



# CENT D. CASSONE

*Conn., and Tipton, Mich., Colorado Springs, CO*  
*birds: Peregrine falcons and goshawks*

**Cassone was part of the “old school” of falconry in the U.S. who strongly believed falconers should adhere to the classic, medieval techniques.** Likewise, he did not think using electronics to track birds or even of the purchase of

26, Cassone came from the era of American falconers fascinated with falcons and hawks and were intrigued by National Geographic article that inspired many of his hobbies. He was well-read and became familiar with other authors such as the Craigheads, and classic literature, especially "De

and die company, Easco Sparcatron in Ann Arbor, Mich., which built electrical discharge machines (EDM). He became president of the company, but soon started a new company, Axon EDM, a competitor of Easco. During that time, he was instrumental in the invention and design of a tabletop EDM called the Sparkdrill.

di cum Avibus" ("On The Art of Hunting with Birds"), a treatise on ornithology and falconry written in the 1200s by Frederick II, a powerful, Holy Roman Emperor from the House of Hohenstaufen.

Eventually, Cassone became fully involved in all aspects of the business, which included managing accounts receivable, which could be quite large given the international clients. When A

so loved to trap falcons on Assateague Island, off the Maryland and Virginia coast. The island is famous in the lore of falconry before the age of regulation and the decline of populations of peregrines.

wanted to get back into an income-generating business based on cash sales. Clearly, he had the right idea. He found a spot that fit the bill, and he started a bakery in 1995. It was called Stonehearth Bakery. His even

Incent M., himself a biologist who has studied birds and the Department of Biology at the University of Kentucky, those trips to Assateague.

as a kid, he would take my brother and me on the annual ‘Island,’ where we would camp with a great group of he said. “It was a long time ago, but I can’t forget Corny Heinz Meng and Dr. Jim Gerlach (who stitched my hand the year after I was injured). Ed Riley and Vernon Seifert close falconry friends of my father.”

stone-baking process that cre “He will be remembered as a certain of his opinions and w — anything with anyone,” sai of a gadfly. “He was known to make unpopular statements i

s also his major apprentice — this was, of course, long y's formal and legal system of apprenticeships — but nally took on others, such as Jackie Bleuler and Kent n. He also gave talks on the sport at least once a year, his  
did not agree with him. This increased as he aged.”  
But, as with all falconers, it all peregrines and goshawks. And course, there were problem birds.

as the first falconer to import the Argentinean peregrine *F. peregrinus cassini* to the U.S. He had an exotic bird ring the birds in, but Fish and Wildlife confiscated the ring them to be *F. peregrinus anatum*. F&W wanted to keep the birds in the Bronx Zoo, but after much haggling and legal maneuvering, the birds were given to Tom Cade's breeding program at Cornell. He was promised an F2 or F3 but never received one. He was a collector. He particularly liked the 19th Century

course, there were problems with his work for him or an Ornate Cuckoo. "He was more than a rock" — but then there was the time when "All birds liked him," his son said. It was a long time (maybe 15 years) now, but who was enamored with him? No one I know. He just had a

— *Reminiscences: Vincent M.*

se was of an Arabian falconer on  
is wrist.

He was also an inventor who went  
to sales and manufacturing, then  
end of his career.

in Stamford, Conn., at Cassone's  
crumb machine. Today, the bakery  
is still active in the Northeast.

international salesman for a tool  
in Ann Arbor, Mich., which built  
I). He became president of the  
company, Axon EDM, a competitor  
instrumental in the invention and  
the Sparkdrill.

ited by the nature of the financial  
based on large lines of credit and  
frustrating when dealing with  
egan to flounder, he decided he

that was recession-proof and  
erience in the bakery business  
n Brooklyn, Mich., called  
al was to franchise the company,  
esign of his — miniature bread-  
market bakeries that utilized  
r than stone but simulated the  
ld World style breads.

creative man, someone who was  
to argue about — I mean discuss  
on, who described him as a bit  
uncomfortable questions and  
presence of people who usually  
ue throughout his life, although it

comes back to the birds. He loved  
had many birds over the years. Of  
- a Harris' Hawk that wouldn't  
Hawk-Eagle that was "dumber  
all the others

I had a Red-tailed Hawk for a  
Sam that would fly for me very  
my father. I mean inappropriately  
parrots to talk more quickly than  
with birds.”

# *Conner's Plunge*

*s Riley; dashed to the rocks  
kyard full of empty blocks  
g end for a man so absurd  
n b a cliff to steal a baby bird*

-Vincent D. Cassone

## **Riley's Plunge Poem Cassone (Vinny's son):**

Riley, one of Vinny's best  
colorado. Ed's brother Jim was  
d friend in Connecticut. Ed  
would ham it up at the eyries.  
d ice skate down the rivers in  
t to search for peregrine eyries!



Hag '48  
Years friend 49  
Lyle & Thauwe  
Brookfield, Colo.  
September, 1949  
J. Cassone Basic  
Oil i : 2 L



# ved peregrines d goshawks.

*ards liked him....  
ust had a way  
with birds.”*