

RESULTS FROM A BANDING STUDY OF PEREGRINE FALCON CHICKS IN VICTORIA, 1972–1997

W. B. EMISON,^{1,5} V. G. HURLEY,² C. M. WHITE³ and D. J. BRIMM⁴

¹The Peregrine Fund, 5666 Flying Hawk Lane, Boise, Idaho, 83709, USA

²Department of Natural Resources and Environment, 240 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne, Victoria, Australia 3002

³Department of Zoology, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, 84602, USA

⁴2411 Vallecitos, La Jolla, California, 92037, USA

⁵Present address of W. B. Emission: Invertebrate Zoology, Museum of Victoria, P.O. Box 666E, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia 3001

Received: 23 September 1997

Since 1972, 807 Peregrine Falcon chicks have been banded in Victoria and 66 of these have been either recovered or resighted. There was a slight but significant ($P < 0.05$) female-bias in the sex ratios of both the nestlings banded and the subsequent band recoveries. Most (69.7%) recoveries were made more than 4 km from banding (nest) sites. Of the 66 recoveries, 60 were of either dead or injured birds, with the main determinable cause being flying accidents, particularly collisions with vehicles and overhead or fence wires. Females dispersed further, may have settled and bred further from their natal sites, and lived longer than did males. A large portion of the recoveries of banded birds were made within one year of their leaving the nests. Most recoveries of banded birds less than one year old were made within the first six months (December–May) of their leaving the nests, whereas recoveries of those birds which survived the first year were most often made during the four main breeding months of August–November.