

Glossary*

EXPLAINING THE TECHNICAL TERMS EMPLOYED BY ENGLISH FALCONERS

(Reprinted from Harting's Bibliotheca Accipitraria)

ARMS, the legs of a hawk from the thigh to the foot.

AYRE, and **EYRIE**, s., the nesting place.

BATE, **BATING**, fluttering or flying off the fist, which an untrained hawk commonly does at the sight of the approaching hood. Literally, to beat the air with the wings, from the French *batter*.

BEAM-FEATHERS, s., the primaries or phalangeal feathers of the wing. See **FLAGS**.

BECHINS, s., morsels, mouthfuls.

BEWITS, s., short thin strips of leather by which the bells are fastened to the legs.

BIND, v., to fasten on the quarry in the air.

BLOCK, s., a truncated cone or cylindrical piece of wood having a ring in it for the attachment of the leash, and placed out of doors, whereon the hawk is set to "weather" (q.v.).

BOLT, TO FLY AT, v., said of a short-winged hawk: to fly straight from the fist at the quarry.

BOWISER, s., a young hawk able to fly from bough to bough.

BOWSE, v., to drink; variously spelt "bouse," "boose," "bouze," and "booze."

BOWSING, drinking.

BRAIL, s., a narrow slip of thin soft leather, with a long slit in it, used for trying one wing of a restless hawk that bates much.

BRANCHER, s., a young hawk that has lately left the nest. Called also a "ravage-hawk."

CADGE, s., the wooden oblong square frame on which hawks are carried hooded to the field.

CADGER, the person who carries the hawk; hence the abbreviated form "cad," a person fit for no other occupation.

* Glossary reprinted from "A Manual of FALCONRY. M.H. Woodford. 2nd Ed., 1967. M. and C. Black, Pub., London.

CALLING OFF, luring a hawk from an assistant at a distance for exercise.

CANCELEER, v., to make two or three sharp turns in the descent when stooping.

CARRY, v., to fly away with the quarry.

CAST, s., a "cast of hawks," i.e. two; not necessarily a pair.

CAST, v., when a hawk will not stand to the hood, or required coping (q.v.), she has to be "cast" or held for the purpose.

CAST GORGE, to throw up the meat that is in her crop.

CASTING, s., fur or feathers given to a hawk with her meat to cleanse the panel (g.v.), and afterwards cast up in the shape of oblong pellets enveloping the indigestible portions of the food which are thus rejected.

CAWKING-TIME, s., pairing time.

CERE, s., the bare wax-like skin above the beak.

CHECK, v., whence checking, to fly at; to change the bird in pursuit.

COME TO, v., to begin obeying the falconer.

COPING, cutting off the sharp points of beak and talons.

COWERING, quivering or shaking the wings, observed in young hawks.

CRABBING, i.e. grabbing, said of hawks when two are flown together and one seized the other on the quarry by mistake.

CRAY, s., a disease in hawks, namely a stoppage of the tewell (q.v.), so that the bird cannot mute.

CREANCE, s., the short hair-like feathers about the cere (q.v.).

COAKS, or **KECKS**, a disease of the air-passages, analogous to a cough, and so called from the sound the bird makes during any exertion, such a bating, or flying. See **PIN**.

CROP, s., the dilatation of the gullet which serves as the first receptacle for the food taken by a hawk.

CROSSING FLIGHT, when another bird flies between the hawk and her quarry.

DECK-FEATHERS, s., the two centre feathers of the tail.

DISCLOSED, said of hawks that are just hatched; now obsolete.

DRAW the hood, to draw the braces which open and close the hood behind.

DRAWING from the new, i.e. withdrawing a hawk after she has moulted.

ENDEW, v., whence endewing and endewed, to digest the food. See **PUT OVER**.

ENEW, or **INEW**, v., the same as **PUT IN** (q.v.)

ENSEAM, to purge a hawk, and rid her of superfluous fat.

ENTER, v., to fly a hawk to quarry for the first time.

EYESS or **EYAS**, s., a nestling, or young hawk taken from the "eyrie" or nest.

EYRIE, s., see **AYRE**

FALCON, the female Peregrine par excellence, but applied generally to the females of all long-winged hawks.

FALL AT MARK, to alight upon the ground and there await the owner.

FEAKE, v., feaking; said of a hawk when she wipes her beak on the perch after feeding.

FILANDERS, s., intestinal worms.

FLAGS, s., the secondary, or cubital feathers of the wing. See **BEAM-FEATHERS**.

FLY ON HEAD, v., to mess the quarry and check.

FROUNCE, s., a canker or sore in the mouth and throat.

FULL-SUMMED, adj., when a hawk has got all her new feathers after moulting. See **SUMMED**.

GALBANUM, s., a gum resin derived from an umbelliferous plant, *Ferula galbaniflua*.

