



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 20, 2009

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**The Children's Museum and Travelers Bring Back FalconCam
This Year's Peregrine Falcons To Be Banded on May 21**

WEST HARTFORD, Conn., May 20, 2009 – The Children's Museum, Travelers, and the Connecticut Dept. of Environmental Protection have partnered to bring the public FalconCam, a website with two live webcams monitoring a peregrine falcon nest on Travelers Tower in Downtown Hartford. Peregrine Watch at Travelers Tower, as the webcam program is known, can be accessed via falconcam.travelers.com or through the Children's Museum website at www.TheChildrensMuseumCT.org

A pair of peregrines nested on the tower in March and their three chicks hatched in early May. CT DEP, with participation of staff from The Children's Museum UTC Wildlife Sanctuary, will be banding the chicks on Thursday May 21, 2009. Banding young peregrines allows agencies like the CT DEP to keep track of the falcons' migration and habitat needs. The bands are uniquely lettered and numbered so that the peregrines can be identified wherever they are found.

FalconCam was first launched in 2000 as a collaborative initiative between Travelers, The Children's Museum, and CT DEP. The webcam includes two cameras that provide a live close-up of the peregrines' nest, as well as a wider shot of the ledge outside the Travelers Tower's 21st floor on which the nest box is located.

Peregrine falcon populations declined rapidly between 1950 and 1965 throughout the United States and parts of Europe. By 1975, the entire population of peregrines in the eastern United States was considered to be extirpated. This decline is directly attributed to the effect of pesticides, particularly DDT, on breeding populations. In 1999, based on the recovery of peregrine populations partly due to breeding and reintroduction programs, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service formally removed the peregrine falcon from the federal list of endangered and threatened wildlife. Even though the peregrine falcon was removed from the federal endangered

species list, the species still satisfies the criteria for state listing and remains a Connecticut endangered species.

The Children's Museum offers over 100 live animals, hands-on science exhibits, out-of-this-world digital planetarium shows, and programs for younger children and families. With over 210,000 visitors annually, it is one of Connecticut's top museum attractions. The Children's Museum is located at 950 Trout Brook Drive in West Hartford and at Roaring Brook Nature Center in Canton. More information is available at www.TheChildrensMuseumCT.org.

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