Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Hampton Research Center
31 Halowell Lane
Humphrey, AR 72073
877 873 4651

Dear Prospective Falconer:

All raptors (birds of prey) are protected by state and federal law. This means that you cannot possess them without the appropriate permit from either the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. There is no permit which allows for the keeping of hawks or owls as pets; only for rehabilitation and release, and for falconry (the sport of taking quarry using a trained raptor). Falconry is regulated by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

To become a falconer, one must first be an "apprentice" sponsored by a general or master class falconer. To get an apprentice falconry permit, you must be at least 14 years of age, you must pass a state administered written examination with a minimum score of 80, and your facilities and equipment must pass inspection (the cost of constructing adequate facilities and making or purchasing the required equipment is about $1,000.00).

A copy of Arkansas' falconry regulations and a current list of the state's permitted falconers is enclosed. Also enclosed are a number of articles that should begin to familiarize you with the sport of falconry and its requirements and responsibilities. In order to pass the exam, a falconer usually must purchase and study several books on falconry and the life histories of the various hawk species. The enclosed information, while lengthy, is just an introduction. A good resource is the Arkansas Hawking Association website www.arkansashawkingassociation.org

Remember that you must have a sponsor who will serve as your mentor during your 2 year apprenticeship. To start the falconry permitting process, complete the application forms enclosed and have your sponsor sign it and send the form to me at the address at the top of the page. Once you are ready to take the exam please contact me and after you pass your test we can set a date for the inspection of your facilities.

While falconry can be a highly rewarding and exciting sport, the daily demands of falconry are high. It is not a hobby; it is a lifestyle which requires several hours or more of your time per day, year 'round.

Sincerely,

Karen Rowe, Bird Conservation Program Coordinator
Wildlife Management Division

Karen.Rowe@agfc.ar.gov

F A L C O N R Y F A C I L I T I E S A N D E Q U I P M E N T

GUIDELINES FOR MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

Technical Advisory Committee
North American Falconers' Assn.

FALCONRY FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

Guidelines For Minimum Requirements

GENERAL

In response to planned preparation by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners of a "Model Law", including provisions to regulate the sport of falconry, the North American Falconers' Association has proposed that such model law include the requirement for inspection of a prospective falconer's facilities and equipment as a prerequisite to his being granted a permit to practice the sport. To help insure that facilities and equipment meet minimum acceptable standard the North American Falconers' Association has prepared this brochure describing such standards as a guide for wildlife management agency personnel of those states/provinc where an inspection system is adopted. It is recommended that state/provincial agenc also provide a copy of these guidelines to each applicant for a falconry permit to in form him of the standards by which his facilities and equipment will be judged.

Wide variations, especially in housing, may be expected. This brochure can hardly include descriptions of all acceptable systems. What are presented, however, are standards covering the more important aspects to be inspected and illustrations of basic principles involved. These are especially important in the case of the beginner. Where the more practiced falconer chooses to make adaptations, such are based o experience, and so long as the basic principles are not violated, such adaptations certainly are acceptable even though not specifically included here. In short, a considerable amount of common sense is called for in making the recommended inspectio We trust these pages will provide a basis upon which to apply one's common sense.

NAFA gratefully acknowledges the generous permission of Professor E. W. Jameson, J to reproduce Figures 4 and 5 from The California Hawking Club's "A Beginners Manual o Falconry."

HOUSING

A trained hawk's housing requirements are simple. The primary need is shelter fro direct sun, wind, rain and snow. Dryness, fresh air and an absence of draft are also called for. These are conditions that a wild hawk seeks and the closer the falconer comes to providing the maximum levels of such, the more his hawks will benefit in health and comfort. The quarters in which the hawk is to be kept, whether indoors (m and/or out (weathering area), is an area which ideally is set aside exclusively for t bird(s).

1. Indoor Facilities (Mews):

The mews may be a separate building (Fig. 1) or a room within a building. Ordinar sunlight and ventilation requirements make windows on the south or east exposures mos desirable. The size of the mews varies with the species kept and the space available but a room about eight feet high and square is appropriate for a raptor up to the size of a red-tailed hawk. Here the hawk may be kept tethered to an appropriate perch or loose.

Tethering is very much a matter of individual preference. It is most definite preferable where more than one bird is kept and is normally mandatory where the sex ar

species of raptors kept in the same room are different. Accipiters (sharp-shinned, Cooper's and Goshawks) must never be placed free among other birds (including their own kind) as they may kill all others. Even when tied, the wise falconer provides separate mews or partitions his facilities for Accipiters so that in the event of their escape possible disaster is avoided. When in training, raptors are generally tethered.

The Interior of the mews should be severely plain with no beams or ledges to tempt the hawk to fly to a higher perching place (unless the bird is untethered in which case such beams/ledges become, in essence, additional perches). Anything that appears to offer a foothold above the hawk's rightful perch holds a hawk's attention In a well-ordered mews a hawk sits at ease when tethered because there is no other inviting perching place in it to sharpen that inherent desire, characteristic of the birds of prey, for a higher pinnacle from which to survey their surroundings.

Windows should be protected on the inside by vertical bars or dowling spaced smaller than the bird's width, whether or not birds are kept tethered in the mews. If screen or chicken-wire are desired for additional protection or safety, such shou be placed outside the vertical barring at sufficient distance to prevent a hawk free in the mews (intentionally or otherwise) from grasping the mesh and damaging its plumage. This, incidentally, is the reason that bars/dowels are placed vertically rather than horizontally. The mews should be capable of being darkened without inte fering with overall ventilation, if fresh wild-caught birds are to be placed in it.

Mews doors should be secured (by lock if necessary) and should, additionally, have some sort of hook or spring so that the falconer can keep the door safely closed while inside. Doors of any mews which open directly out-of-doors should be closed by an additional protective covering, inside or out, to prevent escape of a bird free in the mews (intentionally or otherwise) as the door is opened. Such protective coverin can be achieved by a hanging cloth or plastic sheet. If such is placed at an angle inside the mews, it provides the falconer with a small enclosed alcove into which he may step and close the outer door behind him before pushing aside the cover to enter the mews itself.

The floor of the mews should be constructed so as to facilitate cleaning. A layer of dirt or sand (or newspapers) is excellent as they absorb moisture. Such covering must be changed frequently for cleanliness. A covering of straw, hay, saw-dust, or similar material is not normally acceptable as they retain moisture and henc provide a medium favorable for the growth of pathogenic fungi and bacteria dangerous to the bird's health.

Although, as indicated, numerous variations in a captive raptor's housing may be appropriate under given circumstances, bird cages of the "pet-store-variety" or other such enclosures are totally unacceptable, as are any facilities which do not afford the bird proper space and/or protection.

2. Outdoor "Weathering" Facilities:

Most falconers prefer to place their charges out-of-doors for sunning, etc. (called "weathering"), weather permitting. The birds are placed on appropriate perch (see below) on some soft, resiliant surface. A thick heavy lawn can be excellent. This surface should be cleanable, or in the case of a lawn, the perch moved frequentl enough to prevent soiling the area beneath it. Soft sand, although appearing ideal, should be avoided; it is inclined to get between the bird's legs and the jesses (see below) cause abrasion of the skin. Perches must be emplaced so that birds are not

exposed to direct midsummer or mid-day sun without shade also being available. Any site where birds are to be weathered unattended must be protected to prevent the rapto from attack by dogs or cats and/or from undue disturbance by strangers/children. For this reason a weathering site normally should be protectively fenced. Without such fencing, NO bird should be weathered unless under the immediate and continuous supervision of the falconer. The size of the weathering site is dependent upon the length of the restraining leash. Each bird normally requires an area approximately eight-by-eight to ten-by-ten feet to prevent its body or wings from touching the enclosing fenc or other birds.

Captive raptors may be kept more or less permanently outdoors in an adequately protected weathering site. For this purpose an open-faced lean-to or an open-ended quonset or "A-frame" (such as shown in Fig. 2) is recommended, constructed of material or so painted for maximum light reflection to keep down the interior temperature. For a bird to be left out overnight using such a shelter, the weathering site most certainly should be provided with overhead protection (see next paragraph).

In many areas attacks by wild predators (mammals or birds) on falconers' birds are not as uncommon as might be supposed, even in relatively built-up suburban areas. This is especially true of attacks by wild owls on birds left out overnight. In areas where wild predators may constitute a problem, a totally enclosed weathering site, i.e., a site such as described above plus overhead protection in the form of wire or netting, becomes extremely desirable if not mandatory (see Fig. 3). This overhead wire or netting must be high enough (6-7 feet) so that the bird may not touch it when at the end of its leash and so that the falconer can comfortably enter and leave or work inside the enclosure. As in any weathering site, the bird should not be able to touch the peripheral fencing or any other raptor in the same enclosure. NOTE: A bird or birds are NOT placed free in such an enclosed weathering site, but rather are tethered by leashes on normal outdoor perches (see below).

EQUIPMENT

1. Mandatory Prior to Acquisition of a Raptor:

A. Glove: Some type of pliable leather glove is a necessity (one hand--usually the left--only). For smaller species of raptors a light leather gardening glove is sufficient; for larger species, an all-leather welder's glove is appropriate.

B. Leash: (Figs. 4 & 5). Varies in size and type depending on the species of raptor to be used. A thirty-inch leather bootlace is appropriate for a kestrel; a sixty-inch leather leash (¼ to ½ inch wide, 1/16 to 3/32 inch thick or a 3/16 inch nylon cord with the ends burned to seal them) is adequate for a bird the size of a red-tailed hawk. A knot (called a "button") tied in the end is necessary to prevent the leash from slipping through the swivel. Figure 4(g) shows the means of making this "button."

C. Swivel (Figs. 4 & 5): Several types are used. The classic "Figure 8" swivel may be purchased from those manufacturing hawking equipment or a heavy-duty fishing swivel may be used. The larger the bird, the larger the swivel that is required. The swivel is used to attach the leash to the jesses and to prevent twisting of either or both. The commercial "snap" or "dog leash" spring swivels should only be used as a temporary expedient when the bird is fully under control of the falconer and NEVER in tethering a bird to an outside perch. They simply cannot be truste

D. Jesses (Figs. 4 & 5): These are soft strips of tough, thin leather, one permanently fastened to each leg of the captive raptor. Overall lengths of 4-6 inches

for a kestrel or 8-10 inches for red-tailed hawk are appropriate. Jesses are fitted and emplaced immediately upon receipt of any raptor. Traditional jesses are shaped and attached as shown in Fig. 4. Another form called "Aylmeri" jesses (Fig. 5) consists of a "cuff" and miniature leash for each leg. The leather cuff is placed around the leg and its ends held together by a grommet. The miniature leash is passed throug the grommet and its slitted end is then attached to the swivel as are traditional jesses. The use of "Aylmeri" jesses definitely is to be encouraged. Not only are the more efficient, but a bird escaping with such, readily looses (or removes) the miniature leashes, leaving it far less encumbered than with traditional jesses.

E. Bells (Fig. 4): These are especially made for falconry and are small, light in weight with an especially loud tone. They must be purchased from those manufacturing hawking equipment (commercial "Christmas/jingle" bells are not suitable). Bells should be affixed immediately upon receipt of the bird, either on the jess or with a small piece of leather called a "Bewit", the latter in the manner shown in Fig. 4(h). Bells provide a useful "signal" when something causes even an untrained raptor to move about unduly. In the field, they assist the falconer in locating his bird when it is out of sight, and serve to warn hunters that this is a captive bird. Normally two bells, each having a different tone, are used. Some falconers choose to bell their birds also (or instead) at the base of the tail or from a strip of leather around the neck. Birds belled in the latter manner should retain those bells only while hunting as opposed to bells on the leg(s) and/or tail which are permanently affixed. Unfortunately, bells suitable for small species such as merlins, kestrels or sharp-shinned hawks are very difficult to obtain.

F. Name-Tag: A small, light metal tag bearing at a minimum the owner's telephone number (and normally his name and address as well). It should be attached to a jess or bewit and should be emplaced upon receipt of the bird in case of escape. The value of the name-tag in retrieving lost hawks found by others cannot be overstressed. Some falconers, instead, place their names/telephone numbers, etc., on the hawk's bell(s) or on the jesses but such are not nearly so likely to be noticed by the uninformed.

G. Bath Pan (Figs. 1 & 2): A large, shallow pan, tub or cut-down wooden barrel, 3-6 inches deep with a diameter several inches longer than the length of the bird (at a minimum). This provides both drinking and bathing water and should be cleaned and the water changed frequently (at least weekly and more frequently in hot weather). If the bird is kept free in the mews, the bath pan may be installed therein; otherwise the bath is provided outside when the bird is weathering (see Figs. 1 & 2).

H. Scales: Traditionally, the falconer has judged his hawk's condition by the amount of flesh on its breast (sternum) and thighs. This judgment is a difficult one, especially for the beginner. Additionally, a lean hawk need not be hungry and a fat hawk may, in fact, have an excellent appetite. The falconer seeks the ideal medium between the two to keep his bird in the best of condition, just as does the prizefighter. The best and safest method of determining the amount of food to be given to achieve such condition is to weigh the bird daily. Beam or balance (as opposed to spring) scales are to be preferred. For smaller raptors, scales should register in grams or ¼-ounce gradations. For larger species, 1-ounce gradations (if the nearest quarter-ounce can be interpolated readily) are acceptable, though the finer gradations are preferable.

I. Outdoor Perches (Fig. 6): (1) Ring Perch. This type of perch is used with birds which normally perch on tree limbs, i.3., the Accipiters and Buteos. Its design is shown in the cited figure. For the perching portion of the ring a thickness of about one inch is appropriate for small hawks, two inches for larger species. The overall diameter is generally about 12 inches. That portion on which the bird perches

should be covered with a fabric such as canvas or carpeting. (2) Block Perch. This type is used for the "true" falcons as they normally perch on flat surfaces. Its design is also shown on Fig. 6. Diameters vary, normally from 4 to 8 inches, depending on the size of the bird. The top diameter must be sufficiently broad to prevent the two jesses from "straddling" the perch (slipping over both sides simultaneously).

J. Indoor Perches: (1) Screen Perch (Fig. 5). This type of perch is appropriate for use with all types of raptors used in falconry and is the only perch described in this brochure suitable for use by more than one raptor simultaneously. It consists of a horizontal bar over which a strong cloth such as burlap has been draped. This bar is fastened at chest height to the walls of the mews or to upright posts. The cloth should hang down at least three feet on both sides of the bar and be fastened to a second lower bar either attached to the mews walls/upright posts or swinging free. The upper (perching) bar is normally padded with carpet and should be long enough so that the bird can reach neither the ends nor any other birds tethered on it. The means of tethering a bird to the screen perch is shown in Fig. 5(b). Caution should be exercised in the use of this type perch. It should not be used for sick (weak) raptors and no raptor should be left unattended on a screen perch until the falconer has ascertaine that the bird is capable of regaining the perch after attempting to fly from it. (2) Round Perch (Fig. 7). This type perch is most suitable for the Accipiters or the "true" falcons. It is shaped very much like a large garbage can. As in all perches described, its size depends on the species of raptor for which it is intended. A goshawk uses a round perch about the size of a 55-gallon drum on end, with other specie requiring proportionally smaller sizes. The sides and top rim (perch) are padded and the bird is tethered to a swivel arrangement in the center of a horizontal platform below the surface of the top of the perch. (3) Shelf Perch (Fig. 7). The shelf perch is most appropriate for use with the "true" falcons and normally consists of a shelf approximately 1 x 2 ft. with a padded edge. All exposed edges and corners of the shelf must be rounded and smoothed so as not to inhibit leash movement. The shelf is mounted projecting from an inner wall or inside corner of the mews. A shelf perch is normally used in combination with a block perch (see above) set in/on the mews floor beneath so as to give the bird a choice of perches. The leash is either tethered to the block in the normal fashion with its length allowing access to the shelf, or to an eye-bolt at the base of the wall beneath the shelf, the leash length then providing access to either shelf or block. In the latter arrangement care is required that the leash is not so long as to allow it to become entangled around the block.

2. Optional Equipment:

A. Lure (Fig. 5e). This is a padded weight (such as a horseshoe), ordinarily covered with the wings or fur of the intended quarry (a fresh individual of such quarry will also frequently suffice as a lure). The lure is used to call the bird back to the falconer after an unsuccessful flight or for exercise. It is garnished with meat attached by short strings (unless the actual quarry is used). A four to six-foot line fastened to the lure allows the falconer to swing it in a large arc or circle, making it more visible/attractive. A raptor may or may not be trained to come to the lure. Such training, however, has much to recommend it since in essence it constitutes a safety measure. A raptor will often come to a lure when, for one reason or another, it is reluctant to come to the fist.

B. Hood. Although symbolic of falconry, use of the hood, even more than the lure, is a matter of individual perference rather than necessity. Hoods come in a variety of shapes and designs but the most important factor in any hood's suitability is its proper fit. The edges of the beak-opening should not rub or chaff the soft parts around the bird's beak, nostrils or mouth. The interior of the hood must not

touch the raptor's eyes (as revealed by moisture inside the hood when removed) and the portion of the hood passing under the raptor's "chin" must not be so tight as to be constrictive.

FOOD

An adequate and reliable supply of proper food(s) is as important to the falconer as are considerations of shelter and equipment. Although the proper type and amount of food varies considerably with the species of raptor and the time of year and stage of the bird's training, there are certain basic principles that apply in all cases. The best food for any raptor is natural food which should make up the principal proportion of the diet. The best and most appropriate examples of such a natural diet are English sparrows, feral pigeons, starlings, mice and rats. It is unlikely that the falconer can shoot unprotected birds or animals in sufficient numbers to provide and continuous and reliable supply, even for one hawk. (Caution: Ingestion of lead shot in birds or animals killed with a shotgun may cause lead poisoning in raptors.) Day-old cockrel chicks raised to 4-6 weeks old or Pharaoh/Coturnix quail may be raised by the falconer and make useful replacements for wild varieties of natural foods. Such replacements should also be considered where unprotected wild birds/animals may contain dangerous levels of chemical sterilants, pesticides and/or other poisons. A supplemental food supply such as butcher's meat/chicken parts should be available though such should be used only as a temporary expedient for the food items previously enumerated. Vitamin and mineral supplements (such as Vionate, ABDec Drops, 1-a-Day tablets, etc.) are an important part of a captive raptor's diet, especially if fed more than occasionally on non-natural foods. Use of such supplements should be undertaken only after determining proper type(s) and dosages from an experienced veterinarian (since, for example, some synthetic vitamins can prove harmful to raptors, as can some supplements containing iron). Of late comercially prepared food mixtures specifically for raptors have been developed for zoo use. Such are very carefully balanced nutritionally and while perhaps difficult to handle during hunting/training, may be highly useful and appropriate for raptors during the moult, etc.

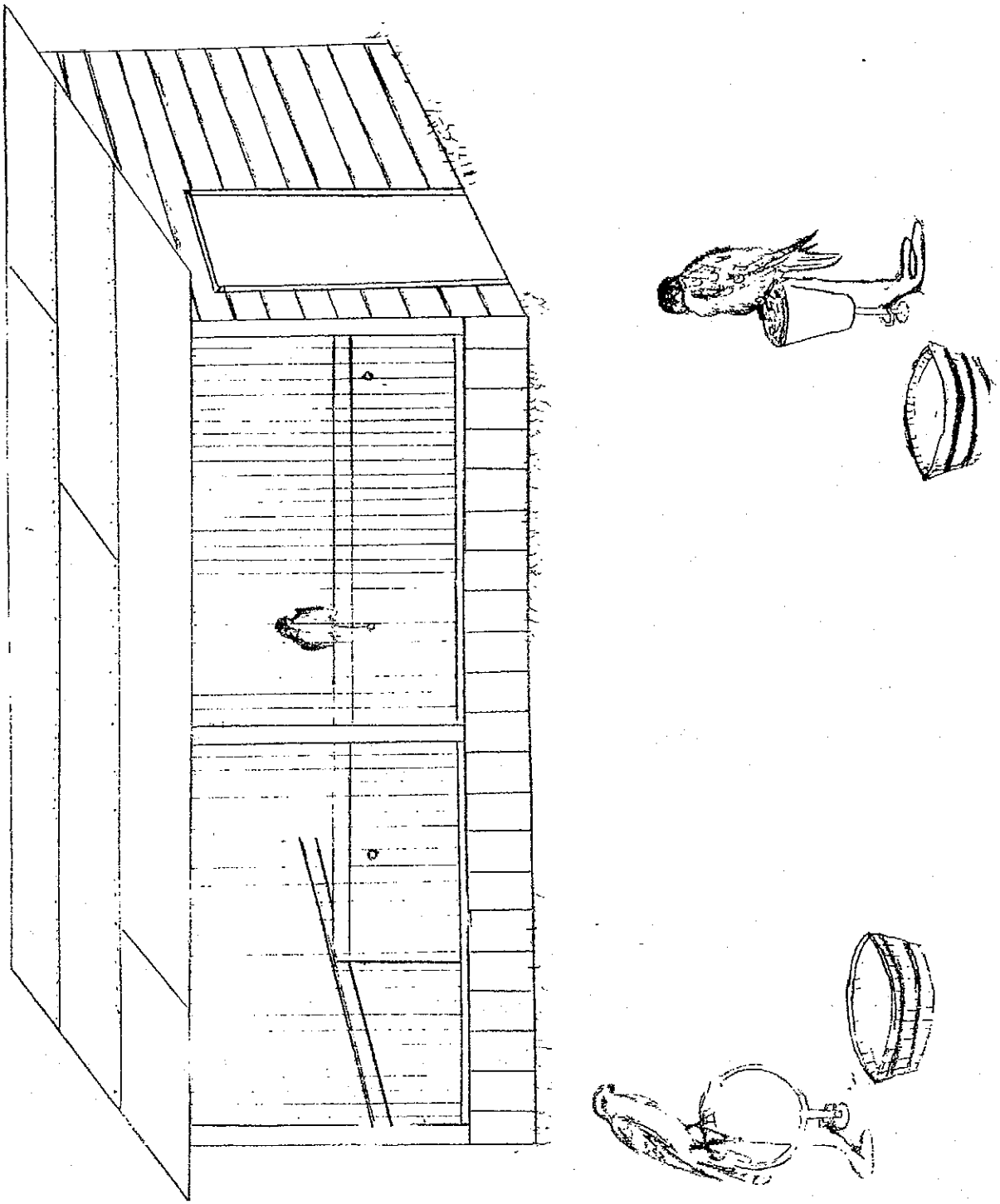


FIGURE 1

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1:

Open-faced mews with screen perch. A hawk and falcon are shown "weathering" with appropriate perches and bath pans.

Figure 2:

"A-Frame" type shelter to protect a "weathering" raptor from direct sun or severe weather.

Figure 3:

Predator-proof totally enclosed "weathering" area.

Figure 4:

(a) "Traditional" jess. Distance A-B is 2 inches for a red-tailed hawk; 7/8 inch for a kestrel. Overall lengths: 8-10 inches for a red-tail; 4-6 inches for a kestrel.

(b) Bewit, for placing bell on raptor's leg.

(c) Hawk bell.

(d) "Sampo" ballbearing fishing swivel.

(e) Method of attaching "traditional" jess. The long end of the jess is pulled until the "knot" forms behind the hawk's leg. See also (f) and (h).

(f) Method of attaching jesses (both types) to swivel and swivel to leash (size of swivel is greatly exaggerated).

(g) Method of making the "button" (knot) at the end of the leash or "aylmeri" jess.

(h) Method of attaching the bell to the hawk's leg with a bewit. The pointed tips of the bewit may be cut off after attachment.

Figure 5:

(a) Screen perch.

(b) Method of tethering hawk to the screen perch. Knot and ends of leash slip into the space between the double layer of cloth.

(c) "Aylmeri" jess in place on hawk's leg.

(d) A hawk tied to the block perch. The leash is held in the swivel by its "button" (knot)--not shown; the free end is tied to the ring of the perch.

(e) Lure.

Figure 6:

Outdoor perches: Ring perch and block perch.

Figure 7:

Indoor perches: Round perch and shelf perch.

