

2025 Maine Peregrine Falcon Program Report



Photo by Laura Kintz

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2025 Summary

Peregrine falcons are the fastest animals on Earth, and their adaptability has enabled them to make their home in both remote and urban landscapes. Understanding where peregrines establish territories helps guide conservation actions that support the survival of adults and their young while also addressing human safety. Whether nesting on cliffs, quarries, buildings, bridges, or towers, peregrines are vulnerable to disturbances during the breeding season. Finding where a pair is nesting and managing nearby activity helps ensure human safety and nest success, since adults aggressively defend their home and any disturbance can increase risks to their eggs and chicks. As young birds near fledging, and even for weeks afterward, disturbance can trigger a premature flight and a fatal fall, or interrupt food deliveries, flight practice, hunting, and roosting. First-year survival is already quite low, which makes this stretch especially critical.

The conservation status of peregrines in Maine is best understood in the context of the species' dramatic history. Peregrines vanished from the state for over 30 years after the widespread use of DDT in the mid-20th century, and only returned to nest in 1988 following the pesticide ban and a national recovery effort. Maine's peregrine population has remained small and continues to face stressors that require hands-on management and strong partnerships. The MDIFW Raptor Biologist works closely with partners across the state and region to develop and implement conservation guidelines associated with development, habitat management, and disturbance, building partnerships at local through international scales, tailoring outreach for different audiences, tracking mortality and disease, contributing banding data to regional efforts, maintaining a breeding-season database, and conducting annual population surveys.

In 2025, 26 pairs and 11 single birds were observed across the 56 sites visited. Twenty-one pairs attempted to nest; none of those attempts were confirmed failures, though failure was suspected in a few cases. Twenty pairs were successful and produced 44 chicks; at least 35 young reached 28 days of age and were considered fledglings, and 20 of those were later observed in flight. Of the successful nests, 9 were on cliffs, and 11 were on human-made structures, including four on buildings, four in quarries, one on a bridge using a nest tray, and two in old osprey nests on towers. Overall productivity was 1.35 fledglings per pair (35/26), in line with the past several years (1.39, 1.23, 1.47, 1.22, 1.32, 1.29, 2024 through 2019).

Productivity numbers alone do not tell the whole story, and it is valuable to examine other metrics that can signal stress in the population, such as a single-adult territory (held all season without a mate), subadults paired into breeding attempts, confirmed turnover of an adult within a pair, or a long-established territory sitting vacant. Vacancies fill quickly in a healthy population, and mature adults claim available territory; when that does not happen, it can indicate a shrinking reserve of mature adults, often tied to elevated mortality. Confirming turnover specifically requires reading leg bands through a scope or trail camera, and because so few Maine adults are banded, this kind of tracking is inconsistent across sites. Even so, turnover is recorded wherever it can be confirmed, since this provides direct evidence of demographic change.

In Maine, these indicators of population stress were documented during the 2025 monitoring season. When visit frequency or monitoring time was limited, a site recorded as unoccupied or as hosting a

single bird may reflect an observation gap rather than the site's true status. Where the data supports it, this year's indicators included unmated adults holding territories at six new or established sites, subadult pair members at two sites, confirmed adult turnover at one site, and three vacancies at established territories where no other known nearby site was occupied.

These indicators of population stress are valuable to monitor, particularly when viewed alongside growing concerns across the Atlantic Flyway and beyond. Recent sharp declines in productivity and unusually high adult turnover continue in New Jersey and Virginia, raising alarms among peregrine biologists (Roach & Clark, 2025; Watts, 2024; Watts, 2025). In 2025, New Jersey's population decreased for a second consecutive year, marking a 28% decline in active nesting pairs since 2023, likely linked to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). Similarly, coastal Virginia experienced high site vacancies. Monitoring showed that 72% of identified adults were missing between 2024 and 2025, mirroring a 70% loss between 2023 and 2024. These consecutive annual loss rates are dramatically higher than the previous seven-year average of just 16.2%. Research from the Center for Conservation Biology (CCB) showed that peregrines breeding along Virginia's Delmarva Peninsula obtain over 70% of their diet from migratory shorebirds, while inland pairs depend far less on these species. This suggests that diet and geographic location may influence risk, with shorebirds potentially acting as an important vector for HPAI transmission. Researchers also documented unoccupied nests and subadult birds occupying territories, further signaling a diminished pool of mature breeding birds and reduced breeding capacity.

No peregrines were tested for HPAI in Maine in 2025, but this does not necessarily imply the disease is less of an issue in the state. Direct comparisons to mid-Atlantic states are difficult because of several data gaps. Maine has fewer banded pairs because access to chicks at nest sites is challenging, capacity for extensive inter- and intra-annual surveys is limited, and research gaps remain regarding the relative contributions of shorebirds in the diet. Without these baseline metrics, it is difficult to know if Maine's peregrines are faring better or if similar losses are going unrecorded.

