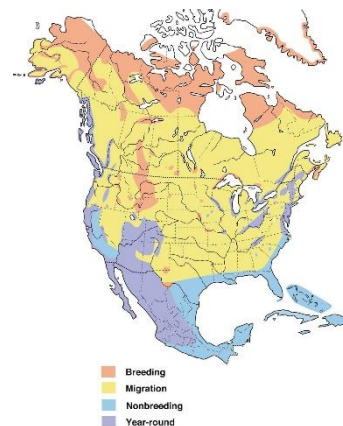


Peregrine Falcon



Classification

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: Aves
Order: Falconiformes
Family: Falconidae
Genus: *Falco*
Species: *peregrinus*



Range, Habitat, Conservation Status

- **Range:** Found worldwide, except for rainforests and cold, dry Arctic regions. One of the most widespread terrestrial vertebrate species in the world.
- **Habitat:** Open country, cliffs (mountains to coast), and sometimes cities. Over its wide range, found in wide variety of open habitats, from tundra to desert mountains.
- **Conservation Status:** Least Concern

Physical Characteristics

- **Body Length:** 14.2 to 19.3 inches (36-49 cm)
- **Wingspan:** 39.4 to 43.3 inches (100-110 cm)
- **Weight:** 18.7 to 56.4 ounces (530-1600 g)
- **Lifespan:** Up to 13 years in the wild with the oldest recorded in the wild being 19 years old.
- **Identifying Traits:** Adults are large falcons with bluish gray above, barred underparts, and a dark head with a thick, dark mark below the eye. Juveniles are more heavily patterned as well as brownish from above. Patterning varies greatly across its wide global range.

Behaviors

- **Feeding:** Mainly bird hunters, including starlings, pigeons, blackbirds, jays, shorebirds, and waterfowl.
- **Breeding:** Between March and May, depending on how far north they are breeding. Females usually lay their eggs in mid-May, and they usually hatch in mid-June.
- **Nesting:** Like most falcons, they do not build their own nests. They lay their eggs in scrapes, or small depressions they make in the soil or gravel

of a cliff ledge. Sometimes, they use abandoned stick nests that have been built in trees by other species. Today, more and more Peregrine Falcons are making their homes in cities where they nest on ledges of tall buildings and bridges.

- **Migration:** Permanent resident on northwest coast and in some temperate regions. Northern breeding pairs are long-distance migrants, many going to South America. Migrants often travel along coastlines and regularly occur further out to sea.
- **Call:** Rasping "kack-kack-kack-kack", usually heard at the nest, but otherwise generally silent.

Fun Facts!

- The word "peregrine" means "wanderer" or "pilgrim," and Peregrine Falcons occur all over the world except for Antarctica.
- They were virtually eradicated from eastern North America by pesticide poisoning in the middle 20th century. After significant recovery efforts, Peregrine Falcons have made an incredible rebound and are now regularly seen in many large cities and coastal areas.
- The Peregrine Falcon was removed from the Endangered Species list in 1999, thanks to efforts by The Peregrine Fund and many other organizations and individuals.
- They are very fast flyers! While flying, they reach an average of 25 to 34 mph and while pursuing prey they have been recorded reaching 69 mph. On top of that, during a hunting stoop, which can be at heights over 0.62 miles, they have been known to reach speeds greater than 200 mph while swooping downwards towards their prey.

Importance

- High level predators that play an important role in regulating populations of their prey.

Sources

- https://animaldiversity.org/accounts/Falco_peregrinus/
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- <https://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/peregrine-falcon>
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