

# Tracking the Urban Peregrine Falcon



Presented by:  
**The Migration Research Foundation\***

In association with  
**The Genesee Valley Audubon Society**  
<http://www.migrationresearch.org>  
<http://www.ggw.org/~gvas>

## *The Wandering Falcon*

The Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) gets its name from the Greek word for wanderer. Peregrines often travel thousands of miles on their yearly migrations, from their birthplaces as far north as the Arctic Circle, to winter territories in Central and South America. With a flight speed of 50 MPH or more, Peregrine Falcons can travel hundreds of miles each day, spending hours or days on the wing. Their migrations may take them over the open ocean, where Peregrines have been observed catching and then eating prey while in flight, and taking rest stops on freighters, oil tankers, and other ocean-crossing vessels.



Despite their reputation as travelers, many Peregrines migrate only a short distance. Those with well-established nesting and hunting territories may not migrate at all. Until recently, researchers have had to rely on visual sightings of banded falcons to determine their migratory habits, and the extent of their seasonal travels. Recent advances in miniaturized electronics, materials, and power systems have made possible a new generation of light-weight, reliable, and long lasting transmitters that can be used to track the movements of birds such as Peregrines without the need for direct observation. Nevertheless, more data are needed to better understand where urban Peregrines travel. Their surprising tendency to stay close to home requires further study to ensure that their urban and wild habitats are adequately protected.

## *Rochester's Peregrine Falcons*

Since 1998, a Peregrine Falcon named Mariah has successfully raised 21 falcons in a nest box placed atop the world headquarters of the Eastman Kodak Company in downtown Rochester, New York. In 1999, Kodak began providing a virtual window into these falcons' lives with its Birdcam, a website



that includes views from five cameras, a discussion board and information about Peregrines. Each year, thousands of fans from all over the world log on to watch Mariah and her mate Kaver raise a new brood, making an invaluable contribution to the survival of the Peregrine species.

The Migration Research Foundation, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the study of migrating birds, mammals, fishes and amphibians of North America, has partnered with the Genesee Valley Audubon Society to further our knowledge of the migratory patterns of the urban-raised Peregrine Falcon. Once driven to the brink of extinction by overuse of pesticides, Peregrine populations have increased in recent years, due in part to their amazing ability to adapt to life in an urban environment.



## The Inside Track on Transmitters

Much like NASA's deep space probes, each transmitter is custom-built for its intended role, taking eight to ten weeks to construct. Because of their reliance on advanced technology, transmitters are very expensive to build. A solar-powered transmitter light enough to be carried by a Peregrine Falcon without harming the bird's hunting ability can cost up to \$5000.00. Satellite time and data analysis services can cost many thousands of additional dollars over the transmitter's three year service life.



## How Can You Help?

The financial support of nature lovers and fans of Peregrine Falcons is critical to the success of this research project. Your contribution will help purchase a lightweight transmitter, satellite monitoring, and data analysis services. All data received from transmitter will be publicly available online so that you can follow the travels of the Peregrine Falcon.

In appreciation for your generous donation, the Migration Research Foundation and the Genesee Valley Audubon Society are pleased to offer the following gifts (Quantities of pledge gifts are limited. We will fulfill them on a first come, first served basis):

\$25.00— "Eyas" sponsor: Special Edition Birdcam Print

\$50.00— "Fledgling" sponsor: Birdcam Picture Notepad

\$100.00— "Tiercel" sponsor: Birdcam Picture Album

\$250.00+— "Falcon" sponsor: Limited Edition *Fabulous Falcons* Fine Art Print by artist Pamela Johnson Brickell, and Birdcam Picture Album



\*The Migration Research Foundation is entirely independent of Eastman Kodak Company, which bears no responsibility for these activities.

# Urban Peregrine Transmitter Fund Pledge Form

Yes, I want to support the efforts of the **Migration Research Foundation** and the **Genesee Valley Audubon Society** to advance our knowledge of the urban Peregrine's migration patterns with a pledge of financial support. I understand that my donation will be used for the purchase of a satellite tracking transmitter that will be fitted to a fledgling Peregrine Falcon from the 2004 brood raised at the Kodak tower in Rochester, New York, USA. My donation may also be used to purchase satellite monitoring and data analysis services. If circumstances do not permit fitting the transmitter to one of the Kodak Peregrines, I agree that the transmitter may be fitted to another Peregrine Falcon in the area, or fitted to a Peregrine in Rochester at a future time to be determined by the Migration Research Foundation, the Genesee Valley Audubon Society, and the NY State Dept. of Environmental Conservation. I further understand that my donation is tax deductible in both the United States and Canada, and that it is non-refundable.

### My Pledge (in US or Canadian Dollars)

\$25.00       \$50.00       \$100.00       \$250.00  
 Other Amount: \$  .00

Cut Here

Make Checks Payable in US or Canadian Dollars to: **Migration Research Foundation**

Complete this form and mail it along with your check or Money Order (no cash donations, please) to:  
**Urban Peregrine Transmitter Fund**  
c/o Migration Research Foundation  
98 Linden Street  
Rochester, New York 14620 USA

### Please send my Pledge Gift to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_