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Magazine



Summer '90

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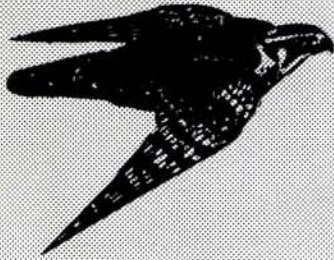
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NO. 3**

Front Cover: Two years old European Eagle Owl named Kie.

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The Falconers Magazine

Summer is nearly here and the breeding season is well under way. I hope that the articles on breeding Birds of Prey will be of some help.

We have extended the deadline for the Photographic Competition to the end of July. So come on, send us your pictures and you could win a great prize.

I hope that after the Raptork article in the last issue you all have wonderfully maintained falconry furniture, or perhaps you are all off to the game fairs to buy some more. This magazine contains the dates for some of the venues where falconry displays can be seen, furniture bought and friends made, I hope to see some of you there.

If you purchase from one of the advertisers in this magazine, please could you state where you saw their advertisement as it ensures their continued support of the magazine and our continued success. Please keep your letters coming, we love to hear from you.

Once again thanks to everyone for their help and support, without which the Falconers Magazine could not continue.

David Wilson

Editor

SOME OF THE ARTICLES COMING IN THE NEXT ISSUE:-

- Call of the Wind - One mans' love for the Golden Eagle. By Alan Gates.
- Gyrs - The ultimate falcon for the chase. Tiercel.
- Pointers and Setters - A closer look at the Falconers dog. By Derry Argue.
- Diseases of Captive Hawks in the United Arab Emirates. By Peter McKinney MVB, MRCVS.

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ACROSS: 1) PASSAGE HAWK, 5) AYL MERI, 9) RUFER HOOD, 11) SUM, 12) GROUSE, 14) SERVE, 17) HAGGARD, 18) MAR, 19) BOW, 20) NET, 23) NARE, 24) ROOK, 25) BEWIT, 28) ARMS, 30) OWL, 31) JACK, 32) MERLIN, 33) SWIVEL, 38) HACK, 39 + 40) RAKE AWAY, 42) BECHIN, 43) SHARP, 44) YARAK, 45) MANTLE, 46) LANNER.
DOWN: 1) PEREGRINATIONS, 2) SET, 3) GYR, 4) HOOD SHY, 6) MEWS, 7) IMP, 8) WAKE, 10) FROST, 13) SHAHEEN, 15) ROBIN, 16) MARK, 21) MAIL, 22) POUNCES, 26), SAKER, 27) GSP, 29) SAIL, 34) LURING, 35) SARSAL, 36) JERKIN, 37) LUGGER, 38) HOBBY, 41) CAST.

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DORIS AND ME

David Rampling

I have always wanted a Sparrowhawk, since I first read how hard they are to man and how they are such little psycopaths. I had many years to wait.

I started with a Harris Hawk. He was a lovely bird, but he was almost fully trained in a week and if, for some reason, I couldn't give him as much time as I should, he was still obedient and very tame. Now I know that is why Harris Hawks are so well loved, but I wanted something else. I wanted something more hawklike. I knew even then that I wanted a sparrowhawk, but to be honest I was a little afraid of taking one on.

Anyway, after having a little fun with the Harris I bought myself a Redtail. Now this was more like it. Not so obedient, but more of the kind of bird I wanted. Just a little round the twist! The trouble with Hannah was that she was an imprint. In my naivety I hadn't asked the right questions or bought from a reputable breeder, so I flew her for a while and when I could stand the screaming no longer I sold her to a friend with a lot more patience (and perhaps deafer) than I. I had by this time made a few friends in the falconry world, friends who knew an awful lot more than I. I was birdless now, it was July and I asked myself if I was ready. I had the time, they were ridiculously cheap. I had all the equipment and most importantly I knew if I had any problems I had some knowledgeable friends who could point me in the right direction.

The following Sunday saw me and a pair of the aforementioned friends travelling north to collect the bird. We arrived about noon and were shown the aviary. About 40 feet long, 30 feet wide and totally screened apart from the roof of course.

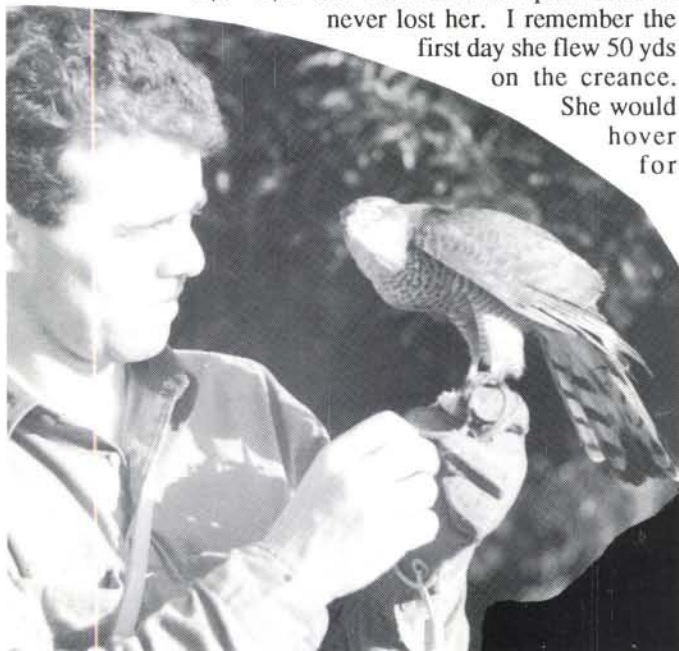
There were about six hens to choose from. They looked in superb condition and just hard panned. I picked the first one I could catch, popped her in the box feeling as high as a kite, parted with the cash and drove home.

From then on it went according to plan. I fed her mostly sparrows and starlings and called her Doris. She was just so pretty, so dainty and yet so tough. Unlike the Harris or the Redtail she was never tame, it was food and only food with her. I was almost paranoid about her weight, desperate not to starve her. She was dead keen and instantly obedient at 8oz but I flew her at between

8¹/₈ - 8¹/₄. She was a little independent but I

never lost her. I remember the first day she flew 50 yds on the creance.

She would hover for



a second above my fist and as if she had seen me for the first time would consider scarpering, change her mind, open her beak wide in angry resignation and land. She would then proceed to kill my hand before eating whatever I had given her.

That very afternoon I decided to enter her. Walking through a field of corn, my friend Paul put up a pheasant poul, she had it in a flash. I rushed in to assist her and, with me still in a state of shock, I fed her a little and carried on. I couldn't believe it. It must have weighed a ton (2lb 2oz actually) and Doris was such a tiny little thing. She caught another that same day, it had 100 yds head start and she closed in on it like it was standing still. I was with her for every stroke of those short blurring wings. This was what I had always dreamed about, yes I had caught pheasants with the other hawks and a lot else besides but that was not the same. I suppose it was her guts and determination I loved and like I said, she was just so pretty.

There were about six hens to choose from. They looked in superb condition and just hard panned. I picked the first one I could catch, popped her in the box feeling as high as a kite, parted with the cash and drove home.

In the course of the next eight weeks she caught a total of 8 poults, 2 moorhens, 1 wood pigeon, 2 starlings and a great many sparrows. One day, when following me, a Kestrel flew past, of course Doris went after it, they flew round and round an oak tree, dipping and diving and then she got it. Paul and I ran over and managed to get her off. I checked it was OK and let it go. One day I made the mistake of releasing her when my friend Mark had already released his spar after some young pheasants. Doris completely ignored the poults and had trussed his spar after a dramatic little bit of aerobatics.

The one problem with Doris was that I had to keep her tied to her bow perch. Unlike my other hawks, that could always be allowed loose in the flight. I tried it with Doris and she ruined her tail, so I tied her up and made her a new one. But she was one of those birds that keeps ruining tails, she would ruin it by bating or in the crash, bang wallop of the chase.

I eventually ran out of spar feathers and resorted to wood pigeon tail feathers, they looked odd but worked just fine. After training and flying Doris my love for the Sparrowhawk is stronger than ever, and look forward to more adventures next season.

MALAYSIAN FISH OWL ?

KEN SMITH

The only outward difference between the sexes is that the female has naked eyelids while the males are feathered, I doubt that this is normal and feel sure it is just a unique fault with her but it is impossible to draw any comparisons with other fish owls, simply because there aren't any to compare her with.



As I write we have our first egg of the year, which also happens to be one of our most important eggs from a personal and probably also avicultural viewpoint alike, not because they are highly endangered in the wild or because there is any great demand from raptor enthusiasts but more on account of their status in captivity and particularly because of the adult birds history.

The eggs belongs to our pair of Brown Fish Owls of which there are, we believe, only three pairs in Britain and only one other recorded captive breeding some ten years ago at Paignton Zoo. There are two distinct species of Brown Fish Owl, the Malaysian (*Ketupa ketupa*) and the Asian with four separate sub-species (*Ketupa zeylonensis*). To be honest we must admit to being unsure exactly

which species we have since they do not fit neatly into any of the vague descriptions to be found in the sparse literature that is available. However, based upon the only other pair we have seen and which are a completely different colour and definitely Asian we think ours are the Malaysian race.

Zoos in the past, and to some extent today, have been notoriously bad at keeping records and tak-

ing any real interest in captive propagation, particularly in respect of large zoos where animals were kept as pure exhibits and in the zoos interests to show as wide a diversity as possible by acquiring representatives of every genus. Thus an owl becomes just a part of the bird section, which has it's keeper who may indeed be a dedicated expert on birds but perhaps with as much inter-

est in owls as I would have in ducks, which is virtually none. Such is the history of our fish Owls.

Through talking to previous keepers we have been able to discover only that our pair were on show for more than twenty years, that they laid eggs every year sometime around February, and that artificial incubation, hand rearing or any other form of human interference was regarded by staff as extra unpaid workload for which the directors made no allowance in the budget, so therefore 'forget it' was the order of the day. It is quite possible that although the adult birds were fed and cared for as much as necessary they may have been producing young for twenty years all of which died simply because the food

supply going into the enclosure on a daily basis was unchanged and sufficient only for two adult birds. It is to the present keepers credit, a parrot like specialist, that he saw the wisdom of passing the owls to a raptor specialist zoo (often referred to as a falconry centre) where only birds of prey are kept and where everything is geared towards their specific welfare.

We took charge of them in January 1988 and had two eggs within a few days, nothing had been planned at all, the arrival of the adults was unexpected save for a phone call two days before and we certainly were not prepared for incubating eggs that early in the year, so there was a hurried fumigating and disinfecting of the incubator room

and equipment and the eggs were removed from the parent birds together, egg one at seven days incubation and egg two as laid. The first egg died in the early stages as a tiny partly developed embryo of about two weeks, the second egg grew at exactly the right pace and hatched into a healthy chick after thirty three days and was immediately christened 'Katie' as in ketupa, as far as we are aware it was the first Malaysian fish owl born in captivity but more to the point, the first from this pair after all those years of none production. We were justifiably proud and pleased but the pleasure was short lived, she never made it to adulthood and died for no apparent reason, a post mortem examination

showed nothing wrong. Strange how many times we hear of post mortem results on birds of prey which prove only that it is a perfectly healthy corpse, conclusive proof of how little we know.