Recent declines are not limited to the mid-Atlantic. Along the Yukon River in Alaska, there has been a 48% drop in the number of breeding pairs (territory occupancy fell to 14% in 2021, 28% in 2022, 34% in 2023, and 43% in 2024 (Ambrose, own data; Watts, 2024; Saggese et al., 2025). Other U.S. monitoring programs have documented significant drops including 48% in Montana (Sumner), 30% in New Mexico (Johnson), 43% in Nevada (Barnes, [Watts, 2024]), 36% in California, 38% (winter observations) in Washington (Gallagher, 2024; Glucs et al., 2026) and confirmed in an examination of eBird and Christmas Bird Count Data for Washington and Oregon (Tweit, 2025). Internationally, similar losses have been reported in Denmark, southwest France, Germany, Malaysia, the Netherlands, central Norway, northern Russia, southern Sweden, and Switzerland (Lindquist, 2025; Badia-Boher, 2025). The pace and scale of these losses pose the most significant threat to peregrines since the DDT era, compounding existing pressures such as nest disturbance and contaminant exposure.

While states with higher survey coverage and a large proportion of banded adults can more easily identify single-bird territories, adult turnover, or true territory vacancies, Maine's lower proportion of banded birds and monitoring constraints make these shifts and potential risks like HPAI more difficult to document. Even so, Maine's 2025 results show that overall productivity remains stable, though underlying signs of population stress are evident. Careful management of territory disturbance, particularly during breeding and including post-fledging periods, along with other measures to maximize

nest success and adult and fledgling survival, will continue to provide significant population benefits. Success depends upon sustaining the dedicated partnerships that have driven recovery since 1988.

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Background

The peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) nearly vanished from the continental United States due to the widespread use of the pesticide DDT, which caused eggshell thinning and reproductive failure. In the Eastern U.S., peregrines had disappeared by 1964 (Enderson et al., 1995). The species was listed as Endangered in 1970, triggering a nationwide conservation effort that included banning DDT and other harmful chemicals, as well as breeding falcons in captivity for release in the wild. These initiatives were highly successful, and in 1999, the peregrine falcon was removed from the federal list of endangered species after meeting recovery criteria, including population growth, improved reproductive performance, and the absence of environmental contaminants in its eggs (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1999). Despite the federal delisting, peregrines remain on Maine's endangered species list. Their recovery in Maine and throughout the Northeast has been a conservation success. However, they continue to benefit from focused monitoring and management due to their small population size, sensitivity to disturbance during the breeding season, and the limited number of successful breeding pairs.

Most peregrines in Maine today are either descendants of birds released through reintroduction efforts (photo below) or members of the Tundra subspecies (*Falco peregrinus tundrius*). The American peregrine falcon subspecies (*F. p. anatum*), once native to Maine, was extirpated due to DDT. Between 1994 and 1997, 144 captive-bred peregrines from a mix of subspecies were released in Maine, many of which remained to breed and live in the state. The Tundra subspecies, by contrast, does not breed in Maine but migrates through the spring and fall. It has also been removed from the Federal list of endangered species and is not considered endangered at the state level.

The Maine Peregrine Falcon Program, in collaboration with a wide range of partners, works to protect and conserve this iconic raptor. The program carries out key conservation actions influencing peregrine populations and habitats statewide. These efforts include monitoring breeding success, banding, understanding and addressing potential threats to the population (e.g., causes of mortality, contaminants, disease), long-range conservation planning, developing and providing guidance associated with peregrine territories as it relates to development, habitat, and disturbance, assessing and resolving issues at nest sites, data management, and engaging in broad outreach and collaboration. The overarching goal is to support a stable peregrine falcon population in Maine and across the Northeast metapopulation.



Photo by Deb Powers

Survey Methods

The breeding season spans March through August in Maine, based on in-person and trail camera observations. Fledglings may remain for up to five weeks after their first flight, potentially longer, before they disperse, while adults may be present in their territory year-round. Peregrine Program Surveyors document breeding metrics (presence or absence of a single peregrine or pair, nesting, nest location, chick count and age, count at ≥ 28 days [considered fledglings], and fledglings observed in flight following a standardized survey protocol at known breeding sites (Call 2019a).

Observations of peregrines during the breeding season in non-breeding habitat (e.g., wetlands) are reported to eBird. If you are not involved in the Peregrine Monitoring Program and observe a peregrine in suitable breeding habitats during the breeding season (e.g., either at known nest sites (Tables 1 and 2) or at cliffs, quarries, buildings, bridges, towers), please provide details via email (erynn.call@maine.gov). If you regularly visit the site, consider getting involved in the monitoring program.

Minimizing disturbances at both urban and cliff sites is crucial. Survey observations are only as long as needed to gather the required data, and only as frequently as necessary. Agitated behavior includes persistent calling, birds watching the observer closely, and flying or circling overhead. Any sources of disturbance are documented and reported.

Site monitoring data combines trail camera footage and traditional in-person surveys (Table 1). For trail cameras a “survey” is defined as a 1-minute interval recorded during key events (e.g., initial and monthly adult and pair presence that year (Jan, Feb, etc.), egg laying and incubation, egg count, hatching, chick count/aging, leg band identification, and disturbance). Data in Table 1 reflects either total survey effort at a subset focusing on specific metrics of interest (e.g., trail camera sites [052, 060, 151], or sites with extensive in-person monitoring [022, 025, and 027]).

