



REQUIREMENTS FOR OBTAINING A FALCONRY LICENSE

If you are applying for your first falconry license, you will be required to take and pass a supervised written examination. This examination is designed to test your knowledge of the California laws pertaining to falconry, your competency in caring for raptors, and your knowledge of the life history of birds of prey. You must be at least 14 years of age or older to be issued an apprentice license. As an apprentice, you may possess only a red-tailed hawk or an American kestrel.

You will also be required to provide adequate facilities to care for raptors. Your sponsor or Fish and Game Warden must inspect and approve your raptor housing facilities before a falconry license can be issued.

If you fail the examination, your request for a license will be denied. Pursuant to Section 670 (c)(l)(E)(2), Title 14, of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), you must wait three months before reapplying.

To become qualified for a falconry license:

1. STUDY STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO FALCONRY. The enclosed laws pertaining to falconry are found in California Fish and Game Code Sections 395 and 396; Section 670, Title 14, of the CCR; and part 21, Title 50, of the Code of Federal Regulations.

2. BECOME FAMILIAR WITH THE CARE OF RAPTORS AND THE ART OF FALCONRY. References are available at your library or book store which will acquaint you with caring for a raptor as well as how to go about training it for falconry. Particular attention should be directed to the diseases and the sanitary problems you will face in keeping a bird in captivity.

3. BECOME FAMILIAR WITH THE NATURAL HISTORY OF RAPTORS. It is important to know as much as possible concerning identification of raptors and their habits. Much can be learned from reading but nothing replaces many hours in the field observing birds in the wild.

If you are unable to locate literature on falconry at your local library or book store, you may be able to locate vendors by accessing the California Hawking Club's web site at www.calhawkingclub.org.

4. FALCONRY EXAMINATION. When you are ready to take the falconry examination, notify the nearest Department of Fish and Game office (listed on the back of this form), and ask for an appointment to take the examination. Take the completed Falconry License Application (FG 361) and the Raptor Facilities and Falconry Equipment Inspection Report (FG 361b) along with the appropriate application fee to the Fish and Game office and present them to the examination proctor on the day of your examination. You will be required to provide photo identification at the time of the test. The examination will be a supervised, closed book, maximum 2-hour examination, covering information relating to sections 1, 2, and 3 listed above. The test will be corrected at the time of the examination and you will be given information regarding the test results and the rest of the application process.

5. FACILITIES TO HOUSE YOUR RAPTOR. Proper housing is one of the most essential ingredients of successful falconry. Mews (hawk houses) vary in size and construction. References on falconry contain descriptions and provide specifications. Injured birds, damaged flight feathers, and disease are indicative of poor housing. Weathering areas are optional unless the warden determines that the climate conditions require such an area. The indoor facility (mew) must provide the following:

Space for easy access and maintenance
Space for raptor to fully extend wings
At least one window and one secure door

Windows with vertical bars/rods on inside
Dry or well-drained floor - easily cleaned
A perch of acceptable design for each raptor

Protection must be provided from excessive heat, high winds and winter storms, avian and ground predators, and disturbances which could cause injury.

6. **ISSUANCE OF THE FALCONRY LICENSE.** Once your facilities have been inspected and approved, you must submit all copies of the Falconry License Application, Raptor Facilities and Falconry Equipment Inspection Report, with the license fee to the **Department of Fish and Game, License and Revenue Branch, 1740 N. Market Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95834, (916) 928-5849 or SPU@dfg.ca.gov. Please allow 15 business days by this office for processing application by this office.** The Falconry License Application will become your license when validated and returned to you.

In order to complete the processing of your Falconry License Application, please send a photocopy of your completed application to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) along with their required annual fee of \$100 to:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Migratory Bird Permits
911 N.E. 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97232-4181

The License and Revenue Branch will validate your falconry license and send it to the USFWS in Portland, Oregon for final approval and issuance. The USFWS will then forward your license to you with a supply of Migratory Bird Acquisition and Disposition Report forms 3-186A (federal form) and a Resident Raptor Capture Report (FG 363) (state form). Both forms must be completed and submitted within five days of take of a bird from the wild, except the state form is not required when taking red-tailed hawk, American kestrel or a great-horned owl (Section 670(c)(4)(C) Title 14, of the CCR).

NOTE: You must be licensed as an apprentice falconer, with a sponsor, for 24 months and be at least 18 years of age, before you can upgrade to a general class.

7. **GENERAL INFORMATION.** Falconry licenses are valid from July 1 through June 30. Regardless of when you obtain your license during the year, you **MUST** renew your license on or before the following July 1 if you possess a raptor or want to keep your falconry license active.

The license must be in your possession when taking your bird off your property. If you are hunting with your bird, you will also be required to possess a valid California hunting license. Prior to obtaining your first hunting license, you will be required to take the hunter safety course. You must exhibit all licenses upon the request of any officer.

For more information on obtaining a sponsor, contact the California Hawking Club:

Northern California
Will O'Diear
Chairperson of the Apprenticeship Program
(530) 623-7457
E-mail: gamehawkers@hughes.net

Southern California
Bob Armbruster
Chairperson of the Apprenticeship Program
After 6:00 p.m. (661) 269-0544
E-mail: redtailranch@earthlink.net

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME OFFICES
www.dfg.ca.gov

FRESNO — 1234 East Shaw Avenue, Fresno, CA 93710, (559) 243-4005 Ext. 151
MONTEREY — 20 Lower Ragsdale Drive, Suite 100, Monterey, CA 93940, (831) 649-2870
NAPA — P.O. Box 47, Yountville, CA 94599 (7329 Silverado Trail, Napa, CA), (707) 944-5500
ONTARIO — 3602 Inland Empire Boulevard, Suite C-220, Ontario, CA 91764, (909) 484-0167
RANCHO CORDOVA — 1701 Nimbus Road, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670, (916) 358-2900
REDDING — 601 Locust Street, Redding, CA 96001, (530) 225-2300
SAN DIEGO — 4949 Viewridge Avenue, San Diego, CA 92123, (858) 467-4201