

Western Carpathian range on the Polish-Slovakian border) and in the forests of central, western and north-western Poland, where 90% of the 300 falcons have been released). The programme has been coordinated by the Council for Peregrine Restitution in Poland and supervised by the Ministry of the Environment.

- The falcon's new biotope is the city, free of its natural enemies and full of food, where high buildings substitute cliffs. The first breeding attempt in this urban environment occurred in 1998 in Warsaw, when the birds nested on the Palace of Culture and Science.

- Up to today, over 100 chicks have hatched in more than ten recorded nests (including the ones in the Pieniny mountains).

- In addition to the continuation of the reintroduction programme, monitoring is also an important factor (nest recording, ringing of chicks, locating new pairs, installing artificial nests, ongoing guarding of nest sites). The monitoring of the population of the Peregrine Falcon in Poland is coordinated by the Society for the Wild Animals „Sokół” [„Falcon”. The Society closely cooperates with the specialists from the European Peregrine Falcon Working Group.

- Please submit any observations of Peregrine Falcons by e-mail to [falco@peregrinus.pl](mailto:falco@peregrinus.pl). We would also welcome contact from any persons interested in supporting activities aimed at protecting the Peregrine

**Sławomir Sielicki, Janusz Sielicki**  
The Society for the Wild Animals “Sokół”

## The National Bank of Poland

holds the exclusive right to issue the currency in Poland.

Whereas the NBP issues **coins and banknotes of general circulation**, since 1966 it has also been issuing collector coins.

In 2006, the first Polish **collector banknote** was put into circulation. The issue of collector items is destined both to commemorate events, anniversaries and well-known personalities and to disseminate knowledge about Polish culture, science and tradition.

Since 1996, the NBP has also issued the **occasional Nordic Gold coins of 2 złote denomination**, which accompany the series of collector coins.

In 2004, the issue of 2 złote coins of the two new series *Images of Voivodships' Arms* (2004-2005) and *Historical Cities in Poland* (2005-2008) was commenced.

**All coins issued by the NBP are legal tender in Poland.**

# NBP

National Bank of Poland

# COINS



COINS ISSUED IN 2008 COINS ISSUED IN 2008

The NBP launched the “Animals of the World” series in 1993. It includes 20 zł coins – struck in proof finish in silver and 2 zł coins - struck in standard finish in Nordic Gold alloy. The topic „The Peregrine Falcon” is the fifteenth item of this series.

Information about the Schedule of Issue and the Sale of Collector Coins can be found at the website:

[www.nbp.pl](http://www.nbp.pl)  
[www.numizmatyka.nbportal.pl](http://www.numizmatyka.nbportal.pl)

The coins were struck at the Polish Mint Plc in Warsaw.

Printed by NBP Printing Office



ANIMALS OF THE WORLD

## The Peregrine Falcon

*(Falco peregrinus)*

# Animals of the World: The Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)

● On 16 January 2008, the National Bank of Poland is introducing into circulation coins of the "Animals of the World" series. The coins dedicated to the peregrine falcon are of the following face values:

**20 zł** struck in proof finish in silver,

**2 zł** struck in standard finish in Nordic Gold alloy.

● The series is meant to present species endangered by the development of civilisation.

● The Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) can be found throughout most the world. Once widespread in Poland, it never occurred in large numbers. Although in the 1960s the species was extinct in Poland, at least ten pairs of falcons live now in our country. Credit for the recovery of the population can be attributed to the efforts of falconers and conservationists.

● The species is now legally protected and has been included in the Polish Red Data Book of Animals, a publication which lists the endangered species. Measures to protect Peregrines were

established as long ago as the Middle Ages. In fact, the Peregrine, on account of its significance to falconry, was one of the first protected species, besides Beaver, Aurochs and European Bison.

