

Newsletter

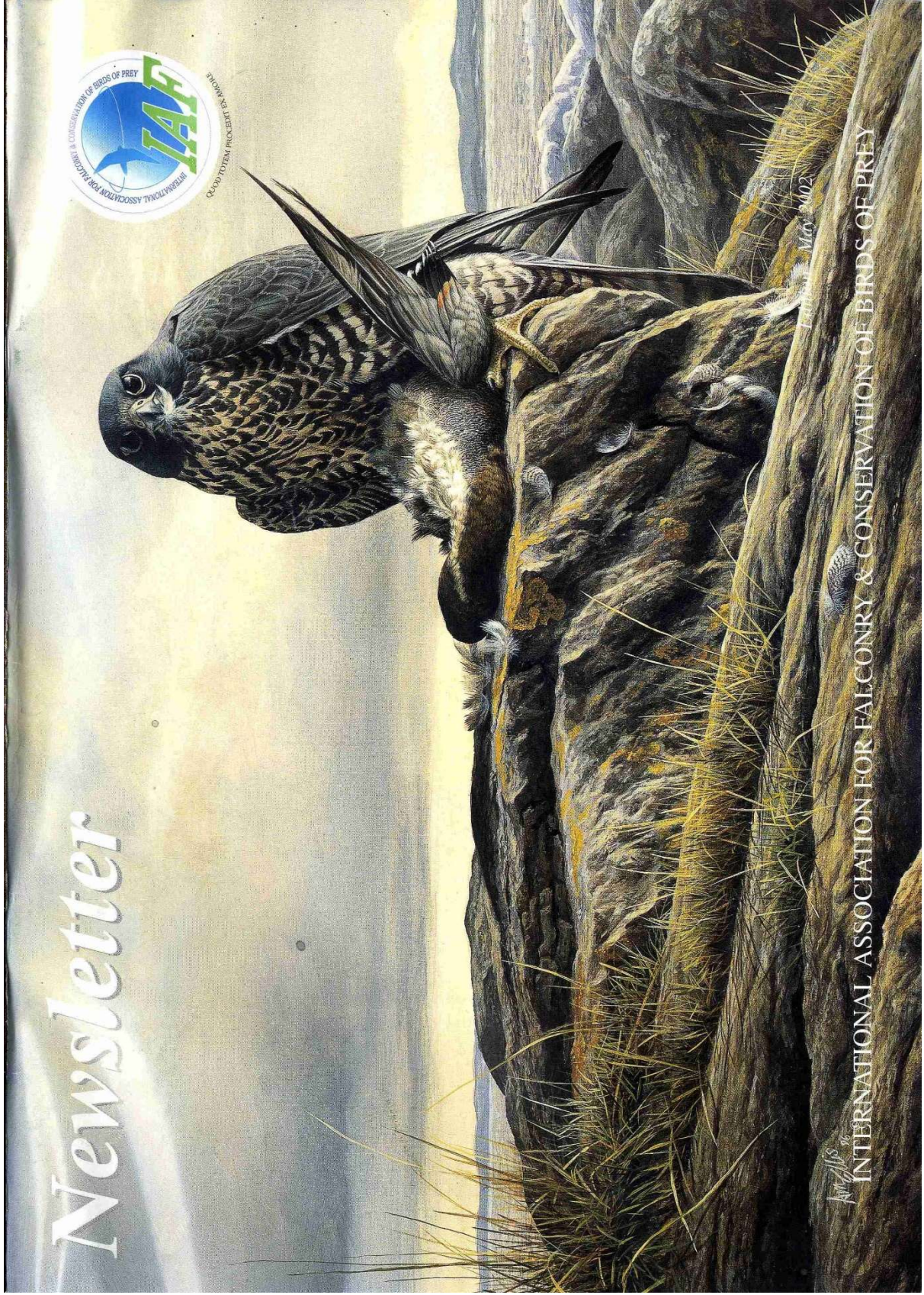
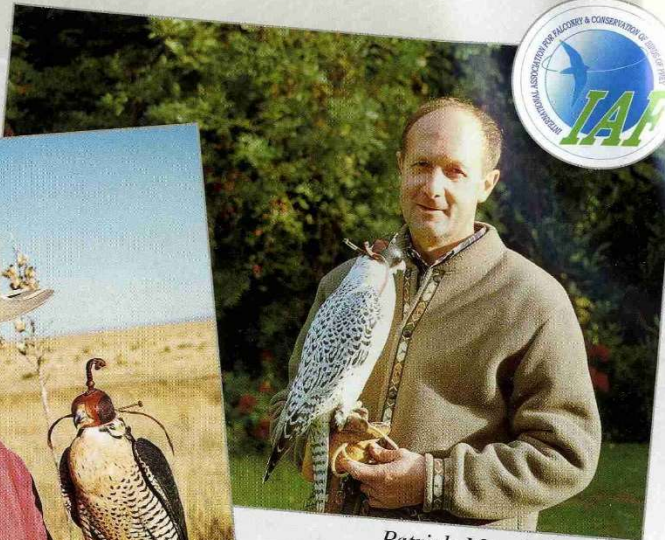
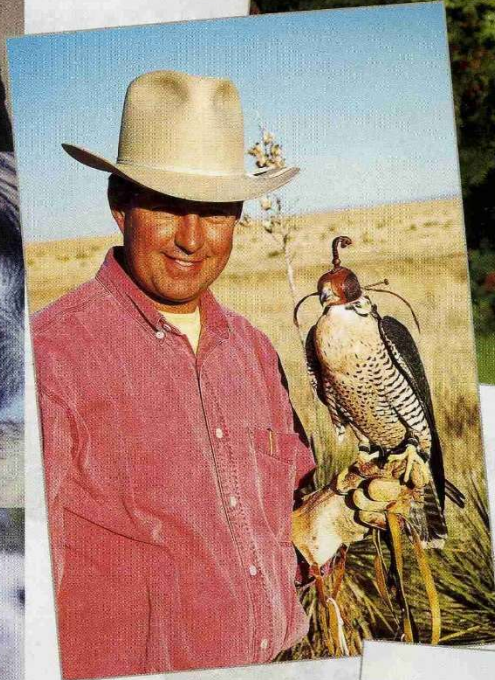


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Articles by the INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR FALCONRY & CONSERVATION OF BIRDS OF PREY



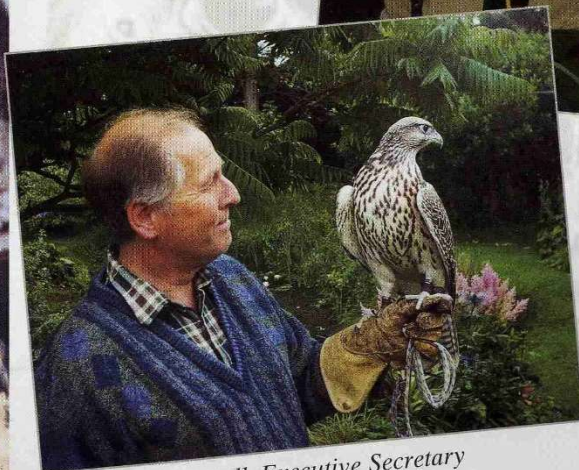
Patrick Morel, President



*Frank Bond,
Vice-President*



*Antonio Carapuço,
Portugal*



Anthony Crosswell, Executive Secretary



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New Website address : www.I-A-F.org

EDITOR'S FORWARD

It was with great sadness and disappointment that the 2001 AGM of the IAF had to be cancelled due to the presence of Foot & Mouth disease in the UK. This was a massive nation-wide infection that cost many farmers their way of life and business. Of course falconers support the farming community as we depend on their goodwill and generosity for us to be able to practice our sport. World-wide there seems to be an ever increasing rift between those concerned with our countryside and those who dwell in our cities and towns. Many people have an ever increasing detachment from nature and what we as falconers all assume to be second nature. In the UK in 2001 the ravages of Foot & Mouth disease were quite horrendous as lessons from previous outbreaks were forgotten in the face of new political priorities. The sadness and pain in our country communities was palpable, many will never recover.

Much of our work in the IAF can be seen as an effort to bridge the gap between differing cultures and values. The city dweller who wants to live in harmony with those in the country needs information on which to base his judgements. The IAF helps to bring understanding in many circumstances. Falconry is an age old tradition with eternal values that most people would want to sustain. Rooted in history the way of life of today's falconer has much in common with other aspects of many cultures in the modern world. The vitality and wellbeing of our sport is a barometer of the sensitivity of mans conservation effort and his humanity towards his fellows.

Falconry is a traditional sport. 'The Confederate Hawks of Great Britain' was formed in about 1770 with the Earl of Orford as President. In 1772 Col Thornton became manager for 9 years when the Earl again took over until his death in 1792. The Confederate Hawks then passed into the management of Major Wilson of Didlington Hall, close to the Norfolk-Suffolk border. Major Wilson later became Lord Berners. The hawks were kept at High Ash and flown mainly at Heron. Didlington was in effect a centre of activity since the heron nesting colony was on the estate near the main house and still survives to this day. The flight at heron had been traditional and was revived by this small club. They employed professional falconers and costs were met by the subscriptions of the members so that this early organisation was providing falconry as a spectator sport.

Lord Berners died in 1838 and the Falconers Club came to an end after nearly 70 years. Falconry then survived in England through Edward Clough Newcombe of Feltwell Norfolk: under the management of Newcombe the Loo Club was formed to hawk herons in Holland with about 30 members in 1839. It continued until 1853.

In 1863 The Old Hawking Club was formed with seven members. The Hon Cecil Duncombe, Lord Lilford, The Maharajah Dhuleep Singh, Mr Amherst, Col Brooksbank, A E Knox and Edward Clough Newcombe. It is evident that at least four of the members were close neighbours in Norfolk with estates covering the ground flown over by the falcons of the club. The club was to fly rooks on Salisbury plain, grouse in Perthshire and organise an occasional flight at heron in Norfolk. The Old Hawking Club lasted for 62 years

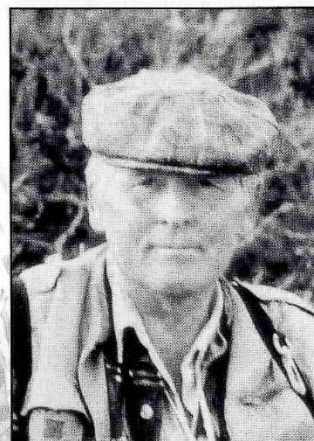
In 1926/7 a few surviving UK falconers worked hard to revive from the ashes of the Old Hawking Club a new organisation given the name of The British Falconers Club.

British falconry's roots have caused traditions to be carried from history into the present day and enabled us to share feelings unchanged for centuries. For instance, King Henry VIII is known to have flown hawks over the same land as today I hawk partridge - a sobering thought of a winters evening as I pick up my tiercel while golden plover circle above, seeking to roost on the fresh turned plough.

This year 2002 is the 75th anniversary of the founding of the British Falconers' Club. The BFC is honoured to be the host for the 33rd AGM of the International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF): they will join us at our International Field Meeting in Woodhall Spa in October this year. Planning is well advanced and we all look forward to welcoming foreign visitors from some 34 member countries.

Today, falconers can be proud of how we have contributed to the survival of our sport. Throughout the world members fly hawks of great quality of flight; hawks of which our ancestors would have been proud, even envious. 'Those who are like us are damned few and they're all dead' was the toast provided by the Scottish Regional group at this years BFC Spring meeting! It is a wonderful feeling to cast a fly on the river Wissey at Diddlington knowing that overhead the members of the Confederate Hawks of Great Britain and the Old Hawking Club saw magic in the air. As we carry our traditions into the future of our sport we can be proud of our way of life.

Anthony Crosswell - Exec. Secretary IAF, President BFC



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Notice of Annual General Meeting 2002

33rd Annual General Meeting of the IAF

Below is notice to the members of the IAF for information, hotels etc for the AGM at Woodhall Spa in October.

The designated co-ordinator of foreign visitors is Dave Bowman.

You may wish to book your accommodation. This notice is issued to the membership at the time of publication of the BFC Newsletter.

Anthony Crosswell
Executive Secretary IAF
phone +44 1379 677 296

Venue:

Petwood Hotel, Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire, UK

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

Dates:

Monday 7 October - meeting of the Advisory Committee 10.00hrs.

Tuesday 8 October - Annual General Meeting start 10.00hrs

Registration for Field Meeting

Dinner 19.30 with talk.

Wednesday 9 October - 09.00hrs. registration for Field Meeting

10.30hrs. Opening of BFC Field meeting

Wednesday 9th to Saturday 12th October - flying as directed by the organising committee

Saturday 12th October - 19.00hrs Dinner, Raffle, Speeches and closure.

Contacts and booking for accommodation.

The Petwood Hotel has made the following offer in a letter to the

BFC. The hotel will not accept direct bookings that week and preference will be given to those wishing to stay for all five nights.

"The entire hotel is booked for the BFC from Tuesday 8th October 2002 for 5 nights. We can offer your members a special rate of £42.00 per person per night, including accommodation, English Breakfast and Dinner on each night with the exception of Saturday night when the formal dinner takes place. The rate for Saturday night is £35.00 per person including breakfast. These rates apply to guests occupying a single room or sharing a double or a twin room. Should a single person occupy a double room there will be an additional charge of £15.00 per room per night. Our executive rooms also carry an additional charge of £15.00 per room per night. We also offer a special package for guests staying all five nights. The package costs £180.00 including breakfast and dinner each night, except Saturday. This represents an over 10% discount (Single and executive supplements apply)."

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

OTHER HOTELS ETC.

Golf Hotel - 01526 353535 - £65 - £77

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

Eagle Lodge Hotel - 01526 353231

Pitch Away Guest House - 01526 352969

Village Limits - 01526 353312 - £27 - £60

Falconers and hawks

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

Contacts

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

Dave BOWMAN,
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AGM Agenda

1. New member candidatures - presentation and election.
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of last AGM
4. President - report
5. Vice-president for the Americas report
6. Vice-president for Europe, Africa, Asia & Oceania report
7. Treasurer - report
8. Report by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee
9. Report of the Research Coordinator
10. Reports of the working groups (finance, hybrid, saker & houbara).
11. Delegates reports -
12. Any Other Business
13. Consideration of offers to host the 2003 AGM.
14. Closure

Presidents report for 2001

This is my second report as President of the IAF. I'll try first to sketch how the IAF functions. The IAF entered the new millennium with a new and more democratic system of board in which the president is no longer an autocratic "one man show" but simply administers the board.

As President, I try to stand back and act more as an arbitrator or "whistle blower". My role is to oversee the work of the officers and AC members and keep them in line with the constitution.



Reorganisation of the AC. The IAF has now a transparent committee structure: a team of 13 volunteers, consisting of a board of 6 officers and an extended AC of 7 other members. It is not always an easy task to lead a team of 13 persons belonging to 9 different nationalities speaking 7 different languages and trying to have a calming influence between different languages, different cultures and sometimes very different viewpoints!

Soon after our AGM in Amarillo, I worked on the **Establishment and Tasking of the Working Groups**, in consultation with the AC. Here is a summary of the tasks undergone by the WG:

Business plan WG

Tim Kimmel chaired the WG that produced an efficient business plan, a set of guidelines to facilitate the AC function and provide a framework for conducting business remotely via e-mail.

Roughly, the IAF Advisory Committee consists of the IAF President, two Regional Vice-Presidents, Executive Secretary, Treasurer, Research Coordinator (board of officers), and seven other members. The AC functions primarily to provide advice to IAF Officers and Council and develop recommendations of procedure and policy.

Finances WG, led by Antonio Carapuço, worked on two themes – restructuring of the finances and funding. This WG proposed a reduction on IAF fees to benefit the smaller clubs and a possibility of exemption for associations belonging to countries facing economical problems.

Membership Liaison, Newsletter and Website WG, chaired by Tony Crosswell. Tony did a very good job producing a high standard newsletter and improving our website. There is ongoing updating of the web-site.

American Issues WG, chaired by Vice-president Frank Bond

Falconry schools proposal in the US: a letter drafted by Frank was sent on behalf of the IAF.

Harvesting of American peregrine falcons for falconry was permitted in 4 states.

A petition for the listing of the Goshawk on the Endangered Species List was denied

Several cases of sudden death of falconry hawks were reported and a call for help identifying these sudden death problems in captive birds was sent.

We could of course not forget the evil attack on America on 11 Sept 2001 and the international effects on our relations with Arab countries.

Goshawk Endangered Species Listing Petition was Denied

The Centre for Biological Diversity and 18 other environmental organisations had sued the Department of the Interior and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to force the listing of the northern goshawk in the US west of the 100th meridian as an endangered or threatened species. In a 36 page opinion, United States District Judge Helen J. Frye, US District Court for the District of Oregon, denied the petition on June 28, 2001, finding that "listing the northern goshawk in the contiguous United States...is not warranted because available information does not indicate that this population is in danger of extinction or is likely to become so in the foreseeable future."

The same attorney who sought to stop the peregrine harvest was the lead attorney for the plaintiffs in this case. The FWS legal team was lead by the same Department of Justice attorneys as well.

This was the third case brought by the plaintiffs to attempt to list the goshawk. The previous two resulted in the FWS forming a status review team to determine on the basis of the "best scientific and commercial data available" whether the goshawk deserved to be listed. The FWS went through a second 90-day finding that the listing may be warranted. The FWS review team then completed a massive study of the available scientific data. This process resulted in an FWS finding that the listing was not warranted. The plaintiffs sued FWS on the basis that their conclusion was erroneous, arbitrary and capricious.

European Issues: Vice-president Tom Richter

Foot and mouth disease in the UK, with some spread in Europe, coming shortly after BSE (mad cow disease) and the dioxin crisis, led the EU authorities to work on stricter sanitary measures for waste proposal and quarantine.

Animal Waste Proposal. Disposal of day-old chicks without making them available as a food for other species was proposed. A

letter was sent by IAF to the European Commission (CoE) asking to include falconry and breeders raptors among the derogations. The DFO in Germany, the CMB in Belgium and the Hawk Board in the UK sent similar letters to their governments. This common effort led the European authorities to recommend the inclusion of falconry raptors in the derogations.

Quarantine Decision (2000/666/EC): an exemption was asked for falconry birds accompanying their owner and possibility for the falconers to be exempted of the quarantine. Similar contacts with authorities were held in Belgium and Germany. Our wishes were accepted and falconry birds (up to 3) are exempted of the quarantine.

Animal Welfare: Tom Richter is keeping this issue under review. Tom held a seminar on "Ethics and hunting".

European Commission:

The EC organised a "green week" in Brussels 24-28/04/2001. Christian de Coune and Patrick Morel attended the most interesting workshops.

Patrick Morel and Christian de Coune met representatives of the CoE on 1 February 2002; the discussion was centred on the interpretation of the EEC 'Bird Directive'. Help of the IAF was requested for defining the notion of "judicious use".

BASS, chaired by Robert Kenward

A draft was accepted of a proposed strategy to falconry in the Baltic and Scandinavian States. As similar requests from countries asking access to the EU reached the IAF, it was decided to include further business within a new Falconry Regulations Working Group with the aim to provide guidelines for optimal falconry regulations (see next item, also Research Coordinator report).

Falconry regulations Working Group, chaired by Tom Richter

Most of the Eastern European countries candidates to the EU are under the process of reviewing their hunting and conservation laws with the risk of tightening of the hunting laws or even of banning falconry. As the new accession states to the European Union change their conservation legislation to comply with EU Directives, there is a need to ensure that new laws encourage rather than hinder conservation through sustainable use of wild resources.

IAF worked to organise a workshop, (first scheduled in February 2002 but postponed to autumn for practical reasons), on "Legislation to support conservation through sustainable-use: principles for falconry". This would be for delegates from EU Accession States plus representatives from NGOs (IUCN, WWF, Birdlife) that worked up the Amman resolution. The aim would be to discuss and ideally approve a set of regulatory principles, drawing on current best practise from Europe and North America, including some new ideas.

In view of extreme urgency for help in several states, Robert Kenward compiled a set of precedents, resolutions and guidelines for regulating falconry. After approval by the AC, REGUIDE was sent to following countries: Denmark, Poland, Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Slovakia. The Czechs asked for further help from IAF and we were able to react in a very short time-scale, to quote international positive precedents and help them with credentials of falconry world-wide.

UK rooks Working Group, chaired by Christian de Coune

The IAF was asked by its British member BFC to seek from the EU

authorities an official clarification of the wording "traditional" under Article 9 of the EU Bird Directive. Tony Crosswell wrote: "It has recently been discovered that the General exemption licences for 'pest species' in the UK do not include falconry so that rook hawking etc is without legal sanction and has been so since 1992." As the current General licence was expiring on 31 Dec 01, the legality of issuing General exemption licences for control of "pest" species by means of falconry was questioned.

Christian de Coune agreed to chair this Working Group and made a deep study on the subject where it appeared that issuing licences for rook hawking or 'pest control' hawking was compatible and in accordance with the Bird Directive. Christian made an analysis of different court cases and produced extracts of judgements of the Court of Justice of the EC.

"Rook hawking does not need an exemption for pest control as Rook (*Corvus frugilegus*) is considered by the Bird Directive as a species that may be hunted in the UK. Directive 94/24/EC of 8th June 1994 extended the list of the species that may be hunted. Five species of corvids (plus starling) have been added to Annex II/1 and II/2. Article 7.3 of the Bird Directive states that "The species referred to in Annex II/2 may be hunted only in the Member States in respect of which they are indicated". The five corvids (Jay, Magpie, Jackdaw, Rook and Carrion Crow) are indicated in respect of the United Kingdom.

UK may then include those species in the relevant law that regulates hunting.

If UK does so, there will have to be defined hunting seasons for those species. The said seasons will have to comply with the provisions of article 7.4 of the Directive. Article 7.4 states amongst others that:

"Member States shall ensure that the practice of hunting, including falconry... complies with the principle of wise use ... not hunted during the rearing season nor during the various stages of reproduction... in case of migratory species... not hunted during their return to their rearing grounds...".

This means that the hunting season for Rooks must be closed during the breeding season and also a bit before the breeding season, the problem is that rooks start breeding quite early.

Spring hawking would not comply with the provisions on hunting of the Directive.

Spring hawking could be authorised on basis of article 9 of the Directive. Two possibilities exist:

1. to prevent serious damage to crops.
2. to permit other judicious use of certain birds in small numbers.

Solution 1 would require to prove that killing rooks is necessary for protecting crops and that "there is no other satisfactory solution". If this is proven to the satisfaction of the British authorities, the fact that birds of prey may be used for that purpose should logically not make difficulty.

Falconry is unequivocally admitted as a hunting method by article 7.4 "... the practice of hunting, including falconry if practised...".

The EC Commission considers falconry as a judicious use: "it may also include other use provided that this does not jeopardise the general objectives of the directive and it may include hunting using birds of prey in the context of falconry".

Solution 2 would require to convince the British authorities that killing some rooks during the rearing season or during the spring migration is a "judicious use of certain birds in small numbers". The Court of Justice of the European Communities has made an interesting judgement on 15th March 1990 against the Kingdom of

the Netherlands. I excerpt a part of it that applies quite well to this issue : "first complaint : species of birds which may be hunted. The Commission argues that a number of species which may be hunted under Articles 2 and 20 of the Hunting Law, are protected by article 7 of the directive, since they are not listed in Annex II thereto. The species in question are ... the rook...

(iv) Rook

The hunting of the rook, which is subject to the same rules as govern the hunting of the, was authorized by a regulation dated 24 February 1987 adopted by the competent Minister by virtue of the power conferred on him by Article 20(2) of the Hunting Law. However, it must be held that the provisions of that regulation comply with the various requirements for derogations authorized by Article 9 of the directive for the purpose of preventing serious damage.

Consequently, the complaint made in that respect must be rejected."

This part of the judgement is interesting because it admits that rooks may be hunted in order to prevent damages in spite they are not listed as game species. Hunting rooks outside the rearing season complies with article 7 of the Directive and controlling them to prevent serious damage has been judged as complying with article 9 of the Directive (in Holland).

