I met Christian first about 46 years ago when starting falconry in the early-sixties. He was flying a sparrow-hawk. Due to professional reasons, he was to move to Brussels which prevented him from keeping hawks in the city. Despite the fact that he could no longer fly hawks, Christian engaged himself in the defence of falconry and dedicated his life to the survival of our art. Christian was a passionate and gripping man, interested in all aspects of nature. Very tolerant.

In the early seventies he travelled around India, which soon became a passion (he went in India every year for tens of years) from where he got his typical ‘maharajah’ look.

Christian was elected president of the Belgian Falcons Association - ‘Club Marie de Bourgogne’ - in 1971 and served as president for more than 30 years. During his presidency, Belgian falconry gained legal recognition and Belgian falconers enjoy one of the best falconry legislations in Europe.

Christian has been associated with the IAF throughout its entire history starting with the draft of its constitution. He was elected president of the IAF in 1984 serving until 1998, and was still member of the Advisory Committee where his open mindedness, tolerance, diplomacy and experience were highly appreciated.

Christian was driven by a fascination of nature and was a true natural historian, which gave him an immense credibility when defending the case of falcons and falconry. He was well known and held in high regard by those that knew him.

His passing is an enormous loss to falconers and hunters worldwide. He is survived by his partner Kathou, who he met in his twilight years.

Thank you Christian for all what you did for falconry. We lose a friend – we’ll miss you.

Patrick Morel.
Editors Forward

This year has proved to be a mixture of emotions for members of IAF with the sad loss of seven well known individuals from our community while concurrently we have enjoyed the satisfaction of some amazing success.

Falconers are usually quite individual people and may be challenging company for all those involved in their way of life. We are in reality highly dependent upon each other and where controversy rages a little thought reveals another perspective. For members of IAF our organization is one of the most noticeable examples of those better aspects of our nature prevailing over a long period of time.

When birds of prey faced their greatest threat in the pesticide crisis, falconers were among the first to notice an environmental disaster and in the face of big business interests and political process at its worst, it was the falconry community who came together and acted to create solutions. Many individuals were involved with an array of talents so that today we can look with pride at the result of falconer’s efforts worldwide – most obviously it can be seen in the creation of such organizations as the Peregrine Fund, the work of many of the major clubs like BFC, ANFA and DPA, and the various archives of historical records. Individuals had the courage and determination to act – for many it became our way of life.

I think it was in 1986 I met Jim Willmarth at a NAFA meet in Kearney Nebraska. I knew nobody at the meeting and was standing on the motel stairwell overlooking the weathering lawn watching falconers moving around with hawks, dogs and general social courtesies - did anybody strike a chord in me? Jim’s manner was so much in harmony with his hawk, with interest in his friends his resonance simply could not be missed - his generosity as we met made my welcome unforgettable.

Indeed this has been a year of change and I miss each of my friends.

One of the consequences of their lifelong commitment and effort is to have brought recognition and major progress both for falconry and in the world of raptor conservation. In this past year we have seen the amazing achievement of inscription for the intangible cultural heritage of falconry by UNESCO 31 different countries: a joint submission in fulfillment of the initiative of IAF which was expanded and coordinated by the sad death of our most well known long serving president of IAF from 1985 to 1998 Christian de Coune. I worked with Christian over many years from a difficult start when he heard me to be a ‘loose cannon’ in my efforts to recruit NAFA to our membership. He was ever a gentleman with his heart in our community and we worked together through many conferences all around the world as understanding between us grew on a personal level until as he put it ‘time has done its work and we are now friends’.

During his final weeks, at a time of great illness, my friend Jim Willmarth asked me to print him a hard copy of the UNESCO announcement so that he could ‘pin it above his bed’ during his last days.

- Eckart was similarly delighted by this achievement to which his whole experience in lifelong falconry had been focused – and then most recently, at his 70th birthday party in the sunshine on the lawn at Le Cocheret, Christian de Coune was thrilled at this achievement in culmination of his lifelong dedication to our support. People at the heart of our sport today carry similar feelings – amongst our contributions in this edition of our Journal, Professor Matt Gage brings us a view of classic red grouse hawking and, from the opposite hemisphere in South Africa, an article by A Mullar of Sandgrouse hawking, one of the most challenging quarry species on the planet - who knows where our ongoing devotion will lead in the future as we each maintain the enduring cultural values of falconry in our communities?

This edition we recognize their passing in some celebration of their lives and success.

For members of IAF our organization is one of the most noticeable examples of those better aspects of our nature prevailing over a long period of time. Indeed this has been a year of change and I miss each of my friends.

One of the consequences of their lifelong commitment and effort is to have brought recognition and major progress both for falconry and in the world of raptor conservation. In this past year we have seen the amazing achievement of inscription for the intangible cultural heritage of falconry by UNESCO 31 different countries: a joint submission in fulfillment of the initiative of IAF which was expanded and coordinated by the sad death of our most well known long serving president of IAF from 1985 to 1998 Christian de Coune. I worked with Christian over many years from a difficult start when he heard me to be a ‘loose cannon’ in my efforts to recruit NAFA to our membership. He was ever a gentleman with his heart in our community and we worked together through many conferences all around the world as understanding between us grew on a personal level until as he put it ‘time has done its work and we are now friends’.

One of the consequences of their lifelong commitment and effort is to have brought recognition and major progress both for falconry and in the world of raptor conservation. In this past year we have seen the amazing achievement of inscription for the intangible cultural heritage of falconry by UNESCO 31 different countries: a joint submission in fulfillment of the initiative of IAF which was expanded and coordinated by the sad death of our most well known long serving president of IAF from 1985 to 1998 Christian de Coune. I worked with Christian over many years from a difficult start when he heard me to be a ‘loose cannon’ in my efforts to recruit NAFA to our membership. He was ever a gentleman with his heart in our community and we worked together through many conferences all around the world as understanding between us grew on a personal level until as he put it ‘time has done its work and we are now friends’.

During his final weeks, at a time of great illness, my friend Jim Willmarth asked me to print him a hard copy of the UNESCO announcement so that he could ‘pin it above his bed’ during his last days.

- Eckart was similarly delighted by this achievement to which his whole experience in lifelong falconry had been focused – and then most recently, at his 70th birthday party in the sunshine on the lawn at Le Cocheret, Christian de Coune was thrilled at this achievement in culmination of his lifelong dedication to our support. People at the heart of our sport today carry similar feelings – amongst our contributions in this edition of our Journal, Professor Matt Gage brings us a view of classic red grouse hawking and, from the opposite hemisphere in South Africa, an article by A Mullar of Sandgrouse hawking, one of the most challenging quarry species on the planet - who knows where our ongoing devotion will lead in the future as we each maintain the enduring cultural values of falconry in our communities?
IAF PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE 2011
Frank M. Bond

Recently, I returned from a trip to Europe where I was kindly invited to make presentations to the Real Gremio de Halconerios del Reino de España in Madrid, to the large gathering celebrating the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the Falconry and Cigarmakers Museum in Valkenswaard, Holland, and finally to a meeting of the British Falconers’ Club’s Council. I focused on the magnificent success with UNESCO’s recognition of falconry as an intangible cultural heritage of humanity. On November 16, 2010, a date to forever remember, in Nairobi, Kenya, the Joint Submission led by the Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage on behalf of eleven nations was celebrated with a standing ovation after the final vote was taken. It was the largest ever multi-national file submitted to UNESCO, and the example by which all future submissions will be measured.

Earlier in 2010, UNESCO accredited the IAF as its international advisory NGO for the broader areas of falconry and conservation. This new status requires the IAF to perpetuate and support falconry and falconry heritage, and to report our efforts periodically to UNESCO.

So many people from throughout the world merit recognition and deserve our deepest respect for the efforts to achieve this UNESCO success. However, here I give special recognition to a real visionary, the late President of the UAE, H.H. Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al Nahyan. Ahead of his time, thinking of the future of falconry in his own society, he assembled falconers around the world in 1976 to discuss the heritage of falconry. Now his visionary legacy is in hand for posterity, in large part due to the generosity of his nation, and the incredible work of so many.

Internally, the IAF is going through a period of introspection to determine how it will take a position to protect falconry globally on a proactive basis. We are developing a new business plan model for the IAF’s future. I have had the pleasure of presenting draft versions to the Advisory Committee, the Council of Delegates, and several of our Member Organizations. It has stirred debate; participants have wondered how to fund it; but almost all recognize that the IAF must pool resources to face the challenges to falconry in the future. For the IAF’s almost 45 years in existence, we have relied on the dedicated volunteers to lead and work for the IAF. At the top of my list for his single-minded dedication, I point to Christian De Coune, a striking, relentless defender of falconry during his fourteen years as president. Yet, now in a fast-paced, electronic world of communication, I believe that we will need to have professional staff to help the elected leadership that will make it possible for many more falconers around the world to assume leadership roles in the IAF to guide policy decision-making without having to undertake the day-to-day operations. I will have more to report to the Council of Delegates at our next AGM.

Just recently, we had one of the best among us pass on. Eckart Schormair of Germany, first of all, was a dedicated, passionate falconer, an old-style gentleman, a wonderful companion. In particular, he dedicated his life to serving his own DFO and to representing it admirably by serving in various positions within the IAF. He attended our AGMs and he was generous with his personal support of IAF goals. On behalf of the world falconry community, I salute Eckart Schormair for his enthusiastic support of our deep passion.

Our dear friend and the longest serving President of the IAF, Christian De Coune, sadly passed away in September, not long after his seventieth birthday. Christian was the icon of representation of world falconry, as he had the time and resources to devote himself completely to our passion through most of the years of his adult life. He had been associated with the IAF throughout its entire history. During his presidency he literally did everything for the association himself, from pulling together the AGMS, preparing the annual newsletter, responding to falconry challenges throughout the world, and attending all of the international conventions and meetings of the conference of the parties; he continued to be our representative at most of these meetings even until this summer. It was during his presidency that he oversaw the initial surge in growth of the IAF from a relatively smaller organization representing largely European falconry clubs to one of worldwide significance. Christian will always be remembered as falconry’s ambassador, a memorable, striking figure, and as an uncompromising advocate for us in the face of our detractors. I had a number of opportunities to spend time alone with him; like you, I will miss my friend.

Finally, I take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank our Editor, Tony Crosswell, for once again producing another spectacular Journal. He is supported by his daughter, Tanya Betts, for the layout and art to make the Journal a publication without peer. Because of the focus on the UNESCO recognition, this is a special edition. For many readers, they see the IAF through this magnificent publication.

I look forward to meeting all of our colleagues in December at the IAF AGM held in conjunction with the Festival of Falconry in Abu Dhabi. Please join us; it promises to be a spectacular event.

Frank M. Bond
President
June 2011
Santa Fe, New Mexico
Red Grouse Hawking

By Professor Matt Gage

In the early 1980s, falconry was practiced by a tiny minority in Britain. Most of us with a fierce desire for the art had to connect through literature or bird-watching.

Over and over, I read every falconry or raptor book I could get my hands on, and spent hours watching wild raptors, with an obsessed desire that only the die-hard readers of this article will understand.

For me, the ultimate falconry dream had to be hunting high-flying peregrines over an English pointer at red grouse. In post-DDT Britain, getting a buzzard to fly was enough of a challenge, let alone a noble peregrine, so I resigned my pipe dream to the bottom drawer labelled ‘sheer fantasy’.

But things got much better through the nineties. Captive breeding took off, equipment and knowledge became more accessible, and it started to seem possible to practice falconry to a good standard in conjunction with other less eccentric activities, like having a job or a family. I played dabbled on a couple of small patches of heather, whom was an experienced grouse fanatic, and we northern Scotland with a couple of friends, one of whom was an experienced grouse fanatic, and we dabbled on a couple of small patches of heather, and even saw one or two grouse. Despite the lack of game and shortness of time, I was hooked on the opportunities that were there, and returned to the balmy south with a gameplan in my head. After writing a lot of letters of enquiry to landowners, I was fortunate enough to be offered a let on a moor in Caithness, right in the heart of gamehawking Flow country at the very top of Scotland. I’ve returned to this very special place every year since, and also been lucky enough to enjoy extra opportunities through the season on some Yorkshire moors. There is always more to learn and discover in falconry, but here are some thoughts for the budding grouse tyro.

Finding a moor

Ask most landowners why they own and run a grouse moor, and financial returns will be quite low on the list they mostly do it for love, not money. People who make a living from running grouse moors are the unsung – even bad-mouthed - heroes of conservation of the British uplands, a unique habitat in its own content...
A good day’s hunting:

**Freddy Mackay, 50 years of highland keeping and upland conservation, still going strong.**

Grouse makes persist for a few weeks so give hints on the population size.

...ms, there isn’t much opportunity for mishap, but much of the upland sporting culture is built around rigorous cooperation between estates, and a view towards sustainability in the longer term. Because of this, practices like greedy bag-filling, unseemly behaviour to the quarry, straying over matches, racing on the hill tracks, earnest hawks and dogs, disrespect to the accommodation, are just a few of the things that vex the protectors of the grouse and traditional highland sport. Our laird has actually descended with his cheque book on (shooting) miscreants, provided a refund, and sent them packing.

So the first thing to realise is that it’s difficult, but not impossible, to find a good grouse moor that will allow falconry. If you manage to locate a moor with a possible agreement so you for falconry, what should you look out for? Naturally, you will be interested in the grouse population, and this will depend on whether you’re happy to walk all day for a couple of points, or whether you want ten points in a short walk from the Range Rover, and home in time for tea and crumpets. Here, financial considerations will creep in because a well-stocked moor will cost you more because of competition with the shooting market. If the moor has been shot hard, but still carries enough grouse for a hawking let, the birds could still be very jumpy and difficult to manage for nice flights off a point. Enlightened estate owners will realise that falconers take much much smaller bags than guns, and create less disturbance, so you could get lucky and be allowed onto a moor that has a few grouse and a bit of early shooting. This has worked fine for me. Be wary of very low grouse numbers, and don’t let your enthusiasm run away too much. Walking and running dogs all day for a single point on a jump, barren pair is no fun after a week. Tempers get strained, dogs and hawks get disillusioned, and it’s no good for the moor to hunt out the last pairs. By the same token that you get bad apples in the falconry barrel, so too can the odd moor owner think it’s acceptable to let a barren moor; if you’re unsure, see if you can walk the moor and look out for grouse marks and check heather quality, both of which tell you yes or no. Another tradition that is widely upheld on Scottish grouse moors, is that last year’s tenant (assuming all went well) is usually offered the next season’s let first. This means that both parties have a responsibility; the landlord because you get offered first refusal, but also the tenant because if you decide on a year out if the grouse are looking bad, you may well be out permanently. You’ve therefore got to be prepared to take the good years and the bad if you want to keep returning.

