

# History of Peregrine Falcon Nests near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

23 February 2018



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[The National Aviary Peregrine Falconcams](#)

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:**

Active Sites as of February 2018:

1. Downtown / Gulf Tower, Pittsburgh. Various Downtown locations, one pair.
2. University of Pittsburgh Cathedral of Learning
3. Monaca-East-Rochester / Beaver Railroad Bridge, Ohio River, Beaver County
4. Neville Island I-79 Bridge (a.k.a. Glenfield Bridge), Ohio River, Allegheny County
5. McKees Rocks Bridge, Ohio River, Allegheny County
6. Westinghouse Bridge, Turtle Creek, Allegheny County
7. Tarentum Bridge, Allegheny River, Allegheny and Westmoreland Counties
8. Graff Bridge, Route 422 Kittanning, Allegheny River, Armstrong County

Inactive Sites:

9. Green Tree Water Tower, Allegheny County
10. 62nd Street Bridge, Allegheny River, Allegheny County

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## **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**

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 peregrines use the Third Avenue site off and on. The nest cannot be seen from the ground nor from a webcam. Chicks hatched here are not banded.

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

In 2015 the Gulf Tower peregrines chose a 9<sup>th</sup> floor balcony on Macy's Annex. The nest was inaccessible for banding purposes though viewable from the Frick Building across the alley. This site has since been under extensive renovation.

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

Dori (female, 2010 – present): Hatched at Landmark Building, Akron, Ohio in 2007 where she was named Mary Cleo when banded. (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 have fledged approximately 30 young as of Feb /2018 (number in 2012 is uncertain).

### ***Gulf Tower Offspring Histories***

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.

### ***Third Avenue Offspring Histories, 2012, 2013***

2012: 1 Chick seen. 4 eggs laid.

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

2013: 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

### ***Gulf Tower Offspring Histories, 2014***

2014: 5 Chicks banded on 5/20/2014

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

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

2015: 3 Chicks: 2 males, 1 female

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

### ***Third Avenue Offspring Histories, 2016***

2016: 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.

### ***Gulf Tower Offspring Histories, 2017***

2017: 3 Chicks: 3 females banded on 5/16/2017

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

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## **University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning**

### ***Background***

Peregrines first nested at the University of Pittsburgh in 2002. In the 1990s the National Aviary, the Pennsylvania Game Commission and the University of Pittsburgh established a nest box on the Cathedral of Learning but the box was never used and was subsequently removed. Between 1998 and 2000 adult peregrines were reported occasionally and a peregrine chick thought to have fledged in Oakland was injured, rehabilitated and released near the Cathedral of Learning. 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, she 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. All told, Dorothy fledged 43 young.

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

E2 (male, 2005 – 15 March 2016): Hatched at Pittsburgh's Gulf Tower in 2005. (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. Resident at Tarentum Bridge before arrival at Pitt. (Black/green 69/Z)

*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 with a green USFW band is Hope, formerly of the Tarentum Bridge.

#### 2016 - Present: Terzo & Hope

Terzo (male, 2016 - present): 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 (female, 2015 – present): Hatched at the Benjamin Harrison Bridge, Hopewell, VA in 2008 and hatched in the Shenandoah Mountains. Resident at Tarentum Bridge before arrival at Pitt. (Black/green 69/Z)

Hope & Terzo have fledged 4 young as of Feb 2018.

### ***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 (out of 4 eggs)  
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 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 appeared to starve. After death, Hope ate it & fed it to Chick1.  
C1 (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
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# **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 - present: 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 Monaca Bridge. Peregrines observed in the Beaver area.

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

2014: Nest at Monaca-East Rochester bridge.

2015: Nest at inaccessible Monaca-to-Beaver Railroad bridge.

2016: Nest at Monaca-East Rochester bridge.

2017: No nesting reported. Report of single adult only.

## ***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.



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## **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 - present: 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)

### ***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

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## **McKees Rocks Bridge, 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.

### ***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 - 2016: pair's identity not confirmed

### ***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.

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## **Westinghouse Bridge, Turtle Creek, Allegheny County**

### ***Background***

A nesting pair of peregrines attacked PennDOT workers when they began maintenance on the 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)

2016: probably George with unbanded juvenile female

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

(Black/green 19/W)

April 2016: Storm found injured under the Westinghouse Bridge; still in rehab as of Feb 2017. Unbanded juvenile female present for the rest of the nesting season. No nest.

### ***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.

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## **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

(male, 2015 – present) – unidentified juvenile male, arrived 2015

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 males occasionally present

Hope (female, 2008) periodically visits Tarentum even though she nests at the Cathedral of Learning

### ***Tarentum Bridge Offspring Histories***

2012: 2 chicks, too old to band

2013: 1 abandoned egg

2014: 2 Chicks banded

2015: No nest

2016: No nest

2017: No evidence of nesting.

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## **The 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.

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

2016: 2 fledglings in early July 2016

2017: 2 fledgling seen on 6/11/2017

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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 has never been successful at this site.**

## **UNUSED SITE: 62nd Street Bridge, Allegheny County**

### ***Background***

Dan Yagusic first noticed a pair of peregrines at the 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 are sometimes seen at this bridge but breeding has never been successful at this site.

***Breeding Pairs (2007-2010)***

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.)

**Breeding has never been successful at this site.**