

PEREGRINE PROJECTS

Research Suggestions by Regina McCarthy

You can research the answers to these questions using the data and references listed below. Use this information to guide you to further research about peregrine falcons in New York City.

1. Why did the peregrine falcon disappear from New York State? When scientists tried to reintroduce peregrine falcons, why were they successful in NYC but not upstate?
2. List the counties in New York State that historically had breeding peregrine falcons and those that currently have them.
3. Is there any borough without peregrine nests?
4. What New York City boroughs have bridges on which we can find nesting peregrine falcons?
5. Do any of NYC's peregrine pairs nest in a natural place? Can you guess why they chose the nest locations that they do use?
6. What other cities in the United States have peregrine falcons? On a map of the country mark the cities where there are peregrines.
7. Make a line graph showing the numbers of peregrine chicks that hatched each year at the 55 Water Street nest site. Can you guess why there were only 2 in 2006?
8. Make a bar graph from the data about the peregrines at 55 Water Street showing the ratio between males and females hatched each year.
9. According to 2005-6 data, NYC has the largest number of pairs of breeding pairs of peregrine falcons in an urban city in the world. Using the NY State map below name the county that has the largest number of breeding peregrines. (Remember that NYC has 5 counties.) Mark the area on the NYS map that is considered "downstate" according to the Department of Environmental Conservation data.
10. Using the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation data for downstate New York below, create a bar graph with three variables for the years 1996 to 2006: the number of breeding pairs, the number of successful pairs and number of young produced.
 - a. What was the success rate for breeding birds each year?
 - b. What was the year with the highest success rate?

References:

Look Around New York City, “The Peregrine Falcon: An Amazing Flier” and other articles in same issue, available from NYC Audubon in print and on their web site (www.nycaudubon.org; go to Programs, then click on Look Around NYC).

www.nyc.gov/html/dep (use search box and type in: peregrine falcons in NYC)

www.55water.com/falcons/news.php

This web site from Cleveland is good for kids; look up about falcons at:

<http://raptorsinthecity.homestead.com/Findoutaboutfalcons.html>

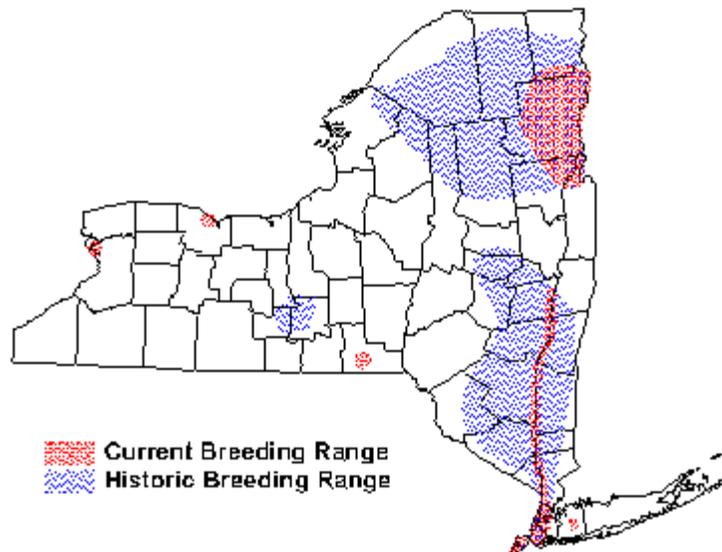
<http://raptorsinthecity.homestead.com/files/2006/June13Farewell.html>

These web sites are for good readers:

www.terrain.org/articles/6/rowland.htm

www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/wildlife/endspec/peregrine.html

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Peregrine Falcon Pairs in New York State 2006

