

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

**Requirements for Upgrade from General Falconer to Master Falconer**

The requirements for upgrade from the general falconry level to the master 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 (6) of subdivision (e) states:

173.2 Falconry license

(e)(6) Master falconry license. Master falconers must:

- (i) have at least five years of experience in the practice of falconry as a licensed general falconer or the equivalent; and,
- (ii) have possessed a raptor or raptors for at least three years as a licensed General Falconer; and,
- (iii) provide written recommendation for advancement to the master license from three Master Falconer who have evaluated the General Falconer 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 master falconer; and,
- (iv) be approved, in writing, for advancement to the master license by the Falconry Advisory Board.

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

- the species of raptor(s) the general falconer has flown;
- the appearance and general health of the raptors in the general falconer's care;
- a description of the raptor handling skills of the general falconer;
- the ability/success rate of the general falconer's raptors to take wild quarry;
- the apparent dedication of the general 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 General Falconry license detailing the date(s) of acquisition and final disposition of each bird including transfer, release, escape, recapture or death.

All letters of recommendation will be submitted to the Falconry Advisory Board for review. 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 (iii) of 173.2(e)(6) 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](mailto:SpecialLicenses@dec.ny.gov)



