

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR FALCONRY & CONSERVATION OF BIRDS OF PREY

NEWSLETTER

Edition - June 2008

www.i-a-f.org



Andrew Ellis (b. 1971, Torquay)

**William R Asprey
(Chairman, William and Son.)**

Andrew's passion for painting the natural world demonstrated itself at an early age. Growing up in rural Devon, he was drawn to studying wildlife, and in particular birds of prey, which remain one of his favourite subject matter. He continues to live in the South West, with his wife Donna, and their two children, and is still very much inspired by the surrounding wildlife. He is actively involved in countryside management, releasing Grey partridges with the help of local farmers, a regular contributor on bird forums, and works closely with organisations such as IAF (International Association of Falconers), and BFC (British Falconer's club) to raise the awareness of falconry around the world.



Whilst studying at Exeter College of Art and Design (1987-89), he won a British Association Shooting and Conservation competition, and also secured his first contract - to illustrate Ranulf Raynor's "The story of the sporting gun." In 1991 Andrew held his first solo exhibition at the National Falconry fair, and has enjoyed much success exhibiting

there regularly over subsequent years. It was also here that he met a number of major wildlife artists including Alan Hunt, who became a source of inspiration for his work.

Andrew's work has been featured in many falconry, shooting and wildlife publications, his work is collected worldwide and he has exhibited as far a field as the Middle East, America and Europe. He is also a regular contributor to "Birds in Art", a show organised annually by the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum, which seeks to present the best contemporary artistic interpretations of birds and their related subject matter.

Since 1997 Andrew has been working with the prestigious London based gallery, the Halcyon, where he has featured in many of their wildlife shows, and in 2007 he had a very successful one-man show with them, where his work included Gamebirds and Middle-Eastern subjects.

He continues to work on the illustrations for "Peregrines of the World", contributing to authors to which include, Professor Tom Cade, Professor Clayton white and Jim Enderson, This volume will follow the Highly successful Book, " Gyrfalcon" by Emma Ford which featured many of Andrew's paintings. His recent work has included portraiture for Royal families in the Middle East.

Andrew travels around the world in pursuit of wildlife references, the places he has travelled to for inspiration, include: North America, Botswana, South Africa, and the Middle East. He has recently returned from North Africa and is currently working on a series of paintings



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

April 15, 2008

While the falconry community worldwide continues to face challenges, simultaneously we have opportunities to seek greater recognition for our sport. Please take a moment to read the Council Delegates' reports, who speak of the successes achieved in each country. Last year, Slovakia gained recognition for falconry in its national hunting law. President Anton Moravcik, ably assisted by his members, and with help by example from our Czech Republic colleagues and the IAF, the new Slovak recognition of falconry becomes the flagship law for the region.

Similarly, the Slovenian Parliament ignored the Green opposition to pass a hunting law which includes falconry as a hunting means. Dr. Roman Savic, President of the Slovenian falconers, assisted also by Dr. Igor Tavcar, won this hard fought victory. The IAF intervened directly to achieve this success. After I met with Roman, I organized support from our Member Organisations neighboring Slovenia, to write letters of support to the Parliament and the Slovenian Ministry. I thank particularly Dr. Harold Barsch and Christian Habich of Austria, Janos Toth of Hungary, and Ana Paolli of Italy for their support.

You will read about the spectacular AGM hosted by ANFA in Champagne, France. We were honored to have the five living former presidents of the IAF to attend this Fortieth Anniversary celebration. Philippe Justeau, President of ANFA and organizer Patrick Morel, prepared a wonderful program and several tours for the delegates. Claude Dufour's infectious enthusiasm showed in the meal and lodging preparations. Quietly Pierre and Brigette Courjaret put on ANFA's first and incredibly successful raffle.

In June, we will participate in the UNESCO workshop in Paris to continue the long process of seeking recognition for falconry as an intangible cultural heritage. The Emirates Falconers' Club leads this effort with their submission, hopefully to be joined by Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, France and Morocco. UNESCO recognition is of the highest priority for the IAF for what it can do to perpetuate the sport for generations to come.



I hope to see many of you in South Africa where our new Executive Secretary, Dr. Adrian Lombard, has organized a great AGM. We have great falconry representation in South Africa and Zimbabwe, a part of the world where falconry is unsurpassed.

The IAF is strong, now representing 69 Member Organisations from 48 nations, with at least five more applicants this year. I am honored to be President, ably assisted by a talented group of Officers, Advisory Committee Members, and Council Delegates. Thank you for your support and participation in the IAF.



EDITOR'S FORWARD

- by Anthony Crosswell

With the prospect of our AGM to be held in South Africa in July this edition of the Newsletter comes earlier than usual. Our meeting in Champagne was every bit as exciting as anticipated thanks to an excellent event organized by our hosts ANFA. Living up to its name in every way Champagne proved to be a real surprise to many foreign visitors with ideal countryside, an abundance of partridge and rooks, food that was sheer delight and wine that made every evening a taste sensation. Thank you ANFA.

For Jenny and I it was an event tinged with some sadness as I retired from being Executive Secretary of IAF after nearly a decade – we found ourselves close to tears in the warmth of the reception given to us both by all of those present. Again we both thank you and the beautiful bronze given to us as a memento by President and friend Frank Bond now overlooks me and holds pride of place in our dining room as I write this.

We all saw some brilliant falconry amongst good friends in ideal conditions. My privilege over the years has been to see IAF grow and mature into this vibrant and effective world representative for falconry. As you see Frank has not let me go entirely and I remain editor of this Newsletter so if you have anything to publish please don't hesitate to contact me. Photos and news are always welcome and if you can write so much the better.



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CONTENTS

Andrew Ellis (b. 1971, Torquay).....	2
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.....	3
EDITOR'S FORWARD.....	4
CONTENTS.....	5
Agenda for to the 39th Annual General Meeting of IAF in Bloemfontein, South Africa.....	6
The South African Falconry Association International Field Meet hosting the International Association for Falconry AGM 2008.....	7
An Age of Innocence.....	9
IAF Officers 2008.....	11
The 38 th AGM of IAF in Sézanne, Champagne, France.....	12
Report of the President.....	12
Vicepresident for Europe, Asia, Africa and Oceania Report.....	19
VP report.....	20
Reports by officers and Chairmen of working groups for IAF AGM 2007.....	22
Contributions of North American Falconers to Conservation and Related Areas.....	24
Report of CITES CoP 14.....	26
Other Appointees.....	31
Report of the Executive Secretary.....	33
Preserving the History of Falconry.....	33
Meeting with Birdlife International on Hybrid Falcons.....	36
South African Falconry Association Annual Report to the International Association for Falconry, 2007.....	37
Convention On Migratory Species.....	38
International Falconry Seminar 2007 in Slovakia.....	40
Peregrine Conference Poland 2007.....	43
2 nd International Peregrine Falcon Conference Resolutions.....	48
WRTC Report.....	49
Report on activity for the year 2007 of 'Estonian Falconers' Union'.....	51
NAFA United States Report.....	51
The events of the last year for Hungarian falconry.....	52
Canadian Report Nov. 2007.....	53
Report for Ireland.....	53
Falconry in the Philippine Islands.....	54
United Kingdom IAF Report 2008.....	55
Japan.....	56
Report from Holland.....	56
Report from Mexico 2007.....	57
Lithuanian Falconers Club 2007.....	57
Report of Belgium.....	57
CITES Secretariat Warning.....	58
Slovakia – new law in favor of falconry.....	58
Falconry in Republic of Slovenia formally approved and regulated in hunting law by government.....	58
European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity.....	59
XXXV years of Polish Falconry Club „Gniazdo Sokolników“.....	59
Golden Eagles.....	60
Artist Lucio Relaño.....	61
Report from Germany.....	62
International Falconry Meeting at “Castle Clemenswerth” in Soegel.....	63

Agenda for to the 39th Annual General Meeting of IAF in Bloemfontein, South Africa



(may vary according to the situation and weather)

DATE	TIME	PROGRAM
MONDAY 14TH JULY 2008	all day	Arrival and registration of IAF delegates in The Protea Black Mountain Hotel, near Thaba Nchu, South Africa
ARRIVAL	evening	Convene in the Hotel Bar. Brief welcome and introduction to the hunting program and buffet dinner
TUESDAY 15TH JULY 2008	8:00	IAF Advisory Committee meeting (for AC members only)
IAF AC	all day	Hunting during the day
	evening	Introduction to Cape Wines by Edmund Oettle (Falconer and Wine-maker from the Western Cape) and buffet dinner
WEDNESDAY 16TH JULY 2008	07:30	IAF AGM 1 st part - registration and coffee
IAF AGM 1 ST PART (PROGRAM IS A SUBJECT OF CHANGE)	08:00	Opening by the President Address by SAFA Approval of the minutes of the AGM 2007 in Sezanne – Tony Crosswell Financial report 2008, budget for 2009 – Antonio Carapuço President's report VP report Bill Johnston VP report Jose Manuel Rodriguez-Villa
	10.30	Breakfast/Brunch break
	11.15	Reports of the working groups Administration Working Group - Frank M. Bond, President Advisory Committee - Gary Timbrell Finance Working Group - Antonio Carapuco Communications Working Group - Bohumil Straka European Affairs Working Group - José Manuel Rodríguez-Villa Conservation and Science Working Group - Timothy Kimmel CITES Working Group - Anthony Crosswell Hybrids Working Group - Matthew Gage, Acting Russian Speaking Europe and Central Asia WG - Jevgeni Shergalin IAF/CIC UNESCO Cultural Heritage Submissions WG - Gary Timbrell Falconry Festival Working Group - William F. Johnston, Jr. AGM Planning Working Group - Patrick Morel Other Appointees IAF Newsletter Editor: Anthony Crosswell Public Relations Officer: Bohumil Straka Public Information Officer: Jevgeni Shergalin
	14.00	End of IAF AGM 1 st part – coffee Photographic session for Newsletter.
	15.00	Reports of the delegates Miscellaneous, AGM 2009 place and date End of IAF AGM 2 nd part Entertainment incl. traditional dancing in the hotel and buffet dinner
THURSDAY 17TH JULY 2008	all day	Hunting during the day
	evening	Displays by invited organizations which may include the Endangered Wildlife Trust, AGRED, PHASA, WINGSHOOTERS SA, Provincial conservation Authorities etc. Buffet dinner.
FRIDAY 18TH JULY 2008	12:00	A meeting with representatives of provincial conservation authorities and falconry club representatives will be held in order to establish a working group to standardized falconry policy in all provinces. (SAFA Working group)
SAFA FIELD MEETING	all day	SAFA field meeting - hunting during the day
	19:30	Meet Banquet. To be addressed by Yolán Friedman, CEO of the Endangered Wildlife Trust.
SATURDAY 19TH JULY 2008	12:00	SAFA AGM (SAFA ExCo)
SAFA FIELD MEETING	all day	SAFA field meeting - hunting during the day
	evening	Traditional braai/spit roast.
SUNDAY 20TH JULY 2008	all day	SAFA field meeting – final hunting during the day Departure of delegates
DEPARTURE		

The South African Falconry Association International Field Meet hosting the International Association for Falconry AGM 2008



The South African Falconry Association will host the International Association for Falconry and the Conservation of Birds of Prey Annual General Meeting in July 2008. This will be held in combination with the SAFA Annual Field Meet. To celebrate this event, SAFA will organize an international event to which falconers from all over the world are invited.

DATES: Monday 14th to Sunday 20th July 2008.

VENUE: The Protea Black Mountain Hotel, near Thaba Nchu. This is situated some 80 Km east of Bloemfontein, the capital of the Free State Province of South Africa.

For details of the hotel, please visit the web site, www.proteahotels.com/blackmountain.

This venue is situated in the heart of our Highveldt Grassland region. It is characterized by short grass, huge skies and is home to two of our small, partridge-like francolin, the Orange River and the grey-wing francolin. A variety of other quarry species are to be found in this region. These include a variety of duck, Swainson's spurfowl, guineafowl and scrub hares.

GETTING THERE: International visitors can enter the country via Oliver Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg or Cape Town International Airport and take a connecting flight to Bloemfontein. Arrangements will be made to collect visitors from Bloemfontein.

Flights are available to Bloemfontein (which is South Africa's 3rd largest Airport) from both International Airports, Johannesburg and Cape Town, and are served by all the main local airlines including South African Airways, South African Airlin, Nationwide Airline, One time, Mango and Comair-British Airlines. Cheap fares for this link are readily available.

Transport to and from the field will be provided for international visitors. Transport with local falconers is available at the meet. Should you wish to hire a car, this can be hired from Bloemfontein Airport. Please remember that, in South Africa, we drive on the left hand side of the road.

COSTS: Hotel Costs include bed and breakfast. (Quotes in Rand = R. Exchange rate roughly 10 Rand to 1 Euro or 7.2 Rand to 1 US Dollar). Single person, not sharing, R600.00 per day/Per person sharing (two to a room) R330.00 per day

Per person sharing (two to a room) in old staff village R300.00 per day – this option is recommended for southern African falconers with dogs and hawks.

International visitors are advised to stay in the hotel which will be more comfortable.

Please note that there is a "Late Booking" penalty of R100.00 from 1th May 2008.

Meals: "Breakfast" will be served from 10am to 12 midday, so as to follow our morning hunt and will take the form of a buffet brunch. This meal is included in the cost of the hotel.

"Dinner" will be served in the evening following the afternoon hunt and will take the form of a "finger/fork" buffet, to encourage socializing. This will cost R120.00.

A Meet Banquet will be held on Friday 18th July and will cost R140.00.

There will be a meet fee for non-SAFA members of US\$100.00, which will include the cost of transport to and from the field, meet organization and entertainment. **This fee is not applicable to IAF Delegates or Zimbabwean falconers.**

SAFA Members will pay a meet fee as usual.

CLIMATE AND CLOTHING: The weather will be dry but warm to cool in the daytime. At nightfall it becomes freezing cold and temperatures may drop to -7degreesC. You have been warned!

South African falconers are casual in their dress. The ground is hard so stout hiking shoes or boots are recommended. The grasslands have an irritating form of seed which gets into socks and down the side of shoes so gaiters are an asset. Take jerseys and hats out hunting as temperatures change rapidly with cold early mornings and evenings and hot sun at midday.

Dress at the meet Banquet will be smart-casual.

HEALTH ISSUES: South Africa has a moderate climate and a relatively well developed infrastructure which makes health concerns less pressing than much of the rest of Africa.

Vaccinations: No vaccinations are required unless you are coming from an area where Yellow Fever is endemic. Furthermore no vaccinations are recommended except for Hepatitis B in the case of children. It may be worth obtaining boosters for tetanus and polio vaccinations in children. No other vaccinations are generally recommended.

Malaria: As the Field Meet/AGM is taking place in the South African winter, there is no need to take malaria prophylaxis in South Africa. The exception is for "High Risk" individuals going to the Kruger National Park (These are pregnant women, splenectomized patients, children under 5 and immunocompromized patients). You will need to take oral prophylaxis if you travel north to the Zambezi Valley in Zimbabwe/Zambia or to the Okovango Swamps in Botswana. However, if you limit your stay to South Africa, no preventative measures are needed in winter.

Water: Tap water in South Africa is generally very safe and can be drunk. Be careful of water in rivers or dams. The water from the hotel taps is safe to drink.

Sun: Even in winter, the sun can be quite harsh and people from cooler climates are advised to use an ultra-violet blocking cream.

HIV/Aids: The incidence of HIV infection is very high amongst the South African population and visitors to South Africa should be aware of this, although it constitutes no danger to them in normal day-to-day contacts.

Medical Facilities: Medical facilities and the access to primary health care in South Africa is excellent and is at least equivalent to most Western countries. This does come at a cost and you are advised to ensure that you have Travel Health Insurance.

Crime: This is a concern in South Africa but is an issue mainly in the large centers and the area where the Field Meet is taking place is generally very safe. Travelers are advised to take reasonable precautions such as not venturing at night into poorly lit areas in the cities or going to sleep in your car beside the highway. It is advisable to obtain local advice on crime in areas that you visit.

VISAS AND TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS: Many of the IAF Member

Nations will not require Visas or may need to pay for their visa at their point of entry into South Africa. Information regarding the necessity for a visa can be obtained from your travel consultant or from: http://www.southafrica.info/public_services/sa_abroad/. This is a very useful and accessible site which covers many of the questions asked by foreign travelers to South Africa. Look for "Public Services – Advice for Foreigners" on the front page and follow the links for Visas. If you are still uncertain please contact Adrian Lombard lombarda@mweb.co.za and I will give you the required information. It is always best to check with your travel consultant as requirements may change at short notice.

ORGANIZATION: Please complete the booking form that follows this to notify us of your intention to attend and allow us to cater for your needs. **Booking for accommodation MUST be made directly with the hotel** this may be done by phoning the hotel on +27.51.871 4200. In order to benefit from the preferential rates which have been offered to falconers attending the meet, please stipulate that you are a FALCONER or ATTENDING THE FALCONRY MEETING when you book. A deposit of 50% will be required by the hotel to secure your booking. Please pay this directly to the hotel.

Transport will be provided to collect you from Bloemfontein Airport and bring you to the Protea Black Mountain Hotel. Mini-bus transport will be provided to and from the field for visitors, alternatively you are welcome to travel with local falconers. Details of the hunting will be displayed in the hotel foyer.

Registration for the meet will take place in the hotel foyer. Please register as soon as you arrive so that we can ensure that you will get the most out of the meet.

OTHER ATTRACTIONS: If you wish to have a break from falconers and falconry, there are a variety of other activities available to you.

- Maria Maroka game Reserve adjacent to the hotel with game drives and hikes.
- Golden Gate National Park with grassveld game and San (bushman) paintings in the Drakensberg, ---Km from the hotel.
- Health Spa with massage, sauna and Jacuzzi in the hotel
- Horse riding.

Game Shooting: Those who may wish to add to their African experience with some **game shooting** can be accommodated. We have organized this with falconers who are Professional Hunters. There are a variety of plains animals available, from Springbok to Buffalo. To organize shooting prior to your arrival and for details of costs and species available, please contact Francois Breedt on fbreedt@digitalage.co.za.

EXPAND YOUR VISIT:

The following tour has been specially developed for this meeting and we would strongly recommend that you consider taking up this option if you wish to see some of the wilder parts of South Africa and in particular some of our wild raptors. Pick up will be early morning, July 20th, from the Protea Black Mountain Hotel.



KALAHARI RAPTOR TOUR

Following the Northern Cape Raptor Route



July 2008
5 days, 4 nights
*** bookings close on 20th March 2008 ***

Day 1: Depart from Protea Hotel Black Mountain

Stop in Kimberley for lunch and tour of the Big Hole & Village Museum

- Home of the diamond mines and De Beers

Travel to Witsand Nature Reserve

- White sand dunes accumulated and retained by a water-filled quartzite basin
- Unlimited walks, bird hide, dinner around the campfire



Overnight in chalets

Day 2: Breakfast

Depart for Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park

This route is famous for the regular sightings of Pygmy Falcon, occupying the nests of the sociable weavers

Wine tasting at Groblershoop Wine Cellar

- Orange River Wine Cellars – one of the largest cooperative wine cellars in the world

Lunch at Kalahari Guestfarm

Late afternoon game drive in Kgalagadi

- Transfrontier Park of 3.7 million hectares of unspoilt red sand dunes, waving bushman grass, camelthorn trees and desert-adapted wildlife
- famous for sightings of the black-maned Kalahari lions, leopard, cheetah, herds of springbok, wildebeest and Oryx (gemsbok)
- due to abundance of smaller mammals and rodents, Kgalagadi is a paradise for raptors, such as Pale Chanting Goshawk, Gabar Goshawk, Red-necked Falcon, Peregrine Falcon, Lanner Falcon (preying on the sandgrouse at the waterholes), Tawny Eagle, Bateleur, Martial Eagle, Lappetfaced Vulture, Whitebacked Vulture, Spotted and Giant Eagle Owl, and much more

Dinner

Overnight in en-suite chalets

Day 3: Early morning game drive, after coffee and "beskuit"

Picnic brunch

Continue game drive

Sunset drive on open-top vehicle

Dinner and overnight

Day 4: Early morning game drive, after coffee and "beskuit"

Picnic brunch

Continue game drive



Dinner around the campfire ("braai")
Overnight in en-suite chalets

Day 5: Breakfast

Depart for Upington Airport for flights to Johannesburg or Cape Town

Tour includes:

- Travel by VW Kombi or 16-seater bus
- Accommodation as specified, on a B&B basis, except at Witsand and one night at Kgalagadi, where it is D,B&B
- Guiding and entrance fees & activities as specified

Excluded:

- Meals not specified – fully licensed restaurants available
- Items of personal nature & personal travel insurance

Tour price (minimum of 2 pax):

R7200 pp sharing
R8800 pp single
30% deposit required to confirm booking

General

The Northern Cape Province of South Africa is a prime destination for the viewing of raptors in South Africa and has a well-known Raptor Route. A part of this route will be followed. All effort will be made to view as many of the eagles, hawks, falcons, vultures and owls of the region as possible.

Contact:

Jaco Powell
Cape Fox Tours & Photography



info@capefox.co.za Cell: +27 (0) 82 572 0065

www.capefox.co.za Fax: +27 (0) 53 832 6359

Jaco can assist with booking transport and other trips within South Africa. Please feel free to contact him to consider other options or for other travel assistance that you may need.

Other Alternatives:

In order to provide you with other alternatives we have engaged the services of a tour operator, Jocelyn Miller to assist you to make the most of your trip to South Africa.



An Age of Innocence

By William F. Johnston, Jr.

For me it was the time just after my discharge from the navy in 1962. I had served for four years and seen much of the world, or at least as much as I wanted to see at that time. I returned home to find a job and continue the pursuit of my interest in falconry, put on hold while serving my country. I didn't know much about the plight of the peregrine or the dire predictions of Rachel Carson and Silent Spring. Practicing falconers at that time were few and far between. So, I found books and read about training and flying peregrines on Salisbury Plain in England, circa 1900. Some few years later Webster and Beebe published the first practical book on American falconry.



I took my first bird, a redtail hawk from a nest as a large downy. Gaffs and tenacity got me 80 feet up a large white oak to the stick nest and the prospects of three large fluff balls to choose from. Turned out to be a large imprint hen that demonstrated all of the unwelcome mannerism that one would expect from such a bird. Never mind, I kept her for about three years and gave her away to another tyro falconer. At the time I was unconstrained by federal and state permits, falconry registration forms and black seamed bands.

After the eyass experience, I managed to acquaint myself with several other like minded people living and practicing falconry within 50 to 60 miles of my home. I learned something about the virtues of passage birds and how to acquire them. Our primary means was fall ridge trapping with a bownet.

It's been well over 40 years since I last trapped migrating hawks on Schunnemunk Mountain. I was young and fit then and immune to the challenge of hefting poles, blind, pigeons and bownet up to the summit. It was a simple matter of choosing my trap site, setting everything up and enjoying a day devoid of people and their conventions, but rich with nature's sensory overload.

Schunnemunk Mountain is an eight-mile long ridge on the western boundary of New York State's Hudson Highlands. The highest point

in Orange County, Schunnemunk offers broad vistas in all directions. To the southeast one can discern the faint outline of New York City's skyline. The view due east is of the Hudson River and nearby U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Some 30 miles north is the beginning of the Catskill Mountain range and in the west with the aid of binoculars one can see High Point, New Jersey. Schunnemunk in the Algonquin language means excellent fireplace. Heavily forested at its lower elevations, autumn turns the leaves a bright scarlet analogous to an excellent fireplace! The mountaintop is populated by large rock outcroppings and dwarf vegetation struggles to gain a foothold in the sparse glacial till.

After arising in the dark and chugging to the terminus of a seasonal dirt road, I abandon my old Volks Wagon Bug and proceed on foot. It took at least an hour to sweat my way to the top, another half hour to reach my spot and 20-25 minutes to get set up. My friend, Frank Weber introduced me to trapping with a bownet and our place atop Schunnemunk. Our location was on the western slope, which provided unobstructed views both north and west. Stewart Air Force Base, near Newburgh was in operation at the time and we would often see large transports making their final approach before landing. They, unlike the hawks we trapped seemed to hang suspended in the air as they passed by.



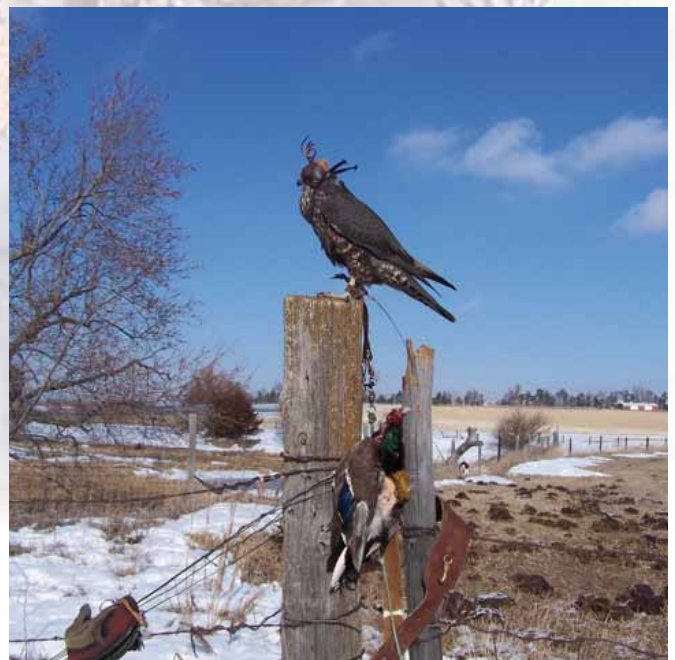
The trapping gear consisted of two sections of TV antenna affixed with eyebolts through which a circle of line was run. When connected, the antenna extended about 15 feet into the air and was anchored with a cairn of stones at its base. Mid way in the line a shorter piece was tied to which a harnessed pigeon was attached. From within the blind one could pull the pigeon to the top of the pole, release the line and allow the pigeon to flutter softly back to earth. The bownet was set up within a few feet of where the pigeon landed and it too had a line attached, which ran to the blind. Mostly we caught redtails, goshawks and Coopers Hawks. Not always, but most times one could see the approach of a hawk. The first indication of an incoming was the frantic flapping of the bait bird. We tried to use homers that were either mostly white or had prominent white flight feathers. The flick of white seemed to be a beacon to the migrating raptors. As soon as contact was made the pigeon was pulled under the net and the second line pulled. The bownet had no springs so we really had to pull hard and fast to ensnare both birds. Then it was a quick dash to retrieve the hawk and rescue the pigeon. There was surprisingly little damage done to the pigeon, as the hawk would immediately let go when faced with the prospects of a net pulled over it. To some today our methods might seem crude. But, at the time if you couldn't make it yourself, then you were pretty much out of luck. There were no glossy high quality catalogs with Pay Pal at the time. I never kept any of the coops that were trapped, although I don't know why. Passage red tails and goshawks on the other hand were fair game for the sock and transport home. Mostly it was red tails and fond memories of manning and flying them. We

had no Internet, no Amazon.com, and no fancy DVD's to learn from. No sponsor either. Maybe a mentor, maybe not. Without exception however, all of the birds survived, were hunted and later released. Non the worse for wear at the very least these birds managed to make it through the critical first year and learned minus the harsh crushable of mother nature.

