



President's Preamble

Hello to all members, and readers of this our 50th anniversary addition of the Austringer. It is a great achievement for the club to reach this landmark year and I thank all who have supported us over the years.

There were certainly some changes this last year: firstly the Falconry Fair being held at Wragley Hall and also the marquee on loan to us by the 5 Wales region which allowed us to have a bigger and more substantial display. Thanks must go to Mick Cordell & David Ridgpath for the hard work they put in getting it ready for us and dismantling which we finished. It was at the committee meeting here that we first heard of the Festival of Falconry being held in Dubai in December 2011.

Another 1st was the Falconry event held jointly by Jimina Pary-Jones and Lee Featherstone at the IBPC in Newent. This was a new venue for the club and was quite well supported but I would hope that more would attend this year as it was well worth the visit for falcons & families to enjoy the surroundings of the well laid out gardens and bird walks.

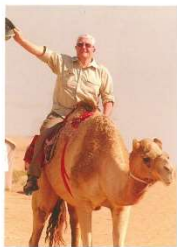
The CLA was held at Wragley Hall again this year, which is a good venue for the club so there was plenty of holla on the stand and behind scenes. Unfortunately this year it is

being held at Belvoir Castle in Rutland and as the distance is considerable and the club are attending extra shows this year to promote the 50th anniversary it has been decided to not attend.

The field meet was once again a great event for the club. Thanks must go to Neil McCann for all his hard work and for getting us a favourable price at the hotel. He has even managed to get the price held for the 50th anniversary meeting, which is great news for all of us.

We are holding a Grand Raffle & Auction for which we will be selling raffle tickets and the prizes are still rolling in, some of which will be seen later in the magazine. I hope all members will support us by buying & selling tickets to friends & family.

December saw Jan & myself depart for Dubai to represent Wales at the Festival of Falconry. It was an honour to represent the Welsh Hawking Club and we had numerous visitors to the stand, many of whom remembered the WHC from the festival held in Reading 2 years ago. As there is an article in the magazine I will not go into detail here except to say thanks to Jan & Tony France for making it possible for us to go, and to Leigh Tovey & Derek Clifton for helping on the stand while we were in the main arena,



carrying the flag for Wales.

By the time you read this it will be time for birds to be moulting or breeding so have a good summer and I look forward to seeing some of you at the shows throughout the year.

Best wishes, Daire Dinnion

From The Editor

2012 is a very special year for the club as it is our 50th anniversary so to celebrate we have produced a forty-four page Austringer instead of the usual forty.

This includes a photographic tribute to our Presidents both present and past. Please don't forget the raffle and auction at the AGM this year. There are some great prizes. A huge thanks to all who have kindly consulted and to those who have worked tirelessly to make this raffle and auction happen. I hope a few new faces will join us at the Fieldmeeting in October. I attended the 2011 meeting with my Falcons and had a great time not only in the field but also having a cider or two of an evening and catching up with friends. As ever a huge thanks to Neil for his sterling work in organising the Fieldmeeting and the Keepers for allowing access to their wonderful estates. I had two great memories of the Fieldmeeting this year. Firstly I was able to see a good number of both Blackcock and Greyhen on the Moor at Llanegha but we had no chance of getting near them to try and set a flight up and boy can they fly! Secondly seeing poor old Ian Barstern's Landrover stuck on the moor on the first day where I



myself would of lost it but not our Ian. Mr cool and collective.

On a personal note I bred Three Falcons and a Tereal from Freya and kept a Female back to fly Hnossa who was named and after a few spells with her flying clock she turned out to show a lot of promise and finished the season on the 1st February binding to a Cock Pheasant but she lost her grip and he was able to make it to cover.

I would like to thank all who have contributed by putting in their time and energy by sending in articles and have allowed their pictures to be published especially Leigh Tovey, Paul Sawer and Mark Williams. I would also like to thank Lyn Palmer, Roger James and Rob Cole for sending myself the pictures of our past Presidents.

I hope you all enjoy your Austringer and that your birds moult well and those picking up Eyasses I wish you the greatest success.

Kindest regards,

Andy Hübne

Chairmans Chatter



Here I am once again putting pen to paper for another Austringer chapter. Each year I wonder how 12 months pass by so quickly. We are all looking forward to a big year in 2012 with the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the WHC. I wasn't a member back in '62 but I know that many of you out there were, and it's thanks to you that this club is still going forward. There have been changes within the club during the last year, mainly the EGM that was called in February. This came about because of questions put forward at the last AGM. It is a pleasure to see the constitution and rules of the club needed bringing somebody up to date. This has now been achieved as you will see at the back of the edition of the Austringer.

Back in the 60's the WHC was probably one of only a few clubs existing in the UK, it's members drew up the rules and constitution never really thinking what would be ahead 50 years later. Fortunately, unheard of then is now the norm for anyone who puts any value on his or her birds. The species of birds flown were limited, because of both cost and availability.

We even value our ferrets more now with locators. But what hasn't changed is the way in which we still like to save a few quid by making our own equipment, some of us in the traditional way with leather and waxed thread, others with modern glass and plastic. The other thing that still remains the same is the

way we pursue our sport. Many of us, like myself will no doubt hawk alone or perhaps with another falconer/astringer, but today and many times this season I have got together with other members of the club and had a cracking day out with 6 to 8 birds. The better is great whatever the weather and it's even better when we finish the day off in the pub.

Let's not also forget that part of the club's 50th anniversary this year will include a fantastic Grand Draw. You should already have some tickets either to buy yourselves or sell to friends but don't be shy make sure you buy some more before the draw takes place at the Field meet and AGM in October. Please support it as many committee members have worked their socks off in order to get really good prizes.

Enough of my ramblings now, only to say that we have new venues this year for the Falconers Fair with many other shows through the year. I hope to meet you at some of them.

Enjoy 2012.
Mick Cordell





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Welsh Hawking Club Field Meeting 2012

Bryn Howel Hotel
Llangollen
26th-29th October

Front cover pic
Courtesy of Mark Williams
www.canadianwildlifephotography.com

Back cover pic
Courtesy of Paul Sawyer



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Trapping and Wild Take on the Canadian Prairies

by Mark Williams

One of the rich experiences every falconer should be able to experience in their lifetime is the taking or trapping of a wild raptor for use as a hunting bird. Sadly for so many falconers, particularly in the UK this experience has not been possible for many years, although scientifically there is probably no reason why not.

In North America it is deeply woven into the very fabric of our sport and indeed the trapping of a passage bird is the basis of any new apprentice's learning curve in becoming a licensed falconer. A 'rights of passage' you will... excuse the pun. Shortly after immigrating from the UK 21 years ago I lasted my first experience in taking an eyes prairie falcon and the memory of that experience has stayed with me ever since. It is indeed a special privilege and wonderful experience to be able to do this and not something anyone should take for granted in this day and age. It has long since been accepted within the scientific community that falconry has zero impact upon wild raptors or game species here in North America but this brings aid I am not aware of any other special interest groups permitted to take a live animal from the wild to keep in captivity.

My raptor trapping experiences are restricted to the three Canadian provinces (Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia) that I have lived in. We are allowed to take two birds a year from the wild however in reality very few take even one bird a year, as realistically most falconers endeavour to fly a bird for more than just a single season so as to see it reach its full potential. This being said I always apply for a capture permit each year and while I may not have any intention of trapping a bird that year, I like to keep my options open just in case of a mid season disaster. I also feel it is good to keep the application process consistent as it

keeps the government officers and biologists familiar with the wild take process.

Since falconry is provincially regulated in Canada, the rules do vary from province to province. I currently live in Alberta where we are permitted to take from a list of several species including, gyrs, prairies, merins, goshawks, coopers, sharp-shins, swainsons and red-tail hawks. The cost of a capture permit is \$20 and then once you are successful you pay a further \$50 for the possession permit whereby ownership is transferred from the 'Crown' to the falconer. This ownership however does not permit you to turn around and sell or gift a wild taken bird if you can sell F1 (first generation) progeny that are bred from a breeding pair that originated from the wild. Again, as hard as it might be to believe, very few people take advantage of this. Why that I am not sure, obviously the culture is different here and the sport is much younger than say Europe.

One of the first things I noticed here is that the primary motivation for taking up falconry is purely for the recreational hunting aspect and not to make a living from it, (bird abatement businesses are only prevalent in two provinces while most others it is almost none existent). Wild birds are readily available and there are several good raptor breeders across Canada who cater adequately to the much smaller customer base here. I'd estimate there to be only about 200-250 falconers across Canada, in stark contrast to the UK where bird of prey breeders, falconry centers and birds shown are common places and catering to both, a much larger customer (falconer) and population base (general public).

In most jurisdictions, we are allowed both passage or eyes birds by our own choice, even though some authorities would permit an adult bird, since from a scientific perspective, they consider any wild taken bird removed from the population as equal.

Falconers on the other hand see it differently and an ethical reason not to take adults is that a haggard is one of the remaining 20-30% survivors from their first year, sibling production and represent the future breeders of new offspring. The taking of an eye is usually done around the months of mid June through late July, depending upon the chosen species. Here on the Canadian prairies where some of the best long wing flying is to be had, it makes sense to fly a single falcon of some sort. Since we do not have gyrs nesting in Alberta or Saskatchewan, our only means to trap these Arctic visitors is by way of taking a passage from late September onwards. The best months are during December and January but by then it is often too late to get any real significant results from a bird of the year for that hawking season. Since we are currently not permitted wild peregrine take in Alberta, our main large resident long-wing is the prairie and gyr falcon but of course we should not neglect the merlin and indeed the kestrel. The latter two of course do not need the same large expanses of ground in order to find game and hunt.



Prairie falcons are perhaps one of the most misunderstood of the commonly used large falcons. From my formative years living in the UK and reading some of the early falconry books, they were portrayed as being nasty, difficult birds to train. Hopefully now there is a greater understanding of the management, care and training of these desert raptors as they are indeed formidable hard-hitting birds yet capable of a very pleasant demeanor. No other falcon have I seen or flown can kill large quarry stone dead as a strike as I have found commonplace with a prairie or prairie hybrid.

They grow up and live in a harsh dry environment and much of the quarry is ground game like small squirrel sized rodents called gophers (or Richardson's ground squirrels) that live in burrows out on the open prairies. These critters require a hard hit to immobilize them before they make it down a nearby hole and the prairie falcon has adapted to doing that very well. It is equally effective and more dramatic on ducks or similar game birds. No question they do not have the temperament of the peregrine but I have seen as many sweet heart prairies as I have seen mean, nasty peregrines.

