

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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## TWENTY-FIVE STATES MEET NEW FEDERAL FALCONRY STANDARDS

Twenty-five States have met the new Federal standards governing falconry, that ancient sport of taking quarry with trained birds of prey, the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced today.

In 1972, hawks, owls, and other birds of prey received Federal protection under an amendment to the Migratory Bird Treaty with Mexico. At that time it became illegal to possess or kill a raptor without a Federal permit.

Two proposals to establish Federal regulations governing the sport and the qualifications of those who could engage in it drew a total of 16,000 comments. No other Fish and Wildlife Service rulemaking has ever drawn more public comment.

On January 15, 1976, final falconry regulations were published which set minimum standards to follow in issuing falconry permits. On December 28, 1976, States were given until January 1, 1978, to comply with Federal standards. The sport cannot be practiced in States which have not adopted regulations by that date.

Fewer than 2,000 active falconers engage in the sport throughout the United States.

The States meeting the new standards are:

Alaska	Iowa	Nebraska	South Carolina
Arizona	Kentucky	New Mexico	South Dakota
Arkansas	Massachusetts	New York	Utah
Florida	Minnesota	North Dakota	Virginia
Georgia	Mississippi	Oklahoma	Washington
Idaho	Missouri	Pennsylvania	Wyoming
Indiana			

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