

IAF newsletter

Spring 2016



www.iaf.org

editorial



Welcome to the Spring issue of the IAF Newsletter. This edition celebrates the global IAF community in all its many shapes and colours.

Anyone who has attended a Council of Delegate meetings or

the International Festival of Falconry will have come away knowing that falconry's international identity is its strongest card. That it is practiced in such diverse environments and cultures is proof of its intrinsic value to mankind.

Attending such events, however, also highlights another fundamental quality of international falconry – friendship. Regardless of where they are staged, these events draw delegates from around the world because they offer us a chance to catch up with old friends and make new ones. Falconry is a great leveller. I have seen two men cross a substantial language barrier to have conversation about raptors, all because they had a common passion to relate to. Needless to say, my fellow countrymen and I are greatly looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the 47th Council of Delegates in Ireland in November (See Page 4, News).

There are countless magazines, books and forums out there telling you how to train these animals and what the best equipment to use is. While this issue features reviews of GPS systems and the much-talked about new book *The Art of Falconry* by our own Patrick Morel, our goal here is to talk about you – the lifeblood of IAF and modern falconry itself.

So tell us what you are up to. Use this newsletter to say hello to the rest of the IAF world. Be proud of what you are doing, where ever you are, in the name of good falconry and the conservation of raptors and their prey species. And lastly - see you in November!

Hilary White
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Добро пожаловать в весенний выпуск информационного бюллетеня IAF. Это издание приветствует глобальное сообщество IAF во всех его разнообразных формах и цветах.

Тот, кто принимал участие на заседании Совета делегатов или на Международном фестивале соколиной охоты, знает, что международная самобытность это сильнейшая карта соколиной охоты. Практикуемая в разнообразных средах и культурах соколиная охота является бесценным источником внутренних ценностей для человечества.

Посещение таких мероприятий, однако, также выдвигает на первый план еще одно фундаментальное качество международной соколиной охоты как дружба. Вне зависимости от того, где устраиваются такие мероприятия, эти события привлекают делегатов со всего мира, потому что им дается шанс встретиться со старыми друзьями и завести новых. Соколиная охота не знает барьеров. Я был свидетелем того, как двое мужчин пересекли существенный языковой барьер, ради того, чтобы вступить в диалог о хищных птицах; все это благодаря из совместной страсти к соколиной охоте. Само собой разумеется, мои земляки и я будем очень рады видеть как можно больше из вас на 47-м Совете делегатов в Ирландии в ноябре (см стр. 4, Новости).

Существует бесчисленное множество журналов, книг и форумов о том, как следует обучать животных и какое оборудование является наилучшим для использования; не смотря на то, что в обзоре этого издания разговор пойдет о навигационной системе GPS и о новой книге 'Искусство соколиной охоты' нашего коллеги Патрика Мореля, главная цель - это поговорить о вас, так как вы являетесь энергетическим источником IAF и современной соколиной охоты.

Мы будем рады узнать, как вы поживаете. Пожалуйста воспользуйтесь этим бюллетенем, чтобы передать привет остальным коллегам мира IAF. Будьте горды тем, чем вы занимаетесь, где бы вы не находились, во имя хорошей соколиной охоты и сохранения хищных птиц и птиц других видов. И надеюсь до скорых встреч в ноябре!

Хилари Белый
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Latest News
Свежие новости

IAF AGM 2016 - Ireland

News from Georgia

Jac van Gerven receives IAF Presidential Award

47th IAF Council of Delegates Meeting, Ireland

To be held in the very south of Ireland from 13th to 20th November 2016 by invitation of the The Irish Hawking Club.

The IAF Meetings will be held in Sneem, Co. Kerry in the early part of the week, where hawking will take place every day. The latter part of the week we will all move to Co. Westmeath in the Irish Midlands for more hawking and a conference on the sustainable use of wildlife.

[ONLINE REGISTRATION FORM](#)

After filling in the registration form, please go to [the event website](#) where you will find details of the location, transport, booking accommodation and the programme of events.

For more information contact info@iaf.org or Don Ryan on don@irishhawkingclub.ie

SINCERE greetings to you, my colleagues and friends.

I am delighted to inform that the Ministry of Culture of Georgia together with the falconry association in Georgia have completed the joint initiative to acknowledge the falconry as art and cultural heritage of Georgia. Both me and all Georgian falconers are looking forward to this acknowledgement.

It would be a tremendous historical event that would greatly contribute to the development and popularisation of falconry in Georgia.

With best regards and wishes,

*Aleksands Kvantaliani
President, Falconry
Association of Georgia*

Приветствую Вас, мои Коллеги и Друзья.

Я рад поделиться информацией, что Министерство Культуры Грузии и Организация Сокольников Грузии завершили совместную работу по инициативе признания искусства соколиной охоты как материально-культурное наследие Грузии.

Я и все сокольничие Грузии с нетерпением ждет этого признания.

Это будет поистине историческим событием, способствующим развитию и популяризации соколиной охоты в Грузии!

С наилучшими пожеланиями,

*Президент Организации Сокольников Грузии
Александр Кванталиани*

THE Valkenswaard falconer Jacques van Gerven is the latest recipient of the IAF Presidential Award. Van Gerven, 85, received the award for his national and international contribution to falconry.

The award was presented to him by IAF Arts and Culture Officer Frits Kleyn and former IAF President Patrick Morel. The ceremony took place on March 20 at the general meeting of members of the Dutch Association Falconer 'Adriaan Mollen' in the Carolus building in Valkenswaard.

Van Gerven received the award in recognition of his lifelong work, commitment and passion for falconry. He has, among other things studied the history of Valkenswaard falconers, was the founder and for 25 years (until 2012) curator



of the Falconry Museum Valkenswaard and has worked on the development of the exhibits for falconry. The refinement of these techniques Van Gerven has also put into writing.

It was a very big surprise to Jac who thanked his partner

Nolda in his speech as being his greatest support in the background. Flowers were presented to Nolda.



News from ABFPAR, Brazil

ABFPAR President and IAF delegate João Paulo Diogo Santos wrote recently with an exciting piece of news from Brazil.

THE Brazilian Falconers and Raptor Preservation Association (ABFPAR) has implemented a new conservation project that has been functioning throughout the country for almost a year with great success. Christened the Wild Raptor Environmental Education Project or PREDAR, it was devised in 2015 and has been presented in all regions of the country by state teams working in coordination with their respective delegate.

Although considered a recent initiative, PREDAR has already been a success. It was the main cause of a transfer of public space held by the municipality of Contagem city / Minas

Gerais to the ABFPAR for its headquarters. This building, it is hoped, will also house a recovery centre for birds of prey.

The specific objectives of the project are to; conduct environmental education activities in public spaces; demonstrate the basics of raptor biology and their respective importance in the ecosystem; raise awareness of wild-animal trafficking; raise awareness of the importance of conserving natural resources; stimulate sustainable environmental practices; advise the public about other environmental projects that will be implemented by ABFPAR, describing and detailing their activities to the population and relevant authorities.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=lfmVdjQyU1Y

Annaman Movlyamov (1924-2016)

WE ARE sad to report that Annaman Movlyamov, one of the oldest practicing falconers of our brotherhood, had passed away on the early morning of May 24, 2016.

Being great mentor and generous man, he was actively inspiring and taking care of his fellow falconers until his last minutes.

A hereditary falconer, whose family was practicing falconry for more than three centuries, he flew his first bird at the age of eight. The freedom of flight and the wisdom of great tradition became a part of his very special nature. Every one of us who had the luck to know him has been touched by his gift of feeling life as a light yet deep and infinite adventure.

On behalf of falconers of Turkmenistan and around the world, we are saying now:

Rest in peace, our great teacher and friend.

Jacque Godard (1926-2016)

JACQUE GODDARD, a colourful, youthful and magnetic personality whose lifelong association with falconry showed all the hallmarks of a true sportsman, died without pain at the age of 89. He trained his first falcon, a Hobby, at 12 using an article on falconry by A Boyer as his guide. For the next 60 years, he was never without a trained falcon on his fist for long. In Ireland and the UK, it will be for his long association with Ronald Stevens that he will be best remembered for.

Born in France in 1926, Jacque had a profound need for freedom and it was his immense energy and courage coupled with his great sense of humour that enabled him to live a long life full of adventure. From the earliest age, he was fearless adventurer. During WWII,

he would often hide in ditches and shoot at the German planes with his father's small bore rifle, well aware if caught he and his family would have certainly been shot.

Jacque was in his eighties when he came to Ireland as a guest of honour at the first Irish International snipe hawking meet. During his annual visits over, Jacque and Robert Hutchinson travelled together to the wild places he had flown falcons, shot woodcock and caught salmon in as a young man, visiting old friends and Ronald's grave.

During one of their trips. Robert asked him why he insisted on calling him his brother? "We are part of the same community – that makes you my brother," he replied.

On the 17 February 2016, we all lost a brother.

THE SPORTSMAN'S CUP

ON January 13-14, 2017 a special event will take place in Ireland. Inspired by the lifetime contribution of field sportsmen, John Nash and Steven Frank, this sky and field trial aims to celebrate the highest standards of game hawking and sportsmanship.

Those taking part will receive a specially commissioned medal and although a scoring system and qualified judges will award points, it will be for the participants to decide who is to be awarded the trophy.

Entries will be strictly limited to 10 of the finest falcons from around Europe. For falconers who don't currently own a pointing dog, one will be made available on the day. The quarry at this first event will be snipe.

Spectators will be strictly limited but a high quality film will record the event and be made available. Copy of the rules and scoring system will be made available.

To Apply, please contact Robert Hutchinson by September 30 on Roberthutchinson2004@eircom.net / Violet Bank, Derrygarran, Clonbulloge, Co Offaly, Ireland / 00353 862 354875



Raptor Welfare website launched by Keiya Nakajima Ph.D

Dear Representatives.

I am pleased to inform you that the website of raptor welfare has been published by IAF as follows. <http://raptorwelfare.org>.

The basic language of the website is English, but, other languages can also be selected from the Google service with top left button on the page.

Recently, falconry or keeping of raptors is developed as new hobby in several countries, particularly those in Southeast Asia. In these cases, the Internet is a major tool to get information. Various images or movies are also published through websites such as Facebook or YouTube to show birds or activities. They will be first gateway for the people who are very interested in the keeping of raptors or falconry. They will be also used to promote relevant business.

However, raptor welfare and conservation must have priority over all other considerations, such as personal pleasure or profit with birds. It is vitally important that falconry has a good reputation with the general public and the government authorities that are focused on these matters, and it is related to good development of falconry in Southeast Asia, especially in those countries where falconry does not yet enjoy complete legal recognition and falconers can only practice out art through rehabilitation and conservation projects.

If misunderstandings about falconry or keeping of birds arise by wrong examples spread by the internet forums and YouTube films, huge efforts with long time-lines will be needed on all our parts to resolve the situation.

Therefore, I would like to ask you that the Raptor Welfare website is spread to everyone you can in your country via mailing lists or Internet tools to prevent such wrong examples being shown and to show new falconers the right way to keep birds of prey. The contents of this website will be useful to understand the outline and basic method for keeping of birds.

Sometimes strange text may be found in the Google translation service, because of the various technical terms and specific situations included in the website contents; if the translated text is difficult to understand, we have to think about making of the website in your native language for diffusion within several months. This project will involve a special role for IAF member organizations in order to promote the

understanding of falconry and keeping of birds in your country. If you are able to make a proper translation of www.raptorwelfare.org IAF will publish the version in your language and provide the server free of charge.

