

As of June 30, 2022

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Code Book

The regulations in this Code Book are hereby adopted by the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission under authority of Amendment 35 to the Constitution of the State of Arkansas. All laws, rules, regulations, or orders in conflict with the regulations in this Code Book are hereby repealed by the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission.

F1.07 Falconry Permit Requirements

- A. Permits or legible copies of them must be in a falconer's immediate possession when trapping, transporting, working with or flying falconry raptors, both in and outside of Arkansas, except when the falconer is at the location of his/her falconry facilities.
- B. Permits issued by the Commission will be at a level commensurate with the falconer's ability and experience as follows:
 - 1. Apprentice Class Eligibility, and Application Conditions and Requirements:
 - i. An Apprentice falconer applicant must be at least 14 years of age. If the apprentice is under 18 years of age, a parent or legal guardian must sign his/her application and be legally responsible for his/her activities.
 - ii. An Apprentice Class falconer applicant must have a letter from a Master or General Falconer who is at least 18 years old and has at least two years' experience at the General Falconer level and a state falconry permit stating that he or she will sponsor the applicant and serve as his/her mentor.
 - iii. An Apprentice applicant will not be issued a permit until the applicant has demonstrated satisfactory compliance with the following requirements:
 - a. Must pass a written falconry examination administered by the Commission with a score of at least 80 percent.
 - b. Must possess an Arkansas hunting license.
 - c. Must have their falconry facilities and equipment pass inspection by an employee of AGFC.
 - iv. Apprentice falconers may possess no more than 1 raptor for use in falconry.

- v. Apprentice falconers may possess a wild-caught raptor of the following species: Red-tailed hawk, American kestrel, Red-shouldered hawk, Great horned owl, or Harris's hawk.
 - vi. Apprentice falconers are required to capture the hawk themselves; the raptor may not be transferred to them by another falconer.
 - vii. Apprentice falconers may not possess a raptor taken from the wild as a nestling and may not possess a bird that is imprinted on humans.
2. General Class Eligibility, and Application Conditions and Requirements:
- i. General Class falconers must be at least 16 years of age. General Class falconers that are 16 or 17 years of age must have a parent or legal guardian sign their falconry application and be legally responsible for their activities.
 - ii. Apprentice Class falconers can move to General Class by submitting a document from a General Falconer or Master Falconer (preferably his/her sponsor) to the AGFC Falconry Program Coordinator stating that the apprentice has practiced falconry with wild raptor(s) at the Apprentice Falconry level or equivalent for at least two years, including maintaining, training capture, release and flying and hunting the raptor(s) for at least four months each year. The letter must state the number of months and days that the Apprentice falconers possessed a falconry raptor.
 - iii. Apprentice class falconers may not substitute any falconry school program or education to shorten the period of two years at the Apprentice Level.
 - iv. General Class falconers may take and possess any species of Falconiform or Strigiform

As of June 30, 2022, except a golden eagle, a bald eagle a white-tailed eagle or a Steller's sea eagle. General falconers may possess captive bred individuals and hybrids of the species that General Class falconers are allowed to possess.

- v. General Class falconers may possess no more than 3 raptors.
3. Master Class Eligibility, and Application Conditions and Requirements: Master Class falconers must have practiced falconry with their own raptors(s) at the General Falconer level for at least 5 years.
- i. General Class falconers can move to Master Class by submitting a document in writing to AGFC's Falconry Coordinator requesting to be moved to Master Class status. The request must include the species and number of months and years that the General Class falconer possessed each raptor during his/her General Class period.
 - ii. Master Class Falconers may take and possess any species of Falconiform or Strigiform except a bald eagle. Master Class falconers may take and possess a golden, eagle, a white-tailed eagle or a Steller's sea eagle only if he/she possesses a Falconry Eagle Permit. Master Class falconers may use captive bred individuals and hybrids of the species Master falconers are allowed to possess.
 - iii. Master Class falconers may possess no more than five wild raptors (including golden eagles if the Master Class falconer has a Falconry Eagle Permit).
 - iv. Master Class falconers may possess any number of captive bred raptors, however, the falconer must train them in the pursuit of wild game and use them in hunting.

4. Falconry Eagle Permit Eligibility, and Application Conditions and Requirements.
 - i. Master Class falconers may take and possess golden, eagles, white-tailed eagles or a Steller's sea eagles when issued an Arkansas Falconry Eagle Permit. Master Class falconers will be issued an Arkansas Eagle Falconry Permit when the Master Class falconer has demonstrated satisfactory compliance with the following requirements.
 - a. A list of qualifications and experience in handling large raptors, including information about the species the applicant has handled and the type and duration of the activity in which the applicant gained the experience submitted in writing to the Commission's Falconry Coordinator.
 - b. At least two letters of reference from people with experience handling and/or flying large raptors such as eagles, ferruginous hawks, goshawks, or great horned owls. Each must contain a concise history of the author's experience with large raptors, which can include but is not limited to the handling of raptors held by zoos, rehabilitating large raptors, or scientific studies of involving large raptors. Each letter must also assess the applicant's ability to care for eagles and fly them in falconry and must be submitted to the

Falconry Coordinator.

