

Falconers
against the
illegal killing
and illegal trade
in birds of prey



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IAF Conservation Officer



What is falconry?

The art of hunting

**„taking quarry in its natural state
and habitat by means of trained birds of prey“**

Falconry has a long cultural tradition and generally has a low hunting impact





United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Intangible
Cultural
Heritage

Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

The Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage
has inscribed

Falconry, a living human heritage

on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity
upon the proposal of the United Arab Emirates, Belgium, the Czech Republic, France,
the Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Spain, the Syrian Arab Republic

*Inscription on this List contributes to ensuring better visibility of the intangible cultural heritage
and awareness of its significance, and to encouraging dialogue which respects cultural diversity*

Date of inscription

16 November 2010

Director-General of UNESCO

Irina Bokova

Falconry - Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO

Download "[Statement of the International Association for Falconry and the Conservation of Birds of Prey regarding the Illegal Wildlife Trade.pdf](#)" (303KB)

Statement of the International Association for Falconry and the Conservation of Birds of Prey regarding the Illegal Wildlife Trade.

The IAF is a significant international conservation organization and is strongly supportive of sustainable use as an essential conservation tool as envisaged by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). As such, the IAF holds strong views regarding the illegal trade in wildlife and issues the following statement

Visit at <http://iaf.org/Documents.php>

Statement of the International Association for Falconry and the Conservation of Birds of Prey regarding the Illegal Wildlife Trade.

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2. Most falconry raptors are provided through captive breeding, while these breeding projects have also contributed to restoration efforts in the wild. A small proportion of falconry raptors are obtained from wild populations based on scientifically determined sustainable quotas.

There remains concern regarding falconry birds which are taken illegally. The IAF is planning a registration scheme designed to prevent the laundering of illegal raptors and halt this illegal use.

The support of conservation organizations and regulatory authorities will be essential for the success of this project.

FALCONRY CAN HAVE DIRECT CONSERVATION BENEFITS



————— The Peregrine Fund —————

Example: Understanding
the orange-breasted falcon



FALCONRY CAN HAVE DIRECT CONSERVATION BENEFITS

Example: Understanding
the saker falcon



Illegal trade is bad for legal falconry

LEGAL EAGLE

The RSPB's investigations newsletter

Six and a half years for wildlife smuggler



Courtesy of HMCE

Birds of prey smuggled inside plastic tubes by Humphrey and Junthirapanich, intercepted at Heathrow Airport.

WLO Sergeant Alan Roberts of the Norfolk Police reports on a joint investigation with HM Customs and Excise resulting in the longest sentence ever given in the UK for wildlife crime.

On 25 July 2000, Standley and Jungthirapanich arrived at Heathrow on a flight from Thailand. They passed through the Customs green 'nothing to declare' channel with identical suitcases. When they met Humphrey

**THE IAF PROPOSES A GLOBAL
REGISTRATION SYSTEM THAT:**

- **DISCOURAGES ILLEGAL FALCONRY**
- **FACILITATES THE PURSUIT OF LEGAL
FALCONRY**
- **RECORDS AND AUTHENTICATES
ANCESTRY AND PROVENANCE**

A 'MARK AND BANK' SCHEME

THE 'MARK'

Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT Tag) or Microchip

An electronic tag (E-Tag) with a unique code that is easily readable and links to a central, internet-accessible database



The E-Tag could be placed within the bird, or within a closed ring

Microchips are used extensively and effectively in research and pet identification



Microchips are safe

Passive Integrated Transponder Tags as Markers for Chicks

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ABSTRACT Passive integrated transponder (PIT) tags have been used to mark a variety of organisms and have potential for marking poultry chicks. We examined the effects of PIT tags subcutaneously implanted in 3- and 7-d-old Leghorn chicks and found no significant differences over 40 d in survival or rate of daily body mass gain among tagged chicks and controls. The PIT-tagged birds were not more susceptible to pecking by other chicks than controls. No birds died, but 1 of 20 chicks lost its tag during the study. We believe that PIT tags provide a viable technique for marking individual juvenile birds, if tag loss can be reduced. Costs may be prohibitive in studies involving large numbers of birds.