Prairie falcons are also quite common in the southern part of the prairies and I am fortunate to have prairie eyes within 20

minutes drive of my home. I often assist in their banding by a local falconer friend John Campbell who has over 40 years experience in banding literally thousands of raptors. One day, if he ever gets to publishing it, his data will be truly interesting reading. Well there is a good time to take an eye as if you wish to imprint on or preferential you can watch the clutch develop over a few more weeks and then trap a fresh brancher. Passage birds are really abundant throughout the fall and winter but for the purpose of making one into a good game-hawk for the season, an early passage is preferable.



promptly return to its kill to feed. The bird will then become entangled much like I would on the haggard's pigeon once it attempts to try access the pigeon carcass to feed. I have trapped several birds using either method and both are very effective. Metal nets and bow nets are sometimes used but my experiences have not been as successful as the two aforementioned methods for trapping a selected bird due to the hostile and time required in setting the nets up while in proximity of a wild bird. This compared to gently throwing out a haggard pigeon from a slow moving vehicle or a bal-chitti with mice into the grass besides a remote country road. This being said, mist nets have their use, particularly with small raptors. For goshawks etc., a Swedish goshawk trap has been used with great success in wooded areas and while it permits temporary periods of absence by the falconer/trapper, it should be frequently checked in case it is successful and the temperatures are bitter cold. The sooner the bird is removed after being caught, the better.

We are required by our laws to report captured birds within 5 days and a Hess type metal numbered band is issued and then placed on the bird in the presence of a Fish & Wildlife Officer. Invariably the falconer usually puts the band on higher bird as most wildlife officers have little or no experience in either banding or handling raptors. The Hess band is not too dissimilar to a securities breeder's band and does not get in the way of jesses etc. but has a small metal pin that is used to close it permanently. If a bird is lost (or dies) we are also required to report this less than 5 days.

An alternative method is the noose carpet, where you throw out an unencumbered pigeon, other than being tied to a weighted line, which will fly the length of the cord and keep flying and flapping. The pigeon will usually fly better than one that is haggarded and the falcon will more readily want to attack a moving prey species, especially those more wary of raptors. Once it is caught and killed and the falcon has started to break in, the falconer makes it and bumps the bird off the kill. A nose carpet comprised of a dome shaped heavily weighted chicken wire carpet that is covered in 20m monofilament nylon nooses and is then placed over the dead pigeon. The falconer then retreats to a respectful distance some 150 yards or more to watch from. Most of the time the falcon will



One of the last birds I helped trap was a haggard female gyr falcon that we were asked by the Canadian Wildlife Service to trap and place one of their satellite backpacks on to assist in their research on gyrfalcon migrations. We used a noose carpet method for this bird and it worked very well. I kept the bird overnight to ensure a good fit of the backpack I had fitted and then released it the following morning before work. Biologists and scientific research students use these backpacks on various raptors including peregrines and prairies. Indeed one of my local occupied gyrfalcons had an adult female prairie fitted with a backpack, which I was able to photograph during one of my banding trips of her young. Obviously the backpack (and antenna) did not interfere with the natural breeding process i.e. copulation.



The bird previous to that gyr was a large female passage prairie that came in on my bird while winter portage hawking. It noted the flight and since I had a second falcon to fly on this piece of ground I decided to trap it. Fortunately for once I happened to have a eye pigeon with me and I always carry a pigeon harness in the glove compartment of my truck. This particular bird was wearing a metal bird bander's band on it so I noted the number. It was late in the year, Christmas Eve to be exact and I took it home and phoned around to see if any local falconer wanted this particularly large specimen of a bird. No one did so the next day I had my wife release it in my presence on Christmas morning as I snapped a few shots of the event. Several days later upon checking with my friend John Campbell it was learned we had banded that very bird along with its siblings in June of that year along the banks of the Bow River during one of our banding expeditions.

Although I may not be able to truly articulate the great feeling of being able to trap birds in the wild very early in this article, I hope the reader gets an insight as to experience. Hopefully there is a renewed desire for British falconers to pursue the wild take before it becomes a lost art and practice in a country with such history in the sport. It really is a truly rewarding experience and one you should add to your 'bucket list'.



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Anthony's Story

by Anthony Adams

STOOP- ENDOUS

It was a cold crisp January morning, when me, Gwen (my German wire-haired pointer) and Lew (my one year old peregrine falcon), set off to the uplands in the hope of catching the very elusive snipe.

After an hour, Gwen went on point in a drainage ditch. As I was unhooking Lew, the snipe broke early, so they have done on many occasions. I contemplated trying to lure up over the drainage ditch, which could possibly be holding more birds. I decided against it, but wait for a definite point.

No sooner had I replaced the hood, Gwen flushed a woodcock, which flew lazily and casually down the mountainside. Oh, well I thought, it's not my day.

On I walked to an area of boggy ground, which I had never worked before: it was the bottom of a track. I put the tercel up, let the dog work the bog at the bottom of the stoop. I crossed the bog, and just caught sight of the falcon pulling out of a stoop and indicating that he had just put (probably) a snipe into some reeds. Off went the tercel again, and started to remount. Within no time Gwen was stationary 'at point', in a different area of the bog. The tercel in position, I strouled to Gwen.

'Get them up', and off flashed the snipe zig-zagging and gaining height in the usual fashion. Lew rolled over and with a couple of pumps of the wings found its prize at the bottom of the stoop. The momentum took him about 100 yards where he landed to start picking his meal.

As I sat down with Gwen, watching the falcon you remember the joy of catching your first rabbit, blackbird or crow and all the challenges involved to achieve this. The first snipe for me was the biggest challenge by far.

Looking back over the years of flying birds you remember the joy of catching your first rabbit, blackbird or crow and all the challenges involved to achieve this. The first snipe for me was the biggest challenge by far.



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An African Adventure

by Mark Holder

I hit 50 recently; well not literally, obviously, but funny enough I think it hit me.

Hitting half a century got me thinking about life and achievements or lack of them. Not so much a middle crisis, it is way too late for that, but the milestone certainly got the white brain matter flowing and contemplating the future and the past.

I really just don't have a clue where the time goes. It only seems like yesterday that I was a young man giving all the established guys in the club the run around at Welsh Hawking Club events, what a blast, fond memories that still bring a warm smile to my face, those painful hangovers long forgotten.

Laurie Workman, Ronnie Moore, Dougie Morgan, John Buckner, Terry Finnegan, Mike Clowes to name but a few: those were the days I had them spinning. Now heaven forbid I am almost in their league, catching them up and I am not giving anyone the run around anymore. In fact I have the little up and coming whippersnappers around me like Bee's around a honey pot, which I find most irritating to say the very least, humbug!

As some of you know, I now live in South Africa, and I own and run my own Bird of Prey Centre. It is not like your run of the mill centre that you find in the UK, here we are classed mainly as a rehabilitation centre, and from day to day I don't know if I am going to have a fish eagle, a vulture or a tiny Kestrel come through the door for attention.

At first, it was daunting. I am not a vet, but over time and with a great deal of help from experienced hands nothing seems too faze me now, and with every box of trucks comes a surprise. It can be a little box with a Crowned eagle in it, to a massive box with a Peafowl Spotted Owl in it, we also get those little mysteries you know that great big hawk, that turns into the Nightjar, identification mistakes happen all around the world.

We also run daily demonstrations, where I try to make a bit of British humour into the show to wake up some of the South African, but to be honest they are used to us Brits, as most of their television in the past was from the good old BBC, and though I am not in the class of the Two Ronnies, I still manage to get a smile or two out of them, the secret to keeping them happy is to try and not mention the rugby.

There is plenty of opportunities out here, for anyone who may like to come and join me for a few weeks or months, we run a volunteer project, you have to pay a nominal fee, but it

is a glorified holiday really, take a look at the accompanying poster, and get in touch, would be great to have some of you guys or girls out here to help. I can even put you in touch with people who have been here before. Africa is an adventure that is for sure, but be warned it is not for cowards.

Here is an excerpt from an article one of our volunteers Bob Silver did for a falconry publication; hopefully this will whet some of your appetites.

"Whilst in Africa a friend, Nigel King arranged some volunteer work for me at the Dullstroom Bird of Prey & Rehabilitation Centre, in the heart of Mpumalanga province, where all my mixed courses still resided. Within hours of arriving I was made to feel like a member of the team and was assigned jobs and responsibilities. The morning began with weighing the birds for the daily demonstration and before I knew it I was handling a Cape Eagle Owl, a Lanner Falcon and 'Barney' (no surprise, Barney is a Barn Owl) but I was soon stepping back respectfully when one of the handlers, Mark Bett came into the weighing room with 'Samson' a rehabilitated male Verreaux's Eagle.

Samson is just one of the many examples of the excellent rehabilitation work carried out at the Centre. Bought in with a broken foot and dangerously underweight, he was cared for by Marks Holder and Bert but unfortunately, the injury means he will never successfully hunt in the wild. Samson remains at the centre as a handsome ambassador for the centre's work in the flying displays. As a centre truly committed to conservation and rehabilitation, the majority of success stories aren't seen as you walk around the centre because to be a success, means the animals have already been re-released.

With the birds weighed, baths washed out, heads prepared and feathers greased it was time to assist with the morning display. There can't be many Bird of Prey Centres in the world where there are more wild birds flying above your head in the displays than there are wearing asses. In Dullstroom, the array of raptor life is incredible - and it extends well beyond the avianes. Secretary Birds, Cape vultures, Black Shouldered Kites and many more species often grace the skies during the twice daily flying displays. Displays are quite often interrupted whilst everyone looks up with crossed necks to see the wild birds pass over."

Rehabilitation is rewarding, but Falconry is still top of my list, and I am still as enthusiastic about my 'hawks' as I ever was, the only difference is now that they are either black and white or just jet black and not slate grey

with bars like my old favourite Accipiter gentilis. Over here, the Black Sparrow hawk is my weapon of choice. I have flown African Goshawks, Red Chested Sparrows, hawks and Little Sparrowhawks in my twelve years here, all great fun, but not the adrenalin rush of their big cousins 'The Black One'.

There is no doubt about it, this species are just plain crazy, they break tails for fun, damage leg scales with incessant beeping with their enthusiasm to go hunting, they make a European Goshawk appear calm but listen, if you get it right with husbandry and attitude you will find that you are on a dream ride and you will not want to get off. If they have the confidence and the fitness, they are going to normally come together with their target in style, it is up to you to keep up with the action.

