



The Bay-wing Quarterly

Newsletter of the Arizona Falconers Association

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Edited by Anne and Paul Schnell

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A Message from the President

Charlie Kaiser

Please see the previously sent bulletin for details on what is going on with AZGFD. We are actively pursuing the issues and changes with the Department and will continue to update you as things change. This is, first and foremost, a game hawking club. Everything else is secondary to that. If we can't hawk, we can't do anything else. I intend to keep our ability to hawk game at the top of our list of things to accomplish!

The Summer picnic at Thumb Butte was well-attended. We were fortunate that the rain held off until all the food had been cooked. We talked about a bunch of the stuff going on with the club; our social events also function as membership meetings in that everyone has the opportunity to bring up issues and make suggestions. It was great to see so many new people at the picnic and I hope everyone continues to come to our gatherings. We are hoping to have many more going forward!

We will be having elections coming up for the board very soon. If you are a licensed AZ falconer and club member, you will be able to vote. Please do!

We recently undertook a survey of AFA members about the club and the last meet. We plan to do more surveys on a regular basis to help get your feedback about things. The results of the survey

will be published along with this newsletter. Overall the responses and comments were positive. The survey did help to point out areas where we can improve, and we are working on those at this time. Expect to see improvements as we move forward. I am looking at every facet of what we do and how we do it; there has been a lot of inertia in the past but going forward, I am going to expect more involvement from the board members and better things for our members. “We’ve always done it this way” is no longer going to be OK.

We are also, as I’ve alluded to previously, looking at improving our meet facilities. I am the first to admit that some of our banquet facilities have been too small and crowded and I don’t like that any better than anyone else. Registration is another chokepoint and we will make big changes for this year’s meet. We will keep striving for a better experience at our meets.

Also, watch for more events and gatherings throughout the year. We will be doing workshops and social get-togethers as often as possible.

Thanks for your support as we move AFA forward!



Welcome New AFA Members!

*David Henderson
James Hansen
Michelle Schoppe*

*Phil Wechsler
Vincent Taylor*

*Sean Peters
Milana*



Right to Fly

By Scott McNeff

For a guy from Maine, the opportunity to spend the winter hawking in Arizona is a real treat. I've been privileged to do so on several occasions for lengthy periods of time, and have always enjoyed it immensely. Many AFA members have very graciously welcomed me into the state, and I thank you all for that hospitality. Last year, I spent a month in Tucson, before moving on to Southern California for a month, and then making my way back up to Maine to finish the season at home. It was a hectic hawking season, but a very good one. I hunted in several states, and flew my 9-year-old imprint goshawk on ducks and crows, my twice intermewed red tail on squirrels, cottontails, jackrabbits and quail, and a new passage Harlan's on cottontails and squirrels. All in all, a fantastic season.

As I've gotten older and have invested more and more time into the politics of falconry, I've found that at the end of each season, my thoughts and energies immediately shift to other interests. One of those interests is intimately linked to the beautiful moments afield that we share with our hawks - and that is the necessary work of protecting our right as falconers to pursue our art and passion. When soaking up a magical moment outdoors with a hawk you've trained, it's all too easy to forget what a privilege it is to be there in that particular place and time.

We live in a world where everyone is able to see everything at all times, by way of the Internet. As falconers, our visibility to adversaries like the Humane Society of the United States and other organizations working to outlaw hunting makes us particularly vulnerable. Groups like HSUS have an endowment larger than the American Dental Association, while falconers have basically nothing in comparison. Last year, when German falconers were pushing hard for their country to become an additional signatory to the UNESCO document

that designates falconry as an "Intangible Cultural Heritage of Mankind" to be protected by the government, they had to fight a significant battle brought on by PETA, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. These groups have learned that falconers are small in number, and lack the resources of other hunting fraternities. Their anti-hunting rhetoric and attacks on our community will continue. With fewer and fewer young people growing up in families where hunting is common and understood, these groups working against us are finding more and more sympathetic ears, along with increasing financial contributions to support their lobbying efforts.

As the recent past president of NAFA, I have seen first-hand the threats to our sport that are looming and that will inevitably endanger our rights and privileges as falconers. It's time to catch up, and build a war chest to protect these rights. NAFA leadership has seen this coming, and realized that it was high time we get organized. We are the largest falconry membership organization in the world, and in recent years we've solidified our vision and are taking major steps toward ensuring the protection of falconry, now and into the future.