(Key Words: passive integrated transponders, tag retention, survival, body mass gain, Leghorns)

2000 Poultry Science 78:946-948

All dogs must be chipped in England from 2016

Dogs in England must be microchipped from 2016

6 February 2013 | UK | 543



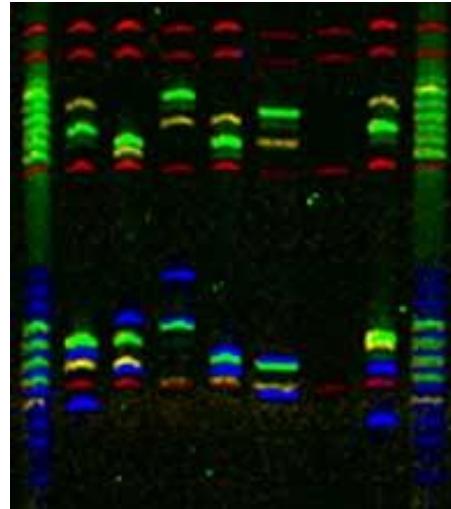
Every dog owner in England will have to microchip their animal from 2016 under plans intended to cut a rise in strays.




KEEP
CALM
AND
MICROCHIP
YOUR PET

THE 'BANK'

A tissue sample (micro-feather or tiny biopsy) held in secure long-term storage, for DNA sequencing SHOULD SUSPICION ARISE



- Polymorphic (microsatellite) markers are now available for many raptors and can be developed further
- DNA fingerprinting can be expensive and technically demanding, therefore the BANK acts primarily as a highly effective deterrent to be used only in cases of suspicion

Molecular technology can protect falconers

DNA update – eagles are legal

Legal Eagle 32 reported on the first DNA case in Scotland, undertaken by the Tayside Police with help from the RSPB. Following DNA profiling at Leicester University the claimed breeding relationships between a pair of golden eagles and three offspring were shown to be genuine. This case continues to demonstrate the advantages of DNA testing to prove or disprove captive-breeding claims.



The case involving golden eagles demonstrates the advantages of DNA tests

A mark and bank scheme will devalue illegally-taken birds from the wild and prevent laundering through captive breeding programs



A mark and bank scheme could:

- **Protect legal falconers**
- **Encourage conservation of sustainable resources**
- **Protect vulnerable raptor populations from illegal wild-take**
- **Prove ancestry and provenance**
- **Increase knowledge of raptor biology**

Maltese Falcon



Birdlife Malta prepared the Life+ proposal on *brookei* Peregrine reintroduction in Malta.

IAF as Associated Beneficiary is supporting this project.

IAF works with Maltese hunters to support educational projects aimed at hunters of Malta to promote bird of prey protection

Education



Falconers worldwide promote knowledge on birds of prey and their conservation.

Saker Portal www.sakernet.org

Portal to develop trust is being run in collaboration with IUCN, BirdLife International and CMS/UNEP.

The point of this project is to address illegal or unsustainable trade through measuring this and changing attitudes.

Falconry and sustainable use

IAF strongly supports a limited and legal harvest of wild raptors for falconry provided that this is demonstrably sustainable.

This is a traditional and well established practice and is accepted in many parts of the world.

Falconry and sustainable use

Traditional falconry has used passage birds and, where strong wild populations allow this.

Falconers should be able to aspire to enjoying this experience.

This is also a tradition in many regions to release the birds after a hunting season.

Falconry and sustainable use

Where numbers of birds required for falconry are small (as in South Africa or for European Sparrowhawks in Ireland for example) the requirement for captive breeding will demand an unnecessary number of birds held for life in breeding pens.

Use of wild birds is a preferred solution.

Falconry and sustainable use

The genetic diversity of the captive breeding pool needs to be ensured.

We are against domestication of birds of prey.

Conclusion

IAF is against illegal killing and illegal trade in birds of prey.

Sustainable, legal and controlled use is a preferable solution





Thank you for Your attention