



In the two recent Illinois inbred peregrine pairings, both were cases of a mother paired with her son. This may be in part due to the difference in dispersal distances between the sexes. Female peregrines will travel farther from their natal site to their breeding site while male peregrines stay relatively close (White et al. 2002). Other raptors show similar female-biased dispersal patterns between the sexes with pairing of related adults varying from mother-grandson, to mother-son, to siblings or half siblings (Carlson et al. 1998). The dominant pattern is for an established resident female to be paired with a returning related male.

Productivity of Illinois Peregrine Falcons has risen over the past decade as the population size has increased. If the density of peregrine territories

**This Peregrine Falcon  
with a Northern  
Flicker is the apparent  
offspring of a mother  
and her son nesting at  
the Uptown Theater  
in Chicago.**

*Photo by Rick Remington.*

continues to increase, we could see a greater frequency of inbreeding in the species. Inbreeding currently remains rare in the population, but because of the ongoing monitoring and banding of individuals in the region, we will be able to gather additional data to access the ramifications in the future.

**Literature Cited**

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