



These species are now critically endangered, And it is our duty to protect. It is right that we all benefit from nature, as nature can also benefit from our, But the wise utilization, In order for us to be persistent. This international conference is a great opportunity for agreement and cooperation in helping to preserve biodiversity, and recommit to act on the obligations of the Convention.

Falconry in Persia

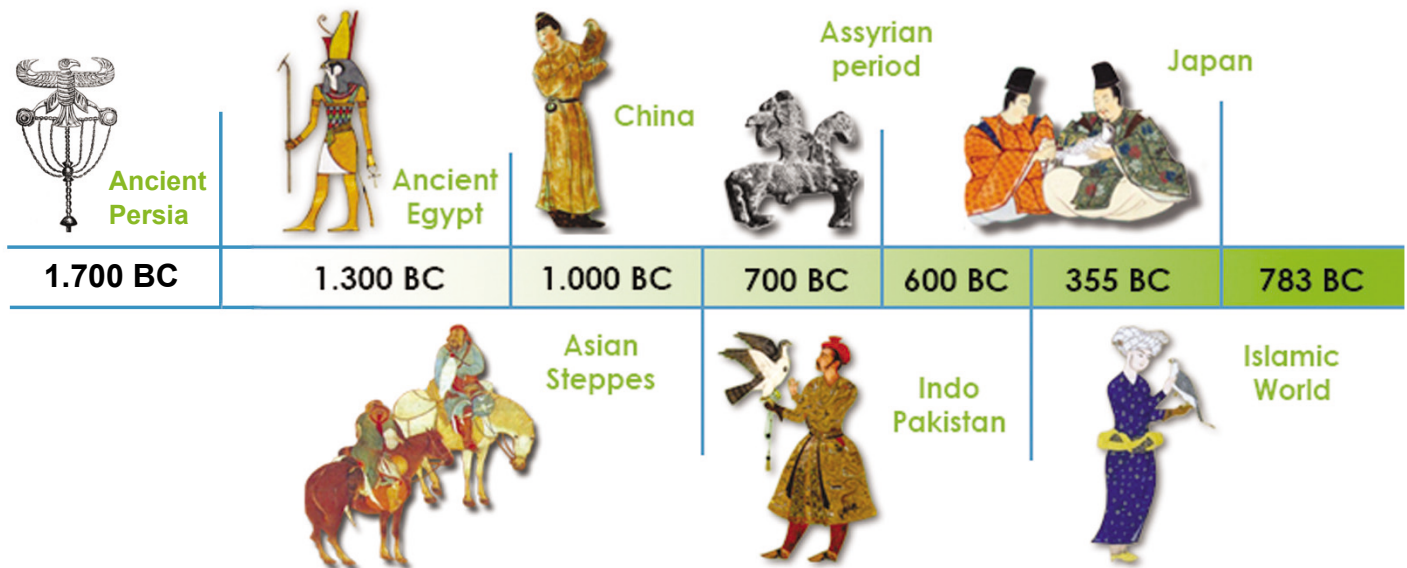
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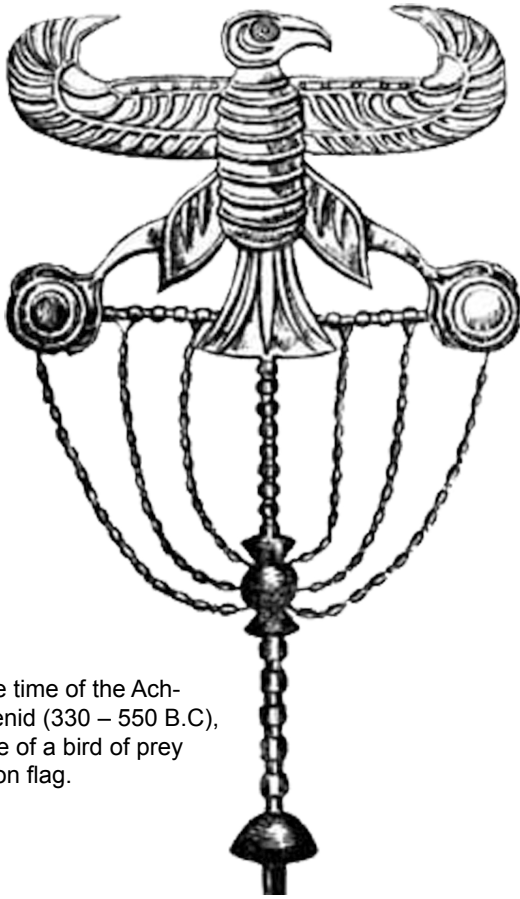
Persia primer in falconry