Someone told me about NAFA and in 1970 I joined. The only regular falconry information newsletter at the time, Hawk Chalk and the Journal opened up all new horizons for me. I learned about people, techniques and advancements in equipment. The annual member directory also put me in touch with a number of fellow enthusiasts both near and far. Somewhere along the line new laws protecting birds of prey and enabling falconry regulations were promulgated. I took the exam and had my facilities inspected. There was no field test because by now it was no longer legal to keep a raptor without a permit. Catch 22, my redtail at the time was safely sequestered somewhere else. No mention was made by the inspectors of the few hawk feathers and mutes that I missed while preparing for the inspection. So, suddenly I was a master falconer and out of the closet.

The techniques developed and perfected by falconers to successfully propagate endangered raptors in captivity eventually lead to commercialization. And, in due course I abandoned hawk trapping and began to purchase birds, some were hybrids of various recipes thought to be superior in some way to their pure species kin. The purest among us are now opting for the hawks that evolved with the quarry that they hunt, thus returning to a more idealistic form of the sport. As I have grown older, I have come to appreciate the whole experience. If filling the bag were all that mattered, my sport would be greatly diminished. Part of it is the bond with an otherwise wild creature and perhaps a dog. Out hunting also provides a connection to our primal past and the sheer magic of it frees my spirit.

Trapping wild raptors for falconry is an important part of the American experience, one that we should cherish, protect and nurture within the novice just starting out. Will I trap wild hawks and falcons again? Perhaps, but not on Schunnemunk. I haven't been back in all of these years. I moved to Connecticut in 1979 and then to Massachusetts some six years later. It's as well however, because I understand that its now part of the state park system with all of its rules. The mountain is crisscrossed with hiking trails and lookout spots for the burgeoning population to enjoy. I on the other hand am nostalgic for those clear crisp days of Indian summer alone on the ridge, save the wind, clinging to memories of giant red tailed hawks and goshawks in my trap.



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The 38th AGM of IAF in Sézanne, Champagne, France

By kind invitation of ANFA
Wednesday 28 November 2007
Thursday 29 November 2007

Wednesday 28 November 2007

- 13.00 Lunch
- 13.30 Registration – and coffee
- 14.00 Opening by the President

On the occasion of IAF's 40th anniversary introduction was by Frank Bond, President IAF to Philippe Justeau, President of ANFA, who welcomed all delegates and thanked Patrick Morel for all the work he did in organizing the meeting. Patrick in turn welcomed new members and delegates – he also reported that Bulgarian delegate had an accident and hit a wild boar with his car that he then loaded into the trunk and managed to proceed to the meeting – a brave effort!



14:10 Address by ANFA

Mr Pierre Blanchet from the French Ministry of the Environment then expressed his welcome to falconers of the world to Champagne. He said it was a great honor to welcome falconers and a privilege for him to have seen and been involved with falcons. He is very appreciative of our efforts to conserve raptors and look after our sport internationally.

Frank Bond asked members to stand in silence to appreciate the passing of Hank Dijkstra of Netherlands and Brian Walton from USA.

Approval of the minutes of the AGM 2006 in Kearney – Tony Crosswell

Acceptance of minutes proposed by Andrew Knowles-Brown and seconded by Matt Gage – minutes were approved unanimously.

Candidatures – President – discussion introduced by Gary Timbrell

Tony Crosswell, Tony James and Matt Gage made a short presentation about the Icen Association from UK - Canada proposed and USA seconded the Icen Association for membership which was accepted unanimously.



Financial report 2007 ; budget for 2008 – Antonio Carapuço

Proposed by Christian Habich of Austria and seconded by Mark Williams of Canada – motion carried unanimously. The bank account is currently in the name of the treasurer in Portugal but will be reorganized into a separate IAF account.

Report of the President

Frank M. Bond
November 28, 2007
Sézanne, France

This year the IAF celebrates its fortieth anniversary, a significant milestone since its founding in 1966. For this special occasion, we are pleased to be able to honor all five of the living former presidents: Mr. Toni Lutz, Switzerland; Mr. Charles De Ganay, France; Mr. Christian De Coune, Belgium; Mr. Ferrante Pratesi, Italy; and Mr. Patrick Morel, Belgium.



Taken from the vision of our first president, Mr. Jack Mavrogordato, Great Britain, we are now a large and diverse organization with

Country	Name of association	Delegate
Argentina	Asociacion Argentina de Cetreria	Daniel ARBAQUEO
Austria	Osterreichischer Falknerbund	Christian HABICH
Belgium	Belgian Falconry Association "Club Marie de Bourgogne"	Patrick MOREL Véronique BLONTROCK Christian de COUNE
	Belgische Vereniging van Vlaamse Valkeniers en Havikeniers	Yvan VERHELLE Gunter DAES
	Beoefenaers Vluchtbedrijf 'De Valkenier'	
	Studiegroep Behoud Valkerij	Luc MOYSON
Brazil	Asociacao Brasileira de Falcoeiros e Preservacao de Aves de Rapina	-
Bulgaria	Bulgarska Asotsiatsia za Zapazvane na Grablivate Ptitsi	Pavel YAKIMOV
Canada	North American Falconers Association	Mark WILLIAMS
Croatia	Sokolarski Centar	-
Czech Republic	Klub Sokolniku CMS	Bohumil STRAKA Petr ZVOLANEK
Denmark	Dansk Falkejagt Klub	Louis JESSEN
Estonia	Zoolit	Jevgeni SHERGALIN
France	Association Nationale des Fauconniers et Autoursiers Francais	Gilles NORTIER Philippe JUSTEAU Pierre COURJARET Charles de GANAY
Georgia	Georgian Section of Falconry	-
Germany	Deutscher Falkenorden	Alex PRINZ Klaus LEIX Karl-Heinz GERSMANN
Hungary	Magyar Solymasz Egyesület	Janos TOTH
India	Hawking Club of Hyderabad	-
Indonesia	Bali - Asia-Pacific Birds of Prey Sanctuary	-
Ireland	Irish Hawking Club	Gary TIMBRELL Hilary WHITE
Italy	Circolo dei Falconieri d'Italia per lo Studio e Protezione dei Rapaci	Frikki PRATESI Umberto CAPRONI
	Federazione Italiana dei Falconieri (FIF)	-
Japan	The Japan Falconers Association	OZAKU Fumio FUJII Tooyuki
	The Japan Falconiformes Center	Keiya NAKAJIMA
	The World Falconers Club	FUJITA ASAOKA SASAGAWA
	The Japanese Falconers' Association	MUROFUSHI Mikio KAMIUCHI Koji ENDO Keiichiro
	Translator	Jean-Michel BUGNIOT
Kazakhstan	Bakyt Karnakbayev	Bakyt ARNAKBAYEV Sadi-Bek TUGEL Vladimir MIRZOYEV
Libya	Libyan Falconers Association	-
Lithuania	Lietuvos Skalininku Klubas	Darius DAUGELA
Macedonia	Macedonian Falconers Association « Yarak »	-

Mexico	North American Falconers Association	Juan Carlos ROJO
Mongolia	Mongolian Falconry Association	-
Morocco	Association Marocaine de Fauconnerie	Abdelhak CHAOUNI
Netherlands	Nederlands Valkeniersverbond	-
	Adriaan Mollen Valkerij Equipage Jacoba van Beieren	Harry WAGENAAR Adrian KOSTER
New Zealand	Wingspan Birds of Prey Trust	-
Peru	Peruvian Falconers Association	
Philippine	Philippinian Falconry Club	-
Poland	Gniazd Sokolnikow	Janusz SIELICKI
	Polish Falconry Order	-
Portugal	Associacao Portuguesa de Falcoaria	Antonio CARAPUCO
Russia		-
El Salvador	Club y Escuela de Cetreria de El Salvador	Roy BEERS
Serbia-Montenegro	Falconers Club Nobilis Ars	Tibor BUZA
Slovakia	Slovensky Klub Sokoliarov	
Slovenia	Slovenska zveza za sokolarstvo in zaščito ptic ujed (SZSZPU)	
South Africa	South African Falconers Association	-
Spain	AECCA	Fernando FEAS Jose Manuel RODRIGUEZ-VILLA
	Alicantina de Cetreria	-
Sweden	Sveska Falkenareforbundet	-
Switzerland	Schweizerische Falkner-Vereinigung	Pierre & Christine BASSET Toni LUTZ
Tunisia	Association Nationale des Fauconniers du Cap-Bon	Hichem BEN HMIDA
Turkey	Istanbul Avcilik ve Aticilik Kulübü	-
Turkmenistan	National Falconers Club of Turkmenistan	Atadurdy EYEBERDIYEV Vladimir ZEMBLEVSKIY
Ukraine	Corax	-
United Arab Emirates	Emirates Falconers' Club	Majid al MANSOURI
United Kingdom	British Falconers Club	Anthony CROSSWELL Tony JAMES Roger UPTON Matt GAGE
		Andrew KNOWLES-BROWN
	The Hawking Club	-
USA	North American Falconers Association	Bill JONHSTON Frank BOND Shawn HAYES Robert BAGLEY
	Wild Take Conservancy	Craig HANDEE
Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe Falconers Club	-
UK	Hawk Board	-
France	Ministère	Patrice BLANCHET
Hungary	CIC	-
Belgium	FACE	-

membership throughout most parts of the world. With 69 member organizations from 48 nations, the IAF is poised to grapple with the vexing problems faced by falconry. Our passion for this wonderful sport binds us to face our challengers.

On behalf of the IAF, I thank our French member organization, ANFA, for hosting this Thirty-Eighth Annual General Meeting in the countryside of Sézanne. President Philippe Justeau and his colleagues are providing us with wonderful opportunity to see French hawking at its best. I acknowledge and thank Patrick Morel, our past president, for his extraordinary effort to coordinate this AGM.



As your new president, this has been an eventful year to lead this very large organization from my home in the rural western United States. With the principal activity associated with issues largely in Europe, I have to coordinate communications from eight time zones away. However, your leadership from our Vice Presidents, Executive Secretary, Treasurer, and Advisory Committee Chairman have made the task far easier, as they, along with the Advisory Committee, have provided me with wise counsel when I have faced some difficult problems. I thank them all for their wisdom and very hard work.

Most of you know that earlier this year, Tony Crosswell, our Executive Secretary, gave us notice of his intent to retire from that position

and as Chairman of the CITES Working Group. Fortunately, he will continue as our Newsletter Editor. Tony has been Executive Secretary for almost a decade. I cannot hope to recall the amount of work he has done on behalf of the IAF. Most of all, he has and continues to be a trusted friend, advisor and an articulate and forceful defender of falconry. And above all, he can really fly a hawk.

I have made four major trips this year, including this one, for the IAF. Twice I have traveled to Abu Dhabi in the UAE, to visit with H.E. Mohamed al Bowardi and H.E. Majid al Mansouri, the Emirates' Falconers' Club Delegate to the Council. During both trips, we spoke principally of the development of an IAF business plan to provide a course for more effective representation and secure funding. I requested financial assistance for this AGM and most graciously the EFC provided significant funding for our meeting here in France. We discussed UNESCO recognition of falconry as an intangible cultural heritage and a potential future international conference on the status of the saker falcon. For the second trip, Vice President José Manuel Rodríguez-Villa joined me. During that trip, hosted by the Environment Agency Abu Dhabi, we were guests at the 2007 Abu Dhabi International Hunting Exhibition. And we were honored to have private audience with Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Chairman of the Emirates Falconers' Club.

In July, I attended the Festival of Falconry in Great Britain. It was spectacular gathering of falconers from around the world to celebrate the traditions of falconry in a single location with a focus on UNESCO recognition. Vice President Bill Johnston, Chairman of the Festival of Falconry Working Group, will report on the event separately. Also, Gary Timbrell, Chairman of the UNESCO Working Group, will report on the present status of the process of recognition.

Before attending the Festival, I was kindly hosted by Christian Habich, our OFB delegate, at his home in Austria several days. Dr. Harald Barsch, President of the OFB, toured with us through southern Austria. The highlight was a lunch meeting at the Burg Hochosterwitz with Christian, Harald, and Werner Leitner, President of the ZOF. Hochosterwitz Castle is the historic location where our predecessors gathered to found the IAF. We reviewed the status of Austrian falconry, which by all accounts is very healthy.



At the same time, Christian arranged for me to meet Dr. Roman Savic, president of the Slovenian Falconers' Association on the Austrian and Slovenian border. Roman, also the Slovenian Delegate to the Council, enlisted our support to assist with recognition of falconry as a hunting means in the new Slovenian hunting law. Roman has developed a very sophisticated means of political influence through the assistance of our Italian, Hungarian and Austrian member organisations. I wrote two letters on behalf of the IAF. By the time of the AGM, I hope that Roman will report success in this effort to the Council.

This year, Slovakia faced a similar political challenge. However, I am pleased to report that through the leadership of President Anton Moravcik, and with the assistance of the Czech Falconers Club leadership, and our assistance, the Slovakian Falconers' Association had a great victory with falconry recognized in law as a legal means of hunting.

The Danish Falconers' Association appears to be very close to recognition of falconry as a recognized means of hunting. More will be reported by the Danish representative.

During the past year, the IAF was represented at several major international conferences. Tony Crosswell will report on the CITES Conference of the Parties held in The Hague, Netherlands, attended by Working Group members, attorney Marshall Meyers, of the United States, and Adrian Reuter of Mexico.

Advisory Committee member Janusz Sielicki, Poland, will report extensively on the international conference on the status of the peregrine which he organized in Poznan in September. Christian De Coune attended on behalf of the IAF. He has prepared a separate report. The conference was a great success as it highlighted the contributions of falconers in peregrine conservation.

Christian De Coune attended the Eurasian Raptor Conference in October held in Scotland. This conference was attended largely by government officials but several private organisations, like the IAF, were permitted to attend. Christian will report on this conference separately.

We had two significant issues to face during the year. Just after the first of the year, Patrick Morel alerted us to a consultation on proposals to amend Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 of Scotland to add certain raptors to the list of invasive, non-native species. If adopted, this had a potentially devastating impact on falconry for our use of non-native birds. We feared that this type of amendment could be adapted to other national laws in the EU to prohibit, in the case of falconry, many types of birds commonly used, including hybrids. Andrew Knowles-Brown did an absolutely superb job in coordinating the IAF's response to the consultation. With tremendous assistance from Christian De Coune, Dr. Matthew Gage, Tony Crosswell, Patrick Morel, Christian Habich and others, we were able to pull together a compelling response for the consultation. Others in the UK responded as well. We were informed informally that the authorities will not include raptors on the list. All who participated deserve our deepest gratitude.

This year a Swedish resident imported a couple of Harris's into Sweden hawks which he attempted to use for falconry purposes. Falconry is not recognized by Swedish authorities. The Swedish resident challenged the authorities' determination that raptors held in captivity for purposes like falconry cannot be handled humanely because they cannot be afforded proper care and exercise. The Swedish resident took the matter to a Swedish tribunal for determination. The Swedish ruling confirmed the Swedish authorities' determination. The Swedish resident then appealed the matter to the European Court of Justice. An adverse decision at that level would have had a potentially devastating effect on falconry all across Europe.

Through Christian De Coune and Chris Eastham, we tried over several months to seek the withdrawal of the matter. We could not do

this independently so we had to attempt to convince the Swedish resident to withdraw it voluntarily. Finally, I authorized Christian to engage a Swedish lawyer to assist us. Through difficult negotiations, we were able to have the matter withdrawn just the day before the formal appellate argument at the ECJ. I made the difficult decision to pay the legal fees and the Swedish resident's expenses to finally secure the withdrawal. I made this distasteful decision as in the best interests of EU falconry. We were not assisted by our Swedish Member Organisation in the negotiations.

The most significant challenge facing the IAF will be to secure a permanent source of funding to properly manage the association. Clearly, our membership dues are inadequate to fund this very large organisation. Many of our members cannot pay higher member dues. Recently, we have supplemented our revenues with the very significant contributions from the Emirates Falconers' Club and from a few generous individual contributors in the United States and Europe. However, this is not a solution.

I have prepared for the Council of Delegates a Memorandum on what may be considered for the development of an IAF Business Plan. Separately, I will discuss the details of that plan with the goal of being authorized to proceed.

As I have for almost 25 years, I continue to serve as general counsel for the North American Falconers Association. Just two weeks ago, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed to permit American falconers to take passage peregrine falcons. As that decision is completed, I will handle any legal challenges by any group who would oppose our ability to trap and use passage peregrines for falconry. You also know that besides being a founder of The Peregrine Fund, I also act as general counsel for this organisation as well. I inform the Council of Delegates of these responsibilities in my effort to be transparent regarding all of my activities.

The first year has provided me with the opportunity to meet more members of the IAF family, to work through some difficult issues, and to participate in a number of activities in support of falconry. I am honored and privileged to be president of the IAF. I commit to you all of my efforts to defend and protect falconry throughout the world. I thank all of you for your generous support.

MEMORANDUM HAND-DELIVERED

To: Council of Delegates

From: Frank M. Bond, President
International Association for Falconry and
Conservation of Birds of Prey

Subject: Development of a Business Plan for the IAF

Date: November 28, 2007

As the IAF celebrates its Fortieth Anniversary at this Annual General Meeting in France, The Association can point to a successful history but we do not have a well-developed long-term strategy to meet future challenges to falconry. The IAF, like all falconry organisations throughout the world, tends to react to problems or direct attacks rather than work on issues in a proactive manner. There are some notable exceptions here in Europe, the Middle East and North America.

The IAF has worked effectively, but not always consistently, within most of the international biological and conservation bodies. For example, the IAF has NGO status and has participated at every CITES Conference of the Parties of CITES for 25 years, including, the most



recent one in Holland (June 2007). Because of continuing IAF intervention, CITES developed the cross border passport concept for falcons. The IAF has participated in most IUCN conferences to develop positions on the conservation of birds of prey consistent with the sustainable use of raptors for falconry; the IAF is the only falconry organisation accepted for membership by the IUCN. The IAF works in the World Working Group of Birds of Prey to insure that no positions against falconry are taken. Three years ago the IAF secured an exemption from the EU Regulation on Food Waste laying down the health rules concerning animal by-products not intended for human consumption, for raptors so that falconers and raptor breeders could still use quail, pigeons, and day-old chicks for food sources, which would otherwise be destroyed as part of the mad cow disease, dioxine and the ban to control other diseases.

The International Air Transport Association had instituted a very expensive, special-made wood shipping crate design for transport of raptors that prohibited the use of modified dog kennels; with the IAF's intervention and direct contact with the IATA committee members around the world, we convinced them to reverse their standard in favor of our preferred method of shipment. IAF representatives attend the Convention on Biodiversity meetings on raptor related matters, and we have participated in selected international raptor conservation conferences, such as the Status of the Peregrine Recovery (USA), CITES Trade Review of Sakers (U.A.E.), the Status of the Peregrine in Eastern Europe (Poland 2007), the Eurasian Raptors of the Convention on Migratory Species (Scotland 2007), and many more. The IAF is an important ombudsman with impeccable credentials. We do not represent the beliefs and position of a single individual; we are a collaboration of diverse views with the goal of achieving democratic consensus to protect falconry in the international arena.

Present Status of the IAF

In recent years under the leadership of Patrick Morel, the IAF has had unprecedented growth from being a relatively small organisation to representing more than 60 falconry associations in 48 countries. The IAF does not represent any individual people but only associations. We have member associations from all of the European nations where falconry is permitted, all of North America and some of Central and South America, some parts of Asia (principally Japan), Oceania (New Zealand), North and South Africa, several Arab nations (principally the U.A.E.) and Central Asia. The Annual General Meetings (AGM) have become large and significant events.

The IAF Leadership

The IAF is led by the Officers (President, two regional Vice Presidents, Executive Secretary and Treasurer) and the Advisory Committee, which I treat essentially as a Board of Directors. Since my election as

president, I have appointed officers and AC members from all parts of the world to give us a more global view.

We have a number of Working Groups (committees) which undertake the bulk of the work pursued annually by the IAF. Working Group members include experienced businessmen, lawyers and respected scientists in their field, such as Dr. Thomas Richter, Dr. Nick Fox, Dr. Timothy Kimmel, Dr. Steve Sherrrod, Dr. Alberto Palleroni, Dr. Matthew Gage, Dr. Bohumil Straka, and furthermore we are able to call upon such eminent scientists as Dr. Tom Cade and Dr. Ian Newton. The present Working Groups focusing on important international activities are the following: IAF Communications; Conservation and Science; European Affairs; CITES; Hybrids; Russia and Central Asia matters; UNESCO recognition of falconry; and, Pan African issues. Also I have appointed internal working groups on finances, administration and AGM planning.

Finances

Presently, the IAF is supported by paid dues from the Member Organisations, based on the number of regular members within each organisation. Some of the Member Organisations from the small countries do not pay annual dues and therefore, do not have regular voting status in the Council of Delegates. The largest dues paying Member Organisation is NAFA, followed by several of the European Member Organisations. The largest financial contributor is the Emirates Falconers' Club. Finally, there have been some special contributions from quite a few individuals to support AGMs.

The IAF's budget for 2007 is approximately 15,000€. From these funds, we produce the annual IAF Newsletter, pay for some part of the AGM expenses, support travel to international meetings and pay all administrative costs. As an all volunteer organisation, we attempt to do a great deal on a very low level of funding. Clearly, this amount of available funding does not meet the actual costs of the IAF operations. The difference is often made up from personal funding by the volunteer leaders within the IAF.

An IAF Business Plan

The IAF leadership is committed to the development of a long term business plan to provide a sustained, diversified and consistent source of funding to promote and perpetuate falconry worldwide. The near term goals are:

1. To provide active assistance to the Member Organisations in each nation where falconry is threatened, including contacts with national authorities;
2. For our European Member Organisations, to provide a permanent presence in the EU in Brussels, Belgium in order to be actively involved in all issues which directly involve in sustainable use of natural resources, falconry and hunting generally; with sufficient funding we would propose to employ a permanent IAF representative. In the meantime, I am in discussion with FACE, the unified European hunting organisation to provide representation;
3. To actively support and provide "hands on" assistance to falconers in nations where falconry is not now recognized to gain legal recognition for the sport. And, we wish to provide assistance to falconers who seek legal recognition of the sport, where formerly falconry was permitted, but no longer is;
4. To attend and participate in all international conferences regularly where falconry and bird of prey conservation may be considered;
5. To seek to amplify our Annual Newsletter and to distribute it to all of the individual members of our Member Organisations, and to maintain and continue development of our website to pro-

mote the IAF image and the communication among members and the officers;

6. To develop a general public relations program and strategy to promote falconry, and to have the capacity to develop a very focused PR effort for particular needs. PR includes preparation of material for international hunting and falconry exhibitions and to prepare PR campaigns for the mass media;
7. To develop and recruit volunteer and paid lawyers to respond to legal challenges and to intervene in legal and administrative proceedings directly or indirectly impacting falconry; falconry must be represented before the EU Commission; and,
8. To develop the IAF's volunteers to become more effective local and national leaders.

The Business Plan must suggest diversified means for the IAF to achieve financial self-sufficiency. We must consider at least the following:

- A. Review of the graduated Member Organisation dues structure to determine if they can sustain the IAF for an ambitious program;
- B. Review the potential financial gains from paid advertising in the Annual Newsletter;
- C. Investigate the potential for corporate sponsorship. Initially, the most obvious potential sponsors are falconry equipment manufacturers and suppliers. However, other potential sponsors might be optics manufacturers, select airline companies, etc. The limitation, obviously, is the small demographic size of the falconry community;
- D. The potential development of IAF supporting charitable foundations in Europe and the United States dedicated to providing funds for IAF programs. I believe that there is the potential to receive significant financial contributions. The donors, at least for income earned within the United States, would be able to take a tax deduction against income taxes based on Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. EU law provides certain tax advantages to EU residents, but clearly a European international accountant or lawyer must advise the IAF as to the best means of establishing an EU charitable foundation to encourage donations. As the foundations would be developed exclusively for the IAF, necessarily there must be overlapping leadership of the foundation(s) with the IAF elected leadership to provide continuity of policy. I envision that the foundations seek funding for investment purposes to develop an interest income stream for IAF programs and administrative overhead; and,
- E. To investigate the possibility of recruiting other hunting and conservation organisations to become Supporting Member Organisations based on preset fee structure.



Business Plan Development Approach

The IAF should engage a professional business planner to review the development of membership, the financial history, and its past efforts to represent falconry worldwide. The Officers, Advisory Committee and selected members of the Council of Delegates should provide the guidelines for a business plan.

For the potential development of an IAF supporting foundation in the United States, I personally will provide the significant detail on legal, reporting and development requirements. For Europe, the center of charitable foundation activity appears to be in Holland. Yet it is not clear to me that charitable giving provides the same uniform tax deductible incentives for EU member states' taxpayers. Because many EU charitable foundations invest their funds in Germany, Switzerland, Holland and the UK, we will seek advisors to review the charitable giving laws in these nations in particular. We must consult with a major international accounting firm and tax lawyers to provide us with a clear picture of the law.

The business planner will ultimately develop a draft plan to be reviewed by the IAF leadership, plus selected other individuals. With consensus on the plan, I will ask the IAF Council of Delegates to adopt it.

Request for Business Plan Development Funding

We believe a sophisticated business plan for the development of the IAF to represent and defend falconry worldwide can be produced for \$30,000.00 (€22,000.00). This amount will be sufficient to engage a professional planner, international legal and accounting consultants in Europe, travel for meetings, and production of a final plan. I will provide my legal services for charitable foundation development in the U.S., at no charge to the IAF. Other leaders in the IAF will provide special expertise at no charge as well.

On behalf of the IAF, I have requested a grant of \$30,000.00 for the development of a business plan. We await a decision.

Following this distribution Gilles Nortier said that each club needs a business plan to improve contact with their authorities – in France this has worked well and all clubs need to do this.

Christian de Coune then outlined the basic points of the recent Swedish case which had been brought to IAF as it threatened to undermine some basic principles of regulation in the EU. The man in Sweden challenged the Swedish government against their stopping his import of a Harris Hawk but he lost his case and then went to the EU court of justice to appeal the judgment. Sweden had objected on the basis that birds of prey were not capable of being kept in captivity on humane grounds that their instincts could not be satisfied. Since it was not possible to properly manage the case it was possible that the court might adopt some version of these principles in its ruling which could then be used elsewhere and out of context against falconry. The best course which was eventually adopted was to have the case withdrawn and after much difficulty this was achieved by the President.

Problems such as this occur because member states often take stricter measures as in this case and we have to be alert to deal with this.

Garry Timbrell suggested that a letter of admonition be sent to the Swedish Club – Ireland proposed and Patrick Morel seconded – the motion was carried unanimously.



Vicepresident for Americas Annual Report

William Johnston

2006-2007 has been an interesting year with the IAF involved in, or leading a number of diversified initiatives.

Shortly after his election as IAF President, Frank Bond made a number of important appointments to the various on-going working groups. As the need demanded, he also created several new ones.

