

WINTER AT GREEN LAKE
By Martin Muller

Expect the unexpected ...



Peregrine Falcons often use Green Lake, year round. One winter, this female used Green Lake extensively. She frequented the cottonwoods along the north shore of the lake. Sometimes she seemed as fascinated with the people below as some of the people were with her.



In January the lake froze over. Here the falcon is seen taking an American Coot that found itself out in the open and incapable of diving through the solid surface.



The falcon landed on the ice with her prey and started plucking.



A Great Blue Heron approached for a better look ...



... using its size to bluff the peregrine off her kill ...



... only to find itself in an awkward situation.



A piece of 'food' too big to swallow and an angry peregrine!



After a 20-minute stand off the heron managed to retreat. After eating her fill the peregrine retreated to the top of a tree on the island and kept an eye on any creature venturing close to the coot remains, and chasing anyone who strayed too close ...



... including one of the resident Bald Eagles.