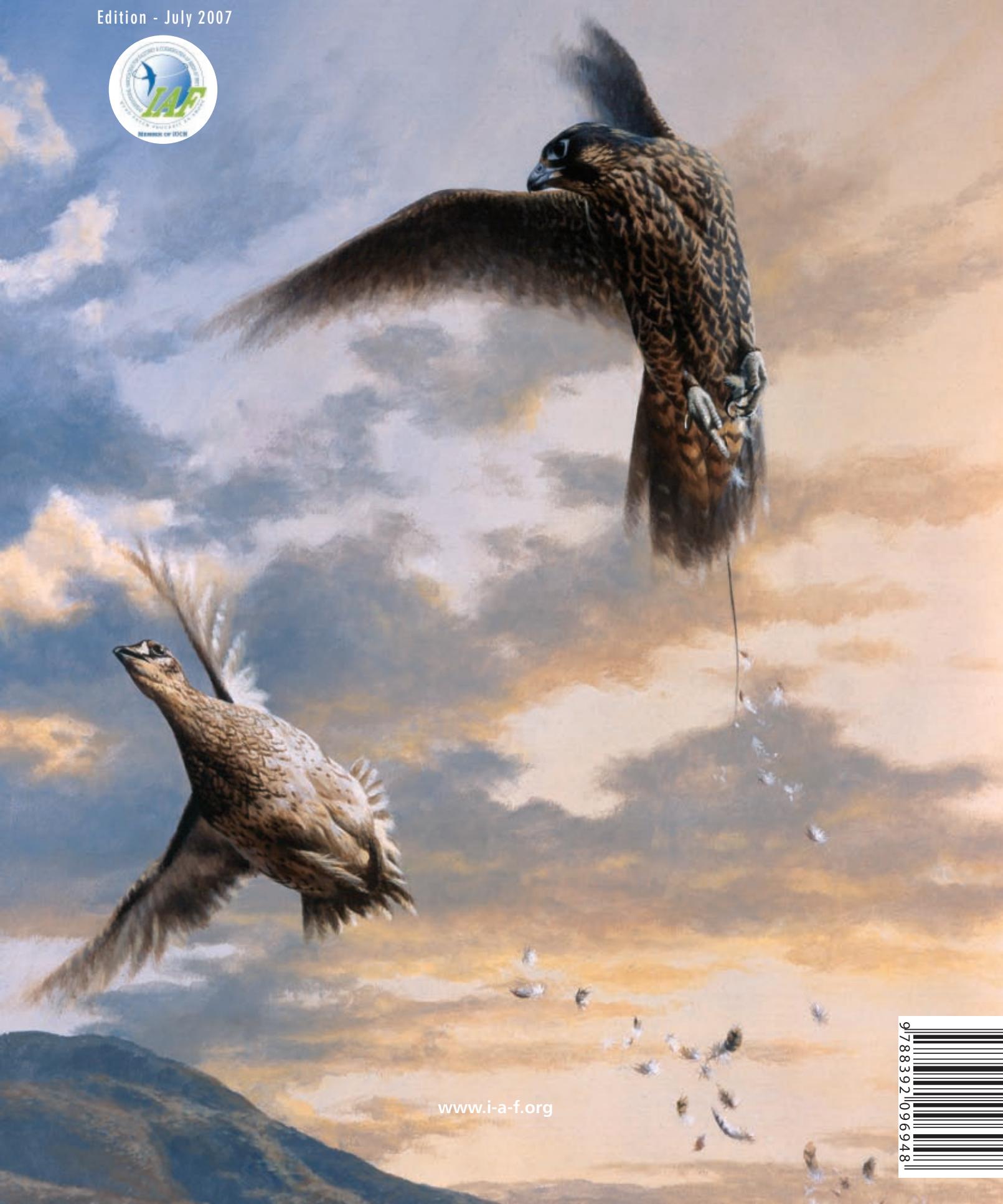


INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR FALCONRY & CONSERVATION OF BIRDS OF PREY

# NEWSLETTER

Edition - July 2007



[www.i-a-f.org](http://www.i-a-f.org)

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# EDITOR'S FORWARD

by Anthony Crosswell

This year is our 40th anniversary of the foundation of the IAF.

Our 2006 AGM in Nebraska, by kind invitation of NAFA, showed us the success of dedicated falconers in operation. The meeting started with a sponsored flight for delegates to the Archives of Falconry at The Peregrine Fund in Boise Idaho. The trip was to mark the inauguration of the Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan Memorial Falconry Heritage wing of the Archives sponsored by UAE. The privilege was much appreciated by all who saw this amazing achievement that Kent Carnie, his staff and UAE staff have brought into being over recent years. Here in the US there is at last a professionally run exhibition of the memorabilia, literature and art of our sport from all over the world carrying to our children and their children the memories of our way of life.

The IAF AGM was staged over four days with morning meetings so that delegates and visitors from 32 countries could also share in the field meet organised by NAFA members.

This was the year of our IAF elections and changes in officers. Following the 6 years Presidency of Patrick Morel our new President has a hard act to follow. Patrick has been an outstanding leader and diplomat and it was with much sadness that his term came to such a memorable end. He has seen the IAF grow from just a few members to now representing 63 associations from 48 countries.

The IAF AGM finished on the Friday with the election of Frank Bond as our new President, the re-election of Jose Manuel Rodriguez-Villa as Vice President for Europe, Asia, Africa & Oceania, Bill Johnston as Vice President for the Americas, the appointment of Tony Crosswell as Executive Secretary, Antonio Carapuco as Treasurer, Gary Timbrell as Chair of the Advisory Committee and new members of the Advisory Committee itself.

In November a small group were given an extraordinary experience of the kindest hospitality from His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan to see at first hand Arabian houbara hawking in the desert. It was an unforgettable experience in which we were also able to experience just how much effort is being made to overcome some of the problems which all falconers experience worldwide. Some 40 years ago we were challenged by the decline of raptors under the pressure of pesticides and with great foresight and determination falconers responded. In the intervening period we developed captive breeding in defiance of all the doubters and to the extent of even being able to restore the wild peregrine population in the US and elsewhere. Today this has been such a success that 'wild-take' has again been restored in the US and traditional falconry experiences restored for future generations.

It is encouraging to have seen what extraordinary challenges we falconers have responded to – middle eastern falconers are approaching their own problems today with the same determination and expertise that will in time ensure success. They are making amazing efforts to overcome the problems of the Saker falcon and other species of hawks as well as committing enormous resources to the restoration of quarry species. The same is happening in other parts of the world – in the US a grouse partnership has been established to combat declining numbers of our quarry species, in Europe there are many examples of game management programs and raptor restoration in action. At the heart of all is our sport of falconry with motivated, concerned falconers caring for our environment in the modern world.



The standard of falconry in many parts of the world has never been higher. Falconers world wide can be justly proud of our achievements and the cultural heritage of falconry, its relevance to society is an outstanding importance. In July UAE and the UK Hawk Board are holding a celebration of our cultural heritage in the Festival of Falconry in the UK in support of the UNESCO Proposal from UAE. Coincidentally this year also marks the 70th anniversary of the great exhibition held in Berlin in 1937 at which the British Falconers Club achieved recognition for its outstanding contribution.

Let us hope for a glorious celebration of our sport and I look forward to seeing you all again in Champagne, France for this years AGM by kind invitation of ANFA. My thanks to everybody who helps to make this Newsletter possible and to all the photographers.



## Pictures in this edition :

Cover Picture - Andrew Ellis

Others: Keiya Nakajima, The Falciformes Centre, Mark Williams, Patrick Morel, Bohumil Straka, William Johnston, Frank Bond, Tony Crosswell, Tony James, Zdenek Tunka, Verhelle Kerkoff, Roman Savic, Ariane de la Barre d'Erquelinnes, Selec Mikuletic, Javier Ceballos, Christian Habich, Peter Kluh, Janusz Sielicki

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# Agenda for the 38th AGM of IAF in Champagne, France



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## Wednesday 28th November 2007

- 13.30 Registration – and coffee  
 14.00 Opening by the President  
 14:10 Address by ANFA  
     Approval of the minutes of the AGM 2005 in Kearney – Tony Crosswell  
     Candidatures – President – discussion introduced by Gary Timbrell  
     Financial report 2007 ; budget for 2008 – Antonio Carapuço  
     President's report  
     VP report Bill Johnston  
     VP report Jose Manuel Rodriguez-Villa  
 16.0 Coffee break

### Reports of the working groups

**Administration Working Group**  
Frank M. Bond, President

**Advisory Committee**  
Gary Timbrell

**Finance Working Group**  
Antonio Carapuço

**Communications Working Group**  
Bohumil Straka

**European Affairs Working Group**  
José Manuel Rodríguez-Villa

**Conservation and Science Working Group**  
Timothy Kimmel

**CITES Working Group**  
Anthony Crosswell

**Hybrids Working Group**  
Matthew Gage, Acting

**Russian Speaking Europe and Central Asia Working Group**  
Jevgeni Shergalin

**IAF/CIC UNESCO Cultural Heritage Submissions Working Group**  
Gary Timbrell

**Falconry Festival Working Group**  
William F. Johnston, Jr.

**AGM Planning Working Group**  
Patrick Morel  
Other Appointees

IAF Newsletter Editor: Anthony Crosswell  
 Public Relations Officer: Bohumil Straka  
 Public Information Officer: Jevgeni Shergalin

## Thursday 29 November 2007

- 07.30 Coffee  
 08.00 Reports of the delegates  
 10:30 Coffee Break  
 11.00 Miscellaneous  
     AGM 2008 (place and date)  
 13.00 Lunch and Photograph Session for Newsletter.

Delegates leave for visit to Reims and visit to Pommery Champagne

## Friday 30th November 2007 field meeting in Champagne

Excursions and activities for the ladies and guests  
 IAF dinner

## Saturday 1st December 2007

field meeting in Champagne  
 ANFA Banquet dinner - raffle

## Sunday 2nd December 2007 departure of the delegates

International guest limited to 2 per country are invited to participate with their hawks to the Field meeting  
 International guest and delegates are requested to contact Patrick Morel for booking and hunting formalities (hunting licences).



# IAF Officers 2007



## President

### Frank M Bond

Simons & Slattery LLP  
P.O. Box 5333 Santa Fe,  
NM 87502-5333 USA  
Office: +01 505-988-5600  
Office direct: 001 505 992 9510  
Home: +01 505-984-2061  
Mobile: +01 505 660 1551  
Fax: 001 505-982-0185  
E-mail: Gyrfalk@aol.com



## Vice President Americas

**William F. Johnston, Jr.**  
USA  
Tel: + (508) 529-3213  
Mobile: + (508) 887-5897  
Also, since I spend considerable time  
at my place in Nebraska,  
Tel: + (308) 848-3396  
Email: john4ma@earthlink.net



## Vice President Europe-Asia-Africa-Oceania

**José Manuel Rodriguez-Villa Matons**  
Spain  
Tel: +34 91 4110866;  
Fax: + 34 91 5645357;  
Mobile: + 34 608 61 11 56  
E-mail :jm.rodriguez-villa@aubisa.es



## Executive Secretary

### Anthony Crosswell

UK  
Tel / Fax: +44 1379 677 296  
Mobil: +44 7885 769 054  
E-mail: gyr@gycross.freeserve.co.uk



## Treasurer

### Antonio Carapuço

Portugal  
Tel: +351 262 959 161  
Fax: +351 262 950 147  
Mobile: +351 919 728 203  
E-mail: a.carapuco@mail.telepac.pt

## Advisory committee members.

### Garry Timbrell - Chairman

Ireland  
Tel: 021-7330298  
E-mail: gary1timbrell@eircom.net  
E-mail: iaf.informationbureau@dublin.com

### Dr J. Timothy Kimmel, Ph.D. - Substitute Chairman

USA  
Mobile: +620-786-8992;  
E-mail: kimmelt@bartonccc.edu

### Majid Al Mansouri

United Arab Emirates  
Phone: 00971 -2- 681 7171; Direct: 00971 2 693 4567  
Fax: 00971 -2- 681 0008  
Email: malmansouri@ead.ae

### Christian de Coune

Belgium  
Tel: +32 4 368 40 21; Fax: +32 4 368 40 15  
E-mail: christian.decoune@belgacom.net

### Patrick Morel

Belgium  
Tel: +32 10 88 11 88; Mobile: +32 495 18 82 77  
E-mail: patrick.morel@skynet.be

### Dr Matthew JG Gage

United Kingdom  
Tel: 01603 592183; Mobile: 07815518278  
Fax: 01603 592250  
Email: m.gage@uea.ac.uk

### Dr Bohumil Straka

Czech Republic  
Mobile: + 42777071722  
Tel: + 420 777071722; Fax: + 420 545240763  
E-mail: bohumil.straka@seznam.cz  
E-mail: bohumil@straka.eu



### Janusz Sielicki

Poland  
Home Tel: +48 22 823 41 48  
Office Tel :+ 48 22 43 41 501  
Mobile + 48 502 19 60 61  
Fax + 48 22 43 41 010  
E-mail: janusz.sielicki@gfk.pl

### Alexander Prinz

Germany  
Phone: +499 231 503 122; Mobile: +49 171 200 7486  
E-mail: anwarter@web.de

### Dr Adrian Lombard

South Africa  
Phone: +27217823883 (home); +27217826057 (work)  
Fax: +27217825829; Mobile: +27834629468  
E-mail: lombarda@mweb.co.za

### Information Advisor (not member of the AC)

### Dr Jevgeni Shergalin

UK  
Tel: +44 1267 233864  
E-mail: shergalin@yahoo.com

# AN INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR FALCONRY WHY?

Christian de Coune

Some of you might wonder what the role of an international association could be for falconry?

It is very simple : the role of the IAF is exactly the same as the one played by the national associations for falconry. Like your falconry club, the IAF represents and defends the interests of falconry. The only difference is the interlocutor. The national associations dialogue with their national authorities : the ministry of the environment, the hunters' associations, the scientific bodies, and so on.

The IAF dialogues with the international organisations, whether governmental or non-governmental.

Governmental organisations are mainly, the European Union, the Council of Europe, the United Nations to which CITES belongs.

Non-governmental organisations are, amongst others, the Federation of the Associations for Hunting and Conservation of Europe – FACE, International Union for the Conservation of Nature-IUCN, BirdLife International, etc...

The IAF may also deal with national authorities of countries where it is represented, with the agreement or on request of the member-association of the country concerned. An example of this type of action is given by Spain in the '80s, when falconry was banned by a law that declared that falconry was a massive and non-selective hunting method. IAF advocated with the Spanish authorities that falconry is internationally recognised as a legitimate sport. IAF also organised a large campaign of letters of support directed to the Spanish authorities, even to the King. Falconry is now legally practised all over Spain.

Sometimes the official authorities may consult directly with the IAF. Like the national officials, the international authorities wish to deal with a single organisation that represents the entire group. As you have certainly noticed, more and more decisions are taken at an international level, it was therefore essential that falconry expresses itself with one single voice. This necessity led the representatives of the main falconry associations to get together and form an international association for falconry.

This happened 40 years ago! The first president of the International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey was Jack Mavrogordato. The IAF soon became the reference of falconry on the international stage, as a result of its policy of presence. Wherever bird of prey conservation or hunting were addressed, falconry was a part of the landscape thanks to the presence of a delegate of the IAF. Falconry should not be forgotten nor overlooked.

The IAF did not forget that it is also the international association "for the Conservation of Birds of Prey". It organised international conferences of very high level. Dr Robert Kenward initiated and conducted conferences in the name of the IAF on management techniques of birds of prey, on the diseases of raptors and on the Goshawk. The IAF participated also in a project of bird of prey conservation in Byelorussia.

The role of the IAF in bird of prey conservation has received a major recognition : IAF has been democratically elected member of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature – the IUCN.

In the early 70's the situation of birds of prey was very alarming. The Peregrine Falcon was gradually going towards its extinction on most of its distribution area. The recreational use of wild birds of prey was questioned by a number of people. It is in that climate that the need became evident for strict measures to be taken for the protection of birds of prey.

In 1975, the International Council for the Bird Preservation – ICBP, now called BirdLife International organised in Vienna the First World Conference on Birds of Prey. Anthony Jack and Robert Kenward represented the IAF at the Conference, their position was quite uncomfortable and the threat on falconry was very serious. They proposed a resolution on falconry and participated in the reformation of another one. The result was two recommendations to the Governments in which the possibility of keeping birds of prey for falconry was recognised as well as the possibility for falconers to take "rare nesting birds of prey". Those two historical texts have saved the life of falconry!

If the Directive 79/409 EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds quotes the word "falconry" and contains provisions allowing the capture and the keeping of wild birds. That exists because the IAF was taking care.

In 1976, Anthony Jack, president of the British Falconers' Club alerted the European member associations of the IAF that there was a proposal by the European Commission of a Directive on the conservation of wild birds and recommended that they draw the attention of their governments to the fact that nothing was foreseen to allow the capture and the keeping of birds of prey for falconry. FACE gave us its full support.

At least the Belgian falconers' club informed their ministry that falconry was threatened by the lack of possibility of derogating from the strict protection of birds. The result was the Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities of 26 May 1977 : "The absence of the possibility of derogating in order to take birds of prey for falconry was noted. It was pointed out to the Commission that this was a legitimate and ancient sport, which, if properly controlled, harmed neither the birds of prey population nor the populations of birds pursued in the course of falconry. Some provisions should be made to allow the continuation of this on a controlled basis."

It was with a great relief that we could read in the Directive 79/409 CEE its article 7.4 "member States shall ensure that the practice of hunting, including falconry ...." and its article 9.1(c) "...to permit ... the capture, keeping or other judicious use of certain birds in small numbers ". Once more, the IAF saved the life of falconry !

Fortunately such deadly threats are very rare. Nonetheless it remains necessary to see to it that falconry would not be harmed, even unwittingly, by some scientific or political texts. Being killed by a stray bullet or by a deliberate assassination, the result is the same. It must be avoided at any cost!

IAF keeps following a policy of presence by attending all meetings and conferences where one could address raptor conservation or their sustainable use as natural resource. This policy aims at avoiding that one would forget falconry as an element of the strategies of bird conservation.

In November 1994 in Florida, at the Conference of the Parties to the CITES, the IAF took an initiative : it called for a more flexible system for falconers travelling abroad with their bird(s) for hunting purposes; the reactions were positive. In June 1997, the

Conference of the Parties to the CITES adopted a Resolution based on a text drafted by the IAF on "Frequent Transborder Movements of Personally Owned Live Animals" that covered "frequent movements across international borders for legitimate purposes, including falconry". The practical result of this Resolution is the Falconry Passport adopted by an increasing number of countries. In the European Union the said passport is called "Personal Ownership Certificate", to which the IAF has been involved, it is organised by the EU Commission Regulation (EC)N°865/2006

The presence of IAF also facilitates the dialogue between falconry and the conservation circles, removing some misunderstandings and correcting false ideas that still may survive here and there.

It's time for falconers to regain their historical role of protectors of birds of prey. Birds of prey started being persecuted in the early XIXth Century, when falconry lost its status of major hunting method due to the competition by firearms. Raptors had lost their protectors. By the end of World war II, falconers started advocating for the legal protection of birds of prey. When birds of prey received the much hoped legal protection, a new problem arose for falconry : being allowed to keep and capture them.

Some twenty years ago, when I introduced myself as a spokesman for falconry in international gatherings, I had almost always to face nasty remarks, reproaches if not accusations against falconry.

Now, in the same gatherings, the word falconry inspires interest or even sympathy. An effect of that attitude has been that the IAF has been elected a member of the World Conservation Union – IUCN side by side with the world's most famous conservation organisations. At its World Congress in October 2000, IUCN adopted a Resolution worked out by the IAF, by which it asks to the States concerned and to the IAF to monitor the populations of Saker Falcon (*Falco cherrug*) in order to evaluate the level of sustainable yield. This means that officially and publicly, the highest international authority in nature conservation admits that wild populations of birds of prey may be harvested for falconry.

The state of mind of the international circles is changing. This should allow us to contemplate the future with a much greater serenity than not so long ago. Unfortunately national and regional policies show too often an unjustified slowness to follow the ideas of the international scientific and political circles.

It is our duty to bring the attitude of the international bodies towards falconry to be adopted at the national levels.

IAF will help you in achieving that aim.



# HISTORY OF THE IAF INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR FALCONRY AND CONSERVATION OF BIRDS OF PREY

**Patrick Morel**

## 1967

On 14th October, at a reception given at Petronell Castle by Count Abensperg-Traun on the occasion of the meeting of the Österreichischer Falknerbund, representatives of the following countries agreed unanimously on the creation of an international association : Germany: Gust Eutermoser, Christian Saar, Otto Witt; Great Britain: Cyril Morley, Ridley MacPhail; France: Gilles Nortier; Netherlands: Gerrit van Nie, Paul Corten; Czechoslovakia: Jiri Svoboda, Jiri Herold; Austria: Heinz Pils, Theo Maiwald. Heinz Pils was entrusted with preparing the constitution of an international association.

## 1968

On 9th April, in Zweibrücken Hof, Düsseldorf, the constituent assembly took place under the chairmanship of Heinz Pils. It was attended by:

Germany: Heinz Brüll, Dietrich Gutt, Gust Eutermoser ; Great Britain: Cyril Morley; Switzerland: Toni Lutz, Pierre Basset ; Netherlands: Gerrit van Nie ; Italy: Umberto Caproni di Taliedo ; Austria: Heinz Pils.

The INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR FALCONRY AND CONSERVATION OF BIRDS OF PREY was founded by 6 countries: Austria, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Netherlands and Switzerland.

Jack Mavrogordato (United Kingdom) was elected first president of the IAF and Cyril Morley appointed as Honorary Secretary.

In May, the CIC admitted IAF as a member.

Jack Mavrogordato attended the Conference of the European Section of ICBP, where falconry was the target of severe attacks. Club Marie de Bourgogne (Belgium) was admitted as a member.

IAF represents 7 countries: Austria, Belgium, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Netherlands and Switzerland.

## 1969

One more member was accepted: France.

Now represents (8): Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Netherlands, Switzerland.

## 1970

The 15th World Conference of the ICBP, Texel (Holland) was attended by Jack Mavrogordato. IAF was admitted as the representative of falconry for ICBP conferences.

Member countries: Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Netherlands, Switzerland.



### 1972

Jack Mavrogordato attended the 10th Conference of the European Continental Section of ICBP in Romania. For the first time, IAF was accorded a separate status amongst the other international organisations as WWF, UNESCO, etc... A resolution was adopted concerning trade in birds of prey; full prohibition was requested except for "approved purposes".

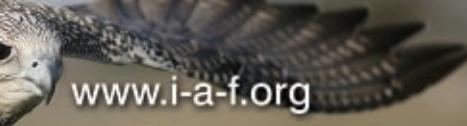
In October, at the AGM was held in Forsheim (Germany), Graf Otto Abensperg-Traun (Austria) was elected IAF president.

### 1973

At its general meeting in Petronell (Austria), IAF adopted a resolution on falconry and conservation of birds of prey, laying down the principles of bird of prey protection and the practice of falconry. It called upon the great international organisations in order that they ensure the survival and support of captive breeding of hawks.

### 1974

Anthony Jack became International Representative of the IAF; he attended the XVI ICBP World Congress in Canberra (Australia). He had to cope with severe oppositions to falconry. ICBP agreed to send a text to the national sections encouraging them to collaborate with hunting and falconry organisations. Robert Kenward



became Research Coordinator. Count Abensperg-Traun represented falconry at the 21st general meeting of CIC in Teheran. A resolution on falconry was adopted and sent to all governments.

### 1975

In October, ICBP held its First World Conference on Birds of Prey, in Vienna. IAF was one of the sponsors of the conference. Anthony Jack and Robert Kenward attended and addressed the assembly. Robert Kenward gave a paper on the role of falconry in captive breeding.

IAF proposed a resolution on falconry and helped draft another one, both were adopted. These resolutions averted an international campaign by ICBP to ban falconry. Those resolutions must be considered as an historical event in favour of falconry. They are the basis of the policy of the great conservation organisations, ICBP of course but also WWF. They are still now the main scientific argument in support of falconry.



Toni Lutz (Switzerland) was elected president.

### 1976

Anthony Jack represented IAF at the Conference of European Continental Section of ICBP at Radolfzell (West Germany); he cooperated in the discussion about resolutions on trade in wildlife.

### 1977

IAF together with the British Falconers' Club held a three day conference in Oxford under the title "Bird of Prey Management Techniques". It was organised by Robert Kenward, with proceedings edited by Tim Geer.

At its AGM in Oxford, the IAF encouraged the CIC to create a "Falconry Working Group".

Anthony Jack took the initiative to alert the falconry clubs of the EEC member of the IAF about a proposal for an EEC Directive on bird protection. The IAF and many national associations reacted and sent letters to the EEC. If adopted as such, this text would have meant (unwittingly) the end of falconry; thanks to our interventions, the legality of falconry was recognised in EEC "Birds" Directive 79/409 which clearly allows falconry and permits to the governments to derogate in favour of falconry.



### 1978

Anthony Jack represented IAF at the World Conference of ICBP in Ohrid (Yugoslavia).

Pierre Basset represented IAF at the CIC general meeting in Sofia; the decision was taken to create a CIC working group on falconry.

The IAF held its general meeting in Leck (Germany).



Count Charles de Ganay (France) was elected president. At the same meeting it is decided to work on a constitution of the IAF.

## 1979

The IAF held its general meeting in Paris. The draft constitution proposed by Charles de Ganay was discussed, amended and adopted. For the first time IAF had a constitution of an international organisation. At the CIC General Meeting in Athens, the newly founded Working Group on Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey meets with Charles de Ganay as president. The CIC adopts a recommendation stating that IAF is best able to represent falconry in the CIC.

## 1980

Anthony Jack represented IAF at the European Continental Section of ICBP in Malta. Dr Del Mastro Calvetti represented IAF at the CIC meeting in Rome.

Member countries (10): Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Switzerland.

## 1981

IAF held a three days conference in Oxford under the title "Understanding the Goshawk". Robert Kenward and Ian Lindsay edited the proceedings. Roger Thacker (USA) represented IAF at the Conference of the Parties to the CITES in New Delhi and obtained the downlisting to Appendix II of the North American population of the Gyr Falcon. Anthony Jack represented IAF at the European Continental Section of the ICBP in Holland. Peter Sapara represented IAF at the meeting of CIC in Munich. NAFA (USA) is accepted as member.

## 1982

At the conference of the World Working Group on Birds of Prey in Thessaloniki, Robert Kenward gave a paper on the role of falconry and hunting in raptor conservation. Anthony Jack represented IAF at the ICBP World Congress in Cambridge. Dr Meyburg on behalf of the World Working Group on Birds of Prey attended the IAF general meeting and assisted in revising the IAF code of conduct. Spain was accepted as member. Member countries (12): Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland and USA.

## 1983

Anthony Jack represented IAF at the European Continental Section of the ICBP in France. NAFA left IAF.

## 1984

IAF held its general meeting in Sögel (West Germany); a resolution was adopted on illegal traffic in Birds of prey. The CIC working group on falconry also met in Sögel. The CIC general meeting in Innsbrück reorganised the working group on falconry. Denmark was accepted as member.

Christian de Coune (Belgium) was elected president of the IAF and Patrick Morel was appointed as Honorary Secretary.

Member countries (12): Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland.



## 1985

Christian de Coune represented IAF at the conference of the European Continental Section of ICBP in Rapperswill (Switzerland).

Christian de Coune represented IAF at the Conference of the Parties to the CITES in Buenos Aires in order to counter a proposal aiming at re-listing the North American population of Gyr Falcon to Appendix I; the proposal was adopted.

Christian de Coune and Robert Kenward represented IAF at the Raptor Research Foundation Conference, to celebrate recovery of peregrine populations, in Sacramento (USA). This was the biggest raptor conference ever held. A resolution was adopted recognising the positive role of falconers in bird of prey conservation. RRF decided to draft a falconry position statement.

Patrick Morel represented the IAF at the CIC WG in Burg Guttenberg (Germany).

The IAF general meeting was in Woodhall Spa (UK); a recommendation was adopted on the compulsory ringing of falconry birds.

Natal Falconry Club (South Africa) was accepted as member. Member countries (13): Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland.

## 1986

The CIC working group on falconry met in Steyr (Austria); guidelines for legislation on falconry and hawk keeping and a recommendation to the governments on falconry and taking birds of prey from the wild was drafted.

The IAF general meeting was in Hambach-Neustadt (West Germany); a recommendation was adopted asking that surplus captive bred birds be given to reintroduction projects. IAF asked the Danish Government to adopt a favourable attitude towards falconry. IAF was granted observer status in the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention at the Council of Europe.

Robert Kenward represented IAF at the meeting of the Raptor Research Foundation in Gainesville (USA) where a falconry position statement was drafted.

Poland and Hungary are accepted as member.

Member countries (15): Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Poland, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland.

**1987**

Christian de Coune and Robert Kenward represented IAF at the Third World Conference on Birds of Prey in Eilat (Israel).

Anthony Jack represented IAF at the European Continental Section of ICBP in Visegrad (Hungary); ICBP recommended collaboration with bona fide falconry organisations.

Christian de Coune attended the Plenary Meeting of the Intergroup "Fieldsports, Woodland and Environment" of the European Parliament on the topic: "should the Directive 79/409 be amended or completed?".

IAF held its general meeting in Perg (Austria).

IAF sent a delegation of 3 representatives to Denmark (Christian de Coune, Patrick Morel and Eckart Schormair) to make a demonstration and plead for falconry.

**1988**

IAF held its XXth Anniversary general meeting in Stadtlohn (Germany). The Alaska Falcons' Association is admitted as a member of the IAF. A resolution was adopted on marking techniques for falconry birds. A recommendation was sent to the Mexican Government about illegal trade in birds of prey.

The working group on falconry of the CIC also held its meeting in Stadtlohn.

Christian de Coune represented IAF at the XVIIth meeting of the European Section of the ICBP in Adana (Turkey); Turkish falconry was under attack by ICBP.

Member countries (16): Alaska(USA), Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Poland, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland.

**1989**

IAF held its general meeting in Hodmezovasarhely (Hungary); the statutes of the IAF were amended to create an Advisory Committee, initial members being Christian de Coune, Anthony Jack and Robert Kenward. A campaign of support for falconry in Spain was initiated.

Christian de Coune represented IAF at the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention in Strasbourg.

Robert Kenward attended the meeting of the Raptor Research Foundation in Vera Cruz (Mexico); a very positive position statement on falconry was adopted.

Christian de Coune attended the VIIth Conference of CITES in Lausanne, and defended falconers' interests in a resolution on captive breeding.

**1990**

IAF held its general meeting in Freising (Germany); Christian de Coune was re-elected president; a resolution was adopted on free movement of falconry birds in the EEC. Tunisia and Zimbabwe were accepted as member.

Christian de Coune represented IAF at the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention in Strasbourg.

Robert Kenward gave a paper at a Conference organised by FACE on "Wise use and hunting" in Brussels.

Christian de Coune attended a meeting organised by the European Parliament and FACE in Luxemburg on "The future of fieldsports".

Robert Kenward attended the meeting of the Raptor Research Foundation in Pennsylvania (USA).

Christian de Coune was re-elected as president and Patrick Morel re-appointed as Honorary Secretary.

Member countries (18) : Alaska (USA), Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Poland, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Tunisia, Zimbabwe.