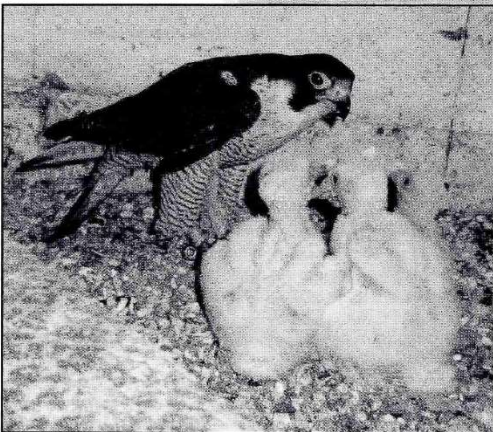
In another judgement, the Court of Justice has admitted "recreational purposes" as a reason for granting derogations; one could make use of the judgement in support of the fact that rook hawking could be authorised as having a recreational purpose. On basis of all this one could argue that :

1. Rooks may be listed in the UK as a game species and its hunting may be authorised outside the breeding season;
2. Rook hawking during the breeding season could be authorised on a strictly controlled manner, in small numbers etc... as a recreational and traditional activity.
3. Rook hawking during the whole year maybe authorised in order to prevent damages to crops, like it has been authorised in the Netherlands. A way of justifying this practice would be to refer to the fact that controlling rooks was allowed under the system of General Exemption Licences (whatever the method).

It might also be usefully referred to the Belgian legislation : Royal Decree of 9th September 1981 on the protection of birds in the Flemish Region, Article 4§1

"If there is no other satisfactory solution, following birds may be controlled, killed :

§3 for the control referred to in §1 one may make use of : b) con-



cerning Carrion Crows, Jays and Magpies -birds of prey of which the keeping is allowed by this Decree."

Ireland:

Our Irish member asked us to intervene because a report on the policy of the hunting on state-owned land by an ecology consultancy recommended banning falconry on state-owned lands. The comments to justify banning falconry on state lands were that there could perhaps be significant risks that falconry on state owned lands would disturb nesting birds and/or pose a risk of hybridisation if certain types of falcon escape.

The IAF wrote a letter as follows:

"Dear Minister,

The Irish Hawking Club has asked us to comment on a document by the Just Ecology consultancy, entitled "Review of the policy of the hunting on state-owned land managed by the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands".

The International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey was established in 1968 and represents falconry in 34 countries that account for all organised falconry in the world. We are also an active member of the world Conservation Union (IUCN) and take initiatives to safeguard raptors throughout the world: last year we were joined by WWF, Birdlife International and TRAFFIC to draft a resolution on falcons that was unanimously acclaimed at IUCN's 2nd World Conservation Congress.

We would like to remark on recommendation 17 of the report, which states "There are perhaps significant risks that falconry on state owned lands would disturb nesting birds and/or pose a risk of hybridisation if certain types of falcon escape. In view of these risks, it seems sensible to continue to preclude the use of falcons over state owned lands." We understand that, although the Irish Hawking Club was ostensibly consulted about this report, it had not seen it for comment in draft. Frankly, we were surprised by the partial tone of the report as a whole, until we were informed that one of the authors openly takes a position strongly opposed to field sports and especially killing of mammals. In several respects we would like to draw the Minister's attention to a more thorough report commissioned from Prof David Macdonald of Oxford University by the Burns Enquiry on Hunting with Dogs in the UK (Managing British Mammals, Case Studies from the Hunting Debate ISBN 0 9529371 3 1). However, the Burns Enquiry does not cover falconry, so we will deal specifically with the two specific (and specious) issues raised in recommendation 17.

The risk of disturbance of nesting birds through falconry is effectively zero, for two reasons. Firstly, falconers cease flying their birds during the breeding season because this is when they moult. Secondly, falconers join other hunters in being subject to game regulations that prevent hunting during the breeding season. In fact, as falconry uses natural predators, it is likely that if its disturbance were to be caused and studied experimentally, the response of prey would be no greater (and much less frequent) than to disturbance by walkers and free-living raptors.

With the help of the four professional biologists on our Board and advice from professional wildlife geneticists, we have had a very thorough investigation of the use of hybrid falcons. In the long-term, there may well be no risk to wild populations from artificially created hybrids, because such hybrids occur naturally in the wild. They are then presumably acted against by natural selection, not least because their fertility is reduced.

In the short term, falconers have recognised a risk of criticism from

use of hybrids, and therefore have made recommendations to prevent loss. These recommendations include flying only with reliable radio-tags. The use of long-life tags attached irremovably enables any lost birds to be recovered. We note that, with the continued access to wild falcons that is sensibly permitted in your country, only four hybrid falcons are owned by members of the Irish Hawking Club. Perhaps the remote risk that would arise from the rare event of one of these four being lost might be more effectively reduced by permitting them to fly on state-lands, on condition that all are fitted with permanent radio-tags, than by banning falconry on state lands?

Finally, Minister, we should comment on the benefits of falconry, which were unmentioned in the report. Falconers that depend on wild raptor stocks are normally heavily engaged in conservation activities. This has been repeatedly documented, not least from high profile activities like restoring wild peregrine populations that were eliminated by pesticides. The Raptor Research Foundation, which is the world's primary organisation for those studying birds of prey, resolved recently that "Falconry is owed a debt by the conservation community that is seldom acknowledged and never fully understood."

There is also increasing recognition of the potential of falconry, as a low-impact sustainable use, for habitat conservation. Notable in this case is the hiring of grouse moors in the UK that yield too few game for shooting, because of heavy natural predation. Encouragement of the considerable skills required to fly falcons at grouse may therefore be important for promoting conservation through sustainable use.

With great respect, and appreciation of your attention,

Yours sincerely,

Patrick Morel
IAF President.

Eastern European & Asian issues, chaired by Tom Richter

The IAF had contacts with falconers from Iran, Georgia, Malta, Pakistan, Philippines, Indonesia, Romania and Serbia.

Iran – legalisation

Behnam Khorshdinam, gave us some brief information about falconry in Iran.

"Falconry and keeping of birds of prey in Iran was strictly banned after our Islamic Revolution.

Iran has some Islands in its southern waters, in Persian Gulf, sometimes called Free Islands (Kish Island, Qeshm Island with special rules for governing but some governments like Dept of Environment are independent and are controlled by some investors which are controlling the whole Island for attracting as many tourists as they can. According to a conversation, which I had with one of those Investors who was responsible for the Tourist Attraction in Qeshm, he suggested me to write down my plans for establishing the first Iranian Falconry Association in Qeshm.

Ben was planning to create a raptor display centre. After consultation of the AC, it was decided to discourage this initiative.

Georgia

We got contacts with a new association and could clear up that this Club "Mimino", based in Tbilisi, unites falconers consisting in hereditary Basieri (Georgian name for falcon tamers) with their traditions and juniors fascinated by this ancient pastime. In order to develop further this kind of sport, Club "Mimino" would like to exchange experience and information (breeding, training, support



and etc.) with foreign experts and hunting-lovers.

Kyrgistan

Information about a company organising "falconry" tourism in Tien-Shan mountains was received

Kazakhstan

Information on close-rings was provided to Dr. Sergey Sklyarenko (Secretary of Scientific Authorities of CITES) in Kazakhstan. Information was received about a company "Magellan" located 100 kms from Almaty in Cidinsk region organizing falconry and hunting with golden eagles in Kazakhstan.

Constitutional change requirements WG, chaired by Frank Bond

Frank is working on different themes: voting rights (on request of Welsh Hawking Club) and problems in case of incapacity of board and officers.

Middle East Relations WG, chaired by Tim Kimmel

Tim had a busy time with this very active WG. The purpose of this WG was to encourage Middle East states to embrace national and international efforts to secure traditional falconry within a context of sustainable use; develop a forum where interested parties can cooperate to articulate and implement IAF's Amman Resolution; encourage falconers in the Middle East to form organisations and welcome these into IAF."

Progress on the Amman resolution has been severely damaged by the events of September 11th 2001. The idea behind the resolution was to encourage conservation of important habitats through sustainable use of saker falcons. It required agreement from the Saudi Arabians, as the main users of the resource, to take an interest in maintaining a healthy supply of wild sakers and then move towards using the trade in sakers to conserve their breeding habitats, which are vulnerable to intensified agriculture. The IAF, which originated the resolution, was initiating education on this issue by drafting an educational leaflet and developing a group of biologists and vets in the Middle East to start a process of contacting falconers there. Our strategy in the Middle East is to attempt bringing in some organised form the many falconers of the Arab world.

We have recently decided to reactivate our earlier initiative which was placed on hold following the events of 11 September 2001 and

included development of materials (i.e., a brochure, and possibly a short video) to serve as our 'calling card' in the Middle East region. Now, as those materials are developed, the model system being developed in the UAE for marking and documenting birds that cross borders can be highlighted in the brochure/video

Relations with third bodies:

CITES: Anthony Crosswell

Euro-cites: Tony revised the Implementation of the Council Regulation (EC) n° 338/97.

Suspension of trade with United Arab Emirates recommended:

At its 45th meeting (Paris, June 2001), the Standing Committee accepted a report of the Secretariat (SC45 Doc. 11.2) in which it drew attention to illegal trade involving the United Arab Emirates. During the meeting, the Secretariat presented additional information that it had received, which increased its concerns regarding implementation of the Convention in this country.

The Standing Committee recommended that the United Arab Emirates should, as soon as possible, invite a mission by the Secretariat to discuss illicit trade in CITES-listed specimens to and from that country; to provide technical advice and support; and to examine the measures in place to implement the Convention in the United Arab Emirates. The Committee agreed that if, by 31 October 2001, such an invitation had not been received and the Secretariat had been unable to satisfy itself that the United Arab Emirates was adequately implementing the Convention, the Secretariat should distribute a Notification to the Parties recommending that, until further notice, the Parties refuse any import of specimens of CITES-listed species from and any export or re-export of such specimens to the United Arab Emirates.

The Secretariat was invited to send a mission to the United Arab Emirates and the visit took place from 28 to 31 October 2001. Regrettably, the Secretariat was unable to verify, either during the mission or through subsequent correspondence, that the Convention is being adequately implemented in the United Arab Emirates.

Consequently, the Secretariat informed the Parties that the Standing Committee does now recommend that, until further notice, the Parties refuse any import of specimens of CITES-listed species from and any export or re-export of such specimens to the United Arab Emirates.

This recommendation will be withdrawn when the Secretariat is satisfied that the necessary legal, administrative and practical measures have been put in place to ensure that the Convention will be adequately implemented in the United Arab Emirates. The Secretariat will continue to liaise with the authorities of this country and to offer its assistance to accomplish this objective.

Recent news is that CITES is now prepared to lift the suspension on falcon imports and exports to the UAE, providing that the UAE establishes a falcon registration scheme. UAE seem to have agreed to implement a system rather similar to that considered in the IUCN resolution, which is extremely promising and rewarding for IAF's efforts.

FACE: see reports of Christian de Coune

There was worrying information from a FACE Intergroup Press release that urged us to act. "The Intergroup, convinced of the need to start a negotiating process for the update of this Directive with the Council of Ministers and the European Commission, but also aware of the fact that such revision could lead to even stricter pro-

visions, would like to reach quickly an official position on a reasonable amendment."

The risk of updating the Bird Directive was that we could have more to lose than to win. Christian, our representative for FACE, kindly accepted to represent us at this meeting.

FACE action on the hunting seasons has been a huge issue. It was started by the French hunters, mainly in relation to being able to shoot migratory waterfowl during their spring migration to breeding areas in Scandinavia. FACE was trying to get revisions made to the Directive (in connection with duration of hunting seasons for migratory birds, about which French hunters were especially concerned). The issue then moved to a question of whether to renegotiate the Birds Directive. This had huge implications for all involved, because everyone (especially minorities like falconry) would again have had to spend huge efforts watching that their interests were met. Christian was strongly against this, arguing that re-negotiating the directive would be a Pandora's box.

Last year, Hermann Döttlinger represented us at a Danish-organised review conference to discuss the Directive, at which FACE gave a joint paper in which comments were made that falconers could breed all the birds they needed. We were not consulted in advance. Hermann criticised the paper in the conference and we made strong representations to FACE concerning re-wording afterwards.

IUCN: chaired by Robert Kenward (see separate report)

Commented a draft on ex-situ populations and prepared a draft on FACE-IUCN matters.

Ralph Rodgers participated in IUCN sponsored workshop on Commercial Captive Propagation and Wild Species Conservation. December 7-9, 2002; Jacksonville, Florida, USA

Hybrids: Frank Bond

A document defining a species was sent to Jose Manuel Rodriguez-Villa, Tom Richter and Robert Kenward.

Concerns are expressed by some countries trying to adopt very strict measures prohibiting the use of hybrids and exotics (Slovakia), as also seems to be the case in Hungary. In Netherlands only two species are legal for hawking: Peregrine falcon and Goshawk.

Concerns were expressed with the possible flood of hybrids on the European market if the ban of CITES import in the UAE was not lifted.

Recently a debate on hybrids in Germany is starting polemic with the opening of a new website against the use of hybrids. The debate is reaching proportions beyond any control and is a risk.

Bern Convention:

Robert Kenward attended the meeting of December with Herwig Hoedl (see separate report).

CIC: sent their Dec 2000 newsletter expressing their worries about a campaign: "hunting against hunting in Germany"

Gilles Nortier met Peter Sapara chairman of the CIC WG on raptors and falconry and discussed the relations between CIC and IAF.

Slovakia

IAF's help was requested for solving two problems in Slovakia. Falconers travelling to Slovakia were asked to provide blood tests when bringing birds into Slovakia.

The IAF wrote a letter to the Minister:

IAF is the organisation that represents falconry internationally. We were founded in 1968 and now constitute the falconry clubs in 34 countries. We represent falconry at the Bern Convention, FACE

and IUCN. For further information, you may like to visit our website at www.i-a-f.org

We have been asked for help by falconers from the European Union who wish to fly trained raptors in Slovakia. They are concerned that they are being asked to provide blood and pay for DNA testing on bringing birds into Slovakia. Their concern is about (i) the possibility that taking blood may injure their birds and (ii) the cost of tests.

IAF is concerned that falconers should obtain and fly birds legally, and welcomes DNA-testing as a strong deterrent to irresponsible behaviour. However, we also appreciate the risks of taking blood that can arise at the least from constraint of birds and from haematomas at the site of taking blood, typically around the brachial vein. Although effects may be short-term, this would be a problem for birds being flown immediately.

To reduce risk of injury, we wonder whether you have the capability to use feathers for DNA testing, as can be done in the United Kingdom? We appreciate that the cost of tests, involving polymerase-chain-reaction (PCR), may be greater than for blood, but perhaps falconers could be offered this option.

IAF also appreciates that charges for sustainable-use activities can be used to fund conservation, but believes that costs of administration should be minimised. As a means to cut costs, we suggest that you could choose to test entry and exit pairs of samples for a minority of cases, rather than all. Random-testing is a well known deterrent if used for an appreciable proportion, say 10-25% of cases. Authorities can of course also target such tests on those they consider most likely to offend.

We would be happy to provide further information if you wish. As Slovakia is an EU Accession State, we wonder whether you would consider delaying the introduction of such testing until further discussion, perhaps between our representatives at the meeting of the parties to the Bern Convention in Strasbourg in November?

Yours sincerely,
Patrick Morel, President IAF

Dear Mister Morel,

Thank you for your letter of 9th Oct 2001. I would like shortly to inform you about controls of foreign falconers made by the state authority during their visits for falconry meetings in Slovakia. It is true, that the state authorities asked them for blood samples for DNA tests on bringing birds into Slovakia. But these samples have been taken, only if the holder of the bird agree. The blood sample is taken by the veterinary doctor. representatives of the state authority explain how they will proceed and the holder can accept it or he can also reject. All the controls (including taking blood samples for tests) are full in compliance with our national legislation. Holders of course do not pay for the tests - these are paid by the government in such cases.

I have to apologise, but it is not possible to make DNA tests from feathers in Slovakia at present. falconers in Slovakia are obliged to make DNA tests since 1995 to prove identity and breeding of birds of prey in captivity. We have not had any case of injuring or any other inappropriate effects on the birds since that time. This is why we conclude, that the risk of the act of taking blood by professionals is minimal.

State authorities in Slovakia have taken these measures because of serious situation in population of birds of prey in our country. We expect, that all robbed birds of prey are illegally exported from Slovakia, because it is impossible to legalise them in our country. Also this year was caught a foreign falconer in robbing the nest of

golden eagle. He was sentenced for one year in prison.

I think that you will agree with me, that it is not only competence, but also duty of state authorities to make all measures in order to protect wild species for all people and for the next generations. I hope you will understand our procedures in these cases. I am sure that falconers from European Union understand it also, because no one of them rejected taking blood samples during the control this year.

Yours sincerely

The second problem was a letter send by the director of the Environment Ministry concerning the loss of exotics or hybrids. Here a copy of letter:

Subject: *Inter-species cross breeding of falcons - request for a standpoint.*

We could like to ask for your professional standpoint to inter-species crossbreeding of falcons in cases where specimen of alochtonous species, or crossbreds with wild living populations, kept in captivity escape to wild nature.

As is generally known, the specimens bred in captivity have usually deformed habits. They consider as their partner the breeder or frequently a bird of prey of another species - for example when other species has been used in breeding as a foster mother. When flying away to nature, which cannot be excluded and is relatively frequent for falcon birds of prey, such an individual seeks for the partner specimen of other species, and this can lead in theory to unwanted unnatural crossbreeding with possibility of subsequent gene fund pollution in nature. Occupation of territory and pushing out of specimen of original species is also undesirable.

In Slovakia the permits for breeding and import of alochtonous species and crossbreds have been until now based on assumption that probability of unwanted cross breeding in nature is very low. The falcon bred in captivity without a special training has little chance to survive and even less chance to get involved in reproduction process. Crossbreds are usually infertile and even if it is not the case their chance to find a partner in nature is practically zero.

However, in the year 2000 Slovak ornithologists from NGO and the State protection of nature observed the first nesting of Falco peregrinus (Peregrine Falcon) with Falco cherrug (Saker falcon) in the wild - a Falco cherrug (Saker Falcon) and a not more specifically identified crossbred of Falco Cherrug with very different morphological signs. This pair hatched one young. The young was stolen before a sample for DNA analysis could be taken. In this year a case has been observed of ousting of original pair of Falco cherrug (Saker falcon) by a female of Falco peregrinus (Peregrine Falcon) of alochtonous subspecies. This female carried on her legs falconer's tags.

We have concluded on the basis of these findings, that breeding of alochtonous species crossbreds of falcons threatens falcon populations in wild. For this reason we have stopped import of alochtonous falcon specimens, for which crossbreeding cannot be excluded with certainty. This measure has been met with a lot of displeasure on falconers side, and they claim, that such birds do not represent a threat for wild populations.

On the basis of the above given we would like to ask you, as a respected institution, for a professional standpoint to this issue of non-original species and crossbreds. We believe that protection of birds of prey in their original wild environment is of interest to us all and that you will answer our request. In the interest of speedy

solution of this problem we would appreciate it very much if you send us the standpoint not later than on 17.12.2001
Here our answer on 05-12-2001



Retirement presentation to John Fairclough after many years dedicated and enthusiastic service to the BFC that will be sadly missed.....

"Dear Dr K...

Inter-species cross breeding of falcons - request for a standpoint.

I've waited a few days in replying to your letter in order to seek the opinion of our Advisory Committee, which contains five professional biologists. There are more details of IAF at our web-site www.i-a-f.org. Our response to your request for information is as follows.

The question of hybrids has been addressed extensively by IAF, with the latest position statement developed in 2000. I attach a copy. In developing its position, IAF was influenced by another important document on falconry, produced a decade earlier by a committee (that included 3 professors) of the world's largest organisation of raptor biologists, the Raptor Research Foundation. My second attachment is RRF's position statement.

Falcons have been hybridised in captivity since the early 1970s. There are also records of wild hybrid pairs that would not be attributable to falconry, and analysis of saker falcons by Professor Wink in Germany indicates two hybridisations more than 10,000 years ago that left genetic traces.

Hybridisation of falcons therefore does not require falconry or captive breeding. Nor does captive breeding normally cause problems of hybridisation. Very large numbers of falcons (especially peregrines) have been bred in captivity and released to restock wild populations without problems of hybridisation. The successful re-establishment of tree-nesting peregrines in Poland is a case in point.

That case also illustrates the very considerable work that falconers have done to help wild populations, in Europe and North America. Even the Californian Condor recovery has been led by falconers. Certainly, as you note, falconers do not wish to harm wild raptor populations.

Breeding in captivity is successful for re-introductions because it does not produce birds with behavioural disturbance if they are reared normally. The sort of mal-imprinting problems that you mention occur only if birds are reared by human hand without conspecific siblings. As you note, such birds have an extremely low probability of becoming breeders in the wild. The problematic breedings that have occurred in the last five years in Germany (2) and Sweden (1) have been through loss of hybrids, not of losing non-native species with disturbed behaviour.

In theory, hybrids between sympatric and parapatric raptor species should be eliminated by natural selection and therefore have no real significance for conservation. However, IAF is keeping this situation under careful review.

However, we know of no previous case where falcon species outside their normal geographic range have caused problems with breeding. We would certainly not expect any such problems from species or sub-species that are being flown by falconers outside their normal geographic range on their native land-mass (eg Eurasia, Americas). We would be very grateful for any further details that you can provide to indicate whether the cases you mention might in fact be the result of lost hybrids, or that they definitely were not hybrids.

Yours sincerely,

Spain: documentary series on falconry

A discussion was initiated by our friend José Manuel Rodríguez Villa who was contacted by a major film company planning to shoot a documentary series on falconry.

Here is the presentation of the film series:

"*Allies of the air* is a documentary series with script based on the book "*Soltando pihuelas; Conocimiento y práctica de la cetrería*", written by Javier Ceballos.

It will take us to Spain, the United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands, Germany, Italy, Greece, the Czech Republic, Kazakhstan, China, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, Morocco, Zimbabwe, the United States...to explore the different approaches and attitudes to falconry, from its origins to the present day.

We will discover peoples who continue to practice falconry precisely as they did 4,000 years ago, and others who in contrast employ the most modern techniques, such as using radio receivers to track their hawks.

This method of hunting requires, in addition to considerable time and dedication on the part of the falconer, space in which to keep the bird, and a stretch of suitable countryside in which to hunt. It is not easy to find all these conditions together and much less all year round. Falconry is, therefore, today a minority interest.

Allies of the air introduces the general public to a perfect alliance between man and animal, in its essence virtually unchanged in its thousands of years of history. We will witness the trapping of a bird in precisely the same manner as in the origins of this art. We will contrast this means of obtaining birds with modern breeding in captivity, the only authorised way to acquire birds of prey in many countries where numbers in the wild have been drastically reduced.

Through the participation of representative falconers, we learn of the different stages in training and the bond which is formed between the falconer and his extraordinary hunting companion. Tenacity, sensitivity and self-denial form part of the character of those who have chosen this vocational form of slavery.

We will enjoy the most spectacular scenes of the flight of falcons, goshawks and sparrowhawks pursuing and capturing different prey. We will see through the eyes of the falcon. From on high, we will scan the ground in search of the sought-after prey. Followed by the camera, suspended in the air in order to get the shot, we will gain an approximate idea of just how close the peregrine falcon comes to crashing into the ground each time it swoops down, simply in order to get something to eat.

We will discover the most widely varied hunting arts, how these have evolved through history, and how they are now practiced in different cultures.

We will follow its development, from the falconry of the Middle Ages, with its ostentation and social implications, to the self-sacrificing dedication of the contemporary falconer. We will also contrast the impressive resources employed by Arab sheiks, who travel in private planes with their teams of falcons to hunt down the mythical Houbara buzzard, with the traditional fox hunting of the Kyrgs on the Asian steppes, unchanged for thousands of years. We will witness different techniques in practice, using sparrowhawks to capture magpies, crowned eagles to hunt monkeys or golden eagles to hunt wolves.

This extraordinary alliance between man and bird of prey has also been a constant source of artistic, literary and even iconographic inspiration. Different treatises are evidence that it was one of the first subjects dealt with in book form. Its influence can be seen in fields as diverse as music, painting, sculpture, poetry or photography.

Kings and nobles were early on attracted by the spectacular nature of the sport – the casting off, the high flight, the sudden swoop, the thrilling chase of the sparrowhawks – and trained raptors became extremely valuable diplomatic gifts. By means of stiff laws, they conferred exclusivity on their favourite pastime. Almost a thousand years later, falconry today forms part of the school programme of a very different group of people: in Zimbabwe, falconry is taught as a school subject, complementing mathematics or literature in the comprehensive education of students.