I keep racing pigeons, for the same reason normal people put out bird tables. It's not normal! When a Spar is in the vicinity, you know, the pigeons are away in a roar of feathers, dust, and fear; they are off on a mission to reach for the clouds, they only relapse. With a concerted effort, you will find their fee rising up away from them in the distance trying to gain an advantage. I often tell my South African friends, who needs TV with this kind of entertainment? Unfortunately they don't understand, but I swear if I could see this everyday there would be no need to have my own bird and it would save me so much fuel and energy, but on the downside, I would get fat, very fat.

Francolin (Partridge) and Guinea fow are the prey of choice with most falcons here whilst flying spars, but I prefer the Lark family. The flight is up, not as classic as a Martin flight, but enough to take your breath away. The fight can go on for miles, and I love it. For the Lark it is a match made in Hell, for the Spar, I am sure it is their quarry match made in heaven! Tenacity is a must, without it, with this style of falconry, it will not be long before the separation of your hard earned partnership is sudden and final.

Out of the breeding season the Spars favourite prey in the wild are doves and pigeons but during breeding season I have seen them bring back to the nests, this, that, and everything; if it has wings and of course feathers, watch out, big small, wild, domesticated, and are in trouble!

Ben Long

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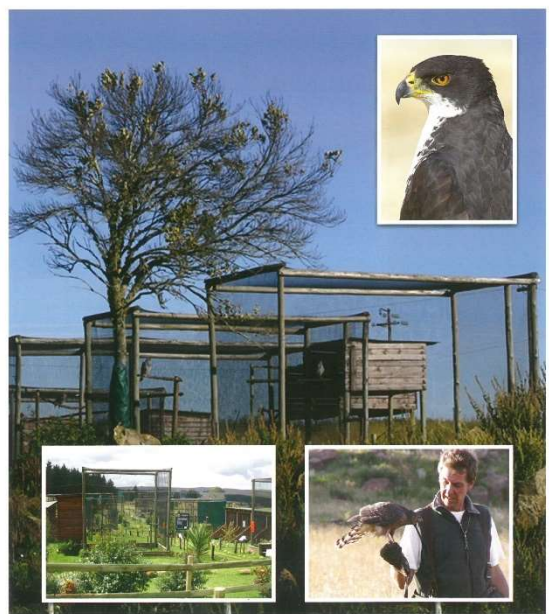
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An African Adventure

I breed Black Sparrowhawks now, it has been a struggle, but after six miserable years of failure, I cracked it. I have 84 different species of birds of prey on my display to choose from and I do breed some of the others via the centre, but the flying lizard, the Black Sparrowhawk has me hooked, it is my plug,

and I am addicted. I have three natural pairs, and six imprints, I must be crazy! They are without doubt time consuming, heart breaking, and most of all expensive, ingredients for a marriage break up so let's not go there!

Maybe you want to see these birds yourself in their own environment, on their own patch, get in touch, it would be great to see you, remember I need volunteers, but a little bit of falconry is never out of the equation!



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Housing and equipping over a 1000 Acres birds of prey, the centre is a proud and managed by the English, American and Botswana. Many birds and have been taken to South Africa for rescue and rehabilitation, with the centre full managing the centre and the birds, with an amazing and interesting programme every day, they are in complete control of their own lives, with a programme of care, with the day to day running of the centre.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

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THE FALCONER

The Journal of the British Falconers' Club
 Vol 3 - 1989-2002 & Vol 4 - 2004-2011

Sixteen years have passed since the last of the two compendiums was published. During that time further great advances have been made in training techniques, equipment and handling, so that now it is less unusual to see falcons waiting on a tow-rope and grandpups pulling presents out of the air straight from the fist. Also these days birds are favored by many falconers for flying either in pursuit or from a perch and there is a wider range of birds and falcons to choose from. Falconers' annual magazines provide a good record of such developments. Compendiums provide the very best record of them. To give the readers the chance to own the complete set, these two new volumes will precisely match the earlier ones that covered 1937-71 and 1973-88, and as there are only 300 copies of each volume will be printed, of which only 100 will be numbered.

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Bad Luck

by Neil McCann

This year I decided to fly another eyas prairie hawk. I have never flown a goshawk from Mick Kane so I decided to give it a bash. Again I would be flying two goshawks the club imports goshawk and my new bird. I collected her in the first week in August a nice large feather perfect hawk 30 days, the tail well and gaud was fitted, placed in the box and the low flying two hour journey home.

She fed on the fist in a couple of days and was jumping to the fist by 20.15z she settled down nice and was taking her first rabbit after four weeks at 20.15z then the annual trip to Scotland this is where I will meet Colin Asquith and collect the club import Goshawk, then two weeks of flying ground and getting the hawk fit for the forthcoming season, this year I've never known it go well and windy making catching rabbits with a wet eyas not an easy task! Also rabbits are not keen bolting in the wind so bring on the spade work and hope there's not to many 5 foot plus digs. In the first week Gordon female seemed to take a bit of a knock? No sign of illness just lack

keenness? So she was rested for the best part of a week. The rest of the time were in Scotland none of the others hawks seemed to feed. Low Featherstone was flying a bright white female goshawk. Nice large hawk and Colin Asquith flying his female club goshawk all catching a fair few number of rabbits.

After the two weeks, the long trip home, the six hour journey. On my arrival home I go to put both goshawks on the lawn.

The parent bird of full of beans jumps out the box placed on a bow perch and sit in a bath in minutes, the import though, I can't believe it she's panting breathing heavy and has lost quite a bit of weight. I phone John Simcox he lent me a stabilizer, local vets treats her for asps! She's on antibiotics and given 50-50 gress. I can't believe it. I telephone Gordon his birds the same asps?

I can't be treating the goshawk fine you would not think she was ill but you know your own hawk best. Then the parent reared bird goes down ill! Within hours she goes from preening on the lawn to falling off the perch and vomiting up food. I crop tube her 4 times. Then I telephone Richard Jones Sunday evening. I take her to him, bad news! He gives her 2 out to 10 to pull through, here we go again. The next day he telephones shocked she still alive but at a loss what is wrong with her?

I fell him there is another 2 goshawks in from Scotland but not a bad as her, there being treated for asps, but now we're unsure if they have them? He takes blood samples and to ensure its lead poisoning. You never know but we hawk on a none sporting estate and have not killed any feathered game as yet! Richard gets the tests back and its not lead and after 3 days she picked up a lot and is now 7 out of 10, and is best if one went home. How pleased was I!

I took 3 weeks before she caught game again, but to this day Richard has no idea what was wrong with her, all birds had the same symptoms but she was by far the worst, we never seen a hawk go down and if so last, and it was not for Richard Jones she would not be stood on my list today!

Double Trouble

by Mike Couper

This season I decided to take on a new Falcon to replace my last. I had a pair of Turndra my White Gyr x Prairie was doing well but its nice to have a second string to the bow. I thought long and hard about what to get. A Falcon to get, a Gyr x Peregrine would give me many scope with larger quarry but I finally settled for a Peregrine x Saker.

Having seen several perform to the highest standard they can take larger quarry but I soon realised you need to flights at Partridge and Tort.

I decided on an Amherst Falcone bird as they were bred from a stunning looking Fawn Tircord Peregrine and the offspring were very dark and Peregrine like. We collected him in July, he weighed in at 18 1/2ozs and was very fat and wild but started to settle when his weight was dropped a little. He however took a lot of work and careful handling before he was anything like steady but I had no need to rush, the training couldn't believe it when he started to call so I fed him right up immediately but this made no difference. It was only then that I realised that he was reacting to Turndra my Gyr x Prairie and now did he react. I put up py schemes and weathered the birds at opposite ends of the garden but if the new Tircord got so much as a glimpse of Turndra it sends him into a full report rage. This made the day to day management in a small garden very difficult but by keeping the two Falcons completely separate I started to make progress. Everyone told me that the noise was bound to stop when he started killing for himself.

venue near Donagh, one of my old haunts where we had flown over the years. There were so many Redlegs that he went on the ground but just kept going and disappeared over the hills. Geoff took no tracking but although we got close we didn't see him. As tracker Richard took me later and we found where he was but after a long walk and a lot of help from the rest of the group we just could not get to him before dark.

The next morning Ann came with me and Turndra came flying back to the lure. Much relief but he had some blood underneath his wing but looked ok if it's a little hungry.

Next day we were off to Richard Jones for a check up only to be told that Turndra had a break in the radius bone and has been shot and we were lucky he made it back to us at all. The bone was mended but after a few days he managed to pull the pin so he had to be repaired and banded. When the bantleg was removed he pulled the pin out again so

more bandaging. What a bird! But the wing looks fine again so he was free lofted until next season.

So it was out with the Peregrine x Saker for the rest of the season and we were all set for the final feed meeting at Arley. The day before the Tircord was shot and had flown and put in a fantastic stoop at Partridge. Well Arley was and he would just not fly so I fed him up for a couple of days then flew him again but he just landed in the field so off to Richard Jones again. The Tircord had an infection in the wing caused by a Thorn, he must have happened when he stooped in at Arley.

End of the season and I have two injured Falcons. Turndra looks as if he has fully recovered but has gone mad and wild with been free lofted. The Peregrine x Saker is having some light exercises and the wing looks back to normal but he is still calling the catches as much as a glimpse of the other bird.



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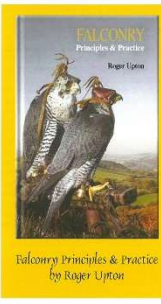
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What a bird when I say he never perched that's the concise truth and I don't use a kite he just went up. Low at first but then higher and higher and was rewarded with the lure or a dead Quail I started putting him over quarry and has some great Partridge flights, he only caught a couple but had some terrific sport. I took him to lots of fieldnotes. He knocked down a Hen Pheasant at Gosnagh - high flying at Arley and Knowsley but the latter ended in a tracking session and a near miss at Redlegs at Garlands. However even with all the Hunting he calling just wouldn't stop, he only had to see Turndra or hear his bell and it set him off. A Gyr x Peregrine came to stay but there was hardly any reaction and when a Barbary was weathered there was not a murmur.

It was mid November so I decided to give Turndra a turn and have a rest of the Peregrine x Saker for a while. Turndra was, once performing well and had some great flights at Partridge and I took him to several fieldnotes where he had a go at the Ducks just before Christmas. We were booked at a

The Book Review by Andy Hulme



Falconry Principles & Practice by Roger Upton

I have a passion for reading Roger Upton's books especially his books on the History of British Falconry so I was pleased to read the 25th anniversary reprint of his classic book Falconry Principles and Practice.