Persians in ancient times, like many other people, in addition to the catching equipment, also used animals such as dogs, cheetah, birds of prey and hawks in hunting. The oldest historical of falconry findings in Testament Pishdadian in Persia (3569 – 1128 B.C) returns. Remains of Pishdadian suggests that the first trained birds was in this era and have taken into consideration. In Zoroastrian religion mentioned that in order to destroy evil (winged serpent), Ahura Mazda created white falcon. Pictures of birds of prey can be seen in various phenomena pertaining to different times. For example, the miniatures and carvings on stone, plaster, wood and ivory

The first document In writing

from the first documented evidence of falconry, we can mention the report of Auten Henry lanyard, English archeologist (1817-1894) who saw an inscription of a Sparrowhawk on the hand of a falconer while visiting "Khosro abad" ruins, west of Persia. This artwork possibly date back to early 1700 before crist. 3700 years, document In writing of history of Falconry in Persia, So "Falconry" in Iran has a long history of over 5500 years. So please fix this Chart. Persia is primer of this chart on the basis of written documents.





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Written elsewhere:

The inscription was written by Cyrus; I had been lover of my friends, I became the most deft horse-rider, shooter and master of gamekeeper. Sytsya, physician of Artaxerxes II (sasanian - 5 century before Christ) in his writings about hunting pointed out to hunting hares via birds of prey. Khosrow Parviz, Yazdegerd and many other Sassani kings (226-451 A.D), have many mews, hawk and falcon.

Iranian traditional classification of trainable birds of prey based on color of eyes in black or yellow iris, indicate to their precision and correspond exactly to new Ornithological classification.

Falcons family includes only birds with black eye with extended wings high flying birds, Of these birds they used to hunt heron, crane, houbara, crows and even for large eagles.

After the arrival of Islam

In the Islamic era in Iran and other countries, hunting prospered. Kings, emirs and caliphs remember the golden era os Sasanian were extremely interested to hunting by the hawk and falcon together with their troops had spent a lot of time to hunt.

In fact, everything hunt in day with golden eagles, could be hunt at night with the eagle Owl. In "Naseri Baznameh" mentioned to hunting the other birds of prey by the owl.

Bazdari (falconry) or bazyari (falcon assistance) generally is hunting with birds of prey and breeding and training them. Hunting by falcon is most often used because of it called falconry. This term enter with its art to Islamic Civilization from Iran. "Bazyar" in Arabic called "Beyzareh" derived from "bizar" that is "bazyar" in arabic.

Later, during the Mongol conquest and the Turks "Bazdar" and "Bazyar" became "ghoshchi" and "ghoshyar" the meaning of arts, training, care and treatment of falcon.



Hunting the yellow deer with bird of prey, Ghapan hill, 900 – 1000 A.B



Teimur Mirza (right)

BAZNAMEH NASERI

Doubtless, the most comprehensive and effective falconry books is "Nasari Baznameh" written by "Teimur Mirza" on 1285 AH in Tehran. In all that time, and now that 146 years have passed since its writing in this own field is one of the most unique books in this series. And always was of interest by ornithologists, veterinarians and hunters. This book is frequently cited in French and English, and even written books of falconer in North American ornithologists and also applied.

In his opinion "Bazyari" and "Bazdari" (falconry) is the best of ancient sport of Iranian which is sacred, and relationship between man and bird of prey is a kind of divine grace.

As he says, cause these aggressive & violent birds to become tame is humor, grace and providence of God. "Teimur Mirza" in the "Nasari Baznameh" notes that struggle between predator and a bird that is conducive to providing sustenance is the generosity of God. After this effort will certainly pray closer to the answer, as he writes: When raptors finished their hunting in a beautiful field, survived from eagle, eaten a good fresh meat, sitting beside streams, in my own idea, each pray would granted.

And what nice masterful word says: When you see the colorful feathers and beautiful thoughts, behavior and actions of this intelligent creatures, nothing you would find and appear in your tongue except for God praise.

THE LAST FALCONERS OF IRAN

Latest real falconer was "Mostofiolmamalek" who loved this beautiful and ancient hunter and established last private mews, "Ghoshkhaneh". In his "Ghoshkhaneh" he kept about 20 falcon. After that, falconry went for fossilise. The late General A.M Nasrollahi wrote a very interesting, full of detailed and valuable content in the old journal "hunting and nature,"

After him, the late Akbar Ala, Amir Alaee and Fathali Khosravi (they were game guard) put their efforts to promote this profession with a strong endeavor in less than half a century ago, in mews of Department of Environment, and trained the last Iranian falconer. Now the official falconry center does not exist in Iran. Due to the risks that threaten the population of birds of prey in Iran, especially trafficking, government policy is not getting to the popularity of this art and sport.



Mostofiolmamalek