

# HEALING OF A SHATTERED WING IN A GYRFALCON

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Until I learned the hard way, I believed that in order to obtain a healthy falcon for my breeding project, it had to be flown to the lure for a certain time. On September 16, 1968, one of my eyass Gyrs was shot by a local farmer and waterfowl enthusiast. Her left wing was shattered in four places (see Figure 3), pellets penetrated her breast muscles from the side in two or three places, and penetrated her left leg just above the foot. Because of the severe loss of blood and the complexity of the fractures, it was decided not to attempt splinting the bones. The wing was taped alone in the manner shown in Figure 1, and then the whole wing was taped against the body as in Figure 2. For most of the time during healing, the two wings were taped together at the tops over the back.

For three weeks the bird was kept in a two foot square box on a block and fed small pieces of meat by hand. During this period, the bird became very thin and developed frounce, which was cured within a few days by one-half of a pill of entryl. After this period, the wing was deemed sufficiently healed to allow the removal of the tape (see Figure 4).

Within a few days, the bird was able to raise the wing very slowly, and by the beginning of December, it was able to make its first flight of approximately 500 yards. During this period the No. 2 primary dropped out to be replaced by a new one within a month. Today the wing seems fully healed although it is kept in a position lower than normal and cannot be stretched out completely.

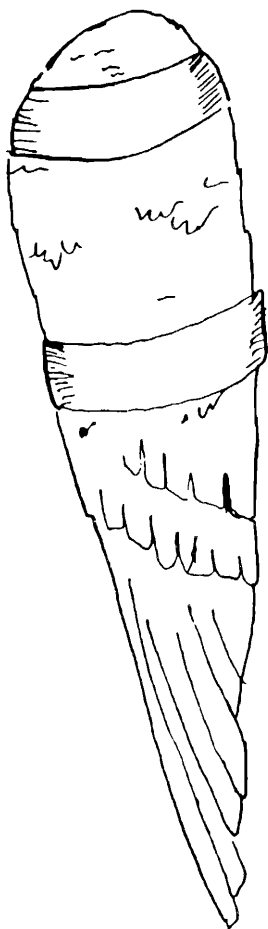


Figure 1. Manner of taping wing of Gyrfalcon.



Figure 2. Manner of taping whole wing against the body of Gyrfalcon.



Figure 3. X-ray of Gyrfalcon wing, taken from below, September 16, 1968. Arrows indicate where pellets penetrated. A, B, D -small lead deposit of pellets. C-pellet embedded in muscle (removed by owner approximately three months later).

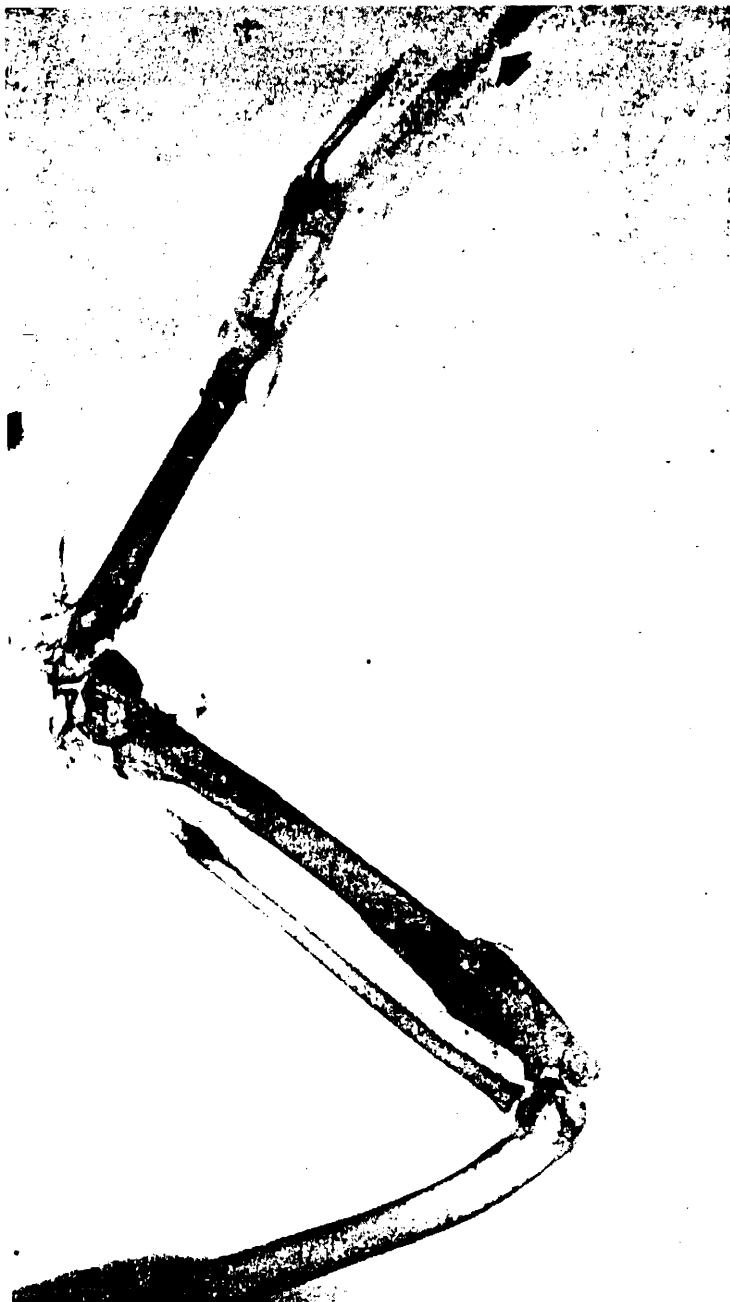


Figure 4. X-ray of Gyrfalcon wing, taken from below in approximately the same position as in Figure 3, December 15, 1968. Arrow indicates incomplete feather in blood.