The falconers' interest in birds of prey has not been restricted to their own game hawks, but has also maintained them alert to conservation in the wild. As a result of private initiatives, it is now possible to breed almost all hawk species in captivity. Projects with huge budgets use falconry techniques for breeding and repopulation of birds of prey. One particularly notable example is the way in which the peregrine falcon has been saved from extinction in the United States and Canada thanks to "Operation Peregrine", an ambitious project promoted and directed by the eminent falconer and biologist Tom J. Cade.

Falconry has also proven useful as a means of tackling the most diverse problems, in many different fields. Airports, space centres, environmental education centres, documentary producers, photographers or birds of prey recovery centres are just some examples. For several years now, a number of Spanish town councils have been working on projects to introduce hawks into their cities and natural spaces using falconry techniques."

Concerns were expressed about associating IAF's image with a film without being able to control the contents.

The role of the IAF would be to provide valuable contacts, technical advice and support in the distribution. Compensation was suggested in form of using the films as a Public relation tool or some financial compensation. Careful balance was weighed between the

possible benefits of financial compensation for IAF and of good publicity for falconry. On the other hand is the danger from what some conservationists will see as stimulus to growth of falconry and what welfarists may abhor in Sky Trials or use of bagged-game.

It was decided not to participate directly but to have some influence and control on the content.

Our bottom-line negotiating position on this was not to help at all unless elements likely to offend welfarists (e.g. flying at bagged game/Sky-Trials) were removed.

Animal transport workshop.

Herwig Hoedl recently attended a workshop in Vienna to discuss IATA regulations for transport of animals by air. His brief was to defend currently accepted containers (sky kennels most used) for falconry raptors that had recently been the subject of unwarranted criticism.

Candidatures:

Following application for membership were received:

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Morocco | Association Marocaine de Fauconnerie |
| Belgium | Beoefenaars Vluchtbedrijf De Valkenier |
| UK | Hawk Board |
| Japan | The Japanese Falconers' Association |
| Indonesia | Biak Falconry and Raptor Conservation Center Sorido Biak Irian Jaya |
| Bulgaria | Bulgarian Association for Protection of Birds of Prey |

Summary

Falconry is more and more dependent on globalisation: events happening in one country may affect other countries.

A few examples to illustrate this:

A recommendation to the IATA committee provided by Zoo representatives could have led to the ban of sky kennels for the transportation of our hawks;

Progress on the Amman resolution and our relations with Arab countries were severely damaged by the events of September 11th 2001 in the USA ;

A ban of the Standing Committee of the CITES of any import, export or re-export of specimens of CITES-listed species from or to the United Arab Emirates would mean a risk of possible flood of hybrids on the European market if the ban of CITES import in the UAE was not lifted.

A debate on the ban of hybrids could lead to stricter measures for falconry allowing the use of only "pure" species and adding another treat to falconry reducing the number of quarry species.

To be able to continue to practice our sport, there are some essential elements that must be maintained: hawks to fly, favourable regulatory conditions under which to operate (for keeping, acquiring, transporting and hunting), enough quarry to chase and adequate areas suitable for falconry.

IAF is by now a strong organisation with more open communication and a level of trust unknown before. I appreciate that by now IAF business is conducted in an atmosphere of friendship respect and trust and thank all the officers and AC members for their support, encouragement, help and goodwill.

Patrick Morel

2001 Annual Report from Frank M. Bond, Vice President for the Americas

The sport of falconry is strong throughout the Americas, and particularly strong in Canada, Mexico and the United States. The North American Falconers Association ("NAFA") focuses its attention principally on issues related to the United States but through its membership has contact with national authorities in Canada and Mexico. Several Central American and South American nations have representative falconry organizations. For the most part they are relatively small except for Mexico where there are quite a few falconers. I remind the IAF that NAFA is an association representing individual falconers in Canada, Mexico and the United States; it is not an association of state clubs.

In 2002, former Vice President Darryl Perkins was elected the new president of NAFA. He replaces former President Brian Millsap who finished his term and is now serving as president of the Raptor Research Foundation. Darryl is from the eastern United States (Massachusetts), but he grew up in the south in North Carolina. He is a goshawker of renown; many of you may have read his articles on goshawks. Our new Vice President is Jim Ince of Houston, Texas. Jim has had years of success flying peregrine tiercels. I continue to serve as General Counsel (lawyer) for NAFA.

In the United States, the Fish and Wildlife Service continues to have our national falconry regulations under review. NAFA leadership has provided considerable suggestions to Service in order to improve our generally excellent system. We may face a few suggested changes which may be beneficial to the system. However, before the adoption of any changes, there is an opportunity for comment and review.

The IAF membership will recall that the Fish and Wildlife Service removed the Anatum peregrine falcon from the United States Endangered Species list in 1999. In 2001 the Service proposed a plan for the western states. Arizona and Utah immediately implemented harvest plans. The first eyass peregrine since the early 1970's was taken in June 2001 by Ed Schaub in Arizona. Mr. Schaub is a New Mexico falconer. Recently the State of Colorado agreed to implement a harvest plan to begin in 2002.

However, NAFA has another challenge with the peregrine harvest. In June 2001 the Defenders of Wildlife and other environmental/preservation organizations filed a lawsuit against the Fish and Wildlife Service to stop the eyass peregrine harvest. The environmentalists believed that the Service failed to implement a management plan and complete the monitoring period. A hearing was held in the United States District Court in Oregon to attempt to stop the harvest right during the harvest season in 2001. On behalf of NAFA, I was able to attend the hearing to hear the arguments. The federal judge agreed with the Fish and Wildlife Service not to stop any harvest. Unfortunately, that did not completely end the case. In the meantime NAFA joined the lawsuit to be a party in defending the Service's position to continue to permit a harvest of peregrines. I personally will present the arguments on behalf of the falconers. We expect the federal judge to decide the same way he did 2001. With a final decision in this case, we expect many other states to permit a harvest.

For North American Falconers the real prize is the use of passage peregrines. Because of the eyass peregrine lawsuit, the Fish and Wildlife Service's proposal for a harvest management plan is delayed. The harvest of passage peregrines must be coordinated with Greenland, Canada and Mexico.

Also in 2001 we received a favorable ruling in a federal lawsuit by environmentalists who sought to have goshawks listed as an endangered species. There are many thousands of goshawks in North America, but these environmentalists wanted to have local populations listed as a "tool" to keep loggers from cutting down trees in national forests. Falconers may take eyass and passage goshawks throughout most of North America. There will be no change because the federal judge completely rejected the environmentalists' science.

Many IAF members know that in Canada and the United States, the favorite quarry of many longwingers is the grouse found on the plains and prairies. These are the sage grouse, sharp tail grouse, and greater and lesser prairie chickens. In the past decade, there have been declines in the populations of these birds due to drought, habitat modifications and farming practices. A group of falconers formed the North American Grouse Partnership ("NAGP") to begin an international conservation program to restore the birds to harvestable numbers. The organization is growing and the leadership now includes federal, state, and national wildlife management officials. It is worth noting that IAF President Patrick Morel is the only foreign member; President Morel is also the longest standing foreign member of NAFA. For more information on the NAGP please contact Frank Bond.

As Vice President for the Americas, I represent the IAF at C.I.T.E.S. However, during this past year Executive Secretary Tony Crosswell has attended an Animals Committee meeting on our behalf, and Ralph Rogers, the NAFA-United States representative on the IAF Council, represented IAF at a meeting in Florida sponsored by the IUCN on captive propagation. There will be a C.I.T.E.S Animals Committee meeting in Costa Rica in April and a full conference of the parties in Santiago de Chile in November.

It was NAFA's great pleasure to host the IAF AGM in Amarillo, Texas in 2000. We look forward to joining the other Council members at Woodhall Spa, England in October 2002 to help celebrate the Seventy Fifth Anniversary of the British Falconers Club.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank M. Bond



Vice President's Report by Thomas Richter

As Patrick Morel has done a good job of compiling all the activities, I will concentrate on some German aspects and add a few ideas on politics, especially animal welfare issues.

At the moment falconry in Germany is a hunting method of good reputation. The DFO (Deutscher Falkenorden, the club which represents the overwhelming majority of the German falconers) is registered as an NGO Environment Protectionist Group by the Environmental Ministry. We are very close to the German Hunters Organization and of course strongly engaged in the IAF.

On the other hand you must recognize, that most of the citizens in Central-Europe are unfamiliar with nature and have no understanding about the course of natural events. Ideas of protection by emotional and humanizing means, either of nature or of animal welfare, become popular very easily. The Green Party is especially inclined to support the emotional welfarists and protectionists, so the parliamentary election in September will clarify whether we are to have continuation of falconry as it has been, or the beginning of very severe problems.

To reduce risk for our members, we have taken some voluntary steps. The voluntary approach arises from a conviction that if we recognize a problem and solve it on our own, we can remain in the game, but if we wait in hope of the best, we risk being overpowered. First we strongly supported a Working Group on minimum requirements for keeping birds of prey and owls. The brochure that was written at the request of the ministry is in fact a compromise between the opinions of different interests. Participants of the WG were animal welfare and nature conservation organizations, zoos and others, but most of the facts came from my own knowledge and experience (as a falconer) so our influence was successful. The tethering and hooding of birds is still allowed, although some people wanted to ban it. The most important aspect of this approval is that no administrative body can now insist that keeping birds of prey is in any way illegal. Nevertheless, some political groups supported by the Green Party, are starting a discussion on the "cruelty" of the training and keeping of hawks. We suspect that a proposal for renewing the hunting legislation, including a ban of falconry, may be a theme for the September electoral campaign of the Green Party. The next struggle we had concerned the marking of birds. The chip was supposed to be the only permitted marker. We had to fight hard to get our good old ring recognized again as a fraud-proof marker. In Germany we have more cases of species-hybrids breeding with wild peregrines reported, than in all other countries (at least 6 cases so far). This record may result from the large number of species-hybrids that are bred and freely hacked (for the Arabian market) or from the great efforts that we ourselves and the other peregrine protectors take in recording these cases. Thank Heavens that all of the German falconers clubs decided in 1998 voluntarily not to breed or to possess or to fly new species-hybrids anymore. The only group that speaks up for hybrids is the commercial breeders (for understandable but not unselfish reasons). There has been a campaign against hybrids on the internet, started privately by some DFO-members and then supported by the council of the DFO. The commercial breeders answered with a pro hybrid campaign. The hybrid-issue is well known in the ministries for years and, as far as I know, a regulation is already in preparation, so the recent pro-hybrid discussion will (hopefully) cause no great political damage. Nevertheless the hybrid problem stays the most important real biological problem we have (the welfare issue is "just" a political problem, but perilous as well).

In some details we have been really successful (as Patrick Morel

has pointed out already). For example: the quarantine was cancelled for private falconers with up to 3 of their own birds for non commercial purposes; the ban of feeding of day-old-chicks to birds of prey was cancelled as well.

I am sure the discussions and problems that we have in Germany will come to all of the European Countries soon. In some Eastern-Europe Countries the discussions have already started. I think it would be wise for all the clubs in all the countries to start internal discussions to form strategies for this debate and not simply wait until it is forced on them from outside. To provide some arguments for the discussion, I include summaries from two of my own articles. The originals are in German and IAF would be grateful if a native English-speaking falconer-biologist has time for translation.



Christian Saar of the DFO

Summary: Animal Welfare Aspects of Falconry

Falconry is concerned with animal welfare aspects from ethical, biological and political points of view.

The ethical questions are:

Is the keeping of birds of prey permissible? To this question one can respond "yes", if one accepts pet keeping in general. In Germany there are about 100 million pets kept in private households. This underlines the great desire people have to live with animal companions. Living with pets is accepted by the majority of the people in Europe (and elsewhere). Additional argument: there can be made no moral difference between domesticated and not domesticated animals. Animals do not have a thirst for "freedom". Hunting with birds demonstrates perfectly a voluntarily cooperation.

tion of animals with men.

Is the special handling, training and feeding regime permissible? This question again needs comparison with other handling, training and feeding of animals. Dogs and cats are kept on the lead, horses are steered by a rein. Why should one condemn controlling a hawk with jesses? The training of birds of prey uses only positive reinforcement (in contrast to the training of dogs for example); it is not cruel! The feeding takes into account the fact that raptors hunt only when hungry. However, they need also to be strong to hunt successfully. There is a need to feed a hunting bird carefully, but there is a similar requirement for children and pet animals as well.

Is hunting in general permissible? This question is answered "yes" by most of people. There would be a lot of damage in forestry and agriculture if hunting were banned. Moreover, eating wild game is a sustainable use of renewable resources, that is often healthier than farmed meat.

Is the killing of a wild living animal by an animal under human control permissible? The domestic animal that kills most wild prey is the cat. If you accept cats for natural pest control – for example to reduce the rats and mice on a farm – you cannot condemn hunting with birds. In fact, cats cause two extra problems: they kill females with suckling young and they kill endangered species by chance.

Is hawking more cruel than other hunting methods? No, on the contrary! When shooting, injured game sometimes escapes and dies later. This will not happen while hawking. Either the quarry is taken and killed by the bird or the falconer quickly, or it will escape unhurt.

Biological aspects:

1. The keeping of animals should let them fulfil their needs and protect themselves from harm. The typical problems of poor facilities, such as self-injury or obsessive behaviour are virtually unknown in falconry. The most notable problem, bumble foot, is easy to prevent.

Political aspects:

- a. **Benefit for people:** hawking is a great pleasure for a lot of people. Trained hawks have provided much scientific understanding of the natural world.
- b. **Benefit for nature:** falconers pioneered and developed the breeding of peregrine falcons and most other raptors for reintroduction to rescue endangered wild populations.
- c. **Benefit for animal welfare activities:** empathy and knowledge makes falconers perfect for nurturing injured wild birds of prey and training them for reintroduction to nature.

Conclusion:

1. There is no ethical damage caused by falconry. On the contrary: a ban of falconry would restrict people in their rights without any reason.
2. There is no problem concerning the welfare of the hunting bird.
3. Compared with other hunting methods, there is less cruelty when hawking.
4. The knowledge and engagement of falconers enriches human culture, aids understanding of nature and its conservation, and helps humans enhance welfare of wild animals
5. The benefits of falconry substantially exceed any disadvantages.

Author: Prof. Dr. med. vet. Thomas Richter, Specialist veterinarian in ethology, Specialist veterinarian in public health and animal welfare

Summary: Ethical aspects of hunting

Everybody should know how to act in a given situation. The foundation for all the actions of an individual is personal morality. In the modern pluralistic society there are many different morals. As it is permissible to debate laws, it is also permissible to debate morals. The scientific discussion (as part of philosophy) is called ethics.

The main moral statements are shown by figure 1:

| the most usual answers to the question of what might justify killing (while hunting) are: | | | | |
|---|-------------------|---------------------------------------|---|------------|
| no reason | just self-defence | self-defence & food | self-defence & nature protection & protection of property | any reason |
| | | self-defence & nature conservation | | |
| | | self-defence & protection of property | | |

1. If one tries to convince another person to adopt a particular moral, good reasons are needed. So let's investigate the consequences of living according to each moral.

Answer 1: no reason. If no reason justifies the killing of an animal, it not permissible to take a medicine if you are infected with a tapeworm.

Answer 2: just self-defence. Now you may take your medicine and maybe you are allowed to kill a fox, to prevent your infection with *Echinococcus multilocularis*.

Answer 3: killing animals for food is accepted by most of the peo-

ple, but not by vegetarians. Conservation is an aim of hunters that kill predators to preserve game. Protecting property is the reason for the foresters to shoot deer and for the farmers to kill wild pigs and rabbits.

Answer 4: combination of the single arguments from answer 3.

Answer 5: If any reason would justify killing, then you could kill for mere pleasure. That would not be legal in Germany.

If the killing is accepted in general, for whatever reason, then you have to decide if you are allowed to kill individuals from a given population. This depends on the dynamic of the population. Every

population produces a surplus to replacement requirements (Fig 1).

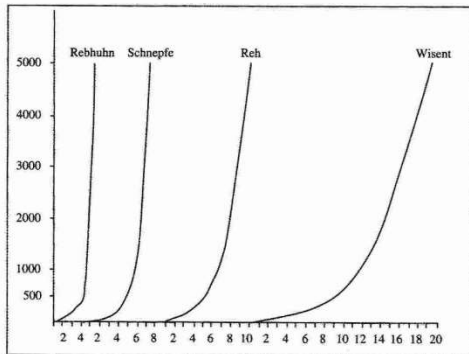


Fig. 1: Exponential growth (without mortality) (Kalchreuter 1994)

This exponential growth is limited by the capacity of the biotope (Fig. 2).

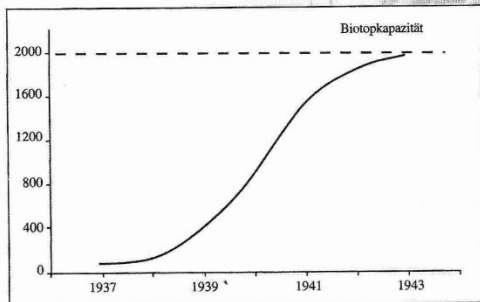


Fig. 2: Capacity of the biotope, from Kalchreuter (1994), modified

Mortality may be dependent on density (e.g. competition for food) or other factors. If there is a difference between annual surplus pro-

duction and unavoidable deaths, you may hunt the difference and it will not bother the population (hunnable surplus, Fig. 3).

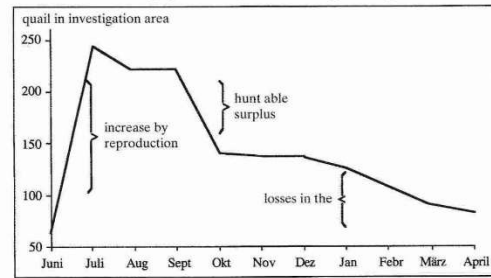


Fig. 3: Hunnable surplus, from Kalchreuter 1994

Conclusion:

No moral can be "correct" without any doubt. Good reasons are needed for adopting a particular moral. A test of different morals is whether one can live with the consequences. If hunting is acceptable in general, it will not hurt populations provided that one takes only the hunnable surplus.

Author: Prof. Dr. med. vet. Thomas Richter, Specialist veterinarian in ethology, Specialist veterinarian in public health; animal welfare



Business Plan Working Group Annual Report

– 2001 IAF Advisory Committee

Submitted by Tim Kimmel (12 February 2002)

The IAF Advisory Committee Business Plan Working Group (BPWG) formally was established at the Amarillo, Texas, Annual General Meeting in November 2000. In 2001, the BPWG consisted of Gilles Nortier, Tim Kimmel (chairman) and Thomas Richter. The charge of the BPWG was to develop a business plan that would provide a clear understanding of organizational and communications processes to be used by IAF Officers and the IAF Advisory Committee (AC) to facilitate the conduct of IAF business.

Early in 2001, the BPWG developed a draft Business Plan and presented it to the AC for discussion at its meeting in Obernai, France on 9 June 2001. As a result of that discussion, the draft Business Plan was revised (21 June 2001) and was adopted by consensus as a standard for the conduct of IAF business. Because the Business Plan represented a standard for operational procedure (process) and not policy, and because it was consistent with guidelines set forth in the IAF Constitution, the AC felt it was appropriate to adopt the Business Plan without any need for approval by Council Delegates. The Plan, as adopted by AC, follows.

IAF BUSINESS PLAN

General:

The IAF Advisory Committee (or, simply, AC) consists of the IAF President, two Regional Vice-Presidents, Executive Secretary, Treasurer, Research Coordinator, and seven other members (Constitution, Title VI, Article 13.1, as revised at the 2000 AGM); member of the AC are appointed or elected by Council (Constitution, Title VI, Article 13.2). One member is elected by members of the AC to serve as AC Chairman (Constitution, Title VI, Article 13.2), with approval of the President. Attendance at AC meetings shall be strictly limited to AC members, except in instances where guests may have been invited in advance by the President to attend all or part of an AC meeting by virtue of contributions they might make to particular discussion items.

The AC serves at the pleasure of Council and meets at the President's discretion (Constitution, Title VI, Article 13.3). The AC functions primarily to provide advice to IAF Officers and Council and develop recommendations of procedure and policy, some of which ultimately are placed before Council for approval. The AC develops consensus through discussion and the exchange of information and makes decisions by a simple majority (Constitution, Title VI, Article 13.4). Typically, the President reserves his vote breaking a tie, if necessary. The intent of this Business Plan is to facilitate the AC function and provide a framework for conducting business remotely via e-mail.

Establishment of AC Working Groups:

The President may establish Working Groups in consultation with the AC to address specific topics and issues (Constitution, Title IV, Article 6.1). All AC members are given an opportunity to volunteer for service on any Working Group for the duration of its existence, and volunteers from amongst AC members automatically shall be accepted as members of the Working Group during a period of three weeks following establishment of the Working Group.

The period of time during which a Working Group exists depends on the charge of the Working Group and how quickly the Working Group progresses in achieving its goals. Generally, Working Groups are comprised of AC members; however, membership need not be limited to those serving on AC, if Council Delegates, members of member organisations, or members of cooperating organisations should be asked to serve by virtue of their qualifications (Constitution, Title IV, Article 6.1). The President shall serve as a

member ex-officio of all Working Groups (Constitution, Title VI, Article 12.1.2). In the event of disability of the President, the appropriate regional Vice-President would serve as his substitute on the Working Group (Constitution, Title VI, Article 11.1.3).

Areas of AC Responsibility:

The following AC members are assigned responsibility based on theme/activity:

| Theme/Activity | Responsible AC Member |
|---|--|
| External Relations | President |
| Appointment and Tasking of Working Groups | President |
| Substitute for the President | First choice – "Senior" Vice-President |
| | Second choice – "Junior" Vice-President |

(Seniority is based primarily on service to the AC. Should both Regional Vice Presidents have equal tenure on AC [considering any and all of their experience on AC], then the Regional Vice-President whose country/club has held longer membership with the IAF shall be the first choice.)

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| Financial Management | Treasurer |
| Internal Communications | Executive Secretary |
| Newsletter/Website | Executive Secretary |
| Coordination within the Advisory Committee | AC Chairman |
| Coordination and Strategy of Scientific Issues | Research Coordinator |
| Coordination within Working Groups | Working Group Chairmen |

External Communications:

The President shall take the lead on external relations. External communiqués that contain the statements of positions, practices, and policies previously approved by AC or Council may be handled directly and immediately by the President without additional approval by AC. Other members of AC may be designated by the President to issue external letters and communiqués by virtue of their position (e.g., as a Working Group Chairman); however, designees shall have drafts of communiqués reviewed and approved by the President prior to their release. Should any communiqué contain positions, practices, or policy statements not previously approved by AC or Council, then AC at-large must review the communiqué and grant approval for its release, regardless of whether it is issued by the President or his designee. The President shall be responsible for judging whether or not AC should need to review or approve any external communication.

Development and Approval of Working Group Documents:

The President shall ensure that all Working Groups have a clear understanding of their respective charges and expected outcomes

or products, and that they are aware of the general timeline for completion of specified projects. The President also shall inform the AC of issues being addressed by all Working Groups and provide the AC with periodic updates on the progress of all Working Groups.

Any member of the AC may submit relevant information and materials to any Working Group at any time. However, in situations where an AC member other than the President provides information or materials to a Working Group, the President shall be included as a recipient of the communication and all associated materials as an ex-officio member of the Group.

Working Groups shall feel free to operate independently to draft documents that relate to their respective charges, without informing the AC of every internal action and communication. The Chairman of each Working Group shall ensure that all members of their Group are provided with all relevant information, have equal opportunity to provide input through discussion, and achieve consensus for approval of all draft documents. If a clear majority consensus is not possible within the Working Group, any member of the Group may request that a minority position statement be included as part of the document.

Upon completion and approval of a draft document within a Working Group, the Working Group Chairman shall forward the draft document to both the President and AC Chairman, who then forward the document to the other Officers (i.e., both Regional Vice-Presidents, the Executive Secretary, Treasurer, and Research Coordinator). All Officers collectively represent a document review group. This review group agrees on the type of information contained in the document (e.g., proposed policy, procedure, or item of internal and/or external information) and the appropriate level of approval or action (e.g., no action required, vote by AC, or vote by AC with subsequent action by Council). The review group also determines whether the draft document is in need of revision by the Working Group that submitted the document. Should the review group determine the draft document is in need of additional revision, the document shall be returned to the Working Group with comments for clarification and/or suggestions for revision. Upon receiving a revised copy of any Working Group document, the President and AC Chairman together determine whether the suggestions for revision were sufficiently incorporated to present the revised document to the entire AC for appropriate action. In the event that a revised document differs sufficiently in substance from the original draft (taking into account the suggested revisions), the President and AC Chairman shall re-submit the revised document to the review group (i.e., all Officers) for their approval prior to any subsequent action or approval.

