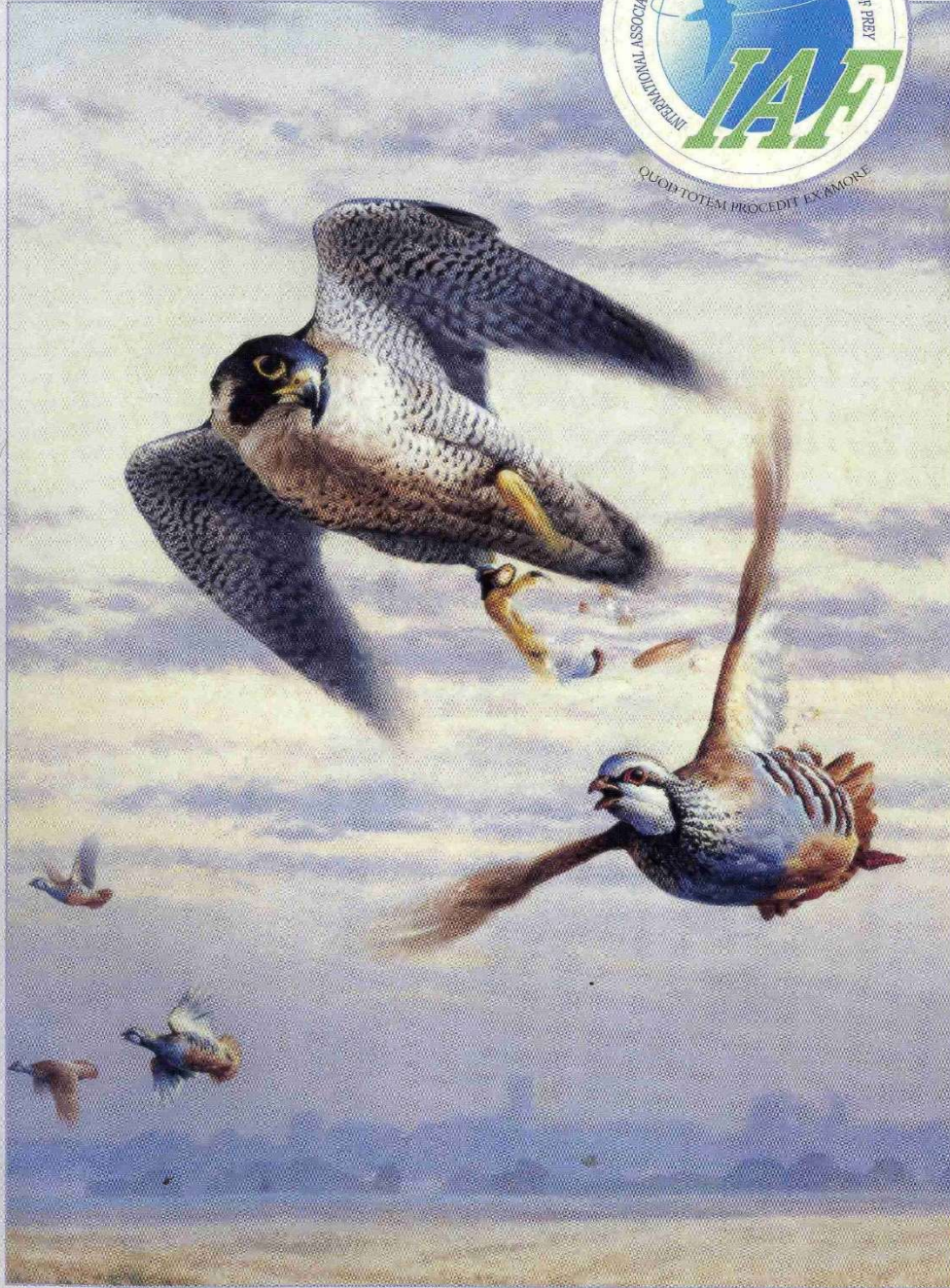
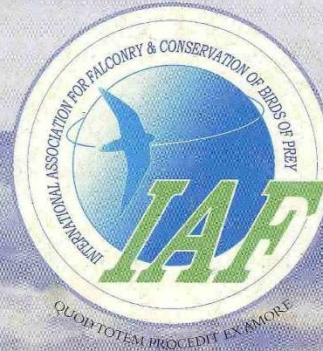
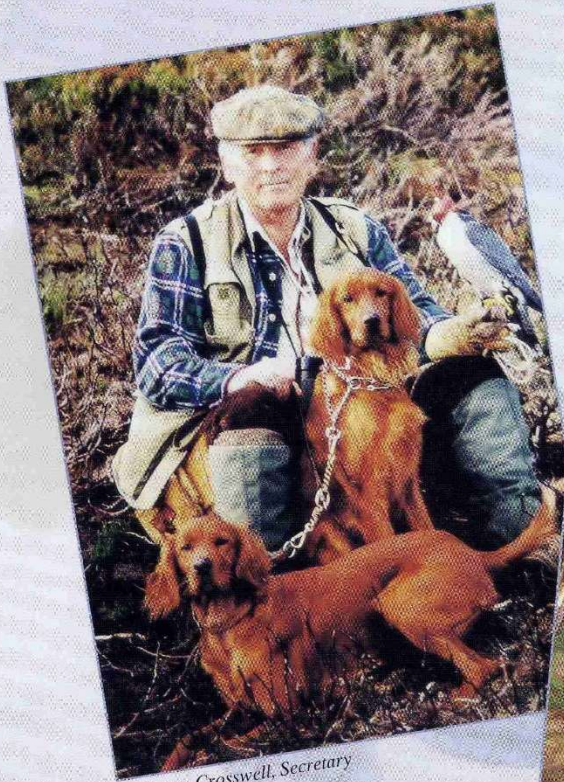


# Newsletter

Edition - March 2001



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR FALCONRY &  
CONSERVATION OF BIRDS OF PREY



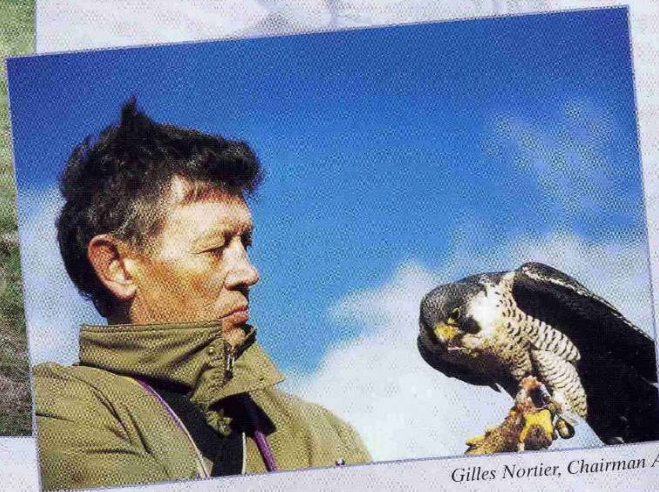
*Anthony Crosswell, Secretary*



*Patrick Morel, President*



*Thomas Richter, Vice President*



*Gilles Nortier, Chairman AC*

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**New Webb site address : [www.I-A-F.org](http://www.I-A-F.org)**

## EDITOR'S FORWARD

by Anthony Crosswell

Our Association moves ever onward and grows from strength to strength. New members increase our representation for falconry on the International scene as our Officers are involved in an ever growing number of meetings and conferences effecting our sport of Falconry and also the conservation of Birds of Prey. We are indeed fortunate to have so many willing volunteers of such high calibre and qualification.

In all of this we must not lose sight of our 'raison d'etre' and for myself I am thankful for the enjoyment of another good seasons falconry.

3 January 2001

Thisbe, my six year old female Peregrine, left the fist and flew in a straight line for about 2 miles until she was almost invisible in the binoculars. At this distance she was already high and turned to retrace her wing-beats until she was directly overhead at about 1500ft. It was an awesome display of sheer competence that culminated into a vertical screaming stoop that devastated the single partridge flushed by my Irish setter bitch Sienna from the frosty winter rape.

Patrick Morel had complained last year that our reported effort to start the new millennium in the manner we intended to continue was premature. We resolved to do it all again this year in the certainty that this would truly be the third millennium and into the new century. It was frustrating that the weather had prevented our efforts on the first and second day on the new year but the third dawned clear blue sky and windless - perfect conditions to fly the falcons.

Following Thisbe her brother Nelson was put on the wing. He was reticent to climb and flew the whole area on an inspection tour before he would go up - it was a good ten minutes before he finally came overhead. Frustration seemed to persist when I looked up to see he was not alone and again a passage tiercel had joined him waiting on. This has happened many times before and usually upsets a good flight but since Sienna was already on point in a marshy area I sent her in to flush the expected snipe. Jinking away it stayed low for about 200 yards hoping to evade detection. No such luck and the brown bird stooped hard in behind the fleeing wader so that he took to the air. A display followed of aerial mastery shocking to see from this young bird. Nelson had not joined in and being reliable I did not pay him any attention expecting him to hold position whilst the flight played out. Many times this Peregrine could have easily taken the snipe only to pull off and then resume pursuit from a new angle. All around us the flight circled for many minutes before the quarry finally made a commitment to leave the area, still with the male on its tail.

The young Peregrine did not return and I looked back to Nelson to take him down to the lure. More complications as now a sister young bird had joined in and was busily keeping herself glued to Nelsons tail as he tried to hold position. Every time he made a move towards me she chivvied him and prevented his response to me. There was nothing for it but to work out the ground and flush something for them to focus their attention upon. Eventually we got out a partridge and Nelson was by now ready for anything, wanting to show this pale coloured northerner how it should be done. His stoop was so confident that it left her as an onlooker, a mere 'voyeur' as he scooped up the Red-leg and landed to dispatch it on the ground defending his prize. Lazily she circled downwards around him on the ground only now to be joined once again by the errant snipe hawk, the passage male who had come back for more fun!

Falconer to the rescue seemed the right response and a quick dash across the winter stubble was called for. With one more falcon, Judy, still in the truck and yet to fly what more could happen. This was already a memorable day and a fitting way to start the millennium - I hope that it pleases Patrick this time, it certainly has me and exceeded any expectation I could have dreamed. Hey-ho.

Anthony Crosswell



*Cover Picture - reproduced by kind permission of the artist - painting in acrylic by Andrew Ellis 'Peregrine tiercel with Red Legged Partridge' - this was produced as a limited edition print by the British Falconers' Club signed by the artist.*

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IAF delegates to 32nd AGM - Amorillo - U.S.A.

# Minutes of the IAF AGM held in Amarillo Texas, USA by kind invitation of NAFA on 21 November 2000.

The Annual General Meeting was called to Order by Vice Presidents Patrick Morel and Frank Bond due to recent resignation and consequent absence of President Ferrante Pratesi.

The President of the North American Falconers Association, Brian Millsap warmly welcomed the delegates to the meeting and the annual field meeting of NAFA, this year being held in Amarillo. Organisation of the meeting had been by Frank Bond with many delegates having received sponsored travel to the meeting. All delegates were given IAF Logo hats and key rings to remember the event.

This was followed by the welcoming speech of Rich Helmstrom who acts as the international co-ordinator for NAFA.

Completion of welcome by our hosts was followed by introduction of the Council of Delegates.

The meeting then moved to the first item of business.

## 1. New member candidatures - presentation and election

Khazakhstan – sent constitution and application – they qualify under our constitution. – Association founded in 1989 - 25 practitioners with eagles - application as Corresponding Member - accepted.

Mexico – 17 members, Juan Carlos Rojo NAFA delegate from Mexico made a brief presentation. - application as Member – Accepted.

Netherlands – Valkerij Equipage Jacoba van Bieren - Harry Wagenaar made a brief introduction. – 200 members founded in 1987 - application as Member - accepted

Spain – UEDECA - 175 members - Jos Manuel Rodriguez-Villa (Vice President) delegate made a brief introduction with Lorenzo Machin (President) – application as Member – accepted

Serbia – Do not fulfil the conditions laid down by our constitution as they have not yet been founded long enough for acceptance – application as Corresponding Member

Turkmenistan – 51 Members founded 2 years ago. A thorough presentation was made for their application and applauded by the delegates. Momentos of the country were presented to both the IAF Vice Presidents. Application as Corresponding Member – accepted

UK – The Hawking Club from Wales – application as Member – accepted.

Candidates then withdrew from the meeting and Tim Kimmel (Acting AC Chairman) made a presentation for clarification of voting rights and presented a letter received from The Welsh Hawking Club questioning their voting status since they had been informed that they no longer had a vote. Christian de Coune then stated that he had written to FACE and the Olympic Committee and received the reply that the United Kingdom is one vote. The Secretary outlined last year's discussion on this matter in which voting rights for countries had been in line with UN classification.

Tom Richter stated that Germany had 15 states. Ralph Rogers made similar points for NAFA. Discussion then repeated that of last year on this subject.

Motion was proposed by Tom Richter and seconded by Frank Bond that 'we should vote on the basis of UN classification at this AGM'. Secret ballot – motion approved 20/4.

The members then voted unanimously to accept those applicants for membership who qualified under our constitution. The application of Serbia was the only one that did not qualify.

## 2. Apologies for absence

Gilles Nortier & Martin Jones both due to illness.

## 3. Minutes of last AGM

Minutes presented by the secretary. There were no additions or modifications and the minutes were approved by the members and signed by the Vice Presidents.

## 4. President's Report

Following the unexpected resignation of our President Ferrante Pratesi our Vice Presidents proposed a vote of thanks to Frikki and wished him well. Frikki has seen the IAF through a difficult period to this point and all members wished to record their gratitude.

## 5. Vice-president for the Americas Report by Frank Bond.

Falconry in the Americas:

In North America, the status of falconry is excellent. For many years the North American Falconers Association has represented the majority of falconers in the United States and Canada. This year NAFA truly becomes representative of falconry in all of North America with the admission of Mexico for regular NAFA membership. There are many falconers in Mexico who practice the sport at the very highest levels. One of the Mexican members, Juan Carlos Rojo, represents NAFA-Mexico on the IAF Council.

There are many falconers as well throughout Central and South America. Roy Beers, of El Salvador, is attending the IAF AGM



representing his national club. We have membership in Brazil, but my effort next year will be to co-ordinate and recruit membership from other Central and South American countries. Particularly we must locate the national falconry associations and clubs from the larger countries like Argentina, Chile, Peru, and Colombia. Fortunately we have indirect contact with some falconers in the region through our Spanish delegates.

#### CITES:

I represented the IAF in Nairobi, Kenya at 11th Conference of the Parties of CITES. The meeting took place over two weeks and our goal was to seek the down-listing of the North American population of the gyrfalcon from Appendix I to Appendix II. Please see my report to the IAF Council printed in another part of this newsletter.

Our Secretary, Tony Crosswell, has done the greatest amount of work on the CITES Animals Committee. There, we are dealing with many important issues which could go before the entire Conference of the Parties, such as hybrids, international transport, the downlisting of the peregrine falcon, the use of microchips for marking and registration, captive propagation issues, etc. This work is especially important as support or rejection of any proposal in the Animals Committee is generally determinative of the outcome of the proposal at the Conference of the Parties.

