

# Gyr Falcon

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gyrfalcons and humans have shared a remarkable relationship since prehistoric times these extraordinary arctic falcons have been revered coveted as an item of commerce persecuted and enjoyed as a spectacle of sport for at least ten thousand years today climate change has brought new challenges with habitat in the far north changing rapidly as natural cycles begin to break down drawn from over thirty years of study and observation this in depth study provides a comprehensive view of the gyrfalcon s place in the arctic ecosystem including their inextricable link to their primary pray the ptarmigan and their

antagonistic relationship with golden eagles it explores the connection the bird has had with humanity in both legend and practice and the challenges it faces as its habitat continues to change this definitive look at the gyrfalcon shows us both sides of the majestic bird the master of its domain and a threatened species facing an uncertain future

this book is the definitive guide to the largest and most charismatic species of falcon in the world the gyrfalcon with detailed information on life history characteristics ecology conservation issues and much more the book presents the most accurate up to date and complete view of this spectacular bird ever published drawing on extensive research and travel to every country within the range of the gyrfalcon eugene potapov and richard sale delineate a new map of the bird s range conclude that the gyrfalcon is more adaptable than previously thought and restore the traditional linnean scientific name of the species falco gyrfalco the authors also reveal that gyrfalcons for much of their lives are true stenophagous raptors a rarity not only among raptors but among all birds elegantly illustrated with many photographs and line drawings this is an essential volume for ornithologists ecologists wildlife rehabilitators falconers and all others fascinated by birds of prey

the objective of this report is to provide blm personnel with the latest and most up to date information on rare or endangered species occurring on the public domain page 1

the gyr is the largest fastest and arguably the most beautiful falcon in the world for centuries man has been driven to acquire live specimens from their arctic territory for sport and even as currency this is a study of the species using drawings sketches paintings and photographs the author examines the gyrfalcon s role in natural history its place in literature and its long established use in falconry

this is colin simms third shearsman collection a noted naturalist and expert on birds of prey he collects here his poems on the subject of gyrfalcons magnificent raptor birds that he has studied in britain north america iceland and siberia the book also contains field drawings of the birds

a ten year study began in 1972 in west greenland to investigate the breeding biology of the peregrine falcon data on nesting gyrfalcons were also collected thirty four peregrine nesting sites were examined in the 6050 km<sup>2</sup> inland study area near søndre strømfjord limited research also centered in disko bugt and frederikshåb peregrines were found nesting predominantly on high south facing cliffs which overlooked large areas the mean minimum distance between peregrine eyries was 7.7 km for

the inland area 1972 and 1973 and 55 km for the coast 1974 approximately 60 percent of the inland nesting sites were occupied each year a ten year average production of 1 90 young per occupied site and 2 78 young per successful site was determined lapland longspurs snow buntings wheatears and redpolls comprised 90 percent of the peregrines diet raven nests and prey availability may be the most significant factor affecting falcon density addled peregrine eggs eggshell fragments and peregrine prey species were collected whole eggs averaged 14 3 ppm wet weight 305 ppm lipid weight dde while eggshell measurements showed a 16 percent thinning compared with pre 1940 eggs from greenland prey species carried low levels of dde the peregrine population appears to be at a near critical contamination level and a small increase in dde level could contribute to a population decline no indication of a decline has been observed during the study and the population appears stable the project banded 185 peregrines from which 8 recoveries occurred the recoveries suggest peregrines migrate south to winter in south america

a book for falconers that details the practices and principles of training the gyrfalcon to achieve lofty pitches and hunt wild quarry with great success these two writers have solved and committed to writing the necessary steps to produce a high flying gyrfalcon that is supremely adjusted to life with a falconer

masters thesis results of a study of a population of breeding gyrfalcons *Falco rusticolus* from 1982 to 1986 on the kilgavik study area in the central arctic of the nwt

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