In 1989 there was only one egg laid, which was left with the parents, it too died at about two weeks incubation so we are still at square one, except of course that as each year passes the owls grow older and the chances of healthy fertile eggs diminishes accordingly. But for now we have our first egg of the year, which is where the story began and where for now it must end, but being forever the optimist I look forward to writing a favourable update later in the year, touch wood!

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| June 24 | Broughton Hall, Skipton. |
| August 2/3/4 | CLA Game Fair. |

MEMORIES OF THE ARCO DESERT

BY Tiercel

Having enjoyed the sport of Grouse Hawking I was very keen to accept an offer received to see Sage Grouse Hawking in the States earlier this year.

Having left a wet and windswept Gatwick airport it came as a bit of a shock to step into the biting cold and driving snow at Salt Lake City. But the welcome given by Ken Tuttle was certainly warm enough and after an hours drive we were sitting in front of a blazing fire swapping falconry tales.

Ken Tuttle is a falconer of long standing with whom I had been corresponding for some considerable time. It was through his good services that I received the invitation to go Sage Grouse Hawking. Our host was to be Steve Chindgren a very talented and dedicated falconer.

We made arrangements to meet up a couple of days later and head out to the Arco desert in Idaho. On the way to the Arco we stopped off to trap Prairie Falcons and Merlins. Let me hasten to add that Ken Tuttle is involved with the



Freshly Trapped Merlin

Wildlife and Fisheries service and the trapping was part of a ringing scheme. We trapped a haggard Tiercel Prairie and a haggard Jack merlin, both of which were released, unharmed and none the worse for wear, once they had been rung.

I have to admit that the Arco desert itself came as something of a shock. Being English, a Grouse moor to me is a

paradise of wide open space, The thought of roaming ten to fifteen thousand acres of open land, without meeting a soul is my idea of heaven. But the Arco consists of thirty thousand square miles. Perhaps the most amazing fact is that it is all public land. That means that any falconer who has his falconry licence and quarry licence has the right to hunt there in the appropriate season. The season for Sage grouse hawking is almost six months long. Although the season for shooting grouse is only two weeks.

But the American system does limit the quarry taken, by imposing a bag limit. This means that in Idaho a falconer may only kill one Grouse a day. But when you take into account the length of the season, this is perfectly reasonable. The limit varies from state to state but the maximum is two in Wyoming.

The Grouse themselves are a great deal different to our own Red grouse. Probably the most striking feature is their sheer size. A Sage Grouse weighs three pounds and a cock bird, or boomer as they are known locally, weighs six pounds. It takes a well trained and confident falcon to tackle them with any success. In fact a great many falcons will refuse them altogether.

The style with which the falcon stoops is also very important. That is why not



Steve Chindgren with Icarus

many pure Peregrine Falcons are used for the flight. The Peregrines normal tactic is to stoop hard then level out just behind the quarry and then come up on it in a rush and bind to it. This style will not work with Sage Grouse, they are too strong and powerful for that. A falcon that is successful is one that will stoop through its quarry, hitting it in the head or on the wing.

A head shot will kill the Grouse and a wing shot will disable it. Most falconers tend to fly either Gyr/Peregrines or Gyr/Prairies, and some fly pure Gyrs. Nearly all plump for the falcon because of their size.

When we met up with Steve we had our first of many surprises. He flies a Gyr/Peregrine tiercel. It weighs just over twenty six ounces and on first sight looks far to small for the job. But he was to prove his skill many times over in the days that followed.

One essential ingredient for this type of hawking is the use of four wheel drive vehicles. The amount of ground that needs to be covered makes cars of the utmost importance and the type of terrain and changeable conditions dictate that it be four wheel drive.

As with our game hawking, good dogs are very important. The old saying about good dogs making good hawks is just as true in this form of the sport as it is in ours. Steve uses an English Pointer called Pete, but uses it in a slightly different way to the average English falconer.

The dog is run from the car and does its best to keep up with it. Dogs are trained to turn, not on the whistle, but on the car



Icarus Gyr/Peregrine Hybrid on a Sage Grouse Hen

horn. But once a firm point is found things become more familiar to the English visitor. The falcon is readied by putting on two telemetry transmitters and removing it's jesses. Then he is unhooded and allowed to take wing.

Steve's bird, called Icarus, knows the game and is soon at a very good pitch waiting on over the dog. Steve and I creep forward and when the falcon is placed perfectly we run in and flush the birds. A hen sage Grouse gets up and before it has got twenty yards it is cut down hard by Icarus. It does not move again, it has been killed outright by the stoop. Very impressive team work between dogs, falcon and falconer.

The next day the flushed bird turns out to be a boomer and although knocked

down hard by the falcon it takes a re-flush and another stoop to kill it. It is only when you see the little tiercel sitting on the huge cock bird that you appreciate the bravery of the little falcon. Steve has set a new record with Icarus this season by taking one hundred and five sage grouse. This is almost double the previous best. The quarry suits it's environment. Both are extremely large. The Arco really is a very beautiful place. It is bordered on all sides by mountains and is teeming with wildlife. In fact we had one days hunting ruined when a pack of Coyotes decided to share our hunting ground with us. As well as Coyotes there are White Tailed antelope, Jack Rabbits, Ground Squirrels and various bird life as well as Rattle Snakes.

There is also a large bird of prey population. Consisting mainly of Red Tails, Prairie Falcons and two of the falconers worst enemies. These being Golden Eagles and Great Horned Owls. More falconers lose their birds to these last two than any other cause in America. The danger time for a falconer is when his bird had chased a Sage Grouse out of sight and killed it as it puts in. When the falcon is sitting on the ground eating it's prey it becomes an easy meal for Eagles and Owls.

As Steve said, not many good hunting falcons live long enough to die of old age. In fact three other falconers I spoke to had all lost falcons in this way in the last two seasons.

I have an invitation to go back to the Arco next season and nothing will keep me away.



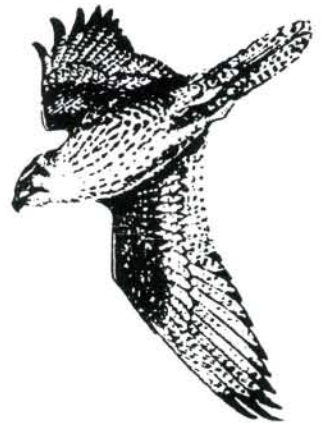
A successful hunt in the Arco desert
Left to right: Gety Pollard - Apprentice Falconer, Dr Kev Tuttle, Bob Dalton, Steve Chindgren with Icarus, Dogs Pete and Mitzy.

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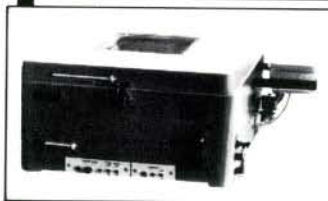


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THE 1987 HARRIS HAWK BREEDING SEASON

“A SEASON OF BIZARRE REVELATIONS”

BY

DAVID GLYNNE FOX

It was in 1967 that I first trained and flew a female Harris Hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*), as at that time a species virtually unknown in falconry circles in the United Kingdom. In appearance, the Harris, or Bay-winged Hawk as it is sometimes called, is so far removed from other, more conventional species, such as the Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*), that many of my hawking colleagues of the sixties flatly refused to believe that such a long legged, rather gawky looking buzzard of a bird could be of any use for the chase whatsoever and ridiculed the poor bird unmercifully.

I must admit that in the end, tiring of the abuse, I spent less and less time with the bird and reverted to flying the popular and well-tried Goshawk. But what a turn about of attitudes over the past two decades! The Harris Hawk has risen from almost total obscurity (note how few hawking books published prior to 1975 even mention the Harris!) to the most popular general purpose hawk in Britain today. And with very good reason. Apart from a few Goshawk die-hards, many erstwhile austringers (those who prefer to fly short-winged hawks i.e. Goshawks, Sparrowhawks, buzzards and eagles, as opposed to falconers who fly long-winged hawks i.e. true falcons such as the Saker and Peregrine Falcon) have switched allegiance to the Harris for their flying companion.

After flying numerous hawk species over the past twenty odd years, my conversion to the Harris faith came during the 1984 - 85 hawking season. My hawking colleague of long standing, Peter Hudson, acquired an *eyas* (young) male Harris Hawk from the Falconry and Bird of Prey Conservation Centre at Newent in Gloucestershire during the summer of 1984. The rapidity with which this bird was trained and flown free, its willingness to pursue, and take, quarry of a wide variety, and its absurd, unbelievable tameness and reliability made me wonder whether this bird was a one off, a fluke. But the acquisition of a second bird later that same year, a female, also obtained from the Newent Falconry Centre, followed in like suit.

Consultations with other falconers owning Harris Hawks proved beyond doubt in my mind that the perfect hawk

for the week-end falconer, beginner or expert alike, had finally arrived. Hawking club meets throughout the country are now “black” with Harris Hawks. The Harris Hawk, from the southern U.S.A. has indeed made its mark upon the British falconry scene and I for one am a confirmed Harrisophile.

Both the above mentioned hawks were flown for two seasons when, as they approached two and a half years of age, were placed together in a rather small, conventional aviary. The flight itself was attached to a six foot wooden shed which the hawks used for shelter as and when they required it. The nest shelf consisted of a wooden platform with a car tyre placed upon it. Nesting material, sticks and branches etc., were spread liberally over the tyre and floor of the aviary. In view of the fact that all of the known breeding Harris Hawks (known to us that is) were at least three years old, we did not really expect anything from this pair and so we promptly left them in their flight and virtually forgot all about them.

On 12th April 1987, I returned home from a wild flower photographic trip in the Derbyshire White Peak district. I had barely put my camera down when a very excited Pete Hudson turned up on my doorstep clutching a white plastic bowl. Pete had observed the Harris Hawks copulating frequently, but neither of us really expected to see what Pete held in his little white bowl, a beautiful blueish-white, chalky textured egg! We just couldn't believe it. Apparently, it had been laid the previous day and Pete had had a hard time deciding whether to egg pull the clutch, or let the female complete her brood and then remove the lot, a method termed double-clutching. He settled for the former and brought the egg to me for artificial incubation.

Unfortunately, both my Turn X6A incubators were still packed away from last years breeding season and as Pete already had the egg in his hands, I had no time to fumigate one of them. My normal method of fumigation is to place three grams of paraformaldehyde, six grams of pottasium permanganate mixed with 25mls water in a small container, which tapers towards the neck, rather

like a laboratory flask. The reason for the taper being that the mixture is rather volatile and erupts vigorously, emitting a strong formalin gas, the tapered sides preventing spillage of the bubbling mixture. The incubator exhausts are sealed with sellotape, as is the base and the whole unit is conveyed to a place of safety outdoors for twenty-four hours. The following day the incubator is untaped and then run outdoors for a while to purge it of formaldehyde fumes. I always fumigate at the beginning and end of the breeding season. I just hoped that in this instance, last seasons fumigation would suffice.

