

**ALASKA  
FALCONRY MANUAL  
NO. 9**



**Alaska Board of Game  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
July 1, 2012**

**CHANGES FROM ALASKA FALCONRY MANUAL NO. 8**  
(*Summary only -- these 13 pages will not appear in the final Manual*)

**General Information**

Throughout this new *Manual*, all references to falconers and their raptors are now expressed in the singular, as per the preference of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service, USFWS, or FWS).

**Species List**

1. The list of raptor species permitted for falconry in Alaska is expanded from the existing list but does not include the entire list allowed under the federal FWS framework.

**Falconry Permits**

2. A falconry permit is issued solely by the Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, through the Permits Section, Division of Wildlife Conservation, not jointly with the Service. The federal fee is eliminated once the State of Alaska's falconry regulations are approved by the Service.

3. A falconry permit must be accompanied by a valid, current Alaska hunting license; a falconry permittee may not take a raptor from the wild without first possessing a valid, current falconry permit and a valid, current Alaska hunting license.

4. A falconry raptor or raptors, facilities, equipment, and records may be inspected only in the presence of the permittee, during business hours on any day of the week, and at a time mutually agreed upon by the state and the permittee.

5. A general or master class permittee may hack, or temporarily release to the wild, a raptor to condition it for falconry.

6. A permittee may use creance (tethered) flying, a lure, balloon, or kite in training and conditioning a falconry raptor, and may fly a falconry raptor at bird species not protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and at captive-raised animals.

7. A master falconer may hold a maximum of five wild-taken raptors, including up to three eagles, with no limit on number of captive-bred raptors held [present maximum is three birds total].

8. An interspecific hybrid raptor or a raptor of a species not indigenous to Alaska may not be flown free, including flying at hack, unless the permittee first attaches to the bird at least two radio transmitters designed to track the bird if it is lost.

9. A person may not practice falconry with a raptor of a species not covered by federal and state falconry regulations without first obtaining an Alaska falconry permit.

## **Falconry Examination**

10. A falconer moving to Alaska and wishing to acquire an Alaska falconry permit or visiting Alaska and wishing to acquire a temporary falconry permit must pass an Alaska falconry examination. A falconer who previously held an Alaska falconry permit need not pass the Alaska falconry examination.

## **Facilities and Equipment**

11. Raptor housing includes indoor facilities (mews), outdoor enclosures (weathering areas) and a permittee's residence, provided facilities offer protection from predators and other dangers, adequate shelter from the elements, appropriate perches, and availability of clean water. Outdoor facilities are required.

12. A falconry raptor may be kept outside in the open if it is under watch by a permittee, one of his or her family members, or, for instance, by a designated individual in a weathering yard at a falconry meet.

13. A permittee may keep a falconry raptor inside his or her place of residence provided the bird has a suitable perch and is tethered when not being moved into or out of the permittee's home.

14. A permittee must notify the department within five business days of changing the location of his or her permanent falconry facilities.

## **Records and Reporting**

15. Annual reports are required.

16. Notification of authorities before and after taking a raptor, reporting a lost or dead raptor, reporting a lost, damaged, or removed marker band, a change in location of housing facilities, a change in contact information, and any other official notification of activity carried out under a falconry permit may be made electronically, orally, or in writing. A completed form 3-186A may be filed electronically or in writing on a paper form. A permittee must retain a copy of each electronic database submission documenting take, transfer, loss, rebanding, or implanting a microchip in a falconry raptor until five years after transferring or losing the raptor, or it has died. A permittee acquiring a raptor; transferring, rebanding, or implanting a microchip in a raptor; if a permittee's raptor is stolen; if a raptor lost to the wild is not recovered within 30 days; or if a raptor possessed for falconry dies; a permittee must report to the department within 10 days using federal form 3-186A. These and other notification deadlines are as follows:

- Acquisition/transfer/disposal of a raptor – within 10 days to the department (using federal form 3-186A (Migratory Bird Acquisition/Disposition Report)) – hereafter, “the department” means Permits Section at ADF&G headquarters unless otherwise noted;
- Intent to take a raptor from the wild – at least 10 days prior to the department office nearest area of intended take and the regional falconry representative in the area of take;
- Take of a raptor from the wild – within 10 days to the department and the regional falconry representative in the area of take;

- Import of a raptor – at least 30 days prior to the department, except at least 10 days for the return of a raptor of Alaska origin from temporary export;
- Export of a raptor – at least 10 days prior to the department;
- A marker band is lost or had to be removed – within five days to the department;
- Intentional release of a raptor – prior notification to the regional falconry representative;
- Death, loss, escape, or intentional release of a raptor – within 10 days to the department, or immediately upon return to the country for death or loss of a raptor temporarily outside the U.S. for falconry purposes, using federal form 3-186A;
- Surrender of the marker band from a dead or released raptor – within 15 business days to the department;
- Intent to recapture a raptor lost more than five days – to the regional falconry representative;
- Recovery of a raptor reported as lost – within 10 days of recapture to the regional falconry representative;
- Recapture of a raptor wearing falconry equipment or a captive-bred raptor – within five business days of recapture to the department;
- Permanent transfer of a raptor to another permittee – at least 10 days before the transfer to the regional falconry representative;
- Intent to transfer a raptor for temporary care for a period of care to exceed 45 days – within three days after transfer to the regional falconry representative;
- Changed location of falconry facilities – within five business days to the department;
- Non-resident falconer entering Alaska to practice falconry under a non-Alaska falconry permit – at least 10 days prior to the department; and
- Non-resident falconer importing a raptor if he or she intends to keep an imported bird in the state longer than 60 days – within 30 days of the date of import to the department.

### **Falconry Standards**

#### **Definitions**

17. For determining possession and take of a raptor for falconry, a regulatory year is any 12-month period defined by the state.

18. Defines “permittee” to include a person who holds a valid, current Alaska falconry permit [the previous definition limited “permittee” to one who actually holds a raptor under the authority of a falconry permit].

19. Defines “resident” using the language in the Alaska Hunting Regulations: “a person (including an alien) who is physically present in Alaska with the intent to remain indefinitely and make a home in Alaska, has maintained that person’s domicile in Alaska for the 12 consecutive months immediately preceding application for a license, and is not claiming residency or obtaining benefits under a claim of residency in another state, territory, or country; or a member of the military service or U.S. Coast Guard who has been stationed in Alaska for the 12 consecutive months immediately preceding application for a license; or a dependent of a resident member of the military service or U.S. Coast Guard who has lived in Alaska for the 12

consecutive months immediately preceding application for a license. A person who does not otherwise qualify as a resident may not qualify by virtue of an interest in an Alaska business.”

20. Raptors authorized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, including all subspecies thereof, and authorized for falconry use in Alaska include: white-tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*); Steller's sea-eagle (*Haliaeetus pelagicus*); northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*); Asiatic sparrow hawk (*Accipiter gularis*); sharp-shinned hawk (*Accipiter striatus*); Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*); northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*); Harris's hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*); Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*); red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*); ferruginous hawk (*Buteo regalis*); rough-legged hawk (*Buteo lagopus*); golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*); Eurasian kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*); American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*); merlin (*Falco columbarius*); aplomado falcon (*Falco femoralis*); peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*); gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*); prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*); western screech-owl (*Otus kennicottii*); great horned owl (*Bubo virginianus*); snowy owl (*Bubo scandiacus*); northern hawk-owl (*Surnia ulula*); northern pygmy-owl (*Glaucidium gnoma*); barred owl (*Strix varia*); great gray owl (*Strix nebulosa*); long-eared owl (*Asio otus*); short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*); boreal owl (*Aegolius funereus*); northern saw-whet owl (*Aegolius acadicus*); and hybrids of these species produced by raptor breeders. [NOTE: Cooper's hawk, Harris's hawk, ferruginous hawk, aplomado falcon, and prairie falcon are not indigenous to Alaska, and may be flown free only with at least two radio transmitters attached.]

21. The definition of an animal taken outside of regular hunting seasons is changed from “game” to “quarry” to cover inadvertent take of both game and non-game animals.

22. Release of live game under terms of 5 AAC 92.029, “Permits for possessing live game,” is allowed for training of “raptors” [present language specifies only “falcons”].

23. A permittee must ensure his or her falconry activities do not cause the take of federally listed threatened or endangered wildlife.

24. A permittee must report take by a falconry bird of any federally listed endangered or threatened species to the USFWS Ecological Services Field Office for the location in which the take occurred.

25. A permittee may use a falconry raptor take any bird species for which a depredation order is in place at any time in accordance with the conditions of the order, but may not be compensated for doing so.

### **Falconry Permits**

26. The list of legal falconry species now includes the new order Accipitriformes.

27. A person may not take, transport, or possess a raptor, including Accipitriform, Falconiform, and Strigiform birds not identified as raptors in these standards, for falconry or for the practice of falconry in Alaska without possessing a valid falconry permit issued by the department. Someone whose permit was revoked or canceled by the department would not be able to continue the practice of falconry with an “exotic” raptor not listed as a falconry species, as has

occurred elsewhere. Given Alaska's tight restrictions on non-indigenous wildlife, this is extremely unlikely, but this closes a potential loophole.

28. Specifies a raptor held under any level of falconry permit must be trained in the pursuit of wild game and used in hunting [that requirement was previously included only in the language allowing master class falconers an unlimited number of birds].

29. Deleted "general class falconers may possess up to 3 golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*)" as per federal restrictions.

30. Regulations allowing master falconers to possess and take golden eagles from the wild are adopted by reference to 50 CFR 22.23 and 22.24 rather than citing the specific language, in order to accommodate expected changes at the federal level.

31. A permittee may not sell, barter, or exchange for anything of value a wild-taken raptor held under a falconry permit, but may do so with a captive-bred raptor marked with a seamless band.

32. A non-U.S. visitor to Alaska may qualify for a temporary falconry permit appropriate to his or her level of experience.

### **Falconry Permit Requirements and Application Procedures**

33. Application and permit fees are payable to ADF&G, not USFWS.

34. ADF&G Region IV contact information added.

35. Additional language is added to the certification block of the permit application: "I certify that I have read and am familiar with the regulations in title 50, part 13, of the Code of Federal Regulations and the other applicable parts in subchapter B of chapter 1 of title 50, and that the information I have submitted 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."

### **New (apprentice) falconers**

36. An apprentice falconer must be at least 12 years old may hold only one bird at any time, may not possess a wild-taken eyas, nor a bird imprinted on humans. An apprentice may hold all authorized species except white-tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*), Steller's sea-eagle (*Haliaeetus pelagicus*), northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*), ferruginous hawk (*Buteo regalis*), golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*), short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*), and hybrids of these species produced by raptor breeders.

An applicant must be sponsored by a master or general class falconer who is at least 18 years old and has at least two years of experience at the general falconer level. A parent or legal guardian of an apprentice under 18 years of age must sign the falconry permit application and is legally responsible for the permittee's activities.

## **Renewing a permit**

37. A permittee who allows his or her permit to lapse may reinstate the permit at the same level of the previously held permit by applying to reinstate the permit within five years of its expiration, paying any appropriate fee, and presenting proof of certification at that level. An applicant's facilities must also pass department inspection before the permittee may possess a falconry bird. The permittee need not pass the Alaska falconry examination.

38. A permittee who allows his or her permit to lapse for five years or longer must pass the Alaska falconry examination to reinstate the permit. If he or she passes the examination, the permit will be reinstated at the level previously held after the permittee pays any appropriate fee and presents proof of certification at that level. An applicant's facilities must also pass department inspection before the permittee may possess a falconry bird.

39. A revoked permit may be restored at the end of the revocation period upon request of the person whose permit was revoked.

## **Upgrading a permit**

40. A permit upgrade request must include a summary of species held and how long each bird was held. An apprentice falconer must also present a letter of recommendation from his or her sponsor supporting the upgrade and attesting the applicant has practiced falconry with a raptor taken from the wild at the apprentice level for at least two years, including maintaining, training, flying, and hunting the raptor for an average of six months per year, with at least four months in each year. An applicant seeking upgrade to master class must attest to having practiced falconry at the general level for at least five years.

41. A general falconer must be at least 16 years of age [no change from existing minimum age], may hold a maximum of three raptors, and may hold all authorized species except white-tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*), Steller's sea-eagle (*Haliaeetus pelagicus*), and golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*). General class falconers with less than two years of experience may take peregrine falcons from the wild [not allowed by present regulation]. The application of a general class falconer under 18 years of age must be signed by a parent or legal guardian accepting legal responsibility for the falconer's activities.

42. Falconry school or educational program experience may not be substituted for active falconry experience for purposes of advancing to a general or master class permit.

## **Transferring a permit from another state or country**

43. An applicant with a valid, current permit from another state or U.S. territory must pass the Alaska falconry examination, unless he or she previously held an Alaska falconry permit.

44. A non-resident wishing to hunt with a raptor in Alaska for 60 days or less may be issued a temporary falconry permit. A temporary permittee may not take a bird from the wild.

45. A falconer moving to Alaska from a non-U.S. jurisdiction or wishing to practice falconry temporarily in Alaska is required to demonstrate familiarity with U.S. and Alaska law by passing

an examination. A permits will be issued at the apprentice level unless the applicant documents experience qualifying him or her for a higher-level permit.

### **Updating a permit after a move**

46. A permittee from Alaska must notify the department and the permitting authority of the new place of residence within 30 days. A permittee may continue to hold a falconry raptor while applying for a new permit, but the jurisdiction into which permittee has moved may place restrictions on possession of a falconry bird until residency requirements in the new jurisdiction are met.

### **Temporary Facilities**

47. A raptor may be held in temporary facilities for up to 45 days [present maximum is 30 days].

### **Markers**

48. A red ADF&G marker band is no longer required; a black USFWS marker band issued by the department is required for a wild-taken goshawk, Harris's hawk, peregrine falcon, or gyrfalcon; a captive-bred raptor must wear a seamless metal USFWS marker band. An ISO-compliant (i.e., 134.2 kHz) microchip may be implanted in addition to using the USFWS marker band. A wild-origin raptor may not be banded with a seamless metal USFWS marker band.

49. A microchip may be implanted in a raptor in addition to, but not in place of, banding.

50. The state may provide an exemption to banding requirements if a health or injury problem caused by a marker band is documented. A falconer must carry a copy of exemption paperwork when flying an exempted raptor. For an exempted wild-origin peregrine falcon, gyrfalcon, Harris's hawk, or goshawk, a band must be replaced by an ISO-compliant microchip. In such a case, the USFWS will provide a suitable microchip.

51. A marker band may not be attached to a raptor other than the individual to which the marker band was originally attached.

### **Taking of Raptors**

52. Only an Alaska resident may take a raptor from the wild in Alaska. The definition of "resident" is the same as published in the Alaska Hunting Regulations and is included in the definitions section of Alaska Falconry Manual No. 9.

