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Members Complimentary Issue

WINGSPAN

BIRDS OF PREY TRUST

JOURNAL 2011 - Volume 15

**Falconry Firsts
United Nations
and New Zealand**

**Ducking
for cover**

Noxious and Toxic

It's a Circus

Australian Osprey

Fledglings

...plus more

WINGSPAN BIRDS OF PREY TRUST
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WINGSPAN
BIRDS OF PREY TRUST

*Established for the research,
captive management,
rehabilitation, and
public awareness of
New Zealand birds of prey.*

**REGISTERED CHARITABLE TRUST
1992**

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Front Cover: New Zealand Falcon, *Karearea*, Photograph by Rod Mueller
Contents Page Feather Image: *Montezuma Owl, Peru*, Photograph by Sabine Bennett

FOREWORD - Ruud Kleinpaste

The Conservation Concept of this Century

If we are serious about sustainability and improving the quality of our Planet, we will need to ensure that biodiversity is not further compromised.

In fact, biodiversity is likely to be the key tool for the Earth's survival.

Unfortunately the true value of biodiversity has never really been recognised, nor does it feature in the calculations of our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Balance of Payments for that matter. Ecosystem services may be very difficult to measure in economic terms (we know relatively little about the ecological forces on earth) but there is no doubt that a healthy and well-functioning series of ecosystems is the foundation of the "clean green Aotearoa" concept.

Healthy land, healthy rivers, healthy seas, etc. yield healthy plants, fish, crops, food and ultimately healthy people.

Visitors and tourists to our country are easily impressed with great scenery, a remarkable natural history (driven by biodiversity) and superb food and wine.

Wingspan is a Charitable Trust that focuses on the conservation of New Zealand birds of prey (falcons, hawks, owls). The native falcon is a particularly sensitive species (low numbers and disparate distribution) that is still deliberately shot by some pigeon fanciers and misguided individuals.

Education and advocacy are seen as important objectives for the Wingspan Trust, along with ecological research and captive management, all set against a background of kaitiakitanga and tourism.

But the way this all translates in practice is truly magnificent; indeed Wingspan has taken the concept of innovative conservation a few steps further:

- Abandoned raptor eggs are incubated and the chicks reared.
- Injured wild birds are given veterinary attention and rehabilitated.
- Falcons, hawks and owls are trained to hunt live prey via the age-old art (and science) of falconry, before being released back in the wild.
- Avian husbandry techniques are developed and improved.
- Reared birds are released in suitable habitats
- Ecological and monitoring projects are initiated and results published.



Photograph by Ruud Kleinpaste

- New Zealanders can visit Wingspan and observe it all "live".
- School groups are welcomed to attend the training of the falcons and learn about the Wingspan programme.
- Wingspan is rapidly becoming a tourist attraction in the Rotorua district.
- Wingspan's practical expertise is used in forestry and horticulture, such as the Falcons for Grapes vineyards project, whereby these predators are used to disperse grape-scaling small bird species (biological control).

Now - if someone could calculate the national significance and value of all this for conservation, biodiversity, ecological science, tourism, education, community culture and horticultural production, we may see the true value of all the work at Wingspan.

In the meantime, recognition and support might just have to do.

-Ruud Kleinpaste
Patron



NATIONAL HERITAGE . . . Wingspan in perpetuity

From humble beginnings, the Wingspan programme has focused on the raptors of New Zealand; not just for now, but into the future.

The current site for Wingspan was established 10 years ago on farmland in Paradise Valley, Rotorua. The Trust is thankful to the Hardy Family (as landowners) for the opportunity to showcase the raptors of New Zealand, and establishing New Zealand's first (and only) national bird of prey centre.

However, the Wingspan programme has outgrown the rental space, and cannot grow and expand further. There is now an urgent need for Wingspan to obtain and develop a purpose built property to accommodate the conservation programme and secure a future in perpetuity. Wingspan needs your help more than ever before, and urges your support.

As a registered Charitable Trust for 20 years, there has remained an accountability and transparency for donations

made to the programme. Wingspan is the leading organisation and voice for the conservation of New Zealand's birds of prey; it remains innovative, credible, sustainable, and has been able to document and showcase its successful results each and every year.

To achieve goals and to secure independent property into the future, Wingspan welcomes enquiries and donations.

- Foundation Member investments and naming rights
- Legacies and Memorials
- Contributions to the Wingspan Perpetuity Fund
- Individual and Family Sponsorships
- Corporate Support, including promotional, advertising, and mitigation funding

Support Wingspan and the raptors of New Zealand. LIKE NEVER BEFORE, HELP IS NEEDED!

In 2009 Wingspan's first ever auction raised \$20,000 toward the raptor conservation programme. Monies donated bolstered the Trust's Capital Reserves and contributed towards Wingspan's Perpetuity Fund. With accrued annual interest and investments, the dollars have continued to grow!

In celebration of Wingspan's 20th birthday, additional promotion and fundraising events are to be held during 2012 ... and by popular demand another special auction is planned for September.

A SPECIAL DINNER AND AUCTION EVENT SEPTEMBER 2012

Another great venue, fabulous food, and an evening's entertainment, are guaranteed!



Auctions will be held simultaneously with Trade MeCo and E-Bay Co, but during the evening there will be 'silent bidding', plus main dinner auctions to encourage bidding for one-off special items; all with provenance and investment.

Wingspan can already confirm iconic 'kiviana' items that will be catalogued for this auction. The generous contributions from New Zealanders like the late Sir Edmund Hillary, plus Dan Carter, and also internationally recognised people like Eric Clapton. Original artwork and craft, plus special limited edition books, bronze sculptures, wine, stamps and coins will be sought after items. Due to popular demand, the 'heads and tails' event will be included during the evening with giveaway items for dinner participants.

Numbers attending the dinner auction will be limited, so we recommend 'early bird' enquiries to register your interest for the event, so we can keep you updated.

In the meantime, Wingspan issues a challenge to everyone; Trustees, Staff, Members, and Volunteers to source additional auction items to be formally catalogued from March 2012.

Contact wingspan@xtra.co.nz, or write to us at PO Box 993, Rotorua
we'd be thrilled to hear from you!

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR - Noel Hyde

In this issue we show you for the first time ever, the day-to-day growth of Kahu, an Australasian harrier chick. We look at Wingspan's efforts to help conserve New Zealand's seventh most favourite bird the Barn owl, as our newest and rarest native species. And we also celebrate the hard work of Wingspan Trustees (working with the Department of Conservation) to see the first permits ever issued for Australasian harriers in the sport of falconry.

There's an update on Wingspan's fifteenth year of monitoring the falcons of Kaingaroa forest, plus the Kaikopua falcon hatching programme, and releases over the vineyards of Marlborough. We document attempts made to band the wild falcons at Zealandia in Wellington, and we have been delighted by the excitement of public reports of falcon sightings. At the other extreme we have reports of continued falcon persecution, and the beautiful story of the lengths a raptor conservationist will go to save a dying falcon.

An exciting initiative this year was joining the Ministry of Education curriculum based LEARNZ programme. A series of online "virtual" fieldtrips for teachers and students as part of the Learning Outside the Classroom (LEOIC). Targeted for primary through to secondary schools throughout New Zealand, the raptor series will greatly expand and enhance Wingspan's public education and outreach programme.

Wonderful news for this Journal are the Wingspan falconers and raptor biologists will be representing New Zealand at the Third International Falconry Festival in

Abu Dhabi (December 2011). Made possible by generous sponsorship from the Emirates Falconers Club (hosting the event), Wingspan representatives will be standing proudly alongside the World's falconers to celebrate the UNESCO recognition of falconry as an intangible cultural heritage. This promises to be a very exciting celebration and will be covered in the next issue of the Wingspan Journal.

Wingspan is looking to the future, and over the next twelve months the focus will be implementing a major fundraising drive, to enable the purchase of land for a completely new, purpose built centre. This is to secure Wingspan's future in perpetuity and allow room for growth and expansion.

The Wingspan Trust is not just about raptors, it's a people project too, and we thank you all for your continued support for the conservation, research and advocacy of our magnificent birds of prey.

The programme celebrates 'kaitiakitanga'; for the biodiversity, eco-diversity, and cultural diversity that birds of prey bring to our lives, to our living, and to our backyards.



The Wingspan Team together with Patron Ruud Kleinpaste

INTERNATIONAL HERITAGE . . . a milestone

Falconry is the hunting relationship between man and birds of prey, and dates back some 4000 years. From the "squalid tents on the steppes of Asia thousands of years ago to the nuptial halls of European Kings in the seventeenth century", falconry continues worldwide to this day.

For the first time in history, the Inaugural International Falconry Festival was held on the Englefield Estate, Reading (UK) in 2007. The event was successfully repeated as a second international event in 2009, with more than 12,000 visitors attending and some 54 different countries represented.

The purpose of these events was to showcase the international history and culture of falconry for the United Nations to declare falconry as a living cultural heritage.



The United Nations Education Scientific Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) are vested to encourage international peace by promoting collaboration among Nations, and in November 2010 UNESCO officially designated Falconry to be on the Representative List of 'Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity'.

UNESCO singled out the submission, the largest multinational submission ever made under the 2003 Convention, for special praise as 'an outstanding example of co-operation between States and underlined the exemplary nature of the information provided'.

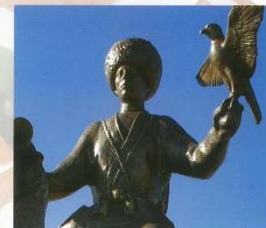
His Excellency Mohammed Al Dowadi, speaking on behalf of the Abu Dhabi government said: "We are delighted at the news. This will help preserve our traditional links with the desert and encourage our children to enjoy and protect our natural heritage. We are looking forward to hosting 65 nations at the Third International Festival of Falconry next year."

Dr Nick Fox, who helped prepare the submission, said: "This is a milestone in the history of world falconry. Falconry remains to provide hands-on contact with the natural world."



The submission was made by Abu Dhabi on behalf of the United Arab Emirates, Belgium, the Czech Republic, France, the Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Spain and the Syrian Arab Republic. It is expected that Austria, Hungary, Croatia and Slovakia will be added shortly.

In its evaluation, the UNESCO Committee declared that Falconry, recognised by its community members as part of their cultural heritage, is a social tradition respecting nature and the environment, passed on from generation to generation, and providing them with a sense of belonging, community, and identity.



Further reading: The full submission can be found on the UNESCO website at:

<http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/index.php?lg=en&pg=00337&3E%20&pg=00335>

Copyright free photographs (with high resolution downloads) can be found on the news page of International Wildlife Consultants website www.falcons.co.uk

FALCONRY FIRST



Festival of Falconry
 In 2007 and 2009 the first ever International Falconry Festivals were held in the UK as part of a submission to the United Nations to recognise falconry as an 'intangible cultural heritage'.

In celebration of this successful submission in 2010, the Emirates Falconers' Club of Abu Dhabi has kindly agreed to host the Third International Festival of Falconry. The event is to be held in the UAE in early December 2011, and is to acknowledge falconry's global contributions to education, heritage, science, conservation, and art.

New Zealand will be represented by Wingspan to be part of this historic event, and will be attending courtesy of the Emirates Falconers' Club (UAE) in association with International Wildlife Consultants (IWC).

It's a World event! Visit www.falconryfestival.com



Photograph by Alan Huggins

In 2010 the Department of Conservation (DOC) Review of the Level of Protection for Some New Zealand Wildlife saw the implementation of recommendations to move the partially protected Australasian harrier (Circus approximans) from Schedule 2 to Schedule 3 of the New Zealand Wildlife Act. This included notice to allow landowners to 'kill harriers on their land if the birds are causing injury or damage to property', and allowed conservation managers to 'kill harriers where they pose a threat to endangered native species'. The partially protected status remained, but calling for 'conservation benefit' would no longer require a permit. Within this environment, Wingspan believed the policy allowed certain user-groups, (including landowners, farmers, game-farmers and DOC) a general permission to kill harriers, but discriminated against other user-groups like falconers, who wanted to train harriers, keep them in good health, and fly them.

Falconry guidelines and policy are now being finalised, and once completed, it is expected more permit applications will be granted. Wingspan is working closely with DOC on these issues, and is drafting written and practical examinations for falconers to ensure high levels of competency. It is with great pride that Wingspan announces the New Zealand Falconers Association (NZFA) to be launched at the Third International Falconry Festival (Abu Dhabi) in December 2011.

... "falconers are conservationists" ...

We are absolutely thrilled to have this news about the first wild raptor in New Zealand and broader recognition of recreational falconry, is to a wonderful achievement and just makes sense where they are calling harriers because of natural predation.

Falconers are conservationists, and I take this opportunity to thank all of you who coordinated and made this result a success. I wish we could see the same in Sweden and Finland where there are goshawk calling programs.

Frank Bond
 President
 International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey
 USA



This is a fantastic first! I would like to see more people get involved in falconry and conservation. I will certainly try to do more for the birds and the environment. I will see this on the South Island as my primary experience. A real challenge for the birds and the people to complete the first raptor in New Zealand. Congratulations to everyone involved.

Rebecca Llewellyn
 South Africa

I would like to congratulate you on your excellent achievement in getting falconry in your country. As you certainly know, I was inspired in the representation of UNESCO world heritage, as this is a really historical year.

Best Regards
 Reuben / Srirako
 NZFA President
 International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey - Asia - Africa - Oceania



Congratulations on your great achievement of a fantastic news that you've practice falconry in New Zealand well done to everyone concerned.

