

## Front Cover Page



Mural titled: *The Viceroyalty* by Ramiro Romo, Mexico City 1950  
photo by Robert Palmer

# Falconry Heritage of Mexico

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This research intends to present in chronological order a personal and brief version of what I have lived, experienced and know about falconry in Mexico. There have always been people interested in falconry and birds of prey. Surely there are other stories and other falconers in other cardinal points. I apologize in advance if I forgot to mention someone or if I made a mistake or omission. If you have any observations or comments please send them to me via my email address above.

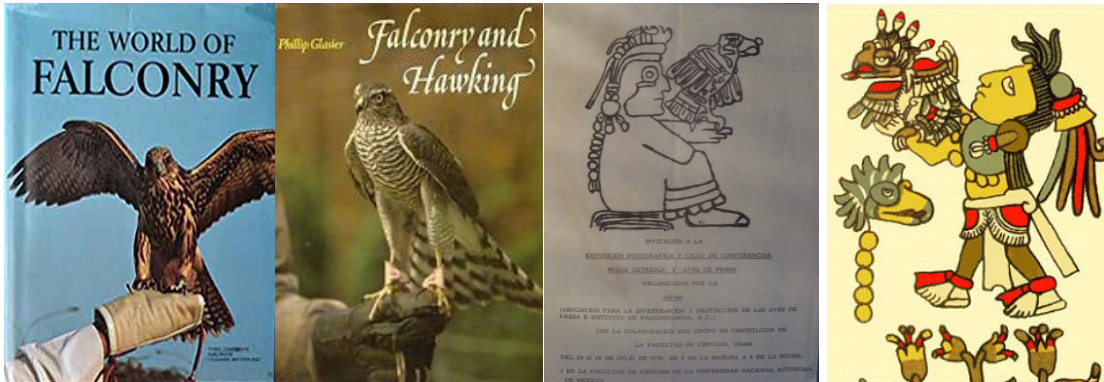


Painted by: Jesus Helguera (1810-1971)

## MOCTEZUMA'S FALCONRY

**Moctezuma (1466-1520).** Many recognized authors, ancient and modern, national and foreign, have written about Moctezuma's falconry based upon information from ancient books, which has been interpreted in different ways. Moctezuma had a zoo with all kinds of wild animals and employed more than 300 men for maintenance. The section that he frequented most was the birds of prey aviary. The facilities included separate rooms with raptors on screen perches. The Spaniards were impressed and some historians like Juan Suárez de Peralta, Lopez de Gomara, Gonzalo Fernandez de Oviedo, Cervantes de Salazar and Hugh Thomas among others, talked about Moctezuma's falconry. Some other falconry book authors conclude that falconry came to the New World from Asia and Moctezuma had birds of prey for hunting, as in the case of, "The World of falconry" by H. Schlegel & JA Vester de Wulverhorst or "Falconry & Hawking" by Phillip Glasier and others. Because of this some historians have interpreted the possibility that the Mexicans, called Aztecs by spaniards, practiced falconry.

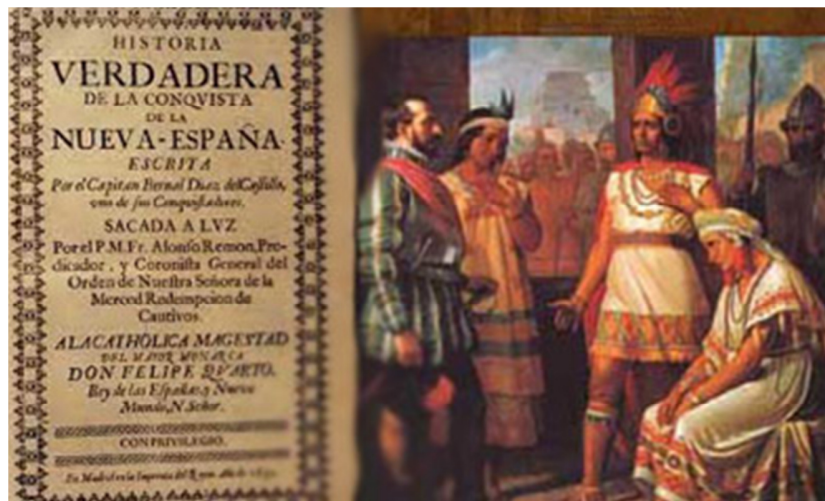
**Professor Rafael Martín del Campo (1910-1987)** A distinguished ornithologist, professor of the Faculty of Sciences of the National Autonomous University of Mexico, in 1979 gave a lecture titled "Possibilities of Pre-Hispanic Falconry" in the auditorium of the Faculty of Sciences of the UNAM; There he explained his hypothesis. He talks about Moctezuma's falconry, the Mexica's great knowledge of wildlife management, the images of the Nutall Codex and provides ideas for further investigation but concluded that there is no evidence that falconry was practiced.



**José Manuel Fradejas Rueda**, founder of the Latinamerican Archive of Falconry at the University of Valladolid, Spain, has researched and analyzed "Moctezuma's falconry". He published his comments and conclusions in a valuable document presented in May 2006 titled; "Falconry in America, Pre-hispanic or Colombian?", in which he thoroughly discusses the subject of "Moctezuma's falconry" and thoroughly analyzes the different texts and concepts, also concluding that falconry was not practiced before the arrival of the Spaniards.



