



Cheap flights from £15

Take your chance today! Book cheap flights with airBaltic now for extra big savings.



- HOME
- CULTURE
- HISTORY
- GEOGRAPHY
- SCIENCE
- TECHNOLOGY
- TRAVEL
- ENTERTAINMENT

10 Modern Sayings That Came From the World of Falconry

By Daniel Ganninger



In case you didn't know it, falconry is hunting using a bird of prey such as a hawk or a falcon, for example. Many of the sayings we commonly use today can be traced back to this form of hunting.

Falconry is an ancient practice, dating back to 4000 to 6000 B.C. It uses a bird of prey to hunt wild game, and many of the words and phrases used in the practice are still in use today. Here are some of them that

[HOME](#)[CATEGORIES](#)[ARTICLES](#)[RANDOM FACTS OF THE WEEK](#)[TRIVIA STEW](#)[ODD NEWS STEW](#)[ABOUT](#)

falconer. We are often “fed up” when something bothers us, we don’t want to do something anymore, or we’re just not interested, e.g. “I’m fed up with my job.”



Under Your Thumb

A falconer had to maintain a tight control of their bird, and this happen when they would hold the leash of the bird tightly under one thumb while the bird was perched on their hand. Today it means having control over someone in some way, and usually not a good way, e.g. “I have him right under my thumb.”

Accounting Software

Xero™ Accounting Software. Loved by 862K+ Businesses. Try Now. Go to xero.com/Accounting-Software



Wrapped Around Your Little Finger

A falconer may have had the leash of the bird under their thumb, but to provide a little extra security, they would wrap the remaining strands around their little finger. This way if the bird somehow broke free, they would still be tethered to the falconer and would have been able to be brought under control. Today it’s used to mean that someone has complete control over someone else and can get them to do their bidding in some way, e.g. “I have my Dad wrapped around my little finger.” And no, it didn’t derive from the Police song Wrapped Around Your Finger, but now we know where it came from.

[HOME](#)[CATEGORIES](#)[ARTICLES](#)[RANDOM FACTS OF THE WEEK](#)[TRIVIA STEW](#)[ODD NEWS STEW](#)[ABOUT](#)

Hoodwinked

A falcon or hawk was kept calm by using a small hood that covered his eyes before a hunt or during transport. It was almost as if the hawk was getting tricked into calming themselves. The modern use is just that – getting tricked or fooled into doing something, or being scammed in some way, e.g. “I just got hoodwinked.”



Haggard

A haggard is a falcon that is caught in the wild as an adult. Since this type of bird was more difficult to train than one caught while young or taken directly from the nest, haggard came to mean wild or hard to tame. In modern terms haggard morphed in meaning to describe someone who looks worn out and rough, e.g. “That guy on the corner looks haggard.”

Waiting With Bated Breath

With bated breath was first used in Shakespeare’s Merchant of Venice, but its origins are from falconry. When falcons want to “bate from the block”, or fly away, they try to take off but are held near their perch on their leash. They get short of breath doing so, but have to wait for the falconer to release them, hence the term “bated breath”. Today its used to means listening while holding your breath, waiting for something to happen, e.g. “He awaited her response with bated breath.” Sweet, isn’t it?

[HOME](#)[CATEGORIES](#)[ARTICLES](#)[RANDOM FACTS OF THE WEEK](#)[TRIVIA STEW](#)[ODD NEWS STEW](#)[ABOUT](#)

End Of My Tether

This saying goes along with “bated breath” actually. It usually occurred from the actions of a young, untrained falcon who had bated from their perch and was being secured by the tether. Not knowing what they were supposed to be doing, the young falcon might struggle against the tether. Of course, today it means that your frustration level has peaked, and you can’t take it anymore. It’s possible that, “at the end of my rope”, or “at the end of my leash” also derived from this saying since tether and these words mean the same thing, e.g. “My kids have me at the end of my tether (rope,leash)”



A Boozer

The term for when a bird of prey drinks is called bowsing. A bird that drinks a lot is called a “boozer”. Of course the modern take on this term is someone who drinks a heavy amount of alcoholic drinks, e.g. “That guy is quite a boozer.”



Codger and Caddy

Falcons are carried on a portable square perch called a cadge. The birds were carried on the cadge since multiple birds were used for the hunt. Think of it like a bench where the birds waited to get in the game. The word "Codger" derived from the word "cadger", the people that carried the cadge. Cadgers were usually older falconers who carried the birds on the cadge. Today it means an older person, usually someone that is eccentric or feisty, e.g. "His uncle is a feisty codger." To take this term further, the word "caddy" may also have derived from this term. Since the cadger gave certain falcons to the falconer based on what was needed, a caddy gives golf clubs to the golfer in a similar manner.

