

Earth Day 2012



Volunteerism & Charitable Giving

Name: Falcon Watch and Rescue

Location: DEP Central Office

Years with DEP: 12

Since the year 2000, as a happy irony, a pair of endangered peregrine falcons has successfully nested on the 15th floor ledge of the RCSOB.

Knowing the dangers that young fledgling peregrines could face on their first attempt at flight, DEP staff mobilized to safeguard the fledglings. When fledging time nears for the nestlings, teams of two watchers volunteer on two-hour shifts during office hours to report fledgling activities and assist with rescue efforts as necessary. After office hours, a team of dedicated volunteers vigilantly carries on the watch and rescue activities. Volunteer wildlife rehabilitators have treated injured birds for release from the RCSOB and another chance at survival.

As a result of the efforts of these caring wildlife stewards, 29 peregrine falcons have fledged,—13 males and 16 females, and had the opportunity to seek out their own nesting territory. Many of the fledglings were rescued from nearby streets and parking garages.

Several of the Rachel Carson's young falcons have reportedly been nesting in Ohio, Delaware and other locations in Pennsylvania. While their numbers are increasing, the Pennsylvania Game Commission still lists the peregrine falcons as an endangered species in the Commonwealth.

There is no greater reward for these volunteers than to find that they have had a direct and positive impact on the survival of an endangered raptor.