**1991**

IAF held its general meeting in Brussels; Patrick LeDuc, General Secretary of CITES, attended as an observer and gave a speech on the Convention; the General Secretary of FACE, Dr Yves Lecocq, gave a speech on EEC legislation; the meeting was also attended by Mr Servat, Director of CIC. The following associations were admitted as members of IAF: Hawking Club of Hyderabad (India), Associacao Portuguesa de Falcoaria (Portugal), Georgian Section of Falconry (Republic of Georgia), Czech Falconers' Club (Czechoslovakia).

A campaign to support falconry in Denmark was initiated.

Christian de Coune attended the general Meeting of FACE in Edinburgh, where he pleaded for falconry in Denmark, a declaration in support of falconry was adopted.

Member countries (21): Austria, Belgium, Czech republic, Denmark, France, Georgia, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Tunisia, Zimbabwe.

**1992**

IAF held its general meeting at the European House of Fieldsports in Brussels; Cees de Bruyn joined the Advisory Committee.

Christian de Coune attended the meeting of the falconry working group of the CIC at Grießkirchen (Austria).

Christian de Coune represented IAF at the VIIth Conference of CITES in Kyoto (Japan); a resolution was adopted on captive breeding and marking techniques.

Christian de Coune attended a meeting of Intergroup Fieldsports & Conservation of the European Parliament in Strasbourg; he addressed the assembly about the situation in Denmark.

Christian de Coune and Robert Kenward attended the meeting of the World Working Group on Birds of Prey & Owls in Berlin.

Christian de Coune attended the meeting of the ICBP European Continental Section in Aachen (Germany).

**1993**

IAF held its general meeting at the European House of Fieldsports and Conservation (FACE'S building) in Brussels.

Christian de Coune participated in a workshop on the interpretation of Directive 79/409/EEC on Bird Conservation; he also attended a meeting of CITES on criteria for listing species in the appendices of the Convention.

Christian de Coune and Robert Kenward attended the first European meeting of the Raptor Research Foundation in Canterbury.

Christian de Coune attended a workshop "Hunting as a Tool for Wildlife Conservation and Development" organised for the Council of Europe by FACE, especially directed towards East-European countries; he gave a paper on falconry as a wise use of wild resource and proposed guidelines for drafting laws on falconry.

Christian de Coune represented IAF at the meeting of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg and represented the Federation of Fieldsports Associations of Europe (FACE) at the meeting of Council of Europe's Steering Committee for the Protection & Management of the Environment & Natural Habitats in Strasbourg; he also attended the general meeting of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) in Capetown (South-Africa), and represented CIC and FACE at the foundation of Conservation Action Network in Washington DC.

**1994**

IAF's general meeting was in Sögel (Germany); 12 countries were represented.

Christian de Coune represented IAF at the CITES Conference in Florida; the principle of facilitating border crossings of falconers was accepted.

Christian de Coune represented IAF at the meeting of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention in Strasbourg.  
IAF agreed to finance a joint project of raptor study and conservation in Byelorussia, to last at least five years.

## 1995

IAF's general meeting was at Fleury en Bière (France).  
Eckart Schormair joined the Advisory Committee, which met in London.  
Christian de Coune represented IAF at the meeting of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention in Strasbourg.  
With Robert Kenward, Christian de Coune attended the Conference of the World Working Group on Birds of Prey in Badajos (Spain); he gave a presentation, resulting in the plenary assembly agreeing on the principle of harvesting wild birds of prey from well-established populations.  
Christian de Coune was invited to give a presentation on falconry and raptor conservation in Taiwan.

## 1996

IAF was admitted as a member of IUCN.  
IAF's general meeting was in Germany and the Advisory Committee met in Brussels; Cees de Bruyn arranged funding through IAF for work on saker falcons in Kazakhstan.  
Christian de Coune and Robert Kenward attended the second European Meeting of Raptor Research Foundation in Italy; they joined a committee on saker falcons created by World Wildlife Fund.  
Christian de Coune represented IAF at the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention in Strasbourg; it was agreed that falconry should not be affected by a resolution on introduction of non native organisms.  
Christian de Coune went twice to Genève to discuss with the CITES Secretariat specific problems of falconers; with Tony Crosswell, he attended a meeting of the CITES Animals Committee in the Czech Republic.



Hermann Döttlinger replaced Eckart Schormair on the Advisory Committee.

Christian de Coune and Tony Crosswell represented IAF at a meeting of the CITES Animals Committee in Venezuela.  
Robert Kenward represented IAF at the World Conference on Birds of Prey in South Africa and at the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention in Strasbourg.

## 1997

IAF's general meeting was at Woodhall Spa (UK); Gilles Nortier joined the Advisory Committee; at the request of Patrick Morel a position was also reserved for a member of the UK Hawk Board and at the request of the British Falconers' Club, positions were also reserved for a member of the North American Falconers Association; these positions were filled Jim Chick (UK) and Frank Bond (USA).  
Christian de Coune and Tony Crosswell represented IAF at the CITES Conference of the Parties in Harare; a resolution adopting a "passport" for trained hawks and other companion animals was adopted.  
Christian de Coune represented IAF at the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention in Strasbourg.

## 1999

The new Constitution was registered, recognising IAF as a non-profit international association by Royal Decree of the Kingdom of Belgium on 11 April.  
The Advisory Committee met in Belgium in January and in Scotland in September.  
IAF's general meeting was attended by 13 member states at Mesohegyes (Hungary). The following countries were admitted as new members: Brasil, Canada, Croatia, El Salvador, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovac Republic, Slovenia, Sweden, USA. IAF now represented all the countries with any appreciable number of falconers, except for Arab countries (which lacked clubs to represent their members on IAF).  
Frank Bond (USA) was elected American Vice President, Tim Kimmel (USA) joined the Advisory Committee. A Position Statement on hybrids was adopted.  
Tony Crosswell represented IAF at a meeting of the CITES Animals Committee in Madagascar.  
Robert Kenward represented IAF at the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention in Strasbourg, at two meetings of IUCN's European Sustainable Use Specialist Group and at IUCN's European Regional Forum.  
Hermann Doettlinger represented IAF at a meeting in Denmark to celebrate 20 years of the EU Birds Directive.

Member countries (31) : Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, United States of America, Zimbabwe.

## 2000

The IAF held its AGM in Amarillo (Texas – USA).

Patrick Morel (Belgium) was elected president and Tom Richter as Vice-president.



Tom Richter attended the general meeting of the CIC on 05.05.2000 in Berlin and represented IAF. He made a presentation on "Keeping trained birds of prey and falconry as an act for the welfare of animals". The conclusions of his presentation: "The CIC with the knowledge of scientific and veterinary medical studies points out:

1. Trained birds of prey regularly achieve a higher age – with undisturbed physical and psychological healthiness – than birds of prey in nature.
2. Their need for exercise is entirely fulfilled with training and hunting.
3. The training of birds of prey is animal-fair.
4. The keeping of the natural hunting conditions is in accordance with the typical behaviour of the birds of prey.
5. Falconry is not parforce hunting.

6. Falconry is the most natural, animal- and environment-protective way of hunting; condemning it as unfavourable for the welfare of animals would be wrong."

Frank Bond, Tim Kimmel, Christian de Coune represented the IAF in Nairobi, Kenya at 11th Conference of the Parties of CITES (April 18, 2000) in support of the proposal to downlist the North American population of the gyrfalcon from Appendix I to Appendix II, which failed due to political pressures.

Hermann Döttlinger represented the IAF at the conference organised by the FACE in Helsingör (DK) for the 20th anniversary of the European Community Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) commonly referred to as the 'Birds Directive'. The delegates adopted a Position on Hybrid Raptors in Falconry. Robert Kenward represented IAF on 5 meetings (Bern Convention, Raptors 2000 in Eilat, 2nd World Conservation Congress in Amman, Hawk Board forum, RRF in Jonesborough).

The 2nd World Conservation Congress in Amman adopted a resolution on sustainable-use. One of the most remarkable results of this resolution is an acceptance by the World Conservation Union of sustainable-use access to wild raptors; there is also the potential to improve CITES for falconry and a major recognition of falconry through IAF.

Kazakhstan, Mexico and Turkmenistan were accepted as members.

Member countries (34) : Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Mexico, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, United States of America, Zimbabwe.

## 2001

The AGM, scheduled in Woodhall Spa (UK) was cancelled due to Foot and Mouth disease.

Quarantine Decision (2000/666/EC): an exemption of quarantine was accepted for falconry hawks accompanying their owner.

Robert Kenward proposed a Mark-and-Bank scheme to control and monitor sustainable trade in wildlife.

IAF drafted "Guidelines for Regulation Falconry".

Ralph Rogers represented IAF at the IUCN sponsored workshop on commercial captive propagation and wild species conservation in Jacksonville, FL, USA (7-9 Dec 2001).

## 2002

The AGM was held in Woodhall Spa on Tuesday 8th October 2002

Members accepted: Bulgaria, Indonesia, a second Japanese Association, Morocco, and Turkey. The IAF is now composed of some 50 Associations from 37 countries.

(25-29 Sept) Robert Kenward, Jevgeni Shergalin and José Manuel Rodriguez Villa 4th RRF Congress on Raptors in Sevilla, Spain ; (Dec) Robert Kenward attended the meeting of the Standing Committee of Bern Conference in Strasbourg ;(Febr 2002) Patrick Morel and Christian de Coune went to the Commission of Europe – DG 11 Environment Brussels. The discussion was centred on the interpretation of the EEC 'Bird Directive'. Help of the IAF was requested for defining the notion of "judicious use".

(April) Christian de Coune attended the 6th Conference of the parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity Den Haag (NL) 15-19 April Patrick Morel and Christian de Coune attended the "Green Week" (workshop on hunting in Natura 2000) organised by the European Commission in Brussels.

25 April Robert Kenward and Jevgeni Shergalin attended Conference on Falconry in Arhavi Turkey 2 May Robert Kenward, Jevgeni Shergalin, Igor Tavcar attended the General Assembly of CIC in Istanbul Turkey

June 2002 Christian de Coune - Expert Group on Bird Conservation of the Bern Convention - Wageningen (NL)

15 July 2002 Tony Crosswell - meeting with CITES secretariat in Geneva

November 2002 Robert Kenward Council of Europe Invasive Species in the Azores

November 2002 Patrick Morel and Gilles Nortier attended the NAFA meeting – Nebraska USA

December 2002 Robert Kenward attended the Standing Committee meeting of Bern Convention Strasbourg –France

Foot and Mouth disease coming shortly after the ESB (mad cow disease) and dioxin crisis, lead the EU authorities to work on stricter sanitary measures: waste proposal and quarantine.

**Animal Waste Proposal:** the IAF sent a letter to the European Commission asking to include falconry and breeders raptors to the derogations. The European authorities accepted to recommend the inclusion of falconry raptors in the derogations.

Veterinary aspects are becoming more and more important for falconry as new diseases may appear as it is the case in the USA with the West Nile Virus.

Now represents 37 countries: Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, United States of America, and Zimbabwe.

## 2003

The IAF held its AGM in Jerez de la Frontera (Spain) in Dec.

The IAF now represents United Arab Emirates, another Polish Club (Polish Falconers Order) and New Zealand.

Falconry is questioned in Germany as a federation of associations for protection (NABU) supported by Euro Group Against Bird Crime started a fight against falconry with the aim to ban it. The Slovenians failed to see falconry included in the new hunting law but still keep a licence system. The Danes are discussing the possibility to fly crows, rooks and magpies, a good step for legalising falconry. The Americans had still to face sanitary problems with WNV 5west Nile Virus) and HPAI (highly pathogenic avian influenza). The peregrine take was confirmed with the announcing of the Notice of Availability of the Final Revised Environmental Assessment, Management Plan and Implementation Guidance and a Finding of No Significant Impact for take of nestling American Peregrine Falcons (*Falco peregrinus anatum*) for use in falconry. The states are now in a position to permit a harvest.

Delegates of the IAF attended the 6th Raptor World Conference in Budapest (May 2003), the Symposium on Saker in Abu Dhabi (September 2003), a forum 'pro and contra' falconry in Slovenia (May) and the meeting of the Standing Committee of Bern Convention in Strasbourg (Dec).

State and Legal status of Falconry in the world:

Falconry is practised on 5 continents and The World population of falconers is estimated at about 24.000 to 26.000 (Africa 300-600 ; Americas 4.000-4.500 ; Asia 12.500-13.000 ; Europe 7.800-8.500 and Oceania 20-50.

Falconry is legally recognised in most parts of the world. Falconry is legally practised in many African countries, in most of Asian Countries and Middle East, is legal throughout the Americas and

is accommodated under the Bern Convention and in the Wild Birds Directive of the European Union where it is practiced in 20 out of the 25 members.

The main areas of legislation concerning falconry regulate : Obtaining raptors, Possessing raptors, Welfare, Transport, Hunting, Release of raptors to the wild

**Elections:** Patrick Morel was re-elected as president and José Manuel Rodriguez-Villa was elected as Vice-president representing Europe, Asia, Africa and Oceania.

Now represents 39 countries: Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, and Zimbabwe.

## 2004

The IAF held its AGM in Abu Dhabi (September) ; about 100 delegates from 35 countries attended this memorable meeting.

FIF (Italy) and CIC were accepted as members.

JM Rodriguez-Villa attended the CIC AGM in Bucharest and was appointed VP of the Falconry Commission. The CIC and the IAF signed a MOU.

The IAF attended the CITES Consultative meeting on Trade in falcons hosted in May in Abu Dhabi – it was the first time that such a meeting entirely devoted to falconry and trade in falcons was organised. Participation of this meeting took a lot of time involving work on Rings – DNA tests – micro chips – mark & bank scheme – CITES survey and falconry pass.

IAF delegates attended the AGM of the IUCN in Bangkok (Oct) and the meeting of the Standing Committee of Bern Convention in Strasbourg (Dec).

On the European front, IAF had to deal with problems related to falconry in Slovenia. Falconry was not included in the new hunting law at the very last moment but is still permitted under a licensing system as it was before.

It was decided the appointment of a Public Relation Officer Gary Timbrel.

Major threats we had to deal with: "Anti-falconry" campaign, web-site and discussions groups and saker falcon issue.

## Saker falcon

The IAF is fully concerned by the future of Arab falconry. The main issues of concern are the decrease of saker and houbara populations. According to most experts, Asian saker populations have a decline of about 60% of their population.

The saker falcon may meet the conditions for an up-listing in CITES. Up-listing the saker to Appendix I means the end of traditional Arab falconry. Arab falconers have now to face a challenge that western falconers had to face 40 years ago with the decline of the Peregrine falcon. The decline of the Peregrine was due to other factors – mainly the use of DDT and pesticides in agriculture. It took time for the Peregrine to recover, but at present Peregrine populations are at their best. In some countries like in the USA, falconers are again allowed to harvest peregrines from the wild.

A resolution on Saker falcon was adopted by the delegates.

## Resolution to Encourage Conservation of the Saker Falcon

Recognizing that populations of Saker Falcons have declined in some countries;

Noting that, when pesticides caused declines in populations of Peregrines and other raptors, falconers pioneered breeding and release techniques, worked successfully to restore raptor populations and helped to organize the regulation of falconry;

Welcoming the vision of the World Conservation Union (IUCN 2.29 and 2.74) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD Article 10 and Decision VII/12) that encourages conservation through sustainable use of wild living resources and to benefit local people;

Appreciating cooperation from IUCN, CIC, WWF, Birdlife International, TRAFFIC and the secretariat of CITES; and

Applauding the strong engagement of United Arab Emirates with IAF, the falcon research conducted by ERWDA and the innovation of marking regulations by UAE;

At its 35th Annual General Meeting on 15th September 2004 in Abu Dhabi, the International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF) requests falconers in the Middle East and other range states to work urgently with IAF to help conserve and restore Saker Falcon populations, by:

- (i) adopting marking and registration systems that identify and encourage legal supplies of Sakers;
- (ii) encouraging scientific studies of all Saker populations to assess their status;
- (iii) working to restore populations of Sakers that have declined (e.g. by breeding for release);
- (iv) motivating authorities and local people in range states to maintain wild Saker populations, especially the breeding birds;
- (v) encouraging scientifically managed release, after use, of wild-caught Sakers that are suitable to enter breeding populations.

The IAF accepts its responsibility, within its available resources, to assist falconers and organisations with initiatives that fulfil the intent of this resolution.

## 2006

Now represents 63 associations of 48 countries: Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Kazakhstan, Macedonia, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Peru, Philippine, Poland, Portugal, Serbia-Montenegro, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, and Zimbabwe.

## Presidents of the IAF:

<b>1968</b>	Jack Mavrogordato	United Kingdom
<b>1972</b>	Otto Abensperg-Traun	Austria
<b>1975</b>	Toni Lutz	Switzerland
<b>1978</b>	Charles de Ganay	France
<b>1984</b>	Christian de Coune	Belgium
<b>1998</b>	Ferrante Pratesi	Italy
<b>2000</b>	Patrick Morel	Belgium
<b>2006</b>	Frank Bond	USA

# 37th AGM of IAF in Kearney, Nebraska

Thursday 23 November 2006 – Friday 24 November 2006

## Thursday 23 November 2006

### 07.00 Registration

Country	Name of Asociacion	Delegate
Argentina	Asociacion Argentina de Ceteria	Enrique & Natalia Rezende
Australia		Peter Lonan-Resketniak
Austria	Osterreichischer Falknerbund	Christian Habich
Belgium	Belgian Falconry Association "Club Marie de Bourgogne"	Patrick & Françoise Morel + Véronique Blonrock
	Belgische Vereniging van Vlaamse Valkeniers en Havikeniers	Yvan Verhelle
	Beoefenaars Vluchtbedrijf 'De Valkenier'	
	Studiegroep Behoud Valkerij	Luk Moyson + Robert Steigrad
Brazil	Asociacao Brasileira de Falcoeiros e Preservacao de Aves de Rapina	
Bulgaria	Bulgarska Asotsiatsia za Zapazvane na Grablivite Ptitsi	Pavel Yakimov
Canada	North American Falconers Association	Mark Williams
Croatia	Sokolarski Centar	Viktor Segrt
Czech Republic	Klub Sokolniku	Bohumil Straka, Petr Zvolanek, Marcela Medkova
Denmark	Dansk Falkejagt Klub	Tage & Inger Jessen + Frank Hansen & Suzanne Solzkov
Estonia	Zoolit – Eesti Jahikullimeeste Selts 'MOLNIA'	Dmitri Saksa + Jevgeni Shergalin
France	Association Nationale des Fauconniers et Autoursiers Francais	Gilles & Mariana Nortier + Pierre & Brigitte Courjaret
Georgia	Georgian Section of Falconry	
Germany	Deutscher Falkenorden	Christian Saar + Peter Klueh + Eckart Schormair + KH Gersman
Hungary	Magyar Solymasz Egyesület	Janos & Annamaria Toth
India	Hawking Club of Hyderabad	
Indonesia	Bali - Asia-Pacific Birds of Prey Sanctuary	
Ireland	Irish Hawking Club	Gary & Sinead Timbrell

Italy	Circolo dei Falconieri d'Italia per lo Studio e Protezione dei Rapaci	
	The Italian Federation of Falconers (FIF)	
Japan	The Japanese Falconers Association	Yukio Asaoka + Teruo Morimoto + Yukihiro Fujita + Tomoyuki Fujii
	The Japan Falconiformes Center	Keiya + Tomoya Nakajima
	The Japanese Falconers' Association	Fumio Ozaku + Zenjiro Tagomori + Noriko Otsuka + Sadao Murano
Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan Association 'Burkitshi'	Assylkhan Artykpayev
Libya	Libyan Falconers Association	
Lithuania	Lietuvos Sakalininku Klubas	Darius Daugela
Macedonia	Macedonian Falconers Association « Yarak »	
Mexico	North American Falconers Association	Juan Carlos Rojo + Adrian Reuters
Mongolia	Mongolian Falconry Association	
Morocco	Association Marocaine de Fauconnerie	Abdelhak Chaouni
Netherlands	Nederlands Valkeniersverbond Adriaan Mollen	Thys & Norma Fleskens
	Valkerij Equipe Jacoba van Beieren	Harry Wagenaar
New Zealand	Wingspan Birds of Prey Trust	
Peru	Peruvian Falconers Association	Jose Antonio Otero
Philippine	Philippinian Falconry Club	
Poland	Gniazdo Sokolnikow	Janusz Sielicki
	Polish Falconry Order	
Portugal	Associacao Portuguesa de Falcoaria	Antonio Carapuço
Russia		Vadim Gorbatov
El Salvador	Club y Escuela de Cetreria de El Salvador	Roy Beers
Serbia-Montenegro	Falconers Club Nobilis Ars	
Slovakia	Slovensky Klub Sokoliarov	
Slovenia	Slovenska zveza za sokolarstvo in zaščito ptic ujed (SZSPU)	
South Africa	South African Falconers Association	Adrian & Sylvia Lombard
Spain	AECCA	Fernando Feas + JM Rodriguez-Villa
	Alicantina de Cetreria	
Sweden	Svenska Falkenareforbundet	
Switzerland	Schweizerische Falkner-Vereinigung	Pierre & Christine Basset

Tunisia	Association Nationale des Fauconniers du Cap-Bon	Hichem Ben Hmida
Turkey	Istanbul Avcilik ve Aticilik Kulübü	
Turkmenistan	National Falconers Club of Turkmenistan	Atadurdy Eyeberdiyev
Ukraine	Corax	
United Arab Emirates	Emirates Falconers' Club	Majid al Mansouri
United Kingdom	British Falconers Club	Anthony Crosswell + Robert Kenward
	Scottish Hawking Club	Andrew Knowles-Brown
	The Hawking Club	
USA	North American Falconers Association	Alberto Palleroni + Bill Johnston + Frank Bond
	Wild Take Conservancy	Craig Hendee
Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe Falconers Club	
UK	Hawk Board	Dr Nick Fox
Hungary	CIC	JM Rodriguez-Villa

### 07.30 Coffee

### 08.00 Opening by the President

Patrick Morel opened the meeting 33 nations attending as well as His Excellency Majid al Mansouri from UAE, and new candidates for membership.

He then announced the sad recent deaths of Bill Burnham, Chairman of the Peregrine Fund and also Geoffrey Pollard, Dianna Pollard and Margaret Schormair. Delegates stood in silent respect for those no longer with us.

Patrick Morel then welcomed and introduced Daryl Perkins, president of the NAFA, with thanks from all members of IAF for hosting this meeting.



Daryl Perkins welcomed us all and said that the meet was unprecedented by the camaraderie and good will of international guests to the NAFA field meet – he expressed his thanks to Ralph Rogers and his staff for all the work he did in organising the event.



Ralph Rogers thanked us all for coming from all over the world. What a wonderful and positive experience it has been – with sincerity 'our house is your house' he said. Dan Cecchini said how much he has enjoyed our company and stressed the shared good feelings about our sport. Bob Bagley, one of the sponsors for the meeting said how good it is to meet old friends he has met around the world. 'This is a strange tribe of people beyond political borders in shared enjoyment of our sport.'



Patrick Morel thanked the sponsors and Frank Bond for his work in raising funds. Frank Bond said what a pleasure it has been to organise this event with Ralph Rogers, Kent Carney, Bill Johnston and many others. He thanked sponsors who have been most generous, NAFA members, and all those listed in the program.

## MINUTES

### Approval of the minutes of the AGM 2005 in Opolno Tony Crosswell

Minutes were approved by delegates as published in the newsletter.

### Candidatures – President

Each of the delegates from applicant countries present made a short presentation in support of their application. This was followed by a secret vote and the results were to accept the following applicants as members:

ARGENTINA	PHILLIPINES
BELGIUM SBV	UKRAINE
LYBIA	WILD TAKE CONSERVANCY USA
MONGOLIA	MACEDONIA
PERU	

Following this election the list of members is:

Country	Name of Association	*Category
Argentina	Asociacion Argentina de Cetreria	M
Austria	Oesterreichischer Falknerbund	M
Belgium	Belgian Falconry Association "Club Marie de Bourgogne"	M
	Belgische Vereniging van Vlaamse Valkeniers en Havikeniers	M
	Beoefenaars Vluchtbedrijf 'De Valkenier'	M
	Studiegroep Behoud Valkerij	M
Brazil	Asociacao Brasileira de Falcoeiros e Preservacao de Aves de Rapina	CM
Bulgaria	Bulgarska Asotsiatsia za Zapazvane na Grabilivite Ptitsi	AM
Canada	North American Falconers Association	M
Croatia	Sokolarski Centar	M
Czech Republic	Klub Sokolniku	M
Denmark	Dansk Falkejagt Klub	AM
Estonia	Zoolit – Eesti Jahikullimeeste Selts 'MOLNIA'	CM
France	Association Nationale des Fauconniers et Autoursiers Francais	M
Georgia	Georgian Section of Falconry	CM
Germany	Deutscher Falkenorden	M
Hungary	Magyar Solymasz Egyesület	M
India	Hawking Club of Hyderabad	CM
Indonesia	Bali - Asia-Pacific Birds of Prey Sanctuary	CM



Ireland	Irish Hawking Club	M
Italy	Circolo dei Falconieri d'Italia per lo Studio e Protezione dei Rapaci	M
	The Italian Federation of Falconers (FIF)	M
Japan	The Japanese Falconers Association	M
	The Japan Falconiformes Center	M
	The Japanese Falconers' Association	M
	The World Falconers Association	M
Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan Association 'Burkitshi'	CM
Libya	Libyan Falconers Association	CM
Lithuania	Lietuvos Sakalininku Klubas	M
Macedonia	Macedonian Falconers Association «Yarak»	CM
Mexico	North American Falconers Association	M
Mongolia	Mongolian Falconry Association	CM
Morocco	Association Marocaine de Fauconnerie	M
Netherlands	Nederlands Valkeniersverbond Adriaan Mollen	M
	Valkerij Equipage Jacoba van Beieren	M
New Zealand	Wingspan Birds of Prey Trust	CM
Peru	Peruvian Falconers Association	M
Philippine	Philippinian Falconry Club	CM
Poland	Gniazdo Sokolnikow	M
	Polish Falconry Order	M
Portugal	Associacao Portuguesa de Falcoaria	M
Russia		CM
El Salvador	Club y Escuela de Cetreria de El Salvador	CM
Serbia-Montenegro	Falconers Club Nobilis Ars	M
Slovakia	Slovensky Klub Sokoliarov	M
Slovenia	Slovenska zveza za sokolarstvo in zaščito ptic ujed (SZSZPU)	M
South Africa	South African Falconers Association	M
Spain	AECCA	M
	Alicantina de Cetreria	M
Sweden	Svenska Falkenareforbundet	AM
Switzerland	Schweizerische Falkner-Vereinigung	M
Tunisia	Association Nationale des Fauconniers du Cap-Bon	CM
Turkey	Istanbul Avcılık ve Atıcılık Kulübü	CM
Turkmenistan	National Falconers Club of Turkmenistan	CM
Ukraine	Corax	CM
United Arab Emirates	Emirates Falconers' Club	M
United Kingdom	British Falconers Club	M
	Scottish Hawking Club	M
	The Hawking Club	M

USA	North American Falconers Association	M
	Wild Take Conservancy	M
Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe Falconers Club	CM
UK	Hawk Board	SM
Hungary	CIC	SM

*M = member,  
AM = associate member,  
CM = corresponding member,  
SM = supporting member*

48 countries – 63 associations

## Financial report 2006;

### **budget for 2007 – Antonio Carapuço**

Accounts were presented by Antonio and approved by the members

## President's report AGM 2006 in Kearney

For six years I have had the pleasure and honour of leading the IAF as President. As this completes my last term, I make this my final presidential report to the AGM Council of Delegates.

Apart of dealing with the activities as reading, dispatching and answering about 12.000 Emails this year, and answering the 'urgent' requests of falconers from all around the world, daily activities involve looking at the candidatures, helping reviewing the newsletter, managing the funds of IAF with the Treasurer, preparing the meetings, reorganising the website.

### **Publications in the Official Belgian Journal:**

The modifications of the Constitution adopted during the AGM in Opocno were published in the 'Moniteur Belge' after an official act with a Notary in Belgium. It took some time to get the proxies from the delegates as the signed list of attendance of the last AGM was lost and we had to have individual proxies for each delegate.

### **Austria:** AGM in Rosenburg (Austria)

You'll remember that it was decided to hold the IAF 2007 AGM in Austria. The board discovered that the proposed venue (castle Rosenburg) was holding a "falconry display" run by someone convicted for violations against conservation laws. I consulted the AC and there was a unanimous agreement not to hold the AGM in Rosenburg but to ask the OFB to propose another venue somewhere in Austria. The IAF didn't wish to be perceived as supporting such activities and especially couldn't be associated with convicted people.

I went to Salzburg in Austria with Alex Prinz to meet the representatives of the OFB but we couldn't reach an agreement as the ÖFB wished to combine the AGM with an international field meeting and told us that there were not enough hunting grounds available in other venues. Austrian invitation was cancelled and we got an informal invitation from France.

### **Slovakia:** Veterinary law

The Slovak authorities discussed a proposal of a new veterinary law concerning animal welfare. The IAF wrote a letter to the Slovak authorities explaining that usual animal welfare practice



in EU countries is that: "it is forbidden to intentionally chase an animal with another animal except for hunting purposes".

**UAE:** Presentation of an Andy Ellis painting to Sheikh Hamdam bin Zayed al Nayhan.

By the kind generosity of Andrew Ellis, famous wildlife artist, and The Halcyon Gallery of London, a delegation of the IAF was able to present to his Highness Sheikh Hamdam bin Zayed Al Nahyan a gorgeous portrait of a Houbara hawking day. This extraordinary gift marked the sincere appreciation by our president Patrick Morel and the officers of IAF for the remarkable hosting of our AGM in Abu Dhabi in 2004 by the Emirates Falconers Club and Chairman of EFC, his Highness Sheikh Hamdam bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Convincing the artist, the gallery and coordinating the gift was a proof of the effectiveness of a team work – I want to express my thanks to the artist, the gallery, Tony and José Manuel and this remarkable team work. HH Sheikh Hamdam invited us to attend an houbara hunting camp.

#### **UK:** Raptor Fair

I visited the Raptor fair in May in the UK where I attended the AGM of the FHT.

#### **USA:** NAFA field meeting

I attended the NAFA field meet in Vernal (Utah) in order to prepare this AGM.

I addressed the NAFA board meeting giving a presentation of the IAF.

The three main issues IAF had to deal with this year were Avian Influenza, UNESCO recognition of falconry as intangible heritage and ORNIS issue.



#### **Avian Influenza (H5N1) and Falconry**

. Avian influenza also known as "bird flu" has generated considerable concern last year as infection rates among birds, humans, and other animals with a **highly pathogenic H5N1** subtype of avian influenza virus have increased.

. Fears are the H5N1 virus might evolve to become a highly contagious human pathogen and lead to a pandemic similar to the one that killed 40 to 100 million people in 1918 -- the infamous "Spanish flu pandemic".

. As concern for the virus has heightened, various falconers working group (NAFA and IAF) have been established to address the virus and strategically plan to prevent and perhaps, confront a pandemic.

. Because falconers associate closely with trained raptors, and because falconers come into contact with other birds (e.g., birds used as raptor food and wild birds captured as prey), avian influenza should be taken seriously by the falconry community.

Our concerns relate to:

- (1) our own health and well-being,
- (2) the health and well-being of captive raptors,
- (3) the impact avian influenza might have on game and other wildlife populations,
- (4) additional restrictions that further limit our freedom to practice falconry and trade raptors as authorities impose measures to curb spread of the virus.

Tim Kimmel, chairman of the Science Committee summarized the risks for falconry in a very interesting article (published in our last Newsletter) in order to help filling a gap in the knowledge of many falconers and providing the international falconry community with suggestions to safeguard individual falconers and their birds.