Besides falconry, the conservation of wild birds of prey is a major part of IAF. Even in countries where the capture and keeping of wild raptors is not prohibited, we have to always consider the most appropriate way to ensure for the use of wildlife is sustainable and the conservation of endangered species is assured.

Profit without proper consideration of all this is neither to the benefit of falconry nor to the long-term conservation of the birds. If you find unsuitable case on the trade of birds, please

consider how to stop it, it is your duty as an IAF member organization, and please send the information to IAF. We will IAF will assist you with the improvement of the situation, if it is needed.

Thank you so much for your prompt attention on this matter.

Best regards,

Keiya Nakajima, Ph.D.

*Vice president for Asia,
International Association for
Falconry & Conservation of
Birds of Prey*





Latest News

Noticias breves

Latin American Working Group Report – Chilean Peregrine Egg Project

Henrique Rezende

Background

IN OCTOBER 21, 2015, Jeffrey Lendrum, an Irish citizen trying to board a flight from the city of Sao Paulo, Brazil, bound for Dubai, was arrested by the wildlife authorities of Brazil (IBAMA). In his hand luggage, a portable incubator with four peregrine falcon eggs was found. He was coming from Santiago, Chile, stopping off in Sao Paulo and going on to his final destination in Dubai.

Immediately the news spread through social networks. I and other Latin American falconers assumes that the eggs were from the subspecies Cassini, pale phase. The next day, Mr Christian Gonzalez from the Chilean Association of Falconry sent me a message asking if the Latin American Working Group (LAWG) of the IAF could collaborate to try to return

the eggs or chicks to Chile for release back to the wild.

I told Mr Gonzalez to contact Mr Gustavo Trainini, a falcon breeder in Brazil, since the eggs would most likely be sent to his breeding project. The same day, Mr Trainini contacted me so that together, under the auspices of LAWG and IAF, we could carry out a historical project to return these birds to the wild.

The challenges and uncertainties were great. As a first step, we had to place the eggs in a safe place in case they were fertile and viable. For this, Mr Trainini travelled 1100km overnight from his home of Porto Alegre to Sao Paulo with a professional incubator.

With that first problem solved, candling revealed that the four eggs were fertile at different stages of incubation. We estimated it was about 20 days before the eggs would

begin to hatch.

Our first goal was to bring the eggs back to Chile, allow them to hatch and put the young with falcons in the breeding centre of Mr Gonzalez. When they were at the right age, we would look for wild nests with chicks of the same age for release.

It was an ambitious project, not only from a biological point of view but also in the care of the eggs and chicks. As well as that, the logistics had to be perfect. The main problem was dealing with the bureaucracy of the wildlife authorities and Cites of two countries in a small window of time. The timing was critical here because if the eggs hatched in Brazil it would have been much more complicated to send live birds than eggs.

Fortunately, letters sent by IAF to the authorities in Chile and Brazil explained

the urgent and delicate nature of the process. It was an excellent opportunity to show how falconers and authorities can work together to undo the damage of others. In the end, we obtained the full co-operation of the authorities of both countries.

Outcome

Mr Trainini took the eggs back to Chile just a few days before they started to hatch. From the four eggs, two hatched and just one chick survived. This chick was actually a pale-phase cassini and was placed in a wild nest in southern Chile which had only one chick. The wild parents adopted him with no problem.

Mr Jeffrey Lendrum was arrested and sentenced to four years and six months in prison.

I want to emphasize that this effort did not pursue a conservation order as the southern peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus cassini*) is not endangered or threatened – populations of both normal and pale-phase are healthy and stable. The objective was to show the ability of falconers when we work together to make things right.

Acknowledgements

I want to thank Mr Christian Gonzalez of the Chilean Association of Falconry for his initiative, work and

commitment to this project. I want to thank Mr Gustavo Trainini and the Brazilian Association of Falconry for their support in Brazil, without which it couldn't have been carried out.

I also want to thank IAF Vice President for the Americas Ralph Rogers and President Adrian Lombard for the support.

I want to especially thank the wildlife authorities in Chile and Brazil, SAG (Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero) and the IBAMA (Instituto Brasileiro do Meio Ambiente) for all their support. They really made things easy for us.

Antecedentes

El 21 de octubre de 2015, Jeffrey Lendrum, un ciudadano irlandés, tratando de abordar un vuelo de la ciudad de Sao Paulo, Brasil, con destino a Dubái, en los Emiratos Árabes Unidos, fue detenido por las autoridades de vida silvestre de Brasil (IBAMA). En su equipaje de mano se encontró una incubadora portátil con huevos de halcón peregrino (4). Él venía de Santiago (Chile) con parada en Sao Paulo y destino final de Dubái.

Inmediatamente la noticia se difundió a través de las redes sociales, vi un post en Facebook y junto con otros halconeros latinoamericanos, supusimos que los huevos eran de la subespecie de Cassini, fase pálida. Al día siguiente, el Sr. Christian González, de la Asociación Chilena de Cetrería me envía un

mensaje pidiendo la colaboración del Grupo de Trabajo de América Latina de la IAF, para ver la posibilidad de devolver los huevos o los polluelos a Chile para reintroducirlos a su hábitat natural.

Le dije al señor González que se pusiera en contacto con el Sr. Gustavo Trainini, un criador de rapaces en Brasil, ya que muy probablemente los huevos se enviarían a su proyecto de cría.

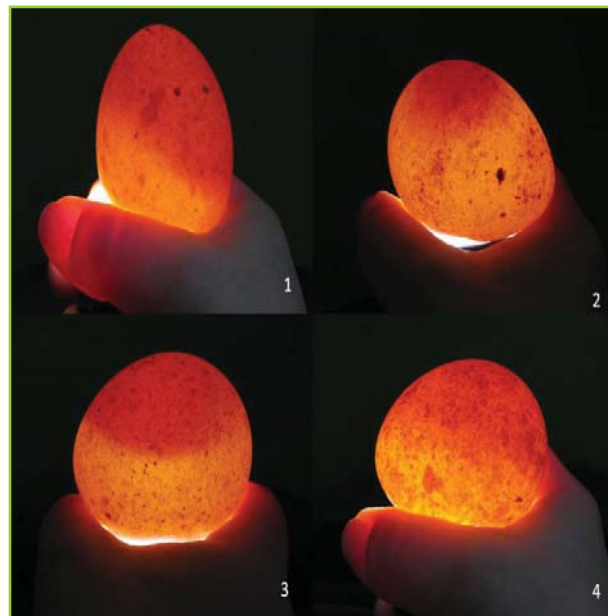
El mismo día el Sr. Trainini se puso en contacto conmigo para que juntos bajo los auspicios de LAWG y la IAF llevar a cabo un proyecto histórico para devolver a la naturaleza estas aves.

Los desafíos e incertidumbres eran grandes, como primer paso, tuvimos que colocar los huevos en un lugar seguro en caso de que fueran fértiles y viables. El Sr. Trainini viajó durante la noche (1100 km), con una incubadora profesional para los huevos desde su ciudad natal en Porto Alegre a Sao Paulo.

Al hacer la ovoscopia se determinó que los 4 huevos eran fértiles en diferentes etapas de incubación, y estimamos que faltaban unos 20 días para que los huevos empiecen a eclosionar.

Nuestro primer objetivo era llevar los huevos de vuelta a Chile, y una vez que eclosionen ponerlos con padres sustitutos el centro de cría del Sr. González y cuando tuvieran una edad adecuada, buscar nidos silvestres con los pollos de la misma edad para la liberación.

Fue un proyecto ambicioso, no sólo desde un punto de vista biológico, el cuidado de los huevos y polluelos, además la



logística tenía que ser perfecta, mover los huevos a Chile, etc., etc., y el principal problema: tratar con la burocracia de las autoridades de vida silvestre y Cites de dos países en un tiempo récord. La sincronización de los pasos a seguir era crítica, ya que en caso de que los huevos eclosionasen en Brasil sería mucho más complicado enviar aves vivas que enviar los huevos.

Afortunadamente, con las cartas enviadas por la IAF a las autoridades de Chile y Brasil, que explicaban la urgente y delicada situación del proceso, y que era una excelente oportunidad para mostrar cómo cetreros y las autoridades pueden trabajar juntos para deshacer lo que otros hacen mal, se obtuvo la completa la cooperación de las autoridades de ambos países.

Resultado

El Sr. Trainini llevo los huevos de vuelta a Chile tan sólo unos días

antes de que empiecen a nacer, de los 4 huevos eclosionaron sólo 2, pero sólo un polluelo logro sobrevivir.

Ese polluelo era en realidad de la subespecie Cassini fase clara y fue colocado en un nido salvaje que tenía un solo polluelo, en el sur de Chile.

Los padres salvajes lo adoptaron sin ningún problema.

Sr. Jeffrey Lendrum fue detenido y condenado a cuatro años y seis meses de prisión.

Quiero hacer hincapié en que este esfuerzo no tenía un objetivo de conservación, el halcón peregrino austral (Falco Peregrinus Cassini) no está en peligro o amenazado, las poblaciones tanto de la fase normal y pálida son saludables y estables. El objetivo era demostrar la capacidad que los cetreros tienen cuando nos proponemos hacer las cosas bien.

Agradecimientos

Quiero dar las gracias al Sr. Christian González, de la Asociación Chilena de cetrería, por su iniciativa, su trabajo y compromiso con este proyecto.

Quiero dar las gracias al Sr. Gustavo Trainini y la Asociación Brasileña de la Cetrería por su apoyo en Brasil para el proyecto, sin el cual no podría haberse llevado a cabo.

Quiero agradecer a la IAF, el vicepresidente para las Américas Ralph Rogers y Presidente Adrian Lombard por el apoyo.

También quiero agradecer especialmente a las autoridades de vida silvestre en Chile y Brasil, SAG (Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero) y el IBAMA (Instituto Brasileño del Medio Ambiente) por todo su apoyo, ya que realmente nos facilitaron las cosas.



WITH our review 2015, we would like to give an insight in the activities of our club. We will do that without rewriting articles that already have been published but by using our digital newsletter to link the original articles online. With the freshly installed Google translator on our website, it should be possible to get the sense of the different publications.

A decision was certainly overdue on representing the DFO on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. By 19th of March 2015 Stephan Wunderlich published the accounts on it. Watch us there and on YouTube, give us a big "LIKE!" and follow us for the newest updates regarding falconry in Germany!

Deutscher Falkenorden Jahresrückblick 2015

Wir möchten mit unseren Jahresrückblick einen kleinen Einblick in die Arbeit unseres Verbandes geben. Dabei verzichten wir darauf bereits veröffentlichte Berichte nochmals neu zu verfassen, sondern nutzen den digitalen Newsletter dazu, direkt über den Link zu dem bereits existierenden Bericht zu gelangen. Mit dem Google Sprachtool, das oben links auf unserer Website zu finden ist, sollte es möglich sein, die Texte in verschiedene Sprachen so zu übersetzen das der Sinn erfasst werden kann.

