

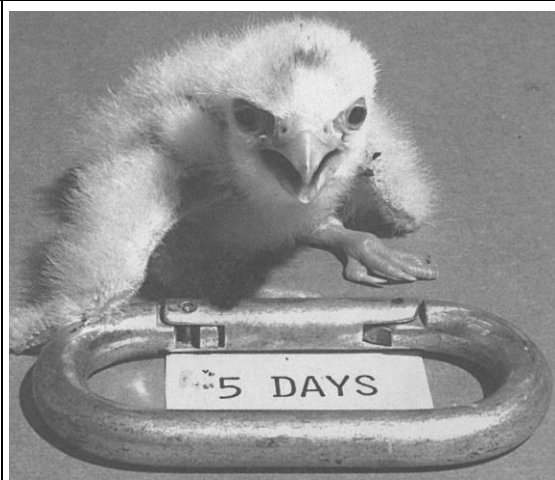
Aging young Peregrines

Excerpts from Clum N, Harrity P & Heck W (1996): Aging young Peregrines. *In* Cade TJ, Enderson JH & Linthicum J: [Guide to management of Peregrine Falcons at the eyrie](#). The Peregrine Fund & Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Research Group.

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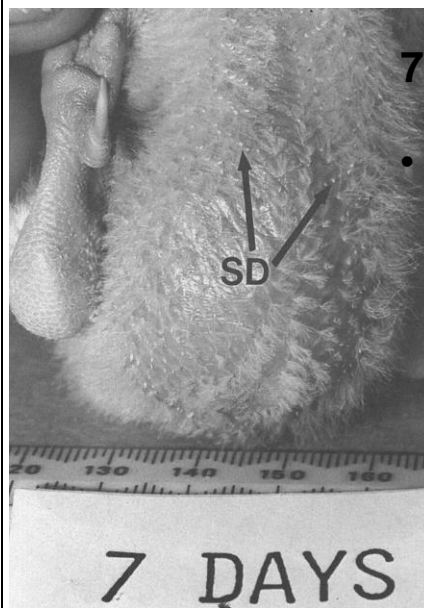
- 1**
- 35-40 g
 - May have wet/matted unfluffy down
 - Eyes closed except when begging
 - Eyes slit-like



- 2**
- 70-80 g
 - Sits w/ relative ease
 - Eyes more round than slit-like
 - Until 5d no sign of Second Down (SD) anywhere

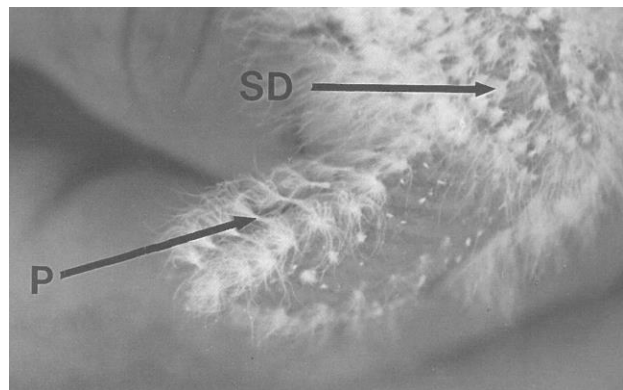


- 6**
- the small white spots = Second Down (SD)
 - SD emerges at day 6-8
 - first (6d) at dorsal side of wing
 - No SD visible at belly



- 7**
- SD begins to emerge at belly and ventral feather tracts and upper surface of legs

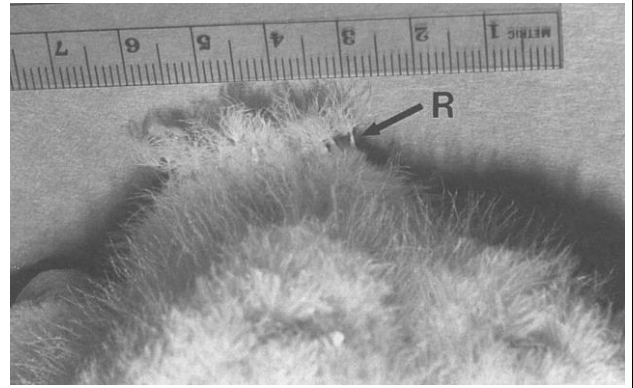
- 8**
- SD begin to emerge along backbone
 - On belly and legs SD uniformly emerged and readily visible