Potential Impacts on Falconry & Suggested Practices  
 Clearly, H5N1 can infect falcons and other raptors, as well many potential avian prey species. Although we are relatively few in number, falconers (together with our birds) might be considered the 'front line' of potential exposure to H5N1.

- (1) General Awareness of HPAI
- (2) Raptor Food Supplies
- (3) Raptor Housing
- (4) Hunting Habits
- (5) Handling Prey
- (6) Reporting Sick Wildlife

This autumn, things seem to "cool down" on the European front as no cases of avian influenza were reported during the migration.

The European authorities nevertheless adopted strict measures for the import of birds into the EU. Import of wild birds is banned and import of captive bred birds is restricted and submitted to strict quarantine rules.

#### PROGRESS REPORT ON UNESCO AND FALCONRY AS INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

- Meeting 22nd March 2006 at the UNESCO HQ in Paris (PM-JM-NF)
- Meeting 26-29th June 2006 at the UNESCO HQ in Paris (NF and UAE delegation)
- The new 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage has been already ratified by 66 countries.
- The Convention entered into force by April, 20 2006.
- The General Assembly of the State Parties met for first time on June (24th to 29th June 2006) and appointed an Inter governmental Committee of 18 members (to be increased to 24 members when State parties reach 50).



- The Inter-Governmental Committee (IGC)
- Group 1. Belgium, Turkey.
- Group 2. Hungary, Estonia, Romania, Bulgaria.
- Group 3. Mexico, Peru, Brazil.
- Group 4. China, Japan, India, Vietnam.
- Group 5a. Nigeria, Senegal, Gabon.
- Group 5b. Algeria United Arab Emirates.

- The first two years are critical because the first task is to decide the Criteria for inclusion on the listings.
- We have to ensure the criteria will enable falconry to be included.
- On September 2006 the Committee had its first meeting and started drafting Operational Directives and selection criteria (to be then approved by General Assembly) for the inscription in the lists of recognition and the conditions for granting international assistance as well.
- These preliminary Committee's works are expected to be completed by end of year 2007 and, therefore eventual first submissions are expected by 2008.
- Though, as mentioned, the Operational Directives are yet to be articulated, no "international" submissions are foreseen by the Convention.
- Several State parties, and only State parties of the Convention, could present a multinational submission.
- In principle nothing objects that a first submission on a matter (eventually UAE on falconry) could be used by other countries as principal scheme or submission to 'adhere' or 'enlarge' with their national falconry particularities.
- Previous "national recognition" of a heritage may help submission of such heritage to Safeguarding Convention.
- In that line, processes aiming national recognition for falconry are to be encouraged amongst our members not only as a target itself but as a tool to improve UNESCO international recognition forecast.



The IAF/CIC's WG for UNESCO submissions Committee will draft a plan with the aim of getting from 2008 onwards as many successful national falconry submissions as feasible. The plan will be submitted to concerned parties.

#### ORNIS

The ORNIS Committee for the adaptation to technical and scientific progress of the 1979 "Birds" Directive is an EU committee on which delegates from national authorities review working of the Wild Birds Directive for the European Commission, which formulates EU policy.

Last year, the committee ORNIS+, which includes FACE and BirdLife as observers, was asked by Sweden for a survey of hybrids and other falconry issues.

IAF was permitted to speak against and was supported by France and Spain (and FACE), but Sweden was supported by Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia and UK.

The Swedish delegate first questioned falconry but withdrew his proposal after strong opposition from the French delegate and clarification from the EU Commission chair who told that

falconry was legal and recognised under the Bird Directive. He then specifically stated that he was not attacking falconry but concerned about hybrids.

The IAF reluctantly agreed to work with European Commission on this, with prompt support from European delegates to IAF. Unfortunately, probably due to slow ORNIS responses the report was delayed until it was too late before the meeting for IAF's Science Working Group to work on it as originally intended.

Members of the AC had reservations about the conclusions and interpretation of the report, especially concerning hybrids. They also wondered whether acceptance by Commission of a report hostile to falconry without involvement of the IAF would have been worse than tabling of a report associated to the IAF. The AC asked me to brief Christian de Coune, official delegate of the IAF to the meeting, to express our dissatisfaction and to ask the report to be revisited by the IAF AC and Science Committee.

The Commission met IAF dissatisfaction by tabling the report and decided to address the hybrid issue within a European Saker Falcon Action Plan. The IAF was accepted as member of this committee.

FACE reported on the meeting: 'The ORNIS Committee also examined the practice of falconry, identifying as the only aspect requiring particular attention, the use by falconers of hybrid birds, because of the (hypothetical) risk, in case such specimens would escape, hybridising with wild birds.'

The database from the ORNIS questionnaires has not been available to the IAF even to its President. Robert Kenward agreed with the Swedish delegate not to identify individual states, which could create problems for them from (hostile) NGOs. Data from national authorities could only be distributed with permission, at least of Sweden and European Commission, but then hostile NGOs might also seek access.

The issue raised considerable emotion amongst the members of the AC who expressed dissatisfaction with the interpretation of the survey.

It was decided at the AC meeting in Kearney to let the document die.

Here is a summary of the ORNIS survey, more focused on the status and regulation of falconry in the EU states and hybrid issue:



## A SURVEY OF FALCONRY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE WILD BIRDS DIRECTIVE

Concerns have arisen recently in some countries about the loss into the wild of hybrid falcons, typically from crossbreeding of Peregrine Falcons (*Falco peregrinus*), Gyr Falcons (*Falco rusticolus*) and Saker Falcons (*Falco cherrug*). It is not clear whether these artificial hybrids will have harmful effects for wild raptor stocks. The genetic evidence is that these species have hybridised naturally in the wild and still do so (Wink et al. 2004; Nittinger et al 2005, 2006); unfit progeny are presumably eliminated by natural selection. However, without certainty about effects on wild raptor populations, production and use of hybrids has been questioned for precautionary reasons that link to CBD principles for preserving genetic variation. It is the prerogative of individual states to decide whether measures permissive of falconry, including use of hybrids and alien species, are cost effective for conservation and socially acceptable.

This survey was conducted for the ORNIS committee to assess the status of falconry in Europe, the regulations affecting it, concerns arising from it and benefits perceived by regulatory authorities.

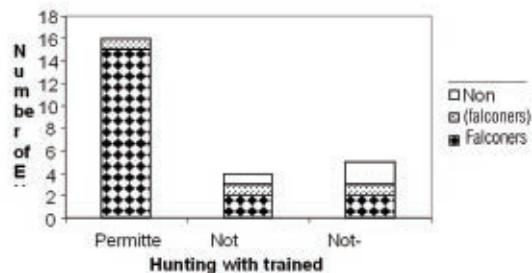
### **Results**

#### **Status and Regulation**

Hunting with raptors (as falconry is defined) is specifically permitted in 16 countries, is not covered by law in 3, is omitted from lists that permit only defined hunting activities in 4 and is specifically illegal in 2. Possession of raptors is specifically permitted in 17 of 25 states of the EU, is not covered by law in 5 and would not be permitted for recreational falconry in 3. Four countries that permit possession for falconry report that CITES permits are not required.

Possession of raptors is specifically permitted in 17 of the 25 states in the European Union, is not covered by law in 5, would not be permitted for falconry in 1 and is specifically illegal for falconry purposes in 2.

Thus, the survey records falconers in 18 of 25 EU states and IAF is aware of un-affiliated falconers in another 3 states. Falconers are absent in only 4 of 25 EU states, including 3 with no recent history of falconry and 1 where it is illegal.



The number of raptors bred domestically in 2005 was available from only 10 countries and totalled 6889. Just under half (46%) were 3189 hybrids of large falcons, of which 89% came from 2 EU states. The second largest category was pure-bred Peregrine Falcons (*Falco peregrinus*, N=1241), followed by American Harris Hawks (*Parabuteo unicinctus*, N=965), Sakers (*F. cherrug*, N= 687), Goshawks (*Accipiter gentilis*, N=622) and Lanner Falcons (*F. biarmicus*, N=185). This was perhaps 70% of European domestic production.

Omitting partial data from the UK, just under half of a total of 3774 raptors were 1766 hybrids of large falcons. The second largest category was pure-bred Peregrine Falcons (*Falco peregrinus*, N=883), followed by Sakers (*F. cherrug*, N=523), Goshawks (*Accipiter gentilis*, N=292), North American Harris Hawks (*Parabuteo unicinctus*, N=254) and Lanners Falcons (*F. biarmicus*, N=56).

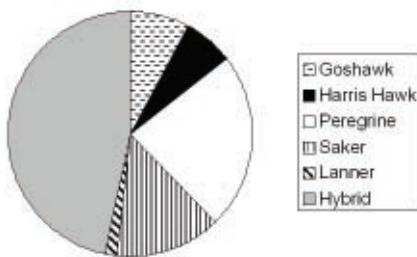


Figure 3. The proportion of commonly flown raptor species acquired by falconers in the European Union in 2005, omitting UK data that lacks Harris Hawks, Sakers & Lanners.

Five countries restrict ownership for falconry to native Eurasian species, 2 permit only a limited number of those (in 1 case only of 2 species) and 6 do not permit hybrids.

#### **Regulations applied to falconers in states of the European Union.**

Seven of the 16 countries do not let falconers obtain raptors from the wild. Two others licensed no wild birds in 2005. Of the 89 wild raptors licensed, 62 were Goshawks, with 8 Peregrine Falcons and 19 of other species (mostly Sparrowhawks, *Accipiter nisus*).

#### **The level of concern of Ornis delegates about risks to wild raptor populations from introduction of alien species or hybrids in 19 European Union countries.**

Ornis delegates reported cases of problems from hybrid falcons from 4 countries, one with 6 reports of which at least one was proven by genetic analysis, one with two proven cases and one with 7 cases suspected from adult or juvenile characteristics and one 4-year natural hybridisation of Saker and Peregrine confirmed by DNA analysis. Other cases involved hybrids partnered with wild Peregrine or Saker Falcons. The fourth country cited a paper by a group at Vienna University that indicates recent hybridisations of Saker falcons in Austria (Nittriger et al. 2006).

#### **Discussion**

This survey recorded more than 5000 falconers in the European Union, present in 21 of the 25 states. In the 21 states, falconers are not permitted to fly hawks at quarry in 3 and falconry is not covered by law in 2. The remaining 16 states have falconry laws, including control by personal licences in 14. Different combinations of 14 states register numbers of raptors held and use DNA-forensics to check legal origin of birds.

Fifty years ago, there was a worldwide decline in numbers of raptors such as the Peregrine Falcon. Concern that falconers had caused or might exacerbate the decline (which was in fact due to organochlorine pesticides) produced tight controls on falconry that became bans in some countries. Falconers responded by developing domestic breeding, which enabled growth of falconry. There were 140 members in the British Falconers' Club in 1957 and probably less than 500 falconers in countries of the current EU. Therefore, with at least 5,000 falconers in 2005, there has been 10-fold growth of falconry in 50 years.

Due to the restrictions on falconry, its growth has been associated with considerable change in the birds flown. In 2005, 99% of raptors available for falconry in the EU came from domestic breeding. In 1970, all birds trained in Britain came from the wild,

with (imported) Goshawks accounting for 70% of the large raptors obtained in the previous decade (Kenward 1974). In contrast, Goshawks were only about 10% of the large raptors bred in the EU in 2005 (Figure 3). Hybrid falcons accounted for 46% of the birds bred, although most were for export from Europe. Of the 2 states with 89% of the hybrid production (> 1400 of the total 3189 in each case), one does not permit new hybrids to be flown, and the other recorded just 12% hybrids among birds flown by falconers in 2000.

The strong recovery to current numbers of Peregrine Falcons in countries with most falconers (Figure 10) indicates that falconers are not harmful for wild Peregrine stocks, which falconers helped re-establish in some parts of Europe.

Development of domestic breeding resulted in

- (i) focus on flying falcons, which are relatively easy to breed instead of the Goshawks that were previously popular but are hard to breed,
- (ii) a growing tendency in landscapes poor for falcons to replace Goshawks by non-native Harris Hawks (Kenward 2006) that are also relatively easy to breed
- (iii) a fashion for breeding hybrid large falcons. It is not clear whether artificial hybrids between Eurasian Peregrine, Saker and Gyr Falcons will have harmful effects for wild raptor stocks. The genetic evidence is that these species have hybridised naturally in the wild and still do so (Wink et al. 2004; Nittriger et al. 2005, 2006); unfit progeny are presumably eliminated by natural selection.

However, 8 of 22 Ornis delegates had medium or serious concern about hybrids. Use of hybrids in small numbers may not be harmful for species conservation in the long term, because strong natural selection against hybrids is to be expected of species that hybridise naturally, but large-scale production of hybrids reduces the value of falconry for ex-situ conservation and restoration work. Falconry both inside and outside Europe is still viewed as a threat to the Saker Falcon, which is of conservation concern in Europe (Appendix C), and the European Action Plan for this species encourages restraint on production of its hybrids (BirdLife International 2006). Application of the principles in the IAF Position Statement on Use of Hybrid Falcons is also highly relevant in this context. The seldom records of wild breeding by artificial hybrids were mainly in 1998-2002 and may now be declining.

A survey by IAF in 2000 of 10 countries, of which 2 were beyond the EU, noted that the proportion of hybrids used by falconers was significantly lower in states with access to wild raptors than where access was forbidden or negligible. This situation persists for domestic breeding in the EU. So although 6 EU states have chosen to forbid use of hybrids, a return to the use of wild raptors may be an indispensable conservation solution when encouraging voluntary restraint, as required in the Saker action plan.

A good example is the USA, where the Fish and Wildlife Service has recommended a conservative harvest limit of 5% of young raptors for falconry and 800-900 wild raptors are trained annually (Millsap & Allen in press); only 9% of US falconry birds were hybrids in 2000 (Kenward 2004). The 55,000 Goshawk pairs in Europe, with an average productivity of 1.9 young/pair (Kenward 2006), would give 104,500 young annually, of which 5% is 5,225 birds.

#### **Conclusions**

1. There are more than 5000 falconers in the European Union but they are not able to fly hawks legally at quarry in 5 of them.
2. In 2005, at least 5,800 raptors were produced for them from domestic breeding and 89 obtained legally from the wild.
3. Hybrid falcons accounted for about half the birds bred, but were least prevalent in countries with most access to wild raptors.

4. Six of 19 Ornis delegates deemed risks to wild raptor populations medium to serious from theft, 8 from hybrids and 3 from alien species. Concern was highest in states without falconry.
5. Ornis delegates recorded engagement by falconers in activities benefiting conservation in 13 of 14 countries with falconry, with regular engagement in 11.
6. Six states in the EU have banned hybrids. To permit increased access to wild raptors may discourage use of hybrids and have value for conservation through sustainable use.
7. Falconers should as a minimum adopt the principles in IAF's Position Statement on hybrids and avoid using in Europe any hybrids with species that exist only in the Americas.
8. States should continue to review the occurrence of breeding by hybrids in the wild and falconers should adopt the principles in IAF's Position Statement on Hybrids.
9. To permit increased access to wild raptors may discourage use of hybrids, have value for conservation through sustainable use and improve regulator-falconer relationships in the EU.

## Thanks

It has been an honour and privilege for me to work for the IAF – I did it first as Secretary for 14 years, then two years as a Vice-president and another 6 years as President; 22 years dedicated to falconry politic although I hate politic! IAF will celebrate its 40th anniversary next year and I was proud to work for it for half of its life.

Falconry is practised in about 60 countries all around the world. The IAF is now represented in 48 countries. The growth of membership was spectacular within the last 8 years. I travelled for falconry in more than 30 countries to represent falconry - most of European countries but also in Asia, Africa and America.

My leadership would not have been possible without help of a devoted team. The IAF benefits from a tremendous team of dedicated and talented members who are willing to give of their time, expertise and competence on behalf of international falconry. All officers and members of the board worked with an impressive enthusiasm for the sake of international falconry. I wish to express my sincere thanks to them.

I would first like to thank my predecessors, the former presidents Christian de Coune and Ferrante Pratesi, for the wise leadership they provided during their terms of service.

I would also like to thank especially the Vice-presidents who helped me so much in my task:

José Manuel Rodríguez-Villa, Vice President for Europe, Africa, Asia and Oceania holds the most difficult vice presidential position and the region where we have met most problems. As a lawyer, JM uses his skills to deal particularly with the difficult issues before the Middle East and Eastern Europe, and the often difficult conflicts among Member Organizations- he knows what I mean as a Spaniard! JM also leads the CIC Falconry Commission very efficiently.

All my thanks also go to his predecessor, Prof Tom Richter, our specialist of animal welfare and hunting ethic who helped me a lot during his term and still provided efficient help in Slovakia.

Bill Johnston started only last year his term as Vice-president for the Americas. He was quite quick implicated in his function and is very efficient. It was a pleasure to work with him.

Frank Bond did an impressive job as Vice-president during two terms and I can't thank him enough for his wise advises and help. His is amongst others the father of the revised constitution, very talented in finding sponsorship and ... a good friend.

Tony Crosswell, as Executive Secretary and Antonio Carapuço, as Treasurer, are some key operators of the IAF which couldn't really function without them. I didn't know Tony before I was elected as Vice-president but we learned to work together and it functioned pretty well. Tony keeps our minutes and is the editor of our beautiful Annual Newsletter while Antonio is dealing with the ungrateful task of treasurer – you know- the officer who urges you to support the IAF with your financial subscriptions – sometimes a difficult task!

Gary Timbrell as Public Relations Officer was very helpful and very patient with me. He is only a bit shy when he has to open the Raptor Fair!

Gilles Nortier chaired with great diplomacy the AC. As you know the AC is diverse in views, cultures and nationalities; Gilles achieves consensus on even the most contentious issues.

I take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the generous support I had from the other members of the AC who helped me with their incredible expertise for the defence of the sport and provide prescient advice on so many of the policies supported by the IAF. The AC is a superior group of advisors to the President. They provide useful information on a wide spectrum of aspects as law, veterinarian, science, conservation, politics and they were a superb addition for the poor field man that I am.



To all of these men, I salute you and thank you for your leadership of the IAF and your personal support of and confidence in me. I would like to express my thanks to the present members of the AC: Tim Kimmel, Majid al Mansouri, Matt Gage, Martin Jones, Robert Kenward, Alex Prinz, Janusz Sielicki and also former members Herwig Hoedl, Kurt Hussong, Lorenzo Machin and Jevgeni Shergalin.

I want also thank the delegates who supported me and trust the leading team. You make the IAF, without you there would be no IAF! I count you all as dear friends.

Last but not least I would like to express special thanks to my wife Françoise who accepted that I spend more time for the sake of falconry than for family our house life.

Leading the IAF as president is not an easy task – problems are growing with the increase of membership and we are now very far from the beginnings of the IAF forty years ago.

My successor will have to face a lot of challenges but I am confident that he will assume his task. I wish all the best to the new presidential team and board and hope they will continue our fight for the sake of a pure falconry

Patrick Morel



Many helped me through this past year. But, several deserve special recognition; Frank Bond has been of invaluable assistance, particularly in interpreting the European nuance. Patrick Morel, JM and Tony Crosswell have lent a hand in my education. Patrick was particularly helpful with several issues. His power point presentation to the NAFA board last year in Vernal, Utah provided valuable insight into the issues and opportunities that confront all falconers in our "global village". Patrick's presentation created a commonality of purpose and a value statement, which illustrated the IAF contribution here and abroad. Patrick also supplied me with data relative to the worldwide spread of the H5N1 avian influenza virus, which I shared with the NAFA board. As a result, NAFA's President, Darryl Perkins appointed a working group to monitor the disease, its implications to North American falconers, and report its findings to the NAFA membership. Both Patrick and I were appointed members of the working group.

## VP For the Americas

**report Bill Johnston**

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year as IAF Vice President for the Americas. As JM pointed out, however, and I have found to be abundantly true, it takes at least a year to become familiar with the inner workings of our organization, learn who the various participants are and understand their roles. Plus, with Frank Bond as my predecessor, it's a tough act to follow!

Although I have practiced the sport for almost 40 years, have been a member of NAFA since 1970, and served two terms as NAFA's Northeast Director, I was ill prepared for the complexity of international falconry. I have learned that the political ramifications of what happens, or might happen in one part of the world can precipitate either a positive or negative response half a world away. Hybridization, H5N1, avian influenza as well as wild take for example.

Understanding, sensitivity and empathy are several of the key components to a successful world initiative to promote acceptance of falconry as a legitimate field sport. Obviously one of the first things that I learned this past year has been to appreciate diversity and the various cultural contributions made to the rich history and practice of our sport.

Falconry in North America is a relatively young craft learned and improvised upon by several generations of practitioners. While it lacks a long history and tradition, it has been unimpeded by conventional thought. Through innovation, I believe that we have made a contribution and have earned a spot on the world stage. That's not to say that we haven't benefited and continue to benefit from the enormous volume of knowledge that has been passed to on us from peoples thought the globe who in some cases have been actively practicing falconry for thousands of years.

These are the best of days for our sport in large part because of the tireless efforts of many, collectively or individually working to improve the experience through husbandry and technology as well as with the public and the various regulators.



Part of my education about the IAF involved authoring two articles for NAFA's Newsletter, Hawk Chalk. Titled, "The IAF and You, and "The IAF and You, Part Two, I sought to familiarize the reader with the IAF, its origins, structure and operations. I made some organizational comparisons between NAFA and the IAF; I then went on to describe the benefits derived from membership. The articles illustrated some of the issues facing European falconers. Not, unlike those that have challenged American falconers over the years and what the IAF has done and continues to do to help. I placed particular emphasis on the credibility and stature that the IAF has earned with government regulators, conservation organizations, hunting alliances and even our detractors. I further pointed out that a strong IAF, one that can influence regulators, our antagonists and even organizations willing to listen and give us the benefit of the doubt, must espouse high ideals; demonstrate social responsibility and possess impeccable professional credentials.

Through the past year the IAF has assisted US falconers by offering constructive supporting comments on various raptor and falconry related issues. For example, in December 2005 a request was made in the US Federal Register to list the Queen Charlotte Goshawk (*accipiter gentilis langi*) as threatened or endangered. NAFA called on Tim Kimmell and Robert Kenward to help prepare comments against the listing. Both Tim and Robert offered science backed data and commentary in an effort to stave off listing. Patrick Morel was asked to help during the public comment period relative to proposed changes to US Falconry and Propagation regulations. This is the first comprehensive review and rewriting of the regulations since their inception some thirty odd years ago. Part of the overall falconry regulations rewrite also involved an environmental analysis to assess the impact on wild raptor populations by a take for falconry. Robert Kenward helped by supplying a detailed, comprehensive document based on sound biology supporting a sustainable use for falconry, with no measurable negative impact on wild raptor populations.

The US Fish & Wildlife Service, Division of Migratory Birds believes that the new falconry and propagation regulations will finally be promulgated sometime in mid summer of 2007. These new regulations should help clarify some area of ambiguity in our current regulations. For example, since falconry and propagation regulations are the "enabling legislation" as an exception to the US Migratory Bird Act, law enforcement personnel contend that if something is not specifically permitted, then it is not allowed. "The MBTA is a strict liability statute which means that any violation of the MBTA doesn't have to be knowingly committed. It can be committed accidentally, incidentally, without knowledge of what the laws and regulations specify". So, the Division of Law Enforcement enforces the migratory bird laws as though it is specifically authorized in the ACT and the implemented regulations, or it's illegal. An example might be, pest bird abatement programs using trained hawks and falcons. Our current falconry regulations don't permit it, so it could be deemed illegal. The only way a falconer could safely engage in such a program would be to use a non-indigenous species, not covered under the ACT, such as a Saker Falcon. Hopefully the new regulations will close some of these loopholes.

This past year we were also delighted to learn of the NAFA appointment of Mark Williams as delegate from Canada. By introduction, please see the article that Mark wrote for this year's IAF newsletter. Mark outlined his personal falconry resume and the current Canadian outlook, by province. Mark is an excellent addition to the council and we are, I believe, most fortunate that he has agreed to serve.

Thought the past year I have also been able to spend considerable time with the US delegate, Alberto Palleroni. I am fortunate in that both Alberto and NAFA President, Darryl Perkins live within a few miles of me. Alberto has been helpful in answering many of my questions regarding raptor population dynamics, genetics, particularly with hybrids and ecology. We have also had the opportunity to spend some time doing what we all enjoy the most, hawking!

My good friend, Juan Carlos Rojo, as usual, has been of considerable assistance in helping me learn the intricacies and gain some insight into Latin American falconry. He is a wealth of knowledge regarding contact information, by country as well as the falconry environment in Mexico, Central and South America. I look forward to working closely with him during the ensuing year and reaching out to our brethren "south of the border". There is much to be done, I believe in that part of the world and fertile ground for the promotion of falconry through the IAF! 2007 should prove to be a good, productive year for the IAF worldwide and here in the Americas. Many of the initiatives undertaken in 2006 will begin to show positive results. Although there is much to be done in this part of the globe, European politics will continue to play a significant role in how we proceed

with regulators and the public. The issue of hybrid use in falconry and avian diseases will need to be closely monitored with IAF intervention where warranted.

## Report Of Vice President For Europe, Asia, Africa And Oceania

**KEARNEY, NEBRASKA, NOVEMBER 2006**  
**Jose Manuel Rodríguez-Villa**

Good morning to everybody,

The Agenda of this Council of Delegates in Kearney fortunately provides with more time than ever for national delegates' reports. Members will then provide us with updated and specific information on what is going on about falconry in their countries. As we have a rapidly growing membership, that will take some time in the program. Therefore, in this occasion my report will be general and shorter than in previous meetings. Lucky you.

First, I would like to make a brief review of the huge geographical area under my Vice presidency.

With respect to the European Union, it is the area of the world that will probably need the most regular attention from IAF, due to overregulation and complexity of legal and administrative issues affecting falconers in the 25 countries. Issues that affect falconers in very different and substantial aspects of our daily practices, for example animal welfare issues, hunting seasons and quarry issues etc.,

As the concerns are serious and at the same time, the opportunities for a well organized body are there to be seized, I think we should reform and reinforce the IAF EU Working Group to make it more practical and instrumental in getting the necessary flow of information and networking amongst IAF's EU members and between them, the European Commission and their



national authorities for issues concerning EU applications. IAF has extensive experience in EU matters provided by our own seasoned campaigners and should take advantage of it more efficiently by setting up adequate working plans with the falconers in each country.

While EU forms a political union we should not forget that falconers from different EU countries may have diverse views and practices that must be respected as part of their own idiosyncrasy, policies and own assessment of their national scenarios and problems that may differ a lot one from the other. Certainly, we'll learn more about this from national delegates' reports.

With respect to non EU European countries, we should try to find at least a preliminary reliable and working contacts with local falconry communities. This has proved not an easy task over the last years in some countries while in others we have very promising working relationship with new members.

Jumping to another continent, South African falconry seems to remain reasonably safe and healthy while serious risk of extinction may be foreseen over Moroccan traditional falconry. In some way Tunisian falconry is also in danger at least in its traditional way. We are glad here to welcome Tunisian and Moroccan delegates. I think that we should support those traditional North African falconries through their cultural and historical values and eventually through UNESCO recognition (provided that they are supported by their respective Governments). I would also encourage South African falconers to form the African Union of Falconry they plan and to join the IAF in such capacity as well. Such Union could also help to preserve North African falconry including the work before the continental institutions and Governmental bodies.

Regarding Asia, traditional falconry in Central Asia and China is also in risk. Practiced by ethnic or cultural minorities, sometimes are used just as a tourist attraction by local authorities in shows and displays. I do not see any more efficient way for IAF to help here than to keep on trying to find the right working contacts (also proved very difficult) and work in the UNESCO line of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage of such communities. Some of these Asian falconries are a falconry treasure to safeguard and we falconers from the rest of the world should try to help them in the endeavour.

Once Japanese falconers have sorted out their representation issues at national and international level and a working scheme has been set up, I'm confident that their problems, in some aspects quite similar to overregulated EU, can be faced with good forecast of success. We need a strong Japanese team on board.

Middle East falconry is an issue, not always easy, in itself and in terms of figures, publicity and relevance at international levels. IAF must continue to support our UAE member's, the Emirates Falconers' Club, outstanding continued efforts to bring their falconry back to sustainability. It would help a lot if other countries of the area would follow their trend, but here again we must recognize we face a very difficult endeavour. We should work with long term vision here as well. UAE pioneering submission to achieve recognition by UNESCO to its falconry should be supported by IAF at any occasion by its own and also as it may open the door to future submissions from other countries as well.

In Oceania we have just one member in New Zealand, (Wingspan Birds of Prey Trust) representing the only organization relating to falconry in the continent and that's why we should support them as required in our limited capacity.

While we all understand that IAF should remain independent in the defence of falconry, we must recognize that our sport is a tiny part of the 'whole game'. This is true throughout the world but probably it is more evident in Eurasia. Politicians, Govt. institutions and regulators may take decisions that potentially affect our sport focusing just on the prevalence of the interests of bigger

or more influential groups whether they are anti hunting or any other group non sympathetic with falconry.

We are permanently in risk of being recognized as 'the obvious scapegoat' due to our tiny weight in wider battles. Therefore, strategic alliances with reliable partners are needed. One of the obvious partners is hunting community. We have a Memorandum of Understanding with CIC (International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation) and a close link with its Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey Commission. I think this close relationship is working well and helping falconers' interests in some parts of the world, particularly in Europe and with regard to some specific projects. I'm for enhancing this strategic alliance and keep up the good relationship with other hunters' associations elsewhere including, FACE in the EU.

Also, conservation is a stronghold of falconry with respect to alliances, if feasible, or at least good working relationships. Falconers have provided raptor conservation with leadership and best techniques and practices in many parts of the world and of course, should continue to do so. Falconry is, among fieldsports, the one with a lowest impact both with respect to habitat and quarry taken and this fact should be highlighted at any occasion. We have a long standing relationship with Conservation NGOs like IUCN, WWF, Traffic etc...and the conservation offices and committees of EU (ORNIS), Council of Europe (Bern Convention) etc...and we should keep it and remain always present and vigilant in the conservation world in particular through our Commission for Science.

In many respects, both nationally and internationally, the cultural and historical aspect of falconry is of increasing relevance and IAF should take further note of it. Academics and institutions like The Falconry Archives, and the nascent Falconry Heritage Trust and the Archivo Iberoamericano de Cetrería should remain amongst the regular partners of the IAF to this respect. In fact, we should reinforce and reform the IAF Cultural and Historical Working Group, already appointed under Patrick Morel's Presidency, to make it work more efficiently. The UNESCO effort is a key effort for IAF and the international falconry community.

Finally for the strategic alliances, while we at the IAF should maintain our independence, I frankly believe that for better defending falconers' interests in today's world we need to work closely and concertedly with professionals surrounding falconry. Many members of this community are true falconers as well and are more than ready to help falconry challenges. Let's take advantage of such fact. We need to work out this relationship wisely for the benefit of falconry. I would urge for an effort to both sides in order to perfect a constructive working relationship while carefully respecting the idiosyncrasy and independence of every organization. I think it can be fairly achieved if we see the challenges ahead.

Having said all that about strategic alliances with different groups of interests, let me tell you that in my experience, shared with many others, it is falconers themselves, and not the other groups, that will give their utmost efforts to defend their interests without any hesitation or compromise. We should not rely on other groups to do our own work nor trust that much that our interests will prevail when a conflict of interests occurs with such groups. Therefore I urge you to continue working hard in your countries for falconry and to help the IAF in its endeavours.

In the new stage, IAF will need to face many important strategic challenges including that of raising the needed funds to appropriately run the rapidly increasing commitments of the organization to defend falconry everywhere. Further challenges on how to tackle the hybrids issue for better sake of our sport, and increasing difficulties of falconers to find available hunting grounds and quarries are ahead as well. We have a lot of work to do.