53. Take of any raptor species must be in compliance with these standards.

- a. A permittee may not intentionally capture a raptor of a species not allowed by his or her classification for possession for falconry. A permittee capturing a raptor not allowed must release it immediately.
- b. A permittee may take no more than two raptors from the wild each year for use in falconry.



- c. If a permittee transfers a raptor taken from the wild to another permittee in the same year in which it was taken, that bird will count as one of the raptors the permittee is allowed to take from the wild that year; it will not count as a capture by the recipient permittee, but will always be considered a wild-origin bird.
- d. A permittee taking possession of a raptor for falconry purposes, who is present at the capture site, even if another person captures the raptor, is considered the person who removes the bird from the wild and is responsible for reporting that take.
- e. If a permittee seeking possession of a falconry raptor is not at the immediate location where a raptor is taken from the wild, the person who removes the bird from the wild must be a general or master class permittee, and must report take of the bird, even if it is promptly transferred to the recipient permittee. When that person transfers the raptor to the absent permittee, both must report the transfer. The bird will count as one of the two raptors the permittee who took it from the wild is allowed to capture in any one year. The raptor will not count as a capture by the recipient permittee.
- f. If a permittee has a long-term physical impairment preventing direct capture of a species allowed for falconry use by that permittee, a general or master class permittee may take a raptor for that person. When a raptor is taken from the wild, the recipient permittee is then responsible for reporting the take, and the bird will count as one of the two raptors he or she is allowed to capture in any one year.
  - i. A permittee with a long-term physical disability is defined as a permittee who provides the department with either 1) written proof that the person receives at least 70 percent disability compensation from a government agency for a physical disability or 2) an affidavit signed by a physician licensed to practice medicine in the state, stating that the person is at least 70 percent disabled.

54. Restrictions on dates when an eyas or passage raptor may be taken from the wild are eliminated; a raptor may be taken any day of the year. A breeding bird, including one in immature plumage, may not be taken.

55. Peregrine falcons, including all subspecies thereof, are considered the same as other raptors available for falconry use. There are no special requirements for taking or reporting take of a peregrine falcon, nor are there restrictions on where peregrines may be taken. Previously closed corridors on the Colville and Upper Yukon Rivers are now open to peregrine take.

56. A permittee may retrap a marked raptor or a raptor wearing falconry equipment lost to the wild at any time and within five days after its loss without notifying the regional falconry representative. Recapturing such a raptor is not considered take from the wild. A permittee must return a recaptured falconry raptor to the permittee who lost it, if that person may legally possess it. Disposition of a raptor whose legal possession cannot be determined will be at the discretion of the department. While a permittee is keeping a bird for return to the permittee who lost it, the bird will neither count against the permittee's possession limit nor the limit on take of raptors from the wild, but the permittee must report possession of such a raptor to the department within five business days of capture.

57. A falconer may acquire a bird from a rehabilitator. A raptor acquired from a rehabilitator must be capable of being flown at wild quarry.

58. An interspecific hybrid raptor need not be surgically sterilized.

59. An interspecific hybrid raptor or a raptor of a species not indigenous to Alaska at hack or flown free must wear at least two radio transmitters designed to track the bird if it is lost.

60. A permittee may take from the wild a raptor he or she is authorized to possess if the bird is banded with a Federal Bird Banding Laboratory aluminum band, except a permittee may not take a banded peregrine falcon from the wild. A permittee capturing a peregrine falcon marked with a research band or a research marking must immediately release it, except a falcon wearing a transmitter may be held for up to 30 days in order to contact a researcher to determine if the transmitter or battery warrants replacement. A researcher may choose to replace a transmitter or battery, or remove a transmitter. A researcher, his or her designee, or a falconry permittee authorized by the researcher may conduct this work. If the researcher chooses, the transmitter may be removed and the falcon transferred to the permittee, who may keep such a bird if captured in circumstances allowing capture of a wild peregrine.

- If a captured raptor has a band, a research marking, or a transmitter attached, the permittee must promptly report the band number and all relevant information to the Federal Bird Banding Laboratory at 1-800-327-2263.
  - A permittee may contact a researcher to determine if he or she wishes to replace a transmitter or battery on a captured bird. If so, a permittee is authorized to possess such a raptor for up to 30 days until the researcher, his or her designee, or an authorized permittee completes the replacement. Disposition of such a raptor will be at the discretion of the researcher and the department.
  - Such a bird held temporarily will not count against a permittee's possession or annual wild take limits for falconry raptors.

61. A permittee is responsible for the cost of care and rehabilitation of a raptor injured by his or her trapping efforts. A permittee may place a raptor injured by trapping efforts on his or her falconry permit, report the take to the department within 10 days using federal form 3-186A, and have the bird treated by a veterinarian or a permitted wildlife rehabilitator; such a bird counts against possession and annual wild take limits. A permittee may also give such a raptor directly to a veterinarian, permitted wildlife rehabilitator, or appropriate wildlife agency employee; such a bird does not count against possession and annual wild take limits.

62. A master falconer authorized to possess a golden eagle may take one or two immature or sub-adult golden eagles from the wild only in a livestock depredation area during the time the depredation area is in effect, as follows. A livestock depredation area is declared by USDA Wildlife Services or upon the request of a state governor. A permittee meeting the conditions outlined in 50 CFR §21.29 (c)(3)(iv) and who has a state permit to possess a golden eagle is considered sufficiently authorized for the purposes of the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668d), subject to the requirement that take of golden eagles for falconry is

compatible with the preservation of the golden eagle. Under present federal regulations, a permittee:

- a. may capture a nestling golden eagle, or take a nestling from its nest, in a livestock depredation area if a biologist representing the agency responsible for declaring the depredation area has determined that the adult eagle is preying on livestock;
- b. must determine the location of the livestock depredation areas; neither the state, USDA Wildlife Services, nor the USFWS will notify permittees about them;
- c. must inform the USFWS regional law enforcement office of capture plans in person, in writing, or via facsimile or e-mail to [lawenforcement@fws.gov](mailto:lawenforcement@fws.gov) at least three business days before beginning trapping activities;
- d. must meet all requirements of the state, territory, or tribe in which or on whose lands trapping activities are intended;
- e. must have permission from the landowner to capture an eagle or, if capture is intended on public land, the responsible agency must allow it; and
- f. may receive a golden eagle from a government employee who has trapped it under federal, state, or tribal authority in a livestock depredation area declared by USDA Wildlife Services or a state governor if the employee is unable to release the bird in an appropriate location.

### **Import/Export**

63. A written permit to import or permanently export a raptor is no longer required, but oral, electronic, or written notification must be made to the ADF&G Permits Section at least 10 days prior to temporary or permanent export or 30 business days prior to importation, except notification must be given at least 10 days before the return of a raptor of Alaska origin from temporary export.

64. A permittee must either have held a bird for a year or maintained Alaska residency for two consecutive years prior to the date of export before temporarily or permanently exporting a falconry raptor. A falconer who has maintained Alaska residency continuously for at least two years may temporarily or permanently export a raptor held under falconry permits even if he or she has not held the bird for a full year.

65. Requirements for importation of raptors specify “vaccination, or other requirements” in addition to “disease testing,” and designate both state and provincial entities as acceptable authorities for certification of good health.

66. A person possessing a valid falconry permit issued by a U.S. state, territory, or tribe may possess and transport for falconry purposes a lawfully possessed raptor through other states or U.S. territories. Any state, territory, or tribe may further regulate such transport.

67. A non-resident may import a raptor and use it for falconry in Alaska for up to 60 [formerly 30] days on the authority of the falconry permit issued by his or her home state. A temporary Alaska falconry permit is no longer required, but a non-resident must notify the ADF&G Permits Section at least 10 business days prior to entering the state.

68. A permittee legally possessing a raptor for falconry may export and then import such a raptor for falconry to other countries to use in falconry without additional migratory bird import/export permits issued under 50 CFR §21.21.

### **Transfer of Raptors**

69. Only permanent, not temporary, transfer requires notification of state and federal authorities using form 3-186A. "Transfer of raptor" means to transfer or change the possession of a raptor from one permittee to another permittee. Transfer includes the sale, barter, or exchange of a raptor for anything of value [present language does not consider these transactions as transfers]. Short-term handling, such as letting another person hold or practice flying a raptor held under a falconry permit, is not considered possession if the permittee is present and supervising the person working with his or her raptor.

70. A permittee may transfer a raptor to captive propagation and other permit types.

71. A person other than a permittee may temporarily care for a permitted raptor for up to 45 days, provided the raptor remains on the permittee's falconry permit and remains in the permittee's facilities. Care may be extended indefinitely in extenuated circumstances such as illness, family emergency, and military service. If a period of temporary care will exceed 45 days, the permittee shall notify the regional falconry representative in writing within 10 [previously three] days after transferring the raptor. A person providing care may not fly a permitted raptor for any reason.

72. A survivor/legal representative of a deceased falconry permittee may transfer a bird held by the permittee to another authorized permittee within 90 days of death. After 90 days, disposition of a bird is at the discretion of the department.

### **Release, Loss or Death of Raptors**

73. A permittee must notify the regional falconry representative at least five days before intentionally releasing a raptor to the wild.

74. A permittee may keep the body of a raptor banded or with a microchip implanted prior to death, except that of a golden eagle. A body may be kept so feathers are available for imping. A body may be mounted by a taxidermist for use in presenting conservation education programs. A dead raptor preserved by taxidermy must permanently retain its marker band and/or microchip. A permittee not wishing to donate a bird body or keep it him or herself must burn, bury, or otherwise destroy it within 10 days of death or after final veterinary examination to determine

cause of death. A permittee must take appropriate precautions to avoid secondary poisoning of eagles and other scavengers via a carcass of a euthanized raptor. A permittee may possess flight feathers of a falconry raptor that died for as long as the permittee holds a valid falconry permit. A permittee may not buy, sell, or barter such feathers and must keep paperwork documenting the acquisition of the bird from which the feathers came.

75. A permittee must send the entire body of a falconry golden eagle that dies, including all feathers, talons, and other parts, to the National Eagle Repository.

### **Imping**

76. For imping purposes, a permittee may retain or exchange feathers from each species of raptor he or she possesses or previously held for as long as he or she holds a valid, current falconry permit; may receive feathers from another permittee and may give feathers to him or her; may not buy, sell, or barter imping feathers; may donate feathers from a falconry bird, except golden eagle feathers, to a permitted or exempted person or institution. Except for primary or secondary flight feathers or rectrices from golden eagles, a permittee is not required to gather feathers from a falconry bird; golden eagle feathers not kept for imping must be sent to the National Eagle Repository. If a falconry permit expires or is revoked, a permittee must donate feathers of any species of falconry raptor except golden eagle to a person or an institution authorized by permit to acquire and possess the feathers or are exempt from the permit requirement under 50 CFR §21.12, or burn, bury, or otherwise destroy them.

### **Captive Propagation**

77. A raptor held under a falconry permit may be bred in captivity under the authority of a captive propagation permit. A raptor possessed for falconry may be used in captive propagation only in Alaska.

78. Propagation permittees are no longer required to dispose of captive-bred progeny within one year after hatching.

79. A falconry raptor may be used in captive propagation for less than eight months in a year without transferring it to a propagation permit. Permanent use in propagation programs requires a permit transfer.

80. There is no limit on the number of wild-origin birds held under a captive propagation permit; no more than two wild-origin birds may be acquired in a calendar year.

81. A captive propagator may sell, barter, or exchange for anything of value first or later generation captive-bred progeny [present regulations limit such disposal to second generation or later progeny].

82. A permittee moving from the state may permanently export a raptor held under a propagation permit if the permittee has legally possessed that raptor in Alaska for at least one year and retains possession of the raptor at his or her new place of residence, except a raptor held less than one full year may be exported permanently if the propagation permittee holding it has maintained Alaska residency continuously for at least two years immediately prior to the date of export.

### **Conservation Education**

83. A permittee may use a falconry raptor in a conservation program presented in a public venue.

### **Rehabilitation**

84. A general or master class falconry permittee may assist a permitted migratory bird rehabilitator to condition a raptor in preparation for its release to the wild and may keep a bird he or she is helping to rehabilitate in his or her facilities.

### **Abatement**

85. A master class falconry permittee may conduct and receive payment for abatement activities with a raptor possessed for falconry if he or she holds a Special Purpose Abatement permit; a general class falconry permittee may conduct abatement activities only as a subpermittee of a Special Purpose Abatement permit holder.

## IMPORTANT DATES

### January 11

Due date for annual falconry and raptor propagation reports.

Last day to request permit renewal (unless otherwise specified). Requests for renewal must be submitted at least 20 days prior to expiration of current permits.

### January 31

Falconry and raptor propagation permits expire.

### Year-round

- Notify the department of acquisition, transfer, rebanding, or disposal of a raptor, implanting a microchip in a raptor, or if a raptor is stolen, is lost to the wild and not recovered for 30 days, or dies, using federal form 3-186A (Migratory Bird Acquisition/Disposition Report) within 10 days of occurrence.
- Notify the department office nearest the area of intended take and the regional falconry representative in the area of take at least 10 days before taking a raptor from the wild.
- Notify the department Permits Section and the regional falconry representative in the area of take within 10 days of taking a raptor from the wild.
- Notify the department at least 10 days prior to export or 30 days prior to import of a raptor, except notification must be given at least 10 days before the return of a raptor of Alaska origin from temporary export.
- Report a marker band that must be removed or is lost within five business days of removal or loss to the Permits Section.
- Notify the regional falconry representative at least five business days prior to intentional release of a raptor.
- Report to the Permits Section a dead, lost, escaped, or intentionally released raptor within 10 business days of occurrence; report death or loss of a raptor temporarily outside the U.S. for falconry purposes immediately upon return to the country.
- Notify the department and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service, USFWS, or FWS) Regional Law Enforcement office of a stolen raptor within 10 days of the theft.
- Deliver to the regional falconry representative a marker band from a dead or released raptor within 15 business days of death or release, except a raptor preserved by taxidermy must permanently retain its marker band and/or microchip.
- Notify regional falconry representative of intent to recapture a raptor lost more than five days; report recovery of a raptor reported as lost within 10 business days of recapture (recapture within five days of loss requires no such notification).
- Notify the department within five business days of recapturing a raptor wearing falconry equipment or a captive-bred raptor.
- Notify the Permits Section at least 10 business days before permanently transferring a raptor to another permittee.
- Notify the Permits Section within three business days after transferring a raptor for temporary care if the period of care will exceed 60 calendar days.
- Notify the Permits Section and the regional falconry representative within five business days of changing location of falconry facilities.
- A non-resident falconer must notify the Permits Section at least 10 calendar days prior to entering Alaska to practice falconry under a non-Alaska falconry permit.
- A non-resident falconer must contact the department's Permits Section at least 30 calendar days prior to the date of import if intending to keep an imported raptor in the state longer than 60 calendar days.