#### Review of IAF Subscription Rates:

President Pratesi asked me to chair a committee of IAF members to review the subscription rates of all countries, so that the IAF will be able to establish a budget to support the IAF's work. This committee was to have done its work by e-mail but because some members did not have e-mail or did not respond, we did not succeed in completing a task for a recommendation to the Council. I really believe that our able Treasurer, Antonio Carapuco of Portugal, should lead this effort.

#### Advisory Committee:

I have participated throughout the year on the IAF Advisory Committee. Our work was done by e-mail (literally hundreds of e-mails). Chairman Nortier ably guided us through many subjects, some of which were quite controversial. Gilles will report separately on the AC. We do recognize that with the deliberations of the AC and the process of selecting a new president to succeed Ferrante Pratesi the IAF needs to consider some amendments to the IAF constitution. I will volunteer to assist with drafting some of the necessary amendments to it.

#### 2000 AGM:

At the 1999 AGM hosted by the Hungarian Falconers Association in Oroshaza, Hungary, I volunteered to coordinate the AGM in the USA this year. This took a substantial amount of time and effort. I was very appreciative particularly of NAFA and its 2000 meet coordinators, Steve Oleson (Austin, Texas) and Jimmy Walker (Amarillo, Texas) for their coordination efforts for the IAF AGM. Further we have had special assistance from Rich Holmstrom (Chugiak, Alaska) who coordinated the hawking parties for foreign guests. NAFA meets are far more informal than most European meets so this kind of co-ordination and co-operation was particularly difficult.

Finally I recognised that many of our IAF Council delegates were not capable of supporting their travel and accommodations to the US, so many generous contributors assisted with or underwrote the expenses of putting on the AGM and others supported the travel expenses of some of the Council members. See the list of AGM contributors below. The Amarillo Council of Delegates meeting had representatives from 23 nations, the largest attendance ever of any meeting of the IAF Council of Delegates. IAF President and Leadership: I was truly distressed by the resignation of Ferrante Pratesi from the IAF presidency. He provided us with strong

leadership at a time of great transition in the IAF. We hope that he will return to active participation in the IAF.

As you know Vice President Patrick Morel and I competed for the presidency. Patrick won the vote of the Council of Delegates, and I pledged to support him by continuing as Vice President for the Americas. I know that he will lead the IAF with great dedication and distinction. Thomas Richter, President of the DFO, replaces Patrick as the other vice president. We are blessed to have strong leadership in the IAF. Besides Tom Richter, the President of the DFO, we have Tony Crosswell, the recently elected president of the BFC serving as Secretary. Tim Kimmel, a former president of NAFA, serves on the AC. Many other present and former presidents and officers of their national associations and clubs serve on the AC and the Council. Because of the strength of this leadership, the IAF should enjoy great success in the future.

#### Supporters of the IAF 2000 Annual General Meeting

Amarillo Chamber of Commerce, Frank Bond, Ron and Angela Brown, Robert and Leo Campbell, Ronald G. Clarke, British Falconers Club, Tony and Jenny Crosswell, Roy Dewitt, Tom and Sara Easterson-Bond, John and Jane Fairclough, Thijs and Norma Fleskens, Rich Holmstrom, Indiana Falconers Association, Hanno and Harm Kiezebrink, Tim Kimmel, North American Falconers Association, Lorenzo Machin Acosta, Steve Oleson, Jose Manuel Rodriguez-Villa, Will and Jobe Shor, The Scottish Falconers Club, The Welsh Hawking Club, Carl Thelander, Ruth Ann and Abby Siebers, Igor Tacvar, Tim Wagner.

**Frank Bond also reported on his representation to CITES** in support of the proposal to down-list the Gyrfalcon, which failed due to political pressures.

To: IAF Officers and Advisory Committee, NAFA Board of Directors

From: Frank M. Bond, IAF Vice President, NAFA General Counsel

CC: Dr. Tom J. Cade and Dr. William Burnham

Date: 11/18/00

Re: CITES Conference of the Parties, Nairobi, Kenya; Proposal to Downlist North American Population of Gyrfalcon from Appendix I to Appendix II.

On April 18, 2000 the CITES Animals Committee took up the proposal to downlist the North American population of the gyrfalcon from Appendix I to Appendix II. The Animals Committee rejected the proposal so the gyrfalcon will remain on Appendix I. My report detailing this follows.

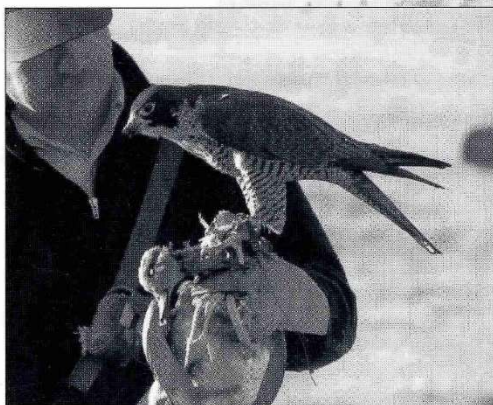
The United States with the cooperation and strong support of Canada offered to downlist the gyrfalcon. Dr. Tom Cade was the principal drafter of the delisting document, with support from Dr. Bill Burnham, and others. I prepared the section dealing with the law in North America. The proposed draft was accepted and revised by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service with a cooperative review by the Canadian Office of Scientific Authority.

The proposal was reviewed for public comment in the U.S. Federal Register. The proposal was submitted to the national delegation for review in advance of the meeting in Nairobi.

At the Nairobi meeting there were several thousand people in attendance representing more than 100 nations and many Non Governmental Organizations. In this proposal we were supported by a number of sustainable use organizations, and very strongly by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. It was pretty clear to everyone that while the gyrfalcon was being proposed by the U.S., it was, nevertheless, a low priority with the delegation. When I could not convince the U.S. delegation to put together a meeting with the European Union representatives, Gary Graham of the International Association stepped in to get the meeting. At that stage it was a bit late because the EU had just decided to oppose the downlisting. However, it did help to have the meeting anyway, because it explained some of their problems. And

when the proposal came to a vote, the chair of the committee that took up the proposal did not recognize me to make comments, but she did recognize Bruce Taubert, a representative of the International Association and a NAFA member, so he was able to make all of the comments and observations that we would have made. For other reasons, not totally associated with the proposal, the gyrfalcon downlisting was rejected. The United States had previously opposed Japan's and Norway's proposal to downlist a whale on a split listing basis. The gyrfalcon was a similar split listing between the North American and the European populations. Because of the United States' inconsistency on split listing proposals, Japan and Norway rallied many nations to defeat the gyrfalcon downlisting.

CITES is such a large conference that there must be representatives of us in the future from particularly North America and Europe. Since the EU votes as a block, it is critical to have a representative from an EU member nation present to represent the IAF. I believe that the gyrfalcon can be downlisted successfully. However, I do believe that Canada would be a better nation to propose it. Finally, the United States is beginning to do the background work to downlist the peregrine falcon as well.



## 6. Vice-president for Europe, Africa, Asia & Oceania Report by Patrick Morel.

This year, apart from working on the data-bases already started last year and providing advice on falconry and conservation issues when required, I have also been involved in following IAF projects:

- elaboration of a new **logo** proposed and designed by our Irish friend Liam o'Broin I believe that this logo is a wonderful improvement for the look of the IAF
- participation in the construction of a **web-site** with the help of Ray Cooper (UK)
- elaboration of a **questionnaire survey on hybrids** with the help of Robert Kenward, Tim Kimmel and Herwig Hoedl (for the German translation).

Besides this I chaired three working groups (see reports later):

- working group on hybrids
- working group on Falconry And Raptors in Europe (FARE)
- committee on saker/houbara which resulted in an IUCN resolution.

One of the most remarkable results of this resolution is an acceptance by the World Conservation Union of sustainable-use access to wild raptors; there is also the potential to improve CITES for falconry and a major recognition of falconry through IAF.

**CIC:** I had several contacts with the Chairman of the Working Group on Falconry, Peter Sapara, but the meeting of the Working Group planned for the Czech Republic in October was cancelled. Our German delegate Tom Richter attended the general meeting of the CIC on 05.05.2000 in Berlin and represented IAF. He made a presentation on " Keeping trained birds of prey and falconry as an act for the welfare of animals". A summary of his presentation will be published in our newsletter. Here are the conclusion of this presentation:

"The CIC with the knowledge of scientific and veterinary medical studies points out:

1. Trained birds of prey regularly achieve a higher age – with undisturbed physical and psychological healthiness – than birds of prey in nature.
2. Their need for exercise is entirely fulfilled with training and hunting.
3. The training of birds of prey is animal-fair.
4. The keeping of the natural hunting conditions is in accordance with the typical behaviour of the birds of prey.
5. Falconry is not parforce hunting.
6. Falconry is the most natural, animal- and environment-protective way of hunting; condemning it as unfavourable for the welfare of animals would be wrong."

I'll try to sketch other IAF actions in the regions of my competence:

This year was a very busy one especially in Europe.

As you know one of IAF's primarily goals is to help legalise falconry everywhere. IAF was asked to help in no less than 11 countries! It is worth noting that IAF was contacted by two governments.

The **Fenno-scandinavian countries** (Finland-Sweden-Norway and Denmark)

**Denmark** is close to testing a full legal recognition of falconry, with a 5 years "trial-period". This would be the result of 15 years of work of the Danish falconers with the help and support of IAF.

The Danish ornithologists and 'greens' feel very concerned by breeding of hybrids in the wild and sought a total ban of all hybrids. It seems that a law asking such a ban will be proposed this fall. The Danes falconers, even if not defensive about hybrids, feel concerned because such a ban could be extended to exotic species of raptors or even to sub-species.

**Norway** Until 1st Jan 1999, it was illegal to import birds into Norway. From this date Norway implemented the EEC's veterinary agreement, which allowed the import of birds. As there are no restrictions regarding what kind of birds one could import, Tom Halvorsen (he is not a falconer) imported 4 hawks (2 exotic hawks and 2 owls). The authorities claimed that the keeping of indigenous birds of prey is illegal; they confiscated the owls and one *Buteo regalis*, accusing the keeper for violating the wildlife law. Another import of non-indigenous birds of prey (Harris hawks) was requested but the DOE refused, arguing the potential



for hybridisation with Norwegian native species and risk of genetic pollution. A legal case was brought with the purpose of forcing the authorities to deliver licences. We advised against this policy, fearing the danger of a battle with the authorities, but to no avail. The danger is that if the case is lost, falconry will be definitely forbidden in Norway. The case is still pending.

**Finland** As Christian de Coune and Robert Kenward have still good connections with Finland, I asked them to handle the case of Finland. Christian reported me: "we have been informed of possible attempts by an independent person to introduce falconry in Finland. Unlike Denmark and Sweden, there are no laws prohibiting to hunt with trained hawks, but it does not automatically mean that falconry may be practised. Full knowledge of the laws is essential. We have strongly recommended not forcing the authorities by importing a hawk, training it and then asking for falconry to be permitted. A "no hawk no falconry" principle, of starting by acquiring a hawk instead of starting by securing the legal status of falconry and then acquiring a hawk is very dangerous. One mistake can spoil the whole issue for one generation in all Scandinavia".

**Sweden** is very concerned by a case of hybrid breeding in the wild. Articles under the signature of a well known Swedish ornithologist, Peter Lindberg were published in different magazines and gave rise to a lot of comments. This case of breeding is badly perceived at a moment of trials of legalisation of falconry. The Swedish falconers have the same temptation as the Finnish one, forcing the authorities by importing non-indigenous species, and then bringing a case in court to seek legalisation of falconry. We strongly recommended to secure first a legal status of falconry instead of starting conflicts with the authorities. The Scandinavian countries are planning to raise the issue of banning hybrids at an European level.

**Netherlands** There is a proposal of a new law on hunting and conservation which is probably the most restrictive to falconry in Europe. Only 5 species of game will be allowed for hunting. This would mean the loss of at least two traditional forms of falconry: flights on corvids (rooks, crows and magpies) and waiting-on falconry on partridges. On the other hand, as before, only two species of birds of prey are allowed for falconry: the peregrine falcon and the goshawk. IAF provided a well-documented letter for the Parliament asking an extended season for falconry and an exemption for the Dutch falconers to allow more species to be hunted.

**Bulgaria** Pavel Yakimo requested help from IAF for the constitution of a falconry association. We were pleased to learn recently that the association is now created under the name: Bulgarian Association for Preservation of Birds of Prey.

**Slovakia** IAF was contacted by a head of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic responsible for the Bern Convention implementation. The lady asked our help regarding the registration of birds of prey, improvement of monitoring of birds of prey ownership and legislation implementation. She was planning to organise a training session on the subject.

**Serbia** IAF was contacted by Slobodan Puzovi in the Institute for Protection of Nature of Serbia who was working on a legal regulation of falconry and asked about the best way of marking of birds of prey.

**Poland** I got the following request from our Polish delegate Janusz Sielicki: "The Ministry of Nature Conservation is planning a 2-day meeting on falconry with our opponents and us. The opponents to falconry try to persuade that in "other countries"

falconry is not legal". Our Polish member asked me to send information about actual legal status of falconry in EU. I was able to provide a copy of the British and German laws and a summary of the legal status all over Europe.

**Israel** Zachy Nevo paid a visit to Belgium. IAF was asked for a 'model' law to help legalise falconry in Israel. Only pest control by falconry techniques is permitted. We sent a summary of nature conservation activities in which IAF or IAF members were involved and a 'model law' as well as the Belgian falconry law.

**UK** The HB is complaining about over-regulation and asked IAF to call a working group on easier regulations in Europe. There is a proposal of reviewing the registration and CITES fees. IAF's answer was the constitution of a FARE working group (see separate report). A new Scottish Hawk Board was formed to represent the interests of falconers and hawk-keepers resident in Scotland.

Now some short news from other member countries:

**Belgium** (Walloon region) is working on a new law on Conservation of Birds. IAF helped the Belgian falconers to ask for the same freedom to keep all birds of prey as in the Flemish region. Belgium is working too on a new law on animal welfare.

**Czech Republic** it seems that a total ban of hybrids is proposed. Bird watchers complained that 6 nests of eagles were robbed.

**Germany** There is a proposal for a new law concerning hybrids: the free flying of hybrids will only be allowed during the hunting season. This effectively bans wild hacking of hybrids (during the breeding season) and could be the beginning of the end of problems from hybrids breeding in the wild. Germany is not planning to raise the issue of banning the use of hybrids at an EU level.

**Italy** A meeting was held with all the falconry associations with the purpose to merge them. This meeting resulted in the building of a federation. Eight clubs out of 11 agreed to join this federation (representing 140 members out of 260). It was agreed that the Italian delegate to the IAF would be our well-known friend Umberto Caproni.