I do not want to conclude this presentation without a word of great gratitude to retiring President, Patrick Morel, who has very wisely and efficiently run the IAF during last 6 years overcoming not easy times and who has gifted me with his loyal friendship even in seldom occasions in which we had slightly different visions. I think the IAF should continue to enjoy his advice in the future. Thank you Patrick, on behalf of falconers from all over the world, it has been my honour to serve you as AC member and Vice president during your presidency.



We hope to be able to offer copies for sale for those who want to distribute it more widely and contribute something to our income but this is still to be resolved by the AC. Our major cost overhead is postage.



## Membership Liaison

**Tony Crosswell**

### Website

Our Web-site continues to prove popular. Ray Cooper has done an outstanding job for us and we are all grateful. During the year several members made significant suggestions and we had a brainstorming session on email as to how things might be moved forwards. The outcome of this is that the President asked for others to be given a chance to contribute and be involved in the workings of IAF and Ray is now in the process of handing over to Bohumil Straka and some of our Czech colleagues to do all the technical work for the site. We all hold our breath with eager anticipation. Of course the main contributors to the web material are the PRO, Garry Timbrell and myself since we generate and collate most of the literature.

### Newsletter

You have all seen the 2006 edition and I hope you were pleased with it. Of course its theme was our Czech meeting and the wonderful field meet provided by our hosts. I am much indebted to the many people who provided me with photos. Normally you will have noticed that there is a list of contributors on the content page but I owe an apology to Gunter Daes who contributed several of those you all saw and was unfortunately omitted from the credits.

My thanks also to Janusz Sielicki who worked hard with our Polish printers to get such an excellent job done, and who contributed so much at his own expense – even coping with a computer wipe-out in the middle of it all. And to all the rest who helped and who wrote so much – thank you.

The major change of course has been the advent of colour production as being the norm and we hope that book binding will also be in the next edition. The internet has made a huge difference to the production process and also has enabled the newsletter to appear on our website.

## Report of the PR officer

**Gary Timbrell**

### PRO REPORT

After a very busy 2005 centred on the UNESCO proposal and culminating in the Abu Dhabi Symposium just before last year's AGM, this year has been quite relaxed from a public relations perspective. We attended the United Kingdom Falconers' Fair in May and maintained a display stand showing images and ideas gained from the Abu Dhabi Symposium. We were kindly offered space by the UK Hawk Board, our UK Supporting Member. Our stand was graced by dignitaries from US, European and Japanese Clubs and was visited by crowds of UK falconers who passed through on both days. A raffle was held for a valuable antique print donated by President Patrick Morel.

This raised €250 for IAF; sadly well below its market value. It was won by the wife of Seth Anthony (International Falconer) who was absolutely delighted.

Unfortunately the last year has been problematical for the website and we were unable to upload our regular News Bulletin due to a change in server and to the extremely heavy commitments of our Webmaster in 2005-6. This has been addressed and exiting proposals are now in place for modernizing the site which is often the first contact people have with IAF and has been responsible for giving us contacts from South America to Eastern Europe and Asia and has helped considerably in the expansion of the association.

We attended the AGM of the Falconry Heritage Trust which was held on Sunday 30th April '06 at the International Falconers' tent at the UK Fair. Here is a précis of the minutes of that meeting:

*Dr. Fox opened the meeting and explained that an AGM is required by law for charitable trusts. Apologies had been received from*

Robert Bagley, Diana Durman-Waters, José Manuel Rodriguez Villa and David Fox. The minutes of the 2005 inaugural meeting had been sent to all members by email and printed copies were given out with the agenda. It was agreed unnecessary to read them out and there were no matters arising.

Current Legal Status of the Trust – an application for charitable status had been lodged with the Charity Commissioners who then promptly lost it. A further copy was sent and the application is now in progress. Until the application is successful we are not supposed to be fund raising so our funds are deemed dormant and have been placed in a bank account. Returns can be filed next year by an official accountant. The meeting approved Clay, Shaw, Butler (chartered accountants).

UNESCO – a number of meetings have been had in the UAE and Ms. Maysa Al Nowais from Abu Dhabi welcomed. The UAE is now in the process of preparing a submission. The old convention has now finished and new one is in place with 38 signatories. On the 26th of June there will be a meeting in Paris of UNESCO delegates to form an international committee of 16 members to determine selection criteria. It is hoped that some of these will be favourable towards falconry. The actual submission by UAE should be towards the end of 2007.

Electronic Archive - the UAE have agreed to support FHT's electronic archive for the first three years. Jevgeni Shergalin, who has been working on finding a suitable company to set up the archive, then spoke. He recommended Calligraphics who had set up a site for the Scottish Parliament. This company was the most competent of the forty that had responded. The IAF working group is working and proposals have been made for assisting 19 falconry countries in making a submission or simply recording their heritage. If we can succeed with the UAE submission we will be able to use that success in other countries.

Physical Archive – no work has been done yet on a physical archive and ideas were requested. Roger Upton stressed the need to record material as soon as possible before more is lost. Kent Carnie stated the Archives of Falconry has offered its material, but this is already safe. Roger appealed to the membership not to leave it to one or two people. Nick Kester suggested identifying vulnerable sources, such as aged falconers and their families.



## Reports of the Chairmen of the Working Groups

### **World Conservation Council (IUCN) Working Group report for 2006. – Robert Kenward**

Members of the IUCN Working Group in 2006 were Robert Kenward (chair), Frank Bond, Timothy Kimmel, Anthony Crosswell and Matthew Gage, with Patrick Morel ex-officio and help from Christian de Coune.

Activities within IUCN (the World Conservation Union) have been extremely productive for IAF during the last year. They started in November 2005, when the chair attended the 8th COP to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) at the invitation of IUCN Species Survival Commission, with funding from IUCN and IAF. CMS is the only global convention which focuses primarily on preserving animal species and is administered by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). IUCN-SSC required technical support on raptors and bustard. See separate report (2006 newsletter). The issues of most importance for IAF were the approval (1) of a draft Agreement on Asian Houbara Bustard and (2) of a Memorandum of Understanding on the conservation of migratory raptors in Africa and Eurasia (both available as PDFs from reke@ceh.ac.uk).

A project on Governance and Ecosystem Management for Conservation of Biodiversity (GEMCONBIO) has been funded by the European Commission, to find what governance measures help or hinder conservation (especially conservation through wild resource use). For this, IUCN European Sustainable Use Specialist Group (ESUSG) needs information on values and governance issues of wildlife uses across the EU, including shooting, fishing, bird-watching and collecting fungi, with falconry too if IAF is prepared to help.

One GEM-CON-BIO meeting was in Sweden and provided opportunity to discuss a Charter for Conservation through Falconry. This document was reviewed by Swedish and Spanish delegates to Ornis as well as IAF and BirdLife International, and was presented to IUCN Sustainable Use Specialist Group conference on Recreational Hunting in London on 14th October 2006. This is a charter for falconry, rather than a code of conduct, because it (i) merely advises (rather than requires) best practise and (ii) addresses for the first time how governments should best treat falconry, as well as including (but not going beyond) practice already accepted by falconers in IAF position Statements. The attention of European Commission was drawn to the document, which was on the IUCN website. IAF currently proposed changes as deletions (strikethrough) and additions (underlined) to the attached draft.

Another document relevant to falconry that has been developed within the Wild Species Resources (WISPER) group of ESUSG is a set of Principles and Guidelines for Sustainable Hunting. These contain mention of falconry and can be seen on IUCN website ([www.iucn.org/susg/](http://www.iucn.org/susg/)). These guidelines too may go forward for approval at WCC4 in 2008.

The issue of high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) of type H1N5 was of interest to IUCN when it became clear that raptors could catch it and SSC-Chair sought comment. This resulted in review from raptor biologists through IAF Science Working Group being made available to IUCN-SSC Veterinary Working Group. Another issue handled by IAF for IUCN concerned hawking of

antelope species in Africa. Finally, chair has been helping Dr Victor Segrt of Croatia to get a paper showing falconry to be completely compatible with shooting into the prestigious journal *Wildlife Biology*.

As a member of ESUSG, Christian de Coune was heavily involved in drafting and reviewing the charter, with important input from several other members of the Advisory Committee, notably José Manuel Rodrigues Villa as co-chair of the former Charter Working Group. Thanks are due to all those who contributed, including Robin Sharp CB, chair of ESUSG, and Dr Yves LeCocq, who is an important proponent of falconry in ESUSG (as chair of WISPER) and as Director General of FACE.

#### **A [DRAFT] CHARTER FOR CONSERVATION THROUGH FALCONRY was then shown to the meeting as a Power Point presentation.**

The draft was presented for information and subsequent discussion at the ZSL/ESUSG (World Conservation Union's European Sustainable Use Specialist Group) meetings in London 12-15 October 2006. Decisions about its status and further use will be taken thereafter. **It is not an official IAF document but was prepared with the help of IAF advisors and officers.**

Following this presentation much concern was expressed from the floor by Mexico, Austria, UAE, Canada – it was decided that the subject would be further discussed by the Advisory Committee before being brought back to members.

#### **WG BASS – Robert Kenward**

Baltic & Scandinavian States Working Group in 2006: Denmark, Ornis & the future.

*Members of the BASS Working Group in 2006 were Robert Kenward (chair), Jevgeni Shergalin, Tage Jessen, Frank Hansen, Darius Daugela and Magnus Wildt, plus Patrick Morel ex-officio and with Chris Eastham and Simon Hawkins as observers.*

#### **Progress in Denmark**

The main initiative during 2006 within the Baltic and Scandinavian states (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania Norway and Sweden) has been the attempt by the Danish Falconry Club to gain a three-year trial legalisation of falconry. Falconry has been banned since the late 1960s in Denmark, as in Sweden where it became illegal to hunt animals with other animals. In March 2006, the Danish Game Management Council voted narrowly in March in favour of a trial legalisation. The Council represents hunters and protection organisation, and the success came despite a disinformation campaign in which erroneous claims about falconry were imported by protectionists from a German source. With the help of Alex Prinz, IAF was able to arrange a briefing to discredit the claims. The relevant Minister in Denmark eventually decided not to recommend the three-year trial to the Danish parliament for the time being, but prospects have improved for the future. Tage Jessen and Frank Hansen are to be congratulated on all their hard work, which is gradually bearing fruit.

#### **Sweden, Ornis and the European Commission**

The BASS area was also responsible for the most substantial work required of IAF during 2006, which arose from a meeting of the Ornis Committee on 29 September 2005. Ornis is a committee on which delegates from national authorities review working of the Wild Birds Directive for the European Commission, which formulates EU policy. Ornis+, which includes FACE and BirdLife as observers, was asked by Sweden for a survey of hybrids and other falconry issues. IAF was permitted to speak against and was

supported by Spain (and FACE), but Sweden was supported by Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia and UK.

Background diplomacy by IAF, especially by Christian de Coune, has given IAF good relations with European Commission, and with many Ornis delegates through the Bern Convention. This included the Swedish Ornis delegate, who made it clear that his request for survey reflected growth of pressure from within Sweden to address concerns about hybrids (which have bred in the wild in Sweden). IAF therefore accepted invitation from the European Commission to work with the Swedish delegate to provide a survey that would show positive engagement from falconers and questions favourable to falconry.

The questionnaire was not produced by Sweden until March, after which modifications agreed by Robert Kenward and Christian de Coune were accepted by Sweden, but further revision made by FACE and BirdLife International delayed circulation to late April. Robert Kenward agreed to collect and analyse the data with help from IAF, using his UK Civil Service affiliation. IAF delegates were asked to help Ornis delegates provide responses, which enabled collection of data from all 25 EU states. Ornis delegates in the countries with most falconry (Germany, Spain, UK) insisted on assessing all data themselves, but in many of the other states merely confirmed data collated by IAF delegates, supplemented by their opinions on concerns about falconry and conservation contributions of falconers.

Unfortunately, some Ornis delegates were very slow responding (with data from 3 countries from IAF delegates alone), so that the analysis and report could not be done until September 8th, just 2 days before a meeting to discuss it in Sweden on September 10th and with no time to consult IAF Science Working Group as originally planned. This left one person to negotiate a draft with Sweden before it went to the IAF Presidential team and chairs of Europe, Hybrid and Science Working Groups on 24 September. Inquisition in that group delayed presentation to Advisory Committee until 11 October, by which time it was too late to negotiate further with Sweden on unsatisfactory aspects before Ornis met on 18 October. As there was also no time to refer to IAF membership, it was decided that IAF could not support the report.

To emphasize lack of IAF support, in the Ornis meeting on 18 October, Robert Kenward presented the report on behalf of Sweden and funded by a European Commission project on governance. The presentation emphasised falconry benefits and the exemplary role of IAF in data collection. It noted relative lack of concern of Ornis delegates about exotics and negligible illegal take in relation to wild production of European raptor populations. It also noted that hybrids were used least in countries where falconers had most use of wild raptors. It explained that natural hybrids were more prevalent than realised previously, such that natural selection against hybrid offspring must be strong, and that the real governance challenge was helping falconers to contribute fully to conservation without time-wasting disputes and harmful regulation. IUCN was addressing that issue with a Charter of Principles and Guidelines to regulators as well as falconers, such that no conclusions could be usefully drawn from the Survey Report in advance of the Charter.

Christian de Coune (see separate report) noted that most hybrids produced in the EU were used outside it and that radio-tracking of trained birds now meant that loss was rare, breeding in the wild even less probable and hence recruitment of hybrid young likely to be negligible. He noted that errors were admitted in the report and asked that no action on it be taken until a review of hybrids under the Bern Convention Saker Action Plan. France and Spain spoke on the contributions of falconry to conservation. Germany reported their regulations against hybrids and the Czech Republic criticised exports. Denmark favoured voluntary reduction of hybrids and the Netherlands were going to allow

falconers licences for more raptor species. Sweden did not wish to strangle falconry but for falconry to reduce its use of hybrids. This sentiment was echoed by Finland.

As sought by IAF, European Commission tabled the report. However, reaching a future agreement that recognises falconry and IAF as its representative organisation without resurrection of the report remains a prospect that could benefit BASS states. The Ornis report shows that in the 6 EU states in the BASS region, falconry is apparently illegal in 4, in 2 cases apparently because it is not on lists of permissible hunting activities. It is not covered by law in one country and specifically legal only in Lithuania. Although the Ornis survey report now has no official status, Robert Kenward has been able to use survey material of interest for wise governance of falconry in a paper to be published after refereeing in the proceedings of IUCN conference on Conservation Hunting (draft available from reke@ceh.ac.uk)

Special thanks to all in BASS, and to delegates of EU clubs for superb effort in the Ornis survey. Christian de Coune also deserves thanks for help, as well as congratulations for obtaining useful sentiments in a European Saker Falcon Action Plan and a place on a committee that will address hybrids within the plan.

Note: there was considerable dissent amongst delegates about the ORNIS Survey report mentioned above. It had already been discussed in the Advisory Committee and is not supported by IAF but it was decided to inform the worldwide falconry community about results of this Survey.

#### **REPORT ON CIC'S WORKING GROUP**

**Jose Manuel Rodríguez-Villa**

This year due to unavoidable commitments, I could not attend CIC's General Assembly that was held in Cyprus early May 2006. Patrick Morel and Igor Tavcar could not attend the event either. Nevertheless, we worked out all the points of the agenda and papers to be prepared with the assistance of CIC's CEO, Kai Wollscheid and Robert Kenward who attended the meeting as CIC's expert in sustainable use.

During 2006, according to its budget, CIC's Falconry Commission is helping financially two projects. First the German project of Tree Nesting Peregrines also supported for many years by our Member DFÖ and the Irish Grey Partridge Conservation Trust supported by Irish falconers as well.

In summer 2006 a debate on Raptor Displays was held within CIC's Falconry Commission at the request of our Austrian member ÖFB with the aim of producing an official statement on the question. The outcome was a statement highlighting, on one side, the concern of possible adverse impacts of proliferation of raptor displays and on the other its potential in public appreciation of environment and conservation and also underlining that the welfare of all animals used is paramount.

CIC-IAF alliance is working well whenever and wherever a combined action by falconers and hunters is requested by local falconers for the defence of falconry.

#### **IAF Science Committee Report 2006 AGM, Kearney, Nebraska, USA**

Members of the IAF Science Committee for 2006 included Dr. Nick Fox (UK), Dr. Matthew Gage (UK), William Johnston (USA), Dr. Robert Kenward, Dr. Timothy Kimmel (USA, Chair), (UK), Dr. Thomas Richter (Germany), Dr. Jevgeni Shergalin (Estonia/UK), and Janusz Sielicki (Poland).

A primary activity this past year was the preparation of an article on avian influenza by the chairman of the committee, with input on revision and improvement of the manuscript by the members of the Science Committee and others outside the IAF. Avian flu, in particular the highly pathogenic form of the virus, H5N1, had continued to spread in geographic occurrence and frequency of outbreaks over the past several years. Since 1996, when H5N1 first was discovered in its highly pathogenic form in China, it has come to cause outbreaks in both domestic and wild birds in Asia. Furthermore, it has spread, especially during the past two years, from central Asia southeastward into the Indochina Region and westward into the Middle and Near East, Europe, and even parts of northern Africa. Several species of mammals have been reported to have become infected, including humans.

Human mortality rates have been particularly high; at the time the article was prepared for the 2006 IAF Newsletter (in May 2006), 115 human deaths had been associated with a reported 208 confirmed human infections (55.3% mortality). Updated statistics on rates of human death and infection rates as of 13 November 2006 reflect now a total of 153 human deaths and 258 human infections (59.3% mortality). This statistics relate to an increase of 24% and 33% in human infections and deaths associated with H5N1 over the past six months. It should be pointed out, though, that the bulk of those increases appeared to be due to prevalence of H5N1 in a single country – Indonesia – which has been an apparent 'hot bed' of H5N1 activity in recent months.

Excluding statistics for Indonesia, the rates of human infections and deaths have increased during the past six months by only about 5% and 8%, respectively, worldwide. Thus, it might appear that H5N1 is being relatively well contained to parts of southeastern Asia. At this point in time, there appear to be no confirm records in the Americas, in spite of extensive monitoring that has been taking place in Alaska, Canada, the Lower 48 States, and perhaps other regions in the Americas. Also, up to this point in time, H5N1 has remained primarily a viral infection of birds and has not (yet) evolved into forms that are readily transmissible humans and other mammals. Falconers in all regions would be advised to maintain a heightened state of awareness regarding the prevalence of H5N1 in their respective regions and to take precautions against infection as suggested by the article in the 2006 IAF Newsletter article.

Two additional activities led to additional limited discussion within the Science Committee this fall. The first of these stemmed from a request by Christian de Coune to update a document he had created several years ago that summarized contributions of falconers to conservation (original document was entitled "Record of Activities in the Field of Conservation"). The Science Committee will be updating that document, together with the continued development of an extensive "List of Falconers' Contributions" under development for the past several years. The second of the two additional activities related to a request by IAF Austrian members for assistance in dealing with increased pressures to ban the use of hybrids in Austria, given a fear that introgression of genes through hybrids breeding with wild stock may lead to endangerment of the European Saker (i.e., the Danube Saker) of which 'only about 300 or so are left in Europe, including about 30 pairs in Austria. Information and materials collected through these discussions have been made available to the Austrian, principally given the knowledge and resources of Dr. Nick Fox.

Respectfully submitted by, J. Timothy Kimmel, Ph.D., Science Committee Chair

**Meeting of the ORNIS COMMITTEE  
European Commission, 18 October 2006  
Christian de Coune**

I attended the meeting of the ORNIS Committee as a member of the delegation of FACE (Federation of the Hunters' Associations of Europe). Yves Lecocq asked me to intervene on behalf of FACE if the need would arise.

The Commission recalls that the issue of falconry and the use of hybrid falcons by falconers had been raised by Sweden. Sweden proposed that a survey be made on basis of questionnaires to be submitted to the Member States. Robert Kenward proposed his help for the compilation of the results of the questionnaires.

The Commission considers that the issue is important in view of article 11 of the Bird Directive that deals with the introduction of species of birds which do not occur naturally in the wild and that states that the member states must see to it that it does not prejudice the local fauna.

Robert Kenward pointed out that the survey has been a very big work and he thanked the Member States who co-operated by filling in the questionnaires.

Robert gave a general outline of falconry underlining the part taken by falconers in the conservation of birds of prey. Captive breeding pioneered by falconers saved the Peregrine falcon. Now birds of prey have recovered from the pesticide crash, but the legislations about their use has remained very restrictive. About the use of hybrids that causes concern with some people, he pointed out that hybridization occurs naturally among wild birds, but that selection takes care of it. He explained that hybrids are much less used in countries with easier access to wild birds of prey, like in the USA. Falconry suffers from a lack of understanding, hence the pressure that is being sometimes put on it.

Robert declared that the survey is a very useful piece of documentation.

He thanked Thorsten Larssen, the Swedish delegate, for his work and praises his co-operation.

Thorsten Larssen expressed his thanks to Robert for the compilation of the results of the survey. He explained that the reason why this survey has been undertaken is the use by falconers of non-native birds of prey and hybrids. In view of the results of the survey he remains concerned about the use of hybrids by falconers. Hybrids have become in the last years a fashion. Hybrids are not beneficial for nature, but can have a negative impact due to their large numbers. He proposes that falconers be encouraged to gradually give up using hybrids. Falconers would gain much respect and credibility if they would limit themselves to pure species either captive bred or taken from the wild if the populations concerned can stand it.

Robert Kenward says that he agrees with Thorsten Larssen on some points, but disagree on some others. IAF is not happy with the report on the survey. Some initiatives are being worked on. He invites the Commission to ask Christian de Coune for his opinion.

Christian de Coune : the report on the survey of falconry is twofold : the first part contains the data given by the questionnaires. It is some sort of a photography of current falconry with some inaccuracies, in spite of some flaws it may constitute a useful tool. For instance, it needs to be pointed out that the overwhelming majority of the falcons bred in captivity are meant for exportation to the Middle East, hence only a very small proportion of them are being flown in Europe.

The first part of the survey is nothing more than a collection of data.

The second part contain interpretation of those data and draw some conclusions. I pointed out that it was absolutely premature to draw any conclusions at this stage and that an in-depth study would be required.

**The IAF disagrees with the analysis and conclusions and with data of the survey. I asked that only the first part of the report should be taken into consideration.** The data collected meet sufficiently the request of ORNIS. As far as conclusions are concerned, a working group on the issue of hybrids is foreseen in the Action Plan on the European population of the Saker Falcon ordered by the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention, I asked the committee to wait for the conclusions of that working group.

As far as the breeding in the wild of hybrid falcons is concerned, I said that the probability of hybrids escaping from falconers is very low due to all the precautions taken by falconers in order to avoid losing their birds : some put even two transmitters on their hawks, our birds are carefully trained to obey their owner, and they do. The result of those precautions is that the loss of a falconry bird is very rare. If, in spite of all that, a hybrid would be lost, the probability of it to survive in the wild to breeding age is not high : our birds are taught to hunt with us but not necessarily on their own; the probability of such a survivor to mate with a wild falcon is very low due, amongst others, to the natural reluctance to breed with an other species. If it would still breed in the wild, what would be the probability of offspring to result from such a mating? What is the probability of the said offspring, if any, to survive, to mate and to produce viable young? The result of that chain of low probabilities is that the use of hybrids by falconers should not be a subject of concern to nature conservation.

Germany. Falconry associations have, on their own initiative decided not to use hybrids anymore. Many of the breeding centres for exportation, let their birds fly free for some time, which result in some young birds escaping and settle in the wild. Two years ago the free flight of hybrids has been legally prohibited. Some breeders attempted to move to other countries where there are already many breeders, like Spain and UK. Germany asks those countries to consider applying similar measures to the ones they took. Germany is facing a legal problem about the legislation banning the free flight of hybrids.

France (Mr Blanchet) : Falconry is a legal hunting method, the only question that could be debated is the use of hybrids. Agrees with IAF that falconers are very careful not to lose their birds, for instance by using transmitters. The question about hybrids is, what is the risk for the wild fauna? Falconry represents a rather limited number of falcons, therefore one should not make a law about it. He insist on the fact that in France, falconers co-operate in the protection of birds of prey and are very efficient partners in conservation.

Czech Republic. Supports Sweden : hybrids should be discouraged. Hybrids are linked to the lack of accessibility to wild birds.

Spain. In 1989 the new law on nature conservation banned falconry, because lots of Peregrine nests were robbed mainly by foreigners. Now the situation has improved and falconry is authorised again as a result. Theft have almost disappeared thanks to captive breeding. Falconry birds are being used on airfields for aircraft safety.

Denmark. Thank you to Thorsten Larsen and Robert Kenward for their balanced report. The position of DK is to encourage the progressive disappearance of the hybrids.

Netherlands. Falconry is only permitted with captive bred Peregrines and Goshawks. There is a draft law aiming at increasing the number of species, but there is nothing in it about hybrids. Ask if one knows of proven cases of hybridization in the wild that would constitute a problem.

Sweden (Thorsten Larssen). Says : I don't ask the end of falconry, but I am against the use of hybrids and non-native species. Falconry has a centuries long tradition. Christian de Coune says

that statistically it is almost impossible that hybrids would form a pair in the wild. The "miracle" has happened in Sweden: two hybrids have mated, which means that it can happen. Falconers can do without hybrids or non-natives, we then just recommend to the falconers to give up using those birds.

Finland. They support Sweden's position.

Kenward. There are some problems with the report : it has been made in a hurry. As it was released on the 29th September, there was no time for consulting with falconers and other stakeholders. There are some mistakes in it. This report is not ready, he then expresses he wish, as requested by IAF, to restrict the report to the enquiry itself and to exclude the comments and conclusions, which could be drawn later.

Chairman (Patrick Murphy). Asks information about the Saker Action Plan.

BirdLife. Cannot give more details, because is not informed about it. Knows that the issue of hybrids is dealt with in it. Says that one should not wait too long before taking measures.

Chairman. It would be interesting to have a debate on falconry. There is a need for examining the issue of hybrids; there is no time enough today to do so. The group of experts foreseen in the Saker Action Plan will have to analyse the issue and we shall be much interested by the result of it. We take note of the report, we do not endorse it, we do not adopt it, it is on our table, it is interesting but it is only one document amongst others. ORNIS could come back to the issue on another occasion.

OTHER ITEMS on the agenda: Cormorants and fisheries. Avian Influenza.

#### 2006 REPORT ON MIDDLE EAST RELATIONS

#### WORKING GROUP

Jose Manuel Rodríguez-Villa

There have not been major developments in this area. On September 2006, I was kindly invited by Emirates Falconers Club to attend the Abu Dhabi International Hunting Exhibition (ADIHEX). Every edition this event is becoming bigger and bigger and has reached the category of international event, particularly for Gulf hunters and falconers.

In the event, I had the occasion to make a preliminary contact with the nascent Kuwait Falconers Committee in formation. We'll follow up with long term forecast.

Emirates Falconers Club Magazine "Al Saggar" has turned out to be a unique communication tool not only for falconers in UAE but in the whole region. Recently, its Chief Editor has invited IAF's Advisory Committee members to write articles for it about our national falconries. I would urge AC members to do so and talk also about IAF. Therefore, we'll get good publicity for our organization in the area.

Next issue of the Al Saggar magazine will publish an interview to me as it happened before with former Vice President for Americas, Frank Bond.

Recently, I had the opportunity together with Anthony Crosswell to visit the UAE Moroccan Houbara Project in South East Morocco and I must say I was very much impressed by it and by the dedication of its team. It is a state-of-the-art, successful conservation project with falconry in the forefront.

#### REPORT ON UNESCO WORKING GROUP Jose Manuel Rodríguez-Villa

The UNESCO International Convention for Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural heritage elected earlier this year its first Inter Governmental committee that will have the crucial task of preparing the first set of Operational Directives that will guide the implementation of the Convention. The members of the first committee will thus have the responsibility of giving the new Convention its first orientations. UAE, the first country preparing a submission on falconry recognition as intangible cultural heritage by UNESCO has been able to place its delegate in the Committee at least for 18 months. Those are good news, then, but the Committee needs to work fast.

Therefore, we still do not have a clear picture on the rules and conditions for submissions. Either, there still not a clear time frame for first submissions. Probably, it won't be before end of 2007, or 2008.

By November 6th this year there were 66 signatory countries, about one third falconry countries, most of them IAF countries. Within the IAF, we should follow up and assess with members of those countries the real chances to prepare a national submissions that necessarily according to Convention are to be presented by the Government of the country in question, therefore it is compulsory the previous agreement of the national Government.

UAE has already prepared an Action Plan for its submission and I kindly ask its representative to report on main guidelines of it.

Majid al Mansourie then made a short presentation about the UNESCO project and reported that UAE has made great progress in formation of their working procedures for the development of the UNESCO proposal. However UNESCO themselves are in the process of formation of their own committees and at this time they have not completed the process.

## Friday 24 November 2006 – AGM Continued

07.30 Coffee



The President opened the meeting with a welcome to us all and then made the Presidential award of the presidential IAF button to Kent Carnie of the Archives of American Falconry.

He then also made the award of the button to Jose Manuel Rodriguez-Villa in recognition of his term as Vice President. Patrick had, in the AC meeting previously, presented the IAF Button to IAF's previous President Charles de Ganay in recognition of his services to falconry.

Kent Carnie then made a short speech in gratitude and presented individual signed and numbered copies of the book 'Life with An Indian Price' published by the Archive to all delegates for each member club.

In recognition of the outstanding progress that has been made in developing the Archive as a safe repository Patrick Morel made a call for member associations and individuals to donate artefacts

July 14-15  
Saturday & Sunday

# The Festival of Falconry

Englefield Estate, Theale, Nr. Reading, Berkshire, UK. (Junction 12, M4)

## World Falconers *United in Heritage & Sport*



**Hosted by the Hawk Board  
to promote and protect falconry for you.  
Supported by the Campaign for Falconry,  
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and records to the Archive for future generations.

Majid al Mansouri made a short speech to comment on the UNESCO proposals. UAE situation is they have been working on a proposal since our Abu Dhabi AGM. He said that there is now proposed a Falconry Festival in England in 2007 as a part of that process so that this can be used to educate UNESCO and others on the world falconry cultural heritage. UAE is sponsoring the event and will be bringing invited guests and dignitaries.

He then introduced Nick Fox who has organised this event in response to the request from UAE

### Festival of Falconry

The IAF is the umbrella organisation for international relations and the Festival Organising committee need IAF support.

There will not be any UNESCO delegates invited due to the fact that the individuals within UNESCO are not yet identified. We are first trying to make an application from UAE and then hopefully from other nations. The UK Government will be attending.

Delegates should think about who they might like to attend from their countries, not just falconers but also government officials etc.

This festival may be followed by another in Abu Dhabi in 2008 and maybe other countries thereafter. Nick Fox made a power point presentation of plans for the event before moving on to the Falconry Heritage Trust.

### Falconry Heritage Trust

Introduced by Jevgheni Shergalin The Falconry Heritage Trust is now up and running on the internet [www.falconryheritage.org](http://www.falconryheritage.org)

This a searchable database but in the modern world copyright is a problem. However it is intended as storage for a digital record of images.

There will be regional co-ordinators for material so that material can be loaded directly onto the site by the regional contributors.

# Reports of the delegates

## Ireland - Garry Timbrell

### IRELAND'S NATIONAL PRESENTATION

Ireland's falconers enjoy some of the most favourable legislation in the world, resulting from many years of good relations with our Wildlife Department.