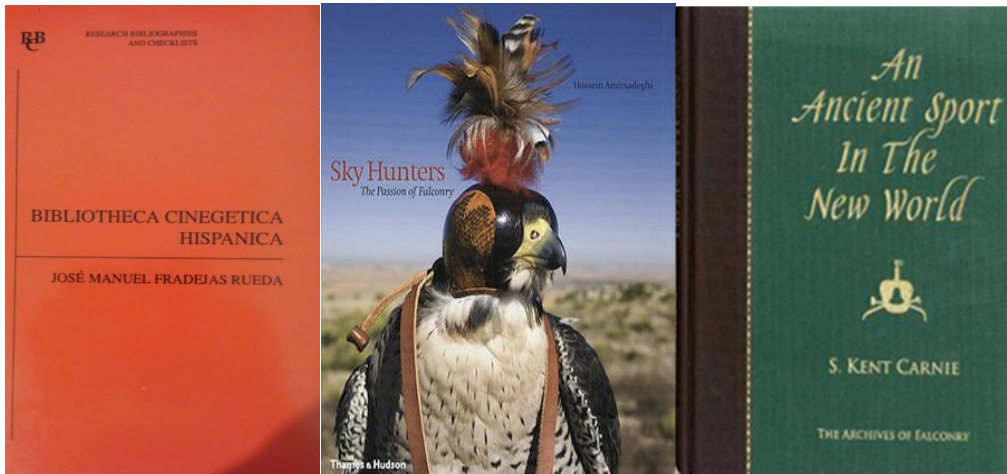
## XVI & XVII CENTURIES



Falconry arrived in America for the first time in the conquest of New Spain (Mexico). It was practiced in the Colonial Era by the Viceroy and nobility of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. One of the earliest references is found in the book: "The True History of the Conquest of New Spain" written by Captain Bernal Diaz del Castillo printed in 1575. I literally transcribed a passage from the book that reads as follows:

... one day we were with three of our captains and certain soldiers with the great Moctezuma, and perhaps a sparrow hawk in a room with quail runners; that room was near the houses and palaces where the Moctezuma was imprisoned. There were gentle doves and quail, because he had them there to be raised by the Indian butler who was also in charge of sweeping the rooms. And suddenly a hawk fell down and claimed one for prey. Our captains saw him hunt and one of them, named Francisco de Acevedo "the polished", who was the master of the Admiral of Castile, said "Oh what a beautiful hawk and what a hunt he did, And a good flight he has!". The other soldiers agreed that he was very good indeed, and that there were in this land many good birds for hunting of poultry; And Moctezuma was looking at the men and wondered what they were talking about, so he asked to his servant Ortequilla about the topic of the conversation; he replied that those captains said that the hawk that just came in to hunt was very good, and that if we had another like that they would show him to come to the hand, and that in the field they would throw it to any bird, and no matter if it was something big, he would kill it. Then Montezuma said: "Well, I'll give orders on your behalf to trap that same sparrow hawk, and we'll see if you can tame and hunt with him." All of us who were there took off their captain hats as a grateful for his gift; And then he summoned his bird trappers, and told them to bring him the same sparrow hawk that was here; And such a skill they had, that at the time of Ave-Maria they came with the same hawk, and they gave it Francisco de Acevedo, and showed him the lure; And because we were then offered of other things more important than hunting, he will stop here to talk about it.

This text was analyzed by Kent Carnie, Prof. Emeritus and founder of the Archives of Falconry in the United States, <https://www.peregrinefund.org/falconry> in the book "Sky Hunters" in 2008 and in his book "An Ancient Sport in the New World" published in 2013. Kent Carnie made the observation that if Moctezuma ordered his men to bring the hawk to see if he could hunt with him, it means that Moctezuma did not know falconry, as confirmed in the writings of the soldier Francisco de Acevedo.



With this data, it is demonstrated once again that the Mexicas didn't know falconry and Moctezuma was introduced to the sport by the Spaniards. Moctezuma, accompanied by his best men, went on to hawk with the Spanish soldiers. Incidentally, Moctezuma also hunted with a bow and was a good blowgun shooter, he use to hunt birds in the air but when he starts learning falconry he forgot the blowgun. So, it makes sense to me, that Moctezuma can be considered the first Mexica falconer in the New World!



Eagle Warrior painted by: Gerardo del Olmo



Moctezuma painted by: Jesús Helguera (1910-1971)

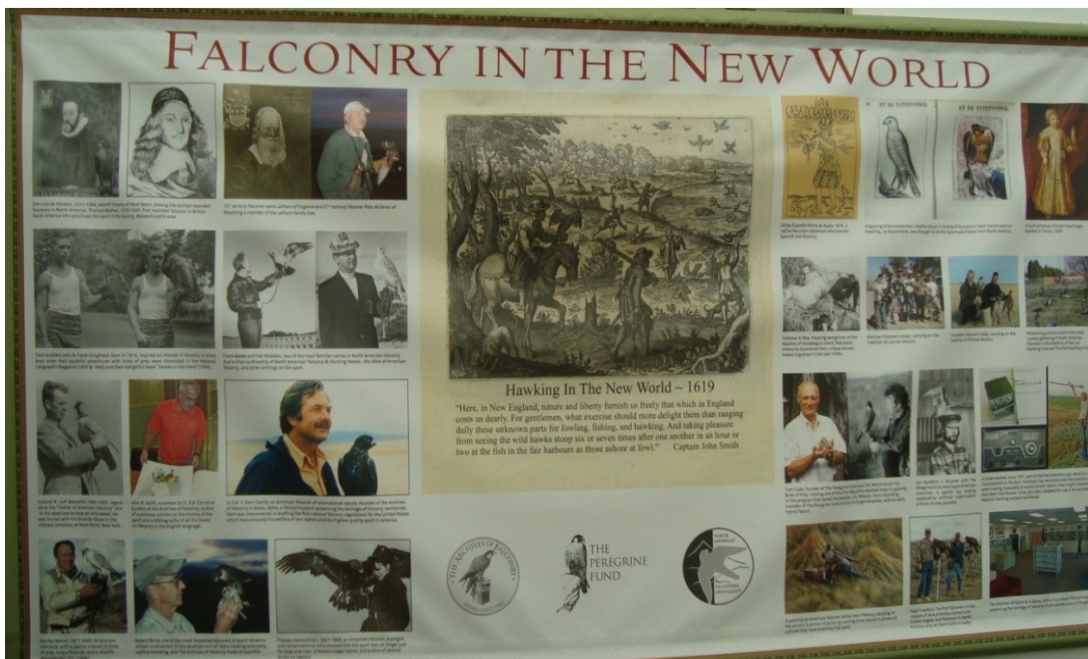
## FALCONRY IN NEW SPAIN: THE VICEROYALTY

