



Instructions for Completing the Application Form for a Falconry Permit Connecticut Resident or Non-Resident

Use these instructions to complete the application form for a falconry permit (DEP-FALCON-APP-001). These instructions are not a substitute for the requirements of any relevant statutes or regulations. You should review all applicable laws prior to completing the registration form. Remember, it is your responsibility to comply with all applicable laws.

Introduction

Falconry is regulated by the federal government through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and by the State of Connecticut through the Wildlife Division of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) pursuant to Section 26-67e-1 through 26-67e-18 inclusive of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA). A state falconry permit and a federal falconry permit must be issued before a falconry bird is obtained.

The *Application Form for a Falconry Permit* (DEP-FALCON-APP-001) allows Connecticut residents and non-residents to apply for a falconry permit in Connecticut.

You must possess a resident or non-resident Connecticut Firearms Hunting License in order to apply for a falconry permit. A Connecticut hunting license may be purchased from town clerks and their agents. Individuals who have not previously obtained a hunting license will first need to complete a Conservation Education/Firearms Course. These classes are free to the public. A schedule of available courses may be found at:

<http://www.dep.state.ct.us/burnatr/wildlife/geninfo/cefs.asp>

For more information concerning hunting licenses, please refer to

<http://www.dep.state.ct.us/burnatr/wildlife/fguide/fg05/license.htm>

Non-Residents

If you are a non-resident applicant, you must currently hold a falconry permit in another state to apply for a falconry permit in Connecticut.

Residents

Before submitting an application to obtain a state permit, an applicant must take the written examination administered by the DEP. A score of 80 percent or higher is required to pass. To make arrangements to take the falconry examination or for any questions that you may have regarding falconry permits or application materials, please contact Laurie Fortin of the DEP Wildlife Division at 860-424-3963 or via e-mail at laurie.fortin@ct.gov

How To Apply

Your application must include the following:

- An original *Application Form for a Falconry Permit* (DEP-FALCON-APP-001) and all applicable supporting documentation;
- The application fee, paid by check or money order, made payable to the "Department of Environmental Protection".

You must submit the above materials together as a package to:

LAURIE FORTIN
WILDLIFE DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION
79 ELM STREET
HARTFORD, CT 06106-5127

When submitting your application, be sure to label your supporting documents as directed on the application form and always include, on each document, the applicant's name. Please retain a copy of all documents for your files.

Part I: Application Type

Check the appropriate box to specify if the application is for a *new* permit, a *renewal* of an existing permit, or a *modification* of an existing permit.

If you are a new applicant and you currently hold a falconry permit in another state, please identify the name of the state where the current permit is held, the state permit number, the federal permit number and the expiration date of each in the appropriate space.

Please supply a copy of your current state and federal falconry permits as Attachment A1.

If you are renewing an existing Connecticut (CT) falconry permit, please identify the CT permit expiration date, the out of state permit number (if you are a non-resident), the federal permit number and the expiration date of the out of state and federal permits in the appropriate space. An application for renewal of an existing falconry permit must be submitted to the DEP at least thirty days *before* the expiration date of the existing permit.

Part II: Fee Information

Check the applicable boxes identifying whether you are a resident or a non-resident of Connecticut and the corresponding fee.

Residents

If you are applying for a new permit as a Connecticut resident, the non-refundable fee is \$220.00 for a three year permit.

If you are renewing an existing permit as a Connecticut resident, the non-refundable fee is \$190.00 for a three year permit.

Non-residents

The fee for a Connecticut non-resident falconry permit shall be the same as for a Connecticut resident permit for a resident of a state which allows the same privilege to residents of this state. If no such privilege exists, the fee for a non-resident permit shall be \$28.00 annually for a new permit or the renewal of an existing permit. Also, identify the non-resident permit fee in the state in which your falconry permit is held in the space provided.

The application will not be processed without the fee. The payment should be in the form of a check or money order made payable to "Department of Environmental Protection".

Part III: Falconry Permit Class

Check the appropriate box identifying the class of falconry permit you are applying for. If you are a non-resident, check the non-resident box only. The classes of permits for Connecticut residents are described below.

