



The Hawk Board



**BEGINNING FALCONRY AWARD**

**CANDIDATE WORKBOOK**



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Registered Office

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## Beginning Falconry Award - Candidate Workbook Final Version

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## WHAT IS THE BEGINNING FALCONRY AWARD?

Welcome to the Beginning Falconry Award. This Award sets a minimum standard in keeping a Bird of Prey and is the only national Award currently available that is endorsed by the Hawk Board.

The Award has been developed by Lantra Awards in unison with the Hawk Board and with the help and assistance of professional Falconers throughout the UK. The Award covers all aspects of Bird of Prey management and husbandry up to flying to the fist on a creance. It is a formal Award for those new to Falconry as well as more experienced Falconers who want to demonstrate that they meet a minimum standard.

Further Awards in respect of more advanced husbandry, breeding and Falconry may be introduced later to compliment this Award and to provide a progression pathway for candidates.

The Award is divided into two main sections called 'units'. Within each unit there are a number of parts as shown below, each of which must be completed in order to achieve the unit. If you achieve both units, you will be awarded the Beginning Falconry Award.

<b>Unit 1: Bird of Prey Management and Husbandry</b>
Part 1. Housing
Part 2. Hygiene
Part 3. Feed and food preparation
Part 4. Health
Part 5. Species suitability
Part 6. Purchasing your first bird
<b>Unit 2: Falconry Basics</b>
Part 7. Essential falconry equipment
Part 8. Picking up and carrying
Part 9. Feeding, manning and initial training techniques
Part 10. Weighing and weight management
Part 11. Flying to the fist on a creance

## HOW DO I GET THE AWARD?

The Award will be issued to you when you are able to demonstrate the relevant background knowledge and practical skills necessary to keep a Bird of Prey in a safe and healthy condition. To achieve the Award you must therefore gather evidence to this effect.

There is no end test or examination for the Award. Instead, you will be assessed by a specially trained Assessor who will be an experienced Falconer with many years experience of a number of different types of Birds of Prey. Your Assessor may also be your teacher/mentor, although this is not always the case.

It is your Assessor's job to make sure that you have adequate opportunities to demonstrate your competence and to direct you in collecting evidence to show that you have the knowledge and skills to achieve this Award.

Assessments may be continuous during a training course, or may take place over a longer period of time. Your Assessor will not recommend you for this Award until he/she is happy that you are competent. Successful candidates receive a certificate from Lantra Awards.

## GATHERING THE EVIDENCE FOR THE AWARD

To achieve the Beginning Falconry Award you must gather evidence of your competence, demonstrating that you have the knowledge and skills required to keep a Bird of Prey in a safe and healthy condition.

This evidence can come from a range of sources that may include:

- pictures collected from magazines etc.
- photographs
- diagrams
- drawings
- leaflets
- downloads from the internet
- verbal descriptions
- audio recordings
- visual recordings
- written work or notes
- instructions/procedures
- witness statement from competent others
- witness statement from your Assessor
- pieces of equipment that you have made or bought
- any other method that demonstrates your competence in this area

This workbook has been designed to assist you in gathering the evidence that you will need to achieve the Award. '*Evidence hints*' indicate throughout what evidence might be suitable for certain parts of the Award. Sometimes the same piece of evidence can be used across different parts of the workbook. If you attach additional information you should make sure that you reference to which part of the project it refers to e.g. 2.1. Boxes may be expanded for electronic versions.

This workbook is your property, but if you wish to achieve the Award you must submit it to your Assessor who in turn must retain this through the Approved Administration Point that he/she is attached to until it has been checked by an External Verifier. Not all workbooks are checked by the

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External Verifier but they must be retained by the AAP for a given time just in case after which time the workbook can be returned to you.

### GAINING KNOWLEDGE TOWARDS THE AWARD

There are many ways to gain the knowledge and skills you need. For example you may read background material, watch videos/DVDs, join a recognised club or find an experienced Falconer to help you. In most cases you will probably want to attend a formal course at a Lantra Awards Approved Centre (AAP).