I have been privileged to serve on the financial working group, chaired by Antonio Carapuco, the IAF/CIC UNESCO cultural heritage submission working group chaired by Gary Timbrell and was appointed chairman of the falconry festival-working group.

As we celebrate our 40th anniversary, we look back with pride and admiration as well as forward with enthusiasm and confidence that we will continue the tradition of excellence handed to us by our founders and all those that have worked tirelessly for falconry's cause through all of those years. We thank those whose wisdom formed an international coalition of like-minded visionaries when creating what we represent here today.

The IAF has become the one enduring voice for global raptor conservation and the advancement of falconry. Once considered by some to be mutually exclusionary, the larger public has come to realize and appreciate the pivotal role falconers have played in raising awareness to the plight of raptors and then proactively seeking innovative strategies for their proliferation and restoration.

As we move forward we are well positioned to address the challenges to world falconry. We have scientist and well-regarded experts within the IAF ranks to rebuke any rational challenge to our sport. Our detractors are there, but the IAF's reputation and impeccable credentials are a formidable force when brought to bear. We are in fact, well armed in all but one important area. We, unlike our adversaries are grossly under funded. The issues that threaten the continuation and growth of global falconry are more complex and demanding than at any other time in falconry's long history.

In the past we have depended upon individuals, who on an irregular basis have made monetary contributions as the need arose. This might have been an appeal for a specific project or for an AGM. The IAF collects annual dues from member organizations, per capita. While this helps pay for ordinary expenses such as the production of our newsletter and other associated ongoing operating expenses, it is inadequate in meeting our current and future need to proactively advance the cause for falconry worldwide. Since the formation of the working group a number of fund raising ideas have been proffered. For example, an IAF foundation where individuals, corporations and groups can make contributions on an ongoing basis or a one time, lump sum endowment. Some other suggestions included, paid advertising in our newsletter, auctions and individual supporter memberships. So, as we proceed through the AGM and go forward, I'm sure that there will be a great deal of discussion relative to how we might raise the necessary revenues, and how to do so on a sustainable basis independent of the efforts of one or more officer or AC member.

Over the years, history will confirm the many IAF accomplishments in the promotion of falconry and conservation of birds of prey. We have intervened whenever and wherever called upon to do so. I once asked what documented evidence of this do we have that could be sent to The Archive of Falconry for preservation and posterity. The response was a bit disturbing. Our legacy resides with those whom we have

helped, not on paper or electronic form. Or, at least not collected, cataloged and residing in one secure location. The IAF is by nature a reactionary organization. Something like an emergency response outfit that is there when the call comes in. We analyze the issue, develop a plan, and then muster the resources needed to respond. It's episodic and once the problem has been addresses, we go on to the next one. Doing things this way has served us fairly well over the last four decades. We are now however, at a crossroads. Strategies that have worked in the past will not sustain us in the future. The IAF must reflect on the challenges of today and anticipate those that will face us tomorrow. We need to develop a roadmap that will lead us to where we need to be in order to meet the demands that will face us over the next five to ten years and beyond. A well-executed strategic plan will result in a well-executed tactical application.

In the United States we are still anxiously waiting for the final approval and promulgation of the revised and amended falconry and raptor propagation regulations. This has been a work in progress for some considerable time. Among the most significant of the sweeping changes would be the elimination of the federal permit and transfer of most administrative responsibilities to individual state jurisdictions. Whereas the federal government would continue its oversight under the migratory bird protection act, the management and reporting functions would become solely the responsibility of participating states. Fortunately these changes will not add to state's administrative burden as the current dual state and federal system is redundant.

As you know, US falconers are currently able to harvest eyass peregrines where states permit. NAFA is diligently working with the federal government to allow a passage peregrine take as well. Recovery



of peregrine populations across much of the US is now at or above pre protection levels. To that, passage take was historically of tundra "beach falcons" a sub species that was never seriously threatened.

Several NAFA directors have been working with states that don't currently allow a non-resident take of eyass or passage raptors for falconry. Recently one more state, Minnesota has agreed. Hopefully we will eventually see this policy adopted by all states where falconry is currently permitted.

In Canada, Mark Williams has had considerable success working with local and CITES authorities to simplify US/ Canadian boarder crossing by falconers with their birds. The current system is over burdensome, time consuming and difficult. NAFA has appointed a group to begin dialog with US counterparts to ensure a coordinated effort.

It was great to see Juan Carlos Rojo and Roy Beers at the Festival of Falconry this past summer. Both Juan Carlos and Roy have been very helpful in keeping me abreast of conditions within Latin America. Mexico, Central and South America encompass a vast geographical area in which falconry is well organized in some countries, while not in others. Dialog has been good between Mexico, El Salvador, Argentina, and to some extent, Brazil.

Patrick Morel's tenure as president saw significant growth within the organization, adding many new member countries. Frank Bond has taken on the enormous task of working to put the IAF on a firm financial footing. In the final year of my term as vice president for the Americas, I hope to continue to build on Patrick's legacy within Latin America and play a supporting role to Frank and the other IAF officers in building an IAF prepared and fortified to meet the formidable challenges facing global falconry in the years ahead.

Vicepresident for Europe, Asia, Africa and Oceania Report

Jose Manuel Rodriguez-Villa

Good afternoon to everybody,

Let me first start by thanking our French Member ANFA for putting this Council of Delegates together. ANFA is a long standing IAF member that very well represents European secular falconry traditions. Special thanks are owed to our former President Patrick Morel, who has done an outstanding effort to fit a very attractive program including a couple of hawking days to which we all look forward.

This is a very brief report on most relevant issues that happened in the vast geographical area under my Vice presidency since we last met in Nebraska, US last year. All these subjects will be further developed in reports by delegates, Working Groups or ad hoc reports on some of the matters. In fact some of them have been already mentioned by President Bond.

During 2007 some events were of particular relevance. In September a Peregrine Conference was held in Poland. Head of Organization Committee was our Advisory Committee Member Janusz Sielicki who was also the leader of this initiative from its origin. 50 participants from 40 countries attended the meeting. The papers given during the conference were of high scientific level. Christian De Coune, representing the IAF was guest speaker on sustainable use of raptors for falconry. The European Peregrine Falcon Working Group was created and Janusz elected as its first Chairman.

On October in Scotland the Convention of Migratory Species held a conference on International Cooperation on African-Eurasian Migratory Raptors. It gathered 110 participants from 48 countries aiming the identification of an instrument for the conservation of migratory raptors of the mentioned region. Christian De Coune again represented IAF and CIC on this conference. UAE co sponsored the conference and was represented by our Advisory Committee member Majid Al Mansouri. Next year meeting will be held in Abu Dhabi. As a conclusion a text for an Action Plan on African-Eurasian migratory Raptors was approved but still has to be formally adopted by signatory parties of the Convention of Migratory Species.

As you may remember, Bern Convention instructed Birdlife and IAF to form a working group to evaluate the possible threat of using Saker-hybrids by falconers in Europe. IAF effort is being lead here again by Christian De Coune to whom we all owe sincere appreciation. On IAF side the Bern Convention working group consists of Christian De Coune, Matt Gage, Andrew Dixon, Patrick Basset and Yves Lecocq from FACE. Birdlife is yet to propose the members on its behalf. It has been decided to launch a large scale enquiry amongst IAF Member clubs. I urge you to respond the questionnaire in time. This is an important issue and we have the opportunity to contribute

to a sound response to hybrid concern once the representation of falconry community and its scientific terminals in the working group has been secured by IAF.

On a more festive side in July we had the Falconry Festival in England. It was intended to be a meeting gathering falconers from diverse cultures around the world. And I think that goal was achieved. It was most interesting to meet falconers sharing same passion for falconry and birds of prey and most concerned about the preservation of their traditions. The objective of supporting UNESCO recognition for falconry was not so clearly achieved, I believe. In my opinion, if there are to be more Falconry Festivals in the future, a rotating scheme



with hosting from different countries should be put in place to gain in diversity and to highlight that, while there is a common trunk in falconry, multiple manifestations occur around the world enriching our cultural wealth.

With regard to UNESCO, Gary Timbrell as WG Chair will report, but, according to last news it seems that a chance for a multinational submission is there, enhancing the potential of a secure status for falconry throughout the world if recognition is finally achieved.

Also on October an important cultural event was organized in Austria by our member the ÖFB, including a Symposium about cultural and historical values of falconry.

Falconry Heritage Trust seems to be moving forward in last months with some relevant members of IAF management in its Trustees and Patrons Boards, but still a few important decisions have to be made to finally get it ready for its main purpose: safeguarding our culture and history for the generations to come.

Abu Dhabi Hunting Exhibition took place in October this year. Cultural Heritage and UNESCO submission were highlighted during the event.

On another account, we have acted concertedly with CIC in lobbying in favour of our friends in Slovenia working for many years for a new hunting law that may recognize falconry as a legal practice, but the process has been delayed for a while. Our members there are vigilant as antis may be active during this impasse period. Our Hungarian member supported the Slovenian falconers' initiative as well.

We had a successful story in Slovakia with a new law assuring falconry practice following years of good and tireless work from Slovakian falconers and support from neighbouring countries.

Some new threats on falconry were raised during 2007. We got most worrying news from China, where falconry by Naxi minority seems to be prosecuted by Government. This is something we have to face with UNESCO chance in mind.

In South Africa there is a policy on wild animals in captivity in Natal Province that may end with falconry there. Our Advisory Committee member Adrian Lombard has produced a very well reasoned paper as response to such policy and we hope that it may bring a change in it, at least in some relevant aspects.

In UK DEFRA is also questioning about invasive species in England. A wrong derivation of this issue may affect in some way current practice of falconry there. We therefore remain attentive to the question together with our British members.

We had the Jalkhead case in Sweden, as reported by President and Christian, that might have compromised falconers' rights all over European Union.

As I mentioned before, all the above matters will be extensively dealt by other reports.

Let me finish with some words on IAF generally. During Christian and Patrick presidencies IAF has grown substantially. Particularly since Patrick got the office in 2000. At the same time, commitments and challenges have been increased at same if not faster rates. Meanwhile our work force, just based on voluntary work by certain individuals, and our financial resources, coming from membership fees and some generous donations, have remain almost the same.

If we do not take action in both areas, human and financial resources, we'll be having problems soon to cope with all our many endeavours and tasks. And we cannot fail in defending falconry and falconers' interests. We haven't in the past. But to face the new era



with success we cannot just rely in the work of few dedicated individuals and scarce resources. That's why I fully support President's initiative on Business Plan for IAF meaning action plans, clear objectives, sustained professional presence at key decision making centres as EU, etc...Meanwhile, an important point needs to be reassured, that whole IAF business is still under control of falconers' themselves. No other but falconers' elected representatives should be leading our efforts to safeguard our sport and interests according to our constitutional mandate.

Thank you very much



Reports by officers and Chairmen of working groups for IAF AGM 2007

Reports of the working groups

ADMINISTRATION WORKING GROUP

Frank M. Bond, President

The president reported that throughout the year he had communicated with the AC on all subjects as they had arisen and taken advice from each of the working groups whenever a response was required. He considered that the administration process had worked efficiently and methodically. His main report as President covered much of this.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Gary Timbrell addressed members briefly to report that his work as Chairman had not been onerous and had worked with great efficiency. He outlined IAF attendance at the Falconers Festival and delegates applauded his good work in making the IAF stand such a success. At the same time they thanked Tony James for his contribution of furniture and manpower.

FINANCE WORKING GROUP

Antonio Carapuço gave delegates a Power Point demonstration of the current state of IAF finances and his handling of them during the past year. Delegates approved his presentation unanimously.

COMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP

Dr Bohumil Straka,
Communications WG chairman

This new working group was appointed by president Frank Bond as follows:

Bohumil Straka, Anthony Crosswell, Fernando Feás, Alexander Prinz, Juan Carlos Rojo, Jevgeni Shergalin, Janusz Sielicki, Gary Timbrell, Mark Williams, Patrick Morel, Yukio Asaoka, Frank Bond.

The main aim of the Communications WG is to take care for the IAF website, the Newsletter, the activities of the Public Relations Officer, and all other communications in media, however it does not control or otherwise edit the content of the Newsletter that is the sole responsibility of the editor. Members of the WG speak all major languages so that the WG is able to act as representative body to communicate in a limited form with IAF Member organisations all over the world.

In 2007 our working group met most of challenges, which were aimed. In January 2007, completely new layout of IAF website was launched, because the website is the most efficient method (more efficient and cheaper than traditional media) for IAF how to inform IAF members, falconers and influence general public opinion. The new website involved many necessary updates such as new advisory committee members etc. Updates and changes of the IAF web site are



provided currently free of charge by Czech professional webmaster Jan Simanek, who continues with this work after former webmaster Ray Cooper, who did also a good job in the past. The website is continuously updated and developed based on suggestions of the WG members, and IAF delegates as well as based on own ideas. Since January 2007, monthly traffic increased according to statistic logs by 400% from less than 1,000 MB to over 4,000 MB and also number of unique visitors increased in average from less than 100 per day to more than 100 per day.

Most popular among visitors is search about falconry history and download electronic versions of newsletters, e-bulletin and reports as well as invitations to falconry meetings organized by IAF member clubs. Also Google/Yahoo/Altavista search engines rating improved essentially when words "iaf" or "falconry" are searched by public from about 500th position (which made IAF web page almost invisible) to about 20th position. Further improvement is possible, but not so easy, because first places are usually paid advertisement by falconry equipment sellers etc. Although everything around website is done for free so far, further promotion and maintenance will probably require annual sum of about 300 - 500 EUR.

What there is even much more important thing than money - contributions from IAF members. **I appeal again to all IAF members and delegates to send their relevant contributions for our website** from their club or region about falconry in their country, about meeting invitations, about legal situation, anything relevant and interesting including nice photos etc. Our website has every 3 months a layout facelift to keep it more attractive, but without a good supply of information, we will never reach any excellent website despite effort from side of our webmaster and Communications WG.

If our website is attractive, it will draw attention of visitors and when enough traffic is generated, then it is possible to consider some revenue model with some reasonable advertisement, which means that the website may actually earn some money for IAF budget. First step has been already discussed and agreed in Communication WG and by AC - to introduce donation payment possibility via paypal.com service, which means that any internet user coming to our website and having a credit card can donate instantly by a few clicks even very low sums such as 1 EUR, which would be impossible via traditional bank account transfer. This feature has been examined during the Falconry Festival and also I used it successfully for prepayments for Czech falconry meeting in Opocno 2007. Paypal payments will be realized soon after necessary arrangement with treasurer Antonio Carapuço. Later this electronic system can be extended for easy payments for IAF Members fees.

Another website extensions, which will be released soon is note about 40th anniversary of IAF, where nice presentation completed by Patrick Morel will be used as a core and also public photo gallery, which can be used as source of pictures for our website graphics. Longer time aim is to extend information about falconry history, which is asked by

visitors. When our website contains enough information and articles, we can optimise words for search engines (SEO), which will further improve our position in search engines. Another interesting proposal for the future might be some on-line web camera from some bird of prey conservation projects done by our members.

One of the main tasks for our WG was to develop an electronic communication system for use of the president and other working groups to communicate timely more urgent information, and to communicate notices and information for AGMs and other IAF activities. The IAF communication forum was created in May 2007 and it was tested first in test period of several months by Communications and Finance WGs. It was decided then to extend the communication forum platform to all working groups as alternative for traditional mail communication. User accounts were made for all working group members and it is ready for use now. The forum can be accessed by working group members at any time at our website <http://www.i-a-f.org/forum>. As everything it has advantages and disadvantages, but it is believed that this novel approach has more positives than negatives, especially because traditional email becomes awkward due to amount of spam, problems with lost and undelivered mails. Some members might have initial problems using this approach, but thousands of various falconers around the world are able to use similar and famous discussion forum platform <http://www.falconryforum.co.uk/> so we should try to do this as well in order to improve communication within and between working groups. In the future, it might be considered to extend this forum to all IAF delegates with some reasonably limited read/write rights. Since the forum has backup, it might be used as a searchable database storage place for various IAF documents and reports, which are now often lost in overflowing mailboxes.

Communication WG was not only active in website matters, but it also assisted president Frank Bond with review the new design of IAF logo kindly provided by Amy Siedenstrang, the graphic artist. The new IAF logo is meant to be used in all of our communications, but particularly on letterhead, note cards, labels, etc. The goal was to have a uniform graphic appearance to become associated with the IAF and it is important that this logo is now available also in vector format, which is scaleable without losing resolution. In the past many of us met problems that IAF logo was available only in insufficient bitmap resolution, which could not be printed too large without image degradation. There are available also new letterheads provided by Frank Bond for his and AC disposal that represent IAF properly in written mails.

Although Communications WG did not interfere with Tony Crosswell's work on the newsletter, WG adopted recommendations how to keep the database of the valid email and mail contacts for the purpose of newsletter distribution. At the moment the database is properly maintained by Frank Bonds secretary. Prior the newsletter a dedicated members questionnaire form was circulated in order to obtain latest valid data. This questionnaire was also used first time to obtain contacts on www.skype.com VOIP phone, which is a free of charge internet telephony service used more and more by people worldwide and by falconers as well. In the future it is expected that it might be a good alternative to traditional email based communication. While email is ideal to send some documents and reports, voice or even video communication is much faster and more flexible for various discussions, arrangements and decisions, which do not require some written output.

Since period between newsletter publication is as long as one year, quarter/half year electronic bulletins distributed by emails are desirable and useful. Such an e-bulletin was released in the new layout in June 2007 and another one will be sent after AGM so that even members not present in France can read important info.

Communication WG members were also active during personal meetings with public during various meetings, conferences, semi-

nars and the Festival. There is still much work to be done in this direction, because frankly said, public usually does not know IAF and even essential part of falconers is not aware about IAF existence. In February I attended and presented IAF at the International Falconry Seminar 2007 in Slovakia, which is described in a separate report. In September 2007 Janusz Sielicki represented IAF on Peregrine conference in Poland. During the Falconry Festival in the UK, an LCD TV was arranged with video and IAF history presentation in IAF tent in order to draw attention of visitors and not to miss opportunity to explain IAF mission. If I compare it to similar IAF exhibitions in Abu Dhabi in 2004 and in other year during Falconry Fair in the UK, I observe a clear improvement of awareness of IAF between ordinary falconers and this the direction we must keep going.

EUROPEAN AFFAIRS WORKING GROUP REPORT AGM 2007 - José Manuel Rodríguez-Villa

As you may remember in Nebraska AGM 2006 it was decided to create a European Affairs Working Group to deal with discussions of purely European subjects. The group consists of 18 members from almost all countries in EU and some others.

As Chairman I have tried to urge some discussions and debate within the Working Group, but to be frank, I think results are far from being satisfactory. No relevant useful discussions have been produced in this period and therefore interest has been scarce.

Under circumstances and according to this experience, my proposal to the President would be to keep the European Affairs Working Group as a forum integrated by all European delegates, plus experts in the European environment, in which to timely discuss or decide European subjects prompted by IAF Management at some point. As an IAF permanent representation in the EU may be articulated at certain time in the near future, the European Affairs Working Group may prove to be the right forum to discuss ideas, plans or specific actions of particular importance for European members and to endorse them if need be.

CONSERVATION AND SCIENCE WORKING GROUP - Dr Timothy Kimmel

Members of the Conservation and Science Working Group of the IAF during 2007 included Dr. Nick Fox, Dr. Matthew Gage, Dr. Timothy Kimmel (Chairman), Dr. Alberto Palleroni, Prof. Dr. Thomas Richter, Ralph Rogers, and Janusz Sielicki.

A primary activity of the Working Group in 2007 was the preparation of an exhibit highlighting the contributions of individual falconers to the fields of science, conservation, veterinary medicine, and The Arts. The exhibit was one of several set up for public viewing in the Conservation Tent at the Festival of Falconry, England, July 2007. The exhibit was prepared as a pictorial display, and it was originally envisioned to represent falconers worldwide and their contributions. In late spring, members of the Working Group were asked to compile names, photographs, and information related to individual falconers' contribution for falconers residing within various regions of the world. The materials were to be combined with similar information compiled by the Chairman for falconers from North America. However, due to difficulties some members of the Working Group may have encountered in their efforts to compile this information in relatively short notice, together with the involvement of certain Working Group members with field work at that time of the year, relatively little information on falconers beyond North America shores was compiled. Therefore, the Chairman created the display to represent selected contributions of only North American falconers. The abstract for the display appears below:

Contributions of North American Falconers to Conservation and Related Areas

Compiled and prepared by
 J. Timothy Kimmel, Ph.D.
 Inman, Kansas, USA
 Chair, Conservation & Science Working Group
 International Association for Falconry
 and Conservation of Birds of Prey

**Festival of Falconry, Englefield Estate,
 Reading, Berkshire ENGLAND
 (14-15 July 2007)**

Emperor Frederick II of Hohenstaufen published his classic book, *The Art of Falconry*, in 1248. This comprehensive publication has been cited in ornithological textbooks as the first, definitive treatise on the scientific study of birds. Since Frederick's time, many other falconers have made important contributions to our understanding of birds, especially raptors, and other wildlife through their scientific studies. Those contributions have extended beyond pure scientific research and into the areas of natural resource conservation, advancements

in veterinary medicine, The Arts, and other related areas. For many, it has been their passionate interest in birds of prey and practice of the noble, time-honored sport and art of falconry that spurred them on to make their contributions. Falconers from around the globe have made these kinds of contributions; but, perhaps nowhere has the scope of such contributions been as great as in North America.

This pictorial display highlights some of the individual falconers from across North America with significant contributions to conservation, science, and related areas. By its very nature, the exhibit is incomplete and remains a "work in progress." Indeed, not everyone who is deserving of recognition has been identified to date, and even some who have been identified as having made significant contributions are represented in the display. For example, due largely to space considerations, only information and materials related to those for whom a photograph was obtained are on display. Also, because of space and other limitations, the text describing each individual's contributions is necessarily abbreviated. For some, an entire chapter would be more fitting to fully describe their contributions. Several individuals represented have authored or co-authored literally hundreds of publications, but only a handful can be listed in this display. Nonetheless, it is hoped the scope of each individual's contributions is fairly well represented by the short list of publications and/or short, descriptive narratives. The compiler of the exhibit accepts full responsibility for inadvertent omissions and errors. Correction of any errors or omissions would be gratefully accepted to make future versions of the display more complete and accurate (send suggestions to kimmelt@dsoelectricwb.com).

Below are 72 individuals from North America who are known or thought to have practiced falconry and who have made relevant contributions to science, conservation, and other related areas. Photographs and text were available to display information for only the 58 individuals whose names appear in bold, non-italicized font:

FRANK L. BEEBE
ROBERT B. BERRY
ALAN E. BESKE
FRANK M. BOND
L. LESTER BOYD
WILLIAM A. BURNHAM
TOM J. CADE
JOHN A. CAMPBELL
S. KENT CARNIE
JENNIFER O. COULSON
THOMAS D. COULSON
FRANK C. CRAIGHEAD
JOHN J. CRAIGHEAD
WALTER C. CRAWFORD, Jr
CRAIG CULVER
DAVID H. ELLIS
JAMES H. ENDERSON
JAMES W. GRIER
BRUCE A. HAAK
WILLIAM H. HALLIWELL
FRAN HAMERSTROM
VICTOR J. HARDASWICK
ROBERT M. HARSHBARGER
WILLARD R. HECK, Jr

WILLIAM R. HEINRICH
RICHARD P. HOWARD
W. GRAINGER HUNT
DONALD V. HUNTER, Jr.
M. ALAN JENKINS
J. PETER JENNY
J. TIMOTHY KIMMEL
RON KRUPA
RICHARD E. LOWELL
ANTHONY B. LUSCOMBE
HEINZ MENG
BRIAN A. MILLSAP
ALIDA A. MORZENTI
JAMES A. MOSHER
ROBERT K. MURPHY
BRIAN D. MUTCH
MORLAN W. NELSON
R. WAYNE NELSON
ALVA G. NYE
RICHARD R. OLENDORFF
JOHN E. PARKS
HANS J. PEETERS
STEVE W. PLATT
PATRICK T. REDIG

J. DAVID REMPLE
NEIL L. RETTIG
JAMES N. RICE
KENTON E. RIDDLE
RALPH R. ROGERS
ROBERT N. ROSENFELD
JAMES L. RUOS
GONZALO SANCHEZ
CAL E. SANDFORT
WILLIAM C. SATTERFIELD
STEVE K. SHERROD
WILLISTON SHOR
THOMAS SMYLLIE
ROBERT M. STABLER
JACK STODDART, Jr.
STANLEY A. TEMPLE
CARL G. THELANDER
KIM TITUS
BRIAN J. WALTON
JAMES D. WEAVER
HAROLD M. WEBSTER
CLAYTON M. WHITE
JONATHAN WILDE
MICHAEL A. YATES



Another on-going activity of the Working Group during the past year was for its members to continue serving as a resource for information, data, and other materials at the request of IAF representatives. For example, in advance of Christian de Coune's attendance at the Polish Peregrine Conference, which was organized by Working Group member, Janusz Sielicki, the Chairman was asked to supply information and data on the history of peregrine falcon releases in North America, the resulting recovery of peregrine populations, and contributions of individual falconers towards those conservation efforts. Additionally, Christian sought any publication or data related to sustainable levels of wild take of raptors by falconers for use in the sport. The Chairman was able to provide Christian with summary data on peregrine releases and recovery, as well as a preeminent scientific paper (*in press*, at the time, in late summer 2007) on sustainable levels

of wild take of raptors for falconry (i.e., Millsap, B. A., and G. T. Allen. *In Press*. Effects of falconry harvest on wild raptor populations in the United States: theoretical considerations and management recommendations. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 34[5]:1392-140).

The Conservation & Science Working Group remains committed to continue serving as a resource in this fashion, as well as to respond to other similar requests by IAF officers, Advisory Committee members, and member organizations.

*Respectfully submitted,
J. Timothy Kimmel, Working Group Chairman*

CITES WORKING GROUP

Report of CITES CoP 14

Tony Crosswell

In June 2007 CITES CoP14 was held in the Hague, Netherlands.

CITES CoP14 will be remembered as the meeting that chartered the Convention's future by achieving a hard-won consensus on the Strategic Vision setting out three strategic goals on compliance and enforcement, securing financial resources, and CITES' role in the broader international environment agenda. IAF are indebted to Adrian Reuter and Marshall Myers for their attendance and reports. Our main interest was Doc 39 submitted by The United States of America.

"Purpose of transaction codes on CITES permits and certificates"

The US said that they had received some additional comments on the proposed changes to Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP13), and had revised their document, as shown in document CoP14 Inf. 49. (see Annex 1) Argentina, Australia and Germany, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, acknowledged the need to revise and simplify the codes. Germany, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, noted that the additional changes in document CoP14 Inf. 49 addressed some, but not all, of their concerns.

Argentina, supported by Ecuador, did not agree with the suggestion in the document that the purpose codes on import and export permits for a shipment could be different, and thought this would cause confusion. Germany, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, and Canada, disagreed with this view. Canada remarked that although purpose codes were only required for trade in Appendix-I species, they agreed with the United States that there was value in recording such information for trade in specimens of Appendix-II species also.