If your detective work and diplomacy are on track, next, let’s get a bit more particular in case you have a choice (which is unlikely). Relief is important on a moor, and steep sides and deep ravines (where grouse will often head) can make for hard walking and tricky tracking. Aspect can be important too, with many upland estates having some uplands helping, but nary downswoards spoiling a beat. If the moor is at high elevation, low cloud can be a problem; if it’s at low elevation, check could be a nuisance, and fencing more so. What’s the eagle situation like? This is becoming a real problem now. What are the neighbours like, and do they shoot hard? Unfortunately incidents have happened. If grouse are at low density, how big is the estate? What is the accommodation like for dogs and hawks? Is there a safe area to shoot? Are there problems with the accommodation like for dogs and hawks? Is there a safe area to shoot? Are there problems with the accommodation like for dogs and hawks? Is there a safe area to shoot? Are there problems with...
Late summer grouse hawking: great fun with Roger Upton, Tristan Lougher, Gus Gough and Robert Hutchinson, and no shortage of dogs.

The red grouse is a type of willow grouse, and is endemic to the British uplands. Adult pairs form territories, and grouse are species as a by-product of grouse moor maintenance and are widely-recognised conservation benefits to other upland species as a by-product of grouse moor maintenance and management. Adult pairs form territories, and grouse are generally not big movers from their area of birth, although this depends on population density, and severe weather will see them packing up and moving to the lower ground in search of food and respite from the permafrost. Being a ground-nesting species that is adapted to living in upland areas with generally low predator numbers, it is especially vulnerable to generalist predators like foxes, corvids and hawks. Raptors are protected in the UK, but other predators are controlled to improve survival of young grouse. For the first two weeks after hatch, grouse chicks supplement their diet with invertebrates, which are essential for growth. Despite this somewhat monotonous diet, grouse are excellent to eat mature them in the fridge for a few days, and then pan-fry them hard for 5 minutes followed by a 12 minute roast in a very hot oven. Serve them up with red cabbage, roast potatoes, and a nice Chianti, and make sure you have a good cook in your team who can do this so perfectly!

Back to the management, heather patches are burnt regularly to create a patchwork of young, medium and old growth that provides the right combination of nutrition and cover, and maximises the number of available territories per acre. Heather beetle can be a particular problem on damper grouse moors: eggs are laid in spaghnum, and the beetle larvae eat the growing heather shoots. Whole miles of moorland can be devastated by this pest, leaving behind red or grey stands of heather that were once green and purple. The beetle’s main predator is a tiny parasitic wasp, so the beetle outbreaks tend to cycle as a result. Heather can recover after being “beetled”, but it takes a couple of years, and predisposes the ground to unwanted spread of Molinia grasses, which can dominate the heather and reduce the grouse food supply. Grazing by sheep and deer also needs a careful balance to limit the spread of grasses, and protect the heather. On top of all this, grouse populations can suffer disease cycles when maintained at high density, with the strongyle gut nematode and louping ill from ticks being major constraints of population health. Despite these pressures, it is remarkable how good management can produce a bumper crop of grouse on productive moors. Many of the driven moors shoot thousands of brace each season. In 1888, Lord Walsingham is famous for shooting 1070 birds in a single day in 1888 on Blubberhouses moor in Yorkshire (which is a terrible waste of good grouse if you’re a gamehawker, and enough to keep most of us happy for a falconry lifetime!)

Dogs
Good dogs are the makers of grouse hawking, so don’t treat this part of the team lightly. The majority of moors demand pointing dogs to allow the sport to happen. Grouse are secretive, ground-loving game birds, so spotting or walking is a gamehawker, and enough to keep most of us happy for a falconry lifetime! final conclusion is “You’ll never beat the midge... NEVER!” As soon as the wind drops, midges will be up and out of the damp heather, and they make life outside almost intolerable for man and beast. Hawks must not be left on weathering lawns, or you will return to find them in a state of hysteria with swollen eyelids, and ceres and feet bitten. The same goes for dogs in outside kennels. Hawking in calm conditions is tolerable as long as you keep moving, but a kill will see your hawking buddies desert you as you stand and scratch and swear, while you try and get your star to take her reward in a hawking buddies desert you as you stand and scratch and swear, while you try and get your star to take her reward in a
Autumn 2011   •  International Journal of Falconry

Good dogs allow the whole operation, so treat them royally.

looking to flush the grouse when the dog won’t move, makes for a tight-holding falcon, as well as distracting enjoyment from the falcon’s flight.

There are lots of views on how to create a good pointer, but they don’t train themselves, and however do it you will have a fantastic hunting companion if you create a dog that covers a ground intelligently and independently, looks back at you occasionally, and will turn, stop, or return on your command. If he drops deeper when working a downwind beat, and on finding birds will work round grouse carefully, and then hold a point for as long as it takes you to find or reach him, or your falcon to make pitch and position, then even better. Finally, if he will have birds in the air exactly when you give him a quiet ‘get ‘em up’, then you’re close to greater perfection. Of course a drop-to flush is nice too, but we’re all there to enjoy ourselves a bit. Good dogs are thelynphys of grouse flushing, so make the effort, and don’t be reliant on just one dog. Make sure the runners are getting big meals of good food, and a comfortable, warm, undisturbed bed for rest. If one dog is being used heavily, give him a whole day off every so often to recuperate. Encourage the use of young dogs in your team to let them learn, even if it means your own flight isn’t perfectly controlled. Enjoy your dogs, and marvel at their abilities and dedicated service!

Hawks

Most of us will have our own ideas for what makes an ideal gamehawk. For me, a good tiercel peregrine is hard to beat as a stylish match for grouse, and about matched for weight. Most well-bred pointers and setters will want to cover the ground once fit, so prepare them before the trip with running over soft but uneven and challenging ground; this is important for hardening pads too. The next task is to ensure that they are at least half of the beauty and excitement of the whole art. To see a fine English pointer or setter working a moor at great distance, with complete and professional independence is a sight and activity to behold. Our dogs have to run big to cover large areas after grouse at quite low densities, and they have to wait to do this all afternoon, and again tomorrow. We once took out an ex-English international footballer, who was mesmerised by the stamina and fitness of just dogs as they coursed for hours over hill and dale on boggy ground, before looking calmly onto point. Your dogs might need to cover miles and miles of uneven ground to find grouse, so be wary if you’re unsure of their ranging abilities. HPB breeds might seem fast and energetic as they romp across the low ground meadows, but up on the hill the landscape and smelscape are different, I’ve seen dogs that work fine over short bears on the low ground simply lose interest or energy after 30 minutes of romping about on heather, where the smelscape is relatively monotonous and game is widely dispersed. Most well-bred pointers and setters will want to cover the ground once fit, so prepare them before the trip with running over soft but uneven and challenging ground; this is important for hardening pads too. The next task is to ensure that they point and flush without error, so the sport and spectacle can be enjoyed. Head-heads that charge in can spoil a day, though fake-pointers are worse. So make sure your dogs don’t just point, they point game, and then hold the point until you’re ready to serve the hawk. Plenty of exposure to the right game in the right conditions with your sensible control will make a great dog, so don’t cut corners. Partridge are probably better to expose dogs to in preparation for grouse, because shifting pheasants can encourage creeping. Sticky dogs are not as bad as creepers or charges in, as long as they’re pointing game; but the nicest flights can be engineered with a staunch dog that flushes on the button from a quiet command. Lots of shouting at the dog to stop creeping, or running about

and stores vacantly at its owner. Others will fly but refuse to stoop or become quickly disillusioned if they don’t succeed at the strange new game. Grouse are dark and can tightly hug the contours against a dark background, which can be offsetting for some hawks, especially if the light is low and this is all very new. Repeated dumping lessons into the heather in front of your stooping falcon seems to put off some birds from sacrificing their pitch, especially when you’re thinking ‘where is my partridge?’ So see if you can get a day or two on the heather before you plan your grand tour, and take up eyasses to train on the moor from the start. Better still, if you can catch a grouse, allow a long pack and feed-up, and even sanction the next day, and you’ll be well on the way to a committed grouse hawk.

Falcons

Although hawking on your own in the wild country of northern Scotland is a wonderful experience, you’ll likely be flying with other falconers to share the fun, and expense! Like dogs and hawks, physical fitness of all the team is important for grouse hawking as you may have to walk miles each day over rough terrain for your sport. Teamwork on the hill and in the lodge is really important, and all the while respecting the ground and the sport. There might be a tendency to push things, like game bags, straying over mantles, or talking about back on the same ground after a previous covert. The hills have eyes, so if you want to return next year, or care about the good name of good falconry, then all of the group need to have the same careful attitudes. The dynamic within the hawking team is also very important. Gamehawkers can be a funny lot, evidenced by a quick glance through the ridiculous arguments and clashes on any web forum, so be careful if you don’t want competitiveness or jealousy to spoil your holiday. Days out with Roger and Mark Upton exemplify to me how a positive and polite attitude keeps everyone happy, and returning year after year to enjoy great sport. Even when things go badly wrong, there is never any judgemental sniping, just an acceptance that things don’t always go right, and celebrations when they do. Personalities are under bigger pressure up there when falconers are away from home and indulging in emotionally-charged activities! Add a good splash of alcohol and some lighthearted, and things can turn sour over a week or two, which is the last thing you want on holiday. If grouse are thin on the ground, or hawks or dogs aren’t flying or working to expectations, then we can all get a bit obsessive, so easy-going and positive attitudes are very important to stop the gloves flying about! When a deep Atlantic low comes past, then the cabin fever can really test the group dynamic.

Last year we endured a storm that ripped at the heather for four days, even preventing us from weatherhawking. There was a lot of putting on and tackling tree branches to see
At the end of the day: Dave Myatt, Bob Green and Nick Curry.
tracking hawks in this huge landscape where roads might be few and far-between. Knotting preparation will help a bit to encourage climbing, and can be a useful recall tool across those wide spaces of the uplands. In the early days, don't be too worried about position over the point: aim to flush when she is at her highest, and this will be your critical call. While she's learning the game, it's far better to have her high and out to the side, than directly overhead but low. With experience, it's usually best to load her well and flush early in while she's still pumping, rather than waiting too long and watching her go 'floaty'. As long as she is high enough to swoop down and put in a chance on the fleeting grouse, then you are making great progress. Hawks quickly learn what the dog is about and creeping round the point in that habitual manner makes everything very predictable to your hawk, which is what you don't want. Try and avoid obvious cues of how the flight and flush are going to happen. Of course you can't blame the hawk, as she thinks that the closer she is to the point, and just a bit upwind, is the best place to catch a grouse. A few downturned flushes off the point into the falcon’s feet before the grouse get properly going will not encourage those big pitches. Grouse can be caught this way if your dog is good and you get the timing just right, so be wary of this unless you want a high flyer my advice would be to make things testing to start with if there are opportunities ahead. On the other hand, if your hawk needs some killing confidence, then it’s your call. Something that can affirm tight flying even further, is re-flushing grouse that have dived into cover if the hawk is tight on their tail. Sometimes it can help to station people during the flight near patches of likely cover, like streams, bags or reed beds to discourage dumping in the first place. Again, it’ll be your call whether to re-flush a grouse, because sometimes it will do Inshlunch and provide a second sporting spectacle, and might even be needed to encourage the chances of a kill for a rookie that has had a run of bad luck, or a time when things are otherwise quiet. Hawking grouse in the early stages, and you will reap the investment later on. On the other hand, if your hawk needs some killing confidence, then it’s your call. Grouse know their patch: a damaged bird hides down a deep hole in the middle of the moor.

Grouse know their patch: a damaged bird hides down a deep hole in the middle of the moor.

for a good distance by a grouse. If my falcon has flown high and done everything right, and the grouse drops before she gets down to have a crack at it, then I will usually encourage a return and repeat attempt. I realise that this makes her a bit less obedient to the lure. Often, grouse will simply repeat the dump, especially if there is appropriate cover about, and if you suspect this is going to be the case then it’s a good policy to re-flush the grouse into the wind when the hawk is out of position downwind, which should encourage the grouse to fly to escape. At least then the hawk is beaten fairly, and it’s a good lesson. Roger Upton likens dumping grouse to naughty street kids who know where all the hidey holes are, and scuttle down them under tight pressure! It’s amazing where grouse will escape: down holes, under hanging bags, up to their nests in streams. These tactics obviously help escape from wild peregrines. Hopefully you won’t see too much of this and the grouse will outfly your hawk and encourage her to mount even higher and swoop even faster next time. By the time you get to the end of your trip, everything should be in full swing, and you’re hopefully enjoying great sport and everything will go right on your last day. Then it’s time to tip the keeper well if things have gone great, pack up your kit, and clean out the cottage (hopefully you’ll have a few grouse feathers to sweep up). Unfortunatly it’s a time to reflect... at least there might still be the remnants of a summer further south.

The future
Most of the heather uplands are a semi-natural habitat that was originally created for grouse shooting. As the general public becomes increasingly detached from nature and field sports, so the demand for this habitat has waned further north. Three-quarters of the world’s heather moorland is in the UK, but we have presided over the loss of almost a quarter of our heathery habitat in the last 50 years as we plough it up and plant forestry monocultures, dig out the peat, or over-graze it. The heather uplands also probably face a fairly bleak longer-term future because of climate change, being especially vulnerable habitat in that regard. Despite this negativity, we are some way off these situations, and there is ample opportunity for the low-impact sport of falconry to contribute to the maintenance of grouse moors, as long as we maintain a positive profile of ourselves among moorland land and keepers. If there is a humbling head of grouse after a bit of shooting, then winter grouse hawking parties might also allow a moor and cottage some extra income at a time when things are otherwise quiet. Hawking grouse in the uplands is hard work on many levels, but the rewards are great if you can crack it. For me, the uplands remain one of the last wildernesses in the UK where you might genuinely catch a grouse that had never seen a sign of human activity before your dog appeared over the ridge.
It is midwinter in the Western Free State; the season has dampened the spirit of the veldt and all the living things in it. Thus the silence that surrounds me, it is as if all living things are resting after the busy summer and are now dreading the cold night that approaches from the east. An energetic rush from a hooded falcon on the cordon disturbs the silence for a few seconds and holds promise to me of the events that will shortly follow. Then the familiar but faint sound cuts through the silence of the cold winter afternoon. A high pitched “...took, took, took...” of Namaqua Sandgrouse is repeated at five second intervals and is getting clearer on every repetition. The sound puts Julius, my English pointer in an excited pointer tremble that gets amplified to a vibrating sound by the load box of the Land Cruiser, so much so that I find it hard to pinpoint the direction of the sound. Thus the silence that surrounds me, it is as if all living things have been brewing in my chest all afternoon since I heard the first sandgrouse - a diagnostic symptom of ‘sandgrouse fever’. The sandgrouse leave the first 30 meters high but as soon as their bodies become horizontal, their small wings and big motors start working for them. I turn my eyes skyward and see the tiercel halfway down, stooping, aligning, stooping, and adjusting and then leveling off with a hissing sound, 60 meters behind the flushing sandgrouse now about 200 meters away from me. The gap is closed in an instant and all detail disappears in a flurry of wings, then the ripping sound of high speed contact between sandgrouse and falcon. With held breath I see my tiercel pull up with a sandgrouse in his talons but before my breath can be expressed into a victory cry, the sandgrouse shrugs loose and the tail-chase is on. I scream out of frustration for I know the sandgrouse is gone. Although evidently hurt by the bind, the sandgrouse manage to stay close by the grouse’s position. Checking again and again for something recognizable in the direction at low altitude.

