



The International Association for Falconry  
and Conservation of Birds of Prey

## NEWSLETTER



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and Conservation of Birds of Prey

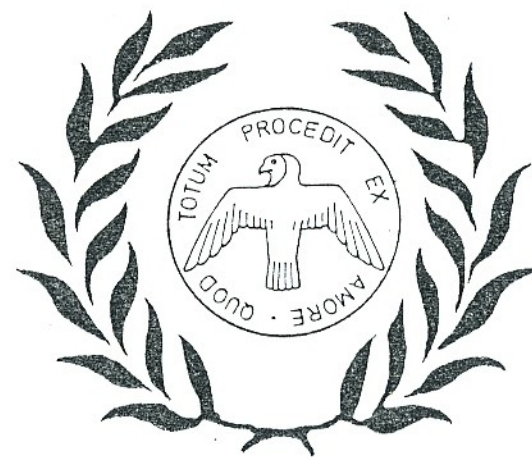
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1-1995



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## I N M E M O R I A M

CHARLES KRUYFHOFT  
1921 - 1995

Charles Kruyfhoft died suddenly on 24th April 1995.

He had been the founder president and still was the Honorary President of Club Marie de Bourgogne.

A prominent personality of Belgian falconry has left us.

He was the last falcon trapper of West Europe and he was one of Europe's great specialists of crow hawking, which he has been practising until the last year of his life.

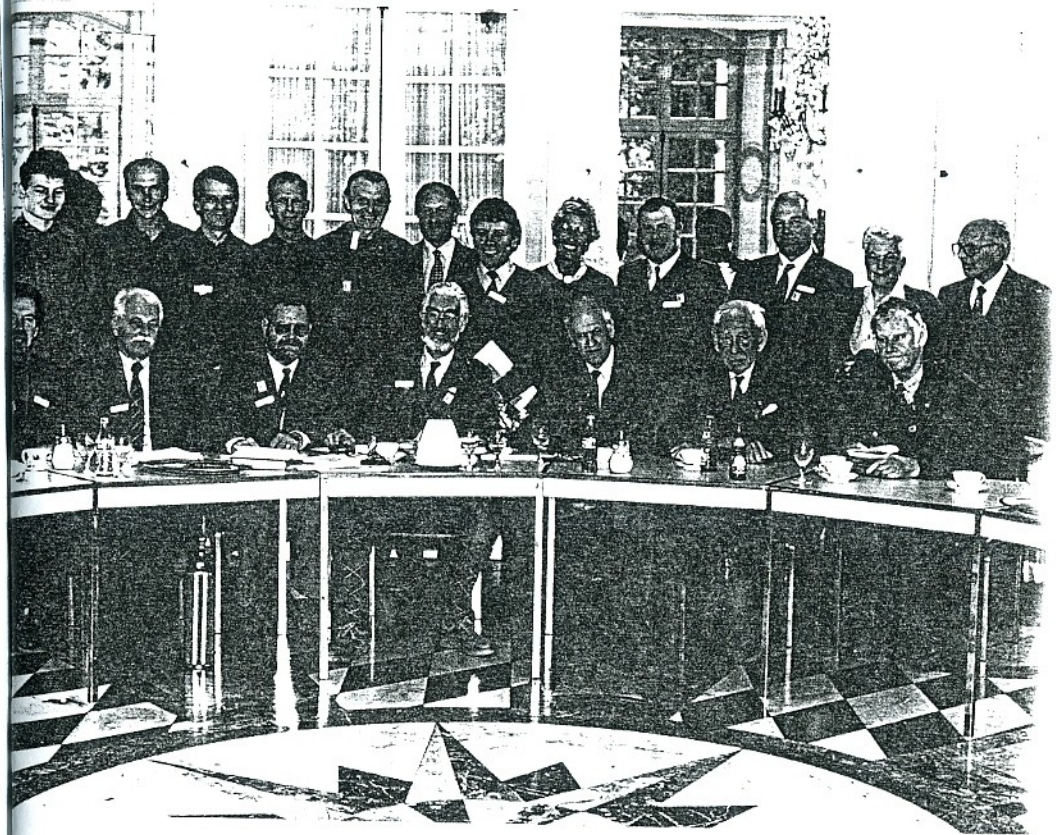
Charles was not only the passionate falconer we know, but he had also a deep interest for history and was a very competent art collector.

We extend to his family our feelings of sincere sympathy



## General Meeting of the IAF

Sögel (Germany) 28th October 1994



Standing (from left to right)

Darius Daugela (Lit.), Alexander Vintchevsky (By), Jesper Brännich (DK), Rob Mc Intyre (USA), Morten Clausen (DK), Patrick Morel (B), Gilles Nortier (F), Sigrid Schwenk (D), Hans Hewicker (D), Eckart Schormair (D), Annie Bekkers (NL), Heinz Pils (A),

Sitting (from left to right)

Umberto Caproni di Taliedo (I), Werner Kitzmann (CH), Peter Bekkers (NL), Christian de Coune (B), Wim van de Vlasakker (NL), Cees de Bruin (NL), Anthony Jack (G-B)

1 9 9 5

PRESIDENT'S REPORTA . MEMBER COUNTRIES  
(alphabetic order)

## BELGIUM

Two legislations have been modified during 1995 : the law on hunting of 1882 and the bird protection legislation. Henceforth the keeping of raptors for falconry is covered by bird protection law rather than hunting. The result is that falconers are now administered by the nature conservation authorities not those concerned with hunting. The right granted to falconers to keep hawks is being challenged in the highest courts by bird protection societies although it concerns only captive bred hawks. If the bird protectionists win the case, with the exception of the Goshawk, falconers will lose the right to keep any indigenous European bird of prey. The fact that these bird protection societies challenge the right to keep captive bred birds indicate that those organisations are more interest in opposing fieldsports than in wildlife conservation. The two societies concerned are the Ligue Belge pour la Protection des Oiseaux and AVES.

## DENMARK

The hunters' organisation has decided that falconers whose birds are legally held may to participate with their hawks in exhibitions and demonstrations organised or co-organised by the said organisation. It is to be hoped that this might be interpreted as an encouraging improvement in the hunters' attitude towards falconry.

## FRANCE

The Association Nationale des Fauconniers et Autoursiers Français has been officially recognised as a nature conservation organisation.

## GERMANY

Since Eckart Schormair decided not to run for reelection after 16 years in office, the Deutscher Falkenorden has a new president : Adolf Schreyer. Other Board members have changed too. We congratulate them and wish all of them a very fruitful term in office.



DFO is trying very hard to unite all falconers in Germany. DFO membership is increasing.

The authorities have recently reinforced the legal requirement for a falconry permit for anyone keeping of indigenous birds of prey, they have imposed stricter controls. Some exceptions may be granted for instance for scientific purposes or for zoos. The falconry permit is issued only if the falconer's test has been passed successfully. This requirement had been introduced, years ago, on the insistence of DFO.

DFO is continuing its project to reintroduce the Peregrine Falcon, they now concentrate exclusively, jointly with Poland, on rebuilding the tree nesting population, which, from about 1,000 pairs in Northern Europe is now extinct. The White Tailed Sea Eagle project has been discontinued because now the German population of that eagle is satisfactorily increasing. DFO is currently considering starting a new project on Hen Harriers and Montagu's Harriers.

#### GREAT BRITAIN

Anti-hunting activists are now turning to falconry. They say they had so far neglected falconry in their campaigns. They are calling on their sympathizers for ideas about tactics for sabotaging falconry. One of our friend's aviaries have been vandalised and hawks released.

I informed our members who were going to Great Britain about the possible danger of being bothered by anti hunting activists. BFC published in its Newsletter an article on the IAF explaining briefly its rôle and some of its achievements. I hope this example will be followed by other member clubs. Individual members should know that IAF exists and that it tries to do something for them; after all it is with their money that IAF works.

Two court decisions have been pronounced in connection with illegal activities involving birds of prey. One man has been sentenced to 18 months jail and another to 4 months. I have been told by a RSBP member that some 30% of captive bred birds of prey checked by DNA fingerprinting appeared not to be the offspring of the alleged parents. The explanation of this enormous percentage appears to be that the authorities make only DNA tests when there are very serious suspicions of fraud. No random tests are being made. That figure should not therefore be extrapolated to all captive bred hawks.

#### HUNGARY

The legislation governing the keeping of birds of prey is in the process of being amended. According to officials, the changes will not affect falconry too much.

#### INDIA

Worrying news has been received that the Indian Government is about to start large scale production and use of DDT. The reasons for it are the outbreak of epidemics.

We all know the side effects of DDT on raptors.

An advertisement has been published in the press for falconers to clear the Delhi Airport of birds causing damage to aircraft.

#### NETHERLANDS

New legislation affecting falconry is still in preparation. The registration system for falconry and the issuing of licences has been privatised and is managed by an organisation consisting of falconers, the chairman and the administrator of it are members of Valkeniersverbond Adriaan Mollen. Valkeniersverbond Adriaan Mollen is in the process of concluding a cooperation agreement with the Valkenswaard Museum whereby the Foundation Museum Valkenswaard and "Adriaan Mollen" will together manage The Dutch Falconry Museum. You are all recommended to pay a visit to this fantastic museum.

One of the big problems faced by Dutch falconers is the availability of Goshawks. This is one of the many paradoxes of stringent protection regulations that take too little account of the actual situation of wild populations. Netherlands has an enormous population of some 2,500 breeding pairs of Goshawks, but still falconers are not allowed to take any from the wild.

#### PORTUGAL

Independent of our member, Associação Portuguesa de Falcoaria, a "falcon centre" has been established, comprising a falconry school, public displays and captive breeding whose aim is promoting falconry. My impression is that it is commercially oriented.

On the legal front of view, a law is in preparation that will introduce a falconry permit. Candidates will have to undergo a course. This course may be organised by the official authorities or by private organisations approved by the ministry.

The syllabus will include : biology of raptors and their importance in the ecosystems and falconry techniques and ethics. In November 1994 they organised this first field meeting with the friendly co-operation of the authorities. Falconers from many European countries attended the meeting.

Authorisation has been granted to take Peregrines from the wild to use them for captive breeding.

#### SPAIN

In 1989 legislation which was applicable nationwide decreed that falconry was "massive and non selective" and it was therefore banned.

Hunting matters being of the sole competence of the 17 regions, it was for these regions to legislate on falconry.

Autonomous regions therefore challenged the law on nature conservation before the Constitutional Court, because some of its provisions trespassed on their sole competence.

Falconers challenged the decree of 1989 before the Supreme Court. After more than five years, the Constitutional Court confirmed that some matters were of the sole competence of the regions.

The action of the falconers has not yet been judged but it is expected that the Supreme Court will soon take a decision based on the sentence of the Constitutional Court and will cancel the decree of 1989.

It will be for the different autonomous regions to regulate falconry. Falconers are in touch with them, but there are not less than 17! That means 17 difficult files.

Falconers have founded the Union Española para la Defensa de la Cetrería y Aves de Presa (Spanish union for the defence of falconry and birds of prey).

I attended their General Meeting in Segovia.

#### B. NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES

(alphabetic order)

##### AUSTRALIA

Falconry is not allowed in Australia because the laws do not contain provisions allowing birds of prey to be kept. I know of no attempts being made to have that situation changed. The IAF is of course not going to take any step in this connection.

The opinion of an occasional correspondent is interesting in this respect: "I'm not aware that there are any attempts to have it legalised and I think it would be a hopeless task at present. Things are very gradually moving in the direction of conservation in the sense of 'wise utilization' rather than protection but in general the green movement is still dominated by urban ideas of nature conservation. This is a very urban society - far removed from the Crocodile Dundee image that Australians like to project. At the moment for example, there is controversy in the media about the proposal to encourage wealthy hunters to come here to shoot feral buffalo for trophies. It is felt that this would spoil the good conservation example that we are supposed to be trying to show."

