

SPRING 2009



THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF FALCONRY

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR FALCONRY AND CONSERVATION OF BIRDS OF PREY

MEMBER OF IUCN



Grey partridge flush.

Champagne

HAWKING CLUB

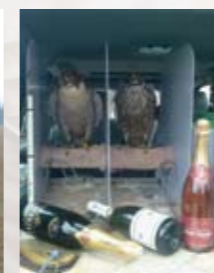
Following a kind invitation from Jean Claude Dufour, organised by Patrick Morel, President Ken McDougall led a small group of the Champagne Hawking Club to France. We spent the first day hosted on a game farm in perfect weather and very open countryside, sport was excellent and flights spectacular in the winter sunshine. Jean Claude's tiercel made the flight of the day with a tremendous stepped-stoop from a great pitch through a continental sunset.



The hawking party then moved to hawk with our hosts Eric and Martine who later joined us for the President's dinner back in Sezanne at La Croix D'Or. Fog is common at this time of year and hampered our sport but thankfully our host Jean Claude Dufour is a renowned chef and his entertainment more than made up for some lost flights and unexpected delays.



In difficult weather we had moved about 100kms - our hosts Pillipe and Dominique could not have been more kind, welcoming us to their magnificent home, hawks weathering on the lawn whilst coffee and chocolates were served. In heavily misted conditions grey partridge were abundant but the field seemed disappointed when Emma failed to bring to book the wild boar that flushed from the spinney but were excited when she managed our intended partridge as it passed between Bill and Tony at arms length. Shortly afterwards however the gallery were well rewarded and stirred firstly by Bills tiercel taking a classic grey as it passed the assembly and then by Nigel Warrington's tiercel catching one crow in each foot in the same flight - surely a feat rarely seen by any hawking party! 🦅



Cover Painting – Taita Falcon, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

The Taita falcon for me is one of nature's sparkling diamonds. I first came across the existence of this beautiful little falcon when I was about 13 and had just discovered the book *Falcons of the World* by Prof Tom Cade. I dreamt of seeing, painting and of course flying some of the wonderful Falcons contained in its pages, and above all others one captured my interest more than any - the Taita or 'Teita' as it is sometimes referred to. I was soon on a quest trying to find out more about this little falcon and soon found many other publications which talked of its beauty and conversely its rarity! It seems that all of the Past artists that have been interested in raptors and particularly Falcons have at sometime or other painted its precise chiseled little form, in particular George Lodge and David Reid Henry. It wasn't long before I was doing my best to immortalize this wonderful little falcon with my own hand and in 1997 I painted 'Zambezi Fall' which depicted a Taita stooping on swift's deep in the gorge of the Victoria Falls and I purposely gave the lower portion of the painting a dark foreboding feel to emphasize the critical nature of the Taita's population. This has since become one of my most successful limited editions which you can see on my Website www.andrewellispaintings.com. I later painted the portrait on the cover of this IAF newsletter with a more lighter positive mood to it showing a bird completely at ease and happy with its surroundings. I hope you enjoy it. **Andy Ellis – March 2009**

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Design by **Tameda Design, UK** for the International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey.
E-mail: tamedadesign@yahoo.com
Publisher/Wydawca: **TURUL Robert Zmuda**, P.O. Box 17, 00-888 Warsaw 22, Poland. E-mail: turul@konto.pl
For: International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey www.i-a-f.org. Issue: 1700 copies.

Photographs in this issue by: Keiya Nakajima, Mark Williams, Patrick Morel, Klaus Leix, Tony Crosswell, Verhelle Kerkoff, Veronique Blonrock, Yukio Asoaka, Jevgeni Shergallin, Christian de Coune, Norman Waddock, Pablo Adreani, Adrian Lombard, Matt Gage, Rob Palmer, Gunter Daes.



Editors Forward

With the advance of technology and development of the internet the time has come to change the way that we represent our membership to the world, making available information about falconry world-wide. Our last edition of the IAF Newsletter was indeed the last that included reports from our members and minutes of our meetings. In future our publication will be known as the 'IAF International Journal'. It will seek to bring you news of interest to falconers in different countries and to share how our sport is conducted in many different cultures. We will continue to provide information about meetings and administrative processes through our website, email and other electronic communication with the membership. This year also marks another change for IAF as we have our election for President and Vice-Presidents. It is with sadness that we lose Jose Manuel Rodriguez-Villa as his two terms of office draw to close. Personally I have enjoyed working with JM – he has been an outstanding representative for our sport, always good humored, with fertile ideas and a good friend. To start the process of change we have collected

together some articles from different parts of the world. It would be good in future editions to include selected articles from national magazines of outstanding falconry significance and that share our passion for falconry.

Patrick Morel and I have lately shared in an ongoing conversation about our motivation in falconry, much like most of our members do in their local pub, wine bar, BBQ and social event. Like Patrick I too lost interest in shooting many years ago and gave it up until a few years later when I realized that it was not about my ability to be a good shot but was about it being a way of life experience that could create enjoyable sensations I could not experience any other way. One certainly does not remember many shots but there are the few magical ones that really mean so much – however the sight of a woodcock flying through the wood, a green woodpecker calling as it escapes the beaters, my dog making a superb retrieve, my cleaning the gun with the smell of cordite and oil all touch something deep inside. Falconry equipment and paintbrushes litter the tables and annoy my wife but for me are so inspiring.

It has been the same with my falconry. I gave it up twice, years ago, as I became disillusioned with the experiences from what I was doing. But I missed the hawks on the lawn more than anything and noticed that the triggers they provided for my moment to moment thoughts were missing - I found myself struggling to run my life.

Over my lifetime I came to realize that my world comes to me through my falconry – everything I see is understood through my falconry, every moment of every day is clarified by what my



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falconry is doing. Daily routines of managing my falconry as my way of life create my way of acting, my relationships, enjoyment or misery. The Sparrowhawk that flies through the yard as I walk out the door confirms to me my authenticity



somehow, the wild passage Peregrine that was waiting for me on my airfield this week and who gave me the perfect flight at a woodpigeon somehow linked my own hawks to her natural world as they flew in the following minutes under the same sky, in the same air. My desire for weather and artistic flight confirms my being somehow and has provided me with context

which previously, without falconry, I missed. My just doing it as my routine actions creates me as it creates its own flight, as each flight is its own unforeseen surrender to divine creation and a magical experience in my chosen daily routine.

Today I have flown three falcons – 2 went well for where they are at in their lives, green plover passed over us at a great height arriving for the new breeding season. Continuity is the thread of life in my falcons and dogs in the world around me and around which I weave my life – my life given me by my falconry providing joyful experience for my falcons in every aspect of their lives. As I now visit them on their screen perch for the night we talk with pictures in ourselves of what life has been and will be – it's enough, so long as I maintain focus on my own being and its way of life. Greater still when several lives can come together, as we did in shared experience in Sezanne just before Christmas in our shared dream, attraction was created bringing unforeseeable fulfillment in so many enjoyable sensations, now memories that live forever somehow. Enjoy your falconry. 🦅

Anthony Crosswell

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IAF AGM 2009

Wokefield, United Kingdom

Thu 9th - Fri 10th July



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of the
International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey



Hosted by
BFC
The British Falconers' Club

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and Honeybrook Animal Foods



DATE	TIME	PROGRAMME
THURSDAY 9 July		
Arrival	08:00 morning	IAF Advisory Committee meeting (for AC members only) Arrival and registration of IAF delegates in hotel
IAF AC	12:30	IAF AGM 1st part - registration and coffee
IAF AGM 1ST PART	13:00	Opening by the President Address by BFC Approval of the minutes of the AGM 2008 in SA – Adrian Lombard Financial report 2009, budget for 2010 – Antonio Carapuço President's report VP report Bill Johnston VP report José Manuel Rodríguez-Villa Coffee break Reports of the working groups (limited to important/urgent matters) Administration Working Group - Frank M. Bond, President Advisory Committee – Alexander Prinz Finance Working Group - Antonio Carapuço 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 Russian Speaking Europe and Central Asia WG - Jevgeni Shergalin IAF/CIC UNESCO Cultural Heritage Submissions WG – Patrick Morel Falconry Festival Working Group - William Johnston AGM Planning Working Group - Patrick Morel Other Appointees IAF Newsletter Editor: Anthony Crosswell

Date	Time	Programme
THURSDAY 9 July continued...	19:00 20:00	Public Relations Officer: Bohumil Straka Public Information Officer: Jevgeni Shergalin Reports of the delegates (limited to 5 min. or important/urgent topics) End of IAF AGM 1st part Informal banquet – social evening by BFC in the Mansion House. Falconry art exhibition. IAF and BFC presentations. Any contributions for the BFC raffle will be gratefully received.
FRIDAY 10 July IAF AGM 2ND PART FF ARRANGEMENTS	07:30 08:00 13:00 afternoon evening	IAF AGM 2nd part – coffee UNESCO nomination status Arrangements and coordination for Falconry Festival AGM 2010 place and date Miscellaneous... IAF elections, President, VP for Europe, Asia, Africa and Oceania Common photograph session for IAF journal End of IAF AGM Moving in Englefield Estate to the location of Falconry Festival Time for building IAF and national exhibitions Champagne Reception at the invitation of the Festival organisers Individual entertainment at the festival
SATURDAY 11 July FESTIVAL 1ST DAY	9:00 17:00 evening night	Falconry Festival program Participation of the delegates in IAF and national exhibitions End of Falconry Festival official program 1st day Individual entertainment at the festival Consuming, singing, playing, dancing at national tents till sunrise...
SUNDAY 12 July FESTIVAL 2ND DAY DEPARTURE	9:00 17:00 evening	Falconry Festival program Participation of the delegates in IAF and national presentations End of Falconry Festival Disassembly of exhibitions and departure

Nominations for elections

IAF President and Vice President for Europe, Asia, Africa and Oceania

To Members of the IAF,

Every 3 years the Council shall elect the President and the Vice Presidents pursuant to the article 10.6. of the IAF constitution. Since last elections happened in 2006 during IAF AGM in USA, next election will happen during IAF AGM in UK on July 10th. Current IAF President Frank Bond will be completing his first term and José Manuel Rodríguez-Villa will be completing his second and final term as Vice President for Europe, Asia, Africa and Oceania.

The President and Vice Presidents must be a National Delegate of or nominated by a Member Organisation, and after serving a term is eligible for re-election to a second term of office pursuant to the article 11 of the IAF constitution.

This call is to request IAF member organisation to nominate suitable and respected candidates for these positions.

Nominations close 3 months before AGM at 12:00 GMT on April 10th.

This is also to encourage anybody, who would be willing to serve on the Advisory Committee so that Presidential candidate(s) will be aware of those people from whom they can select the team for the next AC.

Both election nominees and AC potential candidates should send a summary presentation of their falconry experience, qualifications, personal background and any ideas that they might have for the future direction of IAF.

The nominations and related matters should be sent directly to the IAF Executive Secretary Dr. Adrian Lombard: lombarda@mweb.co.za, who will confirm the sender that it was received.

Bohumil Straka, IAF Public Relations

IAF AGM 2009 info

The IAF Annual General Meeting 2009, hosted by The British Falconers' Club, will be held in Wokefield Park, United Kingdom on Thursday 9th to Friday 10th of July followed by the Falconry Festival in Englefield Estate near Reading on July 11th-12th. The driving distance between both locations is only 10 min.

Despite the consolidated program, this meeting will be significant because of the IAF elections, UNESCO and other important agenda and it is believed that we can have a very successful AGM. Concerning the Falconry Festival, it is expected to be even bigger and more successful than the first festival in 2007. Over 40 nations around the world are expected and invitations will be also issued to the UNESCO Committee responsible for the Intangible Cultural Heritage programme, to which the United Arab Emirates are making the multinational UNESCO submission on behalf of Arab falconry and other selected falconry nations. Visit www.falconryfestival.com internet page for more details. Both IAF AGM and the Festival will make this an extraordinary joined event.

How to get in AGM

Many of IAF delegates will drive themselves directly in the hotel without any need of assistance. Another part of delegates, who want to be flexible or extend their stay in UK, will probably rent cars at the airport and they will drive to the hotel. The main BFC AGM coordinator, Tony James will arrange transport from the airport for IAF delegates without cars. If you need transport, do not forget to indicate exact flight details in the IAF AGM registration form.

Venue

Hotel 'De Vere Venues', Wokefield Park, Goodboys Lane, Mortimer, Reading, Berkshire, RG7 3AH, Great Britain. GPS navigation Lat: 51.386299 Long: -1.020795.

It is about 50 km drive from Heathrow London airport to the west on motorway M4 to reach the location. Englefield is just about 10 km north west of the hotel, which enables to move fast to the Falconry Festival when the AGM is over on Friday afternoon. For details of the hotel, please visit the web site:

<http://www.deverevenues.co.uk/find-venue/wokefield-park.html>

Reservations and costs

Everyone is responsible to make the hotel reservation on their own, directly on the website above. In case of problems, you may ask for assistance from Kathryn Ashworth, Wokefield Park hotel diary co-ordinator via e-mail: kashworth@deverevenues.co.uk or tel: +44 1189 33 4499, fax: +44 1189 33 4031.

Special rates were negotiated with the hotel, so anyone booking rooms online should apply the promotion rate code CPBFCB. Hotel offers these special rates: Bed & Breakfast £65 (+15% tax) pp or Dinner & Bed & Breakfast £85 (+15% tax) pp.

Visas and UK tourist info

Most of European and some overseas countries do not need visas to enter Great Britain. If you are unsure, check the government website <http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk>


The official website for travel and tourism in the UK is <http://www.visitbritain.com> Here you can look at maps, destination and city guides, accommodation, find travel and transport information as well as lots of practical travel advice. You can select your country and preferred language.

Social program

The main social event will be Thursday evening. A meal is booked in the Mansion House (see pictures on the hotel website). Mark Upton is expected to hold an impressive private preview of falconry art. Mark will exhibit works from various artists including Andrew Ellis, Ron Digby and others. BFC will also organise some special surprise and raffle this evening. IAF delegates are welcomed to bring some raffle items to support organisation costs of our host.

Another social event is scheduled for Friday 19:00, when the Festival organisers invite IAF delegates to attend a Champagne Reception. This should be a great introduction for many of the IAF delegates to various BFC and other UK club falconers.

Further info updates

When the meeting is approaching, please check occasionally our website <http://www.i-a-f.org> which will be supplied with the latest/updated IAF AGM info. 

UK IAF REPORT

Falconry in the UK is well, with increasing numbers of people seeking out information on how to join the falconry community. With legislative constraints at a relatively low level this has caused its own set of problems of animal welfare with some newcomers, although we do find this is more by ignorance rather than by malice. But it is up to every individual who introduces someone to falconry to ensure that the welfare of any hawk taken on by a novice is at its utmost. The Hawk Board, which is the representative body of falconers in the UK, instigated a few years ago the LANTRA falconry curriculum which has dovetailed into the UK's education system. It is a good starting point for potential falconers, and along with the Hawk Board codes of practice and conduct, will aid any aspiring falconer to keep within our country's Animal welfare legislation.

The Festival of Falconry as was heard at the conference is to be run again on the 11th and 12th July 2009 to aid in the UNESCO applications for falconry to be accepted as an intangible cultural heritage. All countries are welcome to attend, please contact the IAF festival committee or myself if there is anything further you wish to know, or visit the Festival web site <http://www.falconryfestival.com/>

Avian Influenza continues to break out in the south of England, fortunately the North including Scotland has been free of this disease, it continues to cause problems for falconers close to the outbreaks with bird movement controls up to 20k from any new outbreak and all organised falconry meets having to content with 'Bird Gatherings' controls. Bio security is something that now all

falconers have to consider, which in the long term can only be beneficial to us all. Now in its 9th year the Schedule 4 review to establish which species of the UK's wildlife is accorded its highest protection is looking like it is about to be completed. The Government consultations that came thick and fast last year to Scotland and were robustly defended by Hawk Board and IAF appears to have been successful, while none of the proposed Bills have been published, all government departments dealing with the issues have advised me that it was not their intention to compromise falconry and Bills presented would not impinge upon falconers or falconry.

The hybrid issue is still at the forefront of our minds as is seen from the reports by the IAF hybrid working group. One thing that has been started in the UK is the recently instigated British Falconers Club hybrid policy which at the moment is concentrating on longwings of full-species crosses (i.e. not pertaining to subspecies crosses within peregrinus). The following recommendations of the BFC Hybrid Working Group are:

1. Falconers to recognise and agree upon extra responsibilities with the birds they fly. For hybrids in particular, we recommend all falconers who intend to fly them free take every responsible step NOT to lose the bird (= always use reliable 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, and a more robust code of practice for BFC members.
2. An end to wild hacking/deliberate release of hybrids. This practice teaches



wild survival, and was associated with the few escaped and free-living hybrids in Germany, leading to a call for a successful hybrid ban there by powerful Green lobbies. The use of large conditioning pens is now routine, which allows fitness development under safer control, and eliminates loss of eyasses at hack.

3. 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. Some 'field trials' of such rings are currently being performed.
4. Continued cooperation between falconers and ornithologists to increase field and genetic research into hybrids

in the wild, and to make any hybrid issue transparent.

Also BFC now have the unique 'pink rings' freely available through the club. BFC members are requested to put these rings on eyasses and adult hybrids, and it is a condition of BFC fieldmeets that hybrids wear such rings. The ring identifies the bird, and also has a Reward hotline telephone number that will help repatriation of any lost hybrids (operated courtesy of Honeybrook Farm Foods Ltd). The initiative has been so far very positively embraced by Members. All falconers in the UK look forward to seeing as many of you as possible next July at the Festival of Falconry. 🦅

Anthony Crosswell, UK IAF



David Reid Henry

ARTIST AND FALCONER, A SOUTHERN AFRICAN HERITAGE

In a distant childhood, spent in what was then Salisbury, Rhodesia, I have a cherished memory of the original Queen Victoria Museum as an imposing two storey building which stood at the western end of Jamieson Avenue (now Samora Michele Ave), surrounded by a grove of tall Jacaranda trees whose mauve flowers dominate the city when in season. The museum was heaven to a youngster, fascinated with nature and wildlife and the mounted animals and birds filled me with awe. It was here that I met, for the first time, an individual who gave me an initial glimpse of what was to become a life-long passion. I clearly remember a tall imposing man with distinctive British accent who took me round the side of the building to see his eagle. The Eagle was huge and beautiful and stands out in my mind to this day. She was 'Tiara' and the man was David Reid Henry.

Most falconers are familiar with paintings by David Reid Henry. They graced books that we have pored over in our youth and longed to own, Mavrogordato's "A Falcon for the Field" and Brown and Amadon's "Eagles, Hawks and Falcons of the World". His distinctive style is reminiscent of that

of George Lodge, also an outstanding wildlife artist and falconer. This is not surprising as David studied under George Lodge, as did his father, and learned his falconry from him. George Lodge was a central figure in British falconry, before and immediately after the war, when he served as Vice-President of the BFC. His role as a bird of prey artist is echoed by Andrew Ellis today.

David was born in Sri Lanka 1919, the second of two sons of George Henry who was himself, an accomplished wildlife artist. David studied at Mount Radford School in Exeter where he was able to develop his artistic abilities. Both brothers hero-worshipped the famous wildlife artists of their day, Thorburn, Lodge and Kuhnert. David was conscripted in 1940 and joined the Royal Tank Corps, and was sent, as an officer-cadet, to Sandhurst. This was not far from George Lodge's home, the Hawk House in Camberly, and David lost no time in calling on Lodge. The old artist treated him with great generosity, giving him the freedom of his studio and teaching him the tricks of the trade. It was George Lodge who introduced David to falconry. At the end of the war, David renewed his links with George Lodge and was introduced to

J.D.MacDonald, who with F.O. Cage, was writing "Birds of Sudan". They required a bird artist and his career was launched. He married in 1948 and had two daughters. In addition to illustrating a number of books he illustrated a number of postage-stamp series including sets for Mauritius and Botswana. In 1960 he was commissioned to go to the then Southern Rhodesia to paint African antelope. The project collapsed as payment was not forthcoming, but it introduced him to the region where he spent the next two years, and during this time he obtained Tiara who became a huge part his life.

David wrote a number of articles to "The Falconer", journal of the British Falconers' Club, and these give insight into his falconry activities. His first article is published in December 1958. Here he describes the career of a female kestrel named 'Squirt', whom he flew in 1952. Squirt appears to have been an imprint bird with some nasty habits, but who showed interest in pursuing birds. David describes how he worked to foster this enthusiasm, with ultimate success as she finally took some 16 starlings before trying conclusions with his goshawk and tragically ending her career. What is of interest is that he was simultaneously flying a peregrine falcon, a tiercel Gos and a buzzard, so despite being somewhat 'over-hawked' he put in the effort to achieve results where few other falconers have succeeded. Interestingly, his Gos is named 'Skellum' suggesting that there was already a southern African connection.

The next article was published in December 1963. It describes hawking in Southern Africa, and coincidentally follows an article written by Paul Venter. He describes contact with Alan Savory. He discusses the variety of potential falconry birds, favorably comparing the Southern African lanner to its northern counterparts, having watched them hunting in the wild but not seeing them used as falconry birds. He describes the peregrine falcon as being too rare to use as a falconry bird, which was then the perception in the

region. He had gained experience with Gabar and African Goshawks and had seen Red-breasted Spars, Black Spars and Hawk Eagles flown by others. He gives sage advice regarding the use of larger eagles. He suggests the use of the Black-shouldered Kite as a beginner's bird which is not in keeping with today's thought.

