

## Peregrine falcon, *Falco peregrinus*



Juvenile



Adult



### Description

- Medium to large (crow-sized) falcon; Males are 36-49cm and 650g, females 45-58cm and 950g.
- Adults have blue-grey or darker plumage on upperparts, and underparts are pale, white-grey with dark spotting/barring.
- Have dark "hood" on crown of head with extended malar stripes ("sideburns").
- Immatures have pale, slate or chocolate brown upperparts, and underparts buffy with dark streaks.
- Clinal differences: darker in wet areas, paler in dry, larger in south and west, smaller in north extent of range.

### Similar Species

- Gyrfalcon: larger, with pointed and broader wings and a larger tail, lack dark hood and malar stripes.

### Biology

- Court in late winter, nest in March or April, clutch size is 1-5 eggs (usually 3-4).
- Nestlings leave nest after 40 days, may stay in vicinity of nest for up to 3-6 weeks.
- Nest are simple scrapes located in substrate, 17-22cm diameter and 3-5cm deep. No nesting material is added and nests are often located on ridges, cliff edges, or buildings. May occasionally use abandoned raven or eagle nests.

### Habitat

- Nests are usually located on cliffs, 4-335m in elevation, often with overhanging cover. Must be near foraging areas (i.e. lake, ocean, river valleys).

### Occurrence:

- *Anatum* subspecies: Southwest coast of BC (CR, SI, SC Forest Districts).
- *Pealei* subspecies: Pacific Coast; Aleutian Islands to Oregon (CR, SI, SC Forest Districts).

### Status:

- BC: *Anatum* subspecies Red-Listed, *Pealei* subspecies Blue-Listed
- Nests (occupied or unoccupied), eggs, and birds of all subspecies are protected under provincial Wildlife Act.
- Canada: Special Concern (COSEWIC).

### Action Required:

- Notify BCTS and document location of verified breeding area.

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