##### BYELORUSSIA

The Byelorussian hunting law is in the process of being revised; the present law, dating back to the soviet time, mentions birds of prey among the permitted hunting methods. The new draft law contains similar provisions.

There seems to be at the moment only one active falconer.

At our 1994 General Meeting it had been decided that the IAF would finance a joint project on birds of prey. This project started early this year.

A short description of the project and an interim report of the first results is annexed to this President's Report.

I spent two weeks in Byelorussia - at my own expense - to meet the participants in the project and to make an on the spot appraisal of the achievements. I was most impressed by the motivation of the several ornithologists involved in the project.

In spite of the difficult circumstances, the results achieved by this first year's census are very encouraging.

There is absolutely no doubt that the project should be continued for at least the five years that had been intended.

Our members have received a booklet informing them of the project and giving a glimpse of its first steps.

A more detailed account on the first year will be issued this winter and circulated among the members. The list of donors will be included.

Besides the goodwill of all those involved, this project needs the participation of all of you.

Without your generous financial support, this project will have to be discontinued.

##### CANADA

At our 1994 General Meeting, we admitted the "Association Québécoise des Fauconniers et Autoursiers" (Quebec falconers). Due to financial constraints they decided in June to renounce their membership in the IAF.

The news seems encouraging as a major hunting association has come in support of falconers.

Falconry has recently been legalized in the provinces of Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, not because someone asked for it, but in case someone wants to practise it. That's the way it should be!

##### INDONESIA

Some time ago I met a Belgian vet, Dr Philippe Hoyois, who was enquiring about the existence of falconry in Indonesia. I had very little information. I explained him the way falconry is used in Zimbabwe as the best method to collect specimens wild birds. He had in mind a wildlife conservation project in Irian Jaya (Indonesian part of New Guinea).

Dr Hoyois has founded a centre for the study of fauna and flora. He is now, among many other activities, taking up falconry with a view to utilise it for collecting specimens of birds that would otherwise be extremely difficult to capture in equatorial forest. It is a nice challenge for falconry, and could give good sport. You are welcome to contact him:

Dr Philippe Hoyois  
Centre PUSPPENSAT  
Kodak Pos 100  
NABIRE 98801  
Irian Jaya  
Indonesia  
Fax : ++ 62 964 21 888

## IRAN

My correspondent keeps me very faithfully informed about his country. Falconry is banned in Iran allegedly because they want to prevent the Arabs to come there to hawk Houbaras. There seems to be very little prospects of things changing in the foreseeable future.

## KOREA

It seems that in spite of an ancient and glorious past, falconry has almost died out after the war. In South Korea there are only two falconers, one of them being 80 years old. All birds of prey are legally protected.

## MEXICO

The legislation governing falconry is in the process of being modified.

At the CITES meeting, I made contact with representative from Mexico. I pleaded very strongly in favour of the possibility for falconers to be allowed to take a limited number of hawks from the wild.

My arguments were very positively welcomed and I was told that my point of view would be taken into account when drafting the proposed legislation.

I am keeping in touch with the Mexican authorities.

## POLAND

The Polish Falconers' association has a new president : Mr Wisniewski. I expressed our desire for improved relations between their association and the IAF.

The law on hunting does not contain provisions for falconry. There are attempts to have falconry included in the future legislation.

I met the president of the Polish Hunters Association in Brussels and offered him the assistance of the IAF in the efforts of falconers to obtain a legal status. Bird protectionists are very actively opposing the inclusion of falconry in future legislation.

## SLOVAKIA

The Association of Slovak Falconers has expressed the wish to be admitted to the IAF but did not formally apply for membership.

## TURKEY

There is quite a large community of traditional falconers flying passage Sparrowhawks at Quails during the fall migration. Sparrowhawks are released after the hawking season. Just over the border is the region of the Georgian Republic where a similar form of falconry is being practised.

It seems that falconers have formed an association.

Some years ago the ICBP (now BirdLife International) had published a report on falconry and on bird of prey persecution. Falconers were put in a very unfavourable light and some opinion aroused that falconry should be banned.

I took advantage of the meeting of the 1988 European Continental Section of the ICBP in Turkey to address the problem with the Turkish scientific and political authorities. I strongly advocated in favour of education of the hunters and falconers rather than taking measures of prohibition. Dialog rather than confrontation.

I proposed IAF's co-operation in an education program of falconers while recognising that our means were limited. Due to the lack of resources, I could not go deeper into it.

The Turkish Society for the Protection of Nature has just sent me a video cassette introducing the education program they have started with the co-operation of BirdLife International, Vogelbescherming (Netherlands) and the Ministry of Education. It is exactly what I would have dreamed for the IAF to set up if we had had the necessary means for it.

It is believed that the sparrowhawks that are released at the end of the hawking season can no longer complete their migration due to the progress of the winter. BirdLife and DHKD estimate that 15,000 migrating birds of prey are killed, some of them to feed the decoys used to trap sparrowhawks.

Falconers unanimously agreed to try alternative methods of trapping and decoy feeding.

The campaign targetted two different groups : schools and falconers. Teams of university students equipped with vans, slide projectors and education material including childrens books travelled through the area. The aim was to convince the audience of the importance of the region for raptor migration describing the natural richness and the local tradition of falconry.

I proposed IAF's collaboration.

## U.S.A.

In recognition of the great improvement in the situation of wild populations the Peregrine falcon subspecies Tundrius has been removed from the list of "endangered" species as well as from the list of "threatened" ones. The consequence of this have been that the Tundra Peregrine would be allowed to be taken from the wild for falconry.

However in view of the principle of "similarity of appearance" Tundras were not allowed to be taken from the wild in order to avoid the Anatum suspecies being mistaken for Tundrius and captured by mistake.

The next step was then to have the Anatum removed from these lists. The wild population of Anatum had recovered remarkably due mainly to the release programme conducted by falconers.



understanding for our problems. I was happy to encounter a general attitude of openmindedness.

I enclose a copy of the document I distributed to the participants as well as an abstract of the minutes of the meeting where these "major cases of fraud" were discussed.

I discussed at some length with the delegates of the Parties the idea of some sort of a "falconry pass".

I may say that I met a good deal of understanding.

I was thinking that the best way was to start with a European Falconry Pass along the lines of the European Firearm Pass and then to try and extend it to a larger geographical area.

The European Union was at that time preparing a "Regulation on Possession and Trade in Specimens of Wild Fauna and Flora", this would have been the opportunity of introducing some sort of a falconry pass.

See hereafter under the heading "European Union" more details about that regulation.

A huge gathering such as the Conference of the Parties to the CITES is not only the best opportunity for discussing important issues directly related to the CITES but is also an opportunity to meet a lot of people.

I was happy to meet the two falconers sent by NAFA, Roger Thacker and Frank Bond; it was a short visit but very friendly.

I give hereafter, country by country a short account of conversations I had outside the meeting hall.

Rumania.  
There are a few youngsters who would like to revive falconry. I said that if they are serious, I am ready to correspond with them. We do not encourage the introduction of falconry where it does not exist but we are prepared to help those who are seriously interested. I reminded them not to forget falconry when modifying the laws and gave them my "Model Falconry Regulations". No case of illegal traffic in birds of prey has been recorded.

Poland.  
I said that falconers are complaining about the difficulties in entering Poland with their hawks. He admits that it is difficult and explains that it is due to the lack of legal basis for falconry. Ornithologists are against falconry; why? don't know but it is a matter of fact that one must take account of. The law is in the process of being amended. There are proposals to include falconry in it but there is strong opposition. I immediately sent from Florida a complete file with all my arguments in favour of falconry to the president of the Polish hunters' association and offered IAF's help. No case of illegal capture of birds of prey (species of interest

to falconers) has been recorded.

Mexico.

There is a draft law in which falconry is authorised, but no bird of prey may be taken from the wild, only rehab birds or captive bred. Captive breeding may be undertaken if one can prove that he has the necessary ability to do it. The authorities are in contact with falconers' associations in relation with that draft law.

I prepared a document summarising the arguments in favour of the use of wild raptors and delineating what I considered the "ideal falconry law" and handed it over the day after. I received assurances that my recommendations would be taken into account and that an amended draft law would be sent to me.

Czech Republic.

A more flexible system could be introduced for falconers going to Czechia for hawking. Such a system must be in accordance with national and international legislation. Permits for exporting wild Goshawks would be refused by the ministry.

Slovakia.

New law protects all birds of prey. Import and export permits for birds of prey are issued following the same procedure as for Appendix I species. A travelling falconer needs the two permits; for week end trips, there would be big problems. Falconers are considered as likely to be useful to raptor conservation for instance by rehabilitating injured hawks. Falconry is successfully used on airfields.

Jordan-Pakistan-Russia

We had several conversations concerning illegal export of falcons to the Arab Peninsula. I advocated that the solution is not to ban everything, because it would continue anyway but out of control; better would be to organise the export through official channels and to make sure that a part of the profit would benefit the local populations of the breeding area as an incentive to protect the wild renewable resource that breeding populations are.

Early this year I had a very long conversation with the enforcement agent of the CITES Secretariat. The aim was to examine the possibility for the IAF to co-operate with the Secretariat.

I have summarised our conversation in a separate annex to this report.

I went to Switzerland to meet Eugene Lapointe to start exploring with him the possibilities of some sort of a falconry pass. I should meet him again.

## COUNCIL OF EUROPE

As I do every year I attended the meeting of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention in Strasbourg. It is always a good opportunity for meeting interesting people and reminding them that the IAF exists and actively represents falconry wherever it may appear useful.

The Council of Europe in association with the French Society for Environmental Law is organising a colloquy "The Comparative Law of Hunting". I have accepted their invitation to give a lecture on comparative laws on falconry. I circulated a long questionnaire to our members asking details on their legislation governing falconry, I am happy to say that the response has been very good.

## EUROPEAN UNION

The long saga of the "Regulation laying down provisions with regard to possession of and trade in specimens of species of wild fauna and flora" is slowly coming to an end.

It is expected that the version proposed by the French Presidency will not undergo any more modifications.

I have sent to our members of the European Union my comments asking them to transmit them to the authorities of their country. It is indeed the meeting of the ministers of the Member States which discuss, amend and adopt the texts.

I have also sent my comments to the Permanent Representatives of the Member States.

SOME CHANGES IN THE DRAFT  
"EURO-CITES" REGULATION

The word "POSSESSION" has disappeared from the title of the Regulation, it has also disappeared from article 1 where the aims of the Regulation are defined and it has disappeared from the 29 definitions of article 2.

This was one of our requests.

But! A more careful reading of the draft makes you discover a new wording of § 2 of Article 8 : "Member States may prohibit the keeping of specimens, amongst others, of life animals of species listed in Appendix A" (free translation).

The previous version said that possession of appendix A species was prohibited, save if one could prove the lawful origin of the said specimen.

Most, if not all, European birds of prey will be in Annex A.

## Article 7 "Derogations"

Appendix A species that are captive bred will be treated like Appendix B species.

In the previous text, that derogation was limited to specimens bred in captivity "for commercial purposes".

I asked that the same derogation be granted to hobbyist breeders too, it has been granted.

But I asked that for captive bred specimens, a certificate be accepted in place of import or export permits, like in the Convention, it has not been accepted.

Nonetheless it is some improvement compared to the previous text

but not compared to the Convention.

Import and export of appendix B species requires formalities of a great complexity.

## Article 9 "Movements of life specimens"

"Any movement within the Community of a life specimen of a species listed in annex A from the location specified in the import permit or in any certificate issued in compliance with this regulation shall require prior authorisation...", this far reaching exception of the principle of free movement is maintained except if the specimen is captive bred!