In the December 1966 edition he writes of "Experiences with a Crowned Eagle". He obtained this bird in February 1961 when he was occupying a flat in the Queen Victoria Museum in Salisbury. The bird was a female and a young brancher in a nest where the parents had apparently



D.M.HENRY



without planning for her as well. On railways, he had to travel with her, in the luggage van, throughout the journey.

His brother notes that Tiara became the dominating influence in his life. He alone could handle or manage the bird and she had to be taken wherever he went. She became the most photographed bird in Britain. She finally died in 1973.

His final article is a discussion of the painting 'Kite Hawking' by Joseph Wolf. He describes this as perhaps the finest bird painting ever to have left an artist's easel. This was finished and signed in 1856; it was then sold for £600 but in 1942, when it came up for sale again, it was bought for only £9. Many of us would recognize this great painting which depicts a cast of Gyr Falcons taking a Red Kite.

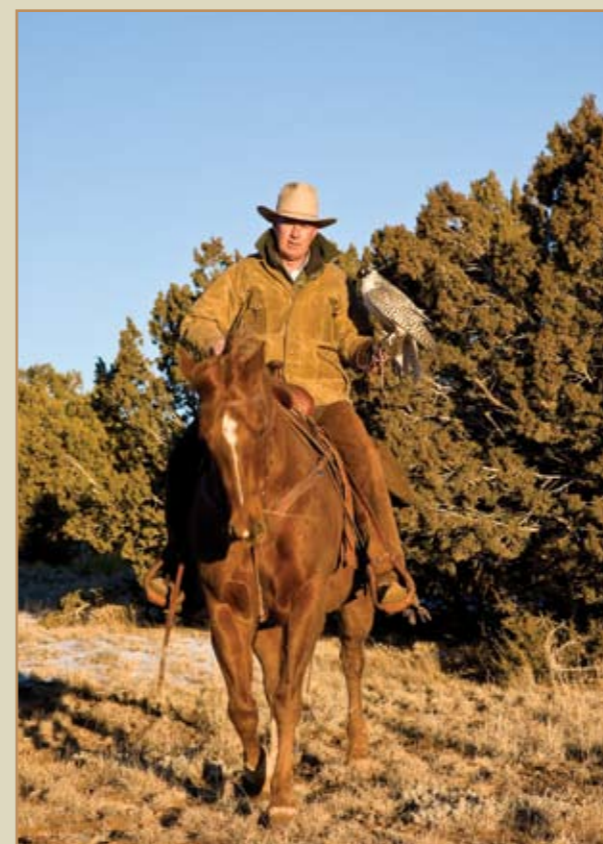
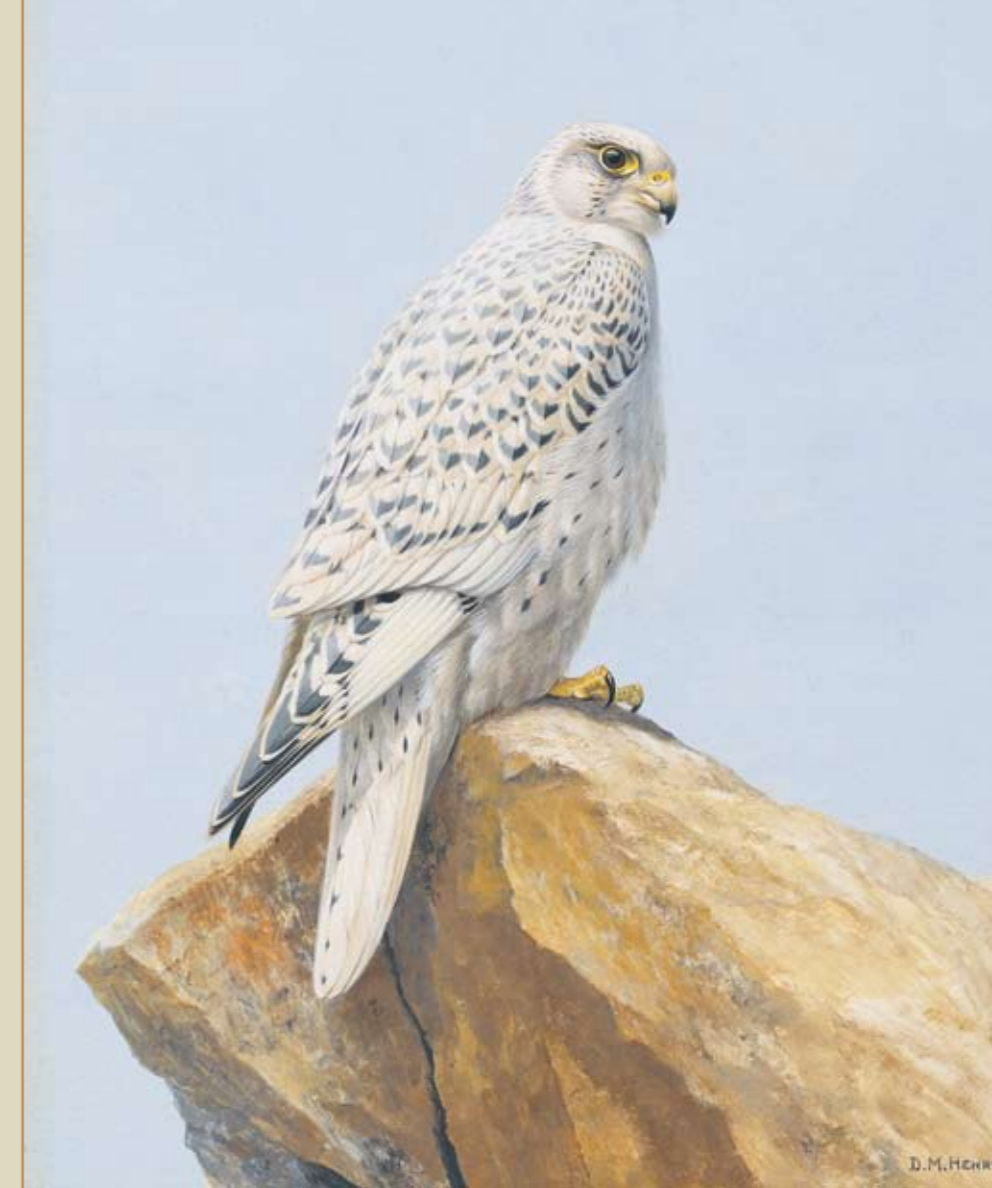
David's first marriage ended in divorce. He loved southern Africa and moved to Rhodesia where

disappeared, although this proved not to be the case. When an attempt was made to climb the daunting tree that contained the nest, the eaglet bailed and was picked up off the ground a couple of hundred yards away. He fed her up for a month then started her training as one would a goshawk. He states that she never developed any bad habits although he does note that her grip was enormously powerful and his brother tells us that on more than one occasion she put David in hospital with lacerations to his arm. He had difficulty entering her; carrying a bird weighing 12 lbs. presents some problems! He solved this by letting her take stand in a dead tree and using line of beaters to flush a hare, which she dispatched in fine style. He notes that he learnt how to make in and take her up from a kill. She was not a fool and would not be deceived by a tit-bit - "she wants her reward from the kill and so it has to be." When her excitement quietsens the kill can be taken from her, but "I have to be very certain of my grip on the jesses when the robbery takes place". He writes that working with a large eagle offers more trial of one's resources (material and spiritual), than pleasure. "Tiara inhibits every single aspect of my life". He could not go anywhere



he took out citizenship. He married Dr. Louise Westwater, naturalist and medical doctor, in 1976.

He was gregarious and was a good conversationalist. He was dogmatic and held strong views, particularly on politics. He was vitriolic about beaurocracy. His years in Zimbabwe were happy and productive and he had reached a position in his art where he could choose his own subject and could not satisfy the demand for his paintings - one-man exhibitions were sold out shortly after opening. I remember watching a television interview where he described the process of preparing for a painting. He would study museum skins, try to watch the birds in the wild and study captive specimens if possible. This care of preparation shows in his paintings. Falconers can be sharp critics of art, noticing quickly if the posture or proportions of the subject are wrong. I would be correct in saying that, to a man, we admire his paintings, seeing not only that the form is right but that



he has captured the very soul on the bird. I recall a small painting of his that John Condy had obtained. This was of a peregrine, on its perch, in the snow. The very essence of the bird seemed to glow out of the picture. "You see", John said, "there is a feather out of place, on her breast, where she has just preened." I met David for the last time at a Zimbabwe falconry club braai. We got on well, I thought, but that may have been because of the rather decorous girl friend I had at the time. David invited us to visit him and see his studio but as I was a medical houseman, I had to find time to arrange the visit. Weeks went by, and I tried to contact him to set up the visit and was shocked to find that he had just died. He had developed cancer and, after a short illness, passed away on 26th September 1977, aged only 58. A competent fellow falconer and great artist; he is part of our heritage, and left us too soon.

By Adrian Lombard, 11th March 2007 🦅

All paintings by David Reid Henry, from the collection of the President Frank Bond (pictured left).



ECOSSE, HIGHLANDS

26 AOÛT 2006

By Patrick Morel

Today I fly alone. Two hawks and a dog, this is a lot for a lone falconer. I leave a hawk in the car and depart to do the descent towards the river (Dulnain) at the foot of the 'Frenchman' peak (Cnoc Fraing), a mountain of 745m. The wind is moderate to strong and blows ideally towards the mountain flank, perfect conditions for a falcon climbing on the breeze. The whole slope facing the river is perfect for this wind.

Attila, pointer dog 5 years old, is unleashed and our hunt begins; he has only one ambition: to find game to mark it with a solid point.

After some minutes of enthusiastic questing, he brutally halts into a solid point. Jeronimo, Peales tiercel of two moults, is unhooded, comfortably facing into the wind. He takes in the scene before him, has a glance at the dog, he gages the territory, rouses himself and takes to his wings. He seems motivated and rows powerfully for his climb. A few strong careers bring him above 300m (in French we used to say that a falcon makes a career when he is climbing) Arrived at this his first pitch, helped by the breeze; he then uses the wind, climbs like a helicopter. Soon he is no more than a tiny speck in the sky. He puts himself upwind of the dog, far in front of us and *se guinde au-dessus des nues* (places himself very high in the sky). I advance gently towards Attila to do everything in harmony: check the height and the hawk's position, I decide the service can be done facing the wind. A hare leaves...respected and ignored by the dog.

Too bad, Jeronimo is left on the wing and Attila restarts his quartering. His quest is ample and intelligent, flowing with the contours of the ground. Attila has a short nose but compensates this defect by an excellent contact, obedience to the finger and to the eye. His beat is a big part of the slope that I descend in a zigzagging path. The slope is long, close to two kilometres with an important difference in height – 400 to 500 meters. But today there were no grouse.

We have arrived at the river and it's necessary for me to climb back up to the high ground to resume a beat more to the centre of the slope. The climb is hard and I am short of breath. Jeronimo always is above me, as though attached to me by a wire, at a beautiful height. Attila must use the lie of the land while working a cheek wind. We eventually arrived at the top of the hill, Attila

immobilizes himself, at last, to the point. Without haste (anyway, I would be unable to run!!!), I approach the dog. A last cast of my eye in the air: the hawk has disappeared – a worrying moment. My receiver is now out of the cover and the signal verifies contact. Jeronimo always is there ... somewhere above me. I sit in the heather, take the binoculars and begin searching the sky; after some minutes, I discover the tiercel, still perfectly centred, far enough forward in comparison with us and very high, to lead above me, in the middle of the clouds in which he momentarily disappears! I approach the dog while keeping my head in the air in order not to lose sight of the hawk – this is a perilous exercise in this land sprinkled with holes and ditches. Two grouse flush from my feet prattling away, or rather while laughing, “laughing” grouse say the British. The attack is lightning fast and the stoop unending. The grouse dive towards the

river below, flying to shave the ground while following the contours. As she is about to be struck, she throws herself in a ditch and the hawk rebounds like a bullet to climb back up as high as at the time of his first attack.

Attila ran at the first wing of the flushed grouse and followed to the put-in; quickly he is on point at its new retreat. A new flight of the grouse and superb tear drop stoop finishing once more by the grouse dropping itself into an escape hole at the last moment. These old grouse are devilish and know their territory intimately. They are pestered daily by the eagles, harriers and wild peregrines and know all the refuges. Jeronimo resumed his highest pitch and is difficult to see despite the clear sky sprinkled with small flaky clouds. I reassure myself by again testing the receiver – a look in the binoculars and here we set off again for a third service. This time, the grouse is buffeted but falls close to a big peat hole full of water. The banks are mined with holes and galleries and the grouse finds refuge in the one of them. Impossible to raise it despite the dog that asks only to transform itself into a terrier!!!

After some minutes, I leave the hidden grouse and restart Attila to resume his questing. We are again at the bottom of the slope and again it is necessary for me to climb back up to the top. With feet of lead I restart my assault of the hill. Jeronimo did not lose his morale and has resumed his high pitch to view the field. Attila also retains his enthusiasm and works under the wind while climbing back up the slope. The exhausted falconer, his pain increased and gasping for breath; at last the climb is accomplished, my watch says it's 16h30. The hawk has been on the wing for an hour and half.

This time, my path takes me close to the foot of the Frenchman. Jeronimo eases himself to slip across wind and comes to lean on the flank of the mountain. The air current seems to inhale and sucks him literally upwards. In a few minutes he disappears. Confirmation with the receiver: he



always flies above me, somewhere in the clouds but is totally invisible. The quest is long and the grouse are few this year; it has been a bad breeding season and the rare birds we find are old ones or couples without young. Attila does a superb backward point and blocks a couple of grouse. I approach slowly up to him, the time no longer counts today; I leave the dog to rest, he has covered many kilometres! Once more, I have to use the binoculars to find the hawk with a meticulous search; he is perfectly upwind of us, some hundreds of meters forward, as if suspended by a wire above us. I sit and take a leisurely look at the scene, time to regain my breath and to take advantage of this moment of excessive emotion, always fascinated by this invisible link that binds the man to the bird. To my command, Attila moves like a cat and flushes a small covey of grouse that spin straight down the slope. The hawk instantly starts his attack and stoops to lead the quarry doing a magnificent tear drop – I lose sight of him for several seconds. I have fun myself to count the seconds: 20, 21, 22 ... 24 until he meets the grouse that cover several hundred meters. At last, this is the mortal blow in a cloud of feathers. The grouse falls lifeless, the wings closed, struck down by my falcon far below.

With a lighter heart, I descend once more the long slope. Jeronimo holds court on an old very dark rooster. He is as if drunk with his eyes as slits. He has broken the

cervical vertèbrae of the grouse but remains immobilized, intoxicated by his flight, motionless on his prey that he holds in his foot. He takes many long minutes before he begins plucking. I sit close to him; the flight has lasted close to 3 hours. I have witnessed one of the biggest spectacles that nature can offer: a peregrine falcon from exceptional heights in hunting flight for true wild game in its natural environment. The falconer is God, wrote Victor Hugo; today I rejoin with him. Attila lays down by my feet, overseeing attentively the plucking and then the meal of Jeronimo, his hope to glean some small



Painting by Anthony Crosswell



morsels. I wait until Jeronimo is well gorged; he takes his time to feed but he deserves it. I am happy with him, pick him up and hood him on the fist. The grouse has its flank lacerated by the strike – a slash of about ten centimetres that has almost gutted him.

And now again for me to climb back up the slope, my body seems to be more and more stiff but I do it with a light heart ... I come back to earth and return to normality, human, I have still to fly Idalis.

Idalis, peregrine falcon of three moults, is normally better than her flying companion. She is naturally aerial despite her big size and flies perfectly in the wind. The wind is ideal and Idalis, having been at hack, she knows how to use it.

Her flight is shorter but with more classic natural beauty. Attila quickly finds grouse close to our path across the moor. In a few wing-beats, Idalis leaves the fist heading towards the foot of the mountain and allows herself to be carried by the wind to attain her

high pitch. It takes only a little time for her to be a speck in the sky. She returns towards us while slipping against wind, her wings half closed - places herself upwind above the dog, perfectly centred – ‘the love flight’ as this is called by the old falconers to describe a hawk that focuses herself on the dog.

The approach is done calmly. I flush a small covey; the winged missile committed instantly to the grouse and gives a lead on her prey. A tremendous rush of air accompanies the tear drop stoop. As always, the grouse flee towards the river and follow the slope at full tilt. The attack noise intensifies and the covey breaks up. Idalis gives impression to pass under the grouse before rebounding to rush through them flying on to secure the lead bird about thirty meters above the ground.

The falcon stretches herself with her long legs; the drama plays itself out in a few seconds. An old rooster over which she mantles - the pinnacle of falconry can seem easy sometimes! 🦅

[1] Se guinder signifie s'élever extrêmement haut dans le ciel

[1] Bourrir les perdrix est les faire lever devant soi de manière spontanée

[1] Victor Hugo dans 'Marion Delorme' a mis en scène la passion de Louis XIII pour la fauconnerie :

L'Angely : ... Vous tenez pour vertu
Avec Raison cet art de dresser les alètes

The IAF is greatly indebted to our generous AGM sponsors:

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Following over 50 years of membership and support of The British Falconers' Club (BFC), Bartle Hodgkiss, Chairman of William Hare Group and recently an honorary member of the BFC, has generously met our sponsorship appeal for the hosting of the International Association for Falconry's AGM, being held in conjunction with the Falconry Festival. William Hare Group is the leading independent steel fabrication company in the UK. They have extensive design and engineering resources both in the UK and India that enable it to develop the best engineered solutions for structural projects around the world. They also operate in the major structural market sectors including oil & gas, petrochemical, civil and infrastructure. The Group's presence in the Gulf is led by William Hare U.A.E. LLC and William Hare Dubai, from where the businesses provide a fully integrated fabricated structural steel service, from engineering, fabrication, painting and installation. In addition, its stockholding arm EMDAD Steel U.A.E. has the capacity to stock 30,000 tons of steel plate and section materials, and primarily supplies steel structure fabricators.

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The International Association for Falconry Meets in South Africa



In 2008 the IAF Annual General Meeting and Assembly of Delegates was held in conjunction with the Annual South African Falconry Association Field Meet. This took place at Thaba N'Chu, in the Free State Province of South Africa. Thaba N'Chu lies roughly in the centre of South Africa in an area of Highveld Grassland and the event took place in July which is mid-winter for this region. Representatives of some 20 nations were present and this was, in large part due to The Emirates Falconry Club whose generous support made the attendance of a number of these delegates possible. We had fun, flew hawks and socialized, but this was not the important product of this meeting nor should we overlook the hard work which took place and produced real results for Falconry both regionally and internationally. There is a serious side to this endeavor which must justify the effort and expenditure.

Regional Significance

The hosting of an International Conference had the effect of raising the profile of Falconry within the region. This is an area of the World where the heritage of Falconry is tenuous at best and the vast majority of the population is unaware of the existence of falconry. The political and economic pressures will vary from country to country within this region and so the challenges and threats will vary. Despite this there is a core of excellence within the region that merits the support of the international community. For the first time Namibia and Zimbabwe were represented alongside South Africa. Falconry is currently

outlawed in Namibia, under serious political and economic threat in Zimbabwe; while in South Africa it is challenged by ignorance, animal-rights activism and a plethora of new legislation. Beyond the boundaries of these three countries, Falconry has been practiced sporadically by individuals in countries where no legislation exists to cover falconry or where existing legislation can be ignored. This event had the dual benefit of showcasing the standard of our art, both to the International Falconry Community and to regional conservationists, hunters, scientists and administrators.



The Assembly of Delegates with the Southern African delegates in the foreground. (Photo: Keiya Nakajima).

Benefits to the IAF

As always with events of this nature, the social interaction and 'networking' that takes place is part of the raison d'être of the event. Contacts built and problems shared are an important medium for furthering the cause of Falconry internationally. This is an understated but essential product of such meetings and probably produces more benefit

than the more formal and more measurable outcomes. Of the latter however, there were a number of points of real significance that resulted from this meeting.

1. Probably the most significant event was the attendance of Yves Lecocq, Director General of FACE, who arrived for a brief holiday in South Africa. He met with the Advisory Committee and attended the meet banquet. We were able to discuss areas of mutual interest and agree to the establishment of an MoU between FACE and the IAF.



The Advisory Committee with Yves Lecocq (Photo: Frank Bond).

2. A number of working meetings were held to deal with the management of the IAF and to chart the actions of the organization to fulfill its mandate to develop Falconry internationally and to promote the Conservation of Birds of Prey. The most important of these was a marathon Advisory Committee Meeting which dealt with a broad range of topics from Finance and the Business Plan for the IAF to developing submissions to UNESCO to considering strategies to contribute to raptor conservation. Other working meetings included a workshop on the crisis in Vulture conservation and the conservation plans for the Teita Falcon.