Eine sicherlich längst überfällige Entscheidung war es den Deutschen Falkenorden auf Facebook zu repräsentieren. Am 19. März 2015 eröffnete Stephan Wunderlich für uns den DFO Account und betreut diesen für uns in sehr engagierter Weise. Besuchen Sie uns und erfahren Sie mehr über die Arbeit des DFO

DFO Report 2015

Elisabeth Leix and Stephan Wunderlich

La retrospectión del año 2015

Con nuestra retrospectión del año 2015 queremos formar una idea de nuestra asociación. Renunciamos a volver a escribir informes que fueron publicados ya, sino utilizamos el boletín informativo digital vía el enlace para llegar directamente a los informes existentes.

Con el ajuste de idiomas (lengua utensilio) que se puede encontrar arriba en la esquina derecha en nuestra página web es posible traducir el texto conforme el sentido a distintos idiomas.

Finalmente hemos tomado la decisión de representar la asociación alemana de los halcones vía Facebook:

Stephan Wunderlich creó la cuenta el 19 de marzo 2015 y lo atiende comprometidamente en nuestro nombre.

¡Visítenos y aprende más sobre el trabajo del DFO!



[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[YouTube](#)

[Website](#)

Die wichtigsten Themen waren – Most important topics - más importante tema

[Der Habicht - Vogel des Jahres 2015/The goshawk - bird of the year 2015](#)

[Fachtagung Habicht - Expert conference regarding the goshawk](#)

[Immaterielles Kulturerbe - Cultural heritage](#)

[Zum geforderten Verbot - Concerning the ban of taking goshawks from the wild](#)

[Zeit, dass uns was blüht! - In time that something will bloom for us!](#)

[Totalverbot Habichtskorb wird abgelehnt - Ban on goshawk- traps is rejected](#)

[World-Biodiversity-Day - Cooperation of the DFO and the DJV \(German Hunters Association\)](#)

[Zusammenarbeit DFO und DJV](#)

[IAF-Arbeitsgruppe »Biodiversität« - IAF-working group „biodiversity“](#)

[Auswilderungsbericht 2015 - Report of release 2015](#)

[Kalender - Calendar](#)

[Kroatisches Gänsegeier-Projekt - Croatian project for griffon vulture](#)

[World-Falconry-Day 2015](#)

[Vom Notfallpatienten zur erfolgr. Auswilderung - From an emergency to successful release](#)

[Das neue Malbuch des DFO - The new coloring book of the DFO](#)

[Artenschutzprojekt Habichtskauz - Wildlife conservation project for the Ural owl](#)

The Art of Falconry

by Patrick Morel

THE ART OF FALCONRY represents a milestone in titles on the sport, quite unique in scope, style and content. It presents falconry in theory and in practice, celebrating it as both an art form and a living cultural heritage. Far from being merely another “how-to” book, however, it takes the reader into the field with contributions from experts in all branches of the sport, and is lavishly illustrated with stunning photographs and artwork.

The first new practical falconry treatise in the French language since the 1940s, this English edition brings a fresh perspective to the English-speaking falconer and is further enhanced through contributions from a number of internationally renowned authorities, including British, American and South African falconers and austringers.

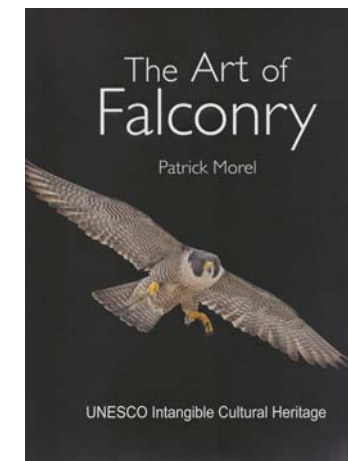


The author's vast falconry experience, combined with that of his fellow contributors, make this volume heavy yet light and entertaining in style. It covers all aspects of modern falconry, from the traditions that shaped the sport we know today to its underpinning ethics and philosophy as it continues to evolve in the 21st century. It takes the reader around the globe in search of ultimate quarry species, relating methods and motives through the hawking experiences of those who seek the most challenging flights in their art. Scottish red grouse and Belgian crows; wood pigeon hawking with peregrines and goshawks; sand grouse, snipe and sage grouse with high-flying falcons: this book gives the falconer pride in the sport's traditions and enthusiasm for the future development and evolution of this living heritage.

Patrick is a consummate master falconer and a wonderful servant to world falconry. Patrick supported Christian de Coune through his Presidency of the IAF as Executive Secretary and went on to be the President himself. Few others have this depth of insight into both the practice of 'hunting falconry' as well as the political work needed to ensure that falconers can continue to take the field. The Art of Falconry is a beautiful book which feasts the eye. It is a modern treatise on the principles and philosophy which underlie the practice of falconry. It is exquisite; the product of a life spent pursuing that dream of all falconers: to attain the perfect flight. This book, in its beauty and wisdom, will help the reader along that path. Adrian Lombard, IAF President

215 x 280mm portrait / 464pp Hardback / Full colour throughout / €54.32

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The New Curator Appointed to Falconry Museum, Valkenswaard

AT THE beginning of this year, the board of the Falconry Museum in Valkenswaard appointed Mark van Appeldorn as the new curator.

Born in 1970, van Appeldorn lives in The Hague and works a clinical perfusionist in various hospitals. He spent an important part of his youth in Valkenswaard. At the age of 11, he met Mr van Gerven, curator of the museum at the time. He was sitting on a bench at the market with a red female

hawk on his hand. From that moment on, Mark only wanted one thing: to be a falconer. The meeting with Mr van Gerven was the beginning of many years of hunting together and of many hours spent in the museum. Four years ago, after taking a break to study and work, Mark obtained his Falconer's Certificate and started hunting in the dunes on the Dutch coast.

For four years, he has been secretary of the Dutch Falconry Foundation

'Adriaan Mollen' which mainly seeks to bring falconers together, but also maintains strong ties with the cultural heritage of falconry and the museum.

For centuries, Valkenswaard has played an important role in uniting falconers internationally. In the 16th century, the development of the art of catching and training peregrine falcons started in the 'Kempen' which lies on the migration route of the falcons. Valkenswaard

developed itself into the most important European centre for the catching of falcons, flourishing particularly in the 17th and 18th century. For hundreds of years, the talented falconers of Valkenswaard were employed at royal courts throughout Europe, supplying falcons to the European nobility which in turn brought considerable wealth to Valkenswaard.

The museum has now taken on the initiative to strengthen this international network by portraying its international legacy through a series of exhibitions. In 2017, it will organise an international conference for European Falconry Museums in collaboration with the IAF and the British Archives of Falconry, in which networking and the exchange of knowledge and

experience will be the main focus.

This collaboration will provide Dutch falconry with an important international role and will contribute to its national identity. The broad collection of the museum and the exciting history of the citizens of Valkenswaard make the Dutch Falconry Museum a place where cultural heritage can flourish. Mark says that he is delighted to be able to contribute to this in the coming years.

In the near future, the museum aims to further promote its international position by expanding its national falconry collection and the universally recognised role of Dutch falconers in history. The museum will also start

collaborating with Leiden University.

For more information, see www.vsmm.nl or contact Mark via conservatorvalkerij@vsmm.nl.



Good News for Grey Partridge Enthusiasts



Dr André Maslo

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THE IAF member organisation Verband Deutscher Falkner (VDF) runs a successful partridge recovery project in the south of Thuringia, Germany. After an internationally renowned symposium in 2014, new results are being announced.

The grey partridge recovery project of the Verband Deutscher Falkner (aided by the Thuringian Ministry of Infrastructure and Agriculture, TMIL) in central Germany managed to lower chick mortality – together with increased nest losses due to predation, the most crucial factor for declining populations – to a level typical to landscapes prior to the introduction of pesticides. Chick survival has never been less than 50-60% throughout the four years of running this project. In unmanaged populations, it is the other way around; more than two thirds of the chicks starve within a couple of days.

This was achieved by modifying the well-known feed hopper system (mobile food-supplying containers) used in many projects mainly in Western Europe. In addition to wheat, which is provided year round, an organic, pure-herbal starter is offered in the hoppers from May to September. The young chicks, following the adults to the hoppers, greatly benefit by avoiding starvation, which today is strongly increased due to a lack of insect food in the first three weeks of their life. With this little impulse that helps the young to maintain a balanced energy level even in poor weather and in the periphery of sprayed crops, our population has been thriving from five to 11 pairs per 100ha, including dispersion to new, formerly abandoned habitats in neighbouring hunting grounds, producing an overall four-fold increase in breeding pairs. This is without any concession by agricultural practise, and



therefore it is a feasible 'second-best' solution in areas where extinction in the next ten to fifteen years would be the only other option.

In the following 2015 period, game-cameras were used for the first time to obtain information concerning the frequency of hopper-use,

details of breeding, chick mortality and predator abundance. The outcomes strongly underpin the helpfulness of hoppers for adult birds as they close the 'hungry gap' from March to May, strengthening the hens for the reproduction period and minimising predator impact (both mammal and

bird of prey via greatly reducing the necessary time span for foraging).

However, it also becomes clear that predation is by far the most limiting population factor nowadays. The drop in partridge densities of 95% compared to the first half of the 20th century is mainly a consequence of



changes in farming methods and the introduction of pesticides. But the numbers now counted in unmanaged populations could easily be tripled or quadrupled by effective, ethical predator control – which is proven not only to help game birds, but song birds, waders and mammals as well. Even if unpopular today, this management instrument is therefore used (sometimes tacitly) by nearly all conservationist groups, eg in areas with vulnerable wader populations.

Game cameras have shown the predator density in the project area to be very high. Unexpectedly abundant were feral cats and wild boar, both a serious threat to ground-nesting birds and their clutches. Although the chick survival rate is high and the most important reason for the flourishing and expanding population monitored here, nest predation can of course not be coped with by hopper feeding alone. Therefore an intensified predator control via certified box

traps from 2016 onwards has been implemented to show the reactions of a red-listed species to combined additional feeding and predator control in an area with conventional agricultural practice. Alongside the grey partridge, many more species benefit from additional grain, from pheasants (if wild bred and not released, as in our area, are a strong incentive for hunters to join ground-nesting bird management measures) to declining songbirds such

as yellowhammers and tree sparrows and rare migratory birds such as the wood lark.

With this project, we prove that falconers worldwide are not only a community strongly bonded to sustainable hunting but also to a species-rich biocoenosis, especially in the landscape with the most endangered biodiversity nowadays – arable farmland. We do not hunt down the last individuals of nearly-extinct game species – we actively help to increase their

numbers again and again by joining forces with real-world ecologists, authorities and land users of all kinds, trying to save their futures and their sustainable use as well.

Our approach has been adopted by many hunting grounds in Germany, Austria, Slovakia and Hungary. With Dr Buner, the senior grey partridge conservation scientist of the GWCT, fruitful contacts have also been established.

For further information,

such as the complete 2014 and 2015 reports including more game-camera images, detailed information on hoppers and the exact development of our monitored population, please visit www.verband-deutscher-falkner.de.



members should have an active and regular part in association life. Therefore, we do a lot of volunteer activities and expect our associates to be our voice whenever they feel they can do it. Using this method, we had a year full of activities that largely surpassed the ones we could have put in place by a more formal organisational scheme.

We have participated in activities where we presented Falconry technics as a major re-invention to assist wildlife veterinary rehabilitation of birds of prey and as an assisting measure to the conservation of wild birds of prey. Still, this year we have also presented Falconry in a school for people with disabilities and at a hunting fair. Included are some photos of our associates engaged on these events.

We also maintained our habit of giving introductory Falconry courses to those who are interested in taking up the sport. We feel that this is an appropriate measure of support but we wish to expand our capability to make these courses happen in more regions and to create a mentorship program that can link established falconers with new ones making heritage transition as personable as it should be.

