

New York Falconry License Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Questions

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- 1. What type of approach do falcons take when diving for the lure?**
 - A. steep dive at a low altitude**
 - B. flat glide approach**
 - C. controlled descent**
 - D. steep dive flying into the wind**
- 2. Which traditional falconry equipment is not routinely used with American Kestrels?**
 - A. Bells**
 - B. Hood**
 - C. Traditional jesses**
 - D. All of the above**
- 3. What type of dog is most commonly used with Goshawks for hunting?**
 - A. Pointing dog**
 - B. Flushing dog**
 - C. Retrieving dog**
 - D. None of the above**
- 4. Which bird is most likely to suffer from fits?**
 - A. Peregrine Falcon**
 - B. Red-tailed Hawk**
 - C. Sharp-shinned Hawk**
 - D. Merlin**
- 5. What does it mean when a falconer has a "tame bird"?**
 - A. A bird that is aggressive but well-fed**
 - B. A bird that trusts the falconer and is more manageable**
 - C. A bird that can hunt independently**
 - D. A bird that is used for competitions only**

- 6. What is the primary hunting technique used by Merlins and American Kestrels?**
- A. Swoop and dive**
 - B. Perch and wait**
 - C. Chase and capture**
 - D. Short bursts of speed**
- 7. What geographic area is known for Peale's Peregrine Falcon?**
- A. Eastern states**
 - B. The southern U.S. coastline**
 - C. Pacific Northwest**
 - D. Central America**
- 8. Which raptor is considered the easiest to man?**
- A. Passage Goshawk**
 - B. Passage Prairie Falcon**
 - C. Passage Red-tailed Hawk**
 - D. Passage Sharp-shinned Hawk**
- 9. Hacking a bird refers to?**
- A. Introducing it to game**
 - B. Releasing a passage to fly free**
 - C. Allowing a young bird to mature in a chamber**
 - D. None of the above**
- 10. At what age may increased aggression toward humans develop in eyas Red-tailed Hawks?**
- A. First year**
 - B. Second year**
 - C. Third year**
 - D. All of the above**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What type of approach do falcons take when diving for the lure?

- A. steep dive at a low altitude**
- B. flat glide approach**
- C. controlled descent**
- D. steep dive flying into the wind**

The correct choice is based on the aerodynamics and hunting behavior of falcons, especially during their hunting strategy. Falcons are renowned for their remarkable speed and efficiency when diving towards their prey, often reaching incredible velocities during this process. When approaching the lure, falcons typically take a steep dive at a low altitude. This approach allows them to utilize gravity effectively, maximizing their speed and power for an efficient strike. The angling of their dive helps maintain aerodynamic stability and reduces the risk of being caught by gusty winds or other disturbances that could interfere with the hunt. By diving steeply, they can accurately target and secure the lure with precision. Other methods, such as a flat glide or controlled descent, do not leverage the same principles of speed and agility that falcons demonstrate during their hunting dives. A flat glide might lack the power that comes from diving, while a controlled descent is more gradual and less effective for predation. Additionally, diving into the wind is a technique that could alter the dynamics of the hunt, but it is not characteristic of the typical approach falcons take when diving for prey. The steep dive at low altitude remains the most effective and natural method for these agile hunters.

2. Which traditional falconry equipment is not routinely used with American Kestrels?

- A. Bells**
- B. Hood**
- C. Traditional jesses**
- D. All of the above**

American Kestrels are small falcons and their size and hunting style influence the equipment used with them. The traditional falconry equipment typically includes bells, hoods, and jesses, but each piece of equipment has specific applications that may not necessarily suit the American Kestrel. Bells are used on many birds of prey to help locate them when they are flying, but due to the Kestrel's small size and lightweight nature, bells may be more cumbersome and impractical for these birds. The sound produced might not be necessary for a bird that hunts in open areas and typically has good visibility. Hoods are utilized to keep a bird calm and to limit its vision during transportation or when not in use. While hoods can be applied to Kestrels, they are not as routinely used as they are with larger falcons that benefit from the calming effects of a hood during training. Traditional jesses are straps attached to the legs of the bird, and while they can be used with Kestrels, they may not be commonly employed due to the bird's smaller size and the different handling techniques involved. Other forms of equipment might be more suited to manage their agility and quick movements. As a result, when it comes to American K

