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Press Release

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[Bridges & Tunnels](#)

IMMEDIATE

Falcon Update, Marine Parkway Bridge: Three-week-old Chicks Thriving

Peregrine falcon chicks born three weeks ago at the south (Queens) tower of the Marine Parkway -Gil Hodges Memorial Bridge in the Rockaways appear to be thriving—and growing fast.

The brother and sister chicks were re-visited this week by bridge maintenance staff and a wildlife biologist and falcon expert representing the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The biologist tagged the birds around their ankles for tracking and identification purposes; the mother falcon is known to be the same bird who has consistently nested at the bridge because her tag identifies her as such. Peregrine falcons were an endangered species as recently as 1999. The chicks will continue to grow quickly, further evidenced by their sharp claws, already the size as those of an adult falcon (nearly as big as an adult human hand).

MTA Bridges and Tunnels staff at all facilities are very careful to leave nature undisturbed, especially when birds take up residence; however, the falcon family does have some company: the Marine-Parkway-Gil Hodges Memorial Bridge has average daily traffic of 23,000 vehicles. More than 7.9 million vehicles made the crossing in 2007.

MTA Bridges and Tunnels' facilities, which connect the five boroughs of New York City, are the Triborough, Throgs Neck, Bronx-Whitestone, Henry Hudson, Verrazano-Narrows, Cross Bay Veterans Memorial and Marine Parkway-Gil Hodges Bridges, and the Queens Midtown and Brooklyn-Battery Tunnels.

Photo captions: (photo credit: David Weir, Karen Bowers):

#1: Then: Days-old Peregrine Falcon chicks huddle in nest atop the south (Queens-side) tower of the Marine Parkway-Gil Hodges Memorial Bridge.

#2: Now: Three-week-old chicks looking hungry.



#1



#3