



The *Species at Risk Act* and You

# PROPOSED MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE PEREGRINE FALCON *ANATUM/TUNDRIUS* IN CANADA

## Summary

This is a summary of the information provided in the proposed management plan for Peregrine Falcon *anatum/tundrius*. Peregrine Falcon was listed as a species of special concern under the *Species at Risk Act* in 2012.

The proposed management plan is a plan that sets the goals and objectives for maintaining sustainable population levels for Peregrine Falcon *anatum/tundrius*, a species that is sensitive to changes in its environment but is not in danger of becoming extinct.

This summary is based on the information in the full English version of the Peregrine Falcon *anatum/tundrius* management plan.

The original English copy of the proposed management plan has been provided for reference.



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Peregrine Falcon

## Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) Assessment and Species Status Information (Pages 1-3)

These pages provide the COSEWIC assessment table which is included here. It describes why COSEWIC has assessed the Peregrine Falcon

**Date of assessment:** April 2007

**Common name (population):** Peregrine Falcon  
*anatum/tundrius*

**Scientific name:** *Falco peregrinus anatum/tundrius*

**COSEWIC status:** Special Concern

**Reason for designation:** Continental populations of this species have shown continuing increases in population size since the 1970s, reaching near-historic numbers. Population thresholds for downlisting have been achieved for both the *tundrius* and *anatum* subspecies. This recovery has been the result of reintroductions across much of southern Canada, and natural increases in productivity following the banning in Canada of organochlorine pesticides (e.g. DDT). These compounds were the primary factor responsible for the historic decline of this bird. These pesticides are still used in the species' wintering grounds, and continue to be found in Peregrine Falcon tissues, albeit at levels that do not significantly affect reproduction. The unknown effects of new pesticides regularly licensed for use in Canada are also a concern.

**Canadian occurrence:** Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Québec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland and Labrador.

**COSEWIC status history:** The Peregrine Falcon in Canada was originally evaluated by COSEWIC as three separate subspecies: *anatum* subspecies (Endangered in April 1978, Threatened in April 1999 and in May 2000); *tundrius* subspecies (Threatened in April 1978 and Special Concern in April 1992); and *pealei* subspecies (Special Concern in April 1978, April 1999 and November 2001). In April 2007, the Peregrine Falcon in Canada was assessed as two separate units: the *pealei* and *anatum/tundrius* subspecies. Peregrine Falcons in Canada were designated as Special Concern in April 2007. The last assessment was based on an updated status report.

*anatum/tundrius* as a species of Special Concern, where it occurs in Canada, and the history of the species status over the years.

This section also provides information on the status of the species throughout Canada, how it is protected in the Provinces and Territories and what rank of protection it has, and other types of protection that are provided to the species.



This is Figure 1 from the proposed management plan. It shows breeding and range for Peregrine Falcon *anatum/tundrius* in North America. The species typically winters south of the dotted line. The ? symbol shows regions where Peregrine Falcons might breed.

## Information about Peregrine Falcon (pages 3-6)

This section of the proposed management plan for Peregrine Falcon provides some information such as what they look like, where they live, and what they need to survive.

- Peregrine Falcon is a medium to large falcon. It has long pointed wings. The adults are bluish-grey or darker in colour and have a blackish facial stripe that extends from their eye to along-side their lower jaw. They are whitish, greyish or buff-coloured underneath and have blackish spots and stripes. Females are larger than males.
- In Canada, the Peregrine Falcon breeds in all provinces and territories except Prince Edward Island and the island of Newfoundland (it does occur in Labrador).
- They winter from southern Canada and the United States to South America (see Figure 1).
- Peregrine Falcon *anatum/tundrius* populations have recovered and steadily increased from the 1970s to the early 2000s.
- They breed in a wide range of habitats, from Arctic tundra to coastal islands, desert canyons and major urban centres.

- They generally nest on cliff ledges or crevices near areas where they have access to a lot of prey such as near seabird colonies, shorebird and waterfowl staging areas, or areas where there are a lot of pigeons and songbirds.
- Peregrine Falcons may be preyed on by Great Horned Owls, Northern Goshawks and Red Fox.