- ii. A golden eagle, white-tailed sea eagle, or Steller's sea eagle possessed by a Master falconer with a Falconry Eagle permit will count as one of the raptors in that falconer's total wild bird possession limit as a master falconer.
 - iii. Master Class falconers with a Falconry Eagle Permit may take one or two golden eagles from the wild according to both federal regulations and the regulations of the state in which the eagle is taken.
 - iv. Master Class falconers with an Eagle Permit may take, transport or possess up to three eagles including golden eagles, white-tailed eagles and/or Steller's sea eagles. Each eagle a Master falconer possesses counts as a bird included under the Master falconer's wild bird possession limit. Master falconers in possession of eagle(s) must follow all federal regulations and guidelines pertaining to eagles.
5. Eligibility Requirements to obtain falconry permit for individuals with falconry experience who are new residents in the United States.
- i. Applicant must pass a written falconry examination administered by the Commission with a score of at least 80 percent and must provide written documentation of falconry experience including species of raptors flown and game taken and must have their falconry facilities and equipment pass inspection by an employee of AGFC.
 - ii. The Arkansas Falconry Coordinator will assign a falconry Class level commensurate with the new resident falconer's experience.
6. Eligibility requirements to obtain falconry permit for individuals with

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falconry experience who are not U.S.
Residents.

- i. A visitor to Arkansas from outside of the United States may qualify for a one year renewable Arkansas Non-U.S. Resident Temporary Falconry Permit at the level appropriate for his/her experience according to the following requirements:
 - a. The visitor must take the written test, Arkansas Falconry Examination, and pass with a score of 80 or higher; the visitor must provide a written letter detailing the visitor's falconry experience which the Commission's Falconry Coordinator will use to assign the level of Apprentice, General or Master falconer to the temporary falconry permit; and the visitor must have his facilities pass inspection in order to possess birds for falconry.
- ii. Holders of an Arkansas Non-U.S. resident Temporary Falconry Permit may not take a bird from the wild for use in falconry.
- iii. Holders of an Arkansas Non-U.S. Resident Temporary Falconry Permit may fly raptors held for falconry by a permitted Arkansas falconer.
- iv. Holders of an Arkansas Non-U.S. Resident Temporary Falconry Permit may use any bird for falconry that he/she possesses legally in their country of origin for that purpose, provided that import of that species in the U.S. is not prohibited and provided that he/she has met all permitting requirements in their country of residence.

- v. Holders of a temporary falconry permit must also have a current Arkansas Non-Resident Annual Small Game Hunting License.
 - vi. A holder of an Arkansas Non-U.S. resident Temporary Falconry Permit may transport registered raptors and must follow federal regulations and possess the necessary federal permits to import or export raptors to and from the United States. Unless the permit holder has the necessary federal permits to bring a raptor into the United States and leave it in the U.S., he/she must take raptors brought into the country for falconry out of the country when he/she leaves.
 - vii. If a raptor brought into the United States and Arkansas dies or is lost in the state, the visitor must report the loss to the Commission's Falconry Coordinator before leaving the state or country.
 - viii. When flown free, any bird brought to this country temporarily must have two functioning radio transmitters attached to the bird which will enable the falconer to locate it.
 - ix. A holder of an Arkansas Non-U.S. resident Falconry Permit must comply with all Commission regulations and the falconry regulation in the states where he/she wishes to conduct falconry or through which he/she will travel with the falconry bird.
7. Additional Requirements regarding falconry permits including Reinstatement of lapsed falconry permit and residency requirements.
- i. If a previously licensed falconer's permit has lapsed for fewer than five years, his/her permit may be reinstated at the level they held previously if they provide the Commission's falconry Coordinator with proof of their

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certification at that level and
their facilities must pass
inspection by an AGFC
employee.

- ii. If a previously licensed falconer's permit has lapsed for more than five years, they must pass the Arkansas Falconry written exam by correctly answering 80 percent of the questions and their facilities must pass inspection by an AGFC employee and they must provide written documentation of the class (Apprentice, General, Master) at which they were last permitted or licensed and for which they want their permit issued.
 - iii. If a permitted falconer resides for part of a year in another state, the falconer must contact that state to determine if they need to obtain a falconry permit from that state.
 - iv. If a falconer lives for more than 120 consecutive days in a state, territory or tribal land other than their Arkansas residence, their falconry facilities in that second state must meet Arkansas standards.
8. Permit Requirements: It is unlawful for holders of Falconry Permits to fail to comply with the following requirements regarding facilities and care.
- i. Falconry Facility Requirements: Conditions for Facilities maintained on property owned or controlled by the falconer.
 - a. The Commission must be notified in five days of a change of location of a permittee's falconry facilities and a falconer must have new facilities inspected in 30 days of a change of location.

