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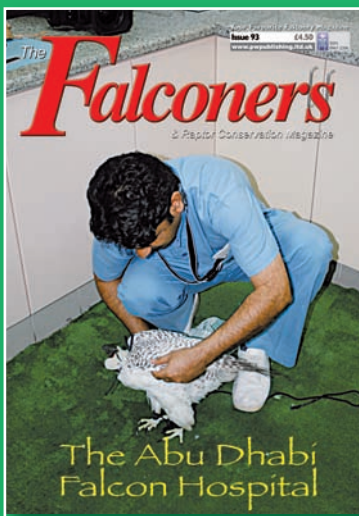
*& Raptor Conservation Magazine*



The Abu Dhabi  
Falcon Hospital

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There is another mixed bag of articles in this issue and I am grateful to Paul Beecroft and Peter Devers for providing another interesting insight in the "We Were Falconers" series and this time on the life and times of Richard De Clanay Grant-Rennick who was one of the founders of The Hawk Trust. I know many of you enjoy the history of various falconers who have not only made an impact on falconry in the UK, but also on our lives in general.

Also, there is an article on one of our favourite quarry, the rabbit. This article has been penned by Nick Kester who has many years' experience on this species and hopefully more articles on the quarry we hunt will be published in the future.

I would also point you in the direction of page 6 where you will find the official DVD on the Festival of Falconry which was held in Abu Dhabi in 2011 and I would recommend you seek it out.

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](mailto:peter.eldrett@tiscali.co.uk)

## 'ORLA' - A WORK OF ART AND A WORTHWHILE INVESTMENT

**W**ildlife artist Colin Woolf has just released a new limited edition print, aimed at supporting the valuable conservation and rehabilitation work done by the Loch Lomond Bird of Prey Centre.

'Orla' is a pencil study of a golden eagle, showing amazing subtlety and detail, and reflecting the true character of the individual bird. Colin is known for his ability to capture birds' expressions, and this portrait conveys Orla's beauty and majestic power as well as a glimpse of her own personality.

The lady in question resides at Loch Lomond Bird of Prey Centre, which is owned and run by Stewart Robertson. Stewart's knowledge and dedication to his birds is combined with a remarkable success rate in the rehabilitation of sick and injured raptors; the impressive fitness of all the birds at the Centre testifies to Stewart's level of care.

As for Orla herself, she has appeared in several TV programmes, most recently when Stewart was interviewed on BBC2's Winterwatch Unsprung. She is fast establishing herself as a household name!

The new print is available now, and can be purchased through Colin's website, [www.wildart.co.uk](http://www.wildart.co.uk). The price is £35 including post and packing within the UK. 50% of the proceeds from all sales will go directly towards the Centre, helping it to continue its essential conservation work.

Loch Lomond Bird of Prey Centre is situated at Balloch, near Alexandria. It offers a wonderful day out for individuals and families, as well as a range of hands-on experiences. Resident birds range from diminutive owls to awe-inspiring falcons and



'Orla'

from a pencil study by  
Colin Woolf

eagles. More information can be found at [www.ilbopc.co.uk](http://www.ilbopc.co.uk).

One of the UK's leading wildlife artists, Colin Woolf is based in West Lothian. Hallmarks of his work are richly coloured landscapes, atmospheric skies and soft plumage.

Working in pure watercolour, Colin captures the essence of his wildlife subjects and brings them alive. He exhibits regularly at events such as

the CLA Game Fair (within the falconry area) and the Scottish Game Fair, and his paintings hang in collections worldwide. Colin is also known for his skill in painting woodcock with a woodcock's pin-feather, a talent which he demonstrates 'live' at shows and exhibitions.

Colin's website is updated regularly with new originals for sale.

For more information visit:  
[www.wildart.co.uk](http://www.wildart.co.uk)

# INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF FALCONRY DVD

Reviewd by Peter Eldrett

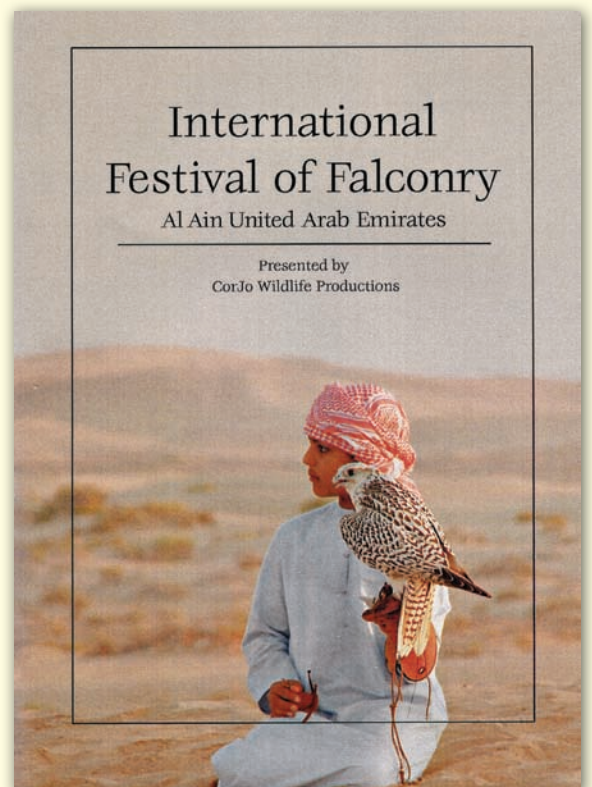
Watching this DVD brought back memories of attending the Festival of Falconry held in Abu Dhabi in December 2011. The DVD is produced and presented by Cordi Wildlife Productions and is another film in the portfolio of that company being expertly shot by Cordi Atkinson and is directed by both Cordi and her husband Joe.

The film, at only 20 minutes long, shows life in the desert camp where all the hawks were gathered before being transported to the festival showground in Al Ain. It was also a place for all the falconers from around the world to meet up and bond before the big event. Also, the film shows the hunting expeditions on camels – something I thankfully avoided – with local and visiting falconers going after the Desert Hare in the vastness of the desert.

Then we get a taste of life at the festival showground at the Jahili Fort in Al Ain and the spectacle of the sights and sounds of the visiting nations with their flags flying in the breeze. It also shows falconers from different countries wearing traditional costumes displaying their hawks and eagles in the main arena and horsemanship from riders from UAE.

Lastly, we see the parade of nations with all the colour and atmosphere that goes with falconers from around the world enjoying themselves as one big family with big smiles and glad to be part of such an event.

The DVD is available by visiting the web-site  
[www.joatkinsonseaglejournal.com](http://www.joatkinsonseaglejournal.com)



## Letter

Dear Peter

I read with great interest your interview with Steve and Emma Ford.

I had the privilege to attend my beginners and advance courses in falconry in 1985 and 1986 with Steve and Emma at Stelling Minnis which I thoroughly enjoyed. At the end there was an exam which I passed – but only just.

I have remembered most of what I was taught, for example if your bird goes missing and then you find your bird but she won't come to you, stay with her until dark,

then before it gets light the next morning, be there before she wakes up with a tasty morsel on the fist.

Briar, our Red Tailed Hawk, went missing and with the help of my husband John, we got her back.

I was taught to be kind and considerate to the bird and when we got home after hunting, Briar's needs always came first. So I say to Steve and Emma thank you for everything you taught me.

Yours sincerely  
Marion Aldridge

# GALLOWAY KITE TRAIL SPENDING 'WORTH £33M'

The Galloway Red Kite Trail is reckoned to be worth a large amount to the local economy. A new report has claimed a nature trail in southern Scotland has generated millions of pounds for the economy.

It has estimated visitors to the Galloway Kite Trail have spent a "minimum of £33m" in the region since its launch in 2003. The project is also credited with supporting the equivalent of nearly 15 full-time jobs a year.

The figures were collated during a placement for The Conservation Volunteers with RSPB Scotland.

The trail, which is a self-guided

tour circling Loch Ken near Castle Douglas, promotes a set of destinations for visitors, including red kite viewing sites, activities and local businesses.

It was set up following the successful re-introduction of red kites to Galloway after an absence of 130 years.

## Success story

The birds were persecuted to extinction in Scotland in the 19th century but have made a comeback, with the estimated Galloway population now standing at around 330 to 380 kites.

Since their reintroduction, the project has been supported by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH).

Chris Miles, SNH area manager, said: "The reintroduction of this species has been a great success story, with a self-sustaining population now slowly spreading out from the Loch Ken area.

"It's even more satisfying to know that this wildlife spectacle is also creating a real economic benefit.

"Projects like this perfectly illustrate why we'll be celebrating Scotland's outstanding natural heritage attractions in Year of Natural Scotland 2013."

# THE TOTNES SHOW FALCONRY VILLAGE

## SUNDAY 28TH JULY 2013

New for the 2013 Totnes Show, visit the Falconry Village and marvel at the sight and beauty of the majestic Birds of Prey on display.

The magnificent raptors on display in the Falconry Village will stand out as a fantastic memory of the 2013 show. A multitude of both native and Birds of Prey from around the world, gathered together on the show weathering lawn, a chance for a close encounter with a wide range of birds of prey, a dream opportunity for photographers and those interested in falconry.

The village encompasses a flying arena, a static display area, specialised falconry orientated stalls, static displays and resident local falconers. Falconry is a growth industry much admired by the public and now plays an interesting and important part of all Country fairs, to the point that a country show is incomplete without birds of prey on display.

The Falconry Village has two aims: to give visitors the thrill of spectacular flying and static displays, creating memories to last a lifetime and to create a wonderful area where visitors can meet the world of falconry, where they can enjoy and explore all aspects of the sport.

Local Falconry providers, Falconry Clubs and local falconers will add to the village having their birds on display and being on hand to answer any questions and queries. It is hoped that the event will attract would-be falconers giving them the chance to further explore the exciting world of falconry.

All applications for trade stands to Steve Hopper, "Hawkhurst", Hillside, South Brent, Devon, TQ10 9AY.  
E-mail:

[southhamshawks@owls.entadsl.com](mailto:southhamshawks@owls.entadsl.com)



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# A visit to The Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital



Main entrance to the hospital

If you are ever lucky enough to go to Abu Dhabi, a trip to the Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital (ADFH) is highly recommended.