Classes of Permits

Apprentice Class Falconry Permit

An apprentice class falconry permit may be issued to a resident who is at least 14 years old; has written approval of a parent or guardian if less than 18 years of age; and has an eligible sponsor. No previous experience is required. If you are under 18 years of age, your parent or guardian must sign the application in the area designated for a parent or guardian. A sponsorship form must be attached to the application. An apprentice class falconer is required to maintain a written log describing the instruction provided by their sponsor. An apprentice class falconer may only possess a

single Red-tailed Hawk that has been trapped in the wild in another state.

General Class Falconry Permit

A general class falconry permit may be issued to a resident who is at least 18 years old; submits proof of a minimum of two years experience in the practice of falconry at the apprentice class level, and has practiced falconry with their own raptor during at least two hunting seasons; and, submits written certification from the applicant's sponsor verifying that the applicant satisfies the experience requirement. A General Class Falconer may possess up to two raptors either captive-bred or species trapped from the wild in another state.

Master Class Falconry Permit

A master class falconry permit may be issued to a resident who submits proof of having at least five years experience in the practice of falconry at the general class level; and, submits written recommendations from three master falconers stating that the applicant meets the qualifications of a master class falconer. A Master Class Falconer may possess up to three raptors, either captive-bred or species trapped from the wild in another state.

Examinations

All Connecticut residents applying for an apprentice class, general class or master class permit must successfully complete a written examination prior to submitting an application for a falconry class permit.

Field examinations

Field examinations must be completed for all general class or master class applicants. Field exams for such applicants will be scheduled upon receipt and approval of an application for a resident falconry permit.

Part IV: Applicant Information

1. *Applicant:*

Complete the information requested on the form for the applicant. For the applicant's name, provide the full legal name (include title and suffix) in the following format: Title (Ms, Dr, etc.); First Name; Middle Initial; Last Name; Suffix (Jr, PE, PhD, etc.)

2. *For Residents Only:*

Check the appropriate box identifying which written examination has been taken and passed and the date the examination was passed.

3. *For Residents and Non-residents:*

Provide the Connecticut Firearms Hunting License Number and the date the license was issued. Please supply a copy of your current Connecticut Firearms Hunting License as Attachment A2.

Part V: For General Class Applicants Only

This part is to be completed by the applicant's sponsor when the applicant is applying for a General Class Falconry Permit. The applicant's sponsor must certify that the applicant satisfies the minimum two year experience requirement at the apprentice class level in the practice of falconry.

Part VI: Supporting Documents

Check the appropriate box by each attachment being submitted as verification that all applicable attachments have been submitted. Please label all attachments as referenced in the application form and these instructions and be sure to include the name of the applicant on all documents.

Attachment A1

For Residents and Non-residents

If you are a new applicant and currently hold a falconry permit in another state, submit, as Attachment A1, a copy of your current state and federal falconry permit.

Attachment A2

For Residents and Non-residents

Please supply a copy of your current Connecticut Firearms Hunting License as Attachment A2.

Attachment B

Residents Only

Submit, as Attachment B, a completed *Raptor Facilities and Equipment Certification Form* (DEP-FALCON-APP-001B). An on-site inspection of the raptor housing facility and equipment will be scheduled upon receipt of a complete application by a new applicant.

Attachment C

Residents Only

Submit, as Attachment C, a completed *Zoning Approval Form* (DEP-FALCON-APP-001C) or a verification letter, which includes written documentation from the zoning enforcement officer of the municipality in which the raptor housing facility is located that verifies the possession of a raptor and construction of a raptor housing facility, or use of an existing structure to house a raptor complies with all applicable local zoning requirements. A *Falconry Fact Sheet for Local Zoning Officials* is attached at the end of these instructions for further guidance.

Attachment D

Apprentice Class Applicants Only

Submit, as Attachment D, a completed *Sponsorship Form for an Apprentice Class Applicant* (DEP-FALCON-APP-001D). A sponsor must hold a valid master class falconry permit or a valid general class falconry permit with a minimum of three years experience as a general falconer and must reside within 400 miles of the applicant.