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- b. Birds must be kept in humane and healthful conditions, protected from the environment, predators and domestic animals.
- c. An indoor facility must have a suitable perch for each raptor, at least one opening for sunlight and must provide a healthy environment.
- d. Untethered raptors may be housed together if they are compatible with each other.
- e. Each raptor must have an area large enough to allow it to fly if it is untethered or, if tethered, to fully extend its wings or bate (attempt to fly when tethered) without damaging its feathers or contacting other raptors. It must be large enough to insure that tethered birds cannot strike the enclosure when flying from the perch.
- f. Each raptor must have a pan of clean water available at all times.
- g. An indoor facility must be large enough to allow easy access for the care and feeding of raptors kept there and must have flooring that allows drainage, does not retain moisture and allows for sanitary maintenance activities.
- h. If raptors housed in an indoor facility are not tethered, all walls that are not solid must be protected on

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the inside. Suitable
materials may include
vertical bars spaced
narrower than the
width of the smallest
raptor housed in the
enclosure or heavy
duty netting.

- i. Acceptable indoor facilities include shelf perch enclosures where raptors are tethered side by side. Other innovative housing systems are acceptable if they provide the enclosed raptors with protection and provide healthy feathers and fresh air.
- j. Falconry raptors may be kept inside the falconer's place of residence if a suitable perch or perches are provided. The residence's windows or other openings do not need to be modified. Raptors kept in a residence must be tethered when they are not being moved into or out of the location in which they are being kept.
- k. All falconers in possession of falconry raptors must have and maintain jesses or the materials and equipment to make jesses appropriate for the size raptor in their possession, leash and swivel, bath container, and scales or balances appropriate for weighing raptors in the falconers' possession (scales for kestrels must weigh in increments of one grams or less).

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- l. Falconry raptors may be kept outside in the open if they are under watch, such as by the falconer or a family member at any location or, for example by a designated individual in a weathering yard at falconry meet.
 - m. Permittees must keep all facilities and equipment at or above these standards at all times.
- ii. Falconry Facility Requirements: Conditions for facilities maintained on property not owned or controlled by the falconer.
- a. Regardless of location, a falconer's facilities must meet all the requirements listed for facilities on property owned or controlled by the falconer.
 - b. Falconer must submit a dated statement to the Commission's Falconry Coordinator showing that the falconer or the property owners (if the falconer's facilities are on property not owned or leased by the falconer) agrees that the falconry facilities, equipment, and raptors may be inspected without advance notice by Commission personnel at any reasonable time of day.
- iii. Transportation Facilities: Conditions for care and facilities for transporting raptors.
- a. When transporting a raptor, using a raptor

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for hunting or for
temporary housing
when away from
home a falconer is
required to have a
suitable perch and
protect the raptor
from extreme
temperatures, wind,
and excessive
disturbance.

- b. A “giant hood” or
similar container is
acceptable for
transporting or
housing a raptor
when away from
home.

iv. Temporary Facilities:
Conditions for temporary care
and facilities for raptors.

- a. A falconer may house
a raptor in temporary
facilities for no more
than 120 consecutive
calendar days if the
bird has a suitable
perch and is
protected from
predators, domestic
animals, extreme
temperatures, wind,
and excessive
disturbance.

v. Conditions for Care of
Falconry Raptors by Another
Falconry Permittee: Another
falconry permittee may care
for a falconer’s raptor or
raptors at the falconer’s
facilities or at the other
permittee’s facilities for up to
120 consecutive calendar days
provided the following
conditions are met:

- a. The other permittee
must have a signed
and dated statement
from the falconer
authorizing the other
falconry permittee
the temporary
possession of the
falconry raptor(s).
This written
statement must
include information

As of June 30, 2022, about the time period for which the other falconry permittee will keep the raptor(s) and state what he or she is allowed to do with the raptor(s). If the other falconry permittee caring for the raptor(s) holds the appropriate level falconry permit, he/she may fly the falconer's raptors in whatever way the falconer authorizes, including hunting.

- b. The written authorization to the other falconry permittee from the falconer must be accompanied by a copy of FWS form 3-186A that shows the falconer as the authorized possessor of each of the falconry raptor(s).
- c. The raptor(s) must remain on the falconer's permit and will not count against the possession limit of the other falconry permittee caring for the raptors.

vi. Conditions for Care of Falconry Raptors by a Person who does not have a falconry permit: A person who does not have a falconry permit may care for a falconer's raptor(s) at the falconer's facilities for up to 45 consecutive calendar days provided the following conditions are met:

- a. The person(s) caring for the raptors may not fly them for any reason.
- b. The raptors must remain in the falconer's approved facilities.