GET IN, v., to reach the hawk as soon as she has killed.

GLEAM, the substance thrown up after casting gorge.

GORGE, s., the crop; **GORGED**, adj., full fed.

GURGITING, choking with too large a mouthful.

HACK, s., the place where the hawk's meat is laid.

HACE, flying at; the state of liberty in which eyes facons are kept for a few weeks before being trained; coming in daily to feed on the back-board where their meat is cut up for them.

HACK-BELLS, large heavy bells put on hawks to hinder them from preying for themselves whilst "flying at hack."

HAGGARD, s., a hawk that has been caught after assuming its adult plumage, that is after having moulted in a wild state.

HALSBAND, s., literally, neck-band; a contrivance of soft twisted silk placed like a collar round the hawk's neck and the end held in the hand; used by Indian falconers, when flying the Sparrowhawk, to steady the bird when cast off.

HAVOCK, to cry. See **HOO-HA-HA**

HEY and **HEYE**, adj., in old authors, sc/ high. i.e. in good condition.

HOOD, s., the leathern cap used for blindfolding hawks to tame them.

HOOD-OFF, v., to pull off the hood and slip a hawk at the quarry.

HOOD-SHY, said of a hawk that has been spoilt by clumsy hooding.

HOO-HA-HA, The modern version of an old cry raised by falconers when the quarry is sighted and the hawk is encouraged to pursue.

IMPING, a method of repairing broken flight or tail feathers.

INDUE, INDUTING, note to No. 10. See **ENDEW**.

INKE, s., neck of the quarry (q.v.) now obsolete.

INTERMEWED, is literally, "between molts."

JACK, the male Merlin.

JERKIN, the Jerfalcon or Gyrfalcon.

JESSES, s., the short narrow straps of leather fastened round the hawk's legs to hold her by.

JOKIN, sleeping, now obsolete.

JOKITH, Jouketh, i.e. sleepeth.

LEASH, s., a long narrow thong of leather attached to the jesses with a swivel or varel (q. v.) and by means of which a hawk is tied to perch or block.

LINES, s., loynes, lunes, also lewnes. "Lunes for hawks, leashes or long lines to call the"—Phillips. *New World of Words, 1696*. "The jesses were made sufficiently only for the knots (ends) to appear between the middle and the little fingers of the hand that held them, so that the lunes, or small thongs of leather might be fastened to them with tyrrits or rings, and the lunes were loosely wound round the little finger."—*Strutt Sports and Pastimes*, p. 32. Hence it would appear that the lunes took the place of the modern leash, which is attached to the jesses with a swivel or varvels. Bert terms them "lines."

LURE, s., a bait. Technically, a bunch of feathers, or couple of wings tied together on piece of leather, and weighted. Being garnished with raw meat, the hawk is always fed upon it. Hence, when swung aloft, it serves to lour the hawk back to the falconer.

Mail, s., the breast feathers of a hawk.

Mail, v., to mail a hawk, i.e. to wrap her up in a sock, or handkerchief, or either to tame her, or to keep her quiet during an operation, as "coping" or "imping" (q.v.)

MAKE-HAWK, s., an old experienced hawk flown with an eyes, when training, to teach it or encourage it.

MANNING, **MANNED**, making a hawk tame by accustoming her to man's presence. See **RECLAIM**.

MANTLE, v., said of a hawk "when she stretcheth one of her wings after her leg, and so the other"—Nicholas Cox, 1674.

MAR-HAWK, s., one who spoils a hawk by clumsy handling.

MARK, to fly at, v., generally said of a Goshawk when, having "put in" a covey or partridges, she takes stand, marking the spot where they disappeared from view until the falconer arrives to put them out to her.

MARROW, with old authors mary, e.g. mary of beffe, mary of goose; given as a remedy, or to envelope medicine.

MEW, s., to place where hawks are set down to moult.

MEW, v., to moult, to change the feathers.

MITES, s., the parasites that infest the head and nares of a hawk.

MOMERY, s., with old authors, sc. Mummy, Fr. Momie; formerly, when reduced to powder, used as medicine for hawks.

MUER DES CHAMPS, or **MUER DE HAYE**. See **MEW**

MUSRET the male sparrowhawk.

MUTES, s., the droppings or excrement of hawks.

NARES, s., the nostrils of a hawk.

NYAS, s., a nestling hawk taken from the eyrie or nest.

OSTRINGER, s., generally restricted to one who keeps short-winged hawks, especially the Goshawk.

PANNEL, s., the stomach or lower bowel of a hawk.

PANTAS s., a disease in hawks akin to asthma.

PASSAGE-HAWK, a wild hawk caught upon the passage or migration.

PASTER, s., plaister; used medicinally; now obsolete.

PELT, s., the dead body of the quarry.