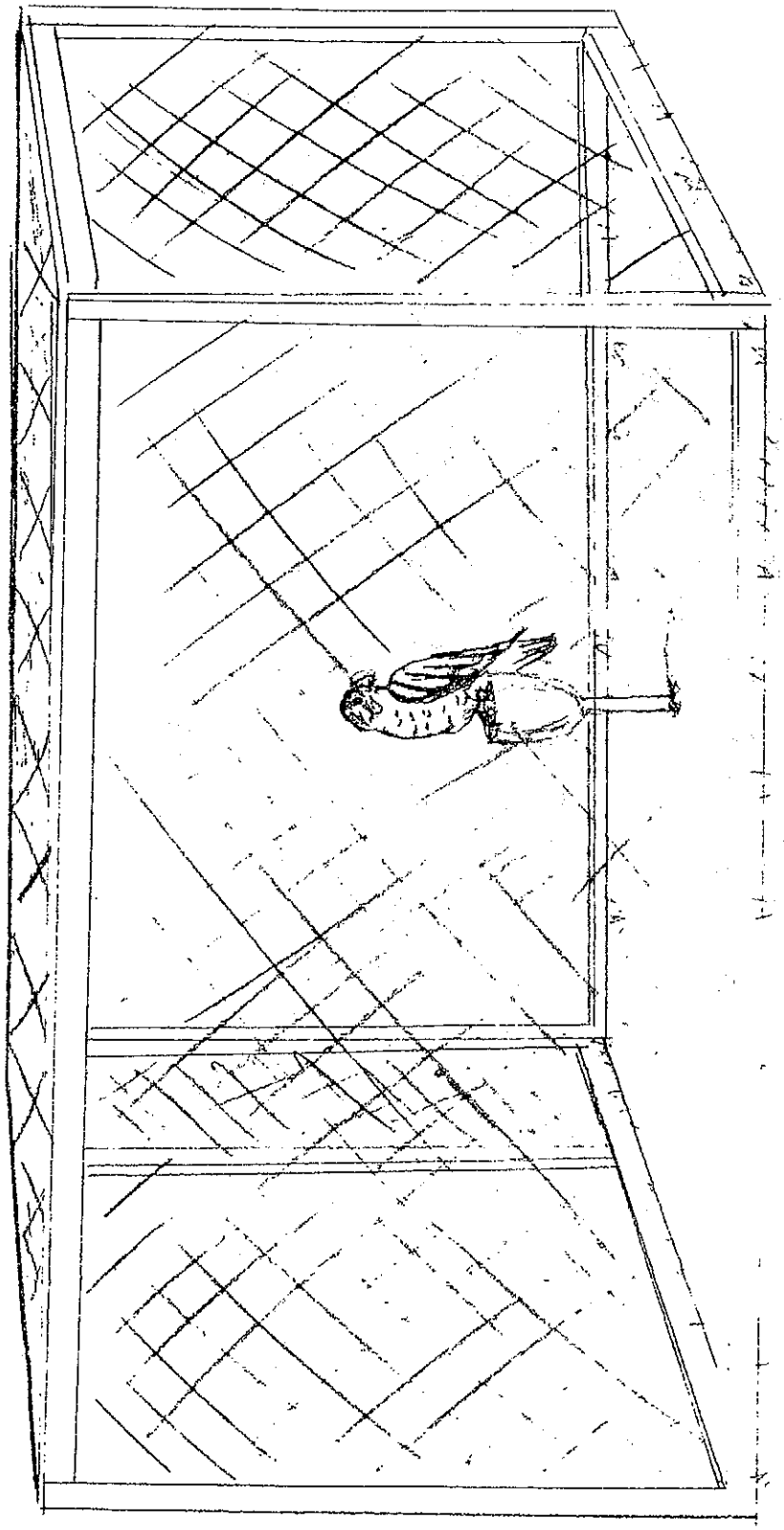


FIGURE 3

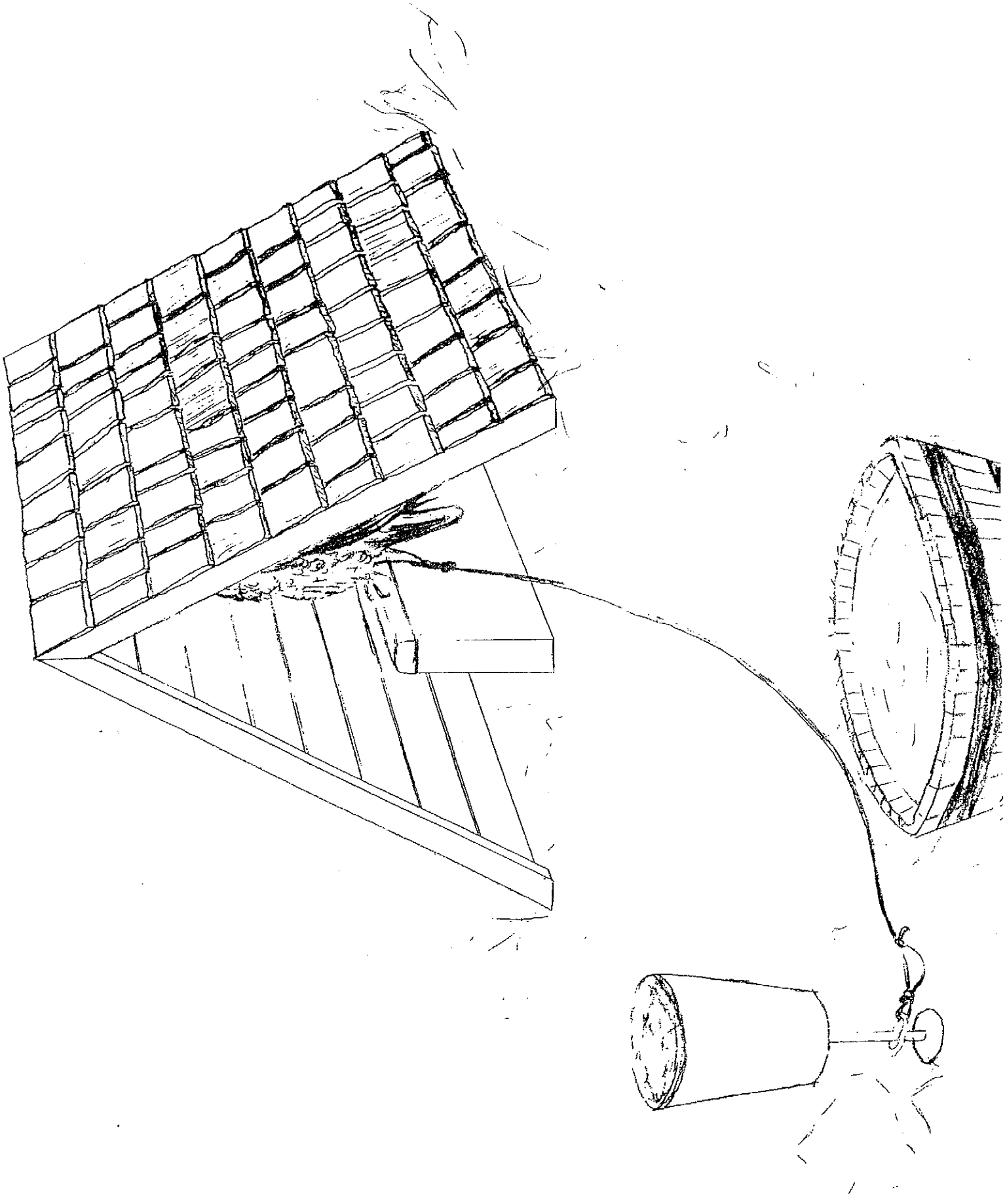


FIGURE 2

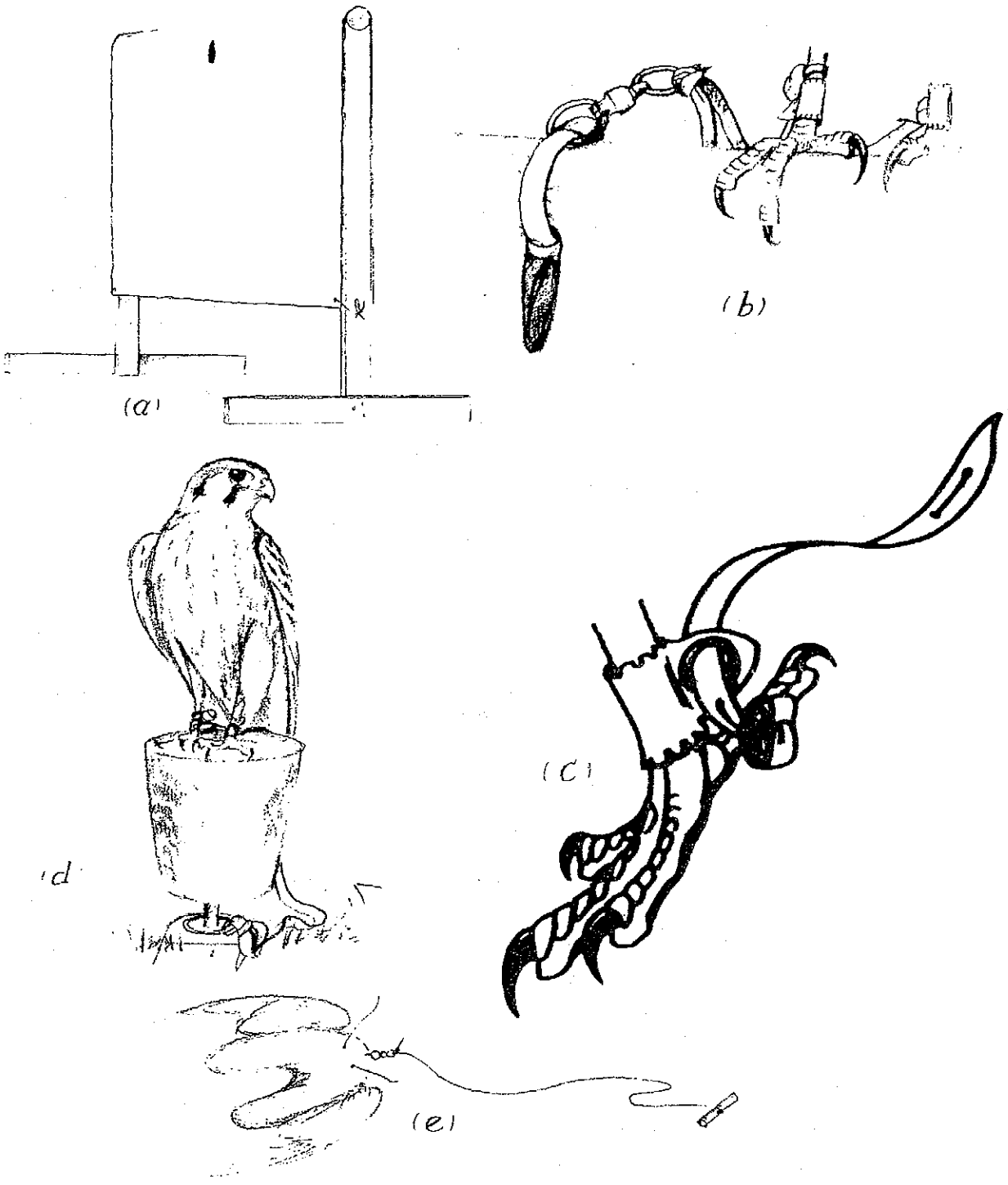


FIGURE 5

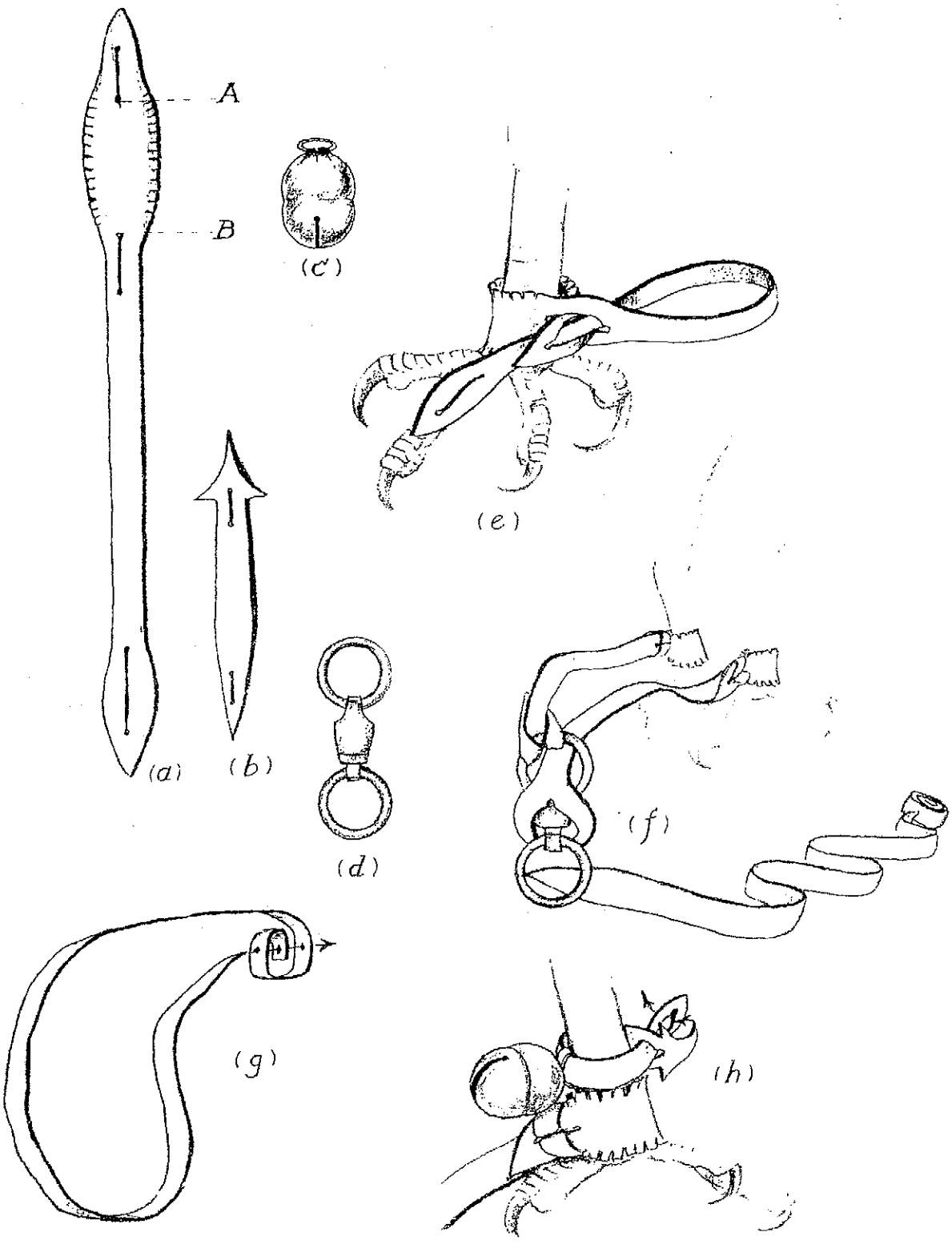
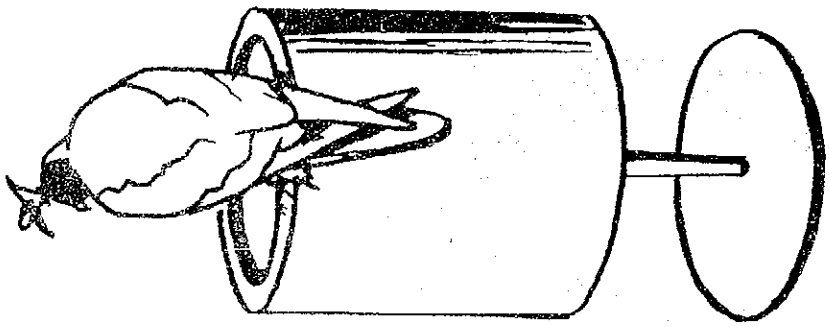
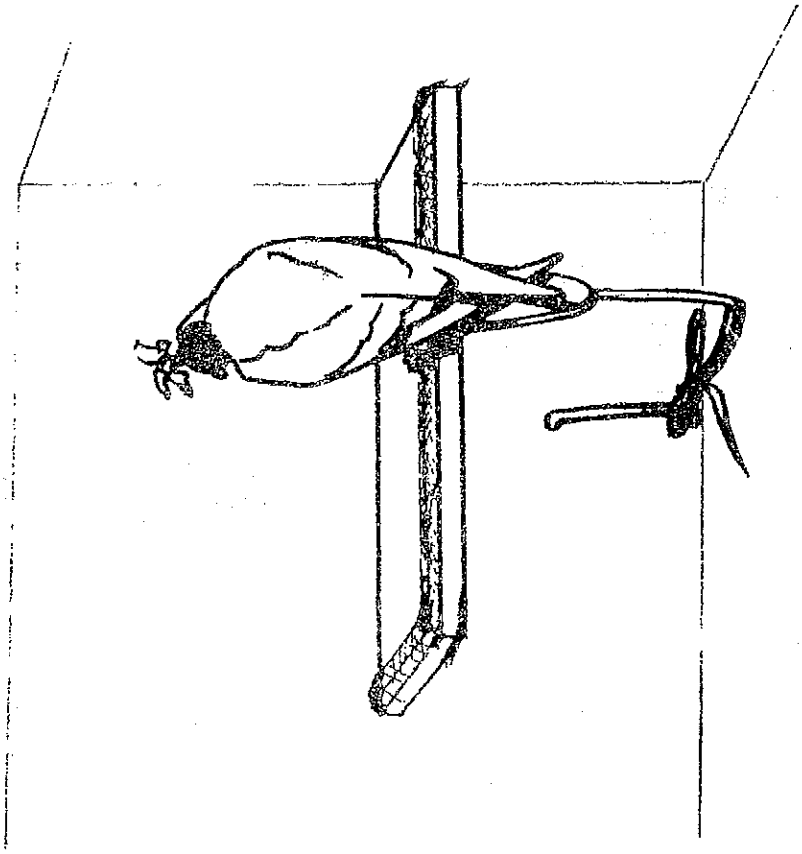


FIGURE 4

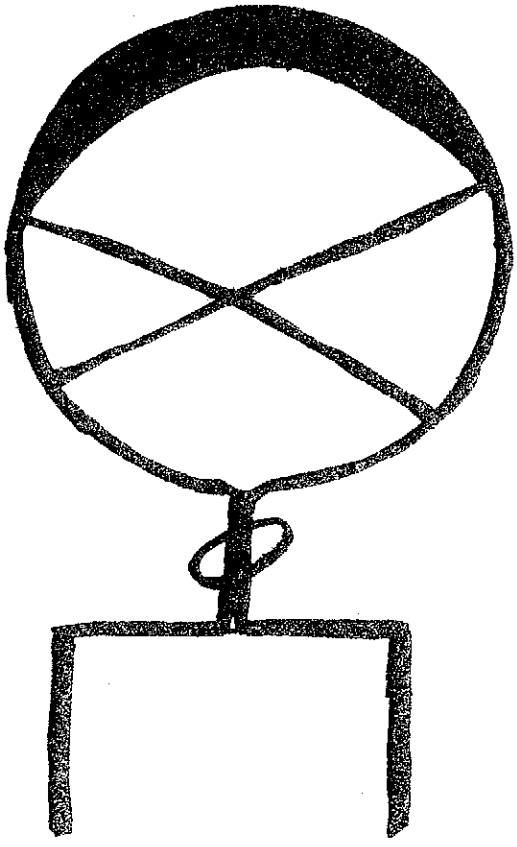


Round Perch

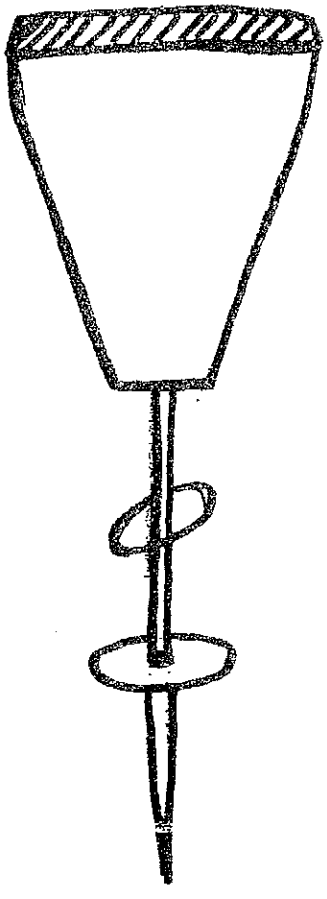


Shelf Perch

FIGURE 7



Ring Perch



Block Perch

FIGURE 6

FALCONRY BOOKS FOR APPRENTICES:

An apprentice's sponsor is responsible for educating the apprentice applicant and assisting him/her in obtaining the reading material necessary for studying for the exam. Most falconers acquire an extensive library of falconry reference materials and apprentice applicants are expected to do the same. Many a sponsor has loaned a valuable falconry book only to discover the important book was never returned.

http://www.n-a-f-a.com/RecommendedBooks.htm

http://www.westernsporting.com/mm5/merchant.mvc?Screen=CTGY&Category_Code=FBC

http://www.buteobooks.com (do a search for "falconry")

http://www.themodernapprentice.com/bookshelf.htm

http://www.ncfalconersguild.org/books.htm

http://www.mikesfalconry.com/group.asp?grp=210

https://www.northwoodsfalconry.com/products-page/books/

PLEASE NOTE:

Falconry test and facility inspections for apprentice permit applicants are not given between December 1 and January 31. There is not sufficient time for state and federal permit processing and issuance of licensing between December 1 and the January 31 end of the hawk trapping season.

APPLICATION FOR APPRENTICE FALCONRY PERMIT

Complete and return to:
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Falconry Coordinator
Hampton Research Center
31 Halowell Lane
Humphrey, AR 72073

Name of Applicant_____
Last **First** **Middle**

Permanent
Mailing Address_____
Street

_____
City **State** **Zip code**

Telephone Number
(Home)_____ **(work)** _____ **(Cell)** _____

Date of Birth_____

Email address_____

Signature of Sponsor:
(General or Master Falconer)_____

Address: _____

_____
City **State** **Zip code**

Location where bird will be kept if permit is granted:

_____

What do you intend to feed your bird?_____

Where will you obtain the food? _____

Have you had any experience with falcons or falconry?

_____

_____

It is understood that an Apprentice Falconry Permit may be issued at the Discretion of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and may be revoked at any time for failure to comply with any of the terms of said permit.
This application does not in any way constitute authority to capture or hold native raptors.

Signed_____ **Date**_____

15.42 FALCONRY PERMIT. It is unlawful for any person to possess, take, or transport raptors or to use raptors to take game animals and game birds without first obtaining a Falconry Permit from the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

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.

EXCEPTION:

(1) 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:

Apprentice Class Eligibility, and Application Conditions and Requirements:

A) 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.

B) 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.

C) An Apprentice applicant will not be issued a permit until the applicant has demonstrated satisfactory compliance with the following requirements:
   1) Must pass a written falconry examination administered by the Commission with a score of at least 80 percent.
   2) Must possess an Arkansas hunting license.
   3) Must have their falconry facilities and equipment pass inspection by an employee of AGFC.

D) Apprentice falconers may possess no more than 1 raptor for use in falconry.

E) 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.

F) Apprentice falconers are required to capture the hawk themselves; the raptor may not be transferred to them by another falconer.

G) 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.

General Class Eligibility, and Application Conditions and Requirements:

A) 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.

B) 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.

C) Apprentice class falconers may not substitute any falconry school program or education to shorten the period of two years at the Apprentice Level.

D) General Class falconers may take and possess any species of Falconiform or Strigiform 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.

E) General Class falconers may possess no more than 3 raptors.

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.

A) 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.

B) 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.

C) Master Class falconers may possess no more than five wild raptors (including golden eagles if the Master Class falconer has a Falconry Eagle Permit).

D) 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.

Falconry Eagle Permit Eligibility, and Application Conditions and Requirements.

A) 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.

1) 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.

2) 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 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 Commission's Falconry Coordinator.

B) 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.

C) 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.

D) Master Class falconers with an Eagle Permit may take, transport or possess up to three eagle 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.

Eligibility Requirements to obtain falconry permit for individuals with falconry experience who are new residents in the United States.

A) 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.

B) The Arkansas Falconry Coordinator will assign a falconry Class level commensurate with the new resident falconer's experience.

Eligibility requirements to obtain falconry permit for individuals with falconry experience who are Not U.S. Residents.

A) 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 level appropriate for his/her experience according to the following requirements:

1) 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.

B) Holders of an Arkansas Non-U.S. resident Temporary Falconry Permit may not take a bird from the wild for use in falconry.

C) Holders of an Arkansas Non-U.S. Resident Temporary Falconry Permit may fly raptors held for falconry by a permitted Arkansas falconer.

D) Holders of an Arkansas Non-U.S. Resident Temporary falconry Permit may use any bird for falconry that he/she possess 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.

E) Holders of a temporary falconry permit must also have a current Arkansas Non-Resident Annual Small Game Hunting License.

F) 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.

EXCEPTION:

(1) 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.

G) 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.

H) 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.

Additional Requirements regarding falconry permits including Reinstatement of lapsed falconry permit and residency requirements.

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

EXCEPTION:

(1) 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.

B) 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.

1) If a falconer lives for more that 120 consecutive days in a state, territory of tribal land other than their Arkansas residence, their falconry facilities in that second state must meet Arkansas standards.

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

A) Falconry Facility Requirements: Conditions for Facilities maintained on property owned or controlled by the falconer.

1) 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.
2) Birds must be kept in humane and healthful conditions, protected from the environment, predators and domestic animals.
3) An indoor facility must have a suitable perch for each raptor, at least one opening for sunlight and must provide a healthy environment.
4) Untethered raptors may be housed together if they are compatible with each other.
5) 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.
6) Each raptor must have a pan of clean water available at all times.
7) 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.
8) If raptors housed in an indoor facility are not tethered, all walls that are not solid must be protected on 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.
9) 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.
10) 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.
11) 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

D) Falconers must immediately release any bird captured unintentionally.

