

Donors

Donors (in progress)

Falconer – Free Spirit – Naturalist – Man of Iron — by Bill Heinrich and colleagues

Jim got involved in falconry in 1955. He began working with The Peregrine Fund in 1980. He took his life with raptors in a new direction. Jim started DW WK PRVW GFWW BHJLQ BFNVLWH QPHG HDWKBQQDQWRQDWLRQO BN :RPLQLPVRZSHVIBP1HZHJFR in street shoes. After a two-hour hike straight up WKPRVDLQPVVRHVZEHOLWHDOOIDOOLQRII of his feet. The crew planned to set up another FDPDQPRQWHHVRBWBWDVBOOHMQ though he was by now half barefooted. Everyone learned a lot about Jim at that moment. He did a tremendous job and became part of the Peregrine Fund family.

QLP DV DVNCR KOS FROM BWA BHJLQ)BZEHCO DFLQLVH Idaho. Jim put his construction talent to work and SHRBHQDHHVVO LPRZNOVD SHBJLQ release assistant for 11 years until their recovery.

During the off-season Jim pursued the sport of IDOFRQLPV FORVH IJHQVROVVBOO from England wrote a few words about the time they spent together hawking:

“We bought a house together in Albuquerque in :H BGGOORMWKOLB VWRWRID WDLOHUWDSSEBVLHJZW DOROZWK RSHJLQV DGLPV KUBPOLQV WVNNOOZVDONPDOODRQWV th day!) at the Rio Puerco where Jim unhesitatingly waded the stream up to his chest at minus ten degrees! This soft Englishman looked for a less challenging crossing. It was a great time!

-LP:LOOPDWBVDIDOFRQWKPRVWDFFRP- plished and creative that I ever knew - he had an instinctive understanding of his hawks. Without fanfare he made practical the quintessential falconer conservationist whose life made a difference. HWRXDOOSDVVLRQHQBACQV LQHQLWKVFRPPLWPHQBMWOWHHEQDQ WKDPHVRIKVHDSBRVH HQEOLQDQ inspiring those around him. How fortunate I have been to have this man as my friend.”

BHJLQ)BVG L PWRJR to Hawaii to build an outdoor aviary to house the HQHQBODODEHWWHQBQVWKHDDLDDQ crow. Peter Harrity wrote: “When we built the ‘alala DYLPRBQ/LHOHVVOHDOZVQZK correct way to tackle a construction problem. There was no better person for that role. His efforts set the foundation that allowed The Peregrine Fund to play an important role in establishing the restoration programs in Hawaii. I have very fond memo- UHVRIHSHUHELODZLLZWKLP¥

QLPKOSHGRQWBWDQBOLIROD FRQROQDSDERM WK 9HBLORLQLIIV SRQLPDAOHLQFKOHSWQWKVWDU DGFXVHVWKLHSHUHEHVWRJHWHKODWHLQR the night. The release pen is still in use. Later that HDLWKOSHBNQKBSH9HBSHGWV project where our biologists needed help trapping kites for genetic analysis.

Colleague Simon Thomsett wrote, “Jim spent months in the remote and wind swept archipela- JRRIBSH9HBRIIWK:HVWBLFDRDQV#V PLVVLROFRDFWFKKH5HGWHTKHSDH - ful observations and enduring patience. Walking long before dawn to wait days fruitlessly staring at a GWDQDQBERZAW to be thwarted in the end by a faulty transmittance in the shade of a thorn tree, he spent hours relating the virtues of the passage Prairie Falcon RMDOO RWKW DQSRN RIKV DELHQ JNBLG HPOLEFDXWNVHVE\ tying nooses on locusts and setting them on the tips of EDKVDJHOK LQDERQ of innovation spent during a lifetime living with his birds.”

WVZHQQPOLMGBWODQ Oregon. He purchased an old run down house. Jim rebuilt it from scratch and turned it into a beautiful RPH:KOHWKHNDWWHQBQPCGFWRQ - versity program. Jim had a passion for cameras. WOHHLQFKDQVWRWDOOHPRBOHBSXH-LP

had put it on the market and was ready to move on. That was great news for The Peregrine Fund. WOODVNGPLIKBQGHLOWHVV'HCAN - ing with the California condor release project. Jim DJHHSWVWWKHQVWKS' DQWAFVLV \$BDFHWLFDQBCFCPII'QF DVHVSROL - ble for killing thousands of vultures. There was an urgent need to build holding facilities in Pakistan.