Although we don't directly support competitions, we know that these have a place in society and falconers are not an exception. Therefore, we helped the City Hall of Salvaterra de Magos (a city closely linked to our Falconry history) organise a 'Stoop competition' for falcons. This provided a good engaging day for falconers with competition being a catalyst to falcon preparation for the season ahead. Being done on the last days of summer, just before the hunting season opened, revealed itself to be tricky for falcons because of the heat but the level of participants was good and we expect to refine this concept in the next few years.

By November we had two major activities around World Falconry Day. One was our Annual National Meeting where falconers from Portugal came together over a single day to fly birds at quarry. The weather was great so we had a brilliant attendance, making this year another success. On 19th of November, an exhibition was opened featuring Falconry and its practice from "West to East". This exhibition, brought to us by the Museu do Oriente, showed more than 180 works of art related to falconry and ran until 6th of March. We were active in

its organization and were at the opening (with birds) to tell invited guests about our art.

To make the last year even more special, we have submitted our application to the UNESCO extension recognition. This was a major task for our small team and we must publicly demonstrate our appreciation to the support given by all other state parties and the IAF. We would not have been able to do it without your help and guidance. We are wishful of a good result from our application and we hope it can help us mould the evolution of our sport in harmony with our funding values and heritage.

Portugal Report

Pedro Afonso



BY THE time you receive this IAF Newsletter, our association will have completed 25 years in service promoting and defending falconry in Portugal. In these last 25 years, we have witnessed Falconry evolve from an almost forgotten story-book sport to a true revival, where an increasing number of

enthusiasts are emerging. Through our activities, we have influenced the sport's evolution and we wish to continue to do so.

Keeping this association alive, especially when it's a small one, is a task that cannot be done only by its board and has to be assumed by its members. We feel that



Mongolian Falconry Association

D Otgonsaikhan, President

THE Cultural Festival of Falconry ('Shuvuulahui'), organized by the Mongolian Falconry Association, took place at the Chingisiin Khureeger camp just south of Ulaanbaatar from August 20-25, 2015.

In the lead up to this event, the Mongolian Falconry Association had success in strengthening its relationship with the wildlife and cultural authorities of Mongolia.

Representatives from Pakistan, China, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and the Qatar society of Algannas attended the festival.

The Wildlife Science and Conversation Center of Mongolia participated in the festival and carried out a conference under the title 'Falconry Heritage and the Present Situation in Asia'. Important participants attended from Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, National University of Mongolia and the Mongolian Heritage Center. The IAF presentation

'Preserving and Promoting Falconry Heritage and Culture across the World – an IAF Perspective' was important in promoting the conference.

During the festival there was a raptor display; a Golden Eagle on an artificial fox, a Saker falcon chasing a model plane trailing a lure and an arena demonstration of Mongolian Taiga hunting dogs. There was a competition of 32 Mongolian wrestlers for the guests followed by an arena demonstration of 'Wolf of the Sky' of the Mongolian Stuntman Association and Mongolian Riding Association.

N Aisholpan, the most famous Mongolian Berkutchi girl and her father, represented the Mongolian Kazakh eaglehunters from Bayaan Ulgii province. The festival was proud to have them in attendance at this occasion.

One part of the festival was an exhibition entitled 'Shubuulahui' which took place over ten days at the G Zanabazar Fine Arts Museum

in Ulaanbaatar. The exhibition consisted of a falconry photographic exhibition, a falconry art exhibition, and an independent falconry taxidermy exhibition by D Otgonsaikhan.

Together with the Cultural Heritage Center, a field trip was organized to show the Saker Falcon Nest Project.

The festival was a big success. It occurred during the 800-year anniversary celebrations of Khubilai Khaan, the country's great historical figure, and made a valuable contribution to falconry development.



Uzbekistan - The Tugan Falconry Club

Denis Choi



THE Tugan Falconry Club is the only one in Uzbekistan. It was established by a group of dedicated people to preserve and promote the public image of the art of Falconry in Uzbekistan, to assist in the breeding and conservation of rare birds of prey (falcons which are in the Red List). Such activity makes a considerable contribution to environmental preservation in the region.

The organisation is located within the territory of State Bio-Control under the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Nature Protection, and incorporates a nursery cultivating rare and critically endangered species of birds of prey (Tugan FBF) as well as the centre of rehabilitation and reintroduction of falcons (Tugan FRC).

The community has been included in the state register and possesses an official certificate. The organisation management involves skilled experts and scientists from all over Uzbekistan to improve the work of nursery and the centre.

The main purpose of the Tugan Falconry Club is the conservation of biodiversity, increasing wild populations and rehabilitating wild raptors. Besides that, much attention is paid to the development and promotion of falconry in the region.

Falconry is one of the important cultural heritages of Uzbekistan. Falconry tradition is very ancient and was an integral part of the lifestyle of governors and local aristocrats. It was glorified in epics, and scenes of falconry can be found in national miniature illustrations made for poems. Until now, falconry lovers from all over the world come to Uzbekistan for this purpose.

In 2015, four Saker falcons were bred. Apart from this, since its foundation, the Club has rehabilitated and released 50 falcons into the wild. For each release, the State Nature Committee organized a tour for the media which helped to draw public attention. The latest big media tours were conducted in August and December 2015.

So far, Tugan Falconry Club maintains two rare noble types of falcons: Peregrines and Sakers. In the near future, the Club plans to breed rare Barbary falcons. The centre has modern equipment for the effective work of the nursery. For example, round-the-clock video surveillance has been established, birds are marked with microchips and a passport has been produced for each individual falcon.

According to the estimates of ornithologists, the quantity of rare birds of prey is decreasing but Club members believe that each falcon returned to the

wild will make a significant contribution to the growth of their population.

The State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Nature Protection greatly supports the Club and its activity is pretty much in line with the regional environment conservation programmes for 2015 on reasonable use and reproduction of natural and biological resources.

This includes creation of nurseries and methodical and logistical support for natural reservoirs as well as support of these existing nurseries. The activities of the Club were noted by the IAF and as a result the Club was admitted to the IAF membership in 2015.

Tugan Falconry Club is open to any useful initiatives and interesting projects in the territory of Uzbekistan.

For popularisation of nature conservation activities, special web pages were created in social networks and on the Club's website. Officials of the Club hope to achieve more results in 2016 in their work to save falconry culture and breed falcons.

TUGAN FALCONRY CLUB
www.tugan.uz

тине признания искусства сокол
В 2014 году энтузиасты-любители соколиной охоты создали единственное в Узбекистане общество по разведению и реабилитации хищных птиц Tugan Falconry Club. Подопечными общества стали различные виды соколов, занесенные в Красную книгу Узбекистана.

Руководители Tugan Falconry Club уверены, что деятельность подобных обществ может внести весомый вклад в сохранение окружающей среды региона.

Общество располагается на территории Госбиоконтроля Госкомприроды Узбекистана и имеет на балансе питомник по разведению редких и находящихся на грани исчезновения хищных птиц (Tugan FBF), а также центр реабилитации и реинтродукции соколов (Tugan FRC).

Общество было принято на государственный учет и имеет официальное свидетельство. Руководство общества, для улучшения работы питомника и центра привлекают опытных экспертов и ученых со всего Узбекистана.

Основной целью Tugan Falconry Club является сохранение биоразнообразия, увеличение популяции и реинтродукция хищных птиц в дикую природу. Помимо этого, большое внимание уделяется развитию и популяризации соколиной охоты в регионе. Соколиная охота — одно из важных культурных наследий

Узбекистана. Традиция соколиной охоты уходит вглубь веков, являвшись неотъемлемой частью жизненного уклада правителей и знатных людей региона. Она была воспета в эпосе, сцены из соколиной охоты можно найти в национальных миниатюрах к поэмам и стихам. До сих пор любители соколиной охоты со всего мира специально приезжают в Узбекистан.

В 2015 году в питомнике появились на свет 4 птенца соколов-балобанов. Помимо этого, за год своего существования общество реабилитировало и выпустило в дикую природу 50 соколов. Для каждой реинтродукции, Комитетом по охране природы был организован пресс-тур. Акции по выпуску птиц в дикую природу помогли привлечь внимание со стороны общественности. Последние большие пресс-туры были проведены в августе и декабре 2015 года.

На данный момент Tugan Falconry Club содержит два редких благородных вида соколов – сапсанов и соколов-балобанов. В ближайшем будущем планируется разведение еще более редких соколов – шахинов. Центр располагает современным оборудованием для эффективной работы питомника. В частности, было установлено круглосуточное видеонаблюдение, а в целях идентификации птиц помечают микрочипами, на каждую особь разработан паспорт.

По оценкам орнитологов, отмечается тенденция к снижению численности редких хищных птиц, но сотрудники общества уверены, что каждый сокол, которого они вернут в окружающую среду, сможет существенно повлиять на рост популяции.

Большую поддержку обществу оказывает Государственный комитет по охране природы Республики Узбекистан, деятельность общества органично вписывается в региональные программы по охране окружающей среды, рациональному использованию и воспроизводству природных и биологических ресурсов на 2015 год, обозначено создание питомников и оказание методической и материально-технической поддержки охраняемым природным территориям, в том числе, и питомникам. Деятельность общества заметили и в IAF, доказательством этого служит то, что общество принято членом IAF в 2015 году.

Tugan Falconry Club открыт для любых полезных начинаний и интересных проектов на территории Республики Узбекистан. Для популяризации природоохранной деятельности созданы страницы в социальных сетях и сайт общества, а сами сотрудники надеются в 2016 году достичь еще больших результатов в деле сохранения культуры соколиной охоты и разведения соколов.

Belarus Report

Sergei Usov



THE first enthusiasts and amateurs of falconry appeared in Vitebsk, Belarus, in the 1980s. Sergei Usov, Igor Bashkirov, Dmitry Shamovich came together to form an association after coming into falconry independently from each other.

Each experienced success and disappointment while trying to engage with falconry. They had to comprehend the elements of manning and training of accipiters either on their own, by trial-and-error, or under Demenchuk's articles, Dimentiev's books and other rare printed materials they could find in the periodicals of the Soviet Union.

When circumstances didn't allow for practicing falconry, they satisfied their need for communication with birds of prey by catching and ringing them during autumn passage and nesting periods. But as soon as there was an opportunity to get a hunting

bird, they always took it.

In the 90s, all these people were united by Vladimir Ivanovsky, a famous ornithologist and expert on birds of prey. He supplied the amateurs with useful information on theoretical and practical issues concerning training and hunting. Under his guidance they participated in various ornithological programs, and he acted as a coordinator of the efforts to recognise falconry as a lawful type of hunting in the republic.

As a result they managed to achieve success in promoting of falconry in the Republic of Belarus. The government finally legislated for falconry:

- Falconry is recognized as a lawful type of unarmed hunting;
- hunting for birds is allowed from the second Saturday of August to the second Sunday of December; hunting for hares is allowed from the first

Saturday of October to the last Sunday of January, daily according to hunting permits;

- Hunting for undesirable species (wolf, fox, hooded crow, magpie, cormorant, grey heron) is allowed daily all the year round according to hunting permits;

- The permitted hunting birds are Golden Eagle, Goshawk, Sparrowhawk, Gyr Falcon, Saker, Peregrine;

- All falconry birds must be registered.

