

Society for the Protection of Wild Animals “Falcon” from Poland  
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### **ABSTRACTS**

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## Status of the Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) in Romania

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The peregrine falcon suffered a large decline in the 1970s. However in the '80s there were some efforts made to locate the species, the first recent breeding records come from the '90s. Except the search in the '80s, real efforts to find the species were made only starting from 2001. In the last six years we have accomplished three significant surveys aiming the main habitat of the species, however only one of them can be considered complete. During 2001-2007 almost all rocky habitats of the Apuseni Mountains were searched. Out of 57 locations checked 6 were occupied by pairs and breeding at two more is possible. In 2007 a survey has been conducted in Dobrugea, where beside all rocky habitats also many high-voltage power-lines were checked. Only one adult bird was seen, probably not breeding. The most relevant survey has taken place in 2007 in the South-western part of the Carpathians, where we have checked almost all the cliffs appropriate for breeding. A total of 113 observation points were made, spending 90 minutes in March and 150 minutes in April-June on each. A total of 24-27 pairs have been identified, with the highest density in the Aninei Mountains. In 2006 a preliminary study has taken place in the same location, when 11-12 pairs of peregrine falcon were found. From these however in 2007 only 7 were present on the same breeding sites, suggesting that pairs may change quite frequently their breeding site. No comprehensive data do exist on the status of the species from the other parts of the Carpathians. It is clear, however, that in many ranges it is present as a breeding species, as several observations of breeding pairs even with recently fledged juveniles do exist from all over the Southern and Eastern Carpathians. As a conclusion we can affirm, that the Romanian breeding population is much higher than previously thought and it is probably increasing continuously.