

Peregrine Falcon Capture and Release!

by Kathie Palfy

On October 5 while birding at the Rochester wastewater treatment plant, Steve Mirick was flagged down by the plant manager who had just seen a very sick looking bird. Steve was able to capture the adult male Peregrine Falcon, who apparently submerged itself in the wastewater sludge, perhaps while chasing a Green-winged Teal. After putting it into a box, he drove it up to the York Center for Wildlife in York, ME. Nine days later, after several feather cleanings, a visit to the bird vet, a regimen of antibiotics, and plenty of food, the staff decided it was time for the bird to go, in hopes that it could continue its fall migration. On October 14, after a band was placed on the bird by Mike Amaral from the US Fish & Wildlife Service, Steve had the privilege of releasing it back into the wild!

Thanks to Stephen R. Mirick for photos and assistance with this article.



Before – a dirty, sludge-covered Peregrine Falcon.

*Photos 1-3 taken by Stephen R. Mirick 10/5/04 and 10/14/04,
photo 4 taken by Michael Amaral 10/14/04, York Center for Wildlife, York , ME.*



*After – now a clean,
healthy bird!*



*Mike Amaral attaches a
leg band while Karen
McElmurry assists.*



*Stephen R. Mirick pre-
pares to release the pere-
grine back into the wild!*