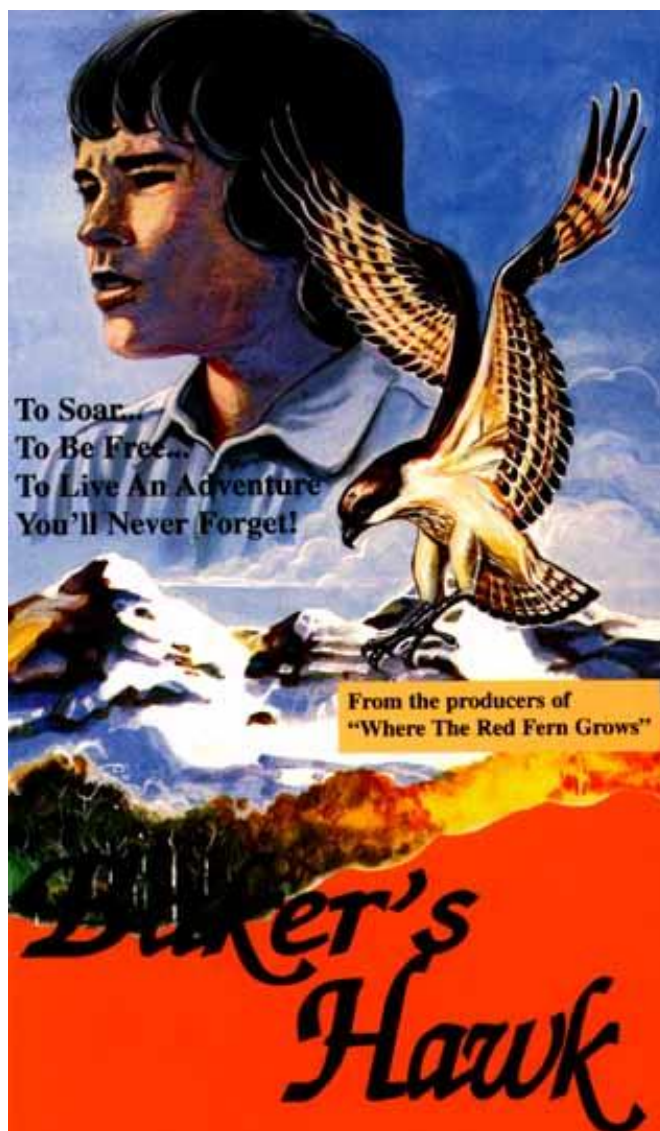


Baker's Hawk

US : 1976 : dir. Lyman D Dayton : Doty-Dayton : 98 min
 prod: : scr: Dan Greer & Hal Harrison Jr : dir.ph.:
[Lee Harcourt Montgomery](#); [Danny Bonaduce](#)
 Clint Walker; Burl Ives; Cam Clarke; Brian Williams; Diane Baker; Alan Young; Taylor Lacher;
 Bruce M. Fischer; Phil Hoover; Burt Mustin; Martin Eric

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	≠	M	⌘	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
6106	2.5	4	1	946	3	-	-	3	-	No	<i>unseen</i>

**“ To soar... To Be Free...
 To Live An Adventure You'll Never Forget! ”**



Yeah. He doesn't look anything like Lee Harcourt Montgomery though...
 Source: CVMC website

Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide
2001 review:

"Fine family drama about a young boy (Montgomery) who befriends the hermitlike Ives, and comes of age [sic] as he participates in his parents' struggle against vigilante forces. Beautifully filmed on location in Utah. *** "

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review - mistranslation of the above

Halliwell's Film Guide review:

"A reclusive westerner becomes the victim of hoodlum vigilantes and is helped by a boy and his father. Refreshingly simple-minded western for the family audience. From a novel by Jack Bickham. * "

Radio Times Guide to Films review:

