A New Kid on the Block:



AmFalCon.org for Falconry & Conservation in the Americas

Maya Basdeo & Julian Mühle
ESUG-SUME Regional Meeting, Karlovac, Croatia
April 23, 2019

OVERVIEW

- Falconry: defined and described
- New World, old traditions: falconry and conservation in the Americas
- Hatching AmFalCon.org
- Demonstration: FalCon-LA
- Next steps



WHAT IS FALCONRY?

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"Hunting wild quarry, in it's natural habitat, with a trained bird of prey"

WHAT IS FALCONRY?

"Hunting wild quarry, in it's natural habitat, with a trained bird of prey"

But, it really is so much more...

FALCONERS and RAPTORS SHARE



A PARTNERSHIP AFIELD

IMMERSED IN THEIR WORLD



DO WHAT THEY DO

SHARE IN THEIR EVERYDAY LIVES



A FRONT ROW SEAT

TO NATURE'S MOST DRAMATIC MOMENTS



BECOMING LOST

IN TIMELESSNESS



AND WITNESS

EPIC CONCLUSIONS



A GIFT

A PRIVILEGE THAT WE CHERISH



AN ANCIENT ART IN THE MODERN WORLD

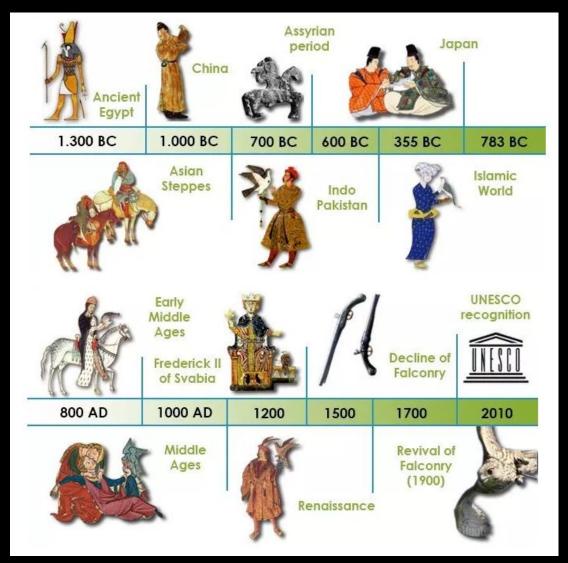


"The dispassionate brown eyes of the Peregrine, more than those of any other bird, have been witness to our struggle for civilization."

- Roger Tory Peterson

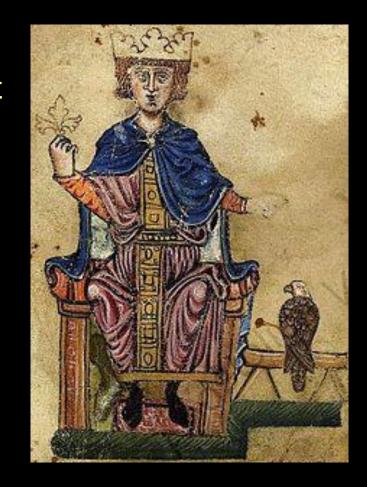


OLD WORLD FALCONRY



OLD WORLD FALCONRY

- Emperor Frederick II of Hohenstaufen wrote "The Art of Falconry" (translated) in the 1240s
- Credited as first ornithological work in history



NEW WORLD, OLD TRADITIONS

- Some writings suggest
 Moctezuma practiced falconry
 prior to Spanish influence
- Tradition and practice around 1920s in U.S.A.; peregrines the classic bird of choice
- Saskatchewan Falconry
 Association (Canada) oldest
 club est. 1958; NAFA 1961



FALCONRY & CONSERVATION IN THE AMERICAS



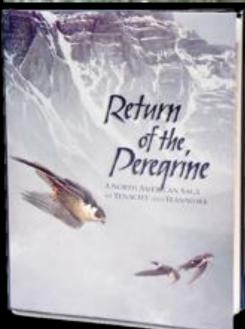
"No one will protect what they don't care about, and no one will care about what they have never experienced"

- Sir David Attenborough

CONSERVATION SUCCESS!

