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WINGSPAN

BIRDS OF PREY FOR OUR FUTURE

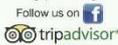


\$5.00
 VOLUME 17, 2013

21 YEARS
 in the wild . . .
 in the field . . .
 in the mews . . .



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 page photograph - New Zealand Morspork owl, Ruru by Sabine Bernert
 Contents page image - Japanese style traditional hood featuring peacock, quince, heron feathers, by Ineke Smets
 Inside back page photograph - New Zealand Falcon Juvenile, by Andrew Thomas

HAMERSTROM REFLECTIONS - Noel Hyde

I had the pleasure of first meeting Frances and Frederick Hamerstrom back in 1985 while on a scholarship to Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh, USA. This scholarship also took me to Milwaukee Public Museum for four weeks to work with world renowned bird taxidermist Greg Septon.

Greg and I shared a lot in common, we were both museum bird taxidermists, had a love of wildlife art, the outdoors, natural history, birds of prey, hunting and falconry. Greg had also founded the Wisconsin Peregrine Society and has been largely responsible for the restoration of peregrine falcon populations along the U.S. north-east coast.

I'd enjoyed my time with Greg so much that I made two trips back to work with him again in 1989 and 1996. On both trips we made visits up to Plainfield in central Wisconsin to see his good friends the Hamerstroms, both wildlife biologists, authors, and living legends in conservation and wildlife management.

Fran, born in 1908, shunned the lifestyle of her wealthy family and from her earliest days had a passion for the natural world, keeping many pets and preferring to spend her time exploring the woods and fields near her home. She later went on to become an accomplished licensed falconer, working with various hawks and owls, even a Golden eagle.

After marrying Fred, she became the only woman to graduate under the famous ecologist, author, and conservationist Aldo Leopold, considered the father of wildlife management. Fred was also one of only three men awarded a doctorate under Leopold.

Both Fran and Fred's lifelong study of the endangered prairie chicken was recognized in 1970 when they were given the National Wildlife Federation Award for "Distinguished Service to Conservation" for their innovative management work with prairie chickens.

They helped focus public attention on the need for habitat preservation, and in 1961 helped form the "Society of Tympanuchus Cupido Pinnatus" established to purchase land that could be managed for the preservation and restoration of native prairie chickens.

They are now credited for saving these birds from extinction in Wisconsin.



Photograph by Noel Hyde

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... Fran became an accomplished licensed falconer ...

Diary Notes: 1989

Drove up to the Hamerstroms for the day with Greg and his friend Julie, on the way we stopped to visit Gibraltar Rock where we walked to the top. It is the site of an old historic Peregrine eyrie above the Wisconsin River with an interesting history involving such people as Fran Hamerstrom, Herbert Stoddart and Owen Cronme. The view from the top was superb and we watched Red-tailed hawks soaring overhead on the strong, cool updrafts.

We arrived in the afternoon to be met at the door by Fran and Fred. Fran's daughter Elva and her husband Dale were staying there as well as Bob, a falconer who had a large beautiful gyrfalcon sitting on a block outside. He was there to look after the home while Fran and Fred went down to Mexico to avoid the cold winter months. Even though I'd met Fran and Fred before and heard so much about them and their accomplishments, I was still quite in awe to be in their company again. They told us we must go out with them to their neighbor's dinner party that evening to which we agreed. In the meantime we went exploring around the property. We took a shotgun and Greg collected a ruffed grouse for the museum.



When we got back to the house, Fran gave Julie a lovely dress, and Greg and I one of Fred's sports jackets to wear, as she wanted us to dress up somewhat. They fitted perfectly. Greg's a pin-striped navy blue, mine a cinnamon colour.

On a beautiful, still evening we followed Fran, Fred, Elva and Dale to the property about four miles away. The driveway was lined with crisp, new, brown paper bags containing bricks on which small candles burned to light the way. I loved it! The dinner was very pleasant and over wine we chatted, ate tofu, chicken pieces, lima beans, slices of pork, vermicelli and Chinese dumplings.

When we got back to the Hamerstroms, we all sat round with a wine, while outside on the deck Fran's tame Great horned owl sat on the window sill, tapping its beak on the window, looking at us all inside, and hooting loudly.



Fran and I were having a great chat and she recalled a story that the others in the room stopped to listen to. As a young girl with her first gun, she hid it out in the barn in an area where no grown-up would crowd, but she worried about it rusting. She decided cold cream could help prevent it so she would sneak it from her parents. When they noticed it going missing, they thought she was eating it and punished her, which she readily accepted rather than tell them what it was really used for. We all had a good laugh, especially Elva as she hadn't heard that before.

Fran took me aside and gave me some copies of her reprints and signed some of her books for me. I felt honoured when she offered me a job as a senior "Gaboon" to work on the last

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... she told me about her new book ...

year of her Kestrel project, but I knew with my work commitments it was out of reach and reluctantly had to decline.

After saying our goodbyes, we left around 10pm then drove around the Buena Vista Marsh prairie grounds in the dark. We saw two groups of white-tailed deer and after stopping down the line for a coffee at a truck stop, we arrived home in Milwaukee at 2am.

Diary Notes: 1996

Driving up to Plainfield, Greg and I stopped for a coffee, a piece of strawberry pie and ice cream. We nearly ran into a sandhill crane that landed on the road in front of us. It lost its footing and slipped over as it hurried to get out of the way, at the same time dropping a large secondary feather.

We arrived at the Hamerstrom's home in the late afternoon. Fran gave me a big hug and kissed me. Their rustic old house is huge, with oak floors, large rooms and high ceilings. I'm told it was originally planned as a stage-coach stop. It even has a ballroom upstairs that's now used to store specimens and data from all their field research. The house is quite isolated and surrounded by large grassy fields, trees and thickets.

She had other guests staying there studying prairie chickens and kestrels. She gave Greg and I a strong martini, then we all sat down to a meal of ham, spinach and corn chips as the room filled with chatter.

Greg introduced and then showed his video on the peregrine in Wisconsin. Fran then showed her video of the kestrel feeding a nest of starlings. I was fascinated as she explained that a study pair of kestrels had lost their eggs and had looked around before re-laying and found a starling nest containing young chicks. The maternal instinct was still so strong the kestrels took over their care and got them to fledging, feeding them mice, insects and the odd small green snake. Absolutely remarkable!

Fran and I chatted for about 45 minutes. She told me she'd been in the house since 1949 and that it was built immediately after the civil war.

She also told how she had written to world-famous animal behaviorists Konrad Lorenz, Niko Tinbergen, and Leslie Brown (a raptor specialist from South Africa) inviting them to stay because she admired these men so much. She was totally surprised that they all came - complete strangers - to this house.



Fran Hamerstrom, 1996

She told me about her new book on hunting techniques of primitive peoples and her work in South American jungles and with the Kalahari Bushmen in Africa.

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... I fly a harrier named Fran in her memory ...

We talked about falconry with harriers and when I told her of my successes she said "that's wonderful. Can I touch you?" We both laughed. She went on to tell me about American falconer Alan Beske catching a green winged teal in fair flight with a northern harrier. She encouraged me to continue flying them as harriers are largely an unknown as far as falconry is concerned. This led her to tell me all about her 25 years study of northern harriers, and took me upstairs to show me her old maps hanging on the stannell wall depicting pair movements, territories and fidelity, all marked with pieces and lengths of different colored knitting yarn.



When it came time for bed she told everyone to awaken her if there was any excitement as she didn't want to miss anything. We all laughed.

I didn't get much sleep in my room upstairs because of the heat and my noisy creaky mattress. I lay there feeling very contented, reflecting on the day and listening to a Whip-o-will sing for ages outside.

The following morning I was up at 6am and went outside to use the outhouse. Shortly after, Fran came out and we put on a cup of coffee. Slowly the others started appearing. Ovary cooked us all scrambled eggs and a couple of link sausages and we put hot salsa on the eggs. Fran showed me around her garden while breakfast was being made and showed me a cellar and said "visiting children loved playing in it and they had the right to keep grown-ups out if they wanted". She still has that sense of secret adventure children have.

Because she likes a more natural type of garden, she told me about another book she's planning called the "Lazy Woman's Gardening Guide".

After breakfast I bought a couple of her other books which she autographed for me. She gave me a water-damaged copy of her book on bird trapping techniques saying the water damage gives it character and that I should get it rebound. She then took me further into her library and showed me all of her wonderful falconry books.

I spent the morning with Ovary trying to catch kestrels but to no avail. They swooped at Fran's tethered owl and on occasion narrowly missed the net. We climbed a ladder to one of the nest boxes and it had three large chicks starting to feather up nicely.

When it finally came time to say farewell it was with a very heavy heart. After a kiss and a hug Fran said it was a real pleasure seeing me and to try and visit again. I knew in my heart that in her 80s, and with her health fluctuating, it was most likely the last time I'd see her.

And so it was. Fred had passed away in 1990 and Fran passed away in 1998 aged 90 years.

I feel incredibly privileged to have met and spent time with such wonderful, incredibly kind, humble and dedicated people as these and who share a direct link to the likes of Leopold, Lorenz, Tinbergen and Brown, among others.

Fran and Fred Hamerstrom have influenced hundreds of apprentices (which she affectionately called "Gaboons") who came to work on their various research projects. Little did I know that the brief time I'd spent with them would have such a huge influence on my own life.

Even today, with love and respect, I fly a harrier named Fran in her memory.

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THE EAGLE KING . . . Rod Morris



I've always wanted to meet a Philippine eagle, and perhaps even make a documentary about them. Standing more than a metre tall, with a wingspan of over two and a half metres with beak and talons to match, it's the largest eagle in the world and one that commands respect. I was finally granted an audience with a Philippine eagle in the late 1990s. I doubt that anything will ever surpass my experience that day. It's true that on continents, the mammals rule as 'kings of beasts', and that lions and tigers are pretty impressive. But on an island the 'rulers' can change - for example on nearby Komodo it's a reptile that rules as top predator, and in the Philippines it's a bird - a rare and impressive one. If I ever do make that documentary, I'm going to call it 'The Eagle King'.

The Philippine eagle rules one of the poorest and most overcrowded island nations on earth, where it is now confined to rapidly retreating rainforest pockets, usually located high on the slopes of volcanic peaks. Despite its fierceness it is now critically endangered, with estimates of between 90 and 250 pairs left in the wild with almost all of them on the island of Mindanao.

After completing a documentary on komodo dragons for the Discovery Channel in the 90s, I got serious about a documentary on this eagle for the same audiences, so once again approached the Discovery Channel.