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

### **Taking Raptors**

Report electronically, orally, or in writing to the regional falconry representative and the nearest department office in the intended area of take at least 10 business days prior to and within 10 business days after taking a raptor from the wild. A permittee must also report to the ADF&G Permits Section using Form 3-186A within 10 business days of taking a raptor.

### **Markers**

Upon taking a peregrine falcon, gyrfalcon, goshawk, or Harris's hawk, either from the wild or from a rehabilitator, a USFWS marker band must be attached, and an ISO-compliant (134.2 kHz) microchip may be implanted.

### **Release/Loss/Death of Raptors**

Notify the regional falconry representative at least five days prior to the intentional release of any raptor. Notify the ADF&G Permits Section using Form 3-186A of the loss, escape, release, or death of any raptor within 10 days of such occurrence. Notify the department and the USFWS Regional Law Enforcement office of a stolen raptor within 10 days of the theft. Deliver the marker from a dead or released raptor to the regional falconry representative within 15 business days of death or release.

### **Import/Export**

Prior written approval from the ADF&G Permits Section is required before a raptor may be imported into or permanently exported from Alaska. Oral, electronic, or written notification of the ADF&G Permits Section is required at least 10 business days before a raptor is exported from or 30 business days before a raptor is imported into Alaska, except notification must be given at least 10 business days before the return of a raptor of Alaska origin from temporary export. **Please contact the Permits Section early to avoid import/export problems.**

A person with a current permit for falconry from another state may temporarily import a raptor and use it for falconry for up to 30 days. Oral, electronic, or written notification of the ADF&G Permits Section is required at least 30 calendar days before entering Alaska to practice falconry under a non-Alaska falconry permit. See import disease testing requirements below.

A raptor imported into Alaska must be accompanied by written authorization from the department and a health certificate issued within 30 days prior to the date of importation. A "health certificate" means a legible certification issued by an accredited veterinarian of the jurisdiction of origin or the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (APHIS-USDA) and executed on an official form of the state of origin or of the APHIS-USDA. Consult the State Veterinarian (Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation) or ADF&G Permits Section for disease testing, vaccination, or other requirements before importation.

Current import disease testing requirements include:

**West Nile Virus** – a negative titer for West Nile Virus at a 1:10 dilution from a blood sample drawn within 30 calendar days prior to the date of import, or a certificate indicating the raptor was vaccinated against West Nile Virus by a licensed veterinarian. Test results or a certificate of vaccination should accompany the application for an import permit.

For a raptor traveling through Canada or to or from a foreign country, contact the U.S. Customs Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to obtain information, appropriate declaration forms, and export/import permits or licenses.

*Cover illustration courtesy of William R. Tilton*



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## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Purpose

Falconry is the sport of pursuing, capturing, or killing game using a trained raptor. Falconry is a lawful hunting method when practiced in compliance with state and federal regulations under the terms of a permit issued by the Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The following species of raptors, including all subspecies thereof, listed in Table 1 are authorized for falconry in Alaska and are a subset of the species described by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 50, Part 10 (50 CFR §10.12 and 50 CFR §10.13).

#### **Table 1. Species authorized for falconry in Alaska.**

white-tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*);  
Steller's sea-eagle (*Haliaeetus pelagicus*);  
northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*);  
Asiatic sparrow hawk (*Accipiter gularis*);  
sharp-shinned hawk (*Accipiter striatus*);  
Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*);  
northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*);  
Harris's hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*);  
Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*);  
red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*);  
ferruginous hawk (*Buteo regalis*);  
rough-legged hawk (*Buteo lagopus*);  
golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*);  
Eurasian kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*);  
American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*);  
merlin (*Falco columbarius*);  
aplomado falcon (*Falco femoralis*);  
peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*);  
gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*);  
prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*);  
western screech-owl (*Otus kennicottii*);  
great horned owl (*Bubo virginianus*);  
snowy owl (*Bubo scandiacus*);  
northern hawk-owl (*Surnia ulula*);  
northern pygmy-owl (*Glaucidium gnoma*);  
barred owl (*Strix varia*);  
great gray owl (*Strix nebulosa*);  
long-eared owl (*Asio otus*);  
short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*);  
boreal owl (*Aegolius funereus*);  
northern saw-whet owl (*Aegolius acadicus*);

any non indigenous subspecies of northern goshawk other than *Accipiter gentilis atricapillus* or *A. g. laingi*, that is surgically or behaviorally (i.e., imprinted) sterilized; and hybrids of these species produced by raptor breeders.

[NOTE: There are no breeding populations of Cooper's hawks, Harris's hawks, Swainson's hawks, ferruginous hawks, aplomado falcons, or prairie falcons in Alaska.

Alaska regulations require that anyone taking, holding, or possessing one or more raptors of these species for falconry must first obtain a falconry permit and valid, current hunting license. A person may not practice falconry in Alaska with a raptor of a species not covered by federal and state falconry regulations without first obtaining an Alaska falconry permit.

State falconry regulations were adopted by the Alaska Board of Game to assist in the management of raptor populations and to maintain standards for the care of birds legally held for falconry purposes. This manual includes regulations that pertain to the taking, holding, and possession of raptors for falconry and issuance of falconry permits. Whether to a novice falconer or an experienced falconer new to Alaska, the application and reporting procedures may seem complex and are summarized for convenience below. More detailed information is contained in the Standards section of this manual and is not repeated here; refer to the Standards section before conducting falconry activities. Statewide provisions for issuing falconry permits and promulgating regulations are contained in 5 AAC 92.037 and AS 16.05.255. Federal regulations on falconry can be found in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 50, Part 21 (50 CFR §21.29).

## **Falconry Permits**

A falconry permit, which must always be accompanied by a valid, current Alaska hunting license, authorizes a permittee to possess a raptor or raptors for falconry and to hunt game with his or her raptor(s) in compliance with applicable seasons, bag limits, and other provisions of law. A falconer must have his or her permit or a legible copy of it in his or her immediate possession whenever engaging in falconry activities away from his or her falconry facilities of record. Falconry activities include trapping, transporting, training, or hunting with a falconry raptor.

Special or written permission is not required for falconry activities on public lands where it is authorized, but a permittee must comply with all applicable federal, state, territorial, or tribal laws regarding falconry activities, including hunting. A falconry permit does not authorize capture or release of a raptor or the practice of falconry on public lands if prohibited on those lands, or on private property, without permission from the landowner or custodian.

A permittee is responsible for the actions of his or her raptor while hunting. If a permittee's bird takes quarry outside of a regular hunting season, he or she must leave the dead quarry where it lies, although the raptor may feed on the quarry before leaving the kill site. A permittee must report take of any federally listed endangered or threatened species to the USFWS Ecological Services Field Office for the location in which the take occurred. With a falconry bird, a permittee may take any bird species listed in 50 CFR §21.43, 21.44, 21.45, or 21.46 for which a

depredation order is in place at any time in accordance with the conditions of the applicable depredation order, as long as a permittee is not paid for doing so.

Falconry permits are valid from the date issued through January 31 of the third calendar year following the year of issue (e.g., a permit issued on February 4, 2013 expires on January 31, 2016), unless a shorter period is prescribed on the permit.

A raptor legally possessed under an Alaska falconry permit may be bred in captivity only if authorized by captive propagation permit. A bird taken from the wild under authority of a falconry permit may not be sold or bartered. Permanent transfer of a raptor between falconers requires proper notification of state authorities using Form 3-186A.

Prior notification of the ADF&G Permits Section is required to import a raptor into or export a raptor from the state of Alaska. A raptor imported into Alaska must be accompanied by a health certificate and meet disease testing, vaccination, and other requirements as specified by the state veterinarian and/or ADF&G. An Alaska falconry permittee who plans to permanently move to another state may take along a falconry raptor or raptors that he or she legally possesses as long as the permittee has 1) legally possessed the bird(s) in the state for at least one year, or 2) met the definition of Alaska resident in AS 16.05.415 for at least one year immediately prior to the export (i.e., resided in the state for at least two consecutive years immediately prior to the date of export).

There are three classes of falconry permits issued depending on a permittee’s experience: apprentice (new falconer); general (at least two years experience as a practicing falconer); and master (at least five years experience as a practicing falconer at the general class level). A permittee must have a bird in possession to be considered a practicing falconer. Falconry school or educational program experience may not be substituted for active falconry experience for purposes of advancing to general or master class permits.

**Table 2. Summary of the permit conditions relative to numbers of birds and species for each class of falconer.**

<b>Permit Condition</b>	<b>Apprentice</b>	<b>General</b>	<b>Master</b>
Maximum number of falconry birds in possession	1	3	5 wild-taken, including up to 3 eagles; no limit on captive-bred birds, but all raptors must be trained in the pursuit of wild game and used in hunting.
Maximum number of birds (including replacements) that may be obtained from all	2	2	No limit

sources during any 12-month period			
Maximum number of birds that may be taken from the wild during any 12-month period	2	2	2
Authorized species	All except white-tailed eagle ( <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i> ), Steller's sea-eagle ( <i>Haliaeetus pelagicus</i> ), northern harrier ( <i>Circus cyaneus</i> ), Swainson's hawk ( <i>Buteo swainsoni</i> ), ferruginous hawk ( <i>Buteo regalis</i> ), golden eagle ( <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> ), peregrine falcon ( <i>Falco peregrinus</i> ), prairie falcon ( <i>Falco mexicanus</i> ), and short-eared owl ( <i>Asio flammeus</i> ).	All except white-tailed eagle ( <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i> ), Steller's sea-eagle ( <i>Haliaeetus pelagicus</i> ), and golden eagle ( <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> ).	All listed in Table 1.
Possession of hybrids allowed?	Yes	Yes	Yes

### Application Procedures

An applicant who resides in Alaska and has never held a falconry permit in Alaska must: 1) correctly answer at least 80% of the questions on the Alaska falconry examination; and 2) submit to the Permits Section completed application forms including signature of the ADF&G biologist who proctored the examination. At least 30 calendar days prior to acquiring a falconry bird, a new permittee must have his or her raptor facilities and equipment inspected and approved by ADF&G.

**Permit Classes** – When submitting an application for an Alaska falconry permit, an applicant must designate the permit class for which he or she is applying. To be eligible for an apprentice class permit, an applicant must be at least 12 years of age and submit at least one letter of sponsorship from a general or master class falconer who is at least 18 years of age and holds a valid, current Alaska falconry permit. A falconer applying for a general class permit must be at least 16 years of age and be able to document the necessary experience with raptors in possession

within the five years prior to applying for a general class permit. A falconer applying for a master class permit must be at least 16 years of age and be able to document the necessary experience with raptors in possession. Experience may be documented by submitting copies of annual report forms or forms 3-186A with the permit application.

**Sponsoring Apprentices** – A falconer applying for an apprentice class permit must be sponsored by a more experienced falconer. A master or general class falconer may sponsor up to three apprentices at one time. An applicant under 18 years of age must have a parent or legal guardian sign his or her application, stating the parent or guardian is legally responsible for the applicant's activities. A sponsor will provide help and guidance to get started, but the apprentice should expect to invest considerable time on his or her own, learning about raptors and falconry by reading and observing raptors in the wild. An applicant who does not know a falconer who can serve as his or her sponsor should contact his or her regional falconry representative for recommendations or a list of active falconers in the applicant's area. An apprentice may have to travel long distances to meet with his or her sponsor. The sponsorship requirement will not be waived under any circumstances, even if there are no falconers nearby who are willing and qualified to serve as a sponsor.

**Transferring Permits From Other States** – A falconer transferring a permit from another state must submit to the Permits Section: 1) a completed Alaska falconry permit application including ADF&G inspection of facilities and equipment; 2) a copy of his or her valid, current falconry permit (except an applicant under age 16 shall present a copy of his or her valid, current Alaska hunting license), and 3) copies of annual reports, forms 3-186A, or other documentation of the requisite years of experience for the class level for which he or she is applying. An applicant holding a valid, current permit from another state need not pass the Alaska falconry examination.

**Renewing Permits** – A permit may be renewed by checking the renewal box on the annual report form, or submitting a written (letter or e-mail) request to the Permits Section. A request for renewal must be submitted at least 20 calendar days prior to expiration of the existing permit. Contact the ADF&G Permits Section for the current requirements.

**Falconry Examination** – A new (apprentice) falconer must pass the Alaska falconry examination. This is to ensure he or she is familiar with Alaska's falconry regulations and standards and is knowledgeable about caring for raptors in Alaska's extreme climate conditions. The falconry examination is designed to test knowledge of raptor identification, natural history of Alaska raptors, care of raptors in captivity, and Alaska falconry rules and regulations. The test will take a maximum of two hours, and will be a supervised, closed book examination. An applicant is required to answer correctly at least 80 percent of the questions to pass the test. An applicant who fails the examination may retake it after waiting at least 30 calendar days, but may not take the examination more than twice during any six-month period. An applicant ready to take the test should contact his or her regional falconry representative to make the necessary arrangements.

To prepare for the examination, an applicant should carefully study the falconry standards included in this *Manual*. An applicant must 1) have a thorough understanding of Alaska falconry regulations and standards, 2) be familiar with the natural history, care, and training of raptors and

the art of falconry, and 3) know how to care properly for raptors in extreme cold and/or wet conditions. References available at libraries or bookstores will acquaint an applicant with caring for a raptor and explain how to train a bird for falconry. Suggested references on falconry and the natural history of raptors are listed below.

#### Falconry:

- Beebe, F. L. and H. M. Webster. 1994. *North American Falconry and Hunting Hawks, 7<sup>th</sup> edition*. North American Falconry and Hunting Hawks, Denver, Colorado.
- Beebe, F. L. 1984. *A Falconry Manual*. Hancock House, Surrey, British Columbia.
- Evans, H. 1960. *Falconry for You*. John Gifford, Ltd., London.
- Ford, E. 1992. *Falconry: Art and Practice*. Batsford, London.
- Glazier, P. 1978. *Falconry and Hawking*. Batsford, London.
- Haak, B. A. 1992. *The Hunting Falcon*. Hancock House, Surrey, British Columbia.
- Mavrogordato, J. G. 1960. *A Hawk for the Bush*. H. F. & G. Witherby, Ltd., London.
- Mavrogordato, J. G. 1966. *A Falcon in the Field*. Knightly Vernon, Ltd., London.
- Michell, E. B. 1960. *The Art and Practice of Hawking*. C.T. Branford Co., Boston.
- Oakes, W. C. 1994. *The Falconer's Apprentice: A Guide to Training the Passage Red-tailed Hawk*. Eaglewing Publishing, Roy, Utah.
- Parry-Jones, J. 1994. *Training Birds of Prey*. David and Charles, Devon.
- Peeters, H. J. and E. W. Jameson, Jr. 1970. *American Hawking: A General Account of Falconry in the New World*. Privately published, Oakside, Davis, California.
- Stevens, R. 1956. *Observations on Modern Falconry*. Wilding & Son, Ltd., Shrewsbury, UK.
- Turner, R. and A. Haslen. 1991. *Gamehawk: Field and Moor*. Gallery Press, Lavenham, UK.
- Upton, R. 1991. *Falconry: Principles and Practice*. A. & C. Black, London.
- Woodford, M. H. 1977. *A Manual of Falconry, 3rd Edition*. Adam and Charles Black, London.

