



**WINGSPAN**  
BIRDS OF PREY TRUST

REGISTERED CHARITABLE TRUST 1992  
P.O. Box 993,  
Rotorua, New Zealand

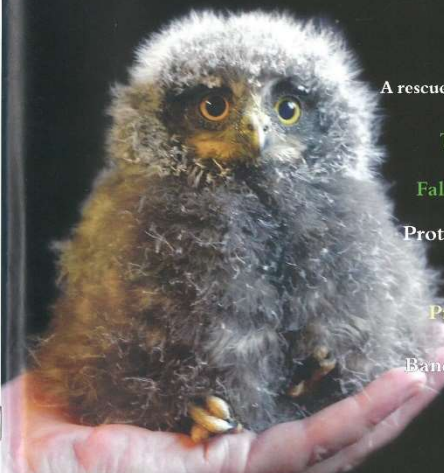


\$5.00  
Members Complimentary Issue

# WINGSPAN

## BIRDS OF PREY TRUST

JOURNAL - March 2008 Volume 12



**Its Whisper!**  
A rescue under spotlight

**The Inaugural  
International  
Falconry Festival**

**Protected Wildlife  
...A Review**

**Project 'Giggle'**

**Banding Together**

**...plus more..**

**WINGSPAN BIRDS OF PREY TRUST**  
P.O. Box 993  
1164 Paradise Valley Rd, Rotorua, New Zealand  
Ph: 07 357 4469  
www.wingspan.co.nz or email to wingspan@xtra.co.nz



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

REGISTERED CHARITABLE  
TRUST 1992  
P.O. Box 993  
1164 Paradise Valley Rd  
Rotorua  
New Zealand  
Ph: 07 357 4469  
Web site: www.wingspan.co.nz  
E-mail: wingspan@xtra.co.nz

**Patron**  
Geoff Moon O.B.E.

**Chair**  
Noel Hyde

**Trustees**  
Chris Gay  
Richard Seaton  
Gloria Stafford

**Manager**  
Debbie Stewart

**Web Manager**  
Pen Hunt  
AMG Web Ltd



www.website-designers.co.nz

### VOLUME 12, 2008

- Foreword - Hon Steve Chadwick MP
- Wingspan Ruru
- Whisper
- Captive Care
- International Falconry Festival
- Protection of Wildlife - A Review
- Research Repository
- Project Giggle
- Kaingaroa Forest 2007-2008
- Falcon Sightings
- Auckland Island Falcons
- Return to Paradise
- Kenya
- Behind the Lens
- Wingspan Raptor Award
- Here and There
- Behind the Scenes
- In the Mews
- Sponsor and Members directory
- Wingspan Charity Dinner & Auction
- Raptor Art

Editor: Debbie Stewart

Contributors:  
James Crowe, Dr Nick Fox, Don Grant,  
Noel Hyde, Mia Jessen, Shane McPherson,  
Fleur Maseyk, Richard Seaton, Mary Staal,  
Debbie Stewart, Andrew Thomas.

Photographs:  
Ron Dunne, Noel Hyde, Shane McPherson,  
Dilan Rajasingham, Jason Searle,  
James Crowe, Richard Seaton,  
Debbie Stewart, Andrew Warner.

Printed by  
DUDFIELD BRYCE PRINTERS LTD  
Rotorua, New Zealand.  
Produced by  
Wingspan Birds of Prey Trust.

ISBN 1178-4830



Front Cover: Ruru Whisper, NZ Monopark,  
one month of age by Andrew Warner.  
Back Photo: Otzzy, adult male falcon, Photo by Dilan Rajasingham

### FOREWORD Minister of Conservation - Steve Chadwick

On a recent visit to Wingspan, I had the pleasure of seeing a great working example of how conservation is changing New Zealand. I was personally shown around the Centre, and felt very privileged to see 'Whisper', the newly hatched morepork chick, a number of proud falcon chicks and adult birds being put through their fitness regime outside.

Conservation in New Zealand has become everybody's business, and Wingspan is a great example of how that can work. It is a charitable trust dependent on donations, sponsorships and grants. It has an ever-increasing number of individual members and has formed many innovative partnerships with local and national businesses. Generous support has come from wineries, a forestry company, building and industrial companies and others. In this way Wingspan has made, itself, and conservation, everybody's business.

Wingspan is recognised by the Department of Conservation as the leader in researching and increasing understanding of our native birds of prey. Always willing to lend their expertise to help others in their endeavours with our birds of prey, and this publication reflects Wingspan's commitment to spreading the word about their work and the work of others.

It is now 15 years since Wingspan was set up, and the future for our native birds of prey is all the brighter for it. I want to personally acknowledge not only the work of Wingspan, but also the countless volunteer hours that have been put in by so many people over the years. And to those businesses that have seen something worthwhile and chosen to support it. You have all contributed greatly to help improve the position of our wonderful raptors.

Hon. Steve Chadwick Minister of Conservation



## WINGSPAN RURU

Owls, around the world, have been bred in captivity for a very long time. In England for example the earliest written record is for a Great Horned Owl bred at Arundel Castle in 1834. In New Zealand details are sketchy, but Baller wrote that Mr W W Smith at the Alluvial Estate near Timaru, bred Laughing Owls in captivity (producing eggs) in February 1882. Almost 130 years later, breeding owls remains relatively uncommon in this country.

Last year, Wingspan's pair of morepork owls Nestor and Wairuru, were monitored by digital infrared camera, and first time copulation attempts were recorded. While they made some encouraging attempts at nesting, disappointingly no eggs were laid. This year, with a different management approach, the results were more successful.

Preparations for their breeding season were made much earlier in the season, feeding regimes were altered - including more variety and frequency of feeds, and on the suggestion of Geoff Moon, the nesting box was adjusted to a more horizontal position with the entrance made slightly larger.

In early November Wairuru produced two eggs, the first laid on the 5th November was confirmed as fertile, but the second egg laid two days later was malformed. It was a small egg no bigger than a marble; it was infertile, and removed from the nest.

For the following month the cameras monitored and recorded the birds activity and progress. Incubation was almost entirely by the female. She would have short breaks and 'stretches' in the early evening. Nestor the male, provided her with food and would stand 'guard'. Often the male would take food directly into the nesting box and the pair could be clearly heard making a variety of calls to one another. Then, on the 7th of November, the egg hatched.

The rearing period progressed without incident and it was a unique opportunity to witness the growth of the chick but also the behavioural changes of the family group. Increasingly all three became more vocal and tactile to one another. They would 'purrr' and 'chatter' and mutual preen.

As the chick got older she could be seen closer to the nesting box entrance, and then on the 16th December it ventured from the box to balance on the perch outside.

A clumsy fall to the ground marked her first flight.



Camera equipment and monitoring was made possible through the generous contributions from Sheila Coomb's, Hazelvine Trust (Masterton), Mary Staal (Rotorua), and Phocal Communications Ltd.

Congratulations to Nestor and Wairuru's sponsor families - in particular the Staal Family of Rotorua and Auckland, and Wairuru sponsors Laurie and Beverley Richardson of Auckland.

4 Wingspan 2008

## WHISPER



Last year, Wingspan documented the growth of one of the falcon chicks from egg to first flight. The successful rescue and hatch of Whisper allowed a unique opportunity to repeat the photographic essay, and is presented here as a New Zealand first for morepork.

Morepork eggs are white and rounded, not dissimilar in size and appearance to a ping pong ball. The two eggs found were given immediate artificial incubation on arrival to the Wingspan Centre. Of these eggs, one was found to be mispositioned within the shell, and would not be able to hatch successfully. The other egg, weighed just 16 grams at hatch, and we named her 'Whisper' to recognise both the quiet, right and serene habits of owls.

At first glance, the day-to-day development does not appear very dramatic, but on closer inspection there are subtle changes, and marked differences from our experience with falcons.

The first week shows Whisper with fluffy white down, pink legs and toes, and cere (above the beak). Moreporks like other raptors hatch blind, with thin skin covering their large eyes. The eye 'slits' give an appearance of eyebrows, but the eyes of owls are exposed by lower lids that open slowly downwards. At Day 3, one eye could open about a millimetre, and by Day 10 the eyes were completely open. Owls are short-sighted and according to references, unable to distinguish colour.

The feet of owls are also quite different to falcons, in particular the positioning of the toes. In the early stages, the toes are clearly seen as two facing forwards and two backwards. These appeared to spread further apart by Day 5 and would accommodate weight dispersal as Whisper became more mobile. This coincided with hair like feathers developing on the legs and feet, and by a week of age Whisper would actively preen her toes and new growing feathers.

By the end of Day 5 we noted the second plumage development - patches of grey black feathers developing down the spine, the tops of the legs and the tail replacing the fine white down at hatch. Course

feather 'bristles' developed under the beak around Day 7 giving a bearded appearance, and at the same time whisker-like feathers around the beak became more noticeable.

By the second week the pin feathers on the wings could be clearly seen. In terms of feather development, the owls retain their downy feathers much longer than falcons, however the characteristic appearance of a 'flat-top' head feathering by two weeks of age, and the wide facial discs by Day 23 can be seen on the chart.

Young owls seem more co-ordinated than falcon chicks, and more mobile from an earlier age. Owls have long legs (often hidden because they rest in a crouched position) and Whisper was able to stand on her haunches at Day 8. She would stand for feeding by Day 12, and by two weeks old could stand comfortably and support her own weight for long periods.

Her rotational head movements were amusing from an early age. Owls have incredibly flexible necks that seem to pivot in all directions. We also recorded how tactile owls seem to be; behaviour noted with the Wingspan breeding pair earlier in the season. Whisper would readily seek interaction, would welcome 'preening' when handled, and would settle quickly while being gently swabbed around the beak after each feed.

From Day 10 small amounts of roughage was added to the daily feeds

including feather, fur, and bone. Her first regurgitated pellet was produced at Day 17, although it wasn't until Day 19 that the cast pellets were regular, better shaped and more consistent.

Whisper has also been very vocal. At just 2 days old she would make a deep growling sound, and by Day 4 was very 'talkative'. The growling was replaced with a low 'purrr'. On one occasion, in a fright response she responded with some bill 'clicking'. She was 4 months old before the more characteristic 'more-pork' call was heard.

We were amused by her first 'kill' on Day 21 when she caught a medium sized moth independently. Her hunting strategy, best described as a lurch followed by a 'pounce and grab'. Her first deliberate flight was recorded at Day 32 on Christmas Day 2007.

The breeding success of the moreporks was a real boost to Wingspan's captive management of owls, as it had been thought to observe the growth and development of the small owlets. But then, just as the chick approached two weeks of age - just over her critical dependency period, Wingspan received a call from forestry contractors within Kaiapara Forest.

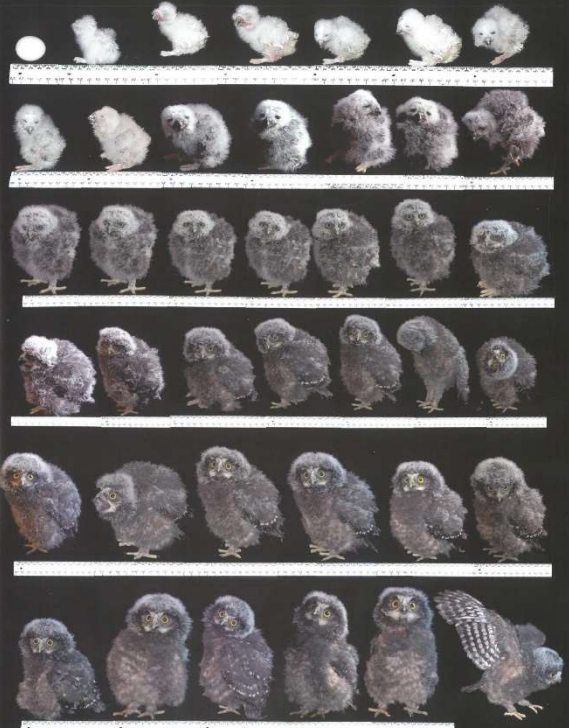
An owl nest was found at the base of a 'ponga' fern amongst a stand of mature Douglas fir trees. The area was due for immediate logging, and the contractors concerned about the nest, contacted Wingspan.

An immediate mercy dash was made to the forest - armed with a 'chilly-bin', towels, hot water bottle, thermos, and thermometer. The two eggs rescued then transferred to Wingspan for artificial incubation. Two weeks later, on the 23rd November 2007, the egg started to hatch.

"Welcome to the World Whisper!"



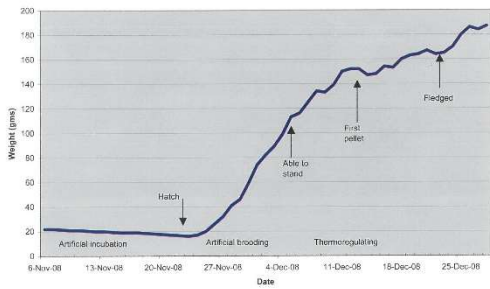
The Rescue Team (from left) including George Harwood, Regan Maff, Carl Rodgers, Noel Hyde, Eugene Moore (standing), Geoffrey Murray (sitting), Shane McPherson, Ash Mason.



WHISPER, Ruru, Morepork Owl from egg to first flight, 0-39 days old  
Photographs by Andrew Warner

4 Wingspan 2008

Wingspan 2008 7



The chart illustrates Whitepolls fast growth rate, typical of birds of prey. Only 16 grams at hatch, and by a month old she reached her full adult weight of just over 180 grams.

Sexual dimorphism is the size difference between males and females of a species. Generally speaking in birds of prey it is always the female that is the larger of the pair. In the case of moreporks, the size difference is small.

Recording of weight can often provide an indication of the sex of a morepork. Adult males are usually between 135 - 211gms (average 176gms), while adult females weigh between 171 - 237gms (average 192gms), however there are some overlaps between large males and small females.

In these modern times of technology, determining the sex of young birds can be made by DNA feather testing. Using this method, courtesy of support from Isabel Castro, Ecology Department Massey University, in Palmerston North, Whispser was confirmed as a female.

Groups of animals and birds are given specific names to describe them. For birds, the most commonly known include a 'gaggle of geese', or 'covey of quail', or the lesser-known 'murmuration of starlings' or 'convocation of eagles'. But for owls, the collective description is...  
... "A Parliament of Owls"!

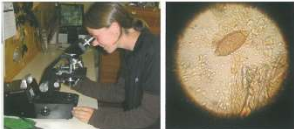
Fittingly, Whispser met with a couple of parliamentary representatives.



Hon. Steve Chadwick, Member of Parliament and Minister of Conservation, New Zealand



Lord Michael Heseltine, Former Member of Parliament and Secretary for the Environment, England



At right the oval shaped capillaria egg clearly seen, showing the characteristic and distinctive 'bipolar plugs' at each end.

With intensive care including a course of antibiotics, worming medication, and careful management of the healing fracture, K1 will make a full recovery. If all goes well she will be able to regain her ability to fly, and with fitness training and physiotherapy of the joint, she will once again fly free in Kaingaroa.



The wing fracture to the radius above, and at right repaired with a thin metal pin inserted through the small hollow bone.

Injured birds sometimes fail to regain full function of limbs, eyesight, or loose other abilities. Birds like falcons, which live on fast moving prey, must be completely physically fit to survive. Such disabled birds can become part of captive breeding programs and in this way contribute to conserve the species. A good example is Ali. Ali was shot as a young bird and both her wings healed in a position that would not allow her to fly properly again. Ali has been at Wingspan for two years now; this season was her first paired with a mate, and fertile eggs were laid. Conservation projects

around the world make use of permanently injured birds for captive breeding programmes. I know two such birds very well, having looked after them and their offspring in the past. One is 'Olafa' a Harpy Eagle living in Panama, Central America. Olafa has been with the Peregrine Fund and Fondo Peregrino, Panama, for most of her life. She survived falling from her nest tree as a chick, when the tree was being felled for timber. She suffered a broken wing and lower mandible, which unfortunately never set back in place. She is now a successful breeding bird and is producing offspring, which are being released back into areas around Central America where the Harpy Eagle formerly ranged.