The research turned out to be not too difficult; I had the help and support of Dennis Salvador, president of the Philippine Eagle Foundation, which was in turn supported by the Peregrine Fund of North America.

Dennis offered advice on negotiating the political minefield of the Philippines Government for their support, as well as practical and logistical help in the field - at the time his field staff were studying an occupied nest atop a single huge dipterocarp tree not too many hours' travel from Davao City in a water catchment area . . . it was all looking good.

Getting to Davao on the southernmost island in the Philippines, proved cheapest via a short flight on the almost bankrupt and now defunct Boruay Airlines, leaving from Manado in Northern Sulawesi.

Boruay's planes were as ancient as tuatara, and ours looked as if it was no longer being serviced at all. The registration details on the inside of the door indicated the old Fokker Friendship was from New Zealand - as a kid I had boarded this same aircraft on flights to Wellington back in the days of NAC. The emergency exit door was permanently jammed and slightly ajar, and yet the flight progressed without a glitch, and I can now admit that with the passage of time, I view that 're-acquaintance' more fondly than I once did.

At the eagle breeding facility on the outskirts of Davao City, Dennis Salvador introduced me to Domingo Tidena. Domingo had a laryngectomy scar on his throat which affected his talking a little, but you could still understand what he was saying. Before the throat operation he had been one of the late Gerald Durrell's famous Jersey trainers.

Durrell, an intrepid animal collector and popular author through the 60s and 70s, had been a conservation visionary. His Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust (now the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust) provided scholarships for young people (like Domingo) all over the world, to visit Jersey Zoo (now Durrell Wildlife Park) to learn about wildlife conservation. They then could go back to their own countries where they may have made a difference working to save endangered wildlife.

Domingo was now making a difference and completely devoted to caring for Philippine eagles.

After the morning chatting about the problems facing conservation in the Philippines, Domingo asked if I would like to visit Pag-asa - somebody Dennis had said I would probably not get to meet, so of course I was delighted.

Pag-asa is a male eagle and is famous because he's the very first Philippine eagle ever to be hatched and reared in captivity. He will be 21 years old this year, and he has just sired his very first chick, so he is now a very important eagle indeed.

We stepped into Pag-asa's cage, a huge geodesic dome of an aviary, that American architect R. Buckminster Fuller himself would have been proud of. High on a perch on the far side, Pag-asa sat glowering at us. Less than two metres in front of us at eye level was one of the few other perches in the cage.

I watched horrified as Pag-asa launched himself straight at us in a swift dive, his enormous outstretched wings came so close before he pulled up that they seemed to envelope us.

To drive the point home as he hit the perch right in front of us he loudly cracked the hard tips of his primary feathers menacingly against his own chest, as you might crack a whip for effect.

I was overwhelmed and terrified and for the first time in my life I experienced what it's like to be truly afraid of a bird.

Pag-asa had transformed into Harpagornis re-incarnated. He was mightily annoyed that we were on his perch, and he had 'teared'. Once my heart stopped racing and things settled down, I began feeling slightly reassured as Domingo stood calmly beside me.

. . . his enormous outstretched wings came so close . . .

Pag-asa was now glaring at us from slightly less than two metres away and he was a big eagle. His face, I decided upon reflection, was not so much that of an eagle's face, but more of a human's - it was strangely devoid of facial feathers, and surrounded by a mop of shaggy feathered 'hair' with a strongly bridged base of beak (astoundingly the size of my hand!), and piercing grey eyes which had a slightly insane look about them.

After a time Pag-asa and I both relaxed. I even began taking pictures and in no time at all it was time to go. I began turning my back to leave. "Uh, oh," said Domingo quietly. "Never turn your back on Pag-asa, back away quietly, and always watch his eyes," he instructed. It was a reminder to behave appropriately in the presence of royalty. And so we quietly stepped backwards until we were out of the cage.

After carefully closing and locking the door, Domingo explained that it was not a surgeon that had performed the laryngectomy on his throat as I had thought - it was Pag-asa. He had another scar he said, across his lower back. It seems Domingo had once turned his back on his charge, and Pag-asa had attacked.

I spent a week at the breeding centre and developed a great respect for all who worked for the Philippine Eagle Foundation. Like Wingspan, the Eagle Foundation is a private operation doing work that is of international significance, while all around them an ineffective and largely disinterested Philippine government fiddles with regulations and



When Domingo was found, he was lying face down in a pool of blood, the great eagle on top of him. One massive foot was wrapped vice-like around Domingo's neck with a hind claw the size of a tiger's piercing his throat. The claws of the other foot had just missed his kidneys. Fortunately for Domingo, his rescuer - a visiting falconer from the Peregrine Fund - had been quick and efficient, had straightened the great eagle's legs to release the locked tendons and loosen the birds vice-like grip.

. . . Pag-asa was no ordinary budgie . . .

directives, tying its own staff up in masses of bureaucracy and paperwork. The Eagle King will make a great documentary story someday, but probably not on Discovery Channel. In

the end they too turned their back on Pag-asa and his story. "We simply don't do 'bird films'," the executive said. I was stunned - "bird films!"

Pag-asa was no ordinary budgie.



Outtakes: 'Ghosts of Gondwana'

This shot of a morepork with a short-tailed bat was taken in a forest near Ohakune where we were making the documentary 'Ghosts of Gondwana' about the private life of the short-tailed bat.

While filming at the bats' nursery tree we began to notice increasing numbers of morepork in the surrounding forest each night as the bats in the nursery approached 'feeding' age.

By the time the young bats began leaving the tree to forage for themselves, entire morepork families had gathered, and the young inexperienced moreporks gained plenty of hunting practice targeting the young bats.

We were amazed at this synchronicity, but began to realise it has probably always been like this. We've just been slow to understand the relationship between predator and prey.

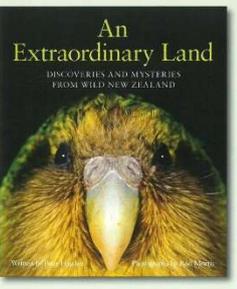
'An Extraordinary Land: Discoveries and Mysteries from Wild New Zealand'

Like exotic islands such as the Philippines, and Madagascar, New Zealand has long been a magnet for scientists from around the world; yet many locals (including a good few politicians), have no idea what's so special about our own environment.

A new book by Peter Hayden and Rod Morris tries to address that, by celebrating our 'Extraordinary Land'. You can read of the fabulous creatures that live, not only far across the ocean on distant lands, but right here, in stories that read more like fables. There are giant birds - karearea eagles, and gentle parrots - and familiar trees that may well have travelled the Pacific more widely than James Cook.

We meet the mysterious mammal that still has scientists debating whether it is a 'boxing bat' or a 'waddling mouse', and along the way we encounter New Zealanders who are at the front line of science and conservation in this country.

Author Peter Hayden has produced, directed, written or narrated over 200 hours of nature documentaries for television and this is the second book on which he and fellow documentary maker Rod Morris have collaborated.



BIRD OF THE YEAR . . . by Debbie Stewart

Karearea, New Zealand falcon Winner of the 2012-2013 Favourite Bird of the Year. During October each year, Forest and Bird New Zealand hold a 'friendly' competition to vote for New Zealand's favourite bird.



The poll aims to raise awareness of New Zealand's threatened species, and remains an opportunity to profile our feathered friends. The annual competition has gained popularity since 2005, and now has a far wider audience. However, without doubt, the voting demographics remain as the true conservationists, more often than not, people belonging to a number of different organisations, trusts, and community efforts; put simply, it's all about bird nerds.

Today, this is more important than just any old PR campaign. This annual event has become more serious; it has gained momentum, with both personal and corporate drive, and sometimes aggression amongst voters. Some groups plan weeks in advance and most would be impressed by their efforts; videos of their favourite birds, translations in sign language, endless posts to friends on 'Facebook', and unannounced foray with offers of free gifts and experiences.

There remains border-line banter by exchange (almost corruption!), not least some jealousies between campaign managers and conservation ambassadors. The degrees that representatives will stoop to may well surprise! Pur-dunks and accusations abound regarding previous winners like pukeko the swamp hen (winners by default with the backing of a large corporate company and popular television campaign), or kiwi because "it can't even fly", and then most recently, the under-the-belt snipes with kokako featured in a photo-shopped game hunting photograph.

Families often argue; only one vote per e-mail account holder is permitted, so those that might share an address are disadvantaged. It's a matter of first in, first served. Then again there are those that set up new accounts just so they can vote an extra couple of times. There are issues with employment and staff time as well. Amongst the environmental groups one could be that for almost a month there are 'work' computers with the voting page minimized, and collectively staff press the 'refresh' button a couple of hundred times a day.

However, not to be discouraged, the Wingspan Team have long considered karearea to be a most deserving winner. After all it's top of the food chain, fastest flying, and the most spectacular bird - who could argue? But we've been disappointed with the results from previous years. More often than not the New Zealand raptors miss out on even rating in the top 10. In 2011, we thought we'd made a real effort, but were told by others, "There is no way karearea will ever win New Zealand's favourite bird of the year. They simply aren't cute enough, they don't sing very well, and they kill things."

Staff, the volleys and visitors, were ready to go by election start in 2012. Timing was everything and Wingspan launched a new website with a 'VOTE for page. Kids dressed up in favourite falcon costumes and made videos, they baked cakes, and New Zealand Herald feature journalists wrote about helping the 'underdog'. Coincidentally New Zealand Geographic's photography awards featured an image of karearea (Wingspan's cover girl "Ruby") by Bob Stained, and the photograph billing was plastered, larger than life, in bus shelters and billboards throughout Auckland. Talking typical government electoral style, Wingspan graphed a political "worm" and tracked progress of the top votes along the way.

Without discussing too much detail about the Wingspan strategies, we consider that in the history of this campaign it would've been a first for Forest and Bird New Zealand to receive votes from Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Poland, UAE, UK, USA, South Africa, Denmark, etc. Essentially Wingspan enlisted support of the international falconry community, and evidently, electrifying for New Zealand falcon went viral in Japan and the Netherlands.

By competition end, some 10,223 votes were registered. Karearea New Zealand falcon ranked first, followed by kokako second, and (big smiles) morepork run a fabulous third! We thank all those who voted, and especially thank Forest and Bird New Zealand for organising a conservation competition with a difference.

Congratulations Karearea New Zealand falcon . . . our favourite bird in the whole World!