Rory Tait
 NZ



IT'S A CIRCUS . . . Kahu, Circus approximans

Last Spring, two rescued Australasian harrier eggs were placed in the incubator at Wingspan. The eggs were monitored daily to ensure the embryos inside were developing normally, with staff checking temperature, humidity levels, egg weights and pulse rates. One embryo died prior to hatch, however the other egg subsequently hatched and was reared by the Wingspan team.

... an exciting first for Wingspan . . .

This harrier chick was hand-raised through to fledging; an exciting first for Wingspan and quite possibly New Zealand. Over the course of the hawk's development, extensive notes were taken, as well as photos in order to document the differences in harrier development and behaviour. The chick was named Mana in acknowledgement of his charisma and spirited nature.

DEVELOPMENT NOTES

Day 0: Clean HATCH!
 4.05pm
 Weighing 22g

Day 2: Holding head up strongly

Day 5: Tracking food left on ground

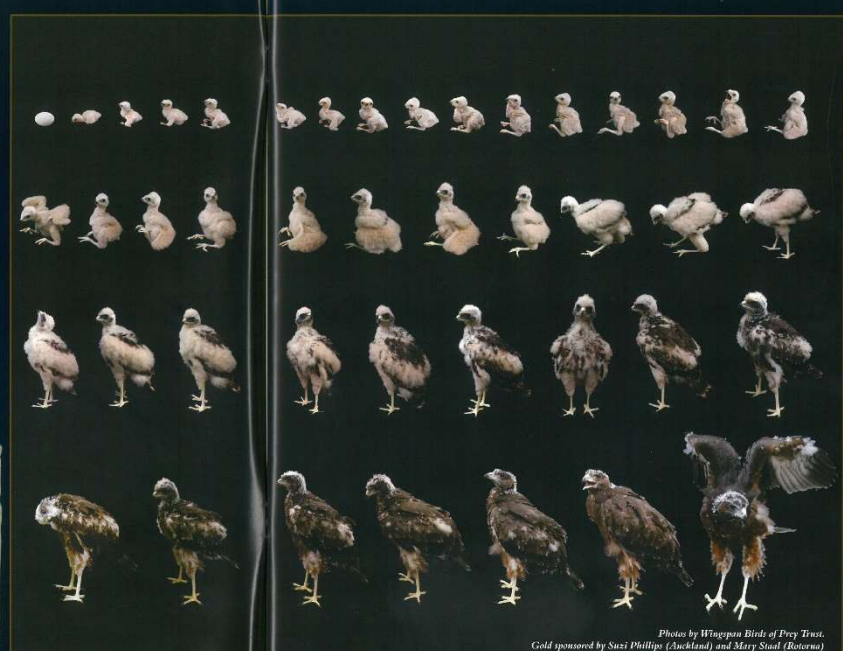
Day 7: Preening down
Day 10: Tail feathers growing through

Day 17: STANDING!
 Briefly but often...

Day 18: First pellet
Day 20: WALKING!
Day 25: Footing leaves & sticks
Day 36: Trying to stand on one leg

Day 38: Practicing Tying/Flapping wings

Day 39: Vocalising a lot
Day 41: Lost egg tooth
Day 42: FLYING!



Photos by Wingspan Birds of Prey Trust. Gold sponsored by Suzi Phillips (Auckland) and Mary Staal (Rotorua)

BARN OWLS - by Noel Hyde

In 2008 in Kaitiā, Northland, New Zealand, a young injured barn owl (*Tyto alba*) was found in the company of a pair of adult barn owls. With this being the ninth record of barn owls in New Zealand it was probably only a matter of time before a pair found each other and successfully bred.

Barn owls are now New Zealand's newest and rarest native species, and in the 2010 annual poll organised by Forest and Bird, barn owls were voted as the first time, but were voted as New Zealand's seventh most favourite bird.

We presume the breeding pair in Kaitiā to be wind-blown vagrants, probably from Australia and lucky enough to find each other and breed successfully. They nest in a large old Puriri tree (*Texa laevis*), and produce two clutches of two to three chicks annually.

Wingspan is now actively involved to help this wild population of barn owls in Northland, and have, as a first response during the Summer of 2011, installed six special nest-boxes in the area to try and help them.



Help the Barn Owls!

Donations are welcomed to help New Zealand's newest and rarest native bird.

'Project Barnie' is a collective effort by Wingspan volunteers, birdwatchers and landowners. Their contributions have been varied: everything from nest monitoring, reporting and publishing information, data collection, building shelters, tree climbing, prey remain analysis, photography, accommodation, and vehicles. Other donations have included the use of digital recording equipment from Massey University (Palmerston North), and fuel travel costs donated by Gull Petroleum NZ Ltd.

STOP PRESS | STOP PRESS A BOXED LIMITED EDITION!

Wingspan is inviting further support for Project Barnie, in particular towards the construction of additional nesting boxes. Sponsorship of these owl shelters is now available - a donation of \$250 or more per nesting box.

Barnie team acknowledgements:

Noel Hyde, Shane McPherson, Mia Jessen, Kevin Matthews, Dirk Helmich, Mark and Jo Thompson, Rick and Donna Jones, Ian Walker, Lyall Brydon, Jordan and Marie, Jack Wells, Serge and Susan Wintackken, Darren Atkinson, Barbara Parker, Brian Simons.

Nest box Sponsors:

Noel Hyde, Mary Staal, Phil and Margaret Fry, Ron and Joan Couchman.



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example of self introduction, yet there is an acceptance that they could spread further afield.

We have found two schools of thought: the 'leave-them-alonists' and the 'helpists'. The 'leave-them-alonist' school of thought always confines itself to a limited scope.

The farmland that the owls are on is not left alone. It is managed habitat, continually changing, having replaced and destroyed the whole ecosystem that was there before. As raptor conservationists we believe it is a bit late to call for non-intervention when a pair of barn owls comes along.

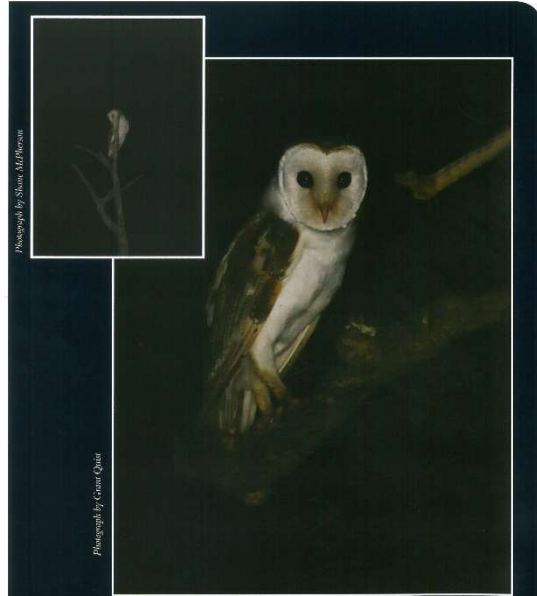
The ethics of whether to help the barn owls raises an interesting comparison in today's society. Is it ethical for the SPCA to advocate their controversial 'Tag, Neuter and Release' (TNR) policy to support feral cat populations?

Feral cats are trapped, tagged, neutered and released, then provided supplementary foods by volunteers. These cats are one of the biggest, indiscriminate threats to wildlife: the evidence is overwhelming including their predation of New Zealand falcons, especially chicks.

We think if it is acceptable to have a policy supporting feral cat populations, then this puts the ethics of helping a rather benign, naturally occurring, new native species like barn owls, into some perspective.

Further reading:

Nature, Vol 36, Part 4, Dec. 2009. First Record of barn owls (*Tyto alba*) breeding in the wild in New Zealand. N Hyde, K Matthews, M & J Thompson, R Gale.



Photograph by Shane McPherson

Photograph by Grant Quair

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... New Zealand's seventh most favourite bird ...

The breeding boxes are based on international designs, and each provides a weatherproof and dry shelter. They have features such as specific diameter entrance, exterior and interior perches, bark mulch substrate, along with interior climbing slats.

The nest boxes have been erected into areas considered most suitable, and/or where barn owls have been seen or heard calling.

Although these Barn owls are natural colonists, it's fairly certain they have only been able to settle because of anthropogenic changes to the environment. But their conservation has not escaped some controversy, discussion and debate.

Some have asked, are there ethical questions here? Like, is it appropriate to encourage the spread of these birds? Or, are there any risks to native species?

Regarding potential risks to native species, from the evidence, it appears the barn owl is a rather benign species, moreporks coexist in the same area as these barn owls in Kaitiā, as Boobooks (or Mopoks) also do in Australia. The barn owls keep to the more semi-wooded, open farmland, while the moreporks prefer the more densely wooded habitat. In the few cases where barn owls and moreporks have been seen to come together, they appear to be indifferent and tolerate each other.

Their diets are similar, they both eat small birds but moreporks feed mainly on insects. Barn owls specialise in small rodents like rats and mice. This was confirmed when we looked at their regurgitated pellets and found them to be eating mainly mice, rats, and sparrows which most likely reflect availability. The one bone from an endemic fernbird found, was probably taken opportunistically.

With regard to encouraging the spread of these birds, the New Zealand Wildlife Act makes it an offence to disturb or interfere with a protected species. Wingspan is doing neither, the boxes installed in the surrounding area mean the owls can choose to ignore or accept Wingspan's help.

To our knowledge, no one has tried nest boxes with Australian barn owls in the wild, but from what appears to be a lack of old hollow trees in the Kaitiā area, our efforts at least, give them a choice.

Wildlife ethics is an interesting topic, most see them as a phenomenon, not caring whether they live or die, merely an



Photography by Debbie Shawcross and Shane McPherson

KAINGAROA KAREAREA - by Andrew Thomas

Stretching the Central North Island Plateau, Kaingaroa remains the largest man-made forest in the Southern Hemisphere. But it is also famous for another reason; recognised for the Karearea that live there... and for almost twenty years, these pine forest falcons have been monitored by Wingspan.

This year proved to be much more productive for the falcons breeding in Kaingaroa compared to the previous season. Many of the nests fledged two or more chicks, and we were able to monitor and band a good number of falcons.

Three students from Massey University Palmerston North were researching aspects of falcon ecology in the forest, and Wingspan was able to assist with this research by locating falcon nests within the compartments.

A highlight was having Wingspan Baron Dr Rued Klempste (The Bug Man) into Kaingaroa to see some of the wild falcons (sometimes very closely!), but also to see firsthand the work that we are doing in the forest. Rued found this a very enjoyable experience and it was a good day out for all those attending.



Eid Minsi, John Holland and Rued Klempste.

This year we were fortunate enough to be loaned a vocalisation sound system from Massey University and it helped to locate some falcon pairs. Over the last few years this falcon call broadcasting equipment has been extensively trialed within the forest by Massey students, to determine the effectiveness in locating breeding birds. This sound equipment proved essential in maximising our

nest searching efforts, and last season we managed to locate a total of thirteen pairs and of those eight nests. It was a successful season for banding, with a total of ten falcon chicks being checked, banded and released.

It is not always an easy task to locate falcon nests, but on the odd occasion one can strike gold fortune. I was checking out a rocky hill top where a male falcon had been sighted on several occasions by forest contractors.

There right in front of me was a perfect cavity in the rocks. This crevice in the rocks would provide protection from rain, strong winds and extremes in temperature. This style of nest site is often chosen by falcons nesting in the open hill country of the Eastern South Island. It is the first time that I have found falcons use this type of nest site in Kaingaroa Forest.

I would like to extend a big thank you to the contractors from Kaingaroa Timberlands, Massey University Wingspan and RANZ volunteers.



Photograph by Andrew Thomas

MALAR STRIPES... from cheetahs to falcons

From 2008 until 2010 Chifusa Haruhisa Becker was working through the University of Pretoria, as Principal Investigator and Wildlife Biologist (PhD candidate) for Action for Cheetahs in Kenya.

Chifusa has since moved to New Zealand, and has confirmed her plans to complete a PhD project on the conservation needs of New Zealand falcons. Chifusa will be working with the Ecology Department of Massey University (Palmerston North) and welcomes volunteers during the coming season in Kaingaroa Forest from September 2011 to January 2012.



Wingspan acknowledges the following for their support and assistance, including:

Central North Island Tin Collector, Kaingaroa Timberlands Ltd, Pt. Owen Ltd, Raptor Association of New Zealand, Massey University Ecology, Palmerston North, Department of Conservation (Manungu Rangitiki) and all those great people who helped us search for falcons in the forest.



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WILD CHICKS



Sex: Female
Banded: 11.12.2010
Band combination: RY/DG/S-80507
Sponsored by: Andrew Gibson, Auckland



Sex: Male
Banded: 27.11.2010
Band combination: RY/BL/22327
Sponsored by: Judith Bowen, Waitakere



Sex: Female
Banded: 22.12.2010
Band combination: R/PG/P/G-K-14085
Sponsored by: Ray & Marce Goldring, Christchurch



Sex: Female
Banded: 22.12.2010
Band combination: R/PG/YK-14084
Sponsored by: Lou Orr, Nelson



Sex: Male
Banded: 18.1.2011
Band combination: R/DG/DG/H-30807
Sponsored by: Jordan Cardno, Auckland



Sex: Female
Banded: 18.1.2011
Band combination: R/DG/P/G/S-80370
Sponsored by: Beth Hastings, Feilding



Sex: Female
Banded: 23.12.2010
Band combination: R/PG/DG/R-1086
Sponsored by: John McGregor, Auckland



Sex: Male
Banded: 22.12.2010
Band combination: R/PG/R/H-36904
Sponsored by: Phil Trautman, Rotorua



Sex: Male
Banded: 8.05.2011
Band combination: LI-36811
Found injured and rehabilitated by: Mosey University
Released: 8.05.2011 (Ohalame)
Sponsored by: Mark Handyside & Zoe Thompson 2011

HACKING IT ...



