

Public Safety
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Background

My interest in Falconry started as a young child. I read lots of books about birds of prey and falconers from many different parts of the world. I always dreamed of working with raptors and I was always excited to see a wild bird of prey in pursuit of its prey. I had the chance to speak to wild life rehabilitators as a child, who were always so willing to answer my questions and teach me about raptors of many different species.

Last year, while fishing, I witnessed a Bald Eagle scoop up a large trout right in front of me, which prompted me to do some further reading on birds of prey in my area. I am not from Wisconsin, and I have lived in Northern Minnesota most of my life, where I saw many kinds of interesting raptors, including Snowy Owls, which are a favorite of mine.

While reading about Red Tail Hawks, I discovered an article about a local Wisconsin woman who had been training one to use for falconry. I immediately got very excited, since I did not know that falconry was practiced here and could be done by just about any individual with the gumption and the free time to train a bird, as well as the knowledge to care for one.

I then read many books about falconry in North America and became very motivated to become a falconer myself. I contacted the Wisconsin Falconer's Association, and the coordinators immediately sent me contact info for a falconer who lives and hunts with his Goshawk in Green Bay. He taught me so much more about falconry that a book just doesn't suit. Soon I began trailing along with him during hunts, and he invited me to Black River Falls, WI for the annual Falconry meet. I became a member of the Falconry Association and enjoyed meeting falconers from all over the country. We hunted and learned about different training methods, and I knew then, falconry was for me.

I have been working with several DNR officials, who have been helping me along my journey to become a falconer. I recently completed the WI State falconry exam with a passing score, and I am currently working hard to get all of my resources together to perhaps get a bird of my own for this winter's hunting season.

I ask for your cooperation in allowing me to house my falconry bird (which will be a Red Tail Hawk) at my home located in Manitowoc. This may seem to be an obscure request, but please be assured that many other cities and towns in WI as well as other US states allow falconers to keep a bird within city limits and in urban areas, so long as they are doing so legally by the criteria outlined in Chapter NR18 regarding the law of practicing falconry.

In order to be a falconer, the DNR requires me to hold a license, and complete documents to show that I am doing my part to care for my raptor and keep it in good health. If necessary, I can also forward these documents to the City of Manitowoc each year to prove that I am in keeping with the law.

I will also assure you that my bird will be housed in a fashion that will prevent other city dwellers from harm by the bird, in fact, it will be housed so that no one outside of my home would know it was on the premises. My bird will be kept healthy and free of disease that may be communicable to humans and animals, by law this must be so. If I should fail to care for my bird in a way that would not be disturbing to my neighbors, this would mean I would be failing to follow proper state laws and would most likely have my license revoked. So in my own best interests, my bird can not become a nuisance.

What is Falconry?

Falconry can be defined as the taking of wild quarry in its natural state and habitat by means of a trained raptor. This ancient art is a very demanding endeavor, requiring a serious dedication of time and energy from the falconer. On November 16, 2010 the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization added falconry to its list of Intangible Cultural Heritages of Humanity. Here's an overview for those who want to know more.

Do You Really Want to Become a Falconer?

You may have recently read about this ancient art in a book or periodical, learned about it through television or radio, perhaps a movie, or may have even seen a trained hawk in action. Whatever the case, you were obviously impressed enough to want to learn more about the sport of falconry, and we appreciate your interest.

Few people, thrilling at the brief and intense magic of a trained hawk in flight realize the intense demands placed upon one who aspires to be a falconer. Even fewer are willing to make the necessary sacrifices.

Time

Falconry is not an "overnight" achievement. Becoming a Master falconer takes at least seven years; finishing your apprenticeship alone will take at least two. Your hawk requires a significant amount of time, every day, 365 days a year, and a bird in training requires substantially more time. Raptors, unlike a rifle or a bow, cannot be hung on the wall and forgotten until the next hunting trip. You might be okay with this time commitment, but is your spouse okay with it? Your kids? Your career?

Effort and Ethics

Of all sports in America, falconry is the only one that utilizes a trained wild creature. Falcons, hawks, eagles and owls are essential elements of our wildlife. The competent falconer takes care to follow sound conservation principles in the pursuit of the sport. Even though the federal government's environmental assessment states falconry has "no impact" on wild raptor populations, a careless, uninformed individual, attempting to satisfy a passing fancy, can do great harm to one or more birds and cast the shadow of discredit on the sport of falconry itself. Most falconers, therefore, before they will agree to help anyone newly attracted to the sport, will require evidence of a serious, committed interest in falconry. They just don't have time for anything else. The ethics of practicing quality falconry are an important part of a falconer's every day life.

Permits

Because all raptors are protected by state, federal, and international law, all potential falconers must obtain the necessary permits and licenses before acquiring a hawk or practicing falconry. This can take quite a while, since it includes taking a written falconry exam and getting the appropriate signatures. In some states, hunter education courses are required before you can get your hunting license. If you can't keep your paperwork straight, even in triplicate (three copies), don't consider falconry.