This book is in my eyes one of the great reference books for the Longing enthusiast, whether you are an aspiring Falconer or an experienced Falconer. After an introduction the author covers equipment, weathering, means and captive breeding before going on into detail with one of my favourite chapters of the book, Escapes, passages, hawking and thoughts on training. I found this chapter inspiring giving myself many helpful hints in order to achieve my goal in managing a well-mannered high flying Gamehawk. This chapter gives great advice on feeding your bird properly on the list to hooding.

Flying out of the hood or as some Falconers call it out of hand is a branch of Falconry I have little practical experience in but have been fortunate to do some time with Falconers of which the pursuit of the Corvid family and Gull Family is their speciality. I found this a very in depth chapter and was riveted by the amount of fieldcraft needed to produce daily flights with a Falcon at one of nature's most clever foes. This ranged from how to approach Rooks to the practicality of Flying a cast of Falcons at Gulls.

Gamehawking is my passion and Roger Upton is one of today's most highly respected

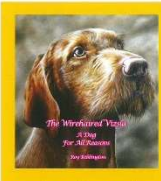
Falconers in this field. I have read the chapter on flying Falcons at Game on many occasions and have personally learnt a great deal and have used this chapter as a reference when I have needed it.

This chapter covers the different species of Falcone known and the different Game species Hunted from Red Grouse to Woodcock. The Red Grouse is the principal Game bird Covered from its Habitat through to Pointing dogs. The chapter also covers flushing of Game to Grouse in cover. It is a very in depth chapter written with experience in this field and a real passion on the subject.

The final chapter covers the making of equipment from gloves and leures to a very comprehensive number of hood patterns covering Anglo Indian hoods for a Sparrowhawk to an Arab hood for a Saker to a Dutch Hood for a Shahn.

I would recommend this book - it's a great read and very hard to put down once you start. The book is written with great Knowledge and great passion by a Falconer who has been flying Falcons for many years at a high standard and thankfully is able to hand down his own thoughts and experiences through this book.

The Book has been published by Coochy-Bondu Books and at £19.95 is a great value.



The Wirehaired Vizsla A Day For All Reasons by Roy Bebbington

I have personally only seen a couple of Wirehaired Vizslas work in the field but what I saw I was impressed with. So when this book arrived on my doorstep I was delighted and soon found myself enthralled and found it very hard to put down. I was always under the impression that the Wirehaired Vizsla was primarily a Falconry dog.

But as I read the chapters I soon realised how wrong that assumption was.

Roy opens the book with a fabulous chapter on his own reasons for choosing this breed and HPR and his own training methods that enable the Author to practice his chosen branch of Falconry, Hawking Rabbits with Showings.

I totally enjoyed the two chapters on the training and working of the Wirehaired Vizsla as a Deer Stalking dog. This was an eye opener to myself as I just have versatile blood and I enjoyed the stories of Stalking Red Deer on the moor and Roe and Sika Deer in woodlands.

The Author writes a lovely chapter on his

whole working year starting in July with Red Deer Fawns through to August on the Grouse Moors of Scotland taking clients out on walks a couple of days then Hawking with his Goshawk from October to February at primary hawks.

There are two more chapters on the Wirehaired Vizsla working with Goshawks and Falcons at Fur and Feather, these two chapters have been written by two other Vizsla enthusiasts, including the wildlife artist Carl Bass who incidentally has his fine paintings through out the book which compliment's each chapter they appear.

There is also a chapter on training and tests which to be honest isn't my cup of tea but not the less I did find this chapter a good read and was written in a way where the Author spoke of their personal experiences in this field.

In summing up I really enjoyed the book which is written by a man and fellow enthusiasts who enjoy working with the Hungarian Wirehaired Vizsla. They write with a passion to promote this breed as not just a Falconers dog but a Dog For All Reasons.

The Return of Pure Wild Blood from Finland

by Dave & Andy Mangerson

We first started to fly Goshawks from the beginning to the mid nineteen eighties, previous to that we had flown a range of different raptors including Sparrowhawks, Merlin, Kestrels and Buzzards. This was until we met the late Eric Furnas from Derbyshire who invited us to go hunting with him and his Finnish Goshawk. We were utterly amazed at this male hawk, the size, temperament and hunting ability made us decide we wanted for ourselves.

Eric advised us to buy one from John Shaw in Derbyshire who bred Finnish Goshawks, accordingly we purchased a female from him. We then had many years of happy hunting with this hawk and decided to purchase a male Finnish Goshawk from Cliff Brannall at Northampton to pair up with our female and happily breed with them. We successfully bred with this pair for several years until one unfortunate day where the female killed the male.

After several attempts the male was replaced with a so called "Finnish" hawk from a reputable breeder. However the off spring were of no comparison in either size or temperament to the original pair, which we knew were of pure Finnish origin. After a lot of disappointment, and a discussion with friends over a few beers, we decided to try and obtain pure Finnish birds directly from Finland. We contacted the Finnish embassy in London, who gave us the telephone number of the Finnish Environment Institute in Helsinki, and this is the point at which our journey began. The first person we contacted was a gentleman called Virgo Mattinen, who at that time was a minister of Finnish Environment, and he categorically said under no circumstances we would be able to bring any Goshawks out of Finland. This was our first and very major setback. He also said that to his knowledge no one bred them because it was illegal, and they were not even kept in zoos. He also informed us that Falconry was not permitted in Finland.

Our next step was to enquire if we could get any injured birds, which was also not possible as they were not kept if they were too injured to possibly return to the wild in the future. This went on from 1997 with constant letters and telephone calls trying to get through an extremely difficult language barrier until we met a Finnish gentleman, who later became a very good friend, and was working for an oil treatment company which we were testing oil for. After discussing the situation with him he offered to try and help with the communication barrier and took on the project for us with regards to the Finnish Environment Institute. He discovered that they were still trapping Goshawks on a movement license in

Finland on certain estates, but were not allowed to kill them. We started in trying to establish how wide the scope was on this movement license, and it would be as far as the UK. Our friend was in constant contact with the Finnish authorities at The National History Museum who had to do a survey on the Goshawk population. Then in October 2001 we received a very important phone call from our friend to say that the Finnish authorities were going to grant him with the silica permit when he was granted the trapping license, which never occurred because the British authorities would not agree to it.

In July 2002, after a big battle with our authorities in the UK, we eventually got a class and trapping permit for ten wild Finnish Goshawks under certain conditions. The conditions being, we could only trap the birds between October and February, they could not be in adult plumage, none of the birds could be rung (same as the RSPB do in the UK), and all birds had to be micro chipped in Finland before entering the UK.

After researching through the services of our friend and Finnish sawwalkers (Vetchers), we discovered the best place to trap the Goshawks was on the North West coast of Finland. First of all we flew out to Helsinki in Sweden in October 2002 where we met by our friend who took us the three hours north to meet the keepers on an estate where they had permission to trap Goshawks. Over a period of time we managed to trap a considerable amount of birds, which we weighed and measured eventually picking

five males and one female which we returned to the UK with. As we had class for ten birds we flew out again in December 2002 and repeated the same procedure on a different estate in the North West region and then returned to the UK with two males and two females. All the birds had been micro chipped in Finland and went straight into quarantine for 30 days in the UK.

We first produced off spring from this consignment of hawks in 2005, and since then we and our friends have flown these hawks and finally brought back the temperament, size, and hunting ability we had enjoyed in the 1980s. Our breeding project has now reached second generation and all Article 10's are commercial, meaning we can now supply Falconers with genuine Finnish Goshawks with the papers to prove it.

Overall this journey was a great achievement for us and had been worth all the hard work especially as we were informed by one of the environmental ministers that no Goshawks had left Finland since 1979, and in his opinion he could not see it ever happening again.

Andy and Dave Mangerson of Derbyshire would like to thank you for taking a moment of your time to read, and hopefully, enjoy the story of how they restored pure Finnish blood lines to their Goshawk breeding project.

For more information on their superb Goshawks please contact either Andy on 07720-519898 or Dave on 07774-945162.



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Hnossa - Freya's Daughter - First Season

by Andy Hulme

I was pleased as punch when I bred three Falcons and a Tawny from Freya's last Falcon back for Hawking and named her Hnossa who was in Norseic mythology the Daughter of Freya.

Hnossa was a very nervous Falcon initially and took a while to settle down but eventually she was trained and on the wing.

She was soon chasing a few Redlegs around Suffolk then one evening I had a group of half a dozen Mallard marked down on the lagoon so I put her on the wing then when she finally came over us not very high I ran over the bank and flushed the Ducks. She chased them and knocked one down but a couple days later she had swelling at the side of her foot. A visit to my vets and after a course of antibiotics she was soon back on the wing.

On the 17th October Hnossa caught her first head of quarry. A Redleg flushed from a hedge going out across a stubble field and putting into the opposite hedge with Hnossa following it into cover and catching the Partridge.

The Welsh Merlin was next on the agenda and I took along Hnossa and Freya and both flew well with Hnossa having a nice light at a Cock bird and Freya catching a Hen Pheasant and a Partridge.

The young Falcon started to make progress with her hitch but she went through two stages of flying check. Woodcock and flying them with vigour but thankfully she had no success. In reflection what I should of done was too of flushed the Pheasants had marked down when she was out of position instead of waiting for her to come back over. This would of taught her a few valuable lessons and given her lots opportunity to chase the Woodcock.

Hnossa started to show her potential when one afternoon while out with a friend Danny the Britany came on point on the edge of the plantation so I put the young Falcon on the wing and she made a super pitch of 400 feet. I sent in Danny for the flush and so went a Hen Pheasant flying out towards her but Hnossa waited until the Hen did passed underneath her then she stooped and bound to the Pheasant.

After her second bout of flying check in November the turning point was while Hawking with Steve Vaughan and Ade Watson in Suffolk. The young falcon had been driving me to distraction chasing Woodcock's but on this day we had a point in the sedgebed so I put Hnossa on the wing but she was messing about 1/2 mile away

above a wood I attracted her over with a dead Partridge and as she came over but at no great height we managed to eventually flush a Hen bird that had moved on a bit from the original point. The Falcon chased and caught the Pheasant and she was well rewarded.



Rob: Hnossa caught during January five Cook cards, a Redleg Partridge, a Woodcock and two Moorhens.