E) 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.

F) Falconers may recapture a raptor wearing falconry equipment or a captive bred raptor at any time-even if that falconers 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.

G) Peregrine falcons banded with a Federal Bird Banding laboratory band may 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.

H) 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.

EXCEPTION:

(1) If the falcon 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.

I) If a falconer captures a raptor wearing a 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 five working days of capture.

J) 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. 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.

K) 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 http://permits.fws.gov/186A or by submitting a paper form 3-186A to the Commission's Falconry Coordinator.
2) A falconer present at the capture site, even if another person captures the bird for him/her, is considered the person who removes the bird from the wild and is responsible for filing a 3-186A form.
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 take of the bird. If that person then transfers the bird to the falconer, both must file 3-186A forms 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 falconer took from the wild. The person who takes the bird from the wild must report the take even if he or she promptly transfers 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 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.

L) Goshawks, Harris hawks, peregrine falcons, and gyrfalcons captured from the wild or acquired from a rehabilitator must be 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 acquisition of the bird is reported by the falconer no later than 10 days after acquisition.

EXCEPTION:

(1) If a falconer documents 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.

1) The falconer must keep a copy of the exemption paperwork on his person when transporting or flying that raptor.
2) 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.

M) A raptor captured from the wild may not be banded with a seamless numbered band.

N) 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.

O) Take of eyas (nestling raptors incapable of flight) birds is allowed between Jan.1 and Aug.1 of each year.

P) Take of passage (raptors fledged from the nest but less than 1 year of age) is allowed from June 15-March 1.

Q) Take of raptors 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 http://permits.fws.gov/186A or by submitting a paper form 3-186A to the Commission's Falconry Coordinator.

Permit Requirements: It shall be unlawful for holders of Falconry Permits to fail tocomply 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.

1. 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.

a) The required information must be reported electronically (http://permits.fws.gov/186A) immediately upon rebanding or microchipping or by submitted federal form 3-186-A to the AGFC Falconry Coordinator.

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 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.

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 five days of the date when transaction or transition occurred by entering the required information in the electronic database at http://permits.fws.gov/186A or by submitting a paper form 3-186A to the Commission's Falconry Coordinator.

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

A) If a raptor possessed under a falconry permit is stolen, the 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 five working days of the theft of the bird.

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 a 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 possess 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.

EXCEPTION:

(1) Wild caught raptors that are less than two years of age or for one year for sharp-shinned hawks, 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 3--186A form documenting acquisition of the bird by the propagators to the Federal Migratory Bird Permit office that administers the other permit type.

D) 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 186A form in five days of the transfer.

E) A surviving spouse, executor, administrator or other legal representative 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.

F) Falconers may use raptors held under a falconry permit in 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 eight 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 eight months per year, the bird must be transferred to a federal propagation permit and banded as required by federal raptor propagation regulations.

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 one game 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.

1) 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 falconry raptors to take any species listed in parts 50 CFR 21,23,44,45 of the federal register at any

time in accordance with the conditions of the depredation order, however the falconer may not be paid for doing so.

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 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 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.

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 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 federal statute 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 federal statute 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 donated to anyone exempt from permit requirements under federal statute 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.

EXCEPTIONS:

(1) Carcasses of golden eagles must be sent to the National Eagle Repository.

(2) 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.

Permit Requirements: It is unlawful for holders of Falconry Permits to fail to comply with the following requirements regarding Raptors Injured Due to a Falconer's Trapping Efforts.

A) Falconers must do one of the following if a raptor is injured during trapping.

1) Falconer may put the bird injured during trapping 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 falconers 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.

2) Falconer must give the bird directly (no less than 24 hours) to a veterinarian or permitted migratory bird rehabilitator. The bird will not count against the falconer's take or possession limits however the falconer is responsible for the costs of care and rehabilitation of the bird.

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) General and Master Class falconers may assist federally permitted migratory bird rehabilitators to condition raptors in preparation for

their release to the wild in accordance with the following requirements:

1) The rehabilitator must provide the falconer with a letter or form that identifies the bird and explains 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 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.

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 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 responsibility for all liability associated with his/her 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) General Class Falconers may conduct abatement activities only as a subpermittees of the holder of the federal Abatement permit and both Master and General Class falconers must follow the conditions of said permit.

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 to take one (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.

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 authorized the falconer to export and import to another country without additional migratory 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, 17 and 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 raptors and each raptors 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.

Permit Requirements: It is unlawful for holders of Falconry Permits to fail to comply with the following requirements regarding 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 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 twenty days to respond with just cause as to why their permit should not be suspended or revoked.

D) If, at the end of the twenty-day period, just cause has not been given, this Agency may suspend or revoke any existing permit held by the violator 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, permit holder must legally transfer or release all falconry raptors in the time designated in the revocation, not to exceed sixty day, and failure to do so shall result in the Commission taking action, per Commission policy, at the permit holder's expense.

PENALTY: $100 to $1,000 per violation.

BOOK REVIEWS

FALCONRY EQUIPMENT by Bryan Kimsey & Jim Hodge

Reviewed by the Editor

Falconry Equipment, by Bryan Kimsey and Jim Hodge, 175 pages, soft-bound, with numerous illustrations by Carol Boulton, Glen McCune and Jack Postlewate, 1992, Kimmel Hodge Publications, 7815 Encinita, Houston, TX 77083 telephone (713) 277-3895. $22.50 including postage and handling.

This much-needed book provides information on virtually all equipment used by falconers except traps. Except for easily purchased items, it not only describes and illustrates, and tells how to use the equipment, but tells how to make it. A listing of the chapter headings provides the coverage: Mews; Weathering Areas; Perches (including those in mews); Jesses, Leashes & Swivels; Hoods; Bells (and how to attach them); Name Tags; Lures; Bags & Vests; Traveling (shipping hawks); Telemetry; Miscellaneous (gloves, baths, scales and training devices). It also has an index which will simplify use of the book.

Despite years of reading and editing articles on falconry equipment, the reviewer learned a lot from this book. In fact, it would have helped me answer a lot of questions from my apprentices in a better way than I have. Certainly anyone planning a mews or a weathering yard should read the appropriate sections from this book. A sponsor would be well-advised to see that his apprentices get it and read it from cover to cover.

This praise of the book is not to be taken as meaning that it describes the only acceptable equipment (there are hundreds of variations that aren't covered), but it does provide a solid set of alternatives to use with confidence. It also provides reasons for the features of each design, so the falconer will know what he is doing when he produces his own variations.

This review is based on galley proofs with revisions in layout and some editing remaining to be completed. But the technical content and illustrations were outstanding, and when finished, this book will be one every falconer should have.

Available from Amazon.com

Falconry Equipment by Bryan Kimsey and Jim Hodge
175 pages, soft-bound, available for $22.50 (incl. shipping & handling)
from Jim Hodge, 7815 Encinita, Houston, TX 77083, (713) 277-3895
See book review in April 1992 Hawk Chalk for description of contents
Make checks out to Jim Hodge

*

Unless you already know how to make mews, perches and jesses

FACT SHEET

FEDERAL/STATE QUALIFYING EXAMINATION FOR A FALCONRY PERMIT

Purpose

The examination is designed to determine the applicant's knowledge of raptor identification, natural history, care in captivity, falconry techniques, and applicable laws and regulations.

Legal Requirement

Persons desiring to obtain a Federal/State falconry permit are required to answer correctly at least 80 percent of the questions on a supervised examination. A higher passing score may be established by the State wildlife agency. States may use either an examination provided by the Fish and Wildlife Service or a State examination approved by the Service.

Once an applicant has passed the examination, no future examination is required by Federal regulation for permit renewal or for changes in permit class or State of residence. State wildlife agencies may require additional examinations.

Administering Agency

State wildlife agency personnel or their representatives will administer the examination.

Content - FWS Series 010 Examination

The examination consists of 100 multiple-choice questions, each with four possible answers. The questions are distributed into three general categories: raptor identification/biology - 25 percent; maintenance of raptors in captivity - 50 percent; and falconry practices/regulations - 25 percent.

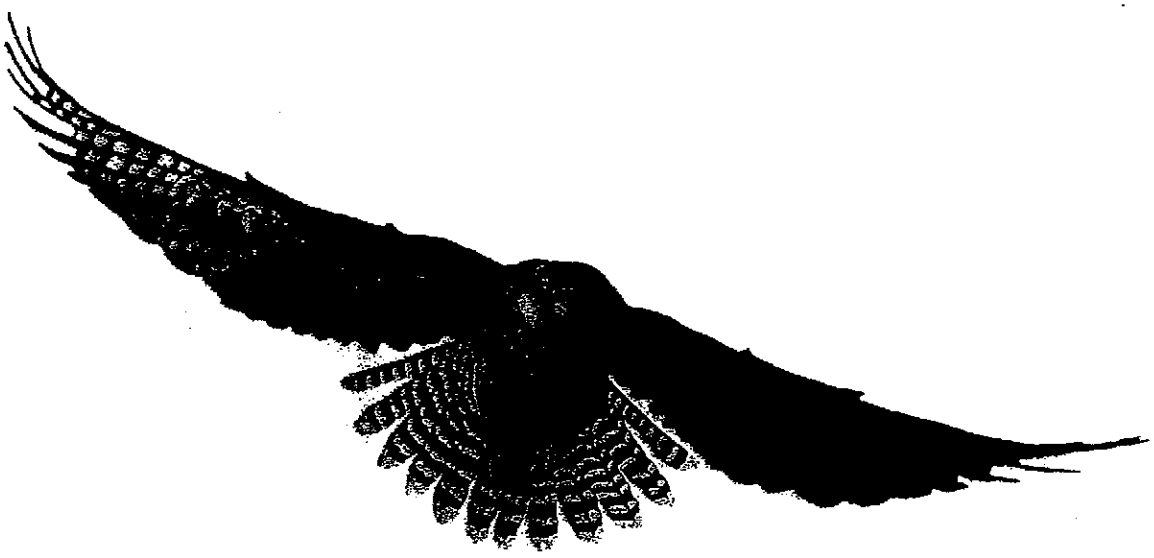
A more detailed distribution of questions on this examination is provided by subject. Many of the questions fall into more than one category, e.g., a definition of "eyass" would need to be known to answer a question concerning the handling of eyasses.

Subject	Number of Questions
Literature Review/Definitions	4
Raptor Biology	
Species/Sex/Age Identification	4
Ecology (Habitat/Food/Behavior/Distribution)	10
Breeding Biology	5
Falconry	
Equipment and Facilities	12
Taking and Initial Handling of Raptors	8
General Health Factors/Food/Water	20
Injuries/Disease/Parasites	15
Training/Hunting Practices	12
Ethics	4
Regulations	5
Other	1

Persons intending to take the examination should review the raptor literature and applicable regulations. The questions emphasize the practical aspects and obligations of being a falconer. A knowledge of scientific names and obscure publications is not required. The statistical probability of scoring 80 percent or more by chance alone is less than one in a million. If an applicant must guess the correct answer to 50 of the 100 questions, the probability of achieving a passing score is less than 5 in 1000.

Failure to Pass

A person who fails the examination may apply to retake this or a similar examination. The schedule for reexamination will be determined by the State wildlife agency.



WWW.n-a-f-a.com

"Duke" eyas Lanneret oil on canvas by Doyle Glass

NORTH AMERICAN FALCONERS' ASSOCIATION

NORTH AMERICAN FALCONERS' ASSOCIATION

"...Our purpose is to provide communication among and to disseminate relevant information to interested Members; to provide scientific study of the raptorial species, their care, welfare and training; to promote their value in nature and in wildlife conservation programs; to urge recognition of falconry as a legal field sport; and to establish traditions which will aid, perpetuate and further the welfare of falconry and the raptors it employs."

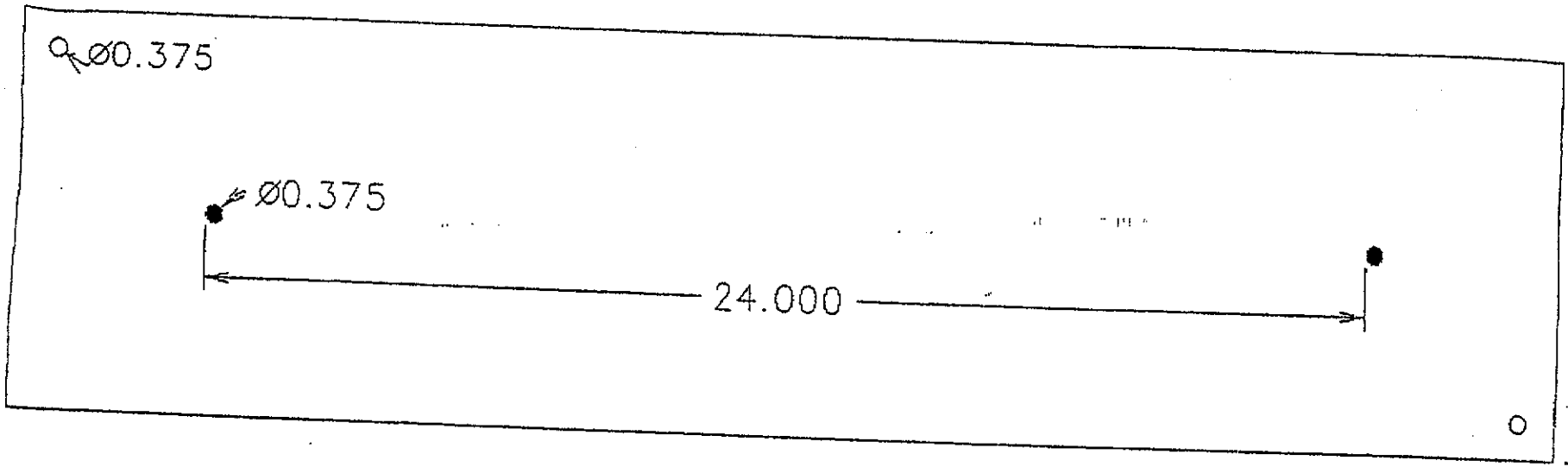
Art. 1, Sec. 2

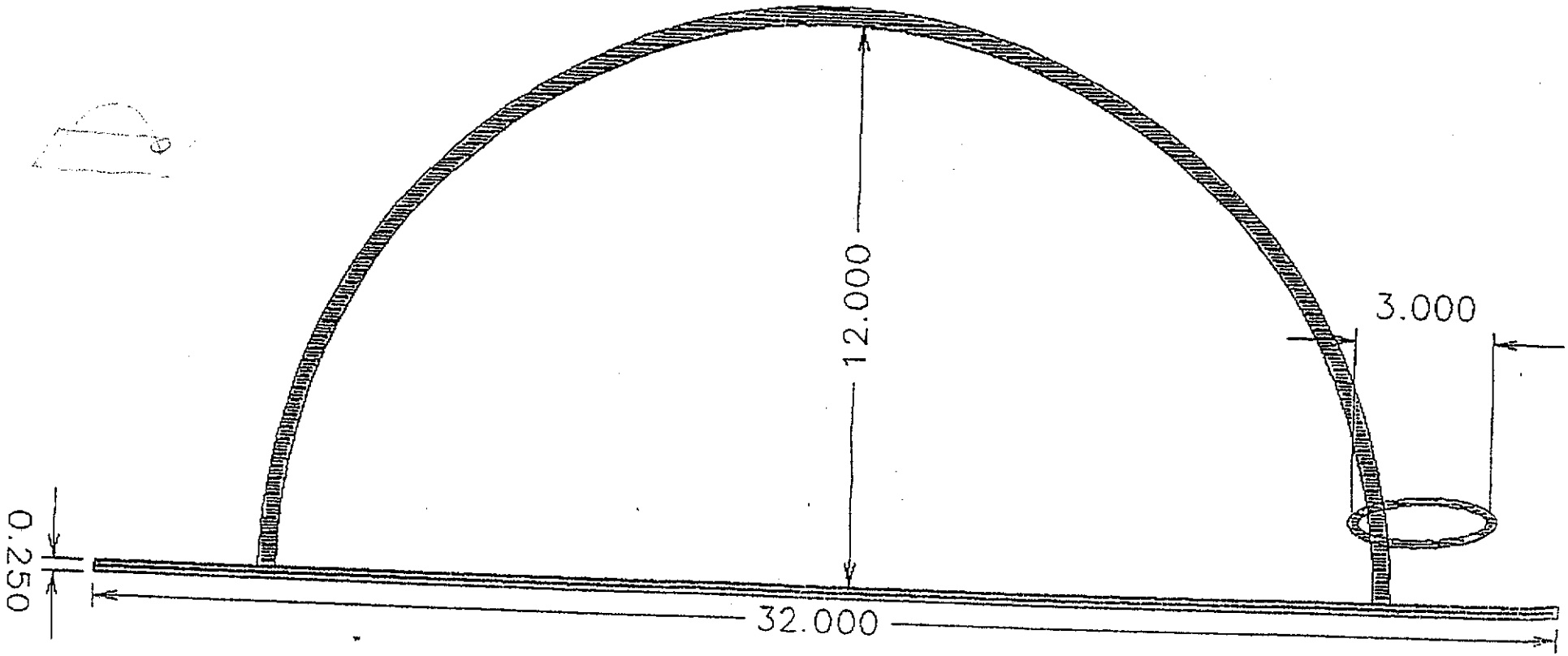
NORTH AMERICAN FALCONERS ASSOCIATION

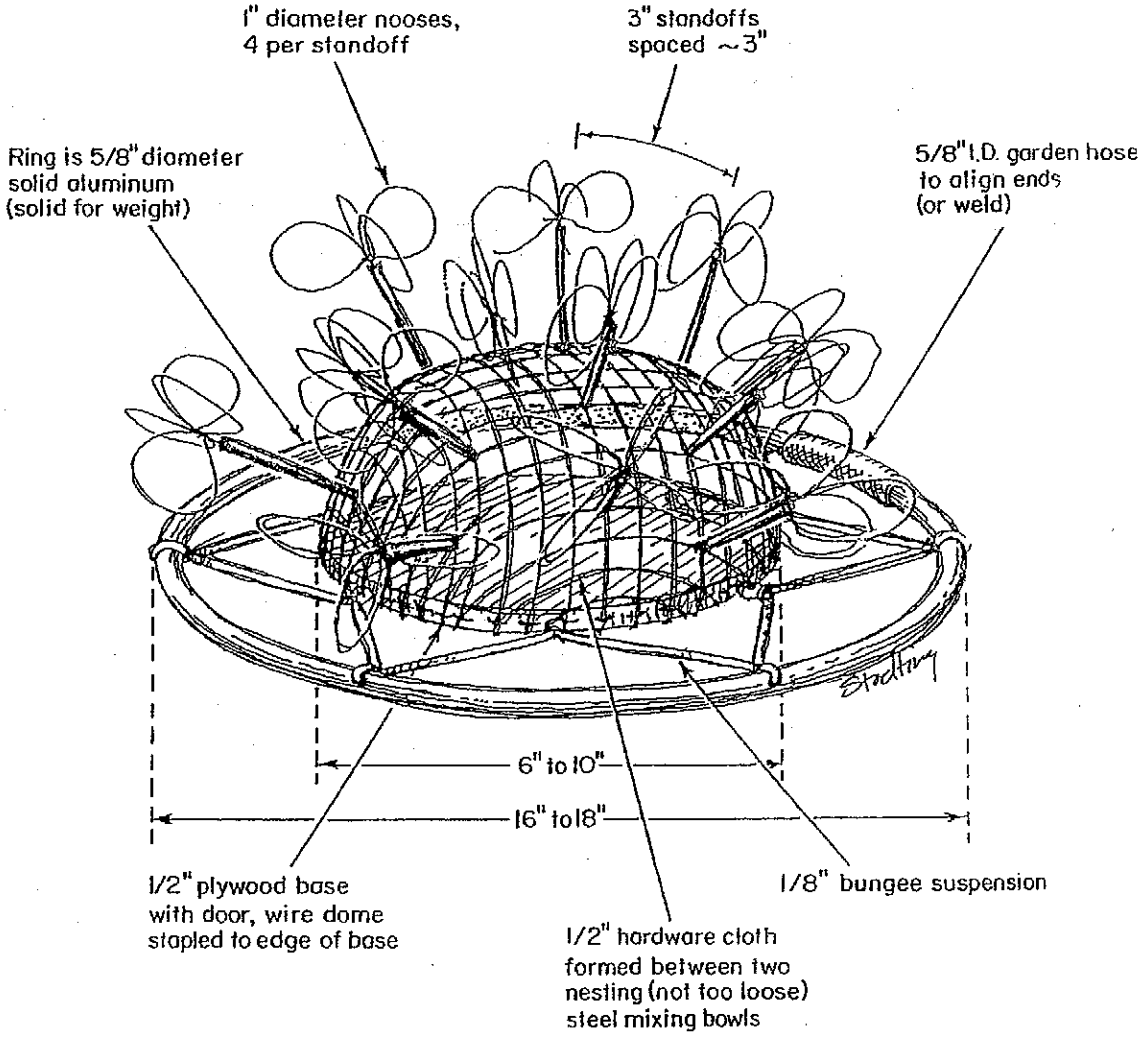
Associate Member Organization of
National Wildlife Federation
and National Rifle Association.

Address changes should be sent to the Membership Secretary

Measurements in inches







AN IMPROVED BAL-CHATRI

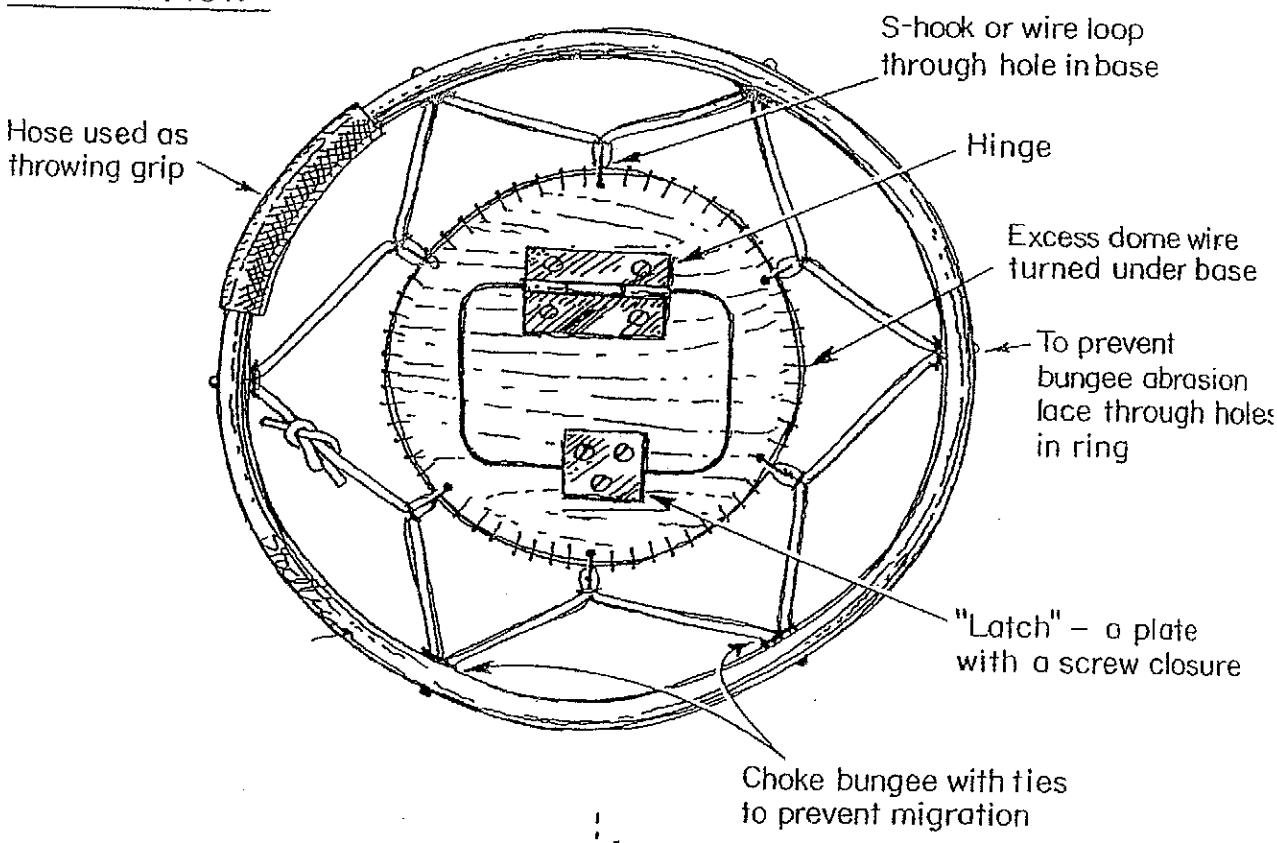
Developed by Scott Simpson and Mike Ballou
984 Sandy Ridge Rd., McDonough, GA 30253
2553 Echo Dr NE, Atlanta, GA 30345

(Described by the Editor)

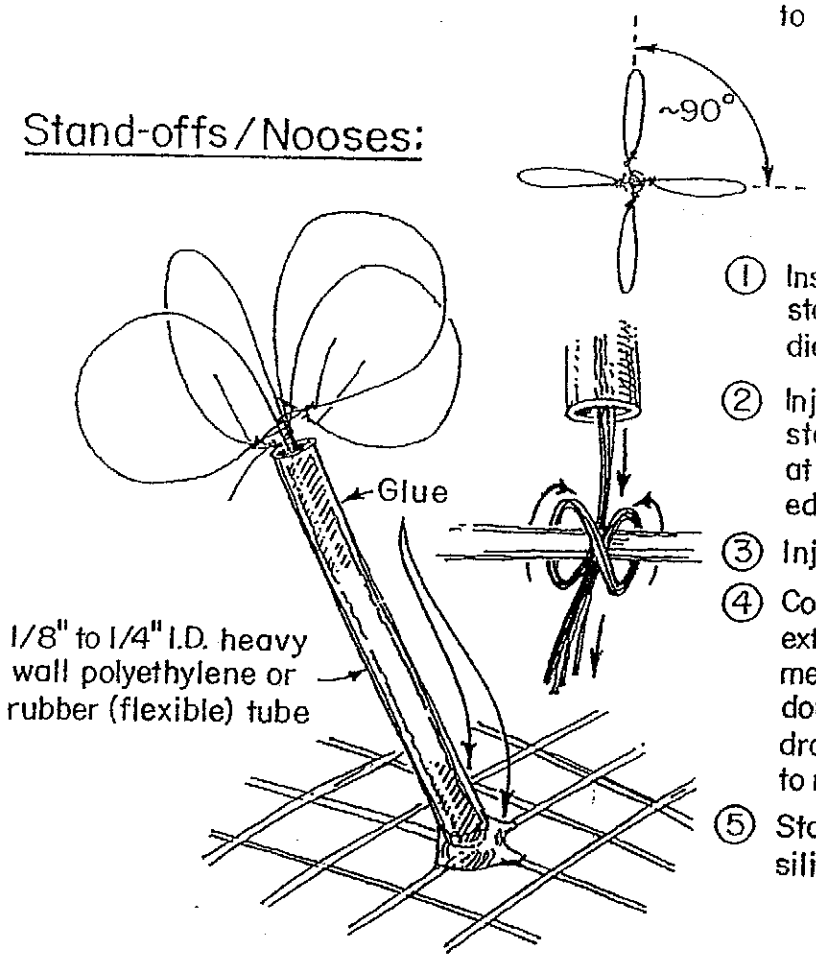
Your Editor hesitates to describe any device as the ultimate, because improvements inevitably come along later. Nevertheless, this appears to be a real step upward from Simpson's highly effective "cloverleaf trap" that he described in the August 1992 Hawk Chalk (pages 56-57). The cloverleaf trap introduced the concept of placing the nooses on 3-1/2" tall stems made of rubber tubing to allow the bird's toes to go through the nooses before reaching the bal-chatri cage. This one change has at least doubled the catch rate of bal-chatris used to trap redtails by a few of us here in northern California. The nooses on a stem are not only retained but improved in the new version.

