

IAF Newsletter

autumn 2013



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

Report from Spain: Dr Javier Ceballos

Spain has two IAF member associations. Since 1982 the Spanish Association for Falconry (now called AECCA) and since 1999 "Alicantina de Cetrería" the Alicante's Association for Falconry.

The AECCA's new board debuted on 10 November 2012. Its new president, Andrés Lopez, has initiated significant actions. Among other highlights are his interest in improving relations with the IAF and offering collaboration in international cooperation for the benefit of falconry.

Both associations, AECCA and Alicantina de Cetrería, organize hunting days and are working for the recognition of falconry as a way of hunting. It should be remembered that in Spain there has been a proliferation replacing falconry's hunting by the use of pigeons. This is hawk training instead of falconry. Many participate in competitions with numerous public and media people attending. AECCA from the beginning has been organizing a few hunting days per year in different parts of Spain.

In 2012 the Coto was chosen in Villanueva de Alcardete (Toledo). It brought together some thirty birds and a large number of fans. The "Alicantina de Cetrería" organizes a hunting day each month. Members practicing principally short-wings flights over rabbit and hare. They enjoy exceptional permission to hunt all year for damage to agriculture in over 5,000 km² of vegetable patches.

During the year 2012 two numbers corresponding to the perch have been published, and an Annual. The publications reaching nearly 1000 members who are already in AECCA. The authors are prestigious falconers at national and international level. The result is a publication reference in the sector.



The Spanish Association for Falconry AECCA organises hunting days



The Gowhawkers' group in the AECCA's hunting day



Participants during AECCA's meeting talks: Jose Souto, Jurgen Nikolaus, Ed Pitcher, Javier Ceballos, Andrés López and Ricardo Velarde



The AECCA Board of Directors, from l to r: AECCA President Andrés Lopez; Rodrigo Garcia; Jorge Hernandez; Ricardo Olmos; Hector Pazos; Antonio Cuartero and Esteban Martin

IAF AGM Valkenswaard 19th to 23rd June 2013

We have had recent changes within the British Falconers' Club. Nick Havemann Mart stood down as Director due to ill health and has been replaced by Martyn Standley. Our President, Roger Upton, is standing down at our AGM in October due to his own deteriorating health. The BFC has been concerned by the lack of communication between the BFC, Hawk Board and IAF. Although we have had some differences of opinion in the past with the Hawk Board, currently we enjoy a good relationship with them. The HB are our first port of call for communication with government bodies and it is imperative that we work with and support them. As the BFC IAF representative, I

have been asked by our Director to work with the HB to improve communications between these two bodies. Subsequently, the HB have recently co-opted me to act as IAF Liaison Officer. Our Director and the IAF President asked me put together a presentation on the role of the Hawk Board in the UK, to present at the IAF AGM. Because of time constraints at the AGM we were unable to do so. I have attached the presentation to this report. I have tried to show their role in a completely unbiased way. British falconers are not always happy with the way the Hawk Board works, mainly because they represent all hawk keepers to government and not just falconers. This means that sometimes they are representing groups that falconers do not approve of. We have

Report from United Kingdom: Mark Upton



Mark Upton

Since 2011 has been held annually AECG on hunting and consequently also on Andalusia, one of the communities with more restrictive falconry legislation, initiated in early 2012 a process to try to ban the use of hybrids, claiming a possible genetic introgression. Thanks to the work of various entities and individuals, among of whom was AECG, regional associations and Andalusian Hunting Federation (FAC) was achieved that the Ministry of Environment retreated. AECG try to be present at major exhibitions of falconry and hunting in Spain. In 2012 we participated with a stand in FICAR (International Exhibition of Arms and hunting). We managed to disclose falconry to the public and to

other hunters, showing the falconers heritage through equipment, books and paintings, as well as raising awareness of the association and its activities. The next days October 31, 1, 2 and 3 November will develop "Falconry Days - Culture, Hunting and Conservation - AECG 2013". Under the framework of the event, will give talks on falconry with speakers from several countries. We will have an exhibition of works of art of falconry theme, the usual days of hunting, a photo competition... As we move through the organization, will be incorporated into our web site www.aecg.org everything related to the event.

Dr. Javier Ceballos
Delegate of Spain to the IAF



Working with regional associations and Andalusian Hunting Federation (FAC) with the falconry legislation about hybrids

