

# PEREGRINE FALCONS



# BASIC FACTS

- **The Peregrine Falcon is a raptor, or bird of prey. Adults have blue-gray wings, dark brown backs, a buff colored underside with brown spots, and white faces with a black tear stripe on their cheeks. They have a hooked beaks and strong talons. Their name comes from the Latin word *peregrinus*, which means "to wander." They are commonly referred to as the Duck Hawk. Peregrine falcons are the fastest-flying birds in the world – they are able to dive at 200 miles per hour.**

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# Diet

- Peregrine falcons eat other birds such as songbirds and ducks, as well as bats. They catch their prey in mid-air.



# Population

- There are an estimated 1,650 breeding pairs in the United States and Canada.



# ***Did You Know?***



- *Peregrine Falcon chicks, called eyases, eat an incredible amount of food - in six days, they double their weight, and at three weeks are ten times their size at birth!*

# Behavior

- Peregrine falcons mate for life and breed in the same territory each year. The male courts the female for about one month, using aerial displays. They make a nest, or scrape, on ledges and in small caves located high on a cliff. Some peregrine falcons will use man-made structures such as bridges and skyscrapers to nest





# Reproduction

- **Mating season:** Late March through May.  
**Gestation:** 29-32 days for egg incubation.  
**Clutch size:** 3-4 eggs.
- Both the male and female incubate the eggs for about one month. The chicks start to fly in about 42 days, but are still dependent on their parents to learn how to hunt. Peregrine falcons are very territorial during breeding season and will vigorously defend their nests.