**Spain** The two main Spanish associations AEC and UEDECA are planning to merge. I was asked to write an article for the UEDECA journal and to answer an article on competitions in one of the main hunter's magazine TROFEO.

Our member Alicantina reported that his region (Autonomia) has now the best hunting-season for falconry in Spain partly due to their very good relations with the local authorities and the fact that they were admitted as members of IAF, which increased the trust of these authorities. Here is an extract from his letter:

" Le detallo nuestra Orden de Vedas para la actual temporada :

Se puede cazar del 1 de Octubre 2000 al 31 Enero 2001

Se puede volar y entrenar los pájaros del 1 Julio al 31 Marzo.

Y dentro de estas fechas, se puede cazar a las especies perjudiciales a la caza y agricultura.

Como observará, este año tenemos, en nuestra Región, la mejor Orden de Vedas de toda España., fruto de unas excelentes relaciones que mantenemos con nuestra Administración. Las excelentes relaciones, comenzaron cuando llevamos a la Administración la documentación de nuestro ingreso en la I.A.F., ya nos toman en serio y el trato es muy bueno."

I congratulate the Spanish falconers associations for publishing

regularly reports on the activities of the IAF in their journals.

**Austria** after a long absence on the international falconry scene, is again active with a new Board for its association and a new IAF delegate, a young lawyer Herwig Hoedl. Herwig finished a thesis on international laws related to hunting and environment in the EU. An Austrian lady is working on a thesis principally meant to serve as a guide for accession countries to the EU in matters related to fieldsports, biodiversity, conservation and game management.

**Estonia** Jevgeni Shergalin is probably one of my most prolific corresponding member. Jevgeni, a raptor biologist, is an active correspondent to two discussion groups by e-mail (Raptor Biology e-group and the Asian Raptor Research and Conservation Network) and keeps me informed about ex-soviet falconry and raptors. Founder and moderator of RaptorBiology egroup list is Mr. Edwin Vaassen (RRRCT@about.com) from Turkey and of Asian Raptor Research and Conservation Network (ARRCN) is Mrs. Murate Michiyo arrc-n@mwa.biglobe.ne.jp from Japan.

**Georgia:** delegates were planning to bring us a visit in Belgium this summer but last minute problems with visas prevented them from doing so.

#### **Middle East:**

It was reported that the Arab Emirates Union was working on the constitution of an association of falconers. This would be the first such association in the Arab countries; Arab falconers mainly act as individuals. One of ERWDA's employees, had been asked to approach CIC's new chairman Dieter Schramm in Amman to ask for the new founded Emirates Falconry Association to join CIC falconry group, with suggestion of funding for CIC. An outcome of the IUCN Amman resolution is an improvement of our relations with Arab falconry, especially Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

**Iran:** falconry is still not legal in Iran but Behnam Korshidam is starting trials to legalise falconry. He will provide us with a report later.

**Quebec:** I was contacted by the President of the Falconers Association telling me that falconry will be legalised this fall in Quebec. He got in touch with me because he knew that I talked French.

**EU:** The Europe Union is working on a new **marking system**. Tom Richter sent me the new German proposal and I got the one of France.

Rings will have to be provided with following information:

- Letter of the country issuing the ring
- Year (eg 01 for 2001)
- Inside diameter of ring (the purpose of this is that it prohibits placing a close ring when the bird is grown) each species is supposed to have a maximum inside diameter
- Identification of the association which delivered the ring
- Identification of the breeder/keeper.
- Serial number (eg 087)

The purpose of this new marking system is probably to have a better control of our birds but this would also enable us, if a lost bird is recovered, to identify the country where it is born, the year, the association which delivered the ring and the breeder (and through the breeder providing he is keeping records) the owner/keeper or end-user.

Tom Richter provided me information about a new IATA

regulation.

**FACE:** Our representative, Hermann Döttlinger attended the conference organised in Helsingör (DK) for the 20th anniversary of the European Community Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) commonly referred to as the 'Birds Directive'. We had several contacts with FACE concerning a paper that they co-authored, because we were not very pleased with it.

Here some extracts of the first draft:

"Article 9 of the Birds Directive allows derogations, where there is no other satisfactory solution, for the capture and keeping of small numbers of birds for defined purposes. This article has been, and is, applied to permit the taking small numbers of raptors for use in falconry. However, over the period of the Directive, there have been enormous advances in the captive breeding of birds of prey. Then followed examples of captive breeding results in 1996 in Britain. The conclusion was : Captive breeding thus provides a ready alternative to the need, if not the desire, to take birds from the wild for falconry."

Our representative, Hermann Döttlinger, perceived this to be a considerable oversimplification of a very complex conservation issue. However, to minimise potential damage, he proposed a change in wording of the last sentence to "Captive breeding might thus be an alternative to the need, if not the desire, to take birds from the wild for falconry." He understood this to be accepted.

IAF Advisory Committee reviewed the issue on receipt of Hermann's report of the meeting. We decided that since the paper was a venture that indicated refreshing cooperation between bodies with different conservation interests, it might be appropriate to seek something more innovative, in terms of providing scope for increased conservation contribution from falconry through sustainable use. After all, Europe is far more restrictive of access to wild raptor populations than authorities in the USA, for example. We therefore suggested a rewording of the last sentence but the new draft didn't suit us and we reacted another time:

The new draft continued to imply that most falconers in the EU fly falcons and prefer captive bred birds. This is misleading. In most, if not all European countries, more hunting is done with Accipiters, Buteos and eagles than with falcons. The reason is that training and flying falcons requires more open country than is available to most people. Some for political reasons do not wish to acknowledge any possible conservation through sustainable use of wild falcons in Europe, but should be aware that this may prove satisfactory for conservation in other parts of the world. We ask them to correct the draft and write:

"Captive breeding provides a satisfactory alternative to the need to take Falco species from the wild in Europe at present. However, many falconers prefer to fly Accipiters, which are not easily bred in captivity. Kenward et al. (1991) suggested that goshawks taken from the wild under derogations to prevent serious damage may contribute to supplying such demand."

Face sought a substitute for their Research Assistant Karin Meine; we spread the information and two falconers applied as candidates.

Conclusion:

My work for IAF this year has required a huge commitment (half of my working time ☹. my wife is complaining that I spend the other half in the field with my falcons!!!) Just to give an idea of my involvement – I received about 3500 e-mails and send about

the same number of answers.

**47th General Assembly of the CIC**

**3rd - 7th May 2000, Berlin/Germany**

**Working Group for Falconry and Bird of Prey Conservation**

Proposition - Prof Thomas Richter

***Keeping trained birds of prey and falconry as an act for the welfare of animals***

Birds of prey kept by falconers, achieve – without interference in the health – a much higher age than birds of prey in nature. The birds are feeling good, it is animal-fair keeping and the strong relationship to the falconer contributes to it. Disorders in behaviour cannot be found.

A bird of prey in its natural habitat only flies for looking for food, for protecting his territory or for rutting. The rest of the time it stands on the nest or on its lookout sentry. Thus his energy-consumption stays low and the danger of an attack by enemies is minimal. A trained bird flies during the training and the hunting at least as often and as long as a wild falcon. It can obtain the power and the skilfulness to be a successful hunter only through regular flying training.

The training of a falcon is not dressage and it has to take place without coercive measures and without punishment. The most important requirement for it is to build up a confident relationship to the falconer, to make the animal relaxed and to get him used to all disturbances arising during hunting. This is achieved by regularly carrying the trained bird on the falconer's fist. The remaining training is based on the natural behaviour of the birds of prey in the wild, thus it is an act for the welfare of animals.

An over fed bird of prey does not hunt in nature, nor with the falconer. The keeping of the natural hunting conditions is in accordance with the typical behaviour of the birds of prey and has nothing to do with "starving". Apart from the fact that falconers are having a strong relationship to their falcons, and that they would not let them suffer, nor would they threaten their health, a bird of prey weakened by hunger would never have the chance to capture healthy game.

Falconry is not parforce hunting. At parforce hunting the game gets exhausted through a long pursuit, which doesn't stop at cover. With falconry, the following takes only a few seconds. The falcon gives up immediately as soon as the game reaches cover. The game knows the bird of prey from its natural lifecycle and reacts to it with typical avoiding behaviour. Falconry is selective, with high probability healthy game can escape, ill game is preferably captured. The result is a natural selection and the spreading of illnesses in the population of the prey gets stopped. With falconry the case that an injured game escapes and dies slowly, practically does not exist. In addition, falconry is harmless for human beings and for the rest of nature.

The International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) with the knowledge of scientific and veterinary medical studies points out:

1. Trained birds of prey regularly achieve a higher age – with undisturbed physical and psychological healthiness – than birds of prey in nature.

2. Their need for exercise is entirely fulfilled with training and hunting.
3. The training of the birds of prey is animal-fair.
4. The keeping of the natural hunting conditions is in accordance with the typical behaviour of the birds of prey.
5. Falconry is not parforce hunting.
6. Falconry is the most natural, animal- and environment-protective way of hunting, to condemn it as unfavourable for the welfare of animals would be wrong.



**7. Treasurer - report**

2000 Income	
Balance (31-12-1999) carried forward	605,11 _
Members contribution	15.792,20 _
Donations income	653,80 _
<b>Total</b>	<b>17.051,11 _</b>
2000 Expenditure	
Secretariat	2.683,90 _
Travelling expenses and accomodation	9.194,59 _
Subscriptions	- _
Donations	- _
Bank charges	346,05 _
Non recurring expenditures	- _
<b>Total</b>	<b>12.224,54 _</b>
<b>2000 Balance</b>	<b>4.826,57 _</b>



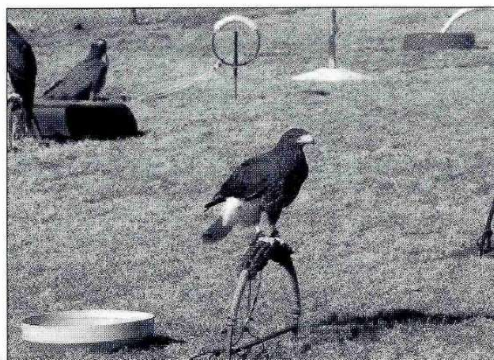
Date	Description	Value
14-03-2000	Telephone/secretariat	347,94
10-05-2000	Newsletter mailing cost	483,80
15-05-2000	Newsletter edition	1.031,00
14-07-2000	Post/telephone	563,85
10-10-2000	Post/telephone	257,31
	<b>Total secretariat expenses</b>	<b>2.683,90</b>
Date	Description	Value
12-06-2000	CITES conference Nairobi	4.609,21
14-09-2000	AGM - Amarillo	1.371,43
10-10-2000	AGM - Amarillo	1.371,43
23-10-2000	IUCN - Amman	1.842,52
	<b>Total Travel/accomodation</b>	<b>9.194,59</b>
Date	Description	Value
	<b>Total subscriptions expenses</b>	
Date	Description	Value
	<b>Total non recurring expenses</b>	
Date	Description	Value
	<b>Total non recurring expenses</b>	
Date	Description	Value
03-02-2000	Comission	10,40 _
09-02-2000	Comission	10,40 _
15-02-2000	Comission	10,40 _
22-02-2000	Comission	10,40 _
03-03-2000	Comission	10,40 _
23-03-2000	Comission	5,17 _
23-03-2000	Comission	15,56 _
24-03-2000	Comission	10,40 _
28-03-2000	Comission	10,37 _
30-03-2000	Comission	10,40 _
10-04-2000	Comission	10,40 _
24-04-2000	Comission	10,40 _
28-04-2000	Comission	10,40 _
10-05-2000	Comission	10,40 _
15-05-2000	Comission	30,63 _
09-06-2000	Comission	10,40 _
12-06-2000	Comission	10,40 _
12-06-2000	Comission	31,05 _
16-06-2000	Comission	10,40 _
11-07-2000	Comission	30,97 _
11-07-2000	Cambio lost	27,46 _
18-07-2000	Comission	10,40 _
20-07-2000	Comission	30,63 _
12-10-2000	Comission	24,83 _
18-10-2000	Comission devolution	- 41,45
25-10-2000	Comission	24,83 _
	<b>Total comissions</b>	<b>346,05 _</b>

Proposal to accept the treasurers report by UK and seconded by Germany – accepted unanimously.

## 8. Report by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee - approval of the reports

Tim Kimmel presented his report. Canada moved and UK seconded to approve the reports which was passed unanimously. Structure of working groups is as follows:-

Working group :	Chairman	Members
Business Plan	Tim Kimmel	Gilles Nortier, Tom Richter
Constitutional Changes	Frank Bond	Herwig Hoedl, Patrick Morel, Gilles Nortier
Development of Strategy	Patrick Morel	Frank Bond, Tom Richter
Finance	Antonio Carapuço	Frank Bond, Gilles Nortier, Jose Manuel Rodriguez Villa, Janos Toth
Hybrids	Frank Bond	Jose Manuel Rodriguez Villa, Janusz Sielicki, Tom Richter
Membership Liaison, Newsletter and Website	Anthony Crosswell	Herwig Hoedl, Tim Kimmel, JM Rodriguez Villa, Jevgeni Shergalin
American Issues	VP Frank Bond	Tim Kimmel, Patrick Morel
European Regulations	VP Tom Richter	Anthony Crosswell, Christian de Coune, Herwig Hoedl, Robert Kenward, JM Rodriguez Villa
Eastern European & Asian issues	VP Tom Richter	Jevgeni Shergalin, Janusz Sielicki
Middle Eastern Relations	Tim Kimmel	Frank Bond, Martin Jones, Robert Kenward, JM Rodriguez Villa, Jevgeny Shergalin
Assistance to Scandinavia	Robert Kenward	Robert Kenward, Jevgeni Shergalin
CITES	Anthony Crosswell	Frank Bond, Jose Manuel Rodriguez Villa, Janusz Sielicki
IUCN	Robert Kenward	Frank Bond, Herwig Hoedl, Tim Kimmel, Janusz Sielicki
Bern Convention	Robert Kenward	Herwig Hoedl, Tom Richter
FACE	Christian de Coune	
CIC	Tom Richter	Gilles Nortier



## 9. Report of the Research Co-ordinator (Dr Robert Kenward)

This year, apart from providing advice on falconry and conservation issue when required, I have represented IAF or reported to IAF on 5 meetings (Bern Convention, Raptors 2000 in Eilat, 2nd World Conservation Congress in Amman, Hawk Board forum, RRF in Jonesborough). I have also been involved in 5 IAF projects, including the construction of a web-site, the questionnaire survey on hybrids, the revision of IAF's position statement on hybrids, a discussion paper on Falconry And Raptors in Europe (FARE) and an IUCN resolution.

The web-site is intended to provide information to falconers world-wide, including links to club sites and other useful locations, and to give an impressive image of falconry and IAF to non-falconers. The BFC very kindly helped through encouraging Ray Cooper to construct the site, for which most of the written material has been provided by Tony Crosswell, Tim Kimmel and myself. Ray has done a great job, though we've not finished yet. You can visit the site at [www.i-a-f.org](http://www.i-a-f.org)

The results of the survey on hybrids are reported elsewhere, with many thanks to those who contributed. The revision of the position statement on hybrids required only 3 drafts this time, including considerable discussion at the Advisory Committee meeting on 10 September. It was adopted by consensus at that meeting for presentation to Council at the AGM.