Breeding Season Results

Between 2019 and 2021 (Call 2019b, 2020, 2021b), surveys were conducted at all sites with a recent history of peregrine residency. Since then, a subset of sites has been surveyed when potential management benefits exist in confirming the breeding status or when surveyors are available. Consequently, the breeding season results presented here do not represent a comprehensive statewide total. Increased survey effort enhances confidence in the site breeding status.

In 2025, 26 pairs and 11 single birds were observed across the 56 sites visited (note that multiple sites may be within a territory, and site 053 Piscataqua River Bridge I-95 is not included in the tally because the pair nested on the NH side). Of the 26 pairs observed, 21 were confirmed attempting to nest, and 20 were successful in producing 44 chicks; at least 35 young reached 28 days of age and were considered fledglings, and 20 of those were later observed in flight. Of the successful nests, 9 were on cliffs, and 11 were on human-made structures, including four on buildings, four in quarries, one on a bridge using a nest tray, and two in old osprey nests on towers. Overall productivity was 1.35 fledglings per pair (35/26), in line with the past several years (1.39, 1.23, 1.47, 1.22, 1.32, 1.29, 2024 through 2019). Table 1 details documentation for all monitored locations, including site status and corresponding survey effort.

We documented indicators of population stress when visit frequency and monitoring time were sufficient to consider a site unoccupied, hosting a single bird, or a pair without a nest. Unmated adults held territories at new or established sites (012 Pine Mtn, 018 Eagle Bluff Mountain Pond, 025 Valley Cove, 030 Grafton Notch, 040 Jordan Pond, and 149 Richmond Dresden Bridge), subadult pair members (058B Westbrook Quarry, 060 395 Bridge), confirmed adult turnover (052 Casco Bay Bridge, a banded female BA/44 that was present during the 2024 breeding season through 3/3/25 was replaced by a new unbanded female by 3/28/25), and vacancies at established territories (062 Winslow Mill, likely 069 Dragon Fields Quarry, and 086 Sappi Mill Skowhegan). Nests were not documented at several territories where pairs have been consistently successful (017 Mt. Megunticook, 045 Squaredock, 055 Bear Mtn Waterford, 060 395 Bridge, 066 MERC Incinerator).

Table 1. Site-specific results of peregrine falcon monitoring in Maine, 2025.

Site	Breeding Status (P=pair)	# Young	# Young > 28 days old	Young in flight	First Survey Date	Last Survey Date	Total Effort (min)	# Surveys
002 C Bluff Mtn	P - nest				4/21	4/21	240	1
005 Ripogenus Dam	None				7/3	7/21	270	2
006 Mt Kineo	P - nest	1	1	1	4/7	7/17	525	4
009 Horse Mtn	Single				5/14	5/14	22	1
012 Pine Mtn	Single				4/6	6/26	570	7
013 Buck's Ledge	P - nest	3	3	0	3/19	7/14	660	4
015 Rumford Mill	Single				4/18	4/24	255	2
016 Bald Mtn	P - nest	3	3	3	4/7	7/30	429	6
017 Mt Megunticook	P - no nest ¹				4/29	8/4	599	5
018 Eagle Bluff Mountain Pond	Single				5/13	6/12	201	2
019 Fletcher Bluff	P - nest	2	0	0	5/1	5/1	46	1
020 Half Mile Pond	See 019 ²							
022 The Precipice	P - nest	2	2	2	3/10	6/26	190	3
024 Beech Cliff	None				7/2	7/2	40	1
025 Valley Cove	Single				2/26	7/3	165	2
027 Jordan's Delight	P - nest	1	1	0	5/1	6/9	50	4
030 Grafton Notch	Single				4/8	6/9	225	2
031 Tumbledown Mtn	None				6/12	6/12	39	1
035 E Royce Mtn: Evans Notch	P - nest	2	2	2	6/9	7/5	210	2
041 Rattlesnake Mtn	None				4/10	5/29	484	2
043 Barren Mtn	P - nest	1	1	1	4/14	7/17	466	4
044 Jordan Pond	Single				2/20	7/23	465	6
045 Squaredock Mtn	P - no nest				4/25	7/3	275	3

¹Potential nest failure, unidentified eggshells found on cliff.

²See nearby site 019 Fletchers Bluff which is within the same territory as 020 Half Mile Pond.

Table 1 continued. Site-specific results of peregrine falcon monitoring in Maine, 2025.