A friend told me last season that his favourite time of the season Hawking was January. The Falcon was fit and the Game was fit which equated to top class Falconry.

January was the making of Hnossa's season and success breeds success. The young Falcon started to hit patches of 400 feet and she would be right above the dogs and myself. Her tally started to add up especially Cook Pheasants which during January was her main quarry. I was lucky enough to spend a few afternoons with kind invitations from friends and we had some memorable flights with Hnossa killing a Cragling Cook bird while in the company of Will Ferrance and Rob Howard from a cracking pitch right in front of

I finished the season with her binding to a Cook bird which we had spotted in a field of rape but she lost her grip and the Pheasant was able to make cover. Hnossa finished her season with a modest bag of fourteen head but what a great first season, she has learnt a lot and hopefully this has been the first of many and I look forward to the start of the Game season. To next season...



If You Don't Fly Them

by Jeff Coddle

It all started at the end of last season, after spending 5 years training my gyrfalcon as a gamehawk he crashed and burned, he was having one of his best seasons making some great pitches and hits.

We were flying on a local kept estate and some great flights it was late in the day and he was put up over a game strip and cranked up to a good pitch and the partridges came out the back instead of the front as always. He stopped a red in grand style knocking it down he then threw up and flipped over crashing into the grip of barb wire on the top of the fence making a mess of himself, he was rushed to the vet but had to be put down. To say I was gutted would be an understatement, that was Jan 2011.

Sept 2011 started with a 3/4 year old female showing great promise with some nice pitches and as always going for all game (in season). I was flying her on some local flying ground and was on the point of packing up for the day when a covey of partridges landed in the field just in front of me. She was put up and was last seen going up I was heading towards the covey when I looked round she was landing and a dog came from nowhere running for her as she had no fear of dogs she stayed there it grabbed her before I could get there tearing the wings I thought she'd be dead by the time I got to her but I think she must have given as much as she got with 2 small punctures, one on each wing and 3 under.

After scoping her with 110 and cleaning up didn't look as bad as we thought a small feed was given and kept indoors for the next 2 weeks for recovery now back on the wing after some good advice from my vet and looking good she's now letting up and getting ready for next season fingers crossed.

Also during this season my mate had a very promising teal elected and a very good female penguin also met its fate in the same way on 2 different places you would not think it could happen to you twice in one season but then if you don't fly them nothing happens.



20 The Austringer

Festival of Falconry 2011

by Jean Dimond

The first we heard officially about the invite to the Festival of Falconry was at the Falconry Fair earlier in the year. We were made aware that 2 people from each country would be sponsored by the UAE, so there were 2 places available to the Welsh Falconry Club to represent Wales. At first Matt Whittaker & myself were to go but at a later date Matt had to withdraw due to work commitments, so Dave took his place.

The first thing to get organised was the packaging of exhibition materials, which were to be shipped out 2 months before the event. Thankfully the company we both work for supply packaging to the trade so there was no problem in that department. The exhibition stand all other goods were duly sent and it was just a matter of waiting for our flight details then.

The first thing to do was drop off our dogs at Jan & Tony Francis's without whose help we would be unable to go. We then flew out from Heathrow on the 10th December along with quite a few people from the falconry world and were met at Abu Dhabi airport by a waiting fleet of coaches. Then a 2-hour journey to Al Ain and the Al Ain Hotel, only to find our rooms weren't ready until 2 o'clock so we all adjourned to the coffee lounge to relax.

The next day we were due to visit the Desert Camp via a coach waiting outside the hotel. There were people from all aspects of falconry including artists and competition finalists all eagerly looking forward to the trip.

After a while we reached the desert only to find we were at the camel races, our driver didn't seem to understand this was not what we wanted until we had done at least 3 circuits of the track following the commentary truck and driving alongside the camels! I must admit it was rather hilarious though. After several phone conversations the driver got the message and took us to the desert camp, which was even further out in the desert.

After unloading from the bus we all drifted through the camp, meeting up with people from all over the world sharing the same interest. The views were fantastic, a vast expanse of birds all well spaced and a plenty of shade with a crowd of people admiring them.

We were given the opportunity to ride a camel in the camp, which Dave & I did along with many others. It wasn't till later in the day we discovered we were to take part in a Desert Hunt on camelback later in the day!

Along with some other falconers including Bob Dalton we were allocated camels and got mounted up ready for the long trek. I have to say that riding on a camel is something

neither of us wishes to do again! Dave's back was so bad after a while he decided to get off and walk! This was OK for a while but as it was getting towards dusk it was felt better to get him a picked up by a truck instead of walking, so we left him behind with 2 Arab falconers who had joined us. By the time we got back to camp it was already dark, only the lights in the distance to guide us home but the guides knew exactly where they were.

Next day was to be a visit to the Falcon Hospital in Abu Dhabi, another long coach ride made longer by another driver who got lost on the way! I hasten to add none of this was the fault of the organizers, just drivers not admitting to not knowing where to go. When we eventually arrived it was well worth the ride. The facilities are truly worth seeing, we were taken to a work area where birds were waiting for procedures, mainly cooing and foot treatment, and we watched as they anaesthetized a falcon and demounted.

The operating theatre was one fit for any human purpose and they even use premature baby units for any sick birds! We were then shown the flight pens where the falcons moult out, all of which even have air-conditioned areas the birds can choose to sit in if they wish. The pen we went into had at least 20 birds all sitting quite contentedly or just flying to another perch when they wanted to. After a look around the conference hall and the grounds it was back to the coach for a trip to the Grand Mosque. This was another fantastic place to visit and photograph and needs to be seen to be appreciated, but it was enjoyed by all.

Wednesday saw us going to Jahlil Fort for the first time to start setting up the club's stand. When we arrived we were pleased to see that the container with our display goods had arrived safe & sound and the tent we were allocated was very close to the main arena! Thanks must go to Dr Nick Fox and his team of workers for arranging this for the club as well as supplying a very nice medicinal type tent in bright yellow and red that really looked impressive. We were supplied with boards and seats as well as a large cooling fan, a water-cooling unit, and lights and as much help as we needed. Setting up took most of the day with a short break for lunch and a quick wander around to see what else was there.

Thursday was supposed to be a rehearsal and school's day but it seemed the visitors were already flooding in and we had little time to spend away from the stand but we did manage to get some time away to take photos and watch some of the ring practices. We had taken some back issues of the "Austringer" as well as the Lindsey Graham prints we had, both were well received and were in great demand by the many visitors to the stand. We

were told later that we had a visit from one of the emirate princes just before we closed the stand.

Friday was the Grand Opening day of the festival and I started with a security alert! We all had to leave the area and go back to the fort entrance while officials and dogs checked for unwanted items, then we were all checked back in again! Once back inside the show started with the main ring events and various nations doing their presentations, but our stand was so busy we could hardly see any of it. It was busy most of the day with a short break when lunch was served in the marquee. We took it in turns to go, as we wanted to keep the stand open, people were still drifting in and enjoying the display we had. The food laid on in the marquee would put some hotels to shame, such a vast variety there was something for everyone and plenty of serving stations so no queuing needed.

We were asked to take part in the Grand Parade of Nations later in the day, which we were able to do, thanks to Derek Stilton and Leigh Tovey for looking after the stand while we were in the arena. Terry Large was the commentator and took great delight in introducing his home country!

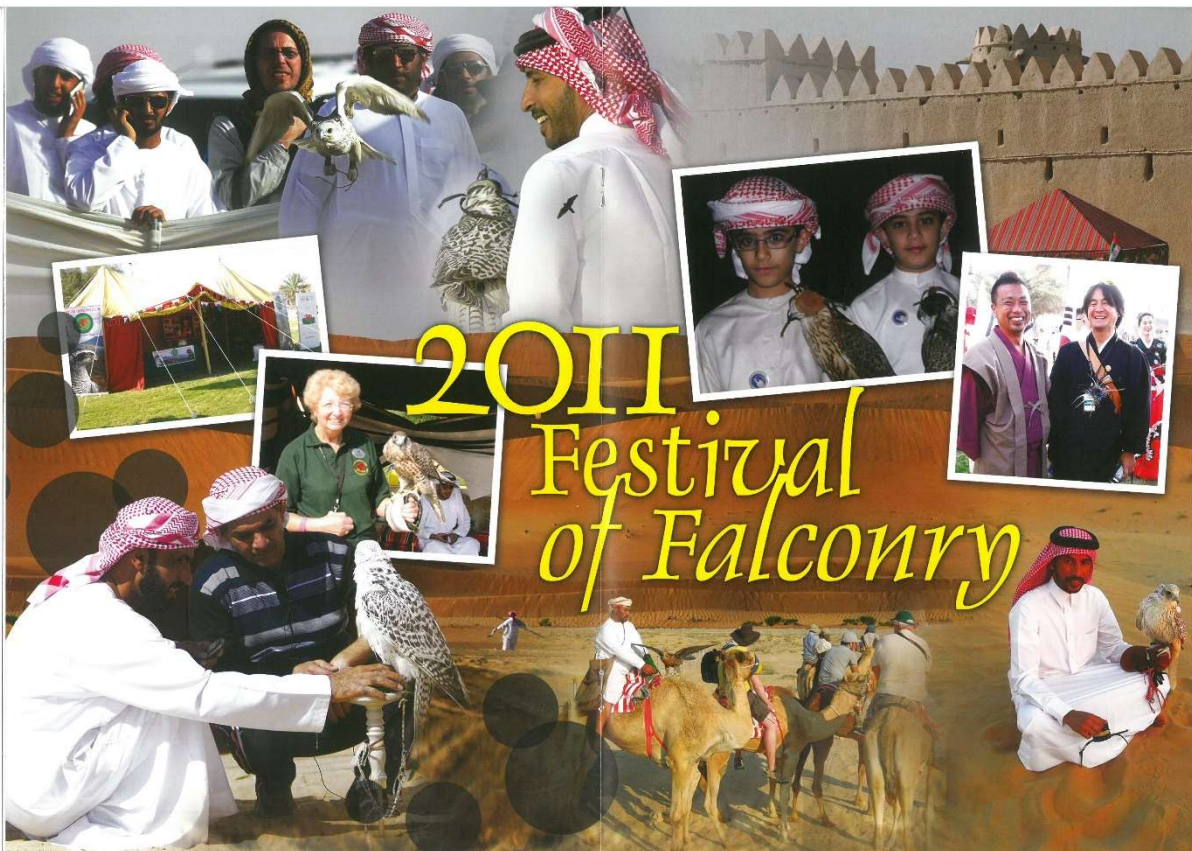
Saturday was pretty much the same with still a large number of people visiting the show, the advertising banners were hung all around the city and I think that word had spread of how good the show was. We were surprised at the number of English & Welsh visitors to the stand who were now working in Abu Dhabi, there seems to be a great demand in the education dept. The show ended with another parade, which was watched by royal visitors and shown on live TV.

