



To the aspiring falconer,

Falconry, not unlike other sports or recreational activities, has its own language. Here is a list of the most commonly used falconry terms.

### **Falconry Terms**

**Accipiter:** A term referring to Sharp-shinned Hawks, Cooper's Hawks and Goshawks, also known as short-winged hawks.

**Alymeri Jesses:** A two piece system, set up for the safety of the birds, consisting of anklets attached to the raptor's legs by grommets, and knotted strips of leather (jesses) that pass through the eyes of the grommets.

**Austringer:** A falconer who hunts with Accipiters.

**Bate:** An attempt to fly off the fist or perch while the raptor is tethered.

**Bell(s):** Equipment mounted on the tail or both legs, used to help locate a raptor.

**Bewits:** Thin leather strips that fasten bells to a raptor's legs.

**Bind:** To seize and hold onto quarry.

**Brancher:** A young bird that has left the nest but has not yet mastered its flight skills and is still in the nest area.

**Cadge:** A portable perch used to transport or carry raptors into the field.

**Captive-bred:** The offspring of raptors bred in captivity.

**Carrying:** The act of a raptor; dragging or flying with freshly caught quarry.

Cast: Two or more raptors flown in cooperative hunting.

Cast: To safely restrain a raptor's wings and legs which allow the falconer to mount equipment, repair broken feathers or treat maladies/injuries.

Cast off: A raptor's launch from the falconer's glove.

Casting: The indigestible portion of a raptor's meal (bones, fur, feathers), that is formed into a compact ball/pellet and is discarded through the beak.

Check: Switching from one quarry to another in flight.

Cope: To trim the over growth of a raptor's beak or talons.

Crab: Two raptors grappling in the air, whether over quarry, territory, or as part of a mating ritual.

Creance: A long line used to train raptors to return to the falconer from a distance.

Crop: The first place where a raptor's food goes and is held for digestion after eating.

Crop: The amount of food a raptor is allowed to eat.

Enter: To train a raptor to fly at and take a particular quarry or a quarry it has never caught before.

Eyas: Refers to a raptor still in the nest, or a raptor of any age that was obtained as a nestling.

Falcon: A term originally reserved for female falcons only. This term also refers to any birds of the genus Falco.

Feak: The action of a raptor rubbing its beak against a perch, branch or glove to clean off residual food.

Flush: To move quarry out into the open or into the air.

Foot: The action of a raptor grabbing or hanging onto quarry with its feet.

Gorge: Allowing a raptor to eat all it can.

Jerkin: A name specifically for male Gyrfalcons.

Hack: A temporary state of independence in which a raptor is released in a controlled environment and is allowed to survive on its own under the falconer's supervision for a short period of time.

Haggard: A wild raptor, in adult plumage, in its second year or more.

Hood: A leather cap designed for the bird's safety that prevents a bird from seeing to keep it calm.

Hybrid: The offspring of two or more species of raptors.

Imp: A technique of repairing a raptor's damaged/broken, primary feathers.

Imprinted: A raptor taken a young age that recognizes humans as a parent or sibling.

Jack: A name specifically for a male Merlin falcon.

Leash: A leather or nylon braided tether used to tether a raptor to a perch or glove.

Long wings: Generic term for any bird of the genus Falco.

Lure: Mock quarry attached to a cord.

Lure: The swinging of a lure to train, control flight or call raptors to the falconer.

Make in to: A method of approaching a raptor on game or a lure to prevent them from carrying.

Mantle over: To spread the wings and tail over food to prevent it from being viewed by other predators.

Mew: A raptor's housing facility.

Moult: The annual process in which a raptor drops its worn feathers and grows in new ones.

Musket: A male Sharp-shinned Hawk.

Mute: The excrement of a falcon.

Passage: A wild raptor captured during its first year migration.

Pitch: The height a falcon seeks to maintain while waiting for quarry to flush or be flushed.

Preen: The grooming of feathers with the beak.

Put in: The act of driving game to cover.

Rouse: The action of shaking and lifting feathers and letting them to fall back into place.

Sharp: A raptor that is hungry and eager to hunt.

Slice: The ejection of excrement by hawks.

Slip: To provide a raptor with an optimal opportunity to pursue and take game.

Soar: The use of up drafts and thermals by a raptor to gain altitude.

Stoop: The head first descent of a falcon from a height.

Tiercel: Any male raptor of the Falco species.

Wait on: The action of a falcon circling above the falconer in anticipation of the falconer flushing game.

Warble: The stretching motion that lifts both bent wings over the head until they nearly touch, as well as the spreading of the tail.

Weather: Allowing raptors to be exposed to the elements.