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About Peregrine Falcons

SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF PEREGRINE FALCONS

Identification:

The large size, long-pointed wings and strong flight of the Peregrine Falcon distinguishes it from most other birds of prey. They have been recorded at speeds of up to 320 kmph (about 200 mph), when attacking prey mid-air. The Prairie Falcon and Merlins are similar falcons, and all have been observed on campus. Merlins are distinguished by the fact that they are smaller, have a 'higher' call pitch, and have white stripes on the inside lower tailwing - seen when they are in flight. Merlins also prefer fir or other tall trees as habitat. Prairie falcons are somewhat smaller and appear 'greyer' in tone and smaller overall. They also prefer tall trees, as opposed to building roofs or ledges, which peregrines use most often. Peregrines have such distinguishing marks as black or dark grey crowns, a bluish area above the hooked beak, dark feathers on the head which look like a hood with chinstraps (which can be seen from a distance), and a piercing call. They have extremely sharp eyesight.

Its eyes are protected from dust and other debris in the air with a nictitating membrane, sometimes called a third eyelid, while the dark markings around its eyes help reduce glare & improve visual contrast.

Once mating is completed, the female is the main 'sitter', with the male taking turns so the female can exercise and find prey too. They can lay anywhere between 2 and even 5 eggs, which are red-brownish in colour. The average brood being 2-3 live births. Each egg is incubated for about 33 days.

"Falcons sometimes eat small stones, apparently to aid in digestion. Falconers refer to these as 'rangle'. Most of her behaviour (the mom's) at the nest is house-keeping or maybe just plain boredom. The females like to keep the nest ledge free of any prey remains until the young are older, so they do pay attention to the area around the scrape" - information courtesy of Gord Court, Alberta biologist and bird expert.

Young hatchlings (or eyass/es) are fluffy and white for the first 2 weeks or so, and slowly develop darker, stronger flight wings, starting close to the body. They appear larger than the adults around the time of fledging, as their bodies are losing their 'babyfat'. The adults have a dark blue/grey back, rump and upper surface of the wings. The throat and underwing is white, with white-coloured chest feathers when mature. For a closer look at the young and adult peregrines, please refer to the attached pictures see 'more birds' link above.

The female chicks weigh more at birth than the males, yet the males are often the first to fledge (leave the nest), usually around 41-44 days or so after hatching. As with most birds of prey, the female is considerably larger than the male. Both parents protect the eggs (by sitting on them on a constant basis), catch and bring prey for the young, and then by showing them how to fly and catch prey in mid-air.

Viewing:

The peregrines usually appear on campus anywhere from early mid-March to the end of April, and stay until early-mid September, when they fly south, some as far as Central and South America. Their preferred nesting site on campus is on Craigie Hall, where they have a 'scrape', an indented 'nest' of sorts which has gravel and some surrounding planks to give some protection to the eggs. Their preferred ledges are on tall buildings, such as Social Sciences, the Education building, and chiefly the Library Tower, which looks directly onto the nest ledge.

Status in Canada:

The anatum subspecies is the race of Peregrine Falcon breeding in Alberta. According to the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), the anatum subspecies is was considered to be endangered in Canada as recently as 1995, and is currently on a kind of 'watch' list, which means that any major decline can result in their status reverting back to 'endangered'. An endangered species is any indigenous species of fauna or flora that is threatened with imminent extirpation or extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its Canadian range. The elimination of DDT in most countries on their migration route has helped in reducing peregrine mortality, yet this remains a concern, as is the fact that their prey is still being poisoned, and some birds of prey (incl. the bald eagle) are being shot by hunters and land/livestock owners. It is illegal to shoot peregrine falcons or approach their nesting sites without a permit. (both in the United States and Canada)

Foods:

Birds - gulls, pigeons, doves, waterfowl, shorebirds and sometimes songbirds.

Habitat:

Tundra (High Arctic), savannah, seacoasts, mountains, cities with high buildings.

Nest (scrape) sites:

Ledges on cliffs, ledges on high buildings in cities (including downtown Calgary and The University of Calgary).

For other live web cam feeds, or peregrine-related links, pls. refer to the following:

<http://www.ab-conservation.com/go/default/index.cfm/publications/conserv...> (Article by Dr. Gord Court, Prov. biologist extraordinaire)

<http://www.peregrine-foundation.ca/> (Canadian Peregrine Foundation site)

<http://srd.alberta.ca/FishWildlife/SpeciesAtRisk/SpeciesSummaries/docume...> (provincial govt. body document)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-norfolk-17629585> (after 200 years, Norwich, U.K.) has falcons nesting!

<http://webcam.peregrinus.pl/en/>

(link to a site in Poland, incl. further link about our falcons)

Longer video taken by John Campbell (our bander) and Reg, who initially set up the live cam equipment:

<http://albertarps.com>

Here is link to similar-looking species that has potential to be confused with peregrines: Gyrfalcon

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gyrfalcon>

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2000 Observations

- April 8 - a Peregrine Falcon was present on the Library Tower
- April 19 - two Peregrine Falcons are present and interacting on the nest ledge on Craigie Hall
- April 28 - no eggs in the nest
- May 4 - 2 eggs in the nest (info from Pat Young, Alberta Environment)
 - - the male is the same male as last year (red band on right leg)
- May 11 - 4 eggs in the nest (info from Pat Young)
- June 9 - 1 young in nest, apparently hatched today - the other 3 eggs have vanished from causes unknown (info from Pat Young)
- July 4 - the single young, a male, was banded today - he is doing well
- July 21 - the young bird left the nest ledge, flying over to a point halfway up the Library Tower
- Sept. 1 - the young bird has done well, and is still on campus chasing and being fed by at least one adult bird
- Sept. 27 - this was the last sighting of a Peregrine on campus

1999 Observations

- April 24 - a Peregrine Falcon was present at the Craigie Hall nest ledge
- April 26 - two Peregrines were present and mating was observed
- May 11 - the female has begun brooding the three eggs in the nest
 - * - the nest is in the SW corner of the ledge and can be seen with binoculars from the SW corner of MacKimmie Library Tower
 - * - the male is the same male as last year
- June 15 - hatching has begun
 - * - four eggs were laid this year
- June 22 - there are four young in the nest - tiny balls of fluff that can barely hold up their heads - the female is a different bird from the female of last year, but it has not been possible to read her band number as yet
- July 6 - the young birds were banded - there is one young female and three young males - the chicks are now moving around on the ledge - two photos from the banding
 - * a female fledgling from the 1997 nest has been found nesting this year in the Red Deer area - she successfully raised one young during what would have been her first nesting attempt
- July 21 - the four young are quite large and scruffy looking - they often sit near the front edge of the nest ledge - they are probably within a week or so of flying
- July 27 - the first young Peregrine (a male) had flown off the nest ledge before 8 am - the second young had flown off by 6 pm - both are doing well
- July 28 - all four young Peregrines had flown off the nest ledge by 11 am with no mishaps
- August 27 - at least three of the young Peregrines are still around the campus
- September 15 - the young female was picked up very sick just south of the campus - she was taken to the Calgary Zoo Animal Care Facility with a parasitic infection
- September 30 - the last sighting of a young bird around the Library tower was early to mid-September; the last sighting of an adult was September 29
- October 4 - the sick female has made a remarkable recovery, but still needs some care before she can be released - it is not known yet whether she can be released this fall or whether she will be held over the winter for release next spring

- Several sightings of a Peregrine on or near campus date from mid-March, but the bird did not take up residence on campus.
- April 14. On April 13 a Peregrine perched for some time, and on April 14 two Peregrines were observed on campus, with one bird visiting the nest ledge on Craigie Hall.
- April 23. Pat Young of Alberta Fish and Wildlife report that the male that nested here last year was killed on April 14 in a collision with an aircraft at the Calgary International Airport. At present I have been seeing only one Peregrine on campus. I hope that the bird will be able to attract a mate.
- April 28. Two Peregrines were observed interacting on campus. We hope that they will form a pair bond.
- April 30. Jean Moore observed the Peregrines copulating on the top of the Library tower.
- May 6. Pat Young checked the nest ledge. Both birds are banded. The male nested last year in south Calgary. That nest is inactive this year. When the female did not show up this year, the male evidently moved here after the death of the male that nested here last year. The female was hacked in 1996 from a site near Red Deer. So both birds are different from the birds that nested here last year. The female has moved the nest scrape to the back right corner of the nest ledge on Craigie Hall, and she can be seen incubating from the upper storeys of the Library Tower. There was one egg on May 6.
- May 16. The Peregrines were copulating on the top of the Library tower. This seems late as I would have expected them to have a full clutch by now.
- May 21. Pat Young of Alberta Fish and Wildlife checked the nest today. There are three eggs in the nest. Pat introduced a dummy egg into the nest, just in case they want to foster a young bird into the nest. This is quite unlikely, but the nest ledge is a good site for fostering a young bird, and they do not want to rule out that possibility - hence the artificial egg.
 - The female is a feisty bird. She remained on the ledge while Pat had his head and arm out through the hole at the back of the ledge, and he had to be careful she did not attack his hand when he introduced the artificial egg.
 - The male is four years old and was raised at an artificial nest site. The female, also raised at an artificial nest site, is two years old, and this is presumably her first nesting. Both birds have red bands on the right leg and aluminum bands on the left leg.
- June 5. Pat Young phoned to tell me he estimates the young will hatch around June 11. Two eggs have already hatched at the downtown Calgary site. The campus female has been incubating every time I have looked. It is her first nest, and there can be problems the first time a female nests. But there is no sign of trouble at this point.
- June 14. Jean Moore observed two hatchlings on the ledge after the female took a break from incubating the eggs. Jean had checked the ledge the day before, but the female at that time was still busy turning the eggs and no chicks were apparent, so they probably hatched sometime between noon on June 13 and 5:30 pm today.
- June 15. Pat Young, Elli Jilek and a member of the University security staff went up to the nest ledge and confirmed that two of the eggs have hatched. That leaves, in addition to the two hatchlings, one egg laid by the female plus the dummy egg on the scrape. The female never left the ledge during the inspection, and as Elli said was 'magnificent-looking as she spread her wings and looked mean. She didn't make the kind of verbal commotion others have in the past'. The male was right around the corner on Craigie Hall, but didn't come around to see what was happening.
 - Pat says that there is still a good chance that the third egg will hatch as it may have been laid as many as six days after the first. He will recheck the ledge later this week or the first of next to check on the hatchlings and the third egg. He also said that, in addition to the two hatchlings at the University, there are four downtown and at least two at the Balzac nest.
- Checked the peregrine diaries for 1997 and 1996 and found that the 1997 eggs hatched ca. June 10-12 and the 1996 eggs on June 19-20, so even though it seemed that the Peregrines got a bit of a late start this year because of the death of last year's male and his mate not making it back, the hatchlings arrived in good time.
- June 17. Great news! We now have all 3 eggs hatched - the third chick was probably 'born' yesterday - I thought I saw it this morning, but with the 3 of them huddled together, it was difficult to tell. Pat Young from Fish and Wildlife came and we were able to confirm 3 healthy chicks. Pat took away the dummy egg and also collected some leftover food bits, i.e., body parts of meals and some shell casings. These will be examined for pesticide residue and other info, such as what food they have been eating.
 - The chicks will be banded in about 3 weeks time - when they are strong and able to defend themselves against poor Pat. Although we had a broom to guard against the defending mom, she actually hopped on top of the broom as I held it against her and wasn't at all fazed by this. Dad was taking dives in front of the ledge, but it is too narrow for him to get a good run at Pat while he was on the ledge.
 - Family is intact now - hopefully they have all calmed down again. The 3 little guys (can't tell yet which sex they are) are all huddled together and the 2 older ones have their eyes open and are making squeaky noises. Elli Jilek

