

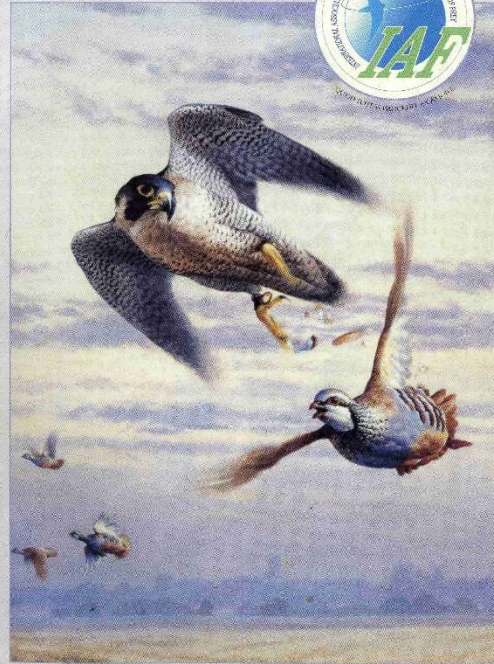


Annually 2000 - Delegates of the IAF AGM in Amarillo, Texas, USA, USA, USA



Newsletter

Edition - March 2001



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR FALCONRY & CONSERVATION OF BIRDS OF PREY



Anthony Crosswell, Secretary



Peter B. Morel, President



Thomas Richter, Vice President



Gilbert Verrier, Chairman AC

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New Web site address : www.I-A-F.org

EDITOR'S FORWARD

by Anthony Crosswell

Our Association moves onward and grows from strength to strength. New members increase our representation for falcons on the International scene as our Officers are involved in an ever growing number of meetings and conferences affecting 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 qualifications.

In all of this we must not forget, like our falcons done and for myself I am thankful for the enjoyment of a sport and good seasons falconry.

3 January 2001

Thinking my 8th year old female Peregrine left the Island that I was right line for about 2 miles until she was almost invisible in the thicket. As this distance she was already high and turned to retreat her wings were still in a slightly vertical position as if she was in a vertical soaring stop that descended the whole parasite flushed by my fish scarer which Sierra from the river water, raps.

Patrick Morel had completed last year that our reported effort to start the new millennium in the manner we intended to continue was generally successful to do it all again this year in the certainty that this would only be the final millennium and into the new century. It was frustration that the car had not prevented our efforts on the first and second day on the 1st year but the final dawned clear blue sky and windless - perfect conditions for the falcon.

Following these but brother Nelson was put on the wing. He was allowed 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. Excitement seemed to peak when I looked up to see he was not alone as upon a passage several other young terns waiting on. This has happened many times before. I finally spotted a good flight but since Sierra was already on point in a nearby area their job in to flush the expected one. Facing away a magpie was for about 200 yards being to evade detection. No such luck and the brown bird stopped half in behind the landing water so that he took to the air. A display followed of aerial manoeuvring to see from this young bird. Nelson had not passed in and being reliable I did not pay him any attention expecting him to be in position when the flight showed up. Many times this Peregrine could have easily taken the wing only to pull off and then resume pursuit from a new angle. All around us the light circled for many minutes and the bird was finally seen to be committed to leave the area still with the intention of return.

The young Peregrine did not return and I looked back to Nelson to take him down to the lure. More complications as a new sister young bird joined to land and was badly landing before I could get to the first 50 yard position. For a time he made a move to walk as the bird landed and recovered the response to me. There was nothing to fly to mark the ground and flush something for them to focus their attention upon. Eventually we got out a partridge and Nelson was now ready for anything, wanting to show his pale colored feathers how it should be done. His next move was to land on the ground, on an underdog, a mere "scout" as he is referred to by the falcon, and launch himself in on the ground defending his prey. Finally the bird was driven to return him on the ground only now to be joined once again by the other magpies, the passage male who had come back 100 meter later.

Falconry to the rescue seemed the right response and a quick dash across the water - snipe was called for. With one more taken, here still in the track 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 please Patrick this time, it certainly has we did exceed any expectations I could have dreamed. My love,

Anthony Crosswell



Cover Picture - reproduced by kind permission of the artist - painting in acrylic by Andrew Ellis 'Peregrine' joined with Ron Leggett 'Partridge' - this was produced as a limited edition print for the British Falconers Club special for the artist.

IAF BOARD

Patrick Morel (Belgium) President
Tel: +32 10 88 11 85
Fax: +32 10 88 11 77
Mobile: +32 495 18 82 77
E-mail: morel@net.be

Frank M Bond (USA) Vice President Americas
Home Tel: +45 05 984 2061
Office Tel: +45 05 988 5658
Fax: +45 05 982 01 85 office
E-mail: gnyfalk@aol.com
Phone: +45 05 988 5658

Prof. Dr Thomas Richter (Germany) Vice President Europe-Asia-Africa-Oceania
Tel/Fax: +49 7022031 349
E-mail: richter@flu-aerlingende

IAF OFFICERS

Anthony Crosswell (UK) Executive Secretary
Home Tel: +44 1379 677 296
E-mail: gnyfalk@crosswell.co.uk

Antonio Carapazo (Paraguay) Treasurer
Tel: +51 919 232 031
Mobile: +51 951 972 8203
Fax: +51 219 200 341
E-mail: carapazo@net.com.pe
mop1446@net.com.pe

IAF ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Gilles Nourier (France) Advisory Committee Chairman
Home Tel: +33 388 95 60 03
Office Tel: +33 388 49 44 15
Fax: +33 388 95 3 1 24
E-mail: gno@nourierfrance.com

Dr Timothy Kimmel, Ph.D. (USA) AC substitute chairman
Tel: 316-792-0396
316-562-3309 (H), 316-792-3096 (Fax)
E-mail: kimmel@burton.ck.us

Dr Robert Kenward (UK) Research Coordinator
Tel: +44 1305 21 3666
Fax: +44 1305 21 3660
E-mail: reke@cel.ac.uk

