

IAF Newsletter

autumn 2013



International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey
Member of IUCN



their major concern is that we are the only country in Europe issuing peregrine wild take licenses. We even have written evidence obtained through a freedom of information order that he himself has said the 'country is awash with peregrines'. The report will be presented to the principal officer in the department along with the relevant district conservation officers and

administrators. We also have the attention of the Minister who has opened a line of communication with us on the matter. Our evidence is more or less irrefutable and sincere thanks are due to the IAF for their back-up and advice, both tactically and scientifically, which has been invaluable. Wild take is something that we are immensely proud of in Ireland and we

do not take the privilege lightly. On a wider level, we feel it is important that we maintain it so that we can be something of a flagship country as our neighbours in the UK try to re-instate it or other EU nations look to have it further legislated for. As always, we will be keeping the IAF fully updated on any developments in this.

Hilary White

Report from Italy: Villa Andrea (member of FIF and IAF delegate)

FIF (Federazione Italiana Falconieri), during the past year, has acted in correspondence of the principles of falconry and has worked as a promoter of the principles themselves, taking care to inform all of its members and all the supporters of falconry of the activities undertaken by IAF.

FIF is deeply committed on the territory since it has been participating for years to several events, known both nationally both internationally, one of which takes place in Brescia in the month of April; it's one of the biggest exhibitions about hunting and its name is EXA, a valuable occasion that offers our federation the opportunity of making its presence visible, and it also allows hunting enthusiasts to learn about the art of falconry.

Another event that concerns hunting takes place in the medieval castle of Bereguardo (PV) in the month of May; this event attracts a crowd of people, who are not only experienced hunters: the event is also family-friendly.

EXA and the exhibition in Bereguardo are just two of the numerous events that allow FIF to popularize the art of falconry on our territory.

Apart from the indispensable activity of making falconry known in order to attract new supporters of this art and allow



people of every age to get in contact with falconry for the first time, one of the major concerns of FIF is to organize meetings among falconers, an important occasion for its participants to get to know each other and to express their points of view. Every year FIF organizes at least four meetings that are spanned over the entire hunting period; the meetings are opened not only to affiliated members but also to the members of other Italian associations of falconry; obviously FIF also takes part in the meetings organized by other associations, traveling all over Italy. In fact, during the past year, FIF did not only organize one of the biggest Italian

meetings, with the active participation of at least thirty falconers from every part of our country, but it was also involved in several events, sending some of its members to events that took place, for example: in Friuli, where there was the biggest meeting of the past hunting season; in Lombardy (UNCF meeting), in Tuscany, in Emilia Romagna and in several other places.

Another activity with educational purpose conducted by FIF is the organisation of falconry courses, which are meant to provide the fundamental teachings of the discipline to serious enthusiasts who are determined to learn about hunting with a hawk. Every year at least ten people join in the course, which spans over the months of September and October, with the participation of important specialists in every branch of the discipline. I've attended several falconry courses, and that's why I take the liberty to define our course, with a little bit of presumption, one of the best organized: it does not only teach the practice, which is indispensable in any case, but also the history of falconry, taught by Dr. Cimberio; biology referred to birds of prey, taught by experienced ornithologists from the Museo Civico in



Lentate sul Seveso; fundamental principles of pathology, taught by the veterinarian Dr. Peccati, and hunting legislation, whose knowledge is necessary to legally hold a bird of prey in captivity. Furthermore, several FIF members participate, whether autonomously or with the patronage of the federation, to activities that involve schools, referring

both to children under-6 and older kids. Some of the FIF members take care of the reproduction of birds of prey or other endangered species, and they also take part in projects of reintroduction; for example, the reproduction of Eurasian eagle-owl, which is nowadays very easy to obtain in captivity, was started in Italy more than twenty years ago by Vico Battel,

a FIF member who has been a pioneer in the reproduction and the handling of Eurasian eagle-owl. In the end, FIF, which is continually in contact with IAF through its representative, is co-working with other organizations that deal with falconry in order to obtain UNESCO's acknowledgment.

Report from Portugal: Antonio Carapucio

The Portuguese Association for Falconry is small association that represent some 100 associates were 60 are active falconers. Nevertheless our small size we try our best to improve practice conditions to our associates, spread information and keep a spirit of union. The last year was particularly rich in improvements and innovation. Our sport is old and our traditions resound from the millennia but now we must protect that spirit using today's modern technology. Using this principle our association started using the internet in a more active way. Our new website: www.apfalcoaria.org is our new virtual headquarters were we meet almost daily to talk about our daily achievements and problems in pursuing this sport. From distributing our bi-annual magazine to video collections and information about hot topics like Animal Welfare and Hybrids, the wonders of the internet can make the distribution on information easy (also can relieve the board of Direction of some simple administrative task letting more time to hunting, which we surely appreciate!). We advise all who want to improve efficiency to "go web"!