Scott Simpson spent considerable time watching redtails approach and foot the trap through a 20-power telescope, and from those observations conceived the improvements described in this article. Mike Ballou sent Hawk Chalk a video in which he describes how to make the new design trap. It also includes a clip of a redtail just caught on the trap by 14 nooses. The illustrations here are drawn from that video. Some of the details in the following description are based on the efforts of your Editor to duplicate the trap.

Bottom View:



Stand-offs/Nooses:



1. Insert 20lb. test nooses into stand-offs leaving one inch diameter nooses
2. Inject silicone glue into top of stand-off and arrange nooses at 90° to each other. Tape to table edge and let glue set.
3. Inject glue into base of stand-off
4. Combine and tie the 4 free ends extending from base of stand-off to mesh diagonally across corner with double half-hitch (clove hitch) drawing stand-off down tightly to mesh
5. Stabilize knot and base with epoxy, silicone, or cold-melt glue

Some key requirements to make a good bal-chatri are these: (1) to minimize the shock on the nooses; (2) to place the nooses where they will catch the bird as soon as it lands on the bal-chatri rather than the bird having to walk around on it to get caught; (3) to make it stay right side up when thrown out of the car; (4) to make the lure animal in the trap readily visible; and (5) to make it just heavy enough so that the trapped raptor cannot lift it, but not so heavy as to cause a hard restraint and hence shock on the nooses when the bird is caught or when it tries to escape. This design incorporates all of these principles.

The most striking feature of this trap is the aluminum hoop in which it is suspended by bungee cord. This hoop allows the trap to be flung like a frisbee (but it doesn't sail like a frisbee as it would with a plywood disk, which is dangerous), and be supported by bungee cords to eliminate shock to the nooses. It also depresses grass around the trap and makes it more visible to the raptor and the trapper. The hoop is between 16" diameter (made of a rod 50" long) to 18" (made of a rod 56" long). The hoop is made of 5/8" diameter solid aluminum rod. It is important for ease of bending to pick the right aluminum material. The commonest rod material, 6061 T6, is so stiff that it is difficult for even a machinist to bend it to a circle. A machinist did so for your Editor but he had to weld the ends together to make them meet. A better choice is Alloy 2024 tempered to T3, which the designers had a machinist bend for about $5, or even tempered to 0, which can be hand formed. The ends of the rod can be fastened together by welding, or by placing a piece of hose over them. The hose actually makes a good place to grip the trap, which without some friction is hard to hold in other than a vertical position. Six or eight equally-spaced quarter-inch holes are drilled in the hoop in the radial direction to take the bungee cords, which can either be passed through them and back over the top or fastened to the holes by wire, S-hooks or clips. The holes must be in the horizontal plane so that the connection devices or bungee cords will only be on the top, where they cannot be damaged when the trap slides on the ground.

Experience using bal-chatris weighted with horseshoes has shown about 2 pounds to be a good weight; a redtail can barely lift it off the ground. This is the weight of the aluminum hoop. From the shock standpoint, a heavier aluminum rod could in principle be used since the bungee cord suspension of the trap decreases the shock on the nooses to the point where the designers use 17-lb and 20-lb test monofilament successfully, but the weight of 2 lbs is about the limit for easy throwing from a car window.

Another new feature of this trap is the sizing of the nooses. The top of the stem is 3" above the trap. The nooses are 1" diameter, which means a noose is 3+" long when fully closed. When the bird gets a toe through a noose and steps down on the trap, the noose is tight around the toe by the time it reaches the trap surface. The stems are placed close enough together so that the nooses do not overlap, but little space is left between them. Although the designers suggested initially that extra nooses be placed right on the trap surfaces to catch a bird in case it was missed by the nooses on stems, on reviewing his experience Scott Simpson could recall only one case where the nooses on the surface were useful. A major disadvantage of nooses on the surface is that a sparrow or a starling placed in the bal-chatri may pull a noose inside and then get hung up in it -- with a starling, this is almost a certainty.

The designers chose a hemispherical cage because they had observed that from some angles it is difficult or impossible to see into a cage with flat surfaces. This is when the line of sight makes only a small angle with the plane of the surface. When a hemisphere is used, there is always a substantial

amount of surface where the line of sight into the cage is nearly normal to the surface of the cage. The cage is made by taking a piece of 1/2" mesh hardware cloth, placing it in the larger of two closely fitting nesting metal salad mixing bowls, and then placing the other one on top and pounding it down. To placate a dubious wife, your Editor placed one end of a wood 4"x4" inside the upper bowl and pounded on the other end with a hammer. Surprisingly, no damage was done to the salad bowls, but it is not recommended that you use your best bowls -- cheap ones will do. The cage should be painted flat black for best visibility into it -- the flat black reflects the least light.

The designers used a plywood board cut in a circle for the bottom of th cage. While this may not be ideal from the cleanliness standpoint, it protects the lure animal's toes from being scraped on the ground when the trap lands. A alternative might be to use a wire bottom and place a protective ring around th edge that would hold it a short distance above the ground when it struck. A small door is placed in the bottom, with a hinge and locking plate (see drawing). Holes are drilled in the floor of the cage to allow connection to th bungee cord suspension by S-hooks or loops of wire. Note the importance of keeping the bungee cord connection outside the cage so that the lure animal cannot gnaw it off.

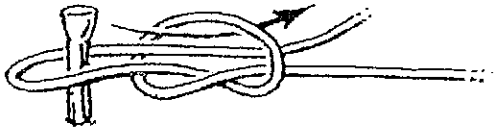
The bungee cord is attached as shown in the drawings. It is important to bind the "in" and "out" halves together at each connection, as with an electrical tie-wrap, so that if the bungee cord fails anywhere, the whole thing will not pull out.

The nooses are made with as limp, nonreflective monofilament as can be obtained. The designers used 17-lb test and 20-lb test material and have had n strength problems with it. Since about 3+" of the material is noose, 3" runs through the tube and some must be left to make the knot, your Editor made them so they were 12" long before installation. Four nooses are pulled through each piece of 1/8" (inside diameter) soft plastic or rubber tubing and positioned so that the nooses are oriented at 90^0 from each other. Then a quick-acting glue which is preferably somewhat flexible when set is injected into the top of the tube and allowed to harden. The designers fastened the tube upright to the edge of their work table with tape to insert the nooses and get them to hold their adjustment at 90^0 angles to each other, and then injected the glue and waited for a few minutes to allow it to congeal. It should be quick-setting so that you won't have to hold the nooses in position for long. It should also not harden to a brittle condition, or it will crack when the tubes are bent. Cold melt glue will work -- a small glue gun can be bought for from $10 to $15 (do not use hot melt glue because the heat can damage the monofilament). However, the tip of a glue gun will probably not fit into the tubing. Another, and probably better, alternative is to use silicone rubber RTV and inject it into the tube with a glue injector (which looks like a hypodermic syringe and can be bought in some hardware stores for about 75 cents) or a medical syringe with a size 00 hypodermic needle cut off to about 1/2" long. With this you can place the glue well inside the tube and so avoid getting it on the noose knots. Then the tube is placed the other side up and glue injected into the bottom and again allowed to harden. This will prevent the nooses from twisting inside the tube during the process of fastening them to the cage. [The nooses aren't easy to hold at 90^0 to each other, but it is possible to employ a small piece of paper with a hole punched in the center with a hole punch for the glue syringe and four much smaller holes made with a pencil point a half inch away to hold the nooses in position until the glue congeals.]

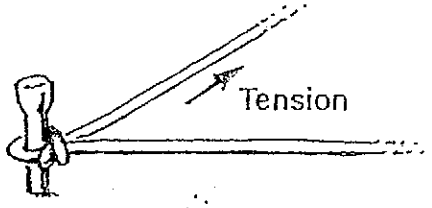
After enough nooses have been assembled into the tubes, the tubes are installed on the cage using a double overhand knot (see drawing) tied at wire intersections and sealed with quick-acting glue. Then the ends are cut off.

The nooses themselves should not be locking nooses. There are several good reasons: (1) if they break off, they will not be locked onto a bird's toe, with consequential restriction of circulation and possibly loss of the toe; (2) locking nooses are not needed with the design where the noose is tight as soon as the bird puts its foot down on the surface of the cage; and (3) if a large number of locking nooses catch the bird, as may happen with this design, you may find it necessary to cut several of them to get the bird off the trap. To facilitate removal of nooses from the toes, leave the tag end of the knot long enough so you can grasp it with your fingers and pull the noose open.

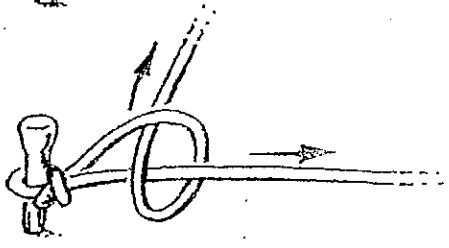
One potential knot for making the nooses is the end-loop knot, used by fly fishermen to tie loops in the eyes of flies where the fly must be able to wiggle with respect to the leader. To make it, use a small finishing nail driven a short distance into a board as a template for the size eye you want in the noose and then --



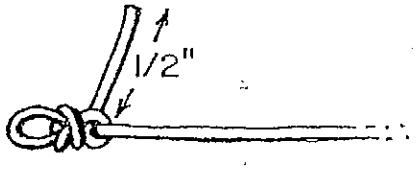
1. Pull some monofilament off the spool and tie an overhand knot about 6 inches from the end. Then pass the 6" tag end around the finishing nail. Put the 6" tag end through the open overhand knot.



2. Tighten the overhand knot around the standing part. Then pull on the tag end until the knot is hard against the nail.



3. Tie a half hitch with the tag end around the standing part. Slowly pull both ends to tighten the half hitch against the overhand knot. Then put a drop of Krazy Glue on the combined knot.



4. Remove the loop from the nail and trim the 6" tag end to 1/2". The 1/2" tag is for pulling the noose open when it is around the bird's toe or leg. Cut the monofilament about 12" from the loop and feed the standing part through the eye.

In summary, the improvements in this trap over Simpson's 1992 trap are: a) making the noose circumference equal to the tube height so that when the bird puts its foot on the trap surface the noose is closed; b) using a circular weight and bungee cord supports to improve throwing and reduce shock on the nooses; c) making the cage hemispherical to improve the lure's visibility to the birds.

Making this trap is not a trivial project. It takes about 14 hours of labor, largely in tying and installing the nooses. It also takes some shopping time to find the material and get the aluminum rod bent. However, based on the results achieved to date the time is well spent because the trap's increased effectiveness in attracting, catching and holding birds should save substantial time on the road trying to trap that special bird.

* * * * *

THE ESSENCE OF FALCONRY

By Bill Boni

It seems like yesterday that I was an apprentice falconer, and after months of preparation and anticipation, had trapped my first passage red-tail. I remember spending hours each day manning the bird, getting it to fly to my fist and accept the hood. I valued that bird as if it was the only red-tail in the world. Weeks later, he was flying beautifully to me on a creance without hesitation. Jubilant with my bird's progress, I was ready to fly it free for the first time. I took it to a field and turned it loose. It flew to a pole, turned and faced me. I nervously reached into my game bag for some meat thinking, "What if he doesn't come to me?"

Pete Jungeman's intermewed Barbary tiercel on ring-necked duck.

I showed him the meat on my glove, a glove that he had flown to numerous times and, sure enough, he refused to come to my fist. Frantically, I began waving meat in front of him, but to no avail. In desperation, I began throwing the meat up in the air closer to him in hopes that this might entice him to come down. He watched it rise and fall, rise and fall. Eventually, the late morning thermals began to rise, and my well trained hawk left his perch. He began soaring, became a speck in the sky, and drifted to the other side of the surrounding mountains.

After hours of looking for my lost bird, I gave up and returned home feeling very despondent. Seeking consolation, I went to see my sponsor, who was at that time a seasoned falconer of 20 years. I told him my story of woe, and I recall at one point telling him that I thought falconry was going to be fun, but instead it had developed into a very disappointing experience. He listened to me for the longest time, and aside from asking me a few questions and grinning on occasion, he never said anything. Finally, I ran out of things to say and it was his turn.

He began by saying, "Falconry is not 'Fun'. It can be pleasurable, but it is a pleasure tempered with hard work and frustration. There are more disappointments in falconry than rewards. If you are looking for 'Fun' in the true sense of the word, seek it in something other than falconry."

Over the years, my sponsor's comments have become reality. There have been many disappointments and frustrations. I have often questioned my participation in a sport that requires so much dedication. I have asked myself what causes people to get up before dawn on freezing winter mornings in order to be in the field before daybreak, so that they can fly their birds before rushing to work, or to speed home after work, rush past wife and kids, quickly change clothes, and run back out the door so that they can hawk before dark? What prompts someone to begin anew after losing a good game hawk, which represented plenty of hard work and sacrifice, or to start again with youthful enthusiasm after losing a bird that was an old reliable friend to an accident or illness? What enables someone to continue with a young and inexperienced bird that represents an inordinate amount of training only to watch in frustration day after day as it chases quarry that it is perfectly capable of catching? What causes some falconers to jeopardize, and in some cases sacrifice, their careers, family or friends to participate in a sport that is very demanding and, more often than not, unforgiving? In other words, what is it about falconry that makes it attractive to a certain group of people when common sense would seem to dictate otherwise?

During my initial year in falconry, I was told by a fellow falconer that falconry was psychologically addicting. Since then, I have experienced behavior that could be characterized as the direct result of some overwhelming psychological need. This behavior has manifested itself in the form of married falconers choosing to work at night so that they would be able to fly their birds more during the day. Multitalented falconers working at jobs beneath their abilities solely because their work hours were conducive to better hawking. Marriages collapsing due, in no small part, to the action of falconers unwilling to compromise when it came to the demands of falconry and their intense desire to fly birds. However, I have witnessed this

same level of intensity amongst those committed to dogs, horses, and racing pigeons. Falconry is no more psychologically addicting and, therefore, no more compelling than other endeavors whose participants are as committed to their sport as falconers. If there is some sort of psychologically compelling need that causes people to participate in various other activities, then this need is fulfilled for them just as much as it is for falconers; to suggest otherwise would be less than true.

I have also heard from those who have attempted to identify certain common personality traits amongst falconers, that one of the reasons why people are attracted to and participate in falconry it because they feel it is unique in the sense that it has no like or equal. Every sport is unique in its own way. As much as falconers might want to think otherwise, falconry does not have a corner on uniqueness. If anything, falconry is an exotic endeavor, particularly in today's world. Herein may lie the attraction for some falconers, but being attracted to falconry is one thing, being an active participant in something as demanding as falconry is another matter entirely.

Falconry is a solitary sport. The fact that one can participate in falconry without the involvement of anyone else is appealing to a good number of falconers. I have been to the field with falconers known for their solitary behavior, as well as their many falconry related accomplishments, and have watched as their falcons descended from heights beyond visibility to kill ducks in midair, or to view a 15 ounce Cooper's hawk, with blinding speed and unrelenting determination, drag down drake mallards and hang on despite being wing-whipped into semiconsciousness. Initially, I wondered why these falconers would prefer not to share their experiences with other people. I have since concluded that they did not view falconry as an opportunity to socialize with others. They recognized that you didn't need an audience to appreciate falconry. Consequently, they were perfectly happy in the field with their bird as their only companion. However, this again is only one small aspect of falconry, and although it may be attractive to a number of falconers, it certainly is not the reason why they continue to participate.

Hawks and falcons are predators, and hunting is what these birds are about. In the wild, if you exclude human interference, their very existence is predicated on the availability of prey and how successful they are at catching it. Falconers take advantage of this innate ability.

To some falconers, the concept of hunting with a bird of prey has a connotation of a falconer getting a hawk out of a mew like a gun hunter gets his gun out of the case. Consequently, they exploit the subt of falconry and find their greatest thrill c from watching their birds pursue game, r than catching it. For other falconers, wat a raptor make seemingly good flights on day after day, without success gets old fast. They argue that if these flights we fact, 'good flights' more often than no falconer and bird would not be going h empty handed. They feel that the chas be exhilarating, but the reward for both and falconer comes when the bi successful.

Despite these opposing views, the remains that falconry and hunting synonymous. By definition, hunting is c to falconry regardless of how one choos define their participation as a falconer.

One could then argue that a falcor generally someone who likes challeng solitary by nature, with an erron perception of falconry as a unique sport falconer is also captivated by the exotic r of falconry, and is extremely dedicated t sport because of the pleasure derived hunting with a hawk of falcon.

There you have it, a falco commitment to falconry is not compli after all. It is easily explainable w minimum of observation. However, whe consider that a falconer's bird spends as time in the mew molting as it does in the hunting, and that it is only during this li hunting period that falconers experienc real rewards for their efforts, it bec obvious that there is more to the equa This missing link becomes particularly ev in light of a history of demonstrated co by falconers for raptors in general, whi gone well beyond the scope of falc Consequently, successful hunting with bi prey cannot be the entire answer to the r puzzling complexities of falconry.

Falconers rose to the occasion donated their time, effort, money,and bi help preclude the extinction of the pere falcon on the North American Continent. told that grown men (falconers) choked tears as they watched some of the first ca bred peregrines return to the wild. Falc support the Peregrine Fund through the Center for Birds of Prey, which is dedica conservation of raptors and environments. Other falconers have inv themselves with raptor rehabilitation attempt to return injured birds to the wil of these things suggest that hunting with of prey is not the only reason why p continue to participate in falconry. Th something else equally important.

This "something else" is an aspec

falconer's behavior that is difficult to describe, but unmistakably present. It is readily noticeable to those outside the sport of falconry, the nonfalconers who experience falconry through their association with falconer friends. It can be characterized as a strong affinity for birds of prey and what they represent. This affinity is demonstrated in various degrees from the most basic falconer to the most sophisticated, and it is this affinity that non-falconers experience when they watch a falconer with his or her bird or they share in conversation with a falconer about falconry or raptors in general.

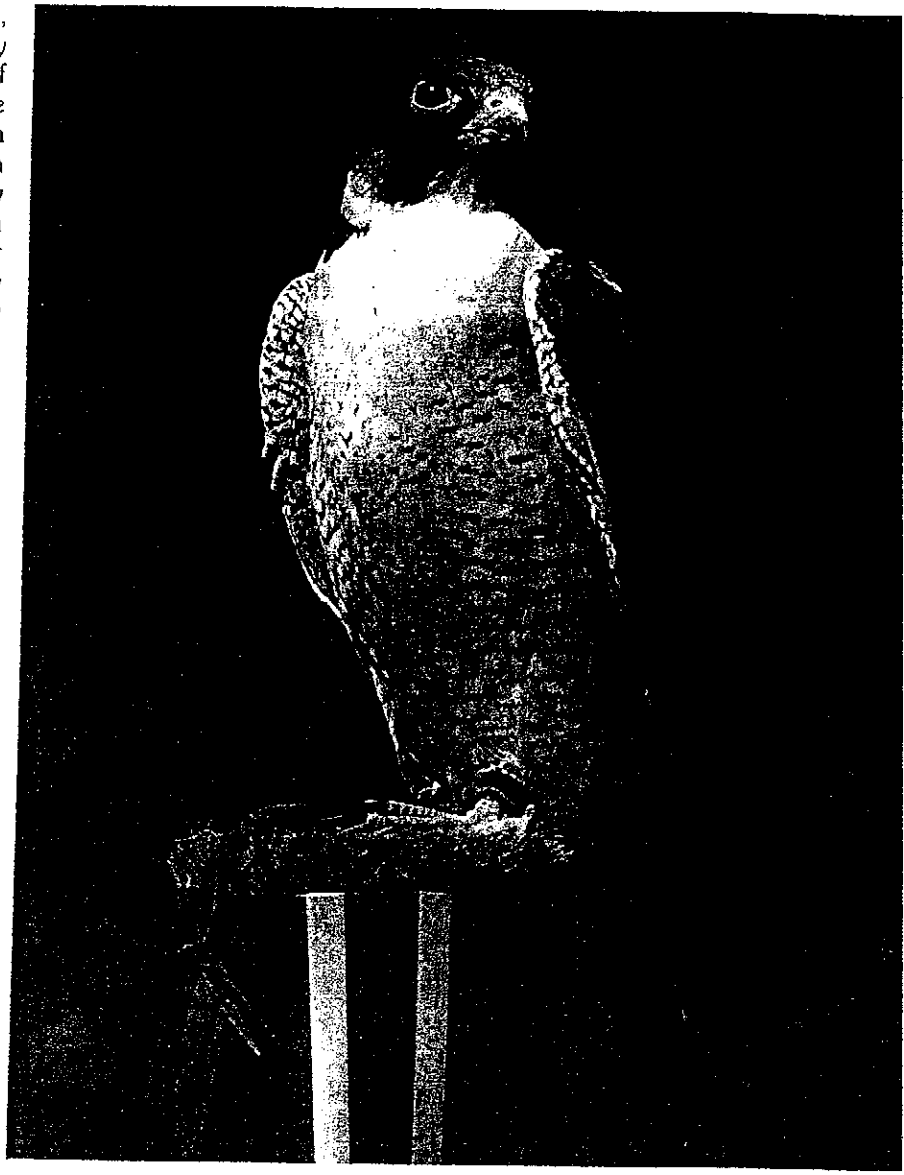
As apparent as this behavior might be to others, it is hardly recognizable to falconers because it is literally part of their psyche. It is the root reason for what some see as their addiction to the sport. It also represents the common thread between falconers throughout the United States. This very close relationship between bird and man is the one thing that does, in fact, give falconry a uniqueness that other endeavors do not have.

Falconry represents more than hunting with birds of prey, it signifies a primordial relationship between man and bird that can be traced back almost 4000 years. It is a very close association in which the birds give falconers an opportunity to experience the essence of nature, and it is through this experience that a strong bond is formed, a bond that was revealed to me years ago through my relationship with a wild trapped passage Cooper's hawk.