The vehicle to cast off in the opposite direction of the grouse to prevent a premature flush should the falcon fly straight in their direction at low altitude.

On my outstretched arm sits an eyass African peregrine tiercel, breast feathers quivering from muscles readying for the flight and eyes gazing across the field looking for opportunity. A mute and good rouse completes the ceremony. Wings already open the falcon glances towards my face with indignant eyes that says; “Who the hell are you?” - off he goes. “Vlieg, bloem”, “I matter and take position on the line I show in the sand with my boot to get the direction of the sandgrouse. With Julius at heel I slowly set of towards the sandgrouse, sure of my direction, distance and beacons that will enable me to find them.

Halfway to the grouse the falcon has climbed to a respectable height of about 600 feet, I proceed and feel my tension and excitement increasing with every step I take. Fifty meters to go and I check on the falcon again. Where is he? Is he after some check? Julius here!! A sigh of relief as I spot him almost directly above at about a thousand feet. Without caution I walk forward for the falcon is in position. Twenty meters to go and I check on the falcon again, his position is perfect, not directly overhead but to my left at a seventy degree angle. Not willing to let another second go by and leave this scenario shrouded, I rush forward shouting and clapping hands. Nothing happens. Where did they go? I wheel around to check my distance from the vehicle and spot Julius rock solid on point 10 meters behind and 3 meters from my tracks. Without hesitation I rush in again - an explosion of wings and a couple of sandgrouse take to the air. I get out a barbaric falconers’ cry, which has been brewing in my chest all afternoon since I heard the first sandgrouse - a diagnostic symptom of ‘sandgrouse fever’. The sandgrouse leave the first 30 meters high but as soon as their bodies become horizontal, their small wings and big motors start working for them. I turn my eyes skyward and meet the tiercel halfway down, stooping, aligning, stooping, and adjusting and then leveling off with a hissing sound, 60 meters behind the flying sandgrouse now about 200 meters away from me. The gap is closed in an instant and all detail disappears in a flurry of wings, then the ripping sound of high speed contact between sandgrouse and falcon. With held breath I see my tiercel pull up with a sandgrouse in his talons but before my breath can be expressed into a victory cry, the sandgrouse shrugs loose and the tail-chase is on. I scream out of frustration for I know the sandgrouse is gone. Although evidently hurt by the bind, the sandgrouse manage to stay ahead of the falcon for as far as my eyes can follow in the fading light.

With tenacity out and working for a while I see the tiercel remaining low over the ground and slightly close by. As I get to him I see the look in his eyes has changed from proud and indignant to perplexed and insecure. How do I build on this? How can I reward him for his great effort? Frustrated I toss him I see the look in his eyes has changed from proud and indignant to perplexed and insecure. How do I build on this? How can I reward him for his great effort? Frustrated I toss

It is not about ‘the kill’.
Jim Willmarth

Even though Jim and I were both from New Mexico we met first at the 1966 Centerville, South Dakota NAFA Meet. It was the first meet for both of us. He then visited me in 1967 in Tucson, Arizona where I was in graduate school; I recall that he was flying a prairie at the time. He had more falconry experience than I had then.

We stayed connected sporadically through the years when he began working for The Peregrine Fund. Tony Crosswell really reunited us when Tony lived in New Mexico for a couple of years and through our common interest in red setters, given to us by Tony.

Jim was a falconers’ falconer and conservationist. He was gifted, and because he kept his birds so long, he understood the relationship as well as anyone. Jim was known for his tenacity. When Bill Burnham, President of The Peregrine Fund, had tough jobs to do in the field, he sent Jim to build raptor facilities in remote locations in Pakistan and Hawaii, to trap gyrs with others in Greenland, to be one of the experienced field biologists at Vermillion Cliffs. He was a gifted photographer and cinematographer.

I called Jim from my cell phone driving between Santa Rosa and Fort Sumner (in New Mexico) last December. We spoke of duck hawking; he described every duck pond and memorable flights along that stretch of the road. I told him how many ducks were on each pond ready for him to slip his hybrid. He was delighted. It was our last meaningful conversation.

Some things never change, but now Jim is in our memory.

Frank M. Bond

In the following pages we celebrate the life of a quietly unassuming man who was remarkable in his achievements and left his impression on everyone whose lives he touched. He leaves a lasting legacy not only with falconers worldwide but those whose lives he entered but for a brief moment, in his tireless work and education to the public in his role with the Peregrine Fund.
Jim got involved in falconry in 1955. He began working with The Peregrine Fund in 1980. Little did he know that he was about to take his life with raptors in a new direction.

Jim started at the most difficult Peregrine hack site, named on the map Death Canyon, in Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming. Jim showed up fresh from New Mexico in street shoes. After a two-hour hike straight up the mountain, Jim's shoes were literally falling off of his feet. The crew planned to set up another camp and Jim volunteered to do that as well, even though he was by now half barefooted. Everyone learned a lot about Jim at that moment. He did a tremendous job that summer and became part of the Peregrine Fund family at once.

In 1984, Jim Weaver called on Jim to help construct The Peregrine Fund's new breeding facility in Boise, Idaho. Jim put his construction talent to work and performed flawlessly as usual. As the Peregrine release work grew up, Jim worked as a release assistant for 11 years until The Peregrine Fund finished releasing Peregrines in 1997. All of the releases took place during the spring and summer months. During the off-season Jim had other jobs and pursued the sport of falconry. Jim's close friend Anthony Crosswell from England wrote a few words about the time they spent together hawking:

"We bought and shared a house together in Albuquerque in 1990 and lived together for that season hawking all over the Midwest out of a trailer. We trapped my Prairie, flew it along with our Peregrines and Jim's hybrid, Gremlin. We worked with USFWS biologists. No matter how many times they attempted to correct Jim, he always called them simply "Forest Service" (which irritated them to no end). Jim was fearless. I was startled awake by Jim's scream. That very spider had come out the wall in another location and ran right across Jim's face. Jim was at war with those spiders the rest of his life.

Jim immediately got up and stuffed a sock into the gap in the room. Jim's face. Jim was at war with those spiders the rest of his life. We slept in a construction trailer that we had hauled up the mountain behind a bulldozer. We took turns walking up the road and making sure the roadside branches did not puncture the trailer's shell. It took nine hours to go five miles. The first time in Hawaii.

Jim's face. Jim was at war with those spiders the rest of his life. We slept in a construction trailer that we had hauled up the mountain behind a bulldozer. We took turns walking up the road and making sure the roadside branches did not puncture the trailer's shell. It took nine hours to go five miles. The first time in Hawaii.

We slept in a construction trailer that we had hauled up the mountain behind a bulldozer. We took turns walking up the road and making sure the roadside branches did not puncture the trailer's shell. It took nine hours to go five miles. The first time in Hawaii.

We slept in a construction trailer that we had hauled up the mountain behind a bulldozer. We took turns walking up the road and making sure the roadside branches did not puncture the trailer's shell. It took nine hours to go five miles. The first time in Hawaii.

Jim's face. Jim was at war with those spiders the rest of his life. We slept in a construction trailer that we had hauled up the mountain behind a bulldozer. We took turns walking up the road and making sure the roadside branches did not puncture the trailer's shell. It took nine hours to go five miles. The first time in Hawaii.

Jim's face. Jim was at war with those spiders the rest of his life. We slept in a construction trailer that we had hauled up the mountain behind a bulldozer. We took turns walking up the road and making sure the roadside branches did not puncture the trailer's shell. It took nine hours to go five miles. The first time in Hawaii.

We slept in a construction trailer that we had hauled up the mountain behind a bulldozer. We took turns walking up the road and making sure the roadside branches did not puncture the trailer's shell. It took nine hours to go five miles. The first time in Hawaii.

Jim's face. Jim was at war with those spiders the rest of his life. We slept in a construction trailer that we had hauled up the mountain behind a bulldozer. We took turns walking up the road and making sure the roadside branches did not puncture the trailer's shell. It took nine hours to go five miles. The first time in Hawaii.

We slept in a construction trailer that we had hauled up the mountain behind a bulldozer. We took turns walking up the road and making sure the roadside branches did not puncture the trailer's shell. It took nine hours to go five miles. The first time in Hawaii.

Jim's face. Jim was at war with those spiders the rest of his life. We slept in a construction trailer that we had hauled up the mountain behind a bulldozer. We took turns walking up the road and making sure the roadside branches did not puncture the trailer's shell. It took nine hours to go five miles. The first time in Hawaii.

We slept in a construction trailer that we had hauled up the mountain behind a bulldozer. We took turns walking up the road and making sure the roadside branches did not puncture the trailer's shell. It took nine hours to go five miles. The first time in Hawaii.

We slept in a construction trailer that we had hauled up the mountain behind a bulldozer. We took turns walking up the road and making sure the roadside branches did not puncture the trailer's shell. It took nine hours to go five miles. The first time in Hawaii.

We slept in a construction trailer that we had hauled up the mountain behind a bulldozer. We took turns walking up the road and making sure the roadside branches did not puncture the trailer's shell. It took nine hours to go five miles. The first time in Hawaii.

Jim's face. Jim was at war with those spiders the rest of his life. We slept in a construction trailer that we had hauled up the mountain behind a bulldozer. We took turns walking up the road and making sure the roadside branches did not puncture the trailer's shell. It took nine hours to go five miles. The first time in Hawaii.

We slept in a construction trailer that we had hauled up the mountain behind a bulldozer. We took turns walking up the road and making sure the roadside branches did not puncture the trailer's shell. It took nine hours to go five miles. The first time in Hawaii.

Jim's face. Jim was at war with those spiders the rest of his life. We slept in a construction trailer that we had hauled up the mountain behind a bulldozer. We took turns walking up the road and making sure the roadside branches did not puncture the trailer's shell. It took nine hours to go five miles. The first time in Hawaii.
Jim saved me a lot of headaches because of his building experience. He always knew the correct way to tackle a construction problem. There was no better person for that role than Jim. When I drove him to the airport for his return to Utah, it was bittersweet. We had accomplished the single most important task of completing the construction of the large aviary. Jim also impressed the private landowner family where we did the work, impressed USF&WS folks, and set the foundation that allowed the Peregrine Fund to play an important role in establishing the Endangered Species restoration programs in Hawai‘i. I have very, very fond memories of working, laughing, and experiencing Hawai‘i with Jim Willmarth.”

In 2000, Bill Heinrich contacted Jim to help construct a new California condor holding pen above the Vermilion Cliffs, Arizona. Jim and Bill slept under the stars and often discussed their experiences together late into the night. The release pen is still in use. Later that year, Jim was asked to help work on the Cape Verde Red kite project where Peregrine biologists needed help trapping kites for genetic analysis. Our colleague Simon Thomsett wrote:

“Dear old Jim, Here’s an old recollection: How do you take a guy like Jim, with all of his past experience, to just settle in to working as a field biologist collecting data in a day to day manner on a species as different from falcons as the California condor? Well, let me tell you! It wasn’t long after Jim arrived that I saw that we had something special. Despite the fact that Jim had been working in the field longer than many of our crew had been eating solid food, he melted into the fabric of the red-rock desert land of the condor. It wasn’t so much that he fit in, but we all fell

In 2000, Bill Heinrich contacted Jim to help construct a new California condor holding pen above the Vermilion Cliffs, Arizona. Jim and Bill slept under the stars and often discussed their experiences together late into the night. The release pen is still in use. Later that year, Jim was asked to help work on the Cape Verde Red kite project where Peregrine biologists needed help trapping kites for genetic analysis. Our colleague Simon Thomsett wrote:

“Dear old Jim, Here’s an old recollection: How do you take a guy like Jim, with all of his past experience, to just settle in to working as a field biologist collecting data in a day to day manner on a species as different from falcons as the California condor? Well, let me tell you! It wasn’t long after Jim arrived that I saw that we had something special. Despite the fact that Jim had been working in the field longer than many of our crew had been eating solid food, he melted into the fabric of the red-rock desert land of the condor. It wasn’t so much that he fit in, but we all fell
in around him, his stories of old, and the easy way about him that left nothing too big, too hard, or impossible in the future that lay before us. Nothing stopped this man of steel, yet to the inexperienced or assuming eye, you wouldn’t know his tensile strength. When called to task, look out, because as long as ol’ Jim was there we could handle anything. As with most experiences and relationships, one never seems to know when you are amidst some of the best times of your life, but Jim always seemed to exude an understanding that every day was one of those days.”

During Jim’s time in Arizona, he was asked to work in Greenland at the request of Peregrine Fund president Dr. Bill Burnham. Bill Heinrich, Cal Sandfort, and Kurt Burnham had the good fortune of spending most of September and part of October of 2004 and 2005 with Jim in East Greenland. During that period, over 100 gyrfalcons were trapped. These were very special times as the close-knit group discovered the northern lights together while living in solitude. Their only company consisted of the migrating falcons, arctic foxes, ptarmigan, arctic hares, a few sled dogs along with the elusive polar bears that were never seen. During this time, we rediscovered just how strong Jim was both mentally and physically. There was always a tremendous amount of physical labor involved from carrying water, moving 55 gallon barrels of diesel fuel around, as well as jumping off and onto boats in the frigid arctic water to load and unload equipment. Jim always took care of his comrades first, without a thought about his own safety, and took on more than his share of the work. Life was always good when Jim was close by.