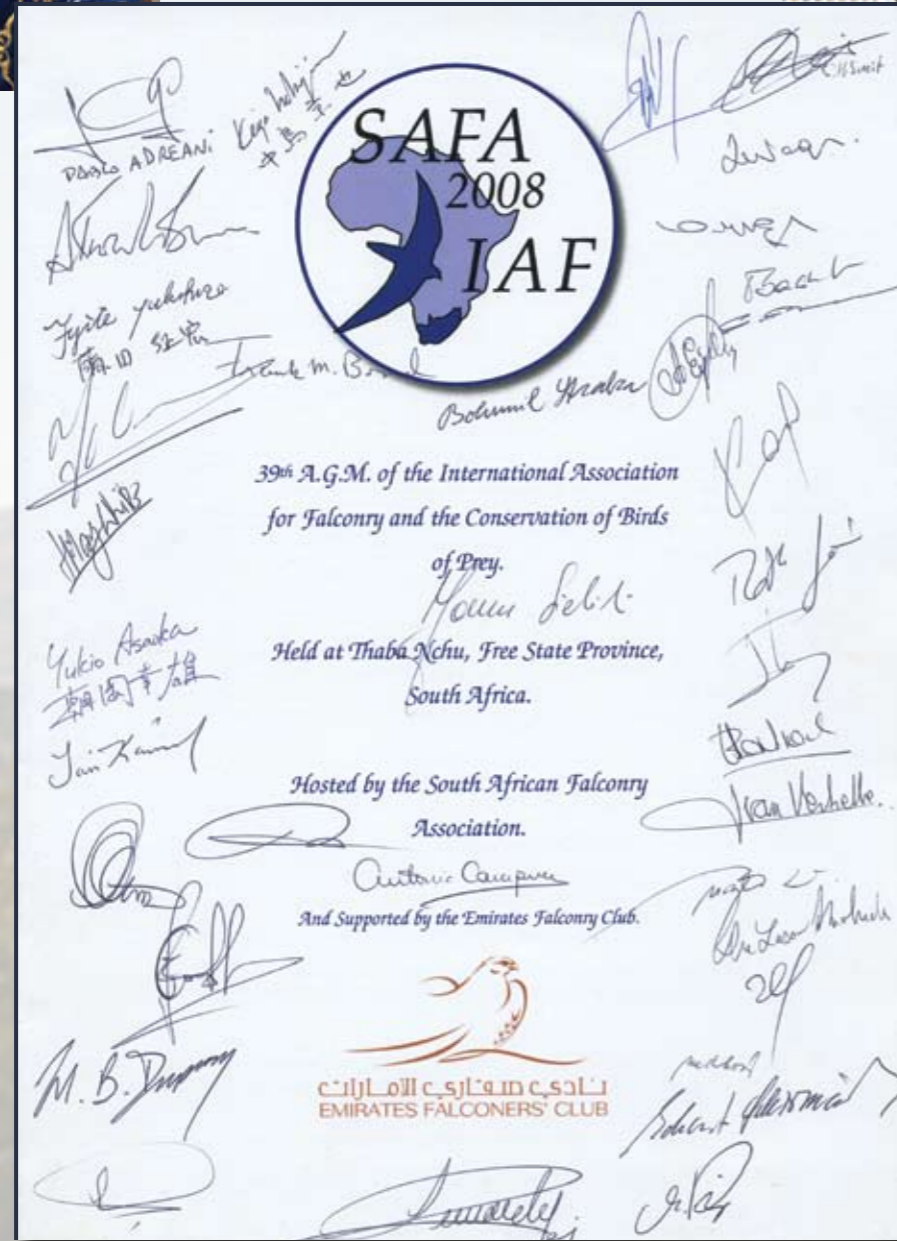
3. The major event was the Assembly of Delegates and the AGM. This occupied a full day with the presentation of Executive reports, Working group reports and National reports. The 'Verband Deutscher Falkner (VDF)' was accepted as a new member organization while the Kazakhstan membership was upgraded to Full Membership. Two formal

resolutions were accepted, one in support of the Argentinean project to establish captive breeding of the *Falco peregrinus cassini* subspecies and the other in support of the Czech falconers' project to re-establish tree breeding peregrines by fostering them with wild Goshawks. National Reports included that of Namibia where the legislation preventing Falconry in that nation was highlighted and support was elicited to confront the authorities. Similarly we received the report of the Zimbabwean falconers and learned first hand of the challenges that they face. William Johnson, Vice-President for the Americas, was re-elected for a second three-year tenure.

Benefits to South Africa

If the mandate of the IAF is to promote the Art of Falconry internationally, then one powerful tool that it has is the convening of the Assembly of Delegates in different countries and this can be strategically managed. The Host Nation receives a 'once in a lifetime' opportunity to promote falconry within its boundaries and in its region. In South Africa we realized that this is an opportunity that must be grasped with both hands. For many years our policy had been to attempt to practice our art without attracting the attention of the authorities, the public or the 'antis'. This is a policy which is bound to fail as when the spotlight falls on you, you have no legislative support and no friends. This was a heaven-sent chance to change the playing fields, win friends and influence the unconvinced. To this end, we invited a wide range of conservationists, hunting organizations, scientists and conservation authorities to attend and participate in the Meeting. We have long believed that the Endangered Wildlife Trust, with its policy of conservation through sustainable use, is the most significant conservation organization in Southern Africa. We were proud to host its CEO, Yolán Freidman, who gave the keynote speech at our banquet, highlighting the following points:

1. Staging a meeting of this nature focuses the host-nation's falconers on their standard of falconry. Inevitably an extra effort is made



to produce hawks that are in fine condition and that are performing well, equipment is scrutinized and hawk-husbandry is polished. The net result was that the standard of falconry, which we were already proud of,



Yolan Freidman, CEO of the Endangered Wildlife Trust, addresses the IAF (Photo: Frank Bond).

was ratcheted up another notch.
 2. The publicity surrounding the event raised our awareness of the need to address animal-welfare concerns. Selected falconers were given Animal Welfare Inspector training and the assistance of Falconers who are qualified veterinarians was enlisted. We established an Animal Welfare committee, registered with the local magistrate and required that our falconers signed an Ethical Hunting Declaration. This strategy ensures ethical practice and strengthens our position in the face of criticism.
 3. We took the opportunity to publicize our activities to the local hunting community with articles in the publications of the Wingshooters, the Southern African CIC and the Confederation of Hunters of South Africa. This has generated considerable interest in Falconry among the hunting organizations and has gained their support in confronting various recent legislation processes.
 4. Conservation and wildlife administration in South Africa falls under nine Provincial Administrations as well as a ministry in Central Government. Uniform policy and administration is a considerable challenge. We invited and managed to ensure the attendance of representatives of all nine provinces, as well as eliciting the interest and co-operation of the relevant officials in central government. A meeting of the

falconers and these representatives was held and a Communicating Forum on Falconry issues was established. This is a considerable success for us and this is currently functioning well.

5. A meeting was held to consider the conservation of the Teita Falcon and specifically the captive breeding projects in the region. This meeting brought together the Zimbabwean and South African falconers involved in breeding projects with this species, the Provincial Authorities responsible for the administration relating to this species, as well as the scientists and conservationists involved with the Teita. The outcomes were: co-operation and sharing of breeding stock between the Zimbabweans and South Africans, acceptance of the merits of a breeding project and agreement that surplus progeny would be flown by falconers.

6. A 'Hawk Eagle Forum' was established to



The Teita Falcon will be flown by South African Falconers following discussion at this meeting. (Photo: Ron Hartley).

promote the flying of African Hawk Eagles. These have been a popular bird, particularly in Zimbabwe, where they are flown, principally at night, on hares. Acceptance by the authorities is being sought for the use of these birds by falconers and particularly the harvesting of second chicks which are inevitably killed by the first chick (Cainism). The forum has been joined by a number of falconers from around the world and it is hoped that we can draw on their knowledge and experience to develop the standard of eagle flying in South Africa and start breeding projects.

7. The IAF Meeting gave us an opportunity



(Photo: Yukio Asoaka)

to build regional relationships. There are discussions looking to bring Namibian and Zimbabwean falconers into a closer relationship with the South African Falconers and establish the Southern African Falconry Association, without loss of autonomy for any party. Political and economic pressures continue to distract us from this end.

8. The economic difficulties faced by Zimbabwean falconers were understood and some useful second-hand equipment was obtained for them. They have considerable

difficulty obtaining telemetry equipment and old sets from falconers who are upgrading would be much appreciated.

All work and no play? Of course not

There was ample opportunity for IAF delegates and other guests to mix with local falconers and get a taste of Southern African Falconry. They were exposed to the African race of the Peregrine Falcon which was flown on duck and partridge-like Grey wing and Orange River Francolin. They saw passage



Immature male African Hawk Eagle on a Yellow Mongoose. (Photo: Yukio Asoaka.)



Bryan Voster trades a Hare with his male Crowned Eagle – not for the faint hearted! (Photo Yukio Asoaka)



Visiting cheetah's at the evening event.



Adrian Lombard in Turkmenian attire with the Slovakian delegates who are sampling Turkmenian food. (Photo: Yukio Asoaka)

Lanner falcons flown in thermals, Black Sparrowhawks and African Goshawks as well as a number of Eagles.

There was also a chance to get a taste of night-hunting Hawk Eagles on hares - surprisingly exciting if you can brave the cold.

The evening events were planned to encourage socializing so we had set meals with a variety of entertainments including a visit by a pair of cheetahs. A Cape Wine Tasting, a venomous snake show and the final evening was a traditional South African 'Spit-braai' where Springbok, warthog and crocodile were on offer. Some of our guests prepared their own surprises. Ataturdy Eyeberdiyev of Turkmenistan provided a spread of traditional turkmenian fare which included dried milk balls, bread and preserved meat, and then presented me with a Fleece hat and a Falconers gown.

On another evening the Kazakhstan delegates presented Frank Bond with a very ornate gown and hat. We shared a Kazakh sausage at the braai.

While the meetings were taking place there were some other activities for the families of delegates and other guests. A day trip which included a visit to the Golden Gate National Park and a traditional Sutu Village was organized. Shawn Hayes, accompanied by a number of our other foreign guests paid a visit to a local school, taking a Hawk Eagle with him, to give a motivational talk and was overcome to be greeted by a mass of

ululating students.

All these events helped to build friendships and exposed us to each-others' cultures. So the common bond of Falconry enriches our lives and expands our horizons.

On a personal note, organizing this meeting was an incredibly enriching and stimulating project. One of the most fascinating aspects is that I have had the chance to see my country through so many different eyes. The experience of hosting Falconers from so many diverse nations and sharing, with my fellow South African falconers, the pleasure of our hawking with them is impossible to describe.

On a final thought, there is considerable responsibility in organizing an event of this nature there are some things it is better to learn of long afterwards. Africa is full of hazards including criminals and lions and venomous snakes, but this photo made my blood run cold:



Even in mid winter, we have the worst bees in the world! 🐝

TRADITIONAL JAPANESE FALCONRY EQUIPMENTS AND APPLICATION ON THE CONSERVATION OF BIRDS OF PREY

BY KEIYA NAKAJIMA, PH.D.
THE JAPAN FALCONIFORMES CENTER



Falconry scene in Edo Period
(Taken from 'Ehon Taka Kagami Vol. 2' by Toiku Kawanabe)

Falconry is a worldwide heritage which has developed in various areas or countries with original cultures. In Japan, it is thought that falconry was handed down at around the fourth century from the Korean peninsula, and was then developed for a long time by the various Japanese cultures in each period. Falconry in Japan was practiced by the ruling class in each epoch. The birds of prey were supplied as tributes from various areas, and a proportion of these were released back to nature after the hunting period. The falconers in the old days were keepers of the birds of prey owned by their lords, and they were specialists at training the wild birds of prey for hunting purposes. In the hawking field, the lord or invited guest used the birds of prey that were trained by falconers. For this regime the Japanese falconers developed keeping facilities, tools and training methods best suited for handling the wild birds of prey not exclusively for one's personal use. In line with changes in the social structure, the keeping of native birds of prey as a personal hobby has ended, and falconers as specialists

for keeping the birds of prey for their lords have also disappeared, but the skill is still preserved by some falconers. Currently, these skills are applied to the conservation works where injured birds are returned to their natural habitat. It is very useful to handle the injured birds of prey without tame condition, and the hunting ability of the recovered birds of prey is checked before release, using training for falconry. In the Japan *Falconiformes Center*, we are regularly using the facilities that had been restored based on documents dating back to the Edo Period (1603-1868) and we realize that they feature an extremely convenient and rational structure for nurturing and training the birds of prey. We have continued the conservation works for Japanese birds of prey with these traditional methods since 1964, and our activities are recognized by many Japanese agencies, corporations, ornithologists and veterinarians. What follows here is an introduction to the Japanese falconry equipments and facilities.

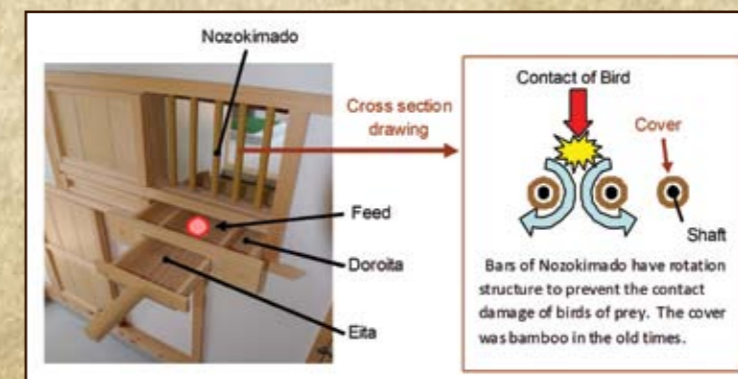
TAKABEYA 鷹部屋 Hawk House or Mews

The Hawk House is divided into five rooms and each room is about 4.4 meters square, fitted with shelves for eating and with perches. The Hawk or falcon is allowed to move freely inside when moulting, but tied to the perch with the leash once training starts, and the skylight is closed to keep the room inside pitch dark. The House has a double-structure roof to allow natural ventilation to cool down. Inside is a smooth white wall so as not to damage the plumage. The falconer enters and exits through the front side, and during the moult, the hawk or falcon is fed by using a feeding tray from the back corridor side.



NOZOKIMADO 覗窓 Inspection Window

The upper part of the feeding window has a sliding door for inspecting the inside of the mews. The lattice is an only vertical bar to prevent feather rub in flapping.



EITA 餌板
Feeding Tray

Wooden tray to serve feed to hawk or falcon placed in the mews. Used together with DOROITA, the drawer-shaped board.

DOROITA 泥板

Drawer-shaped board to insert the feeding tray used to feed the hawk or falcon in the mews. Set the feeding window i.e. lower section of the NOZOKIMADO.



TOBOKO 外架
Outdoor Screen Perch

Used outdoors for keeping the hawks or falcon tied.



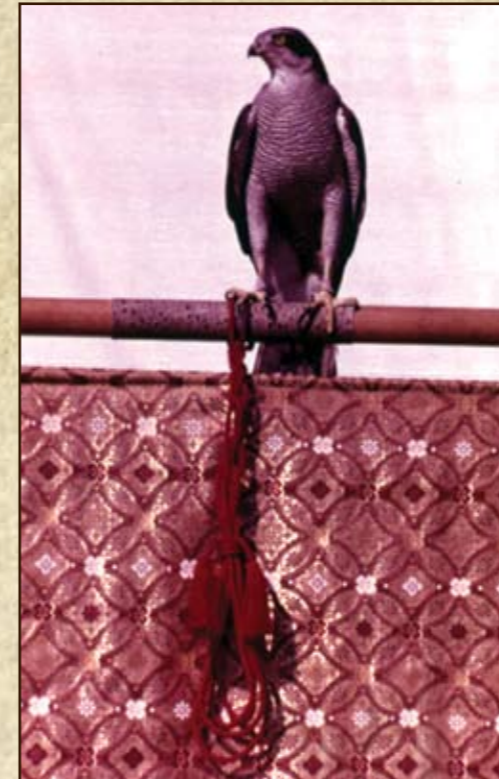
DAIBOKO 台架
Indoor Screen Perch

Used indoors for keeping the hawks or falcons who have finished training.



HOKODARE 架垂
Screen

Fabric hanging down from the perch so as to make it easier for the hawk or falcon to sit on. Gold brocade is used for the Daiboko (Indoor Screen Perch), and Tatami matting for the Toboko (outdoor Screen Perch).



MOTOOSI 旋子
Swivel

Attached to the leash so as to prevent it from getting entangled. Made of various materials such as precious metals, ivory and deer horn.



YUGAKE 弓掛
Glove

Leather glove worn on left hand when seating the hawk or falcon on the fist. Made of soft deerskin and has a long soft deerskin string at the wrist part.



OOO 大緒
Leash

The leash for goshawk is a 3.6 meter-long silk braid. A swivel is fitted to the center, twice-folded, and both ends finished with a tassel. It is always attached to the jesses, except for releasing the goshawk. Normally vermillion, but for goshawks which hunted cranes it would be purple. The leash for falcons is made of linen rope.



ASHIKAWA 足革
Jesses

Tanned deer skin strap attached to the legs; dyed purple for use with goshawks. Jesses for falcons are same form as the jesses for goshawk, but used undyed i.e. natural tanned skin.



FUSEGINU 伏衣
Cloth Jacket

Sort of constraint clothing used when fitting jesses or when applying treatment. Designed to cover the head to blindfold the hawk or falcon



EGOUSHI 餌合子
Feed Box

Feed Box with fresh meat cut to bite-sized pieces so that the hawk can eat at a mouthful; the falconer always carries it suspended from the waistband by using a Netsuke. Lacquered black on the outside and red on the inside. Used during the hawk training stage, the falconer raps the lid and the body to make sounds every time he feeds the hawk. The hawk remembers that sound and the red color on the inside, and flies back even from afar when called.



NETSUKE 根付

A short bamboo piece attached to the leather straps on the Egoushi or Kuchiekago or Marubatoire etc. By tucking the Netsuke under falconer's belt, he carries Egoshi etc.

HATOBUKURO 鳩袋
Dove Bag

Cotton sewn in a bag shape with string at both ends to tie a live dove with head and tail sticking out. Suspended from the waistband by using a Netsuke.



MARUBATOIRE 丸鳩入
Dove Container

Contains a dove to feed the hawk or falcon, dove's entrails are removed and breast muscles exposed. The falconer carries it suspended from the waist by using a Netsuke.



KUCHIEKAGO 口餌籠
Feed Basket

Contains a dove wing with breast meat to feed the hawk, carried suspended from the waistband on a Netsuke.



IKEBUKURO 生袋
Feed Bag

Linen bag for holding live sparrows to be fed to hawks or falcons in the field. Suspended from the waistband on a Netsuke.



UCHIITA 打板

Droppings Tray

Tray to gather droppings, placed to the left side of the falconer when sitting in the room with the hawk resting on his fist. Finished to black lacquer so as to clearly show the status of droppings.



BUCHI 策

Made of wisteria vine, the tip end is finely torn like a writing brush, while the other end is sharpened. Used for washing the hawk's or falcon's beak and tidying up plumes so that the falcon gets used to man's handling.



ZUKIN 頭巾

Hood

Blindfold cap used for keeping the falcon quiet. Made of cloth with Japanese paper inside.



ZAI 采

Lure

White Japanese paper bundled around the tip of a bamboo stick, used for guiding the falcon flying high up in the sky i.e. waiting on. The Japanese paper is supple and easy to replace after use. The bundle is always kept clean by new paper and the falcon does not get a cut by the edge of the paper.



OKINAWA 忍繩 or 置繩

Creance

About 70 m long silk creance. Attached to the jesses to prevent the hawk from flying away during training, and also used for keeping the hawk at a suitable distance when flying in a confined place after finishing the training period. Wound around the wrist by using the string of the leather glove, rolled around a bamboo tube when not in use.



BANDORI 裨取

Falconer's Coat

Haori (Japanese coat) with the length longer than the Kimono (Japanese clothes). Made of plain indigo-blue cotton. Small neck and slits on both sides and the back to allow swift movements.

DOUGI 胴着

Falconer's Uniform

Short clothing reaching only up to the kneecaps, with slits on both sides and the back for allowing swift movements. It is normally dark gray with a white fine polka-dot pattern.



Brief of the Japan Conservation Seminar for Birds of Prey

The Conservation Seminar for Birds of Prey was held on February 21st 2009 at Nagoya City University in Japan under the auspices of JFC with the support of the grant of Global Industrial and Social Progress Research Institute (<http://www.gispri.or.jp/english>). The conservation of birds of prey is important activity in the world. There are a lot of programs to conserve birds of prey in the world such as preservation of the habitat and restoration of rare species. The rescue and rehabilitation of injured birds of prey is also one of the conservation works. In the case of overseas countries, there are special facilities for the rescue works in the university. However, the structure of the works is not enough in Japan as compared with other such countries. Therefore, we have held the seminar so that active rescue works are introduced from domestic and foreign experts to find a new understanding. In this time, we had a good opportunity to know the situation of birds of prey in China that is an important area for migrator from Japan. Speakers in the seminar were Dr. Song Jie (Professor, College of Life Sciences, Beijing Normal University, <http://cls.bnu.edu.cn/>), Dr. Sun Quanhui (Project Manager, International

Fund for Animal Welfare Beijing Raptor Rescue Center, <http://www.brrc.org.cn>), Dr. Keisuke Saito (Representative, Institute for Raptor Biomedicine Japan, <http://www14.ocn.ne.jp/~irbj>) and Keiya Nakajima. Prof. Song introduced the research progress of raptor conservation at Beijing Raptor Rescue Center. Dr. Sun introduced promotion of animal welfare through raptor rescue and rehabilitation. Dr. Saito introduced the conservation activities for wild endangered raptors in Hokkaido (Northern island in Japan). I also had short presentation to introduce the status of rescue works for injured birds of prey in Japan with recent results of JFC. The advantage of Japanese falconry skill on the rescue works was also introduced with various examples. It seems that a lot of concrete examples were useful for the participants to know the current situation. The number of participants was about 50 including important persons such as staff of agency, corporation, veterinarian, student, researcher and general public. We wish that it would be good guide to future activities in Japan. **Keiya Nakajima, Ph.D.** The Japan Falconiformes Center (JFC) URL: <http://www.wa.commufa.jp/jfc/english>



THE FALCONRY BUTTONS

*“Button: Small fabric or metal, a piece of wood which is used to attach, by the means of the buttonhole, various parts of clothing.”
(Dictionary Littré)*

In this fascinating article Veronique Blontrock introduces us to the history of ‘equipage’ group buttons, a tradition started in the 18 century and being carried on today in hawking and hunting groups the world over.

