



Falconry in Tennessee

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Law Enforcement



History of Falconry

- Suggested to date back to Mesopotamia (2,000 BC).
- Falconry still practiced all over the world.
- Introduced into Europe around 400 AD.
- Tradition faded in the 18th and 19th centuries as firearms became tool of choice for hunting.
- Revived in the late 19th and 20th centuries in the United Kingdom.
- Introduced to North America in the early 20th century.
- Peregrine falcon is the most sought after bird for hunting in America.



Peregrine Falcon

(*Falco peregrinus*)

- Found on all continents except Antarctica
- Long migration from the Arctic tundra to South America
- Hunt “on-the-wing” mainly other avian species
- Can reach speeds up to 200 mph

Peregrine Falcon
Falco peregrinus



Map by Cornell Lab of Ornithology
Range data by NatureServe



Status of Peregrine Falcon

- Pesticide poisoning (DDT) almost led to the extinction of the peregrine falcon
- Listed as endangered in 1970
- Recovery efforts in TN mid 1980's
- Removed from the Federal Threatened and Endangered species list 1999



Falconry Program in TN

- **81 permitted falconers in TN**
- **¼ of inventories are captive bred remainder are caught in the wild**
- **Falconers mainly located in eastern TN**
- **No take of Bald or Golden Eagles**
- **5 years ago TWRA began issuing 1 permit in Region1 only for the take of passage migrant peregrine falcon.**



Future of Falconry in TN

- **New research indicates that the populations are 5 times larger than once thought (Franke 2016).**
- **We now have the opportunity to take up to 5 peregrine falcons statewide for the 2018 season under the new federal guidelines.**
- **We plan to file a rule to allow for a draw for the permits.**



