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**FALCONRY AMONG BASHKIRS BY
GABDELAKHAT VILDANOV'S MATERIALS ¹
GABDELAKHAT VILDANOV'UN MATERYALLERİ İLE
BAŞKURLARDA ŞAHİN İLE AVCILIK²**

Abstract: In the past, hunting with predatory hunting birds was common among many peoples of the world. It is known that Turkic and European monarchs, Russian princes and kings were fond of falconry. Among the Turkic peoples, hunting with hunting birds has been popular from ancient times. The article deals with ethnographic material about domestication and hunting with the aid of hunting birds, published in 1928 by the famous Bashkir scholar and folklorist Gabdelakhat Vildanov. The analysis is given in comparison with the data of the monograph *Falconry among the Bashkirs* written by Mirza Mullagulov, a prominent expert in the field, and other sources. Many aspects of this description coincide with the information of Russian scholars and local historians of the XVIII-XIX centuries, as well as with the materials of the monographic study of M. Mullagulov. Historical materials published by G. Vildanov were recorded near the north-eastern Bashkirs, and information about hunting was obtained from informants who were representatives of the Quvakan clan. It is noteworthy that the recording of G. Vildanov describes a way to catch the hawk fledgeling when the she-hawk herself brought them down to the ground for training to flight.

This method of catching the chick differs from other recorded facts in which hunters would descend from above the top of a rock or a mountain with the help of a lasso. Thus, in the article new material containing data on the taming, training and use of predatory birds by Bashkirs is introduced into scientific circulation.

Key words: falconry, hunting birds, ethnography, local studies, Bashkirs, documents in Arabic script.

Öz: Geçmişte yırtıcı av kuşlarını avlamak dünyadaki pek çok halk arasında yaygındı. Türkî ve Avrupalı hükümdarların, Rus prenslerin ve kralların kuşçuluğa düşkünlüğü bilinmektedir. Türkî toplumlar arasında avcı kuşları avlamak eski zamanlardan beri popüler olmuştur. Bu çalışma, ünlü Başkurt bilim insanı ve halkbilimci Gabdelakhat Vildanov tarafından 1928 yılında yayınlanan av kuşlarının yardımıyla avcılık ve evcilleştirme hakkındaki etnografik materyalleri ele almaktadır. Analiz kısmı alanda önde gelen uzmanlardan olan Mirza Mullagulov tarafından yazılan “Falconry among the Bashkirs (*Başkurlarda Kuşçuluk*)”

Translation by Alfira Abdullina. Ed. Sh. Nafiqoff.

monografındaki verilerle ve diğer kaynaklarla karşılaştırmalı verilmiştir. Bu betimlemenin birçok yönü, M. Mullagulov'un monografik çalışmasının materyallerinin yanısıra Rus bilim insanlarının ve 18. ve 19. yüzyıl yerel tarihçilerinin sunduğu bilgilerle örtüşmektedir. G. Vildanov tarafından yayınlanan tarihî materyaller Başkurtların yaşadıkları bölgenin kuzeydoğu yakınlarında kaydedilmiş ve avcılık hakkındaki bilgiler Kuvakan boyunun temsilcileri olan bilgi aktaran kişilerden toplanmıştır. G. Vildanov'un kayıtlarında anne şahinin yavrularına uçmayı öğretmek için yere indiği zaman yavru kuşu yakalamak için bir yöntemin anlatılması oldukça önemlidir.

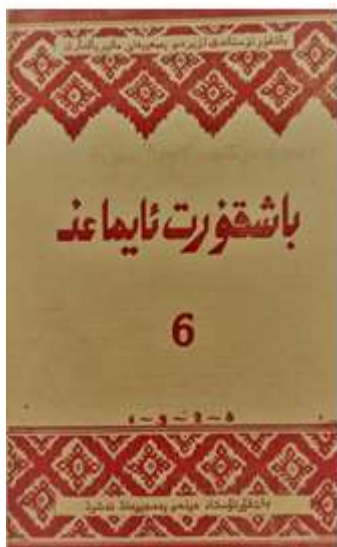
Bu yavru kuşu yakalama yöntemi avcılarının bir kayanın ya da dağın tepesinden kement yardımıyla indiklerini anlatan diğer kayıtlı bulgulardan farklılık göstermektedir. Bu yüzden bu çalışmada Başkurtların avcı kuşları ehlileştirmesi, eğitmesi ve kullanması hakkında bilimsel alana yeni materyaller tanıtılmaktadır.

