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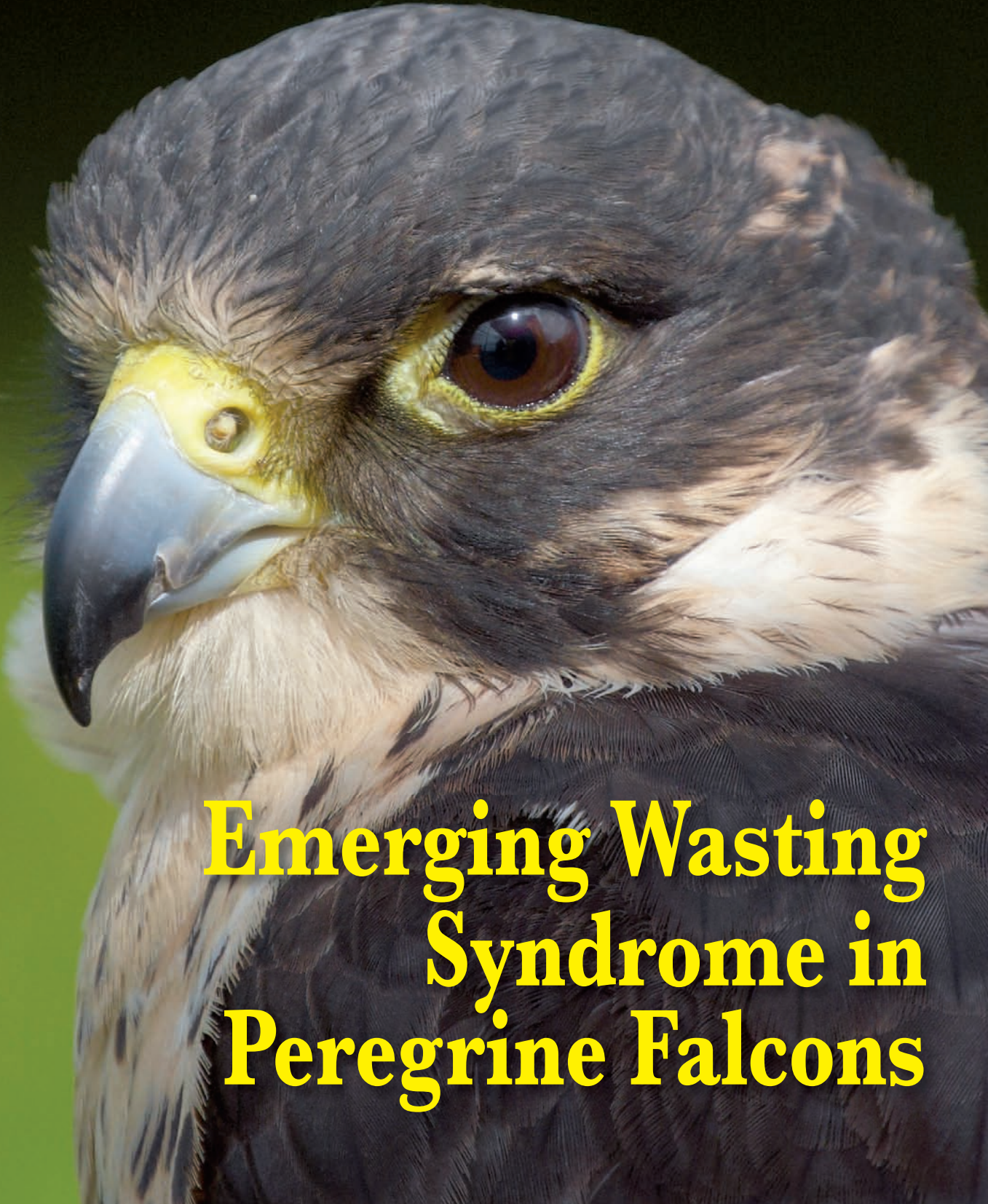
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ISSN
0967-2206

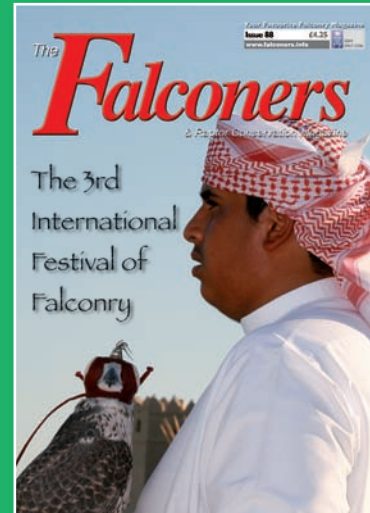
The **Falcons**
& Raptor Conservation Magazine



**Emerging Wasting
Syndrome in
Peregrine Falcons**

The *Falconers*

& Raptor Conservation Magazine



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Front Cover:
Photo courtesy of
Alan Price
www.gatehousestudio.co.uk

Spring 2012 / No. 89

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Subscriptions:
UK & Eire: £18.00
Europe: £21.50
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Price increase

Unfortunately, as from this issue the cover price has been increased to £4.50 and the subscription rates have gone up to £18.00 (UK) £21.50 (Europe) and £29.50 (Rest of the world). This is due to a rise in postage and printing costs.

The last increase was issue 58 in 2004 so we hope that you still find the magazine good value for money.

Well, it's that time of the year again when our hawks and falcons are down for moult after, what I hope, has been a successful season for you all.

Now we are looking forward once again to the Falconers Fair which this year sees a return to its "spiritual home" of Althorp House in Northamptonshire. Please see page 4 of this issue for more details and I hope to see you there.

As you can see in this edition of the magazine, the lead story concerns an enteritis that occurs in Peregrine Falcons. The research and investigations into this problem have been taken on by Richard Jones of Avian Veterinary Services and Neil Forbes of Great Western Exotics. We all must give our support and thanks to both vets on the work that they are carrying out in this area.

Also, there is an article from Jemima Parry-Jones on the importance of coping beaks and talons which we should all keep an eye on with our hawks and falcons. JPJ is going to run a day course on this subject and you can find more information on this on page 4.

In the meantime, have a good read.

editorial



news & products

a review of what's new in our sport Send all your news and product information to peter.eldrett@tiscali.co.uk

COPING TRAINING DAY AT ICBP SUNDAY 29 JULY 2012

An opportunity for falconers and bird of prey keepers to attend a one off day at the International Centre for Birds of Prey, Newent Gloucestershire, where instruction and practical tuition will be given on coping birds' beaks and talons.

Participants can bring their own birds for coping where the process will be explained and undertaken by the experienced staff at ICBP. The Indoor Hawk Walk will be made available for trained birds to be tethered safely.

10.00 am Participants arrive, birds are placed securely in the Indoor Hawk Walk with our secure facilities away from the public.

10.15 am Coffee and chat

10.40 am Classroom discussion on coping techniques and procedures to include:

Equipment and tools required

Casting birds safely

Beak types and associated problems

General coping and management

Dealing with cracks, splits and deformities

Diet/food and its effect on beaks

Dangers of coping; good and bad practise

Benefits of good management

12.00 Practical demonstration of coping using ICBP birds

1.00 pm Lunch which can either be bought in the café at ICBP, or participants can go to a local pub, but remember you only have an hour!

2.00 pm Coping of participants' birds

4.00 pm Approximately – finish

Places will be limited and are only available to people booking in advance.

Bookings for places

MUST BE MADE BEFORE 20 JULY 2012

Details of the bird to be coped and a declaration of good health by the owner/handler will be required. The Centre will take no responsibility for birds in poor condition. Birds will be checked for condition before being coped.

Cost £40 per person – proceeds will go towards the Injured Wild Bird Hospital Fund at the Centre.

Should you not wish to come for the course and if there is space and time we will just book in your bird for coping at a cost of £20 per bird.

Falconers Fair 2012

The British Falconry and Raptor Fair moves back to its former venue of Althorp House, near Northampton, on Sunday the 6th and Monday the 7th of May this year.

To celebrate the return to this outstanding venue there will be a host of different guests flying various hawks, falcons and eagles in the arena as well as all the usual participants. Kiezebrink UK Ltd, the well known and thoroughly respected animal food suppliers, will once again be sponsoring the event. After the success of last year they will once again be hosting a series of basic raptor related husbandry displays given by Jemima Parry-Jones and Bob Dalton.

As well as a myriad of main arena events there will also be a mini arena, which will have a constant series of displays related to falconry aimed at helping the beginner. These will range from basic training of a hawk through to the use of

ferrets and dogs in the sport.

The weatherings will once again feature hawks and falcons in one and then another for eagles. The eagle weathering is once again being arranged and hosted by Dr. David Fox, who will be on hand selling copies of his new book *Eagle Falconry – A personal perspective*.

The weatherings themselves will be under the watchful eye of The Northamptonshire Falconry and Raptor Club and some of its members will be on hand to assist with information and the taking of photographs.

For more information on this year's outstanding event you can visit the website at www.countryfairs.info or you can ring the show office on 01588 672708. Admission this year is £12.50 for adults, children £5 with under 5's free.

Dogs on leads are welcome and car parking is free.

Axis encoders help keep an eye on breeding falcons

The second pair of breeding Peregrine Falcons to be seen in Norwich for a century is being closely monitored by the Hawk and Owl Trust thanks to video encoders from Axis Communications.

When the pair of breeding birds was spotted flying around Norwich Cathedral, the national charity asked the authorities if they could erect a nesting platform to record live footage of the birds. The Cathedral gave the Trust the go-ahead, so it started to look for a surveillance system that could deliver high quality, real-time footage.

Having decided the iCode Systems' iCatcher Console recording solution was the perfect solution to manage the footage, the Trust needed to select a wireless solution and camera that were compatible with the iCode system and that offered high quality footage.

As an Axis partner, iCode was able to recommend that a high resolution external camera should be used and converted to IP using AXIS Q7404 H.264 video encoders.

David Gittens from The Hawk and Owl Trust said: "It was vital that the footage provided by the camera was of excellent quality so that we could closely monitor and share footage of the birds."

Axis video encoders convert analogue video signals into

high quality, digital video streams that are sent over an IP network. They are easy to connect to analogue pan/tilt/zoom (PTZ) cameras, allowing for easy operation across the IP network making the images far easier to search through and share.

The Hawk and Owl Trust has been delighted by the results, David continues: "The real time access delivered by this high quality footage gives us a real insight into the life of these magnificent birds."

Phil Doyle, regional director, Northern Europe at Axis Communications, said: "We are so pleased that our video encoders have been a part of this exciting project and have helped the Hawk and Owl Trust learn more about Peregrine Falcons."

"In fact, footage taken from the cameras is of such a high quality that a local news station was able to use it to showcase the project. It has also proved to be an invaluable educational tool for the charity.

"This use of our encoders just goes to show that IP surveillance systems can be used for so much more than just crime prevention and security."

