Approved for Release: 2019/07/30 C06527542

3.3(h)(2)

ORD #2390-74

15 May 1974

PROGRESS REPORT No. 3
AVIAN TRAINING PROGRAM

(April-May 1974)

Program Director:

Dear Sir:

At long last our boat is fully repaired. One of engines has had a cracked head replaced with new valves and other parts. The outdrive for the other engine has been replaced and, in toto, the boat is operating to its full potential. (except for radar)

Needless to say, limited function of the boat has hampered our training schedule to some extent and we look forward to getting back to normal.

One of our birds recently generated a considerable amount of excitement by making a 5 mile flight from land to the boat. This exceeds by 1 mile the longest prior distance flown over water.

We were happy to see the bird seemed to be in fine shape when he arrived at the boat, seeming not in the least tired nor exhausted.

During the flight there was a great deal of apprehension on our part since the bird was out of visual contact for most of the flight.

Until we are able to get some kind of satisfactory tracking beacon for the bird we are most anxious to acquire a chase boat which, we believe, is available in a short time.

We are aware we have played down the potential of

Approved for Release: 2019/07/30 C06527542

Approved for Release: 2019/07/30 C06527542

the raven and, in fact, we have been surprised by the performance of this bird. It is true that this particular bird is our show bird [redacted] and has had some 3 or 4 years of training. It is also true he was the pick of the litter, so to speak, of some 50 birds.

We have already acquired several nestling ravens this year and when they are ready they too will join the program.

Starting from scratch our terciel falcon has come on very strong and, in our opinion, will soon be performing as well as the raven.

The small prairie falcon, as described earlier, has also shown great promise. At the present we have set him up, on full feed, hoping to get through the molt as soon as possible.

The female falcon has been a slight problem up to this point. She flys well but seems to tire easily and does not have the strength to complete long flights. Her stamina has increased steadily but not dramatically. She too has entered into a heavy molt and because of this will be delayed in her further training.

Regarding the flights over land, the hawks are doing a fine job, making flights of several miles at any time the elements are at all favorable.

We are enclosing more daily training reports along with some cost reports on medical care for the falcons

Approved for Release: 2019/07/30 C06527542

Approved for Release: 2019/07/30 C06527542

AVIAN TRAINING PROGRAM....

to demonstrate we left no stone unturned in our concern for them.

Respectfully,

Approved for Release: 2019/07/30 C06527542

Approved for Release: 2019/07/30 C06527542

DAILY TRAINING SCHEDULE

Wed. May 1, 1974

Do Da
2&½ mile flight to boat. 1&½ mile flight from boat to beach. Light N. wind. Response and strength good.

Dink
1 mile flight from boat to target. Strength fair, response good.

Cockatoo
¼ mile flight to boat. Gull pressure, driven into the water. Strength questionable, response good.

Terciel
300 yards to boat. 4 flights. Response and strength good.

Falcon 50 yards to boat. 3 flights. Response and strength good

Hawk flights on land from 5 to 8 miles.

Thur. May 2

Do Da
3 mile flight to boat. 1&½ flight from boat to beach. Light N.W. wind.

Dink
Down for the moult

Tercial
¼ mile to boat. 3 flights. Response and strength good.

Falcon
200 yards to boat. 3 flights. Response and strength good.

Brandy (hawk)
5 mile flight to target/ Response and strength good. Light N.W. wind.

Friday may 3

Do Da
3 mile flight to boat. Strength and response good.

Took boat out of water for early flight back to L.B.

Approved for Release: 2019/07/30 C06527542

Approved for Release: 2019/07/30 C06527542

AVIAN TRAINING PROGRAM.....

VETERINARIAN EXPENSES ON FALCONS

Aug. 26, 1973.....	$132.50
Oct. 6, 1973	179.00
Oct. 18, 1973	243.50
Aug. 2, 1973	23.00
Dec. 15, 1973	22.00
Dec. 29, "	140.00
Jan. 1, 1974	64.00
Jan. 16, 1974	56.00
March 9, 1974	7.00
April 6, 1974	261.00
April 8, 1974	205.15

The above figures only in support of report on falcons.

Approved for Release: 2019/07/30 C06527542