Site	Breeding Status (P=pair)	# Young	# Young > 28 days old	Young in flight	First Survey Date	Last Survey Date	Total Effort (min)	# Surveys
047 Bigelow Mtn - Cranberry Peak	None				4/28	5/28	617	3
049 Ironbound Island	Single				7/3	7/3	112	1
051 Bath Iron Works	P - nest	1	1	1	5/4	6/2	35	3
052 Casco Bay Bridge	P - nest	1	1	1	1/2	10/28	61	30
055 Bear Mtn Waterford	P - no nest				4/2	6/12	435	4
056 Pejepscot Quarry	P - nest	3	3	1	3/25	6/11	200	5
057A Franco Center	See 057B							
057B Continental Mill	P - nest	3	1	1	3/27	8/25	595	10
057C Hill Mill	See 057B							
058A Sappi Mill Westbrook	See 058B							
058B Westbrook Quarry	P - nest	2	0	0	3/13	6/18	230	3
059A Granite Hill Quarry	None, see 150				4/9	4/16	28	2
060 395 Bridge	P - no nest				3/19	9/17	142	27
061 Old Town Mill	P - nest	2	2	0	3/19	6/16	109	5
062 Winslow Mill	None				4/15	6/25	159	7
062B Hathaway	None, see 062				6/9	6/25	10	2
063B Belfast Quarry	P - nest	3	2	2	6/2	6/17	65	2
064 Indian Stream Mtn	Single				5/14	5/14	120	1
066 MERC Incinerator Biddeford	P - no nest				4/21	7/8	901	5
066B Saint Andres	See 066				4/2	4/11	230	2
067 Trans Tower Prospect	P - nest	3	3	0	4/10	6/17	225	5
067C Trans Tower Prospect S	See 067							
067D Trans Tower Bucksport	See 067							
069 Dragon Fields Quarry	None				4/10	6/18	35	2
086 Sappi Mill Skowhegan	None							
124 Slidedown Mtn: W Branch of Sandy Stream	P - nest	1	1	1	6/16	6/16	240	1
130 Dragon Cement	P - nest	4	4	0	6/2	6/2	10	1

Table 1 continued. Site-specific results of peregrine falcon monitoring in Maine, 2025.

Site	Breeding Status (P=pair)	# Young	# Young > 28 days old	Young in flight	First Survey Date	Last Survey Date	Total Effort (min)	# Surveys
132 Lincoln Mill	None				6/11	6/11	20	1
136 Madison Mill	P - nest	3	1	1	3/24	10/18	316	17
148 Wiscasset RR Bridge	None				4/15	4/15	45	1
149 Richmond Dresden Bridge ²	Single				3/27	6/9	678	16
150 Augusta Quarry ³	P - nest	3	3	3	6/9	6/25	40	2
151 Halfway Rock Lighthouse ⁴	Single				4/27	5/2	2	2

Note: 053 Piscataqua River Bridge I-95 site, Pair - nest on N.H. side, 4 young in flight, not counted in ME tally.

² New site

³ New site, potentially from vacant site 059 Granite Hill Quarry, 5.5 miles straight-line distance.

⁴ New site, webcam only, potentially foraging from adjacent sites 065 Ram Island Ledge Lighthouse or 065B Cushing Island (both sites not surveyed this year) and 052 Casco Bay Bridge. They could also be nesting on site, but no surveys were conducted to evaluate this. An adult was present throughout the season, but we did not receive additional photos before completing the report.

Survey Effort

Between January 2 and October 28, 2025, 225 peregrine falcon surveys were conducted across 56 sites in Maine, accumulating 175 hours of field effort and 1,880 miles traveled. Eligible surveyors, those not compensated with federal funds, utilized the Survey123 mobile application to log their travel and survey times. These documented hours are used as in-kind contributions, serving as the non-federal match required for Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act grants. This enhances allows us to leverage federal funds for raptor conservation. The 2025 survey effort accumulated over \$7K in matching funds.

Several high-priority sites were not surveyed in 2025 (see Table 2; high-priority sites are where peregrines have been observed since the species was reintroduced to Maine. Lower-priority sites provide suitable habitat and have the potential to be occupied. As surveyor capacity allows, we will visit these sites (Table 2) in future years. Breeding pairs may also establish nests in nearby areas we have not yet identified. This provides an opportunity to explore and locate new and undocumented breeding territories. Please contact erynn.call@maine.gov if you spot a peregrine in a suitable breeding habitat at a site not included in the existing territory lists (Tables 1 and 2).



Photo by Erynn Call

Table 2. Most recent monitoring results of sites that were not visited in 2025.

Site	MDIFW Region	Year Last Monitored	Breeding Status in Year Last Monitored (P=pair)	Comments
001 Bigelow Mtn - Old Man's Head	D	2024	None	Single in 2021.
007 Wassataquoik Mtn	F	2021	P - no nest	Last success documented in 2020.
011B Gardner Mtn	G	2020	Single	
029 The Brothers	C	2022	None	2021 single, first monitored in 2020.
038 Tumbledown Dick Mtn Peru	D	2021	Single	
039 Shutdown Mtn	E	2021	None	Last success documented in 2007.
042 Ragged Jack Mtn	D	2021	None	Pair in 2020.
046 Brimstone Mtn	D	2023	None	Last success documented in 2021.
048 Lord Mtn	F	1996	None	Last success documented in 1989.
050 Big Libby Isl	C	2021	None	Last success documented in 2015.
065 Ram Isl Ledge Lighthouse	A	2023	P - no nest	Last success documented in 2021.
065B Cushing Isl	A	2024	P - nest	First detected in 2024.
082 Fourth Debsconeag Lake	E	2024	P- nest	

Banding

When birds are safely accessible, adult or young peregrines are fitted with a United States Geological Survey (USGS) silver leg band stamped with a unique nine-digit number on one leg and a bi-colored band etched with a unique series of colors, letters, and numbers on the other leg. Occasionally, only a silver band is placed on the bird when color bands are unavailable. In the Northeast, peregrines are affixed with black-over-green bands (see photo on the right). The unique numbers on the USGS bands are only legible when the bird is in hand, whereas the color bands can be read using a trail camera mounted at the nest site or with cameras and spotting scopes while observing the bird. Information from banded peregrines provides invaluable insights into their survival, movements, and how long individuals may stay at a nest site as part of a breeding pair. Two hatch-year birds were banded in 2025 (Table 3).

