

**7 April 2008**

Hello All,

Greetings and welcome to the 2008 NYC American Kestrel season. Already we are getting reports of pairs of kestrels hanging around together - and the male bringing food to the female (eg., Sunnyside, Queens via Eric Cohen; also at Ft. Greene Park, Brooklyn via Lisa Darms), or even entering possible nest cavities on Broadway (on 68th and Broadway via Rob Cicchetti; and on 74th Street above the Citterella Market - thanks Jacob Drucker. And note that a pair nested on the corner opposite Zabar's in 2007 - thanks Kellye Rosenheim!) So if you observed Kestrels in 2007, now is the time to begin looking for them again in your neighborhood.

From Travis Molkenbur in Astoria, Queens we received this message on 5 April: "The kestrels are back! They arrived about 3 weeks ago (about mid-March). My twin daughters are doing great. They're 15 months now, its gone so fast!"

From Eric Cohen in Sunnyside, Queens, also on 5 April 2008: " I've been watching a breeding pair of kestrels out my living room window for the past three days. I've seen Red-tailed Hawks around here regularly, but these kestrels are new to me. They like to perch on an antenna on the roof of a building that is visible three buildings away (this is in the middle of the block between Queens Boulevard and 47th Ave., and between 42nd and 43rd Streets, in Sunnyside). We look at them through binoculars. Today we watched the male bring some prey to the female and watched the female gradually devour it, tail last.

So if you see a kestrel again in your neighborhood, chances are they may be about to lay eggs. Last year (2007), most fledgings occurred from mid-May to late June, which means that eggs were laid from mid-March to late April (assuming that it takes about 30 days for the eggs to hatch, and another 30 days for the young to be on the wing).

Just below, we include two photos of the kestrel nest opposite Zabars in Manhattan that Kellye Rosenheim has been watching (and discovered!). That is approximately west 80<sup>th</sup> street and Broadway. The nest is on the east side of Broadway, and gets afternoon sun. It is very easy to sit in the traffic "island" – on the provided wooden benches – and watch the comings and goings of the adults, especially from about 20 May through 5 June.

Finally, I'll keep this report brief...but see the kestrel flyer in English, and one translated into Chinese by Tom Jin and his daughter at the end of this PDF. Thank You!

Do let us know about your kestrels anywhere in NYC. The information you provide will help us understand the needs (and threats) to this little falcon in NYC.

OK more next week,

Robert DeCandido  
Bronx

**American Kestrel Nest**  
Manhattan: Upper West Side  
80th Street and Broadway  
14 June 2007  
Robert DeCandido, PhD



Nest

**American Kestrel Nest**  
Manhattan: Upper West Side  
80th Street and Broadway  
14 June 2007  
Robert DeCandido, PhD



Nestling About to Fledge

## Status of the American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) in New York City

From autumn 2006 through summer 2007 we visited 16 known American Kestrel territories in three of New York City's five boroughs: Manhattan (12), Brooklyn (1) and the Bronx (3). We found kestrel pairs occupying at least 12 territories and located eight nests. Five territories have been occupied since at least 2000. Most, if not all, pairs of American Kestrels do not migrate and remain on territory year-round. Copulations were observed beginning in January, and one female was sitting on eggs by mid-March. In New York City, kestrels can fledge as many as five young, beginning in mid-May. More commonly three young fledge per nest, with some young fledging in mid-July. In 2006 in Manhattan, one pair reared a second brood that fledged in August. The typical kestrel nest in New York City is within a partially rusted metal cornice of a 19th century apartment building, located 20-25 meters above a one-way street. All nests were situated within 70 meters of a vacant lot, community garden, or public park. Heavy pedestrian and vehicular activity below the nest does not negatively affect nesting kestrels. From April-June, food consists primarily of small birds, particularly House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*), migratory birds such as wood warblers, nestling Rock Pigeons (*Columba livia*) and European Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*), and less commonly, small rodents. Beginning in late spring, insects such as dragonflies, bees and moths are captured in flight. The primary threat to New York City kestrels include (a) building renovation; (b) building construction on vacant lots particularly in the South Bronx; and (c) thunderstorms during the fledging period. Overall, we believe the population of New York City kestrels is stable with an estimated 20 pairs nesting annually in Manhattan, and an estimated 25 additional pairs breeding in the other four boroughs.

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Just fledged **American Kestrel (male; note blue head with small down feathers)** from an undiscovered nest in the vicinity of Jane and Horatio Streets in the West Village (Manhattan).

# 你看過這一隻鳥嗎？



雌



雄

## 美國茶隼

(Falco sparverious)

茶隼（麻雀鷹）是紐約市中最小的生存獵鷹。牠的別名是 El Cernialo American，它能在所有的五個區中被發現，從哈林區向北到布朗士區，和從中城曼哈坦向南伸展到布魯克林。牠在城市街道上的公寓建築物的壁帶中築巢。在史坦島和皇后區，牠也在垃圾掩埋場附近被放置的盒子中築巢。茶隼以昆蟲，像是蜻蜓和其他的包括老鼠和家雀等小的獵物為食。

可惜的是，最近的科學研究指出，這一類的獵鷹在美國的東北方衰微中。在紐約市，我們對茶隼沒有太多的了解。牠在即將來臨的數年內可能消失如一個城市居民。我們計劃盡可能的來了解有關於都市茶隼的知識，希望這一類獵鷹能在紐約市生存下去。

