

Literature Cited

- Dixon, J. S. 1938. Birds and mammals of Mount McKinley National Park. U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Fauna Series Number 3.
- Hoefs, M. 1975. Ecological investigation of Dall Sheep and their habitat. Ph.D. thesis, University of British Columbia, Vancouver. 215 pp.
- Luckhurst, A. J. 1973. Stone Sheep and their habitat. M.Sc. thesis, University of British Columbia, Vancouver. 146 pp.
- Murie, A. 1944. The wolves of Mount McKinley. Fauna of the National Parks of the United States, Fauna Series Number 5.

Received 23 January 1978

Accepted 11 March 1978

Status of the Peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus*, in the Central Kuskokwim River Region, Alaska

ROBERT J. RITCHIE¹ and ROBERT E. AMBROSE²¹Alaska Biological Research, P.O. Box 81929, Fairbanks, Alaska²S.R. 20080, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Ritchie, Robert J. and Robert E. Ambrose. 1978. Status of the Peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus*, in the central Kuskokwim River region, Alaska. Canadian Field-Naturalist 92(3): 293.

The potential for nesting Peregrine Falcons, *Falco peregrinus*, on the Kuskokwim River, Alaska, has been discussed with optimism (Cade 1960; Fyfe et al. 1976). Apart from the reports of Hinkley (1900), who noted them as common, however, there are few records for peregrines for this drainage (Dice 1920; Cady et al. 1955). More recently, peregrines have been observed near McGrath (J. McGowan, personal communication) and they are known to occur along tributaries of the lower Kuskokwim (C. White, personal communication).

Between 23 July and 3 August 1976, we traveled along the Kuskokwim River, from McGrath to Aniak, a distance of approximately 460 river km. Thirty-four series of cliffs were mapped and examined for raptor use. Peregrine Falcons, two lone adults and a pair with one recently fledged young, were observed at three of these cliffs, where none had previously been recorded. Besides peregrines, Red-tailed Hawks, *Buteo jamaicensis*, and nesting Rough-legged Hawks, *Buteo lagopus*, were observed and noted to be common near these cliffs.

It is unlikely that the central Kuskokwim River ever supported a large population of Peregrine Falcons. Data from our survey (the time of which reduced opportunities to observe all peregrines, including those whose nesting attempts had already failed), however, suggests the potential for at least a few pairs between the Swift Fork and Aniak (approximately 250 river km). Along this portion of the Kuskokwim,

cliff habitat is similar to peregrine habitat along the upper Yukon River near Circle, Alaska. Cliffs are noticeably limited in size and number on the rest of the river surveyed and probably would support only an occasional pair.

We acknowledge the logistic support of Pete Shephard, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, McGrath, and Sigurd Olson and Hatch Graham, United States Forest Service, Anchorage.

Literature Cited

- Cade, T. J. 1960. The ecology of the peregrine and gyrfalcon populations in Alaska. University of California Zoological Publications 63(3): 151-290.
- Cady, W. M., R. E. Wallace, J. M. Hoare, and E. J. Webber. 1955. The Central Kuskokwim region, Alaska. U.S. Geological Survey, Professional Paper Number 268. 132 pp.
- Dice, R. F. 1920. Notes on some birds of interior Alaska. Condor 22: 176-185.
- Fyfe, R. W., S. A. Temple, and T. J. Cade. 1976. The 1975 North American Peregrine Falcon survey. Canadian Field-Naturalist 90(3): 228-273.
- Hinkley, F. C. 1900. Notes on the animal and vegetable life of the region of the Sushitna and Kuskokwim Rivers. In Explorations in Alaska, 1898. Part VII, 20th Annual Report of the United States Geological Survey to the Secretary of the Interior. pp. 76-85.

Received 25 January 1978

Accepted 8 April 1978



Ritchie, Robert J and Ambrose, Robert E. 1978. "Status of the Peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus*, in the central Kuskokwim River region, Alaska." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 92(3), 293–293. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.346698>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/89184>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.346698>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/346698>

Holding Institution

Harvard University, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Ernst Mayr Library

Sponsored by

Harvard University, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Ernst Mayr Library

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

Rights Holder: Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>

Rights: <https://biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.