Attachment E

Master Class Applicants Only

Submit, as Attachment E, written recommendations from three master falconers stating that the applicant meets the qualifications of a master class falconer.

Part VII: Parent/Guardian Signature

This part must be completed by a parent or guardian if the applicant is under 18 years of age. The parent or guardian must sign the application in the area designated for parent or guardian certifying that they are the legal guardian of the applicant and that they give permission for the applicant to obtain a falconry permit and participate in the sport of falconry.

Part VIII: Applicant Certification

After completing the application, it must be reviewed and signed by the applicant. By their signature, they certify that, to the best of their knowledge and belief, the information contained in the application, including all attachments, is true, accurate and complete.

An application will be considered insufficient unless the required signature is provided.



FALCONRY FACT SHEET FOR LOCAL ZONING OFFICIALS

What is Falconry?

Falconry is the taking of wild quarry in its natural state and habitat by means of a trained raptor (bird of prey). This ancient art is a very demanding endeavor, requiring a serious dedication of time and energy from the falconer.

What requirements must someone fulfill to practice falconry in Connecticut?

Falconry Permit and Hunting License: Falconry is a highly regulated field sport in the United States. A comprehensive set of federal and state falconry regulations (Section 26-67e of the Connecticut General Statutes and by the provisions of Title 50 CFR and guidelines established by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service governing falconry) have been enacted for the protection of the wild and captive-bred raptors. To practice falconry in Connecticut, an individual must hold a federal license and a Connecticut falconry permit. In addition, a falconer must possess the appropriate hunting license for the game being hunted and observe the same hunting seasons and bag limits that apply to other hunters.

Knowledge: Prospective falconers must take an intensive written examination given by the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The test covers all falconry topics, including raptor biology, field identification, natural history, pathology (the prevention and treatment of hawk diseases), falconry history, terms, techniques, and knowledge of raptor protection and falconry laws and regulations. An 80 percent or higher score is required to pass.

Equipment and Facilities: Before a state permit is issued, a prospective falconer must acquire all of the necessary equipment and construct appropriate housing for their bird. State and federal falconry regulations require the availability of a “mews” (an enclosed interior room or building for general perching of a bird) as well as an enclosed “weathering area” where birds can be out in the elements. Both of these facilities (sometimes they are combined into one structure) must be inspected and approved by a DEP official before a state falconry permit can be issued. DEP officials can also inspect facilities at any time thereafter and non-compliance can result in loss of a falconry permit.

Falconer Sponsor: Apprentice class falconry permits are issued only to those working under the active, recorded sponsorship of an authorized General or Master Class falconer.

Does falconry pose a danger to the community?

No. A falconry bird must be kept in an enclosed structure and is only handled by the falconer. Hunting with the bird is done in appropriate areas on state or private land. Most falconers in Connecticut will start by housing one Red-tailed Hawk. These birds commonly weigh less than three pounds and hunt their natural prey of squirrels, rabbits, mice and rats. These birds are common throughout Connecticut and do not pose a threat to humans or pets.

How do falconers obtain birds for use in falconry?

State and federal regulations require that the Apprentice Class falconer trap a young Red-tailed Hawk from the wild in another state. As individuals advance into higher classes, they are allowed to obtain additional birds but at no time are they allowed to possess more than three birds in total.

Why must falconers contact their local Zoning Enforcement Officer for approval?

According to Connecticut falconry regulations, Section 26-67e-3(a)(4) of the Connecticut General Statutes, anyone applying for a falconry permit must ***submit to the DEP Commissioner written documentation from the zoning enforcement officer of the municipality in which the raptor housing facility is located which verifies that the possession of a raptor and construction of a raptor housing facility, or use of an existing structure to house a raptor complies with all applicable local zoning requirements.*** A completed *Zoning Approval Form* (DEP-FALCON-APP-001C) or a verification letter written by the local zoning enforcement officer, submitted with the *Application Form for a Falconry Permit* (DEP-FALCON-APP-001) will comply with this regulation.