

# THE GAME BAG

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CALIFORNIA GAME HAWKERS' ASSOCIATION

FIRST EDITION

SPRING 2008

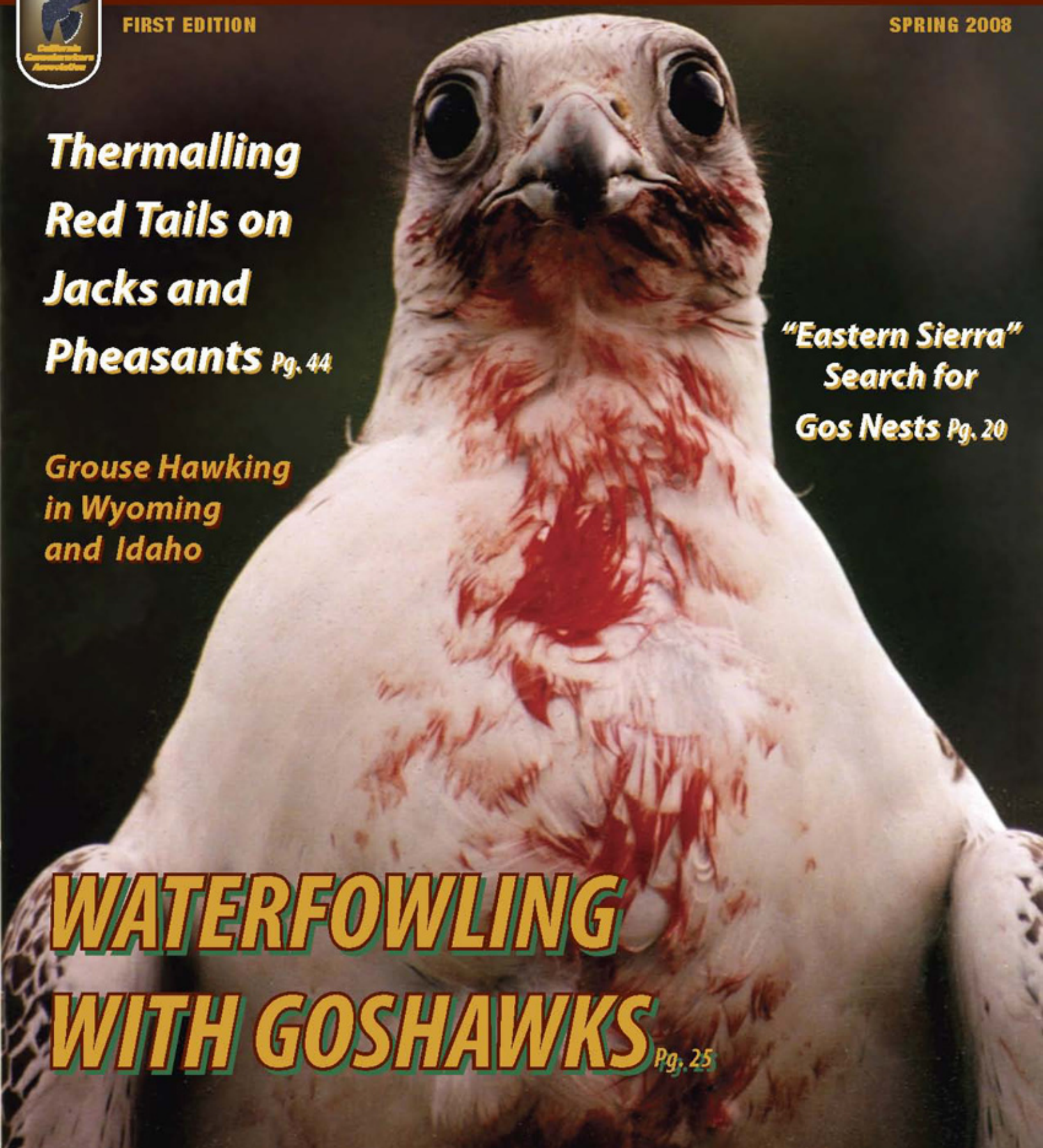


**Thermalling  
Red Tails on  
Jacks and  
Pheasants** Pg. 44

**Grouse Hawking  
in Wyoming  
and Idaho**

**"Eastern Sierra"  
Search for  
Gos Nests** Pg. 20

**WATERFOWLING  
WITH GOSHAWKS** Pg. 25



# THE GAME BAG

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CALIFORNIA GAME HAWKERS' ASSOCIATION



