DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
WILDLIFE AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES DIVISION

FALCONRY PERMIT
Application

(INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL BE RETURNED)
PRINT OR TYPE ONLY

New Application ☐
Renewal ☐

Name: _____

(1) Social Security #: _____ - ____ - _____ Driver's License # _____
If applicant is 14 or over and does not have a valid driver's license, attach proof of residency.

Date of Birth: _____ email: _____

Sex: ____ Height: _____ Weight: _____ Eyes: _____ Hair: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ County: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: Hm (___) _____-_____ Wk (___) _____-_____ Cl (___) _____-_____

NOTE: If you are transferring your permit to Alabama, proceed to the second page of this form.

REFERENCES: (List names, addresses, and phone numbers of three personal references)

Name	Address	Phone

FALCONRY SPONSOR:

NAME	
ALABAMA FALCONRY PERMIT NUMBER	

Please list ornithological books, references, and falconry books that you own

Title	Author

(List additional titles on the back)

(1) DCNR IS NOW REQUIRED BY SECTION 30-3-194(A) CODE OF ALABAMA 1975 TO COLLECT SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS ON ALL RECREATIONAL LICENSES BEING ISSUED/RENEWED.

If you are a currently permitted falconer from another state:

YOUR JOINT STATE/FEDERAL FALCONRY PERMIT INFORMATION (Attach a copy of your permit)	
State	
Permit Number	
Expiration Date of Permit	

Complete Below

This is to certify that I, _____, have
(Print Your Name)

completed this application and the information contained herein is accurate and correct.

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____
To be excluded from any list of names sold by ADCNR, please check this box [ ]

Cost: $7.50 expiring June 30 of third calendar year after issuance.

Applicant must submit: (1) ***completed application****, (2)* ***check*** *or* ***money order*** *(payable to Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources), and (3)* ***copy of driver's license*** *to:*

Roger Clay
Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries
P.O. Box 247
Daphne, AL 36526

Questions: (251) 626-5474 or rclay@dcnr.state.al.us

For Office Use Only

Permit # Issued: _____ Issued: _____ Expires: _____

CLASS: [ ] Apprentice [ ] General [ ] Master

Previous # Issued: _____ Expired: _____ Date Report Rec'd: yes/no Date _____

Approved: _____ Paid: Cash _____ Check _____

(1) *DCNR IS NOW REQUIRED BY SECTION 30-3-194(A) CODE OF ALABAMA 1975 TO COLLECT SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS ON ALL RECREATIONAL LICENSES BEING ISSUED/RENEWED.*

Code of Alabama
Falconry

www.legislature.state.al.us
Revised: 10/07

Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
220-2-.02 Legal Arms, Ammunition, and Methods for Hunting

(11) (a) Falconry - For the purpose of permitting the practice of falconry as a legal means of taking game in Alabama, and for no other purpose, live migratory birds of the family Accipitridae (other than the bald eagle), Falconidae, and the great horned owl of the family Strigidae, are hereby designated as game birds.

(b) As used in this regulation, the word:

1. ***"Raptor"*** means a live migratory bird of the family Accipitridae, other than the bald eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus), or of the family Falconidae, or the great horned owl (Bubo virginianus) of the family Strigidae.

2. ***"Take"*** means to trap or capture, or attempt to trap or capture, a raptor for the purpose of falconry.

3. ***"Falconry"*** means the sport of taking quarry by means of a trained raptor.

4. ***"Service"*** means the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of Interior.

5. ***"Commissioner"*** means the Commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

6. ***"Department"*** means the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

7. ***"Division"*** means the Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

(c) An applicant who wishes to practice falconry in Alabama must submit a request for an application to practice falconry along with a non-refundable $7.50 fee to the Commissioner. If a permittee desires to renew his permit an additional $7.50 fee shall be due with each renewal request.

(d) A falconry permit is required before any person may take, transport, or possess wild-taken or captive bred raptors for falconry purposes. The use for falconry or the possession of any raptor species not covered by the Federal Falconry Regulations and listed above is controlled by these regulations.

Every permit issued shall be subject to the following special conditions:

1. A permittee may not take, transport, or possess a golden eagle (Aquila chrysaetos) unless authorized in writing by the Service. A permittee may not take, transport, or possess any species designated as endangered by the State unless authorized in writing by the Commissioner.

2. A permittee may trade or transfer a wild-caught raptor to another permittee if the transaction occurs entirely within the State and no money or other consideration is involved. A permittee may trade or transfer a wild-caught raptor to another permittee in an interstate transaction if prior written approval of the State which issued the permit is obtained and no money or other consideration is involved in the transaction.

3. A permittee may not sell, purchase, barter, or offer to sell, purchase, or barter any raptor unless the raptor is marked on the metatarsus by a seamless, numbered band supplied by the Service.

4. A permittee may not propagate raptors without prior acquisition of a valid raptor propagation permit issued under Federal Regulation 50CFR21.30.

5. A permittee may not take, possess or transport a raptor in violation of restrictions, conditions, and requirements of the Federal or State Falconry Permit Regulations.