Germany, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, supported by Canada, proposed that a working group be formed to discuss the issue further and Australia expressed their interest in joining the group. The Chairman established a small working group to be chaired by the United States, and suggested that any other Parties wishing to participate contact the United States directly.

As a result of this working group, the following decision was agreed:

Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall establish an intersessional joint working group to review the use of Purpose-of-Transaction Codes by Parties, with the following Terms of Reference:

- a) the working group shall be composed of Parties from as many of the six different CITES regions as possible, and appropriate non-governmental organizations, with expertise in the issuance of CITES documents and use of Purpose-of-Transaction codes for evaluation within the permit issuance process and trade data analysis;
- b) the working group shall:
 - i) determine the extent to which the use of the current Purpose-of-Transaction codes gives rise to difficulties of interpretation by Parties;
 - ii) identify the purpose and assess possible benefit for the use of such codes for all trade involving Appendix-I, -II, and -III specimens; and
 - iii) focus on defining and/or clarify Purpose-of-Transaction codes to encourage consistent utilization of the codes, including the possible elimination of current codes or the inclusion of new codes;
- c) in evaluating the use and definition of Purpose-of-Transaction codes, the working group should take into account any difficulties of implementation by Parties and the potential resource implications of inclusion of any new codes or deletion of current Purpose-of- Transaction codes;
- d) the working group should submit a report and any recommendations for amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP13) at the 58th meeting of the Standing Committee, for consideration at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and
- e) the working group should carry out the majority of its work via email to keep costs to a minimum.

For IAF this is an ongoing process and we will need to be involved in this working group and its submissions for the next CoP.

Annex I

CoP14 Inf. 49

Fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

The Hague (Netherlands), 3-15 June 2007

REVISION TO LANGUAGE PROPOSED IN DOCUMENT COP14 DOC. 39

(PURPOSE-OF-TRANSACTION CODES ON CITES PERMITS AND CERTIFICATES)

1. The attached document has been submitted by the United States of America.
2. As a result of discussions that have occurred during the present Convention, the United States has made several revisions to the language proposed in CoP14 Doc. 39 Annex to revision Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP13) on Permits and certificates.
3. In an effort to provide the suggested changes before CoP14 Doc. 39 is discussed in Committee II, the United States is provided the amended language that is attached.
4. The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Revision of Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP13) on Permits and certificates

NB: Based on the text proposed in the Annex of CoP14 Doc. 39, text to be deleted is crossed out.

Proposed new text is underlined.

1. Proposed changes to Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP13), Section I, paragraph f) under

RECOMMENDS:

I. Regarding standardization of CITES permits and certificates

RECOMMENDS that:

- f) Parties state, on each of their permits and certificates, the purpose of the transaction for which the shipment is being made using the following codes (Note: the purpose-of-transaction codes on import and export permits do not need to be identical):
- T** Commercial trade – trade in live or dead specimens, parts or products for economic benefit commercial purposes not covered under B, M, or Z **K, J, or M**
- BK** Commercial breeding in captivity or artificial propagation – trade in live specimens for breeding in captivity or artificial propagation, including the production of progeny, for economic benefit commercial purposes
- M** Medical/scientific – trade in live or dead specimens, parts or products for scientific or medical use (including biomedical research) for economic benefit commercial purposes
- Z** Zoo/aquarium/botanical garden/museum – trade in live or dead specimens, parts or products for economic benefit
- J** Commercial display - trade in live or dead specimens, parts or products for commercial display purposes
- G** Botanical gardens
- Q** Circuses and traveling exhibitions – exhibition of trade in live or dead specimens, parts or products with the intent of returning

to the country of origin at the completion of exhibition, consistent with Article VII, paragraph 7, of the Convention

- S** Scientific – trade in live or dead specimens, parts or products for non-commercial scientific or medical activities
- H** Hunting trophies – personally sport-hunted trophies transported by the hunter or their legal representative
- P** Personal use – personal, non-commercial activities involving live or dead specimens, parts or products (does **not** include specimens covered under **H**)
- M** Medical (including biomedical research)
- E** Educational exhibition – non-commercial display of live or dead specimens, parts or products by a museum, zoo, aquarium or botanical garden trade in live or dead specimens, parts or products, for non-commercial educational or display purposes
- N** Reintroduction or introduction into the wild – non-commercial trade in live specimens to be used in conservation efforts to reintroduce or supplement wild populations, including the movement of specimens for non-commercial breeding in captivity or artificial propagation for introduction or reintroduction of specimens into the wild in support of *in situ* conservation efforts CoP14 Inf. 49 – p. 3
- B** Breeding in captivity or artificial propagation
- B** Breeding in captivity or artificial propagation - trade in live specimens for non-commercial breeding in captivity or artificial propagation, or other conservation efforts, in support of *in situ* or *ex situ* conservation efforts
- L** Law enforcement/judicial/forensic – live or dead specimens, parts or products transported for governmental law enforcement, judicial or forensic purposes;

2. Proposed changes to Annex 1 of Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP13):

Information that should be included in CITES permits and certificates

- a) The full name and the logo of the Convention
- b) The complete name and address of the Management Authority issuing the permit
- c) A unique control number
- d) The complete names and addresses of the exporter and importer
- e) The scientific name of the species to which the specimens belong (or the subspecies when it is relevant in order to determine in which Appendix the taxon concerned is included) in accordance with the adopted standard nomenclature
- f) The description of the specimens, in one of the Convention's three working languages, using the nomenclature of specimens distributed by the Secretariat
- g) The numbers of the marks appearing on the specimens if they are marked or if a Resolution of the Conference of the Parties prescribes marking (specimens from ranches, subject to quotas approved by the Conference of the Parties, originating from operations which breed animals included in Appendix I in captivity for commercial purposes, etc.)
- h) The Appendix in which the species or subspecies or population is listed
- i) The source of the specimens
- j) The purpose of the transaction
- k) The quantity of specimens and, if appropriate, the unit of measure used

- l) The date of issue and the date of expiry
- m) The name of the signatory and his/her handwritten signature
- n) The embossed seal or ink stamp of the Management Authority
- o) A statement that the permit, if it covers live animals, is only valid if the transport conditions comply with the *CITES Guidelines for transport and preparation for shipment of live wild animals and plants (CITES Guidelines for transport)* or, in case of air transport, with the *IATA Live Animals Regulations*
- p) The registration number of the operation, attributed by the Secretariat, when the permit involves specimens of a species included in Appendix I that originate from an operation practicing breeding in captivity or artificial propagation for commercial purposes (Article VII, paragraph 4), and the name of the operation when it is not the exporter
- q) The actual quantity of specimens exported, certified by the stamp or seal and signature of the authority that carried out the inspection at the time of the exportation CoP14 Inf. 49 – p. 4
- r) When specimens are marked with microchip transponders, all microchip codes, together with the trade mark of the transponder manufacturer, and, where possible, the location of the microchip in the specimen

To be included in certificates of origin only

- s) A statement that the specimens originate in the country that issued the certificate
- 3. Finally, proposed changes to paragraph 5a of the 'Instructions and explanations' section of Annex 2

(Standard CITES form) of Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP13):

Standard CITES form

Instructions and explanations

(These correspond to block numbers on the form)

- 5a. The following codes should be used to identify the purpose of the import, export or re-export for which a CITES document is being issued: **T** for commercial trade, **BK** for commercial breeding in captivity or artificial propagation, **M** for medical/scientific specimens, **Z** for zoos/aquarium/botanical gardens/museums, **G** for botanical gardens, **J** for commercial display, **Q** for circuses and traveling exhibitions, **S** for scientific purposes, **H** for hunting trophies, **P** for personal use, **M** for medical, **E** for educational exhibition, **N** for reintroduction or introduction into the wild, and **B** for breeding in captivity or artificial propagation, and **B** for breeding in captivity or artificial propagation, and **L** for law enforcement/judicial/forensic as defined in Section I, paragraph f) of Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP14).

Action for IAF

It should be noted from this summary that the Chairman established a small working group to be chaired by the United States, and suggested that any other Parties wishing to participate contact the United States directly. Our working group needs to follow up on this and be engaged in the working group.

CITES calendar

December 2007

- 15 December: Deadline for Parties to submit to the Secretariat reports on specific subjects to facilitate discussions at the 23rd meeting of the Animals Committee and 17th meeting of the Plants Committee. (See [Notification to the Parties No. 2007/033](#) for further details)

January 2008

- 20 January: Deadline for submission of documents to the Secretariat for discussion at the 23rd meeting of the Animals Committee, Geneva, Switzerland

April 2008

- 19 April: Joint meeting of the Animals and Plants Committees, Geneva, Switzerland
- 21-24 April: 23rd meeting of the Animals Committee, Geneva, Switzerland

May 2008

- 15 May: Deadline for submission of documents to the Secretariat for discussion at the 57th meeting of the Standing Committee, Geneva, Switzerland

July 2008

- 14-18 July: 57th meeting of the Standing Committee, Geneva, Switzerland

HYBRID WORKING GROUP

Dr. Matt Gage

Hybrids are a controversial issue both inside and outside falconry because of fears that they will either interfere with wild raptors, or introgress hybrid / non-indigenous genes into wild gene pools. Notably, there have as yet been no issues raised, or evidence shown, that hybrids represent a threat through over-predation of wild endemic quarry.

Hybrids are used widely throughout the world. Anecdotal evidence suggests that they are usually flown by more than 50% of long-wing falconers, and in some countries (notably within Middle Eastern falconry) more than 75% of falcons flown are hybrids.

Scientific attempts to prove hybrid genetic introgression from falconry birds remain inconclusive (Nittinger et al. (2007) *Molecular Ecology* **16**: 1497-1517). Some molecular genetic evidence of occasional hybridisation in saker falcons could readily be explained by wild-bird hybridisation, a well-recognised phenomenon in ~10% of bird taxa, including *Falco* species.

Christian de Coune has been gathering evidence from ornithologists and falconers on the incidence of hybrid falcon breeding attempts



and has 12 documented cases over 12 years across America and Europe. Most of these attempts were not successful and/or the hybrid was captured or destroyed. Because of the keen general interest in raptors, one can conclude that in Europe and America the detection rate of hybrid breeding attempts would be relatively high. Surveillance levels may be further strengthened since ex-falconry birds will probably be less likely to avoid human-populated breeding areas than wild individuals.

We can therefore conclude, relative to the number of hybrids produced and flown, that levels of hybrid survival and breeding in the wild are very low. However, it is the potential threat of invasion that motivates some conservationists to call for hybrid restrictions / bans because of the 'precautionary principle'. Falconers must strengthen their Public Relations abilities on hybrids, and cooperate with ornithologists to provide and assess objective evidence on problems from ex-falconry hybrids in the wild.

To this end, IAF has a Hybrid Working Group, consisting currently of Christian de Coune (Belgium), Dr Andrew Dixon (UK), Dr Patrick Basset (Switzerland), Yves LeCocq, and Dr Matt Gage (UK). This group contains expertise in falconry, falcon breeding, conservation genetics, and international law.

Christian de Coune has made excellent progress over the year by presenting the case for hybrids being an insignificant threat at the Peregrine Conference (Poland September 2007) and the CMS meeting on African and Eurasian Raptors (Scotland October 2007). Christian's reports are presented elsewhere, but it is fair to say that hybrids

were a concern for some ornithologists, but defended (on the simple principle of the rarity of wild breeding attempts) by Christian.

Christian has also formulated a questionnaire which we encourage as many countries and clubs to complete as possible, since it will provide important information for us when we engage with Birdlife International.

A very important achievement was made by Christian in getting the IAF Hybrid Working Group into formal discussions with Birdlife International for the International Action Plan for the Saker Falcon under the Bern Convention. An important action in this is to "Evaluate the possible threat of genetic introgression, set up a working group and prepare a strategic document. With the involvement of IAF". This was a major achievement since it allows falconers to enter dialogue and present a fair case. We plan to have our first meeting in Brussels in 2008 and are therefore in discussion as to an appropriate game plan that defends falconry freedoms, while acting as responsible raptor conservationists.

We have the IAF policy on hybrids, which remains a robust and sensible document, but other issues under discussion include consideration of:

- An international mark on captive bred hybrids (=a unique and visible leg ring?) so that (a) wild introgression will become transparent, and (b) any escaped individual hybrids can be managed.
- The issue of wild hacking / deliberate release, a practice with which the few escaped and free-living hybrids are most closely associated.
- The issue of creating hybrids from species that do NOT naturally geographically overlap. Creating such 'allopatric' crosses means the logical argument that hybrids will not genetically persist within a wild gene pool because evolution has already had ample opportunity to generate the evolution of such lineages cannot be applied.
- An agreement by falconers to always take every responsible step NOT to lose hybrids (= always use telemetry, take every reasonable step to recover lost birds etc). This is common falconry practice anyway, and part of the IAF policy on hybrids, but could be an extra assurance to conservationists.

RUSSIAN SPEAKING EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA WORKING GROUP

Jevgeni Shergalin reported to delegates that much progress had been made over recent months in developing this group and coordinating the work of delegates from those countries in the region. He intends to increase this work and hopefully bring into communication new groups from the area. His work on the internet has succeeded in contacting falconers hitherto not known and he is developing effective representation of their activities. Language difficulties make it hard for them to communicate with the rest of the world as well as financial constraints and political differences that keep them from wider contact. He is working to overcome this.



IAF/CIC UNESCO CULTURAL HERITAGE SUBMISSIONS WORKING GROUP

Gary Timbrell

CIC'S WORKING GROUP

During 2007 we have continued to cooperate with our Supporting Member the CIC on various issues under the Memorandum of Understanding signed by both organizations.

That includes concerted action in Slovenian case, joint representations at Convention of Migratory Species Conference at Scotland, support in CITES meeting, the sponsorship of Peregrine Conference in Poland, etcetera.

Next CIC Annual General Meeting will be held in Marrakech in April 2008 and Moroccan falconers will have a relevant role both in folklore and in the meeting of the Falconry Commission with a expected presentation on Moroccan traditional falconry by our Moroccan delegate Abdou Chaouni.

Frank Bond has been corresponding to find out the likely rules for submission of a proposal. UNESCO will entertain a single submission – not only for the Middle east country but also to include some other countries. This is yet to be finalized but IAF is to coordinate and continue research. Andrew Knowles Brown said that there is to be another Falconry Festival in 2009.

FALCONRY FESTIVAL

WORKING GROUP – William Johnston

At the 2006 AGM in Kearney, Nick Fox supplied the A/C with a power point presentation detailing a shared vision for the implementation of a first ever Festival of Falconry. Nick invited the IAF to join the sponsors with the hope that we would participate and play a pivotal role in the event. The venue was scheduled for the weekend of July 14 &15 in Reading, England.

Nick's presentation to the A/C was well thought out, organized and succinct. The A/C viewed the festival as an opportunity to advance the notion of falconry as an intangible cultural heritage within the context of national application to UNESCO for recognition. The overriding premise in our involvement was that the "festival" would not be just another fair with falconry as the main attraction.

Post Nick's presentation, a working group was appointed. The members were,

Jose Manuel Rodriguez Villa, Majid al Mansouri, Maysa al Nuwais,



Anthony Crosswell, Gary Timbrell, Nick Fox and William Johnston, Chairman.

Our first task was to decide how best to portray the IAF's history and current role as ombudsman for the advancement of global falconry. We organized ourselves around this objective and began to plan for the event. Gary Timbrell undertook a large part of the tactical plan and its implementation. The IAF, and me as chairperson, owe a very large debt of gratitude to Gary for his efforts on our behalf. Without his involvement, I'm not sure how successful our presentation would have been. Another individual, a non-IAF member, non-A/C appointee who lent an enormous hand was Tony James. Tony worked tirelessly on our behalf. He provided us with carpeting for the tent, several large, very comfortable pieces of furniture and a stunning portrait of Jack Mavrogordato, our founding president.

The festival organizers housed us in a large tent prominently placed at the head of the international marquee. Our position was intended to be the focal point with individual nations arranged in tents along a mall about 100 feet across and approximately 300 long at it's terminus with the BFC tent at the opposite end.

Our display incorporated floor to ceiling back-panels of a large map of the world showing falconry countries in blue. Two side panels had two-meter high peregrines looking at the map. We also had banners that celebrated the IAF's 40th anniversary and individual panels hung around the tents interior parameter, each with the name of a member nation. Gary who transported it by car from Ireland delivered all of the equipment to the site.

As the venue was marketed as a celebration of falconry, by falconers, attendance was primarily by those who's principal interest was the sport, it's national history and customs, what is different or unique between us and the common bond that universally brings us together. In that respect, the festival was a success.

The UAE very graciously hosted a luncheon reception for many of the invited guests. A huge structure was erected on site to accommodate the large number of people who attended. The structure itself was impressive; it contained a spacious common area where refreshments were served, a food preparation kitchen, an enormous dining area, indoor plumbing and a veranda for viewing falconry and equestrian performances in the arena. On behalf of the IAF, I wish to offer our thanks for the kind invitation to join others for the wonderful meal and program.

My wife, Pauline and I thoroughly enjoyed seeing and meeting people from all over the globe. We had an opportunity to spend time with old friends and meet many new ones. My short tenure with the IAF has opened up whole new horizons for me. I have found that despite the many geopolitical and economical differences between people and nations, we are blessed with a very special kinship; a passion that transcends whatever trivial differences might otherwise separate us.

AGM PLANNING WORKING GROUP

Patrick Morel reported that arrangements are well advanced for the next AGM 2008 in South Africa and that Adrian Lombard apologized for being unable to attend this meeting due to his daughters wedding. Details will be published in the Newsletter and website.

Patrick said that offers had been received for AGM 2009 to be held in Argentina or Morocco.

Other Appointees

IAF Newsletter Editor: Anthony Crosswell

Our main consideration for this last edition was related to the Falconry Festival in the UK in July sponsored by UAE. Our intention was to get it to members early to notify them of the upcoming event. Gary Timbrell had done an enormous amount of work in preparation for the event along with Tony James from UK. Without their commitment and enthusiasm we would not have had an IAF stand or such a good BFC exhibit. Indeed the whole AC had worked very hard and all attended in support – an amazing effort by all IAF officers from all over the world.

My thanks to Andrew Ellis for his unstinting and generous support of IAF, to Janusz Sielicki for his help in production of the Newsletter and working with the printers in Poland. This year we printed 1600 copies on the first run and then later the BFC bought a second run of 1250 copies which they distributed to each of their members. Some of our other member clubs did the same and we encourage all member organizations to distribute copies to each of their members.

We have also started a new circulation system for individual people who would like to support IAF by making a donation (suggested minimum Euros 30) so that we will then mail directly to them for that year. This being new it is not yet finalized but it could perhaps be called 'Sponsors of IAF' and be recognized



within the Newsletter. The President and AC is asking Tony James to develop and co-ordinate this program.

Frank has asked me to continue to produce the Newsletter and so I shall be contacting many of you in the future for contributions – most immediately I ask you to send me your photos of this event and you national reports. We are soon hoping for some significant developments with our newsletter, in particular we are in the process of considering alternatives for its finance for the long term.

Public Relations Officer: Bohumil Straka

Public Information Officer: Jevgeni Shergalin

Excursions and activities for the ladies and guests

Thursday 29 November 2007

- 07.30 Coffee
- 08.00 Reports of the delegates (please prepare electronically summary for publication in Newsletter)
- Austria – Christian Habich
 - Turkmenistan – Ata Eyeberdiyev
 - Belgium - Patrick Morel
 - Bulgaria – Pavel Yakimov – also read a letter from Georgia
 - Argentina – Daniel Abarquero
 - Canada – Mark Williams
 - Czech Republic – Bohumil Straka
 - Denmark – Frank Hansen
 - Estonia – Jevgheni Shergallin
 - Ukrain – ditto
 - France – Gilles Nortier – Charles de Ganay
 - Germany – Alex Prinz
 - Hungary – Janos Toth
 - Ireland – Hilary White
 - Italy - Ferranti Pratesi
 - Japan -
 - Kazakhstan – Bakyt Karnakbayev
 - Lithuania – Darius Daugela
 - Mexico – Juan Carlos Rojo
 - Morocco – Abdelhak Chaouni
 - Netherlands – Adrian Kusters
 - Poland – Janusz Sielicki – peregrine conference
 - Tunisia – Gilles and Hichem Ben Hmida
 - El Salvador – Roy Beers
 - Spain – Fernando Feás
 - Switzerland – Pierre Basset
 - UK – Matt Gage
 - USA – Sean Hayes – Kent Carney
 - Keiya Nakajima – conference announcement
- 10:30 Coffee Break
- 11.00** Retirement of Executive Secretary and appointment of successor: President





The president made a short speech recalling the work of Tony Crosswell over the past decade as Secretary of IAF and in appreciation for his work he then presented Tony Crosswell with a bronze falcon by the Spanish artist Lucio Relaño. The artist is a retired school master and falconer. His artwork is in many important private and institutional collections around the world including several Royal Houses. He features mainly Birds of Prey, Falconry, small game and big game hunting. It is a magnificent memento and was much appreciated by Tony and Jenny – who both ended up in tears to a standing ovation.



Report of the Executive Secretary

This has been a demanding year following last years' election and under our new President Frank Bond the renewed AC has already accomplished some significant achievements.

I have now been involved with IAF for about 10 years and have served as Executive Secretary under the last 3 Presidents and I thank Christian de Coune, Frikki Pratesi, Patrick Morel and now Frank Bond for their help and guidance in making my job possible. However I could not have done any of it without the support of my wife Jenny – she has been long suffering and the mainstay that has kept it all going - we all owe her our thanks. We are both now retiring.

I am sure my successor will serve you well and I will give him all the help I can for the changeover.



It has been my privilege to see IAF grow into today's world ranking representing body, always making great strides out of the many challenges that have come our way. We have made many friends over the years – Jenny and I thank you all for the enjoyable times and for the positive response that most have offered.

IAF is about falconry, its passion, wonder and excellence. Falconry has been my dream, my way of life and the way that my world has come to me for most of my life. There are no 'good old days', falconry is at its very best today and I feel so privileged to be blessed with its enjoyment every day. I thank you all, wish the IAF well and will continue to support where I can. Now we can just go home and fly our falcons in the safe knowledge that you will be looking after our sport.

11.15 Miscellaneous and any other business

Preserving the History of Falconry

SOME LESSONS LEARNED

Presented to

The International Association of Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey at its

Fortieth Anniversary, 38th Annual General Meeting, Champagne, France,

27 November – 2 December, 2007

S. Kent Carnie

Founder and Curator Emeritus, The Archives of Falconry

at The Peregrine Fund, Inc.'s World Center for Birds of Prey

Boise, Idaho, U. S. A.

INTRODUCTION

As you are all aware, the IAF is currently seeking UNESCO recognition for falconry as an "Intangible World Cultural Heritage". While the protocols for UNESCO designation currently are under revision, it is reasonable to expect a requirement for a program of subsequent national efforts to preserve that activity, as has been required in the past. To achieve such designation, subsequent preservation requirements, likewise, almost certainly will include provisions for the preservation of the physical evidence of our sport's history.

For the past twenty-two years The Archives of Falconry has been engaged in such a national preservation program. Those of us associated with our archives have learned much regarding such preservation. While I speak here of what we have accomplished in our Boise archives, my intent is to pass on to you our experience for your utilization in the developing and functioning of your own archives—in your own countries to achieve the UNESCO designation we all seek.



To begin, I would like to make several basic and important points:

First: the objective here is the collection and *preservation* of the physical evidence of our history. As such what is needed is an archives, not a museum.

Second: we stand the greatest possibility of success if our history if preserved where it has occurred.

and,

Third: the most successful way to preserve our heritage is to do it ourselves.

DISCUSSION

Preservation / Orientation:

Our objective is the collection and *preservation* of the physical evidence of our history. As such, we look toward **an archives**, not necessarily a display-type museum. No special, elegant facility is required to PRESERVE our heritage. We started in Boise in the corner of a closet-sized office with a single filing cabinet and bookcase and you may easily start the same. As collections increase requiring an expanded facility, such can be developed over time but what is important is finding and saving our historic record, not having some sort of pretty facility to put it in.

At some time in the future, however, when visitors and, especially,



contributors come to your facilities, they will appreciate the opportunity to see selected materials from your collections. For this reason we recommend that once sufficient materials are on hand to make a display, you provide as attractive a presentation as possible, within budget constraints. As a practical matter we do not find it necessary to change our own displays often since the interval between visits of individuals is normally considerable.

While we recognize our obligation to serve the current generation, we also recognize that what is placed in our hands is expected to be preserved for the benefit of future generations of falconers. Therefore none of the materials in our charge leave our control. To offset the seeming exclusivity in that policy, we welcome anyone: falconers, scholars, students or the interested public—so long as all have a *positive* interest in the sport—to view and utilize the materials in our collections on our premises. We have reading facilities for visitors and even office space for visiting scholars. Due to time and budget restrictions, however, first priority must be organizing and cataloging materials. Even after 20+ years we still do not have time to conduct research for others.

Under US tax regulations, donations to our archives become the property of The Peregrine Fund. Nevertheless, we consistently stress that ours is not just a Peregrine Fund archives but rather one held in trust for *all* falconers. Our collections reflect this position and we have materials representing a variety of approaches to the sport. Although we may personally disagree with the approach of some of these, we seek the complete historical record, in all its ramifications. Anything less would skew our efforts with individual bias and result in our function being distorted to one of fiction. This approach has served us well in creating a reputation of unbiased honesty, further encouraging the support by our entire community.

Local Preservation:

Falconry is, and historically has been, truly *international*, irrespective of national borders. But while so extensively practiced, there are wide variations among peoples and nations as to the techniques and approaches by which the sport's goals are and historically have been

attained. A nation's falconry heritage is uniquely its own, culturally, linguistically and historically.

For this reason an archives preserving a nation's falconry history stands the best chance of success if located within that country. Both those managing such an archives and the national falconry community it serves have a much greater incentive to preserve their own history than they would to preserve that of others. That interest will be directly reflected in the local falconry community's support of any such archival undertaking. Reluctance to see the memorabilia of one's own history exported elsewhere, even for preservation, is understandable. An archives preserving Austria's falconry heritage, for example, should most logically be located in Austria (*and conducted by Austrians*)

Personnel

Clearly, a falconer is needed at the top. An effort conducted by falconers for falconers is an invaluable image which will appeal to your own falconry community. To succeed you must locate a falconer willing to see such an archival undertaking brought to fruition. More than just a leader, he—or she—MUST be a do-er! It is upon such a person's shoulders that so very much of this effort must rest. If at all possible also, you need to enlist a falconer with an independent income. In my case, my military pension allowed me to serve our archives with only a minimal "salary", certainly never equal to unreimbursed expenses I personally underwrote from my pension. In essence I was a volunteer.

Further, it takes a falconer's experience to know who is who, who was who, and who has or had what. Moreover, a falconer has a direct, vested interest in the archives succeeding. But most important, it is necessary to have a falconer's passion to see our history saved! I urge you to look hard to find such a falconer within your own countries who can serve your history and our sport to the benefit of both. Clearly then, we are best served by a falconer learning the techniques of the archivist's trade rather than vice versa.

