# 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 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.**