I ran the incubator up to what I hoped would be the correct temperature i.e. 98.5 - 99 degrees Fahrenheit. As everyone that we knew left the clutches with the parents, the temperatures had to be educated guesswork. Humidity, equally as important as temperature, proved a harder nut to crack. The general consensus of opinion, taking into account the arid regions of the Harris Hawks' natural habitat, was that no water should be added at all. On the contrary. A rumour had reached our ever open ears that silica gel, a dessicant used for absorbing moisture from the atmosphere and widely used in binocular cases and camera gadget bags, should be placed in the base of the incubator.

I wasn't too happy about the no water theory and I positively balked at the silica gel idea and suggested to Pete that he contact his sources of this information to find out all he could about the latter point.

With mixed feelings, I ran the incubator with the fountain devoid of water and placed in the first egg.

On the 14th and 17th April respectively, the second and third egg were placed in the Turn X. On the 20th, the fourth egg was introduced to the incubator and the first three eggs were candled. As readers of my previous Cage and



Eggs in Turn X incubator



1



2



3



4

1: Egg with enlarged pip

2: Egg on verge of hatching

3: Harris Hawk dead in shell

4: Day old eyas

5: Prolapsed Cloaca on 3 day old chick

6: Subcutaneous injection of lacerated ringers solution in inguinal web of chick number two



5



6

Aviary Birds article on breeding Sparrowhawks in 1981 may recall, I use a 35mm slide projector as a candler. With part of the lens hood masked with black tape and in a darkened room, each egg is place in turn into the light beam for a few seconds. I emphasise the “few seconds”, for the simple reason that the heat output from the projector lamp is high and too long an exposure can result in dehydration and other complications for the developing embryo.

With bated breath I placed the first egg into the light beam. Fully expecting

the chalky, opaque shells to defy the light and render candling difficult, I was very surprised to discover that the veins and developing, pumping heart were clearly visible. Yes, veins and pumping heart! It was fertile! And what is more, so were egg numbers two and three! Pete and I were ecstatic. This was indeed something that neither of us really expected to become a reality, not at the first attempt at least!

By the 25th April, we believed that the four eggs were to be the completed clutch. Pete in the meantime had con-

tacted one of his sources who was quite adamant about the silica gel and maintained that other top breeders were using it. So, still with mixed feelings and with Pete pressurising me to use the silica gel, (the eggs did belong to him after all) I gave in and covered the base of the incubator with white gel crystals. I wasn't sure how much to put in or how long the gel would remain workable, no-one else seemed to know either.

On the 26th April, Pete again arrived at my home clutching his by now familiar little white plastic bowl. A fifth egg!

Six full days had lapsed since the laying of the fourth egg and as recycling normally takes fourteen to sixteen days in many hawk species, this ruled out the beginning of a second clutch. A check of the aviary and shed floor revealed a smashed sixth egg. At least that explained the long time lapse between eggs four and five.

On the 28th April, all eggs were again candled, all were fertile. Not too bad for a first attempt! On the 29th April, eggs one and two were submerged in luke-warm water for a few seconds. The submerging of all eggs on or around day seventeen was also recommended by Pete's sources. On 3rd May the fourth egg received its dip in water, followed by the fourth on May 7th.

We had been informed, rightly or wrongly, that Harris Hawk eggs hatch at twenty nine days of incubation. In our case, if the twenty nine day incubation was correct, our first egg should at least have pipped on 10th May. This day came and went with no sign of a pip. As did the 11th and 12th. We began to worry. On day thirty two, 13th May, the first egg pipped. Worries now abated slightly. The egg was transferred to my second Turn X incubator. The incubator base was flooded and the automatic turner was not connected. The egg was left to hatch, pip side uppermost and not turned, at the same temperature as the first Turn X. On this same day, the fifth egg received its dunking in luke-warm water.

By the evening of May 13th, the pip mark was much enlarged and the egg was rocking backwards and forwards. The chick was calling frequently from within the shell.

At 8.00am on May 16th, thirty five days after incubation began, the first chick hatched and saw its first light of day. Another surprise came to light after its down feathers dried. I expected the overall colouration of the down to be white, or greyish, consequently I was most amazed to find it a lovely warm brown colour. The bird was then transferred to a Reliable Thermostat electric hen brooder. It took its first meal an hour after the down feathers dried and was fed every three hours afterwards, receiving four or five feeds daily. At mid-day on the 16th, the second egg pipped and hatched at 5.30pm on the 18th. Shortly after midnight on the 18th the third egg pipped.

Then on the 19th, disaster struck! Chick number two developed a distended cloaca, and by the 20th, the problem looked decidedly serious. The cloaca was swollen and bright scarlet in colour. The bird did not appear to be defecating properly, the mutes were not squirted out with any force and so, suspecting dehydration, I began a course of injec-

tion using 0.5 ml of lactated ringers solution injected subcutaneously into the inguinal web of both legs at every feed. On the same day, the third chick hatched.

On the 21st, the cloacal distention seemed less inflamed, although the chick was still not passing mutes properly. The first chick was progressing well and regurgitated its first casting, or pellet of indigestible food remains. On the 23rd, the fourth egg had gone well past its allotted pipping date so I dissected it. It was found to be dead in shell. In fact the chick seemed to be compressed and to overfill the portion below the air-space membrane. Too much, or not enough humidity?

By the evening of the 23rd May, the chick with the distended cloaca looked far from well. Its skin had turned blueish although the cloacal distention had all but disappeared and it had begun pass-

ing mutes properly. My other hawking colleague, Martin Nicholson, had one of his Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*) chicks suffering from the same malady. Cause as yet still unknown to me. Any ideas?

The second egg of the second clutch was placed in the incubator on 27th May. This second clutch gave me an opportunity to perform an experiment that I had wanted to try out with the first clutch, but because of our lack of knowledge concerning the incubation of this species, coupled with the fact that the eggs were not my property, I was loathe to experiment. However, a couple of points consistently nagged me. What was the duration of time that the silica gel remained active? How long did it take to become fully saturated and therefore useless? To find the answer to these



Four week old eyas's

ing mutes properly. Its eyes developed a glazed appearance and I had fears for its survival. Sure enough, by the following morning, chick number two had died. A sad blow. The only compensation on this dismal day was the placing into the incubator, the first egg of the second clutch. The Harris's had recycled.

On the 25th, the third chick developed a peculiar habit. At feeding times, it tilted its head backwards until it rested on its tail. It was awkward feeding the bird in this position and it usually necessitated supporting the bird's head with one hand while feeding it with the other. According to Pete's sources, almost 50% of captive bred Harris Hawks developed this trait, but the good news was that they all apparently grow out of it. This

questions, I obtained some silica gel which contained a saturation marker. This was coloured bright blue, rather reminiscent of copper sulphate, when dry, but gradually turned pink when saturated.

I covered the base of the Turn X with the new silica gel on the 27th, the same day that the second egg was introduced and the day the first chick of clutch one was close ringed with a D.O.E. ring. The fifth egg from the same clutch was submerged in water for a few seconds when a rocking motion was observed. At least the embryo inside appeared to be behaving normally. On the 30th May, chick number three was rung with a D.O.E. ring.

By 31st May, the fifth egg was re-

moved from the incubator. It had passed its allotted pipping date. Like egg number four, it was found to be dead in shell upon dissection. After this sickening news, I candled the two eggs of the second clutch. These appeared to be infertile although I decided to leave them in the incubator to make sure. What a day! The new silica gel had by this time turned pink, and had to be replaced. I dried out the saturated gel by placing it on a tray and baking it in a hot oven, whereon it reverted to its original blue colour.

This at least gave me some idea of the working life of the gel. I then began to analyse the situation. If silica gel lost its absorbent properties in four days in a dry incubator by simply drawing in moisture from the ambient room atmosphere where the incubator was kept, how long would it last under a bantam, nesting on the ground, or near it and receiving additional humidity from the birds own body? This was apparently one of the methods advocated by one of Pete's sources. Under these latter conditions, I would be surprised if the silica gel remained viable for much more than twenty-four hours. Try as I might, I could not find out how often other breeders changed their silica gel, if indeed, they really used it at all! And if they did use it, what if any, were the beneficial effects derived from its use?

After breeding hawks for many years, I found this seasons results somewhat depressing. In many ways I felt a total novice. No-one seemed to know any-

thing concrete about artificially incubating eggs of the Harris Hawk, or rather they weren't letting on if they did. If only more enthusiasts could be encouraged to put their findings down on paper, far fewer valuable birds would be lost through ignorance.

By June 1st it was apparent that chick number one was a female and chick number three was a male and by June 3rd, the backward head-tilting motion of chick number three had ceased, at least that part of the pattern had run true to form. On the 8th June, both eggs in the second clutch were submerged in water, one floated, one sank. On the 10th, both eggs were re-candled and found to be infertile beyond doubt. There was no point in incubating these two eggs any further. From experiences with candling the first clutch, there was no way that these two eggs were ever going to hatch, so both were blown. They were indeed clear. The incubators were fumigated, dismantled and put away in readiness for the 1988 breeding season.

Both young chicks continued to develop normally for about a month, when one Sunday afternoon, I allowed them both to take some fresh air on the garden lawn while I photographed them. Pete and Martin came round to see them and remarked how well they looked. In fact Pete said that I could have one for myself and after much deliberation, I chose the female. Therefore, you can imagine my consternation when my wife, Jill, rang me at work to inform me that chick number one, the female, had dropped

stone dead. I felt sick to the pit of my stomach and began to feel that this raptor breeding lark left a detrimental effect on one's own health. I had barely been the owner of a Harris Hawk for twenty-four hours. It was so stressful. After such a great start to the season, we had one male left out of five fertile eggs. Then another sickening reality dawned on me. How on earth was I going to explain this to Pete.

Fortunately, Pete is one of those rare people who can be called a real true friend. Naturally, he was as devastated and dumbfounded as I when I handed him the bird's almost fully fledged carcass, but within a few days he came to see me and absolutely insisted that I should keep the male.

What can you say about a person like that? It's good to know that such people still exist. We are still awaiting a post-mortem report on the dead female but the male was flying free in four days from taking him up and has proved to be the most reliable, trustworthy and excellent companion in the field one could ever wish for. He is without doubt the most amiable bird I have ever flown, although he is not so amiable with his quarry I might add, and for that alone I would rate him well above any of my previous hawks, Goshawks included.

In conclusion, I find it regrettable that information on breeding the Harris Hawk is so scant, considering how many breeding programmes are currently under way. This article has been written with two motives in mind. The first, to stimulate more breeders into publishing their findings in detail and secondly, to hope that someone out there can offer constructive criticism or advice concerning some of the obvious mistakes made during this project in order that they may be rectified before the forthcoming season. Any information on this front would be most gratefully received.