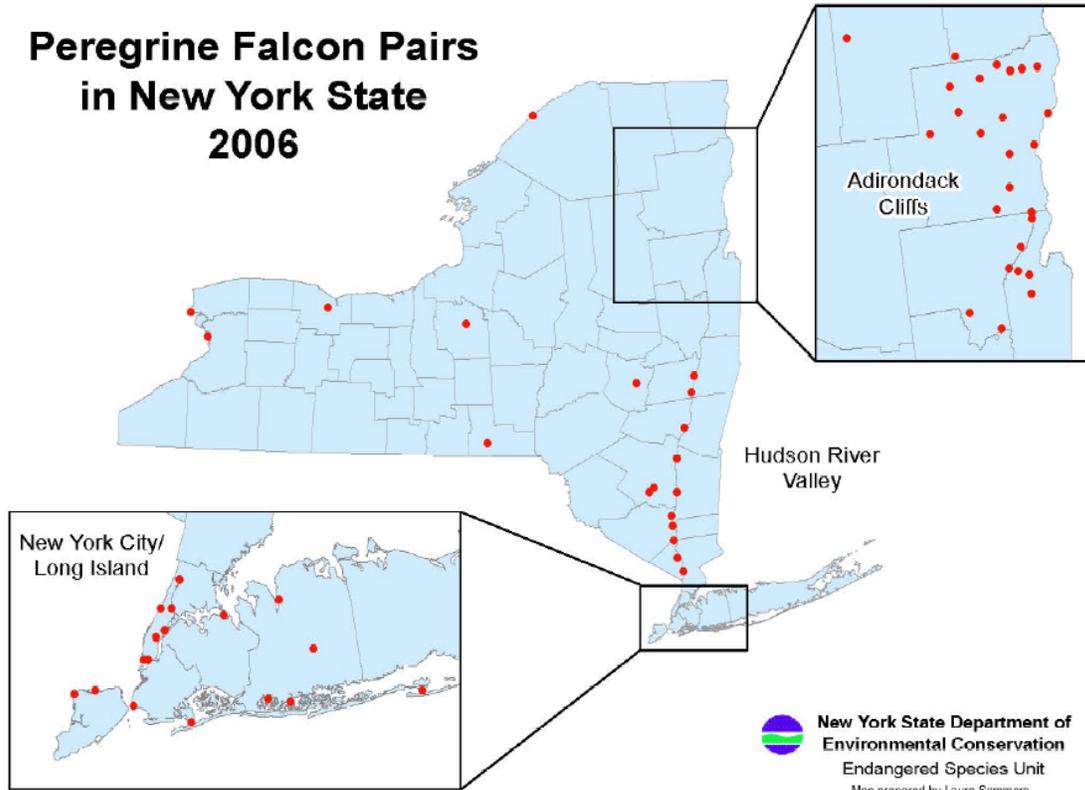


Table 3. Downstate, New York Peregrine Falcon Breeding Summary: 1990-2006

NUMBER OF PAIRS	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
No. of Territorial ² Pairs	10	10	12	10	12	15	17	19	22	22	22	23	23	23	26	29	28
No. of Breeding ³ Pairs	5	7	7	9	11	15	15	16	20	21	21	22	21	18	22	23	22
No. of Successful ⁴ Pairs	4	5	7	9	11	10	13	12	15	19	16	18	19	15	18	19	18
No. of Young Produced ⁵	12	14	21	33	26	32	34	32	39	40	41	46	50	41	44	53	43
Young/Breeding Pair	2.4	2.0	3.0	3.7	2.4	2.1	2.3	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.1	2.4	2.3	2.0	2.3	2.0
Young/Successful Pair	3.0	2.8	3.0	3.7	2.4	3.2	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.1	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.4	2.8	2.4

- ¹ Downstate is defined as areas south of Albany including the Hudson Valley.
- ² A territorial pair is defined by the presence of two potentially breeding birds within a suitable nesting habitat during the breeding season.
- ³ A breeding pair is defined by a pair of birds within a nesting territory where evidence indicates that eggs were laid (such as eggs, eggshell fragments, young, incubation or young-feeding behavior).
- ⁴ A successful pair is defined as one which produced one or more young that reached fledging age.
- ⁵ Young presumed fledged.

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The following information is provided by Chris Nadeski, New York City Department of Environmental Protection.

2006 Peregrine Falcon Nest Habitats in New York City

