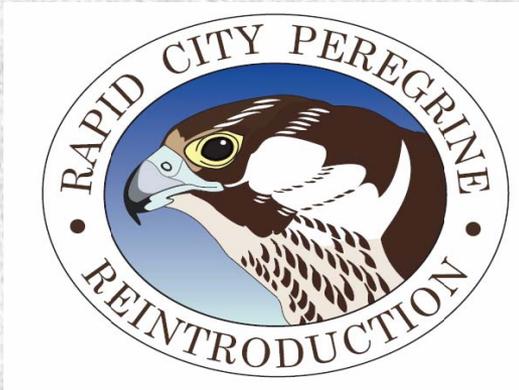


Peregrine falcon reintroduction in Rapid City, South Dakota



Images provided by Eileen Dowd Stukel, SDGFP, Janie Fink, Birds of Prey Northwest and Mary Ann Pembroke, Assurant Company



Hack boxes placed atop the reintroduction site on the Assurant Building in downtown Rapid City, South Dakota



Rear view into a compartment as finishing touches are made



A view from the 2011 rooftop release area of the Assurant Building. Peregrine falcons have adapted to life in urban areas, preying on pigeons, starlings, and other common birds.



Janie Fink, raptor biologist with Birds of Prey Northwest, is the release site coordinator for South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks. Janie holds one of the first 4 young falcons delivered to the release site in 2011.



Project assistants from 2011 - Ashley Hrabec (left) and Blake Schioberg (right)



Janie and Blake



Weigh in for a new arrival. The yellow band will be replaced with a metal leg band on one leg and a red, coded band on the other leg.



Janie Fink displays a young peregrine at a news conference to kick off the project.



Three corporate sponsors are acknowledged at a press conference in Rapid City in 2011. From left to right are Rex Caldwell, Assurant Company, Mike Tice, Black Hills Power and Light and Kareem Merali of the Radisson Hotel.



Janie examines a new arrival. Birds are closely monitored for any health problems and to assure that they are progressing on schedule.



A color leg band is attached to the right leg of a female chick by Janie, volunteer Don Veltkamp and Eileen Dowd Stukel of SDGFP.



Close-up view of color leg band. Birds are also marked with a temporary, nontoxic paint mark on the upper and lower surface of the wing.



Young birds are held at the hack site for 7-10 days before release.



Young peregrines in the release boxes.



Birds are provided fresh water and fresh food (quail) while held in the hack boxes. Food and water continue to be provided once birds are released and learning to fly and forage on their own.



Biologist Blake Schioberg examines a bird prior to release in 2012. Note the green, temporary, nontoxic paint that allows identification of a specific release group.

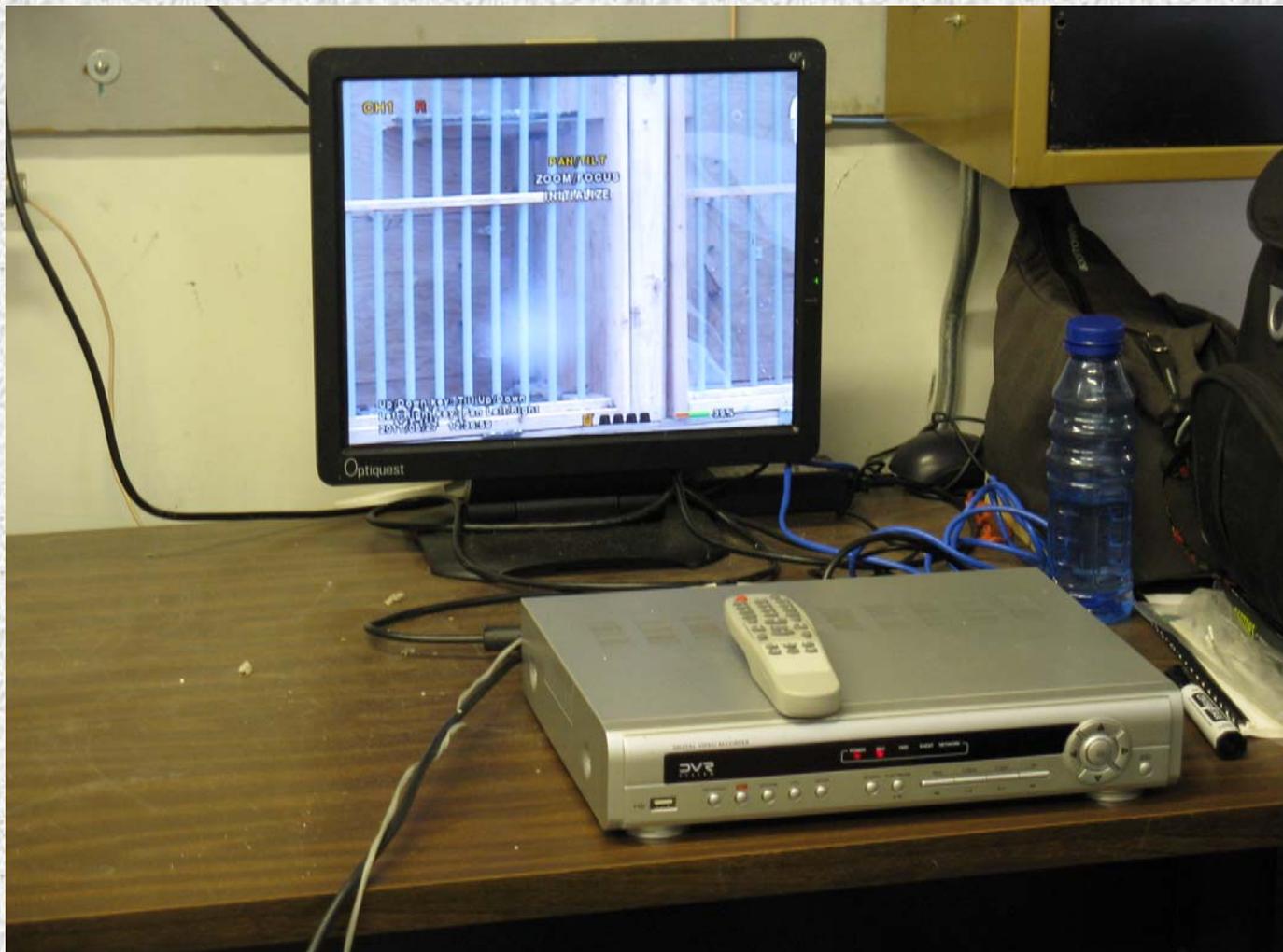




Peregrines atop the Black Hills Corp. Building, the 2012 release site



Volunteer Mary Ann Pembroke
with some new arrivals



A surveillance camera allows remote observation of birds in the hack boxes and of free-flying falcons that return to feed.



A view through the remote camera shows a free-flying bird returning to feed on quail at the hack site. Note the Astroturf that provides stable footing.



This view through the remote camera illustrates how the red leg bands can be read to identify individual birds.



Members of the Rapid City Police Department have retrieved downed chicks. As long as they pass a health check, chicks are given another chance to solo.



Without seeing the color band code, we know this is an “orange” bird, based on the temporary paint on the wing.

To learn more:

- View the Rapid City peregrine falcon webcam (active while birds are held at the release site):

<http://www.ustream.tv/channel/rapid-city-peregrines>

- Read the blog:

<http://rapidcityfalcons.blogspot.com/>



A reintroduced peregrine falcon flies over Rapid City, South Dakota.