6. By July 31 of each year, a permittee shall submit a falconry report to the authority which issued the permit. The report shall contain the following:

(i) A listing of all raptors in his possession on June 30 of the year in which the report is filed by species, marker number, sex (if known), age (if known), and date and where or from whom acquired;

(ii) A listing of all raptors possessed or acquired since the previous annual report, but no longer possessed, by species, marker number, sex (if known), age (if known), date and where or from whom acquired or given to, whether escaped, died , or released, and when the event occurred.

(e) A permit or the renewal of a permit is valid when issued by the State and expires on June 30 of the third calendar year after it is issued, unless a different period is specified on the permit or renewal. A fee of $7.50 shall be required with each renewal.

(f) Three classes of falconry permits shall be issued. These include:

1. APPRENTICE CLASS - Conditions of this class include:

(i) A permittee shall be at least 14 years old;

(ii) A sponsor who is a holder of a General or a Master Falconry Permit is required for the first two years in which an apprentice permit is held, regardless of the age of the permittee. A sponsor may not have more than three apprentices at one time;

(iii) A permittee shall not possess more than one raptor and may not obtain more than one raptor as a replacement bird during any 12 month period;

(iv)A permittee shall possess only the following raptors which must be taken from the wild by the apprentice: an American Kestrel (Falco sparverius), a red-tailed hawk (Buteo jamaicensis), or a red-shouldered hawk (Buteo lineatus).

2. GENERAL CLASS - Conditions of this class include:

(i) A permittee shall be at least 18 years old;

(ii) A permittee shall have at least two years experience in the practice of falconry at the apprentice level or its equivalent;

(iii) A permittee may not possess more than two raptors and may not obtain more than two raptors for replacement birds during any 12 month period;

(iv) A permittee may not take, transport, or possess any golden eagle or any species listed as threatened or endangered by the Service or any species listed as endangered by the State except as provided by the Federal and State Falconry Permit Regulations.

3. MASTER CLASS - Conditions of this class include:

(i) An applicant shall have at least five years experience in the practice of falconry at the general class level or its equivalent;

(ii) A permittee may not possess more than three raptors, and may not obtain more than two raptors for replacement birds during any 12 month period;

(iii) A permittee may not take, transport or possess any species listed as endangered by the Service or any species listed as endangered by the State except as provided by the Federal and State Falconry Permit Regulations;

(iv) A permittee may not take, transport, or possess a golden eagle for falconry purposes unless authorized in writing by the Service;

(v) Except as provided by the Federal Falconry Regulations, a permittee may not take, transport or possess as part of his three bird limitation, more than one raptor listed as threatened by the Service, and then only in accordance with Federal Regulations 50CFR 21;

(vi) A master permittee may take for use in Falconry, progeny of captive-bred threatened and/or endangered species in accordance with federal regulations.

(g) Before any falconry permit is issued, the applicant shall be required to answer correctly at least 80 per cent of the questions on a supervised examination approved by the Service relating to the basic biology, care, and handling of raptors, literature, laws, regulations, and other appropriate subject matter. An opportunity for retaking the examination shall be provided in the event of failure.

(h) Before any falconry permit is issued, the applicant's raptor housing facilities and falconry equipment shall be inspected and certified by a representative of the Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries as meeting the following standards:

1. Facilities - The primary consideration for raptor housing facilities, whether indoors (mews) or outdoors (weathering area), is protection from the environment, predators, or undue disturbance. The applicant shall have the following facilities:

(i) Indoor facilities (mews) shall be large enough to allow easy access for caring for raptors housed in the facility. If more than one raptor is to be housed in the facility, the raptor shall be tethered or separated by partitions and the area for each bird shall be large enough to allow each bird to fully extend its wings. There shall be at least one window, protected on the inside by vertical bars, spaced narrower than the width of the bird's body and a secure door that can be easily closed. The floor of the mews shall permit easy cleaning and shall be well drained. Adequate perches shall be provided;

(ii) Outdoor facilities (weathering area) shall be fenced and covered with netting or wire or roofed to protect the birds from disturbance and attack by predators, except that perches more than 6 1/2 feet high need not be covered or roofed. The enclosures shall be wide enough to insure that the birds

wings shall not strike the fence when flying from the perch. Protection from excessive sun, wind, and inclement weather shall be provided for each bird. Adequate perches shall be provided.

2. Equipment - The following items shall be in the possession of the applicant before he can obtain a permit:

(i) Jesses - At least one pair of Aylmeri jesses of pliable leather or suitable synthetic material to be used when any raptor is flown free. Traditional type one-piece jesses may be used on raptors when not being flown; and

(ii) Leashes and Swivels - At least one flexible, weather resistant leash and one swivel of acceptable falconry design; and

(iii) Bath Container - At least one container, 2 to 6 inches deep and wider than the length of the raptor, for drinking and bathing for each raptor; and

(iv) Outdoor Perches - At least one weathering area perch of an acceptable design shall be provided for each raptor; and

(v) Weighing Device- A reliable scale or balance suitable for weighing the raptor and graduated in increments of not more than ½ ounce (15 grams) shall be provided.