The FARE discussion paper arose as a result of concern about creeping regulative restrictions on falconry, many of which serve no useful purpose in conservation and some worse than useless. Its aim is strategic, to consider what minimal regulations we would like for falconry, so that we can then take any opportunity that arises to move in that direction. At the AC meeting, where the 6th version was approved for presentation to council as a position statement, Tim Kimmel made the point that FARE could also be valuable source of legislative principles for countries where falconry is young. Perhaps the title should drop Europe and become FAR.

The IUCN resolution was the work of a committee chaired by Patrick Morel. My responsibility was to advise, draft and gather support. The outcomes, in terms of building IAF's status, relations with Arab falconry, acceptance of sustainable-use access to wild raptors and potential to improve CITES for falconry, are beneficial. Implementation of the resolution becomes a matter for IUCN.

Work for IAF this year has required approximately 8 weeks of my time. Such a large commitment to IAF was only possible because

the director of my government institute accepted that my science career would also benefit from some of the meetings, and therefore permitted my attendance in official time despite representing IAF.

Frank Bond wisely wrote the concept of sustainable use into IAF's constitution. The growing acceptance of conservation through sustainable use, which was emphasised in the Rio Convention on Bio-diversity and has been pioneered mainly in Africa and the Americas, can be of great benefit to falconry. Not only is there the potential for falconers to become valued as stewards of wild raptor populations, but falconry is also well-placed to gain favour as a low-impact sustainer of some game habitats, such as British grouse moors. In my 25 years as Research Co-ordinator, falconry has moved up the public acceptability rating scale (Unacceptable-Tolerable-Useful-Indispensable) from the border of Unacceptable to the border of Useful. Our challenge now is to secure falconry's future by moving further up that scale.

## **FAR report**

Discussion led to changes and the final document reads as below.

International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey

The responsibility of the International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey for governance of falconry is given in its Statutes, namely «To develop, maintain and amend national and international laws, treaties and conventions to permit the pursuit and perpetuation of falconry» (Article 2.1.4). In its duty to «To represent falconry throughout the world» (Article 2.1.1), IAF is also bound «To preserve and encourage falconry within the context of sustainable use of wildlife» (Article 2.1.2), «To encourage conservation, the ecological and veterinary research on birds of prey and promote, under scientific guidance, domestic propagation for falconry» (Article 2.1.3), and «To require the observation of falconry, hunting, conservation and welfare laws» (Article 2.1.5).

At a time of global degradation through pollution, habitat loss and climate change, IAF wishes to ensure that falconry contributes maximally to conservation of raptor and prey populations by sustainable use of these renewable resources. Moreover, at a time of rapid loss of humanity's cultural heritage through globalisation, IAF also earnestly desires to play as full part as possible in the maintenance of the diverse and spiritually important traditions of partnership with animals. IAF desires to co-operate with all others interested in these goals of conserving the world's cultural and natural heritage.

From 30 years of experience as an international non-governmental body, now representing falconry in the Council for Europe (Bern Convention), World Conservation Union (IUCN) and in CITES, IAF believes that falconers can best be motivated to contribute effectively to cultural and wildlife conservation if legislators aim to:

1. apply legal regulation only where there is real risk to wild raptors or to falconry;
2. reduce bureaucracy to a level concomitant with real conservation requirements;
3. register birds, if needed, by a scheme for 1-time recording and passport;
4. encourage mentorship, or training and exams, to ensure best-practise;
5. encourage sustainable-use of wild birds to benefit conservation.

Falconers are recommended to develop good relationships with others interested in conserving wildlife, especially in the government bodies with national and international responsibilities.

**Adopted by the delegates of the member states at Amarillo, Texas, on 21 November 2000.**

Also discussion on the hybrid issue brought changes to the document as shown below. It was also mentioned that this was an ever changing subject and would require constant revision to stay abreast of events.

## **The Position, on Hybrid Raptors in Falconry, of the International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey**

The International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF) has examined in depth the practical and theoretical considerations that arise from the production of hybrid raptors. After a review of the available data and taking expert advice, we consider it unlikely that a problem for wildlife conservation will arise from the breeding of hybrid raptors if their loss to the wild is rare. We recommend, as a minimum, that:

1. hybrids be fostered if possible by a parent that does not occur locally in the wild;
2. hybrids only be hatched in large conditioning pens;
3. hybrids only be flown with reliable telemetry equipment;
4. maximum efforts be made to recover any hybrid that is lost;
5. hybrids should never be deliberately released.

We ask IAF member clubs to bring these considerations to the attention of falconers world-wide. We accept that individual clubs may feel obliged to endorse stricter measures. However, we strongly believe that self-regulation is preferable to regulatory supervision. In that spirit, we appreciate a growing tendency of falconers in some countries to fly pure-bred falcons rather than hybrids. We are keeping this issue under review and will remain actively involved in the political consultation processes at all levels of regulation.

**Adopted by the delegates of the member states at Amarillo, Texas, on 21 November 2000.**

## **10. Reports of the working groups**

Finance committee was chaired by Frank Bond and is in the process of developing a finance strategy to resolve outstanding problems, which should be circulated before the next AGM.

## **11. Verbal Delegates reports**

Questions on situation in other countries by the President brought brief comments from delegates as follows:-

**Hungary** – only one organisation and about 200 members. Longwings & shortwings and the government dictates what species can be used on a traditional basis with ban on hybrid and exotics. Pheasant, partridge, duck, geese, rabbit, hares, crows and magpies, deer and fox. Club meetings 2 per month paid for by the club. Every year an international meeting.

**Belgium** – new laws of list of permitted animals and birds to be kept in captivity.

**Poland** – new hunting laws and nature protection laws, peregrine reintroduction program a success

**NAFA** – three major issues – regulation review, wild peregrine take, destruction of native habitat and loss of quarry (grouse).

**El Salvador** – Very enthusiastic to be members of IAF and to get laws established for falconry as a new sport

**Canada** – falconry legal in 8 of 10 provinces. The major issue is downlisting of peregrine in national law. Falconry regulation is at the provincial level but none at national level.

**Mexico** – in process of changing the ecological law and as new members they need support of IAF for this process.

**Turkmenistan** – Thanks for membership of IAF. Government support for restoration of national traditions and falconers are very pleased. They have a professional film for those interested to see.

**Zimbabwe** – the land issue is due to be sorted by the end of the year. Apart from this falconry is healthy.

**South Africa** – similar to Zim and very free circumstances for falconry.

**Austria** – no pressures and things are generally good.

**Slovenia** – all birds have now been officially registered.

**Netherlands** – changes due in coming months and grateful for IAF help

**Portugal** – new hunting laws due soon.

## 12 Elections:

### President

Questioning of the candidates was completed and they withdrew. Christian de Coune made a statement in support of Patrick Morel. Ralph Rogers made a statement in support of Frank Bond.

The vote was by secret ballot.

The new president for the next three years is Patrick Morel.

### Vice President

Tom Richter was the only candidate and thus was elected as European Vice President for three years.

### Presidential appointment of Secretary and Treasurer

The incumbent officers were re-appointed.

## 14. Appointment of Advisory Committee members by the Council

Tim Kimmel outlined a change to the constitution to include more members so that the number was changed from 6 to 8. This was to change par 13.1. The change was approved unanimously.

The President then presented the candidates.

Gunter Daes (Belgium), Janusz Sielicki (Poland), Jevgeny Shergalin (Estonia), Herwig Hoedl (Austria), Christian de Coune (Belgium), Jose Manuel Rodriguez-Villa (Spain).

The president recommends existing members plus Herwig Hoedl, Jevgeny Shergalin, Christian de Coune, Jose Manuel Rodriguez-Villa.

A secret ballot was taken and the result was that the new advisory committee is

Gilles Nortier  
Tim Kimmel  
Martin Jones  
Robert Kenward  
Herwig Hoedl

Jose Manuel Rodriguez-Villa

Janusz Sielicki

Jevgeny Shergalin

The President nominated Robert Kenward as research co-ordinator.

## 15. Any Other Business

Martin Jones letter for constitutional change was read and passed to the Advisory Committee for consideration.

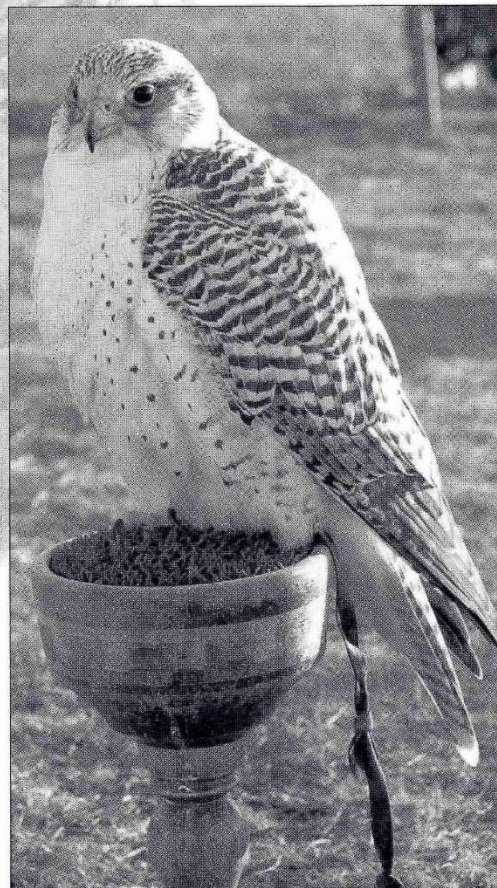
## 16. Consideration of offers to host the 2001 AGM

The British Falconers' Club offer for 2001 was accepted. The next AGM will be at Woodhall Spa, UK on October 2 2001 followed by a field meeting from 3rd -6th October. (See information on page 27)

## 17. The meeting of NAFA in Amarillo (Texas) 21-26 November 2000.

## Closure

Our new President Patrick Morel then closed the meeting.





## The meeting of NAFA in Amarillo (Texas) 21-26 November 2000

NAFA (North American Falconers Association) holds a field meeting each year around Thanksgiving (the day to celebrate the arrival of the first colonists in North America). The last meeting of the millenium took place in the panhandle" at the northwest of Texas, the largest state in the USA.

These meetings are attended by hundreds of falconers and their families, who don't hesitate to travel thousands of kilometres in 4x4s to get together. The organisation is masterly: entrance badges, maps, enclosed and wardened weathering ground, phone-line for lost hawks, veterinary assistance, choice of a comfortable hotel for around 500 participants with dogs and hawks, several conference rooms, family activities, etc.

The days encompassed many activities: demonstrations of flying and telemetry, dog training. The evenings too had interesting programmes: presentations on threat of loss of grouse habitats, operant conditioning for hawks, new regulations, falconry in the old and new world, on the banquet evening by Tom Cade on past and future falconry. There were many sales stands, for sculptures, paintings, T-shirts, equipment and books, without mentioning the raffle each evening.

Gastonomically, menus revolved round the famous Angus beef, which was quite delicious. The only problem was that even if one loves beef, eight days of steak is a lot (we retreated to a Chinese at the airport!). Texas is a sufficiently religious state that the official drink is ice-tea, with beer or wine a special request. One evening was spent at The Big Texan restaurant with a steak-eating competition. The challenge was to eat a large salad as starter, then a 47 oz steak (about 2.1 kg) with baked potato and chocolate gateau in less than an hour. The winner avoided paying for the meal! The portion of steak was a generous enough ration to feed 4 people.

From the Monday morning, about 150 hawks were on the weathering lawn enclosed for them. The parking lot was full of 4x4s, pick-ups, other jeeps and campers, each vehicle larger than the next.

The country around Amarillo is flat (a genuine plain) and arid, "Comanche country", grand wind-blown prairie that inspired the Western films. About 30 km from Amarillo is the Palo Duro canyon, a mini "Grand Canyon" about 150 km long that was the magnificent retreat of the last Indians. The Indians were said to literally disappear after their attacks on the colonists, vanishing into the desert after attacking ranches; in fact they took off into the desert and returned to their hidden canyon.

The climate is mostly hot and dry except in winter when frosts are frequent at night (down to  $-8^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) and there can be blizzards. It rains for a few weeks each year (in autumn) and the water-holes fill enough to attract migratory duck. It is perfect weather for falconry - cool and dry.

The countryside: immense pastures that stretch to the horizon, surrounded by kilometres of barbed wire enclosing herds of long-horns (renowned cattle with horns almost 2 metres across) and Aberdeen Angus (imported from Britain in the middle of the last century). The only high-points are the water-towers which feed irrigation systems and the wooden power poles (medium

tension and deadly for birds). A few small lakes or water flats attract the flights of duck. These are the primary quarry for local falconers, while the cottontails (like European rabbits) and jackrabbits (hares) serve for the austringers and other (H)a(r)ristocrats.

There were innumerable birds to be seen. Cranes, herons, geese, ducks, teal, wild turkey, quail and so many raptors: harriers, red tails, ferruginous hawks, small eagles, American kestrels, prairie falcons and Coopers hawks. There were mammals too and interesting reptiles: coyote, mule deer, cottontails, jackrabbits and rattlesnakes!

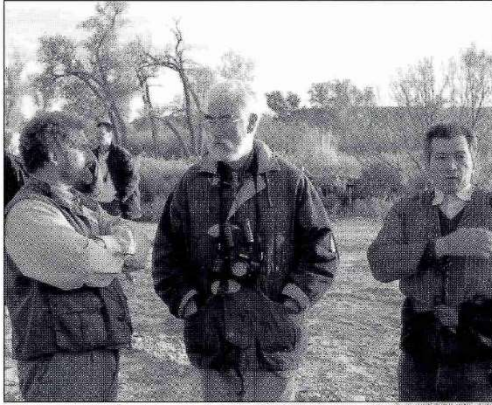
American falconers rise early: up in the hotel from 5 in the morning, most leaving around 6.30, back in the early afternoon and then out again around 3 pm for an evening flight. Only two or three flights were possible on each outing. Flying isn't organised the same as in Europe. Each falconer tends to be individualistic and keep to himself, often going out alone or with a second falconer, occasionally with a third. A friend from Alaska, Richard Hölstrom, had arranged for visitors from abroad to accompany some good falconers, but latecomers beware: when it was time for a group to leave, no one waited. The flights at dawn and dusk were the most spectacular.

Most falcon flights were at duck. A line of cross-country vehicles would survey each water body. Texas is unusual compared with other western states in that most land is privately owned, so one needs permission to fly (no trespassing, on penalty of being shot - Texans have a reputation of being hot-blooded and are always pardoned by the local courts if they shoot thieves).