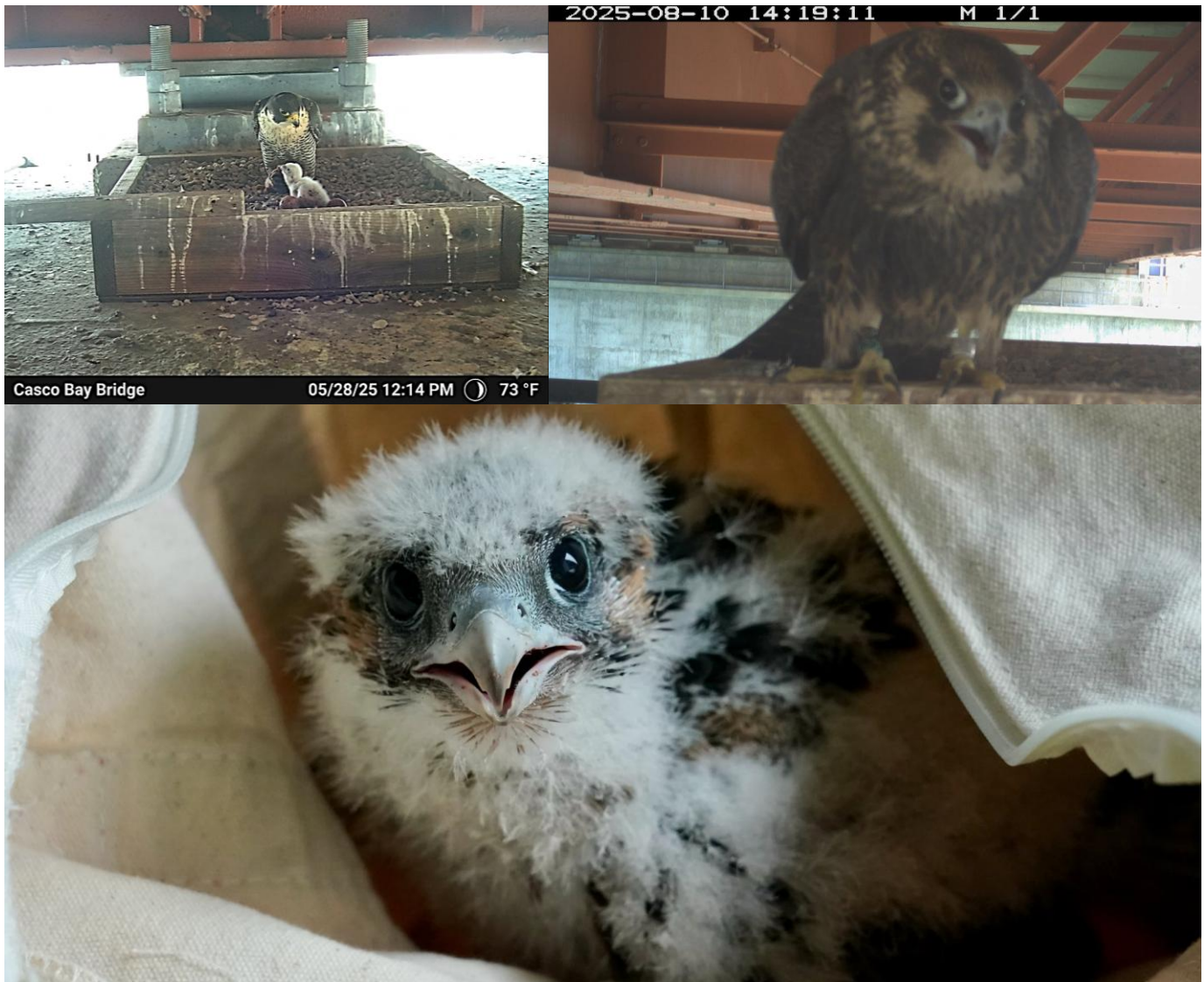


Photo by Acadia National Park

Table 3. Maine hatch-year peregrine falcon banding summary, 2025.

Date Banded	Site	Status	Sex	Color Band	MDIFW Collaborators
6/17	052 Casco Bay Bridge	Banded at nest	M	BP/30	Maine Dept. of Transportation (MDOT), Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI)
7/17	051 Bath Iron Works	Recovered 6/30, treated*, banded, and released at nest site 7/17.	F	BP/88	Avian Haven, Bath Iron Works

*Lead exposure documented (10 ug/dl).



Top left, 5/28 single chick out of three eggs hatched, top right, 8/10 fledgling continues presence at nest site into August, photos by Justin Sweitzer (MDOT). Bottom, 6/17 banding day. Photo by Amy Brubaker.

Maine has not banded many peregrines annually since the species' reintroduction because nest sites are often not accessible. Only a handful were recently banded (2019: 0, 2020: 2, 2021: 5, 2022: 10, 2023: 5, 2024: 7). This is limited compared to neighboring states. Between 35 and 55 chicks are consistently banded annually in MA, NJ, NY, PA, and VA. Considering this, the number of banded peregrine observations may indicate that these birds are conspicuous or that the overall population, like the breeding population, is relatively small. Observations of live banded peregrines include those from within the state and elsewhere (Table 4).

