

California Falconry Apprentice Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

SAMPLE

- 1. After hunting your Red-tailed Hawk for a season, your goal during the molt should be to . . .**
 - A. keep her sharp-set through the molt**
 - B. enseat her through the molt**
 - C. add about twenty percent to her flying weight**
 - D. feed her as much as she can eat each day**
- 2. What primary role do apprentice falconers fulfill during their training period?**
 - A. Supervising raptor breeding**
 - B. Training experienced falconers**
 - C. Practicing falconry at the apprentice level**
 - D. Conducting educational seminars**
- 3. A bird is likely to "preen" when it is...**
 - A. Following a bath**
 - B. When it is content**
 - C. Both a and b**
 - D. Neither a nor b**
- 4. What does the Arabic word "Abba" refer to in falconry?**
 - A. A type of hawk**
 - B. A method of restraint**
 - C. A breeding technique**
 - D. A feeding method**
- 5. At what age is a young peregrine falcon most likely to fledge from its eyrie?**
 - A. Six to seven weeks of age**
 - B. Two to three months of age**
 - C. Twelve to fourteen weeks of age**
 - D. None of the above**

- 6. What term describes someone who flies a short-winged hawk?**
- A. Falconer**
 - B. Austringer**
 - C. Hawker**
 - D. Raptorist**
- 7. The Red-tailed Hawk can potentially be mistaken for what other bird?**
- A. A Falcon**
 - B. An Eagle**
 - C. A Sparrow**
 - D. A Crow**
- 8. Which statement is generally true regarding male raptors?**
- A. They migrate last**
 - B. They do not choose the nesting area**
 - C. They provide little food after hatching**
 - D. They are first to return from migration**
- 9. What size difference typically exists between male and female raptors?**
- A. Male raptors are larger than females**
 - B. Male raptors and females are the same size**
 - C. Male raptors are half the size of females**
 - D. Male raptors are generally smaller than females**
- 10. What is the primary role of a falconer?**
- A. Train raptors for racing**
 - B. Hunt with trained birds of prey**
 - C. Breed raptors for sale**
 - D. Teach others about various bird species**

Answers

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1. C
2. C
3. C
4. B
5. A
6. B
7. B
8. D
9. D
10. B

SAMPLE

Explanations

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1. After hunting your Red-tailed Hawk for a season, your goal during the molt should be to . . .

- A. keep her sharp-set through the molt**
- B. enseat her through the molt**
- C. add about twenty percent to her flying weight**
- D. feed her as much as she can eat each day**

Adding about twenty percent to your Red-tailed Hawk's flying weight during the molt is essential because it helps to compensate for the energy expenditure required for feather growth and the physiological changes occurring in the bird. During the molt, the hawk undergoes significant changes as it replaces its old feathers with new ones. This process can be energy-intensive and may require additional body reserves to support the hawk's health and stamina. By increasing her weight, you ensure that she has enough energy to engage in normal activities, maintain her health, and promote optimal feather development. This strategic weight management aids in preventing issues such as stress or weakness during this critical time. Proper weight management is a crucial aspect of responsible falconry, especially during periods of significant biological changes like molting.

2. What primary role do apprentice falconers fulfill during their training period?

- A. Supervising raptor breeding**
- B. Training experienced falconers**
- C. Practicing falconry at the apprentice level**
- D. Conducting educational seminars**

Apprentice falconers primarily focus on practicing falconry at an introductory level during their training period. This practice involves hands-on experience with the birds, familiarizing themselves with the handling, care, and training of raptors under the guidance of a licensed falconer. The apprenticeship is designed to build foundational skills and knowledge necessary for responsible falconry, including understanding the bird's behavior, health management, and the regulatory aspects of falconry. While supervising raptor breeding, training experienced falconers, and conducting educational seminars may be activities associated with more advanced falconers or other roles within wildlife conservation, apprentices are expected to engage deeply in the actual practice of falconry. This hands-on experience is vital as it prepares them for advanced training and eventual independence in the sport, emphasizing the importance of practical learning in their development as falconers.

3. A bird is likely to "preen" when it is...

- A. Following a bath**
- B. When it is content**
- C. Both a and b**
- D. Neither a nor b**

Preening is a natural behavior in birds that serves several important purposes. After a bird takes a bath, it tends to preen to restore the order of its feathers, remove any remaining water, and ensure that the feathers are aligned properly for optimal insulation and flight. This behavior helps maintain the health and functionality of their plumage, which is critical for their survival. Additionally, when birds are content and feeling safe in their environment, they often engage in preening. It can be a comforting activity that reinforces their well-being and promotes bonding in social species. Preening in a relaxed state signifies that the bird is comfortable and can afford the time to groom, indicating overall good health and low stress levels. Thus, both situations stated in the options lead to preening, confirming that the correct answer encapsulates the association of preening with both following a bath and being content.

4. What does the Arabic word "Abba" refer to in falconry?

- A. A type of hawk**
- B. A method of restraint**
- C. A breeding technique**
- D. A feeding method**

In falconry, the Arabic word "Abba" specifically refers to a method of restraint used to secure a bird of prey. This technique typically involves using a specific type of strap or tether to keep the bird from moving freely while still allowing for some level of comfort. Restraint is a critical aspect of falconry since it ensures the safety of both the falconer and the bird, especially during training or when the bird is not actively hunting. While there are various terms in falconry that may refer to types of birds, breeding techniques, or feeding methods, "Abba" distinctly denotes a system for keeping the bird controlled and safe, differentiating it from those other aspects of falconry. Understanding the terminology and its application is vital for effective handling and training in this sport.