In 2007, The Peregrine Fund’s current president Peter Jenny asked Jim to move to Boise, Idaho, and manage our education birds at the World Center for Birds of Prey. Jim was able to utilize his knowledge of falconry and put together flight demonstrations for the public. Trish Nixon worked with Jim during this period and wrote the following:

“I wasn’t lucky enough to work with Jim for decades, but during the four years that we worked together, he became my friend, my teacher, and my confidant. When I first talked with Jim, I felt that I’d known him all my life, I’d been working with our education birds for a decade when Jim joined the team. With his guidance, we developed more flights and I gained an immeasurable amount of knowledge from him in all aspects of falconry, bushcraft and understanding raptors. Jim brightened my days, made me laugh, and listened in a way that made me feel comfortable discussing anything with him. We often sat in my office after finishing our work—discussing bird behavior, teasing one another about silly things we did, or talking about how odd both of us were as kids, interested in nothing but birds and wildlife. Jim was dedicated to taking care of our education birds and to demonstrating that raptors are beautiful, well-designed, vital birds that everyone should care about. I will always remember Jim as the sweet person who prompted a five-year-old boy to write a note thanking Jim for teaching him to “not be afraid of birds of prey.” That same little boy, upon learning of Jim’s illness, wrote, “I am so sorry you are sick. It makes me cry.” We all feel that way. A fine, gentle man and steadfast friend has left us—and I, for one, am a better person for having known him and will miss him immensely.”

Material items meant nothing to Jim, aside from a camera that could capture images from nature that he could share with others. His determination and work ethic were unmatched, setting a standard that inspires us still. When it came to building things, both large and small, Jim was gifted with a special genius.

Finally, it can be said that Jim was a hero to everyone who knew him, and he lived his full life as a free spirit.
In the following four articles we provide a record of falconers’ most significant achievement with official IUCN recognition of the cultural values of falconry worldwide. It was with sincere gratitude that Christian de Coune, Eckart Schormair and Jim Willmarth, like so many others who have worked in dedication to falconry, had the fulfillment of seeing this success in their lifetime. Each expressed their deep gratitude to all the community of falconers and government officials who had made this possible.

The IAF:
A UNESCO Recognized International Advisory NGO

By Frank M. Bond

Historically, UNESCO recognized certain culturally important historic sites and natural areas, all known for their importance to humanity. Then in 2003 many nations adopted the new UNESCO Convention to recognize important intangible cultural heritage of humanity. Initially the signatory nations (now more than 130) may have contemplated intangible cultural heritage such as dances, music, traditional art forms in need of safe-guarding by local societies for posterity. However, in 2005, a few people recognized that falconry might meet the criteria for UNESCO recognition.

In September 2005, the Government of the United Arab Emirates sponsored a symposium entitled, “Falconry: A World Heritage”. The objectives were: 1. to exchange expertise, ideas and visions on Falconry as a World Heritage; 2. to focus on common issues, problems and solutions for falconry worldwide; and 3. to establish international working teams of experts to jointly prepare a submission to UNESCO for the recognition of falconry as a part of the World’s cultural heritage. The participants provided a global perspective on the current and historical status of falconry as a cultural heritage in its role as a hunting art, science, conservation, national customs, cultural traditions, and its evolution through time from generation to generation. The speakers who made presentation were: HE Majid al Mansouri, then Director of ERWDA and representative of the Emirates Falconers’ Club; Jevgeni Shergalin, Estonia, biologist and researcher; Ali Yaralimi, Iran; Nick Fox, Director, Falcon Research and founder of Falconry Heritage Trust, Turku; Teruo Morimato, National Conference for Japanese Falconry; José Manuel Rodriguez-Villa, Spain; IAF Vice President and ICF’s Falconry Commission; Frank Bond, USA; NAFA and IAF; Helen Macdonald, University of Cambridge, UK; Adrian Lombard, South Africa; SAFSA; José Manuel Fradejas Rueda, University of Valladolid, Spain; Christian De Coune, former President, IAF; Carlos Bernabéu Gonzales, Spain, AECCA; Mohammed Nour Eldine Fartchi, Morocco; Thomas Richter, University of Neuringen, Germany; Xiaole Ye, Chinese Academy of Science; Robert Kenward, IUCN, UK; Brig. Ahmed Mukhtar, Pakistan; Janos Toth, Hungary; Aa Ebydels, Falconers Club of Turkmenistan; Aa Antamamedov, Falconers Club of Turkmenistan; S. Kehn Carne, USA, The Archives of Falconry; and, Thomas Cade, USA, The Peregrine Fund.

Based on the breadth and depth of the presentations, the potential for a joint submission to UNESCO became imaginable. However, we recognized that the development of a submission could only be undertaken by the IAF, principally through ERWDA (now EAD-Environment Agency Abu Dhabi) and the Al Ain Dihah Authority for Culture and Heritage, in the name of the Emirates Falconers’ Club. No other organizations were considered as having the capacity and resources to undertake such a massive submission.

Many of the participants at the 2005 Symposium worked nationally to prepare their nation’s parts of the joint submission. The individual efforts were not done in the name of the IAF, but in the name of their respective cultural authorities or in some cases, their national or regional falconry organizations. The result, of course, was thrilling when the Joint Submission was completed and filed with UNESCO in 2009 and 2010, culminating with falconry recognized as an intangible cultural heritage of humanity on November 16, 2010 in Nairobi.

Separately, I filed the IAF’s application on April 21, 2008 with UNESCO to become recognized as an international advisory non-governmental organization. The Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage attaches great importance to the role of advisory NGOs, so it seemed appropriate for the IAF to seek this special accreditation. I prepared the IAF’s application pursuant to the criteria set forth in the Decisions Adopted by the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, Second Session, Tokyo, September 2007. The criteria were specific and extensive, thus limiting the potential for many NGOs to be accepted. For the application, I set out the IAF’s corporate status as an international non-profit corporation, recognized under the Laws of the Kingdom of Belgium. I was able to point directly to the objectives and goals in the IAF Constitution, which include both “tradition and culture.” The criteria included demonstration that the NGO is truly international. At the time, I noted the 48 countries (now 50) that the IAF represented, plus an additional 12 countries with which we had sporadic contact. From the majority of our Member Organizations, we have active participation principally during our annual general meetings. As the IAF has been in existence since 1967, we clearly met the criterion of having existed for at least four years.

While an international NGO must be independent from any national submission for recognition, it must still demonstrate a link to preserving cultural heritage through participation in international events. I described the IAF’s historic and ongoing participation in international meetings of CITES, IUCN (where the IAF is the only falconry organization member), the Bern and Bonn Conventions, intervention in...
The IAF has formal and informal association with the CIC, FAGE, and the Rapport Research Foundation. As an organization or by individual leaders, the IAF has participated as activities of The Archives of Falconry (USA) and the Falconry Heritage Trust (UK). In November 2006, the entire Council of Delegates, plus many more guests, flew to Boise, Idaho for a special visit to The Archives of Falconry. The IAF participated in the first Festival of Falconry in 2007 held in the United Kingdom.

Finally, it included a sampling of the historical IAF Newsletters and all of the very professionally-prepared, glossy newsletters edited by Tony Crosswell. Finally, I described the IAF's website.

In June 2008, the EAD hosted another UNESCO workshop in Paris. It was ably organized by Nick Fox’s company, International Wildlife Consultants, the professional organization doing much of the work to support and assist the EAD and ADMICH in preparing the Joint Submission. The workshop coincided with UNESCO’s Intergovernmental Committee meeting in Paris. The UAF hosted a reception for the delegates to the UNESCO meeting at its Embassy. There, I met Dr. Gadi G.Y. Mgomezulu, Director of the UNESCO Division of Cultural Objects and Intangible Heritage; I had met him before at an event in Abu Dhabi the previous year. Because I received no acknowledgement of receipt of the IAF’s application on April 21, 2008, I resubmitted it directly to Dr. Mgomezulu on June 20, 2008.

Later on November 28, 2008 Ms. Circeline Duvelle, Chief, Section of Intangible Cultural Heritage, wrote to inform the IAF that our request for accreditation would be recommended by the Intergovernmental Committee to the General Assembly of the States Parties scheduled for June 2009. This decision was made in November at the meeting in Istanbul, Turkey. Bohumil Straka attended that meeting, so he was able to inform us that we had jumped one more hurdle for IAF recognition.

For assistance with the Joint Submission, Bohumil Straka and Gary Timbrell prepared a booklet entitled, “Falconry Heritage is Everywhere.” It describes the extent of falconry heritage, in an abbreviated form, in many nations throughout the world, including nations which are not even signatories to the UNESCO Convention. On the cover, Bohumil printed innocuously, “IAF is an advisor to the UNESCO ICH Comm.” The Joint Submission included this publication when it was filed in September 2009.

On November 19, 2009, I received a terse letter from Ms. Duvelle warning me that the IAF must not use “Falconry Heritage is Everywhere” with the front cover notation until it had been accredited. I responded to her immediately that we would not distribute it further. Nevertheless, for me it was recognition by her of the indirect role the IAF was playing to support the efforts of all the people preparing the Joint Submission.

After the meeting of the States Parties in Paris in June 2010, when I had not received notice of accreditation, I inquired of Ms. Duvelle if July 2010 was the status. The next day, July 13, I received a short note from Josiane Poitier, ICH-NGO Accreditation, that the IAF was accredited by the Third General Assembly. The decision was confirmed formally on September 6, 2010 with a formal letter from Ms. Duvelle to the IAF, as a newly accredited UNESCO international advisory NGO. Obviously, this was a notable achievement for the IAF, and for the falconry community around the world. This was a harbinger for the successful acceptance of the Joint Submission by the participating nations. And, of course, it was when falconry was recognized as an intangible cultural heritage on November 16, 2010, a date for falconers to remember forever.

With UNESCO recognition of the IAF as an advisory NGO, the IAF must continue to assist in preserving falconry as an intangible cultural heritage. Our ongoing responsibility will be reevaluated every four years. Ms. Duvelle communicated in her letter of September 6, 2010, that, “In accordance with paragraph 54 of the Operational Directives, The Committee reviews the contribution and the commitment of the advisory organization, and in relation with it, every four years following accreditation, taking into account the perspective of the non-governmental organization concerned.” Thus, the first review will be conducted in 2014. I encourage you, therefore, to inform us regularly of your activities in the field of intangible cultural heritage. This ongoing commitment obligates the IAF to report periodically to maintain its advisory status. I plan to write an annual report to UNESCO in September of each year, the formal date of receipt of our accreditation, to recount the IAF’s activities during the prior year. I will encourage my successor as president to do the same. Part of our participation may be more direct with UNESCO, because the Intergovernmental Committee may ask a group appointed by the IAF to review future submissions from nations seeking recognition of falconry as an intangible cultural heritage. Also, the IAF will be invited to attend all future Intergovernmental Committee meetings and General Assemblies of the States Parties. The future leadership of the IAF will need to stay connected to the UNESCO process to maximize our participation and to ensure that we fulfill future requirements. In this role, I am sure as more nations gain recognition, the IAF will continue to be able to assist more directly with future submissions so it can assume an advisory status for national cultural authorities.

This is the beginning; the future recognition of falconry as an intangible cultural heritage promises to be even more satisfying.
These photos show the Inscription Falconry as the largest nomination in history of UNESCO world heritage list. Falconry is also one of the oldest cultural elements inscribed, it is even older than the Egyptian pyramids. Eleven countries made up the largest multinational nomination: Belgium, the Czech Republic, France, Korea, Mongolia, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Syria and the United Arab Emirates. From total number of 147 nominations in 2010 from all over the world, only two of them were multinational and only 46 nominations were approved for the final UNESCO list inscription.
Falconry:

A VIEW FROM BEHIND THE SCENES WITH DR NICK FOX

What is it that gives us our identity – as individuals, or as a nation?

Is it really the fancy watch, the car parked outside, or the new iconic tower buildings?

Or is it something less definable, deeper?

Buildings are important, for sure. UNESCO recognises this by designating important structures, such as the Pyramids, as World Heritage Sites. Of course, mankind must look after them, they are a historical legacy that we must cherish, but at the end of the day, they are dead materials.

Nations began to realise that there is more to our heritage than just archaeological sites and buildings. Together at UNESCO they came up with the term ‘Intangible cultural heritage’ to cover oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals and festive events, knowledge of nature, traditional craftsmanship and so on. These are the kinds of things that really give us our identity, that make us what we are. They are almost indefinable – intangible – and yet without them we would all just be ‘grey men in suits’.

UNESCO first began the process by recognising ‘Masterpieces of Intangible Cultural Heritage’ in the 1990s. The late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan was quick to appreciate the importance of this and awarded the Sheikh Zayed Prize for Masterpieces of Intangible Cultural Heritage. Sheikh Zayed’s life bridged the critical developmental period of Abu Dhabi from the desert lifestyle to the urbanised modern nation that Abu Dhabi is fast becoming. He wanted good things for his people – good health, a green environment, and an education as well as wealth. That was Sheikh Zayed’s vision. He wanted Abu Dhabi to become a global city in the future. And that is what Sheikh Zayed was getting at.

A new Convention

In 2005, UNESCO created a new Convention on Intangible Cultural Heritage as a legally binding instrument on signatory states. Countries queued up to join and UAE was one of the original signatories. Now, 134 nations have signed up.

In June 2005, UNESCO Director General Koichiro Matsuura, with the help of Dr Sultan bin Tahnoun, Abu Dhabi’s Heritage, Culture and Tourism Authority, called the first meeting of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Committee of Experts. The UAE had the advantage of already having signed the Convention, so the first step was to set up an Inventory List of all the elements of ICH in its culture.

We gathered together the Falconry nations at the First International Festival of Falconry in UK in 2007. It was strongly supported by Abu Dhabi who took a bold step in appearing abroad. HH Sheikh Sultan Bin Tahnoun represented UAE. The Second International Festival was held in UK in 2009. Prince Andrew, Duke of York joined HH Sheikh Sulman Bin Tahnoun and appeared before 53 nations; it became the largest multi-national submission ever made under this Convention, was singled out for special praise by UNESCO as an ‘outstanding example of cross-operation between States and the exemplary nature of the information provided was unparallel’. Not only was it a milestone in Falconry’s history, it was a landmark in the history of the UNESCO Convention too.

Is it all over, or has it just begun?

Do not make the mistake of thinking this is just a rubber stamp approval on the book. Now the real work starts! The whole point of the exercise is that each country has an action plan to sustain Falconry for the future – to sustain a ‘living heritage’.

We have to help some of these countries. The falconers of Morocco are getting on in years and have lost most of their traditional hawking grounds to agriculture. South Korea too just has a few old people still with knowledge and skills of the Korean traditions. And we have to help future nations to join.

Finally, after months of waiting, we were rewarded on 16th November 2010 at the UNESCO Conference in Nairobi with the announcement that our submission was successful. Falconry has been officially inscribed on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of the World. The Conference had to be suspended for ten minutes while we all cheered and clapped!

The submission, the largest multi-national submission ever made under this Convention, was singled out for special praise by UNESCO as ‘an outstanding example of cross-operation between States and the exemplary nature of the information provided was unparallel’. Not only was it a milestone in Falconry’s history, it was a landmark in the history of the UNESCO Convention too.