More experienced Falconers are likely to have most if not all of the knowledge and skills required already and may just opt for the assessment. However you choose to study you will still go through the assessment process with your Assessor in order to receive the Award.

### USEFUL RESOURCES

There are many resources that will help you to gain the knowledge that you need to complete the Award. However you may find some of the following resources useful.

#### Websites

[www.britishfalconersclub.co.uk](http://www.britishfalconersclub.co.uk)

[www.falcons.co.uk](http://www.falcons.co.uk)

#### Books

These are shown alphabetically, not in any order of preference:

*'Falconry and Hawking'* by Philip Glasier

*'Falconry Art and Practice'* by Emma Ford

*'Falconry for Beginners'* by Lee William Harris

*'Training Birds of Prey'* by Jemima Parry-Jones

*'Understanding the Bird of Prey'* by Nick Fox

#### Magazines

*Cage and Aviary Birds*

*Falconers Magazine*

#### DVDs/VHS

There are a range of DVDs/VHS videos available including:

The Bird of Prey Management Series:

- *Basic Training*
- *Behaviour and Learning*
- *Nutrition*
- *Anatomy*
- *Health Care*

Should you find any other resources that you think might be useful then please let us know, telephone 024 7641 9703 or email [info@lantra-awards.co.uk](mailto:info@lantra-awards.co.uk) referencing the Beginning Falconry Award.

**Please note that Lantra Awards does not endorse any particular brand, product, or supplier.**

**UNIT 1: BIRD OF PREY MANAGEMENT AND HUSBANDRY**

**Part 1: Housing**

This section of the Award requires you to be able to demonstrate that you understand the importance of properly constructed housing. Your Assessor will need to know that you understand the housing needs of the Bird of Prey you intend to or already keep and the risks to the bird's health and welfare from badly constructed housing.

**Candidate instructions**

**Assessor notes**

1.1 Describe suitable requirements for the Bird of Prey you intend to or already keep, including:

*Verbal description acceptable*

(a) size of housing

-----

(b) type of perches

-----

(c) construction materials (floor, drainage, walls, roof, windows and window coverings, and access points)

-----

-----

-----

*(Evidence hint: You could construct a diagram or provide photographs showing key features of the housing)*

1.2 Give examples of the dangers and benefits in the use and placing of other internal elements such as perches, rocks, baths and foliage

*Verbal description acceptable*

(a) Positive aspect

-----

(b) Danger

-----

1.3 Identify the different uses of the following and when it is appropriate to use each one

*Verbal description acceptable*

(a) Weatherings

-----  
(b) Mews

-----  
(c) Aviaries

-----  
Is there anything else that you could add to your aviary to allow your bird the best opportunity to behave naturally in its environment?

-----  
1.4 How should housing be sited in respect of exposure to, and protection from, the weather, for security and for protection from unnecessary disturbance? (**Evidence hint:** You could construct a diagram or provide photographs showing well sited housing)

*Verbal description acceptable*

-----  
1.5 State the risks from predation and say how you can prevent these.

*Verbal description acceptable*

-----  
1.6 What are the health and welfare risks from badly constructed or sited housing? (**Evidence hint:** Obtain information about the common causes of ill health from badly designed or sited housing)

*Verbal description acceptable*

-----  
1.7 How/where can you obtain appropriate information relevant to planning permissions in your area? (**Evidence hint:** Include information downloaded from the internet or from another source about this)

*Verbal description acceptable*

## Part 2: Hygiene

This section requires you to be able to describe the hygiene routines you will use to ensure the health and well-being of a Bird of Prey. Your Assessor will need to know that you understand the health and welfare risks caused by poor hygiene, and how you will avoid them.

### Candidate instructions

### Assessor notes

2.1 What hygiene routines will you follow, including the use of any cleaning materials (*Evidence hint: you could provide a cleaning rota*)

*Verbal description acceptable*

(a) Daily

-----

(b) Weekly

-----

(c) Annually

-----

2.2 Give the name of at least **one** suitable disinfectant and where to obtain supplies (*Evidence hint: you could provide the suppliers advertisement, website address or other promotional literature as evidence for this*)

*Verbal description acceptable*

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2.3 Name at least **one** danger of the over use of disinfectants

*Verbal description acceptable*

-----

2.4 What are **three** health problems caused by poor hygiene, how would you identify them, and what can you do to avoid them.