- July 6. At about 9:30 am, Pat Young and Georgina Shumaker from Alberta Wildlife arrived to join Eric Tull, myself (elli Jilek), Ken Bendiktsen from the University Gazette, and 2 security guards to band the 3 peregrine chicks. Due to the intense storm we had on Sunday, there was quite a bit of moisture on the ledge, thus making a pretty ugly mess for the wildlife officers (Pat and Georgina) who were going onto the ledge.
- The corner where the chicks are usually situated was quite dry, and mom was VERY protective of them as Pat handed the chicks one by one through to Eric on the other side of the opening to the ledge. They were placed in the box provided for this type of thing, and each one was carefully weighed and measured by Pat and Georgina. Meanwhile dad was frantically swooping at the ledge, and mom was quite verbal and irate at all of us. Trying to fend her off with a broom didn't seem to faze her or the male too much. The 3 chicks, all males, were duly handled with care.
- It took about 1/2 hour or more to complete the banding, and despite the rucuss, all chicks were placed in their corner and eventually calmed down, as did mom when Pat and Georgina left the ledge site.
- Pat picked up some leftover meal parts to determine their identity.
- I was privileged to be able to hold and hand over 2 of the chicks during the measuring/weighing, and for photo ops by Ken. The chicks are so fluffy - very ball-like - and some dark flight feathers are appearing underneath the white fluff. Their eyes are big and dark, and the youngest one (first to be put in the corner after weighing) had its chin on the ground and looked an awful lot like Groucho Marx.
- The parents flew around and in front of the ledge site for quite a while after we had all left, and slowly things calmed down. One of the youngsters ventured to the front of the ledge later that afternoon - probably to get some much-needed sunshine and warmth.
- Pat Young reports that all Calgary peregrine babies are doing well, and that we have 11 healthy specimens at three nest sites. Edmonton on the other hand has had a very poor year - only 3 (4?) babies have survived there. It seems the nest sites have not been protected sites, and that the chicks have died of exposure.
- All in all the morning was very dirty, smelly (guano, especially wet, is powerful!!), but above all exciting and wonderful. To hold an endangered species, and such lovely little things, is a rare opportunity and a great privilege to be part of such an endeavour.[EJ]
- July 23. Two of our falcon chicks are now officially fledglings! Yes, 2 have made it off the ledge - not quite flyers per se, but able to get from one spot to another - so far without injury. The third chick is anxious to leave, as parents are egging it on verbally and swooping in front of the ledge to show how it's done - easier said than done! Elli
- July 24. It's done!! All 3 chicks are now fledglings! At about 3 pm this afternoon, Ray Powell saw the last of the chicks fly off, and I had just realized that it was missing after having watched carefully, as he was looking very eager.
- I found him on the roof that connects Craigie Hall with the PFB, and he 'walked' over to one of the office windows, where he proceeded to peer inside. No one was home, and so he ventured off again, doing a few back-and-forth walks. He took off and landed somewhere close by on a roof. There is one fledgling on the roof of the University Theatre - he is in the shady part. The third juvenile is not to be seen. Eric Tull reckoned the first flight happening July 23rd - he was spot on. Elli
- July 25. 10 am. Arrived and saw 1 of the chicks on the SE corner of the Craigie Hall roof. One of the parents was on the LT. A friend and a colleague arrived and joined me in searching for the other chicks. We found one on the S side of Craigie Hall. Walking around looking for the third, we heard calling from the treed area to the W of Craigie Hall.
- I finally found the 3rd fledgling quite low down on a large poplar branch. Unfortunately, he decided to choose a branch that was just too high for a step ladder. As I was phoning for a longer ladder, my colleague Molly Taylor came to tell me that the bird came down on his own. One of the campus security guards had already carried him up to the roof, where both parents were swooping down on the intruders. All family members were at that point intact and noisy. Elli
- [When I was over Friday about 5 pm, one of the juveniles had to be rescued from the ground and placed on the roof, and library circulation staff told me that one of the young had had to be rescued and put back on the roof earlier in the day. Don't know if it was always the same bird - the one rescued on Friday had a lot of down still showing amongst its feathers. JM]
- July 26. 9:30 am. Saw 2 fledglings again, mostly around Craigie Hall roof area, but at times the juveniles did fly to other buildings. As I was leaving, one juvenile flew after a parent that was landing on the LT - 7th floor ledge area. It managed to land on the SW corner ledge on the 7th floor and seemed quite proud of itself. Elli
- Was over several times on the weekend, but saw only 2 juveniles each time. However, this evening about 8:40 pm all 3 juveniles were on the roof of Earth Sciences, so all three must be flying well. One of the adults was on the LT roof and the second on the NE face of Social Sciences, where I had seen it in the evening both Friday and Saturday. JM

- August 20. The three young Peregrines are doing well. Many times it is difficult to find all three, but today at noon Elli Jilek saw all three sitting on or near the Library Tower. Two of the young birds seem to interact more closely, and on several occasions I have seen them sitting very close together. With the new adults this year, it seems to me that the birds are using different perches from those of previous years. For example, I have seen them less frequently this year on Social Sciences. But the young are quite noisy and usually let you know where they are. [ET]
- September 1. Three smaller (male) Peregrines were chasing a larger (female) bird, screaming loudly. I suspect it was the adult female being chased by the three young birds. In the course of the chase one bird hit a window, but apparently not very hard as it did not appear to have injured itself. By this time last year, most of the young had already left the campus.[ET]
- September 16. Although the young birds have not been seen since very early this month, the two adults are still seen regularly either by the nest ledge or on the Library Tower. It is as if they are guarding the nest ledge against other Peregrines that might be moving past the area. [ET]
- October 9. The Peregrines appear to have left the campus. The last sighting of a Peregrine was on October 5. The two adults were present near the nest site till around the end of September, and the last few days only one bird was evident. With this we are terminating the Peregrine web site for 1998.

1997 Observations

The first definite sighting of the birds on campus was on April 18. On May 6, there were two eggs in the nest. On June 2 the nest was found to have four eggs, all of which were fertile. On June 17, there were four young in the nest that were estimated to be 5-7 days old. The first young fledged on July 21, the other three on July 23. The young gradually left during the second half of August. The adults remained through much of September, with the male last being sighted on October 2.

1996 Observations

The first confirmed sighting in 1996 was made on April 10, when an adult female Peregrine Falcon was seen. The first observation of two Peregrines was on April 25. The birds are nesting on the ledge on Craigie Hall where they nested last year. Four eggs were laid; all were fertile and hatched on June 19-20. The four young all proved to be males. They all fledged between July 30 and August 1. As of August 29, three young and two adults are roosting on campus and spending considerable time here during the day. The last sighting of Peregrines (2 adults) on campus was on September 20.

1995 Observations

Two Peregrine Falcons were first seen on the University of Calgary campus at the end of April, 1995. They chose a ledge on Craigie Hall as their nest site, and laid two eggs. The first egg was laid on May 17th and the second egg was laid on May 24. The eggs proved to be infertile.

Two foster young that had been hatched at the captive-breeding facility at Wainwright, Alberta were introduced into the nest on June 17. The first chick left the nest ledge on July 20 - the second on July 22.

The second young Peregrine to leave the nest was found with a badly broken leg on July 29. She was taken to the Calgary Zoo, where surgery was performed to put a pin in the leg. After a long convalescence she was placed in the care of a local falconer, who has been training her to fly and to hunt. He is keeping her over the winter for possible release next spring. The other Peregrines have all left the campus.

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2001 Observations

- April 16 - two Peregrine Falcons are present and interacting on the nest ledge on Craigie Hall
- April 17-24 - the Peregrine Falcons were in a dispute with a pair of Canada Geese who also wanted to nest on the same nest ledge
- April 25-30 - the Peregrine Falcons appear to be in sole possession of the nest ledge
- May 7 - Pat Young of Alberta Environment reported that the peregrines have two eggs. The female, which has a black band, was hatched in 1999 at the Clinical Sciences building of the University of Alberta in Edmonton.
- May 14 - Pat Young reported that there are four eggs in the nest. The male, which has a red band, is the same bird that has been here since 1998. He was hatched in 1994 along the Red Deer River.
- June 14 - Pat Young reported that there are four young in the nest, and that they are very recently hatched, possibly earlier that day. Both adults were in attendance on the nest ledge and the female was very reluctant to move away from the young.
- July 4 - Elli Jilek and Nancy Ritchie assisted Pat Young from Fish and Wildlife to band the 4 babies. 2 males, 2 females. The females are the heaviest at 820 grams and 780, and the males at 630 and 610. This makes 12 youngsters born this year, as opposed to 6 last year.
- They were weighed, banded and put back in their nest area. The females were especially feisty, and the adults were swooping in front of the ledge area the whole time, calling and complaining quite frantically. The youngsters, when being handled and banded were also very verbal, but very quiet in the holding box (they were banded one by one and placed in a bird box awaiting their turn) and on the weigh scale.
- July 25 -- Two falcon chicks have managed to take off, with one falcon managing to do a 'walk-about' in the road and parking lot area around Craigie hall.

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- April 15. The first Peregrine was observed today by Elli Jilek.
- April 16. Bill Wilson observed two Peregrines calling to each other.
- April 17. A Peregrine was observed on the Craigie Hall nest ledge.
- April 24. Three peregrines were around the Library Tower and Craigie Hall at 5:30pm. From size it appeared there were two males chasing each other and a female sitting on the Library Tower. One male would land on the nest ledge and squawk while the other made sweeping passes past the nest ledge. The two males also chased each other in the air. At one point the two came at each other feet first in the air. They locked talons and seemed unable to let go again. Flapping wildly they spun in a circle and fluttered/fell to the top of Craigie Hall over the nest ledge. The two were then seen lying on the roof, struggling to free themselves. I went up to the roof with a Campus Security officer. When he put his head up over the edge of the roof, the birds flapped and half fell into a wooden lattice at the edge of the roof. I went around that side, and when the birds saw me they flapped some more and somehow came free. They each flew off, flying okay, although one may have drooped one leg. (E. Tull)
- April 25. Two Peregrines were observed repeatedly flying to and from the nest ledge.
- May 3. The female has made a nest scrape but there are no eggs as yet. This is late compared to other Peregrines in the area, which have begun laying. (information from Pat Young, Alberta Fish and Wildlife)
- May 13. There are two eggs in the nest. The male is the same male that has nested here for the previous four years. (information from Pat Young)
- May 16. There are three eggs in the nest. (info from Pat Young)
- May 21. There are four eggs in the nest. (info from Pat Young)
- May 27. The female is bird that has not nested here previously. (info from Pat Young)
- June 17. Elli Jilek reported the female acting differently, and Pat Young observed that one egg had hatched.
- June 19. All four eggs have hatched, and there are four young in the nest. (info from Pat Young)
- July 8. The young birds were weighed and banded today by Alberta Fish and Wildlife. There are three young females and one young male.
- July 28. One young was observed flying on campus by Jean Moore. It may have left the nest ledge on July 27.
- July 29. Two young left the nest ledge today. Both had to be rescued and put on the roof of Craigie Hall.
- July 30. The fourth young left the nest ledge today.

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- April 10. The first Peregrine was observed today by Elli Jilek.
- April 14. A second Peregrine was seen by Elli Jilek.
- May 8 and 15. The Peregrines were observed copulating.
- May 20. The female is sitting on eggs.
- May 21. Pat Young of Alberta Fish and Wildlife checked the nest and found three eggs. The unbanded male is a different bird from the male that nested here last year.
- May 26. Pat Young reported that there are four eggs in the nest, and that on the basis of the bands or lack thereof, both the male and the female are different birds from the birds that nested here last year.
- June 23. The first egg hatched today.
- June 25. All four eggs have hatched.
- July 11. Three young were banded, one female and two males. The fourth young, which was much smaller, very stressed and infested with lice, could not be sexed or banded.
- July 12. The fourth young was removed from the nest and placed in the care of a falconer, as it would likely have succumbed if it were left in the nest.
- July 24. The fourth young, a male, was returned to the nest, a little smaller and less-developed than the others, but hopefully able to survive.
- August 1. The first two young left the nest ledge.
- August 7. The third young left the nest ledge.
- August 8. The last young (presumably 'Louie') the one that was in the care of a falconer) left the nest ledge.

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- June 16. Although the Peregrine Falcons have been around the campus and the nest ledge for close to two months now, they have not nested. There has often been one bird in attendance and sometimes two birds, but although some food-passing was observed a month or more ago, the birds do not appear to have formed a pair bond and mating does not appear to have occurred. We are not sure what has gone wrong, but there have been no eggs laid to date, and it is probably too late for any nesting to begin now.
- Aug. 4. A maintenance worker reported seeing an adult falcon on the Social Sciences bldg.
- Aug. 20. Elli observed 3 falcons on campus, with one on the Library Tower, and the other 2 on Social Sciences. No territorial disputes were seen, so it may be guessed that several or all were 'passing through' the area. Possible 2 younger falcons were involved, as their colouring suggested fledglings.
- Sept. 13-20. Several observations by Elli of one or two falcons flying and visiting several bldg. spots, mostly on the Social Sciences bldg.
- It appears that this year is a non-productive one. The reasons may be that there were juveniles involved, or that the construction activity may have impaired the natural activity needed for reproduction. This is the first time since 1995 that we have not had any eggs or young.

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- 2003 Observations
- 2002 Observations
- 2001 Observations
- 1995 - 2000 Observations

2005 Observations

- March 15. First peregrine sighting made by Elli. Observed on the Education Tower.
- Apr. 4. 3 peregrines observed by Jean on campus. Two were interacting with each other, and calls were made while in flight.
- Apr. 6. One falcon was observed carrying prey to another falcon which was on the Library Tower.
- Apr. 7. A pair was sighted around the Social Sciences bldg.
- Apr. 12. 2 falcons seen again, and one was actually on the nest ledge.
- Apr. 20. 2 falcons sighted, with one visiting the ledge again.
- Apr. 29. Pat Young inspected the nest ledge for any signs of eggs. None found, but scrape appeared to have been 'upgraded' by the falcons.
- May 9. Elli saw one of the falcons on the Library Tower, and the other flying near the nest ledge.
- May 12. 2 Canada geese were seen on the ledge. Perhaps the peregrines have chosen another site on campus? No reports of this though.
- May 16. As construction is being undertaken on Craigie, perhaps this activity is disturbing the falcons. Consultation with the building site manager is made, and end of work activity is slated for early June.
- May 19. 2 falcons observed on campus - none near ledge.
- May 24. Final check by Pat of any nesting activity, but unfortunately, this late date suggests no hope of egg-laying this year.

