

# MEET THE TAPPAN ZEE PEREGRINE FALCONS



Hudson, Bridge-ette and Zee hatched in the Tappan Zee nest box in April 2015. Their names were suggested by local students from Rockland and Westchester counties.

Hundreds of feet above the Hudson River, a nest box installed in the steel superstructure of the Tappan Zee Bridge provides a seasonal home for the fastest member of the animal kingdom: peregrine falcons.

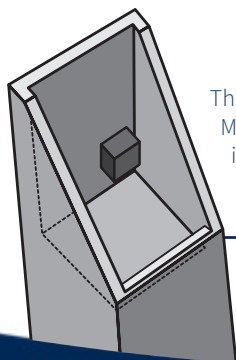
These peregrine falcons typically lay eggs in early spring, with chicks, called eyases (“EYE-a-sez”, singular “EYE-us”), hatching one month later.



## View our Falcon Cam!

[NewNYBridge.com/FalconCam](http://NewNYBridge.com/FalconCam)

Please enjoy our webcam, which provides an unfiltered window on the day-to-day lives of these fascinating peregrine falcons. At any given moment, you may see the adult birds eating, incubating eggs, feeding their young, defending their nest and more.



The falcons reside in a man-made nest box high atop the Tappan Zee Bridge. The box is specially designed to suit their needs. Maintained and monitored by the New York State Thruway Authority, the nest box will eventually be relocated to a new perch in the towers of the new bridge.



## Terms:

### Incubation

Incubation occurs right after the eggs are laid, with the adults sitting on them to provide warmth. This can last for more than one month.

### Fledglings

Fledglings are young birds who have gained their first feathers and started flying. They remain around the nest throughout the summer.

### Nestlings

Nestlings are young birds that are unable to fly. They are fed by their parents in the nest until they gain their feathers.

### Stoops

Stoops are steep hunting dives taken by peregrine falcons. During these stoops, they can reach speed of more than 200 miles per hours, making them the fastest members of the animal kingdom.

**Please note:** The falcons are wild birds and their behaviors reflect what happens in nature. Some of their actions may be unpleasant to watch and it is possible that some of the fledglings may not survive into adulthood.

## Falcon Facts

- 1) Peregrine means “wanderer.” These falcons migrate great distances as the seasons change.
- 2) The peregrine falcon can reach speeds over 200 miles per hour in a controlled dive.
- 3) Bony protrusions divert powerful airflow away from a falcon’s nostrils, allowing them to breathe during dives.
- 4) A third, translucent eyelid known as a “nictating membrane” keeps their eyes moist and clear from debris while maintaining their vision.
- 5) Falcons generally establish a nest in February to raise their chicks before migrating south in the fall.