For more information about any of Axis' products visit www.axis.com

Book Review

The Four Week Window

Realising your falcon's highest potential

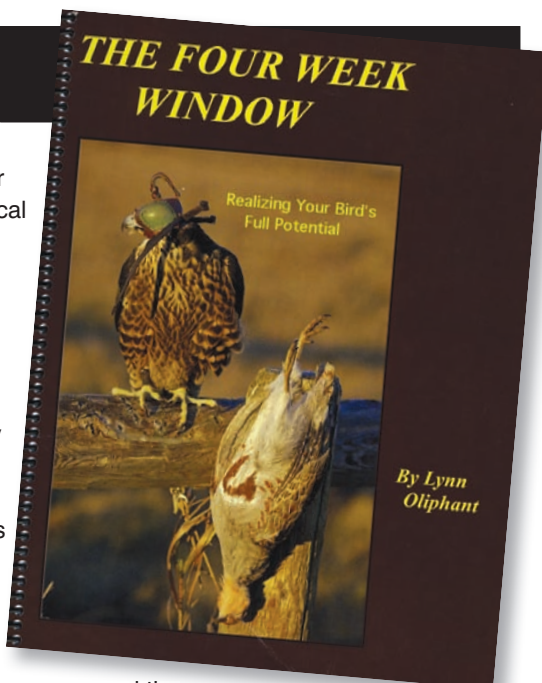
by Lynn Oliphant

This is a well-written book with a style that is easy to read. The author explains himself in an understandable way and covers each point thoroughly – to the extent of being rather repetitive in some cases. He does offer very logical reasons for the success of his way of developing a falconry bird – I have obviously learned something from this book as I have not called it "training"! Indeed, much of the thinking behind his practices is just common sense.

However, I doubt whether his practice of tame-hacking during the four week window could be applied

by many falconers in this country for purely practical reasons: geographical location and presence of predators being just two. Not to mention the increased risk of introducing a non-native species into the wild – a particularly "hot potato" at the moment. Also, his regime relies heavily on the use of bagged quarry – something which is illegal in this country.

Notwithstanding the above, this is an interesting read. The author has a wealth of experience which he is keen to share with fellow falconers. There are obviously many benefits to both falconer and falconry bird of following his methods. The underlying principles of his four week window are sound and there is little doubt that, if they are adhered to, rewards can be reaped throughout the falconry partnership. This can be seen from the second half of the book, which is given over to anecdotes from those who have



used the four week window. However, even if unable to follow his methods to the letter, in my opinion there are elements of his approach which could be of benefit if applied during other training patterns seen in this country. Published by Prairie Sky Falcons Box 80, Site 600, RR6.

Emerging Wasting Syndrome in Peregrine Falcons

(Falco peregrinus)

Over the past two years approximately 30 peregrines from at least three separate collections in the UK (and anecdotally other parts of Europe) as well as privately owned falconry birds have succumbed to an enteritis and 'wasting' syndrome that seemed unresponsive to traditional treatment regimes.

Clinical signs include general poor condition, weight loss (despite eating excessively), screaming, mucoid/slimy diarrhoea, pale feet, cere and talons, increased drinking and vomiting, sadly in many cases progressing to death despite culture based antimicrobials.

We do not as yet have a definitive diagnosis but with falconers' and breeders' continued help in submitting cases for investigation we are slowly making progress. Based on the results of ongoing work and clinical responses our current working hypothesis is that it is a form of post infectious inflammatory bowel disease (IBD).

Clinical findings

What follows is a summary of the findings and information we have available at the time of writing.

1. From our personal observations this syndrome seems only to affect

Figure 1





Figure 2

- peregrines or peregrine hybrids even within multi species collections.
2. Clinical signs include general poor condition, weight loss despite eating excessively, screaming, mucoid/slimy diarrhoea, pale feet, cere and talons (Figs 1 and 2), excessive drinking and vomiting, sadly in many cases progressing to death despite culture based antibiotics.
3. Some birds with aggressive supportive therapy improve and may even breed, but long term, recurrent relapses are typical.
4. Despite countless faecal samples and cultures no single bacteria, yeast or parasite has been consistently identified across the board suggesting that those pathogens isolated are secondary invaders to an already inflamed/damaged gut.
5. We have recently received results from virologists of work carried out on both tissue and faecal samples of affected birds. Viral chip/microarray technology that searches for any viral DNA present in the samples and compares it to a data base of nearly 2000 known viruses, has failed to identify a causal virus in any samples submitted over the past year.
6. A separate team at Bristol University which have been looking at tissue samples of both affected and 'normal peregrines' (wild casualties that have been euthanized on humane grounds) has demonstrated changes consistent with post infectious inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). This is a similar condition to ulcerative colitis in people where a historic intestinal insult, be it viral, parasitic or toxic may result in an 'autoimmune reaction' where the bird develops antibodies to its own intestinal lining. This damages the gut allowing secondary infections to proliferate. It is thought this occurs because 'antigens' or protein markers on certain infectious agents (salmonella for example) may resemble similar structures found on intestinal cells. When antibodies are made in response to infection, they are stored in the immune system's 'memory' as a permanent defence mechanism against future challenge. When under stress or hormonal influences (in a paper on ulcerative colitis in women, flare ups often occur after giving birth and rarely during pregnancy) the body can mistakenly identify intestinal cells as invading infectious agents and attack

them accordingly. Also in mammals certain foods can trigger episodes. As such when a bird demonstrates clinical signs associated with certain food items it is assumed this must be carrying 'the virus'. It is equally possible however that certain proteins cause flare ups and others don't hence the possible response to exclusion diets (all rat for example).

Based on the above our current working hypothesis is that a historic gut insult be it a bacteria, virus, parasite or toxin results in post infectious IBD, which as in humans, is then likely to be a lifelong problem with 'flare ups' managed by identifying and removing apparent trigger factors (certain foods, parasites etc) in conjunction with supportive fluids, nutrition and medication.

The problem we are up against is by the time obvious clinical signs are apparent the inciting cause is likely long gone.

As this syndrome seems to be overrepresented on older birds it may be that chronic or repeated low level intestinal insults by one or a combination of the above eventually leads to disease.

Current recommendations

If a falcon is displaying such symptoms we would advise you contact your avian veterinarian ASAP as other easily diagnosed conditions such as coccidia (Fig 3.) can produce similar signs and are thankfully very easily treated. In addition collecting samples as early as possible in the process increases the likelihood of recovering causal agents.

Probiotics have been shown to help

maintain a healthy gut flora and may offer some protection against IBD. As such we have been using such products on a preventative basis in collections of breeding falcons.

If a falcon seems to have diarrhoea following the ingestion of certain food items or groups (provided other infectious causes have been ruled out) it may be worth trying an exclusion diet as discussed above. If things improve on a novel protein it maybe this bird has a 'sensitivity' or 'intolerance' to certain food items that may contribute to the development of IBD.

As affected falcons appear to drink copiously, it is recommended fresh water is available at all times.

We will endeavour to keep you informed of any future developments via our website www.avianveterinaryservices.co.uk, and Falconry club literature.

Any donations to the Hawk Board's raptor research fund would be gratefully received and can be made via their web site. www.hawkboard-cff.org.uk

Figure legends

Figures 1 and 2 demonstrate an adult female peregrine in the advanced stages of the disease with marked weight loss, unkept appearance, and pale cere, feet and talons.

Figure 3. Coccidial oocysts as they appear under the microscope. Coccidiosis is easily diagnosed by microscopic examination of faecal samples.



Figure 3

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank:

The Hawk Board,

Honeybrook Animal Foods,

Falcon Mews,

M&J Raptors,

Mark Stidworthy MRCPPath MRCVS,

Prof. Michael Lierz,

Dr. Akbar Dastjerdi

and Dr. Tristan Cogan for their help and support with ongoing work.

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Coping with Coping

Coping is a management procedure to prevent or rectify misshapen or overgrown beaks and talons of birds, particularly if they are overly long or split. Generally speaking overgrown beaks happen more in captive birds rather than wild ones, but I have to say that I suspect the occasional wild bird does get an overgrown beak, but if it is severe, the bird will probably not survive.

Luckily for us the one group of birds of prey that rarely need their beaks attending to are the big vultures, I say luckily because they can be a nightmare to have to cope although having said that, on occasion we even get asked to cope parrots, I am not 100% sure that I would not rather cope a vulture than one of the

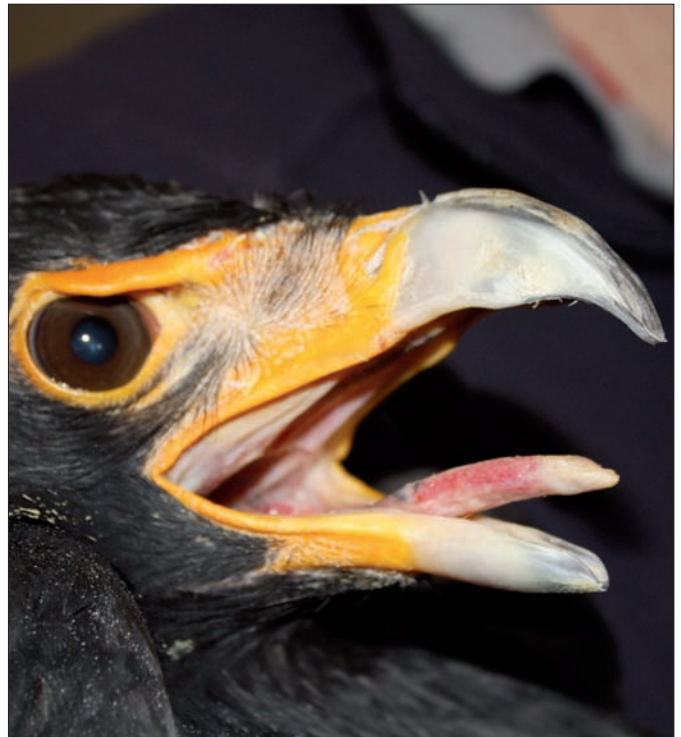
large parrots, particularly in terms of the noise aspect!

Falcons suffer more

The falcons are usually the worst affected by overgrown beaks because their beak is very different from the rest of the birds of prey. They have what is called the Tomial Tooth, that little extra hook on either side of the main point of the upper mandible, the bit that they are particularly good at getting just down the side of your finger nail when they bite you! That 'tooth' is thought to be used by the bird to sever the vertebrae on the prey item it has caught, to dispatch it. However it is also often the first place that a split will occur. Even a tiny crack or split is dangerous as it will quickly spread and widen and in the worst cases go right

up to the cere (the soft fleshy bit of skin above the beak). So it is very important to deal with falcons' beaks very quickly to avoid problems. The first crack may just be bad luck but unless dealt with quickly, at every feed the crack will widen and food get stuck in there exacerbating the problem.

One of the things that people often forget, or don't know or understand is that the lower mandible is just as important to cope as the upper one. Beaks where the shape of the upper mandible has changed and the hook is no longer at right angles to the beak are often an indication that the lower mandible is too long, and is pushing out the shape of the upper mandible. On occasion the lower mandible will twist out of shape and start not to meet the



Before and After with a Black Eagle - there is more work to do over next few copings



Falcon with chipped and Flaky beak

upper one. It's sort of like when your mother told you not to suck your thumb or you would push out the shape of your top teeth! What also needs to be examined in a lower mandible is where the two sides of the beak start to curl round, then the tongue can get stuck, food gets stuck in there and the beak will not close properly. So whenever you are coping a bird's beak, remember to cope the lower mandible as well.

Once you decide that a bird needs coping, then bear in mind it is a two person job, someone has to hold the bird while the other person does the coping. Prepare everything first – once you get started speed is of the essence, the longer you hold a bird the more stressed it will become, the higher its heart rate and therefore the higher its body temperature. Aim for the shortest time you can, and with a bad beak you may have to have several sessions before you get it right.