3. Maintenance - All facilities and equipment shall be kept at or above the preceding standards at all times.

4. Transportation - Temporary Holding - Temporarily, a raptor may be transported or held in temporary facilities, which shall be provided with an adequate perch and protection from extreme temperatures and excessive disturbance for a period not to exceed 30 days.

(i) All raptors held within the State excepting those held for scientific or zoological purposes shall have a numbered, non-reusable marker supplied to the Department by the Service. Markers shall be attached by permittees immediately upon acquisition from the Department. In the instance of raptors acquired after the effective date of these regulations, markers shall also be attached to these raptors immediately upon acquisition. Alteration, counterfeiting or defacing of a marker is prohibited except that permittees may remove the rear tab on markers and may smooth any imperfect surface provided the integrity of the marker and the number are not affected.

(j) Special restrictions are as follows:

1. Young raptors not yet capable of flight (eyasses) may only be taken by General or Master Falconry Permit holders during the period May 25 - June 30, and no more than two eyasses may be taken by the same permittee during this period during one calendar year;

2. First year passage raptors may be taken during the period September 15 – January 31;

3. Only American Kestrels (Falco sparverius) and great horned owls (Bubo virginianus) may be taken when over one year old, except that any raptor other than endangered or threatened species taken under a depredation (or special purpose) permit may be used for falconry by General or Master Falconry Permit holders;

4. A marked raptor may be retrapped at any time.

(k) A person who possesses a lawfully acquired raptor before the enactment of these regulations and who fails to meet the permit requirements, shall be allowed to retain the raptors. All such birds shall be identified with markers supplied by the Department and cannot be replaced if death, loss, release, or escape occurs.

(l) A person who possesses raptors before the enactment of these regulations in excess of the number allowed under his class permit shall be allowed to retain the extra raptors. All such raptors shall be identified with markers supplied by the Department and no replacement can occur until the number in possession is at least one less than the total number authorized by the class of permit held by the permittee.

(m) A falconry permit holder shall obtain written permission from the Department before any species not indigenous to the State is intentionally released to the wild. The marker of any released bird shall be removed and surrendered to the Division's District Supervisor in the respective area upon release. A standard Federal bird-band shall be attached to such birds by the State or authorized federal bird bander whenever possible.

(n) Another person may care for the birds of a permittee if written authorization from the permittee accompanies the birds when they are transferred. If that period of care will exceed 30 days, the permittee shall inform the Division's District Supervisor of his respective district within three days of the

transfer, of the reason for the transfer, where the birds are being held, who is caring for them, and approximately how many days they will be under the care of the second person.

(o) Feathers that are molted or those feathers from birds held in captivity that die, may be retained and exchanged by permittees only for imping purposes.

(p) Non-transfer, interstate import and export conditions:

1. Non-residents of the State which are permit holders from States which are recognized as falconry states by the Service may transport into Alabama raptors for personal falconry use (i.e. Falconry Meets, etc.) provided the laws and regulations concerning hunting and falconry are observed;

2. Residents of the State who are falconry permittees may transport their raptors into other states which are recognized by the Service as falconry states for personal falconry use provided hunting and falconry laws and regulations are observed.

3. This section does not prevent the importation, exportation, or exchange between permittees of legally acquired raptors taken from the wild or produced by captive propagation, if the permittees who import, export, or exchange raptors notify the Department in writing and as provided for elsewhere within these regulations.

(q) Every permittee and every person possessing a raptor in the State shall submit an inventory to the Department within 90 days of the effective date of this regulation. This inventory of raptors shall be submitted regardless of whether or not the owner intends to submit an application for a falconry permit.

(r) Permittees holding the proper licenses may hunt, pursue and kill game birds and game animals during any of the established hunting seasons in accordance with existing regulations under the following provisions:

1. Persons desiring to hunt with raptors must obtain proper hunting licenses along with proper falconry permits before attempting to take game birds and game animals;

2. Persons hunting with raptors may hunt, pursue and kill game birds and game animals as follows:

- Migratory game birds - during the gun seasons for birds pursued.
- Resident game birds and animals - from the opening date of the gun season for the species pursued through March 31.

3. A permittee, whose hunting raptor accidentally kills game that is out of season or of the wrong species or sex, shall leave the dead quarry where it lies, except that the raptor may feed upon the quarry prior to leaving the site of the kill.

4. Regular season bag limits for migratory game birds do not apply to falconry. Falconry bag limits shall not exceed 3 birds for all migratory game birds in the aggregate, whether or not an extended season is selected. Regular season bag limits for resident game birds and animals shall apply to falconry.

(s) It shall be lawful for a nonresident to take or attempt to take raptors from the wild in Alabama, subject to the same restrictions and limitations as apply to resident permit holders, if the nonresident has a valid general or master level falconry permit from such person's state of residence, a valid Alabama nonresident hunting license, and if such person's state of residence provides the same privileges to residents of Alabama.

(t) Violation of this regulation or federal regulation is just cause for revocation of permits by the Department.