*Verbal description acceptable*

Problem 1 -----

Symptom(s) -----

Avoidance -----

Problem 2 -----

Symptom(s) -----

Avoidance -----

Problem 3 -----

Symptom(s) -----

Avoidance -----

### Part 3: Feed and Food Preparation

This section requires you to show that you understand the importance of correctly feeding a Bird of Prey, the risks to the bird's health and welfare from incorrect feeding and the food values of different food types. Your Assessor will need to know that you can prepare foodstuffs hygienically and safely.

#### Candidate instructions

#### Assessor notes

3.1 List the principle food stuffs used to feed a Bird of Prey  
(**Evidence hint:** you could provide pictures of these from websites, books etc.)

*Verbal description  
acceptable*

-----  
-----

3.2 Identify a suitable supplier of food stuffs based on your own location and circumstances  
(**Evidence hint:** you could provide the suppliers advertisement, website address or other promotional literature as evidence for this)

-----

3.3 What are the principle foods eaten by your chosen Bird of Prey in the wild?  
(**Evidence hint:** you could provide pictures of these from websites, books etc.)

*Verbal description  
acceptable*

-----  
-----

3.4 List the basic nutritional benefits and dangers of different foodstuffs for Birds of Prey. Include road kill in your listing.

*Verbal description  
acceptable*

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-----

3.5 What is the appropriate quantity of food for your chosen Bird of Prey and how can this level be found, checked and monitored?

*Verbal description  
acceptable*

-----

3.6 State the feeding requirements of moulting Birds of Prey

*Verbal description  
acceptable*

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3.7 Describe the use of freezers, refrigerators and the appropriate methods for de-frosting and storing food

*Verbal description  
acceptable*

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3.8 What are the possible circumstances/reasons when food supplements may be required and identify an appropriate supplement  
(**Evidence hint:** you could provide advertisements for the supplement(s), website address or other promotional literature about the supplement and supplier)

*Verbal description acceptable*

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3.9 What are the risks of over-using supplements to the bird's health?

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3.10 What are the benefits and risks associated with water?

-----  
-----

3.11 Demonstrate the preparation of some foodstuffs

*Verbal description acceptable*

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## Part 4: Health

This section requires you to be able to describe the signs of good health and the symptoms of ill-health or injury and common ailments, their causes and prevention. Your Assessor will need to be satisfied that you know when and how to get help for a Bird of Prey if needed.

### Candidate instructions

### Assessor notes

4.1 State the signs of good health and well-being in a Bird of Prey  
(**Evidence hint:** you could provide pictures of these from websites, books etc.)

*Verbal description  
acceptable*

-----

4.2 What are the signs of ill-health or injury in a Bird of Prey?  
(**Evidence hint:** you could provide pictures of these from websites, books etc.)

*Verbal description  
acceptable*

-----

4.3 List common health problems suffered by Birds of Prey in captivity

*Verbal description  
acceptable*

-----

4.4 Identify signs of ill-health or injury that require professional veterinary advice

*Verbal description  
acceptable*

-----

4.5 State the signs of good health and ill health revealed by examination of castings and mutes

*Verbal description  
acceptable*

-----

4.6 Which appropriate veterinary practice will you use, depending on your location and circumstances

*Verbal description  
acceptable*

(**Evidence hint:** you could provide an advertisement, website address or other literature as evidence for the Veterinary Practice that you will use for regular treatment of your Bird of Prey, and a specialist Avian Vet who may be needed in more serious cases)

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## Part 5: Species Suitability

In this section you must give your reasons for choosing your particular Bird of Prey species. Your Assessor will need to know the reasons for choosing a particular species and that you are aware of the principal legislation that affects Bird of Prey owners and keepers.