The challenge was on, the gaurdied down, and the Wingspan Team - the Board, the

The Falcon 2012 Bird of the Year



The challenge was on, the gaurdied down, and the Wingspan Team - the Board, the

Photograph by Rod Morris

Illustration by Zoe Armstrong

Photograph by Giovanni Avo

NEW ZEALAND FALCONRY - Johanna Christenhusz

New Zealand Falconry: On a Bird of Prey Centre and Interspecies Relationships.

Many people have questioned me as to why I was researching at Wingspan. Being an anthropologist I should be studying people! Anthropology is translated as "the study of man", so what was I doing with birds? Well, I endeavoured to research the relationship between people and birds of prey. I was excited to be able to undertake some research that had never been done before here in a developing field of anthropology called Multi-species Ethnography. In some ways, the study of these birds was the greatest encounter of the "exotic other" that I had ever been in, and I know that many of my colleagues are jealous of the opportunity that Wingspan so kindly gave me.

During my fieldwork, I found it interesting how many parallels I could see between the setting up of Wingspan and Falconry in New Zealand, and the changes that have occurred historically in the subject I was studying - Anthropology. Falconry has evolved from the beginnings of using the birds to hunt for food for us, to its current use where falconers are now using their knowledge to help endangered birds of prey. I spent much time pondering the parallels between this and the world of Anthropology where things have changed from the study of the great "exotic other" to efforts at incorporating all people together and attempting a more holistic approach to the study of people.



These evolutions in thought happened at roughly the same time, when the world was decolonizing and people began to look at how to look after the world with all its creatures. Working with people like the team at Wingspan and their knowledge of ecology has influenced my thesis into a more ecologically based one also.

The work that Wingspan, and other falconers overseas, conduct towards the education and conservation of these beautiful birds is inspiring; a lesson to all those who wish to do something good with their lives. The impact of human interaction and influence on the ecosystem, and the knowledge that we have of this will be useful to those in the future who wish to make changes to the way people work with the environment.

Falconers overseas have had massive influence on reducing the use of organochlorine pesticides (like DDT) which have been known to hurt falcon populations. Falconers have a great love and respect for these birds, and this love of nature encourages everyday people like myself to take a second look at the impact we are having on the world we live in.

What is the point of selfishly exploiting the world now and not allowing the future generations to see the beautiful creatures that we see today? I believe it is important for us to acknowledge the beautiful world that we live in, and respect the other creatures that inhabit it also.

This is something that the Wingspan team know well, and I thank them for spreading this message to others through their awesome work.



WINGSPAN ANNUAL RAPTOR AWARD

Wingspan Birds of Prey Trust proudly celebrates the dedicated work of Life members Janice and Laurie Hovord's contribution to the conservation of the threatened New Zealand falcon, karearea.



Since 2005 Janice and Laurie have successfully raised and released 36 falcon chicks from their farm property that backs on to Kakepuku mountain near Te Awamutu. This represents some 40% of released falcons ever in New Zealand.

Being a predatory species and often persecuted, they have been strong advocates of Karearea, especially in the Waikato where they have given talks to the public and built up a network of neighbouring properties all sympathetic to New Zealand falcons. These people have brought into the project, support the releases and become the caretakers of these falcons and excitedly report any sightings to them.

Also active members of the Raptor Association of New Zealand, Janice and Laurie continue to work tirelessly for our birds of prey. Janice and Laurie's work is seen as an excellent example of modern day conservation initiatives, where NGOs and the community can come together to help support the Department of Conservation in its efforts to restore our biodiversity.

Wingspan Birds of Prey Trust proudly presented the 2012 Wingspan Raptor Award to Janice and Laurie Hovord for their tireless efforts in helping bring these spectacular falcons back into the everyday lives of New Zealanders.

-Noel Hyde, Chairman



Environmental heroes are the most important people on the planet; they tend to come in many guises.

My favourite ones are those that look after the direct descendants of Tyrannosaurus Rex; yes, they are determined to put their talons into the task at hand and they never let go.

Congratulations, Laurie and Janice!

-Dr Ruud Kleinpaste, Patron



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.



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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.

CAMBRIDGE TOWN OF FALCONS - by Laurence Barea

New Zealand falcons nest in a wide range of habitats across the country from temperate rainforests on both main islands to the high country of the South Island and on to the windswept sub-Antarctic Auckland Islands.

We now know that falcons commonly nest in plantation forests, indicating some flexibility in nesting habitat requirements.

However, falcons usually select nest sites away from human habitation, despite being tolerant of human presence outside the breeding season.



Photographs by Laurence Barea

Falcons in New Zealand do not usually nest in urban settings. Last year, and for the first time on record, a pair of falcons did just that, providing an insight into the species' ability to adapt to novel settings and giving us a glimpse of future potential for restoration of falcons into landscapes where they are currently absent. The nesting attempt also highlighted some of the threats that falcons face from introduced predators and human disturbance.

During the winter of 2012 a falcon was observed several times in Cambridge (about 25 minutes south of Hamilton). The bird was seen several times feeding on feral pigeons which abound in and around Cambridge's bridges and historical buildings. The falcon featured a couple of times in the local newspaper as interest in the rare bird grew.



In mid-November I received a phone call informing me that a pair of falcons had been discovered nesting in Cambridge. Several phone calls to colleagues in the ecology community confirmed that the pair had been discovered by a Cambridge ecologist and followed up by Neil Fitzgerald from Landcare Research. He had discovered the ground nest under a pampas plant on the bank of a stream flowing past the local industrial area. The nest contained two eggs.

Several agencies became involved and a response plan was needed as the nest was vulnerable to predators and human disturbance - mainly due to its location 20 metres from a

... a pair of falcons had been discovered ...

track frequently used by walkers and BMX riders. Response options were discussed at a Wingspan Trustee's Meeting which happened to coincide with the discovery and the preferred option was to minimise those threats. The response involved Wingspan, several other agencies, and volunteers with an interest in conservation. Having recently moved to Cambridge I was well placed to coordinate the response on the ground.

Landcare Research provided remote monitoring of the nest via a video camera to identify any predators in the event the nest was a target of predation. They also provided and maintained a network of rat traps. The Waikato Regional Council, Waipa District Council and Department of Conservation provided predator traps. The Waipa District Council also provided signage to inform the public using the track that the birds were nesting nearby, and to leave the area if the birds started dive-bombing as that would indicate both parents were aggressively defending the nest.

The eggs hatched a few days after the nest was discovered as I was to discover when setting up the video camera with Neil. The nest was now at greater risk of being discovered by predators drawn to the smell of prey remains brought to the chicks, and their increasing food begging calls.

Over the next few weeks Neil, Chris Smuts-Kennedy and I set out and monitored a network of predator traps and kept an eye on the increasing and worrying level of use of the track adjacent to the nest by kids on BMX bikes.

The development of the chicks was monitored via both the video recordings and occasional visits to the nest while checking traps. It was interesting to note that although the parents fed introduced finches to the chicks, most of the prey appeared to be feral pigeons, which are common in Cambridge. It is interesting to speculate as to whether that is why the falcons settled there.



About 10 days after the chicks hatched the adult male falcon disappeared and was never seen again. We could only wonder as to his fate and whether it involved a hunting accident or human interference. Fortunately the chicks were old enough to need limited brooding and the female, who usually does little hunting at this stage, was able to continue to raise the young on her own. Both chicks, now confirmed as male, were banded when about 22 days old to facilitate identification once fledged.

Although predator trapping proved to be very successful, and may have ensured the survival of the nest, the main issue was human interference near the site. With the start of the school summer holidays there was almost continual presence of teenagers using the track on their BMX bikes. They built jumps 20 metres adjacent to the nest and built huts within eight metres so they could "watch" the falcons, which they were now very aware of. Several discussions with the youth revealed the extent of disturbance to the falcons with some of the youth invoking defensive attacks of the now solo mother in a 'game of bravado'. The video recordings also revealed youths poking the nest with sticks, presumably to aggravate the mother further.

The video monitoring came to an abrupt end about this time when the camera was destroyed by them. The increased level of sustained disturbance now resulted in the mother casting nest defence and we were fearful that her mothering might be adversely affected, or that she might abandon the nest altogether.

After several discussions with the teenagers they agreed to move their activity back from the nest and keep out of a cordoned area until after the chicks had fledged. They appeared to keep to their word and careful monitoring of the mother showed she was still feeding the chicks. After making short flights to surrounding tree ferns in the third week of December, the chicks were first seen making sustained flights on Christmas Day.



... both parents were aggressively defending the nest ...



Photograph by Neil Fitzgerald

Over the next few weeks the chicks were observed in the nest gully chasing each other, and making their first hunting attempts on cicadas as they became independent. Lessons learned include the fact that falcons can be more flexible in their choice of nest site and landscape context than perhaps formerly thought. This can be useful in planning introduction projects as Wingspan continues to restore raptors into indigenous habitats and human-modified landscapes. This multi-agency, NGO, and community volunteer partnership model will continue to be important as we restore

our biodiversity across a range of land jurisdictions and conservation goals. Some of our greatest challenges will be managing human/falcon interactions - in addition to other threats falcons face. Increased cooperation and advocacy across organisations interested in biodiversity and falcon conservation will be extremely important. We are hopeful that the female falcon will remain resident in the area and that another male possibly one of the falcons released through the Moret Kakepuku project or originating from the several pairs at the Māungatani Ecological Island, will pair with her. If this happens the town of Cambridge may become known as much for its falcons as it is for its trees.

... Wingspan continues to restore raptors ...



Photograph by Neil Fitzgerald

www.neilfitzgeraldphoto.co.nz

WHAKAREWAREWA FALCONS - Betty Shepherd

In mid-November of 2012, reports were coming in from mountain bikers and walkers in Rotorua's Whakarewarewa Forest that a pair of New Zealand falcon were dive-bombing track users. Reports were about a nest on the ground, under a fallen ponga stump and opposite a hugely popular mountain bike and walking track.



Photographic essay by Betty Shepherd

From a photography perspective, the vantage point I staked out for the next three months was an excellent location. It was not too close to encroach on the birds' space, and armed with a 300mm lens with a 1.4x extender, enabled reasonable magnification of any activity in and around the nest. As well, I had a second camera with a 70-200mm lens for the closer shots if they eventuated. I planned to visit the site every day, and hauling the camera gear up on a mountain bike wasn't going to be practical so I was lucky enough to obtain a vehicle permit to make the daily ritual a lot easier.