We had many experiences together, me and the Coops. Some of these experiences were rewarding and, because of her high-strung nature, some of them were frustrating for both her and me, but regardless of circumstances, she allowed me to share in her world, and I became her hunting partner for a complete season - a bond was formed.

At the end of the season, I fattened her up and took her to a field for release. I climbed to the top of a hill and called her to me. After she had her tidbit, I sat down with her on my fist. Within a few minutes, she flew about ten feet onto the ground. I decided to sit there for awhile and see what she would do. Because of her high-strung nature I fully expected her to get antsy and fly off. To my surprise, not only did she continue to sit there, but she eventually tucked-up a foot and was obviously content being with me. So there we were, the falconer and his wild-trapped Cooper's hawk, sharing time together on top of a hill overlooking a pristine valley. Needless to say, I could not bring myself to release her on that particular day.

Grossman and Hamlet described the relationship between a falconer and his hawk in their book Birds of Prey of the World when they wrote, "In all man's association with the birds of prey there has been none more intimate than that of the falconer with his hawk." It is an association born out of a trust that has been carefully nurtured by the falconer. It is this trust between hawk and falconer that causes a Harris hawk to find home after being lost in the Sonoran Desert for 30 days or a lost red-tail to seek out its falconer friend from deep within a Georgia forest guided only by a whistle or a falcon to fly to the origin of a familiar voice, and a fist it can't see, during a blinding snowstorm in the Northwest. It is because of this association, which represents the essence of falconry, that falconers continue to be falconers, and it is through this association that falconers, unlike any other segment of society, learn to appreciate birds of prey.



"Waiting"–Chip Reinhard's 5 year old tiercel Peale's, Andy.

A FABLE

Joseph P. Littlejohn
24367 Evergreen Mills Road, Aldie, Virginia 22001

I recently picked up a book at an antiquarian book seller titled, "Select Fables of Aesop", printed in 1804. This is an interlinear translation of the Latin with English (no doubt to be used by a student). The book was put together by James Ross, a Professor of the Latin and Greek languages in Franklin College, Borough of Lancaster (printed by Burnside and Smith, North Queen Street). There is one fable I found entertaining and thought you might too. I have included the entire piece, although you may be more interested in the last half. Incidentally, I have preserved his original spelling.

I had a great laugh when I read it.... just goes to show you how little things change.

FABLE CCI.
Of the Doctor, who cured Mad People

Many were talking of the needless charge of those, who feed dogs for fowling. A certain man of them says, the fool of Milan laughed at these justly. When the story was demanded, he said, there was a doctor, a citizen of Milan, who undertook to cure mad people brought to him within a certain time: but the cure was of the following kind; he had at his house a court, and in it a pond of stinking water, in which he bound them naked to a stake, some as far as to the knees, others as far as to the belly, some deeper, according to the degree of their madness; and so long he starved them in the water, till they would seem of a sound mind. A certain man was brought among the rest, whom he put into the water as far as to the thigh; who began to come to his wits after fifteen days, and to ask his doctor, that he might be brought again out of the water; he took out the man from the torture, yet on that condition, that he should not go beyond the court. When he had obeyed some days, he suffered him, that he might walk over the whole house; but that he should not go out of the outward gate; (his companions, who were many being left in the water;) he obeyed the orders of the doctor diligently; but standing upon the threshold on a certain time; (for he did not venture to go out) he saw a young man coming on a horse with two dogs, and a hawk; moved with the novelty of the thing; (for he did not retain in his memory the things which he had seen before his madness;) when the young man had come near, he said, soho, you, I pray, answer me in a few things: what is this, on which you are carried? he says, it is a horse. Then again, what is called this, which you are carrying in your hand, and in what way do you use it? He answered, it is a hawk, and fit for the catching of partridges. Then the madman enquires, and these, that accompany you, what are they, and of what use are they to you? He says, they are dogs, and fit, in fowling, for tracking the birds. But these birds, for the purpose of catching which you prepare so many things, of what price are they, if you add the catching of a whole year together? When he had answered a small price, I know not what, and that it could not exceed six guineas: the madman asks, what may be the expence of the horse, of the dogs, and of the hawk? he affirmed that the expence of them is every year fifty pieces of gold. Then having admired the folly of the young man, he says, I pray, go away hence quickly, before the doctor returns home; for if he would find you, he will throw you into his pond, even as the maddest of all men, and will place you in the water up to the chin.

MORAL
This fable shews, that many madnesses are daily unobserved.

* * *

THE APPRENTICE

To every person that I meet
"I'm a falconer" are the first words that I speak
But my redtail won't come down....

I only just fed her two mice before dark
Just enough to make her sharp
But my redtail won't come down

The day looks good, the weather is right
I promised my friends an incredible sight
Why won't my redtail come down?

So what if I didn't use the scale
After all... I know my "Tail"
But my redtail won't come down

She preens her feathers from back to front
A sure sign she's ready to hunt?
Any moment now and that redtail will come crashing down

I whistle and call till I'm almost blue
Flash a pigeon and lure too
Yet my redtail won't come down

My sponsor said to keep a chart
Which I did at the very start
For some reason my redtail won't come down

Now it's ten past one
Bunnies everywhere and still no fun
Well my redtail won't come down

I'll say it's got to be the weather
Or too many strangers... yeah... that's better
That's why my redtail won't come down

I know my Tail is true
Her response is instant... in the mew
But now my redtail won't come down

A bunny running... Ho!
She watches it as if to say... So?
That redtail just won't come down

Now she just refused a vole
Surely it's not improper weight control
That my redtail won't come down

Well it's almost quarter past three
She's still sitting in that same damn tree
That "#$*^&%!" redtail just won't come down

Light's fading, it's getting late
I can forget about that date
'Cause my redtail won't come down

"Come on stupid bird," I scream
She promptly puts her head under one wing
That lazy redtail just ain't coming down

The next morning I'm all alone
Show her the glove and she drops like a stone
Was it the strangers, or weather, that caused my redtail not to come down?'

I see my sponsor and ask him why
He feels her breast and then her thigh
He says "It's no wonder she would not fly
This redtail, son, is much too high!"
My shoulders droop, I'm down in the mouth
He says, "Just be thankful she didn't head south"
Remember the scale and the reasons why
Too high -- Bye bye, Too low -- could die!

So from now on I'll follow my sponsor's advice
I'll keep a chart and weigh her twice
And maybe next time my redtail will come down!

Darryl A. Perkins
576 Highland Street
Holliston, MA 01746

SUMMARY OF

IDENTIFICATION CHARACTERISTICS

I. Accipiters

A. Sharp-shinned Hawk (Accipiter striatus) - length 10-14"; tail square-tipped.

1. Adult: Reddish/orange eye; reddish barred breast; back blue/gray.

a. Male - wing length 6 3/8" - 7 1/8"
b. Female - wing length 7 5/8" - 8 5/8"

2. Immature: Yellowish eye; brown streaked breast; back grown with rufous tips.

* (Sex distinction same as adult)

B. Cooper's Hawk (Accipiter cooperii) - length 15" - 18"; tail rounded with broad white tip.

1. Adult: Reddish/orange eye; reddish barred breast; back blue/gray; top of head darker.

a. Male - wing length 9" - 9 1/2"
b. Female - wing length 10 1/4" - 10 7/8"

2. Immature: Yellowish eye; brown streaked breast; back brown with rufous tips.

* (Sex distinction same as adult)

II. Buteos

A. Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) - length 18" - 25"; breast whitish; abdomen dark streaked; throat whitish.

1. Adult: Tail red; eye brown

* (Sexes are indistinguishable)

2. Immature: Tail finely barred with brownish (NOT RED); eye yellowish.

* (Sexes are indistinguishable)

B. Swainson's Hawk (Buteo swainsoni) - length 18" - 20", dark breasted hawk with thinly barred grayish tail.

1. Adult: Two color phases; light phase (most predominant) has dark head, back and chest with a contrasting light belly and light wing linings; dark phase is completely dark; both phases have heavy black terminal band on the tail.

* (Sexes are indistinguishable)

2. Immature: Similar to an adult, but breast and belly streaked with streaks heaviest on breast; terminal band not as conspicuous in thinly barred tail.

* (Sexes are indistinguishable)

C. Broad-winged Hawk (Buteo platypterus) - length 14" - 18 1/2"; wing length less than 12"; tail barred; underwings whitish with wingtips blackish.

1. Adult: Barring in tail black and white (one broad and one narrow white bar); breast and abdomen reddish barred; eye reddish/hazel.

* (Sexes are indistinguishable)

III. Falcons

A. American Kestrel (Falco sparverius) - length 8 1/2" - 11"; rust colored back, top of head and tail; 2 black "whiskers" on white face.

1. Male: Blue wings, upper 1/2 to 1/3 of back unbarred; breast clear with pinkish wash; top of head reddish with no black streaking; tail unbarred except tip.

* (Immatures indistinguishable)

2. Female: Brown wings; back and tail barred up to nape; bar at tip of tail well-defined.

* (Immatures indistinguishable)

B. Merlin (Falco columbarius) - length 10" - 13 1/2"; finely barred white and brownish/blackish tail; streaked breast and abdomen; light white stripe over eye; lack of facial pattern found in other falcons.

1. Adult:

a. Male - bluish/gray uppersides, wing length 7 7/8" or less

b. Female - dusky brown uppersides; wing length 8 1/4" or greater; rump grayish

2. Immatures: like adult female

a. Male - wing length 7 7/8" or less

b. Female - wing length 8 1/4" or greater; rump brown

C. Peregrine (Falco peregrinus) - length 15" - 20"; heavy, dark mustache facial pattern.

1. Adult: dark bluish top of head and upperside of body and wings, mustache pattern more well-defined; upper breast clear.

   a. Male - wing length 13 1/4" or less

   b. Female - wing length 13 3/8" or greater

2. Immature: upperside of body and wings brownish with light tips; upper breast streaked.

*(Sex distinction same as adult)

IV. Harriers

A. Northern Harrier (Circus cyaneus) - length 17 1/2" - 24"; distinct white rump; facial "disk"; black wing tips.

   1. Adult: Deep yellow eye.

   a. Male - ash gray upperside; underside whitish with light gray/brown markings on breast.
   b. Female - brownish upperside; underside streaked with gray/brown.

   2. Immature: Like female except with underside tinged with reddish.

   a. Male - gray/brown eye.
   b. Female - dark brown eye.

V. Ospreys

A. Osprey (Pandion haliaetus) - length 21" - 24 1/2"; reversible outer toe; bottom of feet covered with spicules; black stripe through eye; black wing patches.

   1. Adult: Eye yellow; back solid dark brownish; top of head pure white.

   a. Male - Breast clear white.
   b. Female - Breast streaked dark brownish.

2. Immature: Eye orange/red; back feathers tipped with white; top of head streaked with black; rufous around neck.

* (Sex distinction same as adult)

VI. Eagles

A. Bald Eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus) - length 30" - 43"; lower legs not feathered to the toes.

1. Adult: Distinct white head and tail; body and wings solid dark brown; beak and eyes yellow (4 years or older).

* (Sexes are indistinguishable)

2. Sub-adult: White and black streaked head and tail; body and wings dark brown mottled with white; beak and eyes variable from mostly brown to mostly yellow (1 - 4 years old).

* (Sexes are indistinguishable)

3. Immature: Head and tail dark brown; body and wings mostly dark brown mottled with white especially the underside of the wings; beak slate gray; eyes dark brown.

* (Sexes are indistinguishable)

B. Golden Eagle (Aquila chrysaetos) - length 30" - 40"; lower legs feathered to the toes; head, body and wings and tail dark brown; nape feathers golden; beak slate gray.

1. Adult: Eyes hazel; no white in wings; some white may remain at base of tail (5 years or older).

* (Sexes are indistinguishable)

2. Sub-adult: Base of tail and center of underside of wings show white patches; eye brown (1 - 5 years old).

* (Sexes are indistinguishable)

3. Immature: Distinct, large white patches at base of tail and center of underside of wings; eyes brown.

* (Sexes are indistinguishable)

VII. Vultures

A. Turkey Vulture (Cathartes aura) - length 26" - 32"; small featherless head with whitish beak; underside of wings silvery; eye grayish/brown.

1. Adult: Head purplish/red.

2. Sub-adult: Head purplish/gray mottled.

* (Sexes are indistinguishable

3. Immature: Head grayish/brown.

* (Sexes are indistinguishable)

B. Black Vulture (Coragyps atratus) - length approximately 22" - 24"; blackish body and wings with white wing patches and tips of wings; blackish featherless head; dark brown eyes.

1. Adult: Bare skin of neck with heavy, transverse creases; blackish beak with white tip.

* (Sexes are indistinguishable

2. Immature: Bare skin of neck not creased, but, covered with briskly feathers; beak entirely blackish.

* (Sexes are indistinguishable)

VIII. Kites

A. Mississippi Kite (Ictinea misisippiensis) - length 12 1/2" - 14"; reddish eyes; dark tail notched.

1. Adult: Pale gray head, breast, belly and legs; beak, wings, and tail bluish/gray.

* (Sexes are indistinguishable)

2. Immature: Breast, belly and legs whitish with brownish streaking; underside of tail barred.

* (Sexes are indistinguishable)

B. Swallow-tailed Kite (Elanoides forficatus) - length 21" - 24"; reddish eyes, extremely long, dark forked tail; upperparts dare grey; underparts, head and wing linings are whitish.

* (Sexes are indistinguishable; immature plumage is similar to adults, but speckled).

IX. Owls

A. Earless Owls

1. Barn Owl (Tyto alba) - length 14" - 21"; heart-shaped facial disk; brown eyes; orange breasted and white breasted types.

* (Adult, immatures and sexes are indistinguishable)

2. Barred Owl (Strix varia) - length 16" - 24"; brown eyes with concentric rings on facial disk; neck and upper breast feathers barred horizontally in gray/brown; abdomen streaked vertically with gray/brown.

* (Adults, immatures and sexes are indistinguishable)

3. Saw-whet Owl (Aegolius acadicus) - length 7" - 8 1/2"; yellowish eyes; whitish eyebrows forming a broad "V" between the eyes; brownish head and face streaked with white; whitish undersides streaked with brown.

* (Adults, immatures and sexes are indistinguishable)

B. Eared Owls - all have yellowish eyes; adults, immatures and sexes are indistinguishable.

1. Screech Owl (Otus asio) - length 8" - 10"; reddish/brown and gray color phases; breast finely barred; streaking on breast back.

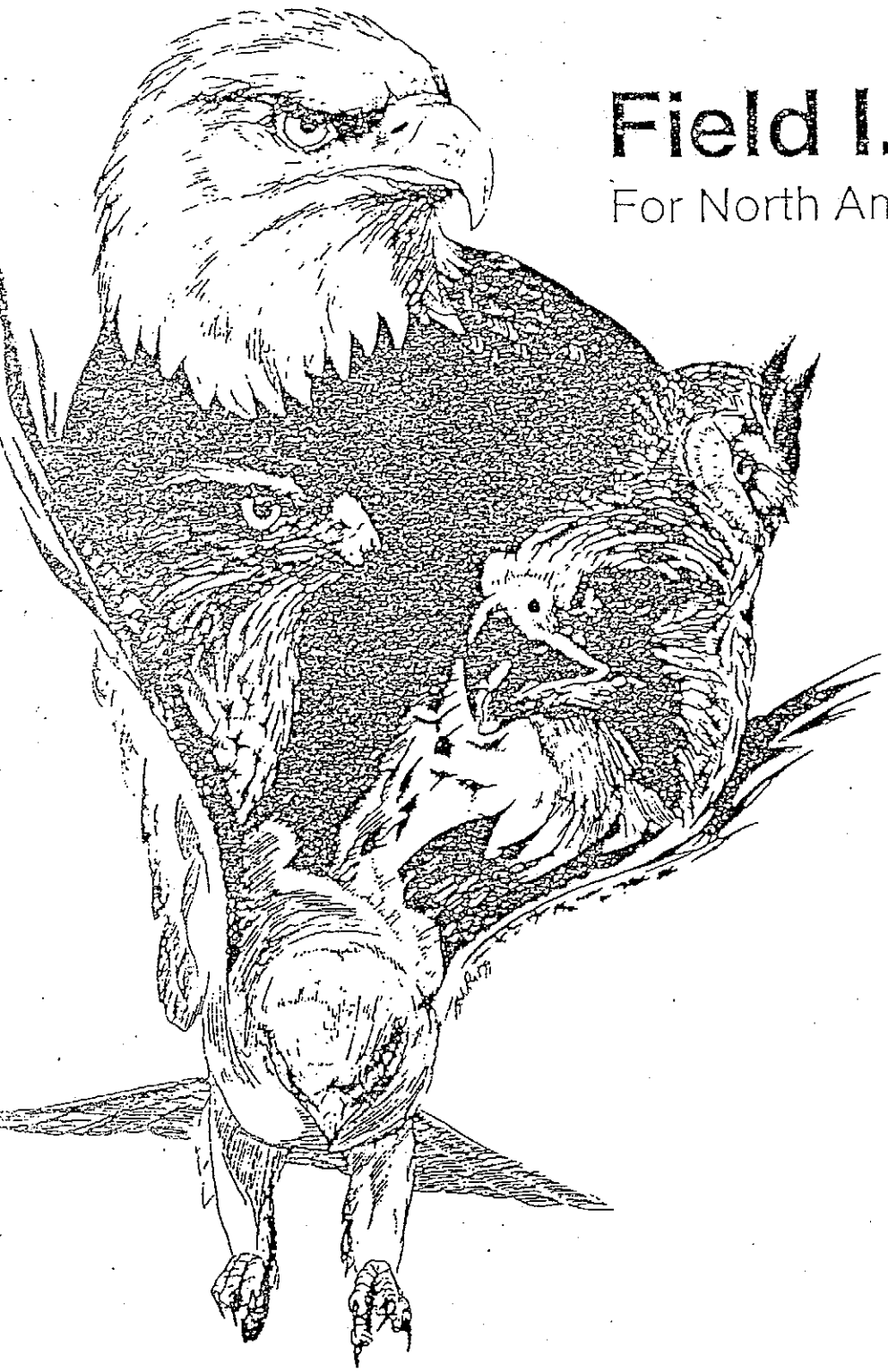
2. Great Horned Owl (Bubo virginianus) - length 18 1/2" - 25 1/2"; facial disk reddish/brown with black borders; ear tufts far apart; white throat patch; reddish/brown and gray coloration with blackish streaked breast and barred abdomen.

3. Long-eared Owl (Asio otus) - length 13" - 16"; ear tufts closer together and longer than in the great horned owl; breast and abdomen streaked blackish; no white throat patch; underside of wing whitish with black patches at bend of wing; whitish eyebrows; light reddish/brown facial disk.

4. Short-eared Owl (Asio flammeus) - length 13" - 17"; ear tufts very small and hard to see; streaked brownish uppersides, breast and abdomen; underside of wings whitish with black patches at bend of wing; brownish facial disk with white eyebrows.

RAPTOR INFORMATION CENTER

National Wildlife Federation



Field I.D. Pamphlet

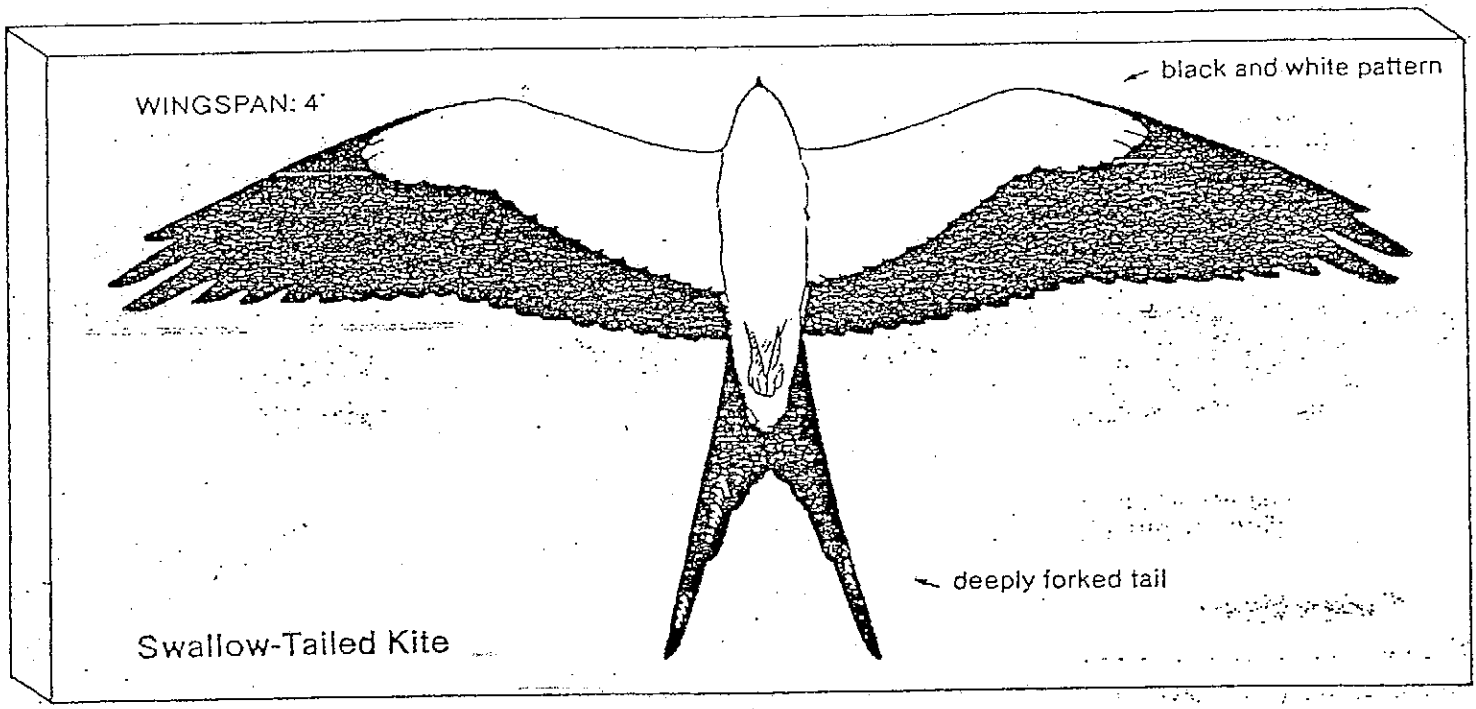
For North American Raptors

by William S. Clark and
Michael E. Pramstaller
illustrations by Bob Pratt

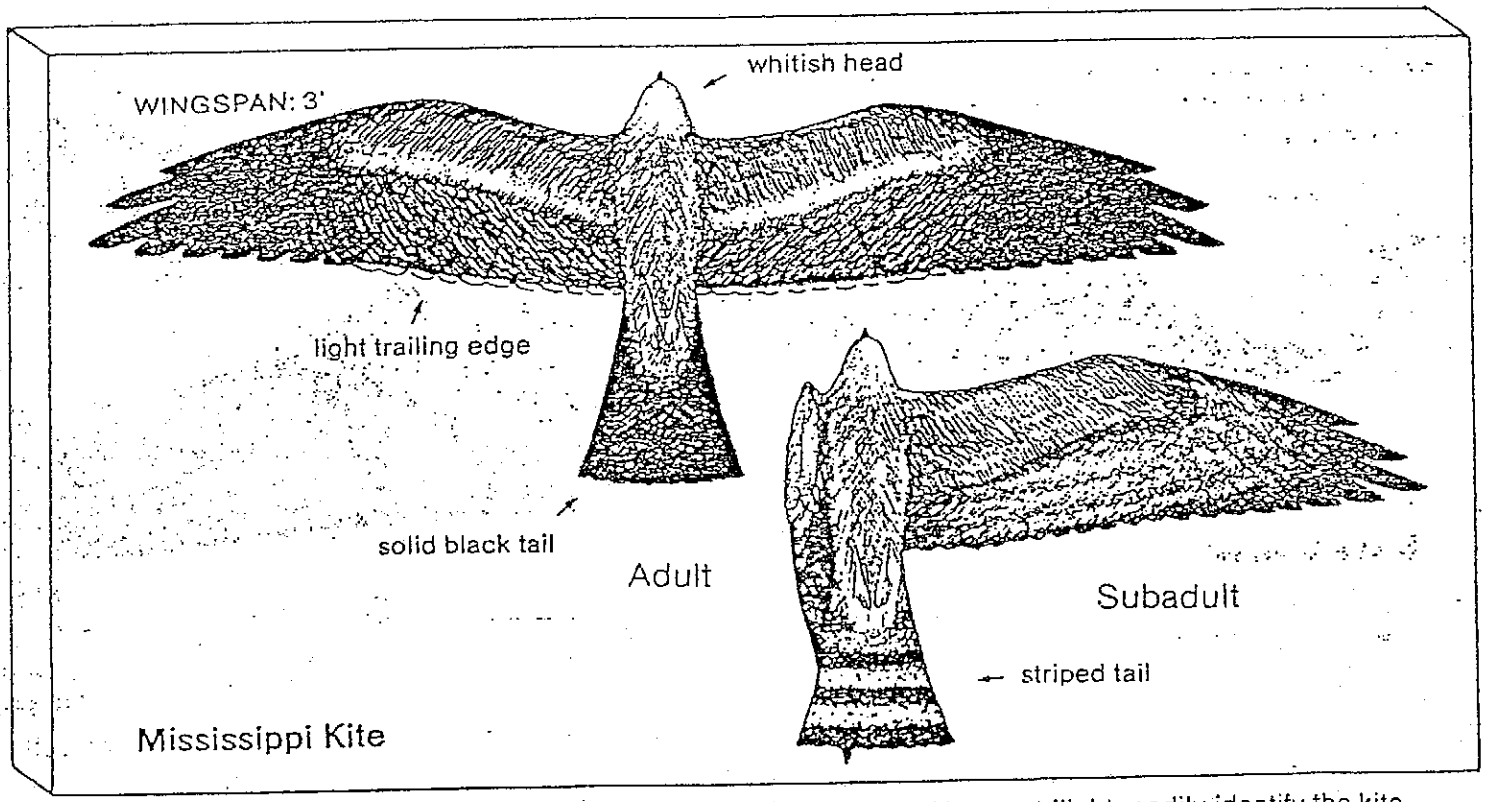
Prepared for the Raptor Information Center
Raptor Short Courses

KITES

Kites are medium-sized raptors which spend most of the day in graceful flight.