Martin Jones (UK) UK Hawk Board Advisory Committee
Tel: +44 1600 750 200
Fax: +44 1600 750 450
E-mail: mjones@falconsuk.com
martin@falconsuk.com

Bernig Hoedl (Austria) Honorary Secretary
Mobile: +43 676 12 04 85
E-mail: bernig.hoedl@kfunigraz.ac.at

Jose Manuel Rodriguez-Villa (Spain) Honorary Secretary
Tel/Fax: 00 34 65 81 78 00 80
Mobile: 00 34 65 81 71 56
E-mail: jrmv@netcom.es

Dr Krzysztof Piotrowski (Polonia) Honorary Secretary
Tel: (32) 85 200 100
Fax: (32) 85 200 100
E-mail: kpiot@net.com.pl

Amos Sidelid (Poland) Honorary Secretary
Home Tel: +48 22 821 47 48
Office Tel: +48 22 821 07 89 fax 512
Mobile: +48 604 084 021
Fax: +48 22 821 43 60
E-mail: jsidelid@p.pl



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

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

The Annual General Meeting was called in Order by Vice President Patrick Morel and Frank Bond due to recent resignation and consequent absence of President Pierre Pratès.

The President of the North American Falconry Association, Boris Millap warmly welcomed the delegates to the AGM and the annual field meeting of NAAFA, 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 logos before they came to the meeting.

This was followed by the welcoming speech of Rich Holmstrom who acts as the International co-ordinator for NAFPA.

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

Kazakhstan - sent constitution and application - they qualify under our constitution - Association founded in 1989 - 35 practitioners with eagles - application as Corresponding Member - accepted.

Mexico - 17 members. Juan Carlos Rojas NAAFA delegate from Mexico made a brief presentation - application as Member - accepted.

Netherlands - Valtteri Reijpaga Jacoba van Breen - Hiri Wagenaar made a brief presentation - 200 members founded in 1987 - application as Member - accepted.

Spain - UDEFA 175 members - Eva Maria Padilla-Villa (Vice President) delegate made a brief presentation with Jose Maria Medina (President) - application as Member - accepted.

Switzerland - Do not fulfil the conditions laid down by our constitution as they have not yet been founded/being recognised as an association - application as Corresponding Member - accepted.

Turkmenistan - 21 Members founded 2 years ago. A two-step proposition was made for their application and approved by the delegates. Moments of the country were presented by both the IAF Vice President. 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 World Falconry Club questioning their voting status since they had been informed that they no longer had a vote. Christine de Courcy then stated that she had written to FACC 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.

Tim Richter stated that Germany had 13 states. Ralph Rogers made similar points for NAAFA. Discussion then repeated that of last year on this subject.

Motion was proposed by Tim 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 Nourier & Martin Jones both due in illness.

3. Minutes of last AGM

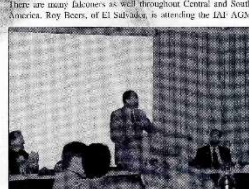
Minutes presented by the secretary. There were no additions or modifications and the minutes were approved by the members and signed by the Vice Presidents.

4. President's Report

Following the unexpected resignation of our President Pierre Pratès our Vice Presidents proposed a vote of thanks to Patrick and "wishing him well". Patrick has seen the IAF through a difficult period in this regard and all members wished to record their thanks.

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

Falconry in the Americas - the status of falconry is excellent. For many years the North American Falconry Association has represented the majority of falconers in the United States and Canada. This year NAAFA will become representative of falconry in all of North America with the admission of Mexico to regular NAAFA membership. There are many falconers in Mexico who practice the sport at the very highest levels. One of the Mexican members, Juan Carlos Rojas, represents NAAFA/Mexico on the IAF Council. There are many falconers as well throughout Central and South America. Roy Rogers, 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 focus the national falconry associations and clubs from the larger countries like Argentina, Chile, Peru, and Colombia. I fortunately 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 my goal was to seek the downlisting of the North American population of 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 were 600 delegates with many important issues which could go before the 11th 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 representative of the outcome of the proposal at the Conference of the Parties.

Review of IAF Subscription Rates: President Pratès 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 Carapazo of Paraguay, 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 Murrell only joined 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 Pierre Pratès the IAF needs to undertake some important work on the IAF constitution. I will volunteer to assist with drafting some of the necessary amendments to it.

AC 2000 AGM: At the 1999 AGM hosted by the Hangarone Falconry Association in Onokobon, Hungary, I volunteered to coordinate the work of the USA this year. This took a substantial amount of effort and effort was very appreciative particularly of NAAFA and the 1000 most coordinators, Steve Ostrom (Arizona), Ted and Beverly Wilson (Amarillo, Texas) for their coordination efforts for the IAF AGM. Further we have had special assistance from Boris Holmstrom (Chicago, Alaska) who coordinated the long long flights for falconry guests. NAAFA meets are far more informal than most European meets so this kind of co-ordination and co-operation was particularly difficult.

Finally I recognized 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 25 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 Pierre Pratès 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 completed the presidency. Patrick was the vote of the Council of Delegates, and I pleased 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 IAF, replaces Patrick as the ethics vice president. We are blessed to have strong leadership in the IAF. Besides Tim Richter, the President of the IAF, we have Tony Crosswell, the recently elected president of the IAF serving as Secretary, Tim Kimmel, a former president of NAAFA, 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 Burton, Robert and Leo Campbell, Ronald G. Clarke, Brian Falconers Club, Tim and Jerry Crosswell, Roy Derrin, Tom and Sara Engstrom, Bob, John and Jane Faldutsky, Dale and Norma Fleckner, Rich Holmstrom, Indiana Falconers Association, Hasso and Tami Kerebekov, Tim Kimmel, North American Falconry Association, Lorenzo Machin Arana, Steve Ostrom, Roy Murrell, Romyguez-Villa, Will and Jobe Short, The Scottish Falconers Club, The World Falconry Club, Carl Theodor, Rufe Ann and Alby Williams, Jay Lauer, Jim 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.

The IAF Officers and Advisory Committee, NAAFA Board of Directors.

Local: Frank M. Bond, IAF Vice President, NAAFA General Council.

