

PROBLEMS AND STRATEGIES FOR PEREGRINE FALCON IN MAINE

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Problem 1: The abundance and production objectives will not be achieved without active management to maximize productivity and bolster recruitment in this small re-established population.

Strategy 1.1: Continue annual nesting inventories to locate and monitor peregrine eyries. Surveys should document breeding activity, hatching success, net productivity, and site management needs.

Strategy 1.2: Implement habitat management measures at each eyrie to minimize disturbances to breeding peregrines and unfavorable habitat alterations.

Strategy 1.3: Educate existing and potential recreationists (e.g., hikers and rock climbers) at eyries vulnerable to disturbance from such uses.

Strategy 1.4: Evaluate limiting failures at eyries with chronic nesting failures. Low productivity can be enhanced via clutch or brood manipulations whenever appropriate and feasible.

Strategy 1.5: Continue reintroductions of captive-produced young peregrines to augment annual production levels below the target objective. Special funding should be sought for these costs.

Problem 2: Unknown elements of peregrine biology impede comprehensive management, habitat and population modeling, and long-term projections.

Strategy 2.1: Conduct basic research on limiting factors, especially foraging habitat requirements.

Strategy 2.2: Identify suitable nesting habitats in Maine and evaluate statewide carrying capacity. The proximity and quality of foraging sites to eyries is currently lacking.

Strategy 2.3: Document current levels of contaminants in peregrines. Past influences as well as ongoing problems for peregrines in other areas of the region and some species here in Maine warrant baseline studies.

Strategy 2.4: Initiate investigations of movements, survival rates, and recruitment to model Maine's breeding peregrine population.

Peregrine Falcon Problems and Strategies

Problem 3: The traditional rarity of peregrines nesting in this region suggest that long-term security of the species will require integrated management with other states and provinces in the Northeast.

Strategy 3.1: Coordinate research initiatives with parallel efforts in the Northeast for a more complete, efficient assessment of regional populations.

Strategy 3.2: Review current restoration objectives and outline recovery criteria for peregrines as new insights on populations and habitats evolve.

Strategy 3.3: Improve public awareness of the species and its special significance in the environment.