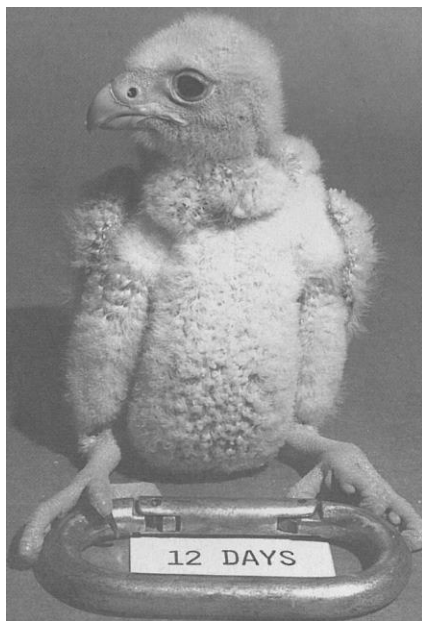
- SD well out on wings
- Sheaths of Primaries (P) just emerged at margins of wings

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- Overall character of SD is more uniform and complete compared to 8d
- Unsplit sheaths of primaries are several mm long
- Sheaths of greater primary coverts have emerged above the primaries, usually by day 9



- Unsplit sheaths of tail feathers (rectrices, R) emerge from margins of tail
- Generally, the outer R is most visible through the down



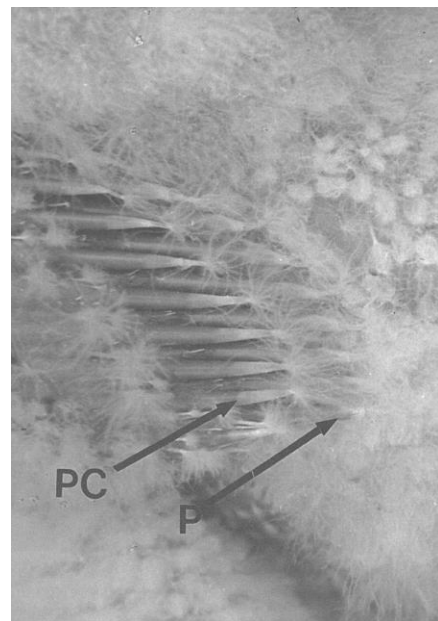
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- SD becoming dense, but individual down feathers still distinguishable
- Ear orifice has become distinct

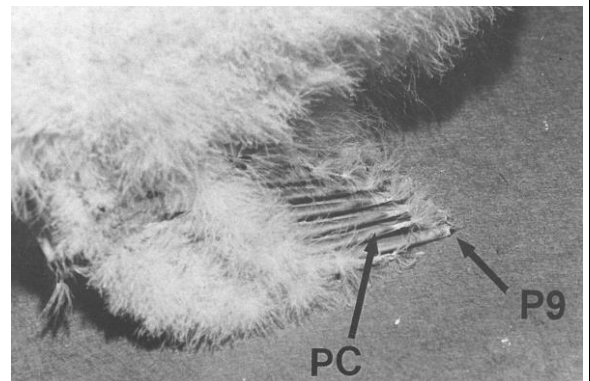
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- Sheaths of Primaries (P) and Primary Coverts (PC) continue to grow by 2-3 mm/day
- Tail sheaths are more visible, but have not yet split



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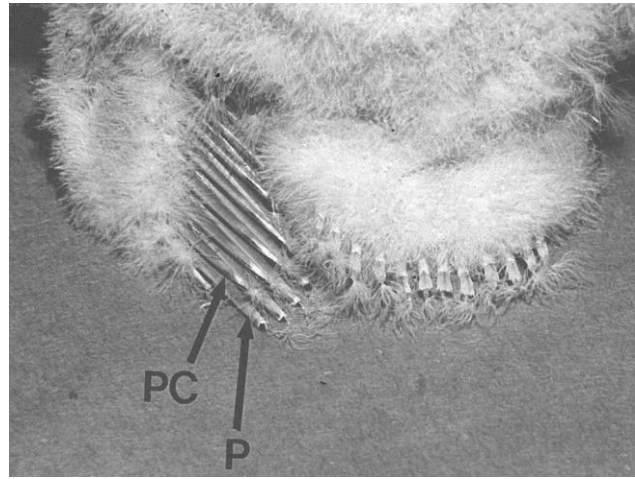
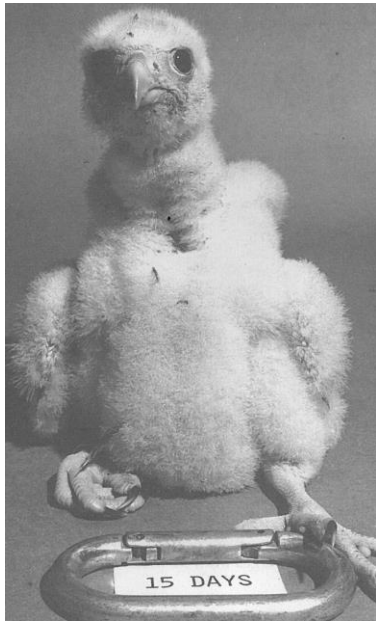
- SD quite long and bases of individual feathers no longer visible
- Tail about 2mm long, and rectrices have started to emerge from sheaths