Another bird, a permanently injured African Crowned Eagle called Rosy is kept by Simon Thomsen. Simon lives in Kenya and has had Rosy with him for over thirty years, having been bought to him as a one year old juvenile with a broken wing. Rosy has, with his mate, produced twelve offspring that have been released back into the wild at different locations around Kenya. Large eagles such as these can live over 60 years in captivity and, because of their slow reproductive rate, captive breeding pairs can play a significant role in bolstering wild populations. Rosy is the father of Duchess (who features in the article from Kenya in this journal), and shortly after our departure Rosy and 'Gul' laid what could be the thirteenth captive bred eagle.



Olafa photo by Mia Jesen

Rosy, soonly photo by Simon Thomsen

Mia Jesen

### QUICK ADVICE... IF YOU FIND AN INJURED BIRD OF PREY.

Raptors will use their feet to defend themselves when 'cornered', they can therefore be picked up more safely if they are grabbing on to a towel or a shirt gently put over them where they are found. They can bite when being held, so cover their head lightly with cloth; be certain they can still breathe. This will prevent them from aiming a bite at the handler, as well as calm them down in this stressful situation. Place the bird in a cardboard box or similar, just big enough for the bird to turn around inside. Make sure the bird is in a dark and quiet place to reduce the stress, and is kept at a comfortable room temperature. Contact your local veterinarian, Department of Conservation, or S.R.C.A for advice.

Useful contacts include:

Animal Rescue & Rehabilitation Centre, Rotorua, Nicola Martin Ph. (07) 349 2955

Raptor Association of New Zealand, www.ranz.org.nz

Whangarei Native Bird Recovery Centre,

Robert & Robyn Webb, www.whangareinativebirdrecovery.org.nz

Whakatane Bird Rescue, Rosemary Tully, www.nzbird.com/more/rescue

This site also a key national network for similar organisations throughout New Zealand.

## CAPTIVE CARE

Mia Jesen joined the Wingspan team in July 2007 and is now employed in the specialist role as 'Raptor Articulationalist'. Trained as a veterinary nurse in Denmark, travelling the world following raptor programmes, and most recently working two and a half years at a falcon hospital in Dubai UAE, Mia brings extensive experience and skills to the programme - highlighted in two particular case studies during the year.



Two-year-old New Zealand Falcon, Ribbleca, received surgery at Central City Vets in October 2007. A scab had formed on the sole of her right foot, a condition known as 'Bumblefoot' and needed to be removed.

Bumblefoot is a condition common in birds of prey and is a disease affecting the pads of the foot. It usually begins with infection leading to inflammation with ulceration. Falcons land heavily on their feet, and can complicate healing, and increase discomfort.



Cook at Goutdies Station bordering Kaingaroa forest. Gary found the falcon in a farm paddock on the edge of the pine forest, very weak and unable to fly. She was immediately delivered to Wingspan and was in a critical condition. While she seemed calm, birds of prey will often disguise any weakness by appearing alert and fit despite being in severe pain and discomfort. They will do this for as long as possible as a strategy to avoid predation themselves.

We were able to determine 'K1's history as she was handed as part of the monitoring of wild falcons within Kaingaroa. She had fledged just weeks earlier from a clear-felled area about 3 km's from the paddock where Gary found her. The nest was discovered during a Raptor Association fieldtrip, with three young chicks in situ. The nest was revisited mid-December when the chicks were banded by Wingspan staff and data collected for Massey University students.

It was clear that she had been starving for several days and very dehydrated, so much so, that her digestive system was closing down and she could not digest solid food. The first thing was to tube-feed fluids directly into her crop. The most obvious problem was a fractured radius bone in the right wing. This type of injury is often seen when birds collide with wires or fences, and Gary's report of her being found under a deer fence suggested this was the cause. Small birds might fly through these fences, but a falcon fixated on the fleeing prey might not notice the vertical wires, and impact at high speed.

The following day the falcon was taken to Central City Vets in Rotorua where Dr. Ian McKenzie carried out delicate and complicated surgery. A thin metal pin was inserted into the broken radius (thinner than a knitting needle) to join the two ends together. Complicating matters, the x-ray showed that the bone was broken very near the elbow joint, leaving only a few millimetres to attach the pin. The surgery went very well, but with her state of malnutrition and inability to digest food, it seemed there might be something more.

A faecal sample quickly revealed that she was infected with an avian parasite called 'capillaria'. This is a fairly common and benign parasite (nematode worm) in healthy wild birds, but in her stressed state the parasites were quickly taking over and draining her of her last resources.



Dressings were changed every two days - these photographs illustrating the care taken to extend the talons across nesting where new dressings were applied and to fit her special 'shoes'.

Ribbleca was wearing bandages together with a special pair of 'shoes' to ease the pressure on her feet while the skin was healing. Care was taken to extend her claws in a normal position so she would be able to stand comfortably. She subsequently made a full recovery.

Another patient arrived at Wingspan on the 10th of February 2008. A newly fledged female falcon was found by Gary

## INTERNATIONAL FALCONRY FESTIVAL

A celebration of 3000 years of falconry and man's long passionate relationship with the conservation of birds of prey. This inaugural International Falconry Festival supported a submission to UNESCO to recognise falconry as an intangible cultural heritage.



## THE JOURNEY

At the invitation of Dr Nick Fox, Wingspan representative Debbie Stewart and Noel Hyde attended the first ever International Falconry Festival. Held on the 14-15<sup>th</sup> July 2007 at the Englefield Estate near Reading, Berkshire, UK, this event was hosted by the UK Hawk Band, Limnates Falconers Association, and International Wildlife Consultants.

Debbie and Noel represented both New Zealand and Wingspan Birds of Prey Trust, supporting the cultural and conservation interests of falconers worldwide.

Along with other countries, we had shedding space with photos, posters and information relating to the New Zealand falcon, its biology and conservation, including Massey University's satellite telemetry research by Dr John Holland, Richard Scaton's three year PhD study of falcons in pine forests, the work of Wingspan and the Raptor Association of New Zealand, as well as the New Zealand falcon historical use in falconry.

The two-day festival was a hive of activity, with the main arena holding continuous events and showcasing the enormous diversity of falconry practiced around the world. In all its past and present glory, events included falconry in the Dark Ages, The Age of Chivalry, Falconry on the Steppes of Asia, The Royal Courts of Europe, Falconry in Arabia and mounted Crow and Grouse Hawking.

The many markets around the site held workshops by leaders in their field, ranging from raptor disease and diagnosis, incubation and developments in embryology, telemetry, sporting, dogs, to game cooking. There were also many wonderful displays on raptor art, falconry furniture and products related to raptor management, research and conservation. At the end of each day we represented New Zealand in the Grand Parade of Nations - a march-past of falconers from all nations in national costume. We dressed in the black Wingspan uniform, carrying a hooded falcon from International Wildlife Consultants, and a flag supplied by the NZ embassy in London. We felt enormous pride standing alongside the 36 countries represented and an estimated 7,000 people attending the festival.

We took the initiative to take a copy of 'The Falconers Journal' to the event, to collect autographs and thoughts by as many key people as possible. It also gave us the opportunity to meet and talk with falconers and raptor conservationists about their raptor experiences, as well as share our own stories about karacara. The idea was to use the Journal as an auction item to raise funds for Wingspan. This resulted in a wonderful and very unique record of the festival. The importance of this document was repeatedly conveyed to us by various individuals - including Kent Carnie, (Curator of The Archives of Falconry at The World Centre For Birds of Prey in Boise Idaho USA), saying he would like a copy for the world archives. At Kent's request, we gave him copies of the Wingspan Journal and arranged to send him copies of New

Zealand's falconry archive currently being collected. The large numbers of falconers and raptor enthusiasts present, allowed excellent networking opportunities and the chance to meet many overseas colleagues with whom we often correspond. In particular we were delighted to meet the committee members of the International Association of Falconry, as well as many renowned falconers and raptor conservationists.



Dr Bohumil Stouka (Czechoslovakia), Janusz Siricki (Poland), Debbie Stewart and Noel Hyde (New Zealand), Garry Timbrell (Ireland).

We also spent two days visiting Nick Fox's Falcon breeding farm in Carmarthen, Wales. This enabled us to get some "hands on" work alongside his staff, including Martyn Paterson, and Diana Durman-Walters, as they went about their daily management of the birds. This gave us the valuable opportunity to compare and discuss various aspects of falcon management. The trip was an outstanding success and months later we're still buzzing from the event.

Noel Hyde

The following people are acknowledged for their generous contributions to make attending this event possible. In particular, a big thank you to Don Grant and Yoko De Houwer of Tasman Bay Herbs (Motueka), Mary Staal (Rotorua), Laurie and Beverley Richardson (Auckland), Brent and Shirley Handy (Rotorua), June Grant (Te Raukawa, Rotorua), Hilary and Victoria Prior (London), Lake Challice Wines (Tauranga and Blenheim), Nick and Barber Fox (Carmarthen, Wales), Carol Ryan and Alex Whitman (Auckland), and Jonathan Rudge (Salisbury, UK).



## THE JOURNAL



"The falconers of the world have joined together for this wonderful gathering in order to support our submission to UNESCO to recognise falconry as an intangible cultural heritage. As the new President of the International Association of Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey, I am honoured to support falconry worldwide".

Frank Bond, 14th July 2007



A. British Falconer, Author & Historian - Roger Upton  
B. Korean Falconers - Sung-Wook Choi & Hyun-Kyng Lee  
C. Turkmenistan Falconers - Including 82 year old Arzaman Morlanov 4th generation falconer & president of the Turkmenistan Falconers Association.  
D. Japanese Falconer - Zenjiro Tagami 37th Master of the Suwa Hawking School.  
E. Siberian Falconer - Lubo Engler with Noel Hyde.



UNESCO  
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.  
IAF - International Association of Falconry,  
currently has 63 associations from 48 countries worldwide  
totaling 28,500 members.  
<http://www-iaf.org>

The first Festival of Falconry - July 2007  
Thank you to all the many falconers from so many  
countries! I wonder what the birds will say  
when you welcome?

God Blessings  
Noel Hyde

I met many great people, exchanging ideas and  
knowledge. We had a great time. The  
festival was all what we needed. Great  
quality, so relaxing. Thank you  
very large. I will be back.

Very best wishes from  
Garry Timbrell (Ireland)  
Chairman Advisory Committee  
IAF  
14.7.07

The greatest love of my life  
for many a life  
but much in the spirit and life  
but spirit  
John & Susan  
14th July 2007

Best Wishes  
KAZAKHSTAN - KENATY  
15.07.2007

KYRGYZSTAN  
KIDYRAI MEMBER 15.07.2007

KYRGYZSTAN  
KIDYRAI MEMBER 15.07.2007

15.07.2007

Just the  
Festival of Falconry  
Brought back  
the very best wishes for the festival  
Project. I am most grateful for your  
and  
Chairman Frank Bond

To Pam 2007.7.14-15  
8 Tagamiwa  
祝詞 祝詞 祝詞  
祝詞 祝詞 祝詞

Along Al Talasi... Home of UAE Heritage  
Club

Tajikistan  
15.07.2007

Tajikistan  
15.07.2007

Tajikistan  
15.07.2007

## A LETTER HOME



*'The flights were long, delayed, and crowded. Half-way stay in Hong Kong and we were like the country bumpkins visiting the 'Jerems'. We went through tight security and bag inspections, temperature scanning and metal detectors. We set off the security alarms at safe borders control due to metal eyes in our shoes. We arrived in London at 5.30 in the morning, coincidentally the first flight to land after a bomb alert. Heathrow deserted - no queues anywhere and not sure that we were entirely comfortable with that.'*

We walked off the jet lag with a visit to the magnificent New gardens. Amongst the grounds we found fresh prey remains of a feral pigeon and this kept us most alert looking out for a goshawk, sparrow hawk or peregrine. But we must've been tired because after getting caught in a thunderstorm, we raced home and thought we'd catch up before dinner. Sound asleep we missed the lightning strikes overhead that set the local church and a houseboat on fire, sirens blaring, police and all the activity.

A very big sleep and next morning, we jumped in a rental car to travel through to Wales. After rush 'minute' traffic of Ngongotaha back home the day before, the M4 was a contrast like no other. No real hiccups along the way, except for turning the window wipers on every time we indicated, three-lane roundabouts with their own sets of traffic lights, Noel sporting and identifying (in Latin) every bird on the way ('it's a beauty - Oh!') and, trying to remember that there were different road rules. Not sure of the population in the UK - maybe 60 million. I think they were all on the same road.

We arrived travel wary in Wales. Everyone there was gearing up for the falconry festival - preparing horses and equipment, making costumes, and blocking out and naming birds. We helped with feed preparations and plucked 300 quail in the morning, and then rewarded to see two NZ falcon chicks to make us feel at home. They were only ten days old and a bit young to be at the festival, but a female falcon called 'Dynamite' was all ready to go. Dynamite isn't a true New Zealand falcon but a hybrid crossed with a

Peregrine. Dynamite had already been in trouble with the neighbour's chickens, so to avoid further trouble and mindful of our recent security experiences, we thought it best not to mention we were taking 'dynamite' to the festival.

We drove back to Reading with a carload of supplies arriving in time to the Englefield Estate to help set up and have a practice for the Parade of Nations. The grounds were stunning - big exotic, big pool, big grounds, and our first encounter with a British falconer flying his African Pale Goshawk. A timely visit to his camp to see his huge Golden Eagle was where we met another man walking his dog. We assumed he was perhaps the groundsman, and introduced ourselves as Noel and Debbie from New Zealand (didn't mean it to sound like some sort of apology), but he in turn introduced himself as 'William', and that he owned the estate. We thanked Sir and Lady Beynon for allowing such an event on their property and 'Bill' reckoned the last time he had 'Xmas' visit, they had a bath on his front lawn.

The following day was the actual start of the festival and it didn't begin as planned. On arrival I crushed a finger in the door, and aside from jumping around in pain trying not to use too many expletives, the body went into a bit of shock and I went through a faint, nauseous half an hour sitting on a chair, head between the legs trying to recover. Dr Nick Fox reckoned I was pointing in the wrong direction for Mexico. But I helped in my own way and was the first to test the festival first aid tent. All fixed with an understated

plaster, our friend Bridget made a valid point that waring to people showing my new dressings wasn't an entirely appropriate gesture.

We set up a New Zealand display of photos, information, maps with handouts. We were in the 'Far Out' section, between the Koreans, Croatians and the Italians, across from Brazil, Tunisia, and El Salvador. It turned out, that of everyone, we had travelled the most distance and were approached by many people acknowledging the effort to be there.

While there were undeniable language barriers, everyone still understood the language of falconers - the types of birds, and their weights, albeit accompanied by lots of animated gestures. We were totally abashed by the countries represented with their stands, the ambience, and the camaraderie. The rich colours of national dress and the historic medieval costumes, was backdropped by traditional camp sites of tents, felt yurts, a Bedouin village, and by night all with campfires.

There were so many raptors there, but also the 'accessories' of falconers. The horses - in dressage or with carriages, renaissance breeds of dogs like vislas and salakis. The Arabs even had their own camels.



This event was simply a time machine.

The Grand Parade of Nations was exciting - it felt like the Falcoery Olympics as nationalities would enter the ring. Size mattered and we had the biggest flag, we smiled because the Americans had the smallest!

We wandered around the site with permanent smiles on our faces - people would introduce themselves, ask for autographs, and on the first day a number of different people came up to us who had visited Wingspan. Frequently we were asked about immigration - seemed everyone wanted to move to New Zealand.

