

Animal Breeding and Training: Birds

Category Rules

This category is for the breeding and training of birds of prey, poultry, and game birds. Period training techniques may range into the unacceptable and cruel. Knowledge of, rather than practice of, these techniques and acceptable substitutes should be stressed. The scoring under the Skill category should reflect the appropriate use and choice of animals for a given time or place. Consideration must also be given to the legality of owning certain species, namely raptors.

A video of the performance must also be submitted either as a link to an online video or as an mp4 file. **If the video is longer than 10 minutes, it must be submitted as a mail-in entry**, sent (postmarked) to the KMOAS **by January 15**. No late entries will be accepted. **THE KMOAS RECOMMENDS THAT YOU EMAIL YOUR ENTRY**. Any updates or changes to this deadline will be published in the Middle Kingdom newsletter, *The Pale*. Post-mail entries are accepted, but will be scanned in and delivered via email to judges. This category is eligible for Regional Faires. If the video is under 10 minutes, the entrant will need to supply equipment to play the video without internet connection during judging.

Research and Documentation Score: 0-4 points)

- 0 No documentation provided with entry. Face-to-face judging adds very little information.
- 1 Minimal information is provided for time, place and style. Face-to-face judging adds some background information.
- 2 As in #1, generalized sources are given with no emphasis on primary and/or scholarly resources. In face-to-face judging, no further understanding of the resources is evident. Materials and methods of construction of the entry are described.
- 3 As in #2, there is a good balance of resources: primary and/or scholarly sources well supported by other resources. Documentation and/or face-to-face judging provides well developed discussion of research. Materials and methods of construction are described and the reasons for the choices made are discussed.
- 4 As in #3, in-depth and extensive documentation provides a good balance of resources, emphasizing primary (if available) and/or scholarly resources backed up with a significant selection of other resources. Documentation and/or face-to-face judging provide a good explanation of original research and experimentation related to the research. Face-to-face judging indicates a keen grasp of the research and the entrant can discuss it easily with active engagement. Appendices included in documentation (if any) help provide further pertinent information to subject and time period.

Materials and Methods (Score: 0-4 points)

- 0 Entry is completely modern with no relationship to period elements or practices.
- 1 Use of modern materials and methods to produce an item that would not be accepted in period but either bears some relationship to an authentic work or might be useful within SCA culture.
- 2 Use of **both** modern materials and methods to produce a work that looks, feels, or tastes authentic to the intended time period or culture.
- 3 Use of **either** modern materials **or** methods to produce a work that looks, feels or tastes authentic to the intended time period or culture without explanation of any substituted materials.
- 4 Use of totally authentic materials and methods to produce a work that looks or feels authentic to the intended time period or culture. Any substitutions and the period materials/methods are thoroughly explained.

For Scope and Skill, please use the following guidelines for the specific type of bird.

Birds of Prey

There are many different birds of prey, each with its own style of hunting and preferred prey. Entrant should show knowledge of their own bird and how it differs from others as well as knowledge of training the bird, the equipment used, and its particular health concerns.

Scope (Score: 0-6 points for each item)

Rank the **ambition**, not the success, of the entry for each of the following elements according to their rubrics.

Size and/or complexity of project (number of animals used, combination of breeds).

- 0 points: 0 hunting attempts per bird per season
- 1 point: 1 hunting attempt per bird per season
- 2 points: 2-8 hunting attempts per bird/season
- 3 points: 9-16 hunting attempts per bird/season
- 4 points: 17-24 hunting attempts per bird/season
- 5 points: 25-36 hunting attempts per bird per season
- 6 points: more than 37 hunting attempts per bird per season
- +2 (up to a maximum of 6 points) if more than one bird is hunted in one season

Intricacy of training (work, entertainment, produce, hunting).

- 0 points: Began with fully trained adult bird that is now captive due to injuries
- 1 point: Began with fully trained adult bird that is retired from hunting
- 2 points: Began with fully trained adult bird that already hunts
- 3 points: Began with a bird from a rehab center
- 4 points: Began with catching a brancher/soar hawk (juvenile bird still under parental care, out of nest)
- 5 points: Began with catching a passage (juvenile bird kicked out of nest, hunting on its own)
- 6 points: Began with taking an eyas (baby bird) from a nest

Skill (Score: 0-6 points for each item)

Rank the **success** of the entry for each of the following elements according to their rubrics. The entrant should provide photographs or video of the animal(s) being used/handled if the animal(s) cannot be scored in person.

How the animal is used (hunter, entertainment, work, produce, etc.).