(Source NAFA)

Money

Most people immediately think of the cost of acquiring a hawk, but the price of the bird is only the beginning, assuming you can purchase one. In North America most apprentice falconers will be required by their sponsor to trap at least their first bird from the wild. You must have money to spend. Spend on food, shelter, equipment, veterinary costs, permits and fees, and travel. To keep it healthy, you must feed your raptor only fresh raw meat, preferably the exact same whole birds or mammals they would catch in the wild on their own. Housing and equipment requirements are mandated by state and federal law. You will need the money to buy the raw materials and you will need the skill to work with these materials and you will be inspected before you are permitted to acquire a hawk by state and possibly local officials. Most falconers also spend considerable amounts of money on books as a source of vital information and enjoyment. You will have to pay permit and license fees as well. Travel adds up fast, too; obtaining a hawk, visiting other falconers, training and hunting can put literally thousands of miles on your car and empty wallets quickly.

Access to Land

You must have permission to enter adequate and convenient locations in which to fly a hawk or falcon and there must be appropriate game available. Remember too that in some locations written permission of the property owner is required. The falcons require wide open expanses of land where they may be flown high over the falconer, while hawks and small accipiters can be hunted in smaller fields or farms. Gun hunting, roads, power lines, urban settings and barbed wire fences may render an otherwise suitable location unusable because of the potential threats to the raptor and or the falconer.

Personality

Are you sincerely interested in all aspects of wildlife and the out-of-doors?

How badly do you want to learn?

Are you ready to start at the bottom.. and stay there for two or more years?

Can you listen to and follow other people's advice?

How much have you already read?

A serious commitment to becoming a falconer is often evidenced by a ravenous appetite for books or online information.

Can you hunt? Not do you know how, which is a challenge in itself, but are you emotionally prepared?

Falconry is sharing your life with a creature that has evolved over millions of years as a predator.

After investing all this time and effort, do you really understand that,
at any moment of free flight, your bird can choose to simply fly away and never return?

Urban Falconry Benefits

Possible benefits Falconry could Bring to Manitowoc-

I would like to briefly outline that there are some perks to my practicing Falconry in the city that could be of benefit.

-Urban hunting of rodents and pests such as European Starlings could aid to the well-being of the city's urban ecosystem. By elimination of these pests in a natural way, poisons and other caustic methods of pest control could be lessened, and this would make a more suitable environment for sensitive species, such as Peregrine Falcons, Osprey, various migratory birds, and other species effected by pests and the control of pests through poisons and traps. Falconry is a method of pest control in some of the more wealthy urban areas of Europe.

-My knowledge of birds of prey, which will be ever-expanding, could be of benefit to the local Zoo. I can offer assistance to zoo personnel by volunteering my time aiding in the care of their in-house raptors.

-After I become a more advance falconer, I would be willing to display presentations of falconry to children and adults who would like to learn more about falconry or the conservation of birds of prey.

-Hunting in city limits for pests such as Starlings and English Sparrows could reduce their populations and allow more interesting species of migratory birds to thrive in this area. I know that Manitowoc is a known area for bird watching, and falconry could help keep these species coming back to Manitowoc.

-When hunting or (trapping raptors) in city limits, I can identify any possible disease threats I observe in various species and report them to the DNR.

Examples of companies that provide pest control in urban areas using Falconry:

<http://www.airstrikebirdcontrol.com/>

<http://www.nbcbirdandpest.co.uk/>

<http://www.falconforce.com/>

Airport that uses Falconry to keep runways clear of pests:

<http://hiala.ca/airport-authority/hiala-the-environment/>

Facilities and Care

Bird Keeping Facilities (Mews)

As outlined in Chapter NR18, I must construct a dwelling for my bird's housing. This dwelling must be safe, secure, and clean to prevent my bird from becoming injured or ill.

These facilities will be inspected by Manitowoc County DNR prior to my obtaining a bird for falconry.