## Spring 08

Front Cover: Kevin Triolo's  
three time intermewed (1997)  
Jerky "Wilbur" on Mallard.  
*Photo by Kevin Triolo*

## Features

<b>Editor's Page</b>	<b>1</b>
Risk as the Antidote to Mediocrity.	1-3
<b>The Dissenters' Corner</b>	<b>3</b>
Where Do We Go From Here? By Hal Webster	3-4
<b>Club News and Notices</b>	<b>5</b>
Upcoming Events	5-6
<b>The Meet Report</b>	<b>7</b>
By Kevin Triolo	7-9
<b>The Pigeon Derby</b>	<b>12</b>
By Mike Maxcy	12-13
<b>Will the USFS help you find a Goshawk Nest?</b>	<b>15</b>
By Bob Herrick	15-17



## RISK AS THE ANTIDOTE TO MEDIOCRITY

*Welcome to the first issue of "The Game Bag," the CGA's official publication.*

**T**he contributors to this publication all have at least one thing they share: all are serious, dedicated game hawkers who have come to understand that excellence in falconry cannot be achieved by being in the field only one or two days per week. All have found ways to wrap their lives around their falconry in order to be out there 5 to 7 days per week during the legal season.

Falconry is not a pursuit of convenience and those in the sport who fail to put their birds first will never achieve anything in it but a lower level of ordinary, at best. Perhaps this pursuit of excellence will repel some and define us as elitists. The hard-core game hawkers understand through first hand experience the damage and darkness the sport of falconry can bring into a person's life and also the profound exhilaration, satisfaction and serenity even, the sport has to offer.

Some have approached us with the concern that the CGA is an exclusive organization. We make no bones about it: we are exclusive. I consider the creation of this club an invitation to the hard-core game hawkers to resist the inclination of certain trends in our community to dilute and accept a definition of falconry that is tolerant of rehabbers and bird abatement people and educators and even those who are scientists, researchers, and other non-falconers, accepting those activities as other forms of falconry. Not quite. Consider this example: bird abatement is viewed by this club as any other job or form of income such as window washing, tile setting, or dentistry. If you are a practicing falconer, a hunter, and your income relies upon bird abatement, then you are welcome; please join our club. If you think you are a falconer because you do bird abatement and do not hunt your birds I will ask you to reconsider the true definition of the sport. Your job of abating birds with falcons will be viewed as any other job or profession that is separate from the true sport of falconry i.e. hunting wild quarry with your birds.

It is our intention to affiliate with all of the high-profile hunting organizations in this country. Many "falconry" clubs are inclusive and are quite willing to allow nonhunters, rehabbers and even anti-hunters into their ranks. Whether their inclusiveness is an attempt to control the public perception of falconry or form a facade over the specific realities that exist in the sport, these perspectives are indicative of a broadening and loosening of the definition of the sport. When we come under attack from PETA or the Animal Protection Institute or any of the many successful anti groups, who do you think is going to come to our aid? The rehabbers??? The educators??? Obviously not. The true sport of falconry is not within the focus their interests; if it were, they would be falconers.

The sport of falconry is too esoteric, requires too much dedication and is much too troublesome and down right fatiguing to the average, normal, sane person to ever have enough participants in it to have any meaningful level of political clout.

THE CALIFORNIA GAME HAWKERS'  
ASSOCIATION CLUB THREE MEMBER  
PRESIDENTIAL PANEL:

Kevin Triolo

Mike Maxcy

Brad Felger

TREASURER: Bob Herrick

COPY EDITOR IN CHIEF: Kevin Triolo

EDITOR: Elisa McCormick

WEBMASTER: John Milan

[www.gamehawkers.com](http://www.gamehawkers.com)

Our voice will achieve its impact and find its strength through our affiliations. REMEMBER, FALCONRY IS HUNTING! If hunting becomes illegal, then the true sport of falconry will be illegal. Any other perception or definition of it is absolutely unacceptable.