It is to be feared that all raptors of European species will be listed in appendix A. Captive bred specimens are exempted from this article.

I have drawn the attention of the authorities, whether national or at Community level, to the fact that it would become impossible to practise falconry if "any movement" is prohibited or subject to a prior authorisation. I have asked our members to draw the attention of their national authorities to that danger.

This article contained, in the preceding version, provisions allowing the Commission to "determine the criteria, conditions and procedures for the application of this article".

This possibility given to the Commission has disappeared in the last version. The only possibility left to the Commission is "to establish restrictions".

I had hoped that the Commission on basis of these provisions could have organised something to facilitate the movements of the falconers. Alas!

Hereafter I reproduce one of the several protests I raised against those provisions :

=====

The establishment of the Internal Market should ensure the free movement within the Community.

If a specimen has been lawfully acquired and is lawfully possessed in the Community, it should be allowed to move freely within the Community.

The requirement of a prior authorisation for moving within the Community is equivalent to an "intra-community export permit", which constitutes an interference with the free movement that the Internal Market claims to guarantee.

The Convention affects only trans-border movements, the proposed regulation affects any movement within the Community however small they may be: I may not walk in my garden with my specimen.

This article is a great step back in the establishment of the Internal Market.

Some categories of wildlife users move very frequently with their specimen(s), it would then be impossible to apply each time for a prior authorisation.

The case of falconers is typical in that respect: the falconer moves with his bird(s) every day, at least during the hawking

season.

Provisions of article 9 would make the practice of falconry impossible without a permanent derogation.

The objectives of the proposed regulation are to protect fauna and flora from possible negative effects of trade rather than making the multi centuries old art of falconry impossible.

Falconry is an activity permitted by article 7 of the Directive 79/409.

=====  
In spite of the positive attitude of the Commission, our requests have not been satisfied, because the final decisions were lying with the political authorities.

It is expected that the Belgian Supreme Court will submit to the European Court of Justice a question concerning the compatibility with Directive 79/409 of provisions allowing the capture from the wild of a quota of song birds (Fringillidae) with a view to captive breeding.

The reply of the Court of Justice will be very interesting for falconers.

#### D. NON-GOVERNMENTAL INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

##### C.I.C

As you will read hereafter, I applied for membership of the IUCN on behalf of the I.A.F.. I had to include with the application a letter in support from two associations which are already members of the IUCN. I requested the CIC to write such a letter, but it failed to do so.

At the end of this report, you will find the summary of the 1994 meeting of the working group on falconry as well as the resolution and recommendation adopted on that occasion.

The working group on falconry holds its 1995 meeting on the same day as the IAF, but in Austria.

I asked Heinz Pils to add to the agenda of this meeting a request to henceforth hold the working group's meeting together with IAF general meeting.

I also requested that the working group takes no position on the use of hybrids for falconry.

##### F.A.C.E.

Yves Lecocq and his crew keep fighting indefatigably to safeguard the interests of fieldsports.

The future European regulation on trade in wildlife (see above) has been one of the concerns he took actively to heart.

The modification of the Bird Directive was also one of his priorities, the result is that Corvids are now included in the

list of huntable species. More recently he made a very critical and brilliant analysis of a draft report by the European Parliament on a proposal to amend the Bird Directive 79/409 concerning the hunting seasons for migratory game.

He also keeps a watchful eye on the texts of the Council of Europe that might have directly or indirectly an impact on fieldsports.

He is an active supporter of the solidarity of all hunting methods, including falconry. The 1995 General Meeting unanimously adopted a resolution in favour of hunting (with horses and hounds).

I am in permanent contact with FACE.

##### I.U.C.N.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature is the world's most important nature conservation organisation. At our last general meeting, it had been decided that the IAF would apply for membership. See at the end of this report the resolution we adopted in this respect.

I filed the application on behalf of the IAF.

In support of our application, I had to make a statement about the conservation activities of the IAF. A questionnaire (one more!) has been sent to our members concerning their involvement in conservation activities.

The result is a 6 page document summarising the conservation activities of most of our members. That document is reproduced at the end of this report; you may use it as supporting argument in favour of falconry if need be.

Two associations which are members of the IUCN have sent letters supporting our application : F.A.C.E. and D.J.V. (Deutscher Jagdschutz Verband = German Hunters Association). They deserve therefore our gratitude.

If we are admitted, the prestige of the IAF would definitely be greatly enhanced.

##### WORLD WORKING GROUP ON BIRDS OF PREY

The WWG organised an International Conference on Holarctic Birds of Prey at Badajoz (Extremadura, Spain) on 17-22 April. Over 400 participants not only from many European countries but also a significant number from North America even two participants from Taiwan and a good many from ex-USSR. There were about 70 oral presentations.

It was an excellent opportunity for meeting very interesting people and defending the falconers' point of view.

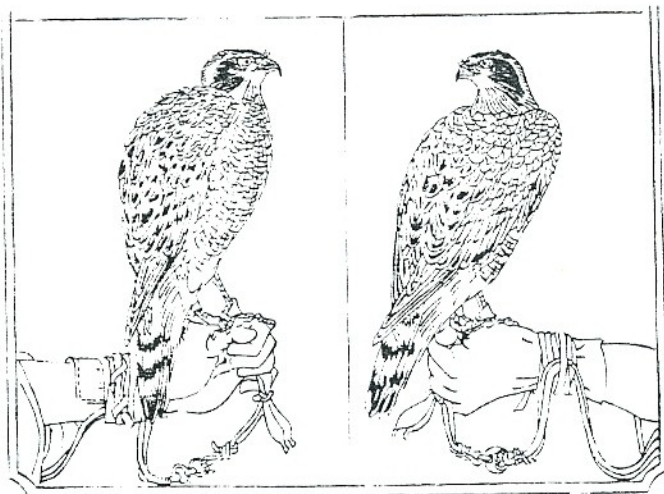
I gave a presentation on "socio-economic aspects of raptor conservation" in which I advocated the possibility for falconers to take raptors from the wild.

Only one negative reaction was expressed : a Portuguese claimed that it is preferable to buy birds from breeders rather than taking them from the wild. He is himself a breeder...

The text of my presentation is reproduced in annex to this report.

The Newsletter of the WWG quotes my presentation as follows :

"A presentation by Christian de Coune raised active discussion  
 "on the use of wild raptors for falconry, ending finally in  
 "agreement that a small fraction of surplus wild birds from a  
 "well-established population of such species as the Goshawk  
 "could be taken, provided that this was done on a scientific  
 "basis with strict observation of CITES and national  
 "legislation.



#### SUMMARY OF CONVERSATION

JEAN-PARTICK LE DUC (JPL)  
 (enforcement officer of CITES Secretariat)  
 CHRISTIAN de COUNE (CC)

(original document = 26 pages)  
 Brussels, 31st January 1995.

JPL. The volume of illegal activities has increased considerably! If falconers want to safeguard what they have, it is in their interest to help us prevent them.

CC. If the problem is that bad, it means that it goes far beyond the limits of falconry.

JPL. You focus only on honest falconers.

CC. Because I say that they are the overwhelming majority.

JPL. You say there are few smugglers, almost none. Well, I say there are enough for me to be concerned about it. Now the illegal trade in birds of prey has reached a level that is higher than is tolerable, higher than the unavoidable fraud.

My aim is to wipe out the illegal trade. I've made an analysis of the CITES related frauds and I say that the problem is big enough to necessitate me to take action. But if you say that I am completely mistaken, we stop the dialogue.

It is a serious problem in Europe and measures are to be taken to bring it to a tolerable level.

It is not only falconry but it has a great responsibility; also involved are the "hawk shows".

The major part of the fraud are those people who move with captive breeding certificates.

CC. Nobody challenges that captive breeding works well. It is fact that there is overproduction. Prices are decreasing. As an illustration of this, at an auction which took place in Germany where 26 birds were offered for sale and only 6 were purchased.

The needs of falconers are relatively limited, captive breeding operated by honest people meets the demand for falcons.

There is then no need to rob eggs in the wild and to do all that you describe.

If it is to increase overproduction I do not see why people would take that risk.

Falconers are not suicidal persons, they are not going to risk their hobby for 5 years or more with an illegal falcon when they can get all they want through legal channels .

JPL. Listen! I'm telling you frankly, I'm not convinced of what you say. If there is an illegal market it must be because the demand is higher than the supply.

If there is a sufficient legal market, I don't understand why they do not buy from that market and still there is an important illegal market.

I say you are maybe right, you are maybe wrong. I'm enclined to think that you are wrong, but I can't prove it, but you can't prove that you're right. You give me a status report on trade : you give me the figures of birds that have been bred in captivity and the figures of the birds that have been sold; then I'll check the validity of your figures on the basis of what I have. Do it, it is of interest to me and it is of interest to you; for you it is a question of image.

Why do they keep importing large quantities of illegal birds of prey and small quantities of legal ones from Eastern Europe? Goshawks and Peregrines.

CC. Eastern Europe is a very poor region for Peregrines, there are very few of them. There are far more Peregrines in France than in the whole of Eastern Europe.

JPL. See the statistics published by EEC.

CC. All I can say is that it is not the falconers. And hawk shows play a small part. Then where do these birds go? Is there another category of demand for falcons other than from falconers? Where would illegal birds go to?

JPL. The consignees are not, except for a few black sheep, the responsible associations which are with you. Responsible associations are not going to admit crooks. The illegal trade is not involved with legal associations, it is elsewhere.

CC. These crooks are a small minority, they also have access to the legal sources and they can also benefit from the overproduction and from the the decreasing prices. There are few falconers outside the responsible associations.

JPL. Not true, there are lots of them! There is maybe a great majority of angels in your association, but the problem is that all falconers are not with you. One of the causes of the drop in the prices is the importation from Eastern Europe with unbeatable prices.

CC. No, it's the success of captive breeding. What do they export from East-Europe?

JPL. Goshawks, Peregrines, Sakers.

CC. In Western Europe nobody wants Sakers and the Arabs want only passage females. The saker population is very small in Europe and is doing rather well.

JPL. There is also a legal market for Sparrowhawks.

CC. Very few people fly Sparrowhawks because there is very little game that may be hunted, for instance Trushes and Blackbirds are mostly protected.

There is an important demand for Goshawks. About 85% of European falconers fly "short wings", 15% use falcons. The demand for goshawks is met with birds taken legally from the wild in

Germany, France, Austria, East-Europe.

JPL. There are two main ways of laundering wild birds. The first one is to buy the documentation of a dead bird. There is a market for such documents.

A falconer whom I fully trust told me that there was a chap who openly sold CITES documents.

The other one happens mainly in Germany : if a breeder has infertile eggs, he shows the shells and he gets papers and uses them for wild caught birds.

At the moment I have problems with Great Britain. There are plenty of breeders, I think that 80% of them are genuine breeders but there are 20% who really make fun of us. They want to export Peregrines. The authority who issues captive breeding certificates should dispose of a minimum of proof of authenticity.

There is a German who has organised a very clever system of fraud which was discovered by chance. Birds arrived in Portugal and the man paid students to smuggle them in cars to Spain.

There is another problem of which I am fed up and that will be raised at higher level of CITES, it is the problem of breeding centres with illegal parental stock.

CC. I'm happy that you raise that point. If you go back several generations, you will undoubtedly find birds that have either been caught at a time when it was legal or that have been taken illegally, but it is so long ago... It is however not admissible.

No wonder that several well known breeders are no longer members of falconers' associations or never have been.

I think that one must pose the problem of the legitimacy of the current breeding while going some time back but not too far. But how far?

I say that now captive breeding is functioning successfully without illegally taking from the wild.

JPL. That is a problem that will be raised at the next Conference of the Parties. After how long should there be an amnesty? Where does one draw the line? We cannot avoid it.

I do not, however, accept that someone who has consciously broken the laws may, now, make money out of it. For you to make proposals.