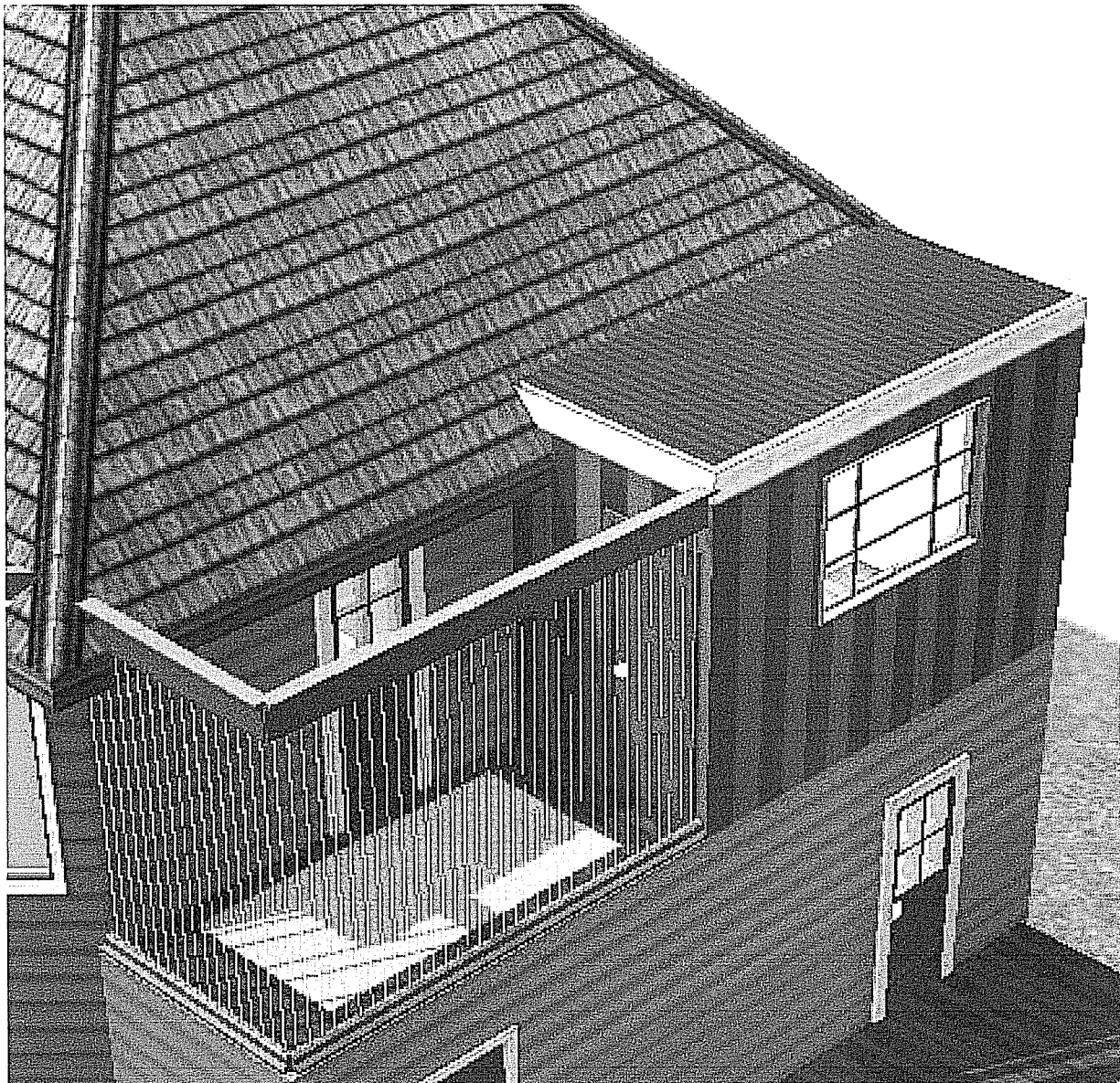
In order to ensure that facilities are always kept clean and well-maintained, the DNR will sometimes make random inspections of facilities.

Since I live in the city, and I do not want to cause a stir by keeping a bird of prey, I would like to utilize my roof deck as the site in which my mews will be built. It is a large open area, roughly 150 SqFt. I spoke with the DNR about the size and location of my mews, and they have confirmed it would be suitable for housing a bird.

The structure will consist of one half, a closed in shelter to protect from winter weather and extreme heat, and one half a "weathering area where the bird can get some fresh air. The bird will be teatherd by leash inside the facilities, which will be constructed in such a way that the bird cannot escape, and other animals cannot enter. It will be located on the second floor of my home, so that it will be out-of-site-out-of-mind for curious passers-by.

As well as providing a shelter for my bird, I am required to provide all necessary training equipment, health care and food for my bird. If I should be away from my bird or my home for an extended period of time, I must have my bird cared for by a licensed falconer in my absence.





Falconry Furniture – Hawking Glove, Leash, and Other Accoutrements

peregrine falcon



Artificial grass is put on perches for the health of the bird's feet.

bewit
bell

When the bird is hunting, the mews jesses are switched with the field jesses; when the bird is carried in the field, a thinner leash, the field leash, is threaded through the field jesses and tied with a falconer's knot for quick release.

aylmeri anklet



metal eyelet



A thick leather glove is worn on the left hand.

field jesses

The bird is held by the jesses which

14.020 (2) Restricted Species.

(a) No person, except for a duly authorized licensed breeder or pet shop owner, shall keep, sell, breed or offer for sale one or more horses, cows, pigs, goats, sheep, chickens, geese, ducks, doves, pigeons or other fowl, bees, large predators, endangered species or poisonous snakes, rodents, reptiles, exotic species or wild animals (collectively "creatures") or construct or use shelters therefor within the City of Manitowoc without the written permission of the Chief of Police or his designee.

In considering any request for such permission, the Chief of Police or his designee shall consider the number and type of animals or creatures, their location, the facilities to be used for such purpose, the likelihood of a public or private nuisance being created or a health hazard, and the ability of the owner to responsibly control and care for the creatures.

(b) All stables, coops, yards, pens, kennels or other structures wherein any animal or creature is kept shall be constructed so as to be cleanable and kept in good repair. The inside and outside shall be whitewashed or painted as often as necessary to keep them clean or finished with such material that can be easily cleaned. All such structures shall be kept clean and sanitary and shall not cause any objectionable odor. Accumulations of cleanings or manure of more than one day's operation in any such structure shall be deemed a violation of this section and subject to a forfeiture action.

(3) All provisions of Wis. Stat. Ch. 169 relating to wild animals, as amended or modified from time to time, are hereby incorporated by reference.

Chapter NR 18

FALCONRY

NR 18.01	Definitions.
NR 18.02	Application.
NR 18.03	Permit and license requirements.
NR 18.04	Falconry hunting.
NR 18.05	Examination.
NR 18.06	Application procedure.
NR 18.07	Inspection of facilities and equipment.
NR 18.08	Unsatisfactory conditions.
NR 18.09	Issuance criteria.