- c 2015 Observations
- c 2014 Observations
- c 2013 Observations
- c 2012 Observations
- c 2011 Observations
- c 2010 Observations
- c 2009 Observations
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The first peregrine sighting at the University of Calgary was April 4, on the rooftop (west side) of Social Sciences.

April 20. Pat Young, a wildlife biologist with the division of Fish and Wildlife, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, checked the ledge to make sure all was well, as 2 adult falcons were observed near the Craigie Hall nest ledge. Some observations were made of copulation around April 21.

April 24. Elli Jilek saw an adult (believed to be the female) at the nest site.

May 1. More constant activity around the nest, with many visits by the adults. A very good sign that eggs would be laid this year.

May 6. Pat checked the nest and confirmed 3 eggs in the scrape. The female band revealed that this peregrine was banded at Balzac as a chick in 2003, therefore making her a mature, and hopefully, fertile, female. The male, who was in the vicinity, was not able to be identified.

June 5. Pat checked the nest again, and discovered that we now had 4 eggs incubating. During this inspection, a dead adult peregrine was found on the ledge, partially decomposed, and at a stage where it may have been dead for several days. It is assumed that this dead falcon was an 'intruder' that was attacked by one of the resident adults defending the eggs/nest. Date of hatching is expected to be about the 9th or 10th of June. The bands of both the attending male falcon, and the dead one (also a male), were sent to the main registry in Ontario, pending identification.

June 9. Elli reports that 2 of the eggs hatched, which is excellent news, since the last 2 years have not produced any eggs or young.

June 11. Confirmation of 2 live chicks by Rich, our 'resident' falconer, who has helped out in the past with any falcon 'problems'.

June 12. Campus Security, which has cameras that can be positioned onto the nest, observed 3 chicks in the scrape. The status of the 4th egg is unknown.

June 13. Pat checked the nest, and found 3 healthy chicks, with the female watching over them, and the 4th egg remaining intact (perhaps infertile).

June 23. The infertile egg was removed. The 3 chicks appear to be very active and in great shape.

June 30. John Campbell, Rich, and Elli banded the 3 chicks, 2 males and 1 female. Amanda, a Security officer, also attended and was given one of the chicks to hold. They were about 21 days old when the banding, which went smoothly, took place.



July 19. The first 'accident' involving one of the male fledglings. He made his way to the Swann Mall walkway, where he caused quite a scene for the passersby. Security watched over the bird until he decided to fly to a more practical spot from which to practice his flying abilities. It was a 'he', as Rich had been able to read the band later on. This bird may have been one of the fledglings that Jean and her granddaughter, Jessica, had then also seen on the roof of the Arts Parkade. This had been after they had spotted 2 of the fledglings still sitting on the nest ledge earlier.

July 22. Jean checked the ledge in the evening, and had discovered that all 3 fledglings had 'flown the coop'



Aug.4. The female fledgling was found by a passerby in the parking lot on the east side of the Administration bldg. Security stayed with the bird until Elli arrived, and after some effort, she managed to catch her and ask for additional help from Rich, to determine if she was able to be released, since she appeared to be slightly hurt. The area above her beak appeared to be bloody, and she may have suffered a concussion by flying into a bldg, a window, or even been attacked by crows, which were observed nearby. Elli kept her in a quiet, dark box for the afternoon, then the peregrine was let go with the help of Rich on a small hill near the library building. She was not able to gather height, and appeared to still be weak. She landed on a nearby tree branch, and it was decided this was a safe place for her for the moment.

Aug. 5. Elli was called by Security that the bird was on a walkway a small distance away from where she had been left the night before. This meant that she was not able to fly 'upwards' to safety, so, with help of several people, including Jean Moore, and a couple of Security officers, Elli managed to catch her once again. She was taken up on a nearby low roof, and released. She was soon seen by an adult (appeared to be the female) and then started to call quite frantically towards the adult. This was probably because she was hungry by then. They were left alone.



Aug. 6. The female fledgling had been observed by Security cameras to have 'jumped' from the roof, but not been seen anywhere, so an intensive search was made with several 'helpers' looking in bushes, on rooftops, around buildings, and listening for any calls. Finally, after more than an hour, an adult falcon was seen by the youngster, and she started calling, thus enabling Jean to track her whereabouts. She was on a low roof of the link between the Administration bldg. and the Sciences bldg. We all congregated there and watched her behaviour for a while. She did not appear capable of flying upwards, so it was decided to come back later and bring her food should the parent not



do so. Later that evening, she was found on ground-level close by, and after trying to catch her, she took off, but again, at low-level. She disappeared, and despite looking for her for several hours, she stayed hidden until darkness fell.

Aug. 7. Rich found her early in the morning, in the area previously searched, so she may have spent the night in bushes. She was in good condition, and Rich finally caught her with Elli being there to assist in the capture. She had been given some prey and was very hungry and able to get about,

yet was still unable to fly to a higher level. She was taken into the care of Rich, who will be advised as to the next steps. Fish and Wildlife and provincial experts in this field are working with us in assessing the future of 'Lucy' (as she has been named). There are no 'obvious' injuries, and so only a guess can be made as to the problem she is having.



Lucy is eating, looks very good physically (her wings are intact and uninjured), and she is feisty in her attitude. Further updates will be posted as they occur.

The other 2 fledgling are doing very well, and are no longer seen as often on campus. There is also usually an adult nearby. Since the young will probably leave for their migratory flight in a few weeks, they may occasionally still be seen chasing and catching prey in the area of the campus and neighbourhoods bordering the university.

For your perusal, there are additional pictures of this year's young and the various activities around the problems associated with 'Lucy'.

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2007 Observations



Before I go on with the 2007 update, I would just like to let you all know that 'Lucy', our injured peregrine from last year, is still in 'rehabilitation' (Edmonton) and a decision will be made by the appropriate persons whether or not she can be released into the wild, or is to be kept as an educational or breeding bird. It may be that she either had or received some neurological damage at the time of her collision last year.

March 30 - My first sighting of the peregrines this year was quite early. One adult, most likely the male, arrived. The male usually checks out the area and then makes sure the nest ledge is vacant, i.e. no geese-a-laying.....no date as to when the female joined the male or when mating took place.

As I was away from mid-April until the first week of June, I missed a number of important activities, but had others keeping a careful watch on things for me.

Thanks to Wanda Pedersen, Jean Moore and Rich Moore (no relation) for being my eyes and ears while I was gone (in Africa).

4 eggs were laid between May 19 and 23rd.

Thursday, June 28th - I have been TRYING very hard to get a handle on how many chicks have hatched, but it's been difficult. Although I also have the co-operation of Campus Security staff, who check with their cameras when I ask, I have only been able to confirm 2 chicks. The parents are usually sitting on the brood, and when not, I am not able to get a look unless I go to the 10th floor of the other bldg, which is impossible to do under 3 minutes tops. By then an adult has returned and is obscuring the view again. Let's hope that all 4 eggs are viable. Sometimes not all eggs hatch - infertility and predatory crows or magpies are also a possibility, as was the case yesterday between one of the falcons and a crow - the falcon dive-bombed the crow when it got too close to the ledge.

I hope that Pat Young (our falcon contact, who is a wildlife biologist with Fish and Wildlife division of Sustainable Resources) will eventually be able to verify the number of chicks. Perhaps someone with a scope can do a better job of seeing what constitutes the 'fluff balls' that I see. I have not been able to make out the various bodies, heads, shapes, etc. Just white fluff balls. The parents are now both leaving the nest exposed for a couple of minutes at a time, especially when one brings the other food, or when they cover for the other's sitting duties. Both are gliding about in front of the nest and then one goes off. So their parental duties are very constant.



Wed. July 4th - Pat is away at the moment, but we will be banding the chicks in a couple of weeks. Hopefully the chicks will develop well, and as I am watching the parents bringing food regularly and checking up on them constantly, their chances of survival and reaching maturity look good. I went up to the nest area to try and confirm how many hatchlings we had. 4 in all, with one visibly smaller than the others. The chicks are basically just huddled together in a group, staying warm (at least in the mornings), and waiting for mom or dad to come



with food. I managed to pick up some wings, bones, egg shells, etc. for further investigation, and assume that the main source of food consist of, as usual, gulls and pigeons.



Wed. July 18th - Banding was done today - attending: Pat Young, John Campbell (a licensed bird bander who has also previously helped out), and myself (banding helper). There were three males and one female...all were healthy and energetic (no lice). The adults seem to be focusing on Franklin Gulls as the main food source, judging from all the wings left on the ledge (we filled a plastic grocery bag with wings). These 'leftovers' were taken from the nest ledge area, as it gives a good indication of what the birds are feeding on and if there is enough food being brought to the young. The



female chick (the heaviest at almost 1000 grams) was the most vocal and resistant of the four when they were being handled, and the youngest (a male) was visibly quite a bit smaller, so hopefully it will eventually catch up to the others in terms of weight and size. The 2 parents were flying and dive-bombing while the banding was going on - a sign of excellent parenting skills.



Aug. 2-4 - Rich Moore (a falconer who has helped out before) was called out over the weekend to take one of the fledglings back onto the Craigie roof, as it (the female) had ended up on the ground for a second time. Thanks to Campus Security for taking this one back once before and for being so alert.

Tuesday, Aug. 5th - Just to let everyone know that we had our first flight on Thursday morning (the 2nd), and over the next day or so (apparently), the others followed suit. I had to go out of town, so missed all the 'fun', except for that first flight - which I managed to just miss by about an hr. or so. I DID find this fledgling (see photo) on the Law roof later that day, which is why I was able to track it down when we lost sight of it later on. I knew the fledglings would choose this weekend to take flight, and as there is always at least one grounding, it was no surprise to hear that the female had to be picked up twice and put back to a safe place. When one of the falcons crash-lands or ends up too low to the ground, we try and take them up to the Craigie Hall roof, so they are out of danger (construction sites and grounds maintenance are the main issues) and can be accessed by the parents to feed them.



Thursday, Aug. 7. I managed to track down 3 of the 4 chicks this morning, so hope to be able to find the 4th somewhere - maybe it is hiding in a corner. As it turned out, the 4th one was the first fledgling to leave the nest - the smallest and youngest of the chicks, who managed somehow to fly onto the nearby Law Library roof, had hidden in a corner where he was difficult to see from either the other bldgs, or by security camera. Luckily (or not), there is construction going on at that same level, and since I had previously talked to the workers about the potential for falcon problems, they kept a vigilant eye out for the birds, and were thus able to let me know that this one had not left the area and was also not being fed regularly. I suspect it was not being fed due to the construction activity and so I went to capture it, along with the help of one of the construction crew and a member of Campus Security. I put it back on top of Craigie Hall - the top roof is a good area for them, as the adults can access them and they have more room on which to fly about and gather strength.

By the next day, it was decided that the chick had not been fed all that day either, and so a falconer brought some food for the fledgling (a quail) and we brought it up to where the bird was sitting, and watched as it first cautiously, then hungrily, fed on the prey. Later that day, I checked in with Campus Security and had them focus their camera on this bird, which had moved towards the edge of the roof, and was flapping its wings. Just as we were talking, it took off, and the camera lost the direction of the bird. I came over both on the following day (Saturday) and Sunday, and was able to eventually track down this youngster. It is a bit smaller and more 'puffy-looking' than the others, (it still has some juvenile fluff visible) and its behaviour indicated to me that it was the youngest. It managed to fly from one roof area to another, albeit the lower ones, but eventually, over the next few days, gathered height and seemed to be doing well.

One of our regular contributors and birders, Jean, managed to see all 6 falcons - here is her report:

Peregrine Diary August long weekend - August 2-6, 2007

Friday, August 3

10 am - Jessica & I went to UofC to check on the young peregrines. Elli had sent a message saying one of the males had fledged on August 2. Couldn't see the young male on any of the roofs from 10LT. Spoke to a security guard who said the juvenile had been seen on a railing (3' off the ground) on the side of Craigie Hall facing the Arts Parkade. Jessica & I spent an hour searching the area around that spot but came up with nothing. Had to leave at noon so don't know what has happened to the falcon. An adult was flying around and calling while we were there - trying to lure young off the ledge I imagine. We listened, hoping that the missing fledgling might call, but heard nothing.

Saturday, August 4

Call security at UofC to see if they know anything about the fledged bird, but they know nothing. Wayne and I go over to UofC about 9:30 am. See two juveniles on the ledge and almost immediately see a fledgling on the roof of the Law Library. He moves around a bit but is still there when we leave at 10 am. While waiting for the library to open at 10 am we walk around to the front of the library and spot a second juvenile on the east corner of the Library Tower!! Big relief - all young are accounted for. So sign of adults while we were there. Don't know where that first fledgling was yesterday morning!!!

Sunday, August 5

Go over to UofC about 9 am. See two juveniles on the roof of Craigie Hall above the nest ledge, but can't tell if there are any young still on the ledge. Call security and am told that all the young have fledged and that Richard Moore has just rescued the female fledgling who has been down on the ground over night. Meet Richard and Lee, a security guard, who have just put the female back on the nest ledge. She immediately flew off the ledge and is on the roof of the Law Bldg. In the meantime one of the male fledglings has flown back onto the ledge.