Finally, after months of waiting, we were rewarded on 16th November 2010 at the UNESCO Conference in Nairobi with the announcement that our submission was successful. Falconry has been officially inscribed on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of the World. The Conference had to be suspended for ten minutes while we all cheered and clapped!

The submission, the largest multi-national submission ever made under this Convention, was singled out for special praise by UNESCO as ‘an outstanding example of cross-operation between States and the exemplary nature of the information provided was unparallel’. Not only was it a milestone in Falconry’s history, it was a landmark in the history of the UNESCO Convention too.
INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE
By Patrick Morel

At its 5th Intergovernmental Committee conference held 15 - 19 November 2010 in Nairobi, Kenya UNESCO announced that Falconry, a living human heritage has been inscribed to the Representative list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity following a multinational application of 11 countries (Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Mongolia, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Spain, Republic of Syria and the United Arab Emirates).

What is Intangible Cultural Heritage
Cultural heritage is not limited to material manifestations, such as monuments and objects that have been preserved over time. This notion also encompasses living expressions and the traditions that countless groups and communities worldwide have inherited from their ancestors and transmit to their descendants, in most cases orally.

Many years of research undertaken by UNESCO on the functions and values of cultural expressions and practices have opened the door to new approaches to the understanding, protection and respect of the cultural heritage of humanity. This living heritage, known as intangible, provides each bearer of such expressions a sense of identity and continuity, irrespective of his or her ownership and constantly recreates them.

As a driving force of cultural diversity, living heritage is very fragile. In recent years, it has received international recognition and its safeguarding has become one of the priorities of international cooperation thanks to UNESCO’s leading role in the adoption of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

The new Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of UNESCO replacing a previous convention classifying Masterpieces of Intangible Heritage adopted in the early nineties was adopted by the General Assembly in Paris on 17 October 2003 and came into force on 20 April 2006 after 30 states had ratified it. The Convention on Intangible Cultural Heritage validates all the functions, representations, expressions, knowledge and skills - and the associated instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces - that communities, groups and individuals regard as part of their intangible cultural heritage.

The saga of the submission
Several people could probably claim ‘fatherhood’ of the idea of a recognition of falconry as our cultural heritage. Nevertheless, it seems that the current idea arose when survival of falconry was questioned in some European countries, probably first in Belgium, then in the Netherlands and Germany.

In 1994, discussions on a revision of the Hunting Law of 1882 in Belgium (Walloon Region) brought concern for traditional methods of hunting: hunting with hounds, trapping of songbirds and... falconry. Hunting with hounds was especially contested by the greens and led to discussion in the Parliament about a possible ban of all traditional methods of hunting. During the debate, Members of the Walloon Parliament argued that hunting with hounds was part of our cultural heritage. Unfortunately, hunting with hounds was banned in the Walloon Region on 14.07.1994 with a transitional period of 5 years for the ‘equipages’ still active and legally approved before 1 Jan 1994.

Falconry was saved but for how long?
After trapping of songbirds and hunting with hounds was banned, which would be the next target? Patrick Morel, then Secretary of the IAF, discovering the existence of a 1988-UNESCO Convention classifying Masterpieces of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, wrote an article, in 1995 IAF’s Newsletter, about the concern for ban of traditional hunting methods and the pressure on falconry in several European countries. Inspired by the initiatives of the Walloon Parliament, he thought that claiming falconry as a part of our culture would be an excellent argument for the preservation of our art. He expressed the possibility of considering a recognition by UNESCO of falconry as an art belonging to our cultural heritage at a safeguard for the future. Christian de Coune, at that time president of the IAF, brought the subject up at the 1995 G7M but without an action plan except a mention in the minutes.

In 1998, in the Netherlands, a red-green government worked on a reform of the Hunting Act. The Dutch government abolished the Hunting Act altogether and replaced it by the ‘Tsarnaat- and Vlucht-Act’. Hunting was severely limited and regulated but falconry remained unseathed and hawking continued to be allowed but on a limited basis licensing system with the two ‘traditional’ falcon birds, Peregrine falcon and Goshawk. The Dutch Parliament recognized the centuries-old cultural tradition of falconry in the Netherlands and appraised its continuation as a naturally selective form of hunting. In Germany also, concerns about the future of falconry arose when in 1998 the federal elections brought a red-green government with ‘green’ environment and agriculture ministers and at the same time a request from nature and environmental organizations for a reform of the Federal Hunting Act (BJG) including a ban on falconry despite one of the most successful nature conservation projects success: the captive breeding and reintroduction of peregrine falcons by falconers.

Due to this continuous rejection of the merits of falconry in Germany, the CIC Falconry Commission, lead by German falconer Peter Supara, decided to explore new ways to secure falconry at the future, not only at national level, but also at supranational level.

For the CIC Falconry Commission, the different signs in neighbouring countries assured that the cultural aspect of falconry had to be moved to the forefront of public awareness to get the appropriate cultural recognition the tradition of falconry deserved. The question was how to proceed with it?

In a letter to the German UNESCO-Commission in Bonn, the CIC Falconry Commission pointed out that falconry could be now considered as endangered, as the heritage of falconry was gradually disappearing. The response was encouraging: UNESCO had a convention listing “masterpieces of traditional intangible cultural heritage” into the framework of which traditional falconry would fit.

Austrian Prof. Monika Reiterer wrote an article, in 1995 IAF’s Newsletter, about the concern of which traditional falconry would fit.

In Germany also, concerns about the future of falconry arose when in 1998 the federal elections brought a red-green government with ‘green’ environment and agriculture ministers and at the same time a request from nature and environmental organizations for a reform of the Federal Hunting Act (BJG) including a ban on falconry despite one of the most successful nature conservation projects success: the captive breeding and reintroduction of peregrine falcons by falconers.

Due to this continuous rejection of the merits of falconry in Germany, the CIC Falconry Commission, lead by German falconer Peter Supara, decided to explore new ways to secure falconry at the future, not only at national level, but also at supranational level.

For the CIC Falconry Commission, the different signs in neighbouring countries assured that the cultural aspect of falconry had to be moved to the forefront of public awareness to get the appropriate cultural recognition the tradition of falconry deserved. The question was how to proceed with it?

In a letter to the German UNESCO-Commission in Bonn, the CIC Falconry Commission pointed out that falconry could be now considered as endangered, as the heritage of falconry was gradually disappearing. The response was encouraging: UNESCO had a convention listing “masterpieces of traditional intangible cultural heritage” into the framework of which traditional falconry would fit.

Austrian Prof. Monika Reiterer wrote an article on the benefits of falconry and UNESCO recognition in the Newsletter of the Austrian Falconers Club ‘Falkeinschütz’ in 2002. She offered the CIC to build up a file for a UNESCO submission but no agreement could be achieved for financial reasons.

On 17 October 2003 the IAF adopted a new ‘Convention for the Protection of Intangible Cultural Heritage’

A long work of persuasion by the VP of the IAF, Jose Manuel Rodriguez-Villa Marinos, the Emirates Falconers Club (EFC) and UNESCO’s leading role in the application process for recognition of the intangible cultural heritage status of falconry. As the path was cleared, the FC took up contact with falconers all around the world in order to achieve the best possible application together.

The CIC Falconry Commission signed a MoU with the IAF. This union is in its respect to the first visible milestones on the path to recognition. The IAF held its 35th General Assembly in Abu Dhabi from 14-19 September 2004 at the invitation of the Emirates Falconers Club of the United Arab Emirates. At this meeting, the President of the CIC, Dieter Scharnweber, presented to the nearly 100 delegates from around the world a project suggestion of recognition of falconry as an intangible cultural heritage by UNESCO. The response from the assembled delegates was enthusiastic. It was agreed that the realization of this idea would have tremendous importance for the future of falconry. During the meeting calls were made for an immediate UNESCO application to be drawn up as soon as the Convention would enter into force but some urged patience, arguing that the protection of falconry has a 3000-year history and more background information, historical material, including films, photos and legal documents was necessary to provide the basis for a successful application.

Jose Manuel Rodriguez-Villa Matos was elected as president of the CIC Falconry Commission in 2005.

The Wales-based falconer Nick Fox signed a professional services contract to provide professional staff and expertise on the preparation of a Joint multinational UNESCO Submission under the lead of the United Arab Emirates.

On February 15th 2005 Patrick Morel, president of the IAF, set up a Working Group under the leadership of two Chairmen, Jose Manuel Rodriguez-Villa Matos IAF Vice president and president of the CIC FC and Nick Fox, to coordinate and administer all national submissions, seek the cooperation of the world falconry community to participate in the process of recognition, to seek the collaboration of national museums and libraries, to contact the owners of significant falconry collections and to coordinate all budgetary matters, as necessary. The very active secretary and PR officer of the WFG was Gary Timbekc.
Patrick Morel, JM Rodriguez-Villa Matons and Nick Fox went on 09 June 2005 to the UNESCO HQ in Paris to enquire about the feasibility of a submission. A Newsletter detailing the procedures was published by the IAF on 14/06/2005.

A two days Symposium ‘Falconry, a World Heritage’ was organised in Abu Dhabi on 13-14 September 2005. In October 2005, Patrick Morel suggested to recommend to UNESCO to use IAF as an Accredited Advisory NGO for the purposes of submissions on Falconry under Article 9 of this Convention. A Newsletter detailing the way to go with the UNESCO submissions was published by the IAF on 10/11/2005.

Patrick Morel, JM Rodriguez-Villa Matons and Nick Fox went to UNESCO HQ in Paris again on 22 March 2006 to meet Gadiy. Mgomezulu, Director of Division of Cultural Heritage of UNESCO to enquire about the procedures of a submission: submission had to be made by State parties but multinational submissions were possible. The first step was to inscribe falconry on the national Inventory Lists of State parties. The new 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage ratified by 66 countries entered into force by April 2006.

The first application for inscription on a national list was made by Belgium (Communauté française de Belgique) on 25/05/2006. It was to take another four years until the final breakthrough.

Numerous workshops, national and international meetings and conferences followed in both Abu Dhabi and Paris (26-29 June 2006), mainly supported and funded by the United Arab Emirates as it became clear that an application was only likely to succeed if multinational. A Falconry Festival was organised in the UK (Reading) in July 2007 and in July 2009.


On 18 August 2009, 11 States made a multinational submission to UNESCO to include falconry in the “Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity”. After examining and evaluating the application, a unanimous positive recommendation was made by the Committee of Experts on 17 May 2010 at the UNESCO headquarters.
in Paris and the inscription was officially approved by the delegates during the AGM on 16 November 2010 in Nairobi.

The IAF meeting of European Falconers was held in conjunction with FACE’s celebration of the UNESCO recognition at the European Parliament on 19th January 2011 in Strasbourg (France).

By Philippe Jastreu (Président de l’Intergroupe Chasse Durable au Parlement Européen, Membre du Comité International de Chasse Durable, membre ordinaire de l’IAF)

The first person to have spoken of this project to me was Patrick Morel, president of the Belgian falconry club Marie de Bourgogne, a former president of IAF and above all a falconer of international reputation. For the French falconers permit me, Madame Chairman, to thank you in the name of all the falconers who have often had more difficulties to persuade their fellow falconers of the necessity of recognition than to convince their authorities. That the UNESCO recognition of falconry is a great political success, especially in the Arab countries, was a result of the efforts and means of a few devoted falconers who often had more difficulties to persuade their fellow falconers of the necessity of recognition than to convince their authorities.

For the Colloquium at the European Parliament in Strasbourg 19th January 2011

Madame la Présidente de l’Intergroupe Chasse Durable au Parlement Européen, Membre du Ligue Président, Messieurs les Députés, cher falconier friends, dear friends.

Introduction

In order to complement the reception at the European Parliament it is interesting to speak about the role France and the other European submission members played in the work that preceded the inscription of Falconry as Intangible Cultural Heritage. I have, together with Madame Sylvie Grenet, who was in charge of the submission for the French Minister of Culture, gone over several important points.

Of course the role played by Bohumil Straka is well known to everyone. Of course the role played by Bohumil Straka is well known to everyone. For the French falconers we have several good reasons, we had worked well together in Abu Dhabi but I am happy to see that other great falconry nations, like Austria and Hungary, will soon be joining us. The more there are of us to speak about our ART, the more good times Falconry will have before it. The presentation given was as follows:

For the Colloquium at the European Parliament in Strasbourg 19th January 2011

Madame la Présidente de l’Intergroupe Chasse Durable au Parlement Européen, Membre le Vice Président, Messudus, Messudus les Députés, cher falconier friends, dear friends.

permit me, Madame Chairman, to thank you in the name of Frank Bond, President of the IAF, who has come specially from the USA, accompanied by Bouhaim Straka from the Czech Republic who is our Vice-President for Europe, Asia, Africa and Oceanica and by Gary Timbrell from Ireland, who is IAF’s Public Relations Officer, and in the name of all the IAF Members present here. We thank you for welcoming us here at the European Parliament to celebrate the brilliant inscription by UNESCO of a hunting method, falconry, into the global intangible heritage of mankind. The first person to have spoken of this project to me was Patrick Morel, president of the Belgian falconry club Marie de Bourgogne, a former president of IAF and above all a falconer of international reputation. For the French falconers permit me, Madame Chairman, to thank you in the name of all the falconers who have often had more difficulties to persuade their fellow falconers of the necessity of recognition than to convince their authorities. That the UNESCO recognition of falconry is a great political success, especially in the Arab countries, was a result of the efforts and means of a few devoted falconers who often had more difficulties to persuade their fellow falconers of the necessity of recognition than to convince their authorities.

For the Colloquium at the European Parliament in Strasbourg 19th January 2011

Madame la Présidente de l’Intergroupe Chasse Durable au Parlement Européen, Membre le Vice Président, Messudus, Messudus les Députés, cher falconier friends, dear friends.

permit me, Madame Chairman, to thank you in the name of Frank Bond, President of the IAF, who has come specially from the USA, accompanied by Bouhaim Straka from the Czech Republic who is our Vice-President for Europe, Asia, Africa and Oceanica and by Gary Timbrell from Ireland, who is IAF’s Public Relations Officer, and in the name of all the IAF Members present here. We thank you for welcoming us here at the European Parliament to celebrate the brilliant inscription by UNESCO of a hunting method, falconry, into the global intangible heritage of mankind. The first person to have spoken of this project to me was Patrick Morel, president of the Belgian falconry club Marie de Bourgogne, a former president of IAF and above all a falconer of international reputation. For the French falconers permit me, Madame Chairman, to thank you in the name of all the falconers who have often had more difficulties to persuade their fellow falconers of the necessity of recognition than to convince their authorities. That the UNESCO recognition of falconry is a great political success, especially in the Arab countries, was a result of the efforts and means of a few devoted falconers who often had more difficulties to persuade their fellow falconers of the necessity of recognition than to convince their authorities.