*The sole survivor
fit and ready for
the field*

N.B. Since the above was written, a full post-mortem investigation has been carried out on the dead female Harris Hawk chick. The report stated that the hawk had the defect known as a "hole in the heart" and was probably born with it. Nothing short of a donor Harris Hawk heart could have saved the bird, it was one of those experiences that one has to live with.

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HAWKING IN SCOTLAND

By Diana Durman-Walters

Scotland. That lasting image of untouched country is hawkings mother of invention. The land that is the great provider is also the great divide between the North and South. You have to be born here or built of sterner stuff to last the seasons.

Rich lush springs and glorious summers lead on to the harsh, unremitting winters that we are all too familiar with. This calls for hawks of ability to fly in buffeting gales and icy winds, hawks that can call upon centuries of breeding to withstand these elements. None fits the bill better than the Goshawk.

These grey bandits can cut into the wind in much the same way as our native peregrine. Much of the rugged countryside is open to the full force of the prevailing winds. Interspersed with stands of old Caledonian Pine or modern forestry plantation. The goshawk becomes very quickly a strong, wilful flyer. She has to be, in order to take her quarry of rabbit or pheasant (in the game season) she may have to fly cunning flights, forcing quarry to return to the nearest cover. Her reserves of strength must be such that she can overhaul them before they find sanctuary.

All things being equal she won't make all her flights a success. In fact far from

it, as the quarry also has generations of self preservation bred into it.

What the goshawk will do is leave a lasting impression of power, skill, dexterity and speed. Donald, Dave, Chris and Gary will have such lasting impressions. The two most experienced Goshawks, the female 'Nova' and the male 'Heppi' took command of the field the minute we entered into it. We were flying in woodland strips adjacent to oil seed rape fields, which had excellent opportunities for pheasant. The wind was strong, galeforce, but there was a good chance we could escape most of the wind, in the trees down by the river. The dogs were on form, German Wirehaired Pointers to my mind make the wisest choice; robust, versatile, they seem well bred for the landscape.

Inga, the old bitch came on point, 'Nova' was ready for the first slip. The pheasant flushed well in front of the dog and the gos sped off in hot pursuit. Within 100 yds she realised she wouldn't catch it and threw up into a tree. By leaving her there the advantage would be all hers. Within minutes Inga had another point below the tree where 'Nova' was watching in anticipation. This time the pheasant, pressured by the group of falconers beginning to encroach on it, shot from its seat vertically. 'Nova' was forced to



Back: Nova, Front: Heppi

make a spot decision, drop from the tree to take it underneath. Like a bullet the pheasant shot upwards for the tree canopy with the grey missile behind. The pheasant twisted fractionally in mid-air causing the gos to change the path of impact and disappeared over the tree top. 'Nova' didn't score but the dare-devil attempt caused ripples of admiration to spread around the group.

Males are more dexterous than females. Their nimble turn of speed has to be seen and savoured. 'Heppi' is a total imprint. One of the nice characters in life. Very knowing he can sixth sense what the dog might be going to do. He enjoys tree work in conjunction with the dog. That afternoon he'd already taken one pheasant and looked set for number two. Inga had one lined up for him. Rigidly statuesque below him, he quivered, then froze in those final seconds before firing all rockets. The flush was made, the pheasant accelerated horizontally. The gos shot out of the tree flying for a broadside, impact shot. The pheasant was split seconds faster, causing 'Heppi' to drop in behind it. The moment of collision had passed, the falconers gasped and momentarily heard the thumping of their own hearts. The pheasant had the upper hand and drew 'Heppi' on over the swollen, spating river, where he eventually gave up the chase. Pulling the lure out of the bag he came instantly to the magnetic swinging and tempting delight secured to it. As he sat mantling over what might have been, the gathered falconers walked over and stared in mutual appreciation of the brilliance of nature.



L to R: Gary with Ziggi & Heppi, Donald with Harris Hawk, Dave with immature gos 'Rory', Chris with Nova and Inga.

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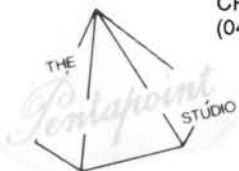
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A DUTCH TREAT

JOHN DAVIS

Having been to a few falconry meets in Germany with our German friend Karl (Buddy) Heinz, we were invited to a party for Falconers at his army camp in Wesel last August (the 12th) which consisted of a tour of the camp, the use of automatic rifles and pistols on the shooting range followed by a meal and a party. Whilst at this party we made friends with two Dutch people, Rinus and Leontine Raaijmakers who invited us to Holland for a few days hawking, which we accepted as we were going to Germany again on 16th and 17th December and so arranged to stay in Heerlen with them on the 13th, 14th and 15th. We left Hull on the night ferry on the 12th December and arrived at their house in time for lunch. We were warmly received and made to feel at home. We had long conversations about, guess what? Goshawks and rabbits, and we arranged to go out on the following day but the weather was appalling - high winds and rain. But having mentioned the night before about having seen road signs to Valkenswaard we decided to visit the museum of Falconry which also



Karl (Buddy) Heinz

housed a small replica of a cigar making factory. We were surprised that our friend Rinus knew nothing about the falconry museum, so it was a pleasant surprise for him as well, with two slide shows and a tour with a guide, with one large room laid out as a field, full of rabbits with Goshawks in full flight at their quarry, (stuffed of course) and a party of six wax dummies were very impressive.

On our way back to Heerlen we called at the home of Harry Wagemarr another falconer friend of Rinus who, although having only one arm, manages very well with the assistance of his wife and again another warm welcome from very friendly people, who have an amazing collection of curios from stuffed cobras to live tarantulas.

Friday was no good for hawking, so we went on a trip to a German supermarket where we purchased presents for the



*Rinus Raaijmakers
Dutch Falconer & Gos*

party on Saturday night, where everyone gives presents of about £2 which are then re-distributed.

Saturday morning, 6am and off to the German meet picking up another Falconer (George the Cadge) and his wife, in whose house we spent the previous evening. We arrived at Wesel at 8.45am in a convoy of cars which we picked up at a pre-arranged place on the way, and were received by our friend Buddy. There were approx. 70 people at the meet, mostly falconers and their wives.

We then split up and our party consisted of Buddy, Rinus and George the Cadge with Goshawks, Micheal, a Belgian with a hybrid Gyr and his friend with a peregrine, John Abbott and myself. We then motored about 20 miles to a pub where we were met by the owner of the hunt and the landowner who then took us, in



*Valkenswaard Museum
Victorian Falconer*

their two mini-buses to the different hunting grounds, which, as soon as they were hawked over would pick us up and take us to the next one. Very nice indeed. I would point out that in Germany the landowner is not necessarily the hunt owner, as this is usually sold to the hunter. The Gos's caught a few rabbits, but the falcons were rather dissapointing. That evening we dined off wild boar, donated by a hunt owner and cooked by the army chef, then a party with Father Xmas distributing the aforementioned presents with the assistance of a coloured English lad, who has worked in Germany for 13 years, he speaks the language fluently and is called Chicken Paul, as his Gos likes to call at farmyards to hunt chickens, nice guy. Father Xmas was a German wildlife artist, Heinz Gunter Pastor, who at a previous meet had promised to do a painting for John and which he showed us that night. I had one of a Gos chasing a rabbit in the snow - it is excellent - and Johns was a Gos chasing a hare. The following morning everybody said their farewells and we returned home with invites for 1990 ringing in our ears.

The Columbaris Merlin is one of the rarest of all British Birds of Prey, and has been on the decline for the past 20 years. The Merlins numbers have dropped by 80% since the late 60's, when the population of all our Birds of Prey, including owls was put into decline because of the use of D.D.T. and other pesticides. Since the use of these primitive substances was banned in the late 70's the raptor population is finding a foothold once more, all except the Merlin.

Many people have Barn Owl release projects, but unlike the Merlin Barn Owls are fairly easier to breed and suitable release sites are more readily available, Barn Owls are also reasonably cheap to acquire. The merlin on the other hand is expensive to buy and when successfully bred owners look more at financial than conservational aspects. Suitable release sites are also difficult to find and careful selection is necessary. In 1989 Bob Dalton and Nick Mart decided to do something about the plight of the merlin and set up their own release proj-

ect. They have bought 4 males and 4 females, all unrelated and plan to buy another 2 pairs, which will be housed in aviaries 12' x 12' x 15' high.

Their diet consists of rats, mice and day old chicks, skinned prior to feeding and 3 week old chicks and quail, these are all fed on a 5 day rotation. This is the staple diet for adults and young. The 3 week old chicks and quail are all reared on the premises and are fed additive free food.

Bob is currently in negotiations with the D.O.E. and N.C.C. to release young merlins into the wild, in areas where there is suitable habitat available including Scotland, Wales and the Lake District, where numbers are in severe decline. The young Merlins will be given to experienced, responsible falconers in suitable areas to be hacked back to the wild in one of two ways. Either trained to a degree where they are catching enough quarry to sustain themselves then released and as the first 10 days are crucial fitted with transmitters so they can be monitored, after a short time the transmit-

ters will drop off.

The alternative method of hacking back is to create an artificial nest site where the young can be placed when they are old enough to feed themselves but not able to fly, food is given daily in such a way that the birds do not see a human. The birds fledge and progress to hunting for themselves, staying away when they are successful and returning when they aren't to a constant food source, which is stopped only when all birds cease to return.

In America with certain species they are allowed to use wild birds as foster parents by placing captive laid eggs in nests of birds of the same species, but this is not allowed in Gt. Britain because of causing disturbance and putting extra workload on the wild parents.

Bob and Nick hope, within 3 years, to be releasing 30-50 birds a year. It would be a very sad state of affairs if the merlin were to become extinct in the wild, so it is nice to see someone doing something. I am sure we would all like to wish them good luck.

A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION



RAPTOR BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

FOR THOSE PEOPLE INTERESTED IN BREEDING BIRDS OF PREY/OWLS

For further information, contact Membership Secretary
Robin Pote,
Burgale Farm,
Wigmore,
Herts HR6 9VJ
Tel: 056 886647.

THE LAST WORD IN DESIGN ALISON LONG

The last ten years have seen great changes in what we see as our priorities. Our whole work ethic has been changed to an urge for self-advancement, and we have been taught that the only person we can really trust is ourselves. Hence, the business world is more cut-throat than ever, yet we are still urged to get on our bikes and ride into self employment as though it were an easy path, helped along by the many and varied initiative schemes supposedly there for the taking by the confident new businessman or woman. This is a long way from the reality of the situation.

You falconers are realising the potential of the ever increasing interest in the sport you love, and are naturally attempting to make a living allied to it. The problem that you all look the same. There is a stock half a dozen falconry pictures which

you all use, and the overall result is that you all appear to be selling the same product. As a matter of fact, that's part of the problem too - the range of products pertaining to falconry is limited, and so many of you are selling the same product. It doesn't have to look that way. With a little professional help you can appear different from the crowd. I can offer the new entrepreneur chance to steal a march on his competitors in a completely honest fashion - by providing a more professional image in a sphere which, although still embryonic, seems to hold no more surprises by way of business identities.