Sex: Male
Hatched: 23.12.2010
Band combination: R/PG/Y/H-36806
Sponsored by: Brian & Vivian Massel, North Shore City



Sex: Male
Hatched: 4.12.2010
Band combination: R/DG/D/H-36805
Sponsored by: J.L. Smytheman, North Shore City



Sex: Female
Hatched: 3.12.2010
Band combination: R/PG/W/S-80368
Sponsored by: Robbie Orr, Canterbury



Sex: Male
Hatched: 11.11.10
Band combination: RY/Y/H-17711
Sponsored by: Alison Dornelle-Boyle, Te Awamutu



Sex: Female
Hatched: 3.12.2010
Band combination: R/PG/O/S-80369
Sponsored by: Ian & Maaike Niemeijer, France



Sex: Australian Harrier Male
5 years old
Band combination: L-31084
Released: 26.9.10
L & P Smets Farm, Kainui, Waikato

The Wingspan Centre has a number of breeding aviaries for New Zealand falcons. Most houses pairs of both falcons, however it is the Lake Charles Wines breeding aviary that accommodates a pair of Eastern falcons originally from Marlborough. These falcons are called 'Ali' and 'Wink', and due to permanent disability they are unable to be released. Ali, the female, has broken wings after being deliberately shot, while 'Wink' the male, is blind in one eye.

Last season Ali and Wink successfully bred, and with the help of foster parents (Wingspan staff and another falcon pair) two chicks were hatched and reared.

In support of the *Falcons for Grapes* project in Marlborough, the young falcons were later released over the *Wooval Troncos* vineyard (Bary and Dianne Feckert) in the *Awatere* Valley.

ARTHUR
Sex: Male, Released 17.12.10
Banded: LI-23491 (R)
Sponsored by: Robin and Doreen Cutts, UK

KORU
Sex: Female, Released 14.01.11
Banded: S7-3190 (R)
Sponsored by: Dean Wilson, Dunedin

So when young falcons need to be released to a vineyard or forest elsewhere in Antarctica, who provides the transport? You get it!
AIR NEW ZEALAND takes care of the rarest cargo in the World!



AIR NEW ZEALAND ENVIRONMENT TRUST



Tantus
Sex: Male
Banded: 22.12.2010
Band combination: RY/K/L-36883
Sponsored by: Eleanor Duff, Auckland



Lony
Sex: Female
Banded: 12.05.2011
Band combination: K-2015 (right leg)
Released: 19.05.2011 (Mamuku Hills)
Sponsored by: David Bullivant, Gisborne



Dai
Sex: Male
Banded: 11.12.2010
Band combination: RY/O/H-36892
Sponsored by: Steve, Jacqui & Dani Wilks, Taupo

Band combinations

Left leg(top band over lower band); Right leg(top band over lower band)

Colour band key: K-Black, W-White, DG-Dark Green, PG-Fale Green, O-Orange, R-Red, Y-Yellow

Metal band key: The letter indicates the size of the band, combined with individual identification number.

SPONSOR A WILD NEW ZEALAND FALCON!

Help Wingspan to help Karearea. Just \$200 to donate towards the care, rehabilitation, banding and release of a falcon. See page 57 for more details.

KAKEPUKU FALCONS SPOTTED!

Hori - named in honour of the late George MacDonald is a male falcon (banded at Wingspan on 6 November 2008 and released 18 December 2008) and sighted perched in a tree behind one of the units at Pirangia Forest Park Lodge. He was seen around the area three times by the local Conservation Warden and seems to have made Pirangia Mountain his home.

And then there is 'Christy' and 'Iey' (pictured at right) - banded females from the 2009 release who have been seen and photographed frequenting residential backyards in Te Awamutu!



Kia Kaha Kahu!

This year Wingspan recovered an Australasian harrier, Kahu, and it had a stainless steel band on its right leg. Using the number code on the band, the Wingspan records were checked, and we discovered that this particular male harrier was first banded by the Wingspan Team 13 years ago! At the time it was estimated to be about five years old, making this special raptor an incredible 18 years old!

Records were updated, a photograph taken, and he was released again. Kia Kaha Kahu!

Did you know?

Young first year harriers have quite dark plumage with dark eyes. But as harriers get older their eyes turn yellow, and their plumage becomes lighter in colour - sometimes nearly white.

... the Kakepuku Karearea ...



Laurie and Janice Hovord, life members of Wingspan (and long time raptor enthusiasts) have played an integral part in the release of Wingspan's falcon chicks. Since 2005 the Hovord couple have released some 26 falcons into the wilderness of Kakepuku Mountain, near Te Awamutu.

The 499m bush-clad volcanic mountain, backing onto Laurie and Janice's property, provides an ideal site for the young falcons to be released and monitored. The Kakepuku Mountain conservation programme has been running since 1995, and with local support and pest control measures have provided the perfect site for translocations of falcons, and many other native birds.

Juvenile falcons bred at the Wingspan Centre have been transported annually to Kakepuku where Laurie and Janice have a 'hack box'. The 'box' serves as an artificial nest and release platform; it is a secure, weatherproof enclosure and provides safe haven while the chicks observe their surroundings. It's a little different to the aviaries they are used to!

The falcon chicks are fed and monitored for up to two weeks, until they are settled and ready for flight. Followed by a well practiced and documented schedule, Laurie and Janice have the pleasure (and anxiety) of slowly opening the hack box that has up held them prior to their ultimate release into the wild.

The chicks with their first true sense of freedom, finally get to explore the area they have been looking over for a couple of weeks; it is 'home', their territory, and the falcon chicks will stay around for a while. With the dedication of the Hovords they are ensured shelter and food for some months to come.

Eventually after release, the young falcons learn to hunt and fend for themselves. It is normal juvenile development where the siblings interact, chasing one another, playing, catching crickets, and eventually closing birds.

Over time, Laurie and Janice see the falcons returning to the supplementary food they provide less and less, and know that the falcons are more independent and have bolstered the wild population.

But, it is not always the last seen of these released falcons. On several occasions repeated sightings of individuals have been made and reported back to Wingspan. These reports provide real evidence to the success of the programme, and a real boost that our released chicks are surviving and doing well.

Hitting the headlines, Laurie and Janice Hovord were recognized for their efforts in the *Herald Times*.

Wingspan also acknowledges the support from Department of Conservation, Waikato Conservancy for support for this project.



FALCON SIGHTINGS

Photomontage. Photograph by Lynette Koff



Falcon sightings are reported to Wingspan throughout the year, with the most common reports during the spring and summer when the falcons are nesting. Falcon sightings in your area can be registered online on the website or by sending the information directly to the Wingspan Office.

The required details include date, location (with a map reference or GPS reading), number of birds seen, and a brief description of the activity observed. Wingspan acknowledges the mapping provided by Cannon Hawley, and AMG Web Designers for the website update.

Sightings of falcons are reported by recreational hammers and trappers, landowners, or from forest estate managers and contractors such as Kaingaroa Timberlands and P F Olsen Ltd. Some falcons even appear in the backyard! But often we receive correspondence a little more out of the ordinary, or about other birds of prey seen in New Zealand.

May 2011

It was wonderful to see the falcon and I watched his antics for hours. It's unfortunate that he seized just one of the wee love birds, but when I rang my neighbour to let him know, he said, "oh well he's a native and belongs here, mine are imports!" So he wasn't fazed too much and is just as thrilled that we are to see him. The neighbour kept creeping into the garden yesterday to watch him (the falcon) and he was absolutely enthralled too, he even bought a newspaper article over with him to check if it was the real thing!

-Kerry Peters, Tapanui



July 2010

He has been harassing our fantail pigeons all morning (soliciting we don't mind at all when weigh up with a falcon sighting) and has hung around our garden all day so far. We are very excited about seeing the falcon because, as I said, in 17 years of living here, we have never seen a falcon in the area. We do hope he/she hangs around.

-Petra Palmer, Banks Peninsula



... falcons continue to be deliberately shot ...

January 2011

I saw a falcon flying through town as I was biking to work - it got the gulls quite upset! It flew between two houses on Peace Street, heading in the general direction of Mount Ngongotaha. It was a great start to the day for me.

-Thalia Sachtleken, Rotorua



Raptor Rescue, Lower Hutt. Photograph by Anne Lambell

February 2011

We saw a bird flying more or less towards us with a fast wing beat but it was travelling relatively slowly. As it came past we realised it had something in its talons, and it was accompanied by at least 20 welcome swallows. The swallows were swarming around the falcon, a bit like a model of an atom! The falcon was untazed and flew in a straight line for hundreds of metres until it went out of sight in the distance. About 15 minutes later we saw a squadron of swallows flying back in the direction they'd come from.

-Dave Matthews, Prongia Mountain

PERSECUTION

Generally, Wingspan receives positive reports about wild New Zealand falcon, but unfortunately there remains some intolerance by individuals. Falcons continue to be deliberately shot in New Zealand by those who do not understand new care, despite being absolutely protected and attracting hefty fines under the Wildlife Act. From time to time Wingspan receives negative calls, and where possible Wingspan is able to offer advice and consider solutions.

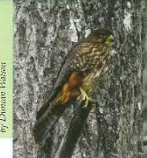
Actual message: April 2011 [Ring, ring: "Is Ian here. I live further down the Valley ... I would like to chase [...] one of those hawks [falcons] away ... it IS literally three feet from our back door ... because it's attacking my hens in my back garden ... and the little [...]"] (click)

[Ring, ring: "If it comes back I will SHOOT the bloody thing. I'm not having our birds and pets harassed by these confounded things. No, I am not going to leave my phone number but I'm giving you fair warning ..."] (click)

Coincidentally, just a week later, local pigeon fancier Mike Dingwall, found a female falcon in his backyard and brought it to Wingspan. Very weak and severely underweight, the small juvenile falcon wouldn't have survived much longer. It took some weeks for her to recover and regain her lost condition, but we are pleased to report she was handled and released successfully back into the wild. Since her release there has been the odd sighting of her at the Fuli and Game property next to Wingspan, and on one occasion, to the delight of visitors, she joined in the afternoon display with Andrew flying Atarata.

DUCKING FOR COVER! - by Dr Richard Seaton

Karewa Sanctuary. Photograph by Dr Richard Seaton



Karewa is a falcon that has evolved without any natural competitors or predators. Make no mistake, these are aggressive birds, they are simply fearless, and particularly in the breeding season.

Proving that field research of a dynamic raptor like the New Zealand falcon can be challenging, these photographs taken by Ross Giblin (Dominion Post) give a more visual representation.

Richard Seaton reports on the falcons at Karewa, Zealandia.

In November, Zealandia (Karewa Sanctuary) enquired about 'how to catch a falcon'. Granted, it wasn't the usual run-of-the-mill enquiry, but one which I am becoming more familiar with now. My first response was "get someone from Wingspan to come and help!" And so they did, and then I found myself scratching my head in a Wellington suburb, surrounded by tourists and press cameras, wondering what on Earth I had gotten myself into.

Zealandia has been established in the Wellington suburb of Karewa for some time now and Wingspan members will be familiar with some of the reports of the Karewa. Falcons have been observed in Karewa valley for many years now, but only recently have been reported to breed so close to the city. In fact, when they bred within the sanctuary in 2009/2010 it was the first time the species had been recorded breeding within the confines of the city since the 1970s! As a result, the team at Zealandia were keen to put some colour bands on these falcons to try and find out where they dispersed to once they left the area and whether the same adults were returning year after year to nest in the valley.

So it was that I found myself at Zealandia between Christmas and New Year 2010. With Wingspan hat on head and falcon trap in hand, but scratching my head with the conundrum I faced. How to trap a falcon while countless tourists, surrounded my trap, snapping photos and generally being blissfully unaware of what I was trying to do? No sooner had I moved one group on, carefully explaining what I was trying to do, the next group arrived and the whole process began anew.

Although I had arrived on the perfect summer's day weather wise, it appeared that everybody else felt the same and rather than walk around the shops on this beautiful day they had all decided to come and walk off their Christmas 'pud' amongst the glory of this unique reserve. "Damn them!" I cursed under my breath!

This was a unique situation for me. Usually the birds that I am trying to trap are out in the back blocks and far from human habitations, not in amongst throngs of people inquisitively pointing and shooting their latest gift from Santa. I was not hopeful to say the least and this feeling was

not altogether eased by the fact that *The Dominion Post* had come along, cameras and notebooks in hand and recording everything for an article the next day.

I got close on several occasions, but luck was not on my side and the falcons remained jewelry free. However, it was still a worthwhile trip for several things learnt that day.

First, the falcons in the sanctuary were not the least bit bothered about breeding near the public and had nested a mere 30 m off the main track, once again illustrating that it is not necessarily human disturbance that is restricting the numbers of falcons breeding in urban environments, it is more likely predation pressure from introduced mammals.

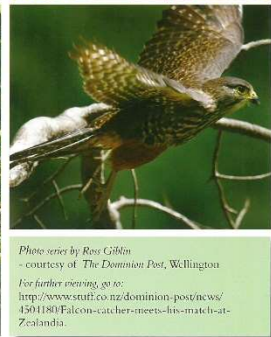
Secondly, New Zealand falcons previously have only ever been recorded breeding successfully once a year. While this pair did not successfully rear two broods, they were incubating a second clutch of eggs while feeding a fledgling from a nest within the same year.

