

# Peregrine Falcon

Hayabusa

**Scientific name** Falco peregrines

**Classification** Falconiformes, Falconidae

**Distribution** Europe, Asia (including Japan), Africa, Oceania, Americas

**Characteristics** Females are larger than males, but the plumage color is same, a light black back and black-and-white horizontal spots on the abdomen.

**Behavior and ecology** Its flying speed is fastest among birds species, and It can descent by 300 km/hour. When the falcon is hunting, it flies higher than their prey (other bird species), and then rapidly descent in advantage its high speed, kick and catch the prey.

They nest on the cliffs of coastal rocks or mountains, and once a male and a female form the pair for breeding, they spend their life almost without changing the partner each other.

Although the distribution area of this species is wide, but the subspecies distributed in Japan (*Falco peregrines japonicas*) is endangered because the habitat destruction by land development and mining, environmental pollution by using pesticides, so it is protected by The Law for Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

