

Michigan Hawking Club



Michael Yachcik, President
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Dear Potential Falconer:

Thank you for your interest in the sport of falconry. Falconry is the sport of hunting with a trained raptor. The Michigan Hawking Club, along with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division is pleased to provide you with the accompanying packet of information regarding the sport.

The first thing that you should know is that falconry is not for everyone. By the very nature of the sport, only a limited number of individuals are capable of meeting the many demands involved. Raptors are NOT pets and never become friendly to their handler. One thing that should never be forgotten is that the falconer is merely the keeper of a bird that belongs to everyone. The falconer can never be more than the birds partner in the pursuit of wild game, and then, only as long as the bird chooses. These birds require a specialized diet, housing, training and constant care.

Falconry is the most highly regulated sport in the country. Falconers recognize that many of these regulations exist expressly to protect the birds that we revere. Your packet contains copies of the applicable state and federal falconry regulations. Please study the enclosed information carefully before you make the decision to become a falconer. You will also need to study falconry and raptor biology through additional reading. A number of suitable books are recommended in this packet.

If you desire to pursue falconry, we hope you will consider joining both the Michigan Hawking Club and the North American Falconers Association. Both of these organizations sponsor field meets, provide informative and educational publications and attend educational events. Both groups also monitor and disseminate information about state and federal falconry regulations.

If we can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact one of the club officers listed above. For further information, please visit our club website at:
www.michiganhawkingclub.com