

## Case Study: 72/BV



There is a cell tower on the roof of the Verizon building in Brockton, Massachusetts, which is about 5 stories. The falcon nest box is on the tower at the level of the red platform. In the first 2 years (2012, 2013), the falcons nested in a raven nest that fledged 4 raven chicks in 2011. This nest was at the level of the lowest red metal work. A nest box was installed after the eggs were laid in 2012 and has been used by the pair every year since 2014. Because of the cramped structure of the tower, this is the smallest falcon nest box in the state. Both adults that have been observed nested here were unbanded, but in 2020, the female was captured by hand in the nest box and banded.

72/BV, born in 2019, was part of [MassWildlife's first-recorded five-chick clutch in 35 years of banding](#). She was the only female of the clutch, and she is a considerably large bird. Her brothers are 62/BU, 63/BU, 64/BU, and 65/BU.

72/BV was first sighted and identified at UMass Amherst in the early spring of 2021 by the falcon team there and MassWildlife. The previous year's female (unbanded), who had been caught up in the midst of a territorial dispute between her 2019 mate and a newcomer, 21/BU from the Tufts Watertown nest, was no longer present. Due to that dispute, the nest failed in 2020. 21/BU was later found injured on the softball field of Holy Cross College in Worcester, treated for a wing injury at Tufts Grafton, and subsequently released.

When the falcon camera was being installed for the 2021 season, the falcon team initially saw 3 falcons in the area and presumed it to be a continuation of the previous year's territorial dispute. However, it soon settled down and 72/BV and an unbanded male proved to be the victors. The two began pair bonding and successfully raised a four-chick clutch (3 females; 1 male) in 2021, which is towards the larger end of the usual clutch size of 3-5 eggs. The chicks were banded 38/CD, 39/CD, 40/CD, and 86/CB. All fledged. 38/CD was unfortunately found deceased after hitting a window.

2021's unbanded male was unfortunately found deceased when the camera was being put up for the 2022 season, likely the result of a territorial dispute. A new male was soon spotted with 72/BV and was identified as 45/BU, banded in 2019 at the Calvin Coolidge Bridge in Northampton, Massachusetts. Due to delays in parts and shipping, the newly-renovated nest box was not installed on the W. E. B. Du Bois Library early enough, and so the pair moved into the previously-unused nest box on Thompson Hall next door to the Library. They successfully raised a four-chick clutch (1 female; 3 males). The chicks were banded 58/CD, 71/CB, 72/CB, and 73/CB. Once the chicks fledged, the entire family began spending more time on the new nest box on the Library. 72/BU was frequently seen later in the summer defending the new nest box and her territory from an interloping unbanded female. 73/CB was spotted on Plum Island towards the end of the summer.