Photographs by Gunter Daes and Patrick Morel.



In the world of hunting and more specifically in that of 'veneries', it is also the distinctive mark of a group/equipage, hunting by horses or by foot or hunting with birds.

The first known exclusive equipage or group button was the button of the Count de Germiny, who drove out the wild boar in the Seine Maritime area around 1775. Before that, a wooden disc, a piece of bone or metal, covered with fabric or not, was used to close your jacket or waistcoat.

Equipage

An equipage indicates a group of people who drive out game under the instruction of the master 'maître d'équipage'. The members of one equipage all wear the same attire, and their model of attire dates back two centuries.

The buttons of attire belong specifically to each equipage, but the number of buttons can vary according to the location of the equipage, depending on whether the equipage is from the continent or from England.

On the continent, a member of an equipage wears five large buttons on the front frock coat, two large buttons in the back and

two small buttons on each sleeve. On the waistcoat, there are seven small buttons and one small button attached on the tie-pin.

In England, the number of buttons indicates the rank of the person in the order of the day, three for a humble follower, four buttons for a master and five buttons for a hunt servant or huntsman. Discretely engraved, typically for England, you will be able to find the initials or the emblem of that hunt.

The buttons can be made from many different materials such as metal, copper, bronze, silver or gold. The buttons can be stamped (minted in relief) in one color, however the buttons for the Masters must be in gold and in silver for the 'piqueux' (followers). The buttons can also be cast, however an applique for a Master must be in silver on a gold base, and the applique for a piqueux must be in gold on a silver base.

In 'vénerie', the buttons often display the image of the animal driven out by the equipage; the button itself is surrounded by a belt which carries the slogan of the equipage.

In falconry

In falconry, the equipage usually consists of the falconer with his birds and his dogs

and for the flight on rabbits, with his ferrets. Most of the time, the only part of the attire which has been worn by the falconer, is the waistcoat which has 7 small buttons, consisting of a golden base with a silver applique.

The Falconry Button

The Falconry Button is the equivalent of the Vénerie Button; each equipage has his own button representing the emblem of the equipage.

Minted or cast, the button is decorated with an original pattern and with the name or the slogan of the equipage, this is systematically reproduced. It is the distinctive sign and belongs specifically to the equipage and it confers upon the person who receives it the right to carry the attire. By extension, the members of the equipage are called 'buttons'.

The appearance of the traditional button is relatively recent. According to our knowledge, the oldest button of falconry seems to be, that of "Royal Loo Hawking Club" from Holland, in 1839. It represents a hooded falcon on the fist, seen of three

quarters and carries the slogan in French 'Mon espoir est en pennes' (My hope is in feathers).

We can remark that the Falconry Button almost always represents the image of a hawk in full or partial view, or sometimes the image of an accessory, whereas the Vénerie Buttons generally draws its inspiration from the hunted animal.

The current button has become a true work of art thanks to the association of the talents of two Belgian craftsmen, the late Francis Buysse who was responsible for the creation, the casting, the pre-assembly and the assembly together with the talents of Master engraver Alain Lovenberg who was responsible for the engraving of the matrix. Francis Buysse, a Master jeweler in Bruges, dedicated his life to Falconry in compliance with the strictest rules and aimed to maintain the highest and strongest sense of purest tradition, pledging timelessness for the generations to follow. Alain Lovenberg took the responsibility of his succession and produces true works of Art.

Francis Buysse created a magnificent button for his own equipage (Equipage





and personnel being used for the hunt, such as servants of dogs, piqueurs, horses, dogs, carriages..." It is thus about a complete and harmonious unit, placed under the instruction of a 'Maitre d'equipage' and who have a button specifically appointed to them on which their monogram is only for them, a specific attire of which the colors are characteristic, often with their own slogan, and also a melody to represent them.

The function of the 'Equipage' is in general defined compared to the driven out animal of which the representation is often reproduced on the button of the attire: 'equipage' of hare, roe-deer, stag, and wild boar.

of Gruuthuse). The name of the Equipage and the button are a tribute to Louis de Gruuthuse, who maintained a Falconry Equipage in Bruges at the end of the Gothic era. The concern for detail pushed Francis to reproduce the image of the hood in the famous painting by Hans Holbein, Jr. (1497-1543), picturing Robert Cheseman, the First Falconer of Henry VIII. The reproduced slogan is that of the house of Gruuthuse: 'More is in you'.

In the course of time and according to different countries, the term equipage has evolved. Nowadays, it can also indicate an association of falconers as in Holland 'Equipage Jacoba van Beieren'.

Sometimes, falconers associations use the model of the button as their emblem or their distinctive sign (BFC, CMB, ANFA, IAF).

What is an 'Equipage'?

In Vénerie

In hunting, and more specifically in Venerie, the term equipage indicates "all the materials



In Falconry

The Equipage of flight is "the unit at least made up of a falconer, a bird of hunting and a dog (chien d'oyse)" and specifies "...of course it does not have their higher limits".

One traditionally distinguishes the equipages from high flight (haut vol) and those of low

flight (bas vol) according to the birds that are used. But an equipage can be also determined by the type of animal that is driven out. It is then called flight (vol): flight on heron, flight on Milan, flight on magpies, on partridges, on ducks.

The will to assemble an equipage can either be conceived from an individual or collective initiative. The equipage can belong to an individual, to a family, to a certain locality or region, or sometimes not even be derived from any specific unit or place, but simply be the result of a friendship.

An equipage does not serve any private interest nor does it have any other ambition than to express a well defined idea of the correct execution of hunting for the flight and it is certainly not a prerogative of a social class. The necessity to fly as an equipage is derived from a mind set of the continuation of a tradition, inspired from the Latin 'tradere': to transmit. An equipage is the representative ambassador for the flight hunting at the local level.

The Attire

In France

The standardization of the attire within the equipage is relatively recent.

In 1671, it is Louis XIV who first gave to his vénerie a blue attire braided with crimson collar and facing.

According to their means, often very modest, the huntsmen, following the example of they King, chose for the attire of their equipage colors of their taste. These colors were generally conspicuous to make it possible to recognize itself from afar during hunting.

Very little information is found in literature regarding the array of flying equipages. In France, the attire of the Champagne equipage (1866-1870) headed by Pierre-Amédée Pichot is a complete outfit: a frock coat with Saxony collar in green cloth, a Louis XIII style hunting gallon on the collar and the facings, a red waistcoat, green breaches, saving red covering the knee, legging, boots out of fawn-colored leather, a Louis XIII style hat appointed on the right-hand-side with the button of the equipage and a tuft of feathers of a heron. The fauconnière (hunting bag)



was made of a green cloth and the leather gloves were fawn-colored. The button, silver on gold, represents a hooded falcon on the fist.

Abroad

In the Netherlands, the attire of the 'Koningklijk Nederlansch Valkeniers-Gezelschap' (Loo Hawking Club) is the same one as that of the Champagne equipage while the slogan of the button will begin again with 'my hope is in feathers'.

At the beginning of the century, in Belgium, Eugene Martin, a French falconer originating from the Tarn, was the heart and soul of the Falconry equipage of the Viscounts Hardj de Beaulieu. Their attire was as follows: died sheets with blue facings and golden gallon, a Louis XI style hat with a brush of heron and button stating the slogan "Hardy à l'essor" (Hardy with rise).

Current Attire

The attire nowadays is often reduced to the wearing of a waistcoat which has 7 small silver buttons on a gold base.

FALCONERS' PATRON SAINTS

By Christian de Coune



Christian de Coune looks at the history of patron saints in hunting, and their occurrence in pictorial hunting scenes throughout time...



Hunters have their own patron saint : Saint Hubertus. Falconers are primarily hunters, St Hubertus is therefore also their patron saint. But falconers have also specific patron saints of their own, they even have several. The most famous in my own part of the world is Saint Bavo, to whom the Cathedral of Ghent (Belgium) is dedicated. It is delightful that for several years now, a pair of Peregrine Falcons have settled in the tower of Saint Bavo Cathedral and have bred there successfully.

But there are other falconers' patron saints:

- Saint Tryphon is venerated as the protector of falconers in East Europe and in Russia.
- Saint Gengould in Lorraine.
- Saint Thibaut de Provins in Champagne.
- Saint Jérôme in Noordwijk, Netherlands.
- Saint Aigulfe in Cologne.
- Saint Julian the Hospitaller in Spain.

There are a sizable number of saints who take care of the well-being of falconers from the spiritual world in Paradise!

pictured left, Saint Bavo

And falconry is doing well ! Still now...Many thanks to those who take care of falconers, here below on earth or in the higher plane of the spiritual world.

Now to return to Saint Bavo, the protector of falconry in the Netherlands of the North and in The Netherlands of the South (i.e. Belgium).

Bavo was born in the early 7th Century, in the area of Liège (Belgium) from a noble and wealthy family. At the death of his wife, also of high birth, he retired to a monastery in Ghent where he lived the life of a recluse in such a small cell that he could not even stand in it. An angel appeared to him in the shape of a dove and he refrained from eating the dove. He made miracles, he even resuscitated a dead man! In recognition of his miracles Bavo has been elevated to the rank of holiness - Saint Bavo!

What is the role of falconry in this story?

Saint Bavo is the object of an abundant iconography where he is represented with a falcon on his fist, amongst others on the porch of the Cathedral of Ghent, on the coat of arms of Wilrijk (a town near Antwerp) and on those of Haarlem in Holland. What may well be the link between the hermit of the monastery of Saint Amand in Ghent and falconry?

The story is simple : Bavo had been accused of having stolen a falcon from the local lord. At that time the Penal Code was not what it is nowadays and Bavo was sentenced to death by hanging. The day of the sentence of execution arrived, Bavo already had the rope around his neck when a falcon alighted on the gallows - the very falcon that Bavo had allegedly stolen from the local lord.

A providential and miraculous development! The rope was removed from Bavo's neck and he was reprieved. Nothing more was needed for Bavo being venerated by public worshipped as the patron saint of falconers.

This story doesn't really match with the individual - Bavo. Son of a wealthy Merovingian count, Bavo did not need to steal his neighbour's falcon. Moreover he spent most of his life as a recluse in a tiny cell of a monastery; not really a hawking



Saint Tryphon, patron saint of East European falconers.

paradise... Bavo the holy hermit, miracle maker, was often represented with a falcon on the fist. The presence of a falcon on the fist in Medieval iconography generally indicated that the individual so represented was of noble origin.

Remember: Bavo was of noble birth - hence the falcon of the fist. It doesn't mean that Bavo was a falconer but it is just an indication of his social level. The unconscious need for the supernatural by the population has embroidered a beautiful legend around the recluse saint, Bavo.

This legend of Saint Bavo appears only at a late date in the history of the saints - in the 15th century. The Vitae Sanctorum of the 9th and 12th centuries, which tell the story of Saint Bavo do not mention the providential falcon.

The story of Saint Tryphon, patron saint of the East European falconers closely resembles that of Bavo. Tryphon himself had been sentenced to death for having allegedly stolen a falcon. He was about to be hung. In desperation he implored his patron

saint : "Saint Tryphon have mercy on me!". The allegedly stolen falcon alighted on the gallows. Tryphon was exonerated and his life was spared. This miracle resulted in Tryphon being venerated by the falconers of Eastern Europe and Russia as their patron saint.

Another patron saint of falconers was Saint Gengould . Gengould was a comrade in arms of Pepin the Brief (father of Charlemagne), he fought numerous battles with him. His wife, somewhat neglected during the military operations, got over her loneliness in the arms of another. Gengould got to know miraculously who his rival was. His wife's lover killed poor Gengould on 11th May 769 to inherit his goods. Canonized for the miracles he performed, Saint Gengould became very popular in Belgium, East of France, Luxemburg and Germany.

When his wife got to know the canonization of her unfortunate husband she cried out: "Gengould does not achieve more miracles than my ass does!".

Due to his nobility, Saint Gengould was often depicted with a falcon on the fist. Result of which, he became venerated by the falconers and by the hunters as their patron saint and perhaps also by... the betrayed husbands.

Falconers should not be jealous of the patron saint of the hunters : the legend of Saint Hubertus met with the same fate as the one of Saint Bavo.

Placidus was an officer in the army of the Roman Emperor Trajan (53-117 AD). One day he was hunting deer, he pursued a stag larger and more beautiful than all the others. Getting closer to it, he saw between its antlers the Holy Cross more resplendent than the rays of the sun. He heard Jesus Christ telling him : "Placidus, why do you persecute me? If you believe in me, go and get baptised". It

was the Bishop of Rome who baptised him and he gave him the name of Eustache. After his death he became Saint Eustache.

More that 600 years passed. Hubertus, born from a rich family was serving Pepin of Herstal (great grand father of Charlemagne, born in 645 at Herstal near Liege, Belgium). Hubertus was very fond of hunting, but on a Good Friday, while hunting, a stag appeared to him with a Crucifix between its antlers, no more was needed for him to renounce hunting. Years later, the Pope appointed Hubertus to be bishop. An angel appeared to him and brought him a key on behalf of Saint Peter, saying : "Whoever will be bitten by mad animals will be preserved from rabies thanks to this key.". Saint Hubertus was invoked by the hunters as their patron saint probably because his efficiency against rabies. Centuries passed without any mention of Hubertus' vision of the stag with the cross. The Vita Sancti Huberti of 825 does not tell that story. It is only in the mid-15th century that the episode of Eustache and his miraculous stag was ascribed to St Hubertus - like a mediaeval 'cut and paste'. Eustache sank into oblivion, but the miraculous stag sustained a long and famous career. That's how legends go...

The abundance of legends record the importance of falconry in man's history since the Middle-Ages. The abundant iconography and the no less abundant literature thrive through many centuries until today, not only in Europe, but in numerous other countries. Falconry carries an undeniable cultural character. One may, without hesitation, claim that falconry belongs to our intangible cultural heritage.

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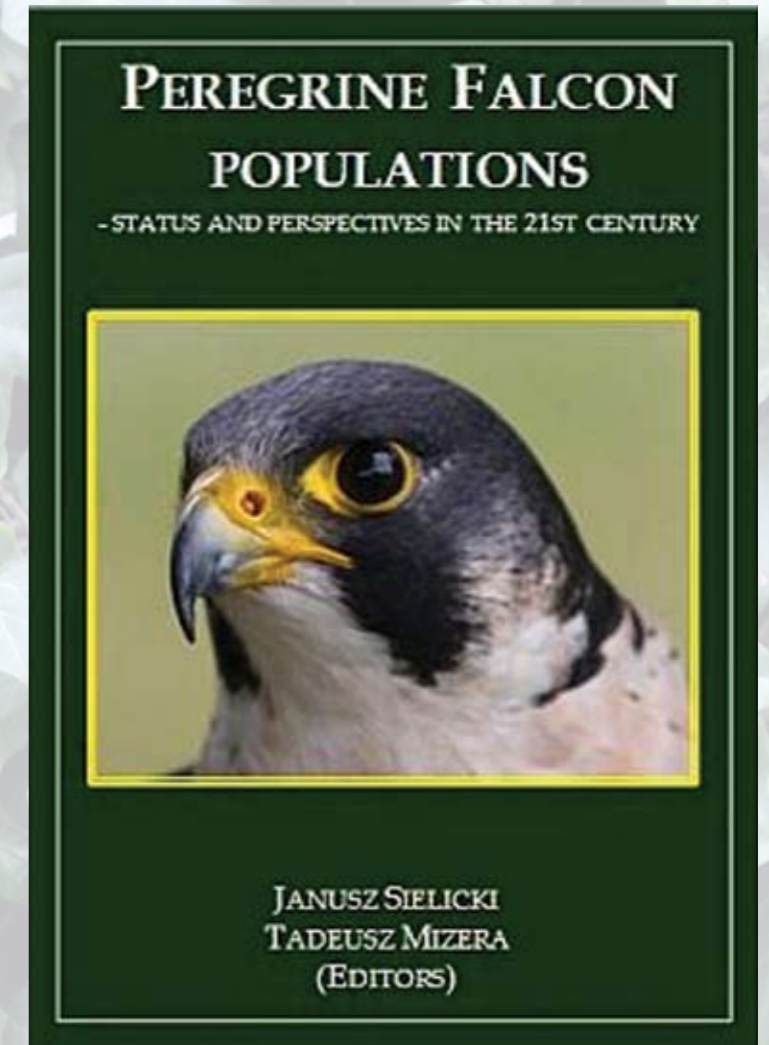
BOOK REVIEW

'Peregrine Falcon Populations - status and perspectives in the 21st Century' is the most up-to-date compendium on the status and conservation of Peregrine Falcons in Europe. This book is the biggest collection of papers related to Peregrine studies in Europe, and is based on papers presented at the second International Peregrine Conference, which was held from 19-23 September 2007 in Piotrowo near Poznań, Poland.

The book contains papers on Peregrine populations in Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia, Russia (European and Asiatic part), Ukraine, Belarus, Armenia, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark, Germany, France, Spain, Italy, Austria, United Kingdom. In addition to European presentations it also includes papers from countries in other continents - United States, Australia, South Africa, Israel, Malaysia, India, Argentina.

Furthermore, this book also includes papers on Saker Falcons, comparing the species with the Peregrine and studies from their central European stronghold: Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia.

There are papers of special interest for falconers, including overview of falconers activities in raptor protection by Christian de Coune, on falconry and sustainable use by Prof. Robert Kenward and Dr Matt Gage and papers on falconers involvement in Peregrine reintroduction in many countries. Short prefaces were kindly provided by Prof. Ian Newton, Prof. Tom J. Cade and Prof. Clayton M. White. Prof. Ian Newton says: "This book represents another significant milestone in the history of Peregrine studies, adding to our knowledge of the species and its recovery. The current volume will prove of value to all Peregrine researchers, whether they are



professional biologists, research students, or other enthusiasts, and a source of inspiration to others yet to come."

Prof. Tom J. Cade wrote: "I am very impressed by the quality of the reports assembled. The book will be a major contribution to the scientific literature on the Peregrine."

Prof. Clayton M. White: "The new information in this current volume is much awaited by Peregrine addicts and will be appreciated by falcon enthusiasts of younger generations."

This hardcover book contains 62 papers, of which the full list can be found on the website www.falco.strefa.pl. The book has 800 pages with almost 400 full colour figures.

You can order the book online at www.falconline.eu at a price of 59 EUR, and it will be available from April 2009.

**Peregrine Falcon populations
 Status and perspectives in the 21st century**
 Edited by Janusz Sielicki and Tadeusz Mizera
 ISBN 978-83-920969-6-2
 Published by TURUL, Warsaw 2009

Falconry in Poland: an historical outline

BY JANUSZ SIELICKI

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Poland is a lowland country in Central Europe and is mostly forested with many rivers, lakes and some open areas. Polish statehood started in the area which is now Central Poland in the tenth century. After slow growth there was a union with Lithuania in 14th century: an area covering what is now Lithuania, Belarus and Ukraine. As a result of this, Poland also had access to huge grasslands in its south-east territory. Polish raptor avifauna includes species popular in falconry – Peregrine Falcon, Saker, Merlin, Goshawk, Sparrowhawk and Golden Eagle. The Eagle has been the State Emblem of Poland since its very beginning.

Falconry at the beginning of the Polish State: the Piast era

There is not much information about Poland in the tenth century. Most of what we know comes from archaeology and numerous chronicles. In Polish museums there are virtually no material relics of falconry. There are two possible reasons for this. Firstly, most of the falconer's utensils were produced of leather and were either rapidly worn out or reused. Secondly, in later times the utensils were often richly decorated and then destroyed to re-use the materials with a high value.

One of the few known physical artefacts of falconry from that time is a knife handgrip in the shape of a falconer from 13th century (now in the Regional Museum in Torun). This shows a lady feeding a falcon on her fist, and is made of horn. Another two knife handgrips featuring falconry motifs, from the 13th and 14th centuries, were found in Szczecin and Pultusk.

Despite the lack of physical artefacts, it is well known that falconry was practised in Poland before the State was founded. The eagle features from the outset on the first coins of the Piasts, the Royal family of that time. Poles had contact with Tartars and so

could learn the art of falconry from them (especially hunting with falcons). On the other hand, hunting with hawks could occur in that area itself. Interestingly, in Polish medieval falconry only falcons and hawks were used, whilst eagles were not trained at all.