In July 2010, the Falconers Community of Belarus Louchy was created at the Vitebsk regional organisation of the Belarusian Society of Hunters and Fishers. The image of a monument to Vseslav Charodei, the prince of the 12th century, was chosen as its emblem. He was the founder of the Polotsk principality. Sergei Usov was elected the chairman.

In Belarus, ancient traditions of falconry have

not remained so there are therefore few falconers. Recently, enthusiasts of this hunting art have appeared in the city of Brest. The main hunting bird in Belarus is the Goshawk. These birds, and also the Sparrowhawk, can be harvested from the wild under licence from the Ministry of Natural Resources. Today, their activities focus on carrying out biotechnical actions for wild birds of prey (building of artificial nests and additional feeding during the winter period) and promoting falconry among the population.

В восьмидесятых годах XX века в Беларуси в городе Витебске появились энтузиасты и любители охоты с ловчими птицами - Сергей Усов, Игорь Башкиров, Дмитрий Шамович. В круг единомышленников они объединились, прийдя к соколиной охоте каждый своим путём.

В их занятиях с ловчими птицами были успехи и разочарования, так как постигать азы вынашивания и обучения ястребов приходилось самостоятельно путём проб и ошибок, по статьям Деменчука, книгам Диментьева и другим немногочисленным материалам, появившимся в советское время в печати.

Когда обстоятельства не давали возможности заниматься охотой с ловчими птицами, они удовлетворяли свою потребность в общении с хищными птицами путём

отлова и кольцевания их во время осеннего пролёта и изучения в гнездовой период. Но как только появлялась возможность завести ловчую птицу, всякий раз старались её реализовать.

Объединил этих людей в 90 – е годы известный орнитолог и знаток хищных птиц Владимир Ивановский. От него они получали нужную информацию по теоретическим и практическим вопросам обучения и охоты с ловчими птицами. Под его руководством принимали участие в разных орнитологических программах, с ним согласовывали и координировали свои усилия по признанию в республике охоты с ловчими птицами законным видом охоты.

В итоге им удалось достичь некоторых успехов в деле популяризации соколиной охоты в Республике Беларусь. Государство услышало их и законодательно закрепило их предложения в сфере охоты с ловчими птицами.

- охота с ловчими птицами признана законным видом безружейной охоты;

- охота с ловчими птицами разрешена на птиц со второй субботы августа по второе воскресенье декабря и на зайцев с первой субботы октября по последнее воскресенье января ежедневно по охотничьим путёвкам;

- на нежелательные виды (волк, лисица, серая ворона, сорока, баклан и серая цапля) ежедневно круглый год по охотничьим путёвкам;

- принят перечень ловчих

птиц куда вошли беркут, ястреб-тетеревятник, ястреб-перепелятник, кречет, балобан и сапсан;

- приняты правила регистрации ловчих птиц;

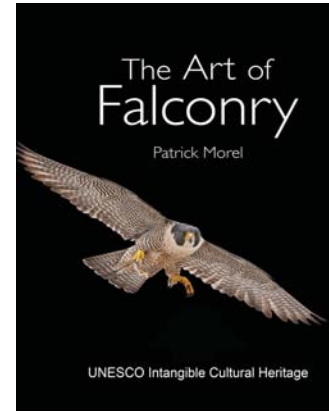
В январе 2010 года при Витебской областной организации Белорусского Общества Охотников и Рыболовов (далее БООР) была создана секция любителей охоты с ловчими птицами «Суполка сакольнікаў Беларусі «ЛОУЧЫ». В качестве эмблемы было избрано изображение памятника князю XII века Всеславу Чародею – основателю Полоцкого княжества колыбели белорусской государственности. Председателем секции был избран Сергей Усов.

В Беларуси не сохранилось национальных традиций соколиной охоты, уходящих корнями в глубину веков, поэтому сокольников немного. В последнее время появились энтузиасты этой охоты в городе Бресте. Основной ловчей птицей в Беларуси является ястреб-тетеревятник. Этих птиц, а также ястреба-перепелятника можно отлавливать в дикой природе по разрешениям, выдаваемым Министерством природных ресурсов. На сегодняшний день так сложились обстоятельства, что основной упор в своей деятельности эти люди направляют на проведение биотехнических мероприятий для хищных птиц (строительство искусственных гнездовых и подкормка в зимний период) и популяризацию соколиной охоты среди населения.

The Art of Falconry

by Patrick Morel

Book Review by Bob Dalton



HAVING been a practising falconer myself for more than 47 years, I have seen a great many new falconry books – some genuine and some supposedly relating to the sport – come onto the market.

In the main, the majority are well written by people who are enthusiastic about the sport, particularly so in relation to the particular branch they have chosen to concentrate on. Either that or they openly embrace the sport as a whole and do their best to share the joy it gives them and the enthusiasm with which it fills them.

Unfortunately there have been, particularly in this last decade or so, books that can only be described as either attempted ego boosters or hopeful bank-account fillers. I would hazard a guess and say that both of these reasons would have produced books that leave themselves and their authors open to

ridicule and derision at best. Amongst the wealth of written word on the sport, one or two books have stood out head-and-shoulders above the rest. A couple have become classics within the sport such as MH Woodford's *A Manual of Falconry* and Phillip Glasier's *Falconry and Hawking*.

In the humble opinion of this writer, the somewhat short and very exclusive list of what constitutes a modern falconry classic has just been added to and added to very emphatically. Patrick Morel is a name very well known within the hawking fraternity and his name is synonymous with falconry of a very high standard. Patrick has finally put down in print some of the knowledge he has gained over the years and now shares it with a wider audience than just his circle of falconry acquaintances.

The Art of Falconry was

originally published some time back in French and was rightly hailed as a masterpiece on the sport. The demand is such that now there is an English version and it is that book we are discussing here.

The book itself is a large work – A4 size, 496 pages and weighing in at some 6lb. The foreword is by long-time friend and fellow falconer Roger Upton, himself a respected, almost-revered, figure within the sport. There are eight chapters, each with several sub divisions, and in excess of 220 full-colour photographs illustrating this truly sumptuous work. Chapter headings range from 'The Hunting Hawk' and 'Longwings; the High Flight', 'Shortwings; the Low Flight' through to 'Falconry Around The World' and 'Ultimate Quarry'. There is so much knowledge and practical experience contained within the pages of this

excellent book and quite literally a myriad of quality colour photos to illustrate the subject. As well as his own thoughts, we as readers are also treated to those of such falconers as Henri Desmots and Frans Bolinches Gomez-Torres. I have been fortunate in that I have hawked Sand Grouse in Morocco many years ago with passage Barbary Falcons and reading this book brought many happy memories flooding back.

Priced very competitively at just £40 (€54.32), this book is surely a must for every serious falconer. Personally I am convinced that in a few years' time it will rank alongside works such as *Der Wilde Falke ist mien Gessel* by Renz Waller and *El Arte de Ceteria* by Dr Felix Rodriguez De La Fuente. In short, this is a book that is both ahead of its time and yet already a classic of its specialist genre. I genuinely cannot recommend this book too highly to anyone who really loves falconry and shares the passion for it that so obviously shines through from the author.



The Red-Naped Shaheen in the Centre of Iran

by Reza Kiamarzy, Iran



THE province of Esfahan is located in the centre of Iran over an area of 106.179kmsq. The Zayande Roud River has been flowing from the western part of this province and from the high mountains to the east and finally it will reach to the Gav-khouni swamp. The extensive agricultural fields and the hills are located along the dry and rocky mountains.

Having good numbers of wild birds such as partridge, pigeon, starling, ringdove, sandgrouse and also deserts, raised ground, semi-desert and high rocky mountains are an excellent habitat for the Red-Naped Shaheen (RNS).

I have been investigating RNS nests in different parts of this province for ten years and I have spent lots of time collecting information, taking pictures and making films of them.

I found a RNS nest in 2015. Although it was at the edge of the very high vertical rock, I could take pictures and film using rock-climbing equipment. I was very surprised to discover that the

female bird had immature plumage while the male had completely mature feathers.

The female bird laid eggs one month later than the usual time of laying of our RNS. She laid two eggs from which just one hatched. Unfortunately, the population of this kind of RNS has recently decreased a lot and it is endangered nowadays. There are a number of reasons for this:

1. Destruction of natural habitat
2. Trapping and smuggling to countries beyond the Persian Gulf
3. The trapping of mature birds in recent years
4. Stealing chicks from their nests in recent years
5. Hunting and poisoning of birds by hunters and pigeon keepers
6. The intensive use of unauthorized toxins and chemicals
7. Constant drought affecting prey species
8. Lack of information and knowledge about this species among people
9. Lack of statistical data

and exact information of the numbers and behaviour of RNS.

10. Lack of adequate information in the environmental protectors of this bird
11. Lack of the treatment and protection centres for injured birds.
12. Lack of breeding centres to act as a gene bank.

Habitat

During the breeding season, these birds choose the high rocky mountains and nest usually on the cliff edges that provide a vertical slope towards the hunting territory. They will reuse this nest many years as the number of suitable and known nests are few.

When everyone tries to approach the nest, both male and female birds will attack the intruder and show their threat display.

These behaviours include: Diving from high above, turning fast and making acrobatic movements along with constant and loud screaming. At this moment,



they will pass and fly around you as fast as possible. They will attack any intruder, whether it is Golden Eagle, fox or jackal.

Hunting

These birds have adapted to hunt in high rocky mountains, flat lands, deserts and hills. Mostly they prey on birds. The falcon hunts other birds such as partridge, pigeon, dull-yellow, starling, ringdove and grouse (depending on numbers) while the tierce hunts ringdove, starling, big swallows, lark, snipe and more. Most hunting regions are near rural and urban areas such as domestic pigeon, ringdove and starling nesting areas.

The birds usually breed in the warm season as the sun rises and hunt as the sun sets or begins to rise. The temperature outside can reach 45c in summer and -25c in winter.

While rearing chicks, they become hunting machines and

will hunt a great number of birds to feed themselves and their young.

RNS is very skilled at attacking with incredible speed and accuracy from very high up in the sky. The females prefer to fly high and dive on other birds but the males like to fly fast and use sharp turns, even though he has the strength for high diving.

The mature females resemble a Peregrine Falcon in flight but have a smaller body, a more colourless back and less horizontal lines on its chest. The back of its head is reddish too.

The mature male is similar to a male merlin but of course much bigger. Its colour has been matched for its habitat and immature birds are the same colour as the rocks and the mountainside. In this region of Iran, the weight of the female is about 600-800g while the male is roughly 400-550g. It depends on genes and age.

These shaheens live year-round in this province. Their hunting range varies depending on the particular part of the region. For example, in areas with more prey, the territory is about 10-15km, but in areas with less hunting, its territory will spread about 30km.

When the immature bird has learned to fly, it will leave its parents one or two months later and wander in different areas.

According to investigations, the number of nests have decreased from five nests in 2010 to one nest in 2015. The number of birds that have been observed across the 500km in 2010 was 12-14. In 2015, that figure was 2-3. The decreasing population of this bird means that this beautiful hunter is in danger and we may soon never see the flight of such a beautiful bird in the sky of Esfahan province.

GPS Tracking System Reviews

GPS tracking is becoming one of the major innovations sweeping the world of falconry. We decided to get two of its leading brands reviewed by active hunting falconers in order to offer an insight into the equipment for those unfamiliar with it. Editor



MRT GPS – The Game-changer

by Tony James, England

WITH my season now at an end, I can reflect on the past five months in the field and my constant companion, the new Marshall Radio Telemetry GPS. My observations are not focussed on the technical aspects but on the real-life, in-the-field activities that I've experienced throughout the season.