Other Word Origin Stories You Might Like



Who or What is the "Cliff" in Cliffs Notes



What the ZIP in ZIP Code Really Means



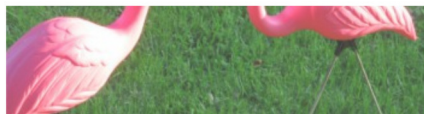
7 Sayings That Originated From the Good 'Ole Mississippi River

Share this:

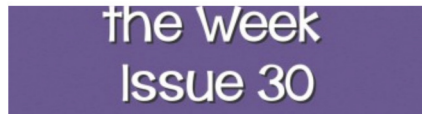




7 Sayings That Originated From the Good Ole' Mississippi River
In "Geography"



How Did Plastic Pink Flamingos End Up in Front Yards?
In "History"



Completely Useless Facts of the Week - Issue 30
In "Random Facts of the Week"



Filed Under: History

Tagged With: animals, history, nature, word origins

Comments



Rebecca OConnor says
December 5, 2016 at 2:04 pm

This is awesome!! But as a falconer, I just want to point out that you got the origin of "old hag" wrong. A falcon trapped on its first migration is a passage bird. An adult at any time of the year is a haggard. The tend to be set in their ways, cantankerous, and difficult to train. Hence... an old hag.

Reply



Daniel Ganninger says
December 5, 2016 at 3:20 pm

Thank you for the info Rebecca! I went ahead and fixed that. After reading through my source

Reply

Leave a Reply

Your email address will not be published. Required fields are marked *

Comment

Name *

Email *

Website

POST COMMENT

Notify me of follow-up comments by email.

Notify me of new posts by email.

[HOME](#)

[CATEGORIES](#)

[ARTICLES](#)

[RANDOM FACTS OF THE WEEK](#)

[TRIVIA STEW](#)

[ODD NEWS STEW](#)

[ABOUT](#)



10 Modern Sayings That Came From the World of Falconry



Why You're Taller in the Morning and Shorter At Night



Amazing Facts About Speed



Who's the Second Highest Paid U.S. Government Official?



The Coldest Substance on Earth

top 100 Short on time? Start here Shop now

amazon

Privacy

GIVE YOUR BRAIN A FIX WITH THE GUIDE TO THE MOST INTERESTING FACTS IN THE WORLD – ONLY \$3.99!!

HOME

CATEGORIES

ARTICLES

RANDOM FACTS OF THE WEEK


TRIVIA STEW

ODD NEWS STEW

ABOUT

BUY ON
AMAZON
SHARE
FREE
PREVIEW

FOLLOW ON FACEBOOK




Knowledge Stew

17,019 likes

Like Page

Share

Be the first of your friends to like this



SUBSCRIBE TO THE STEW

Enter your email address to subscribe to the Stew and never miss a new post.

SUBSCRIBE

COMPLETELY RANDOM POSTS FROM THE STEW POT



The Paris Love Lock Bridge is No More

HOME

CATEGORIES

ARTICLES

RANDOM FACTS OF THE WEEK

TRIVIA STEW

ODD NEWS STEW

ABOUT



Where Did Those Little Tree Air Fresheners on Rearview Mirrors Come From?



Lincoln Logs and Their Slightly Famous Inventor



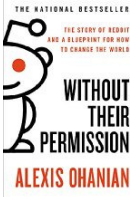
Completely Useless Facts of the Week - Issue 23

Winter Olympic Events-Gone But Not Forgotten



Completely Random Facts of the Week - Issue 64


Shop Related Products



Without Their Permission:
The Story of Reddit and...

\$11.55 ~~\$16.99~~

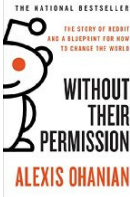
(125)



Coraline

\$11.19 ~~\$16.99~~

(1188)



Without Their Permission:
How the 21st Century Will ...

\$9.99

(125)



Reddit Alien Car Window Vinyl Decal Sticker 4" Tall...

\$1.80

(65)

Search Amazon

Go

Ads by Amazon

[HOME](#)

[CATEGORIES](#)

[ARTICLES](#)

[RANDOM FACTS OF THE WEEK](#)

[TRIVIA STEW](#)

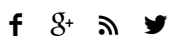
[ODD NEWS STEW](#)

[ABOUT](#)

ARCHIVES

Archives

CONNECT TO THE STEW



PAGES

[Articles](#)

[Home page](#)

[Odd News Stew](#)

[Random Facts of the Week](#)

[Trivia Stew](#)

ABOUT

[About Knowledge Stew](#)

[Home page](#)

[Stew Connections](#)

[The Books](#)