Peregrine Falcon Fact Sheet

Identification Tips

Measurements:
- Length: 15-20 inches
- Wingspan: 36-44 inches
- Large falcon
- Long, pointed wings extend to tail tip at rest
- Short, dark, hooked beak
- Weight: 530-1600 grams (18.71-56.48 ounces)

Adult:
- Black cap and moustache
- Pale throat and breast
- Barred belly
- Gray upperparts
- Underwings barred black and white
- Long, thin tail with gray and white bands

Immature:
- Dark brown cap and moustache
- Dark brown upperparts
- Streaked underparts

Taxonomy
- Kingdom: Animalia
- Phylum: Chordata
- SubPhylum: Vertebrata
- Class: Aves
- Order: Falconiformes
- Family: Falconidae
- Subfamily: Falconinae
- Genus and species: Falco peregrines

Peregrine Falcon
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Nest Information

- Location: scrape on a high cliff ledge or building ledge
- Number of broods: 1
- Days spent incubating: 29-32
- Days until young fledge: 35-42
- Clutch size: 3-4

Diet:

Almost Exclusively: Birds, including ducks

Speed

Falcons can reach speeds up to 200 mph in a stoop (dive).

Range

Found on every continent except Antarctica

Summer:

- Widespread in North America

Winter:

- Widespread in Central America and South America

References:

Smithsonian National Zoological Park Migratory Bird Center
http://nationalzoo.si.edu/ConservationAndScience/MigratoryBirds/

U.S. Fish and Wildlife
http://www.fws.gov/endangered/recovery/peregrine/

USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center
http://www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/Infocenter/i3560id.html

Wilson’s American Ornithology Color Plate, 1877