CC Delegation: Conrad D. William Barnham.

Date: 11/20/00.

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

On April 15, 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 as the gyrfalcon will remain on Appendix I. Steve report details this follows.

The IAF Council with the enthusiastic and strong support of Canada ordered to downlist the gyrfalcon. Dr. Tom Cade was the principal drafting of the delisting agreement, with support from Dr. Bill Barnham, and others. I presented the sections dealing with the law in North America. The proposal itself was accepted and passed 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 Goshon 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 Hackett, 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 fully understood with the proposal, the gathering downlisting was rejected. The United States had previously opposed Japan's and Norway's proposals to dovetail a whole on a split listing basis. The gathering was a similar split listing between the North American and the European populations, because of the United States' incoherence on split listing proposals, Japan and Norway rallied many nations to reject the gathering 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 IUCN vote as a block, it is critical to have a representative from an EU member on the panel to represent the IAF. I believe that the effort can be downlisted successfully. However, I do believe that Canada would be a better option 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 Morcl.

This year spent working on the lists, being strongly stimulated and providing advice on falconry and conservation matters when required, I have also been involved in following IAF projects:

- elaboration of a new logo proposed and developed by our Irish friend Liam O'Brien I believe that this logo is the most visually pleasing of the IAF
- participation in the construction of a website with the help of Roger UKC.
- elaboration of a questionnaire survey on hybrids with the help of Robert Kenward, Jan Kinnard and Herryg Hooft (the German specialists).

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/hobby which resulted in a HCN resolution.

One of the most remarkable results of this resolution is an acceptance by the World Conservation Union of minimum-study 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 Sapatra, 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 at the CIC on 05.10.2000 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 conclusions of this presentation:

- 1. 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. Keeping birds of prey under natural hunting conditions is in accordance with the typical behaviour of the birds of prey.
- 5. Falconry is a purpose hunting.
- 6. Falconry is the most natural, animal- and environment-protection way of keeping and using raptors. It is irrefutable for the welfare of animals would be wrong.

I'll try to attract 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 primary goals is to help legalise falconry everywhere. IAF was asked to help in no less than 11 countries, so it is reasonable that IAF was contacted by two governments.

The **Benelux-Scandinavian countries** (Finland, Sweden, Norway and Denmark).

Denmark: It is close to formal full-fledged recognition of falconry, with a 5 year "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 "raptors" feel very concerned by breeding of hybrids in the wild and sought a total ban of all hybrids. It seems that a law making such a ban will be proposed this fall. The Danish falconers, even if they are not hybrid breeders, feel concerned because such a ban could be extended to exotic species of raptors or even to sub-species.

Norway: Until Jan 1999, it was illegal to import birds into Norway. From that date, Norway implemented the ECU's veterinary agreement, which allowed the import of birds. As there are no restrictions regarding what kind of birds one could import, Tom Havørner (he is not a falconer) imported 2 Harris' Hawks (2 *Buteo swainsoni*), 2 Red-tailed Hawks (2 *Buteo swainsoni*) and 2 Common Ravens (2 *Corvus corax*). The authorities claimed that the keeping of indigenous birds of prey is illegal; they confiscated the birds and took the raptors, according to the keeper for violating the wildlife law. Another import of non-indigenous birds of prey (Harris' Hawks) was requested but the DOF 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 allow raptors. We argued 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 Kennard have still good connections with Finland, I asked them to handle the case of Finland. Christian reported: "we have had information of possible attempts by an independent person to introduce falconry in Finland. Outlets Danmark and Sverige, there are no laws prohibiting to hunt with trained hawks. But he 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 imposing a hawk, training it and then asking for falconry to be permitted. As to have no falconry" principle of starting by acquiring a hawk instead of starting by obtaining the legal status of falconry will be a very dangerous. One mistake can spoil the whole issue for one generation in all Scandinavia".

Sweden: It is very concerned by a case of hybridisation 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 confusion. This case of hybridisation is badly perceived at a moment of trial of legislation of falconry. The Swedish falconers have the same temperate as the British ones, fearing the authorities by imposing non-indigenous species, and then bringing a case in court to seek legislation of falconry. We strongly recommended to reduce first a legal status of falconry instead of starting conflicts with the authorities. The Scandinavian countries are planning to raise the issue of hunting hybrids at a European level.

Netherlands: There is a proposal of a new law for hunting and conservation which is probably the most restrictive to falconry in Europe. Only 5 species of raptors 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 kestrel-haw falconry on partridge. On the other hand, as before, only five species of birds of prey are allowed for falconry. The partridge falcon and the goshawk, IAF provided well-organised letter of intent to attract an ornithologist. We requested a derogation for the Dutch falconers to allow other species to be hunted.

Bulgaria: Pavel Yankov 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 letter of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic, respectively for the Convention implementation. The lady asked our help regarding the registration of birds of prey, improvement of monitoring of birds of prey and conservation and legislation implementation. She was planning to organize a training session on the subject.

Serbia: IAF was contacted by Stelodan Purvovi for 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 birds of prey.

Poland: I got the following request from our Polish delegate Janusz Skaliński: "The Ministry of Nature Conservation is planning a 3-yeary meeting on falconry with our opponents and the opponents to falconry try to persuade that is "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 in all Europe.

Ireland: Zdzislaw Nowak paid a visit to Belgium. IAF was asked for a "model" law to help legalise falconry in Ireland. Only one cent 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 completing about over regulation and asked IAF to recall a working group on ex-cite regulations in Europe. There is a proposal of reviewing the regulations and CITES fees. IAF's member was the co-chairman of a FARE working group (see separate report). A new Scottish House Board was formed to represent the interests of falconers and hawk-keepers residing in Scotland.

Now some short news from other member countries:

Belgium: (Wallonia region) is working on a new Law on Conservation of Birds. IAF helped the Belgian falconers to ask for the safeguarding to keep all birds of prey in the Flemish region. Belgium is working on a new law on animal welfare.

Lauch Kemball: It seems that a total ban of hybrids is proposed. Birdcatchers considered that 6 nests of eagles were robbed.