Watch the falcons until 11:30 - two of the young males are very good flyers. When I leave, one of the male fledglings is on the roof of the LT, one on the SW roof of SS, the third is still on the nest ledge and the female is still on the roof of the Law Bldg. She looks pretty pooped out and has been lying down almost all the time since the rescue. Both the adults were on campus when I left (one on the antenna on the LT roof and the other on and off the face of SS), but saw no sign of feeding. Hope they get some food to the female fledgling soon as she must be very hungry.

3:45 pm Make a run over to check on the fledglings before we go out to the BBQ. The female is still on the Law bldg and the male is still on the nest ledge. One of the adults is on the LT antenna. The other two male fledglings are on the LT roof and the roof of Craigie Hall.

5:30 pm Get a call from security that one of the fledglings is down on the ground on the road in front of the nest ledge. Go over to keep an eye on it until a security guard from Foothills Hospital can get over to pick it up. The female is still on the Law bldg roof and the male that was on the ledge is no longer there so think it must be him on the ground. The fledgling is very blasé walking along the sidewalk. The security guards show up right away. Have never seen as smooth a pickup as made by the guard (Jonathan, I think). The bird is taken up to the Craigie Hall roof and released on the roof above the ledge. Jonathon says he is a farm boy and has bundled lots of turkeys in his day. The adult on the LT roof is having a fit while the security guards are on the roof - much calling and flying around them. See the released bird on the edge of the Craigie Hall roof when I leave. Jonathan says that the rescued bird has very raspy breathing.

Monday August 6

Wayne & I go over to UofC about 3 pm. See three juveniles on the Craigie Hall roof above the ledge (sitting on the vertical wooden strips across from the Parkade). One of the fledglings moves over onto the roof and we see feathers flying as it pecks at a prey bird. Walk around to check the usual spots for the young peregrines but can't find the 4th juvenile, but he may be on the LT roof if he is the very good flyer. An adult is on the LT antenna.

Tuesday August 7

8 pm - Drive around UofC but find no fledglings anywhere. An adult is on the LT antenna.



Tuesday August 7

8 pm - Drive around UofC but find no fledglings anywhere. An adult is on the LT antenna.



Friday, Aug. 15th. Fish and Wildlife were called when it was discovered that 3 falcons had somehow ended up in a pigeon trap which had been placed on top of the Math Sciences bldg., which is one of the preferred locations for the falcons. The three birds (incl. the youngest) were released unharmed, and were soon flying about again. This is also a location that is now home to one of two newly constructed nest boxes, as Craigie Hall may be transformed by construction in the next year. There needs to be an alternative site for the falcons should their Craigie Hall nest ledge not be accessible for next year's breeding season, so two large green boxes have been supplied by the university. These were affixed to Math Sciences and the ICT bldgs. the last week of July, both facing south - on the top roofs. The pigeon trap has been temporarily closed off until the falcons leave campus, and then we'll see if there can be some adjustments made so the trap does not catch falcons. The trap is to keep out feathers, bird droppings, and debris from coming into the ventilation system.

A wrap-up of this year's peregrine season will soon follow - so far all four are assumed to be doing well, with no additional reports of accidents by the birds. For best viewing while they are still on campus, try looking at the Library Tower roofs, the communication tower on top of this bldg, or the following roofs: Education Tower, ICT bldg, Math Sciences, Social Sciences and Craigie Hall. You can still hear one or more falcons before you see them: the young still call for food, and they also get excited when seeing another falcon (sibling or parent) flying close by.

The last of the falcons (presumably adults) was seen about the third week of Sept. It appeared that the youngest fledgling managed to leave eventually and made a successful departure from campus, as we have not heard anything more about this one. Until we get sightings, band readings, or discoveries of fallen falcons, we must assume that all is well and that all falcons have left for warmer climes.

There is a project being undertaken that has several peregrines (mainly from Edmonton) equipped with miniature tracking devices, so that their migratory routes, timeframes, distances and eventual return to Alberta can be followed and studied. 'Our' peregrines have been traced, according to band readings, as far away as Columbia, Costa Rica, and Mexico. Let's wish them a safe and successful journey.

(Photos provided by Steve, Aaron, Linda, Pat and Elli)

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The 2008 peregrine season is off to a good start, despite the start of the construction work just west of the MacKimmie Library buildings. So far, the large cranes, noise and general upheaval in front of the Craigie Hall nest site have not prevented the peregrines from returning. Our first confirmed sighting was made on Wed., April 9 by Eric Tull and confirmed later that day by myself. We had 2 falcons almost from the start, and the female has now been verified as the same one we had last year. This confirmation came from Pat Young, which means that we have an excellent opportunity to have new offspring. The male's pedigree is still unknown.

An unknown number of eggs were confirmed in the scrape by myself on April 30, with Pat checking the site 2 days later and finding 3 eggs. We may still get one more egg, as they do not lay all at once. Last year's eggs were laid between May 19 and 23rd, so we expect this year's hatching to occur about June 6, about 33 days after incubation.



The attached peregrine photo, in profile, was taken last year - it is of one of our young ones before it 'flew the coop', but it gives you a good idea of how quickly they go from egg to capable, and beautiful, flyer. Let's hope that the eggs prove to be fertile, and that despite the construction, we will have another successful peregrine season.



Please report any problems or interesting sightings to me via e-mail: jilek@ucalgary.ca. Thanks to all those who continue to take an interest in this, and to those on campus who reported the initial sightings. Remember that according to the Alberta government's 2007 endangered species report, the peregrine is still on the 'threatened' listing. This is why every new falcon continues to be very important to the species.

Friday, May 9th: 4 eggs confirmed by Pat Young and myself (a photo taken by John from Campus Security is attached). Despite the appearance of several large cranes and increased construction noise, the adults are sitting on the eggs and bringing food to the ledge when needed by the 'sitter'. The eggs are about the same size as 'regular' large eggs, and well camouflaged against the background.



June 6-9:

4 eggs hatched - 3 similarly sized, with one smaller, which was probably the last egg hatched - most likely to have occurred on, or between, Sunday and early Monday. Along with two security staff, and under the watchful eye of a parent (mom?), I verified that we had 4 live chicks in the scrape by Monday noon.

Trying to confirm the number of chicks from security cameras and binoculars proved to be unreliable, so a close-up look was required. All appear to be healthy and very eager for feedings from mom and dad, who were both on the ledge Monday afternoon, no doubt keeping a close watch. There are bits and pieces of 'food' nearby, as indicated in the attached photos.



June 13-17:

One of the chicks appeared to be missing. I went to confirm this, as neither a visual confirmation by myself via the Library Tower window, (with binoculars) nor the Campus Security cameras were able to see all four. Upon inspection at the nest site, we discovered the smallest was indeed gone. Its fate was, and still remains, unknown. It could have been suffocated by the others, as it was quite tiny and may have been unable to receive enough food to sustain itself. But this is all speculation. It is always sad to lose a chick, but better now than at a later stage I suppose.



Friday, June 27th:

Banding was undertaken by Pat Young and John Campbell (a certified bander), with myself attending, as well as John's son and several security staff members. We have 3 boys (triplets!), and as you can see from the attached pics, they are well and too cute for words. They allowed us to weigh them (all around the 630 gram range), and suffered the indignities of banding very well, despite their occasional efforts in trying to take off parts of fingers and giving us all the 'evil eye'.



This procedure took about 1/2 hr., with the parents swooping at the ledge where Pat was collecting them for banding, and then placing them back together, one by one. He also collected the bits and pieces of leftover prey that lay about which will give a good idea of the kind of feathered prey they prefer at the moment. From the remnants, it is mostly the usual gull and pigeon entree.



Banding photos provided by myself, Kim, Amanda and Kelly. Additional photos of the falcons, chicks, and other bird life will be posted in due course.

I will be placing the annual falcon alert posters on various doors and other locations as the chicks are now flapping their wings, gaining some flight feathers, and growing quickly. They can be seen at the front of the Craigie ledge (weather-permitting), and looking around and doing walk-about on the ledge. Both parents are good providers, and are ever-present. So now we head towards the most vulnerable time - their first flight stage, and hopefully the construction activity will not impede this.



July 15-17:

...and away we go!!!!!!



We have lift-off, and all three fledglings have managed, within a week, to hone their flying skills quite nicely. The first fledgling took off early Tuesday, July 15th, which was reported to me by the head of the construction site. The second one, who I had been watching on and off Wed. morning, seemed very eager to join his brother, so I was expecting him to join his sibling that day, which indeed happened. The remaining

'boy' was flapping about and jumping/hopping along the ledge, practising as hard as he could Thursday morning, so I tried to keep an eye out for his first attempt. This took place some time between 10 and 12 am, although I was not able to see the actual flight. I got a call from a colleague who notified me that a young one was down near the library tower. As there were strong winds that morning, I suspect he caught a bit of an updraft and didn't manage to use it to his advantage (yet). I captured him, without too much effort, although he did try to out-run me (plus the usual 'evil-eye') and then held his ground by making himself the size of a vulture, but he was retrieved nonetheless, despite himself.



Along with Campus Security, I returned him to the Craigie Hall bldg., and let him go on the roof, which provides a good, large area for practice and gives good access for the parent to see and feed the young one. One of his brothers was close by, so this provided some much-needed encouragement and support. Throughout the rest of the day he flapped and made his way back and forth across the roof area, and by Friday had managed to fly to another roof area (the Performing Arts bldg.) and show off his new-found skill.



No calls over the weekend boded well for the three 'flyers', and by Monday, they all appeared to have developed a good grasp of the air currents and updrafts. Two of the boys tend to 'hang out' together, with the 3rd one (Nr. 3) being close by. An adult is also usually in the vicinity, so their next couple of weeks will produce more distance-flying and then learning to grasp prey in mid-air. If you're lucky, you can see them most days in or near the library bldgs., Social Sciences, or the Math Sciences bldgs. Usually the rooftops or window sills are where they rest and look about.



My thanks to Blair, various Campus Security staff (those manning the phones and helping with the rescue), and to all those who have provided help along the way. Enjoy the photos.

I will be providing a special link in the near future to other photos taken in connection with the falcons and other bird-related activity here on campus. Stay tuned.

Sunday, July 27:

Just as I was thinking we had an exceptional group of fledglings, with only one 'accident', I get a call late Sunday evening from Campus Security that a fledgling had been reported down by a passerby near the old Administration bldg. We have had accidents there before, which may be a result of the

way the link to Social Sciences and the many windows come together in that area. I captured him easily, as he was sitting on one of the outdoor planters, looking a bit 'dazed'. I assumed he had made contact with a glass pane, as his beak showed signs of a bit of impact. I checked his wings and after confirming no other visible signs of an injury, checked with our falconer friend who advised keeping the fledgling overnight for observation.



So an unexpected houseguest came home, given his own room (in a large cardboard box I always have handy - see photo), incl. an en-suite, and the company of our two cats, who were quite inquisitive as to the strange bird smells coming from the box. They were not given any visiting rights though, and so the falcon was able to recover in the quiet and darkness of 'his' room.



He was returned to Craigie roof next morning, with the help of Campus Security, released and although reluctant to leave the box, appeared none the worse for his overnight adventure.



Later that day, I watched as he took off and landed on Social Sciences with help of some strong updrafts.



For the rest of the week, I tried to keep track of him and the others, and despite lots of rest time on various bldgs. (library tower, Soc. Sciences, Math Sc. and the Ed. tower), all 3 fledglings made great progress in their flying/gliding skills. A parent was often nearby, and provided prey when nagged long enough by the 'little guys'.

Aug. 2-10:

I was away for the week, and upon my return, was able to find 2, and sometimes 3, of the birds, mostly hanging about the east and west sides of Social Sciences. No reports came in about anymore accidents, so we have to assume all is well and on schedule. The falcons will be around until early-mid

September, so you can still hear and see them if you know where to look. One or two of the young ones can be heard calling in a pathetic tone to get a parent to feed them, especially around 5pm around the Social Sciences bldg. Just like any typical always-hungry pre-teen.

Sept. 8, 2008:

Two peregrines are still around campus - one of which 'seems' (hard to verify) to be a juvenile. They hang around together a lot, and are usually to be found on either the east or west side of the Social Sciences bldg. - top window ledges or corners. The other falcons have either moved further afield, or left the city altogether. No more reports of downed birds or accidents, so this is good news.

They will leave for the South sometime in Sept. - according to their own private clocks and schedules, and hopefully they will make it to their destinations safe and sound. Last year Alberta falcons were tracked as far away as Columbia, South America.

That's it for another peregrine season, so I would like to acknowledge the help and support of Pierre and his construction crew, many Campus Security staff members, and several library staff (incl. Blair), who helped in many ways to make this another successful year.

Here is a special link that includes some additional peregrine photos, other campus birdlife, and some extra ones of a more personal nature. I hope you enjoy it.

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Welcome to the Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) Home Page



April 13, 2009: First confirmed sighting of peregrines (2) was today - however, I have also received reports of possible sightings by some of the construction crew who believe the falcons have actually been around for about a week. So let's say that between April 6 and the 13th, we may have had our avian squatters take up their usual home on campus. It has become difficult for me to see the ledge, due to the construction work, but the support and co-operation I am receiving from the on-site workers and their supervisor, Pierre, is helping keep an eye on things.