Any preservation effort, however, is obliged to pay close attention to the standards of the archivist's profession. If members of a falconry community are expected to entrust us with their unique historical memorabilia, we are under moral as well as practical obligation to ensure that such materials are properly maintained to provide long-term preservation. While there is much to learn about the technical aspects of *archival* conservation, between the archival training courses I have attended and my access to professionals attained through those courses we find we are able to do a more than adequate job of archival preservation and conservation.

While the ideal might seem to be a professional serving under the direction of a falconer, the costs of hiring a professional staff normally rule out that alternative, certainly to begin with. For twenty-one years I was the sole member of our archives staff "in residence" and only recently have we finally found funding to hire professional help. The rest of us who serve our archives today, some of whom provide *extensive* help, are all volunteers working solely for the satisfaction of helping preserve our heritage.

Falconer Support

For success any archives requires widespread support from the local falconry community. The vast majority of your historic memorabilia—or the ways to gain access to it—are in their hands. Further, its individual members are the major source of potential funding. An archives must be seen by the local falconry community as an essential part of that community. Given the tendency toward factionalism among falconers, the less controversial the person to direct any archival effort the better the chances for success. A "neutral" falconer who is respected within that community is the clearly most desirable. Enlisting prominent falconers and key leaders of the community in

an "advisory council" capacity and actively including them as a part of your endeavor will also help.

At the same time, each individual in the falconry community must be encouraged to consider him or herself as a part of your archival effort. Keep the community informed of your progress, your requirements and your successes. Personal participation through donations, financial or material, goes a long way to engender individual feelings of partnership and individual recognition encourages that partnership. Anything you can do to heighten this sense of being a part of the effort will pay great dividends.

One lesson we learned early on. When in 1991 we added a new wing needed to house our expanding collections, one of our supporters conducted the fund raising in memory of his old mentor. When it came time to seek funding for our next expansion I again sought his fund-raising help. In declining (though offering a third of the funds required) he accurately counseled that if he (or anyone) just handed us the whole amount needed, individual falconers would not feel as much a part of the effort as by their personally helping fund its construction. We all need to do all possible to encourage that feeling of individual support and "ownership" best achieved by predominantly "grass-roots" participation. If large sums, even outside funds, come later, so much the better but your goal should start with a local effort by local falconers, for local falconers.

Funding

On the subject of funding efforts for historical preservation, I have noted that donations to our archives, as a part of The Peregrine Fund, are deductible from US federal taxation. I cannot overemphasize the value of seeking any status that will apply similar tax-deductibility to your own archival efforts. One can hardly expect a falconer to simply hand over precious books, art or other memorabilia when a gift of the same items to a local museum or school could provide remuneration in some form of tax relief. Considering that in most countries, tax deductibility is limited to residents of that country, this



is further reason to support the concept of each country having its own falconry archives.

Securing financial support for an archives can be as difficult as persuading individual falconers to part with their treasured memorabilia if not moreso. There is a knack to persuading others to part with their assets, historical or financial. Find someone with such a talent, freeing the archivist to get on with his work, and you will be on the road to success. A successful fund-raiser can bring to an archival effort benefits well beyond what may be reflected in your bank balance. Financial support, of whatever magnitude, by each individual falconer further creates within the source a feeling of being a part of that archival effort--"one of the team".

We have enjoyed support from several modest, federal government grants. However, the number of grants, governmental and private, applicable for the preservation of the history of falconry is minimal, at least in my country. With a proliferation of non-profit organizations and a changing economy, there is great competition for even the very limited grant funds available. Should the efforts with UNESCO be successful, it may be possible that governmental funding may be-



come a possibility for programs explicitly to help preserve the future of our heritage—but don't count on it!

Our greatest success has come from individual donations, material and financial, from within our own ranks. Our plea is a simple one: "It is our history, if we don't preserve it, who can we expect to preserve it for us?"

Early fund raising efforts need to be focused on the immediate needs of the moment such as archival cases, folders, cabinetry, and the light-bill. Never forget, however, that any undertaking to preserve history is a long term, continuing undertaking. There is a limit to how long you can repeatedly raise support for immediate needs. In order to avoid a future of year-to-year fund raising efforts, some form of perpetual endowment is needed to provide recurring annual funds. We undertook a concerted effort toward development of at least a modest endowment. The concept of seeking funds which we would bank rather than spend, using only their interest for operating funds, was appealing to our falconry community. Although we still receive donations for operational purposes and augment that income through sale of duplicate books, the majority of our annual operational funding now comes from interest income derived from our endowment fund.

The Falconry Heritage Trust

One aspect I have not addressed here is the concept being undertaken by the newly formed Falconry Heritage Trust (FHT) in Great Britain: the provision of electronic accessibility to historic documents and other appropriate falconry memorabilia in digital format without, necessarily, actual physical acquisition of such materials. This goal offers tremendous potential as a worldwide database of great historical value. We at TAF wholeheartedly support the Falconry Heritage Trust concept and look forward to providing whatever assistance we can, particularly with access to documents. I would urge any of you who eventually may build up local (i.e. national) collections to enter into an appropriate cooperative agreement to support this invaluable FHT undertaking.

CONCLUSIONS:

When TAF started assembling the evidence of our heritage, had we enjoyed the recognition we now seek from UNESCO, our successes would have been far more easily accomplished. You too can enjoy success; with your efforts hopefully enhanced by UNESCO recognition of what the art of falconry truly is: an intangible world cultural heritage. But whether or not we ever achieve formal intangible heritage status, we will have achieved much if only by collecting and preserving still more of the heritage that is so much a part of our sport,

Finally, I hope our experiences--adapted to your own circumstances--may be of value in encouraging similar preservation projects in your own countries. I hope also that I have conveyed to you that there is far more to preserving our heritage than simply gathering materials and storing them in someone's basement. Any historical museum can do this, but with our memorabilia mixed in with a variety of other collections, records we treasure can become lost like the proverbial needle in a haystack. In America we have a comparatively short history, a tax structure conducive to philanthropic giving and we found a falconer passionate enough to push this effort through. But beyond all that, the most significant element in the successes we have enjoyed is the fact that we were founded by and are staffed by falconers—*volunteer* falconers, with the sport and its history as our sole focus. Even so, any preservation efforts are a challenge. If you need help, we at The Archives of Falconry stand ready to respond to any of your questions.

12.30 Closure

Delegates leave for visit to REIMS and visit to Pommery champagne

Meeting with Birdlife International on Hybrid Falcons

Christian de Coune

12 November 2007, Brussels
www.i-a-f.org

I had a one hour meeting in the premises of BirdLife International in Brussels with Boris Barov (BB).

Mr Barov is in charge of the International Action Plan for the Saker Falcon under the Bern Convention.

Among the activities foreseen by the Action Plan is : "Evaluate the possible threat of genetic introgression, set up a working group and prepare a strategic document. With the involvement of IAF"

The aim of the meeting was to decide how we should work.

I said that the working group ordered by the Saker Action Plan should not be too large, otherwise it becomes difficult to work efficiently. At this stage we propose four names :

- Andrew Dixon, UK
- Matt Gage, UK
- Patrick Basset, Switzerland
- myself, Belgium

BirdLife is still discussing about who would be part of that working group. BB is coordinating a group of BirdLife partners, which will discuss amongst others the issue of hybrid, he will be working with Niccola Crockford and Zoltan Valitski. There will be a meeting in December of their Bird and Habitat Directive task force where the program of our working group will be addressed, this is an internal BirdLife committee.

I explained that some articles were dramatizing the fact that falconers use hybrids, making statements like "birds of prey species are threatened with extinction because of hybrids", or "The Saker Falcon is seriously threatened because of hybrids". Such claims are likely to damage the profile of falconry. We wish to shed light on the issue of the use of hybrids by falconers. We are happy that a working group will be set up to study the issue.



I proposed that our work would follow the following 5 questions :

- 1.- falconers use few Saker hybrids
- 2.- falconers lose very few birds
- 3.- the probability of lost falconers' birds to survive to breeding age is low
- 4.- the probability of the to mate and produce viable young is low
- 5.- we know of 12 breeding case in 20 years in North America and Europe.

Questions 1 and 2 should be replied by the questionnaire I'm sending to our members.

Question 3 : satellite transmitters have been put on deliberately released falconry birds, let's see the result and see if the conclusions may be applied to Europe.

BirdLife should ask their members if bird-watchers see healthy falconry birds flying free in the wild.

I said that BirdLife must have data on the survival rate of wild birds. I've asked to a British ornithologist who has placed micro-chips on adult breeding Peregrines in Scotland if he has found falconry birds breeding. He hasn't.

Question 4 : I gave a list of 12 breeding cases. BirdLife should ask their members for proven successful breeding cases.

5 : is not a question, it is our list of documented successful breeding cases. It can be completed if new cases come to be known.

BB asks me why falconers prefer hybrids. Are they better for falconry?

I reply : good birds or bad birds depend on the falconer : a good bird is a bird in good hands and a bad bird is a bird in bad hands. Some claim hybrids understand quicker what the falconer expect from

them; some hybrids may be better for some specific game. Whether falconers prefer hybrids will be shown by the questionnaire. Hybrids reduce the demand for wild birds in the Middle East.

I said that the EC Commission added to the Action Plan the following sentence : "encourage restraint in the production of hybrids that involve the Saker Falcon"; I complained that the Commission was drawing conclusions before the working group has even started to work. BB said that is an application of the "precautionary principle". I replied that the precautionary principle could be indiscriminately invoked to justify any prohibition, it should be proportionate. It is applied when there is an absence of evidence.

I said that the aim of the working group is to provide the lacking evidence and scientific data.

About question 2, I said that we are taking measures to avoid losing our birds amongst others by using radio-tracking, the result being that we lose very few birds.

BB raised the question of people keeping birds of prey for other purposes than falconry and asked me if we would send questionnaires to all of them.

I said that we specifically deal with falconry and falconers. Our questionnaire is meant for practising falconers. We do not know precisely the proportion of people keeping birds of prey for falconry and people keeping them for other purpose. I do not think there is a registry of all hawk keepers.

BirdLife is in the process of collecting articles on hybridation, I told him that we'll circulate their list of articles in order to have it completed by our members.

We decided that our working group could meet in mid-January.

South African Falconry Association Annual Report to the International Association for Falconry, 2007.

The past year has seen further challenges to falconry in South Africa in terms of proposed legislation or policy formulation. By the same token, there has been a consolidation of the position of Falconry where we have counted our allies and formed new alliances.

Falconry continues to be practiced in all 9 provinces in South Africa, even though our representation in some of those Provinces is very small. There are now 9 member clubs which form SAFA. There are currently some 153 falconers who are club members in South Africa and, of these, some 75 have been active in the past year. Despite the small numbers, a high standard of falconry continues to be practiced. Our annual Field Meet was held at Dulstroom in the Mpumalanga Province in anticipation of the 2008 Meet. In the event, we found the quarry to be disappointing, so, despite the splendid scenery of that region, we have decided to hold the 2008 meet in the Free State Province, near to the city of Bloemfontein. This is a region which we know to have good quarry, coupled with huge skies that make it a long-wing paradise.

Two representatives of SAFA attended the Festival of Falconry in England, July 2007. Appropriately, one of these was from the Western Cape Province in the South and the other from the Limpopo Province in the North of our country. We thank the organizers for their generosity in providing place for our display and facilitation of our participation in this momentous event.

The greatest challenge that we have had to face this year has been the proposed "Policy for the Management of EX-Situ Animals" in the Kwa-Zulu Natal Province. This policy determines the approach of the provincial authorities to all wild animals, including exotic animals, which are not in their natural environment. There was obvious influence from animal welfare and animal rights elements in the drafting of the proposed policy with their target being zoos and circuses. The broad range of the policy obviously affected the future of falconry in that province and would have out-lawed it. We have taken an approach of constructive engagement and have found friends within the provincial authority. Detailed comment on the Policy has been submitted and we are currently hopeful that falconry will be treated in a separate working group and we will work towards a separate policy that addresses our art.

I had the pleasure of addressing the Bird of Prey Working Group (BoPWG) of the Endangered Wildlife Trust at their annual conference this year. My talk dealt with the threat to conservation posed by Animal Rights groups and the role of falconers in conservation. This group has been encouraging the participation of falconers in conservation. We participated in a survey for Taita falcon nests organized by BoPWG and two new nests were found, this doubling the number of known nests in South Africa.

We have consolidated our relationship with other organizations in-

volved in Gamebird Research (AGRED) as well as a number of hunting organizations. We have applied to be the representative organization for falconry within the newly formed Confederation of Hunting Associations of South Africa (CHASA) which represents some 80,000 South African Hunters. We have also managed to see pro-falconry articles published in The Farmers Weekly magazine as well as in the professional hunters' on-line publication, African Indaba, which I recommend to all present at www.africanindaba.co.za

The main focus of our activities has been the preparation for the 2008 SAFA Field Meet where we will host the IAF AGM and which

will be held from 14th to 20th July 2008. I must thank the president and members of the Advisory Committee of the IAF for their generous support and advice over the past year. I deeply regret that I am not with you in France but I send you my best wishes for a successful meeting. I look forward to the opportunity to welcome you all in South Africa next year.

Adrian Lombard

Secretary: South African Falconry Association.

Representative of SAFA to the IAF

Report for the Pan-African Working Group.

The Pan-African Working group has been constituted over the past year.

- Current members of the group are:
- Adrian Lombard, South Africa.
- Abdelhak Chaouni, Morocco.
- Reg. Querl, Zimbabwe.
- Tom Newton, Namibia.
- Patrick Morel, Communication assistance.

Consensus has been achieved on constituting the group but little else, as yet. The major difficulty that has been identified is that of communication. The inclusion of Patrick Morel within the group will go some way to address this issue and will, we hope, assist in including representatives of North African nations into the group.

Issues which have been identified include:

- The persistent banning of Falconry in Namibia.
- The negative attitude towards falconry by BirdLife Botswana which has impeded progress on the development of a Falconry Policy for that nation.

Regional issues have tended to distract attention from this group and these would include the situation in Zimbabwe as well as legislative challenges to falconry in South Africa and preparations for next year's AGM in South Africa.

- Forward planning for the group would involve:
- Development of a Union of African Falconry; outlines of which can be found on our website at www.safalconry.org.za

- Enlarging the membership of the group to include all African countries where an interest in falconry exists.
- Improved communication within the group, possibly with the establishment of a regular news letter.
- The development of joint projects of which there are currently two possible candidates:

1) The population of the Sooty falcon at the breeding grounds in the Arabian Peninsula may have been significantly overestimated, calling into question the status of this species. One way of monitoring the species would be to examine populations in their southern migration to Madagascar and the eastern region of south and central Africa. This is a potential project that could be driven by falconers in the region.

2) The possible existence of ancient Arabic treatise on falconry in the library at the great mosque in Timbuktu was mooted by Abdelhak Chaouni at the IAF AGM in Nebraska, last year. This interesting suggestion could be explored and there would be the possibility that a Film Documentary which could highlight the lost heritage of falconry in Africa.

As always there are plenty of ideas and lots of work to be done but few hands to do it. In the past week I have had communication from a falconer in Burundi where I least expected to find one. There is exciting potential within the Pan African Working Group arena and surprises yet to come.

Adrian Lombard,

Chairman, Pan African Working group

Convention On Migratory Species

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY RAPTOR

Loch Lomond, Scotland, 22-25 October 2007, Christian de Coune

The aim of this conference was to identify an instrument for the conservation of migratory raptors.

It gathered 110 participants from 48 countries.

I attended the conference on behalf of the IAF as well as on behalf of the falconry commission of the CIC.

Opening

Majid al Mansouri delivered an opening speech in the name of Abu-Dhabi and the United Arab Emirates. The latter were co-sponsors of the Conference. He pointed out that this conference is a starting point of a new strategy for the conservation of African-Eurasian migratory raptors of which 66% are threatened. It is less than other groups, but still is a challenge.

He invites the conference next year in Abu-Dhabi.

Rob Hepworth, Secretary General of the CMS in his speech says that the situation of birds of prey has improved, but not everywhere; they are vulnerable and subject to persecution, poisoning, electrocution, illegal killing and habitat losses. More than 50% of migratory raptors are declining. CMS has an experience in conservation instruments and it decided to make an effort for migratory raptors.

Session

The African countries call on CMS for a tool for making pressure on the governments for the conservation of habitats threatened by development projects

Mohammed Shobrak recommends to cooperate with falconers concerning sustainable use.

Christian de Coune express his support to this recommendation and proposes the cooperation of the IAF to the CMS.

The Chairman thanks me for my attendance to the conference and my proposal for cooperation.

Working group ACTION PLAN

1st day

The decision has been taken to choose the option of a Memorandum of Understanding accompanied by an Action Plan on Migratory African-Eurasian Migratory Raptors. This should be quite general, leaving the possibility for the countries to take more specific measures in their country.

Christian de Coune handed over to the Chairman a written request to mention in the Action Plan the IAF and the CIC among the organisations participating in the Action Plan.

Chairman replied publicly that he "would have liked to honour our colleague falconer who is present here, but it has been decided not to name the different organisations involved".

Christian de Coune asked to be added to the "priority actions": "estimate sustainable yields", in support of my request, I quoted the IUCN Amman Resolution on the conservation of the Saker Falcon.

The reply was that it should not be considered as a priority action and that anyway the document prohibits taking birds of prey from the wild "unless this can be shown to be sustainable". My proposal has been repelled.

Sweden proposed to include in the actions to be taken: "encourage restraint in the use by falconers of hybrids containing species listed in the annexes". He quoted an enquiry made by the EU Commission according to which a large proportion of falcons used by falconers are hybrids.

Reply was that this was not included in the list of threats and therefore one does not know whether it is a threat or not.

Christian de Coune explained that there is an Action Plan on the Saker Falcon adopted by the Bern Convention, which ordered a working group to be formed by BirdLife International and the IAF for evaluating the influence of the use of hybrids by falconers, that must propose its conclusion in November 2008.

It should not be fair of the CMS to draw conclusions on the same topic before the Bern Convention.

There should not be a competition between two Conventions.

2nd day

Portugal in the name of the EU proposed the addition to the actions to be taken of "encourage signatories to restrict the production and use of hybrids for falconry".

Christian de Coune points out that it would be premature to draw conclusions now because the issue is being evaluated by a working group under the Bern Convention and its conclusions are expected for November 2008.

I added that at the meeting of the Bern Convention, the delegate of the EU had already included a similar sentence in the Saker Action Plan and that the EU said they could withdraw that sentence if the Working Group could prove that hybrids pose no biodiversity problem.

I concluded that the issue is hypothetical and that CMS should not propose an action that is based on a hypothesis.

Portugal on behalf of the EU said that that sentence could not be withdrawn, because it reflects the position of the EU Member States.



Outside the conference hall, during coffee breaks and lunch conversations went on about the hybrid issue and others.

Yves Lecocq (FACE), Robert Kenward (IUCN), Nick Fox and Andrew Dixon were very active in the discussions.

Portugal on behalf of the EU Member States declared that "the EU wishes to withdraw the statement on hybrids"

Nick Fox proposed among the actions to be taken: "Monitor both legal and illegal harvest for sustainability to enforce existing controls on sustainable use and to promote captive breeding using local genetic stock where needed to supply market demands or to augment wild populations under IUCN Guidelines".

Portugal: Illegal harvest should be banned rather than monitored. Wonders if one should promote captive breeding for supplying the market. One supports captive breeding in favour of wild populations.

Resolutions

The Conference has been informed by Nick Williams of the resolutions adopted by the Peregrine Conference held on 19-23 September in Poland organised on the initiative of Janusz Sielicki/see the resolution in the report from Conference/. Those resolutions concerned the restoration of the tree-nesting population of Peregrine Falcon and on the creation of the European Peregrine Falcon Working Group.

Signatories

The Memorandum of Understanding will be open to the signature of not only the countries concerned, but also to participating NGOs. I expressed the wish of the IAF to be a signatory of that MOU.

Observers

I asked to have the IAF to be designated as observer to the Convention on Migratory species.

Know more

For more details and for the official documents of the conference, please consult

www.cms.int/raptors

REFLECTIONS

It is always good for the image of the IAF to participate in such great worldwide meetings. IAF must be viewed as a faithful participant in all important international conferences.

IAF may not afford not to participate in those.

Falconry could be damaged by some initiatives, even not aiming falconry specifically, IAF must remain watchful.

It is also a good opportunity to address falconry and introduce the IAF with countries that are less aware of our sport.

I distributed our Newsletter, which always makes a very positive im-

pression.

I had the opportunity of speaking about falconry and introducing the IAF to Libya and Lebanon. Falconry is practised in Libya, I advocated for establishing contacts between Libyan falconers and IAF. Lebanon is preparing a new legislation on hunting, I asked for falconry to be positively covered.

Back home, I wrote to those persons.

The issue of sustainable use of birds of prey for falconers has been addressed indirectly : "Review relevant legislation and take steps where possible to make sure that it protects birds of prey from ... taking from the wild unless this can be shown to be sustainable".

CONCLUSION

The Loch Lomond Conference has agreed on a text for an Action Plan on African-Eurasian migratory Raptors under the Convention on Migratory Species.

This text has still to be formally adopted by the Signatory Parties of the Convention at a Conference of the Parties in order to become a CMS instrument.

The United Arab Emirates have invited the CMS to hold their meeting in Abu-Dhabi next year.

International Falconry Seminar 2007 in Slovakia

by Bohumil Straka

On February 9th-10th the Slovak Falconry Club organized an international seminar on FALCONRY AND BREEDING IN 3RD MILLENNIUM on the occasion of the 35th Anniversary of the Slovak Falconry Club. The seminar took place in the hotel Druzba in Slovak capital Bratislava. Aside from the Slovak participants, representatives from the Czech Republic, Hungary, Germany, Poland and Great Britain gave papers and reports discussing current issues and the development of falconry - not only in Slovakia but in the rest of Europe.

Dr. Irena Belohorska, a member of the European parliament, described in her contribution the situation concerning environmental laws in the European parliament. She confirmed that there are anti-falconry interests and she promised her further support for Slovakia, where it seems administration officers may not respect common EU regulations and they trick falconers. She also offered her support for other European countries. She is currently personally responsible for EU pesticide regulation amendment which should strictly exclude negative influence for fauna including birds of prey. She also promised she would initiate an investigation concerning the State Slovak Protection Agency, which received a lot of subsidies for their projects from EU funds, while some of them appear to be suspicious and not properly documented.

The President of the Slovak falconers Anton Moravcik spoke about the status of falconry in Slovakia with special regard to the legislation situation. He stated that Slovak falconers suffer from excessive bureaucracy and very inconsistent management from the side of the environmental authorities who do not respect even the court decisions that were made recently in favour of falconers. He made an analysis stating that the registering bureaucracy of a single animal is associated with administration expenses exceeding €1000. He pointed out there are very strong protectionist groups in Slovakia which may even be personally infiltrated by the Slovak state authorities and police and which do their best to create artificial enemies, to overstate their merits and to make a lot of public noise in order to justify their position and to receive further subsidies.

As IAF public relation officer, I made a presentation about The International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey, about its membership, role, aims and current situation concerning falconry worldwide. I stressed the importance of UNESCO falconry intangible heritage recognition.

Dr. Peter Blasko, who is a falconer and regional State Veterinary Administration director, informed the seminar that the new veterinary/animal welfare law is valid in Slovakia from 1st of February 2007. The issue concerning the animal welfare amendment was first pointed out during the IAF annual general meeting in Opocno - Czech Republic in 2005. Dr. Blasko described the legislative process and quoted and explained the final regulation which turned to be very positive for falconry. At the end Dr. Blasko expressed thanks to IAF for providing necessary assistance and to Prof. Thomas Richter, the

main European animal welfare specialist, for providing a supporting paper "Ethical and scientific aspects concerning animal welfare and falconry".

The President of the Hungarian falconers, Janos Toth, spoke about falconry issues in Hungary. The legislation in Hungary is quite strict, but falconers are able to obtain goshawks and sparrow hawks from the wild.

The President of The Czech falconers Petr Zvolanek presented a paper on wild release of peregrine and saker falcons in which he has over 10 year experience and expertise. His contribution initiated a hectic discussion concerning the use of various reintroduction methods. Especially widely discussed with regard to its efficiency was the method whereby young peregrines are adopted by a goshawk parent.

Miroslav Micenko presented a contribution about golden eagle breeding in Slovakia. In 1996 he bred a golden eagle in captivity for the first time in Slovak history. So far he has bred 29 eagles which are successfully used in many European countries for falconry.

Dr. Pavol Michal discussed the falconry education of the young generation. Every year he organises a dedicated falconry camp for children in the Slovak mountains and he also described his experience as a teacher at Forestry school where they hold falconry courses as the main subject.

One of the most interesting contributions was "Veterinary aspects of raptor rehabilitation" by Dr. Ladislav Molnar who returned recently from the United Arab Emirates where he worked for many years as a veterinary doctor in a Wild life and falcon hospital. Dr. Molnar gave the latest info about modern treatment of birds of prey in a very clear and understandable way including a photo/video presentation.

The seminar was followed next day by the 35th anniversary meeting of The Slovak Falconry Club whose main aim was to discuss general as well as internal issues of Slovak falconry. All members of the Slovak Falconry Club elected the new board. Anton Moravcik was re-elected as a president and Dr. Ladislav Molnar was elected as the new Slovak Falconry Club executive secretary and new Slovak delegate for IAF.



THE INTERNATIONAL FALCONRY SEMINAR IN PICTURES



Anton Moravcik, President of Slovak falconers, welcomes visitors of the seminar



Dr. Irena Belohorska, member of EU parliament, between falconers



Slovak, Czech, Hungarian, German, Polish and UK representatives were present



Petr Zvolanek, president of Czech falconers, presenting his falcon wild release project



Dr. Belohorska, member of EU parliament, likes raptors and promised her further support



Bohumil Straka presenting membership, aims and role of the IAF



Seminar hall in the hotel Druzba



Very interesting contributions was by Dr. Ladislav Molnar, world's top vet specialist in raptors



Janos Toth (right), president of Hungarian falconers, watching falconry exhibition during the break



The castle upon the river Danube – Slovak capital Bratislava was nice to visit

Peregrine Conference Poland 2007



**Piotrowo/Poznan,
19-23 September 2007**

Christian de Coune

The Conference was sponsored amongst others by the Falconry Com-



mission of C.I.C. The I.A.F. funded the participation of Christian de Coune as guest speaker to the Conference.

The Conference was attended by some 50 participants from 40 countries, coming from as far as USA, Russia, South-Africa, Australia, etc...

All the papers given during the conference were of a very high scientific level. To this I should add very interesting posters displayed in the Conference premises. There was a lot to be learned from all the speakers, adding much information to our knowledge of that so charismatic and symbolic bird.

I would like to stress the quality of the organisation of the whole event : the efficiency of the staff, all of them volunteers, deserves our admiration and their kindness deserves our entire gratitude.

Janusz Sielicki has not been afraid to take up a big challenge, his reward is the unanimous enthusiasm of the participants. The motto was : do it again.

