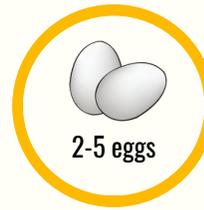
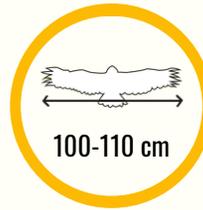




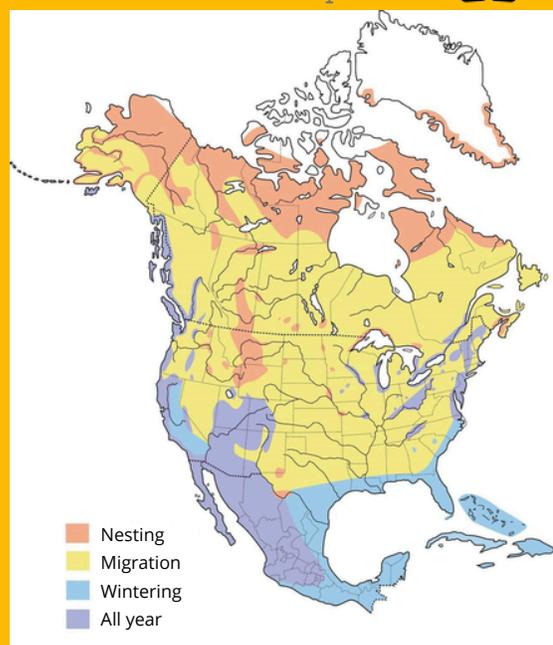
# Peregrine Falcon

Faucon pèlerin, *Falco peregrinus*



## IDENTIFICATION

Its slate-blue back, cream-colored breast and broad dark whiskers (stripes under the eyes) are characteristic of the species. Its legs and lower belly are finely striped with black, and it wears a dark hood on its head. The female is about a third larger than the male.



## ECOLOGY

### Nutrition

It feeds mainly on birds, which it captures in swooping flight. It folds its wings and can reach speeds of up to 300 km/h, making it the fastest animal in the world! It swoops down on its prey in mid-air and strikes it with its legs to stun it. It also eats bats and occasionally small mammals and insects.

### Breeding

It nests on cliff ledges in open areas. They lay their eggs on the ground. The smaller males fledge at around 5 to 6 weeks of age, and the females at 6 to 7 weeks. The young remain dependent on their parents for at least 30 days after fledging.

## DISTRIBUTION

Its name "peregrine" comes from the fact that it can be found all over the world. It inhabits cliffs, marshes, tidal flats and cities. Skyscrapers and bridges are reminiscent of the high cliffs on which it nests. It migrates south in autumn, then north to Nunavut in spring to breed.

## STATUS AND POPULATION

The species came close to extinction in the 1950s due to the massive use of pesticides such as DDT. The accumulation of DDT in their body tissues caused the eggshells to thin and break under the weight of the female. The use of DDT has been banned in North America since 1972, but it is still widespread in South America, where falcons migrate in winter. Today, it remains vulnerable.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Wild species of Canada report, 2015