Table 4. Band resighting of live banded Peregrine Falcons reported since 2025 Maine Peregrine Falcon Program Report.

Color Band	Date resighted	Age	Sex	Location	Resight State	Band Origin	Band Date	Comments
99/BV	8/18	2	F	136 Madison Mill	ME	Brady Tower, Manchester, NH	5/26/23	Banded by BRI and NH Audubon. Webcam footage of nest.
49/U	3/27	6	F	57B Continental Mill	ME	025 Valley Cove, ME	5/31/18	Present in the territory since 2019.
BA/44	1/19	5	F	052 Casco Bay Bridge	ME	New Paltz, NY	7/30/21	Present in territory since 2024. Observed through 3/9/25; new unbanded F by 3/28/25.

Note: Several peregrines were observed with leg bands that could not be read:

149 Richmond Dresden Bridge: USGS band left leg, color band right leg on adult female.

060 395 Bridge: USGS band right leg and color band left leg on adult male.

025 Valley Cove: USGS band left leg, color band right leg, adult sex unknown.



Photo by Trish Berube

Mortality

Since the 2024 report, peregrine mortalities have been tracked through collaboration with MDIFW staff and various partners (Table 5). Risks to peregrines include collisions with vehicles, planes, buildings, and wires, exposure to environmental contaminants, and diseases such as Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza.

Table 5. Mortalities documented since the 2025 Maine Peregrine Falcon Report.

Date Found	Location Found	Age	Sex	Origin	Comments
2/2/25	Clinton, ME	4	F	136 Madison Mill	C/H, 1807-96459, banded on 5/27/2021. Found carcass, electrocuted under a power transformer.
3/2/25	058B Westbrook Quarry	Unk	Unk	Unk	Unbanded peregrine, observed on ice below quarry wall. Carcass not recovered.
7/4/25	Newburgh, ME	9	M	044 Jordan Pond	USGS band 1126-01071, no color band, banded 5/24/2016. Found carcass along roadside.
7/29/25	Wells, ME	Hatch Year	Unk	Superman Building, Providence, RI	USGS band 1687-32785, no color band, banded on 5/27/25. Found after being shot; died after admission for medical care.

Additional Conservation Actions

The Maine Peregrine Falcon Program works to support a self-sustaining population and foster public appreciation for this charismatic species. Beyond monitoring, such as breeding-season surveys, banding, and tracking mortality and injuries, conservation efforts focus on territories ranging from remote cliffs to urban environments. Achieving positive nesting outcomes relies on strong partnerships with federal and state agencies, townships, nonprofit organizations, private landowners, private-sector businesses, and volunteers.

Cliff Sites

Managing cliff territories often requires balancing public recreation and land management with nesting success. Strategies include posting trail signage, sharing updates on websites and social media, establishing seasonal trail closures, and adjusting nearby



Photo by Amy Brubaker

forestry practices. Program staff also contribute to environmental reviews, regional conservation planning, and targeted outreach to hiking and climbing communities. Cliff site work included:

- Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA): Provided updated Significant Wildlife Habitat mapping guidance under NRPA to enhance spatial protections for Peregrine Falcon territories.
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS): Provided project determinations for NRCS forestry activities overlapping with active Peregrine Falcon breeding territories to ensure appropriate conservation measures.
- Department of Environmental Protection (DEP): Established mitigation and monitoring guidelines for a DEP site location development review in Lincoln.
- Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT): Coordinated with MDOT environmental staff to establish pre- and post-construction Peregrine Falcon survey protocols for bridge rehabilitation in Rumford and paving operations in Waterford.
- Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP): Evaluated a land acquisition inquiry for a property containing two mapped peregrine falcon territories, advising the conservancy to extend protective boundary mapping beyond cliff faces to include top-of-cliff areas for trail and climbing management.
- MDIFW Environmental Review Program: Provided updated mapping protocols and forest management guidelines for the Buck's Ledge Community Forest application to the Maine Trails Bond Program to safeguard local Peregrine Falcon territory.
- MDIFW Beginning with Habitat (BwH) Program: Updated Peregrine Falcon occupancy data and spatial conservation guidance for the Camden Hills and Kennebec - Carrabassett Confluence BwH Focus Areas to support habitat management and statewide ecological mapping.
- Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL): Evaluated and mitigated the impacts of highlining near an active Peregrine Falcon nesting cliff, advised on seasonal closures and spatial buffers to prevent disturbance.
- BPL, the Access Fund, and MDIFW Information and Education: Updated standardized Peregrine Falcon trail signage, educating recreationists on disturbance risks, behavioral signs of agitation, nest impacts, and incident reporting procedures.
- BPL, Maine Appalachian Trail, and the Access Fund: Posted signs and trail closures at several territories, including 043 Barren Mtn, 016 Bald Mtn, 055 Bear Mtn – Waterford, and 017 Mt Megunticook. Closures are recommended for at least 5 weeks post-fledge to provide fledglings with an opportunity to learn to fly, hunt, and roost without disturbance.
- Acadia National Park: Initiated and enforced trail closures at active peregrine nest sites.

