

# Notice of Intent

## Falconry Regulations



# Falconry

**Falconry is hunting with a trained bird of prey such as a hawk.**

Falconry is jointly regulated by LDWF and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Currently falconers receive a state/federal falconry permit and must also have a valid Louisiana Game Breeder's License.

There are about 62 licensed falconers in Louisiana

As of January 1, 2014 the USFWS will no longer issue falconry permits. States that desire to retain falconry must adopt regulations approved by the USFWS.

This NOI replaces the existing falconry rule with an expanded rule that maintains many of the same provisions and add components of the federal rules.

# Falconry Rules

Rules cover permit requirements, raptor housing, establish seasons for capture of wild raptors, reporting requirements, transfer of raptors and species of raptors that may be used.

# Summary of NOI

3 Classes of falconers: Apprentice  
General  
Master

To become a falconer an applicant must pass a written exam and serve an apprenticeship with a General or Master falconer for 2 years.

Apprentice falconers may possess only 1 raptor

General falconers may possess up to 3 raptors (+1)

Master falconers may possess up to 5 raptors (+2)

Falconers may capture a wild raptor less than 1 year old from [September 1](#) – February 28 and General or Master falconers can take a young bird from a nest year-round.

A Louisiana Game Breeder License will serve as the falconry permit

# Summary of Changes

Currently apprentice falconers are limited to an American kestrel, red-tailed hawk or red-shouldered hawk. Apprentice falconers will be able to possess more species of raptors.

Falconers will only be required to have a Louisiana Game Breeder License. The state/federal permit will no longer be required.

Reporting will be done on-line via link from the department's website. Department personnel will maintain a falconry database with the USFWS.

Most other provisions already apply as a federal regulation.

# Summary of Changes cont.

Updates falconry exam

Adds definitions section that includes terms unique to falconry.

Adds rules for raptor propagators, moving, lapsed permits, new U.S. residents.

Expands coverage of care and transfer of raptors.

Expands coverage regarding banding, tagging and microchipping raptors.

Adds specific rules for eagles.

# Timeline

NOI presented / NOI final passage

Amend Game Breeder's License to include each falconry permit level

Add a falconry link to the LDWF website for reporting requirements

Prepare database of falconers for submission to USFWS; database to be maintained via login by LDWF personnel.

Submit new rule, updated test, database etc. to USFWS no later than September 1, 2013 for final approval.

New falconry rules go into effect January 1, 2014.

# Questions