## Threats to Peregrine Falcon (pages 7-12)

This section of the proposed management plan describes the things that might cause Peregrine Falcon populations to drop. In order of highest concern, there are eight main threats to Peregrine Falcon:

- **Use of chemical products** – the use of new chemicals and substances that are being developed and used across the Peregrine Falcon range.
- **Use of organochlorine pesticides** – the use of these pesticides was the main cause for Peregrine Falcon populations to decline. DDT (a commonly used pesticide in the past) has been banned in Canada and the United States but is still used in some countries where

Peregrine Falcon spend their winters.

- **Harvesting for falconry** – the capture of Peregrine Falcon for falconry (the use of falcons by people to hunt other animals) is banned in most of Canada, however the recent delisting of the *anatum* subspecies in the United States has resulted in the lifting of the ban on falcon harvest in some areas. Some falcons are captured in Mexico. Harvest of Peregrine Falcon *anatum/tundrius* for falconry is not allowed in Greenland.
- **Recreational activities** – Falcons can be affected by disturbances caused by recreational activities such as rock climbing, hiking, bird watching, boating and all-terrain vehicle use. The impact of these disturbances depends on when it happens. Peregrine Falcons are most affected by these activities during the breeding season.
- **Exploration and development of natural resources** – exploration and development of natural resources could disturb Peregrine Falcon during nesting, possibly destroying nests or scaring the bird away from nesting in that area.
- **Construction and maintenance of infrastructure** – construction could disturb adult Peregrine Falcons during their nesting period or it could destroy their nests. The construction of tall buildings may provide the species with good nesting sites.
- **Pest control** – The use of pesticides to control species that are considered pests (e.g. pigeons, starlings, rodents) may be harmful to Peregrine Falcons. If they eat prey that are contaminated with these pesticides it may result in shock or death of the birds.
- **Climate change** – adult Peregrine Falcons are vulnerable to extreme weather conditions during their fall migration. It can also affect young. Between 2008 and 2010, over one-third of the nestlings that died in the Rankin Inlet study area, died because of heavy rain. The species may also be affected if climate change causes less food to be available. They may benefit from climate change if it allows them to expand their range further north. It is believed that climate change in the northern regions will have the most impacts on Peregrine Falcons.

### Management Actions (pages 12-18)

The objective of this management plan is for the Peregrine Falcon *anatum/tundrius* population to be

self-sustaining throughout its Canadian range within the next 10 years.

A number of actions have already been completed or are underway in an effort to meet the management objective, including: monitoring programs; conservation and management (e.g. provincial recovery strategies, legal protection of nesting sites and other protection agreements); research (e.g. to determine the effects of chemicals, the impacts of climate change); and, outreach and communication (e.g. creation of a document that raises awareness about Peregrine Falcons in rock climbing areas, nest monitoring cameras).

The general strategies of the management plan are to:

- Reduce the threats to Peregrine Falcons and assess their impacts.
- Conserve and, if possible, protect the species' nesting sites.
- Improve the state of knowledge on northern populations of the species in Canada.
- Encourage Inuit participation in the conservation activities carried out in northern areas.
- Regularly assess the Canadian population trend and its productivity.

There are a number of conservation measures identified in the management plan ranging from

high to low priority. The high priority conservation measures will include:

- Carry out research on the direct and indirect effects of chemicals on adult survival and reproductive success.
- Fill knowledge gaps on the abundance and location of northern populations.
- Assess the impacts of climate change on northern populations.
- Develop and implement an information and outreach program for affected Inuit communities.
- Reassess and modify, as needed, the inventory methodology of the National Peregrine Falcon Survey.
- Continue the National Peregrine Falcon Survey.

Success of the management objective will be evaluated every five years to determine if:

- Until 2024, the Peregrine Falcon *anatum/tundrius* population will continue to grow throughout its range in Canada.
- Until 2024, known Peregrine Falcon *anatum/tundrius* nesting sites will continue to be occupied on a regular basis and the number of fledglings

will be sufficient to ensure a self-sustaining population.

For more information, please contact us directly at:

Canadian Wildlife Service – North Region  
P.O. Box 1870  
969 Federal Road  
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

You can also visit the following websites for more information:  
SARA Public Registry ([www.sararegistry.gc.ca](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca))

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