#### Natural History of Raptors:

- Brown, L. 1977. *Birds of Prey: Their Biology and Ecology*. A. & W. Publishers, New York.

- Clark, W. S. and B. K. Wheeler. 1987. *A Field Guide to Hawks: North America*. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston.
- Cornell Lab of Ornithology and American Ornithologist's Union. *The Birds of North America Online*. 26 June 2008. < <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna>>.
- Dunne, P. and D. Sibley. 1988. *Hawks in Flight*. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston.
- Ferguson-Lee, J. and D. A. Christie. 2001. *Raptors of the World*. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston.
- Fox, Nicholas. 1995. *Understanding the Bird of Prey*. Hancock House Publishers, Blaine, Washington.
- Johnsgard, P. A. 1990. *Hawks, Eagles, and Falcons of North America: Biology and Natural History*. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington DC.
- Newton, I. N. 1979. *Population Ecology of Raptors*. Buteo Books, Vermillion, South Dakota.
- Palmer, R. S. 1962. *A Handbook of North American Birds*. Yale University Press, New Haven, Connecticut.
- Peterson, R. T. 1990. *Western Birds*. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston.
- Poole, A. and F. Gill, eds. 1992-2001. *The Birds of North America*. American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, DC and Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.
- Snyder, N., and H. Snyder. 2006. *Raptors of North America: Natural History and Conservation*. Voyageur Press. St. Paul, Minnesota.
- Weidensaul, S. 2000. *The Raptor Almanac: A Comprehensive Guide to Eagles, Hawks, Falcons, and Vultures*. Lyons Press, Guilford, Conn.
- Wheeler, B. K. and W. S. Clark. 1999. *A Photographic Guide to North American Raptors*. Academic Press, San Diego.

## **Facilities and Equipment**

A permittee is required to provide adequate facilities for holding a raptor in captivity in humane and healthful conditions. A permittee is also required to possess proper equipment for practicing falconry before a falconry permit will be issued. Facilities and equipment must be inspected and approved by the department before a permittee may obtain a raptor to use in falconry. An applicant should contact his or her regional falconry representative to make arrangements to have raptor housing facilities and equipment inspected and approved before submitting an application.



The department has not established specifications for raptor housing facilities. Specifications are readily available in reliable falconry texts if a falconer wishes to construct such facilities. A raptor may be retained in captivity and properly cared for without recourse to construction of permanent mews. Outdoor facilities are required. A falconer may house a raptor in his or her home and/or garage and use his or her yard to meet the needs of his or her raptor. Consequently, this manual provides only a general description as to what constitutes adequate or inadequate facilities, leaving final judgment to those who conduct inspections.

A permittee is responsible for the maintenance and security of the raptor(s) possessed. Whether indoors (a “mews”), outdoors (a “weathering area”), or temporary facilities while traveling or hunting away from permanent housing, facilities must protect a raptor from the elements, predators, domestic animals, and other dangers.

Poor physical condition of raptors (e.g., excessive broken tail and wing feathers, damage to cere and heads, dirty appearance) is symptomatic of inadequate care. Examples of inadequate housing are:

- bird cages of the pet store variety;
- housing constructed of chicken wire, hardware cloth, or with exposed, sharp obstructions;
- housing with excessive exposure to the elements; or
- unsanitary housing, such as unclean chicken houses or pigeon lofts.

### **Indoor Facilities**

Indoor facilities must be large enough to allow easy access for the care and feeding of a raptor kept therein. Acceptable indoor facilities include shelf perch enclosures where multiple raptors are tethered side by side. Other innovative housing systems are acceptable, provided they offer the enclosed raptor(s) with adequate protection and allow the maintenance of healthy plumage.

A mews shall provide a healthy environment for a raptor inside; each must have at least one opening for sunlight, protected on the inside by vertical bars (dowels, tubing, etc.), spaced narrower than the width of the birds’ bodies. Chicken wire or hardware cloth is unacceptable for covering windows. If an untethered raptor is housed therein, all walls that are not solid must be protected on the inside in the same fashion as windows, although heavy-duty netting or similar material may be used to cover the roof and/or walls of the enclosure. Doors must be secure and easily closed. Artificial or plastic grass such as AstroTurf® is recommended for the perching surfaces of blocks used for falcons; uncovered blocks are not recommended. Straw, sawdust, or wood chips are not suitable for the floor of a mews due to the potential for harboring *Aspergillus* spores or other pathogens. Artificial or plastic grass is easily cleaned and has proven to be good floor covering for a mews.

A mews must have at least one suitable perch for each raptor. Multiple untethered raptors may be housed together if they are compatible. An untethered raptor must have sufficient space to fully extend its wings and fly. Each raptor must have a suitable container of clean water available for drinking and bathing.

If a mews is constructed for an untethered raptor, the following general specifications should apply:

Loft, house, pen or enclosure size:

Large.....8' x 8' x 7'

(Gyrfalcon, goshawk, red-tailed hawk, peregrine falcon)

Small.....6' x 6' x 7'

(American kestrel, merlin, sharp-shinned hawk)

A permittee may keep a falconry raptor inside his or her place of residence provided the bird has at least one suitable perch. If a raptor is kept in a permittee's home, windows and other openings of the structure need not be modified, but the raptor must be tethered when not being moved into or out of locations where it is kept.

**Outdoor Facilities** are required. They must be fully enclosed, and may be made of heavy-gauge wire, heavy-duty plastic mesh, slats, pipe, wood, or other suitable materials. Facilities must be covered and have at least one covered perch for each raptor, providing protection from predators and weather. Facilities must be large enough to insure the bird cannot strike the enclosure when attempting to fly from a perch to which it is tethered. New or innovative types of housing facilities and/or husbandry practices may be used as long as they satisfy the requirements above.

A weathering area or other enclosure containing a tethered raptor must provide it a suitable, preferably padded, perch. When placed out-of-doors, a raptor should be protected from cats, dogs, wild predators, and other dangers, as well as excessive exposure to wind, rain, snow, or sun. A tethered raptor must be able to fully extend its wings or bate (attempt to fly while tethered) without damaging its feathers or contacting other raptors. Each raptor must have a suitable container of clean water available for drinking and bathing.

A falconry raptor may be kept outside in the open as long as it is under watch, such as by a permittee or a permittee's family member at any location or, for instance, by a designated individual in a weathering yard at a falconry meet.

A permittee's facilities may be located on property owned by another person where a permittee resides, or at a different location. Regardless of location, facilities must meet the standards above and any additional conditions the department may require. For facilities on property not owned by a permittee, the permittee must provide the department with a signed and dated statement demonstrating the property owner's agreement that facilities, equipment, and raptor(s) may be inspected by a state authority, necessarily in the permittee's presence, at a time mutually agreed upon by the permittee and the state.

A permittee must notify the department within five business days of changing the location of permanent falconry facilities.

**Temporary Facilities** – When transporting a raptor or hunting away from home facilities, a permittee must provide the raptor with a suitable perch and protection from predators and other

dangers, the elements, and excessive disturbance. A so-called giant hood or similar container is acceptable housing for a raptor when transporting it or hunting away from home. A permittee may house a raptor in temporary facilities for no more than 120 consecutive days.

**Required Equipment** – An applicant must possess the following falconry equipment before a permit will be issued:

1. Jesses, leash, and swivel—At least one pair of Aylmeri or similar type jesses constructed of pliable, high-quality leather or suitable synthetic material must be used when a raptor is flown free. Traditional one-piece jesses may be used on a raptor when it is not being flown. At least one flexible and weather-resistant leash and one strong swivel of acceptable falconry design (e.g., Sampo or falconry swivel);
2. Bath container—For each raptor, at least one container suitable for drinking and bathing, two to six inches deep and wider than the length of the raptor; and
3. Weighing device—A reliable scale or balance suitable for weighing a raptor and graduated into increments of not more than 1/2 ounce (15 grams).

An applicant should have spare materials and the tools necessary to make additional leashes, jesses, etc. The size, strength, and type of equipment and facilities should be appropriate for the size and type of each raptor held.

## **Records and Reporting**

Falconry permits are issued with a number of reporting conditions. Failure to comply with these conditions constitutes violation of permit conditions and may result in a falconer's permit being revoked or renewal denied. A permittee must notify the ADF&G Permits Section if he or she changes his or her mailing address.

A permittee intending to take a raptor from the wild must first notify both the regional falconry representative and the nearest department office in the area of planned taking activities (including the species, location, and dates) at least 10 business days prior to the intended take. Within 10 business days of taking a raptor, a permittee must notify the regional falconry representative in the take area of completed taking activities, including the specific location and date of take, and the species, age (if known), and sex (if known) of the raptor taken, along with any other information required by the department. Within 10 business days of taking any raptor, a permittee must submit USFWS Form 3-186A (Migratory Bird Acquisition/Disposition Report) to the ADF&G Permits Section. Form 3-186A is also used to inform the department in writing of any transfer, release, escape, loss, or death of a raptor within 10 business days of such occurrence.

Annual Reports – A permittee is required to submit an annual report each year on a form provided by the department regardless of whether he or she possessed a bird. A report form is included in this booklet or may be obtained by contacting the Permits Section or from the department's website, <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=otherlicensepossession>.

A permittee should retain a copy of falconry permits, 3-186As, and all other falconry-related records for a minimum of five years. A permittee must retain a copy of all electronic database submissions documenting take, transfer, loss, rebanding, or implanting a microchip in a falconry raptor until five years after transferring or losing the raptor, or it has died.

## **Markers**

Before taking a raptor, a permittee must possess a valid falconry permit and, if required, an appropriate USFWS marker band issued in the permittee's name. A permittee should request a marker band in writing from the ADF&G Permits Section or his or her regional falconry representative well in advance of the date the permittee anticipates needing it.

Immediately upon taking a raptor of a species requiring a marker band, the permittee must attach an appropriate ADF&G-provided marker. Once attached, a marker band must not be removed, except that the rear tab may be trimmed and any imperfections on the surface may be smoothed, provided the integrity of the marker band and numbering are not affected. A permittee may not alter, deface, or counterfeit a marker band, nor attach it to a raptor other than the individual to which the marker band was initially attached.

In addition to banding, a permittee may implant an ISO (International Organization for Standardization)-compliant (i.e., 134.2 kHz) microchip in a raptor. A permittee must report the marker band number and/or microchip information when reporting acquisition of a raptor.

If a permittee documents a health or injury problem for a raptor he or she possesses caused by a marker band, the state may provide an exemption to the banding requirement for the raptor. A permittee must carry a copy of exemption paperwork when flying an exempted raptor. For an exempted wild-origin goshawk, peregrine falcon, gyrfalcon, or Harris's hawk, the marker band must be replaced by an ISO-compliant microchip. In such a case, the USFWS will provide a suitable microchip.

A marker band from a dead or released raptor must be surrendered to the department within 15 business days of death or release. A marker band that must be removed or a marker band lost from a raptor in a permittee's possession must be reported to the department within five business days of the removal or loss.

## **Banding**

Applying a falconry marker band to a raptor may be challenging, even to an experienced falconer. The paramount consideration in banding a bird is to ensure a marker fits properly on the tarsus and is applied without injuring or causing undue stress to the raptor. The following guidelines and illustrations are provided to assist a permittee in accomplishing this important task.

1. Record the marker number in the permittee’s personal banding diary and on USFWS Form 3-186A (Migratory Bird Acquisition/Disposition Report).

2. Outfit the marker band with protective tubing (figure 1). The installation of clear plastic tubing over a marker band serves to lessen the risk of injury to a raptor by reducing marker abrasion to the tarsus and preventing accidental closure of the marker. Plastic tubing also protects the marker band’s identification number. The best choice of clear plastic tubing is AWG Size #10 with standard 0.016" wall thickness, commonly used for electrical wire installation. It is usually available from the ADF&G (inquire when requesting a marker band) or may be purchased from a hardware or electrical supply store.

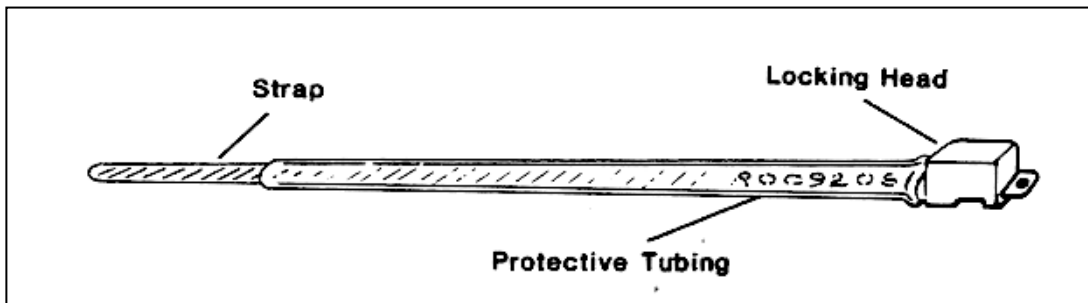


Figure 1

The length of protective tubing placed on a marker band is very important since tubing limits how tightly a marker band may be closed on the tarsus. Use the following table to determine the length of tubing to apply to a marker band:

Species (typical applications)	Length of Tubing (inches)	
	Male	Female
sharp-shinned hawk	3/4	7/8
goshawk	1-3/8	1-1/2
American kestrel	7/8	7/8
merlin	7/8	15/16
peregrine falcon	1-3/8	1-1/2
gyrfalcon	1-7/8	1-7/8
red-tailed hawk	1-7/8	1-7/8

Cut the tubing to length, ensuring the ends are square. Insert the marker band strap into the tubing by holding the tubing against a flat surface, pushing the strap through the tubing until the tip is exposed, and grasping the strap tip and sliding the tubing solidly against the locking head. Do not lubricate strap or tubing. Pliers are useful for longer tubing. The marker band, fitted with protective tubing, is now ready to be placed on the raptor.

3. Attach the marker band. Warm the marker band in the hand while bending it into a circular form. Position the marker band on the tarsus above the jess (figure 2). The marker band should be

placed on the raptor's leg with the serial number right side up. This tends to center the locking head in an outboard position if a nametag or bell is attached to the rear tab.

