

- Document Type** : Thesis
- Document Title** : AN ECOLOGICAL STUDY ON HUNTING FALCONS SPECIES AND THEIR PROTECTION IN SAUDI ARABIA
دراسة بيئية على أنواع صقور الصيد وطرق حمايتها في المملكة العربية السعودية
- Document Language** : Arabic
- Abstract** : Four Falcon species are costumed for hunting: Saker Falcon (*Falco cherrug*), Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), Lanner Falcon (*Falco biarmicus*), and Barbary Falcon (*Falco pelegrino* ide). This study has been conducted during the period of October 2001 until December 2003. Field survey and distributing Questionnaire sheets were applied to recognize the geographical distribution of hunting falcons species in Saudi Arabia; to define their natural habitats; their periods of breeding season, migration season, and moulting season. Also to propose methods for their protections in Saudi Arabia. Two migratory falcon species in this study namely Peregrine Falcon, Saker falcon are occurred during autumn migration in many habitats whenever the preys were available. However, their distribution is concentrated along the Red Sea shore. Migration season started from September until December, The peak of autumn migration is in October. The most important results of this study are the following: Two resident falcon species were defined in this study namely Barbary Falcon, Lanner Falcon. Their natural habitats are in mountain sites with rocky cliffs, elevation above 1,000m to 1,500m for Barbary Falcon; and above 700m to 1,000m for Lanner Falcon to selecting site of their Eyrie. They occurred in Wadi with trees and shrubs for Barbary Falcon and open areas for Lanner Falcon around these mountain sites. Moulting season of Primary wing feathers of Saker Falcon, Lanner Falcon, and Barbary Falcon started from March until October. Moulting season of Tail feathers of Saker Falcon and Lanner Falcon start from April until October, while Barbary Falcon start from May until October. Breeding season of Barbary Falcon started from February until May. Results of questionnaire sheets indicate that decreasing number of falcons might be caused by several factors: Many "falcon trappers"; Very expensive value of falcons; and Keeping falcons in captivity for long period. Therefore the problem of decreasing numbers can be solved by joint corporation plan between people in business of falcons and government sections to control this problem.
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