

# History of Peregrine Falcon Nests near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

23 February 2023



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[www.birdsoutsidemymywindow.org](http://www.birdsoutsidemymywindow.org)

*With data from:*

Pennsylvania Game Commission  
and  
Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

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[The National Aviary Peregrine Falcon Cam](http://TheNationalAviaryPeregrineFalconCam)

photo by Steve Gosser, Tarentum Bridge 2012

*Notations:* Birds are listed as “Name (sex, year of birth – year of death).” The volunteer observers most invested in a particular nest site are given the honor of naming “their” birds. Names are given at banding or by nest watchers.

*Caution:* Readers of this document will note that much of the information on offspring concerns mortality. This is because most bands are read when a bird is recovered when found injured or dead.

## **Pittsburgh Area Territories:**

Current and Historical Sites as of February 2023:

1. Downtown Pittsburgh (one pair, various nest locations, active, 2 fledglings in 2022)
2. University of Pittsburgh Cathedral of Learning (active, 3 fledglings in 2022)
3. Monaca-East-Rochester / Beaver RR Bridge, Ohio River, Beaver County (active, 3 in 2022)
4. Ambridge Aliquippa Bridge, Ohio River, Beaver County (pair in 2022)
5. Sewickley Bridge, Ohio River, Allegheny County (pair in 2022)
6. UNUSED: Neville Island I-79 Bridge, Ohio River, Allegheny County (construction)
7. Eckert St / McKees Rocks, Ohio River, Allegheny County (active, 4 fledglings 2022)
8. Westinghouse Bridge, Turtle Creek, Allegheny County (active, 2 in 2022)
9. Clairton Coke Works, Monongahela River, Allegheny County (active, 3 chicks in 2022)
10. 62nd St/Highland Park Bridge, Allegheny River, Allegheny County (active, 1 in 2022)
11. Tarentum Bridge, Allegheny River, Allegheny & Westmoreland Counties (active, 3 in 2022)
12. Graff Bridge, Route 422 Kittanning, Allegheny River, Armstrong County (pair, no news)
13. Speers/Belle Vernon RR Bridge, Monongahela River, Washington County (pair, no news)
14. UNUSED: Elizabeth Bridge, Monongahela River, Allegheny County (permanently blocked)

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### **(#1) Downtown Pittsburgh**

#### **Gulf Tower, 1991 – 2011, then 2014, 2017**

##### ***Background***

Peregrines were first seen in downtown Pittsburgh in the winter of 1989 – 1990 by Charles Bier and Steve Branca. In early 1991, with PA Game Commission approval, nest boxes containing gravel substrate were installed at the Gulf Tower by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC) to provide a suitable breeding site. One box was placed on the south face of the building, the other on the north. The birds successfully nested that spring (1991). Over the years the birds used both nest boxes but preferred the north box facing the Allegheny River. The south nest box was removed when it deteriorated.

In Spring 2012 the peregrine pair chose the Third Avenue site because of disturbance on the Gulf Tower roof during the Winter of 2011-2012.

They returned to the Gulf Tower in 2014 and 2017.

#### **Third Avenue, 2012, 2013, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022**

In 2012 the Gulf Tower peregrines chose an inaccessible nest site facing Third Avenue on the 12<sup>th</sup> floor at the back of a building. They left the Gulf Tower apparently because workmen were frequently on the roof installing a lighting array in Winter 2011-2012. The nest cannot be seen from the ground; there is no webcam. Chicks hatched at this site are not banded.

#### **Macy's Annex, 2015**

In 2015 the Gulf Tower peregrines chose a 9<sup>th</sup> floor balcony at Macy's Annex. The nest was inaccessible for banding purposes though viewable from inside the Frick Building across the alley. Macy's was extensively renovated; unusable for nesting.

### **Downtown / Gulf Tower: Breeding Pairs**

#### **1991 – 1997: Boris and Natasha**

Boris (male, 1989-2003): released (hacked) in northeastern Tennessee in June 1989 as part of the peregrine falcon recovery program.

Natasha (female, 1989-1997): released (hacked) in the Shenandoah Mountains on the Virginia-West Virginia border in June 1989 as part of the peregrine recovery program.

Boris and Natasha fledged a total of 19 young.

#### **1998 - 2002: Boris & Tasha**

Tasha (female, approximately 1996 – 2010): un-banded, given PA bands after nesting. (Black/red \*6/7)

*Arrival of Tasha:* A new un-banded female was observed at the nest during the 1998 nesting season. She was banded that spring when her chicks were banded and later nicknamed Tasha.

Boris and Tasha fledged a total of 20 young.

#### **2003 - 2010: Louie & Tasha**

Louie (male, 2002 – present): Hatched at University of Pittsburgh, 2002. (Black/green \*4/\*E)

*Arrival of Louie:* Birds of prey fight for territorial domination and sometimes kill their rivals during these encounters. In early March 2003 Tasha had laid a few eggs when a rival female arrived. The rival laid eggs in the same nest box and the two females disappeared, apparently to fight for the territory. While Boris was left incubating 6 eggs, a younger male peregrine arrived and they fought for the site. Boris lost the fight and on 11 April 2003 his beheaded body was found on the nest box gravel, visible in the falcon camera.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) collected Boris' body and later removed the abandoned eggs from the nest box. Within a week two peregrines courted at the site and the female laid 4 eggs. When the dust cleared we discovered the pair was Louie and Tasha. Louie is one of the first offspring of the original peregrine pair at the University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning, hatched in 2002 by Dorothy and Erie (see below).