I have been in the graphics business for many years, starting at the bottom, and looking hard at every angle of the business as I worked my way up. I did my stint in advertising, public relations and marketing

in a couple of medium-sized agencies, and came to several conclusions - the most important of which is that I felt I could provide an equally high standard of workmanship, for a fraction of the price, if I went solo.

What I am offering you now is a start-up or smarten-up package: a whole new corporate identity, including a logo for use on letterheads and business cards, 'with compliments slips', and numbered invoice pads. Also in the package is a finished advertisement, sized and geared for a specified run in a magazine appropriate to your business. You don't have to be selling to the falconry community to become one of my clients. I have just thought up a great logo design for a plumber!

Another idea where a little professional help goes a long way is when, having ap-

proached your bank manager with your idea for a new business, he suggests that you go away and construct a business plan. We can provide a three year business plan, complete with cash-flow projections, spreadsheets, graphs and illustrations which show your proportion of the market, all bound together in your corporate colours. A coherent business profile is a great aid to achieving the credibility needed in today's ever-tightening economic climate.

I can give you originality at a price you can afford, and therefore the chance to be judged as important as the next man or woman and your business shown to be inspirational. Wherever you are, please feel free to ring me and arrange a meeting, and you and your product shall have my undivided attention.

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YOU CAN AFFORD
 FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT ALISON LONG AND ARRANGE A MEETING



THE SCOTTISH ACADEMY OF FALCONRY

and Related Studies

The Academy is based in the beautiful Scottish Border country in one of the most scenic and spectacular valleys just south of Harwick. Built next to a meandering salmon stream, it was founded in the mid '80s by Leonard and Diana Durman-Walters. It was designed as a centre for fulfilling peoples desires to be educated in the disciplines of falconry; and to take what must be one of the most exciting of Leisure/Adventure holidays available in Scotland.

Leonard and Diana have been practical falconers for over 20 years. They compile an impressive personal curriculum vitae, from gos

hawk and sparrowhawk to lanner, prairie, peregrine and gyr falcon and prairie x peregrine hybrids. The span of falconry prospects from woodland to moorland is put together in a professional and relaxed manner, providing the guests with expert tuition.

The Academy divides its options into six different categories lasting one week. This allows guests to choose a course suited to their present life-style, without necessarily having the commitment of owning a hawk. The type of person wanting a holiday with learning potential is remarkable. Diana pointed out that people from

all walks of life book a holiday. From young hopefuls of 12 years old to old hopefuls of 60 plus! Youngsters benefit from Dianas ability as professionally trained teacher and are usually accommodated with their own age group.

From day one contact time with the hawks is given top priority. One of the things that astonished most guests was the immediacy of being in control of a hawk. Leonard is quick to point out that learning takes place whilst handling birds of prey and that from this vantage point the academic side to training is meaningful and remembered. In order to allow guests the opportunity to see and handle the wide variety of hawks and falcons available, the Academy houses a stunning array of birds. The most commonly used beginners hawks are their imported Harris Hawks. These remarkable birds along with their European counterpart, the Common Buzzard allow any amount of novice handling, without the slightest protest. Their co-operation is in most part their training, but also their candid disposition and out-look on life.

The same cannot be quite said of the frenetic goshawk. These high spirited hunters are the ultimate hawk of the fist. Their fast sprinting flights put them into a league that many falconers will not have experienced before, hence the Academys option on a course designed purely to fly these hawks at game. Diana felt that with the advent of the Harris Hawk it had become easier for many people to feel they were achieving all there was to know in falconry! It was therefore important to allow guests to see the variety of hawks available in this country were flown on merit. Whether it be Red-tail, Ferruginous or Harris Hawk and to show that the handling and flying of these was as forerunners to the eventual flying of a Goshawk.

Many of the guests wanted to experience the thrill of the high flying falcons. The Academy has a fine array of hunting falcons of which Saker, Peregrine and Peregrine x Prairie hybrids make up the team. Leonard explained that this course was designed to show the requirements of an individual species when flying, the terrain they operated most proficiently on and the quarry species they were capable of taking. The rolling contours of the Border Country lends itself only too well to these aerial hunters, whom



Harris Hawks by their disposition make good hawks to train with



Scottish Academy Peregrine rearing young

once again were agreeable to strangers handling them. Leonard walked over and picked up his favourite hawk. A prairie x peregrine hybrid, now 7 years old. She has taken over 100 grouse. "Grace" talked and chirped to him as if inquiring whether it was flying time. He pointed out that guests had the opportunity to fly her either here or on one of their exclusive Grouse Hawking Holidays. For people whom had been lucky enough to fly her, it was a memorable experience.

The hybrid had been bred at the Academy and indeed was the first of her kind in the world to take Red grouse. They had also produced the first goshawk by A. I., a successful game hawk and now breeding himself. One of the intriguing parts of the week was being able to experience first hand the breeding techniques used to produce their fine hawks and falcons. Both Leonard and Diana were trained in France by Cornell experts (that was in 1979) and utilised this knowledge to the full, producing hawks for their requirements. With the prospects of producing gyr hybrids in 1990 the opportunities to fly another high powered falcons opens up yet more avenues and options for their guests.

The Academy believes that all guests have a common aim and that is to handle and be involved with a hunting hawk. Vast tracts of ground are needed to experience this. Here with its 10,000 acres, some excellent flying is achieved. As the climate of falconry changes to more people owning hawks from Kestrel to eagle their facilities also extend to having your own hawk with you for training. It is amazing to see the improvement with expert help.

With the increase in leisure time and an inherent desire to learn about birds of prey, more and more people are looking to the Scottish Academy to give them an insight into the intriguing lifestyle of Raptors. Leonard and Diana feel, critics should remember, that as we speed towards the 21st Century, the romantic image of the lonely falconer on the moor, or hunting idly over water meadows will be as remote as the image itself. Using the vast knowledge and experience of the past it is providing people with the opportunity to be a modern falconer in modern times.

For more information telephone (045 086) 666



Photograph: Paul Tomkins



Top: Diana Durhan-Walters with top class Grouse Hawk. Above: Gyr Falcon to be used to produce Gyr Hybrids.



Lessons in furniture making Leonard instructing 3 beginners

The Academy produced the first Goshawk by A. I. This male is now breeding successfully.



Photograph: Durhan-Walters

RAPTOR BREEDING

By Robin Haigh

In the last twenty years raptor breeding has evolved from an art to a science, many species have now been bred in captivity and some have even reached F3 status where domesticity rather than captivity would be a more appropriate term.

With expertise, reliable data and accurate incubation equipment the production of high quality birds of prey is now a practical proposition, and raptor breeders are at the very forefront of avian breeding technology.



Young Ferruginous Buzzards

Overlarge expensive aviaries have now proved to be almost as detrimental to success as aviaries that are too small.

A roofed over nest ledge the width of the enclosure and at least 30 inches wide with a thick suitable nest substrate such as pea shingle and 6" safety barrier will satisfy the requirements of the majority of raptors, access traps and spy holes in the aviary wall as well as suitable twigs for nest builders should of course be provided. A choice of nest sites is not a bad idea so long as they all can be serviced without entering the enclosure.

A varied clean diet comprising dead day old chicks, mice, rats and quail etc is suitable for just about every species. Vultures and Owls included. Don't overdo the Quail, once a week is plenty and do NOT remove the yolk sacs of the chicks they are vital for all species young or old.

Strictly controlled conditions for breeding and rearing Raptors are a pre-requisite if the maximum number of quality young are to be produced.

Because of the various pressures on wild populations it is up to the raptor breeder to make the best use of each, all too short, breeding season not only to produce quality young but also to gain as much knowledge as possible.

There are a number of well tried methods that can be used to increase egg production.

Egg pulling is the term used when eggs are taken away as they are laid, as many as five times the normal clutch size can

sometimes be obtained using this method but normally around double the amount can be expected.

Eggs should be removed as soon as possible after laying and stored somewhere cool and safe for up to 7 days prior to incubation, I prefer to store eggs for a maximum of 48 hrs.

Clutch pulling entails the removal of the whole clutch five to seven days after completion (up to a maximum of ten days) to a suitable incubator.

If the clutch is left too long with the parent she may well not re-cycle. Re-cycling is unlikely with birds laying for the first time but there are now grounds to believe that as more generations are produced in breeding proj-

ects the instances of first year re-cycling will increase.

Extended clutching is a mixture of clutch pulling and egg pulling, the first two or three eggs are taken as laid and stored or transferred to an incubator after 24 hours, the bird is then allowed to lay and sit the remainder of the clutch. The stored eggs can then be returned to the female during laying, the whole extended clutch may then be removed at any suitable time.

If there is a risk of very low temperature it is a good idea to egg pull for the risk of the eggs chilling or even freezing is too great to trust even experienced females.

Assuming an adequate diet is provided throughout the year the laying bird will suffer no adverse effects from any increase in egg production also it should not be necessary to routinely provide vitamin supplements to the parent stock.

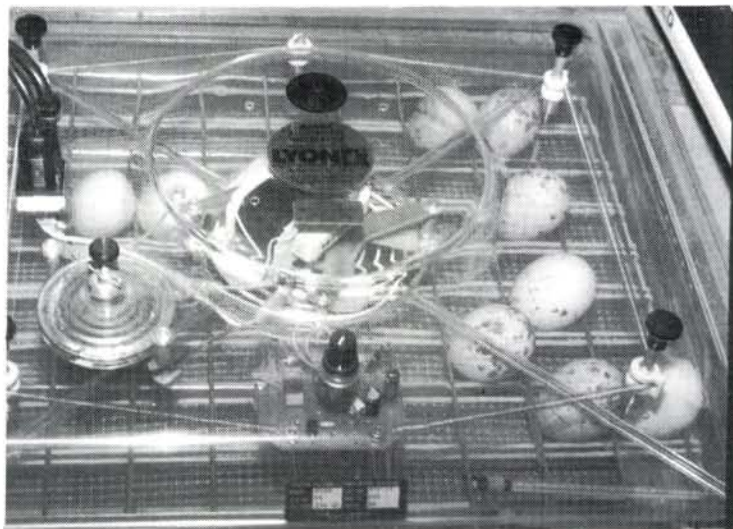
Eggs to be 'set' in an incubator should be chosen with care from parents that are neither too young nor too related, for inbreeding is a major cause of low fertility, poor hatchability, inferior quality small sized young and perhaps even a predominance of males.

Eggs that are of unusual shape, rough, glazed, extra large, small or dirty should all be avoided. Unfortunately in the real world the perfect egg is a myth and all eggs invariably end up being incubated.

The hatching rate of fresh eggs may improve if left at room temp for 24hrs prior to setting and rearing is simplified if as many eggs as possible are set at the same time.

Dirty eggs should only be washed as a last resort, scrape carefully to remove any lumps, try to ensure that eggs are picked up clean, a few handfuls of peat or green sprigs of conifer on the nest area just prior to laying is often beneficial.

