

Good bye Alan,

Between the time you left the Camargue for the Marismas del Guadalquivir with your 2CV with the accelerator at the steering wheel, not forgetting the potatoes, oil and the frying pan for the French fries, and the recent international prize, a late reward for your skills and your charisma, a long time has passed by.

Specialized on waders, their capture, ringing and monitoring, you demonstrated since your young years your organizational skills, with a real pragmatism.

The attempts to regulate the herring gulls was the start of your attraction to hypersaline habitats, deepening your knowledge on these poorly studied habitats and their fauna, especially flamingoes.

This became your main research subject, concluded by an outstanding PhD thesis, in which you have been able to demonstrate all your qualities, while remaining opened to any hypothesis in favor of the development of your "mascot bird".

With this PhD, you became an excellent worldwide ambassador of Tour du Valat, always humble, enlightened and efficient.

Defending the Tour du Valat banner, you conquered Luc and Daria Hoffmann's friendship, but also the friendship of their family and of us all.

Flamingoes owe a lot to you. But us all who loved you, are sad with the loss of this famous "field scientist" who became a real humanist, an epicurean and an outstanding teacher who sowed seeds in so many countries.

Dear Alan, we are happy and so grateful that you were our friend and to have had the opportunity to share so much with you for so many years.

Jean-Noël and the Tourenq family.