American Kestrel Nest Survey NYC - Issue #1 (2011)

Kestrels are here in NYC – but where?

Well here goes 2011 – let’s hope for a good year. Right now in NYC our kestrels are making their way through the winter. We have received several reports from four boroughs, though Staten Island continues to be a tough cookie to crack. We present some of those comments here. This is our snowbird issue…

Do send any observations, photos etc. about NYC kestrels to either Deborah Allen or Robert DeCandido rdcny@earthlink.net – we are especially interested in photos of kestrels. Of course, your observations and descriptions no matter how brief, are important too. It gives us a lead, a hunch, a-something to go on as we look for another kestrel nest here in Gotham. Got a cell phone camera? - send us an image.

This Issue represents #50 of the Newsletter. Here’s looking back at where we began, and how much we have learned since.

Above: Two female American Kestrels (© Kerry Perkins 2010)
Kestrel Reports from our Spies in the Field:

From: Alexander Kalogerakis M.D.
Subject: Two Kestrels, Manhattan
Date: December 23, 2010 (Thursday)

Hi Bob,

Happy Holidays. Walking behind the Museum of Natural History yesterday, about 77th and Columbus, two calling kestrels caught my attention. They flew, perched, flew again. I couldn't determine sex or maturity, but it was nice to see them.

Alexi

From: Gene Miller
To: rdcny@earthlink.net
Subject: Kestrel Migration
Date: Dec 26, 2010 (Sunday)

Dear Robert,

Let me wish you and your family a Happy X-mas and New Year!! After monitoring the Kestrels at Bath Ave., Brooklyn, this past Spring and Summer, I turned my attention to the Fall Hawk Migration. I spent many days at Fort Tilden monitoring the migration of Sharpies, Coopers, Peregrines, Harriers, Red-Tails, and of course - KESTRELS. This year I was also lucky to spot an immature Bald Eagle this far South. The Fall Kestrel migration peaked from September 15- October 7. I am sending you photos of some of the many Kestrels in flight, and also the Hawk watch platform, and one including myself. Hoping to get more photos in the Spring at Bath Ave. in our continuing studies. All the best.

Eugene Miller

Above: male American Kestrel in flight (© Eugene Miller 2010)
Hey Bob,

I hope you had a great Holiday!

I thought the American Kestrel went down to Carmen and 6th Ave. but my neighbors called me to tell me that it has been landing on their fire escape, this area is on the 6th Ave side., off of West Houston.

Daryl

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From: Kim Howell
Sent: Monday, December 27, 2010 6:27 am
Subject: Pictures of the Kestrel (Manhattan)

I'm so glad our Kestrel visitor showed back up (first time I've seen him in over a year!), and that you happened to be around. I guess the snow was good luck! Anyway, here are a few of the shots I got this morning. Enjoy! [See below and next page – female American Kestrel in lower Manhattan near West Houston St.]

Kim
From: Robert Haupt  
Subject: Manhattan Kestrel - West Harlem  
Date: December 29 [2010]

Robert,

I had dinner with Chad [Seewagen PhD] and Taralynn the other night meant to tell you saw kestrel on antenna at 70 LaSalle eating what looked like a sparrow. I opened my window and it dropped carcass and flew north towards City College. Happy holidays to you and Deb

Robert and Carol  
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Hey Bob,

I heard a kestrel calling over Columbus Avenue this afternoon and then saw it flying. It landed on top of a water tower on the building on the southwest corner of Columbus and 73rd Street.

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From: Matthew Wills  
Subject: Kestrel (Brooklyn)  
Date: January 1, 2011 (Saturday)

Happy New Year!

Female kestrel on antenna at Union & Hoyt (Carroll Gardens/Gowanus) this afternoon. [= Brooklyn]

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From: Michael DiPrima  
To: "Robert DeCandido, PhD" <rdcny@earthlink.net>  
Subject: Kestrels - Queens  
Date: January 4, 2011 (Tuesday)

Kestrel at hillside &165 st today jan 4th (and again on 6 January 2011)  
Happy new year

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Above: not a NYC kestrel (*photographer unknown 2010*) – but a young NYC Red-tailed Hawk
January 9, 2011

"Small things amuse small minds," so they say...well today was one of those days and I wasn't the only one interested in the small things.

An emergence of termites had just got under way on one of our open areas and thousands upon thousands of birds came in to join the feast. Everything from swallows and martins to rollers and hornbills. We also had a huge flock of Amur Falcons and many different eagles all cashing in on the food abundance. We were in amongst the birds for about 20 minutes just watching as they swooped and grabbed the small protein packs trying to fly to freedom.

Here are some of the photos I managed to get of the Amur Falcons.

Richard Degouveia
http://mybushadventures.blogspot.com/