



Peregrine Falcon Timeline

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Mid-1940 - 1960 - Drastic decline in the native breeding peregrine population in state; the culprit was a pesticide called DDT.

1959 - 1987 - No nesting records

1960 - Peregrine falcons no longer exist in Pennsylvania, mirroring entire eastern population.

1970 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service places peregrine falcon on federal Endangered Species list.

1972 - DDT banned in the U.S.

1975 - 1992 - More than 1,000 birds reintroduced in the eastern U.S.



First locations in Pennsylvania were historic cliff nest sites. All lost to predation likely by great horned owls.



Peregrine releases moved from cliff sites to coastal areas and cities, with perceived lower risk of great horned owl predation, with success.

1996 - A young male peregrine was spotted flying in Harrisburg and the Pa. Game Commission and DEP worked together to place a nest box on the 15th floor ledge of the Rachel Carson State Office Building.



Two weeks later the male (referred to as the Harrisburg male) returned with an adult female.

1999 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service removes peregrine falcons from federal Endangered Species list; still listed as endangered in Pennsylvania until population is secure. Population in state steadily climbs



The original female was a hybrid falcon (a cross between a peregrine and a prairie falcon) and infertile. She was humanely captured and removed in hopes that a fertile female would show up. The hybrid falcon was brought to the [National Aviary in Pittsburgh](#) and later transferred to the Animal Rescue League Wildlife Center in Verona, Pa. where she assisted in education programs. Within two weeks, the male returned with a new female who had a band code of 4/4.

Mid-1940 - 1960

1959 - 1987

1960

1970

1972

1975 - 1992

1996

1999

2000 - 2004

2000 - 04 - Female 4/4 and the Harrisburg male had first successful nesting season together.



2004

2004 - Harrisburg male discovered injured along the rail line in Harrisburg. He was taken to a wildlife rehabilitation center. He would not be released into the wild again due to his injuries. He became an education bird for Hersheypark ZooAmerica, who named him Carson in honor of Rachel Carson.

2005

2005 - A new male, W/V, arrived at the ledge and exhibited ritual courtship behavior. The pair bonded and successfully fledged three young.



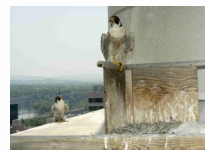
2010

2010 - A new female, unbanded, showed up at the ledge and began bonding with the male. It was undetermined what happened to 4/4 but chances are at 12 years of age she could no longer fend off younger, stronger females seeking out the nesting territory.



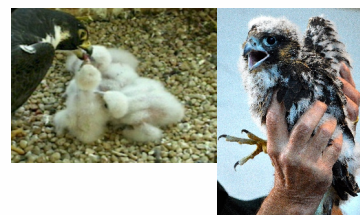
2012

2012 - The resident female sustained an injury or disease that rendered her unable to hunt, feed herself, or feed the young peregrines, and the male W/V redoubled his hunting activities. In the beginning of June a new female falcon (48/AE) was seen pair-bonding with the resident male.



2013 - present

2013 - present - The new female (48/AE) and resident male successfully reproducing.



2019

2019 - Pennsylvania Peregrine Falcons declassified, moving from the state's endangered to threatened species list.