FALCONRY PERMIT APPLICATION PROCEDURES

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

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

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

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

1. Take the Exam – Schedule a time to take the exam through your wildlife manager or conservation warden at your local DNR service center. The exam consists of 105 multiple choices questions. You must score 80% or better on the exam before proceeding.

2. Locate a sponsor – First time applicants are called “apprentice class falconers”. More experienced falconers are either general (2 to 7 years of experience) or master class falconers (over 7 years of experience). Apprentice class falconers must have a general or master class falconer as a sponsor at the time of application. A letter from your sponsor indicating that they will sponsor you must be included with your application.

3. Facilities and Equipment Inspection – Standards for equipment are established by s.NR 18.07. You should prepare to meet those standards before submitting your application. Contact your local conservation warden to schedule an inspection of your facilities and equipment. A copy of your approved inspection should be included when you send in your application.

4. Application – Complete the state falconry permit application along with a check or money order for $75 check made payable to the Wisconsin DNR. Submit the application, fee, and other documents to the address on the application.

5. Permit issuance – After your application has been received and approved, you will receive your falconry permit and band within 30 days.

6. Raptor Possession – After your permit is received, you may obtain a raptor by trapping or gift as described in s. NR 18.10 and 18.12

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