

month, and the young birds are flying in about five to six weeks.

Peregrine identification usually should not be a problem. They are mid- to large-sized falcons, with the male much smaller than the female. The immature birds are brown above, while adults are blue-gray. Both adults and immature birds appear heavily streaked below, but adults have a striking white chest and throat. All Peregrines have a distinctive black mustache stripe. At a great distance both sexes usually appear uniformly dark. They have the typical pointed falcon wings but appear chunky. Their flight is distinctive, with shallow and rapid strokes, similar to those of cormorants and Common Loons. They often alternate a burst of wingbeats with short glides. They look entirely different, however, when soaring because their wings are blunt and their tails are widely spread. Soaring Peregrines can be easily confused with Broad-winged Hawks.

Now that the effects of pesticides on Peregrine reproductive success have diminished, Peregrines are more common during fall migration, sweeping across the marshes and dunes of Cape Cod and the offshore islands, to and from their arctic breeding grounds. Once again birders have an opportunity to view this majestic species in wild settings or on the man-made cliffs of our major cities.

W. E. D.

### MEET OUR COVER ARTIST

For the second consecutive issue and fifth overall, Paul Donahue has contributed artwork for *Bird Observer's* cover. Paul is given to peregrinations himself, typically spending several months each year in Peru where he studies canopy birds in Manu Lodge in Manu National Park. In addition to his tropical studies, Paul specializes in studying and painting shorebirds and raptors. After a fall of hawkwatching in South Harpswell, Maine, Paul usually spends the winter in Machias, Maine, to paint birds until returning to Peru in the spring. His address is P.O. Box 554, Machias, ME 04654.

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