The earliest written records from the 11th century already mention falconry as being widely practiced in kings' and princes' courts all over the country. The first king of Poland, Boleslaw I the Brave (992-1025) imported falcons and employed falconers from other European countries. His grandson, Boleslaw II the Bold, was renowned for his passion for falconry. There are numerous facts about almost all the other kings practising falconry. In the Piast era (10th to 14th century) there was a law called *Falcatio*, i.e. falcon's law, which was a part of the laws on hunting. At the beginning hunting, including falconry, was reserved only for the royal family. In addition, owners of land were obliged to protect the nests of falcons and were punished if the young falcons disappeared. They were also obliged to support and organise falconry hunting expeditions and support the falconry establishments of the royal family with food. Permission to hunt was a privilege given to aristocrats, clergy and nobles. The exclusion

from *Falcatio* was a privilege as well. One 12th century bishop, Pawel of Przemankowo, was known for constantly having his falcons with him, even in the Cathedral during Holy Mass. Many facts like this demonstrate Poles' real passion for falconry. In the 12th century there was such fervour for the chase amongst the clergy that in 1279 it was decided to forbid priests practising falconry, as it interfered with their duties.

Falconry, equipment and trained falcons, also played a role in politics. Kazimierz II the Great (1333-1370) was a superior of the Order of Teutonic Knights of Mary (also called the Knights of the Cross). The royal fief gifts sent every year by the Order included 18 fine trained falcons and 24 dogs. He had so many trained falcons at court that on important occasions he organised competitions of falcons from Poland, Lithuania and within the Order. Before a battle, the outcome of the competitions was used as a kind of prediction, especially when the Polish falcon won. He was the last king of the Piast dynasty. His grand-daughter married Jagiello - the Lithuanian Grand Prince, starting thus the Jagiellonian era of Polish and European history

Falconry in the Jagiellonian era

Wladyslaw Jagiello (1386-1434) started one of the most powerful dynasties in Europe. His posterities reigned in the Polish, Czech and Hungarian kingdoms, as well as many others for a short time (including Sweden, Russia and Denmark). Wladyslaw was a well-known hunter and passionate falconer. He codified Polish hunting law again and, for the first time, included a ban on hunting with dogs and falcons in spring and summer to protect crops. He was the first king who resigned his sole privilege to hunt and so since 1423 the owner has had the right to hunt on his own land. In his time falconry related customs became very popular – the falconer's best



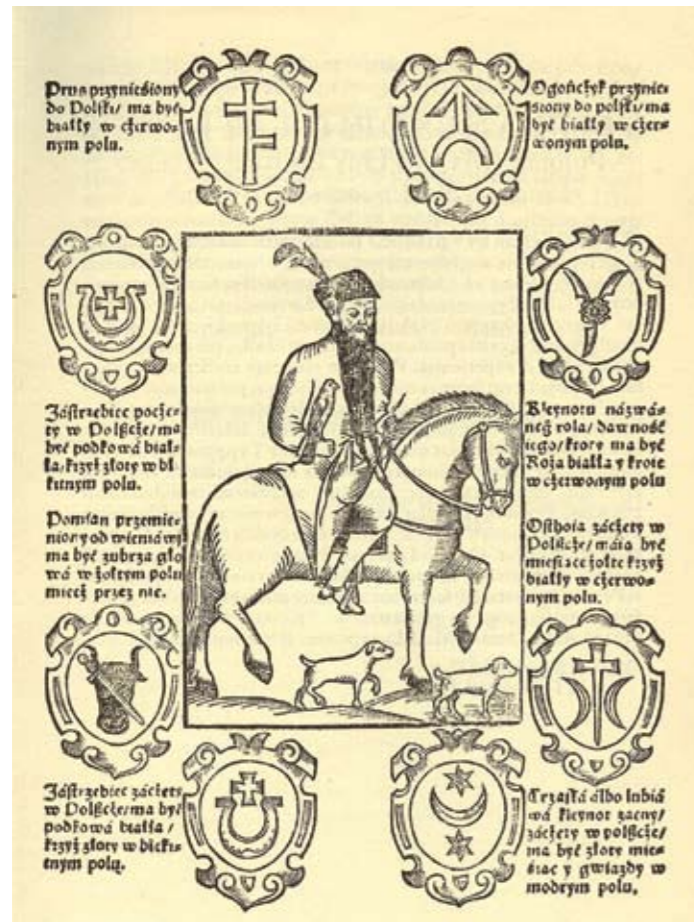
Falcon flushed by hunting dogs - a symbol of death the tomb of Wladyslaw Jagiello (ca. 1434).

falcons were set free at his grave. On his own tomb in Wawel cathedral falcons flushed by hunting dogs are shown as a symbol of death. The falcon became a very popular element on tombs in this era.

The freedom for landowners to hunt started the so-called 'golden era' of hunting and falconry. Aristocrats and nobility became very passionate falconers and hunters, including our kings and queens. Most aristocratic courts had falconry establishments, the biggest ones belonging to kings, with both local and imported falcons and foreign falconers. Falconry became seen as an element of the knightly lifestyle, a kind of preparation for war. The falconer's social role also became more important, changing from that of simple servant to king's officer.

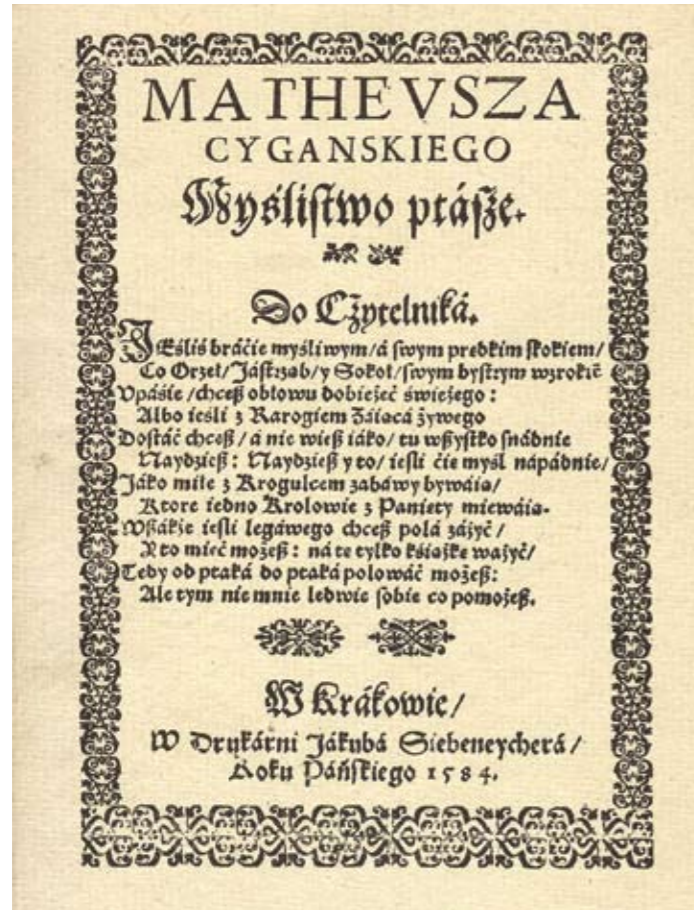
Falconry in the time of free election

After the last of the Jagiellonian kings, Zygmunt III August (1548-1572) passed away Poland became a republic with free election of kings. Our first elected king, Henri Valois (1573-1574, later king of France) brought his favourite falconers and hawks with him from France. On arrival, he soon discovered



Above: The king with a falcon going for hunting from "Bird Hunting" by Mateusz Cyganski, 1584

Below: The title page of "Bird Hunting" by Mateusz Cyganski, 1584.



that the Polish king's court had many, much better, falcons and falconers than his own. Stefan Batory (1575-1586) was another devotee of falconry. He hired German falconers and bought many falcons from abroad, also creating a school of falconry in Grodno. The high prices paid by the king and noblemen for good trained falcons are frequently mentioned in contemporary literature.

This was also the time of the first flowering of literature in the Polish language. The two premier Polish poets, Mikolaj Rey and Jan Kochanowski, allude to falconry and falcons in many of their poems. In 1548 the book of Krescentyn on farming and hunting was published in Polish and includes extensive material on falconry. In 1584 Mateusz Cyganski published a book on bird hunting, which describes ways to hunt different species of birds, as well as methods of training birds of prey for falconry.

At this time falconry was the only way to obtain the two crest feathers from the heron, which were widely used as a decoration of the nobility's caps. The best crests included some 80-100 feathers, which means that 40-50 herons were caught. Herons captured alive were generally released after their feathers were collected. Sometimes such herons were released with a special ring on their neck. In one well-known case a heron was caught by King Wladyslaw IV on 18 May 1647 and released with a golden neck-ring bearing an inscription. The same bird was taken again by King Jan III Sobieski on 19 July 1677, 30 years later!

Falconry was very popular up to the end of this era of Polish history. The last king of Poland, Stanislaw August Poniatowski (1764-1795) was an exception – he was not interested in hunting and falconry at all.

The decline of falconry

Along with loss of independence in 1795, Poland had also largely lost its traditions of falconry by the end of the century. There were less and less falconers known and the

former enthusiasm for falconry decreased. As a result of uprisings, the Polish nobility who were patrons of the sport often lost their property. This was also a time when guns became more widely used for hunting. As a result of this, by the beginning of XIX century falconry was no longer widely followed. Records of its practice are only numerous in the eastern part of the country.

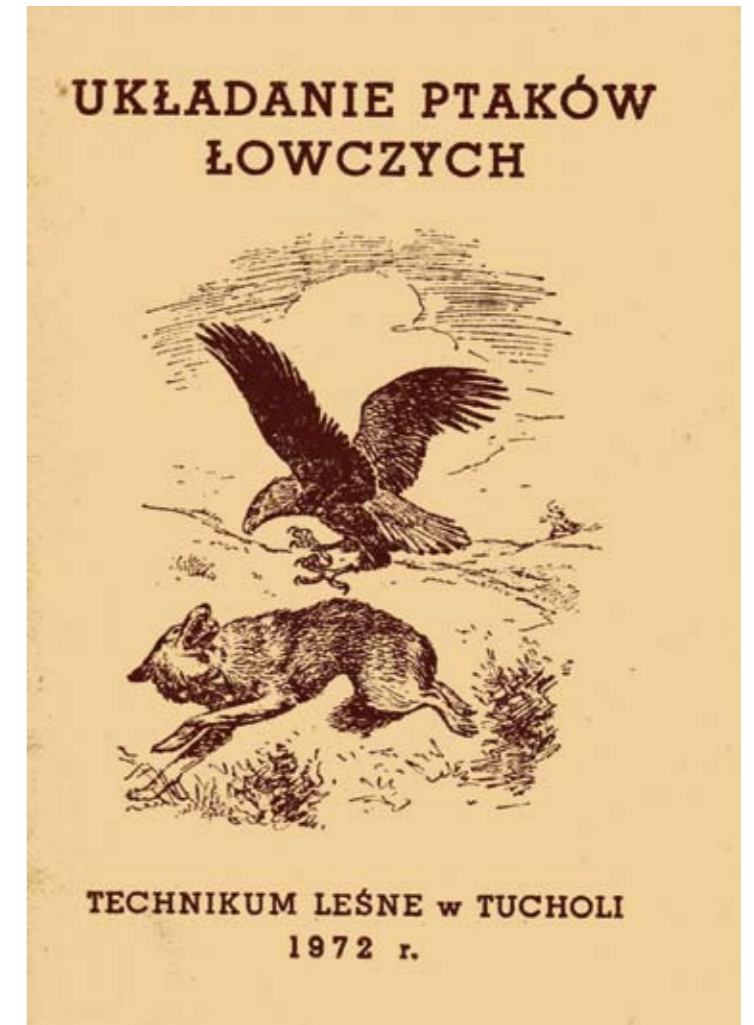
The decline of falconry was mentioned in many articles and books on farming and hunting at this time, especially in work by the eminent contemporary ornithologist Kazimierz Wodzicki.

After Poland obtained freedom again there were a few attempts to revive the art of hunting with birds. Prof August Dehnel, best known for his role in saving the European Bison, published articles on falconry in 1938 in *Lowiec Polski*, the hunting monthly: in 1939 this was published as a book.

Revival of Polish falconry

At the beginning of the 1970's a revival of Polish falconry commenced. Similar processes were undertaken a few years earlier in other countries of the former Soviet bloc – East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Hungary. Earlier, in the late 1960s, Mr Zygmunt Pielowski who was a scientific specialist on game, practiced falconry on his own as an experiment. In 1970 Mr Czesław Sielicki started preparations to legalise falconry, this being his interest since University. A forester, teacher and hunter interested in hunting traditions and canineology, he also revived the traditional use of hunting horns in Poland, organising the first group of trumpeters at the Forestry School in Tuchola in 1970.

In 1971 Mr Czesław Sielicki organised the School Falconry Circle 'Raróg' (Saker) at the Forestry High School in Tuchola, where he was a teacher. In the late summer of 1971, he attended a falconry course in East Germany with six students, for training that was to play an important role in the School's establishment. The Polish falconers came into contact with an already established falconry



The first falconry manual after WWII by Czeslaw Sielicki, founder of Polish modern falconry, in 1972

organisation and shown a model of high-level falconry. That also led to the model of training candidates, with an apprenticeship period and obligatory falconry course. In 1972 the Ministry of Forestry decided to permit 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, Wacław Lesiński, Andrzej Mania. The same autumn the first course for six 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 an international presence. This became a yearly tradition, followed over 35 years with only



First Falconry Meeting in Poland in 1973.

one exception in the 21st century – due to bird flu in 2006.

Today, around 150 falconers in Poland practise falconry. They are mainly members of Polish Falconry Club ‘Gniazdo Sokolników’ and the Polish Falconry Order – the second club established in 2001. The legal status of falconry has improved significantly over the years, being now included in Hunting Law. Falconry now is also important in environmental education, raptor protection and cultural heritage protection. Falconers play a leading role in the Polish Peregrine Restoration Project, with more than 300 Peregrines released and a wild breeding population established in 1998.

Evidence of falconry

Falconry has had a number of significant cultural impacts on Polish history.

Firstly, there are the names of towns, villages, geographical points and people. There is a wide range of names connected to falcon, saker, gyrfalcon, falconer, falconry, goshawk, sparrow hawk, eagle, etc. A second, related, area is that of coats of arms. Surprisingly, in view of the previous fact, there are only four Polish coats of arms with elements connected


to falconry.

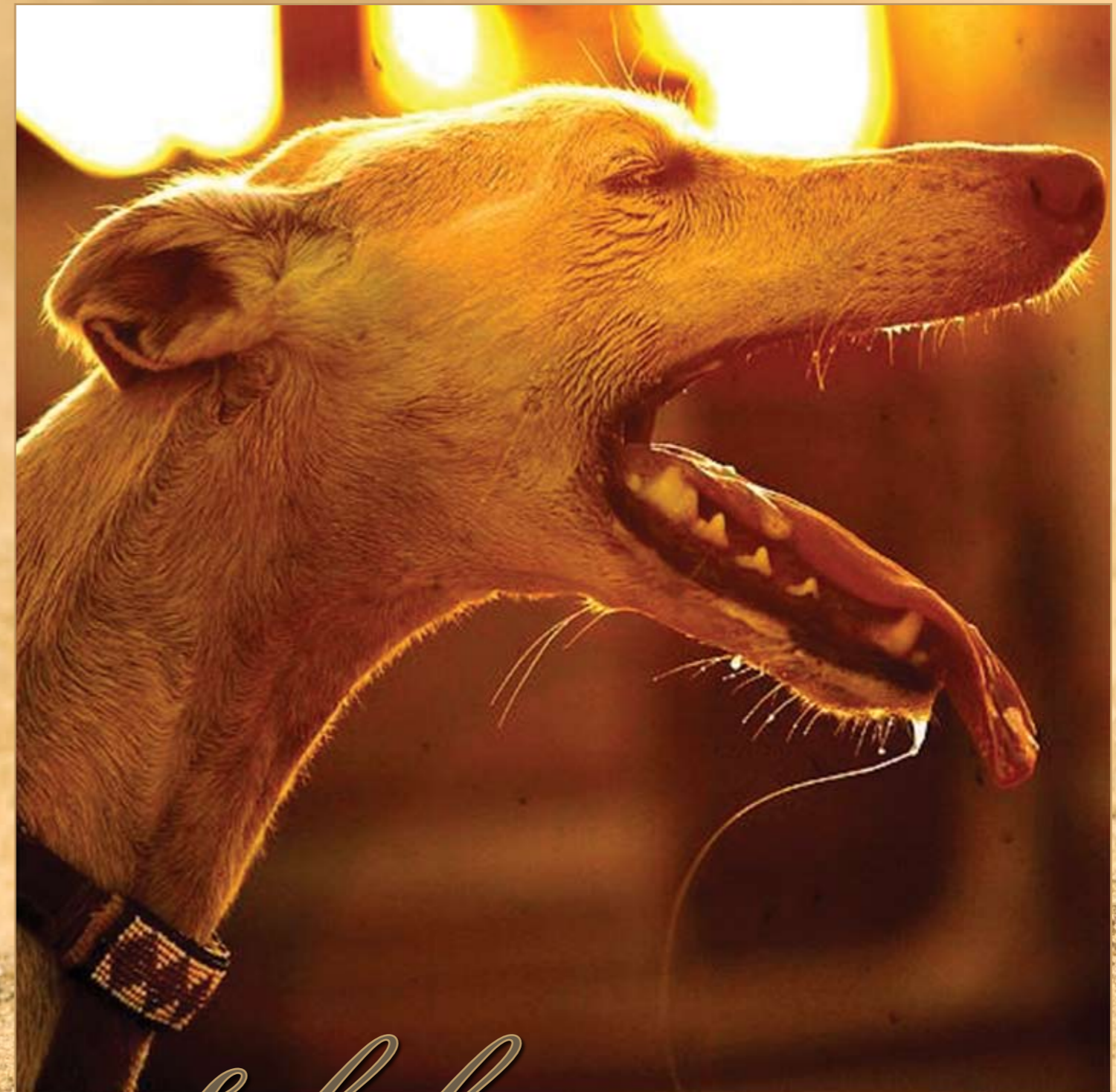
There is extensive evidence of the symbolic role of falconry in Polish literature. As mentioned above, the first Polish poets used to write about falconry, which retained symbolic importance until its decline in the 19th century. Falconry also featured strongly in paintings of the 19th century.

19th century painting (as well as literature) played a patriotic role. We had romanticism and positivism. An effect of this patriotic role of art are subject shown in paintings and described in literature. Despite that, falconry at the end of 19th century was not practiced, it was seen as an element of patriotism. It is mentioned in the most important books of that time: ‘Pan Tadeusz’ by Adam Mickiewicz (our greatest poet) and in ‘Potop’ by Henryk Sienkiewicz (who later got a Nobel premium in literature for his ‘Quo Vadis’). Falconry was shown as something patriotic in opposition to occupants. In fine arts there were few artists well known for their battle-piece, hunting and rural scenes and that is where falconry appeared.

Older artefacts are very rare. As mentioned before, there are 3 handgrips from the 13th and 14th centuries showing falconry related scenes. The tomb of King Wladyslaw Jagiello has also been referred to above. Showing falcons and dogs as a symbol of death is a reminiscence of pagan custom to bury preferred dogs, falcons and even horses together with a king or prince.

An especially interesting artefact is the silver dress of the Black Madonna in Czestochowa (a most important icon of Polish Christianity) made in 1433. This shows falcons and dogs chasing a hare. Falconry is also shown on the medieval frescos of Saint John’s Church in Torun, as one of the allegories of man.

The role of falconry in the Polish lifestyle was much bigger than physical artefacts of this time known today would imply. It has survived in art, literature and culture and is therefore an intangible but vital element of our traditions. 



Salukis:

THE THRILL OF THE CHASE

Just as its hooves touch the sand, a dhabi springs into the air, as if the gazelle were celebrating its sudden freedom; once, twice, thrice it leaps and then takes off as fast as its legs may take it. A few metres away, eight Salukis stand on their hind legs, stretching as far as they can towards the small gazelle as they agonisingly glare at it getting further and further away...

By Mohammed N. Al Khan, Staff Reporter © XPRESS/Pankaj Sharma

...the dogs howl, begging to be let loose. The trainers keep a firm grip on their collars and wait for the signal to be given. And there it is; the dogs dart off after the gazelle, as the trainers hop into their 4x4's and chase after them. Their sleek and finely toned muscled legs propel them to run at a speed of up to 70km per hour.

The lead car keeps up with the dhabi, waiting to see which animal will beat the other. As the pack leader closes in on the dhabi, the passenger in the lead car prepares to perform a stunt that may make a Hollywood stuntman proud. He climbs out of the car and hangs on the side of the vehicle. The trainer carefully times his strike; as the muzzle covering the Saluki's mouth touches the gazelle's rump, the trainer swoops in and lifts the dhabi to safety. The race is over and the winner is awarded the affection of his trainer. Part of bedouin lifestyle.

Salukis have long been part of the Bedouin lifestyle, as essential to them as their falcons; possessing Salukis meant a better chance of keeping the family fed. But all that faded away with the nomadic lifestyle. Today, however, the tradition is being revived and a new generation of trainers has picked up the leash.

Sultan Mohammad Hashim Khoury has over a dozen Salukis, most of which he has bred: "I bought my first Saluki when I was vacationing in Syria," said the 19-year-old Emirati. "I was hearing a lot about Saluki hunting and one day a friend of mine took me out to hunt rabbits. I was stunned; they were more like athletes than dogs. I bought the best one in the pack, *Bu Zandain*. Little did I know at that time that not only did I pay less than a fifth of what he was worth, but that I had bought a pedigree."

