

## 28 April 2008

Hello All,

This week kestrels are sitting on eggs...and at some locations, the eggs have hatched and females are beginning to spend much time sitting on a favorite perch about 200 feet or less from the nest. In this issue of NYC kestrel news, (1) we provide a follow-up on last week's report of a male kestrel capturing a red bat at the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx made by Patricia Essler and husband Stephen; (2) We also report on a new kestrel nest just north of Central Park reported to us by Bey Devletian; and finally, (3) we provide photos of two kestrel nests in Harlem (St. Nicholas Avenue and Place from 2006 and 2007).

1. Info from the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation on raptors feeding on bats during daylight hours:

"We've received quite a number of reports of raptors taking bats this year. No doubt it is the result of the fact that bats have been more active during daylight as a result of the effects of what has been dubbed "whitenose syndrome" (see <http://www.caves.org/grotto/dcg/white-nose.html> ). The interesting thing about your report is that you referred to it as a red bat. Assuming you mean an eastern red bat, *Lasiurus borealis*, that would be the first such report we have heard for that species."

2. Our friend Bey Devletian reported to us a new kestrel nest just north of Central Park...we will have photos of this nest site in the coming weeks. What is important here is that Bey saw a kestrel in his neighborhood and became curious as to their nest location. He noticed that the female liked to perch in one special spot early in the morning (while the sun hit the nest building), so he decided to watch her for a bit as she sat on a roof top. Not long after, she took off and flew to the nest cavity...solving a mystery for Bey, and earning my deepest thanks and respect. Thanks Bey!

3. Finally, see attached photos of an American Kestrel nest site on 149th street and St. Nicholas Place (adjacent to St. Nicholas Ave) in 2006 (two photos). The following year (2007), the same kestrel pair moved its nest north by about four blocks to 153rd street and St. Nicholas Avenue. Note that the 2007 nest site is located on slightly higher ground...but otherwise also faces west and is also in a rusted out cornice above the top floor of an apartment building. (Though the 2007 nest is in a four storey building while the 2006 nest was in a six storey apartment.) Have at look at the four photos attached (two from each year). And a major league Thank You to **Jim O'Brien** who alerted us to these kestrel nests last year. Jim has found more NYC kestrel nests than anyone we know - Jim, Thank YOU! For some of Jim's NYC Kestrel photos, see here:

<http://yojimbot.blogspot.com/2008/04/kestrel-pix.html>

We will feature more of Jim's nests and field research in a coming issue. And on 29 April at 11am on WBAI 99.5 (FM) radio, there will be an interview with Jim. Online it can be heard by going to [www.wbai.org](http://www.wbai.org) and clicking the "listen now" button at the top.

That's all for this week - perhaps a kestrel is sitting on a perch near you right now. Meanwhile, see attached five photos of kestrel nests in Harlem in 2006 and 2007.

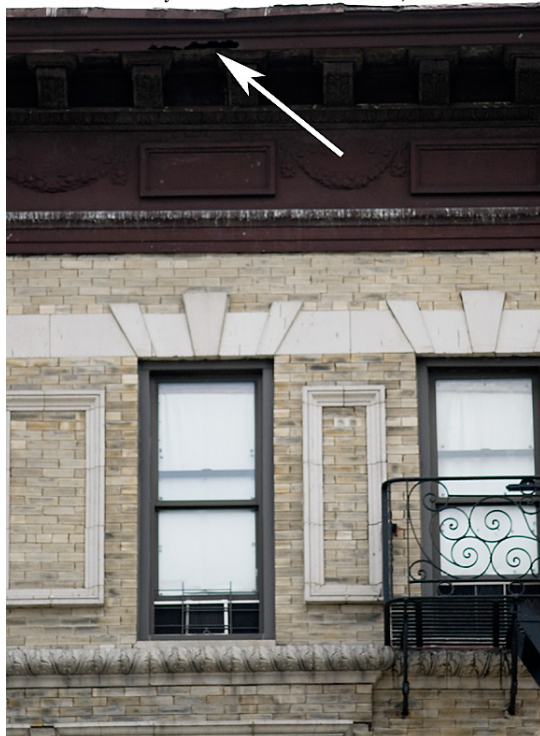
Robert DeCandido

**2006:**

**American Kestrel Nest - 2006**  
Manhattan: St. Nicholas Place at 149th Street  
"Audubon Court"  
28 May 2007 - © Robert DeCandido, PhD



**American Kestrel Nest - 2006**  
Manhattan: St. Nicholas Place at 149th Street / "Audubon Court"  
28 May 2007 - © Robert DeCandido, PhD





**2007** (just a few blocks north of the 2006 nest):

