## Gyrfalcon WebExtra Photo Captions by Kurt Burnham

Seeing a white Gyrfalcon is a dream that may never come true for most birders. Seeing white Gyrfalcons nesting on a glacier-carved cliff is a thrill even fewer birders will have.

A good place see the birds, if you can manage to get there, is the Thule area in northwestern Greenland where all the Gyrfalcons pictured in this mini-gallery were photographed. Kurt Burnham, chief author of the paper summarized in News and Notes, tells *Birding* that 99% of Gyrfalcons in the Thule area are white-morph birds and are likely the whitest in the world.

Burnham's captions explain the photographs, giving us an extraordinary glimpse of the falcons' nesting behavior in a study area near the Thule Air Base, the northernmost base of the U.S. Air Force.

Burnham also provides *Birding* with a photograph of his late father and noted falcon researcher William Burnham working high on a cliff in another study area, Kangerlussuaq, in west-central Greenland.

- Paul Hess



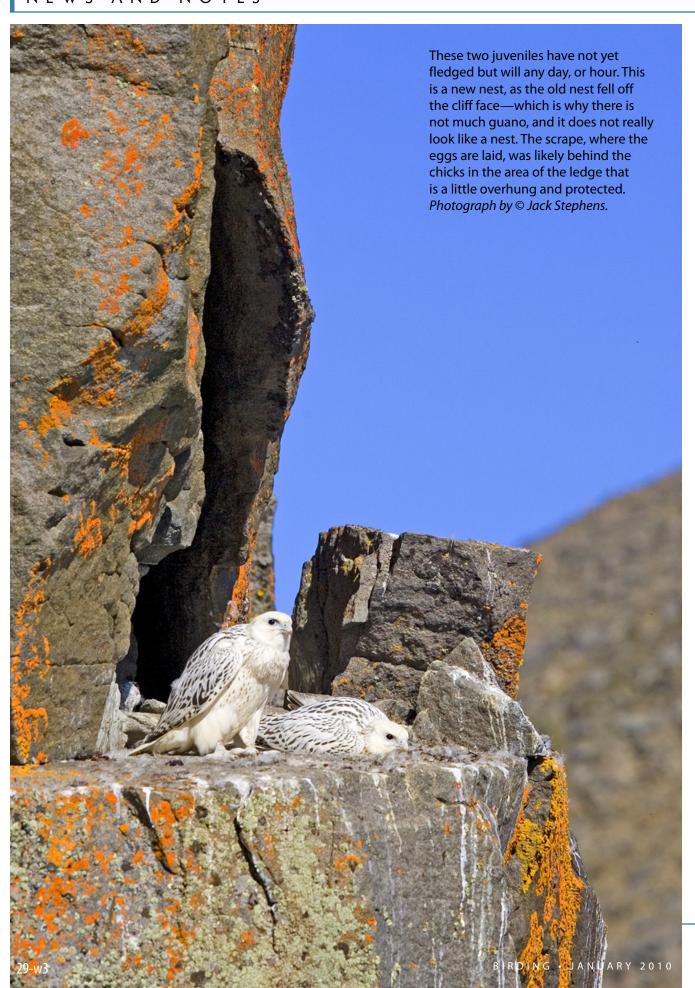
This nest is formerly a Common Raven nest. Notice the old sticks that the ravens used to build it. All the guano and prey remains (including a Dovekie wing near the bottom of the photo) are from the Gyrfalcons, which have likely used the nest for only a few years. The chicks are around 35–40 days old. *Photograph by* © *William Burnham*.

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An adult female feeds her four chicks at a nest site that has been used by Gyrfalcons for an estimated 690–530 years. Photograph by © Jack Stephens.

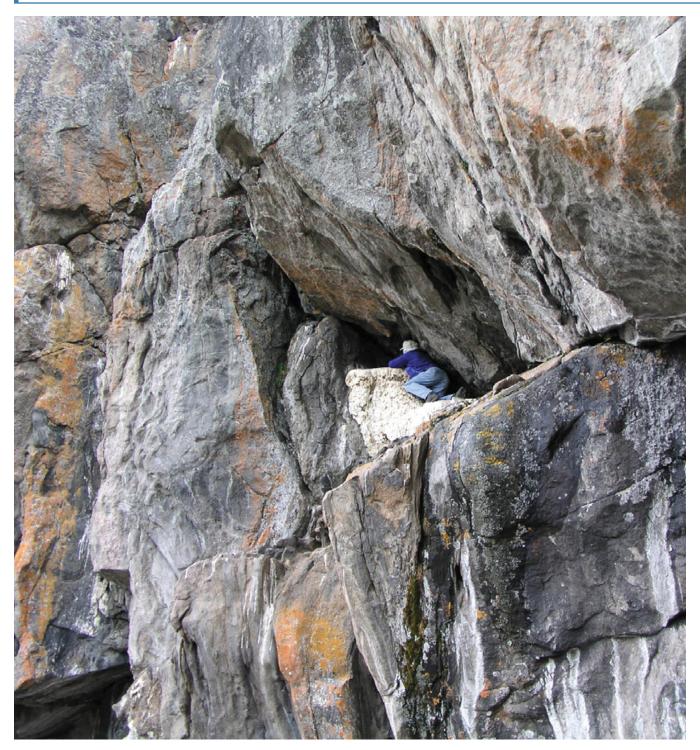
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This juvenile female is exercising her wings and learning how to fly. She has likely been out of the nest for 7–10 days. Photograph by  $\odot$  Jack Stephens.

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