● Peregrines display marked sexual size dimorphism: the male is the size of a pigeon, whereas the female measures up to 30 per cent larger. The body length is 36-50 cm and the wingspan is 95-115 cm. In adults, the back is blue-grey, the underside is pale with dark streaks and the breast is finely barred with black and white. Juveniles, on the other hand, have brownish backs and upperparts and lighter brown undersides with dark streaks. All specimens have a characteristic single dark 'moustache' and a dark head contrasted by the pale cheeks. The beak is short, notched near the tip, with the characteristic 'tooth.' The legs, cere and eye ring are all bright yellow. The nostrils are circular with a distinct central point. The eye is very dark with a barely distinguishable pupil. The wings are long, narrow and pointed, and the tail is short. Flapping flight alternates with long periods of gliding. The Peregrine is an aerial predator that hunts medium-sized birds, solely in flight. It attacks by a stoop, often from a considerable height at speeds of up to 360 km/h.

● By the end of March or the beginning of April, the female lays 3-5 dark reddish flecked eggs and incubates them for 32 days. The chicks stay in the nest for about 6 weeks, then they start learning to fend for themselves. When they become independent, the young falcons wander. In Central Europe when they reach sexual maturity, they tend to become sedentary.

● Throughout most of the world the Peregrine nests in a scrape, normally on cliffs using natural cavities.

● A tree-nesting ecotype of the falcon, which used to live also in Poland, was a phenomenon of interest on a global scale. Its population in Europe was estimated at ca. 1,600-2,000 pairs. Pollution with pesticides triggered a massive decrease in the size of the peregrine falcon population and the tree-nesting ecotype is now extinct.

● Falcons have been used by man for hunting for thousands of years. Falconers were the first ones to protect the species; at the turn of 1960s and 1970s, they developed the methods of intensive breeding and reintroducing them into the wild.

● In Poland, falconers started a Peregrine reintroduction project in 1990 which covered the mountains (the Pieniny Mountains in the

COINS ISSUED IN 2008 COINS ISSUED IN 2008



FACE VALUE **20** ZŁ

metal **925/1000 Ag** ■ finish **proof** ■ diameter **38.61 mm**  
weight **28.28 g** ■ mintage (volume) **107,000 pcs**

**OBVERSE:** An image of the Eagle established as the State Emblem of the Republic of Poland. Under the Eagle, the notation of the year of issue: 2008, below, an inscription, ZŁ 20 ZŁ. The images of the Polish national flag on the sides of the Eagle's legs. At the top, a semicircular inscription, RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA. The Mint's mark under the Eagle's left leg, M/W.

**REVERSE:** An image of an adult peregrine falcon and two chicks in a nest on a rock. On the right, a stylised image representing a fragment of a mountain range. At the top, a semicircular inscription, SOKÓŁ WĘDROWNY - *Falco peregrinus*.

Obverse designer: **EWA TYC-KARPIŃSKA**  
Reverse designer: **ROUSSANKA NOWAKOWSKA**



FACE VALUE **2** ZŁ

metal **CuAl5Zn5Sn1 alloy** ■ finish **standard** ■ diameter **27.00 mm**  
weight **8.15 g** ■ mintage (volume) **1,600,000 pcs**

**OBVERSE:** An image of the Eagle established as the State Emblem of the Republic of Poland. Under the Eagle, the notation of the year of issue, 2008, below, an inscription, ZŁ 2 ZŁ. The images of the Polish national flag on the sides of the Eagle's legs. At the top, a semicircular inscription, RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA. The Mint's mark under the eagle's left leg, M/W.

**REVERSE:** An image of a peregrine falcon sitting on a branch. On the top to the left, an image of a peregrine falcon in flight. On the left and on the right of the falcon, stylised images of clouds. At the bottom, on the right, a stylised image representing mountains and trees. On the left, a semicircular inscription, SOKÓŁ WĘDROWNY - *Falco peregrinus*.

**ON THE EDGE:** An inscription, NBP, eight times repeated, every second one inverted 180 degrees, separated by stars.

Obverse designer: **EWA TYC-KARPIŃSKA**  
Reverse designer: **ROUSSANKA NOWAKOWSKA**