



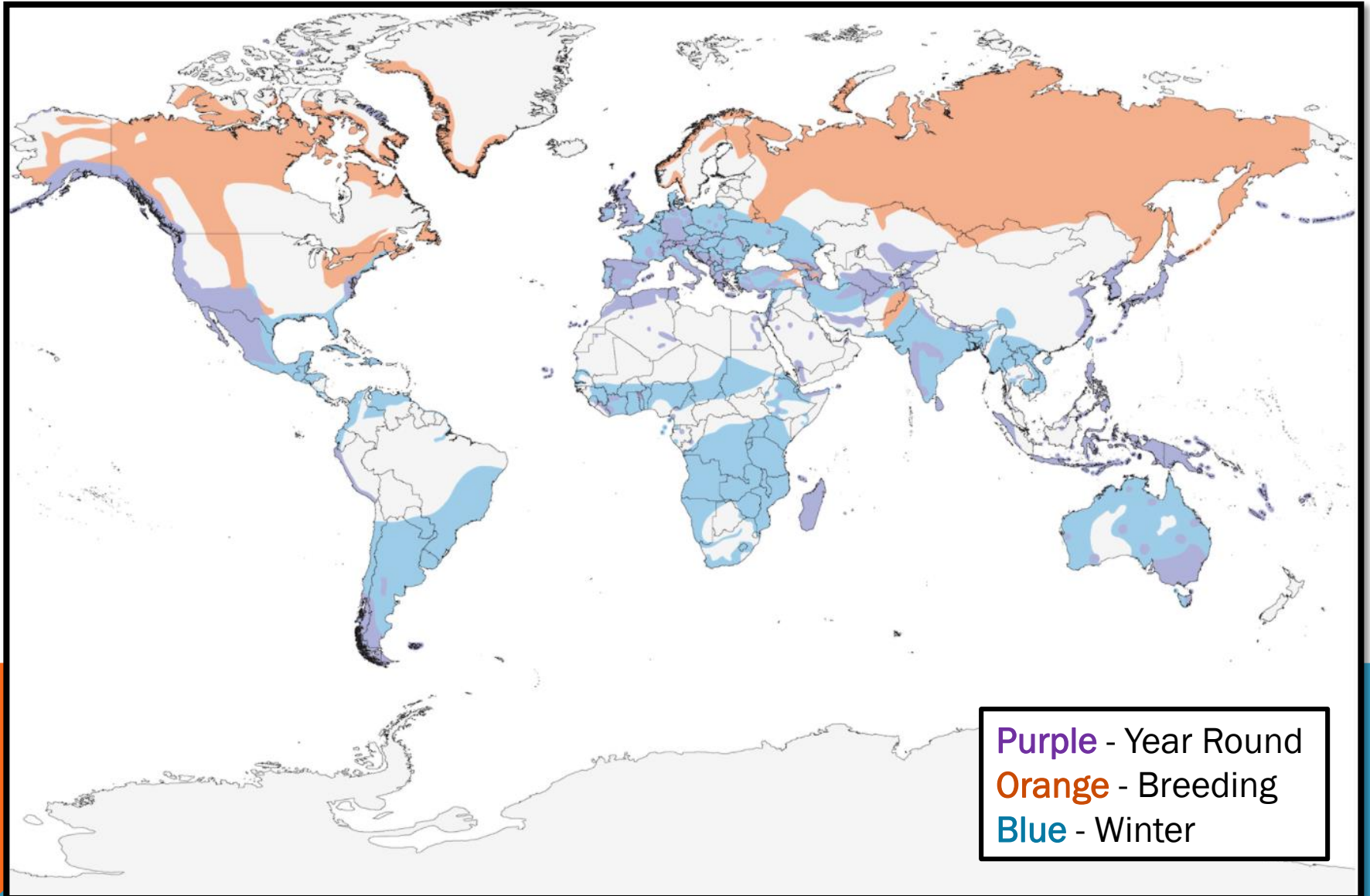
The Peregrine Falcon

**The history of
the fastest
living
animal!**

WHAT IS A PEREGRINE FALCON?

- Peregrine Falcons are a species of falcon found on every continent except Antarctica.
- Peregrine means “To wander”. So Peregrine Falcon means “Wandering Falcon”
- Like Hawks and eagles, falcons are “raptors” or Birds of Prey, which means that they hunt with **sharp beaks, razor sharp talons** and **excellent eyesight**.
- They can reach 240 miles per hour while diving during a hunt!

PEREGRINE FALCON RANGE




LOCAL EXTINCTION

- Before the 1940's, Peregrine Falcons were fairly common in New Jersey.
- Due to pesticides such as **DDT**, many species of hawks and falcons began to disappear from NJ. Eventually, the Peregrine Falcon was ***extirpated** from the state in the late 1950's.
- When **DDT** was banned in 1972, Peregrine falcons were reintroduced into the wild and began breeding again in the 1980's. Their numbers have been increasing ever since.

***Extirpated**- local extinction, but live elsewhere.

***DDT**- harmful pesticide that weakened the eggshells of many birds, causing parents to accidentally crush their eggs.


BEHAVIOR

- Peregrines are one of the **most fearsome raptors in the world**.
 - They are known to attack much larger birds such as Bald Eagles, Osprey and other hawks.
 - When defending a nest, they will charge and attack anything that approaches.
 - Despite that, they are excellent hunters and very dutiful parents, targeting prey such as pigeons, gulls, orioles, cardinals, woodpeckers and sparrows.
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PEREGRINE FALCON (LEFT) ATTACKING A COOPER'S HAWK (RIGHT) AT SANDY HOOK, NJ



WHERE TO FIND THEM

- Peregrine Falcons can be found on coastlines and shores, cliffs, wetlands, cities and even on offshore islands.
 - While hundreds migrate through New Jersey every year, there are **resident populations that live here year-round!**
 - Places like Sandy Hook, Edwin B. Forsythe NWR, Richard W. Dekorte Park, Palisade Interstate Park always have Peregrine Falcons. These places also have active breeding pairs.
 - They can also be found on various bridges, towers and other tall man-made structures.
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EXAMPLES



Adult female under the NJ Turnpike bridge in Lyndhurst, NJ



Adult female on a water tower at Sandy Hook, NJ

PEREGRINE FALCON PAIR IN ELIZABETH, NJ



Jordan Parham

UNION COUNTY FALCON CAM

- The Union County Falcon Camera is the only active falcon camera in the state of New Jersey.
- This camera documents the lives of the Falcons that occupy the Union County courthouse in Elizabeth, New Jersey.
- The current pair have successfully reared 3 broods since 2019.



CURRENT OCCUPANTS



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“Frida”

- Resident female arrived in 2019 after taking over the nest from another female.
- Has laid a total of 12 eggs over the past 3 years
- Successfully reared 11 fledglings.
- Does not like visitors.

CURRENT OCCUPANTS



@Jordan Parham

“Mango”

- Resident male who has occupied the nest since 2016
- Has had 3 known mates - current mate is Frida
- Reared 5 broods since 2016.
- Possibly raised as many as 21 fledglings since 2016.
- Very caring and dutiful father.

<https://ucnj.org/falcon/>

