

**PEREGRINE FALCON
(FALCO PEREGRINUS)**

Federal/California status: Delisted/Endangered

DFG: Fully protected



Description

The peregrine falcon is a relatively large, sleek falcon with long, tapered wings. The bluish-gray back, uniformly patterned underwing, and dark 'helmet' distinguish it from

other falcons. Juvenile birds are more grayish-brown in coloration, but still retain the dark helmet and barred underwing.

Habitat

The peregrine falcon is found in a wide variety of open habitats and is often near water. Riparian areas and inland wetlands are important yearlong for foraging. Its diet consists mainly of birds such as pigeons, ducks, shorebirds, and songbirds. The peregrine falcon often flies high for hunting, stoops downward in a steep dive, then strikes its prey with its feet. It also may overtake small birds in flight, pluck them out of the air, and carry them to a perch for eating. Nests are a simple scrape positioned on a cliff ledge, building ledge, or tree snag.

Range/distribution

This falcon is an uncommon, winter resident to the San Joaquin Valley.

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References

Kaufman, K. 1996. Lives of North American Birds. Houghton Mifflin Company, New York, NY. 675pp.