

RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE

EASTERN CAPE FALCONRY CLUB

A genuine interest in raptors and their conservation is a prerequisite to membership of the club. The club supports the whole principle of conservation in nature and the club will assist conservation authorities wherever possible to this end.

Breaches of discipline will be severely dealt with and could result in confiscation of birds and expulsion from the club.

GENERAL:

No member may keep a raptor unless his mews has been inspected and approved by a committee member of the club.

Clearance of land for hunting and the acquisition of all necessary permits is the responsibility of the individual member. Applications for birds for falconry must be endorsed in writing by the club chairman or secretary prior to submission to the nature conservation department.

No member may dispose of a hawk to anyone nor hack it back to nature without prior consultation with the committee. All raptors to be hacked back shall be ringed and a report forwarded to the secretary within one month.

Loss or death of a bird must be reported to the secretary as soon as possible.

All birds are to be positively identified by a suitable method as recommended by the South African Falconer's Association.

All birds except kestrels to be flown with a bell or telemetry.

No members may hold permits for birds without the approval of the club.

All members may be visited by members of the committee or nature conservation at any reasonable time, and without prior arrangement to inspect birds and equipment.

GRADING:

All active ordinary members shall be graded into one of the following categories:

BEGINNER FALCONER: shall be allowed to fly first a kestrel, then an African goshawk. Under certain circumstances may be permitted to fly an African goshawk as a first bird. They will be required to assist with rehabilitation of injured raptors. Must have all the necessary equipment as stipulated by the committee. A beginner falconer must be apprenticed to a General or Master falconer. In order to progress to General falconer, the falconer must be graded by the committee according to competence. This involves adequate control of the hawk when flying free and hunting successfully.

GENERAL FALCONER: may train and hunt longwings and shortwings from the approved species. Approved species are lanner falcon, black sparrowhawk, red breasted sparrowhawk and re necked falcons. The committee will determine any other species not listed above, to be flown by General falconers if so desired. The General falconer will be graded by 2 Master falconers and approval of SAFA after having satisfactorily flown both longwings and shortwings.

MASTER FALCONER: may fly any raptor on approval of the committee. Master falconers must also be in possession of complete radio telemetry equipment and have suitable experience with pointing type dogs. They must maintain a standard of falconry comparable to other Master falconers in the other provinces. If a Master falconer has not flown a bird for a period of 2 years consecutively will revert to the grade of General falconer, until graded on the performance of a bird listed for General falconers. Master falconers will strive to maintain a high standard of falconry at all times.

BIRDS:

The following birds are normally recommended for falconry:

Rock Kestrel, Greater Kestrel, African Goshawk, Gabar Goshawk, Black Sparrowhawk Red Breasted Sparrowhawk, Lanner Falcon, Peregrine Falcon, Red Necked Falcon.

Other species may be applied for under special consideration by the committee based on merit and circumstances.

Only raptors trapped in immature plumage will be used for falconry purposes, all other birds trapped should be released immediately.

TRAPPING:

Only Master and General Falconers may trap. Members trapping must be in possession of valid trapping permits. Members should endeavour to trap problem birds first. Problem birds are those that could come into conflict with farmers or other avian keepers and would create goodwill with the public at the same time. Members should use discretion when trapping in public.

HAWK FURNITURE REQUIRED

Equipment may be viewed by any committee member.

Aylmeri jesses to be used at all times.

Swivels, leashes, creance, and lure of recommended type.

Hoods to be made where applicable.

Perches and blocks of suitable material and construction.

Mews to be of suitable size and construction for the species being held.

A scale accurate to at least 5 grams.

Bells and telemetry for use as outlined above.

Records to be kept for inclusion in the annual report including weight and details of quarry taken. An annual report to be sent to the secretary including all quarry taken, average flying weight and their moult weight.