### Candidate instructions

### Assessor notes

5.1 State the reasons for choosing a your particular Bird of Prey having due regard to

- your personal circumstances
- whether you intend to keep the bird in an aviary or to fly and hunt with it

*Verbal description  
acceptable*

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5.2 What are the benefits of flying a Bird of Prey?

*Verbal description  
acceptable*

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5.3 How will you identify and obtain suitable flying and hunting ground for a Bird of Prey. Will this affect the choice of bird you purchase?

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5.4 State differences in temperament between the following:

*Verbal description  
acceptable*

Imprinted birds

-----

Crèche-reared birds

-----

Parent reared birds

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What are the benefits and disadvantages of each of these methods of rearing birds?

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5.4 What role does DEFRA play in the keeping of Birds of Prey?

*Verbal description  
acceptable*

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5.5 State the relevance of Registration Documents, A10s and Breeder's  
Certificates?

5.6 What legal documentation is required to keep your chosen Bird of  
Prey? How do you obtain information about this?

*Verbal description  
acceptable*

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-----  
5.7 Identify the relevant law protecting wild Birds of Prey

*Verbal description  
acceptable*

-----  
5.8 What would you do with a wild injured Bird of Prey?

*Verbal description  
acceptable*  
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## Part 6: Purchasing your first bird

In this section you must be able to state the preparations you will need to make before acquiring a young/new Bird of Prey. Your assessor will need to know that you have considered certain issues such as initial preparations, how you will relate to the bird during the first few days and how your relationship will change over time.

### Candidate instructions

### Assessor notes

6.1 How can you source reputable breeders/suppliers for your chosen species?

*Verbal description  
acceptable*

*(Evidence hint: collect information from breeders/suppliers' catalogues or websites)*

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-----

6.2 What arrangements should be made for the handling and transportation of a young/new Bird of Prey?

*Verbal description  
acceptable*

*(Evidence hint: construct a list)*

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6.3 If the Bird of Prey is to be flown, how you will arrange for falconry furniture to be fitted?

*Verbal description  
acceptable*

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6.4 State what basic health checks are required at the time of and immediately after purchase? Who will do these?

*Verbal description  
acceptable*

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6.5 Describe how you would settle a Bird of Prey into a new environment?

*Verbal description  
acceptable*

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-----

6.6 What are the likely behaviour patterns of a young/new Bird of Prey?

*Verbal description  
acceptable*

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6.7 How will the management routine will change in the short term, longer term and why are these changes necessary?

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6.8 State traditional reasons for hooding a Bird of Prey. What are the broader welfare benefits of making your bird 'good to the hood'?

*Verbal description  
acceptable*

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6.9 What are the benefits of retrieval schemes for Birds of Prey? Name one such scheme

*Verbal description  
acceptable*

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## UNIT 2: FALCONRY BASICS

### Part 7: Essential Falconry Equipment

This section is based on knowledge and requires you to list the essential items of equipment required before a Bird of Prey is obtained. You should understand the importance of other essential items of equipment and their uses. If you have already made or purchased your equipment you can show it to your Assessor and discuss its uses and maintenance.

#### Candidate instructions

#### Assessor notes

7.1 List the appropriate essential falconry furniture for your chosen Bird of Prey

*Verbal description acceptable*

*(Evidence hint: collect information from suppliers' catalogues or websites)*

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7.2 Source a reputable supplier of falconry furniture **or** demonstrate competence in making falconry furniture, explaining which materials are suitable for the purpose

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*Verbal description acceptable*

7.3 How will you check for wear and keep falconry furniture in good condition?

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*Verbal description acceptable*

7.4 Identify the risks of injury to the bird from ill-fitting or worn furniture. How will you check Birds of Prey for such signs of such injuries?

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*Verbal description acceptable*

7.5 Describe the safe use of Bow Perches and Block Perches and how you will choose a suitable perch for your chosen bird

*Verbal description acceptable*

*(Evidence hint: collect information about perches from suppliers' catalogues or websites)*

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7.6 What other items of equipment do falconers' use, and for what purpose?