We collected penned impressions and autographs from representatives of the different countries to mark the event, and this in itself gained momentum as the festival continued. Some who signed it said they would bid for it themselves, others suggested they would donate to Wingspan not to sell it. The book gained 'weight' with signatures, many of whom we felt we already knew within falconry circles; we have their books, or their artwork, or their DVD's. The first page was appropriately signed by Ateeq Al Falasi - I lead of the UAE Heritage Club, the main sponsor of the event - he smiled at our Team New Zealand caps with 'Fly Emirates'.

Of the clubs and associations represented we met Presidents, past Presidents, and Chairmen. We scored a hat trick with the Upton's - Mark Upton a famous raptor artist, then his father Roger Upton, the raptor's brother too - Peter Upton, who as it happens is Patron of a New Zealand

club for old breeds of Arabian Horses. We mixed and mingled with the heads of the IAF (International Association of Falconers), drinks into the evening with people like Gary Tunbrell, Frank Bond, Tim Kimmel, representatives from NAFA (North American Falconers Assoc), Patrick Morrel, Kent Carme (who remembered Noel from a previous visit to the States), coffees with Jim Check of the Hawk Board, and, Christian de Coone from Belgium became Noel's new best friend.

Visiting each country's stand had its own merits, first breakfast at the Kazakh tent, then we progressed to the Belgian stand - they would offer some beer with Falcon on the label, the Dutch also offered beers with falcons on them, then the Hungarians would give us wines with falcons on their labels. The Slovaks seemed to drink a lot regardless of the label, and they were 'Pasevaks' by the end of the evening. They were very very 'slow'vaks by the morning.



We 'blinked', and by Monday morning the festival was over. We dismantled the Wingspan stand, and gave away all the remaining display material and photographs to our new international friends. The Japanese, Koreans, and Turkmenistan crews gave us posters and artwork. The Italians gifted photographs (and large shots of grapes), and the guy from Tunisia literally gave us the shirt off his back.

And his shoes.  
And his trousers.

In the words of that 70's group 'The Seekers' 'the carnival was over'.

Debbie Stewart

## PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE - A Review

In August 2008 the Department of Conservation produced a public discussion document titled 'Review of Levels of Protection For Some New Zealand Wildlife' and asked for public submissions from interested parties. The review looked at the current levels of protection for Harrier hawks and Little owls to see whether their present, partially protected status was still appropriate.

Each year we receive visits and enquiries from aviculturists, falconers and potential falconers. Wingspan Birds of Prey Trust and the Falcons For Grapes Project support falconers and falconry worldwide for reasons many and varied. However within the present framework and the partially protected status of harriers, the fact that hawks can be shot if causing damage to livestock or property, but cannot be kept in good health for recreational falconry, we find particularly disturbing.

Most government agencies including DOC, are committed to the use of wildlife as a renewable resource. For example permitted shooting with bag limits, management of the whitebait fishery etc. In the case of protected species, this use of a resource may or may not entail direct killing. It may entail the removal alive from the wild on a sustainable quota basis. A step further removed from this, is the use of a species on a perpetually sustainable basis through captive breeding.

The present Department of Conservation protected status of Harrier hawks and Little owls, discriminates against other potential user groups in favor of game preserves, farmers and landowners. The issues surrounding this situation are bigger than the present policy allows, and we believe the following points need to be addressed so that all potential stakeholders are treated equally.

The Department of Conservation advised Wingspan in early March 2008 that 'the review was now complete and that recommendations will go to the Minister before the end of the month'. The following is our joint submission to DOC, from The Falcon's for Grapes Project and Wingspan Birds of Prey Trust, which is presented here for the reader's information and consideration.

### THE REVISION OF STATUS FOR THE HARRIER AND LITTLE OWL

A joint consultation document for the Department of Conservation from Dr Nick Fox and Colin Wynn (Falcons for Grapes Project, Marlborough), and Noel Hyde and Debbie Stewart (Wingspan Bird of Prey Trust,Rotorua).

#### AUSTRALASIAN HARRIER

The current status of the Harrier is 'partially protected'. This means it can be killed by the occupier of the land or (someone with the occupiers authority) if causing injury or damage to 'livestock'.

#### The definition of 'livestock' seems vague:

- Does this mean domesticated animals such as chickens and pigeons?
- Does it mean introduced animals, such as pheasants, quail, ducks and rabbits while being held in captivity?
- Does it mean indigenous animals, such as kokako and Black stilts held in captivity?
- Does it mean indigenous animals such as kokako and Black stilts in the wild?
- Does it mean introduced animals such as pheasants, rabbits, peacocks, ducks, or turkeys when not in captivity or in a feral state?
- Does the public know what it means?
- Does the public pay any attention to this status?
- Is there any significant enforcement of this status?
- What is the track record of offences and prosecutions resulting from this status?

At present, significant numbers of native harriers are being killed in order to protect game farms. This raises a number of ethical concerns:

- Is it ethical to kill native wildlife in order to protect non-natives?
- Is it ethical to kill native wildlife in order to kill non-natives e.g., pheasants and quail for recreational use?
- Is it ethical to kill native wildlife in order to kill non-natives e.g., pheasants and quail for profit?
- Is it ethical to kill native wildlife when non-lethal methods are available?
- Is it ethical to kill native wildlife when it is illegal to keep one alive and healthy in captivity for recreational use?

#### The current status also raises enforcement issues:

By 'partially protecting' a species, it makes enforcement almost impossible because of the legal difficulty of establishing 'intent'.

- When a species can be killed for one reason, it is but a short step to casual killing.
- Many examples show that the public either cannot or will not distinguish between harriers and falcons. Falcons are being killed either because they 'look alike' or because people think the law applies to both species.

#### Management issues:

- It allows one user-group - game farmers especially - a general permission to kill harriers.
- It does not control by bag limit or season.
- It does not control by licence.
- It places no burden on this user-group to use non-lethal methods.
- There is no requirement to obtain licences nor file bag

- It discriminates against other user-groups, such as people who would like to train healthy live harriers and fly them.
- It can create 'sinks' or 'vacuums', sucking in and killing harriers from a wide catchment area significantly depleting local populations.
- There is no 'user pays' policy.
- There is no management plan requiring target population levels.

#### Solutions:

- Provide full protection for all native wildlife.
- Allow removal from the wild only under licence with conditions

- Insist on non-lethal methods, such as protecting the livestock resource using netting, translocation of harriers, or rearing of nuisance harriers in captivity as a recreational resource in their own right.
- Treat all user-groups even-handedly. If a licence is granted to remove a native animal from the wild to support the recreational or commercial harvesting of non-natives - such as pheasants and quail, a licence should also be granted to use the nuisance native animal recreationally without killing it.
- Welfare issue surrounding the trapping, handling, releasing, holding or killing of harriers should be properly addressed. People handling harriers should receive training and be in possession of a certificate from RANZ, Wingspan to demonstrate competency.
- Ensure the licence holder can correctly identify harriers and falcons.
- Traceability and documentation. Translocated harriers should be properly banded and recorded.
- Human resources should be encouraged. A register of people certificated to handle harriers should be circulated, training should be resourced from licence fees, and anyone wishing to remove nuisance harriers should only be given a licence when he or an agent named on the licence has a certificate of competence.

#### LITTLE OWLS

The Little Owl was introduced to New Zealand about a hundred years ago. It has specific habitat requirements, some of which are provided in the drier parts of New Zealand. These will limit its ultimate distribution. For the most part, its range correlates negatively with native bush and native wildlife. It does not therefore have a major impact on indigenous species, either through predation, competition or through inter-breeding.

Any policy on the holding, breeding or use of a wildlife resource needs to be consistent. It cannot discriminate against particular user-groups, such as aviculturists, unless it is able to demonstrate a specific wildlife management reason. In the case of the Little Owl no such reason is apparent. There is no reason to prevent citizens in certain parts of the country from holding and breeding Little owls. On the other hand, there may well be strong reasons to control breeding and release of some other potentially invasive alien species, such as the Mallard, which is leading to the extinction of the Grey duck as a pure genotype.

The policy on potentially invasive alien species should be based on their potential to be invasive and decisions at the species level should be based on this policy rather than on what appears an *ad hoc* approach.



photo by Jason Scariff

## RESEARCH REPOSITORY - Raptors Archives

One of Wingspan's core objectives is the further development of a research repository. This is to assist both national and international students of academia in their studies and research on New Zealand's birds of prey.

The repository collection is being slowly built as-and-when specimens become available. Ultimately it is to include research study skins, skeletons, and eggs of New Zealand's raptors, as well as specimens of the introduced Little owl and Barn owl. The collection will have special emphasis on the threatened endemic New Zealand falcon - particularly specimens from the Bay of Plenty region. These specimens will assist studies into such areas as morphology, growth, pollutant levels in both birds and eggs, including parasitology, DNA and diet.

The development of the collection also includes falcon prey species in the form of bird study skins and skeletons, as well as outstretched wings and tails. Nearly all the specimens have full data, including measurements, sex, date, location and collector.

It is the use of these collections where the data generated can facilitate a better understanding of the natural processes affecting wild populations. Prey collections are forming an invaluable comparative resource to aid the identification of prey, feather, and pellet samples collected in the field. A good example of this includes the identification of more than 1000 pellet and prey samples collected during Richard Seaton's three-year PhD study of New Zealand falcons in Kaingaroa forest.

The Wingspan Centre also holds a large database on captive management protocols for breeding, incubation and rearing, but also raptor rehabilitation including case studies, with x-rays and treatments of injured raptors brought into the centre and cared for.

Another area of the repository is the Wingspan archive of falconry. Falconry as a sport has been practiced in New Zealand since the 1920's, but these days the practice is confined

to the rehabilitation of falcons and hawks back to the wild. Because of the international cultural status of falconry, Wingspan is collecting as much information as can be found, including photos, correspondence and newspaper articles on the various practitioners of the sport over the years.

During the International Falconry Festival in the UK (July 2007), Kent Carnie, Curator of the Archives of Falconry (World Centre for Birds of Prey in Boise Idaho USA) welcomed copies of information from the New Zealand archives. This will officially recognise the cultural heritage of New Zealand falconry, the falconers contributions to the captive management and conservation (of both New Zealand falcons and harrier hawks), and have a rightful place within the international falconry community.

Archive information will also be disseminated to the newly established Heritage of Falconry Trust (UK). This Trust aims to preserve physical artifacts, records, artwork and photographs relating to the heritage



of falconry and its contributions to raptor biology, captive breeding, and conservation. Information as a web based archive, the cataloguing of falconry artifacts and records (in both collections and items in private ownership) will be an information resource available worldwide.

Noel Hyde



## PROJECT GIGGLE



The New Zealand Laughing Owl, *Sceloglaux albifacies* was named after its loud pitched and chattering call. Much larger than the morepork, the first specimen was found dead in 1914. Last year Wingspan received some convincing historic reports and sightings of Laughing Owl. Based on these sightings, Noel Hyde gave a presentation to members of the Raptor Association of New Zealand. This promoted some discussion and as a result a working group was formed: 'Project Giggle'.

The working group included Noel Hyde, Suzi Phillips, Richard Seaton, Debbie Stewart, and Andrew Thomas, who met during May and September 2007. Plans were put in place to prepare for two field trips to follow up on the reported sightings on the West Coast of the South Island. Advertisements were also placed in hunting and outdoor magazines to enlist other reports or anecdotal information, and a literature review prepared.

The response from "have you seen this bird" advertisements was disappointing. Of the handful of respondents, most were either morepork or Little owl as were reports of unusual night calls with birds unseen. However, a few convincing sightings from the last 25-30 years were interesting to collate. The first field trip in October was to investigate an area not far from Reefton known as the Rahu Saddle. On investigation of the site we agreed the dampness underfoot and heavy beech forest cover seemed unlikely habitat from the more drier conditions the Laughing owl was known to have preferred.

While driving around visiting various sites, we were dismayed to see six stoats in the course of one afternoon, and considered that probably accounted for the lack of birdlife in the area. An evening survey was also included but without even hearing a morepork. On the last day, we drove up to an old known site at Whitecliffs near Buller. No Laughing owl here either however we witnessed a spectacular flight of a flock of 35-40 kereru wood pigeons flying over the forest canopy.

We all had a "nothing ventured, nothing gained" approach to Project Giggle, and while there weren't more positive results we were able to identify sites that would be suitable for further surveys in the future. One of these sites we considered included the Klondyke Valley, and this became the focus for the second field trip in early January 2008.



Field trip participants included Chris Gay, Noel Hyde, Andrew Fidler, Fleur Masey, Suzi Phillips, Richard Seaton, Kate Tester, and Bindi Thomas. Pictured above is Wingspan Trustee Chris Gay.

### PROJECT GIGGLE

A joint project by Wingspan Birds of Prey Trust and the Raptor Association of New Zealand.

## THE SEARCH FOR AN EXTINCT BIRD

A report from a non-birder



I had long since discovered that the eye-oh-oh-oh "If you can't beat them join them" rings equally true for the post-timer of parties more accurately called observations. Take bird-watching for example. Or in this case, bird-watching of a ghost species.

Earlier in 2007, I started to notice an increased level of enthusiasm and anticipation amongst those folk in my life who live and breathe birds of prey. Rich would spend long moments staring longingly at a blurry black and white print we have on the wall, sighing audibly. The bird in the print is reputed to be the last wild laughing owl, and the thoughts in Rich's head were of the possibility of the species continued existence.

Crazy? Perhaps not. Species have been rediscovered from extinction before. The reports of a large unidentified owl continued to roll in. And in the year we noted the passing of the doctor and outdoorsman from Invercargill, Geoffrey Orbell, (who made the infamous discovery of the thought-to-be-extinct takahē) it seemed almost feasible. Besides, the passion for the possibility is highly infectious.

As an ecologist, it was hard to push aside the many questions that arose when contemplating extinction or otherwise. Why would it have survived when other species didn't? Why there and no where else? Why hadn't it been found before? What about the loss of prey? Predators? But those reports, both historically and contemporary, were increasingly compelling and deserved some contemplation. It couldn't be ignored - something was out there. Just imagine...

An initial recon party was dispatched. They returned with stories of plausibility, of potential sites that needed more time to clarify, and of the need for another trip. Reports and sightings were compared, discussed, dismissed. Maps purchased and poured over. Plans hatched, survey sites decided on, emails sent, boots waxed, tents packed and ferries booked.

So it was that in the dying days of the year I found myself in the depths of the southern mountain passes, buffing up a slope at the start of a seven hour tramp into "potential laughing owl habitat". Cold hours of the night peering into the darkness accompanied by an irrefragable rapoos-beessed partner, and an incredibly annoying squeak emitting from the 'squeaker'. A noise that any self-respecting owl would find impossible to ignore and which any human would stay they could.

I had hesitated before admitting what I was doing with my Christmas break. I received side-ways glances and sympathetic pats on the shoulder. Others inquired if I wouldn't perhaps benefit from a cup of tea and a lie-down. Had I learn: nothing from previous adventures with Rich? Out on the cliff face, Grant from Nelson struggled to disguise his apprehension at being in a small DOC hut with a couple of obvious boomies. My concerns of public ridicule were well founded. Back in town I had noticed a sceptical piece of journalism about an Australian couple searching the Urewera Ranges for the shrub moa. The Australian couple disagree with the general and accepted consensus that this species is extinct. I had visions of ourselves being described in an equally mocking manner. "Don't be ridiculous" Rich scoffed, "that bird hasn't even been seen by Europeans. What nutters, moa have obviously gone the way of the dodo. Besides, this is an owl." Yep, he's nothing if not single-minded. Strange thing is, I can't help agreeing.

Not possessing the necessary amounts of patience (or blind desire) of a good birder, it has to be admitted that I enjoyed the adventure and the journey more than the purpose. I tried hard to find busidness enjoyment at sitting

on a wet log as the sun went down, the temperature dropped and the increasing dark played tricks on my eyes. I made several attempts to stay focused and tuned for the slightest movement, the faintest whoot-whoos. I managed an hour. I stretched my legs, stomped around, relayed all the reasons the obviously extinct owl was extirped and settled back down for another 40 minutes. I put on yet another layer, ate yet another biscuit, mumbled yet another complaint and managed to sit it out for one last hour. But in the end, I was happy for the book I had tucked into my pack. Cracking it open made those long cold night watches a great deal more enjoyable.

