

# Ringed Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* in Gujarat

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On 28 January 2010, while on one of my birding trips to the Rann of Kachchh, I spotted an adult Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* perched; we had been observing one particular adult female Peregrine in this area for the past few seasons. We tried to get a bit closer to check if this was our regular peregrine or a different individual, but as we approached it, it flew out of sight over the horizon. We carried on ahead, scanning the Rann for birds. 15 min., later we spotted the same peregrine on an adult drake Gadwal *Anas strepera* kill, contentedly plucking the already dead duck (Fig. 1). There was no waterbody in this area for at least a kilometer, so we believe that the falcon had taken down the Gadwal in mid-air. Unfortunately, we were not witness to the actual hunt. We were able to get quite close to the raptor, which was unperturbed and busy feeding. As it moved around over the kill, I observed that the falcon had a metal ring on its right tarsus. I managed to get close-up pictures of the falcon, and the ring, from various angles. It read: Ring No: N 3053. NARC, POB 45553, ABU DHABI, UAE (Fig. 2).

I send the pictures to J. Pranay Rao, and Hyder Jaffer from Raptor Conservation Foundation (Andhra Pradesh, India), who in turn forwarded them and details of the ring to Margit Muller, Director of Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital (ADFH) in Abu Dhabi. Dr Muller informed us that this individual was of an unknown origin that they had received in Abu Dhabi. It was ringed and later released in Kazakhstan in May 2009. The bird was in juvenile plumage when released. The 'NARC' on the ring stands for the National Avian Research Centre in Abu Dhabi.

This sighting is one of the most memorable moments in my life. I cherish those moments when I took the pictures of the Peregrine feeding on the duck. We returned to the area many times after the first sighting, and saw the bird several times. Our last sighting was on 10 March 2010.



A close up of the ring

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## Peregrine on Gadwal

### Acknowledgements

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