If you are doing it in the winter choose a warm, not hot, place to do it, in the summer choose a cool place, remembering that when birds get stressed they can over heat. Have a towel or wrap ready to hold the bird, a cushion for its feet if you are going to place it on a surface, clippers, files, a Dremel either battery operated or a plug in one. You also need the right accessories for the

Dremel, the best are the grinding tools, and I looked them up on the internet – 952, 953 and 997 look about right. And a pencil which can be useful to help keep a beak open on the larger bird's. When you are using a Dremel tool it is very important not to allow the rotating head to touch feathers or the birds tongue as they could get caught up in the tool and cause injury. That is why you keep your

fingers between the tool and the bird, so only you can get caught!

If you do get any bleeding and it is more likely to happen with talons than beaks, Potassium Permanganate Crystals - dark purple crystals - are very useful and which you can use to stop any bleeding if you clip too far, which can happen if you are not careful. Be very careful with some of the preparations you can get called 'quickstop' as some have compounds in them that are toxic to birds of prey. And have some Vaseline to put on the beak to clean it up and make it look smart afterwards.

Correct lighting

Once you are ready, you are in a room with plenty of light or a decent light fitting, so you can see what you are doing and, in my case, a pair of glasses, bring in the bird, cast it, i.e. get your assistant to quickly catch hold of the bird, wrap it in the towel or special wrap and get started. I prefer the assistant to hold the bird to his or her chest at the right height for me to work as we usually do this standing up. If you prefer to sit, put the confined bird on a cushion on a clear worktop (nothing it can hit with wings if released by accident) and your assistant can hold it there. DO NOT put the bird on its back, this is not good practise for holding any bird (and that includes all you bird ringers out there, many of whom



Don't pinch too hard - hold firmly but gently



Filing the beak using a Dremel - not the thumb position

could do with a lesson on how to hold birds in my opinion) and with a bird that might have any respiratory problems it can exacerbate the problem. Make sure that as you are coping none of the dust from the beak can go into the bird's eyes. Some birds do better if hooded, I prefer not to hood them unless absolutely necessary as it makes it more difficult to open their beaks.

Photograph before starting

We photograph the beak first so we know what we are working with, then with the small wire clippers we take the tip off the beak if it needs it. If you want to know what a good beak looks like go on the internet and look at photos of wild birds, do not take many of the captive birds that you might see on various websites as good examples, I am always horrified at how many have appalling beaks and apparently their owners don't know about it! Generally wild birds should have good shaped beaks.

If you have a hunting bird cut the beak at a slant from front to back so you keep the sharp tip. If you have a biter that you

are training, I take it off flat so it does not hurt so much when it bites! Open the beak and put your finger in there!!!

Yup that is what we do, but don't try it with a vulture – it's very painful. If you get your finger right to the back it doesn't hurt (well not much!), now you can see the lower mandible well, take off the tip if you think it is starting to push out the upper mandible, and we usually take a tiny bit off each side. We will then use the Dremel for the lower mandible, gently working off the edges of the front tip and the sides.

DO NOT leave the Dremel on the beak for long or you will heat the beak up, do it in short bursts and I don't normally have the Dremel on at full speed either. Your finger should be in the way if you slip so the first thing you hit is you, not the bird. Make sure that the fine dust does not go into the bird's mouth or eyes. You want to be careful with your assistant too, and always tell them to shut their eyes or wear protective glasses when you cut the tips of beaks or talons.

Once the lower mandible is done and it should not take long, take your finger out of the beak carefully and then work on the upper mandible.

It is just a question of short bursts with the Dremel to get the right shape. If you have a crack then you need to get rid of it, but if it is a bad one that can be tricky. I would not suggest someone inexperienced trying to work on a bad crack, get some help. Once you think



Clipping the beak with a pair of electrical clippers



Some of the items that you will need before coping

you have finished the beak, put on some Vaseline, to make it look smart and finished. Next is the talons – just as important, you may have a great beak and so only want to do the talons. These can easily get over grown over time. Again you can either cut them off straight, meaning that the bird does not have such sharp talons, or you can cut at an angle to the back so you retain the sharpness. We cut the talons of any bird that is coming out to be trained, one of the quickest ways to get bumble foot is for a bird to puncture its own foot with a talon, so we prefer to have them more blunt during the training period as it is better for the bird. Falcons are more prone to self-grabbing than most other species, so we keep an eye on all our demonstration birds and make sure that the talons are not unnecessarily sharp. Some birds will let you clip the tips from the talons while they are on the fist, or feeding, others will have to be cast. We use the small electrical clippers on most of the birds but on the large eagles we have to use a heavy duty pair of wire cutters.

An assistant is helpful

When you have completed the coping if it is a jessed up bird, get someone with a glove to hold the jesses, leash and swivel. If there are only two of you, it will be you as your assistant is still holding the bird. Get him or her to release it and it should stand up, rouse and relax, unless of course it is bird that is not jessed, in which case hang onto it until you are back in the aviary! If you have concerns that a beak is not growing well there is a horse preparation called Cornucrescine, which we very carefully rub a tiny amount into the beak where it comes out of the cere and this will help growth, but you have to be careful with it and sparing.

If you have never coped a bird or used a Dremel it is advisable to watch an experienced handler coping before attempting to do it yourself. Never be afraid to ask someone for help as a bird's beak and talons are a large part of its health and welfare.

See page 4 for details of a coping course being held at IBPC in July.

Tools required

A small pair of electrical wire cutters

Some small half round and full round files

A Dremel with the right accessories

Towel to wrap and hold the bird

A second person to hold the bird

Vaseline

A pencil

Potassium permanganate

The Golden Eagle. Imprint or parent reared



Star was aggressive and noisy in the first two years

Only a few years ago, if anyone had asked me if I would like a fully imprinted Golden Eagle, I would have said that they were insane, purely because imprints of any species were known to be highly aggressive and rather noisy to say the least. However, in recent years, many eagle falconers have taken well

to imprints and some even prefer them to the parent-reared option. Indeed, for many European eagle falconers, the imprint seems to often be the preferred choice and many have attained great success with them. Recently, a few who have considered the Golden Eagle as their chosen hawking companion have asked me which route they should take and this has not always been an easy question

to answer. There are disciples for both imprinted and parent reared eagles and it is most certainly not my wish to denigrate one or the other, for both have their merits. This article therefore is offered with my own personal observations and more recently, those of others with whom I have been involved. To begin with of course, it would be nice to be in the position of being able to have a choice

for Golden Eagles are still expensive and there are not all that many on the market annually to satisfy the current demand. As aforementioned, it is a difficult choice to make for there are pro's and cons concerning either route.

Perhaps the first item to remember is that every eagle has an individual personality and temperament, just as we humans do and therefore, no one eagle is likely to respond to training in exactly the same way as another. I believe it is vital to keep this aspect in mind from the very start. Additionally, each falconer may well differ in the methods they use, so we can plainly see from these variables, that giving a straight answer poses immediate problems. The level of expertise and experience of the falconer also adds to the mix. My own experience is undoubtedly less than some, but having flown eagles for almost half a century, I offer here some pointers that I have gleaned from training my own eagles and observing the experiences of other eagle falconers with whom I am well acquainted. Some may agree with my findings but equally, some may have had differing experiences, which is only to be expected. Very little is set in stone.

Dual imprinted eagle

My current Golden Eagle is a male and is a dual imprint, that is to say that although he was reared by a foster female eagle, he was in close contact with humans throughout his formative period. Prior to this, my personal experience with eagles was purely through imported passage birds, a scenario unlikely to occur in these islands again due to import restrictions. To begin with, I can state with all certainty, that some of my imported birds have been noisy and aggressive from the start, whilst others have been almost silent and whilst not as gentle as a lamb, have not been far from it. The largest eagle that I have ever flown was Sable, a Berkut Golden Eagle whose top weight was seventeen pounds. Despite her huge size and strength, she was of an extremely mild mannered disposition, which is precisely why I referred to her as "The gentle giant from the Urals." She seldom showed any aggression and hardly uttered a sound. Indeed, I used to carry her around on my shoulders, which is something I would certainly not consider with other eagles I have flown. On the



When the hackles rise on an eagle – beware

flipside, I recently flew another big female Golden Eagle named Skye, who was just the opposite. She wanted to kill me from day one and tried at every opportunity to rend me in any way possible. She had put her previous owner in hospital on two separate occasions, yet she was a parent-reared bird, if being reared by a pair of Red Tailed Buzzards can be termed parent-reared. Most certainly she was not an imprint and yet she was full of aggression and attacked me on numerous occasions. So here we have two parent-reared eagles that behaviour-wise at least, were as different as chalk and cheese. Despite being parent-reared, seven years later, Skye began screaming for no discernible reason, other than that I had passed her on to a friend, which is yet again another variable. She always used to bathe daily when she was with me, but has since refused the bath provided by her current owner. Why this should be I have no conclusive idea.

Aggression has also been the case with other eagles belonging to falconer friends, whereby the difference in behaviour between parent-reared eagles has been very marked indeed. I have seen some parent-reared eagles that

were so aggressive and noisy that it was hard to believe that they were not mal-imprinted birds. Why is this so? I believe this is because Golden Eagles soon bond with their owners and if they are young, first year birds especially, they may well demonstrate their youth through aggression towards their handlers, in much the same way as eyasses in the wild often do towards their parents, hence fleeting visits to the eyrie with food once the young are well fledged. So, as can be seen from the foregoing, it is possible to have aggressive, non-aggressive, noisy and silent parent-reared Golden Eagles, indicating great variability in this context and which adds to the difficulty in choosing the right bird and also, would these same eagles have behaved any differently if they had been trained by somebody else? Who really knows for sure?

Varied experience with imprinted eagles

So what about imprinted eagles? My own experience and that of others of my acquaintance has been almost equally as varied, although in young eagles, aggression and most certainly vocalisation



Screaming can be a problem

has been considerably enhanced. I have known of some young imprint eagles that have shown none of the above problems, all raised by the same people and using the same methods that worked so well for others of their ilk with differing results. Here we may allude to my opening statements of variability between individuals. I have used the same training methods on all of my eagles with varying results, which leads me to believe that individual temperaments play a leading role here. One can never really tell how a particular eagle will turn out, even with much experience behind the falconer, so choosing the right bird from the start is almost impossible. This is not helpful I know, but the variables in this species render giving hard facts very difficult. My own personal view on imprints has not changed all that much from when I first heard about them, despite the apparent success rate. My view, and I fully expect criticism for stating this, is that the only real advantage is that one begins with a tame eagle from the start. But is this such an advantage, for as I mentioned earlier, parent-reared eagles very quickly bond with their handlers anyway and for a bird that one would expect to live for a good thirty years or so, is tameness from day one such an important issue when one

considers the possible downsides? So what are the downsides of an imprinted eagle?

Again, I can only speak from either personal experience or that of eagle owning friends who have experienced some problems. The following is in no way intended as a statement that all imprints are problematic, as this is clearly not the case, due to the aforementioned variables between eagles and falconers. However, it has to be said that many imprints do seem rather prone to be, shall we say, talkative. This can be a huge problem, especially if one's home is in close proximity to neighbours, for the yelp of a Golden Eagle is unbelievably noisy and far carrying. I had neighbour complaints about my dual imprinted male named Star, so much so that I ended up taking his weight back up again and sadly missing most of my first season with him, which annoyed the heck out of me. To be fair though, even though I am biased where Golden Eagles are concerned, the noise was somewhat unbearable. He could be heard from half a mile away when the sound was reminiscent of someone striking two iron bars together. He yelled all through the daylight hours, whether I was around or not and only putting his weight back up

solved the problem, at least from the neighbour's viewpoint. In later years, he only called if he could see me, which was a vast improvement, but he was initially very noisy when out hunting and this caused untold problems, warning potential quarry of our proximity. Golden Eagles are highly intelligent and Star soon learned that yapping in the field meant no flights and thus no food intake. So noise is a massive consideration where imprints are concerned.