And at the end of a week? Not a trace, not a feather, not a call out of the ordinary, not a splash of white on the cliff face. Nothing with which to fuel hope, much less conviction. But the hours of reconnaissance did lead to the discovery of a stylish clearing surrounded by beech forest and rugged cliffs - "perfect" laughing owl habitat. Those reports remain undisputed, there remains large areas to search. The passion of possibility has not totally faded. It took Geoffrey Orbell nine years to find the takahē after all.

Fleur Masey



## KAINGAROA FOREST 2007-2008

Banding together

The New Zealand falcons within Kaingaroa Forest continue to draw interest and attention, and this year further surveys and monitoring concentrated on the main areas where the breeding density is highest. Wingspan acknowledges Timberlands Ltd for their continued support of the project, alongside Massey University (Ecology) and the Raptor Association of New Zealand.

This year, Wingspan fieldwork focused on finding nests, identifying wild-banded birds, and banding of fledging falcons. There are now more than 200 falcons in or near Kaingaroa forest with colour bands - each individually unique and coded.

Wingspan interest in the falcons of Kaingaroa started in 1995. This monitoring continued with the PhD study carried out in 2003-2006 by Dr Richard Seaton, who banded over 170 falcons, and further birds have been banded each year during the RANZ annual fieldtrip into the forest.



Photo James Cowie



Photo James Cowie

In November, a team of RANZ members also covered some large and difficult areas to survey. Following up on these nests at the peak of the breeding cycle were

the Massey Falcon Research Team headed by Dr John Holland and Dr Ed Minot. They carried out some interesting trials aimed at more effective survey techniques. Blood samples were also taken from a number of birds, which will be valuable in establishing a genetic database with the potential to study paternity ratios in some nests.

As time goes on, the banding programme will further develop in potential. Band combination recoveries can provide interesting data regarding the age, dispersion, and breeding success of individuals in the population.

Several such cases have already arisen. For instance, one breeding male caught this year has been identified as coming from compartment 1078 - one of the first falcon nests to be monitored by Wingspan. The male (white: H21136) was banded as a chick in the 2002-03 season and is therefore 5 years old. This male is now breeding 14 km from his natal area, with an unbanded female (her history unknown).

However this year she was banded and further breeding information can now be gathered. It would be interesting to see whether this pair will breed together again next year. In the 2004-05 season H21136 was known to be bred in compartment 123 with a different female. They failed that year which may have given him reason to change partners.

of four chicks including a captive bred male (from Otorohanga) that was fostered. All four chicks successfully fledged, and it is great to see this breeding female is doing so well. Now 10km from her natal area, she is breeding with a three-year-old male who originally fledged 9 km away.

While surveying the forest compartments we often meet contractors preparing the area for cutovers and planting. At one compartment we ran into Bryce Fluney (Rotorua) and Jim Treclar (Taupo) while we were checking a nest. It was interesting to hear of their encounters - a female falcon took a half grown rabbit very close to them - "Just whacked it, picked it up and kept on flying!" On this occasion, while we caught and banded the adult male and walked up to the nest to age the chicks, they witnessed a falcon dashing between the call and boom of the digger to take a finch at full speed.

Timberlands contractors are very helpful in providing sightings and nest locations, leading directly to three nests discovered this year. The foresters' interest and reports were not restricted to just falcons in November. It was Crew 045 that advised us of a morepork nest in a son-to-be logged area, and two owl eggs rescued.

Shane McPherson



## CLASSIC HITS 2007

Each compartment is daunting for anyone standing looking at the expanse of slash and brambles to walk through - all in the hope of getting battered by an aggressive falcon - a clear sign of nesting defence! Many thousands of hectares were covered and Shane McPherson is glad he was not alone during many of these surveys!



## QUICK FACTS 2007-2008 season

Nests identified	20
<i>(Plus additional 3 pairs holding territories)</i>	
Failed nests identified	6
Banded falcon chicks	34
New banded adults	4
Banded adult birds identified	24
Unbanded adults	13
Compartments surveyed	79
Area surveyed	12,000 Ha
Total birds banded within Kaingaroa forest since 1995	204!

## KAINGAROA 'HIDE AWAY'

From September 2006 to the end of February 2007 I spent my time observing the breeding behaviour and development of the New Zealand Falcon in Kaingaroa pine forest. This research project was undertaken as partial fulfilment of a Masters thesis through Massey University in Palmerston North.

In pine forests the New Zealand Falcon nests on the ground, and this provides an 'ideal' opportunity to observe them. For each observation day, I spent about six hours continuously observing the activity in and around the nest. I had constructed a custom built hide at two separate nests, from early in the incubation phase through until post-fledging of the chicks.

After many hours spent in my hide I have come to the conclusion that

no matter how many layers of foam one may attach to a seat, after six hours nothing is comfortable. But during this time I observed some breath taking events. These ranged from the hatching of the chicks to predation attempts by passing stoats.

At the first nest site the female disappeared, presumably died, and this provided an 'ideal' opportunity to observe them. For each observation day, I spent about six hours continuously observing the activity in and around the nest. I had constructed a custom built hide at two separate nests, from early in the incubation phase through until post-fledging of the chicks.

I also looked at the prey species brought back to the nests. Prey items included nine species of introduced birds, eight native bird species and one insect species.

While the young were still in nest, most of the prey was caught by the adult male falcon - the female maintaining a more protective role during this time.

When the male arrived with the food it was often passed to the female, before finally being fed to the young chicks. I also observed a stoat attempting to predate the falcon's eggs on and off for two hours. Both the incubating female and male were able to defend all four of their eggs from this persistent predator.

It has been an amazing experience following the comings and goings of the NZ falcon during the breeding season.

What an amazing bird we have in New Zealand.  
*Andrew Thomas*

## YOU CAN SPONSOR A WILD NEW ZEALAND FALCON!

In an effort to support and contribute towards the monitoring of Kaingaroa falcons in seasons to come, sponsorship of individual birds is now available. Your donation will contribute to the active field research of New Zealand falcons in the wild.

For a donation of \$100 you can name the wild bird, receive information on band numbers and combinations, a colour photograph, and updated summary when your falcon has been located, plus free admission to the Wingspan Birds of Prey Centre, and acknowledgement on the aviary sponsor board.

This is a unique opportunity and expressions of interest are welcomed for the 2008 season.



Three chicks at five days old...



...and then ten days later!

These photographs feature 'Kawaka' (that's the falcon chick on the right!)

Kawaka hatched, alongside two brothers, on the 2nd December 2007 and then two weeks later fitted with new colour bands - black on the left leg, white on the right leg with special band number S80390. Kawaka fledged successfully on the 8th January 2008.

*Kawaka is gift sponsored to Bryan Maubhinney of Auckland*

*2008-2009 Season; Two falcon chicks gift sponsored to David Jones-Parry of Cambridge.*



24 Wingspan 2008



Wingspan 2008 25

## FALCON SIGHTINGS

Falcon sightings are reported to Wingspan throughout the year, with the most common reports during the spring and summer when the falcons are nesting. Falcon sightings in your area can be registered online on the website or by sending the information directly to the Wingspan Office. The required details include date, location (with a map reference or GPS reading), number of birds seen, and a brief description of the activity observed.

Sightings of falcons are reported by recreational hunters and trappers, landowners, or from forest estate managers and contractors such as Kaingaroa Timberlands and P F Olsen Ltd. But often we receive correspondence a little more out of the ordinary, or about other New Zealand birds of prey. One of the Wingspan members wrote:

"Friends from Hamilton dropped in earlier on. On the way over they visited a friend in Bennydale. Apparently all of Bennydale is abuse with the 'eagle' that lives in the area. When told there weren't any in New Zealand the question then came up: 'Could one possibly have flown across from Australia?' While nobody has so far been able to take any photos it is reported to have a wingspan of between 10 and 12 ft! Definitely not a big hawk!"

Donna Falconer from Twizel reported in March 2008 her own unique encounter with New Zealand falcons. She writes...

"The last three mornings when I have been out kayaking on Lake Ohau I have watched a pair that seem to have taken up residence in the area. They are often in the willows down by the water and are incredibly vocal and play fight with each other. I have a mini schnauzer dog that comes with me and he is attracted by their racket, which in turn gets them going even more.

I was out on the water coming in and I heard them a few hundred meters along, then I saw my dog running along the road, with both falcons dive-bombing him. I had about 100m view of this when one came out and did a low swoop over me on the water.

On another occasion they chased him into the water - this dog never goes for a swim when I'm out kayaking (not in 4 months) and today when I got close to shore I noticed he had been right in!"

Generally, most reports received are enthusiastic personal accounts of close encounters with karearea. From time to time, however there remain disturbing reports of conflicts with falcons. This last season Wingspan member Mike McConchie forwarded some

This year the Wingspan database for falcon sightings was updated with all reports (current and historic) catalogued by Shane McPherson, with the updated map shown on the facing page. Wingspan acknowledges the mapping provided by Canmap Hawley, and AMG Web Designers for the website update.

26 Wingspan 2008

interesting entries from a hut logbook in the Hammer Springs area, Canterbury.

**Notes in Haruru Hut logbook**  
22/12/2006 - In from Kiwi saddle this morning. Be careful of falcon attacks at close range. Goes for your hat. Sorry Doc! hit with Leki pole on its second strike. Stunned the thing, who's now really irate and continues to attack. Wolf sounds and Leki pole stopped further strikes. Be warned.

[Added comments following on from the above]  
- You must have been near the NEST! that makes them attack. - I'll hit you with your goddamned Leki pole you dedicated follower of Jashun.

17/04/2007 - At the hot springs I witnessed a fascinating dogfight by two falcons attacking a hawk (kahu). The falcons even attacked from below despite many fast normal swoops (the hawk even landed on the ground to escape).

7/05/2007 - saw an injured hawk 40 minutes before the hut. It crash landed in a stream as I approached (on a MTB). I got it out using my helmet. My helmet now has claw marks on it. Helping the bird further resulted in a claw mark on my index finger - Was it injured as a result of falcons??

**Notes in Hope Kiwi Hut log book**  
10/11/2006 - Saw many birds including a NZ falcon near this hut (20m)

26/12/2006 - Falcon attacking me at Hope Halfway Hut.

29/12/2006 - Agree with above about aggressive falcon. It got me!

30/12/2006 - After heavy rain, left 2pm, and avoiding falcons - those thieves stole my favourite fishing tramping hat - so if you should chance upon it I'm keen to have it back. Last I saw it, it was high up on a falcon perch, whilst they continued to swoop for my scalp as well - scoundrels.

31/12/2006 - The falcon got us too!! (hat missing)

6/01/2007 - Great day. The falcon made 5 or 6 unsuccessful swoops for me also. If you follow the river bank before Halfway Hut you can avoid the falcons. Almost 20min walk. Rejoice mack at hut.



Photo by Mandy Hague  
Whakatane Rose Gardens



Photo by Paul Gibson  
Lake Virginia Wanganui



Photo by Angela Wickham  
Lake Te Anau Wanganui



KEY:  
- 2003 Mapping  
- 2004 Mapping  
- 2005 Mapping  
- 2006 Mapping  
- 2007 Mapping  
Printed: 2 Nov 2007

Canmap Hawley  
Limited  
www.geograph.co.nz

Wingspan 2008 27

## AUCKLAND ISLAND FALCON

### An Encounter



Enderby Island, one of the Auckland Island group, is home to a rich diversity of seabirds and land birds. A number of the land birds are endemic to the island group including a rail, snipe, rail, band-tailed petrel, tomtit and pipit. The falcons inhabiting the Auckland Islands belong to the southern form of the New Zealand Falcon, which also inhabits Stewart Island and Fiordland. Falcons are not found on any other New Zealand sub-antarctic islands, making them the only raptor in the New Zealand sub-antarctic region.

On a recent visit to the New Zealand sub-antarctic islands I had the fortune to encounter an Auckland Island Falcon. Whilst out strolling along cliffs on the Auckland Islands a dark flash in the corner of my eye alerted me to a falcon - I glimpsed it dipping out of sight behind tussock on the cliff ledge. A closer look revealed a juvenile female New Zealand falcon perched on the cliff. The blue colour, cere, eye-rings and legs going away its young age. However, it was only after it crash-landed on a nearby shrub I realised it was a young fledgling still learning to fly. Destined to become an agile aerial predator this young falcon was still unconfident on the wing - flying low over the tussock and relying on soft landings into the hedge-like shrubs of Enderby Island.

The falcon was flying low and making use of controlled crash landings onto shrubs. It was not the least concerned with a human presence nearby, which allowed plenty of time to admire the beauty of this young and rare falcon.

A number of other falcon sightings were reported from the group that day. One was a description of a dark falcon gliding unconfidently and flapping unceremoniously onto a low shrub. This could have been the same bird or perhaps a sibling from the same brood. One adult falcon was sighted on the edge of rata forest. Department of Conservation (DoC) staff living on Enderby Island informed us a falcon pair had recently nested near their hut. The DoC workers, a team studying the threatened Hooker's Sealion, indicated there had been a falcon nest near the hut for a number of breeding seasons.

The Auckland Islands lie 460 km south of Bluff. With an unforgiving climate they present a challenge to all life residing there. Lying south of the "rearing forties", the islands inhabit latitudes known as the "furious fifties" - latitudes famous for large storms and high seas. The characteristic weather pattern is westerly low pressure systems which bring gales and storms to batter the islands. The rata forests took the form of low stunted canopies, testament to the regular rain lashed gales which sweep across the islands. With such a harsh climate and an average temperature of eight degrees it seems surprising a falcon population is able to survive. Yet surprise seems to be a theme of studying NZ Falcons: being forever impressed at their adaptability. After all, who would have



predicted falcons could successfully breed on the ground in production plantation forests? Yet there is known to be a robust population in Kangaroo forest east of Lake Taupo.

Enderby Island is free of introduced predators. It would be interesting to know whether falcons are breeding on Auckland Island itself - the largest island in the group - which has populations of feral pigs, cats and mice. Fossil prey remains have indicated falcons have existed on Campbell Island in the past. The sealing era brought rats to Campbell Island and the majority of bird species were decimated. It would be a tragedy if introduced pests were to ever reach Enderby Island. Being the only falcons in the New Zealand sub-antarctic region, the southern falcon is worthy of our respect.

I can only hope to return one day to see more of our sub-Antarctic falcon

James Crowe

28 Wingspan 2008

## RETURN TO PARADISE

### Falcon conservation in the land of the Dodo



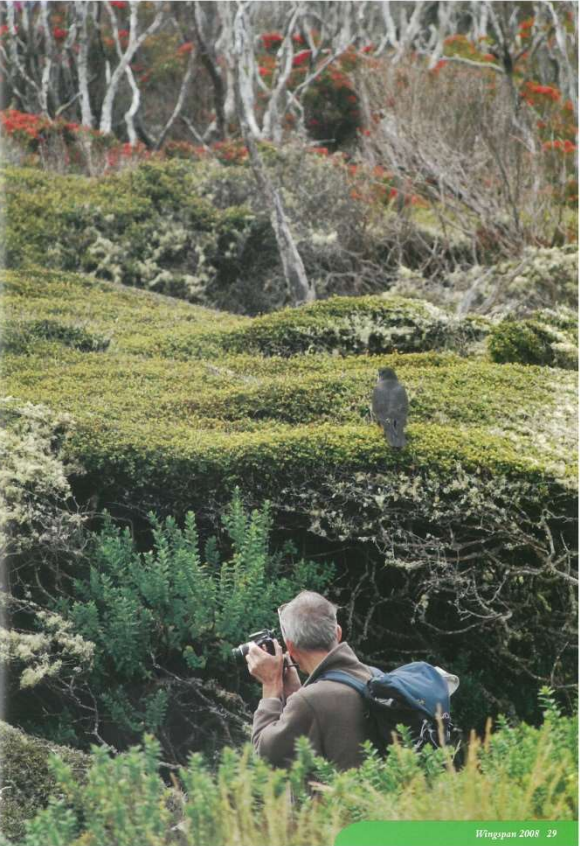
Having come to the end of his research on New Zealand falcons in pine forests, Richard Seaton uses lucky enough to be offered the chance to work with another falcon. This time in a far more scenic setting - in the tropical forests of Mauritius.