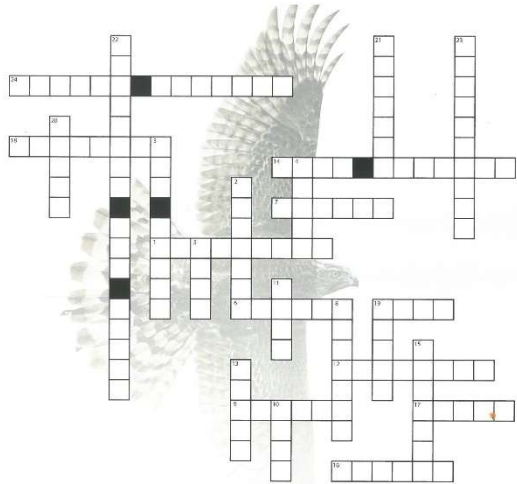
After this it was time to pack every thing away, all the packaging had been kept so it wasn't too much of a problem. We left everything in the stand knowing it would be collected and packed back into the container for the journey home.

Sunday was up early and a coach trip back into Abu Dhabi for a very comfortable flight home. We were both tired but so glad we had made the trip. If it is ever organised again I would advise anyone to go!



2012 21





Across:

1. PRACTICE IS THE WAY FOR GOS AND SPAR 9
6. SHE ——— TO CONQUER 6
7. WHO CRIED - OH FOR A FALCONER'S VOICE 6
9. EVEN WITH A GASH A REALLY DESIRABLE FALCON 6
12. GIRL IN PRISON HELPS TO THROW SPARROW HAWK 6
14. CHAUCER HAD ONE AS HE WALKED ALONG PILGRIMS' WAY 4 7
16. DON'T MOAN ABOUT DIFFICULT QUARRY 6
17. OLD FALCONER CANNOT FLY WITH WING PROBLEM 5
18. DOG COLLAR FITS HAWK RING ANY BELLS 8
19. DOES A GOS TIE UP IT'S PREY? 4
24. SMALL ONES ON THEIR OWN BUT TOGETHER IN FOURS 6 7

Down:

2. HAWK IN A BARREL? 7
3. WHAT HOMER SIMPSON MIGHT EXCLAIM IF FOOTBALLER IS NETTED IN THIS 3 5
4. TAKE AWAY G FORCE FROM GAME BIRD AND GIVE A SHAKE 5
5. TWO HAWKS FIGHT OVER CRUSTACEAN 4
8. DARK DESERT FALCON? 7
10. RIDE OUT TO GIVE A YOUNG HAWK SOME FREEDOM 4
11. HOW MANY CASTS IN FALCONRY 4
13. BRITISH RAIL INHIBITS BATING 6
15. FALCONS INVOLVED IN FOOTBALL 7
19. DOG'S EYE MOVEMENT CAUSES ABORTED POINT 5
20. SPANIEL TOLD TO GO RED 5
21. SOUNDS LIKE TOP OF ROOM PREVENTS VISION 7
22. COSMICALLY LARGE RAPTOR 8 3 6
23. POINTER FROM A ROYAL COURT 10

Draw for the crossword competition will be held on 22nd July 2012. Prize is a 216 slyloc transmitter kindly donated by Rob Cole.

Fieldmeeting 2011

by Neil McCann

Again the three day meet was held at the picturesque Bryn Howell Hotel (Llangolm north wales) only a stones throw from the Hawking ground. The food again was excellent and ample parking and large grass lawn for the weathering ground.

Although the weather did not hold too kind this year a little prolonged rain did spoil the first day but this did not deter the hard core members as you can see from the list above there was plenty of game about 11 hawks.

Yet again there was a good turn out by the Essex region and Kris and Decker drove a fair few miles to fly there Redtails. The Falcon group spent their days looking for the elusive black cock on the Llanidloes moor and managed to put a few game birds in the bag there has been a decline on the Harris Hawk group over the last few years with a few members docking to fly Goshawks and falcons I am sure more members flying Harris Hawks will be back this year to hawk on the dubs 50th anniversary.

There was a good turn out of Goshawks with an array of imprints and parent reared birds, and you can see from the game count the good field craft skills and high level of dog training that goes on in the club, this proves the high level of falconry that is achieved by all the members that attended the 3 day field meet and the members that attend these regional meets on a regular basis.

I would like to thank all the committee members who do a lot of unseen work to make the club what it is today, as there are many members who do not know what goes on and the time and effort that goes into making the Welsh Hawking Club a great club to be involved in now ever great or small.

MANY THANKS TO THE GAME KEEPERS

- DAVE RHODES
- TOM PAINTER
- JIM TURNER

WELSH HAWKING CLUB FIELD MEET 2011

GOSHAWK GROUP 1

MIKE WEST field leader
 DAVE METCALF, MARK CROMPTON, ANTHONY ROBERTS, TREVOR WEBSTER, GAVIN LEE & MICK McDONALD
 WED BRYN A PYS 6 ph 1 partridge
 THURS LLANDEGLA 6 ph
 FRI BRYN A PYS 4 ph 1 partridge

GOSHAWK GROUP 2

HARRY GILBERT field leader
 IAN BELL, STEVE FORREST, NEIL SAYER, ALAN BUCKHAM, TONY WATSON, BARRIE HIGHAM
 WED CARROG 7 ph 1 partridge
 THURS LLANDEGLA 11 ph

GOSHAWK GROUP 3

MICK KANE field leader
 RAY SMITH, ANDY ROVEY, NEIL MCCANN, JIM ENTWHISTLE, IAN HOWARTH, PAUL HARMAN
 WED LLANDEGLA 9 ph 1 rabbit 1 duck
 THURS BRYN A PYS 8 ph
 FRI LLANDEGLA 9 ph

GOSHAWK GROUP 4

ADRIAN WATSON field leader
 STUART BAILEY, STEVE LAMBERT, DANIEL BRAY, JOE SEIGA, WESS MAUI, STEVE VAUGHAN
 WED BRYN A PYS 9 ph 4 partridge 4 ducks
 THURS LLANDEGLA 10 pheasants
 FRI LLANDEGLA 9 pheasants

LONGWING GROUP

ANDY HULME field leader
 ELLIS PHYTHIAN, ROB COLE
 WED LLANDEGLA MOOR 1 partridge
 THURS LLANDEGLA MOOR 2 pheasants
 FRI LLANDEGLA MOOR

REDTAIL GROUP

DALE JOHNSON field leader
 KRIS ULENS, DECKER SAN JRL, MARK HERBERT, WAYNE ROBERTS, JOHN SOULSBY
 WED LLANDEGLA 6 ph
 THURS CARROG 5 ph
 FRI BRYN A PYS 1 brown hare 4 ph

HARRIS HAWK GROUP

PETER DAWSON field leader
 TERRY PEPLAW, DAVID SHARMAN, STUART BYERS
 WED LLANDEGLA 3 partridge
 THURS BRYN A PYS 3 partridge 3 ducks
 FRI LLANDEGLA 1 ph

TOTAL GAME CAUGHT

- 1 BROWN HARE
- 105 PHEASANTS
- 11 PARTRIDGE
- 1 RABBIT
- 8 DUCKS

TOTAL 126



Spiced Game and Brandy Terrine

Ingredients

(Serves 8)

- 300g lean venison pheasant or rabbit or a combination diced
- 250g lamb's liver diced
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- 10 juniper berries, crushed
- 6 allspice berries, crushed
- 4 tablespoons Brandy
- 10 slices of smoked streaky bacon
- 1 egg beaten
- salt and pepper

Method

1. Put game, liver, onion, garlic, juniper, allspice and brandy in a bowl and stir to mix. Cover and marinate overnight in the fridge.
2. Heat the oven to 160c (325f, gas mark 3). Roughly chop 2 rashers of bacon and put in a food processor or blender with the marinated ingredients, the egg and some salt and pepper. Process until smooth.
3. Stretch the remaining bacon rashers with the back of a knife, then use them to line a 1 litre (1 1/2 pint) loaf tin or terrine dish, over hanging the edges. Spoon in the meat mixture and fold the bacon over to cover.
4. Cover with foil and transfer to a roasting tin. Add water to come halfway up the sides and cook in the oven for 2 hours. Remove from the roasting tin and place a heavy weight on cans of food on top. Leave to cool.
5. Remove the weight, turn the terrine out onto a plate. Slice and serve with redcurrant jelly, mixed salad and crusty bread.

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Regional Report - Essex

Once again its season over and time for the regional report!

Nice to see it back!

The Essex region started our 'campaign' and pre Wales field meet at a popular venue in Brightingdale, Essex with a mixed group of Harris Hawks and Goshawks. The day promised some good sport as previous meetings there have shown steady regular points and good flights over farmland and through woodland areas. The fine morning started promisingly enough with birds looking splendid in their new plumage and they were soon chasing quarry. On a personal note the day was to end early with worries over the wellbeing of my bird. My thanks to those members present who assisted me with the crop taking and spores.

The Essex boys who were attending the Wales field meeting made the long trip up to North Wales with expectations of another good 3 day meet with friends at some fine venues. I would like to thank Stuart Byers at this point as he turned around after having started out to return to pick me up and then onto the vets to collect my bird who despite the best efforts of myself and the vet had sadly died.

The three day meet venues for the Harris group were held on old favourites Llandegla and Bryn a Pas. Attending as a spectator allowed me view the days activities without the usual worries of 'where's my bird gone?' and practising my tracking skills, although I would have gladly gone through the process - oh well! I did however have the opportunity of carrying on the list a splendid young male Harris and this party made up for my loss and made me feel part of it.

The 3 day meeting again provided superb venues and excellent accommodations. Our thanks once again go to Neil McCann for all his efforts to achieve this.

The remainder of the season has seen the Essex region members attending field meetings at some old favourites in Essex and Suffolk where members have been able to enjoy some good sport hosted by land owners and keepers.

Harris Hawks and Goshawks continue to be the birds of choice for members with the best performing well for their owners.

I would like to thank Steve Vaughan and Rob Cowan for the offer of a bird to fly for the season.