It was with some trepidation that I set about using the new system, because, if I'm honest, I'm not at all technically minded. I can send emails, search the internet, and download photos to my computer – but that's as far as my 21st century skills go.

So I had no idea how I'd cope technically, nor, frankly, whether I wanted my very traditional view of falconry interrupted by the digital age. But having seen other GPS systems, I was left with inexplicable reservations but at the same time felt that conventional telemetry was soon to be eclipsed. It was only when Marshall Radio entered the GPS arena that I felt fully convinced GPS for falconers would finally

come of age.

The first thing that strikes you about the MRT GPS itself is the build quality. Engineered from solid blocks of aircraft grade aluminium, it just exudes quality. The other striking thing (hugely important for me) is that somehow Marshall have been able to contain everything – the GPS element as well as a top



quality 433/434mhz conventional transmitter – within the tried and trusted RT transmitter case. Weighing less than 9g, it enables the option of back-pack, tail, leg or neck mounting.

Aside from the transmitter itself, the system comprises other elements, foremost of which is the PocketLink, which communicates with the transmitter and conveys all the information to one's iPhone/iPad.

The PocketLink is supplied with a short antenna which has

served me well all season, but can quickly be coupled with a long-range mag-mounted car-top antenna for tracking from a vehicle over long distances if needed (even if it's not called into use, it's wise to invest in this piece of equipment).

The iPhone/iPad is the device used to display and record the flight. As the flight happens, a variety of data is available in real-time, showing the falcon's height 'Above Me', her 'Speed', the 'Distance' she is from me, her 'Climb Rate', the 'Temperature', her 'Max Altitude Above Start', her 'Max Speed', her 'Max Climb Rate', the 'Total Distance', and her 'Average Speed'. Any of the things can be analysed at any point during the flight when the recording is played back, revealing some interesting things about the performance of both falcon and falconer.

I was pleasantly surprised to discover that despite being very hi-tech, the MRT GPS is incredibly user friendly, allowing even me to appear very 'with it'! Helpfully, Marshall have produced a number of tutorial videos to guide users through every aspect of the system, making it even easier.

Regarding the intrusion of the

digital age into such a traditional art as falconry, I couldn't have been more mistaken. Far from intruding, the system compliments, even enhances my falconry. Any fear that the essential beauty of falconry might give way to screen watching was quickly dispelled, and I soon came to realise that far from taking my eyes away from the falcon, a quick glance at the screen allowed me to establish visual contact where in the past I might have had difficulty locating her.

Initially, my thoughts about the GPS were guided by my previous experience of conventional telemetry, and were focussed on its use as a recovery tool. Although the system has uses far beyond that of simply recovering a lost hawk, it's worth pointing out that as a recovery tool it is so good that conventional telemetry feels almost redundant by comparison.

As we all know, when searching for a lost hawk, conventional telemetry gives us an approximate direction and, with a lot of guesswork, an approximate distance. By triangulation, we can better judge that direction and distance but we're always left guessing to some degree. Not so with the GPS, which, at the touch of a screen tells us everything we need to know, with no guesswork required. An arrow points in the direction of the hawk, with a precise distance between the falconer and his hawk. We can clearly see if the hawk is stationary or flying, and at what altitude. And most useful of all, a pulsing blue dot on the

screen shows exactly where the hawk is on a map, along with any obstacles, roads, rivers etc between you and her, making it very easy to know not just where your hawk is, but how best to plan her recovery.

Once satellite connection is established, which can take anything from a few seconds to three or more minutes, the 'start' icon can be tapped to begin recording. A red dot shows the falconer's position, and a pulsing blue dot shows the position of the hawk. As the hawk flies, a blue trackline traces her movements through the air, with the pulsing blue dot showing her current position, second-by-second.

Depending on circumstances and preferences, there are various update options to select from, and phases that are used as the battery is depleted. I choose to see my falcon's position updated each second, which, despite meaning the transmitter battery has to be changed more

often than would otherwise be required, I find more interesting and useful.



What else have I been impressed by? Well, a number of things, ranging from the very practical ability to react quicker than ever before because of the clear information on screen informing me of exactly what the falcon is doing. I

no longer have to wonder what my falcon is doing when she's out of sight, because I can still 'see' her. Slips are no longer ruined through me making the wrong decision and moving when I should remain motionless, and in an environment with an increasing number of predators, like buzzards or foxes, being able to react quickly to recover a hawk that can be seen to be on the ground rather than flying, knowing exactly where she is, could easily mean the difference between relief and heartbreak.

It really is a game changer.

marshallradio.com



A Season with Microsensory

by Mark Montgomery, England

WHEN I was asked to write this article, I must admit I had my reservations, as you would be unlikely to find a less technically minded falconer. For me to explain how the system works is probably as likely as me explaining how the international space station works. Luckily for myself and the reader, the operation of the Microsensory system is not rocket science.

I fly a pursuit peregrine falcon at gulls and corvids in the central upland areas of England. These slips can evolve into quite long flights over areas where telemetry can be problematic and I was looking for a suitable GPS back-up system which would work in harmony with the Field Marshall Digital 434 receiver, which I currently use.

The purchase of the Microsensory unit was painless. I found the European sales manager, Xavier Morel, to be most helpful in advising me of my choices. The mini unit winged its way from the parent company in Spain to my post box without delay. The unit comes in a leather protective carry case along with a charging dock, rechargeable batteries with a seven-day life span, a comprehensive manual and a charger lead.

I chose to have the unit fitted

with the European sim card, as when activated this roams through all the British networks giving me the best phone coverage. However, the option is there to fit a sim card of your own choice.

The Microsensory mini has three ways to locate the unit in the event that the falcon is lost. Firstly the standard radio transmitter. This can be programed for all receivers, in all frequencies and for me allowed the unit to function with my current receiver, as mentioned. I found the strength of the signal to be low on occasions but I must stress that the terrain in which I fly is a challenge to all telemetry and I have not been able to do a comparative test in lowland conditions. I understand that with the new generation mini this has been addressed and the signal power boosted on the digital signals to the maximum allowed by law, along with better power management to compensate for this.

The unit comes preloaded with 100 SMS messages which can be topped up through the company when needed and it is these which allow the GPS to come into play.

If you need to locate the unit and the radio signal has been lost, you can message the unit by text from your phone, which in turn messages you back. This contains a location SMS which has information on the remaining battery life, the unit's altitude, velocity, speed and, importantly,



a link to Google maps, which when activated gives you the unit's location in either terrain or street mapping. To use this method you are charged by your phone company for the outgoing text and the location SMS is taken from your unit's credit. There is also a feature whereby if there is an emergency and you have used your last pre-paid SMS, Microsensory will allow you access to a further twenty SMSs without the need to top up.

The third locate method is exactly the same as sending a text to the unit, only instead you phone it. The advantage of this is that you are not charged for the phonecall, only the unit's location SMSs back to your phone. The information you receive remains the same.

The Mini unit also comes in a mini full configuration which transmits real time GPS information to a Microsensory receiver which then displays the unit's altitude, horizontal and stoop speeds, along with

distance and direction of travel. This information can then be transferred via Bluetooth to either a phone or tablet but to use this real-time function you would need to purchase the Microsensory receiver and download the app.

So how was a season with Microsensory? I found the unit to be well made and robust. Having driven off several times with the unit still on the top of the Landover, where I absentmindedly left it after flying, I can certainly vouch for its impact resistance. It is light, weighing only 12g, and proved not to be an encumbrance to the falcon's performance in any way. It was easy to fit on the falcon, being equipped with standard back-pack fittings, although I would have liked the spring to have more resistance but this was easy enough to remedy by bending the wires out slightly (I am perhaps being picky with this point). The unit is designed to back-pack only, though I do believe that some falconers have made their own adaptations to leg mounts (this is not something I



would consider due to its design).

The radio signal was limited in my experience but again this could well have been due partly to terrain, and to be honest I did not find this a problem as I purchased the unit primarily as a recovery tool if everything went wrong and I had a total loss of signal from my leg-mounted primary transmitter.

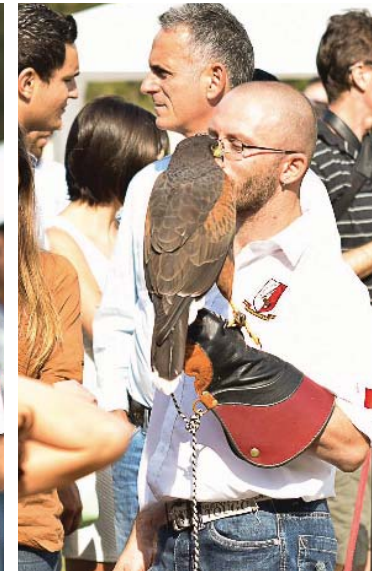
Unfortunately for this review, a loss never happened and I have not to this point had to use it in anger. I have however carried out numerous simulated losses and have found the whole system easy to use and reliable. The manual is well laid out and easy to follow even for a technophobe like myself and any locate request sent has resulted in a timely SMS location response, which has been in each case accurate down to a couple of meters.



These tests, while in no way scientific, have been conducted at ranges between phone and unit, varying from a few miles to many hundreds, and with the unit being both stationary and moving. I had wondered about areas without cellular coverage but then I always found in the tests that I could get to an area with coverage and that at some point the unit would likewise enter an area with coverage. The unit has not experienced any problems in communicating with the satellites required for the GPS to function but like a car's satellite navigation unit, it is limited in that it needs line of sight to hold them and should your hawk take it down a coal mine, you may be on a loser. Having said that, I have heard of a falcon being recovered from the bottom of a very high chimney into which it had fallen using data from the Microsensory unit.

So in conclusion, has the unit made a difference to the way I fly or to the outcome of slips? I don't think so. Is it a bag filler or magic wand for bad hawking decisions? In short, no. Would I go back to flying without this insurance policy? Have a guess.

www.microsensory.com



Falconry in Malta

by Lawrence Formosa, Director
Fridericus Rex Malta Falconers

THE year 2015 was a big leap for falconry in Malta due to the fact that we were invited to give our contribution in forming falconry laws for Malta. The period of consultation is currently still an ongoing one, with final drafts being finalised at the moment. During these consultation meetings, we contributed a substantial part along with other stakeholders such as other falconry clubs and NGOs. Furthermore, IAF was of great help towards harmonising the legislation to be better.

Nevertheless, a project being

pushed by BirdLife Malta to repopulate the Peregrine Falcon in the Maltese Islands is also in the pipeline for the near future with the help of IAF and Fridericus Rex Malta Falconers. This project will see an extensive educational program for the Maltese Islands towards a better understanding of birds of prey, and we are positive about the outcome.

Furthermore, falconry in Malta is currently experiencing a gradual increase in popularity. Having said that, there is also an increase in the number of

people keeping birds of prey, thus seeing a slight increase in the total number of flying birds. The most commonly used bird is still the Harris Hawk, mainly because it is the most available species, followed by falcons and some other species of diurnal raptors. On the same note, there is a considerable amount of people who keep owls even though they are not popular falconry birds. But there are a few who fly them as well.

The rocky terrain and sheer cliffs found mainly on the western part of the Maltese

Islands (due to the island's natural tilt) creates great uplifts with the prevailing winds. This wind can make a barn owl soar high up in the sky and pushes hawks up to their limits.

