

Peregrine Falcon

Falco peregrinus



Status: **Threatened**

Threats:

- ◆ Disturbance and persecution by people
- ◆ Use of pesticides such as DDT which resulted in reproductive failure
- ◆ Poaching



Photo: Kevin Cole



Photo: USFWS

Description:

- ◆ Large falcon similar in size to a crow
- ◆ Adults are slate blue-grey on back and whitish underneath with fine, dark barring on the thighs and lower breast
- ◆ Head has a distinctive black facial mask and black malar stripe, or “moustache”
- ◆ Has pointed wings that span about 1 m and a narrow tail; bright yellow feet and legs
- ◆ Females are substantially larger than males
- ◆ Juveniles appear darker than adults and are brown in colour

Biology:

- ◆ One of the world’s fastest animals; can dive for prey at speeds of 300 km/h
- ◆ Generally mate for life; produce 3-4 creamy pink to reddish-brown coloured eggs
- ◆ Hunt by diving on their prey from great heights and knocking them out of the sky; prey consists of other birds, including ducks, pigeons, gulls and songbirds
- ◆ Have excellent eye sight; hunts mostly during dawn and dusk

Habitat:

- ◆ Widespread distribution across Ontario
- ◆ Usually nests on tall, steep cliff ledges close to large bodies of water
- ◆ Can also be found nesting on ledges of tall buildings in busy urban areas

Species at Risk
STEWARDS' GUIDE SERIES

Peregrine Falcon

Falco peregrinus

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Peregrine Falcon on Your Property? *Here's What You Can Do:*

- ◆ **Don't disturb nests, young or adults.** Be respectful and observe from a distance.
- ◆ **Educate yourself about environmental contaminants** such as flame retardants, which can have impacts on predators at the top of the food chain.
- ◆ **Support sustainable forestry practices when you purchase wood products.** Look for the FSC logo.
- ◆ **See a Peregrine Falcon?** Submit your sighting to the Natural Heritage Information Centre at nhic.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/nhic/species/species_report.cfm. Photographs with specific locations or mapping coordinates are always helpful.
- ◆ **Contact the Ministry of Natural Resources.** If you find a Peregrine Falcon or a nest on your property, you may be eligible for stewardship programs that support the protection and recovery of species at risk and their habitats. Contact the MNR for more information.
- ◆ **Learn More.** Check out the Species at Risk section on the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources website at www.mnr.gov.on.ca.



Did You Know?

DDT was banned in the 1960s and the Peregrine Falcon population is now increasing!

Ontario's *Endangered Species Act*

Ontario's *Endangered Species Act, 2007* came into force on June 30, 2008, making Ontario a North American leader in the protection of species at risk and their habitats.

Compared to Ontario's previous Act, written in 1971, the new ESA 2007 provides:

- ◆ Science-based assessment of species' status
- ◆ Automatic protection of a species and its habitat once it's listed as endangered or threatened
- ◆ Broader protection for species at risk and their habitats
- ◆ Greater support for volunteer stewardship efforts of private landowners, resource users, and conservation organizations
- ◆ A commitment to recovery of species through recovery planning
- ◆ Greater accountability, including government reporting requirements

Ontario is home to more than 30,000 species, most of which have stable populations.

However, more than 180 species in Ontario, 34 of which are found in Parry Sound-Muskoka, are currently considered "at risk" because of threats like:

- ◆ Habitat loss
- ◆ Global changes in insect populations
- ◆ Pollution
- ◆ Invasive species
- ◆ Climate change
- ◆ Over-harvesting
- ◆ Road mortality



Learn more about Species at Risk on the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources website at www.mnr.gov.on.ca.