Germany: There is a proposal for a new law concerning hybrids; this law (draft of hybrid) will only be allowed during the hunting season. Effectively this will block hybridization during the hunting season and could be the beginning of the end of ex-cite hybrids existing in the wild. Germany is not planning to allow the issue of hunting the use of hybrids at a EU level.

Italy: A meeting was held with all the falconry associations with the purpose to begin them. The meeting resulted in the holding of a forum. Each club set of 11 agreed to join into a federation (provisional name is that of 2001). It was agreed that the Italian edition of the IAF would be our well-known friend Roberto Caprioli.

Spain: The two main Spanish organisations AEC and UDEECA are planning to merge. I would like to write an article for the UDEECA journal and to advise its activities. I would like to see the recent raptor's magazine TROPEO.

One member Alberto (name) told us that his region (Autonomia) has now the best hunting-season for falconry in Spain partly due to their very good relations with the legal 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 desarrollo sustancial de la Ley de caza actual (Ley 4/2001) se debe a la voluntad y el interés de los falconeros en España, que han sido capaces de lograr un acuerdo con las autoridades competentes en materia de caza raptor."

Como observará, este texto menciona, a nuestra Región, la mejor Onda de caza de todo España, y como de más, nos van a dar un reconocimiento que mencionamos con nuestra Administración. Los excelentes resultados, mencionados con el nombre de la Administración de documentación de nuestro acuerdo con la IAF, ya nos están en serio de "nos van a dar" ya.

I congratulate the Spanish falconers association for publishing

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

Austria: After a long absence on the international falconry scene, it is again active with a new Board for its association and a new IAF delegate, a young lawyer Herryg Hooft. Herryg 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 raptors, biodiversity, conservation and game management.

Estonia: Irénege Sierguta is probably one of our most prolific correspondents. Irénege, a capital biologist, is an active correspondent to two discussion groups by email: Raptors Biology group and the Asian Raptors Research and Conservation Group. Newsco and keeps me informed about raptor biology and raptors. Founder and moderator of RaptorsBiology group (http://www.MidwayNature/BRC/rtforum/rtforum.html) from Turkey and of Asian Raptor Research and Conservation Network (ARRCN) is Mrs. Marika Michijima (e-mail: michijima@niij.jp) from Japan.

Georgia: delegates were planning to bring as 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 Falconers 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 prey animals.

India: IAF was contacted by the President of the Falconry Association telling me that falconry is being introduced there in Quebec. He got in touch with me because he knows that I speak French.

EU: The Falconry Union is working on a new starting system. Tom Richter sent me a new German proposal and here are the ones of France:

- Name of the country issuing the order
- Year (eg 01 for 2001)
- Inside diameter of ring (purpose of this diameter of raptors is placing a close ring when the bird is growing; this diameter is supposed to have a maximum inside diameter)
- Identification of the association which delivered the ring
- Identification of the keeper/keeper
- Social number (eg 087)

The purpose of this new starting system is probably to have a better control of wild birds. This would also enable us, if a lost bird is recovered, to identify the country where it is from, the year, the association which delivered the ring and the breeder, then through the breeder providing the keeping records to the counterkeeper or else.

Tom Richter provided me information about a new IATA

regulation:

FARE: Our representative, Hermann Döllinger attended the conference organized in Hamburg (UK) for the 20th anniversary of the European Commission. Director of the Conservation of Wild Birds (1960/EFC) commonly referred to as the "Barns Directive". We had several contacts with FARE concerning a paper that they considered, 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 used to justify the taking small numbers of raptors for use in falconry. However, over the period of the Directive, there have been certain advances in the captive breeding of birds of prey. These followed examples of captive breeding results in 1996 in Britain. The conclusion was: Captive breeding thus provides a really alternative to the need, if not the desire, to take birds from the wild for falconry."

Our representative, Hermann Döllinger, perceived this to be a considerable oversimplification of a very complex conservation issue. However, to minimize 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.

FARE Advisory Committee reviewed the issue on receipt of Hermann's copy of the meeting. We decided that since the paper with a sentence that indicated releasing cooperation between bodies with different conservation interests, it might be appropriate to seek something more innovative, in terms of providing support for increased conservation contribution from falconry through sustainable use. After all, Europe is far more populated than any other region and therefore has a more diverse population of raptors. We therefore suggested a rewording of the last sentence but the same result didn't work and we reached another line.

The new text continued to imply that most falconers in the EU fly raptors as birds of prey. This is misleading. In most parts of Europe, raptors are used for hunting with Accipiters, Buteos and eagles than with falcons. The reason is that training and flying falcons requires more open country that is available in most places. Some are published reports to show that to acknowledge any possible cooperation 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 will then to correct the draft and write:

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

I face sought a substitute for their Research Assistant Karin Menec; we spread the information out 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 5000 e-mails and sent about

the same number of answers.

4th 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 any influence to the health – a much higher age than birds of prey in nature. The birds are feeling good, it is animal fair, to keep the strong relationship to the falconer consistent. Disorders in behaviour cannot be found.

A bird of prey in its natural habitat only flies for looking for food or protecting his territory or for mating. The rest of his life is spent on the nest or on its lookout sentry. Thus, his energy consumption stays low and the danger of an attack by a predator is minimal. A trained bird during the training and the hunting, learns to fly and to hunt as long as a wild bird. It can obtain the power and the confidence to be a successful hunter only through regular flying training.

The training of a falcon is not a struggle and it has to take place without coercive measures and without punishments. 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 training. 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.

As over fled bird of prey does not hunt in nature, but 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, one would like to know: "What if a bird of prey weakened by hunger would never see the falconer in a healthy state?"

Falconry is not purpose hunting. A purpose hunting is the game prey, exhausted through a long pursuit, which doesn't have anymore. With falconry, the following takes only a few seconds. Therefore, the game prey is immediately as soon as the game results over.

The game knows the bird of prey from its natural prey and reacts to it with typical avoiding behaviour.

