

AMERICAN PEREGRINE FALCON
(*FALCO PEREGRINUS*)

Navajo/Federal Statuses: NESL G4 / delisted from endangered 25 AUG 1998 (64FR:46542); MBTA.

Distribution: Breeds throughout much of U.S., and in Canada and Mexico. Breeding occurs across the Navajo Nation where appropriate habitat exists, including but not limited to, Chuska Mountain Range, Canyon de Chelly, Black Mesa and north to Glen Canyon, the Dilkon-buttes region, and the canyon reaches of the San Juan, Colorado and Little Colorado Rivers.

Habitat: Nests on steep cliffs >30 m tall (typically ≥ 45 m) in a scrape on sheltered ledges or potholes. Foraging habitat quality is an important factor; often, but not always, extensive wetland and/or forest habitat is within the falcon's hunting range of ≤ 12 km. Variability in topographic features, such as elevation and slope, may also indicate the availability of prey.

Similar Species: Prairie Falcon has brown dorsum, white eyebrow stripe and black underwing near body. Merlin (winter resident or migrant) is $\frac{1}{3}$ smaller.

Phenology:

m.FEB-m.APR: occupancy of nesting site, courtship¹ (14-42 days)

e.APR-l.MAY: egg-laying (5-10 days), incubation² (30 days)

e.MAY-l.JUN: nestling period³ (42-49 days)

l.JUN-l.JUL: fledging

e.JUL-l.AUG: post-fledging period (14-42 days)

\geq l.AUG: migration

¹good time to determine territory occupancy

²adults are inconspicuous

³audible nestlings, frequent adult visits - ideal time to locate nest site

Survey Method: Two 8-hr surveys (4 hrs before dark and 4 hrs after sunrise next day) during each period: 1 FEB-30 APR (surveys during egg-laying/incubation discouraged) & 1 MAY-31 JUL (2nd survey preferably prior to JUL). Productivity surveys require ≥ 1 additional visits.

Ward, L.Z. 1994. 1994 Peregrine Falcon survey methods. Nongame Branch, Arizona Game and Fish Dept. 12pp.

Avoidance: No activity within 0.8 km ($\frac{1}{2}$ mi) of nest during 1 MAR-31 JUL. No use of explosives within 1.6 km of nest.

References:

Ellis, D.H. 1982. The Peregrine Falcon in Arizona: habitat utilization and management recommendations. Institute for Raptor Studies, Research Report, Oct.1982, No.1.

Johnsgard, P.A. 1990. Peregrine Falcon. Pp.301-313, *In* Hawks, Eagles, & Falcons of North America. Smithsonian Institution Press. (description pp.301-303)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1984. American Peregrine Falcon recovery plan (Rocky Mountain/Southwest Population). Prepared in cooperation with the American Peregrine Falcon Recovery Team. USFWS, Denver, CO.

White, C.M., N.J. Clum, T.J. Cade, & W.G. Hunt. 2002. Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*). *In* The Birds of North America, No.660 (A.Poole and F.Gill, eds.). The Birds of North America, Inc., Philadelphia, PA. (description p.2)