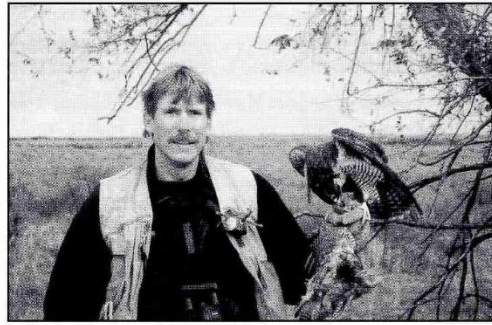
Conducting IAF Business and Communications Via E-Mail:

Officers and other members of the AC and Working Groups are encouraged to maximise their use of electronic mail (e-mail) for conducting business. However, the following standards or rules shall apply:

- If a member of the AC or a Working Group should anticipate being absent from their e-mail workstation for more than one week, they should notify the other members of the group of their expected absence. This notice should be given at least three days prior to the beginning of their planned absence and should indicate the day they expect to return to their workstation.
- Senders of e-mail messages should limit the sending of their messages only to the appropriate recipients. For example, if the message relates to the activity of a particular Working Group, send only to members of that Working Group.
- Recipients of e-mail messages shall not forward any e-mail message to others without prior approval. Such approval must be granted by both the sender of the original message and the appropriate Chairman (e.g., Working Group Chairman or AC Chairman) when messages are forwarded to individuals represented by the IAF (e.g., other AC members, Council Delegates, or members of Member Organisations). Additional approval by the President also is required Messages that might be forwarded to parties external to the IAF (i.e., individuals who are not represented by the IAF).
- E-mail messages should be as concise as possible, so as to limit the amount of information that is sent, and messages should be composed in English. Moreover, because many who are expected to read AC and Working Group messages use English as a second language, the phrases and statements included in messages should be explicit and jargon and abbreviations should be avoided.
- To minimise the amount of information being sent in response to the e-mails from other members, the responder should delete all but the most relevant part(s) of the original e-mail message or the question(s) to which they are responding. Should none of the original message be included in a response, note in the top line of the response the date of the original message, the name of the sender of the original message, and a brief description of the original message that generated the response.
- There shall be no personal attacks or innuendo in e-mail messages sent between or among members of the AC or Working Groups; all information exchanged shall be in the spirit of positive, productive, and constructive efforts.
- In the e-mail subject line or at the top of the message, the message should be classified as one of the following to facilitate e-mail management by recipients:
 - Information (Feel free to use "FYI," which abbreviates "For Your Information.")
 - Information Request (If possible, provide a brief description of the desired information in either the subject line or at the top of the e-mail message.)
 - Discussion Item (i.e., Exchange of thoughts, opinions, and ideas.)
 - Action Item (i.e., Vote required.)
- For all but the first of these e-mail categories (i.e., all but "FYI" messages), indicate a deadline for response (calendar date, and if appropriate, time of day). This timeline should be entered into the subject line or otherwise noted on the top line of the e-mail message. If possible, set deadlines between one to two weeks from the day the message is sent (taking into account any notices that members may have sent regarding their expected absence from workstations). Use "URGENT" in the subject line of the message, if the deadline for response is less than one week from the time the message is sent.
- Generally, do not respond to "FYI" messages, unless a reply should contribute additional information to the original message. When responding to messages classified as "Information Requested," reply only to the sender (i.e., do not reply to all recipients of the original message). When responding to messages that were classified as "Discussion Item" or "Action Item," send your response to all recipients, including those who were carbon copied (cc:) the original message. When responding, respond only to the issue that was addressed in the original message. If other topics need to be addressed, send a separate e-mail message.
- Generally, the inclusion of electronic attachments to e-mail messages should be avoided when possible, because some

recipients might have difficulty in receiving and/or opening the attachments. Simple messages are better sent in the body of the e-mail. Nonetheless, certain documents might be better sent as an attachments, especially when formatting of the document needs to be preserved (e.g., spreadsheets and unique formatting in text documents). To maximise the ease by which documents might be opened by others who use different operating systems, however, those documents should first be saved in a standard format (e.g., Rich Text Format for text documents) before they are attached to messages.

Respectfully submitted,
J. Timothy Kimmel (BPWG Chairman)



Financial Working Group Report I.A.F. Advisory Committee

IAF is one of the most widespread falconry organisations in the world. Our members belong to 34 countries with different economic realities. Each member represents from 5 to 2600 individuals. IAF is a non-profitable organisation with its main financial support based on the annual dues from its members. It is almost impossible to find a fees formula that can take into consideration all these aspects. The Financial Working Group has the task to propose to the Advisory Committee a new structure for the financial fees in order to:

- a) Maintain the same income level of the year 2000.
- b) Reduce the small club fees, giving the opportunity to some new clubs, from less rich countries, a full participation on IAF business.
- c) Not to increase other club fees.

Based on 2000 accounts and taking into consideration that a small reduction on the IAF income will not compromise any of our main plans, we have decided to propose (already in 2001) a reduction on IAF fees to benefit the small clubs. In fact, there were two main reasons for this proposal: the heavy financial effort of the small clubs (considering the effort per member) and the impossibility of some new members in paying those heavy fees.

At Obernai, the AC has achieved a solution to introduce on the next AGM in order to be formally adopted. A fixed amount plus a fee for individual members composes the formula. Members from countries with GDP (Gross Domestic Product – source Infonation (UNO)) less than \$10,000 (USD) per capita could be exempt from the fixed amount if they ask for it.

Formula

< 100 members: 100 euro per club + 1,75 euro per member
100 to 200 members: 200 euro per club + 1,75 euro per member
> 200 members: 250 euro per club + 1,75 euro per member

2. Funding.

It is common knowledge that members are contributing at full capacities. We need to seek for other sources. We have been searching the following possibilities:

- Organisations whose main activity is falconry.
- Donations from individuals that directly or indirectly helped on IAF activities.
- Organisations or individuals whose main activity share common interests with falconry - (ex: hawk food, falconry furniture, hunting associations, ...).
- Organisations or individuals without direct relationship with falconry (ex: Swarovsky optics)
- Public support to NGOs and support from private foundations (ex: EU funds, IUCN, etc...) – these possibilities (EU funds)

were already sought: we need to present well-documented projects in order to gain the funding. This will increase the costs and time consumption with no real gain.

- Individual support to NGOs (ex: Tax deductible donations) - IAF have no status to obtain this support.

Nowadays IAF has little to offer to a potential traditional sponsor:

1. Minor activity
2. Total lack of awareness
3. No representation in highly interesting business where falconry has an important role in decision makers' life. This is the case of some geographical areas (Middle East) of certain economic sectors.

Positive points to potential sponsors:

1. IAF is the only international organisation representing falconry (no competition).
2. Good image of falconry as a "green field-sport" with sustainable use of prey and raptors.

Conclusions:

With fees already stretched and unreliable occasional amounts from benefactors (very welcome), IAF should define ways to fund its increasing activities by:

- Expressing gratitude towards sponsors for promoting altruistic benefactions.
- Creating a procedure for projects funding, with a maximum transparency for the three parts involved - IAF budget, needs for the project, IAF officers involved versus personal benefits and sponsor expectations.

| 2001 Income | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Balance (31-12-2000) carried forward* | 5,051.99 € |
| Members contribution | 16,351.14 € |
| Donations income | 830.20 € |
| Total | 22,233.33 € |

* 17,95 euro in Bank Cantonale Vaudoise

*5.034,04 euro in Banco Comercial Português

| 2001 Expenditure | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| Secretariat | 6,729.80 € |
| Travelling expenses and accomodation | 7,110.46 € |
| Subscriptions | 489.85 € |
| Donations | € |
| Bank charges | 647.18 € |
| Non recurring expenditures | € |
| Total | 14,977.29 € |

| | |
|--------------|------------|
| 2001 Balance | 7,256.04 € |
|--------------|------------|

IUCN sponsored workshop on Commercial Captive Propagation and Wild Species Conservation.

December 7-9, 2002; Jacksonville, FL. USA

Brief Summary:

I represented the IAF during the three days of the IUCN sponsored workshop on Commercial Captive Propagation (CCP) in Jacksonville, FL. The goals of the workshop were:

1. Review the currently known conservation benefits and costs of commercial captive propagation of a wide range of plant, and animal species.
2. Determine the contributions of CCP, if any, to the survival of wild stocks, and the conditions under which CCP can be made beneficial to wild stocks.
3. Develop policy guidelines on CCP to insure that such activities remain beneficial to wild species

There were 29 participants from the international community invited as NGO participants in CCP and government regulators who were specialist in CCP. The group was divided into three groups dealing with CCP in: animals, plants, and marine animals. Each group was provided a professional facilitator, and the groups met in plenary sessions twice each day to report progress toward achievement of the goals outlined above. There were 10 brief papers delivered. Falconry and the CCP of falcons were included among those.

The perspective of the workshop was: the use of CCP worldwide has had a mixed impact on wild species and the conservation of critical habitat for endangered organisms. Part of the problem lies in the success of CCP itself. As a species becomes valuable, its take from the wild increases and in some cases threatens the wild population. A harvestable species adds value to its habitat and conservation measures may be precipitated by a desire to preserve species in the wild for economic reasons. In many cases CCP can provide a source for these species helping to reduce take and giving the species time to recover. The long-term goal for any species, however, is stability in the wild. Recent experiences with CCP indicate that the successful domestication of rare species decreases the economic value of the wild individuals and decreases incentive

to conserve habitat. The successful domestication and resultant decrease in value of the "blue-fronted Amazon" parrot was used repeatedly as an example. Rain forest breeding habitats in Argentina are no longer being conserved for the parrot because the economic value of a wild harvest has been eliminated by domestic production.

Just as the domestication of the blue-fronted Amazon was used as an example of how CCP has become negative, the CCP of large falcons was generally recognized as being positive and repeatedly used as an example of such. That said, government regulators are aware of and mentioned concern over genetic corruption, specifically with reference to hybrids. Nonetheless, falconry and falcon domestication was portrayed as largely positive and it was personally gratifying to see participants recognize that the long-term survival of a species and its habitat may be enhanced if that species has value as a harvestable wild commodity.

The Draft Report final report was sent to participants on 27 February, 2002, for review. Following completion of the report, donors will be sought and a project proposal developed. An abstract based on the workshop product has recently been submitted to the Society for Conservation Biology (meeting in July). I will forward the final product to the IAF as soon as it is available. The workshop was professionally organized, comfortable, and a worthwhile endeavor for the IAF. Much of the material covered in context of the workshop is directly applicable to activities of falconers/raptor breeders around the world.

Marshal Meyers, attorney for the U.S. pet industry was great support for falconry as he always is under these circumstances.

Ralph Rogers
24 Feb. 2002
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HKI rewarded with the silver VIV Poultry Award 2001.

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I like to inform you about the rewarding of the Herman Kiezebrink Institute (HKI) with the VIV Poultry Award 2001 for developing methods and equipment for killing day-old chicks without unnecessary stress or pain. The VIV is a world wide operating organisation organising trade shows for the poultry industry. During the VIV Europe HKI was rewarded for its efforts to develop humane methods based on the principles of animal welfare. At the VIV Europe HKI showed the Animal Euthanasia Device AED - A10. This device operates as an integrated part of the logistic system in the hatchery. It's capable of stunning and killing 10.000 to 40.000 day-old chicks per hour and doing so the chicks are handled in a respectful way without unnecessary stress. The AED - A10 uses a technique based on the use of CO₂, Argon or a mixture of these gasses. It operates according to the European laws and regulations on killing of animals.

Contribution to the poultry industry

As an integrated part of the handling process in the hatchery the AED - A10 automatically stuns and kills male day-old chicks. The method, which is used, prevents unnecessary suffocation by leading the day-old chicks into a chamber filled with at least 80% CO₂, Argon (99%) or a mixture of these gasses. This high level of gas first stuns the chicks and then kills them.

Until now the male day-old chicks are regarded as worthless. They have to be disposed against high costs. In our method the male day-old chicks can be sold (even with a small profit) to the animal food-industry, and used as high quality food for a large variety of animals, such as birds of prey.

Because the AED - A10 kills the chicks without the usual stress, they don't produce moisture of chemical substances, which they normally produce during their death struggle. That's why all day-old chicks, which are killed by the AED - A10 can be used as high quality food for raptors.

Recommended by animal food specialists of the European Zoo Organisation EAZA and the European Falconers organisation, day-old chicks are used as irreplaceable basic-food for a large variety of animals, such as birds of prey.

Although all these arguments are highly relevant, there is an even more important reason to introduce the AED - A10. In recent history there are several cases in which the public has reacted very intensely and emotionally on issues concerning animal welfare. Using gas as described is one of the two methods of killing male day-old chicks, approved by the European Government. The second method is killing the chicks in a macerator. Although killing in a macerator kills the chicks instantly, killing by using gas is preferable because the majority of the European population does not accept macerating animals. By using the AED - A10 the industry will acknowledge its responsibility towards the public, that the necessary killing of day-old chicks is done by the best possible method, without pain or unnecessary stress.

Proven technology

We showed our machine in March 1999, during a presentation to the main hatcheries in England, also attended by Jill Metheringham from the Humane Slaughter Association, and Dr. Mohan Raj from the University of Bristol, a known expert in this field. Dr. Raj stated that the prototype of the gas-machine is the first machine, capable of operating with a 100% result and under hatchery conditions. He encouraged us to develop and build the AED - A10 based on the shown prototype.

Animal Welfare.

This solution is worth showing that the poultry industry takes its responsibility towards society. The AED - A10 is a major breakthrough in the development of methods to kill animals in a respectful way, without unnecessary stress or pain during their death struggle. Because of the scale of the problem, this machine is of great importance for poultry industry.

Effective and efficient

The AED - A10 is not only a breakthrough on animal welfare, it is also highly efficient. The gas-consumption is relatively low and due to the fact that it is an integrated solution, it saves up to 2 full time employees per year.

A second major advantage is that the AED - A10 prevents hatchery waste. If day-old chicks are carefully handled, transported, prepared and stored, they can be used as food for various animals.

To prove this we contacted the Institut für Tierernährung from the Tierärztliche Hochschule Hannover. We asked them to do research on day-old chicks, which were killed under different circumstances

To find out whether the method of killing influences the quality of the chicks, which are used as raptor food. Prof. Dr. J. Kamphues did the research. We asked him to test five different test specimen of day-old chicks as described in the Spelderholt report (killed by the gas-machine, killed in a chamber which is slowly filled with gas, killed in a closed dust-bin filled with CO₂). He stated that only the quality of the day-old chicks, killed by the gas-machine was proven to be sufficient and that the chicks were usable as raptor food, because it contained no Aerobe bacteria (< 105 KBE/g), no demonstrable amount of mould or yeast, Salmonella, Clostridia, Streptococci's, Staphylococci's, or Aspergillus's. Only the chicks killed by the gas-machine passed this test. It means that killing with the gas-machine has no negative effects on the quality of chicks, due to the fact that the chicks first are stunned and then killed.

This research proves that day-old chicks are an excellent type of food, as long as it's treated like this.

This means that day-old chicks don't have to be disposed at high costs. For a hatchery with an estimate amount of 6.000.000 chicks hatched yearly, this means that it saves up to 240 tons of unnecessary high-risk destruction material, to be disposed at high costs.

APPEAL

This is an appeal for feathers as the support for preparing "Guidebook for identification of feathers of European birds of prey and owls (Falconiformes and Strigiformes)"

Authors of prepared „Guidebook for identification of feathers of European birds of prey and owls" appeal for support in collecting material for the guidebook. We ask for primaries, secondaries and tail-feathers of European species of birds of prey and owls. The feathers can be issued from moulted birds living in the wild or the ZOOS or from wings and tails of dead birds. Action of feathers gathering for preparing the identification guide has permission of Polish Nature Conservation Authority. Especially are expected feathers of those species of European birds of prey and owls which do not breed in Poland or are very rare in Central Europe (i.e. *Elanus caeruleus*, European vultures, *Circus macrourus*, *Accipiter brevipes*, *Buteo rufinus*, *Aquila clanga*, *Aquila chrysaetos*, *Aquila nipalensis*, *Aquila heliaca*, *Aquila adalberti*, *Hieraaetus pennatus*, *Hieraaetus fasciatus*, *Falco rusticolus*, *Falco cherrug*, *Falco biarmicus*, *Falco eleonorae*, *Falco vespertinus*, *Falco columbarius*, *Falco naumanni*, *Nyctea scandiaca*, *Strix nebulosa*, *Surnia ulula*, *Otus scops*, *Glaucidium passerinum*, *Aegolius funereus*). There are also

expected feathers of birds of other species which have atypical plumage (vary large or small, very pale or dark, with atypical colours and patterns, albino, melanistic). Feathers should be sent on the address given below in solid envelopes with inserted sheet of cardboard or paper boxes of appropriate size (i.e. box of computer keyboard). If is known age or sex of moulting or dead bird and date of death (month or decade) such information attached to the feathers would be very valuable. The support in feather collecting will be expressed in acknowledgements in the book. When feathers will be sent by mail on the envelope or package should be written in three languages (language of sender country, English, and Polish) that it is scientific exchange and the legal basis of exchange. Example: sender language/ Scientific exchange/ Wymiana naukowa - CITES, art. 7, PL001. Dr Marian Cieslak, Nature and Landscape Conservation Department, Environment Protection Institute, Krucza 5/11, 00-548 Warszawa, tel. (+48-22) 629-37-73,

e-mail: mariancieslak@poczta.onet.pl

Extracted from: <http://rav.sio.rssi.ru/~anna/projects.html>

Ha? Ha? Ha!

by Thomas Richter

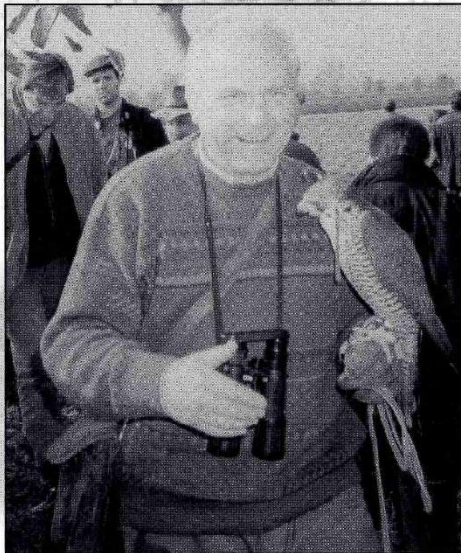
„Na Tom, hast Du Dir einen Beo angeschafft?" Europas bester Falkner hatte anlässlich einer Landesverbandsbeize 1998/99 gleich erkannt, dass das kein Habicht war, den ich da auf der Faust hatte. Und er hatte recht mit seiner abwertenden Bemerkung, jedenfalls was den Beizerfolg anging.

Das Vögelchen flog prima, hatte einen superduper guten Appell, lahnte nicht, sprang praktisch nie ab, nur schlagen wollte der Harris' nicht. Auch auf die besten Chancen nicht. Welcher Teufel hatte also mich geritten, dass ich mir einen Harris Hawk aufgestellt habe? Zumal ich ja einen Habicht flog (und fliege), der jählich nichts zu wünschen übrig lässt. Nun ich hatte drei gute Gründe: der erste war pure Neugier. Ich wollte einfach mal etwas Neues ausprobieren. Wer seit 20 Jahren Habichte fliegt und – wenn ich selbst das so sagen darf – mit ganz gutem Erfolg, der hat irgendwann einmal Lust, mit einer anderen Beizvogelart Erfahrungen zu sammeln. Da ein Falke bei meinen beschränkten Jagdmöglichkeiten nicht in Frage kommt, und da mir ein Adler zu schwer ist, und nebenbei bemerkt auch zu gefährlich, blieb eigentlich nur noch ein Buteo oder Parabuteo übrig. Deshalb kam ich auf den Harris. Sooo viel hatte ich von dieser Greifvogelart gehört. Das Jagen im Familienverband, war für den Ethologen eigentlich schon Anreiz genug. Zweitens machte mein Töchterchen Anna gerade Falknerprüfung, sie sollte einen eigenen Vogel bekommen und drittens hatte Albert Behrends welche gezüchtet, ich durfte mir ein Weib abholen. Und jetzt diese Enttäuschung. Lag's wirklich an der Vogelart, oder hatte ich Superfalkner irgend etwas falsch gemacht? Hektoliter Bier haben wir verdiskutiert. Für Wolfgang (Schreyer) war die Sache klar: „diese Krähen haben einfach keinen Wert, ich

habe noch nie einen vernünftig jagen gesehen". Susanne (Hartmann) fand ihn einfach nur häßlich und Willi (Ziegler), ja Willi: zunächst stand er auch auf der Seite der Spötter. Doch dann, dann hat der Charme des Amis ihn irgendwie gepackt. Die erste Saison ging vorbei, Harriet wie das Vögelchen nun hieß, hatte exakt zwei Kaninchen gebeizt. Mit Mühe, obwohl sie 20 hätte haben können. Die Mauser kam und ging, Anna hatte ihren Falknerjagdschein, die Zuchtsaison war vorüber und Willi - hatte einen Harris auf der Faust. Einen Harris? „Des glaub i net, das mir diea net hiekieagn. Ganz England beizt mit de Harris und mir kenna des net". Willi wollte es wissen. Und ich wollte es auch wissen und Anna natürlich, wobei die sich allein am Flug schon freuen konnte. Wir beiden anderen aber, wir wollten Beute machen. Willi hatte sich zwischenzeitlich schlau gemacht und vor allem mit den Engländern konferiert, E-Mail sei dank. Kurt Hussong, der Nestor der deutschen Harrishawkerie, gab auch seine Kommentare dazu. So langsam haben wir dann kapiert, was ich falsch gemacht hatte. Ich hatte den Harris eingeflogen wie einen Habicht. Ich hatte mir wirklich Mühe gegeben. Hatte ihn locke getragen, lieber etwas zuviel abtragen als zuwenig war schon immer mein Motto gewesen. Es war verkehrt. Willi machte es mir vor, wie's richtig geht. Und sein Vogel geht richtig. Hasen, Kaninchen (fast) kein Unterschied. Sogar Möwen kann der Harris fangen. Selbst Annas Harris lernte es noch, auch wenn wir heute wissen, dass gerade die erste Saison, im Jahr meiner Fehler also, die wichtigste ist. Harriet kam leider durch ein tragisches Unglück am Ende des dritten Fluges ums Leben. Bis dahin hatte sie vier Dutzend Kaninchen gebeizt, es hatte sich gelohnt.

¹ Es war ein Weib, aber der Falkner spricht ja doch von „dem Vogel".