Of course, the variables come into play here again and also one could be very lucky and acquire a silent bird. Taking an imprint's weight down too quickly can also trigger a screaming reaction. Many falconers often take the weight of their hawks down rapidly and this can work well with the smaller species, for the sooner they are in the field hunting the better. With young imprinted Golden Eagles however, this can be a problem and whilst I fully agree that the sooner one can get the eagle into the field and channel the aggression, etc. through serious hunting the better, I am certain that rapid weight reduction can induce screaming bouts that one would scarcely believe. Some may not agree with the latter statement, but I have witnessed it too often to ignore the fact. Of course,

varying training methods brought to bear can make a difference, but I often wonder if such birds would have remained quiet anyway. Simply put, we still do not know enough about imprinted eagles and their handling to present enough hard hints on this topic and those that feel they do, seldom if ever put pen to paper to pass on such valuable information. Eagles are long-lived birds, so it is I believe fair to comment that one would not be able to do justice to a great number of eagles in one's lifetime to form a concrete opinion one way or another. Suffice it to say that an imprint is far more likely to be a screamer than not. This is where taking note of others' experiences adds greatly to one's own knowledge.

Aggression in eagles

This brings me again to the aggressive side of eagles. Again, the tameness of imprints comes to the fore and because they lack any fear of their handler, they are more likely to become aggressive sooner than with parent-reared eagles. There is some evidence that slow weight reduction can reduce some levels of aggression, but in at least four

imprinted eagles of my acquaintance, the opposite was the case, although I have to say I am personally in favour of slow weight reduction for eagles need to be reduced by a larger percentage than many hawk species and thus a slower weight reduction is more conducive to better health conditions. I have seen it written on a number of occasions that male Golden Eagles are not aggressive compared with females, but this nonsense of course was written by authors who possessed no hands-on knowledge of eagles. My own male, Star, turned out to be the most aggressive Golden Eagle I have ever handled and would pit him against any female. He was trained in exactly the same way as Sable, my gentle giant from the Urals, with vastly differing results. The first time I attempted to take him off a ground lure he attacked me with a fury that would be hard to surpass, delivering wave after wave of furiously slashing talons trying to find an opening on my torso. To say the very least, it frightened the hell out me and I have been used to handling eagles for almost half a century. Beginners please take note!

In conclusion then, I have probably caused more confusion than some would perhaps deem necessary, but this is a tricky subject with no hard and fast answers. If I was to be asked today whether I would choose an imprint or parent-reared Golden Eagle, considering the foregoing and my own experience, I would be more inclined to select a parent reared bird, due to the fact that I would be more likely to receive a less aggressive and less vocal bird, with all the aforementioned variables taken into consideration of course.

Certainly once trained and in the field I have seen no discernible difference in performance between parent-reared or imprint. Imprints still need to have their weight reduced to more or less the same level as a parent reared bird when being prepared for quarry, even though the imprint, due to its tameness, will no doubt be on the wing more rapidly than its parent reared counterpart.

Falconers, or would be falconers considering taking on a Golden Eagle for the first time would be well advised to seek an experienced mentor for advice, because far too many eagles are passed on due to such unforeseen problems with screaming and high levels of aggression towards handlers. If you think these aspects would bother you, and I urge you to consider them seriously, then leave eagles well alone, for they can grab you in split seconds and it is no fun, believe me.

When the hackles on an eagle become raised, be warned, for an attack may be imminent. Many falconers cannot put up with such antics and thankfully, leave eagles alone to those who can. They are not toys and in the wrong hands can be dangerous, not only to their owners but to eagle falconry in general.

So, other than the aforementioned initial tameness, I personally see no other advantage of going down the imprint route unless of course we are adding future eagle breeding projects to the list.

This, therefore, is a completely different subject and lack of space plus my own inferior knowledge on the matter precludes me from discussing this aspect further. I hope at least some glimmer of information has emerged from the foregoing to be of some use to those considering the Golden Eagle as an option.



An aggressive eagle can cause injury to its handler if care is not taken

Harris Hawk Thoughts

You have to sympathise with the Harris Hawk. Labeled as the 'Beginners bird', or a 'Weekend hawk', it was never going to end well for them.

With the easy availability of the imprint Goshawk this year, many who have struggled to catch game with their complicated Harris Hawk will think to themselves that the bit of extra speed offered by the Goshawk might make up for their own lack of fieldcraft, or bird training ability. And the sad fact is that many who have failed to light up the sky with a Harris Hawk, will move on to another species after a season or two and forever insult the Harris with other labels, like, 'too easy', or 'too slow'. In time some may come back to try a humble Harris, perhaps it is only after working with other species can you really appreciate a Harris Hawk's abilities, compared to the alternatives.

But in the right hands, and with the passing of the seasons a good Harris is a real force of nature. Loyal, friendly, and with the heart of a Lion, a Harris that has had time invested in it will fill the freezer like nothing else.

Advertised hawks

Second hand Harris Hawks can be a real pain in the backside. Good ones usually get snapped up by friends 'in the know' and I'm sad to say the rest get passed from pillar to post, advertised on Birdtrader, and often have a mountain of 'issues' that would be beyond any beginner to solve.

It is a modern tragedy, and the expert falconers with knowledge in bird psychology have better projects on which to spend their limited time than a problem Harris Hawk. I do not know what the answer is, but it is a sad



Young viewing the young

state of affairs. Over the years running my small centre, I have been given, and have bought second hand Harris's. Occasionally I have been lucky and have been given a gem, but often I have not. More than one has been downright dangerous.

I had a gap in my team three years ago, and needed a new male Harris Hawk, so I considered my options. It was a chance conversation with Griff, at the Welsh Hawking Centre that made me consider imprinting one. He loves them,

and crèche rears all of his home bred Harris's. Aggression has never been an issue, and his imprints hunt and work in demos very well.

My demonstration falcons are almost all imprints, as of course are my Owls. Rearing a chick destined to join my team is the highlight of my year. I have learned over the years how to mould an imprint into exactly what I want. And our isolated position means they can enjoy a period at hack before their real work begins. Considering I have so many imprints, it is



Harris Hawk on a gorse bush

often a surprise to visitors that my centre is so quiet.

But an imprint Harris would be something new. And talking to Griff it became clear to me that they might be the perfect candidate for the imprinting process. After all, in the wild, they are reared and fed by extended family, and then join the team and become part of it without aggression issues.

Aggression can certainly be a problem with parent reared Harris's, I had seen it myself many times. Territorial aggression with fat moulting females is almost the norm these days. Even some males will threaten and posture. If the handler is nervous, often this kind of behaviour becomes worse. I have always put it down to being 'pack hunters'. Like dogs, perhaps they are trying to push their way 'up' the pack. The strange thing is

that I have seen it mentioned on forums many times, and when someone has an aggressive Harris, someone else invariably suggests it must be at least partially imprinted. But I wondered if this may be completely wrong.

Collecting the hawks

I collected two young Harris's (one of each sex) and a Yellowbilled Kite from Griff, at about 15 days old. They came everywhere with me, and started meeting the public straight away. They were fed a mixed diet of DOC, Quail, Mice and Rabbit. At first they were all finger fed. I saw no point in trying to pretend I was not the food provider, as I believe (as much as we like to pretend otherwise) birds soon work it out. So I didn't worry at all about food association, and let them see food arrive. When they were

old enough to pull at a carcass, I would put in whole rabbits and pheasants. They would all three come running to the food whistle.

I fitted bells, anklets, and got them used to being tethered for short periods every day once they could jump around. And, in the morning and evening, before feeding (when the other birds had been put away) they had a chance to explore the area, at first on foot, and later of course, on the wing. The Harris's never wandered far from the centre, unlike the Kite, who liked to zip around the sky and can travel for many miles.

It became clear early on that the female Harris was much more vocal than the male. Both liked to be in close contact with me, right from the start.

By the time they were hard penned, they would come any distance to the



Looking skyward in wintery conditions

fist for food on hearing the food whistle. Thanks to daily hack time, both Hawks were very confident flyers. I sold the female to a good friend who lives on Exmoor, and kept the male, who I named 'Bomber'.

My male became a fine demo bird, tame, and as gentle as a lamb. He would fly to anyone who wore a glove. He took

the hood beautifully right from the start, it became part of his routine, no fuss, he just took it in his stride. He was noisy that first autumn, but I didn't mind that at all.

When November came, and show season stopped, we started hunting pheasants. In the field he was silent and focussed. He hit many pheasants before he hit and held his very first one, a large

cock bird, taken from the soar. He soon learned to keep an eye on the Vizsla. He took 47 quarry that first winter. It rains a lot in Devon and after some research and after checking it with my vet, we had to resort to using a silicon spray, to keep him waterproof, for the damp drizzly days. He would fly and hunt in any amount of wind. He followed the winter with a flawless show season that next summer.

His second winter was even better. He learned to use a climbing approach at a pheasant in the open, followed by a hard corkscrew dive that is often successful at a dodging bird on the ground.

He perfected hunting from the soar, using the faintest of updraughts from a line of trees to give him an advantage over a pheasant. When he has a pheasant pinned in heavy cover that he knows he cannot get to, he gives a call, unlike any other. It is the only noise he makes in the hunting field. The dog and I have learned to recognise it. At first I thought it might be a call of frustration, but now I am convinced he is calling us in to assist him. It works.

Large flying ground

I have a 200 acre patch around the centre to hunt him on and we are quite near a large pheasant shoot. I am on very good terms with the head keeper, and I need to keep it that way. Bomber has learned the boundaries of my patch. He knows if he follows a pheasant over the boundary he will not get a reflush, so if a pheasant goes over the boundary, he will just peel off and come back to find me, even if he is on its tail. I find this extraordinary.

He always flies with a transmitter attached, but so far I have not needed to track him down. He flies in all weathers. He flies on appetite and routine, he has not sat on the scales for years. He was quiet after his first winter, has never shown any aggression at all and he mantes no more than any other parent reared Harris. I go for just one kill a day with him in the season, any more would be greedy. He gets a good reward for every kill he makes. He has caught a LOT of pheasants.

His sister does pest control, and experience days, and apart from still being occasionally noisy is a joy to work with. If anyone asks, an Imprint Harris is well worth considering.



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As a member of the Texas Hawking Association I eagerly anticipate the annual field meet that is held in Abilene over the second full weekend in January. As the journey to attend is such a long one from the UK I always take the opportunity to extend the trip and this enables me to visit with friends, do some more hawking and go wild raptor watching. Unlike last year when the snow and ice caused all sorts of travel problems this year's trip from London to Houston was trouble free and on time every step of the way.

My travelling companion and I arrived in Texas with four days in which to slowly amble across the state to Abilene and take in some hawking on the way. We enjoyed a pleasant and successful day hunting Fox Squirrels with my old friend Chuck Redding and his excellent male Red Tailed Hawk "Cisco". This male Red Tail is a six times intermewed passage hawk and is getting better and better with each season that passes. The following day was spent hawking in the company of Lynne and Ron Holder and their male Harris Hawk "Dart". Rabbits

and Cotton Rats were the principal quarry and after an excellent day's hawking, with three kills being our tally, it was back to the Holders Ranch to enjoy some real Texan hospitality

Early start

Bright and early next morning we pushed on to Abilene to meet up with Kirk Williams from Chicago and Dave Whitton from Galveston. Kirk flies an intermewed Anatum Falcon and a male Gyr/Peregrine hybrid whilst Dave has a simply stunning passage Tundra Falcon. Dave was lucky enough to get one of the ten licences granted for Texan falconers to take a passage falcon from the wild this season and his falcon was simply beautiful to look at. Kirk had driven down all the way from Chicago to Abilene in one hit and wanted his falcons to bathe and weather and rest up before being flown the following day. Dave had arrived from Galveston the day before and so his falcon was ready to hunt and in the latter part of the afternoon we loaded up and went looking for ducks.