- 0 points: 0 kills per bird per season
- 1 point: 1 kill per bird per season
- 2 points: 2-4 kills per bird per season
- 3 points: 5-8 kills per bird per season
- 4 points: 9-12 kills per bird per season
- 5 points: 13-16 kills per bird per season
- 6 points: more than 17 kills per bird per season
- +2 up to a total of 6 points if more than one bird is owned at one time

Application of husbandry techniques. Please provide photos or video of the animals in their living space. To assess the proper living conditions and husbandry of the animals, **give one point for each of the following conditions observed:**

- Smooth, clean feathers
- Clean feet and beak
- Clean perches
- Variety of perches in living area
- Fresh water
- Proper weight

Handling of animal. Photos or video of animals being handled should be submitted. To assess the proper handling of the animals, **give one point for each of the following conditions observed:**

- Handler can hold the bird on a gloved hand
- Bird will return after hunt
- Bird will come to handler for food
- Bird is comfortable and calm around handler
- Bird is alert
- Bird accepts equipment (jesses, hood)

Poultry

The entrant should show knowledge of the breeds they are entering, where they originated, how location may have affected the birds, and some of the difference between poultry in period and modern poultry (egg size, meat yield). They should also show knowledge of appropriate feed, housing, and health concerns. Entry may consist of adult birds, chicks, or eggs.

Scope (Score: 0-6 points for each item)

Rank the **ambition**, not the success, of the entry for each of the following elements according to their rubrics.

Size and/or complexity of project (number of animals used, combination of breeds).

- 0 points: Single bird
- 1 point: 2-5 birds of the same breed/type
- 2 points: 2-5 birds of different breeds/types
- 3 points: 6-10 birds of the same breed/type
- 4 points: 6-10 birds of different breed/types
- 5 points: 11-15 birds of the same breed/type
- 6 points: 11-15 birds of different breeds/types
- +2 points (up to 6 total) for each additional 4 birds or each different breed/type of birds.

Type of training (work, entertainment, produce).

- 0 points: 0 birds raised, and butchered /eggs produced/ hatched
- 1 point: 1 bird/egg
- 2 points: 2-5 birds/eggs
- 3 points: 6-10 birds/eggs
- 4 points: 11- 15 birds/eggs
- 5 points: 16 - 20 birds/eggs
- 6 points: 21 or more birds/eggs

Intricacy of training (work, entertainment, produce).

- 0 points: keeping one bird with no product.
- 1 point: keeping a single adult bird for a single product
- 2 points: keeping adult birds for a single product
- 3 points: keeping adult birds for multiple products
- 4 points: breeding birds to raise chicks
- 5 points: raising chicks for multiple products
- 6 points: Breeding birds to raise chicks to produce one or more products

Type of animal used.

- 0 points: single bird of unknown origin
- 1 point: single type crossbred line (egg or meat)
- 2 points: multiple crossbred lines (egg and meat)
- 3 points: single modern line
- 4 points: multiple modern lines
- 5 points: single heritage line
- 6 points: Multiple heritage lines

Breeding for product (meat, chicks, eggs, etc).

- 0 points: no breeding
- 1 point: single cross bred line for single product
- 2 points: multiple cross bred lines for multiple products
- 3 points: single pure bred line for single product
- 4 points: single pure bred line for multiple products
- 5 points: Multiple pure bred lines for single product
- 6 points: Multiple pure bred for multiple products

Extent gone to ensure conservation of breeds.

- 0 points: no breeding
- 1 point: single modern line
- 2 points: multiple modern lines
- 3 points: single heritage line
- 4 points: multiple heritage lines
- 5 points: single documented purebred heritage line
- 6 points: Multiple documented purebred heritage lines

Skill (Score: 0-6 points for each item)

The entrant should provide photographs or video of the animal(s) being used/handled if the animal(s) cannot be scored in person. Rank the **success** of the entry for each of the following elements.

Appropriateness of breed used.

- 0 points: inappropriate (meat bird for egg laying)
- 1 point: crossbred neither parent line produced the product for this project
- 2 points: crossbred one parent line produced the product in the project
- 3 points: crossbred both parent lines produced the product in the project
- 4 points: modern purebred line that is NOT known for the product in the project
- 5 points: modern purebred line that produces the product in the project
- 6 points: heritage line that produces the product in the project

How the animal is used (hunter, entertainment, work, produce, etc.).