I also have the usual extra eyes from Campus Security and their cameras, which help me to find them when necessary. The falcons have done some 'nesting' - meaning, they are fussing about the scrape and adjusting the pebbles to make it appropriate for egg-laying.

On Thursday, April 23rd, I saw some mating activity, which took place on the communication tower of the Library Tower - precarious at best, and very short-lived. However, the most interesting part of this was the fact that a 3rd falcon was flying just above, making circular fly-overs. I managed to see this because the female was making some 'begging' noises - or maybe just calling the one male. This other falcon could be a sibling of one of them, or perhaps a rival, but it did not make any gestures that indicated this. The 3 were then spotted by me on or near the Library Tower - one on the library sign, and the others on the roof ledges. Since their identities cannot be made until the leg bands are read (very difficult to do under the best circumstances), we can only guess who is here.

Sat. April 25: phone call from Kim of Campus Security who managed to see 'eggs' in the scrape via their cameras. When I came to work Monday, I tried looking with my binoculars into the nest area from the adjacent Library Tower windows, but the female was sitting tightly at the time. I tried again on Thursday, Apr. 30th by looking via the Campus Security cameras, and managed to have a quick glance while the female was off the scrape, that there were 3 eggs. I also received confirmation later that day from the construction crew that they saw 3 eggs from their bldg. site. As I was away for a mini-break, Pat from Fish & Wildlife checked on the nest ledge on Mon. May 4th and saw that 4 eggs had been laid. That should be the final count, although it is known that other sites have produced up to 5 eggs. 4 has been our 'best' so far.

33 days (approx.) for incubation from the 2nd of May should give us our first hatchling around June 4th. Will keep you posted.

In the meantime, many thanks to Pierre and his construction crew, as they have become important in reporting since my visual connection with the ledge has been severely hampered by the new bldg. going up. But we shall persevere, as have the falcons.



June 4th: Early morning call from Campus Security reports that they have managed to see 'some' hatchlings. Although I try to verify the number via the security cameras, it is impossible to say how many little ones there are.

Friday, June 5th I go to the scrape to have a closer look, and see that 3 fluff-balls have emerged from their eggs.



Mom and dad are swooping in and trying to get rid of me, so I gather up the empty egg shells and some prey remnants for later identification.



On Sunday, June 7th, I try again to see if the 4th egg has produced, but only 3 chicks are huddled together on the ledge, with the 4th egg in their midst.

Tuesday, June 9th: Removal of the apparently infertile egg from the scrape, and shortly after I leave, mom goes back to check on her little ones. Dad is nearby and watching from the Library Tower, an excellent vantage point.

Banding will take place in the last week of June, which will also give us the gender of our 3 hatchlings.



Monday, June 29th. Chicks are wondering what is in store for them. Banding of 2 females, and one male chick takes place under ideal conditions.

Weighing in for gender identification - females are about 915 grams or so, the male is 680 grams. All appear healthy, are feisty, and not impressed with their new 'bracelets'. Mom was swooping by as Pat Young, Fish and Wildlife senior biologist,



handed off the chicks, one by one, to John Campbell, our licensed bander, who was assisted by Elli Jilek. Campus Security staff was on hand to enable access to the scrape site.



After the banding procedures, all 3 chicks huddled together in a corner of the ledge and waited for the ordeal to be over. Next step is gaining more flight feathers, eating on an almost constant basis, and developing flapping skills, readying themselves for their first flights.

Friday, July 10: lots of flapping about by all three, but the weather is not that conducive - with little wind, but lots of cold rain.

Monday, July 13: All three are still on the ledge. Weather conditions not the best for first flights.



Tuesday, July 14: I check from the library tower, and only see one chick on the ledge, and after confirming with Campus Security, it seems we have two flyers. Pierre, from the construction site, kindly verifies that there are indeed two missing from the ledge. I try to find the two, but am unable to track them down. The male (I assume, since they are usually the first to go) had landed on one of the construction railings, and left from there. Am a bit concerned, as the females usually wait several days up to a week more for their first tries. Campus Security cameras are able to zero in on the male being fed on the library tower.



In the afternoon I get a call from Campus Security that a bird has been found near the Reeve Theatre. I get there within a couple of minutes, but as soon as I arrive, I can see by its prone position, and the impact it made on the window, that this is bad. I lift her (as per band) up gently and know that I cannot help, as the neck had been broken. That kind of impact, as you can see from the photo, would also give massive internal injuries. Campus Security staff and I stand there for a few minutes, along with the student who phoned, and contemplate the sad event.



Things like this do happen occasionally, but this is the first fatality I have had to experience in the 14 years I have been involved. It is a tragic day. Since we only have about 55 pairs of falcons in the province, every one counts.

Wed., July 15: I manage to find the male, who is doing very well, and chasing a parent, while constantly calling for food. The last fledgling is still on the ledge, but sitting on the edge and looking up for the others, which is an indication she is anxious to leave.



library and our vantage point.

Thursday, July 16: Arrive early at work to see that the remaining female is still on the ledge, albeit looking 'ready' to go. I inform the construction guys to pls. be on the lookout, and will try and check now and then when I go out. CBC calls for an interview, so I go out around 11 am. While we are given access to the top area of the TFDL site, I see that we have an empty ledge, and am able to track the female to the roof of the Professional Faculties bldg. She appears in good shape, and is looking up at her sibling and parent/s who are flying above and making some beautiful circles in the area around the





Fri., July 17: I manage to find the female on the law library roof, after which I find her on the PF roof, then later she is able to fly up to the Education bldg. The male fledgling is on Social Sciences, along with a parent. So far today, all is well, and I am hoping that the female, who has given herself more time for 'practice', will be an expert soon.

Due to the interview with the CBC, we will possibly have a live web cam feed for next season, which the CBC will be arranging with me in due course. Let's hope this happens and that even more people will be able to experience the kinds of things I am privileged to be part of every year.

My last report of the season:

August saw the two surviving fledglings slowly develop their flying skills - the male more adept more quickly, with the female taking longer and remaining with a parent longer than her brother. Greater flying distances were observed by myself and various other contributors to the sightings, and no more 'accidents' were experienced. Many times the fledglings were heard or seen to be begging for food from a parent until they too were able to fend for themselves, a learning process like every hunter-gatherer society. Lots of prey carcasses and feathers were reported around their usual hang-outs - the Social Sciences bldgs. and the Library tower.

Sept. 24th - one of the falcons is still on campus, which is a bit later than usual, but due to our good weather conditions, this is no surprise. Why go on a long journey south when you can enjoy warm, sunny weather here, and access a ready supply of food?

Despite the very traumatic experience of losing a fledgling this season, and the on-going construction stress for both the birds and myself, we did manage to get 2 new additions out there, and wish them the very best for their future.

Thanks again to all supporters, helpers (especially Campus Security), and our friends at the construction site. Additional media coverage by the CBC has increased the awareness and interest of people about the peregrines, which helps us, and them, in the long run. Let's hope the new year brings 'our' falcons back and that the new bldg. in front of Craigie Hall will not deter them from their nesting site.

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[Click here to read Falcon Alert](#)

2010 Observations

"The 2010 season has started off very nicely and early" - by Elli Jilek

The first sighting I and others had of a peregrine was on **April 19th**. It seems that 2 adult falcons were on hand from the start, or the female joined the male a day or 2 after our first sighting. Mating was observed soon thereafter, and normal behaviour occurred, with the male sharing prey with the female on the library tower. The male has also been perched on the library tower sign, a good indication that it may be the same as last year's. Until someone identifies the band, however, this is a guess.



The nest area on Craigie Hall, despite the construction all around, has once again become the residence for the falcons and over the weekend of **April 24/25**, an egg was laid. Between the **26 and the 27th** a second egg was laid, and we hope to have more this week. Due to the inclement weather it is difficult to impossible to see how many eggs the adult is sitting on. Although we have managed to install a live web cam, the transmission isn't working well. We hope to have it running properly soon, so pls. refer to this web page for that link.



Pat Young, our biologist from Fish and Wildlife, confirmed that we have 4 eggs as of **May 10th**. The female has also been identified as the same as last year's, and with that, the 'mom' has been the same one since 2006. The male has not yet been identified, so we hope that with the web cam (still being worked on), we will eventually be able to I.D. it too.



Between May 31 and June 3rd, 3 of the 4 eggs hatched, and after waiting a few days more for the last one, I removed the last egg on June 7th, which remained intact and is probably infertile. The 3 remaining chicks are in good shape, and are being fed and cared for regularly by mom and dad, despite the bad weather lately.

Banding will take place in the next couple of weeks, so we hope to have more info re gender and condition of the chicks.

June 22 - All 3 very active and reluctant chicks got banded today - 2 males and one female (the largest of the 3). Mom (and dad) on high alert nearby and on the ledge, with

some swoops towards Pat, who was handing the chicks to the 2 banders on hand. Fun was had by all, except the chicks, obviously.



The deed is done! (MW)

Next major step is learning to flap the wings and get air-borne and gain weight and flight feathers to be able to take the first flights. The anticipated fledging (first flight) is between July 12th and 16th, with the males usually leaving before the female. Stay tuned.

Still having technical problems, but are on-air most of the time. Keep checking the live video link. For more banding and other bird photos, pls. refer to 'more birds' link. If the birds are sometimes 'gone', they may be out of camera range or hiding behind the camera, which they tend to do. Turn up your audio to hear them calling for food or when a parent flies by. To those who are leaving comments on the UStream twitter site, thanks for all your interest.



Banding Indignity (MW)

See attached link (at top) for alert form for procedures and contacts when a falcon goes 'down'.

While watching the birds being fed in the evening, in particular, I have had the distinct feeling that they are not so keen on being filmed, as one or more often peck at the camera or the microphone. They are very vocal, and very funny when looking up-close in the camera. They usually get fed a last time around 8:30pm, which is also a good time re the light on the ledge.

Speaking of 'pecking', this morning, **July 9th**, one of the little trouble-makers finally managed to knock over the camera. I could hear it coming, as there was lots of interference in the audio, so I waited until the camera angle flipped over, and then headed over to the ledge area and after squeezing my arms and hands through the opening we have to access the ledge, I re-adjusted the camera, with duct tape (yes, Reg Green would be proud!) and placed it higher up so they can't get to it that easily again. They are flapping madly about and are getting fed less now, so their urge to leave the ledge is being helped along by the parents, who are also flying in front of the ledge and showing them how to use the wings and updrafts. The angle should allow for seeing the parent going by now and then, and hopefully also will show the direction of where they head, once airborne.

July 12 (Monday) : we have lift-off, at least for the two males. The 2 male fledglings took off sometime this morning, as all 3 were still on the ledge last night. One of the birds finally knocked over the camera this morning, after I heard some pecking at it (again), so knew this would happen. When I went to fix it, one of the youngsters was sitting on the block that holds (held) the camera, so I probably made it take its flight earlier than it wanted. The female youngster is still sitting on the ledge, crying and begging, with both parents near-by on the library tower. The one male is not far away on a lower ledge of a bldg., so seems safe enough.

Well, this has been quite the day, and it's only half done. I got a call from Security, after just having arrived back to the office from looking for the other male. A falcon had been found down near Scurfield Hall on a ground-level window ledge. I went with my 'rescue box' (gloves, large cardboard box and jacket), and managed to catch him in one try, after talking nicely and calmly to him and explaining the purpose of my presence. 2 passers-by helped by standing on either side so he felt hemmed in, and I then took him up to the Craigie Hall rooftop, from where he is visible to the parents, can be fed, and is close to his sibling on the ledge. The other male was still flapping about on the lower roof of PFB.



The remaining female is hunkering down on the home ledge, and I hope they stay put, as bad weather is on its way.

The hailstorm caused me no end of stress, and I couldn't go out until after it was over to check on the birds. No reports of anything, so hoped it meant all was well. Found the one male and the female (on the ledge), but no sign of the other male who was near the Scurfield area.

July 13: Had my home computer screen up until bedtime, listening for anything from the ledge. Between 9-9:15pm, the female on the ledge was calling for food or attention from a passing adult. Then the juvenile male, who I had rescued earlier, joined in, as he was on the other side of the ledge wall, and so I had a 2-bird chorus for a while. The adult must have brought some food, as the female was pecking away at something, and the noise died down. Around 10pm, just before I shut down for the night, the female hunkered down on the ledge, so all was well.

The following is a report sent by Jean Moore, a long-time birding enthusiast and helper:

"Was over to UofC this evening from about 7:45 to 8:30. Heard a juvenile calling when I arrived and when I finally found a way to see Craigie Hall (quite a maze trying to get around now, isn't it!!!) saw a juvenile male on the roof of Craigie Hall directly above the nest ledge. The female was on the ledge. Spent about 30 minutes searching the area around Admin/Ed/Scurfield Hall but heard or saw nothing. I then spotted a falcon on the roof of Social Sciences - thought it probably was an adult and walked over in front of SS to be sure - and it was. About this time a juvenile flew crying toward the adult - the juvenile was flying very well and landed on the roof of SS. The adult told him to get lost and he flew to the roof of the Ed Tower. He then took off and flew towards Craigie Hall. When I went to check him out, there was a falcon on the corner of the LT roof - thought it might be an adult, but after going up to 10LT and checking all the roofs think it was probably the juvenile who was flying around (it dropped down off the corner onto the roof before I could get a good look) There was no sign of the juvenile on the roof of Craigie Hall - the female was still on the ledge - smart lady.