Khoury has been training and breeding Salukis for almost three years. He recently retired *Bu Zandain* from competition and put him out to stud.

Mohammad Al Joker has been somewhat of a mentor to Al Khoury, teaching him the in's and out's of the trade.

The saluki community

"The most important thing for any trainer is to become part of the Saluki community, because that's what we are, not just a hobby but a community," Al Joker explained. "Find a group of trainers to hang out with. It's no good just training a dog on your own; you have to test it out against other trainers to know how well you are doing. You build friendship and competitiveness."

Khoury and Al Joker take their dogs out to the desert for some exercise every afternoon.

Major competitions

"We will be competing in the Fazza3 tournament this month, I'm confident we will both do very well," said Al Joker. Their ambition is to be known as the top breeders and trainers in the UAE.

Khoury keeps his dogs at his father's farm in Al Aweer. "My father has always supported me in anything I wanted to do. He got really excited when he learned I had bought a Saluki and began to encourage me to train it for competition."

The group of 10 or so trainers that Khoury

Fast facts

The Saluki is the oldest breed of hunting hound known to be with man. Salukis are thought to have been around since 7,000BC and they originated in the Arabian Peninsula, Egypt, Syria and Jordan.

The oldest image of a Saluki was on pottery dating back to the Halaf period in northern Iraq (5,300-4,300BC). Images of the Saluki are also on paintings in Egyptian tombs, in Sumerian buildings and Assyrian temples.

The first physical evidence, dating back to 4,400BC to 3,800BC, was found at a site near Mosul in Iraq. Salukis were also found in a tomb in Rekkmara (1,400 BC) and a drawing was found on a tablet in the tomb of Pharaoh Antef II. Salukis were mummified and buried alongside their master.

They have been found in a swathe that covers Iran, Iraq, Turkey, Arabia, Egypt and North Africa. The first Saluki left the Middle East and reached the West in the 19th century after a Briton took one home.

Source: *Al Shindagha Online*

belongs to hangs out at the farm almost every day.

"There are two major competitions, the Fazza3 Championship (February 18 to 20) and a competition in Qatar, which took place last weekend where the winner was recognised as the Gulf champion. We also hold small competitions within our group from time to time, just to keep things exciting," said Al Joker, who placed fifth in Qatar.

"As a sport we are still young and there need to be more regulations involved. But we would really like to have designated training grounds in Dubai. It is very difficult to find a suitable location; we sometimes have to go as far as Al Ain for some serious training."

Khoury's dogs eat 200kg of food a week. "It's not a cheap sport. Even though they might look skinny, Salukis eat a lot because they burn a lot of energy."

At a glance

The Saluki is said to run at a top speed of 77

km/h. They often used to hunt in tandem with falcons, which located the prey for the dogs to catch.

Salukis are sight-hounds, which means they specialise in pursuing prey, keeping it in sight and overpowering it with their great speed and agility.

There are 800 pure Arabian Salukis across the UAE.

Salukis come in two varieties – the smooth, known as *Al Hess*, with short silky fur all over its body – and the *Al Reashi*, with long silky fur fringes on the ears, tail and the rear of the limbs. Around 10% of Salukis are owned by ex-patriates living in the UAE, while 70 per cent are owned by Emirati families.

A bedouin considers the Saluki as part of the family. He will never sell his dog but he may give it away as a special gift. There is such a strong bond between the Saluki and his master that the dog will pine if separated from him. 🐾



EC WILDLIFE TRADE REGULATIONS STAKEHOLDER MEETING

MONDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2008, BRUSSELS

By Christian de Coune

The meeting was chaired by Mr Hugo-Maria Schally (Head of Unit EC Commission). Attendance : 30+ persons.

Falconers' interests were represented by : Nick Kester from Hawk Board, Kris Ulens from Belgian Federation for Falconers, Christian de Coune for the IAF.

Hunters' interests were represented by two members of FACE.

Introduction by Chairman.

The aim of this meeting is to improve the effectiveness of the Regulations and make them implementable at a lesser cost.

The EC Commission is in the process of drawing conclusions from the 230+ page Study on the Effectiveness of the EC Wildlife Trade Regulations. (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/cites/reports_en.htm)

Today's meeting may have an important input in it. The ways to improve effectiveness could be amending the Council or the Commission Regulation and developing a clear and transparent guidance.

* * *

Every participant had been given a five minute time of speech to set out their point of view in a round table. Amongst others:

1. Caviar business, complaints about the too slow procedure of issuance of permits. Taxidermists express the wish of free of charge issuance of permits, they point out the problem of international competitions of taxidermy that necessitates a lot of formalities.
2. Fur trade: there is a problem of species

identification resulting in imports unduly blocked.

3. Parrot breeders wish that confiscated specimens, that cannot be returned to the sender, be allowed to be used for captive breeding; they complain about slow administrative processing in Spain.

4. French pet trade: too slow process of issuing permits that may take more than a month.

5. Ornamental fish trade: over-complicated legislation and lack of harmonisation in different countries. Issuing permits take too much time; difficult to find websites with explanations on legislations, often not updated; wish on-line application for permits; complicated legislations make it difficult for the 'good guy' and does not harm the 'bad guy'. Insinuations on transport mortality is wrong.

6. Other stakeholders: complaint about non-uniform implementation; call for lessening of legislation for captive-bred specimens; wish better information on legislations; complain on delay in issuing permits.

7. Danish Zoologist Conservation complain about illegal trade and is opposed to derogations.

8. Species Survival Network advocates for the precautionary principle.

9. Traffic-Europe has a website with legislations.

10. IFAW is against derogations for antic ivory because has been abused in UK.

11. WWF International, mortality after capture and during shipment is a major problem.

12. Eurogroup for Animals asks that animal welfarists be more consulted about mortality during shipment and in accommodation of live specimens.

13. FACE reminds that they represent 7 million hunters, many of them travel out of Europe for hunting and bring back trophies. Wishes same derogations for hunting trophies as for personal

and household effects.

IAF, Christian de Coune.

Falconers are citizens who make frequent movements with their birds of prey for non-commercial purposes. Those movements are mostly within the EU and concern mostly captive-bred specimens. Captive bred specimens are not wildlife, so the Wildlife Trade Regulations should not apply to them. At the very least, legislations should be implemented on them on a very streamlined way with reduced formalities to avoid unnecessary administrative burden which is of no conservation benefit.

There is a problem linked to hybrids: they appear in the statistics under the name of the species of one of their parents, the result of which is that statistics do not reflect the reality by increasing the number of specimens of a given species, where it is a species but is about a hybrid.

Hybrids should appear in the documents and in the statistics as hybrids and not under the name of a species.

Another point of dissatisfaction is the 'stricter measures' that member states may maintain or introduce. Stricter measures are in contradiction with the harmonisation of the legislations in the EU. A stricter measure is a kind of a derogation, it should then be allowed only 'where there is no other satisfactory solution'.

The Chairman asks IAF to be more precise on what we wish and on what we are unhappy with. C. de Coune replies that we are happy with the free movement of specimens in the EU and we wish that no additional burden be laid upon us.

Hawk Board:

Nick Kester advocates for a simplification of the formalities; points out the too long procedure for the CITES registration of breeders; complains about the purpose-code of which UK suffers badly and which is used by USA as a trade control; endorses IAF's (C.de Coune) comments on captive bred specimens and wishes them to be considered as domesticated, also endorses IAF's (C.de Coune) comments on hybrids.

Belgian Federation for falconers :

Kris Ulens introduces his very young federation and declares himself as supportive of his two

colleagues of Hawk Board and IAF.

Afternoon session

Amongst the problems raised during the morning session, some should be dealt with in more details; those are topics that can be improved by amending the Commission Regulation 865/2006:

- communication
- implementation by Member-States
- fees
- delays
- on-line application for permits
- training
- sharing information
- mortality

Nick Kester asks that the issue of hybrids be added to those topics.

There is also a request (by FACE) to include hunting trophies.

On a question by the Chairman, Nick Kester underlines that the issuance of permits in the UK is fast and that he has no complaints to formulate on this. He raises the problem of the very complicated system of quarantine. He underlines the fact that hybrids are mentioned on the permits and certificates with the name of a species and not as hybrids.

The Commission asks him for more details in writing on that topic; he will do it by e-mail.

The session is closed at 17.15.

Conclusions.

It is rather new practice of the EC Commission to convene a meeting of private stakeholders.

This initiative deserves our full approbation.

It has been for us an excellent opportunity for calling the attention of the Commission on some specific problems we meet.

It is a good opportunity to introduce the IAF. We are of course known to the Commission, but as the persons in charge change regularly, we must keep introducing ourselves at any such opportunity. It is also good to show that we take interest in their work and are willing to co-operate. I distributed our Newsletter to the chair-persons.

I will send to the organisers of the meeting, the text of my intervention. ✉

THE PALLID FALCON

By Pablo Adreani



AND A DIFFERENT COLOR PHASE - 'THE BLACK FALCON',
DISCOVERED ON THE ISLAND OF TIERRA DEL FUEGO, ARGENTINA

The author is an agro-economic consultant of Argentina and, moreover, he is an enthusiast of Birds of Prey and of Peregrines Falcons in particular. As part of his philanthropic contribution he is now Director and Owner of the Centre for breeding and study of the Peregrine Falcon and President of the Conservation of Birds of Prey Association of Argentina, both of them Non-Governmental and non-profit Organisations.

During December 2008 I had the great opportunity to visit Tierra del Fuego Island where I could see, take photos and film one of the rarest falcons of the world, the Pallid Falcon. We were surprised when seeing another colour phase of peregrine falcon, called the Black Falcon.

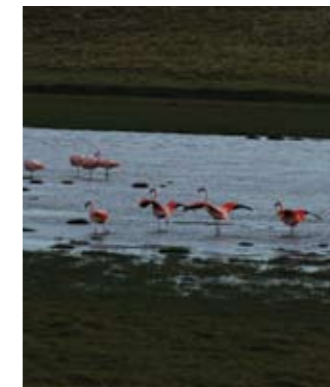
The objective of the expedition was to identify and observe the Austral Peregrine Falcon inhabitant of Tierra del Fuego (in its pale phase also called 'Pallid Falcon', and in its dark phase - in the latter case white specimens with black head), and in addition, to locate nesting areas and confirm the breeding periods.

The field expedition lasted for ten days but due to budget problems it could only be carried out by the author who financed the expedition by himself. This personal and economic effort finally had great rewards: it was possible to identify 16 adult Peregrines, out of which six falcon pairs could be identified in their nests, and in addition the following were identified: one adult couple - male and



Pablo Adreani

female with white chest and black head- in an old abandoned quarry, one two-year-old falcon with his first moult and one adult male pallid falcon, sat also alone on a cliff at dawn. Out of six pairs identified with their chicks, five pairs made their nests on sea cliffs and the remaining couple made their nest in an abandoned quarry on the continent, about 15 km from the sea. In all cases the falcon nests were located very close to or even



within the colonies of nests of Black-faced Ibis, a bird which usually nests on sea cliffs or in old quarries.

Summary: during all the expedition and field work, 16 adult falcons and seven chicks were identified; pure pallid couples and other white ones with black heads, and very few normal phases were seen (only one female and probably three of her chicks). Different phenotypes of adults were identified as well as different phenotypes of their chicks observed when they were already more than four weeks old.

During our expedition we have seen only a single falcon of normal or typical Cassini colouring. Unlike what has been said by other authors 25 years ago, where they mention having seen many hawks of normal phase or typical Cassini colour, in our expedition we have only seen one normal female and three chicks of dark brown color. In the rest of the falcons that I identified, excluding Pallid falcons, I saw falcons with very white chest, with head very dark black, and in some cases with very fine striped and horizontal black colour. These males were called 'Black Falcons' and had a size that almost duplicated the size of the Pallid males.

Summary: I think that in Tierra Del Fuego Island, there exists at least three different

types of peregrine falcons, as far as different phases of color and size (Pallid with its different phases, White chest with Black Head and normal phase like the Cassini that it is seen in the continent).

It is very probable that the falcons that inhabit Tierra Del Fuego Island were and are geographically isolated, but the necessity to look for or search for new places to establish future nests and abundant food has caused the successive generations of new falcons of the Island to migrate towards the north, in the coasts of Santa Cruz and Chubut, places where the previous expeditions took place 28 years ago in 1980/81.

We consider it important to know the behavior of these unique falcons to implement in the near future studies of migrations and movements of the falcons of Tierra Del Fuego towards the continent, using methods of control and tracking by satellite and, through genetic studies try to find the profile of each one of the colour phases.

Finally we called for help and requested the aid of international organizations that could collaborate in the financing of future projects and studies in the field of the Peregrine Falcons of Tierra del Fuego Island; doing that we will receive the gratitude of our future generations. 🦅

FOOT DESIGN AND WHAT IT TELLS YOU ABOUT A HAWK

By Roger Neilson

Not so long ago I was browsing through a collection of Falconry Magazines belonging to a friend. I came across an article on Ornate Hawk-Eagles. I am fascinated by any kind of Hawk-Eagle and so I 'devoured' the article hoping that it would add to my store of Hawk-Eagle lore.

I can only assume that the author of the article was not a Falconer as not once in three pages of text was the weight of the birds discussed, the size of foot recorded, the shape of wing or wing loading mentioned! The accompanying photo of one of these magnificent birds also seemed to miss out all of these (to me) vital statistics. All I did manage to glean from this article was the female was flown at Jack Rabbits and the Musket was flown at Starlings out of the window of a motor vehicle. This latter piece of information makes me think that the Male O.H.E. is a lot smaller than our 1200 gram Musket African Hawk-Eagle, has short rounded wings capable of rapid

acceleration, a long shifty Goshawk like tail, and a Bird Catchers foot, but it would be nice to know for sure if my assumptions are correct.

I started drawing Hawks feet in 1971; I was flying a female African Hawk-Eagle at Scrub Hare (weight of adult Scrub Hare 3.5lbs to nearly 5lbs) mostly at night by the lights of a vehicle and by day at Swanson's and Natal Spur-fowl. I was also rehabilitating a Tawny Eagle (weight of Tawny Eagle 6lbs+) that had been poisoned. An American friend named Roger Claude, with whom I had a lively correspondence at the time, wanted to know all there was to know about both birds, so



North-West Hawk Eagle.
Photo: Dylan Freeman

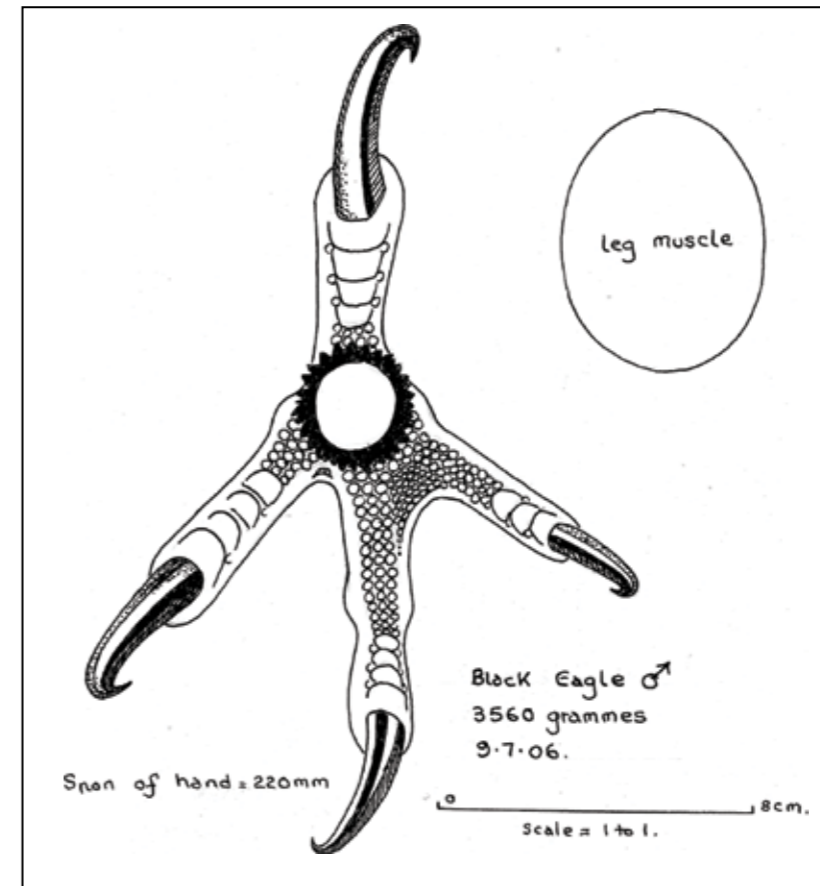


Plate 1.

I drew measured diagrams of their feet and posted these to him along with the other information he requested.

The 1.5 kilo A.H.E. had a far more impressive foot than the Tawny Eagle twice its size. Roger decided on the strength of this information that a Tawny was not the answer to his problem of having the daylighters kicked out of his hawks by Antelope Jacks (a species of hare totally unrelated to an Antelope) and acquired a Bonelli's Eagle instead. The Bonelli's Eagle (closely related to our African Hawk-Eagle) weighed in at 1.4 kilos and could stop an Antelope Jack dead in its tracks. I cannot remember the weights of the Antelope Jacks taken by Roger, but I flushed several in the Desert outside of Tucson in 1972/73 whilst hawking a Black Sparrowhawk at Gambles Quail and at a guess I would say they would tip the scales at between 4 and 5 kilos (12 to 14 lbs if you have a problem thinking metrically!).

Virtually every book I have ever read on the subject of Falconry stresses the fact that one

can learn a lot by looking at a hawk's feet. Some go as far as providing photographic plates that show off the feet well, but none up until now will give you a measured diagram of a hawk's foot.

I say 'up until now' because I am working on a book which I have called "*Records of an Artist and a Falconer*" that will, amongst other things, set that particular record straight.

I would like to give the readers of "*Mews Views*" a small sample of what I have set out to do in the chapter dealing with hawks' feet, and hopefully encourage some of you out there to make detailed diagrams of your hawks' feet and, at the very least, include these in your Hawking Diaries.

Eastern Falconers have for a very long time given of attention to the size and shape of their hawks' feet, counting the number of scales of the petty single toe and prizing those individuals that possess an extra scale or two. My own rather recent observations leave me to believe that there is a definite correlation between the size of the foot and the size of