Unfortunately, there are drawbacks in every situation and in the case of Malta we face two major difficulties. The first one is the lack of land. Malta is a very small island where everyone is almost practically sharing their space with someone else – farmers, hunters, trappers, birdwatchers and hikers, amongst others. The second issue is that there is a lack of huntable quarry species, and hence it is almost impossible to practice proper falconry.

The issue is becoming even worse with the increase in the numbers practicing falconry since there is not enough for one season to sustain a falcon

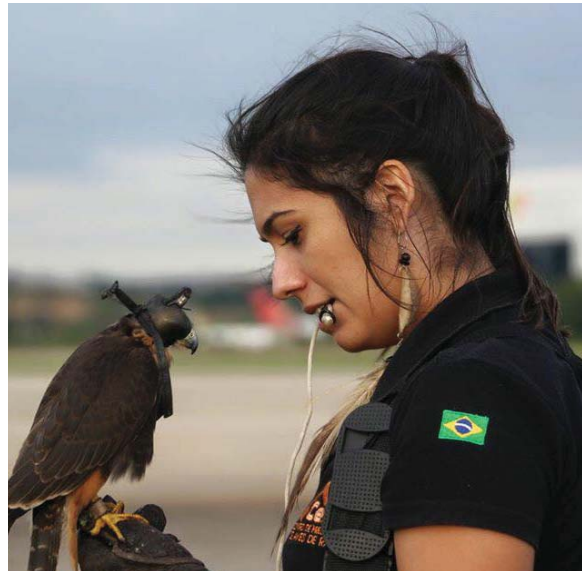
or hawk. One solution to this could be release programs for particular quarry species in a contained area and maintenance of a sustainable eco-system. Moreover, Sparrowhawks are one of the best solutions to tackle such an issue due to the fact that they can hunt starlings which are common wintering birds. Currently, there is only one breeder (a member of our organisation) in Malta who successfully flies and breeds Sparrowhawks, but we hope to have others in the future.

For WFD2015, an event was carried out on November 15 to promote falconry with the younger generation and the public in general.

Displays were held throughout what was a very exciting day, with our birds of prey and the art of falconry at the centre of attention. There was a

section which was dedicated especially to children and another where people could enjoy the medieval side of falconry.

Lastly, as an organisation we always promote good practice of animal welfare and create awareness among those who are taking care of a raptor.



IAF Women's Working Group

by Dianne Moller - Chair

The IAF Women's Working Group (WWG) is now in its fifth year. Many changes have taken place since the last report, including new members, country contacts and projects. But something that has not changed is the mission of the WWG: to work with IAF to assist women falconers around the world, through education, promotion, networking and mentoring as they seek to practice the sport of falconry as a hunting tradition.

The IAF has proposed the formation of a new group – Education Working Group

– that would be comprised of both men and women. President Adrian Lombard has asked for support from the WWG and we unanimously agree this is an important new initiative. Elisabeth Leix has provided education materials and information to be translated through Julia Kramer and be shared on the IAF website. In October, Elisabeth represented the WWG at the International Conference of Falconry in Poland with a view on Falconry and Education in Europe. At the conference, she gave a presentation about how falconry is often

perceived by the general public and what falconers can do to help provide a better understanding. Elisabeth also discussed the importance of educating the public about falconry and the lack of awareness in Europe.

In an effort to further educate about falconry, Elisabeth collaborated with the highly respected artist Bernd Pöppelmann to create a colour book for the DFO (the German Falconry Organisation).

Tula Stapert has done an outstanding job with the CIC/Artemis group in organising

the Third European Hunting Conference that will be held this July in the Netherlands. Networking with such groups can help us to strategize for the future and safeguard hunting and falconry.

Through Facebook, Dianne Moller and Alessandra Oliveto from Brazil began corresponding about falconry and education. It didn't take long to form a friendship and we are pleased to inform you that Alessandra is one of our two new members of the WWG. Alessandra has a degree in Environmental Management and is an active falconer. She flies a Harris Hawk, works with rehabilitation, education, bird abatement, and helped to form the first women's falconry club, Falcoeiros BR,

in Brazil. To learn more about Alessandra and their group please see page ??

Another new member we are excited to welcome is Ellen Hagen of Norway. Ellen has a degree in art history and culture and works at the Museum of Archaeology, teaching adults and children about local prehistory 10,000BC to Medieval. Falconry is forbidden in Norway and Scandinavia. Last year, she completed the Lantra in Falconry in the UK, Pest Control, and Rehabilitation and became certified in hunting. Working at the museum, she takes advantage of her time in advocating and educating about falconry. Ellen also assisted in translating the falconry terminology for

Helen Macdonald's book *H Is for Hawk* into Norwegian. We are very excited with the enthusiasm and excitement brought to the group by our new members.

Our members include: Dianne Moller (Chair), USA; Elisabeth Leix (Vice Chair), Germany; Julia Kramer, Germany; Natalia Grechanaya, Russia; Ellen Hagen, Norway; Alessandra Oliveto, Brazil; Tula Stapert (Artemis/CIC liaison), Holland.



Falcoeirias BR – A feminine look through the keen eyes of birds of prey

by Alessandra Oliveto (translation: Jessica Tulio)

MY NAME is Alessandra Oliveto. I graduated in Environmental Management with an emphasis on wild-animal handling. I am director of ANF (Northeast Association of Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey) and Founder of the group Falcoeirias BR. I started in falconry six years ago when I participated in my first falconry course in Minas Gerais (Brazil). There I met my tutor, the falconer Dorival Lima, who taught me everything about

Falconry. He was the person that most encouraged me to create the women's group.

In 2014, I won a competition of low-level flying with Tanatus (Harris HAWK) and in 2015 I came second in lure-flying with Ali (Aplomado Falcon) and third with Tanatus on low-level flying. This competition is part of the Northeast Falconry Meeting (ENF).

I thank all the girls in this group. All of them are very

important to the growth of women's falconry in Brazil. We believe that all of us are constant apprentices in the art of Falconry – we're only at different stages of this learning path. Ohana!

The Falcoeirias BR Group

The Falcoeirias BR group, founded in March 2015, is the first Brazilian group of falconry for women, women who love

falconry, birds of prey and wildlife conservation.

The group makes up members from all backgrounds – biologists, vets, environmental managers, physiotherapists, language teachers, lawyers, journalists, etc. There is a lot of diversity in our activities, including conservation and bird-management projects, falconry, rehabilitation using falconry techniques, ornithology, environmental education, writing etc. We are affiliated to the Brazilian Associations of Falconry (ANF, ABFPAR).

There is so little information and official records about women falconers in Brazilian falconry. However, there is no doubt about the active participation and contributions of these practitioners to Brazilian falconry since the beginning.

Although recently formed, the group has members who started their studies 20 years ago, for example Maria da Silva, who

now lives in the Netherlands. According to our records, Maria was one of the first Brazilian women to practice the art. We continued our research on the history of female falconers in Brazil and learned of more important individuals such as Andrea Lisboa, Gabriela Nunes and Mariana Janiszewski.

We don't know the exact number of women falconers in Brazil currently, but, after only 11 months in existence, Falcoeirias BR already has 39 members from different states of the country.

The most interesting part of this group process is the members' commitment to continued learning, widely benefited by our different degrees of experience and the collective construction of knowledge.

This way, one of our major results is the sharing of information, case studies and literature about the subject. Another good thing is the

availability and pre-disposition of the members to help, contribute, consult, question and always raise new relevant questions.

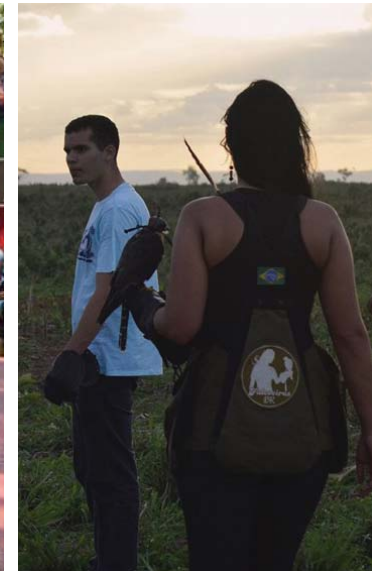
Falcoeirias BR was created with the objective to unite passionate women, who love this ancient art, are in the search for learning and who want to contribute to the construction of a collective knowledge related to Brazilian falconry. And we believe we are succeeding.

We're really thankful to the women of the IAF's WWG for giving us the opportunity to talk a little bit about our work. Dianne and Tula have always been on our side, since the beginning, and this is the encouragement that propels us in this fantastic world of falconry.

Our website:

<http://falcoeiriasbr.wix.com/falcoeiriasbr>





ABFPAR – the Brazilian Association of Falconers and Conservation of Birds of Prey

by João Paulo Diogo Santos, President of ABFPAR



Dear friends,
ABFPAR – the Brazilian Association of Falconers and Conservation of Birds of Prey – has been working for over a decade in the rehabilitation of birds of prey using falconry techniques to prepare these birds to be returned to the wild. The competent body provides a special authorization to the falconer, which grants him/

her the custody of the bird to be rehabilitated. The whole process (transportation, food, healthcare) is funded by the falconer. Therefore, neither the falconer nor the association receive any allowance for this activity. The number of birds in need of rehabilitation is increasing due to the illegal wildlife trade, maltreatment and deforestation.

In 2015, ABFPAR and the City Hall of Contagem established a partnership. While the ABFPAR indicated a pest control company to deal with the problems caused by pigeons in public schools, the city granted an area intended to be the first specialized rehabilitation centre for birds of prey in Brazil. The creation of this centre will enable an increase in

the number and quality of rehabilitated birds. At the same location, we will offer environmental education to demonstrate the need of birds of prey in our environment and the importance of falconry in the rehabilitation of these birds.

As mentioned above, we do not currently have any financial assistance to help keep this project working the way we want. Thus, we are opening the opportunity for all those who are able and would like to collaborate with this project to do so by

donating equipment for bird-handling, books or any other kind of help.

Thanks in advance to all those who have always supported us and believed in our dreams.



Colombia Report

by **Jesus Antonio Bayona Rodriguez,**
Vice President ACCAPC

Dear falconer friends around the world.

In Colombia, falconry is still unregulated.

On February 4, 2012, we founded ACCAPC, the Colombian Association for the conservation of birds of prey and falconry.

On June 25, 2012, we sent a request for the inclusion of The Art of the Falconry in Colombia in the representative list of Cultural Heritage to the National Ministry of Culture here.

On April 16, 2014, a response came from the Ministry inviting us to resubmit the request along with adjustments and observations.

In this way, the direction will notify the National Council for Cultural Heritage (CNPC) who will issue its opinion on the proposal.

If CNPC ratifies the negative opinion, representatives may be able to bring appropriate law resources to this case. At the moment, ACCAPC is working to bring the resources of the law to Ministry of Culture.

Estimados amigos Cetreros del mundo

En Colombia la cetrería está todavía sin regular.

El 4 de Febrero 2012, fundamos ACCAPC,

Asociación Colombiana para la Conservación de las Aves de Presa y la Cetrería

El 25 de junio de 2012, se envió la solicitud de inclusión de “El Arte de la Cetrería en Colombia” en la lista representativa del Patrimonio Cultural Inmaterial del Ámbito Nacional “Ministerio De Cultura Colombia”

El 16 de Abril de 2014, Respuesta - Ministerio De Cultura - número de radicado - 418-212199-MC-009159-EE-2014.