For some reason, falconers make a point of obscuring to the rest of the world what it is we do with our birds. When you are driving down the road in a rural area and see a person crossing a field with a gun or bow and arrow, no one has any question what that person is doing. Most people (other sport hunters as well) have no clue what is going on when they see a person with a hawk in a field. Why? I certainly do not advocate advertising the specifics of our sport and what is involved in putting together an accomplished hunting hawk, but I also am concerned by any group of falconers attempting to sooth and calm the fevered hysteria of our detractors and opponents. Is it up to us to assume responsibility for the frailties of those who object to what we do because they cannot handle it? Those who have placed a moral judgment on what we do rarely have an intelligent, rational, logical or carefully examined argument against us.

Recently, I have visited the web sites of several state falconry organizations and read their charters; none of them say anything about hunting or falconry being hunting. They always mention conservation and preservation, preserving the "art" of falconry and, of course, education. Except for the "art" of falconry (who are we kidding, falconry is not an art, and oh please, it is not noble...who thought that up, anyway???) these things indeed are important to the total spectrum of falconry as they are to all forms of wild game take, but what about hunting? Most state clubs portray the taking of game with a raptor as merely incidental to keeping the bird. The philosophy of the CGA is that we do not keep birds we do not hunt. Our birds have an intrinsic value to us as a species, but the true value of any bird to the gamehawker increases only as the bird's skill and prowess in the hunt develops. Most of us (I hope) consider trips to the field a waste of time if a bird continually fails to score.

One rather large club in another state has even gone so far as to sidestep what falconry is by defining it as "preparing a bird to hunt." Nothing is mentioned about under which circumstances the bird is being prepared to hunt. A bow hunter who practices his skills during the off season is not bow hunting. A gun hunter who is cleaning his guns and sighting them in preparation for a hunt is not practicing the sport of gun hunting. How can someone say that preparing a bird to hunt is practicing falconry? There is only one place and time that falconry happens: in the field when pursuing wild quarry. Anything else is husbandry.

The philosophy of the CGA embraces falconry as recreation and falconry needs no other reason to exist!

Our identity as an organization is rooted in our exclusivity. It is simple and straightforward, not obscured in apologetic rhetoric, not based in seeking an alibi for what we do. It preserves the meaning of falconry and also its rich tradition as a hunting sport. Read our charter. When a game hawkker chooses to join our club, that person has acknowledged that falconry IS indeed hunting. Accept it; falconry is the best and most fun unsubstantiated waste of time we know of!!!

It is time for falconry to be recognized and acknowledged by the rest of the sport hunting world as a legitimate form of wild game take that is in need of the same legal protection as all the other forms of hunting. We must also be willing through affiliations to offer them our support.

Not only is the creation of this club an acknowledgment of what falconry is, it is also a celebration of falconry, a celebration of the hunt. Visit our web site and go to the photo album section. It may appear braggartly, but what is displayed is success in the sport. Success in any endeavor usually leads to the desire to share that success with others. Head counts are important and do matter. They speak for the skill of the falconer and the time and energy she/he puts into the practice of their sport. The game taken that is shown on our site is the result of hard work and sacrifice and the cultivation of talent. The dialect is: "If you are not taking game with your bird, you are not successful as a gamehawker." Like it or not, falconry just isn't any fun if you are not successful. A bird's feather condition, health

## Features Continued

### **Gosquest 20**

Eastern Sierra Search  
for Gos Nests By Everett Triolo 21

### **The Flying Tidbit 22**

By Mike Maxcy 23

### **Hunting Big Water Ducks with a Gos 25**

By Mike Maxcy 25-27

### **The Stoop 28**

By Steve Sherrod 28-31

### **Hawking on a Late Winter's Day 32**

By Ed Levine 32-36

### **Aramis 38**

By Alfonso Uceda 38-39

### **Sunny 41**

By Brad Felger 41-42

### **Training Red Tail Hawks to Thermal 44**

By Mike Clark 44-49

### **Quarry Profile 50**

By Kevin Triolo 50-51

### **Weird Stuff, Humor 51**

*We are also seeking articles dealing with game hunting, approaches to training, what dog breeds you have worked with, game species profiles, editorials, dissension and original art and photos for the Gamebag, the official publication of the CGA.*

*Contact; Editor, Kevin Triolo kevintriolo@hotmail.com. Or, send to Kevin Triolo, P.O. Box 551, Winchester, Calif. 92596.*

*Phone, 1-951-926-9587... Please see guidelines for submission elsewhere in this issue.*