

Peregrine Falcons and Forestry

Wildlife in Managed Forests:
Reference Series

Peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus*) are protected in Oregon by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Once protected under the Endangered Species Act, the peregrine falcon (PEFA) population has recovered and is now de-listed, and therefore no longer receives specific protections under the Endangered Species Act or Oregon Forest Practices Act.

PEFA are medium-sized raptors with black or dark gray backs, tail feathers and upper wings. This dark plumage extends down the face and cheeks in an easily recognizable “hood.” Male peregrines are smaller than females, and are similar in size to an American crow. The larger female is similar in size to a common raven. Peregrine falcons are charismatic and noted as one of the world’s fastest animals, as they can reach speeds of more than 240 miles per hour while diving after prey.

Peregrine falcons nest on small ledges on cliff faces, or on man-made structures resembling cliffs, such as bridges or skyscrapers. Nest sites are typically near large bodies of water as one of their main prey items are water-dwelling birds. Peregrines don’t construct nests, but instead scrape a small depression in sand, gravel or other substrates found at the nest site.

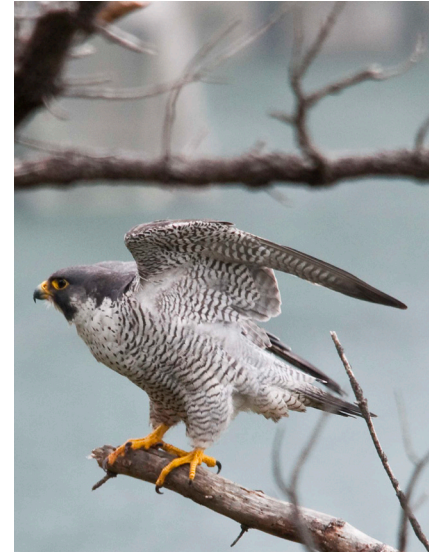
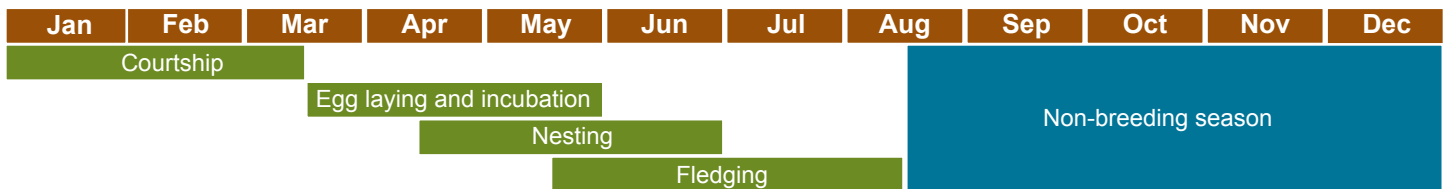


Photo by Roy Lowe

WHEN DO PEREGRINE FALCONS NEST?



HOW DO I PROTECT PEFA?

The primary issue that forest operations have on nesting falcons is disturbance; they are not typically affected by loss of timber as their nests are often already in areas without significant tree cover. PEFA can be protected by avoiding activities that cause visual and auditory disturbances within 1/4 mile of a nest site during the breeding season. Activities that are most likely to disturb PEFA are those activities occurring during the breeding season that produce loud noises or significant visual disturbances, such as blasting, timber falling, road construction or low-flying aircraft.

SOURCES & MORE INFORMATION

[Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#)

[EPA.gov](#)

[Oregon Forest Practices Act](#)

[Birds of Oregon: A General Reference \(Marshall Et. al. 2003/2006\)](#)

[KnowYourForest.org](#)



ABOUT OFRI

The Oregon Forest Resources Institute was created by the Oregon Legislature in 1991 to advance public understanding of forests, forest products and forest management and to encourage sound forestry through landowner education.

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