Louie and Tasha fledged a total of 24 young.

#### **2010 - 2019: Louie & Dori at 3 sites: Gulf Tower, Third Avenue, Macy's Annex**

Dori (female, 2010 – present): Hatched at Landmark Building, Akron, Ohio in 2007 named Mary Cleo at banding. (Black/green M/93)

*Arrival of Dori:* Tasha had laid two eggs by 19 March 2010 when a rival female showed up. Observers could hear loud peregrine warning calls on the webcam on the night of 19-20 March though the rival was not seen on camera. At dawn on 20 March, Tasha left the nest to challenge her rival. By 5:45pm Dori had won the site. Tasha was never seen again. Dori began laying her 3 eggs on 2 April in the same scrape as Tasha's eggs. All 5 eggs hatched.

Louie and Dori fledged 39 young as of July 2019 (number in 2012 is counted as 'one' but is uncertain).

Louie found dead on 27 June 2019 at age 17. In total, Louie's fledged 63 young peregrines.

#### **2020: unknown male + Dori: Third Avenue**

Unidentified (male, 2020): due to COVID-19 shutdown, no photos / ID on new male bird.

3 young fledged in 2020

#### **2021,2022: Terzo + Dori: Third Avenue**

Terzo (male, 2021): Formerly nested at Cathedral of Learning where his last successful nest was in 2019. Hatched at PNC 4<sup>th</sup> & Vine Tower, Cincinnati, Ohio, 2013. (Black/Red N/29). Was Terzo the unidentified male in 2020?

### ***Downtown/Gulf Tower Offspring Histories: 1991-2011 at Gulf Tower***

1991: 4 Chicks

July 15, 1991 – 2 of the fledglings (a male and female) perished as they simultaneously crashed into glass on a Gateway Center building;

“Pop” (male, 1991-2000) - Nested in Detroit, 1992-1999.

1992: 3 Chicks

(female, 1992 - unknown) - Dan Brauning (PGC) told WPC that a 1992 female from the Gulf Tower was seen in Burlington, VT; no further information.

1993: 2 Chicks

“H” (female, 1993 - present) - Nested in Detroit in 1994-1999. Primaries damaged. Became an educational bird at Detroit Zoo in 1999 or 2000.

(male, 1993): Died 10 Aug 1993

1994: 2 Chicks

1995: 4 Chicks

(male, 1995) - Broke his wing while fledging, died July 1995

1996: 3 Chicks

(male, 1996 - unknown) - Paired in Elyria, OH in 1997. No nest.

1997: 1 Chick

1998: 4 Chicks

(female, 1998 - unknown) - Nested at Bohn Building, Cleveland OH in 1999

1999: 4 Chicks

SW (female, 1999 - present) - Nested at LTV Steel in 2001 with younger brother \*W/C. Moved to Cleveland's Terminal Tower in 2002. Lays eggs earlier than other peregrines (like her mother Tasha).

(female, 1999): Dead in Toronto in 2001.

2000: 4 Chicks

(female, 2000-deceased) - Nested at Canada Trust Building, London, Ontario starting March 2001. Fledged 4 young in 2005, per 7 June 2005 e-mail from Dan Brauning, PGC.

(male, 2000-2002) - Nested at LTV Steel in Cleveland with sister in 2001. Found dead at Eastlake Power, Cleveland OH, Oct 2002.

2001: 4 Chicks

(female, 2001 - unknown) - Observed in Toronto in June 2002. Nested at Niagara Falls in 2003, produced 2 young. No positive ID since 2003.

2002: 4 Chicks

Telemetry (male, 2002-2004) - Bird tracked with satellite telemetry. Found dead in Pittsburgh's Strip District in Feb 2004, apparently from severe impact trauma. Telemetry data showed him earlier in NJ and vicinity of NYC.

(male, 2002 - present) - Nested at Lakeview Generating Station in Mississauga, ON. Moved to Toronto high-rise condo in 2005. Found badly injured in Etobicoke in May 2009.

(female, 2002 - unknown) - Bird tracked with satellite telemetry. Last report before the telemetry unit battery failed was from south Philadelphia, 2003.

2003: 4 Chicks

Pittstop (female, 2003 - present) - Injured July 2003, not releasable. Educational bird at Medina Raptor Center, Spencer, Ohio.

Telemetry (female, 2003 - unknown) – Tracked by satellite telemetry. The last report from this bird was in Cleveland in November 2003.

2004: 4 Chicks

(female, 2004 - unknown) – Injured in October 2004, not releasable. Lives at Zoo America in Hershey, PA.

2005: 3 Chicks out of 5 eggs

E2 (male, 2005 - present) – In spring 2008 began nesting at University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning.