### MILAGRO GUADALUPANO

Conjunto de pinturas murales de  
Fernando Leal (1896-1964)



"Guadalupano's Miracle" Mural, Painted by: Fernando Leal, 1947, México City. (fragment of the mural)



Since the year 2000 it is Internationally accepted that falconry arrived and was practiced for first time in America in New Spain (Mexico) in century XVI. (up to the left, Don Luis de Velasco)



**Luis de Velasco (1511-1564)**

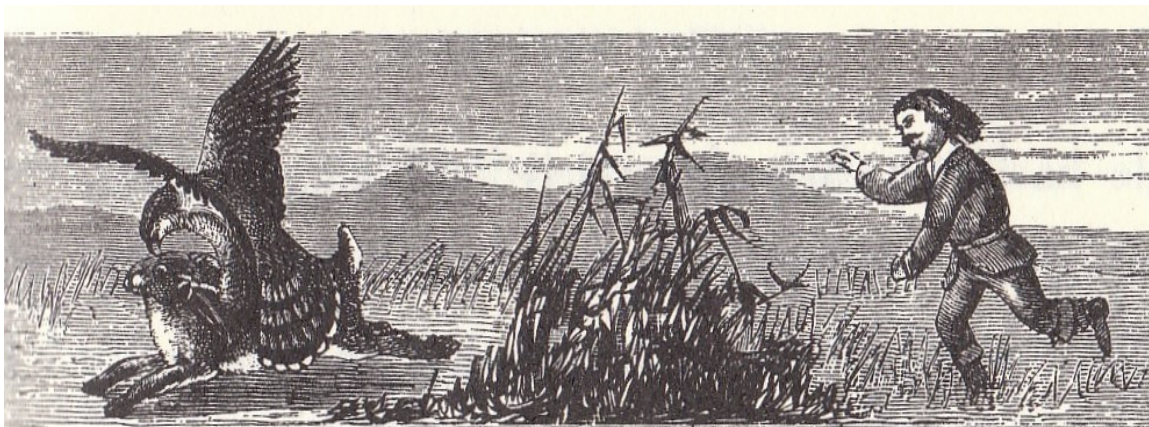
When Viceroy Don Luis de Velasco arrived to govern New Spain in 1550, falconry was already the most aristocratic of the exercises practiced by the nobility. Don Luis de Velasco was the first well-known falconer on the continent. He practiced falconry in New Spain “Mexico” from 1550 to 1564, when he died. He was well known because he had a falcon so tame that he rode with the falcon unhooded on his fist. Certainly there were more falconers hunting around New Spain at that time. There is a mural called “Viceroys” that was painted in 1950 by Ramiro Romo, commissioned by José Clemente Orozco, in a Set of 10. One of those is of a falconry scene. This mural is part of Mexican History, showing three centuries of Spain conquest. Viceroys and aristocrats used to hunt as a sport even on Sundays, as they waited to hear the church bells early in the morning to go out riding horses and with dogs and falcons. Viceroy Don Luis de Velasco used to hunt in the Chapultepec forest and had an elderly squire, Alonso de Nava, who took care of his falcons (ten, at least), and received two thousand ducats of income. This Viceroy has also been recognized as the forerunner of Mexico’s national sport, Charrería, which allowed the Indians to ride horses. The Viceroy also designed Mexico’s saddle. He also owned a dozen of brave Lydia bulls and he promoted bullfighting





**Luis de Velasco II (1539-1617)**

Viceroy Don Luis de Velasco's son, Luis de Velasco II, inherited his father's love for falconry and became Viceroy of New Spain from 1590 to 1595, after which he was sent to Peru to govern there between 1596 and 1605. Of course, Luis practiced falconry while in Peru. Luis then came back to New Spain to govern from 1606 to 1611 at the end of the Middle Ages. The Viceroy who continued ruling in New Spain all hunted with birds of prey until the end of the seventeenth century. After the Vice Royalty, there are no records of falconry presumably due to the Mexican war for Independence, which began in 1810. During the ensuing period, there were deep social and economic changes to organize the territory and the Mexican Republic and conditions were not conducive to the practice of falconry. The important footnote here is that since 2000, the international community officially recognizes that falconry was introduced to, and practiced in, the New World, in New Spain (Mexico) in the 16th century.





## XX CENTURY



In 1950, the "Mexican Association of Falconry" emerged in Mexico City. Some of its honorary members were distinguished foreign falconers like Robert Stabler, Luff Meredith, Pete Asborno, Otto Kals, Gilbert Blaine, Daniel P. Mannix, JME Mellor, LN Wight, WR Hecht, Lieut and others. There are letters and diplomas from this association in 1951 written by its president Guillermo José Tapia, who owned a goshawk, a redtail hawk. In this documentation, Guillermo writes about the intention of creating a falconry book library for future apprentices. Despite the apparent organization and sophistication of this club, it disappeared for unknown reasons.



In 1960 Roberto Béhar Calderón age 18, lived in Coyoacán near Mexico City. His passion for Middle Age literature and his study of baroque music and harpsichord, caused Roberto to learn and get involved in falconry. He started with a harris hawk given to him by a hunter friend. Later, Roberto obtained a golden eagle, a goshawk and a peregrine falcon. In his travels, Roberto met renowned international falconers like Felix Rodriguez de la Fuente, Aurelio Pérez, Harold M. Webster, Jack Mavrogordato, Lorant de Bastyai and Renz Waller among others. He was the first person to import european goshawks and is recognized as the initiator of contemporary falconry in Mexico. An interesting fact is that Roberto is the nephew of the famous artist, Frida Kahlo.