Insert the end of the strap through the locking head box (figure 3). Use pliers to pull the strap through and about an inch beyond the locking head. Slowly close the marker band to the appropriate size by pulling the strap through the locking head. It should not be necessary to use pliers.

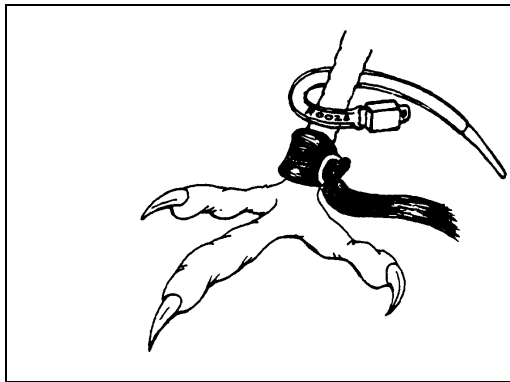


Figure 2

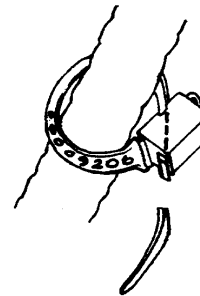


Figure 3

Use a fingernail clipper or scissors to cut off the excess strap extending beyond the locking head. It is important the strap be cut flush with the surface of the locking head to prevent a raptor from pulling at it.

**Note:** A properly fitted marker band will move freely on a raptor's leg but be tight enough to prevent removal from an unjessed raptor.

### **Captive Propagation**

Captive propagation of raptors may only be conducted by a qualified falconer under the terms of a special propagation permit issued by the ADF&G Permits Section. For additional information about captive breeding of raptors in Alaska, or to apply for a propagation permit, read the Captive Propagation section of the Alaska Falconry Standards and contact the ADF&G Permits Section.

### **Conservation Education**

A permittee may use a falconry raptor in a conservation program presented in a public venue, but a raptor held under a falconry permit must be used primarily for falconry. When giving an educational presentation, a permittee must present information about falconry and the biology, ecological roles, and conservation needs of raptors and other migratory birds, although not all topics must be addressed in every presentation. A permittee may not present a program that does not address falconry and conservation education. A permittee may charge a fee for presentation of a conservation education program, but the fee may not exceed the permittee's costs for

providing the educational presentation. An apprentice class permittee may present a conservation education program only under the immediate supervision of a general or master class falconer. A permittee is responsible for any liability associated with conservation education activities he or she undertakes.

A permittee may allow photography, filming, video recording, or other such uses of a falconry raptor to make a movie or another source of information on the practice of falconry or on the biology, ecological roles, and conservation needs of raptors and other migratory birds, but may not be paid for such activities. A falconry raptor may not be used in a commercial venture not related to falconry or conservation education, nor used for entertainment, advertisement, promotion, or endorsement of any product, merchandise, good, service, meeting, exhibition, or fair, or as a representation of any business, company, corporation, or organization.

### **Rehabilitation**

A general or master class falconry permittee may assist a permitted migratory bird rehabilitator to condition a raptor in preparation for its release to the wild. A falconer may keep a bird he or she is helping to rehabilitate in his or her facilities.

- a. A rehabilitator must provide the falconer with a letter or form identifying the raptor and explaining the falconer is assisting in its rehabilitation.
- b. A falconer need not meet rehabilitation facility standards, only the facility standards for a falconry permit; a falconry permittee's facilities are not subject to inspection for compliance with rehabilitation facility standards.
- c. A raptor possessed for rehabilitation purposes need not be added to a falconer's permit; it remains under the rehabilitator's permit.
- d. Through coordination with a rehabilitator, a falconer must release the raptor to the wild or return it to the rehabilitator for release within the 180-day timeframe in which a rehabilitator is authorized to possess a bird, unless the issuing office authorizes retention and conditioning for longer than 180 days, or unless the rehabilitator permanently transfers the bird to the falconer under his or her falconry permit.
- e. A raptor that cannot be released to the wild must be returned to the rehabilitator for placement within the 180-day timeframe in which the rehabilitator is authorized to possess the raptor, unless the issuing office authorizes retention for longer than 180 days.

### **Abatement**

A master class falconry permittee may conduct abatement activities with a raptor possessed for falconry only if he or she holds a Special Purpose Abatement permit issued by the USFWS. A general class falconry permittee may conduct abatement activities only as a subpermittee of a

Special Purpose Abatement permit holder. Only a Special Purpose Abatement permittee may receive payment for abatement services.



## FALCONRY REGULATIONS

### 5 AAC 92.029. Permits for possessing live game.

...

(f) ... the following species may be temporarily released for the purpose of hunting dog or raptor training, field trials, and tests:

- (1) Pigeon (*Columba livia* Var.);
- (2) Pheasant, Junglefowl, or *Coturnix* (Subfamily Phasianinae);
- (3) any Guineafowl species (Subfamily Numidinae);
- (4) any New World Quail species, including *Colinus*, [i.e., Bobwhite] (Subfamily Odontophorinae);
- (5) any duck, goose, swan, or other migratory waterfowl which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has determined does not require a federal permit for private ownership;
- (6) Chukar partridge (*Alectoris chukar*).

(g) A person using live game listed in (f) of this section for the purpose of hunting dog or raptor training, field trials, or tests

- (1) may release the game only on the day of use and shall make reasonable efforts to capture, kill, or recover the temporarily released live game;
- (2) may take the live game in connection with hunting dog or raptor training, field trial, and test activities; and
- (3) must legally acquire, hold, and dispose of the live game in accordance with all other applicable state statutes and regulations.

**5 AAC 92.037. Permits for falconry.** (a) A permit and valid, current Alaska hunting license is required for taking, transporting, or possessing a raptor for falconry or for practicing falconry in this state. The permit will be issued under standards, procedures, and conditions set out in the Falconry Standards section of the *Alaska Falconry Manual* No. 9, dated July 1, 2012; that section of the falconry manual is hereby adopted by reference. Only a bird defined in (f) of this section as a raptor may be taken, transported, imported, exported, held, or possessed for falconry.

(b) A permittee may not permanently export a raptor taken from the wild in Alaska, except that a permittee changing residence from Alaska to another state may retain possession of a raptor taken from the wild in Alaska if they have legally held that raptor for at least one year or they have met the definition of Alaska resident in AS 16.05.415 for at least one year and transfer that raptor to a permit they hold in their new state of residence. Prior written approval of the

commissioner is required before a raptor may be temporarily or permanently exported from or imported into this state;

(1) a raptor taken from the wild in Alaska and legally possessed under an Alaska falconry permit may be temporarily exported from this state for a period not to exceed 12 months by an Alaska falconer who has;

(A) met the definition of an Alaska resident in AS 16.05.415 for the previous year, or

(B) legally possessed the raptor in Alaska for at least one year.

(2) an individual with a valid, current permit for falconry in another jurisdiction may temporarily import a raptor, and use it for falconry under the terms of a temporary permit issued by the commissioner; an individual moving into this state may import an approved raptor species under authority of a temporary permit, but must apply for an Alaska falconry permit within 30 days after the raptor arrives in this state. Upon approval of the falconry permit, the permit becomes valid with a current Alaska hunting license. Conditions for the import of the raptor shall be determined by the department as specified in the *Alaska Falconry Manual*.

(c) A falconer is liable for the actions of the raptor with respect to seasons, bag limits, and other applicable regulations. If a falconry bird takes game that may not be taken under established regulations, the falconer must leave the dead game where it lies, except that the raptor may feed upon the game before leaving the kill site.

(d) The commissioner may impose additional permit conditions as necessary; the Board has granted additional delegation of regulatory authority in 2012-190-BOG, Board findings.

(e) Before taking peregrine falcons for the practice of falconry, a permittee must possess either an Alaska master class falconry permit or an Alaska general class falconry permit and have more than two years of experience in the practice of falconry at the general class level.

(f) In this section, "raptor" means any bird of the following species, including all subspecies thereof:

- (1) northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*)
- (2) sharp-shinned hawk (*Accipiter striatus*);
- (3) northern goshawk; any nonindigenous subspecies of northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) must be behaviorally (imprinting) or surgically sterilized, except *Accipiter gentilis atricapillus* or *A.g. laingi*.
- (4) red-tailed or Harlan's hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*);
- (5) rough-legged hawk (*Buteo lagopus*);
- (6) golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*);
- (7) white-tailed sea eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*);
- (8) Steller's sea eagle (*Haliaeetus pelagicus*);
- (9) American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*);
- (10) Eurasian kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*);
- (11) Asiatic sparrow hawk (*Accipiter gularis*);
- (12) merlin (*Falco columbarius*);
- (13) gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*);
- (14) peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*);
- (15) great-horned owl (*Bubo virginianus*);
- (16) snowy owl (*Bubo scandiacus*);
- (17) northern hawk-owl (*Surnia ulula*);
- (18) barred owl (*Strix varia*);

- (19) great-gray owl (*Strix nebulosa*);
- (20) western screech-owl (*Otus kennicottii*);
- (21) northern pygmy-owl (*Glaucidium gnoma*);
- (22) long-eared owl (*Asio otus*);
- (23) short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*);
- (24) boreal owl (*Aegolius funereus*);
- (25) northern saw-whet owl (*Aegolius acadicus*);
- (26) a hybrid of the species in this subsection that is produced by a raptor

breeder; and

(27) the following nonindigenous species: Harris's hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*), Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), Ferruginous hawk (*Buteo regalis*), Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*), prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*), Aplomado falcon (*Falco femoralis*).

Note: For regulations governing hunting of small game and migratory birds, including special seasons and/or restrictions for falconry (5 AAC 85.065), refer to the current Alaska State Hunting Regulations or Alaska Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations.

## ALASKA FALCONRY STANDARDS

### Definitions

1. For the purpose of the falconry standards:

- a. “Falconry” means the sport of pursuing, capturing, or killing game by means of a trained raptor.
- b. “Take” means to trap or capture, or attempt to trap or capture any raptor.
- c. “Raptor” means a bird of any Accipitriform, Falconiform, or Strigiform species described by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 50, Part 10 (50 CFR §10.12 and 50 CFR §10.13), as restricted by the list contained in **5 AAC 92.037 and Table 1**.
- d. “Eyas” means a raptor from the wild in its first year that is not yet capable of flight.
- e. “Passage bird” means a raptor from the wild in its first year that is capable of sustained flight.
- f. “Permittee” means a person who holds a valid, current Alaska falconry permit and a valid, current Alaska hunting license.
- g. “Resident” means a person (including an alien) who is physically present in Alaska with the intent to remain indefinitely and make a home in Alaska, has maintained that person’s domicile in Alaska for the 12 consecutive months immediately preceding application for a license, and is not claiming residency or obtaining benefits under a claim of residency in another state, territory, or country; or a member of the military service or U.S. Coast Guard who has been stationed in Alaska for the 12 consecutive months immediately preceding application for a license; or a dependent of a resident member of the military service or U.S. Coast Guard who has lived in Alaska for the 12 consecutive months immediately preceding application for a license. A person who does not otherwise qualify as a resident may not qualify by virtue of an interest in an Alaska business.
- h. “Transfer of raptor” means to transfer or change the possession of a raptor from one permittee to another permittee; transfers include the sale, barter, or exchange of a raptor for anything of value.
- i. “Year” means any 12-month period defined by the state for determining possession and take of raptors for falconry.

### Falconry Permits

2. A person may not take, transport, or possess a raptor, including Accipitriform, Falconiform, and Strigiform birds not identified as raptors in these standards, for falconry or for the practice of falconry in Alaska without possessing 1) a valid, current falconry permit issued by the department, or a valid falconry permit issued by another state or country for a maximum of 30 calendar days after entering Alaska and 2) a valid, current Alaska hunting license, unless under 16 years of age. A falconry permit is required for all Accipitriformes, Falconiformes, Strigiformes and hybrids, regardless of whether the species is covered by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. A raptor held under a falconry permit must be trained in the pursuit of wild game and used in hunting.
3. A falconry permit is nontransferable. When accompanied by a valid, current Alaska hunting license issued to the permittee (unless under 16 years of age), a falconry permit authorizes the permittee to hunt game in compliance with seasons, bag limits, and other provisions of law. Special or written permission is not required for falconry activities on public lands where it is authorized, but a permittee must comply with all applicable federal, state, territorial, and tribal laws regarding falconry activities, including hunting. A falconry permit does not authorize capture or release of a raptor or the practice of falconry on public lands if prohibited on those lands, or on private property, without permission from the landowner or custodian.
4. When accompanied by a current, valid Alaska hunting license (unless a permittee is under 16 years of age), a falconry permit is valid from the date issued through the 31st day of January of the third calendar year following the year of issue, unless the department specifies a shorter period on the permit.
5. A representative of the department may, during business hours on any day of the week, at a time mutually agreed upon by the state and a permittee, and only in the presence of the permittee, inspect falconry raptor(s), facilities, equipment, and records. If inspection reveals a raptor in poor condition as a result of a permittee's negligence, if facilities are determined inadequate, or if a permittee violates a provision of the falconry standards in this section of this *Manual*, the department may revoke a permit.
6. Falconry permits are issued for apprentice, general, and master class falconers.
  - a. Apprentice class permits are issued with the following conditions:
    - (1) A permittee may not possess more than one raptor at any time, may not take a nestling raptor from the wild, nor obtain more than one raptor for replacement during any 12-month period;
    - (2) A permittee may take, transport, or possess all authorized species contained in 5 AAC 92.037 and Table 1, except white-tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*), Steller's sea-eagle (*Haliaeetus pelagicus*), northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*), ferruginous hawk (*Buteo regalis*), golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), prairie falcon

(*Falco mexicanus*), short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*), and hybrids of these species produced by raptor breeders; and

- (3) An interspecific hybrid raptor or raptor of a species not indigenous to Alaska may not be flown free unless the permittee first attaches to the bird at least two radio transmitters designed to track the bird if it is lost.

b. General class permits are issued with the following conditions:

- (1) A permittee may not possess more than three raptors at any time nor obtain more than two raptors, whether for initial stocking or for replacement of raptors already possessed under a permit, during any 12-month period;
- (2) A permittee may take, transport, or possess all authorized species contained in 5 AAC 92.037 and Table 1, except white-tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*), Steller's sea-eagle (*Haliaeetus pelagicus*), and golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*); and
- (3) An interspecific hybrid raptor or raptor of a species not indigenous to Alaska may not be flown free unless the permittee first attaches to the bird at least two radio transmitters designed to track the bird if it is lost.

c. Master class permits are issued with the following conditions:

- (1) A permittee may not possess more than five wild-taken raptors at any time, three of which may be eagles, but may possess any number of captive-bred raptors. During any 12-month period, a permittee may not obtain more than two raptors taken from the wild;
- (2) A permittee may take, transport, or possess all authorized species contained in 5 AAC 92.037 and Table 1; and
- (3) An interspecific hybrid raptor or raptor of a species not indigenous to Alaska may not be flown free unless the permittee first attaches to the bird at least two radio transmitters designed to track the bird if it is lost.