So that's my report - sorry I couldn't scare up the second juvenile - unless it was him flying around. Did you see the rescued falcon fly once he was put up on the Craigie Hall roof? At any rate one of them is flying very well. Keep me informed and let me know if you need more help in the search.

Cheers Jean".

I checked from home before I left for work, and saw that the female was gone, so verified this when I got to work. She had left early this morning, but I couldn't find her anywhere or hear her. I then checked all the bldgs. I could, and found one of the males on the roof of Social Sciences after he managed to fly onto the side wall, frantically flapping to stay aloft. Both adults were flying around him and egging him on to get off that flat wall, which he did. Couldn't track down the other 2, but will keep trying.

July 14: The female has been sighted on the law library roof (where they often land first try), so thanks to Karen for this report from around 9am.

Just came from looking for the 3 fledglings (11:00am), and managed to track all 3 down. The 2 males are on the Social Sciences bldg., west side - either on or close to the top roof (often on a top window ledge). The female is still on the law library roof. This is great news, especially that the 2 males have flown that far and high already. An adult is on the library tower sign (south side), which is close to where the female is.

July 15: Around 10:30 this morning, I managed to track down all 5 members of 'our' family. The 2 fledgling males were on the Soc. Sc. bldg, along with both parents (west-facing side, near the top floors). There was some following, chasing, flying around, and false landings (attaching oneself to the wall, instead of a ledge and clinging like a bat is not elegant), and various take-offs to and from that bldg. The one parent then flew off towards the library tower, with one youngster following and crying while in flight. Pathetic.

The female fledgling is preening and still content to be on the law library roof area. So all is well and progressing, as it should. The female should be expanding her flying area soon, so I hope she is fit enough in the next day or so to follow her brothers' great examples.

July 16: On the way home from work I was able to confirm that all 5 falcons were on site, and doing well. The 2 young males and one parent were on the top window ledge of the Soc. Sc. bldg., with the female fledgling and another parent on the library tower roof and communication tower.

Pls. see additional photos of the falcons (and other birds) at the link 'more birds', and click on them for larger views.

Sept. 20: This is my last report for this year.

There are still falcons around. Mostly one adult (?) who sits on the Social Sciences bldg. - either the west or east side, top level/s. Depending on the weather conditions, their departure will be sometime in the next week or so. I just got word that one of our juvenile males was found dead at the airport - hit by an airplane sometime in early August. This is very sad and disappointing, as there are now only 2 left, and they still have a long way to go. I also received a report of an adult peregrine from the downtown family found dead during the summer months. It's always a sad event, but for the most part, we, in the recovery program, are able to add more individuals to the population, thus enabling a more diverse genetic base for the future.

It's always a satisfying feeling to know that many people are involved and interested in this venture, and above all, still having 2 new 'university' fledglings survive and thrive, despite hail storms, snow, construction, video cameras, etc.

I am grateful to everyone who helps me with this, and am already working on how to get next year's video feed set up and running and available to you, the public. It was very educational and fun to watch the progress on a daily basis, and to sometimes go eye-to-eye via the camera when a youngster was inquisitive, or pecked at the audio part of the equipment.

The birds are off to warmer climes, at least that's their 'plan', and I can honestly say I wish I were going with them. Watch for their return between March and May 2011.

A special and BIG thanks to Reg for being the falcons' 'web cam man'. Banding photos (marked as MW), courtesy of Mark Williams, of Canadian Wildlife Photography, and others by Erica (a visitor) or myself.

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Welcome to the Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) 2011 Observations

Since **March 21** is the first official day of spring, it was only fitting that the first appearance of a peregrine falcon was on that day (as far as I know). I saw it (him/her) sitting on the usual spot: top south-west facing window ledge of the Social Sciences bldg., so it may be a returning adult.

A few days later Campus Security also confirmed that they had seen 2 falcons on the Craigie Hall nest ledge, which is terrific news. Let's hope that they are mature adults that will be able to produce eggs.

One or 2 peregrines are usually on or near the ledge, and with the new TFDL (Taylor Family Digital Library) slowly being opened up to the public, the 6th floor (south-facing) will be a great place from which to watch falcon activities.



This photo of the adult falcon was recently taken by Rich, who often helps out. The falcon was on the roof of the Library Tower, surveying the area.

April 14: our live web cam feed is now up and running (fingers crossed it stays that way, though we are experiencing the odd disconnection). It is on the ledge, near their scrape, and will hopefully stay intact. Last year the young chicks often pecked at the camera lens and even managed to knock it over several times, making more trouble for me to fix it each time. It is now in a more stable container and although nothing is 'happening' right now, eggs should soon be laid, if all goes well.

April 25: Have confirmed the first egg has been laid. Not sure what day it was, but if any more eggs will be laid, it will be within the next couple of days. Both adults (parents) have been identified, thanks to them being very cooperative by standing on the ledge while I managed to read their bands from a short distance (we are separated by a cement wall, that has an opening which I can peek through). The egg is just really visible from this angle (and camera focus) - it is the 'brownish thing' behind the wood that is lying there.



A Franklin's gull (falcon victim)

April 26: Although I checked first thing this morning re egg numbers, a keen observer let me know that around the lunch hour, we had another egg laid. So, as of today, we have 2 eggs. The adults take turns sitting on the eggs and going for a 'break'. The male is the main purveyor of 'food'.

April 29: Another egg (that makes it triplets so far) was laid between yesterday and this morning. The parents are staying fairly 'put', as the weather is just so nasty, even resulting in some blowing snow going on to the ledge area.

May 9: After being away last week, I suspected we might get one last egg, and on May 2nd, I got a possible sighting from one of my 'spies' within Campus Security. I have checked more closely and can now report that we have 4 eggs, being attended to by mom (mostly) and dad. Hatching should begin about 32 days after the first egg was laid (approx. June 4th or so). The mom is the one that is a bit larger, and whiter (chest area), and is the main 'sitter'. Dad brings food regularly and is the protection squad.

June 1st: We have twins so far! Saw some discarded egg shell via the web cam, so went up and took a pic (soon to be posted) of our first 2 chicks that hatched between yesterday afternoon and this morning. Mom was nearby, giving me the evil eye (as per usual). If the other eggs hatch, then it will happen in the next couple of days. Stay tuned for final count.



twins - so far

June 16th: I have been away, so have not been able to fill in some gaps until now. There are only 2 chicks this year - the other 2 eggs were infertile and were removed by Fish and Wildlife. We are scheduling the banding of our 'twins' for sometime next week, so stay tuned to this site for the date and time so you can watch via the live feed. Speaking for the parents, it's much easier to feed 2 instead of 4, and the chances of long-term survival are better too. Mom is close by to keep the chicks warm while this cold rain falls. The chicks have grown fast and are being fed by both parents and very regularly, with the occasional 'remnants' to be seen on their ledge site.

Banding: set to happen sometime on the 23rd. (Thursday) - check around the noon hr. or so.

June 23rd: Banding only took about 1/2 hr., which incl. the weighing. As I suspected, we have one of each - male and female - the female weighs more. They are growing fast and are very feisty already and thus, very healthy. I took some pics and video, so hope to have that available via this site sometime soon. Stay tuned.

Fledging: should take place about July 6 or 7th for the male - the first to usually leave the ledge, then up to 8 days later (anywhere between 2-7), the female. Stay tuned and pls. check out the web cam video - it's lots of fun to watch!

July 10: Bert's GONE! Lift-off was at 10:25 am (10 min. off my predicted time), and he did GREAT. Landed on law library roof, adjacent to Murray Fraser bldg. Checked on him on campus after seeing magnificent flight on live video. Enjoy the clip, courtesy of 'chatter'. See link below (Bert fledged) - 3-min. video, which shows his sister watching the whole thing and then searching for him once he leaves the ledge! Allie, who SHOULD have gone a few days later, decided she wasn't going to stay home alone, and left the ledge at 13:40 (1:40 pm.). 2 chat participants saw part of this, as the camera was not focussed on the ledge area to capture the whole event. After initial checking of Bert's whereabouts earlier that morning on campus, I returned again later in the afternoon to confirm that 'Allie' (all names given by chat room) had indeed flown the coop. I found her on a nearby ground-level area of the Faculty of Law bldg. and with help from Campus Security and a colleague, captured her and placed her on a lower roof near her old home, Craigie Hall. She was angry, but otherwise healthy and uninjured. [Here's a slideshow of the rescue and Bert](#).

July 11: Morning check for both - Bert and Allie are where they each were yesterday, and in excellent form and vocally strong. Parent nearby, watching both. Food drops will be made when necessary by the parent and pics from yesterday's rescue of Allie will be posted on Flickr very soon. July 10 was a VERY long and full day for me. And the fledglings. Map of fledgling location from July 11 attached at bottom of home page. Thanks to Irene.

Just back (1:30 pm) from 2nd Allie rescue. It was pouring (rain) hard and she probably needed shelter, so dropped down to doorway close by, but it's on the ground, so I was called to get her - again. Now on Craigie rooftop. She is fine - I am drenched.

July 12: Bert managed to get from the law roof over to the Craigie top roof (above the ledge) mid-day, after seeing that Allie had been given food by a parent. It took some time for Bert to figure out how to get to his potential lunch, so I watched (it all happened within visual contact outside my window a distance away - I have binoculars) to see how Bert flew/glided to the next lowest roof top, slowly making his way downwards and over to Allie/food. Finally made it, and by this time Allie had had her fill and left Bert to his share. They both then napped, preened and had a good reunion and afternoon. Both were still there and being watched by mom opposite on the TFDL, so all was well when I checked on them on my way home.

July 13: Got called by Security at home, so arrived on campus before 8am, and discovered the grounds staff who had found Allie (clear from her fuzz-top) on the ground in a pedestrian area next to the Nursing Faculty. I caught her quickly and without much fuss, but she was breathing hard. We put her on the roof area where Bert had initially flown to, right near a parent who began swooping and acknowledging Allie's presence. Made sure Allie was in good shape, which she was, as she jumped out of the recue box, without any help from me. Will post pics eventually of this latest episode. Allie needs to gain strength and experience, and hopefully will stay in that area. She may have tried to follow Bert or parent this morning, as the chat room described some very vocal interactions very early this morning.

July 14: Bert's graduation. Both he and 'Allie' were on law facult. bldg this morning, with both parents looking down on them from above on the library tower roof. Were both very vocal, so breakfast likely overdue. Later in morning, around 9:45 am., saw that Bert had managed to follow a parent onto the Soc. Sciences bldg. roof. (west side) Quite an achievement, and not surprising, given the good breezes this morning, unlike the severe weather last night. But they all managed to get through that as did I. Parent is looking down at Bert, within about 2 meters from a communication tower above his perch. Great progress 'Bert'!

Bert has flown very nicely today, incl. inbetween the library tower and Soc. Sc. several times. Allie was also finally discovered in the afternoon, sitting and squawking over the registrar's entrance (library block) on the top roof, facing east. So all is well, and both improving. Thanks to all our on-campus 'spies' and alert falcon-watchers. These 2 are lucky to have such care and support available!

July 18: Over the weekend (I came to campus on Sat. morning) there was great improvement in Allie and Bert's flying expertise. We can assume no more rescues for Allie and Bert is now appearing very 'adult'. Allie and parents have visited the ledge site several times in the past few days, and with a number of 'chatters' still around, some were able to see them there via the live cam feed, incl. myself. With good, dry weather the past several days, Allie's progress has gone from very questionable to very competent, given the distances and heights they are both now achieving. They follow the parent/s when they want food, as they are not yet self-sufficient. This will take some time, but I see a great future for them before they migrate and leave us for the season. Attached also find link to photos of the two new falcons and info: <http://www.flickr.com/people/catnap7/>

Aug. 3: Was away last week, so only now getting caught up with info and activities. Campus Security staff picked up downed falcon on the 29th. afternoon (possibly Allie?) and returned to Craigie roof. Was observed for the night and next morning was recovered enough to have flown off again. No more rescues or reports of problems after that.

The web cam is still operational (and re-booted after my return) and has given chat room viewers (see live video link above) lots to be happy about, since both adults and juvenile/s are returning. Dad brought some lunch (Franklin's gull) yesterday (Aug. 2) and proceeded to dissect it in front of eager audience. After filling up, Bert came along and ate his share, keeping away a potential visitor (quick try at landing on ledge by??? - not able to i.d.). Not sharing, this time. saw all 4 falcons on Tues. morning, in diff. areas, with the juveniles actually having siestas together on the Math. Sc. bldg. roof top. One or both parents still about, and the 2 'kids' are doing well, and still screaming early mornings and when they fly to parent or see family member/s.