JPL. There is something for you to do : you must work together with CITES to prevent those who have legally acquired birds suffering of administrative hassle. It bothers you, it bothers the management authorities and it bothers me.

One must find a workable system for birds of legal origin. The minimum requirement should be that, if things are to be made easier, there must be absolute certainty that the birds are of legal origin. The ring is not a guarantee.

CC. Then you want a DNA test for each and every bird?

JPL. Nooo! I want to be realistic. The control must match the problem. Requesting a DNA test for all birds would be nonsensical.

One must be able to reasonably guarantee that the bird is legal and then one stop hassling people with red tape.

CC. One must trust the Management Authorities.

JPL. Provided they control seriously...

CC. Let them make random tests.

JPL. For me it would do if the Management Authorities make DNA tests on 10% of the birds per year.

CC. That takes a lot of money! In view of the costs, one should make random tests.

JPL. For breeding operations one should DNA test the breeding stock once. The cost of DNA tests is going down.

CC. It's more than justified in relation to the potential fraud.

JPL. You DNA test the breeding stock for Appendix I species. For Appendix II species you check 10% per year. If the management Authorities do that, we are satisfied.

CC. One should not have to DNA test all chicks. DNA fingerprinting should by no ways be the condition for the issuance of documents. We just need to have random tests in order to make DNA fingerprinting a deterrent. People just need to know that DNA test is likely to be done here and there. One should not hamper captive breeding.

JPL. My basis of negotiation would be to DNA test all Appendix I and make random tests for Appendix II with a minimum of 10%.

CC. I would propose random tests for all species, all raptors are anyway in Appendix C1 in European Union. I ask : no systematic DNA test but random controls whatever the species, otherwise there would be an enormous increase in bureaucracy. Random tests and not as a condition for issuing certificates. It's enough to frighten people with the threat of random checks.

JPL. Personally I think that is the path we must take. What we need to agree is how far we should go : Appendix I only or Appendix II, etc...

CC. We ask for controls, because the less we are be controlled, the more people will suspect us. Documents should be issued on basis of a bona fide declaration on a streamlined way, but the deterrent should be there that anyone may be checked at any time. If someone is not all right, be tough with him. Genetic test or other should not be a condition for issuing the documents because otherwise it would become a huge bureaucratic burden and we'll never get our papers.

JPL. The Secretariat is not at all against falconry. Nobody at the level of the Secretariat nor at the level of the Conference

of the Parties is thinking of challenging falconry. The Secretariat is responsible for the implementation of a convention; what we want is to put an end to the illegal trade in birds of prey. The first thing for you to do is to admit that that illegal trade exists.

CC. If you say that this illegal trade exists, I must agree that it exists, all I can say is that we do not need these smugglers. The International Association is ready to co-operate with the Secretariat in order to try and reduce frauds to the minimum possible. I am here as the representative of falconers from 21 countries, I negotiate with you in their name. I'm ready to do something but I don't know what.

JPL. You are the only falconer who contacts me. I am in touch with all kinds of people all over the world, but with falconers, you are the only one.

CC. Why talk to ten people when you can talk to one?

JPL. Among falconers, there is a lot of information and rumour that circulates. How many times have you phoned me to tell "I've heard this or that..."

CC. Never, because I tell only what I know and I know nothing.

JPL. You are being naive! There are members of your associations who call me to tell me "I've heard that...", "They say that...". I keep record of all that with a classification according to the reliability of the information.

CC. One must be sure who those people are, how many there are. Fools exist also...

JPL. There are sometimes chaps who call me just to tell tales and make trouble. There are also people who call me because they want to help in the struggle against frauds. They are genuine falconers who are disgusted with the illegal trade. My sources of information are very limited, whereas, in your small world, everyone knows everything very quickly. What I would like, is that, when such information circulates, I get it.

CC. I'm not going to phone you with tall stories. If I hear something that seems me really useful, I would call you. My belief is that the worse enemy of falconry is the crooked falconer, the one who breaks the laws. The only such chap who ever called me is Whitehead. I did not want to be in any way involved in that affair.

JPL. You should have; if you do nothing against such people, then....

Four months before the Whitehead case broke, I knew that a big deal was imminent. German falconers were aware of it, guys from your association, French too. And you, you didn't know anything?

CC. Nothing.

JPL. You are a big innocent! If chaps from your clubs know things and they don't inform you, then one could only say that something is wrong. It's a problem of internal organisation. I propose that you do the following : you go back to your guys, you tell them what we have been discussing and you say : "chaps if we are to be credible, you gotta give info. The problem of illegal birds of prey is getting really very serious, if you have suspicions, if you hear even just a rumour, you tell me and I'll inform the Secretariat"

CC. I shall not do that. I've several times sent circulars to our members with long questionnaires asking for all sorts of information. I also ask what knowledge they have of illegal taking of raptors from the wild, illegal exports, infractions in the last 2-3 years.

JPL. And the chaps reply "zero"?

CC. Yes.

JPL. They are taking the piss out of you!!

CC. Maybe, but what else can I do?

JPL. Tomorrow you send a circular to your members and you say : "I met someone from the CITES Secretariat, he informed me of that there are serious problems, I ask you to contact me immediately by phone with any info likely to help in the struggle against those bastards of illegal traffickers and I shall make of it the use that I'll deem necessary".

CC. What about the explanatory booklet explaining the CITES to the falconers?

JPL. That is very important, so at least the honest people would not find themselves in an illegal situation by their ignorance. There are lots of people who make mistakes, not because their birds are illegal, but because they make administrative mistakes. We waste time with that, for nothing.

The basic work has to be drafted by us, you bear the printing costs and you pay the person who will write it. It is not an enormous amount of work, we just need someone who knows CITES, he's not going to work very long. It should not be too expensive. I shall send you a proposal.

CC. I could not commit myself to an operation that would exceed our financial possibilities.

JPL. Your problem is to work out a set of procedures which would avoid unnecessary hassle for people who are legal while giving enough guarantees to prevent fraud. It is for you, falconers' associations to propose solutions, keeping very well in mind the two aims : easing the system for legal people and offering guarantees against bastards who cheat.

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## The International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey

### RECORD OF ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF CONSERVATION.

I wish to draw your attention to the fact that the IAF is more what one calls an "umbrella organisation", therefore the activities in the field of conservation are mainly conducted by our member associations.

Nonetheless the IAF as such set up a joint program with the West Byelorussian Society for Bird Protection. This joint project is at its beginning (should last at least 5 years) but it seems quite promising. I made a trip to Byelorussia this summer and could assess for myself its very promising prospects.

By the way you are most welcome too to send us a financial contribution.

One of the objects of the IAF is "to encourage the ecological and veterinary research on birds of prey...", in this framework I describe country by country, conservation activities of some of IAF's members.

#### Austria

Falconers have repeatedly proposed their co-operation in breeding and release programmes. The anti-hunters and fanatic bird protectors made such a co-operation impossible.

#### Belgium.

The hostile attitude of bird protection organisations would prevent cooperation with falconers. Our members keep pleading with the hunters not to persecute birds of prey, see enclosed article.

#### Great Britain

The British Falconers' Club actively supports seminars on raptor research and runs its own captive breeding scheme. It gave much active support (and finance) in pioneering captive breeding techniques at the time when many species of raptors were endangered, and continues to do so. The Club's advice and experience have also been readily available and utilised to re-establish such raptors as the Sea Eagle, Red Kite, Goshawk in the United Kingdom, as well as to care for and hack back injured birds of prey into the wild in the interest of conservation. Many BFC members have in the past and continue to make notable contributions. eg. Robert Kenward with his Goshawk, Buzzard studies and currently his work with Sakers in Kazakhstan, Carl Jones and the Mauritius Kestrel, Nick Fox and the New Zealand falcon. Dick Treleaven was one of the first to identify and draw attention to the decline of the Peregrine in the fifties. John Cooper has done and is still doing very valuable veterinary work

on the raptor pathology.

The release work which helped to re-establish Goshawks in Britain.

Following publications could be cited :

Kenward, R.E. 1981 Goshawk re-establishment in Britain - causes and implications. *The falconer* 7:304-310.

Kenward, R.E., Marquiss, M & Newton, I. What happens to goshawks trained for falconry. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 45:802-806. The BFC also started publication of the journal *Captive Breeding of Diurnal Birds of Prey* and organised international conferences in Oxford on "Raptor Management Techniques" and "Understanding the Goshawk" with published proceedings (the latter organised in conjunction with IAF).

The BFC is now one of the organisations (with the National Trust, English Nature, Game Conservancy and Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) helping with a project to discover why buzzards are absent from eastern Britain and to re-establish them there if possible. The BFC's official role is to help provide captive bred young for release, but BFC members (Sean Walls and Robert Kenward) organise the work and 2 of 4 release sites this year have been run by BFC members (Alan Morriss, Mike Nicholls).

Czechoslovakia.

Several falconers are members of the Czech Ornithological Society.

All breeding stations and stations for injured birds are led by falconers (private and of Czech nature conservation).

A portion of the young birds (peregrines and sakers) is allocated to a release program that is being run in the countryside and several towns. A great part of the work is done by falconers.

The first breeding attempt by peregrines in town was recorded this year in Prague. Falconers were involved. The female was bred in captivity in 1991, released in 1993 in Prague, the male also probably originated from captivity.

France.

The Association Nationale des Fauconniers et Autoursiers Français has been officially recognised as a nature conservation organisation.

One should remember that the FIR (fonds d'intervention pour les rapaces) has been founded by ANFA (French falconers).

The "Centres de Soins" (rehabilitating centres) of which Mr Grolleau is the president consults ANFA about raptors as to whether they are capable of being released and, if need be, they are entrusted to falconers to be prepared to be released back to the wild.

The understanding between "Centres de Soins" and ANFA is exemplarily good.

Germany.

The Deutscher Falkenorden was founded 70 years ago to protect raptors and learn more about their biology. Both could efficiently be supported by practical falconry. This was a good basis to achieve full protection of all raptors and it was also an essential condition to succeed in captive breeding and reintroduction of Peregrines and White Tailed Sea Eagles. The DFO reintroduction programme released about 600 peregrines, which

resulted in more than 45 successful nesting pairs of peregrines in which one or both partner originated from captive breeding. The future conservation activities of DFO are focused on the re-establishment of the tree nesting peregrine population which lived in North East Europe.

DFO is looking to focus activities on other endangered species such as the Montagu's Harrier.

Because of all these activities the DFO has been acknowledged by the German Government as an "Institution which supports significantly nature activities". All building activities which can influence nature must be approved by such "§ 29 Institutions". This gives DFO the right of veto if raptor habitats are affected by road, airport, channel or other building activities.

Hungary.

Falconers are being kept away from raptor conservation in spite of their desire to participate, for example, in reintroduction schemes.

India.

In spite of its ancient history and glorious past, falconry is no longer allowed in India (like any other form of hunting), there is nonetheless a Hawking Club of Hyderabad; members of the HCH took part in the Raptor Project which is jointly run by the Bombay Natural History Society and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. HCH involved itself in the movement against the use of DDT. HCH views were requested by WWF-India concerning the draft of a IUCN draft on sustainable use of wildlife resource. HCH members are liaising with WWF-India in its fight against illegal traffic in birds of prey.

Ireland

The Irish Hawking Club has for many years participated in bird of prey conservation. Individual members have taken part in merlin and peregrine surveys. The IHC has an ongoing arrangement with the Wildlife Service with regard to rehabilitating injured birds of prey and hacking them back where appropriate. Individual members of the IHC have bred kestrels for release to the wild.

Italy.

Some years ago, the "Circolo dei Falconieri d'Italia per lo Studio e la Protezione dei Rapaci" participated with WWF-Italy for protecting Peregrine breeding sites in South Italy, contributing some thousands Dollars to it. The WWF never credited the Circolo for its contribution. The Circolo would now rather contribute to international projects (like the Byelorussian project).