Anahtar kelimeler: kuşculuk, av kuşları, etnoğrafya, yerel çalışmalar, Başkurtlar, Arapça el yazması belgeler.

In the past, hunting with birds of prey was quite common among many nations of the world. It is known that European monarchs, Russian princes and kings were keen on falconry [Mullagulov, 2013, 3-4, 18, 23, 32, 36-38]. Among the Turkic peoples, hunting with birds of prey has also long been popular. It is recorded on the Orkhon and Yenisei monuments [Mullagulov, 2013, 25]. Examples of the use of trained birds for hunting have been preserved in the well-known compendium of the Turkic tongues of Mahmud Kashgarly [Kaşgarlı, 2013, II, 273, 343, 348.].

Hunting with the help of hunting birds among the Bashkirs as a type of traditional hunting has long attracted the attention of researchers. Information about falconry is preserved in the Bashkir *shezhere*, in the works of participants of academic expeditions of the XVIII century, in the works of local scholars of the XIX-XX centuries. Of great interest is the data on the participation of the Bashkirs with their birds of prey in the hunt festivity in honor of the coronation of Tsar Alexander II in 1856, recorded in the *Report of the Bashkir army commander to the Orenburg and Samara governor on the royal hunt with birds of prey* dated October 12, 1856 and in *The official list of the service of ordinary officials of the 6th Bashkir canton for 1859* [Mullagulov, 2013, 23]. In the mid-twentieth century, this issue was covered in the monograph of a prominent researcher of ethnography of the Bashkir people S. Rudenko [Rudenko, 2006, 79-80]. Falconry is examined in detail in the monograph of the famous Bashkir scholar M. Mullagulov. In his work a detailed historiography of this problem is given. According to the author, hunting with the help of birds of prey in the Ural-Volga region was known during the time of the Golden Horde. Along with the written sources M. Mullagulov widely used own field records collected in the 90s of the last century. Thus, his work covers all aspects of the Bashkir falconry [Mullagulov, 2013].

This article analyzes material on hunting with birds of prey not considered in this monograph by M. Mullagulov, published in the Bashkir language by Gabelakhat Fazlievich Vildanov in 1928 in the *Bashkort Aimagi (Bashkir region)* scholarly articles collection of the Society for study of Bashkiria. G. Vildanov is a famous scholar who studied the folklore and ethnography of the Bashkir people in the 20-30s of the twentieth century [Akhemerova, 1996, 205-206.]. His work is called *Materials on the Bashkir ethnography ("Bashort etnografijahy materialdary")*. It consists of seven sections: 1) Crafts (*Honer-seneget*), 2) On hunting (*Au aulau turahynda*), 3) Customs (*Tormosh*



yolalary), 4) About food (*Ash-hyu turahynda*), 5) Clothing (*Kayem-halym*), 6) On the upbringing of children (*Bala terbiyehe turahendə*), 7) On horse harnesses (*At opsondere turahynda*), which contains field notes on the issues listed.

Drawing 1. The journal *Bashkort aimagy* (*Bashkir region*). 1928. No 6.

Interesting information on the domestication of birds of prey collected by G. Wildanov was published in the Arab script Bashkir of the specified time. Perhaps that is why they remained inaccessible to a wide circle of scholars. We give his translations into the Bashkir and Russian languages.

Translation into modern Bashkir language in Cyrillic alphabet:

Ау аулау тураһында. Карсыға өйрәтеү²

Карсыға бейек карағайға, карағаска, кайыңға, кеше менә алмаҫлыҡ таш кыуышына оялай. Питраузан бер йәки көн элек балаһаның оскан ваҡыты була. Карсыға балаһын кулға төшөрөргә теләүсе башкорттар карсыға ояһын эҙләп табалар ға, бала осора торған көндө таң мәлендә, ысыҡ төшкән ваҡытта барып карап торалар. Шул ваҡытта карсыға балаларын ергә төшөрөп, алыҫ китмәй уларҙы карап күзәтеп йөрөй. Карсығаның балаһы өсәү йәки дүртәү була. Дүртәүзән артыҡ булмай. Шулай ук карсыға балаларының үткер, оскон [шәп осоусы] булырҙайҙары калкыш, текә ултыра. Йүнһеззәре лапак ултыра. Карсыға сөйөүсә (типтерәүсә) һунарсылар шул ваҡыттарҙа кинәтлек менән тойҙормай [һиззәрмәй генә] барып тота торған бала карсығаны кыуып алып китәләр. Карсыға балаһы ысыҡ һыуына еүешләнәп оса алмағанға баҫтырып тоторға мөмкин була. Имгәтмәй генә карсыға балаһын өйгә алып кайтҡас, аяғына йомшак кына кайыш тегәләр. Кайыштың баштары тишек була. Өйгә түмәр килтереп, бала карсығаны шуға кундырып [ултыртып] куялар. һунарсы башкорт шул бала карсығаны күзенә күз текәп карамай, көндә ике-өс сәғәт аркаһынан һыйпап ултыра. һәм, шуның менән уны үзенә эйәләштерә, ылыҡтыра. Көнөнә өс тапкыр ит ашата. Бала карсыға сикылдап китһә, сыскан тотоп ашаталар, йәки бүрә ите ашаталар. Шунан акрынлап типтерәүгә өйрәтәләр. Башта кулға ит куйып, итте күрһәтеп “тфффү” тип сақыралар. Шул ыңғайы карсыға “шап” итеп килеп итте сукый. Башта якынырактан, һуңынан алыстан куйып өйрәтәләр. Өйрәтеү тамам килеш еткәнгә [тамамланғанса] тиклем бара.

