

History of Peregrine Falcon Nests near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

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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 January 2019:

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. 62nd Street Bridge, Allegheny River, Allegheny County (fledgling seen)

Sites awaiting information / confirmation as of August 2019:

9. Freeport Bridge, Route 356 Freeport, Allegheny River, Butler County (pair present)
10. Graff Bridge, Route 422 Kittanning, Allegheny River, Armstrong County (no observers)
11. Ambridge-Aliquippa Bridge, Ohio River, Beaver County (pair present)
12. Elizabeth Bridge, Monongahela River, Allegheny County

Inactive Sites in 2019:

13. Hulton Bridge, Allegheny River, Allegheny County

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

In 2012 the Gulf Tower peregrines chose an inaccessible nest site facing Third Avenue on the 12th 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 9th floor balcony at Macy's Annex. The nest was inaccessible for banding purposes though viewable from the Frick Building across the alley. This site 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 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 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.

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 19th 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 19th 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 a 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.

University of Pittsburgh, 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.

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): 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 4th & 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 fledged 8 young as of July 2019.

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.
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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.
2018: Pair present. Nesting unconfirmed.
2019: Nest at inaccessible 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.

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 - present: banded male, maybe Beau, unbanded female

Male is banded but bands not confirmed, maybe Beau

Female is unbanded. Magnum has been replaced.

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

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 - present: 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.
2018: Abandoned eggs at nest site
2019: Nest found, 4 chicks too young to band.

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)
Storm found injured under the Westinghouse Bridge, April 2016.

2016 - present: George (probably) & unbanded female “Rose”

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

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 were sometimes seen at this bridge 2009-2016.

Breeding Pairs (2007-2009)

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.
Hatched 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: 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

62nd Street Bridge Offspring Histories

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

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

2017-present: banded male Black/Green 48/BR + unbanded female

male - Hatched at Westinghouse Bridge in 2014

female - unbanded but she has a very dotted breast so is easy to recognize in photos

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

2018: 3 chicks, unbanded

2019: 3 chicks, not nanded

Freeport Bridge, Route 356, Allegheny River, Butler County

Background

Two peregrines seen at this bridge in summer 2019: 6 August and 15 August. Nesting not confirmed yet.

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.

2018-2019: 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

UNUSED SITE: Hulton Bridge, Allegheny River, Allegheny County

Background

Solo peregrine seen here during the winters of 2017-18 and 2018-19: female, Black/Blue 48/N, hatched in South Bend, Indiana in 2016

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.