- Falconers have profound experiences, and care very deeply. This element remains true through time and space
- When the peregrine faced near extinction due to DDT, falconers contributed specialized knowledge, practical skills, BIRDS to pioneer captive breeding
- One of largest and one of the most successful species recovery programs in the world
- Influenced environmental trends of the 1970s and 1980s; contributions to conservation biology
- Techniques applied to other species e.g. California Condor, Whooping Crane





Recovery Efforts by Falconers

Peregrine Fund established in United States by falconers in 1970 as a response to decline in peregrine falcons



Jim Enderson, Tom Cade, Robert Berry, Frank Bond, Kent Carnie, Jim Weaver, Bill Burnham

PASSIVE AND ACTIVE CONSERVATION

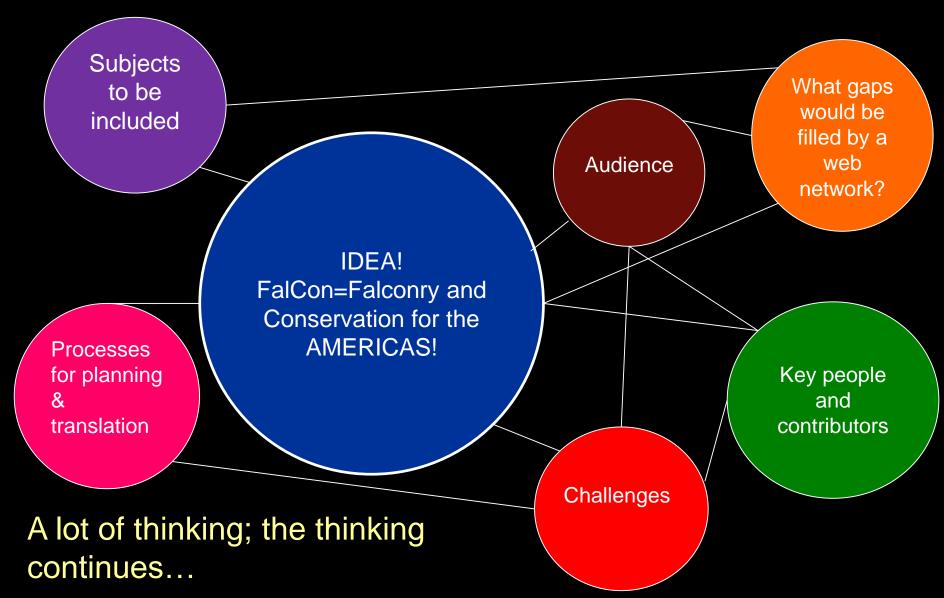
- Sustainability inherent in falconry
 - Low impact form of hunting
- A niche activity with significant benefits to conservation of raptors, habitats, quarry beyond the scope of falconry
 - Demonstrated conservation through sustainable use
- A high percentage of falconers are pro-active in conservation
- Bridge between hunters & non-hunters!
 - connection with the bird, benefits to conservation make it relatable

AmFalCon HATCHED

- Well, the idea was incubating for a while, and started to pip in Peru at the SUME meeting, 2017
 - Falconers from North and South America recognized the absence of a (free and accessible) central hub for information sharing; we could really help each other!



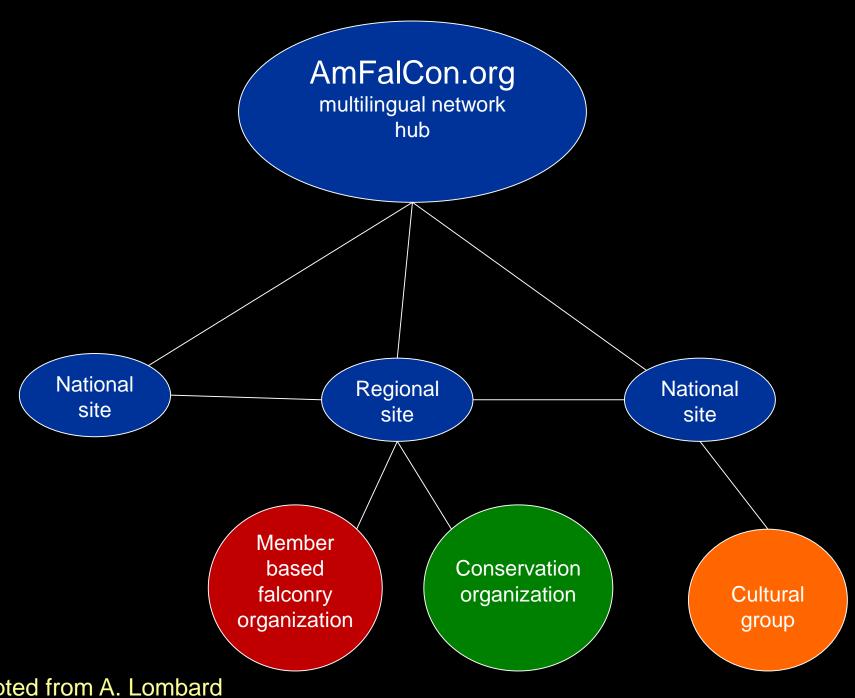
VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY



KEY CONCEPTS

- Falconry is a specialized activity
 - Content needs to be created and translated by falconers
- Focus on the relationship between falconry and conservation
 - There are already plenty of falconry clubs, this is different
- Encourage networking between groups that would otherwise not engage

Egalitarian, unbiased, membership not required



Adapted from A. Lombard

LOGISTICS

- American Falconry & Conservation Working Group created
 - At least one representative on behalf of each satellite site, plus hub manager, technical support, and ESUG/IAF oversight
- Site representatives upload content, liaise with group
 - engage with respective falconry community, clubs, etc to provide content

STRATEGY

- 1. Use of experts in *both* falconry & conservation
- 2. Created content piece for translation into 4 languages to appear on hub and respective sites
 - Provides direction and consistency simultaneously
- 3. Developing content primarily in satellite sites first; hub will grow as satellites develop
- 4. Countries & regions engage with conservation groups for relevant networking

AmFalCon-LA

Scientific and cultural exchanges





AmFalCon-LA

Cooperation across borders and cultures





SCOPE OF CONTENT

Legal Information >



Rehabilitation

cetrería en la región y luchar por la conservación de aves rapaces.

http://www.sycl.net/1/cetreria-y-conservacion-en-las-americas?siteid=95

de la exploración, y continuó evolucionando en relación a varias culturas nacionales y

CONSERVATION AND FALCONRY HISTORY IN LATIN AMERICA



RESEÑA HISTORICA DE LA CETRERIA EN LOS

PAISES DE LATINOAMERICA

Milagro Guadalupano

Ciudad de México

(fragmento del mural)

Double MEXIC

Parte 2

Cuando el Virrey Don Luis de

Velasco llegó a gobernar la Nueva

España (México) en 1550, la

Cetrería era el más aristocrático

de los ejercicios practicados por

la nobleza, gran jinete y cazador

Don Luis de Velasco tenía un

halcón tan bien entrenado que a

Fuente: Juan Carlos Rojo / Edición y coordinación del grupo: Leonardo Vargas García

veces lo llevaba sin caperuza en su enguantado

puño. Los sábados salía a caballo a cazar con

halcones al bosque de Chapultepec y tenía un

cetrero, Alonso de Nava quien cuidaba de sus más de

diez halcones quien recibía dos mil ducados de

salario. El virrey también tenía neblíes, sacres y

águilas y su esposa, la Virreina Ana de Castilla y

Mendoza, lo acompañaba algunas ocasiones con

otras damas en carruaie







del río Apure.

RESEÑA HISTORICA DE LA CETRERIA EN LOS

PAISES DE LATINOAMERICA

Durante todo el período de la Venezuela

hispánica se evidenció interés por las aves de

presa. En las bitácoras de las jornadas

náuticas de 1647 se enumeraban cuidadosamente las observadas en las riberas

En los movimientos de reconocimiento y

conquista española de los llanos de la

Venezuela profunda, el zamuro (Coragyps

atratus) tuvo un papel importante como

avanzadilla. Se adelantaba espontáneamente

a los sítios de poblamiento más ocultos o inmersos en lugares recónditos de las selvas

Periodo Colonial

Fuente: Sergio Fazio / Edición y coordinación del grupo: Leonardo Vargas García

en el año 1975. Volaban Halcones Peregrinos, Aplomados y Striatus.

AmFalCon-LA

Timeline:

"Dost thou love life? Then do not squander time, for that is the stuff life is made of."

- Benjamin Franklin



SUMMARY

- Conservation through sustainable use of ecosystems is part of the ethos in American Falconry
- AmFalCon.org fills a void that currently exists in falconry & conservation, with potential for a positive ripple effect



ABOUT TO CAST & READY FOR MORE

- Development of hub will draw on content from satellite sites in the next few months
- Expansion of network from AmFalCon to falconry clubs, conservation organizations, etc
- Development of an AmFalCon logo for use on all network sites
- Possibility for networking, collaborations, partnerships are endless! We are so excited!

WITH SINCERE THANKS

Robert E Kenward Tatiana Rivarola Alessandra Lobo Augustin Anzoategui Julian Mühle Nick Casey Adrian Reuter Nate Bickford Aberto Camp

Adrian Lombord Dan Ceccini Leonardo Vargas





QUESTIONS? I PROMISE NOT TO BITE...HARD