The hospital is the first public institution in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to provide high quality veterinary care exclusively for falcons. It was established by Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi and was opened on 3 October 1999. It is the largest falcon hospital

in the world and sees more than 6,000 patients a year.

Since its inception, the hospital has emerged as one of the most reputed falcon hospitals in the Gulf region and is a leading centre for falcon medicine worldwide. The ADFH has an established and loyal patient base, and not just in UAE. Falconers from other countries such as Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait and Bahrain use the facilities at the hospital on a

regular basis. The falcons from these countries have their own passports so that they may travel to and from the hospital in a quick and easy fashion.

From the beginning, the facility has expanded in the fields of education and awareness, training and research. Due to huge demand from people with other avian species, the hospital provides not only for falcons but also other birds such as poultry, and has become a fully fledged





The hospital waiting room

specialized avian hospital since 2006, and in 2011 the ADFH started its own falcon breeding centre to meet the demands of its customers.

### ADFH and tourism

In 2007 the ADFH made the change to allow the general public in, as part of the UAE tourism programme. It has become one of the major tourist attractions in the Abu Dhabi Emirate and is constantly being promoted as a tourist destination. In fact, when I visited the hospital, not only were there falconers being shown around, but also members of the public. When you enter the hospital the first thing that you see is the reception area where (on my visit) were a number of falcons on long perches waiting to be seen by the vet and being accompanied by their falconers. We were shown how the falcons are dealt with in a large examination room by anaesthetising them so that the bird can be examined and also a sample of blood can be taken at the same time.

The blood sample is passed onto a laboratory next to the main examination room and is checked for any

abnormalities there and then. The falcon is then brought round within five minutes and is fully recovered in a short period of time with no ill effects of the anaesthetic.

ADFH has a large clinical examination room with multiple, advanced anaesthetic equipment where minor procedures like application of bandages, blood sampling, imping and coping can be done. Adjacent to it is the unique and highly modern Ophthalmology unit with the latest equipment and instruments that are used to diagnose diseases of the avian eye. They have a separate Falcon Pox unit with thermo-cautery apparatus and other equipment to treat cases of Avian Pox. This also ensures that the birds suffering from Avian Pox do not come in contact with other healthy birds or equipment used for other healthy birds.

There is also a large modern operating theatre which contains the latest equipment for endoscopy and soft/hard tissue surgery. It also has the facilities for digital recording of endoscopic videos. At ADFH, the latest orthopedic instruments for fracture surgery are also used. Also, they have an advanced patient monitoring apparatus with facilities for monitoring

patient blood pressure, ECG and oxygen perfusion. The latest laser technology rounds up their advanced surgery services.

The hospital's Digital Radiography unit is well equipped with an appropriate X-Ray machine and a fully automated radiograph developing apparatus. The professional handling of the digital radiography unit ensures the highest resolution of X-rays to detect even tiny fractures and to provide maximum safety to their patients, as well as the personnel working in the unit.

The ADFH laboratory has been expanded in the past years to provide the latest diagnostic tests for patients. Their modern and fully equipped in-house laboratory enables them to get accurate and fast diagnosis for all kinds of laboratory examinations. The fully equipped and high-technology laboratory caters for other external clients as well. It consists of facilities and equipment for blood haematology and biochemistry, parasitology, histopathology, microbiology, virology and advanced laboratory techniques. In 2007, the ADFH Laboratory was reconfirmed



Director Dr. Margit Muller showing a falcon passport

for the second time as Avian Influenza Reference Laboratory for Abu Dhabi Emirate. In 2008, new tests for pets were added to the wide range of laboratory services to provide a strong support for other veterinary clinics and hospitals.

### Vaccinations and more

ADFH offers vaccination for falcons against Newcastle Disease. It also undertakes mass-scale vaccinations in other species of birds in poultry farms, aviaries and other private collections of birds against various diseases affecting birds.

The hospital introduced the pre-purchase examination service for falcons in 2004. A complete check-up package for falcons prior to their purchase by their respective owners is on offer to ensure that the falcons are free of diseases such as Aspergillosis and bumblefoot, before the falcons are actually purchased. This check-up includes sampling of faecal, crop and blood as well as radiography and endoscopy. The pre-purchase examination helps in providing valuable information to the clients regarding the health condition of the birds that they want to purchase.

It has been discovered that one out of three hunting falcons suffer from eye injuries and diseases. In the ophthalmology unit they diagnose eye disease conditions, winning valuable time for an early and efficient treatment. Through the ophthalmologic expertise the falcon has a better chance to hunt again.

### Sheikh Zayed Falcon Release Programme

In 1995, the Falcon Release Programme was introduced by H.H. The Late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who was the first president of the United Arab Emirates. His idea was to release wild falcons back to the wild in order to preserve the natural falcon population. The Sheikh Zayed Falcon Release Programme is overseen by the Abu Dhabi





Falcon under anaesthetic

Falcon Hospital, which was established by the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi in 1999. The falcons are released back into the wild as part of an ambitious research programme to understand if migratory birds such as the Peregrines and Saker falcons can maintain the same migratory route after they have been used for falconry. It also helps EAD understand if falconry birds can be readapted to the wild, and how best to select and prepare them to ensure the greatest success rates.

The programme's objective is to return wild peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus*) and saker falcons (*Falco cherrug*) to their original habitat to increase the wild falcon population. The Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital is rehabilitating those wild falcons for release. In this great conservational effort so far more than 1,300 falcons have been released in release locations including Pakistan, Iran and Kazakhstan.

Every year during spring time, the falcons are taken from UAE to the release locations situated on the natural migration routes of wild falcons. The final release areas are carefully chosen in unpopulated regions and depend on the availability of

food like small birds and water e.g. rivers and lakes. Several falcons are fitted with satellite transmitters to monitor the flight paths and provide data about the survival rates of the released falcons.

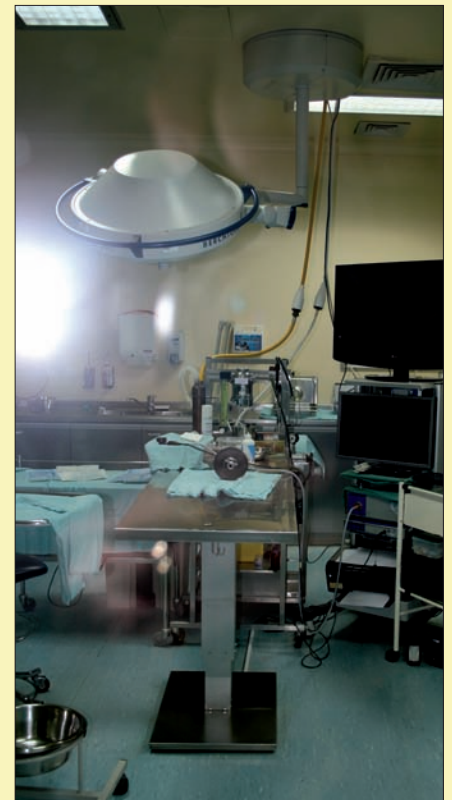
### Pet Care Centre

A major step was taken in July 2007 when the hospital was also opened as a pet care centre housing dogs and cats, and also offering a pet grooming service and dog training facilities. The dogs and cats also have the opportunity to be housed in exclusive kennels – or not so much kennels as more of an hotel. In 2008 a pet clinic was added to treat all kinds of pets to offer a one-stop-service to valued customers.

2001 saw the pet clinic expand to a large and modern small animal hospital with all the latest technology and equipment with the addition of a dog agility area in 2011.

This is a very impressive facility and I think it's just a shame that we don't have anything like this in the UK. When you consider there are about 25,000 falconers and bird of prey keepers in this country and we have people with the right experience and veterinary expertise, why

can't we have something on the same lines? I suppose it's down to that same old problem – lack of funds.



Operating theatre



# Minutes of the meeting of the Hawk Board held on 24th January, 2013

**T**he meeting was opened by the Chairman at 11am. Present were Jim Chick(JC), Pete Eldrett(PE), Mark Parker(MP), Graham Bennett(GB), Jean Dimond(JD), Derek Stotton(DS), Doreen Page(DP), Graham Irving(GI) and Mike Clowes(MC).

Apologies were received from Nick Fox, Jemima Parry-Jones, Andrew Knowles-brown, Terry Large, Gary Biddiss, Martyn Standley, John Hill, Nick Kester, Jim Collins, Lee Featherstone, Mike Hope, Mike Warren, Terry Burden and Mari-Anne Harstadt.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record. There were no matters arising.

## Treasurers Report

MC informed the meeting that at present both accounts were healthy. He had not received a further bill from the lawyers and is hoping the £1200 already paid has covered it. If this is the case then we will not be as much in the red in April as he first thought. DP has finally managed to

close the paypal account displayed on the website.

## Lantra Update

MC had not received anything in writing but had been asked to request the names of all club assessors who will be assessing the Module 4 from all clubs involved. As soon as this is done the Module can begin. Will all reps please send the information to MC asap.

## New Co-ordinators Job Description

The amended job description for the new co-ordinator prepared by MC was discussed and after a slight alteration was agreed by all present, see below.

## AHVLA/DEFRA Update

Elaine Kendall and Mark Baxter joined the meeting to discuss the wild/disabled issue. EK began by saying that since the last meeting the matters raised by the HB had been discussed and it was realized that the Board had a point. They were going to look again at injured birds which cannot be released and to start the process they will very shortly be writing a letter to the Board asking for help in producing guidelines to take forward. MB pointed out that the final decision would still lie with the Licensing team.

JC thanked them for the good news and mentioned that there was also a welfare issue involved. It would be excellent if this could be sorted out before the breeding season in April. EK confirmed

that NE, JNCC, DEFRA and AHVLA are all of a like mind. MB- Once the HB reply and ideas are received he will circulate it to all departments and it should be possible for a decision to be made by mid-April. GI asked about the use of a Veterinary certificate. This was discussed and MB replied that in certain circumstances a certificate may be advisable. To speed up matters a Working Group was formed consisting of JPJ, DS and MH.

GI -Caroline Rigg suggested at a meeting that Registration for non-releasables might be higher than normal. MB had no knowledge of this. He continued that Dominic was snowed under at the moment and whatever you were told has not happened and there is no reason why it should.