- We can keep and hunt with native and non-native raptors and with hybrids.
- We have a licensing system that licences the falconer and the bird.
- We can hunt a long list of species and in many regions there is tradition of being able to hunt without asking permission.

This all seems idyllic, but like many other countries we have difficulties in finding enough game. Land is not a problem, land with game on it is. Traditional longwingers are now turning to snipe as a quarry with some success.

Less welcome, to me at least, is the rapidly increasing number of non-hunting hawk keepers who cause us hunting falconers many problems, rock many boats and by their membership of our national club pressurise the committee into defending them when they clash with the authorities and thus jeopardise our good relationships. Because of this I intend to stand down as Director of the IHC at the next elections. I hope to remain as IAF Delegate, but that will depend on elections.

## Belgium

Since a few years the Flemish Region is confronted with an ongoing problem of expansion of bird keepers, bird traders, shows and displays and 'pseudo-falconer's associations.

Very often birds of prey are lost or escaping and often not recovered and sometimes a few are mistreated according to animal welfare rules, mostly by ignorance of unqualified keepers.

Associations for bird protection are using this is one of the main arguments of opposition to "falconry" and are asking restrictions to the keeping of birds of prey, ban of all displays and even the ban of falconry.

The main Flemish Falconry associations met in order to address the problem and it was proposed to work on a specific falconry "permit" linked to a examination for falconers.

The main proposal is that all keepers of birds of prey or owls, tethered on a block or perch with jesses and a leash (according) to the falconry methods, would have to pass this examination.

For those keeping raptors and owls free in aviaries, no such examination would be necessary. The wish of some Flemish associations is that all pseudo-falconers or raptor keepers, walking around with a raptor or owl on the glove, would need to pass this test. They are convinced that this will reduce the excesses that developed during the last years.

There will be a course prepared in cooperation with the national institute for hunting education. The fear is that in a near future a debate regarding falconry could be expected, independent of our proposal, as on the internet the bird protection association has started a petition against raptor displays. Such a petition would be used by the bird protection association as a lobby tool to open discussions and debates regarding this issue.

The Belgian Falconers Association CMB doesn't share the views of the other associations fearing that it is giving a cane to be hit and

that it will not resolve the problem. The risk is that proposing a specific examination for falconry would mean opening a debate on the actual hunting law, which is quite favorable to falconry, with several partners as the greens, could likely lead to more restriction. The discussions are still ongoing.

Next year the CMB will celebrate its 40th anniversary. We are thinking about a special celebration probably abroad. Everybody will be welcome to this celebration.

#### **UK – Andrew Knowles-Brown**

The BFC has awarded Patrick Morel honorary membership of the club in recognition of his services to falconry and his term of office as president of IAF.

#### **UK report to I.A.F. at Kearney By Andrew Knowles-Brown**

The Scottish hawking club has had a reasonably quiet year, with our normal business and twice monthly field meetings going ahead with no problems. The major problem that has surfaced in Scotland is disease, we had a suspected outbreak of Avian Flu on the East coast of Scotland earlier in the year, fortunately this turned out to be one swan that died of AI and got washed across the English Channel from the European outbreak and as such did not spread into our wild bird population. We also had an outbreak of Newcastle disease just prior to my leaving the U.K. this was in a partridge breeding facility again in the East of Scotland and has to my knowledge not spread outside of the infected area.

One area these outbreaks highlight is that up until now we have been told by our government that 'exotic species' which our birds are classed as, can in a disease outbreak be quarantined rather than slaughtered. The Newcastles outbreak occurred on a site that had an isolated rare pheasant collection and a large number of these pheasants were slaughtered with only Red Data List species being saved, in fact one of only 3 unique blood lines of captive Cheer pheasants was totally eliminated in this outbreak even though there were no symptoms of the disease in the facility. This grey area is something that will have to be investigated and clarity made as to the status of our raptors. The legislative and political side of Scotland will be dealt with later.

The British Falconers Club has had quite a major change in their administration, a new President has been appointed, Roger Upton who many here will be familiar with, who is a very well-respected falconer of many years standing. Their director has also changed with Graham Irving being successful in the voting. The very longstanding Treasurer and well known former Director John Fairclough has also stood down to be replaced by Tony James. John Fairclough's last duty before he retired was to organize, with his hard working team, was the International field meeting at Woodhall Spa, that takes place every 4 years in the South East



of England. An extremely well supported meeting with over 100 hawks from Sparrowhawks to Golden eagles taking hawking parties out over the 4 days.

On the political and legislative front the Hawk Board who is the representative body of falconers and falconry clubs in the UK has continued to be extremely busy, below are a few of the issues discussed and dealt with by Hawk Board.

#### **WCA registration review**

This I have reported on at previous IAF conferences and has earlier this year been scrapped for the 3rd time, HM Customs & Excise department objected to the final details hammered out in the previous consultation paper, which as it happened was extremely favorable towards falconers due to the very hard work put in by HB. A new consultation paper has now been issued which takes us into our 7th year of negotiations on this subject.

#### **Education**

In the spring of this year at the UK falconers fair a new falconry education syllabus was launched by HB, this has been designed to dovetail into existing mainstream UK education grading systems. This should mean that it is now in every teaching organizations best interest to offer the basic falconry and husbandry management techniques designed and supported by HB that is also operated by a government-licensed organization.

#### **Falconry Quarry list**

In the UK all of our wild life is protected, but under a series of government General licenses these allow certain species to be taken by certain methods for certain reasons. Most of the methods and reasons that were included in these licenses were current when these laws were made nearly 25 years ago and falconry was not one considered at that time. So falconers now take pest species under a general license for a purpose not included in these original acts, which puts them in a position of inadvertently breaking the law.

HB is now putting forward to government a new general license species list for falconry purposes; this is a very comprehensive list of species that will prevent falconers from inadvertently breaking the law. It will probably take a long time to negotiate with government on this matter so I will update you as things hopefully progress over the coming conferences.

#### **Avian Flu**

This problem disease has raised its head world wide, with near Europe having outbreaks closest to the UK, (other than the Scotland outbreak mentioned earlier). We now have to comply with a strict set of rules issued by Government under a new General license, these are not overly onerous but does place



extra regulations when more than one mews's birds gather for hunting. It also places extra burdens on any falconers wishing to bring birds over to Scotland for hunting.

### Festival of Falconry

As you will have seen HB is supporting the new Festival of Falconry that is to take place in the UK, which will aid the UNESCO application for falconry to become an intangible cultural heritage. This is an exciting event which will see many of us meeting again in the UK next summer I hope many of you will take advantage of coming along and I look forward to see a lot of you next summer.

### Denmark – Please see the BASS WORKING group report

**Netherlands – Thijs Fleskens** – To make decisions one needs common sense – our government decided make only big decisions and reduced the number of huntalbe species to only 5. Today a little common sense seems to be coming back and we have a couple of species added and now a new government may show more common sense.

### Legal status of falconry in the Netherlands - 2006

We have a maximum of 200 falconers who were allowed to catch only five species of quarry (hare, rabbit, woodpidgeon, mallard and phasant), with only two species of birds: peregrine and goshawk.

Early spring 2006 we, falconers and gunhunters got legal permission to hunt black crow and jackdaws.

For falconers it is still not a favourable Situation: we miss partridge for the longwings and rabbits become rare through VHS.

For the comming years we try to archive:

- Extension of species of raptors to hunt with (already in progress)
- Extension of number of falconers
- To stop the possibility for everybody to keep raptors with are Legal. Badly kept and manned they often do harm to real falconry.

### Spain – AECCA – Ferando Feas

### Mexico – Juan Carlos Rojo – Adrian Reuters

Our national field meet "Zacatecas 2005" was organizad by "Grupo Cetreros del Valle de México" (GCVM) and "Asociación Morelense de Cetrería" (AMC) unfortunately there was problems and differences in the organization and now we are divided, I realized that there is no sense to conciliate but as in other countries these are internal problems.



In 2006 GCVM and AMC organized different field meetings in the same date, GCVM had the "Zacatecas 2006" and AMC with others had the "Falcon festival 2006"

In the other hand we are under the rules of our wildlife department "Semarnat" and we dont have a falconry law that garantee our right for the practice of falconry as a legal sport. Recently "Semarnat" stop to give permits to falconers because it's a mess, there are many pet-keepers, bird-dealers and nonfalconers dealing with birds of prey breaking the law, some falconry associations are contaminated with members that get birds from nature for sale, as falconers we understand and recognize that it's necessary to stop this due the abuse on taking birds from nature and most of the beginners buy birds from these bird-dealers and the black-market, there are just few falconers breeding some peregrines, harris-hawks and aplomados in captivity and there is'nt a falconry federation that represents mexican falconers to have one voice so, it seems that from now only birds that comes from captive breeding could get register which is good for wild populations and to reduce the black-market. Now we are organizing a national field meet in May, in order to make our falconry regulations and a falconry federation to have one voice to Semarnat.

Juan Carlos Rojo

### Argentina – Jose Rizende

Newly elected as a member they made an excellent presentation summarising the state of falconry in their country. Please also see the later report of the conference held in Argentina - Briefing on the "Falconry and the legal framework: threats and opportunities" Forum IIInd Neotropical Raptors Congress Iguazu, Argentina, June 2006 by Adrian Reuter.

### El Salvador – Roy Beers

#### FALCONRY IN EL SALVADOR, CENTRAL AMERICA

Kearney, Nebraska - November 23, 2006



CLUB Y ESCUELA DE  
CETRERIA DE  
EL SALVADOR

#### Actual Status

The only falconry organization in El Salvador, "Club y Escuela de Cetrería de El Salvador" was founded in 1997 by a small group which consisted of 9 members. At the time of writing the club's only members and active falconers are Dr. Julio Ernesto Pérez and myself.

We have three birds at the moment: Dr. Pérez keeps a female eyass Gray Hawk (Asturina nitida), which he flies at the occasional robin, mot-mot, Groove-billed Ani, and other small

birds. This hawk has successfully been used for feral pigeon control in factories and warehouses. Dr. Pérez also keeps a captive bred tiercel Harris' Hawk that was electrocuted on a power line and lost part of his right wing; the bird is often used for environmental educational purposes. I keep a 9 year old captive bred tiercel Harris' Hawk which I mainly fly at Cotton Tail Rabbits and also to the occasional nightjar, Turtle Dove, and feral pigeons in industrial surroundings. This bird is often used for falconry excursions in which the participants are able to experience the raptors in their habitat as well as witness the predator/prey relationship at close range. We take people into the hawk's natural environment, while the free-flying bird does as he does in the wild – chase and sometimes catch wild prey.

There is one small research project in preparation on Gray Hawk nesting in the city of San Salvador carried out by Dr. Pérez.



#### Legal Status

There are no falconry regulations in El Salvador at the moment. Our wildlife authorities have permitted us to practice the sport with captive bred and rehabilitation birds. No wild take is allowed.

We have recently sent a letter to the Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales "MARN" (our wildlife authorities), regarding our observations on their proposal of a Hunting Regulation in which falconry is to be considered as a hunting modality. On this letter we emphasized that falconry is an ancient art that is still developing in actual days and that it has cultural and traditional values that should be preserved for future generations. We suggested that in order to successfully practice this art, a regulated wild take of passage birds should be permitted to those falconers who have over the years acquired the necessary experience and knowledge to enjoy this privilege. We also proposed the official establishment of a three category license system based on the experience level of the applicant. This system is being adopted from falconry regulations of other countries around the world. Our main goal is to provide an opportunity for future falconers to be able to practice the sport in its traditional sustainable manner, while at the same time contribute to the protection of our wild raptor populations.

So far our wildlife authorities have been very cooperative with us in our pursuit to make falconry a legal activity in El Salvador. We consider this to be the first but yet a very important step in our international aim to have falconry recognized by the UNESCO as a global intangible Cultural Heritage.

Roy Beers

President  
Club y Escuela de Cetrería de El Salvador  
Av. Las Camelias #9-B Col. San Francisco  
San Salvador, El Salvador  
Tel: (503) 2208-3115

E-mail: [spyzaetus@hotmail.com](mailto:spyzaetus@hotmail.com)  
IAF's Delegate for El Salvador

#### Delegate's Report - U.S.A. Alberto Palleroni

It has been a great pleasure for us, the North American Falconer's Association (NAFA) to host this meeting of our friends from around the world. Not only for the meetings of the IAF, but also for the cultural exchange it allows.



Our own organization, NAFA has had no significant leadership changes to report this year and we remain united in our efforts. We foresee the imminent adoption of the greatly improved Federal Falconry and Captive Propagation Regulations. The relevant change pertaining to the international community is that it will greatly simplify import/export paperwork when traveling.



Two years ago, we reported the first legal harvests of nestling peregrines and we continue to have access to them in those states. We are thus finally in a position to press on with the harvest of passage peregrines that we hope to achieve in 2007.

NAFA has assumed a very proactive stance on disease monitoring by forming a committee that remains abreast of potential threats, primarily West Nile Virus and Avian Flu (H5N1). Committee members include disease experts as well as raptor breeders, aviculturists and scientists. West Nile Virus continues to flare up in some areas during late summer and fall across the country. Although we have yet to suffer the impact of the Avian Flu on this continent, the restrictions have been felt and we are extremely vigilant in addition to developing strategies in the event of an epidemic.

We hope that you all take home memorable experiences of American falconry!

**South African Falconry Association: 2006 Report  
To the International Association for Falconry.  
Kearney, Nebraska.**

Since our previous report, The South African Falconry Association has experienced a year that has been characterized by a number of events of significance to our sport. We have received welcome support and advice from the IAF and for this, I wish to offer our sincere thanks. In particular, I wish to thank J. M. Rodrigues Villa, Robert Kenwood and Gary Timbrell for their willing and patient assistance with my various requests. I also wish to thank the CIC and in particular, their South African representative, Gerhard Damm, who has proved to be a real friend in need.

Historically, SAFA's first battles were to win the acceptance of the Conservation Authorities in the 9 different provinces of South Africa. This battle has largely been won with Falconry policies in place, or in process, in each of these provinces. The next battle was to win the acceptance of the Conservation organizations and NGOs. This past year has seen the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with The Bird of Prey Working Group of the Endangered Wildlife Trust, South Africa's foremost wildlife conservation organization. Furthermore, this Group has established Regional Raptor Conservation Forums and Falconers are represented on each and every one, as well as in the Advisory Committee of the BoPWG.

Our latest challenges have come in the form of new regulations which aim to govern and direct hunting within South Africa. These include the Regulations concerning the Norms and Standards of Hunting in South Africa, as well as Regulations Controlling the Hunting of Rare and Endangered Species in South Africa. These regulations were prepared by a committee that was tasked to deal with the scandal resulting from so called "Canned Lion Hunting", but the scope of the brief of the committee was expanded considerably to encompass any form of hunting.

We have reason to believe that this was at the instigation of the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, that was represented on the committee and which has become a significant animal rights organization. In their initial format these regulations would have ended both falconry and wing-shooting in South Africa. We responded vigorously and were fortunate to gain the support of the Wing-shooters, represented by AGRED (African Game-bird Research and Development) and specifically their Director, Dr Aldo Berruti, who sponsored our cause on the committee as we had no representation.

Mindful of Christian De Coune's advice regarding the importance of "little words" we tried to get definitions of falconry in place in the regulations. In the final event, the scope of the regulations was considerably curtailed and as the quarry species of falconers were not included in the final draft, falconry was excluded. We

can thus view this as a limited success and we should be very mindful that the fight is not over. Indeed a new set of regulations regarding the management of "Ex-situ Wild Animals" has been proposed on a provincial level, in Kwa-Zulu Natal Province, by a committee containing the afore-mentioned group from a brief which initially called for regulations governing the management of captive primates. It would appear that a pattern is emerging and we will have to be vigilant, vociferous and pro-active.

In an atmosphere where we would expect the support of other hunting organizations, a sinister development has been the criticism of falconry from within one of the larger hunting groups. Prof. Gerhard Verdoorn, Director of BirdLife South Africa, acts as Conservation Director for this group and has a regular article in their magazine, Wild en Jag, and through this vehicle he launched a subtle attack on the wild- take of peregrines by falconers.

The magazine refused to publish our response and Prof. Verdoorn, himself, failed to give his presentation at the Bird of Prey Working Group AGM where he knew that I would challenge him, in terms of the Convention on Biodiversity. We were finally able to publish our response in "African Indaba", published by the CIC representative in South Africa, Gerhardt Damm, and had the satisfaction of knowing that a hard copy of our response was given to every delegate attending CIC Conference in Cypress.

We believe that the significance of this stab at falconry is contained in the Draft Regulations for the Norms and Standards of Hunting in South Africa, which call for a central governing body for hunting in South Africa, of which we have reason to believe; Prof Verdoorn would like to be the Director. Falconry may well be seen by him to be a weak group that he can throw to the wolves as a matter of expediency. It is our task to block this and to persuade him otherwise. We have gained the support of the South African Wing shooters Association and of the Professional Hunters Association of South Africa, and there is a need to consolidate these links.

The establishment of the Union of African Falconry has progressed and we provided extensive comment and advice regarding a proposed Falconry Policy for Botswana. This process has been blocked by BirdLife Botswana and is in limbo as there are no active falconers in that country at present. More effort is needed to develop the Union and to garner support from other African Falconers.

The total number of falconers in South Africa, as counted by club membership has diminished in the past year from just less than 200 to 157. This does not reflect an actual reduction in the number of active falconers but rather, a move by clubs to prune their non-paying members due to the increased cost to clubs of SAFA Membership. This cost reflects the activity of SAFA, on behalf of its membership, and this includes an extensive web site which may be visited at [www.safalconry.org.za](http://www.safalconry.org.za), membership of the IAF, as well as membership and attendance of a variety of organizations within South Africa.



In essence, the South African Falconry Association has become "leaner and meaner" and is assuming an increasingly activist stance on behalf of its membership. We believe that significant battles lie ahead and we need to prepare ourselves for the challenge. We shall look to this organization for support and advice in the future.

On a positive level, we are pleased to have contributed to a number of research and conservation projects sponsored by the Bird of Prey Working Group. A number of our members continue to perform good research on a professional level. We believe that we have a significant contribution to make to the conservation effort, through education and outreach, as well as through our rehabilitation work.

We are looking forward to hosting the IAF Annual Meeting in South Africa in 2008. Plans are progressing well in this respect.

*Adrian Lombard.  
Secretary of SAFA*

*Chairman of the Cape Falconry Club  
Representative of SAFA to the IAF and to BoPWG of the EWT.*

#### **Morocco**



The delegate from Morocco gave an interesting presentation of the cultural history of falconry in North Africa and the old trading routes. He had previously presented some ancient artefacts of falconry to the Archive that were well received by Kent Carnie.

**Switzerland – Pierre Basset**

**Austria – Christian Habich**

**Germany – Peter Klueh**

**Canada – Mark Williams**

#### **Hungary – Janos Toth**

For the Hungarian falconers to join the European Union caused frustration, because we thought that we will have the same administration of our birds as we see in some other EU states. It seems that our nature conservation authority takes no notice of the EU legislation if it is better for them. We have a very strict and over regulated protocol for the keeping and breeding of birds of prey originated from captivity. On the other hand we can use as many goshawks and sparrow-hawks from the nature as we want. If someone look around in the EU can see as many regulation as many countries. How can be the interpretation of the same EU legislation so different in the member states?

Secondly the pan-European idea of falconry. Falconry is nearly the only subject which never separated the nations, but always confederated them, by its common heritage and personal connections. It seemed to me that this idea took the attention if some of our civil servants.

#### **Lithuania – Darius Daugela**

#### **REPORT OF BULGARIAN ASSOCIATION FOR CONSERVATION OF BIRDS OF PREY – BACBP**

Dear Ladies and Gentleman, dear Mr. Morel, dear hosts from the North American Falconers Association, dear Mr. Darryl Perkins, dear friends, colleagues and guests, dear Falconer fellowmen, It is so good to be here. Standing next to all of you I see the familiar and friendly faces and I feel like home.

Please allow me, on behalf of Bulgarian Falconers to introduce you my report.

#### **PRESENT STATUS**

As some of you may be aware, the last Falconry year of Bulgarian Association was more than emotional. Since our last meeting, a year ago, the situation in Bulgaria is still unchanged. The ban on falconry is still effective and most unpleasantly, the "Campaign for Reestablishing the Bulgarian Falconry" didn't succeed, no matter of the activities we've made.

At the present there are about 40 letters send from different falconry organizations from around the world with one request – to restore the Bulgarian Falconry. This shows only one – Falconry is legitimate activity, respectable among the world. In the EU, where Bulgaria is striving, Falconry is regulated in almost all countries. Specialists from all the countries are collaborating actively in preservation of this natural wealth, they assist for correct attitude toward birds. The IAF, which member is BACBP, holds up close relations with some of the biggest ecological and environmental organizations like IUCN, FACE, CITES, Birdlife International, WWF, TRAFFIC, WWG, CIC. In all countries, where Falconry is legitimate, the strict law measures are conformable to all requirements for prudent interaction between man and nature.

Just to repeat: As some of you may already know, we insist on the removal of a text included in Article 65, item 12 of the Game



Law, saying: "During hunting, it shall be banned any use of the following means and methods: ... hunting falcons and other birds of prey, irrespectively of their species and origin, as well as greyhounds" – wherein we are fighting for the removal of the following part: "...hunting falcons and other birds of prey, irrespectively of their species and origin...".

By chance, I was the first person in Bulgaria, organizing and uniting some of the interested and practicing Bulgarian Falconers on unofficial meeting. Some of you may be aware of our present activities regarding reestablishing of falconry in Bulgaria. We start communicating very actively with the Ministry of Transport and especially with the department of Airport's activities.

We think they will create some sort of Falconry organization in future, if not now.

Another act was that we send letter to the US Embassy, saying that we could secure the future military air bases with falcons, to prevent eventual loses. We had phone call from the embassy saying that as soon as they need it, will call us.

#### EXTERNAL CONTACTS

The Bulgarian Association for Conservation of Birds of Prey (BACBP) for the last one year has maintained friendly relations with our Georgian and Makedonian colleagues and achieved deeper contacts with our Turkmen colleagues. We've made few visits to our Makedonian colleagues and his President Ognen Polenak and got known to their efforts in Falconry. Also we are planning to meet our colleagues from Turkmenistan and Georgia in Istanbul, which is the nearest destination for all of us.

#### GRATITUDES

This is the moment to express my deepest gratitude to IAF, when mention our President – Patrick Morel, also our Vice Presidents Frank Bond and Jose-Manuel, which exert efforts to spread our need of support among the Falconer's brotherhood.

One man, however, distinguished him self more among those efforts, contacts and ceaseless exchange of information, as major supporter of our ideas and steps forward. Ladies and Gentleman, this man is our beloved Christian de Coune.

Thanks to Christian we received more than 35 letters from different parts of the world in support of our idea for Falconry in Bulgaria. Another man is Mr. Patrick Morel. My oversize gratitude's will not be completed if I not express them regarding Patrick's activities. Because thanks to our President, dear Ladies and Gentleman, our Association has already possessed its first legally recognized birds of prey. I wish to say one big "THANK YOU, Patrick!", for being so generous by providing us with these precious for us, feathered friends. Thank you also for being patient, knowing our bureaucracy and the efforts of our opponents too.

Dear friends, the International community is a wonderful achievement, something real and noble. It is a living organism, the real connection between all those interesting and outstanding persons, who sacrifice sleepless nights, labor in arctic cold and tropical heat, for the sole purpose of giving a chance to this ancient art to live through the ages. Thanks to IAF contacts between akin associations have been growing deeper. Friendships and collaborative relations are set up. Constructive cooperation opens, all of them seeking the purpose to help our feathered partners – the birds of prey. Their welfare depends entirely on us.

Pavel Yakimov  
cherrug@abv.bg

#### POLISH FALCONRY ORDER

Mariusz Nowogrodzki

[www.zakonsokolnikow.republika.pl](http://www.zakonsokolnikow.republika.pl)

#### Active conservation of birds of prey



Falconry in Tuchola has been practiced since the Polish modern falconry was established there 36 years ago by Czeslaw Sielicki. Polish Falconry Order – Society of Lovers of Birds of Prey and Falconry is located there, in the Complex of Forestry and Agriculture Schools. Teachers as well as students of the school constitute a significant part of its members.

The School Club of Falconers named Raróg (Saker) is active there as well.

The Society's primary aim is to practice hunting with birds of prey and preserve traditions of falconry. Apart from that we are involved in the active conservation of the birds of prey:

1. We provide active rehabilitation of the birds of prey if a need arises during the whole year. The birds that can be brought back to nature are set free after treatment. Falconry methods are used if necessary to restore the ability to unaided living.
2. Nature protection education emerges as another year-round task. Numerous guests and tourist groups visit our falconry house, betokening the popularity of the subject. Every year in February we organise an ornithological contest "Birds of prey - our allies". Since 2002 five editions have been held, addressed to the lower secondary school students. By promoting the knowledge of birds the contest contributes to discarding the harmful stereotypes of the birds of prey as vermin and helps appreciate their sanitary and selective function in the nature. The idea behind is that only the acknowledgment of nature's laws can lead to wise environmental protection and rational resource management.
3. We participate in Programme of Restoration of the Peregrine Falcon in Poland in cooperation with other Polish breeding centres. We endeavour to bring up peregrine falcons to be reintroduced in the Bory Tucholskie area as to restore the tree-nesting population of the species.

Besides members of the Society in those tasks actively participate the students from Tuchola Forestry School, aged from 16 to 20. They learn and develop numerous skills:

- taking care of the animals,
  - training the birds to hunt,
  - maintaining the values of hunting,
  - delivering speeches and lectures,
  - treating of the birds of prey,
- as well as
- study the biology of raptors,
  - learn the responsibility for the animals entrusted to their care,
  - increase their creativity, strong will and perseverance,
  - improve their management skills in the teamwork.

Thanks to the many years of activity of Tuchola falconers a big number of foresters became acquainted with the ideas of protection of birds of prey and falconry. Hopefully that will positively influence their activities in those areas in future.

**Turkmenistan – Atadurdy Eyeberdiyev** – presented Patrick Morel with Honorary membership of their club and national dress. Also he honoured Pavel Yakimov for his help and services to Turkmenistan falconers.

**Kasakchstan** – They used to be just a club of golden eagles but have now renamed their organisation to include all species and falconers in the country. With representative from UN help the first organisation of falconry was formed. The main quarry are wolves, deer and hares. They have found a grave with a buried golden eagle in hood and jesses 3000 years old.



### Review of falconry news in Estonia

The club of Estonian falconers "MOLNIA" due to complete ban on falconry in the country in the year 2003 at the end of the day could not be officially registered. By today it remains to be unofficial unfortunately. But we don't lose a hope and continue to have a deal with our favourite matter –communication with hunting birds of prey. For the last 3 years I am the only practicing falconer in the country.

Owing to membership of Estonia in European Union and replacement of some officials in Ministries after elections, heating of events around falconers has calmed down.

In summer 2005 Estonian Environment Ministry has issued a license to me allowing an import into Estonia from Russia of one Saker Falcon bred in one of the breeding centers in Russia. After import of birds in Estonia there were strong indignations from the side of some active members of Estonian Ornithological Society, and also from the side of separate nature lovers, which were not very satisfied by legislative decision of Ministry.

At the end of spring 2006 we have been contacted from state organization regarding opportunity of the use of hunting birds of prey for scaring off of other birds and limitation of the number of pest-species. We were agree, but under the condition that the special permission will be issued. Soon in July 2006 on the pages of Estonian newspaper «Postimees» an article about possible application of hunting birds of prey for bird behaviour control has appeared Article was written by Aviation Department Head Deputy Mr.Rein Porro. At the end of article it was written: «this idea should be discussed with ornithologists».

After receiving by these two state structures of the legislative information on application of hunting birds of prey many legislative imperfections of the law on methods and fight with pests were revealed. Interpretation of hunting law, prohibiting an application of hunting birds of prey does not allow to use these birds in the program of pest control. Now there is a discussion about correction of some these laws and introducing changes into them or addendums. In this connection we received a hope

that falconry in Estonia will be legalized at least at a half. It's alarming that without influence of certain powerful officials this hope can not be realized.

In August 2006 leaders of the Club "Molnia" (Dmitri Saksa and Eero Eikinen) have established an official association – Estonian Union of Bird Enthusiasts. Union will unite the bird owners: from Pigeons to Birds of Prey, and also bird breeders, vets and any other bird enthusiasts. There are now 12 members in this Union. In spring we plan to get a license for bird rehabilitation that will allow us legally to restore the hunting habits (skills) in the birds of prey.

Some results of club "Molnia" activity for 2006.

1. Recommendations to Ukrainian Falconers Club are issued for development of falconry in this country.
2. Estonian Association of Bird Enthusiasts is established. Web-site is open.
3. An interest in the state structures to the use of hunting birds of prey was born.
4. Participation in the 4th All-Russian Falconers Meeting in Lipetsk Region organized by breeding center of birds of prey «Galichya Gora» and Russian Association of Falconers.
5. Owing to trip in Russia, the personal contacts with falconers at airports of Russia have appeared.

### Preliminary plans for 2007:

1. Hope on the change of laws and partial legalization of falconry in Estonia, and also an interest in the State Authorities in falconers of the Republic.
2. Continuation of the development of an idea-project on application of hunting birds of prey and attraction of birds of prey in urban areas (cities) to control the number of pigeons, Hooded Crows and Large Gulls.
3. In summer we are planning to publish a book, considering the practical aspects of the training of hunting birds of prey in Russian. Authors of the book are Rostislav Sorish (Ukraine) and Dmitri Saksa (Estonia). At this time the book is at the last stages of preparation.
4. Participation in the Festival of Falconry in the UK in July 2007.
5. Organization of the seminar in autumn 2007 in Russia jointly with non-commercial partnership mybirds.ru, on the topic of wild birds of prey and hunting birds of prey. We hope that this event will allow better to understand the future of falconry in Russia and ways of its development.

Dmitri Saksa. [Dmitri.saksa@gmail.com](mailto:Dmitri.saksa@gmail.com); [molnia@hotmail.ee](mailto:molnia@hotmail.ee)

### JOINT REPORT FROM JAPAN

Japanese Falconers' Association, Japan Falconers Association and World Falconers Club; supported by National Conference for Japanese Falconry; incorporating information from Japan Falconiformes Center

### Avian/Mammal Conservation and Proper Hunting Act Amendment

Amendment Act passed the Diet on 8th June, 2006. During preceding commission arguments in 2004, a commission member from a birdwatcher society tried to attack against falconry. Active falconer clubs, including us, formed the National Conference for Japanese Falconry (NCJF) as a united lobbying front and had talks with the Ministry of Environment. As a result, current status of hawking as legal hunting method without license system has

been kept intact. Next overall review of the Act is scheduled in 2011 (5 years later).

Current status, however, is vulnerable: any non-license-based hunting method, including falconry, is not expressly listed in the Act, and could be made as Banned Hunting Method by Ministry Order through a hearing, if it is regarded against conservation of wild birds or animals. Moreover, as non-license-based hunting methods are tax-free, shooters might feel unfairness. We need stronger legal status.

Therefore, we have made unanimous decision on NCJF general meeting that we should lobby with the Ministry of Environment to add hawking as a statutory hunting method under license system with examination, tax and reporting obligation. License system could also give a basis for rehabilitator-falconer-to-be to cooperate with local authorities more easily on entrust of care for injured raptors. We have just made a written plea with Environment Minister on 14th November, 2006.

As Japanese falconer population is small, there will be difficulties on realization of license system. But, for the future of Japanese falconry, we have to make efforts during the five years' moratorium. Falconry without hawking is no falconry, we believe.