Mauritius is an island about the size of Stewart Island that lies off the east coast of Africa and Madagascar. Like New Zealand, Mauritius, lacked native mammalian predators, and was once teeming with a wide variety of unique bird life. Many of these birds were flightless and easy prey for humans and the pests they brought with them. The most well known of these was the Dodo, which was unfortunate to be one of the first documented cases of human induced extinction. Famously, the phrase 'dead as a Dodo', illustrated to a largely naive Victorian public that the world's resources were not in fact inexhaustible.

The Mauritius kestrel, *Falco punctatus*, is a small falcon, endemic to Mauritius, and is the island's only surviving bird of prey. Like the Dodo, this bird has suffered through human misadventure of its environment and once had the dubious honour of being one of the world's rarest birds. In 1974 only four individuals were known in the wild! This decline to the very brink of extinction was the result of habitat loss and the widespread use of pesticides, including the notorious DDT. As you can imagine the outlook for the survival of the species was bleak, and many, including a number of the most prominent conservation biologists of the time, assumed the kestrel could not be saved. However, over the following decades, in a remarkable feat of ingenuity and sheer determination, the Mauritius kestrel was brought back from this precarious position. In 2001

the total wild population was estimated at between 500 and 800 individuals.

Many of the techniques that are used for managing raptor populations around the world today were developed during the recovery of the Mauritius kestrel (alongside the recovery of the Peregrine falcon in Europe and North America). These techniques include captive rearing, imprinting, artificial insemination, fostering hand reared chicks into wild nests, double clutches to increase the numbers of young produced by one pair each year, hack releasing, artificial nest site provision, predator control and supplemental feeding. All of these techniques have been used to aid in the conservation of New Zealand falcon, many of them carried out by the team at Wingspan



Intensive management of the Mauritian kestrel ended in the late '90s, but island wide monitoring of the kestrels continued up until 2001. I was part of a team that monitored the kestrel population in 2000 and 2001. Since then only the Bambous Mountain population has been monitored. As a result, when the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation secured funding to carry out a nationwide survey of kestrels, I was asked if I could go and help out for a few weeks. What a difficult decision that was!

So a few weeks later I found myself flying out to Melbourne and then onto this tiny little tropical island in the middle of the Indian Ocean with a big fat grin on my face. My role was to show the team the old nest sites so they could begin their survey work, and to generally help them get orientated and set up for the season ahead. So with a backpack full of food, climbing gear and suntan lotion we set off every morning on our motorbikes. The days were spent bush bashing up to the top of cliffs, watching falcons beginning their courtship and absconding down to cavities. To say that I was not a little nervous at the prospect of finding my way around, through the largely trackless areas of forest, with no maps after six years away would be a lie. But, I was amazed at how the human memory can work sometimes, and although every morning I blindly set off with only the vaguest recollection of a cliff cavity I had once been to, I was (to the great amusement of the team) constantly surprised by the fact that I knew where to turn by a funny shaped tree, a strange rock formation or a bend in the river! "Oh yes, that's right, this is the way. It's obvious really. Yes, you cut in at the end of this eucalyptus stand, up the hill to the scree slope through the guava, hack up right through the thorn bushes to the bluff with the funny shaped boobab tree at the base, scramble straight up the bluff, then up the next bluff on the right (no not the one on the left, that takes you to the other cavity), then traverse around on a contour at the base of the bluff on the right for 200 metres, and the c-s-w-y-t-y w-h-o-u-l-d b-e... ha ha yes, yes! There you see! The cavity, 'Monkey Rock south' (or is it 'Monkey Rock north?') just above that mound of stones on the ground which you use to stand on to check for the eggs...obvious really! Easy!" "Yes, obvious Rich, easy in fact" they smiled, "maybe we'll take a GPS, huh?"

The day would then normally end with the ritual blast home on the motorbikes through the forest and down the coast to the house where we were based. On the way home we would pick up dinner, which invariably consisted of some kind of fiery hot chilli concoction. Just what was needed after a blisteringly hot day in the gorges. After that, unsurprisingly the day most often ended with beers and G&T's on the beach and talk of the day's adventures. As you can imagine, that big fat grin I flew out with never really went away, as it was hard to imagine a better job!

I have been back a while now and have been busy chasing New Zealand falcons around again, mostly as part of wind farm work. The last news I heard from the project manager in Mauritius, Richard Dale, was that they had just been

missed by a very large and threatening cyclone Gila and were feeling very relieved for their recently fledged kestrel chicks. Whether the population has continued to increase, has stabilised, or even declined, will not be known until the end of the season. But, it does seem that barring a large cyclone coming through soon, the kestrels are still fledging healthy numbers of young and things are looking good.

The dramatic success of this program is an illustration of how the conservation of even the world's most threatened species is achievable. It just takes the collective will to do it.

To find out more about the Mauritian kestrel and the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation check out, <http://www.mauritian-wildlife.org/> Richard Seaton



30 Wingspan 2008

Wingspan 2008 31



**KENYA**



Photo by Jason Seale

Shane McPherson and Mia Jensen have had some envious experiences with international raptor conservation programmes. The most recent of which saw the duo spend two weeks in Kenya between April and June of 2007.

Kenya is known worldwide for its magnificent diversity and abundance of wildlife. 1,388 bird species are known to occur in the area, of which there are 83 species of diurnal raptors and 21 species of owls.

The Peregrine Fund has been working to conserve raptors in the region since 1991. Raptor biologists Simon Thomsett and Dr. Munir Virani coordinate the East African programme. We were to spend our time volunteering for Simon Thomsett, staying at his facility about an hours drive south of Nairobi, Kenya's capital. The facility is a series of large aviaries and accommodations, set amongst acacia dotted savanna on the far corner of a game ranching property on the Athi-Kapiti plains. Here Simon rehabilitates injured raptors and houses a breeding pair of African crowned eagle - one of the world's largest and most powerful

eagles. Individual projects we participated in included road counts, vulture tagging, nesting surveys, and translocation and release of captive bred and rehabilitated raptors.

Many projects are carried out by Simon and Munir, gathering a force of data describing the general health of the raptor populations in the region. Sadly, their findings over the years confirm the alarming reports of similar research in other parts of Africa where many of the once numerous raptor populations are declining rapidly. Raptors are the top of the food chain and their decline indicates the whole ecosystem is suffering. With massive human population growth in Kenya, the wildlife habitat is diminishing and there is increasing conflict and persecution of predators. Deliberate poisoning is one of the most crucial. Concocted poisons are

left out to kill predators like the hyena, which often conflict with domestic livestock. Simon recollects an incident in his online blog "In April 2004, a few kilometers from my house on a conservancy, transient pastoral cattle herders killed 187 vultures in one poisoning attempt, aimed at killing hyena apparently. It was the largest recorded single case of vulture poisoning anywhere in the world."

Yet accidental poisoning is as much of a risk as deliberate poisonings. The status of vulture populations in Africa is of great concern, after their Asian relatives the Slender-billed, the Long-billed and the Oriental white-back vultures population have been reduced to less than five percent of what it was before 1990. This loss was caused by a livestock veterinary drug, Diclofenac. It only takes trace residues of the drug in a carcass to kill the vultures that fed on it. Through strong conservation pressure, Diclofenac is now banned in India and replaced by other non-poisonous drugs. Unfortunately though, these excess supplies from Asia are being sold at very cheap prices and finding their way to the market in Africa.

The vulture plays an important role in scavenging the remains of large animals, which would otherwise be vectors for disease. Seven species occur in East Africa, the White-backed, Ruppells griffon and Lappet-faced being the common vultures on the game ranch. We were fortunate to be involved in one of the important vulture projects underway.

We arrived in Kenya in April, at the end of the rainy season. The vultures, mainly Galina and Zebra feeding species - a mass bird occur in abundance on the savanna.

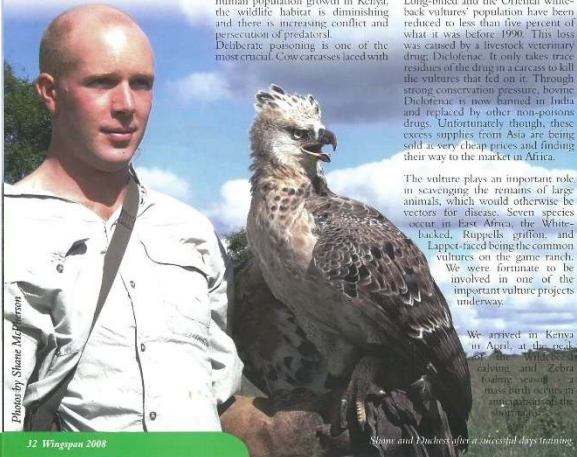


Photo by Shane McPherson

Shane and Duchess after a successful days training.



A group of Waterbuck on our rainy day in the Mara.

that would fall within a fortnight. The young animals falling to predators (cheetah and hyena especially), or dying from cold and wet weather. Compounded by a heavy parasite burden from ticks, there was food aplenty for scavengers. During the first three weeks from when we arrived, we would see daily the skies filled with circling vultures over the game ranch. From their lofty vantage they would easily spot carcasses. Although initially suspicious and careful birds, they are quick to join a feeding frenzy. From the moment a bold vulture or eagle approached a carcass, it would be followed by fifty or more scrapping for their share.

The harsh 'woosh' of vultures spilling the wind over their feathers as they rapidly descended was a spectacular experience. If we were lucky, our morning patrol of the game ranch would get us to a carcass in time to set traps before it was stripped clean to the bones. We would then have a chance to catch one or two of the vultures. Individually numbered wing tags were attached, and with the support from wardens and guides throughout the country, movements and ranges of these individuals could be established.

Interestingly, one caught on the game ranch was sighted in the northern parts of Kenya some days later, then sighted in the Masai Mara in the far south a week later, easily travelling over 2,000 km (more than the length of New Zealand). They are specialists in making use of the rising thermal air over the plains, and have been found at altitudes of 11,000 metres.

A roadside survey is conducted several times a year. This involves a drive from Nairobi, through the Rift Valley and

prey including antelope and gazelle such as full grown Impala.

Simons breeding pair was kept in a large enclosure, where they have produced 12 offspring over a span of two decades. A successful breeding cycle can stretch over two years from when the single egg is first laid until the youngster has gained independence. Eagles are rather weary and a young bird out of the nest will spend many months with its parent's, learning what to hunt and how to hunt effectively. The single offspring from Simon's pair remain in the aviary with the parents for six months. Following this it is essential to be trained to become a fit and adept hunter before being released into the wild.

Duchess, by the time we arrived, had been 'trained' for some time - a term used to describe a level of comfort with its trainer. But she still needed to gain experience on hunting. Initially, Shane had to gain her trust by asking her to fly short distances to the first food rewards. This was extended to longer walks around the game ranch, then the introduction of a lure. The lure was made of skins of hare and gazelle and she would chase it aggressively for her food reward.

By the time we had to leave, Duchess had proven a confident hunter; she had caught several hares, a small gazelle, and monkeys. The day of her release came shortly after we had left for New Zealand. Simon took her south to an isolated area of the rift valley and spent weeks establishing a safe release location. Assistants at the location regularly supplied Duchess with meat until she was able to work out the best areas of her new territory to hunt. Simon later reported to us that the release went without major problems. Duchess was certainly well in her new home.

Over the 10 weeks we were in Kenya, Shane spent time daily training a two-year-old African crowned eagle, named Duchess because of her regal demeanour. This is a large forest eagle weighing up to six kilograms, with a hind talon over 10cm long. They are very powerful and although mainly feed on monkeys, they can catch large



A gathering of Ruppells griffon and African white-backed vultures feeding on a gazelle carcass.



Photo by Greg Grantly

The Auckland Zoo Centre, NZ. Photo by Debbie Stewart



**BEHIND THE LENS**

Conservation is not only the breeding and management of rare and threatened species. It is also about advocacy and public awareness to inform and educate about New Zealand birds of prey. This focus is often recognised and captured by national and international media.



Photo by [unreadable]



The Great City Room NZ. Michael Tallon. Photo by Noel Hyde

**WINGSPAN BIRDS OF PREY TRUST ANNUAL AWARD**

Award nominations open to individuals, groups, or organisations, to recognise the outstanding efforts and contributions towards the raptors of New Zealand. Nomination categories are aligned with the Wingspan objectives and include research, captive management, public awareness (education), and rehabilitation of birds of prey in New Zealand. The Wingspan Board of Trustees will judge the nominations according to these categories, but also consider volunteer input, community involvement, creativity, effectiveness, and other initiatives. Nominations should be addressed to the Board of Trustees, Wingspan, PO Box 993 Rotorua, and describe in detail the activity or project contribution. Additional supporting information and references welcomed. Nominations close 30th July of each year. The Award Winner(s) to be announced August each year following Conservation Week. The Winner(s) receives an award of \$2,000, and the annual trophy - falcon bust in bronze - a limited edition sculpture by Mike Norris, and acknowledgement articles in the annual Wingspan Journal and website.

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

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

Congratulations to Dr Richard Seaton whose PhD on falcons in Kaingaroa Forest was the inaugural winner of Wingspan Raptor Award for 2007.



## HERE AND THERE

Photography: Colin Wynne, Marlborough



Throughout New Zealand people are working hard to conserve wild birds of prey and their habitats. Here we look at some of the activities and achievements of the past year.

### FALCONS RETURN TO THE WAIRAU PLAIN

For the first time in over 150 years the endemic New Zealand Falcon has returned to breed on the Wairau Plain. The unique New Zealand Falcon, which is classified as threatened or endangered, is rarer than the kiwi and, like so many endemic birds, has retreated from lowland areas of New Zealand when its native habitat was destroyed. Persecution and introduced mammalian predators were the final nails in the coffin for this trusting ground-nesting native. It is the only surviving endemic bird of prey we have left.

But now the Falcons for Grapes Project in Marlborough is turning its fortunes around. The project translocated four falcons from nests in the hills two years ago. Last year a further 15 young falcons were released from artificial nest barrels in the vineyards. This past season three pairs of these falcons nested in the vineyards for the first time since the Plain was cleared for farming.

All three pairs laid their eggs on the ground and one pair lost two eggs and another lost three eggs to marauding hedgehogs at night. So the Falcons for Grapes team placed some of the eggs in an incubator while keeping the parents incubating dummy eggs. Then they have moved the dummy eggs into nest barrels, first on the ground and then raised up off the ground in trees. Now one pair has three strong chicks two weeks old, and another pair has two chicks a week old. The third pair having lost three of their eggs, deserted their final egg. But the team rescued the egg and it has now hatched successfully. The orphaned chick is being hand-reared until it is strong enough to be mothered on to foster parents.

Wild falcons are present on the Wairau Plain but so far have not been able to nest. This year a wild female paired up with a released male but sadly, just as she was about to lay, she disappeared. The male, who has a transmitter, is still present. Nor has it been plain sailing for the released falcons. Five were electrocuted last year in their first few months of flying. Project Leader Dr Nick Fox said "There are 3500 transformers on the Wairau Plains and most of the poles are unsafe for wildlife. As more poles go up and more trees are cut down, the chance of a falcon landing on a pole increase. We have transmitters on each falcon, so for the first time we have been able to document the hazards posed by uninsulated equipment. Other countries design their installations to make them safe, but New Zealand has some catching up to do."