If the falconers have taken the trouble to find their bearings, no problem. Water bodies are not common in such dry country and one must drive many kilometres to find them. On average there are 2 (sometimes 3) flights in 3 to 4 hours travel. For shortwings the Americans say 10 minutes travel for 3 hours flying, or 3 hours travel for 10 minutes flying with longwings!



Eckart Schomeir discussing "Battle Tactics" with Pete Widener



*Christian de Coune translating the Irish message from Keiran Tumilty*

Most of the time the water is in small ponds (some 20 metres in diameter) which served to water the stock. However, occasional lakes are hundreds of metres across (shallow "playa lakes" full of ducks and geese).

A falcon is cast off at a good distance and when it reaches its pitch the time is ripe to flush the duck. The falcons tend to select small duck or teal from a flock. A strike is enough to disable a duck, which is easy to take on the ground. Each one struck was taken with ease. There were fine flights with gyrs, large peregrines (peales and anatum) and tiercel gyr-peregrine hybrids. Pitches were in the order of 150-300 m. The vast spaces evidently permit flights that would be unthinkable for us at home, so that gyrfalcons can show their true measure. On returning from Texas, we looked askance at our "great" plains of Belgian Brabant and French Beauce! Several birds found thermals, sometimes departing some way without disturbing the ducks and returning after a good while. If the first stoop was not conclusive it was best to give up, because the ducks would take refuge in the centre of the water and refuse to flush again.

Flying shortwings was easy because there was plenty of quarry (rabbits, hares and pheasants) and the austringers returned with several kills each day. Most commonly they flew Harris hawks or red tails. A few American goshawks and Coopers hawks completed the reckoning.

I had always dreamed of seeing a flight at greater or lesser prairie-chicken. My wish was fulfilled thanks to the Kansas falconer Phil Kenney, who kindly invited me to go flying with his magnificent "Silver"gyr tiercel. With some friends to accompany us, we were collected at 9 in a mini-bus to follow our host's 4x4. The group was cosmopolitan, with two Americans, a German, a Lithuanian, and Estonian, two Swiss and two Belgians. Phil proposed to take us to ground he knew in Kansas. I had glanced with concern at the map, but it didn't seem too far, so we were off to Kansas. After driving for two hours, we stopped to buy petrol in yet another state, Oklahoma. Our host told us that we were a little more than half way; I began to realise that I had mistaken the scale of the map. Finally, 300 km in three and a half hours took us to an area of pastures, then prairie cut by small canyons. The landscape was superb, real American prairie frequented not long ago by buffalo, with dense herbage and small bushes that dry and roll in the wind (as in the Westerns).

We followed dusty roads and arrived at the site chosen for flying: two fields of "milo" about 800 m apart on the edge of the prairie.

"Milo" resembles millet but is black (tiny grains as fed to canaries) and grows in clusters on stalks 40-50 cm high, resembling maize. The prairie chickens tend to come to feed there early in the morning or at dusk. They use a time-table and always arrive at the same moment, in this case at 16.45 with little variation for gloomy weather, and always from the same direction. We waited, watching, from the bus by one field and the 4x4 at the other, keeping in touch by CB-radio. After a few minutes we saw 3 birds flying in the distance, but they settled in the prairie without us marking the exact spot. Suddenly Françoise said "they're there" and 4 chicken arrived like missiles from behind, settling 60 m in front of us. We informed our host and after ten minutes (to give the birds time to settle down) he arrived and requested the exact spot where the prairie chickens had landed.

The tiercel was cast off and took flight in a determined way. He flew over the field of milo and downwind for a few hundred metres. He returned in a straight line towards us, mounting strongly. He was at 200-250 m when we started to move, and then he was almost vertically above us. We continued towards the spot where the chickens had landed and put them up from the exact spot at the chosen moment (these birds don't run). A male flushed downwind and then turned upwind to pass a few metres over my head; what magnificent game, compact and fast. The tiercel closed his wings and started his stoop in ideal conditions, but after 50 m he checked, threw up and returned to his pitch above us. Convinced that he had refused the flight because it was into the wind, we ran some metres further and flushed the other 3 birds, this time perfectly downwind. The falcon stooped but the story was repeated: he refused at the last moment and took off downwind, disappearing towards the horizon after a harrier. We recovered him later thanks to the transmitter. This falcon is made to prairie chickens and normally takes forty or so each season, but his owner admitted later that he was a bit high. We returned to Amarillo excited by the excursion but a little frustrated (seven hours travel for one flight refused).

This is truly a most difficult quarry, and in general the falcons that regularly take duck in their first season cannot touch a prairie chicken. Only if they are in good feather and persevere, may they manage to take one towards the end of their second season or start of their third. The speciality of the chickens is to tumble at the moment of impact, with tenacious falcons baffled by this behaviour and the chickens then accelerating to leave even gyrfalcons behind. The chickens are about the same size as little bustard, with a flight that is similar but faster.

After the meeting, Steve Oleson kindly reported that NAFA had 471 registered persons, including spouses, children and foreign guests; 79 of the 471 resided overseas and represented 21 countries speaking 19 different languages. Of the total, 302 were falconers, and they managed a total of 501 head of quarry. This includes 340 cottontail rabbits, 57 ducks, 30 jackrabbits, 7 quail, 6 pheasants and 61 miscellaneous. The unusual catch of the meet was a rattlesnake - considering the cold temperatures. The best flight was for Bob Collins of Alaska, whose gyr caught 2 pheasants in one flight. Additionally, Rick Winneborgs gyr/peregrine caught a lesser Canada goose. It was the 3rd year in a row with phenomenal rabbit populations in the panhandle. Pheasant populations were also fantastic. (Un)fortunately, the one contestant from the meeting in the Steak Eating Contest at the Big Texan did not finish the 72 oz. Steak!

Patrick Morel

## UEDECA (UNION ESPAÑOLA PARA LA DEFENSA DE LA CETRERÍA Y AVES DE PRESA)

UEDECA stands for Spanish Union for the Defense of Falconry and Birds of Prey.

UEDECA is a nationwide Spanish organization, with membership fluctuating from 150 to 200 members. Out of them a 95% are practicing falconers.

Our membership turns UEDECA to be one of the two major falconry associations in Spain, together with the long lasting IAF member, the Asociación Española de Cetrería.

UEDECA has been very much involved in defending falconers and the legal practice of falconry in Spain since its foundation in 1995 by providing scientific, legal advice and undertaking lobbying and PR activities before the appropriate authorities.

We publish a Journal plus 3 newsletter per year.

UEDECA would be proud of being IAF's member if finally admitted.

## AUSTRIA Report 2000

Falconry is a legal Fieldsport in Austria which is a federal republic with nine states. Law concerning Birds of Prey can be found on federal as well as on states level.

**Federal Law:** The Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Environment is responsible for all matters concerning CITES and the so called Euro-CITES [Reg.(EC) 338/97 & 939/97]. There are also federal regulations concerning registration and ringing of BoP's.

**States Law:** It wouldn't be adequate for this report to give details on the different situation of each state, but I'd rather like to give an overview. States Law has much more impact on Falconry than Federal Law. States Law is covering Hunting Legislation, Wildlife Conservation and Protection of animals.

There is no apprenticeship system in Austria. Every Falconer has to pass a Hunting Exame (courses for those tests are about 6

months long). In three states, namely Carinthia, Burgenland and Salzburg, one has to do another exame on Falconry. In Styria, another state, Falconry isn't even mentioned in Hunting Law as being a Fieldsport.

There is no limitation of numbers or species to be kept.

There is no hybrid-discussion here in Austria.

Although hacking is allowed, there are hardly any birds hacked.

The most popular bird flown is the Goshawk. Female Gosses are usually able to hold our brown hares. The next popular bird is the Peregrine. There are not too many "exotic" species (Redtails, Harris Hawks, ...) flown.

There is some pressure on professional falconers doing displays from animal rights groups and especially from the WWF, but Falconry as a fieldsport is either unknown or well accepted.

## United Kingdom

Falconry in general is in a good state of health in the UK. Captive bred Raptors are being provided at reasonable prices by the breeders. Our main problem quarry species is the Grey Partridge but other game is in fair supply. Our main concern is European involvement with hybrids and the possibility that this might spread to non-native species. 70-80% of Austringers in the UK fly Harris Hawks or Red Tailed Hawks and these are supplied readily and at reasonable prices by the breeders. Our only indigenous large Hawk

that will take a rabbit (main quarry species) is the Goshawk. These are difficult to breed, are not suitable as a beginners hawk and are priced at 4-5 times that of the Red Tail and Harris Hawk.

Hybridisation has not been a problem in the UK and we are concerned about being drawn into other countries problems.

John R Fairclough

Director

BFC

## From - Danish Hawking Club.

To - IAF/Advisory Committee.

A Report about Hybrids in Denmark.

By Tage Jessen, IAF-rep. Danish Hawking Club. August 2000.

Background:

The background for the discussion about hybrids here in Scandinavia, is as you might know, that in Sweden a breeding pair of falcons was found in 1998 and 1999. This pair was a female peregrine, 1/4 peales x 3/4 european, bred by myself in 1995. This falcon was lost the same year, and captured at her nest in Sweden in 1999. It is still a question what kind of hawk the male is. In Sweden the authorities believe he is a hybrid (gyr x peregrine) though there is no proof, yet. This male has been found breeding again this year with another female. The Swedish will try to catch or shoot him. I do not know at the moment if this has been done. Professor Peter Lindberg, Sweden, has not replied my questions to

him, about what has happened to the male, and also not replied on what Sweden will do internationally about hybrids.

Present situation in Denmark:

In Denmark we have a Game Management Council. This council is advisor to/for the Minister of Environment, and consist of representatives from bird-watchers, hunters, fishers, forestry, agriculture and other green organisations.

In early spring this year the bird-watchers (BW), put the problem of hybrids breeding in Sweden, on the councils agenda.

The final discussion where made at a council-meeting, the 30. of may 2000. At this meeting the president of Danish Hawking Club, Frank Skårup Hansen, obtained audience for the council.

The BWs had presented a proposal to ban the production and keeping of hybrids in Denmark. Frank Skårup Hansen asked the council to consider, that the problem with hybrids could be solved

by a sterilization of hybrids. Further more he stated, that banning hybrids in Denmark would not make any difference, because hybrids from other countries easily could make their way to Scandinavia.

The council could not accept a sterilization of surgical reasons. Further more they were afraid of even sterilized hybrids, as they could pair up with wild birds and also occupy breeding sites. At the end of the discussion, the chairman of the council, professor Per Ole Oleson, concluded that "the Game Management Council recommend the adoption of the proposal to ban hybrids in Denmark, and that this decision is followed up by making contact to other countries, inside and outside EU, to carry through the same ban on hybrids".

This proposal is now in the office of the Forestry- and Nature Administration. The lawyers there, will put it on paper, and present it for the minister. If he accept it, he will present it for the Environment Committee of the Danish Parliament, for decision. According to the head of office in the Forestry- and Nature Administration, mr. Norman Cleaver, the ban on hybrids can easily be introduced administratively.

In Denmark the falconers has a personal permission to keep their birds. Included in the permission is several conditions. Norman Cleaver has told me, that a new condition could be, that you are not allowed to keep and produce hybrids. He also told me, that the ban on hybrids could be made during the next months, and come into force next year.

I also have to report, that during the meeting in the Game Management Council, Frank Skårup Hansen felt a pressure on him. He felt that he had to make this statement, "Danish Hawking Club are against production of hybrids".

This statement has to be seen in the light of saving falconry in/for the future. Also, the same members of the council, hopefully in near future, will have a big influence on legalize hawking in Denmark. (though, I fear what they will do).

- 0 -

I would like to end this report with some personal feelings:

- it is not my cup of tea, to ban hybrids, and I do not like that Danish Hawking Club takes a leading step in doing so.

- I do not like to ban the use of some kind of hawks, just to save own interests.

- if, it is easily done here in DK, administratively to ban hybrids, WHAT will be the next? -a ban on breeding and flying peregrines because of no pure subspecies in captivity, or no flying of hawks, at all..

The antis on falconry will get a very easy game.

-Please, hold on a minute, -while I am typing this report, (afternoon the 2. of august; beside me is sitting a young peregrine), -the telephone is ringing.--The man who are calling, are a very good friend of mine, and the only hybrid-breeder in DK.

He tells me that he has just recieved a letter from mr. Norman Cleaver, Forestry- and Nature Adm., telling him that he is allowed to sell the hybrids he has produced this year, and then it is finish.. No more hybrids in Denmark, -a lightning raid on him..

If members of IAF/Advisory Committee have any questions or comments to this report, please e-mail me at: jessenfalcons@email.dk

Best regards,

Tage Jessen

IAF-rep. Danish Hawking Club.

## Current situation of falconry in Belgium. - Gunter Daes

Two years ago a new law in Belgium allowed that we could keep all kind of indigenous raptors in captivity.

This year the new elected government prepared a list of mammals which are allowed to keep, this list is restricted to 63 species.

When the list of mammals becomes valid the government will prepare a list of birds and reptiles.

At this moment it is not clear if birds of prey will still be on the list, however we will keep an eye on the preparation of the list

## Present Status of Falconiformes and Falconry in Japan

### Kinya Nakajima (The Japan Falconiformes Center)

Civilization has been brought to Japan from the Chinese continent since very old days; and according to various ancient records, the art of falconry has been brought here by those people from the Korean Peninsula in the 4th century.

This new hunting method introduced from overseas was welcomed by the nobles led by the Emperor, and became popular as a high-grade sport only permitted to the nobles.

The professional warrior class started coming to the front in the second half of the 9th century; nobles then completely lost influence, and the real power in politics and economics came to rest with the leader of the warrior class, called Shogun.

Emperor authority became only nominal as to sanction the position of the Shogun, and the living standard has long stopped being as opulent as keeping goshawks and peregrine falcons.

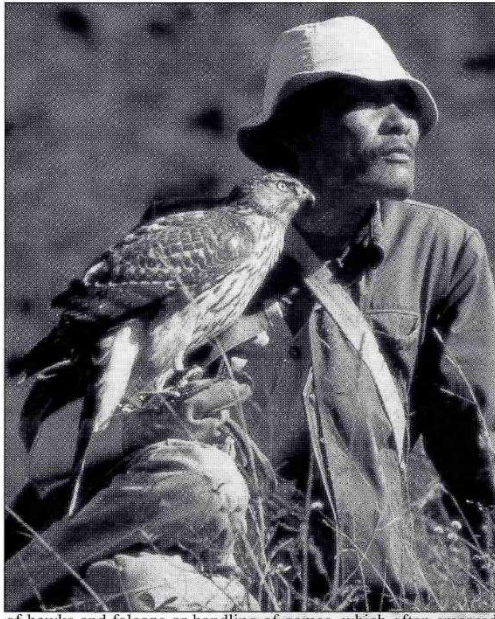
Since then, warriors or Samurais as they were called, who rose to

wield greater power than the nobles, started practicing falconry. Falconry not only served for making a display of their powerful newly-won status, but mastering fierce and brave hawks and falcons matched their bellicose taste, and deploying ranks and files hands in hunting also served as military training, as a result Shoguns and feudal lords passionately practiced falconry.