For the Colloquium at the European Parliament in Strasbourg 19th January 2011

Madame la Présidente de l’Intergroupe Chasse Durable au Parlement Européen, Membre le Vice Président, Messudus, Messudus les Députés, cher falconier friends, dear friends.

permit me, Madame Chairman, to thank you in the name of Frank Bond, President of the IAF, who has come specially from the USA, accompanied by Bouhaim Straka from the Czech Republic who is our Vice-President for Europe, Asia, Africa and Oceanica and by Gary Timbrell from Ireland, who is IAF’s Public Relations Officer, and in the name of all the IAF Members present here. We thank you for welcoming us here at the European Parliament to celebrate the brilliant inscription by UNESCO of a hunting method, falconry, into the global intangible heritage of mankind. The first person to have spoken of this project to me was Patrick Morel, president of the Belgian falconry club Marie de Bourgogne, a former president of IAF and above all a falconer of international reputation. For the French falconers permit me, Madame Chairman, to thank you in the name of all the falconers who have often had more difficulties to persuade their fellow falconers of the necessity of recognition than to convince their authorities. That the UNESCO recognition of falconry is a great political success, especially in the Arab countries, was a result of the efforts and means of a few devoted falconers who often had more difficulties to persuade their fellow falconers of the necessity of recognition than to convince their authorities.

For the Colloquium at the European Parliament in Strasbourg 19th January 2011

Madame la Présidente de l’Intergroupe Chasse Durable au Parlement Européen, Membre le Vice Président, Messudus, Messudus les Députés, cher falconier friends, dear friends.

permit me, Madame Chairman, to thank you in the name of Frank Bond, President of the IAF, who has come specially from the USA, accompanied by Bouhaim Straka from the Czech Republic who is our Vice-President for Europe, Asia, Africa and Oceanica and by Gary Timbrell from Ireland, who is IAF’s Public Relations Officer, and in the name of all the IAF Members present here. We thank you for welcoming us here at the European Parliament to celebrate the brilliant inscription by UNESCO of a hunting method, falconry, into the global intangible heritage of mankind. The first person to have spoken of this project to me was Patrick Morel, president of the Belgian falconry club Marie de Bourgogne, a former president of IAF and above all a falconer of international reputation. For the French falconers permit me, Madame Chairman, to thank you in the name of all the falconers who have often had more difficulties to persuade their fellow falconers of the necessity of recognition than to convince their authorities. That the UNESCO recognition of falconry is a great political success, especially in the Arab countries, was a result of the efforts and means of a few devoted falconers who often had more difficulties to persuade their fellow falconers of the necessity of recognition than to convince their authorities.

For the Colloquium at the European Parliament in Strasbourg 19th January 2011

Madame la Présidente de l’Intergroupe Chasse Durable au Parlement Européen, Membre le Vice Président, Messudus, Messudus les Députés, cher falconier friends, dear friends.

permit me, Madame Chairman, to thank you in the name of Frank Bond, President of the IAF, who has come specially from the USA, accompanied by Bouhaim Straka from the Czech Republic who is our Vice-President for Europe, Asia, Africa and Oceanica and by Gary Timbrell from Ireland, who is IAF’s Public Relations Officer, and in the name of all the IAF Members present here. We thank you for welcoming us here at the European Parliament to celebrate the brilliant inscription by UNESCO of a hunting method, falconry, into the global intangible heritage of mankind. The first person to have spoken of this project to me was Patrick Morel, president of the Belgian falconry club Marie de Bourgogne, a former president of IAF and above all a falconer of international reputation. For the French falconers permit me, Madame Chairman, to thank you in the name of all the falconers who have often had more difficulties to persuade their fellow falconers of the necessity of recognition than to convince their authorities. That the UNESCO recognition of falconry is a great political success, especially in the Arab countries, was a result of the efforts and means of a few devoted falconers who often had more difficulties to persuade their fellow falconers of the necessity of recognition than to convince their authorities.
It is fascinating that even now the methods of hunting remain the same, gestures are the same, equipment is the same. The only concession to the modern world is the telemetry transmitters we fix on our birds so as to find them quickly. These days man is always in a hurry, even when hunting. Hunting techniques are the same, training methods are the same, there have been practically no changes since falconry's origin. The basic principle is simple, the falcon must lose her fear of man, she must accept that she eats in his company, then on his fist and afterwards, with a great deal of patience and finesse you can hunt with her. You must make the falcon understand that if she flies high above the dog on point the falconer will serve her with game that she can catch and eat.

All this might seem simple to you, but here it is expressed so well by Charles d'Ancussins, Lord of Esparron, a great falconer in the time of Louis XI11 and the author of treaties on falconry.

"Not every falcon is born to sport and fly with us... Also falconry is not for simply anyone to know and to be able to practice."

For many centuries the best way to catch quail, partridge, pheasant, rabbits, hares, was with hawks and falcons. When guns became effective falconry was transformed from a hunting method to a hunting art. We have now prioritised the beauty of the spectacle (as opposed to the mere catching of game).

Marco Polo at the Court of the Great Khan spoke of a single hunt with 10,000 falconers. If you do not have any more a wild game to hunt in natural space? Even the recognition of UNESCO may not save falconry. Here in France falconers put their resources into the maintenance of their hunting territories, Jean Claude Dufour in the Marne, Charles Martin in Belgium, who was himself rewarded by Wild Life Estate in 2010. Falconry is compatible with sharing nature between townspeople and falconers. There is no need to keep nuns in sanctuaries. We are conscious of the fragility of nature, game books and lists of kills do not concern us, and we are limited by our hunting partner, who hunts only to eat, not to destroy. She hunts to live and for our pleasure. Falconry is demanding, as Gilles Norrier often repeats. "Falconry is either complete perfection or complete failure'.

All falconers are poets, many draw and paint then some are true artists, like Etienne Fougeron one of who's paintings made the cover of the last "Jour de Chasse". I would like to take advantage of my speaking time in front of European members of Parliament concerned with hunting, to ask them to work towards the recognition of falconry in the countries of modern Europe, their ardour and their passion was very motivating for our French falconers. We all dreamed of reaching the perfection of the Spaniard Felix Rodrigo de la Fuente, of the Italians Ernesto Coppoloni or Fulco Tosti, or the English Charles d'Ancussins, of Jack Manton or even Christian Schoenmaeckers. This inscription with the name of the Count Charles de Ganay, present hear today, flies his falcons in Scotland and shoots regularly, he was also president of the Rentreurs Clubs de France. Myself, I am vice-president of the Departmental Federation of the Hunters of Maine and Loire. (I see president Bidault, he is president of the Foundation for the Protection of the Habitats of the Wildlife, a rather nice feather in the cap for hunting people who are concerned about Ecology.)

Raptors have always been protected by falconers. We were the first to discern in the 1970's the rapid decline of world raptor populations due to the ravages of DTT. We have worked towards the classification of raptors as protected species. In the USA, it was by using stocks of falconry birds that Tom Cade, researcher in the University of Cornell developed his program for the reproduction of raptors in captivity. In the present time all the falconers of the world are concerned with small, stolen, in its habitat by modern farming methods. We are really concerned, because what is the use of having a falcon and of having good laws to practice our art if we do not have any more a wild game to hunt in natural space? Even the recognition of UNESCO may not save falconry.

We are conscious of the fragility of nature, game books and lists of kills do not concern us, and we are limited by our hunting partner, who hunts only to eat, not to destroy. She hunts to live and for our pleasure. Falconry is demanding, as Gilles Norrier often repeats: "Falconry is either complete perfection or complete failure".

All falconers are poets, many draw and paint then some are true artists, like Etienne Fougeron one of who's paintings made the cover of the last "Jour de Chasse". I would like to take advantage of my speaking time in front of European members of Parliament concerned with hunting, to ask them to work towards the recognition of falconry in the countries of modern Europe, their ardour and their passion was very motivating for our French falconers. We all dreamed of reaching the perfection of the Spaniard Felix Rodrigo de la Fuente, of the Italians Ernesto Coppoloni or Fulco Tosti, or the English Charles d'Ancussins, of Jack Manton or even Christian Schoenmaeckers. This inscription with the name of the Count Charles de Ganay, present hear today, flies his falcons in Scotland and shoots regularly, he was also president of the Rentreurs Clubs de France. Myself, I am vice-president of the Departmental Federation of the Hunters of Maine and Loire. (I see president Bidault, he is president of the Foundation for the Protection of the Habitats of the Wildlife, a rather nice feather in the cap for hunting people who are concerned about Ecology.)

It is fascinating that even now the methods of hunting remain the same, gestures are the same, equipment is the same. The only concession to the modern world is the telemetry transmitters we fix on our birds so as to find them quickly. These days man is always in a hurry, even when hunting. Hunting techniques are the same, training methods are the same, there have been practically no changes since falconry's origin. The basic principle is simple, the falcon must lose her fear of man, she must accept that she eats in his company, then on his fist and afterwards, with a great deal of patience and finesse you can hunt with her. You must make the falcon understand that if she flies high above the dog on point the falconer will serve her with game that she can catch and eat.

All this might seem simple to you, but here it is expressed so well by Charles d'Ancussins, Lord of Esparron, a great falconer in the time of Louis XI11 and the author of treaties on falconry.

"Not every falcon is born to sport and fly with us... Also falconry is not for simply anyone to know and to be able to practice."

For many centuries the best way to catch quail, partridge, pheasant, rabbits, hares, was with hawks and falcons. When guns became effective falconry was transformed from a hunting method to a hunting art. We have now prioritised the beauty of the spectacle (as opposed to the mere catching of game).

Marco Polo at the Court of the Great Khan spoke of a single hunt with 10,000 falconers. If you do not have any more a wild game to hunt in natural space? Even the recognition of UNESCO may not save falconry. Here in France falconers put their resources into the maintenance of their hunting territories, Jean Claude Dufour in the Marne, Charles Martin in Belgium, who was himself rewarded by Wild Life Estate in 2010. Falconry is compatible with sharing nature between townspeople and falconers. There is no need to keep nuns in sanctuaries. We are conscious of the fragility of nature, game books and lists of kills do not concern us, and we are limited by our hunting partner, who hunts only to eat, not to destroy. She hunts to live and for our pleasure. Falconry is demanding, as Gilles Norrier often repeats. "Falconry is either complete perfection or complete failure'.

All falconers are poets, many draw and paint then some are true artists, like Etienne Fougeron one of who's paintings made the cover of the last "Jour de Chasse". I would like to take advantage of my speaking time in front of European members of Parliament concerned with hunting, to ask them to work towards the recognition of falconry in the countries of modern Europe, their ardour and their passion was very motivating for our French falconers. We all dreamed of reaching the perfection of the Spaniard Felix Rodrigo de la Fuente, of the Italians Ernesto Coppoloni or Fulco Tosti, or the English Charles d'Ancussins, of Jack Manton or even Christian Schoenmaeckers. This inscription with the name of the Count Charles de Ganay, present hear today, flies his falcons in Scotland and shoots regularly, he was also president of the Rentreurs Clubs de France. Myself, I am vice-president of the Departmental Federation of the Hunters of Maine and Loire. (I see president Bidault, he is president of the Foundation for the Protection of the Habitats of the Wildlife, a rather nice feather in the cap for hunting people who are concerned about Ecology.)
The Convention on Biological Diversity was opened for signature on 5 June 1992 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Currently, 193 parties are members of the Convention. The main goals are “the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from the use of genetic resources”. Falconry and the conservation of birds of prey is related to the first and second goal in the Convention.

The tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP10-CBD) was held in Nagoya Japan, from 18 -29 October 2010. 179 parties from governments and organizations joined in the conference at Nagoya Congress Center. The number of people attending totaled over 15,000 and 350 side events were also held.

General meeting at COP10-CBD
After the meeting, 47 decisions (Decision X/1 - X/47) were adopted in COP10-CBD. There were a lot of discussions in the category of “the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from the use of genetic resources” for the confrontation between developing nations and developed nations. The result of negotiation was adopted as Decision X/1 (Nagoya Protocol). In the category of “the conservation of biological diversity”, Strategic Plan for Biodiversity was adopted as Decision X/2 which includes the contents for the conservation and sustainable use of bushmeat. The Satoyama Initiative was also mentioned in the Decision. Satoyama is a Japanese word that means ‘human-influenced natural environments’ (Farmlands and Secondary forests). According to the Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan, the Satoyama Initiative targets complex rural ecosystems formed by long periods of interaction between human lifefiles and the natural world. The initiative strives to create a vision for resource management and land use which balances the twin needs of biodiversity conservation and sustainable utilization. Currently, it is introduced in the official website (http://satoyama-initiative.org/en/) as The Satoyama Initiative which promotes and supports socio-ecological production landscapes, which have been shaped over the years by the interaction between people with nature. The initiative aims to realize economies in harmony with nature where both biodiversity and human well-being are maintained harmoniously. A part of the hunting field is also included in Satoyama. Falconry will be a good example for the activity to be fit to the Initiative. In Decision X/32, related parties are invited to the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative (IPSI) that has aims to carry out the activities identified by the Satoyama Initiative; this includes collecting and analyzing case studies, distilling lessons and promoting research on different practices of sustainable use of biological resources, as well as increasing awareness and supporting on-the-ground projects and activities in human-influenced natural environments. IPSI has already established on 19 October at COP10-CBD with 51 parties. IUCN and CIC are included in the parties as founding member.

Subsidiary event to COP10-CBD
In COP10-CBD, the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) held an event entitled “Sustainable Use is Conservation at Heart” to introduce their activities on the evening of 20 October with Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU (FACE) and IAF also worked together. Falconry is a good example of sustainable use, and their skill is useful for conservation of birds of prey. In the event, William Heinrich made a presentation to introduce the activities of the Peregrine Fund as success of conservation works with falcons. Professor Robert Kenward also introduced the advanced techniques to keep biodiversity. In COP10-CBD, the organizer prohibited to take birds to the event in the rehabilitation stage after wing damage with Japanese traditional falconer’s costume. Therefore, we prepared one peregrine on the rehabilitation stage after wing damage with Japanese traditional falconer’s costume. The speaker is Tamas Marghescu, Director General of CIC.

The region of Satoyama.
The Japan Falconiformes Center (JFC) held a forum in Nagoya Gakuen University at 23 October on the Interactive fair for Biodiversity which was related to the event for COP10-CBD at a neighboring site of the conference hall. The theme was “How Bird of Prey Conservation can Benefit Biodiversity”, to introduce the meaning of conservation, results with falconry skill and advanced approach in overseas. One of presentation was “From Jess to TESS: Conservation through Falconry” by Professor Robert Kenward, who attended to COP10-CBD as Science Supervisor of FP-7 Transactional Environment Support System (TESS) and Chair of IUCN Species Survival Commission European Sustainable Use Specialist Group.