To clear up a common error blood or other spots in a fresh egg are not signs of fertility but are usually attributable to a ruptured blood



Super Roll-X Incubator

vessel, sloughing of oviduct tissue during egg formation, genetics, old age, species or toxins.

Candling will give a guide to eggshell density and therefore the humidity requirements during incubation, but do candle carefully for many proprietary candles are extremely hot and may damage the egg.

Electronic weighing is the only really accurate way of checking weight/moisture loss, plotting a weight loss graph is both simple and accurate. Lately it has become fashionable to check egg density but we have little confidence in a system which is based on a notional value

with critical weight/moisture/CO2 loss requirements, and ambient temperature fluctuations.

The Super Roll-X has an accurate built in safety thermostat, which is sensible insurance when valuable eggs are being incubated, as is automatic egg turning. Manual turning of eggs is likely to degrade the temperature/humidity and hygiene integrity of the incubator and is a major cause of accidental damage to eggs.

There are a number of well known ways to accelerate egg weight loss such as adding silica gel to an already dry incubator (I personally consider this the least effective and the most likely to affect

the overall incubator microclimate not to mention the risk of introduced infection), using air conditioners or better still dehumidifiers in the incubator room to remove surplus moisture from the air, or even sandpapering the eggs.

A hatcher is simply another incubator to which the egg is transferred at pip. Forced air incubators are fine for hatching but do make sure that the humidity is set at maximum on the day of pip or even

Once the egg is pipped it no longer requires turning, but turning appears to have little ill effect even when carried on to within 12 hours of hatch.

Placing the egg pip uppermost in a Tupperware or similar plastic tray on paper towel will provide a suitable hatching environment and contain all the hatching debris.

Once in the hatcher leave the egg alone, this is the stage when many eggs having undergone satisfactory incubation are killed by interference.

Pip to hatch times vary with species and individuals and although 48 hrs might be considered a good average Lanners for example regularly take around 60hrs.

I personally have experienced successful hatches after 85hrs and the longest that I know of was 105hrs!

When the chick has finally broken the shell apart and is lying in one half, remove it from the hatcher on a piece of clean kitchen towel, remove any hatching debris from it and carefully powder the umbilicus with antibiotic powder. Transfer it to a ready prepared brooder running at 37.25C - 99F under the heat source with a temperature gradient along the box of around 5C - 8F, the chick can then move away to control its own heat requirements.

Crumpled newspaper covered by clean towelling makes a good brooder base and prevents leg slippage which can lead to splay leg problems.

Products mentioned in the text. Super Roll-X Incubator available from Robin Haigh Incubators, Abbey Bridge Farmhouse, Colonels Lane, Chertsey, Surrey.

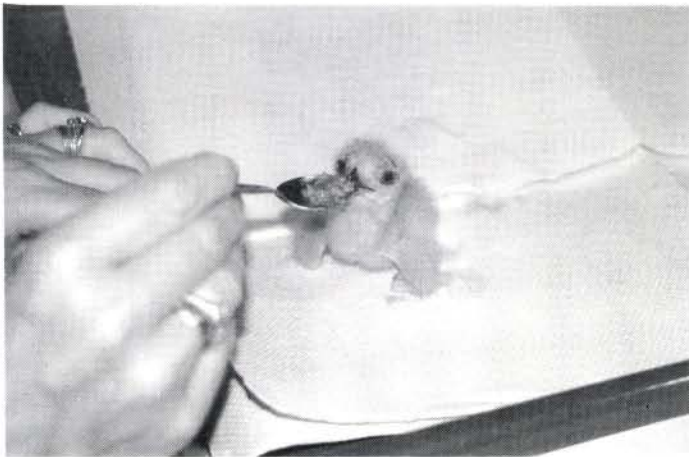
the following day, if weight loss is being monitored.

related to egg shape particularly when the specific gravity of the egg changes with the age of the layer. A two year experiment with eggs density proved neither accurate nor helpful.

Many incubators available today do not provide the accurate temperature control nor the rapid air movement required to allow adequate gaseous exchange particularly in dense eggs.

To obtain the best hatching results as near to ideal incubation conditions as possible should be provided using the best possible incubator.

The Super Roll-X 2A incubator running at 37.25C or 99F and a maximum 45%RH is a good starting point, it should be made clear that the Super Roll-X is a forced air incubator and still air incubators should not be considered for serious incubation purposes due their inherently poor overall temperature and humidity control and their inability to cope



Hand feeding 3 day old Harris Hawk hatched in Super Roll-X Incubator



The final product. Incubated and hatched in Roll-X. Female Harris Hawk.

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Raptor

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE DAY OLD CHICK

A.D.MALLEY B.A. M.V.B. M.R.C.V.S.

The old adage, "We are what we eat", applies to birds of prey and day-old chicks as much as it does to ourselves. As they have not eaten any food themselves, day-old chicks may be regarded as uncooked eggs in a different form, and contain large amounts of phosphorus and cholesterol and correspondingly very small amounts of calcium. The calcium: phosphorus (Ca:P) ratio required by birds in their diet is 1.5:1; but that of day-old chicks is probably only of the order of 1:4.3. Calcium and phosphorus compete within the body and, if the ratio of calcium to phosphorus is low in the diet, calcium is poorly absorbed even in the presence of adequate levels of vitamin D3.

The calcium deficiency involved in feeding day-old chicks may exacerbate underlying (and unnoticed) deficiencies of nutrition, producing difficulties in egg-laying, poor growth and performance and even fits. Breeding birds have dietary requirements different from working birds - both require adequate Ca:P ratios and a supply of readily available calcium, but the latter need more energy. It is thought that the surplus of cholesterol in the yolk of day-old chicks can lead to arterial disease (atherosclerosis) in sedentary birds, especially those that are kept as aviary birds beyond "middle age" on a diet consisting solely of day-old chicks. The cholesterol level in the diet can be reduced substantially by squeezing or washing out the yolks before feeding.

One must also take care that dead day-old chicks do not introduce diseases like Salmonella and Newcastle Disease.

The agent used to kill the chicks must also be considered. Carbon dioxide is quite safe to the bird consuming the chick but carbon tetrachloride is poisonous and should be avoided.

A better food source is one which is comprised of individual adult animals (birds, mammals or fish for the piscivorous species) which have eaten food themselves (they are what they eat too!) and different supplements can be provided depending on the birds varying requirements. Adult mice and rats have a calcium content of 2.5% of their dry matter, and are therefore a better source of calcium than day-old chicks in which the corresponding figure is only 1.54%. So a frozen store of dead mammals and healthy adult bird carcasses is worth much more than all the day-old chicks in the Country. Examine the source of your mammal carefully - obviously, poisoned rodents can poison the birds that feed on them but some intensively-bred rodents can carry insecticides and other chemicals, to which they themselves are tolerant, with disastrous results to the more suscep-

tible raptor. Adult birds used as food should, likewise be thoroughly examined for signs of disease before being considered.

Prime beef is considered by many as a good food source for carnivorous creatures but carnivorous means flesh-eating (ie whole-carcass-eating including what the animal itself has just eaten) and not just muscle-meat-eating - even prime beef has a Ca:P ratio of only 1:2.1.

Supplementation is available in many different forms and the multiplicity of choices is often confusing to the bird-keeper: Calcium salts (each with various degrees of availability of elemental calcium) are traditional and useful but unfortunately insoluble, bulky and rather unpalatable - calcium lactate and calcium carbonate have much to recommend them, but calcium phosphate (bone flour) also adds phosphorus to the diet, and therefore rather defeats the object of calcium supplementation.

"SA 37" is the best-known vitamin powder. It is readily available from petshops and veterinary surgeries but its Ca:P ratio is 1.2:1 and it therefore does not contain enough calcium to redress the relative excess of phosphorus in day-old chicks..

Recently a new company has emerged: Vetark Products have researched the requirements of birds under many different circumstances and have produced three relevant compounds specially formulated for their needs: "Nutrobal" has a high Ca:P ratio (40:1 - enough to redress the day-old chick deficiency) and is especially useful to maintain birds in breeding condition, especially when losing calcium in the form of their eggshells; "ACE High", high in A, C, and E vitamins required during stress and convalescence;

"Arkvits", with a Ca:P ratio of 2:1 an excellent general purpose vitamin for birds on reasonably balanced diets.

These are all highly concentrated products and overcome the problem of acceptance by finicky feeder. They are available from veterinary surgeries and petshops and bird-keepers should avail of this recent nutritional technology and use such supplements which are specifically formulated for birds and not "borrowed" from research on other (mainly mammalian) species.

With all these products great care must be taken not to exceed the manufacturer's recommended dose rate so that the danger of over supplementation with other vitamins and minerals is avoided.



Living Heritage

FALCONRY DISPLAY BY

The Living Heritage Craft Show is a positive gourmet's delight for anyone who enjoys fine arts and crafts. But not just in the traditional sense. Just about everything and anything the imagination can conjure up is produced by a large selection of men and women who's talents know no bounds. Be it clothes, food, home furnishings, paintings, pottery, soft toys, jewellery, woodcarving or engraving, the list goes on and on. Joyce Ross and Joan Bideau make decorative pottery and ceramics and have been producing them for 15 years.

Pauline and Andy Birkett make hand knitted adults and childrens knitwear. Anne Chiswell engraves on just about anything made from glass. David Fish paints wildlife on agate, a natural semi precious stone, and his wife Sylvia makes decorative hand painted glass panels. Gill Clamp makes home made cakes and pastries and her husband Leonard decorates goose and ostrich eggs in traditional French and Russian styles.

Piet Stockmans is a woodcarver making small furnishings out of wood; in particular bookcases, but not your run of the mill book case. They have to be seen to be believed. Piet has been working with wood for the past 45 years. All his wood is seasoned outside and air dried for 12 months.

These are just a few of the crafts on offer. There is something for every-

one. Every single item is made individually and lovingly by a Craftsman or Woman, with no middle man. When you buy something, you are buying it from the person whose time and skill has been used to create it. If the items on display are not quite what you fancy, talk to the Craftsman or Woman and they may well be only too pleased to make as a special commission the item or design you require. Many of them have been practising their crafts skills for over 30 years.

