Ron Hartley 1950-2005

Teacher, conservationist, researcher, wildlife expert, outdoorsman and cricket coach.

And through his years — including 22 years with the Falcon College and Zimbabwe Falconers Club — Ron Hartley was highly instrumental in advancing ethical and quality falconry in his native Zimbabwe by forming a falconry club comprised of students at Falcon College. His falconry club students had to meet his club’s high standards for the safety and care of their birds, and to adhere to the country’s falconry and hunting regulations and traditions. Their advance in the sport was predicated on having quality knowledge of their game species and on raptors husbandry and handling skills. Ron maintained a progressive program of beginners using captive, obtained and common species of raptors, and having actual hunting success being advancement to the next level of sportsmanship. Ron was also deeply involved in the protection of the native species of Zimbabwean raptors, and was widely admired for his work in conservation and hunting.

Dr. Adrian Lombard

Ron was a powerhouse in the development of falconry in Zimbabwe and is largely responsible for the good standing of falconry in our sub-region.

Dr. Adrian Lombard of the South African Falconer’s Association

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His boundless energy and enthusiasm for conservation and raptors made him popular with everyone from professional safari hunters.

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He died in the foothills of Drakensberg, a noted naturalist and photographer.

Ron Hartley in the footsteps of Peter Steyn, a noted naturalist and photographer.

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Reminiscences: Richard Teague, David Coffin and Peter Steyn

Ron was one of the finest examples of the falconer/raptor conservationist ever to come from our ranks, " said Patrick Morel, President of the International Association of Falconry & Conservation of Birds of Prey. "His friendship and sound advice will be greatly missed.”

The Falconry Club

African Peregrines and Taita Falcons. An energetic and athletic researcher, his work in conservation and hunting was predicated on having quality knowledge of their game species and on raptors husbandry and handling skills.

Ron edited or contributed to every volume of the club’s newsletter from 1984 to 1998, he published more than 100 articles on falconry, he was a consultant for National Geographic and the BBC, and he worked with the Peregrine Fund to establish a captive breeding and release program for both African Peregrines and Taita Falcons.

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