

# 2008 IAF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING THABA N'CHU, SOUTH AFRICA

USA DELEGATE - MIKE DUPUY

Here is a summary of my trip to South Africa, where I participated in the International Association for Falconry & Bird of Prey Conservation (IAF), Annual General Meeting (AGM). I traveled by airplane a total of 16,426 miles round trip to attend the AGM.

Dr. Adrian Lombard, organized the AGM meeting to run, simultaneously with the South African Falconers Association field meet in Thaba N'chu (Black Mountain) at the Protea Hotel.

We immediately embarked on our first hunt within minutes of reaching the Hotel. Hunts were scheduled everyday both in the morning and afternoon. NAFA Officers, Board Members, and The Archives of Falconry will be getting a report and photo book of the meeting.

The IAF AGM Delegates role appears to be a diplomatic opportunity for representatives from different countries to come and build relationships, but first you have to be lucky enough to be able to afford the meetings. Its Executive, and appointed Advisory Committee (AC) do most of the work



The Delegates of the 2008 International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey.



Here Dr. Adrian Lombard dons traditional clothing presented to him by the Delegate from Turkmenistan.



Minutes after our arrival in Thaba N'Chu we embark on our first hunt in the adjacent 15,000 acre Maria Moroka National Reserve.

Right: Two cheetahs were the evening entertainment one night.

Right: Flying the "Black Spars" (Black Sparrowhawks), reminded me of our Accipiter's back home - Spectacular flights were seen.



Dr. Adrian Lombard (Host organizer), Christine and Mike Dupuy (Delegate, USA), and Frank Bond (President, IAF) take a quick photo at the banquet.



Bryan Voster with his tiercel Crowned Eagle. He hunts Hare's from the back of a pick-up truck - sometimes at night.



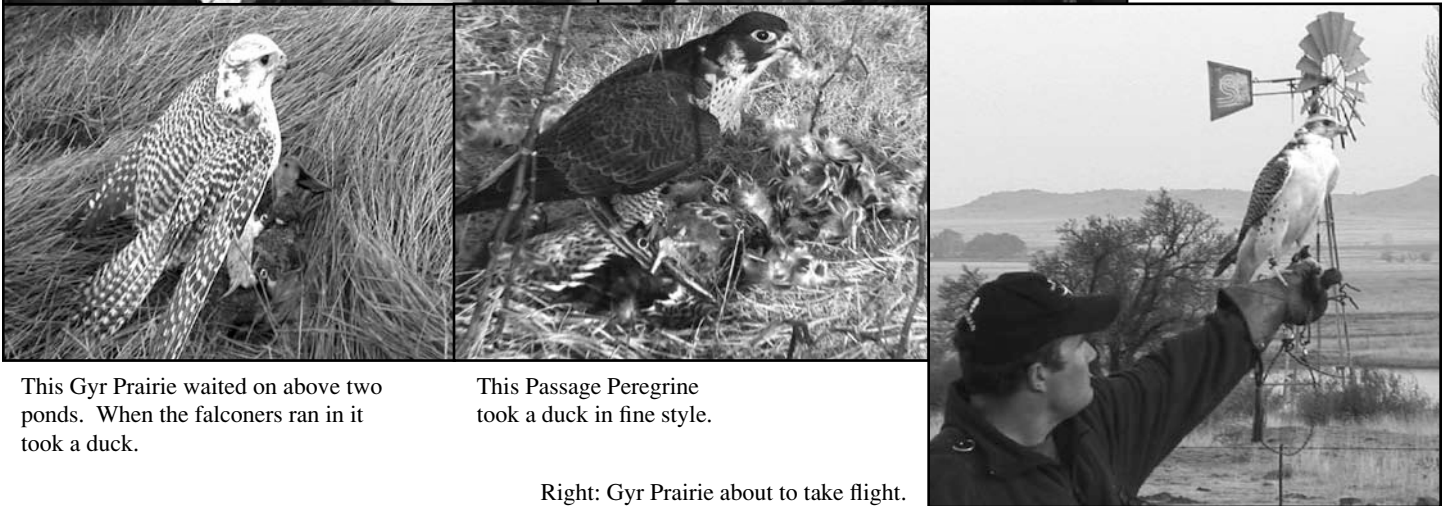
Far left: African Hawk-Eagle, immature plumage. This one had just taken a hare.

Left: African Hawk-Eagle, adult plumage. Its nice to walk out of your Hotel patio door and find one of these weathering, as I did.



Far left: Hank Chalmers is an accomplished short-winger. We caught so many Francolin's with the mature bird, that we gave his Immature Black Spar (on his fist) a few last light flights.

Left: South African falconer Steven Squires about to strike the hood of his falcon.



This Gyr Prairie waited on above two ponds. When the falconers ran in it took a duck.

This Passage Peregrine took a duck in fine style.

Right: Gyr Prairie about to take flight.

of the IAF. The President, various officers and members of the AC gave reports. Delegates voted on several items during the one-day AGM. I recommend you go to the IAF website and look it over: [www.i-a-f.org](http://www.i-a-f.org). The most interesting fact I learned at the meeting was that there are apparently 20,000 falconers reported to be in China.

The IAF's key challenge, seems to be communications. Delegates have no easy means of communicating with one another, if you are not on the AC or an Officer, it would seem that you are sidelined until the next AGM. The management issues of such a diverse group are enormous, and I must complement President, Frank Bond, for his temperament in dealing with a varied group of interest and cultural differences.

As to our host in South Africa, they were superb. Dr. Adrian Lombard, the meeting organizer was incredibly generous. He even provided me with medical advice when I contracted a lung

infection in Cape Town. All the falconers I went hunting with were friendly and gracious. They were very thankful for the raffle gifts sent by: Western Sporting, American Falconry, Mike Dupuy Hawk Food, the NY, Long Island, Texas, Missouri, and the Pennsylvania Falconers clubs.

I was the only Delegate to attend from the NAFA contingent of Canada, Mexico, and the United States. But several American falconers were in attendance, and they included: Frank Bond, Robert Bagley, Shawn Hayes, Skip Tubbs, and Tim Kimmel.

The next IAF-AGM will take place July 2009 during the Falconry Festival in the United Kingdom. Having attended the Falconry Festival last year, I highly recommend it.

Thank you for the honor of allowing me to represent the Falconers of the United States of America and NAFA to the IAF it was truly a memorable experience.