GI- Are the CITES increases on 6th April 25% followed by full cost recovery by 2015? MB will ask Dominic and let MC know.

GI- The COTES regs are to be updated by Spring 2013 but EK replied that it is unlikely to be in until April 2014.

## CA/CFF Updates

As Terry Large was not present and DP had not been sent any information there was no CFF update. MC read the below CA update from James Legge.

## Law Commission Review of Wildlife Law

The Law Commission consultation closed on 30 November 2012. A meeting

of hunting organisations, including the Hawk Board, was held at Old Town Hall on 14 November to discuss and finalise the Countryside Alliance's response and agree a common position. While there is much to be welcomed among the Commission's proposals there remain some very serious concerns, not least the current thinking with respect to animal welfare, 'vicarious liability' and the extension of recklessness. An initial report from the Law Commission is expected to be submitted to Defra this Spring with a final report and draft Bill to be published in mid 2014.

### **Environmental Audit Committee - Wildlife Crime**

The Environmental Audit Committee has made a number of recommendations to the Government on wildlife crime, in a report that was published on 18 October, 2012. The overarching theme from the report is that wildlife protection laws are overly complicated, affecting their practical application. The report makes recommendations for: An Order to protect birds from poisoning; continued long term funding for the National Wildlife Crime Unit; sentencing guidelines for judges on wildlife crime; and legislation to introduce vicarious liability for raptor persecution. The Government will now consider the recommendations. The Alliance has written to supporters on the Committee setting out those recommendations we support and those which we do not.

### **Boxing Day**

Boxing Day is the biggest day in the hunting calendar and Boxing Day 2012 showed once again the overwhelming support of local communities for their hunts in the face of the ban, with hundreds of thousands of people turning out either mounted or on foot. The Government remains committed to a free vote on the repeal of the Hunting Act at the appropriate moment. It is clear that the Act is a failure, a waste of police time and resources, public money and does nothing for animal welfare. Any debate on the Hunting Act could not fail to highlight yet again that the Act is illogical and illiberal and should be repealed at the earliest opportunity. In the Commons, amongst MPs whose constituents are affected by this law in England and Wales,

support for hunting and opposition to the Hunting Act is the highest it has ever been with a clear majority in favour of repeal.

### **Prosecutions**

Heythrop Hunt, Oxfordshire Masters Richard Sumner and Nessie Lambert, Huntsman Julian Barnfield and Whipper-in Duncan Hame, and the Heythrop Hunt Ltd were summonsed on 52 separate allegations in a private prosecution by the RSPCA. On 17 December 2012 at Oxford Magistrates' Court, Julian Barnfield, Richard Sumner and the Heythrop Hunt Ltd each pleaded guilty to four Hunting Act offences. All other charges including all those against Vanessa Lambert and Duncan Hame were dropped. The significant Defendant's Costs Order was awarded from central funds. The total RSPCA prosecutions costs were £326,980.23 which district judge Pattinson described as "a quite staggering figure." He also suggested that "the public may feel RSPCA funds could have been more usefully employed."

### **Holderness Hunt, East Yorkshire**

Master Charles Clarke, huntsman David Elliot and amateur whip Philip Walker have been charged with one count each of illegal hunting on 21 January 2012 near the village of Aike. The trial was originally set for 16 and 17 January 2013 at Beverley Magistrates' Court, however the District Judge was not available. A new trial date has not yet been set.

### **Weston and Banwell Harriers, Somerset**

Joint-Master George Milton has been charged in relation to one allegation of illegal hunting in February 2012. The trial is set for 8 April 2013 at Taunton Magistrates' Court.

### **Avon Vale Hunt, Wiltshire**

Five members of the Avon Vale Hunt have been summonsed by the RSPCA in a private prosecution under the Hunting Act 2004. Masters Stuart Radbourne and Jonathon Seed, and supporters Joshua Charlesworth, Benjamin Pethers and Paul Tylee-Hinder all pleaded not guilty when they appeared before magistrates in Chippenham on 25 September. No trial date has been set.

### **Natural Resources Wales**

Natural Resources Wales is the name of the new body amalgamating the Environment Agency, Countryside Council for Wales and the Forestry Commission. The structure is now in place, the Non-Executive Board Members have recently been announced, and Rachel Evans, Countryside Alliance Wales Director, will be contacting them.

### **A.O.B.**

MC reminded the meeting that the CLA Game Fair is being held at Ragle Hall 19th-21st July. He has just been asked to begin organizing the Falconry event. At present there is no sponsor. He will be sending out an e-mail shortly to the clubs who will be invited to attend. Most of the original CFF supporters are returning to the fold now that the FF has returned to its original dates and thanks to John Hill's efforts. We will be attending the FF as usual.

MP had enjoyed the meeting and would like to attend again with JPJ.

JD outlined the incident in N. Wales where a members Harris's Hawk had killed a chicken in a farm yard and been shot by the farmer. Police and other legal advice is that it is a civil matter.

GI informed everyone that there are 3 investigations going on involving Goshawk chicks being moved without documentation. He was also cleared to attend the next PAW meeting as it is booked but future meetings will be decided on in relation to the relevance to the HB.

## **Meetings:**

The Hawk Board meetings take place four times a year in Bristol so if you have a subject you wish to raise, contact your club representative or an elected member. We work for you, so let us know what is important.

# Gulls Galore!



Gulls, gulls and more gulls

**Y**ou may have read recently of Mark Collins Gull hawking on the South Downs. My early introduction to longwings was with Mark when he showed me some crow hawking on the Downs. Since then I have trained about eight longwings to crows. However, I had never specifically trained a falcon to gulls and had not appreciated them as a quarry. Only one of my falcons has acquired the skill herself. There are three different types of gull hawking

which I've seen and they are all different in approach and technique. On the Downs is one, as Mark related.

The other two are a) in semi-enclosed farmland such as we have in the South of England and b) landfill clearance.

## **Farmland Gulls**

Most fields in the South of England average 60 acres, with occasional ones of 100 acres and many at 40 acres or less. Nevertheless if they are suitable gulls will be attracted to ploughed or

grass fields at different times of the year depending what food source it holds for them. Plough holds invertebrates - worms especially - and summer paddocks, golf courses or sports fields hold emerging crane flies. Gulls can often be seen 'paddling' the grass with one or both feet, as a technique to bring these invertebrates to the surface. It was one late spring when I was flying my three year old peregrine x saker falcon over some over these smaller farm fields containing sheep hoping she would spot a



Small section of landfill gulls – they often number over 1,000

crow at distance and stoop it, as was her method. Well indeed she did put in a fine corkscrew stoop some 500 yards from me and did not come up. So I had to go and find her. To my complete surprise she was amid a huge pile of white feathers pluming her first gull.

Since that time I have learned that she can hear the gulls whilst in the hood, long before she sees them, when they are on the ground a couple of fields away. When she detects them, she will take off in the opposite direction to their location, climb nicely and then head over to where they are. This long run in at height means she clearly knows the advantage of being above them on her approach and can dominate the sky. Not something you can teach a bird, but once found out by learning they will repeat often. As the gulls take off in panic the falcon has to make her strike before the gulls reach about 100 feet, above which they have good manoeuvrability. These single species flocks number 10 to 50

usually. The falcon stoops hard and hits a gull breaking a wing usually, or knocking it out before it hits the ground. I've seen the falcon take them up to a good height trying to isolate a weak one, but she has never chased them in a pursuit style if they have the better of her. If a singleton has been picked out she will repeatedly stoop it into the ground to avoid it getting height and therefore getting away. These seem to be inherently weak birds for some reason and they are taken near to the ground.

This all seems fairly straight forward, doesn't it? I had to describe it though in order to demonstrate the difference between that and the other style.

#### Landfill Gulls

I was first shown the method of scaring the gulls at a landfill site several years ago by a falconer that I know locally. The first difference is the scale; both of the ground and the number of gulls. Landfill sites can be several hundred acres and will attract

several thousand gulls in the cold months (October to March), mere hundreds in summer.

My host explained some things about gulls which likens them to crows as quarry, showing they have a sense of routine, timing and recognition. Landfill gulls (typically Herring, Black headed, Lesser black back and Greater black back) arrive in sub-flocks early in the morning probably having roosted on a reservoir if not on the coast. Whenever a new sub-flock arrives there is a lot of shouting between the two groups, so when there are about a thousand gulls this noise alone is a nuisance, never mind the obvious! If there is a wind the gulls will surf the sky and keep a look out.

What they are looking out for is food and predators. It has been demonstrated to me that they recognise certain types of trucks which arrive bearing waste containing food scraps. At the sight of one they will lower their circling pitch and start making approaches to find a

landing place at their table. Often they don't land, but just grab-and-go. How they spot a sandwich crust in tons of rubbish, lower down, grab it and eat it on the run I don't know. Now consider there might be 500+ all doing this at the same time whilst shouting abuse at each other "that's mine leave it alone", I hope you get the picture. Now is the time to launch the falcon.

### Concentrating on food

Although there may be a thousand eyes keeping a look out for a predator, their immediate concentration is on obtaining food so they do not see the falcon immediately. Setting a falcon into such a crowd of quarry with large beaks may sound like a daft thing to do. However, gulls turn and run, not like crows which may turn and fight. The gulls know they are vulnerable so look for an exit, but it is not an orderly procession.

Experienced falcons will be able to make a direct approach into the flock and use this panic to pick out a weakling, a youngster not used to evading a predator or she will simply drive them higher and further away.

On one occasion I saw a falcon drive down a Herring gull and when it was close to the ground she grabbed its head in the same manner a Red Tail would handle a squirrel! The falcon was not intimidated by the fact that the gull's wing span was far larger than hers. When gulls see this happen (i.e. one is caught) they will often not return at all for the rest of the day. This is another difference between gulls and crows. Crows will return to their territory after a suitable break of an hour or so.

### Detering the gulls

At these sites the objective is to keep the gulls away, not necessarily to take one every time a falcon is slipped. As I said, the gulls are as intelligent as crows, and they get to recognise certain routines. They will even recognise certain falconers' vehicles arriving, which will make them move away temporarily. They certainly recognise a falconer despite wearing the same hi-vis and hard hats as everyone else in the place and I think they even recognise the pre-flight routine the falconer makes before a falcon is picked up and flown!