From last year we would also like to highlight some initiatives:

The first is our commitment to the pursuit of the recognition of Portuguese Falconry has Cultural Heritage by the UNESCO. A very important and actual proof of our cultural attachment to falconry was the recent creation of a Philatelic Emission about falconry by our national mail company. This moment was beautiful and we have great pride in the stamps that were printed (photos above right). We hope you enjoy them as much as we! For the goal of submitting to UNESCO have signed a protocol with the Portuguese University of Evora to help us with the process and with a tow in which falconry traditions go deep since the XVII Century: Salvaterra



A series of wonderful stamps published in Portugal this year





Above and left: Alexey Bahterev at one of his tours for schoolchildren on the life of predatory birds

de Magos, the ex libris of Falconry in Portugal. We hope to have good news on this quest soon.

We are trying to improve falconers practice conditions. Having engaged in a quest for hunting places for falconers, we are trying to change some inadequate rules that are applied to our sport just because we own autochthonous birds. This is going to be a

long journey but we are hopeful. Our meeting is one of the highest moments of the year. You can see some photos on our annual assembly where our associates display their birds and we talk about falconry to exhaustion (or so say our wives and friends). In the meeting falcons and wait on flights start to be the norm but the variety is still there and from Harris hawks to Aplomados we can see a glimpse of other "falconry flavours" in these photos.

We hope to have given an understanding of our activities from last year and Portuguese falconry.

Our best regards,

**Associação Portuguesa de Falcoaria
Portuguese Association for Falconry**



Above and right: Anton Modnov educating the pupils in Tambov

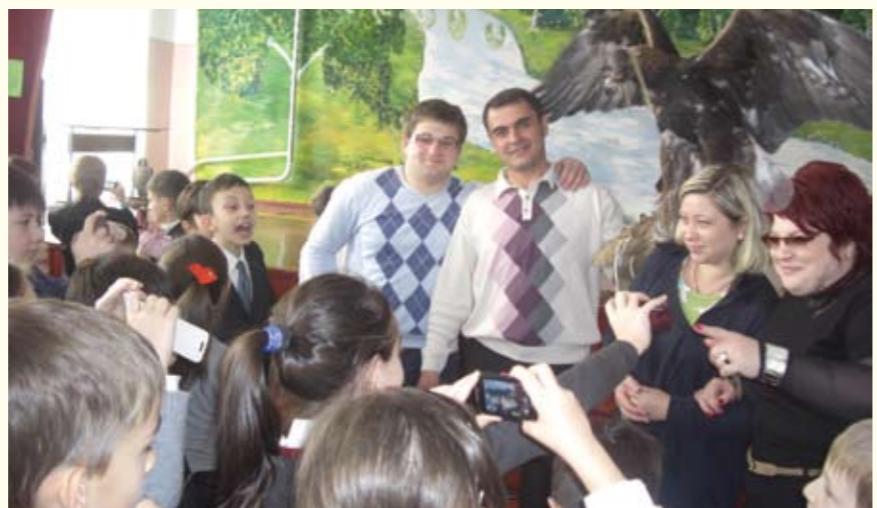
Report from Russia: Alexander Musakov

The Interregional Public Organization on Conservation of Birds of Prey and Falconry Development "Association of Falconers" continues its activities together with IAF as a corresponding member.

National falconry traditions revive in Russia and our Interregional Public Organization on Conservation of Birds of Prey and Falconry Development "Association of Falconers" makes efforts to speed up this process.

One of the main tasks of IPO "Association of Falconers" is popularization of falconry and predatory birds protection in Russia. Recognition of falconry by UNESCO is very important for those whose interest to this ancient art is growing. We sent an open letter to Russian president to ask him to recognize falconry as cultural inheritance and to ratify the list of cultural inheritance of humankind.

This year our site falcation.org has appeared. It was created so that newcomers in the field of falconry could find all necessary information on falconry. The site also includes consultative section, where learners can ask their questions to



Above and left: Muhammed Al Shamery at an outreach activities on predatory birds biology in the school of Vladikavkaz



Above and below: pupils from Platonova Nastya take third place in the Samara regional scientific conference of school children



experienced falconers. Interregional Public Organization on Conservation of Birds of Prey and Falconry Development "Association of Falconers" broadens its staff as this year regional department of Altay Krai and Amur area have entered our Association.

Activities of "Association of Falconers" is connected with making school children and students familiar with the world of predatory birds together with conducting free of charge tours and delivering lectures on biology of predatory birds and their ecology.

Nowadays the activities of our members are very productive. The member of Association Muhammed Al Shamery (regional department of Caucasus region), conducts outreach activities on predatory birds biology in school of Vladikavkaz.

The association member Alexey Bahterev (Sverdlovsk regional department) also conducts tours and tells pupils and students about the life of predatory birds.

The Association member Anton

Modnov (Tambov regional department) delivers lectures for pupils and children in Tambov telling them everything about predatory birds.

Under the leadership of the association member Ivan Pavlov (Samara regional department) Platonova Nastya – the gymnasium pupils took the third place in Samara regional scientific conference of school children, the topic was: "Sparrow-hawk in a winter city".

In the early autumn of 2013 IPO "Association of Falconers" is going to hold rally of Russian falconers. We are sincerely glad to be participants of IAF and within the framework of international cooperation believe in your cooperation and support in the sphere of falconry promotion in Russia!

**Best regards,
the Chairman of the Interregional Public Organization on Conservation of Birds of Prey and Falconry Development "Association of Falconers"**
Alexander Musakov