

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Fish, Wildlife & Marine Resources
Special Licenses Unit, 5th Floor
625 Broadway, Albany, New York 12233-4752
Phone (518) 402-8985 • Fax: (518) 402-8925
Website: www.dec.ny.gov Email: SpecialLicenses@dec.ny.gov
Special Licenses Unit Website: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/359.html>

Requirements for Upgrade from Apprentice Falconer to General Falconer

The requirements for upgrade from the apprentice falconry level to the general level appear in Section 173.2 of Title 6 of the Official Compilation of Codes Rules and Regulations of the State of New York (6 NYCRR).

Specifically, paragraph (4) of subdivision (e) states:

173.2 Falconry license

(e)(4) General Falconry license. General falconers must:

- (i) be at least 18 years old; and
- (ii) have practiced falconry with wild raptor(s) at the Apprentice falconer level or the equivalent for at least two years including maintaining, training, flying and hunting the raptor(s) for at least 4 months in each year; and
- (iii) provide a written summary to the department documenting their experience maintaining falconry raptors including a summary of what species they held as an Apprentice falconer and how long each bird was possessed; and
- (iv) provide written recommendation for advancement to the General Falconry license by his or her sponsor and at least one other New York State General or Master falconer who has evaluated the Apprentice in the field to ascertain the candidate's level of proficiency in the sport of falconry and the skill and ability in the care of raptors commensurate with the activities and responsibilities of a General falconer.

The written recommendations required in subparagraph (iv) above must include a **detailed description** of:

- the species of raptor(s) the apprentice falconer has flown;
- the appearance and general health of the raptors in the apprentice falconer's care;
- a description of the raptor handling skills of the apprentice falconer;
- the ability/success rate of the apprentice falconer's raptors to take wild quarry;
- the apparent dedication of the apprentice falconer to the raptors in their care and to the sport of falconry.

Along with the above documents, Falconers requesting upgrade must submit a list of the raptors that they have held under their Apprentice Falconry license detailing the date(s) of acquisition and final disposition of each bird including transfer, release, escape, recapture or death.

Letters of recommendation which do not include the information required above or, which do not provide adequate detail or description of the information required above, will be deemed as not meeting the requirements of subparagraph (iv) of 173.2(e)(4) and will result in the denial of the upgrade request.

For questions regarding the upgrade process, please contact the Special Licenses Unit at (518) 402-8985 or by email at: speciallicenses@dec.ny.gov