5. At what age is a young peregrine falcon most likely to fledge from its eyrie?

- A. Six to seven weeks of age**
- B. Two to three months of age
- C. Twelve to fourteen weeks of age
- D. None of the above

The correct choice is based on the typical developmental timeline of peregrine falcons. Most young peregrines fledge, which means they leave the nest and begin their first flight, at around six to seven weeks of age. This stage is crucial as it marks the transition from dependence on their parents for food and safety to independence, where they start to develop their flying skills. Fledging is influenced by various factors, including the availability of food and environmental conditions, but generally, six to seven weeks is the established range for when young peregrines are ready to take their first flight. This important stage in their life cycle is when they begin to learn to hunt and interact with their surroundings. While the other age ranges provided may seem relevant, they do not accurately reflect the typical fledging age of peregrine falcons. Two to three months and twelve to fourteen weeks go beyond the usual fledging period and into developmental stages where they are more proficient in flying and hunting, but they are not the primary age range for fledging.

6. What term describes someone who flies a short-winged hawk?

- A. Falconer
- B. Austringer**
- C. Hawker
- D. Raptorist

The term that specifically describes someone who flies a short-winged hawk is "Austringer." This designation is derived from historical practices in falconry where such birds, typically belonging to the family Accipitridae, are handled. Austringers are known for their work with hawks, particularly those suited for hunting smaller game, leveraging the unique characteristics of these short-winged species for effective tracking and capture. Falconers, meanwhile, generally refer to those who specialize in flying falcons, which are different from hawks in terms of hunting style and physical attributes. A hawker could loosely describe someone who flies any type of hawking bird, but it does not specifically point to the short-winged hawks that Austringers specialize in. The term "raptorist" is less common and does not specifically refer to the practice of working with falconry birds in the same way that Austringer does.

7. The Red-tailed Hawk can potentially be mistaken for what other bird?

- A. A Falcon**
- B. An Eagle**
- C. A Sparrow**
- D. A Crow**

The Red-tailed Hawk can potentially be mistaken for an eagle due to several similarities in their physical characteristics and behaviors. Both birds of prey exhibit similar body sizes and shapes, with strong, broad wings and a robust structure. Additionally, Red-tailed Hawks often soar in a manner reminiscent of eagles and can inhabit similar environments, leading to potential confusion for the observer. While falcons might have some overlapping features with Red-tailed Hawks, they typically display more aerodynamic bodies, pointed wings, and different flight patterns that distinguish them from the hawk. Sparrows and crows, on the other hand, are significantly smaller and have entirely different body shapes, plumage, and behaviors, making them less likely to be mistaken for a Red-tailed Hawk. Therefore, the eagle is the most plausible comparison due to their shared characteristics and habitat usage.

8. Which statement is generally true regarding male raptors?

- A. They migrate last**
- B. They do not choose the nesting area**
- C. They provide little food after hatching**
- D. They are first to return from migration**

Male raptors are typically the first to return from migration for several reasons. Primarily, during the breeding season, females require a suitable nesting territory and need a male to help defend that territory and provide for the young. By returning first, males can establish their territories, attract females, and ensure that they are prepared for the breeding season. This behavior is crucial for mating success and the survival of the offspring. It showcases the males' role in ensuring the timing and success of reproduction in raptor populations. The other statements do not generally hold true for male raptors. For instance, the timing of migration and choice of nesting area may depend more on environmental conditions and individual species behavior rather than solely the sex of the raptor. Additionally, males often play a significant role in providing food after hatching, so the notion that they provide little food is also inaccurate. Thus, the statement about males being first to return from migration aligns well with observed behaviors in raptor species.

9. What size difference typically exists between male and female raptors?

- A. Male raptors are larger than females**
- B. Male raptors and females are the same size**
- C. Male raptors are half the size of females**
- D. Male raptors are generally smaller than females**

In many raptor species, including hawks and owls, sexual dimorphism is a significant characteristic where females typically surpass males in size. This size difference can be observed in various physical traits, such as wingspan and weight. The reason for this discrepancy is often related to reproductive strategies; larger females may be more effective at nesting and providing necessary resources for their young, requiring more body mass to support high-energy demands during breeding and incubation. Additionally, having females larger than males can reduce competition between the sexes for food, as larger females can hunt different prey sizes effectively. This size advantage allows them to excel in terms of hunting and raising their offspring, contributing to the overall survival of the species. Therefore, stating that male raptors are generally smaller than females accurately reflects the biological and ecological roles these birds occupy.

10. What is the primary role of a falconer?

- A. Train raptors for racing**
- B. Hunt with trained birds of prey**
- C. Breed raptors for sale**
- D. Teach others about various bird species**

The primary role of a falconer involves hunting with trained birds of prey. This practice, known as falconry, dates back centuries and emphasizes the relationship between the falconer and the bird. The falconer is responsible for training the bird to respond to commands and work during hunts, showcasing the skill of both the falconer and the bird. While other activities related to birds of prey, such as training for racing, breeding, or education, might occur within the broader context of raptor care and appreciation, the fundamental purpose of falconry is centered around hunting. The pursuit of wild game in conjunction with the instinctual capabilities of trained hawks and falcons captures the essence of this ancient sport. Therefore, the role is defined by the practical application of the falconer's skills in a hunting scenario rather than focusing solely on racing, breeding, or educational efforts.