The gulls are very well attuned to the different flight styles of the individual falcons. Clearly one cannot adopt the same slipping approach as is done with farmland gulls described above as the falcon cannot be slipped far away enough. It is the way the falcon flies that determines how quickly she (or he) can get on terms with them, intimidate them, or simply fly around them. My observation is that the gulls can always tell the intent of the falcon, i.e. how earnestly it is flying at them and therefore how much they are at risk. The gulls' vocalisation changes tone when a predator is loose amongst them, and even more so if a gull is taken.

In cold weather gulls may return to feed every thirty to forty minutes, so either you need enough slips out of your team of falcons or other methods need to be considered.

Once gulls recognise which falcons are the most deadly, it may only be necessary to have this falcon on your fist but position yourself so that you are between the flight approach run the gulls have to make and their landing place (i.e. the rubbish).

This depends on wind direction, so it will change. Sometimes wild Buzzards seem to scare them off, but this cannot be relied upon as the Buzzards themselves are seeking scraps from the rubbish! Red Kites are also learning the scavenging art and make regular appearances.

This picture below was taken when the Kite flew across a landfill site where the tiercel crossing above it was chasing away a large flock of Black headed gulls. The Red Kite later found refuge with the flock of gulls, and headed south alongside them.

Apparently the Kite spent a lot of time circling above where the gulls were feeding but was reluctant to land itself. In many countries both the Red and the Black Kite can be seen as scavengers on landfill sites.

Amongst the turmoil of the fleeing gulls, there are beneficiaries. It is not the owners of the parked vehicles who now need to clean them, nor is it necessarily the falcon. It is the crows who mop up the disgorged scraps that the gulls were carrying, or had swallowed before their dining was interrupted.

Time to launch the crow hawk!



Red Kite avoiding the line of fire



# Barn Owls Still Thriving On Nature-Friendly Farms

In one of Britain's worst ever years for wildlife, Barn Owls numbers have bucked the trend by increasing on nature-friendly farms. An ongoing Conservation Grade research project, run in conjunction with the Barn Owl Conservation Network (BOCN), saw Barn Owls occupying an unprecedented four-fifths of nest boxes on participating Conservation Grade farms last year.

Furthermore, over two thirds of the nesting birds bred, producing on average almost two and a half offspring for each pair.

With Conservation Grade farms growing commercial crops alongside specific wildlife habitats, Colin Shawyer,

head of the BOCN, said the positive results were largely down to the rich feeding habitats - but also because the birds were able to nest near their food supply.

"We're expecting the overall national picture for 2012 to show the numbers of Barn Owl chicks surviving to adulthood will have been slashed by two thirds thanks to the appalling weather, which will have prevented them feeding their chicks," he explained. "That's what makes these results on Conservation Grade farms so rewarding.

"Having the right habitats to support the birds' prey is critical to their survival, but as Barn Owls are quite 'sedentary' and like hunting close to home, it's also important to have the nesting site and feeding site within easy reach.

"With such a high occupancy rate in these boxes, the indications are that - weather permitting in 2013 - breeding numbers will continue to increase above existing levels, which are already among some of the best in the country."

Brin Hughes, Conservation Grade's farm advisor, says most agri-environment schemes specify grassland areas, but it's also important to have nesting sites close to the habitats.

"The right mix of tussocky, rough grass provides shelter and food supply for the small mammals Barn Owls like to feed on, so getting that right has a beneficial knock-on effect right up the food chain. The Conservation Grade protocol specifies two per cent of land should be put down to these types of grasses, and four per cent to pollen and nectar mixes, which also supports small mammals. But we also strongly encourage the setting up

of these nesting boxes nearby."

The study is now monitoring 140 boxes over 77 potential Barn Owl territories on Conservation Grade farms across England, and will continue this year. For more information go to [www.naturefriendlyowls.org](http://www.naturefriendlyowls.org)

## Quirky owl facts

- The Latin name for Barn Owl is *Tyto alba* - literally meaning "white night owl".
- Barn Owls don't hoot - they screech!
- One owl ear is higher than the other, so they can pinpoint the sound and movement of small mammals hidden beneath rough grassland.
- A wild Barn Owl eats about four small animals per night - that's 1,460 every year - making them a farmer's friend as they help control crop-eating pests.
- Barn Owls often swallow small animals, like mice, whole and then regurgitate tough parts like fur and bone.
- A group of owls is called a parliament, wisdom or study. Baby owls are called owlets.
- The young owlets fly when they are about eight weeks old.
- Wild Barn Owls tend to live for two to three years, although a Barn Owl in the Netherlands was recorded as living to 18 years.
- Owls cannot move their eyeballs, but can turn their faces upside down and look behind their backs.
- Owls have been found in the fossil record up to 58 million years ago. The largest recorded owl fossil stood about three feet tall - that's about the same as a Great Dane dog!



A portrait of a young man in a military uniform, wearing a dark beret and a green jacket with a pilot's wing emblem on the left chest. The background is a textured, light-colored wall.

# Richard De Clanay Grant-Rennick

1923 – 2004

Part I

We  
were  
Falconers

**T**he tug aircraft, a Halifax Bomber specially fitted out to tow gliders into the sky lurched forward on the runway at Tarrant Rushton in Dorset. The men in the Hamilcar Glider felt the jolt as they moved off and tensed slightly as the enormous glider gained speed and then finally broke free of the earth. As they took off no one spoke, each deep in their own thoughts, for today was 6th June 1944 and D Day had commenced early that morning. They were heading for Normandy as part of Operation TONGA and were to land behind Sword Beach on the eastern flank of the invasion forces

The Hamilcar Glider was an engineless aircraft with a transport compartment measuring approximately 33 feet by eight feet. It was designed to carry tanks and heavy equipment into battle in support of airborne troops. Space was often so tight in the glider that the men had to ride inside their tanks.

The men onboard this day were soldiers of A Squadron, part of the 6th Airborne Division. They were, in fact, the 6AARR (6th Airborne Armoured Reconnaissance Regiment). They had all earned the coveted Maroon Beret and each man wore the shoulder flash of Bellerophon riding the winged horse Pegasus. Bellerophon, from Greek mythology was the first airborne warrior. Their nickname was the Red Devils.

### History being made

The 6AARR were making history this day as it was the first time that tanks had ever been flown into battle by air. Onboard each Hamilcar Glider was one of A Squadron's Tetrach Light Tanks. In total 20 Hamilcars went airborne, taking off 30 seconds apart from Tarrant Rushton, each being pulled by a rope 350 feet in length by the Halifax Bombers.

The gliders rose into the air reaching their required altitude and headed direct to Normandy. As they levelled out the men relaxed, spoke and told jokes. Some checked equipment, some rested and some smoked cigarettes. One man, a Captain, the second in command of A Troop, started singing a hymn. With his encouragement it was not long before they were all singing hymns, the most stirring of all being Jerusalem. The Captain responsible for the airborne



Tank coming out of Hamilcar glider

choir was Richard De Clanay Rennick.

Just over one hour into the flight there was a sudden jerk. The singing stopped and the noise of the Halifax engines faded. Then there was just silence apart from the faint swishing of air over the Glider's wings. The tug rope had been released. The Glider then banked and soon after started its descent.

As they flew over the coast of Normandy the ack-ack guns opened up on them and they could see the tracer bullets shooting up from the ground. They dropped lower and lower heading for Landing Zone N. Landings in Gliders were not easy. It was dangerous and unpredictable. The Gliders were flying close together and there was danger on the ground. Wooden poles had been driven into the ground by the Germans to deliberately damage gliders on landing. The men of A Squadron braced themselves for the impact that they knew was coming.

The pilots of these gliders were exceptional men. All were volunteers and the majority of them were NCOs. They were members of the Glider Pilot Regiment and had trained for just this very moment. Their motto was 'Nothing is Impossible'. Just minutes after 9.00 pm they hit the ground outside of Ranville. The noise was horrendous as the Glider sped along the ground hitting trees and bushes, the men trusting in God that they wouldn't collide with an already

landed Glider or maybe even one crash into them from behind. Soldiers were thrown about as the Glider bounced along the ground causing minor injuries to some of them. Finally they came to a stop. Captain Rennick, shouting to make himself heard, rallied the men into action. In the fading light of the day they drove their Tetrach Tank out of the Glider and into hostile territory.

The enemy reacted to this immediately. Rennick and his men soon found themselves under mortar and small arms fire. Fortunately the firing was neither concentrated nor accurate and they safely left the Landing Zone. The Divisional Commander, Major-General Richard "Windy" Gale, later wrote about the arrival of the second lift: "It is impossible to say with what relief we watched this reinforcement arrive."

From the time they landed they were continually out on Recce patrols and supporting infantry when needed in the Tetrach Tank. Captain Rennick did not remain at the Divisional HQ. He was with his men as Troop Leader and would regularly join one of the three Troops in the tank. They often came under mortar and artillery fire and were continually in action throughout May, June and July.

In early August 1944 A Squadron swapped their Tetrach Tanks for Cromwell's and formed into two Troops, 1 and 2. Both Troops were continually in action throughout the rest of the war.

### A Squadron in support

At 1530 hours on 22nd August, A Squadron were ordered to support the 13th Parachute Battalion in an attack east of Pont L'Eveque to cover the bridging operations. Captain Rennick with I Troop reports on that day that following the ford made by the Royal Engineers, the Troop had crossed the stream. Several targets presented themselves and these were engaged. By this time the town was burning and the tanks in danger from flaming ruins. Estimated casualties inflicted on the enemy were three killed and the occupants of one pillbox. Casualties sustained by the troop were on a single Cromwell hit by 20mm gun which damaged the shock absorbers but there were only minor injuries to the crew.

The following day they were back in Pont L'Eveque assisting 5 Para and then covering their withdrawal.

It was on the 25th August when both A and B Squadrons were sent to support

troops around Beuzeville. It was also the day that would change the life of Captain Rennick forever.