3. What type of dog is most commonly used with Goshawks for hunting?

- A. Pointing dog**
- B. Flushing dog**
- C. Retrieving dog**
- D. None of the above**

The correct choice indicates that none of the provided dog types are typically associated with hunting alongside Goshawks. Goshawks are favored for their agility and speed in hunting small game, and they are often used in a form of hunting called falconry, where the hawk does the primary hunting. In falconry, while certain types of dogs may support hunters, they are not specifically trained to work in tandem with Goshawks as a common practice. Pointing dogs are trained to indicate the location of birds without flushing them; flushing dogs are used to stir up game birds for the hunter; and retrieving dogs are trained to bring back game after a hunt. However, these roles align more closely with hunting practices that primarily involve flushing and retrieving birds, rather than the hunting method used with Goshawks. As a result, the lack of a specific dog breed commonly utilized with Goshawks leads to the conclusion that none of the listed options are accurate in terms of traditional falconry practices involving this bird of prey.

4. Which bird is most likely to suffer from fits?

- A. Peregrine Falcon**
- B. Red-tailed Hawk**
- C. Sharp-shinned Hawk**
- D. Merlin**

The Sharp-shinned Hawk is most likely to suffer from fits, which can be attributed to its specific physiological and environmental stressors. In this species, fits or seizures can result from various factors, including dietary deficiencies, stress, or exposure to certain environmental toxins. Their smaller size and specialized hunting techniques can make them more susceptible to these issues compared to larger raptors. In contrast, while the Peregrine Falcon, Red-tailed Hawk, and Merlin may experience health issues, they are generally more resilient and less prone to fits under similar conditions. The Peregrine Falcon is often robust due to its widespread adaptability, the Red-tailed Hawk is known for its hardiness and versatility, and the Merlin, while smaller than the Red-tailed Hawk, possesses different hunting and survival traits that afford it a degree of resilience against such fits. Thus, the Sharp-shinned Hawk's susceptibility makes it the correct choice for this question.

5. What does it mean when a falconer has a "tame bird"?

- A. A bird that is aggressive but well-fed**
- B. A bird that trusts the falconer and is more manageable**
- C. A bird that can hunt independently**
- D. A bird that is used for competitions only**

A "tame bird" refers to one that has developed a bond of trust with the falconer, making it more manageable during handling and training. This relationship allows for effective communication and cooperation between the falconer and the bird, which is crucial for successful falconry. A tame bird is generally more comfortable being handled, less likely to display aggressive behaviors, and more responsive to the falconer's commands. This bond is established through consistent interaction, positive reinforcement, and training, fostering a mutual understanding. While independent hunting is a characteristic of many birds of prey, a tame bird specifically refers to the creature's relationship with the falconer rather than its ability to hunt alone. Thus, the concept of tameness is centered around the dynamics of trust and control, which are fundamental to successful falconry.

6. What is the primary hunting technique used by Merlins and American Kestrels?

- A. Swoop and dive**
- B. Perch and wait**
- C. Chase and capture**
- D. Short bursts of speed**

Merlins and American Kestrels primarily rely on short bursts of speed as their main hunting technique. This approach allows them to quickly maneuver and dart after prey, often catching smaller birds and insects in mid-air. Their physical adaptations, such as their aerodynamic bodies and powerful flight muscles, enable them to execute rapid changes in direction, which is crucial for hunting in the open skies where their prey may be agile and evasive. In contrast, techniques like perch and wait or chase and capture do not accurately describe the hunting style of these falcons, as they tend to rely on their exceptional speed and agility rather than sitting in a perch to ambush prey or engaging in prolonged chases. While swoop and dive does imply a degree of speed, it doesn't fully encompass the burst-like approach that characterizes their hunting strategy. Short bursts of speed effectively highlight the swift, strategic nature of their predation style, making them effective hunters in various environments.

