

Raptor Workshop

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Introduction to Falconry & How to
Make Your Own Falconry
Equipment

What is a Raptor?

- Bird of Prey
- Equipped with a curved beak for tearing meat and strong grasping feet

Diurnal Raptors

Order Falconiformes



Nocturnal Raptors Order Strigiformes



History of Falconry

- Ancient and noble art of falconry is a sport which involves the use of trained raptors to hunt or pursue game for humans.



History of Falconry

- Considered the “sport of Kings” in Europe from the middle ages until the end of the 18th century
- The Boke of St. Alban’s list of falconry Laws of Ownership:
 - An Emperor – Golden Eagle
 - King – Gyr Falcon
 - Prince – Peregrine Falcon
 - Knight – Saker Falcon
 - Squire – Lanner Falcon
 - Priest - Sparrowhawk

History of Falconry

- The concept of falconry changed with the introduction of guns



Modern Falconry

- Regulated by US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of Fish and Game
- Requires a 2-year apprenticeship with a master falconer
- Must pass a long exam about raptor biology and falconry

Falconry & Conservation

- Breeding programs to restore lost population
- Aid in the design of electricity transmission lines
- Founded Peregrine Fund and Raptor Research Foundation

Raptors used for Falconry

Know your bird!

- What species is it?
- Natural History
- Personal History

Eagles

- Very large bird!
- Extremely powerful



Hawks

- Accipiter
 - Very agile and speedy
 - High strung and nervous
 - aggressive
- Buteo (Broad-winged)
 - Sit and Wait predators



Falcons

- High energy
- Very vocal
- Flighty



Owls

- Stoic
- Requires patience, you can't rush them!



Vultures

- Gregarious /Social Hierarchy
- Smart
- Quick to bite!



Raptor Handling Equipment

- Gauntlet/Welder's gloves/Fireplace gloves
- Leather Anklets
- Jesses
- Swivel
- Leash/Lead
- Perch
- Hood (optional)



Gauntlet / Gloves



Anklets (Aylmeri)

- Permanent
- False / Removable



Jesses

- Traditional
- Aylmeri
 - Leather
 - Paracord (Parachute cord) / Nylon



Swivel

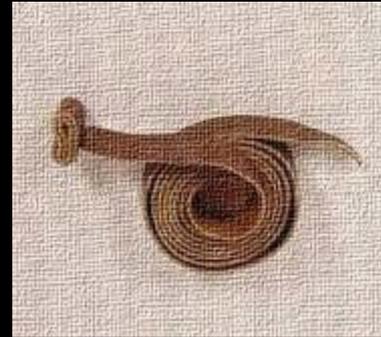
- Connects the jesses to a lead
- Three main types:
 - Sampo Ballbearing swivels
 - English “D” style swivels
 - Triangle swivels



Leashes

So many decisions!

- Buttonless vs. button
- Bungee vs. non-bungee
- Leash extender
 - Why to we need it?



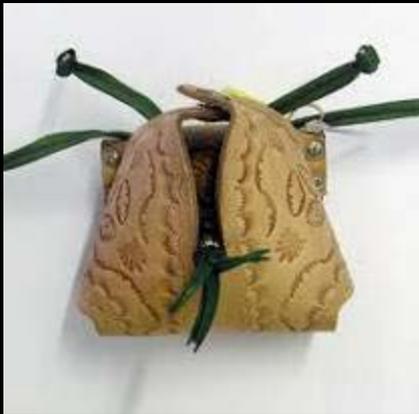
Perching

- Different Types of perches
 - Block perch
 - Bow perch
 - Ring perch
- Permanent vs. transportable



Hoods (optional)

- Helps to keep raptors calm
- Two types:
 - Indian
 - Dutch



Training a Raptor

- Learn the Falconer's knot

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=glx8o0Vquls>

- Getting the bird used to handling
- Desensitize
- Transport Box

Transport Box



Important Considerations when Handling Raptors

- Putting a raptor on a perch
- Picking up a raptor
- Walking through doorways and hallways
- Handling crowds
- Retrieving a free loft Raptor safely

Raptor Health and Maintenance

Beak and Talon coping

- Why do we need to do this?
- Why are falcons different?
- When is the best time to do this?



Red-shouldered Hawk



Swainson's Hawk



Golden Eagle



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