

## ANSWERS TO WORD BIRDS - A QUIZ

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Arthur and Margaret Argue

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|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Bobwhite   | 12. King Rail     | 23. Tattler     |
| 2. Cardinal   | 13. Knots         | 24. Siskin      |
| 3. Kittiwake  | 14. Poorwill      | 25. Stilts      |
| 4. Oldsquaw   | 15. Nightjar      | 26. Phoebe      |
| 5. Turnstone  | 16. Kinglet       | 27. Inca Dove   |
| 6. Pintail    | 17. Ovenbird      | 28. Limpkin     |
| 7. Snipe      | 18. Killdeer      | 29. Roller      |
| 8. Shoveler   | 19. Wood Duck     | 30. Redstart    |
| 9. Nutcracker | 20. Ruffed Grouse | 31. Gnatcatcher |
| 10. Spoonbill | 21. Meadowlark    | 32. Ruff        |
| 11. Godwit    | 22. Toucan        | 33. Crane       |

### THE PEREGRINE PROJECT

Somewhere in New England, probably in eastern Massachusetts, there are two, and possibly three, wild peregrine falcons that would not exist except for The Peregrine Project and the Massachusetts Audubon Society.

The first peregrines to grow from downy chicks to free-flying juveniles in eastern Massachusetts within historic times, these young falcons are among the first in a series of planned releases that would restore these magnificent birds in the East. Peregrines, which were the favorite falcons of royalty in the Middle Ages, once bred in all New England states, except possibly Rhode Island.

The best documentation on peregrines for any eastern state is in Massachusetts where Joseph A. Hagar, retired state ornithologist, kept records on the birds which bred in the Connecticut Valley and the Berkshires. At the end of World War II, peregrines seemed more numerous in Massachusetts than they had been for decades, principally because gasoline rationing had limited human interference with the birds. By 1947, the birds began a decline and by 1957, breeding had ceased.

A census in 1964 disclosed that all peregrine falcons east of the Rockies had been extirpated. Later investigation indicated that the birds had been eliminated by hard pesticides which interfered with the female reproductive tract and resulted in thin-shelled eggs that broke during incubation. While naturalists watched the robin for pesticide stresses, the peregrine disappeared almost unnoticed.

The birds released at Lincoln, Mass., were chicks produced by captive peregrines at The Peregrine Project of Cornell University. They were taken to Lincoln June 23, put in a rearing box which Boston Edison had placed on a tripod of utility poles, and fed by persons who tossed food through a slot in the box. The birds were kept from human contact as much as possible.

On July 8 a metal grill which kept the birds safe from predators was removed from the box front. The older male peregrine charged from the box and flew three minutes in a circle, a rapid strong flight for the first attempt. Another male, five days younger, came out of the box and began exercising his wings. His first flight, the next day, resulted in a crash landing a couple hundred yards away. The female, who was one day younger than the older male, remained hidden in the box four days before she flew. Females are larger and heavier than males and therefore require more physical development before flight.

The older male, who always was the more aggressive bird, disappeared on July 22. No one knows whether he was electrocuted on a power transformer, or possibly flew into a barn and could not find the way out, or possibly landed on a chimney and fell down the shaft. All those fates have befallen young peregrines. The possibility that a great horned owl might have gotten him was discounted since he vanished during daylight hours. There is an outside possibility that he flew away to try life on his own.

The other two birds remained in the Lincoln vicinity until at least August 21. They became increasingly wary and more difficult to find.

Wayne Hanley, Massachusetts Audubon Society