9HWHLQDQDOLWLOEHW BWH ,DV fortunate to spend time with Jim during a critical juncture in the story of vultures in Pakistan. Jim DUMQD' /V'QWQWDBBHQWLPHDVZWLHG in desperation to rescue a founder population of VWXV BQLWLFV DQ/LPHFRQSLHQJDLQX E'V' BXXWLDQO-LP DVDFRIBOLDELOLW V'QDQVWHODQVRRQDQDYLHVWWR house 100 vultures within a matter of weeks. Jim FRPELQVJRRRERDQLELOLWWQWPDB daunting tasks possible. He was a huge support DWDMQDQVWVWLPH¥

SWHULP HWQBQ BMMWDOQK BQ WR SRQ BHK VSHQ WK BQ IRQ HDV BQZWKV BLVHQVK BQOG crew releasing endangered California Condors at the Vermilion Cliffs.

BVBLV BWHYDQVQORQDIWHLPDU - rived that I saw that we had something special. Despite the fact that Jim had been working in the BQGRQHWBQDBIRBHQSHHGDW - LQVROLQRRQPHOWHQRWKIDELFRIWK BGFIBVHWODQIWKFRQWZVQVR PKNBWKWLEWZDOOIHOOLQBBP KVVWRLVHRIROBQKHHDVQDERWKPWBW OHIWBQKQWRRELJWRREBBLUPSRVVLEOHLQK IWKWBWODEHIRB X1RWKQVWRSSHQP WFDXHDVORQDVRO-LP DVWKH BFRQG BQH DWKQZWRRVW HSHLHQHV DQ HODWLRQKSVREBMMVHHPVWRBQBX DHDPLQVWRPHRIWKEHVWWWLPHVRIROLIHEW -LPDQDVVHHPHQRHSDQWDDQ that every day was one of those days.”

KQ-LPVWLPHLQRQWQOQP DVNGLPWRJRWRBHQDQOQHLQFQO BQRWDAQWPRQVJRRRQWQ of spending September and October of 2004 and

2005 with Jim. Over 100 gyrfalcons were trapped. RFORVHQWJBXVRQFRPSDQBHPLJDW - LQDOFRQDQWLFIRDQH SWDBLJDQOQHG dogs and the elusive polar bears. We rediscovered how strong Jim was mentally and physically. There was always a tremendous amount of physi- FDOODERLQOMQBPFDUQWHPRYQ JDOORQDHOVRIIMODQSLQRIERDWVLQK frigid arctic water to load and unload equipment. -LPDQZVWRRFQDRIKVFRPDBVWZWRW DWRYWWRKVRZDIHWDCGRHWBQV share of work. Life was always good when Jim was close by.

BHJLQ)BFWSHVLEBQ Peter Jenny asked him to manage the education ELQDWWK:ROBQHIRLQIRIBSWLOLQD KV BQHQRIIDOFRQSW WRJHWHQJWJ uemonstrations for the public. He worked with NVWHQVIDOFRODQVIDRWLWHBSPJOH

ZVKLRQWHQWK HDWQWQW BZNRJHWHKKEHFDPHPILHEWHDFK - HBFRAQ:KQWWDONZWKLPJHOW WQWQPDOOPOLIHSHHBNQWK our education birds for a decade when Jim joined the team. I gained an immeasurable knowledge LQOODVSHFWVRIIDOFREDEDQO - VWDQDQSWRV-LPELWHEQBQVDB PHODYDQOLVWHBQDQWQWPDSPH feel comfortable discussing anything with him. Jim was dedicated to taking care of our birds and WRBPRQDWLQWQWDSWRVDBEHDXLQBOO BVLJQWDO ELQWQW HMBQVRQGDH about. I will always remember Jim as the sweet person who prompted a 5-year-old boy to write a note thanking Jim for teaching him to not be afraid RIELORISHQWOLWWOHERSROHDDRI -LPVLOOBVVQWHPVVRVREBHVLFW PDNVPHQIDOOIHHQWQZQHQOH man and steadfast friend has left us.”