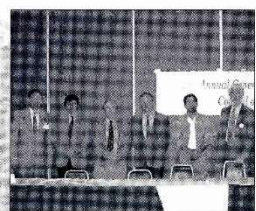
Falconry is selective, with high probability to only take game and escape. Ill game is preferably captured. The result is a natural selection and the spreading of illnesses in the population of the prey gets stopped. With falconry the case that an ill prey escapes and dies slowly, practically does not 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 purpose hunting.
- 6. Falconry is the most natural, animal- and environment-protective way of hunting, to conditions it is irrefutable for the welfare of animals would be wrong.



7. Treasurer - report

2000 Income	
Balances 31-12-1999 (audited forward)	605,11
Members contribution	15.792,20
Donations income	653,80
Total	17.051,11
2000 Expenditure	
Secretary	2.683,90
Traveling expenses and accommodation	9.194,59
Subscriptions	-
Donations	-
Bank charges	346,05
Non recurring expenditures	-
Total	12.224,54
2000 Balance	4.826,57

IAF 2000 MEMBERS FEES						
Country	N° memb	1999 FFES	2000 fees	Amount paid by your club in 2000	Balance	Obs.
Croatia	13		172,75	172,99	0,20	
Slovenia-SSDH	14	174,50		-174,50		
Slovenia-SDK	15	176,25	155,44	20,81		
Sweden	15		176,25	176,25	0,00	
Lithuania	21		186,75		-186,75	
Portugal	25		187,75	193,75	0,00	
Italy	28		199,00	199,00	0,00	
Belgium- BVVH	33	207,75		207,75	0,00	
Denmark	33		207,50	211,25	413,75	0,00
Japan	42		221,50			paid in 1999
Spain-Altavieso	55	246,25	246,25	0,00		2001 paid
Belgium- CMB	57	249,75	249,75	0,00		
Ireland	62		248,50	258,50	0,00	
Switzerland70		272,50		282,50		
Poland	120		410,00		-410,00	
Hungary	120		410,00	410,00	0,00	
South Africa- SAFA	131	429,25		429,25		
Netherlands	140	462,50	445,00	17,50		
Switzerland- IIC	150	467,50	467,50	0,00		
Spain-ABC	150	467,50	467,50	0,00		
Austria	180		512,00	509,44	-5,56	
France	210		617,50	617,50	0,00	
Slovakia	232		656,00		-656,00	
Welsh H.C.	245	678,75	678,75	0,00		
Czech Republic	421	936,00	936,75	936,00	-86,75	
Germany	1.000	1.000,00	2.000,00	2.000,00	0,00	
British F.C.	1.105	3.296,25	3.296,25	3.296,25	0,00	
AVFA	5.710	8.565,00	8.565,00	8.565,00	0,00	
Total	7.318	14.938,50	18.096,50	15.992,20	-3.179,30	

19 Countries with 1999 fees delay

2000 Fees
 <100 members: 150Euro per club (25Euro per member)
 100 to 200 members: 200Euro per club (1,35Euro per member)
 >200 members: 250Euro per club (1,75Euro per member)

	Total received until:	03-Jan-01	15.992,20
	Total to receive:		3.179,30
	Total fee amount 2000:		18.096,50

Donations

		483,80
Gilles Notier		483,80
Pennington Valkenswaard	Bebouw project	170,00
Total	Date	653,80

Report to accept the treasurer report by UK and seconded by Germany - accepted unanimously.

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

Tim Kinnair 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 Kinnair	Gilles Notier, Tom Richter
Constitutional/Custom	Frank Boed	Hansjohannes, Frank Boed, Gilles Notier
Development of Strategy	Patrick Mercet	Frank Boed, Tom Richter
Finance	Antonio Gutierrez	Frank Boed, Gilles Notier, Jose Manuel Rodriguez Villaverde
Hybrids	Frank Boed	José Manuel Rodríguez Villaverde, Hansjohannes, Tom Richter
Miscellaneous	Anthony Crosswell	Hansjohannes, Tom Richter, Gilles Notier, Hansjohannes
Marketing/Events	Pauline Boed	Tim Kinnair, Frank Boed
Public Relations	VF Tom	Anthony Crosswell, Gilles Notier, Hansjohannes
Eastern European & Asia Issues	VF Tom	Frank Boed, Hansjohannes, Tom Richter
Middle Eastern	Tim Kinnair	Frank Boed, Hansjohannes, Tom Richter
Scientific/Scientific	Robert Espartero	Robert Espartero, Gilles Notier
CTIBS	Anthony Crosswell	Frank Boed, Hansjohannes, Tom Richter
FCN	Robert Espartero	Frank Boed, Hansjohannes, Tom Richter
Work Commission	Robert Espartero	Hansjohannes, Tom Richter, Gilles Notier
FAU	Chairman de Costa	
CFE	Tom Richter	Gilles Notier



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

This year, apart from providing advice on falconry and conservation issues when required, I have represented IAF or reported to IAF on 5 meetings: Ibero Convention, Raposo 2000 in Portugal, World Conservation Congress in Amman, Hawk Report from RRF in Ipswich, and I have also been involved in 3 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 (FARPE) and an IUCN resolution.

The web site is upgraded to provide information to falconers and raptors, including links to club sites and other useful locations, and to provide an image of falconry and IAF to non-falcoons. The RRF very kindly helped through encouraging Roy Cooper to contribute the site, for which most of the written material had been prepared by Tony Crosswell, Tim Kinnair and myself. Roy also does a great job, though we've not finished yet. You can visit the site at www.falconry.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 19 September. It was adopted by consensus at that meeting for presentation to Council of the IAF.