Initially I visited at different times of the day to gauge a feeding pattern. With birds, one would normally expect early morning and later in the afternoon to be the most active, but this was different. There never seemed to be a pattern. Often the male would be away for up to three hours while the female sat on the nest. She would diligently turn the eggs and often had to sit in the burning sun, and I got quite concerned to observe her panting furiously. She would only interrupt her long sitting hours to deal with dogs, and I must say, I saw some terrified dogs and witnessed some idiotic behavior from their owners.

Some owners thought it was a pretty good spot to take their pets up to the trail to deliberately provoke the birds into attacking. Some were armed with video cameras to record the 'fun'. One posting was put on 'Youtube' but was quickly taken down. I suspect the person involved was made aware they were participating in the provocation of an endangered native species.

On the plus side of the human equation, many of the bikers and walkers stopped and enquired about the falcons. There was huge interest among them. I was learning so much as the days passed and was happy to pass on snippets of information on their location and their habits. Previously I had been involved with photographic studies of kingfisher and the Blue duck, but this was the first time I had crossed paths with falcons.

For me personally it was a wonderfully satisfying learning curve. Often, for days on end I would see and photograph absolutely nothing, it was a matter of having perseverance and patience and literally waiting for the action to happen. The good photos were a matter of luck and timing, and with these birds keeping incredibly alert as they are so fast.

The male would announce his arrival from about 500 metres away with his 'kek, kek, kek' and bring food for the female.

Background: Betty Shepherd is a local professional photographer and her 'relaxation' time is spent photographing native birds of New Zealand when not working with wedding, portrait and aerial photography. www.betty-shepherd-photographer.co.nz

... two chicks had successfully hatched ...

They had a favourite tree stump which was located on my side of the stream and quite close by. The male would then head to the nest to do an egg sitting stint while she had her snack, often followed by a bath in the stream, and return back to her preening log, spending time sorting her feathers out. Then she would proceed to do what I call 'falcon plates'; stretching her talons, legs, her neck and wings. On one occasion, the male came off the nest a little too early for her liking. In no uncertain terms she sent him back to sit on the eggs until she had finished her ablutions. I must say, he did as he was told and didn't bother arguing. I wouldn't have crossed her either!

I first observed a chick being fed on December 18th, when the male flew directly to the nest and transferred the food. Two chicks had successfully hatched.

Birds seemed fit for the preferred diet, rosellas and mynahs appeared to be top on the menu. On one occasion after the chicks hatched, the female took off down the valley at unbelievable speed. In mid-air she nailed a rosella in the back of the head and duly took it back to a log, beheaded it, and proceeded to pluck it. There were brightly coloured feathers flying in all directions. She then offered it to her chicks.

The following day both adults worked as a tag team and killed another rosella and they went through the same routine. The aerial combat skills of these birds was absolutely breathtaking.



Photographic essay by Betty Shepherd

... I discovered falcons cache their food ...

The valley was also the preferred route for the seagulls to head to the local dump. One day the female attacked the gull in mid-flight. It was approximately 150 metres above the nesting area and not looking threatening but the falcon gave it and the gull encourage the message to get out!

I was fortunate to get a photo of the male offering the female a cicada. They were on top of their preening stump right in front of me. The small birds in the valley virtually disappeared immediately after the chicks hatched and I assumed that this was because the female would hunt in the cut over nesting area close to the nest to keep an eye on her brood.

I went away for the Christmas break from Dec 22-30th and on my return was horrified to find absolutely no sightings of either chicks, or parents for three days in a row. I was convinced they had not survived and the parents had vacated the area. But on the 2nd January I saw the unmistakable profile of a bird in the nest. It was 13 days later I found both had survived and I was over the moon with delight. By this time the thistles were about a metre tall, sighting and photographing the chicks proved impossible.

Both parents were hunting by this stage, the female in the cut over valley where the nest was located, and the male much further afield. By accident, I discovered falcons cache their food. The female flew to an area and seemed to be mooching around the ground. Next thing she flew to the nest with food in her talons. Perhaps if I had spoken with the team at Wingspan earlier, I would have saved myself the effort of figuring their habits out!

By 17th January, both chicks were venturing outside the nest and found a nicely placed fallen poron log which they used as a base to run up and down and find their balance. By 21st January they were venturing some distance from the nest and

finding them each day was becoming a bit of a mission. The more advanced chick was doing a lot of wing stretches and looking seriously like it was going to take a flight. This it did, and I managed to get this on camera. From that day on, their development and confidence increased in leaps and bounds. The female initially was often positioned nearby, high in a redwood tree keeping an eye on proceedings.

On the 24th, both juveniles were flying across the valley to where I was stationed and I spied them for the first time visiting the stream for a swim. They had spent a good hour practicing aerial combat manoeuvres with each other and the visits from the parents at this stage were quite spasmodic. However, one day the adult female called one of the juveniles into the air where I witnessed the aerial transfer of food from parent to young. There was a little aerial dance as the female positioned herself about three metres above the young bird and dropped the prey which was caught expertly mid-air. Quite a stunning scene, and again I arrived home buzzing.

On the 8th February the young birds had been away from the nest for some time. Andrew from Wingspan visited the site and deconstructed the nest, taking samples of feathers and pellets. The young ones were flying around the area and they put on a real show for him, landing very close to us so he could take some pictures.

There were no further sightings after 27th February, so after three months and an estimated 150 hours of observations, it was all over. What a fantastic experience and a huge privilege to witness the successful rearing of one of our most amazing birds. Andrew tells me that the young ones have a 20% chance of making it through the first year. That's a bit scary when you see how wonderful the parents were. The greatest hope is that they return next year to rear another brood.



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KAINGAROA - Chifuyu Hawksby

Kaingaroa has been the site for many scientific studies over the past 20 years. It is a large exotic forest made up of approximately 180,000 hectares of land. The fact that falcons nest on the ground in plantation forests and that Kaingaroa exhibits a large population makes this one of the best sites to study this species in New Zealand.

I am a Massey PhD student studying New Zealand falcons (Kārearea) in the Kaingaroa pine plantation. Originally from Japan, I obtained undergraduate and Master of Sciences degrees in the USA. Wildlife conservation through scientific research is my passion. I studied Florida manatees in Florida, and cheetahs in Africa. Upon arrival in New Zealand, I learned about New Zealand falcons in pine plantations, and was keen to apply my research interest and skills to this endemic raptor, Kārearea.

Studies of Kārearea conducted to date have centered around breeding seasons when falcons are easier to locate. However, very little is known about the falcons' winter ecology and the potential impact of secondary poisoning by 1080 on the species. It is crucial to obtain year-round information of how this species is affected by pine plantation regimes. It is now the halfway point of my fieldwork, and the information I have obtained so far using radio tracking have been fascinating. Observations so far have included the development of courtship behaviour and the testing of pair fidelity by unpaired males.

With one additional year of data to collect there is still much to be learnt about the New Zealand falcon.

Wingspan acknowledges the following networks for their support and assistance for research on New Zealand falcons: Central North Island Iwi Collective, Kaingaroa Timberlands Ltd, P.F. Olsen Ltd, Emslaw One, New Zealand Forest Owners, Harcocks Forest Management, New Zealand Carbon Farming, Raptor Association of New Zealand (RANZ), Massey University, Department of Conservation.



Photography by Chifuyu Hawksby



Photography by Adam MacGillivray



Photography by Chifuyu Hawksby

ERNSLAW ONE - RARE FALCON PROTECTION

A forest logging crew working in a pine plantation on the East Coast has taken steps to protect four Kārearea New Zealand Falcon fledglings following their discovery in early January.

Contracted to local forest company Ernslaw One, Forestland Management Ltd are currently harvesting in the Waitahia River valley, a remote location inland from Tokomaru Bay, where New Zealand Falcon are known to populate. The company had already identified the area as a Falcon Management Zone prior to the harvest starting.

The crew of loggers from Forestland Management Ltd discovered the four fledgling New Zealand Falcon while harvesting logs with their cable harvesting operation. Faller Colin Mariani, on discovery of the fledglings, immediately notified the Ernslaw Harvesting Operations Manager Dan Harries, who implemented Ernslaw One's Falcon management plan. This involved immediately halting the operation around the birds and contacting Department of Conservation (DOC) Gisborne Whakataea Area Ranger Jamie Quirk, and Debbie Stewart from the Wingspan Birds of Prey Trust in Rotorua.

Between the organisations and the crew, a plan to ensure that the harvest operation would not affect the birds and a pest management plan was established to ensure the best chance of survival.

To protect the New Zealand falcon from predation Ernslaw One and DOC installed a number of kill traps in a perimeter around the area the birds occupy as cats, had been noticed in the area, and within a few days a stoat was caught. Ernslaw One North Island Environmental Manager, Richard Heikel said the company is committed to the

protection of rare, threatened and endangered species. Throughout its forests they undertake extensive predator control programmes, monitoring, set aside reserve areas and enhancement plans to ensure that plantation forests continue to be a great habitat for some of New Zealand's threatened treasures such as falcons, kiwi, native fish, Hochstetler frogs and Blue duck. The New Zealand falcon has adopted many harvested areas within the country, so it holds a special place for many crews in the bush. It has become forestry's bird.

Wingspan Birds of Prey Trust Chief executive and founder Debbie Stewart said, "New Zealand falcons are found nowhere else in the world, and there are not many left. It is a bird that is even rarer than our kiwi, and they need all the help they can get. The efforts by these loggers to recognise and protect these fledglings in Waitahia River Valley demonstrates how commercial interests such as forestry partners and conservation interests complement one another. What a team!"

While the Trust's Falcon expert Dr Richard Seaton also said, "Evidence suggests that the highest numbers of New Zealand falcons now occur in exotic plantation forests. Considering the falcons' threatened status, this expansion into a novel habitat is highly significant in the fight to save the species from the threat of extinction. The actions of Forestland Management and Ernslaw One are highly commendable and a fantastic example of how a collective will to do 'the right thing', coupled with effective management strategies, can allow threatened species to thrive."



The Forestland Management Ltd crew, from left to right are: Davey Ihara, Colin Mariani, Bio Tai, Reg Tuhaki, Mary Strybosch, Eli Mammel, Terry Collier, Brad Munnell, Justin ToWhita

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FALCON SIGHTINGS

Falcon sightings are reported to Wingspan throughout the year, with the most common reports during the spring when the falcons are nesting, and autumn when juveniles are wandering. 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 Cammap Havelley, and AMG Web Designers for the website update. Sightings of falcons are reported by recreational hunters and trampers, landowners, or from forest estate managers and contractors such as Kaingaroa Timberlands and P.F. Olsen Ltd. Some falcons are spotted in the back yard! But occasionally we receive correspondence a little more out of the ordinary, or about other birds of prey seen in New Zealand.