The region continues to be well supported with 'old' faces and some new members who are always welcome at our club nights. Club night raffias have allowed the region to stretch the field meet budget to enable more dates to be added to the field meet calendar. I am sure the region would like to extend its thanks once again to Stuart Byers for arranging the field meets.

The change of venue to Mick Young's bar in Colchester has proved to be a popular choice. The club nights are always on an informal basis and continue to be on the second Tuesday in the month with 'old hands' nearly always in attendance to pass on advice as required to those who need help. I am certain that the Essex region will have members in attendance at the Wales meet in October and that we look forward to meeting up with old friends and making new acquaintances.

For those of you who will be breeding your birds we wish every success, and to all others we hope your birds moult out well.

Keep well

Pete Dawson



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Austringer Compendium

by David Horobins

From its beginnings as a small club of enthusiasts in South Wales fifty years ago, the Welsh Hawking Club has not only grown in status and size, but has done so during a half-century which has seen some incredible changes in falconry. Indeed, it is probably fair to say that these fifty years have seen far greater changes and development in the sport than any period previously.

British falconry in 1982 was still very much a minority pursuit, and the WHC's own mirrored growing interest in the sport that has continued to grow to the present. Whether the increased public interest has been a good thing is a debate outside the remit of this publication, and one which will probably burn on for years to come. What is certain is that, despite very real concerns caused by some developments of the past fifty years, it is far to say that other innovations, have soon standards of welfare, husbandry and performance in the field reach great heights.

Today's sport is dogged, in a wider UK climate where traditional standards and respect are seldom seen, by casual hawk ownership, profiteering and a lack of understanding on the part of most of the public about falconry actually is. On the back of that, however, in an era where many look for sustainable and ecologically friendly hobbies, and seek a closer bond with the natural world from which society as a whole is estranged, the falconry has much to offer. Advances in captive breeding and telemetry, barely thought of back in 1982, have been a double edged sword, permitting far easier access to hawks and perhaps more leeway in their conditioning than would previously have been considered sensible, but have opened up more innovative forms of hawking around the globe, expanding both the species available to the falconer and methods of flying them.

Perhaps the two most commonly encountered species within today's WHC highlight these changes more than anything else. In 1982 the Harris hawk was hardly heard of, and the earliest individuals flown by members commanded high prices. Today, the Harris might be termed 'Parasitoid ubiquitous' for it is quite literally everywhere, and some might say too cheaply available. Relegated to the lowly status of the 'beginner's bird' it is, nonetheless, a superb hawk in the hands of a dedicated individual and has opened up new and exciting styles of flight (ominously suited to the rolling hills of Wales and the Borders) few would have previously attempted with goshawks.

The goshawk, by contrast, has perhaps been the mainstay of hawking in Wales' wooded valleys for centuries. After a decline in

falconry's popularity in the 18th century, it would seem the standards of management of the goshawk were all but forgotten, and in the early 20th century her status was pretty poor: a lowly, temperamental hawk best suited to short flights at rabbit in the open and hooded to be flown sharp in order to retain control. Today, Austringers fly superbly manned, fitting fit goshawks over terrain the average 1980's Austringer would have shuddered to countenance, and at quarters which his charge would have healed to take on. Woodland flights at pheasant and long sips at partridge are now far less risky due to telemetry, increased awareness of fitness and conditioning have seen success at the elusive woodcock and dynamic waterfowl, and with the advent of imprinting, soaring flights have been added to the goshawk's repertoire by innovative WHC members.

The combination of old techniques and new species, new techniques and quarry species, means that today's WHC member is as much a product of continuous evolution as the hawks he/she flies are. We see the most recently introduced species flown in accordance with falconry's most cherished traditions, and our oldest companions in the chase utilised in ways which the ancient Welsh Austringers who set out 'with grey goshawk on hand' after leathered quaries could have never dreamed of. However, it would be remiss to think of the WHC as purely a Welsh club. Proud of its origins, it has expanded its influence beyond the Marches since its very beginnings, and has seen

regional branches all around Britain, with members as far afield as South Africa and the American West. WHC members inspired by our founder Lurani de Bastyal, were keen visitors to field meetings in Europe from the outset, and today there are few regular international falconry events that have not, at some time or another, hosted our members.

This compilation of articles from the Club's respected journal, The Austringer, aims to not only chart the development of the WHC from its humble beginnings alongside that of falconry as a whole, but also to share some of our members' most significant attainments, experiences and thoughts on this passion which is far more than a mere sport or pastime to those it captivates. Our Club's own timeline runs parallel to an exciting period in a 5,000 year-old living heritage, but throughout that heritage, it is above all the individual who has innovated, experimented and pushed the boundaries to leave us with the legacy we, the Austringers and falconers of 2012, have inherited.

We have shared methods, ideas and innovations with overseas friends, encouraged newcomers to the sport at home, patiently put our sports case to the wider public through various avenues and fought for its survival in Westminster and Cardiff's Senedd. May our next fifty years see us continue to do so, upholding the best of falconry's traditions and striving to increase its excellence in all that we do.



2012 29

Regional Report - North Wales

Yet another season is coming to an end, as I am writing another regional report for the north Wales region.

We have not had as many guest speakers this year due to the region subsidise the field meets we have held.

A special thanks to Derek Storton who gave a talk on AI and importing various falcons and hawks into the country. Also Alan Gates gave his second and third talk on his various travels to hawk in China, we will arrange to hear his first talk and slide show later on this year. Richard Jones the club vet gave an insight on first aid and the prevention, also a special thanks to Tony Large on his informative talk and slide show.

The 'lett' meets held were on Llandegla in north Wales, many members have hawked

this great venue over the past ten seasons, with Dewi having a bad accident last year, his son took the bull by the horns and took the job on to carry on the hard work! Yet again members taking on young Harris get the opportunity to catch their first phasant.

Young Daniel Maddock has been flying a male Harris Hawk and doing great catching pheasants and rabbits with him, a couple of members have changed from flying Harris Hawks to flying Goshawks from Mick Kane, Andy Povey flying a imprint male catching plenty of pheasants and rabbits, (special thanks too Andy sorting the days out).

Anthony Roberts is flying a male and Mick McDonald is flying a female, both attending the field meets and catching pheasants and rabbits on a regular basis. The region has exchanged a couple of days pheasant

hawking for catching Rabbits in North Yorkshire if only the weather could be a little kinder each time we get Chours too Dale from the Yorkshire hawking club.

The region held the annual belated xmas party in Feb with hot buffet and the auction to raise the funds to fly our first million!

A great job done by Jeff Cooke were only a few quid away!

The region meet every month all welcome for a friendly chat and hopefully have a few days out hawking after a bad days hawking is better than than a good day work!

Cheers

Neil



2012 31

45th Anniversary

by **Jermima Parry Jones**

This year 2019, amazingly, the International Centre for Birds of Prey has reached its 45th anniversary. Although there was a short period where it was not in the Gasler family hands, nevertheless it remained as a bird of prey centre open to the public throughout. We even managed, having only bought it back on December 18th 2008, and finding it in the most appalling state of disrepair and dirt, to get it cleaned and open again by February 1st 2009, with birds and a flying team, on our normal re-opening date for the season.

Opened on May 26th 1987, the initial cost was half a crown (26d) for adults and 15d for children, for those of you who don't remember 'old money' that was 12 and a half pence for adults and half for kids! Mind you, my Father paid £11,400 for the place at that time, and having actually bought it three times, firstly from Father, then from my ex-husband and finally ended up on the third time, paying £1,170,000 for it on the last count! When we started petrol was sold a gallon, that is 25 and a half p. So things have changed. Apart from one other place in Germany called the Adler Vator, which I believe is still there, but now is not a specialist centre for raptors, but has other animals such as Mink cats, ICBP which was originally called The Falconry Centre was the first dedicated bird of prey centre in the UK by a very long way, and is now the oldest, and probably the best known Centre in the world.

Started by my father, Philip Gasler and the

family with the intent of teaching falconry and breed birds of prey for falconry, we arrived in Gloucestershire from Dorset with 12 birds, a pair of Common Buzzards, two Peregrines, two kestrels, three Tawny Owls, a Goshawk, and I think a pair of Barn Owls, but I am unsure of the last two.

We started slowly, which sadly people do not do today. On that note, I am constantly emailed with people who say they are starting a bird of prey centre and they either have or are looking for birds, I write back and tell them that the last element of a bird of prey centre they need is the birds. Firstly they have to have a site, get planning permission, sort out car parking, tools, signage, a ZOO LICENCE (which a large number of places do not have) and the zoo license should take six months before you can open. Then build decent aviaries, put in paths, sort out food supplies and storage for food as well as disposal of what is called Category 2 animal by products! And so on and so on! The birds should be the last thing to arrive, when everything is ready and prepared for them. There are upwards of 150 bird of prey centres in the UK and more are proliferating in Europe. I would not mind in the least if they were all of good quality, but even more sadly the majority, although starting with good intentions (I hope) are mediocre, to poor, to appalling, and the Zoo Licensing Act does not in my opinion work. Anyway enough of that little rant.

The aims of the Centre have changed a little, although I am proud to say that we have never lost or failed to admit our falconry

beginnings. We are still teaching falconry, still working with the Hawk Board to maintain falconry as a legal pursuit, although the threats against it never seem to lessen, still writing guidelines, offering advice and doing all the things that we have done for falconry for 45 years. But we also have a very good reputation in the conservation world, and have been working on the South Asian Vulture project since 1999. We use the birds for non-invasive research and have assisted on a number of very good scientific projects to assist birds of prey in the wild. We also continue the rehabilitation that we have always done.

So in our 45th year we are having various celebrations, we hope to share some of the Welsh Hawking Club anniversary celebrations in the summer. We will be having an art and photography exhibition one weekend in May, we are having a glaciator weekend in August, for the non-falconer visitors and the events will culminate in our running for the second year, the special dedicated falconry weekend that we ran with the UKFC last year. This year they have decided to go it alone as they want to allow dogs, so they are running an event on the weekend of August 12th near Evesham, however as this is not a competition, and the dates and venues are very different, we felt that we made such a success of it last year that it would be a shame not to go again this year. So I hope all the clubs will support us on September 1st and 2nd for The Falconry Weekend and our very special year, and indeed the WHC's special year as well!



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Dougie Morgans



Ken Macleure

Presidents of The Welsh Hawking Club



Lorant de Bastyai



Dave Dimond

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Mobbing Jess

by **Lyn Palmer**

I originally wrote this article in 2011 but missed the deadline for it to be included in last year's Austringer.