The FARPE discussion paper arose as a result of concern about creating legislative restrictions to falconry, many of which serve no useful purpose in conservation and some worse than useless. It is a 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 Kinnair made the point that FARPE 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 Mercet. My responsibility was to advise, draft and gather support. The outcome, in terms of having 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

Date	Description	Value
14-03-2000	Telephone/secretariat	347,94
10-05-2000	Newsletter mailing cost	483,80
15-05-2000	Newsletter reprint	1.031,00
24-07-2000	Postcard/phone	243,83
10-08-2000	Postcard/phone	257,31
	Total secretariat expenses	2.663,90

Date	Description	Value
12-06-2000	CTIBS conference Nairobi	4.609,21
14-09-2000	AGM - Amarril	1.371,43
10-10-2000	AGM - Amarril	1.371,43
23-10-2000	IUCN - Amarril	1.842,52
	Total Travel/conference	9.194,59

Date	Description	Value
	Total subscriptions expenses	30,61

Date	Description	Value
	Total non recurring expenses	10,40

Date	Description	Value
	Total non recurring expenses	30,61

Date	Description	Value
03-02-2000	Commission	10,40
09-02-2000	Commission	10,40
15-02-2000	Commission	10,40
22-02-2000	Commission	10,40
03-03-2000	Commission	10,40
23-03-2000	Commission	31,61
23-03-2000	Commission	14,56
24-03-2000	Commission	10,40
24-03-2000	Commission	10,37
30-03-2000	Commission	30,61
10-04-2000	Commission	10,40
24-04-2000	Commission	10,40
28-04-2000	Commission	10,40
10-05-2000	Commission	10,40
15-05-2000	Commission	30,61
09-06-2000	Commission	10,40
12-06-2000	Commission	10,40
12-06-2000	Commission	51,05
16-06-2000	Commission	10,40
11-07-2000	Commission	30,97
11-07-2000	Combin lost	27,46
18-07-2000	Commission	10,40
20-07-2000	Commission	30,63
12-10-2000	Commission	24,83
18-10-2000	Commission resolution	-41,45
25-10-2000	Commission	24,83
	Total commission	546,05

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

Frank Boed wisely wrote the concept of sustainable use into IAF's constitution. The growing acceptance of conservation through sustainable use, which was emphasized in the Rio Convention on Bio-diversity and has been promoted 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-served by such 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 from Unacceptable to Terrible-Unclear-Indispensable from the border of Unacceptable to the border of Useful. Our challenge now is to secure falconry's future by moving further up the scale.

FAR report

Discussion led to changes and the final document reads as follows:
 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 protect the personal and professional of falconers" (Article 2.1.4). It is the duty of IAF to represent falconry throughout the world, as Article 2.1.1. IAF is also bound "to preserve and encourage falconry within the context of sustainable use of wildlife" (Article 2.1.1.4) to encourage conservation, the ecological and veterinary research on birds of prey and promote, under sound 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).

As a time global degradation through pollution, habitat loss and climate change, IAF wishes to ensure that falconry contributes maximally to conservation of raptors and prey, particularly the sustainable use of these raptor species. Moreover, a range of rapid loss of humanity's cultural heritage through globalization. IAF also earnestly desires to play, as full part as possible in the maintenance of the diverse and culturally important raptor species, particularly with animals. IAF desires to cooperate with all others interested in these goals of conservative falconry, cultural and industrial heritage.

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

1. apply legal regulation only where there is real risk to wild raptors or to falconry;
2. reduce bureaucracy to a level commensurate 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 practice;
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 Amarril, 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 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 offspring are the wild is race. 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. minimum efforts be made to recover any hybrid that is lost; and
5. hybrids should never be deliberately released.

We ask IAF members clubs to bring these considerations to the attention of raptors world-wide. We accept that individual clubs may feel obliged to release raptors. However, we strongly believe that self-regulation is preferable to regulatory intervention. In this light, we appreciate a growing tendency of falconers at 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 Amarril, Texas on 21 November 2000.

10. Reports of the working groups

Finance committee was chaired by Frank Boed 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. Longways & shortings and the government dictates what species can be used on a traditional basis with bar on hybrid and crosses. Pheasant, partridge, duck, grouse, rabbit, hare, cross and magpies, deer and fox. Club meetings 2 per month paid for by the club. Every year an international meeting.

Re: 1 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 positive of falconry had been suspended for a certain 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.

Radical as well as scientific expressions have in our modern times on several occasions represented their willingness to avoid the disappearance of falconry.

The necessary protection of birds of prey would 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 realised 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), many 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 is so.

It was widely agreed that the conservation of birds of prey, do not imply the ban on falconry (birds of prey and falconers exist 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 Asian people fly their birds: it is different from the Arab traditioned hawking, Turkish Dabbi, Georgian, etc.

Within a country, different forms of falconry with links to other cultures; much depends on the type of game that is available on the landscape and on specific traditions.

If one of those forms of practicing 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.

Falconry in Slovakia

Patrick Moorl - President IAF

Atin Zuzana Jurickova

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

Sav.Richard, 20.01.2000

is the duty of everyone, especially of our governments to preserve the cultural heritage of their country. Excessively restrictive legislation 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 practicing falconry", including such parts of the tradition of falconry would probably result in that particular technique to die out.

The ban on Partridge hunting is certainly interfering with retention the form of practicing falconry called "waiting-on" or "auwachten" 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 "auwachten".

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

Prohibiting falconers to hunt doves would equally cause a cultural loss. Flying falcons at doves and corvids is a genuine hunting method to gain a more technique of pest control; it is even a very interesting form of falconry, which has been practised in the Netherlands for centuries as a very refined sport.

It has to be that the conservation of some species of game birds or game animal implies the alteration of the hunting pressure, although being minimal is the most frequent cause of decline.

Prohibiting falconry would equally cause 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 members of the IAF, we as the relevant authorities to allow falconers to continue hunting of partridges and doves.

Allowing falconers to do so is compatible with the provisions of international legislation about game conservation, it is equally compatible with the position expressed by international organisations whether governmental or non-governmental.

However, initial observations are that:

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

life-time license to individual falconers who demonstrate (1) basic or (2) master levels of competence. Cost to the government administration authority can be minimized 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 license 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 licensed, dead birds without further administrative requirement; additional licenses are required only to obtain from the wild those raptor species that are of conservation concern.