Another topic of the Amendment Act is introduction of compulsory ID means for imported birds of species common to native ones. Meanwhile the candidate of the ID means is ring. While no raptor has been on the first list of subject on the ground that their import have been regulated under CITES, we began talks with the Ministry of Environment on proper type of ring for raptors, compatible with falconry. We are also considering possibility of registration of gene analysis.

### **Invasive Alien Species**

Anti-falconry force are trying to resort to Invasive Alien Species Act for substantial extermination of Japanese falconry. All native raptors are protected, with no feasibility of permission by Environment Minister on use for falconry in foreseeable future. While Japanese fields mandates goshawk as major gamehawk, native goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis fujiyamae*) has been regarded or even worshiped not only by greenists but also by general public as the symbol of opposition against development construction in Japan. In contrary to the assertion of the Japan Falconiformes Center that they practice falconry with native hawks under permission by Government, the Ministry of Environment confirmed no permission has been ever granted to capture of native goshawk, peregrine or mountain hawk-eagle for falconry or hawking for past 10 years, as disclosed under Administrative Information Disclosure Act. Captive breeding of such species is de jure permitted only to authorized quasi-museum: universities and zoos. So Japanese falconer has no way but to use imported raptors or their CB descendants.

Anti-falconry force asserts raptors of foreign species or subspecies shall be illegalized by Government as invasive alien species, only asserting potential risk. In November 2005, the Japan Falconiformes Center, under their own cause, together with a list of what they claim exotic birds of prey found in middle part of Japan, filed with the Ministry of Environment a request that foreign raptors should be specified as Statutory Invasive Alien Species, which action was against will and interests of all active falconers in Japan and abroad.

Also annoying was an article appeared in October 2005 on Asahi Shimbun, a leading nationwide newspaper. It, based only on source given by the Japan Falconiformes Center, was misleading readers as if foreign raptors be invasive alien species and IAF be supporting such ideal! Of course, we, together with other NCJF member clubs, protested against Asahi newspaper on factual error, who promised asking our opinions on articles about falconry in the future.

Typical tactics of antis is showing cases of weakened and rescued raptors, which are in fact evidence of failure of settlement. Some of what they call "exotic" raptors are native species as winter or irregular visitors: Siberian Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis albidus*) or Besra (*Accipiter virgatus*). The latter could also be misidentification of native Japanese Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter gularis*). The foreign goshawk subspecies they claim cannot be identified as such with the features they claim, e.g. colour of iris, plumage or size. Experienced goshawk field researchers find the same features in personal variations of *Accipiter gentilis fujiyamae*.

Another usual means is statistics on imported birds of prey: too inflated number in thousands, with most occupied by owls for pet purpose. More correct number of imported gamehawks could be given through CITES database. Average annual import of goshawk during 2000-2004 is 146, and due to avian influenza, only handful number of goshawk imported in 2005.

Anyway, no certified case has been recorded on settlement or breeding of foreign raptors in Japan.

We, through NCJF, filed a written statement with the Ministry of Environment in August 2005 that species covered by Japan-Soviet and Japan-US Migratory Birds Conventions is native and could never be invasive alien species, pointing out treaty's supremacy over the Constitution, all the more over law and regulations. The covered species includes goshawk, sparrowhawk, peregrine, gyrfalcon and merlin.

We, active falconers, shall make our best effort and caution not to let raptors escape, above all. Otherwise antis could get pretext for attack. Secondly, proper public relations and scientific argument on the subject is vital for survival of Japanese falconry.

### **Promotion of falconry**

Care and rehabilitation of injured or weakened raptors are undertaken by several clubs and individuals under commission by the authorities. In total, 56 birds has been under care, among which 23, including 15 goshawks, recovered and were released into wild. The Japanese Falconers' Association held annual seminars for veterinarians on application of falconry methods to rehabilitation since 2004. Problem we face is lack of unified procedure for such commission of care for raptors. Requisites for commissioned rehabilitators are not objective title but rather personal connection. And compliance with paper formalities varies among local governments. Some local government will not permit individuals to care for injured hawks, in spite of their expertise, but carry any bird to government aviary only to keep in captive. Introduction of license system for hawking could solve the issue of objective requisites. And we will talk with MOE on system for more falconers to contribute to raptor conservation, which is consistent with the new policy expressed in MOE commission report 2005.

To make better public relations and recruitment of falconer-to-be, we holds various flight demonstrations and environment education course annually on gratuitous basis.



	Birds of Prey under care	Recovered and released into wild	Released goshawk
Japanese Falconers' Association	10	5	1
Japan Falconers Association	9	9	8
World Falconers Club	6	moved to local gov. facilities	
Japan Hawking Society	8	2	2
Japan Falconiformes Center	19	4	4
Sumpu Falconry Society	1	0	0
Otcher individual falconers	3	3	1

The Japanese Falconers' Association (Nihon Houyou Kyoukai) held a demonstration and supported 4 demonstration by Grand Falconer Tagomori of Suwa school, including New Year Flight at Hama Palace and Votive Flight to Nikkou Toushougu Shrine (shrine of Tokugawa Ieyasu, great shogun and falconer). The Japan Falconers Association (Nihon Takajou Kyoukai) held ecology seminars with boy scouts, elementary school pupils and physically handicapped people. World Falconers Club, together with Japan Hawking Society, evolved their inner flight fair named Flight Festa into a public falconry fair for citizens.

Preservation of falconry as tradition is no pretext for hawking but core of our activities. And any traditional arts would be fossilized if only succeeded within certain family lineage. The

Japanese Falconers' Association has systematized training of successors, through biweekly course on Suwa school of falconry and monthly seminar on classic falconry text. Database of source for study of falconry history and arts are being built for general public on the internet site of NCJF (URL: [www.ncjf.net/heritage-e.htm](http://www.ncjf.net/heritage-e.htm)).

On academic contribution, World Falconers Club offered blood samples of their goshawks for DNA analysis by Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute, a governmental research agency. The result will be published in coming paper, which would enable groupings of goshawk regional groups. It could deter poaching of native goshawk. And the analysis method could also be used as ID system for individual gamehawk.



As social contribution, we are promoting merits of falconry for chasing out birds from airports, farms, etc.

We will keep our efforts to improve status of falconry, sharing passion with IAF colleagues.

Contact: Morimoto Teruo Advisor on Legal Affairs,  
WFC also serving as Deputy Secretary, NCJF  
[falconry@89.alumni.u-tokyo.ac.jp](mailto:falconry@89.alumni.u-tokyo.ac.jp)

## 12.30 Elections

The President invited each of the candidates to give a short presentation about their vision for the office for which they stand in this election. The election process was conducted as a secret written ballot by the Secretary and counting was done by the Secretary in the presence of Gilles Nortier and Antonio Carapuco.

During the counting process delegates were shown DVD presentations by South Africa and Mexico about falconry events that had happened.

Patrick Morel then announced the result of the election to the delegates

**President** - Frank Bond  
**Vice President for Europe, Africa, Asia, Oceania** - Jose Manuel Rodriguez-Villa

Frank Bond was then presented with the IAF gold presidential button by our retiring president Patrick Morel. Frank Bond then went around the delegates and shook hands with each of them in person expressing his thanks for being elected.

## OFFICERS

After a short break Frank Bond made an announcement of his appointment of:

<b>Executive Secretary</b>	Anthony Crosswell
<b>Treasurer</b>	Antonio Carapuco

He then after a short period of consultations asked delegates to confirm his recommendations for Advisory Committee members:

Dr Bohumil Straka	Dr Tim Kimmel
Janusz Sielicki	Dr Matt Gage
Dr Adrian Lombard	Alexander Prinz
HE Majid al Mansouri	Patrick Morel
Christian de Coune	Garry Timbrell

Canada proposed the motion and UK seconded – the delegates supported the motion unopposed by a show of hands.





#### AGM 2007 (place and date)

Gilles Nortier said that the next AGM will be hosted by ANFA in France at Gien near Paris but we can not yet define the exact date until after their next committee meeting – it will however be during the period mid Oct – Mid November.

#### Miscellaneous

Bohumil Straka made a presentation about the web site revisions now being prepared.

Canada asked how communication should work and Frank replied that contact should come through the officers and if necessary they would then be sent to others.

The new President Frank Bond then thanked all the delegates for attending and closed the meeting.

## Members Reports Received After AGM

### Italy

Federazione Italiana Falconieri

Tel. 031/212344 – Fax. 031/536246

Sito web: [www.federazionefalconieri.com](http://www.federazionefalconieri.com)

e-mail: paoli.ann@tiscali.it – Segreteria: 333/3439429

### ACTUAL SITUATION ABOUT FALCONRY IN ITALY

Dear all, first of all we have to make excuses for our absence at AGM in Kearney.

This is not due for absence of interest in IAF but only for problems in organization of this travel.

Italian situation for falconry is quite similar to the passed year. We had some variations in composition of our Federation, but activities remain the same.

Periodically, in hunting season, we organize falconers meeting and we give possibility to see what is falconry. With meetings we give only "an idea" of what is falconry. After this first experience, interested people will decide if go on in this art or stop.

Falconry is a complex mixture of culture, science, philosophy, history. Not all are able to understand this deep meaning of falconry. I think, actually, this is the major problem for education of new falconers. I think that we are in front of a big risk, the risk to lost and forget the history and deontology closed in falconry.

Another problem of falconry is **absence of a deep associative sense** for a big number of reasons (also antagonism due to past

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problems both falconers). There isn't, at the end, the "common sense". Everyone think for his falcon and his falconry and not for "the Falconry". This provoke the situation in which we are a good number of falconers but, in the meantime, we have only a few group of falconers that think to the associative life. Everyone want to build alone something.

This fragmentation of falconry is one of most dangerous problems at the moment.

What is the solution? I don't have a very good answer to this question.

I think the way is this.

**First**, try to conserve (and I underline the term "conserve") falconry and its spreading. Try to continue to practice falconry and try always to build a "common sense" and a "common interest" for falconry. I think, in this moment, we are surviving.

There are some cultural or scientific activities, but are not always coordinate both all falconers and don't follow a common interest but, often, a private interest.

Maintain contacts with IAF and other European and world organizations. When we will change in our organizations, the future falconers will be have a great facilitation with relationship with IAF due to our actual interest in this big organization.

**Second**, member of FIF are always involved in the activity of sensibilization of all falconers. This is possible above all through utilization of our magazine "La Rivista della Falconeria" that is well known both falconers and that is a good instrument to involve more and more falconers.

But this is a slow process and is necessary that Italian mentality will change. If we won't change, then I think we will always be only as a big group of not coordinated people.

I know that also other Italian falconry organizations have the our same problem. Probably there is been some errors in passed methods to transmit falconry.

Now new young falconers are growing, but there are again two problems:

1. they grow up in different quite isolated groups and I think that these "spot of falconers aggregation" will must grow and meet each other when they will be enough great. Until this moment we won't obtain a good and recognised organization and political power.
2. at the moment, always more young falconers are interested in "school of falconry" that, after a payment of a fee, a course and some exams, release a diploma for falconry that is (it seem) recognised also for jobs activities. In this way there is not a good differentiation both "Falconer" and "Trainer". The first is an Art. The second is a job that has also money as objective and not only interest and a passion satisfaction.

I think we will solve our problems and falconry, actually in expansion, will take again its artistic sense, so developed in Italian Middle Age and Renaissance.

Where money enter, it destroy art and passion.

The first objective of each falconer should be: art, passion and freedom.

*Dr. Giovanni Goj*

*Italian Falconers Federation delegate for the International Association for Falconry. Federazione Italiana Falconieri  
giovanni.goj@tin.it*

## NEW ZEALAND

Wingspan Bird of Prey Trust  
November 2006

The New Zealand Department of Conservation recently released a discussion document, Review of Level of Protection for Some New Zealand Wildlife.

This includes the native Harrier hawk and the introduced Little owl, both currently have partial protected status.

This means they can be legally killed by landowners, including commercial game preserves, if found causing damage to livestock or property.

The legal killing of native Harrier hawks to protect introduced gamebirds shot for profit, raises interesting ethical questions and issues, for other potential user groups, ie aviculturists and falconers.

The Wingspan Bird of Prey Trust gets enquiries from people interested in falconry as well as visiting falconers from overseas. The Department of Conservations position that is legal to kill hawks and Little owls, yet you are not allowed to keep them, remains an enigma.

The Wingspan Trust is working closely with the Raptor Association of New Zealand and the Falcons For Grapes Project, putting in submissions to work through the present situation and hopefully influence some positive outcomes.

Falconry techniques are allowed to be used in managing and training birds, but falconry per- se, is confined strictly to the rehabilitation and release of some individual birds back into the wild. In the day to day flying displays and educational talks to the public, Wingspan explains that falconry is currently "not allowed" in New Zealand, but we go to some lengths to explain its practice as a sport, and value to raptor conservation.

The centre's 10 aviary complex with a small attached research area and museum, showcases New Zealand's birds of prey, as well as raptor anatomy and the world wide, rich cultural heritage of falconry.

While falconry in New Zealand does not have the long history of European countries, it has nevertheless, been practiced here



by various individuals since the 1920's, flying both harriers and falcons.

An archives of Falconry in this country, is being collated by Wingspan and it hoped that this will eventually be available online through the Falconry Heritage Trust.

Wingspan, along with the above groups, is currently working on various exciting Falcon research projects in the field, and the centre has recently installed new cctv cameras in its aviaries to assist with the captive management of its breeding pairs of NZ Falcons.

Wingspan welcomes visitors to the centre from 9am to 3pm, with a flying display 2pm daily.

For further details visit [www.wingspan.co.nz](http://www.wingspan.co.nz)

Noel Hyde  
Corresponding IAF Representative  
New Zealand

## RECORD OF ACTIVITIES Christian de Coune

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

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

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

## Great Britain

The British Falconers' Club actively supports seminars on raptor research and runs its own captive breeding scheme. It gave much active support (and finance) in pioneering captive breeding techniques at the time when many species of raptors were endangered, and continues to do so. The Club's advice and experience have also been readily available and utilised to re-establish such raptors as the Sea Eagle, Red Kite, Goshawk in the United Kingdom, as well as to care for and hack back injured birds of prey into the wild in the interest of conservation.

Many BFC members have in the past and continue to make notable contributions. eg. Robert Kenward with his Goshawk, Buzzard studies and currently his work with Sakers in Kazakhstan, Carl Jones and the Mauritius Kestrel, Nick Fox and the New Zealand falcon. Dick Treleaven was one of the first to identify and draw attention to the decline of the Peregrine in the fifties. John Cooper has done and is still doing very valuable veterinary work on the raptor pathology.

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

Following publications could be cited :

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

Kenward, R.E., Marquiss, M & Newton, I. What happens to goshawks trained for falconry. *Journal of Wildlife Management*

45:802-806.

The BFC also started publication of the journal *Captive Breeding of Diurnal Birds of Prey* and organised international conferences in Oxford on "Raptor Management Techniques" and "Understanding the Goshawk" with published proceedings (the latter organised in conjunction with IAF).

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

## Czech Republic

Several falconers are members of the Czech Ornithological Society.

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

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

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

## France

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

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

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



## Germany

The Deutscher Falkenorden was founded 70 years ago to protect raptors and learn more about their biology. Both could efficiently be supported by practical falconry. This was a good basis to achieve full protection of all raptors and it was also an essential

condition to succeed in captive breeding and reintroduction of Peregrines and White Tailed Sea Eagles. The DFO reintroduction programme released about 600 peregrines, which resulted in more than 45 successful nesting pairs of peregrines in which one or both partner originated from captive breeding.

The future conservation activities of DFO are focused on the re-establishment of the tree nesting peregrine population which lived in North East Europe.

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

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

## India

Members of the Hawking Club of Hyderabad took part in the Raptor Project which is jointly run by the Bombay Natural History Society and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. HCH involved itself against the use of DDT. HCH views were requested by WWF-India concerning the draft of a IUCN draft on sustainable use of wildlife resource. HCH members are liaising with WWF-India in its fight against illegal traffic in birds of prey.

## Ireland

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

## Japan

The Japan Falconiformes Center (JFC), has been conducting over the last 13 years a wide range of protective activities based on concrete measures, such as surveys, studies and preservation of nesting places, placing artificial nests, curing injured hawks, and training them for their return to the wild, releasing young hawks artificially bred, sperm freeze preservation tests and tests for increasing the number of eggs laid.

The budget of JFC is 22 million Yen per year. JFC is the only organisation in Japan that spends such a big budget only on bird of prey conservation. Therefore, the Japanese Environmental Agency recognizes the Japan Falconiformes Center and its activities as indispensable. The said Agency repeatedly consults the JFC about



measures for preservation of hawks and falcons and entrusts it with raising birds in its custody. The JFC also receives many similar requests from various local governments and other bodies pursuing natural and environmental preservation; and, every time JFC advises them on the best possible course in the interests of birds of prey.

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

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

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

## Netherlands

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

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

## South Africa

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Zimbabwe

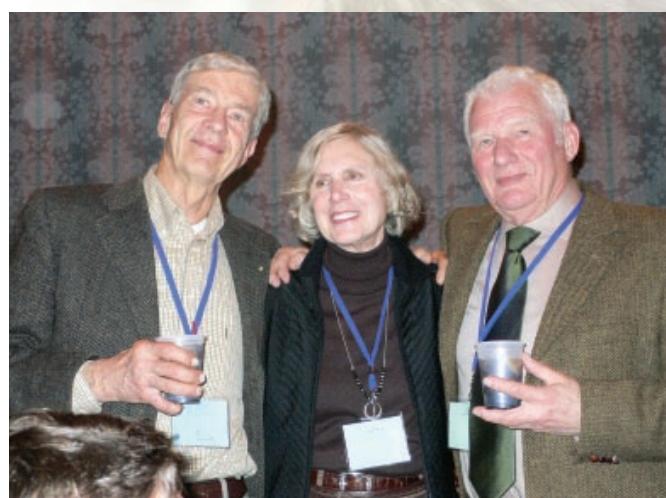
Falcon College and another one in Zimbabwe are the only school boys' falconry clubs in the world. It was started in 1961 by Peter Steyn, one of the foremost authorities on the biology of raptors in Southern Africa.

Falconry is a part of the curriculum activities of the school -like rugby or soccer- for which there is a proper course on biology of birds of prey, management and veterinary aspects of birds of prey, as well as training how to do scientific work for raptor research and research on quarry species. The membership of the College's club has been limited to eight students at a time. This part of the education program is under the enthusiastic and dynamic guidance of Ron Hartley, who is also the President of the Zimbabwe Falconers' Club.

The scientific approach to falconry by the members of the falconry club of Falcon College makes falconry a real tool for data collecting. Not only is data collected about raptors but also on the quarry species.

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

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



Falconry is then an invaluable source of information.

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

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

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

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

## Convention On The Conservation Of European Wildlife And Natural Habitats

**« Bern Convention »  
26th Meeting  
Standing Committee  
Strasbourg, 27-30 November 2006**

**Christian de Coune**

As always this meeting is a well attended one, it provides good opportunities for having informal conversations with high ranking officials of the ministries of the environment of the member-countries and with observer-NGOs. Such conversations are one of the assets of such conferences.

If I clearly remember, it must be the 20th time that I attend that meeting! I am one of the oldest pieces of furniture of the Standing Committee!

It is definitely a must for the IAF to be represented at that meeting.

A large panel of topics are addressed. This time there was a matter of specific interest to the falconers : the use of hybrids for falconry.

### The Wolf in Switzerland

Once more, Switzerland asked the downlisting of the Wolf to Annex III. The reason is that the species increases by 25% per year. They do not want to apply derogations for keeping the species at a socially acceptable level, because those exceptions would be weakening the Convention, they prefer the transfer to Annex III. The European Commission does not support the Swiss request, because measures can be taken without downlisting.

This is of interest to us, because falconry needs derogations and the attitude of the EU Commission towards derogations must be viewed as positive to us, whatever we feel about Swiss wolves.

#### Biennial Reports

Every second year the countries must report on the derogations they've granted from the provisions of the Convention.

Out of the 39 Member States, 7 sent their reports in time to be dealt with. The European Union reports for their members every three years, this explains partly the small numbers of reports.

The Convention contains a set of 5 reasons for granting derogations ; years ago, the Standing Committee added a 6th one to the list : falconry.

No comment has been made about the reported derogations. This is quite interesting because some countries reported on derogations granted in the interest of falconry. No one objected Czech Republic reported amongst others : *Accipiter nisus* : approx 5 captured from the wild each year and *Accipiter gentilis*, approx. 100 each year.

Poland reported for 2001-2004, 35 *Accipiter gentilis* captured from the wild.

#### Invasive Alien Species

Non-deliberate introductions can be favoured by the globalisation of trade. Anchovies of the Black Sea have heavily suffered because of an invasive alien species. Some species of bees have been declared invasive alien species.

Remember that, years ago, on request of the IAF, falconry birds have been explicitly « immunised » from the recommended ban on keeping and breeding non-native organisms.

#### Expert group on amphibians and reptiles

Czech Republic : walls have been constructed to prevent some snakes to be rolled over by cars ; result : important reduction in mortality. This is one example among many measures reported.

#### Strategy for invertebrates conservation

In Europe only 65% of the species are known. Invertebrates play an important role in the ecosystems as food, as pollinators or otherwise. Education and public awareness are essential tools for conservation. No other international convention than Bern deals with invertebrates.

#### Conservation of Birds.

##### Draft Action Plan on Saker Falcon

###### Robert Kenward:

acting in his own name he succeeded in having a comma removed from the text, which deeply modified the sense of the sentence, which otherwise would have been unduly very negative to Western falconry. Parties agreed to the removing of the comma.

The text concerned reads as follows : « The Saker Falco cherrug qualifies as Globally Endangered because it has undergone a very rapid population decline, particularly on the central Asian breeding grounds, owing to inadequately controlled capture for falconry trade». Removing the comma between « grounds » and « owing », results in the capture for falconry applying only to Central Asia, which is definitely the case. A simple comma may make a real difference !

###### BirdLife International:

The saker is on IUCN's red list because the species has undergone a decline of 2/3 since the '70s, in Central Asia due to captures. The European population amounts 6-700 pairs. In the XIXth

Century, they were ten times more than now. The population is very fragmented and keeps declining. Windfarms in Bulgaria are viewed as a serious threat.

The objective of the Action Plan is to reach a population of 800 pairs in Europe by 2015.

The A.P. will concentrate on habitats, prey species (Sousliks), pesticides, persecution, control of falconry especially in view of the risk of hybridisation.

###### European Commission:

The ORNIS Committee (the scientific authority of the Bird Directive), addressed, at a recent meeting, the issue of hybridisation and took the decision to ask for the inclusion in the text of the Action Plan, of the following recommendation : «encourages restraint in the production of hybrids that involve the Saker Falcon».

###### France:

The report unduly includes as an argument captures that take place in the Middle East. It is not the European falconry that causes the decreasing of the Saker.

###### Christian de Couse:

«Birdlife has done an excellent work. The Action Plan decided to set up a working group to evaluate the possible threat by the use of Saker-hybrids by falconers. It must prepare conclusions within two years after the adoption of the A.P. The recommendation proposed by the European Commission is an anticipation of the conclusions of the Working Group even before it is set up. I consider that this recommendation is premature».

###### Chair:

It could be that the Working Group will reconsider that recommendation if it makes a new evaluation. This recommendation is a result of the precautionary approach. The working group will be formed if a budget is available.

###### European Commission:

The ORNIS Committee does not wish to postpone its recommendation. The Commission will pay much attention to the conclusions of the hybrid-working group and will re-examine the issue on basis of the result of its work.

###### FACE (Federation of European Hunters):

Given the fact that the issue relates to a hunting method, FACE wishes to take part in the working group.

###### Christian de Couse:

All, but one, countries covered by the Action plan have rated the possible threat by hybrids as « unknown ». If the threat was real, it would have been noticed and the hybrids would not have been rated « unknown ». I therefore consider the recommendation out of proportion ».

###### European Commission:

The EU will not reconsider the recommendation.

###### France :

France insists on the fact that the working group will specifically deal with Saker-hybrids.

###### Conclusion :

The Working Group to be formed will be a Bern-Convention working group and not a EU Commission WG. I proposed as members of the future working group Andrew Dixon and myself and asked for the possibility of IAF proposing more members. FACE also asked to take part in it.

###### Windfarms

The EU and the Council of Europe work jointly on the development of alternative sources of energy aiming at reducing the emissions

of CO<sub>2</sub>; by 2012, 12% of the energy should come from renewable sources. The impact on biodiversity must be taken into account. Proposed windfarm near the world largest concentration of White Headed Sea Eagles in Norway is discussed. A windfarm in Bulgaria on the main migration route is also discussed.

### Corridor conversations

#### Macedonia.

I was happy to inform the Macedonian delegate that his country had just been admitted as a member of the IAF. He told me that the head of Nature Conservation is favourable to falconry. He will inform him and the president of the hunters' association. I gave him 3 copies of the IAF Newsletter.

#### Ukraine.

I informed the diplomat and the delegate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the fact that the Ukrainian falconry association had been admitted in the IAF. I gave them the IAF newsletter.

#### BirdLife:

I said that it is the first time that a topic specifically relating to falconry was addressed and that falconry should be represented by several representatives. She said that the precautionary approach must be applied. I said that it is very well, but that one should not go too far on this path and ban everything for the case that something of it might prove useful.

### Conclusion

It has proven again that attending the meeting of the Standing Committee is a must for the IAF.

# Briefing on the “Falconry and the legal framework: threats and opportunities” Forum

**IIInd Neotropical Raptors Congress**  
**Iguazu, Argentina, June 2006**

**Adrian Reuter - Coordinator**  
**areuter@wwfmex.org**

The IIInd Neotropical Raptor Congress took place June 1-14 2006 in Iguazu, Argentina. This event was organized in order to promote communication and interaction among biologist, conservationists, falconers, government representatives, students, and raptor enthusiasts living, studying or working in Central and South America, so as to offer a space for the presentation of original research, share experiences, and strengthen local capacities for the conservation of these birds.

As part of this Congress, the “Falconry and the legal framework: threats and opportunities” forum was organized, with the participation of biologists, falconers and other interested individuals from 9 countries, who exchanged opinions on the current status of this topic in different parts of the world,

existing concerns, actors involved, and some ideas to address this. This document aims to share with you, in general terms, issues discussed in this forum, and to publicly thank not only the speakers (Jose M. Rodríguez-Villa, Frank M. Bond, Fernando Feas, Jorge Sales Lisboa, José Antonio Otero, Renzo Piana, Jorge Anfuso, Jorge Reynoso, Miguel Saggese, A. Reuter), but also the Congress organizers for opening a greatly needed door towards communication, collaboration and coordination between the scientific and falconry sectors who share, not only a great passion for these birds, but an extreme interest in their well being, conservation, and in case of any harvesting from the wild of these species (and their prey species), that this does not affect the viability and stability of existing wild populations.

Falconry is the activity in which some raptor species are trained to hunt wild prey in natural environments and in the presence of the falconer. To achieve this, the falconer requires of a high knowledge of raptor ethology, anatomy, and physiology, of their prey species and the habitats they live in, as well as a fair dose of patience and perseverance.

Even though its origins are uncertain, falconry has probably existed for over 4000 years, and it has survived until today. There are currently thousands of practitioners around the world, with an increasing interest in this activity showing in places with no falconry tradition such as Latin America or the Caribbean.

This reality shows the need to guarantee that this activity takes place in a serious and ethical way, respecting existing national and international legal frameworks, and ensuring that its practice does not cause any negative impacts in the raptors used for this purpose, and their wild populations.

Responsible and ethic falconry and falconers that practice and have practiced this activity within an adequate legal framework can be, and have been, a positive contribution to diverse raptor research, rehabilitation, management and conservation efforts undertaken by academic institutions, NGOs, private individuals, or governments.

However, the legal framework in many countries still does not consider falconry, or is just starting to incorporate it. This, added to a reduced number of practitioners in many of these places, eases the coordination of related events in a positive manner that allow for the development of synergies among those who develop the regulatory frameworks, those in charge of implementing the laws, and those interested in pursuing activities with birds of prey such as research, education, banding, bird control, or falconry.

Because of this, the intention of this forum was to share information, points of view, and experiences to contribute to the development of well based strategies to allow for the practice of falconry in harmony with the legal frameworks and the conservation of nature.

Different speakers talked about some of the generalities previously exposed, and various interventions by representatives of countries where falconry is still not regulated and in many cases has only been practiced in recent times such as Brazil, Peru, Argentina, or Mexico, presented their current national situations. This clearly showed that many of the problems and opportunities are shared within the Latin American region, along with a genuine interest by serious falconers to contribute to the generation of the conditions that allow for a practice of falconry within an adequate regulatory framework, which would also facilitate and promote collaboration between the falconers and other sectors such as the scientific, academic, or governmental.

Another thing that was evident is a general lack of understanding among the majority of the public, including decision makers on environmental and wildlife issues, on what falconry is and what it implies. This makes communication and the development of agreements a huge challenge, and even produces adverse reactions towards the sport by generally misinformed groups, but quite influential due to their numbers in comparison to falconers. Unfortunately, the same occurs with the majority of raptor researchers and professionals, which is something worth addressing, given the obvious loss of collaboration opportunities in areas such as field research, rehabilitation, conservation, education, management and handling of specimens, etc..

During this forum, presentations were also made by representatives of regions/countries with a long history and/or experience of falconry practice and development of related regulation, such as Europe (Spain in particular) or the United States, who shared information on what they considered good decisions and mistakes, as well as some general recommendations to smoothen the process towards a regulated and ethic practice of falconry in countries with no tradition or development on this front.

It is worth to emphasize the great disposition and collaboration of all participants, and the consensus on the need to continue with efforts such as the one of this forum making the most of the opportunities provided by initiatives such as the Neotropical Raptor Network (NRN), The Peregrine Fund, or others. Only so, it will be possible to reach a better interaction between all relevant actors to ensure that the knowledge that has been generated and preserved over 4000 years of falconry practice, not only serves the purpose of this activities' continuity and improvement, but also supports other efforts that contribute to a better understanding of this bird group, and guarantee its conservation and sustainable use for future generations.

#### Raport from Lithuania 2006

2006 year was good for Lithuanian falconers. We haven't serious problem, like falconers from other countries.

Lithuanian falconers club- Lietuvos sakalininku klubas, celebrate nine years birthday in autumn.



We are small club from 8 member still today. 3 active falconers fly with goshawks.

Falconry in Lithuania is legal.

Falconry determinate in Lithuania Republic two decrees- hunting law and hunting rules.

Some items of hunting rules was changed in spring time of 2006 year. Reazon of it was some public order official suggestion. One of proposition was restriction of falconry.

Proposition without any comments and arguments, with no specific aims.

Special council, which solved all questions of law changes, comprised from clerisy and hunters authority.

Restriction of falconry was dismiss, like inane question. Council made only one disciplinary corrective, which touched falconry. We couldn't fly birds of prey on hunting ground without special hunting documents now.

All other items in huntig rules, which determinate falconry, stay without change.

That is below:

- permissible hunting tools:...
- hunting dogs, birds of prey , horses;
- permissible hunting tips:....
- with birds of prey, when small games hunting with birds of prey, specialy trained for falconry;
- for falconry could use only legal acquire or breed in captivity birds of prey. Lithuanian Republic environment ministry give permits for imported or bred in captivity birds of prey. Birds of prey take from nature for falconry is illegal.

Falconers and hunters could feel changes of hunting laws indirectly. Moust of changes oriented to EU environment policy. Hunting time, small hunting games species, was reduced.

Like example:

now we could hunt only 2 species of corvidae (was 5 species);  
Now we could hunt 9 month per year corvidae (was 12 month).