Anna wollte natürlich wieder einen Vogel und das durfte nur ein (weiblicher) Harris sein. Abgeholt haben wir ihn Mitte Juli. Der Vogel war 14 Wochen von den Eltern aufgezogen und nicht mit Menschen in Kontakt gewesen. Das ist schon die halbe Miete. Ja nicht zu früh anfangen mit dem Harris, das war die erste Lektion. 870 Gramm wog er, als er direkt aus der Voliere kam. Harris Hawks kommen sehr spitz von ihren Eltern, das war die zweite Lektion. Mein großer Fehler beim ersten Vogel war, dass ich mich viel zu viel mit ihr beschäftigt hatte. Das haben wir beim zweiten Mal beachtet. Wir haben ihn die ersten 4 Wochen in Ruhe gelassen. Er stand auf dem Sprengel im Garten, konnte sich alles ansehen, wurde aber nicht getragen und auch die reichliche Atzung wurde möglichst unauffällig deponiert. Anna hat sich nur gelegentlich in die Nähe des Vogels gesetzt und ein Buch gelesen. Am Ende dieser Zeit wog sie dann etwas über tausend Gramm. Bevor wir irgend etwas Neues mit ihr gemacht haben, haben wir sie erst einmal in die richtige Handlungsbereitschaft (Kondition in der Falknersprache) gebracht. Im Jahrbuch 2000 habe ich erklärt, was die Verhaltensforscher über Handlungsbereitschaft wissen. Wir haben sie in dieser Zeit nicht getragen! Wir haben langsam das Gewicht reduziert bis sie eine Belohnung auf dem Handschuh wirklich als Belohnung verstand. 930 Gramm zeigte die Waage, als Mira (wie sie heute heißt) das erste Mal bei Anna auf der Faust kröpfte. Sobald die Atzung gekröpft war, haben wir sie wieder weggestellt. Selbstverständlich haben wir in diesem Stadium alle Experimente unterlassen, etwa ihr die Atzung weg zu nehmen. Anderntags wog sie wiederum 930 Gramm und kam auf etwa 10 Meter an der Lockschnur, am Tag darauf genau so weit ohne Sicherung². Und das war's dann mit Abtragen. Am nächsten Tag fing sie mit 915 Gramm bei dem ersten Flug ihr erstes Kaninchen. Zugegeben, es hatte schwerste Myxomatose, es war also kein richtiger Flug, mehr ein Hupferer, wie die Bayern sagen, das war keine Beizjagd, sondern Erlösung des Kaninchens, aber für den Vogel war es die erste Beute. Die bedeutet immer einen vollen Kropf und ist der Dreh- und Angelpunkt. Der Vogel hat gelernt, dass sich das Jagen lohnt. Ich wiederhole den Zeitplan gerne: Samstag erstes Kröpfen auf der Faust, Sonntag erstes Beireiten an der Lockschnur, Montag erster Freiflug, Dienstag erste Beute. Anderntags fing sie mit dem ersten Flug das zweite Kaninchen, der Kropf (die Belohnung) war immer noch beachtlich. Dann kam auch mal ein Fehlflug, die Flüge wurden weiter und rasanter, und jeder erfolgreiche Flug wurde ausgiebig belohnt und die Beize für diesen Tag beendet. Nur am



letzten Tag des Urlaubs haben wir sie dann zwei Kaninchen fangen lassen. So hat Mira in fünf Tagen sechs Kaninchen gefangen, ohne dass wir irgendwelche zusätzlichen Appellübungen mit ihr angestellt hätten. Wieder zu Hause blieb Anna natürlich nichts anderes übrig, als freie Folge zu fliegen, da wir ja kein Wild vor der Haustür haben. Appell hat sie mittlerweile bis etwa 980 Gramm, zum Jagen ist sie aber nur 40 Gramm tiefer zu bewegen. Aber dann! Mira jagt ins Gebüsch, wie es ein Habicht nicht besser könnte, sie setzt nach, sie rüttelt über der Deckung und sucht die Beute. Sie jagt mit sehr viel mehr Köpfchen, als ein Habicht. Dem Menschen gegenüber ist sie immer noch sanftmütig, wenngleich sie Anna auch schon einmal an der Nase gepackt hat, aber daran ist ja nie der Vogel schuld.

Die wichtigste Lektion ist, dass Handlungsbereitschaft zum Beireiten und Handlungsbereitschaft zum Jagen nicht das Gleiche ist. Beim Einjagen der Harris wird überdeutlich, dass in die Handlungsbereitschaft immer fördernde und hemmende Faktoren eingehen. In den Grafiken versuche ich das darzustellen³. Fördernder Faktor ist der Hunger, hemmende Faktoren sind die Mühe, die aufgewendet werden muss, um zur Nahrung zu kommen (Bednarek stellt den Zusammenhang zwischen Energiegewinn und Energieverlust im Jahrbuch 2000 sehr präzise dar) und die Angst vor etwaigen Störungen. Das Jagen ist für alle Greifvögel eine mühsame Arbeit, der sie sich nur dann unterziehen, wenn sie entsprechend motiviert sind. Beim Habicht fällt das nicht so auf. Habichte sind in Mitteleuropa auf extreme Schreckhaftigkeit selektiert. Seit Jahrhunderten wurde auf alles Dampf gemacht, was einen krummen Schnabel hatte und bei der geringsten Störung nicht erfolgreich das Weite suchte. Beim Habicht spielen also nicht nur energetische „Überlegungen“, sondern auch das Risiko der Annäherung an den Menschen eine Rolle. Ein Habicht der Appell hat, ist auch in der Handlungsbereitschaft zu jagen. Je weniger locke der Vogel ist, bzw. je größer die Störungen sind, um so weniger ist der Habicht bereit beizureiten, obwohl er in einem Abstand vom Menschen durchaus noch jagt⁴. Bei Harris Hawks ist das offensichtlich anders. Einen inneren Widerstand gegen den Menschen haben sie nicht, die Indianer haben die Harris offensichtlich nicht als Nahrungskonkurrenten erlebt und deshalb wohl weitgehend in Ruhe gelassen. Zum Handschuh zu fliegen und sich die Atzung zu holen, kostet einen Harris kaum Energie und damit keine Überwindung. Der Beute hinterher zu fliegen auch nicht, aber das

² Auch diesmal waren wir mit einmaligem Kommen zufrieden. Anfänger sind ja oft so begeistert, dass der Vogel überhaupt kommt, dass sie die Atzung immer und immer wieder wegreißen und ihn erneut kommen lassen. Der Vogel lernt dabei, dass es sich nicht lohnt zu kommen.

³ Von der Handlungsbereitschaft zur Nahrungsaufnahme sind in unserem Beispiel der Respekt vor dem Falkner (beim Harris gering, beim Habicht größer) die Angst vor einem fremden Hund (beim Harris größer als beim Habicht) und die Hemmung sich anzustrengen (beim Harris viel größer als beim Habicht) abzuziehen. Das Ergebnis in Abb. 1a ist, dass der Harris weder kommt noch jagt. Schicken wir den Hund weg, dann kommt und jagt der Harris (Abb. 1b). Der Habicht in Abb. 2a will auch weder jagen noch kommen. Schicken wir den Hund weg, jagt der Habicht, aber er kommt nicht (Abb. 2b). Erst wenn wir die Handlungsbereitschaft zur Nahrungsaufnahme erhöhen jagt und kommt der Habicht (Abb. 2c). Selbstverständlich wirken in der Realität noch andere fördernde (wie tiefe Temperaturen, früher Morgen oder später Nachmittag usw.) und hemmende Faktoren (alle Störungen) auf die Handlungsbereitschaft zum Jagen oder Kommen ein. Auch sollte man Hunde nicht generell wegschicken, sonst lernt sie der Vogel ja nie kennen, der Hund eignet sich nur gut als Beispiel, ich hätte auch einen Mountainbiker wählen können, doch ist dies Wort so schwer zu schreiben.

⁴ Alte, besonders locke Habichte zeigen in vertrauter Umgebung fast ein Verhalten, das dem der Harris entspricht. So kann ich meinen Habicht zu Hause auch noch mit einem Gewicht appellfliegen, bei dem an jagen nicht mehr zu denken ist. In fremder Umgebung dreht sich das Verhältnis aber regelmäßig wieder um.

Schlagen, das ist etwas ganz anderes. Wir müssen also dem jungen Harris gleich von Anfang an beibringen, dass das Beutemachen die ersehnte Belohnung des vollen Kropfes bringt, nicht das Beireiten. Appell bekommen sie dann (fast) von selbst. Im übrigen sind Harris Hawks viel plastischer in ihrem Verhalten als Habichte (dieses Ethologendeutsch klingt ausgesprochen gut, wenn ich schreibe: sie sind nicht so dumm und damit viel lernfähiger, dann hätte ich das Gleiche ausgesagt, aber ich hätte mir alle Habichtler zum Feind gemacht und bei den Fachkollegen den Eindruck erweckt, ich wolle die Vögel vermenschlichen und beides will ich doch wirklich nicht). Macht man beim Einjagen eines Harris in diesem Stadium Fehler, vor allem, lässt man ihn lernen, dass es auf der Faust jederzeit und vor allem ohne Anstrengung Atzung gibt, dann hat man hinterher einen Vogel, der wunderbar fliegt, hervorragenden Appell hat, aber leider nicht jagt.

Trotz aller Begeisterung gibt es noch einige Kleinigkeiten, die es zu wissen lohnt (wenn ich die Erfahrung mit den wenigen Vögeln, die ich erleben durfte, verallgemeinern kann):

- Zunächst sind Harris, so friedlich sie sich auch sonst geben, gar nicht begeistert, wenn man ihnen die Atzung wegnimmt. Ich habe auch beim Habicht schon oft kleine Atzungsstückchen geschnitten, „Breckerl“⁵, wie meine Bayern das geringschätzig nennen. Die Überlegung war immer: warum soll ich den Vogel verärgern, wenn ich ihm die Atzung wegnehme. Das Breckerl das er sieht, kann er ganz kröpfen. Der Vogel fängt dann gar nicht erst an, sich für die rechte Hand des Falkners zu interessieren. Der Nachteil dieser Methode besteht neben der geringen Mühe des Schneidens der Bröckchen darin, dass beim Einholen des Vogels nach einem Fehlflug doch eine nicht geringe Atzungsmenge im Kropf verschwindet. An einem langen Beiztag summiert sich das und wenn der Vogel ohnehin etwas zu hoch ist, kann sich das negativ auf die Handlungsbereitschaft auswirken. Ein kleiner Nachteil mag außerdem sein, dass der Vogel auf eine ganze (Kaninchen-)Keule vielleicht etwas leichter reagiert, als auf das Gulasch. Da ein Harris der in Jagdkondition ist, ohnehin meist einen hervorragenden Appell hat und auch ohne sichtbare Atzung beireitet, spielt das allerdings keine wirkliche Rolle. Harris Hawks greifen viel härter zu, als Habichte. Die Beute lassen sie kaum wieder los,

wenn sie sie einmal haben. Die Hand mit der Atzung, die unvorsichtig weggezogen wurde, auch nicht. Willi jedenfalls, schneidet heute für seine Harris auch Breckerl.

- Dann sind Harris ausgesprochen scharf auf Habichte. Habichte auf der Faust, vor allem aber Habichte im Gelände werden erbarungslos angejagt. Als wir das noch nicht wussten, haben wir einige üble Attacken erlebt, die nur wegen unseres unverdienten Glückes einigermaßen glimpflich ausgegangen sind. Meine Knieverletzung mit anschließender fast dreimonatiger Krückenpause (Ordenstagung 2000) war die Folge einer raschen Ausweichdrehung um meinen auf der Faust stehenden Habicht mit meinem breiten Buckel vor dem angreifenden Harris zu schützen. Wenn der Harris fliegt, müssen bei gemischten Gruppen alle Habichtler sehr sorgfältig aufpassen.

- Schwierig ist das Verhältnis von Harris und Hund. So wie der Habicht eine natürliche Scheu vor dem Menschen hat, durch lange Verfolgung fest im genetischen Programm verankert, haben Harris Hawks offensichtlich eine tiefe Scheu vor den Kojoten, die in ihrem natürlichen Habitat ja keineswegs selten sind. Woher soll der Harris den Unterschied zwischen Kojote und Hund kennen? Einen Harris an den Hund zu gewöhnen ist deutlich mühsamer, als einen Habicht.

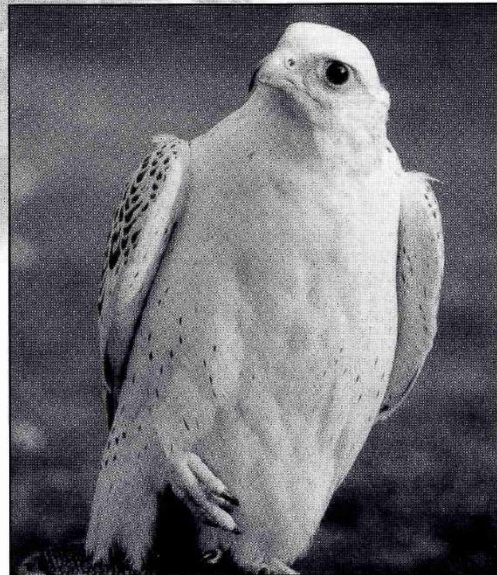
Harris Hawks heißen auf deutsch „Wüstenbussard“. Sie kommen also aus wesentlich wärmeren Gefilden. Bei strengem Frost müssen sie, vor allem über Nacht, in einen überschlagenen Raum gebracht werden.

- Die letzte Besonderheit betrifft die Anatomie. Vor allem im ersten Lebensjahr sind die Knochen recht brüchig. Es haben sich schon Vögel am Sprengel Brüche zugezogen, obwohl sie ja kaum einmal abspringen. Auf eine ausreichende Mineralstoffversorgung ist bei ihnen noch mehr Wert zu legen, als bei anderen Beizvögeln. Auch sollte man bei gefrorenem Boden keine Experimente machen und besonders auf die Beize auf wehrhafte Hasen eher einmal verzichten.

Unsere Frage von der Überschrift können wir damit beantworten: Ha(bicht)? oder Ha(tris)? Ha(uptsache) einen von beiden!

Thomas Richter

⁵ Bröckchen



I.A.F. Guidelines for Regulating Falconry

Falconry is of interest for wildlife conservation through its relationship with raptors and their prey. Raptor and prey populations in healthy environments are renewable resources, and falconry can be managed to benefit their conservation. Management for raptors is especially important. As top predators, like the large carnivorous mammals, raptors can be flagship species for monitoring biodiversity, or vulnerable indicators of environmental pollution, or cause problems through predation on game, livestock and rare species exposed by changing land-use.

Benefits from falconry

Falconry has high potential to benefit raptors, through expertise in raptor biology and management, through education and through conservation by sustainable use. The training of raptors requires and develops an understanding of their behaviour, which leads many falconers to become wildlife biologists or veterinarians. Hypothesis-testing described in "De Arte Venandi cum Avibus" made Emperor Frederick II a father of modern science¹, while more recent falconers like the Craighead brothers and Dr Heinz Brüll contributed landmark ecological publications^{2,3}. The major breeding-release schemes used to rescue peregrines, Mauritius kestrels and Californian condors are run by falconers: Profs. Tom Cade and Christian Saar^{4,6}, Drs. Carl Jones and Mike Wallace⁵. Among methods to reduce risk of disastrous bird-strikes at airfields, falconers provide the dedication and expertise consistently to deter the most problematic species⁹. When incapacitated rare raptors need rehabilitation, the techniques were mostly developed by falconer vets¹⁰⁻¹². As a group, falconers show above-average environmental responsibility¹³, and their rich culture also makes them valuable guides for historical and ecology-based tourism. Their peculiar combination of conservation with hunting also qualifies falconers uniquely for solving socio-economic problems that can arise from raptor predation^{14,15}, including provision of a home for individual raptors that create problems. For these reasons, falconry expertise is a valuable human resource for conservation in any modern state (see www.i-a-f.org).

Moreover, new knowledge on the prevalence of non-breeders in healthy raptor populations¹⁶⁻¹⁸ indicates scope for sustainable use that can provide help with population monitoring. For raptors that are rare, the domestic breeding that meets falconry requirements can ensure survival of species. Falconry has relatively low impact on prey, because capture selects weak and diseased individuals^{19,20} and is inefficient compared with shooting. Falconers therefore require prey-rich habitats, which motivates conservation that also benefits wild raptors and biodiversity in general. Moreover, raptors leave no injured quarry.

Legal status

In recognition of these benefits and its cultural heritage, falconry is legally recognised in most parts of the world. Falconry is practised in many African countries, thrives in Asia, is legal throughout the Americas and is accommodated under the Bern Convention and in the Wild Birds Directive of the European Union⁸. However, without a federal regulatory framework for falconry as in the United States, nations in Europe each have separate regulations. This document and the supporting material is intended as a guide for best practice, to promote consolidation of good laws throughout Europe.

Regulations world-wide

The main areas of legislation concerning falconry regulate obtain-

ing raptors, possessing raptors, welfare, transport, hunting and release of raptors to the wild. This document identifies regulations that can derive maximal benefits from falconry with minimal administration. Minimal administration not only conserves administrative resources⁸ but also encourages compliance with regulations. The best approach is to use single-issue certificates for falconers or single-issue licences for individual raptors, as recommended in a set of regulatory principles agreed by IAF members in 2000⁶.

The United States federal regulations for falconry are a good example of a minimalist system²¹. These regulations provide a framework for a falconry program administered by each state, based on a joint federal and state issued falconry possession permit. Falconers are first permitted in the "Apprentice class," for 2 years as early as age 14, and then in the "General class," for 5 years as early as age 16, and then in the "Master class," after 7 years in the previous two classes, as early as age 21. To complete the Apprentice period, Apprentice class falconers must have a General or Master class sponsor, take a falconry exam, have a facilities inspection, and must trap a wild, immature, easily trained, common raptor (the American kestrel or red-tailed hawk); and an Apprentice falconer may only hold one raptor. General class falconers may take and hold a total of 2 nestling or immature raptors from the wild, or captive bred raptors of any species permitted by the state of residence. A Master falconer may hold a total of 3 raptors of most species of raptors, including golden eagles with a special golden eagle possession permit, but may take only one listed rare species per year. Harvest permits to capture any raptors from the wild are issued by the falconer's state of residence. Only wild-captured Harris hawks, peregrine falcons, and gyrfalcons are required to be marked, with tamper proof rings. All captive bred raptors are fitted with seamless rings.

Regulations in EU countries

At national level in EU states, the typical implementation of regulations for falconry is through Ministerial Order, or Order in Council. This preserves flexibility to modify regulations for adaptive management of falconry. Moreover, national conservation legislation (for example to comply with current EU directives) needs merely to state that falconry is permitted, subject to ministerial or council regulation. In countries with separate hunting laws, falconry may need consideration there too. For example, several EU countries (e.g. Belgium, U.K.) recognise the low ecological impact and high training required of raptors in falconry by permitting extensions to hunting seasons or to the range of species that may be hunted.

In the European Union, implementation of CITES (Regulation EC 338/97 of 9 December 1996) treats all raptors as uncommon, so licences must be obtained to obtain or possess any raptor from the wild. Under these circumstances, it is desirable to issue licences once for each raptor. Typically, a licence is confirmed by a marker on the bird. This marker is usually a ring that, after initial attachment, cannot be removed without destruction. Domestic progeny can be fitted as nestlings with a specified size of seamless metal ring⁹, that cannot be removed when legs are full-grown; plastic tamper-proof rings can be used on older birds⁸. If deemed necessary, security against transfer of markers could be obtained by banking a biological sample (eg feather); on dispute, a second sample would be DNA-profiled in parallel with the banked sample, with analysis fees paid by the party in error. Similarly, if DNA samples from breeding stock are banked, any dispute about progeny could be

resolved by parentage tests. However, no country has yet required the additional administration of a "mark-and-bank" scheme.

Within the European Union, there is specific legal provision for falconers to have raptors from the wild in Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Spain and the United Kingdom, also in Greece, Italy and Portugal for rehabilitation purposes. In principle, there are no restrictions on transporting trained raptors between any countries within the European Union, although proof of legal origin may be required at any time and veterinary quarantine applies to all birds entering the UK. Until the EU follows North America and implements CITES Conference Resolution 10.20 on "Frequent Transborder Movements of Personally Owned Live Animals", certificates will be required for every movement to or from the EU.

Permits for individual falconers are required by several EU states, as in the USA, to ensure that standards of expertise are confirmed by examination or through assessment by a mentor. In Germany and Austria, permits from examinations under the hunting laws confirm adequate knowledge of the ecology and keeping of raptors, their training and of issues that affect hunting in general. Permits can require observance of desirable conditions, e.g. to ensure welfare of trained raptors, and can aid decisions about competence to take birds from the wild. Mentorship schemes, examinations and marking can be delegated to falconry organisations, to reduce central administrative costs and to encourage good practise through club codes of conduct. Belgium has extensive delegation; the UK avoids the administrative burden of examinations, but a Hawk Board of falconers, breeders and zoos helps the national authorities with the ringing scheme.

Other issues

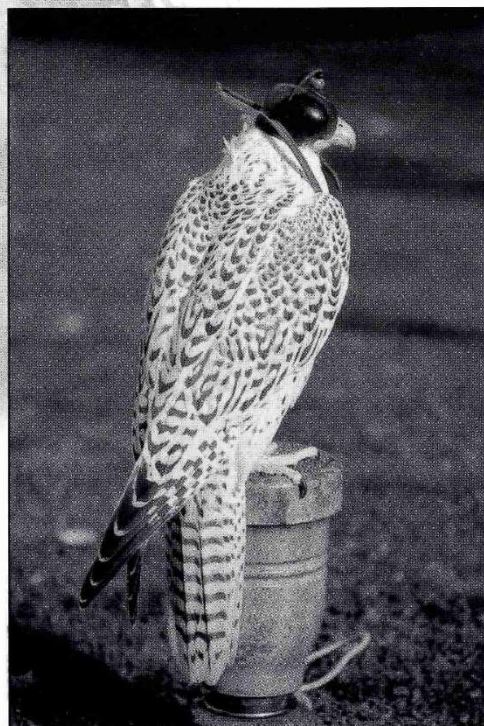
If falconers use radio-tags, few raptors are lost by accident into the wild. Occasional loss of single birds creates negligible risk of introducing populations of non-native species. The flying of trained raptors is therefore excluded from restrictions and resolutions that arise from the Convention on BioDiversity (CBD) to avoid alien introductions. A recent IAF survey shows that hybrids and non-native species are used least in countries with liberal access to wild raptors. In France and countries outside Europe, falconers help to monitor wild populations from which they obtain birds under licence. In Europe, numbers of birds licensed from the wild should be reported every second year to the secretariat of the Bern Convention. IAF is represented at the Bern Convention and can provide advice on monitoring through sustainable use.

Summary

In summary, minimal administration on a global perspective is obtained by combining falconer-permits with licences to obtain rare species from the wild, without individual licences for domestic bred raptors or common wild species (e.g. USA). In Europe, the present implementation of CITES obliges the licensing of all captive raptors. In countries where clubs supervise falconers, national falconer permits may not be necessary and administrative costs can be saved by delegating to clubs some responsibilities for licensed raptors (e.g. UK). In other countries, falconer-permits can be used to encourage best practise, through mentorship and the creation of responsible clubs.

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Appendices

- A International conventions that affect falconry.
- B Position Statement on falconry of the Raptor Research Foundation.
- C Position Statement on falconry regulations of IAF.
- D Schedule of ring sizes.
- E Mark and bank concept note of IAF.
- F An example of falconry regulations in an EU state, for the Walloon region of Belgium..

Appendix A International conventions that affect falconry.

Is Falconry Compatible with International Legislation?

WORLDWIDE

The only international legislation that is without geographic limit and affects falconry is the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.

CITES deals with international trade in wildlife and does not regulate the use to which specimens may be put.

However, the 10th Conference of the Parties in 1997 has adopted resolution Conf.10.20 on "Frequent Transborder Movements of Personally Owned Live Animals".

The preamble of that Resolution states :

"AWARE that live animals of species listed in the appendices of the Convention are often involved in frequent movement across international borders for a variety of legitimate purposes, including but not limited to companion or competition animals, and animals moved as household effects or for falconry".

Falconry was thereby unanimously recognised as a legitimate activity by the 129 countries present at the Conference of the Parties.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

The Council of Europe includes more than 30 countries. On 19th September 1979, CoE adopted the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, better known as The Bern Convention.

The Convention allows member States to derogate from the protection measures for a number of reasons (Article 9), amongst which is "the capture, the keeping or any other judicious use" of wildlife (the convention does not cover domestic progeny).

The Standing Committee of the Bern Convention has adopted a "Model Form for Biennial Reports" to be used by the Contracting Parties every two years to report on the derogations they have granted on the basis of article 9. The form lists all the reasons for

derogating under article 9, and has added "falconry".

By doing this, the Standing Committee recognises that falconry is a good reason for allowing the capture and the keeping of wild birds of prey.

OTHER EUROPEAN CONVENTIONS

The International Convention for the Protection of Birds signed in Paris on 18th October 1950 states in its article 7 : "Exceptions to this Convention may be permitted by the appropriate authorities in the interests of ... falconry"

EUROPEAN UNION

In its Opinion of 25th May 1977 on the proposal for a Council Directive on Bird Conservation, the Economic and Social Committee stated :

2.8.1. The absence of the possibility of derogating in order to take birds of prey for falconry was noted. It was pointed out to the Commission that this was a legitimate and ancient sport, if properly controlled, harmed neither the birds of prey population nor the populations pursued in the course of falconry. Some provisions should be made therefore to allow the continuation of this on a controlled basis "

In consequence, in Council Directive of 2 April 1979 on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC).