This is the first time this has been recorded and is significant in that it illustrates the ideal conditions for falcons that the sanctuary is providing - if only we could replicate this over all of New Zealand!

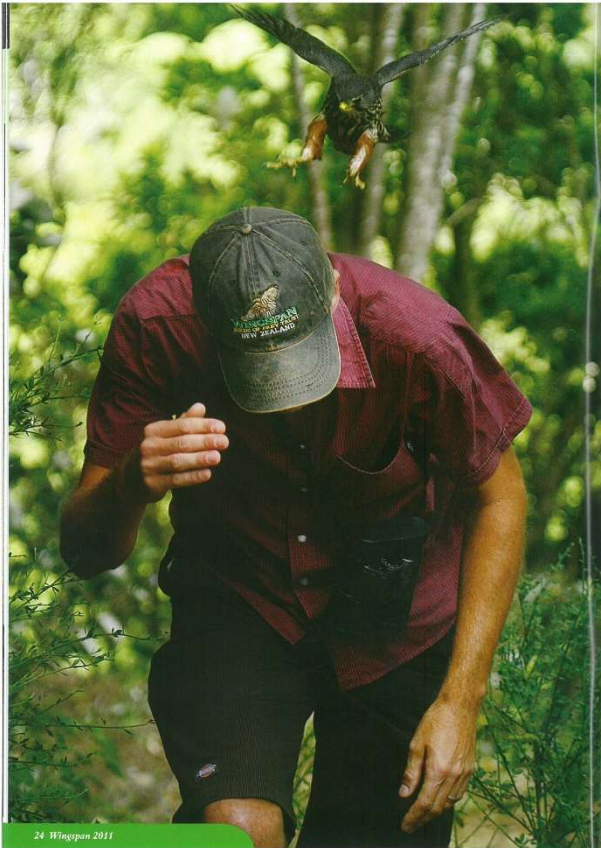
And my final lesson? Never let the press come along to watch you fail, you will always regret it. "How not to catch a falcon" indeed! (*The Dominion Post* front page banner, December 31, 2010)

Wingspan congratulates Richard Seaton on his appointment in 2010 to the Conservation Committee for the Raptor Research Foundation (RRF). The foundation is a non-profit scientific society whose primary goal is the accumulation and dissemination of scientific information about raptors (hawks, eagles, falcons, and owls). This information is used to inform the public (both scientific and lay) about the role of raptors in nature, and to promote the conservation of raptors whose populations are threatened by human activities. Richard has been elected as the Australasian Representative, including Australia, New Guinea, New Zealand and Pacific Islands, including Solomon, New Hebrides, New Caledonia, and Chatham. Total area - 8.9 million km².

... the sanctuary provides ideal conditions for falcons ...



Photos series by Ross Giblin - courtesy of The Dominion Post, Wellington
For further viewing, go to: <http://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/news/4501183/falcon-catcher-meets-lvs-matki-at-zealandia>



24 Wingspan 2011

FALCONS FOR GRAPES - Mia Jessen

'Flo' - a story, a reminder of how vulnerable wildlife can be in a human environment.

The last of the season's vineyard falcons was a female named 'Flo'. She was bathed and reared in captivity by Lena Olley of International Wildlife Consultants (IWC) in Renwick, Blechnon. Flo was abandoned by her parents as an egg, and the little chick, despite a rough start, grew well and by five weeks of age she was ready for release into the wild.



Intended to become part of the wild falcon breeding population over the Marlborough vineyards, the area chosen for her also held a single adult male which we hoped she might bond with. The male falcon 'Marlo', took an immediate interest in Flo when she arrived on site, and while in her enclosed nest barrel she would vocalise at the sight of him. Once released, Flo, as a typical newly fledged youngster explored her surroundings and gradually gained confidence on the wing.

Sadly after just one week out of the release barrel she encountered something no one could have prepared her for. A fate shared worldwide by wild falcons and other bird species alike. Flo came across an open container of sheep dip (for treating foot-rot), and in the warm Marlborough sunshine found it inviting enough to go in for a cooling bath and a drink - not knowing of the invisible dangers contained.

When located that afternoon, Flo was found in the shallow dip - eyes closed and she no longer cared to move. Quickly lifted out, she was washed down immediately then brought back to the facility in Renwick for more thorough washing and supportive treatment.

The chemical used in the sheep dip was found to be zinc sulphate - the zinc alone is known to cause fatal heavy metal poisoning. Local veterinarian Stuart Burrough (The Vet Centre, Blechnon) and his crew, as well as Brett Gartrell (New Zealand Wildlife Health Centre, Palmerston North) were consulted and contributed invaluable and quick support.

The first obstacle was to find a rarely used drug called Calcium EDTA, as it would offer the best chance of treating her. Given promptly there was a greater chance for a recovery - it is a drug that can actually remove the damaging heavy metal from the body.

Finding this drug on a Saturday night proved impossible. It is not used in human medicine, and veterinary clinics usually only order it when a medical case is presented, which is rare. Past midnight and I was almost resigned to give up the search for the drug, all the pleading phone calls seemed to have been made in vain.

But with hopes lingering, a final call was made the next morning to Christine Markovitz (Veterinary Clinic, Picton) and Ben Dallas (Vet Clinic, Blechnon) and an expired bottle of Ca-EDTA was located. Time was crucial, and by midday a blood test was taken for zinc levels before treatment started, and this would be compared later to see if the treatment had worked.

But Flo was not only feeling the damaging effects of the zinc inside her body (with the stripping of her gut wall), it was her eyes that appeared badly damaged as well. They constantly watered, ulcers appeared on the corneas, and she would only open her eyes briefly during the first week of treatment.

Her treatment and care included eye washes and ointments and painful injections of antibiotics into the breast muscle twice daily, plus regular tube feeds of liquid food and fluids. The intense fluid therapy was to keep her kidneys working, and included 'flushing' - where small amounts of rehydrating fluid given by crop tube every two hours around the clock. During the first seven days of treatment she had no appetite and inhaled only enough strength to stand upright, sleep, and digest the liquid food.

After one week of this intensive treatment she started gaining strength and was feeling better, her appetite came back and she would be taken outside to her pen to enjoy the sun and a bath again. Her next blood test, a week after the incident, showed her zinc level had come down and there were reasons to be hopeful.

However the optimism was short lived - only a week later she fell sick again, presumably from the damage the zinc had caused inside her. Another period of tube feeding and tablets followed, but she still had difficulties passing her droppings (manes) and this process caused her excruciating pain. Enema's to flush her cloaca temporarily relieved the obvious pain, but it was not a solution. It was clear the equipment and expertise needed now was at the New Zealand Wildlife Health Centre in Palmerston North.

A day of uneasy travelling from Renwick in a transport box, her first time in a car and on the ferry, we arrived to stay with raptor enthusiasts and Wingspan friends, Richard Scaton and Fleur Masey in Palmerston North. The following morning Flo was examined by veterinarians Brett Gartrell, Blakey Lenting and the team in the Wildlife Ward. X-rays were taken, blood samples analyzed, followed by an endoscopic investigation.

NOXIOUS AND TOXIC - by Debbie Stewart

Raptors are considered to be the barometers of the environment. As predators at the top of the food chain they accumulate the toxins from the prey that they eat, and in turn they accumulate the toxins from what their prey has eaten.

There are many pesticide poisons used for the control of pest plants, insects, birds, and mammals. During the 1950-60's pesticide chemicals like DDT and 245T were widely used internationally and almost wiped out some of the iconic raptors of the USA - not least the Californian condors and Peregrine falcon. It didn't kill the birds directly, but the accumulation in their bodies caused the laying of dioxin-shelled eggs that did not survive incubation to full term.

More recently, attention has turned to the vultures worldwide that are in critical risk of extinction by the use of compounds like diclofenac, a veterinary drug used to treat domestic livestock. Recent declines in the populations of three species of vultures in the Indian subcontinent are among the most rapid ever recorded in any bird species.

Toxic poisons have been used in New Zealand - in particular, the most recent being the anticoagulants found in compound rodenticides (such as brodifacoum, bromadiolone, flocoumafen, coumatetralyl and warfarin), all of which are readily available in New Zealand in baits sold for rodent control. Brodifacoum is used, more specifically in bait stations for possum control.

In 2010 Landcare Research enlisted help from Wingspan. We sent liver samples from specimens of Australasian harriers and morepork that boosted Landcare's sample size for their preliminary survey. To date the results from the testing of all anticoagulant rodenticides have been interesting. All of the samples from hawks provided were positive for brodifacoum and flocoumafen.

Landcare technicians have yet to complete full analysis of the overall results, but overall the concentrations detected are considered to be in the low range. At the very least these results indicate widespread exposure to hawks for some anticoagulants - the incidence in the samples provided from the Bay of Plenty were even higher than what has been found to date (comparatively) in a sample of road-kills from mid-Canterbury. Longer term, Landcare Research will be using this data to try and prompt some formal research into the implications of anticoagulant use affecting raptors.

From another angle, perhaps more attention needs to be paid to the heavy metal poisoning of raptors? Accumulative heavy metals like mercury have been well documented, and indeed Noel Hyde of Wingspan cites the testing of mercury levels in blood samples taken from the falcons of the Auckland Islands. But, perhaps we can add to the list, is the nearest threat lead?

Lead is present in industrial, agricultural, horticultural, and viticultural practices within New Zealand, but it has

also been recognised in recreational use and affecting the environment is fishers and hunters. For the latter, Fish and Game New Zealand recognised the problem of the use of lead shot (and consumption of surplus shot and bullet fragments by waterfowl and waders) and were proactive in removing lead shot over water ways. It remains a voluntary decision in other habitats.

So how accumulative is lead in our ecosystems? In New Zealand, our birds may well be shot, or ingest remaining shot pellets in waterways, pick up fishermen's sinkers, be orchard spray affected, or fall into sheep dip.

Studies have identified high toxicity levels of lead in species like kakapo and kea (native parrots), and also ducks. Most recently, Massey University Wildlife Vets in Palmerston North (June 2011) alerted TVNZ national news noting an increase of lead poisoning and the higher traces of lead in many native birds; in particular to hawks and falcons.

If the threatened New Zealand falcon, and the Australasian harriers are at risk from the effects of accumulative toxins in the environment, it should be an issue for conservation and we should take notice. By default, maybe we as Humans, also at top of the food chain, should stand to attention.



There are a lot of hazards in the environment that our New Zealand species are simply not prepared for. Birds, in particular suffer injuries or sickness (often fatal) from man-made problems like poisoning, electrocution, wire strike, windows, and drowning in artificial waterways, troughs and sheep dip containers.

DID YOU KNOW?

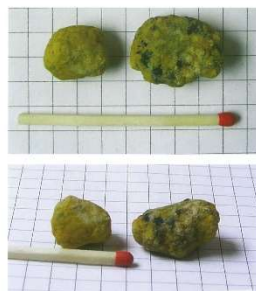
Birds (not just raptors) are often attracted to drink from open water tanks and troughs and subsequently drown. To avoid this, place a plank of wood (or similar) on the inside of the container to reach the top. The birds can then swim to the plank, climb up, dry their feathers and escape safely.

... this precious falcon captured our attention ...

The endoscope revealed two large 'stones' - masses of hardened uric acid lodged deep inside her cloaca, as well as severe inflammation of the gut wall, and we understood her pain. The two stones were removed and the success of the operation could be noticed immediately. When she came around from the anaesthesia, we all sighed with relief.

As well as the lifesaving work done at the Wildlife Ward, we also obtained help as far afield as the Falcon Hospital in Dubai, U.A.E., where World renowned specialist falcon veterinarian Tom Bailey contributed his advice. We can only guess, but this condition may have been caused by small amounts of zinc sulphate initially entering her cloaca causing some irritation and allowing these stones to form.

Falcons are injured and killed frequently by unnatural circumstances, whether by poisoning, electrocution, attacks by cats or by deliberate shooting. This precious falcon Flo captured our attention and kept many staff, vets and volunteers busy. But whether we focus on an individual falcon or the collective populations in the wild, the efforts by people to help them survive, in an increasingly dangerous world, is important. It should not be because of a lack of effort that we lose them for good.



Dear All friends of Flo,
I am sad to tell you that we lost the battle this morning when Flo was put to sleep. Things had not been looking good for some time really, sunny mates had become regular again and since Friday I had been flushing out the cloaca as she seemed to have difficulties passing manes again, but it didn't seem to make any difference this time round.

From yesterday morning she went down very fast, she had gone off her food and could not hold anything down that was given to her neither fluids nor liquid food, she slept, but as the sun rose she stumbled about dazed, could no longer hold her balance to stand up, nor muster the strength to resist any handling.

The decision for euthanasia was truly the hardest thing I have done so far. Little Flo had become everything and this was not what was meant to happen, coin wynn came to get us - the wrapping wasn't and I could not even get the words out to tell the vet what was there for. I was grateful coin came along to help.

Back at renwick a basic post mortem was completed and some pictures taken. I found only a bit of grit (the hardened uric acid) in her cloaca but it was not much, no new stones had formed and there wasn't particular inflammation in the area or the rest of the digestive tract.

