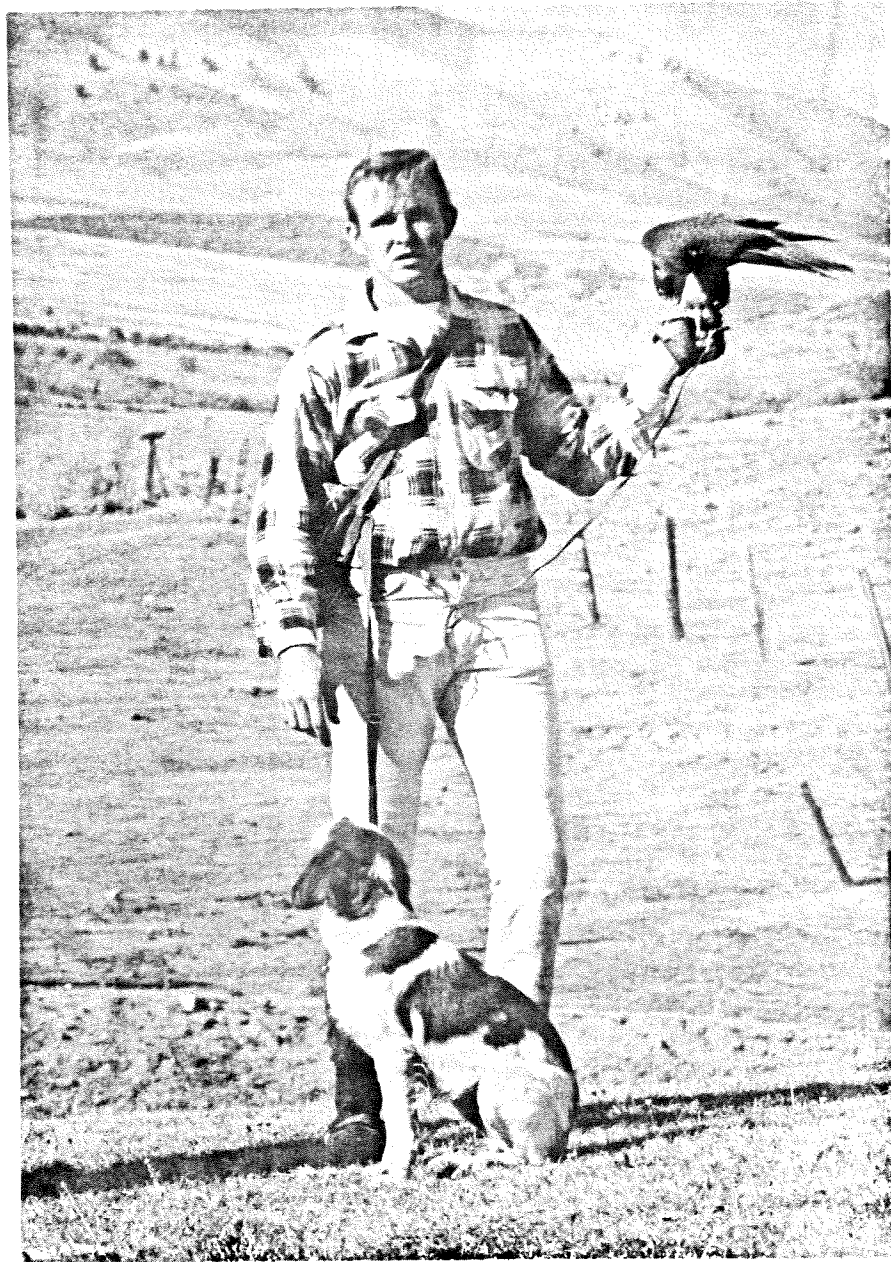


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# Notes

Introduction by FRANK BEEBE

The following notes are among the most remarkable that have ever been published and will be of intense interest to every falconer on this continent. It is my hope that they will also be brought to the attention of as many wildlife officials, both in Canada and Alaska, as it is possible to convince or irritate into reading them. Alaska wildlife officials in particular have what can only be described as "a dog in the manger" attitude regarding their falcons. They can not possibly make any use of them themselves, but they are also determined that nobody else shall use them either.

I have stated, both at the meeting in Denver, Colorado and in writing of the foregoing article, that every bit of evidence available indicates that the population of peregrines and gyrfalcons in the arctic is of a size that would support falconry in North America on a scale comparable to, and perhaps in excess of, the fur industry. By this I mean that the annual take of young birds could run into thousands without making any difference at all to the breeding population. The odd thing is that I arrived at this conclusion quite without personal experience in the arctic.

Shortly after writing the article that precedes this one I received a letter from a certain R. F. Hoyer, of Albany, Oregon, who said he had a gyrfalcon, but was not just sure how to begin training it. This led to further correspondence, and eventually to these notes.

R. F. Hoyer, it turned out, was a remarkably rare combination of talents and experience. A graduate in Wildlife Management from Oregon State University, and therefore with some knowledge of wildlife, he became first a pilot for the U. S. A. F., then went into commercial flying of helicopters. He has spent six summers in the western arctic and subarctic. The notes speak for themselves. I think there is no doubt whatsoever that this man knows of more nesting plates of peregrines and gyrfalcons than any other individual in North America.

Like most other persons deeply interested in wildlife, and especially in falcons, his initial experience was at an early age; a pet kestrel when he was eleven. R. F. Hoyer is now 28, settled more or less permanently at Albany, Oregon, and for the first time, able to spend sufficient time with a falcon to make a serious attempt at learning falconry. He differs very markedly from many North American falconers in one respect, he has no misgivings at all about the natural wild-bred supply of peregrines and gyrfalcons being overtaxed by the relatively minute demands of North American falconers.

I am going to put the last paragraph of Mr. Hoyer's notes at the beginning instead of at the end. He says, "One point I wish to make clear. All observations were made while accomplishing the primary job of providing transportation for the contracting personnel. Had the primary objective been to accumulate data on the numbers of nesting falcons I am positive that some very startling results concerning their distribution and abundance would have been obtained."

Hoyer's notes, edited a bit in sequence but not in context, now follow. I hope they serve to change the thinking of many U. S. falconers.