Shoguns and feudal lords started employing professional people to regularly engage in the training of goshawks and peregrine falcons, so that they can practice falconry anytime they so wanted; thus, the position of falconer was introduced in the feudal system, and as the falconer, besides raising and training falcons, was one of a handful who could engage in direct conversation with the Shogun, he also served as a sort of senior-grade private secretary.

As falconry was the form of hunting permitted solely to the Shogun or feudal lords, falconers, as required by their profession, were entrusted with the hawks or falcons owned by the Shogun, therefore had to pay finest attention to the maintenance of their good health and appropriate training standard.

As a characteristic feature of such occupational attention, training



of hawks and falcons or handling of games, which often smeared with blood, had to be handled with prudent measures so as not to let those watching from harboring displeasure. For instance, utensils for raising hawks and falcons were mainly japan-lacquer ware, which were washed with hot water every time they were used. The lure to summon falcons consisted of bundle of white stripes of paper to which a piece of meat was attached; the blood-stained paper was replaced with new paper every time it was used. In order to avoid staining containers or bags, catches were tied to a cherry branch in the spring, or to a maple branch in the fall, and were carried by vassals.

This means that even in those days when physiological knowledge was not as widely available as now, trials and errors over a long period did in the end serve to bring about hygienic methods for the management of falconiformes breeding.

As the feudal system collapsed in the second half of the 19th century, reviving the emperor system once again, falconers, who used to be comfortably secured of their place in the feudal system, came to lose their job. Once the modern emperor system backed up by the capitalism became stable, the tradition of falconry was revived in the Imperial Household Ministry, but practices of falconry polished up in the past during days of warriors were not properly respected. They worked out unique techniques of falconry like letting hawks or falcons to starve to an extreme, using a live pigeon attached with a string as a lure, or calling a falcon by blowing a metallic whistle.

Nowadays, even when the old Imperial Household Ministry became the Imperial Household Agency, many customary practices are kept by the Imperial Household; but, as far as the art of falconry is concerned, methods now followed by the Imperial Household Agency are new ones that started only in early 20th century.

As if anxiously waiting for the end of the old feudal system, farmers in the nation's northeastern region started practicing falconry as a means of living - they hunted hares and badgers by using mountain hawk-eagles in the slack season during winter. Mountain hawk-eagles that they used were all eyasses, therefore since hawk-eagles were designated as birds to preserve, the practice dwindled.

All birds of prey original to Japan are designated as birds of preservation that are not allowed to seize. Keeping birds of prey is allowed only when a special capture permit is granted by the Director-General of the Environment Agency for purposes of scientific studies or for curing injured birds.

At present, there is no law in Japan to prohibit falconry, but due to the reason stated above, it is not possible for an individual to keep hawks or falcons, which, in turn, helps make falconry more inactive in this nation.

However, as for eagles, hawks and falcons imported from other nations, as long as they do not violate the "Washington Convention," transactions through pet shops are allowed. Species original to other nations come under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, and not the Environment Agency; therefore, as long as invoices and goods match, imports are authorized in certain cases even for those species regulated by the "Washington Convention."

An imports certificate is attached in order to show being an imported bird of prey, but this certificate is nothing but a simple sheet of paper freely issued by the birds importers association, thus totally lacks any legal binding force.

According to the existing laws, hawk poachers may only be detained in the very act, therefore it is expected that the law be modified so as to allow undercover investigation as used for fighting smuggling of guns and drugs.

All species of Falconiformes in Japan are as shown in the following tables.

Besides these, the following foreign-born species were recognized among the falconiformes that were found outdoor and were entrusted to The Japan Falconiformes Center (JFC) for identification as it was hard to establish their species.

Black-shouldered Kite, *Elanus caeruleus*  
 Harris's Hawk, *Parabuteo unicinctus*  
 Steppe Eagle, *Aquila rapax*  
 Bat Falcon, *Falco rufifigularis*  
 Prairie Falcon, *Falco mexicanus*  
 Laggar Falcon, *Falco jugger*  
 Lanner Falcon, *Falco biarmicus*  
 Saker Falcon, *Falco cherrug*  
 American Peregrine, *Falco peregrinus anatum*

Judging from the fact that the number of species, that were accidentally found only in the limited areas of the Chubu (Central) Region in Japan, reaches that high, the total number of species to be found in the whole nation may be several-fold more. Even though the number of birds remains only one or two, but if things are left as they are, it is feared that hybrids may be caused with the existing species original to Japan.

View-rate-conscious mass-media in this nation are recently introducing as falconers even those who are merely keeping hawks or falcons as pets after purchasing from pet-animal dealers, which, unfortunately, helps increase the number of unlawful falcon-mania.

Since these people are playing with falcons like toys, they often carelessly let falcons loose - among those foreign-origin species shown above, Bat Falcon and American Peregrine were found attached with an Aylmeri Jesses, while Prairie Falcon with an European Standard Jesses.

Nowadays, such falconry devices from Western nations can be easily obtained by mail-order service.

Under such circumstances, we at JFC have been continuing with

steady efforts for preserving wild birds of prey.

Positive achievements it attained in particular regarding the cure of injured bird, training of their return to the nature, artificial incubation of eggs with thin shell by using birds unable to be returned to the nature (Fig.1\_Fig.9), survey on wild specie population dynamics, and measures for preserving the natural habitat, are highly evaluated by the Environment Agency, as a result the JFC alone is permitted to fairly freely keep or train birds of prey.

All our activities are efficiently realized by making the use of arts of our nation's authoritarian falconry.

For curing injured birds and training them later for their return to their natural habitat, in particular, techniques used under Shoguns explained above sufficiently served to our purposes, allowing at the same time preserving traditional skills.

Regarding measures for preserving the natural habitat, we instruct and train electric power company staff to start working out, already in the blue-print stage of dams and transmission towers, project designs, that would rather support the birds of prey in their nesting or preying activities, instead of interfering with their such activities. In some instances, we successfully rebuilt from the very foundation a golden eagle's nest by using building supplies. (Fig.10\_Fig.12)

We are leading the staff in charge of major-scale development projects so that they feel responsible for the existence of birds of

prey living in the project areas, at the same time we are providing them with on-site training on the handling of the birds of prey.

We are confident that this indicates a new form of falconry in the new century.

With the aim of clarifying the route through which the hunting method called falconry was brought to Japan in old days, and what sort of changes it underwent on the way, I made a trip to areas along the border between Mongolia and Kazakhstan a few years ago. Now, I am planning to go and search further west until reaching Europe. As the eastern region of Turkey is now a destabilized zone, making it highly risky to travel off the main tourist areas, therefore, unfortunately, my plans are still in the design stage.

I believe that dispatching someone versed in the art of falconry to conduct site surveys on finding out routes through which falconry was taken to various parts of the world is one of the tasks that the JFC can accomplish as an **IAF** member in the Far East

## Information about situation of falconry in Lithuania

On 1999 in the IAF Meeting in Hungary, Lithuanian Falconry Club ( Lietuvos Sakalininkų Klubas ) was joined to IAF . There are 20 members in Lithuanian Falconry Club. 5 members – activ falconers. This year we keep 6 Goshawks.

2000 06 27 new Hunting Rules where were written . They are suitable for falconry . Only in five point it is spoken about falconry :

10. 7 Special trained birds of prey are used for falconry ;
- 12 . Made falconry only at special hunting time of small game ;
13. For falconry can use legal birds of prey from nature, breed in capture and longer in foreign countries ;
44. It is prohibited to hunt without hunting documents and hunting permits.

Situation of falconry changed after 2000 07 20 . The new Red Data Book was written . Goshawks was included in this book. The people of Environment Ministry decided that falconers can't kept for falconry Gos, which were legal taken from nature till 2000 years.

They demanded to give back birds of prey to Zoo . So some of falconers begin hiding their birds , other let to freedom. Legal birds become illegal.

New problem in Lithuania . I think this problem is not only in Lithuania . Problem between pigeon – fanciers and migration birds of prey.

Birds of prey attacked pigeons on migration time. So pigeon – fancier made traps and catch birds of prey near his pigeon – houses . After that, their kill them and so protect their doves. This form of doves protect is very bad, but it is popular between pigeon – fanciers .

I talk to some of the pigeon – fanciers .By season of migration they catch 5-25 birds of prey (by person ).That is done by many dove

keepers.

Our Environment Ministry doesn't show any will to solve this problem.

Is such a problem solved in other countries ?

How do they solved it ?

How could are solved it ?

Darius Dauglia  
president of Lithuanian Falconry Club

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## BRIEF REPORT ON FALCONRY AND HAWKING IN ESTONIA DURING October 1999-October 2000

Unfortunately the composition of our modest group left the same like one year ago – only 4 persons.

During 2000 we have got one Common Buzzard (taken as a chick) and one Goshawk male (trapped as juvenile bird 27.08.00) and now all training process goes with two these birds. I shall take along with me in Amarillo videocassette and a set of photographs where anyone can see how we fly these birds how we teach them and how and where they live.

The third person (excluding me) has not own bird and he was a simple observer and supporter during this year.

One topic with our birds was shot by Estonian Television and was demonstrated on ETV one month ago. Now we have agreement with another firm to do another topic or even may be a film.

We continue to collect literature on falconry and hawking from ex-USSR and CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) and from abroad, establish contacts with falconer Mr.Sorish in Ukraine, Mr. Kuno Seitz in Germany, Mr.Steve Watson in the USA, Mr. Behnam Khorshidnam in Iran and some others. One of the main directions in our activity – correspondence with IAF associates and members and active work also through Raptor

Biology group list (since June 2000) and Asian Raptor Research and Conservation Network Discussion/Mailing List (since December 1999). We continue collaboration with The Peregrine Fund. We tried to disseminate information about the main achievements of ex-Soviet and modern Russian raptor-researchers and literature on raptors from ex-USSR and modern CIS widely using Internet and email (several hundreds messages were sent out). The last activity has taken a lot of time from me personally. We have translated for Prof.Dr.Tom J.Cade some materials on the Gyrfalcon for his future joint monograph on this falcon and for Prof. Dr.Clayton White some materials on the Peregrine Falcon for his joint monograph on this falcon species.

During 25-27.07.2000 I participated in the 2nd Symposium on Study and Conservation of Asian Raptors in Indonesia with translations of 10 articles of ex-Soviet and Russian ornithologists on the raptors of Asian part of ex-USSR and modern Russian Federation.

On behalf of the group – Jevgeni Shergalin

Sopruse pst. 175-58 Tallinn 13413 Estonia.  
E-mail: zoolit@hotmail.com

## Legality in the Netherlands

Sart-Risbart, September 2000.

Dear Sirs,

Our member, Nederlands Valkeniersverbond "Adriaan Mollen" has drawn our attention to a potential threat to the continued tradition of falconry.

Thanks to some enthusiasts, like Nederlands Valkeniersverbond "Adriaan Mollen" the ancient art of falconry has survived until now.

The cultural value of falconry has been acknowledged in all parts of the world.

Prohibiting falconers to henceforth hunt Partridges and Corvids (Kraaiachtigen) would result for the first time in history in the continuous practice of that traditional activity to be interrupted.

If interrupted, there is great risk that this form of falconry would not come back to life anymore.

The cultural loss would be totally out of proportion with the negligible conservation benefit if any.

One will not destroy the Cathedral of Chartres to cultivate potatoes, the cost/benefit ratio would be out of proportion.

Falconry is a living part of the history of the Netherlands, it should therefor be protected.

Falconers are not numerous, they catch a small number of animals, their impact on the conservation status of their prey species is negligible.

Corvids are not threatened, they do very well in all EU Countries. Partridge suffer from the insensitivity of agriculture and not from the hunters' pressure and certainly not of the falconers' pressure.

The problem of the Partridge, as acknowledged by all game biologists, is a problem of loss of suitable habitat, the solution is to improve their biotops.

The Walloon Region has just decided to forcefully convert 3% of all the land (forest, fields, meadows,...) into cover and feeding places for small and big game and wildlife in general. Important financial incentive will be granted to the landowners and agriculturists.

Besides that, falconers enjoy extended hunting seasons amongst others for partridges.

In the name of the falconers of the 34 countries members of the International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey, we call on you to continue to allow falconers to hunt Partridges and Corvids (Kraaiachtigen).

We trust that it is not in vain that we call on your common sense, we thank you in advance for your benevolence, meanwhile we remain,

faithfully yours,

Patrick Morel  
IAF Vice-president for Europe

**Re : Drastic legal limitations to the practice of falconry in the Netherlands.**

Falconry has survived millennia thanks to enthusiasts who have kept it alive over the centuries until now. If the practice of falconry had been suspended for a sizeable period of time, it would most probably have disappeared completely. This is true for falconry as a whole, but it is also true for some local forms of falconry.

Political as well as scientific organisations have in our modern times on several occasions expressed their willingness to avoid the disappearance of falconry.

The necessary protection of birds of prey could have resulted in the impossibility for falconers to keep birds of prey in captivity. Falconers have always since a remote past advocated for the protection of birds of prey; it would have been painfully ironical that that protection would have caused the death of falconry.

International bodies, governmental as well as non-governmental, have agreed that falconry was to survive in spite of the very bad situation of birds of prey in the 50's, 60's and 70's.

The result of that attitude is that falconry is being practised in a large number of countries (the IAF represents 34 countries, others have expressed their wish to join).

Falconry continues and, simultaneously the situation of most birds of prey populations is improving.

Falconry is a part of our cultural heritage, therefore it had to be preserved and still has to.

It was widely agreed that the conservation of birds of prey did not imply the ban on falconry, birds of prey and falconers could live side by side as since immemorial times.

Falconry is a multiform activity. There is not just one type of falconry. The type of falconry that is practised in West-Europe is not the same as the way Central Asiatic people fly their birds; it is different from the Arab traditional hawking, Tunisian, Turkish, Georgian, etc...

Within a country, different forms of hunting with birds of prey may coexist; much depends on the type of game that is available, on the landscape and on specific traditions.

If one of those forms of practising falconry would for some reasons be suspended, the risk is great that that part of the tradition of falconry would disappear as a result. It would be a cultural loss. It

is the duty of everyone, especially of our governments to preserve the cultural heritage of their country. Excessively restrictive legislations could cause such a cultural loss.

**Such a threat exists now in the Netherlands.**

The number of species that may be hunted has been drastically reduced.

Flying our birds at some game species may be considered as a true " form of practising falconry ", suspending such parts of the tradition of falconry would probably result in that particular technique to die out.

The ban on Partridge hunting is certainly threatening with extinction the form of practising falconry called waiting-on or " aanwachterij " combining the beautiful flight of the falcon with the perfection of the work of pointing dogs. Dutch falconers have historically always been very famous throughout the world for the high level of perfection of " aanwachterij ".

The disappearance of such a historic heritage would be a major cultural loss.

Prohibiting falconers to hunt crows would equally cause a cultural loss. Flying falcons at crows and corvids is a genuine hunting method is not a mere technique of pest control; it is even a very demanding form of falconry, which has been practised in the Netherlands for centuries as a very refined sport.