Шунан һуң карсығаны мал, кеше-фәлән булмаған ергә кырға алып сығып, башта иткә сақырып, унан берәй кош тотоп, уның канат осон кыйып, карсығаны алыҫка ебәрәп, “тфффү” тип сақыралар ға, килеп етер алдынан әлегә кошто осороп ебәрәләр. Кошто ебәргән ыңғайға карсыға кошто тотоп ала. Шулай өйрәтеп еткәс [бөткәс], башта һайырак күлдәрҙә өйрәк алдыра, өйрәк типтерә башлайҙар. Карсыға менән көнөнә 10-12 өйрәк типтереп алалар. Карсыға күлдән калкып осоп сыккан өйрәктең беренен калдырмай кыйып төшөрә.

Ыласын, этэлге, тойғон, шонкарзы ла шулай карсыға һымак өйрәтәләр. Ләкин ыласынды өйрәтәү кыйыныраҡ. Ыласынды бик оҙаҡ тамам өйрәткәс кенә өйзән сығарып осоралар. Шул осорған ыңғайы күләүеккә карап оса ла, оскан бер өйрәкте кыйып төшөрөп тора. Оскан өйрәк ыласындан куркып, кире күләүеккә (бәләкәс күл) төшә. Эйә булған башкорт [хужаһы] ат менән саптырып барып күләүеккә етә халып, өйрәктәрҙе һуғып ала. Бөркөттө лә өйрәтәләр. Уның менән бүре, төлкө алдыралар. Бөркөттөң балаһын ояһынан бер кеше лә ала алмай [Vildanov, 1928, 98–99].



Drawing 2. An excerpt from the article by G. Vildanov *Materials on the ethnography of the Bashkirs*, which refers to the training of the hawk. From the collection *Bashkort Aimagy (Bashkir region)*, 1928. No. 6.

Translation into modern Bashkir language in Latin Alphabet:

Aw awlaw turahında. Qarsıǵa üyretiw

Qarsıǵa bıyık qaraǵayǵa, qaraǵasqa, qayınǵa, kısı míne almaşlıq taş qıwıǵına üyalay. Pitrawzan bır yeki kün ilik balahamıñ usqan waqıtı bula. Qarsıǵa balahın qulǵa tüşürürge tılewsı başqurttar qarsıǵa üyahın ízlep tabalar za, bala usura tırǵan kündü tañ melinde, ısıq tüşken waqıtta barıp qarap türalar. Şul waqıtta qarsıǵa balaların yırge tüşürüp, alıs kitmey ularzı