Texas had undergone something of a drought through the previous summer

and autumn and accordingly ponds were low on water and therefore ducks were difficult to find. On that first afternoon out with the passage falcon we drove round and round looking for a suitable slip until eventually it was decided to try and fly a small group of ducks, some six or seven in number, that were sitting on a very small splash of water right beside a road that was fortunately not very busy. By the time we had actually located these ducks the wind had become very strong indeed and with gusts that made it difficult for a hooded falcon to stand on the fist. These conditions required that the falconer had the utmost faith in the obedience of his falcon and faith in the early days is not something passage falcons are particularly well known for promoting. Dave was keen to fly the falcon however and she was cast off and immediately blown downwind for a considerable distance. Being a passage falcon she knew how to use the wind to her advantage and despite the strength of it she was relatively quick in gaining height and coming back overhead. So far so good.

The ducks however were not too



Diana Durman-Walters and Mark Elliott



Red Headed Merlin

keen to play their part and simply refused to flush cleanly. They would simply lift and as the falcon started to stoop just drop straight back into the water again. This was repeated at least three or four times until out of desperation the falcon stooped, levelled out some thirty yards or so from the splash, and came in and grabbed one of the ducks quite literally from the surface of the water. The falcon flapped heavily to the land with her prize but somehow in the ensuing rough and tumble on the ground the duck managed to slip her grasp and take off. The falcon was immediately up and after the duck, which was driving as fast as it could directly into the wind, but failed to catch it before it made the safety of a larger stretch of water from which it would prove impossible to shift it. Now would come the true test of the passage falcon's obedience but she came straight into the lure without any hesitation whatsoever.

The following day the wind was blowing extremely hard when our party, which included Dave and his Tundra and also Kirk with both of his falcons, set off to look for ducks. Again we had difficulty in locating slips that were actually flyable

and we were out for most of the morning before we eventually found some Teal on a small pond that was away from fences. Kirk put his intermewed Anatum Peregrine up and this experienced falcon was soon at a decent pitch above the pond. Her presence intimidated the ducks and they were very hard to get shifted off of the water but eventually a small group broke and made off across the open ground. The falcon was badly placed but she still put in a long shallow stoop across the sky and took a Teal by binding to it.

Tundra in strong winds

Next up was Dave with his Tundra and she too made light work of the strong winds and was soon directly over a pond with a mixed flock of ducks on it. The passage falcon was probably waiting on at around six hundred feet when a domestic pigeon cut across the pond beneath her. The temptation was too much and she was off in pursuit. She coursed that pigeon across the sky for what seemed an age and eventually we had to track her down with telemetry and pick her up. What seemed strange to us as falconers is that when we found the falcon she was sitting on the ground, but then of course she is a Tundra falcon and that is what Tundra's do.

Next up was Kirk's hybrid male and fortunately when we picked the Tundra up we spotted a covey of Quail sneaking off into some cover. Kirk put the hybrid on the wing and then ran his pointer until the Quail had been located. When things seemed right the Quail were flushed but managed to make the safety of decent cover before the falcon could get on terms with them. The wind was now literally howling and it was decided to call it a day and feed the falcons up ready for the following day.

In the morning the day dawned bright and the wind had dropped to almost nothing. My companion and I accompanied a different falconer, Mark Elliott, out hawking with his two Peregrines that afternoon and we enjoyed several flights at ducks. In the evening myself and Manny Carrasco gave a talk to the membership on the Falconry Festival in Al Ain and we were followed by Diana Durman-Walters who gave a talk on Dogs in Falconry. Both talks were enthusiastically received.



Barbary Tiercel

On the third full day of the meeting proper we were fortunate enough to get invited by Steve Oleson to join him in hawking Starlings with his intermewed male Red Headed Merlin. This was great fun and reminded me of my own early days in falconry when my first ever falcon was a passage male Red Head. The flights were fast and furious and despite several close calls we didn't actually catch anything. But the flying was excellent nonetheless. The afternoon's sport was curtailed quite promptly as the evening was to see the meet banquet at which the guest speaker would be the well respected falconer Ed Pitcher. I have been fortunate enough to know Ed for a great many years and have been hawking with him in the Arco Desert. His falcons and pointing dogs are a pleasure to watch working. Needless to say his talk was extremely interesting as well as entertaining and went down very well.

The final day of the meeting saw us join Danny Pickens hawking ducks

with his Anatum Falcon and male Gyr/Peregrine hybrid. Danny is an extremely disciplined and skilful falconer and both of his falcons flew in copy book style and took quarry whilst making it look like the easiest thing in the world.

This brought our time at the THA field meet to an end and in the morning we moved on to stay with Lynne and Ron Holder again and do some hawking with Lynne's Harris Hawk on their ranch. We ended up in Houston a few days later, having visited Galveston to watch wild raptors on the way, and looked forward to the prospect of joining Jim Ince snipe hawking with his Barbary Tiercel.

Jim has been a practising falconer for more than forty years and was at one time vice president of NAFA. He has probably forgotten more about falconry than most people will ever know. Spending the afternoon hawking with him was a sheer pleasure and the little Barbary flew superbly. It was a fitting way to bring our hawking trip to an end.

Gull hawking

I have been gull hawking for a good few seasons now. I took my first one over twenty years ago with a female peregrine/prairie. She was a gutsy falcon flying around 11b 10oz. She was slipped at rooks/crows and chased the flock over the next hill. When we arrived she had taken a huge herring gull. It was several years before I took my next one. Over the next few years I flew mainly peregrines at game with good success. We hunted mainly partridge and pheasant, occasionally ducks and went to Scotland flying grouse.

About 10 years ago I got back into rooks/crows hawking and started to catch gulls. One of the first falcons I tried was a gyr/peregrine/saker tiercel. He took 75 head in his first season but I lost him to a virus the following year. He didn't show any interest in gulls. I trained his brother from day one with the intention of flying him exclusively on gulls and he showed good promise. I trained him to a gull lure from the start and once fit he was chasing them hard at every opportunity, but I lost him early in his first year. I then took on a gyr/peregrine tiercel from Falconmews and started him on crows before switching him to gulls. This falcon is still one of the best (if not the best) falcon I have ever flown. He was steady, smart, and had the heart of a lion. He went loose in no time at all and after stooping him to a lure with crow wings and moving up to a pole lure with a crow carcass, he entered on crows within days of me slipping him.

The switch from corvids to gulls was a natural one. I slipped him one afternoon in the lea of a wood on the side of a hill. It was a windy day and I had been driving around for a while before finding this setup. He went up with the flock but instead of going for the crows he locked onto an immature herring gull. He got over it and matched the gull for height. The gull tried to climb above the tiercel but he stuck to it. Once the tiercel was



A well earned bath

higher than the gull he started to stoop him hard, throwing up in almost vertical stoops which is typical of this super hybrid. The flight went on for sometime in the wind before he bound to it high up on the bank – a truly amazing flight. That was it – I was hooked.

Demise of a tiercel

This tiercel went on to take many head in five months of hunting him, taking numerous gulls as well as corvids, but it was to be his downfall. In his first season he was slipped at an adult gull on passage and it couldn't out fly him. The flight went on for ever twisting and turning and it looked like he would have it as the flight got lower and lower. They both disappeared from view behind a very distant hedge and on arrival I found the tiercel had flown through a sub power station and burnt most of his primaries off and half of his tail. We impeded him up, but although he caught a few crows he couldn't ring up after them. Even though the imping went well he had burnt his tail coverts and lots of the small feathers under the wings. Because of this he had gaps under the wings and lost lift trying to ring up.

The next season he was back to his old self. If I slipped him at crows/gulls in open country, nine times out of 10 he

would catch one. He once went about 21 days and having success every day. One day in his second season I slipped him at a small flock of crows/gulls. He took on a young crow and the flight went right out over a steep valley. The crow knew it was in trouble and the flight came all the way back towards us and started to drift over a road. The crow, in the end, was that desperate that it went in and out of the fence line next to the road, but worse still it started flying down the road and going between the cars travelling up and down. We were running to get towards him when he bound to the crow. They dropped onto a car's windscreen, slipped down the bonnet and went under one of the front wheels, killing the falcon instantly. The crow got up, shook itself and flew off!

The following season, after a phone call to Peter at Falconmews, I took his brother on. He was a tad slower starting but really started to come good around October, taking mainly corvids but a good few gulls. Unfortunately, after a long flight in the wind he also got killed by a car. It's not that I fly near roads – I don't. It's just tragic that flights can and do go long distances and falcons can kill away from you. This tiercel was picked up next to the road, still warm. This second tragedy knocked me for six – I

took it hard and it bothered me for a longtime. In fact it bothers me now writing about it.

Training Prairie Falcon

Around this time I took on a female Prairie falcon for gulls/crows. She trained up easily, but to be perfectly honest I was a bit disappointed. She took a good number of corvids and a few gulls but she was a bit picky and if she missed she would quite often go up into the clouds and take pigeons for fun from very high pitches. In fact if she got a foot to a pigeon she would fly it down and take it in the deepest cover. She was a joy to handle and flew really well at around 11b 10oz in weight but she became pigeon mad and I couldn't keep her off them. I have retired her and now use her for A.I. Putting peregrine into her, some of the offspring have made good rook/crow falcons and the tiercels have made good waiting-on birds. Martin Whitley from Dartmoor has had quite a few from me over the years so it would appear putting peregrine into her has given the young a boost. In the Prairie falcon's best season she took quite a few head. Unfortunately, I had a slipped disk and while waiting for an operation I lent her to Colin Asquith in Scotland and he came to the same conclusion as me – that she was choosey. One day going in hard, the next not so hard. Sometimes she would go on crows and put them into cover, then if you reflashed them she would watch them go and ignore them.

The last eight seasons or so I have been flying female peregrine/gyr/sakers and a female gyr/saker/peregrine. These hybrids have taken well to crows/gulls, all being started on crows then moving onto gulls. I try to get them entered on crows first and then after about 17 or 18 successful flights switch to gulls. Most of my gull hawking was done before the Herring Gull was protected – now a licence is needed to hunt them. These can be obtained from English Nature.

The gyr/saker/peregrine was a lovely falcon. A large bird hunting gulls at around 21b 7oz in weight. John Edwards bred her and planned to fly her at game but she kept coming off the training kite to take crows. I carried on with her fitness training and got her going on crows. I then fed her on a dead gull that one of the other falcons had taken and

started to pole lure her to its carcass. I stripped most of the insides out to make it easier to swing and not as dangerous to the falcon and after a week or so I slipped her at a mixed flock and she took one. She went on to be very good at gulls. However, once again in her second season she took a scrawny just on the horizon. By the time I got to her and realised it looked sick, she had broken into it. She wasted away and died about six months later. After countless visits to the vets and having test after test, I had her put to sleep. The last time I cast her for yet more blood work at the vets, she was just skin and bone in my hands and I made the decision that day that enough was enough.