Apart from this, one falcon has been killed by a cat, one by a barrier hawk, and one was injured by the road. Overall their survival has been better than that of the wild falcons in the surrounding hills. Colin Wynne, General Manager, said "We have been delighted that the falcons have done so well in the vineyards. Two of our pairs are only 12 months old and yet have produced young. First year breeding has never been recorded in the wild and we did not expect youngsters this year".

Peter Gaze and Phil Bradfield from the Department of Conservation are responsible for the permits for the project. Phil reported "This is fabulous news, I'm looking forward to seeing the new arrivals." Dr Vil Saxton from the University of Lincoln, who has been monitoring bird damage in the vineyards, said "It is too early to quantify the benefit of falcons statistically, but anecdotally we have recorded reduced damage in the falcon vineyards. Overall, bird damage is costing the New Zealand Wine Industry about \$70 million per year. It is a huge problem."

Dr Nick Pyke, CEO of the Foundation for Arable Research, Lincoln, said "Bird damage to cereals is about 5-10% and to brassicas, up to 50%. Bird damage to oilseed crops makes them uneconomical to grow in some areas, and the pest birds are increasing." Dr Fox visited FAR last week to discuss pest bird control on arable crops. He has had enquiries from vineyard owners and orchardists all over New Zealand to provide falcons. He said "If we can continue steadily with the falcon programme in Marlborough, then in a while we could be producing a net surplus of falcons that could be used in other areas either for re-introductions or pest control. The project is funded by the Sustainable Farming Fund (43%), my own company, International Wildlife Consultants (UK) Ltd (37%) and by the New Zealand Wine Growers (14%). Now we need to develop funding from other sources for the longer term."

The project is of benefit to the wine industry, not just for pest control, but for marketing and wine tourism. Dr Fox is in discussions with Destination Marlborough to see how the falcons can benefit tourism in Marlborough, and he would like to develop one or more 'focus vineyards' to provide information about the project and enable the public to learn more about this iconic species.

Dr Nick Fox

Full details of the project are available on the website [www.falconsforgrapes.org](http://www.falconsforgrapes.org)

36 Wingspan 2008

## ON THE WING AT KAKEPEKU



Laurie Howard of Te Awamutu and the Kakepuku Mountain Conservation Project have made further releases of captive bred falcons. Of the birds released this year, two were bred at the Wingspan Centre last breeding season.

Eggs were artificially incubated, and then the chicks hand reared after hatching. Confirmed as a male and female, they were transferred to Kakepuku on 12 November 2007.

The male (banded red) was observed for just over a month, only returning about every third day to feed. Laurie reports he was always very independent and has since dispersed from the area.

The female (banded yellow) remains present and has bonded with another juvenile falcon from an earlier release. The older bird appears to act as an 'auntie' since her release, warding off magpies and hawks, and often

cooperatively hunting. However at no stage did the older bird share her catch with the Wingspan female, no matter how much she begged. Interestingly, the young female is currently bonding with the latest juvenile release.

Local farmers continue to be fascinated with these birds and the interaction of each of the falcons. Falcons have been observed flying through cowsheds looking for passerines such as sparrows and finches, mynals and starlings, but also crickets and mice. They spend a lot of time on the ground.



Wingspan 2008 37

## BEHIND THE SCENES



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

### Current opportunities of voluntary work include:

- Visitor Support – Shop, ticket sales, refreshments, cleaning, enquiries, guiding, hosting,
- Display Maintenance – Garden watering, weeding, sweeping, cleaning
- Museum Care – display windows, cleaning, dusting, display signage, framing, cataloguing
- Grounds Maintenance – lawn mowing, pruning, weeding, painting,
- Pest Control – onsite trap maintenance, resets
- Feed regimes – Food preparation, storage, ordering, pick-ups, supply of prey items
- Administration – Journal and newsletter mail outs, members updates, volunteer co-ordination
- Research – nest monitoring (captive/wild), data entries, database constructions, volunteer co-ordinators, writing and publishing.

If you would like to help out, Wingspan welcomes any enquiries or volunteer initiatives, and as Wingspan moves into the future, new opportunities will evolve to meet the conservation needs of the programme. For further information, or to apply to become a Wingspan Volunteer, please contact the Wingspan office.

### A big thank you to the Wingspan volunteer team this year including:

Front house and retail – Mary Staal.  
Cleaning – Andrew Mold.  
Fieldwork – Shane McPherson, Mia Jessen, Jason Seale, Ron Dunne.  
Hosing and garden maintenance – Chris Gay, Simon McIvor, Ron Dunne, Noel Hyde, Bev and Laurie Richardson, Andrew and Johnny Mold, Eve Cozzi, and Global Network Volunteers.

Wingspan also receives a lot of support each year from companies, members and visitors donating goods and services to the programme. While we grip that financially the programme is 'hand-to-bank', it is these generous contributions that make a big difference. Small and large they are all highly valued. For those contributions not mentioned elsewhere in this Journal we would like to personally acknowledge the following people who have helped during the course of the year.



Staff, volunteers and visitors have been more comfortable this year! Pictured above (from left) include new park benches from Mary Staal (photographed here putting her feet up with member Laurie Richardson), Swazi's donated fold tables, and sun umbrellas from (and demonstrated by) Pam Oliver.

### Product

A wide variety of donated products has included wet weather field jackets from Swazi, falconry swivels from Keith Hollingworth in the UK, barn firewood from Dave Hutchings Lockwood, photocopier from Canon, a baby monitor for falcon chicks from Bev and Laurie Richardson, research cabinets from Te Papa (delivery Chris Gay and Simon McIvor), park benches, a new egg incubator and office laminator all from Mary Staal, umbrellas and calico couch covers from Pam Oliver, sheets of roof metal Andrew Mold, shade cloth for the aviaries from Els Verheyen, sound system from Villa Productions through Noel and Ali Lamberton, the new shop retail counter courtesy of Te Pūia, raptor books from Lex Hedley in Canada, and Ross Bailey of Manawatu Manufacturing Jewellers. Photographic images from Geoff Moon, Andrew Warner, Jason Seale, Dilan Rajasingham, and Katie. Artwork by Mike Norris, Janet Marshall, Pauline

38 Wingspan 2008

## IN THE MEWS SPONSORS AND MEMBERS DIRECTORY



From left, Claire Boardman, Prime Explosives with Ozezy Paton Geoff Moon with Wingspan and Nathan Roper of Raptor Robs with Robby.

Wingspan 2008 39

## NEW ZEALAND FALCONS - KAREAREA



'Kaitiki' has been at the Centre since 2004 and was given her name to reflect the Maori word for guardian or care. She was paired with 'Tarawera' as part of the breeding programme,

but did not make any nesting attempts. Kaitiki has since been moved to a different aviary and will be paired with a different male during 2008. In 2007, Kaitiki was gift sponsored to Wendy Goodwin for Christmas.



Named '42' after the novel 'Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy' by Douglas Adams (the meaning of life, the universe, and everything), 42 is a famous falcon in her own right. She has her story featured in a book 'A Bird in the Hand' by Janet Hunt, has her own wine label (Lake Charles 'Flight 42 Unwoked Chardonnay'), and is a jigsaw puzzle image on Wingspan's website education section. For the past two years, 42 has been kindly gift sponsored to the students of Wellesley College, Eastbourne, by the Morris family, David, Karyn and Cambell, of Wellington.



Photo by Dilan Rajasingham

## NEW ZEALAND FALCONS - KAREAREA



Tuhoe and Fovea

'Tuhoe' an adult male NZ falcon is an important part of the Wingspan captive breeding programme. Sponsored by Chris and Maxine Fuller of Taupo, Tuhoe is named after the Maori tribe, and as a warrior of strength.

'Fovea' has been gift sponsored to Mark McKenna of Rotorua since 2005 and is named after part of the eye that gives falcons sight about eight times better than humans. Fovea is a female originally found as an injured juvenile in Napara, and is paired with Tuhoe.

These falcons have been together as a breeding pair since 2005. Last year, nesting barrels were provided for the birds in an effort to avoid the flooded nest problems experienced in 2006. Their first clutch of eggs were laid early September 2007. These were removed for artificial incubation and hand rearing after hatch, with two chicks transferred to Te Awamutu (released in November). Their second clutch of eggs was laid a month later but with mixed results.

On Sunday 11 November, Tuhoe and Fovea hatched one chick, it was an exciting event witnessed on the day by visitors via the camera monitoring. The following day when the nest was checked we anticipated seeing at least two chicks. Disappointment was an understatement when there were no eggs, or chicks remaining in the nest. On checking the camera monitor it was found that one chick was killed and eaten by the parents, the other removed from the nest to be cared later.



After a search of the aviary and about to give up, a faint, very weak 'cheep' was heard. By sheer chance, the body of a young and almost lifeless falcon chick was found caked behind stones and long grass. With a weight of just 20 grams, he barely had the energy or strength to open his beak, and was minutes from body shutdown and dying. He was placed immediately in an incubator, and given a few tiny morsels of food.

This male falcon chick was indeed a little fighter with a strong will to live through a period of intensive care. Now fully grown, this falcon is likely to be held long term for advocacy. Wingspan offered a sponsorship opportunity for his care and associated naming rights on 'Trade Me'. The winning bid was won in December 2007, and this lucky falcon is now kindly sponsored by Ron Dunne of Cambridge. He named him 'Moge'.



'Ozzy' is a male (tiercel) falcon, kindly sponsored by Ross and Julie Bailey, of Manawatu Manufacturing Jewellers in Palmerston North. Ozzy arrived at just 10 days of age from Upper Hutt in November 2004. He was named after 'Ozzy Osborne' because he was then a bit shaky on his feet but with an attitude!

Ozzy is one of the main display falcons at the Centre, and is pictured here with his sponsor Ross.

'Ruby' is sponsored by Dilan Rajasingham and Louise Mayclair of Sydney, Australia, and is pictured here with Dilan's Dad from Rotorua. In 2006 New Zealand Post issued uncirculated coin sets featuring karearea. The \$5.00 coins feature the image of Ruby. More recently she featured as a 'cover-girl' on the book 'New Zealand Birds' by Paul Gibson.

At the Centre Ruby is considered the 'Diva' - her role is for display and advocacy and she is free flown most days. At 12 years old she is one of the oldest birds held at the Wingspan Centre.

42 has always been a special bird at the Wingspan Centre (and Dimonds' older sister). Almost killed and eaten by her captive parents in 2000, she was hand reared for the first week and then returned to her parents for natural rearing. Once fledged, she was then one of the first captive bred birds to be released in New Zealand by method of 'backing'. But after just 10 days of freedom muggies attacked her. The prolonged attack left her unconscious and bleeding from head wounds, and she was brought back into captivity for care.

42 has been part of the daily flight displays and a popular interactive falcon providing close encounters with visitors. But three days before Christmas of 2007 marked her last display at the Centre. After a mid-air scuffle with a wild harrier hawk she flew further down the Valley never to return. We can only surmise her outcome - there are many hazards for released birds in the wild - persecution, fences, power lines, predators, windows, cars or indeed other birds. While in more than 20 years of flying raptors she remains the only bird unaccounted for, we can take some solace that her outcome was as a free-wild bird and we can all reflect on our shared experiences with her as 'magic'.



'Tuhoe' an adult male NZ falcon is an important part of the Wingspan captive breeding programme. Sponsored by Chris and Maxine Fuller of Taupo, Tuhoe is named after the Maori tribe, and as a warrior of strength.



Ali and Tanawera

Originally from Marlborough, Ali is now an adult female falcon who was permanently injured as a result of deliberate illegal shooting. This year 40 was paired with 'Tanawera' and produced three eggs for her first breeding season. She is gift sponsored to Noel and Ali Lamberton and Villa Productions of Rotorua, in recognition of their support of the Wingspan programme from earliest beginnings.

The male is named 'Tanawera', and is kindly sponsored by Mount Tarawera Ltd. Their generous support of the Wingspan programme is to recognise and honour the Karearea that frequent, and 'stride the skies' above the famous volcanic mountain.



## NEW ZEALAND FALCONS - KAREAREA

'Jet' one of four orphaned falcon chicks, arrived at the Wingspan Centre from Kaiangara Forest in November 2005. Now fully grown and mature, Jet is now part of the breeding programme and this year has been paired with Julz. With both birds from the wild they are genetically different from other falcons within the captive population.

Wingspan thanks Gary and Annette Hall from Waituku and their family who have generously sponsored Jet since 2006.



Julz

Julz (pronounced 'Jewels' and with reference to Romeo and Juliet) arrived as an injured juvenile falcon in February 2008. Her story features in this journal, and while she has recovered from her wing injury and subsequent surgery, she is considered unlikely to be able to be released back into the wild.

Chris Morgan and Eshajjargal Bazar from Mongolia have this year sponsored Julz in celebration of the raptors found worldwide, and their cultural falconry heritage.



'Mille'

The Millennium falcon (of Starwars fame), was captive bred at the Wingspan Centre in October 2006. Mille is Mogo's older sister, and is now very appropriately sponsored by the Millennium Hotel, in Rotorua.

Mille featured in last year's Wingspan journal (2007) with the photographic record of her growth and development. In 2008 these images will be reproduced for sale as a laminated poster.

'Sloan' - adult male NZ falcon. Named after Rachel and the late Bill Sloan who were the first to register as Wingspan members in 1996.

Sloan originally arrived injured from Opoitiki in 1994 with a broken wing. Unable to be released Sloan was one of the main captive pairs, breeding from 1996 through to 2002. Sloan has since been 'retired' and now resides in warmer climes at the Whangarei Native Bird Recovery Centre with Robert and Robyn Webb.



## MOREPORK OWLS - RURU

Nesor and Waitara

Nesor is an adult male morepork and gift sponsored by the Staal family of Auckland and Rotorua. He is named Nesor after one of the oldest and wisest of the Greek Kings - noted for his bravery in the Trojan War.

Waitara is an adult female found as a wild injured owl in 2005. She is kindly sponsored by Laurie and Bev Richardson of Auckland. Nesor and Waitara successfully bred for the first time during the 2007-breeding season (featured on Page 4). Their chick has since been transferred to a new home at Rainbow Springs, Rotorua.



Whisper

Whisper was a 'rescued egg' (story Page 6). In January Whisper was gift sponsored to Andrew and Johnny Mold of Auckland, and they are shown here with Whisper, at four weeks of age.

## AUSTRALASIAN HARRIER HAWKS - KAHU



'Mo'

Mohawk is a hand raised male Australasian harrier hawk. He was found in Hamilton December 2005 as a young chick (eggs) at an estimated 15 days of age.

Mo was rescued, and kindly sponsored by Reg and Gael Salter of Hamilton (at left).



'Kida' - wild injured female from Warkworth 2007. Kida was transferred from the Whangarei Native Bird Recovery Centre and is sponsored by Etienne and Dana Ebersson of Chimo.