The black and white pattern and forked tail are diagnostic.

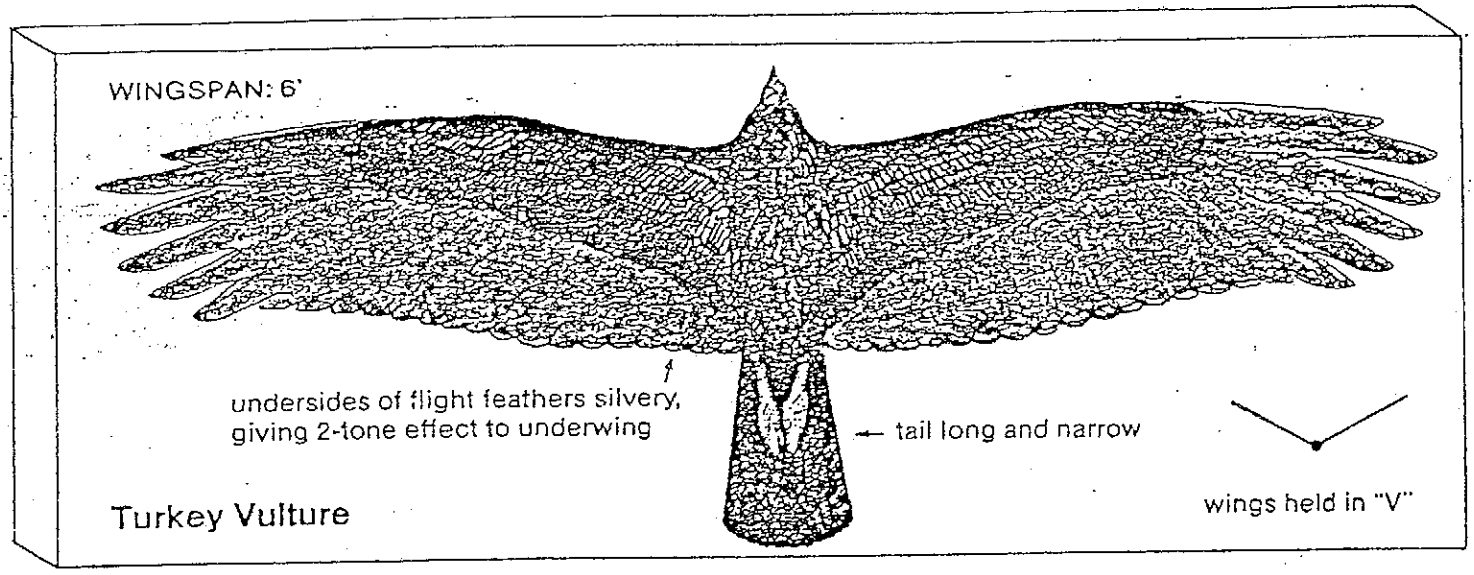


The outline of the Mississippi Kite is very falconlike, but light head and buoyant flight readily identify the kite.

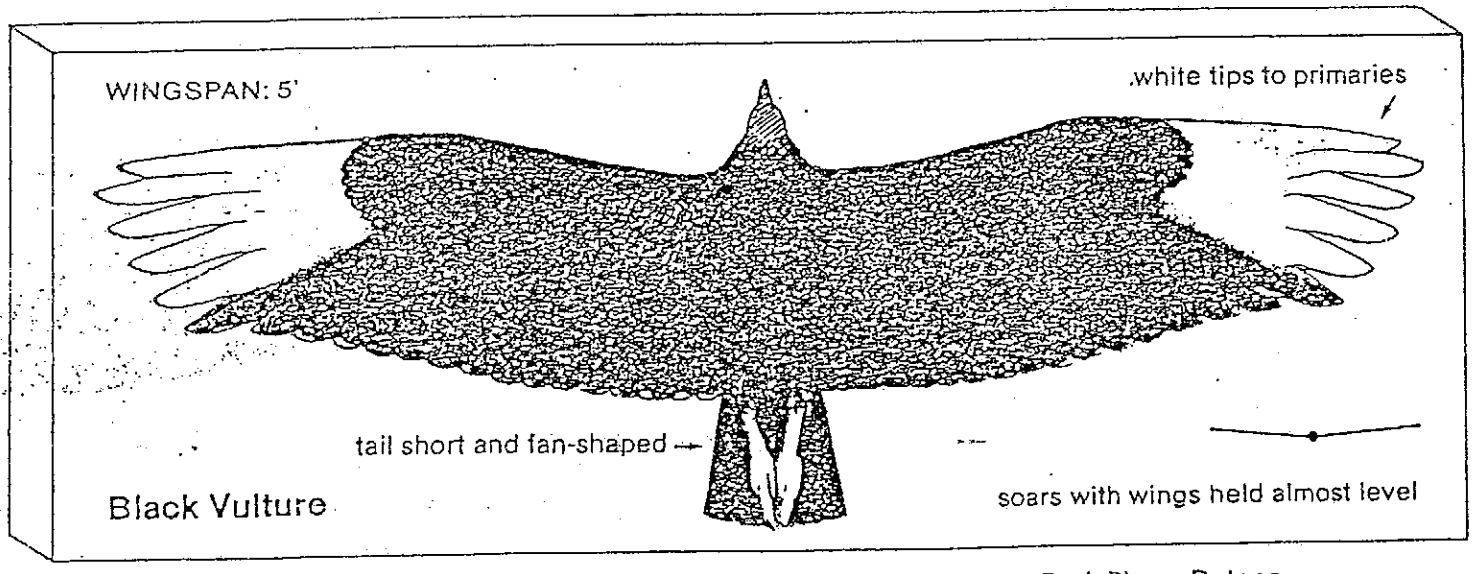
SIMILAR SPECIES: Falcons

VULTURES

Vultures are large dark raptors with relatively long wings. They spend much of the day soaring in the quest of carrion.



The turkey vulture "rocks" while soaring and rarely flaps, then with slow wing beats.
SIMILAR SPECIES: Black Vulture, Eagles, Harrier

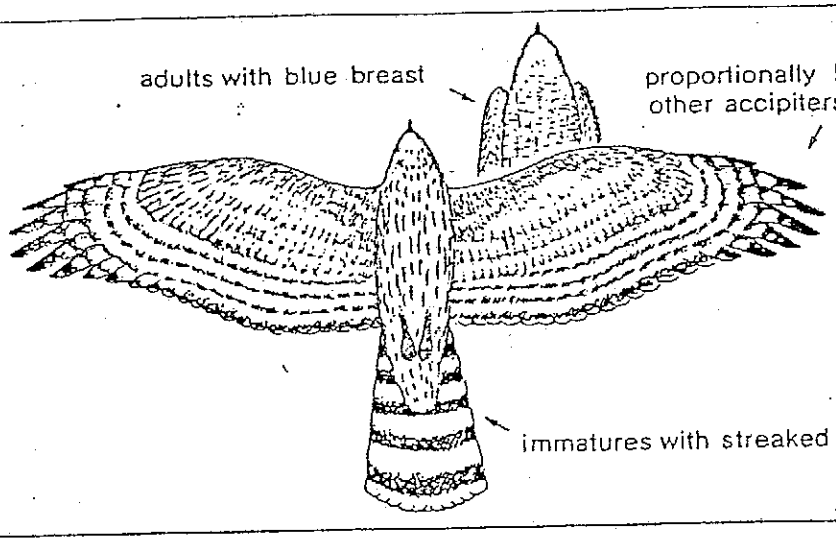


The black vulture flaps rapidly and stiffly. SIMILAR SPECIES: Turkey Vulture, Dark Phase Buteos

ACCIPITERS

Accipiters are forest dwelling raptors which have short rounded wings and long tails. They fly with several flaps and a sail. There is no overlap in size between species. Females are separably larger than males.

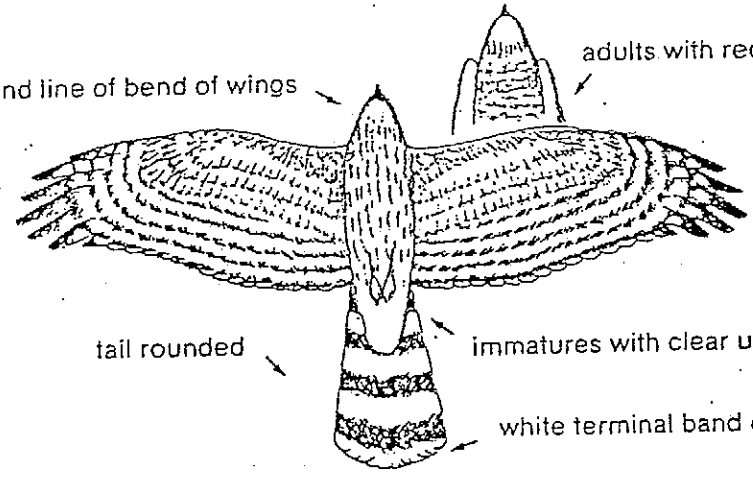
WINGSPAN: 3½-4'



Goshawk

SIMILAR SPECIES: Coopers Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk

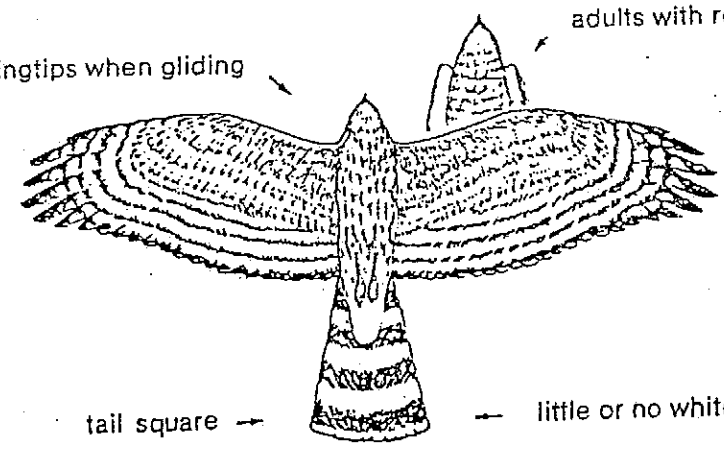
WINGSPAN: 2¼-3'



Cooper's Hawk

SIMILAR SPECIES: Goshawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk

WINGSPAN: 1½-2'

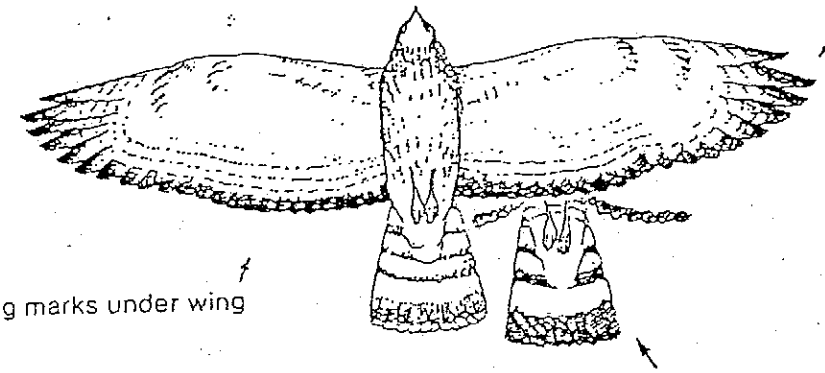


Sharp-Shinned Hawk

BUTEOS LIGHT PHASE

Buteos are sluggish, heavy body raptors with broad wings and short tails. They soar frequently. There is considerable size overlap between sexes.

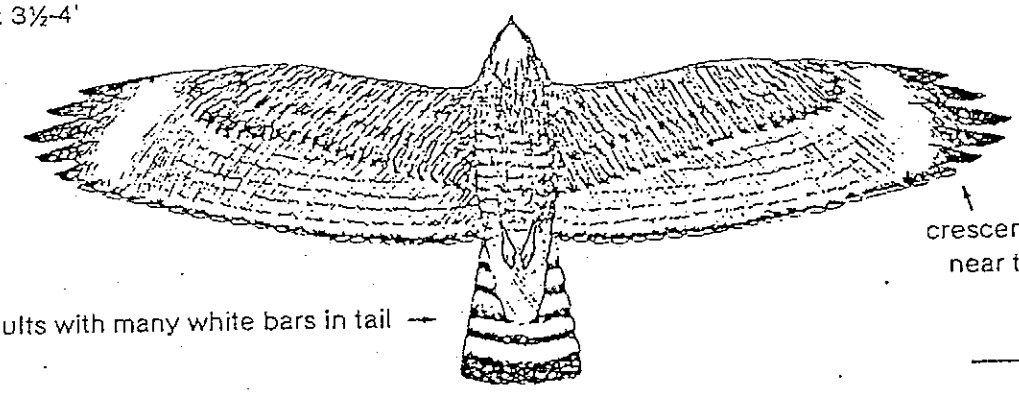
WINGSPAN: 3'



Broad-Winged Hawk

The broad-wing is the smallest buteo. SIMILAR SPECIES: Red-Shouldered Hawk, Coopers Hawk

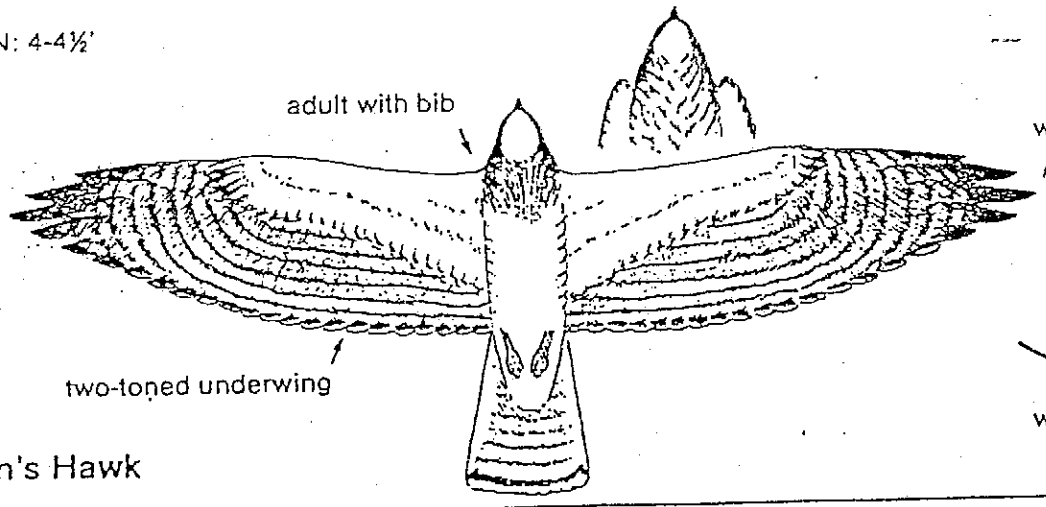
WINGSPAN: 3½-4'



Red-Shouldered Hawk

The red-shoulder almost always shows the crescent shaped panels. SIMILAR SPECIES: Broad-Winged Hawk, Goshawk

WINGSPAN: 4-4½'

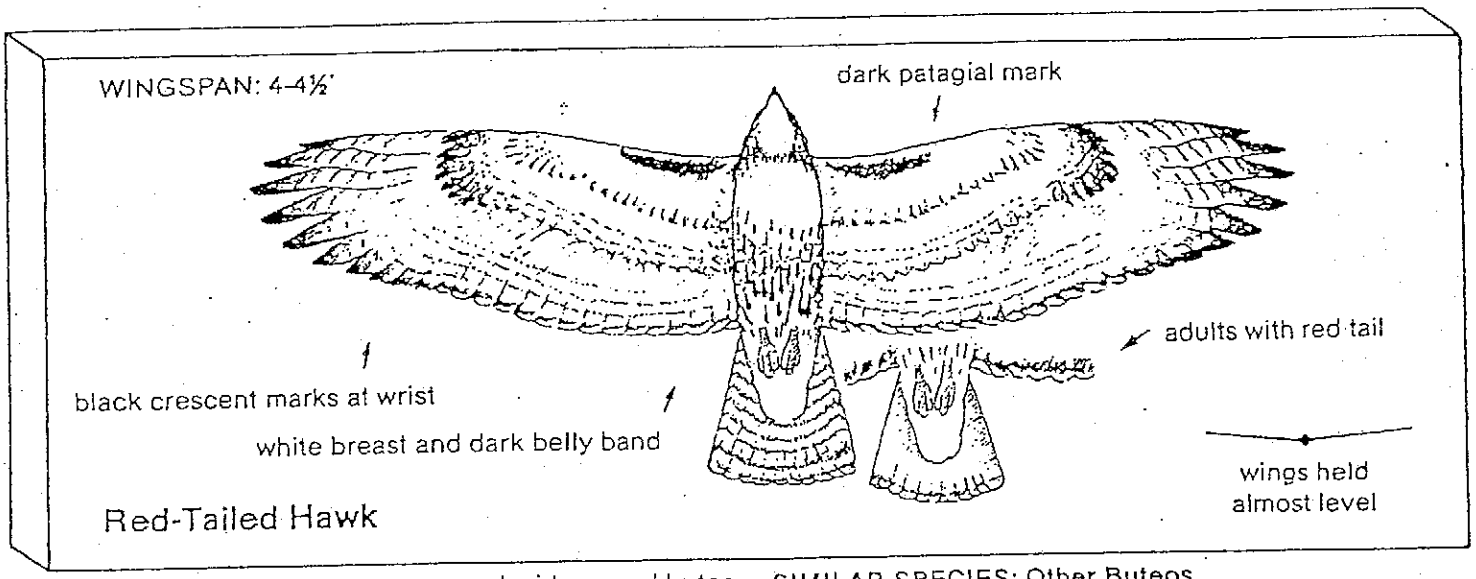


Swainson's Hawk

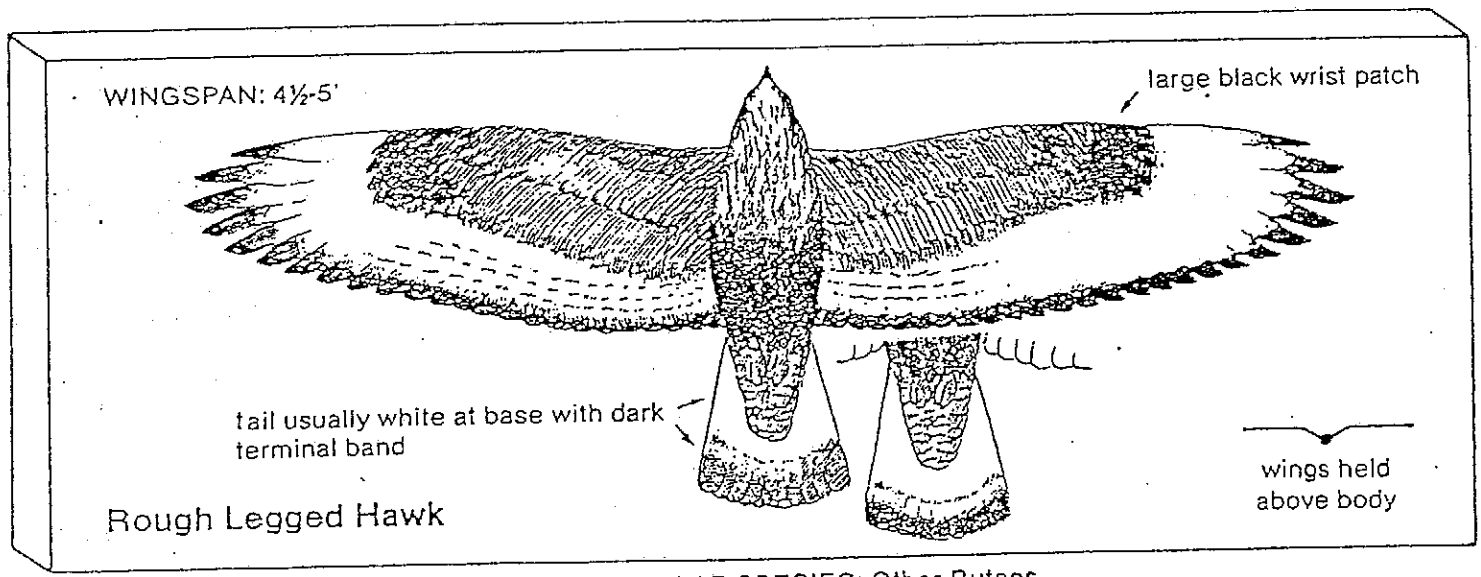
SIMILAR SPECIES: Other Buteos

BUTEOS LIGHT PHASE

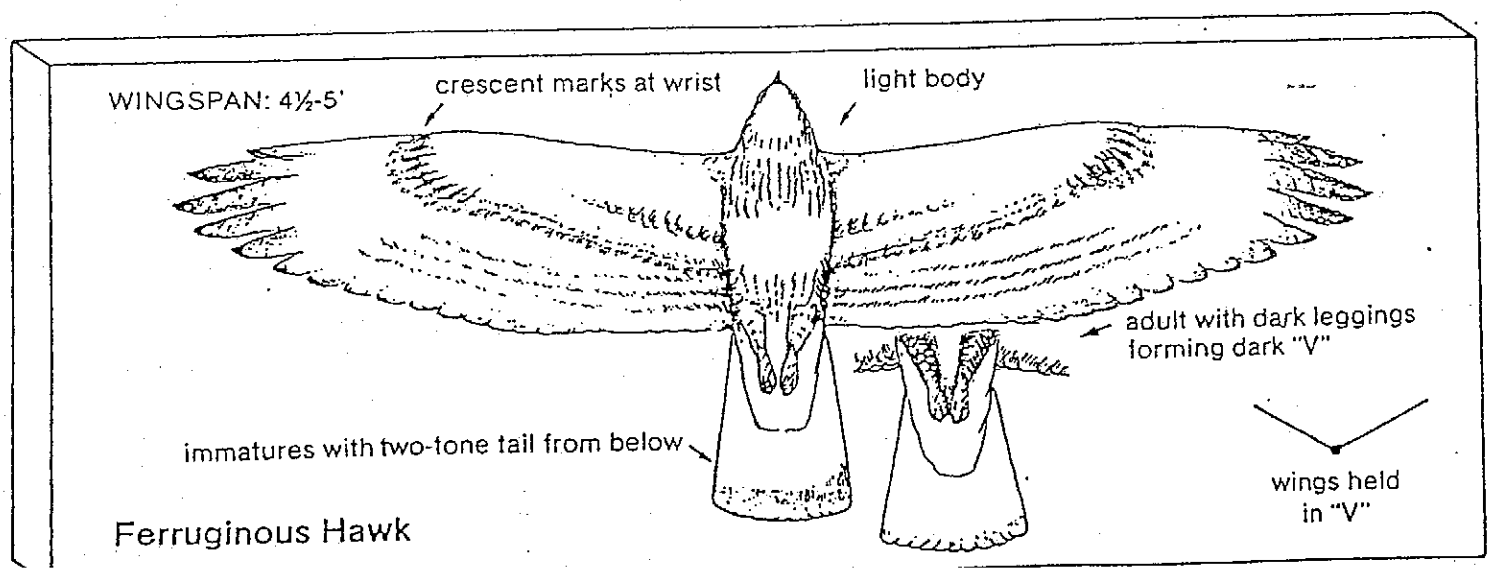
Almost all individuals in the Eastern N. A. are light phase.