It may be that the conservation of some species of game birds or game animals requires the alleviation of the hunting pressure, although habitat alteration is the most frequent cause of decline. Falconers are a small community and they take a very limited amount of game. The impact of falconry on the conservation status of game species must be considered as negligible. Prohibiting falconers to hunt particular species would similarly have a negligible influence on their conservation status. Conversely, such prohibitions are likely to cause a great cultural loss.

In the name of the falconers of the 34 countries member of the IAF, we ask the relevant authorities to allow falconers to continue hunting of partridges and corvids.

Allowing falconers to do so is compatible with the provisions of the internal legislations dealing with nature conservation, it is equally compatible with the positions expressed by international organisations whether governmental or non-governmental.

## Falconry in Slovakia

Patrick Morel - President IAF

Attn Zuzana Jurickova

**Department of Nature and Landscape Protection  
Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic  
Nam. L'. Stura I,  
812 35 BRATISLAVA  
Slovakia  
tel. +421 7 5956 2211  
fax +421 7 5956 2031**

Sart-Risbart, 20.01.2000

Dear Zuzana Jurickova,

The International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF) is concerned that falconry should be practised within a suitable legal framework. It is to the advantages of administrators, falconers and conservation if such laws are effective but require minimal administration. We have recently started a database on legislation used for falconry in countries throughout the world, and aim to produce a thorough review of this in due course.

However, initial observations are that:

1. A system of minimal administration is based on granting a



life-time license to individual falconers who demonstrate (i) basic or (ii) master levels of competence. Cost to the government administration authority can be minimised by delegating the assessment of competence to a trusted non-government organisation, such as a falconry organisation. Government control is maintained by liaison with the administering NGO and, if necessary, revocation of individual licenses. Such a system can be extended to licence those who rehabilitate injured wild raptors or keep them in zoos or for research purposes.

2. This "licensed-falconer" system is used by several European countries. In the United States of America, licensed falconers are permitted to obtain up to 2 raptors of common species from the wild each year and may also possess domestic-bred birds without further administrative requirement; additional licences are required only to obtain from the wild those raptor species that are of conservation concern.

3. For raptor species of special conservation concern, licensing at source provides minimal administration, provided that individuals remain securely identifiable. Single-use rings or implanted microtransponders ("microchips") have been used, but neither are completely secure. Secure identification is provided by DNA samples, but this is a costly procedure and repeated DNA tests are impractical. A combined "mark-and-bank" system would be secure, in which a DNA sample (e.g. a feather) is provided to a central data-base when the ring or transponder is applied; DNA testing of a second sample, paired for comparison with the original, is only required if there is suspicion of tampering with the marker. We note that rings are the least expensive markers, but that transponders could simplify electronic checks with a central data-base.

4. In Europe, the practice is to require a license to remove any raptor from the wild, with annual reporting to the Secretariat of the Bern Convention. Import to the EU of any raptor is administered by CITES. Some European countries now require registration of all raptors kept for any purpose, whether they are wild or domestic bred. The United Kingdom originally adopted such a system, including re-registration annually and with change of ownership,

but still needed to license individual persons who rehabilitate wild raptors. This over-complex system was later simplified by removing the requirement to register common species.

We consider that an optimal system is to grant life-time licenses that indicate competence of individual falconers or other raptor keepers, and then if necessary to license at source individual raptors from species of conservation concern.

If a mark-and-bank scheme is applied at source, low cost markers can include closed rings that can only be fitted to growing nestlings for domestic bred birds, and close-only rings for birds licensed from the wild. With secure marking and the ability also to use DNA checks of parentage, a free-market can be permitted for the domestic progeny.

The licensing authority may require a population monitoring program to check that yield from the wild is sustainable, in which case licensing fees can provide the funding necessary for a programme that is of general conservation benefit.

We commend your idea of a training seminar and would be happy for our Research Co-ordinator Dr. Kenward to talk there on this theme. If required, he will also review for you the methods of estimating yields from wild raptor populations, which he has used for goshawks, saker falcons and buzzards. His work included pioneering techniques, including long-life radio tagging, that would be of general interest to raptor biologists in your country. We will pay his travel expenses to Slovakia, on the understanding that you will meet the costs of his accommodation and meals.

We remain at your disposal for any further information.

With my best regards

Patrick Morel - President IAF

## IS FALCONRY A LEGITIMATE ACTIVITY ?

### EEC Economical and Social Committee

In its opinion of 25th May 1977, the Economic and Social Committee stated that falconry is " a legitimate and ancient sport ...some provisions should be made to allow the continuation of this ". Imposing to some forms of falconry exceedingly drastic restrictions without necessity would put in jeopardy the " continuation of this ".

### Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild fauna and Flora CITES

Resolution Conf.10.20 of 1997 states " AWARE ... for a variety of legitimate purposes, including ...for falconry ". This resolution has been adopted unanimously by the 129 countries present, including the Netherlands.

### The International Union for the Conservation of Nature IUCN

The members of the world's main organisation for nature

conservation, the IUCN, have democratically elected as a member the International Association for **Falconry** and Conservation of birds of Prey. If falconry was not a legitimate activity, the majority of the members of the IUCN would not have elected the IAF.

To the question "is falconry a legitimate activity?" the reply must be YES. In view of that legitimacy, falconry deserves respect and protection, therefor it should be avoided to impose to it unnecessary drastic limitations that would be likely to put at risk the survival of even some forms of it.

Prohibiting to falconers to hunt with their birds partridges and corvids...would have as a consequence that the continued practice of the traditional form of falconry called " waiting-on " or " aanwachterij " with or without pointing dogs would be in great jeopardy.

## IS FALCONRY COMPATIBLE WITH INTERNATIONAL LEGISLATION ?

### Paris Convention

The " Convention Internationale de Paris pour la protection des Oiseaux " of 18th October 1950, allows in its article 7 derogations to be granted for *falconry* . The Netherlands have ratified the said Convention on 30/06/1955 .

### EEC Directive 79/409

Art. 7.4 quotes explicitly *falconry* as an admissible hunting method.

Art. 9.1.c allows member-states to derogate to allow " other judicious use of some birds in small numbers " Is *falconry* a judicious use ? Yes.

The EC Commission in its explanations on the Directive about " other judicious use " says " it may also include hunting using birds of prey in the context of *falconry* " .

### Bern Convention

The Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and natural Habitats of 19 September 1979 contains the same derogations as those of the EEC Directive 79/409. It allows in its article 9.1 " other judicious exploitation " .

The Standing Committee of the Bern Convention has adopted the " Model form for Biennial Reports " to be submitted every two years by the Contracting Parties. Among the reasons for derogations, the Standing Committee has added " *falconry* " although that word does not appear in the text of the Convention. This means that the Standing Committee *accepts* that the Contracting Parties derogate in favour of *falconry* .

### Benelux Convention

The Benelux-Overeenkomst op het gebied van de jacht en de vogelbescherming of 10 June 1970 does not exclude *falconry* as a

hunting method.

The Beschikking van het Comite van Ministers van de Benelux Economische Unie, M(96)8 of 2 October 1996 sums up the permitted means for hunting, it states

"voor België en Nederland kunnen eveneens worden toegestaan : 1. jachtvogels "

(In French : les oiseaux de proie)

**The Beschikking van het Comite van Ministers van de Benelux Economische Unie, M(99)9** of 25th October 1999 states :

1. Met inachtneming van het bepaalde in de Richtlijn 79/409/EEG en met name artikel 9 kunnen de Regeringen afwijken van het bepaalde in artikel 2 met betrekking tot in het wild levende vogels toestaan voor de volgende gevallen :

e) andere wijzen van verstandig gebruik die met genoemde Richtlijn in overeenstemming zijn " .

### COMMENT

*The Directive 79/409, the Bern Convention and the Benelux convention contain all three the concept of " judicious use " (verstandig gebruik). There is no reason for which the same word would receive diverging interpretation. The EC Commission has stated that " judicious use ...may include...falconry " .*

*Derogating for falconry is compatible with the Directive 79/409, the Bern Convention, the Benelux Convention and the Paris Convention.*

*The Court of Justice of the European Communities has judged that the Directive 79/409 does not apply to birds bred and reared in captivity. The official comments on the Bern Convention say the same thing. This means that the above mentioned derogations apply to wild birds this is also applicable to the Benelux Convention.*

## IMPLEMENTATION IN SOME COUNTRIES

### Belgium

The " Vlaamse Gemeenschap " : Crows and Magpies may be controlled by means of birds of prey.

The " Region Wallonne " has an extended season for *falconry*: falconers are allowed to start hunting earlier than the other hunters and have later closing dates.

### France

Several "Départements" have longer hunting seasons for falconers than for the other hunters. Falconers are allowed to fly their hawks when there are closing days during the week. Corvids may be controlled all the year through only by means of *falconry* birds.

### Germany

In some regions, falconers may be allowed to hunt on grounds where shooting is prohibited, like industrial zones, etc...

*Falconry* is allowed in the great majority of the EU Countries

The EU Commission has never complained against member-states derogating in favour of *falconry*

### CONCLUSION

There is no obstacle for the Netherlands to allow falconers to hunt Partridges, Crows, Magpies, etc... Prohibiting falconers to hunt particular species would have a negligible influence on their conservation status. Allowing falconers to do so is compatible with the provisions of the internal legislations dealing with nature conservation, it is equally compatible with the positions expressed by international organisations whether governmental or non-governmental as demonstrated above.

There are overriding historical and cultural reasons to allow them to continue to hunt those species.

## The 20th Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention

Annual meetings of the Bern Convention (on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats) take place in Strasbourg, France. This one was from November 27th to December 1st 2000. IAF was represented by Robert Kenward and Herwig Hoedl. Other NGO's included FACE, the Eurogroup for Animal Welfare, Birdlife International, IUCN and WWF-International.

These meetings monitor adherence to the convention by the states party to it, and review issues that develop in the protection of wild species and habitats. In case of possible breaches of the Convention, "case files" may be opened. On other issues, recommendations from expert groups may be adopted. Of particular interest to falconry at this meeting was (i) discussion of a report on invasive alien species, (ii) a workshop organised by the UK on issues arising from work to eliminate the introduced North American ruddy duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) that hybridises with Eurasian white-headed ducks (*O. leucocephalus*), and (iii) changes to the administration of the Convention. As always, the meeting also provided opportunities to lobby delegates of countries where the situation of falconry is delicate.

The strategy adopted by IAF representatives over the years has been to make constructive interventions in meetings, and thereby to make friends and win support of the secretariat, in case a problem for falconry arises. This year there was no direct problem for falconry, but a careful watch was needed in the discussions of alien invasive species.

A document "Guidelines for Eradication of Terrestrial Vertebrates: a European Contribution to the Invasive Alien Species Issue", was presented by Dr Piero Genovesi, as chair of IUCN/SSC Invasive Specialist Group. This document recommends a precautionary approach ("guilty until proven innocent"), with risk-assessments for each species, resulting in a three-list system with 1) "black list" species whose importation is prohibited; 2) "grey list" importation allowed only after an assessment of risks and 3) "white list" species classified at low risk and whose importation is allowed in general, or under conditions restricting the use of the species to specific purposes (research, public education, others), or only after the holding facilities to contain the animals have been inspected and approved. IAF has to be very careful what this might mean to species flown in falconry. Piero Genovesi was known to Robert from work on squirrels, which provided the opportunity to make precautionary small changes to wording of his report and for joining the IUCN Specialist Group.

It was useful that Herwig Hoedl was able to attend the meeting this year on his way home from Amarillo. The benefit of two observers occurred especially when the conference broke into two parts to consider changes in the format for future meetings. A strategic group had proposed formation of a scientific advisory committee to prepare material for the main meeting, and it was important to support moves in both fora to ensure that NGOs can continue to participate. Herwig monitored the main debate while Robert was invited on a Select Group to help plan the Advisory Committee. We also engaged in discussions of possible changes that could lead to sustainable use being accommodated more easily within the Convention.

The Bern Convention is in the process of repositioning its relations with other international Conventions (Ramsar, Bonn etc) where NGOs are not part of the meetings. One reason for this is a cut in the budget, with the Committee of Ministers wanting a more

"politically useful" output from the Bern Convention. Accordingly, the Standing Committee adopted Recommendation No. 7 (2000) on the "strategic development of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats". Future aims are, amongst others, to include aspects such as "wildlife diversity in agro-ecosystems" and "conservation and sustainable use of biological biodiversity", "bio-indicators and monitoring of biological diversity", "invasive alien species" and "biological diversity in threatened ecosystems" into the work of the Convention.

Opportunity was taken to develop friendly contacts with representatives from Denmark, Norway and Finland. Following comments from delegates in Amarillo, care was also taken to speak with representatives of Estonia, Lithuania and Slovenia about the situation of falconry in their countries, with follow-up letters to be sent to assist efforts to develop a satisfactory legal environment for falconry in those states.

Interventions by IAF in debates concerned (i) encouragement of moves to support de-intensification of agriculture that might benefit prey of raptors, (ii) suggestions for the improving funding possibilities for the Convention through developing work to advance sustainable-use and (iii) praise for UK and French government efforts to remove ruddy ducks. We felt that the latter positive intervention may have helped the Swedish delegate, who spoke just afterwards and is hostile to falconry, to remain diplomatic and mention only "problems in Sweden from other species traded elsewhere in Europe" without (to our great relief) specifying raptors.

The Bern Convention has made a step forward by implementing "sustainable use" as a future goal. IAF can use this, as far as possible, to guide the convention in a direction that maintains falconry as a legal fieldsport. However, great care will be needed to ensure that there are no problems arising from concern about "invasive species".

Robert Kenward & Herwig Hoedl

15.1.01



## RAPTORS 2000 conference in Israel during 3-9.4.2000

Raptor Research Foundation and World Working Group on Birds of Prey and Owls were invited to this conference by Reuven Josef, who had arranged it through the International Birding and Research Center in Eilat. I had been invited to give a plenary presentation (on "Identifying the Real Threats to Raptor Populations"), in exchange for accommodation, with travel funded by Biotrack in exchange for transporting their commercial stand. There was therefore no cost to IAF.

The meeting had about 120 participants from most European countries, and as far afield as the Phillipines, although Israel had refused visas to Russian participants. Presentations were generally of a high standard, in sessions on Vultures, Raptor & Humans, Ecotoxicology, Falcons, The Lesser Kestrel and Population Trends and Conservation Strategies, Migration, Owls and Molecular Ecology.

