

CLASSROOM STUDIES

The following activities have been designed for use in the classroom. They cover various concepts in the biology and ecology of peregrine falcons, raptors in general, as well as exercise in math, science, geography and writing. They were designed to be adaptable to a broad range of age levels, and many of the activities or follow-up questions can easily be modified to meet specific objectives. Students can use this website, or links provided on this site, to obtain detailed information on peregrine falcons as an aid in completing the activities. Format includes an introduction followed by the activities and a series of follow-up questions.

FALCON RECOVERY IN NORTH AMERICA

Introduction

Breeding populations of peregrine falcons have recovered throughout North America, including here in Connecticut. In fact, the peregrine falcon is no longer listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. However, many states including Connecticut, list the falcon as "endangered" or "threatened" on their state lists.

North American Recovery

Have your students access the following website: <http://endangered.fws.gov/peregrin.html>. Once on the site they should access the following page: "1998 Peregrine Census." This will bring them to a map of North America indicating the number of breeding pairs of falcons by state.

Have your students answer the following:

- How many total pairs of nesting peregrine falcons were there in North America in 1998?
- How many in the U.S.?
- What percentage of nesting pairs in the U.S. were found east of the Mississippi River?
- Which States had no nesting pairs of falcons?
- Have your students create a graph of numbers of nesting pairs in New England by state.
- How many nesting pairs were found in New England?
- Which New England State had the most nesting pairs?
- What natural features of Vermont and New Hampshire appeal to nesting falcons? Why?
- Do you think the numbers of nesting pairs of falcons will grow or decline? Why?
- In 1998 Connecticut had 1 pair of nesting falcons. How many pairs did Connecticut have in 2000?
- Using a blank map of the U.S. have your students color code the information from the 1998 census by the following four classes: (a) states with less than 25 nesting pairs, (b) states with 26-50 nesting pairs, (c) states with 51-100 nesting pairs, and (d) states with greater than 100 nesting pairs. A blank map of the U.S. with outlines of the states can be found at: <http://multimedia2.freac.fsu.edu/fga/maps.html>. Check the listings under "North America."