Asunto: solicitud de inclusión de “El Arte de la Cetrería en Colombia” nos invitan a volver a presentar la solicitud de inclusión a la Dirección de Patrimonio del Ministerio de Cultura, con los ajustes sobre las observaciones hechas.

De esta manera, la Dirección notificara al Consejo Nacional de Patrimonio Cultura, CNPC, quien emitirá concepto sobre la propuesta de inclusión de la manifestación en la LRPCI. Si el CNPC ratifica el concepto negativo, los representantes podrán interponer los recursos de ley apropiados para este caso.

En el momento la “ACCAPC” está trabajando para interponer los recursos de ley al “Ministerio de Cultura”



Vietnam Report

by **Nguyen Hà**

Greetings!

We are running extra-curricular programmes for children here in Vietnam to teach them about birds of prey.

We have held meetings and had exchanges with falconers

from all over Vietnam, going hunting together and sharing productive experiences with each other.

We also do charity work for cancer patients in Vietnam.

Thank you!





Falconry – where do we go together?

by Janusz Sielicki, IAF Vice-president for Europe, Africa and Oceania

SINCE January 1st 2016, I have had the privilege to serve as Vice President for three regions – Europe, Africa and Oceania. Falconers in each face different problems. I will continue the work of my predecessors. IAF has now more vice-presidents than ever in response to the growing membership of IAF, both in the number of clubs and in the number of countries. We have also more challenges than ever. I do not want to make very specific promises as we are surrounded by so many unpredictable occurrences.

Oceania is a region of rather small falconry presence, nevertheless it is very

important for global falconry. The greatest news has been legalisation of falconry in New Zealand and we congratulate our members, Wingspan and the New Zealand Falconers' Association, for this wonderful achievement. Their way to legalisation is a shining example to be followed by other nations. For me, being IAF Conservation Officer for years, it is especially important that New Zealand falconers are also very active in conservation, especially of the Karearea (the iconic New Zealand falcon). Australia also needs such a victory and I very much hope that the falconers of New Zealand

and other countries will help to achieve this goal. We have already two member clubs from Australia – the Rehabilitation Association of Western Australia (RAWA) and the Western Australia Birds of Prey Centre. We have contacts with a few other groups in the region which are also interested in joining IAF. I know a lot has already been done towards the legalisation of falconry in Australia so I hope we will work for success there. I know a dream of many of us is to have an IAF AGM in this region of the world. I hope that the success of falconry in New Zealand and hopefully Australia will also promote our art in other countries of the region.

Africa is a homeland of humanity and falconry is of very special importance there for all of us. The IAF President is from the region, which is a sign of our appreciation of the falconers of Africa. We all know how well organised South African falconry is after we had the pleasure to be hosted at an IAF AGM there some years ago. SAFA is known as a conservation organisation and this is an example from which we all can learn. The presence of falconry at Falcon College in Zimbabwe is also unique. I have a very special personal affection for falconry as a method of educating youngsters as my father, Czeslaw Sielicki, started

Polish modern falconry from the students club he organised in the Foresters' High School in Tuchola, Poland. This is something we should promote all over the world as education is key for the future of falconry. The IAF Education Working Group has a lot of work to do. We should compile the best practices from all over the world and promote them globally.

The falconers from the other countries in Africa need our help to legalise falconry. There are many ways to do this – conservation, bird of prey rehabilitation, airfield clearance, are amongst them. There is no one single way of doing it. We need to try as many methods as necessary to get closer to our goal – safeguarding the falconry of the world.

Europe is the region where the IAF was born almost 50 years ago. Here we have also the highest number of clubs and nations present in our Association. Some of us are in the European Union, some of us are not. In general, in Europe we are overregulated, especially inside the EU. We have to face strong anti-hunting and anti-sustainable use movements, especially the so-called 'animal rights' or 'welfare' organisations who have 'stolen' conservation from biologists and specialists. That is the real tragedy of conservation in

western countries, including America. Even conservation organisations that were originally founded by hunters are now, very often, against hunting. This is in fact anti-human. Public discussion on nature and hunting is full of emotions and lacks an understanding of nature and scientifically based facts. Falconers are perceived only a little bit better than hunters, mainly due to the conservation projects of Peregrines and other species that we have been involved in. But we cannot be sure about our future. We know that in Austria (regionally) public demonstrations of falconry have been banned, and laws that are actually against the nature of birds of prey have been summarily introduced (like a ban on hooding and keeping birds on blocks). Other problems are occurring in Germany with limitations on hunting some quarry species, and this is not the end. We have to work against such rules everywhere it is possible. One of our achievements during my time as IAF Conservation Officer is that IAF is more often perceived as a conservationist organization by governmental and non-government organisations.

A very special moment was the 2nd Meeting of Signatories of the CMS Raptors MoU in Trondheim, Norway in

October 2015. For the first time ever, IAF was invited by Birdlife International to be a guest speaker in their side event on fighting bird crime. I see my role in stimulating falconry organisations and all falconers to become more active in conservation, in public discussions, to promote falconry as a conservation tool and to inform public opinion on facts about birds of prey conservation.

Europe is rich in culture and traditions; falconry is a vital part of it. In many European countries falconry is already listed on national heritage lists. These days, we celebrate the inscription of falconry on the national heritage list in my homeland, Poland. Our heritage is our strength. We should promote the inscription in as many nations as possible. I hope we will create a pan-European network of falconry heritage in the future. We have a lot in common, and we have a lot to share. The European tradition of club field meetings where colleagues from other countries are invited, is something invaluable. We should start a new tradition of regional IAF meetings. For smaller clubs which are afraid to hold an IAF AGM, this is a way to show their achievements to friends from other countries. We have also a lot of our own European questions which are not

necessarily interesting to IAF members from other parts of the world. The regional meetings is an idea also for other parts of the world, already present in Asia, but vital also for South America or other regions. I dream to visit such IAF regional field meetings in Africa and Oceania.

Falconers care for birds of prey, not only ones we use for hunting. Falconers were always foremost in bird of prey conservation. Many people who are not falconers have not seen this. Our goal is to show it to the conservation world. Falconry is hunting wild quarry with trained birds of prey. For millennia falconers have used wild birds and that was always sustainable, even though they did not know this word and its meaning. My first bird was a wild Hobby, next were wild Goshawks. For me, real falconry is hunting with passage hawks and falcons. In many countries, falconers still have access to wild birds. Unfortunately in many other countries we are not allowed to catch a wild hawk to train and hunt. As a biologist, I am against the domestication of birds of prey. Breeding them in captivity is not actually necessary in most countries and for most species. On the contrary, forcing falconers to use non-indigenous species is not conservation. We as IAF

should work towards allowing falconers in all countries to have access to wild birds of prey in a sustainable way. We should be unafraid to say that we expect to have the right to use wild birds of prey. The species that we use are usually not threatened. Most of them are more numerous than ever. There is no scientific evidence against sustainable use of their populations. There are only prejudices without scientific background. We should encourage sustainable use in every country in the world, especially in Europe. Our achievement in this area is the Saker Global Action Plan (adopted by the Convention on Migratory Species in 2014) where sustainable use for falconry is one of the conservation tools. For the first time ever, an international convention supports falconry in this way.

We falconers are also active in conserving biodiversity. This is key to keeping our art alive as we need quarry to hunt. Flying to a kite or drone is a not real falconry. We need to work together with hunters, farmers, foresters, conservationists and everyone to keep the biodiversity of our land. Cooperation with FACE and CIC are crucial for IAF but we need to seek partners also in other groups who are involved in nature and sustainable use. The Perdix initiative is a very good

example of such cooperation.

Last but not least – we still have countries in Europe where falconry is not legal. IAF will continue its work toward legalisation of falconry, especially in Nordic countries. We should use all the tools we have – history, heritage, conservation and bird control, as in other regions of the world. Again, mostly it is only prejudices that stop our opponents from saying yes to the legalisation of falconry. We need to work closer with our colleagues from CIC and FACE. We should also call for help from our native hunting organisations, who can help to change hunters' attitudes to falconry in these countries.

I hope that after my term of office finishes at least some of my dreams will come true.



Aspirations as Vice-President for Asia by Keija Nakajima. Ph.D

I HAVE been elected to Vice President for Asia at the last Annual General Meeting of IAF in Posadas, Argentina. First of all, I would like to thank everyone who voted for me in the election. I will make every effort in the role in response to the approval of IAF members.

The Asian region has a long history in falconry but the present situation is not perfect for falconry and keeping of birds of prey. Actually,

many countries in Asia don't recognise falconry as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO 1), though falconry is a good example of tradition as a worldwide culture. I think that it is influenced by a negative image or lack of correct understanding in falconry and falconer. We still have various concerns in the Asian region over the continuation of falconry as a traditional hunting art.

Unfortunately, some people use isolated negative incidents (eg poaching or illegal trading of birds of prey) as a reason to attack falconry, even though there are a lot of contributions made by sensible falconers in the preservation of traditional culture, conservation of endangered species and sustainable use of wildlife. To improve this situation, continuous action by IAF as a sensible falconers' association will be needed to enlighten

people about falconry and to spread proper understanding. In particular, government officials and specialists will be a priority target of this action because they have relevance to policy planning for new decisions or revision of existing regulations in each country. But I think that it will be difficult to get support from them for falconry as hunting method. Most are not interested in catching of quarry by trained bird. However, falconers are not simply hunters. We have to introduce the advantage of falconry as a conservation method with traditional knowledge and promote falconers as specialists who have useful skills for the management of endangered birds of prey, their quarry species and habitat. Finding solutions for the problems of wildlife in modern society is also effective to get good understandings from the outside (such as prevention of electrocution, advice on conservation of endangered species, capacity building for conservation and sustainable use of birds of prey in local area, etc.).

In practice, international networking at conferences on nature conservation will be good places to introduce the positive plans and results of falconers because recognition at international level affects domestic policy

through related conventions or declarations. Already, IAF has been effective in international networks (eg Saker Falcon Task Force of the Raptors Memorandum of Understanding on CMS 2)). If we can get suitable recognition of falconry and falconers at various international networks or conferences, it will help support a strong position of falconry in each country.

In 2016, IUCN 3) World Conservation Congress (WCC) will be held at Hawaii, US in September. The 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP13) will be also held at Cancun, Mexico in December. Thousands of participants, comprising government officials, specialists from organisations and researchers related to conservation of nature, will attend. I think both will be a chance for us to show our initiatives, activities and results in the form of a progress report by IAF. Personally, I am member of thematic or specialist groups in IUCN such as SUME 4), SULi 5) and ESUG 6). My organisation (The Japan Falconiformes Center) has relations with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Therefore, I would like to make a contribution to the introduction or promotion

of falconers' activities in the category of IUCN and CBD using both my experience and network.

I think that IAF members in Asia are also very motivated and want to promote falconry as both a traditional culture and an effective conservation activity in each country. I would like to be actively engaged in these initiatives or to assist in various projects in Asia as Vice President for the region. I am looking forward to getting good results by cooperating with other boards and experts in IAF.

1) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

2) Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)

3) International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

4) Sustainable Use & Management of Ecosystems Thematic Group in IUCN (SUME). The chair of SUME is Prof Robert Kenward.

5) Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group in IUCN (SULi)

6) European Sustainable Use Group (ESUG), support group for SUME and SULi