I have been running trips down the river for many years and it would be unusual to not see at least one falcon. There is one that 'attacks' us at that moment. We haven't quite figured out where the nest is but it must be very close to the river. Haven't managed a decent photo yet but I'm stilling working on it. It is very exciting for our clients and the guides. We are just hoping that she doesn't get tired of all the boats passing by her nest.

-Bridget Jessop, Clarence River Rafting, Kaikoura

I live in Nelson and we have quite a few falcons in town including up The Brook area, where I live and the hills of Tahunanui. I had the great privilege a few months ago of being just metres away from a Falcon in Tahunanui whilst it devoured a freshly caught mouse. There must be at least two of them in this area as they are often to be seen gliding around and diving bombing the smaller birds.

-Sue Cottam, Nelson

... there were a pair of falcon. At a later date one of the falcons actually struck and killed a pheasant cock in front of us, all just three times its size. I have spent most of the time since in the north and when at Karitane haven't seen any since but will keep you posted.

-Troy Vidgen, Karitane - Otago

I have just observed a bird in one of our trees being harassed by a large group of mynals. The confrontation probably went on for a good 10 minutes or so during which time I had ample opportunity to observe the larger bird in flight and I am sure it was a falcon. At one point it flew low and directly over my head in pursuit of a mynal that had broken free from the flock. However the flock soon regrouped for another attack on the bird of prey and it disappeared into a group of large trees.

-Wendy Andrew, Pakelawa - North Waikato

I am General Manager at Manor Park Golf Club in the Hut Valley. We have had for some months at least two Kārearea resident on our course. I have a nice photo of one in flight and have an article and photo in the members section of our website. They played hell with the other 16 odd species of birds during hatching season here, in particular the paradise and mallard ducklings.

-Steve Wallace, Hut Valley

I am sure that there was a falcon in the King Edward Park in Stratford. About four years ago it interacted with my dog. I threw a ball on numerous occasions and the falcon chased the ball as it rolled along the ground. It also swooped on and flew alongside my dog.

-Janice Caldwell, Taranaki



Clinton Valley, Milford Track - Barbara Wilkins



Falcon at Cameron's Flat, Haast Pass area - Keith



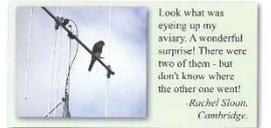
Taranaki Falls, Tongariro National Park - Greg & Linda Anderson



Levit - Sofiana Kaiti



Tokomaru Bay - Ivan Loomis



Look what was eyeing up my aviary. A wonderful surprise! There were two of them - but don't know where the other one went! - Rachel Sloan, Cambridge.

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WILD VISITORS - Andrew Thomas

There have been more and more falcon sightings in and around Rotorna, some even as urban as golf courses and schools. But Wingspan has not been missing out on the action! These local falcons have been gracing us with their presence and even joining in during flying displays.

We often say that no flying display is ever the same. Well, over the past year there have been incidents where the flying displays have even surprised staff members. On two such occasions our trained falcons were joined by wild falcons.

The first male visitor was one of our most memorable. He was a juvenile male and he had a major crush on an 'older woman' (Aareta one of our trained display falcons). Over the following hour of the flying display he certainly made his intentions known. Chasing her around and unsuccessfully attempting to catch a meal for her. Unfortunately for this young male, Aareta was a hard woman to impress, showing no signs of interest in him at all. After returning Aareta to her aviary, the male falcon visitor moved on, probably seeking a less selective partner elsewhere.

The second wild male falcon turned up at Wingspan on the 3rd of September, treating visitors to a welcome variation

to the usual routine. This bird was a stunning adult male that had found another place to set up his territory in preparation for the breeding season.

Within a month this male visitor had left and I suspect that he found another place to set up his territory in preparation for the breeding season.

It's always a joy to see these wild falcons around Rotorna and even more when they call in for a visit during our public flying displays. Sometimes however, Wingspan gets calls from worried members of the public thinking they must be one of our birds that has escaped.

All in all, these spectacular wild visitors mean that we never know exactly what might happen from one day to the next. They certainly keep us on our toes!



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AUCTION 2012

\$18,000

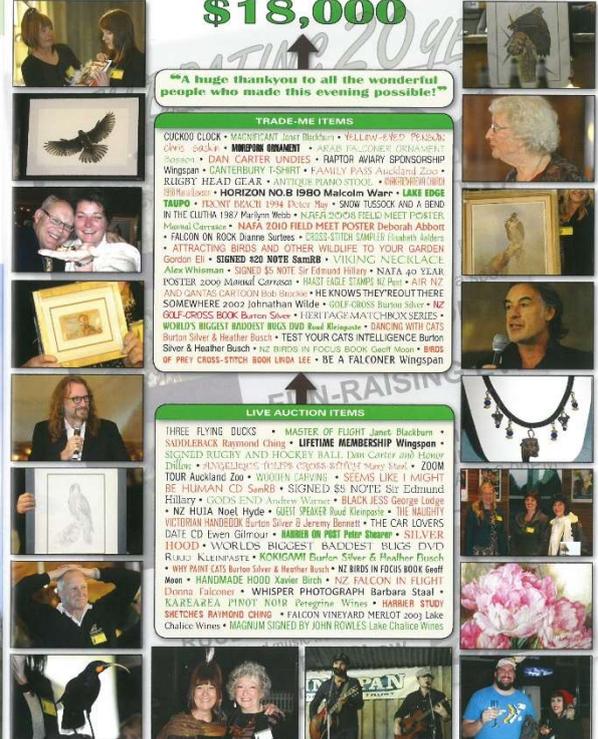
"A huge thankyou to all the wonderful people who made this evening possible!"

TRADE-ME ITEMS

CUCKOO CLOCK • MAJESTIC JESS Blackburn • YELLOW-LEGGED PEACOCK GINGS GARDEN • **WINGSPAN ORNAMENT** • ARAB FALCONER ORNAMENT
 BUCKLES • DAN CARTER UNDER • RAPTOR AVIARY SPONSORSHIP
 Wingspan • CANTERBURY T-SHIRT • FAMILY PASS Auckland Zoo •
 RUGBY HEAD GEAR • ANTIQUE PIANO STOOL • BIRDHOUSE
 2012/2013 • **HORIZON NO.8 1990 Malcolm Warr** • LAKE EDGE
 2012/2013 • POINT BRUSH 1994 Peter • NEW ZEALAND AND A BIRD
 IN THE CUTHRA 1987 Marilyn Webb • NZFA 2008 FIELD MEET POSTER
 Marnie Carrigan • NZFA 2010 FIELD MEET POSTER Deborah Abbott
 • FALCON ON BOOK Dame Surtees • 2002 STITCH SAMPLER Elizabeth Jodan
 • ATTRACTING BIRDS AND OTHER WILDLIFE TO YOUR GARDEN
 Gordon Eli • **SIGNED 420 NOTE SamRB** • VIKING NECKLACE
 Alan Whiteman • SIGNED 20 NOTE Sir Edmund Hillary • NZFA 40 YEAR
 POSTER 2009 Marnie Carrigan • HASTI TABLE STAMP 90 Phil • AIR NZ
 AND CANTAS CARTOON Bob Blackburn • **HE KNOWS THEY'RE OUT THERE**
 SOMEWHERE 2009 Johnathan Wilde • GOLF-CROSS BURTON SILVER • NZ
 GOLF-CROSS BOOK Burton Silver • HERRING MATCHBOX SERIES •
 WORLD'S BIGGEST BADDEST BUGS DVD Rod Macgregor • DANCING WITH CATS
 Burton Silver & Heather Bush • TEST YOUR CATS INTELLIGENCE Burton
 Silver & Heather Bush • NZ BIRDS BY FRANCIS BIRDS (soft cover) • BIRDS
 OF PREY CROSS-STITCH BOOK LINDA LEE • BE A FALCONER Wingspan

LIVE AUCTION ITEMS

THREE FLYING BUCKS • MASTER OF FLIGHT Janet Blackburn •
 SAUHLBACK Raymond Chang • **LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP Wingspan** •
 SIGNED RUGBY AND HOCKEY BALL Dan Carter 400 Honour
 Dishes • KNOWLEDGE: TULLIPS CROSS-SEPTIC Mary Mait • **ZOOM**
 TOUR Australia Zoo • WOODEN CARVING • SEEMS LIKE I WOULD
 BE HUMAN CD SamRB • SIGNED \$9 NOTE Sir Edmund
 Hillary • GOONS END Andrew Warren • BLACK JESS George Lodge
 • NZ HULA Noel Hyde • QUEEN PRINCE Blue Whiteman • THE MAJESTIC
 VICTORIAN HANDEDON Burton Silver & Jeremy Bennett • THE CAR LOVERS
 DATE CD Ewen Gairton • **HARRIER ON POST Peter Sheehan** • SILVER
 HOOD • WORLD'S BIGGEST BADDEST BUGS DVD
 Rules • KALANZIETA • KONGIAMI Burton Silver & Heather Bush
 • WHF PAINT CATS Burton Silver & Heather Bush • NZ BIRDS IN FOCUS BOOK Geoff
 Mann • HANDMADE HOOD Xavier Birch • NZ FALCON IN FLIGHT
 DINNER Falconer • WHISPER PHOTOGRAPH Barbara Staal •
 KAREAREA PINOT NOIR Peregrine Wines • HARRIER STUDY
 SKETCHES RAYMOND CHANG • FALCON VINEYARD MERLOT 2009 Lake
 Chalice Wines • MAGNUM SIGNED BY JOHN ROWLES Lake Chalice Wines



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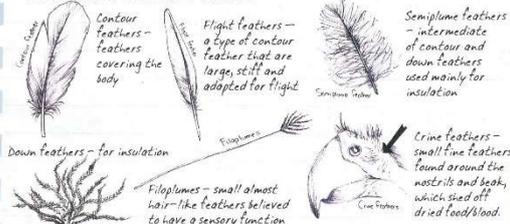
FEATHERS & FLIGHT - with Ineke Smets

Like most birds, birds of prey rely on feathers for flight, insulation and behavioural displays. Even though the general structure of a feather stays the same, different species have slightly different shaped feathers depending on their habitat. This results in varying tail and wing shapes to allow for the most efficient flight.