I also had a presentation “Conservation of Birds of Prey to Keep the Biodiversity” to introduce the situation of Japanese birds of prey and our conservation activities with falconry skill. There were around 80 participants at this event. In COP10-CBD, a registration pass was required from the participant. However, the Interactive Fair for Biodiversity was open to the public without registration. I attended the conference hall. It is likely that almost all the participants visited the event in their business. We hoped that our presentation would be helpful for their understanding or resolving a difficulty on the conservation of environment. For more information on this event visit the website at: www.messenagoya.jp/2010/english.html

In the event, JFC attended to talk show on 27 and 29 October at the booth of CHUBU Electric Power Co., Inc. Related display was also provided in the booth to introduce conservation works for bird of prey and good results with falconry skill. It is likely that almost all the participants visited the event in their business. We hoped that our presentation would be helpful for their understanding or resolving a difficulty on the conservation of environment. For more information on this event visit the website at: www.messenagoya.jp/2010/english.html

Conclusion COP10-CBD and related events were held in Nagoya Japan at late in October 2010. They were a unique opportunity to meet many parties and persons in the world that are related to keep biodiversity. In this time, falconry and the conservation activities for birds of prey were introduced to the participants by several events that were prepared by CIF, FACE, JFC, TESS, IUCN and IAF. The next meeting for COP11-CBD will be held in India at 18-19 October 2012. Finally, I am deeply grateful to Professor Robert Kenward for his kind help to the related event by JFC.

Presentation by Keiya Nakajima, Ph.D., The Japan Falconiformes Center.
The process of Turkish Falconry starts first with the capture of the insect. This insect is captured by hand and found by overturning large mammal dung or piles of compost. Another method is to find the insect’s hole in a garden and pour soapy water down its hole causing the insect to come out. The insect is then tied into a trap. There are a variety of traps including fishing line or cow hair nooses, trap doors, and a pole painted for use during the trapping season. The shrike is used to attract migrating sparrow hawks to the trapping house. The last carrying pole used is long, flexible, nicely crafted and accustomed to being carried on the stick. There are three different carrying poles as the shrike’s education advances.

A statue of a man with a sparrowhawk from the centre of the town of Arhavi.

The main quarry of Turkish hawking is quail (Coturnix coturnix). If the opportunity arises woodcocks and doves are also taken. Training the hawk for the hunt by traditional means takes 6-10 days. This is because the sparrow hawks are captured during the same time that the quail migration begins and therefore birds are quickly flown on wild game while there is the chance. The hawks are made to eat on the first day by giving it meat when it tries to bite. On the second day the hawk is fed many small pieces of meat on the fist, and the hawk is made to be around many people. The next step is for the hawk to fly from someone else’s fist to the owner’s fist. The next day a quail on a string is shown to the hawk. If the opportunity arises woodcocks and doves are also taken. Training the hawk for the hunt by traditional means takes 6-10 days. This is because the sparrow hawks are captured during the same time that the quail migration begins and therefore birds are quickly flown on wild game while there is the chance. The hawks are made to eat on the first day by giving it meat when it tries to bite. On the second day the hawk is fed many small pieces of meat on the fist and made to be around many people. The next step is for the hawk to fly from someone else’s fist to the owner’s fist. The next day a quail on a string is shown to the hawk outside. If she immediately pursues the quail, then the hawk is released and fed the head and neck of the quail. From then on it is introduced to wild quarry. Only live quail or a recently killed one are used as lures to call the sparrow hawk back. These are obtained from the catches of other already trained hawks. In some villages where there are only small open places to fly, the hawks are never free fown, but always on a line. As soon as the hawkers feel the bird is ready, they go to fields where migrating quail come. The falconer and trasures walk the field wearing the bushes with a stick or sometimes with a dog. When a quail flies the hawk is released to chase the quail. The sparrow hawk is held in the palm of the hand and thrown up in the air to give it an advantage. This was traditionally done because the hunting fields had tall corn stalks. Even though now most of the fields grow tea, this practice of throwing the hawks is still used. If the hawk can afford it he also has a trained pointing dog. In flat areas traditionally hawking was done off horseback, but this is a very scarce practice today. An old saying from the eastern Black Sea region states that the perfect life is owning a horse, a dog. When a quail flies the hawk is released to chase the quail. The sparrow hawk is held in the palm of the hand and thrown up in the air to give it an advantage. This was traditionally done because the hunting fields had tall corn stalks. Even though now most of the fields grow tea, this practice of throwing the hawks is still used. If the hawk can afford it he also has a trained pointing dog. In flat areas traditionally hawking was done off horseback, but this is a very scarce practice today. An old saying from the eastern Black Sea region states that the perfect life is owning a horse,


A statue of a man with a sparrowhawk from the centre of the town of Arhavi.

A statue of a man with a sparrowhawk from the centre of the town of Arhavi.

'Black Sea region have been orally passed down for centuries. I have written these songs down to preserve them, but this culture must be passed on by a teacher and learned hands on. This culture in Turkey is in recent decline, though it is one of the richest and well-preserved ancient falconry practices in the world. At the end of the trapping season, the trapping house is cleaned and turned into a place for falconers to rest and share stories, shares about life, and at the same time trains their hawks. Younger people learn how to train the hawk from older people. Sometimes in one village as many as thirty sparrow hawks will sit together in the same place to tame the birds. The birds tame very quickly because of this. As soon as the hawker feels his bird is ready, they go to fields where migrating quail come. The falconer and trasures walk the field wearing the bushes with a stick or sometimes with a dog. When a quail flies the hawk is released to chase the quail. The sparrow hawk is held in the palm of the hand and thrown up in the air to give it an advantage. This was traditionally done because the hunting fields had tall corn stalks. Even though now most of the fields grow tea, this practice of throwing the hawks is still used. If the hawk can afford it he also has a trained pointing dog. In flat areas traditionally hawking was done off horseback, but this is a very scarce practice today. An old saying from the eastern Black Sea region states that the perfect life is owning a horse, a dog. When a quail flies the hawk is released to chase the quail. The sparrow hawk is held in the palm of the hand and thrown up in the air to give it an advantage. This was traditionally done because the hunting fields had tall corn stalks. Even though now most of the fields grow tea, this practice of throwing the hawks is still used. If the hawk can afford it he also has a trained pointing dog. In flat areas traditionally hawking was done off horseback, but this is a very scarce practice today. An old saying from the eastern Black Sea region states that the perfect life is owning a horse,
a dog, and a good sparrow hawk. In the past rice was grown in the flat river valleys of the eastern Black Sea region and this attracted large numbers of quail to stop over. One elderly man told me a story about 50 years ago when the fields were covered with quail and he caught over 50 quail with one bird in one day. This was very important meat for the family. In the past, if a man was caught being lazy a woman would say, “can’t you at least train a sparrow hawk and catch some meat?” The meat was dried and salted, put into a big clay pot and then stored in a cellar made into the mountain. Now it is normal to catch only 5-10 quail a day and hawking is done mostly for sport. In many areas in Eastern Turkey people have stopped growing rice and corn so quail don’t stay for long periods of time during the migration. The hawkers’ best chance is to catch them when they land in the tea fields during bad weather. So because of this the modern tradition has become to trap new sparrow hawks in good weather and hunt for quail with trained sparrow hawks in bad weather. In northwest Turkey where the land is flatter and grains are still grown, quail will stay in the fields in the migration season and provide the best hunting opportunities. In modern times the shotgun has become the choice weapon for quail hunting. In fact, a gun manufacturer from an ancestry of sparrow hawkers named his company Sparrow Hawk in honor of the most famous weapon for centuries in the eastern Black Sea region. Now with most families not relying on a “real” sparrow hawk to supply meat, hawking has become a social sport. In many villages it seems it is more important to have a beautiful bird of a rare color sitting on your arm than to have a good hunter. The tradition of identifying the color is very important in Turkish hawking. When a bird is captured that appears to be of a sought after color the person who caught it will rush to tell all his friends. After a discussion of which color appears to be of a sought after color the person who caught it will tell all his friends. After a discussion of which color is understood by her breast color. It is widely believed that the color of the bird determines if it will be a good hunter. This is typically said about yellow colored birds as they are generally larger and more aggressive. Yes, I have had many discussions on this subject with master hunters and they said they had great hunters from all color phases. Then after making that statement they will then say, “but this color…..is the best!” Personally I do believe that in most cases the different color phases do fall into different size and personality categories, but any can be a great hunter. Of course it is every hawker’s goal to obtain a bird of beauty and strength. This way when you are sitting at camp in the evening not only is your bird the center of attention, but you have some great stories to keep that attention.

Serious game hawkers will not pay attention to the color of the bird. In fact, it seems that some of the best colors of birds are not the best hunters at all. Pure white birds are considered to be ill, though beautiful, they have never been successful in the field. What is known as a true white bird is the most prized of all colors. She is one that has all white coloring except for black barring. There is an ancient song that describes the sorrow of a man walking back in the dark after he took it out quail hunting and it was interested in other birds rather than the quail. He had just bought it for a hundred heads of corn but soon after he took it out quail hunting and it was interested in other birds and escaped. Gevibiko so o hui beshi chahin chini (Where are you going on this village road with a hundred heads of corn?) Rokit tol sue, makedi emm casli (The sparrow hawk’s eyes are yellow, the egg is your food) Matszku zalka, kulepke hshanki (Black bird on the mountain, you are shaking your tail) Mohnhuk, kogel-bah-bah, Gili su tovace (The yellow throated pigeon came and sat on the mountain). Kows skaden venom bishamaru kshoke (Girl, may it come from you, I knocked on the door to see you) Ameri nata vanen tace, moonshinshaye tace (Moonless night, the stars are shining) Rakanus gogazeveh, te memonate (While passing at the foot of the mountain the light from your house shone the way). When you finally find your right bird and a day with good quail members a lot of excitement is sure to be had. The flights are usually quick and straight forward with the quail flushing at your feet and the hawk catching it soon after. Occasionally a long and exciting flight occurs with everyone running to keep track of where they have gone. Of course the younger hawkers like to choose after the birds and see where the quail lands if the hawk missed. Or if both birds have disappeared into a nasty thorny thicket the youngest falconer must listen carefully for the bells and create a path for the elder falconer to go in and retrieve them. Other older hawkers must work carefully to see if the birds refresh to another location. For reasons such as these flying is usually done in groups of up to five or six hawkers together. On good days up to three hawks will be carried in the same group of people all together working the field. On some excellent occasions two hawkers, have released their hawks at the same time at two quail that flushed at the same moment and both hawks were successful on each quail. This was on accident of course, each hawk claiming that he flushed the quail and not the other. At the end of the season the shakers and the majority of hawks are released back into nature. Turkish falconers have been releasing their hawks in the idea of sustaining their populations for thousands of years! The traditional sparrow hawk festival has recently been replaced with a new one. The traditional festival was at the beginning of the season focusing on flying contests and rewarding the most beautifully new molted bird. The new festival is held at the end of the season and is a time for everyone to release their sparrow hawks back on the migration route. A reward is given to man who releases the most beautiful bird in an effort to keep its "race" alive! Keeping a sparrow hawk over winter is a rare tradition because it is difficult to care for the bird. Traditionally in Eastern Turkey the people migrate to higher elevations in the summer to lime and it was believed that the trip would bring harm to a molting sparrow hawk. Only really good birds are inter- wed and by people who do not migrate. Some men prefer keeping the same bird because it is a much better hunter as an adult and will be ready if there is an early quail migration that year. Traditionally nearly all birds are released at the end of the season. Unfortunately, in the last 35 years due to urbanization, previous illegalization and disinterest from modern youth, the numbers of hawkers in Turkey has continued on a serious downward trend. These days it is very difficult to find a serious sparrow hawk herder under age forty and the culture is dying. To combat this trend I have been traveling all over the country collecting traditional songs, sayings, and other hawk training related traditions from the old men and encouraging younger people to keep the traditions alive. It is my hope that we can sustain and keep this thousands of years of tradition alive for future generations.
GERMAN AND POLISH FALCONERS CO-OPERATE FOR TREE-NESTING PEREGRINES IN EUROPE

By Janusz Sielicki

European Peregrine Falcon Working Group,
www.falcoperegrinus.net

The history of decline and local extinction of Peregrine Falcon populations is well known. Falconers in many countries were involved in Peregrine restoration projects. There is still one population which needs our help.

In Central and Eastern Europe the Peregrine Falcon was nesting in trees, using nests of other large birds. The tree-nesting population occupied an area from northern Germany, Poland and Belarus to the forests of central Russia, as well as the Baltic countries – Denmark, southern Sweden, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and southern Finland. That ecotype disappeared in the entire area of its existence in 1960s.

Falconers and conservationists in the beginning were very focused on saving the species in general. The successful projects in USA, southern Germany and many other countries, proved that we know how to breed and release falcons. These methods were then used to save many other species worldwide, especially California Condor and many smaller falcons. When the project aimed at general Peregrine restoration in Germany was finished the idea of restoring the tree-nesting population was raised. Peregrines did not start themselves to reoccupy those habitats. The idea of imprinting on place of birth was accepted as a basis for restoration of this ecotype.

The German project aimed at restoration of tree-nesting ecotype based on that principle started in 1990 and was conducted by ornithologists from German Peregrine Working Group (Arbeitskreis Wanderfalkenschutz e.V.) in cooperation with German Falconers Order (DFO - Deutsche Fälchenschränke e.V.) which provided young Peregrines for reintroduction and Hunting Corporation of Mellekburg-Vorpommern. A total of circa 400 Peregrines were released in forests of northeastern Germany, additionally more than 100 birds were relocated to forests from wild nests in cities. The first nest in a tree was found in 1996 in Germany. Growth of this initial population is very slow. In 2010 the total tree-nesting population in Europe (in fact – only in Germany) was circa 30 pairs. German Peregrine Working Group (AWS) decided to cancel reintroductions in Germany since 2010, only a limited number of chicks from nests in cities which are under risk of losing chicks will be still relocated to forests.

In 1998 Polish falconers started to breed birds of prey with the aim to restore Peregrine in Poland. First reintroduction started in 1999, the same year as in Germany. From the beginning the tree-nesting population was also one of the aims of the project.

Besides that Peregrines were released in cities and mountains. A total of 500 Peregrines were released in Polish forests in the period 1990 – 2009, additionally 55 birds were release in cities and mountains. As a result Peregrines started to breed in Poland in 1998 – first in Warsaw, than other cities and mountains. The tree-nesting part of the project was not so successful. Single birds from Poland were found in cities in Germany; there is only one confirmed case on nesting on tree in Poland in 2010. Unfortunately in 2011 that area was not occupied by Peregrine and no other new area was found. In all other countries of former tree-nesting area there is no any single pair known.