A Squadron was supporting 8 Para and Captain Rennick was with I Troop. Their tank, along with others, advanced to a position from where they were able to cover by fire the approach of the infantry into a farm. The leading tank, with Captain Rennick, was halted by an obstacle but they continued to fire on a suspected 20mm enemy gun position. Whilst Captain Rennick was looking for a way around the obstacle, a German sniper opened fire and Captain Rennick was shot in the head.

### Too young to die

Severely injured but conscious, he was taken to the Field Hospital for treatment. That evening whilst drifting in and out of consciousness he heard the words of the medical staff, "do you think he'll last the night?" "No Sister, and him so young too". Hearing those words spurred him

on to live. Captain Rennick was only 21 years old, too young to die.

For weeks Rennick was in a coma, his life waning and waxing, his prognosis dire. His Commanding Officer Lt. Colonel Godfrey Stewart wrote to his father:-

Dear Colonel Rennick,

I am writing to let you know that Richard was wounded the day before yesterday, I am afraid rather badly. He was supporting infantry with a troop of tanks and put his head out of the turret to try and find a way over on a crater in a narrow lane. A Sniper jumped out of the ditch and shot him in the head.

He was perfectly conscious and very angry when they got him to the R.A.P. I saw the M.O. who told me that though he was on the dangerously ill list he had been hit in the least dangerous part of the head so we all have great hopes for his recovery.

That I am afraid is all the news I can give you so far. They normally evacuate all head cases to England, so you may likely hear more than we shall, but will let you know anything I can find out.

I can't tell you how sorry I am to lose him, he was always keen and cheerful and was easily my best tank officer over a Country. When he has more time to develop administrative experience he will make a very good officer indeed.

I little thought when I was stationed at (?) with the 13th 18th I would have Richard as one of my officers.

Please let me know if there is anything else I can do. General Gale is trying to get the latest news.

Yours sincerely,  
Godfrey Stewart

The young man lying limply on the hospital cot, Richard De Clanay Rennick, was born on 17th July 1923 at Stratton Street, London, just a stone's throw from Hyde Park. His father was Colonel Alexander De Clanay Rennick, the last white Colonel of the Punjab Horse. His mother was Violet Helen Grant of Lichborough Hall, Northamptonshire. He had one sister, Prudence, who was younger than him. For the first eight years of his life he lived in India. Rennick's sporting interests, without doubt, came from his parents. His father was a fine polo player, pig sticker, and big game shot. He acquired some fame by being



Grant with a Kestrel



Grant with his sister Prudence

the first man to shoot a specimen of the Asiatic Wapiti in Tibet. Rennick's mother showed hacks, rode side saddle and also drove a four in hand which was a notable feat for a woman at that time.

### Education

Rennick was educated at Winchester and then Trinity College in Oxford. At both he showed more interest in sports and hunting than he did in schooling. He was a natural athlete, played all ball games well, and also boxed. It was also at Trinity College that he was first introduced to flying hawks. On entering Trinity College, in 1941, Rennick was just 18 years old. He spent only one year at Trinity, leaving when the age to join the armed forces was lowered from 21 to 18. Rennick promptly joined the Royal Armoured Corps as a trooper but this did not last long as, in July of 1942, he entered the

Royal Military College at Sandhurst as a cadet. His time at Sandhurst appears to be uneventful. There is no record of him flying hawks whilst he was there as had previous cadets such as Robert Barber and Kim Muir.

Rennick left Sandhurst on New Year Day 1943 and was commissioned the following day into the Airborne Light Tank Squadron. The squadron was part of the 1st Airborne which had been formed in October 1941 and were the first to wear the Maroon Beret. He immediately trained as a Parachutist and was, for a year and a half, involved in general military exercises and learning tank strategy in preparation for the invasion of France. He did however find time to pursue his sporting interests and did find himself in trouble when he was caught coursing on Salisbury Plain when he should have been training. His time on

the ground in France, as noted, left him badly wounded, but in time he came out of his coma, and in more time his body healed but not perfectly so. His right arm was virtually useless for the remainder of his life, and his left leg was troublesome as well.

After leaving the Army Rennick took up farming on the family estates in Northamptonshire. Despite having an unusable right arm his spirits and his love of country sports weren't dampened. He was determined to carry on shooting and acquired a Wilkes 16 bore which was adapted with a pistol grip and he learned to shoot from the left shoulder. In his own words, he shot 'reasonably adequately'.

In 1949 Rennick married Mary Barnardo. Her father was Doctor Barnardo, a nephew of Doctor Thomas John Barnardo, the founder of Barnardo's Homes for children. They had three children, Clare (1951) Catriona (1953) and Simon (1957).

In 1953, knowing he was the presumptive heir to Lichborough Hall and its estates, as well as the titles "Lord of the Manor of Lichborough" and "Patron of the Living of Maidford", which would come to him through his maternal aunt Edith Muriel Grant, he added the Grant name to his in her honour. An announcement in The Times of 10 February 1953 noted that henceforth he "wishes it to be known that by DEED POLL he ASSUMED the SURNAME of GRANT-RENNICK in lieu of his former surname of RENNICK." In December 1965 his aunt passed away and he came into his inheritance.

The 60's and 70's in particular were exceptionally busy for Grant-Rennick. He was a member of many clubs and associations in relation to field sports. Between 1966 and 1970 he was Chairman of the Grafton Hunt Supporters Association. He was a member of the Wildfowlers' Association of Great Britain and Ireland (now known as the British Association for Shooting and Conservation) and the British Field Sports Society which in 1997 became part of the Countryside Alliance. He was also at one stage the Gloucestershire Regional Secretary for the Game Conservancy

Grant-Rennick was also a very keen coursing man and member and steward of the Cotswold Coursing Club and



**Birth of the Hawk Trust**

member of the Oxford, Yeoville and Somerset Coursing Clubs. He owned several dogs all of which had the initials GR, to wit, Great Risk, Grim Reality and Granny's Ruin.

### **Love for the countryside**

In 1967 Grant-Rennick's life took a different course. His love of the countryside, his passion for conservation, his love of birds in general, steered him in a new direction. Following a meeting with Sir Peter Scott at what was then The Wildfowl Trust, which had been formed in 1946, he started working as a fundraiser. His commitment to this was second to none. During the three years he spent with the Wildfowl Trust he contacted over 1000 people which included heads of industry, leading politicians, city institutions and ordinary countrymen. He covered over 86,000 miles a year and had a target of £300,000.

Grant-Rennick's first love, though, was falconry and birds of prey. He may have first been introduced to them as a young boy when his father was stationed in India. At Cambridge, before joining the army, he did some hawking. His war injury, however, made it very difficult

to continue in falconry to the extent he wished after he was demobbed and moved back to Northamptonshire. This was very dispiriting.

### **Birth of the Hawk Trust**

In May 1967, however, Phillip Glasier opened The Falconry Centre in Newent, Gloucestershire. Some months after the opening Grant-Rennick drove to the centre in his Morris 1000 and met with Phillip, his daughter Jemima Parry-Jones and Martin Jones, who he always referred to as 'Boy'. That meeting gave him an entry back into the world of falconry and led to the formation of an organisation benefitting birds of prey that is now known world wide.

A formal meeting to organize this new raptor society took place at The Yew Tree in Cliffords Mesne, near Newent. Present were Phillip Glasier, Jemima Parry-Jones, Richard Grant-Rennick, Martin Jones, Geoff Hodson and John Brown. Martin recalls that Grant-Rennick was very enthusiastic about the project that was forming. They discussed the conservation of birds of prey in general and raising awareness of them with the public. They also discussed breeding of

birds of prey in captivity to show that it can be done. They would commence with the more common species so that they could learn more before moving on to the species that were threatened with the view of releasing them into the wild. The organisation needed a name. "Friends of Phillip" was a starting point but this was soon changed to "Friends of the Falconry Centre". Neither Glasier nor Grant-Rennick was really happy with this name. Grant-Rennick discussed this problem with Sir Peter Scott. Scott said, "Well the "Wildfowl Trust" has worked well for us, why not call it "The Hawk Trust"? And so, in 1969, The Hawk Trust was formed. The Chairman was Glasier and Vice Chairman was Grant-Rennick and the Hon. Secretary Jane Fenton.

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With thanks to: Simon Grant-Rennick, British Falconers' Club, Jane Fenton, The Hawk and Owl Trust, The Hawk Board, The Royal Military College Sandhurst, Vassar College, *The Shooting Times*, Jemima Parry-Jones, Martin Jones, *The Times*, Natalie Nicholson, The Grafton Hunt, Pegasus Archive, *Northampton & County Independent* and Lynn Beecroft.

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# Rabbit

## A Noble, Underestimated and Diminishing Quarry

**W**hen your editor called me for a falconry article, I countered with a suggestion that the humble rabbit would be a better subject. Luckily he agreed. The idea was triggered by three factors: firstly, a thread in the British Falconers' Club forum (which you cannot read unless you are a club member); secondly, an excellent article in *Shooting Times* by that stalwart of rabbit hawking, austringer Roy Bebbington; and finally, my own local and personal experiences.

A bit of history. When I was a boy at boarding school in Kent in the early 1960s, we kept ferrets for sport and to supplement the dire, post-rationing food that such establishments believed was sufficient for hungry, growing, testosterone-fuelled youth. We were not the best backwoods' cooks but it made for a bit of campfire experience using billycans 'half-inched' from the army corps' storeroom. But all that was about to change. In 1953 myxomatosis was introduced to West Sussex and, if the history books are to be believed, by 1955 some 95% of British rabbits

were wiped out. I dispute the speed of its spread because when I was at school there were sufficient until about 1963 when I can vividly remember the first job each games afternoon was the clearing and despatching of dead and dying rabbits from the pitches; a heart breaking task and one that put me off eating rabbit for many years. A maths master who delighted in calculating absurd but entertaining sums – how many matchboxes would fit into the swimming pool, etc – posed a problem. If a pair of rabbits bred without fatality for ten years, how many would there be? His answer



A very fit rabbit on the run





The Harris Hawk. A hawk favoured by many for rabbits

was an alarming eight million. No wonder they reached pest proportions so rapidly in Australia.

