PEREGRINE FALCONS

The fastest bird on the planet, Peregrine Falcons like the high life.

In Rhode Island, these amazing birds nest on top of the Superman Building in Providence, City Hall in Pawtucket, and several bridges including the Mount Hope, the Sakonnet, the Newport and the Jamestown/Verrazano. In other places, they nest high on steep cliffs.
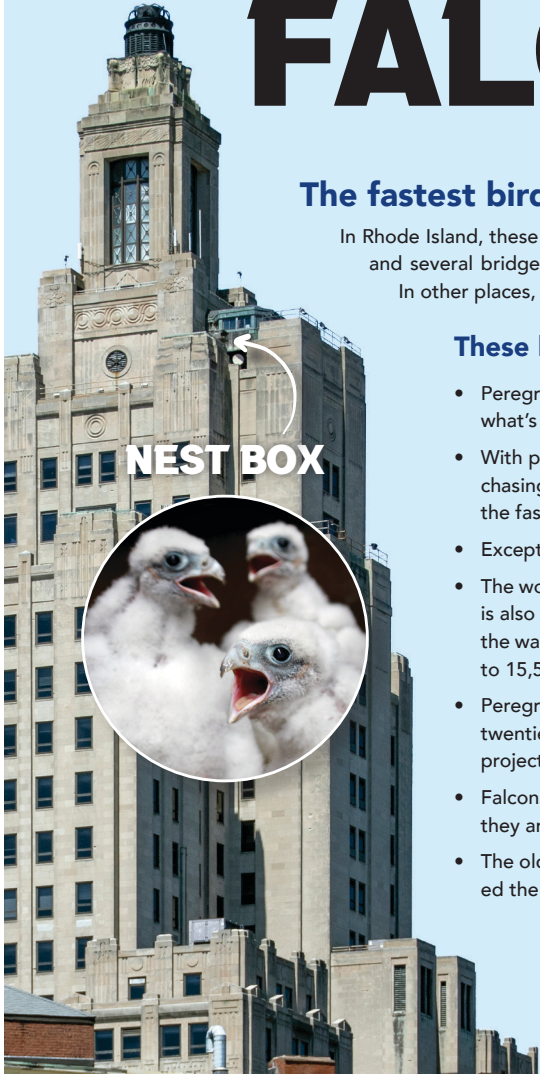
NEST BOX

These beautiful and fascinating birds have some amazing adaptations:

- Peregrine Falcons hunt medium-sized birds that they catch by diving on them from great heights in what's called a stoop. They sometimes do take-out meals, eating their prey on the wing!

- With pointed wings, Peregrine Falcons are built for speed. They can reach 67 miles per hour when chasing prey. In a stoop, they have been recorded at more than 200 miles per hour, making them the fastest bird on earth.

- Except for Antarctica, Peregrine Falcons can be found on every continent and many islands.

- The word peregrine is from the Latin word *peregrinus*, meaning foreign or coming from abroad but is also defined as roving, wandering, traveling, and migratory. The Tundra subspecies will travel all the way from its breeding grounds in the Artic to South America to winter and then back again – up to 15,500 miles in a year.

- Peregrine Falcons, Ospreys, Bald Eagles and other raptor populations crashed during the mid-twentieth century due to the use of harmful chemical pesticides. Strong environmental laws and projects to reintroduce these birds to New England have helped their populations rebound.

- Falcons have the same sharp talons, curved beaks and sharp eyesight that other raptors have, but they are more closely related to parrots than hawks or owls.

- The oldest Peregrine Falcon recorded was at least 19 years and 9 months old. Scientists had banded the bird in 1992 in Minnesota, and found it again in 2012 in the same state.

WATCH PEREGRINE FALCONS HATCH, GROW AND FLEDGE IN PROVIDENCE!

Visit asri.org/view/peregrine-cam

WATCH LIVE!