The Society for Wild Animals “Falcon” decided in 2009 to start the Polish Peregrine Project on a new basis. The plan is to intensify reintroduction aimed at tree-nesting population on a smaller number of hacking stations. The Falcon Society has got a grant which allowed preparing new release sites before 2010 season. A total of 56 Peregrines were released in three sites in 2009. That year proved that a new Project is effective.

The next step is to secure birds for the Project. There was an idea to obtain some help from German Falconers Club, as the tree-nesting reintroduction in Germany was closed. In February 2011 a round table discussion on future cooperation was held in Hamburg with representatives of DFO, Ministry of Nature Protection of Land Hamburg and “Falcon” Society. The meeting was held in the pitching station run by Prof. Christian Saar. It was agreed that DFO members and the breeding station in Hamburg will provide Peregrines for the release in Poland on the similar basis as for the German tree-nesting project.

In the 2011 spring first Peregrines from Hamburg were brought to Poland for reintroduction. A total of 66 young Peregrines were released in Poland this year. The birds came from fallowzos of DFO and breeders in Poland, Denmark, Czech and Slovak Republics. Birds were released in four baking sites all over the country. First year of cooperation of DFO falconers with Falcon Society proved to be effective. We hope that following years will be even more successful with wild nests as a result.

By Janusz Sielicki
Then in September 2010 one of these groups, led by Adrian Reuter, had a meeting with authorities of our Wildlife department (SEMARNAT). This was an approach to coordinate efforts and to share points of view of both parties both from the legal status of birds of prey in the wildlife law and from the falconers interest and worries. This was in order to be able to practice falconry with ethics and within the law, as well as to let them know that a serious group of falconers are worried and involved in to defend our right of the sustainable practice of falconry, and the intention of NAFA and IAF to support Mexican falconry. SEMARNAT is developing a plan to have sustainable use of natural resources of birds of prey, and this approach is on time so we can work together for the welfare of Mexican birds of prey.

Later in November 2010, another national meet was appointed in San Luis de la Paz. After a period of deliberations and votes, the board of directors of the Mexican Falconry Federation were elected as well as the consultant committee: 60 falconers representing nine falconry associations attended as well as 19 independent falconers. Francisco Vazquez was elected as President and his team is starting to work with the attorney in order to get the legal constitution of the Mexican Falconry Federation.

On 26-28 February 2011, the second “Festival Mexico Cetrero” was held in San Luis de la Paz in the State of Guanajuato (www.mexicocetrero.com). Organized by Alberto Lara, this festival had several activities such as a photography contest, conferences, a Sky Trial, exhibition flight of a golden eagle, falconry market and the presentation of the book “The flying of falcons” by Ed Pitcher and Ricardo Velarde, who were special guests of the Festival. It was great to meet falconers from all the country and to share a weekend flying birds. At the end of the festival Martin Guzman extend an invitation to his ranch in Aguascalientes to Ed, Ricardo and few Mexican falconers, so we went for three days to do some duck hawking with seven peregrines, six of them passage anatums and one Barbary. The place has plenty of ponds and ducks, the weather was perfect and Martin has a recipe for ‘duck in BBQ special sauce’ which is very recommended.

Finally on June 24th, Federacion Mexicana de Halconeria (FEMEHA) Mexican Falconry Federation was formed representing 13 falconry associations and 19 independent falconers. One of the first goals of the Federation is to affiliate to NAFA and IAF which I think is the beginning of a relationship between NAFA, IAF and FEMEHA. More information can be found at www.fmh.mx. Personally I feel very happy to share this great news with the falconry community.

A year ago, after the attempt of initiative 85 to make a negative change in the law about possession of birds of prey in captivity, that was postponed because Mexican Deputy Mr. Guillermo Tamborelli made observations to continue registering birds of prey, with the help of the letters of NAFA and IAF among others. This critical situation causes once again a big impact on Mexican falconers and falconry associations so an urgent national meet took place in April 2010 in the city of Queretaro, after that meeting, four groups were formed in order to create a Mexican Falconry Federation.
Eckart Schormair was among the very finest good will ambassadors of falconry worldwide. While he was very proud to be German, his travels took him throughout the world pursuing his passion for falconry. I was among those thousands of falconers who became his friend, admirer and supporter of all that he did to preserve and perpetuate falconry. Today, I am sorry that I cannot join you for this celebration of his life. I am with you in spirit.

It is appropriate that we memorialize Eckart here on his home range, not in town, but at a place where he was able to be with his beloved Peregrines. Always we will remember Eckart first as a passionate falconer who loved the opportunity to fly his birds at home in Germany, and also in Scotland and other parts of Europe, in great style and always with enthusiasm. Eckart served German falconers in the DFO in many positions throughout the decades. And for years he represented the DFO in the IAF in many roles of responsibility. He attended almost every IAF annual general meeting. He was perhaps one of the very strongest supporters of the IAF, because he understood and would remind me in his persuasive manner that the IAF had to serve as the voice for falconers worldwide. Just last year he made one of the largest personal contributions ever made to the IAF. We will celebrate his incredible generosity in a special way.

In Memoriam

ECKART SCHORMAIR
Otersen, Niedersachsen, Germany
May 13, 2011

Eckart was an incredibly strong man, physically and by his strength of character and perseverance. He was forever looking for new falconry opportunities. Even in his final days he was envisioning red leg partridge flights in Spain. All over the world we will miss him as one of our dearest friends and mentors. For those of us in America, we treasure his memory because he so love the falconry opportunities in our country.

I have asked the world’s falconers to remember Eckart today and forever. He leaves a magnificent legacy of memories to his family. And for the rest of us he provides inspiration as the quintessential falconer, always with a twinkle in his eye as he tells the story of his last great flight.

On behalf of the 70 Member Organizations from 50 nations, representing more than 30,000 falconers worldwide, we in the IAF join you in spirit to remember Eckart Schormair’s life. We send our heartfelt condolences to his family. On a personal basis, I mourn the loss of a special friend. May you all keep Eckart in your prayers and your heart.

In sympathy,
Frank M. Bond
President

Jose Manuel Rodriguez-Villa wrote:
Jerez de la Frontera (South Spain) December, 2003. I remember this flight very well. After eating a paella at the farm barn. Pouring rain. While most of us were more in siesta mode...he went out there, flew the young falcon in great style, ran faster than most of us after the red legs and got his, to come back with friends to share excitement of the flight…. that was Eckart!
WALTER NORBERT CRAMMER

With WNC, the most outstanding personality of the OFB has left us forever. He was the longest-serving and most meritorious officer in the 60 year history of our association. Without him, the OFB and falconry in Austria would not have such a high priority that it occupies today.

But first things first: On his birthday - July 5 1962 - at the age of 41 years WNC joined the Austrian Falconry Association (OFB) - just by chance one would think. But WNC left almost nothing by chance. This day can be retrospectively seen as the birthday of the most fruitful period for falconry in Austria. WNC quickly succumbed to the fascination of falconry. In particular, the cultural and historical aspect fascinated him all his life. It would have been contrary to his lively mind and his active personality, to just watch the club exist. A year later, in 1963, he became OFB secretary and OFB provincial officer for Vienna and Lower Austria. In 1964/65, he became the executive treasurer of the association. Otto Graf Aheenspurg Traun, who presided the OFB since 1963 realized very soon the potential available in WNC. At the 1966 AGM in Petronell, WNC was elected Executive Vice President and was also authorized to sign on behalf of the OFB, a position he successfully held for 31 years. A year later, at the international OFB field meeting in Petronell in 1967, and after an OFB initiative led by WNC, the decision to establish an international and global falconry organization was made. This was the birth of the IAF, a falconer organization which is represented by 70 members in 48 countries. During the IAF presidency of Count Aheenspurg Traun from 1972-75, WNC was the Secretary General of the IAF. Many years of constructive work followed during which falconry was not such an integral part of hunting in Austria as it is today. In the following decades, many difficult questions for Austrian falconry had to be solved and it was the most demanding task for OFB board members. We have plunged through many folders in the OFB archive and we can only respectfully salute these great achievements by WNC during these times.

In 1997, WNC resigned from all his duties in the OFB to place the responsibilities in younger hands. At this stage WNC was 76 years old, having been an OFB board member for 34 years, including 31 years as the managing OFB Vice-president.

But these are just some of the bare facts of WNC’s ‘official business’ in the OFB. It would not do his personality any justice to leave it with just these facts. WNC was no “convenient” person. One could compare him to a conductor and his orchestra.

In his orchestra he had great soloists, whose interaction he directed to present it to the public. WNC was a man of very clear words and short, precise statements. He hated diplomatic formulations or paraphrasing. He felt obliged to the simple truth and he always fought his battles with fairness and an open vision – falconry or deceitfulness did not exist in this extraordinary personality. His choice of words was often drastic and overrating to demonstrate the obvious problem – deliberately and to achieve his ambitious goals for the OFB as some only understood later. It goes without saying that he always initiated and sought after joint decisions in the board, which led to the important consistency in the OFB’s leadership. WNC set and demanded the highest standards for himself, and also for his fellow board members. One of his famous quotes was: “We are not standard, we are above the norm.” He was convinced of the power of the community and he knew that he had to solve the extremely difficult task to form such a community of falconers who are known as distinct individuals. “The OFB gets its status by you, and you as a falconer get your status from the OFB” was his quote that he tried to imprint on all of us. He placed great stress onto the OFB to conduct a strict code of honor, which he executed without any compromises in times when incidents threatened the very existence of Austrian Falconry. Very early on he recognized the cultural dimension of falconry. Being a free-thinker, a rebel and a personality that could not be pressed into any scheme, he felt a close kinship with the Emperor Frederick II of Hohenstaufen, the Falconry Emperor. Frederick the Great was an illustrious figure of the High Middle Ages, an exceptional personality and the first modern man on the throne. WNC was a great admirer of the “stupor mundi” (wonder of the world) as Frederick II was called. It was his deep personal concern to preserve the legacy of Frederick II “de arte venandi cum avibus”. On his initiative, the highest award of the Austrian Falconry Association “Frederick II in Silver” was created.

The recognition of falconry in Austria as Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO in March this year was a great satisfaction to him. Under his consistent leadership, the OFB has grown into a nationally and internationally recognized and respected falconers association and and his life’s work and achievements will accompany us and bear fruits far beyond his death.

May the eternal Emperor of all Falconers grant his devoted advocate a due place at his heavenly Round Table!

Dr. Harald Barsch, Honorary OFB President

Obituary Walter Norbert Crammer

On 20 November 2010 Walter N. Crammer sadly passed away at the age of 90.

With him the Austrian Falcons association has lost one of the most important and formative personalities of its 60 year history. Shortly after his enlisting in the OFB in 1962, Walter N. Crammer was entrusted with the duties of OFB Secretary in 1963, and he also led the provincial OFB committees of Vienna and Lower Austria. Looking after the OFB finances in 1964/1965, he became the managing OFB Vice-President in 1966, a position in which he remained for 31 years. Right at the beginning of his functional period, during the international falconers meeting in Petronell an initiative was taken to establish a worldwide Association of Falconers, which resulted in the IAF, whose General Secretary Walter N. Crammer was between 1972 and 1975. His strategic decisions, that he followed through with great persistence, were always to the OFB’s good.

His greatest personal concern throughout the years has been the preservation of the intellectual heritage of Emperor Frederic II of Hohenstaufen. “De arte venandi cum avibus” meant a lot more than just Falco tinnunculus to him, as did his never-ending requests and appeals for unity among falconers.

For 35 years Walter N. Crammer dedicated his tireless creative power to the OFB and to the Falconry community, which led to a sound foundation upon which future generations can build.

The Austrian Falconers Association has become a nationally and internationally recognized representative of Austrian Falconry, and our gratitude will always be with our Honorary President.

May the eternal Emperor of all Falcons grant his devoted advocate a due place at his heavenly Round Table!

Dr. Harald Barsch, Honorary OFB President

64 Autumn 2011 • International Journal of Falconry
James L. Willmarth, 65, died Wednesday, April 13, of pancreatic cancer in his home at the World Center for Birds of Prey in Boise, Idaho.

Jim was born April 17, 1945, in St. Louis, Missouri, and grew up in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He attended the University of New Mexico and Universidad de las Americas in Mexico City. He also became a skilled falconer, adept at capturing and handling birds of prey.

In 1980, he began a 30-year career with The Peregrine Fund. As part of the effort to save the Peregrine Falcon from extinction, he watched over Peregrine chicks as they were released into the wild at one of the earliest hack sites in Grand Teton National Park. In 1984, he helped construct the Peregrine Fund’s new breeding facility in Boise, Idaho.

Jim’s work with The Peregrine Fund took him around the world. He built a state-of-the-art outdoor aviary in Hawaii for an endangered crow species. Then he went to Arizona to construct a holding pen for endangered California Condors being released to the wild.

In 2000, Jim was asked to go to Cape Verde off the West African coast to capture rare and elusive Cape Verde Red Kites. After months of careful observation, he did capture the kites by tying tiny nooses to locusts and setting them out on tree branches, an idea generated by his innate understanding of bird behavior. Jim also worked in Pakistan trying to rescue severely endangered vulture populations poisoned by pharmaceutical toxins. After Pakistan, he returned to Arizona and spent the next three years releasing and monitoring endangered California Condors. During these years, he was asked to work in Greenland, capturing, tagging, and releasing over 120 Gyrfalcons.

Jim’s many talents included photography. He also went to film school and was indispensable in producing photos and videos for The Peregrine Fund.

In 2007, Jim moved to Boise and became Bird Curator at the interpretive center at the World Center for Birds of Prey. Using his extensive knowledge of falconry and long experience with birds, he put together flight demonstrations and safeguarded the birds’ daily health and well-being.

Jim is survived by his mother, Nila Willmarth, Albuquerque, N.M., five siblings: Lynne Wolfe, Taxco, Mexico; Ann Dressler, Newtown, Pennsylvania; Laura Hebenstreit, Las Cruces, N.M.; Susan Willmarth, New York, N.Y.; and Michael Willmarth, Richardson, Texas; and nephew Todd Hebenstreit, Albuquerque, N.M.

The family would like to extend special thanks to Cal and Maehl Sandfort, Matt Podolsky, Trinh Nixon, Fred Pugh, Bill Heinrich, Tony Crosswell, Ken Garric, Bob Collins, Peter Jenney, Marti Jenkins, Ed Levine, Meagan Kaiser, and all his friends and colleagues at The Peregrine Fund for their support during Jim’s illness. The family also thanks the staff at St. Luke’s Hospice.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials to The Peregrine Fund, 5668 W. Flying Hawk Lane, Boise, Idaho 83709.

Published on NYTimes.com from April 18 to April 19, 2011