Aug. 16: Nothing 'special' to report, except that on several occasions, especially last evening, we have had reg. visits by various falcon family members, but mostly, the mom. She has gone back to reclaim her nesting spot on the ledge, and visits quite often, including vocalizations. The juveniles are also still around campus, and are sometimes found to be huddling on window ledges, balcony edges ('Bert' seems to prefer those) and often in close proximity to one another. They still provide much excitement and fun moments, and the on-line chat site is still active. I recently gave an interview for NUTV (campus media), so if you want to access that, pls. go to: <http://nutv.ca/shows/fullfrontal/51>



mom comes to visit Aug. 15. pic courtesy of 'lotus' from livestream feed.

Do not be put off by that title! The falcon interview is at the beginning of the show....

The chat and cam will stay active until at least Oct. 3rd, after which time we'll decide how to progress.

Have additional videos and pics to make available to all, so with time, will try and get them onto whatever sources will take all this. Stay tuned, and I will give info re this.

Aug. 25: Got visit by both adults this morning, which lasted a few minutes. Some vocalizations between them that 'sounded' like a reunion chat, very exciting, and dad even came waddling over to camera for close-up of eyes. See pic below. (thanks 'lotus') Mom then returned after this short visit, and stayed a few hrs.

Aug. 29: Mom has been back several times since last parental visit, and has sometimes stayed all morning, preening, settling on nesting area for a bit, and napping in standing position, with occasional chatting noises. Very lovely to see, and appreciated by all who are still watching the live feed.



mom and dad have reunion on ledge. Aug.25



mom comes to visit Aug. 15. pic courtesy of 'lotus' from livestream feed.

As I was away for the month of September, I missed our falcon departure, but chatters on the chat site did manage to see a falcon come to the ledge on Sept. 30th, which 'may' have been a visitor, as the leg bands were coloured, which our falcons don't have. I will go back and verify as best I can, as to when our falcons were last sighted on campus.

Attached is also a publically available video, made by our bander, John, and Reg, the man responsible for first establishing this live cam feed 2 years ago. Please feel free to advertise the link to the video, as it is very educational and fun to watch. It lasts about 16 minutes.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HU-bXTboKy4>

To access the live feed, click on 'live video' link above. You may need to 're-fresh' the link sometimes, so just go to the home page, then back and click on 'live video'. There are also occasional problems with connectivity, but for the most part, we now also have access for off-campus servers. The resolution is not the best, and when there is movement (as when mom/dad leaves or comes), then the camera has to re-focus. Hope to have a better set-up next season. I see that there is much discussion going on via a social network site on the livestream attached to this live video link (check out 'chat') - nice to see this interest in 'our' birds. **We now also have sound! (as of June 20th) - thanks to Paul!**

Thanks to Paul Pival for all his technical help and expertise in setting up/maintaining the video feed.

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Welcome to the Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) 2012 Observations

Welcome to the Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) Home Page for 2012!

2012 Observations:

Welcome back to another falcon season with new and better camera/computer equipment for your viewing pleasure. This new set-up has 2 cameras, one that can be manipulated by myself (and other designates), and a second one that sits right next to the egg-laying scrape area, which will enable a close look without disturbing the activities. This may also allow a better identification of the birds and any bands they may be wearing.

So off we go for another interesting year.

March 28: First sighting of falcons! The male was sitting, as per usual, on the corner roof top of the old MacKimmie library tower. Later that same morning, there were 2 falcons on the nest ledge, as seen via the live feed. I was able to see two bands on the female via the 2nd cam, and although not positive, it MAY be our female adult from last year. I will try and confirm at later stage. The other falcon (possibly the male) came close to the camera (which has survived last year's multiple falcon attacks) and after a short walk-about and checking their abode, both left the ledge for the day.



Callie on ledge



Craigie Hall ledge from front

The falcons will be re-affirming their territory, and hopefully will mate at some point and then settle down in their 'home'. Usually by early May we know if there will be eggs, so let's keep those talons crossed for a new family.

Here is confirmation of our female (mom, named 'Callie') from Gord Court, a bird expert and provincial biologist who says: "

"This gal was born on the Balzac Gas Plant in May of 2003 and began nesting at the U of C in 2006".

April 4: I have managed to i.d. the female - it is indeed 'Callie' (black band nr. U/2), our mom from last year, and so I also hope to see if the mate is 'Gary', her partner from last year. The male was i.d.'d on the 21st June as one born in Edmonton (2006) at the Telus bldg. - nr. 3/6 V/V on bands. The female is often on the ledge, and has made her 'bowl' (called a: scrape) of gravel for nesting, with her mate visiting now and then and bringing food. to show he is a good provider.



Callie preparing scrape



mom (Callie) returns in 2012

April 19: 1st egg laid, and thanks to cam chatters/viewers, we have pics of this event!

April 22: 2nd egg laid today. All is well with the world of falcon parenthood!

Once again, thanks to a number of people (staff mainly) who continue to support and help with the peregrine program, especially all the IT people, but above all, Paul. For falcon pics, my thanks to various regular 'chatters', incl. 'lotus' and 'hcmd'.

April 23: 3rd egg (12:13 local time) - and for the 1st time, I saw a live 'drop' (after 16 years).

April 25: 4th egg (15:55 local time) - the drop was captured by a chatter and is available via flickr link below. Fascinating to watch. We now have a 'quartet' of eggs. Am sure mom hopes this to be the last one!

For some great egg pics, see link below:

<http://flic.kr/ps/2d2ZXK>



1st egg/s- Apr.19/22



3 eggs and mom-April 24



mom with 4 eggs 2012



both adults (dad laying down, mom up) - April 30

Between May 26 and May 30th, we welcomed triplets to the ledge. Although I was out of town during this time, many livestream site chatters were able to track the events and post pics. Will add various links and pics at later date. For now, we have a lovely video of a feeding from June 4th, with thanks to 'saidh', one of the reg. chatters.

June 2nd: 'dud' egg removed (non-viable). Some remnants of prey were also taken for later study of what the falcons are eating. It incl. pigeon (some with bands attached to legs), gull and waxwings.

Banding took place June 21 st. We have 2 males, one female (who is larger than males) Video and pics of event in progress.

Males are: A/89 and D/65 ; female K/91 on right-taloned black bands - other nrs. hard to see.

July 4th: First fledging (D/65) left around 7:30 pm (a bit later than usual), and managed to land on a lower roof (east-side) of Craigie bldg. below the ledge. I found him quickly, so that was good result. Other 2 still waiting for their scheduled flights, which I predicted for July 7-9th. This fledgling has left too early, in my estimation.

July 6th: D65 was found dead by Campus Security. I went to retrieve the body - his neck was broken, and since it was next to Soc. Sc. I am guessing it hit a window or ledge perhaps in pursuit of a parent who often goes to that bldg. Glass windows reflect the sky around, so that is always a concern. A very sad and tragic end to our young falcon's life, but it does happen.

July 7th: Slight winds, but that was enough to entice the next one (which ended up being the female K/91) off the ledge about 10:15 am (I had just been watching the live feed and missed it by 5 min.). I left for the uni and found 'her' on the same roof area as D65 had first landed on. It's a good spot for the fledglings as they have lots of space for practising and being seen by parent/s. And parents can bring food there too. Around noon, the last one left, which I DID see fledge! A rarity for me and several others who were glued to their live cam screens. Off I went again to the uni, but after several hrs. of fruitless searching, along with Warren, gave up trying to find the youngster.

July 8th: Early morning call from Security which was answered by our falconer friend who found K/91 (female) in a fir tree on south side of Ed. Block loading dock. She was off the ground and on a branch, but well-hidden and safe, so left her there. I came to campus around 10am after being called that another fledgling had been found on a park bench just west of TFDI - near the ponds. Security staff and myself managed to corral the bird after 3 tries. He wasn't able to gain much height, so eventually caught him and put him in my 'rescue box'. Put him onto the Craigie lower roof area, with both parents swooping down towards me when they saw I had their 'baby'. He was released in good order, and stayed there the rest of the day. The female in the tree had gone by the time I came back later that evening, but the male was still fine on the Craigie roof area.

Link here is of pics of both fledglings and their locations on July 8th: (thanks Jeremy for helping with transfers of my pics/video!)
<https://plus.google.com/photos/114591321905232780998/albums/576323870172...>

July 9th: Both fledglings spotted by me around 10am today. Male is on Craigie roof area in the shade, and female is on Science B. bldg - roof corner (east side) near the MacEwan Hall entrance area. Great news!

July 11: both juveniles sighted (around 10am) on Math Sc. south-east corner roof - with parent close by on Soc. Sc. (adjacent bldg.) on top window ledge - west side. All is going well, despite the extreme heat. They often seek shade when it gets too hot, so will be moving around more now too. Some very positive news.

Pls. see attached doc. for contacts re any accidents:

[Alert Falcon RL UofC 2012.doc](#)

Attached is a link (courtesy of Jeremy): maps with locations and pics of the fledglings on July 7th - just click on the coloured 'balloons':
<http://goo.gl/maps/3bWB>

Pic of dad falcon to right here and others ('more birds' link) of the adults taken June 21 courtesy of Jon Groves, photographer extraordinaire!

Video of banding day courtesy of 'saidh' (chat site):

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=74lqOfCSd8c&feature=youtu.be>

More banding pics and video (courtesy of 'kezz'):

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/magrat22/>



**dad June 21 2012 -
banding day**

Feedings of chicks by mom link below:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z63PQbSB2qQ&feature=youtu.be>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mINvxsHyLGs&feature=youtu.be>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YrZP2HBV3D4&feature=youtu.be>

Thanks to 'saidh', we now have a very sweet and funny video of mom retrieving one of the wayward chicks. See link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sjXbkGi4I1U&feature=youtu.be>

For egg retrieval video (10 min) see link below:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I9jGlvKiRFk&feature=youtu.be>

For a short video of growing/running chicks (June 19). Thanks, 'saidh'.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8LOiL4UhgYU&feature=youtu.be>

July 16th photos (courtesy of Dave Brown, uni photographer extraordinaire)



**both juveniles on Math Sc.
bldg - July 16, 2012**



both juveniles on Math Sc. bldg - July 16, 2012

July 17th: Both juveniles were sighted by a staff member of LCR who reported that they were sitting on the north end of Bio Sc. and one parent just above on the So. Sc. north roof top corner, looking over the 'kids'. I confirmed with binoculars, so we have good progress. Always nice to have the extra 'eyes'.

Here is a lovely slide-show of early chick-days, courtesy of 'Richard' (chatter):

http://www.ucalgary.ca/peregrine_falcon/files/peregrine_falcon/calgary-f...

Another slide-show of chicks being fed gull by mom (via Richard):

http://www.ucalgary.ca/peregrine_falcon/files/peregrine_falcon/calgary-f...

Here is a link to birds that have been sighted in Calgary in past year (2011) and pics for i.d. help if you are interested in birds beyond peregrines or wonder about a particular sighting.

<http://birdscalgarv.wcrdoress.com/photo-gallery/>



family portrait june6

Aug. 13th: While I was away this past week, the female juvenile, K91, had some sort of accident and was picked up near Math Sc. bldg on Aug. 7th and taken to the Alberta Institute for Wildlife Conservation. The checked the falcon over and determined she is just 'stunned' and no broken bones were found, so she will stay for a few days rest and recuperation and will be returned to campus as soon as she is deemed fully ready to re-join her family here. The other members of the remaining family often visit the ledge site and the young male and adult mom are often to be seen on or near Social Sc. The 'injured' female may have hit a bldg. or window or tried to get prey and missed and ended up colliding with something.

Aug. 22: K91 (female juv.) is now at falconer's for additional rehab, and will be released next season when she is ready and able to be independent. Her left wing is not as strong as it should be for return to the family unit before they migrate, so for her sake, she is being cared for and will be given training so she is able to survive on her own when the time comes. It is a great comfort to know she is being well taken care of and will be fine once spring rolls around again.

Momma falcon and A89 (last juv. male) are around and sometimes visit the ledge, so the camera will stay on for now. I expect they will stay around until early to mid Sept. and dad is also about at times. The adults usually visit the ledge/scrape area before they leave, so expect to see one or more there at times.

Aug. 27: today one juv. and an adult were seen on way on to work. Juv. on Education bldg. top roof, adult (mom) on Soc. Sc. top roof croner. Later that day, both parents came to visit on the ledge and stayed for a while, with dad leaving and mom staying for very long afternoon visit. They announced themselves very loudly and were quite voacl with one another during their stay.

Sept. 6: Here is the latest report regarding K91 (female who was rescued and is with falconer for rehab)

"Well, she is still flying on a line but she seems to fly pretty well. I plan on flying her free tomorrow or the next day and once I get her flying around me I should have a better idea of just how good she is."

This is good new for her and her future prospects. We wish her speedy recovery and strong winds to help her get stronger.

Sept. 25: latest on 'Louise' (prev. K91, now AB0097): she is still with the falconer, being trained for her future solo career and doing well with her flying lessons. She now wears a single metal band on her left talon, which replaces the 2 larger ones, so that the leather straps used for her training are unhindered. I had the great privilege of having our falcon and a merlin (also in trainig) come by my home for a short visit on Sunday, Sept. 23rd. The falcon had been checked over earlier that day by Dr. Gord Court, the biologist so that she could get the new nr. and have a general check-up. I took some pics of the 2 birds and have incl. one here and on the 'more birds' link, for your perusal.