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

Art. 9.1.c. allows Member States to derogate to allow "other judicious use of some birds"

The European Commission has given an explanation of the concept of "other judicious use":

"It may also include other use provided that this does not jeopardise the general objectives of the directive and it may include hunting using birds of prey in the context of falconry".

CONCLUSIONS

Provisions are made for falconry, which is also mentioned in other favourable contexts, in CITES, Directives of the European Union and other European Conventions.

Appendix B Position Statement on falconry of the Raptor Research Foundation.

INTRODUCTION:

Birds of prey have received considerable conservation attention in recent years due to marked declines in some populations, notably of those species vulnerable to environmental pollutants. As a result of these declines, and because reliable data on population status were often unavailable, protection of raptor species became a conservation priority, including strict regulation of the sport of Falconry. In 1977, the Conservation Committee of the Wilson Ornithological Society (WOS) reported on Falconry in North America (Braun et al. 1977) concluding that Falconry is a legitimate art but that monitoring of raptor populations was needed. Recommendations were made that Falconry regulations be adopted by all States, that a practical marking system be developed for permanent identification of individual raptors, that properly marked falconry birds be allowed to be transported freely between States, and that captive bred raptors of any species be allowed for Falconry. At the time of the WOS committee report, newly promulgated Federal regulations controlling the practice of Falconry were being implemented in the United States which have served as the basis, with minor changes, for regulating the sport in 42 States. Similar rules have been promulgated by several provinces in Canada.

Since 1977, substantial data have become available on the status of most raptor species suitable for Falconry, and depressed raptor populations have generally recovered in North America and Europe. Most of the recommendations of the WOS Conservation Committee have been achieved in the United States and Canada, and the contributions of falconers to raptor management and conservation education has been widely recognised. Yet regulation of Falconry still causes controversy in some countries.

The purpose of the Falconry Position Statement by the Raptor Research Foundation, Inc., is to provide current and additional expert opinion based on available biological data on issues relating to the regulation and practice of Falconry. Some supporting documentation was presented at the 1987 meeting of the Foundation. That, and other data are on file with the Foundation. This statement neither affirms nor disaffirms the philosophical question of the legitimacy of the sport of Falconry.

DEFINITION OF ISSUES:

Harvest from Wild Populations. The removal of young birds from wild populations reduces productivity (directly, and perhaps indirectly through disturbance during the nesting season). However, raptors are a renewable resource, and thus the game management principle of 'sustainable yield' may be appropriately applied to harvest of individuals from healthy populations.

Captive Propagation. Captive propagation of raptors has increased dramatically in recent years, and the release of captive-bred progeny has been valuable for re-establishing some endangered species. Captive breeding provides birds for Falconry, but may also be used to conceal illegally acquired birds unless parentage can be proven.

Hybridization and Introductions. The production of hybrids, especially among large falcons, has raised questions concerning the release of such birds to the wild. Genetic theory predicts that, at normal population levels, hybrids between sympatric or parapatric species would be eliminated by natural selection. Similarly, non-native species from within the same super-continent (Americas, Eurasia) are unlikely to establish themselves in the wild as introduced aliens. However, traits from hybrids between allopatric species might establish in native stocks, and species from other super-continents might become accidentally introduced if used in large numbers for Falconry.

Identification of Individual Birds and Parentage. To effectively enforce Falconry regulations, individual birds must be reliably identified. Leg bands which cannot be refastened after removal would be a convenient method, but bands currently used are not entirely reliable. Alternatives include biochemical parentage tests, which should soon be available for raptors, and foot scute patterns which are expected to provide unique "fingerprints" for individual identification.

Regulation and Enforcement of Falconry. Controls are desirable; however, the intensity of regulations and their enforcement should be consonant with the risk to raptor populations.

POSITION:

The position of the Raptor Research Foundation, Inc., with regard to the above stated issues relating to Falconry is:

1. North American Raptors used in Falconry have stable or increasing populations throughout most or all of their range. This is also generally true of European countries where falconry is practiced.
2. Evidence indicates that large and stable or increasing raptor populations can sustain an annual harvest of at least 10% of nestlings.
3. Any harvest of raptors from small and unstable or declining populations should be evaluated, in each instance, on a biological (e.g., population and productivity data) basis.
4. The annual harvest of wild raptors by falconers in the United States is well below 5% for any species and below 1% for most species. Percentages are not adjusted for return to wild stocks of released and escaped birds.
5. Final development of biochemical parentage tests and the use of foot scute patterns for individual identification should be encouraged as tools for regulation and enforcement.
6. Escape of sympatric and parapatric species or their hybrids is unlikely to pose any significant threat to wild populations. However, we recommend that hybrids between allopatric species should not be bred for falconry, and that other hybrids or species at risk of accidental introduction between super-continents should be imprinted on humans before being used in Falconry.
7. Licensing individual falconers on merit is effective for regulating Falconry, especially when combined with individual markers for raptors of special management concern (e.g., endangered species). There is little conservation justification for the administrative costs of marking common raptors individually, and future consideration should be given to modification of this practice.
8. Many resources now being directed towards the control of Falconry in the United States and elsewhere could be redirected to raptor population monitoring, habitat conservation, education and preventing the killing of wild raptors.
9. Government agencies should be more responsive to the changing status of species, both by imposing protection when necessary and by removing restrictions on use when biological data indicate such is warranted.
10. International standards for the practice and regulation of Falconry are encouraged.

Appendix C – IAF Position Statement on falconry regulations.

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

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

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

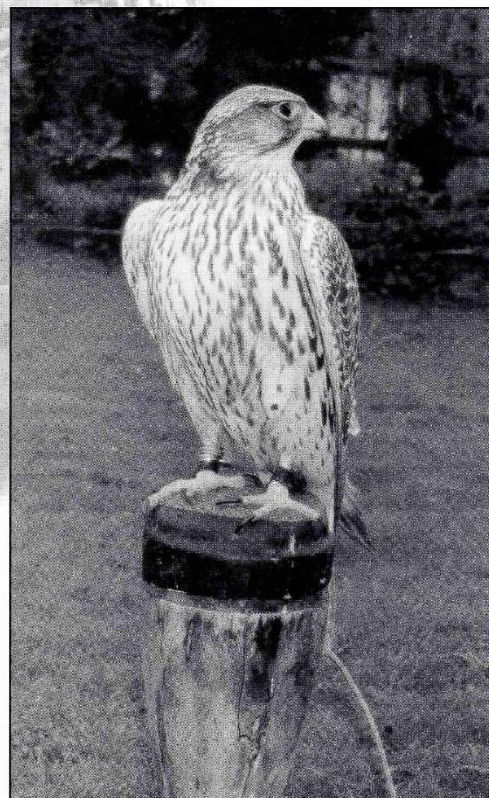
1. Apply legal regulation only where there is real risk to wild raptors or to falconry.
2. Reduce bureaucracy to a level concomitant with real conservation requirements.
3. Register birds, if needed, by a scheme for 1-time recording and passport.
4. Encourage mentorship, or training and exams, to ensure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

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

Appendix D Schedule of ring sizes.

| SPECIES (Category 1) | male | female | Ring type | Max internal diameter (mm) |
|----------------------|------|--------|-----------|----------------------------|
| American Kestrel | R | R | R | 7.1 |
| Barbary Falcon | V | W | S | 7.6 |
| Black Kite | V | W | U | 9.5 |
| Brahminy Kite | W | W | V | 11.5 |
| Common Buzzard | W | W | W | 12.7 |
| Cooper's Hawk | U | V | X | 14.3 |
| Ferruginous Hawk | Z | Y | Y | 15.8 |
| Golden Eagle | ZA | ZA | Z | 19.6 |
| Goshawk | V | W | ZA | 26 |
| Gyr Falcon | W | X | | |

| SPECIES (Category 1) | male | female | Ring type | Max internal diameter (mm) |
|----------------------|------|--------|-----------|----------------------------|
| Harris Hawk | W | W | | |
| Hen Harrier | R | U | | |
| Hobby | R | S | | |
| Honey Buzzard | V | V | | |
| Kestrel | S | S | | |
| Lanner Falcon | W | W | | |
| Long-Legged Buzzard | W | W | | |
| Lugger Falcon | W | W | | |
| Marsh Harrier | U | U | | |
| Merlin | P | R | | |
| Montagu's Harrier | S | S | | |
| New Zealand Falcon | U | V | | |
| Peregrine Falcon | V | W | | |
| Prairie Falcon | W | W | | |
| Red Kite | W | W | | |
| Red-Shouldered Hawk | V | W | | |
| Red-Tailed Hawk | X | Y | | |
| Rough-Legged Buzzard | W | W | | |
| Saker Falcon | W | W | | |
| Sooty Falcon | R | S | | |
| Sparrowhawk | P | R | | |
| Steppe Eagle | Z | Z | | |
| Swainson's Hawk | W | W | | |
| Tawny Eagle | Z | Z | | |



Appendix E Mark and bank concept note of IAF

A mark-and-bank scheme to control and monitor sustainable trade in wildlife

A control system for trade should be simple to administer and hard to evade. Licensing at origin can be simple to administer, and cater for frequent international movements of licensed objects if a passport system is used (eg CITES Harare 1997 Conf.10.20 Frequent Transborder Movements of Personally Owned Live Animals). It becomes harder to evade if coupled to a recognisable feature of the licensed object, such as an attached physical marker or a unique biological characteristic.

Markers that indicate legal origin are desirable, and if capable of electronic registration could be used for a paperless system through internet contact with a central database. Microtransponders (Fagerstone & Johns 1987) are used to register domestic animals in some countries. An alternative for electronic registration are binary coded wire tags, which are smaller and less expensive but more liable than other tags to be shed from live animals (Crook & White 1995). Visual markers, such as bird leg-bands, are cheaper still, but require manual data entry for checking. All physical markers are vulnerable to fraudulent re-use.

The most general unique biological trait used for identification of individual animals or plants, and testing of parentage, is DNA-fingerprinting. Non-invasive sampling is now possible for live animals, using hair, feathers, scales or saliva (Taberlet & Bouvet 1992, Morin & Woodruff 1996). However, these techniques are expensive. DNA-fingerprinting also requires the same probes to be used for each test, ideally with comparisons in the same analysis run, and can have difficulty identifying closely related individuals unless probes and samples are chosen very carefully (Taberlet & Luikart in press).

The proposal is for a system that combines the relatively low cost of marking with the option to use DNA-fingerprinting to obtain proof of illegality only when fraud is suspected. Operation is as follows:

1. On provision of harvest licences, or of parental samples by breeders, unique markers are made available.
2. Harvesters and breeders send a sample from each marked animal or plant to a central bank and database.
3. Markers identify individuals for authorities to cross-check with the bank (ideally by an internet link).



4. On suspicion of fraud or at random, a new sample and part of a bank sample are analysed and compared.

By enabling random parentage checks on breeders as well as checks on marker tampering, the system would simplify detection of fraud. Minimal administration should secure user-support. It could perhaps be implemented as an amendment to CITES1997 Conf.10.20 for species where tight control is required.

If registration and data-basing for such a mark-and-bank (MAB) system were contracted to an international NGO, there would be scope for using a surcharge on harvest markers to enable monitoring of sustainable use. For species harvested on migration, similar markers could be applied to young animals in natal areas, to enable subsequent mark-recapture estimation of harvest rates and population estimates. Payments to local people for marking could promote conservation of the resource, thus solving an incentive-transfer problem that occurs when migration or export results in profits being realised far from the areas that require conservation. The involvement of trappers would also provide opportunities for education in welfare issues.

Crook D.A. & White R.W.G. 1995. Evaluation of subcutaneously implanted visual implant tags and coded wire tags for marking and benign recovery in a small scaleless fish, *Galaxias truttaceus* (Pisces: Galaxiidae). *Marine and Freshwater Research* 46:943-946.

Fagerstone, K.A. & Johns, B.E. 1987. Transponders as permanent identification markers for domestic ferrets, black-footed ferrets and other wildlife. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 51:294-297.

Morin, P.A. & Woodruff, D.S. 1996. Non-invasive genotyping for vertebrate conservation. pp. 298-313 in Wayne, R.K. & Smith, T.B. (eds) *Molecular genetic approaches in conservation*. Oxford University Press

Taberlet, P. & Bouvet, J. 1992. Bear conservation genetics. *Nature* 358:197.

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Appendix F

An example of falconry regulations in an EU state, for the Walloon region of Belgium.

WALLOON REGION

Ministerial order of 25 March 1985 regulating the possession, transport and capture of birds of prey for falconry in the Walloon Region

The Ministry of New Technologies, of P.M.E. and of Land and Forest Management

Noting the hunting law of 28 February 1882, especially article 31; Noting the law of 8 August 1980 concerning institutional reform, especially article 6.1.III.5;

Noting the directive 79/409/C.E.E. of the Council of the European Community concerning the conservation of wild birds, especially article 9.1.c;

Noting the royal decree of 20 July 1972 concerning protection of birds, especially article 9;

Noting the national executive's order of 27 January 1982 regulating the functions of the Walloon regional executive, especially article 8;

Noting the national executive's order of 12 March 1982 defining the separation of responsibilities between the Ministers, members of the Walloon regional executive, modified by the national executive's orders of 17 November 1982, 10 June 1982 and 28 June 1982;

Noting the laws on the Council of State coordinated by the royal decree of 12 January 1973, especially article 3.1, modified by article 18 of the common law of 9 August 1980 on institutional reform;

Considering the need, before the next breeding season, to regulate the possession, transport and capture of birds of prey intended for falconry;

Noting the urgency.

Article 1. For this order, these definitions apply:

- the Ministry: the Walloon regional Ministry responsible for hunting;
- falconry: the art of capturing a game animal in its natural habitat with a trained bird of prey;
- domestic breeding: the breeding in small quantities and under strict control of small quantities of birds of prey intended for falconry;
- the competent authority: the authority for forestry, hunting and fishing.

CHAPTER I. - General Principles

Article 2. With regard to falconry and domestic breeding, the competent authority may permit possession and transport, as well as the taking of small quantities of eyasses, of birds of prey used traditionally for falconry.

Article 3.1. Birds of prey intended for falconry and for domestic breeding may not be kept without being marked with a ring that identifies them and that becomes unusable if removed.

The marking with rings detailed in articles 12 and 13 of this order may be done only by organisations approved by the Ministry.

..... 3.2. In order to be approved, falconry organisations must satisfy the following conditions:

- possession of a legal identity
- have falconry as their main constitutional objective

- include at least 10 persons domiciled in the Walloon Region and able to practise falconry
- have an active presence in the Walloon Region

CHAPTER II. - The Licence

Article 4. It is not permitted to keep a bird of prey for falconry without holding a falconry licence.

This licence, valid for five years and renewable, is granted by the competent authority at the request of an approved organisation.

The licence is a numbered document, dated and signed by two rank 1 officers of the competent authority.

Article 5. Candidates for licensing must satisfy the following conditions:

- be members of an approved organisation;
- not have any convictions within the last five years for theft or hunting misdemeanours;
- be domiciled in Belgium;
- be at least 18 at the time of applying;
- provide written proof of possession, in the Walloon Region, of right to pursue falconry as a sole tenant on an area of at least 25 ha to the north and west of the Sambre-Meuse valley and at least 50 ha to the south of this valley.

The application is within the remit of article 2.1 of the hunting law of 28 February 1882:

- requiring possession of a pass certificate for the examination described in the following chapter.

Article 6. Any conviction for theft or hunting infringement gives the right to remove a licence.

Any birds held at the time by the contravenor may be removed by the president of the organisation and passed to another licensed member of the organisation.

CHAPTER III. - The Examination

Article 7. The examination is conducted according to demand and by right not more than once a year, by the approved organisations, under the control and at a time set by the competent authority.

Article 8.1. The examination is written and includes 30 multiple-choice questions, each with one correct answer, with 10 questions in each of the following sections:

- Section I. Biology of birds of prey
- Section II. Biology of animals classed as small game.
- Section III. Legislation relevant to the species in I and II.

..... 8.2. The competent authority alone establishes and keeps, without involving any other body, the list of 30 questions on matters in the preceding 3 paragraphs; it assembles and keeps the completed examination papers, after issuing them on the day of the examination.

..... 8.3. The competent authority marks the examination papers, which remain anonymous until results are announced.

Marking a correct answer scores one mark, an incorrect answer removes one mark and an absent answer is not scored.

Article 9. After marking and announcement, the examination papers are submitted to an examination commission that can provide judgement in cases of litigation.

This commission is composed of five members nominated by

the Ministry for a five year term. It contains two officials of the competent authority, two representatives of the approved organisations and a representative of the scientific community.

The functions of chairman and secretary of the commission are provided by the officials of the competent authority.

Article 10.1. The pass certificate from the examination is a numbered document, dated and signed by two rank 1 officers of the competent authority.

..... 10.2. The pass certificate from the examination becomes invalid if the holder ceases to be a member of an approved organisation.

Article 11. Persons living in the Walloon Region who possess an official authorisation for falconry prior to the coming into force of this order are dispensed from examination as long as they join an approved organisation.

CHAPTER IV. - Procurement

Article 12. Subject to the following conditions, birds of prey for falconry may be obtained:

- from domestic breeding;
- by importation;
- as eyasses from the wild.

a) Domestic breeding :

Breeding is permitted only for members of approved organisations, who are recognised by the competent authority for a period of five years with facility for renewal.

In order to be recognised, candidates must provide evidence of their technical competence and of access to adequate facilities.

Offspring of domestic breeding must be identified with a closed ring that it fitted by the thirteenth day after hatching. Otherwise they may not be flown free.

The competent authority must provide certificates to prove that the young are of domestic provenance.

The breeder must inform the competent authority of hatching, death, loss or transfer of offspring within eight days.

The breeder must at all times give free access to the competent authority for the purpose of verification and control of the breeding facilities.

b) Importation :

The holder of a falconry licence may use imported birds of prey provided that the birds satisfy conditions required by the royal decree of 20 December 1983 that implements CITES.

Each importation is to be notified within 8 days to the competent authority, stating the ring number and origin of the bird as well as the identity of the procurer.

c) Taking eyasses :

The competent authority may authorise approved organisations to take eyasses of goshawks (*Accipiter gentilis*) and sparrowhawks (*Accipiter nisus*) but no other species.

The application for permission to take eyasses must state :

- the number to be taken;
- the area where they will be taken;
- the identity of those for whom the birds are destined.

It is not permitted to authorise the taking of more than five of each approved species in the whole of the Walloon Region.

Moreover, no more than one young may be taken from each nest, and only for nests with at least two young.

For property outside the forestry regime, no birds may be taken without written permission of the owner or owner's agent.

Taking of birds must always occur in the presence of an inspector of waters and forests or his delegate.

Birds must be fitted at the moment of taking with an identity

ring that cannot be removed without being rendered unusable.

The inspector of waters and forests, or his delegate, must prepare an official report of the taking and ringing.

Article 13. The approved organisations are the holders of rings and must keep a register of :

- the scientific and French name of each bird;
- its sex;
- the ring number;
- the means of procurement;
- the name and usual address of the keeper;
- the name of subsequent recipients and the date of transfer;
- the date of loss, of death or of incapacity for flight of the bird.

The register consists of a ledger in which the pages are numbered in advance and which is kept by the secretariat of the organisation.

The register must be available for inspection on demand by an agent enforcing the hunting law or orders in council from that law.

Furthermore, a copy of the register must be provided to the competent authority each year during the month of August by the secretariat of the approved organisation.

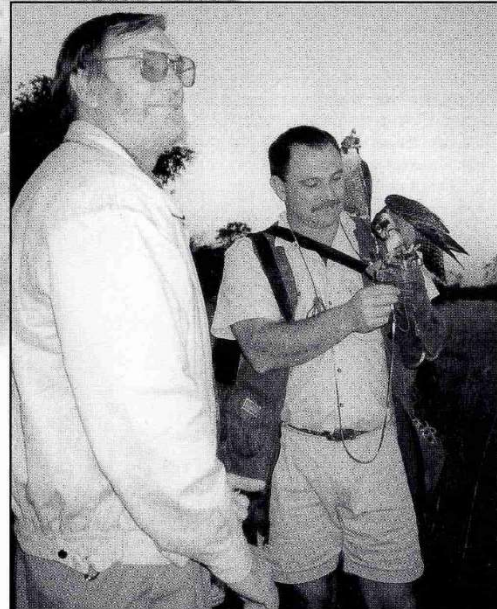
CHAPTER V. - Temporary Authorisations for those not domiciled in the Walloon Region.

Article 14. The competent authority may give temporary authorisations to transport and keep birds of prey for falconry and for breeding to persons living outside the Walloon Region provided that the application is made by an organisation approved in the Walloon Region.

Temporary authorisations are not valid for more than three months. They may not be renewed.

CHAPTER VI. - Final Conditions.

Article 15. This order comes into force sixty days after its publication in the *Moniteur Belge*.



Zimbabwe: Arthur Dunkley and Garry Stafford with his caste of tiercels

Research Coordinator Activities - Robert Kenward

Main activities during the past year have been connected with the Bern Convention in Strasbourg, with the Raptor Research Foundation 4th Eurasian Conference in Seville, with Working Groups for Baltic and Scandinavian States (BASS) and for Falconry Regulations in Europe, and with the World Conservation Union (IUCN). These activities have been all relatively closely connected, apart from the RRF Seville conference.

RRF conference in Seville

Raptor Research Foundation, founded by falconers in North America, has always been a happy arena for cooperation between falconers and other raptor conservationists. As the organisation has developed it has attracted more and more members from Eurasia and other parts of the world, with a first Eurasian conference in Canterbury (UK) in 1992. With Brian Millsap, then President of NAFA, I co-chaired the committee that resulted in 2000 in the first stage of a new global structure for RRF, an Eurasian Standing Committee RRFESC, on which Jevgeni Shergalin also serves.

A 4th Eurasian Conference was arranged in Spain in 2001, at which Jevgeni Shergalin represented RRF. Falconers from Spain took the opportunity to seek a discussion on their relationships with other conservation interests, with José-Manuel Rodríguez-Villa playing an important role. Despite some difficulty with scheduling, a vote among RRFESC members helped to find an opportunity one evening. A very useful meeting was held, as described in Jevgeni in his separate report of the conference. It is very important for falconers in Eurasia to join RRF, not only because its meetings, journal and newsletter are really useful, but also to help build the trust with other conservation groups that is so strong in North America. The other main international raptor conservation group, World Working Group for Birds of Prey and Owls, holds excellent global conferences at 5-year intervals, has internet discussion groups and also welcomes falconers.

Bern Convention and IUCN

The report on the annual meeting of parties to the Bern Convention is given separately. Herwig Hoedl was busy with new professional duties this year, but we had valued company and support from Kai-Uwe Wollscheid, the new research officer of FACE. My work with an European Union 5th Framework research project, on Reconciling Gamebird Hunting and Biodiversity (REGHAB) had involved gathering data on regulations and raptor-human conflicts from all the Bern national delegates. Giving the delegates from the EU accession states a report on the results, and thanking them for their help, also provided the opportunity to introduce the idea of a workshop on falconry regulations, an initiative of the Falconry Regulations Working Group (see below).

The officer supervising my secondment this year to the Socio-Economics Programme of the World Conservation Union (IUCN), Dr Steve Edwards, has been very supportive of the IAF Middle East Working Group efforts, unfortunately curtailed after the events of September 11th. His support for other efforts to anchor falconry firmly in the conservation movement, as a sustainable-use activity, includes the regulations workshop (see below). My IUCN activities also involve serving on the committee of the European Sustainable Use Specialist Group, which met in Canterbury.

BASS and Falconry Regulations Working Group

The Working Group for Baltic and Scandinavian States, consisting originally of Herwig Hoedl, Jevgeni Shergalin and myself, established an action plan that initially involved expansion to include representatives of the main states other than Jevgeni's Estonian homeland. These new members of the group include Tage Jessen from Denmark, Magnus Wildt from Sweden and Darius Daugela from Lithuania.

As we reached that stage, requests started to reach IAF from all the other states with falconry that were (like the Baltic States) in process of accession to the European Union. These requests were for help to ensure the continued legality of falconry in those countries through appropriate mention and regulation under new laws conforming to EU Directives. A new Working Group on Falconry Regulations was formed under the chairmanship of Professor Tom Richter and also involving Janusz Sielicki, and BASS activities continued as part of that group.