Our club contacted with LATMA-Latvian Republic hunting association. We diged for information about falconry in this country. Result was sad. Falconry don't exist in this country.

Darius Daugela  
Lithuanian falconers club  
[dadaugela@gmail.com](mailto:dadaugela@gmail.com)

#### From "Jarak" – Macedonia to IAF

##### About Macedonia

Macedonia - that unforgettable name evoking images of ancient, great civilizations and exotic adventure - is also a warm and welcoming modern-day republic in the very heart of southeastern Europe.

While easily accessible from all points abroad, and boasting all the amenities of the Western world, Macedonia remains one of Europe's last great undiscovered countries: a natural paradise of mountains, lakes and rivers, where life moves to a different rhythm, amidst the sprawling grandeur of rich historical ruins and idyllic villages that have remained practically unchanged for centuries.

Macedonia's geographical and cultural position as bridge between East and West, as the crossroads between Christian Europe and the mystical Orient, is attested to today in its inhabitants. The Macedonian people – a mixture of ancient Macedonians and Slavic tribes that settled here starting in the 5th century C.E. – make up the greatest part of a country where that mixed population is a vibrant reminder of Macedonia's rich and lengthy history. Minority populations include: Albanians, arriving first from mountains of Albania and Kosovo; a Turkish population established during Ottoman times; The Roma, hailing ultimately from far-off India; Serbs, Bosniaks and Croats; and Vlachs, famous tradesmen and likely descendants of ancient Romans.

In essence, today's Macedonia is a unique patchwork of cultures, where Balkan bloodlines have mixed with others more exotic still. Macedonia resonates with the names of the many peoples who have set foot on its eternal soil: from Armenians, Avars and Ashkenazi to Hellenes, Peonians and Gorani; from Kumans, Montenegrins and Jews to Dardanians, Ukrainians and Bulgars.

Such a diverse range of peoples has co-existed for thousands of years in Macedonia, a place where hospitality always welcomes visitors and it comes from the heart. And indeed, the country's charms have not been lost on an increasing number of Westerners today who are now choosing it as their second home!

In addition to its diversity, Macedonia's cultural richness is expressed in its archaeological legacy. Although just a little country, it holds many antique theaters, Byzantine churches and Ottoman mosques, in addition to relics from the Stone Age and even earlier periods of human civilization.

The oldest traces of human habitation in Macedonia are the cryptic, 30,000 year-old stone engravings or "rock art" unearthed in the Kratovo area, as well as the astronomical observatory/religious ritual site of Taticev Kamen, dating back almost 4,000 years.

The word Macedonia instantly conjures up memories of Philip II and his son Alexander the Great, legendary emperor of the 4th century B.C.E. who brought great expanses of the known world under Macedonian rule. In this period, and the Hellenistic and Roman ones that followed it, Macedonia reached the apogee of its influence and power. Today, many ruins remain to attest to this ancient heritage, in the sites of cities such as Heraclea, Stobi and Skupi, strewn with amphitheaters and temples, and decorated with intricate mosaics and frescoes.

The missionary Apostle Paul brought Christianity to Macedonia for the first time. Nine centuries later, his Byzantine successors Cyril and Methodius created a brand new alphabet, the precursor to Cyrillic, to expedite their missionary work with the Slavic-speaking Orthodox Christians of the Balkans. Macedonia's experience of Christianity has thus always been linked with literacy and education. In fact, the first Slavic university was established in the 10th century, in placid Ohrid - famous during Byzantine times for its 365 churches, one for each day of the year.

Today, Macedonia's Christian heritage is visible everywhere, from the myriad churches that fill up the landscape throughout the country to the enormous "Millennium Cross" that lights up the Skopje night sky from high atop nearby Mt. Vodno.

Following the decline of the Byzantium Empire, Macedonia and the entire Balkans came under control of the Ottoman Turks. Macedonia owes its Oriental influences to five centuries of Ottoman rule, a phenomenon that affected everything from cuisine and language to architecture and religion. The mosques of Tetovo and Skopje and the latter city's grand castle (Kale), and Stone Bridge exemplify vividly Ottoman aestheticism.

While firmly rooted in its traditions and nostalgia for the past, today's Macedonia is also a forward-looking country that has embraced its diversity and is becoming integrated within European political and economic institutions, continually expanding its links to the greater global community and economy. It thus provides the curious traveler with the best of both worlds: age-old traditions, historical treasures, and a pristine natural environment, as well as all of the modern amenities, services and consumer goods

that today's sophisticated travelers need. Macedonia today is an undiscovered jewel in the heart of Europe, offering something for tourists of all ages, nations, interests and desires.

Falconry in Macedonia is not a traditional field sport or art. It has probably been practiced from the Ottoman emperors and perhaps even earlier. A enthusiastic small group of people who love the birds of prey gathered and founded the first Macedonian Falconers club or "The Association for protecting and keeping birds of prey- Jarak".

The club was founded in 2005 and it has 12 members from who only 4 active falconers. The birds mostly used for falconry in Macedonia are the goshawks and the peregrines. Unfortunately all of the birds are passage birds. Jarak as an association for protecting birds of prey is obliging it's members to release those passage birds after the hunting season is over. In that matter we strive to help passagers survive the winter and give them another chance to prove themselves as hunters. All of us know that maybe 80% of the young Birds of prey don't make it through the first winter. This is were we find our self's helping to keep their numbers.

This is a point where we need a lot of help by some sorts of donations in a matter of legally bred birds. Jarak's main targets are to bring some legal birds into Macedonia and hopefully succeed in breeding them. After we import the legal birds we are aiming to suggest a sort of a draft version to the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning for putting some sort of legal status to falconry in Macedonia. Jarak is an association of young enthusiasts that are willing to speak about falconry and all it has to offer, to curious people, children, hunters and mostly to people who keep domestic pigeons. We are making efforts to write articles in daily magazines, be present on TV shows in order to educate people about this "diamonds" of the sky and the role they play. Jarak's challenges are many and we are striving to move a step forward in peoples understanding of birds of prey.

As a president of Jarak I wrote a letter to Macedonian Hunting association and we asked for a collective membership in their association. That way we are planning to approach the Ministry with our needs and suggestions as a member of a bigger and more powerful Association. Should I say under their umbrella.

Dear falconers and devotees of the most noble art. Jarak – Macedonia is more than happy to accept your suggestions and help in any matter, to bring falconry into light here in Macedonia.

Best regards,

Ognen Polenak

President of Jarak

(Organisation for protecting and breeding birds of prey Jarak)  
ul.Ankarska br.8, 1000 Skopje, Macedonia

Email:[jarak.zdruzenie@gmail.com](mailto:jarak.zdruzenie@gmail.com)

Telephone: +389-02-3066694; Mobile: +389-70-252556

## Croatia

### Researching the acceptance of falconry as sustainable use in areas where gun hunting is undesirable and in order to optimize the ecological impact on game population

Šegrt, V., Krapinec, K., Faculty of Forestry Department of Forest Protection and Wildlife Management, Svetosimunska 25, 10000 Zagreb.

#### INTRODUCTION

The Republic of Croatia boasts a long and rich falconry tradition (Šegrt, 2006). Falconry was brought to Croatia by the Illyrians and further spread by the Kelts. Written records from the history of falconry are also found in the missals of Hrvoje Vukčić – Hrvatinić, the laws of Charles the Great, on tombstones and monuments. The Croatian – Hungarian king Ljudevit II was particularly noted for promoting falconry and falconers.

In view of the future accession of the Republic of Croatia to the European Union, falconry should have its position in this country as it does in other countries within the European Union. Article 7 of the International Convention for the Protection of Birds, signed in Paris on 18 October 1950, allows for special exceptions concerning the use of birds of prey for the advancement of falconry. The International Council for Game and Wildlife Preservation (CIC) views falconry as a part of human cultural heritage and tradition. This art is practiced by almost all peoples of Europe (CIC, 2004). In 2004, CIC and IAF (International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey) signed an agreement on the promotion of cooperation and support between falconers and hunters worldwide.

Falconers and falconry play an invaluable role in the preservation and reintroduction of endangered birds of prey. As many as 57% of falconers are engaged in raptor rehabilitation programs, 47% participate in protection and education programs and 37% in reintroduction projects. Falconers have reintroduced the northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis* L.) in England, the Mauritius kestrel (*Falco punctatus* L.), the California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus* L.) and the peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus* Tunst.) in Germany, Poland and America (Cade 1968, Saar 1988, Jone et al. 1994, Wallace 2001), as well as the saker falcon (*Falco cherrug* L.) – artificial nests (Dr. Frederic Lunay, Dr. Margit Gabriele Muller Environmental Research and Wildlife Development Agency (ERWDA) P.O.Box 4553, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates).

#### PROBLEM MATTER

Falconry is regulated by article 64, paragraph (4) of the Hunting Act (NN, 140/05). A person who has successfully passed a falconry and hunting examination is allowed to hunt with captive-bred raptors entered on the list of the Croatian Falconry Association. The list is based on the permission by the supreme state administration bodies with jurisdiction over nature protection and hunting right owners. The falconry examination is held before an examination board appointed by the Minister (6). The falconry examination program and regulations concerning hunting with birds of prey (falconry) are passed by the Minister. However, the application of falconry in practice is hampered by a general lack of knowledge of this traditional hunting discipline on the part of the wider hunting population.

One of the main problems is that the majority of present-day Croatian hunters are unfamiliar with falconry methods. Many hunters hold the view that any flight of a raptor is hunting! They

also believe that, in terms of efficiency, falconry as a hunting discipline equals hunting with firearms. The fear that falconers take a large quantity of quarry is unjustifiable.

Suffice it to say that falconers spend twice as much time on raptor preparation and training before they even attempt a hunt than do gun hunters before the act of hunting itself. Falconers also spend six times more time on their activity than nature lovers (Peyton et al. 1995). This is why falconers deserve to be accepted by hunting associations as full-time members with all the rights and obligations. They should be allocated space for raptor training and flight in those areas in which guns cannot be used.

In the case of Croatia, according to the Hunting Act, article 64, paragraph (1), game hunting is not allowed (item 2) in the 300m-belt from the edge of a settlement situated in a valley and on low hills or in the 200m-belt from the edge of a settlement in hilly-mountainous areas. Since hunting has been banned in these zones for reasons of citizen safety, the ban should refer exclusively to gun hunting. On the other hand, falconry would definitely be acceptable in these areas and useful for the entire community.

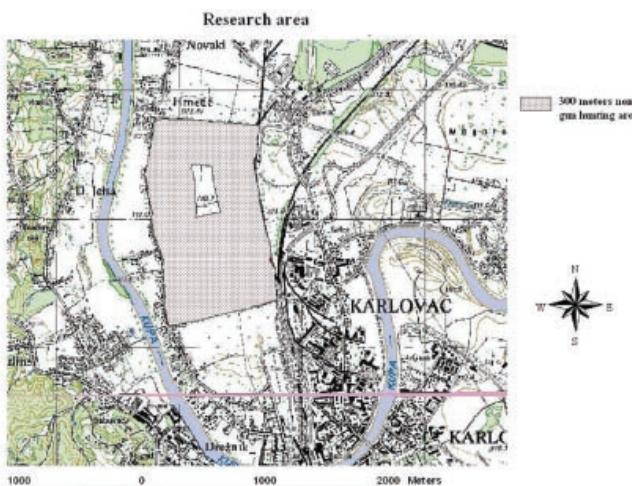
It should also be mentioned that, according to past research by the IUCN – the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, falconry is one of the best examples of ecologically acceptable, sustainable and harmless uses of nature since it demands keen individual motivation, time, knowledge and training. It also gives active protection to birds of prey and nature as a whole.

In view of these data and the adoption of falconry by other European countries searching for adequate and ecologically acceptable ways of using the nature, research should be carried out to assess the suitability of falconry as a method of sustainable management in those areas in which gun hunting is prohibited (settlements, roads), as well as to determine the impact of falconry on game populations. This would convince the broader hunting and non-hunting public of the harmlessness of falconry. It would also motivate the authorities to allocate space for practicing this art and accept it as yet another form of sustainable nature management. The role of falconry in educating the hunting population and other nature lovers should also be pointed out, as well as its importance for hunting and agro-tourism worldwide. Croatia, with its natural potential and pristine nature, is an ideal setting for the art of falconry.

#### RESEARCH AREA

The research mentioned above would further educate and sensitize hunters and other active users of nature to both the adequacy and harmlessness of falconry and its importance for the environment and wildlife.

One such ideal site, formerly used by several hunting associations, is located in the area of the City of Karlovac. Today, this site is within the Joint hunting ground 109 of Karlovac County, the "Fazan" Hunting Association Tuškani. According to the provisions of the Hunting Act, hunting is banned in this plot since it is surrounded by a newly built settlement and cut off from the rest of the hunting ground. Thus, the game is prevented from migration to the other part of the hunting ground. The enclosed map with a scale 1:25,000 and the photographs of the area confirm that this site is easy and safe for research.



*Fig. 1 Map of the research plot showing its isolated position and suitability for the research*

The research area covers 170 hectares. The plot is situated south of the Karlovac pay-toll booths in the direction of Croatia's capital Zagreb.

There are several reasons why falconry is acceptable in areas in which gun hunting is not appropriate (Roberts et al. 2002): a) it does not require high game density, b) the possibility of injury is excluded and c) it is selective in the sense that the prey would not survive anyway (Fox 1995.). Not only is this plot ideal for the research, but it also inflicts no risk for the local people.

#### RESEARCH PLAN



*Fig. 5 Method of marking pheasants before they are released to allow monitoring the quarry quality and quantity in falconry*

The research is planned to span three hunting seasons. The first step involves counting the current game population and building the necessary number of feeding points for pheasants as primary hunting game. During each hunting season up to 100 pheasants will be introduced in the area. Other birds to be hunted include magpies and crows. This will additionally confirm the suitability of falconry in hunting grounds with small hairy and feathery game where magpies and crows cause problems. During the quail hunting season the plot could also be used for quail hunting, as the quail density is too low for traditional gun hunting but sufficient for falconry. Every introduced pheasant will be banded with a plastic ring so that records could be kept of the pheasant bag during each hunt. It goes without saying that all the activities in the plot will conform to the Game Protection Program.

Other management treatments could also be applied to the site to ensure game presence (cover crops).

The plot could also be used as a training ground for hunting dogs, which are of immense importance for falconry. Hunting dog training is an important way of the future use of the area in which gun hunting is not possible. This will bring additional profit to the local community and the associations with kynologist membership at practically no risk for the natural potential.

#### RESEARCH METHOD

The research will be conducted and falconry-related records kept by Viktor Šegrt, MSc in forestry, the associate professor Marijan Grubešić, Ph.D., and the assistant professor Krešimir Krapinec, Ph.D. from the Department of Forest Protection and Game Management, University of Zagreb. External cooperators include falconers from the association "Sokolarski Centar", Šibenik, the Croatian Falconry Association, Hari Herak, the fifteen-time world champion in bird dog training, and "Zelendorf" Ltd, the largest Croatian producer of small feathery game. The last will be the main supplier of game to be released in the hunting grounds. Participation will also include all those individuals who are willing to train, fly or hunt with their raptors. Individual hunters or hunter groups from hunting associations who are interested in falconry or hunting dog training could also take part.

During each falconry hunt in the hunting season, or hunting bird training outside the hunting season, records will be kept in the field manual. Hunting successes and the number of flushed game will be recorded. The number of hunting trips related to training hunting dogs and the quantity of flushed game will also be recorded.

Gun hunting will be organized in the plot two to three times a year in order to obtain morphological samples and measures of internal organs of falconry-hunted game and gun-hunted game. The goal is to study the selection occurring in falconry and gun hunting, as well as show physical and health condition of the game hunted by either of these methods.

#### RESULTS

The results of the three-year study will show the appropriateness of falconry as an ecologically safe method of resource use in the near future, when the Republic of Croatia is expected to join the European Union. Croatia will thus become part of the globally acceptable methods of nature use and sustainable management with natural resources.

The results will be published in home and foreign scientific and popular magazines in order to inform the Croatian public of falconry sensitize it to the impact on the environment and wildlife and familiarize it with the falconers' need for training space for their birds. The public will be made aware of the fact that falconry can easily be practiced in those areas in which gun hunting is prohibited for reasons of people safety.

It should also be stressed that in this way Croatia will conform to the current European standards. The hunting laws in Germany, Austria, Italy, France, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Ireland, England and the majority of other European countries with falconry tradition allow, encourage and promote falconry as an ecologically acceptable and harmless hunting method due to its high selection, low effect, and minimal danger of wounding the game and putting the environment at risk (Eutermoser 1968, Kenward 1978).

**SZS - Slovenska Zveza za Sokolarstvo  
Slovenian Falconers Association**

Young hunters in Slovenia in the year 2007 have a passion for hunting with avian raptors. Falconry is a growing hunting activity in Slovenia.



- All Slovenian falconers organised in regional Falconry Clubs associated in national Slovenian Falconry Association SZS
- SZS full member in IAF
- SZS represented in CIC Falconry Commission
- Falconry and legislation knowledge, skills and aviaries examined by SZS prior to issuing individuals with SZS membership and falconer ID.
- Predominantly young falconers with passionate interest in nature and conservation of birds of prey.
- Organisation of annual national falconry field meetings
- Sokolarstvo, SZS web page 80 000 visitors in last 12 month (in country of 2 million population)
- Routine reproduction of avian raptors (falcons and goshawks) by members of SZS
- All avian raptors in possession of SZS members are registered, marked and issued with CITES documents
- SZS Lectures and Seminars in Faculty of Veterinary Medicine by falconer vet Dr Roman Savic: Avian raptor medicine, - AI reproduction, captive breeding and rehabilitation of injured wild birds
- Scientific study: Sustainable use of natural resources by means of falconry hunting activity in Slovenian environment.  
Conducted by Faculty of Forestry, University of Ljubljana.  
Study reviews falconry, as currently practiced in Slovenia, as low impact activity on natural resources with no obvious risk for the environment, local species of avian raptors and their prey. Study results show that falconry, as currently practiced in Slovenia, qualifies as a suitable tool for sustainable management of environment.
- Annual participation of SZS members with own stand exhibition and flying display at Slovenia's hunting and game fair, including lectures: Examples of sustainable use of natural recourses in Slovenia – Falconry, hunting with avian raptors. Slovenia's avian raptors and their environment. World falconry cultural heritage: History of falconry in Slovenia. Falconry equipment. Falconry as tool for bird strike prevention in aviation.
- SZS falconers and falcons officially employed by Slovenia's airport authority for prevention of aircraft bird strike at Ljubljana international airport.

**Status avian raptors in Slovenia (captive, non indigenous, indigenous, wild, endangered)**

The majority of avian raptors from captive stock owned by Slovenian falconers are non typical indigenous species as Gyrfalcon, Merlin, Saker Falcon, Lanner Falcon.



Prairie Falcon and Harris Hawk are non indigenous species from North America.

Typical indigenous species owned by falconers are from captive bred stock of Peregrines, Goshawks, Sparrow Hawks, Golden Eagles. These four most suitable species for Falconry in Slovenia have saturated local wild populations in Slovenia.

Avian raptor species in decline and in threat of extinction in Slovenia are of no practical interest for Slovenian falconry. This fact is not considered by opposing Ornithologists. Our opponents promote their opinion to the authorities, that falconry practice in Slovenia is a threat to endangered populations of raptors.

**SZS long term vision**

Following North American examples of sustainable wild raptor use in falconry, SZS long term vision is to work for national legislation that will allow for falconry use of stable wild avian raptor populations.

SZS plans to cooperate in projects for captive propagation of endangered national avian raptors including an active role in the management of environment.

SZS is committed to enhancing public awareness for biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources.

*Dr Igor Tavcar MD  
SZS Delegate in the IAF*

# A BAT FALCON EXPERIENCE

Adrian Reuter (Mexico)



11 am, 22°C and a light breeze blowing in a partially clouded sky. Almost out of sight, a tiny frantically flapping black spot cruises the sky covering the area at an amazing speed. After some 40 minutes on the wing, and playing with swifts as well as hunting butterflies and dragonflies, Geisha, the female bat falcon I had the pleasure to fly over several years, flies closer and lowers its pitch in a clear indication she wants me to call her down to the fist for a few minutes rest before the next flight of this training/conditioning session.

After a few more flights, some of which end up in her bringing some Monarch butterflies or dragonflies to eat them on the fist, I let Geisha do some passes at the lure and grab it in mid air. The falcon looks evidently tired but quite proud of its performance, and eagerly eats the rest of its daily ration. The training session is over.

The bat falcon, *Falco rufigularis*, is a highly active, small, and relatively common falcon distributed throughout the neotropics from Mexico southward throughout the lowland subtropical and tropical forests of Central America, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay, northern Argentina, Brazil and Trinidad.

This highly dimorphic (males about 40% lighter than females) essentially resident bird has a very conspicuous whitish-rusty "throat", is blue-black above, with mostly black underparts very narrowly barred with whitish. The "lower belly", thighs and under tail coverts are rufous. ( Cade, 1982; Peterson and Chalif, 1973)

Bat falcons have never been common falconry birds. Very few people have trained and flown these neo-tropical falcons, and even fewer have kept and flown the same bird for more than a single season.

Result of this is a lack of falconry related experiences with this specie, and consequently, in my opinion, the relatively few and different approaches and attempts to use this beautiful little falcon for falconry should be considered as experiments.

Following is an account of some personal experiences and observations over several years of handling these birds.

Most bat falcons can become quite tame and be manned in a relatively short time without too much effort, but most of the birds I've handled do not like or get used to being touched, and



a note of caution to any potential handler might be in order so as to avoid any unnecessary and painful reminder of this by their extremely sharp and powerful beak.

Given the very active metabolism of the specie, these birds appetite is very useful during the early stages of the training process, when food rewards are constantly used and come in very handy.

Bat falcons can become very good to the hood, but I'd recommend to start hood training them early in the process. However, due to the small size of the bird and for safety reasons, I usually use a "giant hood" or transportation box. This also helps to keep the birds quite relaxed after flying them. It is not uncommon that the bird adopts the box as a refuge, a home away from home, and voluntarily flies or jumps into it once she is tired or fully fed.

I always use Aylmeris with all my birds, with soft Kangaroo leather and #0 grommets (1/4 inch diameter opening) working fine for bat falcons.

During the early parts of the training, while manning the bird or still flying her on the creance, I normally use regular leather straps attached to a swivel and leash in a traditional fashion. However, when the time comes to fly the bird free I have found bullet-type jesses quite convenient, given the restlessness of the falcon previous to the flights. The use of this type of jesses allows me to secure or release the bird very quickly avoiding any unnecessary bating. Considering the size and strength of the specie, a thin leather glove similar to what is used for merlins will suffice.

The tail of bat falcons is quite short and with these birds usually very reluctant to being touched, the use of tail mounted bells or transmitters can be a hassle. My preference is to use one bell (smallest useful size possible) in one of the tarsi and the lightest transmitter I can find in the other.

Training of the bat falcon follows the same steps as that of any other falcon. One important consideration is to make sure that the lure being used is light and soft, even though the bird will usually land on or beside the lure that is thrown to the ground on the initial stages of the process, it will be a matter of time before the falcon is stooping at an amazing speed to the swung lure hitting and grabbing it in mid air. Bat falcon feet have very long and thin fingers that can easily be hurt if they hit a hard lure.

Bat falcon's anatomy resembles that of other fast falcons specialized on hunting avian prey items, but this is an opportunistic specie, naturally preying on insects and bats as well as birds.

The nature of the specie does not make bat falcons particularly suited for falconry.

Being a neo-tropical resident, they can be expected to perform best at very warm climates (approx. 20-32°C). Temperatures below that range generally result in the bird not wanting to fly at all, or circling close to the falconer and never attempting to climb up. From all the birds I've seen, bat falcons are particularly affected by weather temperature.

These little birds also have a high metabolism and a lot of care should be taken to control their weight and also to ensure that best quality food is offered to them while in captivity (i.e. little birds, quail).

Due to their extremely low wing load, bat falcons commonly look for thermals so as to climb up. They are extremely fast birds and usually cover great distances and very large areas looking for a thermal. This, added to their small size, make it a common occurrence for the falconer to loose sight of the bird which, on the wing and even at a short distance, due to its coloration can easily be confused with a swift.

Even though through a lot of effort bat falcons can be trained to wait on, my experience has been that they are quite impatient and won't keep the position for long, easily being distracted by butterflies or dragonflies which constitute easy snacks to catch and eat on the wing. The only exception I've experienced was when, as an experiment, I flushed a mourning dove to Geisha, a large female bat falcon flying at 205g in her third year. She did a nice stoop at the dove and chased for a few hundred meters before abandoning the attempt. From that flight on, and for the rest of the 2 hours I flew her that day, she stayed in perfect position, exactly over my head at some 80 m height waiting for me to flush her more of these doves. I did find two more that day which she eagerly stooped at and tail chased, but completely ignored all other bird species I flushed for her. This behavior was repeated in a few other occasions afterwards, but she never actually hit a mourning dove. Unfortunately, I lost her shortly after. I'm quite certain though, that she would have eventually gotten the hang of this type of prey and would have been successful.

Without any doubt, bat falcons are one of the most beautiful falcon species in the world, they can become quite tame and properly trained are very responsive to the fist and lure. However, they tend to cover great distances and areas when looking for thermals and their performance can only be expected to be good in warm weather. These falcons are highly specialized in flying prey, but are quite opportunistic, naturally hunting flying insects in significant numbers when flown. This is a major source of distraction when attempts are made to fly them from a waiting on position and also affects their appetite and responsiveness given that most of the insects are eaten on the wing. Even though one of my favorites, I personally do not consider this specie particularly suited for falconry and under no circumstances should be handled by inexperienced people due to its specific requirements as well as very small size and weight where even a minor mistake can be fatal.

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Adrian Reuter has been a falconer for over 28 years and, as a raptor biologist and former professor of raptor biology, management and conservation in Mexico's National University (UNAM); has been involved in diverse aspects of raptor research and conservation in Mexico and other countries. Currently, he is a member of the board of the Neotropical Raptor Network, and working as Mexico's representative of TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring program of WWF and the IUCN.

## Falconry in Japanese Religion

Morimoto Teruo

Native religion of Japan is Shintoism, which is mixture of polytheism, nature worship, shamanism, animism and deification of heroes or those in violent death, etc. You may imagine worships similar to those of ancient Greek before Hellenism. Since 6th century, Buddhism has spread nationwide, and merged with Shintoism. Before religious separation compelled by government in 19th century, Buddhist Temples and Shinto Shrines formed united complex on one site, and Japanese gods have been regarded guardians or avatar of Buddha. Many Japanese worships Buddha and Shinto gods (in addition, Jesus Christ and Santa Claus also!) at the same time even now.

Shintoism dates back to prehistoric era, with high affinity for hunting both in notion and rituals. On the other hand, Buddhism prohibit killing, regarding hunting religious sin to downgrade hunters in next reincarnation. Rulers worshiped both Buddha and native gods, and great temples and shrines were also powerful landowners, as in feudal Europe. So occurred different views on falconry in religious context, producing relevant legends.

One type is falconer's conversion into pious Buddhism led by a divine hawk. Mt. Tateyama, a center of Buddhist training and pilgrimage, is told to have been established as such by Saeki Ariyori in early 8th century. He or his father had a white hawk (maybe Siberian goshawk), and Ariyori one day went hawking with this hawk. The hawk suddenly flew away, and he followed climbing Mt. Tateyama. In variation, the hawk flew away upon sudden appearance of a bear, which he shot with bow (Fig.1; from Illustrated Mantra of Tateyama Saeki version, painted in late Edo period; photo granted by Tateyama Museum of Toyama). In a cave where the bear ran off, he found Amitabha Buddha bleeding with an arrow in chest. The bear was Amitabha, while the hawk changed into Cetaka, an avatar of Buddha. Then Ariyori changed his mind and became a Buddhist monk, building a temple there. The legend is intended to show even falconer could be led to Buddhism and saved. Probably the author of the legend was familiar with falconry and desperate feeling to search a lost hawk, likening it to religious anxiety. Falconry, in this context, might be half-affirmed as intermediate means leading to



Fig.1: Saeki Ariyori in Illustrated Mandara of Tateyama, Saeki-ke version (photo by Tateyama Museum of Toyama)



*Fig.2: Holy Icon of Tokugawa Ieyasu (owned by Tokugawa Memorial Foundation)*

religion. A modern bronze statue of Saeki Ariyori carry the hawk (Fig.3; photo taken by Mr. Yamamoto Shigeo). You might see some parallelism to the story of St. Bavo in Gent, Belgium.

Another type is justification of falconry to procure food for a Shinto god with hawk as herald of the Shinto god. Among such gods are Hachiman, Kamō, Nikkō, Suwa, etc. Hachiman, the second most popular god in Japan, is told to first appeared in form of a golden hawk. So hawks has been herald of this god, often appearing relieves on Hachiman shrines. Medieval nobility falconers regarded Hachiman as their guardian (so does the author), an example of which you can find on a falconry text written in 1553 and owned by Tohoku University Library.



Ancient Chinese considered hawks be a kind of pigeon, calling as swift pigeon. Hachiman is a god of continental elements, having hawks and pigeons both as herald. Hatoya (meaning pigeon mew), a favorite hawk of Emperor Ichijō (980-1011), had a legend that she stayed with divine pigeons in Shrine of Hachiman at Iwashimizu, Kyoto, to be gifted the power to slay the eagle who killed her mother hawk.

In worship of Hutarasan Shrine of Nikkō, legendary falconer, General Ariu was deified after his death on journey. His hawk served as a messenger to tell his death to his wife at home in Nikkō. Since, there emerged a group of falconers to serve pheasants or other game to Hutarasan Shrine. They were called the Utsunomiya-ryū (Utsunomiya School), but their tradition has been lost in modern times.

Similar contribution of hawking quarries had been seen at Grand Shrine of Suwa. The gods of Suwa are originally gods for hunting, maybe its worship dating back to middle Jomon era (3000 B.C.).



*Fig.3: Saeki Ariyori statue (photo by Yamamoto Shigeo)*



Fig.4: Tokugawa-leyasu Statue

In Medieval times, the Nezu family served as High Priest and formed a center of falconry in eastern part of Japan (Nezu-ryuu).

When Kamakura shogunate sometimes banned falconry by subordinate samurais in 13th century, "nietaka", hawking to procure food for Suwa gods was permitted as exception. So many samurais built branch shrines of Suwa in their estate to continue hawking. According to a falconry text, when people suffered from bird hazard against harvest, gods of Suwa, taking forms of hawks, drove away the birds from cultivated area. From 14th century on, when new Muromachi shogunate was established in Kyoto, central nobility falconers and Nezu school began to influence each other, with worship of Suwa gods accepted also by central falconers. While the direct bloodline of Nezu family perished in 17th century, sub-schools of Nezu-ryuu flourished throughout Edo era (1600-1867), serving shogunate or local lords. Nowadays, food for Suwa gods are not procured with "nietaka", and surviving sub-schools, Suwa-ryuu and Yoshida-ryuu act with little relation of Grand Shrine of Suwa.

In Suwa-ryuu, a teaching remains that any falconer should serve his/her goshawk as his/her master, as the goshawk is avatar of Suwa gods.



One of most enthusiast Japanese falconer was Tokugawa Ieyasu (1542-1616), who was the final victor of civil war among warlords and established Edo shogunate. After death, he was deified as Grand Avatar Toushou, and his shrine, Toushouguu, was built in Nikkou, neighboring Hutarasan Shrine. On grand festival of Nikkou Toushouguu, you can see a parade of falconers in classic costume, carrying hawk figures, not live hawks. Many of the portraits of Ieyasu as Grand Avatar Toushou are accompanied by a white goshawk painting on background or furniture (Fig.2-1; from Holy Icon of Toushouguu for Worship on 17th April, painted in 1648; owned by Tokugawa Memorial Foundation). Contributed to Senba Toushouguu, one of branch shrines, were famous twelve panels of perched hawks.