NR 18.10	Classes of permits.
NR 18.11	Duration of permits.
NR 18.12	Taking and disposal restrictions.
NR 18.13	Temporary care.
NR 18.14	Transportation.
NR 18.15	Release of marked raptors.
NR 18.16	Permit conditions.
NR 18.17	Other restrictions.

NR 18.01 Definitions. (1) "Department" means the department of natural resources.

(2) "Disposal" means transfer of the raptor by gift or trade, release, escape, death or any other event that results in the permittee no longer possessing the raptor for falconry.

(3) "Eyas" means a young raptor not yet capable of flight.

(4) "Falconry" means the sport of taking or attempting to take quarry by means of a trained raptor.

(5) "Falconry permit" means a permit to allow a resident permittee to take, possess and transport raptors for the purpose of practicing falconry.

(6) "Fish & wildlife service" means U.S. department of interior - fish & wildlife service.

(7) "Hacked back" means a gentle or gradual release technique used by falconers whereby a raptor released back into the wild is fully capable of competing with other wild raptors.

(8) "Imping" means a method of repairing broken flight or tail feathers.

(9) "Marker" means a numbered, non-reusable marker supplied by the fish and wildlife service.

(10) "Raptor" means a live, migratory bird of the order Falconiformes or the order Strigiformes, other than a bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) or golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*).

(11) "Replacement raptor" means a raptor obtained to replace one which has died in captivity, has escaped, or is released to the wild.

(12) "Take" means to trap, capture or pursue or attempt to trap, capture or pursue, a raptor for the purposes of falconry.

(13) "Trapping permit" means a permit obtained by a nonresident from the department to take a raptor for the purposes of falconry.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78; r. (1), renum. (2) to (9) to be (4), (12), (9), (8), (7), (11), (1) and (6), cr. (2), (3), (5), (10) and (13), Register, December, 1997, No. 504, eff. 1-1-98.

NR 18.02 Application. (1) The raptors covered by this chapter include species whose range extends into any part of Mexico or the United States. All individual birds of such species whether or not raised in captivity, and including any subspecies, even if the range of such subspecies does not include parts of the above countries, are covered by these regulations.

(2) The importation of any wildlife from a foreign source must be in compliance with federal laws or regulations.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78.

NR 18.03 Permit and license requirements. (1) No person may take, possess or transport any raptor for falconry purposes or practice falconry in Wisconsin unless a valid falconry permit has been issued pursuant to this chapter or issued by another state provided that state is listed in the federal regulations as a state meeting federal falconry standards.

(2) Nonresident falconers shall obtain a trapping permit to take raptors in Wisconsin under s. NR 18.12 (2) and shall obtain a valid small game or general hunting license to practice falconry in Wisconsin.

(3) No person may engage in any falconry activity unless the person has in his or her possession a falconry permit or a nonresident raptor trapping permit issued under this chapter.

(4) No person may transfer a falconry permit or falconry markers or allow the use thereof by any other person, nor may any person while engaged in falconry, use or carry any permit or marker issued to another.

(5) No person may take a northern goshawk on U.S. department of agriculture national forest land unless a written description of the location of the take, satisfactory to the forest supervisor or designee, is provided to the forest supervisor or designee prior to any take.

Note: The national forests, consistent with the multiple use-sustained yield act of 1960 (16 USC s. 528) and the federal land policy management act of 1976 (16 USC ss. 1701-1784), are managed for wildlife purposes. Data regarding the populations and take of the northern goshawk on the national forest is relevant to goshawk management. The Forest Service may implement protection measures for the northern goshawk that may include the closing of areas of land within the national forest to the take of goshawks. Information on the location of national forest land may be obtained from: Chequamegon/Nicolet Forest Supervisor, Federal Building, 68 S. Stevens Street, Rhinelander, WI 54501.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78; am. (1) (a) and r. and recr. (1) (b), Register, August, 1982, No. 320, eff. 9-1-82; am. (1) (intro.), r. (1) (a) and (b), r. and recr. (2), renum. (3) to be (4) and am., cr. (3) and (5), Register, December, 1997, No. 504, eff. 1-1-98.

NR 18.04 Falconry hunting. (1) ESTABLISHED SEASONS. In addition to the seasons established by ch. NR 10, falconry permit holders may hunt upland game birds and animals described in s. NR 10.01 (2) and (3) September 1 through March 31, except cottontail rabbit, fox squirrel and gray squirrel may be hunted year-round.

(2) LET LAY RULE. A falconry permit holder whose raptor accidentally kills any protected animal during the closed season or a protected animal or sex during the open hunting season shall leave the dead animal where it lies. The raptor may feed upon the dead animal prior to leaving the kill site.

Note: Daily kill and possession limits, hunting hours and other rules established for hunting by chs. NR 10, 11 and 15 and ch. 29, Stats., apply.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78; r. and recr. Register, August, 1982, No. 320, eff. 9-1-82; r. and recr. Register, July, 1987, No. 379, eff. 8-1-87.

NR 18.05 Examination. (1) Prior to submitting an application for a permit under this chapter, each new applicant or person whose prior permit has expired or been revoked for a period of more than 2 years shall be required to answer correctly at least 80% of the questions on a supervised examination described in sub. (2).

(2) The examination shall be prepared by the fish and wildlife service and administered by a representative of the department. The examination shall consist of questions relating to the basic

biology, care and handling of raptors, literature, laws and regulations governing the sport of falconry.