*Verbal description acceptable*

*(Evidence hint: collect information about equipment from suppliers' catalogues or websites)*

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## Part 8: Picking Up and Carrying

This section requires you to be able to demonstrate safely picking up, carrying and setting down a Bird of Prey. Your Assessor will want to observe you doing this and be satisfied that you can correctly tie the falconers knot **or** demonstrate an acceptable alternative having due regard to your own safety and the safety of the bird.

### Candidate instructions

### Assessor notes

8.1 Tie a falconers knot **or** demonstrate a suitable alternative method of securing the bird

*Must observe*

*(Evidence hint: you could include a falconers knot in your workbook!)*

-----

8.2 Demonstrate a safe procedure for picking up a Bird of Prey

*Must observe*

*(Evidence hint: you could get someone to film you)*

-----

8.3 Demonstrate safely carrying a Bird of Prey

*Must observe*

*(Evidence hint: you could get someone to film you)*

-----

8.4 Demonstrate safely setting the bird down

*Must observe*

*(Evidence hint: you could get someone to film you)*

-----

8.5 State the method of safely lifting a bating Bird of Prey back to the glove

-----

*Verbal description acceptable*

## Part 9: Feeding, Manning and Initial Training Techniques

This is an essentially practical part of the Award. Your Assessor will want to be satisfied that you are aware of initial training techniques, including the role of feeding on the glove and manning.

### Candidate instructions

### Assessor notes

9.1 Describe the feeding and management routine you will follow in the first few days of training a Bird of Prey

*Must observe*

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9.2 Describe the reason for feeding on the glove and lure and the relevance each practice has in training and falconry

*Verbal description acceptable*

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9.3 Demonstrate safe procedures for feeding on the glove

*Must observe*

-----

9.4 Describe a good procedure when introducing a Bird of Prey to the lure, and the potential results of poor lure introduction procedures

*Verbal description acceptable*

-----

9.5 State the reasons for manning and the types of activity that will be undertaken during the manning process

*Verbal description acceptable*

-----

9.6 Describe the process and procedures involved in initial basic training for your chosen Bird of Prey

*Verbal description acceptable*

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## Part 10: Weighing and Weight Management

This section requires you to describe the importance of weight control in flying birds and the potential health risks to the bird of poor weight control. Your Assessor will want you to demonstrate the appropriate and safe weighing of a Bird of Prey.

### Candidate instructions

### Assessor notes

10.1 Demonstrate safe procedures for weighing

*Must observe*

-----

10.2 Demonstrate accurate recording of weight

*Must observe*

-----

10.3 What role does weight control play in training and flying a Bird of Prey?

*Verbal description acceptable*

-----

10.4 Identify the risks from poor weight management

-----

## Part 11: Flying to the Fist on a Creance

This section requires you to demonstrate safe and positive training methods, within the stages of initial flying to the glove. Your Assessor will want to be sure that you can do this safely, assess when a bird is ready to fly free, and that you are aware of methods for retrieving a lost Bird of Prey.

### Candidate instructions

### Assessor notes

11.1 Demonstrate a good method of attaching, the safe use and removal of a creance

*Must observe*

11.2 Describe when it may **not** be safe to fly a Bird of Prey on a creance, and the possible consequences of doing so

*Verbal description acceptable*

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-----

11.3 Demonstrate a good method of attaching a transmitter

*Must observe*

-----

11.4 Demonstrate effective use of a telemetry system

*Must observe*

-----

11.5 What methods are there for retrieving a lost Bird of Prey?

*Verbal description acceptable*

-----  
-----

11.6 Why is it important to control the bird's environment during the initial stages of training?

*Verbal description acceptable*

-----  
-----

11.7 What responses would indicate that your chosen Bird of Prey is ready to fly free?

*Verbal description acceptable*

-----  
-----

## ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE

You can add additional evidence such as photographs here, stating clearly which part of the Award this evidence relates to. You can attach additional pages as necessary

Attach additional evidence here:	Relates to part:
<i>Example: Drawing of suitable housing</i>	1.1

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