FEATHERS

About 15% of a bird of prey's body consists of feathers which are made of keratin, just like our hair or fingernails. Once they have finished growing the feathers are dead, apart from the sockets in which they are attached, because of this they can be trimmed or repaired without the bird feeling anything.

THERE ARE SIX MAIN TYPES OF FEATHERS



Different raptors have different feathers depending on where they live and how they fly.

- Australasian harriers have stiff, slatted primaries (wing feathers), with flexible tips to allow for efficient soaring
- Owls such as moreparks have soft, rounded wing feathers with a fine comb like leading edge, which allow for silent flight
- Some birds of prey like the Philippine eagle, have ornate feathering on their heads for various behavioural displays.



TAIL

The tail plays a vital role in flight and has a different shape and length, depending on the bird's flight style. Similar to wings the tail creates lift in flight and helps with balance, manoeuvrability at low speeds and braking when landing.

... the tail plays a vital role in flight ...

Five feathers either side of the two central or deck feathers make up the tail. Each feather has a slightly different shape or symmetry depending on where they are situated along the tail.

WINGS

The wings are used for flight, with specially shaped feathers that provide lift and forward motion. The adaptation of a particular wing shape depends on the bird's habitat and the way it hunts.

- NZ falcon - Long tail in comparison to short broad wings, allows for extra manoeuvrability in the forest
- Australasian harrier - Large wings, with 'finger-like' tips. This gives a large surface area and provides plenty of lift to soar effortlessly
- Moreparks - Short rounded wings for fast burst of flight in a forested environment



ALULA

The alula, also known as "bastard wing", is used to minimise the turbulence created at slow speeds or landing. It is the remnant of a rudimentary thumb and when erect acts as a wing slot, like that on a plane, to direct air smoothly over the wing, avoiding stalling.

MOULT

At the end of every summer most adult birds of prey will moult feathers. This ensures that old and worn feathers are replaced before the wet, cold winter occurs. During the moult feathers are lost gradually and in sequence, this ensures that at no time the bird is flightless. The old feathers are pushed out by the new feathers growing underneath.



Imping is an ancient falconry technique that is a quick fix for damaged or broken feathers. It involves cutting the damaged feather at its base and inserting a new feather into the hollow shaft from the old. Imping is only used to replace feathers from either the wings or the tail, as damage to these main flight surfaces are likely to cause problems with the bird's ability to fly well. They need good strong feathers to fly efficiently to locate and hunt for food.

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FREE THE FALCONS OTA-GO!

A charming story about two falcons bred at Wingspan. One with a unique posting on 'Trade Me' with aggressive bidding for her sponsorship and naming rights, reaching a total of \$1,760.01 and an impressive 7370 views. Both birds were trained daily by falconers Noel Hyde and Dean Thomas in preparation for their release into the wild, including a special appearance in front of thousands of spectators, television media crews, and volunteers at the Taieri A&P show, Otago.

A special Trade Me auction for the sponsorship of a New Zealand falcon (so far called Ota-GO!) for her release back into the wild.

Ota-GO! was captive bred at Wingspan from parents permanently injured and unable to be released. Ota-GO's mother has two broken wings after being shot, while her father is blind in one eye after being poked with a stick. Ota-GO was a young healthy bird - we wanted to set her free.



Free the Falcon, Ota-GO!
 Consistent Bid \$160.00
 Maximum Bid \$1,760.01
 Views 7370

Free the Falcon, Ota-GO!
 Consistent Bid \$160.00
 Maximum Bid \$1,760.01
 Views 7370

Ota-GO hatched on the 31st October, weighing just 20gms. On Christmas Day 2012, with her brand new flight leathers, training started to get her fit and flying, and prepare her for freedom. She's a southern belle, and will be released into the wild in Otago at the end of January.



"Falcons over agricultural machinery; falcons over haka-hueaka; falcons all over the people... Awesome!"
 -Raud Kleinpaste

... great work Wingspan - these are amazing birds ...

Ota-GO Falcons 2013



TUHA-AHI
 Hatched 31-10-12 at Wingspan. Released 3-2-13 Peregrine Wines, Gibbston Valley
 Absolute Sponsors:
 Paul and Maryanne Richardson



CAZADOR
 Hatched 1-12-11 at Wingspan. Released 5-2-13 Felton Wines, Ranrockburn.
 Sponsors: Reid Walker, Gareth King, and Dale Radford.

SPECIAL THANKS TO:
 Taieri A&P Association ♦ Raud Kleinpaste
 ♦ Air New Zealand ♦ Peter and Jocelyn Springford ♦ Neil Simpson ♦ Maria Smith
 ♦ Steve and Yvette Lawrence

FALCONS AND GRAPES

Fly fearless, Get airborne!



More than 12 years ago Chris Gamberis (international man of mystery) was introduced to a two day old falcon chick called '42', and he fell in love with the Wingspan programme. As a result of this love and fascination for karearea, Lake Challice Wines have been key sponsors and supporters ever since.

Chris and the Lake Challice Team have always been enthusiastic to increase public awareness for the plight of New Zealand falcons. Karearea features at their logo, and with credibility behind their branding at every opportunity they spread the word, often to a wider and very different audience.

Through the year, a number of Lake Challice events have been hosted at the Wingspan Centre, and sometimes offsite too, most recently in April with 'Kids and Karearea' at the Mataurangi Festival, Coromandel Peninsula.

On the Wild Side

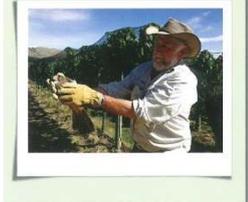
A falcon love story has captivated Barry and Dianne Feickert of Blind River Wines in Marlborough. These falcons, affectionately called 'Porky and Martha', were originally released at the property by Dr Nick Fox and Colin Wynn (of the 'Falcons for Grapes' project).

In October, as mature adult birds, they returned to their original release site, and three eggs were spotted in their nest barrel. Good falcon parents and with good neighbours looking out for them, the eggs hatched, and all three chicks fledged successfully.



Heard it through the Grapevine

A wild adult falcon found himself in a bit of trouble earlier this year at Cornish Point in Otago, when he was found caught, entangled in netting. Luckily the staff of Felton Wines were quick to the rescue and he was released unharmed.



ON THE MONEY

Noting it the New Zealand banknote upgrade project is underway

In 2011 the Reserve Bank announced an upgrade of New Zealand's current series of banknotes. This project will involve updating all five banknotes, the \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100.

Reserve Bank Governor Alan Bollard announced this upgrade will ensure our banknotes benefit from technical advances introduced in banknote security over the last 12 years. Such upgrades are carried out on a regular basis and help to maintain New Zealand's low counterfeiting levels. The project will also look to improve the quality of these notes," he said. Dr Bollard emphasised that planning for the upgrade project is at an early stage and the various new banknotes will be progressively released from 2014.

A survey carried out by Nielsen for the Reserve Bank found the public is satisfied with the colours, design and themes of the existing notes and that the different note denominations were easy to distinguish. The public were also happy with the range of notes available.

"As a result of these survey findings, we will not be making significant changes to the overall themes of the notes themselves. This includes continuing to use the five respected individuals currently depicted on our notes," Dr Bollard said.

It is envisaged the new notes will be phased in and will be used alongside the existing notes once they are released.



On the Money

For all the right reasons, Wingspan was keen to ensure that the karearea remained on the new \$20 notes to be issued. It's about public awareness and advocacy, and indeed the \$20 note is a good choice, we consider \$20 moves really fast as well!

The new notes will be redesigned and will be given a new 'look'. It is however a large project, and includes special photography ready for the international plate engravers prior to printing.

At the end of last year, the Wingspan Team were delighted to have photographer Rod Morris who captured images of the karearea at Wingspan, including Atareta, Millie, Shaheena.



HERE AND THERE

Members and visitors often ask Wingspan how they can help... and here is how you can!

Over the past few months websites like Trip Advisor and Google+ have brought in dozens of visitors. These sites are peer reviewed and allow visitors to rate places they have visited.

Earlier this year, Wingspan was pleased to announce that it reached the top attraction, of 37 attractions, in Rotorua!! Having now lost that position we are keen to claim the spot once more...

Please review your last or your next visit on both



To write a review, simply type "Wingspan National Bird of Prey Centre" into the search box at the top of the page and select "Write a Review".

If you haven't already... REVIEW US... and let others know what it is you like about Wingspan



From a rapping music video to a women's expo...

This year Wingspan attended the Rotorna Women's Expo in order to showcase our conservation efforts. Frodo the morepork and Shaheena the falcon once again stole the show! A huge thank you to Mandy Jacobs, Di Riddell and Paula Lowe for helping out on the day!



Louie the ZU, a South African born rapper, came to Wingspan to film his new music video ("In the Winter"), along with the crew from Reel Good Film.

With dim lights and a white background the film crew aimed to capture moody shots.

Jack the harrier, Frodo the morepork and Shaheena the falcon all debuted on the film set.



25 WAYS TO SAY THANKS . . .



During March and April Toyota New Zealand Ltd celebrated their 25th birthday with the launch of '25 ways to say thanks', the campaign included 25 brand new 2013 Corollas to be presented to 25 New Zealand registered charities.

With some 11,000 charities in the country, Wingspan knew this wasn't going to be a walk in the park. During a business study of Wingspan in 2012, MBA students reported that philanthropic engagement (donations and support) generally favoured health, youth, and sport, with conservation programmes further down the list for consideration. Further, the winners were decided by public vote but were restricted to 'Facebook' account holders and New Zealand residents only. However, Wingspan has needed a fit-for-purpose vehicle for some years, so full of enthusiasm, we pre-registered by competition start and prepared for the month-long challenge.

National (high-profile) organisations were early leaders, while many of the 'grass root' charities, like Wingspan, enlisted votes one at a time, and where they could. We went to schools, we walked the streets, and we distributed voting information among Wingspan's 1000 Facebook members. For the first 20 days Wingspan remained as a contender in the top 25 rankings but, despite being proactive, Wingspan was unsuccessful by poll's end; a final tally of 332 votes, ranked 33rd overall and just a couple of hundred votes short.

Regardless, Wingspan was the top-ranking conservation group amongst the 517 charities vying for the vehicles (40 charities within the category of environment/animals), and certainly this promotion provided Wingspan a little bit more exposure to a different and wider audience.

Thank you to all those Wingspan members who voted. Thank you also to all of those who tried but couldn't. It seems in the short term we won't be driving a new car... looks like we'll be walking - maybe even 'running for falcons' instead!