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- c. The raptors must remain on the falconer's permit.
- vii. Permit Requirements: It shall be unlawful for holders of Falconry Permits to fail to comply with the following requirements regarding taking and possession of raptors from the wild:
 - a. Falconers may take no more than 2 raptors from the wild each 365 consecutive day period beginning on the date the falconer took the first bird to use in falconry.
 - b. If a falconer transfers a bird that he/she took from the wild to another falconer in the same year in which it was captured, the bird will count as one of the raptors the falconer is allowed to take from the wild that year; it will not count as a capture by the recipient, although it will always be considered a wild bird.
 - c. Falconers may not intentionally capture a raptor species that their classification as a falconer does not allow them to possess for falconry. Raptors captured by falconers who are not allowed to possess that species or age group must be immediately released.
 - d. Raptors must be taken only in a humane manner. Any device used to take birds of prey shall be labeled with the name, address and phone number of the

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falconer, and must be
attended to
continually by the
falconer. No eggs
may be taken from
raptor nests.

- e. Falconers must immediately release any bird captured unintentionally.
- f. Falconers may recapture a lost falconry bird for which he/she has submitted a Form 3-186A at any time the recapture will not count as taking a bird from the wild.
- g. Falconers may recapture a raptor wearing falconry equipment or a captive-bred raptor at any time--even if that falconer is not allowed to possess that species of raptor. The bird will not count against the falconer's possession limit nor their capture from the wild limit. The falconer must report the recapture of the bird to the Commission's Falconry Coordinator no more than five working days after the recapture and return the recaptured falconry bird to the person who lost it if that person legally possessed it. Disposition of a bird whose legal possession cannot be determined will be at the discretion of the Commission's Falconry Coordinator.
- h. Peregrine falcons banded with a Federal Bird Banding laboratory band may

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not be taken from the
wild, however other
raptors banded with a
federal bird banding
lab may be taken if
the falconer is
authorized to take
that species.

- i. If a falconer captures a peregrine falcon that has a colored alphanumeric research band on it or a research marking attached to it, it must be immediately released.
- j. Passage peregrine falcons may be taken from September 20 through October 20 by an Arkansas resident falconer or non-resident falconer with a non-resident hunting license who has been issued an Arkansas Passage Peregrine Falcon Permit by the Commission in accordance with requirements stated on that permit.
- k. If a falconer captures a raptor that has a transmitter attached to it, the falconer has up to 30 days to contact the researcher to determine if he/she wishes to replace the transmitter or its batteries. If the researcher wishes to do so or to have the transmitter removed, the researcher or his/her designee can make the change or allow the falconer to do so before the falconer releases the falcon.
- l. If a falconer captures a raptor wearing a

- As of June 30, 2022, seamless metal band, a transmitter, or any other item identifying it as a falconry bird, the falconer must report the capture of the bird to the Commission's falconry Coordinator no more than five working days after the capture. The falconer must return the bird to the person who lost it, however, if that person cannot possess the bird or does not want to possess it, the falconer may keep it. Disposition of a bird who's legal possession cannot be determined will be at the discretion of the Commission's Falconry Coordinator. During the time period when a falconer keeps a bird for return to the person who lost it, the bird will not count toward the falconer's possession limit or his/her limit on take of birds from the wild, as long as the falconer reports the bird to the Commission in 5 working days of capture.
- m. If a falconer captures a raptor with a band other than the Federal Bird Banding Lab aluminum band, research marking or transmitter attached to it, the falconer must report the band numbers and all other relevant information to the Federal Bird Banding Laboratory in five working days.

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If the bird is wearing
a transmitter, the
falconer may contact
the researcher to
determine if he/she
wishes to replace it.
The falconer is
authorized to possess
the bird for up to 30
days until the
researcher or his/her
designee does so, or
until the falconer
replaces it himself.
Disposition of the
bird will be at the
discretion of the
Commission's
Falconry Coordinator.
Temporary
possession will not
count against the
falconer's possession
limit.

- n. General and/or
Master Class
falconers may remove
nestlings from a nest
or aerie in
accordance with the
following:
1. Take of a
raptor from
the wild
must be
reported in
five days
from the
date at
which take
occurred by
entering the
required
information
in the
electronic
database at
[https://
epermits.fws.gov/
falcp/](https://epermits.fws.gov/falcp/).
 2. A falconer
present at
the capture
site, even if
another
person
captures the

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bird for him/
her, is
considered
the person
who removes
the bird from
the wild and
is
responsible
for filing a
Form
3-186A.

3. If the
falconer is
not at the
immediate
location
where the
bird is taken
from the
wild, the
person who
removes the
bird from the
wild must be
a General or
Master
falconer and
must report
taking of the
bird. If that
person then
transfers the
bird to the
falconer,
both must
file a Form
3-186A reporting
the
transaction
no later than
five days
after the
transfer. The
bird will
count as one
of the two
raptors the
person who
took it from
the wild is
allowed to
capture in
any year.
The bird will
not count as
a bird the

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falconer took
from the
wild. The
person who
takes the
bird from the
wild must
report the
take even if
he or she
promptly
transfer the
bird to
another
falconer.

