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## Falconry Demonstration at Hamarikyu Teien Gardens

Posted by Ed | Last updated Jun 24, 2017 | Animals, Festivals, Traditional Japan, Travel Destinations | 4  |



The [Hamarikyu Teien](#) is one of Tokyo's nicer parks, and has [traditional Japanese street performers](#) and displays of falconry every day. Every year at New Year's, however, they have a bigger demonstration of falconry that is much bigger than the daily demonstration.

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Unless I'm mistaken, this is an owl rather than a hawk.



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## TAGS

AKIHABARA

ARASHIYA  
MA

ASAKUSA

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The birds wear these hoods to keep them from getting overstimulated and getting nervous.

BOY

CHILDREN

COSPLAY

COSTUME  
PLAY

DOLL

FESTIVAL

GRAVE

GRAVEYAR  
D

HARAJUKU

JAPAN

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KIDS

KOEN

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LOVE  
HOTELS

MATSURI

MEIJI  
SHRINE

MIKOSHI

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Traditional falconry outfit.

OKINAWA

OSAKA

PARK

PHOTO

PHOTOS

SAITAMA

SAMURAI

SANJA

SHOWA  
KINEN

SHRINE

STATUE

STREET  
PERFORME  
R

TACHIKAW  
A

TEMPLE

TOKYO

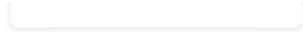
TOKYO  
AND THE  
KANTO  
REGION

UENO

WAKAYAM  
A

YAKUZA

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The members of the falconry club seemed like real bird lovers. They paid great attention to their hawks, and obviously took very good care of them. That's why it was so surprising when, at the end of the demonstration, they released a pigeon and let a hawk take it down. The pigeon was not killed, but it did seem unnecessarily cruel. I quite enjoyed it up until this point, but I'm not sure I'd go again.

There's more information about Takagiri, the Japanese art of falconry [here](#).

The group that puts on the demonstrations, the Suwa Falconry Preservation Society has a homepage at: <http://www.falconers-hermitage.com/index.html>

The demonstration is held on the first weekend in January every year. Check the [Japan Times Festival page](#) for more information.

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### ABOUT THE AUTHOR



**Ed**

Long-time resident in Japan (since 1993) but originally from Canada. Has written guidebook chapters, magazine articles, tons of blog entries and even a book about less-known aspects of Japan. In his free time, he loves photography, cycling, and exploring interesting and obscure places around the Kansai area.

### 4 Comments



**kadhine** on 2009-01-26 at 16:06

Wow, I love birds and when I move to Tokyo this year, I'm definitely going to

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see this. (Poor pigeon though )  
I love the falconer's (is that a word?)  
outfit, but the hat....

Great blog! I subscribed 😊

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**Pavel** on 2009-12-02 at 00:36

It has to be like that with the hoods and  
etc., kadhine. This is for the birds sake.  
Otherwise they will start looking and  
chasing anything that makes them  
impression of prey. Can you imagine  
what chaos will happen ?! 😊

The pigeon being used is like reward  
from a distance. It has a choice 0 to take  
it (if strong enough) or not. But even  
loosing it this is a reward for the Bird of  
Prey.

Regards,

Pavel  
Bulgaria

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**kadhine** on 2009-12-02 at

15:09

Hi Pavel,

Thaks for your input, but I was  
talking about the man's hat.

Regards  
Kadhine

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**AvianRecon** on 2014-10-23 at 03:01

I like the older guys falconry outfit, so  
stylish. I bet the black probably hides the  
blood pretty well. I wonder how they  
kept that hawk (Looks like a juvenile  
goshawk) from getting the pidge though

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- hes right there! I doubt he gave it up willingly.

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