RUNNING FOR FALCONS - Richard Seaton

Wingspan has a problem - people keep telling us they can't find us! So it was that a Marathon effort was started to raise the funds to improve our signage...

I awoke in the morning a little confused. Had I really bet my friends that I would run the Rotorna Marathon? On consultation I was dismayed to learn that yes, my fuzzy memory of the previous night's events were correct. Filled with the bravado that only several pints of the good stuff can bestow, I had brazenly announced that I would run my first marathon in 2013. "How far is a marathon?" I whimpered that morning. "42.2km" my friends replied with glee. What had I done?

As a long-time Wingspan member, trustee and now employee, my thoughts naturally turned to how I could evolve this into an opportunity to help falcons. Involving Wingspan would also make sure that I could not back out, but most importantly it would also increase my chances of sharing the pain amongst my fellow work mates!

Wingspan has long been concerned at how many visitors complain that it is hard to find us, and that our poor signage is restricting the number of people coming to the Centre. Ticket sales and membership are our primary source of funding for our conservation work. Hence more visitors equates to more wild falcons. So it was that Running for Falcons was born as an effort to raise the funds to improve the signage to the Wingspan Centre and support our work to save New Zealand falcon.

At the time of writing, the Wingspan team is in the midst of its final, mostly painful, preparations. With 22 days to go I have to admit that my enthusiasm is rapidly fading. It is only the efforts of everyone else on the team that is keeping me heading out training every night now and the shorter, colder nights are really not helping! My legs feel more like tired limbs of clay than the lithe limbs of steel I was hoping to have developed by now. Serious doubts are starting to creep in... was this such a good idea... can I even finish that? However, we are a tough and dedicated lot here at Wingspan and we want those signs. So you can bet, come hell or high water we will be out there running for falcons on May 4th.

So in advance let me thank all those people who donated to this cause - your contribution is one that will keep on giving as it encourages more and more people to visit us and support our essential conservation work. I would also like to send out a big kaka kaka to all the team that have been suffering alongside me. None of us are runners, so training for this marathon has taken up far more time than we could ever have imagined! Thank you to Amy Stewart-Bidger, Ineke Smees, Debbie Stewart, Alison Lamberton, Fleur Massey, Stefan Bek and Kelly Bek who all ran for falcons.

To find out how we fared, check our our new Wingspan blog and follow our personal stories of misery training to run Rotorna Marathon. A word of warning however - it could be painful reading!



9 Entries Team Wingspan
150 km ran, jugged and walked
☆☆☆ \$6,500 RAISED ☆☆☆

Check out our blog at:
<http://wingspannewzealand.wordpress.com/>

WINGSPAN WELCOMES VISITORS!

"We enjoyed the visit for the third time and no doubt will be back! No two visits are the same with such an enthralling family you have on display each time!"
- Doug Humby

Wonderful! Glad we stopped. - Jeff & Lisa Collins, USA
- Dianne Parker, Australia

What a great day to spend. Looking forward to visiting again.
Fraser and Bentie, Dunedin

"LOVE your website - the photos and the videos of your work are beautiful - what a great job you all do!"
- Katrina Batten

Thank you for the support of our camp raffle enjoyed seeing all the birds - via street specialist school

Gary Cook, visiting from Focus Media Group, Auckland

James Goodbridge from Zone 14, visiting from Auckland

Mareille Armstrong of Auckland with Frodo

Del Falcon and Nik holding Ozzy

Nora Thompson, Air New Zealand

Wendy Stewart and Wingspan to Man Wray

Rian Morgan, by Peta Gillies

Nancy Nettle of Rotorna with Frodo

Sabine Bomerl, France, photographing Mia

Greg Han from Percorow, Wairoa, Central Otago

VOLUNTEERS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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 assistance with ground maintenance, aviary cleaning, watering, food preparation, along with the various other jobs that need to be done at the Centre. People like Paula Lowe (Taunanga), Jes White (Kawerau), Johanna Christensen (Christchurch), Reagan Dear (Palmerston North), Mandy Jacobs (Rotorua), Di Riddell (Rotorua), Padi Hodgkiss (Rotorua) and David Thomas (Christchurch). Thank you!

A special thank you to Stephen White (Rotorua) who continues to distribute brochures around the Rotorna district helping to promote Wingspan. Lanny Simco for making stainless steel falconery black bases, Dan Brandt for the welding repairs, and Donn Holmes for donating the Bushnell binoculars.



Wingspan would not be able to function without computers for databases, emails and the annual journal!

A huge thank you to Unlimited Realities for donating two computers, screens and a laptop. In particular Russell Brebner who made it all happen. Thank you!

We would also like to acknowledge the Catalyst Group for the use of their Palmerston North office for one of our members of staff.

It certainly has kept Richard more ' sane' than working from home.

A huge thank you to Rachel Stewart who has been editing articles, left, right, and centre, for this year's journal! She done good!

At the start of this year Wingspan installed entrance and road signage to better direct guests to the centre.

A big thank you Specially Signs for designing and making the brilliant signs!

We would also like to thank Tim Foley (Rotorua) for building the framing and erecting the signs.

As well as John Collier, from Tallyho Industries, for the use of his 'hiab' and Craig Russell for the permission to put the sign on his property.

Once more a huge thank you to Mary Staal, of Rotorua, who has been running front of house on the weekend for seven years now!

There always remains the need for raptor foods such as rabbits, hares, feral pigeons and ducks. At Wingspan different foods are needed for the various birds of prey in our care. Thank you for the contributions we have received during the year. In particular we would like to acknowledge donations from:

- Rabbits - Phil Tocker (Kaharoa), Hilary Prior (Rotorua) and Josh Farber
- Pigeons and sparrows - Gus Knoppers
- Ducks - Fish & Game (Rotorua), Richard Mallinson

A big personal thanks goes to Scott and Bev Thonson (Rotorua), who not only donated raptor food, but also donated a freezer!

Thanks Mary!

WILD CHICKS - Andrew Thomas

The breeding season this year, in Kaitiaki Forest, was particularly challenging. Breeding pairs were hard to find and the nests seemed even harder to locate than last year. Chijiyu and her volunteers managed to locate several nests and as a result we were able to track their breeding success.



Sponsor: Mary Staal
MK14822 (left) - R/G



Sponsor: James Walkman
No band (left) - MK14819 (right)



Sponsor: Abby van der Raag
Blue over white (left) - MH150371 (right)



Sponsor: Wika Family
MK14820 (left) - no band (right)



Sponsor: Vikera Family
DG/K (left) - MK14864 (right)



Sponsor: Mary Staal
Metal H30367 (left) - red over white (right)

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-Pale Green, O-Orange, R-Red, Y-Yellow

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



Sponsor: Sazi Phillips
Dark green (left) - metal H22284 (right)



MK4870 (metal band only) in 14862
Sponsor: Thomas George
K/D (left) - MH14810 (right)

SPONSOR A WILD NEW ZEALAND FALCON!
Help Wingspan to help karearea. Just \$200 to donate towards the research, banding and release of a falcon.
See page 61 for more details.



Sponsor: Marian Savage
MK14859 (left) - DG (right)



Sponsor: James Lord
Metal K14865 (left) - White over yellow (right)



HACKING IT - Andrew Thomas

Hacking is the term used to describe the release of captive bred raptors into the wild. Essentially, it is the construction of an artificial nest and release platform. The birds imprint on the hawk box which provides shelter and secure protection, and supplementary foods are provided until the birds become independent and disperse into the wild.

Wingspan released more New Zealand falcons than EVER before!

We had our most successful captive breeding season on record with 12 New Zealand falcon chicks raised by our captive pairs, as well as two morepork chicks.

This season a total of 13 falcons were released back into the wild! Ten of these were hack released in the North Island and the remaining three were released in the South Island over vineyards.



Sponsor: Lockwood
no band (left)-MH17354 (right)



Sponsor: Virginia Bourne
no band (left)-Metal H37353 (right)



Sponsor: Cathy & Helen Chambers
no band (left)-MH17352 (right)



Sponsor: Russell Family
MH17355 (left) - no band (right)



Sponsor: Mijacraft
MH17356 (left) - no band (right)



Sponsor: Robin & Doreen Cullis
no band (left)-MH17357 (right)

Three Australasian harrier chicks were handed in to Wingspan this summer. These chicks were later hack released from a farm on Kaharoa Road, Rotorua. Since then the chicks have been seen, on a regular basis, flying around the neighbourhood.



ABIT OF A HOOT!
Morepork Ruru released at Wingspan 21st February, 2012.
Name: Twilight
Sponsors:
Maribeth, Kira & Zoe
Ariarong, Caitlin & Steve
Doug, Cora O'Shea



Measurements of both egg and chick give important data that can be used for research in the future. The measurements of the egg indicate the natural variation of size whereas the beak, leg and talon lengths allow us to track the growth and development of a chick.

IN THE MEWS



Photograph by: Daniel Rangas



Photograph by: Andrew Thomas



Photograph by: Eric Ormsby



Photograph by: Rob Ockell



Photograph by: Lee Ormsby

FALCONS

Ali ♀

Originally from Nelson, Ali has permanent injuries after being deliberately shot. Important for the Wingspan breeding programme, she has fostered eggs and chicks, and is now paired with Hamdan.

Absolute sponsor: Noel and Alison Lamerton

Atareta ♀

The 'emmettina'. For the past two years trained by Andrew Thomas and featured in the flying displays at Wingspan, visitors 'wowed' by her fast flight, lure work and manoeuvres on the wing.

Absolute sponsor: Skate & Truce

Bell ♀

From Balcutha, this female had to have the tip of her wing amputated, hindering her from flying ever again. She has been paired up with Wink to become part of our captive breeding programme.

Absolute sponsor: Don Grant

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: Ashley Welsh, **Contributing sponsors:** Jill Houlden and Steve Ligtnerberg

Hamdan ♂

He was a rescued chick from the Lammernoor Range in Otago in 2013. He has been paired up with Ali to become part of the captive breeding programme.

Absolute sponsor: Gift sponsored by Brendon, Leona and Connor Barnes in honour of a good friend in Abu Dhabi who saved Connor's life

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; **Silver sponsors:** Steve & Lindy Robinson; **Contributing sponsors:** Vicky Ellis

Kaitiaki ♀

Kaitiaki is a real treasure. In 2009 she surprised everyone by laying three clutches, a total of 10 consecutive eggs!