2006: 5 Chicks

Pittsburgh Pete (male, 2006 - present) – Nested at Burlington Lift Bridge, Burlington, Ontario in 2008. Severely injured by a rival, June 2008. Rehabilitated by Judy Bailey, Hamilton, ON. Was an educational bird at Mountsberg Raptor Centre, ON until his death in Jan 2012.  
(female, 2006 - unknown) – Found with broken wing in Follansbee, WV, June 2009. Lives at Elmwood Park Zoo, Norristown, PA since October 2009.

2007: 4 Chicks

(male, 2007) Found injured in Clairton, PA 14 November 2007. Died that night of injuries.

2008: 2 Chicks out of 4 eggs

2009: 2 Chicks out of 5 eggs

Yellow (female, 2009) rescued from ground at Federal Building, 10 June 2009

2010: 5 Chicks. 2 eggs by Tasha, 3 eggs by Dori.

Blue (female, 2010) Died after hitting the Grant Building, Pittsburgh, 13 July 2010.

White (female, 2010) Injured Jun 24, 2010. Rehabbed and release, late July 2010.

2011: 5 Chicks.

(female, 2011) Injured at Macy's, downtown Pittsburgh, rehabbed, released Aug 2011.

**After 2011, the nest moved year to year. Various sites Downtown.**

2012: **Third Avenue:** 1 Chick seen. 4 eggs laid.

The chick(s) were not banded. 1 chick photographed on the Grant Building, July 2012.

2013: **Third Avenue:** 4 Chicks, unbanded, sex unknown, at least one male and one female.

1 male landed on truck roof, was driven to National Aviary, rescued & released at Lawrence Hall 19<sup>th</sup> floor across from nest, 30 May 2013

1 female landed on ground, rescued & released at Lawrence Hall, 30 May 2013

1 (unknown sex) grounded, rescued, released at Lawrence Hall, 31 May 2013

(female, 2013) Found dead on Grant St, 7 June 2013

2014: **Gulf Tower:** 5 Chicks banded on 5/20/2014

(male, 2014) seen at New Martinsville, West Virginia EMS site, 1/23/15

2015: **Macy's Annex:** 3 Chicks: 2 males, 1 female

The chick(s) were not banded because the site was inaccessible.

2016: **Third Avenue:** 4 chicks, unbanded, sex unknown.

1 chick landed on Wood Street, was rescued and & released at Lawrence Hall 19<sup>th</sup> floor, 7 June 2016

1 chick found emaciated with infected broken leg on 23 June 2016 was examined and euthanized.

2017: **Gulf Tower:** 3 Chicks:

3 females banded on 5/16/2017

(female) Rescued from street post-fledging on 6/1/2017

2018: **Third Avenue:** 4 chicks removed from nest via SPECIAL TAKINGS PERMIT, banded, 2 males, 2 females

2 females died in captive-rearing facility

2 males fostered at Susquehanna River cliffs, 29 May 2018

2019: **Third Avenue:** 5 chicks, unbanded, sex unknown.

All 5 chicks were rescued from on-the-ground locations during fledging period, 8-12 June 2019.

2020: **Third Avenue:** at least 3 chicks, unbanded, sex unknown.

The COVID-19 shutdown reduced ability to observe this site.

1 fledgling found dead by Point Park Univ Police

2 live fledglings seen Downtown.

2021: **Third Avenue:** 3 chicks unbanded, sex unknown.

1 fledgling rescued to Lawrence Hall Rescue Porch.

2022: **Third Avenue:** 2 chicks fledged, unbanded, sex unknown

## **(#2) University of Pittsburgh, Cathedral of Learning**

### ***Background***

Peregrines first nested at the University of Pittsburgh in 2002. In the 1990s the Pennsylvania Game Commission worked with the National Aviary and the University of Pittsburgh to place a peregrine nest box on the Cathedral of Learning but it was never used and was subsequently removed. Adult peregrines were seen occasionally between 1998-2000 and a peregrine chick thought to have fledged in Oakland was injured, rehabilitated and released nearby but no peregrines took up residence at the building. Then in January 2001 Kate St. John noticed a pair of peregrines in courtship flight and monitored other behaviors consistent with nesting. Although no nest was found, Kate brought together the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, the University of the Pittsburgh and the PA Game Commission to install a nest box in February 2002.

### ***Cathedral of Learning: Breeding Pairs***

#### **2002 – 2007: Erie & Dorothy**

Erie (male, 1998 - 2007) - Hatched 1998 at the Rhodes State Office Tower in Columbus, OH. (Black/red \*T/W)

Dorothy (female, 1999 - present) - Hatched 1999 at the Firstar Center in Milwaukee, WI. (Black/green 5/\*A)  
On 11 March 2007 Erie fought and killed Pulse, an invading male hatched in Cleveland in 2004.  
Erie and Dorothy fledged a total of 22 young.

#### **2008 – 2015: E2 & Dorothy**

E2 (male, 2005 – present): Hatched at Pittsburgh's Gulf Tower in 2005. (Black/green \*5/\*4)

*Arrival of E2:* As of October 2007, Erie was no longer seen at the Cathedral of Learning. Dorothy appeared to be alone for a month. Then in November 2007 a male peregrine began courting her with behavior that suggested he was new to the site. The new male was identified using webcam images when he nested with Dorothy in spring 2008. He is the second Erie (actually Erie's grandson) and was nicknamed E2.