My first female peregrine/gyr/saker I called Kelly, after Kelly Brook. I flew her for three seasons taking many quarry with her before losing her – I think to a gun after a good flight. I was tracking her when both transmitters stopped. On one of the farms I drive and fly there is a large partridge shoot next door. It was around Christmas time and I was flying on the next farm because I didn't think they would be shooting. I was wrong – they were, and the last signal I got was just over the boundary before it went quiet for good.

Eva, my present gull hawk, is in her fifth season. She knows just what she needs to do to take gulls, but recently has had a run of bad injuries. Last season she bound to a gull high up and they both dropped onto an iron fence. When I picked her up she was stunned and slightly concussed, not wanting to feed or stand on the glove. If this wasn't bad enough she had a hole in her chest I could have put my little finger into. This injury needed lots of stitches – the open wound went down to her keel bone. Needless to say it brought an immediate stop to the rest of the season. This year, after bringing down a huge Black Back gull, she injured her wing and has been out of action for seven weeks. To date I have flown her four times since and she luckily has made a complete recovery. Her wing was drooped for about five of the seven weeks and the vet thought as I did that it was muscular or tendons, as she hadn't broken it because she carried on flying after the incident.

It sounds as though I have had many falcons, what with injuries and the like,

and flown lots of falcons at gulls. But I'm out nearly every day flying and pursuit flying is dangerous. It's exciting! Gulls, for one, don't put in like corvids except to water, so the flights can and do go long distances, but the sport outweighs the risk. From a personal level I don't think you see the best in a falcon unless it is flown as a pursuit bird. It's a much more taxing flight, the quarry is tough and smart and the birds need to be super fit for the better flight, especially on windy days. I must just say I don't fly landfills anymore, though I used to. All my flights are on open ground and although I may upset a few people I must say landfill gulls are easier (the exception is gulls on passage) because to slip a falcon at a large concentration of gulls feeding on a landfill site isn't going to be taxing for a made gull hawk. The bird has a huge choice, the same as if slipped at a large flock of corvids. Falcons are smart and will learn to take out an easy one.

Flights in open country, where first you have to find your gulls, work out where to slip from, allow for the wind, try to work out where the flight will most likely go is all part of it. Small flocks are most challenging, adults are harder than immatures, females turn quicker than the larger males (herring gulls) and at the start of the season birds of the year can be too easy.

On windy days most flights go downwind and can cover huge distances – its a brave falconer that slips a gull hawk in a strong wind. As one older falconer once said to me, anything over 25 miles an hour catching a gull is like trying to catch a paper bag blowing in the wind. I always use two transmitters, one on the back (track pack) and one on the leg. Again, tracking equipment is tested to the maximum with pursuit falcons. The best transmitters are a must and regular battery changes too. People say to me this transmitter's good or this one's great, maybe on a waiting-on falcon that may kill out of sight in the next field, but this isn't a real test. Tracking a gull flight that has perhaps gone two miles and the gull been taken in the air, and then dropped into standing corn, maize or similar – now that's a test.

So from the start, this is how I train a gull hawk. Early training goes as normal, but once the lure is introduced I make sure I have gull wings tied to it, so right

from day one the falcon thinks white. She is then called off to the gull lure and also stooped to it. It's better to have an assistant to take her hood off so she spots you in the distance swinging the gull lure. This is very important and its possibly where a lot of falconers go wrong in as much as they cast the bird off then present the lure to them encouraging the bird to turn back towards them before stooping. This creates big problems later on when slipping if the falcon doesn't take on the slip and does a U-turn and comes back looking for the lure – think about it! So the distance from assistant to falconer is increased – in fact I fly backwards and forwards over varying terrain to two gull lures, even giving the falcon a few stoops both ends. A good supply of gull wings are needed at this stage as a young falcon will make quick work of trashing any nicely prepared wings stitched to lures.

Sometimes at this stage I kite for extra fitness. Gull hawks need to be super fit. It all depends on your level of flights but the fitter the birds, generally the better the flights. It stands to reason unfit falcons will only take the easy gulls. I could kite the larger falcons as these obviously take a lot longer to first learn to fly and second become fit and manoeuvrable.

I then move onto the pole lure and, as I say, I strip the insides from the gull making it easier to work with. Gulls can be heavy and its no fun swinging one of these round on a pole for any length of time. The pole lure works wonders and I first started using it because one particular falcon while stooping to the lure would fly past and stick a foot out grabbing my leg as she did so. The pole kept her at arms length – you can do things with a pole lure that you can't with a conventional lure. I drop the carcass on the floor, twitch it away at the last second, take them up and make it jump up in front of them from the grass. Care is needed though because it's all too easy to wrap a bird up in the line and do serious damage.

I use a six foot fishing rod. It's not too whippy and will take the weight of a skinned gull carcass. It's even got a reel on it! I set the drag so that as the falcon takes the lure the line drags out rather than stops dead and I use creance line on the reel. Fishing line, obviously, would

be suicidal. A week on the conventional lure, long luring, etc, and maybe a week or so on the kite, a week or two on the pole lure and then I can assess the falcon's condition, weight, etc. I then think about slipping her at gulls.

To start with gulls on the floor are best. Small flocks, building the falcon up gradually as she becomes more confident trying harder slips. The most difficult are adults on passage – these flights take a well conditioned, made falcon to chase them and catch up and then get to grips with them – its well worth the wait.

Some memorable flights come to mind. My first gyr/peregrine took a gull once high up. It was a long flight and the falcon looked dwarfed in comparison. The flight started to go round in big circles, the gull trying to stay above the falcon. The gull just stayed out of his reach, and after countless stoops was taken in the air.

On another occasion I slipped Kelly at a small flock of gulls that were feeding on a newly sown field. It was a long slip and the gulls were high up by the time she caught them. She stooped at one but it avoided the stoop and it looked like she was well beat. However, she kept climbing. I watched her in the binoculars going still higher and then she turned and started to come back. I then realized the gulls were looking to resume feeding and by this time she must have been about 800 feet up. She then went into a steep stoop and bound to a gull about 300 feet up, I don't think it ever saw her coming – they spiraled down to earth like a shuttlecock!

The gyr/saker/peregrine female I flew called Elly, was once slipped at a single gull on passage. The flight started to go up, then it came down low, then up, then down again. This falcon, once committed, was an incredible large and very powerful falcon. The flight went on for ages. I stood on the hillside and watched it from start to finish and she

eventually bound to it and came down into a small fir plantation.

On another occasion the same falcon was slipped from the hillside at a single adult herring gull on passage. The gull was quite a bit higher than us as it went over. She took it straight on without any hesitation, the flight eventually losing height and ended with me watching it level with the hill I was stood on. She hit it once then bound to it again high up. They dropped to ground and landed on a golf course – in fact right on the green – luckily no one was playing golf. When I arrived I saw that it was a huge gull. In fact it had grabbed her by the tail and ripped one of her decks out along with the transmitter and tail clip – that's why I now use back packs.

The time and work needed to train a first rate gull hawk can be time consuming and at times hard work, but the top class flights make all this worth the time and effort. My plan next year is to try a female gyr/peregrine at gulls. I haven't trained a young falcon for a while so I cant wait.



On the move

Thankful for the Printing Press

My falconry book collection started in 1984 with Lorant de Bastyai's *All My Life With Hunting Hawks*, bought from a small bookshop in Cambridge for £10.00. Since then my bookcase has become jam packed with 28 years' worth of book collecting.

Books that have signatures, letters inserted, photos and writing in the margins are the rare and highly sought after, only coming up for sale in auctions or by word of mouth. Original first edition books have that real magic appeal. For instance, with a book printed in 1575 or 1633, you can only imagine what the author had seen in their falconry life. Through his words you can catch an insight into how falconry was practised in those times. Without these important books there would be no recorded history. If only the invention of photography was available back then, how wonderful it would be to see the falconers that had learnt so much to warrant writing these important books. We can only be thankful the printing press was around.

Search for rare books

In my quest for rare and special books, I have sometimes forgotten myself when one comes up for sale. This happened most memorably some years ago when a catalogue came through the door from the well known Falconry book dealers Don and Natalie Nicholson. These were always eagerly waited for throughout the year as they were known for featuring such important books.

Quickly going through the pages I noticed for sale, the first five British

Falconers' Club journals, from 1937-1939. Now these were not seen for sale that often, and as I had already amassed the rest of the journals up to date, those five would be needed to have the full set. So I got straight on the phone with fingers crossed that they had not already been sold. I heard that all familiar call tone to America and waited patiently for Don or Natalie to answer. Don answered, and with a somewhat croaky voice said,

"Hello",

"Hello Don it's Adam, how are you?"

"I'm fine Adam, how are you doing?"

"OK thanks Don. Do you still have the B.F.C journals for sale, the ones printed before the war?"

"Sure do Adam"

It was at this point I realised it was still only 8am in the UK,

"Don, what's the time there?"

"Bed time Adam!"

Spitting out my apologies for what seemed like minutes I put down the phone. How embarrassing, how am I going to be able to phone back? I was sure Don would tear a strip off me. I waited until late afternoon before plucking up the courage to phone Don again. Maybe Natalie will answer and take pity on me, but I soon heard the voice of Don. "Hello"

"Hello Don, its Adam". Before Don could say another word I again apologised for waking him up in the middle of the night.

"Don't worry Adam – really, it's not a problem. I have put the B.F.C journals aside for you already, they're yours."

"Thank you Don"

I bought many more books from Don and Natalie, but now always remembered to wait until the afternoon before calling.

A few years later I managed to obtain another copy of the first ever B.F.C journal, *The Falconer* printed in May 1937. It was whilst at a spring dinner with the B.F.C that I was introduced to the president, the late Anthony Jack. Anthony was very interested in hearing about my male Goshawk Denis, as he was flown exclusively at partridges and Anthony was keen to see him fly. We then talked about the journal and book collecting until a call was made that dinner was being served.

A few days later a large envelope was posted through my door and I instantly recognised the hand writing. It was from Anthony Jack. Upon opening the envelope I found inside the first edition of *The Falconer*, Vol. I, No. I, May 1937, along with a letter saying, "Whilst going through my drawers I came across this and thought you may like it" (Anthony Jack was the first editor of the Journal). I opened it up and Anthony had written an inscription inside to me. It was a most generous gift, so much so that I was compelled to write a letter of thanks straight away.

BFC compendium

In 1978, Falconiforme Press published a compendium of the British Falconers' Club Journals that went from 1937-1971. This was a chance for falconry enthusiasts, readers and book collectors to obtain the journal in one complete book. The first five in original form are extremely hard to come by, but now one could read those very early articles written by the well known falconers of the time. Very soon even this compilation was becoming hard to obtain and when found a heavy price was attached.

In 1993 I had been a member of the



The Falconer – first edition to the latest

B.F.C for only a couple of years, when I wrote a letter to the editor Paul Jacklin about the possibility of the club producing another compendium that was a follow on from the previous volume. Paul soon replied saying the club was not in a position to take on such a project, but would I like to do it?

My answer was yes, not knowing the first thing of how to go about it. I only collected books, not publish them. There were even sceptics within the club thinking I had no chance of pulling it off. Maybe I had bitten off more than I could chew!

One of my other book suppliers was Wheldon & Wesleys. They were based in Hertfordshire, close to Knebworth. As I lived quite close I spent a lot of time there going through their entire stock on a regular basis. We knew each other very well, so I asked them if they could recommend a printer that could take on producing the compendium. Bell and Bain in Scotland was the name mentioned – they produced Wheldon's catalogue and many other publications. That was good enough for me. All the material was

gathered and it worked out that this new compendium matched the previous one in thickness and would include the years 1972-1988.

