

HAWKING. 1886.

- Sept. 18. 1886.* Went to Docking to stay with T.J. Mann* for hawking. He has 3 Peregrine *tiercels*, 2 *Merlins*† (and another last season's bird, which he never flies) and a female Goshawk. The Goshawk today killed 4 rabbits and the tiercels killed a partridge. One of them flew a kingfisher, which dived under the hawk, the latter being so close after that his wings were wetted. The kingfisher ultimately escaped among bushes. One of the tiercels is on the sick list. Two days ago he *stooped* at a thrush over turnips (the partridge he was flying having *put in*) and cut the turnip leaves off clean and probably bruised himself badly. He went to a tree, on which he settled. Now he cannot pass food out of his *crop*, although he has only washed meat.
- Sept. 19.* "Yellowfoot" the sick tiercel died today. Alfred Frost, Mann's *falconer*, skinned him and found him much bruised on neck, breast and under the wing, evidently the result of hitting the turnip in his stoop. All his internal organs perfectly healthy.
- Sept. 20.* Hawking, *cast* of tiercels, cast of Merlins, Goshawk "Shadow of Death". Blowing a lot of wind. The Goshawk killed 3 rabbits and put in a pheasant, which we failed to get. Tiercels had some flights, but failed to kill; the *eyass waited-on* steadily, but the *haggard raked away* a good deal. Merlins killed one lark, after a very fine flight, very high and nearly out of sight.

Right: Thomas James Mann.



Far right: Alfred Frost with adult Peregrine.

*Thomas James Mann (1848-1897), a brewer, falconer, sportsman and freemason, from Hyde Hall, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire, and Albion Brewery, Mile End Road, London E1.

† Extracts from Lodge's raptor journal:

Aug. 21. 1885. *Went to Bishop's Stortford for some hawking with T.J. Mann's Merlins. We had 2 or 3 flights in afternoon and 1 kill.*
Aug. 22. 1885. *Michell (E.B.) came, had some good flights with 2 cast Merlins. 3 kills (1 double), 2 put in and taken, 1 put in and lost. The female Merlins scored the kills. Flew them in casts. The females together and the jacks together. Mann has 3 casts of Merlins (1 cast in moult), also a cast of falcons and cast of tiercels.*