I sent the pictures through to Massey and it was considered from the appearance and paleness of the kidneys that there would have been a kidney failure to some degree probably setting in as a real failure the day before. This would explain the huge amounts of water she had been drinking at getting fluids. I guess it would have been building up over time right from the zinc poisoning at the beginning, and then contributed to the two stones forming.

she had produced no uric acid in her manes over the last couple of days - just water and brown parts. There was also some visceral oedema (swelling) of uric acid crystals in the membranes to be seen around the heart and kidneys and the kidneys appeared enlarged to me. Poor Flo.

Damn sheep-dips must be killing off so many thirsty little birds out there!
And dear little Flo leaves a gaping hole here...

Mia

PROTECTING OZ RAPTORS . . . by Suzi Phillips

Man-made nest platforms and volunteer monitoring are helping the recovery of the Eastern Osprey population on the northern New South Wales coast.

Two northern New South Wales power companies, Country Energy and Northpower, are providing sturdy pole-mounted nest platforms as an alternative to Osprey's building nests on power poles and lights.

This benefits both the Osprey and the power companies, as it removes a potential fire risk from nesting material that is too close to floodlights. It has also helped sports facilities that have had to switch off lights close to Osprey nests.

The Osprey is a specialist raptor that hunts fish along the shoreline, and in coastal rivers and estuarine waters. Breeding success for these endangered birds of prey has improved dramatically since the 1970s, when only ten breeding pairs were known to exist along the NSW coastline.

Osprey numbers plummeted due to pollution, coastal development, habitat destruction, egg collection, and shooting. A change in attitude with increased public awareness has reversed that decline, and there are now more than 100 breeding pairs active on the coast north of Sydney.

The Osprey is a large brown and white coloured bird of prey with a distinctive brown band from the beak through the eye and down the neck, and a wingspan of up to 1.7 metres.

These raptors naturally nest in large, often dead trees with nests made up of large bundles of sticks. The nests can measure over a metre across and up to 1.5m deep.

New South Wales power company, Country Energy, helps the Ospreys adapt to an urban environment by fitting power poles with special cradles to encourage nesting away from power poles and floodlights.

As natural nest sites disappear along the coast with the loss of tall dead trees near waterways, the cradles enable the Ospreys to build their nests away from the danger of live conductors.

Success stories for the cradles include a pair of Osprey nesting at the Kingsford Smith Oval at Ballina. The Ospreys attempted to nest on top of a floodlight pole at the oval, but were scared each time the lights were turned on for junior football or hockey practice.

The Ospreys were moved to a specially constructed cradle fitted one metre above the lights. The original nest material was transferred to the new platform, and it was hoped the birds would breed there again this year.

A similar situation occurred at a velodrome in Toormina, where an Osprey nest was relocated from a light pole to a

cradle platform, close to a woodland area. The light had had to be turned off all season to prevent the nest material from catching fire.

The Ospreys had taken to using the platform by nightfall, and those involved were hopeful the new nest site would result in chicks next season.

The provision of nesting cradle platforms by both Country Energy and Northpower has transformed the breeding success of Osprey along the coast, and it appears that the earlier decline in the species in the Tweed River area was due to a lack of suitable nesting sites.

The Tweed River is a very productive fish resource for not only the Osprey, but also good numbers of Sea Eagles, Brahminy Kites, Whistling Kites, pelicans, and cormorants.

Fishing tackle and waste line is a different type of threat that affects these birds of prey and wildlife: agencies recommend against the use of stainless steel hooks or tackle. Mild steel tackle is less of a threat as it rusts away quickly, especially in salt water or the acid conditions inside the bird's gut.

... chicks in particular can become entangled in fishing line attached to fish brought to them by an adult birds ...

Chicks in particular can become entangled in fishing line attached to fish brought to them by adult birds. Banding operations of chicks on the pole mounted cradles have found several instances where chicks have died in this way. Adult Osprey have also suffered from fishing line entangled around their feet and talons. Fishermen in the region are also encouraged to use fishing line that breaks down in ultraviolet light and carefully dispose of waste fishing line.

A less common threat to Tweed Osprey is that of shooting. Last August, an Osprey was found shot, but survived the initial wound (as the bullet passed through its body). It was found by a teenager, treated by a local vet, treated with a course of antibiotics, and released after recovery.

Osprey are listed as vulnerable under Australia's Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995, and there are penalties of \$3500 or two years in prison for harming them.

The Tweed Osprey Group monitors the breeding success of Ospreys along the coast and riverine habitats of the Tweed area. This group of local bird watchers and osprey enthusiasts spends many voluntary hours checking nest sites for signs of chicks and monitoring the progress of off-spring.

... power companies protect Ospreys in Oz ...



An adult Osprey with a fish that it caught in the surf at Kingsport on the New South Wales coast near the Tweed River. Photograph by Suzi Phillips.

They collaborate with the National Parks and Wildlife Service, (via local ranger Allan Goodwin), and Country Energy, to report on the overall breeding success of the Tweed's Osprey population - that uses both natural and man-made nest platforms.

In the 2010 spring season just past, Tweed Osprey Group co-ordinator Faye Hill, reported that the wet weather resulted in adults and chicks sheltering deep in nests more often than in other years, often making it harder to determine what was happening.

Despite this, the group recorded a total of 16 Osprey chicks that had hatched successfully. Of these, there were five sets

of twins and six single chicks, from 18 Osprey pairs that attempted to breed. Five breeding pairs failed to produce any chicks, and one pair lost two chicks in mid-August.

This compared favourably with last year's tally of 19 chicks, and several banded juvenile Osprey from last year were also re-sighted. Banding of chicks was not carried out this spring, due to difficulties with monitoring in the wet conditions.

In past seasons, banding of some chicks has been successful and this allows the team to identify individual birds from a distance, and monitor dispersal.

... an Osprey nest was relocated from a light pole ...

The efforts of the Tweed Osprey Group contribute to the conservation and recovery of the Ospreys in their area, and together with the work done by the NPWS and support from Country Energy, helps to maintain the success of this endangered coastal bird of prey.

Reference: Tweed Osprey Group Report 2010 - Faye Hill (comp/author).

Right: Nest platforms provided by the local power company are popular with Osprey in the Tweed River area. Below: A natural Osprey nest used this past season by a pair of Osprey beside the Tweed River. Photograph by Suzi Phillips



AROUND THE WORLD CONNECTIONS

Postcards from the Middle East



Wingspan members Dilan Rajasingham and Louise Mayclair completed an interpid raptor journey through Egypt, Syria and United Arab Emirates.

In Dubai they were treated with special raptor encounters, including the training of a peregrine falcon, and a behind the scenes visit to the Falcon Hospital and National Avian Research Centre (NARC).

Photography by Dilan Rajasingham

WAKA HUIA - a treasure chest!



Chris Morgan modelling traditional Mongolian treasure complete with a wedge sided eagle - also on display at Wingspan.

MUSEUM

The Wingspan Museum is continually updated with the display of treasures from around the World, in particular items that celebrate the history of falconry, and the cultural relationships between raptors and man. Many of these items have been donated, or loaned for exhibition purposes for visitors to share. Courtesy of supporters and members of Wingspan, the latest exhibits have included many from Mongolia, kindly loaned from Chris, Eukhganghal and Ram Morgan. Items on loan include traditional, hand-painted coats of fox, goat, and lamb skin, hat in made of Mongolian headlins, and a corpling with a bejewelled belt and scabbard of silver, precious stones and glass beads.

Antiques from the 19th century from Egypt, featuring a hawk, from Dilan Rajasingham and Louise Mayclair

A SCULPTOR'S TALE - by Mike Norris

Mike Norris, artist and bronze sculptor, first met Noel Hyde at Te Papa (National Museum Wellington), when Noel was the Museum Bird Collection Manager and working as the museum's taxidermist. Mike had just moved to New Zealand, and was looking for references to help with his first group of sculptures of New Zealand birds.



The collection at the museum was invaluable for my research, but I also found we shared something else - a passion for birds of prey, especially for New Zealand falcons. It was inevitable that one of my first pieces would be of this stunning bird, and then later the Morepork. Both of these subjects have since proved to be very popular and have been my biggest sellers.

Noel of course told me all about Wingspan and its main objectives, so as soon as I got the chance I made the trip from Wellington to Rotorua. I was not disappointed. Noel and Debbie showed me around (and already into the archives for reference photos of the birds - another valuable resource).

But it also gave me the chance to watch the birds, and try and learn something about their character - the one thing I always try and capture in my work. Fortunately, most birds in captivity retain their behavioral characteristics, so it's possible to get a good impression of any traits that separate them from related species.

The New Zealand Falcon is unique - it has adapted to hunt in the bush, while most other falcon species hunt in the open, so it has a different look to most of its relatives. Shorter broader wings and a large tail give it a great deal of maneuverability, but at the cost of raw speed when compared to its bigger relative the Peregrine Falcon, the world's fastest creature.

I've sculpted the New Zealand Falcon three times now, with the latest version being my newest piece. I've sculpted the Morepork twice as an adult, and I had the pleasure of first meeting 'Whisper' when she was only a few weeks old, and couldn't resist doing a sculpture of her too. She was still covered in down but her wing feathers were quite well developed.

Almost all of my bird sculptures have a very smooth surface, however I use different techniques when colouring the bronze to give the impression of down, or feathers. I also stylize the form of the birds to better capture the character



... the New Zealand Falcon is unique ...

of the species. Too much detail I consider a distraction, although I often use textured bases to perch the birds on, to add some contrast to the main subject.

Since my first visit to Wingspan I've had the chance to visit on many other occasions and I always learn something new. It may be run on a smaller scale than many Bird of Prey Centres in the UK, (that I visit on my annual trips there), but for me it is Wingspan's great strength. It gives you a chance to really focus on our unique raptors; it remains a very personal experience.

The flying displays go from strength to strength, giving an opportunity to see falcons at their best. 'Masters of the Sky', they travel at breathtaking speeds. On my latest visit to Wingspan the highlight was the chance to see one of the centres more tranquil raptors flying. New Zealand Falcons are well known for their aggressive behaviour and I got a chance to witness, at first hand, a couple of close call swoops, giving me a new perspective to what it must be like to be a prey species of these amazing aerial predators.

But the one bird from the UK that I really miss seeing, and also happens to be my favourite bird, is the Barn Owl. It was a bird I saw on a regular basis patrolling the meadows near my home, humming for voles and mice either at dusk or dawn.

To hear that it is now self-introduced from Australia is great news, and 'naturally' the Wingspan Team are already involved in helping these wonderful creatures.

I just hope that at sometime in the future, the Barn owl might turn up in the Wellington area and make a 'Pon' very happy!

-Mike Norris
International Art Centre, Parnell, Auckland



NEW ZEALAND FALCONS IN ART

Colin Wynn is based in Renwick, Marlborough, has shown a lifelong interest in birds of prey - more than thirty years experience working with the falcons of New Zealand.

Colin is a foundation member of the Raptor Association of New Zealand (from the 1976 inaugural Meeting in Wairoa), and has been a real driver of the 'Falcons for Grapes' project with Dr Nick and Barbro Fox (International Wildlife Consultants).

Colin, has travelled to the UK and Mongolia learning about raptors, and closer to home was recognised by appearing on New Zealand national television with local programmes such as 'Country Calendar' and 'Birdland'.

Wingspan members might also recall Colin as the worthy recipient of the 2009 New Zealand Raptor Award.

But Colin doesn't just look after falcons in Marlborough. Indeed he finds them; he tracks them, he reports on them, but ... he also paints them!

Colin, originally appointed as the official artist to the Royal New Zealand Navy in 1993, shows his talent extends from the sea, the water, the boats, the ships and the beaches, but so other subjects that are part of his life and close to his heart.

Colin currently exhibits through MacGregor Wright Gallery (Wellington), Rathford Gallery (Nelson), Bushy Gallery (Dunedin). For more information check out www.colinwynnart.com



Painted in his workshop with his two work horses, New Zealand Gulls, alongside co-workers, (and his big fans) Lisa Oddy and Terry Fisher.

NEW ZEALAND FALCON IN MOVIES

DreamWorks Studios (USA) have announced Steven Spielberg and Peter Jackson, two of the most famous and celebrated filmmakers working today, have joined forces to create a series of motion picture films based on the adventures of Tintin.

The iconic character Tintin, was created some eighty years ago by Georges Remi, better known to the world by his pen name 'Hergé'. He introduced the world to a unique cast of characters, who have been loved by readers of all ages, from all over the globe ever since.

"The Adventures of Tintin" - a series of 23 books which became Hergé's life's work, were published between 1929 and 1976 and have sold over 200 million copies worldwide.



Spielberg and Jackson have selected three stories from the Tintin book series to develop into theatrical feature films, which they intend to direct back to back, employing state of the art performance capture technology.

The movies will be firmly anchored in the time period in which the books are set. Both Spielberg and Jackson want to be authentic to the look of the world Hergé created, which is familiar and beloved by millions of Tintin readers.

Peter Jackson and Weta Workshop are obvious New Zealand connections within the Tintin international production and movie release, but Wingspan also has a small part contribution!

Weta Workshop, meticulous in their research to reproduce authentic animations for the movie, approached Wingspan for advice regarding falcons, and falconers. Their brief for the movie was to research a Belgian falconer with his falcon.

Proudly, animation images were modelled on the 'furniture' (glove, ankle, jeans, belt) at Wingspan, as well as our very own New Zealand falcon, Orzy?



The Hergé Museum, Belgium
Photograph by Don Grant and Yvke De Haeyer



FOCUS ON CONSERVATION!

Sabine Bernert is a French author and wildlife photographer.