NAFA is a 501(c)(7) organization that is legally limited in terms of how much lobbying and litigation we can undertake. To broaden and strengthen our capabilities, the following initiatives have been enacted:

- The establishment of a 501(c)(3) entity, The Falconry Fund (www.falconryfund.org), for Conservation and Education through charitable donations.
- The development of a 501(c)(4) entity for Advocacy and Defense that is close to being officially launched.

Through this new, integrated, three-tiered structure - patterned after such organizations as Ducks Unlimited and the NRA - the needs and privileges of all falconers can now be met legally and effectively, while continuing to spearhead the conservation projects and citizen science efforts that our community has become so well known for.

In order for these new (c)(3) and (c)(4) entities to be properly funded, and for them to be as functional and prepared as they should be, we need engagement from the entire falconry community. We need YOU to get involved. Please consider making a donation to one or both of these new initiatives. If you're not able to make financial contributions to the (c)(3) and (c)(4), at least join NAFA (at the cost of less than what it takes to put gas in the tank of your

hawking vehicle just once during the season) so that you can keep abreast of the issues. NAFA is the only viable organization actively and effectively advocating for the rights and privileges of every falconer on the continent. Additionally, if you haven't seen one of our publications in a few years, I think you'll be impressed by the quality magazines being produced four times each year. They are absolutely world class, and we are proud of them. Keep in mind though, that supporting NAFA by paying dues each year is about much more than pretty magazines in your mailbox. We need to stick together.

As a friend of the AFA and of many individual falconers in the region, I thank you for whatever you can give to support our combined effort to protect the passion that we all love so much and want to share with future generations. Please, join today. www.n-a-f-a.com

*Photo by
Scott McNeff*



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The Medical Corner

Raptor Nutrition

By Daniel Scrivener, BS, CVT (Avian and Exotic)

We all have many thoughts of what the best food for our birds are. We all know that a whole prey diet is the best, but what whole prey diet should we feed. Some of us feed the year's catch over the molt, and some of us feel that purchasing fresh frozen whole foods would be better. Sometimes we feel they do not get what they need from the food alone and add in some extra vitamins. We want what is best for our birds, but we do not want to hurt them

First thing's first, this is just a guideline, and if you have something that works for you and your bird, great! This is more for those looking to get a better understanding of what to feed and when. Let's get down to the brass tacks of it all.

$$BMR = K(Wt_{kg}^{0.75})$$

The formula is to calculate the Basal Metabolic Rate. K is a theoretical constant (keep this number in mind). BMR is how many calories that are required to sustain life (i.e. breath, heartbeat, etc.). The constant, K, used for raptors is 78. The K value is a generalization which includes all raptors. The Maintenance Energy Requirement or MER is the BMR plus the additional energy needed to perform normal physical activity. The value for a healthy bird is 1.5.

$$MER = (1.5)(78)(Wt_{kg}^{0.75})$$

Finally, you must include any necessary adjustments for season, molting, healing from an injury, and growth (for eyases). This is known as the Daily Energy Requirement or DER. These values are 1.5, 1.2, and 3.0 respectively. So, an 800g bird in the molt would have a DER calculated as such:

$$DER = (1.5)(1.5)(78)(Wt_{kg}^{0.75})$$

$$DER = 175.5(0.8^{0.75})$$

$$DER = (175.5)(0.846)$$

$$DER = 148.45 \text{ kcal}$$

This bird should get a meal that contains 148.45 kcal daily. Now that you know how much to feed let's talk about what to feed.

The previous section is only regarding the total amount of calories needed, not the vitamins and minerals that can vary completely based on the type of food that is fed. Whole prey diets include the muscle, bones, and viscera. The viscera contain most of the vitamins and minerals, but also harbor disease more readily. The gastrointestinal tract is iron-rich and contains many B vitamins along with vitamin E, zinc, along with other non-essential minerals.

The liver contains vitamins A, many B vitamins, vitamin K, and a high amount of iron. While containing many essential vitamins and minerals, caution should be taken when feeding.

Supplements may help if you are too worried about what your birds might catch from feeding the viscera. Do your research and make sure that you are properly selecting the type of vitamins that would benefit your bird. Vitahawk and Pro-Vital are a couple of brands that have been out there for a while, but do not over supplement as you can cause more problems than will be solved. Supplementing once to 2 times a week is plenty.

There is some good yet incomplete information on nutritional data regarding the foods we feed all from one publication. Many reproductions have been made, but they all stem from a 2002 study that has not been updated. You can find the link below.

<http://wildpro.twycrosszoo.org/000ADOBES/Bears/D317WholePreyFinal02May29.pdf>

As the new season approaches, I am getting the itch to fly, as I'm sure we all are. I hope that if you had any questions regarding nutrition, I have answered them. If you didn't, I hope I at least gave you some information or resources that will be helpful. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions! Have a great season!