* * *

The overall world wide picture of the conservation status of the Peregrine Falcon appeared to be very reassuring, confirming the spectacular recovery of the species throughout its distribution range.

The remarkable improvement of the situation of the species had already been illustrated at the Sacramento Peregrine Conference in 1985.

Now the species has recovered its pre-DDT population over most of its distribution area, in some parts of it, there are even more Peregrines than the historical numbers.

Some figures of breeding pairs were quoted :

1400	in France
1000	in Germany
250	in Switzerland
250	in Austria
450	in Norway
100	in Sweden

120	in Finland
30	in Ukraine
1300	in Russia
3	in Denmark
50	in Belgium
> 1500	in UK

50 in Belgium, is twice the historical population.

A Resolution Committee is formed at the start of the Conference, the members are: Janusz Sielicki, Matyas Prommer, Nick Williams, Wolfgang Kirmsee, Vladimir Galushin, Christian de Coune.

Presentations

Bill Heinrich participated to the Conference on behalf of the Peregrine Fund. He gave an excellent paper on the recovery of the Peregrine in the USA, it was very well illustrated. The part played by falconers in that success story was beautifully underlined. His presentation was full of very interesting data captivating the attention of all attendants.

No doubt he did a lot for inspiring a conservation-oriented image of falconry.

Andrew Dixon from Wales made an entrancing presentation about a study based on pigeon rings collected near the Peregrine eyries with the use of metal detectors. They gathered more than 11,000, the oldest dating back to 1909. The period covered extended from 1900 till now and covers a part of Wales.

1900 to the '30s, the population increased; during WW II all Peregrines in South Britain were killed to protect pigeons carrying messages. The decline started in '52-'53, due to the use of pesticides; last breeding case in '65. Since the '80, the population increases by 3.5 pairs per year.

Total population of UK estimates : 1,500 breeding pairs. It is most probably underestimated.

Sussex Coast survey covering 1904-2006. In spite of heavy "predation" by egg collectors, the populations remained rather stable, but started declining very fast when adults got poisoned by pesticides. In the USA, conversely, the decline due to pesticides was slower because of young mortality caused by "egg-thinning" rather than by adult mortality. Recruitment is very quick in case of adult death : an abandoned nest was reoccupied in 5 days.

Tuomo Ollila , Peregrine in Finland. Before the DDT-crash there were at least 700 breeding pairs. 1970, only 30 pairs limited to the Northern part of the country. 2006, 260-280 pairs almost all in the North. 3-5 pairs are tree-nesting.

Jim Wells : in Northern Ireland, by 1975 the breeding population was back to normal. A great increase in the number of stone quarries has been a favourable factor. Northern Ireland is the second more important country after Belgium for the number of pigeon fanciers,



causing some killing of adult Peregrines. Occupancy appears to have been declining.

Brian Latta : in California *Falco peregrinus anatum* declined at least by 98%. Prairie Falcons took over nest sites left by Peregrines. California considers de-listing the Peregrine from threatened species.

Slavka Siryova : in Slovakia Peregrine started breeding again I 1994, in 1998 there were 9 occupied territories, 2002, 33 and in 2007 there are 87 known territories. The estimate in 100 pairs in 2007. Threats are disturbance by tourists and rock climbers, recreational developments and persecution by pigeon fanciers. Every year there are several cases of nest robbing. She agrees that Eagle Owls are a problem.

Werner Mayr : in Austria in 2007, the reintroduction scheme of Peregrine has been financed by a company named Fixcraft.

Robert Kenward refers to the Convention on Biological Diversity and its provisions on sustainable use of wild resource and its great principle : "conserve by use". If use is sustainable, the right to use is justified. In the USA, 83% of falconers are conservation oriented. 10,000 raptors are being bred in captivity per year in Europe. DNA makes laundering impossible. The production of hybrids has increased. A survey has shown that countries where there is no falconry are more afraid of hybrids than the ones where falconry is present and that there are less hybrids in countries where falconers may use wild raptors. Cooperation between falconers and conservationists avoid wastage of human resources. In Scotland grouse-moor is an important biotope; hunting is better for biodiversity than forestry and falconers need less density than for shooting.

Goshawk is a renewable resource with its 55,000 pairs in Europe that produce 100,000 young. Compared to it, the demand by falconers is insignificant.

Phil Everitt : First breeding of Peregrine female with male hybrid. Two young were produced, but were destroyed by a landslide caused by heavy rains.

Matyas Prommer and Janos Bagyura : Before the DDT era, the breeding population was 40-50 pairs. The last breeding was in 1964. Abandoned sites were taken over by Sakers. In 2007, only 12 pairs are known to breed in Hungary, no breeding in cities. Falconers participate in the conservation work. Peregrine cross Hungary during the migration, the origin of those is unknown. Peregrines winter in several cities, but only females do so.

Vladimir Galushin : The last decade has been favourable for the three subspecies present in Russia. The population of the European part of the country amounts 1000-1500 pairs. Of which 6% are ground nesting but none are known to breed on trees. Attempts are being made to re-establish a breeding population in Moscow. Last year one pair has been seen on the University building of Moscow.

Dimitar Ragyov : the current population in Bulgaria is 120-200 pairs. Its breeding range is expanding. The Peregrine needs more study, there is no conservation project. Keeping birds of prey is allowed, but not hunting with them.

Janusz Sielicki and Tadeusz Mizera : Before the DDT era, Peregrines were quite numerous in Poland, the lowland population was nesting in trees. This population became extinct in the sixties. In the early 80's falconers started the recovery project. The reintroduction begun in 1990. First wild nest was found in Warsaw in 1999. The reintroduction was successful except that the re-establishing of the tree nesting peregrine was not yet achieved

Janusz Sielicki and Slawomir Sielicki : In Poland, falconers started attempts of captive breeding in the late 70's. Reintroduction started in 1990 mostly in forests and in cities. There are 5 breeding cen-

tres approved by the Ministry of the Environment. Between 1990 and 2007, 319 Peregrines have been released to the wild. In 1998, the first known breeding case was in Warsaw. In 2007, 14 pairs are known breeding, most of the parents originating from releases in Poland. Several birds released in Poland are known to breed in Germany.

Christian de Coune : I gave a presentation on the Influence of Falconry on Peregrine Falcon Conservation. See summary at the end of this report.

There were lots of other equally interesting presentations on different topics : successful reintroduction of tree-nesting Peregrines in Germany; birds released from trees are more likely to breed on buildings than birds released from buildings breeding on trees. Germans fear for genetic bottleneck through inbreeding and for genetic pollution due to hybrids.

Nest imprinting in Australia where Peregrine breed in trees.

Micro-chipping program of Peregrines on the nest in Great Britain, no yearling bird found to breed nor falconry birds, the oldest one was a 16 year tiercel.

Colour ringing of Peregrines in Sweden, one bird was known to have done 300 km in one day.

Saker and Peregrine in Czech Republic management plan coordinated by amateur and professional conservationists and falconers. 30 pairs of Peregrines and 10-15 of Sakers.



ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS

Sustainable use of the Peregrine Population.

Chairman Nick Williams.

Janusz Sielicki made a very convincing plea in favour of sustainable use of wild raptors, he was speaking as a scientist and as a falconer altogether. Use promotes conservation.

Christian de Coune : I gave a presentation on "Sustainable use of raptors for falconry".

See summary at the end of this report.

A rather warm exchange of views followed my presentation.





Objections like : why take wild birds of prey when the are commonly bred in captivity? My reply was why breeding in captivity birds that are common in the wild?

The Bird Directive protects all birds of prey, it would give a bad image of falconry to the public if they were allowed to harvest wild raptors. It was answered that the Directive contains exceptions.

Robert Kenward in the name of IUCN advocates for conservation through use. Use gives value to the resource and value is an incentive to conservation. The risk of not allowing the use of wild birds of prey is the large number of hybrids used by falconers. He quotes the figure of 100.000 young Goshawks annual wild production in Europe and compares with the small number falconers would need.

Andrew Dixon advocates in favour of hybrids that reduce the harvest of wild falcons.

Christian de Coune quoted the example of the USA where falconers

have a large possibility of taking birds of prey from the wild, they may take Peregrine Falcons. The European population of Peregrine and Goshawks is much larger than in the USA; falconry in America is not different to the European falconry and still the access to the wild raptor resource is refused in several countries of Europe. USA may serve as an example illustrating that sustainable use of wild birds of prey is possible without any negative impact, then why not in Europe?

I proposed a resolution on sustainable use, see the text of it at the end of this report :

In reaction to my proposed resolution, a German ornithologist said that if I propose a resolution on sustainable use, he would propose a resolution against the use of hybrids he said that hybrids are banned in Germany and that they should be so in all countries.

He had some support by people claiming that there is a conservation risk linked to the use of hybrids by falconers. Janusz Sielicki pointed out that the possibility of using wild peregrine falcons in Europe would reduce the demand for hybrids; there are enough wild raptors in Europe to allow a sustainable use of them. Wild raptors have a greater genetic diversity.

I decided not to propose my draft resolution on sustainable use for adoption.

Resolution Committee,

I decided not to table the resolution I intended to propose (see attached text) on sustainable use of raptors for falconry, in order to avoid the resolution on hybrids.

Janusz Sielicki succeeded very cleverly to avoid the resolution against hybrids to be proposed. He claimed that one should not propose a controversial resolution.



Janusz Sielicki pointed out that BirdLife recognises that the Peregrine Falcon is no longer threatened, but that they say nothing about the tree-nesting population, which is really threatened. He asked to adopt a resolution on the Restoration of the tree nesting population of Peregrine Falcon. This resolution has been adopted.

Another Resolution has been adopted on the Peregrine Falcon as migratory species, Nick Williams accepted to propose it to the Migratory Raptors Conference of the CMS to be held in Loch Lomond.

For the text of those resolution, visit the website of the Peregrine Conference

<http://www.falcopegrinus.net>

Decisions

A major decision has been taken at the initiative of Janusz Sielicki :

The EUROPEAN PEREGRINE FALCON WORKING GROUP has been established.

Informations about this new working group can be found on

<http://www.falcopegrinus.net>

There are two categories of members, one is for organisations to be member. I would recommend to the IAF to very seriously consider applying for membership.

Janusz Sielicki was unanimously elected the Chairman of the European Peregrine Falcon Working Group.



CONCLUSION

Janusz Sielicki who took the initiative of organising this conference deserves our warm congratulations not only for his initiative, but also for the excellent quality of all the presentations. The organisation of the conference was perfect.

Very important decisions have been taken, amongst which the creation of the European Peregrine Falcon Working Group.

The Peregrine Resolutions addressed the protection of Peregrine as migratory species, the possible role of Peregrine in environment pollutants monitoring and the need for further efforts to re-establish tree-nesting Peregrine population in it's former range.

This conference was a milestone in Peregrine conservation.

I would express only one regret, it is the almost total absence of falconers.

PEREGRINE RECOVERY IN THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES 1974 - 1999 TO INCLUDE CURRENT NUMBERS AVAILABLE FOR FALCONRY FROM CAPTIVE BREEDING AND THE HARVEST OF WILD PRODUCED YOUNG

William Heinrich, The Peregrine Fund, 5668 West Flying Hawk Lane, Boise, Idaho USA

In the early 1900s the estimated population of the eastern American Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*), was thought to be in the neighborhood of 400 pairs. Surveys indicated that by 1965 not a single pair was known to be nesting east of the Mississippi River. In 1975 in the western United States the known number of nesting peregrines had declined to less than 40 of the 300 + pairs known for the region historically. In 1969 the Peregrine falcon was placed on the U.S. Endangered Species List, and in 1972 the use of the pesticide DDT, the main cause for the population decline, was banned. Captive breeding efforts were initiated by falconers and The Peregrine Fund was established by Dr. Tom Cade in 1970 with the purpose of breeding Peregrines in captivity for release into the wild. Soon major release efforts were under way throughout the country. Between the years of 1974 to 1999 over 5102 peregrines were released in the continental United States. Three release methods were used including fostering, cross fostering and most commonly hacking from cliffs, towers, and in cities. As a result of the releases, accompanied by natural repopulation, by 1999 the known nesting population in the continental United States exceeded over 1,650 pairs. On 20 August 1999 the Peregrine was officially removed from the United States Endangered Species list. The Peregrine recovery program was the most successful program ever to restore an endangered species in the United States. In September of 2002 The Archives of Falconry building was completed at The Peregrine Fund's World Center for Birds of Prey. Not only does the building hold some of the world's most valuable falconry treasures, but is also a tangible tribute to the role that falconers played in the recovery to the Peregrine falcon. Today many states with nesting pairs have provisions which allow falconers to legally harvest young peregrines. Despite the fact that Peregrines can now be taken from the wild for falconry purposes, relatively few birds are taken annually. This can be attributed to the difficulty of taking wild birds from remote cliff nesting locations and the fact that in 2006, 263 peregrines were produced by 149 captive breeders with virtually all of the birds being utilized by falconers.



INFLUENCE OF FALCONRY ON PEREGRINE FALCON CONSERVATION

Christian de Coune
Belgium

International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey

Peregrine falcon was probably one of the earliest wild birds enjoying a legal protection. The reason for that is the value of it for falconry. As early as in the year 800, laws were adopted to protect birds of prey and very severe penalties were applied.

By the end of the XVIII century, falconry started declining due to the progress of firearms and to the political changes following the French revolution. Birds of prey started being viewed as pests and became the target of intense persecution : they had lost their supporters, the falconers.

Falconry revived in the '50s and falconers advocated insistently for the legal protection of birds of prey.

In the 50's and 60's the Peregrine falcon populations in Europe and North America decreased dramatically.

Falconers feared for their hobby.

. The Raptor Research Foundation was created by falconers in 1966, the Peregrine Fund was formed on the initiative of a falconer, Dr Tom Cade. French falconers formed the Fonds d'Intervention pour les Rapaces (FIR).

In spite of the general opinion that birds of prey could not be bred in captivity, nonetheless falconers took the initiative of joining their efforts to try and breed Peregrines in captivity.

In 1968 one viable young peregrine hatched with an American falconer.

In 1971, first successful artificial insemination of a Peregrine took place in Germany by a falconer.

1974, first captive bred Peregrines were released at the New York University by a falconer.

In Germany, Prof Christian Saar, a well known falconer, produced 6 young Peregrines from one pair.

1979, first breeding case of released captive bred Peregrines in New Jersey.

Between 1974 and 1997, the peregrine Fund has released a total of 2187 captive bred Peregrines.

Roughly, to date, a total of 1100 Peregrines have been released in Germany with the active co-operation of the Deutscher Falkenorden.

In Germany, at least 100 breeding pairs result from reintroduced birds.

German falconers and AWS are running a program to re-establish the formerly extinct tree nesting Peregrine population. As a result, in 2007, 30 young fledged from 18 tree-nesting pairs. Polish falconers are running a similar project.

The success story of the rescuing of the Peregrine Falcon had a tangible effect :

the US Fish and Wildlife Service has removed the Peregrine Falcon from the list of endangered and threatened wildlife in August 1999, resulting in the possibility for falconers to resume taking Peregrines from the wild.

The interest of falconers for the use of wild Peregrine Falcons has been a powerful incentive to the participation in the conservation efforts of their wild populations.

SUSTAINABLE USE OF RAPTORS FOR FALCONRY

Christian de Coune

www.i-a-f.org

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The interest of falconers for the use of wild Peregrine Falcons has been a powerful incentive to their participation in the conservation efforts of their wild populations.

Falconers' participation in raptor conservation has been recognised :

November 1985, an International Conference on the Peregrine Falcon was organised in Sacramento (Calif.) by the Peregrine Fund and chaired by Tom Cade, it was attended by 500 biologists and Peregrine specialists.

The Conference adopted a resolution.

Lots of governmental agencies, nature conservation organisations and famous biologists have confirmed that taking wild bird of prey for falconry may be considered as sustainable and therefore could be allowed.

I have chosen some significant examples of positions taken in favour of raptor wild take for falconry :

Let's start with one of the oldest :

In 1975 in Vienna, the ICBP, International Council for Bird Preservation, now called BirdLife International made strict recommendations to the governments to protect birds of prey. Wilful disturbance of rare nesting birds of prey should be allowed for falconry. In 1975, rare nesting birds of prey of interest was most probably Peregrine Falcon.

It is interesting to remember that in 1975 the Peregrine Falcon populations were at their lowest and still the possibility of taking some from the wild for falconry was maintained.

The World Wide Fund for nature endorsed the position of ICBP.

The Social and Economic Committee of the European Communities had been informed of the Vienna recommendations of the ICBP and it recommended in 1977 that the take of birds of prey for falconry should continue.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) allows in its article 10 the use of biological resources for "cultural practices". We consider that falconry is such a cultural practice.

In its Policy Statement on Sustainable Use, the IUCN confirms that use provides incentive for conservation. The resolution of the Peregrine Conference in Sacramento thanking falconers for the role they have played for the conservation of birds of prey is an illustration of the principle : "use creates incentive to protect".

BirdLife International prepared for the Council of Europe (Bern Convention) an Action Plan for the European population of Saker Falcon. BirdLife admits taking birds of prey from the wild if the species has a favourable conservation status.

The World Working Group on Birds of Prey and Owls agreed to the principle of sustainable use of **surplus** birds of prey for falconry.

The same WWG recommended about the Saker Falcon to "reduce the levels of offtake". This means that WWG is not opposed to the principle of sustainable use of wild raptors for falconry.

The Raptor Research Foundation, which is the largest organisation for bird of prey research, recognises that raptors are a renewable resource and that they can sustain an annual harvest of 10%.

The success story of the rescuing of the Peregrine Falcon in the USA had a tangible effect :

the US Fish and Wildlife Service has removed the Peregrine Falcon from the list of endangered and threatened wildlife in August 1999, resulting in the possibility for falconers to resume taking Peregrines from the wild.

The USFWS officially took the position that the take of 5% of young Peregrine from the wild would not affect the population.

The Audubon Society challenged the USFWS for its position on the take of young Peregrines from the wild, but they lost the case before the Court.

Another scientific publication confirms that the Peregrine Falcon can stand a harvest of 10% of the young production, but recommends not to go beyond 5% .

Ian Newton, whom many of you know, confirms also that a harvest

rate of 5% would have no measurable impact on Peregrine population.

One of the reasons that makes the removal of a certain percentage of young birds of prey is that there is a rather large proportion of adult and juveniles that do not breed, due to the limited availability of nest sites.

Those non-breeders make that a population of birds of prey is much larger than just the breeding population. In other words the resource is larger than it looks like.

In the 80s, the University of Wyoming conducted an experimental harvest of Prairie Falcons (*Falco mexicanus*) over a period of 8 years. The conclusion was that there was no significant difference between the harvested area and the control area where no harvesting had taken place. Even perhaps, removing young from a nest may increase the chances of the remaining young to survive.

CONCLUSION

All those arguments and testimonies illustrate very well that a healthy population of birds of prey can sustain a certain rate of harvesting and that that harvesting may be done for falconers.

2nd International Peregrine Falcon Conference Resolutions

Held at Piotrowo / Poznan in Poland 19th – 22nd September 2007

CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY PEREGRINE FALCONS AND OTHER BIRDS OF PREY

RECOGNISING that the Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) is a truly cosmopolitan bird of prey, which acts as a flagship species for wildlife and environmental conservation globally;

NOTING that the Peregrine Falcon is migratory throughout most of its range and that the species' critical position near the top of its food chain enables it to be used as a sentinel for certain toxic contaminants within the environment;

REMEMBERING that the Peregrine Falcon suffered dramatic (but fortunately reversible) declines during the 1950s - 1970s across much of its range in Europe and North America caused by environmental pollutants;

RECALLING that the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals 1979 (CMS) encourages international cooperative action to conserve migratory species;

CONSIDERING that Peregrine Falcons, like other migratory raptors, constitute an important part of the global biological diversity which, in keeping with the spirit of the Convention on Biological Diversity 1992 and Agenda 21, should be conserved for the benefit of present and future generations;

AWARE of the environmental, ecological, genetic, scientific, aesthetic, recreational, cultural, educational, social and economic values of Peregrine Falcons and other raptors;

CONSCIOUS that Peregrine Falcons, like many other migratory raptors, may be particularly vulnerable due to their habit of flying over very long distances and by being reliant on networks of fragile habitats that are declining in extent and becoming degraded through unsustainable human activities;

CONVINCED that some form of multilateral agreement and its implementation through coordinated and concerted action would contrib-

ute significantly to the conservation of Peregrine Falcons and other migratory raptors, including their habitats, and would also deliver ancillary benefits for many other species of animal and plant;

CONGRATULATES the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United Arab Emirates for sponsoring the forthcoming Inter-Governmental Meeting (I-GM) to be held in Scotland in October 2007 to consider the establishment of a CMS instrument covering migratory raptors in the African-Eurasian region;

URGES the delegates of the I-GM to work tirelessly to secure international consensus and to take urgent major steps to develop an appropriate multilateral way forward within a strict timetable.

THE PEREGRINE FALCON AS AN ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATOR

RECOGNISING that the Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) holds a critically important position near the top of the food chain that enables it to be used as a sentinel for certain toxic contaminants within the environment;

REMEMBERING that the Peregrine Falcon suffered dramatic (but fortunately reversible) declines during the 1950s - 1970s across much of its range in Europe and North America caused by heavy metals and organochlorine residues originating from agricultural and forestry pesticides;

ACKNOWLEDGING that many Peregrine Falcon populations throughout Europe have been routinely monitored, often intensively over many decades;

RECOGNISING that contamination still exists and new pollutants con-

tinue to enter into the environment accumulating within free-living Peregrine Falcons with unknown consequences;

CONSIDERS that the Peregrine Falcon continues to be a uniquely suitable species for long-term biological and environmental monitoring for the benefit of both wildlife and human populations; and, URGES the European Commission and national Governments to:

promote the regular and extensive chemical analyses of biological samples obtained from free-living Peregrine Falcons;

facilitate the development of standardised collection and storage of biological samples obtained from Peregrine Falcons;

sponsor the establishment of a long-term European-wide library of these biological samples for appropriate chemical analyses now and in the future.

RESTORATION OF TREE-NESTING PEREGRINE FALCONS IN THEIR FORMER EUROPEAN RANGE

RECOGNISING that, due to concerted and sustained multi-national conservation actions, Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) populations in many areas of Europe have now recovered from the major biocide-induced declines of the mid-twentieth Century albeit with uncertain

status in some areas of its global range;

ACKNOWLEDGING that as a result of these positive changes to the overall conservation status of this species across much of its range in Europe it is no longer considered as 'threatened' under IUCN criteria;

RECALLING that the tree-nesting Peregrine Falcons formerly composed of an estimated 4,000 breeding pairs, then extirpated and is now only 20 pairs achieved through restoration;

CONCERNED that despite significant pro-active restoration efforts, particularly in Germany and Poland, the tree-nesting Peregrine Falcons remains extirpated from most of a formerly extensive area, especially parts of Germany, Poland, Russia, Belarus and the Baltic States;

ENCOURAGES continued and increasing effort to be focused on re-establishing tree-nesting Peregrine Falcons throughout the whole of its former breeding range;

REQUESTS the national Governments, non-Governmental organisations and the European Commission to support the re-establishment of tree-nesting Peregrine Falcons;

URGES BirdLife International to recognise the conservation value of European tree-nesting Peregrine Falcons with the aim of highlighting their unique and threatened status.

Report of Ukrainian Falconers Club "Corax" for 2007

In the year 2007 we have organized two meetings of falconers in Ukraine: in the Crimea, at the beginning of October and one in Donetsk in November. During the first hunt per 6 days with three Goshawk males 15 pheasants (13 young and 2 adult) and two Partridges were taken. Mr.Sergei Prokopenko by means of young hawk has caught the Short-eared Owl, five pheasants (including adult cock) and Partridge. Falconers from Nikolaev and Krasnoperekopsk have taken three young hares by means of their Goshawks.

During meeting in November in Donetsk nine persons from different regions of Ukraine participated, among birds there were 6 Goshawks (two females, four males), two Peregrine Falcons (female and male), the Saker Falcon female, five dogs (pointer, two Kurzhaars and two Draathaars).

In this year we have reared 20 Goshawks, preferably males, at the age of from an egg to 12 days. Two-month birds, reared specially for hunting, were spread among members of the club for training.

In Simferopol town (owner - Sergei Prokopenko) a five-year pair of white Goshawks has laid four eggs. Unfortunately, the chicks have not hatched, though female insistently incubated longer than determined period. At the same time in one Simferopol falconer, three-year hunting Goshawk female has laid the clutch of four eggs in artificial nest on balcony.

*Alexander Vlasenko
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Club "Corax"*

WRTC Report

Bill Murrin, President

It is wonderful to be part of the IAF. Our Vice President, Craig Hendee, instructed the WRTC Board of Directors in the importance of an affiliation with such an august body of fellow falconers. We are grateful to all those who helped in the acceptance of our organization within your ranks. We are indeed honored.

The purpose of this first report is to track the sequence of events that led to the current state of falconry regulations in North America which clarifies the reasons for establishing WRTC (Wild Take Conservancy).

Prior to the 1960s, falconry experienced a relatively unrestrained environment in this region of the world. There were few falconers and few regulations to contend with. Life was good for those fortunate souls. However, the 1950s observed a divergence within the adolescent conservationist movement. One might speculate that the 1949 book *A Sand County Almanac*, by Aldo Leopold, was the catalyst for this parting of company between those who embraced our past

hunting traditions and those who began to see nature from a more religious perspective, with the subsequent belief that to touch nature is sacrilegious; to merely observe her is to worship her as a devout believer. Leopold was internally torn between these two viewpoints, but, due to his untimely death, he was unable to provide any further insight into this new brand of "conservationism" – which eventually transmuted into protectionism, i.e. protect nature from any and all contact with the evil human. It took a dozen or so years for this philosophy to coalesce into a true movement, but once it did, its force would knock cultural, legal, and political institutions down to their very foundations and leave a wake of destruction in its path. It didn't care who or what it destroyed. It was a crusade in its own right with only one goal in mind: drastically displace the culture of industrialized nations by supplanting them with a new order, an order dominated by romantic and sentimental protectionist notions.

In 1962 another book was published that defined the course the

protectionists' crusade was to take from that point forward. Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* became the rallying point for protectionists who used this work to club into submission any who opposed their religious zeal for nature. This book was highly speculative; however, questionable science would not stop the momentum for a political-religious cause that was desperately seeking direction from a higher power.

A devout believer in Rachel Carson was one Joseph Hickey, a recognized authority on the North American anatum peregrine falcon. Hickey helped orchestrate the 1965 International Peregrine Conference in Madison, Wisconsin with the intent of promoting Carson's theories as an indisputable truth. While many embraced Hickey's position, others did not (e.g. Dr. J. Gordon Edwards et al.). This disagreement has yet to be reconciled; however, this is not the intent of this report.

As a follower of Carson, Hickey's contribution to the protectionist movement dramatically impacted the world of falconry. In the Western hemisphere, the peregrine epitomized falconry, yet the peregrine was being elevated from vermin status by wildlife managers to post-er-child status to be used as a symbol to rally the troops around the protectionist cause. Falconers and protectionists were on a collision course (due to the peregrine's symbol to each of them) with no traffic signals (due to the protectionists' disregard for the rule of law) to prevent the impending clash.

