

Request for Portraits of Peregrines for Field Recognition.
 Field research during the spring and summer of 1968 has strongly suggested to me that the facial features of living adult and immature Peregrines may be used fairly easily to tell individuals apart. My impression is that there may be a few specific markings which can be reliably used to recognize individual Peregrines in the field. There are certainly some individuals who have very peculiar markings, but there is also a general type of facial marking which tends to make many individuals look quite like any other.

Trapping, marking and/or color banding, and releasing individuals offers a good chance of repeated observations and recognition of the birds seen subsequently. Biotelemetry offers an even better possibility. However, these methods involve capturing the birds and the obvious alarm that capturing entails, and, when one is hoping to watch "normal" behaviour, this disturbance creates some difficulties. The least disturbing method would be to simply use the markings already present on the birds--and use a good telescope or binocular to see them.

To try to see if there are, in fact, some facial features which can be reliably used, I am attempting to amass a number of photos of Peregrines, captive or wild, showing particularly the side-view of the head. Views from the front may prove to be equally useful. And even photos of rather distant Peregrines may show useful markings.

It would be very much appreciated if R.R.N. subscribers would send me photos, negatives or slides of Peregrines that show the faces reasonably well. To make these especially useful, please, if possible, include short notes to indicate:

1. Subspecies. (Is it an *anatum*, *pealei*, *tundrius*, or . . .?)
2. Location or origin of the falcon in the photo. If a captive, whose is it or was it (so that future pictures might be gotten of it), e.g., "trapped at Cape Cod, E. U.S.A. coast, Sept. 1, 1948, presumably a tundra migrant," or, "photo of adult at eyrie, Cape St. James, B.C., June 29, 1963." Please be as exact as possible as there very probably are subtle regional differences. There may even be trends toward color changes over the years.
3. Whether birds in various photos are the same ones at the same or later dates. (e.g., "tiercel in photo is 2½ yrs. old; photo 7 is of same tiercel when 5½ yrs. old.") It would be extremely helpful to get several

series of photos of the same birds over a known number of years. This could show whether some markings are fixed for a bird's life--and possibly would allow birds in the wild to be recognized (with fair certainty) many years later.

4. Sex and age of bird if known, and date of photo. Please be as precise as possible. (e.g., if a captive falcon, was the adult in the photo in the middle or last third of its 7th molt? Was the photo taken in early spring?--the bird's first, fifth, ninth spring?)
5. If a captive bird, the length of time in captivity at time of photo. In many photos of captive falcons the beak length seems elongated, probably due to diet. There may be other slight external changes in captives which may not be present in wild falcons. (e.g., was the bird in captivity 1 week, $2\frac{1}{4}$ years?)

I will return the original slides, negatives or photos to you fairly shortly after having copies made here, unless you state that you do not need them returned. Please package slides, negatives, or photos carefully, especially so that they will not be lost or damaged.

From the photos and slides I hope to find some specific facial markings which can be quite safely used to tell one Peregrine from its neighbor in the wild. Hopefully I will be able to try the ideas on wild Peregrines again this spring and summer. I will certainly make any findings from this project known to R.R.N. subscribers through an article in the future, probably with photographs illustrating it, and I will most certainly acknowledge any assistance received.

Many thanks.

R. Wayne Nelson
Department of Biology
University of Calgary
Calgary 44, Alberta, Canada