4. If a falconer has a long-term or permanent physical impairment that prevents him/her from attending the capture of a species for falconry, a general or Master Falconer may capture the bird for the impaired falconer. The impaired falconer must file a Form 3-186A reporting take of a wild bird and the bird counts against the impaired falconer's total take of wild raptors for the year.

- o. Goshawks, Harris hawks, peregrine falcons, and gyrfalcons captured from the wild or acquired from a rehabilitator must be

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banded with a
permanent non-
reusable numbered
U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Service leg band
provided to AGFC by
the U.S. Fish and
Wildlife; or implanted
with an ISO-
compliant microchip.
Band numbers and or
microchip
information must be
reported to both
AGFC's Falconry
Coordinator and the
U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Service when the
acquisition of the bird
is reported by the
falconer no later than
10 days after
acquisition.

1. **EXCEPTION:**

If a falconer
document
that a
raptor's
health or
injury
problems are
caused by
the band,
that
documentation
must be
submitted to
the
Commission's
Falconry
Coordinator
who will
issue an
exemption to
the
requirements
for that
raptor. The
falconer
must keep a
copy of the
exemption
paperwork
on his
person when
transporting
or flying that

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raptor. If
that bird is
wild caught
goshawk,
Harris's
hawk,
peregrine
falcon, or
gyrfalcon,
the band
must be
replaced
with an ISO-
compliant
microchip
provided to
the falconer
through the
Commission
by the U.S.
Fish and
Wildlife
Service.

- p. A raptor captured from the wild may not be banded with a seamless numbered band.
- q. Falconry bands may not be altered, defaced or counterfeited; however removal of the rear tab on a band on a raptor taken from the wild, and smoothing the surface without affecting the integrity of the band or the numbering on it is permissible.
- r. Take of eyas (nestling raptors incapable of flight) birds is allowed between January 1 and August 1 of each year.
- s. Take of passage (raptors fledged from the nest but less than 1 year of age) is allowed from June 15 through March 1.
- t. Take of raptors from the wild must be reported in 5 days

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from the date at
which take occurred
by entering the
required information
in the electronic
database at [https://
epermits.fws.gov/
falcp/](https://epermits.fws.gov/falcp/).

- viii. Permit Requirements: It shall be unlawful for holders of Falconry Permits to fail to comply with the following requirements regarding possession of raptors bred in captivity:
 - a. Falconry raptors bred in captivity must be banded with a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service seamless band or be micro-chipped.
 - b. If the seamless band is removed or lost, the falconer must report it and request a replacement band from AGFC no less than 10 days after the band is removed or lost.
 - c. The required information must be reported electronically (<https://epermits.fws.gov/falcp/>) immediately upon rebanding.
- ix. Permit Requirements: It is unlawful for holders of Falconry Permits to fail to comply with the following requirements regarding possession of raptors transferred from migratory bird rehabilitators.
 - a. Falconers may acquire a bird for falconry from a federally permitted migratory bird rehabilitator if the falconer is permitted to possess that species of bird for falconry. Acquisition of a bird from a

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rehabilitator will
count as one of the
raptors the falconer
is permitted to take
from the wild.

Transfer to the
falconer is at the
discretion of the
permitted
rehabilitator.

Falconer must report
acquisition of the bird
using the required
reporting procedures.

- x. Permit Requirements: It is unlawful for holders of Falconry Permits to fail to comply with the following requirements regarding record keeping:

- a. Falconers must keep copies of all database submissions, including electronic and paper submissions, documenting take, transfer, loss, release, rebanding and/or microchipping of each falconry raptor until five years after the falconer has transferred or lost the bird, or the bird dies.

- b. All raptors acquired and disposed of must be reported in 5 days of the date when transaction or transition occurred by entering the required information in the electronic database at <https://epermits.fws.gov/falcp/>.

- xi. Permit Requirements: It is unlawful for holders of Falconry Permits to fail to comply with the following requirements regarding the theft of a falconry bird:

- a. If a raptor possessed under a falconry permit is stolen, the

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falconer must report
the theft to the
Commission's
Falconry Coordinator
and to the U.S. Fish
and Wildlife Service
Regional Law
Enforcement office in
5 working days of the
theft of the bird.