In 1968, then IAF President Jack Mavrogordato informed the falconry community in his Circular Letter No. 1 of a report he composed concerning the IXth Conference of the International Council for Bird Preservation (ICBP), held in Hungary in May of 1968. In this report President Mavrogordato notifies us of the change in the political winds within the environmentalist community; a shift in attitude with potentially dire consequences for falconers. In this report he reminds us of how different the atmosphere was at the 1964 ICBP Conference where "falconry enjoyed an excellent image, and there was good co-operation between all interested parties, and mutual respect for each other's interests." He continues, "It was all the more disappointing, therefore, at this recent Hungarian Conference ... to find a totally different atmosphere. During the four years separating the two Conferences, falconry has, I regret to report, become a 'dirty word' amongst the Conservationists. Several delegates wished to ban falconry outright as an illegitimate, unjustified and anachronistic form of sport: others were content to make it impossible – by cutting off supplies of hawks to falconers (and thereby starving falconry to death)...."

This same hostility was developing in North America and it was associated with peregrines, and falconers' connection with taking this bird from the wild. This was seen as a sin; one that could not be tolerated. Judgment was rendered by these self-proclaimed jurists and the sentence was death. Sentence was suspended due to the diligence of falconers scrambling to enact regulations that would erect an imposing barrier from accusations lodged against falconry. Unfortunately these barriers were insufficient to withstand the impending tidal-wave dubbed Operation Falcon. Wildlife law enforcement agencies inform us that the "ornithological community" notified these agencies that most falconers were making a small fortune in the illicit trade in rare species of raptors. When it was demonstrated that these wildlife agencies were lied to, after tremendous damage was inflicted upon the North American falconry community, the protectionists' efforts to destroy falconry dramatically subsided. However, the draconian regulations drafted as a barrier against the protectionist onslaught still remains.

By the late 1960s the North American falconry community believed the only hope for the future of falconry was in breeding raptors, since it was imagined that wild raptors would be completely protected from any form of take due to the political clout the protectionists wielded. Therefore, the falconry community scrambled to discover the means to successfully and repeatedly breed raptors in private breeding projects. The pursuit of wild raptors, though still practiced by a group of dedicated falconers, was to be given scant attention in the literature and in some cases, censored from falconry periodicals due to the fear of retribution from protectionists.

As breeding projects sprouted up across the falconry landscape, fewer birds were being taken from the wild, except by apprentices in the U.S. who are legally obligated to take a wild bird – typically a redtailed hawk which accounts for half the wild taken raptors in a given year. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) estimates that more than half the annual "consumption" of new birds is derived from breeding projects. The FWS also estimates approximately 1000 raptors are taken from the wild each year in the U.S.

With the continued decline of take of raptors from the wild, the concern arose that as our senior falconers begin to depart this world, their accumulated knowledge of trapping raptors would be taken with them. A small percentage of North American falconers are dedicated to wild take, but they are spread far and wide across this continent. Prior to the founding of WRTC, there was no forum for these dedicated individuals to share their thoughts and knowledge. It was suggested that before it was too late, we must provide a medium for this sector of the falconry community to organize itself and find a voice to express its interests in the larger falconry community. However, not only is there a concern about the contraction of knowledge on acquiring wild raptors, there is also a concern of losing our right to access of these wild healthy populations since our numbers are declining. Those who acquire their birds from breeding projects are not likely to expend much energy in defending something they have little interest in. Therefore, an assembly of men with a common interest is the surest way of gathering the forces necessary to defend their interests when the need arises. And such need is upon us now.

The FWS has proposed changes to our falconry and propagation regulations. Included in this process is an Environmental Assessment which analyzes the impact wild take for falconry use has on wild raptor populations. In these proposals, the FWS for the first time put in writing their assertion that falconers and propagators do not own their birds, and that privately held raptors will always remain under the stewardship of the FWS, i.e. they can confiscate these birds for any reason they wish to conceive. WRTC adamantly opposed this illegal assertion, but when the FWS ignored our comments, we hired a highly respected wildlife attorney, Mr. William Horn, to inform the FWS that they need to comply with the law. The head attorney for the FWS agreed with our position, as expressed by Mr. Horn, and we now have recognition of our property rights in our birds. The next step is to determine how this will change what the FWS was preparing for publication as the Final Rule, which is the final regulatory regime we will then operate under.

In addition to the work on our property rights and the drafting of sensible regulations for falconry, WRTC has also been busy working with States that have had a closed door policy to non-resident falconers (falconers from other States) in regards to the take of raptors from the wild. Many States that have healthy populations of highly desirable raptors have been closed to non-residents for many years. This is due to the efforts of the ornithological community that had a protectionist agenda, as mentioned earlier. Through WRTC's communications with fish and game officials in these various States, these doors are slowly beginning to open. This year, South Dakota and Minnesota were both opened to non-residents due to our work. In addition, Colorado, Montana and Nebraska falconers have agreed to begin the process of opening their doors. Two other important States we have yet to begin work on are North Dakota and Alaska, but we will be pursuing these shortly.

WRTC is a relatively small organization with fewer than 100 members, but it is a highly motivated club that is not torn by various factions pulling it in different directions. We work hard and are very effective in getting the job done in a timely manner. Our interest is focused on wild raptors used for falconry purposes and the right to access of healthy populations by all falconers regardless of their affiliation with our association. We hope this position is of benefit to the international falconry community and offer our services to those who may have need of them.

Respectfully submitted
November 25, 2007
Bill Murrin
President, WRTC

Report on activity for the year 2007 of 'Estonian Falconers' Union'.



The last 2007 year was quite successful in some areas of our activity. Owing to Festival of Falconry (special gratitude to all co-sponsors and co-organizers of this event) we received different questions about our activity connected mainly with preparation of hunting birds of prey.

The contact with Latvian falconer was found and established. According to existing information, in Latvia there are another 1-2 persons, falconers or persons interested in falconry. Now we try to find them.

In this connection it is possible to suggest the negotiations about establishment of united Baltic Association or Union of Falconers that will unite Estonian Club, Lithuanian Club and Latvian falconers in the future.

Examples of other countries both in propaganda of benefits from use of birds of prey and application of these birds in favor of people are necessary for the development of falconry in Estonia. Without examples it is very difficult for us to show efficiency and necessity of the use of birds of prey. In this aspect we are thinking about Internet-project, where we could dispose information on activity of clubs, organizations, which use birds of prey for different purposes. Unfortunately without funds this project hardly could be realized as well as our plans to publish the book in Russian about practical side of falconry. The seminar, planned by us in Russia was postponed for the future according to wishes of majority of Russian colleagues.

Communications with many bird lovers including pigeon-fanciers many times revealed the problem of interrelations between people and birds of prey. There is a serious problem with pigeon-fanciers. According to interrogatory data one pigeon-lofts is visiting by 3 birds of prey per year as a rule this is Goshawk. The fortune of some these birds is unknown for us. Thus we would like to consider three possible outputs from the formed situation:

1. To get a license from the government for certain organization for trapping of birds of prey which create problems in certain place. Such an organization after trapping and ringing should release the bird of prey at long distance from the place of trapping. This way is effective from the point of view of monitoring and studies.
2. According to law all birds of prey are a property of the state. That means that there is an opportunity of compensation of the brought damage, i.e. to compensate by state the costs of the pigeons caught by the wild animal. There is a problem in expertise of victims of the birds of prey.
3. To continue to behave as if the problem does not exist.

We have undertaken attempts to draw attention of the state bodies to the problem of corvids, pigeons and gulls in town. Number of these birds grows with each year. We have offered the possible options of these birds number decline, including an application of hunting birds of prey and method of adaptation (successfully is tested since 2000 till 2002) of birds of prey to the urban environment. We have received an answer that there is no problem in town regarding this aspect. We hope to draw attention of municipal authorities to the problem of birds in town that in its turn to help partially to legalize falconry in Estonia.

In conclusion we would like to note that during spring and summer we observed the pair of the Peregrine Falcons (*Falco peregrinus*), which could not nest the most probably due to logging of forest in this region. The Peregrine Falcon male was seen often and flushed near nesting plot. We would like to hope in the nearest time the breeding status of this bird of prey will be confirmed in Estonia.

With best regards and wishes,

Dmitri Saksa.

Club MOLNIA / Estonia.

NAFA United States Report

In the United States we are still anxiously waiting for final approval and promulgation of the revised and amended falconry and propagation regulations. This has been a work in progress for some considerable length of time. Among the most significant of the sweeping changes is the elimination of the federal permit and transfer of most of the administrative responsibilities to individual state jurisdiction. Whereas the federal government would continue its oversight under the migratory bird protection act, the management and reporting functions would become solely the responsibility of participating states. Fortunately these changes will not add to state's administrative or enforcement burden as the current dual system is redundant. The proposed regulations also liberalize a number of other areas. Participating states have the opportunity of adopting the federal regulation, verbatim, or re-writing theirs. The only caveat is, state regulations must be at least as restrictive as are the federal regulations as long as they are no more liberal.

As most of you are aware, licensed US falconers are currently able to harvest eyass peregrines where states permit. NAFA has been working diligently to secure something similar for the take of passage

birds. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service recently published its Draft Environmental Assessment and Management Plan for the take of migrant peregrine falcons from the wild for the use in falconry. Essential their findings indicate that a controlled take of a specific number of falcons from designated areas of the country will have no impact on the population. Within the body of literature falconers are



recognized for their significant contribution to peregrine recovery. In essence, the draft also acknowledges that resident populations of anatum falcons will not be subject to take and that the tundra sub species that will be trapped was never in danger of extension or a "species" of special concern. NAFA and its officers are to be congratulated for this outstanding accomplishment.

For a period of time, several NAFA directors have been working with states that don't currently allow a non-resident take of eyass or passage raptors for falconry. Thanks to their persistent hard work, one more state, Minnesota, has been added to the list. Hopefully we will eventually see this policy adopted by all states where falconry is currently permitted.

Mark Williams, NAFA Canadian Director has had considerable success working with local and CITES authorities to simplify US/Canadian boarder crossing by falconers with their birds. The current system is over burdensome, time consuming and difficult. NAFA has appointed a group to begin dialog with US counterparts to ensure a coordinated effort.



NAFA held it's annual meet last week in Colorado, where a number of new directors will shortly replace those who have served and new officers appointed, including Dan Cecchini as president. Dan and his wife have served NAFA for many years. They were co journal editors for over 20 years. Dan has been vice president for the last several years.

The events of the last year for Hungarian falconry

Janos Toth

There were two episodes in the last year program which gained more attention in between the usual affairs, the Falconry-Nature conservation symposium held by our club and the Falconry Festival.

Thanks to the donations of IAF and the organizers of the Festival, our club could represent and show the traditional and present Hungarian falconry at a high level.

All the participants appreciated the Festival and felt themselves excellent. Congratulations for the idea and congratulations for the outstanding organization and thanks to the sponsors who helped that this unique event could come true.

The Hungarian falconers feel that the unreasonable administration requirements make their sport difficult.

We worked a lot to solve this problem and we had to realise that the prominents of the authorities had very few or incorrect knowledge about falconry and the impact of falconry. It was clear that it had to be changed to get result. Primarily we had to provide the authorities with the right information and conclusions, instead of the false information they had, which led them to draw false conclusions.



The other reason why we came to the point to organise a symposium was, that our aims were the same with that of the nature conservation people and it is understandable why we had regular problems and conflicts with the nature conservation authorities.

In the venue and time of the Seventheens International Falconers Field Meeting in Orosháza we hold the Falconry- Nature Conservation symposium with eight speakers. Our intention was to make a forum to tell and understand the opinions of the interested parties of falconry. We invited falconers, amateur and professional birds of prey ornithologists, hunters, local and nationwide nature conservation specialists.

We heard studies about the protection of birds of prey, population data about the birds used in falconry. The speaker of the ministry informed us about the practice of the licensing and the reasons of the regulations.

Our speakers talked about the impacts of the legal regulations and the anomalies of the practice.

We gave a complementary analysis of the EU countries' legal regulations.

Finally we heard a very interesting study about the fate of the lost falconry birds.

It was a very interesting event, in spite of that we heard sometimes strongly distinct opinions about the same subject, but started a conversation on professional level and it showed us the possibility of solution.

After the symposium we took the representatives of the authorities to a field falconry, which was very useful for them understanding falconry, according to their opinion.

Summary, all the participants found the seminar very useful, on the other side it increased the quality level of the Intl. Falconry Field Meeting in Orosháza.

Report for Ireland

is governed by two sets of legislation. In the south, the Republic, it is licensed by our National Parks and Wildlife Service, which has jurisdiction over 26 counties. In Northern Ireland, it is governed from Westminster in the UK.

The Irish Hawking Club represents members on both sides of the border. It works well enough, with falconers often crossing the border to fly with friends there. Dialogue between the two areas is maintained by a Northern Secretary who liaises with The Hawk Board in the UK regarding legislation affecting them. A new Northern Political Assembly is still finding its feet, and has not addressed matters of wildlife just yet.

In the South, we have a good relationship with our Department of Wildlife, communicating with them on issues such as hunting, conservation and land. Wild take for Kestrels, sparrowhawks and peregrines exists, with the latter restricted to roughly six licences per summer. More recently, a member of the Department's grouse preservation scheme attended an IHC talk by George Thompson, Regional Chairman of the Moorland Gamekeepers Association in the UK.

Hunting ground is an increasing problem as Ireland's economic profile rises, with development now a widespread phenomenon. For falconers in rural areas, it tends not to be too great an issue, but for those once able to find suitable ground on the outskirts of our cities, it is now much harder. A key concern is that the impact of the above means we seeing a decline in the numbers of practicing falconers which must be addressed before a cycle of decline begins.

The nature of the sport is also in flux, with our traditional favourite, the sparrowhawk, now being largely replaced by the Harris hawk. This is perhaps a symptom of the changing work ethic in the country. It is sad, and a little puzzling, as the sparrowhawk is easier both to obtain and to serve with quarry. One wonders why the necessities of ferrets, dogs and land with rabbits is deemed an easier option by the Harris hawk converts.

A small handful of people fly longwings, with one or two members in particular making great use of snipe bogs in the midlands. Rooks are hunted by a few enthusiasts in those areas still open enough. Sadly, the once-popular merlin is scarcely flown anymore to the best of my knowledge.

On the issue of conservation, the Irish Grey Partridge Project, which the IHC contributed considerably to, is making inroads to establishing a stronghold for the species. Wild raptor numbers are healthy, apart from the Hen Harrier which looks to be classified as threatened in Ireland. A golden eagle reintroduction project in the north-west county of Donegal yielded success this summer, with the hatching of the first eagle in the country for a century or so. This year, similar schemes were launched for the white-tailed sea eagle in the south-west county of Kerry, and the red kite in Wicklow on the east coast. Initiatives like these make front-page news in national papers, and have loose associations with the sport of falconry in so much as techniques like jessing and hacking are acknowledged as key methods in successful handling and reintroduction. They also make the general public aware of raptors and conservation. The IHC members are informed of progress regularly.

Hilary White, delegate

Canadian Report Nov. 2007

Mark Williams

Since the last conference the political falconry scene in Canada has remained fairly static this is in part due to the fact that as I explained in my previous report, falconry is regulated provincially and not federally therefore it is different in each province. While there are several provinces and territories that do not recognize falconry, it is more as a result of there not being any interest or awareness from individuals rather than any political resistance towards the sport. Indeed my phone conversations to provincial regulators on the eastern seaboard have been very positive and they have been very receptive to this should interest be made by members of the public.

I am pleased to report recent successes this year is the final and successful conclusion to the bureaucratic wrangle in Quebec whereby they were allowed to keep and fly raptors but were not allowed

to hunt with them. Meanwhile Ontario continues with their ongoing struggle to gain wild take. They are close but are faced with strong opposition from protectionist groups and overcoming well entrenched prejudices from within the old guard in their wildlife service who remember previous offences by a handful of less scrupulous falconers. In an attempt to gain credibility with their regulators the Ontario Falconry club is trying to introduce an apprenticeship program for the best interest of the birds and to ensure the success and enjoyment of the novice. Furthermore they are keeping a higher profile to promote falconry in their province by attending several field sporting events to promote the art and by inviting their wildlife officers to their field meets.

Perhaps the most concerning political concern in the Canadian falconry scene is the current strained relationship between the British Columbian falconry club and their provincial regulators. The B.C. club, through one or two senior club leaders are challenging the right of private ownership with their government and in direct confrontation have decided to not submit annual reports or allow facility inspections. As a result of this stance their provincial government have been put into a position of either having to stand down or press charges with those individuals, the outcome of which will be carefully watched by the North American falconry fraternity. Simultaneously there is a movement within the NAFA membership towards private ownership rights in an attempt to prevent some of the raids and seizures of some falconer's birds as has been the case in the recent past the consequences of which resulted in the death of some birds. Hopefully we will hear more today from one of our American delegates about this issue since it was debated at the NAFA meet last week of which I was unable to attend.



One of my personal goals as Canadian Director for NAFA is to continue to push for the streamlining of the cross border process when taking our birds across the Canadian / USA border for the purpose of attending a falconry meet or hawking with friends. Currently this process involves a complicated and protracted application process to obtain CITES permits to cross federal borders as well as the respective countries federal health certificates. My efforts to date through a slow but steady dialogue with both Canadian CITES and CFIA (Canadian Food and Drug Administration) and developing positive relationships with senior managers in both divisions. We even invited Canadian CITES to our National Falconry meet so they could experience first hand what we are about and do with our birds. This helped dispel any preconceived prejudices they might have had and it dramatically personalized our future communication base.

Through this personalized contacts I have managed to act as advisory to Canada CITES administration division in explaining what we are about and do, the inconsistencies with the current border process, it's pitfalls and time restraints so they can better understand what we need in over to overcome these challenges and streamline it. It is our aim to make the process totally electronic with no faxes etc and to reduce the application period to a mere days not weeks or as in the case of the USA side, months. Already we are seeing progress in this alone with 2 week turnarounds and subsequent peer pressure being applied to the US side by Canadian CITES able to process applications quicker so we are now seeing USA CITES in Arlington process application as quick as 40 days instead of 90 but it is still a ways off our intended target.

I have gained the support of the current CITES manager for falconers / breeders to apply to import or export permits for birds not yet hatched based upon the agreement we can specify what month and year it was hatched as apposed to the exact hatch date. This came about from my questioning as to why they needed to a hatch date in the first place. My questioning discovered that they simply needed to ensure that the bird was not hatched pre CITES i.e. 1972. I explained that other than possibly an eagle there was no chance that any captive or wild taken bird in captivity now was likely to be alive now. We compromised with a the month and year for the purpose of their record keeping and an understanding that we could apply pre-hatch in order to minimize the delay time caused in processing the application. This would accommodate the early possession of eyas raptors needed for imprinting from an early age as legally required in some provinces in the case of hybrids. This of course is only half of the battle as of course it is necessary for the USA side to provide the reciprocal arrangement. For this I was less successful and hence approached NAFA for support through the TAC committee.. Like most government depts. they are under-funded and over worked and with more pressing priorities but I am not letting off any pressure.

Thanks to the foresight of the NAFA board on which I also serve I was able to secure the board approval for the Tactical Advisory Committee (TAC) under the leadership of Larry Dickerson to pursue this on the USA side so that we can attain similar momentum with their depts. You can imagine how difficult it is for a Canadian citizen to tell the American government what they should do when Canada is viewed as the tenant upstairs <G> so you can see the assistance of NAFA and the TAC committee is essential in lobbying and gaining the co-operation of their respective governing depts. Rather than hearing from an outsider!

This leaves the CFIA issue and health certificates which are currently expensive and inconvenient to obtain as well as cross the border with. Through talks with our head CFIA veterinarian Dr Marilyn Homewood I am endeavoring to obtain a month long permit that a customs border guard can check just he does a dog health certificate and not require a federal vet to be in attendance at the border as is currently the case and not all borders have a vet, thereby requiring falconers to go out of their way to cross a border point far from their intended destination. This simple request has to go before a

risk assessment committee comprising of numerous federal vets and bureaucrats who try to decide if this is risky or not to primarily their poultry industry. The recent outbreak of H7 bird flu in Saskatchewan did not help things and set back review of this.

On a lighter note, the delisting of the peregrine in most provinces is the first step to wild take of peregrines and Saskatchewan has already achieved that privilege for passage birds.

Next year the Canadian National Falconry meet is being held and it is currently being decided if the Saskatchewan or Alberta club will host it. On behalf of all Canadian Falconers I would like to extend our heartfelt invitation to come and join us for some fine falconry and camaraderie next October. You will all be given a warm welcome even if we can't guarantee a warm climate!

Falconry in the Philippine Islands

INTRODUCTION TO PHILIPPINE FALCONRY

As a regulated field sport, Falconry is virtually non-existent in the Philippine Islands. Despite centuries of Spanish, Dutch, English, American and Japanese occupation, this noble sport was never ingrained or even spoken of in local culture given the wide practice and history of the sport in the said occupying countries. The heritage from these cultures was limited to the basics - religion, language, etc. Falconry was never organized or recognized as a 'field sport'.

Most books trace the beginnings of the sport to Asia, particularly in East Asia. The practice of hunting game with hawks was documented in China and even Japan. Surprisingly, a Falconry Center exists in Biak, Indonesia – a country very close to my heart. Otherwise, an active falconry movement in Southeast Asia or Asia in general doubtfully exists.

Unlike in present England and North America, the sport of flying hawks at quarry has a very small following in the Philippines. In 1992, the Falconry Society of the Philippines was formed but was never incorporated. It was comprised of professionals and outdoorsmen from the metropolis who knew about the sport through books, video tapes and at the most, written correspondence with falconers abroad.

As a young man of 21, I met some personalities from this group and went through the process of undergoing an "apprenticeship"



under the auspices of the group leader who was flying a Philippine hawk eagle (*Spizaetus philippensis*) as well as a tiercel crested goshawk (*Accipiter virgatus*). Since there are no regulations governing ownership prior to learning the sport I was also learning the ropes "bird in hand" with a female crested goshawk in the brancher stage. I learned the basic husbandry skills with this bird and progressed to training a haggard female crested goshawk and had a little success in night hawking for quail and catching a few zebra doves. It is worthy to note that I had experienced handling a grass owl, and quite a few Eurasian kestrels prior to my "apprenticeship". Now that I have discovered the essence of the sport, I abashedly admit that it was a "hit or miss" ordeal for both myself and my victims.

Then came the lull in my falconry experience when I entered law school. As immersed as I was in my law books, I always managed to squeeze in the time to read myself to sleep with whatever material I had in my possession. The worldwide web and electronic mail likewise helped me expand my horizons. Light was shed on questions that I had always thought would remain unanswered in the absence of a qualified mentor.

The Archipelago is home to a variety of raptors that can be used for falconry. Whether it be from the island forests or the agricultural plains, there will be something for the Filipino falconer.

In the midst both primary and secondary forests large and diminutive raptors uncommonly observed by the booming populace are either sitting motionless in some branch or silently chasing prey with the remarkably agile but quiet flight of a shortwing. Both the Philippine and the changeable hawk-eagles are powerful candidates for the patient austringer. For the person seeking the partnership of a smaller hunting hawk, the crested goshawk will provide you with a variety of flights – from quail to junglefowl. One of my personal favorites is a small hawk commonly known as the Besra, an accipiter not unlike the fancied "Sharpies" of North American Falconry. It is smaller than the European Sparrowhawk – a renowned falconry bird and is similar to the Shikra of the East. I have spent many afternoons in the company of the besra flying them at sparrows in our backyard to moorhen in the city outskirts.

During the months of September to February (fondly called the "ber" months) the migrants arrive. Flocks of snipe, duck, and other birds bring with it the renowned Siberian Falcon (*P. Calidus*). Somehow, the presence of these migrants also bring about sightings of the resident Peregrines (*P. Ernesti*). Both can surely be utilized for falconry, the former being regularly trapped and flown in Afghanistan and Arabia while the latter is not unlike the black shaheen (*P. Peregrinator*) of these Middle eastern countries.

The Eurasian Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) also heralds the arrival of the migration season and as useless as it is in the hunting, this small falcon has its place in falconry history.

Another bird which I always have insisted would provide for great sport is the Rufous-Bellied Eagle (*H. Kienerii*). I have had only one opportunity to have one in my possession but the dreaded sour crop did not allow me to last a day with it. It is however a bird built like a falcon but interestingly has some traits of a hawk eagle. It kills on the wing as well as on the ground and hunts above the canopy. It is a beautiful bird and one day a falconer will tell its story.

While the archipelago is home to other raptors, one of them being the rare and great Philippine Eagle, it is with the above-mentioned species that I was introduced and learned the Philippine Falconry Experience.

I have had the privilege of flying the crested gos, besra, the Philippine hawk eagle and the *p.calidus*. Flights with the shortwings emanate from the fist on quail, doves and painted snipe.

I have flown a *p. calidus* successfully on doves, the Chinese francolin and feral pigeons.

The main problem in our country is the lack of regulation which tends to invite wildlife collectors who guise themselves as falconers. Also a problem is equipment and written information. With painstaking patience, I have my own collection of books, a worn out falconry glove and some busted bells. I construct my own anglo hoods and they seem to work.

I am still hoping that there will be a group of individuals in my lifetime who share the same dedication and eagerness to be a student of this sport. I hope it happens in my lifetime.

United Kingdom IAF Report 2008

Matt Gage

- **The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981** is an important UK set of laws governing many aspects of falconry. A recent consultation by the Scottish Executive was run to assess reaction to a proposed ban on the release of non-native animals into the environment. This law could have applied to non-indigenous raptors (and hybrids thereof) and ferrets. Both the Scottish Hawk Board, British Falconers' Club and IAF responded strongly to this consultation, arguing that (1) falconry birds were not deliberately 'released', and (2) that there was no evidence that non-indigenous raptors or hybrids thereof presented a noticeable threat to indigenous ecosystems through escape and invasion.



- **The General Licence**, which allows falconers to kill non-game species (such as rooks, crows, pigeons etc) is under review. The General Licence, which previously allowed all non-protected or non-game species (previously classed as 'pest species') to be hunted without justification, now requires such species can only be hunted for reasons that protect human health, safety, or wildlife. For example, it is not formally legal to hunt a pigeon to eat, but you can kill it to protect crops or dangers to aviation. The new review has attempted to exclude falconry as a valid means of control within the General Licence, which has been robustly opposed by the UK and Scottish Hawk Boards.
- **Bird of prey keeping in the UK** is a popular hobby, with the UK Hawk Board recently estimating a huge 25,000 raptor owners on our relatively small island. Centres, where the public watch free-flying displays, or can attend experience days or courses, are very common throughout the country. This level of popularity presents a double-edged sword: on the one hand it increases the representation of raptor keeping among the

public, while on the other it increases the chances of activities that bring falconry into disrepute. A good example has been circulated on local BBC news in the UK this year: a U-Tube video clip of Harris' hawks catching (illegal) quarry from a moving car in urban environments. The sound recording includes statements such as 'keep it alive' when a crow is caught, and close-up footage of struggling quarry. I hear that there is even more damaging footage available that the BBC would not broadcast. Similarly, publicity has also been broadcast of so-called falconry centres where hawks are kept in completely unsuitable conditions. In an attempt to maintain standards, the UK Hawk Board and Lantra (the skills sector for the countryside/environment) have implemented a voluntary training scheme to steward basic standards in raptor keeping and management. The training is administered mainly through 'falconry centres'. Details at: http://www.lantra-awards.co.uk/catalogue/falconry_home.aspx

- **The Festival of Falconry** has been reported elsewhere. A repeat is confirmed for 2009.

