

### Summary

The decline of the Peregrine Falcon in the Okanagan Valley region of the southern interior of B. C. has followed two general stages. During the first thirty years of the twentieth century the relatively common Peregrine slowly became rarer, and the once relatively rare Prairie Falcon increased in abundance. Some Peregrines survived into the 1950's in the Valley, and some possibly still breed in remoter parts of the study area. A complex of factors is suggested as having some effect on the Peregrine decline--the factors of major significance are suspected to be climatic changes, and secondarily, specimen and egg collecting.

The second phase of the decline of these falcons seems to have begun in the early 1950's. It was during that decade and the present one that the few remaining Peregrine eyries as well as the relatively numerous Prairies' eyries suddenly became vacated. At present, this writer is unaware of any eyries used by these two species in the Okanagan in 1966. The factor responsible for this recent decline is almost certainly biocide contamination.

Two recommendations are presented: the Peregrine and Prairie Falcons should be given complete protection in the B. C. southern interior; careful and detailed investigations should be attempted in areas slightly to the north of the present study area in efforts to determine exactly what factors are causing the declines when the declines occur in these more removed areas.

It may be of importance also to note that the problems seen in these two falcon species are by no means confined to them alone. In the Okanagan, the Osprey and Bald Eagle were frequently seen birds earlier in this century. The Swainson's Hawk has apparently been reduced considerably in numbers in the last forty years. And the Burrowing Owl and the Sage Thrasher are close to extinction, if not extinct already, in the Okanagan.

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