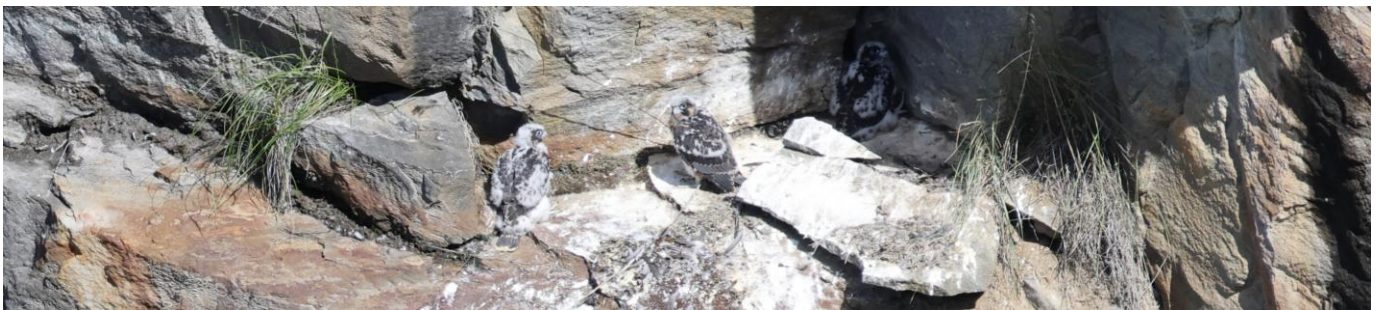


Photo by Trish Berube

Urban Sites

As with cliff sites, managing urban territories relies on strong partnerships to address unique site challenges. Conservation efforts focus on finding practical ways to limit disturbance, such as adjusting the timing or location of non-emergency repairs, maintenance, construction, and inspections. When pairs experience recurring nest failures, strategically placing nest structures can improve breeding success and access for banding. Staff also coordinate with avian rehabilitators, such as Avian Haven and the Center for Wildlife, to recover injured or grounded birds and identify safe release sites. Urban site work included:

- Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT):** MDIFW partnered with MDOT to place and monitor a trail camera at the 052 Casco Bay Bridge site. This provided the first detailed documentation of a pair occupying their nest site and territory year-round, adding to existing evidence from occasional sightings at other cliff and urban locations. The camera also allowed staff to quickly detect and remove a raccoon, a potential nest predator. This information will inform and support peregrine site guidance and recommendations, as well as site-specific management.



Photos above and below by MDOT
Justin Sweitzer



- Beginning with Habitat Program:
 - Reviewed municipal Comprehensive Plans and provided guidance to integrate Peregrine Falcon conservation into local land-use planning – Waterville, Sedgewick, Skowhegan.
 - Provided guidance to state transportation partners on managing bridge-nesting Peregrine Falcons, focusing on maintaining existing nest structures, camera monitoring, and minimizing disturbance during routine infrastructure maintenance and other transportation projects.
- In collaboration with MDIFW Regional Staff, consulted with quarry management to communicate Peregrine Falcon status and establish site-specific logistics that reduce nest disturbance and avoid nest failure.
- Coordinated adaptive nest site management and contingency plans with the building manager at an urban nest location undergoing active renovation, ensuring successful peregrine falcon nesting and fledging.
- Coordinated peregrine recoveries, bandings, and releases with Avian Haven and the Center for Wildlife in Bath and Wells.
- Partnered with 061 Old Town Mill staff to improve nest boxes and place a trail camera, which documented use during a snowstorm (see photo below).



Photo by Erynn Call

Nest structures, such as trays or boxes filled with pea gravel, are installed where pairs benefit from safer nesting conditions. These structures provide shelter from extreme weather (Sumasgutner et al., 2020), improve temperature and moisture control, and reduce disturbance from humans and predators, such as raccoons. They also facilitate easier access to chicks for banding and contaminant sampling (Table 6).

Table 6. Nest structure status during the 2025 breeding season in Maine.

Site Name	Town	Nest Structure	Installed	2025 Status at Nest Structure
052 Casco Bay Bridge	Portland/S. Po.	tray	2021	Pair, 1 fledged, banded, trail cam
053 Piscat. Riv Bridge I-95	Kittery/Portsmouth	box	2019	Pair, 4 fledged
053 Piscat. Riv Bridge I-95	Kittery/Portsmouth	tray	2021	None, (nested in box)
057C Hill Mill	Lewiston	box	2021	None, nested at 57B, trail cam
060 395 Bridge	Bangor/Brewer	tray	2016	Pair, no nest, second-year female
061 Old Town Mill	Old Town	box	2021	None (pair, 2 fledged, nest on nearby rooftop)
062 Winslow Mill	Winslow	box	2021	None
63A Passag. Bridge	Belfast	tray	2019	None (pair, 3 chicks, 2 fledged at 63B ledge)
63B Belfast Quarry	Belfast	box	2019	Pair, 3 chicks, 2 fledged
086 Sappi Mill Skowhegan	Skowhegan	box	2021	None
136 Madison Mill	Madison	box	2021	None
136 Madison Mill	Madison	vent ¹	2021	None
136 Madison Mill	Madison	vent ²	2021	Pair, 3 chicks, 1 fledged

¹Installed a plywood back and door on the existing vent to ensure bird safety, accommodate a trail camera, and facilitate bird banding.