- 9th primary (P9) usually emerges from sheath at this age
- It is typically, but not always, the first
- NOTE: Between 13d and 21d the emerged portion of **tail** feathers grow 2 mm/day

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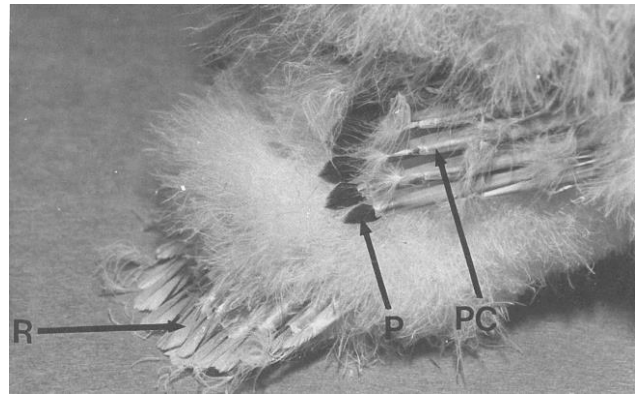
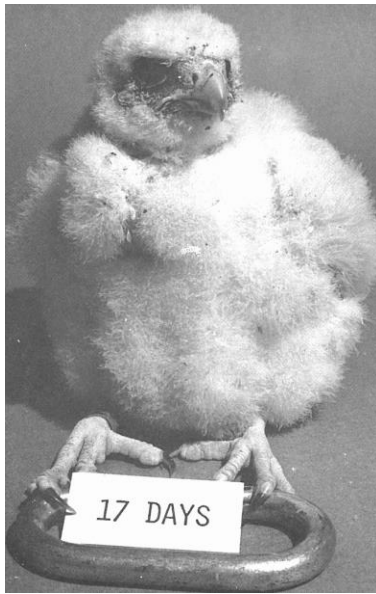
- Sits upright when alerted or to preen, and is quite alert



- All primaries emerged from sheaths
- But greater PC and alula (not shown) feathers still not broken through sheaths

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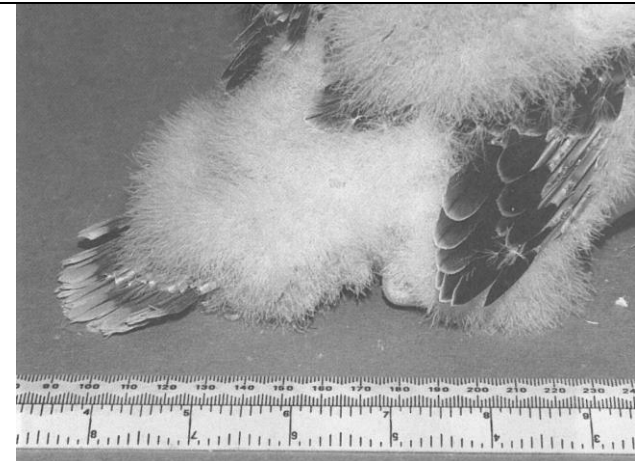
- Contour feathers (still hidden by down) begin to push out the second down, causing it to look less uniform in length
- So the chick has a more fluffy, less matted appearance than at 15d



- Alula feathers (not shown) emerge from their sheaths
- Greater primary coverts (PC) have broken their sheaths (usually at 16d)
- The portion of tail feathers (R) visible is still only the light-colored tips

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- Chick still has a heavy coat of down
- Contour feathers visible only at margin of wings and tail
- And around eyes and base of lower mandible



- Between 13d and 21d the emerged portion of **tail** feathers grow 2 mm/day

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- Chick appears to be about half downy, half feathered
- Face is well feathered,
- But head is still covered w/ down adhering to the tips of the contour feathers