Japan

The Japan Falconiformes Center (JFC), has been conducting over the last 13 years a wide range of protective activities based on concrete measures, such as surveys, studies and preservation of nesting places, placing artificial nests, curing injured hawks,



and training them for their return to the wild, releasing young hawks artificially bred, sperm freeze preservation tests and tests for increasing the number of eggs laid.

The budget of JFC is 22 million Yen per year. JFC is the only organisation in Japan that spends such a big budget only on bird of prey conservation. Therefore, the Japanese Environmental Agency recognizes the Japan Falconiformes Center and its activities as indispensable. The said Agency repeatedly consults the JFC about measures for preservation of hawks and falcons and entrusts it with raising birds in its custody. The JFC also receives many similar requests from various local governments and other bodies pursuing natural and environmental preservation; and, every time JFC advises them on the best possible course in the interests of birds of prey.

For instance, outside Kyoto, an academic town is now under construction. As the development project was substantially modified in line with the JFC's proposal in order to protect nests of goshawks found in that area, three young safely left the nest this year too.

When hawk-eagles' natural habitat was threatened by the construction of a dam, bringing about a confrontation between promoter and opponent groups, the construction of the dam was made possible by such a method proposed by JFC based on the latter's study so as not to cause negative effects to hawk-eagles. Therefore the JFC received congratulations from both sides.

These are results of concrete measures for protecting birds of prey, that were made possible by using traditional falconry techniques, by which man learned how to co-exist wisely with hawks and falcons from ancient times, with modern scientific approach.

#### Netherlands.

A large number of the rehabilitation centres in Netherlands are run by falconers. "Valkeniers Verbond Adriaan Mollen" (Dutch falconers) is co-operating with "Vogelbesherming" (Bird protection society) to examine with official authorities how falconers can ensure the technical training for future raptor rehabilitation centres.

"Adriaan Mollen" has given financial support to the Hungarian ornithological society for the conservation of Saker falcons. Very recently, Adriaan Mollen gave funds to the Werkgroep Roofvogels Nederland (Dutch working group on raptors) to set up a mobile exhibition intended for schools, city halls, public places, etc for promoting raptor protection.

#### Portugal.

The "Associação Portuguesa de Falcoaria" (Portuguese falconers) is a member of the Sociedade Portuguesa para o Estudo das Aves.

#### South Africa.

A project was started at the University of Pretoria on the freezing of falcon semen. The first phase of it was initiating a breeding project, the second phase was to take the excess offspring and hack them back

on electric pylons.

The project was approved by the University of Pretoria, funds were granted for it but, Nature Conservation refused to issue permits to take birds from the wild.

Then Walter Bednarek (Germany) started a fruitful co-operation. The Nature Conservation agreed to the importation of captive bred peregrines from Germany.

The captive breeding unit at long last was then started after many years waiting.

Then started public relations with the birding clubs.

They were taught how to locate peregrines in the wild and how to recognise them. The result of that was that the Cape Bird Club found a peregrine nest and were able to watch it.

All this resulted in a reciprocal co-operation between falconers and bird clubs, so there is never a feeling of antagonism.

Falconers have a great knowledge of birds of prey in South Africa, and they are prepared to share that knowledge with the ornithologic societies provided the latter do not reject them, which would be a waste of human resources.

The primary effort of the Cape Falconry Club is bird of prey conservation before falconry itself.

It is the duty of every member to keep accurate records of what they see, any nest they find, any observation they make is kept carefully. Annual report is made for the Nature Conservation. There is a great degree of mutual trust that is expressed on both sides. Falconers help Nature Conservation and reciprocally.

Falconers not only work with the Nature Conservation, which is the governing body but also with scientific institutions.

For instance, with Dave Peppler of the University of Stellenbosch, a work has been published on trichomoniasis in Western Cape raptors, the study is still going on. The club is giving its backing to a project David Peppler is conducting on Lesser Kestrels.

The most obvious aspect of conservation is the collection of data from the wild by the Cape Falconers' Club. For instance they have collected new data on the occurrence of Black Sparrowhawks in the Cape Province.

Cape Falconers actively co-operate with Nature Conservation and the African Raptors Information Centre (ARIC) in the reintroduction of Falco chiquera in the North of Cape Province, whose population had sharply declined following the destruction of crows. These falcons used to breed on old crows' nests and they suffered considerably from the loss of nest sites.

#### Zimbabwe.

Falcon College and another one in Zimbabwe are the only school boys' falconry clubs in the world. It was started in 1961 by Peter Steyn, one of the foremost authorities on the biology of raptors in Southern Africa.

Falconry is a part of the curriculum activities of the school -like rugby or soccer- for which there is a proper course on biology of birds of prey, management and veterinary aspects of birds of prey, as well as training how to do scientific work for

raptor research and research on quarry species. The membership of the College's club has been limited to eight students at a time.

This part of the education program is under the enthusiastic and dynamic guidance of Ron Hartley, who is also the President of the Zimbabwe Falconers' Club.

The scientific approach to falconry by the members of the falconry club of Falcon College makes falconry a real tool for data collecting.

Not only is data collected about raptors but also on the quarry species.

Every prey item that is caught is weighed, measured : length of beak, wing, tail, guts, data on the stage of the moult is noted, the crop contents are analysed, etc.

It is interesting to note that for many species, falconry is the most efficient way to collect bird specimens from the wild.

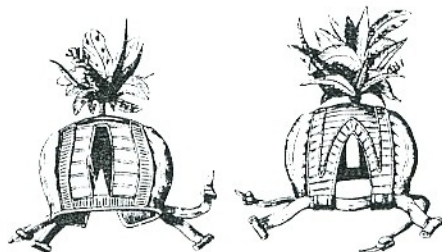
Falconry is then an invaluable source of information.

The involvement of falconers in bird of prey research and conservation is by far not limited to the students of Falcon College, the official policy is to promote falconry especially insofar as the falconers are under an obligation to involve themselves in prescribed conservation activities.

This has resulted in an impressive number of articles and papers written by falconers.

Mention should also be made the captive breeding project of Africa's rarest falcon, the Taita Falcon with an eye to supplementing the wild populations and the proposal to set aside as a bird of prey sanctuary a valley hosting breeding pairs of that very rare bird, the Zimbabwe Falconers' Club is to be credited for this.

In Zimbabwe, falconry may be considered as a real tool for raptor conservation, for a large part, Ron Hartley is to be credited for it.



presentation given at the Conference  
HOLARTIC BIRDS OF PREY  
Badajos (Spain) 17-22 April 1995

#### SOCIO-ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF RAPTOR CONSERVATION

##### RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FALCONRY & RAPTOR-CONSERVATION by

Christian de Coune :

First of all, one must make a distinction between "conservation" and "protection".

Protection, like habitat protection and population management, is a part of conservation.

Some countries or organisations tend to give priority to protection rather than to conservation, making protection a goal in itself.

Such countries or such organisations would ban any harvesting of birds of prey for falconry.

Scientists however agree that healthy or prosperous populations of birds of prey can tolerate some controlled yield.

Where protection has more political weight than scientific reasoning, the compatibility of wise use of wild raptors with conservation will be brushed aside.

#### Raptor conservation and falconry.

A distinction has to be made between "falconry" and "hawk keeping".

Falconry is the sport of taking wild quarry in its natural state and habitat by means of trained hawks.

I shall deal exclusively with falconry in the sense of the above mentioned definition ignoring any other use of birds of prey.

Falconry has a very limited impact on wild populations of birds of prey :

- falconry is a small scale activity involving few people;
- falconers keep their birds for several years.

Therefore the requirements of falconers may be considered as minimal.

- the great majority of falconers (±85% in Europe) use raptors of common species, like Goshawks;

In a healthy population of birds of prey the yearly rate of reproduction exceeds the mere replacement rate of the parents. There is a surplus production from which the removal of a small number will have no measurable adverse effect.

Out of the total lifetime reproduction of a pair, only two must survive to ensure the replacement of the parents.

The experimental removal in the 80's in Wyoming of an average of 18% of the young produced by Prairie Falcons over a period 8 years did not show to have had negative consequences.

Other observations have shown that a higher yield could be borne by other species.

The European Commission, in its explanation of the concept of "small numbers" contained in the Bird Directive states that 1% of the mortality must always be considered as a small number, a higher figure should be the subject of an environmental assessment.

In spite of all this, some countries still do not allow falconers to take raptors from the wild; those countries give more weight to political considerations than to scientific reasonings.

They refuse to consider healthy populations of birds of prey as a natural renewable resource.

Over the last decades, falconers have played a positive rôle in raptor conservation and still do.

Depriving falconers from taking a few hawks from the wild would result in them losing the interest they have always had for the species.

Interest is very often an important incentive to protect a resource.

If falconers cease to participate in raptor conservation projects, there would be a loss of human resource as a result.

Excessive protection may prove counter productive for the species.

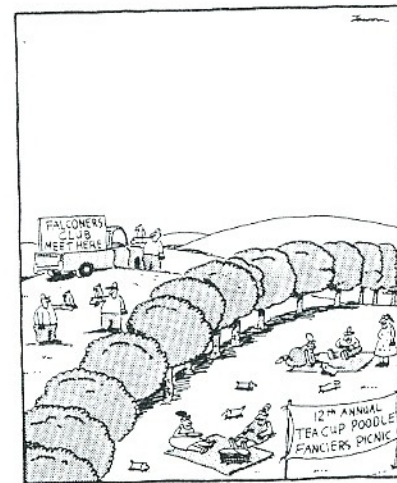
Refusal of some organisations to cooperate with falconers can also prove counter productive.

I therefor call for a better dialog between falconry and conservation.

It would be for both sides' benefit.

1. president of the International association for falconry and conservation of birds of prey  
"Le Cocheteau", 8-1143 Gonze-Andoumont, Belgium

## A N N E X E S



Trouble brewing

# Saboteurs target falconers

HLN's reporters are attacked to begin widespread distribution of falconry but to draw greater attention to what it saw as a cruel practice.

The latest issue of Houn, magazine of the Houn, Association, calls investigations as to how it be disrupted.

It is possible that most of the birds, most of the birds, but more all forms of hunting including falconry, are being destroyed.

HLN's reporter, who was in the area, said that it was not intended to begin widespread distribution of falconry but to draw greater attention to what it saw as a cruel practice.

He did not have any major campaign planned but he would like to see awareness of the cruelty of falconry spread.

He said that he had been involved to use any falconry to hunt, and that he had been encouraged to use any falconry to hunt, and that he had been encouraged to use any falconry to hunt.

He said that he had been encouraged to use any falconry to hunt, and that he had been encouraged to use any falconry to hunt.

By Greg Neale Environment Correspondent

birds, and captive breeding programmes have helped many species, such as Goshawks, increase their numbers.

The HLN is wrong when it says that it is going to trade in falconry, and that it is going to trade in falconry, and that it is going to trade in falconry.

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He said that he had been encouraged to use any falconry to hunt, and that he had been encouraged to use any falconry to hunt.

believe most are, it is very difficult to say it is cruel to keep one when it has the option to fly off every day.

A bird might fly up to 5,000ft and three miles away before it returns to its handler's hand.

HLN's reporter, who was in the area, said that it was not intended to begin widespread distribution of falconry but to draw greater attention to what it saw as a cruel practice.

He did not have any major campaign planned but he would like to see awareness of the cruelty of falconry spread.

He said that he had been involved to use any falconry to hunt, and that he had been encouraged to use any falconry to hunt.

# FAILCONRY the forgotten bloodsport

Falconry is very rarely mentioned in the same breath as foxhunting, harehunting, and all the other types of bloodsports, yet there are all one and the same. Here the HSA's Falconry Officer describes what is involved in this "sport", and questions the possibilities for sabbing such an activity.

## THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

### IN BRIEF

#### Bomb planted in hotel hosting hunt meeting

An explosive device was left in a woman's lavatory at a hotel where a hunt meeting of one of Britain's best-known hunts was due to take place last night.

Police arrested 40 guests and staff from the Hollingdale Hotel in the High Street, South Hampton, hours before the Huntley & Palmers Hunt was due to meet there. Explosives officers detonated the device.

Two women were arrested and were being questioned last night.

Anthony Ellis Page 9

## INTRODUCTION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

### ANNEX A

IMPORT PERMIT issued if :

a) Scientific. Rev. Group says: no detrimental effect in country of origin

AND

b) proof lawful acquisition or copy CITES export permit or original if App. I CITES

AND

c) Scientific. Authority says : accomodation : suited to biol. needs conform to EEC law

AND

d) Scientific. Rev. Group says: introduc. into Eur. Union - necessary for science or - for breeding or - for research or - other non-detrimental aim

AND

e) Management Author. knows: not primarily commercial

AND

f) Management Authority and Scientific Authority know: no other negative factor

### ANNEX B

IMPORT PERMIT issued if :

a) Scientif. Rev. Group OR Scientific Authority says: no detrimental effect in country of origin

AND

b) proof lawful acquisition or copy CITES export permit or original if App. I CITES

AND

c) proof that accomodation in country of import suitable

d) Management Authority and Scientific Authority know: no other negative factor



I. A. F.,  
Christian de Coune,  
The President, "La Cochetay",  
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BELGIUM



Z. B. T. A. P. (W Belarusian  
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IAF - ZBTAP JOINT PROJECT 1995-99  
"RAPTORS OF BELARUS: ENTERING INTO NEW CENTURY"

### 1. Competition "Berkut".

This competition ("berkut" means Golden Eagle in Belarusian) is aimed to support activities of general public dealing with wildlife in some extent (foresters, hunters, tourists etc.) devoted to the discovering of new and previously unknown breeding sites of rare raptors. Any such site of choosen species (see Appendix) found by any person and checked by ZBTAP raptor expert will be plotted on the map and taken under protection by ZBTAP or other national/local nature protecting organization. The finder of the rare raptor nest which was unknown to protectionists previously will be payed for cooperation.

The cost of the competition will consist of the prizes for nest finders (see Appendix for sums and potential numbers of finds per species) and travel expences for expert nest checking. Its estimated size is 1918 US \$.

### 2. Monitoring of breeding populations.

This section of the project will consist of the monitoring of breeding success of several raptor species both on regional (local study areas in Grodno, Minsk and Vitebsk regions, mainly for relatively common species, i.e. Goshawk, Kestrel, Marsh Harrier) and national (study over nearly the whole species range in the country, for rare and localized species, i.e. Osprey, Golden Eagle, Merlin). Dynamics of breeding density for some common species will be monitored too. We are planned to collect relatively reliable information on Common Buzzard, Goshawk, Sparrowhawk, Marsh and Montagu's Harriers, Osprey, Golden, Short-toed, White-tailed, Spotted and Lesser Spotted Eagles, Kestrel, Hobby and Merlin.

During the fieldwork with the nest of raptor species we are planning to test and to develop Meyburg's foster parent technique for the rising eagle's productivity on other foster and host species. First, work will be carried out on several nests of Lesser Spotted Eagle as host and Common Buzzards as foster parents (Kites in Meyburg's experiments). Despite of relative high size of Lesser Spotted Eagle population, it seems to be vulnerable species, and cross fostering may have potential positive effect for its status. Moreover, experience on Lesser Spotted Eagle - Common Buzzard pair will be very useful for potential work on cross-fostering in endangered Spotted Eagle. Second, we are going to test this method on the pair Golden Eagle - Goshawk. This pair seems to be very appropriate for the rising of productivity of the most endangered Belarusian eagle species.

The cost of this work will consist of the financial support of the fieldwork of people searching and checking the nests. It estimated size is 1872 US \$.

### 3. Winter feeding of eagles.

This section of the Project will consist of feeding of wintering eagle species (Golden and White-tailed Eagles) under the unfavourable conditions. Two situations seem to need winter feeding: wintering of White-tails outside of ice-free water-bodies and fish-ponds, e.g. adult birds on their breeding ranges in N Belarus containig only small ice-covered lakes. Second, some Golden Eagle pairs wintering in the large bog areas with extremely low food supply in winter. Moreover, feeding of the eagles at specially managed sites will prevent their mortality in the traps for carrion-feeding carnivores used erroneously by unexperienced or illegal trappers.

The work will be organized in 5 points in N Belarus, payed local pe-

ople will prepare and manage feeding stations which will be visited periodically by our experts.

Estimated cost size is 200 US \$.

#### 4. Artificial nesting platforms for eagles.

This part of the Project will consist of artificial nesting platforms building for Osprey, Short-toed and Golden Eagles. The species are choosed according to their conservational status and clear habitat and nest site characteristics. Golden Eagles build their nests almost exclusively on the edges of forest "islands" in the large bogs, and two other species used top-situated nests in the pine stands growing in raised bogs. We are planning to build about 30 nests/year in several areas, they will be built by trained local people.

The cost of this work will consist of the travel expenses (car and bus) for the builders and small prize per nest for local people. Its estimated size is 90 US \$.

## IAF - ZRTAP JOINT PROJECT 1995-99 "RAPTORS OF BELARUS: ENTERING INTO NEW CENTURY"

Monitoring of breeding populations

Intermediate report, May 1995.

Compiled by A.K.Tishechkin, Project Coordinator, Brest & Minsk Regs

Since start of breeding season up to May 15, 1995 (deadline for the data summarized in this report) fieldwork on the monitoring of breeding raptors was carried out at 10 study areas in 4 regions of Belarus: Grodno in Grodno Region, Berioza, Lyakhovich and Stolin in Brest Region, Minsk, Pukhovichi and Uzda in Minsk Region, Dokshitsy, Shumilino and Vitebsk in Vitebsk Region.

Data were collected by following co-workers: V.V.Ivanovsky, G.A.Mindlin, A.L.Pleskaitis, A.K.Tishechkin, A.E.Vintchevsky, D.E.Vintchevsky, V.N.Vorobiov and A.S.Yasevich.

In total 192 occupied territories/nests were recorded, the presense of active nests was proved for 121 of them. As the surveys were done during the early stages of breeding cycle we did not try to check every occupied territory/nest for the presence of active nest to avoid disturbance and due to absense of clutches in some species during some visits. So, this first report does not contain information on productivity (clutch/brood sizes), but only number of territories/nests inspected.

Main results are litted in the Table

Number of occupied territories/nest visited in W Belarus in 1995 (only data before May 15 are included).

Species	Region	Checked	
		occupied terrs./ nests	Active nests
<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	Vitebsk	2	2
<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Brest	1	0
	Grodno	1	1
	Vitebsk	1	1
	Total	3	2
<i>Milvus milvus</i>	Grodno	1	1
<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	Brest	5	3
	Vitebsk	1	1
	Total	6	4
<i>Circus gallicus</i>	Grodno	2	0
	Minsk	2	0
	Total	4	0

Species	Region	Checked	
		occupied terrs. / nests	Active nests
Circus aeruginosus	Brest	12	12
	Grodno	13	0
	Minsk	29	29
	Total	54	41
C. pygargus	Grodno	36	0
Accipiter gentilis	Brest	4	4
	Grodno	5	5
	Minsk	2	2
	Vitebsk	2	2
Total	14	14	
A. nisus	Grodno	1	1
	Vitebsk	1	1
	Total	2	2
Buteo buteo	Brest	8	8
	Grodno	11	11
	Minsk	6	4
	Vitebsk	9	9
Total	34	32	
Aquila pomarina	Brest	4	2
	Grodno	3	3
	Minsk	5	3
	Vitebsk	3	2
Total	15	10	
A. chrysaetos	Vitebsk	1	1
Bandion haliaetus	Vitebsk	6	5
Falco columbarius	Vitebsk	3	3
F. tinnunculus	Grodno	1	1
	Vitebsk	3	3
	Total	4	4
F. subbuteo	Grodno	4	0
	Minsk	3	0
	Total	7	0

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## The International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey

### DOC. 9.22

### ALLEGED INFRACTIONS

The infractions quoted in Doc. 9.22 (p.8-9 and 39-44) as "Major cases" consist mainly of border crossings by falconers going abroad for hawking.

This illustrates one of the problems linked to the implementation of strict regulations : not to hamper activities that are not specifically aimed at by the said regulation. I would call them "non target victims".

It is obvious that CITES does not aim at hampering or at making it exceedingly difficult for falconers to go hawking abroad with their falcon.

Nonetheless CITES produces such "side effects". As President of the IAF, I receive frequently complaints from members who meet with problems caused by the implementation of CITES. They sometimes have to wait months for having CITES documents issued.

The Convention contains provisions relating to border crossing with "personal effects".

The falcon that the falconer takes with him to go hawking is, typically, such as a "personal effect", like his dog would be too.

If the provision relating to "personal effects" had been applied to travelling falconers, the chapter on infractions would have been a lot shorter; a lot of administrative energy would have been saved and a great deal of dissatisfaction towards CITES would have been avoided.

I may, of course, not admit that falconers knowingly disregard compulsory formalities, but, when those formalities are totally out of proportion and serve in no way the aims of the Convention, I dare to say that I understand those falconers, while blaming them.

They sometimes have to wait months for a permit to go hawking abroad for a week-end.

The number of infractions committed by falconers going abroad for hawking proves the need for a formula facilitating border crossings by falcons accompanied by their owner travelling for hunting purposes.

The European Union, considering that "... more flexible rules should be adopted in respect of hunting... in order to avoid impeding the free movement of persons more than necessary;", has instituted a "European Firearms Pass" for hunters travelling abroad for hunting purposes (Dir. 91/477).

The gun is to the hunter what the falcon is to the falconer.

There is also a passport for horses; why not for falconers' birds?

\* \* \* \*

I don't want to divert your attention from the "genuine" infractions.

There is this enormous transaction involving some 170 falcons originating from Saudi Arabia. It is interesting to know how the whole thing started:

a member of the Royal Family of Saudi Arabia had a falcon captive breeding centre of which a British citizen was taking care. When the Gulf war broke out, the Arab Prince abruptly lost interest in falcon breeding and gave all his falcons to the said British citizen and told him to leave the country very soon with the birds. The rest of the story is told in details at pages 39-41 of the Report. This is a unique case which is by all probabilities not going to be repeated.

The case of the 4 Gyrfalcons captured illegally in Greenland puzzles me most:

I asked my correspondents in Denmark, France and Germany to make an inquiry about that case. In spite of their efforts, no one could get me any information about that case.

As far as the international smuggling organization allegedly based in Spain, my Spanish correspondent tells me that it does not exist.

I myself believe as well that that international smuggling ring of birds of prey does not exist.

Falconers are law abiding persons who practice their sport in full compliance with the regulations. They do not need illegal sources of birds, legal sources cover their needs.

In Europe, only 10-15% of the falconers use falcons, the other use what we call short wings, mainly Goshawks.

Captive breeding of falcons globally covers the needs of the falconers.

This is even an overproduction, that is illustrated by this fact:

last year, in Germany, a falcon auction took place. Lots of people had been attracted there by a large publicity; there were more spectators than buyers: out of the 26 falcons offered for sale, only 6 were actually sold. A female Peregrine did not even fetch 800 DM.

The figure of \$200,000.- quoted by Doc. 9.22 is ridiculously exaggerated: I have the price list of a breeder where Gyrfalcons are offered for \$1,700.- to \$5,000.- according to the colour and the sex.