- xii. Permit Requirements: It is unlawful for holders of Falconry Permits to fail to comply with the following requirements regarding selling or trading raptors held under a Falconry Permit:
 - a. Falconers may sell, purchase, barter, trade, and/or offer for sale, or purchase captive-bred raptors marked with seamless metal bands to other falconry permittees who are authorized to possess them.
 - b. Falconers may not purchase, sell, trade or barter wild raptors; they can only transfer them to another falconer or to a recipient who possesses the necessary federal and state permits for that activity.
 - c. Wild-caught falconry raptors may be transferred to a raptor propagation permit only after the bird has been used in falconry for at least two years or for one year for sharp-shinned hawks, Cooper's hawks, merlins, and American kestrels.
 - d. Wild caught raptors that are less than two years of age or for one year for sharp-shinned hawks,

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Cooper's hawks,
merlins, and
American kestrels,
may be transferred to
another permit type if
the bird has been
injured and a
veterinarian or
permitted migratory
bird rehabilitator has
determined that the
raptor can no longer
be flown for falconry.
Falconer must
provide a copy of the
Form 3-186A
documenting the
acquisition of the bird
by the propagators to
the Federal Migratory
Bird Permit office
that administers the
other permit type.

- e. Falconers may transfer captive-bred falconry raptors to another type of permit if the holder of the other permit type is authorized to possess the bird. Falconers must report the transfer on a Form 3-186A within 5 days of the transfer.
- f. A surviving spouse, executor, administrator or other legal representatives of a deceased falconry permittee may transfer any bird held by the permittee to another authorized permittee in 90 days of the falconer's death. After 90 days, the disposition of a bird held under the permit is at the discretion of the Commission's Falconry Coordinator.
- g. Falconers may use raptors held under a falconry permit in

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raptor propagation if
the falconer or the
person overseeing
the propagation has
the necessary permits
if the following
requirements are
met:

1. If the bird
will be used
for
propagation
for fewer
than 8
months a
year, the
falconer
does not
need to
transfer the
raptor from
his permit.
 2. If the raptor
is used for
propagation
for more
than 8
months per
year, the
bird must be
transferred
to a federal
propagation
permit and
banded as
required by
federal
raptor
propagation
regulations.
- xiii. Permit Requirements: It is
unlawful for holders of
Falconry Permits to fail to
comply with the following
requirements regarding take
of prey by Falconry Raptors:
- a. Falconers may take
wildlife only within
the specific seasons
and bag limits, except
that squirrels and
rabbits may be taken
outside of the
specified hunting
season by falconry
birds with a daily
limit of 1 game

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mammal per raptor
per day.

- b. If a falconry bird kills a prey animal that was not the falconer's intended prey, and if that kill was outside of the animal's legal open hunting season, the falconers may allow their falconry raptor to feed on the incidental kill but the falconer may not take the animal into possession.
- c. Falconers must ensure that their activities do not cause the take of a federal listed threatened or endangered species. "Take" under the federal Endangered Species Act means "to harass, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect or attempt to engage in any such conduct. "Harass" in this Act means any act that may injure wildlife by disrupting normal behavior including breeding, feeding or sheltering. "Harm" in this Act means an act that actually kills or injure wildlife. Falconers must report the location of the take of any federally listed threatened or endangered species to the state's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Ecological Services field office.
- d. Falconry take of bird species for which a federal depredation order is in place is permitted. Falconers may use their

As of June 30, 2022
falconry raptors to
take any species
listed in 50 CFR 21,
50 CFR 23, 50 CFR
44, or 50 CFR 45 at
any time in
accordance with the
conditions of the
depredation order,
however, the falconer
may not be paid for
doing so.

xiv. Permit Requirements: It is
unlawful for falconers to fail to
comply with the following
requirements regarding
acquisition, transfer, and
release or rebanding of a
raptor:

a. If a falconer acquires,
transfers, rebands or
microchips a raptor,
or if a raptor in a
falconer's possession
is stolen, or if the
raptor is lost to the
wild and not
recovered within 30
days, or if a
falconer's raptor
possessed for
falconry dies, the
falconer must report
the change within 10
days by entering the
required information
in the electronic
database at [https://
epermits.fws.gov/
falcp/](https://epermits.fws.gov/falcp/).

xv. Permit Requirements: It is
unlawful for holders of
Falconry Permits to fail to
comply with the following
requirements regarding
release of falconry birds into
the wild and falconry training
techniques:

a. The use of acceptable
falconry training or
conditioning
practices includes but
is not limited to,
tame-hacking, the use
of creance flying,
lures, balloons or
kites, flying falconry

As of June 30, 2022
birds at pen-raised
birds or birds not
covered by the
Migratory Treaty Act.

b. Hacking of Falconry
Raptors: General and
Master Class
falconers may
condition raptors for
falconry with the
following
requirements:

1. The raptor
the falconer
hacks must
be a species
the falconer
is allowed to
possess and
counts
against the
falconer's
possession
limit.
2. A hybrid
raptor may
be hacked if
the raptor
wearing two
functioning
radio
transmitters.
3. Hacking a
raptor may
not occur
near a
nesting area
of a federally
threatened
or
endangered
bird species
or in any
location
where the
raptor is
likely to
harm a
federally
listed
threatened
or
endangered
species that
might be
disturbed or
taken by the

As of June 30, 2022
hacked
falconry
bird.