**In 1964 Rafael Del Valle Reyna** (a falconer of the tropics, born in Huimanguillo Tabasco), began as a deer hunter, his uncle had a gun shop and received magazines where he noticed about falconry and soon starts practicing falconry with a roadside hawk, (*buteo magnirostris*) to hunt quail with the aid of his Vizla. He was the first Mexican falconer to train an aplomado falcon and hunted cattle egrets, also was the first falconer to train and fly a Bat falcon at different types of birds. Setting the first records of hunting with birds of prey.

In 1971 Rafael wrote a letter to Harold M. Webster asking about falconry furniture and Webster gave him information about NAFA, Pete Asborn and Eugene Johnson.

In 1983 Rafael gave a lecture in the V National Symposium of Ornithology at the Miguel Alvarez del Toro Zoo in Chiapas.

In 1985 He contributed to the peregrine Fund Study and Conservation Project of the aplomado falcon and he have met Peter Jenny, Brian Mutch and Kenny Sterner.

In 1994 He organized a Mexican Falconry Congress in Huimanquillo at the facilities of the Rancher Union with the Mexican Falconry Federation.



**In 1967, Ing. Federico Medrano Crespo** began practicing falconry with a harris hawk. His cousin Enrique Guerrero, also took up the Art, and together they brought harris' hawks and redtail hawks from the Sierra of San Luis Potosí. They managed to train them accordingly to the teachings of the Book "The Art of Falconry" or "El Arte de Cetrería" by Félix Rodríguez de la Fuente. Federico hunted rabbits with a redtail but he always had a preference for golden eagles. He also flew passage peregrine falcons in 1977. Federico became president of the "Asociación Mexicana de Cetrería" in 1985 and later, in 1989 he bred a couple of harris hawks at his home facilities. He went to Germany and he have met Eckart Soemayer and the Germans at one of their meetings.



**In 1968 a teenager Eduardo Bessoudo** started with a Harris hawk, also two teenagers brothers, Héctor and Eduardo Apellániz, who lived in Mexico City, started falconry with Cooper hawks.

In 1969 Eduardo Bessoudo, Héctor & Eduardo Apellániz, Roberto Béhar and Enrique Guerrero hunted rabbits with harris hawks and redtails on Ajusco Mountain, establishing one of the first records of hunting by means of falconry in that area. Juan Ramírez Grycuk met Eduardo Bessoudo, who influenced him to start falconry with a redtail.

It was also in 1969, that the wild life Director Rodolfo Hernández Corzo, contacted via regular mail with the falconers whom at that time had registered their birds with the government. This situation facilitated communication between the various falconers in Mexico, resulting in a continued resurgence of falconry in México.

In 1970 I learned about falconry and started with a kestrel. Shortly after that I had a harris hawk. At "LARRE", a shooting, hunting and fishing store located in Mexico City, which was a meeting place for hunters looking for fine equipment, I was a regular customer. It was there that I met Mr. Enrique Guerrero, Mr. Federico Medrano and the Apellaniz brothers Hector & Eduardo. At the same time in the north of Mexico City, Herbert Fregoso started with a harris hawk. Jorge Carbajal, learned about falconry because his father flew a harris hawk. Jorge bought a peregrine falcon from a pet store near a chain grocery store. At the time, small pet shops emerged offering wild animals that had no documents or restrictions. The Sonora market down town Mexico City occasionally had a raptor for sale but it was still difficult to obtain birds of prey.



In 1971, Enrique Guerrero and Eduardo Apellániz traveled to the beach in the state of Tamaulipas and trapped officially the first Well known passage peregrine falcon in Mexico named "Doña Margarita", which really started the beginning of flying longwings in México. Eduardo Bessoudo and Eduardo Apellaniz managed, trained and flew Doña Margarita. All of us who saw Doña Margarita fly, were struck and delighted by the magic of peregrines.

In 1972, Raúl Pacchiano met Eduardo Bessoudo and took up falconry with a kestrel and a harris hawk. Later, Raúl met his fiancé Marisol Torres who got a kestrel and without even knowing, became the first woman falconer in México. Adrián Escandón obtained a redtail and started in falconry, he made the first falconry meet at his home in Mexico City. Some of the very first falconers also went to Tamaulipas too, where eight peregrine falcons were trapped.



Héctor Apellaniz, Juan Ramírez Grycuk, Eduardo Apellaniz, Eduardo Bessoudo, Roberto de Uslar and Enrique Guerrero, picture by Roberto Behar, 1972

In 1973, Roberto Béhar built a house in Ajusco, located half an hour from México City. These facilities had gardens that were totally reserved for the raptors and of course it became a gathering point for all of all the falconers. Then Roberto Behar founded “The Conservation and Investigation Center for Birds of Prey ”



the second Mexican falconry association, with around ten members. On one of this group’s hunts, after several attempts, Héctor Apellániz managed to catch a hare with his tiercel harris hawk “Rajá” exposing the capabilities of the harris hawk and setting the stage for many more to hunt hares with harris hawks in México.



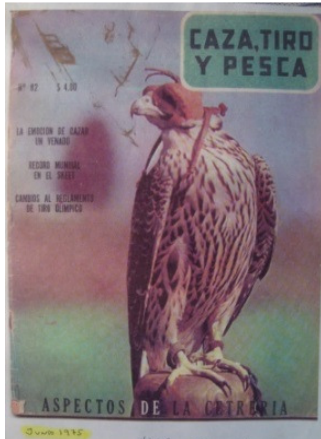
Facilities at Roberto Behar’s back yard

In 1974 Enrique Valverde started on falconry with a redtail and met Eduardo Apellániz, Juan Carlos Rojo and the Ajusco group who by now had new members like Roberto de Uslar, Joaquín Álvarez, Ricardo Velarde and Eduardo Rivera. There were, of course, other anonymous falconers in different regions of the country that didn't have contact with the Ajusco group like Francisco Avendaño, Enrique Morfín, Héctor Pérez, Héctor Contreras and Héctor Verdejo who began with kestrels and with a harris hawk, also he starts to make hoods.