Do you need quail or ducks? Support a local vendor:



Tips and Techniques for Apprentices

Redundant Systems!

Everything about American Falconry is designed to protect the raptors in our care. The regs were written to protect birds. Our facilities, testing, and apprentice system are further designed to protect our hunting partners. When I started falconry, my mentor told me, *“If a hawk ever gets away with its gear (leash, swivel, jesses) on it, the only noble thing you can do is quit the sport.”* I never wanted to quit this sport and having redundant systems to protect my bird is one of the most important things I do to insure that I never have to quit.

Redundant systems!!! In case something goes wrong with my knot, in case I stumble in the middle of the night carrying a bird, in case my dog chews through the leash extender, I want a second system to keep the hawk out of harm’s way. For example, I always use a tether on my glove along with wrapping or tying the leash end to me. I don’t release the tether until the hawk is tied securely.... with, you guessed it, two knots. All my mews have two doors, usually the first is a door to a covered weathering area, and the second door is inside that weathering area. I never open both doors at the same time!! If I tie a hawk to the perch in the back of my pickup, I leave a little of the leash sticking out the closed window so that I can get ahold of the bird before opening the window and picking up the hawk.

You get the idea: whenever possible, ask yourself, *“if this “thing” breaks, how do I make sure I have another way to keep the hawk in my possession and safe.”*

Good Hawking! Enjoy that beautiful hunting partner you have on your glove and keep him/her safe.

-Master Falconer, Ralph Rogers



Do you keep molted feathers from your bird(s)?

Consider donating them to a worthy cause. The Arizona Raptor Center can use feathers for imping on injured birds with damaged feathers. Call Jerry at 602-549-8482.

Or, read about another option...



Liberty Wildlife

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Non-Eagle Feather Repository Program

*“Giving new life to feathers that can no longer
fly”*

By Robert Mesta

Native Americans, throughout their history have maintained a special relationship with the animals in their natural world, particularly birds. It is this relationship that shaped their belief system, manner of worship, ceremony, dance and song. Vital to the preservation of Native American cultures is their ability to access feathers from which they create religious, ceremonial and dance regalia, and other ceremonial implements, used to express their spiritual beliefs.

In 2010, Liberty Wildlife in collaboration with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, established the Liberty Wildlife Non-Eagle Feather Repository (LWNEFR). The LWNEFR’s mission is to provide Native Americans belonging to federally recognized tribes with a legal source of non-eagle feathers from federally regulated migratory birds for religious and ceremonial purposes.

Since the LWNEFR was established, we have distributed feathers to nearly 4,000 Native Americans, representing 173 different tribes, located in 47 states.

The LWNEFR is relevant in several capacities as it contributes to the general conservation of birds, supports Native American cultures, and eliminates the need to purchase illegal black market feathers. We like to say that for every feather we send out, that’s one less that will be purchased illegally and one less bird that is taken from the wild. And, the beauty of the LWNEFR is that it accomplishes all this by recycling – recycling feathers. Giving new life to feathers that can no longer fly.

Our success depends on the generous donation of bird carcasses and feathers. Falconers have played a vital role in the LWNEFR by donating their molted feathers. If you would like to contribute, please go to our web-page www.libertywildlife.org for directions and/or contact me at the following address. Thank you.

Robert Mesta, LWNEFR Coordinator
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*Prayer fan made with
feathers from Liberty
Wildlife Non-Eagle
Feather Repository*



Travelling in Style...

In an Article on Wealth Advisor, July 2, 2018, contributed by Bloomberg:

"Lining up a dream post-nuptial vacation can be just as high-stakes as planning the big day itself.

It can be especially complicated, it turns out, if you are a billionaire.

Nobody knows that better than the planning team at Ovation Vacations, a leisure travel consultancy for ultrahigh-net-worth individuals.

The company's team of 30 agents plans more than 200 honeymoons a year, at an average of \$50,000 per trip. That's almost \$1 million in honeymoon bookings each month. Honeymooners who can't live (for five days) without their dogs have been known to splurge on suites with extra bedrooms, massages, gourmet food and even custom-built hotel furniture. As for the second-most common companion creature?

Falcons.

Christiana has booked several birds of prey on long-haul flights—they're allowed on Emirates and Etihad without a handler, she says, as long as you book them a **\$21,055** first-class suite. "If you put a cloth over their heads, they remain docile for the journey," Christiana added."

Thanks for sharing this Cheryl McLaughlin!