(3) Applicants failing to correctly answer at least 80% of the questions on the examination described in sub. (2) may not be issued a permit but may repeat the exam after 30 days. Should a second failure occur, a one-year waiting period is required before the examination sequence may be repeated.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78; am. Register, December, 1997, No. 504, eff. 1-1-98.

NR 18.06 Application procedure. (1) RESIDENT FALCONRY PERMIT. A person shall submit an application for a permit under this chapter on forms provided by the department accompanied by any statutorily required fee. Applicants may not submit more than one application for a permit under this chapter nor apply for a permit if they have failed to correctly answer at least 80% of the questions on a falconry examination as described in s. NR 18.05 (2) and as required in s. NR 18.05 (1). Applicants shall provide the following information:

- (a) Name, address, birth date and physical description of the applicant.
- (b) Number, species and source for each raptor the applicant plans to acquire, including its age and sex if known.
- (c) Description and location of falconry facilities.
- (d) Description of the training area.
- (e) Date and time the facilities and training area will be ready for inspection.
- (f) Certification by the applicant that the information in the application is true and correct.
- (g) Authorization allowing state and federal agents to inspect the applicant's facilities, training area and raptors.

(2) **NONRESIDENT RAPTOR TRAPPING PERMIT.** A nonresident shall apply for a nonresident raptor trapping permit under this chapter on forms provided by the department accompanied by any statutorily required fee. Applicants may not submit more than one application for a permit under this chapter. Applicants shall provide the following information:

- (a) Name, address, birth date and physical description of the applicant.
- (b) Number, species and source for each raptor the applicant plans to acquire, including its age and sex if known.
- (c) Description and location of falconry facilities.
- (d) Certification by the applicant that the information in the application is true and correct.
- (e) A photocopy of his or her current, valid state or federal falconry permit and valid import license from the state of residence, which shall be listed as a cooperating state in 50 CFR 21.29(k).

Note: Application forms may be obtained at: Bureau of Endangered Resources (BER), Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78; r. and recr. Register, December, 1997, No. 504, eff. 1-1-98.

NR 18.07 Inspection of facilities and equipment. INSPECTION. (1) Upon receipt of an application for a resident falconry permit, the department shall, within 30 days, inspect the applicant's facilities and equipment and determine that they comply with this section before a permit may be issued.

(2) **FACILITIES; EQUIPMENT.** The applicant shall provide and maintain the following facilities and equipment in accordance with the following standards to ensure the health and safety of the raptor or raptors:

- (a) *Facilities.* Raptor housing facilities whether indoors or outdoors shall be maintained in a clean state and protected from the environment, predators and undue disturbance and shall include either:

Note: Indoor facilities are commonly known as mews and outdoor facilities are commonly known as weathering areas.

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 head, 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 from attack by predators. 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. A single facility meeting the requirements of both subs. 1. and 2. may be permitted.

- (b) *Equipment.* The following items shall be in the possession of the applicant before a permit can be obtained.

1. *Jesses* - A minimum of one pair of Aylmeri jesses or similar type constructed of pliable, high-quality leather or suitable synthetic material to be used when any raptor is flown free. Traditional one-piece jesses may be used on raptors when not being flown.

2. *Leashes and swivels* - A minimum of one flexible, weather resistant leash and one strong swivel of acceptable falconry design.

3. *Bath container* - A minimum of one suitable container, 2 to 6 inches deep and wider than the length of the raptor, for drinking and bathing for each raptor.

4. *Outdoor perches* - A minimum of one weathering area perch of an acceptable design shall be provided for each raptor.

5. *Weighing device* - A reliable scale or balance suitable for weighing the raptor(s) held and graduated to increments of not more than 1/2-ounce (15 gram) shall be provided.

- (c) *Maintenance.* All facilities and equipment shall be kept at or above the preceding standards at all times.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78; r. and recr. (1), (2) (intro.) and (a) (intro.), am. (2) (a) 1. and 2., cr. (2) (a) 3., Register, December, 1997, No. 504, eff. 1-1-98.

NR 18.08 Unsatisfactory conditions. The department, upon a written finding of improper treatment or care of a raptor or of the failure to provide proper facilities or equipment for a raptor, shall notify the permittee of the finding in writing and request the correction of the treatment, care, facilities or equipment, as detailed in the notice, within 5 working days of the notice. Upon the failure of the permittee to make the corrections described in the notice, the raptors shall be seized by the department and the permit shall be revoked. The permittee is ineligible to receive another permit until the department is satisfied the facilities, equipment and care comply with this chapter and that the health and safety of raptors in the facilities is ensured.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78; r. and recr. Register, December, 1997, No. 504, eff. 1-1-98; r. and recr. Register, December, 1997, No. 504, eff. 1-1-98.

NR 18.09 Issuance criteria. The department may not issue or renew a permit if any of the following apply:

- (1) The applicant submitted false information in the application.

- (2) The applicant has been found to have failed to provide facilities or equipment in compliance with this chapter, or the applicant has failed to provide proper treatment or care of the raptors. However, if the department is satisfied that the failure has been corrected and will not be repeated, a permit may be issued.

(3) Issuance may have a significant adverse effect on the wild population of raptors based on the best scientific evidence available.

(4) The applicant has failed to comply with federal or state law respecting take, possession or transportation of raptors.

