

# The Sussex Falconry Centre

## Four Day Falconry Course for Beginners

It is anticipated that all students will understand the need for self discipline and acceptance of all instructions given by the instructor, the welfare of the birds is paramount. When we say fly we mean hands on. YOU fly the bird YOU man the bird.

### Day 1

- 10:00 am      Introductions and centre layout  
Brief health and safety talk and risk assessment procedure in the centre
- 10:15 am      Discuss birds to be flown their characteristics needs and habits
- 10:30 am      **Manning**
- 11:00 am      **Fly** Turkistan Eagle Owl, Harris Hawk, Kestrel, Saker Falcon.
- 12:30 pm      Q & A
- 12:45 pm      **Lunch**
- 01:30 pm      Resume Q & A
- 01:45 pm      **Fly** Barn Owl, African Spotted Owl, Superior Harris, Foresters Caracara.
- 03:00 pm      Discuss falconry practice. Tie a Falconers knot Conservation Q & A.
- 03:30 pm      **Fly** Turkey Vulture, Harris Hawk, European Eagle Owl and Saker Falcon
- 04:30 pm      Q & A.
- 04:45 pm      Conclusion

The day ends with a question and answer session. At this point we will have hopefully achieved our mission statement Education through Experience and those of you

on an experience will have enjoyed your day those of you on a full course will look forward to day 2 .

## Day 2

- 10:00 am      Owing training and caring for a bird of prey. Choosing a suitable bird, Weight management control and documentation, Feeding Risk assessment both bird and falconer
- 10:15 am      Clothing, Equipment, Transportation, and Telemetry,
- 10:30 am      **Manning**
- 11:00 am      **Fly** Turkistan Eagle Owl, Harris Hawk, Kestrel, Saker Falcon.
- 12:30 pm      Aviary construction, Location, building materials, size, flooring and Light
- 12:45 pm      **Lunch**
- 01:30 pm      Vermin, perches, security, light, water, and bathing. Q & A
- 01:45 pm      **Fly** Barn Owl, African Spotted Owl, Superior Harris, Foresters Caracara.
- 03:00 pm      Aviary maintenance cleaning and hygiene disinfectants, solutions Q & A.
- 03:30 pm      **Fly** Turkey Vulture, Harris Hawk, European Eagle Owl and Saker Falcon
- 04:30 pm      Q & A.
- 04:45 pm      Conclusion

The day ends with a question and answer session. At this point we will have covered many of the basics of falconry and you will be looking forward to day 3.

## Day 3

- 10:00 am      Protection from Avian Flu, Aspergillus Bumble foot, Clinical management, Casting, Mute tests, Worming, Sour Crop, Parasite Infestation, Infections, Antibiotics, Repertory infections, Faecal analysis, Secondary poisoning, Lead

shot poisoning, Wing Tip Oedema, Bathing, Road kill, Shot Quarry, Free Food, Food storage and Preparation, Thawing from frozen, Precautions against possible infections, contaminations and introduced bacteria i.e. Avian Flu. Cross contamination. Personal hygiene. Preventative medication,

11:00 am **Fly** Turkistan Eagle Owl, Harris Hawk, Kestrel, Saker Falcon.

12:00 pm Falconry leather work manufacture Jessie's, anklets and Hoods.

12:30 pm **Lunch**

01:30 pm Vermin, perches, Blocks, coverings, security, light, water, bathing, electrical safety. Q & A

01:45 pm **Fly** Barn Owl, African Spotted Owl, Superior Harris, Foresters Caracara.

03:00 pm Nutritional values of raptor food supplements Furniture, Equipment, Creance line training and the lure (not part of this course as it is considered to dangerous for a novice to practice the lure with a live bird )

03:30 pm **Fly** Turkey Vulture, Harris Hawk, European Eagle Owl and Saker Falcon.

04:30 pm The Molt, Hunting fur and feather, Travel box, construction and care of Quarantine, Temperament Hand reared, Crèche, Imprinted.

04:45 pm Revise weak subjects

## Day 4

10:00 am Revise all from days 1, 2 and 3 weathering mews and aviaries daily weekly Hygiene routines annual maintenance schedules Documentation

11:00 am **Fly** Turkistan Eagle Owl, Harris Hawk, Kestrel, Saker Falcon.

12:00 pm Imping, Coping, and good bird husbandry, Nutrition, feeding, supplements, vitamins, finding a suitable vet looking for unusual behavior,

12:30 pm **Lunch**

01:30 pm Field first aid, Etiquette, Legislation, Law, Documentation, A10 DEFRA, CITES, Animal Welfare Act, Good hunting Practices,

01:45 pm      **Fly** Barn Owl, African Spotted Owl, Superior Harris, Foresters Caracara.

03:00 pm      Health inspections The Molt Hunting fur and feather Creance line training and the lure (not part of this course as it is considered to dangerous for a novice to practice the lure with a live bird )

03:30 pm      Hawk walk ( take hawk into the open countryside representing a standard hunting trip) Revise weak subjects

04:45 pm      Assessment and conclusion of course.

The day ends with the possible award for competence and or a full Lantra equivalent falconry proficiency certificate.