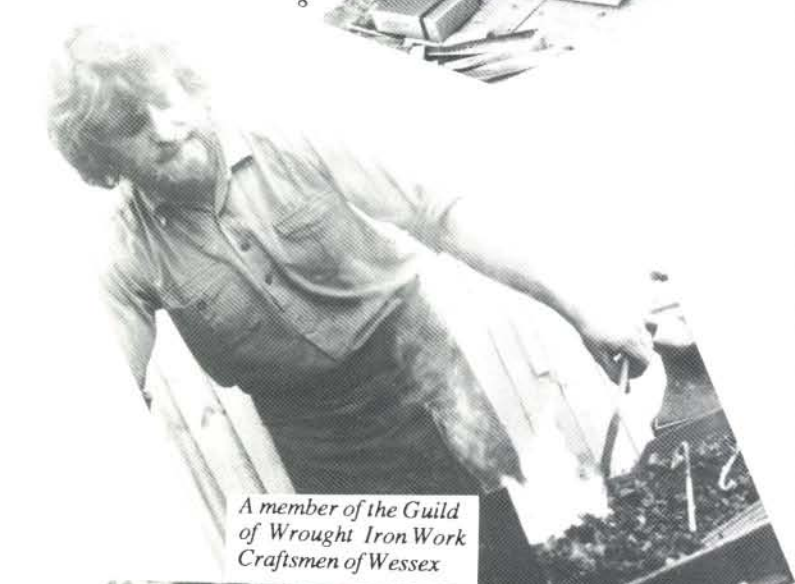
Living Heritage Craft Shows draw together a large number of Crafts, sometimes up to 100 stalls, in one place for you to enjoy.

There is entertainment for the children with a Punch & Judy show, something many youngsters of today have never even heard of, let alone seen. Also there is a Falconry Display which is fascinating for children and adults alike, with a large amount of audience participation.


An added bonus is that many of the shows in the summer are held at stately homes, so at the same time you can see these historic monuments and enjoy the craft fair in superb and apt surroundings. Just some of the venues for 1990 are Woburn Abbey, Highclere Castle, Blenheim Palace, and Cardiff Castle. All of these have a country theme, featuring sheep dog displays, sheep shearing and Rural and Country Crafts.



Piet Stockman.
Wood Carving



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of Wrought Iron Work
Craftsmen of Wessex



Sheep Shearing

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- * Children's Entertainment * Good Food

Shows with a country theme also include

- * Sheep Dog Displays * Falconry * Rural and Country Crafts
- Organise your day out at one of these quality events**

CRAFT SHOWS

HAGLEY FALCONRY CENTRE SUMMER PROGRAMME 1990

Saturday, Sunday &
Monday
May 5th - 7th

EAST STAFFORDSHIRE CRAFT SHOW
TUTBURY CASTLE, Tutbury, East Staffs.
CT.

Saturday, Sunday &
Monday
May 5th - 7th

BEDFORDSHIRE CRAFT SHOW
WOBURN ABBEY, Woburn, Beds

Saturday, Sunday &
Monday
May 26th - 28th

ESSEX CRAFT SHOW
BLAKE HALL, Ongar, Essex.
Midway A414 Harlow to Chelmsford Road.

Saturday, Sunday &
Monday
May 26th - 28th

HIGHCLERE CASTLE CRAFT SHOW
HIGHCLERE CASTLE, near Newbury,
Hants. CT.

Saturday & Sunday
June 23rd & 24th

WEST SUSSEX CRAFT SHOW
LEONARDSLEE GARDENS, Lower
Beeding, near Horsham, Sussex. CT.
WEST HAGLEY CRAFT SHOW
HURRANS GARDEN CENTRE, Kidderminster
Road South, West Hagley, Worcs

Saturday & Sunday
July 14th & 15th

BRISTOL AND BATH CRAFT SHOW
HURRANS GARDEN CENTRE, Keysham,
Avon. Midway A4 Bristol to Bath Road. CT.

Saturday & Sunday
July 21st & 22nd

ISLE OF WIGHT CRAFT FESTIVAL
CARISBROOKE CASTLE, Carisbrooke,
I.O.W.

Friday, Saturday,
Sunday & Monday
July 27th - 30th

Friday, Saturday &
Sunday
August 10th/12th

HAMPSHIRE CRAFT SHOW
BROADLANDS, Romsey, Hants. CT.

Saturday, Sunday &
Monday
August 25th - 27th

ESSEX CRAFT SHOW
BLAKE HALL, Ongar, Essex, Midway A414
Harlow to Chelmsford Road. CT.

Saturday, Sunday &
Monday
August 25th - 27th

OXFORDSHIRE CRAFT SHOW
BLENHEIM PALACE, Woodstock, Oxon.
CT.

Saturday & Sunday
September 22nd & 23rd

WARWICKSHIRE CRAFT SHOW
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL CENTRE,
Stoneleigh, Warks. CT.

Saturday & Sunday
September 29th & 30th

STAFFORDSHIRE CRAFT SHOW
WOLSELEY PARK GARDENS, near
Rugeley, Staffs. CT.

Saturday & Sunday
October 6th & 7th

BEDFORDSHIRE CRAFT SHOW
WOBURN ABBEY, Woburn, Beds. CT.

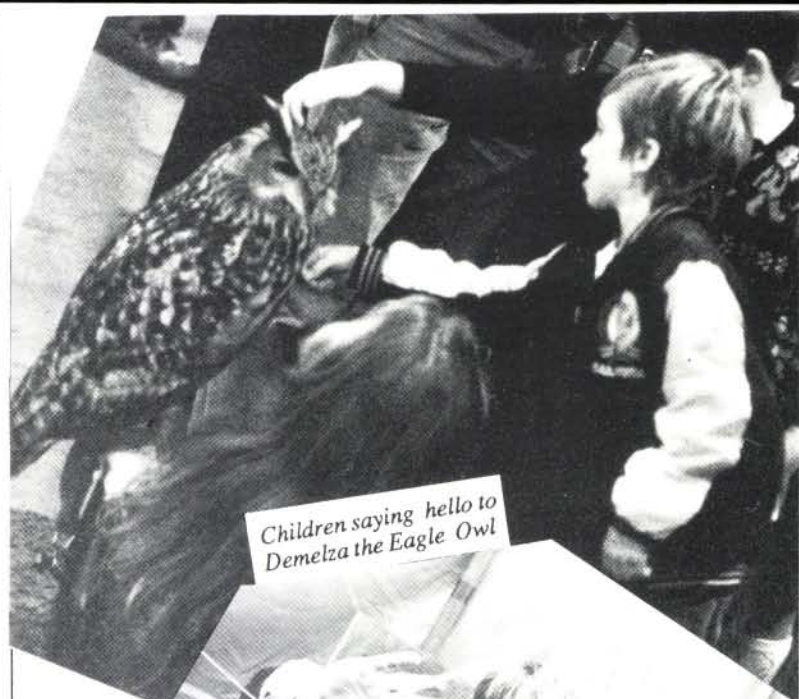
Saturday & Sunday
October 13th & 14th

CARDIFF CRAFT SHOW
CARDIFF CASTLE, Cardiff City Centre. CT.

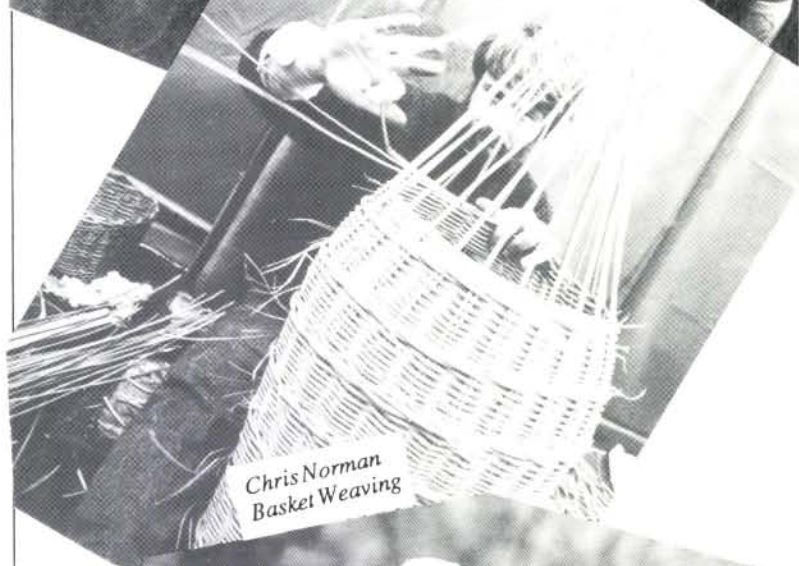
CT = Country Theme

INDOOR PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

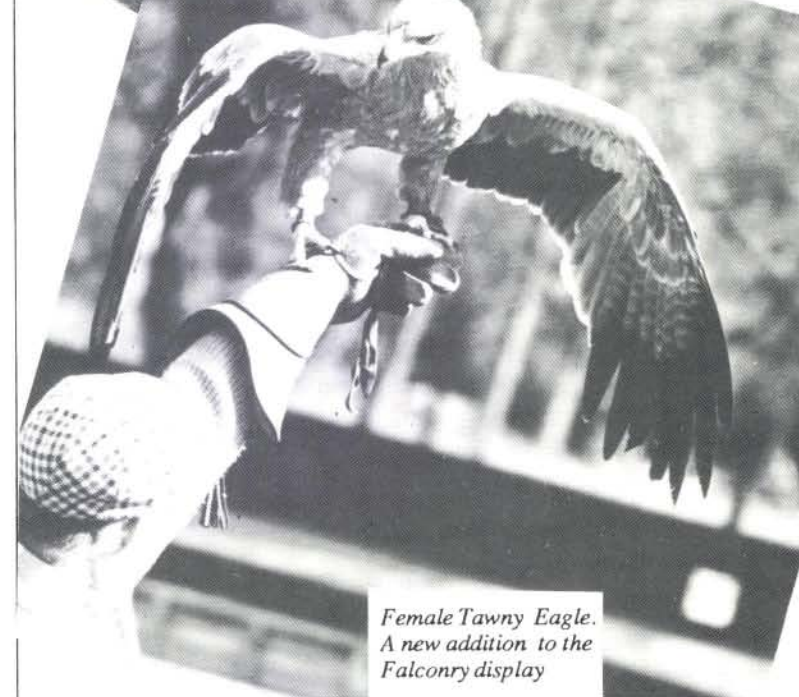
Sat & Sun Oct 20/21st	St. Albans Craft Weekend , City Hall, Civic Centre, St. Albans.
Sat & Sun Nov 3/4th	Winchester Craft Weekend , Winchester Recreation Centre, Gordon Road, Winchester.
Sat & Sun Nov 10/11th	Clacton Craft Weekend , Highfield Holiday Park, London Road, Clacton.
Sat & Sun Nov 17th/18th	Basildon Craft Weekend , The Festival Hall, Cranes Farm Road, Basildon, Essex.
Fri, Sat & Sun Nov 23/24/25th	Derby Craft Weekend , The Assembly Rooms, Market Place, Derby. Crafts at Christmas, Wolseley Park Gardens, Near Rugeley, Staffs.
Sat & Sun Dec 1/2nd	Crafts at Christmas , Wolseley Park Gardens, Near Rugeley, Staffs.
Sat & Sun Dec 8/9th	Maidenhead Craft Weekend , Magnet Leisure Centre, on the main A4 Maidenhead Road.



