

MEET OUR PEREGRINE FALCONS



April 2018: The male falcon in the future family home on the new bridge.

More than 400 feet above the Hudson River, a nest box installed in the iconic tower of the Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge will serve as the future 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.



Looking for our FalconCam?

The camera that provided live action video of our nesting falcons, formerly located on the Tappan Zee Bridge, was removed in advance of dismantling operations. However, experts are working closely with NYSDEC and monitoring the success of the nesting falcons in 2018. The FalconCam in the new nest box will go online next nesting season. Archive photos taken previous years and updates on the 2018 nesting activity can be found at NewNYBridge.com/FalconCam.

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.

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.

Nestlings

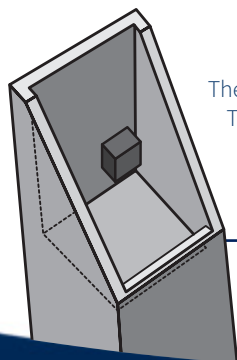
Nestlings are young birds that are unable to fly. They are fed by their parents in the nest until they gain their feathers.

Fledglings

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

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.



The man-made nest box in the new bridge was specifically designed to suit the needs of the falcons. The nest box is approximately 150 feet higher than the one installed on the Tappan Zee Bridge.