(5) The applicant has failed to submit reports required by this chapter.

(6) The applicant has submitted reports required by this chapter in an incomplete or false manner.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78; r. and recr. Register, December, 1997, No. 504, eff. 1-1-98.

NR 18.10 Classes of permits. (1) APPRENTICE CLASS.

(a) An apprentice class permittee shall be at least 14 years old and sponsored by a person possessing a general or master falconry permit.

(b) A sponsor who is a holder of a general or master falconry permit is required for permittees under the age of 18, and for all permittees the first 2 years in which an apprentice permit is held, regardless of the age of the permittee. The sponsor of an apprentice:

1. May not sponsor more than 3 apprentices at any one time;
2. Shall submit an annual progress report in narrative form to the department by July 31 of each year; and
3. Shall notify the department at any time when the progress or performance of an apprentice is unsatisfactory.

(c) The apprentice class permittee may not possess more than one raptor and may not obtain more than one raptor for replacement during any 12-month period. An apprentice permittee may only possess either an American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) or a red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*).

(d) An apprentice class permittee may not possess an eyas.

(2) **GENERAL CLASS.** (a) A general class permittee shall be at least 18 years old and shall have at least 2 years experience in the practice of falconry at the apprentice level and receive a written recommendation from the sponsor or produce documentation, acceptable to the department, of qualified experience exceeding 2 years.

(b) A general class permittee may not possess more than 2 raptors and may not obtain more than 2 raptors from the wild during any 12-month period.

(c) A general class permittee may not take, transport or possess any golden eagle or merlin (*Falco columbarius*) eyas. A general class permittee may not possess any endangered or threatened species listed in s. NR 27.03 unless it is captive reared and banded with a marker provided by the fish and wildlife service.

(3) **MASTER CLASS.** (a) A master class permittee shall have at least 5 years experience in the practice of falconry at the general class level.

(b) A master class permittee may not possess more than 3 raptors, and may not obtain more than 2 raptors from the wild during any 12-month period.

(c) A master class permittee may not take, transport or possess any golden eagle for falconry purposes unless authorized in writing under 50 CFR 22.24. A permittee may not take, transport or possess any endangered or threatened species listed in s. NR 27.03, except captive reared species banded with markers provided by the fish and wildlife service.

(d) A master class permittee may not take, transport or possess as part of his or her 3-bird limitation, more than one raptor listed as a federally threatened species as prescribed by 50 CFR 21.29 (e) (3) (v).

History: Cr. Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78; am. (2) (d), (3) (c) and (d), Register, August, 1982, No. 320, eff. 9-1-82; emerg. am. (3) (c), eff. 9-15-89; am. (3) (c), Register, March, 1990, No. 411, eff. 4-1-90; r. (1) (b) 4. and (2) (b), am. (1) (a), (b) (intro.), 1. to 3., (c), (2) (a) and (3), r. and recr. (1) (d), renum. (12) (c) and (d) to be (2) (b) and (c) and am., Register, December, 1997, No. 504, eff. 1-1-98.

NR 18.11 Duration of permits. A permit shall be valid for a period not to exceed 3 years, the period commencing on the date of issuance and expiring on July 31 of the third year following issuance.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78; r. and recr. Register, December, 1997, No. 504, eff. 1-1-98.

NR 18.12 Taking and disposal restrictions. (1) RESIDENT PERMITTEE. No resident permittee may take, possess or transport a raptor from the wild without a falconry permit from the department's bureau of endangered resources.

(2) **NONRESIDENT RAPTOR TRAPPING PERMIT.** (a) Trapping permits may not be issued to nonresidents other than persons meeting the qualifications of the general or master class permittees in s. NR 18.10 (2) and (3).

(b) Nonresidents may not apply for more than one trapping permit per trapping season.

(c) The nonresident raptor trapping permittee shall immediately upon capture mark a raptor trapped under a nonresident raptor trapping permit with a federal marker. No raptor may be transported within or from Wisconsin without the marker attached.

(d) The nonresident raptor trapping permittee shall notify the department's bureau of endangered resources within 5 days of any take and provide information on the take on forms provided by the department's bureau of endangered resources.

(e) The nonresident raptor trapping permit shall be carried by the permittee while in the act of trapping and during the transportation of the trapped raptor.

(f) Nonresidents may not take, possess or transport a merlin eyas or any federal or Wisconsin endangered and threatened species.

(3) **SEASON FOR TAKING RAPTOR FROM THE WILD.** (a) A general or master falconer may take eyasses annually during the period of March 26 through April 5 and May 15 through July 15. Except as provided in sub. (2) (f), no more than 2 eyasses may be taken by the same general or master falconer permittee during the specified season.

(b) First year (passage or immature) raptors may not be taken other than during the period of September 16 through December 31.

(c) In no case may the total of all periods of raptor taking exceed 180 days during a calendar year, except that a raptor which has a federal marker attached may be retrapped at any time.

(4) **MARKING.** (a) Raptors held under a permit shall be marked with a numbered band provided by the fish and wildlife service.

(b) A permittee shall attach the marker to the raptor immediately upon acquisition.

(c) No person may alter, counterfeit or deface a marker. A permittee may, however, remove the rear tab on markers and may smooth any imperfect surface provided the integrity of the marker and numbering are not affected.

(d) Permittees trapping previously marked raptors shall immediately report the trapping to the department's bureau of endangered resources.

