

from 1986 to 1990 and focused on release efforts. Phase II, which began after the first peregrine set up a territory, involves the monitoring and managing of those peregrines residing in the Chicago area. Phase II will continue as long as there are peregrines holding territories in the area.

CPRR instituted as its primary goal the re-establishment of a Midwest peregrine population. Forty-six immature peregrines were released during a five-year period at four separate sites; downtown Chicago, Fort Sheridan just south of Lake Forest, Illinois Beach State Park in Zion, and the College of Du Page (COD) in Glen Ellyn (Table 1). The process of hacking (Sherrod et al, 1982) developed by the Peregrine Fund, then under the direction of Tom Cade at Cornell University, was used at all sites.

This technique prepares captive-bred, immature birds for survival in the wild. When the peregrines are approximately 5 weeks old, they are placed in a specially designed box at the release site. The birds are fed through a chute to eliminate the possibility of associating food with humans. The front of the box is covered with bars but the birds can still see out and can adjust to their new surroundings. When the falcons are about 40 days old, the box is opened. The immature peregrines spend the next four to six weeks learning to fly and hunt on their own. At this time, feeding is gradually dis-

continued. The birds begin to wander further from the hack site and will eventually disperse. As a result of the CPRR and other Midwest releases, peregrines have established territories within the Chicagoland area; the first in 1986. By 1992, six Peregrine Falcon territories were established in northern Illinois and northwestern Indiana (Table 2).

Nesting Activity and Unusual Behavior



Mary Hennen, a scientist with the Chicago Academy of Sciences, prepares to put a juvenile peregrine back on a Chicago ledge after her first flight in which she landed on the street on 13 June 1992.

The first successful nest in the state in 37 years occurred in 1988 (Table 3). The peregrines using the 125 S. Wacker building as an eyrie succeeded in fledging two young. As in nature, some nesting attempts fail. When unsuccessful breeding is due to inadequacies with the structure of the chosen nest site, the CPRR project is responsible for enhancing nesting conditions. Artificial nest boxes or trays may be placed in the area to increase the probability of successful breeding. For example, at a site in

Hyde Park, no suitable ledges were available for nesting, so a nest box was placed at the site. In this case, the birds left the area and did not nest, but similar methods have been successful in other parts of the country and will continue to be part of the CPRR project's managing and monitoring techniques.

While working with the falcons, scientists observed their interactions with other wildlife, both at release and wild nest sites. Not surprisingly,

a few unusual observations were made which added to our knowledge of the species. Near the release site at Illinois Beach State Park in 1989, several immature falcons were observed preying upon migratory bats. This rare occurrence afforded an excellent opportunity to record the flight behavior of both the predators and prey (Byre 1990). It also gave insight into the migratory behavior of several bat species including big brown (*Eptesicus fuscus*), red

(*Lasiurus borealis*), and silver-haired (*Lasionycteris noctivagans*) bats. These three species were seen migrating together at Illinois Beach State Park in Zion, an occurrence that had not previously been recorded.

Earlier in the year, at the same site in Zion, an adult peregrine, not part of the CPRR release, took up residence. This female probably caused the disappearance of one or two of the released falcons early on, yet she later accepted the remaining imma-