qarap küzetip yürü. Qarsıǵanıñ balahı üsew yeki dürtew bula. Dürtewzen artıq bulmay. Şulay uq qarsıǵa balalarınıñ ütkır, usqun [şep usıwsı] bulırzayzarı qalqıs, tıke ultıra. Yünhızzerı lapaq ultıra. Qarsıǵa süyüwsı (tıptırıwsı) hunarsılar şul waqıttarza kinetlik mínen tüyzürmay [hızırmeý ğıne] barıp tuta tırǵan bala qarsıǵanı qıwıp alıp kiteler. Qarsıǵa balahı ısıq hıwına yıwışlenıp üsa almaǵanǵa baştırıp tütürǵa mümkın bula. İmgetmey ğıne qarsıǵa balahın üyge alıp qaytqas, ayaǵına yımşaq qına qayış tıgeler. Qayıştıñ baştarı tışık bula. Üyge tümer kiltırıp, bala qarsıǵanı şuǵa qundırıp [ultırtıp] quyalar. Hunarsı başqurt şul bala qarsıǵanı küzıne küz tıkep qaramay, künde ikı-üs seget arqahınan hıypap ultıra. Hem, şunıñ mínen unı üzıne iyeleştıre, ılıqtıra. Kününe üs tapqır it aşata. Bala qarsıǵa sıqıldap kithe, sısqan tütüp aşatalar, yeki bürı itı aşatalar. Şunan aqrınlap tıptırıwge üyreteler. Başta qulǵa it quyıp, ittı kürhetıp “tfffü” tip saqıralar. Şul inǵayı qarsıǵa “şap” itıp kilıp ittı suqıy. Başta yaqınıraqtan, huñınan alıstan quyıp üyreteler. Üyretiw tamam kilış yıtkenge [tamamlanǵansa] tiklím bara.

Şunan huñ qarsıǵanı mal, kısı-felen bulmaǵan yırge qırǵa alıp sıǵıp, başta itke saqırıp, unan bırey quş tütüp, unıñ qanat usun qıyıp, qarsıǵanı alısqa yıberıp, “tfffü” tip saqıralar za, kilıp yıtır aldınan elıǵı quştü usürüp yıbereler. Quştü yıbergen inǵayǵa qarsıǵa quştü tütüp ala. Şulay üyretıp yıtkes [bütkes], başta hayıraq külderze üyrek aldıra, üyrek tıptıre başlayzar. Qarsıǵa mínen kününe 10-12 üyrek tıptırıp alalar. Qarsıǵa külden qalqıp usup sıqqan üyrektıñ bırıhın qaldırmaq qıyıp tüşüre. İlasın, etelǵı, tüyǵün, şınqarzı la şulay qarsıǵa hımaq üyreteler. Lekın ılasındı üyretiw qıyınıraq. İlasındı bik úzaq tamam üyretkes kine üyzen sıǵarıp usüralar. Şul usürǵan inǵayı

külewíkke qarap ũsa la, ũsqan bĭr ũyrektĭ qıyıp tũŝŭrŭp tũra. ũsqan ũyrek ılasından qurqıp, kĭrĭ külewíkke (belekes kül) tũŝe. İye bulğan baŝqŭrt [xujahı] at mĭnen saptırıp barıp külewíkke yĭte halıp, ũyrekterzĭ huğıp ala. Bŭrkŭttŭ le ũyreteler. Uniñ mĭnen bŭrĭ, tŭlkŭ aldıralar. Bŭrkŭttŭñ balahın ũyahınan bĭr kĭŝi le ala almay [Vildanov, 1928, 98–99].

Translation into English:

On hunting. Training a hawk (*карсыға*)

Hawks lodge on tall pines, larches, birches, mountain depressions inaccessible to humans. Their nestlings start to fly a few days before Petrov day. Bashkirs, who want to get a hawk chick, find the bird's nest, and on the day she begins to train the fledgeling for flight, at dawn, when dew falls they come to the nest and begin to observe, taking time. When, the hawk takes fledgelings to the ground, the Bashkir not moving away begins to watch them. Hawks have three or four chicks. More than four chicks do not happen to be. Hawk chicks that can become bold and fly well, sit high, straight. Poor ones sit squatting. At this time, hunters of birds of prey appear unexpectedly and imperceptibly (*Karsyga səjəjse (tiptereuse) hunasylyar*) and begin to chase the chosen hawk. A hawk nestling wet from dew cannot fly up, so it can be caught and captured. Without damaging the chick, they bring it home and sew a very soft leather strap to their paws. On the ends of this belt there are holes. Then they bring into the house a block of wood on which they plant a fledgling. The Bashkir hunter does not constantly tender the chick, and strokes its back two or three hours a day. So he tames the chick to himself. The Bashkir gives them meat three times a day. If the chick begins to squeak, then it is fed with a trapped mouse or wolf meat. Then they gradually begin to tame birds to the hunt (type). At first they put meat on the hand, and pointing at it, they emit the exclamation "tfff". At this point, the hawk sits down and starts pecking meat. They begin to train at close range, then increase the distance, this continues until full training is over.

After that the hawk is taken out to a field where there is no livestock, or people; it is beckoned for meat first, then they catch some bird, cut off the ends of the wings and from far distance call the hawk with a cry "tfff" and release this bird before its approach. As soon as the bird is released, the hawk catches it. After the end of this training, they start to train the bird to catch ducks, at first, they launch it on ducks in small lakes. 10-12 ducks are hunted down per day with a hawk. The hawk knocks down all the ducks departing from the lake.

