Peregrine Falcon Recovery

South Dakota

Collection

Relocation

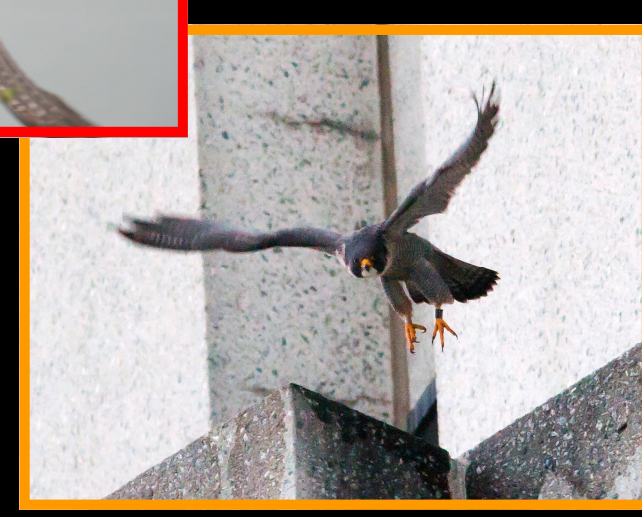
Goal

Reestablish breeding pairs of peregrines in Western South Dakota

- Collecting young peregrines from captive breeder sites throughout the United States
- Transporting to hack site in Rapid City, South Dakota
- Monitoring and providing care to nestlings until ready for release
- Collecting data on releasable young
- Releasing peregrines in Rapid City, South Dakota
- Educate public about peregrine falcon conservation

Reintroduction

Research



Find a peregrine falcon?
If peregrines with red leg bands (similar to those shown below) are located at any time in the
future, please contact:
South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks
605.773.3387
or Janie Fink 208.582.0797

http://gfp.sd.gov/wildlife/management/diversity/peregrine-falcon-recovery.aspx

Peregrine falcon, *Falco peregrines anatum*

Size & Field Marks:

- About the size and weight of a crow - size is 15 to 20 inches long and wingspan is about 36 - 44 inches
- Adult coloring is slate-blue backs and wings barred with black, cream-colored underparts with horizontal bars, face is white with black stripe on each cheek. Wings are long and pointed.
- Females are larger and more powerful than males.

Feeding:

- Primarily birds they take in flight including ducks, pheasants, and pigeons.
- Peregrine falcons, *Falco peregrinus anatum*, are nature's fastest flyers and have been clocked diving for prey at 220 miles per hour.

Habitat:

- Suitable nesting habitats are rocky cliffs or man-made structures 200-300 feet high, large stick nests of other species, or tree hollows.

Nesting:

- 3-4 eggs are laid that hatch in about 33 days.
- Nestling mortality rate is high with a 60% survival rate.
- Peregrines generally mate for life and share in incubation duties.

Where found:

- Distributed on every continent except Antarctica
- Migrate as far north as Alaska, Nova Scotia and Scandinavian countries, and as far south as southern Africa, Argentina, and Chile
- Migrate along water ways with water fowl and shore birds.

Conservation Status:

- Suffered poisonous effects of DDT, habitat loss, and persecution
- After the ban on DDT, numbers are increasing. Recovery in the U.S. largely due to reintroduction and banning of environmental contaminants.
- Remains a species that is state endangered in South Dakota.

Collaborators

Assurant Insurance Company, Birds of Prey Northwest, Black Hills Power, Radisson Rapid City Hotel, South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks, South Dakota State Wildlife Grants, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.