

Peregrine Falcon

Falco peregrinus



Photo: Brandon Holden



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PROVINCIAL STATUS

Threatened

DESCRIPTION

- crow-sized bird of prey
- dark brown or bluish upper parts; under parts buff
- pointed wings; black face cheeks
- may dive from height with wings folded to stun birds up to duck-size

VOCALIZATION

- rapid *kek kek kek kek*

PREFERRED HABITAT

- high places near water

MIGRATION

Spring arrival: late April to early May

Fall departure: mid-September to mid-October

WINTERING GROUNDS

- New Brunswick coast south to South America

LOCAL POPULATION

- rare nesting species along the Ottawa River
- regular migrant

THREATS

- pesticide and heavy metal accumulation (acid rain)
- habitat destruction and alteration

NICHE INFORMATION

- eats doves, pigeons, shorebirds, waterfowl, perching birds
- eaten by Great Horned Owls, raccoons
- active in daytime
- lives in open areas, open forest, tall buildings or cliffs
- nests on cliffs and building ledges

WHAT WE CAN DO

- reduce pesticide use