Roberto Béhar traveled to Germany and brought back two goshawks in a cage traveling on the plane without any restrictions. Eduardo Bessoudo went to England with a couple of harris hawks as a present for the legendary falconer John Fairclough who was a pioneer on breeding harris hawks in Europe.



In 1975, between the Ajusco group and other independent falconers, there were around twenty falconers in the Mexico City area. People like Martín Guzmán who started in Mexico City with a redtail, and other falconers popped up in other Mexican states. A Mexican hunting magazine named "Shooting Hunting and Fishing" or "Caza Tiro y Pesca"; was published and Tulio Ortíz wrote a falconry article. The front cover of the magazine showed a hooded passage peregrine falcon. The text consisted on an interview with the Ajusco falconers group. This article was the first one in a national magazine on modern falconry in Mexico.



In 1976 Roberto Béhar and Eduardo Bessoudo hunted hares with goshawks in Tequisquiapan Province. Roberto Béhar also organized a meeting at his home at the Ajusco facility and invited the Wildlife Director de Fauna Silvestre, Dr Antonio Landazuri, to meet with the Ajusco group to coordinate efforts that benefit falconry and birds of prey.

I had already established a strong relation with the Larre family and one of their sons, Antonio Larre, took falconry up for a brief time. As a result the “Larre store” became a site where people came to ask for falconry contacts like Héctor Zurita and Juan Vargas, among others. All of these falconry enthusiasts were introduced to me first, to get information on the art. I must mention I was still a begginer but very open and thirsty to share my passion with friends. I didn’t understand why such a beautiful sport had so little available knowledge around, as when I walked with my harris hawk, passersby were impressed, but also considered that situation a little weird.

In 1977 Raul Ducoing started falconry with an eyass female kestrel and a tiercel passage kestrel. Raul also became an avid collector of falconry books. Rubén Vázquez started with a harris hawk, Carlos Tello with a kestrel and Ernesto Gamiz with a redtail. There were other people who started at this time who are not listed in this article.

In 1978, the AIPAP: “ Investigation and Conservation Association for Birds Of Prey” was founded. Its president was Luis Cariño. He organized the first national conference for birds of prey held at the science faculty of UNAM. More than 40 falconers attended and subsequent reunions were held to coordinate the first national hunting meet for shortwings in the Ajusco forest. Notable falconers such as Luis Felipe Romero, Jorge Pedro Martínez and Francisco Avendaño joined this association.

In the summer of 1978, Raúl Pacchiano, Ernesto Ramírez, Enrique Valverde and I organized a falconry camping meet at Salinas Zacatecas. We hunted for a week for rabbits and tried our harris hawks on desert hares. That autumn we went to Tamaulipas beach to trap our first passage peregrine falcons. In December there was a memorable field meet in the Ajusco forest and then at Roberto Behar’s facilities. Thirty two falconers attended. During this timeframe, Adrián Reuter took up falconry and started with a kestrel and Juan Mario Berúmen started with female harris.



In 1979 the "AIPAP" organized the "Second National Conference for Birds of Prey and Falconry" at the science faculty auditorium of UNAM and more new falconers joined such as Horacio Caso, Gianfranco Pontecorvo, Alejandro Villalobos, Jesús Sánchez and Enrique Jiménez among others. Eduardo Bessoudo and Juan Ramírez Grycuk began to hunt cattle egrets (*Bubulcus Ibis*) on straight tail chases, setting the first record on hunting with peregrine falcons on this quarry. Luis Hernández started with a female kestrel. By the end of this decade there were approximately fifty falconers in Mexico.





In 1980, I started hunting the cattle egrets with passage peregrine falcons on direct flights from the fist. Some flights were simple and some took more effort due to the cattle egret ability to quickly climb to escape from the falcon in a battle over the clouds. At the end of the season I learned how to fly them by waiting on.

Some new groups of falconers, and even falconry associations, did spring up in other regions of the country. This was also the year that the first telemetry equipment was imported into Mexico when Francisco Avendaño purchased a unit from Richard Graham. Another new falconer came on the scene, when Alef Zaín, a teenager at the time, begun flying a redtail. Finally, on the plateau behind Mexico City Airport, while flying falcons, we saw passage anutum peregrines, which opened up a new re to us for trapping.



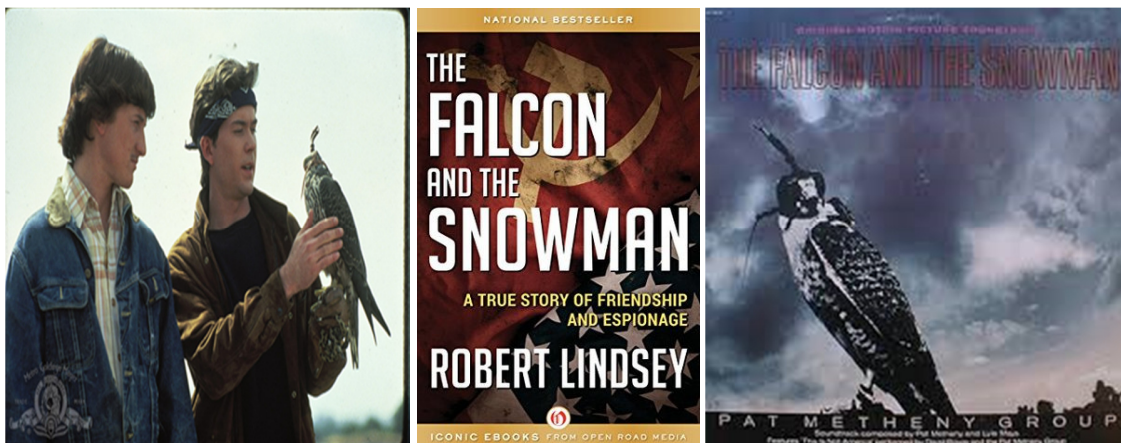
On 1981 Raúl Pacchiano moved to Tequisquiapan Province and hunted cattle egrets from the fist in direct flights and also in waiting on flights with passage peregrine falcons. He also owned a tiercel European goshawk that he used to hunt some rabbits. At this time, another new falconer came on the scene; a teenager Russell Salazar, who started with a kestrel.

