

State of Utah  
Division of Wildlife Resources  
**Procedures For Becoming an  
Apprentice Falconer**

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In order to conform to guidelines published in the Federal Falconry Permit Regulations (50 CFR 1-b-21), the Division of Wildlife Resources requires that all applicants for a Utah Falconry Certificate of Registration (COR) take and pass an examination designed to test their knowledge of falconry, regulations, housing and care of raptors and diseases. The attached list of reading materials, available at bookstores and libraries, are valuable references in preparation for the examination. A minimum score of 80% is required to pass. If necessary, you may re-test after 14 days. The test is given at all Division offices by appointment only.



After you have passed the examination, your facilities and equipment for housing and weathering a raptor will be inspected. If your facilities meet the minimum criteria you will be given an application for a Utah Falconry COR. Please complete it accurately and completely and return it with your sponsor's signature and the appropriate COR fee. Your COR will then be issued. After your COR is issued, you must then apply for a federal falconry permit through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Migratory Bird Permit Office.

A copy of your state COR and federal permit must be shown at the time you purchase your Raptor Capture Permit. Please refer to the Utah Falconry Proclamation for season dates and other restrictions.

If you have any questions, or would like to make arrangements for the exam or facilities inspection, please contact the closest Division office. Office locations and phone numbers are listed in this guide.

**Summary of Steps:**

1. Read and understand the Utah Falconry Proclamation and other falconry resources.
2. Take and pass the Utah Falconry test with a score of 80% or better.
3. Have facilities and equipment inspected and approved.
4. Apply for state Falconry COR and Federal Falconry Permit.
5. After receiving a COR and Federal Permit, you can purchase a Raptor Capture Permit.

**Don't wait until the last minute, these steps take time to complete.** You need to allow enough time to take care of any unforeseen problems. Plan on at least six to eight weeks to obtain your COR and federal falconry permit before obtaining a Raptor Capture Permit.

## **Minimum Housing and Equipment Requirements for Captive Raptors**

Proper housing is not only essential to successful falconry, but is required by law to assure adequate care for captive birds. Those desiring to construct hawk houses or "mews" should consult a reliable falconry text for specifications. Raptors can be housed in a home or garage, utilizing the backyard to meet the weathering needs of the birds.

### **Remember, a good falconer is judged by the condition of his or her birds.**

1. Indoor facilities (mews) for loose raptors must be large enough to allow easy access for care of the birds housed there. Each bird must be allowed enough space to fully extend its wings. There must be at least one window for ventilation, protected on the inside by vertical bars spaced narrower than the width of the bird's body. Adequate perches must be provided. The floor must permit easy cleaning and must be well drained. A secure door that is easily closed is a necessity. Sanitation around the perch is also a must.

2. Outdoor facilities must protect the bird from the elements as well as cats, dogs and avian predators. The enclosure must be large enough to insure the tethered bird cannot strike the sides when flying from the perch.

3. The following pieces of equipment must be in possession of the applicant before a COR can be obtained:

- a. Jesses
- b. Leashes and swivels
- c. Bath container
- d. Outdoor perches
- e. Weighing device

### **Utah Division of Wildlife Resources Regional Offices**

**Salt Lake Office**

1594 W North Temple  
Box 146301  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6301  
801-538-4700

**Northern Region**

515 E 5300 S  
Ogden, UT 84405  
801-476-2740

**Central Region**

1115 N Main Street  
Springville, UT 84663  
801-491-5678

**Northeastern Region**

152 E 100 N  
Vernal, UT 84078  
435-781-9453

**Southeastern Region**

475 W Price River Dr., Ste. C  
Price, UT 84501  
435-636-0260

**Southern Region**

P.O. Box 606  
1470 N Airport Rd.  
Cedar City, UT 84720  
435-865-6100

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

Migratory Bird Permit Office  
P.O. Box 25486, DFC (60154)  
Denver, CO 80225-0486  
303-236-8171

## Suggested References

This is just a small example of falconry resources that are available.

### Falconry

Beebe, F.L. and H.M. Webster. 1964. North American Falconry and Hunting Hawks. World Press Inc. Denver, Colo. Fourth Printing, 1976. 331 pp.

Mavrogordato, J.G. 1960. A Hawk for the Bush. Charles T. Branford Co. Newton, Mass. 144 pp.

\_\_\_\_\_. 1966. A Falcon in the Field. Knightly Vernon Ltd. London. 123 pp.

Michell, E.B. 1959. The Art and Practice of Hawking. Charles T. Branford Co. Boston, Mass. 219 pp.

Peeters, Hans J. and E.W. Jameson, Jr., 1970. American Hawking, a General Account of Falconry in the New World. Privately published, Oakside, Davis, California

Utah Division of Wildlife Resources - Falconry proclamation.

### Natural History

Austin, R.G. 1964. World of the Red-Tailed Hawk. Lippincott. Philadelphia, Pa.

Bent, A.C. 1961. Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey. Dover Publications Inc. New York. 2 parts. 482 pp.

Brown, L. and D. Amadon. 1968. Eagles, Hawks and Falcons of the World. McGraw Hill Book Co. New York. 2 Vo. 945 pp.

Craighead, J.J. and F.C. Craighead Jr. 1956. Hawks, Owls, and Wildlife. Stackpole Co. Harrisburg, Pa. 433 pp.

Grossman, Mary L. and J. Hamlet. 1964. Birds of Prey of the World. C.N. Potter Inc. New York. 496 pp.

Peterson, Roger T., 1941. A Field Guide to Western Birds. Houghton Mifflin C., Mass. 240 pp.

Robbins, C.S., B. Bruun and H.S. Zim. 1966. Bird of North American. Golden Press, New York, 340 pp.