The live cam is still operational due to the visits that still occur and chatters are still around to watch this.

Thanks to Campus Security for helping out on Aug. 7th - it was in the evening hrs. that the accident happened.

December 2012: My last update of the year. The latest news is that 'Louise', our injured female, is going to a new home in Ontario, where she will become part of their educational programs. Although her rehabilitation went well and she was able to catch some prey, the falconer who cared for her, as well as Dr. Gord Court, decided she was not able to recover her full strength and the abilities she would need to survive in the wild and during migration. Although we always prefer to re-release any of our injured birds back into their native environment, peregrines are also still very vulnerable in terms of numbers, so this is the best solution. The facility is:

www.ourwildontario.ca



K91 in care of falconer



'Louise' coming for a visit, Sept. 25

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January 2013: We have had to say 'good-bye' to our injured falcon 'Louise' (Now called 'Chinook'), who is at the WildOntario facility: <http://www.alternativesjournal.ca/community/blogs>

As of Jan. 28th, Chinook (ex-K91, a female falcon) has been transferred and is being used as an educational resource, which is the best outcome given the circumstances. Since her initial accident (? due to window encounter?), she had been taken care of and rehabbed back to a good state through the efforts of Rich Moore and the folks at Alberta Institute for Wildlife Conservation. Although she was eventually able to catch prey on her own, she never regained the height nor strength needed to be able to migrate with her family.

For pictures of 'Chinook' and other falcon-related photos, pls. click on the link to "more birds" above.

Observations:

March 13: Have asked WildOntario (who have our now-renamed falcon Chinook) to update me on her situation. Apparently she is becoming quite the star attraction and I hazard to guess, she'll soon be a diva. Here is a recent phot of her, courtesy of the facility. For those of you who use FaceBook, pls. access info via: www.facebook.com/WildOntario



'Chinook' at WildOntario facility,

March 2013

March 25: First confirmed sighting made by Irene Wade, who saw one adult on library sign. 2 adult falcons have now returned (within a day or two of initial sighting). Until there is a positive i.d. done on both sets of leg bands, we shall 'assume' it is 'Callie' and 'Gary' from last year. Nesting behaviour has started, as the female is already making the scrape comfy for eventual egg-laying. Please access the live cam feed via the link above 'live video'.

April 9: Momma falcon (yes, it is 'Callie') has made a lovely large bowl-shaped scrape, and both adults are fussing about the ledge, making sure all is prepared for eventual eggs. This may start to happen as of next week. Mating has been observed and rituals that solidify their relationship are being seen via the live cam.

April 16: 1st egg laid (observed about noon by chatter 'neener').

April 18: 2nd egg (courtesy 'Kelowna lurker' report)

April 21: 3rd egg ('bnnyo' report)

April 23 (?): 4th and final egg laid ('neener')

May 23/24th: 1st hatchling arrived sometime between these two dates. (likely EARLY on Fri., May 24th)

May 25: 2nd egg hatched late in the evening ('kirsten')

May 26: 3rd and final hatchling arrives ('cmcms')

4th egg presumed to be dud, and later removed from ledge area.

June 17: Banding done today - 3 males identified. (more details to come)

July 3rd: 1st Fledge was around 8pm – went towards MLT

July 4th: 2 & 3rd went close together early morning – flew the opposite direction – spotted later. (Irene) " I was able to find two for sure – one on Craigie E west side near the +15 to the parkade , the third at the top of the SW arm of the Hotel Alma and the other on the west end of ScA (we think this was the first fledge)".

Warren & security found a juvie on ground near ScA and put it up on a roof (tentative info until confirmed)

July 9: chick photographed sitting on ground in front of MacHall – not sure who rescued it.

July 31: NUTV had naming contest – winners are Nenshi, Zephyr & Orion

July 10: Warren witnessed parent with 3 chicks following and landed on top of SS (one chick had to circle a couple of times to gain height but made it!)

Thanks to Irene, 'lotus' and 'neener' for above info and pic below. For additional pics, ls. see link below:



Thanks to 'nc' for visual diary of falcon activities (see link below) and much-appreciated support in my absence.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/79254481@N03>

August: This is the time when the fledglings are learning and being shown the 'ropes' by their parents, with dad doing most of the hard work. Mom ('Callie') is often seen on the ledge (see video link) in a corner and sometimes spends many hrs. preening, 'zoning out' (resting), and likely hiding from her 'kids'. On occasion, one or more juveniles come and beg for food or just try to follow the parent/s who are on the ledge. They are identifiable by their colouring (brownish) and their calls (frantic). The female adult also does some 'house-keeping' action on the scrape, making it clear this is still her territory.

The falcons, especially the juveniles, will be spending more time further afield, learning to catch prey and fight for their 'booty' ('sibling rivalry' at its best!) and it seems that after 2 (?) rescues early on, all 3 male fledglings have successfully moved on to the next phase/s of their development. The falcons (adults usually last to leave) may be around campus until mid- to end of September.

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Welcome to the Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) Home Page 2014

Another year at the University of Calgary, another potentially promising season with the arrival of the first peregrine falcon on March 31st, 2014. It was spotted (no i.d. made yet) on its 'usual' vantage spot, the west-facing top roof area of Social Sciences.

Judy Powell and Irene Wade were able to both confirm the arrival of the first falcon March 31st.

Two adults have been seen participating in usual courting activities, with the male (now confirmed to be 'Gary' - prev. mate of 'Callie') bringing food to the female, and our female spending time in the scrape and fussing about.



'Callie' (?) - ledge arrival on April 2nd (thanks to 'Frank')

- **March 31:** first sighting of adult falcon (gender unknown at this time)
- **April 2nd:** first sighting confirmed with arrival of falcon on ledge (thanks to 'lotus' - chat site member)
- **April 12:** Both falcons viewed on ledge, with female 'fixing up' the scrape for egg-laying future
- **April 15:** i.d. made via leg band, confirming it is 'Callie' long-time resident female (courtesy of 'birdsinger')
- **Apr. 26:** 1st egg!!!! (6:03 loc. time)
- **Apr. 27-30:** another 2 eggs laid within this time frame
- **May 2nd:** 4th egg spotted (6:56am loc. time)
- **June 2nd:** 1st 'pip' (breakthrough of egg by chick inside) early morning loc. time - Happy Birthday!
- **June 4th:** 2nd chick hatched today
- **June 16:** 2 infertile eggs removed from scrape. Chicks doing well and growing fast.
- **June 25:** 2 males were banded today - both doing well. (pics to come, courtesy of guest chatter 'Richard', who attended)
- **July 11:** First fledgling successfully leaves early - around 7:30 am loc. time (thanks to various chatters and Irene for confirmation of this event) - is seen only days later on top of MLT!
- **July 18:** 2nd fledgling leaves ledge - seems Fridays are 'the' day for departures.
- **July 19:** 2nd fledgling returned to ledge after being found on or near the ground. Successful 2nd attempt to leave made next day.
- **Sept. 9th:** 1st snowfall, yet Callie is not deterred (see 'more birds' links for pics)
- **Sept. 11:** Last 'official' sighting of campus falcons - Callie arr. 6:28 am, left 10:49am (thanks to: 'neen, gfrd, and swatts' for reports)



Prey (duck?) brought by male on Apr. 22nd (screen grab pic by 'Richard')



Gary guarding his 3 eggs - Apr. 30: (thanks to 'Frank' for pic and i.d.)



4 eggs on show (thanks 'CBL') - May 4th



Above 3 pics are from various 'chatters' (live cam chat site) - from 'pip' to chick (eyass) - born June

2nd.



June 6th feeding screen shot (courtesy of 'gf')



June 16

feeding by mom (band nr.

U2 courtesy 'Richard')



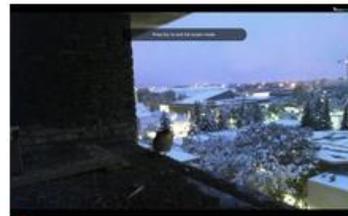
Both males being banded June 25



Pre-fledging 'flappersizing' by 1st flyer then 2nd



Fledgling on 10th floor, Earth Sc.bldg. July 21st. (thanks to Melanie!)



Final sighting (Callie?) Sept. 11, 2014

Thanks to ALL cam site chatters who have reported in the egg laying/pipping/hatching to departure and sent pics., spec. uni staff, and all other photographers, mentioned and not. Special thanks to Paul and Irene.

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Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) 2015 Observations

Followers of the University of Calgary peregrine falcon family were rewarded by their return as of Mar. 25th. 'Talons crossed', as we say here, that all goes well again this year. For ALL pics current and over the years, pls. refer to: 'more birds' link above.

Both adults have 2 bands each on either talon. Thanks to 'eneri', both adults have been i.d.'d. Callie's U2 band i.d. confirmed on March 30th, and Gary, who is: 3/6 VV, March 31st. Great job there!!

A 'live chat' option appears attached to the YouTube link below for those who wish to participate in discussions and activities.



- As of March 25th (at least?): an adult falcon was sighted on the ledge - approx. 4pm. local time (reported by 'spl', and 'CBL', and confirmed by Elli)
- March 29: 2nd adult arrives on ledge, approx. 3 pm local time. (thanks to various chatters for conf.) 2nd is a male.
- April 15/16: 1st egg confirmed by Irene.
- April 18: 2nd egg conf. by 'bird singer' (long-time chatter).
- April 20: 3rd egg arrived as predicted today. Thanks to Irene (again) - arr. at 2:40pm.
- April 23rd: 4th egg reported around 8:20 am loc. time (thanks to Irene again). This should be 'it' for the brood.
- May 24: 1st hatchling (approx. 9am) AND 2nd appear (approx. 3:30pm). pics to follow (and via more birds link)- thanks 'birdsinger'
- May 26: 3rd egg hatched 'early' today - appears last one is a 'dud' (infertile). Triplets doing very nicely so far.
- June 18: banding of 3 male chicks. All are in great shape.
- July 2nd: 1st fledgling leaves the ledge about 11am loc. time (thanks Megan!)
- July 3rd: 2nd fledgling takes flight about 10:30am (also, thanks Megan/Irene)
- July 4th (in honour of U.S. friends) - 3rd fledgling left about 10:30am loc. time. (thanks Frank/Megan)
- July 4/5th? - 3rd fledgling seemed to get caught up in hailstorm and crash-landed on ground, but found later and returned to roof.

As of last 'rescue' report (above), all fledglings have been sighted on occasion and fly-bys are being made by adults and 'kids' around ledge area and onto ledge. Best times appear to be 'luck' and early morning. Thanks to all observers and screen-grab photographers.

- 2015 Observations
- 2014 Observations
- 2013 Observations
- 2012 Observations
- 2011 Observations
- 2010 Observations
- 2009 Observations
- 2008 Observations
- 2007 Observations
- 2006 Observations
- 2005 Observations
- 2004 Observations
- 2003 Observations
- 2002 Observations
- 2001 Observations
- 1995 - 2000 Observations

Welcome to the Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) 2016 Observations

Spring 2016 seems to have arrived early, including at the ledge. But not by much. Thanks again to all observers, chatters, on-site staff and helpers everywhere. Updates will be added as time permits, and pics will be added to 'more birds' gallery as per usual.



The 'scrape' is now prepared and being sat on at various times by Callie since mating has been observed by 'eneri' (on the 13/14th of April) and thus, eggs will be laid, so keep watching for this.

- March 14th: 1st sighting - female/Callie?
- March 24th: 1st sightings of BOTH adults.
- April 7th: 'Callie' positively i.d.'d by 'eneri' from mechanical room (where computer lives)
- April 13: 'Gary' also identified by 'eneri', via same method.
- April 14: 1st egg - as conf. by 'eneri' - time was 13:03 'eggaxctly'!!
- April 17: 2nd egg (see 'more birds' for pic)
- April 19: 3rd egg arrives.
- April 21: 4th egg laid. Usually this is the 'batch' total.
- 33 days from incubation period is date for 1st 'pip' - approx. May 20th-22nd.
- May 22: 1st hatching occurred today - faint 'calling' from underneath parent/s (thanks to 'neener' for observation)
- May 23: 2nd egg hatched!!! (likely early morning hrs.) - see pics on more birds gallery link.
- May 25: 3rd egg cracked early in the morning with triplet appearing and joining siblings.
- June 16: 2 females, one male chick were banded today. ('dud', or infertile egg, removed from scrape)
- July 3rd: 1st female fledgling makes safe flight (see pic) and second sister leaves 2-3 hrs. later!
- July 4: one of the female fledglings hit a window and was taken to wildlife refuge for observation and assessment. Hopefully it is 'just shock' and not an injury requiring rehab/surgery.
- July 5: 3rd fledgling takes flight! see pic attached (thanks 'eneri')
- July 6: 'downed' female fledgling returned to ledge to retry her 'first' flight. All is well. (see pic in more birds gallery)



There is now a 2nd peregrine nesting site in the area - at the Foothills Hospital, which is territory that doesn't overlap with 'our' falcons, but is on the way when flying towards the Bow River and its gulls. That site hasn't been used for many years, until now. See news item: <http://globalnews.ca/news/2657159/watch-for-peregrine-falcons-at-calgary...>