3. For raptor species of special conservation concern (conservation of source provides minimal administration, provided that individuals remain securely identifiable. Single-use rings (ie. metalized microtransponders ("microchips") have been used, but metal rings are completely secure. Secure identification is provided by DNA samples, but this is a costly procedure and repeated DNA tests are impractical. A combined "multi-use" system could be used, in which a DNA sample (ie. a feather) is deposited in a central data-base when the ring or transponder is applied. DNA testing of a second sample, pulled 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 the 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 Secretary 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 domesticated. The United Kingdom originally advanced such a system, including re-registration annually and with charges of ownership.

but still need 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, and other raptor keepers, and then if necessary to license of capture additional raptors from species of conservation concern.

If a mark-and-bank scheme is applied as source, loss cost markers can include closed rings that can only be fitted to growing nestlings for domestic bird 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 fine-market can be performed 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 program that is of general conservation benefit.

We commend your idea of a training seminar and would be happy to see Kenneth Co.ordinator Dr. Kennard to talk them on this matter. If required, he will also review for you the methods of releasing birds from wild raptor populations, which he has used for "polyphasic" raptor falconry and buzzards. His work included pheromone techniques, including long-life radio tagging, that would be of general interest to raptor biologists in your country, regardless of most expenses in Slovakia, on the understanding that you will accept the costs of his accommodation and meals.

We remain at your disposal for any further information.

With my best regards,

Patrick Moorl - President IAF

IS FALCONRY A LEGITIMATE ACTIVITY ?

IEC Economic and Social Committee
In its opinion of 25th May 1972, the Economic and Social Committee stated that falconry is a legitimate and ancient sport - some provisions should be made to allow the development of this "sport". Imposing to some forms of falconry excessively drastic restrictions without necessity would not be properly 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 legislative 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 of Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey. It follows as a matter of legitimate activity, the majority of the members of the IUCN would not have elected the IAF.

So the question "Is falconry a legitimate activity?" the reply must be YES. In view of that legitimate falconry deserves respect and protection, therefore it should be considered 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 their birds partridges and corvids... would have as a consequence that the contrasted practice of the traditional form of falconry called "waiting-on" or "auwachten" 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 1 denigrations to be granted for falconry. The Netherlands have ratified the said Convention on 20/06/1955.

EEC Directive 79/409

Art. 14 quotes explicitly falconry as an allowable hunting method.
Art. 8.1.c allows member-states to derogate to allow "other judicious use of some birds in small numbers". It follows as a judicious use? Yes.
The EC Commission in its explanations on the Directive about other judicious use "says "it may also include hunting some 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 agrees that the Contracting Parties derogate in favour of falconry.

Berchus Convention

The Berchus Overeenkomst op het gebied van de jacht could be interpreted as 10 June 1920 does not include falconry as a hunting method.

The Beschikking van het Comité van Ministers van de Berchus Overeenkomst van 2 October 1966 same as the previous means for hunting it does.

"voor België en Nederland kunnen eveneens worden toegestaan: 1. jachtovereenkomst".
(In Dutch: les oiseaux de proie)

The Beschikking van het Comité van Ministers van de Berchus Overeenkomst, M/99/9 of 25th October 1969 states:

1. Met inachtneming van het bepaalde in de Richtlijn 79/409/EEG en met name artikel 9 kunnen de Regulerende organen van het Verdrag in artikel 2 met betrekking tot in het wild levende vogels een limit over de vogelsoorten vaststellen.
2) andere wijzen van verstandig gebruik die met gemeenschappelijke overeenstemming zijn.

COMMENT
The Directive 79/409, the Bern Convention and the Berchus Overeenkomst all stress 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.

Derogation for falconry is compatible with the Directive 79/409, the Bern Convention, the Berchus 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 on the same subject, it is stated that the above mentioned derogations apply to wild birds that is also applicable to the Berchus Convention.

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 several legislations dealing with nature conservation, it is equally compatible with the position 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 have 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 Kennard and Herwig Hoefl. Other NGOs included PACE, the European 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 (1) discussion of a report on invasive alien species, (2) a workshop organized by the UK on issues arising from work to eliminate the introduced North American ruddy duck (*Oxyra jamaicensis*) that hybridizes with Eurasian white-headed ducks (*O. leucocephala*), and (3) objectives to the status assessment of the Convention. As always the meeting also provided opportunities to lobby delegates at various times when 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 of 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 Redirection of Terrestrial Vertebrates: a European Contribution to the Invasive Alien Species Issue" was presented by Dr. Paulo Goncalves, as chair of IUCN/SSC Invasive Specialist Group. This document recommends a precautionary approach "gently but proven necessary", with risk assessment for each species, resulting in a three-tier system with 1) "black list" species whose importation is prohibited; 2) "grey list" species whose importation is 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 type of the species, its specific purposes (research, public exhibition, etc.) as well as the holding facilities to contain the animals have been inspected and approved. IAF has to be very careful what this might mean in respect to falconry. Paulo Goncalves was happy to listen to feedback from work on squirrels, which provided the opportunity to make precautionary small changes in wording of his report and for joining the IUCN Specialist Group.

It was useful that Herwig Hoefl was able to attend the meeting this year on his way home from Antalya. The benefit of his presence 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 mentioned 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. 13(200) in the "Strategy for the 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 diversity". Two indicators and monitoring of biological diversity, "invasive alien species" and "biological diversity in farmed ecosystems" into the work of the Convention.

Opportunity was taken to develop friendly contacts with representatives from Denmark, Norway and Finland. Following comments from Antonella, she was also asked to speak with representatives of Estonia, Lithuania and Slovakia 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 (1) encouragement of Parties to support identification of agriculture fire risk, (2) ruddy duck reports, (3) suggestions for the improving funding possibilities for the Convention through developing work to improve sustainability and (4) praise for UK and French governmental 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 raise his objections and mention only "problems in Sweden from other species" instead of "in Europe" without (to our great relief) specifying any.