"Clint Walker only enjoyed brief stardom, but this family Western shows what a capable actor he could be. Here he plays the father of Lee H. Montgomery, a young boy who helps recluse Burl Ives and his pet hawk escape from hooligans. It could be an episode of the TV series "**Cheyenne**", which made Walker's name before that other Clint (Eastwood) moseyed along. However, Lyman D Dayton's direction gives the film a moral dimension that lifts it out of the ordinary. *** "

CVMC video retail/rental website review:

"When a twelve year old boy (Lee Montgomery) finds an injured hawk, he takes it to a recluse living in the hills, having heard the fellow was good with animals. The two become friends, together train the bird, but when it attacks a bully fighting our young hero, a group of local vigilantes decide to take it out on the old man, always considered him strange. Might the boy and his father rescue their elderly friend before the mob lynches him? A good, solid drama that well addresses issues which are sadly still with humanity today.

Rated NR: violence; mild adult themes [sic]
Categories: Action/Adventure, Boy Films, Little to Preteen, Adolescent, Bullies & Teasing, Coming-of-Age, Drama "

The Moving Picture Boy entry on Lee Harcourt Montgomery:

"Elliot and Olivia, the Irish-Canadian parents of Lee Harcourt Montgomery, were both actors and their pudgy little lad made a predictably early start in show business, aged about four. The family moved to California in 1969, and two years later Lee was working for Walt Disney and co-starring with a golden-egg-laying duck. In "**BEN**" (sequel to "**WILLARD**") he co-starred with a rat, and in "**BURNT OFFERINGS**" with Oliver Reed.

Lee, a pleasant, kid-next-door type, was good at conveying mounting panic, and was often required to. He had particular trouble with screen fathers, at least two of whom (in "**CRY IN THE WILDERNESS**" and "**BURNT OFFERINGS**") tried to kill him.

His later films included "**TRUE GRIT, A FURTHER ADVENTURE**" (78), "**SPLIT IMAGE**" (82), "**MUTANT**" (83), "**STAYING TOGETHER**" (84, a lead), "**NIGHT SHADOWS**" (84) and "**GIRLS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN**" (85)."

Cast:

Billy Baker**Lee H. Montgomery**
Dan Baker**Clint Walker**
Mr McGraw**Burl Ives**
Jenny Baker**Diane Baker**
Mr Carson**Alan Young**
Sweeney**Taylor Lacher**
Blacksmith**Bruce M Fischer**

[no listing in "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "International Film Guide 1976", "Movies of the Seventies", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

No further information currently available. As I've commented elsewhere, the archive is replete with scores of family films about intimate child-stranger friendships, and in very many cases, the adult is characterised as a lonely old recluse, or else mentally impaired in some way, thus symbolically more on a par with the child than your average, socially competent adult. The recluses, whether male or female, can be counted on to rediscover their *joie de vivre* from the company of non-judgmental youngsters. How quaint and flatly contradictory this all sounds from the perspective of our deeply paranoid, hyper-suspicious fortress family culture. And yet it is those same fortress families, presumably, who sit down now to enjoy these tales of children striking up friendships with the social isolate over the hill. Not so schizophrenic as it seems, however. Parents naturally feel more comfortable with films that tell them how tolerant and understanding parents are. This is what I gather is called a "false belief system".

The plot as outlined sounds distinctly formulaic – for injured hawk read killer whale, wild stallion or lion cub – and the vigilanteism aspect merely a contrivance to generate a dramatic climax, but if (as in "**WHERE THE RED FERN GROWS**") the accent is less on plot than character, and conveying the spirit of a locale, then the film may be rewarding after all.

[Lee Montgomery](#) was 14, in the same year that he made the Canadian haunted house film "**BURNT OFFERINGS**" (with a cast including Bette Davis and Burgess Meredith, no less). Among his other prepubescent titles were "**THE HARNESS**" (71), "**BOBBY**" (72), "**PETE 'N' TILLIE**" (72) and "**RUNAWAY!**" (73 – with Tom Selleck).

See subject index under [ANIMALS & BIRDS](#), [SPECIAL FRIENDSHIPS](#) and [VENGEANCE / VIGILANTEISM](#). The archive does not include twentieth century tales under the category of Westerns.