

WATCH LIVE: Peregrine falcons prepare to take first flight

New live HD webcam provides clear close-ups of nesting peregrine falcons

(LOUISVILLE, Ky.) — Before diving at speeds of 200 miles per hour and fulfilling the title of “World’s Fastest Flying Birds,” four peregrine falcons nesting in Louisville will spend the next several weeks learning to fly. And, webcam viewers will have a live front row seat.

The webcam’s installed through a partnership with Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and located inside the peregrine falcon nest box 300 feet above ground at Louisville Gas and Electric Company’s Mill Creek Generating Station.

“Web cameras are an excellent way for people to learn about and observe wildlife without the risk of disturbing them,” said Loren Taylor, avian biologist with KDFWR. “This is especially important when it comes to peregrine falcons, as they are still considered a rare species in Kentucky.”

Viewers have watched since March while Diana, the female peregrine falcon believed to be nesting at this location since 2006, and her male companion have raised the four chicks.

According to Taylor, the new HD webcam with a higher resolution “has the potential to allow biologists to identify individual falcons by the unique characteristics of their facial plumage (feathers) in future years.”

Falcons typically learn to fly 40-45 days after hatching. The falcon chicks have become more active as they’ve matured and their muscles and skeletal structure have grown stronger. Before taking their first flight, the chicks are banded by KDFWR officials.

[Watch this video to see officials band the falcon chicks.](#)

During the banding process, the chicks are briefly removed from the nest to allow KDFWR officials to attach leg bands with unique color, letter and number combinations. This identifying information is then entered into a database along with each bird's gender, hatch date and nest location. Biologists will be able to read the unique band combinations through high-powered optics.

About the webcam and nest box

LG&E and KDFWR launched the state’s first webcam inside this same nest box in 2013. Since then, Diana and her family have won the hearts and attention of more than 340,000 viewers.

Each year, Diana has nested at the box at Mill Creek from February through June and raised anywhere from two to four chicks.

Power plant crevices and alcoves remind the falcons of natural nesting locations, such as mountain cliffs and ledges. Falcons eat smaller birds, so an ample food supply of pigeons and starlings is readily available at the power plant.

Visit lge-ku.com/falcon to watch live as the young falcons prepare to fly.

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Louisville Gas and Electric Company and Kentucky Utilities Company, part of the PPL Corporation (NYSE: PPL) family of companies, are regulated utilities that serve nearly 1.3 million customers and have consistently ranked among the best companies for customer service in the United States. LG&E serves 326,000 natural gas and 411,000 electric customers in Louisville and 16 surrounding counties. KU serves 553,000 customers in 77 Kentucky counties and five counties in Virginia. More information is available at www.lge-ku.com and www.pplweb.com.

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources is located in Frankfort and is an agency of the Kentucky Tourism, Arts & Heritage Cabinet. KDFWR conserves and enhances fish and wildlife resources and provides opportunity for hunting, fishing, trapping, boating and other wildlife-related activities. Its nine-member commission is nominated by Kentucky sportsmen and sportswomen and appointed by the governor. KDFWR works with landowners, hunters, anglers, boaters and wildlife enthusiasts statewide. More information is available at www.kdfwr.state.ky.us

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