- 0 points: kept birds for entertainment
- 1 point: kept birds for eggs
- 2 points: raised birds for egg laying
- 3 points: raised birds for meat
- 4 points: bred birds, let broody hen hatch chicks
- 5 points: bred birds with incubator to hatch chicks
- 6 points: raised chicks to adulthood, then bred them to raise more chicks

Application of husbandry techniques. Please provide photos or video of the animals in their living space. To assess the proper living conditions and husbandry of the animals, give one point for each of the following conditions observed:

- Clean coop, (little buildup of waste)
- Clean water
- perches
- Nesting boxes
- Healthy birds
- Neither afraid of, nor attacking, humans

Developing potential of breed.

- 0 points: no breeding
- 1 point: single pure bred line
- 2 points: multiple pure bred lines
- 3 points: single pure bred line to improve single product
- 4 points: multiple pure bred lines to improve a single product (all egg layers)
- 5 points: single pure bred line to improve multiple products
- 6 points: Multiple pure-bred lines to improve multiple products

Handling of animal. Photos or video of animals being handled should demonstrate this. To assess the proper handling, **give one point for each** of the following conditions observed:

- Birds can be picked up
- Bird show interest in food and water
- Birds are not overly aggressive
- Responds when called and offered treats
- No obvious deformities or injuries
- No pecking issues among the flock

Animal-related product. Quality of product is a reflection of using proper rearing and animal handling techniques (eggs/meat/chicks hatched/chicks raised to adulthood).

- 0 points: no eggs/ no meat/0 chicks/0 adults
- 1 point: 1 egg a week/ 1 lb live weight/1 chick/1 adult
- 2 points: 2 eggs a week/2 lbs live weight/2-5 chicks/2-5 adults
- 3 points: 3 eggs a week/3 lbs live weight/ 6-10 chicks/ 6-10 adults
- 4 points: 4 eggs a week/4 lbs live weight/11-15 chicks/11-15 adults
- 5 points: 5 eggs a week/ 5 lbs live weight/16-20 chicks/ 16-20 adults
- 6 points: 6 eggs a week / 6 lbs live weight/21-25 chicks/ 21-25 adults
- +2 points (up to 6 TOTAL) for each additional egg per week/ lb of live weight/4 additional chicks/4 adults

Game birds

Birds included in this category include quail, partridge, ptarmigan, pheasant, and peafowl. All were used for hunting, egg production, and eating. The entrant should show knowledge of the species and breeds as well as the habitat, food sources and ways of hunting the entry.

Scope (Score: 0-6 points for each item)

Rank the **ambition**, not the success, of the entry for each of the following elements according to their rubrics.

Size and/or complexity of project (number of birds attempted to hunt/locate).

- 0 points: Raised 0 birds
- 1 point: Raised 1-5 birds
- 2 points: Raised 6-10+ birds
- 3 points: Raised 1-5 birds of two different species
- 4 points: Raised 6-10+ birds of two species
- 5 points: Raised 1-5 birds of three or more different species
- 6 points: Raised 6-10+ birds of three or more different species

Type of training (entertainment, produce).

- 0 points: Raised 0 birds
- 1 point: Raised one species of bird for the table
- 2 points: Raised one species of bird for release to be hunted

- 3 points: Raised two species of birds for the table
- 4 points: Raised two species of birds for release to be hunted
- 5 points: Raised one species for multi purposes
- 6 points: Raised two or more different species for different purposes

Intricacy of training (work, entertainment, produce).

- 0 points: keeping one bird with no product.
- 1 point: keeping one adult bird for a single product
- 2 points: keeping adult birds for a single product
- 3 points: keeping adult birds for multiple products
- 4 points: breeding birds to raise chicks
- 5 points: raising chicks for multiple products
- 6 points: Breeding birds to raise chicks to produce one or more products

Type of animal used.

- 0 points: no birds are used
- 1 point: One breed of one species of bird
- 2 points: Two breeds of one species
- 3 points: One breed of multiple species
- 4 points: Two breeds of multiple species
- 5 points: Three or more breeds of one species
- 6 points: Three or more breeds of multiple species

Breeding for product (hunting, meat, chicks, eggs, etc.).

- 0 points: No selective breeding to better quality of breeds
- 1 point: Used crossbreeding of different sub-species to increase body size in birds used for meat
- 2 points: Used crossbreeding of different sub-species to increase plumage in birds used for hunting
- 3 points: Used crossbreeding of different sub-species to increase egg production
- 4 points: Used same species breeding to increase body size in birds used for meat or hunting
- 5 points: Used same species breeding to increase egg production for egg producing birds or plumage for birds used in hunting
- 6 points: Used same species breeding to increase egg production and body size for meat and egg producing birds and body size and plumage of birds used for hunting.

Extent gone to ensure conservation of breeds.