Dorothy and E2 fledged a total of 21 young.

Dorothy disappeared in Nov 2015 at age 16.5. All told, Dorothy fledged 43 young.

#### **2015 (November) to 2016 (March 15): E2 & Hope**

E2 (male, 2005 – 15 March 2016): (Black/green \*5/\*4). [E2 died 15 March 2016, apparently hit by a car.](#)

Hope (female, 2015 – present): Hatched at the Benjamin Harrison Bridge, Hopewell, VA in 2008 and hatched in the Shenandoah Mountains. (Black/green 69/Z) Nested at Tarentum Bridge before arrival at Pitt.

*Arrival of Hope:* Dorothy was last seen at the Cathedral of Learning in early November 2015. On November 30, 2015 we saw intensive courtship at the nest on the webcam. The new female was identified using webcam images. Black/Green 69/Z.

#### **2016 - 2019: Terzo & Hope**

Terzo (male, 2016 - 2020): Hatched at PNC 4<sup>th</sup> & Vine Tower, Cincinnati, Ohio, 2013. (Black/Red N/29)

*Arrival of Terzo:* E2 was last seen on the Cathedral of Learning camera at 12:37pm 15 March 2016; he died that afternoon. Terzo was first heard on camera after sunset on 23 March.

Hope killed and ate 7 of the 17 chicks she produced at Pitt.

Hope & Terzo fledged 8 young as of July 2019.

#### **2020: Terzo, Ecco & Morela**

Morela (female, late 2019 - present): Unbanded female named Morela for her apricot-colored chest (morela is Polish for apricot)

Ecco (male, 2020 - present): Unbanded male named Ecco because he kept showing up..

*Arrival of Morela:* Morela arrived in September 2019 and convinced Hope to leave the territory. Terzo remained on site and courted with Morela.

*Arrival of Ecco:* In February 2020 a second male appeared on site. Terzo never completely chased away this 1-year-old unbanded male. Both males courted Morela. She laid 2 eggs in early May. Neither male assisted with incubation. The nest failed. No young.

#### 2021, 2022: Ecco & Morela

Ecco chased away Terzo in January 2021. Nest successful in 2021, 2022.

### ***Cathedral of Learning Offspring Histories***

2002: 4 Chicks

Louie (male, 2002 - present) - Nests at the Gulf Tower in Pittsburgh since 2003.

2003: 4 Chicks

Stammy (male, 2003 - present) - Nested in Youngstown Ohio, beginning 2005.

Hathor (female, 2003 - present) - Nests at the Macomb County Building in Mt. Clemens, MI, since 2005.

Belle (female, 2003 - 2014) - Nested on the bell tower at the University of Toledo. Her 2014 daughter (sole offspring that year) nests at St.Mary's, Ontario beginning in 2017.

2004: 4 Chicks

Maddy (female, 2004 - present) - Nested at I-480 bridge, Valley View, Cleveland since 2007.

2005: 3 Chicks out of 4 eggs

Crash (male, 2005 - unknown) - Hit by car on 18 June 2005. Rehabbed by a falconer. Flew away on his own 01 Feb 2006.

(female, 2005 - unknown) - Seen in West Mifflin, PA on 09 August 2006, on a picnic table.

2006: 3 Chicks out of 4 eggs

no news

2007: 4 Chicks

(female, 2007) – Found dead near Amherstburg, Ontario, January 2008. Probably hit by a car.

Beauty (female, 2007 - present) - Nests in Rochester, NY since 2009.

Rufus (male, 2007) Nests in Warren, OH at water tower since 2010.

2008: 3 Chicks out of 4 eggs

Sky (male, 2008) – Died 24 June 2008 when hit window on the Rand Building, Fifth Ave.

(male, 2008) – Paired with female at Tarentum Bridge in Spring 2010. Not present in 2011.

2009: 4 Chicks

Green (female, 2009) – Found dead inside Webster Hall chimney on Fifth Ave, 15 October 2009.

Yellow (female, 2009) – Nests at Killen Power Station, Wrightsville, Ohio as of spring 2011.

2010: 5 Chicks

Green Boy (male, 2010) – Found dead inside Webster Hall chimney on 24 June 2010. Discovered because, Yellow, the female sibling trapped with him, made noise.

Yellow (female, 2010) - Trapped in Webster Hall chimney, rehabilitated and released. Later found dead on 8 August 2010, apparently crashed into a building at Allegheny Center, Pittsburgh.

2011: 5 Chicks hatched, 1 died in the nest within a week of hatching

Yellow (female, 2011) -- Hit window at SEI and died immediately, 4 July 2011

Henry (male, 2011) – Hit window at SEI on 6 July. Stunned but flew home. Was fed by his parents for several weeks until he recovered. Because he begged loudly, observers knew he was still in Lawrenceville (north of nest) in Sept 2011. As of May 2012 Henry is on territory at Tower East, Shaker Heights, Ohio.