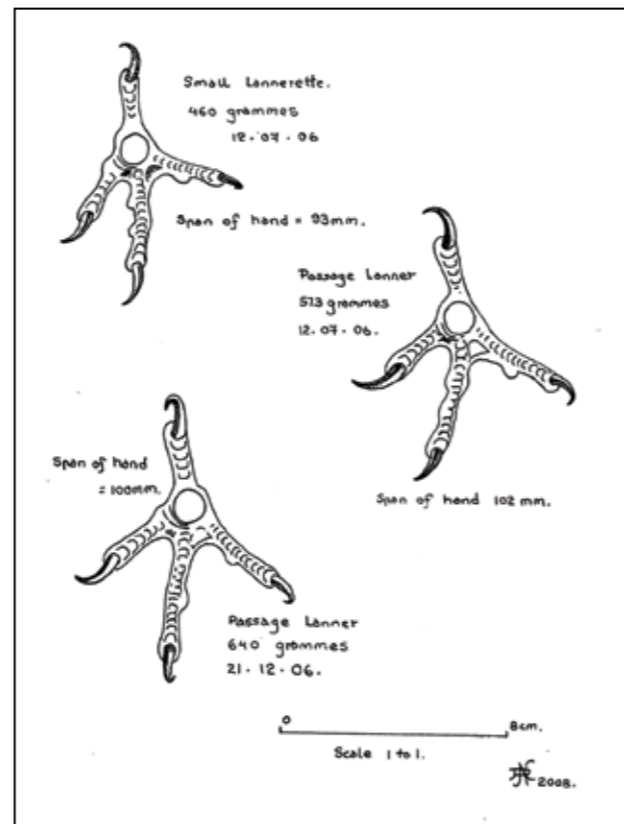
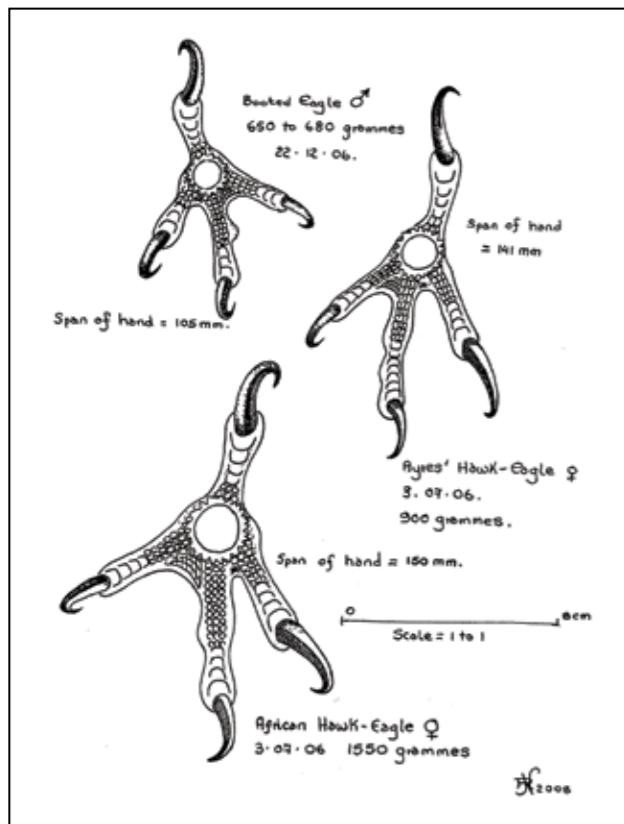
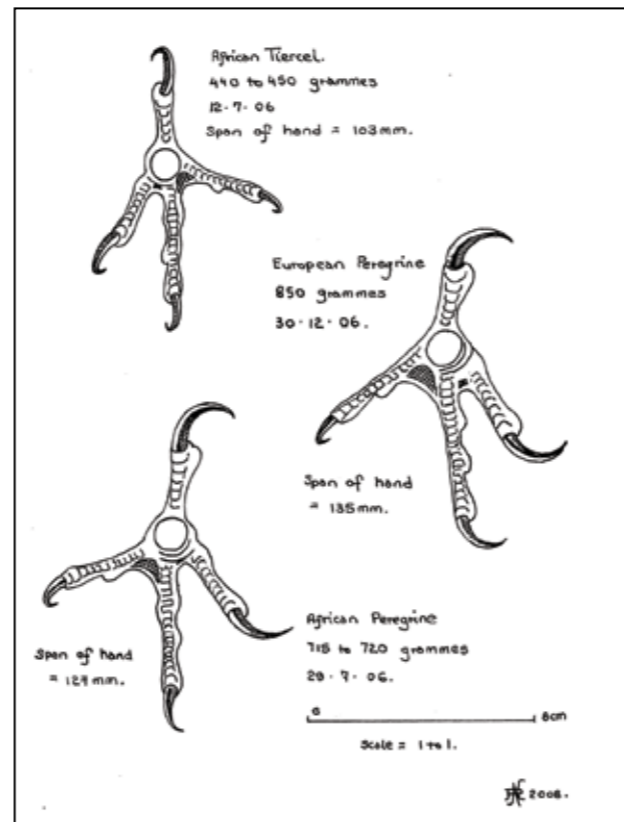
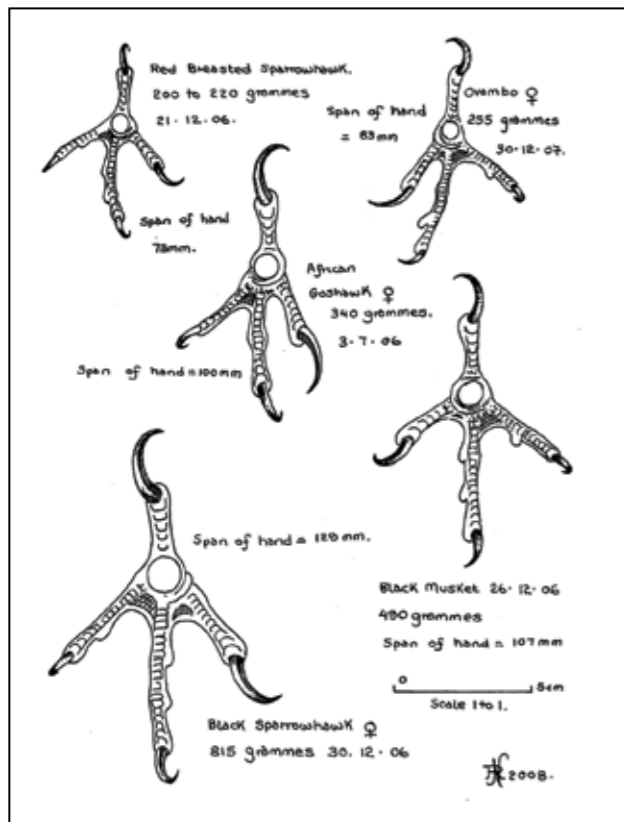


Plate 2.

Above right and below: Illustrations from Roger's extensive record of hawk feet.



the heart, and that this may very well apply to individuals within the same species.

An example case is the difference in foot size between the African Peregrine and the Lanner. How many times have I seen a Lanner strike a cock Spur-fowl and fail to bind to its Quarry? Is it the Lanner's smaller foot or the Lanner's smaller heart that is the problem? Some Lanners - mostly well-armed Lannerettes - can, and do, bind to cock Spur-fowl but are usually too lightweight to hold them. Both Lanner and Peregrine are in the same weight class and yet the African Peregrine with its huge spread of hand is a slayer of Duck, Spur-fowl and if given the opportunity even Scottish Red Grouse.

Plates 1 and 2, the black Eagle foot and the Martial Eagle foot, depict the foot of a Mammal catcher and rather surprisingly the more delicate foot of a Bird Catcher. I knew the Martial was partial to Guinea Fowl and Francolin, but not to the extent that the design of its foot would suggest. Plate 2 depicts the foot of a 75% bird catcher! Oh, don't be fooled by the rather light weight of the Male Martial Eagle, females can weigh 16lbs and more. I have yet to collect the foot diagram of the female Martial Eagle so any one out there with access to a female Martial Eagle please let me know.

Other birds that really impress me with the size of their feet are:

1. The African Peregrine, and
2. the 320 gram midget the African Goshawk whose superb armament I have witnessed kill Francolin and Spur-fowl of double its own weight in a matter of a few seconds.
3. The Ovambo Sparrow hawk with its incredibly long toes and potent pouncer and back talon cannot fail to impress. It alone amongst the Accipiters has only one grasping nodule on the underside of its petty-single toe (further differences include brown falconine eyes and red feet).

4. The equally impressive 'hand' of the 90% bird catching Ayres Hawk-Eagle, and lastly, the massive hand of the female Black Sparrow hawk is a Falconers dream hawk incarnate! How does one go about executing a measured foot diagram? I use a sharp No. H pencil, a pencil eraser, a drawing bloc of cartridge

paper and a pair of dividers.

One then hoods the hawk and stands the hawk on the cartridge paper or more easily an assistant 'casts' the hooded hawk and presses one of its feet onto the cartridge paper. In both cases one waits for the hawk to settle down before pinpointing on the surface of the paper the points of contact of all four talons.

Next the points where the talons merge with each toe, and the fleshy 'grasping nodules' on the underside of each toe, and finally the outline of each toe. This outline is by far the most difficult piece of visual information to transcribe accurately and may have to be adjusted with the pencil-eraser and toe thicknesses measured with dividers frequently before you have it right.

Once the basic outline is captured 'on plan' one can turn one's attention to counting the number of large scales on the toes and how these are arranged, shape, thickness and curvature of talons are also noted and transferred to paper. Some subjects don't seem to mind having you work around their feet with a pencil, others fidget like crazy and you find yourself constantly having to abandon and re-start drawings. I recently 'chickened-out' of taking the vital statistics of a 17lb female Crowned Hawk-Eagle when its owner informed me that it had recently broken free of its 'moorings' and attacked one of his staff, breaking both of the poor fellow's arms among numerous other nasty things, I am still without a Crowned Hawk-Eagle foot in the collection, so if anyone knows of a good tempered one I would dearly like to record its vital statistics.

Apart from a female Martial Eagle, a Crowned Hawk-Eagle, Teita Falcon and Dark Chanting Goshawk, I have pretty much wrapped up the African hawks, What I still need to record are all of the North American and a lot of the European and Asian hawks feet. I am hoping that this article will generate some interest overseas and that I can exchange signed dated diagrams with overseas Falconers. Anyone interested can contact me at the following address: Roger Neilson, 21 Joan Road, Oak Tree, Krugersdorp North 1741, South Africa. I salute you and wish you good hawking! 🦅

BELGIUM NEWS 2008

Foundation of a Belgian falconry federation.

History

Previous to the Falconry Festival 2007, four Belgian Falconry clubs (three of which are members of IAF) gathered several times around a proposal to have a falconry license. After several months of discussions, the united proposal of these four Belgian falconry clubs was made to the authorities. After those meetings, it became clear that there was need of a point of contact between falconers and the different Belgian governments. So the meetings went on, with as first object the attendance of Belgium during the first Falconry Festival. The joint efforts of the five Belgian Falconry clubs resulted in the successful organization of the Belgian Exhibition Tent in 2007. It was clear that the workgroup had to remain active, and that this cooperation should be continued.

Most of the Belgian falconers felt the need to have a similar structure to organizations such as NAFA and SAFA. For instance, to have a single point of contact between Belgian falconers, through their clubs, to the different governments.

Between the five above mentioned clubs, negotiations started. Four of the clubs were in demand for a structured organization, just like IAF. One club, the main and only national association, the 'Belgian Falconers Association, Club Marie de Bourgogne' was against becoming member of such a structure.

Because no consensus could be found, it was decided to go on with the four remaining Flemish clubs and the portal website for falconers 'Valkeniers.be'. After ten months of designing and tuning the articles for the new federation, last November the 'Belgische Valkerij Federatie - Valkeniers.be - Federation Belge de la Fauconnerie' was born as a non-profit organization. The four Flemish clubs, together with the website are the founding members of the federation. All topics, which are of interest and importance to all falconers, will be discussed; therefore this federation 'Valkeniers.be' is the first point of contact between falconers and the different governmental departments.

The website is used as link between the federation, falconry clubs and individual falconers. Every

member of every club will have access to the federation by way of the website: <http://www.valkeniers.be>

The founding members:

Belgische Vereniging van Vlaamse Valkeniers en Havikeniers (vzw): IAF member
Beoefenaars Vluchtbedrijf de Valkenier (vzw): IAF member
Studiegroep Behoud Valkerij (vzw): IAF member
Flanders Valkerij Academie (vzw)
Website 'Valkeniers.be'

The federations' goal:

The federation's main goal is, beyond any religious, philosophic or political beliefs, to maintain the preservation and practice of falconry- by tradition and definition 'the art to hunt with a trained bird of prey on wild game in their natural state and habitat'. The federation aims to reach this goal by:

- Legal authorization for practice of falconry by means of trained birds of prey.
- To study and transfer knowledge, skills and techniques of falconry
- To enhance breeding techniques for birds of prey in captivity
- To study the ecology and behavior of birds of prey in nature, as well as behavior of birds of prey in captivity.
- To share all gained knowledge with qualified authorities, groups and persons, this for the protection and the well being of birds of prey.
- To help maintain the historical, artistic and cultural heritage of Belgian Falconry.
- To be a representative of falconers in Belgium as well as on international level.
- To be the point of contact between falconers and authorities.
- To give advice to authorities concerning the issues of, hunting with birds of prey, bird of prey protection and bird of prey welfare.

The board:

The board is formed of a President, vice president, secretary and treasurer. All members of the board are elected by the founding clubs.

Contact and Secretariat: secretariaat@valkeniers.be ✉

Czech Republic Peregrine and saker falcon restoration program.

BY PETR ZVOLÁNEK

Introduction

The 'Forests of the Czech Republic' (Lesy České Republiky - LČR) is a state enterprise, which takes care of about half of all forest area in the Czech Republic. Before the mid 90's, LCR already performed a long time management in order to protect habitats of peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) and saker falcon (*Falco cherrug*) and to create the new suitable nest areas. Since 1995 LČR has started its own peregrine and saker falcon release program. The main aim has been to help to re-establish stable populations of the peregrine and saker falcons

- species critically endangered in the Czech Republic.

Individuals of the nominal subspecies *Falco peregrinus peregrinus* have been used for the release, which have been bred in captivity by Czech and Polish falconers. Several other release methods other than the direct fostering have been applied:

- **Hacking** is probably the easiest and the most common method, which improves the flight and hunting abilities of young birds of prey. It employs the proven technique developed originally by falconers long time ago. The principle of this method is to put two to five growing young birds in a hacksite box placed in a suitable location such as rock, tree or building. Growing birds of prey are regularly fed in the box while they can observe surrounding area from the box. When the birds are able to fly, the box is opened so that they can fly freely around and return back for the food until they become fully independent.

- **Falconry training followed by hacking** combines advantages of the traditional falconry training with the hacking. Fully grown young birds with proper native parent imprinting and with developed instincts are taken away from their parents from breeding aviary and special falconry training is applied consequently. It is only a short period to get such a bird temporarily tame - only for necessary manipulation and initial flight training. Bird is trained in the location of the future release. Gradually the bird is left at the location longer periods, initially during the day and



later also during the night. At the beginning food is provided to the bird, but later it learns to chase live quarry. As the flying and hunting ability is increasing, the bird naturally becomes shy and it becomes gradually more independent and the tameness disappears. The essential advantage of this method is that the bird is under control during the independence process, which is also useful, if the bird becomes ill or injured.

- **Cross fostering** is insertion of properly native parent-imprinted grown young birds in nests of other species of birds of prey, while all the original young are taken away from the nest. This method employs ability of the parent pair to adopt young of other species as the replacement of their original offspring. This technique was developed and proven by falconers already during first captive breeding attempts a long time ago. In the wild, the method was successfully implemented thirty years ago in Germany and it became a common practice since that time. In reality, young peregrine falcons were adopted by a pair of goshawks (*Accipiter gentilis*). This method is also practiced in Poland since 1990 and it was also realized in The Czech Republic four times during period 2000 – 2003. Failure of the spontaneous adoption or aggressive reaction of adoptive parent goshawks towards young peregrines has never been experienced. Adopted falcons were fed properly and cherished by goshawks even when they left the nest until they become fully independent.

Naturally the optimum method in case of the intention to strengthen wild populations is the direct fostering i.e. insertion of eggs or captive bred young in nests with insufficient amount. Of course, this requires certain conditions, for example existence of such nests, abundance of food. However, in our case we could not use the direct fostering because, the license was available when peregrine falcon pairs were not regularly present in Broumov region and later, when they were present, the license has not been granted by authorities.

Survey of release programs of the Forest of the Czech Republic LČR

It was necessary to release a sufficient number of young birds using each method providing representative statistics in order to evaluate the success rate of these methods. Since losses are quite common when the birds leave the location of the release, it was necessary to provide proper long term tracking via telemetry, which is currently the only effective way of systematic observation of animals such as birds, which move over long distances. In addition the success of a release program cannot be measured only by number of birds surviving in the wild, but mainly by percentage of birds, which are actually reproducing and thus contribute to the population. The tracking of released raptors at least until the first breeding, which might be expected when they are about 3 years old, would be possible using satellite telemetry (see Tables 1 and 2).

Cross fostering of peregrine falcons in goshawk's nest

Currently we consider the cross fostering of peregrine falcons in goshawk's nest to be the most efficient of the methods we used. Based on recommendations of German and Polish experts, we verified this method in the Czech Republic four times in period 2000-2003. According to the recommendations of foreign practitioners, it is possible to use young falcons, both males and females, 2-3 weeks old, while their age should not be too different, neither mutually nor in comparison to the young goshawks. It was also recommended to replace the goshawks by the same number of falcons.

We used both males and females for the cross fostering. Their age was from 20 to 32 days, while care was taken to set up fostering groups having minimum age dispersion. The replacement of young birds was performed at various times of the day, morning as well as evening. We did not consider as necessity to follow the recommendation on the equal number of inserted falcons and removed goshawks. All removed goshawks were added to other goshawk nests. All activities after the swap were intensively monitored

Table.1: Restoration of peregrine falcon by LČR in Broumov and Hradec Králové regions

Year	Method	Male	Female	Total	Notes
		rls/loss	rls/loss	rls/loss	
1996	FT	0	1/1	1/1	Injured by a wild raptor
1997	FT	1/0	0	1/0	1 year old
1997	H	3/1	0	3/1	Injured by a wild common buzzard
1998	FT	0	1/0	1/0	Migration to Poland
1999	CF	0	0	0	Licence not granted, two falcons provided in Poland for release
2000	CF	2/2	1/0	3/2	1 killed by Marten, 1 killed by raptor 8km from nest
2001	CF	1/0	3/2	4/2	1 fell from nest, 1 killed by marten or fox
2002	CF	1/0	1/0	2/0	Male migrated NW of Poland, female migrated in Germany
2003	CF	0	3/2	3/2	1 killed possibly by marten, 1 killed by eagle owl
2004	HC	3/0	0	3/0	1 male found in active pair in 2006 in Poland-Kamienne góry
2005	FT	0	1/1	1/1	Remains of body found in eagle owl nest
2005	FT	0	2/1	2/1	Electrocution followed by leg frostbite
2006	H	1/0	2/0	3/0	Male migrated to Slovakia, probably in NE Poland
TOTAL		12/3	13/7	25/10	Mortality: male 25%, female 54%, both 40%

Note: FT - falconry training modification, H - hacking, HC - hacking in city, CF - cross fostering

Table 2 : Restorations of saker falcon by LČR headquarters in Hradec Králové

Year	Method	Male	Female	Total	Notes
		rls/loss	rls/loss	rls/loss	
2007	HF	1/0	2/0	3/0	Migrated 14/07/2007 in a SW dir
2008	HF	2/0	1/0	3/0	Without tracking; returning for food in hacking box for three weeks
TOTAL		3/0	3/0	6/0	Mortality: male 0%, female 0%, both 0%

Note: HF-hacking at the border of forest

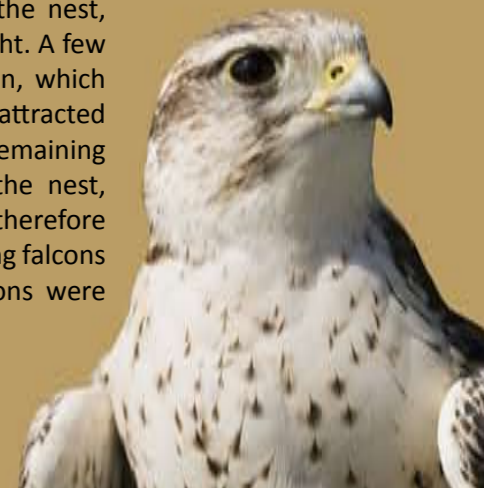
personally as well as by cameras and video recorders and of course by telemetry.

Parent's care on the nest

All four cases of the cross fostering performed in 2000-2003 exhibited exactly the same behaviour pattern of the adoptive goshawk parents. Females came within various time periods - from several minutes to several hours. They brought food and went on with feeding the falcons, adding the fresh small braches and brooding the young falcons. Goshawk males were always outside the nest and they also passed the food to females outside the nest except a few times when female was away from the nest and when falcons were about to leave the nest. The

food consisted most frequently of pigeons – domestic as well as wilds ones, jays, thrushes, sometimes long-eared owls and other small owls.

The nest was left by male falcons first despite they were the same age as females. It was observed that males left the nest about 3-4 days sooner than females. Once it was observed that a male, which left the nest, came back next day to stay over night. A few times it was observed that a falcon, which left the nest, came back being attracted by feeding of the other falcon remaining on the nest. Falcons, which left the nest, mostly did not return in the nest, therefore goshawks provided food to remaining falcons for a period of several days. Falcons were





Left from top:

Photo 1: Original family of goshawks. Here the goshawk female is feeding her two young goshawks.

Photo 2: Later the same goshawk female in the same nest provides the same care to three adoptive young peregrines. In certain aspect, the care is even above-standard. She brings a fresh branch in the nest helping to repel insects (native peregrine parents would not do this).

Photo 3: Example of successful cross fostering. Here the goshawk female is feeding the adoptive young peregrines just like her own.



observed many times having rest and lying down on tree branch, stump and once also in some other nest, which was not used. When the adoptive parents brought food, falcons reacted initially only with screaming, later, when they improved in flying, falcons came towards to meet their adoptive parents. After leaving the nest - within period of one week, it was observed several times that two falcons eat on the same quarry provided by parents, but usually they tried to cover the quarry for themselves or take it away.

Mortality and health conditions

In one case, a young female falcon fell from the nest on the second day after the adoption. It happened probably when goshawk female was leaving the nest. Area of growing feathers was too small to prevent from death when it hit the ground. In three cases, falcons died relatively short time after they left the parents nest (first, fifth and tenth day). Based on dissection, it can be concluded that they were probably killed by some small carnivorous mammal such as marten or fox. This conclusion is also supported by the fact that in one case a separate piece of leg was dug about 10cm under ground. In one case, a female falcon was killed by an eagle owl 26 days after she left the nest. A bit of eagle owls plumage was found on a tree 10m high and about 200m from the nest. In one case a part of falcon skeleton was found 8 km away from the nest two days after the falcon left certainly the nest location (55 days after adoption). In all other cases no other injuries or health problems were observed, however one year falcons suffered from swollen eyelids due to high occurrence of biting insects. Excrements of falcons were tested in the laboratory several times and no endoparasites were found. In general, good plumage and condition of falcons give the evidence that the adoptive care was the proper one.

Independence period

Falcons usually left the nesting area within one month from the moment they left their nest. Falcons were regularly observed in this period, so valuable information about food and movement was obtained. In most cases the remains of their quarry, which they left, were identified as domestic pigeons, while

Right from top:

Photo 1: The goshawks supply food until all young peregrines leave the nest and then even after they leave nest. Here the goshawk female brings food (squirrel) for one remaining peregrine (other two already left the nest).

Photo 2: Traditional hacking of saker falcons. Here young saker falcons are feeding and observing surrounding area in their hacksite box located at the border of forest.

