



“Preserving Our Falconry Heritage”

Heritage

e-Newsletter

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Introducing Dr. Javier Ceballos Associate for Spain

6th in a Series: Archives Associates

— written by Marta Curti, Field Biologist,
The Peregrine Fund

Armed with binoculars and a great deal of curiosity for nature, a young boy sets out on a journey into the Spanish countryside with his father. Thirty years later, this boy, Javier Ceballos, grew up to become one of Spain's most pre-eminent falconry experts and conservationists. Raised to value both the wonder and the science of our natural world — a tradition that has been passed down over many generations in the Ceballos family — Javier spent his childhood always yearning for more. While watching birds through binoculars and reading about them in books was satisfactory, he wasn't content with being just a spectator of nature. His keen interest (quickly becoming a passion) in the finer details of what makes a bird led him to the ancient art and sport of falconry.

Spending most of his time in his birth-place, Madrid, where he now lives with his wife, Ana, and four children, Álvaro, Borja, Santiago, and Julieta, falconry offered him the opportunity to leave modern-day cares behind, at least for a few hours, and to spend quality



Dr. Ceballos with curator emeritus Kent Carnie
at the Heritage Tent at the Festival of Falconry
— photo by Peter Devers

time bonding with his Goshawk. But falconry also forges the man. Dr. Ceballos views falconry as a privilege — one earned through hard work, knowledge, patience, passion, loyalty, humility, and determination. These same qualities necessary to becoming a good falconer have guided him in his work as an author, photographer, lecturer, teacher and film-maker.

Armed once again, this time with camera and computer, Dr. Ceballos has dedicated much of his life to the conservation of birds of prey, to teaching new generations about raptors, and to keeping the

tradition of falconry alive. Using striking images he has taken in his journeys around the world, and prose something akin to poetry, Javier has written several articles and contributed photos for many books on the sport, including being the main photographer for the cd-rom collection *Fauna Ibérica de Félix Rodríguez de la Fuente*. He is also the author of two books: *Soltando Pihuelas, Conocimiento y Práctica de la Cetrería* (out of print) — a very well-documented treatise about falconry; and *Falconry: Celebrating a Living Heritage* — published in both English and Arabic. He also wrote and directed the documentary *Allies of the Air* which examines the culture and practice of falconry on four continents. In 2007 he received his Ph.D. from the Politécnica University of Madrid. His award-winning doctoral thesis was entitled *Falconry in Spain: historical evolution of the use of the Falconiformes species in falconry; arguments for its backing and considerations for its management*.

[continued next page...]

What Is An Archives Associate?

Associates of the Archives of Falconry are those volunteers who wish to promote the mission of preserving the physical history of falconry. They help in any way possible from doing research at libraries and institutions, participating in strategic planning, providing financial support, collecting and evaluating materials, cataloguing acquisitions, preserving historical documents, arranging exhibits, planning social activities, and representing the Archives at international events and festivals. Our Associates represent many nations where falconry was or is currently practiced. 🦅

He is a member of several organizations including the Spanish Society of Ornithology, the Spanish Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey, the Spanish Association of Nature Photographers, the Spanish Royal Society of Natural History, the Spanish Illustrious College of Geologists, the British Falconers' Club, and the Emirates Falconers' Club, among others.

In 2005, he joined an international working group to encourage the United Nations' Education, Science and Culture Organization (UNESCO) to recognize falconry as an Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH), which will guarantee its preservation and celebration across continents and generations. Most recently he has become Spain's Ministry of Culture's Delegate for Falconry. Dr. Ceballos has also been heavily involved with the Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage (ADACH) in the UNESCO's falconry multinational submission.

An important part of his work focuses on passing his knowledge of and passion for falconry and birds in general to those, young and old, who may not have had the opportunity to experience wildlife and wild places up close. Through the company, Avium, where he is director, he brings expert and novice birdwatchers, adults, families

and children together to further explore the world of birds through photography, bird watching and falconry. Using his skills as an educator, he trains teachers in environmental issues and, since 1992 has worked in the Adaja summer youth camp, which is dedicated to teaching young children about our natural world.

Dr. Ceballos is currently a guest teacher of falconry at the Politécnica University of Madrid's Forestry Engineers School. As a personal challenge, he is looking for resources and partners, to assist with the creation of the Chair of Falconry — a permanent department about falconry which will create an exchange of knowledge and facilitate the relationship between falconers at the local and international level. 🦅



A Message from J. Peter Jenny, President of The Peregrine Fund

I am very pleased to announce that Bob Collins has joined the volunteer ranks of The World Center for Birds of Prey as On-Site Falconer and Legal Advisor for The Archives of Falconry. Bob recently retired from the State of Alaska's Dept. of Law. For nearly twenty years he served as an Assistant District Attorney in Anchorage, Palmer, and Nome.

