

# ELEONORA'S FALCON

## ADAPTATIONS TO PREY AND HABITAT IN A SOCIAL RAPTOR



HARTMUT  
WALTER

Named after a Sardinian princess of the fourteenth century who established laws protecting falcons, Eleonora's falcon is the only European bird to breed in autumn and feed its brood on the mass of birds that migrate from Europe to Africa between July and October. It breeds on small Mediterranean islands in colonies of up to 200 pairs and often hunts in groups, preying on more than 90 species of migrant birds. During the winter, this falcon visits the rain-soaked woodlands of Madagascar.

In this study—illustrated beautifully and extensively with 59 line drawings and 38 photographs—Hartmut Walter shows how the unique geographical and biological situation of *Falco eleonora* makes the species' health an important indicator of environmental decay.

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