**MEMBERS DIRECTORY & JOINING DATE**

*Indicates Honorary Members & Life Members services, materials and/or contributions of \$1000 or more.*

**NEW ZEALAND MEMBERS**

**ASHBURTON**  
Derek and Helen Binnie 2003

**ASHHURST**  
Arthur Anyon 2006  
Debbie Hewson 2006

**AUCKLAND**

Grant & Sarah Abbott 2001  
Russell Edmonth 1996  
Kathleen Barrow 1997  
Mark and Belinda Bartley 2007  
Peter Bayliss 2001  
Bevan Family 2007  
Colin Blomfield 2006  
Kirsty Chalmers 2006  
Ann Collins 2004  
Courneill Family 2007  
Marni Dixon 2001  
Eleanor Duff 1996  
Robert Dyal 2003  
John Fenton 2007  
Ananda Fowler 2003  
Phil and Margaret Fry 1997  
Jon Fryer 2008  
Andrew Gibson 2006  
Mike and Sharon Graham 2002  
Andrew Hales 2006  
Steve & Anna Hayns 2005  
Alister 1 Harlow 2001  
**Penny Hunt 2002** ✨  
Dennis Hunt 2004  
Richard & Maggie Jakob-Hoff 06  
Andrew James 2001  
Glen & Glynn Jennings 2008  
Paul Ketch 2008  
Dayne & Toni Laird 2007  
Jennifer Leigh 2006  
Catherine McLintock 2006  
**Alan MacGillivray 2002** ✨  
Jill Marchant 2004  
Bryan Mawhinney 2007  
Brendan McMahon 2005  
Leslie Morris 2006  
Andrew & Johnny Mold 2007  
**Geoff & Lynette Moir 1992** ✨  
Ruth Nisbet 2005  
Mike Nidds 2007  
Chris O'Connor 2007  
Paul O'Shea 2008  
Murray Pedersen 2002  
Catherine Peck 2006  
Georgia Pety 2006  
Kevin Philpott 2004  
Julian Potter 2004

John & Adrienne Powell 2004  
Jean Price 2005  
Raptor Rubs 2006  
Bruce Reddick 2001  
**Laurie & Bev Richardson 2006** ✨  
Colleen Rice 2008  
Charles & Jennifer Robb 2007  
Nathan & Rachel Royce 2006  
**Carol Ryan 2003** ✨  
John Sanders 2004  
The Smith Family 2003  
Brett & Jane Smolina 2006  
Michael Staal 2006  
Andrew Stafford 2005  
Wendy Stephens 2006  
Jan & Hilary Stalley 2003  
Julie and Len Stout 2005  
F K Sutton 2006  
Josephine Thomson 2001  
Brian Turner 2005  
Elizabeth Vaneveld 2006  
Caleb Waddell 2007  
Linda Waters 2003  
**Alex Whisman 2003** ✨  
David Willers 2006  
Peter Wyatt Family 2007

**BLenheim**

Redwood Pass Vineyards 2001  
Graeme and Dany Binnie 2001  
Chris and Lynn Boyce 2002  
Don Cromarty 2001  
**Lake Chalice Wines 2001** ✨  
Ian Lyall 1996  
Edwin O'Donnell 2006  
Jimi Sheild 2002

**CAMBRIDGE**

David and Lil Jones-Parry 2005  
Grieme and Alison Park 2006  
Ron Dunne 2007  
Bria Jacobson 2002  
McDonald Family 2007  
Elizabeth Scott 2006  
**Rachel Sloan 1996** ✨  
John Steadman 2007  
Rob and Marie Steadman 2005

**CHRISTCHURCH**

Jan Arnot 2006  
Jonathan Ewing 2007  
Debbie Gill-Fox 2006  
S.A. Ingey 2003  
Thomas Johnstone 2008  
McGowan Family 2008  
Daria Martin 2006  
Tindall Foundation 2006  
Brian Roff 2007

**CLIVE**

Kathleen Allan 2005

**COROMANDEL**

John Vessey 1996

**DARFIELD**

Rob Lawrence 2005

**DUNEDIN**

Derek Lamb 2007

**Stue & Yvette Lawrence 2006** ✨

**FEILDING**

D F and A E Hastings 2006

**GISBORNE**

Doug Bell 1996  
Crawshaw Family 2007  
Kate McDonald 1996

**HAMILTON**

Greg & Kaita Addison 2007  
Aaron Bailey 2007  
Hugh and Zoe Clifford 2001  
Tony Fenton 2007  
Johnnie Kelly 2007  
Lynette MacDonald 2006  
Masey Family 2007  
Barbara Reid 2007  
Audrey Ross 2006  
Royal Forest & Bird Protection Soc.  
In Walkato Branch 2002  
Reg and Gael Salter 2005  
D Sijbrands & Ralph and Kevin O'neary 2006  
Waikato Ornithological Society of New Zealand 2003  
Keith Wilkinson 2005

**HOKITIKA**

Cameron Bloomfield 2006  
John Bloomfield 2006

**KAIOHIO**

Peter, Suzie & Bill Lindauer 2005  
**KAIKATI**  
John and June ACourt 2006  
Greg Bettridge 2006  
Shirley Bowman 2007  
Alex & Jan Ellery 2006  
Maurice & Gail Frank 2006  
Leslie Gilda 2006  
Maggie Jack 2006  
**Tasman Bay Herbs 2005** ✨  
Janet 2006

**MATAMATA**

Pam Gore 2002  
Graeme Hancock 2007  
Caron Stewart 2003  
Angela Wickham 2004

**MORRINSVILLE**

C and M Thomas 2005

**MOTUEKA**

**Yoka De Houwer 2005** ✨  
Don Grant 2005  
Les McDonald 2006  
Robyn Skelton 1997  
Wendy Stewart 1997  
Lesly and Gemma Thorp 2006

**MITAUNGAUMU**

David McKay 2004  
Jill McDonald 1996

**MURUPARA**

Kaveran Snake Club 1999  
John and Margaret Bricley 1997

**NAPIER**

Anne Prescott 2007  
Kevin Baker 2007  
Virginia Wilson 2006

**NELSON**

Sally and Murray Win 1996  
Janet Marshall 2003

**LEVIN**

Ann Bell 2006

Mayclair Family 2007  
Greg and Pauline Moffat 2007  
Christine Moyle 2005  
John & Bev Craig 2004

**LOWER HUTT**

Richmond Atkinson 2005  
Ann Bell 2006  
Dr Gordon Hewitt 2006  
Murray Iorlor 2001  
De Pan Hyde 2006  
David Kincaid 2001  
Dan Mahoney 2006  
Lynette and John Robinson 2005  
Jonathan and Helen Rudge 1996  
Wellesley College students

**Zip Plumbing Hutt Valley** ✨

**MAKAREU**

Christian Jensen 2003

**MANAPOURI**

Pauline Nicholson 2004

**MANGAKINO**

Janet & Loyal Comins 2005

**MANUKAU CITY**

Mike Hogan 2006

**MARION**

Cherag 2006  
Zach Turner-Steele 2007

**MASTERTON**

Merilyn Bartram 2007  
**Sheila Coombs 1996** ✨  
**Heseltine Trust 1996** ✨  
Patricia Kennedy 2007

**MATAMATA**

Pam Gore 2002  
Graeme Hancock 2007  
Caron Stewart 2003  
Angela Wickham 2004

**MORRINSVILLE**

C and M Thomas 2005

**MOTUEKA**

**Yoka De Houwer 2005** ✨  
Don Grant 2005  
Les McDonald 2006  
Robyn Skelton 1997  
Wendy Stewart 1997  
Lesly and Gemma Thorp 2006

**MITAUNGAUMU**

David McKay 2004  
Jill McDonald 1996

**MURUPARA**

Kaveran Snake Club 1999  
John and Margaret Bricley 1997

**NAPIER**

Anne Prescott 2007  
Kevin Baker 2007  
Virginia Wilson 2006

**NELSON**

Sally and Murray Win 1996  
Janet Marshall 2003

**LEVIN**

Ann Bell 2006

Debbie Oliver 2004  
Lera Olley 2008

**NEW PLYMOUTH**

Wendy Gornall 2007  
David & Terri Gould 2004  
Te Ihu Tu 2006  
Peter & Lynda Wilson 2006  
Dylan Van Woerkel 2006

**NTH SHORE CITY**

Nick Adams 2004  
Michael Contanichis 2004  
Brian Gannon 2003  
Suzi Phillips 2001

**OHAUPO**

Mary Geurts 2006

**OIAKUNE**

Mike Craig Davina Mort 2004

**OHOP**

Malcolm Hutton 1996  
**Don & Teresa McConchie 2007** ✨  
Opononi  
Harold and Jenny Barlow 2005

**OPOTHI**

Wiremu Baker 2006  
Tom Cass 2007  
Greg Gedson 2005

**PAIMMERSTON NORTH**

Ross and Julie Bailey 2002  
James Crowe 2007  
Robyn Galloway 2002  
Craig Irving 2006  
Liz and Mike Keys 2007  
Joanna McNeill 2006  
Diana Monaghan 2003  
Phil and Sue Moore 2007  
Peter Mann 2005  
John Mitchell 2006  
Diana Monaghan 2003  
Phil and Sue Moore 2007  
Peter Mann 2005  
**Richard Seaton & Fleur Masey 2003** ✨  
Richard Seaton 2005  
Faye Templeton 2004

**PARAPARAMU**

**Kapiti Fencing & Gate Services Ltd 2006** ✨  
Peter and Gail Wenman 2008

**SCOTT AND KAREN PARKER 2005** ✨

Peter and Gail Wenman 2008

**PICTON**

Sandie Hebbard 2007

**PLIMMERTON**

Alan & Gillian Dodson 2006

**PORIRUA CITY**

**Mike Norris 2004** ✨

Kim Britton 2006  
**Pauline Morse** ✨

**PUKEKOHE**

Evart Family 2008  
David Mearns 2000  
Pat Seyb 2001

**Putaruru**

Craig and Cheryl Andrews 2007  
Bill Cameron 2002  
Chris and Ann Gilbert 2005

**QUEENSTOWN**

Tony and Viv Campbell 2008

**RAGLAN**

Loretta Dixon 2004

**Malcolm and Julie McDonald 2004** ✨

**RAUMATI**

Linley & Ross 2006

**REPOROA**

Marty & Ange Hine 2006  
Rachel Lang 2006

**ROTORUA**

John Andersen 2004  
Dawn Angrove 2007  
Marygold Argent 2005  
Christine Ashe 2005  
Eleanor Ashcroft 2007  
Don and Diane Atkinson 2005  
Sheryl & David Baker 2004  
Roger & Laraine Barker 2004  
Mary Barton 2007  
John Bell 1996  
Ina Benbow 2004  
Jeanette Blackburn 1996  
Susan and Kerianne Birch 2007  
Wendy Boyd 2005  
Christine Burr 2007  
L J Cade 2006  
Stuart & Kristin Campbell-Smith 2006  
R E Dobbie Family 2008  
Canmap Hawley 2001  
Norman and Jill Caunter 2005  
Joanne Carnell 2006  
Russell Clarness 2006  
Janess Christer 2007  
Pamela Christiansen 2003  
John and Beryl Cleland 2007  
Bill & Dorothy Glooschen 2006  
Jim Colburn 2005  
Don and Shari Cole 2007  
Dr Richard Colgrove 2007  
Sandy and Anne Cooper 2007  
Greg Corbett 2007  
**Ron & Joan Couchman 2003** ✨  
Jenny Goudrey 2005  
Jon Craig 2003  
H & C Croker 2005  
Kevin and Jill Crowe 2005  
**Peter and Jill du Chateau 1997** ✨  
Duncan - Horn Family 2007

**R F Edwards 2007**  
Elphick Family 2005  
Paul and Marie Farrar 2007  
Alex Finlay 2002  
Heather Fisher 2005  
Joe Fleet 1999  
Terry & Tawny Foster 1996  
Kerith and Anna Garratt 2007  
Delight Gartin 2007  
Andrew Gifford 2007  
Helen Gifford Family 2005  
Brian and Kate Gore 2006  
Jenny Grant 2007  
Rose Gray 2006  
Haggie 2005  
Hamlet - Sanders Family 1997  
**Brent and Shirley Hardy 2002** ✨  
Peter Hardy 2005  
Todd Harris 2008  
Paul Laynes 2007  
Barugh & Heather Heather 2004  
Emma Henderson 2004  
Kath Henderson 1996  
Beverly Hicks 2008  
Milan & Reeve Hildreth 2007  
Brian Hodgson 2004  
Ryan Holmes 2004  
**Wayne & Wendy Holmes 2004** ✨  
Ann Hope 2007  
Dave and Chris Hutchings 2007  
**Noel Hyde 2003** ✨  
Jeffrey Family 2006  
**Mia Jessen 2007** ✨  
Mike and Heather Johnson 2007  
Noel Johnson 2005  
Val Kiel 2007  
Bob King 2005  
Blanche Kingston 2006  
**Noel & Alison Lambertson 1996** ✨  
Rod Lochhead 2004  
Helen McCormick 2007  
McDonnell-Archer Family 2005  
Hughie McDowell 2005  
Lorraine McIndoo 2005  
Diane McKay 2004  
Mark & Patricia McKenna 2005  
Dorothy McKeuzie 2007  
Doug McMillan 2003  
Doug and Elva McMillan 2002  
Robyn McMillan 2007  
Christel McNeely 2005  
**Shane McPherson 2004** ✨  
Mike & Gaylene Mason 2007  
Bruno Massonne 2007  
Milkenium Hotel 2008  
Miller - Carr Family 2006  
**Henare & Kath Mohi 2004** ✨  
Walter Moodie 1998  
Moore Family 2007  
Shawn and Karen Morgan 2007  
Bev Morrison 2005  
**M. Tarawera NZ Ltd 2002** ✨  
Nancy Taylor 2004  
Bradley Neame 2007  
Alan Newman 2003

Ngungotaha Four Square 2005  
Irene Oliver 1997  
Olsen Ltd 2007  
Russell Palmer 2005  
Paradise Valley Springs 1997  
Jan Parsons 2006  
Sally and Jagratt Patel 2005  
M Pearce 2007  
Andrew Peterson 2006  
Janet Planet 2006  
Patricia Price 2006  
Hilary Price 2006  
Warwick & Maggie Price 2007  
Mary Rose Pureson 2007  
George and Lucy Racey 1997  
John Read 2006  
Cathie Reeves 2007  
Wayne Roberts 2004  
Teresa Robinson 2006  
Dave & Flo Robinson 2007  
Wally Rogers 2007  
Diane Rogerson 2004  
Rotorua North Probus Club 2006  
Rotorua Pleasure Boating and Fishing Club 2007  
Rotorua Youth Hostels Association of New Zealand 2005  
Jan Rozsok 2006  
Tim Sharp 2008  
Natalie Snowhall 1997  
Symposiums International Rotorua 2001  
Neil and Anne Spinley 2006  
**Mary Staal 2004** ✨  
Don Stafford 2004  
**Gloria Stafford 1998** ✨  
Jack & Edie Stafford 2003  
Murray & Barbara Stafford 2003  
Tara and Terri Steele 2007  
**Debbie Stewart 1992** ✨  
Suears Family 2007  
Pierre, Vima & Jacques Terblanche 2006  
Dr Magnethia Theron 2004  
Mark Thompson 2007  
Scott and Bev Thomson 2004  
Thomson Family 2005  
**Tony Todd 2004** ✨  
Angela Torregrossa 2007  
Phil Trautmann 2005  
Helen Trewhitt 2007  
Ulqaphan Family 2007  
Ivar Van Mourik 2007  
**Villa Productions 1996** ✨  
Robert Vietz 2006  
Daniel Voss 2007  
Dennis & Robyn Ward 2004  
**Andrew Warner 2006** ✨  
Coral Warner 2006  
B & J Wenborn 2006  
Michael Weston 2007  
Stephen White 1997  
Julie White 2006  
**Wildland Consultants 2001** ✨  
Bev Wilkinson 2006  
James and Dawn Williams 2007  
Dawn Williams 2007  
Kate Williams 2007  
Doug Scott 2005

Peter and Michele Woodward 2007  
Loni & Robyn Woolmans 1996  
Graeme Young 2001

**STRATFORD**

Hjorring Family 2007

**TAIRUA**

John and Rona Toomas 1996  
Frances Olsen 2005

**TAKAKA**

Trudi Ferstner-Gawith 2006

**TAUPIRI**

John Charters 2007

**TAUPO**

Chris and Maxine Fuller 2005  
John and Pat Gibbs 2006  
Diane Goddard 2008  
Mike & Liz Keys 2006  
Bill Lowry 2006  
Rachael Neild 2007  
Andrea Patkin 2005  
Rob, Lynne and Peter Scott 2005  
Pat Smith 2005  
Dan and Mary Lockwood 2005  
Steve & Jacqui Wilks Family 2006

**TAURANGA**

Jean Anderson 2008  
Jack Bowden 2004  
**Clarrie Beardsmore 2007** ✨  
G.W. and J Butler 2001  
Andrew Collins 2007  
Sarah Cowie 2004  
Stuart Dawson 2005  
Ian and Julie Dean 2007  
Paul Deunston 2005  
Brynn & Shona Fergie 2007  
Chris Gambassi 2001  
Edward & Wendy Goodwin 2007  
Mary Hill 2006  
Irma Hyde 2004  
Susan Jolley 2007  
Lorey - Drummond Family 2007  
Bridget Malbin 2006  
Carol Merriman 1999  
Tamon Miles 2007  
Shel Page 2006  
**Prime Explosives 2007** ✨  
Tom Ray 2004  
Royal Forest & Bird Protection Soc.  
NZ Inc Tauranga 1999  
Brenda Sherson 2007  
Diane Southcombe 2007  
Gary Stone 2005  
Graham and Maxine Taylor 2006  
D.A. Tim 2006  
Andrew Wilkins 2006

**TE ANAU**

Phill Robertson 2008

**TE AWAMU TU**

Laine and Jan Howard 2003  
Colin Jenkins 2005  
Doug Scott 2005

**TE PUKE**

Pat Evans 2006  
Susan Hall 2007  
Gus and Gerdie Knipers 2002  
Nigel and Linda McPherson 2006  
Te Pike Royal Forest and Bird Protection Soc. NZ Inc 1997

**THAMES**

Andra Fox 2005  
John & Betty Gankrodger 2006  
Dale Stevens 1999

**TIRAU**

Don & Christine Finnegan 2007  
Joshua & Danielle Kane 2007

**TOKOROA**

James & Vicki Craig 2007

**TURANGI**

Mike Sadler 2005  
Andrew Wilkins 2006

**TWIZEL**

Donna Falconer 2008  
Dennis and Terri Fordham 2006  
Sepp Marell 2006  
Andrew & Ceia Mason 2001  
**Partisan 2006** ✨

**WAIHEKE ISLAND**

Janet Hux 2003  
Caroline McConnell 2006  
**Pam Oliver 2002**

## CHARITY DINNER

During 2008, Wingspan will be celebrating more than 15 years of operation as a registered charitable trust, its 5th year since the grand opening, and more than 500 supports through the centre. From humble beginnings to a facility of international standard – plans are now in place to conduct a major fundraising venture. The purpose to ensure Wingspan sustainable development, to build capital reserves, and purchase property, with a target of \$600,000, to see Wingspan continue in perpetuity.