7. Federal regulations contain additional provisions and restrictions for eagles:

- a. A master falconer may possess up to three eagles of the following species: white-tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*), Steller's sea-eagle (*Haliaeetus pelagicus*), and golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*).
- b. The department must document the following before approving requests to possess eagles for use in falconry:

1) an applicant's experience in handling large raptors, including information about the species handled and the type and duration of the activity claimed as pertinent experience; and

2) at least two letters of reference from people with experience handling and/or flying large raptors such as eagles, ferruginous hawks (*Buteo regalis*), goshawks (*Accipiter gentilis*), or great horned owls (*Bubo virginianus*). Each letter must contain a concise history of the author's experience with large raptors which may include, but is not limited to, rehabilitating large raptors, scientific studies involving large raptors, or handling of raptors held by zoos and/or rehabilitation operations. Each letter must also assess the applicant's ability to care for eagles and fly them in falconry.

c. White-tailed eagles, Steller's sea-eagles, or golden eagles count as wild-taken raptors a permittee may possess.

d. A master falconer authorized to possess golden eagles may take one or two immature or sub-adult golden eagles from the wild as provided in 50 CFR 22.23 and 22.24.

e. A permittee must send the entire body of a falconry golden eagle that dies, including all feathers, talons, and other parts, to the National Eagle Repository.

8. A permittee must ensure falconry activities do not cause the take of federally listed threatened or endangered wildlife. "Take" under the Endangered Species Act (50 CFR §3(18)) means "to harass, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect or attempt to engage in any such conduct." Within this definition, to "harass" means any act that may injure wildlife by disrupting normal behavior, including breeding, feeding, or sheltering. To "harm" means an act that actually kills or injures wildlife (50 CFR §17.3). Contact the department to obtain information about endangered or threatened species in Alaska or on lands where a permittee wishes to practice falconry; contact the USFWS for information on federally listed species.

9. Hacking, or temporary release to the wild, is an allowable method of conditioning a raptor for falconry. Only a general or master class falconer may hack a raptor.

a. A raptor at hack counts against a permittee's possession limit.

b. An interspecific hybrid raptor or a raptor of a species not indigenous to Alaska must have attached at least two functioning radio transmitters during hacking.

c. A permittee may not hack a falconry raptor near nesting areas of federally designated threatened or endangered bird species, or in other locations where raptors are likely to disturb, harm, or take federally listed threatened or endangered animal species. A permittee should contact the department and/or

the USFWS regional office before hacking a falconry bird to prevent adverse encounters with listed wildlife.

10. A permittee may use acceptable falconry practices such as, but not limited to, the use of creance (tethered) flying, a lure, a balloon, or a kite in training and conditioning a falconry raptor. A permittee may fly a falconry raptor at any bird species not protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and at captive-raised animals subject to 5 AAC 92.029.
11. The commissioner may add to a permit other conditions the commissioner determines are necessary under the circumstances in order to protect raptors that are to be taken, transported, or possessed under the permit.

### **Falconry Permit Requirements and Application Procedures**

12. A falconer must:
  - a. complete and submit an application form from the department, co-signed by a parent or legal guardian if the applicant is under 18 years of age;
  - b. prove he or she has either passed the falconry examination administered by the department or has previously held an Alaska falconry permit at the sought level.
  - c. present an original, signed certification of particular familiarity with 50 CFR §10.13 (the list of migratory bird species to which the Migratory Bird Treaty Act applies, 50 CFR §13 (general permit regulations), 50 CFR §21 (migratory bird permits), and 50 CFR §22 (eagle permits). This certification is incorporated into the department's application form and is worded as follows:

*I certify that I have read and am familiar with the regulations in title 50, part 13, of the Code of Federal Regulations and the other applicable parts in subchapter B of chapter 1 of title 50, and that the information I have submitted 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.*

- d. if a new permittee, have his or her raptor housing facilities and equipment inspected by the ADF&G falconry representative for that region and certified as meeting the standards set forth in this manual; and
- e. submit a falconry permit application to the ADF&G Permits Section. An application form is included in the *Alaska Falconry Manual*; forms are also available from the Permits Section and the regional offices of the department.



13. A new (apprentice) falconer must:
  - a. be at least 12 years of age;
  - b. be sponsored by general or master class falconer who is at least 18 years old and has at least two years' experience at the general falconer level;
  - c. answer correctly at least 80% of the questions on a supervised examination administered by ADF&G staff (an applicant failing the examination may retake a similar test after waiting at least 30 calendar days, but an applicant may not take the examination more than twice during any six-month period); and
  - d. provide a letter from a master or general class falconer 18 years of age or older stating he or she has agreed to assist the applicant in learning about the husbandry and training of raptors held for falconry and about relevant wildlife laws and regulations, and in deciding what species of raptor is appropriate to possess while an apprentice.
14. Requirements and procedures for renewing a permit:
  - a. To renew a falconry permit, a permittee must request renewal; a request for renewal must be submitted at least 20 calendar days prior to expiration of the current permit (i.e., by January 11. A permit will not be renewed unless the permittee has complied with all reporting requirements and other provisions of the falconry standards in this manual.
  - b. A renewal permit is valid from the date issued through the 31st day of January of the third calendar year following the year of issue, unless the department specifies a shorter period on the permit.
15. Requirements and procedures for reinstating a lapsed permit:
  - a. If a permit has lapsed for fewer than five years, it may be reinstated at the level an applicant held previously with proof of certification at that level.
  - b. If a permit has lapsed for five years or longer, an applicant must correctly answer at least 80 percent of the questions on an examination administered by the department. If the applicant passes the exam, the permit may be reinstated at the level previously held. An applicant's facilities must pass department inspection before a permittee may possess a falconry bird.
  - c. If a permit has been revoked, the department may restore the person's permit at the end of the revocation period upon request of the person whose permit was revoked.
16. Requirements and procedures for upgrading a permit:

- a. To upgrade a falconry permit, a permittee must present a written request for an upgrade to the ADF&G Permits Section. The request must include a summary of birds held, including species and number of months each was held, and copies of federal forms 3-186A and/or annual reports to verify time with birds in possession (only time with a bird in possession counts as experience). An apprentice falconer must also present a letter of recommendation from his or her sponsor supporting the upgrade and attesting the applicant has practiced falconry with a raptor or raptors taken from the wild at the apprentice level for at least two years, including maintaining, training, flying, and hunting the raptor(s) for an average of six months per year, with at least four months in each year. A general class falconer must be at least 16 years of age. An applicant seeking upgrade to master class must document through annual reports or forms 3-186A that he or she has practiced falconry at the general level for at least five years.
  - b. A request for upgrade will be granted at the discretion of the department. A request may be denied due to failure to comply with permit conditions and reporting requirements, substandard raptor housing facilities, birds that are in poor condition, or losses or deaths of raptors in the applicant's care.
  - c. An upgrade may be requested at any time. If the upgrade is approved, the existing permit will be re-issued at the higher class level and will retain the original expiration date.
17. Requirements and procedures to transfer falconry permits from other U. S. states:
- a. The procedure for transferring a permit from another state is the same as for a new falconer, except no sponsor is required for a general or master class permittee, and a falconer must present a copy of his or her valid, current falconry permit along with his or her application. A permittee from another state who previously held an Alaska falconry permit need not pass the Alaska falconry examination.
  - b. An Alaska falconry permit issued to a falconer from another state will be issued at the apprentice class level unless the falconer presents documentation establishing the requisite experience to qualify at a higher class level.
18. Requirements and procedures for visitors practicing falconry in Alaska:
- a. A U.S. resident visiting Alaska may qualify for a temporary falconry permit appropriate to his or her level of experience after providing the department with a copy of his or her current falconry permit and documentation establishing requisite experience.
    - i. A temporary falconry permit may be valid for any period specified by the department.



a non-U.S. resident visiting Alaska passes the examination, the department will determine the level of permit for which the visitor is qualified, based on the visitor's documentation of his or her falconry experience.

- iii.* A non-U.S. resident visiting Alaska and holding a temporary falconry permit may possess a raptor for falconry if he or she has approved falconry facilities and may fly a raptor held for falconry by a permitted falconer.
  - iv.* A non-U.S. resident visiting Alaska and holding a temporary falconry permit may not take a bird from the wild to use in falconry.
- b. For the duration of his or her temporary falconry permit, a visitor may use any birds for falconry he or she possesses legally in his or her country of residence for that purpose, provided import of those species to the U.S. and Alaska is not prohibited, provided he or she has met all permitting requirements of his or her country of residence, and all Alaska import/export requirements.
- i.* Visitors must comply with the provisions of this *Manual*, the state of Alaska, and all states, territories, provinces, and other jurisdictions through which he or she travels with a falconry raptor.
  - ii.* A visitor may transport a registered raptor; a visitor may need one or more additional permits to bring a raptor into the U.S. and Alaska or to return home with it. See 50 CFR §14 (importation, exportation, and transportation of wildlife), 50 CFR §15 (Wild Bird Conservation Act), 50 CFR §17 (endangered and threatened species), 50 CFR §21 (migratory bird import and export permits), and 50 CFR §23 (endangered species convention) for details.
  - iii.* Unless a visitor has the necessary permit(s) to bring a raptor into the U.S. and Alaska and leave it here, he or she must take the raptor brought into the country for falconry out of the country when he or she leaves. If a raptor brought into the U.S. dies or is lost while in this country, a visitor must document the loss before leaving the U.S. by reporting said loss to the department.
  - iv.* When flown free, a falconry raptor brought temporarily to the U.S. and Alaska must wear two functioning radio transmitters designed to track the birds if lost.
  - v.* The commissioner may impose additional restrictions on non-U.S. residents practicing falconry or importing a raptor for falconry.

#### 19. Updating a falconry permit after a move:

- a. If an Alaska permittee moves to a new state or outside the jurisdiction of the department and takes a falconry raptor along, the permittee must concurrently inform the department and the permitting authority for the new place of residence of the address change. To obtain a new falconry permit, a permittee must follow the permit

application procedures of the authority under which the permittee wishes to acquire a new permit. A permittee may keep a falconry raptor held while applying for a new falconry permit, although the new jurisdiction into which the permittee moves may place restrictions on possession of falconry raptors until the permittee meets local residency requirements.

### **Temporary Facilities**

20. A permittee shall provide a raptor being transported or held in a temporary facility with safe, humane housing and shall protect the raptor from extreme temperatures and excessive disturbance. A person may not hold a raptor in a temporary facility for longer than 120 days.

### **Markers**

21.
  - a. Before taking a goshawk, Harris's hawk, peregrine falcon, or gyrfalcon from the wild, or acquiring one from a rehabilitator, a permittee shall obtain a USFWS marker band issued by the department in the permittee's name. Upon taking a goshawk, Harris's hawk, peregrine falcon or gyrfalcon, a permittee shall immediately attach the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service marker band to the raptor. The marker band may not be removed, except that the rear tab may be removed and any imperfections on the surface may be smoothed if the integrity of the marker and numbering are not affected.
  - b. In addition to banding, a permittee may purchase and implant an ISO (International Organization for Standardization)-compliant (134.2 kHz) microchip in a bird in addition to banding. A permittee must report the band number and any microchip information when reporting acquisition of a bird.
  - c. A raptor bred in captivity must be banded with a seamless metal USFWS marker band or carry an implanted ISO-compliant microchip. If a permittee must remove a seamless band or if it is lost, the permittee must report it and request a replacement USFWS non-reusable marker, or implant an ISO-compliant microchip. A wild-origin raptor may not be banded with seamless metal USFWS marker bands.
  - d. If a marker band must be removed or is lost from a raptor in a permittee's possession, a permittee must notify the department Permits Section within five business days, and do one of the following:
    - i. Request a USFWS non-reusable marker band from the department. The permittee must submit the required information immediately upon re-banding the raptor at <http://permits.fws.gov/186A> or by submitting a paper or electronic form 3-186A to the department at [dfg.dwc.permits@alaska.gov](mailto:dfg.dwc.permits@alaska.gov).
    - ii. Purchase and implant an ISO-compliant (134.2 kHz) microchip in the raptor in addition to banding and report the microchip information at

<http://permits.fws.gov/186A> or by submitting a paper or electronic form 3-186A to the department at [dfg.dwc.permits@alaska.gov](mailto:dfg.dwc.permits@alaska.gov).

e. A permittee may not alter, deface, or counterfeit a marker band, nor attach it to a raptor other than the individual to which the marker band was initially attached.

## **Taking of Raptors**

22. Only an individual with a valid, current Alaska falconry permit and a valid, current Alaska hunting license, excluding temporary permits, may take a raptor from the wild in Alaska. Take of any raptor species must be in compliance with these standards. An eyas or passage bird may be taken any day of the year. Except for American kestrel, great horned owl, and subadult golden eagle, a raptor over one year of age may not be taken. An actively breeding bird, including one in immature plumage, may not be taken. An eyas may be taken only by a general or master class falconer; at least one nestling must be left in a nest or eyrie from which a bird is removed. A permittee may not intentionally capture a raptor of a species not allowed by his or her classification for possession for falconry. A permittee unintentionally or otherwise capturing a raptor not allowed must release it immediately.

a. A permittee may take no more than two raptors from the wild each year for use in falconry.

b. If a permittee transfers a raptor taken from the wild to another permittee in the same year in which it was taken, that bird will count as a raptor the permittee took from the wild that year. It will not count as a raptor taken from the wild by the recipient permittee, but will always be considered a wild-origin bird. No matter how long a wild-taken raptor is held in captivity or whether it is transferred to another permittee or permittees or permit types, it is always considered a wild-taken bird. Such a bird is considered taken from the wild only by the permittee who originally captured it, not by any subsequent permittee or permittees to whom it is legally transferred.

c. A permittee taking possession of a raptor for falconry purposes, who is present at the capture site, even if another person captures the raptor, is considered the person who removes the bird from the wild and is responsible for reporting that take.

d. If a permittee seeking possession of a falconry raptor is not at the immediate location where a raptor is taken from the wild, the person who removes the bird from the wild must be a general or master class permittee, and must report take of the bird, even if it is promptly transferred to the recipient permittee. When the permittee capturing the raptor transfers the raptor to the absent permittee, both must report the transfer. The bird will count as one of the two raptors the permittee who took it from the wild is allowed to capture in any one year. The raptor will not count as a capture by the recipient permittee.

e. If a permittee has a long-term physical impairment preventing direct capture of a species allowed for falconry use by that permittee, the permittee may designate a general

or master class permittee to take a raptor on his or her behalf. When a raptor is taken from the wild, the disabled permittee is responsible for reporting the take, and the bird will count as one of the two raptors he or she is allowed to capture in any one year.

f. A general or master class permittee may take no more than one raptor of a threatened species from the wild each year if 1) federal regulations allow take, 2) the permittee obtains a federal endangered species permit to do so, and 3) the permittee complies with applicable state, territorial, or tribal regulations regarding take of that species.