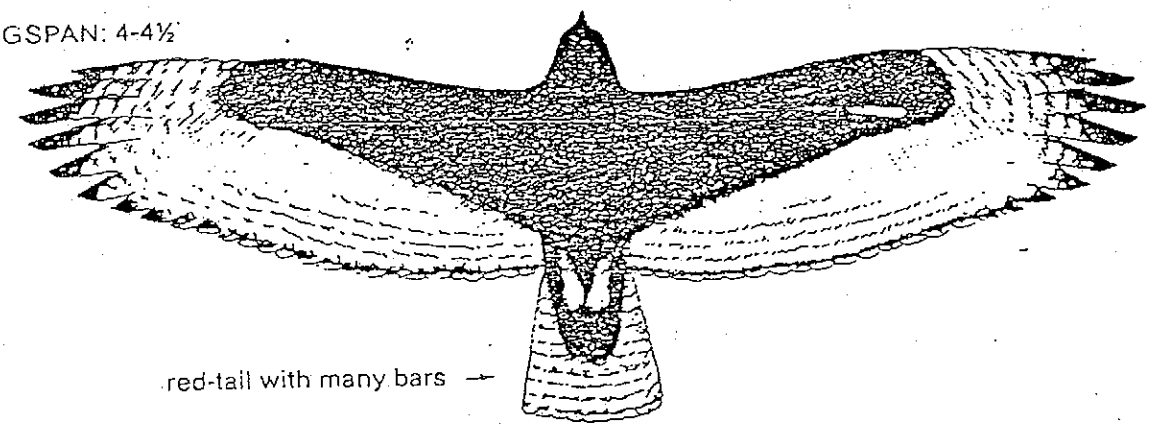
The red-tail is the most common and widespread buteo. SIMILAR SPECIES: Other Buteos



The rough-leg is only present in the winter. SIMILAR SPECIES: Other Buteos

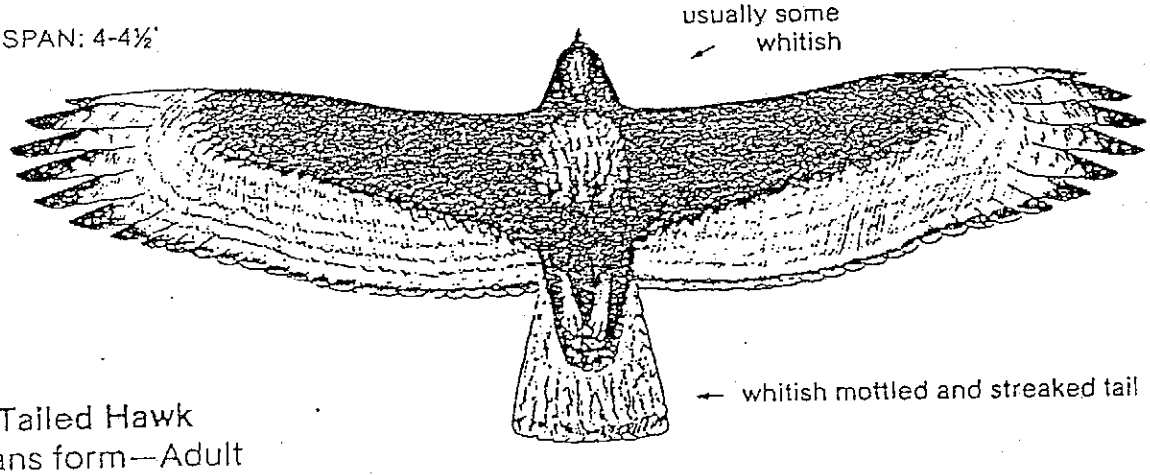


BUTEOS DARK PHASE



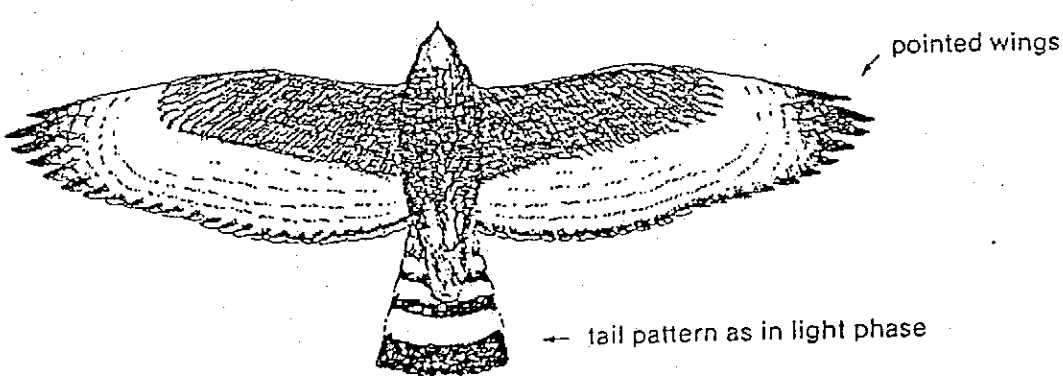
Red-Tailed Hawk Adult

Dark phase adult red-tails always have a red tail. Body color varies from deep chocolate brown to reddish.
SIMILAR SPECIES: Dark Phase Buteos



Red-Tailed Hawk
Harlans form—Adult

The Harlans form of the red-tail has a whitish tail with streaks. The immature is not separable from dark phase immature red-tail. SIMILAR SPECIES: Dark Phase Buteos

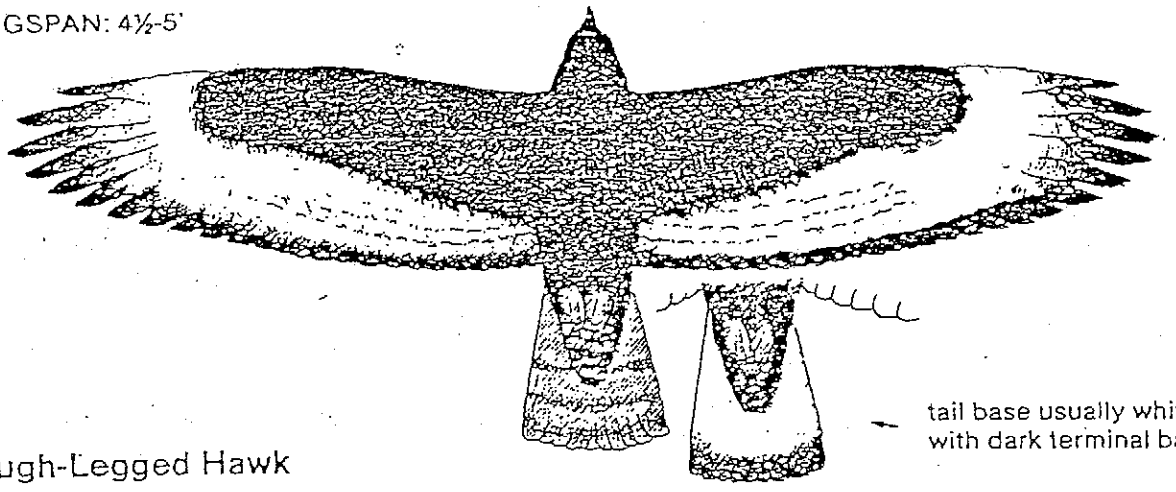


Broad Winged Hawk

BUTEOS DARK PHASE

Dark phase buteos occur mainly from the Great Plains westward.

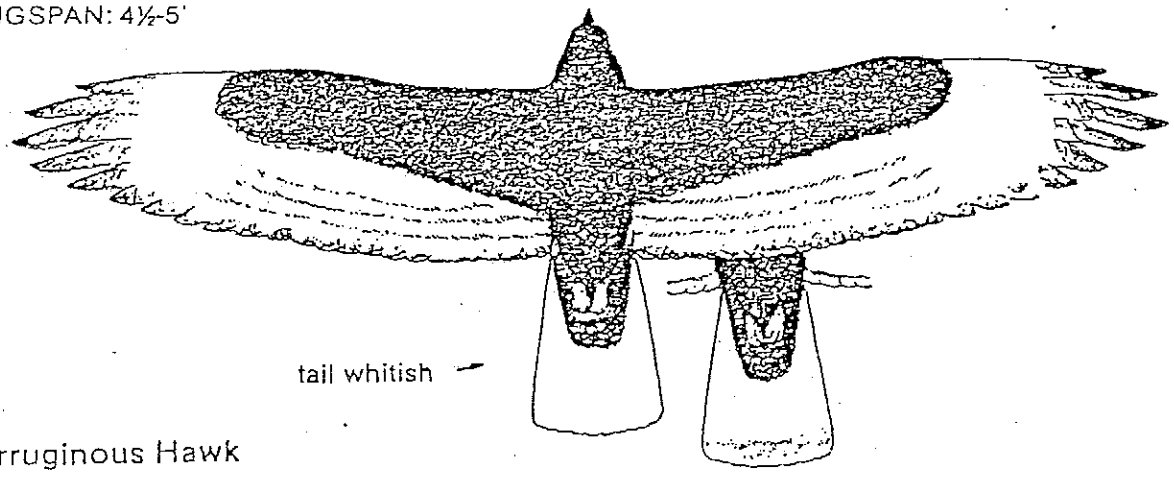
WINGSPAN: 4½-5'



Rough-Legged Hawk

The rough-leg is only present in the winter. SIMILAR SPECIES: Dark Phase Buteos

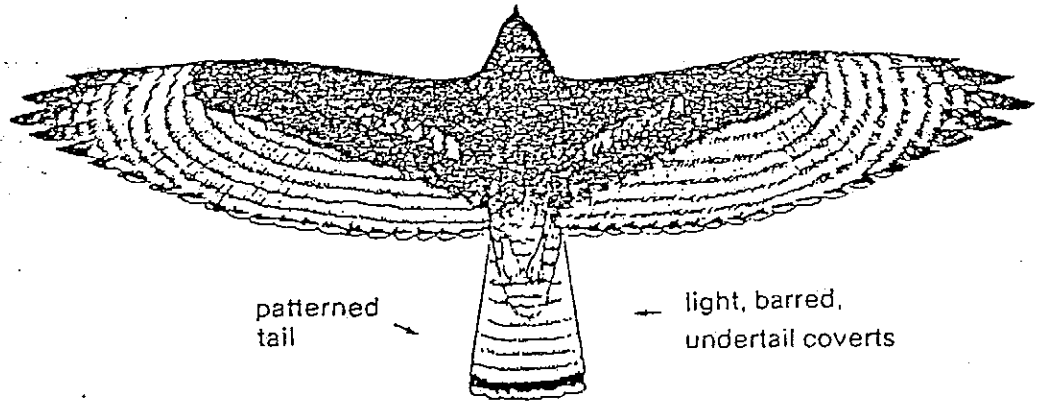
WINGSPAN: 4½-5'



Ferruginous Hawk

Dark Ferruginous uncommon. SIMILAR SPECIES: Dark Phase Buteos

WINGSPAN: 4-4½'

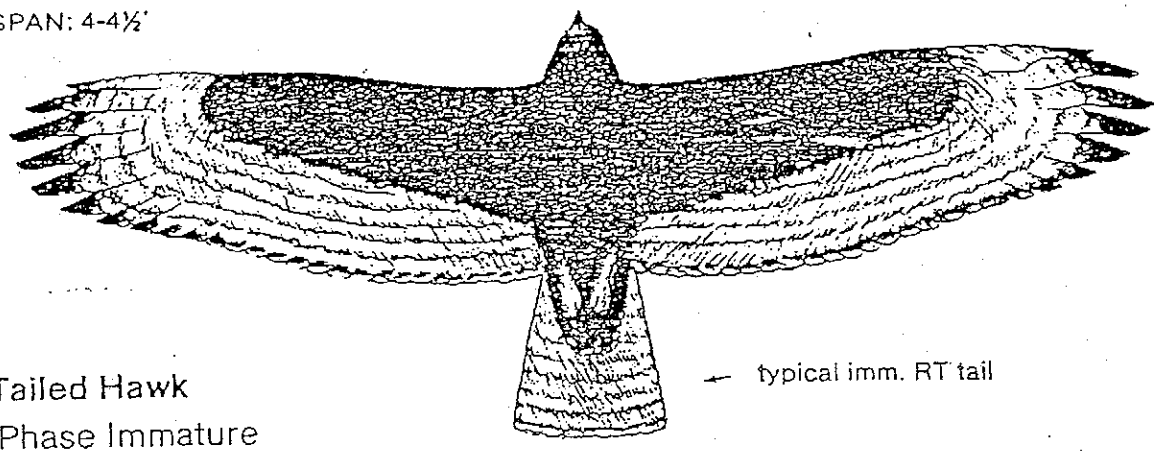


Swainson's Hawk

BUTEOS OTHER RED-TAILS

The red-tail is the most variable of our N.A. raptors. Some of the different forms are shown below.

WINGSPAN: 4-4½'

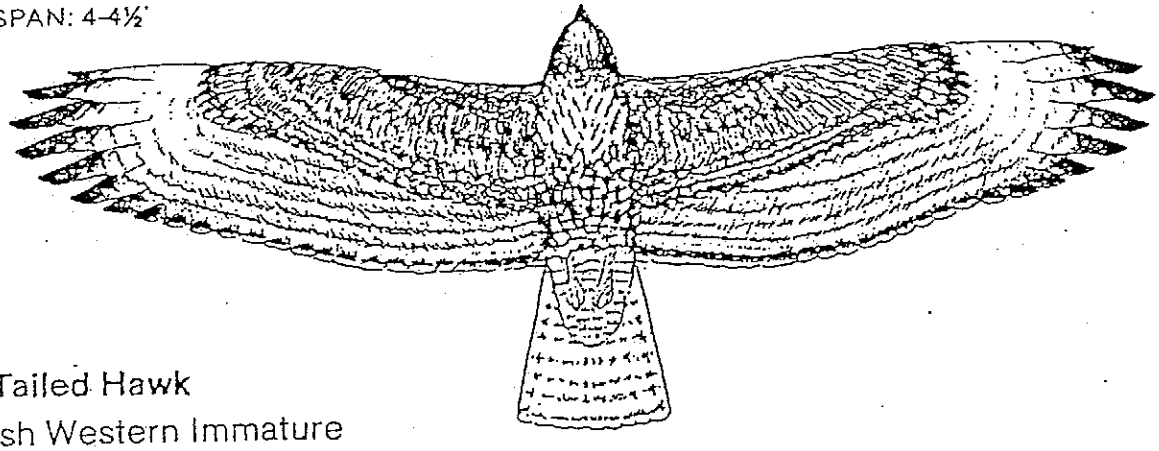


← typical imm. RT tail

Red-Tailed Hawk
Dark Phase Immature

The dark phase immature red-tail varies in body color from chocolate brown to reddish.

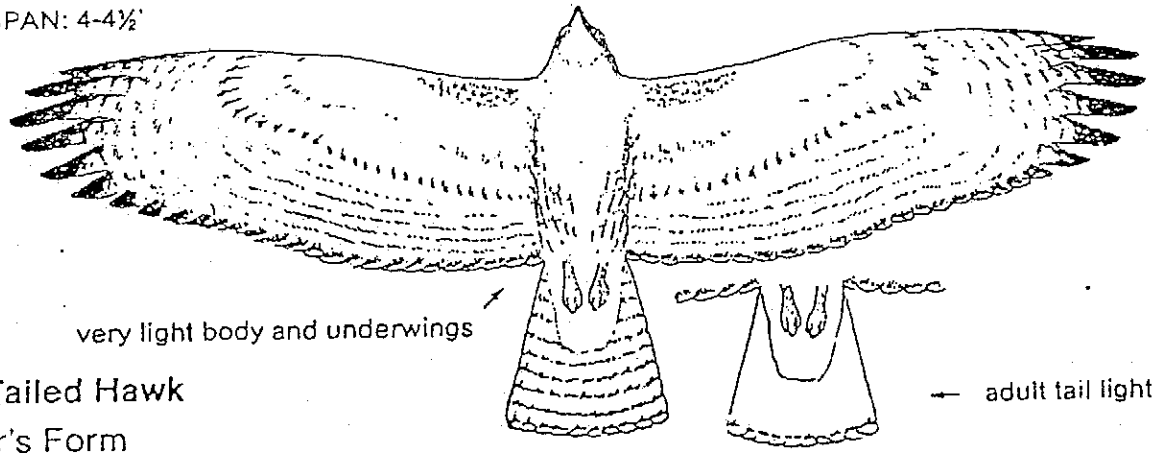
WINGSPAN: 4-4½'



Red-Tailed Hawk
Darkish Western Immature

The darkish imm. has the dark patagial and commas obscured by heavily mottling. The belly band also may not be visible.

WINGSPAN: 4-4½'



very light body and underwings

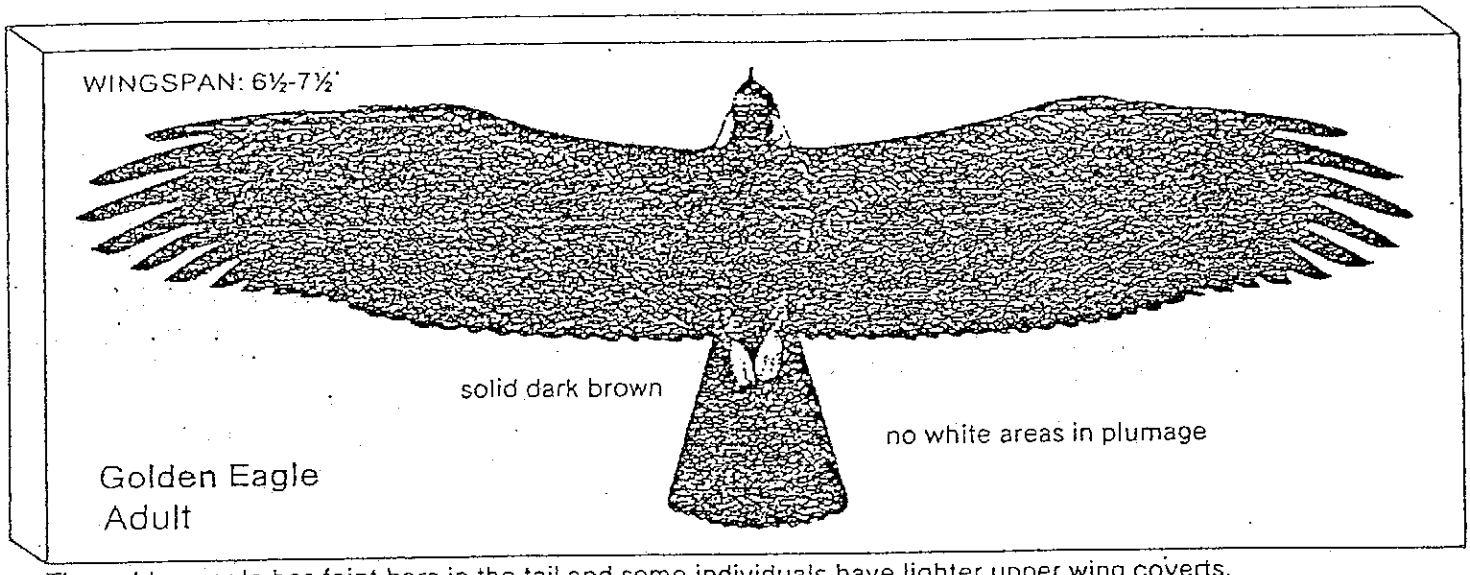
← adult tail light pink

Red-Tailed Hawk
Krider's Form

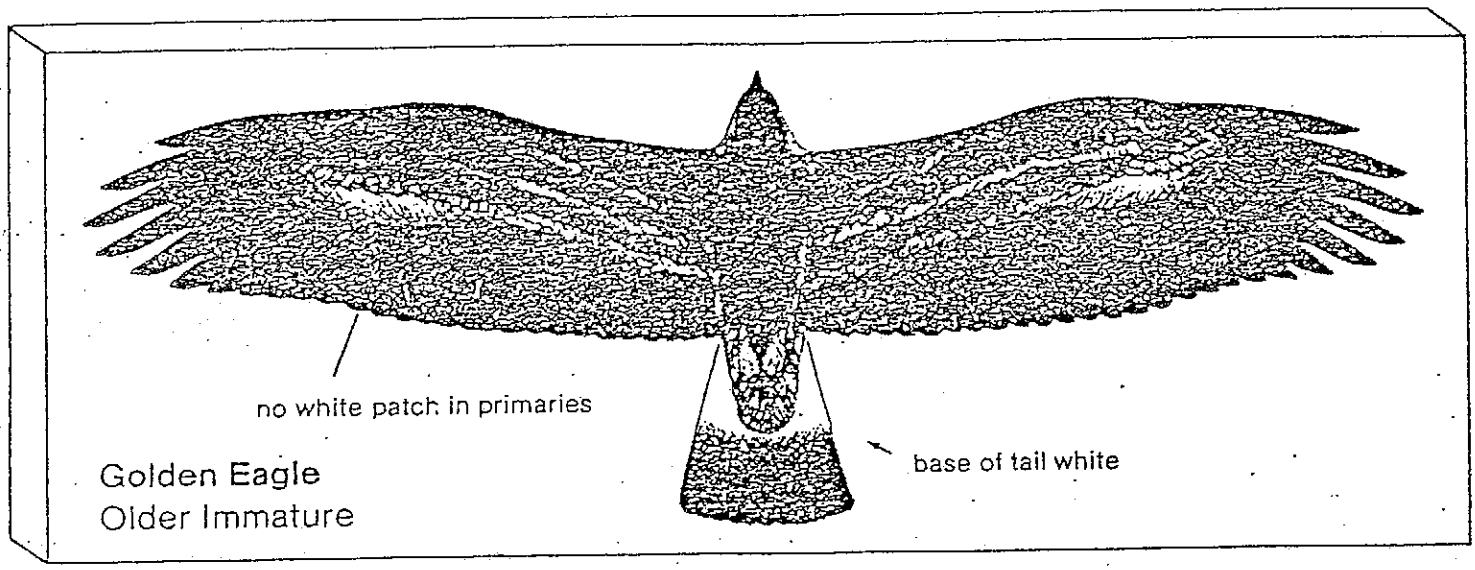
This form is a very light variety of the red-tail and usually lacks a complete belly band and is very whitish on

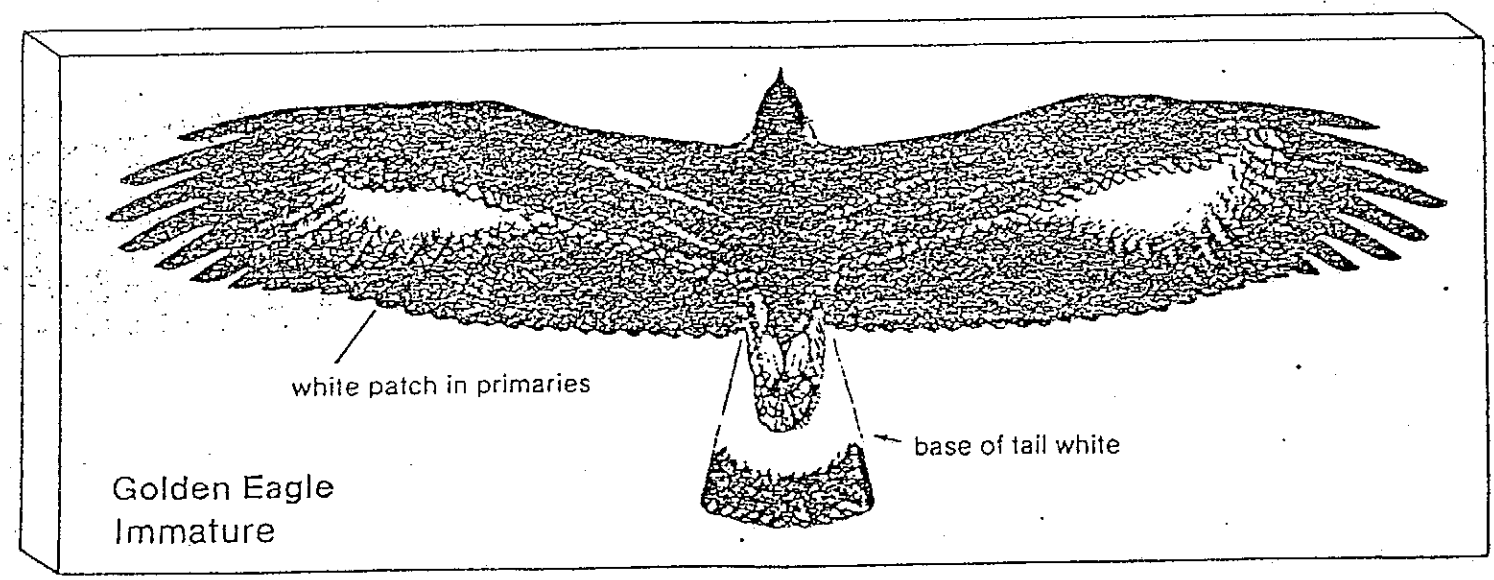
EAGLES

Eagles are very large raptors with proportionally long wings. The golden eagle always has a golden nape. The tail is more than twice as long as the head and neck.



The golden eagle has faint bars in the tail and some individuals have lighter upper wing coverts.