Wingspan last held a celebration dinner back in 2004. It was a very popular event and a huge success with many enquiries from members keen to repeat the event. Well... wait no more!! The Wingspan Board of Trustees is thrilled to announce...

# WINGSPAN BIRDS OF PREY TRUST CHARITY AUCTION

SATURDAY 18TH OCTOBER, 2008 6.30PM

This will be a celebration of 15 years of the Wingspan programme – a fun event including fundraising auctions, special celebrity guest speakers, and entertainment. The venue will be at Skyline Skyrides, beneath the forest sails of the hugely popular Redwood Restaurant.

On arrival, guests will be personally greeted and served a complimentary welcome drink ready to board a gondola to ride above the slopes of Mt Ngongotaha. Absorb the fantastic views of the Lake Rotorua vista followed by a huge ride to 'stomp' down the scenic track to the venue. (Alternative vehicle access is available).

Dinner will be a full carvery buffet of salads and harmonia, carvery roasts, hot main courses, followed by desserts and fresh fruit platters. Enjoy the ambience, fine company and 'conservation conversation'.

Members and 'Early Bird' bookings just \$100 per person by August 30th 2008.  
During Conservation Week in August, tickets will go on sale to the general public \$105 per person.  
Family and corporate tables of 10 for \$1000.00.  
Gift reservation tickets welcomed

*N.B. The number of tickets available is limited, so reservations will be taken on a first in first served basis. Book early to avoid disappointment!*

During the course of the evening an extended 'fun-raising' auction is to be held, and this is intended as a combination on-line opportunity for both national and international bidding interests. This will include big screen viewing and interactive on the spot bidding from the floor.

Some items will have reserves in place as a minimum bid, and many items will be investments with 'provenance' and genuine collectability.

The following items form part of the fantastic collection that will be available during the course of the evening. A complete catalogue listing will be sent to registrations of interest and dinner booking confirmations.

48 Wingspan 2008

## AUCTION 2008

### PAKISTANI BOKHARA

Els Verheyen of Belgium with Dom Grant and Yoka De Houwer of New Zealand have made this unique item available for auction. This carpet rug is for the serious collector or investor and comes complete with certification from Lahor, Pakistan (1981). This saffron coloured BOKHARA is among the most popular handmade rugs in the world. It is a very large carpet rug measuring 3.32m X 2.66m in pristine condition. Crafted from New Zealand worsted wool on a cotton base, and hand knotted with 3700 knots per sqm resulting in a very soft and thick pile.

International investors welcomed.  
Reserve on this item is set at NZ\$1500.00

### ANTIQUE MAHOGANY CHIFFONIER GEORGE 3RD BOOKCASE

In excellent condition this is a stunning piece of antique furniture generously donated for the Wingspan auction. This two-piece set includes a plain 'ogee cornice' with three shelves, and the base with a single plain frieze drawer over two paneled doors.

Total height is 2150mm (upper piece 1150mm height X 940mm width, lower piece 1000mm height X 1100mm width). Viewing available at the Wingspan Centre.

Estimated value of NZ\$5,000.00

(Reserve set at \$2000.00)

Auction winner to collect/arrange packing and delivery (ex Rotorua).



### HANDMADE SAMPLER

Framed embroidered handcrafted 'sampler' 80 x 36cm

A traditional Dutch sampler, from a pattern originally stitched in 1730 by a young 11-year-old girl. Reproduced from the original pattern by one of our Wingspan members, this was made during the years 2001-2004, taking close to 500 hours to complete.



### THE NEW ZEALAND HUIA

Thought to be extinct from around 1912, the Huia was a unique bird of Aotearoa and a taonga treasure for Maori. This auction item is a reconstruction specimen donated by Wildmount taxidermy specialists Noel Hyde and Peter Wells of Rotorua. Recreated using castings of beak, legs and toes from genuine huia remains, and utilising feathers of introduced birds. This is not just a work of art but a rare opportunity to celebrate a unique and iconic extinct species.

Limited sale auction item within New Zealand only.  
Reserve set at NZ\$1000.



Wingspan 2008 49

## AUCTION 2008

### SIR EDMUND HILLARY

The Wingspan programme gained support from the late Sir Edmund Hillary with his signing of a number of \$5.00 New Zealand notes. On the 11 January 2008, Wingspan dedicated the flight of the day to Sir Ed who had climbed the mountains of New Zealand frequented by kararewa.

Promissory notes have been received and will be accepted prior to this auction, each has a reserve of NZ\$200.00.



### MIKE NORRIS BRONZE SCULPTURE

New Zealand falcon reproduced as a life-size solid bronze sculpture. A limited edition of 24; this is one of the few remaining for purchase.

Reserve set at \$400

International bidders welcomed.

### COLLECTORS UNCIRCULATED NEW ZEALAND \$5 COIN

New Zealand Post, on behalf of the Reserve Bank of New Zealand, issue collectors sets and proofs featuring endangered and threatened species. In 2006 the \$5 uncirculated coin featured New Zealand falcon (with images of Wingspan's Ruby and Diamond) and was originally priced at \$79.00. These coins are no longer available in retail outlets, only occasionally for trade by private collectors.

Reserve set at \$100.00.



### GEOFF AND LYNETTE MOON

Signed, autographed editions of 'Know your New Zealand Birds', and 'New Zealand Birds in Focus'. These would make a unique gift for the collector or bird enthusiast.

### PAUL GIBSON

Featuring New Zealand falcon on the front cover (Ruby!) and signed by the author and photographer Paul Gibson, this is a new book on the market released in 2007. Another great gift idea.

### LAKE TAUPO CATALINA

Framed and mounted photograph with inscription, 'Consolidated PIBV 3A Catalina ZK PIBV, Lake Taupo'. A collectors item for those members that appreciate flight and aircraft. Generously donated by Wingspan Auckland members Bev and Laurie Richardson. No Reserve.

### RENEE BENNER

The Dumpy Bush, 1973

Original oil on canvas. Donated by Mary Staal, Rotorua, this artwork by well known artist Renee Benner is anticipated to draw particular interest from collectors with the Bay of Plenty. No Reserve.

Registrations of interest and other donated goods are welcomed for this auction.  
A full catalogue will be produced in September prior to the event.

50 Wingspan 2008

## RAPTOR ART AT WINGSPAN

### NEW ZEALAND FALCONS BY JANET MARSHALL

We are delighted to announce that we have secured the rights to re-produce this painting by renowned artist Janet Marshall, from Takaka Hill. Janet has graciously released the production rights to Wingspan.

The print measures 700mm x 500mm, on canvas and unframed, are priced at \$590 each including GST with all proceeds going to Wingspan to help protect the NZ Falcon. The print can be supplied on a stretch frame for an additional \$100.

Postage & Packaging on unframed \$12, and \$24 framed. Please allow two weeks for delivery. These can be ordered directly at the Wingspan Centre or through the website shop at [www.wingspan.co.nz](http://www.wingspan.co.nz)



## PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION BY BARBARA STAAL

Barbara Staal, Auckland artist and photographer presents her exhibition 'Feathered Friends'. The exhibition is to be held at **Essence Café, 125 Ngongotaha, Rotorua, 28th December to 15th February 2009**. A first for Rotorua, Barbara's exhibition of bird photos is described as a mix of native and sea birds - and sometimes with a dash of humour! Formerly of Rotorua, Barbara now resides in Auckland whilst maintaining close ties with Rotorua.

Commission proceeds – a generous one third of the sale price of every print sold will be donated to Wingspan Birds of Prey Trust.



## ORIGINAL ARTWORK BY SAM CLARK

Whakatane based artist Sam Clark blends cultural influences of both New Zealand and Haida artwork after spending time in Canada.

Prints (such as this New Zealand falcon at right) and a range of cards are available at the Wingspan Centre.

Alternatively Sam can be contacted directly at [www.samclark.co.nz](http://www.samclark.co.nz)

Commission and enquiries welcomed.



## OIL PASTELS BY KATE TESTER

This spectacular image of Ruru, Morepork owl is one of a limited edition of just 30 prints. Each signed individually by the artist; this is a very popular artwork at just \$210.00 (incl GST). Also reproduced as a gift card and envelope set for \$7.00 available at the Wingspan Centre.



Wingspan 2008 51



**WINGSPAN BIRD OF PREY CENTRE**

Open daily 9am-3pm  
Best time 1.30 pm ready for  
2 pm Flying & Training Displays

1164 Paradise Valley Rd, Rotorua

Visitors Welcome, Tours by appointment

Adults \$15.00, Children \$5.00

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

**RAPTOR EXPERIENCE**

A one hour hosted tour of the breeding, research and display facility with a Wingspan falconer, including flying demonstration and unique interactive experience with trained New Zealand birds of prey - by appointment only. \$80.00 per group (plus admission per person)

**SCHOOL VISITS**

Wingspan offers a unique education resource for students at just \$2.00 admission per person with Raptor Experience guided tours.

**DONATIONS**

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

**Three easy donation options,**

SEND cheque to Wingspan Bird of Prey Centre, by post to PO Box 993, Rotorua, or

ON-LINE (secure server) by credit card to [www.wingspan.co.nz](http://www.wingspan.co.nz)

DIRECT CREDIT Westpac - Account #031 545 0006730 00

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS WELCOMED!

**WINGSPAN INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS**

Subscribe to the annual journal, receive your special Wingspan members pin on joining, plus year round complimentary admission to the Wingspan Bird of Prey Centre. \$30.00 per annum

**WINGSPAN FAMILY MEMBERSHIP**

Great for couples and families residing at the same address. Subscribe to the annual journal, receive one special Wingspan members pin on joining, plus year round complimentary admission to the Wingspan Bird of Prey Centre. \$50.00 per annum

**SPONSOR A NEW ZEALAND RAPTOR AT WINGSPAN**

Name the bird, receive an annual update, colour photograph, free admission to the Wingspan Bird of Prey Centre, and special acknowledgement on aviary sponsor board. \$500.00 per annum

**SPONSOR A WILD NEW ZEALAND FALCON**

Name the wild bird, receive information on band numbers and combinations, a colour photograph, and updated summary when your falcon has been located, plus free admission to the Wingspan Birds of Prey Centre, and acknowledgement on the aviary sponsor board. \$100.00 per falcon

**LIFETIME SUPPORTER**

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

**SPONSOR AN AVIARY/CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP**

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

Requests and special Memorials by arrangement. Please contact the Wingspan office.

The Wingspan Board of Trustees would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support of Wingspan Birds of Prey Trust over the past year.

As a volunteer organisation and charitable trust, your contributions are welcomed and important for the ongoing life of the Trust.

Donations of \$5.00 or more are tax deductible within New Zealand. Donations can be processed through e-shop at the Wingspan website [www.wingspan.co.nz](http://www.wingspan.co.nz), or sent directly to:

WINGSPAN BIRDS OF PREY TRUST  
P.O. BOX 993  
ROTORUA

Yes, please renew my membership

Member # .....

Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

**PAYMENT ENCLOSED**

VISITOR ADMISSIONS

Adults \$15.00 \$.....  
Children \$ 5.00 \$.....

MEMBERSHIP DONATIONS

Individual \$30.00 \$.....  
Family \$50.00 \$.....  
Lifetime\* \$1,000.00 \$.....

SPONSORSHIP SUPPORT

Wild Bird sponsor \$100.00 \$.....  
Bird sponsor \$500.00 \$.....  
Aviary sponsor \$5000.00 \$.....

Purchases (please specify)

..... \$.....

Donation \$.....

..... \$.....

Total \$.....

CARD TYPE: Mastercard  Visa

Credit card #

.....

CARDHOLDERS NAME: .....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....



Cut or photocopy this page

**STOP PRESS**

The 2007 - 2008 year has been by all accounts, a significant time for Wingspan. But as this journal went to press there were further exciting developments. These included new fund-raising initiatives alongside a more unusual raptor to arrive at the Centre. These will be reported more extensively in the 2009 edition; in the meantime the following items will be of interest.

**RETAIL FUNDRAISING**

Growth charts of Ruru Morepork Owl "Whisper" and Karearea New Zealand falcon "Millie" (at right) reproduced as laminated posters \$20.00 each.

Presentation folders, including photographs of Wingspan raptors at the Centre \$15.00 ea.

Available at the Wingspan Centre or online e-shop at [www.wingspan.co.nz](http://www.wingspan.co.nz)

Wingspan T-Shirts and Caps arriving soon!



(NB Photographs are draft images only)

**ARTWORK REX HOMAN: NGA MANU A TANE**

Rex Homan is a renowned artist and contemporary woodcarver with his own unique personal style. During May 2008 Rex is showcasing a solo exhibition of 45 sculptural works at the Spirit Wrestler Gallery, in Vancouver Canada. This exhibition will include two charity auction items to benefit bird conservation. Rex has generously chosen the proceeds of the auction to be shared by Wingspan and the Kōwi Recovery Programme.



To view his work and further information about the charity auction visit [www.spiritwrestler.com](http://www.spiritwrestler.com)

**INJURED BARN OWL**

It was a midnight call in early April when Wingspan received a report of an injured Barn owl found in Kaitiaki. Thought to be a vagrant from Australia this is an owl rarely seen in New Zealand, and while there remains a small captive population, reports of these birds in the wild are very infrequent.

Unfortunately, the owl was found with a severely broken wing possibly caused by wire strike. Extensive surgery on this weak bird was completed in an attempt to 'pin' the wing.

With the combined efforts of Kevin Matthews, Mark and Jo Thompson, (Kaitiaki) Central City Vets (Rotorua) and Wingspan, the outlook for this birds survival is encouraging.



Ozzy in Action Photo by Dilau Rajasingham