

The Falcons Watching Over the Fleet

By: Keith Kerman and Nate Koszer

Fleet is doing everything it can to watch over the natural environment. Nature, as represented by a family of peregrine falcons, is also keeping a close watch on us.

DCAS Fleet offices are located on the 21st and 23rd floors at the David N. Dinkins Municipal Building at 1 Centre Street, in Manhattan. Peregrine Falcon pairs, which typically mate for life, have been spotted around 1 Centre Street for the better part of a decade.

Fleet's 21st floor office was previously visited by a falcon chick in 2018. More recently, falcon eggs were laid directly outside the fleet windows on the 21st floor and have now hatched.

Falcons do not build nests. The eggs were out in the open, at risk of rolling off the building ledge if the mother bird was frightened away.



DEP Wildlife Studies Section Research Scientist Christopher 'Falcon Whisperer' Nadeski gives the falcon chicks a quick medical examination.

To keep this from happening, fleet staff, with guidance from the NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) put up posters in front of the windows to give the birds their privacy, and also hung signs nearby letting others know to not disturb the mother as she sat on her clutch. After the eggs hatched, DEP Research Scientist Christopher Nadeski, who is known colloquially as the Falcon Whisperer, visited our office to tag the chicks and to do a general checkup on their health. He was happy to report that all is well, and the chicks are expected to live well into adulthood.



Peregrine Falcon chicks on the window ledge at 1 Centre Street.

Peregrine Falcons very nearly went extinct decades ago. The use of pesticides such as DDT (dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane) harmed wildlife at all levels of the ecosystem. For falcons, DDT caused their eggshells to thin and easily break before the hatchlings had developed. As a result, the falcons were placed on the federal endangered species list in 1973, one year after DDT was banned in the United States.

With DDT outlawed, peregrine falcons made a slow but steady comeback and were removed from the federal endangered list in 1999. The falcons returned to their wild habitats and also moved into urban environments with incredible success. Falcons can fly at speeds of over 200 MPH, which assists them in the search for food. The city's buildings also provided ideal egg-laying sites, which functionally aren't much different from the cliffsides and mountains which falcons use in non-urban settings.

Just as DDT threatened wildlife in the 20th Century, fossil fuel usage threatens wildlife in the 21st. Scientists forecast that up to a third of all animal species could become extinct by the end of this century due to global climate change caused by greenhouse gas emissions. The banning of DDT is a reminder that we can make changes and turn the tide on environmental damage, as we must do with fossil fuels.

These falcons deserve no less.

Upcoming Civil Service Exams and Automotive Careers Event

On June 17, DCAS's Office of Citywide Recruitment is hosting an automotive careers spotlight event, highlighting various NYC civil service exams related to auto mechanics, auto machinists, and automobile electricians. [To attend this virtual event, please register.](#)

The application period for the [auto mechanic civil service title](#) is now June 8, 2022 to June 28, 2022.

For more information on upcoming civil service exams, view the [annual civil service exam schedule](#).

NYC Fleet Manual

The NYC Fleet Manual and Drivers Handbook has been updated. Please see the updated version at [NYC Fleet Manual and Drivers Handbook](#).

Fleet Vision International: The Show

[Fleet Vision International: The Show](#) was held on April 12 and 13 in London. DCAS Deputy Commissioner and Chief Fleet Officer Keith Kerman and NYPD Deputy Commissioner Robert Martinez discussed the electrification of the City's fleet and how NYC is a worldwide leader in sustainability. Presentations from the show will be posted to the [DCAS Fleet webpage](#).



COVID-19 Safety Reminder

For all fleet drivers, when interacting with others in close quarters such as within a vehicle, it is strongly recommended to wear a mask.

Check out past editions of the Fleet Newsletter

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 392, June 3, 2022:](#) Government Fleet Magazine Recognizes NYC as #1 Large Fleet

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 391, May 26, 2022:](#) 33rd Annual NYC Fleet Show Highlights Electric Vehicles in Law Enforcement

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 390, May 20, 2022:](#) Together for Safer Roads and DCAS Hosts 2022 Vision Zero Fleet Safety Forum

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 389, May 11, 2022:](#) Fleet Spotlight: NYC Fleet Chief of Staff Sherry Lee

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 388, April 28, 2022](#): Mayor Adams Announces Fleet Reduction Initiative

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