In 1982 Luis Felipe Romero owned a egg laying harris hawk, we all agreed to place her in a chamber in Héctor Zurita mews at his home with Francisco Avendaño's tiercel harris hawk in hopes that a breeding couple would be established. Fortunately, four months later the couple start copulating. Just before Christmas Luis Felipe Romero invited some falconers of the group to his ranch "El Camarón" where we hunted cattle egrets with peregrine falcons.

In this same year, Sergio Aguilar started practicing falconry on Jalapa Veracruz Province with a kestrel and a female harris hawk called "Venus" and started hunting with her.

On 1983 the previously mentioned harris hawk pair laid eggs. Two chicks were hatched, but sadly they died before they became three weeks old due to a technical failure; however on this same year there was a second clutch and on July 21st, the first Mexican captive breeding harris hawk was officially hatched. Then on the 25<sup>th</sup> a second chick followed. Both were females and were successfully raised and were donated to members of the group to fly.

On September 1983 the staff of the movie "The Falcon and the Snowman" based on the true story of Robert Lindsey's book, came to Mexico to film. The falconers that were hired for this movie were, John Moran and Steve Duffy. They asked a Mexican falconer Ricardo Velarde, who worked in USA on a falcon breeding project, to recommend some Mexican falconers to help them trap the falcons and set up the facilities to train them. Ricardo introduced them to Raúl Pacchiano and the Ajusco group so we made a verbal agreement that we would support them in an exchange for them to build two breeding chambers and provide us with the support to make this project possible. This film used such music composers as Pat Metheny & Lyle Mays, and David Bowie for the soundtrack, main actors were Sean Penn and Timothy Hutton.



In 1984, the film was completed and we decided that the chambers would be built in Héctor Zurita's garden beside the harris hawks mews. So, Hector took care of organizing a trip to obtain the eyass peregrine falcons required for the breeding project. The young birds were placed on in of the chambers and were raised together, unfortunately one male escaped and the remaining tiercel was placed with a female in hopes to create a breeding couple.



This same year, Héctor Verdejo, Jorge Carbajal, Francisco Vázquez and me, started a new falconry association “AMC” or “Asociación Mexicana de Cetrería”. At one of the AMC meetings at Jorge Carbajal’s home, Raul Ducoing, Alejandro Franco, teenagers brothers Rodrigo and Alberto Porras joined the club. Another new falconer, Salvador Fuentes, who belonged to another falconry group “Argos” established on San Juan de Aragón, started with a harris hawk. In another part of town, another new falconer, Miguel Palomar, started with an eyass tiercel prairie falcon named “Tizoc”. He served pigeons to the group at Ajusco Mountain, demonstrating the prairie falcon’s great capacity to stoop and hit quarry in very powerful style. It was also in this year that another falconer, Oscar Barba, demonstrated excellent falconry hunting cattle egrets and herons with a couple of passage tundra peregrines in a very spectacular flights. In Mexico city in the neighborhood Coyoacán other falconer meetings were held, where I met José Sánchez, Fernando Manríquez, Miguel Hevia and Arturo Marquez.



Falconry field meet of Mexican Association of Falconry at the Ajusco Mountain 1985

In 1985 the AMC organized a field meet in the Ajusco forest and Eduardo Rivera invited the group to his weekend home in Tequisquiapan Province where Héctor Verdejo, Héctor Ortíz, Federico Medrano and ACM other members hunted rabbits. A new falconer, Ricardo Padilla, started with a kestrel. This season meant much to me because I was working in a small town on a ranch where I had a very good time flying two passage tundra peregrines at racing pigeons and cattle egrets, a harris hawk and a passage redbtail hawk at rabbits with a lovely Springer Spaniel. I also remember I

had beautiful rattlesnake in a terrarium at this ranch. Incidentally, The Falcon & the Snowman was released at the Cinema.

Finally, although it's not a common thing to happen, that peregrine falcon pair that we paired up in the Hector Zurita facility back in 1984, start copulating. After their first moult, they had an infertile egg laid in August and by the winter they had laid another three eggs.

On January 4, 1986, the first peregrine chick was piping out of the egg. Hector Zurita was on vacation, so Eduardo Apellániz, Carlos Renero and I witnessed the hatching of the chick which was complicated and the chick died the next morning because he could not get out of the egg on time. On January 6th the second chick hatched without any issues and he became officially the first captive bred peregrine falcon hatched in Mexico. The third egg was infertile.



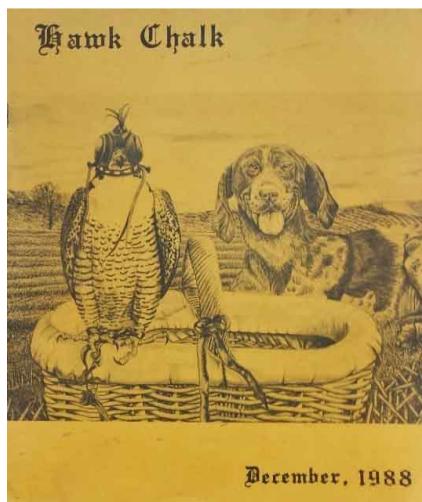
The first captive bred peregrine falcon hatched in Mexico, 1986.

In 1986, Héctor Verdejo went to fly his falcon and found a blue winged teal on a pond, and without anything to lose, put his passage tundra falcon up over the pond and succeeded in catching it. This event was the first occurrence of duck hawking in Mexico. Miguel Bejarano bought the book "Falconry" by A.P. Evans and started falconry with kestrels and a redtail & Enrique Medel

In 1987 the "Asociación Cetrera de Toluca" was founded by Mr. Isaías de la Rosa, José Salazar and Mauricio González who became one of the first austringers to consistently hunt hares with harris hawks.