With Jemima Parry-Jones, I attended a meeting of RRF's ad hoc committee for Eurasia, which is charged with developing structures for an RRF regional group. However, the main falconry issues were comments made by David Parkin of Nottingham University and a paper by Peter Lindberg. David Parkin's comments, during a paper on genetic differences between sub-populations of goshawks and kites in Britain, were to the effect that falconers had introduced goshawks to Britain so that they could harvest them illegally. I responded with the comment that I took him to be joking, since all of the people involved had been acting ideally and two were respected Professors. He has said he will not make the remark again, but his preparedness to make such a comment after receiving funding and help from falconers is worrying. The other indication of a growing unfavourable attitude was a paper by Peter Lindberg reviewing cases of breeding by hybrid falcons in the wild. At a small workshop following his

presentation, Jemima and I agreed to review his paper to ensure factual accuracy. However, Peter made it clear that the Swedish authorities were likely to take this issue to the EU authorities. Jemima also raised (with me) concern in the UK Hawk Board that there may be a move in Britain to start registering large raptors under the UK Dangerous Animals Act. We discussed the possibility of pre-empting both these issues by taking an initiative to standardise regulations on falconry in Europe. If questions were raised, our response would be "come and address this issue in our review".

If such an initiative were taken by IAF through the Bern Convention, we would not only be seen to be acting responsible but also have much more control over events than if we have a review forced upon us by an alliance of people opposed to falconry. Indeed, with the new data justifying a generous yield from some raptor populations (e.g. goshawks), we might use such an initiative to improve the overall situation of falconry. We have a provisional acronym FREE (Falconry Regulations for an Expanded Europe) for such a review. Jemima felt that if we wish to do this, we should start with a workshop of invited participants this autumn, well before the Bern Convention meeting. We could then arrange a conference under the auspices of the Bern

Convention during 2001, to make proposals for ratification under the Convention. I do not welcome the work that this would involve. However, I fear that if we do not take an initiative aimed at a favourable review, we will shortly have to spend the same effort defending ourselves without the opportunity to make any improvements in our situation. What do you all think?

Robert Kenward: robert@goshawks.freeserve.co.uk

## Report on IUCN's 2nd World Conservation Congress

The saker/houbara committee, chaired by Patrick Morel with members Ferrante Pratesi, Gilles Nortier and Robert Kenward, would like to record a major success. The 2nd World Conservation Congress of IUCN (the World Conservation Union), sitting at Amman in Jordan during 4-11 October 2000, acclaimed without dissent the motion drafted by Robert Kenward on conservation of the saker falcon. The draft, as circulated previously to the Advisory Committee, required very little amendment and is reproduced below as the now accepted IUCN resolution CNV007.

It was good relations of committee members with the French bird groups, Fonds d'Intervention pour les Rapaces and Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux, that turned a public relations problem into a triumph. LPO were preparing action, as a result of contacts with African bird organisations, on use of sakers to hunt houbara and other bustard. IAF persuaded them not to proceed with an attack through Birdlife International (BI), and instead joined with them, Birdlife, Trade Records Analysis of Fauna and Flora in Commerce (TRAFFIC), IUCN and WWF to build a resolution that would encourage cooperation for conservation through sustainable use of sakers.

Although the committee's link-building was mentioned in the last annual report, the committee only decided on this approach last summer. After a first drafting meeting in June, most activity occurred at government level. The issue is sensitive in national and international conservation politics; it required quiet diplomacy. We needed to wait for our Saudi Arabian friends to obtain

permission to join this project, and got their approval only 10 days before the conference. Without that approval, we were ready to withdraw our motion before it became an IUCN resolution.

IUCN is an organisation that has grown remarkably in the last 15 years. During the first three quarters of its life, which started in 1948, it was primarily a science-based nature conservation organisation that struggled to raise adequate finance from NGO and government members. During the late 1980s it started also to embrace the theme of sustainable development, largely because development was seen as a major threat to conservation of many species. This step resulted in far greater funding for IUCN from aid-donor countries and more interest from recipient countries. This resulted not only in growth, such that the last two conferences

attracted 2000-3000 participants, but also the attraction of many non-scientists and increased engagement in international politics. Some of the new environmental NGOs have a quite strong protectionist bent, although others represent indigenous peoples with a strong ethic of sustainable use. The result is that the result of some votes is hard to predict in advance; moreover, a great deal of effort is required to win votes.

The other falconers helping at the meeting were in the Saudi Arabian delegation, namely Drs Hany Tatwany (head of delegation) and Robbie Robinson (previously SAFA secretary). However, there were also kind words from the representatives of

the United Arab Emirates and France (now in the EU chair). Moreover, there was written support from the resolution from the IUCN's Sustainable Use Specialist Groups (kindly organised by Robin Sharp CB of European SUSG) and moral support from our co-sponsors FACE (Dr Yves Lecocq) and African Resources Trust (Dr John Hutton). We also had some improvements to the wording from the UK branch of IUCN and from the main animal rights activist from North America, who actually spoke to accept the revised draft (after considerable discussion and explanation helped by Dr Arthur Lindley of RSPCA). It is therefore fair to say that our resolution satisfied the complete spectrum of wildlife interests.

That is by no means the end of the story. The "falconry group" worked with Birdlife International (who with TRAFFIC helped to draft the saker resolution) to turn a hostile motion on hunting houbara bustard into a constructive one that supported development of sustainable use. It was highly satisfactory that all resolutions favourable to sustainable use were approved. We kept a careful eye on two resolutions about introduction of alien species, but the principle that action should be specifically against species introduced "for the purpose of their reproduction and propagation in the wild" made them "safe" for falconry.

The wide support, in both the saker and houbara resolutions, for what falconers are trying to achieve through sustainable use, is another milestone beyond the "falconry passport". Indeed, our saker resolution builds on that earlier triumph, by recommending a tamper-proof "mark-and bank" way to implement life-time electronic passports and an innovative "pay to mark" method of conserving raptors through sustainable use. Above all, we are forming promising alliances with Arab countries, for whom falconry is a greater priority than for other governments, to improve the treatment of falconry by the international community. A falconry association is now being formed in the United Arab Emirates, so IAF can look forward to being able to welcome its first member club in the Middle East.

Robert Kenward, Research Coordinator

19.10.2000



## IUCN Resolution CGR2.CNV007. Conserving the Saker Falcon

RECOGNIZING that the Saker Falcon, a migratory steppeland raptor, has for centuries been harvested as a high value natural resource for traditional falconry;

NOTING that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has a prominent National Commission for Wildlife Research and Development, extensive practise of falconry and is located on an important Saker migration route;

ACKNOWLEDGING that valuable research on the population ecology of Saker Falcons has been conducted in Saker range states, especially by the United Arab Emirates;

AWARE that raptor populations can be important biological indicators of healthy ecosystems, including steppelands that are widely threatened by intensification of agriculture;

AWARE also that Saker Falcon populations have recently declined in some of their range states;

NOTING that resolutions by the World Working Group on Birds of Prey and the Raptor Research Foundation call for monitoring and regulation to ensure that use of Saker populations remains sustainable;

NOTING FURTHER that combination of electronic markers with DNA-analyses could be used to monitor populations and their arvest through traditional trapping, motivate conservation of breeding areas through payments for marking and minimise costs of CITES regulations;

The World Conservation Congress at its 2nd Session in Amman, Jordan, 4-11 October 2000:

CONGRATULATES the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates on their early implementation of national measures for research-based conservation of wildlife;

REQUESTS that Saker range states and falconers work with CITES and other international regulatory authorities to develop an internationally recognized system, initially for this species but applicable for other wildlife, that combines wildlife research and modern marking technologies to:

- (a) monitor populations and estimate sustainable yields;
- (b) regulate procurement and international movements with minimal administrative costs; and
- (c) motivate conservation of the species and its habitats through-out its range.

## 33rd Annual General Meeting of the IAF 2001

### Venue:

Petwood Hotel  
Woodhall Spa  
Lincolnshire  
UK

NOTE: Woodhall Spa is a small country town in South Lincolnshire approximately 120 miles north of London. The nearest airport is EAST MIDLANDS AIRPORT. Those attending will need the use of a vehicle.

### Dates:

Monday 1 October - meeting of the Advisory Committee 14.00hrs.

Tuesday 2 October - Annual General Meeting start 10.00hrs  
Registration for Field Meeting  
Dinner 19.30: talk by Clarissa Dixon Wright

Wednesday 3 October - 09.00hrs. registration for Field Meeting  
10.30hrs. Opening of BFC Field meeting  
by Clarissa Dixon Wright

Wednesday 3rd to Saturday 6th October -  
flying as directed by the organising committee

Saturday 6th October - 19.00hrs  
Dinner, Raffle, Speeches and closure.

### Contacts and booking for accommodation.

Petwood Hotel - Phone 01526 352411 - special room rates £42 per person, dinner bed and breakfast.

Golf Hotel - 01526 353535 - £65 - £77

Dower House Hotel - 01526 52588 - £35 - £48

Eagle Lodge Hotel - 01526 353231

Pitch Away Guest House - 01526 352969

Village Limits - 01526 353312 - £27 - £60

### Falcons and hawks

Flying of hawks and falcons at the meeting will be by invitation of the organising committee. Those people wishing to bring hawks or falcons should apply on the form that will be issued in the March BFC Newsletter.

### Contacts

The BFC officer nominated for co-ordination of foreign visitors to this event is:-

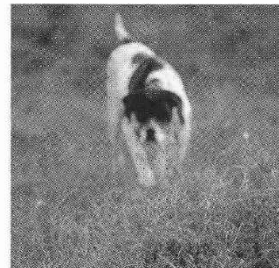
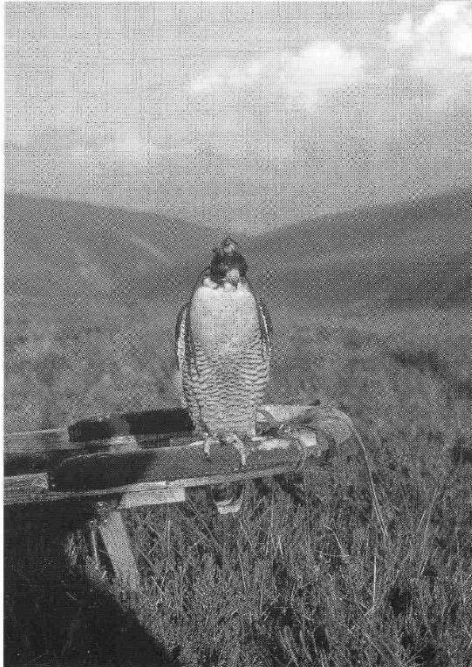
Dave BOWMAN

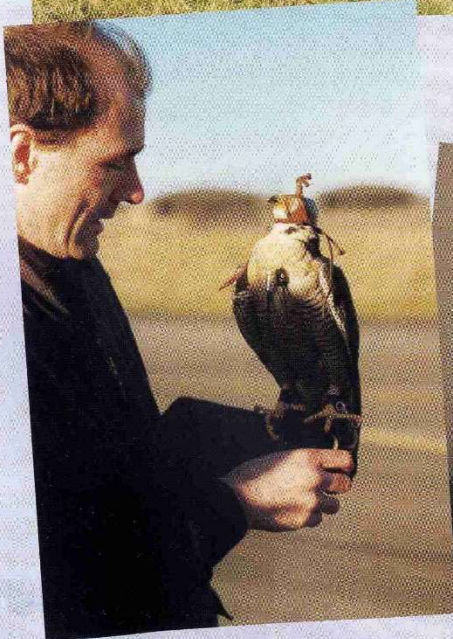
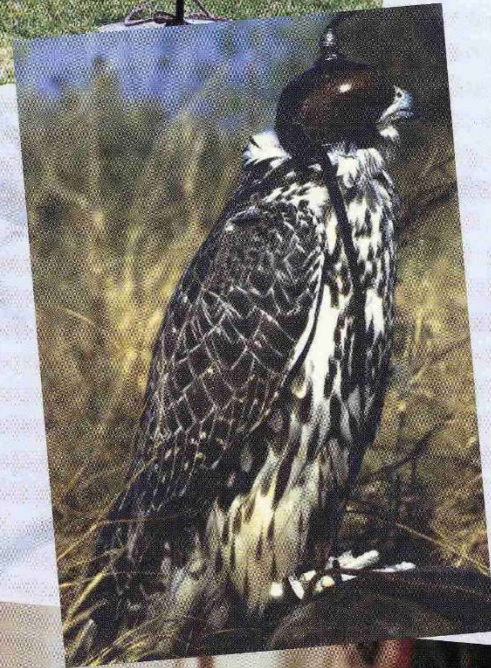
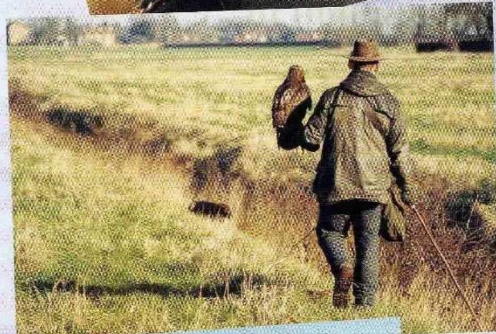
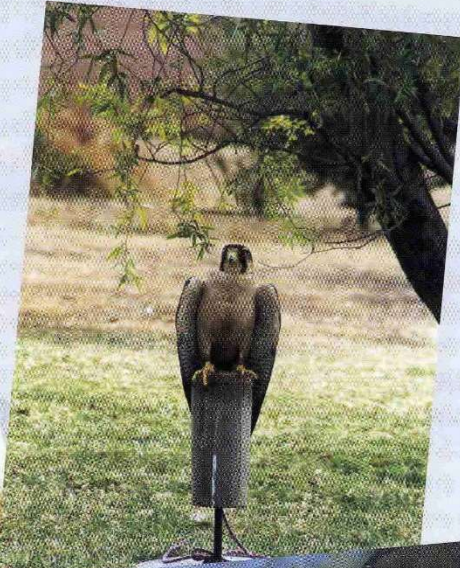
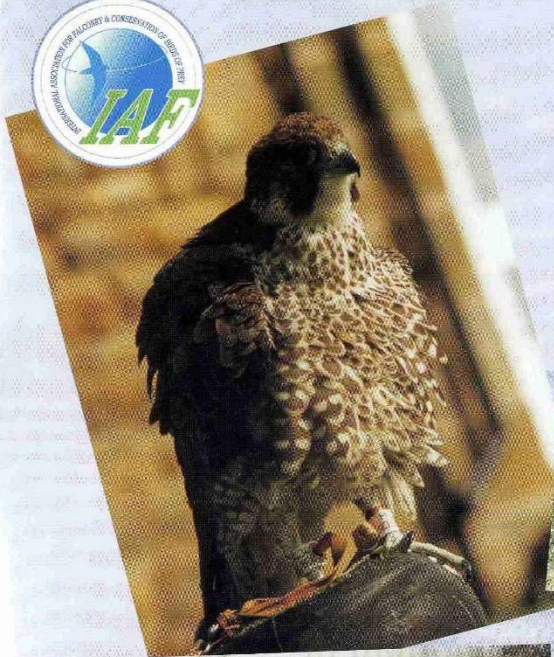
Telephone 01327 260548 E-mail: [dbowman@zetnet.co.uk](mailto:dbowman@zetnet.co.uk)

Or

Anthony Crosswell - IAF Secretary

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