Having had the coldest winter since records began, prey has been very low in numbers with many herring Rabbits dead in my area of Gwent in South Wales. But this has not stopped me from flying my twenty year old Female Harris Hawk 'Jess'.

This Harris has travelled quite a few miles in her life having been hatched in Bisco, Gwent she went to Ireland with her first owner then she came back to Gwent as John Emperador in New Zealand so Jess came to live with myself.

With all the snow and rain I only noticed this year that my Harris has been mobbed by a number of species of Birds while out hunting the most common has been Sparrowhawks both Male and Female than the Corvid family. She has also been mobbed by Mistle Thrush, Buzzard and Greater Spotted Woodpecker. This does not bother Jess and she just ducks her head at the last minute then follows myself through the canopy of the woods.

It would be interesting to know if other Austringers have had the mobbing affect while out Hawking.

Jesses favourite prey is the Grey Squirrel and on the other day she went smashing into a tree in the fork of a tree which was full of ivy when suddenly out came not one but six Squirrels all one at a time. Jess gave chase but she missed them in all the ivy and was not a happy Harris when I called her back to the fist.



2012 35

Incubation

by Rob Cole

We all at some time have thoughts of breeding from a special hawk or falcon that we have flown, be it there excellent nature, there aggression in perches or the pitch that they attain. I am no different in that fact and after many years flying goshawks, sparrow hawks and then if my male red tail and my female merlin I decided to try and breed from J and Gypsy. I would like to say at this point that I had known then what I know now I may have left the breeding to those that are happy to be torments and go without family holidays, have a very understanding wife with a degree in airthood?

I set about building two aviaries and pairing J with my uncus 'imprint' female red tail and both his jack merlin, we were very very lucky as the red tails bred and reared a clutch of three with no problems at all and it was just unbelievable to see them interact building a nest through to egg laying and finally the hatch of six chicks. We thought how easy this is! and the big breeders snoring pulling our legs on the line and effort they all put in? Then came the merlin, with all going brightly with the sheer joy of seeing them with wings drooped tails fanned, it was stunning to watch and then when the first eggs arrived we again thought this is so so easy. I went to park on a family holiday and my uncle was left to check how the hatch went, it turned out to be quite expensive as the mobile phone never stopped ringing. The merlins hatched, but the parents would not feed them, we decided to pull them and cloche rear them with very little problem with help from Paul Mackinder who we had got the original pair from, without doubt help I would have said breeding is just too stressful. 1995 I have been asked by a few new breeders my thoughts on the back garden broodens incubation room over the last 10 years or so, and have a hope given some thought and insight that as been of help in some small way. I thought this season I would build a new incubation room and share with you my thoughts on what we worked for me over the last 16 years.

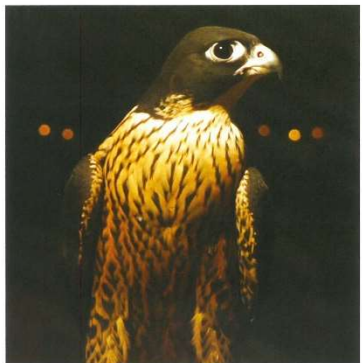
The incubation room I have used over the last 16 years has been my small spare bedroom, it is a north facing small window which is when the season starts the window shut and all heating is turned off for that room. The room is 10ft x 6ft and through the breeding season keeps a temperature of 25-28 and relative humidity of 25% which I find just right for this size room. I started by stripping the room out with permission of my wife (and she had a coffee for as ease of cleaning and fitting new kitchen units with an oak laminate work top, this was because I didn't want solid wood worktops as this can absorb too much moisture and for ease of cleaning, overhead



cupboards were fitted with under lighting, make sure that you fit enough sockets. I have fitted 14 under the work top with stainless steel cable crimps fitted into the work tops as this keeps all of the worktop free for ease of cleaning. I use AS incubators (see below) these are my preference, but find a manufacturer that you find works for you as they have a clear window that covers the full incubator and are infinitely adjustable, you will need at least 2 incubators with per space a hatch. I run these through a UPS unit that is fitted

under one of the base units, this will adjust power supply to your incubators and as a battery backup for short term power failure. I never trust the led temperature on any incubator and with that in mind I invest in a calibrated mercury thermometer that I can set my spot check thermometers too. I do this by using a tennis ball size modelling clay roped in Clingfilm and inserting the mercury thermometer to the core with all spot checks and leaving for 12-24 hours in the incubator (please spot-check to match the reader).

I use a weighing scale of 1000g in conjunction with egg weight-loss program weight loss programs can be vital in understanding how the embryo is developing and that they are losing weight at the right percentage for each particular part print out the egg charts and add it to a growth chart that goes with the A10 to the new owner (I most find it very interesting to see how there fatness as developed from egg to hard pan), attention to detail is the name of the game and can be the difference between hatching fertile eggs and failure. I would also suggest that you keep in mind that your incubation room will be used for a maximum of 6 months of the year, so with plenty of storage I can put the incubators away and use the room for making falconry equipment?



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Committee of the Welsh Hawking Club

- President**
Dawn Dinnon
Email: president@welshhawkingclub.com
- Vice Presidents**
Janina Parn-Jones MBE, Henry de Saesyle
Iris Roberts, Nerys
Nick Heavensman-Matt and Mike Davies
- Chairman**
Mick Connel
Email: chairman@welshhawkingclub.com
- Vice Chairman**
Felix Cook
Email: vicechairman@welshhawkingclub.com
- Hon Secretary**
Jeff France
Email: secretary@welshhawkingclub.com
- Hon Treasurer**
Joni Dinnon
Email: treasurer@welshhawkingclub.com
- Austringer Editor**
Andy Hulse
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- Education Officer**
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- Field Officer**
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- Press & Publicity**
Joni France
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- News Letter Editor**
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- Webmaster**
Roger Jones
Email: webmaster@welshhawkingclub.com
- Members Secretary**
Joni Dinnon
Email: memberssecretary@welshhawkingclub.com
- Legal Officer**
Tom Jones
Email: legal@welshhawkingclub.com
- Hon Club Vets**
Dick Rees and Richard Jones
Noreen Mayhew
Dr. Nick Fox, Mick Davies
Christen de Coone, Jason Tom
Nick Heavensman-Matt, Gary Hovels
Goshan Hovels, Mick & Ann Shillington
Diana Duran-Heaters, Hal Webster
Henry Robinson and Jim Clark

Rules & Constitution of the Welsh Hawking Club

Name and Objectives

- The name of the club shall be The Welsh Hawking Club
- The objective of the club shall be:
 - The promotion of Falconry,
 - The provision of advice and information for members and other interested parties.
 - The promotion and maintenance of the club's Code of Conduct amongst its members.

Constitution

The club shall consist of a President, Vice-Presidents, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and other committee members as agreed and elected at an AGM. Each of these members are entitled to attend the committee meetings and to one vote, except the Chairman who does not have a vote. However, in the event of a vote resulting in a tie the Chairman shall then have the casting vote.

Only full members are eligible for election to office. The officers and the committee will conduct the business of the club (hereafter referred to simply as the committee), which will meet at such times as it thinks fit. A quorum for a meeting shall be five members. Anyone who holds a current conviction under the Wildlife & Countryside Act, The Animal Welfare Act, Codes or any other offences to a living animal will not be accepted for membership until any ban enforced by a court of law has been spent. They will then be accepted at the discretion of the committee.

Elections

- All members of the committee will be elected individually, annually at the AGM.
- During the year should any committee member fail to attend committee meetings regularly then he or she may be asked to give an explanation, if the reason is of insufficient justification, the committee member may be asked to stand down from their post, and another member co-opted to fill the position.

Membership

- Members of the club will be approved by the committee.
- No person will be accepted for membership without completing a membership application form declaring if he or she has had any convictions under the Wildlife & Countryside Act, Codes or The Animal Welfare Act. The membership form will state that if an applicant

declares a past conviction then a committee member will contact them to discuss the offence and conviction, the committee member will then report back to the main committee for a decision if the application would be approved or not.

3. The annual subscription rate shall be determined at the AGM each year.

- Any member whose subscription is more than eight weeks overdue after the end of May shall cease to be a member, but will be eligible for approval as an associate member and will pay the full joining fee as appropriate.
- Should the committee have any reason to believe that a member has acted in a manner injurious to Falconry or the club then the member may be required to furnish a written explanation to the Secretary for the consideration of the committee or to appear in person before the committee. The member can claim a personal hearing if preferred. The Secretary must give the member at least 14 days notice of the committee's requirements. Should the member refuse to comply, the committee may terminate the membership. They may also terminate the membership should they decide that the member has acted in a way harmful to Falconry and/or the WHC.

6. Any member wishing to dispose of a bird obtained through the club's breeding project must first offer the bird back to the club at the purchase price.

- Only full members are eligible to vote on club affairs.
- Proxy and postal votes are not permitted, however email votes are permitted within the committee to ensure the smooth running of the club.
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9. Associate members wishing to obtain full membership may apply in writing to the Secretary for the consideration of the committee. Prior to applying the applicant should normally have completed at least 12 months membership. The applicant must normally have successfully trained and hunted with a bird of prey witnessed by a full member.

10. All members will be strongly encouraged to complete the LANTRA award beginning with the falconry award during the first 12 months of membership. The WHC will assist with training at regional level.

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- The WHC will offer junior membership to those in full time education. Junior members will be entitled to attend social and field

The 2012 Austringer Raffle Prizes

Original lime wood sculpture of a Grey Partridge

by Bill Prickett

Duelling Pheasants print

by Andrew Ellis

Game Cool Box

supplied by The Cool Icebox Company

Learning to Fly signed illustrated book

by Colin Woolf

A 50th anniversary engraved crystal set of Welsh Whiskey and tumblers

Donated by Rob Cole

A signed copy of North American Falconry and Hunting Hawks

Donated by late Ray 'Tubby' Hooper Family

Transmitter

Donated by Bryan Patterson

Many other prizes including a days fishing in South Wales and a gents Eco-drive watch!



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11. The WHC will offer junior membership to those in full time education. Junior members will be entitled to attend social and field meetings but not vote on club matters or stand for office. This membership will be offered at 50% discount of full club membership.

Meetings

- The Annual General Meeting shall be held
- The Annual General Meeting shall be held

at the main Field Meeting each year.

- Meetings shall be presided over by the Chairman, Vice Chairman or in their absence one of the other officers as appropriate.

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