



PARKLAND MEWS

Falconry & Bird of Prey Education Centre

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Revenue Canada Charitable Number 89804 9762 RR0001

In early January vitamin supplements Nekton and Nekton E were obtained from a supplier in Montreal and were sprinkled on the birds food six out of seven days per week. The falcons were housed at this time in temporary winter quarters as a precaution against the winter weather. The established pair again showed signs of courtship behaviour, particularly vocalizing.

Toward the end of March the birds were transferred from the temporary quarters to the captive breeding facility. The established pair (Claire and Caleb)went to the nest barrel almost immediately and began vocalizing straight away.

It was hoped a second pair (Keira and Tristan) would come on stream this year although early indications showed no obvious signs of courtship.

Two remote cameras were installed in Claire and Caleb's pen and the images were recorded on a computer. The following are journal entries for both pairs for the 06-breeding season.

Claire and Caleb Breeding Season 2006			
Date	Time	Weather	Observations
Mar 25/06	1:00 PM	sunny, 2 C	Removed Claire and Caleb from barn near house and placed in Breeding enclosure. Both Claire and Caleb immediately entered the nest barrel and began vocalizing
Mar 30/06			Caleb was seen preparing a scrape in the nest barrel
Mar 31/06	3:00 PM		Caleb began kekking when Nan looked through hatch after placing in food.
Apr 1/06	7:30 AM	Cloudy, 2 C	Caleb began kekking at Nan and dogs who were across the ditch.
Apr 3/06	8:10 AM	Sunny, 8 C	Claire and Caleb on window ledge. Caleb mounted Claire.
Apr 5/06			Claire inactive. Not moving from window ledge. Eyes closed and wings drooping.
Apr 7/06	8:30 AM		No real change in Claire's behaviour.

Apr 8/06	12:30 PM	Sunny, 10 C	Put bath water in tub. Both birds very vocal.
Apr 10/06			Claire on ground most of the day.
Apr 12/06	4:00 PM	Sunny, 16 C	Single egg in scrape.
Apr 14/06	2-4:00pm	Sunny, 17 C	Claire entered nest barrel at 1.50pm by 4.30pm an second egg was laid
Apr 15/06	7:40 AM	Sunny, 12 C	Caleb sitting on eggs. Claire preening on ledge. An hour later both birds on window ledge. At 11:00 AM Caleb back on nest. Both birds off nest all afternoon. Changed bath water at 4:00 PM and both birds kekked relentlessly.
Apr 17/06	7.40 AM	Sunny, 24 C	3rd egg visible, probably laid late Sunday evening. At 8pm Caleb observed incubating.
May 21/06	8:40 PM	Sunny	Both parents vocalizing in response to cheeping embryos. Four eggs in nest
May 22/06	10:30 AM		1 Chick. 3 Eggs.
May 23/06	10:30 AM		2 Chicks. 2 Eggs.
May 24/06	10:30 AM		4 Chicks.

Data on Chicks

Chick 1 Hatch Date 22-05-06 Band Number CV 010950 Sex Female
Weight at 9 days empty crop 263 grams. Date of weighing 31-05-06

Chick 2 Hatch Date 23.05.06 Band Number CV 010949 Sex Female
Weight at 8 days empty crop 217 grams. Date of weighing 31-05-06

Chick 3 Hatch Date 24.05.06 Band Number CV 010951 Sex Female
Weight at 7 days empty crop 174 grams. Date of weighing 31-05-06

Chick 4 Hatch Date 24 05.06 Band Number CV 011116 Sex Male
Weight at 7 days empty crop 164 grams. Date of weighing 31-05-6

NB: Two bands were put on initially until sex determined. Better to band when oldest chick is seven days old.

Chick 1 Weighed at 25 days old on 16-06-06. Weight 926.5 grams.

Chick 2 Weighed at 24 days old on 16-06-06. Weight 931 grams.

Chick 3 Weighed at 23 days old on 16.06.06. Weight 901 grams.

Chick 4	Weighed at 23 days old on 16-06-06.	Weight 648 grams.
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NB No visual evidence of food in the crop on all birds.

Chick 1	Weighed at 36 days old on 27-06-06.	Weight 940 grams.
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Chick 2	Weighed at 35 days old on 27-06-06.	Weight 998 grams.
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Chick 3	Weighed at 34 days old on 27-06-06.	Weight 865 grams.
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Chick 4	Weighed at 34 days old on 27-06-06.	Weight 640 grams.
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NB: No visual evidence of food in the crop on all birds. Adult female attacked and grabbed human's face upon entry to the enclosure resulting in several deep lacerations to the face from talons.

There were two females remaining in the nest barrel, while the oldest female and male were already on the ground, either having fallen or fluttered from the nest barrel.

The male was placed on the hack tower and was joined a short time later by two females. The birds remained on the tower for nearly four weeks before being released.

Hatchway opened on July 26 at 9:00 a.m. and after an hour all three birds dispersed. The male returned to the hack tower at 8:24 p.m. and was observed flying from the south. He stayed on top of the tower and made several direct flying attacks at live quail, connecting but not grabbing the prey. Stayed on the tower despite vehicles, and even a horseman riding by did not bother him. Flew approx 400 metres and roosted overnight on a light standard adjacent to the captive breeding facility. No sign of the two females.

The male remained on the tower for two more days. On the evening of the 27th the male flew the 400 metres from the top of the tower to where the observer was waving a gloved hand with food at the location of the captive breeding facility. This marked degree of tameness despite being up on the tower with minimum human contact was not to last.

On the evening of the 28th he was observed feeding on the remains of a kingbird. This may have been his first kill. Regardless his behaviour became much more wild and would not let the observer get within close proximity of him.

No sign of him on the 29th of July or anytime after.

Peregrine Preservation is Paramount for Parkland Mews