



Rachel Carson Peregrine Falcon Seasonal Calendar

February	Nesting Season Begins <p>Traditional Peregrine Falcon mating rituals and territorial nesting takes place. Peregrines usually choose a mate for life, so they put a great deal of effort into courtship with food offerings and dramatic displays of flight and hunting skills by the male. FalconCam, a live streaming video begins</p>	
March	The Falcon Family Grows <p>Peregrines will typically lay between 3 and 5 eggs, beginning in mid to late March. Peregrines are very attentive parents, each taking turns tending the eggs. Meanwhile, the adults can be seen around Harrisburg as they hunt for pigeons and other small birds.</p>	
April	Meet the Hatchlings <p>Peregrine eggs hatch over a few days. Typically there is a 50/50 ratio of male to female hatchlings. These new arrivals will not look anything like their parents at first – they will be covered in fluffy white down.</p>	
May	Banding the Growing Falcons <p>DEP and the Pa. Game Commission host an educational Banding Event, where hatchlings are temporarily removed from the nest box, identified by sex, and fitted with their identification bands. The banding event is broadcast live via the Falcon Cam.</p>	
June	Testing Their Wings <p>The newest members of the Rachel Carson Peregrine Falcon family cautiously begin to wander to the edge of their ledge and eventually take flight into the Harrisburg skies. Fledging usually takes place in early June. The unskilled fliers are accident-prone, so the volunteer Falcon Watch and Rescue team launches into action to spot young peregrines in trouble. Falcon Watch: Young peregrines found to be in danger by the watchful eyes of our volunteer Falcon-Watchers can often be professionally-rescued and returned to safety.</p>	
July	Maturing Young Falcons <p>The youngest peregrines are adapted to their surroundings and can be seen soaring, perching, and swooping in and around Harrisburg. This is a period for honing their flying and hunting skills.</p>	
August	Packing for a Long Trip <p>Looking ahead to their dispersal and fall migrations, the peregrines start to wander farther from their nesting ledge and can be spotted in the skies across Central and Southcentral Pa.</p>	
September	Dispersal <p>Some of the fledglings may begin to head south; others may go east to New York and New Jersey. There seems to be no reliable formula to predict the flight plans of young peregrines, however females tend to disperse longer distances than males.</p>	
October-January	Winter Wanderers <p>The adults remain at the ledge until the next breeding season. The climate is suitable, and there is plenty of prey available throughout the winter, including pigeons and other small birds. It's risky to leave the nesting area, as another peregrine may try to take over the site with a territorial battle. Follow the falcons on Twitter @FalconChatter for updates and news.</p>	