Photo 3: Successful hacking of saker falcons: the young sakers left the hacking box and they are waiting on the steel tower, where the box was placed. They return back for the food until they become fully independent.



many of them had breeders rings or even racing rings. In one case an attack on domestic pigeons was observed near some farmhouse in Poland. Namely, all observed falcons flew across the border to Poland and in one case at least they continued to Germany, where they remained until the moment when the observation was finished. Only in one case a falcon returned back from Poland to nesting area after 10 days of independent life in Poland due to strong evening storm. This falcon stayed over night approximately 100 m from the nest and 30 m from his adoptive female goshawk. Next morning approximately 1.5 hours after sunrise the falcon returned back to Poland.

When observations of falcons were finished, the shortest distance measured was 18 km from the nest and the longest distance was 145 km. The longest observation period was 105 days from the adoption. Another interesting observation was a flight of a female falcon, which covered a distance of 10km during full moon at night in August approximately from 23:00 to 0:30 o'clock.

Conclusions

In full compliance with foreign results, our observations proved that in all four cases cross fostering, the young falcons were spontaneously adopted by the pair of goshawks, while no hostile behaviour was seen until the last moment when they left their nesting location. The adoption process was so obvious that we have not seen even any difference in parent behaviour and care when the original young goshawks were

replaced by the adoptive falcons. Similarly young falcons also exhibited no behaviour difference comparing the adoptive goshawk parents and original falcon parents. It appeared that it is not relevant to keep the same amount and age of young falcons as the original young goshawks. It has been proved that the cross fostering leads to a long term survival of fully independent falcons as a way of their successful reintroduction in the wild. It has been also proven that traditional falconry techniques and experience can be successfully used almost in all stages of such restoration program. 🦅



WHEN TO LET GO

By Steven Squires



Art Haschak quoting from Zen and the Art of Archery says “the object in Archery is not to hit the target but to hit oneself”. He suggests the same is true for falconry.

Falconry is a complex art. As such it gives us opportunity to reflect on our place in the universe and provide some lessons in life. What follows is possibly one of these.

Life is a renewable resource. That is every life except your own. If one examines this proposition more closely from your own selfish perspective it appears that life is not only renewable but that lives tend to have a sliding value, determined primarily by their proximity to you.

For example, the death of ten thousand people in an earthquake in central Asia is just a filler on the news. The death of fifty people in an aircraft accident in our own country is more disturbing, even more so if you know the place where it occurred. The death of a close friend, relative or spouse is most painful of all, and replacing them in your own life is most difficult. People with whom we have close relationships are the least renewable resource in the world. What holds true for our feelings towards other humans is also

true for our feelings towards animals, and, in the case of the falconer, for falcons.

Those falcons with whom we have had the closest relationships are the ones that hurt us the most when they depart or die. This is particularly true if they are flying well at the time of their demise. The pole sitters, the scratchers and biters, the permanently edgy and bad tempered birds are not so deeply mourned. Living with any unpleasant person or creature becomes a chore. Losing it is a relief.

Now this article is not aimed at the long-winger who has not yet mastered his telemetry, much less the art of operant conditioning. This is aimed at the falconer who can keep his falcons for season after season until a restlessness sets in and flying and hunting them starts to feel like work.

We spend hours every day taming, training, conditioning, exercising and nurturing our chosen one. We think out novel ways of getting our point across, gaining the trust and goodwill of our partner to be. If we are successful we develop a relationship that spans an enormous divide. One so wide most people cannot credit that a free flying falcon will come back to you never mind do

courtship displays, chup and call to you from a kill and sit fluffed up on your knee while you lubricate your throat in the evenings. These are the intimacies that we share on a daily basis. Why then do we ever want to change?

Relationships change over time as both personalities mature. What starts with the fresh bloom and hot blood of youth moults out into elegant adult plumage. The zestful unpredictability gives way to casual self confidence and finally to almost ridged conformity. We call this being wedded to a quarry, and I have seen it all too often in both people and birds.

Which falconer has never tried to fly starlings instead of doves, sandgrouse instead of francolin or snipe instead of

ducks? Some falconers even change to Black Spars for a short period of time. However once hunting becomes routine we require variation in order to remain focused and committed. Without variation boredom sets in, accompanied by lack of interest, neglect and eventually the loss of the hawk usually in tragic circumstances.

Is it not better under these circumstances to break ties with the falcon while it can make a new life for itself, rather than letting it die from neglect or molder out its life on a block or in a pen? Better still is to prevent the falcon from becoming boring by flying it at a wide range of quarry under different circumstances. New challenges keep both falcon and falconer sharp.

I remember well the best falcon I have ever had was a Lanner tiercel, who took prey from white rumped swifts to Swainson's francolin. Even on a bad day he was never boring. I flew him for nine years.

Numerous peregrines on the other hand have all been more efficient predators, killing doves with clockwork precision, but once they reach sexual maturity at about three to



four years of age they will fly little else When this happens one is left with two choices, let your falconry become a mechanical and joyless affair like a stale marriage; or part company with your hawk and start afresh with a new one.

We all practice falconry as a recreation, to renew, invigorate and stimulate ourselves.

When it no longer fulfils that function then something is wrong. This is when it makes sense to stop and take stock. When your falconry starts to feel like making love to your fat old wife, who wants to go to sleep and has a headache to boot, then the time has come to let go.

Take your falcon, feed her high on her kills and leave her to sleep out. Be there to feed her in the mornings if she needs you and soon she will cut the bond with surgical efficiency and once again my friend you will be a free man. Free to start again.

In the recent past I have chosen this route and have become convinced that like divorce, under certain circumstances, it is the best option for all parties. After all, life other than your own is renewable. Isn't it? 🦅

NEWS FROM FALCONRY HERITAGE TRUST (FHT)

BY JEVGENI SHERGALLIN - ARCHIVIST OF FHT

One of the most important acquisitions for FHT is a unique collection of video-films on falconry in many countries in the world. Our videotheca grows quite rapidly and it will be great if the countries who already produced some films in VHS format will digitize their videos and share by one copy of them with FHT.

It was a real pleasure to get from the Hungarian falconers (thanks to Gábor Terényi) the table of contents of all last annual bulletins of their club, translated into English. It will be nice if other nations will announce the most interesting and important publications on the history of falconry in their countries to a more wide international public translating them into English.

Roger and Mark Upton kindly photographed many valuable artefacts from their rich and unique collections mainly from Europe and their images are already placed at the website. Mr Alan Gates kindly provided his staff from China and Mongolia and these photos are also available from the FHT site.

As it was possible we tried to help different people who are working now on writing books on falconry in their countries like China, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Slovakia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Saudi Arabia.

We could collect quite a rich collection of photos and prints on falconry from many countries. We are especially proud that we could get nice images from such hard-accessible countries like Afghanistan, China, India, Iran, Korea and Pakistan. The number of articles on the history of falconry grows quite slowly due to very limited number of



such publications.

In January 2009 an archivist of FHT on invitation of the Museum has participated in reopening of the Museum of Falconry in Valkenswaard in the Netherlands.

Especially great help to FHT was provided for the last couple of years by the following volunteers: Dr Alexander Abuladze, Janos Bagyura, Alan Gates, Chris Choi, Onder Cirik, Dr Nick Fox, Kenyon Gibson, Christian Habich, David Horobin, Martin Jones, Bakyt Karnakbayev, Zahid Mehmood, Brian Patterson, Karl Pock, Dmitri Saks, Janusz Sielicki, Tula Stapert, Janos Toth, Kris Ulens, Roger Upton and Mark Upton.

The future of FHT will depend on activity, initiative and an interest of all falconers throughout the world.

For more information on FHT visit the website at www.falconryheritage.com or e-mail: fht@falcons.co.uk

RUSSIAN SPEAKING GROUP – REPORT OF RECENT PUBLICATIONS

During last years in the countries of the ex-USSR where falconry and hawking in Soviet period was under strong pressure or almost banned being considered as a sport of aristocracy there is a burst of publications.

List of books on falconry from the countries of the ex-USSR (now-Northern Eurasia), published after the 1991- year of collapse of ex-USSR:

- **Chogovadze, G.** 2001. [Falconry in Georgia]. Batumi, "Achara" Publisher. 96 p. Paperback. In Georgian.
- **Dementiev, G.P.** 1931. Okhota s lovchimi ptitsami [Falconry]. Moscow. Paperback. In Russian. Reprinted in 2004 by PTP "Era" and "ID Ruchenkinykh". ISBN 5-87624-046-X. 128 p. Number of printed copies – 5000.
- **Enaleev, I.R.** 2007. Praktika sokoloinoi okhoty [Practice of falconry]. Kazan, "Otechestvo". 56 p. ISBN 978-5-9222-0173-5. Paperback. In Russian.



there are 100 photos in the book. ISBN 5-94544-004-3.. Paperback. Number of printed copies – 2000. Drawings by Mr.Vadim Gorbатов. Paperback. In Russian.

• **Noskov, Yu.N.** 2007. Skitalets s pticey – eto ya [The Roamer with a bird – that is I]. Abakan, OOO Koop. "Journalist" Typography. 160 p. + 8 colour insertions with photos. Paperback. In Russian with English summary (pp.146-149). Number of printed copies – 2000.

• **Ponomarev, V.T.** (compiler) 2006. Sokolinaya okhota [Falconry] Moscow: "C59 AST"; Donetsk: "Stalker", 2006.-206, [2] with ill.- (Secrets of skills). ISBN 5-17-035556-4 (OOO «Publisher AST»). ISBN 966-696-986-6 («Stalker»). Paperback. In Russian.

• **Rud' Mykola.** 2003. Polyuvannya z lovetskymy ptakhamy vid najdavnishnykh chasiv. [Falconry since the ancient times]. Kyiv, Journal "Naturalist" Publishers. 144 p. Hardback. Number of printed copies - 1000. ISBN 966-7865-46-0. Bibliography includes 95 titles. In Ukrainian.

• **Simakov, G.N.** 1999. Sokolinaya okhota u narodov Srednei Azii i Kazakhstana v XIX-XX vv [Falconry in nations of the Middle Asia and Kazakhstan in XIX-XX centuries]. Bishkek: "Mektep" Publishers. Hardback. 212 p. In Russian.

• **Simakov, G.N.** 1998. Sokolinaya okhota i kult' khishchnykh ptits v Srednei Azii (ritualnyi i prakticheskiy aspekty) [Falconry and Hawking and Cult of Birds of Prey in the Middle Asia (Ritual and Practical Aspects)]. St-Petersburg, "Peterburgskoe Vostokovedenie" Publishers. (Etnographica Petropolitana, I). 320 p. ISBN 5-85803-111-0. Hardback. Number of printed copies - 1000 copies. Wholly in Russian.

• **Zbaratzkiy, V.V.** 2006. Pomytchiki [Falcon trappers]. Novel. Eastbourne, "Anthony Rowe Publishing Services". 340 p. ISBN 10-905200-34-X. Paperback. In Russian.

Compiled by Jevgeni Shergalin, Chairman of Russian Speaking Europe and Central Asia WG, shergalin@yahoo.com

• **Eyebirdiyev Atadurdy.** 2007. Turkmen Elguscusy [Turkmenian Falconer]. Ashgabat, Turkmen dowlet nesiryat gullugy.264 p. Hardback. In 3 languages: Turkmenian, Russian, English

• **Fedorov, V.M., Malov, O.L.** 2005. Sokolinaya okhota [Falconry]. Moscow "Veche". 376 p. Hardback. In Russian. Number of printed copies – 3000.

• **Flint, V.E., Sorokin, A.G.** 1999. Sokol na perchatke [Falcon on Glove]. Moscow "Egmont-Rossiya Ltd" Press. 328 p. Hardback. Number of printed copies - 3000. Bibliography includes 28 titles. In Russian.

• **Gyndogdyev Ovez.** 2001. Sokol – ptitsa tsarskaya [Falcon – Tsar's bird]. Ashgabat, "Ruh" Publisher. 104 p. with illustrations. Paperback. In Russian.

• **Khinayat, B., Isabekov, K.M.** 2007. Sayat. Kazakh traditional hunting: Book-photoalbum. – Almaty, "Almatykitap" Publishers. 208 p. Hardback. In Russian.

• **Mel'nikova, Olga, Paltusova, Irina.** 2003. Sokolinaya Okhota [Falconry]. Moscow, "Khudojnik i kniga" Publishers. 48 pp. Hardback. In Russian. ISBN 5-901685-32-6.

• **Meptekeyzy Bagdat.** 2006. Kazak Kusbegileri. Photoalbum. Almaty, Republic Federation "Kyran". Times Printhouse. 102 p. ISBN 9965-27-500-8. Paperback. In Kazakh. Preface in Kazakh and Russian.

• **Noskov, Yu.N.** 2002. S lovchei ptitsej po svetu [With hunting bird throughout the world]. Ekaterinburg (former Sverdlovsk), "Akva-Press". 224 p. + 16 sheets with colour illustrations. Total



Obituaries

KENT CHRISTOPHER DUBOIS, IDAHO. APRIL 11, 2008

Kent Christopher is one of those few men known throughout the world as a talented and innovative falconer. He is among those falconers who similarly dedicated themselves to conservation. Today, I am sorry that I cannot join you for this celebration of his life. It is appropriate that we memorialize Kent at these Dubois Grouse Days, for which he will always be remembered for his contributions to sage grouse conservation.

Kent was an intense man, self-evident by simply peering into his eyes. With that intensity, coupled with skill and knowledge, he flew wonderful gyrfalcons and hybrids in magnificent style on sage grouse. They were high flying birds and more often than not deadly over a point after a great flush. He could put all of the elements together to achieve results in classic style. He wrote articles about his falconry, but we await his real work with the publication of his book on high flying gyrfalcons, co-authored by our friend, Vic

Hardaswick.

Kent was at the initial meeting to form the North American Grouse Partnership at Tom Cade's home. He was the first NAGP Newsletter editor and the moving force behind the Idaho Chapter. He supported and wrote about the North American model of wildlife conservation and management.

Kent Christopher was one of the falconers who became an essential leader for grouse and habitat conservation. That will be his legacy.

On behalf of the 69 Member Organizations from 48 nations, representing more than 30,000 falconers worldwide, we join you in spirit to remember Kent Christopher's life. We send our heartfelt condolences to his wife and children. On a personal basis, I mourn the loss of a special friend.

In sympathy,

Frank M. Bond
President

AURELIO PEREZ

He was for a long time the Head falconer of Felix Rodriguez de la Fuente, spiritual father of all modern Spanish falconers. He died aged 73 after a hard life dedicated to his family and wildlife.

He was born in a small village near Soria, north east Spain. During his childhood he was doing all kind of jobs, coming from a poor family. He started working with Felix in 'operation bahari', for pest control in Barajas Airport in Madrid. There he was training all kind of animals, from wolves to golden eagles, for the famous TV series 'man and earth', considered the best Spanish TV program ever.

His passion was falconry. He trained any kind of raptors, including Aquila adalberti and other threatened

species. His favourite were all the big eagles. Training a 6kg female golden was always for him an easy task. He was also very good making hoods and other falconry items, creating new ideas in this old tradition.

He was celebrated in every falconry meeting in Spain, and had lot of friend who admired him. He did not realize that was a leader for a lot of people.

He wrote a book about his life and got several awards for his dedication for wildlife and conservation. Dozens of falconers went to his funeral from all parts of Spain, to say good bye to this master of falconers and good man.

Fernando Feás

TERRY I'ANSON 1936 -2008

Terry died suddenly from a heart attack at his home in Murcia, Spain on 23rd September, 2008.

Terry was born in Birmingham where he trained as a draughtsman. He married Shirley in 1957 and they had three children, Paul, Karen and Dawn. National service saw Terry in the Royal Air Force on a three year short

service commission. After leaving the RAF he set up his own heating installation business.

His interest in falconry began in the early 1970's with a falconry course at 'the Glaziers'. In those early days he flew lugger falcons. At that time, Terry and his family lived in Essex when perchance he met Ray Turner and



Aurelio Perez



Kent Christopher



Terry I'Anson

a life long friendship was struck. Ray's memory of Terry is of a staunch, reliable and generous friend, but one who never failed to defend any personal views he held.

His membership of the British Falconers' Club began in 1974. He figured greatly in the emergence of the North East Group at committee level and thereafter became an elected member of the BFC Council for many years. Whilst on the Council, he served on various sub-committees. He played a pivotal role on behalf of the Club in arranging and chaperoning the importation of goshawks from abroad.

The I'Anson family moved to Askrigg, North Yorkshire in 1976 where Terry quickly became renowned, both in the UK and abroad, for his ability to fly and breed merlins. Many are the falconers who visited Terry's home and hawked the surrounding Askrigg area, from Ronnie Moore with his golden eagle to group merlin meets.

It was quite remote where the I'Ansons lived and proved an ideal situation for hacking out merlins. Unfortunately, there was a downside. The area contained a particularly voracious strain of tawny owls, necessitating Terry having to bring the merlins in at night via the remotely controlled door of his garage, to preserve their very lives. Along with flying his merlins, Terry was never without a capable goshawk to hand, always feather perfect, to hawk the abundant rabbit population at Askrigg and its surrounding moorland. It was during this period in the early 1980's that I met Terry, and as with Ray Turner, a long standing friendship was struck which never wavered. Over the years, we hawked together on each other's ground. Sometimes the late Sid Moore (the merlin man) would accompany us as ferret man – memorable days!

In 1993 Terry and Shirley moved to Arizona.

Whilst there he trapped his own Harris hawks. It is acknowledged that Terry flew two passage Harris's at hares from a waiting on position and I suspect he was unique in doing this. 2001 found Terry and Shirley back in Europe, this time in Spain. I sent Terry a female goshawk of mine so that he could continue his hawking, and he also acquired a pair of Harris hawks at that time. However, due to bureaucratic restrictions he was unable to fly his hawks as he wished to in Spain, and so passed the Harris hawks on in 2006 and returned the goshawk to me. When speaking to him on the telephone at this time, it was clear he greatly missed his hawking.

Ros and I visited Terry and Shirley at their home in Spain in the Autumn of 2007. I remember the four of us sitting under a pergola laden with ripe bunches of grapes, talking late into the evening with Terry pulling away on his pipe, saying with a twinkle in his eye, that he would have stopped years ago but the smoke kept the 'mozzies' away.

Terry made it known that he wanted his ashes to be scattered on Askrigg moor where much of his hawking had taken place, and therefore, on Sunday 12th October 2008, Terry's family and friends gathered at St Oswald's Church, Askrigg to carry out his wish. When all were assembled, a convoy of vehicles travelled to a high point on Askrigg moor where we were blessed with fine weather for a short service carried out by the Vicar of Askrigg. During her readings and prayers, grouse were calling all around us, and as Terry's ashes were scattered, a small covey of grouse lifted immediately in front of us, calling as they did so, and then silently dropped back into the heather. It was a most moving and memorable moment in time, and a fitting farewell to Terry.

Norman Waddock. 

Salburun 2008

FESTIVAL IN KYRGYZSTAN BY BAKYT KARNAKBAYEV

From October, 16th to 18th the hunting Festival 'SALBURUN 2008' was held in the Kyrgyzstan Issyk Kul area, near the village of Bokonbaevo.

The festival program featured the performance of the falconers as well archers and taiganchi (hunters with the hunting Kirghiz dogs hounds taigans).

The organizers were the fund 'JOLCHORO' whose president Almaz Akunov is well known to many of you, and also the support of the government of Kyrgyzstan. Participants from all areas of Kyrgyzstan were gathered.

The sport festival on Issyk Kul took place, but falconers from Turkmenistan and Mongolia could not come. There was a performance with birds of prey: golden eagles, hawks and falcons, and dogs taigan on artificial models of foxes, hares. At the conclusion the winners *berkutchi* and *taiganchi* demonstrated their skills of work on the wolf, archery on range, accuracy and shooting from a horse, and competitions on horses.

The Minister of Sports and Minister of Tourism of Kyrgyzstan also participated in the festival. From the Kazakhstan Federation, the 'BURKUTCHI' Isabekov family team acted, and from the 'BURKUTCHI' Federation were Zemblevsky Vladimir and myself.

The festival was a big success. Unlike last years' festival 'SALBURUN 2007', there were more participants and interested persons, a lot of press and telechannels, including 'International One' were represented.

Фестиваль «САЛБУРУН 2008» в Кыргызстане

С 16 по 18 октября прошел охотничий Фестиваль «САЛБУРУН 2008» в Кыргызстане, Иссык-Кульская область, село Боконбаево.

В программе фестиваля: выступление сокольников, лучников и тайганчи (охотники с охотничьими борзыми кыргызскими собаками тайганами)

Организаторы: фонд «Жолчоро» президент Алмаз Акунов, которого многие из вас хорошо знают, при поддержке правительства Кыргызстана.

Спортивный фестиваль на Иссык-Куле состоялся, не смогли приехать сокольники Туркменистана и Монголии. Собрались участники со всех областей Кыргызстана.

Было выступление с ловчими птицами беркутами, ястребами и соколами, с собаками тайганами на муляжи лис, зайцев, и в заключении победители беркутчи и тайганчи отработали мастерство работы по волку, стрельба из лука на дальность, на точность и стрельба с лошади, состязания на лошадях.

Присутствовали министры спорта и туризма Кыргызстана.

От Казахской федерации «Буркутчи» выступила семейная команда Исабековых, от федерации «Буркутчи» были я и Земблевский Владимир.

Фестиваль прошел хорошо в отличие от фестиваля «САЛБУРУН 2007» было больше участников и заинтересованных лиц, много прессы и телеканалов, в том числе и международных. 🦅