She has visited many conservation projects around the World - like the Jane Goodall Institute (for chimpanzees), Sea Turtle Conservancy, and the Hacienda Baru to name a few.



Sabine has successfully published two books about wildlife and conservation of endangered species, her first book was focused in Southern Africa, and the second one in Costa Rica.

Sabine is currently working on new books about New Zealand, and associated biodiversity and conservation programmes. New Zealand is not well known in France, and despite leading many conservation projects.

Sabine considers it is essential to profile further the conservation successes within this country.

Her books have a common theme. They present a personal perspective on conservation, and, where possible captures the work, indeed the passion of key individuals, and it is complimented by her photographic expertise to document their efforts.

In March 2011, she visited Wingspan for the first time, and captured special moments of the raptor programme.

Her work to view can be viewed in galleries in Paris, France, or seen online with a visit to <http://www.sabinebernet.fr> (and if you are not fluent in French, just follow the Galleries on the left side!)



A 'parliament of owls', including (from left) Wairuru, Whisper and Nestor. - Photograph by Sabine Bernert.

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VISITORS PHOTO GALLERY



Kim and Danny Owens (Professional Taxidermist from Texas, USA), Trevor Maxwell (Deputy Mayor Rotorua) with Cathy and Phillip Charles.

Alan Toppson and Paul Sciffeld, bird custodian, H Pops and Canterbury Museum

Dawn Thomas, an 'old' falconer from Te Anau

Trevor Maxwell (Deputy Mayor Rotorua) with Sharon.

Lou Rabin - Hawk Conservancy, UK.



Maurice Bain (left) and Colin Wynn (right) from Marlborough

Hon. Todd McClell, MP, Rotorua.

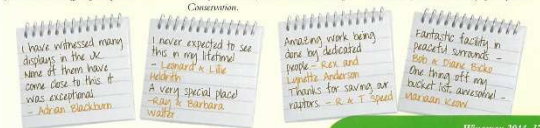
Jim Cook, Chairman, UK Hawk Board



Jack and Edie Stafford family visit.

Phillip Woolstone, ex MP and Minister of Conservation.

The Saxon, Coats and Mosey family visit.



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BLUES FESTIVAL 2011

Held at the Rotorua Arts Village on Sunday 30th January 2011, the Rotorua Blues Festival (hosted by the Bay of Plenty Blues Club members), celebrated local musicians, their music... and the raptors of Aotearoa.

Wingspan was fortunate to be nominated as the charity for the event, and this provided a different 'string' to tune public awareness about New Zealand raptors and the Wingspan conservation programme. A special reserved marquee was provided as a trade stand with information, plus merchandise for sale, spot prizes and raffles, donation jars, and selling reed bottled water for the crowds.

Popular during the event were the live raptors for guests to see, including 'Shahcena' a female falcon, and 'Mana' a male barnier; they provided special and up-close encounters of the bird kind.

Other representatives hosting the Wingspan stand during the day's events included Noel Hyde, Debbie Stewart, Andrew Thomas, Locke Sirets, Alison Lamberton, and volunteers like Amy Stewart-Badger, Tim Foley, and Mary Staal.



Wingspan members and supporters were an integral part of this successful promotion, and in particular Wingspan acknowledges Lake Chalice Wines, Hancock Distributors, The Belgian Bar, and the Millennium Hotel for their continued support, promotion, and respect for the raptors of New Zealand.



'E hui o ake Kaiti - A Meeting of the Clouds'. From left: Roger Cunningham (MC), Noel Lamberton (President Rotary and Bay of Plenty Blues Club), Noel Hyde (Wingspan Chairman), Trevor Maxwell (Deputy Mayor), Amy Staal, Jacke Sirets (with Kahu Mase) and Debbie Stewart (with Kararua Sheehans). Photograph by Andrew Wainor, Rotorua Daily Post.

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PROMOTIONS

The Wingspan Centre is often promoted as a venue of difference, and welcomes corporate, promotional, and recreational groups to share the raptor programme.



Wingspan members, Kevin and Anne Prescott of Oromia Chillis 'n' Peppers (Napier), shared their excitement winning the 2011 Cuisine Artisan Award. Oromia's products are sold at Wingspan, and most recently they have produced a new chilli sauce under the label 'Falcon Owl... IT'S HOT'. Proceeds of these sales are for the Wingspan programme, and Oromia have promised a 10% discount for orders from Wingspan members. Check them out at www.chilli.co.nz



Television programmes often feature the Wingspan Centre, and this year we welcomed Pacific Beat St (Season 11, Episode 33). Pictured here is presenter Rhilla Strong with Noel Hyde.



Classic and vintage car enthusiasts are frequent guests at Wingspan, and regularly reserve group bookings for their members to visit as something different to do. But the Staff has noticed, more often than not, that other visitors spend a lot of time in the car park!



In particular Wingspan acknowledges sponsors Lake Chalice Wines for their continued support, not least a special afternoon event hosted by Hancock that included special guests arriving. Chris Gambistis from Lake Chalice Wines arrived like a 'rebel without a cause' on his Harley, complete with falcon 'patch'.

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WINGSPAN RAPTOR AWARD



This World knows many heroes. They are usually politicians, or soldiers, famous scientists or inspirational, religious characters. But there is something that's flying right below the radar. No-one has seen this coming!

It's a crucial movement that has hundreds of thousands of members and they all work in the same direction. It covers humanitarianism and sustainability, but it also covers conservation and ecological restoration. It is, indeed, the largest movement in the world - yet it has no headquarters, no manifest, no script nor army. There is no male vertebrate leader in charge either!

The cool thing is every now and then one person just stands out in the crowd.

This person is a local hero for the greater cause of making this world a better place to live. Make no mistake!

We need these heroes for inspiration and leadership. DoC can't do without them either.

Steve Lawrence came on the raptor scene many, many years ago. He did what needed to be done. His interest in raptors was not just skin deep - it is systemic and heart-felt. I suppose we call that passion. I salute you, Steve!

*-Rued Kleinpape
Patron, Wingspan*

... the New Zealand falcons have a champion ...

The Wingspan Raptor Award was first established in 2006 to recognise individuals, groups, and/or organisations for outstanding efforts and contributions towards the birds of prey of New Zealand. Nomination categories are aligned with the Wingspan objectives and include research, captive management, public awareness (education) and rehabilitation of birds of prey in New Zealand. The prize includes an original solid bronze trophy (made and designed by New Zealand artist Mike Norris), a framed certificate, and special grant of \$2000.

In a surprise announcement the winner of the 2010 Award was awarded to Steve Lawrence from Oamaru, Dunedin.

The New Zealand falcons, known to most of us as the bird on the \$20 note, have a champion in Steve Lawrence, who was awarded the Wingspan Raptor Award at Tairāia Heads in Dunedin.

Steve Lawrence of Dunedin was recognised for more than thirty years of outstanding involvement in falcon conservation.

"New Zealand falcons tend to 'fly under the radar' in terms of their profile as a threatened bird species," said the Chairman of Wingspan Bird of Prey Trust Noel Hyde. "These dynamic birds are the spiffies of our avian world, once common across New Zealand's landscape, they are rarer than kiwi, and are at the edge of survival with only 4000 pairs left in the wild".

Presenting the 2010 Wingspan Award, Noel Hyde stated, "This is a prime example of why community involvement of species conservation is so important."

It's thanks to the endless hours of dedication of people like Steve that help increase our knowledge of falcons, and contribute towards the comeback of these spectacular birds".



From left: Wingspan representatives Christopher Cooy (Trustee) and Noel Hyde (Chairman), with Steve and Yvonne Lawrence, and Department of Conservation Ranger Barry Lawrence, at the Albatross Cafe, Tairāia Heads, Dunedin.

The Award trophy remains the property of Wingspan Birds of Prey Trust, and is to be returned to the Wingspan office by 30th July of each year. As Judges, the decision of the Board of Trustees is final.

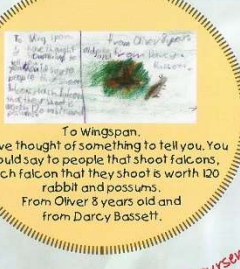
WINGSPAN BIRDS OF PREY CENTRE
1164 Paradise Valley Rd, Rotorua | Ph/Fax 07 357 4469 | Website www.wingspan.co.nz
Email wingspan@stra.co.nz

FLEDGLINGS . . . it's all about the kids

One of Wingspan's four main aims is education and to encourage children to learn about the dynamics of conservation and ecology. School groups, scout clubs as well as members are regularly seen at the centre and continue to impress us with their positive responses and incredible works of art.



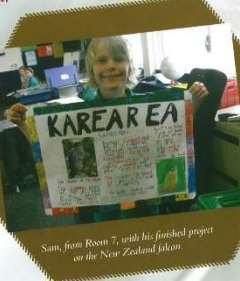
Diorama complete with falcon chasing pheasant - by Hanna Wilks 2010, for a school project



To Wingspan, I have thought of something to tell you. You should say to people that shoot falcons, each falcon that they shoot is worth 120 rabbit and possums. From Oliver 8 years old and from Darcy Bassett.



African style mask of a New Zealand falcon, by Darrell Trues



Sam, from Room 7, with his finished project on the New Zealand falcon.

... the birds are awesome! Reyner Bickerstaff ...



Thank you for letting me get hold of a bird - Gerald Monteith
I love falcons - Olivia Abbott
Last Halloween, Zoe Armstrong was inspired to dress up as a bald eagle (thanks to a little help from Mummy)
Raptor-inspired food for Zoe Armstrong's 8th birthday. Falcon and owl pellets, as well as a lovely cake with Ozzy and his first kill (a mushroom!)
Ahh-may-zing! Tanya Hobbs

Education opportunities have been provided this year with Wingspan working with Learning Outside the Classroom (LEOTC). The LEARNZ programme by the Ministry of Education provides virtual field trips for teachers and students in classrooms around the country. Over a three day period in July, filming and interviews with audio conferencing were completed at Wingspan. The field trips specifically targeted the educational needs of students in New Zealand (years 5-10) during Term 4 of 2011. Classroom's around the country were able to 'visit' Wingspan, and learn about the raptors of New Zealand including their biology, conservation threats and rehabilitation. Check out the LEARNZ programme at www.learnz.org.nz and meet Andrew and his Ambassador!

The Wingspan virtual field trip was one of eight to be partially funded through the Ministry of Education in 2011; the balance possible with funding support from Auckland Zoo.

AUCKLAND ZOO
Live. Everyday.

YOUTH CONSERVATION AWARD

As part of Conservation Week 2010 Wingspan sent out 40 complimentary children gift admissions to local Aorangi School, Ngongotaha scouts group and the local Kiwi Conservation Club (KCC).

On presentation of the gift certificate children received a fun pack that contained a journal, magnet, quiz sheet and extra goodies. This was made possible due to the kind contribution of Foua Davies-McConchie, in memory of her late husband Professor David McConchie. His passion for the New Zealand landscape lead him on a life path to become an innovative thinker and world leader in environmental remediation and sustainability.

A kiwi boy who made a positive global impact - You can too!

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are a vital and integral part of the Wingspan programme. The Centre would simply not survive, or be the success it is now, without the immense efforts, hours and dedication of individuals, members and community groups.

Wingspan would like to extend a huge thank you to the many volunteers for their assistance at the Centre. The volunteer hours contribute towards a wide variety of the 'things-to-do' list, including ground maintenance, aviary cleaning and watering, food preparation, along with various other jobs. People like Audrey Clin (Rotorua), Dustin Biber (Palmerston North), Tim Foley (Wangarua), David Thomas (Christchurch), Chiffuyu Beckett (Kerikeri) and Doreen Taylor (Rotorua).



A very special mention to key volunteer Mary Neal of Rotorua, who for the past five years has been running front-of-house meals, and greeting visitors each (and every) weekend.

The busiest time of the year at Wingspan is leading into the breeding season, and last season Suzi Phillips (Auckland) helped by spending a lot of voluntary hours observing recorded camera footage of the resident raptors.

As part of Wingspan's research it is important to note breeding behaviours (interactions, courtship and copulations) that are captured on the surveillance cameras.

A big thank you to Suzi who on some days, looked through hours of footage!

Hawks



During the year Wingspan had volunteers from Massey University who spent a week helping with general tasks as well as gaining a broader knowledge on the New Zealand falcon, the subject of their post-graduate studies. Thank you to Phoebe Stewart-Sundin, Andrew Grey and Chris Deshens. We would also like to acknowledge Helena Mann, Kerri-Anne Barrett, Sherie Jensen and Nadia Saathof, (all of Waikato University), for their help as part of their environmental education course.

We extend a massive thank you to Stephen White, who spreads the Wingspan word by distributing rack card brochures throughout Rotorua. With a limited budget for advertising, Wingspan relies heavily on local businesses that are supportive and promote the Trusts conservation programme. Organisations like Rotorua Tourism, Millennium Hotel Rotorua, play a role in information centres (Rotorua, Te Awamutu, Taupo, Tirau, Tauranga), and local hotels, motels, backpackers, B&Bs, who refer visitors to the Centre.

As a charitable trust, there remains a limited budget for promotion, marketing, and advertising, so 'word-of-mouth' remains hugely important to Wingspan. If you enjoy your membership, support the programme, and have enjoyed your visit(s) to the Centre, the challenge is to tell two more people!

If you would like to help out, Wingspan welcomes any enquiries or volunteer enquiries - at Wingspan moves into the future, new opportunities will evolve to meet the conservation needs of the programme.

