Falco peregrinus Breeding in Niigata Prefecture

Jack T. Moyer

On July 1st and 2nd, 1952, it was the good fortune of the author to be the guest of Mr. Tamiya Narusawa and the Kamo Biological Association, Kamo City, Niigata Prefecture. The purpose of my visit was to investigate the hawks breeding on the cliffs at Yagi-maye, near Morimachi Village, about fourteen kilometers south-south-east of Kamo City. For many years the hawks have been correctly identified. Mr. Narusawa had reported to Mr. Tatsuo Udagawa, of the Ministry of Forestry and Agriculture in Asakawa, that the birds appeared to be Falco peregrinus, and the information was passed on to the author, who spent considerable time in the United States studying this species.

Two days were spent at the cliff, and in that time it was definitely determined that the residing birds were Falco peregrinus. The author observed four "Hayabusa" in flight at the same time in the early morning of 2 July. Two birds were observed at close range, one of which was clearly an adult. The other appeared to be juvenile, although this could not be definitely determined. Although all the birds seemed to be equally proficient on the wing, the familiar feeding call of young peregrines was heard a number of times throughout the morning and early afternoon of July 2nd.

A small group of pines about 1 1/4 kilometers from the cliff served as a roost and feeding place for at least two of the birds. We watched one of them pluck and eat something which appeared to be a small bird. Mr. Narusawa later climbed to the base of the tree, where he found the head, intestines, and various feathers of the Gre Starling, Sturnia cineracea.
The cliff at Yagimaye is typical peregrine territory. It is a sheer face of rock, spotted with white blotches of tell-tale mutes, and towering 190 meters over the Igarashi River. The surrounding country is made up of many acres of rice paddies where *Sturnia cineracea* and other paddie-feeding birds offer a fine supply of food the falcons.

Niigata Prefecture, as well as the other prefectures near the Japanese Sea, contains many suitable habitats for “Hayarbusa.” Towering cliffs, cut by roaring mountain rivers, are rather numerous in that area, and it is the opinion of the author that *Falco peregrinus* may be a regular, but uncommon, breeder.

I wish to express my extreme gratitude to Mr. Tatsuo Udagawa, Mr. Tamia Narusawa, and all the members of the Kamo Biological Association for bringing “Yagitaka” to my attention, and for making my visit to Niigata Prefecture so pleasant.

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要 約

1952年7月1〜2日新潟県出羽越郡加茂町在住の成沢多美也氏に招かれ同郡春町村
附近の八木前にいう壁に篢植するタカの類で土地の人のヤギタカという鳥を調査するを得た。この鳥は自分の在米中熟知しているハヤブサと同じ物であることをこの時調査により確かめた。7月2日の朝4羽の飛んでいるのを見、その内の2羽をよく観察したが1羽は成鳥、他の1羽は幼鳥らしかった。層から1.25 km離れた松林は少なくとも2羽のハヤブサの喰になっていたが、その内の1羽が小鳥らしいものを喰み食べているのを見た。その後成沢氏が木の下に行ったところムクドリ頭、腸、羽毛の散在しているのを見つけた。八木前の壁はハヤブサの篢植地として代表的の地形を備えている。直立している層は海拔190 mある。附近の土地は広い水田でここに棲息するムクドリその他の鳥はハヤブサにとり十分な餌となる。新潟県その他日本海に面した県にはハヤブサの篢植に適当な場所が多い。深い谷間の一側に屹立した高い層は相当多数見られ、このあたりではハヤブサは規則的なしかし羽数は多くない篢植鳥であろうと考えられる。（T.）