ODWHLDOLWHPVPHDQVWKQWR-LPDVLEBIBP a camera that could capture images from nature WQWFRQQBHZWRWKVLEVBWHBLQWLRQ BHWKFDQJQWLEQOLOZWSDEHDWLF cancer were unmatched. He set a standard that LQSLHV:KQW FDPH WR EKQDQWQW/ERWK ODWHDAQDQO-LP DVJLIWHQWQVSHFLDOJH - QX-LP DVDKBWRHMBBQZKP and he lived his full life as a free spirit.



Michael and Jim Willmarth, May 1962



Jim and the Bantams



Jim, Laura, Susan, Lynne, Ann



Gremlin



Pakistani Friends



Tiquin



Greenland 2004. Photo by Bill Heinrich



Greenland 2005. Photo by Bill Heinrich



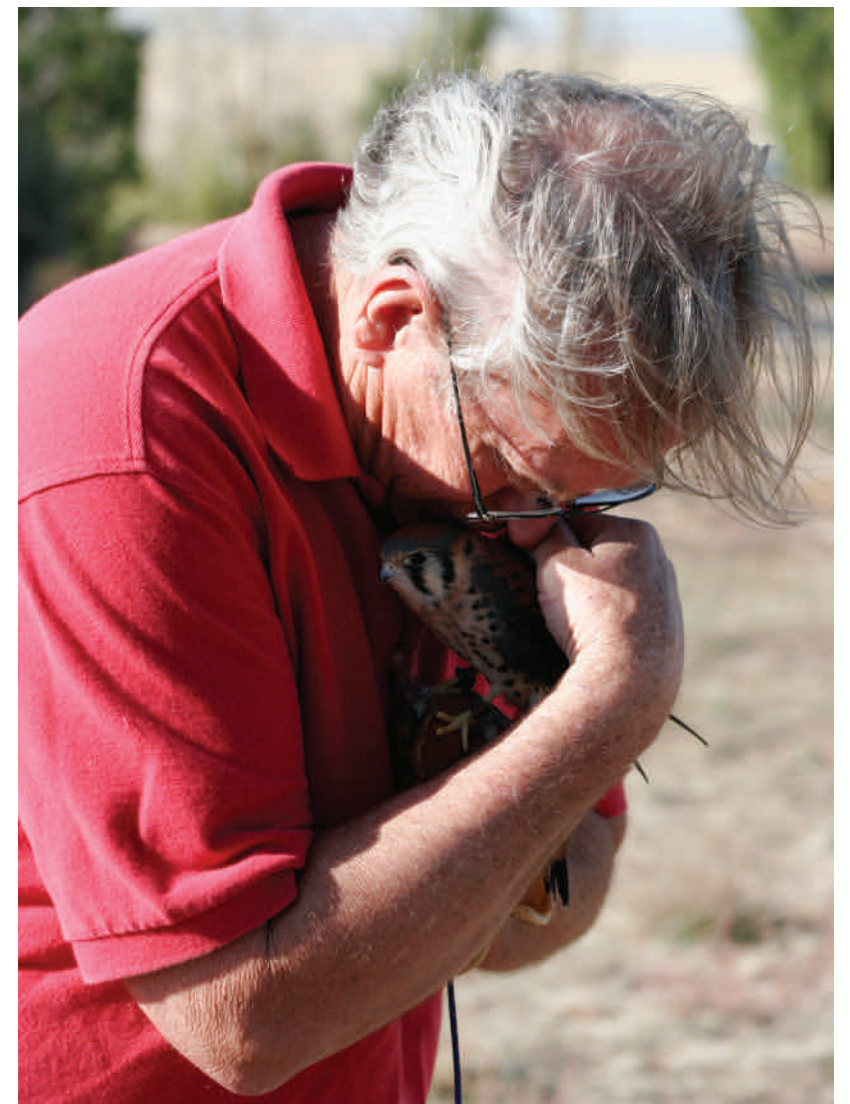
Public Flight Demonstration with colleague Trish Nixon. Photo by David Wells, Oct. 2008



This photo and below by David Wells, Oct. 2008



Jim with Harpy Eagle, *Luigi*. Photo by David Wells, Feb. 2009



Tom Cade, Kent Carnie, Frank Bond, Bill Burnham, Willard Heck, Jim Weaver, Jim, Tom Smylie