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PEREGRINE FALCON NESTING SUCCESS IN OMAHA, NEBRASKA

During May and June, 1992, there were several articles in the Omaha World-Herald on a pair of Peregrine Falcons, which chose the top of the 28-story Woodmen Tower for a nest site. The male was one of a group of chicks brought from the University of Minnesota and raised on the top of Woodmen Tower. He was released from the Tower in 1989 and has returned each year since then. In 1992 he came with a mate, who had been released from a building in Des Moines, Iowa, in 1991.

Three eggs were laid in the hack box on consecutive days between May 7 and May 9, and the three chicks hatched between June 11 and June 13. At the age of about 18 days, the chicks were banded and blood samples were taken. According to Ross Lock, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, all three fledged, and it is expected that they will return to the Omaha area next year. Their parents will likely continue to use the Woodmen Tower nest site in future years.

These three Peregrine Falcon chicks are believed to be the first to be hatched in Nebraska since the early years of this century. Dr. R. G. Cortelyou noted that J. E. Ducey, in his 1988 book, **Nebraska birds: breeding status and distribution**, has only one reference on possible Peregrine Falcon nesting in Nebraska. In this undated publication (probably around 1905), **A preliminary survey of the birds of Nebraska, with synopses**, by L. A. Bruner, R. H. Wolcott, and M. H. Swenk, the following description of the Peregrine Falcon is given:

Falco peregrinus anatum (Bonaparte) - Duck Hawk

A rare but regular migrant over the entire state. Lincoln, Omaha, West Point, Neligh, Dawes County. It probably breeds in this last named locality, where old and young birds were observed by Bruner Aug. 5 to 19, 1903, flying about the cliffs 8 miles west of Ft. Robinson, going in and out of a recess that may have been the nesting site.

Will they breed again on the cliffs of northwest Nebraska?

---Rosalind Morris, 3018 O Street, Lincoln, NE 68510