- 0 points: No separation of birds, wild breeding takes place
- 1 point: Unmonitored breeding within the same species
- 2 points: Unmonitored breeding within the same breed
- 3 points: Selective breeding for egg production within the same species
- 4 points: Selective breeding for overall size within the same species
- 5 points: Selective breeding for egg production within the same breed
- 6 points: Selective breeding for overall size within the same breed

Skill (Score: 0-6 points for each item)

The entrant should provide photographs or video of the animal(s) being used/handled if the animal(s) cannot be scored in person. Rank the **success** of the entry for each of the following elements.

How the animal is used (hunter, entertainment, work, produce, etc.).

- 0 points: kept birds for entertainment
- 1 point: kept birds for eggs
- 2 points: raised birds for egg laying
- 3 points: raised birds for meat
- 4 points: raised birds for hunting
- 5 points: raised birds for two purposes (egg/meat, meat/hunting)
- 6 points: raised birds for three purposes (egg/meat/hunting)

Application of husbandry techniques. Please provide photos or video of the animals in their living space. To assess the proper living conditions and husbandry of the animals, **give one point for each** of the following:

- The birds show no signs of illness. (no limp in stride, bright eyes, smooth feathers, no mites around the eyes, no droopiness of feathers or posture)
- The enclosures are of adequate size for the number of birds being raised in them.
- There is adequate food, water, and dusting areas (and for egg laying, adequate calcium available).
- The wings are not clipped for hunting birds/ there are areas for nesting and egg producing birds
- There is minimal chances for predators to reach the birds.

- There are places for the birds to roost and stay out of inclement weather.

Developing potential of breed. Note here any special laws or permits that may apply to this animal's breeding.

- 0 points: No separation of birds, wild breeding takes place
- 1 point: Unmonitored breeding within species
- 2 points: Unmonitored breeding within breed
- 3 points: Selective breeding for egg production within species
- 4 points: Selective breeding for overall size within species
- 5 points: Selective breeding for egg production within breed
- 6 points: Selective breeding for overall size within breed

Handling of animal. Photos or video of animals being handled should demonstrate this. To assess the proper handling of the animals, **give one point for each** of the following.

- Birds show interest in food and water
- Birds can be handled a minimal amount
- At least some respond when called or offered treats (egg producing and meat birds)
- No excessive fear shown by the birds
- No pecking issues among the flock
- Birds display proper "fight or flight" characteristics (birds used for hunting)

Animal-related product. Quality of product is a reflection of using proper rearing and animal handling techniques. Score **either** "Egg producing and meat birds" **or** "Birds raised for hunting."

Egg producing and meat birds

- 0 points: Birds show signs of disease or malnourishment
- 1 point: Birds are very small with breastbone pronounced. Very little meat on the carcass
- 2 points: Eggs are brittle and crack when hens set on them, air cell greater than 3/16" with a very defined and visible yolk when candled
- 3 points: Birds are a little small, with a visible breastbone protruding from breast meat
- 4 points: Eggs are solid and do not crack when set on, but have thin walls. A well-defined yolk and reasonably firm white with an air cell of 3/16" or less when candled.
- 5 points: Birds have nicely filled bodies with little breastbone visible on the dressed carcass.
- 6 points: Eggs have a clean, smooth and oval shape with one end slightly bigger than the other. The shell should be thick enough that the hen will not crack it when setting. An air cell of 1/8" or less in depth, a clear firm white and a slightly defined outline of a yolk when candled.

Birds raised for hunting

- 0 points: Birds are too young to fly and offer proper "sport"
- 1 point: Birds are young and haven't grown into their full plumage yet but can fly.
- 2 points: Birds are over 1 year old and have full plumage, but small in size
- 3 points: Birds are over 3 years of age, plumage is starting to thin out, body shape is slimming down
- 4 points: Birds are about 2 years of age, have full plumage and have moderately filled out bodies
- 5 points: Birds are about 3 years of age, have full plumage and have moderately filled out bodies
- 6 points: Birds are about 3 years of age, have full plumage and fully filled out bodies

Ingenuity (Score: 0-4 points)

Judge the ingenuity of the entry. Was the entrant resourceful and inventive in the approach to creating their entry? Does the entry reflect the entrant's vision of period context? Is original thought, contemplation, interpretation, and vision evident according to the entrant's period?

Judge's Observation (Score: 0-6 points)

Rank the entry as a whole. How well do all the separately judged parts fit together? The entry's overall effect is judged in this section. This is the only section of the criteria where the judges may allow their personality, private opinions, and personal preferences to influence scoring.