Those activities have mainly involved putting together a package of advice on regulating falconry, based on the FAR (Falconry and Raptors) principles that were agreed in Amarillo, and organising a workshop on the issue for regulators from those states. As that initiative started in 1999 as Falconry Regulations for an Expanding Europe (FREE), we have taken the process full-circle. The REGULIDE package of advice (also given separately) contains appendices on the international legal status of falconry, on the Falconry Position Statement of RRF that recommends minimal regulations, on principles for minimal but effective regulations (FAR), on the simplifying mark-and-bank principle for those insisting on DNA tests, and example regulations from the Belgian region of Wallonia.

Aware of the urgent need for advice on regulations in some countries, we planned a workshop initially in February 2002. Poland was the chosen venue, following a kind offer from Janusz Sielicki and the Polish falconers, as an EU Accession State also convenient to reach from BASS states. However, a major meeting on the Convention for Biodiversity at the end of February was occupying the time of many Environment Ministry representatives. With their approval, we are therefore scheduling the meeting later in the year.

The work of the Regulations Working Group also involved collecting data on the legal status of falconry in each state already in the European Union. It is a pleasure to report that falconry is legal in at least 12 of the 15 states, and possibly legal but not practised in a 13th. Among these 12 states, an examination is necessary either to hunt or specifically to practice falconry, in 6. Wild birds may be either taken from the wild for falconry, or used in falconry after rescued from injury or capture, in 9 of the 12 states.

Finally, the research coordination of IAF since Amarillo has involved every member of the Advisory Committee, as well as many other members of IAF member clubs. I deeply appreciate their willingness for teamwork, and their companionship, at a most constructive AC meeting held by Gilles Nortier and on the Internet throughout this period. To all of you, my grateful thanks.

Middle East relations working group annual report – 2001 IAF advisory committee

Submitted by Tim Kimmel (12 February 2002)

The IAF Advisory Committee Middle East Relations Working Group (MERWG) formally was established at the Amarillo, Texas, Annual General Meeting in November 2000 as an outgrowth of the former saker-houbara working group. In 2001, the MERWG consisted of Frank Bond, Martin Jones, Robert Kenward, Tim Kimmel (chairman), José Manuel Rodríguez-Villa and Jeygeni Shergalin.

The MERWG initially was charged with development of a plan to encourage implementation of IUCN Resolution 2.74 as adopted by the 2nd World Conservation Congress. As a result of discussions within the MERWG and AC early in 2001, though, goals of the working group were broadened somewhat to: (1) Encourage Middle East states to embrace national and international efforts to secure traditional falconry within a context of sustainable use; (2) Develop a forum where interested parties could cooperate to articulate and implement IUCN Resolution 2.74; and, (3) Encourage falconers in the Middle East to form organisations and welcome them into the IAF.

In the spirit of these MERWG goals, a draft external communications document was developed by the Working Group, which was later discussed and revised at the AC meeting in Obernai, France on 9 June 2001 (see IAF External Communications Document, below).

Members of the AC intended for this external communications document to serve primarily as kind of "IAF calling card" that could be sent to various individuals and groups in Middle Eastern

countries and other Saker range states, in particular to high-ranking, influential officials in those countries. Special care was taken to draft the document so that rather than being perceived as any kind of "mandate," it instead would be received as an expression of IAF interest in sustainable use as a benefit to falconry and the availability of the IAF as a resource for local falconers, falconry organizations, and heads of state to seek assistance as needed.

During the AC meeting in Obernai, the document was envisioned as being incorporated into the body of a color brochure (including photographs, graphics, etc.), with text provided in both English and Arabic translations. Subsequently, discussions within the MERWG have suggested that the content of the document might be equally (perhaps, more) effective if presented in the form of a short videotape for dissemination to influential leaders.

Just about the time the MERWG was about to begin soliciting the assistance of selected falconry contacts in the Middle East to develop a brochure/video, the tragic events 11 September 2001 unfolded. At the time, the uncertainty what was to come in the global political climate and Middle Eastern perspectives of western influence resulted in this initiative being on hold. Now, at the time of writing this report (February 2002), although concerns about the outcome of military/political events in the Middle East appear to be far more clear and considerably more favorable than early last fall, the initiative still remains "on hold." It is hoped that soon the MERWG will be able to reactivate its efforts and initiatives as the climate in the region continues to improve.



From the book 'Life with an Indian Prince: Journals of John J Craighead'.

A brilliant opportunity for falconry

(IAF external communications document)

Arabian Falconry and Wildlife Research

The Arabian States have one of the world's longest traditions of falconry. The traditional practice of trapping passage falcons has proved sustainable for centuries. In recent years, however, over-grazing has reduced some prey populations. Some falcon breeding populations have declined through changes in agriculture and trapping in nesting areas. Concern has grown in the conservation community about over-harvest of houbara bustard and saker falcons. Resolutions at international conferences have proposed bans on hunting bustard and reducing access to wild falcons.

The International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF) has looked after the interests of falconers for more than 30 years. In 2000, IAF asked the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Birdlife International, and the World Conservation Union (IUCN) to support a different approach for sustaining falconry in the Middle East – one, indeed, that is based on research

initiated in the Arabian Peninsula.

The United Arab Emirates, through the National Avian Research Centre of the Emirates Wildlife Research and Development Agency (NARC/ERWDA) initiated this research. The research determined that trapping of migratory saker falcons can occur at sustainable levels, provided that breeding populations of sakers occur in habitats without intensive farming and are not reduced prior to migration by over harvest on their breeding grounds.

Moreover, observations of sakers trapped in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by representatives of the National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development (NCWCD), showed that traditional trapping of sakers can provide very valuable records for monitoring the health of migrant falcon populations. Also, a Middle East Falcon Research Group (MEFRG) held its second conference in Mongolia where many sakers breed.

An Opportunity for Sustainable Use

Late in 2000, there was an opportunity to promote the sustainable use of wild falcons, in ways that encouraged people to preserve the breeding habitats of falcons. Associated with this opportunity was a need to discourage (1) misguided restrictions that might increase problems with smuggling falcons, and (2) criticism of falconry as a result of a few escaped captive-bred hybrids that have been observed breeding in the wild. The opportunity was formalized by the approval of IUCN Resolution 2.74, acclaimed without dissent at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Amman, which represents a special opportunity for falconers in Arabian States to become more widely recognized for preserving falcons and their prey. This resolution:

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

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

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

Exploiting the Opportunity

The resolution sets the stage for Arabian falconry to win acclaim and to help falconers world-wide by creating a system that can simplify international movement of raptors. Much of the background work has already been done. Falcon hospitals introduced identification of falcons with transponders for health records a decade ago; the practice is now widespread. NARC/ERWDA and MEFRG have trained biologists in many saker range states to mark young falcons, and trappers in Saudi Arabia are reporting marked birds to NCWCD staff. Biologists have created models that can be used to estimate sustainability, and data collected by falconers and others in saker range states on marked falcons would be valuable information to be used in those models. Other techniques (for example, DNA fingerprinting in combination with the marking of falcons) also offer a means to improve the reliability of data.

IAF and IUCN wish to bring together the different national, international, and NGO interests in a forum to agree on what might be needed to implement the "internationally recognized system" foreseen in Resolution 2.74. We hope that you will be a partner in this effort -- can you help?

Should you have an interest in learning more about the IAF and have access to the Internet, please feel free to visit the IAF website at <http://www.i-a-f.org>

Respectfully submitted,

J. Timothy Kimmel (MERWG Chairman)



Status of Falconry in Slovenia in 2001

Republic of Slovenia, middle - south - eastern Europe, population 2 Million, size ~ 1/2 Switzerland

2 Clubs (SDK & SSDH) = together 32 members = total of 41 birds (mostly Falcons)

SDK = Sokolarsko Društvo Kranj (Pres. Mr Roman Savič)
Propagating Falconry and breeding of preferably indigenous species - however not against safe use of Hybrids

18 members,

22 birds: Accipiter Gentilis x 3
Falco Peregrinus x 10
Falco Cherrug x 2
Falco Biarmicus x 2
Falco Subbuteo x 2
Aquila Heliaca x 1
Aquila Chrysaetos x 2
Bubo Bubo x 1

Breeding 2000: 1 Falco Peregrinus
1 Accipiter Gentilis
(both Artificial Insemination)

SSDH = Slovensko Sokolarsko Društvo Horus (Pres. Mr Primož Briški - Cirman)

Propagating Falconry and breeding of preferably non indigenous species and Hybrids

Hybrids flown only with telemetry - no hacking of hybrids - in case of hybrid reproduction imprinting on non indigenous species

14 members

19 falcons: 14 x Falco Cherrug
3 x Gyrfalcon
1 x Falco Peregrinus
1 x Falco Mexicanus

Breeding 2000: 3 x Falco Cherrug
"Natural way" + AI

CITES: Since 23 April 2000 Slovenia full member of CITES: however Ministry for the Environment not helpful - does not issue CITES Import licences for legally bred birds from the European Community

Against Falconry: Severe criticism and public relation work in the media against Falconry from some Ornithologists

Wild Population of birds of prey in use for Falconry: totally protected and stable *A. gentilis*, *A. nisus*, *F. peregrinus*, *A. chrysaetos* population

Taking birds from the wild: Absolutely no official permit available to take any bird of prey from the wild for use in falconry or breeding

Game: 1st prey species: Corvidae since abundant crow and rook numbers
2nd pheasants
3rd ducks
4th hares - however Falconers facing increasingly limited hunting possibilities
Game Status: further decline of partridges and hares due to very efficient economical and agricultural progress and diminishing to non existing small game management over last decade, (in contrast: dangerous brown bear overpopulation due to conservation)

Summary: Development of Falconry in Slovenia in the year 2000

positive trends: all birds officially registered, better organized, better techniques, better awareness of problems
negative trends: no support from the Ministry of Environment, some Ornithologists determined to stop falconry in Slovenia, decreasing game

plans for the future:

- increase cooperation between Slovenian Falconers
- work on positive public relation
- establish better cooperation with the Ministry of Environment – CITES permits
- influence on better game management
- maintain and stabilize the art of hawking in Slovenia

Dr. Igor Tavčar
Slovenia March 2000

A synopsis of the Zimbabwe Falconers' Club - falconry as a conservation tool

Falconry can assist raptor conservation, especially in Africa with its meagre financial resources and expertise. Falconers can assist by monitoring nest sites, ringing raptors, establishing captive breeding programmes for endangered species, assisting with raptor rehabilitation, running educational programmes and providing specimens. This has been applied successfully for the past 25 years in Zimbabwe, as a result of the government falconry policy, *consisting of a formal arrangement between the Zimbabwe Falconers' Club (ZFC) and the Department of National Parks and Wild Life Management (DNPWLM)*. A vital component in this relationship has been the linkages between a ZFC research coordinator and a senior ecologist (DNPWLM). The ZFC established a Raptor Conservation Unit in 1989 which has also worked in joint programmes with The Peregrine Fund Inc., including studies on: DDT impact on the Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* minor; status, ecology and captive breeding of the Taita Falcon *F. fasciunucha*; and the raptor community in the Batoka Gorge (site of a proposed dam).

The ZFC has produced 263 Peregrines in captivity from 23 pairs and 77 have been released. The ZFC has a Taita Falcon breeding project, for conservation purposes. It constituted four pairs in 1994 and so far two of these have produced 11 young. The aim is to establish at least 10 pairs in captivity. The ZFC also supports falconry clubs at two private secondary schools. Since graduating several of the students are now established senior falconers and raptor biologists.

Policy

- the ZFC and the DNPWLM encourage the harvest of juvenile hawks from the wild, provided that this falls within biological limits. They prefer to have the falconers in contact with the wild resource, as this means that the latter will also put something back in the form of conservation.
- captive breeding is also encouraged, especially for species in demand for falconry, such as the African Peregrine, and also for endangered species (viz. Taita Falcon) in the conservation programme.

- the importation of exotics is prohibited and discouraged, as this also takes the falconers away from the wild resource.
- there is no policy in place (neither from ZFC, or from DNPWLM) to regulate the breeding of hybrids, but nobody has tried to do so yet, and the topic has been discussed. So far the consensus has been to avoid breeding hybrids.

Hawks with potential for falconry, including suggested species for beginners

Of the 66 species of diurnal birds of prey found in this country 26 species have potential in falconry, while just 10 are deemed optimum for the sport (Table 1). Less species are available to the beginner, owing to the laws regarding the Specially Protected species. Furthermore the nature of the bird taken also affects the beginner, namely haggard, eyas or passage hawk. Beginners as C grade falconers are not permitted to use traps, so that soar hawks, passagers and haggards are precluded as a general rule.

Experience has shown that there is basically one optimum species that is suitable for the beginner: the African Goshawk. The female is significantly better, by virtue of her greater size and consequent hardiness. Smaller hawks are always more delicate and more difficult to manage and keep in good health. The African Goshawk hunts at about 340 g, the musket at about 200 g. This species is most suitable because it is reasonably phlegmatic and relatively easy to handle, while it can both perform well in the field, even as eyases.

Falconry is a hunting sport, so that it is important for a beginner to select a hunting bird. Kites of any description are unsuitable as hunting hawks in this regard. Enthusiasts are encouraged to study the natural habits of the various raptors in say Robert's Birds of Southern Africa (McLean 1993) or preferably Peter Steyn's Birds of Prey of Southern Africa (1982). This will give them some insight into the potential of the species concerned.

Other species of non-protected birds that may prove useful to the beginner are: Augur Buzzard *Buteo augur*, Rock F. *tinunculus*, Greater *F. rupicoloides* and Dickinson's Kestrels *F. dickinsoni*.

The highly strung accipiters such as the Ovambo Sparrowhawk, Redbreasted Sparrowhawk and Little Sparrowhawk are **NOT** for beginners. They are difficult to manage and they rarely survive the inexperienced handling meted out by the novice. The ZFC has repeatedly appealed to National Parks for the inclusion of these three onto the Protected Species list. Despite their exclusion, the club adopts a serious view when beginners flout this recommendation, and those falconers who are anxious to be upgraded should observe this aspect closely. A simple adage is that **THE HAWKS COME FIRST** and experience has shown this group can suffer unduly in the hands of novices.

Only on rare occasions do beginners manage a trapped hawk successfully. Success is not only gauged by the hawks' ability when trained in the field, but on her overall behaviour in captivity. For a beginner, the **eyes is to be preferred on all occasions**. It is easier to train, settles better as a rule in captivity, and can be induced to perform creditably in the field, albeit at a slower rate, than trapped hawks. The C grade apprentice may find a graded falconer that is prepared to assist him in the capture of a non-protected species.

Table 1. Species of raptors that have potential for falconry in Zimbabwe. s = Specially Protected. Optimum species for falconry in bold.

| Species | Status | Comments |
|----------------------------------|--------|--|
| Black Eagle | s | Too large for most falconers, difficult to hunt and not permitted on general licence |
| <i>Aquila verreauxii</i> | | Not as rapacious as African Hawk Eagle. |
| Tawny Eagle | s | Not permitted on general licence |
| <i>A. rapax</i> | | B grade hawk and hunted mainly at Scrub Hares |
| African Hawk Eagle | s | Little success recorded. Not permitted on general licence. |
| <i>Hieraetus spilogaster</i> | | Occupies super-territory and use not justified. Not permitted on general licence |
| Ayres's Hawk Eagle | s | Too large and dangerous for most falconers. Not permitted on general licence |
| <i>Hieraetus ayresii</i> | | Rarely used, but has some potential for novices mainly |
| Martial Eagle | s | Although unprotected, recommended for experienced falconers only |
| <i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i> | | Although unprotected, recommended for experienced falconers only |
| Crowned Eagle | s | Although unprotected, recommended for experienced falconers only |
| <i>Stephanoaetus coronatus</i> | | B grade and excellent gamehawk |
| Augur Buzzard | | Rarely used and not as rapacious as other accipiters |
| <i>Buteo augur</i> | | Excellent hawk for beginners and takes wide range of quarry |
| Redbreasted Sparrowhawk | | Rapacious and suitable for experienced falconers |
| <i>Accipiter rufiventris</i> | | Not used yet in Zimbabwe, but used successfully by falconers in SA on gamebirds |
| Ovambo Sparrowhawk | | Rarely used and not with success yet on quarry |
| <i>A. ovampensis</i> | | A grade, but rarely encountered, but one has been used with great success |
| Little Sparrowhawk | | A grade and excellent at wide range of quarry |
| <i>A. minullus</i> | | B grade and excellent at gamebirds, doves and Grey Lourics mainly |
| Black Sparrowhawk | s | Rarely used, but a couple have been trained to take quarry |
| Little Banded Goshawk | | Rarely encountered and only one has been trained. Marginal use. |
| <i>A. badius</i> | | Rarely encountered and only one has been trained. Marginal use. |
| African Goshawk | | Several trained but not yet hunted seriously on quarry as reserved for captive breeding for conservation project |
| <i>A. tachiro</i> | | Only two have been hunted seriously and excellent at quarry |
| Gabar Goshawk | | Useful for beginners and will chase quarry |
| <i>Micronisus gabar</i> | | |
| Pale Chanting Goshawk | | |
| <i>Melierax canorus</i> | | |
| Dark Chanting Goshawk | | |
| <i>Melierax metabates</i> | | |
| Siberian Peregrine Falcon | s | Useful for beginner and will chase quarry |
| <i>Falco peregrinus calidus</i> | | |
| African Peregrine Falcon | s | |
| <i>F. p. minor</i> | | |
| Lanner Falcon | s | |
| <i>F. biarmicus</i> | | |
| Hobby Falcon | | |
| <i>F. subbuteo</i> | | |
| African Hobby Falcon | | |
| <i>F. cuvierii</i> | | |
| Sooty Falcon | | |
| <i>F. concolor</i> | | |
| Taita Falcon | s | |
| <i>F. fasciinucha</i> | | |
| Rednecked Falcon | | |
| <i>F. chicquera</i> | | |
| Rock Kestrel | | |
| <i>F. tinnunculus</i> | | |
| Greater Kestrel | | |
| <i>F. rupicoloides</i> | | |
| Dickinson's Kestrel | | |

F. dickinsoni

Grading system and falconry permit for Specially Protected species

Only four species of Specially Protected raptor are permitted on the normal falconry permit:

Peregrine (A grade); Lanner, Black Sparrowhawk and African Hawk Eagle (B grade). C grade falconers have to satisfy a specially appointed (by DNPWLM) Falconry Examiner (experienced falconer and member of ZFC) that their C grade hawk is properly managed and can fly and hunt effectively under conditions of falconry. C grade falconers also have to pass a written test and their mews and weathering area has to satisfy the scrutiny by the examiner.

Number of falconers

- ZFC membership currently stands at 136 members, including: 108 individual local members; 2 institutional local members; 15 individual members from neighbouring countries and 2 institutional members from the same; 6 individual members from the rest of the world and 3 institutional members from the same.
- In terms of practicing falconers there are 32 graded falconers, of which 16 and 8 are active grade A and B respectively. There are about 50 C grade falconers of which about 35 are active.
- Nearly all of the Peregrines used are captive bred. Coupled with the modest number of active falconers, a very modest number of raptors are taken from the wild for falconry. Note that only four species of Specially Protected raptors are permitted for falconry: Peregrine, Lanner, Black Sparrowhawk and African Hawk Eagle. Several useful falconry species are not protected eg African Goshawk, Redbreasted, Ovambo and Little Sparrowhawk. These are available to C grade falconers.

School Clubs

- Since its inception in 1983 Falcon College Falconry Club has produced 67 fully fledged falconer-conservationists, all of whom have spent a minimum of two years of intensive activity in the unit. They have also hosted many groups of visitors, instructing them on the raptors at the facility and on aspects of raptor conservation. As many as 20 groups from visiting schools make organized trips to the facility each year.
- A similar service has been provided at the Peterhouse Falconry Club.
- Several falconers have put on posters illustrating the ZFC conservation and research programme at conservation workshops and at game fairs held in Harare. They have also given flying displays with trained raptors.

Publications and data

- The ZFC unit has a data bank on raptor nests, sightings, specimens and a variety of other useful biological data.
- An archive is maintained, including a list of publications and projects.

Ron Hartley

*Research and Falconry Co-ordinator
Zimbabwe Falconers' Club and DNPWLM*

Zimbabwe Falconers' Club annual report 2000

As C grade falconers are not obliged to report to the Co-ordinator this report focuses mainly on Specially Protected species. However, I appealed to C grade falconers to follow the reporting system for graded falconers, and advise examiners and senior falconers to request the same from apprentices. It is important and interesting to know how many C grade falconers are operating and what hawks they are flying (see Area report for Falcon College in Talon 20, and Table 2 below), as C grade falconers constitute a significant proportion of our active falconers.

16 A, 8 B and one provisional B grade falconers were active in 2000. By the end of the year the A grade falconers were holding 49 Peregrines (including 5 F1's produced this year, 7 retired falcons >15 yr old and 10 pairs for breeding); 16 Taita Falcons (4 pairs for breeding, and the remaining 8 to be paired); 4 Lanners; 8 Black Sparrowhawks and 4 African Hawk Eagles. Gary Stafford also held another 3 Lanners, 2 Black Sparrowhawks and 4 African Hawk Eagles (including M'tagati - originally ZFC) on his Kuimba Shiri/Larvon permit.

Hawks acquired from wild:

- taken for falconry - 4 Black Spars & 1 Lanner;
- brought in for rehab.- 3 Lanners

Hawks acquired by captive breeding:

- 10 Peregrines from 4 pairs, 4 Taitas from 2 pairs

Hawks hacked back to wild:

- 3 F1 Peregrines, 2 rehab. & 1 passage Lanners, & 1 Blackbreasted Snake Eagle

Hawks died:

- 5 Peregrines (two F1 females of 3 mth and 15 yr old, three males 13, 19 and 21 yr old respectively)

Hawks transferred:

- 2 F1 & 2 F2 Peregrines, 3 F1 Taitas

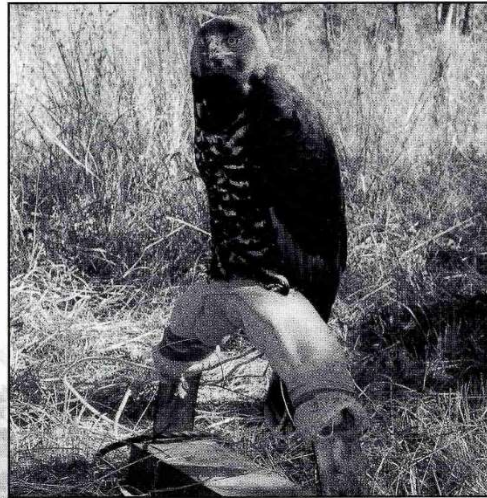
Grade C

I have estimated that there were about 35 active C grade falconers in Zimbabwe. Records are available only for Falcon College (Table 2) where 12 students hunted hawks. About eight students were active at Peterhouse, and possibly another 15 C grade falconers were active in the remainder of the country.

Falcon College Falconry Club started in May 1983, and 67 students have graduated through this system. In 2000 seven African Goshawks (2 males and five females) were hunted. Notable was the female "Tich" which completed her sixteenth season, having been handled by fourteen different student falconers, the last two being younger or the same age as the hawk! All of the hawks survived the season and just two were acquired, a female on loan and a male that was trapped early in the year.

| NAME (age) | HAWK FLOWNI (age) |
|----------------------|--|
| Munro S. (17) | African Goshawk F (3) |
| van der Riet J. (16) | African Goshawk F (16) |
| Brown P.M. (17) | African Goshawk F (5) |
| de Smidt G.B. (15) | African Goshawk F (3) |
| Cumming W.B. (17) | Ovambo Sparrowhawk F (3) Ovambo Sparrowhawk F (1) |
| Jahme T.G. (16) | African Goshawk M (5) |
| Middleton N.P. (16) | Gabar Goshawk F (3) |
| Mackay A.C. (18) | Little Sparrowhawk F (1) |
| Drummond M.K.N (18) | Black Sparrowhawk F (1) |
| Wheeler M.D. (18) | Ovambo Sparrowhawk M (3) |
| Sole P.J. (17) | African Goshawk M (1) |
| Millar D.T. (18) | African Goshawk F (5) |

Table 2. Falconers and hawks held by Falcon College Falconry Club in 2000. Birds acquired or transferred in bold.



