

Thank you for supporting *Four Falconry Fundamentals* and its mission to increase the success and enjoyment of our sport for every practitioner.

The product contained in this envelope is part of a series of unique tools designed to help falconers teach and learn the sport's most challenging concepts—like finding and pressing advantage in a slip—that while abstract, are nonetheless essential to success. Using visual metaphors and interactive features, each tool attempts to communicate the essential elements of a single important idea. In conjunction with direct field experience, a mentor's guidance, and the sport's wealth of available text and video instruction, these "concept cards" offer a new way to impart the finer points of our wonderfully complex avocation.



In SLIP MANAGEMENT, a trained hawk's attempt to capture prey is presented as a series of distinct advantages (including height, speed, proximity, surprise, and the structure of cover) that falconers have long recognized and worked to apply in their practice. It takes only one outing with a trained hawk to understand that successful hunting is no foregone conclusion. Hawks and falcons miss far more game than they catch, and often fail even to "dip a wing" at quarry that seems, at least to the falconer, irresistible.

In fact, all predators benefit from some advantage when hunting. They learn (largely from failure) which angles of attack and kinds of cover are most conducive to a kill. They learn when to sneak or sprint. Falconers must learn these lessons, too, in order to provide the best possible slips for their birds.

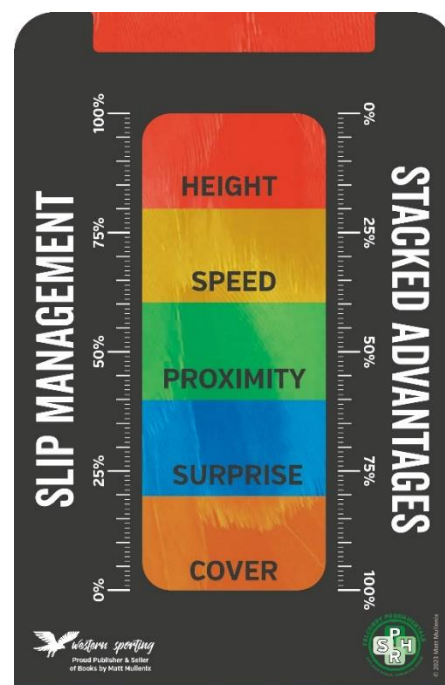
STACKED ADVANTAGES

As described in *Four Falconry Fundamentals*, any slip can include more than one advantage. Surprise and proximity combined, for example, can be more effective than either advantage alone. Speed and height are often naturally paired, as hawks plummet toward their prey at increasing velocity. The structure of cover can conceal a hawk's approach, providing the element of surprise; or it can tempt prey to hide after a long pursuit, and thus permit a second flush.

Ultimately, *any* successful flight at *any* quarry will depend at least in part on how well the falconer has recognized and engineered these and other advantages to the bird's benefit. Planning is important.

And yet the moment of the slip is not the best time for planning or managing advantages. That time is well prior: perhaps the night before the hunt, or in the quiet of the vehicle at the edge of the field, when the lay of the land and all its opportunities can be considered. It's also after the hunt, around the dinner table (or at the pub), when the elements of each flight can be picked apart and discussed in detail.

The Slip Management Concept Card from *Four Falconry Fundamentals*



This tool is designed to help falconers visualize the components of a slip and how they relate to each other; and to aid in describing available advantages to those still learning to recognize them in the field.

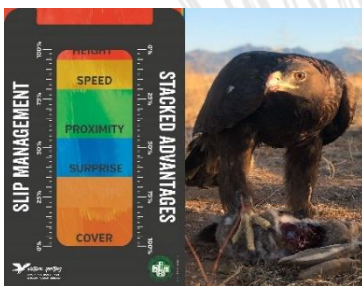
APPLYING THE LESSON

If introducing the idea of slips and advantages to someone new to falconry, pull the tabbed cards completely from the envelope and lay them out, upside down, revealing illustrations (courtesy Anderson Menara*) that depict each named advantage in action. Discuss how the images relate to their subjects and how various forms of falconry typically leverage each advantage.

Then replace the cards, face up and into the sleeve (red on top; then yellow, green, and blue), and arrange each within the viewing window so that all measure about 20% on the gauge. This represents a slip in which every advantage is deployed equally—rare in actual falconry, but a good place to start.

Now, model your favorite *real life* slip: Choose any hawk, quarry, terrain, and time of year, and imagine which advantage is most important to success in that situation. Which is second-most critical (and so forth)? Consider if the slip is a pursuit or an ambush, and how that might change the advantage values. Is any category irrelevant? How could you improve on any advantage and “stack the deck” in the hawk’s favor? What other tools, training or field conditions would be necessary to do that?

Finally, pick a different combination of hawk and quarry, and demonstrate how the relative advantages might have to change to make that slip a success. See below for examples created by falconers experienced with the different slips depicted, and discuss!



Golden Eagle in grassland on jackrabbits



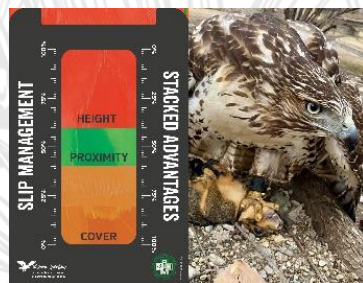
Merlin in mixed scrub on California quail



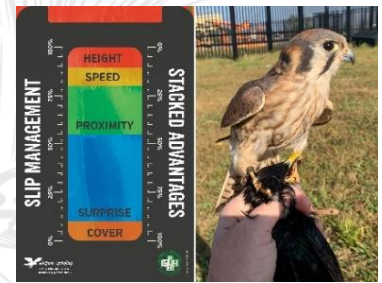
Goshawk in wooded country on cottontail



Goshawk in open desert on cottontail



Red-tail in woodland on fox squirrel



Kestrel in suburbs on starling

*ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR



The excellent original illustrations featured in this product are by Brazilian artist Anderson Menara, who discovered his passion for drawing at the age of five. His biggest supporter, his mother, contributed to his training by stimulating his talent with comic books. His interest in falconry started in 2014, developing video and magazine work related to the sport. Today, Anderson works as a graphic designer, producing commissions related to falconry and other things. You can reach him through any of these channels:

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