(5) **EGGS TAKEN FROM THE WILD.** No person may remove any raptor egg or eggs from any nest unless permitted under a scientific collector's permit issued by the department's bureau of endangered resources.

(6) **NESTLING RAPTOR.** General and master class permittees may take eyasses under s. NR 18.10 on the condition that no less than one healthy chick is left in the nest from which the eyas was taken.

(7) **ADULT RAPTOR.** A permittee may not take or possess any raptor other than American kestrels and great horned owls (*Bubo virginianus*) if the raptor is over one year old. Raptors other than state and federally endangered or threatened species that have

been taken under a depredation or scientific collector's permit may be used for falconry by general and master class permittees.

(8) RAPTORS TAKEN IN WISCONSIN. Title to raptors taken in Wisconsin remains in the state of Wisconsin and the raptors may not be transferred other than in accordance with s. NR 18.16.

(9) RAPTORS FROM OUTSIDE WISCONSIN. Raptors obtained outside the state by Wisconsin residents may not be possessed or transported within Wisconsin unless the person possesses legal authority from the state in which the raptor was acquired and a Wisconsin falconry permit.

(10) ESCAPE OR DEATH OF RAPTORS. A permittee shall report the loss or death of any raptor within 5 days to the department's bureau of endangered resources. Carcasses are to be disposed of as directed by the fish and wildlife service.

Note: Forms may be obtained from the Bureau of Endangered Resources, Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707.

Note: In addition, all persons must comply with applicable requirements of federal migratory bird permit regulations contained in 50 CFR 21.

(11) EXCHANGE OF RAPTORS. No person may give or transfer a raptor to a holder of a Wisconsin permit unless the exchange is reported to the department's bureau of endangered resources by the permittee originally holding the raptor within 5 days of the gift or transfer.

(12) TRAPPING OF RAPTORS. (a) All live traps used in taking raptors shall be of a design to offer minimum harm to captured birds and shall be monitored by the permittee at all times.

(b) All traps shall bear a legible label containing the name, address and state falconry permit number of the permittee or non-resident raptor trapping permit number.

(13) TRAINING OF RAPTORS. Persons may not train raptors by using or killing game birds out of season; however, game birds obtained from licensed game farms may be used for this purpose when the permittee is in possession of a valid game farm receipt. Game birds may not be possessed by a permittee unless treated in a humane manner and confined under sanitary conditions with proper care.

(14) CAPTIVE REARED RAPTORS. Raptors hatched and reared in captivity may be used for falconry purposes provided each raptor is banded with a numbered marker provided by the fish and wildlife service.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78; r. and recr. (8), Register, August, 1979, No. 284, eff. 9-1-79; cr. (11), Register, August, 1982, No. 320, eff. 9-1-82; emerg. cr. (12), eff. 9-15-89; cr. (12), Register, March, 1990, No. 411, eff. 4-1-90; r. and recr. Register, December, 1997, No. 504, eff. 12-1-98.

NR 18.13 Temporary care. (1) Qualified persons other than the permittee may temporarily care for the birds of a permittee if written authorization from the permittee accompanies the birds when they are transferred.

(a) Care periods not exceeding 30 days shall meet the standards established in s. NR 18.14.

(b) Care periods exceeding 30 days shall meet the following requirements:

1. A permittee shall inform the department's bureau of endangered resources in writing of this action within 3 days of the transfer and informed where the birds are being held, the reason for the transfer, who is caring for them and approximately how many days they will be in the care of the second person.

2. Such temporary care shall provide facilities which meet the standards established by this chapter.

(2) Diseased or injured raptors may be transported to the nearest, qualified rehabilitation facility. A report of the event including the diagnosis by the facility shall be filed with the department's bureau of endangered resources within 5 days of the occurrence.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78; am. (1) (b) 1. and (2), Register, December, 1997, No. 504, eff. 12-1-98.

NR 18.14 Transportation. (1) **TEMPORARY HOLDING.** A raptor may be transported or held in temporary facilities for a

period not to exceed 30 days. Such facility shall provide an adequate perch and protection from extreme temperatures and excessive disturbance.

(2) OUT-OF-STATE USE. A resident permittee may transport raptors permitted by this chapter from Wisconsin for meets, trials, hunting and other falconry activities provided the permittee obtains a permit or license as may be required by another state.

(3) IN-STATE USE. Except for species listed in s. NR 27.03, non-residents may possess and transport raptors authorized by permit by their state of residency into Wisconsin without additional license.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78; r. and recr. Register, August, 1979, No. 284, eff. 9-1-79; cr. (3), Register, August, 1982, No. 320, eff. 9-1-82; am. (2) and (3), Register, December, 1997, No. 504, eff. 12-1-98.

NR 18.15 Release of marked raptors. A falconry permit holder shall obtain written authorization from the department's bureau of endangered resources before any raptor not indigenous to Wisconsin is intentionally released to the wild, at which time the marker from the released bird shall be removed. The marker from an intentionally released raptor which is indigenous to Wisconsin shall also be removed. A standard federal marker shall be attached to the birds by the state or service-authorized federal bird bander whenever possible.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78; am. Register, December, 1997, No. 504, eff. 1-1-98.

