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# Rachel Carson Peregrine Falcon Seasonal Calendar

<b>February</b>	<b>Nesting Season Begins</b> Peregrine Falcon mating rituals and territorial nesting takes place. Peregrines traditionally return to the same nest site and remain paired for life. They renew their bond with courtship rituals such as male food offerings and displays of special flight patterns.	
<b>March</b>	<b>The Falcon Family Grows</b> Peregrines typically lay between 3 and 5 eggs, beginning in mid to late March. Peregrines are very attentive parents, each taking turns tending the eggs. Meanwhile, the adults can be seen around Harrisburg as they hunt for pigeons and other small birds.	
<b>April</b>	<b>Meet the Hatchlings</b> Peregrine eggs hatch over a few days. The new arrivals will not look anything like their parents at first – they will be covered in fluffy white down.	
<b>May</b>	<b>Banding the Growing Falcons</b> DEP and the Pa. Game Commission host an educational Banding Event, where hatchlings are temporarily removed from the nest box, identified by sex, given a health check, and fitted with their identification bands. The banding event is broadcast live via the Falcon Cam.	
<b>June</b>	<b>Testing Their Wings</b> The immature birds begin to wander on the ledge and eventually attempt flight into the Harrisburg skies. Because the immature, unskilled fliers are accident prone, Watch and Rescue volunteers assemble from dawn to dusk, tracking the young birds' activities. Those identified as being in danger are professionally rescued and returned to safety.	
<b>July</b>	<b>Maturing Young Falcons</b> The young peregrines adapt to their surroundings and can be seen soaring, perching, and swooping in and around Harrisburg. This is a period for honing their flying and hunting skills.	
<b>August</b>	<b>Packing for a Long Trip</b> Looking ahead to their dispersal and fall migrations, the peregrines start to wander farther from their nesting ledge and can be spotted in the skies across Central and Southcentral Pa.	
<b>September</b>	<b>Dispersal</b> Some of the fledglings may begin to head south; others may go east to New York and New Jersey. There seems to be no reliable formula to predict the flight plans of young peregrines, however females tend to disperse longer distances than males.	
<b>October- January</b>	<b>Winter Wanderers</b> The adults frequent the ledge until the next breeding season. The climate is suitable, and there is plenty of prey available throughout the winter, including pigeons and other small birds. It's risky to leave the nesting area, as another peregrine may try to take over the site with a territorial battle.	