At least, as far as the price of falcons is concerned, this report is exaggerating or is ill-informed. I notice that, contrary to the report on the other infractions, this one lacks the usual comments from the Parties.

The other infractions referred to by the table on page 44: the (2) and maybe the (1) involved a German citizen who used to live in Portugal.

I couldn't get information from my correspondent on infraction (3) due to lack of details. If falconers are involved and if they have consciously broken the law, we blame them and approve the sanctions that may have been applied to them.

Infraction (4) does not concern falconry: *Aquila heliaca* is not a falconry bird.

Infraction (5) related, according to the assumption of my correspondent, to falconers going to Poland for hawking.

I have no information on infraction (6).

This chapter on infractions does not illustrate, contrary to what the comments of the Secretariat suggest, the fact that falconry is at the origin of an illegal traffic in birds of prey. My analysis relates only to the European falconry and may extend to North American falconry.

#### I PLEAD NON GUILTY FOR THE FALCONERS.

I am not the only one who pleads non guilty for them: the Department of the Interior of the USA, Fish and Wildlife Service, wrote "It has been the services' experience that the overwhelming majority of falconers practice their sport in full compliance with Federal and State regulations." (Federal Register Vol. 54, no. 177/ September 14, 1989).

Falconers are subject to the Code of Conduct of the IAF: "Falconers are under both a legal and a moral obligation to observe the laws and customs of their own and foreign



countries, ..." In case of breach of the law, the association will take appropriate disciplinary action against its member. This may result in his falconry licence to be withdrawn.

Falconers know that the worse enemy of falconry is the bad falconer.

Falconers know that many extremist pressure groups dream of the abolishment of falconry and would exploit any misbehaviour of a falconer.

Falconers know that the fault of one may have devastating consequences for the whole group. For all these reasons, falconers abide by the laws. Falconers do not need illegal falcons, captive breeding covers their needs.

Falconers would refuse a falcon the origin of which is not ascertained by proper CITES documents and by a ring. They would refuse that bird not only for the sake of the law, not only for the sake of ethics but also because it would be suiciding to be in possession of an illegal hawk.

It is too easy to claim, without illustrating it, like Doc. 9.22 does, that captive breeding centres serve to launder illegal birds. It is now possible to prove it by means of DNA test.

It is this kind of innuendo that led the breeders to produce more and more hybrids and non indigenous hawks.

One should refrain from publishing fanciful exaggerated amounts that birds of prey would fetch: it might give bad ideas to people who would otherwise not have thought of poaching hawks.

In every human group there are black sheep; it would be intellectually dishonest to blame the whole group for the fault of one or another irresponsible individual. Such individuals are more the enemies of falconry than of wild populations of birds of prey.

Wild populations of birds of prey of interest to the falconers are overall prosperous.

\*\*\*\*

I call on all Parties concerned to apply with flexibility and celerity the CITES to falconers.

I call on those Parties to give falconers more access to the wild raptor populations resource in accordance with the principle of sustainable use.

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Belgium

Christian de Coune  
President  
Pigeon hole no. 19

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES  
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

Ninth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties  
Fort Lauderdale (United States of America), 7 to 18 November 1994

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE II MEETING

Second Session: 9 November 1994: 14h10-17h05

Chairman:	V. Lichtschein (Argentina)
Secretariat:	J. Berney J. Gavitt O. Menghi
Rapporteurs:	R. Gabel J. Gray M. Haywood

XIV Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

4. Review of alleged infractions and other problems of implementation of the Convention

The Secretariat introduced document Doc. 9.22 and moved to the agenda of the Convention in Indonesia and illegal trade in birds of prey.

The delegations of Austria, Germany and Switzerland raised concerns over the suitability of the provisions of Resolution Conf. 8.16 when applied to falconers and their birds making cross-border journeys of short duration. The Secretariat pointed out that it had contacted the International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey to clarify this particular issue and that in such cases the animals could be exempt under the terms of paragraph 3 of Article VII of the Convention. The delegation of Germany felt that this was inconsistent with the wording of the fourth sentence of the second paragraph on page 43 of document Doc. 9.22, and suggested that falcons be considered as personal effects unless clearly tourist souvenirs. The Secretariat commented that where exemption under paragraph 3 of Article VII did not apply, a CITES permit was necessary and that a "Combi-permit" was not an acceptable substitute. The observer from the International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey requested that it be made easier for falconers to travel internationally with their birds.

The observer from the International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey reopened discussion of falconry, reiterating the need for a more flexible approach to this issue. He also expressed concern that the Annex of document Doc. 9.22 cited an exaggerated price for falcons. The Secretariat responded that, while exceptional, the price quoted in this instance was believed to be accurate. They further commented that falcons sometimes fetched very high prices and that the Customs authorities of Germany and the United Kingdom had observed the persistence of a large illegal trade in these birds.



European Commission

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN  
ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA  
EC ANNUAL REPORT 1991

Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 1995

ISBN 92-827-4013-7

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Printed in Belgium

EC Annual Report to CI

I/E App Ann Taxon	Term	Quantity	Unit	Exp.	Imp.	CoFo	P	S
1 2 Kobus leche	trophies	15		ZM	FR		P	W
		6		DM	GB		P	W
		1		ZM	GB		P	W
		1		ZM	GR		H	W
		1		BW	IT		H	W
2 Kobus leche kafuensis	trophies	1		ZM	LU		H	W
2 Kobus leche amithemani	trophies	1		ZM	IT		H	W
		1		ZM	LU		H	W
		1		ZM	DE		H	W
2 C2 Ovis ammon	skins	2		MR	DE		H	W
		1		SU	DE		H	W
		2		MR	DE		H	W
		2		MR	DE		H	W
		2		MR	DE		H	W
2 Ovis canadensis	skins	4		SU	ES		H	W
2 Rhea americana albaecens	trophies	4		SU	ES		H	W
		2		AR	DE		H	W
		100		AR	DE		H	W
		11		AR	FR		H	W
		164		AR	FR		H	W
2 C1 Spheniscus demersus	live	12		LA	FR		H	W
2 Balaeniceps rex	live	4		TI	FR		H	W
2 Phoenicopterus minor	live	268		TI	FR		H	W
		10		TI	FR		H	W
		140		TI	FR		H	W
		20		TI	FR		H	W
2 C1 Phoenicopterus ruber	live	20		LA	FR		H	W
2 Phoenicopterus ruber roseus	live	20		TI	FR		H	W
		22		TI	FR		H	W
		164		TI	FR		H	W
2 Sarkidiornis melanotos	bodies	4		CH	FR		B	C
2 C1 Accipiter badius	live	4		SA	GB		B	C
2 C1 Accipiter cooperii	live	1		CA	GB		B	C
2 C1 Accipiter gentilis	live	1		CA	GB		B	C
		1		TI	ES		B	C
		1		SA	GB	FR	B	C
2 C1 Accipiter nisus	bodies	1		MD	GB		B	C
2 C1 Aquila chrysaetos	live	1		SU	FR		B	C
		5		SU	FR		B	C
2 C1 Aquila rapax	eggs	2		SA	DE		B	C
		4		SA	DE		B	C
		1		SA	DE		B	C
		1		SU	GB		B	C
2 C1 Buteo auguralis	bodies	1		CH	FR		B	C
2 C1 Buteo buteo	live	20		PI	FR		B	C
2 C1 Buteo jamaicensis	live	2		PI	FR		B	C
		2		CA	DE		B	C
		2		CA	DE		B	C
		2		CA	DE		B	C
2 C1 Buteo lagopus	live	1		CS	DE		B	C
2 C1 Buteo rufinus	live	1		ZA	BE		B	C
2 C1 Circus spp.	live	2		ZA	BE		B	C
2 C1 Gypsiformes spp.	live	1		US	FR	XX	B	C
2 C1 Gypsiformes barbatus	live	1		US	FR		B	C
		1		AT	FR		B	C
		2		AT	FR		B	C

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EC Annual Report to CITES 1991

I/E App Ann Taxon	Term	Quantity	Unit	Exp.	Imp.	CoFo	P	S
1 2 C1 Gyps fulvus	live	1		MT	DE		T	C
2 C1 Milvus migrans	live	10		ZA	FR		O	C
2 C1 Milvus milvus	live	20		PL	FR		N	C
		2		CA	DE		P	C
		2		CA	DE		T	C
2 C1 Parabuteo unicinctus	live	1		US	DE		T	C
		4		US	DE		T	C
		10		CA	GB		B	C
		5		CA	GB		B	C
		3		ZA	GB		B	C
2 C1 Falco biarmicus	live	2		SA	GB		B	C
2 C1 Falco cherrug	live	2		TR	FR		B	C
		2		SA	FR		B	C
		5		AE	GB		B	C
		17		SA	GB		B	C
		2		ZA	GB		B	C
2 C1 Falco chioquera	live	3		CA	GB		B	C
2 C1 Falco columbarius	eggs	20		SA	GB		B	C
2 C1 Falco concolor	live	3		SA	GB		B	C
		1		SA	GB		B	C
		11		SA	GB		B	C
2 C1 Falco mexicanus	eggs	11		SA	GB		B	C
2 C1 Falco rupicoloides	live	4		BE	BE		B	C
2 C1 Falco sparverius	bodies	1		AN	NL		B	C
2 C1 Argus argus	live	4		MY	GB		B	C
2 C1 Cyrtornyx montezumae montezumae	live	2		CS	NL		B	C
2 C1 Polyplectron malaccense	live	8		MY	GB		B	C
2 Balearica regulorum	live	4		TI	DE		B	C
		38		TI	DE		B	C
		50		TI	GB		B	C
		30		TI	IT		B	C
		70		TI	IT		B	C
		121		TI	NL		B	C
		1		US	DE		B	C
2 Grus antigone	live	2		PL	GB		B	C
2 Grus grus	live	1		CH	BE		B	C
2 Grus paradiesae	live	1		CH	BE		B	C
		4		CA	GB		B	C
		4		ZA	NL		B	C
2 Grus virgo	live	5		ZA	NL		B	C
		150		SU	FR		B	C
2 Ardeotis kori	live	6		TI	NL		B	C
2 Choriotis kori	live	4		TI	NL		B	C
2 Eupodotis senegalensis	live	50		TI	NL		B	C
2 C2 Gallicolumba luzonica	live	20		PH	FR		B	C
		12		SG	GB		B	C
2 PSITTACIFORMES spp.	live	2		UY	ES	XX	B	C
		124		FR	FR		B	C
2 C2 Agapornis canus	live	620		MC	FR		B	C
2 C2 Agapornis fischeri	live	300		ZA	FR		B	C
		2		ZA	DE		B	C

Produced by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre, Cambridge, UK.

Page 77 OF 138

CIC - WORKING GROUP FOR FALCONRY  
AND BIRD OF PREY CONSERVATION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING DATED 29.10.1994

S U M M A R Y

Our working group was newly organised 10 years ago, in 1984 in Innsbruck and, from that date onwards, under the presidency of Heins Pils, is directly depending on the advisory board.

The recommendations submitted by our working group were accepted by the General Meeting in 1994. The aim of these recommendations is to leave birds of prey dependant upon the law responsible for hunting and to enforce a genetic control on captivity raised birds only if the data on the origin of the birds seems to have been falsified.

The printing costs of the folder "principles for releasing birds of prey", which has been issued by our working group, were covered by an extraordinary budget by the advisory board. This folder is already printed and is at the disposal of the authorities and falconers as well as of the hunting societies and other protectors of the environment to help them take protecting measures.

As new members we are pleased to welcome Mrs Sigríd Schwenk, Nikolaus Freiherr von Pölnitz and the president of the Czech falconers Vaclav Svoboda. The Hungarian CIC delegation also wants to send a representative into our working-group.

The report of the cashier has been approved.