Prior to moving to Alaska, Bob practiced law in Illinois for fifteen years where he served as a legal aide to U.S. Representative Henry J. Hyde and as Assistant Attorney General and State's Attorney. In addition to his extensive experience in criminal prosecution and wildlife law, he has experience in Charitable Trusts and Solicitations, real estate, and contract law with an emphasis on art and intellectual property.

Bob has been an active falconer since 1961 and a strong supporter of The Peregrine Fund since its inception. Bob can be reached at his new e-mail address bcollins@peregrinefund.org. 🦅



Guess Who? (9th in a series...) Can you identify this falconer?

For answer, see below:

Jim Nelson Rice II, 1913-1989, famous Philadelphia falconer and Assateague legend, here with noosed passage Peregrine. The original Archives of Falconry wing was named after him.

Previous issues of Heritage newsletters are available online:
www.peregrinefund.org/american_falconry.asp#heritage



My first sight of the tiercel flying over the dunes.
—Photo by Rob Palmer.

January 28, 2008

Chief, Division of Migratory Birds
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 634
Arlington, VA 22203-1610

Dear Sir,

I would like to submit the following comments concerning the Draft Environmental Assessment and Management Plan (DEA) for take of migrant peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus*) in the United States for use in Falconry.

I have been an active falconer since 1963 and began working for The Peregrine Fund in March of 1976 to the present time as a raptor biologist. I personally supervised the release of over 2,000 captive-bred *anatum* peregrines in the western US from 1978 through 1997 when The Peregrine Fund quit releasing peregrines. Through the years I have been involved in numerous trapping and banding studies involving migrant peregrines on the gulf coast of Texas where there have been dramatic increases in the numbers of migrating peregrines observed through the years. I have also participated in many of The Peregrine Fund studies of nesting peregrines on the West Coast of Greenland where numbers of nesting pairs have also increased dramatically through the years. The recovery and eventual delisting of the peregrine falcon in the United States in 1999 represented the most successful species restoration effort in history. All states have far exceeded the original recovery goals and peregrines are found nesting throughout the world in numbers far greater than were ever known historically. For these reasons I believe that the trapping of migrant immature for use in falconry is totally justifiable.

Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment on the proposed management plan.

Sincerely,
Bill

Editor's Note: For the first time in 40 years, beach trapping of passage peregrines was allowed recently in Texas and other states. We asked Bill Heinrich, Species Restoration Manager for The Peregrine Fund, to describe his successful experience in trapping a falcon.

The Drought Is Over!

by Bill Heinrich, Species Restoration Manager, The Peregrine Fund

First of all I would like to say how pleased I was to hear that all of our letters paid off. I had planned all along to be among the first falconers to apply for a Texas non-resident trapping permit as soon as it became legal, which I did immediately. On August 4th, 2009 I received a letter from Texas Parks & Wildlife stating that I had successfully drawn a permit. It was like winning the lottery! I have never had the chance to fly a passage Peregrine and this was an opportunity of a lifetime for me after having worked with Peregrines for over 40 years.

In mid-October I headed to the beach on South Padre Island. I was joined by photographer Rob Palmer who ended up taking some wonderful photographs of our trapping experience. I ended up keeping a dark tiercel with stunning yellow feet and perfect plum-



Several hours after being trapped, the hooded falcon is sitting calmly on my fist.
—Photo by Steve Thompson



The falcon spots the bait and makes his initial stoop.
—Photo by Rob Palmer.

age which was just what I had hoped for. From the beginning I planned to continue the age-old tradition of just borrowing this falcon from nature for a single season before seeing him return to the wild and hopefully begin producing offspring as perfect as himself. For this reason I could never give him a name. I was able to fly this beautiful bird for a little over four months and it was one of the best falconry experiences that I have ever had.

As the weather became nicer near the end of February I began flying him without telemetry, bells, or jesses. On a beautiful spring-like day, we parted ways as he went up out of sight and did not return. The wonderful thing about flying a passage bird has always been the mystery of where they came from and where they will end up going. Something tells me that this Peregrine must have come from a wonderful place. I will be applying for another permit one of these years. 🦅

The last photo of my partner taken just before we parted ways.
—Photo by Joell Brown.



2010 Rendezvous Report

Hans Peeters Exhibit

The Spring Rendezvous attracted more than 75 falconers, friends, and relatives. Artist Hans Peeters and his wife, Pam, were present along with 30 of his paintings of birds of prey representing a lifetime of art. Several of his works of art were purchased by avid collectors.

During the ceremony of remembrance the lives of eight falconers were honored in tribute and with shared anecdotes: Michael L. Cox, Chris Garber, Dylan Dewey Hopkins, J. H. M. "Hans" Pieters, William J. "Bill" Shinnars, Dana R. Struthers, Lou Woyce, and Jack C. Young. 🦅



Artist Hans Peeters chats with author Ed Pitcher
—photo by Jim Hansen



For one day only, the world's largest exhibition of Hans Peeters' paintings of birds of prey



Doug Pineo shares fond memories of Chris Garber



Curator John Swift leads the assembly in a sharing of remembrances and a minute of silence