Unfortunately, the printers had to cut up the original journals so that they could scan every page. This was not just a labour intensive process but also a costly one. There was no other way of doing it. Adverts were organised to go in the important falconry newsletters around the world. Bob Watkins, being a graphic designer was able to produce the art work needed by the printers. Without his help I would have struggled to get the compendium off the ground.

With a pre-publication offer, I felt confident that I had done all I possibly could to make it a success. However, I still worried that I would not get enough orders to cover the printing costs. But again with help from another friend David Frank, I was reassured the book would work out.

Back then and even today I question my own sanity when it comes to being a collector of falconry memorabilia. I feel that if I don't have a look through the

different book auctions, dealers etc., on a regular basis then I might just miss out on that really special book. So much of my time these days are spent on the computer, in search of that elusive rarity.

Sometimes something extraordinary can happen. Last year I was having a search on eBay of all places. I typed in E.B Michell, he's the author of *The Art And Practise Of Hawking 1900*. One result came up, a first edition in great condition, red cloth with gold embossed front board and spine. Excellent, I didn't have that one. There are five different bindings to the first edition, I have two but if I managed to win that copy then there would only be two more to find. Because the book wasn't in the usual Falconry book section, I was hoping not many would know it was there. The starting price was £39.99, although that was for a book worth around £150 -£200.

With six days to go I waited as patiently as I could. Then the final day arrived and it was still at the same price. With the minutes ticking by I put an offer in that I was sure was going to be beaten. Then I quickly put in a maximum bid of

£70.00, which again I thought would not be enough to win it. Two seconds to go and a bid went in at £45.00, but because of my maximum bid I won it for £46.99. Result, now I just hoped it was in as good a condition as described.

Book in good condition

The book arrived within three days. Deb my wife and I wondered if it was OK or not. Upon opening the box I could see it was in great condition, what a relief. I took a quick look to see if there were any names written inside. There was, Mr Tanden of St Ives Hunts 1933. Now for some reason that name seemed familiar but I couldn't think why. Then it came to me, over twelve years ago I bought a copy of what I think is the best book written that relates to falconry, *Reminiscences of a Falconer* by C.H Fisher. I pulled it out from the book case and there inside was the name of Mr Tanden of St Ives Hunts 1934. Both

books probably sat side by side all those years ago and now in 2011 they sit side by side again. I wonder how many more of My Tanden's books are out there.

At last, the delivery of the B.F.C compendiums. The lorry was big and as the doors opened up at the back I looked in to see it full of boxes. Where on earth are they going to go I thought? No time to think, the driver wanted them off, so into the kitchen they went and they stayed there until I could get my head around the amount of boxes.

All the pre-publication orders were a priority. It was quite a mission taking so many books to the local post office to be sent to addresses all around the world. I enjoyed the experience so much, that I thought it would be an idea to think of re-printing *Falconiforme's* compendium of 1978, but not yet!

With the sales of the 1972-1988 Compendium being a success, it showed the appeal that the club had. Not only

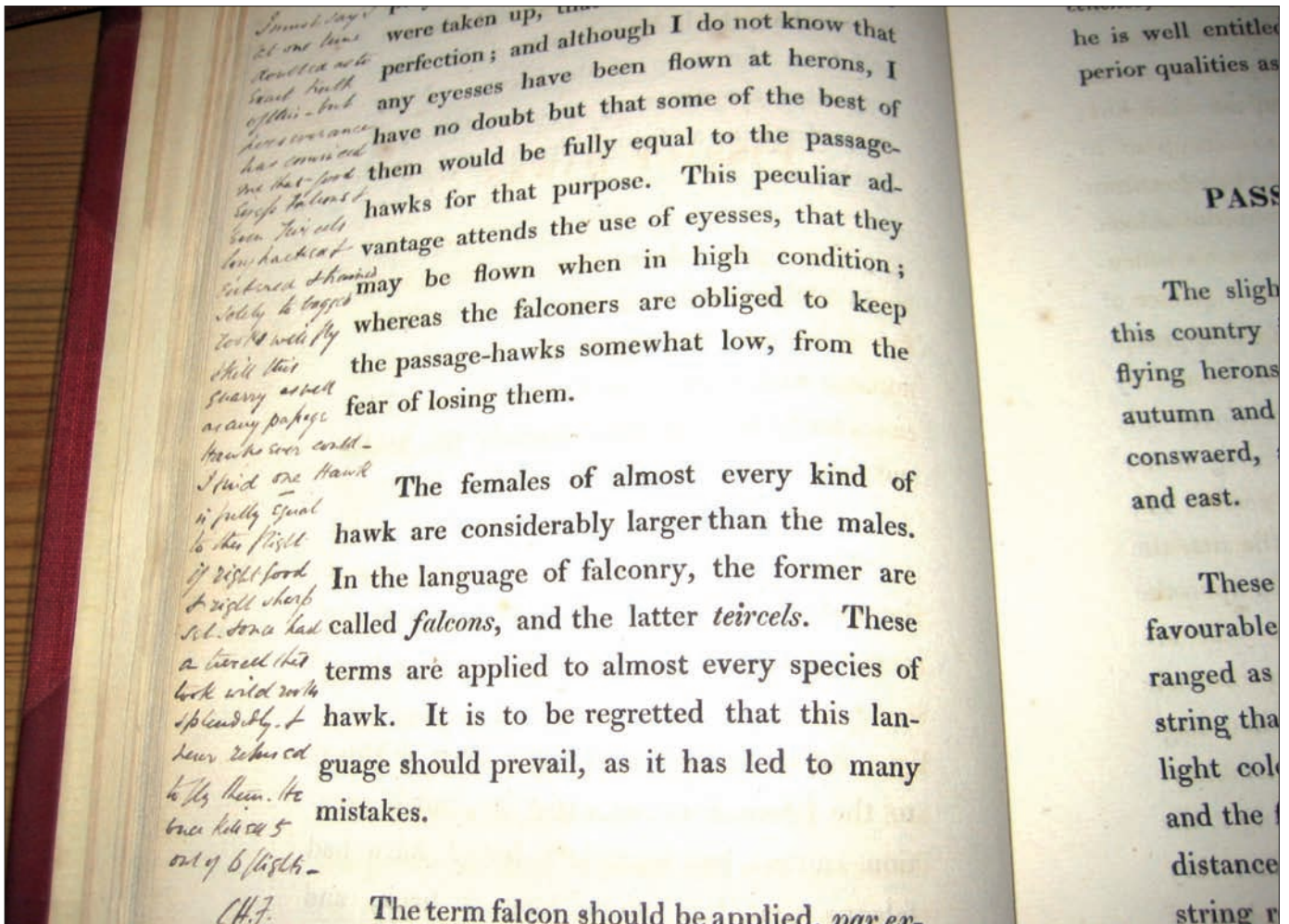
did book collectors buy it, but also falconers who wanted to gain access to the falconry experienced within the club and its members. From the not so well known, to the names of those falconers that we all knew of to read their exploits in the field, you felt that by the end of the article you knew them a little more. Since the club was formed back in 1927 with Mr George Blackall Simmons as its first President, much has changed. The availability of hawks and falcons, better equipment and training techniques have now helped those wanting their falcons to reach incredible heights, which would not have been seen in days gone by. More books are now available to falconers of all levels than ever before. Everything is there for the modern day falconer.

In 1995, I once again approached the B.F.C regarding the re-printing of the 1937-1971 Compendium. Seeing as the previous volume went well, the club gave the go ahead to have it published. With my debut publishing experience behind me, I knew what was involved, so the process was a lot easier and mistakes made previously could be avoided. Bob Watkins was again a great help with preparing the artwork for advertising. A different printer was found, much closer to home which helped. Another pre publication offer went out for the 400 copies to be printed. An extra 100 copies were printed specially for the club to sell to its members. Of the 400 copies, as before, 100 were numbered and specially bound with a gold embossed cover and spine. I knew those that had bought my previous volume would more than likely buy this second printing to make up a matching set and if I remember correctly most did. With the two compendiums covering 1937-1988, it was far easier to reach for the book to find a specific article, rather than searching through all the individual journals, especially those early ones that are now so rare.

All that experience was over 15 years ago. However, since that time I fell out of love with falconry, moved home four times, married Deb and now have two wonderful daughters. I raced sports motorbikes, indulged in countless hobbies, of which not one had come close to the passion I had for falconry. Then around Christmas 2009 whilst enjoying my break, Deb mentioned she wanted to re-decorate the hallway,



Part of the rare book collection



Extract of the famous book once owned by Charles Hawkins Fisher

which didn't go down too well as I was supposed to be having a break from work. Begrudgingly I agreed to do it but as a consequence it meant that I had to move my bookcase.

The thought of taking all the books out and then putting them back wasn't sitting too well with me. My diaries were the first to be removed, but instead of putting them to one side I took a look through them, a little bit of reminiscing took place. Then I walked into the front room where my daughters Millie and Georgie were sitting and I started to read through some of the great flights I had with Denis, my male Gos. I must have only read a few pages, but it was enough to set off a little switch which had me all fired up. Instantly I found I wanted to get back into falconry, it was literally that quick. Deb was not impressed as she knew what I was like. 200% into everything I do. It took quite some time to convince her that I would still go to work, not pack it all in as I did all those years ago just to fly Goshawks. I have a family and bills to pay now!

Just over two years on and I have just finished my season flying my female peregrine, Olivia, at rooks and crows. Getting together with old friends has been the best part. Previously I was working six, but mostly seven days a week and I sadly lost contact with the many friends I had made. My focus then was on work, for too long I had lived an easy life, working only when I needed petrol money to go hawking. Then once I had enough money I would pack it in again. It couldn't continue so with that in mind, along with losing my super Goshawk, I called it a day. What a joy it was to phone up friends and say, "guess who this is?"

One evening this year I received a phone call from Ian Bell who is the treasurer of The British Falconers' Club. He asked if I would like to take on the task of producing another compendium of the British Falconers' Club journals, "The Falconer" that would bring it all up to date. I agreed to take on the task, however due to the edition years

involved it would take two books to achieve this. The first book I am publishing will be (Vol 3) 1989-2002 and the second (Vol. 4) 2004-2011. Both books will follow exactly the same format as those previously produced. Only 500 copies will be printed of which the B.F.C get 100. Of the remaining 400, an edition of 100 will be numbered with a different binding and a gold embossed cover and spine.

A pre-publication price is available until the 30 September 2012, for those wishing to take advantage of the special price. However, it will be first come, first served regarding the limited editions and Volumes 3 & 4 will only be sold together, not separately.

Please see the advertisement on page 39 in this magazine for full details.

Nick Kester
Communications Officer



Doesn't spring surprise us? One minute hawks are basking in unseasonable sun, the next we are blanketed with snow. I hope that falconry business this summer doesn't do the same. Nasty shocks can catch out even the most alert of us and it is only by keeping very close watch on government and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that we stay ahead of the game. This is why we spend a great deal of time with Defra and its delivery agency, Animal Health, and why we rely on others in and outside falconry for help in our work.

Once again the show season is upon us. Some of you will be reading this at the Falconry Fair, which returns after a long absence to Althorp in Northamptonshire. Those who remember its earlier visits will know what a great, and accessible, venue it is. But if you miss it there is always the CLA Game Fair at Belvoir Castle at the end of July; another stunning location. Hawk Board is on hand at these two set pieces, and our stalwarts at the Campaign for Falconry will be attending other events around the country. I cannot stress often enough that it is no good grumbling to other falconers or beefing

on the various chat rooms. Just come and ask us direct so you can get the straight facts.