## 我們需要您的幫忙！

如果您看到美國茶隼，或者，您知道茶隼巢的位置，請和我們連絡。如果您想要更多的資料，請寄電子郵件或打電話給我們。謝謝！

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如何辨認出美國茶隼呢？在紐約市，這些小的獵鷹喜歡在公寓建築物的頂上，如電視天線或水塔上棲息，在這些高的建築物上牠們比較容易找尋食物。他們有喜愛的棲息位置。如果您在屋頂上見到這一類的獵鷹，那牠在同一地方棲息的機會是非常大的。



**Kestrel perched outside of nest opening, Manhattan**

典型的巢位置是在建築物的頂端附近的開口，時常僅僅在屋頂下（像是在壁帶中）如果人們對茶隼巢的擾亂不大，美國茶隼將在城市街道上築巢而且和人相處得好。

下方及右方的圖可見到茶隼巢在建築物壁帶中。



**A kestrel nest site in the South Bronx**

在鄉間區域中築巢的美國茶隼已經被研究過。然而，在北美城市築巢的茶隼是毫不被人們了解的。在紐約市少數觀察者已經描述，對於這些獵鷹築巢，牠們吃什麼食物，什麼時候離巢，都是鮮為人知的。紐約市的茶隼在秋天／冬天會向南方移動或牠們一整年都待在同一個地方，我們也不知道。還有其他基本的疑問是：牠們的生命有多長？每年有多少新生命誕生？相同的巢位置會年復一年的被使用嗎？對紐約市茶隼的最大威脅是什麼？如果你想要幫助這一即將滅絕的長期城市居民，請注意這一類的獵鷹。

如要報告茶隼瞥見的地方或需要更多有關的資訊，請寄一封電子郵件或打電話給我們：

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**Closer view of a nest opening in the South Bronx**

*We thank the many members of our Kestrel Assessment Team (KAT) including: Richard Aracil, Dr. Keith Bildstein, Dr. David Bird, Andrew Block, Rafael Guillermo Campos-Ramirez, Irv Cantor, Robert A. Cicchetti, Bill Clark, John and Judy Day, Fr. Tom Deely, Dr. Alice Deutsch, Dan Driscoll, Carl Howard, Sharon Kass, Coby Klein, David Künstler, Eve Levine, Richard Lieberman, Barbara Loucks, Chuck McAlexander, Christopher Nadeski, Robert Olley, Dr. Robert Paxton, Dr. Jean-Marc Thiollay, Pat Pollock, Christina Reik, Jorge Santiago, Chad Seewagen, Eric Slayton, Dr. John Smallwood, Junko Suzuki, Steve Walter, Perry Wargo*

# Have You Seen This Bird?



*Female*



*Male*

## The American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*)

The American Kestrel (Sparrow Hawk) is the smallest falcon living in New York City. Also called El Cernícalo Americano, it can be found in all five boroughs, from the upper west side through Harlem north to the Bronx, and from mid-town Manhattan south to Brooklyn. It nests in the cornices of apartment buildings on city streets. In Staten Island and Queens, it also nests in boxes placed near abandoned landfills. Kestrels feed on insects such as dragonflies and other small prey including mice and house sparrows.

Sadly, recent scientific research indicates that this falcon is on the decline in the northeastern United States. In New York City, we have no idea how the kestrel is doing. It might disappear as a city resident in the coming years. We plan to study as many urban kestrels as possible in the hope that we can help this falcon survive in New York City.

## We Need Your Help!

If you see an American Kestrel, or better yet, if you know of a kestrel nest site, please contact us.

*If you want more information, email or call one of us. Thanks!*

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*All Photos © Deborah Allen*

How to spot an American Kestrel? In New York City, these small falcons like to perch on TV antennas atop apartment buildings and other high places such as water towers where they can look for food. They have favorite perching sites. If you think you see one atop a building, chances are it will perch in that place again and again.



Kestrel perched outside of nest opening, Manhattan

Typical nest sites are openings near the tops of buildings, often just below the roof (such as in a cornice). American Kestrels will nest on city streets and get along well with people if disturbance to their nest is minimal. See the nest in the building cornice below and right.



Kestrel Nest is here.

A kestrel nest site in the South Bronx

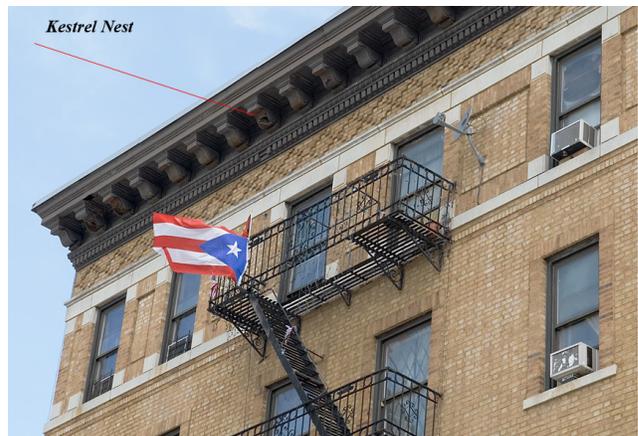
American Kestrels nesting in rural areas have been well studied. However, virtually nothing is known about kestrels that nest in cities in North America. In New York City few observers have described where these falcons nest, what they eat and when young leave the nest. We also do not know if New York City kestrels migrate south in autumn/winter, or if they remain here throughout the year. Our other basic questions are: How long do they live? How many young do they produce each year? Is the same nest site used year after year? What are the greatest threats to New York City kestrels? If you want to help save a long-time city resident from extinction, be on the lookout for this falcon.

*To report kestrel sightings or receive more info, send an email or call one of us:*

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Close view of a nest opening in the South Bronx

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