For further information, or to apply to become a Wingspan Volunteer, please contact the Wingspan office.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS . . . food, housing, care . . .



Raptors are hunting birds and they only eat meat, along with feather, bone, and fur. They require a wide range of natural food items to be able to survive, and keep them in top condition.

At Wingspan, there remains a special need for feeding the raptors in our care. Some birds are part of the breeding programme; some are young chicks, sick or injured, or birds in training.

More often than not, they cannot hunt for themselves. Instead, it's people 'hunting' for them, who donate dead prey items to the Wingspan birds to eat.

Thank you for the contributions during the course of the year, and in particular we acknowledge the donations of:

- Pheasant and duck: Scott and Bev Thomson (Rotorua), Ian Phillips (Environment BOP), and hunters from Fish and Game New Zealand (Eastern Region).
- Feral pigeon: Cliff Bunker (Eco-Lab, Auckland), Ron and Rebecca Watts (Auckland), Charles Pilbera (Rotorua), and Matt McDougall and Karen Archer (Rotorua) for the dooves!
- Rabbit and hare: Dave Hutchings (Rotorua), Tim Foley (Kahurangi), Tony Todd (Rotorua), Hilary Prior (Rotorua), and Jason Horton (Hawarua).
- Surplus mice: Nadine Stone (Rotorua)

Living quarters are obviously important for the Wingspan birds as well. Raptors are not a communal species, so in captivity they can only be housed as single birds, or as breeding pairs.

In the course of the year, the completion of two new small holding aviaries for birds in training has been important. We call them the 'weathering mews', and acknowledge support from Ecomac Sheds (Taranaki), and Mary Staal (Rotorua) for the construction of additional aviary spaces.

Also, the Hardy Family (Rotorua) for the rental space provided on their property for the purposes of Wingspan's conservation programme, and to Fish and Game New Zealand (Eastern Region) for the use of aviary facilities for the off-site falcons (including two breeding aviaries, plus the five isolation aviaries used primarily for holding single birds prior to transfer).

Finally, we acknowledge the Department of Conservation, (Bay of Plenty Conservancy and Lakes), in particular Henry Weston, Keith Owen, and Thalia Sachtleben, who deal with the permitting requirements for the birds held at the centre, and for those raptors pending release and transfer.

Thank you for your continued support.

STOP PRESS

During the preparation of this Journal edition, we unexpectedly received three South Island falcons in need of care. Each with different issues, they have included a juvenile with a permanent beak deformity, an adult blind in one eye, and the third, another juvenile, with a broken tail bone and feathers.

Coincidentally all three are females, and all three found gravitating towards poultry farms in desperate search of food.

Of the three, one was found in a trap in Geraldine, but thanks to the efforts of Massey University Wildlife Vets (Palmerston North), Richard Seaton and Fleur Maseyk (Palmerston North) she is making a good recovery. The tail bone fracture has healed; she has gained condition, and is significantly more active.

In an effort to prepare her for release back to her original territory, she is scheduled to have fitted a new set of tail feathers (a replacement method called 'imping'), and then, courtesy of Air New Zealand she will be ready to fly home!

For the other two falcons, the news is disappointing. We consider they are unable to be released back into the wild due to their permanent injuries; they simply would not survive.

For these falcons, the Wingspan team acknowledges the efforts and attention by numerous raptor supporters including the Officers of the Department of Conservation based in Otago.

Wingspan also acknowledges landowners like Barry Snell, (pilot and keen flight fan) and Dean Thomas, both of Te Anau for the recovery of this young Southern 'belle'; a Southern falcon (a first for Wingspan), who we have named 'Autumn'.

The other adult female is an Eastern falcon, from Palmerston in the South Island. She was found in a chicken coop in June, and needed extra attention due to numerous problems and low condition. She has however, responded well to her treatment and care.

The Wingspan Team have named her 'Yaka', in honour of the Tasman Bay Herli family in Motueka.

IN THE NEWS



Photograph by Inay Mikhovoid

FALCONS

Alli ♀
From Marlborough, Alli has permanent injuries after being deliberately shot. Important for the wingspan programme, she has fostered eggs and chicks, and is now paired with Wink. **Absolute sponsor: Noel and Alison Lamberton**



Photograph by Dawnie Meyer

Amarica (Dina) ♀
The 'terrestrial'. For the past two years trained by Andrew Thomas and featured in the flying displays at Wingspan, visitors 'wooed' by her best flight, lure work and maneuvers on the wing. **Bronze sponsor: Sornipistim Internacional**



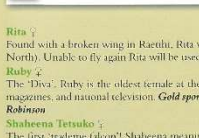
Photograph by Rod Nelder

Fovea ♀
A successful breeding female, and remains respected by staff as one of the most territorial and aggressive falcons during the breeding season. **Silver sponsor: Mark and Patricia McKenna**



Photograph by Rod Nelder

Julz ♀
Originally from Kaingaroa (2008), found after breaking her wing hitting a deer fence. At just one year of age, she laid her first eggs, and successfully fostered another three young chicks. **Gold sponsors: Chris and Enkhjargal Morgan; Bronze sponsors: KV Ellis, Andrea Purkin**



Photograph by Rod Nelder

Kaitiaki ♀
Kaitiaki is a real treasure. In 2009 she surprised everyone by laying three chicks, a total of 10 consecutive eggs. **Gold sponsors: Edward and Wendy Goodwin**

Millie (Millennium Falcon) ♀
Captive-bred, Millie featured on the falcon growth posters and, currently trained by Ineke Struss. Considered Wingspan's 'drama queen'. **Absolute sponsor: Millennium Hotel**

Majo ♀
Captive bred at Wingspan (2007), but rescued at one day of age after almost being killed by the parent birds. **Bronze sponsor: Lynda Coggrave**

Ozzy ♀
The 'falcon ambassador'. Trained by Debbie Stewart, he features during the daily displays and remains popular with visitors with his fast flight, and hunting antics. **Gold sponsors: Ross and Julie Bailey of Manawatu Manufacturing Jewellers; Silver sponsor: Majcraft Ltd**

R2D2 ♀
Originally from Taupo, arriving to Wingspan (2008) from Massey Vets (Palmerston North) with a broken wing. Subsequently paired with Julz, in 2009 they produced one chick of their own and fostered another three chicks. **Gold sponsors: Chris and Enkhjargal Morgan; Bronze sponsors: Craig Irving, Oliver Nicholson**

Rita ♀
Found with a broken wing in Raretiti, Rita was brought to Wingspan (2010) after medical care at Massey Vets (Palmerston North). Unable to fly again Rita will be used for education and advocacy. **Gold sponsors: Russell and Denise Maytin**

Ruby ♀
The 'Diva'. Ruby is the oldest female at the Centre and during her 'career' has featured on special edition coins, books, magazines, and national television. **Gold sponsors: Dilan Rajasingham and Louise Mayclair; Silver sponsors: Steve and Lindy Robinson**

Shahreena (Tetsuko) ♀
The first 'radame falcon'. Shahreena meaning female falcon in Arabic, and Tetsuko meaning 'Lady of Steel'. She lives up to her name and is currently being trained by Debbie Stewart. **Gold sponsors: Dilan Rajasingham and Louise Mayclair; Catherine Pierard and Rupert Steinbeis**

. . . orphaned, or injured in situ . . .



This birds in the hand... kaitiaki and koroua chicks at Wingspan

Tarawera ♀

Tarawera is the oldest male held at Wingspan (brother of Ruby), and paired with Kaitiaki in 2005 for the falcons breeding programme. **Bronze sponsor: Graham and Blanche Lubbock**

Tuhoe ♀

Brother to Orzy and Kaitiaki, hatched December 2002. Tuhoe is paired with Wink. **Silver sponsor: Brian Maud; Bronze sponsor: Lindsay and Alison Moore**



Fovea and part of the breeding programme since 2005. **Gold sponsors: Malcolm Macrae, Janet Green; Bronze sponsors: Garry and Erin Durr**

Whisper ♀
Originally introduced to Wingspan as a rescued egg from Kaingaroa Forest in 2007. Artificially incubated and hand raised, Whisper remains the friendliest mottosport at Wingspan. **Silver sponsors: Kesseli & Associates; Bronze sponsor: Murray Howie**

Moon ♀
Foster by Whisper in 2009 and named in special honour of the late Geoff Moon O.B.E. Moon was successfully released on Christmas eve and has still been heard around the Centre. **Absolute sponsors: Edward and Wendy Goodwin**

Nesora ♀
Rescued as a young chick in 2002, and successfully paired with Wairara two years after being nursed back to health - they are the only breeding pair of mottosport held at the Centre. **Absolute sponsor: Mary Staal**

Wairara ♀
In 2005 Wairara arrived with broken wings, and is unable to be released. Paired with Nesora she produced her first chick in 2007. **Gold sponsor: Laurie and Bev Richardson; Silver sponsor: Maxine Powick**

BARN OWL
Tahi ♀
Found on farmland in Kaitiaki with a severely broken left wing, which after seven months of trying to save, amputation was the only option remaining. Tahi is the only captive barn owl in New Zealand. **Gold sponsors: Ian and Libby MacKenzie - Central City Vets, Gary and Annette Hall; Bronze sponsors: Michael and Melva Triggs**

HARRIERS
Sky ♀
Sky is a male harrier that was rehabilitated in 2003 and later released back into the wild, where he remained for several years. Unfortunately while he was free he got himself into trouble during the flying displays and as a result he had to be recaptured. **Silver sponsors: Alex, Zack and Liam Devlin; Bronze sponsor: Jennifer Ross**

Found March 2010 in Morrinsville, she arrived at Wingspan starving, low weight, and unable to fly. Nursed back to health, her tractable nature made her perfect for training, education and advocacy. **Gold sponsor: Mary Staal**

Jack ♀
Rescued at around 13 days old, after being found in the open, without any indication of a nest in sight. Jack is now being trained by Andrew Thomas and is a very capable hunter. **Gold sponsors: Suzi Phillips, Mary Staal**



Photograph by Fran McHardy



Photograph by Rod Nelder



Photograph by Rod Nelder



Photograph by Rod Nelder

Wendy Farrow 2009

QUEENSTOWN

David Gomer 2010
Greg Hay, Peregrine Wines 2002 ♦

RAETHI H

Ian Forster - Waikaruna Tree Resource 2009

RAGLAN

Karen Brown 2006
Loretta Dixon 2004
Malcolm & Julie McDonald 2004 ♦
Trevor, Jenny & Amelia Penfold 2011

RAUMATI

Robert & Rama McGeec 2008

REPOROA

Martyr & Ange Hine 2006
Rachel Lang 2006
Anna Stevens 2009

ROTORUA

Any Abbott 2009
Rob Allen 2010
John Anderson 2004
Alison Anderson 2010
Bruce Angus & Della Dephoff 2010
Marygold Argent 2005
Jacqueline Arstall 2008
Christine Ashc 2005
Eleanor Ashcroft 2007
Luke Ashley 2008
Don & Diane Adkinson 2005
Baker Family 2008
David & Sheryl Baker and Todd Harris 2004
Barber Family 2004
Mary Barton 2007
Mike & Chris Bays 2010
Paddy Baylis 2009
Joan Bell 1996
Ira Benbow 2004
Kim Billington 2009
Wendy Black 2010
Jeanette Blackburn 1996
Blueflesh Trust 2011 ♦
Boardman Family 2010
Jonathan & Tricia Bryce 2009
Stuart & Kristin Campbell-Smith 2006
Cannap Hawley 2001 ♦
Norman & Gillian Canner 2005
Central City Vets 1996 ♦
Russell Champness 2006
Chapman Family 2010
Mike & Maureen Charles 2010
Keiko Chiba-Walker 2009
Audrey Chin 2010

James Christer & Dawn Williams 2007

NOEL & ALISON LAMBERT 1996 ♦

John & Beryl Cleland 2007
Bill & Dorothy Clouston 2006
Grant, Kate & Ivain Gilbert 2008
Don & Shari Cole 2008
James Collins 2010
Sandy & Anne Cooper, Te Ngae Lodge 2007
Ron & Joan Couchman 2003 ♦
B & C Croket 2005
Fergus & Barbara Cumming 2010
Nigel Death & Karra Blake 2010
Kurt & Rita den Hertog 2009
Peter & Jill du Chateau 1997 ♦
Francis & Cherie du Toit 2008
Elyshak Family 2005
Chris & Esther Emor 2010
Dick & Helen Everts 2009
Experience Rotoma, Sonny & Rita 2009
Tony Fatira 2009
John & Linda Farquharson 2008
Tony Fenton & Joblene Kelly 2007
Heather Fisher 2005
Joe Fleet 1999
Morray & Vi Forster 1996
Bill & Nicola Gapes 2009
Gifford Family 2005
Ruth Godwin 2009
Brian & Kate Gore 2006
Wendy Grant 2006
Rose Gray 2006
Greenlee Family 2010
Rob & Brenda Gunn, Rob's Automotive 2009
Brent & Shirley Hardy 2001 ♦
Richard Harris & Julie Wells 2011
Bill & Debbie Hart, Country Oaks Bed & Breakfast 2010
W.Harwig 2010
Joseette Hastings 2008
Paul Haynes 2007
Barbara & Heather Heather 2004
Babs & Hechtatt 2009
Kath Henderson 1996
Annette Hermans 2009
Pat & Paddi Hodgkiss 2008 ♦
Han & Vera Hofstee 2010
Angela Hogan 2009
Ryan Holmes 2004
Wayne & Wendy Holmes 2004 ♦
Melton & Ann Hovos 2010
John Hoole-Schaffers 2009
Dave & Chris Hutchings 2007
Noel Hyde 2003 ♦
Chris & Sarah Jans 2009
Mike & Heather Johnson, Nicara Lodge 2007