- c. Falconers may only release back to the wild in Arkansas, wild caught raptors native to the state. Non-native raptor species, hybrid raptor species, and raptors bred in captivity may not be released back to the wild in Arkansas. Wild-caught raptors must be released at an appropriate time of year and an appropriate location and any and all bands and falconry equipment must be removed from the raptor prior to its release.
 - d. When flown free, hybrid falcons must have at least two functioning radio transmitters attached to it to assist the falconer in locating the bird.
- xvi. Permit Requirements: It is unlawful for holders of Falconry Permits to fail to comply with the following requirements regarding migratory bird feather and carcass possession:
- a. A falconer may possess flight feathers for each species of raptor he/she currently and previously held on his/her permit for imping purposes.
 - b. Falconers may give and/or receive feathers for imping from other permitted falconers, federally permitted wildlife rehabilitators, or federally permitted

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raptor propagators in
the United States.

- c. Flight feathers for
imping may not be
purchased, sold, or
bartered.
- d. Falconers may donate
feathers, except
golden eagle
feathers, to any
person or institution
with a permit to
possess them or to
anyone exempt from
permit requirements
under [50 CFR 21.12](#).
- e. If a falconer's permit
expires or is revoked,
the falconer must
burn, bury or
otherwise destroy
imping feathers in
their possession or
donate the feathers
to any person or
institution with a
permit to possess
them or to anyone
exempt from permit
requirements under
[50 CFR 21.12](#).
- f. Master Falconers in
possession of a
golden eagle must
gather primary and
secondary flight
feathers and retrices
from molted by their
golden eagle(s) and
store them for imping
or send them to the
National Eagle
Repository.
- g. Carcasses of falconry
birds that die while in
the falconer's
possession may be
burned, buried or
otherwise destroyed
and disposed of in 10
days of death or 10
days of necropsy by a
veterinarian, or
donated to any
person or institution
with a permit to
possess them or

As of June 30, 2022
donated to anyone
exempt from permit
requirements under
[50 CFR 21.12](#)

- h. Carcasses of euthanized raptors must be disposed of in a manner that will prevent scavenger from feeding on them. Flight feathers may be retained for imping purposes.

- i. **EXCEPTIONS:**

- a. Carcasses of golden eagles must be sent to the National Eagle Repository.
- b. Banded or microchipped falconry birds that die while in the falconer's possession maybe kept by the falconer so that the feathers are available for imping or the falconer may have the body mounted by a taxidermist and the mount used in educational programs. Bands must remain on the body and microchips must be left in place.

- xvii. Permit Requirements: It is unlawful for holders of Falconry Permits to fail to comply with the following requirements regarding

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raptors injured due to a
falconer's trapping:

a. If a raptor is injured
during trapping, a
falconer must either:

1. Put the
injured bird
on his/her
falconry
permit and
follow
procedures
outlined for
reporting
take of a
bird from the
wild
falconry. The
bird will
count
towards the
falconer's
possession
limit. The
falconer
must have
the injured
bird treated
by a
veterinarian
or a
permitted
migratory
bird
rehabilitator,
and the
falconer is
responsible
for the costs
of care and
rehabilitation
of the bird;
or
2. Give the bird
directly
(within 24
hours) to a
veterinarian
or permitted
migratory
bird
rehabilitator.
The bird will
not count
against the
falconer's
take or

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possession
limits;
however, the
falconer is
responsible
for the costs
of care and
rehabilitation
of the bird.

- xviii. Permit Requirements: It is unlawful for holders of Falconry Permits to fail to comply with the following requirements regarding assistance in the rehabilitation of raptors to prepare them for release according to the following requirements:
- a. A General or Master Class falconer may assist a federally permitted migratory bird rehabilitator to condition a raptor in preparation for its release to the wild only if the falconer has a letter or form from the rehabilitator identifying the bird and explaining that the falconer is assisting in its rehabilitation.
 - b. The falconer does not have to meet the rehabilitator facility guidelines and may keep the rehabilitating raptor in his/her approved falconry facilities.
 - c. The rehabilitating raptor will remain on the rehabilitator's permit and will not be added to the falconer's permit.
 - d. The falconer must return any such bird that cannot be permanently released to the rehabilitator for placement in the 180-day timeframe in which the rehabilitator is

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federally authorized
to possess this bird
unless the issuing
office authorized the
rehabilitator to retain
the bird longer than
180 days.

- e. The falconer must coordinate with the rehabilitator and release all releasable raptors to the wild or return them to the rehabilitator for release in the 180 day timeframe in which the rehabilitator is federally authorized to possess this bird, unless the issuing office authorized the rehabilitator to retain the bird longer than 180 days, or unless the rehabilitator transfer the bird to the falconer you to hold under his/her falconry permit.

xix. Permit Requirements: It is unlawful for holders of Falconry Permits to fail to comply with the following requirements regarding use of falconry raptors in abatement and education activities:

- a. Falconers may use raptors possessed on their falconry permits in conservation education program presented in public venues follow without first obtaining a federal Education Permit if they abide by the following requirements:

- 1. Raptors used in the program must be on their falconry permit and used

As of June 30, 2022

primarily for
falconry.