Blue (female, 2011) – Attempted to nest at Green Tree water tower in Spring 2013

2012: 3 Chicks

Blue (male, 2012) -- Hit window at Craig Hall and died immediately, 28 June 2012

- 2013: 2 Chicks hatched, 1 died in the nest within a week of hatching (out of 5 eggs)  
Silver Boy (male, 2013) – Found dead on Forbes Ave, hit by a vehicle, 14 June 2013
- 2014: No hatching, no chicks. Dorothy laid one egg, then became egg-bound, eventually expelling it. The one egg was not viable.
- 2015: 1 Chick hatched with birth defects (1 hatch of 4 eggs) **Dorothy's final breeding year.**  
Silver (male, 2015) – Birth defects disabled his ability to fly at fledging. [Taken to rehab after second flight](#). Multiple developmental defects resulted in death in July 2015.
- 2016: 1 chick survived of 4 eggs. [Mother peregrine "Hope" ate 3 of the 4 chicks](#)  
\*\* As chicks 2 and 4 began to hatch the mother, Hope, killed and ate them & fed them to Chick1.  
The 3rd chick hatched but died. After death, Hope ate it & fed it to Chick1.  
(female, 2016) was banded and fledged without incident.
- 2017: 3 chicks of 4 eggs. [Mother peregrine ate 1 chick as it hatched](#)  
\*\* As the first chick began to hatch the mother, Hope, killed and ate it. 2 of the 3 fledglings died before dispersal.  
(male,2017) -- Hit window at SEI on 6/16/17  
(female,2017) -- Hit by an airplane at Allegheny County Airport on 7/9/2017
- 2018: 2 chicks of 4 eggs. Mother peregrine ate 2 chicks they hatched. Banded, 2 males  
(male, 2018) Body found at Benedum Hall in spring 2019
- 2019: 2 chicks of 5 eggs. Mother ate 2 chicks as they hatched. 1 egg unhatched. Banded, 2 males.
- 2020: 2 eggs, no incubation. Nest failed.
- 2021: 4 chicks, all fledged, none banded.
- 2022: 3 chicks of 5 eggs. 1 egg did not hatch, 1 egg hatched late and chick died. All 3 banded  
(male, 2022) -- dead at Allegheny County Airport on 6/23/2022, presumably hit by a plane

### **(#3) Monaca-East-Rochester / Beaver RR Bridge, Ohio River, Beaver County**

#### ***Background***

Scott Gregg first noticed a pair of peregrines at the Monaca-East-Rochester Bridge in February 2007. When the nest was found by the PA Game Commission, the condition of the site suggested that peregrines had been breeding there for several years. In 2013 the peregrines nested at an inaccessible site on the railroad bridge that spans the Ohio River from Monaca to Beaver. They now switch between the two sites.

#### ***Breeding Pairs***

2007: unbanded male & Kelly. May have arrived before 2007

(male, unknown): unbanded.

Kelly (female, 2003 - unknown) - Hatched 2003 at 125 S.Wacker St, Chicago, IL. (Black/green 26/B)

This pair fledged 2 young in 2007.

2008 - ?????: unbanded male and "very aggressive female" 75/Y

75/Y (female, 2006 - present) – Hatched 2006 at Rachel Carson Bldg, Harrisburg, PA. (Black/green 75/Y)

*Arrival of 75/Y:* In March 2008 a new female challenged Kelly and repeatedly chased her away from the site. The new female was identified on banding day.

Identity of adults is reconfirmed sporadically because this pair moves their nest and the male never comes close. For instance:

2010: No nest at the Rt 51 Monaca-East Rochester. Peregrines observed in the Beaver area.

2013: Nest moved to inaccessible Monaca-to-Beaver Railroad bridge.

2014: Nest at Rt 51 Monaca-East Rochester bridge.

2015: Nest at inaccessible Monaca-to-Beaver Railroad bridge.  
2016: Nest at Rt 51 Monaca-East Rochester bridge.  
2017: No nesting reported. Report of single adult only.  
2018: Pair present. Nesting unconfirmed.  
2019: Nest at inaccessible Monaca-to-Beaver Railroad bridge.  
2020: Nest at inaccessible Monaca-to-Beaver Railroad bridge.  
2021: Nest at Rt 51 Monaca-East Rochester Bridge.  
2022: Nest presumed to be at Monaca-to-Beaver Railroad bridge.

### ***Monaca-East-Rochester / Beaver Offspring Histories***

2007: 2 chicks.  
(male, 2007) - Found dead in Louisville, Ohio, Nov 2007. Probably electrocuted.  
2008: 4 chicks.  
(female, 2008) - Found dead on the Monaca Bridge in June 2008, apparently hit by a car.  
2009: 3 chicks.  
(male, 2008) - Died at Pittsburgh International Airport, 31 August 2009.  
2010: No nest found on this bridge.  
Peregrines observed in the area during the breeding season. May have nested elsewhere.  
2011: 4 chicks banded.  
2012: 4 chicks banded.  
2013: Site inaccessible, number of chicks unknown.  
2014: 4 chicks banded.  
2015: 2 chicks fledged, Railroad bridge site inaccessible.  
2016: No young seen in 2016.  
2017: No young reported in 2017.  
2018: No young confirmed in 2018.  
2019: One fledgling reported at inaccessible Railroad bridge.  
2020: 1 fledgling reported at inaccessible Railroad bridge.  
2021: 3 fledglings.  
2022: No young confirmed in 2022.

