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**For Immediate Release: May 3, 2016**

**PEREGRINE FALCONS HATCH ON MID-HUDSON BRIDGE**

**2016 MARKS TWO DECADES OF SUCCESS REESTABLISHING THE ENDANGERED SPECIES**

For the 20th year in a row, the Mid-Hudson Bridge between Poughkeepsie and Highland is home to newly hatched Peregrine Falcons.

“The annual tradition continues with the newest addition to the Bridge Authority family,” Executive Director Joseph Ruggiero said. “Two new hatchlings are being nurtured by both parents and seem to be doing quite well.”

The Bridge Authority posts video of the nesting box on You Tube. “The videos are very popular,” Ruggiero said regarding the posts showing the mother Peregrine feeding the hatchlings.

The Bridge Authority hosts nesting boxes on each of its five Hudson River vehicle bridges. The boxes were installed in the late 1980’s as part of an effort to re-establish the Peregrine in the Hudson Valley. Peregrine Falcons remain listed as an endangered species

Falcon chicks are called eyas and lose their downy white coat as they mature.

The name Peregrine means “wanderer,” and northern-nesting Peregrines are among North America’s long-distance migratory species, traveling as much as 10,000 miles a year.  Peregrines mate for life and usually return to the same nesting spot each year.

The Peregrine Falcon is the fastest bird on the planet. In a hunting dive, the Peregrine will soar to heights of a half mile or more, then dive at speeds in excess of 200mph. The top speed recorded for a Peregrine dive is 242.3mph.

A medium-sized falcon, the Peregrine will grow to about 15 to 21 inches long and have a wingspan of more than 3 feet.

The latest clips of the young birds can be seen on YouTube with parent falcons tending the hatchlings at <https://youtu.be/32Y7MUH5VKY> and falcons feeding at <https://youtu.be/MCjjRhAJWvM>.

The Authority also shares regular updates on the NYS DEC web site for Peregrine Falcons. The DEC page includes background and conservation information on Peregrines.

- more -

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Fans can also search YouTube for “NYSBridgeAuthority” to see other Peregrine Falcon clips. Updates will be posted as they are available. The Bridge Authority will also post updates on the Peregrine’s progress on Twitter and Facebook.

In addition to Falcon updates, you can also get traffic updates and construction impacts at @NYSBridge on Twitter, or look for the New York State Bridge Authority on Facebook.

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation webcam can be viewed at [www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov) .

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For all of the latest news, business opportunities, and Authority updates please follow us on Twitter at @NYSBridge (<https://twitter.com/#!/NYSBridge>).  You can also find us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)) by searching for the “New York State Bridge Authority.”

**Quick Facts about the New York State Bridge Authority**

* The NYS Bridge Authority operates the Bear Mountain, Newburgh-Beacon, Mid-Hudson, Kingston-Rhinecliff and Rip Van Winkle bridges and owns and maintains the structure of the Walkway Over the Hudson Bridge.
* The Authority is funded principally from bridge tolls and receives no state or federal tax monies for bridge maintenance and operation.
* NYSBA tolls are among the lowest nationwide for self-supporting transportation agencies and are actually lower, in real dollars, than they were in 1933 when the Authority began operations.