NR 18.16 Permit conditions. In addition to the general conditions in this chapter, every falconry permit and nonresident raptor trapping permit issued shall be subject to all of the following special conditions:

(1) PROHIBITIONS. A permittee may not take, possess or transport a raptor nor assist any other person in taking, possessing or transporting a raptor in violation of the restrictions, conditions and requirements contained in this chapter.

(2) TRANSFER OF RAPTORS. (a) A permittee may transfer a raptor to another permittee if the transaction occurs entirely within the state and no money or other consideration is involved, except properly marked captive bred and raised raptors, identified as captive by the fish and wildlife service, may be sold to another permittee.

(b) A permittee may transfer a raptor to another permittee in an interstate transaction if prior written approval of the state agency which issued the permit is obtained and no money or other consideration is involved, except properly marked captive bred and raised raptors, identified as captive by the fish and wildlife service, may be sold to another permittee.

(3) ANNUAL REPORT REQUIREMENT. (a) No later than August 31 of each year, a permittee shall submit to the department a falconry report for the preceding August 1 to July 31 year.

(b) The report shall be on forms provided by the department and shall contain all of the following information:

1. Name, address and telephone number of the permittee.

2. State permit number or nonresident trapping permit number.

3. Information on each raptor taken from the wild during the year including all of the following:

a. Species;

b. Age;

c. Sex;

d. Nest tree species and condition of nest tree from which an eyas is taken;

e. Marker number;

f. Date raptor taken and date active nest checked for presence of an eyas;

g. Location by township, range, section, quarter section and quarter-quarter section of nest tree from which an eyas is taken or checked for the presence of an eyas;

h. Number of northern goshawk eyasses in the nest from which an eyas was taken; and

i. Details of disposal including date, type of disposal or to whom transferred.

4. Information on each captive-produced raptor acquired during the previous year including all of the following:

a. Species;

b. Age;

c. Sex;

d. Marker number;

e. Details of acquisition including date, previous owner by name and address; and

f. Details of disposal including date, type of disposal or to whom transferred.

(4) CHANGE OF ADDRESS. (a) A permittee shall report a change

of mailing address to the department's bureau of endangered resources within 7 days of the change.

(b) A permittee shall report a change of location of falconry facilities to the department's bureau of endangered resources within 7 days of the change.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78; am. (intro.) to (2), r. and recr. (3), cr. (4), Register, December, 1997, No. 504, eff. 12-1-98.

NR 18.17 Other restrictions. (1) A permittee may not retain or exchange feathers molted from birds held in captivity or those from birds held in captivity that die, except for imping.

(2) A permittee may use raptors possessed under this chapter for educational programs with all of the following restrictions:

(a) The permittee may use only buteos, falcons and great horned owls.

(b) The permittee shall keep records including date, location, size and description of audience and birds used. A summary of these records shall be included in the permittee's annual report as described in s. NR 18.16 (3).

History: Cr. Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78; r. and recr. Register, December, 1997, No. 504, eff. 12-1-98.



FALCONRY PERMIT APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Falconry is not a sport for your part-time entertainment. It requires a great deal of knowledge about raptor biology, care and hunting skills. Dedication is also necessary. Be prepared to commit a minimum of 2 hours per day year-round to your bird(s) before attempting to become licensed.

To prepare yourself for becoming a falconer, you are encouraged to talk and spend some time with an experienced falconer. Further information can be obtained by the Wisconsin Falconry Association at <http://www.wisconsinfalconers.org>. It is also recommended to read up on the sport. The following is a list of recommended resources that will not only help you learn about falconry, but will prepare you for taking the exam.

- North American Falconry & Hunting Hawks – Frank Lyman Beebe and Harold Melvin Webster
- The Red-Tailed Hawk: A complete guide to training and hunting North America's most versatile game hawk
– Liam J. McGranaghan
- California Hawking Club: Apprentice Study Guide – Published by the California Hawking Club

After you are thoroughly acquainted with the sport, you are ready to take the necessary steps for becoming a Wisconsin Falconer:

1. **Take the Exam** – Schedule an examination date through your local wildlife manager or conservation warden. The exam consists of 104 multiple choices questions. You must score 80% or better on the exam before proceeding.
2. **Locate a sponsor** – First time applicants are called "apprentice class falconers". More experienced falconers are either general (2 to 7 years of experience) or master class falconers (over 7 years of experience). Apprentice class falconers must have a general or master class falconer as a sponsor at the time of application. A letter from your sponsor indicating that they will sponsor you must be included with your application.
3. **Facilities and Equipment Inspection** – Standards for equipment are established by s.NR 18.07. You should prepare to meet those standards before submitting your application. Contact your local conservation warden or wildlife manager to schedule an inspection of your facilities and equipment. A copy of this inspection should be included when you send in your application.
4. **Application** – Complete both the state and federal falconry permit applications along with a check for \$100 made out to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and a \$75 check made payable to the Wisconsin DNR. Submit both applications, checks, and other documents to the falconry assistant at the address listed below.
5. **Permit issuance** – After your application has been received and approved, you will receive the permit within 30 days. Note: the permit approved by the state is forwarded to Minnesota for a joint approval by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.
6. **Raptor Possession** – After your permit is received, you may obtain a raptor by trapping or gift as described in s. NR 18.10 and 18.12

NEED FURTHER HELP? Please contact your Falconry Assistant – Stacy Rowe at P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707 or (608) 266-7012 or stacy.rowe@wisconsin.gov