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

Robert Kennard & Herwig Hoefl

15.10.01

IMPLEMENTATION IN SOME COUNTRIES

Belgium

The "Vlaamse Geneeschap" - Crows and Magpies may be controlled by means of birds of prey.
The "Region Wallonie" 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

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 Red Throats, to Raptor Populations", in exchange for accommodation, which included breakfast in exchange for transporting their commercial stand. The meeting had about 120 participants from most European countries, and as far afield as the Philippines, although Israel had refused visas to Russian participants. Presentations were generally of a high standard, in sessions on Vulture, Kestrel & Buzzard, Ecotoxicology, Falcons, The Lesser Kestrel and Population Trends and Conservation Strategies, Migration, Owls and Molt/Adult Ecology. With Jeremia Farty-Jours, 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 focus of the conference was on the Red Throat, a species of goshawk that has been introduced to Britain, where it is thought the falconers had introduced goshawks to Britain so that they could harvest them illegally. I responded with the comment that I could not 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 falcons and help from falconers is worrying. The other indication of a growing unfavourable attitude was a paper by Peter Lindberg regarding cases of breeding by hybrid falcons in the wild. At a small workshop following the

presentation, Jeremia 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. Jeremia 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 responsibly but also have much more control over events than if we have a review carried out 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 RREF: Raptor Regulations for an European (Europe) for such a review. Jeremia felt that if we wish to do that, we should start with a workshop of invited participants (biologists, ecologists, and falconers) before the Bern Convention meeting. We could then formally convene under the auspices of the Bern Convention.

Convening in 2001, to make proposals for ratification under the Convention. I do not welcome the work that this would involve. However, I feel that if we do not take an initiative aimed at strengthening falconry, we will shortly have to spend the same effort dealing negatively without the opportunity to make any improvements in our situation. What do you all think?

Robert Kinnaird, robert.kinnaird@freemove.co.uk

Report on IUCN's 2nd World Conservation Congress

The sakerfalcon committee, chaired by David Mead, and its members Ferrante Pratesi, Gillye Marler and Robert Kinnaird would like to record a major success. The 2nd World Conservation Congress of IUCN (the World Conservation Congress) was held in Amman in Jordan during 4-11 October 2000, and involved 1000 delegates from 110 countries. The main focus of the congress was the saker falcon. The draft of a resolution, prepared by the Advisory Committee, required wide international support and replaced below as the now accepted IUCN resolution CNV007.

It was good relations of committee members with the IUCN staff groups, heads of intervention for the Raptors and Falconry, the Protection des Oiseaux, that turned a public relations problem into a triumph. IFO were preparing action, as a result of contact with African bird organisations, on use of akaris to treat hawks and other birds. IAF persuaded them not to proceed with as a risk through BirdLife International (BLI), 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 akaris.

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, more 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

approval for the RRF and get 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's conservation status has improved remarkably in the last 15 years. During the first three quarters of its life, which started in 1948, it was primarily an agency-based nature conservation organisation that straddled an often-tenuous fence from NGO to government members. During the late 1980s it started also to embrace the theme of sustainable development, largely because development was seen as a requirement to cooperation of many species. This resulted in far greater funding for IUCN from rich 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-conservation and increased engagement in international politics. Some of the new environmental NGOs have a quite strong protectionist bias, although others represent indigenous peoples with a strong ethic of sustainable use. The result is that the result of our 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 Taraway (head of delegation) and Robbie Robinson (previously SAVA 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 Sustainable Use Specialist Groups (kindly organised by Robb Sharp CB of European SWSG) and moral support from our co-sponsors FACU (Dr Yves Leveau) and African Resources Insti (Dr John Harro). 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 usually spoke to accept the revised draft (after considerable discussion and explanation helped by Dr Arthur Lindley of ESSCA). 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 IANPFC helped to draft the resolution) to turn a hostile motion on hunting hawks and birds into a constructive one that supported development of sustainable use. It was highly satisfactory that our resolutions favourable to sustainable use were approved. We kept a careful eye on two resolutions about introduction of wild 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 hawks resolutions, for what falconers are trying to achieve through sustainable use, is another milestone beyond the "falconry poster". Indeed, our saker resolution beats that earlier attempt, by recognizing a "tamper-proof" mark-and-bank" way to implement life-time electronic passports and an innovative "joy to share" 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 conservationists, to improve the treatment of falconry by the international community. A falconry association is now being formed in the United Arab Emirates, and IAF can look forward to being able to welcome its first member clubs in the Middle East.

Robert Kinnaird, Research Coordinator 19-10-2000



IUCN Resolution CGR2.CNV007. Conserving the Saker Falcon

RECOGNIZING that the Saker Falcon is a migratory species that has been introduced as a high value natural resource for traditional falconry;

NOTING that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a prominent National Commission for Wildlife Research and Development, extensive practice 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 ecosystems 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 distribution of electronic markers with DNA analysis could be used to monitor populations and their areas, through traditional trapping, to enable conservation of breeding sites through provision of nesting and roosting sites of falcons;

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 IUCN 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, so:

- monitor populations and estimate sustainable yields;
- regulate procurement and international movements with minimal administrative costs; and
- motivate conservation of the species and its habitats throughout its range.

33rd Annual General Meeting of the IAF 2001

Venue:

Penwood Hotel
Woodhall Spa
Lincolnshire
UK

NOTE: Woodhall Spa is a small country town in South Lincolnshire approximately 120 miles from 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 12:00hrs
- Tuesday 2 October - Annual General Meeting start 10:00hrs
Registration for Field Meeting
Dinner 19:30 talk by Clarius Dixon Wright
- Wednesday 3 October - 09:00hrs, registration for IAF Meeting 10:30hrs, Opening of RPF Field Meeting by Clarius Dixon Wright
- Wednesday 20 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.

- Penwood Hotel - Phone 01526 352411 - special room rates £42 per person, dinner bed and breakfast.
- Gold Hotel - 01526 355535 - 665 - 677
- Dovecote House Hotel - 01526 52588 - £35 - £48
- Eagle Lodge Hotel - 01526 3523231
- Pitch Away Guest House - 01526 352969
- Village Innis - 01526 253312 - £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 IUCN newsletter.

Contacts

The BFF officer nominated for co-ordination of foreign visitors to this event is:
Dave ROWMAN
Telephone 01227 262548 E-mail: drowman@zeenet.co.uk

Or

Anthony Crosswell - IAF Secretary
Tel: +44(0)1235 671 394 E-mail: gycross@freemove.co.uk