In 1988 Enrique Valverde and I organized the first sky trials in Mexico due a Ricardo Velarde's suggestion from a discussion about Gerald Richard's sky trial event. The invitation was "Primer halconeo de pichones" on the plateau of Zacatepec province in the state of Puebla.

A journal of the AMC was published and the ACPAP "Association of falconers and Protectors of Birds of Prey" was established. Francisco Avendaño made a drawing of his hooded peregrine falcon and a german pointer and it was published in NAFA's December edition of the Hawk Chalk.



On 1989 the AMC had to change its former name to “Círculo Mexicano de Cetrería” and publishes an internal bulletin called “El Halconero” the attorney said it was another AMC and we realized that was the one of the 1950s, Jorge Carbajal on a personal initiative publishes a falconry magazine called “Cetrería” only two numbers were produced.

The renowned North falconer Harry McElroy came to live in México after have been living in South America traveling and coexisting with local falconers, he established his home in the Town of Querétaro, two hundred miles north from Mexico City and lived there for almost three years, he flew his aplomado falcon called “Zapata” at quail every single day at 5pm, he host for dozens of Mexican falconers on weekends so his yard looks like camping site including breakfast, afterwards he left leaving a big trace and knowledge influence on Mexican falconry, he wrote some articles in our publications; The CMC Círculo Mexicano de Cetrería, published a Journal; The second pigeon derby “Halconeo de Pichones” was held on Tequisquiapan Province; Oscar Barba flew a couple of passage Tundra peregrines to hunt cattle egrets and great herons on spectacular flights, by the end of this decade we were around 300 falconers.

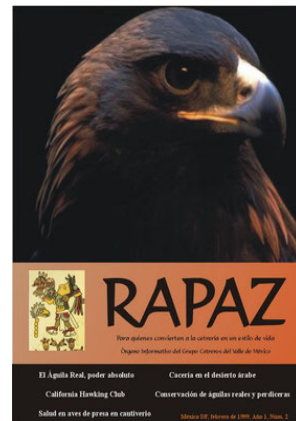
On 1990 CMC “Círculo Mexicano de Cetrería” was divided and some ex members created FMH “Federación Mexicana de Halconería”; Martín Guzmán moves from Mexico City to the city of Aguascalientes where is surrounded of duck ponds and hunted hares with an Spaniard goshawk, once Martin were living there he became one of the pioneers that start training anatums so he trapped a passage Female anatum peregrine, two friends followed him; Víctor Saucedo “El Bigos” and Juan Mario Berumen and begun doing flights at ducks on waiting on style consistently; the third Pigeon derby “Halconeo de Pichones” is held on Querétaro State, and in Jalapa State of Veracruz the “Club Veracruzano de Cetrería” and “FMH” organized a short wing camping with 30 young falconers; Ricardo Velarde took over the falconry bell workshop from Peter Asborn. Daniel Rasvetaieff began with a prairie falcon and along with his cousin Enrique Guerrero Jr. with an aplomado falcon on a T perch style.



In 1991 a hunting week-long field meet was held for long wings Aguascalientes. It was organized in hastily organized in about 15 minutes, hosted by Martin Guzman and Juan Berumen. About 20 falconers, and about 20 falcons were flown. “FMH” “Federación Mexicana de Halconería” provided a print “Accípiter”, along with an informative bulletin. Also this same year, the fourth sky trial was held in Querétaro State.

In 1992 The “FMH” organized it’s fourth field meet. Hernán Mendoza, Raul Ducoing and the Círculo Mexicano de Cetrería organized a national meeting to invite Mexican falconers to join in one National falconers group but it nothing happened. The fifth and last sky trial “Halconeo de Pichones” was held in Querétaro State.

In 1993 Guillermo Yamil, founder and president of “Grupo Cetreros del Valle de México” started with about 100 young members. At this time, Raúl Ducoing independently presented a proposal to the Mexican government for establishment of falconry regulations, which included eight different exams for falconer classifications. These regulations became a formal NOM “Official Mexican Normativity”. Noriega Press published a falconry manual “Manual Básico de Cetrería”, written by José A. Aguilar, Eduardo Jiménez and Sergio Aguilar (all current members from the early years of the FMH “Federación Mexicana de Halconería A.C.”) Another key event in 1993 is that Raul Ducoing imported the first pure gyrfalcon from John Lejune’s Falcon Farms LTD in Canada and also a Peale’s peregrine with CITES certificates, which had begun to be issued in Mexico.



In 1994 Rodrigo Munro founder, the "Monterrey Falconry Club" president, successfully bred a pair harris hawks at his facility, known as the "El Diente", a project for breeding and rehabilitation for birds of prey. Enrique Medel became very skilled hoodmaker and falconer and produced hoods proudly "Made in Mexico". Hector Verdejo, one of the first hood makers in Mexico, moved to Aguascalientes where he started duck hawking.

In 1995 Juan Berumen, Víctor Saucedo, Martín Guzmán and Héctor Verdejo, established the "Asociación de halconeros de Aguascalientes", that provided good venues and falconry activities for longwingers and austringers around the country.

In 1996 Mario Sánchez Urrutia did the same and constituted the "Asociación de Cetreros Potosinos" based in San Luis Potosí in the central part of Mexico.

In 1997 "El Diente" In Monterrey led by Rodrigo Munro started breeding two pairs of captive anatum peregrine falcons.