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## **(#4) Ambridge-Aliquippa Bridge, Ohio River, Beaver County**

### ***Background***

Mark Vass first noticed a peregrine at the bridge in spring 2019. An unidentified pair was present in spring 2020. A peregrine has been seen at this bridge off and on through the winter.

### ***Breeding Pairs (2019 - present)***

2019: Peregrine(s) seen in breeding season at the bridge.  
2020 - 2022: Pair of peregrines, unidentified, seen at the bridge during the breeding season

### ***Ambridge-Aliquippa Bridge Offspring Histories***

2020-2022: No fledglings verified and no evidence of eggs or young.

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## **(#5) Sewickley Bridge, Ohio River, Allegheny County**

### ***Background***

Peregrines seen perched on Sewickley Bridge in breeding season since 2020. Despite many observations, no evidence of eggs, young or fledglings.

### ***Breeding Pairs (2020 - present)***

2020-2022: Pair of peregrines, unidentified, seen at the bridge during the breeding season

### ***Sewickley Bridge Offspring Histories***

No fledglings verified and no evidence of eggs or young.

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## **(#6) PRESENTLY UNUSED -- Neville Island I-79 Bridge (a.k.a. Glenfield Bridge), Ohio River, Allegheny County**

### ***Background***

Peregrines had been seen near the I-79 Neville Island Bridge since 2007. On 9 June 2012 a peregrine fledgling was rescued from the Ohio River below the bridge and sent to a rehabber.

### ***Breeding Pairs***

2007- 2012: peregrines may have been nesting here for as long as 5 years

2013: Unknown male & Magnum

Unknown male

Magnum (female, 2013 - present) - Hatched 2010 at Canton, Ohio, Bank One (Black/Red 62/H)

2015 - 2018: Beau & Magnum

Beau (male 2015 - present): Hatched 2010 at University of Pittsburgh, Cathedral of Learning, perhaps present before 2015 (Black/green 05/S)

Magnum (female, 2013 - present)

2019: banded male, maybe Beau, unbanded female

Male is banded but bands not confirmed, maybe Beau

Female is unbanded. Magnum has been replaced.

2020: No fledglings verified and no evidence of eggs or young.

2021-2023: Construction prohibits nesting.

### ***Neville Island I-79 Bridge Offspring Histories***

2012: 1 Chick rescued. Total fledglings unknown.

2013: 3 chicks banded.

2014: 1 chick banded.

female (12/BR). Last seen pre-fledge on the bridge on 6/8/14. Presumed dead.

2015: 4 chicks banded

male (27/BP). One of the three males died on shore.

male (28/BP)

male (29/BP)

female (44/BR)

2016: 2 fledglings seen on 8 June 2016

1 found dead on Neville Island Bridge 9 June 2016

2017: 4 chicks banded: 1 male, 3 females  
2018: pair nested but number of chicks not confirmed. Unbanded  
2019: pair nested; 1 chick observed  
2020-2023: construction at the bridge prohibits nesting

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## **(#7) Eckert St / McKees Rocks Bridges, Ohio River, Allegheny County**

### ***Background***

Joe Fedor, Jr. first reported a pair of peregrines at the McKees Rocks Bridge in spring 2008. The PA Game Commission found the nest with assistance from PennDOT. In 2022 Jeff Cieslak was photographing a pair in the same haunts as the McKees Rocks Bridge peregrines when he discovered they were nesting at Eckert Street.

### ***Breeding Pairs***

2008 - 2009: Bravo & unbanded female

Bravo (male, 1999 – unknown) – Hatched at Cleveland, Ohio's Terminal Tower in 1999. (Black/green V/H)  
(female, unknown) – Unbanded, origin unknown.

Peregrines have fledged at least 6 chicks from this bridge. May have nested here prior to 2008.

2010 - present: pair's identity not confirmed.

2022: Nested at Eckert Street Bridge: unbanded adults

### ***McKees Rocks Bridge Offspring Histories***

2008: 0 chicks out of 2 eggs

2009: 3 chicks.

2010: 2 chicks observed in prey exchange. Not banded. Nest could not be found.

2011: Eggs confirmed in 2011. Not banded.

2012: 1 chick present, too old to band

2013: 1 abandoned egg

2014: Nest could not be found. Pair defended an inaccessible area of the bridge.

2015: Nest could not be found.

2016: Nest could not be found.

2017: Nest found, 4 chicks too young to band.

2018: Abandoned eggs at nest site

2019: Nest found, 4 chicks too young to band.

2020: No fledglings verified and no evidence of eggs or young at McKees Rocks Bridge.

### ***Eckert Street Bridge Offspring Histories***

2021: 2 fledglings seen with parents near Alcosan – same haunts as McKees Rocks territory

2022: 4 fledglings at Eckert Street Bridge nest, unbanded, sex unknown

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## **(#8) Westinghouse Bridge, Turtle Creek, Allegheny County**

### ***Background***

A nesting pair of peregrines attacked PennDOT workers when they began maintenance on the Westinghouse Bridge in Spring 2010. The PA Game Commission confirmed the nest and banded 3 chicks.