PENDANT FEATHERS, these behind the thighs of a hawk.

PERCH, s., The perch is used in the house; the block, our of doors. See **BLOCK**.

PRETTY SINGLES, the toes of a hawk.

PILL, or **PELF**, s., what is left of the quarry after the hawk has been fed upon it.

PIN and WEB, a disease of the eye in hawks akin to dimness and film.

PITCH, the height to which a falcon rises in the air by ringing up.

PLUMAGE, s., given for "casting" (q.v.)

PLUME, v., to pluck the feathers off the quarry.

POINT, v., to make her, when a hawk throws herself up in the air above the spot where the quarry has "put in" (q.v.).

POUNCES, s., the claws of a hawk.

PREEN, v., to dress the feathers with a beak.

PRINCIPALS, the two longest feathers in the wing of a hawk.

PUT IN, v., to drive the quarry into covert.

PUT OVER, v., process of digesting meat.

QUARRY, s., the game flown at.

QUICK, adj. alive

RAKE AWAY, v., to take off, instead of pursuing the quarry flown at, or to fly wide of it.

RAMAGE-HAWK, See **BRANCHER**

RANGLE, s., small stones given to hawks to aid digestion.

RECLAIM, v., to make a hawk tame, gentle, and familiar.

RED-HAWK, s., the modern term for a "sore-hawk: (q.v.)

RING-UP, v., to rise spirally to a height.

ROBIN, s., the make Hobby.

Rouse, v., is when a hawk lifteth herself up and shaketh herself.

ROUSING, with old authors. See **ROUSE**

RUSS, v., to hit the quarry and make the feathers fly, without trussing it. See **TRUSS**

FUFTER-HOOD, s., a plain, easy leather hood, through which the hawk can feed, and opening wide behind; used when a hawk is being tamed, and superseded by the hood proper when she is trained. The absence of a plume prevents her from pulling it off.

RYE, s., a disease in hawks which shows itself by a swelling in the head.

SAILS, the wings of hawk.

SCOURING, s., purging.

SCREEN-PERCH, s., the form of perch used for hawks when kept in a room. See **PERCH** and **BLOCK**.

SEARE, and SERE, s., the wax-like skin above the beak. See **CERE**.

SEGE, at-, a corruption of "at siege;" said of a heron when at the waterside, in contradistinction to being "on passage."

SEELING, an old method of obscuring the sight of a hawk by passing threads through the lower eyelids and tying them behind the head, a practice long superseded in this country by the more humane use of the hood, though still adopted by native falconers in India.

SERVING, a hawk, helping to put out the quarry from covert.

SET DOWN, to moult, put into the mew.

SHARP SET, very hungry

SLOOSE, s., with old authors, for sloed, used medicinally.

SOCK, see **MAIL**, v.

SORE-HAWK, s., a hawk of the first year.

SPRING, v., to flush the partridge, pheasant, or other bird to be flown at.

STALKE, s., the leg.

STAVESAKER, s., a plant formerly in request for destroying lice in a hawk.

STOOP, s., the swift descent of a falcon on the quarry from a height; synonymous with swoop

STRIKE THE HOOD, v., to half open it, so as to be in readiness to hood off the moment the hawk is to be flown.

SUMMED, adj. a hawk is said to be “summed” or “full summed” when, after moulting, she has got all her new feathers, and is fit to be taken out of the mew.

SWIVEL, s., used to prevent the jesses and leash from getting twisted when the hawk is tied upon the perch. See LEASH, TYRRIT, and VARVELS.

TAKE THE AIR, v., to mount.

TWELL, s., the lower bowel affected by the disease termed cray.

TIERCEL, TERCEL, TASSEL, and TARSELL, the male of any species of hawk, the female being termed a falcon.

TIRE, v., to pull at a tough piece.

TIRING, s., any tough piece given to a hawk when in training to pull at, in order to prolong the meal, and exercise the muscles of the back and neck.

TOWER, v., See RING UP

TRAIN, s., the tail of a hawk. Also the live bird that is given on a line to the hawk when first entered.

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TRUSS, v., to clutch the quarry in the air instead of striking it to the ground.

TYRRIT, s., a swivel, or turning-ring.

URINES, s., nets to catch hawks.

VARVELS, s., small flat rings of silver on which the owner’s name was engraved, fastened to the ends of the jesses, and used instead of a swivel, the leash being passed through them.

WAIT ON, A hawk is said to “wait on” when she soars in circles over the head of the falconer, waiting for the game to be flushed.

WARBILE, WARBEL, and WARBLE, v. A hawk warbleth when after “rousing” and “mantling” (q.v.) she crosses her wings together over her back.

WATCHING, Part of the old method of taming hawks was to watch them for the first night or two after their capture, to prevent them from sleeping