

Fact Sheet

Qualifying Examination for a Louisiana Falconry License

Purpose

The examination is designed to determine the applicant's basic knowledge of raptor identification, natural history, captive care, diseases and health problems, falconry facilities, equipment, terminology and techniques, trapping methods, and applicable state and federal laws and regulations. Identification and natural history may cover all birds of prey native to the United States, including some that do not reside in Louisiana.

Legal Requirements

The following applicants are required by Louisiana and federal law to pass the Louisiana falconry examination prior to obtaining a Louisiana falconry permit:

- an applicant to be an apprentice falconer,
- a falconer whose permit has lapsed for 5 years or longer
- a new resident to the U.S. who practiced falconry in another country
- a visitor to the U.S. applying for a temporary falconry permit

The above applicants desiring to obtain a Louisiana falconry permit are required to answer correctly at least 80 percent of 100 questions on a supervised examination. The examination is provided by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and has been approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Once an applicant has passed the examination, no future examination is required by Louisiana or Federal regulation for permit renewal or for changes in permit class. However, a falconer whose license has lapsed for 5 years or longer must pass the falconry exam again before his or her license will be reinstated. Those applicants that have not passed the exam with an 80 percent or higher may retake the exam no sooner than two weeks after the first examination.

Administering Agency

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries personnel or their designated agents.

Content

The examination consists of 100 multiple-choice and true-false questions. The questions are distributed into eight categories. Many of the questions fall into more than one category. For example, a definition of "eyass" would need to be known to answer a question concerning the handling of eyasses.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Number of Questions</u>
<u>Care of Raptors Held for Falconry</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>Diseases and Health Problems of Raptors</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>Trapping and Harvest Methods</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Facilities Requirements & Equipment</u>	<u>16</u>

Content continued...

<u>Training Methods</u>	10
<u>Hunting Methods and Falconry Techniques</u>	14
<u>Raptor Biology and Identification</u>	14
<u>Federal and Louisiana Laws and Regulations</u>	16

Persons intending to take the examination should review falconry books, the raptor literature, raptor field guides, and applicable federal and state regulations. The questions emphasize the practical aspects and obligations of being a falconer. Knowledge of scientific names and obscure publications is not required.

Failure to Pass

Any applicant who fails to pass an examination may take another examination no earlier than two weeks from the date of the prior examination.

Recommended References

Falconry

Beebe, F. L. and H. M. Webster. 1994. North American Falconry and Hunting Hawks, seventh edition. North American Falconry & Hunting Hawks, Denver, CO. (and other editions)

Brewer, G. 1995. Buteos and bushy tails. GLB Publishing, TX.

Coulson, T. D. and J. O. Coulson. 2012. The Harris's Hawk Revolution. Parabuteo Publishing, Pearl River, LA.

Fox, N. 1995. Understanding the bird of prey. Hancock House Publishers, Blaine, WA.

Kimsey, B. A. and J. Hodge. 1992. Falconry equipment: A guide to making and using falconry gear. Kimsey/Hodge Publications, Houston, TX.

McElroy, H. 2008. Desert Hawking IV: Quail. Privately published.

McElroy, H. 1996. Desert Hawking with a Little Help from My Friends. Privately published.

McGranaghan, L. 2007. The Red-tailed Hawk: A complete guide to training and hunting North America's most versatile hawk. Privately published.

Mitchell, E. B. 1984. The art and practice of hawking. The Holland Press, London.

Mullenix, M. 2002. American Kestrels in modern falconry. Western Sporting Publications, Ranchester, WY.

Woodruff, B. 2008. Trapping essentials: An illustrated guide to trapping raptors. Western Sporting Publications, Ranchester, WY.

Identification & Natural History

Bent, A. C. 1961. Life histories of North American birds of prey. Part one. Dover Publications, New York, NY.

Bent, A. C. 1961. Life histories of North American birds of prey. Part two. Dover Publications, New York, NY.

Clark, W. S. and B. K. Wheeler. 2001. Peterson Field Guides: Hawks of North America. Second Edition.

Johnsgard, P. A. 1990. Hawks, eagles, & falcons of North America. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C.

Wheeler, B. K. and W. S. Clark. 2003. A photographic guide to North American raptors. Princeton University Press, NJ.

Note: Some of these books are out of print and difficult to find while others are readily available. The two books on the natural history of birds of prey by Arthur Cleveland Bent, originally published in 1937 and 1938, contain outdated common names for some of the birds of prey. For example, the Peregrine Falcon is referred to as the “Duck Hawk” and merlins as “Pigeon Hawks.”

Suppliers of Books on Falconry and Raptors

Western Sporting <http://www.westernsporting.com/>

Parabuteo Publishing <http://www.harrishawkrevolution.com/>

Desert Hawking <http://www.deserthawking.com/>

Northwoods Falconry <https://www.northwoodsfalconry.com/>

Mike’s Falconry Supplies <http://www.mikesfalconry.com/>