Jorge Pedro Martínez organized an sky trial "Lance al Pichón" held in San José Iturbide in the state of Guanajuato. And after a period of five years without any kind of longwing competitions, Enrique Valverde and Valentín Rodríguez founded the "Asociación Queretana de Cetrería"

In 1998 "Grupo de Cetreros del Valle de México" published "Rapaz", a quarterly magazine. In Monterrey at "El Diente" the first crossed peale's-anatum peregrine falcon was hatched. A new initiative from wildlife Mexican authorities Semarnat & Profepa arose to organize and rule falconry activities led by Dra. Catalina Barraza. She invited most Mexican falconers to her office in order to get information and develop a contact list. Dra. Barraza organized a falconry meet at their offices at the Wildlife Department in Mexico City with several falconers. Then Dra. Barraza also coordinated a special meet in Monterrey at "El Diente" facilities hosted by Rodrigo Munro. The second sky trial "Lance al pichón" was held oi San José Iturbide Guanajuato.

In 1999 the group "Cetreros del Valle de México" created a web site and a falconry fórum on the internet. There were other notable events. Rafael Sánchez, José Durán and Juan de la Paz established the "Grupo Mexicano de Cetrería" A.C., and, of course, the peregrine falcon was removed from the endangered species list in USA.

By the end of 1990s there were approximately 500 falconers in Mexico and 15 falconry associations, but only five were established as legal entities. Some falconers chose to practice the sport independently. I have participated in most of falconry events and there are many other falconers that I have not mentioned, as I could not remember their names. Thinking back as I write this article, I know I have most Mexican falconers, who have run the gamit from people of modest means to the wealthy.

## XXI CENTURY

The new century marked innovative concepts in falconry, the first and most important one was the fact that the peregrine falcon was removed from the list of endangered species. Also very important have been technological advances like the use of GPS, drones, and the large scale production of captive bred falcons, the creation of Pest Control Companies, as for the development of falconry equipment, which has been traditionally handcrafted, the era of industrialized falconry has begun and new concepts are emerging. Essentially, we are experiencing the globalization of falconry.

In 2000 México integrated into NAFA and the IAF. In an international falconry meet in Amarillo, Texas, I was invited and elected as the Mexican Delegate. Since then, I have been honored to represent Mexico in both NAFA and the IAF, and have served to the best of my ability.

On December of same year The First National Short Wing Meet “Primer jornada nacional de bajo vuelo” was organized by the “Asociación Queretana de Cetrería”, Grupo Cetreros del Valle de México and “ANCMEX”, which was held in San Luis Potosí City.



In 2001, the first national long and short wing meet “Primer Reunión Nacional de Alto y Bajo vuelo” was held in San Luis Potosí, organized by the Asociación de Cetreros Potosinos, Asociación Queretana de Cetrería and the Asociación de Halconeros de Aguascalientes.

In 2002 Jose Luis Lopez succeeded in breeding a pair of anatum peregrine falcons at his home facilities 2002 as well as 2003 and 2004, producing a total of eight chicks.

In 2003 The Cetreros del Valle de México Group organized an annual falconry camp in Zacatecas which has become an annual tradition.





In 2006 Victorino Villalobos opened the first specialized falconry equipment store in México named “ Los Dos Candados”, located on downtown Mexico city. Carlos Tello bred aplomado falcons for the first time in México; The “Asociación Morelense de Cetrería” organized the “FalconFest”, where Bob Dalton and Dianne Durman were special guests.

In 2007 The Asociación Queretana de Cetrería held the “1° Queretaro´s Cup” a long wing competition at Hacienda La Pitaya Queretaro, which became has become an annual tradition.

In 2008 Miguel Bejarano Diaz publish a limited edition falconry book titled “El vuelo del harris”, and due to its popularity, it sold out in in a short time. In this book, Miguel promoted the virtues and qualities of harris hawks, concluding that this bird has transcended in such a way that today it has become one of the most appreciated species in the world of falconry. It was also in 2008 that the “RAPAZ” falconry magazine ceased publication in December after 10 years and 29 issues.



In 2010, there was an initiative in the Mexican congress to make a change in article 85 of the law about denying the registration and possession of birds of prey in captivity and consequently would prohibit the practice of falconry, impacting falconers and associations. So the falconry community called an urgent national meeting in Querétaro to form a common front, dignifying falconry and defending the right to own and register raptors. Dozens of letters were sent to the Mexican congress. NAFA and the IAF also supported the initiative and sent letters. We established four working groups to address this concern. Meanwhile, fortunately Deputy Guillermo Tamborrel made observations in Congress to discourage change in the law and the initiative was postponed. After this issue, the “Federacion Mexicana de Halconeria”, FEMEHA was reactivated after 14 years of inactivity.

On November 16, 2010, in Nairobi Africa, UNESCO recognized falconry as an "Intangible Heritage of Humanity". The second “Festival México Cetrero” was held in San Luis de la Paz, organized by Alberto Lara. Ed Pitcher & Ricardo Velarde introduced their falconry book “The flying of falcons” to Mexico at this event..

In 2011 FEMEHA, “Federacion Mexicana de Halconeria” represented by Omar Ayub integrated to the IAF at the international falconry Meeting in the Arab Emirates in the city of Abu Dhabi.

In 2012 Carlos Tello Quiroz of Mexico City, produced and raised the first captive bred Red Headed Falcon (*Falco Ruficollis Horsburgii*) from two pairs he imported from Gambia Africa.

In 2014 during the fourth international falconry festival held in Abu Dhabi, Marisol Pacchiano joined the IAF's Women's Working Group, as the Mexican delegate.



In 2016 FEMEHA held presidential and board elections and Marisol Pacchiano was elected as president of the renewed Mexican falconry Federation "Federacion Mexicana de Halconeria".

In 2017 FEMEHA, with a renewed board of directors started doing a good job in the country and beyond our borders, taking advantage of social networks and the new resources offered by the technology. Currently, there are about 150 members in the FEMEHA. Although the FEMEHA is affiliated with NAFA and IAF, other falconry associations and independent falconers persist with, in some cases, their own of doing things.

Currently, there are about 600 falconers in Mexico. As the falconry community continues to grow in Mexico and around the world, we all need to be aware about how we are all connected to life in this world and that falconry keeps us in conjunction with nature.