7. What geographic area is known for Peale's Peregrine Falcon?

- A. Eastern states**
- B. The southern U.S. coastline**
- C. Pacific Northwest**
- D. Central America**

Peale's Peregrine Falcon is predominantly found in the Pacific Northwest region of North America. This area is characterized by its lush forests, rugged coastlines, and abundant prey species, such as seabirds, which are important for the falcon's diet. The population of Peale's Peregrine Falcon is specifically adapted to this environment, where they can thrive in the mountainous terrains and coastal habitats. This adaptation plays a significant role in their hunting strategies and nesting behaviors. The other geographic areas mentioned do not typically host Peale's Peregrine Falcon. For example, the eastern states may support different populations of peregrine falcons with distinct characteristics. The southern U.S. coastline presents a different ecosystem, which is more suitable for other subspecies. Central America, while having its own resident falcon species, does not include Peale's Peregrine Falcon as part of its native fauna. Thus, the Pacific Northwest is unequivocally the correct region associated with this specific subspecies.

8. Which raptor is considered the easiest to man?

- A. Passage Goshawk**
- B. Passage Prairie Falcon**
- C. Passage Red-tailed Hawk**
- D. Passage Sharp-shinned Hawk**

The Passage Red-tailed Hawk is often regarded as the easiest raptor to man primarily due to its temperament, adaptability, and historical relationship with falconers. This species is known for its more predictable behavior and docile nature compared to others, making it a suitable choice for both novice and experienced falconers. Red-tailed Hawks have a strong affinity for their handlers and can be more easily trained for various tasks, such as hunting and returning to the falconer with consistent reliability. Their size and strength also contribute to their effectiveness in hunting while remaining manageable for the individual handling them. Additionally, the Red-tailed Hawk's wide availability in North America allows many falconers to gain access to these birds for training. In contrast, other species listed can present more challenges in terms of handling and training. For instance, the Goshawk is known for its aggressive demeanor and high energy levels, which may require more experienced handling techniques. The Prairie Falcon and the Sharp-shinned Hawk also have their own unique challenges and behaviors that might not make them as easily trainable as the Red-tailed Hawk. This combination of manageable behavior, accessibility, and a strong bond with handlers establishes the Passage Red-tailed Hawk as the most approachable option for fal

9. Hacking a bird refers to?

- A. Introducing it to game**
- B. Releasing a passage to fly free**
- C. Allowing a young bird to mature in a chamber**
- D. None of the above**

Hacking a bird is a specific falconry term that refers to the process of allowing a young bird, particularly a raptor, to experience the wild environment while still being fed and cared for by the falconer. This is usually done from an elevated location, such as a tower or a tree, where the bird can familiarize itself with its surroundings and begin to develop its instincts without being fully independent. In the context of the other choices, the correct understanding of "hacking" does not align with introducing a bird to game, which typically involves training it to hunt. The notion of releasing a passage bird (a bird that has completed its initial training and is ready to fly free) is also a different concept, as is allowing a young bird to mature in a chamber, which suggests confinement rather than acclimatization to the wild. Thus, the process described as hacking distinctly pertains to enabling a young bird to engage with its natural environment while still under the care of the falconer.

10. At what age may increased aggression toward humans develop in eyas Red-tailed Hawks?

- A. First year**
- B. Second year**
- C. Third year**
- D. All of the above**

In eyas Red-tailed Hawks, increased aggression toward humans can typically develop during the third year of their life. This behavior often correlates with reaching sexual maturity. By this time, these hawks may begin to exhibit more territorial and defensive behaviors as they establish themselves in their environment and prepare for potential mating. It's during this stage that they may feel the need to assert dominance or protect their territory, which can manifest as increased aggression towards perceived threats, including humans. Younger birds, in their first and second years, are generally still in their development phase and are not yet fully mature, both physically and behaviorally. Their interactions may be more exploratory, and they are typically less aggressive. Hence, while aggression can occur in earlier years, it is not as pronounced or frequent as it is in their third year when they are more established in their social and ecological roles.