

Other. All unnecessary disturbance should be kept to a minimum. I do not think that it is impossible to induce passage birds to breed if the quarters are large and disturbance small. A room with no windows, only large open roof sections might work best for both intermewed eyass and passage hawks. All perches should be padded with foam rubber and covered with rubberized nylon fabric. Several of us, including Stabler and Berthrong, feel strongly that captivity creates increased stress on the feet. Padded perches simply distribute the weight and prevent corns that are precursors of bumblefoot. In my opinion, no person who has inquired as to the nature of the perch used by birds with bumblefoot can objectively argue for the use of hard perches.

It seems to me that Raptor Research Foundation should quickly organize three or four operative units made up of people in different regions interested and capable of putting a great deal of time and effort into the project. Each unit might explore different alternatives to various problems. A catalog of the various adult birds now in captivity and available for pairing should be made, and a list of expected recruits drawn up. By December people in charge of the units should see to it that the facilities of their units are inhabited by pairs of Peregrines being kept under proper conditions. Raptor Research Foundation might set down certain guidelines for the operation, objectives, and responsibilities of each unit. The impetus for this action should come from the possibility that within a very few years these opportunities will be lost.

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A Preliminary Summary of a Peregrine and Prairie Falcon
Survey in the Southern Interior of B. C.

by

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Since 1950, many populations of the Peregrine Falcon have shown dramatic reductions in breeding success and breeding distribution. Considerable evidence has been gathered in Europe, especially in Britain, concerning the relationships between the use of biocides and the disappearance of the Peregrine and the European Sparrowhawk. In North America, the Bald Eagle and Osprey of the eastern parts of the continent have been, and still are being studied in detail, and the effect of biocides is very strongly suspected as being the prime factor in the widespread declines in their numbers.

In eastern North America, the distribution of the Peregrine was surveyed by Hickey (1942), and a western survey was conducted by Bond (1946). Considerable numbers of breeding pairs were reported in both these articles. When considering B.C. Peregrines, Bond discussed the west coast Peale's subspecies but only briefly mentioned

that little was known of interior falcons. Enderson (1965) discussed the breeding numbers of Peregrines in the Rocky Mountain area from southern Colorado to central Alberta. The falcons in the B. C. interior have not been seriously studied.

During the spring and summer of 1966 a study was begun to attempt to determine the causes of the decline of the Peregrine and Prairie Falcons in the B. C. southern interior. The study was approached with several general aims:

1. to locate, map, photograph, measure, and otherwise study and record information from all the old and present eyries used by these species;
2. to obtain all possible information on these eyries, as concerns their histories, e.g. when and what disturbances appeared, when last occupied, what food species were and are utilized;
3. to obtain an over-all picture of the habitat and climatic changes that have occurred in this area in the last 50-75 years, e.g. the increase of human disturbances--egg and specimen collecting, boating, hiking, etc., biocide uses, when and where, habitat alteration--ranching to orchard uses;
4. to correlate all the above data in an attempt to find the cause(s) of the declines of these species.

If accurate conclusions can be drawn as to the cause(s) of the declines, two additional purposes can possibly be added:

5. to consider what measures could and should be taken to protect these species from extinction in this part of the Province;
6. to consider and attempt the re-introduction of these species into habitat once occupied by them.

Methods

To date, the major effort has centered around the first two aims. Field-work in the latter half of May and during two-day intervals (days off) in June and early July of 1966, has resulted in ten formerly used cliffs being checked. Correspondence and visits with more than thirty persons thought to have information pertinent to the study have yielded much data although in several instances no data were available or old data had been lost or destroyed.

The study area includes that part of B. C. south of a line from the vicinity of Cache Creek east to Sicamous. It includes the Okanagan Valley, the Shuswap Lake area, the valley of the Thompson River, and the Merritt-Nicola Lake region.

Results

The Peregrine was once a reasonably common bird in the Okanagan Valley. Some fifteen eyries were occupied in the Valley between Vernon and the international border in 1906 (letter from Major Allan

Brooks to Dr. J. Hickey, 1937). In the early part of this century the Prairie Falcon was occasionally seen in the south part of the Valley,

By 1930 or 1940 an almost complete reversal had occurred. The Prairies had become quite common, and the Peregrines had vanished from many of their previous haunts.

The tables below give a very general approximation of the histories of the falcon eyries in summary form. Data concerning the number of eyries checked and reported on are also given.

Table 1. Eyries visited or reported on for 1966, and totals of known eyries.

Eyries once used, cliffs checked or reported on, 1966 . . .	12
Eyries once used, cliffs not checked, and no 1966 information	<u>13</u>
Total known eyries in study area	25
Possible eyries--not positively of these species, not visited in 1966	4
Eyries found or reported occupied, 1966	2
	Possibly 3

Table 2. Summarized histories of eyries checked or reported on for 1966.

Peregrine eyries--apparently long occupied--unused in 1966	5
used in 1966	1?
Prairie eyries--apparently long occupied--unused in 1966	2
used in 1966	1
Peregrine, then Prairie eyries--unused in 1966	2
used in 1966	1

Table 3. Dates of last known uses of eyries.

	<u>Prior to 1920</u>	<u>1920-45</u>	<u>1945-60</u>	<u>1960--Used in 1966</u>
Peregrine	2 (3)	or (3)	2	1 (?)
Prairie			1 1 (?)	2