23. A permittee must comply with the following notification requirements when taking a raptor for falconry:
  - a. Regional falconry representatives and department offices where a permittee must report his or her planned and completed taking activities:
    - (1) **Region I**, Game Management Units 1 - 5: ADF&G, Division of Wildlife Conservation, Region I, P.O. Box 110024, Douglas, AK 99811-0024;
      - i. **Regional Falconry Representative:** Rich Lowell, ADF&G, P.O. Box 667, Petersburg, AK 99833, (907) 772-5235.
    - (2) **Region II**, Game Management Units 6, 7, 8, 14(C), and 15: ADF&G, Division of Wildlife Conservation, Region II, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518-1599;
      - i. **Regional Falconry Representative:** Marian Snively, ADF&G, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518, (907) 267-2893.
    - (3) **Region III**, Game Management Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C: ADF&G, Division of Wildlife Conservation, Region III, 1300 College Road, Fairbanks, AK 99701-1551;
      - i. **Regional Falconry Representative:** Travis Booms, ADF&G, 1300 College Road, Fairbanks, AK 99701, (907) 459-7378.
    - (4) **Region IV**, Game Management Units 9, 10, 11, 13, 14(A), 14(B), 16, and 17: ADF&G, Division of Wildlife Conservation, Region IV, 1800 Glenn Highway Suite 4, Palmer, AK 99645-6736;
      - i. **Regional Falconry Representative:** Marian Snively, ADF&G, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518, (907) 267-2893.
    - (5) **Region V**, Game Management Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A: ADF&G, Division of Wildlife Conservation, Region V, Pouch 1148, Nome, AK 99762;
      - i. **Regional Falconry Representative:** Peter Bente, ADF&G, P.O. Box 1148, Nome, AK 99762, (907) 443-8188.
    - (6) **Headquarters Office**, State copy of form 3-186A: ADF&G, Permits Section, Division of Wildlife Conservation, P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526
      - i. **Permits Section:** (907) 465-4148.

- b. At least 10 business days before taking any raptor from the wild, a permittee must notify:
    - (1) the department regional falconry representative in the intended area of take of the permittee's planned taking activities, including the area, species, and timing of take; and
    - (2) the nearest department office in the intended area of take of the permittee's planned taking activities, including the area, species, and timing of take.
  - c. Within 10 business days after taking any raptor, a permittee must:
    - (1) notify the department regional falconry representative in the area of take of the permittee's completed taking activities, including the specific location, date, species, age (if known) and sex (if known) of take;
    - (2) present other information related to the taking, as requested by the department; and
    - (3) submit a completed federal form 3-186A (Migratory Bird Acquisition/ Disposition Report) to the ADF&G Permits Section.
  - d. Golden eagle take – A falconer wishing to take a golden eagle is advised to contact both the department and USFWS at least 90 days prior to any planned take. There are special provisions for take in designated areas that are administered by the USFWS. Regulations allowing aster falconers to possess and take golden eagles from the wild are adopted by reference to 50 CFR 22.23 and 22.24 rather than citing the specific language, in order to accommodate expected changes at the federal level.
24. A permittee may recapture a raptor wearing a seamless metal band, transmitter, falconry equipment, or any other item identifying it as a falconry or captive-bred bird at any time, even if he or she is not allowed to possess the species. Such a bird will not count against a permittee's possession limit, nor will its take count against a permittee's annual wild take limit. A recapture must be reported to the state no more than five business days after the occurrence. A permittee must return a recaptured falconry raptor to the permittee who lost it, if that person may legally possess it. Disposition of a raptor whose legal possession cannot be determined will be at the discretion of the department. While a permittee is keeping a bird for return to the permittee who lost it, that bird will neither count against the permittee's possession limit nor the limit on take of raptors from the wild, but the permittee must report possession of such a raptor to the department within five business days.
25. A permittee may take a raptor he or she is authorized to possess from the wild if the bird is banded with a Federal Bird Banding Laboratory aluminum band, except a permittee may not take a banded peregrine falcon from the wild.



- a. A permittee capturing a peregrine falcon marked with a research band or another research marking must immediately release it, except a falcon wearing a transmitter may be held for up to 30 days in order to contact the researcher to determine if a transmitter or battery warrants replacement. A researcher may choose to replace a transmitter or battery, or remove a transmitter. A researcher, his or her designee, or a falconry permittee authorized by the researcher may conduct this work. If the researcher chooses, a transmitter may be removed and the falcon transferred to the permittee, who may keep such a bird if captured in circumstances allowing capture of a wild peregrine.
  - b. If a captured raptor has a band, research marking, or transmitter attached, a permittee must promptly report the band number and all relevant information to the Federal Bird Banding Laboratory at 1-800-327-2263.
  - c. A permittee may contact the researcher to determine if he or she wishes to replace a transmitter or battery on a captured bird. If so, a permittee is authorized to possess such a raptor for up to 30 days until the researcher, his or her designee(s), or authorized permittee completes the replacement. Disposition of such a raptor will be at the discretion of the researcher and the department.
  - d. Such a bird held temporarily will not count against a permittee's possession or annual wild take limits for falconry raptors.
26. A permittee is responsible for costs of care and rehabilitation of a raptor injured by his or her trapping efforts.
- a. A permittee may place a raptor injured by trapping efforts on his or her falconry permit, and must report take to the department within 10 business days using federal form 3-186A. After reporting, a permittee may have a bird treated by a veterinarian or permitted wildlife rehabilitator. Such a bird counts against a permittee's possession and annual wild take limits.
  - b. A permittee may give a raptor injured by trapping efforts directly to a veterinarian, permitted wildlife rehabilitator, or appropriate wildlife agency employee. Such a bird does not count against possession or annual wild take limits.
27. A permittee may acquire a raptor of any age of a species he or she is allowed to possess directly from a rehabilitator, provided the raptor is capable of being flown at wild quarry. Transfer to a falconry permittee is at the discretion of the rehabilitator.
- a. A permittee must report an acquisition from a rehabilitator within 10 business days of the transaction using federal form 3-186A.
  - b. A raptor acquired from a rehabilitator counts against possession and annual wild take limits.

## Import/Export

28. A permit from ADF&G is required to temporarily or permanently export a raptor and to temporarily or permanently import a raptor. A permittee shall contact the ADF&G Permits Section at least 10 business days before exporting a raptor from Alaska and at least 30 calendar days before importing a raptor into Alaska. A permittee may not permanently export a raptor taken from the wild in Alaska. However, a permittee changing residence from Alaska to another state may permanently export a raptor taken from the wild in Alaska if they have legally held that raptor for at least one year or they have met the definition of an Alaska resident in AS 16.05.415 (a) for at least one year and transfers that raptor to a permit he or she holds in the new state of residence. If the department determines it necessary to conserve or protect raptors in the state, or if the person desiring to import or export a raptor has not fully complied with the conditions or requirements of the falconry standards in this manual, the department may disapprove the import or export of a raptor.
29. A person who legally possesses a raptor under an Alaska falconry permit and who has met the definition of Alaska resident in AS 16.05.415 for at least one year may temporarily export the raptor from Alaska for a period of not longer than 12 months. A permittee shall notify the regional falconry representative of the temporary export of a raptor at least 10 business days before leaving Alaska, shall provide the date of departure and anticipated date of return, and shall notify the department's regional falconry representative within 10 business days after returning the raptor to Alaska. The department may issue a combined export/import permit in such cases.
30. An Alaska falconry permit authorizes a permittee who legally possesses a raptor for falconry and who has met the definition of Alaska resident in AS 16.05.415 for at least one year to export and then import such a raptor to and from another country to use in falconry without an additional migratory bird import/export permit issued under 50 CFR §21.21, providing the permittee:
  - a. meets any requirements in 50 CFR §14 subpart B;
  - b. holds necessary additional permits to take a bird from the U.S. or return home with it (*see* 50 CFR §15 (Wild Bird Conservation Act), 50 CFR §17 (endangered and threatened species, and 50 CFR §23 (endangered species convention));
  - c. brings any raptor taken out of the country for falconry back to the U.S. when he or she returns, unless he or she holds the necessary permit(s) to permanently export a raptor;
  - d. covers each raptor with a Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) certificate of ownership issued under 50 CFR §23, holds full documentation of lawful origin of each raptor (e.g., a copy of a propagation report or federal form 3-

186A), and identifies each raptor with a seamless numbered band, a permanent non-reusable, numbered USFWS leg band, or implanted microchip; and

- e. reports death or loss of a raptor immediately upon return to the U.S. and in the manner required by the department and in accordance with conditions of the CITES certificate. The permittee need not bring back the body of a dead raptor.
31. A person possessing a valid falconry permit issued by Alaska, another U.S. state, U.S. territory, or tribe may possess and transport for falconry purposes a lawfully possessed raptor through Alaska, other states, and U.S. or tribal territories. Any state, territory, or tribe may further regulate such transport. A person with a permit for falconry in another state may temporarily import a raptor into Alaska subject to an import permit issued by ADF&G and use it for falconry for up to 60 calendar days after the date of import under that falconry permit and an Alaska temporary falconry permit. If a person who temporarily imports a raptor intends to keep that raptor in Alaska longer than 60 calendar days after the date of import, the person must, within 30 calendar days of the date of import, apply for an Alaska falconry permit, deliver to the department any falconry permit issued for the raptor by another state, and certify in writing that the person intends to become a resident of Alaska. **West Nile Virus Testing** – a negative titer for West Nile Virus at a 1:10 dilution from a blood sample drawn within 30 calendar days prior to the date of import, or a certificate indicating the raptor was vaccinated against West Nile Virus by a licensed veterinarian. Test results or a certificate of vaccination should accompany the application for an import permit.

### **Transfer of Raptors**

32. A person may not sell, barter for, or exchange anything of value for a wild-taken raptor held under a falconry permit. A permittee may sell, purchase, barter for, or exchange anything of value for, or offer to sell, purchase, barter for, or exchange anything of value for a captive-bred raptor marked with a seamless band to another permittee authorized to possess it. A permittee shall notify the regional falconry representative at least 10 business days before permanently transferring a raptor to another permittee. There is no restriction on the number of wild-taken or captive-bred raptors transferred to a permittee, except a permittee may not exceed possession or annual wild take limits. A person who acquires or disposes of a raptor shall submit federal form 3-186A (Migratory Bird Acquisition/Disposition Report) to the ADF&G Permits Section within 10 business days after the acquisition or disposal. A person may not permanently transfer possession of a raptor originally taken from the wild in Alaska to a person located outside of Alaska.
33. Under some circumstances, a permittee may transfer a raptor to another permit type if the recipient permittee holds the necessary permit for the other activities and is authorized to possess the bird. A transfer must be reported within 10 business days to the department using federal form 3-186A.

- a. A permittee may transfer a wild-taken falconry bird to a raptor propagation permit after the bird has been used in falconry for at least two years, or at least one year for a sharp-shinned hawk, Cooper's hawk, merlin, or American kestrel. When transferring such a bird, a permittee must provide a copy of the federal form 3-186A documenting acquisition of the bird by the propagator to the federal migratory bird permit office administering the propagation permit.
  - b. A permittee may transfer a wild-taken raptor to another permit type in less than two years, or less than one year for a sharp-shinned hawk, Cooper's hawk, merlin, or American kestrel, if the bird has been injured and a veterinarian or permitted wildlife rehabilitator has determined the bird can no longer be flown in falconry.
    - i.* When transferring such a bird, the permittee must provide a copy of the federal form 3-186A documenting acquisition of the bird to the federal migratory bird permit office administering the propagation permit.
    - ii.* When transferring such a bird, the permittee must provide a copy of the certification from the veterinarian or permitted wildlife rehabilitator who determined the bird can no longer be flown in falconry to the federal migratory bird permit office administering the propagation permit.
  - c. A permittee may transfer a captive-bred falconry raptor to a holder of another permit type if the recipient permittee is authorized to possess the bird.
34. A person may care for a permittee's raptor if, during the time of care, the person holds a written authorization signed by the permittee. The raptor must remain on the permittee's falconry permit and remain in the permittee's facilities. Care may be extended indefinitely in extenuated circumstances such as illness, family emergency, and military service. The person providing care may not fly permitted raptors for any reason. If the period of care will exceed 60 calendar days, the permittee shall notify the regional falconry representative in writing within three business days after transferring care of the raptor. The permittee shall inform the regional falconry representative of the location where the raptor will be held, the reason for the transfer, the name of the person who is caring for the raptor, and how many days the raptor will be in the transferee's care.
35. A surviving spouse, executor, administrator, or other legal representative of a deceased falconry permittee may transfer any bird held by the permittee to another authorized permittee within 90 calendar days of the death of the falconry permittee. After 90 calendar days, disposition of any bird held under the permit is at the discretion of the department.

### **Release, Loss, Theft, or Death of Raptors**

36. **Release** - Only a raptor originally taken from the wild in Alaska may be intentionally released to the wild in Alaska. At least five business days before intentionally releasing a raptor to the wild, a permittee must notify the regional falconry representative and must

remove the USFWS or ADF&G marker from the raptor immediately prior to release. A permittee may release a bird back to the wild only at an appropriate time of year and in an appropriate location. A permittee must submit federal form 3-186A (Migratory Bird Acquisition/Disposition Report) to the ADF&G Permits Section upon any loss, escape, release, or death of the permittee's raptor within 10 days after that event. A permittee must deliver the marker band from a released raptor to the regional falconry representative within 15 business days after the death or release of the raptor to the wild, except a dead raptor preserved by taxidermy shall permanently retain its marker band.

**Loss** - A permittee may retrap a marked raptor that is accidentally lost to the wild at any time and within five days after its loss without notifying the regional falconry representative. If the permittee intends to retrap the raptor more than five days after its loss, the permittee must notify the regional falconry representative that the raptor has been lost and that the permittee intends to recapture it. If a permittee recaptures a raptor previously reported to the department as lost, the permittee must notify the department within 10 business days after the recapture. Recapturing a marked raptor is not considered take of a bird from the wild.

**Theft** – Theft of a raptor held under a falconry permit must be reported to the department on federal form 3-186A and to the USFWS regional law enforcement office within 10 business days of the occurrence.

**Death** – Death of a raptor held under a falconry permit must be reported to the department on federal form 3-186A within 10 business days of the occurrence. A permittee must deliver to the regional falconry representative a marker band from a dead raptor within 15 business days of death or release, except a raptor preserved by taxidermy must permanently retain its marker band and/or microchip.