The falcon (*ylasyn*), loon (*ətəlge*, another meaning of the word *ətəlge* - female hawk), white gyrfalcon (*toyğon*), male gyrfalcon (*shonkar*) are tamed as well as gyrfalcons. However, training a falcon is more difficult. It is effected only after a long full home taming. As soon as the bird is released, it flies in the direction of a small lake and knocks down any departing bird. Departing duck, frightened by a falcon sits back in the lake. The Bashkir, who is the owner of a bird of prey, rides a horse to a small lake and captures the duck. The eagle is also tamed. With it they hunt wolves and foxes. Alone, a person cannot take the eagle chick from an eagle's nest [Vildanov, 1928, 98–99].

The ethnographic materials published by G. Vildanov have been recorded among the north-eastern Bashkirs, and information about the hunt was obtained from informants who are representatives of the Quvakan clan. An analysis of the cited source shows that here is a

description of the domestication of the birds of prey by the local Bashkirs. As the material demonstrates, Bashkir hunters knew the habits of birds well. The quick wit permitted them without any difficulty to catch the grown up, ready for flight nestlings on the ground, which could not fly off due to the wetting of the wings with morning dew. This method of catching a chick differs from other recorded facts in which hunters would descend from the top of a cliff or a mountain top with the help of a lasso [Rudenko, 2006, 79; Mullagulov, 2013, 73–74; Mullagulov, 2010, 86–87]. According to the data of a major falconry expert M. Mullagulov, many informants could not explain how the Bashkirs procured the birds of prey. In his monograph written documents and information of the interviewed persons concerning the method of obtaining chicks hatching in nests located in inaccessible parts of mountains or rocks is provided [Rudenko, 2006, 79; Mullagulov, 2013, 73; Mullagulov, 2010, 86–87]. This demonstrates the value of G. Vildanov's published materials containing new information on falconry among the Bashkirs.

After a baby hawk is captured. Unfortunately, there is little information in the document about training of bird of prey for hunting wolves and foxes.

According to S. Rudenko, Bashkirs used the calling sound *ku-uuh* to control the falcon [Rudenko, 2006, 79]. Falconry researcher M. Mullagulov writes that in the ancient Turkic Orkhon and Yenisei inscriptions of the 7th century there is information about birds of prey. They often mention the interjection *tah, tah, tah* to call the falcon [Mullagulov, 2013, 25]. In this article by G. Vildanov considered here the sound *tfffu* was used for this, which remotely resembles its ancient Turkic counterpart [Vildanov, 1928, 98–99].

The value of the published source lies in the fact that it contains one of the first sufficiently detailed descriptions on capturing and domestication of hunting birds, published in the Arab script Bashkir language by Bashkir scholars in the collection *Bashkort aimagy (Bashkir region)* issued by the Local History Society for the Study of Bashkortostan. This source, like many other articles and materials collected and published by repressed scientists (in this case published by Gabdelahat Vildanov) was doomed to oblivion. As is well known, G. Vildanov was under reprisals in 1936, and had been rehabilitated only in 1989 [Akhmerova, 1996, 206].

Active systematic collection of ethnographic and folklore sources, the study of archival documents and research activities of G. Vildanov and his other contemporaries took place during the formation of a truly scientific study of Bashkortostan and the Bashkir people. On the other hand, the description under consideration escaped the sight of scholar because it was made in the Arab script alphabet, which had fallen out of use in the middle of the first half of the twentieth century.

Publication of the text of the document source in question in the modern Bashkir and Russian languages will make it accessible to a wide range of researchers. In general, back in the early 20s of the twentieth century valuable information on bird hunting by the Bashkirs is being published herewith, many descriptions of which coincide with the information of Russian scholars and local historians of the 18th – 19th centuries, as well as the materials of the monographic study of M. Mullagulov. At the same time it contains completely new data on the characteristics of domestication, training, and the use of the birds of prey by Bashkirs. The described method of

catching allowed the hunter to choose the healthiest and strong chicks, without causing them harm when being caught.

Thus the materials of this article permit us to expand the source base for the study of hunting with the help of birds of prey. As mentioned above, along with a description of falconry other valuable information on the Bashkir ethnography was simultaneously published. In the future, they also need to be published with scientific comments and notes in the modern Bashkir and Russian languages. Preliminary analysis demonstrates them to contain data of great interest to science at large.

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