Avian influenza recently emerged in East Anglia due to the H5N1 virus, and this curtailed field meets and the movements of hawks out of control zones. Unfortunately, movement restrictions mean that the high-quality falconry birds from Eastern England cannot be flown at the Sezanne IAF field meet (!) The hysteria associated with H5N1 in the UK has calmed considerably and the government and DEFRA seem to be doing a good job in managing and containing outbreaks. In addition, Newcastle's Disease was recorded in Scotland last year, another contagious poultry disease which constrains falconry movements. Most falconers are happy to comply with movement restrictions during outbreaks, which generally apply within tight control zones.

Japan

We have completed the International Symposium for Conservation of Birds of Prey at March 8th.

The number of participant was about 80. It was not enough on the seating capacity, however it was included important persons such as staffs of several government office, corporation, teachers, zoo, veterinarian, researcher and citizens.

The symposium was reported in newspapers at March 6th and 9th. TV staff also have covered for the meeting (air time is not decided in this time, it is not short news).

Mr. Fusahei Sekiyama from Raptores Research Group in Japan, Mr. Ulrich Brendel from Berchtesgaden National Park in Germany and Mr. Bill Heinrich from the Peregrine Fund had nice presentations in the



meeting. We all greatly appreciate their professional work.

I also made a short presentation in the symposium to introduce the Japanese situation on the conservation of birds of prey, IAF, IAF works, falconry, falconer and their support on the conservation.

It seems that the audience found a new understanding.

I had a lot of support from IAF to invite the speakers, especially Mr. Frank Bond and Dr. Igor Tavcar. Dr. Bohumil Straka also supported to show the information of the symposium in the IAF website.

I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your kind works to achieve our project.

Kind regards,

Keiya Nakajima

The Japan Falconiformes Center

Report from Holland

The political climate in Holland has been changed. We still struggle to keep our sport alive. *In Holland we have now even a political party "The Party for Animals". So also for us the politic is very important. We now united with all the Dutch Falconer clubs in the NOVO .We talk together with the Government about legislation, education etc. But as always it will be a long and hard way. As maybe everybody knows in Holland we have a waiting list for coming falconers. First we had 120 falconers and the Government increased this number to 200 and some more but now the will say again they will have a maximum of 200!*

So we fight hard together with all the falconer clubs to save our fantastic sport!!

Report from Holland

Adriaan Koster

Holland

Valkerij Equipage Jacoba van Beieren

Report from Mexico 2007

We are more than ten groups and ten falconry clubs in Mexico, and more than 300 falconers and austringers from very poor until very rich people that think in many different ways. Unfortunately for many of us, the national meeting that was appointed for april 2007 was canceled because there wasn't committed associations and falconers because our differences, It was two field meetings on December 2007, a camping in the state of Zacatecas and a camping in the state of Aguascalientes, both places are plenty of jacks, rabbits, ducks, quail, birds etc.

About 200 austringers are hunting with their Harris-hawks, 40 falconers are hunting ducks with peregrine falcon and prairie falcon, few falconers are flying aplomado falcons at quail and small birds, and a miscellaneous of redtail-hawk, gray hawk, goshawk, cooper's hawk, sharp shinned-hawk, bat falcon, road side hawk, golden eagle, american kestrel, etc.

This year Carlos Tello breeds 6 aplomado falcons of one pair with the help of an incubator at his project in Mexico City, this is the second year that he has been successful, In Atizapan and in Guadalajara, also have been successful breeding Harris-hawks in captivity.

Recently our wildlife department "Semarnat" made some changes in the regulation of wildlife and now falconers need two more requirements; 1-Register of the bird in Semarnat. 2-Hunter license. 3-Special permit for transportation.

Falconry associations have good relationship with Semarnat, anyhow Semarnat it depends on what the union congress it say, there is a small group of falconers trying to reach government officers to talk about falconry regulations, let's see if there are some news about this next year.

Our good news is that Kent Carnie is agree that falconry came to America and was practiced for first time in Mexico during the Spanish conquest on XVI Century, which is what we have founded in our history.

Juan C. Rojo *fmexicanus3@yahoo.com.mx*

Lithuanian Falconers Club 2007

Darius Daugela

Lithuanian falconers celebrated the anniversary of the club. Lithuanian falconers club was formed in November 5, 1997. So our club celebrated the ten year anniversary.

Lithuanian falconers club is the only one in the country, which unites enthusiasts of falconry.

The number of falconers didn't change over the year. It contains 8 members, 3 of them are active falconers. They fly goshawks.

Games for falconry stayed analogical for the last few years- phasanes, partridges, few species of ducks, geese, doves and crow birds species, hares.

Low situation of falconry in Lithuania didn't change either. Falconry is legal. This type of hunting is determined by few items of law- shortly, precisely and clearly.

Members of club propagate falconry to society by TV, press.

Falconers participation in st. Hubertus day is one important event for our club. Lithuanian hunters and fishers association organise this festival every year. Association invites to participate famous persons, public figures such as the ex president of the country, employees of the Ministry of Environment, businessmen, famous hunters and etc.. This event could be called as society and hunters interest in falconry, beginning of changes to understand falconry. People start thinking about falconry as about style of hunting, but not as a show.

Lithuanian falconers club together with Falcon return fond prepare to participate in pergrynus returning project in Lithuania.

Report of Belgium

P. Morel

1. The main problem falconers have to deal with is the increasing number of so-called falconers and the negative impact towards Falconry especially coming from conservation associations. This phenomenon is especially true in the Flemish Region. The four falconers associations members of the IAF met several times together to address the problem. The theme of the discussion was the opportunity of a falconers' examination in order to limit the access of birds of prey only to true falconers.
2. Falconry Festival. Several associations joined their forces to organise a common tent – the atmosphere at the Festival was very good. After the Festival some participants called meetings together to discuss the feasibility of starting an umbrella organisation to deal with one voice when addressing the Ministry and authorities.
3. The Ministry of Environment met all actors using of birds of prey to discuss the need and possibilities of regulating the animal welfare aspects of keeping of birds of prey. The inquiry is still on going and we don't know the results.
4. The National Belgian Falconers Association "Club Marie de Bourgogne" celebrated the 40th anniversary of its foundation. P. Morel was nominated member of the High Council for Hunting which means a fantastic official recognition of falconry.
5. UNESCO

Contacts with UNESCO authorities teach us that there would be more chances of acceptance for multiple submissions. After enquiring about the best chances of success in case of multiple submissions, we first considered a common submission with Netherlands, but it had to be excluded due to unfavourable climate towards falconry from anti-hunting groups. In Belgium also, the Walloon Region



seems to have a more favourable approach towards hunting activities and the proposal was well accepted and encouraged. Recognition of falconry as cultural heritage by the French Community of Belgium is underway and we hope a positive outcome in the coming months.

Belgium is working on a common submission with France and Morocco.

CITES Secretariat Warning

http://www.cites.org/eng/news/sundry/2007/fraud_warning.shtml

Geneva, 24 August 2007

The CITES Secretariat wishes to draw the attention of wildlife purchasers to Internet scams related, in particular, to birds.

The Secretariat sees on a regular basis false documents that purport to be CITES export permits or re-export certificates. They are often accompanied by other counterfeit, forged or falsified documents, such as veterinary health certificates, breeder or exporter licences and animal health inspector qualification certificates. Documents like these are attached to messages encouraging recipients to purchase wildlife.

It seems highly likely that none of the authors of these messages has any access to wildlife or, indeed, any intention to supply wildlife. Instead, their intention is to persuade potential customers to pay for specimens in advance but without sending them anything in return.

Some of the false documents appear simply to have been invented by the perpetrators of these frauds and bear no resemblance to genuine documents. They usually, however, do have the appearance of being official documents, such as might be issued by a government department. They commonly incorporate the logo or emblem of a ministry or department, the flag of the country where they were allegedly issued, and counterfeit signatures and seals of authorizing officers. The documents are usually in English but some are in French or are bilingual (English and French). However, it is becoming increasingly common for false documents to be based upon genuine CITES permits. Fraudulent documents have been supplied to potential purchasers of wildlife as 'proof' of the seller's capacity to engage in trade. Although different species are offered, the majority of cases appear to involve birds.

In the past, it appears that potential customers in Europe and North America have been the primary targets of such offers for sale. However, this practice seems to be spreading and persons in central Asia and Australia are now also being approached.

The CITES Secretariat recommends to anyone who receives unrequested offers over the Internet that they contact their national CITES Management Authority to check the authenticity and validity of any accompanying documents. Contact details for these authorities are available on the National contacts and information page.

The Secretariat discourages customers who wish to purchase wildlife from sending any money in advance, unless they are completely satisfied that the seller is a genuine trader. Persons who have been the victims of such a fraud should contact their local police.

CITES Secretariat

Slovakia – new law in favor of falconry

27th June 2007

It is pleasing to report the message from president of Slovak falconers Anton Moravcik that on June 27th 2007, Parliament in Slovakia approved the new Environmental law, which is very positive for falconry and becomes the most benevolent law in the Central European region. Slovaks reused Czech example and they went even beyond this. It clearly separates wild birds from the captive bred ones, it cancels the registration of many common species such as Harris and it takes a reasoned approach in the legislative process.

Some see that Slovak law is the flagship now in this region. They will use it as a strong argument: "look at Slovakia - they leave the restrictive principle and they are in favour of real modern sustainable use..."

Sent: 28 February 2008 08:06

Falconry in Republic of Slovenia formally approved and regulated in hunting law by government

To Roman & Igor

I am thrilled personally and for all of the Member Organisations of the IAF to hear of this fantastic success that you have achieved within Slovenia by the great organizational and lobbying effort to have falconry recognized under the new general hunting law. You had opponents, and you met them with logical and sensible argument. Reasonable people and authorities recognize the cultural importance of falconry in Slovenia as well as the important role that Slovenian falconers and all falconers play as the essential leaders for raptor conservation.

Many people participated in this success through the years. You acknowledge many by your distribution above. I wish to acknowledge the great assistance provided by Christian de Coune, Patrick Morel, Robert Kenward, Harald Barsch, Christian Habich, Janos Toth, our Italian colleagues and CIC supporters, and others for contributing to this success. When I met with Roman and Christian Habich last July in southern Austria I recognized how sophisticated was the plan that

Roman developed for getting the support of the final members of the Slovenian Parliament to achieve this success. I feared the delays in the final vote, and the transition in government, might give the opposition an opportunity to defeat you but you held on.

Tonight here in distant New Mexico I raise my glass of special Slovenian wine in celebration of your victory. You are the new heroes for 2008 in the IAF and in the falconry community throughout the world celebrates with you. I ask that Tony Crosswell and Bohumil Straka spread the word to all of our IAF colleagues. Thank you for this wonderful news.

With my sincerest congratulations,
Frank Bond

European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity

Robert Kenward to Friends in Falconry

This wonderful news arrived just after posting to the IUCN website about the Charter for Hunting and Biodiversity in Europe and another 2007 project from the Sustainable Use Specialist Group (SUSG) of IUCN in Europe. The listserv message to members of SUSG (see below, about a public site that you can all access) makes 3 items of very good news in one day, which is quite unbelievable and certainly needs a lot of wine. I wish you great success for moving falconry from grey to legal in all European states.

With best wishes,
Robert

The website (<http://iucn.org/themes/ssc/susg/sub/europe.htm>) has just been updated with two useful items (thank you, David). You can now read the Bern Convention's Charter for Hunting and Biodiversity, as mentioned in Sustainable by Robin Sharp (http://iucn.org/themes/ssc/susg/docs/tpvs07erev_2007.pdf). During 2007, four members of ESUSG gave much time under leadership of Scott Brainerd to drafting which condensed the 12 CBD Malawi Principles (Ecosystem Approach) and the 14 Addis Ababa Principles into just 6 fundamentals, leading to 12 practical principles.

A charter is about rights as well as responsibilities, so the principles lead to guidelines both for regulators and for hunting, e.g. 12: Encourage acceptance by society of sustainable, consumptive use as a conservation tool. The charter addresses hunting and hunting tourism in the guidelines, partly using ideas from work by ESUSG's Wild Species and Resources Working Group. However, the 12 principles will serve for conservation of biodiversity through any sustainable use of wild resources. On 29 November 2007, the main conservation convention in Europe not only recognised CBD's Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for Sustainable Use of Biodiversity, but interpreted them practically too.

XXXV years of Polish Falconry Club „Gniazdo Sokolników”

Janusz Sielicki

The art of falconry was very popular in medieval Poland. There are evidences of falconry being practiced on the eve of Polish kingdom in X Century. In XII century the *falcatio* law was introduced, obliging to protect nests and to provide food for royal falcons. In 1584 one of the first books in Polish was published about hunting birds and with birds by Mateusz Cyganski / "Myslistwo Ptasze". The fall of falconry started in XVIII century due to preference for guns. When Poland lost freedom for more than a century falconry was additionally depressed by occupants. In XIX century falconry became practically unknown. There were few unsuccessful attempts to revive this tradition before WWII.

At the beginning of 1970's started the process of restitution of falconry in Poland. Similar processes were undertaken few years earlier in other countries of former Soviet bloc – East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Hungary. Earlier in late 60-s Mr Zygmunt Pielowski practiced falconry it on his own as a scientific experiment /he was a scientist specialised in game /. Mr Czesław Sielicki in 1970 started preparations to legalise falconry, being his interest since University /he was a forester, teacher and hunter interested in hunting traditions and kynology, he revived also the tradition of hunting horns in Poland, organised first group of trumpeters at the Forestry School in Tuchola in 1970/.

In 1971 Mr Czesław Sielicki organised the School Falconry Circle "Raróg" / Saker/ in Forestry High School in Tuchola, where he was a teacher. The very important role had the falconry course in East Germany, where he and his 6 students went for training in late summer 1971. First Polish falconers were contacted with already grown up falconry organisation and shown a model of high level falconry. That started also the model of training candidates – wit apprentice period and obligatory falconry course.

In 1972 the Ministry of Forestry allowed falconry as a legal way of hunting in Poland. Later this year Mr Sielicki organised the Polish Falconry Club "Gniazdo Sokolników" of the Polish Hunting Association with founding members being also Zygmunt Pielowski, Waclaw Lesiński, Andrzej Mania. The same autumn the first course for 6 hunters - candidates for falconers was organised in Tuchola. The first Field Meeting of Polish falconers was organised by Mr Sielicki in Kobylniki the same year with international presence. This became a yearly tradition, followed over 35 years with only one exception in XXI century – due to bird flu in 2006.

Now falconry in Poland is practised by ca. 150 falconers, mainly members of Polish Falconry Club "Gniazdo Sokolników" and Polish Falconry Order - second club established in 2001. Legal status of falconry much improved over the years, being now included in Hunting Law. Falconry now is also environment education, raptor protection and cultural heritage protection. Falconers play a main role in Polish Peregrine Restitution Project, with more than 300 Peregrines released and wild breeding population started in 1998.



First polish falconers (1972)

Golden Eagles

“Chris, how do you fancy going to see Goldie’s flown at Blue Hare in Scotland?”

Andrew Ellis

That was music to my friend’s ears. Chris is actually my Tae Kwon-Do instructor. I had been training with the club for about a year without either of us knowing the other was a falconer!

Chris has only been in the game a few years, (a yellow belt at Falconry he calls himself) anyhow Chris is a big Eagle fan. I had arranged with Neil Hunter a falconer and major collector of mine to go up and see his Eagles hunt. It had only taken us three years to get it arranged ! I was always busy so at the beginning of march started the final arrangements for a two day trip. I thought Chris would love this so on the 18th of March we were heading north on an easy jet flight to Edinburgh. we had arranged with Neil to pretty much head straight out . so on arrival as we cleared the doors of the airport there was Neil waiting or should I say driving by in his truck. We quickly bundled the bags in the back of the truck and got in. There hanging from the rear view mirror were three huge Golden Eagle Hoods! Better than any fluffy dice I thought, Neil’s smiling face said it all .He’s one of those guy’s that what ever he does he gives it 110 % enthusiasm and commitment. You cannot but be affected by this when your around him. Introductions made and we were off. A quick stop at Dobbie’s a cafe where we met up with John Neil’s brother and fellow eagle flyer all the time talking eagles and Chris sucking it all up like a sponge. After a breakfast of champions we bundled into the trucks and headed for the hill via a quick stop to at Johns to get our gear on and to load Johns eagle into Neils Truck. Neil is in a very fortunate position to have access at certain times of the year to nearly 30,000 acres of prime grouse moor . Now he admits that if he were flying falcons he wouldn’t get a sniff of the place ,Its because uniquely he offers a good service to the resident keepers that he gets to fly there. By flying his golden eagles he is helping to reduce the number of blue hares on the moor. The keepers actively control their numbers because of the dreaded ticks that pass on disease and are also capable of killing grouse chicks. The reality is that actually Neil in a perverse kind of way is helping the hares. If he were not taking them with his eagles the keepers hold shoots to cull them and actually end up taking bags far higher than Neil and his eagles ever would. The moor we were on was beautiful and what’s more pleasing is the weather was on our side! clear blue skies and a nice breeze. We pulled up and unloaded and Neil and John readied the eagles .John was flying Floyd his male and Neil flying two males, Taggart and Talon who was on loan from Jeff McKnight.

Now when Neil said there would be a lot of hares this didn’t prepare me for the amount that we actually saw. We lined out and started walking, we hadn’t gone 70 yards and an eagle slipped at one.



John took the first slip and his eagle was off the fist in the blink of an eye. Many of us think of eagles as great big lumbering giants of the bird of prey world, but this certainly isn’t the case when being flown by experienced eagle men like Neil and John. A Goldie’s speed is very deceptive and Floyd caught up to his hare in no time. The hare put on the breaks, turning sharply to the right and shot away as the eagle threw up into the air , flipping over and swinging back down and intercepted the hare another ten yards on . There was very little struggle from the hare once in those huge yellow feet . In fact Neil said its usually all over for the hare very quickly because of the massive power of the eagles grip. This basically was the pattern for the day and we witnessed many great twisting and turning flight some of which went on for 3-400 yards or more. Some ended with the eagles climbing up then throwing themselves into crashing dives



,smashing into the heather after the ever jinking and swerving hares. The eagles by no mean had it all their own way !many of the hares showed what amazing athletes they are . A hares main defence after running like the wind is to stop and wait for the eagle to commit to an attack . As the eagle streaks in the hare jinks or leaps out of the attackers path , sometimes literally over the eagle a few feet in the air. They also use the terrain. Eagles are disadvantaged going up the hill once they have lost their initial speed. The hare again waits until the eagle comes in then sidesteps the eagle and then shoots up hill as fast as it can putting great distance between itself and the eagle.

Obviously though the eagles learn quickly too! And were successful six times in all. Things didn’t always go well for Neil and John and a few times after an eagle was beat it would take off after another hare it had spotted and have to be recovered at some distance. I have huge respect for these guy’s , their physical strength and endurance would test the fittest and strongest of men . It helps with flying Golden eagles if you are a big person. The eagles way 8-14lb depending on the sex. Its not lightly that Neil say’s the ideal is a small male! Once you are carrying a few hares caught and the Eagle



the walk back to the car can be punishing. The distance you cover too whilst flying these mighty creatures is very deceptive .Before you know it you've covered 7-8 miles in no time over the sometimes knee high heather . Plus if your vertically challenged like me you have to lift your legs that much higher to clear it each and every step, and I think of myself as quite fit. But all in all you forget about burning muscles when your in the company of these magnificent predators and their natural quarry.

The moor is a special place at this time of year .With Neil's hunting coming to an end , the Grouse are displaying, the males with their "Go- back, Go-back, Go-back" calls reverberating around the hills .Skylarks singing in flight above . During lunch we drove to a new place and I was rewarded with good views of the grouse courting on the tracks. There were Curlew and Golden Plover on the moor and the keepers were out burning heather strips. This was the first time I had seen this activity, you could see other burns going on miles away on other distant hills. It was a magical day and we came off the hill,(*after lots more photo's of grouse !!! something the guy's ribbed me for "stop , stop there's another grouse "*) tired but rewarded with an experience many people will never see and I think they are the poorer for it.

Chris was blown away and more determined than ever to fly an eagle. They certainly aren't for everyone and should only be, I think be flown by an experienced few with the land and quarry fitting for such a predator. Neil most definitely has that, but he works hard to maintain it . Unfortunately our second day the weather turned against us. However not to be daunted we arranged to visit one of the country's most experienced eagle breeders, Andrew Knowles Brown. Andrew made us very welcome and showed us some of his eagles at this very sensitive time of year, which we were very grateful for. Some of his eagles were on eggs but he allowed us to see inside some of the breeding barns. On behalf of myself and Chris I would like to thank Neil, John and their families for their warm hospitality, and also to Andrew. I think Chris will be back definitely and so will !!



Artist Lucio Relaño

Lucio has for many years been a generous sponsor to IAF and his work is much appreciated. For those who were fortunate enough to have seen his exhibition at our IAF AGM in Jerez his creations will be well remembered.



Having had a career as a school master Lucio decided to retire and devote himself to his sculptures and falconry - his long time passions. This has been a successful move for Lucio and now his artwork is in many important private and institutional collections around the world including several Royal Houses.

His passion for falconry is clearly evident in his work as he features mainly Birds of Prey and Falconry but also he is well known for his creations of small game and big game hunting.



Report from Germany

8. March 2008

Like many other countries, Germany looks back at a long history in falconry. The period from 500 to 1600 saw the zenith of falconry in Germany. Particularly notable past German falconers include Emperor Friedrich II, and the fanatical eighteenth-century falconer Margrave Karl Wilhelm Friedrich von Brandenburg-Ansbach. However, there was a decline in the popularity of the sport in the 19th century, until some dedicated people founded the "Deutscher Falkenorden" (DFO) in 1923. With more than 1300 members it is now the biggest German falconry club and it is the oldest existing falconry association in the world.



female peregrine with eggs on a former eagle's nest – photo Kankel

From the beginning, the club took its responsibility in conservation of birds of prey rather seriously. When the population of peregrine falcons decreased due to the use of the pesticide DDT, German falconers together with other conservationists took immediate action to restore the peregrine population. In 1977, the first two captive bred peregrines were released by adoption by wild peregrines. The program proved to be successful and many more peregrines were released, in order to build up a healthy population of these fascinating birds in Germany.



(Photo Voigt)

To this day, more than 1,000 peregrines have been released by falconers. It is documented, that the entire East German peregrine population stems from these release projects.

Under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Christian Saar, the DFO together with the peregrine conservation society AWS initiated another inimitable project some years ago. With techniques that were adopted

from falconry, they started to restore the formerly extinct tree breeding population of peregrines. Today, there are 19 documented pairs of tree breeding peregrines. This project can soon be finished as another success story, in which falconers played a major role.

As a result, the DFO has been officially acknowledged as a nature conservation society by German law (§ 59 BNatSchG).



(Success for the project - Tree nesting Peregrine of the newly introduced generation feeding young on a former Osprey's nest photo Krone)

For his achievements in the field of peregrine conservation, Prof. Saar, former president of the Deutscher Falkenorden and passionate falconer, was decorated with the Federal Cross of Merit.

The three main German falconry clubs ODF, VDF and the IAF founder member DFO are maintaining a close cooperation. Falconry relevant political issues are being discussed and dealt with by the respective board members together, and the clubs are visiting one another's field meets on a regular basis.

As in many other countries, falconry is practiced on a high standard in Germany. Longwings as well as shortwings are flown with equal success, the availability of quarry being the limiting factor. Especially crow hawking experiences a heyday in the parts of the country with big open spaces. Crows are killed both, by waiting on flights over cover and by breath taking ringing flights in the open country.



Photo Saar)

German falconry found itself under immense pressure in the past and a ban was asked for by some nature protection societies and animal rights clubs for ideological reasons. However, falconers were able to prove their vital role in the protection of birds of prey and thus were able to look after our great hunting art. The DFO considers the official acknowledgement as nature conservation society as the most important asset in the effort of preserving our unrivalled sport for future generations in Germany.

International Falconry Meeting at "Castle Clemenswerth" in Soegel



from 22nd of October until 26th of October 2008

Preliminary daily program:

Wednesday, 22nd:	from	13.00	arrival, check in
		18.00	dinner
		20.00	address of welcome at the hotel 'Clemenswerther Hof'
		21.00	lecture on a falconry topic
Thursday, 23rd :		10.00	departure to the hunting grounds
	from	11.00 a.m.	hawking
		17.00	bag on the hunting ground
		20.00	opening ceremony at the 'Clemenswerther Hof'
		21.00	lecture
Friday, 24th:		10.00	departure to the hunting grounds
	from	11.00 a.m.	hawking
		17.00	bag on the hunting ground
		20.00	general DFO meeting and election
Saturday, 25th:		9.00	departure to the hunting grounds
	from	10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.	hawking
		18.00	bag closing-ceremony in front of the castle
		20.00	falconers 'feast'
Sunday, 26th:		10.00	service in honour of St. Hubertus
			departure

Schloß Clemenswerth, Schlaunallee, 49751 Sögel

Sögel is situated in the north-west corner of Lower Saxony (Northern Germany) close to the border of the Netherlands.

By car via Bremen airport: take the A1 for approximately 1.5 hours and leave at exit 61 "Wildeshausen" and follow the B 213 to Lastrup, then continue onwards in the direction of Werlte, from where you can follow the signposts to Sögel.

By car via Amsterdam airport: take the A1 / E 30 towards Osnabrück (changes to A30 in Germany) for approximately 2.5 hours, then at the junction "Schüttorf" take the A31 towards Emden. Take exit 18 "Lathen" and follow the signposts to Sögel.

Accommodation:

Sufficient rooms are available at Hotels in Soegel

Please inform yourself about veterinary European requests regarding your birds and dogs !

This meeting will be held at Clemenswerth close to Sögel, built by the Prince Elector Clemens August in 1737-1747 as his hunting retreat

He was an enthusiastic falconer like most people at this time all over the world .

The "Deutsche Falkenorden" founded in 1923 is honouring this tradition by organising an international falconry meeting at this historical location for the third time.

As during our last two meetings in 1984 and 1994 at Clemenswerth, we will fly our hawks in the greater surrounding area of the castle on hare , pheasant, grey partridge and crows.

Falconry in the 21st century is not only important for the preservation of hunting tradition and this part of international cultural heritage but still mirrors the fascination of 'De arte venandi cum avibus' .

We would be honoured if people from other countries would participate in our meeting or the practical falconry. For further information please contact us under : www.hantelfrau@ewetel.ne





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