The Austrian ministry of economy, dealing with the CITES, has been convinced to propose to the CITES General Secretariat of the conference of the parties a resolution in which it will be suggested to apply the same exceptions which are foreseen in the CITES and which concern private use, in order to cross the borders to go hunting with birds of prey. Switzerland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic were willing to support the Austrian resolution. However the Austrian ministry took back this resolution due to the negative opinion expressed by the CITES Secretary referring to the relative European Union's ordinance which does not foresee any facility to cross the borders with species of appendix I. Our request to the ministry to speak in favour of a simplification of the CITES provision has not, as of yet, been acted upon.

At the beginning of October 1994 the president of our working-group sent a comment on the carrying-out ordinance of the Convention to all the ministries, in charge of the CITES, of the contracting parties (enclosure 1). He referred to the incredible burdens due to the countless resolutions and the drastic measures of each country and he asked the contracting parties to facilitate the crossings of the borders in order to go hunting, recommending them to apply the exceptions and extraordinary regulations and to suppress the resolutions which could prevent the formers.



The CITES reports on the so-called border-crossings with no permits do not lay on real exports but on the number of issued permits. Indeed an illegal exportation will be assumed if it is not reported that a specimen has been reimported into the country out which it comes. No matter if the exportation did not occur at all for different reasons or if the customs did not send the permit to the concerned authority. Through this practice the statistics about the commerce with birds of prey are falsified but are used however for more drastic measures. Our president has lodged an objection against this way of acting with the CITES secretariat.

The translation of the CITES Convention of Washington in the law of the European Community has been effected in the ordinance no. 3626/82. This ordinance should be replaced by the proposition com 93 529 endg. In this proposition exceptions for private use for the importation and exportation or re-exportation within the community are stated. Differing from the CITES convention and from the ordinance of the European Community no. 3626/82 the exceptions will concern only dead specimen and species belonging to the appendices B and D.

The president wrote to the ministeries of the countries members of the European Community which are working with the CITES, to the FACE and to the German Organisation for Hunting (Deutscher Jagdschutzverband) and asked them to speak in favour of a maintenance of the rules which are to be found in the Convention as well as in the ordinance of the European Community no. 3626/82 and which do not provide any restriction for private uses. Therefore it should be easier to go hunting with birds of prey outside the European Community.

The German Organisation for Hunting took our request into consideration as they published their opinion on the proposition of the European Community. The FACE's General Secretary, Dr. Lecocq, intends to speak in favour of our proposed rules in front of the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council of the European Union.

Christian de Coune reported that he has sent the comments of the CIC on the carrying-out ordinance of the Convention to the president of the European Commission, Jacques Delors, asking him to take this ordinance into consideration while preparing an ordinance proposal.

To carry on with the harmonization of the regulations concerning the marking of protected species, birds of prey should also be equiped with microchips and transponders. Because one cannot exclude the fact that transponders could injure the animal while wandering in its body, our working-group refuses to use this kind of marking (for juridical and protective reasons) and recommends to keep using the rings used until now by the administrations. To this effect a recommendation has been written and should be sent to the different ministeries of the contracting parties once the CIC General Assembly has approved (enclosure 3).

At the occasion of the symposium "predators" held in Lisboa, our working-group wrote a resolution which still proves to be very current and which we would like to recall (enclosure 4). Scientific examinations are the prerequisite to an objective evaluation on the influence of predators on their prey and on the necessity of their entire or local protection as well as of protective measures aiming at regulating definite species in order to find a biologic balance again. A summary of these examinations could help the the hunting societies and others aiming at conserving nature to understand the question and could as well help the administrations to take decisions. This is the reason why, with the help of a complete literature, our working-group has decided to collect the most important information on the influence of

birds of prey on small prey in the form of a CIC leaflet. The working-group for falconry and bird of prey conservation should be responsible for issuing this leaflet together with the commission of birds of passage and the commission of small prey. The authors will be professor Dr. Zygmunt Pielowski and Dr. Heribert Kalchreuter. The contents of this leaflet are presented by professor Dr. Pielowski in the enclosed document (enclosure 5).

In Poland in the renewing of the laws about hunting, the way of hunting called falconry was not mentioned in the first bill but added in the form of a commentary as a forbidden way of hunting. Some changes occurred then after the the CIC working-group and the falconry section of the hunting society in Poland had given out their comments on the question. Still these changes are not at the entire satisfaction of falconers. Further initiatives of the CIC and of the falconry section in Poland (in favour of the maintenance of falconry as a legal way of hunting) received the backing of the president of the hunting society in Poland and of the vice-president of the CIC, Jacek Tomaszewski, and lead to changes in the way of thinking of the administrations responsible for hunting questions. In the last bill, falconry is to be found under the title "capture with birds of prey".

The CIC will carry its endeavours so that the administrations in Poland will issue CITES permits for the crossing of the borders.



CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DE LA CHASSE ET DE LA CONSERVATION DU GIBIER  
INTERNATIONALER JAGDRAT ZUR ERHALTUNG DES WILDES  
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR GAME AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

GROUPE DE TRAVAIL DE LA FAUCONNERIE ET DE LA CONSERVATION DES OISEAUX DE PROIE  
ARBEITSGRUPPE FÜR FALKNEREI UND ERHALTUNG DER GREIFVÖGEL  
WORKING GROUP FOR FALCONRY AND BIRD OF PREY CONSERVATION



#### RECOMMENDATIONS

##### CONSIDERING

That any protected animal must be identifiable in order to ensure that it is kept legally, and to exercise control when it is taken over international boundaries.

That the official rings used to identify Birds of Prey have proved to be effective.

That microchips with transponders implanted in an animal are in no way more resistant to fraud than are rings.

That transponders implanted in a bird can cause problems, especially in a bird of prey used for hawking.

That, owing to the strength of acceleration and deceleration experienced by a bird of prey when hunting, a transponder can move inside a bird and cause injury to the muscular tissues.

The International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation, CIC, recommends both for legal reasons and the welfare of animals, that microchips and transponders (which are not at present obligatory) should not be adopted for the identification of Birds of Prey, but that the official rings employed hitherto should continue in use.



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##### RESOLUTION

The ratio of prey to predators used to be balanced, until, during recent decades, Man interfered with the natural environment and upset it to a considerable extent. The result of this has been that some species of birds of prey have been (and some still are) threatened with extinction, owing to the deterioration in their living conditions. Other species of raptor have been able to adapt to a changed environment, and have greatly increased in numbers thanks to an over-supply of easily taken prey, such as pigeons, rabbits and game birds bred in aviaries, and then released in numbers which a balanced environment cannot absorb. On the other hand, this development has led to the loss of natural cover in the landscape, so that small game becomes easy prey for its natural enemies.

This development may lead to a situation where certain kinds of animals would be - at least regionally - threatened with extinction by birds of prey. So as a first step every effort must be made to restore a healthy environment, corresponding to the living requirements of wild animals. Since measures of that kind may take a period of time longer than many already weakened populations can be expected to survive, it may become necessary for Man to intervene and regulate. In that case the following principles must be observed:

1. The survival of endangered species must be secured mainly by restoring their biotopes.
2. If the survival of a species is threatened by a species of birds of prey, and the threat cannot be averted by other means, then a local and limited reduction of the latter may have to be considered. This, however, must be done under proper control and all necessary steps must be taken to see that no other species is affected.
3. There must be no risk of the extinction of any species of animal from such measures of control. This holds for the predators as well as for the prey.
4. The aim of any such measures of control must be the restoration of the biological balance.



RECOMMANDATION  
 (traduction)

Considérant

- que le marquage d'animaux protégés est nécessaire au contrôle de leur détention légale ainsi que pour le franchissement de frontières;
- que les bagues utilisées par les administrations en vue du marquage des rapaces a fait ses preuves;
- que les micro-circuits implantés dans le corps de l'animal n'offrent pas plus de garanties contre les falsifications que les bagues;
- que l'implantation de micro-circuits chez les oiseaux est génératrice de problèmes tout particulièrement chez les rapaces utilisés pour la chasse;
- que le micro-circuit, en raison des forces générées par l'accélération et la décélération au cours du vol de chasse du rapace, se déplace dans son corps provoquant ainsi des blessures du tissu musculaire;

Le Conseil International de la Chasse et de la Conservation du Gibier (C.I.C.) recommande que l'on ne prescrive pas l'emploi de micro-circuits implantés pour des raisons de protection des animaux ou pour des raisons juridiques mais que l'on s'en tienne aux bagues qui ont été utilisées jusqu'ici par les autorités officielles.



Resolution  
 (traduction)

Le rapport proies-prédateurs était en équilibre jusqu'à ce que l'intervention de l'homme dans la nature soit venu le perturber principalement au cours des dernières décennies.

Il s'en suivit que certaines espèces de rapaces se trouvèrent menacées d'extinction -certaines d'entre elles le sont toujours- en raison de la dégradation de leur biotope.

D'autres espèces de rapaces purent s'adapter à l'altération de leur environnement et se multiplièrent à la faveur d'une surabondance de proies faciles en excès par rapport à un sain équilibre de la nature -telles que pigeons, lapins, ou gibier d'élevage relâché-.

Par ailleurs le remembrement des terres agricoles a entraîné la perte de couvert faisant du petit gibier une proie facile pour ses ennemis naturels.

La conséquence de ce phénomène -du moins à l'échelle régionale- peut être que la survie de certaines espèces puisse se voir menacée par des rapaces.

Il faut donc avant tout s'efforcer par tous les moyens de rétablir un environnement sain répondant aux besoins vitaux des animaux sauvages.

Etant donné que certaines populations ne sont pas en mesure de survivre aussi longtemps que ce que ces mesures exigeraient, la nécessité d'une intervention humaine régulatrice peut s'imposer.

Dans ce cas, il faudra respecter les principes suivants :

1. La survie d'espèces menacées doit être assurée en ordre principal par le rétablissement de leur biotope.
2. Si une espèce de rapace vient à constituer une menace pour la survie d'une espèce et si d'autres mesures ne peuvent être appliquées, dans ce cas il y aurait lieu d'en envisager une réduction. Il faut que cette réduction puisse être contrôlée et qu'elle offre l'assurance que d'autres espèces ne puissent en être les victimes.
3. Aucune espèce animale ne peut être menacée de disparition par ces mesures régulatrices, qu'il s'agisse d'espèces prédatrices ou d'espèces-proies.
4. Le but de toute mesure régulatrice doit être le rétablissement des équilibres biologiques.



The International Association for Falconry  
and Conservation of Birds of Prey

RESOLUTION

RECOGNISING the prominent rôle played by the IUCN for the conservation of nature on a world scale by promoting international cooperation,

APPROVING IUCN's World Conservation Strategy and World Charter for Nature,

CONVINCED that falconers can contribute to IUCN's efforts aimed at the conservation of wild populations of birds of prey,

The members of the International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey, gathered for their Annual General Meeting, the 28th October 1994, at Sögel (Germany),

WISHING that the International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF) be admitted as a member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

THEREFORE authorize the president of the IAF, Christian de Coune, to take the necessary steps for the admission of the IAF as a member of the IUCN.



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## STOP PRESS

On 17th October 1995 had a phone call from Poland,  
Mr Zygmund Krzeminski from Ministry of the Environment.

In reply to my questionnaire about traffic in birds of prey he says that the Administration of Customs does not transmit to the Ministry of the Environment the data concerning traffic. Tomorrow, Mr Krzeminski will have a meeting with the vice-chairman of the Administration of Customs and he will ask him the informations. I said it is very urgent because we have our general meeting next week.

Last week the Parliament has discussed the draft law on hunting, falconry is admitted in it.  
Next step will be for the Senate to discuss that draft law; Mr Krzeminsky thinks that falconry will be admitted also by the Senate.  
Last step will be the signature of the law by the President, it is expected that falconry will be authorised in the new law on hunting.