### ***Breeding Pairs***

#### **2010 - 2011: unidentified banded male & Storm**

(male, unknown) – male is banded but bands not identified. Nicknamed Brian by PennDOT  
Storm (female, 2005 – 2012) – Hatched at Bank One in Canton, Ohio in 2005, named Storm when banded.  
Called 'Val' by PennDOT (Black/green 66/C)

#### **2012 - 2015: unbanded male & Hecla**

(male, unbanded)

Hecla (female, 2012 – present) – Hatched at Ironton-Russelton Bridge at Ironton, Ohio in 2009.  
(Black/green 68/H)

#### **2015 – early 2016: George & Storm**

George (male, 2015 – present): Hatched Cobb Island, VA, 2006. Hatched at New River Gorge, WV  
(Black/green 19/W)

Storm (female, 2015 – present): Reclaimed Westinghouse Bridge, April 2015. (Black/green 66/C)  
Storm found injured under the Westinghouse Bridge, April 2016.

#### **2016 - 2022: George (probably) & unbanded female "Rose"**

George (male, 2015 – present): Hatched Cobb Island, VA, 2006. Hatched at New River Gorge, WV  
(Black/green 19/W)

Rose (female unbanded): Has rosy chest, nicknamed "Rose."

### ***Westinghouse Bridge Offspring Histories***

2010: 3 Chicks out of 5 eggs.

2011: 3 Chicks confirmed in 2011 but not banded.

2012: Eggs found, never hatched

2013: 1 chick, unbanded, probably male. Found on ground & put up high by bridge workers, 11 June 2013.  
Never seen again.

2014: 2 Chicks, banded

(female, 2014 – 47/BR) – Found injured in Columbus, Ohio, 10/7/14. In rehab as of Oct 2014.

2015: 2 chicks banded.

male (black/green 72/AP)

female (black/green 17/BR)

2016: no nest.

2017: No nest found but a begging juvenile was seen in early July 2017.

2018: 3 chicks, not banded

2019: 2 chicks ledge-walking, 6/9/19

2020: 2 fledglings verified

2021: 2 fledglings; One was rescued from bridge deck

2022: 1 fledgling confirmed

## **(#9) Clairton Coke Works, Monongahela River, Allegheny County**

### ***Background***

Spring of 2022 US Steel Clairton employees noticed peregrines strafing them at the riverside quench tower. Nest documented by PGC's Doug Bergman & photographer Dana Nesiti.

***Breeding Pairs (2022)***      unbanded adults

### ***Clairton Coke Works Offspring Histories***

2022: 3 chicks in nest. No news after that.

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## **(#10) 62nd St / Highland Park Bridges, Allegheny River, Allegheny County**

### ***Background***

Three bridges over the Allegheny River within sight of each other may be a single territory: 62<sup>nd</sup> Street Bridge, Highland Park Bridge, Aspinwall RR Bridge.

62<sup>nd</sup> Street: Dan Yagusic first noticed a pair of peregrines at the 62<sup>nd</sup> Street Bridge in spring 2007. At least two eggs were laid on a steel beam but the nest failed, due to exposure and weather. PA Game Commission installed a nest box in January 2008. Solo female peregrines were sometimes seen at this bridge 2009-2018.

Highland Park Bridge: Peregrines not reported at 62<sup>nd</sup> Street Bridge in 2022 but were seen at Highland Park Bridge. Adult fed juvenile on the bridge on 19 June 2022.

### ***62<sup>nd</sup> Street Bridge***

2007- 2008: Bo & Shenandoah (2 eggs flooded)

Bo (male, 2005 – unknown) – Hatched in 2004 at Federal Reserve Bank, Boston.

Shenandoah (female, 2002 - unknown) - Hatched in 2002, at the Benjamin Harrison Bridge, Hopewell, VA. Hacked in the Shenandoah Mountains by Shawn Padgett.

2009: single female

Mary Cleo ("Dori") (female, 2007 – present) - Hatched in Akron, OH in 2007. She left the bridge in March 2010 and won the Gulf Tower site. (Renamed Dori by Make-A-Wish at Gulf Tower.)

2010-2017: no peregrines reported

2018: Peregrines seen occasionally

2019: Ms. Indiana (female 2019 - present) (Black/blue 48/N)

Peregrines seen in breeding season near 62nd Street Bridge

1 fledgling seen on 3 July 2019

1 adult found injured in Sharpsburg at Main & 6th Street, night of 6 August 2019; taken to rehab

2020: No peregrines seen at 62nd Street Bridge during breeding season

2021: Adult + juvenile seen in 21 July 2021 from Tree Pittsburgh parking lot

### ***Highland Park Bridge***

2022: Adult feeding juvenile on Highland Park Bridge on 19 June 2022

### **62nd Street / Highland Park Bridge Offspring Histories**

2019: 1 fledgling seen 3 July 2019 at Tree Pittsburgh parking lot beneath 62nd Street Bridge

2020: No fledglings verified and no evidence of eggs or young.

