those who conduct the inspection.

ADEQUATE FACILITIES: Mews constructed for loose raptors - If mews are constructed for untethered raptors, the following general specifications should apply:

1. Loft, house, pen, or enclosure size:

Peregrine falcon or similar size bird----- 6' x 8' x 7'  
Red-tailed hawk or similar size bird----- 8' x 8' x 7'  
Sparrow hawk or similar size bird----- 6' x 6' x 6'  
Hawk eagles or similar size bird-----10' x 10' x 7'

(Lofts of the above sizes are adequate for several birds, if tethered)

2. Vertical lathing or dowels on all windows or similar openings. Chicken wire or hardware cloth is unacceptable for window openings in houses of solid-wall construction.
3. Shelter from wind, rain, and mid-day sun.
4. Water for drinking and bathing.
5. Sanitary conditions.
6. Adequate ventilation.
7. Perches.

Tethered Birds: Tethered raptors should be provided with a padded perch (a perch with a soft fabric or similar material). Except that blocks used for falcons should not be padded. Raptors can be sheltered in reduced sized mews, a garage, or even in the home. When placed out of doors they should be protected from cats and dogs, excessive exposure to wind, rain, snow, or sun, and be provided with water for drinking and bathing.

INADEQUATE FACILITIES: Poor condition of the raptor will indicate improper housing and/or care. Excessive broken tail and wing feathers, damage to cere and head, dirty appearance, and poor physical conditions are keys to the inability of the person to provide adequate care. Examples of inadequate housing are:

- Bird cage of the pet store variety.
- Housing constructed of chicken wire or hardware cloth.
- Housing with exposure to the elements.
- Housing with sharp obstructions.
- Unsanitary housing such as unclean chicken houses or pigeon lofts.

**Fact Sheet**

**Federal / State Qualifying Examination for a Falconry Permit**

Purpose

The examination is designed to determine the applicant’s knowledge of raptor identification, natural history, care in captivity, falconry techniques, and applicable laws and regulations.

Legal Requirements

Persons desiring to obtain a Federal/State falconry permit are required to answer at least 80 percent of the questions on a supervised examination. The examination provided has been issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Once an applicant has passed the examination, no future examination is required by Federal regulation for permit renewal or for changes in permit class or State of residence. Those applicants that have not passed the exam with an 80 percent or higher may retake the exam two weeks from the first examination.

Administering Agency

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries personnel.

Content — USFWS 010 Examination

The examination consists of 100 multiple-choice questions, each with four possible answers. The questions are distributed into three general categories:

- Raptor identification/biology 25%;
- Maintenance of raptors in captivity 50%;
- Falconry practices/regulations 25%

A more detailed distribution of questions on this examination is provided by subject. Many of the questions fall into more than one category; i.e. a definition of "eyass" would need to be known to answer a question concerning the handling of eyasses.

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Number of Questions</u>
Literature Review/ Definitions.....	4
Raptor Biology	
Species/Sex/Age Identification.....	4
Ecology (Habitat/Food/Behavior/Distribution).....	10
Breeding Biology.....	5
Falconry	
Equipment and Facilities.....	12
Taking and Initial Handling of Raptors.....	8
General Health Factors/Food/Water.....	20
Injuries/Disease/Parasites.....	15
Training/Hunting Practices.....	12
Ethics.....	4
Regulations.....	5
Other.....	1

Persons intending to take the examination should review the raptor literature and applicable regulations. The questions emphasize the practical aspects and obligations of being a falconer. Knowledge of scientific names and obscure publications is not required. The statistical probability of scoring 80 percent or more by chance alone is less than one in a million. If an applicant must guess the correct answer to 50 of one 100 questions, the probability of achieving a passing score is less than 5 in 1000.

Failure to Pass

Any applicant who fails to pass an examination may take another examination no earlier than two weeks from the date of the prior examination.

*Do Not complete -  
for your information only.*

FEDERAL/STATE FALCONRY PERMIT APPLICATION  
RAPTOR FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT INSPECTION REPORT

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Location of Facilities \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PART I - FACILITIES

- A. MEWS (INDOOR FACILITY) YES NO
- 1. Space to allow easy access and maintenance .....
  - 2. Space to allow raptor(s) to fully extend wings .....
  - 3. At least one window provided .....
  - 4. Each window with vertical bars/rods on inside .....
  - 5. At least one secure door - can be easily closed .....
  - 6. Other doors, if any, serve to protect facility .....
  - 7. Floor surface dry or well drained - can be easily cleaned .....
  - 8. One perch of an acceptable design for each raptor .....
- B. WEATHERING AREA YES NO
- 1. Space to allow tethered raptor(s) to bate (attempted flight) without striking wings on side or top of facility .....
  - 2. Sides of facility fenced with suitable material to exclude predators .....
  - 3. Top of facility covered with netting, wire, or roofed to exclude predators; -OR-  
Top of facility open provided weathering perch(es) are greater than 6½ feet in height .....
- C. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
- The facilities, singly or in combination, provide adequate protection to the raptor(s) from:
- 1. Excessive heat .....
  - 2. High winds and winter storms .....
  - 3. Avian and ground predators .....
  - 4. Disturbance which would likely cause injury .....

(Over)

Information only

PART II - EQUIPMENT

A. RAPTOR EQUIPMENT

YES NO

- 1. One pair of Alymeri (style) jesses for each raptor. (An Alymeri jess consists of an anklet, grommet, and a removable strap for attaching the anklet and grommet to the swivel.) .....
- 2. One swivel of an acceptable design for each raptor. (Dogleash/fishing snap-swivels, and swivels with soft copper/aluminum rivets are rarely acceptable, except for use on kestrels.) .....
- 3. One leash of quality leather or synthetic material for each raptor .....

B. REQUIRED ANCILLARY EQUIPMENT

YES NO

- 1. One bath container, 2 to 6 inches deep and wider than length of the raptor for each bird .....
- 2. One outdoor perch of an acceptable design for each raptor .....
- 3. A reliable weighing scale or balance graduated in increments of not more than 1/2 ounce (15 grams) .....

PART III - CERTIFICATION

- APPROVED - Facilities and equipment meet Federal/State Standards.
- PROVISIONAL APPROVAL - Except as indicated below, facilities and equipment meet Federal/State Standards. Applicant agrees to correct all deficiencies within 30 days.
- NOT APPROVED - Facilities and equipment fail to meet Federal/State Standards.
- DEFICIENCIES \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Certifying Officer

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Agency: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant

I agree to correct deficiencies, if any, within 30 days and to maintain facilities/equipment at or above Federal/State Standards.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Sources of Falconry Information**

*Falconry and Hawking*, by Phillip Glasier

*North American Falconry and Hunting Hawks*, by Frank L. Beebe, editor

*Falconry: Art and Practice*, by Emma Ford

*Falconry Manual*, by Frank Beebe

*Falconry for Beginners: An Introduction to the Sport*, by Lee William Harris

These books may be available at some local bookstores or at the following web sites:

[NorthwoodsFalconry.com](http://NorthwoodsFalconry.com)

[Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com)

[Barnes&Noble.com](http://Barnes&Noble.com)