Children saying hello to
Demelza the Eagle Owl



Chris Norman
Basket Weaving



Female Tawny Eagle.
A new addition to the
Falconry display

If you require any further information concerning the shows listed, including details of party rates, please contact

Living Heritage Craft Shows
P.O. Box 3, Urmston,
Manchester, M31 1AA.
Tel: 061 231 3626. Fax: 061 231 3480

Letters

All letters should be addressed to:-
**THE EDITOR, THE FALCONERS MAGAZINE,
C.T.C., DALKEITH HOUSE, DALKEITH PLACE,
KETTERING, NORTHANTS, NN16 OBS.**

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you to urge any Falconer reading your magazine, who has not already done so, to write to the DOE complaining about the proposed changes to the regulations in the Wildlife and Countryside Act and also to his M.P. for support in blocking the proposals. The proposals if accepted would mean that if a hawk was lost - even for minutes - the owner would have to report its loss. The Department proposes that if for example a Falconer lost his Hawk at all whilst out flying it, then its registration would cease and he would have to inform the Department immediately. This is clearly not practical. If the Hawk were lost for an hour, whilst the Falconer looked for it, if a passer-by picked the Hawk up and reported its finding to the Department, then the Falconer will have committed an offence by not reporting its loss. If a Falconer flew a non-indigenous species (for instance a cable tied Redtail) and lost it, he could not try to recover it without a special licence. However, under another part of the law he must not 'allow' the escape of a non-indigenous species. Is this to prevent the flying of non-indigenous species? If we allow this, what will be next? The DOE also want to be given some exact dates for egg laying. Usually but not always this is possible. But if we allow this to go through they will want exact dates always. While we're at it, why do we have to re-register triennially? Why not once in a lifetime? It would save the DOE and us time and money.

Please don't leave it to someone else to complain. This is your sport! If you do nothing the anti-Falconry mob will do everything they want to. But if we all do something we will all be able to continue flying.

Yours Sincerely,
Adrian Williams
Hon. Secretary of Welsh Hawking Club.

Dear Sir,

With reference to the article by Robin Haigh in issue 1 of The Falconers Magazine.

I must state at the outset, that I am not against commercial breeding and as Mr Haigh says, the cost of building materials and birds can be, and often is, very high and I would not blame a breeder for wanting to recoup the initial outlay, plus a steady profit there-after, but surely this cannot justify the consistently extortionate price of the progeny, clutch after clutch after clutch.

One hears stories of expensive hawks being bought, only to spend their time on a bow or block, on somebodys lawn as the falconer dare not risk losing such a large amount of money!!

In the thirteen years I have been hawking, I have met many an old falconer along the way, often very good ones, who tell me "Oh I finished with falconry twenty years ago when the cost of hawks became so outrageous". I must say this is a massive loss to falconry in general and to less experienced or younger falconers in particular. Whilst I have the greatest respect for well known falconers, past and present, who have contributed so much, as well as the men and the women who have been able to breed such difficult birds as raptors and indeed most people involved with these birds, I feel that the future of our sport rests with the grass roots falconer, the person who buys his or her hawk and flies it at suitable quarry in the best style they can.

Many people, like myself, invest large amounts of money in a hawk they can fly for the season, if in due course they are overtaken by disaster, loss, accident or some other mishap and the hawk is alas no-more then that season end right there and falconry as well as the falconer is losing out again! In the face of spiralling interest rates and high inflation, I myself could not afford to replace such a loss in the same season. The high cost of hawks is as prohibitive to falconry as all the legislation and anti's put together.

May I take this opportunity to congratulate all involved with this magazine, it is long overdue. May you enjoy continued success.

Yours Sincerely
B Spurr

FOUR SEASONS WITH HENRY

The name mother gave me, is Henry Dunn.
In Summer, I just love to lounge in the sun.
In Autumn, the days turn dreary with rain.
Sun beds, put away in the shed once again.
In Winter. It's cold when I go off to school.
For the children to see, and here me go "oooooooo".
In Spring. The bulbs pop up from the ground.
I pull the tops off, when there's no one around.
Then mother comes out, saying "What have you done"
"Never mind Henry, you'll soon see the sun"



D. Dunn.

Henry is a 1 yr old European Eagle Owl.

Dear Sir,

May I first of all congratulate you on the release of your wonderful magazine, I read it from cover to cover, glued to every page and found it very enjoyable, the only complaint I have is it is not weekly.

I am wondering if you could help me by asking your readers if they have anything at all on Kestrels, ie, postcards, posters, badges, cuttings, videos etc., I will pay whatever price they ask or swap. The reason I ask is because in a few months time I am hoping to set up a club for younger members of the country who are interested in birds of prey, in particular Mauritius Kestrels.

It is very early yet to give details as I'm

only sure of a few myself but any and all help and enquiries are more than welcome at stated address.

I have, since being a small lad, enjoyed training, rehabilitating, and generally admiring our most common raptor but can remember being unable to join any club or society that dealt with such a specialised subject. My intention is to correct that for todays youngsters.

Yours faithfully

Simon Rumble
8, Ruskin Road
Chadwell St Mary
Grays
Essex RM 16 4DX
Tel: 0375 859542

CHESHIRE HAWKING CLUB

A chance meeting at a country fair, a phone call or two, a few pints with some friends and a new falconers club took flight.

This is how, with the driving force of Sale falconer Martin Shepherd, the new Cheshire Hawking Club got off the ground and in just a couple of months the basis of a strong membership has taken shape. Obviously, the need for a local and not too formal gathering of 'bird men' was in the air and with a few nudges from Martin a willing committee was quickly formed to lead things on another stage.

Anyone who has succumbed to the passion for birds of prey probably loves to

get together and just talk birds with others who share and understand his passion. Subjects such as breeding programmes, A.I., the design of hoods and other equipment might leave the uninitiated cold or confused to say the least, but to falconers a night of such conversation, mellorated with a tippie or two, is bird song to the ears. Add an appropriate video, or a guest speaker; raffle a bow perch to supplement club funds or put falconry knowledge to the test with a quiz, and you have the makings of some enjoyable club nights not just for 'official' falconers, owners or breeders but for anyone interested enough in birds of prey to want to join.

The first aims of the C.H.C. are to offer an open door to interested members providing support and advice wherever possible and helping to promote a good image of the sport of falconry.

The club is fortunate to have access to some fine flying grounds in Cheshire and a field meeting is just one of the plans in the pipeline for the future. But we are, of course, open to suggestions and if you think you would like to join us while we are still in the fledgling stage, come along to The Plough, Ashton in Mersey, M/C, on the second Tuesday each month, where you can be sure of a warm welcome from this particular clutch of falconers. For further details ring Phil Rowland, 061 976 3694.

The Hawk Board . Adversary or Ally?

"The Hawk Board represents the interests of all raptor keepers" So says the opening sentence of a recent Hawk Board statement.

Following this years election we now have a new Hawk Board, but will they truly represent our interests? Did the last Hawk Board do their best for us?

In 1979 the EEC issued its "Directive on the conservation of Wild Birds". The implementation of this directive in the UK came through the 1981 Wildlife & Countryside Act (Wacky Act). The "conservationists" in the UK tried to get this legislation through without the knowledge of the falconry and raptor keeping fraternity. Fortunately they failed in their attempt, and falconers quickly lobbied to get provisions for raptor keepers included in the Act. If they had not done so any form of raptor keeping may by now have been illegal. As part of the result of this lobbying the Hawk Board was initiated to "represent" our interests, but what have they done for us to date?

Prior to 1981 licences to take Golden Eagles from the wild were issued annually, since 1981 no licences have been issued. What did the Hawk Board do about this situation? Absolutely nothing until with a great deal of pressure from certain individuals, in 1987 limited representations were made, to no effect. Pre 1981 licences to take all of the popular species of birds of prey were issued annually and continued to be with the exception of the "at risk" Merlin, up until 1988. Why did it stop in 1988? Because the Nature Conservancy Council (NCC) who sit on the Hawk Board said so and the rest of the Hawk Board agreed. With the obvious exception of the Merlin, we have in the UK probably the strongest population of birds of prey in Europe, so the cessation of licences wasn't valid for conservation reasons, so was it necessary at all? The answer to that question is a very obvious no, but to understand why the reverse decision was made by the Hawk Board we have to look into the politics of the situation.

The "conservationists" in this issue are the NCC who are the governments "green" advisors, and the RSPB who maintain a very biased attitude towards falconry and raptor keeping. These two organisations work very closely together, even to the point that staff from one regularly take up employment with the other. It is no coincidence that the RSPB can get a licence to slaughter by poison thousands of gulls, but can then prosecute a game-

keeper for doing the same thing to a handful of Hooded Crows. That the RSPB can be given a licence to trap a pair of Peregrine Falcons during the breeding season, yet falconers are denied licences to take youngsters. With pressure from the NCC the Hawk Board agreed to the 'no-licences' after 1988 demand, why they gave in so easily is probably best determined by a quote from their recent statement.,

"there has been relatively little fuss on cessation, as most species concerned readily breed in captivity". The only winners from the no licences policy were the captive breeders who had the pleasure of seeing prices double and even treble in one season. The question that needs to be asked is, how much personal commercial interest did individual Hawk Board members have when this decision was made? Because that decision benefited only a small minority of keepers and was definitely not "in the interests of all".

It would appear that the Hawk Board are little more than puppets, to be manipulated by "conservationists", for which in return they are given limited status and hitherto undisclosed benefits. Despite a number of written requests to the Hawk Board to answer specific questions I have yet to be given the courtesy of any reply. Even this recent statement by the Hawk Board had to be received second hand from one of the conservationist bodies. Serious questions should be asked about the chairmanship of the board and it is time that the individual members stood up to be counted as Hawks or Doves. As it stands they appear to be little more than Passenger Pigeons.

I am not totally against the selling of raptors but I remember when people were only interested in them for the love and the pleasure, not pound notes. When falconers were mates, not backstabbers, when gamekeepers could be "chatted up" and lives could be saved.

What have the Hawk Board done for you?

Should anyone be interested to see the recent Hawk Board statement, to see for themselves just how well we are all being represented, send a large stamped addressed envelope to the address on the opposite page. If you feel as I and many others do, a trifle upset, then write to the Hawk Board and tell them so, NOW!.

CHRIS FORD

CLASSIFIEDS

TELEPHONE (0536) 411636

* It is an offence to sell or offer to buy or sell most birds (and other animals or alive, without a licence or exemption from the Department of the Environment, or (for dead birds only) registration under section 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. All advertisements should be accompanied by a declaration form obtainable, with an explanatory note, from the Advertisement Manager*.

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- 1) All entries must arrive no later than 30th July 1990. Winning entries announced in Winter 1990 issue.
- 2) Please put all information on the back of photograph, i.e. Breed, Sex, Age of bird or birds. Name, address and telephone number.
- 3) If you wish your photo to be returned please enclose a S.A.E.
- 4) All photographic entries are accepted on the understanding that the publishers have the right to reproduce them in part or in whole as and when required.
- 5) It is our editorial policy not to publish photo's of birds on kills as this may cause offence, but pictures of birds pursuing quarry will be accepted.
- 6) All entries should be sent to: Photographic Competition, C.T.C. Publications, Dalkeith House, Dalkeith Place, Kettering, Northants, NN16 0BS.

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<i>The Barn Owl</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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