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One June 22nd I gave the pair of young tiercels, aptly named "Nip" and "Tuck," to Mike Melvill, who planned to fly them in a cast. Empty they weighed 20 ounces and 19 ounces and were well feathered out, but still about two weeks from flying. The adult birds did not seem upset by the removal of the two young and soon tapered off considerably on the amount fed to the remaining young bird. In fact at the age of five weeks, when the young falcon weighed her maximum

of 32 ounces, they took so little interest in feeding her that I removed the falcon from the breeding pen and put her on a block in order to hand feed her until Gary Meyer came down from Chicago to pick her up on July 7th. She could fly then, but was still not hard-penned.

(Journal VII: 57-64, 1968)

THE DOMESTIC RAISING OF THE PEALE'S PEREGRINE FALCON

by Richard S. Peterson

The year 1968 is believed a milestone in the process of learning to raise domestic falcons. Several clutches of eggs were laid, a pair of prairie falcons raised young and the pair of Larry Schramm's Peale's raised a single young to maturity.

Larry has been associated with falconry for nearly 40 years. A graduate of Reed College, he is a descendant of one of the old and well-known families of Oregon. Through the past years he has been successful in the initial breeding of several species of wild game.

An eyas Peale's tiercel became available to Larry in 1963 through the help of George Galicz of North Surrey, British Columbia, Canada. This tiercel was kept and hand fed in the kitchen by Mrs. Muriel Galicz. The bird scampered around like a domestic kitten until, when fully hard-penned, he could go to Portland. This bird was named "Lokie" (Norse god of mischief) and was mated to the old falcon. The eight year old "Labrador" became ill on several occasions, however, and succumbed. On postmortem inspection I found a blocked bile duct and also three large ova which she should have laid the following month.

A year old (in 1964), Peale's female, "Lady Audry," was selected by George Galicz as "Labrador's" successor. "Lady Audry" was always a very aggressive eyas. She could be remembered as one which stole food from the other eyases. She flew strongly and precisely in exhibition shows at fairs in the fall and during hunting season applied her skill on pheasant and duck. "Lady Audry" loved the stormy weather of the British Columbian fall. She would wait-on at length above various groups of a hunting party watching for possible quarry. On occasion she was amply rewarded and in a single stoop killed a duck and continued on to clobber a pheasant which had chosen an inopportune time to rise.

When "Lokie" had molted to mature plumage, a home for him and his mate was provided. They had always been tethered at adjacent perches. Now that they were freed in their new home, Larry took his reading and meditation with him to watch that no antagonism developed between the pair. As the days passed, all went well and soon "Lady Audry" and "Lokie" were left alone. It became obvious that they

greatly enjoyed their naturally lighted "sunporch." A shelf and several boxes of earth were provided in a more darkened area. As spring approached, a great amount of chirping was heard from the falcon house, but only scratchings and some brooding was noted in that year.

During the spring of 1967 much chirping was again heard from Larry's falcon house. "Audry" brooded intently and both Peale's falcons became quite aggressive when the falcon house was entered. Eventually three eggs were found in the nesting box.

Possibly these eggs would have hatched except that the tiercel did such a bad job of incubating.

This first year with a clutch he stood on the eggs and even tried to feed them.

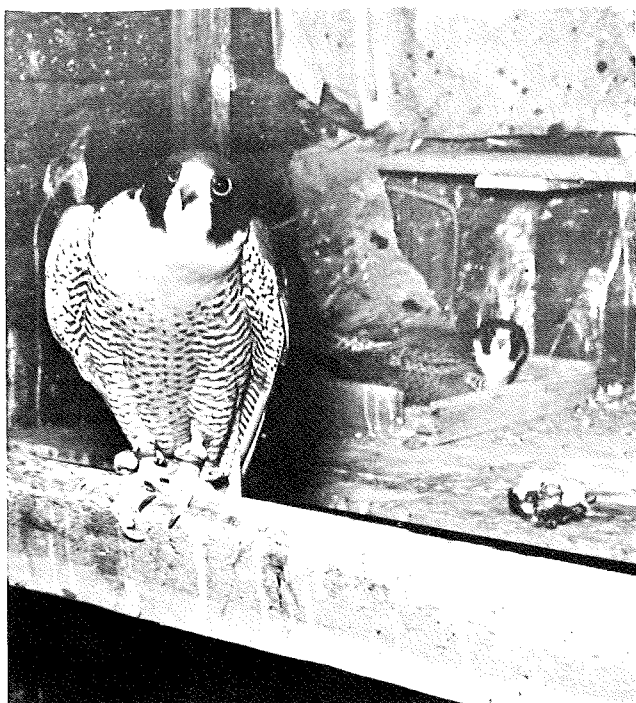
The summer ended as another disappointment and nothing was left to do but wait another spring and hope.

In 1968 fresh food was provided twice daily in the form of young chicken cockerels. The food supplied for the cockerels was compounded to provide high protein and vitamin content. As the days passed the pair became more protective of their home, but the weeks passed and there were no eggs. Worse yet "Lady Audry" was molting. Despair reigned because game birds have passed the laying stage when the molt begins. Was the food incorrect? Had the birds become disturbed? What had caused the failure? The date of the previous year's clutch (March 15) had passed.

On April 15, there appeared an egg. Another was laid and another until there were four.