By the way, two of his bronze statues built in 20th century carry a hawk on his fist (Fig.4; standing on Sumpu Castle).

Interaction of falconry, society and culture is interesting subject of study everywhere. It would be my pleasure if this short article cast any light for overseas counterparts to understand some aspect of falconry in Japanese religious life.

**Special thanks to Tokugawa Memorial Foundation, Tateyama Museum of Toyama and Mr. Yamamoto Shigeo for permission on use of photos, to Ms. Koinuma Tomoko, Dr. Fukue Mitsuru and Mr. Okada Tomoki for arrangement on such permission, and finally to Pan Janusz Sielicki for idea of this article.**

**August 30th, 2006  
The Japan Falconiformes Center  
Keiya Nakajima, Ph.D. Vice President**

We at JFC have consistently been unfolding a wide range of activities strictly in line with the policy of preserving the skill of traditional Japanese falconry and conserving the birds of prey in our country. Our recent activities may be summarized as follows:

Curing injured birds as releasing after treatment and rehabilitation: Last year we JFC were asked by various prefecture governments and the Ministry of the Environment to take a total of 19 birds of prey in our custody. For the four goshawks among them, upon completion of rehabilitation provided by our organization, they were released by the staff in charge at various government agencies. (Fig. 1)

The skill of our country's traditional falconry developed during the Edo Period (1603-1868) enables us to train haggard without making them exclusively attached to any particular individual, therefore injured birds will never be tamed more than necessary, and this same skill may be applied effectively for judging whether the rehabilitated birds are ready to resume wild life. Details of our activities over many years have gradually come to be recognized among various government agencies concerned, and our country's traditional falconry is now starting being accepted as the most optimal form of handling birds of prey.

We at JFC will endeavor to use our traditional art of falconry not for satisfying any personal hobby, but for the conservation of the birds of prey original to our country. At the same time we will try to spread among related government agencies and general public as well the understanding that a falconer is not a type of person who is merely fond of falcons and enjoys hunting with falcons, but as a specialist who has mastered techniques that can be applied effectively to the conservation of birds of prey.

**Exotic birds of prey:**

We have recently filed a report to the Ministry of the Environment about the exotic birds of prey we detected in the middle region of Japan between 1995 and 2005. They total 5 genera, 15 species, 45 birds (including 4 birds of 2 hybrid species), and places of their detection cover 9 prefectures. It was not clear whether all of them were captured. We have not so far received report that exotic birds of prey have caused negative effects, including mixed breeding, to the birds of prey original to our nation, but if any concrete example is uncovered, wide criticism will surely be pointed to the act of bringing in exotic birds of prey into our country. We are afraid that this criticism may be targeted not only to the negligence on the side of owners, but also to the entire falconry community in our country.

Birds of prey original to Japan are at present declared by law as the object of preservation, and no individual is allowed to own them for hunting purpose. For this reason, "falconry-lovers" who place an utmost emphasis on the joy of hunting tend to seek birds of prey even by dodging the law. Moreover, falconry is not clearly defined by law in Japan, for this reason, as long as one sticks to certain rules, including the hunting period, the species of quarry, and the hunting area, anyone is able to freely realize hunting without requiring any further permit. Some "falconry-lovers" are actively engaged in hunting merely led by the belief that it is okay to merely follow the written terms and conditions, but we honestly doubt whether their acts should serve for upgrading and spreading the understanding about the art of falconry in this country at large. Actually, some hunters using gun are expressing concerns about the rather aggressive way of hunting practiced by those "falconry-lovers."

If it is hard to win understanding from people even by putting up the pretext of preservation of traditional culture, the art of falconry in Japan will surely end up becoming a target regulation, and no further development can be expected in the future. Moreover, for the activities regarding falconry, we will be required to have our own judgment by paying due consideration to the present situation and natural environment of our country without thoughtlessly emulating examples in other countries.

At present IAF members from Japan now count four. The possible course of change that may take place in the understanding of the art of falconry in Japan may be set by the policy to be selected by each of these four organizations. What we are supposed to do now in order to preserve the traditional art of falconry of our country to the future by respecting the objectives of IAF? This is why keen attention is now drawn to the activities to be undertaken by various organizations in the future.

Keiya Nakajima, Ph.D.



# Falconry in the Czech Republic

## By Dr. Bohumil Straka of Czech Falconry Club

### History



This year, Czech Falconry Club (in Czech Klub sokolníku ČMMJ) will celebrate 40th anniversary since 1967, when it was established as the only club organizing falconers in the Czech Republic. Falconry is proven to be practised in our county since the 5th century A.D. based on archaeology artefacts. In order to stress traditions of falconry in our country, our club has been using an emblem for a long time – falconer riding a horse, which is based on archaeology artefact from Great Moravia empire, predecessor of Czech state time in the 9th century. Falconers in our country has been keeping then the tradition of this art for centuries. Even in bad times in 19th and first half of 20th century, when falconry declined in Europe, a few people were practicing falconry here.

### Membership



Czech Falconry Club has a stable base of members, which currently counts 435 members. Czech Falconry Club is a part of Czech-Moravian Hunting Union having almost 100,000 members. Our falconry club involves internally 21 district groups, each of them has five to fifty members. As everywhere, some members are not active, but most of the members have one or more trained hawks and they are active falconers. Last year the club registered 23 new members, who successfully passed the special annual falconry examination, which is required by laws and which is necessary for the membership in our club.

## Birds of prey

Members of our club bred about 300 birds in 2006. Most of them are falcons and several tens of harrises, eagles and goshawks. In the last decade 3000 birds in total (of which over 2000 falcons) were bred. The club registers currently following falconry birds: 119 goshawks (mostly females), 76 peregrines, 75 falcon hybrids, 74 sakers, 51 golden eagles, 30 harrises, 6 sparrow-hawks, 6 kestrels, 6 eagle owls, 6 red tails, 4 gyrs, 3 common buzzards, and 2 eagle hybrids. The club registers only hawks used for hunting. The total number of hawks kept by falconers for breeding and other purposes, which is registered by the local authorities, is about triple.

Goshawk is still most numerous species and therefore it is considered as "national falconry" bird, but there is very apparent change in favour of falcons, eagles, harrises and other species. It is a fact that the goshawk becomes unavailable for Czech falconry and immature goshawk becomes rare to see in autumn field meetings. In the last century it was possible to obtain a common species, such as goshawk, from the wild.

Nowadays authorities are reluctant to issue licences for wild goshawks despite the fact that falconry is directly listed in the environment law as the legal derogation reason and despite goshawk is very common and its population stable, if not growing. If nothing happens, this policy will probably sweep away this powerful falconry bird from the long traditions of Czech falconry. Although still about 50% Czech falconers use goshawks for hunting, many falconers moved to falcons in the last decade.

Some falconers are giving up falconry or they become inactive, because they cannot afford or they are not interested to migrate to falcons. Fortunately the number of bred goshawks is gradually increasing as well as number bred harrises as the only potential replacement of goshawks. Where possible, we encourage the regional authorities to issue more licences for wild goshawks, but they are often instructed by the Ministry of Environment and environmental lobby not to do so. In addition goshawk keepers are permanently threatened by Czech environmental inspection, which gives high fines and initiate crime proceedings even in case of formal reasons, which are not directly caused by the keeper. This policy cause a paradox, that rare falcons and eagles are easier to keep than a common goshawk.

## Legislation

Hunting, environmental, CITES and animal welfare laws were amended in hectic 2001-2004 period because Czech Republic had to implement many of EU laws and directives before it became a member of EU in May 2004.

The Hunting Act, which was prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture, is generally positive towards falconry because, because this act gives falconry a legal official status, while previous hunting act just tolerated falconry at the level of ministry executive regulation. All subsequent ministry regulations, which implement practical impacts of this law, are also useful and positive for falconry. Very useful is the ministry executive regulation, which extends the falconry hunting period for hares and pheasants as compared with shooting. The act also recognised falconry examination, which is more demanding than before, but the number of new successful members indicates that the demands are reasonable and not are not prohibiting.

The Environmental law is currently positive towards falconry. Originally very negative draft involved obligatory DNA tests for all

raptors at owners' expenses and risk, limited and strict licences to breed, no more hybrids, no more birds from the wild. This draft was prepared by the Ministry of Environment, but our effort and influence contributed that the bad draft was rejected by parliament and later we were able to push through our proposals in the final act.

The act itself is generally positive to falconry, even better than the old environmental law, because it means less bureaucracy, power is moved from central ministry more to regions and there are less restrictions: no obligatory DNA tests, no sorting for licensed and unlicensed breeders, hybrids allowed, possibility to obtain birds of prey from the wild. The only problem is that the ministry is so prejudiced that they break the law and they tend to interpret it their way. We already generated several ongoing cases for administrative justice at the moment. The environmental law will be however amended in the future, because EU commission made an application to do so. We hope to have enough influence not to allow new restrictions associated with falconry.

The Animal welfare act, which was prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture, is not harmful for falconry although it is stricter than the previous one, but it means no threat to falconry at the moment. Our club uses its own "Rules for keeping birds of prey and owls" - a document which is recognised by the ministry, so a general strict rules are not applied for normal falconers. Our club and IAF helped recently to our neighbours – Slovak falconers to turn their originally negative Animal welfare act draft towards a positive act, which is valid since February 2007.

The CITES act, which was prepared by the Ministry of Environment, is basically the previous CITES act with updated EU requirements. It seems not to be harmful for falconry at the moment, but it only brings more bureaucracy for normal falconers and local officers. On the other hand it can be useful for some falconers, who often travel or sell birds in EU, because of the "yellow" CITES paper, which is issued by local officers.

## Other activities

Apart from the legislation activities, Czech Falconry Club constantly tries to influence the public opinion through mass media and exhibitions in favour of falconry. The official internet page of Czech Falconry Club enjoyed gradually increasing attention of more than 10,000 visitors in 2006 and it is available with separate info for general public and members: <http://www.sokolnictvi.net>. Our club focuses now even more on raptor protection programs, science and cultural heritage, because these are useful means how to protect and preserve falconry for the future.

Member of our club participate in several release programs, unfortunately these good efforts are often chicaned or even banned by bureaucracy. In order to protect falconry in the future, the main aim of our club is to attempt for the application of the Czech or central European falconry as the UNESCO intangible cultural heritage. Unfortunately our country has not signed yet the UNESCO Convention For the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, but it should be signed by the time, when we prepare all necessary materials.

At the moment we collaborate with several dedicated officers at the Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We would like to follow a good example in our country – two years ago Czech Republic gained already its first intangible heritage – "Slovacky verbunk", which is a traditional folk dance in eastern Moravia region. We hope that people from the National department of folk culture, who prepared this submission, will help us to implement

the useful know-how for our case, although Slovacky verbunk was approved according to the old rules for intangible heritage.

### **Opocno field meeting**

On October 11th to October 15th 2006 our club organized 38th International field meeting in Opocno chateau. Like every year, about 200 falconers from several countries visited this meeting and they took usual quarry, which is available in this area: pheasants and hares and occasionally ducks, roe deer and foxes. About 100 hawks were organised in three goshawk groups, two falcon groups, three eagle groups and one harris group and enjoyed falconry in about 25 places around Opocno. The next anniversary 40th international field meeting will be held again in Opocno castle from October 10th to 14th 2007. Hunting days of this meeting will be 11th - 13th. Accommodation will be automatically reserved by Czech Falconry Clubs all registered falconers. Foreign falconers and visitors are welcomed to come with or without their birds.

More information about the registration and the meeting will be available in July 2007 on the web page <http://www.sokolnictvi.net>



### **Falconry in the Slovakia. Dr. Michal Kozak – Slovak Falconry Club**

Slovak Falconry Club ( Slovenský Klub Sokoliarov pri SPZ ) was established as the only club organizing falconers in Slovakia in 1971. Since that Slovak Falconry Club has an increasing base of members, which currently counts 318 members. A lot of activities done by Club are focused to work with young people. For this reason large part of members are under 30. Club involves internally district groups, each of them has 5 to 40 members.

As everywhere some groups are not so active as the others. But most of them are organizing falconry and training of new adepts successfully. Along district groups is falconry also taught also at Secondary Forestry School in Banska Stiavnica [www.slsbs.edu.sk](http://www.slsbs.edu.sk) as a voluntary subject for several years. Students who successfully passed the special examination required by laws are becoming members of club as well. This year falconry has been established as a voluntary subject also at Technical University Zvolen [www.tuzvo.sk](http://www.tuzvo.sk) at the Faculty of Forestry, which is a great success for falconry in our country.

Members of club bred about 233 birds of prey in year 2006. Most of them are falcons 129, there was 46 eagles bred as well. The club registers currently also following falconry birds: 5 harrises, 9

red tails, 22 common buzzards, 22 goshawks. In last eight years we can see a large change in used species of birds for falconry. In the past there was the most used goshawk. At this moment goshawk becomes unavailable for falconers in Slovakia and immature goshawk becomes rare to see in autumn field meeting. In the last century it was possible to obtain a common species, such as goshawk or sparrow hawk from the wild. Nowadays authorities are reluctant to issue licenses for wild birds. Because of this reason and small number of breed goshawks chicks, most of falconers hunting with goshawk in the past, migrate to falcons or eagles.

Since November 2006 new Animal welfare act is valid in Slovakia. Law is positive towards falconry. Lot more problematic are Environmental law and CITES act. Both cost a lot of troubles and bureaucracy for falconers. Slovak Falconry Club is still struggling for to respect EU regulations ES 338/97 1808/2002 and 865/2002 by Slovak Ministry of Environment. 14.09.2006 Club sent the official claim to EU commission. So far, no answer.

Apart from the legislation activities Club constantly tries to influence the public opinion through mass media and exhibitions. There were a lot of contribution at the basic schools done by our members about falconry and environmental protection. Members of our club participate in several cultural undertakings organized by Ministry of Culture as a support for Slovak cultural heritage. Our club focuses now even more on raptor protection program. Club offered 50 sakers chicks as a support for the project LIFE06 NAT/H/000096 - Conservation of Falco cherrug in the Carpathian basin. Project is managed by Slovak Nature Protection Agency in cooperation with Raptor Protection Slovakia and Slovak Ornithology Association. Slovak Falconry Club for this reason build up new informative web page [www.sokolrarah.sk](http://www.sokolrarah.sk). This year Slovak Falconry Club celebrates 35th anniversary. First appointment of the Club was 18th of April 1971 at Technical University Zvolen, where Club's constitution was assumed.



*First appointment of the Slovak Falconry Club was 18th April 1971 – From left: Ing Sladek, Ing Randik, Ing. Voskar, Marosi, Ing. Hell Csc., Poliak, Krijansky, Messerschmidt  
© Foto Somek*

For this reason International Seminar of Falconry was held in Bratislava at February 9th 2007, where 67 falconers from seven European countries joined it. There were members of falconry clubs from Great Britain, Czech Republic, Hungary, Germany, Poland, Austria and Slovakia. Also member of European Parliament and European Commission for Environment Dr. Irena Belohorska took a part.



From Up right: Toth, Luttger, Forster, Dr. Belohorska, Ing. Zvolanek, Dr. Straka, Moravcik, Dr. Medkova, Dr. Brutenicova,  
Mgr. Michal  
© Foto Krivjansky International Seminar of Falconry

## Letters

### Serbia

**From:** Metron Nekretnine [mailto:[tron@ptt.yu](mailto:tron@ptt.yu)]  
**Sent:** 31 January 2007 16:29  
**To:** Gary Timbrell  
**Subject:** Re: FW: IAF and the New Year

Hello!

"Nobilis Ars" is Falconry organisation of Serbia established 2 years so far, we have accomplished great results in solving many problems in association with Ministry Department for Protection Natural Environment. They started to publish CITES with Department for Natural Protection - the control of falcons and falcon breeder has been made. Also, the connections with Hunting Association of Serbia has been set up. This year, first falconry tests for new members has been done 5 members passed the test, and they got a falconry degree so far, our organisation has successfully developed and I hope that will be continued in future.

P.S. I'm sending you a picture of one hunting with my hawk (picture - this page bottom-left)

Slobodan

### Turkmenistan

**From:** Ata Annamamedov [mailto:[yakyn@online.tm](mailto:yakyn@online.tm)]  
**Sent:** 03 November 2006 05:46  
**To:** 'Gary Timbrell'; IAF President; Frank Bond; Falconry Heritage Trust  
**Subject:** Recent deaths of two great falconers

Turkmen falconers express our condolences to our friends. Last week our elders meet to commemorate the great falconers and great people. They prayed for Bill Burnham and Geoffrey Pollard's souls and sacrificed a lamb for their memory.

### Hungary

Dear falconry friends!

Following the Slovakian Falkner Seminar I wish to complete the summary with two ideas I told to the seminar and personally to Mrs Belohorska.

For the Hungarian falconers the membership of the European Union caused frustration, because we thought that we will have the same administration of our birds as we see in some other EU states. It seems that our nature conservation authority takes no notice of the EU legislation if it is better for them. We have a very strict and over regulated protocol for the keeping and breeding of birds of prey originated from captivity. On the other hand we can use as many goshawks and sparrowhawks from the nature as we want. If someone look around in the EU can see as many different regulations as there are countries. How can be the interpretation of the same EU legislation so different of the member states?

The second I told to Mrs Belohorska the pan-European idea.. the falconry. Falconry is nearly the only matter which never separated the nations, but always confederated them, by its common heritage and personal connections. It seemed to me that this idea took her attention.

Regards János Toth



# Falconry and technology

**Dr Matt Gage**

Science now allows us to read a species' entire genome. Using the near-miracles of modern molecular technology, we can unravel the DNA sequence and read the genetic code that tells biochemical processes how to build and maintain life itself. Such scientific 'progress' is truly a consequential step for human culture. Within our current generation, there is a good probability that an important falconry species will have its genome mapped. So when they sequence the peregrine genome, what will science tell falconry?

Probably very little, because falconers already have a uniquely deep and detailed understanding of the birds they train, fly, hunt and live with. This knowledge is not only built upon an intimate relationship between human and wild animal, but it is also knowledge that has transferred through many generations with rather little change. It is knowledge based around something intangible that is far more complex and dynamic than the black-and-white genetic language that codes for a peregrine. Some of this knowledge is difficult to put into a format readily embraced by science. It is knowledge of the whole system, including ourselves, our hawk, our dog, the landscape, and the quarry. It is the knowledge that allows us to judge a falcon's personality and measure her mood. It allows us to develop a falcon's ability and confidence in herself. It allows us to develop trust without punishment, even when she mounts to a truly free spirit flickering high in the sky above us.

Falconers have been practicing this knowledge for centuries, relatively unchanged compared with the exponential growth of 'science' which has transformed almost every aspect of the way many humans live. Practically, we still cut and shape the most important equipment (gloves, jesses, anklets, leashes, lures, bags and hoods) from the same basic principles and materials that were used by Mongols and Persians millennia ago.

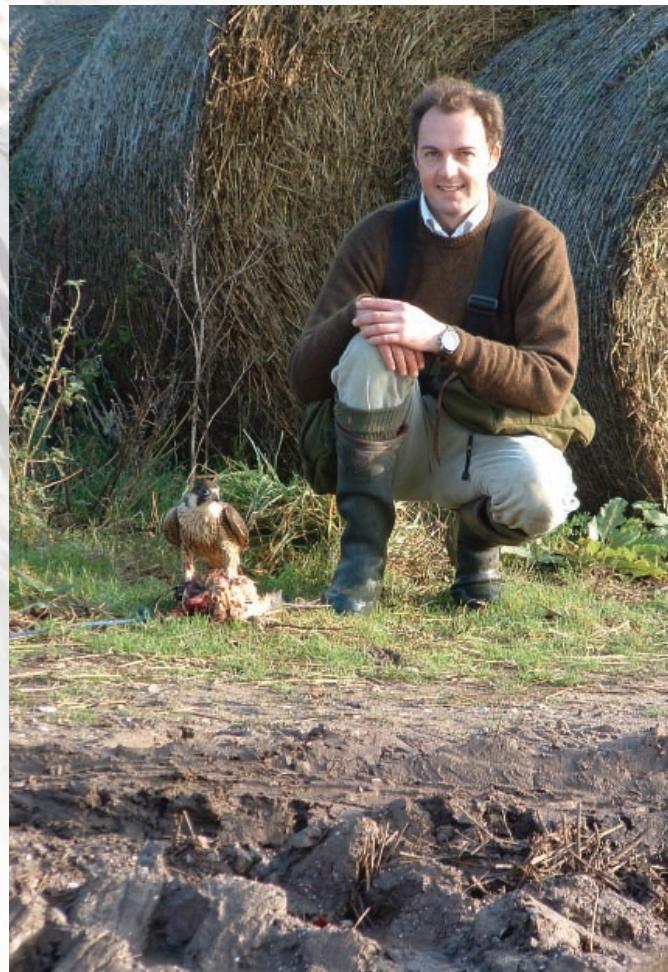
Conceptually, things have not changed hugely either. We still understand that to enjoy a successful partnership with a bird of prey, three interacting fundamentals must be balanced just right in the hawk: appetite, confidence and trust. Advances in behavioural sciences may have allowed extra understanding of the complex imprint, however the general principles remain the same. Emperor Frederick II's distillation of falconry in 'De Arte Venandi cum Avibus' was written in 1250, but it is critically acclaimed as a book on the science of falconry and ornithology, with all the same principles in practice today.

So what has modern science and technology given to falconry? An obvious major leap occurred with the development of telemetry, and we all appreciate that this radio technology has allowed modern falconers to give far greater flying freedom to their hawks than in the past. This is probably the greatest single scientific advance (bar the motor car or weighing scale) that has changed many aspects of modern falconry. Similarly, veterinary medical advances (especially antibiotics and surgery) have improved modern falconry. Microchipping for identification is becoming more widely used, and this may advance in future years. On a more practical basis, developments in disinfectants have improved hygiene and daily management, while raptor food production and storage allows simpler and more effective delivery of balanced diets.

A major scientific advance that did change modern falconry significantly, but not through constructive processes, was the development of pesticides such as DDT. These persistent chemicals,

implemented to protect human food production interests, had negative effects on non-target organisms, especially raptors. The decline of the peregrine in the 1960's had a positive influence on the development of captive breeding techniques for raptors. Again, the founding principles of developing captive breeding for conservation were established, allowing the Peregrine Fund and its allies to show the world how to conduct a successful captive propagation and wild release program using falconry principles: hardly an 'intangible' benefit? As a consequence, falconers now enjoy access to larger numbers of domestically-propagated hawks from improvements in captive breeding techniques. Despite this change, many falconers have continued access to wild birds, and there are recognised residual conservation benefits to such traditional falconry practices where wild populations are healthy and stable. Improvements in captive breeding embraced additional modern technologies: artificial insemination and sperm storage allows movement of novel genes around the world, interspecies hybrid crosses became well established, and micro-chipping may change the ways we identify our birds.

So there have been a number of scientific advances that have had direct and indirect consequences for falconry today. However, those founding principles that allow human and hawk to enjoy a unique and positive relationship have barely changed, compared to the massive technological transformations through which humans live and manage their environment today. Today, scientific 'progress' dominates the world and allows us previously unparalleled access to resources, information, communication, movement, technology and understanding. Falconry does not need to keep step with these enormous changes, but continues as an activity that allows humans to retain intimate contact with their own natural heritage, an increasingly rare phenomenon.



# OBITUARY

## WILLIAM A. BURNHAM, PH.D. 1947-2006

William A. Burnham died on 16 October 2006 after an eight-month battle with brain cancer. During his too-short life, Bill made many contributions to the field of raptor biology, including areas of captive breeding and re-introduction to restore populations of raptors. He loved Greenland and its wilderness as much as its falcons. His Masters thesis resulted from his pioneering work on the virtually unknown tundra peregrine falcon of West Greenland. He practiced the sport of falconry all his life. He trained many different kinds of raptors, both falcons and the short-winged hawks. His tireless efforts provided important support for this little-known sport.

Bill grew up in Pueblo, Colorado. He graduated from Southern Colorado State College following his first trip to Greenland. He completed an MSc in Zoology under Dr. Clayton White at Brigham Young University in 1974, and a PhD in Wildlife Biology at Colorado State University in 1984. He joined The Peregrine Fund, based at Cornell University, in 1974 to establish its western peregrine propagation facility at Fort Collins, Colorado.

In 1983, when the Peregrine Fund's eastern program at Cornell consolidated with the western operation, Burnham was placed in charge of finding a home for the new facility. He spearheaded the move to Boise, Idaho in 1984, and helped create of the Peregrine Fund's World Center for Birds of Prey there.

Bill authored more than 90 scientific papers and one book, *A Fascination with Falcons* (1997), but Bill is, however, perhaps best known as the dynamic leader of The Peregrine Fund/World Center for Birds of Prey, in Boise. Bill's tireless energy resulted in establishment of raptor research and restoration projects in various parts of the world including Panama, Madagascar, Belize, Guatemala, Pan Africa, and Asia. As Frank Bond related at Bill's memorial service, one outing had Burnham flying from Boise to the Philippines to band young at a Monkey-eating Eagle nest, some 80m up in the tropical foliage. He scaled to the nest, banded the young, and returned to his desk in Idaho 60 hours (!) later.

Burnham showed the same doggedness of purpose in Greenland, where he pioneered searches for peregrine eyries, collecting prey species samples and banding young. He put in blistering 14-hour days, stopping only to brew up his ever-present coffee over a willow twig fire. He could outwalk anyone, and still observe and photograph the myriad wonders of the low-arctic terrain and its wildlife. He became a strong advocate for wilderness, and for common sense conservation of nature. He led by example; the successes of his Peregrine Fund's raptor restoration projects have no equal.

Bill first went to Greenland in 1972, and participated for many years in the Greenland Peregrine Falcon Survey. He established the High Arctic Institute at Thule in 1993 with his son, Kurt. He became a Fellow of AINA in 1998, and was a Fellow (Nonresident) of the Explorer's Club of New York City. He received The Explorers Club's Lowell Thomas Award in 2004.

Bill spearheaded efforts to restore peregrines through captive breeding and release to the wild. The Peregrine Fund hosted a celebration of over 1000 participants in August 1999 when the federal government removed the peregrine from the endangered species list. Peregrine restoration has been described as one of the greatest conservation stories of the 20th Century. After the 1999 celebration, Bill co-edited the book *Return of the Peregrine* (Cade and Burnham, 2003), which described with outstanding beauty this magnificent accomplishment.



In autumn 2004, Bill realized a life's dream of trapping and banding gyrfalcons in East Greenland. They banded and took genetic samples from many migrants. The work continued in 2005, with other Peregrine Fund personnel.

Through his presidency of The Peregrine Fund, Bill was able to mould a strong conservation organization that has the staff and tools to survive into perpetuity, which was always his dream. He was a big man, who routinely gave credit to others for things he did.

William G. Mattox, Ph.D.  
President  
Conservation Research Foundation  
[wgmattox2@earthlink.net](mailto:wgmattox2@earthlink.net)

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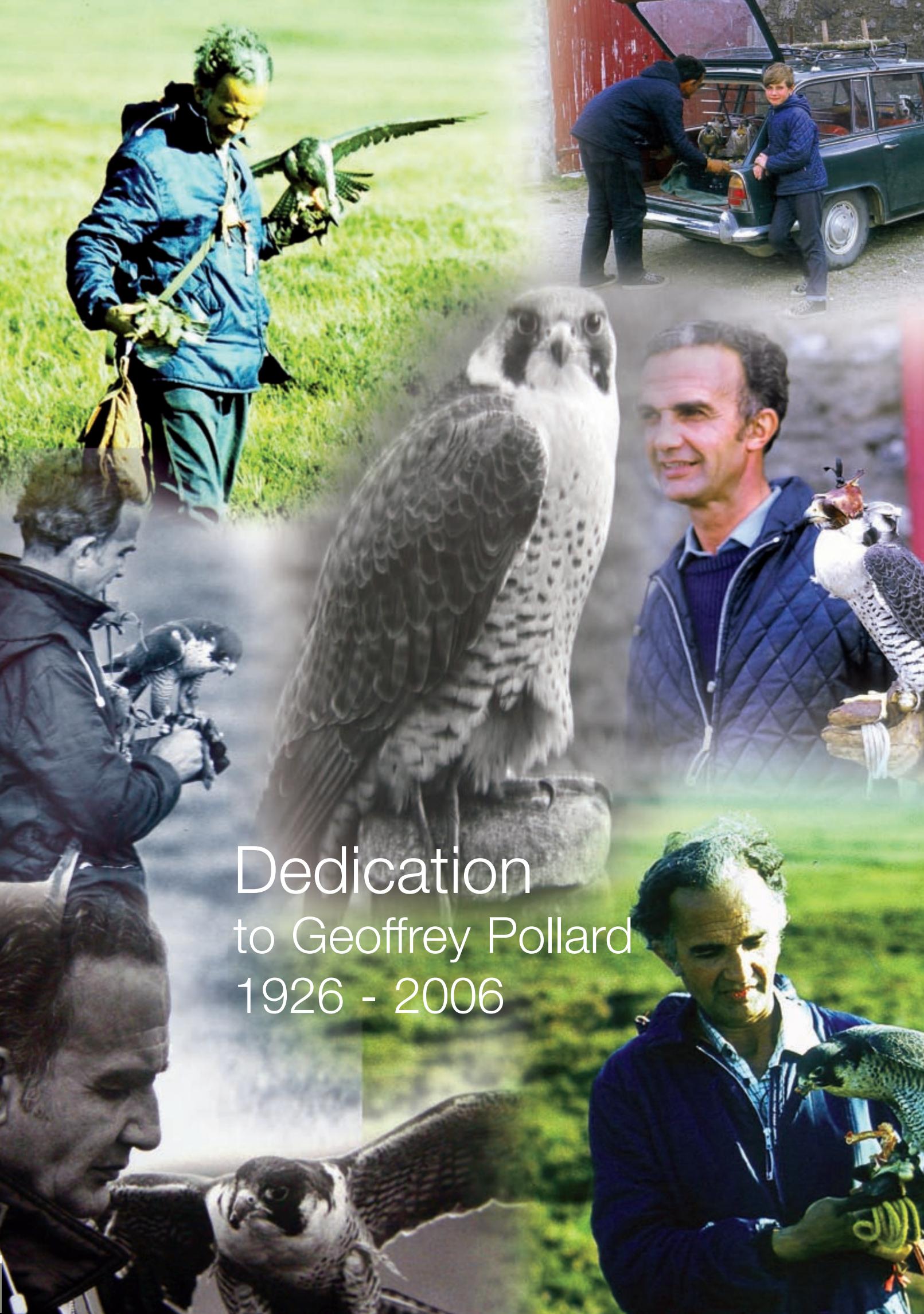
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Advertising Agency TOP,  
Poland, 87-800 Wloclawek, ul. Promienna 1A  
tel: +48 54 2309105, fax: +48 54 2358784,  
e-mail: [agencja@agencjatop.pl](mailto:agencja@agencjatop.pl), [www.agencjatop.pl](http://www.agencjatop.pl)

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A collage of five photographs featuring falcons and their handlers. The images include a man in a blue jacket holding a green and white falcon, a man in a dark jacket holding a small falcon, a large falcon perched on a gloved hand, a man in a blue vest holding a falcon, and a man in a blue jacket holding a falcon. The background shows a grassy field and a red building.

Dedication  
to Geoffrey Pollard  
1926 - 2006

