Approved for Release: 2019/07/30 C06527543

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ORD #2389-74

8 May 1974

PROGRESS REPORT No. 2
AVIAN TRAINING PROGRAM

(March - April 1974)

Program Director:

Dear Sir:

As the following daily reports will show, 3 of the birds listed have just started to work free. 2 of these are the Canadian falcons which have undergone fairly extensive preliminary training before they started to work free. We also list the cockatoo and this one is included as a feasibility test. We are completely in the dark as to what the possibilities are in regard to this critter. We have not been able to dig up any information as regards to its distance possibilities or the visual potential. We do know that this particular bird is a clever flyer but seems if it may be too slow to avoid gull attacks.

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DAILY TRAINING SCHEDULE

Monday Aril 22, 1974

Do Da (Raven)
3 miles from shore to boat. ½ mile from boat to target. Response and strength good. Wind 5 m.p.h. N.W.

Dink (Prairie Falcon)
1&½ mile from boat to the target. Refused to come to boat. Fed and worked on boat. Wind, 10 m.p.h. N.W. This bird is an extremely good prospect. It has shown willingness to work over the water, a big question mark in the beginning. As of the date indicated here this bird was working under a severe handicap since the primary feathers on one wing have been broken half way up since we first got him. These will be replaced later in the year as the bird molts.

Cockatoo
50 yards to the boat. Three flights. Response and strength good. 10 m.p.h. wind N.W.

Falcon (female)
I mile to target on land. Started work on lure in building. Strength and response good.

Terciel (male falcon)
Started work on lure in building. Heavy wind 30-40 m.p.h. N.W.

Tuesday April 23

Do Da
3 miles to boat. 3/4 mile from boat to target. Response and strength good.

Dink
100 yards to boat. Refused second attempt. 1&½ miles from boat to target. Heavy gull pressure. Strength questionable.

Cockatoo
100 yards to boat. 3 flights, strength and response good.

Terciel
Start work to boat. 50 yards to boat. 50 yards from boat to target. Carried package with response and strength good.

Brandy & G.B. (Hawks)
5 miles to target. Very good altitude, response and strength good.

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AVIAN TRAINING PROGRAM.....

Wed. April 24

Do Da
3 miles to boat. 1 mile from boat to target. Wind 5 m.p.h. S.

Dink
Short flight to boat. 1 mile to the target. Made stop before coming in. Response fair but strength questionable.

Cockatoo
¼ mile to boat. Wind 5 m.p.h. with response and strength good.

Falcon
3/4 mile to the lure. 3/4 mile to target. Response and strength gppd.

Terciel
100 yards to boat & 100 yards return to target. Lure used on target. Response and strength gppd with 10 m.p.h. wind.

Thursday April 25

Heavy winds all day, 20-40 m.p.h. to N.E. All birds flown inside.

Friday April 26

Heavy winds again 30 m.p.h. All birds flown inside.

Week end

Monday April 29

Do Da
3&½ mile flight to boat. 3/4 mile return flight from boat to land. Response and strength good.

Dink
3/4 mile flight from boat to target. Again, response good but flying capacity questionable because of impaired wing.

Cockatoo
¼ mile to the boat. Two flights with response and strength good.

Terciel
100 yards to boat. 100 yards from boat to target. Response and strength good.

Falcon
Start work on the boat. Fed and carried on moving boat.

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AVAIN TRAINING PROGRAM.....

Tuesday April 30

Do Da
Attempted 2&3/4 mile flight to boat but bird refused because of high winds but did come from 1&½ miles. Returned from 1 mile.

Dink
½ mile from boat to target. Flight capacity questionable.

Terciel
200 yards to boat. 3 flights with strength and response good.

Falcon
Close work on boat. Response good with heavy winds.

Although not indicated here the hawks worked several times in the time frame of this report when other bird work was finished early enough.

In following the work of the prairie falcon one will note the bird's limitations due to impaired wing but it can also be noted this one has excellent potential. At the first signs of molt we expect to put this bird up and feed him heavily in order to shorten the molt period and again have him working at full capacity.

Respectfully,

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