



Instructions
for the
FAULHABER Wildlocker
Hawk Call
"Habichtlocker"



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Using the instrument

The hawk call usually consists of 5 to 7 short, sharp tones following in quick succession. The instrument is tuned to match the pitch of the call of the female; the male's call is slightly higher in pitch.

Keep the instrument in a bulge formed with your hand and tap, briefly and sharply, on the shell of the pear-shaped balloon using your index or middle finger. This should create 5 to 7 short and sharp tones in quick succession, sounding like a "gi-gi-gi-gi-gi-gi" (with a "g" as in the word "great").

Behavior on the hunting ground

The hawk's rutting season takes place during springtime from late February to mid-April. Starting from early dawn, the mating call sounding "gi-gi-gi-gi-gi-gi" can be heard for several hundred metres. The mating takes place in the vicinity of the old aerie and is accompanied by a call sounding like "mía-mía-mía". If the positions of the aeries are unknown, they can be easily found within matured forests during the rutting season. The hawks will keep returning to old aeries, if they have not been destroyed. Well-positioned aeries are usually re-inhabited, even if the occupying individual is shot. Often times, hawks will have multiple aeries in close proximity, which they tend to occupy alternately. This is to be taken into consideration while spotting the aerie for the specific year. The

assigned spot is best occupied in the early hours of the afternoon, as this is the time when the hawks are out looking for food. They then return in the evening, looking to spend the night in one of the trees close to the aerie.

It is advisable to take a raised hide situated about 50 to 60 metres above the nesting tree, as hawks prefer approaching from below. The raised hide – a boulder, a rootstock, a tree trunk or something similar – should be shielded against sight from above. It is also advisable to clear the pathway as well as the area around the raised hide from any brushwood, foliage etc. in order to avoid any unnecessary noise while moving at dawn. The quieter one keeps at the raised hide, the easier it is to get a clean shot at this sharp sighted bird. Sunny, calm weather is advantageous, while rough, stormy weather makes the hunt using mating calls more difficult.

The best time to use the calls is from early dawn until sunrise at the latest.

The call should not be used too frequently, ideally only response to calls from the hawk. If a hawk is shot down, use the call again immediately, as the second hawk usually approaches right after. If at all possible, try to shoot the female hawk first, which can be differentiated through its bigger size.

Given no possibility to take a shot on the first morning, it is advisable to leave the raised hide inconspicuously and silently. In general, absolute silence while moving to the hide, while holding out and upon leaving is of utmost importance for a successful hunt. This cannot be over-exaggerated.

Apart from the rutting season, it is also possible to get a good shot in November around the nesting spots.

- The **FAULHABER** calls cannot be disassembled. This ensures a constant pitch.
- **Good hunting!**

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