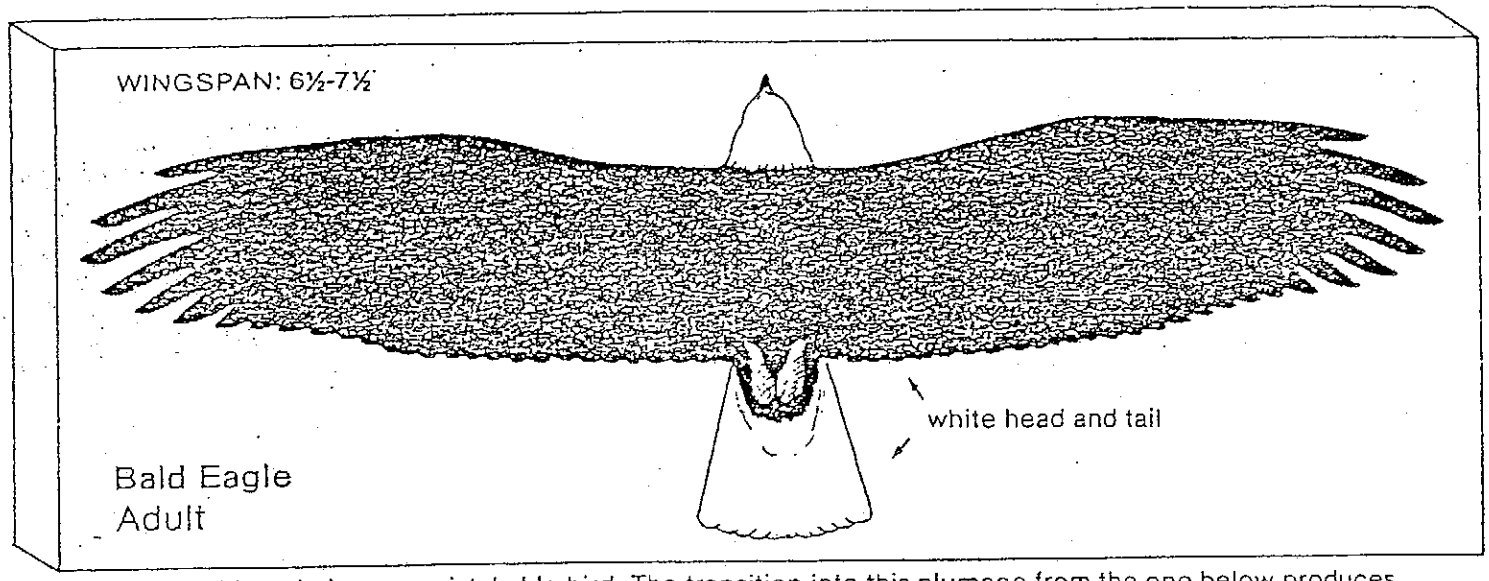




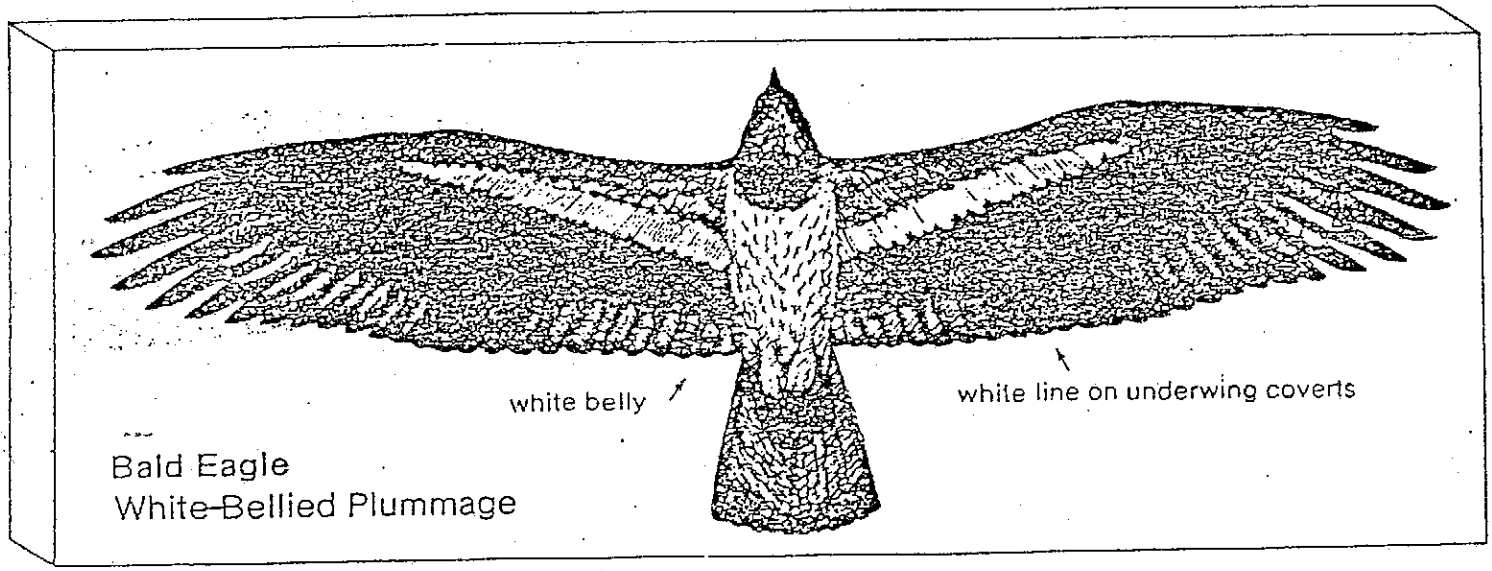
SIMILAR SPECIES: Bald Eagle

EAGLES

The bald eagle occurs in a variety of plumages, associated with the age of the bird The dark form is characteristic of the first year plumage. Then for the next two years, the bird wears the mottled plumage. At three years of age, it goes into the white-bellied plumage and at four, begins its molt into the first adult plumage.



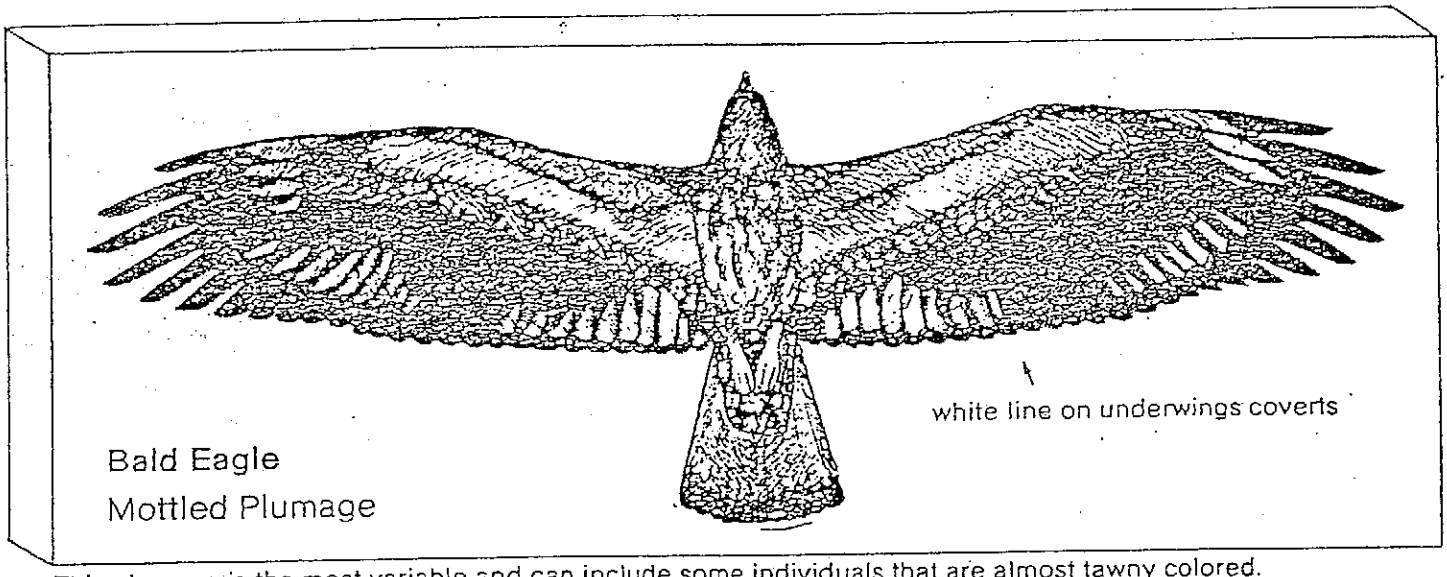
The adult bald eagle is an unmistakable bird. The transition into this plumage from the one below produces some strange looking eagles. Most typical is the osprey-like plumage with a line through the eye.



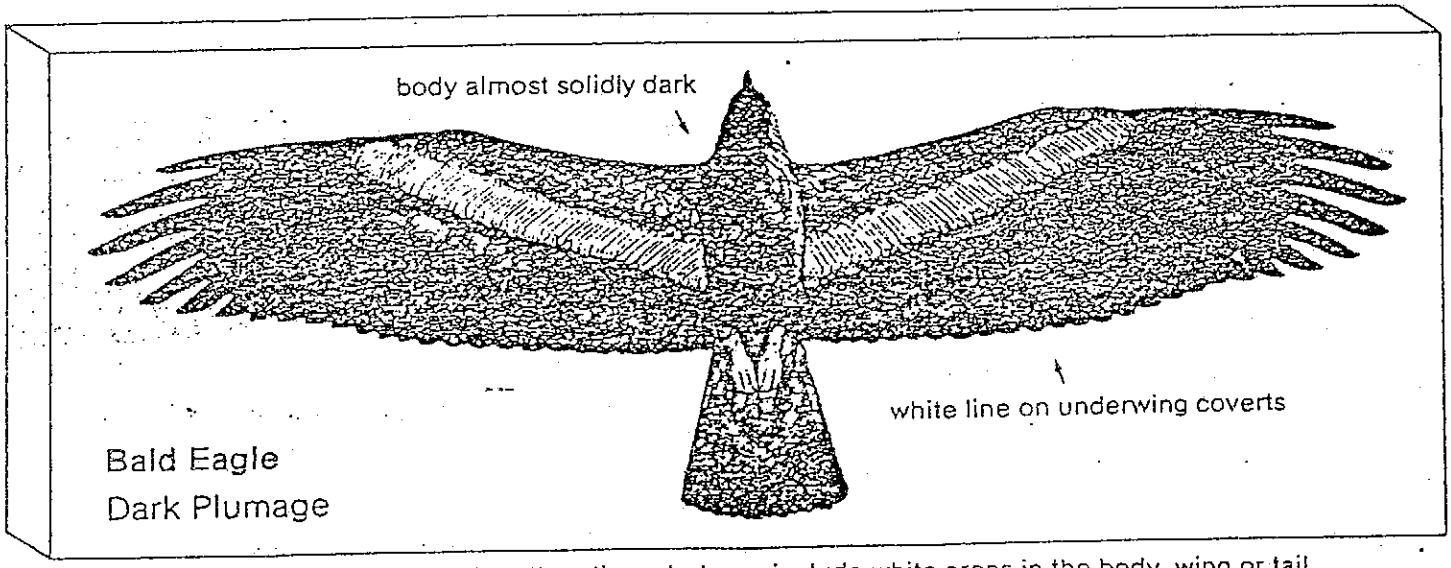
This is the least seen and least described plumage.

EAGLES

The head and neck of the bald eagle extend over half the length of the tail. All immature plumages have the white line on the underwing.

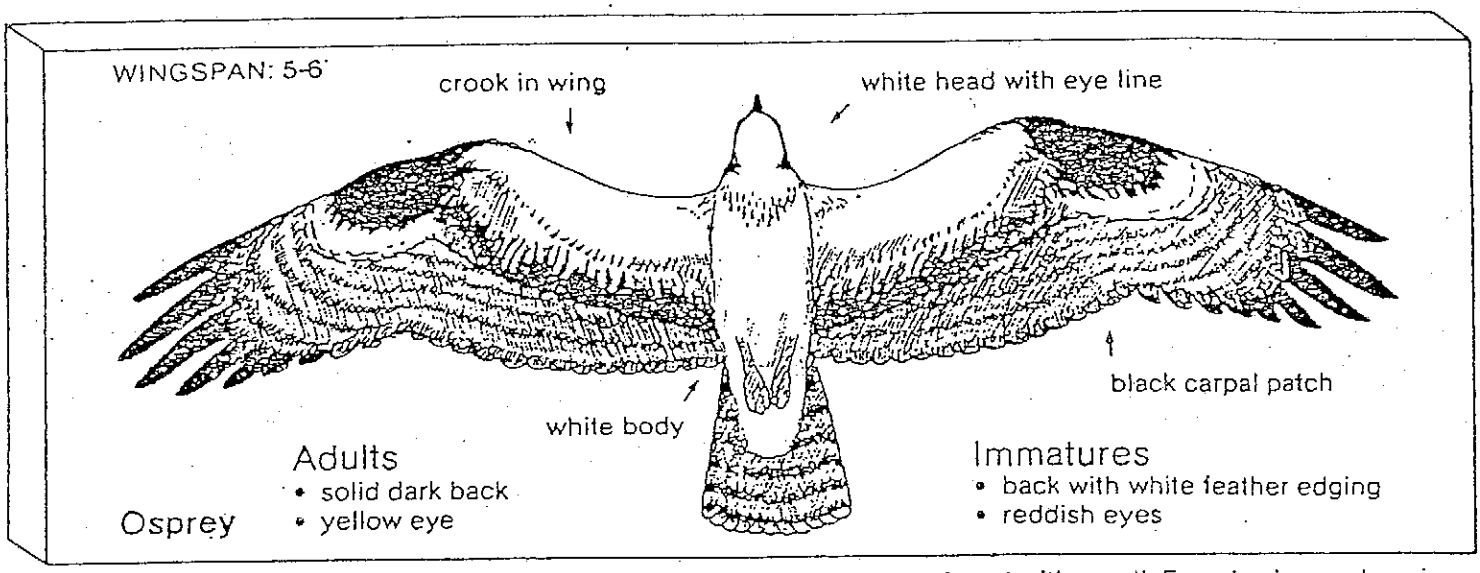


This plumage is the most variable and can include some individuals that are almost tawny colored.



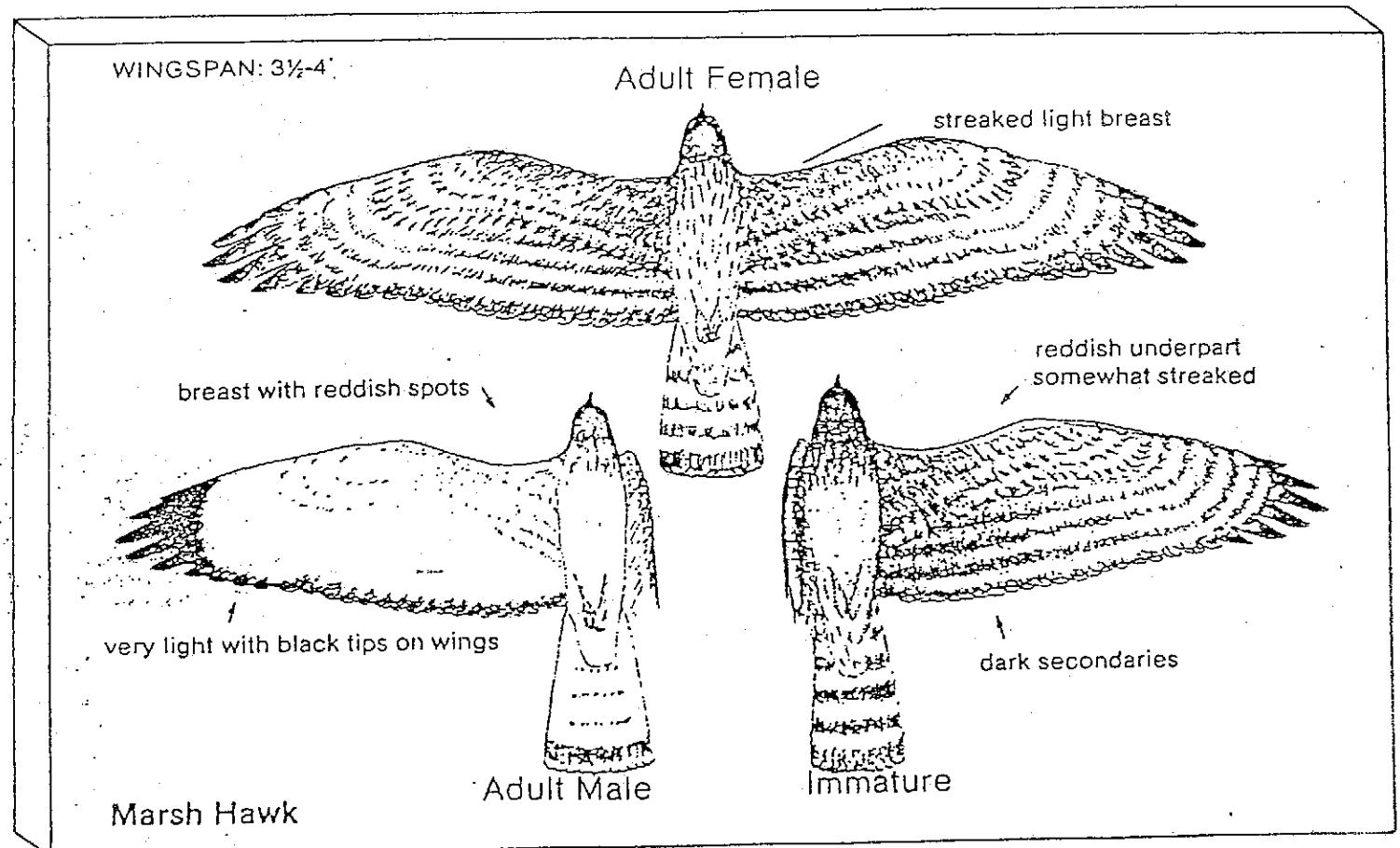
This plumage is generally darker than the others, but may include white areas in the body, wing or tail.
SIMILAR SPECIES: Golden Eagle

OSPREY & HARRIER



The Osprey is one of the easiest raptors to identify. It is most often confused with a gull. Females have a heavier streaked breast forming a "necklace."

SIMILAR SPECIES: Bald Eagle

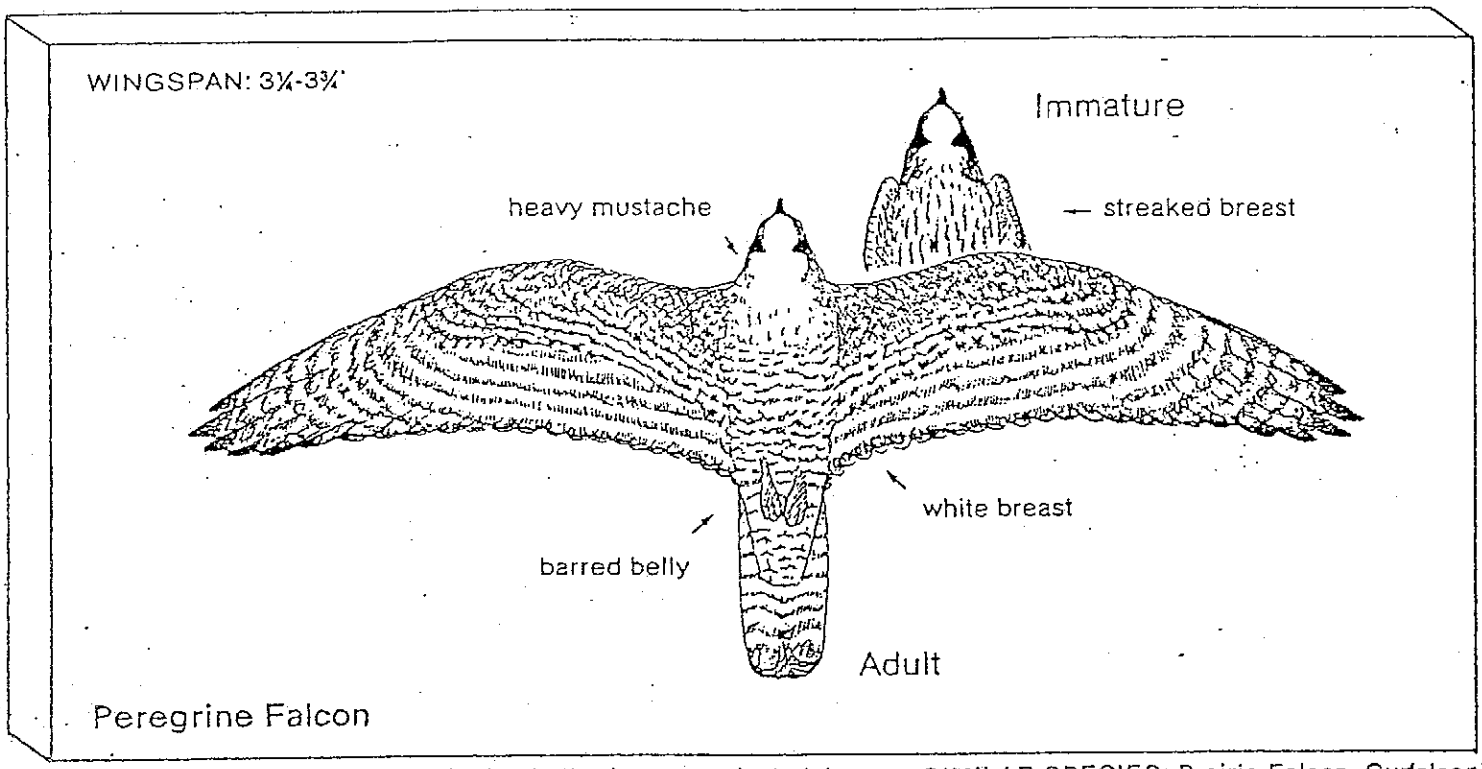


The marsh hawk, our only harrier, always has a white rump (not white in tail). They fly low slowly over open areas with their wings raised above the horizontal. Occasionally they soar on flat wings.

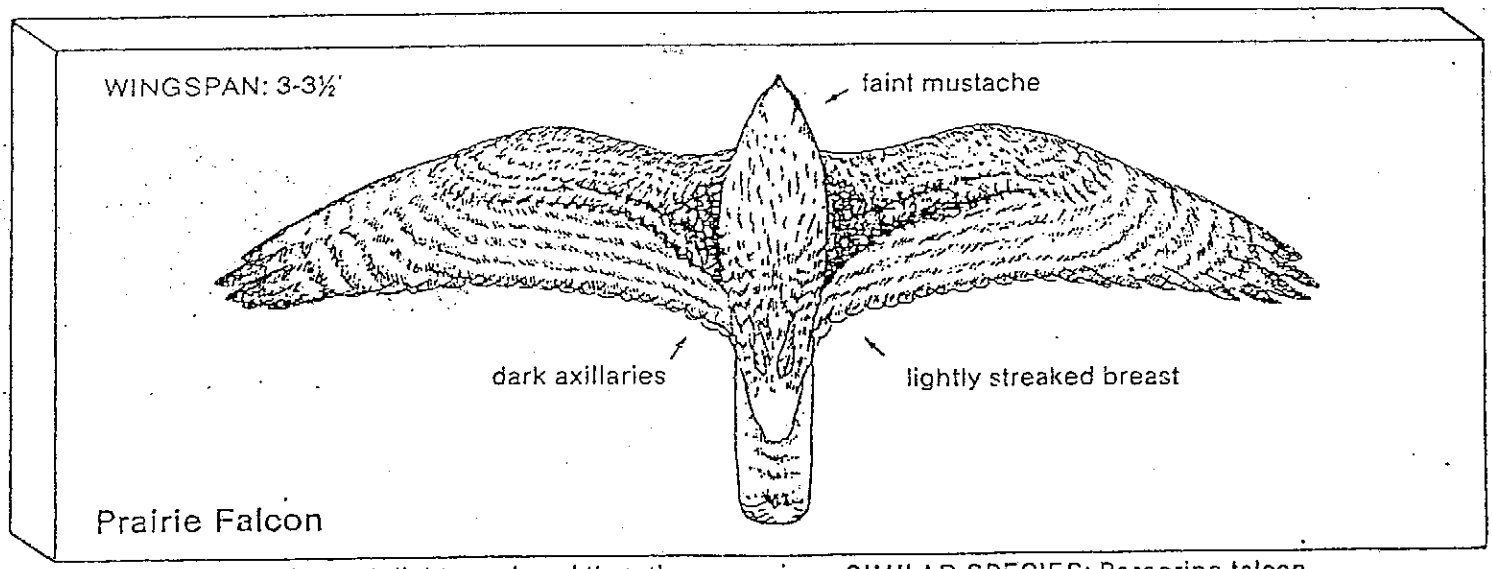
SIMILAR SPECIES: Many other raptors when not "harrying".

FALCONS

Falcons are dashing raptors with long pointed wings and long tails. The medium sized falcons have relatively longer wings and shorter tails.



The adult peregrine is blue on the back, the immature is dark brown. SIMILAR SPECIES: Prairie Falcon, Gyrfalcon



The prairie falcon is much lighter colored than the peregrine. SIMILAR SPECIES: Peregrine falcon