### Resilient rabbits

But rabbits are resilient to say the least and when I became a falconer over 30 years ago, there was once again a harvestable population. The disease is spread by a flea (hares are not infected) and some rabbits recover and become temporarily immune, as does a proportion of their offspring, but the third generation is susceptible so the cycle restarts. And given that rabbits breed like, well, rabbits, all this happens several times a year. Warm wet summers seem to worsen matters, and high population density does much the same. *The Private Life of the Rabbit* by Ronald Lockley (1964) should be required reading for all who aspire to hunt rabbits in any way. Forget the fact that it was a trigger for *Watership Down*, and read it for the facts rather than any resultant anthropomorphic fiction. Also to be read is *The Rabbit in the Fur, Feather and Fin* series by J E Harting (1898), which contains a section on hawking and some very good Lodge illustrations, and no, you

cannot borrow my prized first edition. It is inscribed to one Archie Wavell at Winchester College in November 1898 who turns out to be Field Marshal Earl Wavell, viceroy and governor of India. Was he also a falconer or just a countryman?

As Roy Bebbington notes in his *Shooting Times* article, some falconers turn up their noses at flying goshawks at rabbits, suggesting that they are best left to the Harris hawkers. This is rubbish. The rabbit is a brilliant and sporting quarry and if flown properly with respect and understanding can easily show a goshawk a clean pair of heels. Roy uses pointing dogs on the high hills of North Yorkshire and has done so for thirty years. The key is to give sufficient law – don't stand on top of the point or, when ferreting, the warren, but let the dog do the work and give the rabbit a chance to get speed up. They are fast, agile and when hard-pressed have the wonderful ability to stop suddenly with the goshawk overshooting. Good goshawks are persistent rabbit hunters. I fly my goshawk with sometime contributor to this magazine, Di Spittle. Her goshawk, Eddie, has been known to get off the

ground three times in pursuit of a rabbit and still secure it. You need good ground where rabbits feed a distance from the buries to achieve this sort of heart-thumping flight.

The bad news is that the recovered population (post myxi) took another hit in the 1990s when viral haemorrhagic disease (VHD) arrived from China where it was first noted in 1983. This virus is transmitted quickly and with devastating results. Rabbits die within four days with no external signs of illness, often underground. It is said to be blown on the breeze, so a prevailing south westerly moves it up the western side of Britain. Morbidity is alarming at between 90-100%. Talking to falconers, who know their quarry better than most, one day a hill is heaving with rabbits and the next weekend there are none. I remember entering a wood one afternoon to find the ground littered with corpses stretched out in rigor mortis as if they had been struck down in full flight. It was a depressing sight. Even as far north as Scotland falconers are reporting a severe decline and those that take an annual holiday north of the border are having to re-think.



The Goshawk is a terrific hawk to use on rabbits

Interestingly, when I used to hawk grouse in Lewes with John Fairclough, and was keen and fit, we would do rabbits with a gos in the morning. It was rabbit paradise as the only ground predator was a declining population of mink (post fur-farming days) and eagles and buzzards in the skies. Then myxi struck and within four years we were struggling, which reduced the prey for the birds of prey forcing them to go for grouse, making game hawking very difficult all round. I should like to go back one day and see if things have changed. Perhaps the rabbits are back.

### Declining rabbit population

But there are other reasons for a declining population, particularly here in West Wales. We have had four dreadful summers with last year being the worst (and not just for us). A good falconer

monitors the ground all year round and can predict what the coming season is going to bring. Welsh rabbits are transitory once the breeding season is over.

They move to dry ground and better grazing in autumn and winter. But during the summer they are tied to breeding grounds. In years past, farmers were permitted to leave carcasses to be tidied up by wild scavengers both aerial and terrestrial. We have an exploding population of kites, buzzards and corvids who are being denied the chance to clean up fallen stock, which now has to be removed to a meat rendering plant. The same applies to foxes and badgers. One night some years ago I had an old ewe die on one of my top fields and when I checked the following morning most of the flesh was gone, and within three days there was nothing left but the skull and

spine. Today that doesn't happen and yet the carnivores must eat. Badgers are a particular problem, not just because of TB, but they excavate the nest stops and devour the newborn rabbits. You can tell because it looks like a JCB has been at work.

Over hunting can also be a problem. Falconers are not greedy but they can be. When I worked in the Middle East an Arab falconer told me that the problem with his race was not their desire to conserve quarry which as nomads was a force of circumstance: they fed and then moved slowly on with camel and tent. But rather it was mechanisation that caused the loss of quarry.

The ability to move quickly meant that huge areas could be decimated in a season, and the failure to leave something for future years is now coming back to bite them. In Wales there is a derogatory term used by some. A 'valley boy' is one who takes out everything in one area with lamp, gun or dog without feeling or consideration then moves on – a nomad with attitude. This is why there are so few hare down here and rabbits are going the same way. The problem is that whilst a farmer will happily let you have access to his land there is no guarantee that you will have exclusive rights. I have lost much good land this way.

### Rabbits here to stay

But rabbits are born survivors. They have been here since roman times and doubtless populations vacillated several times during the intervening years. There was a time when poaching one could send you to Australia, then, not that much later, years when a bounty was paid. There even used to be tannery down here in Pembrokeshire that sent skins to London for the fur trade. No one wants the plague which one landowner in Kent described as a grey carpet along the woodland edge each night

Once our hawking paradise on the marshes was so infested that daily shoots of eight hundred were not uncommon.

I desperately need rabbits for my sport, and I'm not alone. So I pray for several things this summer. Good weather, low myxi, nil VHD and farmers who learn to say no to those without consideration for this our most enduring quarry. Please join me and raise a glass to the not-so-humble rabbit.

# Beginners Bird to the King of Birds

If there is anything more satisfying to a falconer, than training and flying his or her own hawks, then it must be the pleasure and satisfaction gained from watching someone whom you have mentored from day one, evolve into a confident and competent practitioner of our ancient art. Such has been my experience from the day over 25 years ago when one Steve Skinner turned up on my doorstep.

Steve had recently returned home from Australia but while living in the land of the kangaroo, had read a copy of Blaine's falconry and the seed was sown. Whilst renewing old friendships, Steve was introduced to one of my brothers and heard all about my falconry exploits and promptly tracked me down. It was immediately clear to me that Steve was serious about taking up the sport, so I suggested that he start with a captive bred Common Buzzard which would be available in a few months time.

## Helping hands

Meanwhile I helped with housing and other essentials as well as providing patterns for bow perches which Steve had no trouble making due to being a skilled metal worker. The first thing that became apparent about this particular student was the way he did exactly as he was shown, as apposed to coming up with annoying idea's and theories of his own, as so many novice's tend to do. Indeed, I said to more than one person at the time, that if I had told Steve he needed a double decker bus in order to become a falconer, he would have turned up at the wheel of a red or green one within days

With everything in place it was soon time to collect the young buzzard and the manning and training proceeded smoothly, and soon the bird was flying free. Entering proved much more difficult but with a lot of effort both Steve and I managed to take a couple of rabbits, though these had to

be flushed or bolted almost directly under the hawk to obtain the desired response.

## Next, a Goshawk

A male Finnish goshawk followed and was flown by Steve over four seasons with great success, before going in with a female on a breeding loan that produced some excellent eyass's.

A very good female sparrow hawk was followed by an excellent cast of Perlins that were flown for several seasons.

Steve successfully bred Redtails and later ferru-tails and trained a female of the latter for hares, but like others was rather disappointed with her performance at his chosen quarry. However, the training of this large broadwing was to stand him in good stead, for Steve had long harbored the ambition to train and fly a Golden Eagle and this proved to be an itch that sooner rather than later, had to be scratched.

Everything came together during the summer of 2012 when a mutual friend made contact with a German breeder and deposits secured two males.

After an anxious wait Steve and friend returned to the UK with the birds of their dreams.

After a settling in period of a fortnight Steve decided to begin manning and training and since my own experience of eagles is restricted to a little display work with Tawny and Steppes, I advised him to treat the eagle like any other large broadwing, with due respect for it's size and strength.

Steve proceeded along these lines and within six weeks the goldie was flying free

to fist and dragged lure. A large amount of carrying was done, and in between the young eagle was often perched at the front of the home where it saw a constant stream of men, women, children, as well as cars, trucks, and just about everything connected with daily human life. This resulted in a very well manned bird indeed, with the result that in the field it behaved much like a giant Harris Hawk, chasing hares over long distances, and upon missing it's quarry, turning round and flying all the way back to Steve's gloved hand.

The eagles first kill was a rather opportunistic pheasant, followed some weeks later by a fox, but hares were still managing to outsmart him. However, all this changed after an invite to some good ground in Lincolnshire where the young eagle caught a hare on both days.

Back on home ground the success continued resulting in six hares and one rabbit being taken over a period of seven days. Although eagle falconry will never be for the masses, I feel that anyone with the time, experience and circumstances has little to fear from training and flying the " King of Birds".



Author with Golden Eagle

# Falconry for Schools – A New Direction

**W**hen I am asked what first inspired me to put the Falconry for Schools project together, I always think, 'Weights and measures, how can I make this interesting?' Sounds strange I know, but this is how it started. I remember thinking this whilst preparing a numeracy lesson for a class of 14 -16 year old 'Entry to Employment' students. We were always being told on training sessions to make teaching 'multisensory' and to meet 'every individual learner's learning needs'.

Falconry was my 'hobby' back then, but it was also my new found passion in life. I found myself thinking about it all the time and truly couldn't switch off. My husband would say, 'Do you ever think about anything else but falconry?' and still does! I was like one of the students, rushing out of college at the end of the day, so I could get home quickly and fly my birds. One afternoon in a staff meeting, I asked my learning manager if I could bring one of my birds in to the college to show the students how I weigh the bird and record its daily weight. I thought this would make an interesting alternative activity as part of the 'weights and measures' scheme of work. I'll never forget the look I got; you could say it was a 'tumbleweed' moment. I think the reply to that was, 'Any other business?' and then the shuffling of papers, as the next meeting was being planned in the diary. After that, I didn't mention it again but I knew I had an idea that could work.

Animal assisted therapy has always intrigued me in terms of encouraging



Aurnia, Kevin and author – Kevin in training



Leather Craft – Falconry for Schools leather craft session (May 2012)

otherwise disengaged students in the classroom. I've kept magazine, newspaper articles and other literature on the subject, as well as topics such like, 'Why children need nature' and 'Outdoor learning on the curriculum'. My love of falconry and the birds, combined with my biology knowledge and teaching experience has helped me to write materials and put resources together and before I knew it, I had a comprehensive learning package on falconry and birds of prey. When I saw the article regarding the Countryside Alliance's Fishing for Schools project, I knew I had to pitch my idea and resources to the Campaigns Director.