²Installed a plywood back; access to the vent is no longer possible due to safety concerns.

Outreach and Maine Peregrine Falcon News

Outreach includes sharing progress on peregrine falcon conservation efforts, participating in professional meetings, and connecting with various groups, all of which are crucial to achieving the goals of the Maine Peregrine Falcon Program. This year, some of the program's outreach activities included:

- The 2024 Maine Peregrine Falcon Program Report was highlighted in MDIFW social media posts on 4/25/25 via [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).
- Information from the 2024 Maine Peregrine Falcon Program Report prompted a media interview and article in the [Portland Press Herald on 5/27/25](#).
- Participated in and presented at the [Atlantic Flyway Council](#) Raptor Committee meetings.
- Shared information on numerous sites where peregrines may be present during the breeding season with the [Mountain Project](#) website to create awareness for hikers and climbers.

How can you help Maine peregrines?

- If you observe Peregrines at undocumented territories or would like submit observations at known sites (Tables 1 and 2) as part of the Maine Peregrine Program, please contact erynn.call@maine.gov.
- Contact MDIFW at (207) 287-8000 or at maine.gov/ifw with any wildlife questions.

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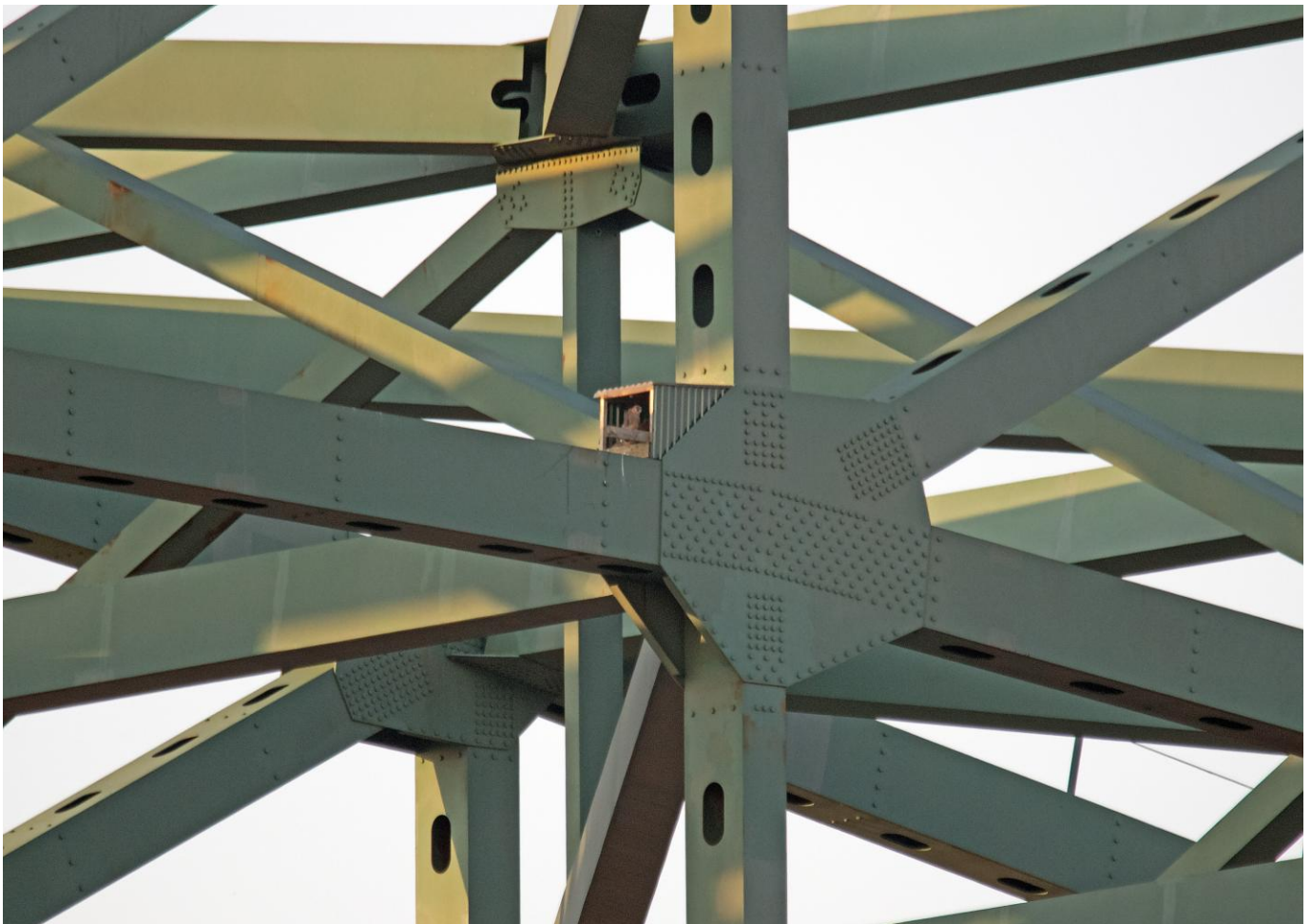


Photo by Deb Powers