2021: 1 fledgling seen near 62<sup>nd</sup> Street Bridge.

2022: 1 fledgling seen at Highland Park.

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## **(#11) Tarentum Bridge, Allegheny River, Allegheny and Westmoreland Counties**

### ***Background***

A pair of peregrines was reported at the Tarentum Bridge in 2008. Dan Yagusic identified them in December 2009. The PA Game Commission searched for a nest without success. In May 2012 Rob Protz noticed adult peregrines going in and out of the bridge structure. PGC confirmed nestlings on 6/1/12. Rob Protz confirmed that two chicks fledged in June. The chicks were too old to be banded by the time they were discovered.

In winter 2014-2015 the PA Game Commission installed a nestbox on the bridge abutment ([see blog post on Feb 28, 2015](#)).

### ***Breeding Pairs***

2009 - 2010: banded male from Pitt + Hope (from Hopewell, VA)

(male, 2008 – 2010) – Hatched at University of Pittsburgh in 2008. (Black/green 35/X)

Hope (female, 2008 – Nov 2015) – Hatched at the Benjamin Harrison Bridge, Hopewell, VA in 2008 and hatched in the Shenandoah Mountains. (Black/green 69/Z)

2011: solo female: Hope

2012 - 2015: unidentified male + Hope

2015 – Nov 2015: unidentified juvenile male + Hope

Hope (female, 2008 – Nov 2015) – left Tarentum in November 2015 for the Cathedral of Learning

2016: unidentified male + Hope or other females

(male, 2016) – unidentified male(s) occasionally present

2017-2022: banded male + unbanded female

Unnamed (male - 2017 - present). Hatched at Westinghouse Bridge in 2014 (Black/Green 48/BR)

Unnamed (female - unbanded) Has a very dotted breast easy to recognize in photos.

2013: 1 abandoned egg

2014: 2 Chicks banded

2015: No nest

2016: No nest

2017: No evidence of nesting

2018: 3 chicks, unbanded (new pair)

2019: 3 chicks, not banded

2020: 4 chicks fledged, not banded

2021: 3 chicks fledged, not banded. 1 of 3 disappeared late May 2021

2022: 3 chicks fledged, not banded.

## **(#12) Graff Bridge, Route 422 Kittanning, Allegheny River, Armstrong County**

### ***Background***

Peregrines were noticed at this site in 2015. Nesting confirmed in 2016 when 2 fledglings seen in July.

### ***Breeding Pairs***

2016: Unidentified male & female

2017: Unidentified male + female (black/green 49/AK) hatched at St. George's Bridge, Delaware, 2013.

2018-2022: pair unconfirmed

### ***Graff Bridge Offspring Histories***

2016: 2 fledglings in early July 2016

2017: 2 fledgling seen on 6/11/2017

2018: 2 fledglings seen on 6/7/2018

2019: unconfirmed → there were no observers in 2019

2020: 1 fledgling seen

2021: pair was present but due to COVID no observers, results unknown

2022: no nesting observed

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## **(#13) Speers-Belle Vernon Bridge, Monongahela River, Washington County**

### ***Background***

Pair seen and photographed by Joe Ciferno, February 2021

Male (Black/Green 68/AC), banded on 5/23/2012 at the Cathedral of Learning University of Pittsburgh

Female (Black/Green 07/BS), banded on 5/18/2017 on the Commodore Barry bridge over the Delaware river in Chester, Delaware County, PA.

### ***Breeding Pairs (2021)***

2021: Pair see repeatedly but due to COVID few observers. Results unknown

2022: Solo bird seen in February 2022

2023: Solo bird seen in February 2023

### ***Speers-Belle Vernon Bridge Offspring Histories***

none reported

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## **UNUSED SITE: Elizabeth Bridge, Monongahela River, Allegheny County**

### ***Background***

There has been only one nest attempt. A pair nested at the bridge in the spring of 2018, choosing a nest site in the superstructure above the road deck. Both fledglings landed on the road and both were hit by cars. 1 died, the other suffered head trauma. **All potential nest holes are permanently blocked by PennDOT to prevent nesting due to fledgling mortality.**

### ***Breeding Pairs (2018)***

2018: Unidentified breeding pair at the bridge used a hole in the superstructure as their nest site.

### ***Elizabeth Bridge Offspring Histories***

2018: Both fledglings hit by cars on the Rt 51 road deck.

2019 - present: Nest holes are blocked. Nesting is prohibited due to fledgling mortality.

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## **UNUSED SITE: Green Tree Water Tower, Allegheny County**

### ***Background***

Peregrines defended the water tower during a rehab project in the spring of 2013. The project was stopped for the nesting season but the nesting attempt failed.

### ***Breeding Pairs (2013-2014)***

2013: Unbanded immature male & "Blue" (Univ of Pittsburgh, 2011)

Unbanded male in juvenile plumage

Blue (female, 2013 - present) - Hatched 2011, Cathedral of Learning (Black/green 74/AE)

2014 only: New unidentified pair. Male banded, female unbanded Female injured in a fight as of May 2014.

**Breeding was never successful at this site.**

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