37. **Record Keeping** - A permittee must retain copies of all paper and electronic database submissions documenting take, acquisition, transfer, loss, rebanding, or implanting a microchip in a falconry raptor until five years after transferring or losing the raptor, or it has died.
  
38. **Use/Disposal of Raptors That Die** - For a falconry raptor that dies, a permittee may donate the body or feathers of any species (except eagles) to a person or institution authorized by permit to acquire and possess such parts or feathers or to a person or institution exempt under 50 CFR §21.12. The body, feathers, talons, and other parts of golden eagles possessed under a falconry permit must be sent to the National Eagle Repository.
  - a. A permittee may keep the body of a raptor banded or implanted with a microchip prior to death, except that of a golden eagle. A body may be kept so feathers are available for imping. A body may be mounted by a taxidermist for use in presenting conservation education programs. A marker band must remain in place on the body of

a mounted bird that was banded; a microchip must remain in place in a bird with an implanted microchip.

b. A permittee not wishing to donate a bird body or keep it himself or herself must burn, bury, or otherwise destroy it within 10 days of death or after final veterinary examination to determine cause of death. Because a carcass of a euthanized raptor could pose a risk of secondary poisoning to eagles and other scavengers, a permittee must take appropriate precautions to avoid such poisonings.

c. A permittee may possess flight feathers of a falconry raptor that dies for as long as he or she holds a valid, current falconry permit. A permittee may not buy, sell, or barter such feathers and must keep paperwork documenting the acquisition of the bird from which they came.

## **Imping**

39. A permittee may retain or exchange feathers that are molted or feathers from raptors that die in captivity for imping purposes under the following conditions:
- a. a permittee may possess flight feathers for each species of raptor he or she possesses or previously held for as long as he or she holds a valid, current falconry permit;
  - b. a permittee may receive feathers for imping from another permitted falconer, wildlife rehabilitator, or raptor propagator in the United States, and may give feathers to such individuals;
  - c. a permittee may not buy, sell, or barter for imping feathers;
  - d. a permittee may donate feathers from a falconry bird, except golden eagle feathers, to any person or institution holding a valid, current permit to have them, or to anyone exempt from the permit requirement under 50 CFR §21.12;
  - e. except for primary or secondary flight feathers or rectrices from a golden eagle, a permittee is not required to gather feathers molted or otherwise lost by a falconry bird. A permittee may leave such feathers where they fall, store them for imping, or destroy them;
  - f. a permittee must collect molted primary and secondary flight feathers and rectrices from a golden eagle possessed for falconry;
  - g. molted primary and secondary flight feathers and rectrices from a golden eagle not kept for imping must be sent to the National Eagle Repository at this address: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Eagle Repository, Rocky Mountain Arsenal, Building 128, Commerce City, CO 80022. The telephone number at the Repository is 303-287-2110;

- h. a permittee is asked but not required to send all other feathers, including body feathers, collected from a falconry golden eagle and not needed for imping, to the National Eagle Repository; and
- i. if his or her falconry permit expires, is relinquished, or is revoked, a permittee must properly dispose of feathers of any species of falconry raptor except golden eagle, either by donating them to any person or institution authorized by permit to acquire and possess the feathers, or are exempt from the permit requirement under 50 CFR §21.12, or by burning, burying, or otherwise destroying them.

### **Captive Propagation**

- 40. Unless a person holds a propagation permit issued by the department, the person may not breed raptors in captivity for falconry. Propagation permits are issued under the following conditions:
  - a. The department may issue a propagation permit only to a person who:
    - 1) holds a federal raptor propagation permit;
    - 2) holds a valid, current Alaska master class falconry permit; and
    - 3) passes an inspection of facilities with the following guidelines:
      - i.* adequate chamber size;
      - ii.* double-door access to prevent escape;
      - iii.* any window protected on the inside with vertical bars;
      - iv.* adequate padded perches;
      - v.* adequate roof covering of chain-link or welded wire material;
      - vi.* adequate floor covering (straw and/or sawdust are not suitable); and
      - vii.* adequate protection from the elements.
  - b. A propagation permittee may acquire no more than two wild-origin birds within a calendar year. A propagation permittee may have no more than 12 birds for breeding that include first-generation captive progeny and wild-origin birds. A propagation permittee will have no limit on the number of second or later generation captive-bred progeny held in captive propagation. A raptor held under a propagation permit does not count as one of the raptors that may be held under a falconry permit.

- c. A raptor possessed for falconry may be used in captive propagation only in Alaska and if the falconry permittee or permitted raptor propagator holds the necessary permits. A falconry raptor need not be transferred to a propagation permit if used in captive propagation fewer than eight months in a year, but must be transferred if permanently used in captive propagation.
- d. A propagation permittee may sell, barter for, or exchange for anything of value first or later generation captive-bred progeny to any person holding a falconry license or raptor propagation permit within Alaska or outside of Alaska. Captive-bred progeny not sold or transferred as described in this subsection may be transferred or otherwise disposed of only with the written approval of the department.
- e. A raptor that originated from the wild in Alaska and held under a propagation permit may not be exported from the state unless the propagation permittee 1) is moving from the state, 2) has legally possessed that raptor in Alaska for at least one year, 3) has met the definition of Alaska resident in 16.05.415 for at least one year prior to the export, and 4) retains possession of the raptor at his or her new place of residence, except a raptor held less than one full year may be exported permanently if the propagation permittee holding it has maintained Alaska residency continuously for at least two years immediately prior to the date of export. A propagation permittee shall notify the ADF&G Permits Section at least 10 business days before exporting a raptor from Alaska. If the department determines it necessary to conserve or protect raptors in the state, or if the propagation permittee desiring to export a raptor has not fully complied with the conditions or requirements of the falconry standards in this manual, the department may disapprove the import or export of a raptor.

### **Conservation Education**

- 41. A permittee may use a falconry raptor in a conservation program presented in a public venue, under the following conditions:
  - a. the raptor must be used primarily for falconry;
  - b. a permittee must present information about falconry and the biology, ecological roles, and conservation needs of raptors and other migratory birds, although not all topics must be addressed in every presentation;
  - c. a permittee may not present a program that does not address falconry and conservation education;
  - d. an apprentice class permittee may present a conservation program only under the immediate supervision of a general or master falconer;
  - e. a permittee may charge a fee for presentation of a conservation education program, but the fee may not exceed the amount to recoup costs associated with delivering the presentation; and



- f. a permittee is responsible for all liability associated with conservation education activities undertaken.

42. A permittee may allow photography, filming, video recording, or other such uses of a falconry raptor to make a movie or another source of information on the practice of falconry or on the biology, ecological roles, and conservation needs of raptors and other migratory birds, under the following conditions:

- a. a permittee may not be paid for such activities;
- b. a falconry raptor may not be used to make a movie or commercial, or in another commercial venture not related to falconry or conservation education; and
- c. a falconry raptor may not be used for entertainment, advertisement, promotion or endorsement of any product, merchandise, good, service, meeting, exhibition, or fair, or as a representation of any business, company, corporation, or organization.

### **Rehabilitation**

43. A general or master class falconry permittee may assist a permitted migratory bird rehabilitator to condition a raptor in preparation for release to the wild and may keep a bird he or she is helping to rehabilitate in his or her facilities, under the following conditions:

- a. a rehabilitator must provide a falconer with a letter or form identifying the bird and explaining the falconer is assisting in the bird's rehabilitation;
- b. a falconry permittee need not meet rehabilitation facility standards, only the facility standards for falconry permits; a falconry permittee's facilities are not subject to inspection for compliance with rehabilitation facility standards;
- c. a raptor possessed for rehabilitation purposes need not be added to a falconer's permit; the bird remains under the rehabilitator's permit;
- d. through coordination with a rehabilitator, a falconer must release a raptor to the wild or return it to the rehabilitator for release within the 180-day time frame in which a rehabilitator is authorized to possess the bird, unless the issuing office authorizes retention and conditioning for longer than 180 days, or unless the rehabilitator permanently transfers a bird to a falconer under his or her falconry permit; and
- e. a raptor that cannot be released to the wild must be returned to a rehabilitator for placement within the 180-day time frame in which the rehabilitator is authorized to possess the bird, unless the issuing office authorizes retention for longer than 180 days.

## **Appeals**

44. A person aggrieved by a decision under Alaska's falconry regulations related to permitting may submit, in writing, an appeal to the Commissioner or the Commissioner's designee within 30 calendar days after the decision.

## **Unintended Prey Items Taken**

45. If a falconry bird takes a prey item without the permittee's intent, including an animal taken outside of a regular hunting season, the permittee may allow the falconry bird to feed on the animal, but may not take the animal into his or her possession.

## **Abatement**

46. A master class falconry permittee may conduct abatement activities with a raptor possessed for falconry only if he or she holds a federal Special Purpose Abatement permit. A general class falconry permittee may conduct abatement activities only as a subpermittee of a Special Purpose Abatement permit holder. Only a Special Purpose Abatement permittee may receive payment for abatement services.

**STATE OF ALASKA  
ALASKA FALCONRY PERMIT APPLICATION**

**1. NAME**

Last	First	M.I.
------	-------	------

**2. MAILING ADDRESS**

Street or P.O. Box		
City	State	Zip

**3. TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

Home	Business or Message
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**4. EMAIL ADDRESS**

--

**5. ALASKA RESIDENT**

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Since _____
--

**6. DATE OF BIRTH**

--

**7. LOCATION OF FACILITIES**

Street	City
--------	------

**8. DRIVER'S LICENSE OR I.D. NUMBER**

State	Number
-------	--------

**9. RAPTORS IN POSSESSION**

Species	Sex	Age	Band Number	Date Acquired	Source (wild or captive-bred)

**10A. PERMIT CLASS**

<input type="checkbox"/> Apprentice
<input type="checkbox"/> General*
<input type="checkbox"/> Master*

**10B. APPRENTICE'S SPONSOR**

Last Name	First	Telephone
Address		Class

**11. FALCONRY EXAMINATION/APPROVAL**

<input type="checkbox"/> Examination Passed	Approved By _____	Date _____
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**12. MEWS INSPECTION/APPROVAL**

<input type="checkbox"/> Mews Inspected	Approved By _____	Date _____
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**13. CERTIFICATION**

I have read and understand the Alaska Falconry Standards. I certify that I have read and am familiar with the regulations in title 50, part 13, of the Code of Federal Regulations and the other applicable parts in subchapter B of chapter 1 of title 50, and that the information I have submitted 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.

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\*An applicant requesting a general or master class permit must submit a photocopy of the most recently held permit/license issued from any state.

**Please mail application to:  
ADF&G Wildlife Conservation, Permits Section, P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526**

# ALASKA FALCONRY REPORT

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ State Permit No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No.: (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Location of Facilities: \_\_\_\_\_

Class (check one) Apprentice  General  Master

Permit expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_ Are you requesting renewal? Yes  No

## ANNUAL REPORT for \_\_\_\_\_ (year)

### RAPTORS ON HAND AT BEGINNING OF PERMIT YEAR (January 1)

<u>Species</u>	<u>Marker Number</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Year Hatched</u>	<u>Where (GMU subunit) or From Whom Obtained</u>	<u>Date Obtained month/day/year</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	___/___/___
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	___/___/___
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	___/___/___

### RAPTORS ACQUIRED DURING 12 MONTHS ENDING DECEMBER 31

(Raptors acquired from the wild or another person)

<u>Species</u>	<u>Marker Number</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Year Hatched</u>	<u>Where (GMU subunit) or From Whom Obtained</u>	<u>Date Obtained month/day/year</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	___/___/___
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	___/___/___
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	___/___/___
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	___/___/___

### RAPTORS NO LONGER IN POSSESSION

(since previous annual report)

<u>Species</u>	<u>Marker Number</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Year Hatched</u>	<u>Disposition*</u>	<u>Disposition Date month/day/year</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	___/___/___
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	___/___/___
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	___/___/___
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	___/___/___

\*Disposition (lost, transferred, died, released, stolen): Provide complete details, i.e., where lost or released, to whom transferred, cause of death, etc.

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

*Annual falconry reports are due by January 11. Please mail this report to:*  
**ADF&G Wildlife Conservation, Permits Section, P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526**

## CONTACT INFORMATION

General requests for information about falconry, appointments to take the falconry examination, or have facilities inspected, applications for a falconry permit, requests for state markers (bands), and notification of take or intent to take a raptor from the wild are handled by the regional falconry representative at a regional office of the Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation.

ADF&G/Wildlife Conservation  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526  
Phone (907) 465-4190

ADF&G/Wildlife Conservation  
P.O. Box 240020  
Douglas, AK 99824-0020  
Phone (907) 465-4265

ADF&G/Wildlife Conservation  
333 Raspberry Road  
Anchorage, AK 99518-1599  
Phone (907) 267-2257

ADF&G/Wildlife Conservation  
1300 College Road  
Fairbanks, AK 99701-1599  
Phone (907) 459-7213

ADF&G/Wildlife Conservation  
1800 Glenn Highway, Suite 4  
Palmer, AK 99645-6736  
Phone (907) 745-6300

ADF&G/Wildlife Conservation  
P.O. Box 1148  
Nome, AK 99762-1148  
Phone (907) 443-2271

Processing of falconry and state raptor propagation permits, submission of 3-186A forms, and requests to import or temporarily or permanently export a raptor are handled by the ADF&G Permits Section.

ADF&G/Wildlife Permits Section  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526  
Phone: (907) 465-4148  
Email: [dfg.dwc.permits@alaska.gov](mailto:dfg.dwc.permits@alaska.gov)

For information about health certification, disease testing, vaccination, and other requirements for the importation of raptors, contact the state veterinarian.

Office of the State Veterinarian  
Department of Environmental Conservation  
500 S. Alaska, Suite A  
Palmer, AK 99501  
Phone (907) 375-8215

For information about federal regulations and permitting requirements, contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Migratory Bird Permits Office  
1011 East Tudor Road  
Anchorage, AK 99503

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) administers all programs and activities free from discrimination based on race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, marital status, pregnancy, parenthood, or disability. The department

administers all programs and activities in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility please write:

- ADF&G ADA Coordinator, P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, MS 2042, Arlington, VA 22203
- Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW MS 5230, Washington DC 20240.

The department's ADA Coordinator can be reached via phone at the following numbers:

- (VOICE) 907-465-6077
- (Statewide Telecommunication Device for the Deaf) 1-800-478-3648
- (Juneau TDD) 907-465-3646
- (FAX) 907-465-6078

For information on alternative formats and questions on this publication, please contact the following: Publications Specialist, ADF&G/Division of Wildlife Conservation, P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526, or call 907-465-4176.