### New material for schools

Since then, I have led the Falconry for Schools project in 20 schools and I have been writing and adding new materials to it. For the schools to be interested in the project, I couldn't just teach falconry in terms of hunting and demonstrating the working relationship between the birds and the falconer. The project had to encompass: history, science and technology, English and mathematics, as well as the social and emotional aspects of learning. Evidence of learning is mapped to KS2, KS3 and KS4 as well as the literacy and numeracy functional skills curriculum. The falconry parts to the project look at the history of falconry, owning a bird of prey,

housing, equipment, the falconry knot, maintenance, health and sickness, weight management, condition and training. Caring for a bird of prey also looks at anatomy, a balanced diet and food values. The students also have to imagine if they were a captive bird of prey, how would they like to be kept and treated, emotions and feelings they might have and what they would need on a day to day basis. This ties in with the 'Five Freedoms' and the Animal Welfare Act.

The project also encourages children to appreciate the wild birds of prey in

the surrounding countryside, teaching them how to identify the different birds by sight and sound and help in their conservation by focusing on food chains and food webs. The impact changes to the environment can make to the birds is also included and 'Bird crimes' and the Wildlife and Countryside Act are also covered.

The project has been met with great success. In a school for boys aged 11-16 years of age who have behaviour, emotional and social difficulties, the literacy co-ordinator observed: 'The



FFS Materials - Falconry for Schools teaching materials



Luke & Kira, (Luke Weighing) – during two of the first Falconry for Schools sessions

empathy and respect the boys showed towards the birds was incredible to see; the degree of engagement from the boys was extraordinary – 100% involvement, rarely seen in pupils with these difficulties.’ The birds’ calming influence was plainly evident, ‘The atmosphere could only be described as magical as these resistant and oppositional boys handled the birds with tenderness and respect.’ I have noticed an increase in self-confidence and team building. Most students have communicated to the birds with such affection, forming an amazing bond. This is incredible when you think that some children do not have a particular affinity for animals. The experience of the course has also had a lasting effect on some students. One boy has continued to help his classmates with their reading and as a result won a Princess Diana award for helping others.

### Different directions for school projects

The project has taken on many guises and used within schools. One school has used the project for ‘School Ambassador’ training to encourage the selected school ambassadors to work together act as a team.

Another school has used the programme as part of their science project on food chains and a history project on castles. It is evident from the letters, pictures and displays, pieces of work and the comments I have received that the students get as much enjoyment from the birds and falconry as I do: ‘It was amazing, not many schools get to do falconry’, ‘The two days I got to do falconry was the most amazing experience I have ever had in my life. Those two days are days I will never forget’, ‘The whole visit was brilliant – come back soon – I can’t think of anything that wasn’t good’, ‘The best science lesson ever!’, ‘In the future I would like to work with birds because I love it’, ‘One day when I am older, I would really enjoy doing a falconry course’.

The Deputy Chief Executive, who had listened to my original pitch for the project and had been instrumental in its pilot run, was leaving The Countryside Alliance. He sent me a nice email which thanked me for coming to them ‘with a brilliant project in Falconry for Schools’, and because he thought the project ‘has an excellent future’, he suggested ‘to share the programme to allow it to soar’.

In May last year, I was invited to

attend an event, run by The Countryside Alliance and The Countryside Alliance Foundation, at the Welsh Assembly. Here I was introduced to Layla Bennett from Hawksdrift Falconry and Dr. Nick Fox (IWC). Layla will be running the project in Wales so I have spent the past few months putting together the materials / resources into an educational package to enable other falconers to easily follow and deliver the project.

The package comprises of a file containing all handouts for presentations and worksheets, a CD for all presentations and a DVD on training. Also accompanying the file are flashcards, snap cards, games, pictures, knot tying stations, imitation bird feet for fitting on anklets and other falconry furniture, and an owl pellet dissection kit complete with a USB microscope. I have recently met with Layla again for a day’s training on the delivery of the materials. It is my wish with more PR / awareness and indeed more funding / sponsorship, to provide the Falconry for Schools educational package to other parts of the UK, so Falconry for Schools can go nationwide and get more children involved in falconry and nature.

# Wessex Region of the BFC

Last September saw the formation of the Wessex Branch of the British Falconry Club. This new region of the BFC hold their meetings in The Griffon Rooms at The Hawk Conservancy Trust the last Thursday of each month. Members of the BFC and guests are welcome to attend and discuss falconry & catch up with old & make new friends.

It is the regional committee's wish to welcome all to these meetings and by the response of the meetings so far it seems to be working. As the region grows it is planned to organise several field meets for its members and Steve Williams has agreed to co-ordinate this for the region.

The region has had some excellent speakers at each meeting since its inception back in September 2012, firstly Ashley Smith of the Hawk Conservancy Trust gave a fascinating & humorous

talk about the history of the Hawk Conservancy entitled 'A Wilderbeest in the Potting Shed'.

This was followed in October with a talk from the Great Bustard Group on their work on Salisbury Plain.

In November, Malcolm Brockless of the Game Conservancy Trust, spoke on his work in the 'Conservation of the Grey Partridge' and gave those attending an insight into anyone trying to conserve wild partridges on their land.

In January, Bob Dalton gave a talk on Trapping Peregrines in the USA and in February renowned Avian Vet John Chitty gave a talk on 'Raptor Health & Diseases'.

The next meeting at the Hawk Conservancy Trust is on the 28th March 7.30pm where Mark & Roger Upton will be giving a talk on the Falconry Heritage Trust.

The doors open at 7.00pm where members and guests can dine on a Fish

& Chip Supper from the Trust's new restaurant.

On April 25th, the region will be having a talk on the Spanish Sky Trials from regional Chairman Alan Greenhalgh and on the 30th May 2013 we will be showing the film 'The House of Grouse' featuring Sage Grouse Hawking in the US.

Throughout the rest of the year the region will be holding workshops & seminars on the last Thursday of each month check out the BFC website for further details.

## PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS?

If you are not yet a member of the British Falconers Club and have enjoyed your visit to the Wessex regional meetings why not consider joining the region? For further information regards membership of the BFC please contact: **membershipsecretary@britishfalconersclub.co.uk**

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# Hunting Golden Eagles in the Most Unlikely Places

**M**y name is Joe Atkinson and I have been using falconry as a way to reintroduce golden eagles back into the wild for twenty-five years and have released dozens of eagles over the years. The idea that training an eagle is somehow going to make that eagle more dependent on human support is simply not true. Yes, in the early stages of training all golden eagles will show a certain attachment to their trainers. However, as they grow with confidence, build flying and hunting skills and ultimately become self-sufficient, they also become very independent. A typical example would be the most recent female eagle I released. She had been handled extensively by well meaning people who tried to make a pet out of her; she was not an imprint but, in every way, acted as one, very vocal, very tame, but also very aggressive. I hunted her and was successful with her catching jackrabbits. I then moved into the next phase of pre-release training, which is soaring. This female eagle had been in captivity for three years and on the first flight allowing her to soar I could barely call her down. Her second

soaring flight I was lucky to get her back at all. In fact, I tracked her for over eight miles and finally placed myself in her flight path and she reluctantly came in. I released her the following day and she never looked back. So, even though she had been socialized with humans, she was clearly not an imprint and very quickly reverted back to a wild state.

The advantage this eagle had, by being trained in the sport of falconry, over others that have been in flight cages and then released, is that she had been given the opportunity to learn to actively hunt and kill wild game for herself and, by being allowed to soar, was in the physical condition needed to remain in the air for more than three hours at a time, a necessity for eagles in the wild to be able to cover enough area to find prey. This, I believe, gives eagles such as her, that have been thrown off their normal course due to illness or injury, a huge head start on life when placed back in the wild.

If you have any further question please feel free to contact me at [www.joeatkinsonseaglejournal.com](http://www.joeatkinsonseaglejournal.com)

**N**o matter what kind of bird you fly, perlin, goshawk or, in my case, golden eagles, the hardest thing is to find game to fly your bird on. Here in Northern California game can be hard to come by, but even more difficult than game is finding suitable fields to hunt. And some of the places I end up hunting golden eagles are out of the ordinary, to say the least. In the sport of falconry there are only a few things that are for certain, things that you can take to the bank, if you will. I know, for instance, that I'll have to look for my bird at some point, and when flying an eagle I know that I stand a good chance of losing some

of my own blood. But there is one rule that I believe is the single most golden rule that all falconers can go by: the amount of game your bird is flown at will directly reflect how good your bird will be; the more game, the better the bird. One can use all the fancy training methods in the world, but get the birds flying after game and things fall into place. So the bottom line is, I go where the game is. People are always asking me why do you fly in "this place"?.... and I say because this is where the game is.... simple. Sure I have flown up in the rolling hills with breath-taking views but there is no game to fly an eagle at up there, and for me, watching my eagle fly from tree to tree gets a little old after awhile. Flying

eagles in the soar is also very enjoyable, but that's another story.

## Large Jack rabbit is a fast hare

The black tailed jack rabbit is a fast, open field hare that is hunted by many different trained raptors. These jack rabbits range from 3-10 pounds with the 10-pounder being a large jack rabbit. The black tailed jack rabbit does not run down holes, or go hide in thick cover, they run! Their means of escape is speed and many a falconer has stood and watched as their bird has been blown off by the speed of the black tailed jack rabbit. Harris hawks, red tailed hawks, and goshawks are all flown at these very elusive hares, but





Jackhammer just caught a black tailed jack rabbit

the golden eagle I believe is the perfect match for these jacks. The black tailed jack rabbit can be found throughout California and in other states, except in the higher elevations. They seem to thrive in industrial parks where large companies build huge warehouses used for shipping goods out by freight trucks. In between these huge buildings are large fields that are fallow, gone wild, and perfect for jacks. When hunting in one of these fallow fields, flights can come fast and furious. Sometimes black tailed jacks will jump up with each step you take. With each new warehouse that is constructed the jacks are condensed into smaller and fewer fields and that makes for unbelievable jack rabbit hawking.

