



Photos by N. Leung S. Noyes, J. P. P.

# Interested in Falconry & Birds of Prey?



**Falconry** is perhaps the most natural and purest form of hunting—a remarkable human-to-wildlife relationship. It can be a rewarding experience, but is definitely **NOT** for everyone. The pursuit of falconry is not a decision that should be entered into casually. It requires a "lifestyle" of devotion and demands a serious commitment—365 days a year. If you are seriously considering falconry, we suggest you do the following:

- ▲ **BEFORE** seeking a sponsor, read *North American Falconry and Hunting Hawks*, by Hal Webster and Frank Beebe, and perhaps several other modern falconry books. Good sources for falconry books are [www.northwoodsfallconry.com](http://www.northwoodsfallconry.com), [www.mikesfallconry.com](http://www.mikesfallconry.com), [www.westernsporting.com](http://www.westernsporting.com) and [www.davidsonsfalconry.com](http://www.davidsonsfalconry.com). These books will answer most of your initial questions and demonstrate to your prospective sponsor that you are serious about learning and won't waste their time. Apprenticeship is a minimum 2-year commitment and a licensed falconer is under no obligation to sponsor you. You must earn the privilege of sponsorship.
- ▲ Become familiar with both federal and state falconry laws (IDNR can provide you with this information).
- ▲ Contact licensed (general or master class) falconers in your area. If approached politely, most falconers are willing to show you their birds and facilities. **DON'T** contact a falconer you've never met and ask them over the phone to sponsor you. Get to know them, be patient and expect to spend a season observing falconry in practice. Given time, they will likely see your interest is sincere and may then offer to sponsor you.
- ▲ Seek membership in the North American Falconers Association [www.n-a-f-a.org](http://www.n-a-f-a.org), our national organization.



## Contact the Indiana Falconers Association

▲ The Indiana Falconers Association (IFA) is an organization of licensed falconers committed to enhancing the quality of falconry and preserving the raptors it employs. IFA members are dedicated to the highest standards of sportsmanship and code of ethics—so much a part of our heritage. Give us a call for the right start. We'll direct you to resources that will help you prepare for your exam, construct proper facilities and acquire necessary equipment. **Become a member (or associate member) of the IFA today.**



Visit our website at  
[www.IndianaFalconersAssociation.org](http://www.IndianaFalconersAssociation.org)  
or contact an IFA officer at:

- Katherine Tapp, President - (812) 572-9173
- Glenn Bradley, Vice President - (765) 860-7004
- Greg Inman, Secretary - (812) 538-5503
- Randy Bennett, Treasurer - (317) 777-3871
- Roger Chastain, Outreach Coordinator - (317) 408-2839
- Caroline Thomson, Communications Director - (317) 989-7238

On November 16, 2010, the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage added Falconry, a traditional hunting method, to its List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Since before the time of the pyramids, over 4000 years, falconry as a hunting method has retained an unbroken thread of tradition.