New LANTRA Award – Unit 4 'Hawking with a bird of prey'

This is the award that every club has argued for since the LANTRA falconry modules were first conceived. It is only administered by Hawk Board affiliated clubs and takes you into the field. Here you can show competency in all aspects of falconry proper including:

- Part 4.1 The natural history, conservation and identification of quarry species
- Part 4.2 Access and Use of Hawking land
- Part 4.3 Good practice & Legislation
- Part 4.4 Fieldcraft & Practical Hawking
- Part 4.5 Treatment of quarry

Launched at the 2012 Falconry Fair, this will be a stand-alone module and acts as a criteria for all traditional falconers inside clubs. Some say it is long overdue but here it is. Each club can manage its own membership using this module and thus assure itself that all who gain the certificate practise our sport in a fit and proper manner.

Law Commission (Wildlife and Countryside Act and other wildlife law)

As my last report explained this study wends its inevitable way towards a parliamentary recommendation. In early March Graham Irving and I attended a meeting of all interested parties at the commission's offices. This is very much a pre-consultation and the meeting was predictably polarised, some want more and stricter legislation, others seek simplification and clarification. One of the frustrations about devolved legislations is that this work only covers England and Wales. Scotland and Northern Ireland have their own law. However the overall feeling is one of moving in the right direction. We await the fuller consultation with interest because that is when we can all have our say.

Environmental Audit Committee report on wildlife crime

This parliamentary subcommittee last reported in 2004. This review re-examines what is wildlife crime; looks

at its importance and impact; and what, if anything, parliament needs to do. As a result this is closely linked to the Law Commission study.

Hawk Board made a full submission, which can be read on-line at: <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201012/cmselect/cmenvaud/writev/1740/contents.htm>

Subsequently, the committee called for verbal evidence from key witnesses. At the time of writing this appears highly unbalanced but I have no doubt this will be redressed in later sessions. If you want to read the transcripts from these you can go to: <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201012/cmselect/cmenvaud/uc1740-ii/uc174001.htm> and <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201012/cmselect/cmenvaud/uc1740-i/uc174001.htm>

Those who have given evidence, or have been called are: RSPCA, National Gamekeepers' Organisation, Angling Trust, International Fund for Animal Welfare, TRAFFIC, Environmental Investigation Agency, World Society for the Protection of Animals, International Fund for Animal Welfare Asia (Chinese medicines), Mr Richard Crompton, former Association of Chief Police Officers Wildlife Crime Lead. I make that six against, two pro, and two neutral. Pretty unbalanced so far. Let us hope that others involved in wildlife management, rather than outright protectionism, get a say.

Semi-complete article 10 certificates

These are being withdrawn with immediate effect. So you cannot use them for any young bred this year even if the pairs are still together and the data on the A10 is unchanged. We had warning of this last January, but expected to be able to use up any pre-issued certificates. Now we are told this is not the case. And the reason is that they have popped up all over Europe connected to criminal activity. As the UK is the only EU country to have issued them (or so we believe) and the government find that this was in breach of Brussels law, they have now ceased. This was a very helpful process that enabled legitimate breeders to make things easier for the authorities, and enabled easier sale of hawks and falcons.

And it has gone because some decided to make a fast buck abusing the trust that semi-completes conferred on raptor breeders. No wonder many feel frustrated by this.

Invasive alien species

We are closely involved in monitoring this process as it moves through EU bureaucracy. It is a risk to us all, particularly those flying non-natives free. Sure, no species of raptor used in falconry in these isles has ever become 'invasive' but there are those who believe that the 'precautionary principle' (ban everything) should be used. Some have singled out falconry for particular focus because, not only do we keep non-natives, we actually release them (I know, and the government recognises it, that we also intend to get them back).

We met those closely involved in this and it was a comfort to hear their support for a black list of really risky species rather than, what some call, a white list of

anything that is not native to these isles. A proposal from Brussels is expected later this year. Then the UK government can make a negotiating statement, but we already know that the UK is against any law emanating from Brussels that controls the private ownership of animals.

But . . . over the recent weeks there have been regular press reports of non-natives (principally Harris hawks) being lost and living in the wild. If the owners make no effort to trap them then they are doing us all no favours. They must be flown with traceable rings on, and with telemetry. Anything less is highly irresponsible.

Be careful when you buy a hawk. Too often people are selling hawks without the correct paperwork, and those who buy them are caught in the process. If you are offered a hawk for sale without any supporting paperwork ask yourself why? If it is a Harris hawk it should at least have a bill of sale and a traceable data sheet linked to its ring. If a goshawk

it must have an Article 10 and a blue registration slip. Both must be current and handed over with the hawk. Do not accept the suggestion that either will be posted later. Such comments must ring alarm bells and could result in a visit from the police. Protect yourself and wise up. If in doubt contact Animal Health or a Hawk Board representative.

Don't forget to keep checking the Hawk Board website for information and contact details at:-
www.hawkboard-cff.org.uk

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For all general enquiries please contact:

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For members in our Southern region informal meetings take place nr Winchester, Hants.

For further information or an application form please contact -

Dean White (secretary) on 01489 896504

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The IBR would like to thank all of those people that helped to reunite and look after found birds.

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If you have reported losing a bird it is **LOGGED** on the database and **REMAINS** on the **LOST LIST** until **WE** are told differently.

Our web site now has a rolling 2 month lost IBR registered list and a found list.

Part of the ring number has been replaced with a ? for security reasons

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SPECIES	
AMERICAN KESTREL	1
BARN OWL	13
COMMON BUZZARD	1
EUROPEAN EAGLE OWL	3
GOSHAWK	4
GREAT HORNED OWL	1
GYR HYBRID	6
HARRIS HAWK	45
INDIAN EAGLE OWL	2
KESTREL	10
LANNER FALCON	5
LANNER HYBRID	1
LITTLE OWL	1
LONG-EARED OWL	1
LUGGER FALCON	1
PEREGRINE FALCON	3
PEREGRINE HYBRID	3
RED-TAILED HAWK	6
SAKER FALCON	5
SNOWY OWL	1
TAWNY OWL	1

LOST x 31

BREF	RING	SPECIES	AREA LOST
46432	?4099?	BARN OWL	OX16
74716	?6JA0?	BARN OWL	WF2
75467	?2645?	BARN OWL	B29
75783	?2732?	BARN OWL	ST16
83248	?7967?	BARN OWL	KY8
84619	?1415?	BARN OWL	DH4
84696	?8142?	BARN OWL	NG15
76513	?F105?	BLACK KITE	DH9
75218	?SOS0?	EURASIAN EAGLE OWL	HX7
72399	?9360?	GOSHAWK	PE13
78003	?6027?	GOSHAWK	B97
88263	?DST?	GYR/SAKER FALCON	TQ5
88712	?8915?	GYR/SAKER FALCON	NP11
88858	?1913?	GYR/SAKER FALCON	HG4
72049	?0600?	HARRIS HAWK	TS13

73956	?2756?	HARRIS HAWK	DN6
79741	?7763?	HARRIS HAWK	B46
81370	?RW09?	HARRIS HAWK	DA12
81928	?6474?	HARRIS HAWK	DY10
86994	?8603?	HARRIS HAWK	PE13
88471	?8314?	HARRIS HAWK	KT19
87147	?DMB1?	INDIAN EAGLE OWL	BB4
30381	?5929?	KESTREL	CV35
50188	?4775?	KESTREL	SY8
67291	?4917?	LANNER FALCON	SO41
68993	?5513?	LANNER FALCON	GL2
88422	?XT1?	LANNER FALCON	SS6
88431	?3KFC?	PEREGRINE/LANNER HYBRID	ME8
89094	?JT10?	RED-TAILED HAWK	OX2
43109	?0653?	TAWNY OWL	SY13
53627	?8275?	TAWNY OWL	OX16

FOUND x 17

BREF	RING	SPECIES	AREA FOUND
80669	?7505?	AMERICAN KESTREL	BS34
9356	?53BC?	BARN OWL	CO14
82308	?8944?	BARN OWL	M41
88936	?OLH?	BARN OWL	NE65
88940	?CRR1?	BARN OWL	LL60
88903	?8SL0?	COMMON BUZZARD	TS20
89758	?86DO?	COMMON BUZZARD	WA9
65336	?CABZ?	EURASIAN EAGLE OWL	WD24
89332	?5 00 8?	EUROPEAN EAGLE OWL	PH10
78000	?7602?	GOSHAWK	B30
88424	?0DST?	GYR/SAKER FALCON	SY21
37743	?6246W	HARRIS HAWK	M23
48943	?7773?	HARRIS HAWK	BD2
75017	?4YLJ?	HARRIS HAWK	S72
88486	CO2	HARRIS HAWK	CO2
88585	?09TW?	HARRIS HAWK	DY3
50970	?4350?	RED-TAILED HAWK	TA9

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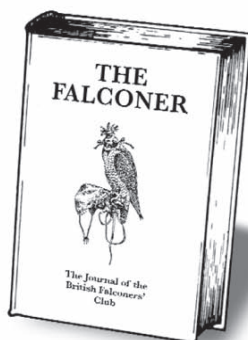
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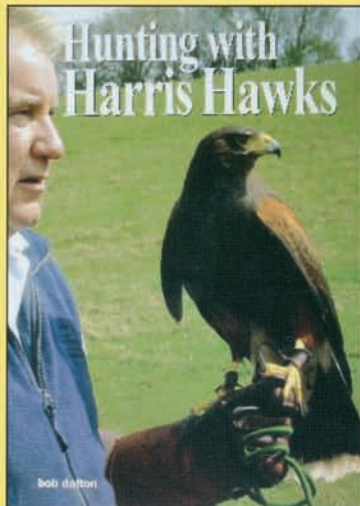
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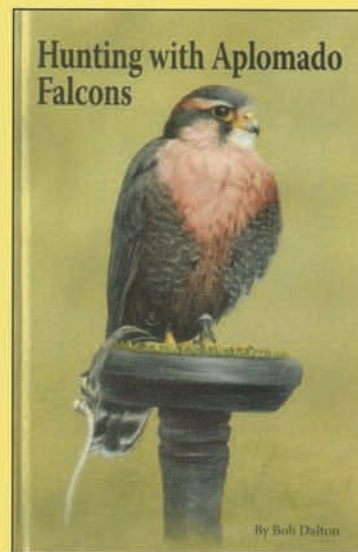
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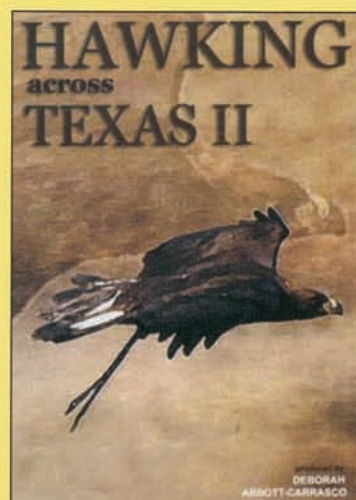
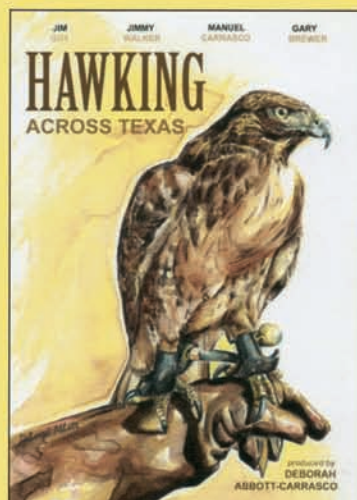
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