



History of Falconry

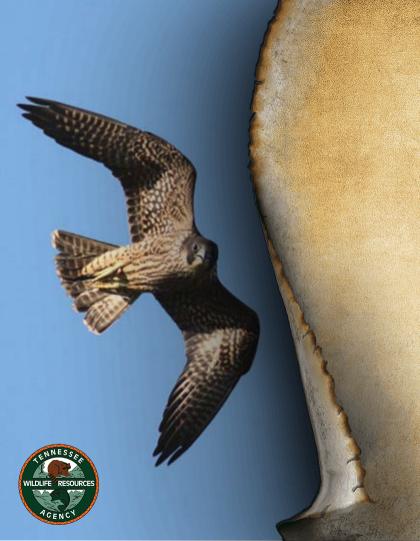
- Suggested to date back to Mesopotamia (2,000 BC).
- Falconry still practiced all over the world.
- Introduced into Europe around 400 AD.
- Tradition faded in the 18th and 19th centuries as firearms became tool of choice for hunting.
- Revived in the late 19th and 20th centuries in the United Kingdom.
- 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 Artic tundra to South America
- Hunt "on-the-wing" mainly other avian species
- Can reach speeds up to 200 mph





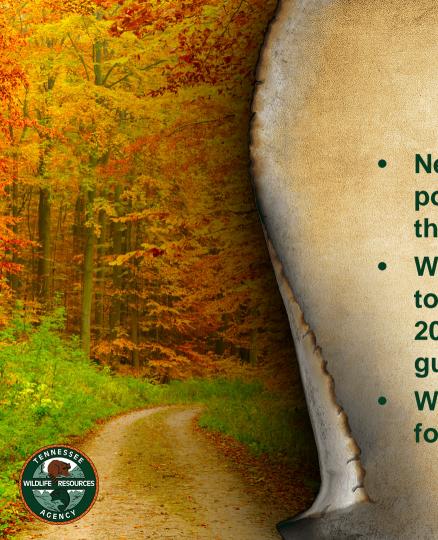
Status of Peregrine Falcon

- 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.