Contributing sponsors: Ray & Marce Goldring; Sheree Tidswell

Koha ♀

Originally from Te Anau, Koha was found in a chicken coop with a serious beak deformity. Hindering her ability to eat, she had to be fed for an ester meal. Now at Wingspan she requires regular beak trimming to ensure that she can feed properly.

Absolute sponsor: Scott & Karen Parker from Kapiti Fencing & Gate Services

... Ozzy remains popular with visitors ...

Millie (Millennium Falcon) ♀

Captive-bred, Millie featured on the falcon growth posters and, currently trained by Ineke Smets, considered Wingspan's 'drama-queen'.

Absolute sponsor: Millennium Hotel, Rotorua

Mojo ♀

Captive bred at Wingspan (2007), but rescued at one day of age after almost being killed by his parents.

Absolute sponsor: Mary Staal

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 sponsor: Brian Jennings; **Silver sponsor:** Lyle Pritchard; **Contributing sponsors:** Charlie Foster & Tracey Wheeler

R2D2 ♀

Originally from Taupo, arriving to Wingspan (2008) from Massey Vets (Palmerston North) with a broken wing. Subsequently paired with Julz, and since 2009 have successfully bred each year, and fostered other falcon chicks.

Gold sponsors: Chris and Enkhjargal Morgan; **Contributing sponsors:** Dean Carter; and Craig Irving

Rita ♀

Found with a broken wing in Raetihi, 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 & Denise Maylin; **Contributing sponsor:** Scorpintist International of Rotorua

Ruby ♀

The 'Divva'. Ruby is the oldest female at the Centre and during her 'career' has featured on special edition coins, books, magazines, and national television.

Contributing sponsor: Ise-Marie Eri-French

Shaheena Tetuko ♀

The first 'trademe falcon'! Shaheena meaning female falcon in Arabic, and Tetuko meaning 'Lady of Steel'. She lives up to her name and is currently being trained by Debbie Stewart.

Gold sponsors: Catherine Pterard & Rupert Steinbeis; and Ryan Salt

Tarawera ♀

Tarawera is the oldest male held at Wingspan (brother of Ruby), and paired with Kaitiaki in 2005 for the falcons breeding programme.

Gold sponsor: Charles Feast; **Silver sponsor:** Graham & Blanche Lubbock

Tuhoe ♀

Brother to Ozzy and Kaitiaki, hatched December 2002. Tuhoe is paired with Fovea and part of the breeding programme since 2005.

Gold sponsors: Malcolm Macrae & Janet Green; **Silver sponsors:** Dylan Welsh; Garry & Erin Barr; **Contributing sponsor:** Kirsty Christian

Wink ♀

Found in Waitipahi, blinded by a stick in his eye and remains partially sighted. Paired with Bell, their progeny will contribute towards annual releases in the South Island.

Gold sponsors: Brian & Les Turner; **Silver sponsors:** Lindsay and Alison Moore; **Contributing sponsors:** Brian & Vivian Mansel



Photograph by: Rob Ockell



Black Scullion Photography



Photograph by: Sabine Berner



Photograph by: Sabine Berner



Photograph by: Lachlan Stewart

... Tahi is the only captive barn owl in New Zealand ...



Photograph by Andrew Harner

BARN OWL

Tahi ♂
Found on farmland in Kaitiaki with a severely broken left wing, which after seven months of trying to save it, 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, Garry & Annette Hull; Contributing sponsors: Michael & Melva Triggs**



Photograph by Andrew Thomas

MOREPORKS

Frodo ♂
In 2012, Frodo, the male morepork was rescued as an egg from the breeding pair Nestor & Wairuru. He has been hand-raised by Wingspan staff and is now being trained. **Sponsored by the Wingspan Team**



Photograph by David Briggs

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



Photograph by Sabine Berner

Wairuru ♀
In 2005 Wairuru arrived with broken wings, and is unable to be released. Paired with Nestor she produced her first chick in 2007. **Gold sponsors: Laurie & Bev Richardson; Silver sponsor: Maxine Powick; Contributing sponsors: Ian & Mazie Nicenfejer; Eleanor Duff**



Photograph by Andrew Thomas

Whisper ♂
Originally introduced to Wingspan as a rescued egg from Kaingaroa Forest in 2007. Artificially incubated and hand raised, Whisper remains the friendliest morepork at Wingspan, and is the foster mother for other ruru chicks. **Gold and silver sponsors: Edward and Wendy Goodwin; Contributing sponsor: Murray Horlor**



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 voluntary initiatives - as 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.

... Fran arrived at Wingspan starving ...



Photograph by Ineke Shorter

HARRIERS

Fran ♀
Found March 2010 in Meerinsville, 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**



Photograph by Doug Hamby

Jack ♂
Rescued at around 13 days old in 2010, after being found abandoned. Jack is now being trained by Andrew Thomas and is a very capable hunter. **Gold sponsors: Mary Staal; Suci Phillips**



Photograph by Bill Doolger

Ivy ♀
Also rescued as a chick, Ivy was found on farmland in the Waikato. She has a fiery character and is a great hunter, proving that harriers can do it too! **Contributing sponsor: I.F. Forrest (gifted by John & Janice Russell)**

Sky ♂
Sky is a male harrier that first arrived to Wingspan in 2002. Sky is a display bird and is the oldest and 'greyest' harrier on display. **Gold sponsor: Stephen Edmonds**

FRODO... THE FEATHERED HOBBIT



Frodo hatched on the 24th October 2012, after being rescued as an egg from Wingspan's only morepork breeding pair, Nestor and Wairuru.

With big hairy feet, a short stature and a tendency to nest in burrows we could not resist the name!

After a lot of extra attention, from staff and visitors, Frodo has grown into the perfect morepork ambassador and often greets guests as they walk past his aviary.

Although his attention span is somewhat lacking he is currently being trained in the hope that he will be used in the daily flying displays.



Photograph by Sabine Berner

ASSOCIATES AND NETWORKERS

Helping Wingspan's conservation programme are a number of associates, academic, and promotional partners. Each provides a way to put our conservation, research and key messages in front of new audiences, and who contribute time or money (often both) for the cause.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS JOHN HOLLAND, AND EDWARD MINOT,
Massey University, Palmerston North

MASSEY UNIVERSITY
TE KUNENGA KI PŪREHUROA
UNIVERSITY OF NEW ZEALAND

DAN WALVAREN
Ideas Shop, Wellington

ELDAD COLLINS
Rotorua Sustainable Tourism Charter

JOHN DEAR
Ideal Penis

CRAIG WELSH
Resource Environmental Management Ltd

REM

BRAD FRIIS, XPLORE.NET SOLUTIONS, NAPIER
the organizer of a 'Chilli Champin' Groove' fundraiser for Wingspan. A donation of \$450 and a LOT of chillies!

PETER WELLS

Widmount
Scientific Technology & Training Centre

ORCONA
CHILLI 'N PEPPERS

Canmap Hawley Limited

Thank you to the Management and Staff of

TBfree NEW ZEALAND, ANIMAL HEALTH BOARD,
for their donation of \$6,400.00 - monies raised from their end of year charity auction for karearea.

TBfree NEW ZEALAND

ROTORUA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Business Vitality

ELSA VALENTINE

Wingspan would like to acknowledge Elsa, not only for her lovely drawings, but for the support she offers to Wingspan.

Currently she is working on limited edition prints, including falcon artwork, to raise funds and awareness for selected non-government organisations like Wingspan! Thanks Elsa!

Check out some of the other great art work Elsa does! www.elsavalentine.co.uk

SPONSORS of special note

A Recipe of Support!

Wingspan sponsors and members range from 'plants to planks' - from forests to vine, and everything in between. Add to the recipe mix a wider range of industries and businesses that include accommodation, artwork, clothing, environment consultancy, hospitality, tourism, taxidermy, food products, jewellers, mappers, media, photographers, plumbing suppliers, scientists, security fencers, veterinarians, website designers, and then add more than 1100 members worldwide.

Wingspan is a registered charitable trust; it does not receive Government, or local body funding in support of the raptor conservation programme. Essentially, Wingspan is a project about birds of prey and people - it's a conservation buy-in for us all, and collectively we all make a difference for the raptors of New Zealand.

Donations to the programme are always welcomed, and it's easier than ever before! You can write or e-mail directly, or give us a call. Some members have organised regular donations, bequests and memorials, or direct credits; even small regular payments help too (and saves reminders for renewals). Most recently, New Zealand IRD have a new payroll donation system for PAYE employees ... and it's all tax deductible.

Contact Wingspan directly, we'd be thrilled to hear from you!

1164 Paradise Valley Rd, R.D. 2,
or P.O. Box 993, Rotorua 3040
Phone/fax 07 357 4469
E-mail wingspan.nz@gmail.com

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BATHROOM KITCHEN LAUNDRY
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Gull

AUCKLAND ZOO
Live. Everyday.

THE NEST
BY LAKE OHANGI

RotoruaEnergy Charitable Trust

MEMBERS DIRECTORY

HONORARY MEMBERS & LIFE MEMBERS

These members have provided services, materials and/or contributions of \$1000 or more

- Grant & Sarah Abbott 1998
 Paul Ainsworth, Hikarangi Forest Farms 2012
 Auckland Zoo 2008
 Laurence, Christine, Ashley & Emily Barea 2008
 Ross & Julie Bailey 2002
 Brendan & Leona Barnes 2012
 Clarrie Beardsmore 2007
 Phil & Sue Binnie 2001
 Bluesfast Trust 2011
 Russell Brebner, Unlimited Resilites 2012
 Simon Brittain 2010
 Cannap Hawley 2001
 Dan & Honor Carter 2012
 Central City Vets Rotorua 1996
 Clarkson Family 2011
 Sheila Coombs,
 Hescliffe Trust 1996
 Ron & Joan Couchman 2003
 Susie Curry 2007
 Alexander Darlington 2008
 Neil & Charlotte Dillon 2008
 Peter & Jill du Chateau 1997
 Franosk & Cherie Du Toit 2008
 Phil & Margaret Fry 1997
 Nick & Barbro Fox 2004
 Chris Gambisis 2001
 John & Betty Gaukrodger 2006
 Chris Gay 2004
 Ewen Gilmore 2008
 Golder Associates 2010
 Edward & Wendy Goodwin 2007
 Don Grant, Tasman Bay Herbs Ltd 2005
 Reg & Jo Grundy 2008
 Gary & Annette Hall 2005
 Brent & Shirley Hardy 2001
 Graeme Hancock, Kaimai Garden

NEW ZEALAND MEMBERS

- ALEXANDRIA**
 Hazel Olsen 2011
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