2. Apprentice
falconers
presenting
educational
programs
must be
under direct
supervision
of a General
or Master
Class
falconer.
3. If a fee is
charged for
presentation
of a
conservation
education
program, the
fee may not
exceed the
amount
required to
recoup the
falconer's
cost of
presenting
the program.
4. The
presentation
is required
to address
falconry and
conservation
education
and may also
include
information
about the
biology,
ecological
roles, and
conservation
needs of
raptors and
other
migratory
birds.
5. The falconer
is
responsible
for all
liability
associated
with his/her

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conservation
education
activities.

6. Falconers
may allow
photography,
filming or
other such
uses of his/
her falconry
raptors to
make movies
or other
sources of
information
on the
practice of
falconry or
on the
biology,
ecological
roles, and
conservation
needs of
raptors and/
or migratory
birds
however the
falconer may
not be paid
for doing so.

7. Falconers
may not use
their
falconry
raptors in
movies,
commercials
or other
commercial
ventures
that are not
related to
falconry.

b. A Master Class
falconer may conduct
abatement activities
with his/her falconry
birds if the falconer
has first obtained a
federal Special
Purpose Abatement
permit from the U.S.
Fish and Wildlife
Service.

c. A General Class
falconer may conduct

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abatement activities
only as a sub
permittees of the
holder of the federal
Abatement permit
and both Master and
General Class
falconers must follow
the conditions of the
said permit.

- xx. Permit Requirements: It is unlawful for falconers holding a permit issued by another state to fail to comply with the following requirements regarding Non-resident falconers hunting and taking raptors in Arkansas:
 - a. Non-resident falconers with a Non-Resident Small Game Hunting License may take game in Arkansas according to state and federal regulations.
 - b. Non-resident falconers with a non-resident Arkansas Small Game Hunting License may take 1 legal raptor per year in Arkansas provided the state of their residence reciprocates such approval for Arkansas falconers and the taking of a legal raptor by a non-resident must comply with Arkansas regulations.
- xxi. Permit Requirements: It is unlawful for holders of Falconry Permits to fail to comply with the following requirements regarding taking falconry raptors to another country for use in falconry activities:
 - a. An Arkansas falconry permit authorizes the falconer to export and import to another country, without additional migratory

As of June 30, 2022
bird import/export
permits, the raptors
the falconer legally
possesses for
falconry. The falconer
must meet any
federal requirements
in 50 CFR 14 Part B
and may need
additional permits
listed in 50 CFR 15,
50 CFR 17, 50 CFR
21, and 50 CFR 23.

- b. Unless the falconer
has the necessary
permits to export
raptors from the U.S.
the falconer must
bring any raptor
taken out of the
country for falconry
back to the U.S. upon
his/her return. Each
raptor must be
covered by a CITES
certificate of
ownership and the
falconer must have
full documentation of
the lawful origin of
each raptor and each
raptor must be
identifiable with a
permanent non-
reusable U.S. Fish
and Wildlife Service
leg band, seamless
leg band or implanted
microchip for
identification.
- c. If the raptor dies or is
lost, the falconer is
not required to bring
it back but it must be
reported immediately
upon the falconers
return to the U.S.
according to state
and federal CITES
regulations.

xxii. Permit Requirements: It is
unlawful for holders of
Falconry Permits to fail to
comply with the following
requirements regarding

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facility inspection and permit
revocation.

- a. Any person issued a Falconry Permit under this Code chapter shall allow entry, at any reasonable hour, to employees or agents of the Commission upon the premises where the permitted activity is conducted. Commission employees or agents may enter such premises to inspect the facility, any and all records associated with the activities relating to the permit, and any birds kept under the authority of the permit.
- b. Permits may be revoked by this Agency for failure to comply with the terms of the permit or with the terms of this Commission Code Section.
- c. Persons in violation of the terms of this permit, violation of the Commission Code, or upon conviction of associated regulations of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, shall be notified in writing of such violations and shall have 20 days to respond with just cause as to why their permit should not be suspended or revoked.
- d. If, at the end of the 20-day period, just cause has not been given, this Agency may suspend or revoke any existing

As of June 30, 2022
permit held by the
violation and may
refuse to issue any
future permit. Such
suspension,
revocation or refusal
to issue a future
permit shall be in
addition to any
criminal charges that
may be filed.

- e. Upon revocation, the
permit holder must
legally transfer or
release all falconry
raptors in the time
designated in the
revocation, not to
exceed 60 days, and
failure to do so shall
result in the
Commission taking
action, per
Commission policy, at
the permit holder's
expense.