



## PEREGRINE FALCON NEST MONITORING RESULTS 2018

October 2019

The peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) was taken off Ohio's Threatened and Endangered Species List in July 2015. As part of a post-delisting phase, ODNR Division of Wildlife staff and volunteers are monitoring a subset of falcon nests every other year until 2020. 2018 was the second breeding season for post-delisting monitoring.

Division staff or volunteers monitored a total of 15 historical nesting locations across the division's 5 districts (Table 1). Three nests failed to produce any young. The nest at Rhodes Tower in Columbus was abandoned by the current pair due to construction on the building. Although two alternate nest boxes were placed on the nearby Riffe Center, the birds did not use the boxes and a new nest location was never found. At the Chase Bank building in Canton, the female, who had laid 3 eggs, was injured, presumably by another female, and died. For unknown reasons, the nest at the I-480 bridge failed. Twelve other nests produced young. In 2018, the number of eggs laid per nest (fecundity,  $n = 12$ ) was 3.75 and the number of fledglings per nest was 2.27 ( $n = 15$ , Figure 1). Although, the overall hatch rate was 71% per nest ( $n=11$ ), the fledge rate was 54% per nest ( $n=15$ , Figure 2). The approximate total number of nesting pairs in Ohio was 22 for 2018, down from 24 in 2016.

At the time of delisting in 2015, the division's goals for the peregrine falcon population was to maintain the nesting population at or above levels of 30 territorial pairs, 25 nesting pairs, and a total of 100 eggs laid with a 68% hatch rate and approximate 35% fledging rate. Overall, for 2018, peregrine falcon hatch rate was about average, and peregrine falcon fledging rate was slightly above average. These results, however, should be interpreted with caution since only a subset of nests, instead of the entire population, were monitored. Of concern is the decline in both hatching and fledging

production in 2018 compared to 2016, but 2016 was a very productive year. Also concerning is the apparent decline in number of nesting territories.

The Division thanks its partners and volunteers for their work in maintaining nest boxes, monitoring nests, working with construction projects to mitigate impacts to the birds, and rehabilitating injured birds.

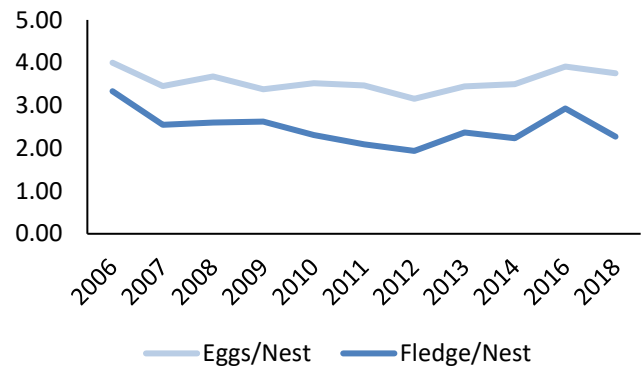


Figure 1. Peregrine falcon productivity measures for Ohio from 2006-2018.

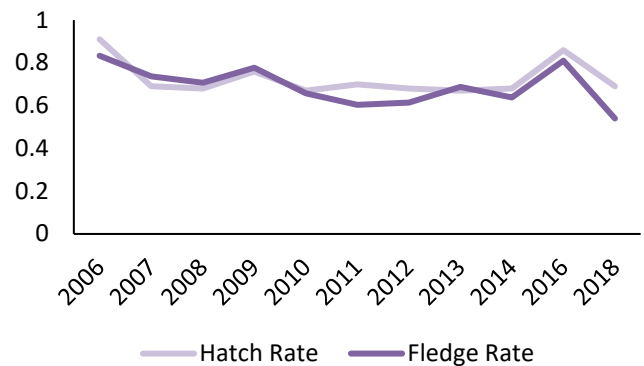


Figure 2. Peregrine falcon hatch and fledge rates for nests in Ohio, 2006-2018.

District	County	City	Site ID	Number Fledged
1	Franklin	Columbus	Rhodes Tower	0

2	Lucas	Toledo	Univ of Toledo	5
2	Wood	Bowling Green	BGSU	3
2	Allen	Lima	Chase Bank	1
3	Cuyahoga	Cleveland	Terminal Tower	4
3	Cuyahoga	Cleveland	Cleveland Clinic- Crile Building	4
3	Cuyahoga	Cleveland/Valleyview	I-480 Bridge	0
3	Starke	Canton	Chase Bank	0
3	Summit	Akron	First Merit Bank	2
4	Lawrence	Ironton	Ironton-Russell Bridge	2
5	Adams	Manchester	Killen Station	3
5	Brown	Aberdeen	J.M. Stuart Power Station	3
5	Hamilton	Cincinnati	Miami Fort Station	4
5	Hamilton	Cincinnati	PNC Bank/4 <sup>th</sup> & Vine	2
5	Montgomery	Dayton	Liberty Bank	3

Table 1. Peregrine falcon nests monitored in Ohio in 2018.