Zimbabwe Falconers' Club research report 2000

- Under direction from RH, ZFC members and students conducted the following work, all supported (funding and equipment) by The Peregrine Fund Inc.
- Status and distribution of Taita, Peregrine and Lanner Falcons in Zimbabwe. Ad hoc monitoring of selected sites continued. Dr. Neil Deacon continued to monitor Lanner and Peregrine sites in Harare city and RRH did the same in Bulawayo.
- The role of hyrax in the distribution and status of Black, Crowned and African Hawk Eagles in the Bubiana Conservancy. Falcon College student Michael Drummond has almost completed fieldwork (over two consecutive seasons) on six pairs of Black, three pairs of Crowned and four pairs of African Hawk Eagles in a 100 km² study area. He has completed his report, which will be honed into a paper this year.
- The effect of sugar cane farming on the distribution and abundance of large winter breeding eagles at Triangle. Angus Middleton completed this work and has submitted it as an honours project to the University of Newcastle, UK. His younger brother Patrick has continued monitoring the population this year, including the collection of prey remains. A paper will be prepared from the cumulative data.
- Timing of laying, reproductive success and nesting density of the Secretary Bird in the Shangani and Esigodini areas. Sixteen pairs of Secretary Birds are being monitored in these areas. Young have been ringed. Additional data may be obtained from an enthusiast who has been surveying another population from his private helicopter, in a related area.
- Monitoring of raptor community around Falcon College. Species studied included: African Hawk, Martial, Tawny, Blackbreasted and Brown Snake, Fish and Wahlberg's Eagles; Blackshouldered Kite; Black and Little Sparrowhawks; Gabar and Little Banded Goshawks; Spotted Eagle, Barn, Pearlspeckled and Whitefaced Owls.
- Monitoring of raptor community at Mbalabala. The study site has been affected by land invasions. Sites of new settlements and impacts have been documented, while breeding success of raptors was low.
- Batoka Gorge survey. RH and Pias Mpofu spent 8 days in December surveying 22 km of the first 25 km of the gorge from Victoria Falls. Only one Taita Falcon was seen in the gorge, but there was sign of occupation at two nesting cliffs, neither of which had evidence of fledged young which should have been present. Peregrines were found at all of the known nesting cliffs, including a new site. Nesting densities of the Peregrine are high. Pairs of Black Eagles were seen in each of the four territories and the same applied to four pairs of Augur Buzzards. Input was also given on the new Tourist Master Plan for Victoria Falls, including the proposal I put to the Department of National Parks and Wild Life Management to designate Batoka Gorge a special bird of prey sanctuary.
- Review on human impacts and selected biology on the Ayres' Hawk Eagle by RRH and P.J. Mundy. This contains a wealth of unpublished material from the authors, members of the ZFC, egg collectors and museums and will be submitted as a paper (entitled Ayres' Hawk Eagle on the receiving end).

In March RRH attended a workshop in Harare, on the policy implications of DDT use for Tsetse Control. The findings are reported in:

McWilliam, A.N., Long, A.S. & Bourdillon, M.F.C. 2000. DDT in the tropics: policy implications and dissemination. Proceedings of a workshop held at the Bronte Hotel, Harare, Zimbabwe. Natural Resources Institute & DFID, Chatham Maritime, Kent, UK.

After considerable deliberations it was concluded that DDT use should not be resumed for Tsetse control operations.

Publications

Hartley, R.R. 2000. Ecology of Taita, Peregrine and Lanner Falcons in Zimbabwe. In: Chancellor, R.D. & Meyburg, B-U. Raptors at Risk. Proceedings of V World Conference on Birds of Prey. Pp. 87-105.

Hartley, R.R. 2000. Falconry as a conservation tool in Africa. In: Chancellor, R.D. & Meyburg, B-U. Raptors at Risk. Proceedings of V World Conference on Birds of Prey. Pp. 373-378.

Middleton, A.G. 2000. The effects of cultivation on the nesting densities of eagle populations in the south-eastern Lowveld of Zimbabwe. Pages 1-40 in: Middleton, A.G., Farish, M. & Hardy, K.J. Lowveld '99. Newcastle University expedition to Triangle, south-east Lowveld, Zimbabwe. Final report. June 2000.

We were honoured to be invited by Michael Irwin (editor of BirdLife Zimbabwe's journal Honeyguide) to compile a special

ZFC edition (c. 120 pages) for 2002, which I have agreed to compile and edit. Peter Mundy has just produced a very fine special edition for the DNPWLM, and he kindly suggested that we take up a future edition. He also provided much useful advice as to the content and style. I have already compiled a draft structure with a comprehensive list of papers and contributors. Appeals for articles and papers will be circulated shortly.

Special thanks are due to Dr. Rick Watson and Dr. Bill Burnham of TPF, Dr. Peter Mundy (DNPWLM) and Dr. Rick Teague. Valuable support was also provided by Dunlop (Zimbabwe) and Eagle Insurance (Zimbabwe).



The endangered Moroccan Arab Falconry Heritage

The Kingdom of Morocco, which is laying in the extreme west of North Africa has always sheltered a great tradition of Falconry throughout the ages.

The "sherifian" tribe of "Qassim" has first brought this noble Art from the Arabian Peninsula more than a millenium ago and then settled in the plains of "Doukkala", one of the main agricultural areas in Morocco, ideal for farming and... hawking of course.

In such perfect ground, traditional Arab basic falconry started its evolution and this hunting became very popular amongst the Rulers from different dynasties that succeeded one another. Falcons and falconers were sent to the King's courts of Europe and to other Arab countries (1).

His Royal Majesty, King Mohammed Ben Abd-Allah of the actual Alaoui Dynasty who was the first chief of state to officially recognize the independence of the United States of America, has created the very first Falcon hospital in the city of Fez during his reign in the 18th century (1). At that time, flying birds as Gyrfalcons was not rare in Morocco, as many, mainly caught in Iceland, were sent from the King of Denmark. The last of these special shipments was made in year 1798.

In the beginning of the 20th century, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and governor of the region of "Abda", Aissa Ibn Omar, was a passionate falconer. He used to manage not less than 90 falcons, 400 horses and about 200 "Sloughis" (Arab hounds) (1). Already, guest falconers from the Middle East were visiting him for their common passion.

Unlike Falconry of Arab countries in the Middle East that is mainly based on flying sakers off the fist, Moroccan Falconry main technique is the waiting-on with peregrines and its subspecies. The commonly used falcons are Barbaries (*Falco Pelegrinoides Pelegrinoides*) and "*Falco Peregrinus Brookei*" as well. But still,

the supreme and ultimate hunter is the "farkh"("passager") of Arctic Peregrine ("*Falco Peregrinus Calidus*") that can also be flown off the fist sometimes.

The most prized game are both the gambra partridge, a North African subspecies of the European red-legged partridge, and the little bustard, a very fast quarry. Moroccan falconers do not focus on Houbara bustards but hunt a very diversified game. Stone curlew is commonly hunted in order to enter the freshly trained falcons.

In autumn, when birds start migrating from Europe, waterfowl such as teal, mallard or even geese can be hunted as well if enough rain floods the fields, providing safe habitat for these species in the plains of Doukkala.

Moroccan Falconry equipment is also very typical and original as well. Local falconers make it themselves from the best leather available. The jesse's extremity is breaded and tightened within a loop of the leash. The falcon can be turned loose in only few seconds. The traditional hood, which is similar to a Dutch, is manufactured of two soft leather pieces stuck together, stretched and then dressed into a specially designed mold fitting the falcon's specie and gender. Each falconer inherits this knowledge from his father and tribe masters for generations.

The lure is of a rectangular shape made out breaded "doum", a plant with wide and long leaves such as palm, then it is covered with wings to imitate the plumage of the hunted game...

Unfortunately, this part of the global Arab cultural heritage is rapidly disappearing.

The Kingdom of Morocco is also famous as the best hunting destination for the Sheikhs of Arabia, but it seems that none of these personalities did ever consider to save the Moroccan Falconry as

part of a global Arab heritage which is indeed originally from Arabia.

In 1983, the Moroccan Falconer's Association was founded by "El Hadj" Ismail El Biyaz upon the decision of Late King Hassan II to provide an official structure for Falconry in Morocco.

The main aims of this organisation are:

- To maintain and ensure the tradition of falconry in Morocco as a part of the global Arab cultural heritage.
- To collaborate with the concerned authorities to protect and manage wildlife populations.
- To develop an effective falconry legislation.

Lately, His Royal Highness Prince Moulay Rachid, President of Honor of the Moroccan Falconer's Association gave his support to achieve the work started several years ago.

During a meeting in Rabat at the "Ministère des Eaux & Forêts", it has been decided to introduce a strategy for Falconry in Morocco before signing a convention between the two parties. It has been also suggested that an NGO such as the I.A.F could supervise the fieldwork in a partnership with the Moroccan Falconer's Association directors.

An incredible improvement has been realized since the beginning of the project but there is still a lot to do.

The particularity of Moroccan Falconry is that it is a Royal Privilege for the Sherifian tribe of "Qassim.

Usually, for centuries, every new King renews a "Dahir" (administrative document) for this privilege that allow the tradition to be practiced. The oldest "Dahir" in possession of Mr. El Biyaz are written on Gazelle's skin, as were the precious documents!

Nowadays, the Moroccan Falconer's Association benefits from such a Privilege as an official organization. It is willing to ensure maintaining strong falconry by developing high technical standards and providing good hunting territories.

Another important point to save Moroccan Arab Falconry is to find motivation amongst the young generations of falconers by reviving interest for Falconry amongst the personalities of the country.

This could easily be done if a high quality hawking is settled but still needs funding to organize it.

If this project is a failure, then it is very clear that this beautiful Art inherited from our fathers will completely disappear in the next following years. In some places, illegal trade of falcons has already replaced it.

Mohamed Nour-Eddine Fatehi, Secretary General of the Moroccan Falconer's Association: "El Noubala"

(1): "La chasse au Faucon entre le Mashriq et le Maghrib" by Historian & Royal Academicien Dr. A. Tazi.

Correction for Newsletter 2002 – Welsh Hawking Club

May I first congratulate you on a first class IAF newsletter, marvellous.

Unfortunately I must point out a very important error in the treasurers report.

Antonio shows that the WHC were due to have paid 678.75 euros in the year 2000 and that we did not pay anything at all!

I knew this to be wrong so I checked with the Club treasurer and the full sum which amounted to £409.53p was paid by bankers

order on 20th April, 2000. There was a charge to the Club of £13 for the order and the exchange rate was 1.6574.

It is obviously too late now to retrieve the Clubs good name as a prompt payer but I would be grateful if this could be corrected in 'big writing' in the next newsletter. It also, I'm afraid, throws your sums out Antonio?

Regards, Mike Clowes

Status of falconry in the Czech Republic

Czech Falconers Club (Klub sokolniku CMMJ) was founded in 1967 as the only club organising falconers in the Czech Republic having currently 415 members. Internally, the club involves 20 district groups having five to fifty members. Although some members are passive, majority of the members have one or more hawks and the essential part of members are active falconers. Last year the club registered 16 new members succeeding in the falconry exam, registered 48 new hawks for hunting (of which 22 are goshawks) and encountered following birds bred by the members: 83 peregrines, 59 falcon hybrids, 54 sakers, 6 golden eagles, 6 gyrs, 3 tawny eagles and 3 lanners. The club registers currently: 331 goshawks (mostly females), 53 sakers, 39 falcon hybrids, 34 peregrines, 29 golden eagles, 9 harrises, 6 sparrow-hawks, 6 kestrels, 4 eagle owls, 3 tawny eagles, 2 red tails and 1 lanner. The club registers only hawks used for hunting. The total number of hawks kept by falconers for breeding and other purposes, which is registered by the authorities (common species at district level and rare species at ministry level), is about triple.

Falconry legislation and IAF help

Falconry, as a legal activity in the Czech Republic, has been always quite popular and strong, however last year was very hectic as never before due to the new hunting and environmental laws as a

consequence of so called "approaching EU and its legislation". The situation was complicated by the fact that one of our former members robbed a young golden eagle in Slovakia, which made a bad image for all other honest falconers. Since Czech Falconers Club is a part of Czech Hunting Union (CMMJ) having as much as 100,000 members, the club had means to influence negotiations with the government about the new hunting law. In June 2001 we were asked by the authorities to provide info about status of falconry legislation in EU. We kindly requested IAF for its help describing the importance of the situation. Based on IAF materials and other sources, we could make a relatively detailed digest of info including appendices, which was submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture as well as to the Ministry of Environment. Also, "Organisation rules of the Czech Falconers Club" were updated together with "Rules and questions for the falconry examination". In addition, IAF sent a lobbying letter to both ministries. This was important, because we are a EU candidate country and our authorities consider everything, which 'comes from Brussels'.

We also closed long-time negotiations with the government concerning so called animal welfare topic, when we submitted a document "Birds of prey and owls in captivity" defining standards of care for keeping raptors in captivity. This document was already

approved by the government committee for animals welfare having no negative impact on falconry. At the end of year 2001, Czech parliament approved the final version of our new hunting law, which is generally positive towards falconry and mirrors all our effort, which we made last year. The law involves several special paragraphs defining falconry related topics unlike all hunting laws valid till now. However the law contains one unintentional error, which disables hawking of hares and pheasants. The related paragraph says: "It is forbidden to HUNT hare, pheasant... by other ways than by shotguns...". This is a serious threat to Czech falconry, because the small game such as hare and pheasant is the main quarry. Fortunately, a group of members of parliament specialised in agriculture already recognised our objection and they are going to change the word in the sentence to: "It is forbidden to SHOOT hare, pheasant...", which would not affect falconry and other ways of hunting. The new law will be valid from 1st July 2002, till this time, the members of parliament promised to correct the error. We all hope that everything will be OK.

The current socialist government was also going to submit the new Czech environmental law, but they recognised complexity of this and therefore they decided to leave this for the next government after elections in June 2002. Czech falconry has been based on goshawks for long time, although many falconers moved to falcons in last decade. So far, it has been possible to get a common species, such as goshawk, from the wild with certain bureaucracy. Therefore our main concern is that this should be enabled also under new environmental regulations, because the yearly need for falconry purposes is far less than 1% of goshawk population and thus this cannot harm this species anyhow. The main opponents are ornithologists, but we are going to negotiate with them about our arguments.

We would like to keep our legislation effort in order to provide continuity of Czech falconry in this new century. If our effort is successful at the end of the legislation process, as we hope, we are

going to translate all related materials and describe our experience and know-how so that other IAF members in troubles will also benefit from our positive example. This would be the best way how to thank for IAF support.

Other activities

Apart from legislation activities, Czech Falconers Club tried to influence positively public meaning via TV, radio, newspapers and exhibitions more than in other years. In addition, the official internet page of Czech Falconers Club was established <http://www.sokolnictvi.cz>

During 10th of October to 14th October 2001, our club held 34th annual international field meeting, which took place at Opocno castle about 150 km to the east from Prague. Every year about 150 Czech and 50 foreign falconers (UK, Germany, Austria, USA, Slovakia...) come with about 100 hawks such as 50 goshawks, 30 falcons and 20 eagles. This time, Opocno meeting was visited by Herwig Hoedl and Prof. Thomas Richter - IAF representative, who had presentation about legislation status in Europe and who gave us much sound advice for negotiations with the government. Falconers were hunting for three days in groups of about 10 hawks. Usual quarry was hares for goshawks, pheasants for falcons and hares/roe-deer/foxes for eagles. Total amount of quarry caught was typically 50 pieces per day i.e. success rate was about 1/2 piece per hawk. If the new hunting law is corrected, 35th international field meeting will be held again in Opocno castle from 10th October to 13th October 2002, otherwise we can make perhaps only a social event and a demonstration instead of real falconry field meeting.

Vaclav Svoboda – president and Bohumil Straka – board member
Czech Falconers Club

March 2002

Netherlands

Dear friends from IAF

As Patrick suggested: underneath the latest developments about falconry in the Netherlands.

Legislation:

As per the 1st of April next, the new law in which, it is said that only goshawk and peregrine can be used for falconry if you have a license.

New is: other birds of prey are forbidden to bring into the field unless you have a license (some professionals). Also new is the extension of falconry - licenses of 79 up to 200 in total.

The reactions of the clubs:

Jacoba van Beieren split. The new club (the fourth one already) is called "Orde der Nederlandse Valkeniers". They allow their members to have only goshawk and peregrine (The pure ones)

In our next meeting our club will propose to keep only goshawk and peregrine unless you have a license to keep and fly other birds of prey.

This point of view arose because

1. the law says you can keep all birds of prey with a closed ring.
2. not allowed to fly them anymore means keeping them on a string for the rest of their lives.

All in all: from governmental side it is only an underlining for already existing rules: don't fly birds of prey other then hunting birds.

There was and is a lot of illegal flying and a lot of keeping birds of prey in poor circumstances.

The majority of falconers (the real ones) agree upon the banning of birds of prey with which cannot be flown.

Any more questions: be welcome.

Best regards, Thijs Fleskens



Mexico – prepared by Juan Carlos Rojo

Falconry in Mexico was practiced in the XVI century; Viceroy Fray Luis de Velasco probably was the first falconer in the country at that time.

From those days until the XX century nothing happened in regard to falconry.

It is until the 1940's when "Asociacion Mexicana de Cetreria" was formed, led by his president Guillermo Jose Tapia; we have a copy of a letter from The Archives of American Falconry dated December 23, 1951 from Mexico City addressed to Robert Stabler who was one of the best American falconers of his time, mentioning other members, like the Colonel R.L. Meredith who is known as the father of American Falconry, Gilbert Blaine, author of a book, Otto Kals, a German who manufactured fine leather gloves and Pete Asborno who made the best bells. Unfortunately, this Mexican Association disappeared, leaving no trace.

Later, in 1964, Roberto Behar was involved in falconry, in 1967 more beginners came and by the earliest 1970's there were approximately 30 falconers in Mexico, Roberto Behar was our major influence, he had the opportunity to travel and have contact with foreign falconers such as Renz Waller, Kinya Nakajima, Felix Rodriguez de la Fuente, and many others.

Felix Rodriguez de la Fuente was another influence to us, because it helped us to learn to develop as falconers reading his book "The Art of Falconry" which is written in Spanish.

In the 1980's the number of beginners was greatly increased because there of the boom of a Brandy advertisement on T.V. where a Harris-hawk is flying to the fist.

At the end of the 1980's we were about 200 falconers and 10 organized groups.

In the 1990's we grew in quality and the government invited us to participate in the organization of falconry as a recognized activity, we still are in the process and we received the support of NAFA members to create our falconry law.

Now we are about 300 falconers and 25 associations in Mexico.

| | |
|------------|---|
| Most of us | (200) fly Harris-hawks to rabbits, jackrabbits, to ducks, squirrels, etc. |
| Few of us | (50) fly Peregrines, Prairies, to ducks, pigeons, etc. |
| About | (30) fly Aplomados, bat falcons, Merlins, to quail, larks etc. |
| And | (20) fly Goshawks to rabbits, jackrabbits, etc. Cooper hawks and sharpys to quail, and small birds. |

There are about 5 private breeding projects,

This year we are going to have the "First Shortwing and Longwing National Conference" which will be held in San Luis Potosi, Mexico, on December 14th, 15th and 16th, 2001. We expect to meet most of the Mexican falconers and coordinate our efforts in order to set up the basis to work all the Mexican falconers together.



Back cover picture

Peter Candid (Brugge 1548 - 1628 Munich) painted this canvas titled "Aucupium" allegory on Falconry around 1613. The 254 x 154 cm canvas was painted as the most spectacular of six ceiling covers for a apartment in the Munich Residence commissioned by Maximilian I. of Bavaria. The Catalogue to the exhibition on the elector Maximilian I. of Bavaria in Munich's Residenz states that hunting with trained birds of prey, is first mentioned in the old testament and the odyssey, and since the Middle ages is the most noble way of hunting - and likely the most expensive. The nobility of Falconry in this painting is allegorically stylized in symbols as the goddess of hunting, a white Gyrfalcon, princely laurel and jewels, all painted in a very careful technique und subtle use of differentiated colours. Thus Falconry in the baroque times of Maximilian I. of Bavaria was certainly a privilege of principality and this painting was supposed to make the point very clear. To us world falconers in the year 2002 the privilege of principality has lost its meaning and nowadays we enjoy the privilege of responsibility to all beings living on earth and sharing nature in a considerate way.

Thank You !! IGOR TAVČAR



Conservation in Relation to Falconry

This first decade of the millennium will be the one of new challenges: the key of the future for falconry will probably be to have enough quarry to present to our hawks. Our IAF constitution defines falconry : "Falconry is the traditional sport of taking quarry in its natural state and habitat by means of trained birds of prey. It is a hunting art." If habitat is lost, if we are missing adequate areas suitable for falconry, there will be no more quarry and there will be no more falconry!

Falconers have to act responsibly for conservation and wise sustainable use of the wild and do need to be more engaged in conservation programs. In the future it is likely that falconry and in general "regulated hunting" will only continue to be recognised as a legitimate use of a renewable natural resource where scientific evaluation of game populations can demonstrate the existence of a "harvestable surplus" above the number needed to maintain a stable or expanding breeding population.

All around the world, more and more conservation programs are aimed to this purpose. I strongly encourage falconers to be involved and support these conservation programs.

You'll find enclosed with this newsletter a leaflet of the NAGP (North American Grouse Partnership). "Our mission is to rebuild and nurture flourishing populations of North American grouse through preservation and restoration of the landscapes and habitats necessary for their continued existence.

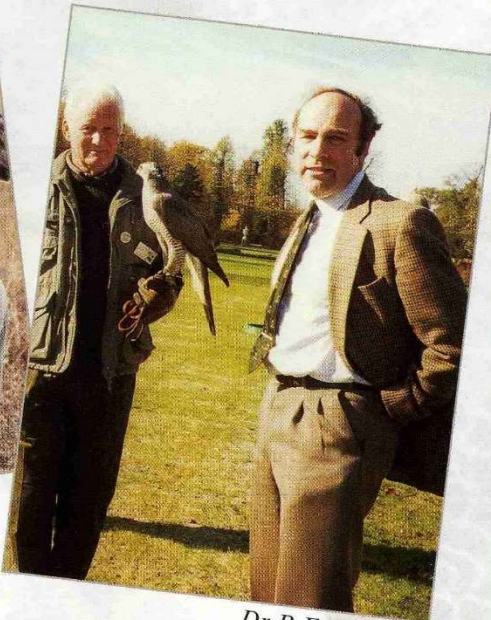
Grouse are powerful icons or "flagship species" of the biotic communities in which they live. As such they can be used to focus public attention and effort on ecosystem maintenance and preservation of the bio-diversity with which grouse are associated. Although the primary concern of NAGP is the long-term welfare of grouse, we believe that concern will be best served by a landscape and ecosystem approach to conservation, thereby optimising the bio-diversity of which grouse are natural components.

Please join and support the NAGP and other conservation programs, the future of falconry depends of it.

Patrick Morel (President IAF)



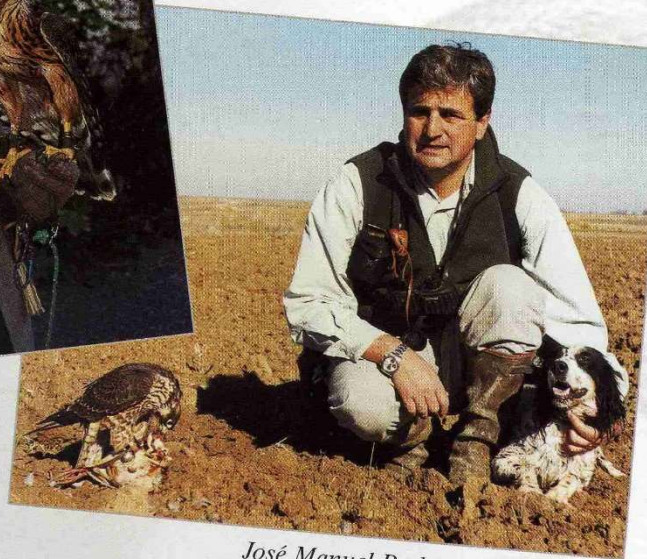
Tim Kimmel, North America



*Dr R E Kenward,
Research Coordinator*



*Herwig Hoedel,
Austria*



José Manuel Rodríguez-Villa, Spain



