



## THE WILDLIFE CENTER OF VIRGINIA

P.O. BOX 1557 • WAYNESBORO, VIRGINIA 22980 • 540-942-WILD • FAX 540-943-WILD

### RICHMOND-FAMOUS FALCON “YELLOW” ADMITTED TO WILDLIFE CENTER OF VIRGINIA

Re-establishing historic Shenandoah Peregrine Falcon populations one patient at a time

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ####

Waynesboro, Virginia – June 28, 2022 On June 17, the Wildlife Center of Virginia admitted a juvenile female Peregrine Falcon from Richmond, Virginia after it was found on the ground – an individual that happened to be well known to virtual birdwatchers. The fledgling had hatched on camera at the [Richmond Falcon Cam](#) nest box, and was named “Yellow” (a reference to the yellow-colored identification band equipped on the bird’s right ankle) by the Department of Wildlife Resources biologists that monitor the nesting site each year.

While examining the falcon at the Center, the veterinary staff were quick to notice the similarities between [Yellow’s admission](#) and [Maggie](#), the Center’s non-releasable Peregrine Falcon ambassador. Maggie came from the same nest box in 2014, was also admitted shortly after she fledged, and like this falcon, Maggie was also referred to as “Yellow” by DWR. Fortunately for this wild peregrine, that’s where the similarities ended. Yellow was given a clean bill of health, and wildlife experts at the Center prioritized returning her to the wild as soon as possible – this would be no ordinary release, though.

Rather than releasing her in Richmond, staff at DWR elected to release the bird utilizing a “hack box” in Shenandoah National Park. Hack boxes are protected, artificial nests that help young raptors transition to new habitats gradually. After arriving at Shenandoah National Park, Yellow was kept inside her hack box for 48 hours while DWR biologists kept close observations and provided her with regular meals. Following this adjustment period, her hack box was opened and she was free to explore the skies above the Blue Ridge Mountains on her own.

Shenandoah National Park was chosen as a release site for several important reasons. Firstly, the rural environment lacks the dangers an urban setting like Richmond may present to a young falcon learning to hunt, fly, and survive. Secondly, it provides an opportunity to re-establish the Peregrine Falcon's historic population range throughout the Blue Ridge Mountains.

While it may not have been a typical release compared to the 3,500 other wild animals that the Center will treat this year, working closely with the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources is



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a regular aspect of the Center's daily operation. Successfully caring for wildlife does not happen in a vacuum; wildlife-focused organizations, government agencies, communities, and individuals all have a role to play in protecting wildlife and the environment.

For more information and to arrange an interview, contact Public Affairs Manager Alex Wehrung. A collection of high-quality photographs of this and other Peregrine Falcon patients are available upon request.

**Press Availability: To schedule an interview, contact Public Affairs Manager Alex Wehrung. Wildlife Center of Virginia staff are available Monday through Friday during regular business hours for virtual interviews about bird patients, online events, and their education and outreach work. A collection of high-quality photographs of patients and ambassador animals are available upon request.**

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### PRESS CONTACT

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*The Wildlife Center of Virginia is an internationally acclaimed teaching and research hospital for wildlife and conservation medicine. The nonprofit Center has cared for more than 90,000 wild animals, representing 200 species of native birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. The Center's public education programs share insights gained through the care of injured and orphaned wildlife, in hopes of reducing human damage to wildlife.*