



CONSERVE WILDLIFE
FOUNDATION OF NEW JERSEY

In collaboration with the NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife's Endangered and Nongame Species Program

2012 Peregrine News:

June 26, 2012

We received word from biologists with the NJ Endangered & Nongame Species Program (ENSP) that at least 1 chick has not survived. Building engineers discovered a young peregrine that had hit the building late last week. They confirmed it was one of the newly fledged peregrines from the leg bands. And since only 1 chick has been spotted over the last couple of days, it is most likely that another chick has had an accident and did not survive. Death or injury is an unfortunate reality for these young birds especially in an urban setting. We are hopeful that the remaining chick will survive and will return one day to raise her own family nearby.

June 19, 2012

Well, the chicks have flown the coop! You can catch glimpses of the juveniles and the adults from time to time but for the most part, webcam viewing is winding down. Volunteer nest watchers have witnessed quite a bit of activity around 101 Hudson Street with the adults catching prey and delivering it to the chicks wherever they may be. They also have seen the young practicing their flight skills. You can check out some recent photos [here](#).

June 13, 2012

First Flight? Volunteer nest watchers may have witnessed the first flight of one of the juvenile falcons on Sunday, June 10th. They described the flight as awkward/non-adult. The adult male came in and flew just below the juvenile falcon, and the size difference indicated the "flappy" falcon was female! The flight was brief, and both birds flew back over 101 Hudson. It may have been unintentional but the female, nonetheless, is flying. Have you witnessed the fledging of the chicks? Share your observations on our [Facebook page](#).

June 5, 2012

The chicks are more than 1 month old now and they are moving! Their brown flight feathers and body feathers are becoming more prominent. They are also a lot more curious about the world around them. They are moving in and out of the box a lot and are beginning to exercise their wing muscles, gearing up for their first flight. The adults still watch closely and offer regular visits.

The Star Ledger's videographer Andre Malok attended banding day and did a short video. Check it out [here](#).

May 30, 2012

Zoologist Kathy Clark of the [Endangered & Nongame Species Program](#), along with others from the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife and the CWF converged on 101 Hudson to band the three nestlings on May 24th. At 21 days, they were a good age and size for banding, their legs full grown but still young enough to be handled easily. The challenge, as always, was the short trek to the nest box to bring them inside. While the tiercel, or male peregrine, remained perched just feet from us on the parapet wall, the female flew continuously. Fortunately she was put off by the umbrella over our heads and no people or falcons were harmed in the process.

The nestlings had a great check-up. Of the three, one is female and two are males. They were banded with bicolor black-over-green bands on the left leg, with the codes 29/AN on the female, and 17/AM and 18/AM on the males. (See Volunteer Mike Girone's [photos on Flickr](#).)

After banding, we opened the door with the box of chicks in hand to return to the nest, only to find a rainy downpour complete with thunder and lightning. We waited a few minutes and were able to quickly return the nestlings back to their home in just a light rain.

As planned, we changed the camera feeds so that the streaming video is from the outside camera that is mounted on the building's wall, approximately 15 feet from the nest box. The view from the small camera mounted inside the nest box is available [here](#). It refreshes every 3 minutes. With the outside camera now streaming (thanks to E J Grassmann Trust), we have control over the view and will be able to zoom and pan around to see the action as it develops in the next few weeks.

May 22, 2012

The chicks are getting big! They are increasingly more active in the nestbox and seem to lunge at the adults when they bring food back to the box.

Their flight feathers are starting to emerge from the feather sheaths, but this is hard to see with the video feed. In the next week, their feathers will start to show in their faces and move slowly across their bodies.

Biologists will be visiting the nestbox on Thursday to band the chicks and give them a check-up. Tune in around 10 am and you may catch a glimpse of them. We will give you an update once the banding is complete.

May 17, 2012

Things are looking good for the Jersey City peregrine chicks. Mild temperatures and growing chicks equal parents spending more time outside the nestbox. The chicks remain huddled together most of the time but that will change quickly too. The adults are never far away though - they can be seen perching outside the box from the still images found [here](#).

May 9, 2012



At about 9:30 this morning, biologists from the NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife visited the nestbox. They took the chicks and administered medicine to prevent a disease, trichomoniasis (a pigeon-borne disease), and collected the 2 eggs that did not hatch. The eggs will be analyzed to try and discover the reasons that they did not hatch. (*Special thanks to Atlantic County teacher and faithful PeregrineCam watcher Barbara Rheault and her 5th graders for alerting CWF of the commotion at the nestbox! We will answer your questions in another post shortly!*)

Faithful watchers will notice that the videopicture has changed and is greatly improved. Thank you to the EJ Grassmann Trust for your generous donation to purchase a new videocamera! We appreciate your support!

May 7, 2012

Faithful peregrinecam monitor Mike Girone reports that on Saturday morning he glimpsed a third chick. We'll watch closely today to see if either of the remaining two eggs hatch, though at this point the likelihood of that is diminishing. Faithful peregrinecam watchers will be rewarded during feeding sessions, catching glimpses of the chicks. At all other times, the adults will cover the chicks to keep them warm.

May 3, 2012

We've got confirmation that one chick hatched early this morning and another hatched sometime before noon. With 5 eggs, incubation is more difficult. And of course there will be more mouths to feed should all 5 eggs hatch. It will be very interesting to see how this season continues.

Have you seen the adults feed the young yet? Join the conversation on [our Facebook page](#).

April 18, 2012

We have been watching the peregrinecam patiently and frequently in the hopes of catching a quick glimpse of the eggs as the adults switch up the incubation duties. Today, at about 3pm, we were rewarded with a glimpse of the 5 eggs and we watched one of the adults walk carefully around the eggs. We noticed one of the adults turning the eggs, so that they develop evenly. Within a minute or 2 though, the adults were quietly sitting on the eggs again.

April 2, 2012

Incubation of 5 eggs! On March 30th, NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife staff paid a visit to 101 Hudson Street. Upon visiting the roof they witnessed 5 eggs! While 3 to 4 eggs is typical, five eggs has been documented at other nesting sites. It is thought that older birds are more prone to laying five, and so, this may indicate the female is nearing the end of her productive years. Whether all five hatch with healthy chicks, and how many successfully fledge, will be very interesting for all of us to observe. Incubation is typically about a month in duration, so we can expect hatching to begin around April 30. Stay tuned!

March 28, 2012

A fourth egg was spotted yesterday afternoon! This will most likely complete the clutch of eggs and incubation has begun. Incubation lasts 32-33 days and so hatching should occur sometime around April 28th.

March 27, 2012

The Live video feed begins! The female has laid 3 eggs (with the 3rd egg laid on Sunday, the 25th) and it looks like she has started to incubate. Will a 4th egg be laid? Stay tuned to find out!

March 21, 2012



The peregrine falcon nesting season has begun! When biologists and technical staff visited 101 Hudson street yesterday, they were surprised to find that an egg had already been laid. This is the earliest that we have documented this event but with the mild, snow-free winter we had, it is not surprising. The peregrines nesting in Atlantic City have been incubating eggs for more than a week now.

Peregrine females generally lay an egg every other day so expect another egg anytime now. They don't start incubating eggs until the last egg is laid so all eggs develop together and hatch together (this is called synchronous hatching). We can compare this to bald eagles who start incubating immediately upon laying the first egg and thus the eggs hatch asynchronously, a couple of days apart.