Noel Johnson 2003

NOEL & ALISON LAMBERT 1996 ♦

Steven Jones & Christine Mills 2009
Jacob Jones-Henderson 2003
Jonker Family 2009
Jenny Joyce 2009
Kaingaroa Timberlands ♦
Janet Keen 2010
Anton Kemp 2010
Helen Lamson 2009
Rod Lashhead 2004
Deane & Jocelyn Larson 2009
Lee Family 2009
Eyoung Lee 2009
Dena Lilly 2009
Rod Lashhead 2004
Hamish & Wyn Lyall 2008
Helen McCormick 2007
Malcolm & Julie McDonald 2002
McDougall Family 2005
Hugh McDowell 2007
Lorraine McInnes 2005
Diane McKay 2004
Peter & Ann McKellar 2009
Mark & Patricia McKenna 2005
Ian & Libby MacKenzie ♦
Jan McKinley 2010
Ivan & Mary McLaughlin 2009
Doug & Elva McMillan 2002
Christel McNeely 2005
David McQuinlan & Marama Rice 2011
Mike & Gaylene Mason 2007
Bruno Massonne 2007
Joanne Miles 2010
Millennium Hotel 2008 ♦
Miller - Carr Family 2006
Lesley Miller 2010
Henare & Kath Mohi 2004 ♦
Ena Monk 2010
Walter Moodie 1998
Shuan & Karen Morgan 2007
Bey Morrison 2005
McTrauers NZ Ltd 2002 ♦
Barry Murphy 2010
Janiah Murray 2009
Nancy Naylor 2004
Alan Newman 2003
P F Olsen Ltd 2007
Pan Osborne 2010
Damian & Kate Paine 2010
Rosalee Palmer 2005
Sailish & Jagruti Patel 2005
M Pearce & R McMillan 2007
Andrew Peterson & Joanne Carnell 2006
Poape - Vause Family 2010
Hilary Prior 2006
Warwick & Maggie Pryce 2007
Graham Punter 2009

Ray & Norah Punter 1998

RUNANGA

Darryn & Manuela Purser 2009

John Read 2006

Karen Reed 2010

Wayne Roberts 2004

Dave & Flo Robinson 2006

Wally Rogers & Delight Gartlein 2009

Rotorua Pleasure Boating and Fishing Club 2000

Rotorua Youth Hostels Association of New Zealand 2005

George Ryan & Sharon Ramsden 2009

Cor & Hetty Schipper 2010

Doris Scott 2009

Tim Sharp 2008

Brian Shaw 2010

Ineke Smets 2010 ♦

Carol Smyth 2008

Sorptomist International Rotorua 2001

Noel & Anne Spinkly 2007

Mary Staal 2004 ♦

Jack & Edie Stafford 1993

Debbie Stewart 2002 ♦

Stewart Family 2010

Swills Family 2007

Joan Taikato 2009

Han & Maureen Teneti 2009

Pierre, Vina, & Jacques Terblanche 2006

Dr Margrietha Theron 2004

Andrew Thomas 2005 ♦

Scott & Bev Thomson 2004

Thomson Family 2005

Tony Todd 2004 ♦

Phil Trautmann 2005

Villa Productions 1996 ♦

G J Turner 2010

Ian Wallbridge 2009

Denise & Robyn Ward 2004

Andrew Warner 2006 ♦

Coral Warner 2006

Andrew West 2010

Norah West 2008

Henry Weston & Claire Baylis 2010

Jack Weston 2009

Michelle Weston 2007

Dave & Jacqui Whalley 2010

Stephen White 1998

Whitehead 2009

James & Kirstin Whitaker 2010

Judy Wilde 2006

Wildland Consultants 2001 ♦

Katie Wilkams 2007

Peter & Jean Williams 2007

Lon & Robyn Williams 1996

Lawson & Shirley Winstrop 2009

Graeme Young 2001

Yves Young 2010

SILVERDALE

Michael & Melva Triggs 2009

SOUTHBRIDGE

Robbie Orr 2010

TAIRUA

John & Rona Lomas 1996

MedicineWhiteBear - Bird Lady 2009

Frances Olsen 2005

TARANAKI

A.R. Penwarden 2011

Neil & Jackie Whithead 2011

TAUPIRI

John Charteris 2007

Scott Freeman 2011

TAUPO

Blackmore Family 2010

Dean Christie 2010

Sally Goodhead 2009

Alex, Zack & Liam Devlin 2010

Ian Farquhar 2011

Hugh Gardiner 2011

John & Pat Gibbs 2006

Harry & Bev Johnson 2009

Don & Mary Lockwood 2005

Andrea Parkin 2005

Bruce & Chrissy Thomas 2009

Wilks Family 2006

TAURANGA

Jean Anderson 2008

Basset Family 2009

Clarrie Beardmore 2007 ♦

Craig Bell 2009

Coral Bowen 2004

Brauchi Family 2009

Lonic Buchanan 2010

Alan Chung 2008

Andrew Collins & Susan Jolley 2007

Ken & Lorena Curran 2011

Chris Gambitsis 2001 ♦

Edward & Wendy Goodwin 2007 ♦

Keith & Gwen Hingston 2008

Andrew Hume & Kim Hammond 2008

Rex & Patti Homan 2008 ♦

Murray & Robin Le Dague 2009

C G Lever 2009

Lovery - Drummond Family 2007

Liz Lydard 2010

Jane Lyle & G McKinstry 2009

Richard & Bridget Mabini 2006

Corey & Catherine McCarthy 2010

Jill McDonald 1996

Majcar Ltd. 2009

Carol Merriman 1999

Paul & Helen Mills 2006

Rod Mueller 2010

Sharon O'Callaghan 2009

Neil Page 2006

Norah & Robert Peachman 2011

Owen & Glynis Ryal 2009

Rob Ryal 2009

Prime Explosives 2007 ♦

Chris & Adriane Rush 2009

John & Lemic Simons 2011

Richard & Ti Speed 2011

Bary Stollery 2009

Keith & Dawn Stollery 2009

Graham & Maxine Taylor 2006

Tauranga Royal Forest & Bird Protection Soc.NZ Inc 1999

Chris & Paula Wynnes 2008

TEANAU

Phillip and Julia Robertson 2008

TEAWAMUTU

Alison Downie-Boye 2010

Russell & Tanya Flynn 2009

Laurie & Jan Hoever 2003 ♦

Colin Jenkins 2004

Doug Scott 2005

Ray Toonahut 2009

Patrick Ward 2008

TEHORO

Jennifer Janssen 2009

TEKAPU

Don & Teresa McConchie 2007 ♦

TEPUKE

Burt Family 2008

Jamie Burt 2008

Kylie Burt 2008

F Collins 2010

Helen Davies 2010

Jonathan & Anabel Dunlop 2010

Par Evans 2006

Susan Hall 2008

Gus & Gerdie Knoppers 2000 ♦

Graham & Blanche Lubbock 2008

Nigel & Linda McPherson 2006

Te Puke Royal Forest and Bird Protection Soc.NZ Inc 1997

Reynolds Family 2009

Margaret Waite 2010

THAMES

John & Betty Gankroder 2006

McMillan Family 2010

Dale Stevens 1999 ♦

TIRAU

Don and Christine Finnegan 2007

Marie McRae 2009

Merry & Mel Moon 2010

Simon Tompsett 2009

TURANGI

Roslyn Ervine 2010

Mike Sadlier 2005

TWIZEL

Donna Edmoner 2008

UPPER HUTT

Tony Adamson & Kate Winters 2009

Grant Avery 2011

Dec Bolland & Steph Mardell 2006

Suzie Curry 2007

Terri Fordham 2006

Jim & Robyn Goldstone 2010

Andrew & Celia Mason 2001

Partisan 2006 ♦

URENUI

Gayle Rossiter, Celtic River Trust 2009

John & Val Walton 2008

WAHERKE ISLAND

Pamela Fink 2003

Neil Harrison 2003

Caroline McConnell 2006

Pam Oliver 2000 ♦

Steve & Lindy Robinson 2006

Slate 2009

WAHII

Margaret Alger 2010

Ted Kirk 2005 ♦

David Lansdale & Margaret Morgan 2005

Chris, Enkijargal, and Rian Morgan 2008 ♦

WAIKANAE

Sheila Coombs 1996 ♦

Gideon & Viv Anderson 2006

WAIMATE

Ron Bayley 2010

WAINUIOMATA

Darrell & Yvonne Blewett 2008

Chris Gay 2004 ♦

Jenny McIvor 2006

Prue McIvor 2006

Simon & Cheyanne McIvor 2005 ♦

Steven Mulken 2010

WAIPOA

Baxter Twist Family 2010

WAIPU

Philip Charles 2011

Johnny Kendrick 2009

WAIKARE

Judith Bowen 2009

Rosemary Morris 2010

Patricia Schwabe 2011

SHOP WINGSPAN



Fund-raising initiatives continue to be promoted at the Wingspan Centre, and sales of these products contribute directly to the raptor programme. The following items will be of interest.



Presentation folders, including photographs of Wingspan's raptors at the Centre. \$10.00 each.



Falconry Key Chains of both hoods and gloves. Hand-made in Dikson, these key chains are great little replicas of traditional falconry equipment. \$20.00 ea



Wingspan Postcards and Magnets now available. Featuring some of the Wingspan raptors. Postcards \$2.00 ea Magnets \$3.00 ea



Wingspan Clothing in a range of sizes. Caps just \$30.00. Beanies to keep those heads warm this winter \$30.00. Men's Rugby Shirts \$90.00. Women's Rugby Shirts \$80.00. Eco Polo T Shirts \$80.00. All orders placed with Wingspan logo.

The World's Biggest Baddest Bogs
A special and sensational DVD hosted by Ruud Klempke is now available at Wingspan. Just \$25.00 per copy - all are signed by Ruud.



The Wingspan Shop offers a number of different books, suited for all ages, including *The Naughty Kids Book of Nature* by Des Hunt & Scott Tulloch. A unique insight for kids into the wonderful world of nature - \$30.00. *Birds of New Zealand* by Paul Gibson is a great one for all bird lovers, with fantastic photography and the author's personal experiences - \$45.00



A first to ever be produced in New Zealand, and the first of their type featuring the growth development of ruru morepork owl (Whisper) and karearea New Zealand falcon (Millennium). Reproduced as **laminated posters**, with high resolution images captured from egg to first flight. This is a quality production with photo images by Andrew Warner and graphic artwork by Jane Reed of See-Reed Visual Communication. Worthy of framing - just \$25.00 each.

WINGSPAN BIRDS OF PREY TRUST



The Wingspan Birds of Prey Centre offers unique, once-in-a-lifetime raptor interactive opportunities. Don't forget your camera!

RAPTOR EXPERIENCE

An extra behind-the-scenes hosted tour of the breeding, research and display facility with a Wingspan falconer. Perfect for those interested in a unique interactive experience in addition to the daily flying display - by appointment only. \$80.00 per group (plus admission per person)

SCHOOL VISITS

Wingspan offers a unique educational experience for students at just \$5.00 admission per person with Raptor Experience tour fee (see above)

DONATIONS

If you wish to contribute towards the Wingspan programme, donations are welcomed. Donations of \$5.00 or more are tax deductible within New Zealand.

WINGSPAN INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Subscribe to the annual journal, receive your special Wingspan members pin on joining, plus year round complimentary admission to the Wingspan Bird of Prey Centre. \$35.00 per annum

WINGSPAN FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

Great for couples and families residing at the same address. Subscribe to the annual journal; receive one special Wingspan members pin on joining, plus year round complimentary admission to the Wingspan Bird of Prey Centre. \$60.00 per annum

SPONSOR A NEW ZEALAND RAPTOR AT WINGSPAN

Name the bird, receive a colour photo folder, free admission to the Wingspan Bird of Prey Centre, and special acknowledgement in the annual journal. Absolute Sponsor \$1000; or Gold \$500; Silver \$300; Contributing sponsors \$100

SPONSOR A WILD NEW ZEALAND FALCON

Name the wild bird, receive information on band numbers and combinations, a photo folder, and updated summary when your falcon has been located, plus free admission to the Wingspan Bird of Prey Centre. Wild bird sponsorship assigned and mailed out with annual journal. \$200 per falcon

LIFETIME SUPPORTER

Includes the benefits as a Wingspan member and supporter, including lifetime subscription to the annual journal, special Wingspan pin and complimentary admission. \$1000.00

SPONSOR AN AVIARY/ CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP

Sponsorship is welcomed for specific raptor research projects, rescued birds, breeding pairs, including naming rights. Formal registration and signage within the aviary facilities with logo branding. Specific project costs on application. Limited availability. From \$5000.00 per annum

**GIFT MEMBERSHIPS WELCOMED!
BEQUESTS AND SPECIAL MEMORIALS BY ARRANGEMENT.
PLEASE CONTACT THE WINGSPAN OFFICE.**

WINGSPAN BIRD OF PREY CENTRE

Open daily 9.00am-3.00pm

Best time 1.30 pm ready for 2.00 pm Flying & Training Displays

1164 Paradise Valley Rd, Rotorua

Casual Visitors Welcome

Group (10+) Tours by appointment

Adults \$25.00, Children \$8.00