Very often the fields are surrounded by a lot of activity, big trucks moving about, workers going about their jobs. The more I would fly a field the more

people I would start to notice gathering in the parking lots, wanting to see the bird fly. Most had no clue what kind of bird I was hunting with, they just wanted to watch. At one particular field I began to realize that trucks were pulling off the road and the drivers were gathering in a group watching me hunt my eagle. With each flight I could hear the group cheering, and when a jack was caught I could see the truckers jumping up and down with their fists up in the air. I do find it funny though, that many more times people don't notice me at all. Here I am walking through a flat field with no trees, in open space, with a golden eagle on my fist, and most people have no idea I'm there.

I am always looking for new fields to fly, like every other falconer in the world. Not too long ago a fellow falconer said he had found a good field," lots of jacks", he

said. But I began to have my doubts as we were driving to this new field.

### Busy housing development

We drove through a large housing tract with dozens of new homes being built and lots, and I mean lots, of activity. Trucks, tractors and builders everywhere and by the time we reached the field I was all but convinced that there was no way I was going to fly here. The field was about five soccer fields in size with houses bordering one complete side and a corn field on the other. At least the ends of the field were clear. In order to reach the field we had to climb two fences which are not easy with an 8-lb eagle on your fist. And ripping my pants on one fence was not making this place look any better to me. I decided to give it a go though, and while walking out into the field, my friend said "you better get your bird ready before you go out into this field" – he was right. I unhooded Jackhammer (that's my eagle's name, JH to his friends), and he began to talk to me as was his normal routine and was looking at my two bush beaters, trying to get a read on them. I no sooner stepped into the field then up jumped three jacks, and I could see five or six more running around up ahead. These got JH's attention real fast, and mine as well. We had not gone more than fifty steps into our hunt when a jack rabbit jumped up right in front of us and was moving out. Ears pinned and dust being kicked up from behind, this jack was at full throttle. The timing was perfect between JH and me – as he launched off my fist I threw my arm forward giving him as much help as I could. With a clear launch JH was cranking hard and building speed with each stroke of his wings. The jack was running dead straight down the middle of this field and JH was closing fast. For me, time seems to go into slow motion, like some sort of dream state or something. But not for the jack rabbit, because at that point hell came crashing down on him. As the dust settled I could see JH putting the finishing touches on another black tailed jack rabbit brought to bag. I also noticed some people watching from their new back yards and I'm sure they had no clue as to what they just saw.

You gotta go where the game is!

*First published in American Falconry Volume 37*

# Club Directory



## The Welsh Hawking Club



[www.thewelshhawkingclub.com](http://www.thewelshhawkingclub.com)

The Welsh Hawking Club has four regional groups throughout the United Kingdom meeting in:-

**South Wales, North Wales, the South West and Essex**

For more details please visit our website and click on Regions.

For all general enquiries please contact:

**Jan France on 01993 822906**

or

e-mail: [secretary@thewelshhawkingclub.com](mailto:secretary@thewelshhawkingclub.com)

## THE SCOTTISH HAWKING CLUB

FOR THE DEDICATED FALCONER

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Further details from:

**Jim Coyle**

E-mail: [info@scottishhawkingclub.co.uk](mailto:info@scottishhawkingclub.co.uk)

★ We are a D.E.F.R.A. recognised club ★

## The South East Falconry Group

AIMS TO SUPPORT FALCONERS IN THE CONTINUATION AND PRACTICE OF FALCONRY.

Drawing its membership from around the South and East of England, the SEFG provides a forum for falconers and would-be falconers to meet, discuss and practice the art. Members benefit from having access to a wealth of experience and knowledge, good facilities and field meeting opportunities throughout the winter months.

Meetings take place on the last Tuesday of the month at Tilbury in Essex.

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**

E-mail us at [enquiry@sefg.org](mailto:enquiry@sefg.org) or

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## South Eastern Raptors Association (S.E.R.A.)



Established for over 30 years, and now affiliated to the Hawk Board and holding group membership to the Countryside Alliance, the aims of S.E.R.A. are to further and maintain the standards of falconry in the South-East of England.

With a broad band of knowledge and experience within our club, we extend a warm welcome to new members, whether practising falconers or complete novices. Where practicable, novices will be allocated a mentor. Helpful, honest and friendly advice is always available.

Our meetings are held at 10.30am on the second Sunday of each month throughout the year at  
**The Village Hall, Station Road, Groombridge, Kent TN3 9QX**

Outings, guest speakers, field meets, (at home and away) videos, quizzes and other special events are ever-present features of our club calendar and may be viewed on our website.



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# Independent Bird Register

Telephone 0161 790 5613

## IBR Lost, Found, Reunited & Stolen birds of prey from 7 January 2013 to 31 March 2013

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

If you think one of these birds is yours or you think you may know the owner, - please contact us.

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

**REMEMBER!** We offer a service don't abuse it.

STOLEN x 2				88024	?535?	HARRIS HAWK	CARHARRACK, TR16
BREF	RING	SPECIES	AREA LOST				
94074	?PDC?	LITTLE OWL	FLINTSHIRE				
87048	?264?	BARN OWL	MALVERN, WR13				
REUNITED x 74				FOUND x 18			
SPECIES				BREF	RING	SPECIES	AREA FOUND
AMERICAN KESTREL.....			2	32719	?728?	BARN OWL	BOLSOVER, DERBY
BARN OWL.....			14	94137	?058?	BARN OWL	PENICUIK, EH26
BENGAL EAGLE OWL.....			3	67026	?365?	BARN OWL	GT. YARMOUTH
EURASIAN EAGLE OWL.....			4	94180	?067?	HARRIS HAWK	WOMBRIDGE, TF1
GOLDEN STEPPE.....			1	28980	?826?	HARRIS HAWK	ASHBURTON
GOSHAWK.....			5	72650	?173?	HARRIS HAWK	BARRY DOCKS
GREAT GREY.....			1	50478	?080?	HARRIS HAWK	UTTOXETER
GYR/PEREGRINE/SAKER.....			1	94206	?083?	HARRIS HAWK	CHELMSFORD
GYR/PRAIRIE.....			1	90967	?756?	BARN OWL	PEMBROKE DOCK
GYR/SAKER.....			3	94236	????	HARRIS HAWK	BEXLEY, DA5
HARRIS HAWK.....			23	93591	?017?	BARN OWL	WATERLOOVILLE, PO7
KESTREL.....			5	94255	?517?	BARN OWL	SHEFFIELD, S10
LANNER.....			2	45391	?008?	SPARROW HAWK	MADRID
LUGGER.....			1	86341	?246?	BARN OWL	ROMFORD, RM3
PEREGRINE.....			2	25200	?430?	HARRIS HAWK	PONTEFRACT
PERE/SAKER.....			1	17649	?738?	HARRIS HAWK	SHEFFIELD
REDTAIL.....			2	79704	?524?	KESTREL	DERBY, DE72
SAKER.....			1	35540	?377?	BARN OWL	BRADFORD
SNOWY OWL.....			1				
TURKMANIAN E.O.....			1	FOUND DEAD X 13			
				BARN OWL X 5			
				BENGAL EAGLE OWL X 1			
				EUROPEAN EAGLE OWL X 2			
				HARRIS HAWK X 4			
				PEREGRINE X 1			
LOST x 17				LOST UNREGISTERED BIRDS X 26			
BREF	RING	SPECIES	AREA LOST				
84244	?848?	GOSHAWK	KIRKLISTON	AFRICAN GREY PARROT..... 1			
59935	?8FA?	HARRIS HAWK	CONHAM HILL, BS5	BARN OWL..... 6			
67499	?491?	LANNER FALCON	BUCKSBARN	EUORPEAN EAGLE OWL..... 2			
78100	?490?	BARN OWL	PRESTON, PR1	GOSHAWK..... 1			
62473	?412?	KESTREL	BARNSTAPLE, EX34	GYR/SAKER..... 3			
48188	?750?	SAKER FALCON	ELLESMERE, SY12	HARRIS HAWK..... 5			
88630	?850?	BARN OWL	NORTHWICH, CW8	KESTREL..... 2			
94218	?076?	GYR/BARBARY	WHITWORTH, OL12	LANNER FALCON X..... 1			
54870	?328?	RAVEN	ETCHINGHAM, TN19	PEREGRINE..... 2			
94400	????	HARRIS HAWK	MIDDLE RASEN, LINGS	RED TAIL..... 3			
94488	?689?	PEREGRINE	REDRUTH, CORNWALL				
93976	?083?	GYR/SAKER	CHURCHDOWN, GL3				
74463	?964?	REDTAIL	NEUHAVERN, BN9				
88474	?547?	HARRIS HAWK	HUTTOFT, LN13				
94516	?DOH?	GYR/SAKER	COLNE, BURNLEY				
74769	?299?	PEREGRINE/SAKER	AYLESBURY, BUCKS				

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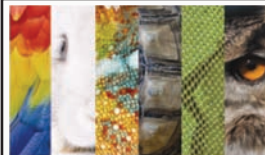
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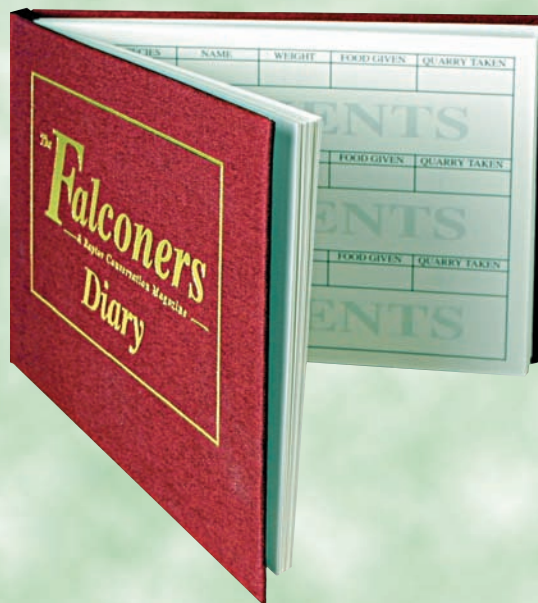
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