"When the four had not been supplemented for several days, the entire clutch was removed to an incubator. Two of the eggs when candled showed developing embryos. These eggs did not hatch."

About a month passed. "Lady Audry" was in deep molt and another clutch of 3 eggs was laid by May 15. The falcons had now become so aggressive that it was necessary for Larry to protect himself by wearing a heavy rain slicker, rain hat and glove. Despite this, he received some deep facial slashes — the two large falcons became difficult to fend off with tenderness! After 38 days two of the eggs hatched.



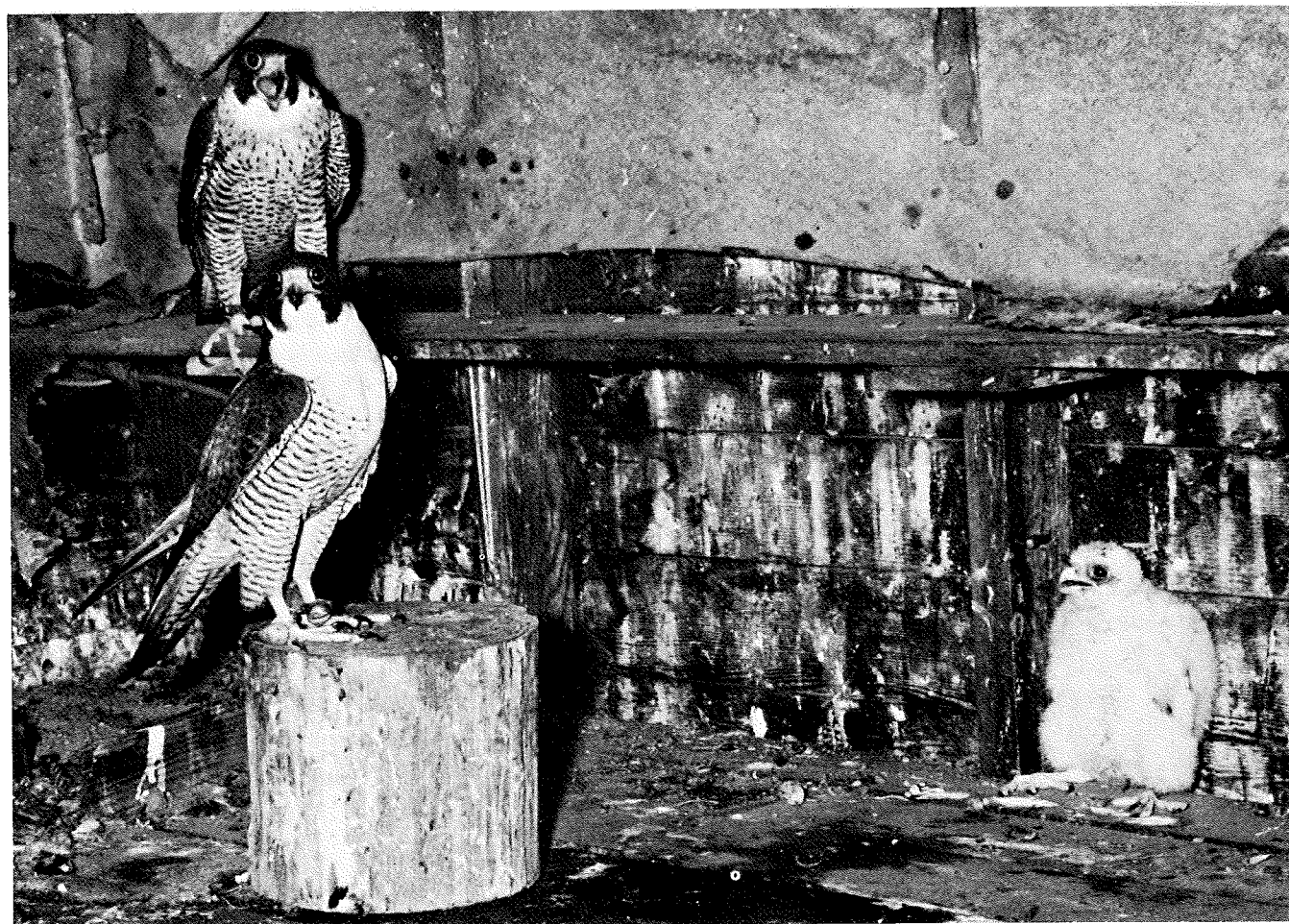
*"Lokie" on perch. "Lady Audry" incubating eggs.
(Photos by Ken Schramm.)*

These I left with the falcons and this time "Lokie," the tiercel, did a good job. Again the unknown caused a failure. Would the birds take care of the young? In order to be sure, I cut a peephole and in so doing disturbed the pair, which became highly protective. This undoubtedly was the cause of death of one of the young. It appeared to have been stepped on.

In about a month the young Peale's was taken from the falcon house. As it completed its maturity in the master bedroom of Larry's ancestral home, it proved to be a beautiful dark tiercel. It was named "Alexander the Great."

It is hoped that this success will help sustain those many falconers, known and unknown, who have also been working to propagate the birds of prey. May they also have many successes. I guess I have been pretty lucky considering that I have only three birds to work with, "Labrador," "Lokie" and "Lady Audry." This is only a beginning which must be continued through several generations to insure that the birds of prey do not become an example of extinction.

(Journal VII: 64-67, 1968)



"Alexander the Great" on July 14, 1968.